

GRACE NOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

GRACE LUTHERAN'S MISSION STATEMENT

As disciples in Christ, we support our faith community, encourage spiritual growth in everyone, and serve all creation with Christ-like love.

We accomplish this by:

- ♦ *spreading God's Word*
- ♦ *building relationships*
- ♦ *serving the community*
- ♦ *reaching out to those in need*

July 2020



Together at Home We are the Church

Join us for worship online gracelutheran-springfield.org

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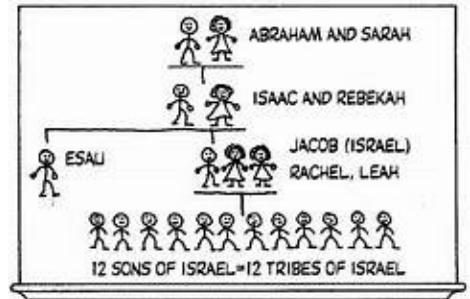
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Pastor Wayne Sez...

A Journey of Faith With Abraham, and Jacob,

As you make journeys you might be excited about the destinations that you are going to. If you run into someone that has made the same journey you might want to ask them some questions about where you are going, what they experienced and advice they might have for you? Our faith life is also journey. And this summer we will have the opportunity to hear from some folks who have made the journey of faith to compare what there journey and ours has in common.



Abraham Tested Genesis 22:1-19 (July 5 – 11)

After 25 years God finally fulfills his promise to Abraham and Sarah and then demands that Abraham give up his only son and hope for a future. If you were Abraham how would you react to this demand? What do you think God wants the readers to understand why he waited till the last second to save Isaacs? Where are the tests of Faith in your life?

Jacob and Esau Genesis 25:19-34 (July 12 -18)

Isaac sons now struggle for control and to win there parents affections. How does the struggle for control lead to conflicts in families and communities? What do you do when you feel you have been taken advantage of?

Jacobs Dream Genesis 28:10-22 (July 19 -25)

God approaches Jacob with the same blessing that he had for Abraham, yet Jacob tries to bargain with the promise. Is it a good idea to bargain with God's promises?

Jacob Wrestles With God Genesis 32:22-32 (July 26-Aug 1st)

After Jacob has lived his life trying to trip people up (Esau, Isaac, Laban) and being tripped up by them he must wrestle with God. In this wrestling God renames Jacob from a grabber to one who contends with God. Where in your life are you wrestling with God? What new meaning does God want to give to your life?

Pastor Wayne Sez continued...

A Journey back to Communion

On June 28th from 9:30am to 11:00 am we invite you come to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in your cars.

We will be set up to receive you in the Grace Lutheran Parking lot. You will enter off 7th street and be directed to the communion station where pastor is at, you will receive a self-contained



communion wafer and cup of grape juice. I will be available for short prayer and give the communion liturgy and blessing. We need you to wear your mask when conversation is taking place.

This will be a drive through communion service so once you and your family have received the sacrament you are free to go.

We will be offering parking lot communion June 28, July 12 and July 26 depending on when the next phase starts.

We are then looking at having outdoor services throughout the summer either in our parking lot or in the grassy area on the east side of the church in the Lincoln Home area. When this starts we ask that you bring your own lawn chairs, wear your mask and maintain social distance.

Join us weekly for worship online: FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE, OR BY EMAIL

You can go to either our website at

www.gracelutheran-springfield.org

on Facebook to *Historic Grace Lutheran Church* or to our YouTube Channel: Grace Lutheran Church Springfield IL and you will be taken to a link that will allow you to view the video of the services for Saturday/Sunday.

If you need pastoral assistance you can reach Pastor Wayne by text message at 309-360-1085 or please call the church office.

God bless you and keep you safe in this time of uncertainty.

