



Grace Lutheran Church Announcements - June 23, 2019

Gracefully Living ~ Gracefully Serving

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Welcome! We are glad you are here worshipping with us! If you have questions about any aspect of our worship service or need assistance the ushers are happy to help. We hope to see you again soon!



Open communion is practiced here at Grace, all are welcome to the Lord's table.

As you walk up the center aisle, you may take an empty cup from the tray on the table in front of the lectern. There are also pre-filled cups of white grape juice on a plate between the trays. You will then receive a piece of bread from Pastor. If you have an individual cup, wine will be poured by the Assisting Minister. If you would rather receive wine from the common cup, you may still do so from the second chalice. If you used the individual cup, you may discard the cup on the way back to your seat.

Anyone who prefers not to commune, is still welcome to come up for a blessing. If you, due to mobility issues, would prefer to receive communion in your seat, please let one of the ushers know, and Pastor will bring communion to you.

Today at Grace...

- Everyone is invited to gather after worship for Fellowship Hour
- Congregational Conversation, after service

Upcoming Events...

Tuesday, June 25th

- Quilting, 9:30AM
- Bible study, 11:30AM

Friday, June 28th

- Book study, 6:30PM

- Love our neighbors
- Provide access to God
- Love and care for our members
- Educate people about God



ACTC lunches for June 30th

Joanne Gounaris

Milton Dierker

Terry Hall

Lisa Nickles

Tammi Bissett

Laurie Worzask

Luis Bolivar

Francis White

Louis Kaste

Carrie Avirett

Thelma Davis

Bill Phillips

Carol Ridenour

Katie Westwick



Jeanette Spedden

Tom Phipps

Claire Schultze

Tina Frymoyer

Bettie Greene

John Leitner

Family of Selma Barnard



Weekly challenge:

Invite someone from church, who you aren't already friends with, to have lunch with you this week.

Sermons by Congregational Request!

This summer, Pastor Lura will be preaching on topics and Scriptures that the congregation requests. You can request her to preach on a Scripture passage that has always puzzled you, or on a topic that you'd like to hear reflected on in light of our faith. But be careful, if you pick something controversial, Pastor Lura will tell you what she really believes! If you pick a topic, but don't have a Scripture passage in mind, Pastor Lura will find one for you.

You can put your requests in the box located in the lobby area.

Loaves & Fishes

Grace's next time to serve at Loaves & Fishes will be Saturday, June 29, 2019.

Please label and place your casseroles in the freezer of the church kitchen by Sunday, June 23rd.

Thank you!

Pat Hickey,
Coordinator for Loaves & Fishes



A Prayer For My Heart

God, show me how you would like me to join God's mission at Grace Lutheran Church and in our community. Help me prioritize my life in a way that shows you are my God. Reveal to me how you have gifted me and how you want me to use those gifts to serve your church. Fill me with hope and give me faith to follow you forward even when I do not know what the future holds.

Tuesday Bible Study

Bible Study continues every Tuesday at 11:30 as we gather in the activity room to study Scripture. You are invited to bring a brown bag lunch.

Everyone is welcome!

A Prayer For Our Community

God, help us open our doors even wider for those who do not yet know you. Help each of us remember that we're on mission in this community—whether we're in the grocery store or at work. Give us eyes to see the needs of our community and make our hearts and hands ready to meet them. Help us prepare a place in our church for our community to meet Jesus and to discover a place to belong.

Worship Schedule

June 30

AM: Bill Phillips
L: Madeleine Armstrong
Greeter: Audrey Rhodey
Usher: Terry Conkwright & Susan Hermann

Ushers & Greeters: Hospitality Team name tags & instructions are available at the Visitors table.

Giving & Attendance

June 16, 2019

Giving: \$985.00 Attendance: 32
Giving Year to Date: **\$33,460.00**

Friday Evening Book Study

Friday Night Book Group/Bible Study will be reading "Love Big: The Power of Revolutionary Relationships to Heal the World" by Rozella Haydée White.

