



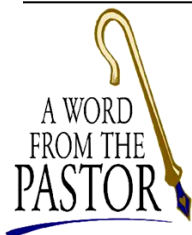
JUNE
2020

GRACE MESSENGER

Grace Lutheran Church, an ELCA Congregation
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www.gracelongbeach.com
PASTOR DAVE PARR cell - 423-620-1284
Personal email gracepastordave1@gmail.com



Keith Voigts - Church Council President
Zoom Sunday School - 9 am Adults
Zoom Worship & Communion 10:00 a.m.
Zoom Sunday School Youth - 11:30am
Office Hours: Pastor Dave 9-12 Tues. - Friday
Staff, Tues. All day, Wed.-Fri. 8-12



"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

Amos 5:24 (NRSV)

What does a pandemic, a senseless murder, unchecked lawlessness in the streets, and a tropical storm/potential hurricane have in common? I am sure there are several answers to that question, but the one that comes to my mind first is this: They all disrupt our "normal" lives by arousing our emotions: anger, grief, fear, frustration; emotions we would rather not have to deal with. The killing of George Floyd and the ensuing demonstrations, protests, rioting, and looting have no doubt unleashed all the aforementioned emotions and perhaps more.

There is no doubt that a life was taken without cause. And there is no doubt that we all should be outraged. We all should protest such injustice. We all should grieve with all of the friends and family of George Floyd; in fact, we should grieve with all who have been victimized by abuse of power and authority. And perhaps peaceful demonstrations and protests are called for. What is *not* called for is rioting, burning, looting, and retaliatory injury. Nor is politicizing – by any party.

In the midst of all the turmoil that our nation is experiencing hope is still present. Peace is still possible. Justice is still available. All because Light still shines in the darkness. The Light of Christ has come into the world. And that Light shines in the hearts and lives of the people of God. In our Service of Baptism, we are called to "Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven." (Matt. 5:16) Seeking the way of justice and peace is integral to walking in the Light and glorifying our Father in Heaven. Note: "seeking" is an action verb that denotes actively searching for or pursuing an objective. Praying for peace and justice is a beginning, but we must take the next step. We must reflect a sincere desire for justice in every aspect of our lives. *That includes speaking out against injustice!* That includes speaking truth to power, speaking up for those who have no voice or whose voice has been taken away.

The quotes from Amos and Micah that I have included in this writing speak volumes but are just so many words from an ancient book if all we do is read them. We are called to *live* by them!

Our best example of one who did so is the Radical Rabbi from Galilee: Jesus Christ! May we follow his example as we deal day by day with the pandemic, prepare for a possible storm (on the Gulf Coast), and live peaceably and justly among all people.

***He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? – Micah 6:8 (NRSV)***

*In Christ,
Pastor Dave*

Thank you for serving!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Christians welcoming and serving

The marks of discipleship are to:

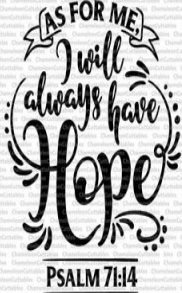
- *Pray daily *Worship weekly *Serve your church & community *Relate to others in a small group
- *Read the Bible *Give a tithe and beyond

READERS

7 Lynn Deegen
14 Dylan Ladner
21 Judy Hierstein
28 Kevin Schultz

ASSISTING MINISTER

7 Mary West
14 Ron Schmidtling
21
28 Kevin Schultz



Birthdays in June

5 Michelle Lee	14 DeeDee Philumalee
9 JJ Ruoss	15 Jaylin Conley
10 Roy Puckett	17 Michael Sween
13 Stan Cross	Sheila Ladner

Anniversaries in June

9 Ken/Janie Dropco	13 Stan/Roxanne Cross
10 David/Donna Aycock	17 Don/Mary West
12 Ron/Elaine Schmidtling	



Education ~ Lisa Speck



Sunday School has ended for the 2019-2020 school year. We tried a different time, after church, this year with great success! Thank you to all the families that stayed for lessons and crafts and also for logging onto our Zoom meetings for classes. A special thanks goes to Ms. Beverley and Ms. Sheila for the great classes that they prepared every Sunday. We look forward to seeing our students face to face again. Sunday School will begin again on August 9th. Keep a lookout for dates and details! Have a great summer and stay safe!



Children's Sermons

We will still need people for the Children's Sermon every Sunday. Please volunteer. As you can see it can be done by the seat of your pants. Like Christy did on the 31st.