SING SONGS OF PRAISE From the home office of Cantor J.B. George...
James 5:18

You don't need much math to do music. Usually, counting to four is sufficient. The time signature, or meter, of music gives it a steady and predictable beat. That beat is most often something simple to remember, and so repetitive that you just "feel" the beat, giving it little thought. Occasionally, though, the meter of the music might be something that makes you think a little more, like 4/2 time, where the half note gets only one beat, instead of the usual two. Or, maybe you encounter a truly perplexing meter like 11/16. Chris and Mary Schofield recently gave me a t-shirt with this on it:

Since the t-shirt was made, our "times" have become even more complicated. When a musician encounters meter and rhythm that are too complicated merely to "feel it," the musician must study and internalize the unusual rhythm. Mark it up. Count out exactly what it should look like, then imagine it. "Hear it" with your imagination. Collaborate with other musicians whose part might be different from yours, which might challenge how you thought you would perform yours. Then, together, perform this difficult music with confidence.

THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES



Our "times" require no less. We study the research of epidemiologists to understand how to live with a deadly virus in our midst. We make plans and "mark up" our ideas for safe gatherings. We imagine how racial justice and equality would look if they were actually a reality. We listen to others whose stories and experiences are not our own, and which challenge how we thought the music of our shared story should sound. Together, we perform the song of life, with confidence and empathy, as the Spirit gives us breath.

There will not be choir practice or singing in church for a while, but we all have some music making to do, as we try to bring God's harmony to a dissonant world.



YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Parish Nurse... Diana Weyhenmeyer

Staying Safe in the Sun

The sun is an important part of our lives. Sunny days have a positive impact on our mood, increase our level of physical activity, make many social events and gatherings possible, and even benefit our health by providing our bodies with essential vitamin D.



Unfortunately, sun exposure also presents risk factors that can lead to skin or eye damage, and even skin cancer. Skin cancer is the most common of all cancer types. Most skin cancers are caused by too much exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays. Prevention and early detection are the best ways to keep your skin healthy. It's important to learn what you can do to protect yourself and how to spot any possible signs of skin cancer.

Here are some easy ways to protect your skin from sun damage:

Wear sunscreen with a SPF 30 or higher. If you have fair skin or light hair, you are more susceptible to the sun's rays and should use a sunscreen with a higher SPF.

Choose sunscreen labeled "broad spectrum" meaning that it protects against two types of harmful rays: UVA and UVB.

Use waterproof sunscreen to make sure it stays on longer, even if you perspire or get wet.

Reapply sunscreen often – usually every two hours, but sooner if you've been swimming or are perspiring heavily.

Cover your whole body. Remember those areas that can be easy to forget, such as your ears, eyelids, lips, nose, hands, feet, and the top of your head.

Seek shade or avoid the sun during the peak hours of 10am – 4pm. The sun is strongest during those hours, even on cloudy days.

Wear a hat with a wide brim to help shade your eyes, ears and head.

Wear wrap-around sunglasses that provide 100% UV protection to safeguard your eyes.

Wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothing that protects a larger area of your skin such as long-sleeve shirts or long pants. Tightly woven fabrics in dark or bright colors are best.

Examining Your Skin

Get a professional skin examination from a dermatologist once a year, and learn how to perform a monthly self-examination. Skin self-exams do not require any special medical equipment. All you need are your eyes, a mirror, and the knowledge of what to look for. Here are some tips:

- Perform skin self-examinations in a well-lit room in front of a full-length mirror. Use a handheld mirror for hard-to-see places.
 - Learn the pattern of your moles, freckles or other birthmarks so that you will notice any changes.
 - Look for new growths, spots, bumps or sores that do not heal normally.
 - Don't forget hard-to-see areas of your body such as your head, the underside of your arms, the backs of your legs, and between your toes.
- Know the "ABCDEs" of moles. If you have any moles that fit the following criteria, ask your doctor to check them out.

Asymmetrical: Is the mole oddly shaped?

Border: Does the mole have irregular or vaguely defined borders?

Color: Does the mole have uneven coloring or multiple colors?

