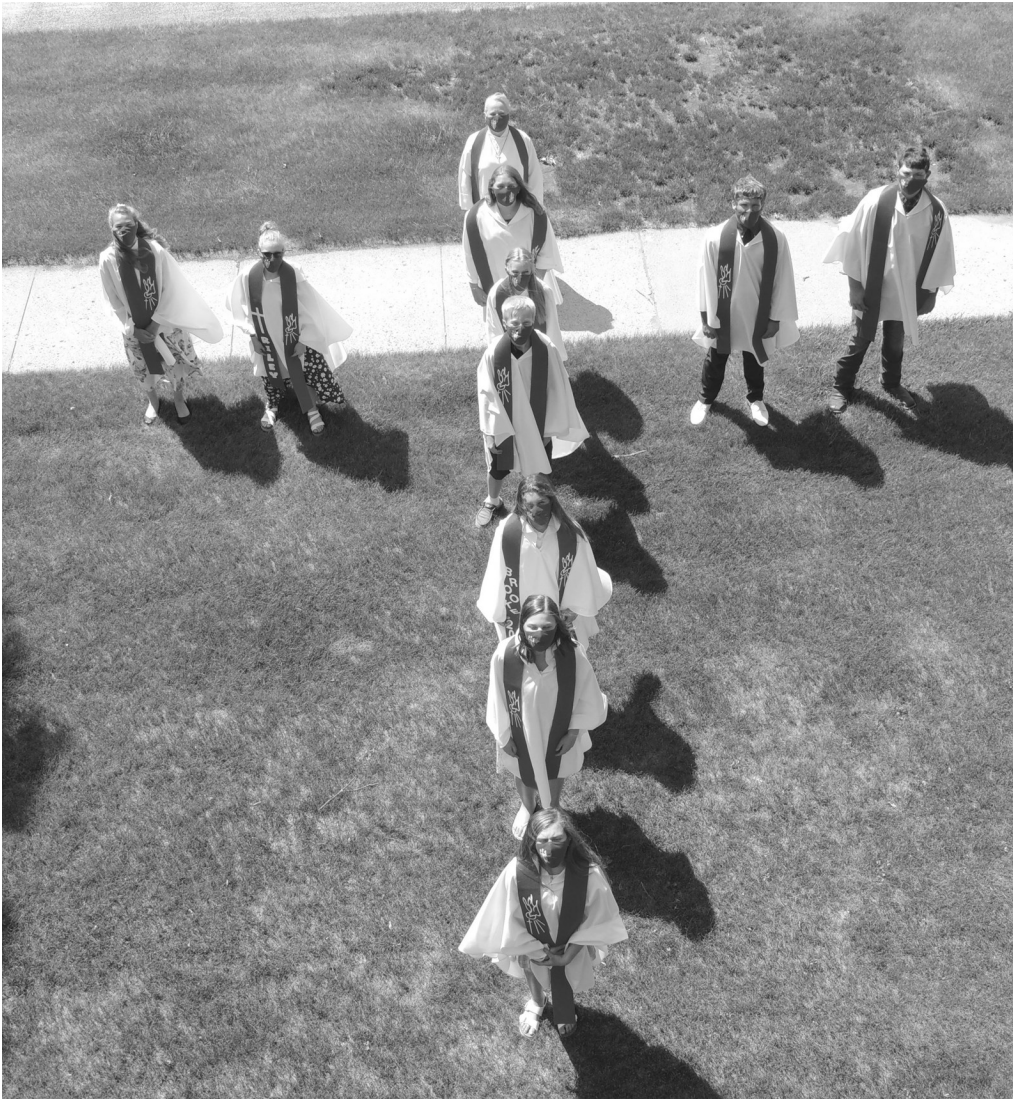




GRACE GLEANINGS

July, 2020

Grace Lutheran Newsletter
202 2nd St SE ~ Watertown, SD 57201
Phone: (605) 886-5737 ~ E-mail: gracelc@midconetwork.com
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m Monday—Thursday
Website: www.glcwtn.org



Confirmation held

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, 2020 confirmation was completed online by ZOOM. The weekly meetings continued into June to complete the requirements through some challenging times. Ten eighth graders completed the requirements and the Affirmation of Baptism was held on Sunday, June 28th with a special service in the parking lot of Grace Lutheran Church.

