

Good News of Grace

"I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and fortress, my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence... you will not fear the pestilence that stalks in the darkness." Psalm 91: 2-3, 6

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Through most of my life, when I read Bible stories about plagues and pestilence they always seemed stories of long ago times and far away places. Today those stories don't seem so distant any longer. A worldwide pandemic has brought unimagined change to our society. Those Bible stories from long ago and far away, do remind us that we are not the first people to undergo situations like the present one.

The best known of the plagues are the ones from the time of the Exodus. You probably remember them blood, frogs, gnats, flies, death of livestock, boils, hail, locust, darkness and finally the death of the firstborn (Exodus 7-11). In each of these plagues God showed his superiority to something the Egyptians had trusted in and worshipped.

Seeing the global upheaval we are presently living under is a clear reminder of the flimsy nature of so many of the things which our world came to see as supremely important. Trillions of dollars of earthly wealth has vanished in a plummeting stock market. Medical science has no immediate answer, its best advice is hide away in your home. The sports which seemed so important have been cancelled. Entertainment venues have been closed. What can we count on? Who can we rely on?



april
2020

Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

Pastors:

Michael Buchhorn
Erik Christensen

Family Worship

Times: Sunday:
8:00am & 10:30am

Sunday School
9:15am

904 Logan
Wayne, Nebraska
402-375-1905

As we repeat so frequently in our liturgy, “Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” (Ps. 124:8). The place we need to flee is to the Lord. He is the one who is our refuge and fortress. He is the one who can deliver us from this and every other pestilence. Under his protection, “A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.” (Psalm 91:7) His faithfulness will be our shield. Under His wings we find refuge. His angel guards will be our protectors. He has promised, “He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.” (Ps. 91:11)

Yes, we know Satan attempted to twist these words and thereby urge Jesus to jump from the temple and put God to the test. We know that we should not test God. So yes, listen to medical advice, keep social distance, wash our hands. But it is not these things which will ultimately save us or remove this pestilence from us. God is our deliverer.

In the midst of the plagues upon Egypt, God gave his people a meal to mark the promise He made to them. He told his people to gather as families or with their near neighbors and prepare a meal of deliverance. The blood of the lamb upon their doorframes would mark them as the people who trusted in God and the angel of death would pass over their homes.

For us we remember that our Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed gave his church the meal of the new covenant. His very body and blood shed for us. These became the pledge of God’s promise to care for and deliver his people. With that in mind we will continue to gather around his table in our church or if need be in our homes to receive his gifts, to call upon him in our need and to seek from him our help.

We have his promise, ““Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”” (Psalm 91:14–16).

May God allow this season of anxiety and illness to quickly pass over us and in the meantime keep you all in good health and abundant faith.

In Christ,
Pastor Buchhorn

“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.” (Proverbs 19:21 ESVi)

At the present time our plans in the church like so many other things in our earthly lives have had to be very flexible and regularly modified. It is our intent to continue to suspend regular large gathering worship services on the advice of our governing authorities and out of concern for the well being of all, particularly our senior members. In the meantime, we plan to continue to offer small group communion services. As we do so, we will be taking prudent precautions regarding sanitizing surfaces and observing various social distancing recommendations. These services initially are scheduled for Saturday at 6 & 7 p.m. and Sunday at 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 a.m. and 2, 3, & 4 p.m. We will also offer the same small group communion opportunity on Wednesday evening at 6 or 7 p.m. These will be abbreviated services of approximately 35 minutes in length.

We will resume our normal schedule as soon as possible, in the meantime we will also be offering video recordings of our normal worship settings. These will be available online via YouTube and a link to the current video will be posted on the church website www.gracewayne.com or on our Facebook page. The bulletin for the current service should also be posted on the webpage under the “News” tab.

For those using email, we will try also to notify you of changes via this medium. We do need a current email address for many of you. If you have not received an email from the church already concerning some of these changes, it probably means we need an address. Please email that address to kwiser@gracewayne.com.

A few other notes on schedules, our Junior Confirmation celebration planned for Palm Sunday, April 5 is being postponed. There will be no mid-week or other church meals until further notice. There will be no Sunday morning adult Bible Study while we are in the small group mode. Sunday School and Midweek school are cancelled so long as Wayne Community Schools are not in session. Please do note that resources for continued Christian education at home are being made available online. See the Sunday School Facebook page for details. At this time the Wednesday morning Bible class will continue to meet.

Given the need for continued modification of schedules this newsletter will not contain many of the items like a calendar and schedule of “those who serve” you have come to expect. We will put out an update when things become a little more predictable again.

If you have suggestions for ways to improve ministry during this time, please contact one of the pastors. In the meantime, join us in praying that this season of disrupted schedules will be brief.

