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July 2019

# Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church

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## From the Pastor's Desk . . .

The “dog days” of summer are here in full force! After weeks and weeks of rain and monsoon weather, things have finally turned to full heat and humidity. My boys love to play outside – but this time of year sometimes playing outside means primarily finding ways to keep cool – so that you can KEEP playing outside. It’s a **HOT** time of year and we all have to find ways to cope – whether that be the shade, sprinkler, pool, lemonade, popsicle, or air conditioning. We have to find some way to beat the heat.

As we resume reading and wrestling through the Gospel of Luke during the coming Sundays, you’ll find that a lot of the readings have to do with **Discipleship**. In other words, following Jesus Christ in this world is hard. We face opposition – just like He did. It can get pretty hot and uncomfortable at times. But during those “dog days” of difficulty, how can we cope? How do Christ’s words and deeds direct us in those circumstances? Join us in the weeks ahead as we hear from our Lord...

Living as a faithful Christian in a world of opposing influences takes dedication, strategy, and a power source. We need to have the right expectations, mindset, and motivation. In Luke’s Gospel God speaks to us about those things as well...

During the summer months it’s nice to take a break from regular routines and school activities to go on vacation, hit the beach, and do other fun and relaxing things. It can also turn into a popular time to “take a break” from going to church. What’s the big deal with skipping worship during those nice summer months?!? Our Lord gives us some strong (and reassuring) words on this subject in Luke...

What about if your prayer life has gotten stale, boring, perfunctory, or perhaps simply non-existent? Want some motivation on how to make your prayers more powerful, moving, and motivating? You guessed it... look no farther than the portions of Luke's Gospel we've got coming up in worship this month.

We look to our Lord and His Word to help us beat the heat we face.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

**June Official Pastoral Acts:**

- 4 sick/shut-in visits
- 3 private communions
- 3 circuit visitor activities
- 5 leadership meetings
- 1 family visitation
- 3 pastoral care visits
- 1 evangelism contact
- 1 memorial service (*Alice Amenhauser*)
- 1 baptism (*Simon Moldenhauer*)

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
July 7	Luke 10:1-20
July 14	Luke 10:25-37
July 21	Luke 10:38-42
July 28	Luke 11:1-13

We at Grace have identified the following 3 areas where we want to intentionally improve in 2019 and 2020: **Incorporation, Community, and Outreach**. In order to do so we're going to need everyone's participation and willingness to change. In June **3x5 cards** were placed in the worship bulletins to give people the opportunity to thoughtfully answer the following questions:

1. *How can we at Grace improve at getting members more involved?*
2. *What are some ideas for how we at Grace could engage our community?*
3. *What are some ideas for how we at Grace could improve at connecting to people who aren't a part of our church?*

If you haven't already done so, please fill one out or email it to Pastor this month. Soon he and the new Evangelism Deacon and will start sifting through the ideas and look to put some into practice here at Grace.

**July Birthdays**

- Tom Hadaway 7/07
- Bob Izold 7/11
- Lisa Lalonde 7/18
- Kyle Huston 7/18
- Pat Fraunfelder 7/22
- Kathy Rutherford 7/22

**July Anniversaries**

- Mike & Debbie Burt 7/01
- Kris & Kathy Koepp 7/25

\* If we accidentally forgot your birthday or anniversary, please tell Pastor and we'll add it to our list.

## **“You can’t make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear”!**

No matter how you “slice Grace Lutheran Church’s financial bread,” whether with the treasurer’s woodsman’s hatchet or the vice-president’s surgical knife, the gravitation for CY2019 has continued the trend for necessary reliance on the Luikart Funds to pay salaries, invoices, and physical property repairs and needed improvements.

**Through the end of June, 2019 we experienced a shortfall of Sunday collections that has brought our 6-month’s deficit to \$16,183.** Since c. 85 per cent of our expenditures is fixed, this quagmire can be corrected only by increased giving by the congregation. We on the church council have not harped enough on this exposure to serious depletion of our church asset(s) to our fellow parishioners. No one likes to discuss financial difficulties in a church---FOR A CHURCH---where we pray to God for continued life-guidance and for a short while every week forget any outside concerns. But we cannot close our eyes and ears thinking “God will provide.” God looks after our spiritual well-being and “leads us on paths of righteousness,” but earthly decisions are usually ours.

First-and-foremost, there’s great quality and responsibility in the members of Grace Lutheran Church and I don’t mean to suggest that the congregants of Grace Lutheran Church should contribute more to lessen our ongoing financial deficit. However, I would like you to determine for yourselves the church’s financial future by looking at the reports provided you at the quarterly meetings that we, the church council, oversee. THEN you will understand we’re not just talking about incidentals here for Grace Lutheran Church’s survival.

Sincerely,  
Fred C. Feddeck, Vice-President

## *Evangelism News:*

The Mission of the Month for July is the **Lutheran Church of Tanzania**, Africa. Looking at the bulletin board in the church hallway you can see colorful pictures that help show the mission and ministry of this vibrant and growing group of Christians. For those of you receiving this by email, you can learn more about this by going to <https://blogs.lcms.org/2016/photo-gallery-raising-church-workers-for-tanzania-2/> and reading more.

On Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a free-will offering taken for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod under the theme "Joy to the World", in connection with the **Synodical Convention** which will be held July 20-25 in Tampa, Florida.

Ahead of the convention, **Rev. Matthew Harrison** has been re-elected to serve as President of the LCMS through an on-line ballot.

## *Worship News*

Starting in June we are no longer be using the pre-printed bulletin inserts from CPH during worship. Instead the relevant information will be printed in the bulletins and the congregation will be encouraged to look up the Bible readings in the pew Bibles or their own personal Bibles they bring from home. If you have any comments on this change, please speak with one of the Elders.

## *Altar Guild News*

We are still looking to add a few new members to our team. If you are interested in serving on Altar Guild please contact Robin Turnbull.

Serving in July

7 & 14 ~ Karen Huston

21 & 28 ~ Robin Turnbull

~ Robin

# *Lutheran Women's League News*

Coffee fellowship in July:

7	Carolyn Husted
14	Bonnie Abicht
21	Diane Senyak
28	Judy Gornek

The Mertz family served the Free Community Hot Meal in June.

Bob and Lori Izold will be serving the Free Community Hot Meal on July 20.

Diane Senyak and Dale Rider will be serving on Saturday, August 17.

The next women's breakfast will be held on July 25 at Oberlin Diner at 9:30 a.m.

Another reminder: LWL's annual fall rummage sale will be September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Save those special things you were going to discard as you were doing your spring cleaning. We will be glad to take them off your hands. Lots of help needed!

Carolyn Husted

# July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 • Worship 10 am	8 • Council's Meeting 7 pm	9	10	11	12	13
14 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	15	16	17 • Elder's Meeting 4 pm	18	19	20 • Free Hot Meal 5 pm
21 • Worship 10 am • Special LCMS Convention Offering • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	22	23 • OCS Food Box Delivery 2 pm	24	25 • Mental Illness Support Group 7 pm • Women's Breakfast at Oberlin Kitchen 9:30 am	22	27
28 • Worship 10 am • Adult Bible Class 11:40 am	29	30	31			

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

- Aug. 25: Voter's Meeting
- Sept 6 & 7: Rummage Sale