



Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC)

PO Box 10
Erhard, MN 56534

July

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

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, please visit our website or Facebook for latest schedule information

From Pr. Brad...

The Battle Within



The Diet of Worms scene from the 2003 film *Luther* starring Joseph Fiennes as Martin Luther.

In 1521, a young German monk and professor of theology by the name of Martin Luther was called before the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Worms. Luther thought he would have a chance to defend his Biblical teaching that eternal salvation comes to us as God's gift through faith in Jesus Christ. The emperor however, was only interested in a complete recantation from the young monk. With his writings spread before him on a table, Luther was asked to recant them. He responded by asking for a little time to prepare a statement. What the emperor got from Luther the next day was this:

Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen.

Luther then raised his hand in a knightly salute and the battle of the Reformation began. Luther was subsequently declared to be a heretic and an outlaw with a death sentence hanging over his head. Having been provided protection by the German Prince Frederick, Luther continued his writing from the safety of the Wartburg Castle. He translated the Bible into everyday German so

that non-clergy could hear God's promises firsthand. He also authored many other books and confessions on what the Bible teaches us about God and His gift of salvation in Christ. The Lutheran Church was founded on his Biblical teachings.

All of this happened because Luther had made up his mind about who he was going to follow. He had come to peace with God through his study of God's Word and was convinced that God's salvation came through faith in Jesus Christ, not through bowing before the wishes of Emperor Charles.

Previously as a monk, he had tried desperately to earn his way into God's peace by his good works, but he grew deeper in despair realizing it was impossible to please a holy God by his own efforts. But in his study of the Bible, Luther had found that peace with God could only be attained in Christ alone and His work for us on the cross. Thus, Luther would not go back to his old way of thinking – even if it meant openly defying the emperor. He had already, with God's help, won the battle within his own heart and mind about who he would follow.

In a similar way, the apostle Peter calls us to fight the battle within our hearts and minds:

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you... (1 Peter 3:15)

To "sanctify" means literally "to treat something as Holy." We treat Christ as holy and follow him with loyalty when we realize that He was first and foremost loyal to us. He was the "Lamb of God" who gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. We should also remember that as our true King, Christ is also the "Lion of Judah" who will return in the future to take full possession of His creation. As a result of who He is and what He has done, we can only bow to Christ our King who owns heaven, earth, and the future.

Yet, as Luther had discovered, the battle within us cannot be won by our own efforts; it can only be won as we look to our Brother, our Champion, our Savior, and our King – Jesus Christ. To God be the glory!

Grace Lutheran Church
Unapproved council meeting minutes
June 9, 2020

President Duane Haiby called to order the regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council on June 9, 2020, at 6 P.M. Those in attendance sat at separate tables in the fellowship hall to abide by COVID19 social distancing guidelines. 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. 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.

Pastor Brad led devotions and prayer, based on Psalm 143:8, which deals with transitions.

The agenda was approved, with one addition, following Rossow's motion and Schaible's second.

Klitzke moved to approve the minutes of the May 12 meeting. Seidell seconded this motion, and it carried on vote.

The May treasurer's reports were filed for audit after Ripley's motion and Klitzke's second. As of May 31, 2020, the General Fund balance was \$29,896.56, the Major Maintenance Fund balance remained at \$10,019.53, the Building Expansion Fund balance remained at \$37,190.00, and the Concert/Mission of the Month Fund balance was \$2,558.32.

Pastor Brad's report included an Augustana District Zoom meeting, three Zoom Pelican Rapids Ministerial meetings, and one council meeting; eight devotional videos, four Sunday worship videos, and a *Pelican Rapids Press* article; contacts with the Grace phone volunteers, several staff and council members, and fellow pastors; a funeral; and lots of visiting by phone and with people who stop at the church.

Old business:

As part of our church's mission outreach, it was noted that the Grace worship services still are being streamed and that the audio and video are getting better. Dacia Johnson's Sunday School videos have been getting good reports.

Council members were reminded to meet at 1 P.M. on Saturday, June 13, to organize for the parking lot worship service scheduled for 10 A.M. on Sunday, June 14. Consensus was to hold the next service in the Erhard Park on June 28. Further scheduling would be one Sunday at a time, with consideration for restrictions.

