



**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**Online worship until further notice  
See page 3 for how to access**

**Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m.  
Weekday morning Prayers 9:30 a.m.**

**The building is closed – reach us at 515-276-6873**

5201 Urbandale Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
515-276-6873  
[www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)

**Pastor Michael Schmidt**  
[mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org)

**Minister for Youth and Family**  
Ellen Rothweiler  
[ellen@gracedm.org](mailto:ellen@gracedm.org)

**Minister for Worship and Music**  
Emma Stammer  
[emma@gracedm.org](mailto:emma@gracedm.org)

**Organist**  
Richard Snyder  
[rich@gracedm.org](mailto:rich@gracedm.org)

**Grace Kids' Care Director**  
Mary Edwards  
[mary@gracedm.org](mailto:mary@gracedm.org)

**Minister for Administration**  
Denise Friesth  
[denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org)

**Minister for Communications**  
Michelle Voelker  
[michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org)

**Office Assistant for Worship**  
Jessye Flannery  
[Jessica@gracedm.org](mailto:Jessica@gracedm.org)

**Custodian**  
Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

## Inside This Issue...

- 2... Celebrations, Sympathies
- 3... Spotlight: Grace Vendors, Accessing online Worship
- 4... Council & Finance Reports
- 5... New Grace Cookbook Recipes
- 6... Pentecost Activities for all!
- 7... Bishop Paul M Werger, LWR Update, Thank Yous
- 8... LSI Update, more Thank Yous
- 9... When will in Person Worship resume, ELCA Guidelines
- 10..., Policy for entry into Grace
- Insert: 2020 Graduates
- Insert: Pentecost Coloring Page

93 years

Three years ago, we packed Grace Hall in celebration of 90 years of ministry as Grace Lutheran Church. The image of that day seems surreal now. Right now, we are unable to gather, let alone a setting that would fill the space. We are not even able to gather in groups of more than 10 people, at least not until June 1<sup>st</sup>. Although it will be legal in the State of Iowa, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still have not lifted the recommendation beyond 10 people. It is hard to imagine such a gathering. I long for the opportunity to gather again.

That celebration has been on my mind lately. It was such a beautiful experience, gathering as the Body of Christ. Prior leaders were able to gather with us, and we were even blessed to have Bishop Burk among us for the day. There were historical images and an opportunity to honor and celebrate all who have brought Grace Lutheran Church to where it is today.

In addition to the celebration of our collective history, we shared in a vision for what the future might hold for Grace Lutheran Church. The Grace 2020 Team spent the prior year and a half researching our history and casting our “2020 Vision,” a vision for where we hoped to be by the year 2020.

In the introduction to this document, I wrote the following excerpt, which seems even more applicable today:

From a rare interview with Thomas Edison and the literary journal T.P’s Weekly, the following was published November 29<sup>th</sup>, 1907:  
*“One day I overheard the teacher tell the inspector that I was “addled” and it would not be worthwhile keeping me in school any longer. I was so hurt by this last straw that I burst out crying and went home and told my mother about it. Then I found out what a good thing a good mother is. She came out as my strong defender. Mother love was aroused, mother pride wounded to the quick. She brought me back to the school and angrily told the teacher that he didn’t know what he was talking about, that I had more brains than he himself, and a lot more talk like that. In fact, she was the most enthusiastic champion a boy ever had, and I determined right then that I would be worthy of her and show her that her confidence was not misplaced.”*

We seem to have the same context laying before us. The larger cultural context around us often labels the church “addled,” or confused, unable to think clearly. Much of what we do looks to the outsider as odd.

