

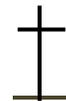


Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC)

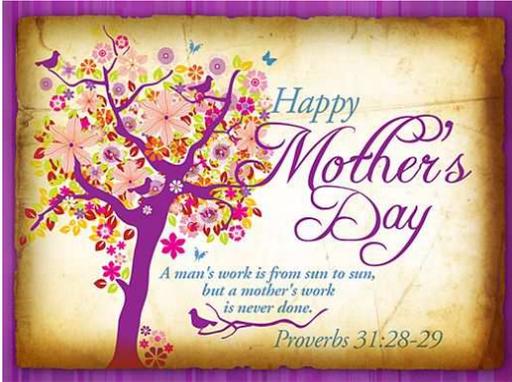
PO Box 10
Erhard, MN 56534

May

2020 Grace Gazette



Grace Lutheran Church



Mission Statement:

Grace Lutheran strives to be a welcoming church family, committed to the Bible as God's truth, worshiping together, and reaching out to love, pray for, teach, and serve others in Christ's name.

U.S. Highway 59 in Erhard, MN

Visit us online at – <http://gracechurchoferhard.org>

Facebook Pages:

The Foundry @ Grace Lutheran Erhard
Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC) of Erhard, MN
Grace Lutheran Church Women "GLW" & Friends

To:

A member of the LCMC

(Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ)

A Lutheran community of faith engaging the present while embracing the Biblical and Reformation heritage of:

Grace Alone:

God, out of His great mercy, has reconciled humanity to Himself through His Son Jesus Christ. Acts of Christian goodness are a thankful response to God's mercy shown to us in Christ.

Faith Alone:

God's gift of faith apprehends the great work of eternal redemption accomplished for us by Jesus Christ. A faith relationship with the Triune God is the key to our eternal future and it brings meaning and joy to our present lives.

Word Alone:

The Bible is God's authoritative Word to humanity. It is the sole and true guide for Christian faith, doctrine, and living.

YOU ARE WELCOME AT GRACE

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion the first Sunday of every month. Coffee Fellowship every Sunday after Worship.

Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. every Sunday.

Morning Bible Study: Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m.

Prayer Fellowship: Every Wednesday immediately following Morning Bible Study.

The Foundry (Youth Group) Gatherings: Meets the first and third Wed of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (unless otherwise specified).

Choir Practice: 1st, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

From Pr. Brad...

Finished



In the history of art and literature we can see a lot unfinished works. Even though the artists or writers possessed brilliance and enormous creative energy, they either chose to leave their work unfinished, or they were prevented from finishing by circumstances outside of their control. Such pieces are often the subject of great speculation as to what they would have looked like had they been finished. Here are a few examples of famous unfinished projects:

Leonardo da Vinci's painting *The Adoration of the Magi* was left unfinished because he moved from Florence, where the painting had been commissioned, to Milan, and it was just simply inconvenient for him to work on it from a distant location.

Benjamin West's painting *The Treaty of Paris*, which was to commemorate the signing of the treaty that ended the American Revolutionary War, was abandoned before its completion because the British delegates, out of shame for losing the war, were unwilling to pose for the portrait.

Johann Sebastian Bach's last musical score, *The Art of Fugue* ends abruptly because of his death in 1750. Although

Bach was a brilliant and prolific composer, with many musical masterpieces to his name, he simply ran out of time to finish what he had started.

Thomas Aquinas' large theological writing, *The Summa Theologia*, which sought to demonstrate by human reason the existence of God and Christian belief, was abandoned by him in 1273. Overwhelmed by the enormity of God, Aquinas stated, "Such secrets have been revealed to me that all I have written now appears to be of little value."

As we bask in the glow of Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday this spring, we can rejoice that God is a finisher! His ability to complete our salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is in stark contrast to our inability to build a bridge to Him.

Although it was not the least bit convenient for Him, He willingly set His creative mind and determination to the task. Although He worked on this massive project for centuries, He was not overwhelmed by the size of it, but threw Himself into it giving His life to bring it to perfect completion. Undeterred by inconvenience, or lack of will or time, and undiminished by the size of the task; God finished His Masterpiece, *The Cross and Empty Tomb of Jesus Christ for Sinners*.