Each of the students read their Statement of Faith and their families and sponsors were invited up to lay hands on the youngsters for the individual blessing.

Pictures were taken from the roof with all of the students wearing their souvenir face mask to represent this COVID 19 Affirmation of Baptism celebration.

See a group picture on page 5.

We Thank God for Our Volunteers ~ For Watering the new trees



A big thank you to Will Morlock for volunteering to oversee and order trees for the boulevard along the parking lot of Grace Lutheran. He continues to help the Grace Lutheran family by watering them, which during the hot dry weather we've been having takes some time.

Thank you Will for your care and stewardship.

There are so many who volunteer around Grace Lutheran, we invite you to send a picture of those you see sharing their talents and skills so we can mention them in the Gleanings. We give thanks to God for your generosity and all that you do at Grace.

Pictured at right is Grace Lutheran council president, James Goble visiting with Will, pictured on the left.



Grace Lutheran Church
202 2nd St SE
Watertown, SD 57201

June 30, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
(With thoughts from Jeremiah 29: 1-14)

As I write this month's note, we are approaching Independence Day and the celebration of America's 244th birthday. In just those few years, there is so much history to celebrate. So many events good and bad our country has endured. So much to be proud of and ashamed of. History is like that for all countries.

I think birthdays are a day to stop and look back at accomplishments and blessings through the years. It is also a day to look forward. But for many, that is a scary thing to do with the COVID 19 pandemic, the protest and racial tensions, economic set-backs and possible reclosing of businesses, escalating numbers of coronavirus, farm crisis, and uncertainty about opening schools and churches, to name just a few concerns today.

It can be a time of great fear and anxiety.

But during these difficult times, God tells you, *"¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."* (Jer 29:11)

Jeremiah knew a little bit about fear and anxiety living through difficult circumstances while trapped in Jerusalem as it was being destroyed by the Babylonians. There were false prophets saying God would send a miracle to save them and those who failed to realize the judgment of God was upon them.

Jeremiah was offering them hope telling them to make the most of life during this time of exile. To pray for peace for the nation because when those who oppose you are at peace and prosper, you also will have peace and prosper.

He also warned against listening to the wrong voices telling them to stick it out for the long-haul looking to the long-term goal of reward for the faithful, rather than immediate gratification, which Paul emphasised in 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18: *"¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."*

Jeremiah's message was to live in hope because God has a plan for you. Unfortunately, we don't know that plan. Or maybe it is fortunate we do not, because if we did, if we knew when the tragedy would strike us or our family, we might not be able to endure it. The hope we live in is in God's words which say, "... plans for your welfare and not for harm..."

We often do not understand how plans for our welfare can mean enduring hardship or struggle or even that we may suffer great loss. God gives us free will to make choices. When we make the wrong choices or the evil of this world throws us down into a pit, those difficult times of sadness and pain can use it for good to bring us closer to Him so our reward is heavenly and not eternal damnation. Because in times like this Jeremiah says:

"¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile." (Jer 29:12-14)

God does not want you to suffer through this time of trial alone but wants you to turn to Him, seek Him out, hear His word, know the grace and love He has for you, and the promise of forgiveness and eternal life.

Even in this time of suspended worship, you are invited to receive Christ into your life as your Savior, to know His love for you to make you righteous through His actions on the cross, and to live in the promise of resurrection because God rose Christ from the dead, you too shall rise in a resurrection like His.

Christ will never abandon you. Christ loves you, died for you and waits for you to come to Him and accept the beautiful name He calls you... Child of God... Brothers and Sister in Christ... Heirs to the Kingdom.

If you are struggling, if you are in need of words of hope, the church is open to you for prayer, to meet with the pastor, to just sit and talk about your questions, your doubts and your concerns.

Don't hesitate to reach out to your church family, or to me, for we are the church together.

Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You! ~ Pastor Cheryl

Minutes of the June 11, 2020 Grace Lutheran Council meeting

The Grace Lutheran Church Council meeting was held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with James Goble presiding. Also, present were Mark Briley Rick Brownell, LeRoy Bullis, Dylan Jordan, Rhonda Lorenz, Harley Petersen, Gary Rukstad, Tod Sprouse, Gena Urevig, Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett and Cindy Vander Leest. Absent was Denise Biller, Paul Henrichs, Geri Mohror, Roger Rust and Sherry Starr.

