

August  
2020  
Edition

# The Lamp

## Grace Lutheran Church

**Kuzma Item**  
Peanut Butter  
& Jelly

Growing in Grace—Making Christ Known



WORSHIP UPDATE!

**Starting Sunday, July 26**  
**Three ways to worship at Grace:**  
**In the building, in your cars, live online**  
**9 A.M.**

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;  
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.  
The counsel of the Lord stands forever,  
the thoughts of his heart to all generations. (Psalm 33:10-11)

How this Psalm so perfectly describes our worship experience at Grace on July 19!  
Many people spent many hours doing many things to prepare for our first Drive-In  
Worship that day. But first clouds, then rain, then lightning forced us to a last-second  
decision we did not want to make: to move our worship indoors.

The group of volunteers present to set up the outside service swarmed the sanctuary like  
bees, hauling out hymnals, disinfecting surfaces, marking off spots for people to sit, and  
on and on. I was and continue to be very impressed and grateful! I am also thankful  
that everyone who came to worship that morning fully supported wearing masks and  
following social distancing directions from the ushers while in the building. This  
showed genuine love and concern for themselves and for their fellow worshippers. I am  
also proud of the people in high-risk categories who turned around and went home  
rather than risk coming inside; your care for your health is a blessing in God's eyes!

Even following important precautions, our indoor worship that day was a big success.  
This led the church leadership to meet this week and reassess our worship practices  
going forward. What came out of our discussions can only be seen as Holy Surprises  
from the Holy Spirit.

In short, we have learned that it is possible to worship together in three different ways  
simultaneously:

**Inside the sanctuary,  
In cars in the parking lot, and  
Live streaming online.**

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Inside the sanctuary: We have put together careful protocols that simply must be followed, which include: wearing masks at all times when in the building; taking temperatures as people enter; entering and exiting through certain doors and sitting in specific places as directed by the ushers, and others. A special disinfectant machine has been purchased for cleaning the sanctuary between services. One issue might be available seating: this will be very limited because of the need to sit at least six feet apart. Please do NOT choose this worshipping option if you are part of a high-risk population.

In cars: We discovered the FM transmitter packs we planned to use for our Drive-In Worship services are more powerful than we thought! We tested them, and we could hear someone reading from behind the altar in the sanctuary crystal clear from our car radios in the parking lot (even as far as Ridge Street!). This worship option would be good for those who cannot watch online because they do not have internet access, but are also in a high-risk group and cannot risk worshipping inside. Communion will be taken out to each car, and ushers will collect offerings if you turn your hazard lights on!

Online: Thanks to a very generous donor (thank you!) we have made arrangements for Wi-Fi to be installed in the sanctuary. This will allow us to live stream worship on Facebook exactly as we have been doing it the past few months, with links to the video and the online bulletin on Grace's website ([gracewilm.org](http://gracewilm.org)).

**So, beginning on Sunday, July 26, at 9 AM, you have three ways to participate in worship at Grace: in the building, in your car, or live online.**

The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us clearly that everything has a season, and that beginnings and endings are natural parts of life. For me, this includes my season of internship and interim ministry at Grace. A few people have been asking about whether my pastoral ministry will extend as Grace's regular pastor, so I thought it would be best just to let the congregation know as a whole, so that there isn't any confusion. Though my time here is blessed and I look forward to being at Grace through at least the end of December, I do not discern a call to extend beyond that as your pastor. I have suggested that the call committee gear-up its work to find my successor. Thank you for your faith in me...it is an honor to serve you.

Vicar Kyle Johnson

### **Church Council**

The Council of Grace continues to meet regularly and concentrate on the work of Grace. Over the past two months they, and a few others, have assisted Vicar Kyle in planning the transition from on-line service to a "drive in" service. During that preparation, we found that we could continue the on-line service as well as the drive-in option. Please stay tuned into Vicar Kyle's Face Book and your e-mail for all service updates.

Our sound system needs replacement. A grant has been secured to help in purchasing a new system. Vicar Kyle is taking the lead in researching what kind we will need, how much it will cost and how it aligns with our future needs.

