

AMAZING GRACE CONNECTIONS

OUR MISSION: faith | family | community



FREE TO BE ME!

Celebrating freedom is more than fireworks,
independence,
un-quarantining and “opening the country.”

JULY 2020

Martin Luther near the end of his treatise “[The Freedom of a Christian](#)”, wrote: “The Christian can do all things and has all things and is filled with “the love which makes us free, joyful, almighty workers and conquerors over all tribulation, servants of our neighbors, and yet lords of all.” And “Surely, it is because God dwells in us, so that by faith in God we become Christs to one another and treat our neighbors as Christ has treated us, that Christ may be the same in all . . . that we may be truly Christian. A Christian is the perfectly freest of all, and subject to none. A Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, subject to everyone.”
The Freedom of a Christian – by Martin Luther

INSIDE: MASKED AGGRESSION OR CHRISTIAN COMPASSION? Freedom to love and respect one another. 2020 what a year for real gaining freedom!

Read more on page 3

AMAZING GRACE CONNECTIONS

JUNE 2020 ISSUE



Welcome to Amazing Grace Connections,
Grace Lutheran Church of Lily Lake's
newsletter!

For article submissions and announcements,
please email your submission to
churchsec@graceoflilylake.com by the 15th of
each month to be included in the next
newsletter!

WHAT'S INSIDE

Pastor's Article	3-4
Financial Matters	5
VBS Bolt News	6
Grace & Phase 4	7-8
Articles	9-11
Getting to Know	12
Where to Find Us	13-14

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	1 PM - 4 PM
Tuesday	1 PM - 4 PM
Wednesday	1 PM - 4 PM
Thursday	1 PM - 4 PM
Friday	1 PM - 4 PM

**FOR ARTICLE AND
ANNOUNCEMENT
SUBMISSIONS
CONTACT**

churchsec@graceoflilylake.com

MASKED AGGRESSION OR CHRISTIAN COMPASSION?

Freedom to love and respect one another. 2020 what a year for real gaining freedom!

WRITTEN BY PASTOR DAWN ROUCKA

It is hard lately NOT to think about FREEDOM! We all love that word, and especially at this time of year. We have a penchant for draping all around us the colors, Red, White and Blue and seeking out the bursts of bright, sparkling fireworks. As people living in the Western hemisphere, in North America, in the United States of America we have always thought of ourselves as beacons of freedom, hallmarks and paragons of democracy, equality and prosperity.

The pandemic has caused me to scrutinize and contemplate freedom more closely. It has taught me all the more that freedom is a sketchy thing for people. Recently, wearing masks has become controversial.

I can't believe masks have become a flashpoint in our conversation about freedom. To me wearing a mask speaks about true freedom as much as for others that NOT wearing a mask is about freedom. And before you think I am getting all political, this is a reflection at the heart of what it means to be Christian. This is the beat of the Gospel.

Yes, I believe that the subject of masks, as well as "Black Lives Matter" and PRIDE week and economic issues are all Gospel issues and we need to understand clearly, practice doggedly and rejoice heartily in our freedom in Christ now, over our "national" freedom, more than ever.

It means that we need to show by our lives that we are subject to Christ, even if it means our "personal" freedoms seem compromised. I believe we are masking many real issues in our recent battles that suggest we are wearing our American pride more than our love of God and neighbor.

These things are not political but Spiritual. They are Gospel matters. "In Christ, there is no slave nor free, nor male nor female" yet we make distinctions and decisions based on such things. The Gospel says we limit ourselves and we sin when we make choices on such things. That's why these are Gospel matters and not political matters.

Christians are called to be good citizens of heaven and earth and in Romans scripture delineates what that entails:

8 Be under obligation to no one—the only obligation you have is to love one another. Whoever does this has obeyed the Law. 9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery; do not commit murder; do not steal; do not desire what belongs to someone else"—all these, and any others besides, are summed up in the one command, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." 10 If you love others, you will never do them wrong; to love, then, is to obey the whole Law.

That is why many marched and protested the killing of George Floyd and countless other men and women of color and other gender choices. Yes, it is about fair and equal rights for all our citizens politically, but it is even MORE about carrying out our freedoms as citizens of God's kingdom.

But then, don't "ALL LIVES MATTER?"

