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JULY 2021

# Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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*“Grace Lutheran Church is a family united by faith in Christ,  
which seeks to grow in that faith and to share it with others.”*

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## From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

As the old saying goes: *“all good things must come to an end.”* That’s true of a lot of stuff in this life – including the **daily family devotions**. I started writing them during Lent of last year when the pandemic hit, as a way to increase our devotional meditation on Christ and His Word. After Lent was over, I kept them going, as the pandemic kept going and people who couldn’t get to church needed some extra faith support in their lives. I pray they have been spiritually edifying for you. But the pandemic is (hopefully) winding down, people are returning to worship, and it’s time to wrap up writing and emailing out the daily devotions. Therefore, Monday July 5<sup>th</sup> I’ll send out the last one, which will be # 366. (One for each day of the year – plus an extra one in case of a leap year.)

*“All good things must come to an end”* – but not necessarily “all” things. As Christians we know our life in Christ will never end, nor will the life we enjoy in Heaven with Him. (There seems to be exceptions to every adage.) The same is true for the daily family devotions. While they are ending this month, the opportunity to grow regularly and devotionally in God’s Word certainly will not.

## Let me highlight the following three options:

- Hard copies of “**Portals of Prayer**” are available in the church narthex. They have short prayers and devotions for every day. Contact the church if you’d like us to mail you one for the next quarter (July-Sept.)
- For those who enjoyed the ease of daily devotions on your computer/smartphone, you can receive one for FREE from **Lutheran Hour Ministries** by going to <https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions> . You can either read it each day on their website, or sign up to have them email it to you every day.
- For those of you who might like to delve into the study of God’s Word in more of a group setting, starting July 28<sup>th</sup> we will begin a midweek **Bible Study** at Grace, meeting weekly at 1:00 pm. The first 8 weeks will cover the Foundations of our Faith (the basics of Lutheranism) and from there we will tackle various topics of interest. (Let me know if a different day/time would work better for you, and we can see about switching it.)

Let me encourage you to participate in one of the three opportunities listed above. A deeper devotional life is a GOOD THING, so let’s KEEP A GOOD THING GOING!

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

PS On a related note, starting this month I’d like to get back to making more **in-person visits** with church members and visitors. Many of you will recall that before the pandemic hit, I was trying to visit everyone in their homes regularly. Now let me be clear, I am not going to contact you about scheduling this visit. I know everyone has different thoughts about the pandemic and different comfortability levels with having visitors over – even if they are vaccinated. So, when you are comfortable and ready for a visit, please contact me and I’ll be happy to come over. Being able to visit with all of you face-to-face is really something I’ve missed during the past months.

### June Official Pastoral Acts:

- 3 pastoral care visits
- 1 leadership meeting
- 1 circuit visitor activity

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
July 4	Mark 9:42-50
July 11	Mark 10:1-12
July 18	Mark 10:17-27
July 25	Mark 12:28-34

## Worship Information

Our church pandemic protocols put into place last month will continue this month.

Pastor offers **Private Communion** at church the first Wednesday of the month from 1:00-2:30 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm OR by private appointment. People can contact Pastor ahead of time to “reserve” a time, but “drop-ins” are also welcome. Contact Pastor if you’d prefer a home visit with private communion.

## President's Message

### "Beware of Greeks Bearing Gifts."

Advice given to humanity after King Agamemnon and his Greek military conquered the city of Troy with what we know as the "Trojan Horse," written c. 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. by the Greek poet, Homer. A temporary victory in the annals of history, as are all military-only powers to this day.

Know that God offers gifts of eternal, not temporary, magnificence. Every Sunday we're offered the fruits of Christ's suffering on the cross for us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. **But we should attend Sunday services to receive this gift**, along with appropriate organ music accompanying other time-honored parts of every service, paramount being forgiveness of our transgressions.

Just a personal thought: consider the Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel readings every Sunday a renewal "refresher course" of Bible study. Besides, Christ said, "Can you not watch one hour with me?" (Matthew 26:40). I remember first seeing these words when I received my First Holy Communion when I was 7 and knelt at the altar railing. I "see" this every Sunday after the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God). I wonder what you envision.

Fred C. Feddeck

### Quote of the month:

Matthew 18:20 ....Christ said: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

## Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Elder's Meeting:** Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **Council Meeting:** Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- **Private Communion Service:** Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30 and 7:00-8:00 pm.
- **Confirmation Class:** Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm; Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.
- **August Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>
- **Foundations of Faith Class:** Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm

## Buildings & Grounds Update

- A new sewer line at the parsonage had been installed. Waiting for the ground to settle before relandscaping it
- Weather permitting, Coates Brothers should be replacing the church roof sometime this month.
- Volunteers are needed to mow the church lawn in July or August.
- The south wall of the parsonage has been repaired.

**Tom Monroe is Buildings & Grounds Deacon for the next few months. If needing his assistance, email him at [TKcmonroe392@gmail.com](mailto:TKcmonroe392@gmail.com).**

- Dale & Tom -

<u>July Birthdays</u>		<u>July Anniversaries</u>	
Tom Hadaway	7/7	Mike & Debbie Burt	7/1
Bob Izold	7/11	Kris & Kathy Koepp	7/25
Lisa Lalonde	7/18		
Kathy Rutherford	7/22		

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

## Volunteers Needed

- We are looking for someone to be in charge of organizing and updating the **bulletin boards** at Grace. If you might be willing. Please talk to Pastor Josh.
- We are looking for someone who is good with computer programs like Excel, who can assemble our **2021 Church Directory** and make it look *nice*. If you might be able, please talk to Sue Walker or Pastor Josh.
- We are in need of volunteers to serve as **Greeters, Ushers, and Lay Readers**. If interested, please talk to Pastor Josh.
- **Children's Church teachers and helpers** are urgently needed. After 18 straight months of teaching, Jen Moldenhauer is in need of periodic breaks. Lesson plans will be written for you. Talk with her for further details.

## EVANGELISM

Our 2021 Church Directory will be emailed soon. This includes names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. If some information is incorrect or missing, please contact me. Susan Walker, 440-822-9323 (call or text) or [suze204@hotmail.com](mailto:suze204@hotmail.com). Anyone who would like a printed copy, please let me know.

We would like to add pictures to the directory. You can email a picture to me. We will need a clear shot of your face (or faces). If the picture is not a close up, I will try to crop it so we can see you better. If you do not have a picture to email, you may want to ask someone with a smart phone, or digital camera, to take some shots of you. Then you can choose the picture you would like to submit. I have a smart phone and can do that for you (although I am not the best photographer) or you may ask others. Just email the pictures to [suze204@hotmail.com](mailto:suze204@hotmail.com).

<b>GRACE 2021 Service Schedule</b>						
***PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A REPLACEMENT SHOULD YOU BE UNABLE TO SERVE***						
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Counters</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Lay Reader</b>
<b>July 4th, 11th</b>	Paul Castle	Carter Jones	Bob S. & Sue W.	Bonnie A. & Lisa L.	Colleen Karp	Paul Castle
<b>July 18th, 25th</b>	Bob Izold	David Jones	Bonnie Abicht	Fred F. & Glen F.	Robin Turnbull	Fred Feddeck
<b>Aug. 1st, 8th</b>	Paul Castle	Reilly Jones	Lisa Lalonde	Bonnie A. & Lisa L.	Kathy Knipper	Dave Jones

\*\*\*\*As was mentioned last month, if you would like to receive a FREE monthly subscription to “**The Lutheran Witness**,” please contact Pastor Josh right away. If you want to find out a little more about this magazine, go to <https://witness.lcms.org/>