



**JULY
2020**

GRACE MESSENGER

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



ONE NATION UNDER GOD

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

*Happy Birthday
America!!!*



Saturday, July 4, marks the 244th anniversary of what I believe is the greatest country in the world. We are blessed with personal freedoms for which so many citizens of other countries long. But we are not perfect. We still have much to learn about how to use our freedoms in the best possible ways.

We still have opportunities to improve the ways in which we exercise our freedom of speech. Words matter. The context and the way in which we project verbal or written communication can do harm as well as good. For example, yelling "Fire!" in a crowded theater when there is no fire is *not* a proper use of free speech and can cause undue panic and injury. Yelling insults and derogatory slogans during any kind of an assembly is equally injurious and wrong. The Psalmist prayed: "May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart

be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." – *Psalm 19:14*. Words matter!

We still have opportunities to improve in the areas of social justice. Our country is a land of ethnic and socio-economic diversity, and our individual perspectives reflect that diversity. Yet we are also "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for *all*." Our pledge of allegiance reflects a commitment to all people, and recognizes the truth that God is the supreme authority for guiding our actions. Scripture calls us to administer this liberty and justice generously. Perhaps even extravagantly: "But let justice roll down like the waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." – *Amos 5:24*.

Yes, we still have opportunities for improvement. But that is another beautiful thing about this country! *We have that opportunity!* We are free to improve and grow in fulfilling our citizenship in the greatest country on earth! And when we remember that first and foremost we are citizens of the Kingdom of God we will better appreciate our freedoms as Americans.

God Bless America!

**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

5 Art Speck
12 Barb Gaines
19 Mary West
26 Kevin Schultz

ASSISTING MINISTER

5 Keith Voigts
12 Sandie Guthans
19
26



Birthdays in July

1 Rita Swenson	13 Donna Collins
6 Mary Luzadder	21 Jason Conley
Beverly Saglibene	22 Erin Carrubba
7 Chris Caston	24 Michelle Kouba
8 Raymond Miller	Steve Gaines
Cody Alphin	25 Jan Hiles
Kristin Haygood	Hailey Simoneaux
9 Del Budd	28 Chris Jarrell
10 Kitty Huddle	Henry Branstetter
11 Sarah Lacey	Elvira Simoneaux
Lisa Speck	

Anniversaries in July

2 Don/Sandy Radley	19 Art/Lisa Speck
3 Mike/Jeanne Sween	23 Brian/Susan Prendergast



Outreach Ministry - Pete Raif



With school starting again soon, many parents are jobless and may not have the resources to purchase school supplies. Many times, teachers spend their own money for supplies. We will once again be collecting items for Harper McCaughan, the school across the street from the church. Check the list of supplies in this newsletter. A package of pencils or paper would surely be appreciated. You may drop off supplies during office hours or when coming to Sunday or Wednesday communion at noon. Please have the supplies at the church by August 14th.

All Police Departments are under much stress with everything happening with the virus and the Black Lives Matter movement. I would like to collect granola bars or something similar, to present to them on or about the 20th or 21st of July to let them know that we are thinking about them and care about their wellbeing.

Thank you for your support!

Grace Face Mask Ministry



We have a new ministry at Grace! As you know, we are in the midst of one of the worst pandemics any of us have ever seen. The number of Covid-19 cases continues to rise across most of the country, and our beloved Mississippi Gulf Coast is no exception.



The nation's top epidemiologist and other medical experts tell us that, along with diligent hygiene and physical distancing, wearing face masks helps lessen the threat of spreading the virus. Out of this need for protecting ourselves and others, a new ministry has been born!

A couple of our members and the daughter of another member have been blessed with a talent for sewing, and are using that talent (and a considerable amount of time) to make face masks for sharing with the congregation and the community.

These cloth masks are washable and can be reused. The designs on the cloth vary; some have been "custom made!" There is a number of them available at the church entrance when parishioners come for in-house communion, and more will be available when we return to in-house worship.

There is no charge for these masks; as we noted, this is a ministry!

Thank you, Mask Makers, for your labor of love and service to God's People!



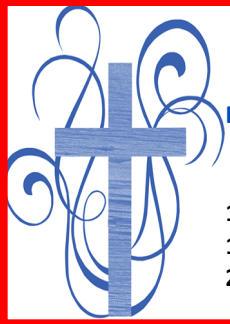
The President's Comments ~ Keith

By now, I'm sure all of our congregation is sick and tired of the Coronavirus news and all the distractions and inconveniences that come with it. For our congregation, and congregations all over the world, our worship routine has been upended. But thanks to our Pastor and so many of you who have participated in alternatives, we are beginning to settle into the online version of worship and have even come up with a workable plan for communion. But we so longingly want this to be over!! Your council is constantly monitoring the situation. As you know we have decided not to change things for another month or so. We will look again at statistics and all the other determinators. We will open church up to worship as soon as it is practicable and reasonable to do so. In the meantime, keep the faith, keep signing in on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening and invite your friends, near and far. One good thing you don't have to drive to church and you don't have to dress up!



