

Grace Lutheran
Church is a caring
community
of disciples,
proclaiming the
good news of
Jesus Christ.

Grace Notes

October 2017

Newsletter Article:

Welcome

By Pastor Greg Mileski

www.nglsynod.org/downloads

One of my favorite parts of Scripture is the end of Revelation. I long for the city described there, the new Jerusalem, where the Reign of God comes to fullness. One of my favorite details, easy to miss, concerns the gates of this city. There is a wall—not just anything is the Reign of God, after all—and the wall has twelve gates. And the gates of this city are open wide—all day, every day. I hope this part of Revelation is literal. What a welcome sight to see!

“All are welcome.” I can’t tell you on how many church signs I’ve seen those words. Certainly dozens. Probably hundreds. That can’t really be true, can it? That is such a lofty idea! I wonder what would happen if we put similar lofty perfections on our church signs.

“St. Andrew Lutheran Church. All of us read the Bible every day!”

“Hope Lutheran Church. Where nobody will ever judge you!”

“First Lutheran. Every sermon will knock your socks off!”

“All are welcome.” Well, that’s a nice sentiment, but could it really be true?

The truth is, welcoming everyone is hard. It’s a lot harder than most of us realize. I know what you’re thinking. *My church may not be perfect, but we are certainly welcoming!* And that’s what I think about my congregation, too. After all, each and every Sunday I am greeted by folks with warm smiles and happy hearts, just like all of you. But of course *we* think that *our*

congregations are welcoming. We've been calling them home for umpteen years. If we didn't feel welcome, we'd have probably stopped going long ago.

And that's the thing, isn't it? "Welcome" isn't for insiders but for outsiders. The question isn't whether *we* feel welcome in our congregations. The question is do *they* feel welcomed here? Do the people who aren't here, the people who might be walking in for the first time, the people who are deciding if they will walk in for a second time, do *they* feel welcomed? That might be a different story. After all, *most of them aren't here*.

Let's ask this question: Can you think of somebody who would be *unwelcome* in your congregation? What do they look like? Are they a different ethnicity? Are they differently-abled and can they get around your building? How do they dress? Are they dressed too casually, or maybe in clothes that haven't seen a washing machine lately? Who comes with them? A live-in girlfriend? A same-sex partner? A rowdy toddler? Are they used to worshipping in a different manner? Would they put their hands up when they sing or pray? And when I say unwelcome, I don't mean that someone would come and chase them out with a stick. Good heavens! None of our churches are unwelcoming like that! Any of those people, no matter what they're wearing or who they're with or however high they stick up their hands, would be welcome to come in and worship with us, of course. But *welcome*, real and true welcome, runs much more deeply than just being allowed to come in and stay for a while.

In our congregations, in our little slice of the New Jerusalem, welcome must mean more than simply permitting someone to come and eat the cookies and drink the coffee. Welcome must mean that someone can come in and *join us just as they are*. Welcome doesn't mean that you are allowed to come in. It means that *you*, with all your gifts and talents, with all your baggage and failures, with your fears, with your riches, with your poverty, are allowed to come in and *be you*.

And that's why welcome is so hard. We want people to come in and be us. It's easier that way. We know us. We feel safe as us. But welcome means we let people come in and be themselves, be who they are, and that means that our community changes, just a bit. And that's risky. We are always more ready to hold on to what we have than we are to become something new.

But we are not called to build a club. We are not called to stay the same. We are called to be transformed by the moving of the Spirit and to live in the light of the Reign of God. And one of the ways we can do that is by welcoming our fellow children of God, encouraging them to share their gifts and talents freely in ways that shape our faith communities. In so doing, we open our gates and we open ourselves to the ways that the Spirit is moving and we glimpse, just a bit more clearly, the coming of the new Jerusalem. Amen.



Kiitos Paljon



Thank you to Tom Stimac for taking all our non-perishable food items we collected for God's Work Our Hands Sunday to the Salvation Army.

Birthdays

Chance Bridgers 1	Matt Dompier 6	Evan Lorenz 7
Karen Houle 8	Jason Harju 9	Carson Bukovich 13
Melissa Nicholas 16	Tina Verran 17	Sally Rule 18 Paul
Kostamo 18	Tom Stimac 21	Logan Verran 21
Jim Hanner 22	Joe DeForge 26	Miranda Smith 27
George Makela 28	Brad Jenkins 29	

Anniversaries

Paul and Sue Slinde 14
 Andrew and Shantel Lorenz 15
 Paul and Tory Kostamo 28

Notes from the office

Would you like to start receiving a weekly devotion from the church office on Mondays? Please send Katie your name and email address.