Well, how are we living that shows that BLACK LIVES MATTER? Because all lives do not truly matter if ALL BLACK LIVES are not being shown to matter. If we allow abuse and bullying of those who question their gender identity, all lives do not matter. If children brought to this country legally or otherwise, are not invited to not just NOT be kept in cages but be allowed, and helped to thrive, all lives do not matter. If we are not working tirelessly to make healthcare a basic right for all people, not a privilege for those who can afford it, all lives do not matter. If we are not wearing masks to help protect our vulnerable citizens of all age, color* and ability,

we are saying clearly that ALL LIVES DO NOT TRULY MATTER. If we are not invoking our right as a citizen to vote, all lives do not matter. If we are not voting with the idea of loving God above all and loving our neighbor as ourselves, we are declaring that not all lives matter.

So do ALL lives matter? *"19 We love because God first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And we have been given this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."*

1 John 4:19-21

Yet the stats are still stark. Incarceration rates among African Americans are astronomical — 1 in 3 black men will go to prison in their lifetime. Gay marriages may be taking place across the country, but hate crimes and workplace discomfort are still very real concerns. Women still face threats of violence and lower earnings because of their gender. People with disabilities, American Indians, and transgender people confront their own struggles for freedom as well.

Civil rights leader **Fannie Lou Hamer** noted that "nobody's free until everybody's free."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. put it this way: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality."

Nelson Mandela said, *"To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."* Our freedom is inextricably intertwined, so if we believe in both OUR freedoms then, when we vote on earthly kingdom matters it is important to include all the ways we are choosing to love or not love one another or look with respect and care on our brothers and sisters. Our freedom matters, but how we chose to use it for the good of all living things matters most.

"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery" and "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Galatians 5:1 & 13

Can we be vulnerable enough to both suspend our own freedoms and comforts to wear a mask for the love of another and the power to beat back this virus? Can we lay down our own arrogance and desire for power by being vulnerable and confronting our own racism and privilege to eradicate the scourge of hatred? Can we trust that God faithfully and lovingly makes all things and is working to redeem all creation, even us, so we sow the work of God's kingdom? It is hard work to live in freedom. It is also God's gift and call.

Most gracious God, bless us and help us to get to know each other as neighbors and brothers and sisters in Christ. May Christ's peace shine through our words and bright energy. Guide us in your wisdom as we visit and determine your will. I give thanks for Grace's faithful witness and partnership in sharing the gospel. Bless each person with love, strength and peace as they walk in your glory. We thank you and praise you, especially for your Son our guiding hope and peace and freedom. Amen.

*[African Americans and people of color are more likely to die of COVID 19 than white Americans. (No, the Coronavirus is not discriminatory, but our health and economic policies that make people of color more vulnerable ARE.) Black Americans are more likely to be stopped and arrested while committing NO actual crime than white Americans. People of Color (except Asian Americans) will likely be discriminated against for loans for homes or cars.]

CONVERSATIONS on DIFFICULT SUBJECTS

Pastor will hold a forum on race, gender and other matters as scratched on here on ZOOM on Tuesday July 14th at 7 PM for anyone interested.

Pastor Dawn Roucka is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79170375495?pwd=N3dhUHpCUeF6WWYrZjN1ZVFMWGFOQT09>

Meeting ID: 791 7037 5495

Password: 1WQdcX

\$\$ FINANCIAL MATTERS

WRITTEN BY TRICIA PAINTER

We are mid-year 2020, already! Grace members and friends have found ways to alter our regular way of doing many, many things in our lives in the past several months. We are blessed with the continued giving of time, talents and tithes during this difficult time, in our family at Grace. We have been receiving your offerings via direct debit, Bill Pay from a bank account and personal checks that are received via USPS. As you can see by the following recap, we are able to keep up with our bills (I don't want to sound like a broken record, but we did pass a negative budget in January). With some assistance from a federal stimulus loan (forgivable loan), our mortgage bank providing a 4-month suspension of principal payments on our mortgage (just paying the interest), Ian (Sexton) asking VT to forego his pay for several months and seeking to obtain some grant money from the Metro Chicago ELCA, I am optimistic that we can maintain 'holding our own' with your continued support.