Grace Lutheran Ladies' Aid

March 11, 2020

Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid met March 11, 2020 with ten member and Pastor Buchhorn in attendance. Vice President Ellen Heinemann led the group in reading the LWML pledge.

Mission Grant #9, Lights For Christ Scholarships, in Zacapa, Guatemala was highlighted. The Lights for Christ Program offers Christian education to children whose parents have been economically dependent on collecting garbage in the municipal landfill. The children come to this program with many needs. They are provided with spiritual and physical support, as well as receiving a Christian education. Our group was notified that the District mission goals of \$75,000 has been met.

Minutes were read and corrected. The treasurer's report was given. Ladies Aid will purchase an Easter lily to adorn the altar. Committee reports were given as follows: kitchen-no report; visiting-sent many greeting cards, our visiting day at Country View Estates will remain the first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 P.M.; sewing- 3 large quilts and 5 small quilts were tied, next sewing day is March 26, 2020; no funerals were served. Ellen has mementoes ready to give the Confirmands this month.

Ladies Aid will prepare and serve the noon meal for the Pastors' Conference on April 7. Mary Janke and Rhonda Sebade will be in charge. The LWML Zone Workshop will be held April 14, 2020 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Laurel. Pastor Nabil Nour from Hartford, South Dakota will be the speaker. The Ingathering will consist of cash donations for Orphan Grain Train, Hygiene Kits and School Kits. The Grace congregation will be asked to contribute items for these kits and Ladies Aid members will assemble the kits at their April meeting.

Pastor Buchhorn led a Bible study from the LWML Quarterly magazine entitled "Come and See, Go and Tell". The meeting as closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be April 8, 2020.

A Word from Pastor Erik

We are living in strange times, and I can guarantee you that when I moved here, I was not expecting to start my ministry off with you in this way. However, I know that God is the one who is going to be with us. Three Bible verses especially come to mind when I start to think about the uncertain times that we are living in. Those Bible verses are... Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." ... Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." And the last one is Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." Even in the face of this Coronavirus when everything seems to be shutting down. When our College Sunday Night Dinners have been postponed. When in person Bible Studies are being rescheduled for later dates. When the youth activities are being reworked to try to follow our government's rules of social distancing the one place we can run to for confidence and hope is always going to be there for us. This is the time to draw closer to God's word, and God's love! This is the time to gather as a family with the Bible, and in prayer. This is the time where God tells us to be strong and courageous! Not in earthly plans, or dreams but in Him! We can take each day as it comes knowing He is the one who has given it to us. "This is the day the Lord has made, so let us rejoice and be glad in it" Psalm 118:24. And watch for more updates on ways we might be able to get together via media during this time of social distancing, and hopefully in person soon!

Sunday School

During the month of March, the Sunday School transitioned from Unit 2 to Unit 3 in our curriculum. We continued in the New Testament with "A Hearing Aide - Jesus Heals a Deaf Man" (Mark 7:31-37). We also reviewed all of Jesus' miracles that we've learned up to this point - Jesus changing water into wine, Jesus calming the storm, Jesus restoring the life of Jairus's daughter, and Jesus feeding the 5,000, as well as healing the deaf man. Due to some rearranging of lessons, we jumped back to the Old Testament to learn about the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple in "Homecoming Hopes - Return from Exile" (Ezra 1:1-2; 7:11-28; Nehemiah 2:1-8; 12:27-43). We compared and contrasted the temple with our church today, including the physical layout as well as things we do and how we act in a service. Then we returned to the New Testament with Jesus' teaching and preaching. In the story of "A Mercy-Full Message - The Good Samaritan" (Luke 10:25-37), we learned that because Jesus first loved us we are to "go and do likewise," by helping others.

The first graders often make a small craft or visual aid relating to the Bible story for the day, as well as learn and write the corresponding verse of the day. We always open and close our lesson with a prayer, asking God to help us focus on learning more about Him through His Word and remembering what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

With all children's Sunday school and Midweek classes currently suspended, until further notice, the Sunday school program has decided to suspend all Sunday school related projects until such a time as Sunday school classes resume on a regular basis. Sadly, this includes our collection for the Orphan Grain Train Christmas gift box project. For the time being, we thank you for your current contributions to this, and all, Sunday school related projects, and as we look forward, we hope we will be able to resume all Sunday school related ministry experiences in the near future, God willing.

In absence of regular classes, if you have not yet taken advantage of the free education and devotional resources provided by Concordia Publishing House (CPH), we strongly encourage you to check out our Facebook page for a link to the CPH website, so your family can incorporate these materials into your weekly routine.

The Sunday school would like to thank the congregation for their support during our recent Lenten meal serving opportunity, which took place on March 4th, 2020. It is always a pleasure to be able to serve the members of our congregation, in this way.

