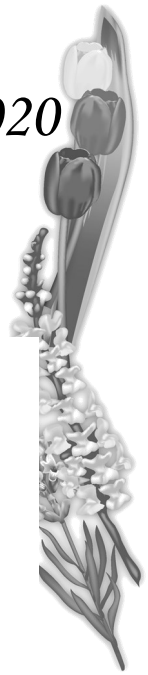




GRACE GLEANINGS

May, 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



Letter to the Congregation

Dear Members of Grace Lutheran

I am praying this letter finds all of you in good health in this time of stress due to the COVID-19, Pandemic.

During this time the council and the councils executive committee have been working hard to make the correct decisions for the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church. Without their dedication and willingness to put in the time needed to make the correct decisions we would be floundering. The council has made and will be making its decisions concerning COVID-19 based on Local, State and the SD Synod of the ELCA directions.

One of the hardest decisions the council made was the layoff of the office help, Kathy and Liz, the church custodian Rich, youth director Jerod Jordan and Jennifer the assistant education director. This was done to cut expenditures since there is no way of knowing how long we will have to endure this Pandemic. (No One was fired) Pastor Cheryl also volunteered to take a wage reduction during this time.

The question came up from a couple of members. Where did the funds go from the savings built up when we didn't have a pastor to pay? These funds did build up over this time but with the hiring of Pastor Cheryl in January along with contributions not meeting budget this reserve is dwindling rapidly. Grace Lutheran has a weekly budget of around \$6,000.00 and average contributions of around \$3,500.00.

Please support Grace Lutheran Church with your offerings as you are able. This support is needed so Grace Lutheran can continue its ministry of Jesus Christ and support of our community.

James Goble

Grace Lutheran

Council President

The church has currently ... moved outside the building.

That seems to be the situation for our church these last weeks. With radio, video and even drive-up services, our big beautiful building is empty. But that is the point. Just the building is empty, not the church itself because the church is more than a building, more than the minister and congregation. The church is people called by God into the world—not away or apart from it. We are freed in accordance with the teachings of Christ Jesus, that is to serve and love our neighbor.

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;" Isaiah 61:1

At this time, think how you can be the church outside our building? Where can you bring good news to the oppressed, build up the brokenhearted or release to those captive or live in slavery to sin? By phone calls, writing notes, picking up groceries for the elderly, sewing mask or helping with the local CARE relief? When we can come back together, we will certainly rejoice. Let us continue to be the church while we wait.



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

April 22, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's been quite a month hasn't it. From the first weeks of an unknown virus around the world to it entering our country we thought it would be months before it reached our doorstep. But suddenly it was here. We tried to be proactive in planning, yet it still shut our activities down ever so quickly forcing the doors to be locked for your protection and ours.

During this time, Psalm 91 gives encouragement to trust in God with assurance He will protect saying "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

It reminds the reader of the saving acts of God:

³ *For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;*

⁴ *he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.*

⁵ *You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,*

⁶ *or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.*

⁷ *A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.*

⁸ *You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. (Psa 91:3-8)*

Then the writer makes a testimony because God has served as refuge in the past for those things we most fear demonstrating God has already provided this in our homes (tent) as well as outside of it stressing that God is always with the faithful ones.

Then, in verse 14, God speaks: "Those who love me, I will deliver:" confirming He will answer, He will rescue, He will honor.

And the last verse shows us God will "*with long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.*"

It's a powerful Psalm giving encouragement in difficult days. The one question it does not address is "Why"?

Instead, it asks you to trust in God and confirms that trust with a confession of how it has happened before.

The writer wants you now to make your own decision of trust, to hear the words in view of your own confusion and doubts. The answers were not definitive for those in the past or why they happen in the first place. Just as there are no answers for the present of why this virus has come about.

It takes you to a place to know that our faith in God is a mystery without any definite answer of why things happen as they do. For only God knows and we have to trust that God is God, and we are not.

During this time of pandemic, questions and doubts do arise. It is when we most need to hear God's words and pray for one another. Spend time in the word whether you are reading scriptures or daily devotions. Give yourself time to hear God speak to you. Meditate with quiet time.

It's also important to look for God's message in the strangest of places. Sometimes it will come as a song, from a visit with another person, and even as you are doing good for your neighbor.

Know too, you are not alone, even while you shelter in place, I am praying for you and miss you.

Remember I am as close as your telephone. I don't mind that you call to chat for a little while or just to talk about how you feel the stress of all of this weighing down on you. God did not create humans to be alone but as companions to help and give comfort to each other.

