

The Pipeliner
of
Grace Lutheran Church
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Pastor's corner:

Why Come Back? Jesus!

I have been looking forward to writing this article. It has been a very long and weird year with much to lament, but finally it looks like things are getting somewhat back to normal and we can finally talk about (drumroll please) everybody getting back to church!

Terrebonne Parish's positivity numbers are quite low and every day the vaccination numbers are climbing. Maybe we aren't there yet, but soon we will reach a point where church attendance cannot be considered a risk anymore. Praise the Lord!

The Facebook live streaming service has been a great blessing during the year of Covid. It has not only allowed regular attenders to do so from home while mitigating risk of infection, but also allowed others near and far who weren't coming in person to regularly hear the Gospel proclaimed. We even gained a new member through it! Because of this success we intend to keep broadcasting into the foreseeable future.

That said, there is the concern that some folks will have become too comfortable watching service from home in bed and won't return to live worship when the risk has abated. Don't be that person! Let's face it, as fallen creatures we had a tendency to be lackadaisical about our faith before we ever heard of Covid-19. Doing church from bed in your pajamas after the pandemic is over is like proclaiming it! Knowing that there is such temptation I thought now a good time to proffer some points to ponder on why that would be a bad Christian practice.

Jesus said so. After Peter correctly proclaim Jesus as the Messiah, Christ said, "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The word translated into English as "church" simply means "assembly" or "gathering" in the Greek. Jesus envisioned His people as those that gather around His Word and Sacraments—in person. Christians have always done this, even when doing so under persecution might cost them their lives. To deny assembling is to deny Christ's directive.

We need you. You may think your faith is just fine doing church sitting on your tuches* at home. (You're wrong, but that's another article.) St. Paul admonishes Christians to "encourage one another and build one another up." A Christian doing life in a fallen world opposed to Christ gets worn down. Sunday worship is refreshment where he can gather with the faithful and be encouraged and strengthened by their presence. If you're absent, you're robbing them of your encouragement.

It encourages the church's members and her pastors. Seeing an empty church is depressing. Sure, God still works with the few in an empty church. But there is strength in number—strength of voices in singing praise, strength of proclamation in saying the prayers and liturgy together. Strength of compassion in being there to share in one another's joys and sorrows. As a pastor I know that God works through the proclaimed word as He wills, but still, preaching to an empty room disheartens a preacher.

And the even bigger "Jesus said so". On the night before his death Jesus gave clear instruction to "Do this, in remembrance of me"—the Lord's Supper which is "for you, for the forgiveness of sins." You cannot avoid the clear truth that forgiveness, life and salvation is served up for you weekly in the Eucharist. If you continually remain home when Christ is physically there for you at the rail, you are effectively saying "No thanks" to His gifts of grace.

These are just a few critical points to ponder as the world reopens and the doors of the church beckon you, "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good."

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Bible references: Matthew 16:18, Luke 22:19, Matthew 26:28, Psalm 34:8, Hebrews 10:24-25

*tuches in Yiddish for "butt".

Lectionary Readings:

April 4, 2021—The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day (White)

April 11, 2021—Second Sunday of Easter (White)

April 11, 2021—Third Sunday of Easter (White)

April 25, 2021—Fourth Sunday of Easter (White)

Isaiah 25:6-9, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 16:1-8

Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31

Acts 3:11-21, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36-49

Acts 4:1-12, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

2021 Board of Directors

President: Brandy Lirette
Financial Secretary: Bonnie Dupre
Christian Ed. Chair: OPEN
Property Chair: Dale Boger

Vice-President: Jerrie Fitzgerald
Treasurer: Lisa Giroir
Social Ministry Chair: OPEN
Mission Outreach Chair: OPEN

Board Secretary: Bridgette Rudnik
Activities Chair: OPEN
Stewardship Chair: Kim Cape

2021 Elders

Derek Crawford, Gordon Fitzgerald, Joey Souther, John Wegner and Joe Deane

OFFICIAL ACTS FOR MARCH 2021

Joy Emma Stegall, husband of Henry Stegall and mother of Brigitte Kinsella, passed away on March 13, 2021. Her memorial service was held here on March 27, 2021.

How Can I Support Grace Lutheran's Ministries?

TIME

You can offer your time through participation in worship, church activities and volunteering. Some ways to participate:

SUNDAY MORNINGS

- Ushers/Greeters - Help create a welcoming atmosphere for visitors and members.
- Readers/Lectors - Share God's word with us by reading the scripture in services.
- Youth Group frequently serve as readers, acolytes (which they do now)
- Altar Guild - Help to prepare the sanctuary for worship, especially helping with the setup and cleaning up of the Holy Communion vessels.
- Coffee Hosts - Prepare and clean up coffee for our Sunday morning fellowship time

DURING THE WEEK

- Set up & cleanup for Wednesday Advent/Lent/Prayer & Praise Evening Suppers
- Attend the Prayer & Praise fellowship Wednesday nights.
- Help out with special worship services, weddings and funerals.
- Pre-Advent Greening of the Church, Holy Saturday decoration of the sanctuary
- You can also use your time in volunteering to help clean our church - dust, clean windows, vacuum, weed our flower beds and anything else that might need to be done around our church.