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 JULY

Date	Sundays After Pentecost	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading Romans	Gospel of Matthew
5	5th	Zach. 9:9-12	145:8-14	7:12-25a	11:16-19, 25-30
12	6th	Isaiah 55:10-13	65:1-13	8:1-11	13:1-9, 18-23
19	7th	Isaiah 44:6-8	86:11-17	8:12-25	13:24-30, 36-43
26	8th	1 King 3:5-12	119:129-136	8:26-39	13:31-33, 44-52

LORD IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS FOR....

Johnny Authement, Anne Bacchiocchi, Kevin Baker, Lisa Baron, Rose Bearson, Jennifer Bonstaff, Henry/Wanda Branstetter, Erica Broussard, Mariah Brown, Peggy Broussard, Jan Bruner, Charissa, 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, Joe Dunnion, Annette Allard Emery, Amberly Favre, Azalee Fullmer, Madelyn Gordon, Vickey Gordon, John Guthans, Stan Hall, 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, Patti Lastorka, Patricia Lindsey, Charlie/Carol Loew, Lois Long, Glenn McElwee, Mary Ann Maggard, Betty Marshall, Lindsey Mays, Cindy Mitchell, Mike/Kathy Pearson, Ann Peneguy, Patience Poupart, Lucy Puckett, 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, Brantley West, Kacey Jade West, Dolly Williams, Larry Wilson, Steve Wilson, Lynsonora,



**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 improved in May. Net General Fund income in May was \$23,844, while expenses were \$13,953. There were no unusual budget expenditures in May. We did receive a \$16,225 payment as part of the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) that is not included in the above contributions amount. To meet the 2020 budget, our income needed each month is \$16,610. This does include the PPP loan receipt. Contributions YTD are \$3,268 short of reaching the budget.

Restricted fund account activities were fairly active in May. Grace Food Pantry received \$1,257 in donations with expenses of \$361. Good Samaritan expended \$500 to assist members and others in need with no donations.. The Service Project Fund had no activity in May. These Restricted funds will continue to be used to help members and others in the community in need.

The May 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

Due to the current rise in the number of COVID-19 cases and after reviewing the guidelines for resuming in-house worship put out by the ELCA, the members of the council (with input from some members of the Worship Ministry) have voted not to go forth with resuming in-house worship at this time.

The ELCA benchmarks for resuming worship gatherings at Level 1 or 2 state that there "must be a clear downward trajectory in the number of reported symptoms, confirmed cases, and/or positive tests for COVID-19 for 2 consecutive weeks." Level 1 is for gatherings of up to 10 people with the following exceptions; people over 65, individuals with serious underlying health conditions: high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised. Level 2 is for gatherings of up to 50 people with the same exceptions!

Once this benchmark is met, some of the recommendations include the following:

Keeping services (including sermons) brief. Preacher keeping a face covering on while preaching.

Refrain from congregational and choral singing.

Employ silence effectively. Consider using American Sign Language to sing a hymn silently.

Refrain from speaking unison prayers or responses.

Adopting some standard gestures or using American Sign Language for brief liturgical responses.

I have not provided a complete list of the recommendations or the extensive sanitizing measures that must take place before and after each service. I just wanted to help you understand some of the reasons that the decision was made not to resume in-house worship at this time. I will be happy to email you the entire guidelines, just let me know!

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.

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!

July Service / Liturgy Schedule

July 5, 2020 ~ 5th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 ... although Jesus chides people who find fault with his ministry (and that of John the Baptist), he gives thanks to God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer. This passage ends with words of comfort ... *"Come unto me, all who are weary ... and I will give you rest."*

July 12, 2020 ~ 6th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 ... this passage is the familiar Parable of the Sower and the Seeds, along with Jesus' explanation of it of why and how our seeds of the "good news" produces different results in those who hear it.

July 19, 2020 ~ 7th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 ... continuing to teach through parables, today we hear about the coexistence of good and evil in the world, like the weeds that grow together with the wheat. Rather than destroy the growing crop, it is only at the harvest are they separated.

July 26, 2020 ~ 8th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 ... here we find some "short" parables, with common, ordinary images: a sheltering tree (from a mustard seed); yeast that grows and expands; a buried treasure; a priceless pearl; and a net with a good catch.