Who do you know that may need a phone call? Or encouragement? Who might be dealing with doubt or confusion questioning God?

Those who are unable to leave their tents because of severe chronic medical conditions or underlying health problems need you. Perhaps you are the answer God is sending to deliver them in their time of trouble and when they are filled with questions and doubt.

Perhaps you are "My refuge and my fortress,..." that God is providing in love for the neighbor.

In Christ,
Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

Happenings at Grace!

Drive-In Worship ~ May 10th

Due to the length of time since we had to suspend church activities and the deep desire for people to worship together, we will have a Drive-In Worship service on Sunday, May 10th in the Grace Lutheran Parking lot. We have made arrangements for a live—radio broadcast with KWAT during our usual broadcast time at 10:05 am that Sunday morning.

You are invited to park in the parking lot, staying in your cars to hear the word over the radio. For social distancing, you can keep your windows rolled up. Please do not get out of your cars.

There will be communion. You will receive a communion packet with the wafer attached to the top of the cup. They are sometimes difficult to open so you may want to have a sharp instrument to help open it in your car for the proper time.

The bulletins and packets will be carefully distributed. Those taking the offering will also. If you chose not to receive a communion packet or bulletin, just put up your hand or place no in your window.

We will have a canopy in case of inclement weather and will only cancel if there is severe weather that morning.

Ushers will direct your parking to make the most of our parking lot space. It's not perfect, but an opportunity to worship together until we can REALLY come together.

Memorials and Gifts

TO RADIO FUND

In memory of Jeanette Swanson
from Cleo Belk

TO GLC PRESCHOOL

From Fran Schaefer, Marj Muller, Olga Majusiah, Mae Mudder, George Surgent & Craig Strinmetz.

TO NORDEFEST PLUS

In memory of Jeanette Swanson
from David Swanson

In memory of Jeanette Swanson
From Dee Haugan

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

for April designated for Grace Lutheran Church General Fund were \$1017. Thank you to the following people who have directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars: Kevin Pierce, Leone Noeldner, Eugene Noeldner, Steven Vogt, Mildred Tronvold, Larry Picht, Allen Kasperon, Vivian Larson, LeRoy Bullis, Janice Knutson, Janet Little, Gregory Moeller.

Contact information Update

There are many new ways we have been using to communicate with the members during this time of suspended worship due to social distancing. It is also cost efficient to email the Gleanings and communications to those who would prefer that means. *(A reminder that Gleanings is found on the website each month.)*

It is for that reason, we are asking our members to provide the following information for mailings, emailing Gleanings, inviting to zoom conferences, Bible Studies, confirmation and to create list for the Remind App.

Please complete this information and mail to Grace Lutheran Church, 202 2nd St SE, Watertown, SD 57201

OR send the information by email: cherylgracelc@midconetwork.com OR Personal Message OR Text at 605-237-1501. Thank you for your help.

Name(s) _____

Updated Address: _____

Cell phone(s) _____

Email(s) _____

Would you like the Gleanings emailed to you? ☐ Yes ☐ NO Do you read it on the web? ☐ Yes ☐ NO

Would you like the bulletins emailed to you during this time of suspended worship? ☐ Yes ☐ NO

Do you download the bulletins for worship at this time from Facebook or the web? ☐ Yes ☐ NO

Would you like the bulletins mailed to you during this time of suspended worship? ☐ Yes ☐ NO

Is there a committee you are on you would like to have a reminder sent? ☐ Yes ☐ NO

What committee(s)? _____

Are you able to access Grace's website? ☐ Yes ☐ NO Facebook? ☐ Yes ☐ NO YouTube? ☐ Yes ☐ NO



Thank you
for
remembering
your
offerings

Due to COVID 19 and people staying home to be safe, we ask you to please remember the church with your giving. You can mail offerings to the church at 202 2nd St SE. Or you can sign up for the Electronic Giving Option with the form below. We thank everyone who has supported Grace Lutheran church this year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members during this time of pandemic. You may find electronic giving a most welcome tool during this time of distancing.

AUTHORIZATION FORM

SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM

Organization Name: _____

Customer Id #		DATE	
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____			
Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change payment amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change payment date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic payment			
Last Name		First Name	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Email Address			
Payment Frequency: <input type="checkbox"/> one-time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring (select one)- <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
Date of one time payment: ____/____/____ Amount : \$_____			
Date of first payment: ____/____/____ Amount of recurring payment: \$_____			
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit payment from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (staple a voided check below)		Routing Number: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____		

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check over the credit card section.

