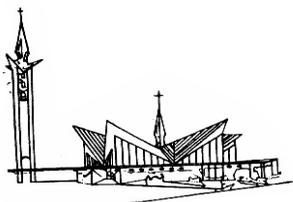


GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

150 50th Street SW, Wyoming, MI 49548

Reverend John H. Diener, Pastor / gracelc.pjd@gmail.com

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday ~ 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Welcome Guests!

We look forward to worshipping with you today!

(Need Assistance for your hearing? We offer comfortable ear-sets and loops that provide improved listening ability. Please ask a Sound System Attendant for assistance.)



† WE DEFEND THE HOPE FOUND ONLY IN JESUS CHRIST †

WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR WORSHIP BEGINS IN PRAYERFUL MEDITATION

GOD'S WORD PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP:

But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3: 15

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP IN PRAYER:

My Lord and my God, I come to this place and this moment of preparation for worship seeking to know You more fully. May Your Spirit speak to my spirit. Prepare me so that I will always stand prepared to defend the hope You have placed in my heart and life. Because of this hope, fill our days amidst this covid pandemic with the hope that is found in the resurrection truth: Because Christ lives, we live. Help me to share this hope with others in need. Grant that I may gladly hear Your Word and that all my worship may be acceptable unto You; in Jesus' name I live, move and have my being. Amen.

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

St. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, bids us to examine ourselves before taking Holy Communion. Therefore, to receive our Lord's true Body and Blood we:

- † **REPENT** of our sinful nature and our sinful acts;
- † **BELIEVE** that Jesus lived the perfect life to shed His Blood for us on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sin;
- † **BELIEVE** that, in the Supper, Jesus gives us His true Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. Therefore, the bread and wine are not merely symbols of the Body and Blood of Jesus, but are joined to the real presence of Christ's Body and Blood given and shed for us;
- † **INTEND** by the power of the Holy Spirit, to change our sinful lives and strive to walk according to God's holy and perfect will.

In joyful obedience to the teaching of Holy Scripture, we ask that only those who are one in Church confession and faith join us at the table of our Lord. Guests who are members in good standing in fellow congregations of the Missouri Synod are invited to join us in the Holy Supper. **Children and adults desiring to come forward for a blessing are encouraged to do so.** If you have questions or if you would like to have information about joining our fellowship, please visit with the Pastor prior to worship. Thank you for honoring the sacredness of God's altar and our Lord's Table.

WE ENTER TO WORSHIP...WE EXIT TO WITNESS

HYMN OF INVOCATION

“I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES” (LSB, #461, vss. 1-4)

I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;

He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above;

He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye;

He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

Public domain

(Please **stand** and respond with the **bold** print.)

The sign of the ✠ cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

What makes our Easter celebration so amazing is that here it is that same Lord Jesus whom we witnessed dying on a bloody cross who now risen from the dead appears and speaks to us. Today He promises to send to us “another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth” (John 14:16–17). By means of the Spirit we are equipped not only to testify and witness to the saving faith but also, should it be God’s will, to suffer for that testimony. We hear the inspired words of Peter speak about suffering “for righteousness’ sake” living in the very resurrection hope of Christ. Peter wants to convince us that it is precisely in our suffering – like what we are all facing right now – that Christ meets us and acts for us. For He knows suffering intimately but also possesses the triumph over it. He points us to our Baptism, where Christ’s victory becomes our victory. His resurrection life gives us new life, which for now is but the beginning to be stretched out into life eternal.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed. Alleluia! Amen!!

Because He lives,

We will live. Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

PAGE 184-185 (Left Column)

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

[We take this moment of silence for reflection on God’s Word and self-examination.]

O almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN

“I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES” (LSB, #461, vss. 5-8)

He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly Friend; He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Public domain

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

PAGE 189

The Lord be with you.

(Sung) And with thy spirit.

Let us pray. O Triune God, through the Holy Spirit You have placed in our hearts the one true hope found in Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord and Savior. Nurture each of us in the remembrance of our Baptism and the promises You alone give for our daily lives and equip us to be always prepared to defend our hope of salvation found in You - for in You we live and move and have our very being. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior, who lives and reigns with You as our Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit, the one true God, now and forever.

(Sung) Amen.

(Please be **seated.**)

† GOD'S WORD IS OUR SOURCE OF HOPE AND DEFENSE †

The New Testament Lesson for this Sixth Sunday of Easter and Sunday School Recognition is written in the 17th chapter of the Book of Acts, beginning at the 16th verse.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

ACTS 17: 16-31

¹⁶Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him.

Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for “In Him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed His offspring.’ ²⁹Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because He has fixed a Day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL (Spoken Together)

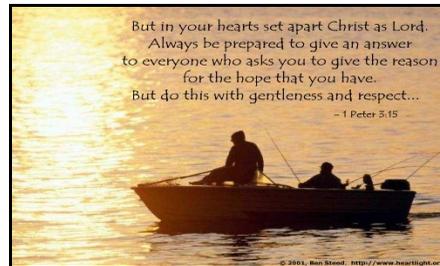
Alleluia. Christ has risen from the dead. God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor, He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands; He has put all things under His feet. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.

The Epistle is written in the 3rd chapter of 1st Peter, beginning at the 13th verse.