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! July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

For those who are "music-starved" -- the *Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM.org)* did a virtual recording of the hymn *"O Day Full of Grace"* -- take a listen to this astounding combination of 960 voices and 364 instruments! Go to: [ALCM.org](https://www.alcm.org) and click on the "virtual hymn" link on the web page. Ingrid promises, you won't be disappointed!



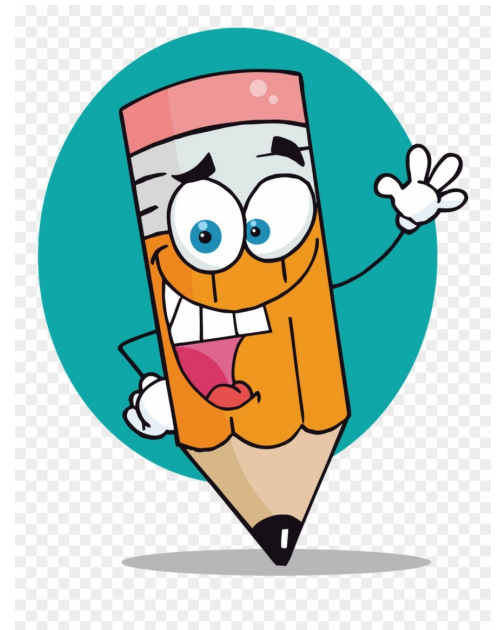
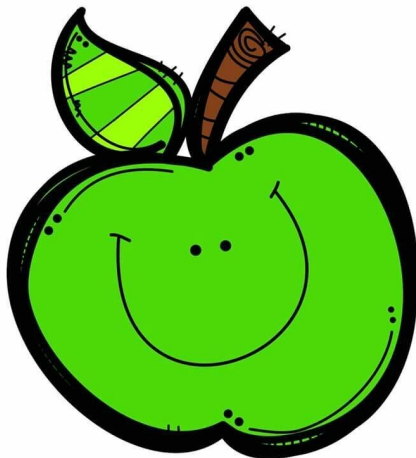
Long Beach School District - Elementary Supply List, For Harper McCaughan Elementary

FOURTH GRADE

- **1 pair of headphones - earbuds ok (VERY IMPORTANT)**
- 1 - 1" binder
- 1 - package of dividers with pockets (at least a 5 count)
- 1 - three-prong plastic pocket folder
- 3 - marbled composition books (not spiral)
- 1 - 24-pack #2 wood pencils (preferably Ticonderoga brand)
- 1 - package of WIDE ruled loose-leaf paper
- 1 - multi-pack highlighters
- 1 - multi-pack of BLACK dry erase markers (for students)
- 1 - pack of sticky notes
- 1 - package of crayons or colored pencils
- 1 - box of facial tissue
- 1 - multi-pack of glue sticks (minimum of 4 sticks)
- 1 - pack of eraser tops
- 1 - zippered pencil bag
- 1 - container of antibacterial wipes

FIFTH GRADE

- 1 - red three-prong plastic pocket folder
- 3 - 3-ring folders any color (pocket folders made to use in 3-ring binders)
- 1 - Binder with dividers (Some teachers may not require a binder)
- 1 - pair of headphones with volume control - earbuds ok
- 5 - marbled composition books (not spiral)
- 9 - glue sticks
- 4 - colored dry erase markers
- 2 - packages of WIDE ruled loose-leaf paper
- 2 - highlighters
- 1 - package of crayons or colored pencils
- 2 - boxes of facial tissue
- 1 - pair of scissors
- 48 - #2 pencils
- 1 - eraser tops or bars
- 2 - antibacterial wipes (ex. Lysol)
- 1 - hand sanitizer
- 1 - paper towel roll



SIXTH GRADE

- 1 - 2" binder
- 1 - package of plastic three ring dividers (5 count)
- 1 - three-prong/two pocket plastic pocket folder (ELA)
- 5 - one subject WIDE ruled notebooks (3 ELA, 1 - Math, 1 Science/SS)
- 2 - boxes of facial tissue
- 1 - multi-pack of highlighters
- 1 - multi-pack of dry erase markers (student use)
- 2 - packages of WIDE ruled loose-leaf paper
- 1 - package of colored pencils
- 1 - pack of markers
- 1 - pair of headphones with volume control - earbuds ok
- 2 - packs of 24 pencils
- 1 - package of eraser tops or bars
- 1 - hand sanitizer
- 1 - paper towel roll
- 1 - calculator (four function)

Boys

- 1 - multi-pack of sticky notes
- 1 - box of adhesive bandages (ex. Band Aids)

Girls

- 1 - box of sandwich zip storage bags
- 1 - package of wipes