

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

Notes of Grace

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Brownton, Minnesota

October 2020

October Servants

Acolyte

- 4 Dustin Trettin
- 11 Nick Kosek
- 18 Baylee Hahn
- 25 Olivia Loncorich

Communion

Vicki Schlenner

Altar Guild

Vicki Schlenner

Ushers

- 4 Open
- 11 Dave & Nancy Lauseng
- 18 David & Sharon Carrigan
- 25 Ben & Gloria Schuft

Readers

- 4 Doug Karg
- 11 Nancy Deppe
- 18 Diana Lindeman
- 25 Brandon or Sarah Yerks

Greeters

- 4 Norman & Cheryl Schwarze
- 11 Darrell & Michelle Gens
- 18 Larry & Jeanette Tongen
- 25 Jim & Shirley Lindeman

CONGRATULATIONS!

Please welcome Griffen Jay Wendlandt! He was baptized on Sept 13th.

Parents are: Josh Wendlandt & Kelcie Howe.

Confirmation was September 27th

(this was taken from our Facebook Page)

Not covid or wind could prevent us from worshipping together and celebrating our confirmands! **Congratulations Riley, River, Braxton, Sydney and Grace!**



Mission Drive Fundraising Campaign to Kick-off!

With Covid-19 restrictions remaining in place limiting personal contact the Stewardship Committee has decided to kick-off a by-mail Mission Drive fundraising campaign. We have 3 different mission projects that we are targeting to benefit from this campaign.

- 1) Winsted AHTC which helps individuals with handicap or developmental issues find meaningful employment and life changing experiences. Lucas Knick, a member here at Grace, is a client of this cause (see photo on church bulletin board).
- 2) Lutheran Social Service Disaster Relief within the USA (floods, fire or storm ravaged areas).
- 3) South African partnership with the Vryhied circuit sister synod of SWMN synod.

With Covid-19 restrictions in place for the safety of all, Grace Lutheran was unable to hold our annual Fall Festival which normally is a fund raiser for the church that helped support our mission projects. In past years, meal tickets for the Fall Festival were distributed to members to either sell or purchase themselves at \$12.00 per ticket. Many of you purchased these tickets but didn't use them or gave them to friends or family. The Stewardship Committee is asking that in place of these meal tickets you consider a cash donation towards our Mission efforts in any amount that you feel is appropriate to your personal situation. You will be receiving a mailing from the Stewardship Committee in the near future with a stamped return envelope. We hope you will be generous in your consideration.

2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver".

Sincerely,
Grace Stewardship Committee

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Abiding in Christ through grace, we are gathered to grow and sent to serve.

September 9, 2020 at 7pm

Attending: Keith Tongen, Vicki Schlenner, Nancy Deppe, Scott Katzenmeyer, Mary Bullert, Sharon Carrigan, Ben Schuft, Tim Olson and Pastor Angela **Absent:** Michelle Gens

President Keith Tongen called the meeting to order

Pastor Angela led us in prayer

A motion was made to accept Secretary's Report M by Scott/S by Nancy/C

A motion was made to accept August Treasure Report M by Ben/S by Tim/C

Money received:	Month	YTD	Money Dispersed:	Month	YTD
	\$8,125.23	\$61,837.79		\$7,276.71	\$70,322.83

Correspondence:

- 1) Received an update on Marcos from Common Hope it will be posted on bulletin board
- 2) ATHC in Winsted request cash donations for expensive items they are in need of. After some discussion board tabled the matter.
- 3) Lutheran social services requested a pledge of our donation, we decided against pledging at this time.

Pastor's Report:

- 1) Preparing Confirmation students for their Service.
- 2) Outdoor visiting with shut-ins in August.
- 3) Working with Sunday School teachers on different options. Music as well as some instruments have been discussed.

Church Calendar of Events:

- 1) Tuesday's Bible Study at 1 p.m.
- 2) Wednesdays Confirmation at 4 p.m.
- 3) Baptism: Griffen Wendlandt, September 13, (outdoors)
- 4) Confirmation Service: September 27, (outdoors)

Old Business:

- 1) Fire extinguisher inspection done, Thank You Nancy for handling that
- 2) Water well test is done.
- 3) Pastor Andrew was contacted about office 365 subscription fee for past year & declined being repaid any portion of fee.
- 4) We continue to look into airing services on cable TV.

