

Grace Greetings

May 2018

Grace Lutheran Church, 208 1st Street SW, P.O. Box 522, Tripoli, IA 50676

Pastor Scott Duffus: 507-390-4306

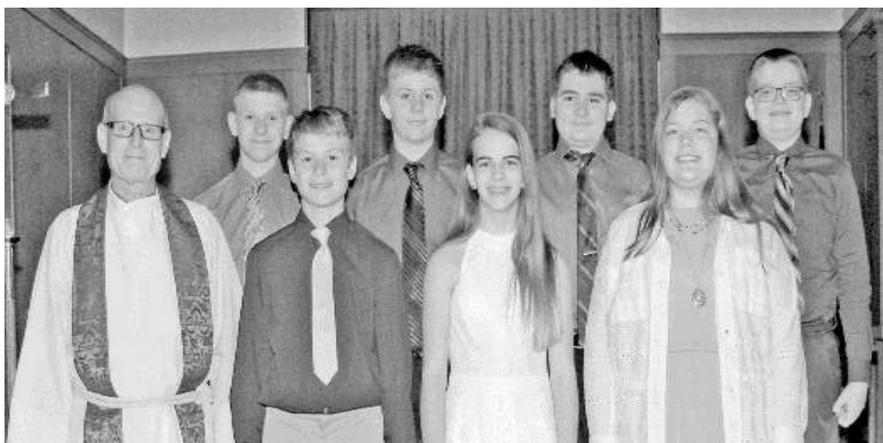
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Affirmation of Baptism Celebrated

This past Sunday we saw seven 8th graders affirm their Christian faith. As a pastor, confirmation is still one of my favorite things to be a part of in ministry. There was a time when I thought confirmation was all about making sure the kids understood their faith properly; these days, though, I think it is more about engaging kids to think about their faith and to see the church as something that is a positive (I'm not sure that was necessarily the message that I got when I was an 8th grader!).

So we welcome these young people to adult membership in this congregation. It is our prayer that they each will continue to be active in their faith!



Back, left to right: **Austin Bremner, Jayden Miller, Elias Anderson, Jacob Rader.**
Front, left to right: **Pastor Scott Duffus, Jase Hereid, Lauren Funk, Rebecca Mohlis.**

Pentecost

On May 20th, we celebrate Pentecost. It is a time when we remember the giving of the Holy Spirit. In the book of Acts, this time is literally an earth-shaking reality, with wind and fire. In the Gospel of John, the Spirit is more subtle. Jesus simply breathes on the disciples and gives them the Holy Spirit.

However it comes, the Spirit is what sent the disciples out to tell others about the risen Christ. It was the guiding presence of Jesus that continued on, even after he ascended into heaven. The truth is, it is STILL the Spirit that ought to guide us.

The Spirit is a still, small voice in a world that is loud and often too certain, though it often leads us in a direction that is contrary to what we may expect. The disciples listened to that voice many years ago, and today we are called to do the same!

In Christ, Pastor Scott Duffus

News & Upcoming Events

Day Camp Set for June 11-15

Kids entering grades 1-6 are invited to attend Grace's day camp of Christ-centered activities, games, arts and crafts, songs, skits, and Bible lessons. The camp will run **Monday, June 11, through Thursday, June 14, from 9 am to 3 pm, and Friday, June 15, from 9 am to noon.** The program is set for **Thursday, June 14, at 7 pm**, with a family spaghetti potluck supper prior to the program. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the narthex if you can provide treats or be a helper, or contact **Toni Butikofer** at **882-3519** with questions. See the *Grace in Tripoli* Facebook page for more info.

New Birth Celebrated

Congratulations to **Marc and Heather Foelske** on the birth of their daughter, **Madison Adele**, on March 30. Grandparents are **Dave and Nancy Foelske** and great-grandmother is **Marilyn Hoppenworth**.

Christian Sympathy

Our condolences are expressed to the family and friends of Irene O'Brien, mother of **Kathy (Loren) Liddle** and grandmother of **David, Justin, and Ryan Liddle**.

Baccalaureate Set for May 20

High school seniors are asked to wear their caps and gowns to worship on **Sunday, May 20**. Grace's baccalaureate service will be part of the regular worship service.

Update on Cemetery Plots

If you are interested in purchasing a cemetery plot in Grace Cemetery, please contact **Kathy Fink** at **319-231-4155**. The price per plot is \$200 for members of Grace, and \$400 per plot for non-members.

Mission Cross Items Needed

Your donations of cooking spices—salt, pepper, cinnamon, herbs, etc.—are needed for the Helping Hands Food Bank during May. Thank you for your contributions!

Investing in Our Youth

You are invited to buy stock in our youth to help raise funds for their upcoming trip to Houston. Investors can buy stock in individuals or the group. Stockholders will then be invited to a brunch following church services on Sunday, July 15, when the youth will talk about some of their experiences.

