

# GRACE

*for the Moment*

The Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

June 2020



**South Dakota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**A Pastoral Message from Bishop Hagmaier and Associates**

**May 23, 2020**

South Dakota Ministry Leaders,

In the last weeks, many congregations, and quite possibly your own ministry site, have had discussions about how or when to open up again for in-person worship. On Friday, May 22nd, President Trump declared houses of worship to be “essential,” and called for them to be allowed to re-open immediately. In South Dakota, our Governor never closed our churches, so nothing has changed in our situation.

We agree with our President on several points. The worship and ministry that happen through our communities of faith *are* essential. We do provide essential services, delivering food and hygiene kits, mourning with people as they grieve, and proclaiming God’s promise of resurrection to a broken world.

In his address, President Trump also stated that he trusts faith leaders, saying “ministers, pastors, rabbis, imams, and other faith leaders will make sure that their congregations are safe as they gather and pray.” That trust places responsibility on you and your community’s decision makers to determine WHEN and HOW it would be safe to gather in person once again. What is safe in another community may not be safe for your own community.

Our guidance from the synod has not changed. We strongly recommend that you wait to gather again in person until you know that the risk of transmission is much lower. It is scientifically proven that large group gatherings and singing bear a high risk for infection. We urge you to talk with medical professionals in your community, who can share current information and recommend best practices. The essential ministry that you undertake has certainly continued. Church buildings might have been locked, but ministry in Christ’s name is well and alive, and dare we say, has expanded exponentially. Well done, good and faithful servants, for adapting promptly to these ever changing circumstances. Thank you for your faithfulness in continuing to be the body of Christ, the manifestation of love that is the church, for our world that needs to hear



**P.O. Box 667 Parker, SD 57053**

605.297.4417

gracelutheranparkersd@gmail.com www.gracelutheranparker.com



Good News. In your discussions with each other, please be patient, kind, and loving. Trust that your fellow leaders have good intentions, and try to understand them when you disagree. We hope you remember that we are available to be a partner in your conversations, if you desire. While we cannot tell you what to do, we most certainly can walk alongside of you as you wrestle with tough decisions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us, as it is our priority to talk with you about concerns or questions you may have.

We urge you to use *James 1* (included below, emphases ours) as opening devotions when you have these discussions amongst leaders. Be guided by love in the midst of temptation, be quick to listen but slow to speak and slow to anger, and care for the vulnerable in your midst.

Peace be with you,

**The Rev. Constanze Hagmaier**

*Bishop, South Dakota Synod, ELCA*

**The Rev. Jonathan Steiner**

*Director for Evangelical Mission; Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship & Outreach*

**The Rev. Renee Splichal Larson**

*Associate to the Bishop for Congregation, Candidacy, & Rostered Minister Accompaniment*

**James 1:1-27**

*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. **If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.***

*Let the believer who is lowly boast in being raised up, and the rich in being brought low, because the rich will disappear like a flower in the field. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the field; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. It is the same way with the rich; in the midst of a busy life, they will wither away.*

***Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. No one, when tempted, should say, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one’s own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death.***

*Do not be deceived, my beloved. Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: **let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.***

*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: **to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.***



# Meet the Church Council

## Shannon Avilla, President, Deacon



Shannon is a life-long Parker resident. She and her family have been part of the Grace Lutheran faith community for about 5 years.

Shannon is married to Lionel and is mom to Madison (18) and Kaden (15).

Shannon is employed by Premier Bankcard. In her spare time, she enjoys crafting, making t-shirts, crocheting, card-making, scrapbooking, and reading.

## Dawn Duerksen, Treasurer



Dawn has been married to Corwin for 37 years and they live on an acreage near Parker. She has been employed with Citi since 1986 and is presently the Public Relations Director handling all internal and external communications as well as all of the charitable contributions for SD. She also serves on the Advisory Board for The Banquet. Corwin is employed by G4S Security and manages the security for all of the Wells Fargo sites.

Dawn and Corwin have two grown children – Brandi and Cody. Brandi is the Marketing & Entertainment Manager at Royal River Casino in Flandreau and is married to Mike Olson. They make their home in Elkton and have 3 children – Jaden, a sophomore at SDSU, Tenlee (7 yrs), and Nash (6 yrs) attend school in Elkton. Cody during fire season is a Wildland Fireman with the Bear Mountain Handcrew in Rapid City and in the off season works for Raeco Builders. Cody and Kilee Ihnen live in Tea with son Jack (5 yrs), who attends Tea school.

Dawn has been a member of Grace Lutheran since the early 80s. Pastor Marlin Haugrud married Corwin and Dawn at Grace in 1983 and they have been members ever since. Dawn has been a Sunday School teacher, Luther League Director, Church Council member, and your church Treasurer since 1996.

She enjoys horseback riding, camping and spending time with family and friends.

## Robb Jensen, Vice-President, Trustee



Robb has lived in the Parker area since he was a kid. He has his own construction business, and has taken the lead on our current building project here at Grace.

