

July 2022



# Good News of Grace

## Family Worship Times

Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

## Pastors

Michael Buchhorn & Erik Christensen

904 Logan Wayne, NE 402-375-1905



There presently are something like 195 nations on earth according to the United Nations. While each is unique when it comes to its form of government, flag, leaders and territory, each of them have something in common. The Bible declares that they are all ultimately under God's control. St. Paul wrote **"for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God"** ROM 13:1. The prophet Daniel said of God, **"He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them"** DAN 2:21.

Each government was designed to serve a similar purpose. In the Bible St. Peter writes that **"governors, are sent by God to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right"** 1 PE 2:14. At a most basic level, governments exist to help those who do

right and to punish those who do wrong. Thereby they maintain order for the good of all. Our founding fathers rightly reflected this when they declared that governments were instituted among men to protect and defend humanity's God given inalienable rights such life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Obviously, some governments do a much better job of fulfilling these purposes than others. Some nations are known for their brutality and the intimidation of their people. Others serve as beacons of hope for the oppressed and tyrannized. Is it any wonder then when St. Paul was giving instructions to Timothy for Christian worship, he said, **"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness"** 1TI2:1? Paul urged Timothy to have the church pray for everyone but especially for those in authority. It is appropriate that we pray for all kings and all leaders, but as Christian citizens of this nation it is particularly proper that we pray for our own nation.

Yet what shall we pray concerning our nation? One of the simplest and most widely used prayers for our nation is the petition: "God bless America." That seems a good start. It seems good to think of at least three blessings of God we should seek for our nation.

Let us pray that **God bless America with the recollection of His mercies.** In the Book of Deuteronomy, we hear Moses warn the people lest they forget how God had led them to the promised land. So he told them: **"When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and decrees"** DEU 8:10-11. Certainly, the nation of Israel served a unique role in human history. The United States of America is not the New Testament Israel. But it is no less important that we remember the mercies of the Lord. We are privileged to live in a land which has been greatly blessed by almighty God. It is our duty as people who know Him to remember His kindness toward us and praise Him. Indeed may God bless America with a memory His many blessings.

But we pray for something more, with our prayer "God bless America." We pray further that **God would bless America with citizens who do their duty toward God and the nation.** God's blessing upon a nation comes not only from favorable weather or abundant natural resources. The greatest blessing God gives to a nation is

people who seek to serve God and their neighbor faithfully.

We as Christian people have a role to play in God's blessing of this nation. In the Old Testament God promised, **"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land"** 2CHR 7:13-14. God told his people that the healing of a nation's ills begins with the action of God's people.

As we pray for God's blessing upon our nation, we cannot see that as a call for only those who are in authority to say particular things or act in a particular way. Nor can it be simply a desire that others would act more morally. No our prayer for our nation has to be at its heart a prayer that God would help us as Christian citizens to fulfill our duty toward our country. That duty as articulated elsewhere in the New Testament includes submitting to the governing authorities, obeying the law, paying the taxes we owe and appropriately honoring those serving in positions of authority.

We do not work to make the government an instrument of the church, nor the church an instrument of the government. But we work that the government might as effectively as possible do its job of restraining lawlessness and promoting good so that we as individuals and the church will be free to pursue our proper work unhindered by the state.

But that brings us to another dimension of our prayer for God's blessings on our land. We pray that **God would bless America with the proclamation of His word.** As we review our responsibilities toward the government, we need to keep an important point in mind. No one is saved by good government or by being a good citizen. Being citizens of the United States does not make us citizens of the Kingdom of God.

We pray for good government because such government allows the proper work of the church to go forward without hindrance. Paul urged Christians to pray for the government primarily so that they might live in circumstances which allow the word of God, the God who wants all people to be saved, to be proclaimed. God who is King of all kings has something more important than simply allowing us to live in an orderly society. God wants something more than just laws and impartial courts. God wants all people to be saved eternally.

Governments are necessary because we live in a world so corrupted by sin. Our founding fathers recognized that and put into place a balance of power because they knew if given the chance one group would try to seize power and dominate the other. Even the best government has no cure for sin. The best it can hope to do is to restrain it. God alone has the cure for sin.

