

October  
2019  
Edition

# The Lamp

Grace Lutheran Church

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known

PASTOR SETH'S

## *Ponderings*

**Affirmation of Baptism is an important mark in many Christian's lives.**

When we affirm the baptism of a child of God, we recognize some things about them. We acknowledge again God's claim through baptism on their lives as beloved children of God. We show our support for their past growth and encouragement for their continued growth in their own faith as well as in their church life. We celebrate a rite of passage where they take yet another step in a long series of steps in their transition from childhood to adulthood.

For us this year, these three beloved children of God will complete their confirmation journey on Reformation Sunday. What a fitting day to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in and among our family of faith! Typically, we look back on the history of the Reformation, we remember Martin Luther's courage and honesty, and we celebrate our Lutheran heritage.

On this Reformation Sunday, we will look back, as we normally do, but we will also look forward. We will imagine what the lives of our new confirmands might entail. We will remind them of their identities in Christ. We will remind ourselves of the vows we took at their baptisms: vows to be present for them, to place the scriptures in their hand, to show them the ancient ways of faith that the people of God have practiced for so long.

When we do so, we may also remember our own journeys of faith. Our own baptisms. Our own years in confirmation classes. Our own Confirmations in front of the congregation. These children are in that same place now. It is a different world, yes. The church is in a different place, yes. But the beauty and truth of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit are the same now as they have ever been.

Remember, dearly beloved people of God, no matter what happens, God will never leave us nor forsake us. We will never be abandoned, and our hope rests in a God who loves us more than we could ever imagine.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen!

/s/

Pastor Seth

## **New Member/All Member Class**

*Sundays at 10:15am*

Calling all new members (and old members! All are welcome) to a New Member/All Member class. We'll continue meeting for conversation this fall to explore Christianity, Lutheranism, and Grace Lutheran Church. This is a great opportunity for new and prospective members to acclimate themselves to our congregation, as well as for seasoned members to get a refresher!

## **Adult Bible Study**

*Tuesdays at 10am*

Tuesdays at Ten is our Adult Bible Study where we pray together, explore the next week's lectionary readings together, and discuss what's going on in our lives as well as what the Bible says about those things. We meet here in the fellowship hall at Grace. Coffee is provided.

**Sunday School** Children, ages three through fifth grade, are invited to come to Sunday School every week at 10:15 AM. Class usually runs until 10:50 or 11:00 AM. In September, we talked about Old Testament lessons—Creation, Adam & Eve, the first sin and Noah. In October the children will learn about the healing miracles of Jesus. Students have music, prayers, a story or video, coloring, using markers or water color painting. We also make crafts and have a lot of fun.

Drop-off students are welcome! If you know parents who would like a bit of peace and quiet on Sunday morning, encourage them to send their children to us. So far, we are enjoying our time together and would love to have others join us!

## **Confirmation/Youth**

*Sundays @ 6pm*

Confirmation and Youth meet on Sunday evenings at 6pm. Both middle school and high school students are all invited to join in various learning, service, and fellowship events as we practice what it means to be a family of faith together.

## **Blessing of the Pets**

*October 6 @ 11am*

Blessing of the Pets Sunday is coming up on October 6, after worship. Bring your pet to receive a blessing in this special service which we'll have on the front lawn (weather-allowing)!

## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

*October 13 beginning at 9am*

Join us for worship with Holy Communion. Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Gary Erickson, will share greetings from the Northern Illinois Synod and a sermon. Our Anniversary brunch will follow, about 10:30 am, in the fellowship hall.

## **Confirmation/Reformation Sunday**

*October 27*

This Reformation Sunday, join us as our three new confirmands are affirmed in their baptisms! Jace Christian, Jacob McPherson, and Grace Moyers will all help lead worship and share some things they've learned through their years of Confirmation classes.

Grace Lutheran Church Council  
Meeting Minutes for August 11, 2019

President Dave Phillips called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM by offering an opening prayer. Susan presented devotions. Council members Dave Phillips, Phil Keller, Deb Robinson, Josh Wilkes, Gary Gruhn and Susan Trimby were present. Pastor Seth Hecox was on vacation.

The agenda was approved. The secretary's report was approved, motion by Deb, second by Josh. Motion approved. The treasurer's report was discussed and treasurer Gary answered council questions. Motion to accept the report made by Josh, second by Phil. Motion passed.

The Pastor's report was reviewed. Under old business, there are still no survey results and the Little Library project is a work on progress.

Deb gave the property report. The council agreed to have members use the work order form and those will be displayed on a prominent bulletin board. Josh reported the youth rip report about the Boundary Waters was presented during fellowship time. Under worship, the council reviewed these programs and dates: Gathering Sunday September 8, Signature Intent-Team Sign-up Day September 15, with Sunday School and New Member/Refresh classes beginning that day, Pet Blessing, October 6, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday October 13, Confirmation October 27, Pledge Sunday November 17, and New Member Sunday November 24.