Diameter: Is the mole larger than a pencil eraser or is it growing in size?

Ever-changing or **E**volving: Does the mole keep changing over time?

This was taken from my ideas of what I've learned over the years with sun safety. I give this information out at health fairs I attend.

In Christ's love, Diana



Guidelines for COVID-19 continue to update on these sites:

dph.illinois.gov/covid19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>

We look to these guidance's as leadership of the church for best practices in deciding how worship and building usage should move forward.

Summer at Grace...



1. We are still meeting online for worship each week by way of YouTube or Facebook. If you need help locating any of this call Kim in the office or go to the website gracelutheran-springfield.org and it will take you there.

2. There is a group comprised of Staff, Worship and Music and Evangelism Committees including John Klint, Randy Heidorn, JB George, Jim Hobbs, Deb Landis,

Wanda Williams, Howard Newby and Pastor Wayne working to lead worship in new ways.

We will be offering parking lot communion **June 28, July 12 and July 26 from 9:30—11:00am**. We will enter through the 7th street side.

Once you and your family have received the sacrament in your car, with social distancing as well as masks being utilized, you are then to loop around and go back out the 7th street side.

We are then having **Outdoor services** throughout the summer either in our parking lot or in the grassy area on the east side of the church in the Lincoln Home area. Tentatively our first of these worship services is scheduled for **July 19th at 9:15am**. When this starts we ask that you bring your own lawn chairs, wear your mask and maintain social distance. Only 50 people will be allowed according to CDC and state guidelines, so reservations will be required.

3. **ZOOM Fellowship** also continues every other week. Please email Kim or Jan Conrady if you need guidance.

4. Thank you for those who are participating in many and various ways in the production and musical contributions for the weekly worship.

5. **Pastor Wayne** will be part time through September which we are thankful for. Our preference is to have a full time pastor and the Call committee has been meeting for candidate interviews.

6. **The Food Pantry** continues to feed our community – Hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-1:30 pm. We are so grateful for the faithful volunteers that have stepped up in this challenging time.

7. Kim is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday if you need anything from the building. She is taking all calls and working from home otherwise.

8. Council is meeting by Zoom meetings monthly. If you have concerns or comments please speak to a Council member. We are making the best decisions we can with the health and safety of all in mind.

Please continue to pray for our church at this time, for our staff, for our leadership, for the Food Pantry, the ELCA and for our world. And that peace and equality for all can be found. God's peace.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

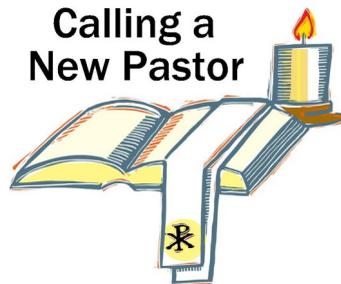
The Call Committee continues to work diligently with Pastor Ken Sandlin (Assistant to the Bishop and pastor in charge of the Synod call process) to seek the proper candidate for our pastoral vacancy. Grace's Ministry Site Profile is still posted to the Synod website where potential pastors go when seeking new calls. This process is consistent throughout all of the ELCA's synods.

The Committee continues to meet as needed and has established interview questions for potential candidates. The need for privacy and confidentiality precludes us from discussing any potential candidates until they are recommended by the Committee to the Church Council and by the Church Council to the congregation at large.

The Committee asks for the congregation's support and patience. Please continue to pray that God directs the proper candidate to our church.

Grace Lutheran Call Committee
Phil Galloway, Roberta Volkmann, Harold Janssen, Sara Oehlert, Tom Appleton, and Chris Schofield

Calling a New Pastor



A Prayer for Independence Day

Guide us as we work together to build a society in which everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity and hope. Help us to be witnesses of Christ's love by practicing charity and promoting justice and peace throughout the world. Strengthen us with fortitude to choose the values of our faith as we exercise Our responsibility as citizens. Inspire us to build a world of greater respect for human life and dignity. Restore us when our spirit grows weary, and bless us in our journey home to You.



