



Grace Notes

May 02, 2021

Grace Lutheran Church, Champaign Illinois / www.glccu.org

Web Edition

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion Service

This Sunday (**May 2nd**) is our Holy Communion service, with distribution in the parking lot after the service. From 10:45 to 11:45 a.m., Pastor Repp will distribute Communion in the parking lot in drive-thru fashion. Drive over to church following the end of the live-stream, entering the back lot from Union Street (to the west of the building.) Then drive around to the front lot. (See map below.) We will use individual communion kits consecrated during the live-stream service. Pastor Repp will hand these to you on a try through your car window by the sidewalk to the main entrance. He will wear a mask, and we ask you to do the same. When you have received the elements, please 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.



Zoom Links available in email version of Gracenotes.

Help Receiving Communion

If you are attending our communion services online but have trouble getting to church to receive communion, we can arrange for someone to bring the communion elements to you. Contact Kathy Bowersox.

Discerning God's Call Bible Studies

We've moved the weekly Bible Studies to page 2 of the GraceNotes to emphasize its importance and make it more accessible. Please read and respond to these over the next 14 weeks.

See the Bible Study on Page 2

Strategic Planning Survey

The Strategic Planning Team has prepared a congregational survey that will help us do understand both what you value in a faith community and how you currently participate at Grace. It is important to have as many people as possible take part in the survey. **Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey.** It will be available through Sunday, May 9. The survey is available [online at this link](#), but has also been sent out via email, and in paper form to those who are on our paper newsletter list. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy and are not already on that newsletter list, please let Lyla know at office@glccu.org.

Treasurer's Report, March 31, 2021

| | <u>Current Month</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Revenues | \$21,074.02 | \$63,165.62 |
| Expenses | \$29,648.26 | \$92,842.54 |
| Net | -\$8,574.24 | -\$29,676.92 |



DISCERNING GOD'S CALL

JOSHUA

Joshua 1:1-9

BACKGROUND:

God fulfilled God's promise to Moses. The people of Israel walked away from slavery, through the parted Red Sea, and to freedom. Yet the freedom did not feel as they had hoped. They wandered in a wilderness, scraping by as best as they could. Even though God led them, providing them a Law to live by and daily food (called manna) to eat, the wilderness proved to be a challenging place.

After 40 years in that wilderness, God prepared to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land. The promise to Abraham and Sarah would come to fruition. Joshua would lead the way.

SCRIPTURE:

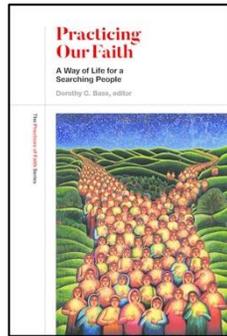
After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, 'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

- How do the people in the story hear God's call to them?
- How open are they to God's call?
- What might this passage say to our community of faith?

Please go to the [online bulletin board](#) and respond to these questions by clicking the + in the column for Week 2. Your responses may be anonymous, or you may enter your name in the Title field of your entry.

Adult Sunday School

No class today because of the Communion service. We will continue next week with chapter four in the book *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People*, edited by Dorothy C. Bass. The book is available from various internet retailers. Order a copy, and join us!



Birthday/Anniversary Card Stamping

A Birthday/Anniversary Card Stamping Session will be held in the church narthex on Wednesday, May 19, from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM. All participants will be asked to wear masks and socially distance as we work together to create beautiful greeting cards with the help of Meg Loven, who generously contributes her expertise and materials. It would be great to have 5-7 people participating. Anyone with questions or concerns, please contact Kathy Bowersox.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Did You Know??

- Our congregation has a long history of supporting Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.
- LSSI used to have offices in our church building.
- Our congregation has generously supported LSSI's Christmas gifts for Foster Children for over 20 years.
- Lutheran Social Services of Illinois receives an annual donation from our congregation; the largest single donation in the Social Ministry budget. This year's donation for LSSI is 17% of the Social Ministry budget for 2021.
- Good Shepherd Sunday is April 25, 2021, a special day set aside to explore and celebrate the many ministries of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. including; Foster Care and Family Support Services, Alcohol/Drug Treatment and Mental Health Services, Services for Seniors, and Prisoner and Family Ministries.
- Now through May is the best time to make a donation to LSSI, because there are matching funds available.

If you would also like to make an individual donation, you can donate online at: [Donate | Lutheran Social Services of Illinois \(lssi.org\)](https://www.lssi.org/donate)
OR send a check by mail to:
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
1001 E. Touhy Avenue, Suite 50
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018
And Now You Know!

Spread Mulch/Outdoor Work Morning

Property Committee to host a 'Spread Mulch/Outdoor Work Morning' event on **Saturday May 8 between 8 and 11am**

Please plan to assist helping to spread a truckload of Premium Bark Mulch donated from the Landscape Recycling Center. We intend to spread the mulch onto the north yard Contemplative Garden surface, both above and below the retaining wall. I watched a landscape crew spread a truckload of mulch last year—definitely (and of course!), the more people that help out, the easier and quicker it is. Bring a shovel or a rake or both, and attend for one, or more, hours. We will target the timeframe 8am- 11am to complete mulch spreading and other outdoor spring-type tasks.

Check out this article from "This Old House" and we hope to see you on Saturday, May 8 morning....
<https://www.thisoldhouse.com/gardening/21019371/may-is-for-mulching>

Extra Print Photo Directories Available

There are still a few extra copies of our Lifetouch photo directory available. If you had taken a photo for the Lifetouch directory but did not receive your copy, please contact Caitlyn to get your copy. If you did not participate in the photography sessions but would still like a copy, contact Caitlyn to get one, but those directories will be distributed at a first come, first serve basis. If you would rather like a print version of our online photo directory, those arrangements can be made as well.

