

August
2019
Edition

The Lamp

Grace Lutheran Church

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known

PASTOR SETH'S

Ponderings

Summer is a unique time.

The kids are out of school. Families go on vacation. The weather is often hot and muggy. The bugs are out en masse. Church programs takes a break. Our utility bills go up because of all the A/C we're using!

Summer is also a time of preparation for pastors and church leadership. We get to ask "what might the fall look like? What activities, programs, and events could be good for the life of our congregation, and good for the community around us?" We ponder such things, and we start to discuss the possibilities. We plan for certain events and programs. We reach out to members to ask for participation in planning and coordinating the events. We ask which ones we can do well, and which events or programs might not get the attention they need to be done well.

That's a lot of what church leadership has been up to recently. Yes, there are the logistical questions of finances, property upkeep, volunteer recruitment, and other such perpetual issues. But the summer has allowed us a moment to take a breath, review the past 12 months, and look with fresh eyes at what the next 12 might look like. It's a time of visioning, and it's exciting as well as daunting, at times. We want Grace Lutheran to be a place where each member and visitor is presented with ample opportunity to grow in their faith, connect with other members, worship in spirit and in truth, and engage in meaningful ways both inside and outside the church.

But to do that, we ask the Spirit to guide us. Because it takes a lot of work. It takes a lot of imagination. It takes a lot of volunteers and teamwork to make it all happen and work out well.

So as we approach fall, I'm asking you to prayerfully consider how you might be involved in the life of Grace Lutheran in a new way. How might you help with worship? How might you participate in maintaining or beautifying our property? How might you be involved with Bible Studies? How might you help plan and coordinate fellowship or outreach events?

These are incredible opportunities for your faith to grow through action. These are opportunities to put into practice what we learn about in our sermons, songs, and Bible study discussions. They are opportunities for us to engage in a process of being the church of Jesus Christ.

I look forward to this process, and I am excited to consider these wonderful possibilities. I also look forward to having conversations with you about these events and programs and how you can be involved. Many exciting things lie on our path forward. Thanks be to God!

Council Meeting Minutes May 5, 2019

Present: Pastor Seth, Dave Phillips, Josh Wilkes, Phil Keller, Deb Robertson

Dave provided opening prayer

Debbie provided devotion

April meeting minutes were reviewed, and corrections made. Then motion to approved by Josh and second by Phil, all in favor.

Treasure report: Regina was unavailable to attend. The paper copy of her report was reviewed. Barb received a letter from Church Mutual (our insurance company). It was suggested that we increase our coverage to 90% (we are currently at 80%). This would be an increase of 10% (on top of the recent 11.5% increase). Because of our financial situation, it was decided we would not agree to the increase. This was motioned by Josh and second by Phil. The letter will be kept for our records.

Pastors report: Pastor forgot his report at home. He reviewed April's report and stated it was similar but there were no hospital visits to report. Pastor stated we are ready for the Vitality report.

Old Business: Susan agreed to be a council member and secretary. Gary Gruhen agreed to being on council and treasurer. Ballots will be printed and used during the congregational meeting.

The congregational meeting is set for May 19, 2019. The Vitality Survey will be handed out and will be completed during the meeting. Those not in attendance will be mailed a survey and there is a web link if anyone chooses to do it online. The deadline is June 2, 2019.

Pastor Seth, Jim Hankins and Terri Phillips will be attending the Synod Assembly.

Weight Watchers currently pays \$240.00 per month to use our building. To follow our user's agreement, their rent should be increased to \$300.00. Dave will discuss with Barb.

New Business

Dave suggested Pastor attend the pre-school graduation.

We will be reviewing our constitution, making sure it is in alignment with the Synod constitution.

Debbie asked when the pre-school audit is to resume. Pastor will call those on the committee to arrange the next meeting.

Committee/ Team Reports

Properties: Debbie discussed the need for more help from the congregation. The church maintenance needs are greater than the current property members can manage.

We will come up with a list of things that properties routinely does.