Continued on page 5

### Happy June Birthday

- 1 - Danielle Russell
- 2 - Marvin Simonsen  
Dean Watson  
Viola Welty
- 4 - Leslie Denton  
Virgil Olson  
Erica Schwarz
- 5 - Molly Riordan  
Natasha Voelker
- 6 - Debbie Curry
- 7 - Livia Ocken
- 8 - Elijah Lund  
Matt Radermacher  
Samuel Ruiz
- 10 - Brian Riordan  
Stephanie Shepard
- 11 - Jacob McCann
- 13 - Abby McNichols  
Stacy Speck  
Michelle Turner
- 14 - Joshua Habick  
Joel Holst  
Melissa Lawson
- 15 - Joseph Gutman  
Allison Hofman  
Peter Mattes  
Sandra Meyer  
Kenneth Schwartz  
Zoe Volius
- 16 - Joseph Honsey  
Donald Schroeder
- 17 - Curt Johansen  
Matthew Jordahl  
Eugene Krauss  
Rita Stackhouse
- 18 - Arbor Calahan  
Marilyn Nizzi  
Vivian Swanson  
Cecelia Stammer
- 19 - Luis Reaza
- 21 - Paul Kallenbach  
Jay Lounsberry  
Zayden Appenzeller
- 22 - Martha Mitchell
- 23 - Sharena Appenzeller  
Megan Riordan  
Terin Stanley  
Delmar Vernia
- 25 - Barbara Tussing
- 27 - Donald Schouten

### Happy June Anniversary

- 3 - Larry and Judy Cramer  
Rick and Becky Harmon
- 4 - William and Kristen Marberry
- 6 - Rick and Lori Fry
- 8 - Bruce and Barbara Bergman
- 9 - Matthew and Kara Jordahl
- 10 - Kenneth and Barbara DeBolt,  
Kevin and Jeanne Drury  
Jon and Jeanine Rutter
- 12 - Conrad and Jean Thompson
- 14 - John and Linda Gronert  
Robert and Rita Stackhouse  
Rick and Emma Stammer
- 16 - Tim and La Vonne Mitchell
- 19 - Nick and Kristin Medhurst
- 21 - Donald and Grace Schroeder
- 24 - Leonard and Helen Ringgenberg
- 25 - Curtis and Sarah Chenoweth  
Eugene and Lucille Krauss
- 27 - Andrew and Allison Hofman  
Jeff and Nancy Robbins
- 28 - Jeffrey and Patricia Anderson



### Our sympathies are with the families of:

Paula Rissman (mother of Jon Rissman)

Roy Mann

Rev. Paul M. Werger,  
Bishop Emeritus of the Southeastern Iowa Synod



### June Birthdays Continued!

- 28 - Amber Trimble  
Dana Roby
- 29 - Leann Davis  
Elizabeth Gronert
- 30 - Steve McCann



**Reminder: VBS has been postponed to the fall!**

## Our Vendors

In February, you might remember we had planned to celebrate and put together bags and notes of appreciation for all our vendors. Denise had everything arranged with information ready in the Gathering Hall for Sunday – you know the rest. During these months, many of these companies have still been taking care of us. We will do something more concrete later, but still wanted to recognize them in the meantime.



Grace Lutheran Church would like to recognize and thank the following businesses for their service:

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Access Elevators & Lifts            | Green State Credit Union (Formerly First American Bank) |
| ACS Technologies                    | Ingamells Commercial Flooring                           |
| Augsburg Fortress Publishing        | Irene's Flowers   |
| Automatic Door Group                | Johnson Controls (Fire Protection)                      |
| Beaver Mowing                       | MidAmerican Energy                                      |
| Big Green Umbrella Media            | Midwest Office Technology                               |
| Broich Plumbing                     | Modern Heating and Air Conditioning                     |
| Brotherhood Mutual                  | O'Donnell Ace Hardware                                  |
| Central Iowa Floral                 | Office Depot  |
| Central Iowa Mechanical             | Portico Benefit Services (A Ministry of the ELCA)       |
| Century Link                        | Heidi at Price Chopper (catering)                       |
| Control System Specialists          | Rain King (Christmas Lighting)                          |
| Crawford Piano                      | Rhiner's Plumbing                                       |
| Crystal Clear Water                 | Schumacher Elevator Company                             |
| Darrow Pipe Organ                   | Sherwin Williams  |
| DeHaan's Outdoor                    | Smith Sewer Service                                     |
| Des Moines Water Works              | Springer Pest Control                                   |
| Donut Hut                           | USPS Postal Carrier                                     |
| Eric Oberg (snow removal)           | Waggoner's (Pew Cushions)                               |
| General Fire & Safety               | Waste Management of Iowa                                |
| Jerry Glass (Glass & Sons Electric) | Wood Roofing  |
| Goodwin Tucker Group                |   |