THE EPISTLE

1 PETER 3: 13-22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.



¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Please **stand** as we sing the common alleluia.*

COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE

PAGE 156

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

(Sung) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 14: 15-21

¹⁵Jesus said: “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

(Sung) Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

God sent His Son, They called Him Jesus;

He came to love, Heal, and forgive.

He lived and died To buy my pardon;

And empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain: Because He lives – I can face tomorrow;

Because He lives – all fear is gone;

Because I know – He holds the future,

And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold A newborn baby

And feel the pride And joy He gives;

But greater still The calm assurance

This child can face uncertain days because He lives. **Refrain:**

And then one day I'll cross the river;

I'll fight life's fi – nal war with pain.

And then as death Gives way to vic-tory,

I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives. **Refrain:**

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MESSAGE

“A DEFENSE FOR LIFE, FOR HOPE”

JOHN 14: 15-21

Pastor John Diener

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

(Please **stand.**)

OFFERTORY

PAGE 192-193

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

(Please be **seated.**)

OFFERING

SUNDAY SCHOOL RECOGNITION SUNDAY

We thank God for all our Sunday School teachers and students. Due to the Covid Virus, we will hand out awards on Rally Sunday, September 20, 2020. We recognize today:

Preschool and Kindergarten Teachers:

Patti Klein (33 years); Carrie Merchant (27 years); Judy Ridders (50 years)

Preschool and Kindergarten Students:

3 year olds - None

4 year olds - Ally DenBraber, Lucille Gottschall, Andrew Morse

Kindergarten - Emily Gottschall, Leah Morse, Addie Schlaf

First - Kaidyn Merchant (*4), Kamdyn Merchant (*4)

First, Second and Third Grade Teachers:

Becky Anderson (7 years); Beth Cronkright (23)

First, Second and Third Grade Students:

First - John Gottschall

Second - Brayden Anderson, Molly DenBraber, Carter Schlaf, Chase Schlaf

Third - Jeremy Blomeling, Lydia Gottschall, Ethan Merchant (*6), Hailey Morse

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grade teachers:

Tonya Blomeling (2 years); Danielle Campbell (3 years); Dawn Schrader (7 years)

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grade Students:

Fourth - Mary Gottschall, Connor Reynolds (*2)

Fifth - Taylor Blomeling, Lauren Cronkright (*3), Annalyse Franks, Lucas Merchant (*8)

Sixth - Elizabeth Gottschall, Jack Helak, Elizabeth Reynolds (*2)

Seventh and Eighth Grade Teachers:

Bryan Merchant (14 years); Phyllis Neitzel (7 years)

Seventh and Eighth Grade Students:

Seventh - Andrieu Blomeling, Chayse Campbell, Arick Cutler (*2), Abigail Gottschall, Starlette Schrader

Eighth - Stephanie Cronkright (*3), James Gottschall, Cadia Wiseman, Carmen Wiseman

High School Teacher:

Janet Dykstra (3 years)

High School Students:

Ninth - Hailey Cutler (*1), Collin Helak, Ryan Eastland

Tenth - Victoriana Cutler (*1), Nicholas Dykstra

Eleventh - None

Twelfth - Greta Bini, Maggie Eastland, Jenny Wang

(*) Denotes Perfect Attendance



Confirmation Teacher:

Pastor Diener (9 years)

Music Ministry Teachers:

Marcia Diener (8 years); Diane Long (27 years); Jill Reyers (20 years)

Adult Bible Class Teacher:

Pastor Diener (9 years)

Substitutes:

Melissa Eastland (6 years); Jackie Morse (2 years)

Attendance:

Martha Robach

Out of 43 students we have 11 students with perfect attendance, which is pretty amazing. Way to go kids! Keep it up!

That's 248 years of experience teaching our children the love of Christ from our Sunday School Teachers and Music Leaders.

What a blessing we have at Grace!

Thank you, Teachers! You are so appreciated! Judy Ridders Superintendent



(Please **kneel**, if you are able for a time of prayer.)

WE OFFER UP THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For the faithful proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him, that through hearing the Word of the Lord many may be brought to faith and to the knowledge of the truth, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the Church of God here and everywhere, that all who confess Jesus Christ may be united in doctrine and witness, defended against all the assaults of the enemy, and eager to gather together around Your Word and Sacrament in love for one another, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For this Grace Church family, for the work of the Kingdom in our community, and for the resources to accomplish all that God desires, that His name may be glorified among us and His purpose fulfilled in our words and works, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the agencies and institutions through which we love our neighbor and provide for those in need, for the Armed Forces, First Responders, all those in the medical field serving as God's instruments of grace and mercy, for all those on the front lines who are looking out for our needs from grocery and pharmacy workers to manufacturers, for the destitute and homeless, and for everyone who suffers unemployment and underemployment, that we may aid them in their needs and assist them to find honorable labor to supply all their needs, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the lonely who suffer the burdens of life without friendship or family, for those depressed or weary of pandemic measures, and for the fellowship of the Church, that we may bear one another's burdens and live in community with Christ as our head, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick and those who suffer, that God would grant healing to their bodies, peace for their minds, and consolation in their grief and sorrows. (We lift up all the special petitions - one by one - from our bulletin.) Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For love of godly things, that we may delight in God's Word and walk in His ways; and for the Spirit, that we may be led into all truth and kept from error and false doctrine, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For our great Nation, for those who lead our nation, for the end of the pandemic, for peace among nations, and for an end to terror and violence, that we may work for the common good so that justice may prevail, life be protected and truth abound, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