Youth: Josh discussed the upcoming events, which include:

Cubs game May 5, 2019. There will be 19 people attending
30-hour famine

There will be an upcoming service project that has yet to be finalized

Fellowship/Outreach: No updates

Worship: No updates

Pastor Seth will provide the next Devotion.

Next council meeting June 16, 2019

Closing prayer by Pastor Seth

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Robertson

Altar Guild

ALTAR GUILD needs your help. Jim & Arlene Hankins have spent many years as head of Altar Guild. Over the past couple of years, people have died or moved away. The Altar Guild list has shrunk considerably. They would like people to step up and volunteer to take a month or even 2. As of right now, they end up doing 5 months out of 12. Please volunteer. It is cleaning of the altar each week and putting the hymn numbers on the boards. Jim & Arlene take care of the banners & altar cloths.

Council Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2019

Present: Pastor Seth, Dave Phillips, Josh Wilkes, Regina Bauer, Phil Keller, Deb Robertson and Gary Gruhn

Dave provided opening prayer

Pastor provided devotions

May meeting minutes were reviewed. Josh motioned to approved and was seconded by Phil.

Treasures report: Regina presented the treasures report. All questions were answered. Phil motioned to approve; Debbie seconded. The report will remain as is and a part of this document.

Pastors report: The report was reviewed and accepted as is. The report will remain as is and a part of this document.

Old Business:

A. Preschool

Preschool audit. There were no anomalies found in the preschool audit. There are recommendation as we move forward:

The preschool director will itemize all money coming in and going out.

The preschool director will provide council with a monthly ledger.

The preschool director will provide a separate ledger for all fund raisers. Items include but are not limited to amount spent on the purchase of fund raiser items and the amount of money brought in both for purchase and donation.

Moving forward, the preschool director will meet with properties chairman/chairwoman to address concerns and requests from both parties. It will be determined how often these meeting will take place.

Relationship with church: It was determined the preschool is part of Grace Lutheran Church in the following relationship: Outreach Program.

There will be an attempt to determine how much the preschool costs the church on a monthly and yearly basis.

It was recommended that the pastor have a more active role in the preschool. Pastor accepts this and will provide chapel time 2 times per month for the 3 y/o and 2 times for the 4 y/o.

B. Survey: The survey results should be available in about 6 weeks.

It was suggested someone from Synod help us analyze the results.

Phil suggested we form a small committee that would include a few members from the congregation. This committee would only meet one or two times before presenting the results to the congregation.

C. Synod: Gary asked if this council would/could be made aware of upcoming items to be voted on. Pastor will check with Synod to see if this is possible.

D. Confirmation Sunday: 2019 Confirmation will take place in October. For 2020 and forward, Pastor will talk to the confirmation parents to determine when they prefer it.

Committee Reports

A. Properties:

Pastor reported that Cindy Filas, properties chair, will be taking a step back from actively working around the church. She is having health issues. Jim Hankins will co-chair the properties committee with Cindy.

Debbie reported that there isn't a list of regular building maintenance items that need to be done.

Debbie also reported that many of the current members on properties are unable to keep up with the building or outdoor work because of health issues.

Phil questioned why most of our members are shying away from all these volunteer programs. It was suggested that the results of the survey could bring some light on these issues.

B. Youth:

Josh reported on the following:

The Cubs game was a successful outing with 19 individuals attending.

The 30-hour famine was cancelled but will be rescheduled in the near future.

The Instahunt, a multi-denomination scavenger hunt was a huge success.

Boundary waters trip is at the end of July. There has been enough money raised for all the kids to attend however, there will be two more fundraisers to help with the cost of the chaperones. These are a hotdog meal at ACE hardware and sandwiches from the Bellettini's Food Truck.

C. Outreach/Fellowship:

Both member on this committee are no longer able to fulfill their responsibilities

Pastor reported that a \$1000 grand was obtained. Its possible uses are for another Senior Luncheon.

New Business:

A. It was again suggested that we try to determine how much of the church resources and utilities are being uses by outside groups.