Pastor Cheryl led the Council in devotions and prayer before the meeting began.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Rick Brownell and second by Gary Rukstad. Motion carried. A motion to approve the minutes for the May 28, 2020 meeting was made by Rhonda Lorenz and second by Tod Sprouse. Motion carried.

ITEMS:

Financial Report: Cindy Vander Leest reported the monthly income to the general fund was \$36,416 the weekly average giving was \$5,753 and the weekly worship attendance was 324 (includes drive-in service, views on Facebook and Youtube). A motion to accept the financial report and pay the bills was made by Rick Brownell and second by Tod Sprouse. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett May activities included:

5 worship services, lead the Blessing of the Motorcycles, lead a wedding at the Country Road Barn, wrote a Public Opinion article, wrote the Gleanings, Zoomed 4 Bible Studies, Zoomed 4 Confirmation student classes, attended 2 Council meetings, attended and lead Pastoral Zoom sessions, attended online 2020 Festival of Homiletics, made 4 weekly bulletins and recorded 30 daily readings w/Martin Luther to upload on Facebook. Pastor Cheryl introduced, Nancy McClanahan to the Council members. Pastor Cheryl will be helping Nancy with CPE requirements to become a Pastor. Nancy will be leading Sunday, June 21, 2020 service while Pastor visits her sons in Minnesota.

Old Business:

Plans and Procedures for reopening Grace - It was decided we would continue the 8:30 drive-in worship services in the parking lot for the month of June. The recommendation was not to open due to the increase in COVID-19 cases. The Council will meet again, June 25th to review opening date and procedures.

Summer worship services— Pastor Cheryl reported she has been working with the Confirmation parents and students to have an outside Confirmation Sunday evening service on June 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. with pictures starting at 3:30. She is still working on a SR recognition Sunday and is still thinking about a summer Wed. night service.

New Business:

- 1. Motorcycle Safety Classes**- Rick Brownell reported the classroom where the Motorcycle Safety Classes were being held is closed and would like the Council to consider letting them resume classes at Grace. The classes have a limit of 10 attending and that includes the instructor. A motion to let the Motorcycle Safety Classes be held at Grace was made by Dylan Jordan and second by Rhonda Lorenz. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rick Brownell and second by LeRoy Bullis. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Vander Leest

Memorials and Gifts

TO RADIO FUND

In memory of Doris Berg
from Phyllis Jongeling; From Sylvia Larson in
memory of Jeanette Swanson and LouAnn
Caulfield.

TO GLC PRESCHOOL

From Fran Schaefer, in memory of Judy
Schmit, Bill Conlon, Doris Berg, and Jerry
Meland.

TO OUTSIDE FLAG

From Art and Marcia Jelsma in memory of De-
los Stolp; From James and Sharon Goble
memory of Delos Stolp;

TO GENERAL

From Ethel Hansen in memory of BJ
Schnackenberg; From Cleo Belk in memory of
Ede Magadang;

TO FLOWER FUND

From Sylvia Larson in memory of Jeanette
Swanson and LouAnn Caulfield

Minutes of the June 25, 2020 Grace Lutheran Council meeting

The Grace Lutheran Church Council meeting was held on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with James Goble presiding. Also, present were Mark Briley, Rick Brownell, LeRoy Bullis, Paul Henrichs, Dylan Jordan, Geri Mohror, Gary Rukstad, Roger Rust, Tod Sprouse, Sherry Starr Gena Urevig, Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett and Cindy Vander Leest. Absent was Denise Biller, Rhonda Lorenz and Harley Petersen.

Pastor Cheryl led the Council in devotions and prayer before the meeting began.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Rick Brownell and second by Paul Henrichs. Motion carried. A motion to approve the minutes for the June 11, 2020 meeting was made by Sherry Starr and second by Geri Mohror. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Review of CDC Guideline, State Guidelines & Bishop Guidelines - Pastor Cheryl shared that there wasn't really any new updates on anyone's guidelines. The Council discussed Codington County's and surrounding area positive and recovered COVID cases. A council member shared his friend, also a Grace member tested positive for COVID-19. His friend has recovered and backed to work.