When we deserved God's punishment for our disobedience, he chose to punish his own Son in our place. Jesus Christ lived and died and rose again for us. In the waters of Baptism he works our rebirth into the kingdom of God. This is the kingdom that will have no end.

God in his mercy not only provided for our salvation but also blessed us to live in a land where we can practice our faith freely and share the good news of Jesus without fear of government reprisal. It is this hope that brought so many of our forbearers to this good land.

May we make use of that freedom. When we see how many in the world are forced to live, we rightly can thank God for the peace he allows us to enjoy in this good land. When we see the abundance that we have been blessed with, we can thank God for the leisure He allows.

So on Independence Day let us join our voices in that simple but important prayer. "God bless America." Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Buchhorn

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## **College Ministry**

It's getting closer!!! The start of a new year at Wayne State College is almost here! We are going to do so much this year and I know God is going to bless our ministry in so many ways! One way is through our Sunday Night Dinners. The Fall Schedule will be posted sometime in Late July as Students return August 21<sup>st</sup>. If you have been thinking about or wanting to help feed our students, we would truly be grateful for your help and partnership. Hope you have a fantastic month, and more will be coming soon!

## **High School Sunday School Class**

Our current High School Sunday School Class is called, "GENESIS, SCIENCE, AND THE FOUNDING FATHERS!" What a year it has been for this study, and we are just now getting to chapter 8 in the book of Genesis. All 8<sup>th</sup>

graders, high school youth, and their parents are encouraged and invited to join this class that meets every Sunday at 9:15am. Together you will discuss amazing things like archaeology, history, and of course God's Word! Come see how we can learn from the past to better understand our present and have confidence in the future of God's plan of love and salvation for you and all His children!

## **High School Wednesday Night Bible Study**

We want YOU to JOIN US for our Wednesday Evening High School Bible Study! All incoming freshmen are invited to join us as well! We will meet July 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Both evenings we will meet down at Cup of Grace! Bring an open mind, invite some great friends, and a willingness to have a lot of fun!

## **National Youth Gathering**

SO... The Fun Begins!!! July 8<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> our Youth are off to Houston, Texas! We are going to have so much fun, learn a lot, and come back ready to share God's love in even more ways than we could ever imagine!!! But here is the thing... YOU can join us too! That's right you can join us by watching the live stream of our nightly Mass Event by logging onto **lcmsgathering.com**! Each night we will be praising Jesus for His mighty love and His amazing gift of forgiveness. We may even appear on the jumbo screen! But it all starts at 8:30pm each night with a special Service Wednesday July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am. If you can't follow us that way you can also follow us on our Church Facebook page as I am sure we will be adding tons of stories and amazing pictures of all that we are doing! Thank you again for helping make this trip a reality!

## **Youth Movie Night July 30<sup>th</sup>**

On July 30<sup>th</sup> we are planning to go see a movie with our youth in Norfolk. Please mark your calendars for that afternoon. More specific details will be coming from Pastor Erik's messages viz text as the date gets closer. But feel free to invite your friends, bring money for the movie ticket and popcorn, candy, and a drink. And we will take the Movie Theater by storm! And of course, by the love of Christ!



## **Sunday School Updates and Reminders**

As Summer Sunday School continues to progress, I would like to showcase some of the highlights that have taken place so far!

We have decided to have other members of the congregation teach the Sunday School classes over the summer. So far, Chuck has stepped in to teach the lower division, and it could not have gone any smoother. We greatly appreciate the members of Grace taking an interest in the future of our congregation.

Also, the Sunday School has decided to do a fundraiser for Trinity Hope. This is a fundraiser that helps raise meals for kids in Haiti. Throughout the week of VBS, the kids collected quarters for the meals. Each quarter provides one meal, and the kids did amazing with the charity. The kids were able to raise enough money to provide over five hundred meals. We are forever thankful for the guidance of the Lord and the willingness to serve from the kids. VBS was a success, and all of the kids had a great time learning about Australia, as well as the never-ending love of God. Each day, the kids were taken to a different place in Australia. Not only did they get to learn about the gifts of God, but they also got to step into what makes Australia a wonderful and beautiful place. I was thankful to lead an amazing group of students through the fun experience. I look forward to the years to come.