B. Pastor discussed the possibility of another church directory. Further details will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next meeting: July 14, 2019

Next meeting prayer: Dave Phillips

Next meeting devotions: Dave Phillips

Closing prayer by Pastor Seth

Respectfully submitted by : Deb Robertson



Boundary Waters Trip

Our group of 8 is headed up to the boundary waters between Canada and the USA. For 7 whole days, they'll be away from phones, permanent shelter, and all sorts of other distractions. They'll be exploring God's creation "raw," so to speak. Keep them in your prayers as they grow in their faith, see God through the beautiful Creation God has made, and deeper their relationships with each other.

Women of the ELCA

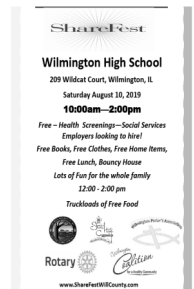
Are the ladies of Grace ready for "A Day at the Races"? Please join us August 8th when we will be going to Arlington Race Track. Please be at the church by 10:45 that morning, we will be leaving in several cars. If there is anyone interested in driving, please let Terry or Debbie know. Come join us, win (or lose) a little money...it's all for fun. We will be stopping for dinner on the way home.



WELCA will have their quarterly meeting September 12th. Please plan on attending, it's time too for the election of officers. Remember, If you're not there, you might just be elected to an office. There will be games, snacks and planning for future meetings/events.

ShareFest

ShareFest is coming to Wilmington! On Saturday, August 10th, most of the Wilmington-area churches will be working together to make this event possible. ShareFest is a huge event where people who need it can receive all the things they're in need of: clothes, food, school supplies, etc. The items are all donated, and ShareFest simply needs volunteers to help distribute items and connect with people in the community. Don't miss this opportunity to serve our town and make connections to people who need to see the love of Christ! (See the flyer in this edition.)



Backpack Sunday

Join us in celebrating the anticipation of a new school year on Sunday, August 25. Bring your backpack (or bag) to church with you for a blessing. Whether you're a student, teacher, administrator, or have kids or grandkids going to school or college, join us in making this special day a fun one!

Properties "Honey-Do" List

Our Properties Team has created a method for posting jobs that need to be completed at the church. It will be posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen door (next to the current Fellowship Hour sign up). On this list, you'll be able to see what needs to be done and sign yourself up to complete any item you believe you can complete (teamwork is encouraged!). This list will include regular maintenance items as well as unique needs that come up.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

It's that time of year again! Summer always goes by so fast. We are getting ready for the start of a new school year. The school will be cleaned, painted and decorated for the upcoming year. Registration forms are available in the church office or in the school hallway. Please pass one along to anyone you know of that might be interested. Open house is on Wednesday, August 21st from 6:00-7:00 pm. Families can check out the classrooms and meet the Teachers. You may register at that time. Blessing of the backpacks is on Sunday, August 25th. Bring your backpack for a special blessing during the 9:00 service. We are looking forward to a great year!

Missionary for a Day ~ July & August 2019

07/04	Women of the ELCA	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	Roy & Bonnie Hill	In Honor of Jessie's Birthday
07/13	Red & Sharon Folkestad	In Honor of Sharon's Birthday
07/18	Dave & Terry Phillips	In Honor of Dave Phillips Jr.'s Birthday
07/21	Dan Bell	In Memory of Robert & Betty Bell
07/26	Josh Wilkes	In Honor of Mila Morrison's Birthday
07/30	Gary Gruhn	
08/06	Dan Bell	In Honor of Daniel Jr. & Heather Bell's Anniversary
08/08	Kurt & Lynn Stehlik	In Honor of Harper Stehlik's Birthday
08/09	Kurt & Lynn Stehlik	In Honor of Lynn's Birthday
08/10	Susan Trimby	In Honor of Jeni Lambert's Birthday
08/14	Gary Gruhn	
08/23	Kurth & Lynn Stehlik	In Honor of McKenna Stehlik's Birthday
08/26	Susan Trimby	In Honor of Jeni Lambert's Baptism
08/27	Stan Long	In Memory of Sandra Long's Birthday
08/29	Mark & Brenda Lang	In Memory of Robert Lange

