

October
2018
Edition

The Lamp

Grace Lutheran Church

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known

PASTOR'S *Ponderings*

A few years ago, our then 2-year-old son squirmed and couldn't sit still in the theater beyond the 15 minute mark of the popular kids movie "Frozen". He frustrated his mother and me with his refusal to sit and watch the movie, and we ended up leaving the movie before it was even halfway done.

Later on, as the soundtrack for that movie started dominating the radio waves, I kept hearing "Let It Go" and, against my wishes, would regularly get the song stuck in my head. That song came back to me recently as I prepared for a sermon about letting go of our fears, envy, and need to have things figured out all the time. I resisted the urge to sing the song in the sermon, and you were all spared the experience of hearing me sing a song from a Disney movie.

I think more and more that one of the reasons the song became so popular was that it contained a message that we all either desperately need to hear or desperately want to hear. I confess that I'm a little conflicted about this. It all depends on what context we're talking about letting something go.

For instance, I once briefly counseled a woman who was being abused by her domestic partner. No way was I going to say, "let it go". There are times when things ought to be dealt with and cannot simply be let go. So there are some instances where our desire to "let it go" can lead to further pain and should not be followed.

However, there are many times when we really are carrying unnecessary baggage. We carry bitterness, we hold onto grudges, and we needlessly compare ourselves to others.

In those moments, Jesus comes to us with a radical message: "LET IT GO."

How can Jesus ask something so difficult of us? He can ask it because he knows it's best for us. He can ask it because he accepts us as we are.

So let go of what is not yours to carry. We can stop chasing after what our neighbors have, because we having something more important and meaningful: we have the unconditional love of our Creator. It is indeed our duty and our joy to praise and thank a God who so radically loves us and embraces us right where we are.

Thanks be to God!

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*)

Recycling Sunday—October 21st

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.

Halloween Fall Festival

Grace Lutheran Church and Preschool will host a Halloween Fall Festival for all friends and family of the church and preschool on Sunday, October 28th from 3–4:30 pm. This will be geared for ages 0-10 years of age. Wear your costumes and enjoy a day of fun! Admission is **free!** There will be games, a craft, refreshments, hay rides (thank you to the Rickens), and Trunk or Treating! Please register for this event and return registration form by Friday, October 19th.

Missionary for a Day ~ October 2018

10/06	Jim & Arlene Hankins	In Honor of Arlene's Birthday
10/08	Men of Grace	In Honor of Columbus Day
10/09	Dan Bell	In Honor of Barbara & Matt Prodehl's Anniversary
10/16	Bruce & Dee Elsner	In Memory of Jean & Roland Elsner
10/30	Gary Gruhn	For Reformation Day

Council Meeting Minutes—August 13, 2018

Present Council Members: Pastor Hecox, Dave Phillips, Lynn Christian, Phil Keller, Diane Carr, Debbie Robertson, Joshua Wilkes

Opening Devotions: Dave opened with prayer & Lynn opened with devotions.

Minutes of July Council Meeting

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

Treasurer's report: Treasurers report reviewed. Lynn motioned to accept, Josh second. All in favor. Diane motioned to move money left over from air conditioning fund (\$2948.82) to the boiler fund. Debbie second, All in favor. Lynn motioned to investigate the possibility of taking a loan from Synod at 0% interest to pay for the balance due on the boiler at the end of August. If a loan is not feasible, then money from MIF fund would be used to pay for the balance due on the boiler with the condition that money be replaced by donations designated for the boiler fund following the installation. Josh second, All in favor. Dave will investigate the loan option.

Old Business: Dave and Pastor Hecox will be meeting with the Mary Kay and Preschool Representatives on August 20th to review pre-school finances and discuss how Grace and the Preschool can mutually support the Grace mission.

Pastors Report

Pastor provided his monthly report. He is averaging 6 visits weekly since coming to Grace. Pastor also provided the following updates:

Gathering Day September 9th - Service will be held inside with communion and meal being held outdoors. Grace Members will be asked to sign up to bring a dish to pass.

Programs- Pastor is working to organize the following education programs:

Pre-school

Women's Bible Study-Tuesdays

Men's Bible Study-TBD

Evening Bible Study-TBD

Confirmation-TBD

Pastor was approached by Steve Francis. There continues to be interest from the community in leasing some of Grace's property to build a handi-cap accessible park. The council will provide questions of concern regarding the proposal to Pastor Seth who will forward these questions to Mr. Francis. Mr. Francis will then meet with the church council to discuss this topic in greater detail.

Pastor continues to work on creating Grace Teams and what responsibilities would fall under these teams.

Committee Report

Properties- Debbie Robertson presented the properties report. Lynn motioned to accept, Josh second. All in favor.

Youth- Josh stated that youth and confirmation will be taking the Boundary Waters Trip in 2019 from July 28th to August 3rd. Parents will help with costs, along with fundraising.

New Business

Discussion relative to sick/vacation time for Barb, Grace Lutheran Secretary.

Discussion regarding creating a Community Raised Garden took place. The topic was tabled for a later date.

Next Council Meeting- September 2nd, 2018. Josh will provide the September 2nd Devotion.

Closing Prayers by Pastor Seth.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Christian

News from the Women of the ELCA

Summer is over and it's time to get ready for fall. WELCA has resumed its monthly meetings. The first meeting was on September 20th at 7 pm in the church fellowship hall. We discussed ideas for the upcoming year. Terry Philips has agreed to be the interim president because Teri Dicken will be leaving us. Terry is asking for help with planning and organize events for each meeting. Our next meeting is a wine tasting event at Lynn Stehlík's house on October 11th at 7pm. Please attend if you can, we are looking for ideas and volunteers to help with each months events.



Grace Lutheran Preschool News

We had our annual field trip to Heap's Giant Pumpkin Farm in Minooka, and as usual, the bus ride was the highlight of the day! The weather was beautiful this year and everyone had fun. Grandparent's day was a huge success! The students sang, played bingo, colored, enjoyed refreshments and toured the school with their grandparents. It was quite a day. They are always so proud to show them around and look at all their crafts.

We are selling Taffy Apples again this year. An order form is available if you would like to purchase some. They will be delivered and ready for pick up on October 25th.

We are excited about the Halloween Fall Festival on October 28th, from 3–4:30p.m. Please fill out a registration form, so we know how many to expect. This is for ages 0–10. There is no charge for this event. We hope to see all our friends and family of the church and preschool there. Wear your costumes and enjoy a day of fun! The end of the month brings our Halloween parties and lots more fun. Fall is here and we are busy!

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



Anniversaries ~ October 2018

10/07 Jaime & Steven Ray

10/11 Jaime & Matt Hauert

10/16 Christy & Thomas Ziller

10/31 Shelby & Timothy Eaker



Birthdays—October 2018

10/01 Elsie DeWald

10/02 Tom Mrjenovich

10/02 William Quigley

10/05 Jodi Dzak

10/05 Gary Robertson

10/06 Mary Bell

10/06 Arlene Hawkins

10/07 Jean Petersen

10/13 Debora Robertson

10/13 Susan Soda

10/17 Jenny Kucharski

10/17 Katie Kucharski

10/17 Mark Lange

10/24 Sharon Bernico

10/24 Breanna Ray