Newsletter items are due in the office the last week of the month.

Please save your Econo receipts and return them to a box in the library. Grace receives 1% of the total receipts.

If we do not have your birthday or anniversary, please let us know.

Quilters

Wednesday,
Oct. 4th & 18th

Knit, Pray, Crochet

Every Tuesday,
1:00pm
All are welcome.

Our kitchen is currently in need of supplies. A great way for our church to save a little money is by having members help supply our needs. In the narthex, there will be a box for donated items. Coffee, dish soap, sugar, bottled creamer, paper plates, napkins, and paper towels are greatly appreciated.



ATTENTION



Any committee chair that would like to request funds for their committee for the 2018 year, please submit your request to Cheryl.



Our donor who has been wonderful to pay for the last few years of *The Lutheran* magazine is no longer able to fund this. If you would still like to receive *The Lutheran*, you will need to pay only \$8.95 for your yearly subscription. Please see Katie to pay for your subscription before October 19th.



LCW has changed their time and will now meet at 12:00pm on the 2nd Monday.

October Worship Text & Pulpit Supply

Sunday, October 1

Bruce Johanson
Matthew 21:23-32

A parable of
doing God's will

Sunday, October 8

Pam Long
Matthew 21:33-46

A parable of the
vineyard owner's son

Sunday, October 15

Rev. Soren Schmidt
Matthew 22:1-14

The parable of the
unwelcome guest

Sunday, October 22

Micah Cavaleri
Matthew 22:15-22

A teaching about the
emperor and God

Sunday, October 29

Rev. Soren Schmidt
John 8:31-36

Jesus says, "Continue
in my word and you
will know the truth."

CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

We are asking for donations of gently worn, clean clothing, with an emphasis on children's winter clothing.

Please bring your donations anytime until Nov. 3rd.

Clothing Giveaway will be held
Saturday, Nov. 4th, 9am to 2pm.

Everyone is welcome. There are no qualifications or restrictions.

Welcoming Ways

(from NGLS Resources)

Things to think about:

- ~ Are there activity/busy bags for children? Is it clear where the nurse is located?
- ~ A greeter in clear site to help if needed?
- ~ Is everything that you expect the congregation to say during worship printed in the bulletin, clearly referred to in the hymnal, or projected on the screen?
- ~ Do you expect the congregation to sing the Psalm? Then print out the music that will be used and instructions for who should sing what part.
- ~ Are their signs pointing the way to the sanctuary? The restrooms? The fellowship hall?
- ~ Adequate parking?

In the next few months, there will be a few tips on talking with visitors coming to worship with us here at Grace Lutheran.

LCW NEWS

- Changed our meeting time to 12:00, still the second Monday of the month. Bring your lunch.
- On Sunday, November 5th, following worship, we will meet to reveal who our Secret Sister was.
- We will continue our Bible study of "Ephesians" by Max Lucado.
- October 15th, we will have a coffee to raise funds for LWR shipping, batting for quilting and bags for school kits.



Grace
Lutheran is a
member
of the
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church
in America.



Range VFW
Breakfast
Every Wednesday
9am to 11am
\$6.00



Our Hearts to Their Homes

Nancy Harris at home
Susan Koskela at home
Delores Paavola at home
Elaine Aro at Gardenview
Eleanor Maki at the Bluffs
Jan Mikkola at at the Bluffs
Amanda Mountjoy at home
Laurel Johnson at Lighthouse
Bill & Sandra Mannisto at home

Gentle Reminder

The office and financial staff do not work on Sunday mornings. Thanks for respecting their worship time with their families.

