



WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

THIS MONTH'S PASTOR'S PAGE...

Brad shares some thoughts about relationships, worship (corporate and personal), and *who we are* as a body of believers.

A GIFT FROM HER HEART & HANDS

In this month's Women's Reflection, we hear how Inez Koechel shares her gifts and talents to connect with our High School graduates through a special project!

DON'T MISS THESE NEWS & NOTES!

- Softball Schedule
- Walleye Weekend Worship
- YOUTH Summer Schedule
- FDL HS Baccalaureate Service
- "Pizza for Pops" Fundraiser

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS...

- June 2 "Bride of Christ" Study begins, 12:30pm
 - June 5 Worship with Communion, Budget Vote
Connect Team meeting after Worship
 - June 6 Elders Meeting, 6:30pm
 - June 8 Youth Trip to Mauthe Lake, meet at 9:30am
Connect Team meeting at 6:30pm
 - June 12 WALLEYE WEEKEND WORSHIP @ Lakeside 10am
No Worship Service @ Grace Church!!
 - June 13-17 Pastor Grant out for Cont. Ed.
 - June 16 Missions Team Meeting, 6:30pm
 - June 19 Father's Day! "Pizza for Pops" Pick-up!
 - June 21 Dance Workshop begins, 9:00-3:00
 - June 22 Youth Cookout @ Grace, 6:00pm
- See page 3 for the Softball Schedule!



"Don't dig up in doubt what you planted in faith."

- Elisabeth Elliot

STAFF VACATION: RACHEL IS OUT OF OFFICE JUNE 13-19

A Note From Pastor Brad

Dear Grace Family,

Who are we?

As we enter a new season of ministry as a body of believers, it is always good to stop and ask ourselves “Who are we?”, and how does that motivate us to live?

Martin Luther is quoted as explaining what he believed about *who we are* as follows:

”The priesthood of all believers (for we have been made to be priests of our God through the work of Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 2:9) does not mean I am my own priest. In the community of saints, God has placed us in the body to be priests to each other. We stand before God and intercede for one another, we proclaim to each other God’s Word and we celebrate His presence amongst us in worship, praise, and fellowship. Moreover, our priestly ministry does not terminate on ourselves. It propels us into the world in service and witness.”

So, it stands to reason then that, as priests who are called to minister to God, it is not enough for us to check off our attendance at a Sunday meeting under the column of “That is enough ministry to God for one week”. Our corporate gathering is a place of celebration of all that God has done in us and through us in that week. *That may look deeply personal at one time and radically uncomfortable or evangelistic at another.* The point is that no matter what it looks like, there exists a strong possibility that what God has done or is doing in you, could also be happening in another person who needs to hear the testimony of God working.

There are several different opportunities for the above to take place. Corporately on Sunday is one where we can testify, pray for, and bring a word of encouragement to people that we might not regularly see during the week. A Small Group is another such opportunity, which is more personal and can be less intimidating when sharing with one another. A smaller group of 2 or 3 friends is even more personal and intimate and allows for deeper sharing with those you have stronger relationship with.

That word “relationship” is vital for who we are. We are people created for relationship with God, reconciled to Him by the redemptive work of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and then made to be reconcilers or ambassadors to those not yet knowing God or the Gospel of grace. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

The remainder of this article (see sidebar) is more of a self-study exercise, where I am inviting you to explore what God is saying to us all, corporately and personally. I urge you to take a few minutes to go through it!

Consider the following scriptures and meditate on them considering what I briefly shared above.

Read Acts 2:42-47.

1. How would this look in our world today?
2. What really stood out to you in the passage?

Read Ephesians 4:11-12.

1. What is the role of the apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, and Teacher?
2. Who is “to do the work of the ministry” ?

Read 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27.

1. In vs 12, who received the Holy Spirit?
2. Why do you think (vs 12-14) was the Spirit given?
3. Is it important that the body consists of many parts? Why?
4. What happens if one part does not function or considers itself less or unimportant?
5. Look at vs 25, what is the reason given for all the preceding explanation?

Lastly, read Romans 15:5-7.

