

Calendar Events**May 10**

Mother's Day

May 25

Memorial Day

June 21

Father's Day

**Messenger**

Grace Lutheran Church 920-848-2177

501 S. Main St.

Oconto Falls, WI 54154

The LORD's loving kindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

Greetings Grace Lutheran Family!

The human race is facing a challenge like no other we've faced in recent history. One that is difficult to prepare for and one that affects us all. This virus does not discriminate because of race, economic status, or geographical location. We are all in this together and yet we are all facing challenges unique to our own situations.

The good news is we get to spend a lot more time with our immediate family. The key word here is "immediate". But for some, that means missing out on seeing grandchildren, elderly parents, and even siblings. Thankfully, modern technology can help bridge that hole, but there are those who fall through the technology gap. I encourage you to reach out to other members of our congregation to just check in to see how they are faring and to see if anyone needs anything. Please contact the church office if you need assistance with anything.

The last day we were able to meet as a congregation, I mentioned that we will use this opportunity to get better at some things. If you've been able to tune into our Sunday morning services on YouTube, you've seen some drastic improvements to how we now broadcast our services. Many of you have been asking for either a live broadcast or at least a video recording of the entire service, not only the sermon. I guess necessity is truly the mother of invention!!

In last month's newsletter, I encouraged you all to use this time to grow closer to our Creator. And now I'm checking in to see how you're progressing with that. Remember that our Easter season is 40 days long which means we have approximately 21 more days to celebrate Easter in 2020!

Now, please take a moment to read again the scripture at the top of this letter. And now please spend some time in prayer and ask God to show you just what that means to you today. Celebrate in the fact that God's love never fails and that His promises never cease and rejoice in the fact that they are new every morning!

In His joy,

Pastor Gary

OFFICIAL ACTS – APRIL 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Offerings Received</u> <u>(includes designated giving)</u>
April 5	Virtual 11am	\$4,636.56
	Online Giving	\$2,150.00
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April 12	Virtual 11am (Easter)	\$5,007.60
	Online Giving	\$2,327.00
<hr/>		
April 19	Virtual 11am	\$4,848.60
	Online Giving	\$1,455.00
<hr/>		
April 26	Virtual 11am	\$3,094.42
	Online Giving	\$ 798.00
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Financial Report

Operations Checkbook (GENERAL OFFERING) - Month of April

Beginning Balance 3/31/2020	+ \$15,780.35
Deposits Operating Fund	+ \$22,817.18
Disbursements Operating Fund.....	- \$14,986.92
Ending Balance 4/30/2020.....	+ \$23,610.61
Loan Balance 04/06/2020.....	\$131,626.88
Monthly payment of principal.....	\$ 0*
Monthly payment of interest.....	\$ 493.60
Additional principal.....	\$ 0*

*Change due to response during COVID-19. Principal and extra principal payments will resume once we resume normal church business.



"Safe-at-Home" / Operation Christmas Child

While staying safe at home, it is so hard to think about the future, much less November and Operation Christmas Child! In this time of immediacy, when we are in conversation with God and thankful for His provisions and protection, can we also be prayerful about the role He would have us play; what is appointed for us to do, like Joseph of Arimathea?

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

Thank you, Father, for what You have for each of us to do, and for what You will have us do when we are back together.

April 20, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President, Pam Langlay

PRESENT: (All Council Members met remotely over the Zoom Meeting App) Pastor Gary, Pam Langlay, Jennifer Lyng, Jared Alfson, Jerry Riste, Adam Fischer, Holli Kussow, Kathy Borisch, Julie Spillane, Jenny Mercier, Jean Zielinski, Brooke Siolka, Aidan Spillane

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: No guests

Prayer by Pam Langlay **Devotion** by Pastor Gary

COUNCIL PRESIDENT- (Pam Langlay)

SECRETARY'S REPORT: MSC Jared Alfson, Holli Kussow

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Kathy Borisch) MSC Brooke Siolka, Julie Spillane

EVANGELISM: (Jenny Mercier)

- a.) The new Grace Lutheran Church logo was revealed during the Easter worship service!
- b.) The Evangelism Committee met on April 17th to finalize the logo.
- c.) Jennifer Lyng did a great job putting this all together! Thank you Jennifer!

