

GRACE NOTES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

OFFICE: 522-3965 FOOD PANTRY: 522-9707

www.graceLutheran-springfield.org

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*
- ♦ *servicing the community*
- ♦ *reaching out to those in need*

November
2020



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Grace

Our Journey at Grace Lutheran Church

It is an exciting time at Grace for our church family as we welcome Pastor Tom Krieger and his family to Springfield.

His first Sunday will tentatively be November 29, 2020.

We thank the Call Committee, John Klint, Council and the congregation for continued persistence and caring patience.

We thank you for joining in the meet and greet, voting, praying and being flexible as we worked through the meeting and voting process.

Again, we wait with hope as the pandemic continues to keep us separated. If you are able to join us for worship, please make reservations with Kim each week. We plan on having a second service if our numbers continue to stay the same for attendance and the COVID-19 numbers in the county area stay down.

Our worship schedule for November is this:

9:15 am INDOOR Worship each week

November 1: Drive-through communion from 10:00–11:00 am

We will be indoors from this point on with live streaming from the Sanctuary. Drive-through communion will be the first weekend of each month. We are seeing what the safe opening committee recommends and their guidance. Also being wary of what is going on in the county with regards to COVID-19.

Please make reservations with Kim for all in-person worship services.

We welcome and thank Deacon Pat Caley for leading worship until the end of November!

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 weekend services.



ALL SAINTS WEEKEND November 1

We will light candles for All Saints Weekend November 1, 2020. If you worship at home, please light a candle as you join us. Please come for worship that weekend as names are spoken aloud for the Saints who have gone before us.

We will soon be welcoming our new pastor, Tom Krieger, to Grace! We have trusted the process over these months, and God has indeed brought us together. Many thanks to the Call Committee and Council for their extra work in this effort. With their help, we reviewed procedures, filled out forms, did our self-study, and did everything we could do to get ready. Pastor Wayne was a blessing in the interim, but mostly, there was just a lot of waiting to do.

Meanwhile, in the rest of the world, we have a global pandemic which has caused much suffering and shed light on so much racial and economic injustice. Nearly every aspect of life is different now, even for those who have been spared the worst of COVID.

So, our congregation has had double grief: not only could our long-beloved Pastor Christell no longer lead worship and preside at weddings and funerals, but we could no longer even HAVE worship (as we knew it), or weddings or funerals. (And, for those who are grieving because of a recent loss this past year, I know your grief has not gone away just because everyone else is preoccupied with the pandemic.)

Yet, out of all this grief and sadness, angst and waiting, God is preparing us. Yes, God prepares a place *for us* in the heavenly kingdom. We celebrate all the souls who are in the fullness of that promise as we observe All Saints Day. But God is also preparing *us* for the work of God's kingdom right now. If we have "eyes to see," we can recognize the ways God accomplishes this preparation in us. One little example: I have taken some computer classes beginning last January for continuing education. Who knew they would be so helpful as we suddenly had to navigate so much more technology than before?

Even with all that has been going on, God has been preparing us to welcome our new pastor. So, it is with great joy that I welcome Pastor Krieger and his family to Grace. I am very much looking forward to working with this new partner in ministry. I have made it no secret that working at Grace has been the best job I have ever had, and I have had several that were very good places to be. You all have been so welcoming to me and to my family, even under the circumstances of Connie's work at another church, and our children's resulting sporadic involvement at Grace. If you treat your pastor with the care and love you treat your cantor, I know the Krieger's will have a good landing as they make their home with us.



Reverse Advent calendar of giving

Each day add an item to a box- on Christmas Eve donate the contents to the Food Pantry or choose a Micro pantry in our area. This is a great thing you can do from home as we continue to live safely. You can even

incorporate the elf if your home has one. There are just common items that are used weekly at the Food pantry and for Holiday baskets. If these items cannot be found you can substitute as neces-

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1-Box of cereal | 14-Box of saltine crackers |
| 2- Peanut butter | 15-Package of plain rice |
| 3-Stuffing mix | 16-Package of Ramen |
| 4-Boxed potatoes | 17-Package of spaghetti |
| 5- Macaroni and cheese | 18-Spaghetti sauce |
| 6- Canned fruit | 19-Chicken noodle soup |
| 7-Canned tomatoes | 20-Tomato soup |
| 8-Canned tuna | 21-Canned corn |
| 9-Cake mix | 22-Canned mixed vegetables |
| 10-Jar of applesauce | 23-Canned green beans |
| 11-Cake icing | 24-Package of socks |
| 12-Cranberry sauce | Merry Christmas!! |
| 13-Canned chili beans | |



CALL A VETERAN...November 11 and thank him or her for their service to our country.