In *Love Big*, leadership coach Rozella Haydée White introduces readers to the power of revolutionary relationships, which lead us to love big--to love despite hardships and fear; to love in the face of despair; to love ourselves and others deeply and passionately; to love in ways that change us all.

The book will be available in the lobby on Sundays, or from the church office during the week.

June Monthly Appeal -

Lutheran Disaster Relief

Our June appeal is **Lutheran Disaster Relief**, helping victims of natural disasters. Lutheran Disaster Relief strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster - following Christ's call to bring hope and healing to our neighbors in need.

Your gifts make it possible for the church to provide fast and effective support to communities in need!

Please pray for the people who have been affected by recent disasters, first responders, and all the volunteers helping to save lives. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope.

***Church office will be closed June 24th - 28th**

Dear People of Grace,



“Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God.” 1 John 4:7

God loves you so much. No matter who you are, no matter what you have done, no matter what has happened to you, God’s love for you in Jesus Christ is unconditional.

You’ve heard me say it many times. And you tell me you love hearing me say it. You believe it. The heart of everything we are doing is love- God’s love for us, and God’s invitation to love the world.

We have some big decisions to make for our congregation, and they’re about love too. Both the 20 point evangelism plan and the plan to research community needs and create a whole new mission focus are about love- loving our neighbor. And both will require us to love each other better too.

People who don’t go to church know, just like we do, that church is supposed to be all about love. A great number of them have stopped going to church because they felt like church wasn’t focused on love. And if they’re open to coming back to church, a church that loved each other and loved its neighbors will be what they’re looking for.

And love isn’t abstract. It’s about relationship. Both of our potential plans are about relationships. We need to make our relationships with each other deeper and more vulnerable, and form new relationships with new people. If we do this right, we’ll each have new people involved in our lives, and new relationships with our neighbors.

Because isn’t that what church is about? Loving God, and loving our neighbor?

Of course, there are always different ways to love our neighbor, even as love is always the goal. So next week we will be choosing which way to best love our neighbor- with the 20 point plan, or the whole new direction plan.

Because God’s love for you is unconditional. And God invited you to live a new way, in love for one another.

Pastor Lura

Summary of June Council Meeting Minutes June 4, 2019, 6:30 pm

The Church Council met on June 4, 2019 at 6:30 pm. JR Weidley reported that offerings for May were down and expenses were the normal amount. We sustained a \$15,000 deficit for the month which is what we have seen for the past several months. We did not take any additional funds from the Endowment Fund in the month of May. Because of the drop in the Dow we suffered a loss on paper of \$17,000, however, since then we have recovered one quarter of that amount. Bill reported that he is working on a new 5-year agreement for the Hopkins Toddler group per their request.

We will have a Healing Service on Sunday, June 16, 2019. We will video this service. The Congregation will be asked to request sermon topics by placing their requests in a box. The first of these requests will be filled on Sunday, June 23, 2019. Our next Loaves and Fishes Event will be June 29, 2019. Pictures were taken of the new piano which will be dedicated on Sunday, June 9, 2019. Our Scouts worked with the Property Committee on clean up day. The Scouts would like to increase the number of joint projects they do with us. They are interested in helping with Christmas Stockings, Easter Baskets and a possible new venture – a day or two of cookie baking for boxes of “Welcome to Baltimore” cookies for seafarers. Bill Schultz suggested that the Scouts may want to work with the puppets for nursing home visits.

Pastor Lura reported that our next conversation about the congregation’s future will be held on June 23rd. The Friday Evening Book Study will focus on the book “Love Big: The Power of the Revolutionary Relationships to Heal the World” by Rozella Haydee White. Weekly Bible Study continues at 11:30 on Tuesday mornings with brown bag lunches. Pastor Lura will be participating in continuing education at the Proclaim Retreat in Milwaukee from August 1 – 4th. She will be volunteering at Mar-Lu-Ridge the week of June 16th – 21st.

Attendance has averaged between 28 and 33. Attendance at all churches is down. A long discussion followed as to how we can grow the church and what other churches in our area are doing. We need to form relationships with visitors and welcome people who are not a part of our culture. It was suggested that we invite people to lunch after church.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hermann, Secretary