As we hear Jesus' last words from the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30) and His beginning words of the resurrection, "Do not be afraid" (Matthew 28:10), we realize that we are standing in God's art gallery, looking at His finished Masterpiece. And as we stand here in admiration, we are standing before God completely and finally forgiven, restored and reclaimed as His children forever. To God be the glory!

Grace Lutheran Church
Unapproved council meeting minutes
April 14, 2020

President Duane Haiby called to order the regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council on April 14, 2020, at 6:02 P.M. Other council members present were Curt Cardwell, Jim Klitzke, Jeanette Ripley, Rachel Ronnevik, Phyllis Rossow, Bruce Schaible, and Harlen Seidell, as well as Pastor Brad Soenksen and Treasurer Lucy Stadum; council member Cheryl Rotz was absent. They sat at separate tables in the fellowship hall to abide by COVID19 social distancing guidelines. The meeting opened with reciting our church's mission statement:

Grace Lutheran strives to be a welcoming church family, committed to the Bible as God's truth, worshiping together, and reaching out to love, pray for, teach, and serve others in Christ's name.

Haiby thanked the worship team for the online services they have been providing.

Pastor Brad led devotions, based on Matthew 16:22, and prayer.

The agenda was approved with two additions following Rossow's motion and Seidell's second.

Ripley moved to approve the minutes of the March 10 regular meeting, the March 15 special meeting, and the March 17 online special meeting; Schaible seconded this motion, and it carried on vote.

The March treasurer's reports were filed for audit after Ripley's motion and Klitzke's second. As of March 31, 2020, the General Fund balance was \$43,386.80, the Major Maintenance Fund balance was \$10,019.53, the Building Expansion Fund balance was \$37,190.00, and the Concert/Mission of the Month Fund balance was \$2,577.52. With only two coffee fellowships in March, the Pelican Rapids Food Shelf received \$377.00 as mission of the month.

Pastor Brad's report included one Wednesday morning Bible study and one meeting with the Grace Prayer Team; meetings with the Pelican Rapids Ministerial group, one at Faith Lutheran and five via Zoom; one First Communion class; one Lenten fellowship and worship; one meeting with The Foundry youth group; one choir practice; several meetings, including an emergency council meeting and a regular council meeting, and a Stephen Ministry meeting via Zoom; several visitations and lots of phone care; five worship service videos, two devotional videos, and a Confirmation video; and planning and conducting a funeral service. He plans First Communion to be on the first Sunday that we are able to have a public worship service that celebrates Holy Communion.

Pastor Brad gave special thanks to the Online Video Worship and Sunday School Team, consisting of Dacia Johnson, Phil Johnson, Aimee Nordlund, and John Ripley, and to the Phone Check Volunteers, which included Carol Haiby, Shirley Jenson, Ardis Jorgenson, Kim Pederson, Jeanette Ripley, Hans Ronnevik, Rachel Ronnevik, Karen Rossum, Cheryl Rotz, Pat Teberg, John Wright, and Linda Wright.

Old business:

Phil Johnson and John Ripley have installed BoxCast, which provides our church's live-stream capabilities. Its cameras cover the full range of the sanctuary. Our church's internet service has been updated. No bills had been submitted yet.

Ronnevik reported that our church's evangelism and mission outreach continue with online women's Bible study. Also, the 12 people calling families during this Coronavirus shutdown are being well received and are getting good comments regarding Pastor Brad's devotionals. The callers are sending prayer cards to those families that they've been unable to reach by phone.

The new pulpit and six additional chairs have arrived. Council members discussed what to do with the old pulpit. Because there is no rush, consensus was to keep it for a possible outdoor Sunday service this summer.

New business:

Haiby discussed the Payroll Protection Program for which our church is eligible. This approximately \$20,000 loan through Bell Bank in Pelican Rapids must be used for payroll and Minnesota withholding within eight weeks, after which the interest charge would be 1 percent. Church officers need to be named on the paperwork.

Consensus was not to advertise in the *Pelican Rapids Press's* Lakes and Lifestyle magazine, especially not knowing what our church's summer schedule might be.

Ripley reported that Gene Nygard is interested in mowing the church grounds again this summer. Consensus was to approve at the same rate of pay.

Haiby reported that the Property Committee still was waiting for a response regarding how to proceed with sound abatement in the fellowship hall.