O Lord, our God, as we recall the obedient life and life-giving death of Your Son for our salvation, we pray You to strengthen our faith and to make our hearts bold, that we may not fear but address our prayers to You in all humility. Hear us on behalf of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, who even now stands before You on our behalf, pleading our cause with His own Blood, until that day when we are delivered from the changes and chances of this mortal life and stand before You in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

(Please **stand.**)

† **WE CELEBRATE THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT** †

PREFACE

LSB 194

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. Even in the midst of our suffering and pain, our risen Lord has promised the Spirit of truth to help us remain full of faith and the eternal life He gives by His cross and resurrection. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

PAGE 195

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

LORD'S PRAYER

PAGE 196

*Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAGE 197

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ☩ Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ☩ Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

PAGE 197

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI~ LAMB OF GOD

PAGE 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Please be **seated**.)

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SUPPER

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

"HE'S RISEN, HE'S RISEN" (LSB, #480)

"THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE" (LSB, #482)

"HOLY SPIRIT, LIGHT DIVINE" (LSB, #496)

"DEAR CHRISTIANS, ONE AND ALL, REJOICE" (LSB, #556)

(Please **stand**.)

THANKSGIVING

PAGE 200

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

And His mercy endureth forever.

Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

PAGE 201

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB 202

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Jesus Christ, my sure Defense And my Savior, now is living!
 Knowing this, my confidence Rests upon the hope here given,
 Though the night of death be fraught Still with many_an anxious thought.

Jesus, my Redeemer, lives; Likewise I to life shall waken.
 He will bring me where He is; Shall my courage then be shaken?
 Shall I fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His members dead?

No, too closely I am bound By my hope to Christ forever;
 Faith's strong hand the Rock has found, Grasped it, and will leave it never;
 Even death now cannot part From its Lord the trusting heart.

I am flesh and must return To the dust, whence I am taken;
 But by faith I now discern That from death I shall awaken
 With my Savior to abide In His glory, at His side.

Glorified, I shall anew With this flesh then be enshrouded;
 In this body I shall view God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;
 In this flesh I then shall see Jesus Christ eternally.

Then take comfort and rejoice, For His members Christ will cherish.
 Fear not, they will hear His voice; Dying, they will never perish;
 For the very grave is stirred When the trumpet's blast is heard.

Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave And at death no longer tremble;
 He, the Lord, who came to save Will at last His own assemble.
 They will go their Lord to meet, Treading death beneath their feet.

O, then, draw away your hearts From all pleasures base and hollow;
 Strive to share what He imparts While you here His footsteps follow.
 As you now still wait to rise, Fix your hearts beyond the skies!

Public domain

At this time, all services are cancelled until further notice.
 The additional Easter devotions will serve as great encouragement at this time.

We will continue to provide Sunday bulletins, sermons and devotional materials every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 Noon until we are able to congregate as a church family once again.

We will also except worship offerings and prayer requests at this time.
 If you need anything, please don't hesitate to contact the church office.

Thank you!

The Church IS a Refuge in the midst of fear!

During this extraordinary time, please consider these great resources:

- A Lutheran worship service called “Worship Anew” is broadcast on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on the following channels: TV channel 24; Comcast channel 21; Direct TV - TCT, channel 377 or Dish Network channel 54.
- The Lutheran Hour radio broadcast can be heard on: WSRW Grand Rapids, MI 105.7 FM Sun 6:30 AM. You can listen to it anytime at: <https://www.lutheranhour.org/>.
- Concordia Publishing House (<https://www.cph.org/>) has several FREE resources available on their website for your personal use. There are Bible studies, devotional books for adults and children, and a variety of worship materials.
- Many churches in our District have the ability to live stream their services. Please take advantage of receiving God's Word through them. Check out www.englishdistrict.org
- One of the gems of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is the pastor and author, Bryan Wolfmueller. He has a great website for “The verse of the Day” and other interesting youtube articles. See www.wolfmueller.co

The following hymn was written by one of Grace's former pastors, Rev. Dr. John Stieve.

“THE TIMES ARE HARD” (Tune, LSB #595)

The times are hard, the days are long; We do not know what lies ahead.
But in Your shelter, Lord, we hide; And You supply our daily bread.

The world is troubled, tired, weak; We feel exposed to earthly ills,
But God brings cover by His Love; He keeps us safe, He keeps us still.

When terrors mount or sickness comes, Jesus, the Rock, rescues from harm.
The day will come when we go home; We'll rest securely in His arms.

Praise to the Father, Guardian, Friend; And to His Son, our Savior, Lord;
To the indwelling Holy Ghost: May God be worshiped and adored.

AN IMPORTANT TEN MINUTES – Grace family announcements are 10 minutes prior to our time of worship (8:50 a.m.). These are an important ten minutes because we will go through announcements and prepare for worship and the receiving of Christ's Body and Blood. Our preparation will be accompanied by an organ prelude that has been prepared for the day. Please make every effort to be in the pew and ready for these important 10 minutes.