The call team has been working behind the scenes. All the required, completed paperwork was submitted to the synod in early June. Now we wait until we are given a list of possible candidates. Thanks to Vicar Kyle, who has agreed to stay as an interim pastor until the end of December.

Grace Lutheran Church Council  
Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2020

President Dave Phillips called the meeting to order at 11:36 AM and offered an opening prayer. Council members Dave Phillips, Phil Keller, Josh Wilkes, Gary Gruhn, Debbie Robertson, Susan Trimby and Vicar Kyle Johnson were present. Dave gave devotions. The agenda was approved as written.

The secretary's report was approved as amended, motion by Vicar, second by Debbie. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was explained and discussed. There is a letter of gratitude for mission support. The report was approved with a motion by Josh, second by Debbie. Motion passed.

Vicar gave his report. He continues to communicate with members by phone, texts, emails and cards. We received a grant from St. Matthew in Princeton for \$1400.00. The church will update the sound system and we now have a Zoom membership to continue with an online presence. Our online services are very well "attended," and will continue after the pandemic. Barb is now back in the office and will take over producing the bulletin. The Bishop had a meeting concerning in-person services. There continues to be unrest and worry over current events.

Under old business, council discussed the suggestions for new members. There was an emphasis on gaining someone with financial experience and getting new members to participate. The President and the Vicar will contact prospective nominees and report to the council and then congregation. How to hold voting was also discussed. Mailed ballots appears to be the safest way. Deb made a motion, second by Phil to set a tentative timeline. Motion by Susan, second by Phil to leave council membership at six. Both motions passed.

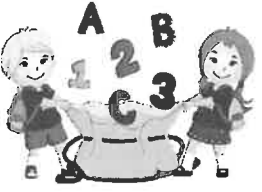
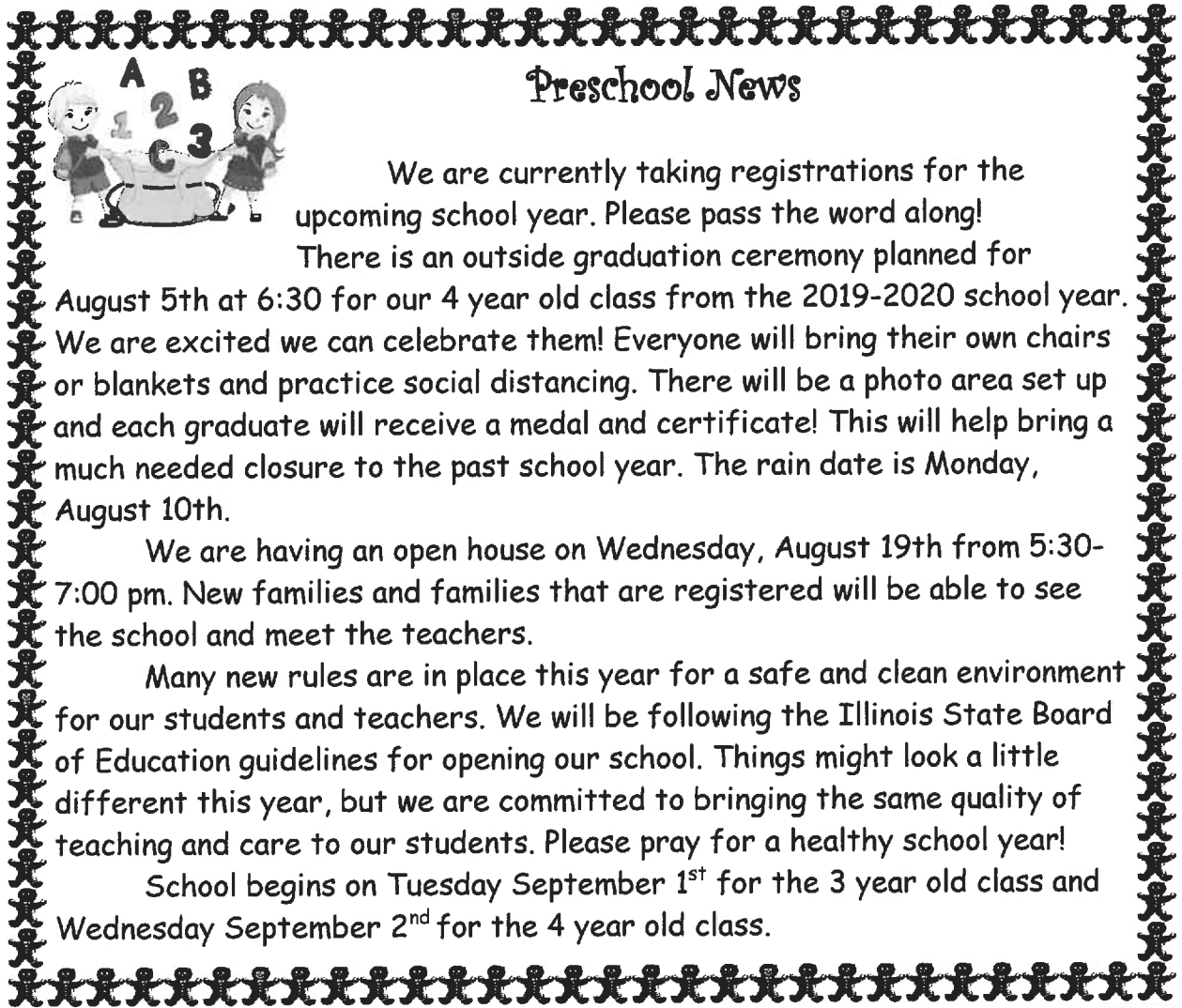
Under new business, council discussed the recommendations from the state government, the ELCA, NIS, and the Church Mutual Insurance. Members were asked to read over the material and give thoughts and ideas to Vicar.