New business:

Following discussion, Rossow moved to give Organist Cheryl Melkert, Church Secretary Rena Kubitz, and Custodian Sheila Ouren each a \$200 stipend, with withholding separate from that amount, because their hours have been eliminated or drastically

reduced due to our church being virtually shut down. Ronnevik seconded this motion, and it carried on unanimous vote.

In view of the fact that no coffee fellowships are happening in June and, therefore, no Mission of the Month donations will be received, Ripley made a motion to donate \$500 to The Welcome House Maternity Home, Inc., in Fergus Falls, which serves at-risk single mothers. This motion carried unanimously following Cardwell's second.

Rossow moved to designate Bethel Lutheran Church of Ashby as Mission of the Month for July. Ronnevik seconded this motion, which passed on unanimous vote. That church recently burned, and our donation will help the congregation rebuild.

Discussion followed regarding the opportunity to obtain a no-cost 24/7 extreme temperature and water leak alert system, a service provided by our insurance carrier Church Mutual. Klitzke, as council liaison to the Building Committee, will follow with Church Mutual to determine the legitimacy of this offer.

Cardwell made a motion to adjourn; Seidell seconded the motion, which carried on vote, and this meeting closed at 7:48 P.M. with the Lord's Prayer

Seidell provided refreshments.

The next regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council is scheduled for 6 P.M. on Tuesday, July 14.

Phyllis Rossow
Secretary

LIBRARY CORNER, JULY 2020

Another month of “social distancing” has gone by. If you are like me, you welcome some of the quiet these days afford, but you also yearn for face-to-face conversation with friends – without a mask! Two books, recommended to me by friends for dealing with the anxiety and depression many are feeling during this pandemic, are finding their way into our library. *Finding Quiet* by Christian philosopher J.P. Moreland, tells the story of his battle with anxiety and depression and the steps he took, after reading a broad spectrum of research, to work his way back to normalcy. He includes scientific information about the human brain and heart, many Scripture verses, and practical steps to guide and encourage those who feel trapped in a debilitating cycle. Psychiatrist Michelle Bengtson tells the story of her battle with anxiety and depression in *Breaking Anxiety's Grip*. Scripture played a major role in her successful recovery. The friend who recommended this book is very enthusiastic about the principles laid out by the author.

The first five seasons of *When Calls the Heart*, a Hallmark Channel favorite directed by Michael Landon Jr., have been donated to our library. I will be putting the 12 DVDs into separate cases for everyone's use. Each disc includes 6 episodes and sometimes a bonus feature. If you watch carefully, you may see one of our members in several episodes. No more hints will be given. (If you know, don't tell!)

Happy Birthday



July Babies!

www.chellestatedecorandmore.com

- 2-Brad Bilden
- 3-Holly Stenger
- 4-Evelyn Lavigne
- 7-Brent Walker
- 9-Cheryl Muchow
- 12-Hunter Pettengill
 - Bev Scheer
 - Alicia Teberg
- 13-Toby Ripley
- 14-RayLynn Ripley
- 15-Carol Ness
- 16-Michael Norman
- 17-Jennifer Larson
- 19-Charlie Haugen
- 20-Judy Suiter
- 21-Gaylene Bader
 - Wyatt Milbeck
- 22-Shelly Fresonke
 - Arthur Wissbrod
- 24-Shirley Jenson
 - Wyatt Haiby
 - Brett Weiss
- 26-Don Wahlstrom
- 28-Arlene Stadum
 - Larry Mostue
- 29-Carol Haiby
- 31-Amy Tollefson

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel towards Grace Lutheran Church. The donations of your February Mission was beyond generous! Life was feeling very dark on Christmas Eve and the gift from your church brought so much light. We have found the church family (Aimee Nordlund's church family as well), has brought hope to our family. We have found there is so much good in this world, especially during times of need. We had a need and you rose and met it. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Kyle, Melissa, Mari, Nadia and Mattea

10:00 A.M. Every Sunday!

Park near the back of the church (by the propane tank).

Bring a lawn chair (folding chairs will be available) and sit socially spaced, or if you stay in your car, we will park you on the grass so you can participate.

You can wear a mask or not wear mask.

You must stay at least 6 ft apart from non-family members.

You can talk to those near you, wave at your friends, and enjoy the worship service! Let's gather together and make a memory!

If it rains, we will spread out in the sanctuary and fellowship hall for worship while remaining socially spaced with NO congregational singing.

Join Us for Outdoor Worship

JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH

Bethel Lutheran Church of Ashby which was destroyed by fire. Our donations will help them in their journey to rebuild.