PARISH EDUCATION: (Brooke Siolka)

No report

PARISH FELLOWSHIP: (Jennifer Lyng)

- a.) We are looking for someone interested in this position for the next term.
- b.) If you know of someone interested, please contact the church office.

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE: (Jean Zielinski) - No report

PUBLIC RELATIONS: (Jared Alfson)

Discussion regarding whether debit/cards should be added as a way to give on-line. At this the council decided to table the discussion. There are fees associated with debit/credit cards. Right now our online giving has increased substantially and no one is asking to be able to use cards.

STEWARDSHIP: (Adam Fischer) -No report

YOUTH MINISTRY: (Aidan Spillane) - No report

WORSHIP & MUSIC: (Holli Kussow)- No report

ENDOWMENT: (Julie Spillane) - No report

LONG RANGE PLANNING: (Jerry Riste) - No report

PASTOR REPORT: (Pastor Gary)

OLD BUSINESS:

- Semi-Annual Meeting- There will still be a Semi-Annual Meeting. The date will be determined according to when Governor Evers reopens Wisconsin.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Grace Lutheran has taken out the Payroll Protection Loan – COVID-19 Stimulus package.
- Many congregation members have switched over to on-line giving.
- We will begin working on a plan for reopening GLC at the May Council Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned: by President Pam Langlay

Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Magnin
Council Secretary

May Birthdays



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1- Tami Wall | 15- Chad Spaulding |
| 2- Colsen Raygo | Robert Zabel |
| Robert Vorpahl | 16- Ted Merwin |
| 3- Abigail Alfson | 17- Chyna Sell |
| Georgia Blom | Blake Thomson |
| Diane Mehrstens | 18- Laura Zielinski |
| Taryn Shallow | 20- Karen Haines |
| Nicole Zielinski | Matthew Lyng |
| 4- Mark Stuckey | 21- Leland Nicholas |
| 5- Mark Stanek | 22- Mason Buhrandt |
| 7- Jake Krieser | Brian Klimpke |
| Alli Remic | Braxton Rajkovich |
| Diane Tisch | 24- Emma Alfson |
| 8- Carol Krieser | Jodi Fry |
| Tylor Wold | 26- Mark Brye |
| 9- Arianna Bloom | 27- Kris Seidel |
| 10- Kim Pritzlaff | 29- Judy Ama |
| Nikki Tolzman | Randy Lierman |
| 11- Sullivan Kane | Jordan Tonella |
| 12- Ellen Pritzlaff | Ruth Wolford |
| 13- Bob Maloney | 30- Jeff Jarvey |
| Jagger Reed | 31- Sharon VanDenHeuvel |
| Sarah Schindel | Luke Walker |
| 14- Angie Magnin | |

If we have left out any names, please contact the church office at grace@graceocontofalls.org or (920) 848-2177. Thank you.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

MAY

- 2 - David and Deb Kowenstrot
- 4 - Adam and Sharon Fischer
Jeff and Jacki Wolford
- 11 - Emil Jr. and Eva Groth
- 17 - Kim and Ken Fischer
- 19 - Orv Jr. & Janet Van de Hei
- 21- Walter and Nancy Weiss
- 21- Terry and Jane Radke
- 31- Tim and Cara Peterson

Prayer Requests

Members of Grace:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Len & Carol Burns | Strength/healing |
| Dorothy Ellner | Continued recovery |
| Doris Knox | Healing after loss |
| Jim Kuckenbecker | Strength/healing |
| Maloney family | Healing after loss |
| Lorraine Murphy | Strength/healing |
| Diane Peitersen | Continued healing |
| Julia Schullo | Continued healing |
| Jane Sutrick | Failing health |
| Betsy Voermans | Continued recovery |
| George Whalen | Health concerns |