Anniversaries ♦ *July & August 2019*

<i>07/01</i>	<i>Norma & Charles Siebring</i>	<i>07/08</i>	<i>Kim & Jim Bell</i>
<i>07/30</i>	<i>Pr. Seth & Chelsea Hecox</i>	<i>08/01</i>	<i>Katelin & Tom Mrjenovich</i>
<i>08/03</i>	<i>Marcia & Chris Mandac</i>	<i>08/08</i>	<i>Wendy & Kevin Gorges</i>
<i>08/13</i>	<i>Marsha & Phil Keller</i>	<i>08/29</i>	<i>Karen & Andrew Nielsen</i>

Birthdays July & August 2019

07/04	Mary Smith	07/05	Rita Shaver	07/06	Ken Wolske
07/07	Kurt Stehlik	07/10	Josh Wilkes	07/13	Sharon Folkestad
07/17	Tom Ziller	07/20	Will Ricken	07/21	Adlai Hecox
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		

In Our Prayers...

Members: Stephani Dzak-Greenway, Joann Thompson, Rev. Guy Warke, Helen Warke, Frank Dickey, Cindy Filas, David Kirstein, Charles Siebring, Terry Phillips, Brian Melvin, & Phil Keller

Friends and Family of Grace: Barb Frantik (recent visitor), Charles Johnson (brother of Mary Smith), Mike Long (friend of Dan Bell), Faye Kingma (friend of the Rickens), Gabby (friend of Cindy Filas), Kathie Parton (Kim Bell's mother), Juanita (Jodi Dzak's mother), Rocky (nephew of Jackie Danalewich), Jacob Zigafoose (neighbor of Mary Smith), Fritzie Ceveno (friend of the Kirsteins), Kurt Stefans (son-in-law to the Warkes), Tina McBride (friend of Maryann Ricken), David DeWald (Irving DeWald's brother), Irma Wagner (sister-in-law of Joann House), Dorothy Ann Milling (Joann House's niece), Jack Zdanowski (Warkes' nephew), Jeanne Kieffer (friend of the Warkes), Matt Prodehl (son-in-law of Dan Bell)

Home-bound: Karen Nielsen (*home*), Jean Goodwin (*home*), Theresa Klager (*Heritage Woods, Minooka*), Edie Hess (*Heritage Woods, Manteno*), Norma Siebring (*home*)

Serving in Armed Forces:

Captain Autumn Carr (daughter of the Carrs)

Captain Erik Gundersen (grandson of the Warkes)

ShareFest

Wilmington High School

209 Wildcat Court, Wilmington, IL

Saturday August 10, 2019

10:00am—2:00pm

**Free – Health Screenings—Social Services
Employers looking to hire!**

Free Books, Free Clothes, Free Home Items,

Free Lunch, Bouncy House

Lots of Fun for the whole family

12:00 - 2:00 pm

Truckloads of Free Food



Rotary



Wilmington
Coalition
for a Healthy Community

www.ShareFestWillCounty.com

2019 VBS Report

We enjoyed “Roar” and learning the ‘God is Good’ in science, crafts, recreation, snack time, story time, and music.

We supported many missions this year. Here are the totals.

VFW Post #5422 Honor Guard \$50.00

Manteno Veterans Home Manteno, Illinois \$100.00

Our Caring Closet Wilmington, Illinois \$250.00
plus donations of socks and underwear

Kuzma Care Cottage Wilmington, Illinois \$250.00
plus food donations

Empowering Lives International/ Water for
Tanzania \$300.00

Special Thanks for all that helped with the
Community Vacation Bible School June 10-14!

Volunteers from Grace Lutheran included the
following: Kristin Trimby, Ashley Harding, Hannah
Melvin, Alivia George, Christy Ziller, Jenny
Kucharski, Susan Trimby, Maryann Ricken, Katelin
Mrjenovich, Grace Moyer, Pastor Seth Hecox, and
Lynn Stehlik Special thanks to Barb Harding for
making copies and assisting with paperwork.