I would like to thank not only the students, but also the parents for continuing the path to grow, in Christ, at Grace Lutheran. All of the students work together to make the church a comforting environment.  
-Symphony Jareske

### **Upcoming Lessons Include:**

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> – God Protects Us – God Rescues Israel**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> – Jesus Is Our Savior – Jesus Suffers, Dies, and Rises Again**

**July 17<sup>th</sup> – On the Roll with Jesus** (Special VBS Lesson with Pastor Erik. All Ages welcome and parents encouraged to stay. Meet in Preschool playground unless it is raining then we will see you at Cup of Grace.)

**July 24<sup>th</sup> – Jesus Is Our Lord – Jesus Ascends to Heaven**

**July 31<sup>st</sup> – Jesus will Return – The Parable of the Ten Virgins**

During the month of July, our 9:15am Sunday School Openings will NOT be taking place. Instead, we will go directly to our Sunday School classrooms for all ages. Lower Division (3<sup>rd</sup> Graders and below) will meet in the current 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Classrooms on the lower hall near the Church offices, while Upper Division (4<sup>th</sup> Graders and above) will meet in the current 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom. Parents should still feel encouraged to join in one of the other Sunday School classes that is offered and led by either Pastor Buchhorn or Jeff and Colleen Simpson.

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Erik will teach all ages and have some wacky games and crafts planned as we grow closer to God's love for us! These lessons with Pastor Erik will be called On the Roll with Jesus! We will see you all on the Preschool Playground starting at 9:15 unless there is dangerous weather. In case of rain, we will meet at Cup of Grace for the morning.

Lastly, plans are being made for our kickoff of the 2022-2023 Sunday School and MidWeek year. Rally Day is scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup>, with a special kick off service for Sunday School to be held at our 10:30am service that morning. Due to lack of availability of the Willow Bowl this service will take place in the Church Sanctuary this year. We will still host a lunch immediately following this service with games and water sports outside. Please dress accordingly to participate in these events. We will also be making a donation to a local charity (most likely the Food Bank here in Wayne) and donations will be collected by the Sunday school throughout the months of June, July, and the first two weeks in August. Please watch for letters that will be sent home sometime during the month of July to sign your kids up for MidWeek and Sunday School for the 2022-2023 school year. Thank you again for helping make this past year an amazing one, and we look forward to seeing where God continues to take us together!

During the summer we will not have Sunday School or MidWeek Teacher Meetings. Pastor Erik's office is always open to you anytime you need to speak with him. Our Sunday School and MidWeek Teacher Meetings will start back up on August 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Respectfully,  
The Sunday School Program ([pastorerik@gracewayne.com](mailto:pastorerik@gracewayne.com))

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# Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid

June 8, 2022

Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid met on June 8, 2022, with 11 members present and Pastor Buchhorn.

Pastor Buchhorn led a Bible study from the Quarterly entitled Balancing Life's Challenges. A study to make God our priority even in the midst of life's busyness.

President Mary Lou Erxleben opened the business meeting by leading the group speaking the LWML Pledge. Christian Growth Chairman, Rhonda Sebade, read a Mustard Seed devotion entitled Simply Trust – Nuts About Us on Romans 5: 7 -8. Roll call was taken, and minutes read and approved.

Correspondence included 3 newsletters from Lutheran Bible Translators, Orphan Grain Train and missionary, Jana Inglehart. President Erxleben also read the minutes from the Spring Workshop held at Hope Lutheran Church in South Sioux City on April 26, 2022.

Treasurer's report was given and filed for audit. President Erxleben led us in devotion for the Mission Grant – Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia – Lutheran Hour Ministries– for \$100,000.

Committee reports: - Betty Wittig has sent several cards and has more to send. UPC labels were sent in by Grace Kanitz. The next date to sew quilts will be Thursday, June 23, 2022.

Unfinished business included District Convention information. Amanda Broberg has been asked to be our Young Women's Representative along with Rhonda Sebade our delegate. Ellen Heinemann brought and displayed the baby quilt she made that will be taken to convention from the Wayne Zone. There are three offerings for the convention – (1) LWML NE North Mites; (2) Scholarship Fund & Missionaries and (3) Orphan Grain Train. It was moved and seconded to give \$50 to each of these three offerings. The In-Gatherings for the convention are items for Camp Luther and Lutheran Family Services. A motion was made and seconded to include the entire congregation in soliciting these items. Information will be included in the monthly newsletter and Sunday bulletins.

