
AUGUST 2022

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 . . .

Over the past few months during the **Sunday Morning Adult Bible** we have been studying the roles of Pastor and congregation and their relationship together. *What does this mean??*

- God is the one who instituted and selects people for the biblical offices of **PASTOR** for the benefit of His people. The **OFFICE OF PASTOR** consists of the following **ROLES**:

1. As **PRIEST** he publicly distributes God’s sacraments and forgiveness, while serving as the mediator between God and His people in worship – which includes prayerful intercession. While ALL of God’s people are priests and able to worship and pray individually (not to mention preach and teach within their respective vocations), the Pastor is the one chosen to do all these publicly (on behalf of the group). While Christ is the ONLY true Mediator between God and people, the Pastor serves as His mouthpiece.
2. As **PREACHER** he shares the Word of God with His people, in all seasons, both publicly and privately. He shares the Gospel message, containing both Law & Gospel.
3. As **TEACHER** he instructs God’s people in the teachings of the faith, while refuting all falsehood and error. He must know and grow in the PURE Word of God, while using it to at times rebuke, correct, and train (encourage) God’s people in righteousness.
4. As **SHEPHERD** he cares for, protects, leads, and directs the sheep with vision. All of which involves personal relationships and the dynamic of willing humble service.
5. As **OVERSEER** he supervises the faith and spiritual growth of the flock (both individually and corporately). He is caring, attentive to individual needs, and helpful – without doing one’s job for them.

6. As **LEADER** he is in a position of influence directing the flock towards the advancement of a shared purpose and goal – much like a shepherd.
7. As an **EVANGELIST** he makes efforts to connect to people who aren't (yet) part of the flock, in order to invite them in and connect them to the Chief Shepherd.
8. As a **MODEL OF CHRISTIAN LIFE AND FAITH** he not only displays the biblical qualities and skills required of his office (see 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1), but also cultivates a devotional life and growth in his faith – to such an extent that people can see his progress. This is manifested not only as Pastor, but also in his vocations as husband, father, neighbor, etc. In a way, this mirrors the calling to holiness for ALL those in Christ.

- All **8** of these **ROLES** involve the posture and lifestyle of **SERVICE**, as the pastor distributes the gifts of God to His people and works toward their spiritual growth. A healthy, ongoing relationship in that direction (Pastor to People) will inevitably depend on a healthy, ongoing relationship between the Pastor and Christ, where the pastor can be fed, nourished, and spiritually refreshed.

- In general, God expects ALL His people to bear fruit, love others, and follow His commands. However, His specific **expectations** for individual Christians varies based on their differing vocations, abilities, spiritual gifts, and amount of faith. What **GOD'S PEOPLE** owe their **PASTOR** can be described in terms of three **ROLES**:

1. As **PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL**, they are co-recipients of God's gifts (the Spirit, Word, Sacraments, spiritual abilities, etc.) who work with those gifts and empowered by those gifts – together with the pastor – to share the Gospel and do works of loving service for others. **God's People** and **Pastor** working together as a **team** to accomplish His mission in the world.
2. As **CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES** they are to individually be growing in their faith, constantly deepening their devotion to Christ and maturing in their knowledge of Him and His guidance of their lives.
3. As **CHRISTIAN STEWARDS**, having been materially blessed by God, they are to financially provide for mission of Christ's Church and for the pastor, so that he may be materially sustained while in service to God's Kingdom. This on-going relationship (of People supporting the Pastor) is one that constantly involves and is informed by the relationship of God and His people. The offerings of God's people are given **to God** for Christ's ministry here on earth.

What does any of this matter?? God, the **Creator** of all things, has put into place various guidelines for all of us on how to live our best lives according to **His design**. This is true for us as people in general, as men or women in marriage, as parents or children, as bosses or employees, and as pastors and members of a Christian congregation. We **ARE** His Church, and we seek to live out the new life of faith by following His design for our lives. Christ is the foundation of our lives – much like the cement foundation strengthens and aligns the whole sanctuary building we worship in. We grow closer to Christ when we understand His design for us and daily live according to it. That's not always easy, but it deepens our faith.

In the weeks to come the Adult Bible Class is going to be wrestling with **Authority in the Church** (“*Who's in charge?*”), **Accountability in the Church** (“*Who answers to who?*”), and **Evaluations** (“*What's the purpose – and how should they be handled?*”). Join us Sundays at 9 am as we study and grow together.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

July Official Pastoral Acts:

- 1 pastoral care visit
- 2 leadership meetings
- 3 evangelism contacts
- 1 circuit visitor activity

Upcoming Sermon Texts	
July 31	Luke 12:16-21
August 7	Luke 12:22-34
August 14	Luke 16:1-13
August 21	Luke 13:22-30
August 28	Luke 14:1-14

Worship Information

- Starting in September, we will resume the use of the **Common Cup** as part of Holy Communion during worship.
- **Private Communion** is offered at church the first Wednesday of the month from 2:30-4:00 pm OR by private appointment. Contact Pastor if you'd prefer a home visit with private communion.
- Copies of the **Sunday sermons** are emailed out to everyone and a hard copy mailed out to several people without computer access. If you'd like to start receiving hard copies by mail OR if you'd no longer like to be receiving the weekly emails, please contact Pastor.
- **Coffee Hour** has resumed after worship. It has been scaled down in size and scope – which means less pressure and time needed for hosting. The **Ladies Aid** is looking for volunteers to host in the future.