COPIES OF THE SUNDAY SERMON ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE If you would like a copy of the Sunday sermon for yourself or to share with someone else, they are available each week on the table near the church office. Please help yourself. **You may also listen to the sermons on our website: www.gracelc.net** The printed sermons are available so you can literally “take home” the message of the day, further reflect on the message during the week or to share the message with others. **Please do not read the sermon while it is being preached.** This is your time with your pastor and the Holy Spirit working through the preached Word of God. Thank you!

PLEASE CONSIDER “JOYFUL RESPONSE” ELECTRONIC GIVING! “Joyful Response” is a convenient, consistent way to help our church family grow with first fruits, proportionate, regular giving to the Lord.

Despite this unprecedented time in the history of the world, our God still provides for each of us personally and for His Church. The Church is still carrying out a vital ministry to the world to provide peace, comfort and confidence in God's saving grace. It's through the donations of every individual and family in the church family that we are able to carry on our work now and throughout the year.

You want your Lord and His work to be a **priority in your life.** You may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. To set up a recurring giving schedule, please complete a paper authorization form on the table by the church office and return it to the church office. **It's that easy!** Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the Lord and His ministry here at Grace!

If this is not your wish, please mail your offerings to the church office or set up your own automatic gift with your bank.

OUR WEBSITE HAS MANY USEFUL FEATURES go to www.gracelc.net and you will find the latest news, a calendar of events, sermons, special music and much more! Like us on Facebook to get up-to-date news in your news feed! These are two ways you can keep connected with your church family.

VBS 2020, “RAINFOREST EXPLORERS - JESUS LEADS THE WAY” has been **cancelled** for this Summer. We will look forward with great anticipation in sharing the Good News of Jesus with our community - when it is safe to do so again. Until then, continue to pray for our community and the faithful sharing of the Gospel.

THE QUILTERS ARE STILL IN NEED OF DONATIONS OF SHEETS The Quilters are asking for your donations of sheets - size double or larger - **new or used** – for the backing of their quilts. Your donations help make their beautiful quilts possible. Thank you!

GRACE'S 75th ANNIVERSARY IS COMING IN 2024 Are you excited yet? We would like to start making plans beginning now - it will be a big deal for our church family. If you would like to serve on the Anniversary Committee that is now being formed, please speak with Rob Reneker or Pastor Diener. Thank you.

CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL CLOSINGS will be posted on Channel 8 and 13 when possible. Please also look to our Website at www.gracelc.net In an emergency, we will try to have the message on the church's answer machine as well. We also put out an email. If you are not currently receiving e-mails, please let the office know your e-mail so you can be included in these special contacts. Thank you.

BE SURE TO READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE BULLETIN Be sure to read the information in the bulletin in its entirety - check your mail box, and look at the tables in the narthex to make sure that you are taking advantage of every opportunity to serve the Lord with your time, talents and treasures that the Lord has lavished upon you. We thank God for the blessings of our Grace Church family and the opportunities God gives to us to be instruments of His grace as well ☺.

The printed bulletin each week allows you to take it home and use it during the week for personal devotions going through the readings, the prayers, and even a copy of the sermon that can be picked up as well. The bulletin is also your source for all the activities going on during the week. Be sure to take yours home - and use it! **Large Print copies are available from the ushers!**

If you happen to miss worship on Sunday, please come in either prior to the Sunday you will miss or after, and pick up a bulletin and sermon so that you walk together as one church family - all with the same information and filled with the same message and mission to share.

All worshipers, **including our guests today**, please tell us you were here today by signing in on the WELCOME pad on the clipboard in your pew. Thank you. If you are a guest with us today, we have a gift for you. You should have received one during the announcements. If not, please stop by the sound table and ask for your visitors gift.

GRACE IS IN NEED OF TLC PHONE MINISTERS If you like to speak with our church family members on the phone OR share a personal word of encouragement with your church family members in person, then you are just the right person for this ministry. We are looking to give a fresh new start to our **TLC Phone Ministry (family calling family)**. Once a month we make a friendly contact of our members asking if there are any prayer requests, letting them know of upcoming events and creating a relationship of trust within the church family. Your commitment will require making 5 calls to the same families each month. **We need 25 callers.** If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Diener. Thank you.

You can probably see how this ministry could positively impact our church family. Are you willing to call 5 people to see how they are doing? Text me, e-mail me, call into the church office and sign up to serve - now!

YOUR MAY 2020 CALENDAR is available on-line. Since most items have been cancelled, we didn't print them on paper. Please be aware that meeting times, worship services, and other events may need to be changed or altered according to the most recent executive orders.

Remember our mission statement as a people of God: Care, Share, Witness! By the Grace of God, through His Word and Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church is called: To bring people to Christ; to share the love of God in word and deed; and to support the faith-life of our people - demonstrating the gift of faith active among us.

GRACE MINISTRY UPDATE Since the last time a Pastoral letter was put on-line, there has been one major change. Rev. North Sherrill will not be serving Grace during Pastor Diener's disability. Rev. Timothy Verity will be serving in that capacity. As soon as the "Stay at Home" order has been lifted and we are able to congregate as a church family, Rev. Verity will serve from Sunday to Tuesday each week. He will cover Sunday worship and Bible Study, help prepare the worship service and make visitations in conjunction with the Elders and Deaconesses. We thank Rev. Verity for his willingness to serve Grace once again.

