



SEPTEMBER 2020

THE GOOD NEWS

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Corner – A New Abnormal

Fall is here. Schools are back in session, though in our area, as in many, that is happening either entirely remotely or as a combination of remote and limited, in-person attendance. The COVID-19 virus has not gone away, nor is there yet an available vaccine. As I write this, nearly 180,000 people in the U.S. have died from this pandemic. That means that those of us who can will continue to quarantine, and those who can't will continue to wear facemasks, physically distance, and thoroughly and regularly wash our hands.

At Grace we will continue our live-stream-only Sunday morning services for the foreseeable future, but we will also be trying a couple of new things. First, on September 6, we will have our first service of Holy Communion since we stopped in-person worship. The way this will work is that we will live-stream the service as usual, and those present in the room (Helen and I, as well as the support crew in the balcony) will receive Communion during the service at the usual time. Then for an hour and a half (10:30-noon) I will distribute Communion in the parking lot in drive-thru fashion. You are invited to drive over to church following the end of the live-stream, entering the back lot from Union Street (to the west of the building) and then driving around to the front lot. If there is no line, you could also enter from Springfield, but if a lot of people come at once it will be better to form a line around the back (west) of the church so we don't block traffic on Springfield. We have obtained individually sealed containers of wine and wafers that I will consecrate during the live-stream service. I will hand these to you through your car window by the sidewalk to the main entrance. I will wear my mask, and I'll ask you to do the same. When you have received the elements, you'll pull up a little further to make room for the next car in line, and at that point you will eat the wafer and drink the wine, and then leave the parking lot via Union Street. Some of you will come with multiple people in your car, and I'll give you enough packets for everyone who is with you.

Continued on next page

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 -

Get to know Andy Bruhn

- 3 -

Food Pantry Updates

LWR Kits

- 4 -

Property Committee Request
for Help

Faith Circle

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

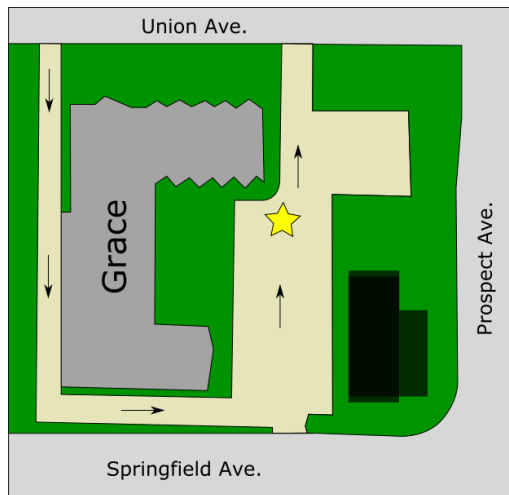
313 S Prospect Ave

Champaign, IL 61820

(217)356-6232

www.glccu.org





Get to know Andy Bruhn

Greetings! My name is Andy Bruhn, and I'm thrilled to be serving you as Director of Music and Handbell Director! I grew up in Batavia, IL (Chicago suburb), and received my undergrad in trumpet performance from Wheaton College in 2008. I then played professionally in Chicago for four years. I felt a change in calling and did a



Master of Sacred Music in Choral Conducting degree at Luther Seminary and St. Olaf College in Minnesota. That was a formative time for me professionally, as I really felt a call to be a teacher. For the past six years I've taught MS/HS choral music full-time in MN and at Rockford Christian School in IL. I'm so excited to be starting the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting at UIUC this fall, as I'm hoping to eventually teach at the university level, with a goal of helping future music educators. I have served several Lutheran congregations in MN, and was blessed to be the choir director at Luther Seminary for two years. The past four years I've been the choir director at Westminster Presbyterian in Rockford, IL.

In addition to my work as a teacher/conductor, I enjoy composing music, and spending time with my wife of 11 years, Lydia, and our daughters Julia (6) and Emmi (4). Lydia is a professional horn player, with a BM and MM in horn performance. She currently stays home with our kids, and is homeschooling Julia in first grade this year! I'm passionate about Fred Rogers and Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, and the Chicago Bears!

