

September
2018
Edition

The Lamp

Grace Lutheran Church

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known

PASTOR'S

Gathering Day is almost here!

Ponderings

September is such an exciting month. The weather is cooling down and slowly becoming less humid. My son Elijah is excited, as school has started back and he's meeting new friends at a new school with a new

teacher. Football is back, and the pennant race is in full swing as we approach playoff baseball. All of these reasons (and more!) energize me as we approach Gathering Day on September 9th.

Our worship service on Gathering Day is going to be different than the norm, so let's talk about that.

We will begin service as we normally do. After announcements, however, new things start to happen. After announcements, the Pre K—5th graders will head out of the sanctuary and go to the Sunday School room with Cindy Filas and Maryann Ricken. In the Sunday School room, they'll have activities together, videos of Bible stories, and other ways to become friends as they learn about Jesus and a God who loves them.

Meanwhile, the adults will be in the sanctuary, as we're used to. The worship service will continue, as it normally does. At the Sharing of the Peace, we see our next new thing: the children return from the Sunday School room and rejoin their parents and grandparents in the pews. Up to this point, all the new things are weekly items: the kids will go the Sunday School and return at the same points each Sunday during the school year.

Shortly after that, we encounter our first unique thing for all ages. When the offering and Communion elements are brought to the altar, we will all process with them to the courtyard outside.

You heard that right: we'll be having Communion outside (weather-permitting)! As long as it's not raining or heavily threatening rain, we'll enjoy God's creation together as we take communion together in the courtyard.

At that point, we will extend the "Meal" part of the service, and have an actual full meal and fellowship together, much like the early church did. This will be a pot-luck grill-out (a sign up sheet is in the narthex already!), and there will be outdoor games and activities to engage in, as well as seats and tables outside.

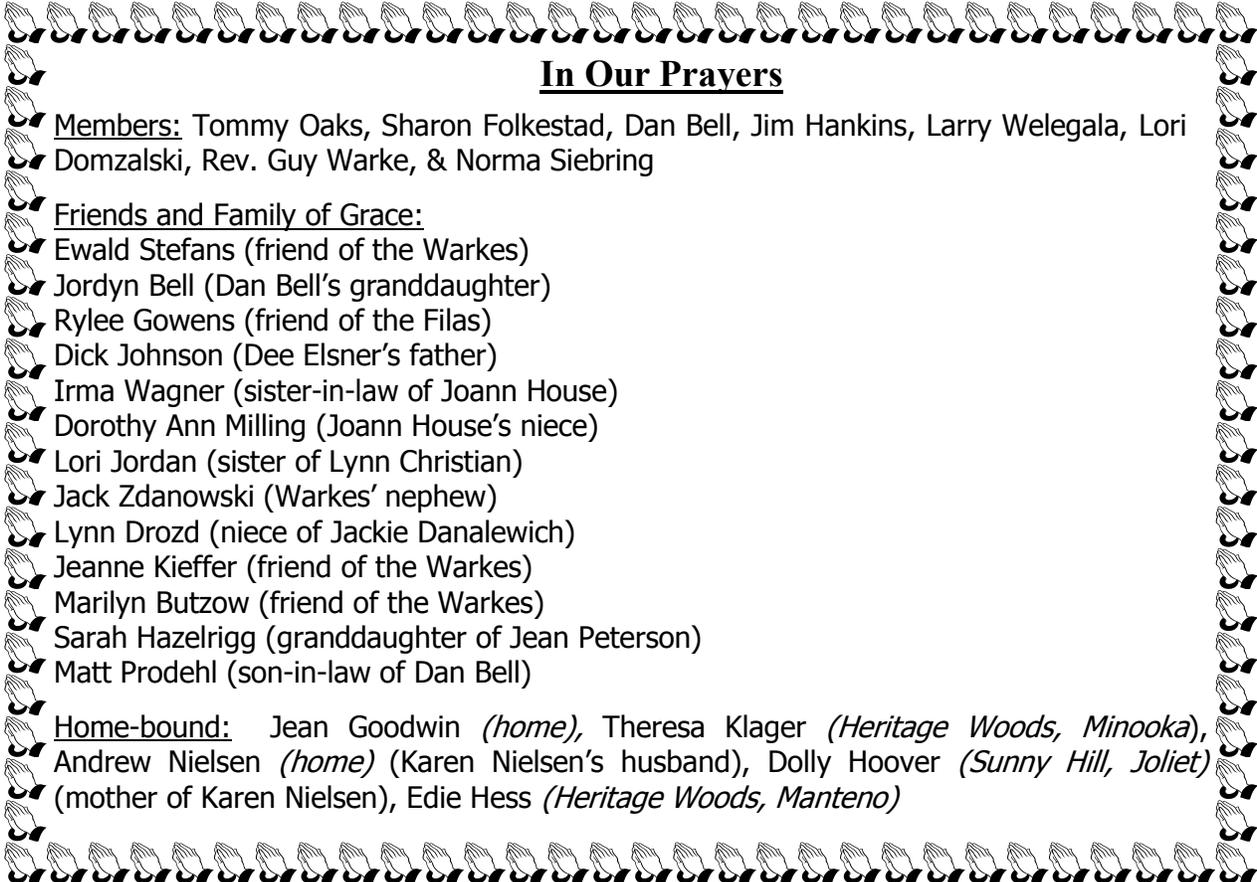
There is no time-limit to this part of this unique service. Similar to how the very early church would have the "Agape" meal (an "ordinary meal of both social and religious character", which eventually evolved into Eucharist as we know it now), so we will engage in a full meal together. It will feel a bit like including our fellowship hour as a part of the worship service.