And don't forget about the raffle for the combination picnic table/benches, quilt, and other items. Raffle tickets are \$5 each, or five tickets for \$20. The raffle drawing will be Sunday, June 3.

Stock certificates and raffle tickets will be sold in the narthex in May, or call **Carol Boldt** at 319-830-1935 for information.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for those who are ill: **Bob Kuhr, Bill Kuker, Carma Kvidera, Ron and Nancy Fowlkes, Logan Liddle, Hollis Niemeyer, Paul Bremer, Ray Bloom, Betty Johansen, Madeline Figanbaum, Jean Bremer.**

Please remember to also pray for: **Hans Schult, Marilyn Schult, Esther Oberheu, Leisa Nolte, Carol Johnson, Kurt Schult, Loretta Mahlstedt, Gertrude Dettmering, Gloria Siggelkov, Ordella Freyholtz, Dick Marvets, Tony Lechtenberg, Trent Pavelec, Christine Bush.**

We also pray for those in the Armed Services: **Michael Bush** with AFRICOM/U.S. Army in Germany, **Michael Dombusch** stationed in the U.S., **Josh Everett** in Kuwait, **Brian Krueger** in Kuwait **Matthew Krueger** in Tennessee.

God Bless Our Shut-ins

- At Home: **Ruth Bergmann, Ray Bloem, Ordella Freyholtz**
- Bartels (Waverly): **Gloria Siggelkov, Gladys Rettig**
- Cedar Falls Care Facility (Cedar Falls): **Vernon Kirchhoff**
- Cobblestone (Sumner): **LaVerne & Pauline Lobeck, Joyce Nuss**
- Crestview Sunshine Area (Charles City): **Dane Frahm**
- Hillcrest Home (Sumner): **Gertrude Dettmering, Hans & Marilyn Schult**
- Tripoli Nursing Home: **Luella Harns, Elna Kuecker, Loretta Mahlstedt, Dale Petersen**
- Willow Winds (Denver): **Bob Kuhr**

April Church Council Meeting Highlights

The monthly Church Council meeting was called to order on Sunday, April 8, 2018, at 6:35 pm by President Carol Boldt. Pastor Duffus opened with prayer.

Rollie Ott spoke with the council about the possibility of using money in the trust fund to repair the church elevator. Council determined that original trust fund documentation needs to be reviewed to see how the fund may be spent.

The secretarial and financial reports were reviewed and approved.

Pastor's Report: The Easter events went well and there was a good turnout. The last Sunday in April was chosen as the date for confirmation (there were conflicts in some families with the original date).

Youth Report: Youth have raised \$11,610.85 for their trip to Houston, and need a minimum of \$1,690 yet to cover expenses.

Worship: The worship committee is looking at moving next year's Easter sunrise service to 7 am (instead of 6 am). Breakfast would be served afterward, and the second service would be held at 9 am. The committee is also considering moving first communion to the fall instead of Palm Sunday so there can be more focus on it.

Adult Education: Committee discussed the history behind adult education groups in the church at their first meeting. The adult education and worship committees are planning a family supper night to encourage people to become active.

Cemetery: Dave Shinstine reported that Kathy Fink is the contact for purchasing a cemetery plot (cost is \$200 for members and \$400 for non-members). Kathy also has the flags and will be putting them out on Memorial Day.

Old Business

- **Deacon Schedule:** The roles and responsibilities of deacons are still being reviewed. A few people have signed up to give communion (so deacons would not be required to do so if they are not comfortable with it). There are plans for teaching volunteers to set up for communion as well as serving. Also considering head usher position, which would include locking and unlocking the doors to the church.
- **Electronic Giving:** Five people have signed up for electronic giving so far. To help enroll more people to give electronically, discussed having someone available with a laptop in the narthex after worship on Sundays who could assist.
- **Sunday Worship Time:** Committee is considering changing worship time to 9:00 am, possibly starting mid to late summer.
- **Tables for Fellowship Hall:** Need to get updated pricing yet.
- **Restroom Remodeling Project:** Have gotten bids but they are not compiled yet. Bruce will talk with contractors to see if they will be willing to start the project this spring or wait until the fall. If contractors are willing to start this spring, the Council will call a congregational meeting to review and discuss.

New Business

- **Website:** Received proposal to build the website for \$3,120 (down payment of half of fee is required to initiate work). Expected completion time is a few months. Motion made by Mary Jo Rathe to accept the proposal and Donna Hereid seconded; motion carried.

Dave Shinstine made a motion to adjourn the meeting and motion was seconded by Jocelyn Moeller; motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

In Appreciation of Grace Bell Choir

We at Grace are blessed beyond measure for the support of the bell choir. Thank you to the bell choir ringers for your commitment to and enthusiasm in enriching worship with your musical gifts. Thank you also to everyone who supports the musical ministry of the bell choir with your financial gifts in honor or memory of loved ones. Your support enables the choir to purchase additional music and supplies, along with maintaining the quality of the hand bells. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. *(from Gail Sexton)*