Friends/Family of Grace:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Penny Biese | Breast cancer |
| Greg Boehmer | Brain cancer |
| Ashleigh Mercier Bordelais | Breast cancer |
| Robin Doell | Brain cancer |
| Jean Eastman | Breast cancer |
| Nola Edwards | Cancer treatment |
| Dick Edwards | Health concerns |
| Kim (Capelle) Fischer | Health concerns |
| Rick Fries | Heart problems |
| Sheldon Haag | Recovery after heart attack |
| Bryant Hodkiewicz | Cancer treatment |
| Carol Hostrawser | Health concerns |
| Ken Jarabek | Cancer treatment |
| Roger Neilson | Cancer |
| Jerry Pegelow | Heart surgery/recovery |
| Chuck Radke | Cancer treatment |
| Rollyn Radke | Health concerns |
| Bob Schindel | Continued recovery |
| Chris Stoltenburg | Lung transplant |
| Barb Zastrow | Test results/healing |
| Patty Zeutzius | Cancer treatment |

Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Catelyn Kramer | Haley Schwantes |
| Caitrin Lonzo | Aidan Spillane |
| Bethy Olson | Trinady Vorpahl |
| Lindsey Schuster | Janelle Wolford |
| Lydia Rombach | Travis Zielinski |
| Zachary Schwantes | |





Words From

OUR COUNCIL

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Pam Langley- President

Dear Grace Family -

I hope and pray that everyone is doing OK during this pandemic. Even though we miss being with each other, I firmly believe God is using this time for good. By taking away so many of our daily distractions, He is bringing us closer to Him. What a blessing He has given us!

I want to tell you about some things that have been going on behind the scenes at Grace. During the first week after the church stopped having in-person Sunday services, there were many questions. How were we going to keep having services, how were we all going to stay in touch and was there going to be enough money coming in to pay the bills?

The internet has been a real blessing during this time as we have our worship services online and also weekly announcements. Thank you to everyone involved in making those things happen.

Financially, in an effort to be proactive instead of reactive, the Executive Committee met and found ways to cut back some of our monthly expenses. The church also applied for the Payroll Protection Loan being offered by government. We were approved for the loan. The council is looking at this loan as an emergency fund. If we don't need to use the loan, we will not use it.

At the same time, the giving by the people of this congregation has been very generous and because of that, our church is doing OK. Thank you to everyone who has made offerings.

With the "Safer at Home" order by Governor Evers, we don't know the date yet that we will all be able to come back to the church to worship, but we are all looking forward to that day. When we do come back, services may look a little different for a while, but we will navigate that as it comes. The semi-annual meeting that should be held in May will most likely happen in June or July.

God is very good to this congregation. Please thank Him in your prayers. I thank you for all the support all of you give to this church. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email me.

Pam Langley

planglay@gmail.com

920-373-2731



1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Kathy Borisch - Treasurer

Hello Grace Family!

I want to thank all of you that have been able to continue your financial support of Grace during this time. We have seen an increase in the number of members shifting to the online giving options as well as many of you that have continued your gifts by dropping them off at the church.

God continues to work through Grace. I feel so blessed to be part of your church family.

Take care, stay safe, and I pray the peace of God continues to fill your hearts and minds until we can meet again face to face!

*Kathy Borisch
Treasurer*

Jerry Riste - Long Range Planning and Safety & Security Committee

Hi Grace Lutheran Church parishioners.

I hope all is going well with you and your family. Since Emergency Order 12, Safer-At-Home was issued on March 24 most of us have been staying at home to limit the rate of spread of this virus. We have also stopped worship services and other group activities at Grace Lutheran until allowed by the Badger Bounce Back program. We are reviewing the Badger Bounce Back program, its gating criteria for the three phases, and allowed actions along with actions other congregations are taking to return to a new normal to determine what we may do to return to this new normal.

