

Good News of Grace

In the book of Malachi God promised the coming of John the Baptist. In that prediction of his coming he spoke about his work in a most interesting way. ***"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."*** (MAL 4:5-6)

God said that his prophet would work to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. We certainly need such a turning. We know too well the problems of deadbeat dads, fathers who have abandoned their families, fathers who rather than protecting and providing for their families, abuse and neglect them.

God through Malachi went on to promise that without a change of heart the land would be cursed. When a nation's fathers and children are alienated from each other, the land in which they live suffers mightily. Sadly we know that too well also. Sociologists confirm the same. It should not surprise us that the areas of our country most blighted by social problems are those with the highest percentages of fatherless families.

As we celebrate Father's Day this year it is a time for us to pray that God would once again turn the hearts of fathers to their children and turn the hearts of the children to their fathers. We pray that once again fathers and children would know and fulfill their responsibilities to each other. St. Paul wrote to Timothy for example: ***If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*** Fathers have a responsibility to provide for their children.

But a father's responsibility does not end with providing for their physical needs. God has given us



June 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

Come Grow
With Us in
GRACE

children with both a body and a soul. And as fathers we have responsibilities to provide for their souls as well. God has entrusted children to us with the command that we train them according to his will. If a father's role were simply a matter of providing money, then a welfare check or child support payment could easily take the place of a father. But as fathers, we are called to give something more. Fathers have a major role to play in training their children. The book of Proverbs says, **"My son, keep your father's commands."** In the book of Ephesians, St. Paul wrote: **Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

Particularly in this time of continuing pandemic precautions as fathers and children may have more time together. It is an opportunity for fathers to grow in this role. Take time to read a devotion or Bible story with your children or in other ways to remind them of God's love and care.

As we hear again of these sacred and solemn responsibilities as fathers it is my prayer that our heavenly father would indeed turn the hearts of all fathers toward our children. When we see the enormity of our responsibility as fathers and how frequently we fail. When we see as children how often we fail to honor and respect the earthly fathers we have been given. We might be inclined to think that the situation is hopeless. But in our need we need to remember that we all have a Heavenly Father we can turn to.

In teaching us to call our God Father, Jesus has also told us that we also have a perfect father, who fully and completely does what our earthly fathers try to do but are unable to do. Jesus taught us that in heaven we have a perfect provider. Jesus said, **"your Father knows what you need before you ask him."** He feeds the birds of the air and clothes the flowers of the field so we need not worry about what we will eat or drink or wear.

God the Father is the giver of every good and perfect gift. And he provided something for us that no earthly father ever could. He provided for our eternal salvation by sending his Son Jesus Christ to live, die and rise again for us to make us his children. He now promises: **To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.**

Our heavenly father loves us with a never ending love. A love so great that he sent his one and only Son into our world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. It is that love that now compels us

to be good parents bringing our children up in the training and instruction of the Lord. It is that love that compels us to be thankful to God for the parents he has given us and showing them honor. It is that love that forgives us when we fail and picks us up.

Today how desperately our church, our community, our world needs Godly fathers whose hearts go out to their children. We need Godly fathers who truly model the care and compassion of our heavenly father. We need godly fathers who draw their strength from the heavenly father.

May God turn the hearts of fathers to their children and children to their fathers and may he bless the homes in which we live.

Pastor Buchhorn

Alaska Mission for Christ During Covid-19

It is time for "green up" in Alaska. Now, if you're not quite sure what that means let me help you out a bit. "Green up" is what we call that moment in time during the Spring where all of the grass and trees suddenly burst forth in vibrant color. It's nearly a holiday up north after the incredibly long winter months where everything is white and gray. In a lot of ways "green up" is the unofficial start of the summer season where Alaskans take advantage of the long daylight hours and congregate for a variety of activities. Things are feeling a little different for "green up" 2020.

While no longer under orders to "hunker-down", there are still many restrictions in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is affecting ministry in many ways, but the most visible is the impact upon our Servant Event teams and communities they serve. With many teams unable to make the trek to Alaska this summer, communities are left wondering about their friends from the Lower-48 and the events planned. These weeks of events are the yearly face-to-face between those who have committed to reaching out in relationships by the love of Jesus. While the importance of face-to-face communication is crucial, our teams aren't going to let COVID-19 stop them from sharing Christ this summer!