Service Workers for September

	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29
Counters	Karen Johnson Sue Slinde	Angela Harju Chris DeForge	Karen Johnson Chris Davis	Cheryl Stimac J. Baillod	Pam Long M. Bohjanen
Fellowship	None	None	LCW Fellowship	None	Potluck
Ushers	Paul and Sue Slinde				
Acolyte & Bell Ringer	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth	Youth
Communion Assistant		Katie Bridgers			Pam Long
Reader	Janet Kokko	Chris DeForge		Carolyn Rundman	Cara Wightman
Sunday School	Heather Aro	Janet Kokko	Janet Kokko	Chris DeForge	Heather Aro
Pulpit Supply	Bruce Johanson	Pam Long	Rev. Soren Schmidt	Micah Cavaleri	Rev. Soren Schmidt

passages taken from
“Planned-Giving: Monthly Newsletter Articles”

www.nglsynod.org

October ELCA Donor Advised Funds

ELCA Donor Advised Funds are a way in which a donor may retain practical control of how much, when, and to what ministry a gift to the ELCA is distributed. By giving, a person may contract with the ELCA not only to retain supervision of the use of the gift with ELCA ministries, but may also pass that supervision to family members to encourage their faith-based giving. By making the gift of \$25,000 or more, the fund may become an endowment, meaning that principal is retained and only earnings are distributed annually. In effect, this creates a vehicle similar to the foundations utilized by the wealthy. Family members continue to make distribution decisions, and the philanthropy of the donor therefore continues long after their life. But most of all, the family has the satisfaction of making significant gifts each year to worthwhile ministries.

For more information contact:

Timothy Knutson, ELCA Foundation at (414) 477-9979

Pastor Larry Westfield, ELCA Foundation at (262) 224-9574

Bishop Katherine Finnegan at (906) 228-2300

September Council Highlights

1. Joe stated that the call committee is about ready to finalize the ministry profile so it can be submitted to the Synod.
2. A new parsonage lease has not been arranged yet. Cheryl will follow up with Remax if we don't get word within the next two days.
3. The Memorial Committee asked for permission to purchase a Smart TV with a wall bracket with the \$330.00 that is designated for that purpose. Pam moved that we purchase the smart TV and the wall bracket with the designated memorial. Second by Janet, with all approving.
4. Katie informed the council that Pennie will no longer be able to work on the weekends. Joe said he can fill in until November. Katie will talk to Pennie and the Mutual Ministry Committee will follow up with her.
5. If anyone would like to purchase a subscription to *Living Lutheran* magazine, please give a check of \$8.95 to Katie by October 19th.
6. Pam moved that we accept Emily Raffaelli's membership transfer (to become a voting member of Grace), second by Janet, with all in favor.

Grace Lutheran Congregational Contact Information

Volunteer Coordinators

Acolytes/Bell Ringers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Altar Duty	Chris Davis	482-5567
Communion	Chris DeForge	482-8068
Counters	Marianne Bohjanen	482-8459
Funeral Servers	Patty Savola	281-5100
Readers	Cheryl Stimac	281-7909
Fellowship	Carolyn Rundman	482-6344
Ushers	Pam Long	482-4065
Greeters	Heather Aro	482-0341
Ride Coordinator	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Office Volunteers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Gardening	Janet Kokko	482-2368

Building & Grounds Maintenance

Paul Bridgers	482-3665	Dave Aro	487-6161
Tom Stimac	281-7910	Pennie Makela	281-4667
Joe DeForge	482-8068	Heather Aro	482-0341

Parsonage Maintenance

Paul Bridgers	482-3665	Dave Aro	487-6161
Katie Bridgers	482-2011	Cheryl Stimac	281-7909

Grace Lutheran Council

Cheryl Stimac (President)	281-7909
Joe DeForge (Vice President)	482-8068
Laurie Aho (Treasurer)	482-0817
Julie Belew (Interim Pastor)	
Heather Aro (Secretary)	482-0341
Chris Bohjanen	(482-8459)
Pam Long	(482-4065)
Janet Kokko	(482-2368)
Dave Aro	(487-6161)

Pennie's Pick of the Month

If you see someone without a smile,
give them one of yours!

Games at Grace

Thursdays, 12:30-3:00p.m

Join in for card games, Scrabble, Yahtzee, etc.
This event is open to all! Anyone from the community is invited. You do not have to be a member of Grace to attend. Come, invite and bring a friend with you to this fun afternoon!! Lunch Provided.