Until we do return to this new normal, I hope your needs are being met. If there are some needs that are going unmet that we at Grace Lutheran Church may be able to help with, please let us know. We will do our best to meet these needs within the published guidelines.

Thanks
*Jerry Riste,
Council member Safety and Security*

Grace News & Happenings



LIVE

Tune in on Facebook
Epic Youth Group
Wednesday Evenings
7:00PM EPIC Youth Group
7:40PM High School (Purpose Driven Life Study)

Service DVD's Available

There are DVD's of some of our past services available if you were not able to watch the services live. The DVD's will be in a labeled basket on the bench outside the church office.



BIBLES FOR 2020 GRADUATES

Each of our graduates will be gifted a Ryrie Study Bible as their final Faith Milestone at Grace. The cost of each Bible is \$50. If you are interested in sponsoring a Bible, please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran and indicate "Bible Sponsorship" in the memo/notes line of the check. Thank you for your sponsorship!

GRACE LUTHERAN SERVICES ARE

LIVE

Watch the website www.graceocontofalls.org and Facebook (Grace Lutheran Church of Oconto Falls) for information on the live stream.

Fellowship The fun job!

Even though we don't know when we will be able to have our spring semi-annual meeting, at some time we WILL be back to normal and we will have the meeting. One of the purposes of the meeting is to fill open positions on council. A position that needs to be filled for the coming year is Fellowship. This is the fun job. Fellowship organizes church events. Now that sounds like a lot of work but there are many people who are already involved in making these events happen you just need to be the organizer. There is a huge committee to help do whatever needs to be done as well as past council people who can help and guide you. Does this sound like something that might interest you? God knows who He wants in this position - is He nudging you? Pray, and if our Father is urging you, please call Pam Langlay, council president. She will be happy to talk with you about the details of this council position. This is a very rewarding job. Pam's number is 920-373-2731.

SPARE TIME PROJECTS for SHOE BOX GIFTS

Anyone in your family looking for a productive way to fill time? These are three projects we found and the websites for directions. Materials needed and samples will be in the narthex of church beginning May 3rd.

The office is open Tues-Thurs 10am-8pm, Fri-Sat all day, Sunday noon-8pm. Office is closed Mondays.

These will make great items for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes we fill in November.

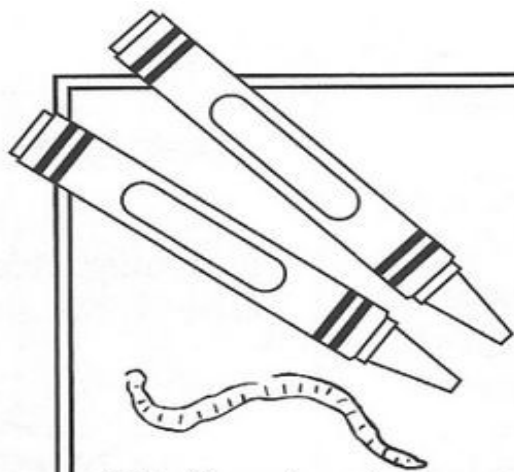
Headbands found at: aliceandlois.com

Bracelets found at: agirlandaglugun.com

Snakes found at: frugalfun4boys.com

Jump ropes found on You Tube: Easy DIY jump ropes

Pinterest is a great source for ideas. You are not limited to these suggestions. If you find something you would like to make and need materials, there is a Thrivent Gift Card available to us. Please call Ellen at 362-5752 to see how we can get you what you need. Have fun!



Just for **KIDS**

Bugs in the Bible



Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs!

Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.



*Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse.
Circle them in the puzzle below.*

Proverbs 6:6 _____

Exodus 16:20 _____

Psalms 78:45 _____

1 Sam. 24:14 _____

Matt. 23:24 _____

Isaiah 50:9 _____

Judges 14:8 _____

Isaiah 59:5 _____

Acts 12:23 _____

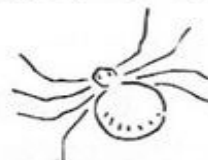
Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Deuteronomy 7:20 _____



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S