

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

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June & July 2021

**“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”
(1 John 4:10–11; ESV)**

Dear Friends in Christ:

In many ways, I feel like this should be a time of rejoicing for me. Spring is here. The cold and darkness of winter has given way to the warmth and long days of the approaching summer months. On top of that, after more than a year of COVID-19, it appears that the pandemic is finally receding. Life is returning to normal. Therefore, I have many reasons to be happy and joyful. But, right now, I sometimes struggle feeling that way.

I give thanks to God for the many blessings that He so richly supplies me, including good health and nice weather. However, at the same time, I must admit that I am a bit tired and worn out. The difficulties of the past year, especially in regard to the anonymous emails and the direct assaults of Satan, have taken their toll on me. I know they have taken a toll on you, too. It is easy to feel discouraged when the church and the people you love and care about are under attack.

But while I am tired, I will not give up or leave this place I call home. I remain excited for our future. I will continue to do my best to lead our congregation faithfully and properly. When I make mistakes, I will seek your forgiveness. Grace is a wonderful congregation, and I give thanks to God for allowing me to serve here as your pastor. I treasure your prayers and support for my family and me.

As your pastor and in my own life as a Christian, I trust in God’s promise that “for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28; ESV). I know that God will bring good out of these present difficulties. He brought good—the greatest good, our salvation—through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ. God will bring good out of the evil that has assaulted our beloved congregation, too.

Hate is a powerful and destructive force. We see hate on full display in these anonymous emails. But hate is not more powerful than love. Love comes from God. God is love, and He pours His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. In love, He sent His Son to be our Savior. Through the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to us to create and sustain saving faith in Jesus in us and to give us His salvation. As the Holy Spirit dwells within us and fills us with God’s love, we are then able to love Him and one another.

My hope and prayer is that God will use these present difficulties to help us become a congregation that is characterized, even more so than it is already, by love—love for God, love for God’s Word, and love for each other and for our community. To use a term from the game of bridge, love trumps hate. Satan will not win. He has been defeated by Jesus. By Christ’s love, grace, and strength, we will get through this dark period and become stronger for it. And for that, I rejoice!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Brian Crane

FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS

I haven't been sure what to write in this space for the last few weeks. I've been doing a lot of waiting. But sometimes when you're waiting for one thing, you get surprised by something you didn't expect.

Most weeks our Sunday School class consists of our two dedicated students, our faithful youth teacher, and some combination of my wife and me. By numbers, we have a small Sunday School program. By energy and enthusiasm, we feel like a very active Sunday School program.

This most recent Sunday we were blessed to have the sister of one of our regular Sunday School students and each of them also brought a cousin (or "cousin friend" in the parlance of our Sunday School students). The class was full of excitement, unsurprisingly, but they displayed lessons we all need to be reminded of as well.

When one student accidentally bumped into another, the student apologized sincerely, and the other student forgave them. For one activity the class split into teams to find parts of a Bible verse. It wasn't a competition for the children, but instead an opportunity to work together and help each other out. And when Pastor Crane did devotion, one of our guests said, "Your Pastor actually likes kids?"

Jesus says in Matthew 18:3: "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven." And in the actions of these children, we see behavior we as adults have been struggling to model.

When you cause hurt or offense to a brother or sister in Christ, apologize and ask for forgiveness and you will be forgiven. Work together to build each other up and achieve our goals. And be thankful for the shepherd that God has chosen to give to our congregation and the faithful service he provides.

It might sound simple, and for these children it was, but for all of us adults it can still be a challenge.

We can feel indignant about having to face the consequences of our sins. We can struggle with truly being able to forgive someone for the hurt they've caused us. We can take pride in being better off than others or be resentful of the successes others have. And we can take for granted the blessing of a faithful, kind, dedicated, and caring servant of the Lord in our pastor.

The kids make it look easy. Let's all work together to do the same.

God's blessings,
Matthew Olson

FROM THE BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

The Board of Parish Fellowship will meet on **June 2nd at 11:30 AM** in the Fellowship Hall.

Game Day will be held **June 2nd at 1:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

Ladies of Grace Luncheon is **June 4th at 12:00 PM** at Los Mariachis (5821 Washington Ave.).

Altar Flowers donated by the Memorial Committee continue to be delivered. If you would like to share this blessing with someone, please contact Barb Galis. We would also like to thank everyone who has donated vases in support of this ministry.

Sunday morning Coffee Fellowship will continue through the summer. Stay in touch with friends and family and enjoy a treat or two following worship.

If you have any questions or exciting ideas, be sure to contact us.