Returning to In-house Gatherings

Many churches in our area are beginning to gather for in-house worship or are making plans to do so. I know that our Grace family is eager to do so as well. As your Pastor I can assure you that no one misses our gathering in worship and fellowship more than I.

The next Grace Church Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18. The primary agenda item will be formulating a plan for resuming in-house worship. We will follow CDC guidelines, and any other guidelines that we feel are necessary. The safety and well-being of all who gather must be given top priority.

We will gather again. Things will not be "just like it was." It will be different. But we will gather again.

In Christ, Pastor Dave

June 21st





The President's Comments ~ Keith

We live in a time when a few years ago we all probably thought that things would all be nice a rosy for human beings in 2020, but here we are witnessing events that would not have been that uncommon 1,000 years ago. Pandemic, brutality and outright thuggery are the norm right now. I think our little church always has been and continues to be an example of how people meet disasters—we rely on God's leadership as spelled out in the Bible, then don't hesitate to get busy. This church business via electronics to me is just sensational. (It does not beat actual service in our church home, but it is nice to not have to get all gussied up and drive to church. Don't get too complacent, people!) . We are "demonstrating" that following God's example is the true way to behave. I am convinced that if we do not waver from this track, we will be fine, and I pray that all Americans revert to these basic teachings.

PRAYER VIGIL

JUNE 6, 2020 • 6PM
ST PATRICK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCHYARD

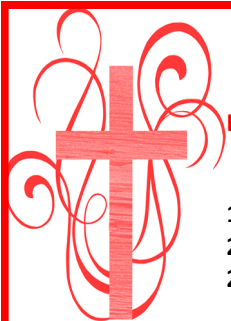
Gather as a community to pray for an end to hate, racism, discrimination, and for the victims of violence.

We will adhere to CDC guidelines of social distancing.
Please wear a mask.
Limited quantities will be available for those that don't have one.



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.



READINGS FOR JUNE

Date	Sundays After Pentecost	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel of Matthew
7	Trinity 1st	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	8	2 Cor 13:11-13	28:16-20
14	2nd	Exodus 19:2-8a	100	Romans 5:1-8	9:35-10:8 (9-23)
21	3rd	Jeremiah 20:7-13	69:7-10, 16-18	Romans 6:1b-11	10:24-39
28	4th	Jeremiah 28:5-9	89:1-4, 15-18	Romans 6:12-23	10:40-42

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, Michael Bundschuh, Charissa, Chelsea, Cynthia Chadwyck, Vivian & Mike Collins, Alice Crandall, Cole Crane, Stan Cross, Susan Cross, Robert Crowley, Anita Cruz, Richard Cuevas, Lee Custer Gina Dale, Timothy Davis, Toni Davis, Angie Dedrickson, Christie Deshotel, Laurie Doster, Janie Dropco, Abby Dufnar, Joe Dunnion, Melissa Durant, Annette Allard Emery, Amberly Favre, Azalee Fullmer, Madelyn Gordon, John Guthans, Lydia/Jayson Gordon, Stan Hall, Jackie Haygood, Debbie/Billy Hennessy, Steve Hiles, Brenda Hiles, Carly Hinton, Stan Hoard, Tania Hoggins, 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, Patti Lastorka, Patricia Lindsey, Charlie/Carol Loew, Lois Long, Glenn McElwee, Mary Ann Maggard, Betty Marshall, Ashley & Lindsey Mays, Johnny Montgomery, Cindy Mitchell, Mike/Kathy Pearson, Ann Peneguy, Kathy Polan, Patience Poupart, Lucy Puckett, Bailey Romig, Christopher Ryan, Karen /Kim/Kevin Schultz, Corky Sidell, Larry/Mori Smith, Rilyn Speck, Ruth Spera, Rita/Boyd Swenson, Ted, John Thompson, Maggie Tirrell, Gorie Thomas, Jeff Turner, Juanita Vann, Gwenn Voigts, Ferdi & Sylvia von Behren, Doris Weaver, David Webb, Brantley West, Kacey Jade West, Janyce Westerman, Dolly Willams, Larry Wilson, Melissa Wilson Steve Wilson, Lynnsnora,

**Deployed & Active Military, Victims of Domestic Abuse, All who have been furloughed and
All Medical Personnel and First Responders**

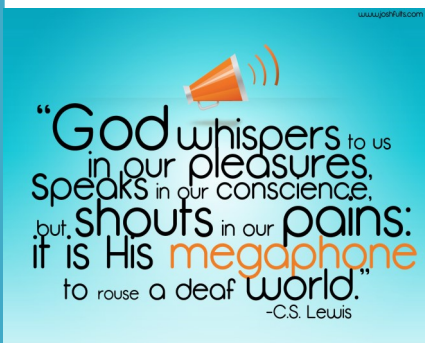


April Financial Report - Duane Wilson

Finances for Grace declined slightly for April. Net General Fund income in April was \$13,538, while expenses were \$16,114. There were no unusual budget expenditures in April. To meet the 2020 budget, our income needed each month is \$16,610. Contributions YTD are \$10,502 short of reaching the budget.

