

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

# Notes of Grace

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Brownton, Minnesota

June/July 2018

## June Servants

### Acolyte

- 3 Hunter Gens
- 10 Brent Lipke
- 17 Aaron Ward
- 24 Tison Werner

### Communion

Keith Tongen

### Altar Guild

Mary Bullert & Sherry Husske

### Ushers

- 3 Klark & Paula Katzenmeyer
- 10 Dave & Janice Mielke
- 17 Pastor Andy & Rosine Hermodson-Olsen
- 24 Gerald & Vonnie Schuett, Paul & Theresa Eitel

### Readers

- 3 Oather Martin Jr
- 10 Roxanne Wendlandt
- 17 Diana Lindeman
- 24 Brandon/Sarah Yerks

## Celebrations at Grace!

We were pleased to celebrate First Communion on April 22. Those honored that day were Dustin Trettin, Nicolas Kosek, Sydney Harpel, and River Hansch.



Graduate quilts were presented to on May 13 to Emmi Jerabek, Lexi Hansch, Carsen Streich, and Emily Ward. We wish to them well in their future education!



## July Servants

### Acolyte

- 1 Hunter Gens
- 8 Ross Jerabek
- 15 Brent Lipke
- 22 Aaron Ward
- 29 Tison Werner

### Communion

Karla Trettin

### Altar Guild

Jane & Sarah Tongen

### Ushers

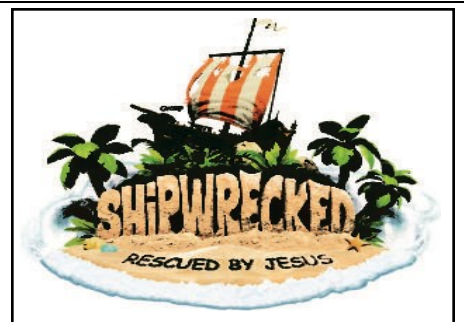
- 1 Steffie Gronlund, Tyler & Terri Helland
- 8 Todd & Faye Ahlbrecht
- 15 Dave & Linda Pedersen
- 22 Tom & Mary Lemke
- 29 Jeff & Deb Messner, Jan Messner, Jesse Messner

### Readers

- 1 Kathy Engelsmeier
- 8 Kerry Ward
- 15 Paula Katzenmeyer
- 22 Doug Karg
- 29 Keith Tongen

## VBS News

- Vacation Bible School will be July 22-26 at Immanuel Lutheran Church.
- Pre-School -6<sup>th</sup> grade (Some 6<sup>th</sup> graders choose to be helpers instead.)
- Guests and grandchildren are welcome!
- Jr. & Sr. High students and adults are needed to lead and befriend the small groups of children and to lead the activity stations.
- **To register or volunteer** please call or email the church (leave a message if you get the answering machine.)



## **Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights**

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### **Council Highlights – May 9, 2018**

#### **Secretary's Report:**

M.S.C. to approve the minutes of the April 2018 meeting.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Total income for April - \$ 11,417.49; total expenditures for April - \$10,190.65.

General Fund: April ending balance \$4,659.28. Line of Credit: \$0.00

Memorial Fund: April balance \$24,110.33. Building Fund: April balance \$8,894.32.

M.S.C. to approve the Treasurer's Report.

#### **Correspondence:**

1. Green Lake Luth Ministries sent a thank you for our support and a reminder of dues
2. Common Hope sent a thank you for support in sponsoring Marcos. Common Hope has increased the sponsorship amount from \$30 to \$35 per month.
3. South Africa Partnership Committee sent a reminder to support this conference mission.

#### **Pastor's Report:**

1. Pastor Linda Pedersen has announced her upcoming retirement as a synod minister.
2. We have a Savings bond in safety deposit box that will mature later this year. We have no history as to its origins.

#### **Old Business:**

1. We have a new worksheet and procedure for counting the offering after services. M.S.C. to adopt the new policy as written and discussed.
2. Furnace Update – Michael Sanken, Foster Mechanical, has cleaned all 4 furnaces. Furnace cleaning through Foster Mechanical will be scheduled every 2-3 years. Duct work will be cleaned later this year.
3. An update was shared on how cemetery funds may be invested. We also talked about moving the some of the money in our Memorial Fund to a CD or an interest-bearing account.

#### **New Business:**

1. Spring cleaning – will use the volunteer list again this year.
2. Fall Festival initial planning, set the date for Sept. 9, 2018.
3. Memorial Gift from Bullert family – would like to buy an angel statue for Grace. We agreed to receive the gift.

#### **Committee and Group Reports:**

Education Committee met on May 6 – discussed the Sunday School year, VBS and youth group.

Property & Management Committee – send a thank you gift to Kerry K for the lawn care services.

## Grace Women of the ELCA

### Grace Women of the ELCA General Meeting - April 8, 2018

The Women of Grace met on Sunday, April 8, 2018 after service with 7 ladies present.

**Secretary's report:** was approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's report:** was approved as submitted with a balance of \$1,591.17. It was noted that there would be money going out for quilting materials. We discussed applying for Thrivent money for this expense. Shirley Lindeman will apply.

#### **Old Business:**

- Easter Lilies were purchased. The Women of Grace donated \$500 to Brownton Fire Dept for equipment. Missions collected white sox for our veterans.
- We received Thank You's from: the family of Diane Heil, Delphine Lindeman, Alan Jerabek, the Werner family, Brownton Fire Dept., McLeod Alliance for Victims of Domestic Violence, Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Relief and Women of ELCA.

