



JULY 2021

THE GOOD NEWS

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Corner

With the approach of the Independence Day holiday, I have found myself thinking not so much of 1776 as of 1863. It's Abraham Lincoln who has drawn my attention, not our founding fathers (or mothers), and particularly his two most famous speeches, the Gettysburg Address, delivered in November of 1863, and his second inaugural address, given in March of 1865, a month before his assassination. Lincoln is widely regarded as our greatest president. He did arguably more than any other president to ensure the survival of our country, and he paid for that achievement with his life. I consider him a true patriot. Yet his love of country was not uncritical. He noticed the irony of nation "dedicated to the proposition that all [people] are created equal" holding one eighth of its population in slavery. He was insistent upon naming slavery as the cause of the Civil War and was open to the possibility that the war was God's judgement upon the country, both the North and the South. And while he was convinced of the rightness of his cause, he was careful not to presume that God was automatically on his side. In these days of renewed social and political division, together with a renewed awareness of the lingering historic injustice that the Civil War failed to eradicate, I think we need more of Lincoln's kind of patriotism. We need a love of country that dares to be honest about how we have failed to live up to the ideals upon which we were founded, and a determination to continue the struggle to make that right. God grant us such grace.

I limited my comments above to the length of the Gettysburg Address (272 words) in order to leave space for some quotes from it and the second inaugural. Blessings on your observance of our national holiday.

"It is ... for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." (Gettysburg Address) *(Continued on next page)*

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 -

VBS

Thrivent Action Teams
2022 Gathering
St. Andrew's Update

- 3 -

Food Pantry Update
Prayer Requests
Prayer Chain
Pub Theology
Help with Weeding
Stitch and Craft

- 4 -

Hybrid Worship
Help with Communion

GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH
313 S Prospect Ave
Champaign, IL 61820
(217)356-6232

www.glccu.org

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

[Subscribe to our YouTube Channel](#)



“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations.” (Second Inaugural Address)



River of Life VBS

VBS is back! Each Sunday in August, from 3-5pm, we will be exploring the different ways God uses water as a source of life in the Bible, while also learning about ELCA World

Hunger. During each day, participants will learn through games, crafts, music, and more! All children from Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome to participate. All activities will be in person in the Grace building, and all current Covid-19 guidelines will be followed. To register, go to <https://glccu.org/vbs/>. Volunteers can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4ea4ac2aa5f94-vbsvolunteer>. For any questions, contact Caitlyn Reinders or Adele Miller.

Thrivent Action Teams - Project Ideas

If you are a Thrivent member, one of your benefits is that you can apply for a \$250 Thrivent Action Team card 1-2 times a year. These cards can be used for various projects. The only requirement is that the projects must be used for fundraising, education, or a service project. If you need ideas for how to use your available cards, contact Caitlyn! There are many ways these cards could be used in the coming months as we begin to resume in-person activities.

2022 Gathering – Mark Your Calendar!

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will take place from **July 24-28, 2022** in Minneapolis, MN. More information about registration and costs will come this fall.

For those 19+ that are interested in being a part of the Gathering Volunteer Corp, applications are open until July 22. If you want to apply or know someone who should apply, you can find more information here: <https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/Attend/Volunteer>

Update from St. Andrew's

Over the summer, there are quite a few ways Grace members can help the campus ministry at St. Andrew's. First being financial support. Since the majority of membership of St. Andrew's is college students, outside support is heavily needed in this area. You can donate online by following this link https://crm.bloomerang.co/HostedDonation?ApiKey=pub_854d81b0-b73f-11eb-8a95-02bf22d030ab&WidgetId=63488&BloomerangCookieId=8bb7d0e4-a68a-4a26-82c1-72cac661ec26.

St. Andrew's also has weekly "Chat and Chow" events where these students can have a free meal while also having an opportunity to discuss their faith in different ways. If you would be able to provide a meal for these events, you can sign up on their meal train here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/4wmkg5>

There are also many service projects that can be done with St. Andrews. If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer, they would love to hear from you!

Food Pantry Update

The GLC Pantry Board is very thankful for the team of faithful volunteers who have helped us to continue to provide emergency food during this unprecedented era. For the present time, we have decided to continue to do our drive-through method of distribution. We will continue to examine this issue each month and watch our local situation so that everyone involved can continue to be safe. At this time, we do not know when we might return to our "client choice" method of distribution, which brings people inside Fellowship Hall and allows our client families to make some product choices.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING EGG CARTONS TO CHURCH AT THIS TIME. WE WILL ASK FOR THESE ITEMS AGAIN WHEN WE NEED THEM.

