



## In Our Prayers

Members: Sharon Folkestad, Dan Bell, Jim Hankins, Larry Welegala, Lori Domzalski, Rev. Guy Warke, & Norma Siebring

Friends and Family of Grace:

Irma, Dorothy Ann, Lori Jordan (sister of Lynn Christian),  
Mindy (Deb & Gary Robertson's daughter), Jack Zdanowski (Warkes' nephew),  
Lynn Drozd (niece of Jackie Danalewich), Bishop Jeff Clements,  
Jeanne Kieffer (friend of the Warkes), Marilyn Butzow (friend of the Warkes),  
Sarah Hazelrigg (granddaughter of Jean Peterson), Matt Prodehl (son-in-law of Dan Bell)

Home-bound: Jean Goodwin (*home*), Theresa Klager (*home*), Andrew Nielsen (*home*) (Karen Nielsen's husband), Dolly Hoover (*Sunny Hill, Joliet*) (mother of Karen Nielsen), Edie Hess (*Heritage Woods, Manteno*)

**And down the stretch they come!!**

Yes, the Women of ELCA will be going to the horse races at Arlington on August 9<sup>th</sup>. They plan on meeting at the Church at 11a.m. so that they can carpool. They will be eating lunch and dinner out. It's an all day outing. If you're interested in going, please let one of the WELCA ladies know.



## Missionary for a Day ~ July & August 2018

07/04 Gary Gruhn	In Honor of Independence Day
07/07 Kurt & Lynn Stehlik	In Honor of Kurt's Birthday
07/10 Mila Morrison	In Honor of Josh's Birthday
07/13 Christy Ziller	In Memory of Zachery Winker
07/13 Red & Sharon Folkestad	In Honor of Sharon's Birthday
07/18 Dave & Terry Phillips	In Memory of David Phillips, Sr.
07/25 Kenneth Wolske	For Antonia Wolske
08/06 Dan Bell	In Honor of Dan & Heather Bell's Anniversary
08/08 Kurt & Lynn Stehlik	In Honor of Granddaughter Harper's Birthday
08/09 Kurth & Lynn Stehlik	In Honor of Lynn's Birthday
08/10 Susan Trimby	In Honor of Jeni Lambert's Birthday
08/18 Chris & Lois Smith	In Memory of Parents that have passed
08/20 Christy Ziller	In Honor of Tim Eaker
08/23 Kurt & Lynn Stehlik	In Honor of Granddaughter McKenna's Birthday
08/26 Susan Trimby	In Honor of Jeni Lambert's Baptism
08/29 Karen Nielsen	In Honor of her 53rd Wedding Anniversary
08/30 Gary Gruhn	In Celebration of Students

August  
2018  
Edition

# The Lamp

## Grace Lutheran Church

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known

### PASTOR'S *Ponderings*

Exciting times are ahead here at Grace Lutheran Church!

We have so many upcoming events and ideas and programs, I hardly know where to start. I've been meeting with people and talking to people here in the congregation

almost every day and so many good ideas have been suggested that it's energizing to just think of all the possibilities.

First off, I'm excited about Gathering Day on September 9. It'll be a celebration and kick-off of all sorts of programs such as Sunday School, Confirmation, Choir, Wednesday night Bible study, etc etc. That's the first Sunday after Labor Day, and we'll be kicking off a neat, interactive Sunday School program for the Pre K - 5th grade children. The following Wednesday, we'll start confirmation, choir, and begin a series of discussions about what it means to be Lutheran, what the meaning of all the parts of the liturgy are, and how our lives gain meaning by our participation in the mysterious and divine nature of worship. What we do on Sundays impacts who we are all the rest of the week!

Then of course there's the energy of our Grace Teams. You can read more about each team later on in this edition of the Lamp, but each one of these teams targets a specific aspect of our congregation and provides time, space, energy, and activities for Grace Lutheran to function as a thriving, energetic community.

Besides all that, God the Holy Spirit is working in so many hearts on a weekly basis. Almost every week I talk to someone who has discovered some new perspective from reading a book on theology, or by talking to a person they previously didn't know very well, or from experiencing something new in worship.

Whether it's baptisms, songs, fellowship, Bible study, prayer meetings, a new project, or any number of things, I get a distinct sense of excitement from a wide array of people I interact with, and that thrills me.

As you know, I'm available via phone, e-mail, or office visit. I love to hear from you, and I want to hear your ideas, input, critiques, and vision. We are all in this together, and the care we have for one another continues to grow as we become more and more invested in each others' well-being. That is the sense of Shalom we've been talking about in the worship services. So, in the name of Jesus Christ, I bid you a warm Shalom until I see you again!

Excitedly,

Pastor Seth



## Grace Lutheran Preschool News

Grace Preschool will be holding an Open House on Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30p.m.—7:00p.m. If you have a child or grandchild of preschool age, we urge you to attend our Open House. Please let your neighbors know as well. We will be taking registrations that evening. If you are unable to make it, please contact me and we can set up an appointment for your child to see the school and receive your forms. The first day of school for the 3 year olds will be on September 4<sup>th</sup>. The first day of school for the 4 year olds will be on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Students may bring their supplies on the first day of school or during the open house.

