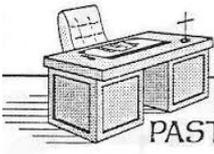


Grace & Trinity Newsbites

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2021



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

We have moved into the 4th quarter of 2021. It's harvest season; we're moving into anticipation for Thanksgiving and Christmas; and soon enough a new church year, and then the next calendar

year. Time to be thinking of what's in store in the year to come. Our church councils have been busy and have made a faithful, bold and creative choice for 2022, the next year in our journey as yoked congregations. We are yoked, ecumenical partnership (2 congregations who share a pastor), working together to further the kingdom of God; discerning what our mission and ministry is, together and separately.

We've been walking together for 2 years now; and the councils at a joint meeting on September 29 have decided on a year long experiment. The thing about experiments is they always teach us something. Drum roll please! In 2022 we will alternate, by month, who holds which weekend service. **In odd months**, January, March, May, July, September and November **Trinity will have 5:30 Saturday services and Grace 9:00 Sunday services.** **In even months**, February, April, June, August, October and December **Grace will have 5:30 Saturday services and Trinity 9:00 Sunday services.** There are 4 months that have both a 5th Saturday and 5th Sunday; those months will have one joint service that weekend; a tentative schedule would be: Saturdays January 29 (Trinity) and October 29 (Grace); Sundays July 31 (Grace) and January 1 [2022] (Trinity). So, BIG change for all of us. Change is hard. Change is life! Without change we stagnate. Change is the key to vitality and growth; not doing away with traditions that shape and form our lives, but rather being willing to give up, give away, put aside whatever limits our ability to answer God's call for the time and place we are in, now. We are grateful for the faithful who have built our congregations, who laid the foundation on which we stand; and we are building the foundation on which the next generations of faithful followers will stand.

So, here's what I'm asking us to do: pray, be patient, to show up, be open to God using us to witness, to invite others to worship, to remember what and who is central – we are Christians who are Congregational, Lutheran, Methodist and all baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You could use this as an opportunity to recommit to regular in person participation – after all, there are 2 options to gather; and two opportunities each weekend to invite friends to worship with you. Consider signing up to assist in leading worship for whichever service time works best for you; work this experiment and see where it leads us. Be one who 'shows up'; and if that means via livestream, say hello or at the sign of peace, offer peace to all. We are companions on a journey; stronger together than we are apart.

Also, on the topic of 'showing up', now is a good time to be sure that your tithe or offering 'shows up' too. Faithful support to the work of the congregations is being generous, according to your means. Consider online giving; it's an easy route to ensuring that your tithe is a regular part of your household budget.

The other big news for 2022 – Grace is applying to again be an internship site!!! We are a very attractive site – for 2 reasons. 1. Grace has a great reputation for its many years of training interns; a vital ministry for the larger church. 2. We are an ecumenical partnership of 2 yoked congregations. We are the way of the future for the church; excellent training ground for church leaders. We are getting to work on our application to Wartburg seminary and will know early in 2022 if we are approved, and in March or shortly thereafter if we have an intern assigned to us. Begin praying now; for us and for our future interns.

Psalm 16:11 “You [O God] will show me the path of life, in your presence there is fullness of joy...” God will show us the path; Jesus is the path, right? The way, the truth, the life. (John 14:6) The light for our pathway and the path on which we journey. Are there bumps in the road? Are we walking on a path on which we can't see the end? Yes! It's hard work that we are doing, and, *really* good work! Running the race, ready to go with God where God leads is not for the faint hearted. Thanks be to God Trinity and Grace are not faint hearted. I am excited to be your pastor! I hope and pray that Grace and Trinity will continue to work together, to listen and really hear each other, to be bold in living the Gospel, to have fun together as we worship, serve, learn and pray together.

Traveling mercies, Pr. Priscilla

Our councils did make a big decision; prayerfully one we believe will be good for both congregations. We could have had months of seeking opinions ahead of time and then made a decision; however, we think that giving it a year and evaluating as we go is a good path forward for us right now. We always want to know what people are thinking and what ideas are floating around; so, talk to any council member, come to a meeting, read the minutes, ask questions; and always, pray that we are faithful in doing God's work. Robert Wilson (Grace) & Steve Blocher (Trinity)

I know it seems far down the line, but here's the Advent & Christmas schedule:

November 27 & 28: 1st Sunday of Advent. Both congregations will have a 'Hanging of the Greens' service and decorate for the seasons. Plan to wear work clothes so you can help decorate. I'm thinking there might be a meal after each, but that is still in the works.