Stephen Ministry Helps in Many Ways

In our Grace family, if you have lost a loved one in the last few years, you have been offered these books from Stephen Ministry as a gift of comfort from our church.

Journeying through Grief is a set of four short books to send to people at four crucial times during the first year after the loss of a loved one.

Author Kenneth C. Haugk writes in a warm, caring style, with short, easy-to-read chapters. He walks alongside the reader through the grief journey, sharing helpful insights about grief, biblical truths, and stories that provide comfort and reassurance.

Four Books at Four Crucial Times

Book 1: A Time to Grieve

. . . sent 3 weeks after the loss

Book 2: Experiencing Grief

. . . sent 3 months after the loss

Book 3: Finding Hope and Healing

. . . sent 6 months after the loss

Book 4: Rebuilding and Remembering

. . . sent 11 months after the loss

Each book focuses on what the person is likely to be experiencing at that point in grief—offering understanding, empathy, compassion, and hope. A Stephen Minister can connect you with these books. Applying for a Stephen Ministry caregiver is not required. Just remember we are here, if you need us, for companionship in your grief journey.

PS. If you are reading this on your computer, you can click on the name of each book to see its chapter list.

HOSPITAL VISITS...Let us know if you are going into the hospital so that Pastor or the Parish Nurse may call on you. Also if you or your family has welcomed a baby to your family also let us know so that child can be recognized in church with a rose!

COMFORT FOOD... Adam and Heidi Lowery's teenage daughter died in August from cancer. We have organized an opportunity to share God's love by providing comfort food for the family, e.g. snacks, cookies, fruit, salads, desserts, muffins, etc. The family at this time consists of three adults and one child. Many of us know, from experience, how much the church family is so very important when grieving. Details are on the MEAL TRAIN SITE

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/e8e4r1>

Please indicate the date you wish to provide something. We are just providing these items once a week. We are hoping to go through the Thanksgiving holiday. Refer questions to Kim Gietl or Charlotte Blumle.

Servant Opportunities

- Help fund Thanksgiving baskets or Christmas baskets.
- Provide a dozen cookies for our homebound members.
- Take a snack to the Lowery family.
- Consider a Reverse Advent Calendar.

ANNUAL ELCA THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

It is our year to host this Annual ELCA event. We are still planning on both a virtual worship service as well as an in person worship service the evening of Wednesday November 25 including a virtual choir. More details will follow soon.



ADVENT IS ON THE WAY!

The Advent Season is just around the corner and we have some special things planned. We will continue with some type of **Wednesday evening devotions**

December 2,9,16,23. More will be coming.

Caroling – Keep watching for more information

Have you been mugged lately? Our church has new mugs with a special stained glass picture and they are on sale now for \$5.00. If you would like for gifts or just for yourself to show your “spirit” just speak to Kim in the office.

Christian Education News

Please note there will not be Sunday School, Confirmation or Adult Forum on November 29.

Join us each week via ZOOM at 10:30 am!!

We will have music and opening time with Mr. George. Pre-K to 2nd grade are taught by Kari Downey and 3-6th grades are taught by Mary Plymire. We thank them for giving of their time and talents. All are welcome!



ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum via ZOOM... We hope to be starting **soon...** we are trying to get a feeling for how many would like to meet via ZOOM for Adult Forum to speak on social issues. Let me know if you would be interested in the discussion and have access by ZOOM.

We will be continue to explore the ELCA Social Statements on Human Sexuality. The first week will be a review of what we covered before the COVID-19. Then we will discuss the ELCA and other Christian perspectives on same sex relationships. After that, we will have speakers, if we have sufficient interest, on human sexuality and then homelessness (as it relates to vets, drugs, mental illness, etc.).