PLEASE CONSIDER A GENEROUS "FREE WILL DOUGH NATION" for the free Panera Bread offered in the fellowship hall each week. The free will offering will go to the Benevolence Fund / Pastor Discretionary Fund that is used to help those in need that come to Grace seeking assistance. Therefore, the free bread we so generously receive will in turn allow us to be generous in helping others in need.

at
Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Micah is currently at
a second career student (previously a Civil Engineer). Micah is originally from
Allendale, Michigan and Grace, Coopersville is his home congregation. His wife is
Audrey and together they have three girls - Abigail (10), Alyssa (7) and Amelia (10
months). We pledge to lift them up in prayer and to offer financial support.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RECOGNITION WILL TAKE PLACE ON RALLY DAY,
which will be on Sunday, September 20. In next week's bulletin, we
will acknowledge our Sunday School Teachers for their faithful
service, our Students in the Word and all awards such as perfect
attendance. But awards will be given out on Rally Sunday in the Fall.
We appreciate both teacher and students alike and the blessing of the
Christian Education ministry at Grace.



Important notice: The Sunday School ministry is in need of willing
substitutes or team teachers. **Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to
share Jesus with our children.**

DEAR GRACE FAMILY, THANK YOU SO MUCH - For your prayers before,
during and after my hip replacement surgery in February. Surgery went well but
recovery is slower than I would like. Thank you also for the lovely cards and words of
encouragement. They mean so much to me. God bless you all. - **Kathy Helak**

THANK YOU - for all the lovely cards, phone calls and prayerful concern you have
shown to Randy during his battle with the Covid-19 illness along with his other health
concerns, your love and support for Linda, myself and all the family. You are a
blessing. I appreciate the love and care from my Grace church family. Your prayers are
a blessing and a constant measure of support and encouragement. You are loved!

God's Richest Blessings, Marilyn Franks

THANK YOU – to Pastor for all his prayers and concerns for me with my health
problems. I appreciate everything. God bless you, Pastor. To everyone in our Grace
church family for all the many cards and prayers - I thank you.

God bless you all, Mary TePASTE

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM GRANTS – We have begun a whole new year - and
thus, again, **Thrivent members have two action team grants** that can be used to support our mission and ministries
here at Grace. If we fail to use these wonderful gifts from
Thrivent, we are being poor stewards of God's blessings.

With so many ministries active and in need of financial support, please consider
applying for Thrivent action grants. If you are a Thrivent member, please consider
submitting an application for a \$250 grant to be used on projects at Grace. This online
application takes 10-15 minutes to complete. Every Thrivent member over the age of
18 **is eligible to make 2 applications during each calendar year.** Take
advantage of these funds for the good of our church family here at Grace.

YOUTH POP FRIDGE – Just a quick reminder that the Youth have pop available for
purchase for \$0.75 per can. The fridge is in the pantry off of the kitchen. The money
jar is in the fridge. There are various flavors of pop in the fridge but if you don't see
something you like, suggestions are welcome. Thank you for supporting our Youth
fund-raising opportunities.

THE TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS has been suspended until the Fall. We
hope to gather then around the Word and with joyful fellowship in the Lord.

THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL are
currently suspended at this time. When regular Sunday worship returns, we will also
have Sunday School and Adult Bible Study.

During this time of social distancing and extra hours spent at home, **be sure to
expand your family altar time.** Take time to follow the prayer calendar, read the
Bible and devotions and talk to one another about the difference that faith in God
makes in times like this. By equipping one another with the Word and Spirit, you are
more apt to share a powerful witness to neighbors and friends with e-mails, texts and
other social media.

REACH OUT TO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD At the time that Peter wrote today's Epistle, Rome was in great need for Jesus Christ. Rome needed people who were truly committed to Jesus Christ as their Lord in their hearts, in their minds, and in their daily lifestyles. Our world needs such people today. Jesus has sent His Holy Spirit to teach our hearts and equip us to defend that which we love. Have you set apart your heart for Jesus Christ and Him alone because He first loved you? Ask the Holy Spirit to create a clean heart in you and then prepare that heart by setting it aside, consecrating it for Jesus Christ as your Lord. Spend time in prayer asking for God to prepare you to share the hope that you have in Christ. And then look out, because God will answer that prayer with people and opportunities. So be bold. Be ready. Be prepared. In this hope, you have the forgiveness of your sin, your future secured, and your love unconditionally realized: Because He lives, you live!

GOD'S WORD ENCOURAGES THE MESSAGE OF LIFE What best prepares us to defend the sanctity of life? Political strategy? Graphic imagery? Rhetorical formulas? Scientific citations? How about the hope we have in Christ our Holy One (1 Peter 3:15)—that our Lord is at work in every circumstance, even those life-and-death moments that seem most dark and desperate, bringing about not just survival but everlasting salvation, and always with His signature gentleness?

