

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

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June & July 2019

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28–30; ESV)

Dear Friends in Christ:

It's hard to believe, but summer is almost here. After a long, cold winter and a wet, chilly spring, I think we are all ready to enjoy the warmer weather. The summers in Wisconsin are delightful with the long days and pleasant temperatures.

Summer is a time of rest and relaxation for many of us. I am looking forward to spending some time on vacation.

I am sure that many of you have summer vacation plans, too. Perhaps it's going up north to spend time in your cabin. Or, maybe you will be traveling to other parts of the country to visit children and grandchildren. Wherever you are traveling, or even if you are just staying home, I pray that God blesses you with a safe, restful, and relaxing summer.

Perhaps because Wisconsin summers are so nice, it can be easy to miss church and to spend less time in God's Word during this time of year. This is especially true if you are traveling. So, I want to encourage you to take steps not to neglect the spiritual rest that Jesus gives you through His Word and Sacraments. We need His forgiveness and grace every day of our lives.

Jesus blesses us as we read His Word, and with modern technology, we can read it wherever we are. A Bible is small enough to take with us on vacation. And for those of you who use smartphones or tablets, you can download the Bible right onto your device. I have a free Bible app on my phone called "ESV Bible." It's the same Bible version that we use at church. This app makes it very easy for me to read and listen to the Bible wherever I am. In addition, we have included a daily Bible lectionary in this issue of the newsletter with suggested readings for each day of the month. This will be a regular feature in our newsletters going forward.

Modern Internet technology also makes it easy to find churches in other parts of the country. On the website of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (www.lcms.org), there is a "Find a Church" locator link on the upper-right corner of the homepage. Just click this link and by entering the city and state or zip code of the place where you are going, you can quickly find a list of local LCMS churches. (The LCMS has a similar free mobile app for smartphones, too. And, if you don't have access to the Internet, I would be glad to help you find a church.) I enjoy visiting other LCMS congregations when I am away from Grace. It is great to worship with other brothers and sisters in Christ to receive Christ's gifts and to be reminded that we are members of an even larger communion of saints, the one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

I hope that you will have a wonderful and relaxing summer whatever your plans may be. And when you are in town, please be sure to worship at Grace. In addition to Sunday mornings at 9:00 am, we will also have worship on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm throughout the summer (except Thursday, July 4th) in case you will be away for a weekend. I look forward to seeing you often at Grace this summer, as together we receive spiritual rest and refreshment from Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Brian Crane

FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Temperatures are getting warmer. School is coming to an end. Vacations are about to begin.

There is much about the summer season that encourages us to relax and take a break from the burdens and responsibilities that weigh on us much of the year.

Do we sometimes feel that church falls into that list of burdens and responsibilities?

Do we have to get up and get all the kids ready for church? Do we have to spend all of our Sunday morning in church when there's so many other things we could be doing?

In a word...yes. But more importantly...why wouldn't you want to be in worship whenever the opportunity is presented?

Church is not an obligation; it is a foretaste of what awaits us in heaven. It is hearing the Word and receiving forgiveness of sins and Holy Communion with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Church is, in a way, the ultimate getaway, the ultimate stress reliever this summer.

Psalm 55:22 tells us, "Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never permit the righteous to be moved." The comfort God provides goes well beyond a day of relaxation.

This summer brings with it additional opportunities to be in worship here at Grace.

Thursday night services began in May and run through August 29th, minus a Thursday off on July 4th. Our Sunday service remains at **9:00 AM** with Bible Study following. Grace will also continue to offer Sunday School during the Bible Study hour this summer in an effort to better allow parents to attend adult Bible study and to continue the Christian education of our youngest members.

There is much to enjoy this summer, but let us not lose sight of what is our constant source of joy, hope, and salvation in the midst of that enjoyment.

Sincerely,
Matthew Olson

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Some disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. Many disciples were going to Jesus instead of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist answers: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. God provides everything we have in body and soul.

We are taught this in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in the *Small Catechism*.

In the First Article of the Creed, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe.

“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself by taking the form of a servant.

In so doing, He “has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, “a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.”

But how easy is this for us to forget? How easy is it for us to think that what we have in life is because we have earned it?

How easy is it for us to forget that all our skills – the abilities of our hands and minds, the ethic to work diligently, and the desire to improve – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said?

How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone, and the work of the Holy Spirit, that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and that none of this is our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God’s Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing.

But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven. These duties are not earned; they are given in response to what He has accomplished for us.

Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven.

Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE BOARD OF YOUTH

Grace Open House

You are invited to Grace's Open House on **Sunday, June 30th**, from **12:00 PM to 4:00 PM!** We are celebrating our 100th Anniversary this year and giving thanks to God for a century of blessings, including our newly completed elevator addition. We will be hosting a day of games, music, crafts, information about the church's activities and tours of our church. We will also have information about upcoming events such as Vacation Bible School, National Night Out, and our 100th Anniversary Church Service. We hope that you will be able to join us on **June 30th!** This is a great outreach opportunity to invite your friends and family to see Grace!

100th Anniversary Service and Luncheon

Grace is celebrating a century of blessings from God throughout this year. Our special 100th Anniversary Church Service will be held on **Sunday, October 13th**, at **9:00 AM**. South Wisconsin District President, the Rev. Dr. John Wille, will be preaching the sermon, and the service will feature special musical accompaniment.

Our 100th Anniversary Luncheon will follow at noon at Infusino's Banquet Hall, 3201 Rapids Drive, in Racine. The menu for the luncheon will be Fried Chicken, Sliced Beef, Meatballs & Sausage, Mostaccioli, Italian Potatoes, Corn, Tossed Salad, Coffee & Water. Soda will be available at the cash bar. Tickets for the luncheon are \$20.00 each and will be limited to the first 150 purchased. Tickets are for sale in the Office Equipment Room or by calling the church office at (262) 633-4831. We hope you can join us in our celebration of Grace's centennial year!

Vacation Bible School

This year's Vacation Bible School will take our students to SONRISE National Park where we will learn about God's love and care for his people. Vacation Bible School will be held **August 5th – 9th** from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** for children 3 years old to 5th Grade.

At SONRISE National Park, explorers will hear Bible stories, watch and participate in skits, do Bible challenges, make crafts, sing, have snacks, and play games in a fun national park-themed environment. Every child will also take home an explorer kit! Our learning and activities are based around Philippians 4:19, "My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Vacation Bible School is free and is open to any child interested in attending. Invite your family and friends! A registration form is included with this newsletter. Additional forms can be printed and mailed or brought to church. You can also register online at vbsmate.com/GraceLutheranRacine.

To make VBS run smoothly, we are in need of volunteers to help! We also rely on the generosity of the congregation to donate items for the week. There is a table set up near the coat room to sign up to volunteer and/or donate items. We hope you will consider how you can help with VBS.

Vacation Bible School is a fun and fulfilling week based in God's Word. We hope to see you along the trails of SONRISE National Park this August!

Summer Sunday School

We are excited to be offering Sunday School during the Bible Study hour this summer! This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to be able to stay in the Word throughout the summer. Summer Sunday School will be taught with all the children together in one group. The curriculum we will be using is "Even the Wind and Waves Obey Him." The lessons all have an element of nature in them, something God creates and uses for His good purposes. We will encounter clouds, fire, water, earthquakes, whirlwinds, and more. We will learn how our Almighty God uses those elements to show His people, and us, who He is and to bring about His plan of salvation for all humankind. The first Sunday of Summer Sunday School will be **Sunday, June 2nd**. Hope to see you there!

CONNECTION CORNER

To help all of us at Grace deepen our friendships with one another, the Board of Christian Care would like to briefly feature a different member family in each newsletter. For our first "Connection," we interview Wes and Becky Gardner, and encourage you to use these conversation starters to get to know them better.

Question: What brought you here to Grace Lutheran Church?

Gardners: Cross-centered and Christ-focused preaching and teaching. We are "Newtherans" = "new Lutherans," and deeply appreciate the emphasis on Law and Gospel, sin and grace, repentance and the forgiveness of sins.

Question: Do you have children or grandchildren?

Gardners: We have 3 sons – Derek (37), Devan (29), and Dallas (26). Our Dustin is buried in Indonesia (1987-1989). We have no daughters-in-law and no grandbabies, yet!

Question: Didn't you work overseas for a while?

Gardners: Yes, from 1982 through 2007, we lived in Indonesia and worked at Hillcrest International School for missionary children. We served with The Evangelical Alliance Mission and then Wycliffe Bible Translators and were dorm parents for many years, as well as teachers at the school.

Question: Didn't you also grow up overseas?

Gardners: Yes. Wes was born to Christian parents ministering as evangelists in the upcountry provinces of Thailand. Becky was raised in Indonesia by Christian parents working as linguists and translators in a remote jungle tribe.

Question: How did you two meet?

Gardners: We met and fell in love at Bible college in Minnesota.

Question: What do you do now?

Gardners: Work to pay the bills! Wes works for the Milwaukee County IT Department. Becky is a legal assistant in downtown Racine.

Question: When you're not working, how do you like to spend your time?