1. Why does Paul say we should live in harmony with one another?

Consider these passages and allow Holy Spirit to minister to you and strengthen you as you meditate on them. And then ask yourself , “How does this affect *Who I Am?*”

With Love,

Brad

NEWS & NOTES



THE BUDGET VOTE WILL BE TAKING PLACE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.

If you have questions about the budget & missed the Q&A meetings in May please contact Mark Erickson markandnet@att.net or Dan Holdridge holdanita@gmail.com

FDL HIGH SCHOOL BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

To celebrate the faith of our graduating seniors, the annual FDL High School Baccalaureate service will be held at 3:30pm on Thursday, June 9th. This year's service is being hosted by Immanuel Trinity Lutheran Church (20 Wisconsin American Drive). The service will include several songs from the FDL High School Choir, scripture readings from Fondy seniors, and Baccalaureate address by Marisa Lombardo. The service will conclude by 4:30pm, allowing students time to prepare for and attend the graduation ceremony at the high school. For more information, call the Youth for Christ office at 923-1416. **Working together with FDL High School, the Fond du Lac Area Ministerial Association is pleased to sponsor this service, hosted by various churches each year.**

SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

*Evans - Evans Elementary School
*JGF - Jimmy George Field at Lakeside Park

- o June 6th at 6:00pm | Evans
- o June 13th at 7:00pm | Evans
- o June 20th at 7:00pm | Evans
- o June 27th at 6:00pm | Evans
- o July 11th at 6:00pm | JGF
- o July 18th at 6:00pm | JGF
- o July 25th at 7:00pm | JGF

There is **NO GAME ON MON. JULY 4TH** | Playoff seed is determined by overall league record | **AUGUST 1ST** is the first week of playoffs if no makeups are needed



Join us Sunday, June 12, 2022 for the **WALLEYE WEEKEND ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE!** Beginning at 10:00am on the Sunny 97.7 East Stage, followed by a Christian Music Concert. **WE WILL NOT BE HOLDING OUR REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICE AT GRACE CHURCH THAT DAY!** Please plan on

attending at Lakeside Park. (Grace Church will be the rain-out location however!) If relocation is needed, it will be announced at 8:45am on local radio stations, Festival PA system, and found on the Grace website: www.gracechurchfdl.org. Bring a lawn chair and join us!

SUMMER YOUTH SCHEDULE

All 5th graders going into 6th grade in Fall 2022, are now invited to participate in the youth's summer activities. In order to participate, parents need to complete two forms, a medical info sheet and a waiver/permission to transport for trips. Both need to be completed prior to participation in the first activity so that your son/daughter may join. Forms can be returned to Brad at the church building or given to him on the day of the event.

- **June 1: Youth Meeting @GEFC Building 6:30-8:00pm**
- **June 8: Mauthe Lake and Hamburger Haus – Meet @GEFC at 9.30am. Returning at 4:00pm. No cost for lake but cash (approx. \$5) needed for ice cream.**
- **June 15: Youth Meeting @GEFC Building 6:30-8:00pm**
- **June 22: Cookout and Youth vs Parents Olympics – Meet @GEFC at 6:00pm for supper followed by activities. Grill items and buns provided. Bring your own chips, soda etc.**
- **June 29: Youth Meeting @GEFC Building 6:30-8:00pm**

Pick up a printed copy of the full summer schedule from the Info Board at church or download it from our website: www.gracechurchfdl.org

PIZZA FOR POPS

Celebrate Father's Day by giving back to our community! The Young Adults group is selling delicious pizzas from local restaurant *Ang and Eddies* to raise money for Youth For Christ "Parent Life" program. Parent Life seeks to connect with expectant and parenting teens and their children through intentional relationships with caring adults and community partnerships. Their aim is to empower teens to thrive in every aspect of life and to encourage them to further their education and move toward becoming life-long followers of Jesus Christ.