Later, after everyone has eaten, we will have our Sending part of the service, with a Benediction and Sending Song we sing together outside. Then people are allowed to stay as long as they want for fellowship.

So Gathering Day will be a special day when we celebrate the assembling of ourselves and new programs starting up. We have much to look forward to and I hope you'll join in with joy as we journey alongside each other into a new year of life together as the people of God!

Blessings,

Pr. Seth Hecox



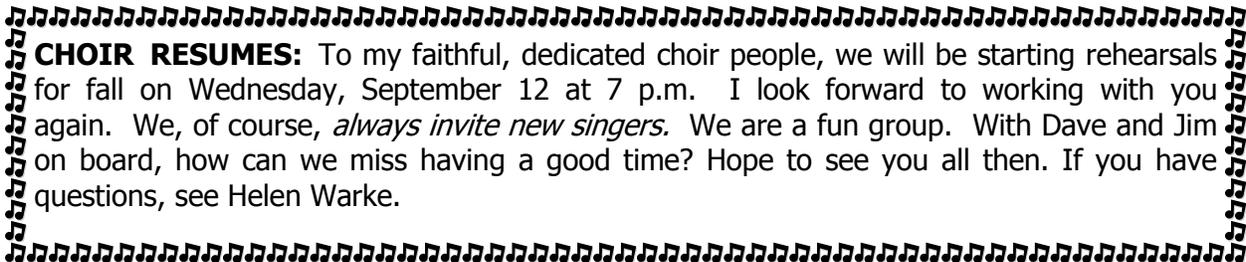
In Our Prayers

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

Friends and Family of Grace:

Ewald Stefans (friend of the Warkes)
Jordyn Bell (Dan Bell's granddaughter)
Rylee Gowens (friend of the Filas)
Dick Johnson (Dee Elsner's father)
Irma Wagner (sister-in-law of Joann House)
Dorothy Ann Milling (Joann House's niece)
Lori Jordan (sister of Lynn Christian)
Jack Zdanowski (Warkes' nephew)
Lynn Drozd (niece of Jackie Danalewich)
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)