TALENTS

Opportunities to serve include:

YOUTH, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

If you love to work with young people and help them experience the love of Christ through learning, service, and fun activities, we welcome your participation.:

- Sunday School Teachers, Subs, and Helpers
- Putting on skits for services
- Chaperones for Youth Events and Mission Trips

LEADERSHIP

- Serving on the Church's Board of Directors, or volunteering to serve on one of the directorial committees. (Property, Mission Outreach, Social Ministry, Activities, etc.)
- Financial expertise serving as an offering steward (money counter).

MAINTENANCE

- If you paint, our aging facility can use a few coats
- Technical skills such as electric, HVAC, plumbing and such is an occasional need.
- Artistic skills are needed for occasional design and decoration.
- Outside landscape maintenance is an unending need.
- Flower gardening could enhance our building's outward appearance and beauty.

What activities do you gravitate towards when you have free time? What makes you feel accomplished or at ease? Can these be applied to any need at Grace?

TREASURES

There are a number of ways you can support the ministry of Grace through financial offerings

- **Worship services:** Simply place your offering in the offering plate as you enter the church. Offering envelopes are available at your request by contacting Financial Secretary, Bonnie Dupre at 985-870-6266. Be sure to include your name on the check or envelope, so that donation credit may be provided for tax purposes.
- **Mail:** If you're not able to make it to church, donations can be mailed to Grace's office at 422 Valhi Blvd., Houma, LA 70360
- **Online Giving:** Grace now offers giving donations electronically through our online webpage. You can sign up to give your regular offerings through this service, or offer a onetime gift. This option is easy, safe, and secure, and helps individuals and families to remain faithful and consistent in their giving, even when they are out of town or unable to attend a weekend service
- **Bequests:** When planning your will you can make a bequest to Grace's Endowment Fund or other fund as the Spirit leads you.

Please prayerfully consider all the ways in which you have been blessed by God with time, talents and treasure and consider how you might give back to God for His goodness to you.

In the palm of God's Hands...

HEALTH CONCERNS: Billy Palmer, Jo Lowman, Joe Deane, Julie Damen, Ken Broussard, Lisa Ledet, Marabelle Leggett & Mindy LeBlanc

BATTLING CANCER: Jay Cruse & Nan Ashley Hebert

CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY: Brian Hoover, Connie Oswalt, Edna Marie Sevin, Helen Hoover, Jackie Webb, Kim Cape, Miriam Mix, Richard LaCour & Sue Ackett

MOURNING A LOSS: the families of Allen Carpenter, Angela Guidry, Joy Stegall, Larry Hendrick, Ralph Use, Ruth Ziifle, Todd Use & William Korinek.

NEW & EXPECTING MOTHERS: Amye Jakob & Stephen Carl Jakob.

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILY: Andrew Winn, Gage V. Romano, Haily Crawford, Heather Darce, Jack Hansen, Kyle Turcott, Leo Lampinen, Matthew Spolarich, Natalie Turcott, Nigel Koorie, Todd Mueller, Tom Hemminger, Victoria Shroyer & Zhain Shroyer

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Adriana Vitrano, Alec Cunningham, Allen Trahan, Annie Reaves, Armand Erhart, Blayne Barras, Brandon Cinnater, Brooks Thomas, Emma Thomas, Donovan Domangue, Fielden Baker, Gabbie Corbitt, Hannah Cuneo, Harleigh Dahl, Isabella Appenzeller, Jared Moise, Karly Kyzar, Lauren Boudreaux, Madeleine Boudreaux, Peyton Kraus, Riley Andrews, Ross Reaves, Sophia Miller & Victoria Thalheim

Grace's Mission

**Building one body in Christ through Worship, Witness,
Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching and Fellowship**

**Grace Lutheran Church
Youth Group
BBQ Plate Lunch
Fundraiser**

Friday, April 9, 2021

**11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
in church fellowship hall**

Dine In or Take Out

**Meal includes:
Chicken Leg Quarter
Rice Dressing, Baked
Beans,
Salad, Bread & Dessert**

Tickets are \$10.00

**WANT TO CLEAN OUT THOSE
CLOSETS AND SHEDS?**

**GRACE
LUTHERAN
RUMMAGE
SALE**

We are giving it a go again...even though we said
we wouldn't.