#### **New Business:**

- Synodical Convention will be in St Cloud on June 29-30. We will send an offering.
- The Spring Conference Gathering will take place in New Auburn on April 10<sup>th</sup> with the Grace Women providing take home treats.
- Green Lake Quilt Auction is July 28<sup>th</sup>. We will donate \$100.
- We will again provide Bible Camp Scholarships of \$75 per child up to \$300.
- Graduation Quilts are finished and ready for our 4 Graduates Thank you Ilene Penk and Gloria Schuft.
- We will hand out flowers for Mother's Day. Thank you to Gloria Schuft for being in charge.
- We will donate \$50 to a fund for flowers in the church planter. We will also start a donation can for flowers.
- We discussed our Fall Festival Basket Tickets. We would need our themes by the end of April. Then tickets could be ready to sell before summer starts. We will start reminding people now.
- We also discussed a need for education for the General Store. We discussed that we could use some input on how things have been done in the past, for those not familiar.

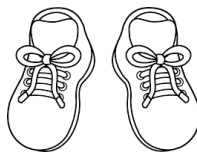
Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer with the next meeting to be in July.

### WELCA Convention

The 2018 Synodical Convention is June 29 & 30 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. Registering is recommended by June 8, but this is not the deadline and you can register after this date.

In-kind offerings this year are:

1. **White socks and Lip balm for adults** to be donated to the VA in St. Cloud.
2. **Soles 4 Souls** which will take shoes or any condition.



There is a link available for the registration packet. (A sample packet will be hung on bulletin board).

Contact Jane Tongen with any questions.

### Sympathies

Our sympathy to the family of Bernetta Alsleben who passed on April 27.

### National Youth Gathering

The ELCA National Youth Gathering will be happening from June 27 – July 1. Paul and Theresa Eitel will be volunteering at it. We wish them well!

### Special retreats available through Green Lake Lutheran Ministries

- Spirit Ride Motorcycle Retreat – Aug. 16-20
- Fall Colors Retreat – Sept. 27-30
- Creative Souls Craft Retreat – Nov. 16-18
- Good News, Good Brews Men's Retreat – Jan. 25-26

See the flyer on our bulletin board or this website for more information: [www.gllm.org](http://www.gllm.org)

## **Word from the Pastor**

First, let me express my thanks to you. Thank you for the ministry we have shared, the wonderful way you have trusted and respected me as I occupied the office of the pastor here, and the care you gave my family. A pastor is blessed when she/he can live among the people, share in the ups and downs of life, and proclaim the good news of Jesus. Thank you also for the gracious way you have received the surprising news of my new call. Many have already said something to the effect "we are happy for this new adventure for you, but we are sad to see you go." I also swing between those emotions.

The congregation I feel God has called me to serve, First Lutheran, St. James, also had a pastor stay for a long, long time before taking a new call. They were grieving his moving and getting ready to start interviewing for a new lead pastor when the associate pastor died tragically as she underwent a routine surgery. They put calling any new pastor on hold knowing they now had to find two pastors but needed some time to grieve.

Months later, I was asked to interview there and agreed to do so. After the interview, I didn't hear much from them, so I concluded that they had gone with another candidate. But then they reached out to me around mid-April indicating they were still interested in me as a candidate. Not only that, they had a seminary graduate whom they thought would be a good associate pastor to work with me. To shorten the story, on May 20<sup>th</sup> the congregation voted to call the seminary graduate and me to be their two pastors. We both agreed to come. First Lutheran in St. James has about 1,000 members. In addition to the two pastors, there is a part-time deacon who does youth and education ministry. There is no parsonage there, so Rosine and I have begun house shopping.

And when will the move be? I am planning to have my final Sunday in July and need to work with Grace's leadership which Sunday it will be. Since there will not be a newsletter going out between now and my final Sunday, a letter or postcard will be sent to inform the congregation of any final Sunday and final celebration (in case you aren't there to hear it announced on Sundays). Saying good-byes are important and that's why a final celebration of our time together will be important to do. We will likely also move in July as First in St. James would like me to start on August 1.

One of the understandings of the church is that when a pastor leaves his/her office of the pastor at one church, he/she is not to return to do pastoral duties. Therefore, I need to be clear about this. It is an expectation of a pastor in the ELCA that they will respect the boundaries between the church they used to serve and the one they currently serve. Once I am a pastor at another church, I cannot return to officiate at weddings or funerals or other events. This makes for a healthy church.

### **What will this interim time between called pastors look like?**

Here are some major steps that congregations go through:

1. An interim pastor will be hired by Grace.
  2. A congregational self-study will be done to identify the unique ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and to identify what the job description should be for the next pastor.
  3. A call committee will be formed possibly to help with the self-study, but certainly to conduct interviews of candidates.
  4. The congregation will vote whether to extend a call to the candidate the call committee and the council recommend.
- If the candidate accepts the call, the congregation prepares to receive their new pastor. If not accepted, the call committee continues to work to identify a candidate.

Through it all, a synod minister (Pastor Linda Pedersen to start) will work with the congregation and especially the call committee to assist in the steps of finding a new pastor. How long does this take? Based on other congregations' experience, a year after a pastor leaves may be a standard length of time, but one never can predict. It could go longer and it may even be shorter.

Finally, let me ask for your support and prayers for Jan Messner, your president, and the rest of the council. They will be asked to undertake duties and make decisions which only occur when there is a pastoral vacancy. It will be new ground to tread and I know they will do their best to help this go well for Grace. If you have any questions or comments, Jan asks that you call her and if she doesn't know the answer, she will reach out to find it. Her number is 320-296-1001. The other members of the council are: Dave Wendlandt (VP), Karla Trettin (Sec), Tim Olson, Michelle Gens, Oather Martin, Jr., Nancy Deppe, Keith Tongen, and Jake Wendolek.

May God guide and give peace to us.

Pastor Andrew Hermodson-Olsen