At this time, the Sunday school is planning to host a children's Easter Egg hunt on April 11th, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. Based on various conditions, details related to this event may be changed or adjusted, so please make sure to check for updates on our Facebook page. To assist with this experience, we would like to invite the congregation to make a monetary donation to the church office for the purchasing of candy. All things considered, we have decided it would be for the best if candy was not directly donated this year, and instead, the Sunday school used the money donated to purchase candy, on a date closer to the event. Your support with this event would be greatly appreciated!

Looking toward next year, if you have an interest in teaching, subbing, or assisting in a non-teaching fashion, please contact Derek Jareske at 402-369-9465 or dejare01@gmail.com.

The next Sunday school teacher meeting will take place, in some way, on Thursday, April 2nd, at 6:00 p.m.

Join our Facebook page. Join by searching Grace Lutheran Sunday School, Wayne, NE for updates, lessons, and weather-related announcements.

Respectfully,

The 1st Grade Class and Sunday School Program
(sundayschool@gracewayne.com)

April Birthdays ~ God Bless You Today!

- 1 Bonnie Hansen & Madelyn Latham
- 2 Andrea Trautman & Kari Woehler
- 3 Matthew Schaefer
- 4 Laura Mitchell
- 5 Amanda Broberg
- 6 Landen Ekberg, Larsyn Ekberg & Russ Volk
- 8 Justin Anderson, Tasha Forsyth, Abigail Bose & Jason Claussen
- 9 Craig Evans, Chase Forsyth, Desiree Kneifl, Axylle Kurpgeweit, Debi Morlok, Sandy Bartling & Sara Ruwe
- 10 Layne Evans, Makayla Heithold, Kash Koch & Tammy Nissen
- 11 Payton Janke & Tim Reinhardt
- 12 Kourtney Hefti
- 13 Carlene Bodlak
- 14 Nancy Johnson & Joey Niemann
- 16 Ethan Cross
- 17 Diane Hefti, Konnor Kai & Sydnie Niemann
- 18 Scott Hansen & Marcine Rohrberg
- 19 Matthew Sharer
- 20 Lucille Ocampo, Hunter Ruwe & Londa Stowater
- 21 Candace Heggemeyer & Logan Slama
- 23 Sherry Haase, Trevor Hurlbert & Aiden Kesting
- 24 Nicole Cross
- 27 Lisa Niemann, Elizabeth Sharer & Norma Stoltenberg
- 28 Patrick Young
- 29 Coleman Kneifl & Logan Schafer
- 30 Nora Heithold, Dan Nolte & Phyllis Nolte



“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38–39).

Our celebration may have to change.

We may have to have virtual worship opportunities.

*We may be under lock-down, self-quarantined,
or undergoing some other trial.*

*But the fact of the empty tomb and risen Lord remains
unchanged.*

Rejoice, it will still be Easter in spite of COVID—19!

How would you like your newsletter? Given the uncertainty in our ability to gather for worship for the immediate future and in order to keep better in touch with our members and friends of the congregation, it was decided to directly mail this newsletter to member homes. We also realize that all of our members do not use electronic means of communication. In order to get you this information via the means you would find most helpful, we would like to know your preferred method of receiving the newsletter. **Unless we hear from you, your newsletter will be mailed to your home via bulk mail.** (Bulk mail can be sent at a substantially reduced rate over first class mail).

The other delivery options are

- Continue to pick up my newsletter via the church mailbox system in the parish hall. To select this method please call the church office.
- Receive the newsletter via email. To select this method, call the church office or send an email to kwiser@gracewayne.com
- Look up the newsletter via the church website. To select this method, call the church office or send an email to kwiser@gracewayne.com

Mission Council **March 9, 2020**

The Mission Council at Grace Lutheran Church met on Monday, March 9, 2020. The following members were present: Brian Frevert, Jerry Echtenkamp, Deb Jensen, Justin Anderson, Dwight Mock, Chuck Potosnyak, Chad Janke, Neal Greenwald, Angie Beiermann, Heather Reinhardt and Pastor Buchhorn.

Pastor Buchhorn opened the meeting with a devotion.

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Echtenkamp.

Minutes Approval: Minutes from February 10, 2020 Mission Council meeting was reviewed. It was moved by Justin and seconded by Chuck to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report: The financial statement for February 2020 was reviewed. It was moved by Dwight and seconded by Chad to approve the financial report. Motion carried. It was noted that the 2020 budget was adjusted to be consistent with the compensation package approved as a part of the associate pastor call. With that adjustment, the average per week need to fully fund the budget is \$8008 per week. Through the end of February our average giving per week has been \$5390. Monthly updates will appear in the bulletin to keep the congregation updated.