GOD'S WORD TEACHES STEWARDSHIP *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."* Jesus is clear: our obedience to His Word comes from our love for Him. But where does that love come from? Jesus tells us that as well, "She was forgiven much, so she loved much" (Luke 7:47). Christ shows us His love and gives us the forgiveness of our sins – and this causes love to well up in us, which in turn causes us to keep the commandments of Jesus. For after all, the summary of the Law is "Love."

PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP FOR "JOYFUL RESPONSE" NOW This pandemic may eventually lead to a total lock down. Please consider signing up for "Joyful Response" so that your gifts may enable the church to continue serving.

If you don't desire to join "Joyful Response," please consider mailing your offering to the church office weekly or start a automatic check at your bank.

WE HAVE A SPECIAL "EASTER GIFT FOR JESUS" OFFERING again this year in response to God's victorious gift of salvation with victory over sin, death, the grave and the power of the devil through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This offering is an "Alleluia Offering" of the resources God has given to us. We are so blessed to respond with generosity to a generous, saving God. **Your "Alleluia Offering" envelope** is in your mailbox in anticipation of the joy of Easter in the midst of this year's pandemic. **God's victory over sin, death, the grave and the power of the devil is NOT cancelled.** His victory is your victory. Give Him all your thanks and praise. We have had **Twenty-Three (23)** Alleluia gifts donated thus far totalling **\$6,930.00**. Thank you to those who have responded to our Lord's gift of salvation to us.

IF YOU RECEIVE A GOVERNMENT STIMULUS CHECK OR DEPOSIT, please consider good stewardship. If you are not in need, please consider donating this check to the church or to our benevolence fund so that we can help those in need. (We are seeing people at our door every day looking for help.)

THERE IS NO ASCENSION DAY SERVICE SCHEDULED THIS YEAR Ascension shouldn't be overlooked. Ascension is a time of happy endings as Jesus concludes His earthly ministry and promises the Holy Spirit's imminent arrival. Jesus sends His disciples to the ends of the earth as witnesses of His resurrection. He promises that He will always be with us even to the end of the age. We remember today Jesus' earthly ministry and His mission for us, and we bask in the promise of His presence.

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR PENTECOST - MAY 31. We know that seniors have had a difficult finish to the school year. But this has also been true for our Catechumens who are patiently waiting to be Confirmed, to join our church family as communicant members and to receive the divine gifts of the Lord's Supper. Please keep James Gottschall, Stephanie Cronkright, Cadia and Carmen Wiseman in your daily prayers. Lord willing, we will be able to hold the Pentecost celebration and Rite of Confirmation service at the 9 a.m. service on May 31.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEND CARDS TO LYNN PRATT at the passing of her mother. Her address is: 1118 59th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.

GRACE BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL'S SCHOOL YEAR HAS ENDED!



GRACE BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL

This school year may have been cut short, but Mrs. Bertrand has been working hard to create some distance learning opportunities for our students, so that they may stay engaged and continue the learning process while at home.

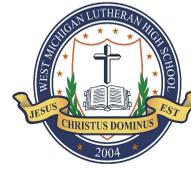
We will miss our students dearly, but know that this is for the best. We ask God's continued blessings on the parents, students and families that we have been privileged to serve.

The NEXT Scrip order will be due, June 1st by noon..... You can find order slips as well as a list of all of the Scrip retailers on the preschool table located just outside of the church office. Scrip order forms may be left in the church office mailbox, or with a preschool board member. If you don't see someone with the available gift cards out on a Sunday, please feel free to ask one of them.

✳Don't want to go out to pick up a physical Scrip giftcard? If you have an old Scrip giftcard still, Mrs. Bertrand can reload that card with the desired amount ANYTIME. Save your giftcards that you've gotten through Scrip and simply have me reload the balance anytime you choose, no more waiting for a monthly order.

PRESCHOOL DONATION ENVELOPES...Please consider making even a small donation to our preschool! The donations from this envelope will go toward scholarships for families in need and for improvements for our preschool ministry.

THANK YOU for continuing to support our preschool ministry here at Grace Lutheran Church.



WEST MICHIGAN LUTHERAN **Serving Grades 7 - 12**

Christ Centered - Student Focused

Academics.....Activities.....Achievement

† Individual attention so **each student** can achieve their goals;
† Integration of the **faith in every class** throughout the day!

CONGRATULATIONS to the West Michigan Lutheran Class of 2020: Margaret (Maggie) Eastland, Britton Godbold, Greta Bini, Joseph (J.D.) Fields, Noah Gondick, Kelsey McKendry, Jackson Miller, Nathan Spletzer, and Yucong (Jenny) Wang. Their class Scripture verse is: *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).*

GRADUATION DATE CHANGED West Michigan Lutheran Class of 2020 graduation has been rescheduled for Thursday, June 25th.

NOW ENROLLING West Michigan Lutheran is now enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year. An affordable and exemplary Christ-centered education that is within your reach. Contact the WML office at (616)455-2200 or email office@wmlhs.org to get the simple and easy enrollment paperwork. It's YOUR child but it's OUR mission to nurture and prepare students for Christ-centered lives.

THANK YOU! Thank you for supporting West Michigan Lutheran in our first ever online auction. Donations can continue to be made via the Facebook link, at wmlhs.org, or by mailing a check. All Celebrate funds go to tuition assistance.

PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE Saturday, July 18 at Yankee Hill Golf Club, Mustang Golf Challenge [Look for more details to follow].