Our Library... there is a large variety of books in our little library. We have some Christian teenage series, some mysteries, one shelf of Christian/Lutheran educational books, most of a shelf of biblical stories for young children, several year of devotional books, as well as hymnals that members may want to accompany our services.



Stephen Ministry

Living on the farm as a child, we had well water. When you used water at our house, it flowed from a compression tank in the basement. Use enough, and the pump on the tank started, which started the pump in the well, and the tank was refilled. In some dry periods the well ran so low we couldn't pump water. Then we called our neighbor Mr. Butler, who took his water truck to the nearby town, filled it, and brought water to our cistern (an underground water tank). Life could go on! My dad eventually had the well dug deeper, and after many years, we also had piped water from a local cooperative.

Wells can run dry. People can run dry too. Sometimes it's a big event that that leaves you worn out. Sometimes it's lots of small things that just add up. The effect is the same. We wonder if we have anything left to offer to God, to ourselves and to those who depend on us. We need someone to bring us life giving water.

God wants to plant us by streams of living water. Psalm 1 paints the picture of God's people like a tree "planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does not wither; whatever they do prospers." The water of our refreshment comes from God, but when it seems scarce, Stephen Ministers want to bring living water to you. Like Mr. Butler, we will visit and help you. We also hope and pray that walking with someone can deepen your well, and connect you with the "cooperative" of church, so that the waters of your baptism are new every morning. Stephen Ministers can help. Reach out if you need us.

Jesus said to her, "The water that I will give will become for them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." John 10:13a, 14

**High School Youth join us June 29—July 3, 2021 in
Minneapolis, Minnesota!!**

2021 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING
boundless
GOD BEYOND MEASURE



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**A Statement of the Synod Council of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in response to the Brutal and Unjust Killing of George Floyd
Adopted June 6, 2020**

*"[The LORD] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
(Micah 6:8, NRSV)*

In response to the brutal and unjust killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 and in response to the ongoing racial injustice that infects our nation, the Synod Council of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

- Stands united in condemning the killing of George Floyd, together with all acts of injustice against our sisters and brothers of color;
- Stands united in identifying racism as a sin both against God and against our neighbors;
- Stands united in confessing our own participation in racist systems and structures, both by what we have done and by what we have left undone, and in asking for God's forgiveness;
- Stands united in rejecting all forms of violence against people and property as a faithful means of protest;
- Stands united in prayerful support of law enforcement officials and their families across our synod, giving thanks for their faithful and courageous service during these difficult times, even as we hold to account those law enforcement officials and agencies across our nation that continue to perpetrate unjust acts against persons of color;
- Stands united in denouncing systemic bias in our judicial system, including delayed arrests and indictments in civil rights cases, especially cases of police brutality, and the mass incarceration of people of color;

Stands united in the conviction that, as people of faith, our words must always lead beyond our words to real and positive actions (see 1 John 3:18) in confronting the evils of racism and injustice wherever they exist;

ELCA Synod Response continued...

- Stands united in our commitment to call on all expressions of our synod, including the congregations of our synod, to seek positive ways to work toward racial justice in our church, in our communities, and in our nation;
- Stands united in our commitment to seek intentional opportunities to listen deeply to persons of color in and across our synod, as well as to those in and across our synod with whom we disagree, learning from one another how to be advocates for change and agents of reconciliation in the name of Christ;
- Stands united in our commitment to encourage all expressions of our synod, including the congregations of our synod, to cultivate relationships with persons and agencies in our communities already engaged in the work of racial justice;
- Stands united in our commitment to call upon local, state, and national governments and their elected leaders to support legislation that brings about real and lasting change toward racial justice for all God's people;
- Stands united in our commitment to lift up the Racial Justice resources of both the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org) and our Central/Southern Illinois Synod (www.csis-elca.org) as helpful tools for engaging in constructive conversation around these issues;
- Stands united in our commitment to develop an anti-racism working group in our synod to hold us accountable in living out the commitments stated above; developing and/or lifting up resources for anti-racism training, education, and advocacy across our synod; and seeking ways to engage our synod in positive action toward systemic change.