Teams are currently in collaboration with AMC staff and other ministry leaders to seek out creative ways to support and encourage the communities of Alaska. VBS in a box, videos, crafts and Bible studies are just some of the ways teams are engaging communities this summer. We know that even though our teams might not be there physically, the relationships founded in Christ are continuing to be built up by meaningful connections during this time of COVID-19. (article by Britt Baumgartner)

Since teams are not traveling to Alaska, as things are right now the Lilienkamps aren't needed to be support for them on site. Please keep the 50 villages that were expecting teams in your prayers as well as all the team members that this affects. God willing, ministry will be back to normal for the 2021 season.

Donations to Alaska Mission for Christ can be made online at www.alaskamissionforchrist.org or by mail at Alaska Mission for Christ, 8100 Arctic Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99518. If you wish to support Carl and Darlene's work, note "For Lilienkamp Support" with your donation.

Sunday School

As summer begins, it has been decided that it would be in the best interest of everyone involved if we continued to offer online Sunday school video teaching lessons, in addition to other virtual resources, as opposed to conducting in-person Sunday school classes throughout the next several months. Of course, if anything were to dramatically change within the next several weeks or months, relating to health mandates and concerns, these current plans can always be re-evaluated, and in such an event, the congregation will be alerted to any relevant changes and updates to our plans for offering Sunday school instruction during these summer months. As always, we appreciate your continued support and attention, and we hope to be able to continue to offer help and encouragement as families continue to adjust to these current circumstances. Thank you!

With all children's Sunday school classes currently suspended, until further notice, the Sunday school program has decided to suspend all Sunday school related activities and projects until such a time as Sunday school classes resume on a regular basis. 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. In addition, each week one of our Sunday school teachers will be recording a short video lesson, so the Sunday school program can provide a weekly learning opportunity to supplement these CPH lesson materials. The links to these videos can likewise be found on our Sunday school Facebook page. Barring unforeseen circumstances and limitations, we will do our best to continue to teach and learn in this way until such a time as we can resume regular Sunday school classes. Again, please consider incorporating these resources into your home educational efforts as we continue to move forward in this unique time of increased caution, and similarly, we will continue to provide support and encouragement as we look forward to resuming regular Sunday school classes and activities in the near future, God willing.

Due to the need for increased attention to health related concerns, it has been decided that it would be for the best if a VBS experience was not held, in any capacity, this year. If you had any interest in assisting with this endeavor, it would seem that resources, plans, and efforts will be reapplied toward conducting VBS, next year. As always, thank you for your support and interest.

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 dejar-e01@gmail.com.

At this time, plans for future Sunday school meetings remain flexible and will coincide with updates and needs within the Sunday school program. Our previous Sunday school meeting was held, via Zoom, on May 7th, and if anyone would like a summary of the major topics discussed during this meeting, please feel free to contact Derek Jareske, by email, to request this information. Otherwise, please continue to consult our Facebook page for any updated information in regards to this, and other, Sunday school related activities.

For more information, and updates concerning any future plans for Sunday school activities, please make sure to join and routinely check our Facebook page. Join by searching Grace Lutheran Sunday School, Wayne, NE for updates, lessons, and weather-related announcements.

Respectfully,

The Sunday School Program (sundayschool@gracewayne.com)

Younger Adults

If you are looking for a fun way to get out of the house... Grow in God's word... And get to see other people then come join our Younger Adult group for a study through the book of Judges! We meet every Thursday at 5:15PM in the meeting room outside of the church sanctuary! We look forward to seeing you then!

Jr. High

If you are in the 5th, 6th, or 7th grade then we are excited to invite you to our weekly Jr. High Bible Study on Wednesday at 7:30pm on zoom! This is a great way to stay connected with your friends and with God's word! We will be meeting for 40 minutes every week that we are in this period of social distancing, and if you haven't participated in one of our meetings yet then I highly encourage you to come check it out! You can contact me to get plugged into our Jr. High group study and group chat at pastorerik@gracewayne.com! God bless you, and I hope you are all staying safe and healthy!

High School

If you are in the 8th grade or already a High Schooler, then we are excited to invite you to our weekly High School Bible Study on Wednesday at 8:15pm on zoom! This is a great way to stay connected with your friends and with God's word! We will be meeting for 40 minutes every week that we are in this period of social distancing, and if you haven't participated in one of our meetings yet then I highly encourage you to come check it out! You can contact me to get plugged into our High School group study and group chat at pastorerik@gracewayne.com! God bless you, and I hope you are all staying safe and healthy!

