

“Abiding in Christ through grace, we are gathered to grow and sent to serve.”

Notes of Grace

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Brownton, Minnesota

August 2017

August Servants

Acolyte

6 Keely Wendlandt
13 Allie Gronlund
20 Cade Herrmann
27 Brent Lipke

Communion

Joyce Peterson

Altar Guild

Deb Messner & Lori Lindeman

Ushers

6 Dave & Sarah Lipke
13 Pat & Sarah Waller
20 Darrell & Michelle Gens
27 Kevin & Nancy Deppe

Readers

6 Oather Martin, Jr.
13 Joyce Peterson
20 Sharon Weber
27 Roxanne Wendlandt

Church E-Mail Contacts

Church:

gracebrownton@embarqmail.com

Pastor Andrew:

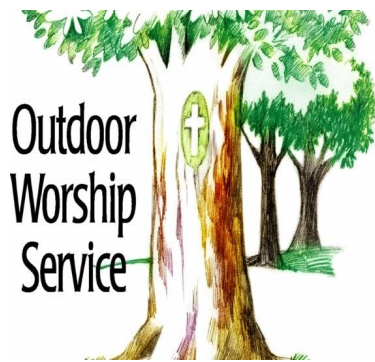
pastor@gracebrownton.org

Secretary/Sarah:

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Treasurer/Brandon:

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Outdoor Worship Service

Outdoor Worship & Potluck on August 13th

Join us for Worship! It will be held outside on our property on August 13th and the worship **service time is moved to 10am**. The later worship time will help facilitate the potluck meal that will follow worship. Beverages, plates, and eating utensils will be provided. Bring your lawn chairs.

VBS Is Enjoyable!

From July 23-27 we held our Vacation Bible School with Immanuel Lutheran Church. About 40 children attended from both churches. Grace provided some of the volunteers and donations. Thanks to our volunteers for giving their time! The children learned Bible stories, songs, and played games together.



Mark Your Calendars! Fall Festival will be September 10th!

Here are some early reminders for members as we join together to make this a successful day:

- (1) Meal tickets and raffle tickets will be distributed in August. Please sell them ahead of time as you are able.
- (2) Each family is asked to bring either a pie or a dessert on September 9 or 10 for our dessert table.
- (3) You can think about what donations will help fill our country store – baked items, crafts, canned goods, garden produce and such.
- (4) Sign-up lists will be posted on the bulletin board in August. One list is to help donate items. The other is to volunteer to help with the different jobs on that day.
- (5) The Youth Group will be also helping with the set up and clean up of the meal. Members should contact Vicki, Steffie, or Karla if they would like to work 1st or 2nd shift.

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights

Abiding in Christ through grace, we are gathered to grow and sent to serve.

June 14, 2017 Meeting

Treasurer Report: May Report

1. Checking account balance on 4/30 was \$6,886.65 and on 5/31 was \$ 281.09.
2. Income = \$5,866.45; Expenses \$13,452.01. (Note: expenses were higher for May because some of April expenses did not get paid until May.)
3. Line of Credit balance on May 31 was \$2,000.
4. Memorial Fund \$51,173.90 as of June 10. (\$40,000 bequest from Gehrke family held there)

Correspondence

1. Joyce read a letter from Jeri Ricke stating that her parents always wanted to be supportive of their home church and then sharing that they had given \$40,000 to Grace in their will. It is undesignated, so our gift reception policy will guide us in how we will use it: 20% for benevolence; 15% for the building fund; and 65% for areas outside the budget. The council is to decide how these funds are to be used, so Joyce allowed the council members to brainstorm on the different ideas they had to share. Pastor Andy spoke of the importance of using this generous gift in a way that communicates we are responsible to our mission and encourage others to also remember the mission of the church in their will. He also said that it is important to communicate that this is not to be used for the day-to-day budget items so people don't think it is a reason to stop being generous in supporting our ministry.

Pastor's Report

1. Before the council meeting, a few people rearranged the pews in a new arrangement for the summer months. Pastor Andy is happy to give it a try.
2. Pastor Andy spoke about the recent Synod Assembly. Dave Pedersen went to represent Grace along with the pastor.
3. Pastor Andy met with the Fields of Grace Council as he prepares to be the internship supervisor for Heidi Hagstrom, a seminary student serving as intern pastor of Fields of Grace. Since the time spends in supervision will be a part of his work at Grace, he asked Fields of Grace to pay the intern supervisors honorarium to Grace and not to him.
4. Since this year is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the pastor would like to keep lifting up in our congregation. Any ideas from members would be welcome.