Review of suggested guidelines for Grace Lutheran - Communion - A motion to approve the guidelines for Holy Communion as stated on Grace Lutheran Church's Response to COVID 19 was made by Paul Henrichs and second by Rick Brownell. Motion carried. The Gleanings will have the suggested and approved by Council steps attendees are to take to be safe when we gather back in the church.

Attentive date to open - President, James Goble asked each Council member to share their thoughts of when the church should reopen. Majority would like to be cautious and hold off, one would have liked to open last week and one would like to wait for fall. The Council will meet again, July 9, 2020 to review opening date.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Geri Mohror and second by LeRoy Bullis. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Vander Leest



Pro-Tec Roofing roofers were finishing up replacing the steel roof of the sanctuary over the past couple of weeks. The project is the result of hail damage in 2018. Inside sanctuary lighting is scheduled to be completed in July.

Baptized into Christ at Grace Lutheran

The sacrament of Holy Baptism was held for Breckan Rae Ann Merkel, daughter of Lucas and Taylor Merkel on Friday, June 26 in the Chapel. Her sponsors were: Brook Anderson, Tegan Ronke, Taryn Ronke, and Troy Randall. Keep Breckan, her parents and sponsors in your prayers.



Ten students made their Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, June 28, 2020. Due to COVID 19 the service was held in the parking lot of Grace Lutheran Church using the recently purchased FM Transmitter. Parents and sponsors sat in groups on lawn chairs keeping social distances while others listened on the radio in their cars .

Pictured left to right back row: Harley Jordan, Aspen Brown, Aiden Evjen, Brett Bunde, Robert Begalka, and Kaden Mohr. Front Row left to right Pastor Cheryl, Erika Andrews, Brooke Henrichs, Riley Sprouse, and Kaitlynn Payne.

Coming in August— Senior Recognition is being planned with a sending. Watch your text/email for more information and a senior form to complete and return to Pastor Cheryl.

CPE Student at Grace Lutheran

This summer Nancy McClanahan, Sioux Falls Seminary/Luther House of Study student is working through Grace Lutheran Church as her placement site for Clinical Pastoral Education.

This placement involves reaching out to and walking alongside members on how COVID-19 is impacting their lives, those who have lost a family member or friend and other concerns that arise. Nancy visits members in person while physical distancing, by phone, or via zoom.

Nancy attends group education and didactics online via zoom. Hospital and long-term care chaplains, parish chaplains, and other seminarians are part of her group.

CPE is a requirement of the Master of Divinity education and also for Minister of Word and Sacrament candidacy. While at Grace you will see Nancy attending some of the church services, events and activities. Please contact Pastor Cheryl if you would like to visit with Nancy.



Blessing of the Motor Cycles at Grace Lutheran

Approximately 25 motor cycles made their way to Grace Lutheran parking lot on Sunday, May 31 for the annual Blessing of the Motor Cycles. Following the blessing, a ride was taken around Kampeska Lake. Due to COVID 19, no meal was served this year. Look for us again next year and ride safe!