Elder's Report: The Board of Elders held an Elder's Retreat on March 6, 2020 at Cup of Grace. Pastor Lilienkamp opened the meeting with a study on Elders in the book of Acts. Pastor Erik Christensen was accepted into membership by transfer. The church conducted a baptism on February 9 and March 8. The installation of Pastor Erik Christensen as Associate Pastor took place on March 8. Mercy Meals was discussed and due to rising costs, there will not hold a spring food packing event. If funding is available, it may be possible to participate in the fall. At the Palm Sunday, April 5th 10:30 a.m. service, four students will be confirmed. Elder's goals and projects for 2020 were identified. The book Building Up the Body of Christ was chosen as a Board to study for the year. It was also decided to participate in re:Vitality, a LCMS program of self-assessment and training. The Full Insight Report, a demographic study of Wayne and its surrounding area, was made available to the Elders. This report will provide data and insights into ministry opportunities for our congregation. Plans for congregation member contact and inactive member follow up was discussed. The possibility of a new pictorial directory being made this fall was discussed. There was discussion on how to put endowment funds to best use.

Mission Council Committee Member Reports:

Trustee: The pastor pictures in the display case will hopefully be updated and refreshed in the near future.

The basement of the pre-school building has some water seepage, Justin will check into it further and report back.

Endowment & Memorial Fund: It was moved by Justin and seconded by Deb to add Cindy Evans to the Memorial Committee and as a designated signer on the checking account. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Bids for sidewalk replacement for the south side of the sanctuary are still being taken.

Justin has purchased some trim supplies for the church roof trim behind the new gutters for a trial run before purchasing additional supplies. Project will be worked on during the spring congregation workday.

A new air conditioning drain pan for the basement AC unit has been fabricated and will be installed before air conditioning season.

Funds continue to be collected for the nursery sound system.

A bid was received to rekey the preschool building so that only one key is needed for all of the locks. It is hoped the project can be completed in the near future.

An additional wireless router was installed in the Sunday school office to allow for a Wi-Fi signal to extend to the projector areas in the basement.

A new computer has been purchased for Pastor Christensen's use. An invoice has not been submitted yet from the moving costs assisted with Pastor Christensen's move to Wayne.

Pastor Buchhorn, Pastor Lilienkamp and Pastor Christensen will attend the District Pastor's Conference in Kearney scheduled for March 16-17.

Plans will continue to progress on reviewing insurance bids on the church property and liability insurance. Jerry, Justin and Pastor Buchhorn will act as an insurance subcommittee to review the bids and bring information back to the Mission Council for further action.

The endowment subcommittee consisting of Jerry, Chad and Deb will meet to discuss the process for accessing the needs of the congregation in utilizing the endowment funds for mission purposes. The Mission Council will serve pulled pork sandwiches, chips, salads and desserts for the Lenten meal before the March 25th service. The meal will start at 5:15 p.m. with service following at 6:15 p.m. The Senior Dinner is set for March 22 following the 10:30 a.m. service. Kimberly and Kelly Hansen will be preparing the meal, with Mission Council serving and cleaning up.

New Business

Pastor Christensen has requested that \$8,000 of his total compensation be re-designated from salary to housing allowance. It was moved by Justin and seconded by Angie to amend the terms of Rev. Erik Christensen's call relating to compensation to the following. Annual salary-\$32,766 and Housing Allowance-\$23,000 and to approve the following housing allowance resolution.

RESOLUTION RESOLVED, that Grace Lutheran Church, as a standing resolution to remain in force and effect until such time as amended or revoked, hereby authorizes and establishes allowance for Rev. Erik Christensen at any time serving it in the of \$23,000 per year.

The congregation spring cleaning/workday was discussed and is planned for Saturday April 4th at 9:00 a.m. Projects on the inside and outside of the church will be worked on.

Gene Casey has agreed to mow the church and preschool this upcoming year.

Pastor Buchhorn gave closing remarks mentioning that he looks forward to working with Pastor Erik Christensen. Now that the work of the Call Committee is complete bringing our new Associate Pastor Erik Christiansen to Grace Lutheran, Pastor Buchhorn and The Mission Council would like to give a special thanks to all that served on the committee for their hard work and dedication to this process.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 13, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Reinhardt

Due to the recent COVID-19 (Coronavirus) challenge, we will not be having a normal worship schedule. Operating expenses still go on at Grace Lutheran Church. I encourage members to make an extra effort to continue their normal offerings to the church. I realize some household budgets are strained because of side effects of the coronavirus. Each household situation is different, may God help you to make the best decisions. God bless you.

Jerry Echtenkamp, Mission Council Chairman.

Come Grow With Us in GRACE

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