



September



From the Pastor,

I have been stressing out about writing this month's article. I felt that I should address the chaos happening in Afghanistan, but I have no idea what to say about it. People seem to first be speaking out about their thoughts and attitudes about the pull out of U.S. troops. Facts are being given without any interpretation of what the facts mean for the U.S. and Afghanistan.

I am stuck with questions and am not sure what my opinion is or should be. I feel as if I and the country is in shock. We want to blame someone for our lives being on hold in 2020. I am not sure what to do with these feelings.

And so I pray. Pray for the political leaders of all countries to seek to discern to do the right thing and do it. Pray for the people living in fear and the people panicking. Pray for the soldier's helping with the withdrawal. Even pray for the Taliban to be compassionate with their enemies. God can still perform miracles so don't be afraid or too skeptical about what you pray for. Pray for the countries receiving the refugees to be welcoming, including the U.S.

Don't forget to take time to be in a prayerful state. Don't forget while in that prayerful state to pray intercessory prayers for Afghanistan and the world.

Pastor Jim

Church Season: We continue living in the Church Season of Time After Pentecost. The color is green. In August the texts discussed Jesus as Living Bread that gives eternal life and the need to eat His flesh and drink His blood to receive this gift of eternal life from God. The texts in September explain how to live our lives with the faith that lives inside us.

Church Festival Days: September 14: Holy Cross Day

September 21: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

September 29: St. Michael & All Angels

US Holidays: September 6: Labor Day

September 11: Patriots Day

September 12: Grandparents Day

September 22: Fall Begins

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st - Art Thompson
2nd - Richard Roesener
6th - Nick Weber
9th - Cory Panko
11th - Lindsay Weber
Dean (Little) Wellensiek
12th - Amy Cropp-Perkins
17th - Robert Schmidt
21st - Chuck Ebeler
24th - Kate Dietz
26th - Beth Panko
27th - Baker Schippert
28th - Eugene Rosenthal
29th - Dave Smith

August
Altar Committee
Lori Brinkman

Update on sidewalk project:

The Contractor is planning on being here on Friday, September 10th or Monday September 13th. We will try to keep use for both of the south walk doors for church service on the 12th. The sidewalks may be torn out along the south parking area and also the two sidewalks leading up to the church from the south. The South walk doors will be 'CLOSED' during the week (13th—18th).

Please consider donating towards this project if you have not done so. We are at about \$10,000 of a total cost of \$12,750 plus added cost of rock.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 17th
Paul & Diane Wilken
Terry & Beth Panko
Sept 21st
Thomas & Ann Keigher
Sept 30th
Gene & Diane Ekhoff
(50th Anniversary)

Assisting Minister

September

5—Dean Wellensiek
12 —Erin Ebeler Rolf
19— Sarah Purcell
26— Diane Ekhoff

September 202

Grace Lutheran Church Council

17 August 2021

Grace Lutheran Church Council met 17 August 2021. The meeting was called to order by Paul Wilken. Pastor Jim Helgren started the meeting with a prayer. Council members present were Paul Wilken, Amber Beard, Bret Wellensiek, Tucker Drake. Also in attendance were Pastor Jim Helgren and Diane Wilken, church secretary/treasurer. Absent was Kate Dietz.

Bret Wellensiek made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 2021 meeting. Erin Ebeler Rolf seconded. Motion carried.

The financial report was reviewed. Amber Beard made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Bret Wellensiek seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Helgren's Monthly Report:

Confirmation Student/Parent Meeting will be held 25 August.

Mission Festival will be held 17 October at 10 am for joint worship with Hope. Table Grace will have the worship service & furnish their food truck for the meal following worship.

The electrical meter at the Parsonage was replaced after a branch fell on a wire and shorted it out, causing a small fire. Mrs. Kathy Helgren saved the day by heroically confronting the blaze by utilizing her fire extinguisher appropriately – Pull Aim Squeeze Sweep. Pastor was there too.

Pastor will be writing for our local newspaper – the Tecumseh Chieftain – soon.

Melodrama practice will begin the end of August, where Pastor was once again type casted as his alter ego. Pastor was able to visit quite a few people this month to offer conversation, prayer, and peace.

Communion was discussed.

Kids for Christ was discussed.

Correspondence:

None to report

Committee Reports:

Property committee: Council – Bret Wellensiek:

Side walks and window wells will be replaced soon

Worship, Evangelism, Music & Fellowship: Council – Erin Ebeler Rolf:

CCLI License – reporting of hymns was discussed

Fellowship will still be held outside. If rain, no fellowship.

Parish Ed & Young People: Council – Amber Beard:

Sunday School – will hopefully start after Labor Day, but will review COVID regulations

Stewardship & Memorial: Council – Kate Dietz:

The GLC Pastors Memorial Plaque has been completed and will be put up soon

Other Business:

Old Business:

Midi – midi on the organ was used during service and a lot of great things were being said about it

Wi-Fi antenna was repaired, and router replaced

Letter from Faith Lutheran Church was received – they will be contacting Grace Lutheran Church soon about planning for the future with other churches in the cluster

New Business:

Weddings/Services/Communion – same as before

Duty Roster - August is covered

Noisy Coin Offering Designation – Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

Next Meeting will be 21 September 2021 at 7PM

Meeting was adjourned by Paul Wilken and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Amber L. Beard

State Convention Is almost here!

The Women of the ELCA are having their State convention. This year it is within driving distance each day, it is being held at Camp Carol Joy Holling. It will be October 1,2,3. The theme for the convention is "Listening for God's Call."

The convention presenters are Jill Miller, Keynote, workshop presenter, and musician. Chaplain Amalia Spruth-Jensen, Bible study leader, Pastor Sarah Ruch, workshop presenter Pastor Sandra Braasch. Others to look forward to hearing from as well will be a representative from church wide women's group and a video greeting from Bishop Brian Mass.

All ladies are welcome to attend. Delegates will be doing the business but the workshops, the fellowship, the entertainment, the setting can be enjoyed by all. Should you wish to participate but can't go you can help by sending along an in kind offering. Those suggested items this year are to be for campers who get scholarships to attend camp at Carol Joy but don't have the items it takes for the week of camp. Items needed for camper totes are- a Bible, flashlight, bug spray, sunscreen, 2 towels, washcloth, travel size hygiene kit- shampoo and conditioner, toothbrush and toothpaste, body wash, deodorant, and a sleeping bag.

If these are left at the back of church they will be transported by those who do attend.

Registration forms are available along with full details in the "Expressions" posted on the church bulletin board in the basement. Registrations are due Sept. 6 or that same week. If you have questions concerning this event give Eleta a call at 402-921-0042. She is the women's state board representative for the Southeast Nebraska Conference.

It is our hope that this convention will better prepare you to be one who can say to God "Here am I send me".

Eleta Eisenhauer



Welcome September
New month, new chapter,
new page and new wishes.
May the month give you
courage strength, confidence
patience, self-love and
inner peace .

Grace Lutheran Church

306 N. First St.

P.O. Box 96

Cook, NE 68329



ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Church Office: 402-864-4201

Pastor Jim Helgren: 402-864-2113

Church Email: grace68329@gmail.com