Income	Budget	YTD		Debts:	Original amt	Balance
Offerings		\$ 111,507.51		Term Debt	\$0	\$0.00
Designated Gifts		\$ 670.00		Line of Credit	\$20,000	\$0.00
PPP Cares Act forgivable loan		\$ 5,100.00				
Scrip Proceeds		\$ -				
Member donation		\$ -				
Portico (Bassetts)		\$ 4,939.95				
GLCW Donation for General		\$ -				
Foundation Grants		\$ 1,150.00				
Thrivent Choice \$\$		\$ 2,433.00				
Missions		\$ -				
Misc.		\$ 630.00				
Fundraiser for General Acct		\$ -				
Designated donations		\$ 10,692.04				
Total Income for General Fund		\$ 137,122.50				
Expenses						
ELCA & SD Synod Projects	\$2,546.05	\$ 956.70				
Staff						
Senior Pastor - Salary & Benefits	\$87,070.00	\$ 31,796.39				
Mileage Reimbursement	\$3,000.00	\$ -				
Call process mileage & travel exp		\$ 57.10				
Youth & Family Director	\$19,516.33	\$ 5,879.08				
Business Adm Salary & Benefits	\$47,146.80	\$ 19,644.60				
Parish Education Assistant	\$2,674.99	\$ 668.76				
Office Asst & Custodians	\$56,350.49	\$ 15,592.88				
Payroll taxes	\$10,878.62	\$ 4,939.03				
Pastoral Materials	\$150.00	\$ 150.00				
Total Staff	\$226,787.23	\$ 78,727.84				
Program Expenses				Other Outlays		
Office Expenses	\$18,500.00	\$ 5,051.25		Designated Gifts		\$670.00
Worship & Music	\$18,350.00	\$ 5,344.02		GLCW & Foundation		
Altar Guild	\$750.00	\$ 117.90		Basement repair		\$4,860.62
Youth Ministry	\$150.00	\$ 131.60		Portico (Bassetts)		\$6,054.95
Fellowship	\$100.00	\$		Hail damage (insured)		0
Mission	\$325.00	\$		Misc		0
Outreach & Care Ministry	\$3,400.00	\$ 942.30		Fundraiser for General		\$0.00
Stewardship Ministry	\$800.00	\$ 680.64		Foundation Grant exp		\$1,752.55
Debt Service	\$12,000.00	\$ -		Stewardship- Mission		\$0.00
Insurance	\$11,500.00	\$ 6,768.24		Designated Donations		\$5,705.15
Utilities	\$31,000.00	\$ 13,366.05		Total Other Outlays		\$19,043.27
Synod Assembly Expense	\$1,500.00	\$ -				
PC Conference Dues	\$300.00	\$ 279.00		Total Expenses & Outlays		\$137,584.64
One time 2020 exp for year 2019	\$5,000.00					
Contingency	\$1,200.00	\$ 346.91		General Fund - 1/1/2020		\$67,395.52
Property Ministry	\$10,500.00	\$ 5,828.92		Plus Income		\$ 137,122.50
Program Expenses	\$115,375.00	\$ 38,856.83		Less Expenses & Outlays		\$137,584.64
Total Expenses	\$344,708.28	\$ 118,541.37		Loan Advances		\$0.00
				General Fund - 5/31/20		\$66,933.38



You are always welcome to come in to the office or call to review or discuss our church budget.

Thank you, Cindy 605-886-5737

2020 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS	
2020 Annual Mission Plan (Budget) is \$344,708.28	
Needed weekly to fund GLC Mission Plan is \$6,629	
January (monthly income goal \$26,516)	
Income	20,463.40
Expenses	(25,112.42)
Short	\$ (4,649.02) #
February (monthly income goal \$26,516)	
Income	20,973.31
Expenses (includes insurance premium)	(31,409.34)
Short	\$(10,436.03)
March (monthly income goal \$33,145)	
Income	24,285.62
Expenses	(25,926.37)
Short	\$ (1,640.75)
1st Quarter review	
Income (Jan. Feb. & Mar.)	65,722.33
Expenses (Jan. Feb. & Mar.)	(82,448.13)
1st Quarter shortage-Income vs Expenses	\$(16,725.80)



April (monthly income goal \$26,516)			April(showing if paid suspended pay)	
Income	\$ 20,751.67		Income	\$ 20,751.67
Expenses	(18,758.08)		Expenses	(18,758.08)
Net income	1,993.59		Suspended payroll amount	(6,842.31)
			Short	\$ (4,848.72)

May (monthly income goal \$33,145)			May(showing if paid suspended pay)	
Income	\$ 28,766.51		Income	\$ 28,766.51
Expenses	(17,335.16)		Expenses	(17,335.16)
Net income	11,431.35		Suspended payroll amount	(6,842.31)
			Net income	4,589.04
			COVID-19 PPP Cares Act funds	\$ 5,100.00
			Net income including COVID Cares Act	9,689.04

June (monthly income goal \$26,516)			June(showing if paid suspended pay)	no 6/28 offering
Income	\$ 17,110.66		Income	\$ 17,110.66
Expenses	(15,561.20)		Expenses	(15,561.20)
Net income	1,549.46		Suspended payroll amount	(6,842.31)
			Net income	(5,292.85)

The Book Club has chosen a book for summer reading

Critics are comparing *American Dirt* by Jeannie Cummins with a modern day theme to *Grapes of Wrath* with a story about Lydia Quizano Perez and her 8-year old who flee their comfortable middle class life in Mexico to begin life as a migrant north of the border in the United States. As she journeys to safety, she comes to understand, everyone is running from something. This riveting story will give you insight into the challenges of life decision for immigrants and change your thoughts about those who seek refuge.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO COVID 19