Vicar reported that he is experimenting with the bulletin, especially the welcome and the Lord's Prayer. He welcomes feedback.

Council was reminded that a reception for Mary Smith will be held in the courtyard on June 20, beginning at 1:30 PM. Barb will order face masks, thermometers and the sanitizing steamer. Team reports: Properties—electrical problems repaired, mulch was spread, recycling will begin soon; Stewardship will sponsor "Fill the Cart" for Kuzma on Thursday, June 18 from 9-11 and 5-7. Contributions will be delivered on Friday, 6/19.

There was a motion to adjourn at 1:42 PM by Debbie with a second by Phil. Dave offered the closing prayer. The next meeting is July 12. Susan will have devotions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Trimby, secretary



# Preschool News

We are currently taking registrations for the upcoming school year. Please pass the word along!

There is an outside graduation ceremony planned for August 5th at 6:30 for our 4 year old class from the 2019-2020 school year. We are excited we can celebrate them! Everyone will bring their own chairs or blankets and practice social distancing. There will be a photo area set up and each graduate will receive a medal and certificate! This will help bring a much needed closure to the past school year. The rain date is Monday, August 10th.

We are having an open house on Wednesday, August 19th from 5:30-7:00 pm. New families and families that are registered will be able to see the school and meet the teachers.

Many new rules are in place this year for a safe and clean environment for our students and teachers. We will be following the Illinois State Board of Education guidelines for opening our school. Things might look a little different this year, but we are committed to bringing the same quality of teaching and care to our students. Please pray for a healthy school year!

School begins on Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> for the 3 year old class and Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup> for the 4 year old class.

## Properties

Another team working behind the scenes, properties has been keeping the ground well cared for. Kurt has taken the responsibility of grass cutting while Will is on "sick leave". Please thank him, he is keeping the grounds looking great. As promised, metal recycling will resume. Please place all your metal in plastic bags and place over the fence (behind the garage). The money we collect helps do small projects around the church, like the mulch, parking signs, maintaining the parking lot etc.

## WELCA

- Sadly, WELCA is still unable to meet, but we are hopeful that will change soon. As per the state's guidelines, we can gather up to 50 people if social distancing and masks are worn. As always, we are proceeding cautiously.
- Please watch for updates in each Lamp.



