



**May  
2020**

# GRACE MESSENGER

Grace Lutheran Church, an ELCA Congregation  
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*The  
Will of God  
will never take you  
where the  
Grace  
of God  
will not protect you.*

Keith Voigts - Church Council President  
Sunday School - 8:45 am Adults ~ Youth @ 11:30am  
Worship & Communion 10:00 a.m.  
Office Hours: Pastor Dave 9-12 Tues. - Friday  
Staff, Tues. All day, Wed.—Fri. 8-12  
Please call to make sure someone is in the office.



## New Vocabulary Words and Phrases (at least for me!)

"Shelter in place," and "quarantine" are not new words or terms to me, but until recently they had never applied to me. "Social distancing," however, is something I had never heard of or experienced. And until recently, "Zoom" was just an onomatopoeia for expressing speed; a word imbedded in a cloud of dust behind a speeding car in a cartoon frame. Now all of these expressions have become part of our daily lives. Perhaps some of you have even more new words or expression that capture or personify elements of changes or disruptions in your daily routines. As someone has expressed on Facebook, I never dreamed that I would ever go to a bank wearing a mask and ask for money! Strange days, indeed!

I have never experienced the feeling of isolation and detachment that has now become the "new normal" created by social distancing. It seems almost like the harsh disciplinary act of "shunning." And until now I have never looked at my fellow humans with the distrust and, yes, even a hint of anger as they approach closer than six feet to me in the grocery store or pharmacy unmasked, ungloved, and seemingly uncaring about my personal health and well-being. As those who are on the frontlines of healthcare know only too well, there is a psychological and emotional facet to this pandemic. I do not like the feelings that creep into my thoughts and invade my inner being! And yes, I confess to twinges of guilt for having such thoughts, such feelings. A pastor isn't supposed to have those reactions, no matter how fleeting or slight. Right?

And then God reminds me of two things: 1) I am not God, God is God! And 2) God is God, and I am not! And then there is yet a third reminder: Pastors are human, and we are in the midst of human tragedy, human suffering, and human frailty. So back to the first and second reminders!

I am also reminded of the trauma that our healthcare professionals face each day, and the toll it takes on them. Each day they see and feel the pain, loss of life, and grief of Covid-19 victims and their families. Their work is heroic and often requires superhuman endurance and strength. But they are human. Just like the rest of us.

Therefore, let us redouble our prayers and our support for all those engaged in this war against the invisible enemy. And may we grasp even tighter the loving, healing nail-scarred hands of our Savior who walks with us through this valley of the shadow! May we pause amidst the chaos and the unfamiliar "new normal" and rest for at least a moment in the never changing, always present love of God. And if we do so, we will be able to hear that still small voice whispering in the ears of our hearts: "I love you, and you are mine." Never forget that your true last name is ... **"Child of God!"**

*In Christ,  
Pastor Dave*

# Thank you for serving!

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Christians welcoming and serving

The marks of discipleship are to:

\*Pray daily \*Worship weekly \*Serve your church & community \*Relate to others in a small group  
\*Read the Bible \*Give a tithe and beyond

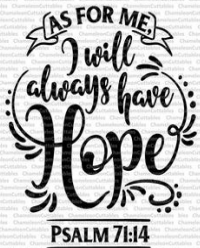
## READERS

3 Keith Voigts  
10 Art Speck

Need Volunteers

## ASSISTING MINISTER

3 Keith Voigts  
10 Sandie Guthans  
17 Jerry Luzadder  
24 Duane Wilson  
31

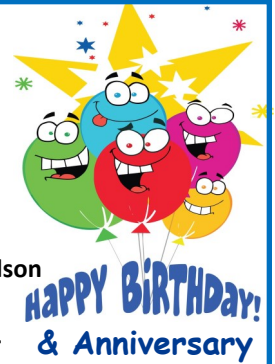


## Birthdays in May

3 Michael Carrubba	11 Bella Conley
Ja'kye Smith	15 Richard Mueller
4 Lisa Peneguy	21 Doreen Spine
7 Jerry Luzadder	24 Dolores Dupont
Ryder Simoneaux	29 Carol Loew
8 BrynnLee Haydin	Klarye Eckhoff
9 Brian Prendergast	31 Duane & Cathy Wilson

## Anniversaries in May

3 Richard/Linda Mueller	16 Travis/Shelia Ladner
4 Rich/Wendy Allard	22 Pat/Chris Jarrell
9 Jonathan/Jamie Ruoss	27 George/Kitty Huddle
16 Duane/Cathy Wilson	



## Education ~ Lisa Speck



Sunday School began again last Sunday. Sunday School in May will be through a separate Zoom meeting with an invitation by Lisa Speck right after church. All children are welcome to attend. Make sure to have your packets completed that would be sent by Ms. Beverly and Ms. Sheila. We look forward to meeting with all the children again. The last Sunday for Sunday School will be May 24th until the Fall.

