



Grace Notes

May 09, 2021

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

Email Edition

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Annual Meeting May 23

The Congregation's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 23rd via Zoom. All Grace members are encouraged to attend this meeting. A Zoom link will be provided in next week's GraceNotes.

Resolution to be voted at the Congregational Meeting May 23.

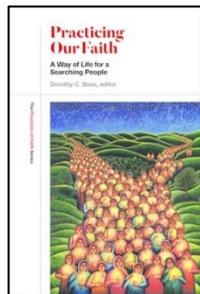
Resolved that Article 3 section 5 of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows - (bold type is the amendment)

“The Treasurer shall oversee the keeping of the books of account of this congregation and shall receive from the Financial Secretary all funds and disburse them on proper orders, making monthly remittance of benevolence receipts to the Treasurer of the Synod. **The Congregation Council may appoint a Bookkeeper to assist the Treasurer. The duties of the Bookkeeper shall be defined in the Continuing Resolutions.**”

Contact Claire Vail for questions or concerns.

Adult Sunday School

Today we will continue 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!



Discerning God's Call Bible Studies

We've moved the weekly Bible Studies to page 2 of the GraceNotes to emphasize their importance and make them 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.

See Zoom Links Box on Page 5

New Members + Current Members

On The Way is a regular faith-formation opportunity at Grace devoted to exploring and our understanding and practice of the Christian faith. Join us on **Monday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m.** for discussion, reflection on a biblical text, and prayer. We use the Grace Meeting Zoom link.





GIDEON

DISCERNING GOD'S CALL

Judges 6:36-40

BACKGROUND:

After Joshua and the people of Israel conquered and settled in the Promised Land challenges continued to arise. Throughout the time of the judges they lived as a loose confederation of tribes. Neighboring nations periodically invaded and captured some of the territory, requiring God to raise up a leader to bring them back to freedom. The book of Judges attributes these invasions to the faithlessness of God's people.

God came to Gideon in a time when Midian ruled over some of their territory. God commissioned him to lead the people to victory over Midian. God's people would again be free. Gideon wasn't so sure, so he devised a test for God.

SCRIPTURE:

Then Gideon said to God, 'In order to see whether you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said, I am going to lay a fleece of wool on the threshing-floor; if there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said.' And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. Then Gideon said to God, 'Do not let your anger burn against me, let me speak one more time; let me, please, make trial with the fleece just once more; let it be dry only on the fleece, and on all the ground let there be dew.' And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

- 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.

Bell Choir and Choir Zoom Dates

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

Stitch & Craft Zoom Meetings

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

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)

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!

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.

Faith Circle Bible Study

Faith Circle Bible Study will be held on Tuesday evening, May 18, beginning at 7PM via Zoom. Kathy Bowersox will lead the lesson from the May issue of the "Gather" periodical, a WELCA publication. The title of the May study is "The Journey of Generations," written by Violet Cucciniello Little, mission developer of The Welcome Church, an ELCA congregation under development in Philadelphia. The evening's discussion will focus on the gifts of intergenerational friendships.

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.)

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 is in email version of Grace Notes.

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.

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.



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

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 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!

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!

Job Openings at Empty Tomb

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

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

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

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

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.

This Week at Grace: May 09, 2021 – May 16, 2021

<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, May 9, 2021		
<i>Grace Food Pantry Sunday</i>		
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	11:45AM	Online (Zoom)
Monday, May 10, 2021		
Food for Seniors	10:00 AM	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, May 11, 2021		
Food for Seniors	6:00 AM	Fellowship Hall
Council	7:00 PM	Online (Zoom)
Wednesday, May 12, 2021		
Bulletin Deadline	5:00 PM	
Choir Practice	7:30 PM	Online (Zoom)
Thursday, May 13, 2021		
Food Pantry	10:00 AM	Fellowship Hall Hoffmeister Room
Parish Life Committee	6:00PM	Online (Zoom)
Social Ministry Committee	7:00PM	Online (Zoom)
Sunday, May 16, 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)