Discussion was held in regard to the fabric kits for World Relief project.

There was no new business. The birthday song sung for Mary Janke (10<sup>th</sup>). The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Ladies Aid will be supporting Camp Luther and Lutheran Family Services in-gathering at the LWML Convention – July 22-23. Congregational members are encouraged to help support these two organizations with any of following donations. Donation baskets will be at both doors until July 17<sup>th</sup>. Gift cards are also welcome. You may leave them in the church office.

## **CAMP LUTHER**

**Forever stamps**

**Black & blue gel pens**

**Printer paper**

**Masking tape**

**Rechargeable batteries – AA & AAA**

**Staples**

**Paper Clips**

**Kleenex**

**Large Foil Pans**

**Gift cards to Hy-Vee, Casey's, Super Saver or Walmart**

## **LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES**

**Diapers sizes 1-6**

**Baby wipes**

**Burping cloths**

**Shampoo**

**Baby Onesies**

**Sleepers**

**Socks**

**Laundry Soap**

**New books and toys**

**Gift cards to Walmart**

# Mission Council Minutes

Grace Lutheran Church

June 13, 2022

The Mission Council at Grace Lutheran Church met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 13, 2022. The following members were present: Jerry Echtenkamp, Pastor Buchhorn, Lowell Johnson, Angie Beiermann, Dwight Mock, Chuck Potosnyak, Megan Dubbs, Pastor Erik, Louise Green, and Michelle Ekberg.

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Echtenkamp.

Pastor Buchhorn led with an opening prayer and small devotion.

The minutes from May 9, 2022 were reviewed. Moved by Lowell and seconded by Louise to approve. Motion carried.

## Treasury Report

Accounts were reviewed. Moved by Dwight and seconded by Chuck to approve. Motion carried.

**Elder's report** – Chuck Potosnyak reported no May meeting was held due to Vacation Bible School. It was also reported that Pastor Buchhorn will be on vacation from June 28-July 6.

## Committee Reports:

**Trustee Report** –Lowell reported the Air Conditioning replacement work has been completed and working well. The heating portion of the project still needs to be competed but that requires a vent through the roof. The roofing contractor was going to be scheduled to do that but may not be able to be completed until August. The removal of the water fountain in the basement is still awaiting a plumber. It was taped up during VBS to avoid usage. The Main Street sign was repaired under warranty on May 23.

**Endowment**-This committee plans to meet next month before the Mission Council meeting at 6:40 p.m. on July 11.

**Memorial Fund**- KimBerly Hansen report via email-The kitchen has been busy. VBS occurred last week and 60-70 children were fed. They were fed five meals, which was a change from previous years. Rest assured no one went home hungry! There is a sewer smell in the sink on the east side/south sink that will need looked in to.

**Altar Guild**- Chad noted that the Guild would like to extend a 'thank you' to the Mission Council members for cleaning space in the attic room.

**Education** - Vacation Bible School was held from June 6-10 with the theme "Zoomerang." It was reported that approximately 50 children were in attendance for at least part of the week. Thanks were

extended to Angie Biermann and Kaleena Heithold for being our co-directors this year along with the many who helped as teachers, leaders, helpers and in other capacities. The children had a wonderful time and were greatly blessed by the effort.

**Preschool**-from Megan- The playground equipment has been recommended by Sara and Keila. This includes a climbing unit with slides, four seat swing set and a buddy bench. The cost estimate for ground prep, pea gravel, and a wooden border is \$5,500. A total of approximately \$26,000 will be used to complete this project. Funds for this project were from the Sandahl estate which have been held in the general fund until the project plan was approved. A motion was made by Lowell to approve the equipment and costs; seconded by Megan. Motion carried.

No other reports were given.

### **Old Business:**

**Ongoing facility projects**- Angie Hansen will be contacted for an estimated completion date on the repainting of exterior doors. Two bids are being sought for the women's bathroom redesign which will hopefully be available by the July meeting.