## Gracious Giving in a Time of Need

Many of us have been recipients of federal economic stimulus checks as a result of the damage the Covid-19 Pandemic is wreaking on all sectors of the U.S. economy as businesses are closed and unemployment skyrockets. On a very local level, this pandemic has severely impacted the coffers of our church. While the Food Pantry, and some of our other funds, such as the Good Samaritan have received increases of needed generous donations; the General Fund, which is used for day to day church operations are critically low. As of April 29th, we had a general fund deficit of \$6,091, compared to our last year's deficit over the same time period of \$3,786.

We ask that you please give prayerful consideration, as others have already done, towards putting some of the economic stimulus money into stimulating our church. Be gracious in your giving, and we will be able to get through this.

In Christ,  
Scott Gordon, Stewardship Chair



## *The President's Comments ~ Keith*



### **What I miss during this sequester thing.....**

- ♦ Worshiping in church
- ♦ Seeing my good friends in church
- ♦ Fellowship hour with good refreshments
- ♦ Bible study around the table
- ♦ Sunday mornings in the donut shop
- ♦ Going places when Gwenn doesn't stay in the car
- ♦ Going to friends' houses for food and "refreshing liquids" (saving my inventory!)
- ♦ Dining out, especially Graceful Grazers
- ♦ Baseball!! Any kind from pee wee to the majors
- ♦ Football games
- ♦ Basketball games
- ♦ Golf tournaments
- ♦ The 19<sup>th</sup> hole at my golf club
- ♦ Haircuts
- ♦ Movies
- ♦ News about anything but the Covid 19 virus

### **What I do not miss during this sequester thing.....**

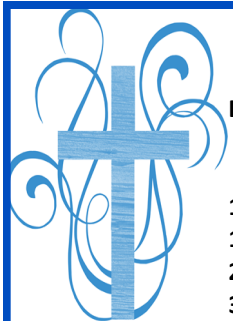
- Long lines at the donut shop
- Traffic
- Shopping with you know who at the ladies' clothing stores
- Shopping with you know who at the discount stores
- Shopping with you know who at the grocery stores
- Social events that I am "required" to attend
- Loud parties
- Political ads for anyone running for office
- Long Church Council meetings
- Meetings, especially early morning meetings



*What I really do not miss (because I always have and always will have it) is the presence and love of our Savior and the comfort of knowing that he is caring for me every second of every day.*



## Readings for May



Date	Sundays	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Psalm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel of John
	After Easter				
3	4th	Acts 2:42-27	23	1 Peter 2:19-25	10:1-10
10	5th	Acts 7:55-60	31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	14:1-14
17	6th	Acts 17:22-31	66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	14:15-21
24	7th	Acts 1:6-14	38:1-10, 32-35	2 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	17:1-11
31	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	89:1-4, 15-18	1 Cor. 12:3b-13	7:37-39

## ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers for....***

Johnny Authement, Anne Bacchicchi, Lisa Baron, Rose Bearson, Col. Dave Biggs, Jennifer Bonstaff, Henry/Wanda Branstetter, Diana Pearce Brodkorb, Erica Broussard, Mariah Brown, Peggy Broussard, Jan Bruner, Charissa, Cynthia Chadwyck, Bruce Clemmons, Vivian & Mike Collins, Alice Crandall, Cole Crane, Stan Cross, Susan Cross, Robert Crowley, Anita Cruz, Richard Cuevas, Gina Dale, Timothy Davis, Toni Davis, Angie Dedrickson, Christie Deshotel, Janie Dropco, Annette Allard Emery, Amberly Favre, Azalee Fullmer, Madelyn Gordon, John Guthans, Jackie Haygood, Debbie/Billy Hennessy, Steve Hiles, Brenda Hiles, Carly Hinton, Sherry Holbrook, Pat Holliday, Miriam Hurdle, Peggy Jefcoat, Mike Johnson, Carmela Jones, Palmer Jones, Royce Joyce, Peggy King, Larry Kirtwright, Larry & Sarah Koehn, Debra Kotzen, Helen Kupke, Cheryl Lacey, Breanna Ladner, Billy/Duyen Lamb, Patricia Lindsey, Charlie/Carol Loew, Lois Long, Mary Ann Maggard, Betty Marshall, Lindsey Mays, Glenn McElwee, MacCullaugh Family Cindy Mitchell, Kathy Pearson, Ann Peneguy, Lucy Puckett, Don Radley, Christopher Ryan, Karen/Kim/Kevin Schultz, Corky Sidell, Larry/Mori Smith, Rilyn Speck, Ruth Spera, Rita/Boyd Swenson, John Thompson, Maggie Tirrell, Gorie Thomas, Jeff Turner, Juanita Vann, Gwenn Voigts, Fergi & Sylvia Von Behren, Doris Weaver, Brantley West, Kacey Jade West, Dolly Williams, Larry Wilson, Steve Wilson, Lynnsnora,