Thank you for your generosity and for your prayers for this ministry.

The GLC Pantry Board,

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

Prayer Chain - Prayer Partners Wanted!

Our Prayer Chain functions as a way for our members to send prayer requests to a group of people willing to pray on their behalf. The only requirement is to be added to the e-mail list and to receive e-mails as the requests come in. Caitlyn will include a brief description of the request as well as a prayer you can use for that request. We also ask for discretion with the e-mails, since some prayers can be requests that are made to just the prayer chain and not the congregation as a whole. If you would like to be added as a prayer partner, please contact Caitlyn.

Send in your Prayer Requests

If you have a request you would like to be sent to the prayer chain, please contact Caitlyn. Please also include whether it should just be sent to the smaller prayer chain or to the congregational Prayer List that is included in the Grace Notes and spoken aloud during Sunday morning worship. All updates to the Prayer List can also be sent to Lyla in the office. Or if you would like, we also do have a tab on our website just for prayer requests, that you can access at <https://glccu.org/prayer-requests/>

Pub Theology at Riggs

Our next Pub Theology event will be at Riggs Beer Co. on July 22nd at 7pm. We have a spot reserved outside in the beer garden. All are welcome to join!

Weeding Assistance Needed at Grace This Summer and Fall

Grace Lutheran Church members and friends with weeding experience are invited to contribute one hour a week (or more) of weeding labor at Grace Lutheran Church grounds at a time that works with your schedule. Landscape waste bags can be available at the church for your use.

For those without weeding experience – you too can help out. Here's how: free weeding guidance will be available to you on Saturday mornings at Grace Lutheran Church between 8:30-9:30am, weather permitting. Beginners at weeding, and others who may be available at that time are invited to help out. Susan will be present on Saturday mornings during that hour to provide weeding tutorials.

Please email Susan to let Property Committee know if you can assist, or if you have questions about helping out.

Stitch & Craft Meetings

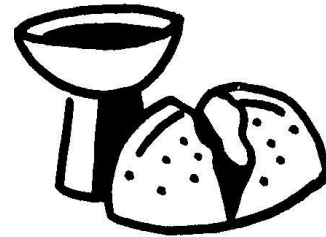
The stitch & craft group gets together at the church narthex to make handmade items. These items have ranged from blankets for babies born to members of our congregation to winter outer clothing that was donated to the Francis Nelson clinic. We are talking about making items for chemo and dialysis, too. We also feel free to make projects for ourselves, and gifts for family and friends. Please join us on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month from 7pm to 8:30pm.

Hybrid Worship Service

We are now holding a single hybrid worship service at 9:30am on Sundays. That means that you are welcome to attend the service either in-person or continue using the live-stream from home. For the time being, everyone who attends in person will be asked to wear a mask. This is because we want to be able to sing, and masks are still recommended for singing. We will alternate 8:00 and 10:30 worship styles, except that communion will be continuous (8:00 style) at all services in order to maintain physical distancing. This schedule is planned to go through September 12. The fall schedule will be decided in August.

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 for assistance.



July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 AM Food Pantry	2	3 5:00 PM Summer Sing Along - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
4 Grace Office Closed <i>Independence Day</i> 9:30 AM Worship (Hybrid)- In Person & Live Stream 12:30 PM Women's AA	5 Grace Office Closed	6 5:45 PM Executive Committee	7 5:00 PM <i>Bulletin Deadline</i>	8 10:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Social Ministry Committee	9 7:00 PM Stitch & Craft	10
11 <i>Grace Food Pantry Sunday</i> 9:30 AM Worship (Hybrid)- In Person & Live Stream 12:30 PM Women's AA	12 10:00 AM Food for Seniors	13 6:00 AM Food for Seniors 6:00 PM Sweet Adelines 7:00 PM Council	14 5:00 PM <i>Bulletin Deadline</i>	15 10:00 AM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Parish Life Committee	16	17
18 9:30 AM Worship (Hybrid)- In Person & Live Stream 12:30 PM Women's AA	19 5:30 PM Property Committee	20 <i>Newsletter Copy Deadline</i>	21 7:00 AM Food Pantry Truck Delivery 5:00 PM <i>Bulletin Deadline</i>	22 10:00 AM Food Pantry	23 7:00 PM Stitch & Craft	24
25 <i>World Hunger Sunday</i> 9:30 AM Worship (Hybrid)- In Person & Live Stream 12:30 PM Women's AA	26 10:00 AM Food for Seniors	27 6:00 AM Food for Seniors	28 5:00 PM <i>Bulletin Deadline</i>	29 10:00 AM Food Pantry 5:15 PM Mutual Ministry	30	31