Old Business / Updates

1. The Congregational directory still needs to be worked on. Pastor Andy is working on the picture activity pages and Sarah and the pastor are working on making sure the directory is as accurate as can be.
2. Council discussed some of the building/property projects we wish to work on this year. The door on the west entrance, the entry to our parking lot, seal coating the parking lot. Joyce will be putting together a giving chart to encourage members to financially support the work we wish to get done this year.
3. Outdoor worship and potluck is scheduled for August 13. Paper products and beverage will be provided and the congregation will bring all the food to share.
4. The new organ lamp has arrived and is in place on our organ.
5. We consulted our cemetery bylaws for guidance on how we will handle the burial of urns and caskets in our cemetery lots. The bylaws do not address this situation. We will revisit this in August when we hear how the city cemetery is going to handle these situations.
6. A Sunday school survey of parents has been put together by the education committee and will be sent out soon.

New Business

1. Pastor Andy present the council with ideas for purchasing a new set of blue paraments and the council chose which symbols they would like to see on the paraments. Pastor Andy will order the new set.
2. Each council member was given a task list for the Fall Festival and Joyce led the council through it asking people to volunteer for the various tasks.
3. Pastor Andy shared that we are able to participate in VBS with Immanuel this year.

Grace Women of the ELCA

Thank you to all of you who signed up to work or bring food for any funeral. If you missed signing up and want to help in any way, you are most welcome. See sheet on the Bulletin Board.

Fall Festival Raffle Tickets will be put in boxes very soon. We ask that ladies try and sell as least 1 booklet. If you need more see Ardis.

Volunteers are being sought to help the day of the Fall Festival for serving desserts. Donations & Volunteers for The Country Store will also be needed.

Share Your Voice!

Choir practice will begin in August as we will rehearse on August 23th and 30th (both are Wednesday nights) at 7pm. If you wish to join the choir this year, please come!

Needs of the Church

There is a yellow poster in the narthex showing the needs we have at Grace to fix or replace things. Like our homes, things wear out and need to be fixed. If you are able to give a little extra money your help would be appreciated. On your ENVELOPE for offering, please check the "other" area and if you would like to be specific where the money goes write that on the envelope also. If no specific area for your money is listed in the "other" category the money will go into the Building Fund.

Thank you for your help with these needs at Grace.

President Peterson and Council

Grace Lutheran Youth Group

The GLYG will once again be helping with the Fall Festival on September 10th. Members should wear GLYG t-shirts when helping.

The Youth Group will also be ushering on Sunday, September 17th. Cleaning of the church will be Wednesday the 13th from 5-7pm or whenever can help. Supper will be provided.

Award for Grace!

Each year at the synod assembly in St. Peter, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota gives out a "Servant of Christ" award to honor a congregation for their partnership with L.S.S. This year, they gave out awards to multiple congregations who are involved with the Senior's Meal program in their communities. Grace Lutheran was one of the recipients.

Upcoming Events:

There will be two special events which both happen to fall on October 14. On that day at First Lutheran Church in St. Peter, there will be a Reformation Festival call "Whose Neighbor Are We: Reformation, Reconciliation, and Revision."

Also on that day at Peace Lutheran Church in New London, there will be a financial literacy workshop entitled "Financial Literacy and Prophetic Witness". If any of these sound interesting to you, watch for more details to come and save the date!

The Next Marriage Encounter Experience

October 13th-15th at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud
Couples may register at Godlovesmarriage.org

Word from the Pastor

I read an article where a person laid out the big changes we will see in near future and how it will affect our lives and our work force. It is kind of intimidating to read. Changes to how we do things means that some jobs will become obsolete. For instance, he predicted that in the future, young people won't get driver's licenses or even own cars; they will just use their phones to order a self driving car to drive them. I found myself wishing things won't change ... or at least not so quickly.

What do changes in our world mean for the Church? We are not known to change easily. Someone has joked that when the 1950's come back, the church will be ready! But we all know that the 1950's aren't coming back. Of course, there are some things that do not change when it comes to who we are and who God is. That is why the Psalms still speak to and for us after thousands of years. We need to keep proclaiming these ancient truths. But how we do our work and how we keep proclaiming the good news God has entrusted to us will have to change or we won't be able to reach new generations.

As we celebrate the Reformation this year, we remember that it also was a time of great change. Pastor Martin Luther taught the church to proclaim the Gospel in new ways. It was a difficult time to be living through because of all the changes. In Acts 1:8, Jesus says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses..." Perhaps the power Jesus is referring to, which comes from the Holy Spirit, enables us to face changes and even adopt changes so that we will continue to be "witnesses" to Jesus and not something other than that.

As I have said before, it's not that I or anyone has definite ideas of what changes the Church needs to make to be relevant. But willingness to try, and fail, and try again, is what I think successful followers of Jesus need to do. Pastor Andy

August 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 8:45am Worship/Communion | 7 6pm Local Broadcast | 8 | 9 7pm Council Meeting | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 10am Outdoor Worship 11am Potluck | 14 6pm Local Broadcast | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 8:45am Worship | 21 6pm Local Broadcast | 22 | 23 7pm Choir Practice | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 8:45am Worship/Communion | 28 6pm Local Broadcast | 29 | 30 7pm Choir Practice | 31 | | |