## Accessing Online Worship

**Updates and live links, can be found online at <https://gracedm.org>**

For those who are not using social media, computers, or smart phones, please call the office and we will happily mail you a copy of the worship materials to use at home.

### Facebook

For those gathering through Facebook, the Grace Lutheran Church page will go live on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and weekday mornings at 9:30 a.m. If you are unable to gather at that time, the service will be uploaded into the video section shortly after the service concludes. If not on Facebook, you can still access the videos at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/626637384050683/> The worship video will start when Pastor Mike starts.

**For those gathering on Zoom this new login will remain valid for the next several weeks.**

**For those gathering from a mobile phone:**

One tap mobile +16465588656,,82511878861#,

**Or by phone** dial 312 626 6799, then enter meeting ID: 825 1187 8861 and passcode 734667

**For those gathering on a computer, you will need to download the zoom app and then proceed to the meeting.** Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82511878861?pwd=dTgrUWZueWc0NkFDOHJESGdyWUdiUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 1187 8861

Password: 734667

### **At the April, 2020 Church Council Meetings:**

**The Council met utilizing the Zoom teleconferencing application.**

**The Council discussed a variety of topics at the April meetings (there were two, plus an e-mail vote during the month).**

#### **On April 7<sup>th</sup>**

1. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Council approve application for a Paycheck Protection Plan loan for the maximum allowable benefits under the plan.
2. It was moved, seconded, and passed that Grace Kids Care remain closed until such time as Director Edwards deems it prudent to reopen.
3. It was moved, seconded, and passed that as there is no daycare income presently, the "Thank Offering" payment for the month of April be deferred.

#### **By e-mail on April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

By special email vote the council authorized the purchase of audio-visual equipment to enhance the church's ability to stream worship services, prayer meetings, and other related gatherings.

#### **At the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting**

1. The Council discussed plans, staffing and equipment needed when the daycare reopens.
2. The Council learned that much of the audio/visual equipment authorized on April 22<sup>nd</sup> has arrived.
3. The Council learned that our current internet capacity will need to be increased. Pastor Mike will contact Mediacom to obtain pricing for enhanced internet service.
4. Council voted to continue to pay the employer portion of the healthcare insurance premium for daycare staff members currently utilizing this benefit.
5. Council briefly discussed plans for resumption of in-person worship at our facility. Both SE Iowa Synod and State of Iowa guidelines discourage/prohibit in-person worship at this time. Health and safety of the congregation must be the primary consideration before re-opening. Looking ahead to that time, a team of health professionals from the congregation has been assembled and will be working on guidelines and practices specific to our congregation.
6. The Capital Campaign Committee is working on ways to do a virtual kick-off. The Oversight Committee will be prioritizing immediate needs working from the list already generated.
7. The Council reviewed bids for roof repairs submitted by Schafer Roofing and Bakeris Roofing companies. The Council voted to accept the bid from Schafer Roofing.

**Respectfully submitted,  
David F. Gronert  
Council Secretary**

### **Finance Report – Finance Report – April Results**

Financial results for April YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$142,969, Budget \$141,933
- Other Income – Actual \$9,516, Budget \$9,500
- Expenses – Actual \$146,013, Budget \$155,267
- Net activity – Actual \$6,473, Budget (\$3,833)



Actual net activity was favorable to budget primarily due offerings above budget, continued giving during these uncertain times is appreciated. Maintenance and Utility activity was also under budget.