Restricted fund account activities were fairly active in April. Grace Food Pantry received \$1,978 in donations with no expenses. Good Samaritan expended \$2,704 to assist members and others in need while receiving \$3,231. The Service Project Fund had no activity in April. These Restricted funds will continue to be used to help members and others in the community in need.

The April 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.



Worship Committee - Candis Raif

We are offering an in-house brief Communion Service in the sanctuary on Sundays from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and on Wednesdays from 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm. There will be a limit of 10 people (including Pastor Dave) at each "table". The service takes 5 to 6 minutes. You must wear a mask and observe "social distancing". Only the "Door Keeper" should touch the doorknob. As one "table" has left the building, the door keeper will permit the next group to enter. Detailed instructions are included in Pastor's emails.

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 mute 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.

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!



June Service / Liturgy Schedule

June 7, 2020 ~ Trinity (White)

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20 ... Jesus summons his disciples and commissions them to baptize & teach all nations in the name of "the Father, Son and Holy Spirit"

June 14, 2020 ~ 2nd Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Gospel: Matthew 9:35—10:23 ... our mission, as followers of Jesus, is to continue His mission

June 21, 2020 ~ 3rd Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39 ... Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition; however, the truth will come to light and there is no need for fear. Life is found in Christ.

June 28, 2020 ~ 4th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42 ... Jesus warns of persecutions and hardships as he sends the disciples out as missionaries – but promises to reward those who aid his followers and support their ministry.

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!

June 3, 10, 17, 24*

*** June 24 is the Commemoration of John the Baptist**

God's Promise

isn't that He'll keep bad
things from happening; it's that
He'll be there if they do.

Abbreviated Communion Service during the Pandemic

Grace Lutheran Church

May 17, 2020

Beginning Sunday, May 17, we will offer Holy Communion in the Church Sanctuary. The maximum number of people we can have inside the building at one time is 10, and we must follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC and Governor Reeves.

Here is the process:



1. Parishioners arrive at the church and park. Everyone must wear a mask - one will be provided at the door if needed. Vinyl gloves are also provided.
2. A gloved and masked attendant will act as "door keeper" to regulate entry and to ensure no one else touches the doorknobs. Clorox wipes are on-hand if needed.
3. Groups of 10 or less will be admitted into the building in the order in which they arrived, or as close to that as possible.
4. Each group is referred to as a "Table" and only one table at a time will be inside the building.
5. Anyone wishing to wait outside their vehicle or form a line near the door is asked to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet. Entrance is through the side door adjacent to the parking lot. All other doors are locked.
6. Individuals or non-distancing family members will be admitted in a manner that maintains 6 feet of social distancing.
7. Individuals/families will proceed down the hall while maintaining six feet of physical distancing, and into the sanctuary. The first individual/family will go all the way to the front of the sanctuary and stop at the marked spot (duct tape) on the floor. Those following will occupy the subsequent marked spots (6 feet of separation) until the "table" is complete. Disposable bulletins are provided (on the chair with the arrow) as you enter the sanctuary.
8. A very brief worship order, including confession and forgiveness, will be led by the Pastor. Pastor is masked and gloved. Estimated time is five minutes.
9. Distribution of the elements will then begin. The Pastor (masked and wearing gloves) will place a small paper plate and a cup of wine (or grape juice) on the altar rail, proclaim to the communicant "this is the body... this is the blood..." .
10. The Pastor steps back from the rail (six feet), the communicant(s) approach, take and ingest the elements (the Pastor says "Depart in peace"), turn to their right, drop the bulletin, paper plate and plastic cup into the trash can nearby, and exit along the side aisle and out the way they came in.
11. Once the current "table" has exited the building, the next "table" will be admitted into the building. Total elapsed time is approximately six minutes.

Note:

Hand sanitizer is provided on the table in the Narthex by the sanctuary door, near the restroom doors, and in the sanctuary.