



Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC)

PO Box 10
Erhard, MN 56534

August

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

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

(MON, AUG 3-SUNDAY AUG 9, 2020)

Church Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC) of Erhard, MN

THIS WEEK'S HAPPENINGS

- Tue. through Fri. Pr. Brad in church office so stop by for a socially distanced visit!
- Tue. 10:30 AM Pr. Brad in an online Augustana Northern Lights District Mtg
- Tue. 3:00 PM Pr. Brad in an online Pelican Rapids Ministerial Mtg.
- Wed. 1:00 PM Pr. Brad will produce another video devotional (Facebook/website).
- Thurs. all day Pr. Brad will out of the office for a medical appointment
- Fri. 10:30 AM Pr. Brad will produce another video devotional (Facebook/website).
- *Sun. 10:00 AM Outdoor Public Worship at Grace (the north side of the church). 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.**

NEW THINGS

*Remember that DVD's of our Sunday Worship services are still available at the church and can be picked up any time you see Pr. Brad's truck in front of the church.

FUTURE THINGS

FM Transmitter: We are adding a short-range FM transmitter to our Sunday morning worship experience. In the future when the weather forces us inside again, you can of course come into the sanctuary for worship, catch our service on-line, or you can come to the church parking lot and tune your radio to our frequency to listen to the service without leaving the safety of your car.

First Communion: The First Communion Sunday at a public worship service in the church.

Confirmation Sunday, September 13: at our 10:00 AM outdoor worship service. Up-close parking will be available for those who wish to stay in their cars.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Here it is August already, and our minds are thinking about the start of another school year, but with lots and lots of questions. Oh, how we long for a good old normal end of summer, the start of a school year with our kids back in school, sports practices and games. But, this is not a normal year as the Corona Virus has changed so much of our normal lives into abnormal. So, as we move toward the end of summer and into more unknown, here is prayer for us.

Gracious Father, though it presently feels as though heaven isn't paying attention to some very important things in my life, I hear you say to me in the Gospel, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I you will find rest, because I will give you rest."

Jesus, you took the ultimate abandonment of the cross that I might be assured I will never be disregarded or abandoned. Though I'm tired and weary, You're not. Though You may not answer me the way I want You to answer, You promise to give the strength I need for my present weakness. Turn my whining into worship this day, O gracious and ever-present Lord. I pray in Your loving name. Amen. (Scotty Smith, Everyday Prayers.)

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH,
LCMC
PO BOX 10
ERHARD, MN 56534
218-842-5205
<http://gracechurchoferhard.org>



Pastor: Rev. Brad Soenksen
218-205-5608,
bradbygrace@gmail.com
Minister of Music: Aimee Nordlund
952-200-9283,
aimeenordlund@gmail.com
Minister of Youth: Dacia Johnson
218-731-4420
johnsond@breckenridge.k12.mn.us
Parish Secretary: Rena Kubitz
218-329-1846,
glclcmc@gmail.com
Council President: Duane Haiby
218-863-8902
dchaiby@arvig.net

Grace Lutheran Church
offers 3 ways to give to our church



Mobile Giving



Online Giving



Cash / Check

ONLINE DONATION TOOL AVAILABLE!

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

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.

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.

Grace Lutheran Church
Unapproved council meeting minutes
July 14, 2020

President Duane Haiby called to order the regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council on July 14, 2020. Other council members present were Jim Klitzke, Jeanette Ripley, Rachel Ronnevik, Cheryl Rotz, and Bruce Schaible, and as well as Pastor Brad Soenksen and Treasurer Lucy Stadum; council members Curt Cardwell, Phyllis Rossow, and Harlen Seidell were absent. The meeting opened with 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.

The agenda was approved, with one addition to old business, following Ronnevik's motion and Rotz's second.

Following reading of the June 9 secretary's report, Schaible moved to accept, Klitzke seconded this motion, and it carried on vote.

The June treasurer's reports were filed for audit after Klitzke's motion and Ronnevik's second. As of June 30, 2020, the General Fund balance was \$30,036.06, the Major Maintenance Fund balance was \$10,119.53, the Building Expansion Fund balance remained at \$37,315.00, and the Concert/Mission of the Month Fund balance remained at \$2,558.32.

