

Grace Free Lutheran Church Trumpet October 2020



Our Mission:

By Grace we seek life in Him. In Love we serve Him.
By His power, through faith we share Jesus with the world.
Confessing together 1 Timothy 1:12-17.

Grace Free Lutheran Church Contact Information

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Pastor Ron Smith

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Charlie Anderson, Church Secretary

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Prayer Chain:

Charlie Anderson: 627-5445 or 627-6533

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It may seem we are the ones who have been faced with this self-quarantine and that it is unfair and gone on for too long. Yet, God quarantined Noah and his family in the Ark. The extent of the flood quarantine was the destruction of everything that was around them. The destruction of an evil world. When they came out of the Ark of Quarantine... all of humanity was destroyed. This must cause us to sit back and to consider the impact of sin on our world today. May we remember today the promise of the rainbow. God would send the Savior.

We look to Genesis 8:20-22 this month to consider the joy of Noah's family and the promise of God. We know from Genesis 7 it rained 40 days and for 150 days the waters swelled on the land. Then the reality and the wait set in for them. It may have been just about one year they were aboard the Ark. This was time for them to reflect upon their lives and to rejoice in the very God Chose to spare them.

Genesis 8:20-22(ESV) says: ²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. ²²While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

What do we see as the Lord remembered them upon the Ark and the waters dried up? "Then Noah built and altar to the Lord." To me this is a powerful statement of the impact of faith upon Noah and a lesson he desired to teach to his family. Noah could have been filled with fear and uncertainty. Yet, his first response, was to offer sacrifice, to worship his God. How about you? Are you filled with fear and uncertainty based on what we have been seeing in this year of 2020 the year of the virus? Or are you now filled with joy for the Lord has done in your life? Are you today filled with an understanding of your sin debt and the fact that you have not been destroyed for you have unconfessed sins still hidden away in your heart of stone?

God is patient. In Romans 11:25 Paul speaks of God's patience as the "Fullness of the Gentiles" are grafted into the family of God. In Psalms (like 103 or 145) we read the Lord is "slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness." The challenge this month is for you to look to your own life. Can you see how the Lord has protected you in His Ark of Faith? Can you see how even as you have chosen a life of sin... the God of Creation is waiting for you (as part of the Gentiles) to realize your place in His Holy Family?!

1 Peter 3:18 and following would be a great set of verses for you to look at memorizing. May they be your devotions today... may they be your devotions this week. Prayerfully look over them all week and then reflect upon what the Apostle Peter shares in comparison to what Noah did when he got off the Ark. Salvation comes from the Lord and we rejoice in His work, not our own. May you confess your sins and confirm the faith of your Baptism in Christ Jesus, your Lord!

Can you build and altar to the Lord from this day forward with your time in prayer and in studying the Scripture with the Holy Spirit? Can you be a witness to your family and friends in the Christin life you walk? What does Luther say in the Catechism about this new life we have in Christ: '...for which I am duty bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.' I challenge you to see this duty as your spiritual act of building an altar in worship of your Triune God.

Heavenly Father, this month as I contemplate Your Holy Scripture will you remind me of the promises You have made and kept. Help me to see how in Faith, in Scripture, through Faith, because of Jesus... and for Your Glory... I have been justified. I pray for my family and for my country. Help us as we continue to battle the Wuhan CoVid19 virus. Bring to us a peace only you can bring. Help us to remember You word never fails but accomplishes what you purposed it for: My salvation and the salvation of others. To You belongs all Glory. In Jesus name, Amen.

September 10, 2020 Council meeting called to order by Council President, Colin Pierce at 7 pm.

Others attending: In church – Jason Brands, Clint Kooima, Marvin Skovlund, Leland Reppe, Pastor Ron Smith and Charlie Anderson.
Via Zoom – Jerry Anderson and Wendy Peterson.

Devotion and opening prayer by Pastor Ron Smith.

Minutes of August 13th meeting: Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Jason Brands, second by Marvin Skovlund.