**Deployed & Active Military, Victims of Domestic Abuse, Furloughed Employees of Boeing, All Medical Personnel and First Responders**



## March Church Finance Report - Duane Wilson

Finances for Grace improved in March. Net General Fund income in March was \$16,039, while expenses were \$15,028. There were no unusual budget expenditures in March. To meet the 2020 budget, our income needed each month is \$16,610.

**Contributions YTD are \$7,430 short of reaching the budget.**

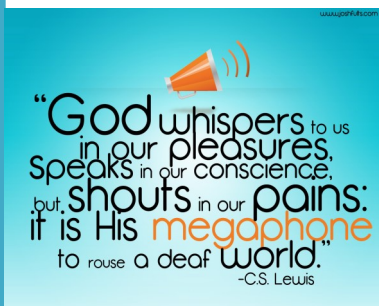
Restricted fund account activities were fairly active in March. Grace Food Pantry received \$1,125 in donations with \$415 in expenses. Good Samaritan expended \$1,746 to assist members and others in need while receiving \$2,096. The Service Project Fund received \$81 with spending of \$1,000. These Restricted funds will continue to be used to help members and others in the community in need.

The March Financial Summary is posted in the hallway if you'd like to review the finances in more detail. We should all be thankful for our financial stability, challenge ourselves to turn the decline in Finances around, and continue to pray for the council and financial health of our church so that we can continue to support our church mission and outreach. **Please remember to support our church financially during the COVID-19 pandemic.**



## **Stephen Ministry**

We all experience challenges in life. There are times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend that will keep our visits confidential. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care one needs when faced with a difficult time. If you, or someone you know in the congregation or community, could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, please call or ask the person to call the numbers below. Stephen Ministry is **CONFIDENTIAL**  
Contact: Linda Johnson 504-433-4768 or Pastor Dave Parr 423-620-1284.



## Worship Committee - Candis Raif

As we continue with our services using Zoom, please consider using the video option so we can see each other as we worship. Also, remember that we all need to "mute our mikes" because there is too much out-of-sync feedback when we don't and we can't respond and sing together (yet)! Adult Bible Study has resumed at 9:00am on Sundays and following the Wednesday night service.

Thank you, Sandie Guthans, for your very timely message this past Sunday! If you missed it on Sunday, it is available on our Face Book page, [Grace Lutheran Church - ELCA - Long Beach, MS](#).

We still need assisting ministers and readers for each service. You will receive a copy of the bulletin and readings. If you can participate as a reader, please let Carrie Carrubba, Pastor Dave or Gloria know. For Assisting Ministers, we will use the AM schedule as it stands. If for some reason you are not able to serve, please find a substitute and advise Gloria of the change.

**Thank you for continuing to participate via Zoom!**



### May Service / Liturgy Schedule

**May 3, 2020** ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (White)

Gospel: John 10:1-10 ... This day is sometimes called "Good Shepherd" Sunday. In this passage Jesus uses images familiar to the people to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Him are led to abundant life.

**May 10, 2020** ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (White)

Gospel: John 14:1-14 ... on the night before Jesus is arrested, Jesus shares some final words with the disciples and promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

**May 17, 2020** ~ 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (White)

Gospel: John 14:15-21 ... Jesus continues his parting message to the disciples, encouraging obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Holy Spirit who will be with them forever.

**May 24, 2020** ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (White)

Gospel: John 17:1-11 ... Jesus prays to the Father, asking that those who continue his work will live in unity.

**May 31, 2020** ~ Pentecost (Red) Please wear red for our Zoom worship, just as we would if gathered!

Gospel: John 7:37-39 ... Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as living water, quenching the thirst of all who come to him and filling the hearts of believers until they overflow!

### Mid-week Worship Schedule

Midweek Worship adapted from "Evening Prayer" on Zoom at 7 pm  
Our Bible Study will follow worship and you are invited to stay connected!

May 6, 13, 20, 27