**A number of general maintenance projects were able to be completed by the Mission Council during a workday on June 11.**

These included weeding and mulching flower beds and straightening southwest attic storage area. Remaining projects needing further work include: Lighting repairs that are needed to the lights in the library area and the northwest stairwell. Painting the rails around the new air conditioner units. Trimming the new attic ladder in the bell room/north sacristy. And repairs to the Fishers of Kids preschool ship. In addition an uncapped vent pipe will need attention when the roofing company is back out to remedy a leak in the downstairs women's room of the education wing.

**District & Circuit Items**- Pastor Erik and Deb Jensen will be going to District Convention to represent Wayne on June 24-25 in Kearney as Pastoral delegate and Lay delegate. The workbook with items to be considered at the convention is available online.

**Choir Director:** A candidate for the choir director position has been identified and will be finalized in the fall.

The meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Ekberg

# GRACE FAMILY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Gene Claussen
- 2 Levi Heithold
- 3 Sheri Kemp & Carter Lubke
- 5 Cheryl Lessmann, Sally Lubberstedt, Ferris Meyer,  
Scot Saul & Judy Sorensen
- 6 Cassie Heithold
- 7 KimBerly Hansen
- 8 Nick Diediker
- 9 Jessie Heithold, Tyler Reinhardt, Ethan Sebade &  
Freya Young
- 10 Baylen Beiermann, Melodie Longe & Mike Wurdeman
- 11 Lainey Ekberg & Samara Evans
- 13 Nancy Endicott
- 14 Kortney Rees, Jon Rethwisch & Joy Smith
- 15 Debra Broders, Craig Fredrickson, Grayson Hoffman,  
Deb Jensen, & Rhonda Sebade
- 16 Donovan Doescher & Sarah Surber
- 19 Shelley Frevert & Dan Tiedtke
- 21 Kathleen Johs & Garrett Schafer
- 22 Jessi Jensen
- 23 Tyler Bodlak, Virgil Loewe & Chance Schultz
- 24 Fauneil Bennett, Betty Mitchell, Bryce Sebade & Colleen  
Simpson
- 25 Louise Green
- 26 Pam Ekberg & Trudy Schultz
- 27 Josh Widner
- 28 Candice Rastede
- 29 Mardelle Hallstrom & Carl Rump

## SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

### Elder on duty:

03	8:00 am.	Mike Heithold
	10:30 am.	Jared Heithold
10	8:00 am.	Troy Stowater
	10:30 am.	Lonnie Matthes
17	8:00 am.	Chuck Potosnyak
	10:30 am.	Josh Ruwe
24	8:00 am.	Jared Heithold
	10:30 am.	Mike Heithold
31	8:00 am.	Lonnie Matthes
	10:30 am.	Troy Stowater

### Lay Readers:

03	8:00 am.	Lowell Schardt
	10:30 am.	Jo Junck
10	8:00 am.	Kathy Johnson
	10:30 am.	Andy Bose
17	8:00 am.	Diane Zach
	10:30 am.	Brian Kesting
24	8:00 am.	Louise Green
	10:30 am.	Galen Wiser
31	8:00 am.	Jeanette Swanson
	10:30 am.	Mary Temme

### Acolytes:

03	8:00 am.	Konnor Kai & Blake Kneifl
	10:30 am.	Lanee Rethwisch & Hunter Ruwe
10	8:00 am.	Landen Sharer & Graycen Trautman
	10:30 am.	Cloey Young & Myles Tiedtke
17	8:00 am.	Lauren Ekberg & Reagan Heithold
	10:30 am.	Cole Zach & Dreu Jensen
24	8:00 am.	Chase Rethwisch & Colston Starzl
	10:30 am.	Brayden Wehrer & Alivia Kesting
31	8:00 am.	Tre'cyn Ocampo & Bryn Tiedtke
	10:30 am.	Emma Heithold & Gracelynn Daniels

### Greeters

03	8:00 am.	Jesse & Cassie Heithold
	10:30 am.	Jerry & Loree Echtenkamp
10	8:00 am.	Lowell & Kathy Johnson
	10:30 am.	The Tiedtke Family
17	8:00 am.	LeRoy & Carol Robbert
	10:30 am.	Terry & Mary Janke
24	8:00 am.	Gene & Janet Casey
	10:30 am.	Galen & Kathy Wiser
31	8:00 am.	The Tiedtke Family
	10:30 am.	Doug & Mary Temme

  
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