Advent Wednesdays at Grace: "The Journey. Walking the Road to Bethlehem" - December 1, 8, 15 & 22. Tentative schedule: Supper served between 5 & 6. Service from 6:15-6:45; led by our Sunday school classes; this will be a 'program' in 4 parts! You won't want to miss. A 9-13 minute video that sets the scene for the service will be shown during the meal; a bit after 5 and again at 5:45.

Christmas Eve is a Friday. Services will be *2 and 5:30(candlelight) at Grace; 7(candlelight) at Trinity. As always, it is lovely to have special music for these services. Instrumental solos, duets, etc. are fabulous; as are solos and duets; choir, bells... Think on these things; be brave, be bold, share your talents and skills. There's still plenty of time to practice and prepare.

*Last year this seemed to be an attractive option for those who prefer not to drive after dark or for those who are traveling later in the day for family meals; so, we are trying it again.

Christmas evening service at Trinity? Likely not, but let council members know what you think.

December 26 – Carols and Communion. Fellowship in the parsonage after service.

Men's Ecumenical Advent breakfast @ Grace, Fridays, December 1, 8, and 15; 6:30 AM. All are welcome for a short devotion, breakfast and conversation. A free will offering is received which goes toward annual scholarships.

Both Trinity and Grace will be receiving new members in October. If you have been considering joining either congregation, Pastor would be happy to meet with you. Trinity will receive new members on October 16; Grace on October 24.

Mark your calendars! **The weekend of November 20 & 21 there will be just one service, at 5:30 on Saturday the 20th at Trinity and the Heavenly Hens will be leading the service.** Grace had talked about asking them for a Sunday service, but the Hens are not available on Sunday mornings this year. However, they could be on a Saturday evening! So, this is a great opportunity to enjoy their ministry.

Adult Bible Study – Pastor’s choice! October 27, November 3 and 10. 9:30 to 10:30 AM in the Fireside Room at Grace. October 28, November 4 and 11th. 7:00 PM at Trinity.

Trick or Treating on Main St. is October 28 from 5:30 to 6:30. Do we have 4 or 5 youth/adults who would like to get treats together and set up a table? Let Pastor know if you are interested. A Thrivent Action Team could be used to purchase treats for the 500+ who enjoy the fun.

In Our Prayers this Week:

**To see an updated list
please contact the office.**

Trinity News

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

**To see an updated list
please contact the office.**

Trinity Evening Guild met on Wednesday September 22nd. Nancy Nelson will purchase a new Microwave for Trinity using Guild Funds. Discussion was held on ideas for upcoming meetings and projects. As a Guild, the members will assist with Communion each week. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 20th, 7:00pm at Trinity Church. At the October meeting Guild members are going to sort through the Christmas tree Crismons and make repairs as needed. Nancy will be the hostess.

Trinity Church UMC/UCC - Council Meeting 9/15/21

The Leadership Council met on September 15, 2021, at 7 p.m. Present were Pastor Pricilla Hukki, Steve Blocher, Larry Merchen, Terry Nelson, Barb Schroedter, Jim Summers, Kathi Sherwood, Brenda Larson.

Pastor Hukki opened the meeting in prayer and agenda items were reviewed. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Kathi Sherwood moved to approve the minutes as amended. Barb Schroedter 2nd the motion, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed.

Jim Summers made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Brenda Larson 2nd the motion. The motion carried.

Presidents Report/Pastors Report: an email was sent, and information was included in the newsletter regarding operational changes and the volunteer structure moving forward to serve the church.

Reports/concerns/action items: Discussion was held on the areas of the church that need managed as we move forward.

- a. **Maintenance/property**
- b. **Worship**
- c. **Education**
- d. **Outreach**
- e. **Other**

Discussion held on the following...Maintenance - Larry Merchen will be the initial contact person for maintenance/property. Contact Larry or leave a note in the office for any issues.

Worship – Jeanne Moran has done this in the past. Will she continue this?

Old Business:

- An update was given on the upcoming Annual Church Dinner. Brenda Larson gave an update on the ticket sales, which are going very well. We are very close to selling out our 700 tickets.
- Volunteers from both Grace and Trinity are scheduled to prepare food and work the day of the dinner. A reminder was brought up to communicate to those that have volunteered of their times and duties.
- Some discussion was held, as brought up to a board member, as to why the proceeds are going to the community playground equipment. Realizing that many changes are happening within our church and our annual dinner supporting our community and having our church associated with that donation is a benefit to our community and our church. The council does have the authority to make the decision on where the proceeds go. This may need to be better communicated next year to the congregation as a whole.