Gardners: We enjoy celebrating family events together with our sons and other relatives in the area. Wes keeps up with the Brewers, Bucks, Packers, and Badgers and grills as often as he can. Becky likes to garden, cook, and puzzle.



ELEVATOR FUND: As of Sunday, May 19th, we have raised **\$34,323.25** for the Elevator Fund. Thanks be to God! To make additional donations, you may use the specially marked white envelopes in the pew racks.

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES: For the summer months (Memorial Day through Labor Day, except July 4th), we will have a Thursday evening worship service at **6:30 PM** in addition to our regular Sunday morning **9:00 AM** service. The Thursday service will be the same as the following Sunday's service, with the exception of Ascension Day, May 30.

ENTERING THE BUILDING: The new elevator addition entrance and the Washington Avenue entrance now have call boxes. When visiting the church building during the week, please use the call box outside one of these doors to call the church office and gain entrance to the building.

2019 FLOWER CHART is available for sign up in the narthex. The cost is **\$27.00** for two bouquets. Please make your checks payable to "Grace Lutheran Church" and place in the secretary's box in the Communication Center. To reserve a Sunday, please sign your name and the occasion. Thank you!



NEWSLETTER DELIVERY: We have discontinued our bulk mailing of the newsletters. We can still mail newsletters via regular postage. However, if you would prefer picking up your newsletter at church, having it emailed to you, or reading it online, please let the church office know. Newsletters that haven't been picked up from members' mail slots will be mailed to them. Thank you for your assistance as we attempt to save on mailing and printing costs.

COMMUNION WINE OPTION: For those with alcohol sensitivities, wine greatly diluted with water is available in purple-tinted cups in the center of each Communion tray. This change will assist with Communion preparation and distribution.

GRACE EMBROIDERED T-SHIRTS are now half-price – \$15 each! We have one medium, one large, and five extra-larges available. See Ruth Anger.

GREETERS: If you can serve as a greeter, please sign up in the Office Equipment Room.

100TH ANNIVERSARY QUILT: We are planning a friendship quilt for the 100th anniversary. There will be blocks in the Office Equipment Room for each family to sign. Please come and sign a square. There will also be practice material there.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS: Across from the Office Equipment Room, we have set up a box for comments. Thank you for taking the time to put your comments in writing. We request that all comments be placed in a sealed envelope using a label for the Board to which you would like your comments directed. If you are not sure which Board or Committee is most responsible, or if more than one Board might be involved in your suggestion, please choose a "Secretary" label. If you have comments on SEVERAL topics, please submit each on a SEPARATE page (again, in a separate envelope for each involved Board or Committee, etc.).

KWIK TRIP & SPEEDWAY GAS CARDS are for sale in the Office Equipment Room. Grace gets 5-10% back on all cards sold. Many thanks!

SERVANTS OF CHRIST CONFERENCE: Registration is now open for the **July 28 & 29** conference at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon. This conference is for youth in grades 9–12. The cost is \$25.00 per person. For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Ron Mudge at (262) 243-4301 or visit www.cuw.edu/ServantsofChristConference.

RLHS GOLF OUTING 2019: Please join us on **Monday, August 5th**, at Meadowbrook Country Club, for our 31st annual golf outing to benefit the RLHS athletic program. All are welcome – alumni, parents, and community members. To participate, visit RacineLutheran.org and click on "Golf Outing" under the "Support Us" tab.