August Treasurer's report prepared, submitted, and read by Council Treasurer, Wendy Peterson. Motion to approve the August report as submitted made by Leland Reppe, second by Jerry Anderson.

General Account:

08-01-2020 \$65808.00

07-31-2020 \$66931.77

Special Accounts:

Improvement Fund \$ 6200.22

Future Construction \$ 0.00

Memorial Account \$ 5431.77

Altar Cloths \$3500

Kitchen Improv \$74.79

Parking Lot \$ 6493.10

Sound System \$ 0.00

TOTAL \$18125.09

Sale of Parsonage

4 year CD \$133617.06

August Offerings:

08-02-2020 \$ 3515

08-09-2020 \$ 1183

08-16-2020 \$ 2805

08-23-2020 \$ 2200

08-30-2020 \$ 2430

Total \$12133

\$ 13370 (need \$2674 per week to cover budget)

(1237) budget deficit in August

Year to Date Offerings:

\$93867

\$93590 need to cover budget

\$ 277 budget overage year to date

Pastor's report: Pastor Ron and Michele travelled to Springfield, Mo so he could provide a pulpit fill for them on September 6th. Pastor Ron asked that we pray for Immanuel Free Lutheran in Springfield to excel in their location. It is an AFLC Home Missions church

Pastor Ron said there were about 120 in attendance in the parking lot for the Community service presented on August 30th by Preston Christian Church, Estelline Trinity Lutheran, Estelline United Church of Christ and Bruce Grace Free Lutheran Church. Confirmation will begin on Wednesday's at 5:30. 5-6 students, plus Pastor Ron.

Trustees report: The Council discussed getting an SD card for the camera to capture and save confirmation picture.

Deacons report: Council discussed the precautions to consider when giving the option to come into the church for services.

Other departments report: Sunday school rooms will each have bottle of surface cleaner, hand sanitizer and alcohol wipes. They still need a fourth-grade teacher.

Shout Outs:

- Jason & Matt for the Sunday service set ups
- Beeper and John Heylens as leaders for the September 6th service
- Good outdoor services each week

Old business: More discussion about in church services and continuing parking lot FM services. Discussion about where to locate offering plates, seating, social distancing,
Clint Kooima asked the Council width and where they want the sidewalk on the east side of the church building. This is a donation by Clint.

Other business: Council agreed to trash the two non-working dehumidifiers. Set out for clean-up day.
Pastor discussed the AFLC conference and how the AFLC department budgets are determined and how they are supported. Council will look at the AFLC budget published in the Lutheran Ambassador and review our church benevolence designations.

Council will have the annual personnel reviews at the October meeting.

Clint Kooima made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20, second by Jason Brands.

Pastor prayed for those in our church and community with special needs.

The Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Charlie Anderson, Council secretary

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 8th at 7 pm

WMF for October

Altar Committee: Ruth Circle

Miriam Circle: 7:30 Monday, October 6th

Hostess: Deb Ford; Bible Study Leader: Barb Brands

Priscilla Circle: 9:30 Wednesday, October 7th

Hostess: Marcene Severson; Bible Study Leader: Lucille Hanson

Ruth Circle: 2:00 Thursday, October 8th

Hostess: Carol Skovlund; Bible Study Leader: Sue Stahl

The annual harvest festival supper will not be held on Oct 3, 2020.

Cancelled: October 17th WMF General meeting for Honorary Members. They will honor their honorary members at a later date.

Grace Free is your Christian family and we want to know if you need anything during this time of social distancing.

Please reach out to Charlie if you (or if you know of someone who has a need). If you have a specific need like grocery shopping, picking up meds. meals and cannot do this yourself without risk please call. If you are able to help with those in need, please call.

Contact person to coordinate is Charlie: Church W-F 10-2 call 627-5445,

email gracefreelutheranchurch@gmail.com

Home: 627-6533 (leave voice mail) if no answer,

Cell: text or call: 605-651-0546. Council has asked that I coordinate needs with those who can help.

I know it is hard to ask for help so I will keep all requests confidential if you want, just let me know. Only the volunteer will know. All deliveries will be left outside for you to pick up. No home entries while we continue to honor social distancing.

