

“Abiding in Christ through grace, we are gathered to grow and sent to serve.”

Notes of Grace

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Brownton, Minnesota

July 2019

July Servants

Acolyte

7 Hunter Gens
14 Grace Lipke
21 Sydney Harpel
28 Riley Yerks

Communion

Oather Martin Jr

Altar Guild

Jane & Sarah Tongen

Ushers

2 Jan Messner,
Jesse & Ashley Messner
9 Kevin & Nancy Deppe
16 Jim & Shirley Lindeman,
Klark & Paula Katzenmeyer
23 Gerald & Vonnie Schuett,
Paul & Theresa Eitel
30 Todd & Faye Ahlbrecht

Readers

7 Diana Lindeman
14 Paula Katzenmeyer
21 Brandon or Sarah Yerks
28 Doug Karg

July Shut-In Birthday

Sandy Jerabek's birthday is:
July 21st.

Address: 860 Chicago Ave SW
Hutchinson, MN 55350

*Please feel free to send your acknowledgement of her special day.

Mark your Calendars!!!



When: Sunday, July 28, 2019
Where: Grace Lutheran Church
Time: 10am-12:30pm

All You Can Eat! Free-Will Donation

This breakfast is a fundraiser to help replace the roof at Grace.

Invite you family and friends!

This event is being held during Brownton Days weekend.

Pastor's Note

Philippians 3 ¹²Not that I have . . . already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ . . . but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ . . . [L]et us hold fast to what we have attained.

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Grace and Peace to you,

In this letter, I am sharing now with you what I have shared earlier with the Church Council on June 12th and with the Congregation at our Sunday worship on June 16th.

I am announcing the completion of my agreement with you to serve as your interim pastor until August 3rd.

I am departing from Grace Lutheran Church with many prayers.

Most especially, I have prayers of gratitude to God for the year that I was called to serve as your interim pastor. During this year, I have been filled with joy in coming to know you and of serving as your pastor. I have written this before and, here, I write it again: You, the people of Grace, are a people graced with many talents and riches. I pray every day that God will find ever new ways to use your gifts.

I am also grateful for the kindness and attention you have shown me during my time with you.

I am certain that all others who have come to know you over the years also have experienced what I have experienced this year: that you are a very heart-felt, head-smart community that warmly engages all who have fellowship with you. Along with prayers of gratitude for having received your warm spirit, I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to bless you with good spiritual gifts that you may offer both to one another and, also, to those who come to know you.

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Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes June 12, 2019

“Abiding in Christ through grace, we are gathered to grow and sent to serve.”

Attending: Pastor Leonard Hummel, Nancy Deppe, Michelle Gens, Oather Martin, Jan Messner, Vicki Schlenner, Ben Schuft, Keith Tongen, and Brandon Yerks. Absent: Tim Olson and Dave Wendlandt.

President Jan Messner called the meeting to order.

Devotions/Bible Study & Prayer - Pastor Hummel led devotions and prayer.

Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Brandon Yerks provided Jan-May 31, 2019 financials. He officially notified the Council of his resignation as Treasurer. He is hoping to have a new person in place by September.

General Fund Checking: \$18,816.54 as of May 31, 2019; \$12,363.29 as of June 12, 2019

Memorial Fund Checking: \$3,169.72 as of May 31, 2019

Building Fund Checking: \$6,348.39 as of May 31, 2019; \$12,767.89 as of June 12, 2019

Building Fund Certificate of Deposit: \$10,000 as of May 31, 2019

Memorial Fund Certificate of Deposit: \$20,000 as of May 31, 2019

Total Contributions & Other Income: \$41,824 through May 31, 2019

Total Operating Expenditures: \$38,677 through May 31, 2019

Total Current Assets: \$58,334.65 as of May 31, 2019

M.S.C. to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

Secretary’s Report: M.S.C to approve the May 8, 2019 minutes.

Correspondence:

1. Stephen Ministries.org is online training designed to equip and empower lay caregivers to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Pastor Hummel thought this was a good resource.
2. SW MN Synod – Thank you received for the first quarter 2019 donation of \$1,500 on 4/10/19 toward missions outreach.
3. SW MN Synod - Minnesota Valley Conference dues letter for 2019 is rated at \$.13 per baptized member. They notified us that they will be raising the rate to \$.25 per baptized member for 2020.
4. Sola Publishing Company notified us that they have relocated from Maple Lake, Minnesota to Graham, North Carolina.
5. St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stewart MN – Received notification of their 125th Anniversary Celebration on July 13th & 14th.