*Continued from page 1, Pastor Mike's front page letter*

At best, what we do is seen as a mystery. For many, we are just wandering around, confused. The truth is there is a hint of truth here. It is easy to get caught up in the activities and the programming as if that will bring relevance to the congregation. Sometimes we are addled by fear of not being the church we once were. We get caught up in *what* we do and *how* we do it and lose sight of *why* we are church in the first place.

The Church has never closed. The *what* and *how* have changed due to a global pandemic, but the work has not. The answer to *why* we do the work has never been clearer. We are a community of faith, centered in worship, held in grace, strengthened in love, and send forth in mission in Jesus' name. The mission and vision that we share has never wavered during these last weeks. I am so proud of the way that we have leaned into these new realities, together, as Grace Lutheran Church.

In Christ,  
Pastor Mike

### **A New Grace Lutheran Cookbook!**

With all the extra time some of us are spending in our kitchens these days, wouldn't it be great to have new and varied recipes to choose from? Do you have a tried and true recipe you love? Please share!

We would like to compile a Grace Lutheran cook book and need your help. If you would like to share a recipe and the story behind it (if there is one), please either type it up and email it to Emma at [emma@gracedm.org](mailto:emma@gracedm.org), OR write it out and mail to the church at 5201 Urbandale Ave, Des Moines 50310. We will spotlight the recipes received in different ways, and eventually will have it all bound and distribute it as an actual book.

If you have a culinary contribution to make, please share and we can continue to maintain community in this way!

#### **Chicken Parmesan**

**Tammy Denton**

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2-3 eggs, beaten  | 1 c. bread crumbs                     |
| 2-4 Tbsp. grated parmesan cheese                            | 1/2 tsp. onion powder                 |
| 1/2 tsp. garlic powder                                      | 1/2 tsp. oregano                      |
| 2 lb. chicken breasts, cut in half to make smaller portions |                                       |
| pasta sauce   | mozzarella cheese, sliced or shredded |

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Lightly spray 8x12-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Pour eggs into a small bowl. In a separate bowl, combine bread crumbs, parmesan cheese, onion powder, garlic powder, and oregano and mix well. Dip each chicken breast into egg; roll in bread crumbs to coat on all sides. Place chicken breasts in baking dish and bake for 30 - 35 minutes, until golden brown and cooked through. Spoon some pasta sauce over chicken and top with cheese. Reduce temperature to 375 degrees and cook until sauce is hot and cheese is melted, about 5 minutes. Great with pasta, garlic bread and salad!

#### **Texas Caviar**

**Ellen Batten**

In memory of my boss and friend, Arlene Franks, who brought to work for snacking.

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 Can corn, drained                     | 2 cans of black-eyed peas       |
| 4 green onions, chopped                 | 1 green pepper, chopped         |
| 2 Rotel Mexican diced tomatoes, drained |                                 |
| 2 Jalapeno peppers                      | 8-oz bottle of Italian dressing |

Mix and marinate at least 2 hours. Serve with Frito Scoops

## Youth Ministry – Active Grace

Contact [ellen@gracedm.org](mailto:ellen@gracedm.org)

**Pentecost in a box:** Our youth have all received a box of Pentecost activities, follow along with us! Resource written by Rachel Doboney Benton *Oriented for faith-at-home formation, these simple objects illuminate the story of Pentecost and seek to deepen our understanding of the Holy Spirit.*

### PENTECOST AT A GLANCE

#### What is Pentecost?

Pentecost is the 50th and last day of the Easter season. In 2020, it is Sunday, May 31st. It marks the birth of the Church when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2).

#### Key Symbols of Pentecost

- Wind – the Holy Spirit came on the first Pentecost like a mighty rushing wind
- Flames – the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus' followers on the first Pentecost like tongues of fire
- Red – the official liturgical color for Pentecost, reminding us of flames
- Dove – symbolic of the gift of the Holy Spirit (When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came to him like a dove.)