Robb is married to Shari and is dad to Brittane, Brandin, and Breana. He also has 5 grandchildren.

In his spare time, Robb likes to camp and spend time with his family and friends.

**Tami Berens, Secretary, Board of Ed**



Tami has been a member of Grace Lutheran since she was a 1<sup>st</sup> grader. She is now married to Riston and has 3 children – Braelyn (12), Carter (9), and Amara (3).

Tami is employed by Citibank. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, volunteering for youth ministry, and raising show animals.

**Jen Becker, Board of Ed**



Jen has lived in the Parker area for 20 years. She is currently the Success Coordinator for the Parker School District.

Jen is married to Cameron, who works for Rivers Edge Bank, and is mom to Paige (age 6) and Vaun (age 4).

Jen's hobbies include golfing, reading, running, shopping, and spending time with family and friends.

**Stacey Hazen, Deacon**



Stacey works for Teamsters Local 120. She and her family have lived in Parker for 8 years, and have been coming to Grace for 7 years.

Stacey likes to spend as much time outside as she can. She likes to garden and read.

Stacey is married to Derik and is mom to Josh (24) and Jake (18).

**Jay Mitzner, Trustee**



Jay and his wife Jeni have been Parker residents for the last 7 years. They have been attending Grace Lutheran for the last 4 years.

When Jay's daughter Mallory (13) and son Nolan (10) aren't keeping him busy with their activities, Jay enjoys golfing and camping.

**Ryan Penning, Trustee**



Ryan and his family moved to Parker in December, 2017, and have been attending Worship at Grace for about 2 years. Ryan works for Hofmeister-Jones and his wife Amy works for Rivers Edge Bank. He is dad to Adley (3 yrs) and Maryn (1 yr).

Ryan enjoys hunting and fishing, being outside, and cheering for the SDSU Jackrabbits. Ryan loves being part of the Grace Lutheran faith community, and is very happy to be in Parker.

...meet the Church Council con't...

### Tanya Schaeffer, Board of Ed



Tanya is a Certified Nurse Practitioner for Rural Medical Clinic. She and her husband Brad have 2 daughters – Hannah (12) and Hadley (8).

The Schaeffer has lived in Parker for 6 years, and have been worshipping at Grace about as long.

In her spare time, Tanya enjoys crafts, camping, fishing, and hunting.

### Jason Schulte, Deacon



Jason grew up in Parker and was confirmed at Grace Lutheran. He graduated from PHS, and moved back to Parker nearly 3 ½ years ago.

Jason is now married to Chrystal, and has two daughters - Jillian, 7, and Everly, 5.

Jason works for Wells Fargo, and in his spare time enjoys listening to Dwight Yoakam and playing croquet, often at the same time.

## Church Council Minutes

April 21, 2020

Meeting was held virtually via Zoom

Present: Pastor Don, Ryan Penning, Shannon Avilla, Jason Schulte, Jen Becker, Stacey Hazen, Dawn Duerksen, Tanya Schaeffer, Jay Mitzner, Robb Jensen, and Tami Berens

Shannon called the meeting to order.

MSP to approve the agenda.

MSP to approve the March council meeting minutes.

MSP to approve the treasurer's report.

Community VBS is not going to be held in person. The Board of Ed is working to come up with a virtual or mailed option to get some materials to kids.

MSP to have the carpet tear out taken care of by Thornton Flooring so we can proceed with carpet replacement while the church is not being utilized. Council will be requesting a few volunteers to assist with removing the pews and will ensure the number of volunteers stays under the CDC guideline of 10 people and social distancing is practiced.

Groundskeeper position – this is still being reviewed for filling and insurance confirmed.

Worship service – parking lot service was discussed as an option but concerns in regards to the logistics and potential risks resulted in council not wanting it offered at this time. The YouTube services being available on Wednesdays and Sundays in addition to Pastor Don emailing and mailing out his sermon to those that do not have internet are safe options that are working at this time.

The current internet available in the church is low bandwidth and does not allow for livestream services. Services have to be recorded and then loaded later which is very timely. MSP that to accommodate what is needed to allow for livestream services for now as well as in the future the internet will be upgraded accordingly.

Our next meeting will be May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.

Devotion was given by Pastor Don

MSP to adjourn the meeting .

