
JUNE 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.”*

From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

Let me begin by saying...we should begin with **thanksgiving**. For months and months, we have prayed and asked for relief from this COVID-19 pandemic. God has heard our prayers and the pandemic is weakening, vaccines are readily available, cases are declining, and we are able to enjoy more of the freedoms of our “normal” activities and interactions. For all this we can be truly thankful!

Along those same lines, as many of you know Ohio Governor Mike Dewine and the CDC have recently come out with statements that loosen the restrictions on Ohio citizens. The mask policy at many local stores has already changed. On Saturday, May 29th the Church Safety Team at Grace met to discuss and update our congregation’s Covid-19 Policy. The following will go into effect starting Sunday, June 6, 2021:

- **Wearing masks** is OPTIONAL during worship services, meetings, and any other activities at church. We support people who continue to choose to wear a mask – especially in light of the fact that many church members have serious underlying health conditions.
- **Church pews** will no longer be roped off. People who want to social distance from others can choose to sit a distance from other parishioners.
- Pastor will not be **wearing gloves** during the distribution of Holy Communion.
- **Lay readers** will again be utilized.

There are some things that will continue in the same way for the time being:

- We will continue to social distance by household during the distribution of Holy Communion, using the **blue dots** on the floor.
- Pastor will continue to distribute Holy Communion without a **Communion Assistant** and without the use of the **Common Cup**.
- Bulletins, announcements, children's bulletins, etc. will all be available to be picked up on the **table** in the narthex – without the aid of an **Usher**.
- The **offering plates** will continue to be placed in the narthex, instead of passed during the worship service.
- **Coffee Hour** in the Fellowship Hall will not resume yet, though parishioners are welcome and encouraged to fellowship before and after worship.

As you can tell, we're in a time of transition with all of this. Things aren't quite "back to normal" yet – but there's also not going to be like they were previously. Your feedback is welcome.

At the same time, let me remind you during this Pentecost season that we are all children of God through the work of the same Holy Spirit within us. As brothers and sisters in Christ we need to make sure we treat our fellow siblings with appropriate amounts of respect and kindness – especially when it comes to those whose views and preferences (when it comes to all this COVID stuff) are very different from yours. As God tells us, *"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor"* (Romans 12:10).

This month we have ample reason to thank God and love our fellow members.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

Worship Information

Starting this month Pastor will transition to offering **Private Communion** at church the first Wednesday of every 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.

We are in need of volunteers to serve as **Greeters, Ushers, and Lay Readers**. If interested, please talk to Pastor Josh.

May Official Pastoral Acts:

- 8 leadership meetings
- 1 circuit visitor activity

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
June 6	Mark 3:20-35
June 13	Mark 4:21-25, 30-34
June 20	Mark 7:1-13
June 27	Mark 7:14-23
July 4	Mark 9:42-50

President's Message

“And what is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days.”
(James Russell Lowell—American poet: 1819-1891)

It's June and the warm weather coupled with our continued vigilance against contracting the coronavirus should allow us to enjoy and appreciate the outdoors. But please don't forget the indoors...especially the indoors of a Sunday Church Service. Is there a better way to start the day than hearing the uplifting tones of the “grandfather” of all musical instruments: a church pipe organ? I think not.

One of the high points of the May 16th Voters' Assembly--I provided all the low points--was the opportunity for members of Grace to receive THE LUTHERAN WITNESS simply by telling Pastor Joshua (his suggestion at the May Church Council meeting) that you would like to receive this splendid magazine. Voters approved the church's paying the annual subscription cost for all who wish to receive it! We'll get back to everyone when the council decides a starting date. But you must tell pastor after church service sometime THIS month!

These past 13-14 months have kindled a hardship for overall church attendance. So just in case you missed Mother's Day in May, Father's Day is Sunday, June 20th. If every family member has been vaccinated, what better way to celebrate this dedicated day than to attend church service with/or dedicated to your father? Not much to ask.

Fred C. Feddeck

Quote of the month:

Jesus Christ said: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For whoever asks, receives; the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Luke: 11th chapter, verses 9-10)

LWL

I will be in charge of the Clothe-a-Kid program this year at Grace. Participation forms can be found in the church bulletins for the next 3 weeks. Anyone interested should return the forms to me or contact me at abicht54@aol.com. I would like the forms by June 13th so I can get the names to Love Inc. by June 15th. Thank you.