Barb Galis, Jane Kunstman, Ellen Ross

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common.” (Acts 2:44–47)

FROM THE BOARD OF YOUTH

Kids...Plunge in to VBS 2021!

At *Splash Canyon* VBS, you'll learn God keeps His promises on life's wild ride! We will look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where our faithful God keeps His promises to be with us and gives us life and hope through Jesus, our Savior.

Registration is open for all children three years old through sixth grade. Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and more. Most importantly, we will learn that all God's promises are Yes in Jesus!

To register, fill out the registration form included in this newsletter or sign up online at vbsmate.com/GraceLutheranRacine. Additional invitations can also be found on the VBS table near the coat room. Please invite other friends and family members that might be interested!

Youth and adult volunteers are also needed to help us navigate the waters at Splash Canyon! There are signup sheets on the VBS table for anyone interested in assisting with crafts, snacks, games, and many other options.

There also are lists of various supplies we will need for Vacation Bible School on the table. Please take a look at those sheets and see if there is anything you can help provide. We appreciate all the donations of time, supplies, and help that we receive. And any prayers for a great week of learning about God are also greatly appreciated!

We can't wait to see you this summer at Splash Canyon!!

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.” Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let's explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism,

Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. And so, He doesn't just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that "it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:24) "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

ELEVATOR: As of April 30th, the balance on our elevator loans stands at **\$333,820.41**. Thank you for your support and generosity!

LAP ROBES: Do you know a person who is house-bound or in a nursing home who would appreciate a lap robe made by the women of Grace? Lap robes are found on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

KWIK TRIP & SPEEDWAY GAS CARDS are for sale before and after the service on Sunday in the Office Equipment Room. Grace gets a percentage back on all cards sold. Cards are currently available in \$50 and \$100 amounts.

WORSHIP SERVICES: Our worship services can be viewed on Grace's Facebook page and on our YouTube channel, "Grace Lutheran Church, Racine, WI – LCMS." Worship bulletins and announcements can be found on our website (gracelutheranracine.net) under the Worship tab.

FOOD PANTRY: THANK YOU for your generous donations to our Food Pantry. If you are in need, take some food home from the Pantry, which is up a couple of steps from the elevator on the first floor. Bags are usually available. We are blessed with a good supply of unexpired goods in the pantry this month.

RIGHT TO LIFE DONATION: This year, the Board of Christian Care made a donation to Kenosha Right-to-Life rather than hosting a Rose Sale for Mother's Day.

CALLING ALL HELPERS! Grace will be holding an outdoor cleanup day on **Saturday, June 12th, from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**. We will be spreading new mulch and tidying up the exterior of our building. Everyone is welcome to come; we will have jobs big and small for all levels of physical labor! Many hands make light work, so please join us in helping make our church a positive light in the midst of the darkness!

CONNECTION CORNER



Charlotte Roshar turns 100 years of age; what a fantastic time to learn some more about her!

As a child, Charlotte had God-fearing parents who always loved her and her sister with all their hearts and instilled in them to love our Savior. Charlotte attended St. John's Lutheran School in Racine for eight grades. She was also baptized, confirmed, and married at St. John's, and two of her three children were baptized at St. John's. One child was baptized at Grace.

In 1950, Charlotte and her husband purchased a house in West Racine, and Grace was nearby, so they became members here. During a difficult time at Grace, church discipline dictated that the process to excommunicate a Grace member be initiated, and Grace lost a lot of members because of that. Charlotte was uncomfortable with this and transferred her membership to Lutheran Chapel of the Cross in Mount Pleasant until 2019 when she returned to Grace.

Three children brought blessings to Charlotte's life. One son died of pancreatic cancer three years ago. This son was a successful attorney in Milwaukee. Her daughter in Appleton was a high school teacher, and her other daughter in Minneapolis is a retired veterinarian.

There are several ways that Charlotte has helped her church congregations over the years. She taught Sunday School. She was Altar Chairman for over ten years, scheduling Altar Guild assistants, washing the pastor's and acolyte robes, etc. And, when Gerry Kanetzke was Treasurer, Charlotte did the bookkeeping, wrote checks, and did monthly financial statements for the church.

The sanctuary is beautiful, tells Charlotte, and she finds Grace to be a very friendly congregation.