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT 5/19/2020

<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Year To Date</u></b>
101 General Offering	\$20.00	\$2,730.00
102 Envelope Offering	\$12,030.00	\$48,094.43
103 Quarterly Offering	\$180.00	\$1,480.00
104 Lenten Offering	\$0.00	\$1,498.00
109 Camper Savings	\$0.00	\$0.00
121 Transfer from Audio Visual	\$0.00	\$0.00
123 Endowment	\$0.00	\$0.00
202 Use of Building	\$80.00	\$80.00
203 Misc. Income	\$0.00	\$330.00
204 Augie/USF PACT	\$0.00	\$0.00
205 Thrivent	\$0.00	\$531.00
208 Amazon Smile	\$0.00	\$20.20
219 Transfer from Building Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
222 Transfer from Memorial Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
224 CARES ACT	\$0.00	\$12,950.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$12,310.00</b>	<b>\$67,713.63</b>

**SUMMARY GENERAL CHECKING:**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$9,801.31</b>	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$67,713.63</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$60,216.16</b>	
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$17,298.78</b>	

**Monthly Summary**

	<b>Offering Total</b>	<b>Misc Income</b>	<b>Monthly Expenses</b>
January	\$13,311.88	\$727.00	\$9,514.39
February	\$9,750.00	\$506.20	\$10,265.09
March	\$8,177.00	\$2,248.00	\$12,674.20
April	\$13,290.55	\$13,408.00	\$7,631.36
May	\$6,295.00	\$0.00	\$20,131.12
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
<b>Total Monthly Offering</b>	<b>\$50,824.43</b>	<b>\$16,889.20</b>	<b>\$60,216.16</b>

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCES:**

Campers Savings	\$2,237.11
Building Fund Savings	\$58,973.93

**OTHER ACCOUNT BALANCES:**

River's Edge Bank CD	\$37,847.82
First Savings Bank Money Market	\$3,412.28

Dawn Duerksen, Treasurer

<b><u>EXPENSES: SALARIES/BENEFITS</u></b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Budget</u></b>
301 Pastor Base Salary	\$4,100.00	\$20,500.00	\$49,200.00
302 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$12,000.00
303 Pastor Pension/Retirement	\$265.42	\$1,380.18	\$3,600.00
305 Pastor Car Allowance	\$487.50	\$2,437.50	\$5,850.00
307 Pastor Insurance - Health & Benefits	\$103.51	\$464.47	\$1,500.00
308 Pastor Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
320 Custodian	\$207.86	\$1,317.21	\$6,500.00
321 Organist	\$0.00	\$249.34	\$1,560.00
322 Secretary	\$217.14	\$1,566.23	\$5,500.00
323 Groundskeeper	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
325 Sub Pastor	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
326 FICA Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$420.76</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES-SALARIES/BENEFITS:</b>	<b>\$6,381.43</b>	<b>\$33,335.69</b>	<b>\$95,960.00</b>

<b><u>EXPENSES: BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS</u></b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Budget</u></b>
401 Snow Removal	\$0.00	\$1,903.65	\$3,000.00
402B Natural Gas	\$158.75	\$1,543.84	\$3,400.00
405 Electricity and Water	\$207.58	\$1,282.35	\$4,000.00
407 Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,712.49	\$7,000.00
408 Misc. Bldg. & Grnd. Exp.	\$174.44	\$1,287.97	\$7,500.00
409 Piano Tuning	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
409A Organ Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
413 State Farm - Workmen's Comp.	\$0.00	\$162.75	\$900.00
415 Audio Visual Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00
416 Building Loan Payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
418 Return Of Cares Act Funds	<u>\$12,950.00</u>	<u>\$12,950.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES-BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS:</b>	<b>\$13,490.77</b>	<b>\$20,843.05</b>	<b>\$39,250.00</b>

<b><u>EXPENSES: CHURCH PROGRAMS</u></b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Budget</u></b>
502 Bible Camp Sponsorships	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
503 Offering Envelopes	\$0.00	\$211.34	\$350.00
504 Confirmation Expense	\$0.00	\$326.85	\$900.00
506 Synod Assembly	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
507 Books and Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
508 Misc. Program Expense	\$0.00	\$660.91	\$2,500.00
512 Bank Service Charges	\$17.95	\$89.75	\$500.00
517 Bibles for 3rd Graders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
519 Postage	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$400.00
526 High School Graduate Gifts	\$299.83	\$299.83	\$300.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES-CHURCH PROGRAMS:</b>	<b>\$317.78</b>	<b>\$1,698.68</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>

<b><u>EXPENSES: MISSIONS/BENEVOLENCES</u></b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Budget</u></b>
602 Augustana/USF PACT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
603 ELCA Benevolence	\$0.00	\$2,306.19	\$10,000.00
604 Shetek Bible Camp	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.00
605 Crossroads Conference Dues	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
614 Emergency Cash Fund	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES-MISSONS:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,306.19</b>	<b>\$13,050.00</b>

<b><u>EXPENSES: OFFICE</u></b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Budget</u></b>
701 Copier Lease	\$148.72	\$610.67	\$2,400.00
702 Bulletins and Inserts	\$0.00	\$895.66	\$1,750.00
703 Church Office Telephone	\$123.48	\$526.22	\$1,250.00
704 Office Supplies	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$750.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES - OFFICE:</b>	<b>\$272.20</b>	<b>\$2,032.55</b>	<b>\$6,150.00</b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$20,462.18</b>	<b>\$60,216.16</b>	<b>\$161,910.00</b>
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