HOST HOMES DESPERATELY NEEDED You can make an eternal difference in one of these foreign student's lives. West Michigan Lutheran has several students that would like to come to our Lutheran High School. We are asking that you prayerfully consider opening your home. Exchange students provide us with the opportunity to witness our faith in Christ - a powerful and life-changing fulfillment. Students pay full tuition and arrive with the expectation that you will provide meals, a bedroom, transportation (the H.S. can help with this one), and moral/emotional support while they are here. If you are interested or know of any family who would host a foreign exchange student, please call the WMLHS office at 616.455.2200.



WE INCLUDE IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK



WE LIFT UP DAILY IN PRAYER AT 10:00 a.m. with other

Christians in the area in praying for the ministry to the Haitian people. We pray again today for all the Haitian children in the Orphanage that we support. Through our support and prayers, we pray that Pierre Kato Charles, Eveline Suprien and Tanicha Pierre will know the love of Jesus and that the Holy Spirit would create faith in their hearts to believe and trust in Him every single day. We also lift up the children - Chouna Goseph, Ricardo Charles, Widlin Blaise, Rose Daphy Luma, Richelna Joseph, Dipalis Lovenson, Daymy Ceriak, Beana Cadet, and Jean Fritznel Dulieppe Jr. – all who have been sponsored by individual members and groups within our congregation. We pray that God would bless them in His love and the gift of faith to believe in God’s saving grace. We also lift up Nora and Leon, all the mission projects in Haiti that are carried out by the Caribbean Children’s Foundation. Please remember Rev. Steven Mahlburg and family as well as they now serve in Sri Lanka! The English District asks you to pray every day at 10 a.m. for all things Evangelism and sharing the Gospel which is relational.

WE PRAY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT to direct our Grace church families who have been absent from worship to return to Word and Sacrament and the fellowship of their church home where they will receive the nurture of God’s grace and love.

WE LIFT UP OUR YOUNG AT HEART: Carole Diehm, Evelyn Klein, Marge Morgan, Helyn Ritenburgh, Mary Jo Roberts, Joan StremLOW, Sylvia Tumath.

WE PRAY FOR GOD’S BLESSINGS UPON THE MINISTRIES AT GRACE this coming week including the Preschool Board meeting, Quilters Workshop and the celebration of the Ascension of our Lord. We pray that all we say and do as a church family - both here at Grace or wherever the Lord takes us throughout the coming week will be to further His Kingdom and for His glory.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE HEALING CARE: Randy Franks, Nicholas Dykstra (broken wrist), Steven Blomeling (recovering from two surgeries, battling cancer and hospitalization again this past week), Jordan Wiseman (injury and possible surgery), Barb Hoffman (bulged disk and possible upcoming surgery), Cindy Carlisle (recovering from the Coronavirus), Sue Swanson (who was hospitalized after a fall), Diann Cisler (now home recovering with heart issues), Doreen Dekkinga (pneumonia), Martha Robach (recovery), Louise Ohmann (recovery), Pastor Diener (falls and disability), Jack & Jeanette Sailem, Paul and Iris Kamradt, Rob Renecker (recovery), Dave & Kathy Helak, Bill Cisler, Deanna Bronson, Terry Larson (blood clots), Ruby Blair, Mark & Star Schrader, Dakota Holtzlander (seizures), Doc Wendt, Becky Anderson, John Rikkers (Ed’s brother who suffered a stroke), Jesse Bolt and Kayleen (God’s will, grace and blessing upon their unborn child), Duane Kimle (Marcia Diener’s father), Bruce Harder, Vickie Drougel (friend of Barnes’ family), Cheryl Bolt (sister of Carol Larson, cancer), Mike Taylor and Sandie Enders (family and friends of the Barbers), Bob Stroo, Paul Forte (brother-in-law of Pastor battling cancer), Brian Cate (friend of Larsons battling cancer), Carole Diehm, Al Müller, Jeanne DeMeester, Sonya Koehler (car accident), MarJo Sebastian (friend of Hoffmans who is battling brain tumor), Ron Bowden (the brother-in-law of Janice Imanse), Richard Corkum (father of Carol Klein), Fred and Micky Strebendt, Abel Reimiller (glaucoma surgery), Teresa Mirandette (friend of the Larsons), Michelle Williams (friend of Schrader family who is battling cancer), Rueben Müller, Jean Graf, Michael Mason (Scott Christensen’s mother’s husband - eye cancer), Janine Hayhurst (Cindy Carlisle’s sister-in-law with endometrial cancer), Norm Mackey (Virginia Miller’s brother with Pancreatitis), Dawn Klein, Mark Gosko (cancer), Becky Zokoe (Friend of Reneker family), Nicolette and Nadelynn Simpson-Alaniz, Debbie Shanstrom (Friend of Terry and Carol Larson battling cancer), Elfie Koehler, Bill Hammond (cancer - friend of Barb and Jack Edwards), Mae Cronkright, Marigold Whitley (chronic kidney disease), Norm Long (Parkinsons), Cheryl Rose (Kamradt’s niece with lung cancer), Casey Hoffman, Marcia Diener (CLL Leukemia), Christopher Kamradt, Mike Dykstra.