Klitzke moved to designate the Welcome Place in Pelican Rapids again as Mission of the Month for May in view of the fact that all of April's worship services were cancelled. This motion carried following Ripley's second. The Welcome Place is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen community relationships and improve people's health and wellbeing.

Ronnevik moved to adjourn; Seidell seconded the motion, which carried on vote, and this meeting closed at 6:50 P.M. with the Lord's Prayer

Ripley provided refreshments.

The next regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council is scheduled for 6 P.M. on Tuesday, May 12.

Phyllis Rossow
Secretary



GRACE GAZETTE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

March 31, 2020

GENERAL FUND: March 2020

Month Budget

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Gain/ (Shortfall)</u>
\$14,591.30	\$17,468.98	2,877.67

Average Attendance (3 services)	117
Mission Receipts ~Heart to Heart Thailand	\$377.00
“Off the Hook” Wednesday Concert	\$389.00

GRACE BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

Balance, March 1, 2020	\$37,190.00
March Receipts	\$.00
March Disbursements	(\$.00)
Balance, March 31, 2020	\$37,165.00

GRACE MAJOR MAINTENANCE FUND:

Balance, March 1, 2020	\$9,113.78
March Receipts	\$ 905.75
March Disbursements	(\$.00)
Balance, March 31, 2020	\$10,019.53

CONCERT/MISSION OF THE MONTH

Balance, March 1, 2020	\$2,611.32
March Receipts	\$ 766.00
March Disbursements	(\$ 800.00)
Balance, March 31, 2020	\$2,577.32

Submitted by Lucille Stadum, Treasurer

NEW ONLINE DONATION TOOL NOW AVAILABLE!

Grace Lutheran Church is excited to announce a new way to give to your favorite Grace mission. Donating through our online service provider, Tithely:

Is simple, fast, and convenient!

Can be made via credit card, debit card, or bank account.

Giving can be one-time or on an automatically, recurring basis.

Fees apply, and you can choose whether you want to add the small fee to your donation, or have it deducted from your donation.

It's safe and secure for donors and churches.

Donate anywhere, anytime. It's flexible! Choose where your donation goes!

General Fund
Sanctuary Seating
Sunday School
Mission of the Month
Building Fund
Thai Mission
Anne Carlsen Center

Or any number of great causes supported by Grace.

To donate online, go to our church website at www.gracelutheranchurchoferhard.org, and click on the "Give" link. Simply use your computer, smart phone, or tablet to access the site.

To donate using a mobile device, first get the Tithely app through Google Play or the Apple App Store. It takes less than 30 seconds! Then search for Grace Church of Erhard. Once you've found us click "Give" to start.

You will receive a confirmation email once your donation is received.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

We are humbled and grateful to anyone who chooses to support our mission here at Grace Lutheran Church. Donating to Grace monthly allows us to preach and teach the gospel, make disciples, and support others in our community who need help. Your financial support is making a difference. We thank you and praise God with whom all things are possible.



Tithely and credit card companies charge a per transaction fee anytime a payment is processed. VISA, MC: Discover fee is 2.9% + 30¢ per successful charge; AMEX fee is 3.5% + 30¢ per successful charge; ACH/Bank fees are 1% + 30¢ per successful transaction.

Library Announcement~When you check out a book, be sure to write your name and the date on the card before you put it in the wooden box. Thank you.

MAY 2020 LIBRARY CORNER *by Paulette Haddock GLC Librarian*

THANK YOU to the person who donated a large box of books to the GLC Library in early March and to someone who donated some very delightful books for young children, I was occupied with something I enjoy way more than cleaning out closets during the past months. When we resume services together, you will find at least some of the items donated on the NEW bookshelf.

Young readers, ages 6-8 (and maybe their younger siblings), will enjoy the detective work of Nate the Great. From missing beach bags and money boxes to stolen garbage and second bases, Nate is the one to call! For a fun evening read ***Nate the Great and the Boring Beach Bag***, ***Nate the Great Goes Down in the Dumps***, ***Nate the Great Goes Undercover***, and ***Nate the Great and the Stolen Base***. Those of you who have a 3-5-year-old will enjoy reading ***Olivia...and the Missing Toy*** to your sweet child, if you can get them to listen. If they don't, finish it yourself. It's delightful!