FINANCIAL RECAP			
May 2020			
	May	2020 Year-to-date	2019 Year-to-date
INCOME	\$14,730.96	\$82,298.57	\$78,777.54
EXPENSES	\$10,729.33	\$77,735.96	\$90,158.77
NET +/-	\$4,001.63	\$4,562.61	(\$11,381.23)

My thanks and appreciation to :

Dottie and Paul Mantsch who continue to keep up with the weekly Financial Secretary activities
Linda Smykowski and Cathy Whiteside who are continuing with our weekly deposits (**Linda is presently recovering from knee surgery 😊 !!)
Cara Turner discussed that she is hopeful to have the Giving Statements (covering Jan-June) sent out by mid-July (she is a FT surgical nurse – and understandably has had changes of venue and responsibilities in the past couple of months in the hospital setting). Thank you for your patience in receiving your statements.

Again, I thank you my fellow members and friends for your support of Grace ~ even if we are 'distant' ~ Staying Well ~

Tricia Painter, Treasurer

on behalf of the Finance Team:

**** We are still in search of someone with an accounting background to review the monthly reports, make sure things have posted to the correct accounts, oversee the overall budget/financial tasks for Grace and assist with our yearly budget planning. The time commitment is approximately 4-5 hours a month; we use a web-based program called Church Windows (CW has great on-line + tech support). (**We are thankful for the IT support that George Theros provides when we have difficulties too!**)**

WRITTEN BY TWYLA STROM

VBS BOLT News

Well, this year's VBS is certainly one for the books. When we started planning in January for VBS we had no idea that our world would change and we would be looking at different options for not holding VBS in house. Looking through many options of still providing a quality VBS program, we were lucky to find one that would allow us to offer it to not only Grace members, but to our Community as well. Marty Bradley used her Thrivent Action Team to purchase the BOLT VBS program and supplies. Marty and I put together Take-Home Bags so families would have most of the items that they would need to hold VBS at their home. We wanted to make this easy for the parents and fun for the kids. We had 25 children register and 6 adults.

Pastor Dawn did an awesome job coaching her way through Adult BOLTTERS. The Adult VBS program can be found on our website at www.graceoflilylake.com under VBS. If you have a child who missed our VBS, they can still register and I will see that they receive the info. Again, go to our website at www.graceoflilylake.com and under VBS you will see the form to fill out.

I could not have done this VBS without the help of George Theros and Marty Bradley. We had Zoom Meetings almost weekly since April to work out all the logistics on how to get this out. I appreciate all of their work and time in helping with VBS. If anyone has pictures from their VBS, please send them to vbs@graceoflilylake.com

Blessings,

Twyla Strom – VBS Coordinator

GRACE & PHASE 4

As we move into Phase 4 (as of June 26), it is recommended by Synod and ELCA, that groups no larger than 50 persons may gather, including churches. All other aspects from phase 3 should continue to be followed. We intend to follow these recommendations.

GRACE EXPECTATIONS/ACTIONS FOR JULY 2020:

- AS OF THIS TIME, WE ARE PREPARING TO OFFER A 9AM WORSHIP SERVICE AT GRACE BEGINNING JULY 19, 2020!
- SERVICE WILL BE OUTDOORS ONLY with seating on the lawn around pavilion or in your own vehicle.
- We ask people bring their own chairs and follow the 6 ft. space guidelines. Families or co-worshipers will be able to sit together in groups
- Everyone (except children under 2) will be required to wear masks. (Please bring your own)
- Until further notice there will still be no singing, sharing of the peace, Holy Communion. (I know, how is it church?) There will be no hand-shaking and no bulletins or hymnals (service will be shown on screen)
- Also, there will be no fellowship (our sincerest apologies),
- The nursery will not be open (child-care will be unavailable) nor will there be children's activity bags
- Service will be about 30-40 minutes long
- FOLLOW ONSITE SIGNS

We will continue Live-streaming/ recording our service and put up on our webpage for viewing live at 9 AM or after Sunday mornings. If you need assistance in finding these offerings, please check our website or call Pastor or other leadership.

We are continuing to ask that all people enter the building at this time by scheduling and informing Nick Rex, Pastor or Cathy Whiteside of the need and providing date as far in advance as possible. This is to ensure the safety of all, especially our building regulars and volunteers, and to be able to continue to monitor who has been through the space just in case someone falls sick.

We are also requesting that anyone authorized to enter, either upper or lower areas, sign the info sheet on clipboard nearby. We are asking for name, date/ time of enter/exit.

Our Fellowship hour (Monthly), meetings and educational opportunities will be by Zoom, and special invitation Pastor continues to take appointments for pastoral care, and is always available in case of an emergency. Call or text at 847-331-0373 or email pastor@graceoflilylake.com to get or share info with Pastor Dawn.