Pastor’s Report:

1. Pastor’s calendar of activities was reviewed and discussed.
2. DATE CHANGE - Susie Christianson, Christian Educator at Christ Lutheran Church, will shadow Pastor Hummel from July 15th -21th. She will preach here at Grace on July 21st. Susie is currently attending Seminary.
3. Pastor notified the Council that his 1-year contract will end on August 3rd. He has taken a position as Hospice Chaplain with Allina Health out of New Ulm. M.S.C to approve an extra week of prorated pay for Pastor Hummel to compensate him for his remaining week of vacation pay that has not been used as of this date. He will preach his final sermon at Grace on August 4th. Brandon Yerks and Jan Messner will work on the numbers to determine his final pay.
4. The Southwestern Minnesota Synod recently approved new Compensation and Benefits Guidelines at the Assembly on June 8th. The approved version will be posted on the Narthex bulletin board.

Calendar:

1. June 30th – Joyce Peterson will lead service.
2. July 7th -- Larry Glaeske, retired minister from Gaylord, will lead service.
3. July 21st – Susie Christianson, seminary student, will preach sermon.
4. July 27th – Brownton Days from 9am-3pm with Grace volunteers still needed to supervise bouncy houses.
5. July 28th – Next Raise the Roof Pancake Breakfast at Grace from 10am-12:30pm.

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Old Business:

1. Raise the Roof Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on Sun/July 28th. Sign-up sheets are up for food donations and volunteers on the Narthex bulletin board. Audrey Tongen will use her Thrivent card for the specific supplies.
2. Brownton Days – Sat/July 27th – Still need GLC volunteers for the bouncy houses from 9am-3pm with 2 people per slot. A 5 gallon pail will be placed at the bouncy houses for at-will donations for the GLC Raise the Roof fundraiser.
3. Spring Clean-Up – Volunteers are really needed to get the Church building and grounds spiffed up. Very few members have signed up so far. Discussion was held after a church member brought up the idea of paying an outside vendor to get the church “spring” cleaned one time per year. Decision was tabled. Inside cleaning may need to be done after the roofing project has completed.
4. A new Ministry of Word & Sacrament Policy (a.k.a. GLC Pastor Job Description) was created by Council members. A final draft was discussed and reviewed. M.S.C. to approve the new Ministry of Word & Sacrament Policy.
5. A new Maternity/Paternity and Adoptive Leave Policy was created by the Council members. A final draft was discussed and reviewed. M.S.C. to approve the new Maternity/Paternity and Adoptive Leave Policy.

New Business:

1. The Vision and Mission Committee submitted a feedback report to the Council regarding the Table Talks conducted this past Spring. Council discussed and reviewed report. M.S.C. to approve the report to be included in the July newsletter.
2. The Council discussed some suggestions from SW MN ELCA Synod Minister, Stephen Cook, in regard to calling a new pastor. More exploration is needed on this topic and tem was tabled.
3. The roof replacement has been temporarily placed on hold. A storm blew through June 4th and blew off some shingles and caused the NE rain gutter to fall down. A dent in the siding also occurred. The church sign also had damage. An insurance claim with GuideOne has been filed. Jeff Messner will be the Liaison with the insurance company.
4. Two families have come forward anonymously to split a \$30,000 1-year loan to Grace at an APR of 3% interest.

Committee and Group Reports:

Property & Management Committee

1. They have assigned Jeff Messner as the Liaison between KWAM (Contractor) and the P&M Committee. It should take about three weeks to get materials. Once they are onsite, it should take about two weeks to complete the roof. Countrywide Lumber of Hector is the supplier as determined by KWAM. Their company rep will measure the church roof to make sure the correct amount of materials have been ordered for the job.
2. There is a dead tree on the South line of trees. Plans are to take it down in the fall and replace it.
3. There is a problem keeping mulch in the church sign garden. Plans are underway to replace the mulch and annual flowers with rocks.

Stewardship Committee

4. Keith Tongen reported that the Bible quizzes have been warmly received during the six Sundays that they were inserted into the church bulletins in May and June. The target audience for the quizzes was school age on up.

Next Meeting: July 10th at 7pm.

M.S.C. to adjourn the meeting.
Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Deppe, Secretary

Vacation Bible School

Grace will once again be doing VBS with Immanuel Lutheran. It will be held July 21-25, 2019 at Immanuel Lutheran church.

***Sign up forms are on hanging on the bulletin board.**

We are seeking Volunteers to help with VBS in the following areas: Bible stories, Opening/closing (2), Crew Leaders (3), Kitchen (2), Games (2) and Video (1). Sign up sheet also on bulletin board.

*Diana Lindeman is our church's contact person for VBS questions.

	July 2019					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 8:45am Worship/Communion	8	9	10 7pm Council Meeting	11	12	13
14 8:45am Worship	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 8:45am Worship VBS w/Immanuel Begins	22 VBS	23 VBS	24 VBS	25 VBS	26	27 10am –3pm VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Bouncy House (Signup at Church)
28 8:45am Worship/Communion 10am –12:30pm RAISE THE ROOF BREAKFAST	29	30				

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Among many things here at Grace, I am grateful for the work of Vision and Mission Committee. The Vision and Mission Committee has worked hard and well in conducting the LEAD Survey that has made clear the strengths of Grace Church, and, also, in conducting various Table Talks (a portion of whose work is listed in this newsletter) that have revealed much of your hopes/dreams for the ministry of Grace Church. I pray that Grace will continue to find Vision and Mission in many ways in the times to come.