SUGGESTED STEPS ATTENDEES ARE TO TAKE TO BE SAFE AS WE COME TOGETHER

1. Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
2. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow.
3. Wear a face mask for your protection and ours.
4. Stay home when sick or you just don't feel quite right. Worship is available online and on KWAT.
5. Stay home if you are immunocompromised. You can ask for home communion or a pastoral visit. Worship is available online and on KWAT at 10:05 AM Sunday morning and at drive-in worship.
6. Family members who frequently interact may sit together. All others should maintain 6 feet physical distancing. (If you both reach out to the side your fingers should not touch.)
7. Please do not sit in the balcony as the airborne virus could drop on those below.
8. Pews will be marked off to leave every other pew open between you and the next group. Stagger where you sit so some are on one end of the pew and others to the other end.
9. Each person using a hearing device will use the wipes provided to wash them down after use.
10. There will be NO singing by the congregation. Song leader(s) will stand behind the piano or platform to provide music for the service. There will be no hymns and the words will not be added into the Power-Point. This is to respect your neighbor's safety as viruses are airborne and can be passed further by those singing.
11. Take your temperature at home prior to coming. If you have a temperature, please do not come.

STEPS WE WILL TAKE TO BE SAFE AS WE COME TOGETHER

1. The sanctuary and public areas of the church have been cleaned.
2. Public areas used will be cleaned once a week between services or other activities.
3. Other areas will be cleaned when used for group meeting on the calendar or approved by the business administrator.
4. Our custodian is part-time, cleaning is done weekly, and scheduling is required to use other areas of the building.
5. If you come midweek to pray, do not touch anything as you enter the sanctuary and please use the front pew. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer as you arrive and leave. Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available in the front pew to use and to wipe down the pew when you are finished.
6. Only a few bulletins will be printed for those who have difficulty seeing the screens. Take them with you when you leave and dispose of them at home.
7. Announcements will be available in the pew. Please take them with you and disposed of at home.
8. When worship has ended, you will be dismissed by the usher one group at a time to maintain physical distancing. Please directly leave the building without mingling.
9. We will not serve coffee hours, fellowship meals, or other food related celebrations at this time.
10. We ask that you wear a face mask for your protection and ours.
11. The pastor will leave through the chancel area at the end of the service.

GUIDELINE FOR REPORTING: If you come down with COVID 19 Symptoms, or are diagnosed with COVID 19, and have been at worship or in our church building, within the two weeks prior to your illness, you are responsible to contact the church office at 605-886-5737. Your name will not be shared but we must protect all our members and notify them.

1. When we are informed someone who was at worship has symptoms of COVID, we will notify the congregation to encourage caution. We will return to drive-in worship in the parking lot only. Online worship is available or can be listened to on KWAT.

2. When it is verified someone at worship has been diagnosed with COVID, we will close for two weeks (14 days) following diagnosis and return to drive-in worship in the parking lot only. Online worship is available or can be listened to on KWAT.

WHEN SOMEONE WAS AT WORSHIP AND HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH COVID 19

1. We will close for two weeks following their diagnosis. We will return to drive-in worship in the parking lot. Online worship will be uploaded to Facebook and YouTube and a recording can be heard on KWAT at 10:05 AM Sunday mornings.
2. To protect our custodian, cleaning will not be done during the first 7 days.
3. When we verify someone was at worship and has contracted symptoms of COVID, we will notify the congregation on Facebook and the Website to encourage caution. We will return to drive-in worship in the parking lot. Online worship will be uploaded, and a recording can be heard on KWAT at 10:05 AM Sunday mornings.
4. Let us know if you want to be on our prayer list.

EXPECT CHANGES IN HOW WE WORSHIP

1. Video worship post will continue online even after we reopen to in-person worship. Weekly services will be recorded, so online worship might not be available until later on Sundays. We will continue to post worship on Facebook and YouTube. You can also connect through our website at glcwtn.org. Our radio broadcast on KWAT will continue to be heard at 10:05 AM each Sunday morning.
2. Liturgy will be said and not sung. We will still have prayers, scripture and preaching.
3. There will be NO hand shaking or hugs. This is because we love you. God's peace will still be given during the worship but please greet each other with a nod, bow, or wave from your pew.
4. Offering plates will not be passed. You may give your offering when you come in for worship at the back of the church or by the elevator. You may also send your offering to the office at 202 2nd St SE, Watertown, SD 57201-4308, or give electronically. We will dedicate the gifts given during worship.