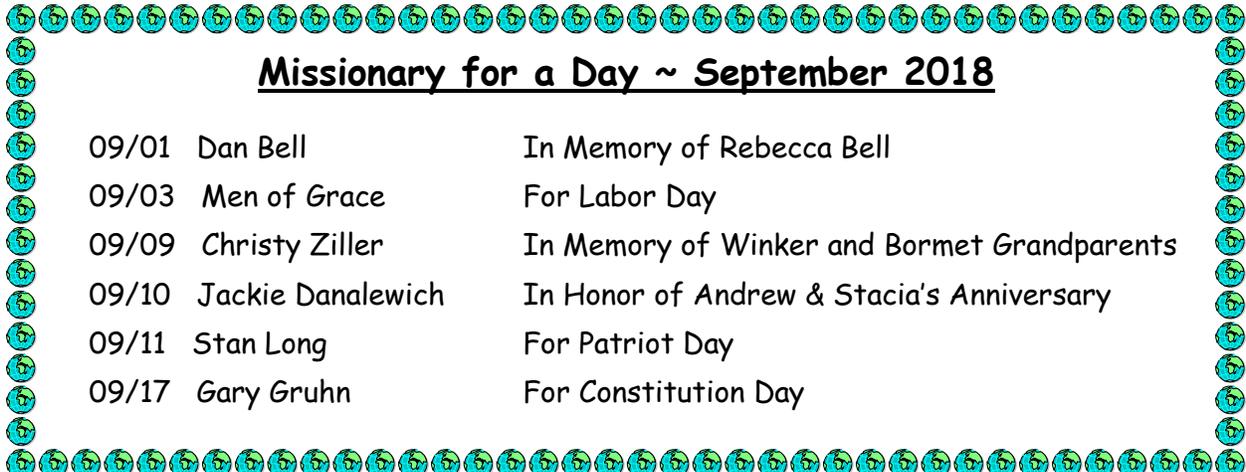
Home-bound: Jean Goodwin (*home*), Theresa Klager (*Heritage Woods, Minooka*), Andrew Nielsen (*home*) (Karen Nielsen's husband), Dolly Hoover (*Sunny Hill, Joliet*) (mother of Karen Nielsen), Edie Hess (*Heritage Woods, Manteno*)



CHOIR RESUMES: To my faithful, dedicated choir people, we will be starting rehearsals for fall on Wednesday, September 12 at 7 p.m. I look forward to working with you again. We, of course, *always invite new singers*. We are a fun group. With Dave and Jim on board, how can we miss having a good time? Hope to see you all then. If you have questions, see Helen Warke.

Recycling Sunday—September 16th

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.



Missionary for a Day ~ September 2018

09/01	Dan Bell	In Memory of Rebecca Bell
09/03	Men of Grace	For Labor Day
09/09	Christy Ziller	In Memory of Winker and Bormet Grandparents
09/10	Jackie Danalewich	In Honor of Andrew & Stacia's Anniversary
09/11	Stan Long	For Patriot Day
09/17	Gary Gruhn	For Constitution Day



Grace Lutheran Preschool News

It's not too late! If you missed our Open House, but would still like your child or grandchild to attend here, there are still a few openings left. The first day of school for the 3 year olds will be on September 4th. The first day of school for the 4 year olds will be on September 5th.

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.

Mary Kay Hays, Preschool Director

from this:

BOILER NEWS

to 2 of this:



The old boiler is OUT! The TWO new boilers are in, and getting the final tweaks. The old boiler was only 35% efficient. The 2 new boilers are 94% efficient! That alone should make a big difference in our gas bills. The cost is \$25,500.00. To date, we have raised 77% or \$19,745.00. This leaves a balance of \$5,755.00. 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. Please be sure your name or envelope # is on the envelope because this is a tax exempt item. Thank you all for being so generous!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Praise and thanks to our almighty God for the return of my health. Hopefully I will stay cancer free. I also want to give thanks for the cards and notes that the people of Grace sent to me during my recovery. It hasn't been easy, but your prayers & encouragement helped tremendously.

Barb Harding

Women of the ELCA had a great time at Arlington race track on August 9th. Fourteen ladies attended the outing. Win or loose, we all had a great time. Our next meeting is September 20th at 7pm at Grace in the Fellowship Hall.