Minutes of the March 30, 2020 Grace Lutheran Special Council meeting

The Grace Lutheran special Church Council meeting due to COVID-19 was held on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with James Goble presiding. Also, present were, Denise Biller, Mark Briley, Rick Brownell, LeRoy Bullis, Paul Henrichs, Dylan Jordan, Rhonda Lorenz, Harley Petersen, Gary Rukstad, Roger Rust, Sherry Starr, Tod Sprouse, Gena Urevig and Cindy Vander Leest. Absent was Geri Mohror,

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

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Gary Rukstad and second by Rick Brownell. Motion carried. A motion to approve the minutes for March 16, 2020 meeting was made by Rick Brownell and second by Tod Sprouse. Motion carried.

Items:

1. Financial Report— Cindy Vander Leest reported the approximate March income to the general fund is \$21,830, the approximate March expense is \$27,124 and at this time the balance is \$46,206. I have not completed the March postings at this time. I will be adding a deposit from 4 days mail and a some March expenses. At this time, offerings have slowed down by mail. We do receive our automatic giving the first and the fifteenth of the month and few that give weekly. Our Simply Giving, automatic (ACH) electronic sign up form is on our web site: glcwtn.org

2. Pastor's Report – will provide more information at the next regular Council meeting.

Old Business:

Worship services and activities after March 30, 2020- Discussion was held. Members discussed we should follow our Governor, Mayor and Bishop guidelines to not have services the month of April and the possibility of holding an Easter service in the church or outside. Pastor Cheryl shared they are discussing have special music for the Easter radio broadcast and Youtube video. She is also looking into how communion can be served on the Easter radio broadcast and Youtube. President James Goble asked for a show of hands to hold an Easter service in the church or outside- 1" yes" vote and majority "no" vote. There will no Easter service on April 12th. Pastor Cheryl stated we can celebrate Easter anytime and should have celebrate Easter the first Sunday we gather again.

Craft/Vendor Fair "Got it at Grace" scheduled for May 9th – Cindy Vander Leest shared there is a lot of prep work that would need to be started by the office by mid-April if we keep it on May 9th. The Council agreed this is a great General Fund fundraiser and would like to see it rescheduled at a later date. A motion to let the office postpone May 9th Craft/Vendor Fair "Got it at Grace" and try to reschedule at a later date was made by Roger Rust and second by Rhonda Lorenz. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Job duties & payroll - A motion made by LeRoy Bullis and second by Tod Sprouse to suspend pay because of budget concerns required the council to be proactive in these difficult financial times and beginning April 1, the following changes should be made:

Office staff Liz Dunn and Kathy Kruiter, suspended.

Education Assistant Jennifer Landon, suspended.

Youth and Family Director Jerod Jordan, suspended.

Choir/Bell Director and accompanist Bruce Reinhardt, suspended.

Janitor/Maintenance Rich Dunn offered to be temporarily laid off without pay.

Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett offered to take a reduction in pay during this time.

Motion carried.

2. Budget – will be reviewed at next Council meeting, attentively scheduled in May. The April Council meeting has been cancelled. The Council (Denise Biller, Rhonda Lorenz, Gary Rukstad, Sherry Starr and Cindy Vander Leest) will be making phone calls to see how our members are doing during this time of

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confusion and also asking for cell phone numbers, email addresses and other information updates. It was discussed some members would rather receive the Gleanings or letters by email rather than by mail.

- 3. Executive Committee authority** – James Goble asked the Council for a motion to give the Executive Committee the power to make a decision on everyday business to keep the church up and running if the Council couldn't get together. Discussion was held. President, James Goble asked for a show of hands for approval – everyone raised their hands for approval.

Pastor Cheryl will be sending an informational letter out which will include our automatic offering sign up form.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Denise Biller and second by Sherry Starr. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Vander Leest

Minutes of the April 21, 2020 Grace Lutheran Special Executive Council meeting

The Grace Lutheran Church Council Executive Committee held a special meeting due to COVID-19 on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. with James Goble presiding. Also, present were, Rick Brownell, Sherry Starr (by phone), Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett and Cindy Vander Leest.