USHERS AND GREETERS DUTIES

1. Wear a mask.
2. Offer a mask to anyone who does not have one with them.
3. Please have someone at each door to open the door for those arriving.
4. Welcome people and explain the pews are marked off and they are to sit in every other pew and stagger to one end of the pew opposite those in front of them if possible.
5. Explain there is no congregational singing as the reason for no hymn books or PowerPoint song words.
6. Thank people for worshipping and remind them NOT to shake hands.
7. Be sure hand sanitizer is available and can be seen easily.
8. Place announcements in the pew for people and remind them to take them home to dispose of.
9. Have bulletins available for those who require them.
10. Do not pass the offering nor bring it forward. Direct people to where it is located.
11. To usher people out, leave plenty of space between groups. Only one usher is needed at this time to dismiss people in groups observing the need for physical distance to exit the steps.
12. If possible, hold doors for those leaving worship also or block them open.
13. The security committee will provide someone to watch for any who refuse to comply with guidelines and be ready to protect members and pastor from those who do not comply.
14. Pastor and musicians will exit the chancel area and leave from the chancel doors.

Bathrooms

1. Post handwashing reminders in bathrooms.
2. Place trash bin in hallway outside bathroom for disposing of paper towels.

3. Encourage people to use a clean paper towel to handle the doorknobs as they leave.

STATEMENT ON COMMUNION

This statement on holy communion is taken from “Holy Communion Practices and Variations in times of Pandemic” written by the South Dakota ELCA Synod task force. - The early Lutheran Reformers argued that administering holy communion was about more than “doing it right.”

In their debates with what they refer to as the “Sacramentarians,” the Lutheran reformers vigorously argued against the notion that only certain people are worthy of receiving Holy Communion; and also against the belief that receiving holy communion required specific types of preparation (Epitome VII.16-18). As a consequence, they claimed:

“We believe, teach, and confess that no genuine believer, no matter how weak he may be, as long as he retains a living faith, will receive the Holy Supper to his condemnation, for Christ instituted this Supper particularly for Christians who are weak in faith but repentant, to confront them and to strengthen their weak faith.

“We believe, teach, and confess that the entire worthiness of the guests at this heavenly feast is and consists solely and alone in the most holy obedience and complete merit of Christ, which we make through our own genuine faith and of which we are assured through the sacrament. Worthiness consists not at all in our own virtues or in our internal and external preparations.” (Epitome, VII.9-10) During communion, walk with your group to the front leaving 6 feet between you and other groups. Please practice safe physical distancing as you come forward to receive the elements. Let the ushers direct you.

WHEN WE GATHER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be held twice a month. God is not only in the church building, but is everywhere. Martin Luther wrote in the Formula of Concord (article VII, Affirmative Theses 5:14) “God has and knows various modes of being at a given place, and not only the single mode which the philosophers call *local* or *spatial*.”

We will take the following steps for Holy Communion at Drive-In (Parking Lot) worship.

1. Worship is live streamed by radio into the parking lot where worshipers remain in their cars but share the same place and time. The presiding minister of word and sacrament is visible, and they can hear the words of institution.
2. Worshipers can bring their own bread and juice/wine. When available, prepacked communion elements may be provided. Watch Facebook for information if they are available.
3. When available, ushers will provide prepacked elements when entering the parking lot. Communion elements will not be distributed to cars during the service.
4. Please do not get out of your car during the service.
5. If you or your child/ren would like to receive a blessing, you may carefully drive up to the platform following the service and the pastor will give a blessing. Please remain in your car.

We will take the following steps for Holy Communion when we gather for inside worship.

1. Worshipers will remain in their pews for the communion distribution.
2. The pastor and assistant(s) will walk to your pew and serve you there.
3. Pastor and assistant(s) will wash hands before coming forward (or use hand sanitizer)
4. Pastor and assistant(s) will wear masks.
5. Gloves will be used to serve the elements.
6. Cups in the trays will be placed in every other space. The assistant will hand the cup to you taking ahold of the top of the cup. Please take ahold of the cup from the bottom without touching.
7. Wafers will be dropped into your hands with a tong. Please cup your hands together so the wafer can be

dropped into them.