CONFIRMATION CLASS



Confirmation classes continue each week on ZOOM Sunday at 5:00 pm. We thank Pat Caley for her leadership with the confirmands.

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

Brown Bag Bible Study will continue by ZOOM – **Thursdays at 12:10 pm.** Please join us as we continue studying God's word. Please speak to Wanda Williams if you would like to be included. All are welcome!



There will be NO Bible Study November 26, 2020.



FALL BACK

October 31—remember to turn back your clocks
ONE hour before bed.

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 September of 2020, we served 454 families composed of 1184 individuals compared to 585 families composed of 1120 individuals in 2019. Our numbers have returned to pre-pandemic levels for individuals, serving over 1,000 individuals for both August and September. There have been more new clients, more homeless clients, and more large families.

We started the month with \$71,726.18 in our account. There were deposits of \$10,124.00 and expenditures of \$9,107.27. We ended the month with \$72,644.91. A year ago, we started September with only \$22,277.86, the lowest amount we had had in several years! People have been very generous during the COVID19 pandemic!

We do not want there to be a competition of financial giving between the churches as each church has different gifts to offer; however, we would be remiss not to mention that St. John's has been especially generous in recent months. We also received \$1,000 from the Springfield South Rotary.

The free milk and produce program at the Food Bank has now been suspended, so we will be using our extra funds to purchase milk and bread.

The Food Pantry welcomes leftover Halloween candy and any other extras from your cupboards. Thank you to the many people who support the Food Pantry with their prayers, time, and donations!



Holiday Food Baskets have been a long tradition of Grace Lutheran Church. We partner with other Lutheran churches and schools in the area to provide food to help make the holidays a bit better for families in need. Baskets are provided before Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. It is time once again to look toward funding and implementing the holiday basket program. Though funded separately from Grace Food Pantry by Grace, Peace Lutheran and St Johns Lutheran, we use obtain the food through the pantry and reimburse it for the costs.

We have already begun stocking up for the baskets for Thanksgiving.

Continues **on Page 9**

Please consider donating to the Holiday Baskets, which cost about \$50 per basket. Grace pays for 60 baskets per holiday. That is \$3,000 for each of Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Your help is appreciated. Each family receives a tote with about \$50 worth of groceries and personal items, including a ham, milk, bread, eggs, potatoes, apples, numerous non-perishable cans and boxes of food, and a bag of toiletries. You can support this ministry by donating cash (earmarked for Holiday Food Baskets) and/or the nonperishable foods listed below:

Non-perishable Needs for Holiday Food Baskets:

- * Cans of green beans, corn, peaches, pears, pork and beans, ravioli, and pasta sauce
- * Boxes of spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, saltine crackers, and cereal
- * Jars of peanut butter, jars of jelly (plastic, not glass, please)

Help make someone's Thanksgiving special...

Each basket costs \$45-50 to fill. If you would like to sponsor a basket, or half a basket, to honor someone, or remember someone who is no longer on their earthly journey, please fill out the form below, tear or cut it out and mail it to Grace. We will print your name and the name(s) of those you honor or remember in the December Grace Notes. Thank you for helping this special ministry. Your gift will be recorded on your giving statement.

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

Person(s) Name(s) to honor or remember: _____

Amount of gift: _____

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*In All Things,
Give Thanks*

I Thessalonians 5:18

God, sometimes life gets us down and we find it hard to see things to be thankful for. Open our eyes to see the gifts you've given us in our life. We should start by thanking you for loving us enough to come to earth and die so we can live together forever. Amen. - Wendy van Eyck, Contributor

PRAYERS OF GRACE MINISTRY

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." (Ephesians 6:18 (NLT))

There are a couple of ways to request prayers from the email Prayer Chain

PRAYER
changes things

1. Call the church office 522-3965.
2. Email Sara Oehlert soehlert@aol.com

If you want to join the email Prayer Chain just let Sara know and you will be added to the list.

\$10 cookbooks!...We're hopeful you will consider them for Christmas gifts for neighbors, beauticians, teachers, birthday gifts, thank you gifts, etc.