My ancestors came from Norway and Sweden to this area during the 1800's, so I found the ***Red River of the North Series*** by Lauraine Snelling hard to put down. I read all six books! The saga of the Bjorklund family as they sought to make a new home in this land is the tale of our grandparents. Here they are in order: ***An Untamed Land***, ***A New Day Rising***, ***A Land to Call Home***, ***The Reapers' Song***, ***Tender Mercies***, and ***Blessing in Disguise***. If you are a fan of suspense and action, with a little romance thrown in, try ***Grave Peril*** by Mary Alford and ***Fatal Response*** by Jodie Bailey. The first book is almost non-stop action. I found it hard to put down. The second book wasn't quite as fast-paced, but there was still plenty of tense action.



- 2 Carol Nygaard
- 5 Lindy Motz
- 6 Jessica Metzger
- 7 Christopher Bilden
- 12 Jeremy Winkels
- Alex Bullis
- Erica Bullis
- 13 Luke Mostue
- 14 Joshua Sundblad
- 15 Pat Motz
- 16 Ron Stadum
- John Jenson
- 17 Brady Stadum
- Rockie Weston
- 19 Karrie Ouren
- 20 Joyce Kubitz
- 21 Jordyn Grunewald
- 22 Dennis Bauman
- Lily Monson
- 23 Clifford Mayfield
- Easton Thorson
- 25 Janice Harthun
- McKenzie Spaeth
- 27 Oakley Carlson
- 28 Wallace Grunewald
- Charlie Mavis
- 29 Karlea Thorson
- 30 Sandy Mann
- Allison Jessen
- 31 Connor Nelson
- Eli Milbeck
- Braden Thorson
- Joe Stenger
- Mark Milbeck

MAY 2020 Health Tip from The Welcome Place

If your church is printing a newsletter for May, thank whoever is doing it! At the time I'm writing this (April 16), life is still on hold. We've learned to do church services, doctor visits, family visits, and education on the internet. Important events have been cancelled. I don't know if May will be the beginning of a return to normalcy or if normalcy will be very different.

Some things haven't changed...spring is in the process of returning. Hopefully, we've seen the last of snow or if more comes, we know it won't last long. The summer birds are coming back (and the winter snowbirds are returning) and the lake ice is leaving. Early flowers have sprouted and those of us who garden, have had plenty of time to plan the perfect plant arrangement. (And try to figure out how to outwit the rabbits who seem to have reproduced like well, rabbits, over the winter).

Births and deaths have occurred, along with illnesses and returns to health.

But I think it's safe to say we are probably doing more activities outside, even if it's just around our houses. So the usual safety reminders are in effect: Sunscreen, easing into activities, watching little children around water, don't overdo it. Maybe we can visit with our neighbors, with a mask if necessary, and travel again. Maybe businesses will re-open and everything we took for granted before the virus changed our lives will be slowly returning.

If that's what's happening, appreciation is a big word to remember. For the healthcare workers, the store employees, other service workers, and the technology experts who helped us stay connected with all the new things we had to learn. Words like Zoom, Microsoft Meetings, and Facebook Live have become part of our vocabularies. So thank you to all who helped, even if your contribution was staying home. Thank you to the workers. Thank you to our church leaders who figured out how to keep us tuned in. Thank you to educators who figured out how to teach a new way. Enjoy and appreciate May.

Katherine Jordahl, RN

Please prayerfully consider continuing your donations especially during this time. Even though we haven't been able to hold our "normal" worship services and events, we still have financial responsibilities to be met. Donations can be made through Tythe.ly (instructions above) or by sending the donations to us at PO Box 10, Erhard,

Please check Facebook or our website www.gracechurchoferhard.org for the latest announcements regarding Worship and events.
If you do not have access to the above, please call our office at 218-842-5205, or call/text Pr. Brad at 218-205-5608 or Rena at 218-329-1846

If you've been inadvertently missed on the birthday list or have a congratulation to share, please notify the church office at:
 (218)842-5205 or glc.cmc@gmail.com

Thank you to the GLC Church council and congregation for the beautiful flowers sent to me on Administrative Professionals Day and to the GLW for the gift certificate to Garden Pleasures—I can't wait to spend it! I appreciate your kindness, as always!

Blessings,
 Rena