Beginning a new job and degree in a pandemic certainly brings its challenges, but I am confident that we are to continue to proclaim the gospel through music, as "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

The second new thing we're going to try is a short, simple outdoor drive-up service the following Wednesday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m. Sound for this service will be broadcast via an FM signal that you'll be able to tune into in your car. Those who wish to remain in their cars should park in the spaces facing the lawn in front of the church. (You can also back in to the spots next to Illini Studio.) A make-shift altar will be set up by the bushes outside of my office window. We'll also have the sound system from the Fellowship set up so you can bring chairs and sit on the lawn, spread out appropriately and wearing masks. If you choose that option, please park in the section of the lot to the east of the sanctuary (where the cross is). This will also be a communion service, with opening music, a reading, a brief homily, and an abbreviated Communion liturgy. At this service we're going to experiment with Communion kits that we assemble ourselves, with wine in a small sealable container and a wafer distributed in a small plastic bag. There will be no congregational singing at this service, and we'll of course share the peace at a distance. Since space is limited and to help us plan the right number of Communion kits, you are asked to sign up online ahead of time. More information on that will be shared in the GraceNotes for September 6.

We hope that these two opportunities to finally receive communion will be meaningful and encouraging for us as we negotiate this extraordinary time in the life of our congregation, our local community, and the nation as a whole. We are committed to continue being the church, supporting one another in our faith, and reaching out in love to our neighbors near and far. May God bless and prosper that work!

+ Pastor Repp

Food Pantry Update – Six Months

Later...

Here we are, more than six months into perhaps the most dramatic event of a century. The Covid-19 worldwide pandemic has had an alarming impact upon all of us with nearly 5.7 million confirmed cases and more than 178,000 deaths here in the United States (as of this writing.) Champaign County has now recorded over 2000 cases with 20 deaths. We all continue to be very diligent in protecting our families and ourselves. Every Thursday we urge our client families to be careful, too.

The GOOD NEWS is that the GLC Food Pantry has been able to continue to serve the community throughout these past six months. The Pantry Board is working together to continue to distribute emergency food in a drive-through no-contact manner without interruption. All the Pantry Board members participate nearly every Thursday, and they are joined by a few additional volunteers who feel their health risk is minimal. We are masking and socially distancing at all times. We continue to shop weekly at EIF, and the monthly truck delivery from EIF has not been interrupted. Thanks be to God!

Thank you for your continued generosity in helping to make this ministry possible. We cannot do this work without the financial support that all of you continue to provide. We are serving an average of 40-50 families each Thursday. Thanks be to God!

IMPORTANT UPDATES:

PLEASE DO NOT CONTINUE TO BRING EGG CARTONS TO THE PANTRY AT THIS TIME. WE HAVE AN OVERSUPPLY! IF AND WHEN WE NEED MORE, WE WILL GET BACK TO YOU AND REQUEST THEM.

Thank you for your continued contributions of plastic grocery bags. We welcome those contributions as we are using many dozens each week.

THIS IS A NEW REQUEST: We would really like to distribute face masks. We would happily accept those commercially sold in stores AND/OR handmade washable masks. If you would like to contribute masks, please be sure they are labeled for GLC Pantry, placed in a clean plastic bag, and dropped either in the bin in the

main entryway or on the counter in the south kitchen. Thank you for your consideration.

Please continue to pray for our country, our community, and especially for those families who are struggling the most during these difficult times.

Your Pantry Board,

Kathy Bowersox, Jim Fleming, Dale Herrstrom, Karen Krusa, and Royce Wilken

Lutheran World Relief Kits

Many things in our world have changed in 2020, but the needs of those living in poverty have not. It has been a long standing tradition for the members of Grace to work together to supply and assemble school & health kits for Lutheran World Relief each fall. We will still be contributing to Lutheran World Relief this fall, but in a different way:

* We are asking for your monetary donation for the school kit supplies. A small group from the Social Ministry committee will do the shopping and assembling of the school kits. This will limit exposures and touching of the supplies. Please make out your checks to Grace Lutheran Church and memo: LWR School Kits. Send your check to the church office (313 S. Prospect, C. 61820) before Kick-of Sunday, September 13, 2020.

* We are asking for donations of sewn cotton masks. Lutheran World Relief is asking for help to supply men, women, and children in vulnerable communities with masks. This fall, in lieu of sending health kits to Lutheran World Relief, the Social Ministry committee is asking for your help in sewing and donating Cotton face masks. Do not use material with religious, patriotic, or military patterns, as the masks may be sent to countries around the world. Drop off your mask donations at church, in a specially marked box outside the main entrance, by Sunday, September 13th. Information, guidelines, and resources for making face masks can be found at <https://lwr.org/masks>

Contact Janet Lepp for help in obtaining materials for the masks.