MEMBERS HOMEBOUND

DOROTHY BAHRE
BETTY FOWLER
GLORIA GAGNON
DELORES KERN

HELEN MOORE
GENE RUBLEY
ELEANOR SAKRIS

FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Helen Appleton

As Christ fed the multitudes, the mission of the Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry is to feed the hungry.

In May of 2020, we served 230 families composed of 539 individuals compared to 579 families composed of 1157 individuals in 2019. We believe the numbers are lower as some people are reluctant to go out and there are more resources/options for food available during the pandemic. For example, there are numerous new micro-pantries throughout the city, the Food Bank is doing remote free food distributions, and schools are continuing to provide meals. In addition, we are open about 4 less hours each week.

Our starting balance was \$55,289.07. There were \$12,707.00 in deposits and \$5,789.40 in expenditures for an ending balance of \$62,226.67. Our anchor churches and many individuals are giving generously and we are receiving more free items through the Central Illinois Food Bank due to the donations they are receiving. We have usually had to purchase more of the Food Bank items. The Food Bank has been providing dairy boxes donated by Prairie Farms which include milk, cottage cheese, yogurt, cream cheese, and cheese dip as well a pre-packed fresh produce.

We received a substantial donation of popcorn from the Abraham Lincoln Council of the Boy Scouts. Everyone enjoys popcorn and it is a healthy snack!

The Food Pantry is doing more to accommodate the homeless during this time. Services for the homeless are closed at both First Presbyterian Church and Good Samaritan. The homeless typically cannot heat or cook food, so we have been packaging bags with ring pull cans, snacks, and juice boxes for them. The bags are smaller and we are not enforcing our 30 day rules with these clients. Many do not have ID's as well.

Thank you to the many persons who have made masks for the Food Pantry clients! They are greatly appreciated. We appreciate everyone who is able to assist the Food Pantry through your time, talents, donations, and prayers!

Meals on Wheels

We will be delivering meals the week of July 20-24 and July 27-31. Contact person for this project is Jean Scherer, 725-0301.



COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
Council met by ZOOM May 26, 2020

May 2020

\$42,784 Income
 \$22,664 Expense
 Surplus \$20,120

YTD 2020

\$142,944 Income
 \$124,347 Expense
 Surplus \$18,597

May 2019

\$26,034 Income
 \$26,395 Expense
 Deficit (\$6,955)

YTD 2019

\$123,654 Income
 \$143,369 Expense
 Deficit (\$19,715)

Worship Attendance via internet:

	YouTube	Facebook
April 25/26 Easter 3	106	116
May 2/3 Easter 4	67	101
May 9/10 Easter 5	63	90
May 16/17 Easter 6	59	57
May 23/24 Easter 7	48	44

- Finances continue to be strong and the church continues to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. If you are able to continue your regular giving please do so by mail or continue with direct giving. Thank you!
- Praises for the Food Pantry being well taken care of.
- Pastor Wayne's contract for the months of July, August and September at part time was approved. He will be in town Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays unless special circumstances are needed.
- Much discussion was had on what steps to take next in "opening" the building, returning to worship and the health of our Pastor and congregation.
- Online worship is still continuing. We will however offer drive through parking lot communion June 28, July 12 and July 26.
- We have also begun planning an outdoor worship for July 19th.
- We accepted the resignation of Bob Ellis from council
- A motion was made to match funds from Council for the WELCA Madagascar relief funding.
- It was decided that no groups or events will be allowed in the building at this time.

ALL WOMEN of Grace are welcome at the Women's Circle meetings and other WELCA events.



Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace by [signing up for a daily email message](#). You can also download the newly updated app for your [IOS](#) and [Android](#) devices.