Send in your offering – we continue to do as much ministry as we can, caring for others AND bills still require payment. Learn how to send online -Go to our website and click the DONATE link. Thank you for all that you offer and share for the sake of ministry.

Check in with members – give that new directory a real workout!

Think of other creative ways for us to get together.

Keep updated on Covid19 with news from the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/>

<https://www.porticobenefits.org/CallToLiveWell/HowPorticoCanHelp/WellnessActivities/BeStill>

We have upgraded our website and are in the process of making it easier to engage in Grace activities while we continue to keep ourselves and our neighbors safe. Keep watch for info!

We continue to receive and distribute food for the food pantry. We are working to keep the Little Library stocked with snack items, with overflow in our entry way. After a few days, items not picked up are taken to the Elburn Food Pantry.

We are in need of people willing, and able, to be part of a cleaning crew (Individuals or family groups) that would clean targeted areas following any small group gatherings at Grace.

Small groups that would like to meet at Grace require scheduling through our church office or Nick Rex or Cathy Whiteside.

We are inviting you to share your ideas for Grace to continuing to reach out in love to our neighbors and community – do you know of individuals or groups needing masks? Can we offer an online support group? Do you know of anyone needing specific help? What ideas do you know of that we can meet? Keep informed by regularly checking our website until we establish our new Grace app.

We are working to strengthen a phone tree through our term of social distancing. If needed, we may ask that you contact the name of the person you were issued by Pastor's letter to share immediate or emergency info.

GRACE CONTINUES LIMITING GATHERINGS DUE TO CORONA PANDEMIC

Please know that the VT and Worship Team will meet with regularity, assessing, adapting, responding to a changing world. We all hope, pray, and take on all needed practices and protocols to save our neighbors and communities, region, state and nation from greater sickness and harm. We discourage large public gatherings at this time, ***our church building open on a limited basis for everyone's safety***. We neither expect nor permit free access now to our church building until further notice. We have assigned a regular safety check, and expect and advise that apart from this, the building will have limited traffic. For the safety and security of all, if you find you need to access the building for good reason, please inform in advance either Cathy Whiteside, Pastor Dawn or Nick Rex.

AMAZON SMILE

Turn your Father's Day shopping into a force for good

Buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates

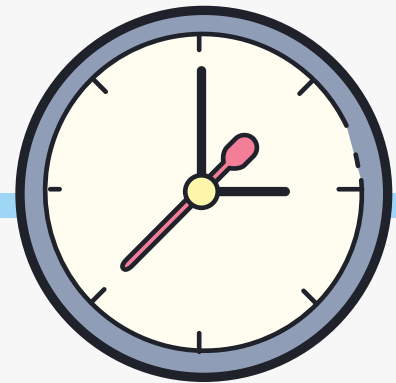
amazon smile

WRITTEN BY TRICIA PAINTER

This is reminder to support Grace of Lily Lake by shopping at smile.amazon.com. If you have not already signed up here is the link for Grace -- Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2806605 and Amazon donates to Grace of Lily Lake.

Grace of Lily Lake received just over \$5 from Amazon for our first quarter 2020, from those of you earmarking and designating Grace of Lily Lake as your charitable organization. Let's see if we can at least double that in our 2nd quarter ! Thank you for your continued support of Grace of Lily Lake!

OFFICE HOURS

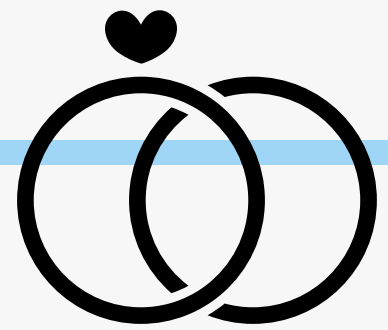


WRITTEN BY CHEYENNE WATKINS

Due to the lockdown/quarantine, church secretary Cheyenne Watkins will not be in office at the church. However, she is still able to work from home on anything Grace related.

The new "office hours" are Monday-Friday 1PM-4PM. Please email churchsec@graceoflilylake.com if you need to get in touch or have anything to be worked on. Additionally, Cheyenne will be at the church office every Wednesday from 1 PM to 4 PM and will be checking phone messages there.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations and God's Blessings to Paul and Dottie Mantsch who celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary!