Property Committee Request for Help

The Property Committee seeks your assistance. This month we ask that you consider sharing your time and talent to serve Grace Lutheran Church either as a one-time Project Volunteer or as an Inspection Scheduler.

Project Volunteer. Please consider helping this fall as a one-time Project Volunteer to review current phone service providers and service plans available in our area to recommend whether Grace Lutheran Church should keep its existing phone service provider or switch phone service providers. This project can be done from the comfort of your home. Property Committee would provide you a copy of recent invoices from existing phone service company. You would complete this project independently and report your findings to Property Committee.

Inspection Scheduler. Please consider helping over the next year as an Inspection Scheduler for Grace Lutheran Church. You would be responsible for scheduling, and then arranging to meet an individual inspector to allow the inspector access to the church premises at the appointed time. You would wait for the inspection to be completed, and then lock up once the inspection is completed.

Routine annual, semi-annual, or quarterly inspections need to occur regularly at Grace Lutheran Church premises. Annual inspections are scheduled for fire extinguishers, heating and a/c system, building alarm system, chair-lift system, and AED unit. Semi-annual inspections take place of the fire alarm system, and quarterly inspections take place for the elevator. We would provide a specific checklist and contacts for each inspection needed, and you would schedule each to occur at your convenience. Your duties and responsibility would be limited to needed routine inspections only, so no surprises!

Please notify Property Committee Chair Susan Monte with questions or to volunteer. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Faith Circle Meeting Via Zoom – All are welcome!

Please join us on the third Tuesday evening of each month as we enjoy a time of fellowship and Bible Study via Zoom. Thanks to Caitlyn for applying her tech expertise in helping us to continue to meet virtually. We begin at 7:00PM and we adjourn before 9:00PM.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, September 15. Kathy Bowersox is scheduled to be the lesson leader for this session. We will use the Bible study presented in the September issue of "Gather for Faith and Action," the magazine of the Women of the ELCA, which is available at: gather@elca.org or at gathermagazine.org (phone orders at 844-409-0576)

September's lesson introduces a three-session study focusing on "holy time." We look first at "holy memory," at how the Bible encourages God's people to remember God's story and our own story. We will look at the role of "remembering" in our worship and in our lives. In October we will look at "holy now," and in November, we will look to the future. Mary Jo Erickson will lead the lesson in October, and Janet Lepp will do so in November. In December, we will share Christmas reflections, poems, songs, or brief articles as we focus on fellowship.

Questions? Contact Kathy Bowersox

Reminder!

If you would like something to be included in the monthly newsletter, please send the information to Caitlyn at gracelife@glccu.org by the 20th of each month.

If you would like an announcement to be included in our weekly Grace Notes page, please contact Lyla at office@glccu.org by the Wednesday of that week.

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 5:45 PM Executive Committee	2 5:00 PM Bulletin Deadline	3 10:00 AM Food Pantry	4	5
6 8:45 AM Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Worship - FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM 10:30 AM Communion Distribution	7	8 6:00 AM Food for Seniors 6:00 PM Evangelism Committee 7:00 PM Council	9 5:00 PM Bulletin Deadline 6:30 PM Drive Up Service	10 10:00 AM Food Pantry	11	12
13 <i>Grace Food Pantry Sunday</i> 8:45 AM Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Worship - FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM 11:45 AM Christian Education Committee 5:00 PM Taize Worship Service	14 10:00 AM Food for Seniors	15 7:00 PM Faith Circle via Zoom	16 7:00 AM Food Pantry Truck Delivery 5:00 PM Bulletin Deadline	17 10:00 AM Food Pantry	18	19
20 Newsletter Copy Deadline 8:45 AM Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Worship - FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM	21 5:30 PM Property Committee	22 6:00 AM Food for Seniors	23 5:00 PM Bulletin Deadline	24 10:00 AM Food Pantry	25	26
27 <i>World Hunger Sunday</i> 8:45 AM Coffee Hour 9:30 AM Worship - FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM	28 10:00 AM Food for Seniors	29	30 5:00 PM Bulletin Deadline	1	2	3