TWISTED STITCHERS... is a group of ladies that usually get together the first Tuesday evening of the month in someone's home and have an evening of fellowship and stitching crafts (knitting, crochet, cross-stich, quilting or anything else).



Ruth Circle meets on Zoom the third Tuesday of the month from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. We visit, share personal experiences and concerns, have a devotion and pray for our concerns, we then have the Bible study lesson from the Gather magazine. If you would like to join us, you can contact Janet Conrady (227-899-8628) to receive the connection to Zoom.

For any other questions, contact Mary Plymire 217-303-6907 or Judy Wollet 217-620-8467. All are very welcome!

THANK YOU
DEAR CHURCH FAMILY, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR CALLS, CARDS, FOOD, ETC. DURING THE SHELTER IN PLACE AND THEN MY FALL. APPARENTLY I DIDN'T BREAK ANYTHING WHEN I FELL. I MAY BE ON A WALKER FOR A FEW WEEKS AT HOME. EVERY TIME I HEARD FROM ONE OF YOU I KNEW IT WAS GOD TAKING CARE OF ME THROUGH YOU. I CAN'T IMAGINE THERE IS ANY MORE THOUGHTFUL, CARING CHURCH FAMILY THAN OUR CHURCH FAMILY. CHARLOTTE BLUMLE

July Birthdays

July 2
Amy Harshman

July 3
Ashley Streck

July 4
Sharon Miner
John Rigg

July 6
Jennifer Derlitzki

July 9
Nicole Brockmeyer
Georgia Luckey

July 11
Adam Hobbs
Hailey Schlicht

July 12
Stephen Christell
Kathy Kreutzer
Carter Streck

July 13
Gary Courtwright
Crystal Shadid
Diana Weyhenmeyer

July 14
Salli Shields

July 15
Karen Clark
Kyle Gietl

July 16
Carolyn Nelson

July 17
Marilyn Dees
Eunie Krone

July 18
Rosie O'Fallon
Gene Rubley
Don Thannen

July 19
Randy Krone
Jackie O'Fallon

July 20
Dr. Agnes Wood

July 21
Chris Thompson

July 22
Emma Harshman

July 23
Velma Lawson

July 24
Addison Christell

July 25
Raymond Cane
Margot Galloway

July 27
Corrine Kircher
Jean Scherer
Jennifer Weakly

July 28
John Weakly

July 29
Larry Garrison

July 30
Addison Downey
Mark Thannen

July 31
Carolyn Sandidge

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COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE COMMITTEES THEY REPRESENT

Administration/Finance	Tom Appleton, John Klint, Susan LeMasters
Christian Education	Jessica Thannen, Amy Monahan
Community Ministry	Randy Heidorn, Diana Weyhenmeyer
Evangelism	Janet Conrady, Deb Landis, Amy Monahan
Fellowship	Mary Schofield, Wanda Williams
Long Range Planning	Gene Blade, Phil Galloway
Parish Life	Deb Landis
Property	Gene Blade
Stewardship	Phil Galloway
Worship & Music	Tom Appleton, Wanda Williams
Youth	Claire Thannen
Stephen Ministry	Jan Conrady

**ORGANIZATION
GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Join us for worship online
gracelutheran-springfield.org



REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June-August: Saturday 5:00 pm / Sunday 9:15 am

September-May: Saturday 5:00 pm / Sunday 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Our church is ACCESSIBLE for wheelchairs.

Nursery care is available at Sunday worship services.

Please call the church office for any information. Phone (217) 522-3965

Office Hours Mon–Fri 8:30am–4:30pm

Grace Food Pantry current operating schedule is:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 am-1:30 pm

Food Pantry Phone (217) 522-9707

OUR STAFF

INTERIM PASTOR

Rev. O. Wayne Shelksohn

CANTOR

J.B. George

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kim Gietl

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Aaron VonHolten

PARISH NURSE

Diana Weyhenmeyer