There was no new business. The next council meeting is September 15 with Josh presenting devotions. Motion to adjourn into executive session at 12:06 PM, motion by Dave, second by Debbie, all ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Trimby, secretary

**Pastor's Report**  
**Grace Lutheran Church Council**

**Date: 8/5/2019**

**Hospital Visits:** 0      **Pastoral Visits:** 5      **Evangelism Visits:** 1

**Pastoral Checkup Conversations** (via Phone Call/Text): 16

**Meetings**

- Mentor mtg (Pastor Dave Hedlin)
- Pastor Harriette (from FUMC across the street)
- Pastor Brad Haugen (from Followers of Christ LC, Plainfield)
- Multiple private meetings – in office and for coffee

**Worship Services:** 3

**Bible Studies:** 0 (on break until September)

**Confirmation Classes:** 0 (on break until September)

**Mileage:** 192

**Miscellaneous/Other Items:**

- Sacristy Sink (roto roter) \*Dave knows the update on this
- Church Finances \*basically, what I'd emailed Council about a couple weeks ago
  - Mission Support
  - Portico (health insurance/retirement)
- September council meeting date -possibly on 15<sup>th</sup>?
  - Move Vol. Recruitment Day to 22<sup>nd</sup>?
  - Combine Vol. Recruitment Day w/ Gathering Day (8<sup>th</sup>)?



STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 17

This year's stewardship theme is "Gratitude and Grace." Listen to St. Paul in Romans 3, " [For] all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup> they are now justified by his grace as a [free] gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." For this grace we are all grateful and we share the gifts we have with the fellowship of believers. In early November members will receive a letter from Pastor Hecox along with a pledge card for 2020 and a chart to show how you can raise your contribution by 10% or any amount that is comfortable for you. No one will read or see your pledge card. It is a covenant between you and God. Please prayerfully consider your giving for the upcoming year. St. Paul, in the second book of Corinthians, says, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

**Women of the ELCA** had its election of officers and planning meeting on Tuesday, September 17th. Although the meeting had few attendees, we did have a very productive night and had even more fun playing Boggle afterwards. Kudos to Katelin who won by a large margin. Here is a list of upcoming meeting dates and the fun activities we will be having. Each meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Times will change to accommodate those still working and those that are retired. We invite all women of Grace to come have a good time.

- October 15th at 11:30a.m., we will be meeting for lunch at LaPiazza in Coal City.
- November 19th at 7p.m., we will be hosting "Game Night" in the Fellowship Hall.
- December 10th at 6p.m., will be our Christmas party. Dinner will be at Hayden's in Wilmington.
- 2020 meeting dates and events will be determined and published at a later date.

Election of Officers:

President: Terry Phillips    Treasurer: Katelin Mrjenovich    Secretary: Deb Robertson

GRACE LUTHERAN TEAMS

THANK YOU! Thanks everyone for joining teams to make Grace Lutheran strong. See the calendar of team meetings in another part of this month's Lamp. New members are always welcome. As you read about activities, if the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart, see of team chairperson to join a group. Only together can we make Grace Lutheran a vibrant exciting place to worship. Everyone is welcome to share ideas, enthusiasm and the work. Remember the Little Red Hen and her quest for a great snack—freshly baked bread!

**Preschool News:** School has been in session for a month now and we are having so much fun and learning so much. In September, we had a visit from Officer Jurgens. He taught us how police officers help us and protect us. This month we will be having a visit from the Fire department. They will be teaching us fire safety. We will also be getting ready for fall and Halloween. Pastor Seth has taught us about Noah and his Ark during chapel time. We've enjoyed a visit from Miss Kim for music class. We love singing and dancing!



## In Our Prayers...

Members: Roy Hill, Kurt Stehlik, 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: Dave Pickard (friend of Dan Bell), William Buis (friend of Chris & Lois Smith), Margaret (Kral) Griffin (friend of Bonnie Hill), Larry Walsh & family (relative of Lois Smith), Becky Mansoor (sister to Chris Smith), 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), 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), 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 Erik Gundersen (grandson of the Warkes)

## Missionary for a Day ~ October 2019

10/01	Lori Quigley	In Honor of Gauge Trammel's 1st Birthday
10/09	Dan Bell	In Honor of Matt & Barbara Prodehl's Anniversary
10/14	Patricia Fox	For Columbus Day
10/15	Lori Quigley	In Honor of Lindsey & Corey's Anniversary
10/16	Bruce & Dee Elsner	In Memory of Roland & Jean Elsner
10/22	Gary Gruhn	

## *Anniversaries* ♦ *October 2019*

10/11	<i>Jaime &amp; Matt Hauert</i>	10/16	<i>Christy &amp; Thomas Ziller</i>
		10/31	<i>Shelby &amp; Timothy Eaker</i>

## Birthdays ~ October 2019

10/02	Tom Mrjenovich	10/02	William Quigley	10/05	Jodi Dzak
10/05	Gary Robertson	10/06	Mary Bell	10/06	Arlene Hankins
10/07	Jean Petersen	10/13	Deb Robertson	10/13	Susan Soda
10/17	Katie Kucharski	10/17	Jenny Kucharski	10/17	Mark Lange
10/24	Sharon Bernico				