Charlotte enjoys knitting, sewing, and playing bridge. She is grateful for her seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Daily Lectionary Readings June – July 2021

Tuesday, June 1:	Ecclesiastes 9:1-17 John 9:24-41	Thursday, July 1:	Joshua 6:6-27 Acts 10:18-33
Wednesday, June 2:	Ecclesiastes 10:1-20 John 10:1-21	Friday, July 2:	Joshua 7:1-26 Acts 10:34-48
Thursday, June 3:	Ecclesiastes 11:1-10 John 10:22-42	Saturday, July 3:	Joshua 8:1-28 Acts 11:1-18
Friday, June 4:	Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 John 11:1-16	Sunday, July 4:	Joshua 10:1-25 Acts 11:19-30
Saturday, June 5:	Proverbs 1:8-33 John 11:17-37	Monday, July 5:	Joshua 23:1-16 Acts 12:1-25
Sunday, June 6:	Proverbs 3:5-24 John 11:38-57	Tuesday, July 6:	Joshua 24:1-31 Acts 13:1-12
Monday, June 7:	Proverbs 4:1-27 John 12:1-19	Wednesday, July 7:	Judges 2:6-23 Acts 13:13-41
Tuesday, June 8:	Proverbs 5:1-23 John 12:20-36a	Thursday, July 8:	Judges 3:7-31 Acts 13:42-52
Wednesday, June 9:	Proverbs 8:1-21 John 12:36b-50	Friday, July 9:	Judges 4:1-24 Acts 14:1-18
Thursday, June 10:	Proverbs 8:22-36 John 13:1-20	Saturday, July 10:	Judges 6:1-24 Acts 14:19-15:5
Friday, June 11:	Proverbs 9:1-18 John 13:21-38	Sunday, July 11:	Judges 6:25-40 Acts 15:6-21
Saturday, June 12:	Proverbs 10:1-23 John 14:1-17	Monday, July 12:	Judges 7:1-23 Galatians 1:1-24
Sunday, June 13:	Proverbs 13:1-25 John 14:18-31	Tuesday, July 13:	Judges 13:1-25 Galatians 2:1-21
Monday, June 14:	Proverbs 14:1-27 John 15:1-11	Wednesday, July 14:	Judges 14:1-20 Galatians 3:1-22
Tuesday, June 15:	Proverbs 15:1-29 John 15:12-27	Thursday, July 15:	Judges 15:1-16:3 Galatians 3:23-4:11
Wednesday, June 16:	Proverbs 16:1-24 John 16:1-16	Friday, July 16:	Judges 16:4-30 Galatians 4:12-31
Thursday, June 17:	Proverbs 17:1-28 John 16:17-33	Saturday, July 17:	1 Samuel 1:1-20 Galatians 5:1-26
Friday, June 18:	Proverbs 20:5-25 John 17:1-26	Sunday, July 18:	1 Samuel 1:21-2:17 Galatians 6:1-18
Saturday, June 19:	Proverbs 22:1-21 John 18:1-14	Monday, July 19:	1 Samuel 2:18-36 Acts 15:22-41
Sunday, June 20:	Proverbs 22:22-23:12 John 18:15-40	Tuesday, July 20:	1 Samuel 3:1-21 Acts 16:1-22
Monday, June 21:	Proverbs 24:1-22 John 19:1-22	Wednesday, July 21:	1 Samuel 4:1-22 Acts 16:23-40
Tuesday, June 22:	Proverbs 25:1-22 John 19:23-42	Thursday, July 22:	1 Samuel 5:1-6:3, 10-16 Acts 18:1-11, 23-28
Wednesday, June 23:	Proverbs 27:1-24 John 20:1-18	Friday, July 23:	1 Samuel 6:19-7:17 Acts 19:1-22
Thursday, June 24:	Proverbs 30:1-9, 18-33 John 20:19-31	Saturday, July 24:	1 Samuel 8:1-22 Acts 21:15-36
Friday, June 25:	Proverbs 31:10-31 John 21:1-25	Sunday, July 25:	1 Samuel 9:1-27 Acts 21:37-22:16
Saturday, June 26:	Joshua 1:1-18 Acts 8:1-25	Monday, July 26:	1 Samuel 10:1-27 Acts 22:17-29
Sunday, June 27:	Joshua 2:1-24 Acts 8:26-40	Tuesday, July 27:	1 Samuel 12:1-25 Acts 22:30-23:11
Monday, June 28:	Joshua 3:1-17 Acts 9:1-22	Wednesday, July 28:	1 Samuel 13:1-18 Acts 23:12-35
Tuesday, June 29:	Joshua 4:1-24 Acts 9:23-43	Thursday, July 29:	1 Samuel 14:47-15:9 Acts 24:1-23
Wednesday, June 30:	Joshua 5:1-6:5 Acts 10:1-17	Friday, July 30:	1 Samuel 15:10-35 Acts 24:24-25:12
		Saturday, July 31:	1 Samuel 16:1-23 Acts 25:13-27