We are looking forward to seeing you and are excited for the new year to begin! Please call if you have any questions or concerns at 815-476-9480 or e-mail me at: [preschool@gracewilm.org](mailto:preschool@gracewilm.org).

Mary Kay Hays, Preschool Director

### Recycling Sunday—August 19<sup>th</sup>

Just a reminder that we will be ready to take your scrap—cans, aluminum, metal—just pull up by the garage. All the monies collected are spent on projects in the church.

### The Youth Gathering is but a Memory!

**Youths & Leader** – Our Youth & Christy Ziller would like to thank you all who supported this event over the past couple of years. Christy said that taking in all of the events that the Youth Gathering provides gave the teens an opportunity to learn about worship, about evangelism, and Outreach at a more Global level. It moves you from being local to helping others outside of the church walls that they are used to growing up in and that by sending them to Houston on a road trip, they learned to get along with each other and bond while also doing different excursions and taking in the host city. They all look forward to the August 5<sup>th</sup> presentation to explain all of the details.

### Birthdays—July & August 2018

07/04 Mary Smith	07/05 Rita Shaver	07/06 Ken Wolske	07/07 Kurt Stehlik
07/10 Joshua Wilkes	07/13 Sharon Folkestad	07/17 Thomas Ziller	07/18 Kristy O'Brien
07/20 Will Ricken	07/21 Jeff Reents	07/24 Lynn Christian	07/26 Mila Morrison
08/03 Rev. Guy Warke	08/08 Amanda Elsner	08/09 Lynn Stehlik	08/18 Lois Smith
08/21 Timothy Eaker	08/23 Gary Gruhn	08/24 Bruce Elsner	08/28 Madison Gorges
08/28 Terry Phillips	08/30 Dee Elsner	08/31 Kim Bell	

### Anniversaries ~ July & August 2018

07/01 Norma & Chuck Siebring	07/08 Kim & Jim Bell
08/01 Katelin & Tom Mrjenovich	08/03 Marcia & Chris Mandac
08/08 Wendy & Kevin Gorges	08/13 Marsha & Phil Keller
08/16 Dianne & Darrell Carr	08/29 Karen & Andrew Nielsen

As you see on the previous page, lots of exciting stuff starts up in September! Here's a brief introduction to each item listed on the flyer:



## Sunday School

For all our Pre K - 5th grade kids, we'll have Sunday School on Sunday mornings. Kids in these grades will start off the church service in the sanctuary with their families, then Pastor Seth will dismiss them after the Greeting and Announcements. They'll go to their Sunday School room to interact with each other and older kids while they hear stories, color pictures, and engage the gospel reading for that Sunday.

Cindy Filas and Maryann Ricken are the primary two adults connected to Sunday School right now, but we need a couple more adults and a couple older kids to help out.

## Wednesdays

### Lutheranism, Liturgy, & The Meaning of Life

On Wednesdays at 6pm, all ages are invited to a time of discussion and exploration around a variety of topics. The first series will be about our spiritual heritage, various elements of our liturgy, and the meaning behind what we do every Sunday.

After that discussion and conversation, people can transition to Confirmation or Choir.



### Confirmation

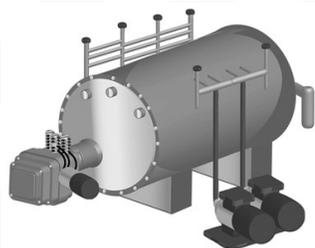
On Wednesdays at 7pm, Pastor Seth and Christy Ziller will lead Confirmation classes. Confirmation is for any baptized member who has not been confirmed yet, usually in 6th-8th grade.

### Choir

Choir practice will be at 7pm every Wednesday. We have a good group of people, but there's always room for more, especially as we approach Advent and all the special music associated with the time leading up to Christmas!



## BOILER NEWS



If you don't already know....Grace needs to replace the boiler that has been in place since the education wing was added those many years ago. It broke down many times this past winter. We are replacing it with 2 high efficient boilers and tying in the narthex and office once again. The cost is \$25,500.00. To date, we have raised \$8,262.00, which leaves a balance of \$17,238.00. There is an envelope enclosed with this Lamp. If you are able to make a donation toward the boiler, it will be very much appreciated. We all want to be warm in our worship place this winter.

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting

June 10, 2018

**Present Council Members:** Lynn Christian, Dave Phillips, <sup>Diane</sup>~~Regina Bauer~~, Phil Keller, Regina Bauer, Debbie Robertson, Christy Ziller, Joshua Wilkes, Pastor Hecox. Absent Jessica Elsner.

**Opening Devotions:** David P. opened with prayer & devotions. Welcome and introductions for Pastor Seth Hecox and new council members. Farewell to leaving council member.