<p><b>Members:</b>          Will Ricken          Cindy Filas          Terry Phillips          Phil Keller          Ken Winebaugh          Norma Siebring          Charles Siebring          Karen Nielsen          Andy Nielsen          Mary Smith          Stephani Dzak-Greenway          Joann Thompson          Rev. Guy Warke          Helen Warke          David Kirstein          Sharon Folkstad</p> <p><b>The Bereaved:</b> The family and friends of Becky Mansoor (sister to Chris Smith)</p> <p><b>Home-bound:</b>          Jean Goodwin (home)          Theresa Klager (Heritage Woods, Minooka)          Edie Hess (Heritage Woods, Manteno)</p>	<p><b>Friends and Family of Grace:</b>          Roberta (Deb Robertson's cousin)          Darlene Steffes (mother of Lynn Stehlik)          Tony (friend of Jackie Danalewich)          Heather McKnight (friend of Dan Bell)          Sandy (friend of Helen Warke)          Connor Kruchten (Grace preschool student, son of Adam and Gina Kruchten)          Catherine Conger (daughter of Karen Nielsen)          Ron Landers (Al Zlomie's son)          Rocky, Lynn &amp; Judith Eva-Marie Drozd (nephew of Jackie Danalewich)          William Buis (friend of Lalar Melvin)          Richard Johnson (Dee Elsner's father)          Richard &amp; Sylvia Pick (Warke's friends)          John Pick (nephew of the Warkes)          Lynnae Messina (Lindsey Stewart's mom)          Richard Weber (grandfather of Lindsey Stewart)          Ryleigh Hays (granddaughter of Mary Kay)          Gwen Westland (friend of the Robertsons)          Patty Nelson (daughter of John Muday)          Dave Pickard (friend of Dan Bell)          Faye Kingma (friend of the Rickens)          Gabby (friend of Cindy Filas)          Kathie Parton (Kim Bell's mother)          Fritzie Ceveno (friend of the Kirsteins)          Kurt Stefans (son-in-law to the Warkes)          Tina McBride (friend of Maryann Ricken)          Matt Prodehl (son-in-law of Dan Bell)</p>
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**Volunteers for August 2020**

	<b>*Vicar's Assistant</b>	
08/02	Jackie Danalewich	(If anyone is interested in doing any of the volunteer jobs we have, please let us know. We would like to get you on our lists.)
08/09	Susan Trimby	
08/16	Katelin Mrjenovich	
08/23	Christy Ziller	
08/30	Dee Elsner	
09/06	Jim Hankins	

If any of you don't feel safe inside the building,  
 please call the office and let Barb know. (815) 476-9480

**Missionary for a Day ~ August 2020**

08/01	Gary Gruhn	
08/03	Pr. Guy & Helen Warke	In Honor of Guy's 85th Birthday
08/08	Kurt & Lynn Stehlik	In Honor of Harper Stehlik
08/10	Susan Trimby	In Honor of Jeni Lambert's Birthday
08/18	Gary Gruhn	
08/21	Christy Ziller	For Timothy Eaker
08/23	Kurt & Lynn Stehlik	In Honor of McKenna Stehlik
08/26	Susan Trimby	In Honor of Jeni Lambert's Baptismal Anniversary
08/31	Gary Gruhn	

**Birthdays ~ August 2020**

08/03	Pr. Guy Warke	08/09	Lynn Stehlik
08/18	Lois Smith	08/19	Charlotte Turbett
08/23	Gary Gruhn	08/24	Bruce Elsner
08/28	Madison Gorges	08/28	Terry Phillips
08/30	Dee Elsner	08/31	Kim Bell

Jesus said, "I'll be back." way before Arnold did.

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil—no point.

***Anniversaries ♦ August 2020***



08/01	<i>Katelin &amp; Tom Mrjenovich</i>
08/03	<i>Marcia &amp; Chris Mandac</i>
08/08	<i>Wendy &amp; Kevin Gorges</i>
08/13	<i>Marsha &amp; Phil Keller</i>
08/29	<i>Karen &amp; Andy Nielsen</i>