From the Foot Up Exercise for Seniors

Instructor: Hilary Sproule, PT

- ♥ Tuesday mornings at 11:00a.m.
- ♥ Six week session starting September 26th
- ♥ Posture, breathing, flexibility, strength, and balance
- ♥ Participants may do the exercises in a sitting or supported standing position.
- ♥ Participants should wear loose, comfortable clothes that allow them to move freely, and shoes that are easy to remove.
- ♥ The only cost is an optional donation to Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45 Choir 10:00 Sunday School & Confirmation 11:00 Worship Bruce Johanson	2 	3 11:00 From The Foot Up Exercise for Seniors 11:30 Knit, Pray, Crochet Lunch at Katalina 1:00 Knit, Pray, Crochet	4 10:00 Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 3:00 After School Program	5 12:30 Games at Grace	6 8:00 AA	7
8 9:45 Choir 10:00 Sunday School & Confirmation 11:00 Worship Pam Long 4:00pm to 6:00pm "Let's Eat"	9 12:00 LCW	10 11:00 From The Foot Up Exercise for Seniors 1:00 Primetimers at Feedmill 1:00 Knit, Pray, Crochet	11 10:00 Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 3:00 After School Program	12 12:30 Games at Grace 3:00 Evangelism Meeting	13 4:30/5:00 LWR pick Up 8:00 AA	14
15 9:45 Choir 10:00 Sunday School & Confirmation 11:00 Worship Rev. Soren Schmidt 12:00pm Fellowship hosted by LCW	16 6:30 Prayer Service	17 11:00 From The Foot Up Exercise for Seniors 1:00 Knit, Pray, Crochet 5:00 Council 6:30 Joint Council at First	18 10:00 Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 1:00 Quilting 3:00 After School Program	19 12:30 Games at Grace	20 8:00 AA	21
22 9:45 Choir 10:00 Sunday School & Confirmation 11:00 Worship Micah Cavaleri	23 	24 11:00 From The Foot Up Exercise for Seniors 1:00 Knit, Pray, Crochet	25 10:00 Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 2:00 Nursing Home Visits 3:00 After School Program	26 12:30 Games at Grace	27 8:00 AA	28
29 9:45 Choir 10:00 Sunday School & Confirmation 11:00 Worship Rev. Soren Schmidt 12:00pm Potluck	30 	31 11:00 From The Foot Up Exercise for Seniors 1:00 Knit, Pray, Crochet				

All are
welcome!



We are glad you
joined us.

Thanks,
ushers and
greeters!



If anyone is interested in being part of the Sacristan Team please talk to Katie or Pam. The Sacristan Team will be responsible for the following list. This means that the altar duty team and ushers will no longer have to do some of these items. Please see Pam or Katie if you would like to be part of this team or have questions.

Items to check BEFORE worship

- 1) Baptismal font (Clean. Fill with water if needed)
- 2) Handheld microphone, set out
- 3) Microphones at sound system, turn on
- 4) Who is the acolyte appoint one if necessary
- 5) Who is the bell ringer, appoint one if necessary
- 6) Communion usher (typically Paul/Chance), appoint one if necessary
- 7) Bring a cup of water with ice to podium

Items to check AFTER worship

- 1) Turn down thermostats located in the sanctuary (2), Sunday School Room (1) and the Fellowship Hall (1)
- 2) Turn off all lights
- 3) Make sure doors are locked; assign a door locker if you are not the last one to leave

FALL FEST

BRUNCH · QUILT AND FINE ARTS AUCTION ·
COUNTRY MARKET · COUNTRY STORE · AND MORE!

OCTOBER 7, 2017

DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM

AUCTION BEGINS AT 11:00 AM

FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

138 FORTUNE LAKE CAMP RD, CRYSTAL FALLS, MI

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

WWW.FORTUNELAKE.ORG 906-214-2267

Come join us on October 7th for our 21st
Annual Fortune Lake Fall Fest!
Quilt & Fine Arts Auction

Viewing begins at 9:00 am
Brunch is from 9:00-11:00 am
Auction is at 11:00 am

Other Highlights:

Country Market: Selling homemade breads and pies

Country Store: Featuring smaller handcrafted items

Kids activities

Check out our Fortune Lake Fall Fest 2017!

If you can't make it physically to our event, we will have proxy bidders available! We are still working on which items to include in our auction, so please stay tuned for when that's finalized.

Shipping will be an additional cost if you do decide to proxy bid.

We look forward to seeing you here at Fortune Lake!