We have a lot to celebrate in our High School Youth Group! Not only do we have a good group of 8th graders who are moving into our group. Those four 8th graders are **Jersi Jensen, Kortney Reese, Patrick Young, and Parker Kesting**! Congratulations to them for such a great achievement and for getting confirmed on May 24th! We also have a great many High School Seniors who are all getting ready to start a new chapter in their life as well! We are so excited to stand with these young men and women as we continue to support them in their spiritual life and growth. We encourage you to reach out to them and let them know how much you are excited to hear about their plans for the future. The High School Seniors are **Alyssa Chinn, Alex Echtenkamp, Kelsey Heggemeyer, Makayla Heithold, Cade Janke, Korrina Niemann, Mikenzie Schafer, James Simpson, Logan Slama, James Tompkins, and Sarah Tompkins**! We celebrated our High School Seniors during our church service on May 31st, and seniors if you have not picked up your gift yet please call Pastor Erik through the church office to arrange a time to do pick those up! God bless you as you start your new chapter in life!

VBS

I was hoping to announce sooner than this how we were going to be able to do our Vacation Bible School for this year. However, after talking it through with many people, and knowing that online material has kind of lost its novelty now we decided that this year's VBS was just going to be too much to try and pull off. We are saving the material that we have already purchased for next year, and taking a year to plan and build up excitement for our 2021 VBS. We will keep you all updated as we get closer to that summer, and we look forward to seeing you at our Mystery Island retreat!!!

Grace Lutheran Ladies' Aid

May 13, 2020

Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid met May 13, 2020 with six members present. President Rhonda Sebade began by the group reading the LWML Pledge. The minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

Ellen Heinemann reported she has sent the confirmands words of encouragement the months of January, February, March and April. She will remember them on Confirmation Day, May 24, with a card and Christian ornament. Betty Wittig and Ruth Victor will continue to serve on the visiting committee the months of April, May, and June.

The District Convention has been rescheduled for Sept. 25 and 26, 2020 at Columbus, Nebraska. It will begin at 2:00 P.M. on Friday with servant events and conclude at 4:00 P.M. on Saturday. The Ingathering will be daily living items for Camp Luther. Members of the congregation will be asked to contribute items during the months of August and Sept. A list of items needed will be posted at that time.

Much discussion took place concerning the serving at funerals. With so many church activities changing at this time of the co-vid 19 virus and the declining membership of the group, it may be time for the Ladies Aid Organization to discontinue organizing and serving refreshments for funerals and have the Mission Council find another church entity to take over this task. The Ladies Aid would also turn over the care and upkeep of the kitchen. This matter was tabled until the June 10, 2020 Ladies Aid meeting.

Ellen Heinemann presented the devotion "God Raises Me Up" based on Psalms 40:1-5. The May birthday song was sung for Phyllis Nolte and Melvy Meyer. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be June 10, 2020.

Grace Lutheran LWML Evening Circle

Met on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 with 6 members present and Pastor Christensen. President Mary Lou Erxleben shared a devotion - "What Does Grace Taste Like."

Darlene Lilienkamp, Christian Growth, shared a devotion - "Strength for the Wilderness." God is present in seemingly dangerous times. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$190.95 plus \$47.50 from card sales for a total of \$238.45.

Committee reports were given - Nothing from Mission Service or Project and Jan Casey with Hospitality and Social reported several cards sent to members in care centers and other recovering from surgery. Grace Kanitz had several "Best Choice" labels submitted in the collection box. Correspondence was read by President Mary Lou which included a thank-you from Pastor Christensen, a letter from Janet Borchard who is currently working in the states, Aqua Africa, Orphan Grain Train and the Alaska Mission for Christ. Darlene Lilienkamp reported on the AMA organization that they work with in Alaska that

the group originally had 50 teams to work this summer which was an all-time high but due to the pandemic, they were down to 10 teams and a very slim chance that these teams would be working this summer. It was voted on to give \$50 each to the Orphan Grain Train and the Alaska Mission for Christ to help them financially. There was no spring rally in April and the District Convention has been moved from June to September 25-26, 2020 in Columbus. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Christensen led the group in a bible study from the spring Quarterly entitled Focus Lost...Focus Restored.

Secretary, Jan Casey

Mission Council

May 11, 2020

The Mission Council at Grace Lutheran Church met on Monday, May 11, 2020. The following members were present: Brian Frevert, Jerry Echtenkamp, Deb Jensen, Justin Anderson, Dwight Mock, Chuck Potosnyak, Neal Greenwald and Pastor Buchhorn . Angie Beiermann, Pastor Christensen, Heather Reinhardt and Chad Janke in attendance via online video.

Pastor Buchhorn opened the meeting with a devotion. The meeting was called to order by Jerry Echtenkamp.