Pastor Brad's report included four Augustana District Zoom meetings, three Pelican Rapids Ministerial Zoom meetings, one council meeting, and several meetings with fellow pastors, Grace staff and committee members, and one regarding North Immanuel's pastoral search; seven devotional videos; planning and conducting two funerals; conducting three premarital sessions and one wedding; attending a graduation open house and a graveside service; and lots of phone visits and with people who stop at the church.

Haiby shared a letter of thanks from Sheila Ouren.

Old business:

As council liaison to the Building Committee, Klitzke reported that he had followed up on the opportunity to obtain a 24/7 extreme temperature and water leak alert system through our insurance carrier Church Mutual. Klitzke reported that this is a good deal at no cost to our church and requires minimal installation. Consensus was to accept this offer. The sensors will be sent to Dean Nelson, our facility maintenance person, for installation. The system will be maintained by Church Mutual, and Nelson will be alerted if the system detects any problems.

Following discussion, consensus was that the outdoor Sunday services are going well and will continue until the weather changes. Holy Communion, using individually packaged fellowship cups prefilled with wafers and grape juice, went well on Sunday, July 10, and will continue to be offered on the first Sunday of each month going forward. Decisions regarding Sunday School will need to wait until it's determined what the public schools will do and will be discussed further at the August council meeting.

Confirmation for 11 students is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 13, with September 20 as an alternate date.

New business:

Following discussion, Ripley made a motion to pay sound and video technicians John Ripley and Phil Johnson \$500 each, with withholding separate from that amount, for all the time they have put into our Sunday services. Rotz seconded this motion, and it carried on vote. Council members signed a card expressing appreciation for everything these two have done.

In view of the fact that no coffee fellowships are happening in July and, therefore, no donations are being received, Schaible moved to donate \$500 to Bethel Lutheran Church of Ashby, our Mission of the Month for July. This motion carried following Klitzke's second. That church recently burned, and our donation will help the congregation rebuild.

Schaible made a motion to designate Emory Barnes as Mission of the Month for August and to donate \$500 to help fund the benefit that's planned for August 16. Klitzke seconded this motion, which passed on vote. Three-year-old Emory, who is the son of Derrick and Brittney Barnes of Fergus Falls and great-grandson of Sheldon and Mavis Schleske, was born with medical issues that require lots of therapy.

Ripley made a motion to adjourn; Klitzke seconded the motion, which carried on vote, and this meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Haiby provided refreshments.

The next regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council is scheduled for 6 P.M. on Tuesday, August 11.

Phyllis Rossow, Secretary
(with thanks to Jeanette Ripley for taking notes at this meeting)

GRACE GAZETTE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

June 30, 2020

GENERAL FUND: June 2020

Monthly Budget

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Gain/ (Shortfall)</u>
\$14,591.30	\$15,9553.99	\$1,364.68

Attendance Average, 2 Services 107
No Concert

GRACE BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

Balance, June 1, 2020	\$37,190.00
June Receipts	\$ 125.00
June Disbursements	(\$.00)
Balance, June 30 2020	\$37,315.00

GRACE MAJOR MAINTENANCE FUND:

Balance, June 1, 2020	\$10,019.53
June Receipts	\$ 100.00
June Disbursements	(\$.00)
Balance, June 30, 2020	\$10,119.53

CONCERT/MISSION OF THE MONTH

Balance, June 1, 2020	\$2,558.32
June Receipts	\$.00
June Disbursements	\$.00
Balance, June 30, 2020	\$2,558.32

Submitted by Lucille Stadum, Treasurer

August 2020 Health Note from the Welcome Place

By the time you read this, it will be August or nearly there. As someone who is a list maker/planner, these past 5 months have challenged me and everyone else. I'm not sure if we should be planning end of summer activities, (of which there are very few), school plans (which we still don't know the routine), work catch-up (if we have jobs or businesses to return to), or family events (is it safe to get together? What kind of personal protective gear do we need?) and on and on!

Even church activities are a challenge...confirmation? When? Weddings? How? Coffee after service? Not sure? Church suppers? Iffy. Most of us have become familiar of a new way of doing church... Zoom, facebook live, whatever. Some churches are trying to figure out how to welcome a new leader without getting together and celebrating. How will the new leader learn the members?

A list or plan made today may have to be scrapped tomorrow. And so it goes...