Dear loving God, We thank you for the grace and blessings you have given Paul and Dottie during the past 50 years of marriage. We celebrate and recall the day when they joined together as partners in life and we thank you for being with them on their daily journey together through life's ups and downs. We thank you that you have freely given them your presence, strength, help and hope. Fill them with love, patience and trust and increase their sense of belonging to each other, just as Jesus says, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one." (Matthew 19:5,6 NIV) We pray that they will continue to grow in their ability to work together for the good of each other, for the good of their family and for the good of the world. Amen

NEW WEBSITE LOOK!



http://

Grace's website has a brand new look and feel! [Go to www.graceoflilylake.com to try it out!](http://www.graceoflilylake.com)

On our new website, you can watch services and view bulletins directly on the site. Just click on the Media tab and find the service you want to watch and you can view both the video and the bulletin on the same page! It's simple and easy to do. Additionally, you can find a lot of other new info on the website. Keep an eye on it for announcements and news!

Procedures for Self-Quarantine under Covid-19

Self-quarantine is recommended for individuals who have been directly exposed to the new Coronavirus or have history of travel in infected or heavily populated areas.

Stay at home.

Limit all your non-essential travels.

Unless you're going out for food, medicines or other essentials.



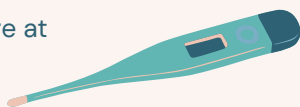
Wash your hands.

Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol or hand sanitizer.



Check your temperature.

Check your temperature at least two times a day.



Watch for other symptoms.

Aside from fever, Covid-19 symptoms include cough, difficulty breathing, and fatigue.



Stay in a specific room.

If you're sick or suspect yourself to be sick, it's best to stay in a designated room or area away from others.

If possible, have a designated toilet and bathroom as well.



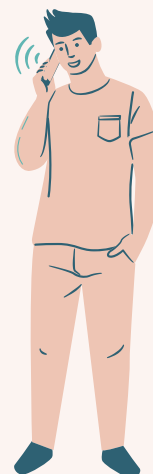
Practice social distancing.

If you need to go out, maintain at least 2 meters (6 feet) distance from others.



Call your doctor or hospital before visiting.

If you need to seek medical attention whether for viral symptoms or other medical care reasons, contact your doctor or hospital ahead of time so they can prepare and take precautions for your arrival.



GETTING TO KNOW THE BARTONS

We are the Barton Family. Tom, Missy, Stephany, Lizzy and Brett. Tom and Missy moved out to the Lily Lake area and built our house that we live in 28 years ago. Stephany our oldest is 22 just graduated from NIU and is studying now for her CPA exams. Lizzy is 21 and just graduated from Highland Community College in Freeport and studied agriculture business and is working at Conserv FS. Brett is 19 and went and got CDL and is also working for Conserv FS delivering materials to the fields. Tom started Barton Landscaping, Inc. back when he was a young teenager. His mom would take him to lawns to mow cause he wasn't able to drive yet. Tom grew up in Glendale Heights, IL and Missy grew up in Addison, IL. We are high school sweethearts where we attended Glenbard East High School in Lombard, IL. Tom & I work almost every day together on mowing of lawns and landscaping projects as well as our kids do too when available. We attended St. Paul Lutheran Church in Addison before finding Grace Lutheran back in 1995. All 3 of the kids have been confirmed at Grace and we are so thankful for our "church family".



LOOKING FOR WHERE TO FIND US?

WORSHIP – on Zoom or Youtube or Facebook Live – check weekly eblast for weekly particulars

FELLOWSHIP – on Zoom - check weekly eblast for weekly particulars

BIBLE STUDY – Zoom each Tuesday at 9 AM. Currently, studying Philippians

PRAYER - By appointment with Pastor Dawn 847-331-0373 or reach through Pastor@graceoflilylake.com or each Friday morning with and for others through Zoom meeting - *contact Pastor for details.*

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE?

While we are apart and you have a need or a question, here is where to go:

Financial questions or how to give – Tricia Painter

Building questions – Kurt redemann

Other questions - churchsec@graceoflilylake.com

DO YOU WANT YOUR ARTICLE IN THE NEWSLETTER?

**SUBMIT BY
JULY 15, 2020**

**YOUR ARTICLE WILL APPEAR IN OUR
AUGUST EDITION!**

Submit by emailing your article to
churchsec@graceoflilylake.com. All submissions
welcome. Share your voice with us!