8. Blessing will be given with a hand extended over you but there will be no laying of hands or touching. Communion assistant(s) will be served after the congregation.

We will provide the following steps for Holy Communion when worshipers are unable leave their home.

1. Worshipers are invited to join via an online platform by phone using a conference call for an audio service or face-to-face via screen sharing using zoom or a similar media source. (Alternative could be the presiding leads liturgy and words of institution through a window.)
2. Worshiper gathers their own bread and fruit of the vine. (No elements are passed through a window.)
3. Presider leads a liturgy of holy communion.
4. When the elements are normally distributed, the presider invites worshipers to eat and drink using the proper language.
5. Worshiper will eat and drink when the presider gives the words: "The body of Christ, given for you," and "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Alternative: Fasting from Holy Communion: "Throughout history, faithful Christians have fasted from Holy Communion, including during times of plague and pandemic. It is an acceptable and faithful until the body of faith can once again safely gather in person around the altar. We trust that God's redemptive Word, and God's grace and mercy will be extended to us in other ways through the Holy Spirit during this time of fasting. Use this time to emphasize remembrance of baptism, and develop a special in-home ritual." (*Taken from "Holy Communion Practices and Variations in times of Pandemic" written by the SD ELCA Synod task force.*)

SETTING UP FOR COMMUNION

1. Wash your hands before touching anything. Get all items out and open, wash hands again. Space cups at least every other space and fill.
2. Put the wafers on the plate with the tongs.
3. Put the covers on the containers or cover with Napkins or paper towels.
4. Put out enough gloves and masks for those handling wafers with the communion equipment.
5. Be sure hand sanitizer is available

During this time of suspended worship:

You can find Sunday worship service at the following sites:

AUDIO:

Sunday service can be heard on the radio at KWAT 950 AM at 10:05 each Sunday morning or you can livestream the audio from your computer: <https://www.alphamediaplayer.com/kwat950am>

VIDEO:

Our website at Grace Lutheran Church Watertown, SD: <http://glcwtn.org/>

There is an Icon on the Grace Lutheran Church website that will link you to Facebook.

YouTube channel for Grace Lutheran Church, Watertown SD: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcXMBKa70pf8Xpj-ath5WXQ>

OR Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheran8865737/?rf=111629428875890>

Bulletins: If anyone would like a bulletin mailed to them or if you know of someone who needs them, please call the office and we'll put you on the bulletin mailing list. They are also uploaded to Facebook and YouTube each week prior to the service and you may print and share with others.

Grace Lutheran Church
202 2nd St. SE
Watertown, SD 57201-4308

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Children—Watch for Virtual Bible School—Coming SOON!

Drive In Worship—at 8:30 AM

In Grace Lutheran Parking Lot!

A Huge Thank You!

There are so many to say thank you to I don't think I can name them all as I am sure I'd forget someone. Over the last couple of months of being safe and social distancing for the COVID 19 pandemic Grace Lutheran has had to invent and reinvent worship services and find new ways to proclaim the gospel message to you, the congregation. It began with video recordings to YouTube and Facebook along with the audio for the radio broadcast. But after a while we started to really miss each other, so we tried live broadcast with the radio station and found drive-in service in the parking lot wasn't ideal but it was at least a way to come together physically without being physically in contact. So we purchased an FM radio transmitter. All these new ideas and forms of media projection take time to setup, learn how to operate and especially how to sync things together and there has been an outstanding group of volunteers at Grace to help in every step of the way. Having drive-in worship takes several volunteers to direct those who attend with parking, bulletins and handing out elements as well as set up the "stage" and take down each week. We've been blessed to have faithful musicians outdoors who often withstand the elements just provide beautiful singing so worship can be more "normal" in this unusual way. To you who have stepped up, I can't tell you how much I appreciate all that you have done and I am sure your sisters and brothers at Grace Thank You as well. I feel truly blessed to be here with you where I have seen Grace Experience Daily! Thank You!

Grace Lutheran Church: God's Grace Experienced Daily