The WMF officers have offered to help with calls. If you would like to make calls, the WMF have a 2020 Handbook that has phone numbers of all their members. I have put extra copies on the table by the south entrance and also some on the cart at the front door entrance.

What an awesome appointment from God: We are all called to be the Hands and Feet of Christ Jesus.



Books & Movies:

Please check the shelf outside the secretary's office for videos and books from the church library. Be sure to add your name to the list of books/videos checked out.

Your church needs one deacon to serve a two-year term. Council meets 2nd Thursday night each month for about an hour. If you have questions or would like to serve our church, please contact a Council member or Pastor Ron.

Winter is almost here! Do you need help with rent? Contact Brookings Housing & Redevelopment Commission at 605-692-1670, Ext:1 There is a letter and contact information posted on the bulletin board.

America in the Wuhan Covid19 virus

- Pray for this virus to be destroyed and not destroy us.
- Pray for those who are impacted by the effects of the virus.
- Pray for those who are helping in the fight.
- Pray for America to not be overcome by Satan's fear.

Revival in the midst of tragedy.

- Pray for your personal faith and trust to be strengthened.
- Pray for the pastors of American to hold to God's Word.
- May we all share the Gospel message of Christ Jesus.
- Pray for this time in America to be filled with Prayer.

Father, your ways are not our ways. Help us to be faithful and steadfast in our trust in You.

Pastor RonS

Church,

Every first Sunday of each month we share Holy Communion.

I would like to encourage you to stop by or contact the church so we can get you a couple communion cups for your home. This will allow you to partake in communion with us on the first Sunday of the month. I know for some you are most comfortable at home right now. These cups would allow you to commune with us so we may all receive grace in forgiveness by the blood of Christ Jesus together. Please stop by or call to let us know how many you may need for 2 months. These are prepackaged communion wafers and a cup of juice. I give detailed instructions on opening them as we receive communion together.

Praying for God's peace in your life and your family. May you today know the real presence of the Lord Jesus as you grow in your faith daily through prayer and Bible readings.

Pastor RonS

The Board of Education is looking for **substitute teachers.** If this is something you are interested in please contact Pastor Ron, Michelle Smith or Jessica Williams. Names and contact information on a list on the shelf next to secretary's office.

If you are wondering how you can continue to provide your tithes/offerings to the church I have listed a few options for your convenience.

- Mail or drop off your offering at the church
- Automatic transfer from any bank – fill out form
- PayPal

There are printed copies of the options on the cart at the front and south entrances.

Thank you for sharing your blessings with your continued tithes and offerings of support.

Please give this form to Wendy Peterson, Church Treasurer

I authorize Grace Free Lutheran Church to initiate payments from my account for my monthly/weekly offering.

(Please circle your choice of weekly or monthly) and the amount)

Weekly : \$ _____ beginning Month: _____ every _____ of the week

Monthly: \$ _____ beginning Month: _____ and every _____ day of the month

Bank Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

My Phone: _____

Routing #: _____ Please attach voided check or deposit slip

My Account #: _____

This authorization will remain in effect until Grace Free Lutheran Church receives written notice of termination.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Received by: _____ Date: _____

If you have an article or information you want added to the **November 2020 Calendar** or **Trumpet Newsletter** please get it to Charlie by noon on Wednesday, October 28th.



Fall/Winter Hours

9:00 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

10:00 Worship service

- **We have resumed church worship service inside as an *option* for anyone who would like to be inside.**
- Services will continue to be broadcast on FM 89.3 for those who want to be in their vehicles in the parking lot (*near west entrance has best reception*)
- or you can watch live streaming on our church Facebook page
- the service will be posted later for viewing on Vimeo and our church website.

You are welcome to come inside for the worship service practicing CDC guidelines, including social distancing except your immediate family and mask wearing is your choice. Pews are designated for seating. Please consider bringing your personal Bible to the in-church services. Hymns will continue to be printed as a bulletin insert. Please leave the sanctuary at the end of the service by last pews first.