#### Digging Deeper: The Holy Spirit

- One of the three persons of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptized. (see Acts 2:38)
- The Holy Spirit was sent to be our Advocate who teaches us. (see John 14:26)
- The Holy Spirit is always with us. (see John 14:16)
- The Holy Spirit encourages and strengthens us. (see Acts 9:31)
- The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts. (see Acts 19:6; Hebrews 2:4)
- The Holy Spirit fills us. (see Acts 13:9, 13:52)
- The Holy Spirit sanctifies us (helps us become holy). (see Romans 15:16)
- The Holy Spirit gives us joy. (see I Thess 1:6)
- The Holy Spirit lives in us. (see 2 Tim 1:14, I Cor 3:16, I Cor 6:19)
- The Holy Spirit helps us live together as the Church. (see Acts 2:42-27)

**Activity 1: Interactive Storytelling of Acts 2:** This will be part of worship on Sunday, May 31 You can find the story on our website here: <https://gracedm.org/content/uploads/2020/05/May-31-worship.pdf>

#### Activity 2: Decorate Pentecost Greeting Cards

Decorate the pre-printed cards with Pentecost symbols/colors. If desired, paint flames on cards with forks (a combination of red, orange, & yellow paint works great!) or use straws to dip into the paint and blow gently across the paper (this works well with a stencil of flames or a dove). Consider who might be blessed by receiving your cards and then send them!

#### Activity 3: Sing Happy Birthday to the Church

Place your birthday candles on a celebratory treat. Beforehand, you may want to have participants decorate cupcakes or cookies with red frosting/sprinkles, flames, doves, etc. Together, talk about how Pentecost marks the birth of the Church and how people all over the world celebrate being the body of Christ on this day. Sing together and then enjoy your treats!

#### ACTIVITY 4: Reflect, Celebrate, & Pray

Reflect together: The Holy Spirit is in us. What is one way that God is working in you? (Alternate: The Holy Spirit gives us many gifts and talents. What is one way you can use your gift/talent to share God's love?) Use a marker to write your responses on your red streamers.

Continued on page 10



**Dear Friends in Christ,**

It is with sadness that I inform you of the death of the Rev. Paul M. Werger, Bishop Emeritus of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, who died May 11, 2020, from the COVID-19 virus.

Pastor Werger graduated from Northwestern Lutheran Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1957. He served congregations in Minnesota before being elected Bishop of the Iowa Synod in the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) in 1978.

Paul Werger was the first Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), serving from 1988 until 1996. He was also the first chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops as the ELCA was first coming together, a recognition by his peers that he was both strong and collegial in his leadership. In retirement, he served as Interim Pastor at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem and as Interim Bishop of the St. Paul Area Synod when the Rev. Mark Hanson was elected Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. Paul's commitment to this church was unyielding, even when he thought things may be headed in unhelpful directions. Paul is survived by his wife, Dianne, as well as his four children and their families. In light of the current pandemic, no public service will take place until it is deemed appropriate.

The Rev. Philip Hougen joins me in remembering Paul as the best of predecessors, offering both support and friendship. We thank God for his life and service and we pray for all those who mourn his death.

Rest eternal grant Paul, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.  
Bishop Michael Burk

**God's Work Continues at Grace!**

Put on your dancing shoes because two amazing goals have been met at Grace this spring in spite of the need for social distancing and doing things differently. These are evidence of God's work within our Grace family. Thank you, thank you for your generosity!

In the season of Lent we started raising funds to make kits for Lutheran World Relief. As the local and global effects of the pandemic unfolded, we changed direction from kitbuilding to raising funds to send directly to LWR to be used for the greatest need, set a goal of \$1000 and extended the timing through the Easter season. With the generous response of Grace members, we have now raised that \$1000!! That donation is being sent pronto!

In addition, LWR put out a request for cloth facemasks, asking for 75,000 before October. They received pledges for all 75,000 within the first month, and have now extended the goal to 150,000. We pledged 400 from Grace, and the sewing machines have been smoking! Our 400 masks were sent this week, and more are being produced! For more information on mask making, contact Cathy Watson.

Let's all do a little jig, a samba, a waltz, a square dance in celebration and give thanks to God!