A Year of Prayer
A Lifetime of Praying!

prayfaithfully@nglsynod.org
www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully

Prayer Calendar – October 2017

1	Prayers of thanks and welcome to Rev. Jim Duehring as he begins his first day as the Assistant to Bishop Katherine Finegan in the NGLS.
2	Pray for Bishop Finegan who attends the Conference of Bishops at Churchwide in Chicago through Oct 3.
3	For all those who lost loved ones and homes in the hurricanes in the Caribbean, Texas, and Florida and in the earthquake in Mexico. And prayers of thanks to all who gave to Lutheran Disaster Response and the Red Cross to help them.
4	For Ass't to the Bishop, Jim Duehring, as he attends a week-long DEM (Directors of Evangelical Mission) Orientation Oct 1-7
5	Pray for those pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: Timothy Vadis 10/05, Kenneth Carlson 10/13, and Maxine Gray 10/16.
6	Pray for all those across the synod attending fall conference meetings all this month.
7	Pray for all attending the Fortune Lake Fall Fest: quilt and fine arts auction, country market, country store and more activities today at FLLC.
8	For all those in conferences 3 & 6, as they hold the Fall Conference meetings this afternoon.
9	Pray for our pastors on Clergy Appreciation Day. We thank God for their presence among us – preaching the Word and celebrating the Sacraments – for being there care for us, to guide and teach, to listen, to challenge us and take us in new directions, and to be examples of God's love.
10	Pray for all those suffering from mental illness and for their families who also struggle for understanding and relief today, World Mental Health Day.
11	For those attending the Planning Ahead meetings with Tim Knutson meetings on Oct 10 & 12.
12	Pray for the members of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Severna Park MD (Rev Earl Janssen), St. Paul Lutheran Church, Upperco MD (Rev R. Myers), and Grace Lutheran Church, Westminster MD (Rev Kevin Clementson.)
13	For those addicted to alcohol or drugs that they are able to break the chains of addiction. Provide counselors and programs to help them.
14	Pray for those attending the Synod Youth Committee meeting at 9:00 C.T. at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.
15	For all those in conferences 1, 4, and 8, as they hold the Fall Conference meetings this afternoon.

16	Pray for those attending the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, 11a.m. ET at the Synod Office.
17	We pray for Sunday School teachers and leaders everywhere as they continue to give our children Christian foundations
18	Pray for Pastors Doug Johnson, Marcia Solberg, Duane Priebe, Judy Kincaid, and Judy Kirchoff as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.
19	For the Synod Staff who meet with Jennifer Prince from Portico Benefits, 2 p.m. ET and for those attending the Conference 5 Fall Meeting at Northland Lutheran Retirement Community, Marinette, 5 p. CT.
20	Pray for Pastors Tom Wickstrom, Kenneth Carlson, Richard Likeness, and George Candea-Kromm, as they celebrate anniversaries of ordination this month.
21	Pray for Bishop Finegan at her Installation at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette, MI, 1:30 p.m. ET Reception at Holiday Inn 3 – 5:30 p.m. ET. All are invited.
22	Pray that peace may prevail throughout the world and that leaders will find ways to solve conflicts that don't involve the destruction of property and killing of innocent people.
23	Pray for our retired pastors and their spouses – Rev Paul and Sandee Raappana & Rev Duane Priebe.
24	Pray for the members of St James in Marinette and their interim pastor, Rev. Keith Kolstad as they continue in the call process during a pastoral vacancy.
25	Pray for the members of St. John Lutheran Church, Westminster MD (Rev Kristin Dubsy), Trinity Lutheran Church, Westminster MD (Rev Charles Drenning), St. Mary Lutheran Church, Westminster MD (Rev H. Brumback II.)
26	Pray for those pastors both active and retired celebrating birthdays this month: Dale Skogman 10/21, Stephen Gauger 10/28, and Kari Vadis 10/28.
27	Pray that people of all races, backgrounds, and economic situations may try to see each other as individuals with problems we may never have experienced ourselves, but nevertheless try to really understand.
28	Pray for the spouses of deceased pastors –Darley Kemppainen and Margaret Laursen.
29	Also pray for all of our seminary students, especially Carolyn Lawrence as she begins her seminary journey at LSTC this fall.
30	Pray for the members of Magogoni Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and their NGLS Companion Congregations, Christ the King and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Escanaba (Revs Christopher Johnson & Judy Kincaid, pastors.)
31	Pray that the God who reformed the church through Martin Luther five centuries ago may continue to reform – and transform – the church today.

“We pray for congregations in the Delaware-Maryland Synod as part of our domestic partner synod relationship.”