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

Financial Report: The financial statement for April 2020 was reviewed. It was moved by Neal and seconded by Brian to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Elder's Report: The Board of Elders met on April 27, 2020. Pastor Buchhorn opened the meeting with prayer. In light of relaxed Corona Virus policies, a Revised Ministry Plan was discussed and approved by the Elders. Standard worship opportunities will begin on May 10. Former service times of 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. will be resumed, with the addition of a 9:15 a.m. service. Communion will be celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Family Communion time will be continued on Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. for those who would prefer not to meet in larger groups. Online worship will continue to be offered, but will look to move to a

live stream format of one of the regular worship services. To practice social distancing precautions, members will be asked to skip every other pew and allow six feet between family groups. There will be self-serve bulletin distribution. Offerings and attendance cards will be received at the door. Hymnals and Bibles will be removed from the pew racks. Communion will continue to be distributed using disposable cups and in a continuous stream format. Members are asked to remain mindful of social distancing. The use of masks is encouraged. Children's messages will be discontinued at this time. Sunday School lessons will continue online. Easter and Mother's Day will be celebrated on May 10. Confirmation Day will be May 24 during the 10:30 a.m. service. Pentecost will be on May 31. The congregation has received a Paycheck Protection Program loan of \$29,645 with an origination date of April 20 through the F & M Bank of Wayne. With proper documentation, eight weeks after the origination date, the loan should be forgivable per the terms of the Paycheck Protection Program. The Campus Student Ministry remains shut down. The Circuit pastors meeting will likely be conducted electronically.

Mission Council Committee Member Reports:

Trustee: The secretary's office and the lower hallway in the education wing were repainted. Justin would like to thank Yvonne, Sarah and Daniel Greenwald and Cindy Evans for doing this project.

Endowment & Memorial Fund: Deb reported that \$1,000 of the money given in memory of Milly Thomsen has been designated towards the nursery room sound system by her family.

Old Business:

Sidewalk repair project update. Chad Sebade expects to begin work June 1, 2020 on sidewalk repair with estimated time of finish in a week.

Nursery Room Sound. A bid of \$772.10 from Midwest Music center for updating nursery sound and video system was approved by Chuck and seconded by Dwight. Motion carried. This bid does not include the TV or mounting bracket. These will be purchased separately and Dwight Mock has volunteered to install them.

As outlined in the Board of Elders report, Grace applied and received monies from the Cares Act with a Paycheck Protection Program loan.

After reviewing bids from three insurance carriers a subcommittee of the Mission Council presented a report on the church property and liability insurance. In reviewing the policies the current valuation of the building, organ and contents were recalculated. It was the recommendation of the subcommittee to change to Church Mutual insurance since it offered more coverage with lower deductibles and a lower premium. The change should reduce the cost of our insurance more than \$3,000 for the year. A motion was made by Brian and Chuck seconded to approve the insurance bid from Church Mutual Insurance with the coverage to begin when our present policy expires in June. The church's workers compensation insurance and auto insurance will continue with State Farm at least through the present policy periods.

New Business:

As we transition to live church gatherings it is planned to move to live streaming one of the services. Equipment and wiring to facilitate this is in progress. It is anticipated that by May 24, Confirmation Sunday the service can be broadcast live over the internet. Pastor Erik reported that due the various virus concerns and social distancing requirements we will not be offering Vacation Bible School this summer.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Jensen

June Birthdays ~ God Bless You Today!

- 1 Mark Zach
- 3 Kris Fox & Evelyn Lilienkamp
- 4 Mike Heithold, Rachel Kneifl & David Longe
- 5 Barb Frevert, Jaret Harmer, James Johnson, Jill Lubke & Megan Pankoke
- 7 Reese Rethwisch
- 8 Colleen Starzl, Brenna Vovos & Sherri Widner
- 9 Mackenna Heithold-Wical, Larry Magnuson, Walter Otte & Dave Wragge
- 10 Deb Dannelly, Brady Heithold, Pam Henderson, Mary Janke, Shawn Nolte, Michael Temme & Sue Temme
- 11 Chad Sebade
- 12 Emma Heithold
- 13 Lauren Ekberg
- 15 Kira Fox
- 16 Scott Brogren, Trevor Hefti, Verdelle Reeg & Angie Rethwisch
- 18 Jo Junck & Spencer Witt
- 19 Don Nelson
- 20 Darrell Doescher & B.J. Ruwe
- 21 Merlin Beiermann, Trey Dubbs & Dennis Ekberg
- 22 Hannah Brogren
- 23 Kimberly Johnson
- 25 Mike Sprouls
- 26 Pam Matthes & Drew Reinhardt
- 27 Andy Johnson & Nicola Schafer
- 29 Jersi Jensen
- 30 Wyatt Lubke

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