New Business:

- The Memorial Book was discussed. Karen Green has been updating this. We will ask if she would continue to do so. Also, would she be interested in being in a small committee that would help determine where memorial money is spent. Others that would be a part of that committee are Barb Schroedter, Larry Merchen and Steve Blocher.
- A percentage of the Dewitts money to be donated has not been decided on. This may be discussed in the fall or at the annual meeting. There have been several options for the donation.
- It was brought up that an endorsement stamp for designated funds was needed. Larry Merchen moved to purchase an endorsement stamp, Kathi Sherwood 2nd the motion. The motion carried.
- Discussion was held on apportionments. Particularly how to put the apportionments in the budget. I.e., quarterly or monthly. This

will be looked at during our next council meeting, as we discuss the budget.

- Winterizing the building, - drain the sprinklers and scheduling a fall clean up, putting up stakes for snow removal was discussed.

Grace & Trinity will have a joint council meeting at Trinity Sept 29, at 7:00 pm.

Items to discuss:

- a. Formalizing Trinity & Grace partnership
- b. Joint projects
- c. Joint bible study
- d. Advent and Christmas
- e. Lenten services/meals

Bulletin information: weekly and annual giving, attendance and action items from the Council will be included in the bulletin and newsletter.

Discussion was held on replacing the camera, which is no longer working or upgrading the sound system to plug into Mevo, and having Elite Computers look at our router to see if we need additional bandwidth. These options allow for us to continue to live stream quality services.

Babr Schroedter moved to purchase a wireless sound upgrade to the Mevo at a cost of \$700.00 Kathi Sherwood 2nd the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion was also held on the pianos in the church. Kathi Sherwood moved to get the piano in the sanctuary tuned, and to get rid of the piano in the choir loft that is not in working condition. Barb Schroedter 2nd the motion. The motion carried.

The next meeting will be Oct. 13, at 6:30pm

The meeting was closed in prayer.

Brenda Larson – Council Secretary

Trinity – Financial Report – General Fund	
To see an updated list please contact the office.	.

Grace News

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

To see an updated list please contact the office.

Thank You

Thank you to the Church Council, Pr. Priscilla and everyone that thanked me after worship on the 26th for my 10 years as Parish Coordinator with presenting me with the brick to be placed in the "Brick Garden". I feel very honored to have served this time with my CHURCH FAMILY!

Thanks again, Carol Sellentin

Drive – Thru Lasagna Supper

Sponsored by the Women of Grace, WELCA with help from the Trinity Women & Christian Ed. Kids

We are again having a "drive-thru" Lasagna Supper. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 20. The meal will be lasagna (beef or chicken), bread stick, salad and dessert. Serving from 5:30 - 7:30. We will be selling tickets for \$8.00. We will be limiting the number of tickets sold, so buy your tickets earlier rather than later. There will be no meal available without a ticket. You may purchase tickets from one of several women of the church or call Mary Vander Pol or Teala at the church office during office hours

The proceeds from our supper will be disbursed to further the work of the church missions, local needs and projects, and help maintain church needs. If you would be willing to help with preparing and/or serving, please let Mary Vander Pol know.



The September 13 meeting of Friendship Circle was attended by Ruth Maresh, Linda Lofgren, Nancy Petersen, Mary VanderPol, Mary Thomas, and Vicki Furchert. Ruth served as Bible Study Leader and hostess. She introduced her lesson with some words about

the recent 9-11 memorial services. We shared some thoughts and feelings about the many special programs depicting the horrific images of that day and the days following, 20 years ago. We talked about how in spite of all the unimaginable pain that was inflicted, there were so many miracles, so many unselfish acts of kindness, so much love freely shared, so many people united in spirit and dedication to saving lives. We expressed our resolve to “never forget.” This lesson was supported by several Bible verses Ruth had chosen for us to read aloud. Each one, reminding us that God is with us through it all.

Following the Bible Study lesson, we discussed plans for the upcoming Lasagna Drive-Thru Supper to be held on Wednesday, October 20. Mary VanderPol said she had received grants from Thrivent for advertising and groceries. Tickets have been printed and are on sale for \$8 per ticket. Posters have been printed and will be put up in various business places around town. The poster was also posted on Facebook and will be shared in other places as well. Vicki sent in another Thrivent grant application for other expenses related to the meal. It was also approved.