Celebrate the dad, grandpa or father-figure in your life by purchasing some pizzas! \$10 per pizza or 3 for \$25 dollars. Types of pizza to choose from are: pepperoni, cheese or sausage. Payment options are cash or check. Stop by the display in the lobby on Sunday to place your order or contact the Grace Office (920) 922-7211 or cmc@gracechurchfdl.net. **Deadline to order is Friday, June 10th at 11:00am**

VBC IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



Our adventure will begin before you know it! Make sure you have August 1-5, 2022 set aside in your calendar.

VBC is for kids 4k thru 5th grade. We'll experience the unforgettable wildlife, culture, and beauty of Australia while exploring the wonder and value of life. Registration for participants will begin towards the end of June so stay tuned. If you are interested in volunteering we'd love to have you! Please contact Traci Soeller soellert@gmail.com or Jen Koenigs to see how you can get plugged in.

GET "PLUGGED IN" TO THESE WEEKLY PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE!

- **8:45am Sunday Mornings at Grace Church**
- **6:30pm Tuesday Evenings Corporate Prayer at Grace Church**
- **6:30am Wednesdays Men's Prayer Prayer Room**
- **8:00am Thursday Mornings Men's Coffee Fellowship & Prayer at Grace**

Don't forget about our weekly prayer & encouragement connections! See the weekly email for login details!



NEW STUDY OPPORTUNITY! "Attending the Bride of Christ, Preparing for His Return." Discover history's greatest love story and marvel at your role in it! Led by Robin Fuhrman. Thursdays at 12:30pm at Grace Church. Introductory meeting, Thursday, June 2nd. Contact Robin with questions: robinfuhrman@charter.net. Sign up at the Info Center!

Be sure to bring your "change" to church for our "Change A Life" Mission box project. Boxes are located at the Info Booth and up in the Fellowship Hall. All of the money goes to support Mahali Pa Maisha in Kenya.





Monthly Reflection

A Gift from Her Heart and Hands

Submitted by Carol Bauer

Inez Koechel has made it her mission to gift all graduating High School Students attending Grace Church with a handmade quilt, and what a special gift it is! Each of the quilts she constructs uniquely reflects the interests, color choices and personality of the individual graduate.

She states, "During my years at Grace, I have been involved with many activities; they have been good and fulfilling. As I grew older and had less contact with the younger generation, I sensed a disconnect and wanted to change that. Since we are now in Oregon for an extended period of time, I asked myself what I could do to stay connected."

The Lord answered Inez in a very specific way that involved her great love and talent for quilting. She listened to His prompting, and without hesitation began sewing quilts.

"The Lord put it on my heart to make a quilt for each graduating senior who is connected to Grace"

No two quilts are alike. Inez invests time getting to know each young adult through conversations with them and their parents to personalize their quilt.

"Some of the quilts have been made with T-shirts, some with colors they like, others with their interests and they all have a scripture verse. Many of the quilts have become a Memory Quilt of their high school years."

Inez decided to ask for help and involve more women in completing the quilts for our graduating seniors. She asked others to join with her to complete this work of service. Consequently, these women are also blessed each year as they help Inez with her senior quilt projects.

"When I began making the quilts, I was involved in a Bible study and invited the women to join me in the "project". They were willing to become prayer partners for the students. They also got involved picking out material, as well as sewing and ironing quilt pieces along the way."

After several years of involvement in this endeavor, she continues to find joy in her work. She has made an impact, not only on our senior students, but on their entire families.



"It has been great fun. Praying for them, getting to know their families and caring for them."

Maybe you have a talent that the Lord is nudging you to share with others. Inez has set a great example of following the Holy Spirit's prompting, by obeying and giving of herself, and thereby becoming a blessing to so many.

In closing, Inez shares, *"I'm thankful for the opportunity to share my love of quilting with others. My desire is to make quilts for the seniors for years to come"*.



The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

O Love that will not let me go... I rest my weary soul in Thee...

These are beautiful words from a hymn that George Matheson wrote in 1882. I woke up this morning and the words to this song came to mind. When that happens, I am well aware that God is letting me know that this is something I need to write about and share.