Daily Lectionary Readings June – July 2019

Saturday, June 1:	Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33 Luke 18:1-17	Monday, July 1:	Joshua 6:6-27 Acts 10:18-33
Sunday, June 2:	Numbers 14:1-25 Luke 18:18-34	Tuesday, July 2:	Joshua 7:1-26 Acts 10:34-48
Monday, June 3:	Numbers 14:26-45 Luke 18:35-19:10	Wednesday, July 3:	Joshua 8:1-28 Acts 11:1-18
Tuesday, June 4:	Numbers 16:1-22 Luke 19:11-28	Thursday, July 4:	Joshua 10:1-25 Acts 11:19-30
Wednesday, June 5:	Numbers 16:23-40 Luke 19:29-48	Friday, July 5:	Joshua 23:1-16 Acts 12:1-25
Thursday, June 6:	Numbers 16:41-17:13 Luke 20:1-18	Saturday, July 6:	Joshua 24:1-31 Acts 13:1-12
Friday, June 7:	Numbers 20:1-21 Luke 20:19-44	Sunday, July 7:	Judges 2:6-23 Acts 13:13-41
Saturday, June 8:	Numbers 20:22-21:9 Luke 20:45-21:19	Monday, July 8:	Judges 3:7-31 Acts 13:42-52
Sunday, June 9:	Numbers 21:10-35 Luke 21:20-38	Tuesday, July 9:	Judges 4:1-24 Acts 14:1-18
Monday, June 10:	Numbers 22:1-20 Luke 22:1-23	Wednesday, July 10:	Judges 6:1-24 Acts 14:19-15:5
Tuesday, June 11:	Numbers 22:21-23:3 Luke 22:24-46	Thursday, July 11:	Judges 6:25-40 Acts 15:6-21
Wednesday, June 12:	Numbers 23:4-28 Luke 22:47-71	Friday, July 12:	Judges 7:1-23 Galatians 1:1-24
Thursday, June 13:	Numbers 24:1-25 Luke 23:1-25	Saturday, July 13:	Judges 13:1-25 Galatians 2:1-21
Friday, June 14:	Numbers 27:12-23 Luke 23:26-56	Sunday, July 14:	Judges 14:1-20 Galatians 3:1-22
Saturday, June 15:	Numbers 32:1-6, 16-27 Luke 24:1-27	Monday, July 15:	Judges 15:1-16:3 Galatians 3:23-4:11
Sunday, June 16:	Numbers 35:9-30 Luke 24:28-53	Tuesday, July 16:	Judges 16:4-30 Galatians 4:12-31
Monday, June 17:	Proverbs 17:1-28 John 16:17-33	Wednesday, July 17:	1 Samuel 1:1-20 Galatians 5:1-26
Tuesday, June 18:	Proverbs 20:5-25 John 17:1-26	Thursday, July 18:	1 Samuel 1:21-2:18 Galatians 6:1-18
Wednesday, June 19:	Proverbs 22:1-21 John 18:1-14	Friday, July 19:	1 Samuel 2:18-36 Acts 15:22-41
Thursday, June 20:	Proverbs 22:22-23:12 John 18:15-40	Saturday, July 20:	1 Samuel 3:1-21 Acts 16:1-22
Friday, June 21:	Proverbs 24:1-22 John 19:1-22	Sunday, July 21:	1 Samuel 4:1-22 Acts 16:23-40
Saturday, June 22:	Proverbs 25:1-22 John 19:23-42	Monday, July 22:	1 Samuel 5:1-6:3, 10-16 Acts 18:1-11, 23-28
Sunday, June 23:	Proverbs 27:1-24 John 20:1-18	Tuesday, July 23:	1 Samuel 6:19-7:17 Acts 19:1-22
Monday, June 24:	Proverbs 30:1-9, 18-33 John 20:19-31	Wednesday, July 24:	1 Samuel 8:1-22 Acts 21:15-36
Tuesday, June 25:	Proverbs 31:10-31 John 21:1-25	Thursday, July 25:	1 Samuel 9:1-27 Acts 21:37-22:16
Wednesday, June 26:	Joshua 1:1-18 Acts 8:1-25	Friday, July 26:	1 Samuel 10:1-27 Acts 22:17-29
Thursday, June 27:	Joshua 2:1-24 Acts 8:26-40	Saturday, July 27:	1 Samuel 12:1-25 Acts 22:30-23:11
Friday, June 28:	Joshua 3:1-17 Acts 9:1-22	Sunday, July 28:	1 Samuel 13:1-18 Acts 23:12-35
Saturday, June 29:	Joshua 4:1-24 Acts 9:23-43	Monday, July 29:	1 Samuel 14:47-15:9 Acts 24:1-23
Sunday, June 30:	Joshua 5:1-6:5 Acts 10:1-17	Tuesday, July 30:	1 Samuel 15:10-35 Acts 24:24-25:12
		Wednesday, July 31:	1 Samuel 16:1-23 Acts 25:13-27



Grace Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School August 5st - August 9th, 2019

Please fill out one form per child.

We welcome all children ages 3 years to 5th grade.

Additional forms available at www.gracelutheranracine.net

You can also register online at vbsmate.com/GraceLutheranRacine

Child's Name: _____ Male Female

Age: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade Completed: _____

Street Address: _____

Parent's/Legal Guardian's Names: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

In case of emergency (if parent cannot be reached), contact:

Name	Phone #	Relation

Please list the individuals (including yourself) who are authorized to pick up your child from VBS: _____

Does your child have any allergies, medical conditions or special needs we should be aware of? (please list) _____

Place my child in the same group as (child's name): _____

Siblings attending VBS (names and ages): _____

Home Church: _____

Photo Release:

- I grant permission to take photographs/videos of my child while attending VBS.
- I do not grant permission to take photographs/videos of my child while attending VBS.

I give permission for my child to attend Vacation Bible School. I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my child in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me.

Parent Signature

Date

Please return form to: Grace Lutheran Church, 3700 Washington Avenue, Racine 53405