On Monday October 18 we will have a work night to prepare the lasagna and salads. We will plan to meet early on Wednesday, October 20 to bake the breadsticks, cut and box the cakes, and bake the lasagna.

Linda presented several designs and table grace verses that will be printed and attached to the top of the small carry-out boxes.

Vicki made a suggestion that we hire a carpet cleaner to come and shampoo the carpets in the fellowship hall, the adjoining rooms, and hallways. We agreed to pay for the fellowship hall and adjoining rooms. The matter will be taken to the council for their approval. With their support of the plan and help paying for the rest of the area, we will proceed with the carpet cleaning.

The only other matter to come before the meeting was a reminder of the 2022 Spring Gathering at Our Savior’s in Wayne. No date has been set yet.

Respectfully submitted. Mary A. Thomas



The Lord works in mysterious ways. After sewing 159 quilts last year, Pastor Priscilla challenged the Grace Quilters to try for 200. It seemed like we may be in over our heads. Increasing our quilting days from 2 to 4 days a month and lots of busy hands, the

Lord

gave us the power to meet the lofty goal. It looks like we will be over 200 by the time the quilts ship to Lutheran World Relief. Praise the Lord!

Grace Lutheran Church

Council Minutes September 21, 2021 (pending council approval)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Bob Wilson. Other council members present: Kathy Mahannah, Lynn Stofferahn, Melissa Nielsen, Pam Petersen, and Todd Kuxhausen. Pastor Hukki was also in attendance.

Melissa moved and Kathy seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Kathy moved and Pam seconded to accept the minutes from the August 17, 2021, meeting. Motion carried.

Pastor report: Pastor has a vacation scheduled November 14th – 30th. This will involve two Sundays without a pastor. Kathy made a motion to not have a service November 21st and encourage members to go to Trinity for Saturday service lead by Heavenly Hens. Also, in the motion is doing a Hanging of the Green service on November 28. Pam seconded the motion and it passed.

Pastor talked with the Bishop and feels encouraged that we could get an intern for next year. Kathy made a motion to allow pastor to pursue the intern process using Wartburg College. Bob seconded and motion passed.

President's report: Coffee hour to honor Carol Sellentin this weekend. Bob will ask Mary to order rolls and we will do coffee hour outside.

Treasurer Report: Kathy moved and Todd seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property: Batteries were changed in the automatic door buttons and the sensor was reset.

Worship & Music: Choir and Bells have resumed practice.

WELCA: Lasagna dinner planned for October 20th. 250 tickets will be sold.

Christian Education: Wednesday classes have begun. 19 students registered, with 3 teachers and pastor leading confirmation.

Endowment: council reviewed council requests for 2022 and Todd will write up the requests to submit to Endowment for consideration.

Memorial: They are looking into doing some landscaping and will be contacting Aaron Swanson.

New Member: One family has transferred their membership back to Grace

OLD BUSINESS:

- Coffee maker – Pastor will contact someone who can either fix the current machine or contract coffee and the machine.
- Stained Glass Inspection – an inspection is scheduled for September 22nd

NEW BUSINESS:

- Carpet Cleaning – WELCA will pay for the cleaning of the carpet in parish hall. We will get an estimate to clean the other areas of the church upstairs and down.
- Joint Grace/Trinity Council Meeting – scheduled for Wednesday, September 29th at 6:30 pm at Trinity.
- Dishwasher – the person that is looking at the coffee pot also supplies dishwasher chemicals. Pastor will ask if he looks at dishwashers to see if it needs repairs or if they maintain them.

· American Legion Auxiliary-- Kathy made a motion to allow the American Legion Auxiliary use of the building for their meetings. Lynn seconded and the motion passed.

· Other Council Concerns –

o Pastor will investigate a building use policy for outside groups that use the building to meet.

o A reminder that a budget meeting will need to be scheduled in late November or early December

o Melissa’s term will end at the next annual meeting. At least one replacement, ideally two need to be found.

Announcements: Next meeting will be October 19, 2021. There will be a joint meeting of Trinity and Grace councils on September 29 at 6:30pm.

Kathy moved and Pam seconded to adjourn the meeting and it was closed with the Lord’s Prayer at 7:15 pm.

Submitted by Melissa Nielsen, Secretary

Grace Lutheran Church - Financial Report – August 2021 General Fund for August	
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To see an updated list please contact the office.	
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**Grace Endowment Fund grant proposals are due by
October 10. Forms are available in the Grace office.**