New Business:

- 1) Sunday School: The 1 st Sunday of the month kickoff with materials going out for the rest of the month. This will be in person, possibly outdoors, as well as online (Facebook).
- 2) Confirmation will be Wednesday at 4 p.m., in person with a mask, or outdoors; with zoom always being an option.
- 3) Jan Plath presented a Banner that the family would like to purchase as a Memorial for Francis Plath. The Banner will be used during 7 weeks of summer and read "I am Life".
- 4) Nancy is continuing to look at grant possibilities for the Church through Cares Act.
- 5) Stewardship committee will meet on Sunday to discuss some possible ways to raise money for our Charity giving.

M by Tim/ S by Mary to adjourn meeting

Next Meeting October 14th , 7pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Vicki Schlenner

Pastor's Note

Dear People of Grace,

As we approach the beginning of another month in an unprecedented year, I keep thinking about this year's class of five confirmands at Grace and our celebration of their Confirmation during outdoor worship on Sunday, Oct. 27.

Grace music minister Vicki Herrman made a Facebook post commemorating this service, and she said: "Not covid or wind could prevent us from worshipping together and celebrating our confirmands!"

These words have kept echoing inside me over the past 24 hours or so, and they continue to inspire me and give me hope. Yes, I did have to keep holding onto my papers during the service to make sure they didn't blow away, and yes, Vicki did have to wear fingerless gloves to lead our worship from the keyboard outside.

Yes, our confirmands did have to dress up and brave the blowing wind as they shared their faith with the congregation, and yes, they did endure not one, not two, but THREE pastors in their Confirmation journey, in addition to ZOOM Confirmation during the quarantine of March-April-May 2020.

Vicki's words remind me that these challenges, while not fun or easy, also remind us of the power of resiliency of our faith and our congregation in the midst of hard times. Seeing those five confirmands proudly proclaim their faith in front of more than 100 parishioners bundled up outdoors reminded me that these experiences are truly what will sustain our church in the years to come.

In fact, I think Vicki's words are a succinct reminder of a treasured Lutheran theological tradition: Theology of the Cross. This theological tradition reminds us that our faith, paradoxically, grows strongest and most powerful when times are most difficult. This theological tradition is rooted in Jesus' crucifixion and the cross itself, that our resurrection is rooted in ignominy, struggle, and even death.

Luther defined the Theology of the Cross more than 500 years ago in the 1518 Heidelberg Disputation, writing: "That person does not deserve to be called a theologian who looks upon the invisible things of God as though they were clearly perceptible in those things that have happened. He (or she, my edit!) deserves to be called a theologian, however, who comprehends the visible and manifest things of God seen through suffering and the Cross ... a theologian of the cross calls a thing what it is."

In 2020 at Grace, we are all theologians of the cross. We do not hesitate to speak honestly about the difficulties of this year and the hardship many have endured, not only this year, but in our lives in general. Yet even in that difficulty, the blowing cold wind and the transitions for the confirmation class of 2020, we see God's grace in our midst. I am so grateful for this, and for you.

In Jesus' love,
Pastor Angela

Coat Collection for Common Cup

Grace is collecting New & Gently Used
Coats, Pants, Mittens, etc.

*Please bring to the church ASAP, as they will
need to be delivered soon.

Take-Out German Dinner

Tickets are Available from Vicki Herrmann. This year it is strictly take-out with a designated slot time for pick up. It runs from 10:30am-1pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

*Proceeds go to Noah's Ark Preschool.

Volunteers Needed

Lutheran Social Services has been in contact with Jan Messner about Sr Dining. Due to COVID our Sr's have not met for meals & had their time together. So LSS is **looking for volunteers drivers to deliver noon meals**; One cooler of hot & another one for cold. It takes about an hour to deliver. All except 2 are in town Brownton. Coolers get delivered to the city office about 10am. We deliver Tues, Wed, & Thurs. A Lion member volunteered the Tuesdays til the end of the year. Hopefully by then our Sr's can meet back in person. If anyone would like to help or need more information please contact Jan Messer. Thanks