Anniversaries ~ September 2018

09/03 *Nicole & Doug Stewart*

09/07 *Jodi & William Dzak*

09/24 *Bonnie & Roy Hill*

09/27 *Regina & Greg Bauer*

09/30 *Lynn & Scott Christian*

Birthdays—September 2018

09/02 Jim Bell

09/05 Marie Christian

09/09 Alisha Melvin

09/14 Chelsea Hecox

09/15 Paula Webb

09/19 Carolann Stewart

09/28 Phil Keller

09/30 Katelin Mrienovich

09/30 Kim Schad

Council Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2018

Present Council Members: Pastor Hecox, Dave Phillips, Lynn Christian, Regina Bauer, Phil Keller, Diane Carr, Debbie Robertson, Joshua Wilkes, Jessica Elsner.

Opening Devotions: David P. opened with prayer & Phil Keller opened with devotions.

Minutes of June Council Meeting

Minutes reviewed from previous Council Meeting. Jessica motioned to accept, Josh second. All in favor.

Treasurer's report: Treasurers ledger reviewed. Lynn motioned to accept, Dave Phillips second. All in favor.

Old Business: Treasurer position remains open. Regina Bauer will maintain the position until it is filled.

Pastors Report

Pastor attended VBS in June and made 3 home/hospital visits. Pastor had one pre-baptismal meeting. Pastor Hecox will be Installed on July 29th, 2018. New ideas from Pastor Hecox were discussed under New Business.

Committee Report

Properties- Debbie Robertson presented the properties report. Regina will provide Dave with financials, so he may report back to the congregation on July 16th the amount of the down payment needed to sign the contract for the new boilers.

New Business

Council will request a financial report from the Pre-School this September. Dave will follow up with Mary Kay.

Pastor Hecox and Dave Phillips will review and make updates to the Constitution which will be presented to Council.

Dave will establish a financial audit team from Grace to review the financial ledgers.

Pastor Hecox would like council members be part Grace Committees/teams. He also emphasized the need to have an "Outreach Team". Dave will bring to the next council meeting a list of all Grace Committees, along with their members so Council can have a better understanding of which team/committee they would best serve. Current Committees include Properties, Fellowship, WELCA, Youth, Education, Mission, and Outreach. There was discussion regarding creating a Worship Committee, however; no decision was finalized.

Pastor Hecox would also like have a "Gathering Day" which would serve as a kick off for the new Sunday School year, Confirmation/Youth Group year, and possible adult education. Ideas considered for the "Gathering Day" included having a cook out, bringing a favorite yard game, and sign-ups for a dish to pass. Ideas are still under consideration. The "Gathering Day" would take place September 9th, 2018.

Pastor Hecox would like to start an Adult Education Group in the fall. Day and time would be determined later.

Pastor Hecox suggest updating current handouts to reflect the current offerings of Grace. The handouts could be used as a communication piece for new potential members and to hand out in the community during outreach events. Regina stated she would locate the current handout and help Pastor Hecox to update the information.

Pastor Hecox is supportive of Mutual Ministry and continuing pastoral education opportunities, consideration will be given to these two topics later.

Next Council Meeting- August 12th. September meeting will be moved to September 2nd due to the "Gathering Day" taking place on September 9th. Lynn will provide the August 12th Devotion.

Closing Prayers by Jessica Elsner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Christian

Time and Talents Commitment Form

Grace Lutheran Church

Worship Team

- Liturgist
- Communion Assistant
- Reader
- Usher
- Altar Guild
- Choir
- Instrument _____

Youth Team

- Sunday School
- Confirmation
- High School Events/Trips
- Nursery
- Vacation Bible School
- Preschool Volunteer

Discipleship

- Prayer Team
- Stewardship
- Bible Study
- Mentor
- Art/Design
- Service Ministry

Administrative

- Office Help
- Friday Crew
- Computer/IT/Web

WELCA/Care Team

- Meal Prep
- Funeral/Reception
- Caring Cards

Finance

- Finance Committee
- Offering Counter
- Audit Committee

Properties Team

- Lawn Care
- Maintenance
- Landscaping

Outreach Team

- Plan Community Events
- Greeter
- Organize Donations

Fellowship Team

- Plan Fellowship Events
- Fellowship Hour
- Men of Grace

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please fill out and return to the office. If a couple place your first initial on each line you are willing to help with.,