

**Grace
Messenger**

May 2020

MESSENGER

A publication of *Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church*
149 8th Ave S., South St. Paul, MN 55075

May 2020

Good news!

That is what the Messenger from Grace Lutheran Church should contain, isn't it? The whole purpose of our congregation's existence could be wrapped up in those two words, *Good news*. Christians come together into congregations because there is *good news* to be heard, *good news* to be shared. It is the *good news* of God's grace and mercy to lost and condemned sinners, the *good news* that we are lost and condemned no more. God's Son, Jesus Christ, is at the center of this news and washes through every facet of the message that we embrace and share. The news is good because Jesus established peace between us and God by giving himself into death on the cross for our sins. It is good to hear that our forgiveness and peace before God are real, because the Son of God himself came and took upon himself all that would have fallen upon us. He is *the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world*.

Good news!

That is what we would like to hear about the present disruptions to our lives and our corporate worship due to the coronavirus. Well, there is good news.

- The gospel ("good news") of our Lord Jesus Christ remains the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. (John 1:29)
- The Lord of all creation continues to govern all things for the good of all who love him. (Romans 8:28)
- Our Lord Jesus still invites us to come to him to find rest for our souls. (Matthew 11:28-29)

In our present situation there is good news. We have continued to be united by the good news of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

- Worship opportunities are being offered online (www.grace-ssp.org) and by DVD's mailed to all who ask for them.
- Town Square Television, our local cable TV company, has continued to update the services we supply to them for broadcast on public access channel 16.
- Our members have continued to show their love for the Lord Jesus through acts of kindness.
- Offerings for our ongoing work have continued to pour in.

Good news!

We hope and pray for good news as our nation and the world look for solutions to the virus. We look forward to eventually hearing the good news that we can safely gather again in our church to worship the Lord together. Until then, remember the words of this precious hymn, *Children of the Heavenly Father safely in His bosom gather*. Remember that through it all, you are safe in His arms.

**God be with you all,
Pastor Hartwig**

MARCH'S ATTENDANCE

Wednesday, February 26	Ash Wednesday	4:30 & 6:30 p.m.	93	Communion:	73
Sunday, March 1		9:00 a.m.	80	Communion:	74
Wednesday, March 4	Lent	4:30 & 6:30 p.m.	69		
Sunday, March 8		9:00 a.m.	77		
Wednesday, March 11	Lent	4:30 & 6:30 p.m.	68		
Sunday, March 15		9:00 a.m.	67	Communion:	60
Wednesday, March 18	Lent	4:30 & 6:30 p.m.	31		
Sunday, March 22		9:00 a.m.	33		
Wednesday, March 25	Lent	4:30 & 6:30 p.m.	31		

Thank the Lord as He continues to strengthen the hearts of His people through the Word and they in turn respond with their gifts of love.

Finance Secretary Report – March 2020

March General Fund Receipts	\$18,639.50
Monthly Average Needed to Meet Our Projected Budget	\$19,038.92

Thank you for continuing to submit your offerings for the Lord's work at Grace.

A return envelope is once again included with this newsletter for your use.

Funds That Are Currently Available For Contributions

Endowment

Christian Education Tuition Assistance
Outreach Support
WELS Ministry Training
Scholarship, Tuition Assistance, Anniversary Celebration, Alms, Major Repair Project, and Dishwasher Replacement Fund



Graduation

If your child is graduating from high school or college, please contact the church office, so that we may gather information and a picture for the bulletin and June *Messenger*.

Thank You!

We, here at Grace, would like to *thank* everyone who helped in any way with our Lenten worship services such as the suppers, food donations, singing in the choir, changing of the paraments and candles, video taping and sound, usher volunteers, and Easter flower donations.

We would also like to thank Ken Nelson and Dan Dahlke for helping Pastor produce our Holy Week worship plus our weekly worship service during the Covid 19!

Thank you so much!

Aluminum

Please continue to collect and then drop off your aluminum cans. Deposit the aluminum in the large grey/green "storage shed" under the fire escape behind the church garage by sliding the roof **away** from you.

ALL ABOARD!!

All the planning is going on for this summer's VBS, with the theme *Making Tracks*. The children will join engineer Ed and his dog Loco, who will lead them through Bible lessons, games, and fun songs as they learn of Jesus' power to guide us through life to heaven.

The anticipated June dates (June 15-19) are still in place, even though we might have to reschedule. Dates in August are also being considered.

Registration is open by calling the church office or online at our website (www.grace-ssp.org).

Your help is needed if you can assist with decorating, preparing snacks, working with crafts, or teaching. Please call to let us know!

Messenger

The *Messenger* is on our website each month. If you would like to help save printing/mailing costs and have the *Messenger* emailed to you, contact the office at Brenda's email, which is blindeman@grace-ssp.org.



Remember to call and pray for our members that are homebound.

Thank You!

We ask our Lord to bless Hank and Deb N., who have moved to Arizona. Hank served as our Buildings and Grounds chairman, and previously as an Elder. He was also active in our evangelism efforts.

DVDs

If you or anyone you know would like the weekly DVDs of our church service, please contact the office at (651-451-1035).

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2020

Congregation President Dave Ross called the virtual April Council Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with 7 members present via Google Meet. Pastor Hartwig gave the opening devotion based on Psalm 84.

Secretary's Report: The March 2020 Council Meeting minutes were read and approved.

Financial Secretary's Report: The March 2020 Financial Secretary's report was reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The March 2020 Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved subject to audit.

Elders' Report: No meeting. No report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Hartwig reported that, due to the current COVID-19 situation, Confirmation will once again need to be rescheduled, along with the remaining instruction classes. He has also not been able to make shut-in visits in person, only by phone. Everyone is adapting as necessary. His previously planned travels have also not taken place.

Christian Education Committee: Sunday School has not been in session due to COVID-19, but the Sunday School staff has been preparing and delivering "Sunday School in a Bag" for our students. VBS materials and other preparations are all in place, but it is highly unlikely that it will take place on the originally planned June dates. VBS has been tentatively rescheduled for the week of August 10, 2020.

Building & Grounds Committee: Jim Mahoney is seeking a bid for cleaning and re-waxing the basement floor at some point this summer. There are no updates on any of the open or previously discussed projects.

Old Business: The church continues to abide by the "shelter in place" order currently in effect. Worship services are being recorded and posted online via the church's website, utilizing a YouTube channel. A self-addressed, stamped envelope will again be sent with the May Messenger for members to mail in their offering envelopes. The 1st Quarter Congregational Meeting has been cancelled. The 2nd Quarter Congregational Meeting is scheduled for July 19.

New Business: Hank Nelson has moved and tendered his resignation as Building and Grounds Chairman. The Council wishes to thank him for his past service.

Next Council Meeting: The Elders and Council are tentatively scheduled for 6:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., respectively, on May 12, 2020.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with prayer by Pastor Hartwig.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Dahlke, Secretary

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
149 8th Avenue South
South St. Paul, MN 55075-2296

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Services and in-person activities at Grace remain suspended while the governor’s stay-at-home order is in place.

We continue to share God’s Word through our online services and on cable channel 16. Many of you have found them through our website, and we encourage you to call the church office if you need assistance in finding them.

When we are able to restart services at the church, we will do our best to notify you - especially if special accommodations are included.

Rev. Thomas Hartwig 651.252.1130 Church Office, Brenda 651.451.1035 website: www.grace-ssp.org