Can any of us begin to fathom how deeply our Heavenly Father loves each of us? Now, I love my wife and family beyond measure, but my love for them can never be measure against the love God has for you and me. Paul, in Ephesians 3:18 reminds us, *"May you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love for us is."*

God's love for each of us is something we will never fully understand. It is the love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit that I hope to share with you. If you've not tasted the love of God, I pray this will be the day you do so. Invite Him into your heart and your life will never be the same.

Nothing will ever be able to separate you from God's love. The Bible says in Revelation 3:8, *"I have set before you an open door, and no man can close it ..."*

Someone may be saying, "God could never forgive me. My sin is beyond forgiveness." If you are truly sorry and repentant of your sins, God stands ready to welcome you with open arms. And once you have accepted Him "HIS LOVE WILL NEVER LET YOU GO!"

Father, I pray for those individuals this morning who has labeled themselves as one who could never be forgiven and experience God's love. Open their minds and heart to You and help him or her realize that there is no sin that You won't forgive.

"Patience with others is love... Patience with self is hope... Patience with God is faith."

Adel Bestavros

Peter Marshall once prayed, "Teach us, O lord, the discipline of patience... for to wait is often harder than to work."

According to the dictionary, patience is "the calm endurance of hardship, provocation, pain, delay... etc." That "etc." can include many different hardships, struggles, problems, and weaknesses and each of us have our very own. I must confess, I am not a very patient person and my impatience shows when I am on the golf course waiting for the slow group ahead of me. Or when I am in line at the grocery store or out in traffic. I am sure many share my dilemma. Yet my impatience helps me to recognize just how patient God is with me.

As children of the Almighty Father, we are to do what is right, even when we recognize that our choices are wrong. We are slow to grow spiritually, as the world and all its distractions have a greater effect on our decision making than God's Word does. But our God is a *perfect example of patience*, and He does not give up on any of us. He gives us the presence of His Holy Spirit to show us when we are outside His will and the direction to help us be the children He desires us to be. Being mindful of my impatience helps me to arm myself with God's Word when situations arise. Read these words from Psalm 37:7, *"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him... do not fret ..."* From Romans 12:12 (NRV) we read, *"When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient and when you pray, be faithful."*

One more thought, and it's an important one. *We need to be patient with God.* When you are facing challenges - today and everyday - *remember God is forever at work in your life.* TRUST HIM! Trust Him when the hardest thing for you to do is to trust Him at all. God knows what the situation is that you are facing, and He has a plan that is perfect and if you remain patient, He will show you the way out of whatever trial you're facing. Wait patiently, even when He doesn't answer your prayers and it seems like He doesn't hear, and the delays are trying and upsetting. BE PATIENT! He knows exactly what to do and when to do it. You'll see ... He will not fail you.

Your Anchor will hold ... in spite of your storms!



163 18th Street
 Fond du Lac, WI 54935
 office@gracechurchfdl.net
 www.gracechurchfdl.org

CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:
 Sunday mornings at 8:45am
 Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm
 Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:30am.
*All meet at
 Grace Church
 building*

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ*

Lead Pastor - *Brad Rutherford*

cell: 313-0456 email: rutherford@gracechurchfdl.net

Associate Pastor - *Grant Baumgart*

cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@gracechurchfdl.net

Administrative Assistant - *Carol Blain*

phone: 922-7211 email: office@gracechurchfdl.net

Communications/Media Coordinator - *Rachel Titel*

email: cmc@gracechurchfdl.net

Custodian - *Mark Jopling*

phone: 922-7211 cell: (920) 979-3944

Custodial Assistant - *Jen Koenigs*

Elder on Call: Friday, Saturday & Sunday

(920) 948-9262

Offering & Attendance

4/3/2022	\$1,740	183
4/10/2022	\$16,091	186
4/17/2022	\$3,920	240
4/24/2022	\$18,499	160

April Weekly Ave: \$10,062 192

**Weekly average needed to meet budget
 \$10,142**

Year to Date Givings \$411,026

Year to Date Expenses \$421,623

SHORTFALL: \$10,394

Totals reflect April month-end totals

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the
 July *Words of Grace*
 to the church office by **June 15th**.
 You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or
 office@gracechurchfdl.net

Office Hours are:
 Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm
 Friday 8:00am-11:30am