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Military: Trey Miller (Navy - submarine), Austin Vincent (Member), Mateo Villarreal (Nephew of Wisemans - Air Force), Christopher Ferguson & Alex Gaunt (Schrader's son & cousin), Sargent Eli Westbrook (Grandson of Doreen Dekkinga, who is currently stationed in Colorado and will be in Afghanistan next year), LT Adam Toepp (nephew of Dave & Kathy Helak), Nick Payne and Katie Collins (Navy - Gorman family), Chad Casey (Hattie Friar's son-in-law), Travis Knapp & Mr. Britten (Jeanne DeMeester's friends), Robert Barber (stationed in Georgia, USA) and Tyler Stover (Barber's nephew stationed in Washington, USA), Army Combat Paramedic, Ryan Ruffini (Neighbor to Jeff & Paula DeYoung who is stationed in Kandahar, Afghanistan).

ALL Military people and their families and for peace among ALL mankind.

MEMBER'S SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS: Schumaker family, Toby Miller (Hoffman's nephew), Butch Taylor (L. Klooster's brother), John Staal (R. Blair's grandson), Connor Gingrich (Ada Denstone's great grandson), Paul Staley, O'Neill Family (Reneker's friends), Sherri Menenas.

WE PRAY FOR OUR WORLD AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS We lift up those who are ill, those who are serving the ill, for the burden of isolation and for God's healing grace and providence in this time of need. We also lift up all those who are on the front lines - Lord, grant them Your protection and care.

THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR HIS HEALING GRACE given to Mary TePastte, Hugh Eisen and Nicole Girth. We praise God for His healing care and pray for His continued care upon Mary, Hugh and Nicole.

WE PRAY FOR COMFORT IN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST for Julia Reneker and her family as they mourn the passing of Julia's step-mother, Marion McLane last week. We pray for God to wrap His arms of love around all who mourn with the sure and certain comfort that Marion is home with her Lord.

WE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING birthdays and anniversaries this coming week that their celebrations

Happy Birthday this week to:

Sunday, May 17 Michael Dykstra
John Gottschall
Wednesday, May 20 Albert TePastte
Friday, May 22 Janet Dykstra
Saturday, May 23 Chayse Campbell

Happy Anniversaries this week to:

Bob & Sharon Weaver – 54 years
Rodger & Amy Woods – 31 years



TOGETHER AS A CHURCH FAMILY IN WORD AND STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, May 10, 2020 Worship Attendance: n/a Communion: n/a
Sunday, May 10, 2020 Offerings: \$4,036.00
Joyful Response Giving from 5/11/20 - 5/17/20: \$805.00
LWML Noisy Offering Collected on March 29, 2020: \$ 158.48
1.1.1. Mission Offerings from May 10, 2020 - \$ n/a
Sunday School Attendance: n/a
Adult Bible Study Attendance: n/a
Total Budget Giving in 2020 (\$278,500): \$110,464.13 (19 week average: \$5,813.90)
Multi-fund Giving in 2020: \$ 63,338.81 (This includes a \$39,000+ memorial gift from the remainder of the Jake & Harriet Diehm Trust.
Total Giving in 2020: \$173,802.94
(Please notice: After 19 weeks, we are \$ 5,798.13 **ahead** of our financial commitment for 2020.)

Those serving this week and next at Grace:

	Sixth Sunday of Easter / Sunday School Recognition 5/17/2020 Cancelled	Seventh Sunday of Easter / Memorial Day Weekend / Matins Worship 5/24/2020 Cancelled
Communion Assistants:		
Deaconess		
Reader:		
Altar Guild:		
Acolytes:		
Sound:		
Ushers:	Team 3	Team 4
Fellowship:	X	X

Sanctuary Choir and Handbell Director: Diane Long Children's Choir: Jill Reyers

Organist: Bob Weaver Accompanist: Maya Boone

Substitute Organists: Charles Gottschall / Laura Bartleson / Julie Beuschel

Usher Team 3: Janet Dykstra, Nicholas Dykstra, Ed Gorman, Arick Cutler

Usher Team 4: Scott Christensen, Gray Ferguson, Doug Klein, Ed Rikkers

Finance Team May: Doug & Carol Klein

Side Altar Flowers: None

THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, May 17, 2020 (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

Sunday School Recognition (Sunday School Awards will be given on Rally Sunday, September 20, 2020)

† Please see printed materials on our website.

Monday, May 18, 2020

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

† Preschool Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

† Quilters Workshop 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

Thursday, May 21, 2020 (The Ascension of our Lord)

NO Ascension Day Worship Service Scheduled this year

Friday, May 22, 2020

Saturday, May 23, 2020

† Pick up bulletins, sermons and Holy Communion, if desired . 10 – 12 Noon

Sunday, May 24, 2020 (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

Matins Worship / Memorial Day Weekend

† Please see printed materials on our website.

All church related activities and events have been cancelled until further notice. Please keep up with the sermons, services, prayers and your family altar devotions during this difficult time. Continue to lift up our church family, our community and the world in prayer. Even though we are isolated by the Governor's order to "Stay Safe, Stay Home, Save Lives!" we are not alone - God is always with us. He alone holds us together as the Body of Christ. We pray for quick healing grace and victory over this deadly virus.