JULY 24, 2021

6AM - 11AM

**COLLECTION/DROP OFF
WILL BEGIN JUNE 1ST**

We are hoping to raise funds to offset the cost of the new cement tables
and benches that were purchased for our front garden area.

Calling All Graduates!

If you or someone in your family is graduating this spring and you would like to share this information, please contact the church office at secretary@gracehouma.org or leave a message at 985-879-1865 Ext. 1.

Whether you're continuing your education or beginning a new career, let us know where you'll be headed in the fall and your plans for the future.

Your church family at Grace will keep you in their thoughts & prayers!

Service Opportunities

Grace is looking for volunteers to serve as an offering steward. We have a need for two to four people on Sundays. Our goal is to fill all these slots so volunteers will only need serve once every four weeks. Please prayerfully consider offering your time in this manner and then contact Bonnie Dupre at 985-870-6266.

Prayer for Good Friday...

Lord Jesus, as we remember this day with great reverence and devotion, we want to thank You for giving Your own life to save ours. Your sacrifice on the cross is the greatest display of love for us. Help us to honor You by sharing that love with our neighbors. As we receive the gift of life, help us to follow Your example of a sacrificial life while we wait for Your return. In Your name. Amen.

Portals of Prayer April- June 2021

Prayer for The Resurrection of Our Lord...

Father God, today we celebrate with great joy the life and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank You, Lord, for Your victory on the cross, which guarantees us eternal life by faith in Your name, and for which we are confident in Your promise that one day we will also be raised to be with You for eternity. Help us share this message while we wait for Your return. Amen.

Portals of Prayer April- June 2021

**May 2021 Newsletter articles should be turned in to Lisa by
Thursday, April 22nd.
You may email these to
secretary@gracehouma.org**



Building One Body in Christ Through Worship, Witness, Stewardship, Service, Love, Teaching and Fellowship

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Grace Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center 422 Valhi Boulevard Houma, LA. 70360 985-879-1865 / 1833 (fax) secretary@gracehouma.org www.gracehouma.org</p> <p>BD= Birthday BA=Baptismal Anniversary W=Wedding Anniversary</p>						
<p>Resurrection of Our Lord Worship 9am</p>	<p>←</p>	<p>6 ECC CLOSED ALL WEEK</p>	<p>7 ECC CLOSED ALL WEEK</p>	<p>8 Job 35-36</p>	<p>9 C. & R. Moore W Jeremiah 27-31</p>	<p>10 Bart Domangue BD Mark 15-16</p>
<p>M. & T. St Amant W II Corinthians 4-5</p>	<p>Alexander Lapeyrouse BD Exodus 21-24</p>	<p>Bible Study 1:00pm Karoline Giroir BD II Samuel 10-14</p>	<p>Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm Psalms 54-56</p>	<p>Audra Kraus BD Hudson Spolarich BA Job 37-38</p>	<p>Cleaning Youth Group BBQ Plate Lunch 11am -1pm Jeremiah 32-36</p>	<p>Luke 1-2</p>
<p>Easter II Worship 9am Baked Goods follow SS for all ages 10:45am</p>	<p>Bible Study 6:00pm</p>	<p>Bible Study 1:00pm Ruby Souther BD D. & A. Crawford W II Samuel 15-19</p>	<p>ECC Chapel Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm G. & J. Fitzgerald W Psalms 57-59</p>	<p>15 Job 39-40</p>	<p>16 Jeremiah 37-41</p>	<p>17 Luke 3-4</p>
<p>Easter III Worship 9am Youth biscuits follow SS for all ages 10:45am</p>	<p>Exodus 25-28</p>	<p>Bible Study 1:00pm</p>	<p>Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm Psalms 60-62</p>	<p>22 Job 39-40</p>	<p>23 Jeremiah 37-41</p>	<p>24 Luke 3-4</p>
<p>Barbara Jakob BA II Corinthians 9-10</p>	<p>Exodus 29-32</p>	<p>Bible Study 1:00pm II Samuel 20-24</p>	<p>Potluck Fellowship 6pm Prayer & Praise 6:45pm Psalms 63-65</p>	<p>PIPELINER ARTICLES DUE ECC Chapel Rylee Green BA Cameron Shroyer BD Sirpa Lawson BD Job 41-42</p>	<p>Cleaning Mitch Tabor BD Jeremiah 42-46</p>	<p>Rylee Greene BD Luke 5-6</p>
<p>Easter IV Worship 9am Baked Goods follow SS for all ages 10:45am</p>	<p>Bible Study 6:00pm Rebekah Spolarich BA Exodus 33-36</p>	<p>Bible Study 1:00pm Todd Cunningham BD I Kings 1-4</p>	<p>PASTOR RICH OUT OF THE OFFICE UNTIL MAY 3RD</p>	<p>29 Job 41-42</p>	<p>30 Jeremiah 42-46</p>	<p>31 Jeremiah 47-52</p>