1. Financial Report— Cindy Vander Leest reported she would be putting a 2020 quarterly analysis of funds in the May Gleanings. This report would show the income and expenses falling short by \$16,726. In the prior GLC Executive Committee meeting there was much discussion (and a lawyer reviewed GLC Constitution) and they approved to apply for the PPP Cares Act forgivable payroll loan in the amount of \$5,100. The paperwork has been delivered to Dacotah Bank. (Our GLC Constitution only allows the Council to enter into contracts of up to 1 1/2% of the total current budget/Mission Plan). Our GLC Constitution did not allow the Council to pursue the whole amount offered in the PPP Cares Act without having a Special Congregational vote.

Coronavirus Review

Online/Radio Report - Pastor Cheryl would like to thank all of the volunteer time that Wyatt, Riley, Tod and Becky Sprouse, Art Jelsma, Judy Everson and Paul Henrichs have given. Also, thank, Marcia Jelsma for being committed to a different time to help Grace.

Drive in Church for May 10th - Pastor Cheryl has been working with KWAT to have a live broadcast on May 10th at 10:00 a.m. in our church parking lot. All of this would be depending on virus reports and weather.

Worship services in house church - Discussion was held. President James Goble was going to contact Council members about holding a regular Council meeting on May 14th at 6:00 in the fellowship hall or sanctuary to discuss when to open the church back up and to have one or two services.

Blessing of the motorcycles - Pastor Cheryl and Rick Brownell will contact Jerod Jordan to discuss further.

Law Appreciation lunch - Sherry Starr would like to have a "lunch to go" this year with a sandwich, chips, cookie and drink. She was going to contact the different departments and see if May 15th would work for them and then let the Pastor know.

Reemployment - Discussion was held. Further discussion and decisions would be made by the Council members.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Vander Leest

Zoom—What is a Zoom meeting?

You may have noticed me mention ZOOM meeting or conference calls with Zoom. So what is Zoom?

Zoom is a web conferencing application that uses audio and video for a group chat or discussion. It's easy to use and most can download the software for free. It's only if you have meetings for longer than 40 minutes or involve over 100 people that you need to pay for the program.

Zoom can be used with your cell phone or on your computer to connect to the host of the meeting which you are then able to see everyone that is on the call and talk with the entire group as they can talk with you.

I have started using ZOOM for several activities since we are unable to be together. On Sunday morning I host a zoom call to have coffee at 9 am prior to the radio worship broadcast on KWAT.

During the week I have a Bible Study on Genesis at 7 pm that anyone can join. You just have to contact me for the zoom invitation to link in or become a member of the Grace Lutheran Facebook Group for the invite.

On Wednesday I am using zoom for confirmation class at 5 pm. It's easy for the youngster to get online and discuss the topic of the day. We've talked about Luther and who he was, the Ten Commandments and this week we will review the Apostle's Creed and talk about faith statements.

I try to connect using as many security measures as I can. One I use is a waiting room in the program so I can see who is coming online. If I don't know who they are, I won't let them in.

Lots of families are using to visit with each other, enjoying meals together, celebrated special events and even playing games over zoom.

If you'd like to participate or if you'd just like to talk to me face to face, try using zoom or even plan a zoom call with me to see how it works.

You'll find it at: <https://zoom.us/>

There are other web based platforms like Go-To-Meeting and Google Chat of course. For now, this happens to be the one I am using most often.

HAPPINGING AT GRACE!

A Funeral service was held on April 11 for Deloris Forman Roberts.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Each Wednesday, 7th and 8th grade confirmation students meet for an hour at 5 pm in a zoom conference call .

An invitation goes out to their cell phones to log into the call and I've sent it on the Remind Application.

Parents, please make sure your child is attending as part of their regular confirmation classwork. If you have questions, contact me, 605-237-1501.

Pastor Cheryl

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
Expend (Jan. Feb. & Mar.)	(82,448.13)
1st Quarter shortage-Income vs Expenses	\$ (16,725.80)

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

Please Expedite - Time Dated Material

Return Service Requested

Memorial Day ~ May 25, 2020

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Watertown, SD
PERMIT NO. 537



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Drive In Worship—May 10 at 10 o'clock AM
See more details inside this edition.

ONLINE SERVICES:

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 it from your computer: <https://www.alphamediaplayer.com/kwat950am>

VIDEO:

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

YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcXMBKa70pf8Xpj-ath5WXQ>

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

(You can go to GLCWTN.org and click on the FaceBook icon to link to the FaceBook page.)

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 each week prior to the service and you may print and share with others.

Grace Lutheran Church: God's Grace Experienced Daily