GIVING THANKS

- ♦ A big Thank You to all who helped with our mask project this year. As a result we were able to send 187 masks to the LWR Mask Project. Due to the generosity of our members at Grace we have some dollars left. Some this will be used for our LWR project for 2021. We will also be sending \$150 directly to LWR to help where they need to during these trying times. Thanks again, Pat Casper
- ♦ To Robin Mahnken for all her hard work putting together a CROP WALK event. And thanks to those who gave towards the walk.
- ♦ To those who took time to vote for the Pastor.
- ♦ To Doug McFarlan for is leadership and those who continue to volunteer in the Food Pantry each week.
- ♦ Randy Heidorn for his continuing guidance with our online video. presence and the great work he and J.B. do for our virtual worship.
- ♦ To Freddy Drake who is our constant helper.
- ♦ To Diana Weyhenmeyer for helping each week with drive through communion and for she and Mary Jo Anderson as they do screenings.

ALL WOMEN: Please note the following schedule of things happening in November:

TWISTED STITCHERS The Twisted Stitchers meet via ZOOM **November 3rd** at 7:00 pm.



THANK OFFERINGS- Mark 12:41-44 The Widow's Mite

For more than 100 years, Lutheran women have given thanks to God and dollars to mission through Thank offerings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thank offerings are collected and sent to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, in the month of November Women of Grace may send checks made out to Women Of The ELCA with a footnote of "Thank Offering". These checks should be sent to Helen Appleton our Welch treasurer her at Grace. Thank Offerings go entirely to support mission projects such as scholarships for pastors, construction of hospitals, assistance for women' shelters, and support for organizations that are combating human trafficking. Please call Mary Plymire, 217-303-6907 with any questions or concerns.

Butter Braids...

We will have Butter braids available for pickup Friday, November 20, 2:00-5:30 pm. The COVID-19 pickup arrangements will be as follows:
- Place the exact amount of your order in an envelope. Write your name and the amount in the envelope on it. (Make checks payable to WELCA)
- Drive up to the curb by the Food Pantry. DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR CAR. Someone will be on the sidewalk to get your order. When they give your order you may give them your envelope with your money in it. We will not have any money to make change.

Place your order with Charlotte at email Charblume@gmail.com or call her at 546-5573. The deadline for placing orders is Monday, November 16.

BUTTERBRAIDS \$12 Apple, Strawberry Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, Cherry, Raspberry, Cream Cheese

ROLLS \$12 Caramel, Cinnamon

COOKIE \$12 (40 pre-portioned frozen dough balls. They do not all have to be baked at the same time.) Triple Chocolate, White Chunk Macadamia Nut, Chocolate Chip, Peanut Butter, Snickerdoodle

PIZZAS \$12 (Two 11" pizzas of the same kind) Four Cheese, Ultimate Pepperoni, Meat Lover's, Meat With Vegetables, BBQ Chicken

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Voting has now closed on the motion from the Call committee and church Council to call Pastor Tom Krieger to be our Pastor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm Wednesday October 21. Here is the rundown for the voting on Pastor Tom Krieger to be Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church: #Yes 132 #No 4 Total number voted: 136 Approved - motion carries! Thank you all for again taking the time to vote on this important issue in our church. Thank you to Roberta Volkmann for helping count votes. Pastor Krieger has accepted the call.

The October Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 pm.

FINANCIAL/ATTENDANCE REPORT

September 2020

Income: \$29,770
Expense: \$27,028
SURPLUS: \$2,741

YTD 2020

Income: \$261,703
Expense: \$221,187
SURPLUS: \$40,566

September 2019

Income: \$24,233
Expense: \$47,866
DEFICIT (\$23,634)

YTD 2019

Income: \$246,740
Expense: \$270,210
DEFICIT: (\$23,470)

Attendance records Online and In Person

Day	You Tube	Facebook
Pentecost 14 Sept 5/6	44	34
Parking Lot Communion Sept 12	In-person 35	
Pentecost 15 Sept 12/13	59	45
Pentecost 16 Sept 20	In-person 36	
Parking Lot Communion Sept 26	In-person 61	
Pentecost 17 Sept 27	38	43
Pentecost 18 Oct 4	In-person 18	
Pentecost 19 Oct 11	48	27
Parking Lot Communion Oct 11	In-person 50	
In person Sanctuary Oct 18	49	STREAM 46