**Thank Yous**

Quilting Club and Grace Lutheran Church; Thank you so much for the lovely quilt. Thank you for the May basket. I really enjoy the weekly church papers and sermon. I appreciate all that you do for me. It is very nice to be remembered. God Bless.  
Rosella Dingman

To Pastor Mike and the office staff,  
This is to express my sincere appreciation for the postal mailings of our worship services while restrictions of gathering are in place. During Holy Week I received the three worship services in the mail Tuesday afternoon. Currently I am receiving Sunday Worship Services in Thursday mail deliveries. I appreciate this so much!  
Thank You, Richard E. (Dick) Johansen



## Happy Father's Day!

At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we strive to build up and empower Iowa kids and families. For us, Father's Day is a time to celebrate all the fathers and male role models we see every day.

Through our Early Childhood Services, young men are learning to become dads. They're becoming confident and active in their child's life, and they are creating loving, bright futures for their families.

Many Iowa children entering foster care need a positive male role model in their lives. And through LSI Foster Care and Adoption, our licensed foster dads are there to help guide them.

This is only possible through your support of LSI! If you would like to make a gift, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://Facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### Creating Her Community

Paulynn had a dream of what she wanted in life: lots of friends, a job she loved, a healthy lifestyle, and a sense of community.

But it was difficult for Paulynn to leave the apartment she shared with her dad, Lee. Though Lee had dedicated his life to serving as his daughter's primary caregiver, they didn't have reliable transportation that could accommodate her wheelchair. And Paulynn's risk of seizures meant she always needed to be accompanied by her dad.

Despite the obstacles, Lee was determined to give his daughter the life she dreamed of. He enrolled her in LSI's Services for People with Disabilities.

Fifteen years later, Paulynn's dream has become a reality.

Through LSI, Paulynn's team provides transportation that allows her to travel to and from her apartment with ease. While Paulynn is out, Lee is able to take a well-deserved break from his caregiving role.

With support from LSI, Paulynn is able to give back to her community. Each week, she helps package meals for individuals in need. She has created a community of her own through her volunteer work. And for every moment, her LSI team is there to support her.

"We're very grateful for LSI," Lee says. "They've been really great supporting my daughter."

### Thank you from Denise and the Staff

Special thank you to Len Ringgenberg for keeping a close eye on our church building, particularly after a heavy rain and for cleaning up when necessary!

Special thanks to Tammy Denton for her leadership as the President of our church council.



### **When will In Person Worship resume? What will it look like?**

We have these same questions. A Health and Safety Task Force has been formed to look at these questions and provide guidance as we continue the journey toward resuming In Person worship. The Task Force consists of Scott Honsey, Rich Snyder, Emma Stammer, Virginia Wangerin, Mary Weaverling, and Pastor Mike. The following is a portion of the Guidelines from the ELCA.

### **Excerpt from the ELCA's "Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship Being Church Together During the COVID-19 Pandemic"**

**Updated May 12, 2020**

#### **Provisional Timeline by Size of Gathering**

The following guidance is organized based on the size of the in-person gathering. In general, keep in mind:

- Congregations will need to refrain from in-person worship until it is safe and advisable to do so; this may be longer than anticipated and decisions will need to be clearly communicated.
- Continuing to provide online resources, home worship resources, or other tangible connection is encouraged even when 50 or more can gather. This is for the sake of those 65 or older, vulnerable, or afraid to gather in person.
- During this time you are encouraged to hold daily prayer in the home. Even when we cannot sing together in community, singing at home is encouraged.
- Congregational leaders need to know how many people their worship space can hold if they are worshiping in family groups and sitting six feet apart, and should manage movement into and out of the building and worship space.
- Be mindful of the workload of leaders if they begin to offer worship both online and in-person, as this will require additional preparation. Also, consider additional compensation for janitorial staff when more frequent cleaning is necessary.