One thing that is definite is the census. Multiple people, your friends and neighbors, will be helping with it. Training was originally scheduled for April. Now, the training is in August, with follow up scheduled for that month. The last statistic I saw showed that Otter Tail County was at 50 % completion. If that's still true, there will be a lot of people who need to be contacted. It's so important for the future of our towns, schools, medical facilities, and government agencies. And of course, congressional representation. Hopefully, people will find their census forms, go online, or talk to the enumerators (a fancy name for counters) so we can get one activity completed and crossed off our lists.

So as a health tip, this is kind of vague. But the bottom line is stay well, try to get your life organized, get counted, and take care.

Katherine Jordahl, RN

AUGUST LIBRARY CORNER *by Paulette Haddock*

During the "pandemic" we have heard the "truth" about Covid-19 every day from the experts, and that "truth" seems to change daily as they learn more about the virus and how it is spread. Conclusions are drawn from what is known, and then new information comes in that either supports the conclusions or negates them. It must be difficult for those experts to face the ever-changing facts day after day, and embarrassing when the opposite of what they reported is true.

I have an inkling of what they must feel. Your librarian must eat "humble pie" this month with "egg all over her face." Last month I hinted that someone from our church family was in several episodes of **When Calls the Heart**. I was convinced from what I thought I heard from one person, and from other circumstantial evidence that my hint was true. Then the Holy Spirit prompted me to ask someone else who would know for sure, and my conclusion was wrong! The next day it became very clear what was going on when I flipped my memory verse review list and saw verses on humility filling the page! God knows how to get to the heart of the matter. I had to chuckle at His timing.

Two new books this month demonstrate His work and timing in our lives. Humility also is a factor for at least one of the characters. I hope you will enjoy **A New Chapter** by Kristin Eckhardt and **Shepherds Abiding** by Jan Karon. By the way, **When Calls the Heart** is a great family show, and I hope you will watch it and guess who I thought was one of the characters. All of these new items have Christian messages and values.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
everyone born in the month
AUGUST
TheBirthdayBest.com

- 1 Taylor Thorson
- 3 Marcia Dillon
Jullian Norgren
- 5 Dick Rossow
Jim Klitzke
- 7 Mitchell Wright
- 8 Donna Anderson
- 10 Holly Bilden
Hazen Milbeck
- 13 Scott Scheer
Julie Winkels
Bruce Schaible
- 14 Eugene Harthun
Gracie Hill
Rita Olson
- 15 Jennifer Sonmor
- 16 Shannon Bilden
- 17 Samuel Ravenscraft
Brooklyn Christianson
Chloe Dillon
Frederick Mavis
- 18 Jesse Scheer-Lyman
Connor Larson
- 19 Clayton Peterson
Zechariah Skunberg
Lyle Barringer
Michael Honrud
- 20 Renee Stadum
Donna Johnson
- 21 Madalyn Ripley
Cora Dillon
Myra Dillon
Kelsey Price
Vicki Demblon
- 23 Jerry Pederson
Andy Ripley
Billy Milbeck
- 24 Sheila Ouren
- 25 DeAnn Melkert
- 26 Danny Melkert
Lisa Fiala
Cody Brown
- 28 Steve Haiby
Laityn Grunewald
- 29 Robin Klovstad
Arica Sanchez
- 30 John Wright
- 31 Claire Metzger



10:00 A.M. Every Sunday!

Join Us for Outdoor Worship

North side of church!

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.

AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH

Three-year-old Emory, who is the son of Derrick and Brittney Barnes of Fergus Falls and great-grandson of Sheldon and Mavis Schleske, was born with medical issues that require lots of therapy.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who called, sent cards, gifts and well wishes as I went through my recent health struggles. Your thoughtfulness and prayers mean more to me than you will ever know.

*God Bless,
Cheryl Rotz*




The GLW

will meet here at the church

**Thursday,
August 20th**

9:00 A.M.

Please contact
Karen Rossum or
Diane Klitzke
with any questions

Free Printable Bible Word Search Game

Books of the New Testament

Here's a great puzzle for anyone who's trying to learn the books of the New Testament. Find the capitalized words from the word list in the Bible word search grid. Words may appear in any direction. Here's a twist: Can you also find the name of the man who wrote much of the New Testament?



MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN
ACTS
ROMANS
(I and II) CORINTHIANS

GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
(I and II) THESSALONIANS
(I and II) TIMOTHY
TITUS

PHILEMON
HEBREWS
JAMES
(I AND II) PETER
(I, II AND III) LETTER OF JOHN
JUDE
REVELATION