TIME AND TALENTS... At the end of November, Covenant Cards and Time and Talents sheets will be sent to the homes of all members. Please take time to prayerfully consider what your support of Historic Grace Lutheran Church will be in 2021. Remember, it takes all of us working together using our **TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURES** to make mission and ministry come alive in our congregation, moving out into our community, and around the world. Take a step of faith and possibly try something new.

November Birthdays

November 1	Isabella Behl	November 20	Miles Galloway
November 2	Hallie Christell Gloria Gagnon	November 21	Carol Morris Andrew Thannen Deb Wakefield
November 3	Norma Gordon Jeff Menke Amy Thompson	November 22	Lee Ann Carlson Jim Orr Gary Thompson
November 5	Chuck Weyhenmeyer	November 23	Drake Ervin
November 6	Gerald Orban	November 24	Mary Jo Anderson Lyn Kennedy
November 7	Elaine DiGiovanna	November 28	Ashleigh Butler Debbie Rigg
November 9	Ann Beckman	November 29	Todd Bandy Nick Loyd Kathy Sakris
November 10	Liam Darling Roberta Volkman		
November 12	Ron Clark		
November 13	Chelsie Best Susan Cane		
November 14	Todd Howe		
November 16	Richard Hutton		
November 18	Kim Janssen		



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
and GODS BLESSINGS TO YOU!!!



YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Parish Nurse...Diana Weyhenmeyer

Since everyone is coming back to church after being outside and on-line, I thought I would review some COVID guidelines and mask cleaning guidelines from the Center of Disease Control (CDC).

The virus is spread mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets when a person coughs or sneezes. That is why we need to be at least six feet apart.

Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds. According the CDC it's important to wash: before eating or preparing food, before touching your face, after using the restroom, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, after handling your mask, and after touching a pet.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily (such as counter tops, and kitchen tables).

Take your temperature if symptoms develop. CDC also recommended everyone get a flu shot. Flu vaccines have been shown to reduced the risk of flu illness, hospitalizations and death. Getting a flu shot can also save healthcare resources for the care of people who have COVID.

I thought I would review some mask cleaning guidelines that I found very interesting. Clean masks in hot water along with your regular laundry and use a hot dryer to dry them. The CDC recommended using the highest setting and leave in the dryer until completely dry. If you are hand washing them, bleach should be used to disinfect them and rub the mask together for at least 20 seconds. They should be soaked in the bleach solution for five minutes and rinsed thoroughly. Use a solution of 4 teaspoons of 5.25%-8.25% bleach per quart of room temperature water. The main thing is to keep your mask as clean as possible even if this means daily washing. I have masks everywhere in the house, car and my purse. You never know when you will need one. The main thing I want to convey is keeping people safe and healthy.

In Christ's Love, Diana



MEMBERS HOMEBOUND

DIXIE ALVIES
DOROTHY BAHRE
BETTY FOWLER

GLORIA GAGNON
DELORES KERN
HELEN MOORE

ELEANOR SAKRIS

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE COMMITTEES THEY REPRESENT

Administration/Finance	Tom Appleton, John Klint (VP), Susan LeMasters (Treasurer)
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

In Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 8:00 am—4:00 pm
Monday by remote

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

Grace Food Pantry current operating schedule is:
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 am-1:30 pm
Food Pantry Phone (217) 522-9707

IN PERSON WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:15 am

Call the office for reservations

Drive Through Communion— First weekend of the month
Our church is ACCESSIBLE for wheelchairs.

E-mail addresses

cmjbg@george@gmail.com—Cantor
k.gietl15@yahoo.com—Administrative Assistant

**GRACE EVANGELICAL
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Join us for worship online



gracelutheran-springfield.org

OUR STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kim Gietl

CANTOR

JB George

PARISH NURSE

Diana Weyhenmeyer

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Aaron Von Holten



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.