GRACE 2022 Service Schedule

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

DATE	Usher	Acolyte	Greeter	Counters	Altar Guild	Lay Reader	Communion Assistant
July 31st, Aug. 7	Tom Monroe	Reilly Jones	Karen F.	Jan Koepp & Fred F.	Kathy Knipper	Fred Feddeck	
Aug. 14th, 21st	Dale Rider	Carter Jones	Bonnie A.	Bonnie A. & Dale R.	Karen Huston	David Jones	
Aug. 28th, Sept. 4	Andy Karp	David Jones	Andy Karp	Fred F. & Glen F.	Colleen Karp	Jon Storr	Paul Castle

Evangelism Updates

Please join us for our outdoor church service and picnic on SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH. This will be held at New Russia Township Park (Pavilion #1). We will supply fried chicken and tableware, please bring something to share. We will have games for children and adults. Please pray for good weather.

We mail letters to people who are buying real estate locally. In it, we invite them to join us on Sundays, or contact us with questions. If you know someone you would like to see receive a letter, please let me know. I will need the name and address.

Sue Walker

A Message from the President

“The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us”

For the August message, I would like to update church members on the larger maintenance and improvement projects so far at GLC for 2022:

The air conditioner on the East side of the Sanctuary was replaced due to a leaking outside condenser coil, the indoor cooling coil was also replaced. Refrigerant was added to the West Sanctuary unit, indicating a leak and probable replacement as a future project.

Dale Rider and I replaced the East Fellowship emergency exit fire door as it had rusted through. All hardware was reinstalled and the door was painted. The emergency exit door in the Sanctuary was painted on the outside.

New double door was installed on the garage-church maintenance section to allow bigger and better access; a new ramp was also built.

New laminated flooring was installed in the parsonage to complete the renovation project started a few years back.

Some of the bigger projects yet to be completed this year:

- Finishing the landscaping. That project is waiting for cooler weather to do the plantings.
- Paint the parking lot Fellowship Hall door.
- Repair the cracks and holes in the vinyl siding, damage is mainly due to age, wear & tear.

All the thanks to Wayne Hammond for making most if not all of this possible.

With thoughts and prayers,

~ Tom Monroe

Upcoming Church Events & Dates

- **Private Communion Service:** Wednesday, August 3rd from 2:30-4:00 pm.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Wednesday, August 3rd at 7:00 pm.
- **Adult Bible Class:** Sunday, August 7th & 14th at 9:00 am.
- **Coffee Hour:** Every Sunday at 11:00 am.
- **Confirmation Class:** Wednesday, August 3rd, 10th, 24th, and 31st at 1:30 pm.
- **Council Meeting:** Monday, August 8th at 7:00 pm.
- **Voters' Meeting Packets Distributed:** Sunday, August 14th.
- **Quarterly Voters' Meeting:** Sunday, August 28th at 11:15 am.
- **September Newsletter Articles Due:** Wednesday, August 31st.

<u>August Birthdays</u>		<u>August Anniversaries</u>	
Scott Scholl	8/1	Karen & Mark Huston	8/11
Caitlyn Scholl	8/3	Kathy & Randy Sklarek	8/29
Marcia Metzger	8/3		
Heidi Scholl	8/12		
Pastor Josh	8/18		
George Horning	8/22		
Aaron Turnbull	8/29		

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

Buildings & Grounds Update

- Replacement emergency door keys have been purchased due to loss of original key. Cost was nominal.
- New batteries have been installed in church office door. Also any one leaving the church office should leave the fan on due to copier generating heat when door is shut.
- For security reasons the outside Fellowship Hall door and the narthex doors will be locked approximately 10 minutes after the Sunday worship services begin.

- Dale Rider -

Foundations of Faith Class

The Foundations of Faith class is an 8-week study that encompasses the basics (or foundations) of the Lutheran faith. Pastor leads the group as they study these doctrines together, asking questions and wrestling with the implications. This class also serves as a New Member Class for adults – who can (publicly) confirm their Lutheran faith afterwards, if they are so moved.

A new class is tentatively scheduled to begin the first week of September, probably on a midweek evening. It's held in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. If you'd like more information – or if you have a preference on what day of the week to meet – please contact Pastor Josh.

Changing Lives Around the World with the Gospel.

Liberia

Joseph is 23 years old and dropped out of college when he was introduced to drugs. He went to church with his parents as a child, but when he went to school he stopped going to church. Joseph saw one of his friends who was addicted to drugs turn his life around after going to church. He decided to go to a recovery home with his friend and ended up talking to a pastor. At the recovery home, Joseph and his friend joined a youth program led by LHM-Liberia. They participated in discussions and seminars to learn more about Jesus. Joseph became a member of the local church and through the power of the Holy Spirit, he became a Christian. He enrolled in classes to finish his education and continues to grow his faith.

This is from the Lutheran Hour Ministries publication, "The Lutheran Layman", Spring 2022.