Online Picture Directory Now Available!

We now have our picture directory online. To help keep the information safe, it has all been password protected. You can find the directory on our website at <https://glccu.org/picture-directory/> and the password to access the directory is available in email version of Gracenotes.

One of the benefits of this new format is that pictures and information can now be much more easily updated. If you do not have a picture currently listed or would like to update the available picture, please contact Caitlyn to change. If contact information needs to be updated, please contact Caitlyn and Lyla in the office so that we can update our records as well.

New Members + Current Members

On The Way is a regular faith-formation opportunity at Grace devoted to exploring and deepening our understanding and practice of the Christian faith. Join us on **Monday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m.** for discussion, reflection on a biblical text, and prayer. We use the Grace Meeting Zoom link.



Bell Choir and Choir Zoom Dates

Bell Choir Zoom is on Mondays at 7PM, *May 3, 17*
Choir Zoom is on Wednesdays at 7:30PM, *May 12*.

Online Giving

Thank you to everyone who has continued to give to Grace through our online platforms! During this transition, we have heard of some issues with the various ways you can give online. To properly address these issues, we would like to hear from you! If you have noticed anything, please contact Caitlyn at gracelife@glccu.org

Coffee Hour

Every Sunday morning at 8:45!
Your host, Claire Vail, will cut you off promptly at 9:25 to give you time to get ready for the service.



Worship Notes

The W&M Committee is actively seeking new members (and even a new chair). We meet once a month to talk and plan the services. Both pastor and Andy are on our committee and provide expertise and leadership. If you are interested in participating, please let me know. I would be happy to email you copies of our recent minutes so you see the kinds of things for which we are responsible. **Text or email Ruth Anderson if you are interested.**

We are still looking for favorite hymns for the summer. **Please email your favorite hymns to Carolyn Pater.**

We are also looking for people interested in providing special music this summer. **If that is you, please let Ruth Anderson know.** (Some of these may be prerecorded and others may be in person.)

Grace Food Pantry Update

You may have seen on our calendar that we have slotted the second Sunday of each month to be “Grace Food Pantry Sunday.” We



We include this to encourage financial support for this ministry once a month. Food Pantry does not operate out of the General Fund, which is the destination for Sunday morning offerings unless otherwise designated. Because of this, Food Pantry depends on special designation for donations from those in the congregation that wish to support this ministry. Financial contributions are a great way to support Food Pantry, because every \$1 that is given can have the purchase power of much as \$10 at the Eastern Illinois Food Bank. Please consider making an extra donation to the Pantry at this time!

Stitch & Craft Zoom Meetings

Stitch & Craft meets at 7PM on Friday, May 7 and 21. Join via Zoom link in Zoom link box

Job Openings at Empty Tomb

Empty tomb has some job openings. For details, click the link below:

<http://www.emptytomb.org/jobs.html>

Daily Bread Yoga Announcements

Daily Bread Yoga is still on ZOOM! Go to www.dailybreadyoga.life to see the calendar of weekly classes being offered on ZOOM. If you have questions or would like to receive the weekly newsletter from Rachel, email her at dailybreadyoga@gmail.com. ZOOM is a great way to try yoga from the comfort of your own home, but with a live instructor and real community. Please join us!

Grace Office Hours

Unless otherwise announced, a staff person will be in the building from Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for deliveries, inspections, and other essential functions

About GraceNotes and the Newsletter

GraceNotes is our weekly publication for timely announcements to the congregation. Please send all announcements for GraceNotes to Lyla at office@glccu.org by Wednesday evening. Items for the monthly newsletter should be sent to Caitlyn at gracelife@glccu.org by the 20th of the previous month.

Live-streamed & Recorded Services

Our Sunday morning Service of the Word begins at 9:30. The link to follow the service is found at the top of the Grace home page (glccu.org) or click here, glccu.org/livestreams

Help With Zoom

We're using the Zoom (zoom.us) for meetings and classes at Grace during this time of physical-distancing. If you need help setting up and using Zoom, here are two helpful tutorials.

The first is for using Zoom on your computer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

The second is for using Zoom on a phone.

This should also work for tablets:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IO206_NezaY

This Week at Grace: May 02, 2021 – May 09, 2021

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sunday, May 2, 2021 | | |
| Coffee Hour | 8:45 AM | Online (Zoom) |
| Communion Service | 9:30 AM | Live Stream (Sanctuary) |
| Communion Distribution | 10:45-11:45 AM | Parking Lot |
| Confirmation Class | 10:45AM | Online (Google Meet) |
| Monday, May 3, 2021 | | |
| Bell Choir Practice | 7:00 PM | Online (Zoom) |
| On the Way | 7:00 PM | Online (zoom) |
| Tuesday, May 4, 2021 | | |
| Hymn Selection | 10:00 AM | Online (Zoom) |
| Worship & Music | 11:00 AM | Online (Zoom) |
| Executive Committee | 5:45 PM | Online (Zoom) |
| Wednesday, May 5, 2021 | | |
| Bulletin Deadline | 5:00 PM | |
| Thursday, May 6, 2021 | | |
| Food Pantry | 10:00 AM | Fellowship Hall Hoffmeister Room |
| Friday, May 7, 2021 | | |
| Stitch & Craft | 7:00 PM | Online (Zoom) |
| Sunday, May 9, 2021 | | |
| Coffee Hour | 8:45 AM | Online (Zoom) |
| Worship | 9:30 AM | Live Stream (Sanctuary) |
| Confirmation Class | 10:45AM | Online (Google Meet) |
| Adult Sunday School | 10:45AM | Online (Zoom) |
| Christian Education Committee | 11:45 AM | Online (Zoom) |