Bonnie Abicht

BULDINGS & GROUNDS

I'm getting estimates to repair siding on the south side of the parsonage. Sanitary sewer at parsonage to be repaired sooner rather than later. Tom Monroe has contacted the fire department on fire calls from Safe Harbor and a key box is to be installed strictly for fire department use. The Church roof repair is to start within a month, barring no problems with getting materials.

-Dale Rider-

Correction from last month:

* Under the list of memorials given to grace, one was given in memory of **Beverly Dorrance** (not Florence). Our apologies for the mistake.

<u>June Birthdays</u>		<u>June Anniversaries</u>	
Norma Stechow	6/2	John & Kathy Knipper	6/15
Colleen Karp	6/3	Robin & Glenn Turnbull	6/15
Kathy Koepf	6/6	Pastor & Jen Moldenhauer	6/30
Elizabeth Thomas	6/7		
Tom Monroe	6/8		
Jen Moldenhauer	6/10		
Karen Fridenstine	6/12		
Mark Huston	6/16		
Giovanna Bremke	6/16		
David Jones	6/20		
Carolyn Husted	6/25		
Dave Metzger	6/26		
Chris Koch	6/27		
Miranda Scholl	6/27		
Coralie Swanzer	6/28		

* 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 Fred Feddeck or Pastor Josh.

Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Council Meeting:** Monday, June 7th at 7:00 pm.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Wednesday, June 2nd at 3:00 pm.
- **Private Communion Service:** Wednesday, June 2nd from 1:00-2:30 and 7:00-8:00 pm.
- **Confirmation Class:** Wednesday, June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th at 10:00 am.
- **July Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, June 23rd.

GRACE 2021 Service Schedule

PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A REPLACEMENT SHOULD YOU BE UNABLE TO SERVE

DATE	Usher	Acolyte	Greeter	Counters	Altar Guild
June 6th, 13th	Paul Castle	Sydney W.	Anita Saathoff	Bonnie A. & Lisa L.	Karen Huston
June 20th, 27th	Bob Izold	Sydney W.	Karen Fridenstine	Fred F. & Glen F.	Carolyn Husted

English District News

Thy strong word

An on-line Virtual Gala of fun, fellowship and gracious giving.

IT'S ALMOST HERE! THE 2021 ENGLISH DISTRICT VIRTUAL GALA: THY STRONG WORD

We are coming up on the 2021 English District Virtual Gala.

Every member of our congregation is invited. On June 13, 2021, 7:30 p.m. ET, log on for an evening to appreciate and learn about mission work in YOUR district. Read *Servant to Servant* for information on how to register for the Gala and receive sign-in details. Visit our English District website www.englishdistrict.org to register.

GOOD NEWS Stories About What GOD Has Been Doing Among Us

[Jen Fehlan-Jones writes:] I had a student in school that I have kept in touch throughout the years. She is currently 26 years old and living in Lansing, Michigan. When she comes home to visit family, she always stops by to visit. We text every week and have developed a friendship over the years.

Recently, Reilly had a fencing tournament in Grand Rapids, Michigan which happens to be about an hour from Lansing. I made plans to visit my friend on the way home on that Sunday.

On Saturday, I received a phone call from this woman's mother. She frantically asked if I was in Michigan. My friend had passed out and had been taken to the hospital. The medical team worried it was a heart issue. I spent that afternoon in the hospital with my friend until her mother arrived from Columbus, Ohio.

God was at work in our lives. I have not been in Michigan for years! What a chance it was that I was a mere hour away when a friend and her mother needed the most comfort. I was able to communicate with her mother to keep her informed and calm. I was able to comfort my friend.

Reilly did not do well in his tournament that day, but the bigger picture is that God was putting us in a location to help someone. I hope that a bigger lesson was learned that day by Reilly, God works in us and among us to help each other when we most need it. He is there through us.

* Reminder: everyone is invited and encouraged to share a similar story about how God has been working in their lives recently. Email them to Pastor and they will be included in the newsletter in the months ahead.