#### **Church activities restricted to 10 people or fewer:**

- Regular Sunday worship is held online.
- Leaders may begin recording in the church building/worship space (if they have been doing this from home) while maintaining at least six feet of space between people and a greater distance between those who are singing.
- The church building might be opened for individual prayer at prearranged times and with face masks and proper physical distancing (at least six feet).
- The church building may be used to conduct funerals or weddings but only for immediate family (fewer than 10 people).
- High-risk individuals (people over 65 or with underlying conditions), including staff, continue to shelter in place. Consider alternative in-person leadership if staff members are over 65 or have underlying conditions that put them at risk.
- Bible studies and other small groups may continue to meet online. Staff might consider limited meetings at the church with appropriate physical distancing.
- Consider posting signs about noncontact greetings and refraining from shaking hands or hugging, as well as other practices or measures put into place.
- Churches will need extensive cleaning/sanitation prior to people returning to the building and between other in-person gatherings. Measures will be increased as groups grow larger than 5 to 10 people.
- Communicate with the congregation about preparations being made for returning to in-person worship when such worship is safe.

#### **Church activities restricted to 50 people or fewer (Federal Guideline Phase 2):**

- Review guidance above in "Part I: General Considerations."
- Consider whether in-person worship is or is not advisable in your context (under 65, no underlying conditions).
- Institute increased sanitation/cleaning and hygiene measures at church.
- Congregations with greater than 50 average worship attendance might want to consider additional services with cleaning occurring between services. Consider other small-group options as well.

*Continued on page 10*

**Continued from page 9 Provisional Timeline by Size of Gathering**

- Maintain physical distancing in worship (at least six feet, excluding households). If the worship space has pews, limit one family unit per pew; keep empty pews between families.
- Close common areas (fellowship halls, church offices, coffee spaces).
- Refrain from communion, handshakes, passing offering plates, and handing out printed bulletins.
- Worshipers wear masks at all times.
- Consider other in-person leadership if leaders are over 65 or have underlying conditions that put them at risk.

**Church activities open for more than 50 people (Federal Guideline Phase 3):**

- Maintain increased sanitation/cleaning and hygiene measures at church.
- Resume in-person worship with other members (insofar as they feel comfortable doing so).
- Continue online worship for those who still cannot gather.
- Resume communion, etc., with additional precautionary measures.
- Physical distancing may be relaxed and masks may become optional in some places based on various factors and recommendations from officials.

**Staff and Volunteer Policy for entry into Grace Lutheran Church**

*The policies that apply to Grace Kids Care also apply to staff and volunteers of Grace Lutheran Church. The staff and volunteers need to adhere to the following policy:*

**UPDATED HEALTH EXCLUSION POLICY:**

- Exclusionary symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath, or any respiratory illness.
- Any person with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher or with any other signs of illness will not be allowed into the building. Children who become sick while at GKC will be isolated and sent home. Parents must pick up their children within 1 hour of being contacted. Sick staff should leave the premises as soon as possible.
- Adults must wear a mask when moving about the building. Once in the room or office, staff or volunteers may remove the mask if alone, or if others are present, it is mutually agreed to maintain a safe physical distance (at least 6 ft.)
- Per DHS, if ANY member of your household is ill with any symptoms of COVID-19, children and staff should stay out of the building until cleared by a doctor. Most primary care physicians will conduct virtual visits to determine if additional testing is necessary. If a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19 you must not enter the building for 14 days.
- Per IDPH and DHS, children and staff with ANY symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home until they are fever free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications, AND symptoms have improved, AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. We ask that any staff and volunteers observe these same requirements.
- Anyone who has traveled outside the country must refrain from entering the building for 14 days.

**Pentecost activities continued from page 6**

Use a marker to write your responses on your red streamers. Gather together in a circle with each person holding a red streamer. While waving your red streamers, say this prayer together:

*Thank you, Holy Spirit!  
Thank you for being with us!  
Thank you for connecting us!  
Thank you for helping us share God's love!  
Thank you for helping us be the Church!  
AMEN!*

Complete your prayer by displaying your red streamers somewhere in your home.