I am praying for the work of Grace's Call Committee and for the leaders of our Southwestern Synod as they together plan for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament (i.e. Pastoral Leadership) at Grace Church. I am confident in the commitment of our Synod to a Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Grace and confident that God will provide pastoral leadership for Grace for its ministry.

In my Annual Report, I relayed my deep appreciation for the work with the Council President, Jan Messner, and the Council Members themselves. In this final report, I can say that my appreciation for the work and service of the Council President and all the Council Members has deepened even more. Through their love and care, they embody the love and care that all you, the members of Grace Church, have for your church. Furthermore, I wish to say the following as plainly as possible: Without the guidance and care of Jan and the Council, I would not have been able to be your pastor this past year.

I cannot list all the members of the congregation to whom I am indebted for their assistance in my ministry to Grace Church—because I am indebted to all of you for your love for the congregation of Grace Church that has inspired me in my work on your behalf. In writing this, I am bearing in mind the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 13:8: "Owe no-one anything but the debt of love."

My prayers for you, the people of Grace Church, will continue after I depart from serving you as your Pastor. As I depart let us all be inspired by the words of Paul: "[P]ress on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶. . . [L]et us hold fast to what we have attained."

Peace be with you—Grace Lutheran Church in Brownton—now and always.

In Christ,
Pastor Leonard Hummel

Dear Congregation,

Below is a summary of the findings from the Table Talks conducted by the Vision and Mission Committee this past Spring. These findings were assembled by the members of the committee and passed on to me. Now I am passing them along to you.

PLEASE NOTE:

These findings represent many—but not all—of the written statements of you, the members of Grace Church. Therefore, they do not represent all the opinions that were expressed by those who submitted their opinions. Nor do all the submitted opinions necessarily represent all the opinions held by all members of Grace Church.

I am excited to see the depth and breadth of interests/opinions in the findings reported below. Together, they show a strong spirit within the congregation. Together, they indicate that the Holy Spirit is with Grace Church and will continue to bless the congregation.

Peace,
Pastor Leonard Hummel

Table Talk Summary - Youth Group/Sunday School

Most memorable youth group experiences and suggestions shared were:

- Food shelf scavenger hunts throughout town
- Christmas caroling
- Hayrides
- Going to a cabin
- Ziplining
- Escape room
- Valleyfair
- Mission trips
- Bike trips with green lake bible camp
- Youth camping trips

Sunday school experiences were:

- Baking/snack activities
- Bible and opening singing

They like the interactive lessons and the mission projects they've been doing the past couple of years. Most were thankful for the work the Sunday school does.

Table Talk Summary: what type of Pastor we are open to:

From a gender standpoint male or female majority is open to either.

Ethnicity- Majority is open to any race but have strong feelings about making the pastor a "good fit". English language & easy to understand.

Same gender relationship pastor- A) The majority of the responses were open to a pastor in a same gender relationship. Most felt it was more important for the pastor to "fit in" than to change the constitution.

A smaller group of responds were open to a pastor in a same gender relationship & the comments indicated the constitution needs to be updated with the changing times.

The smallest numbers of responds said a differently NO! Leave constitution as is and no same gender relationship pastor.

Age- A pastor with a lot of energy and at a younger age.

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Table Talk Summary: MUSIC

Majority would like a mix of traditional and contemporary music.

Love the Holden Evening Prayer

Like both the green and blue hymnals, not interested in switching to the red hymnal. Would like to see a variety of other instruments occasionally. . . guitar, etc.

Love the kids' bell choirs

Grace Practices/Events:

Pray for the shut-ins

bake/cook offs

Projector usage

skits/plays

Instruments

Kid involvement

Celebrate 1st communion more often

Table Talk Summary:

Should Grace have a full time minister?

If so, could you contribute more to have a full time minister?

What are your feelings on sharing a minister with another congregation?

What do you like about that idea?

What makes you nervous about sharing?

What are your thoughts on a part time minister?

Prefer own full time minister, part time would be OK, prefer not to share

Full time only if we can pay a competitive wage

Not enough people to support a full-time minister

Contributing more would depend on how much more money it would take

Willing to give more but only if we all chip in

OK with contributing more to support full time but not sure if the congregation as a whole can

We try to give more each year

Financial support is unlikely to get higher

Willing to share but like the consistent worship time

Sharing might provide us with some opportunities to expand our church community

OK with part time or sharing

Sharing is an option/may be necessary, but we may have to change our service time

Part time would be nice - we'd be independent and no need to change service time

Only advantage to sharing is to save money