

November  
2019  
Edition

# The Lamp

## Grace Lutheran Church

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known

### PASTOR SETH'S

#### *Ponderings*

Well, here we are: the final month of the church year.

Several questions enter my mind: how did the year go by so fast? Is leadership ready for Advent? What will Year A in the lectionary be like compared to Year C, which we're about to finish? Will it be brutally cold again this winter?

These and other questions may come to your mind as you look at the few remaining weeks we have together this year.

One thing that can be quite comforting at times of transition like this is the fellowship found in our faith family. The community felt in a congregation can be a great source of strength, encouragement, and help through whatever we're facing in life.

So take heart! Be encouraged. Psalm 145 reminds us that "The Lord is near to all those who call on him." Whenever things concern you, whenever you feel anxious, remember that you can turn your eyes to God, that you can lift up a prayer you know will be heard, that you can find reassurance in a Savior who cares for you.

Furthermore, remember that there is a body of Christ we can literally see with our eyes and touch with our hands and hear with our ears: the church! Together, we are the body of Christ, and that real, physical, corporeal body is our connection to living community, life, and a sense of peace in all of life's various stages.

And with that, I finish with these words you know well from hearing them on so many Sundays throughout the church year:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen!

## **Congregational Meeting is November 17!**

We will be voting on the 2020 budget, so please plan to attend this very important meeting.

## **Pledge Sunday is also on November 17!**

In addition to our Congregational Meeting immediately after worship, November 17 will also be the final day to drop off your pledge for 2020. As Pledge Sunday, the focus will be on 2020, our finances, the gifts and talents we each commit for the good of the community, and where we go from here.

## **New Member Sunday is November 24!**

The final day of the church year is also the day we welcome all those who have recently joined our faith family! These new members of our community will be vital as Grace moves forward into a new year and a new era of the congregation's life together.

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

*Continues on 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**

*Continues on 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**

*Continues on Sundays at 10:15am –10:50am*

Susan, Maryann, and Chelsea have done a great job with the kids in Sunday School. Sunday School continues each Sunday, shortly after worship ends. Sunday School is for all elementary school children and usually lasts 30-40 minutes.

## **Confirmation/Youth**

*Continues on Sundays at 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.

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

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was a success! Thanks to everyone who helped make it a memorable event. Grace raised \$1,338.75 total that has been sent in to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response. A special thanks to the planning team.

## **New Confirmands!**

On Reformation Sunday, three new confirmands affirmed their baptisms in front of the congregation. Grace Moyers, Jace Christian, and Jacob McPherson all helped to lead worship and shared some things they've learned through their years of Confirmation classes. Thanks be to God!

Grace Lutheran Church Council  
Meeting Minutes for September 13, 2019

Susan made a motion to appoint Josh as meeting president in the absence of Dave. Gary seconded. Motion passed. President Josh Wilkes called the meeting to order at 10:24 AM and presented devotions. Council members, Deb Robinson, Josh Wilkes, Gary Gruhn and Susan Trimby were present. Pastor Seth Hecox came in at the Pastor's report. Members Dave Phillips and Phil Keller were absent.

The secretary's report was read, corrected and approved. Motion by Deb, second by Gary. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was presented and discussed. Debbie will look at medical insurance options. A motion by Debbie with a second by Josh "Treasurer Gary Gruhn has permission to access all financial accounts associated with Grace Lutheran Church and Preschool." Motion passed. Motion by Deb, second by Josh to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Pastor reported on an IRS problem. He thought the council's presentation of the Little Red Hen went well and that the team sign up would be successful.

Under old business, survey results are available and will be discussed with Gary Erickson (SP?) after the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary brunch on October 13. The new little library will be installed when it arrives. Council discussed placement. Under new business, the proposed fundraiser in conjunction with the VFW was discussed and turned down.

**Team Reports**

Property—no report

Stewardship—choosing theme for Pledge Sunday and Pastor will choose a recipient for "Change for a Change."

Youth—had a good confirmation/high school meeting, is planning to attend "Feed my Starving Children" in November, and is making plans for the Thirty Hour Fast, will serve soup and sandwich suppers during Advent

Worship—just beginning, discussed organist position

Fellowship & Outreach—just starting

Education—Bible Study and new member class are both going well

A motion to adjourn was made by Josh with a second by Deb. After Pastor gave a final prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 AM. The next meeting is Sunday, October 6 with Deb providing devotions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Trimby, secretary

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: **WELCA:** On October 15<sup>th</sup> a few of our members met for lunch at the Whistle Stop. We had a nice  
: time catching up and discussing upcoming meetings. Our next meeting will follow the every third  
: Tuesday schedule. It will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7pm for  
: games and refreshments. The Christmas Party for WELCA had a change of venue, it will be held at  
: Gippers II on December 11<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please look in the reminder or attend the  
: meeting on November 19th.  
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: **PROPERTIES UPDATE:** The properties team is planning a fall cleanup day. It will follow church service  
: on a Sunday in November. We can't pick a date yet until we're sure most of the leaves are off the trees.  
: If you can't help outside, please consider helping indoors where there are several cleaning options to  
: choose from. Look for updates in the trifold and the attendance sheet.  
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: **Preschool News:** We survived Halloween month! Before you know it, it will be Christmas! We  
: had a fun month of music class, chapel time and parties. This month we will be learning about  
: Thanksgiving and having a wonderful feast. We have started preparing for our Christmas  
: program on Dec. 19th at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. It's always a great  
: time. Check out our Facebook page for pictures of our Students of the week and other daily  
: activities. Our halls are also decorated in wonderful artwork! The students love doing projects  
: and displaying them.  
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## In Our Prayers...



**Members:** 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, Andy Nielsen & Sharon Folkstad

**Friends and Family of Grace:** Betty Newman (friend of the Robertsons), Dave Pickard (friend of Dan Bell), 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 ~ November 2019

11/01	Patricia Fox	All Saints' Day
11/05	Gary Gruhn	
11/11	Men of Grace	Veteran's Day
11/17	Susan Trimby	For Michele Hoppenrath's Birthday
11/20	Chris & Lois Smith	For Kelly's Birthday
11/28	Women of the ELCA	Thanksgiving
11/29	Jackie Danalewich	For Andrew's Birthday
11/30	Susan Trimby	In Memory of Grandparents

## *Anniversaries* ♦ *November 2019*

11/01	<i>Lori &amp; William Quigley</i>	11/25	<i>Gary &amp; Adele Gruhn</i>
		11/25	<i>Janelle &amp; Jeff Reents</i>

## Birthdays ~ November 2019

11/08	Jace Christian	11/18	Wendy Gorges	11/22	Jaime Ray
11/24	Daniel Bell	11/24	Brian Melvin	11/25	Helen Warke