GRACE GAZETTE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

May 31, 2020

GENERAL FUND: May 2020

Monthly Budget

Amount	Receipts	Gain/ (Shortfall)
\$14,591.30	\$13,638.45	(\$952.86)

Online only Worship
No Concert

GRACE BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

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

GRACE MAJOR MAINTENANCE FUND:

Balance, May 31, 2020	\$10,019.53
March Receipts	\$.00
March Disbursements	(\$.00)
Balance, May 31, 2020	\$10,019.53

CONCERT/MISSION OF THE MONTH

Balance, May 31, 2020	\$2,577.32
March Receipts	\$.00
March Disbursements	(\$ 19.00)
Balance, May 31, 2020	\$2,558.32

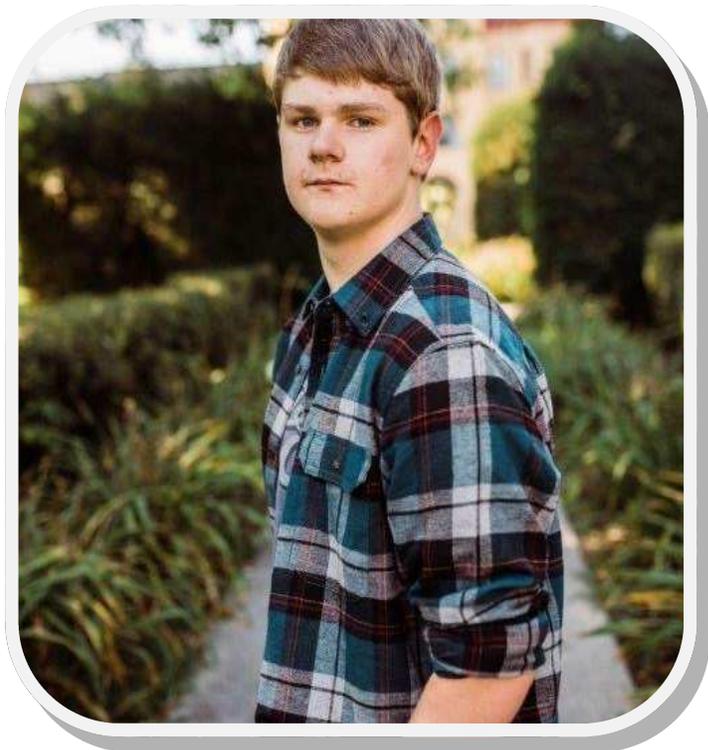
Submitted by Lucille Stadum, Treasurer

CLASS OF 2020



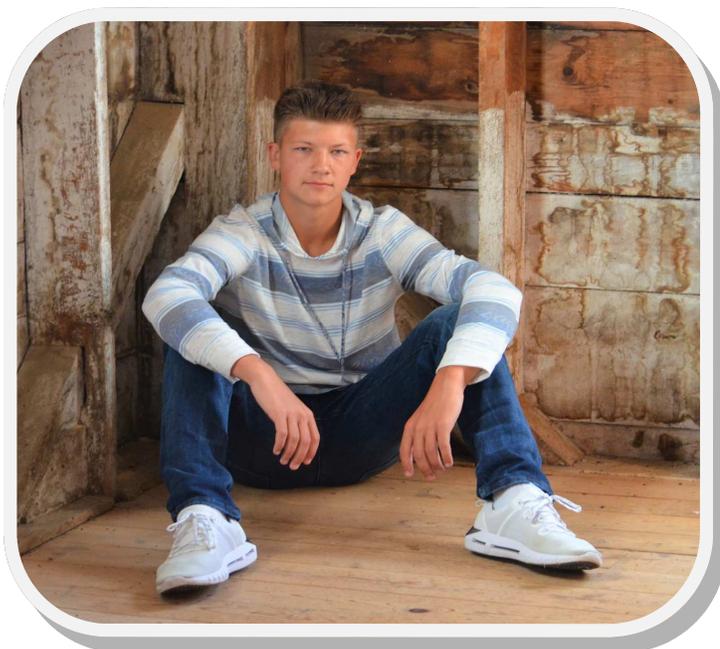
Ivy Ott

Daughter of Jim & Kari Ott



Amanda Aaberg

Daughter of Paul Aaberg



Braden Thorson

Son of John & Nicole Thorson