**Minutes of May Council Meeting**

Minutes reviewed from previous Council Meeting. Josh motioned to accept, Lynn second. All in favor. Congregational Meeting report reviewed Diane motioned to accept, Debbie second. All in favor.

**Treasurer's report**

Treasurer's report reviewed. Josh motioned to accept, Lynn second. All in favor.

**Pastors Report**

Pastor Vidler's report reviewed. Lynn motioned to accept, Dave P. second. All in favor.

**Committee Report**

*Properties-* Consideration to providing a separate checking account for miscellaneous maintenance costs. Properties will report monthly to council for any expenditures to account. Account will be separate of the properties line in budget. Cindy Filas, Jim Hankins, and Regina Bauer will be on the account. Research is still being done regarding the boiler replacement.

*Call Committee-* Debbie motioned to dismiss. Diane Carr second. All in favor.

*Education/Youth-* We have one opening for the Youth Trip. So far trip is coming in underbudget, with rooms already being paid for.

*Fellowship-* No updates.

*Mission/Outreach-* No updates.

**New Business**

**Appointment of New Council**

Officer Dave Phillips will remain President, Lynn Christian will remain Secretary, and Regina Bauer will remain responsible for treasurer responsibilities until a new treasurer can be appointed. The committee had discussion regarding benefits of having an audit committee routinely review Grace's financial records. Lynn motioned, Debbie second. All in favor.

Next Council Meeting- July 8, 2018 Phil will provide devotion.

Closing Prayers by Pastor Hecox.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Christian

# Grace Teams

We have some wonderful teams doing great work for our church and for the community. You'll start to see and hear from some of them over the coming months, but I wanted to lay out a basic overview of our Grace Teams so you know who they are and some of what they do:



## **Fellowship**

The FAB (Fellowship Activity Board) plans fellowship events every year and helps us get to know each other. Events such as church picnics, parties, meals, and other activities are right in the wheelhouse of this group.

## **Outreach**

The Outreach Team is the newest Grace Team and is still being finalized. The Outreach Team aims to give Grace a heightened presence in the community by participating in parades, sending pictures to the paper, promoting events like VBS, etc. The Outreach Team will seek to plan 4-6 of those types of events every year.



## **Properties**



Properties handles all sorts of practical items such as lawn care, building maintenance, and just about anything relating to our physical property. Under this umbrella are also placed Friday Crew (who assemble the bulletins, change the church sign, and other preparation for Sundays) and Recycling.

## **WELCA**

WELCA (Women of the ELCA) is for all women at Grace. They help provide community for the women of Grace, they fund-raise for various church needs, and they help with the logistical parts of funerals and memorials.



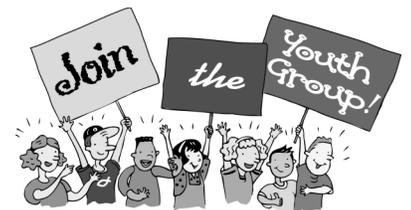
## **Worship**



The Worship Team prepares the sanctuary for worship every Sunday. Because the Worship Team includes Altar Guild and Ushers, almost everything that happens in our worship service on Sundays is a result of the Worship Team. That includes music, baking communion bread, preparing the wine, hanging paraments for the liturgical season, and all sorts of things that enhance our worship experience on Sundays.

## **Youth**

The Youth Team oversees all youth-related activities. This includes Confirmation, Sunday School, Summer Trips, and any youth activities that happen during the year. Right now, the Youth Team could use a couple more adults to help plan and facilitate those youth activities at Grace.



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### Women's Bible Study



Every Tuesday, we'll meet here at Grace's fellowship hall at 10:30am for study, discussion, prayer, and brunch! Our first meeting is Tuesday, August 7. All women are welcome.

### Men's Bible Study

We do not yet have a definite start date or day of the week established for our Men's Bible Study, but we have begun discussing it informally. One possibility is to meet on Thursday evenings. If you have a preference, Pastor Seth welcomes your input!



### Community Garden



Discussion has begun about having a Community Garden out by Kahler Road. The idea would be to have a handful of raised beds that provide space and opportunity for our members or people from the community to grow their own food or flowers. The hope would be to encompass the raised beds with a white picket fence so that it still looks presentable, even in the winter when nothing is growing. A community garden like this would heighten our presence in the community. It would also ideally build connections to the Methodist Church across the street and Wilmington High School, as we would like to partner with both. Having a place for our school children to get hands-on gardening experience would be a benefit for everyone involved. Furthermore, the plan is to currently require that a portion of all food grown in the community garden be donated to Kuzma Care Cottage, as a way to supplement locally-grown food for those in our community who need it most. Pastor Seth certainly welcomes feedback, as the community garden is still in the planning stages and nothing definite has been set in motion yet.



Is there another group you might be interested in having at Grace? If so, please talk with Pr. Seth. He is open to any and all ideas!