



June 2023

Grace Lutheran Church

Sheni Weber Confirmation

The confirmation ceremony celebrates the completion of the period of instruction in the Christian faith according to the teachings of the Lutheran Church. It includes a public profession of the faith called the Affirmation of Baptism that Sheni completed during the traditional service at Grace on Confirmation Sunday, May 21. Sheni's Confirmation Guide was Valerie Hansen, with Lisa Sipes assisting as a mentor. The service was followed by a reception and lunch, after which Sheni presented her project, representing her confirmation experience.



Photo by Stan Long

See Weber, Page 6



Blanket Sunday 2023 (see related story on Page 5)

Photo by Stan Long



Solos, Small Ensembles to Fill Summer Music Services

As of this publication, the choir and bell season has wrapped up its season with many joyful noises at the 11:15 Pentecost on May 28. Brass, cymbals, organ, timpani, voices, and bells led the way to a worshipful and jubilant celebration of this magnificent occasion.

As we enter the summer months, we look forward to vocal and instrumental solos, as well as small ensembles. This variety will be a reminder to us of the many ways in which the extraordinary members and friends of Grace use their gifts.

I also invite all to Ringspiration (5:45 p.m.) and Chancel Choir (7 p.m.) rehearsals when they resume Wednesday, August 23. Please join us!

Special Meeting Called to Discuss Sharing Sanctuary Space

Greetings, Good People of Grace

I am calling a meeting for all people to be held on Saturday, June 17 at 11:00 a.m. in fellowship hall. The topic of discussion will be sharing the sanctuary space on Sunday mornings. Whether or not you have an opinion on this subject, I would like you to attend.

As we all know, life changes for everyone, and the life of the church (whether we like it or not) changes as well.

Lunch will be provided. I understand that summer is a difficult time to schedule events such as this, but this is a topic that needs to be discussed by everyone.

Hope to see you on June 17 at 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Paula

Share Musical Abilities Instead of Hiding Them

**Judy Goans
Worshipping**

We're told that it takes a village to raise a child. It also takes a congregation to hold a worship service. This was most evident at our traditional service on Pentecost, when we were treated to a prelude by our bell choir Ringspiration and hymns and anthem by the chancel choir accompanied by brass, cymbals, timpani, organ, and piano. Pastor Paula also provided piano accompaniment as we sang happy birthday to Slade and to Stacey Garrick. In previous weeks, we have had flute, cello, and violin solos to strengthen our music program. The need for broad participation also shows up in our contemporary service every single week.

In Romans 12:3, Paul tells us that everyone should not "think of yourself more highly than you ought to think." I wonder whether the musicians among us are taking that to heart and not realizing what they have to offer. After all, Matthew 5:15 tells us that "No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house."

Do you sing? Play an instrument? All of Grace would benefit from having you participate in our music program at Grace. You don't have to be great. You just have to be there. Please consider this prayerfully. And it doesn't matter whether your instrument is classical guitar or didgeridoo: it's time to make a joyful noise to the Lord! Wishing you all a blessed season after Pentecost.

Pastor Paula Smith, Interim

June 17 Mtg is Chance to Become Well-Informed

1Corinthians 1:10

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.



Philippians 2:3-5

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

I love both of the above scripture texts. The first one makes me smile a little because Paul is really pushing for everyone to be of the same mind. He wants the people of Corinth to get along. He's a real peace keeper, that Paul! And when we get down to it, it's really what everyone wants, right? We would ALL love to have peace in every bit of our lives, but the truth of the matter is, we all have differing opinions on how to agree with one another. A lot of times those disagreements come because we are not well-informed.

The second scripture text was chosen because I feel very strongly that we shouldn't be doing things for OUR purposes, but rather for the purpose of giving glory to God. We should also value others above ourselves if we want to live in a peaceful world. And quite honestly, Paul's major point was that if we set our minds on God then we WILL be united and we WILL live in a mostly peaceful world.

Knowing, however, that we don't have the same likes and dislikes, we have an opportunity on June 17 at 11:00 to at least become well-informed, to share each others' interests and to be perfectly united in mind and thought. As in, the time has come to discuss our worship services and the sharing of the sanctuary.

We will do this through the breaking of bread that includes Buddy's BBQ and all the "fixin's." Please come, even if you think you have no opinion. This is an informative meeting that affects the entire congregation. We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord. We are one congregation offering two different ways to worship.

God's peace is yours!

Grace Mission Statement
Love Jesus and help others love Him
through word and actions.

The President's Corner by Ron Goans, MD

Psalm 100 calls for 'Joyfulness, Praise, and Thankfulness'



Hello again! I have been reading Martin Luther's commentary on the psalms¹ and thought you might enjoy his thoughts on Psalm 100. The psalm calls on the entire world to be joyful, to praise, to give thanks, and to worship God.

A Psalm of thanksgiving.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

Know that the Lord is God.

**It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his
pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

**For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
And his faithfulness to all generation**

Psalm 100, NRSV

A Prayer by Martin Luther on Psalm 100

Spirit of grace and of prayer that proceeds from the Father and the Son, grant us Your power, and intercede for us ... that in spirit and in truth we may give thanks to our Savior Jesus. Amen.

¹ Luther, Martin. Reading the Psalms with Luther (p. 224). Concordia Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

THANKS! I would like to thank everyone for the calls, cards, and prayers during my brother's illness and subsequent death and my mother's stroke and recovery. The family appreciates all the thoughts and prayers from this loving congregation.

Pat Hope



Nancy Munro wishes to thank all who have supported her with cards, notes, texts and emails, phone calls, meals, and much help of various kinds since John's sudden loss and her hip replacement surgery shortly thereafter. All who participated in making John's celebration of life and reception a very special time are deeply appreciated by Nancy and all the family. Grace is an amazing community of faith!

Did You Ever Wonder - What Happens to our Blankets When They Leave Oak Ridge?

Lutheran World Relief just sent an answer to that question. From here we take them to Greeneville. From there they go to a storehouse in Maryland. Some synods have theirs sent to Minnesota. Those that went to Maryland in 2022 were then sent to one of several countries - Angola, Armenia, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Poland, South Sudan or Ukraine. Thanks to Ingrid Busch, we also sent school kits that went to Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Poland, South Sudan or Ukraine. A total of 462,262 quilts and kits were sent in by Lutheran World Relief congregations in 2022. The full report will be posted on the bulletin board. May was Blanket Workshop Month for the Love Offering. Thanks to your generosity we will be able to send more items in 2023. Thank you so very much

Congratulations Graduates of 2023!

- Neal Vaughan's grandson, Caden B. Bohannon, Berean Christian High School, May 27.
- Ingrid and Ken Joy's son, David, Auburn University with a Bachelor of Software Engineering degree, with minors in physics and mathematics.
- Ron and Judy Goans' son, Ron Goans Jr., DO degree from LMU.
- Pat Hope's grandson, Keaton, Midway High School, Kingston, May 13.



June Birthdays

Linda Hulsey	06/03	Beverly Bauman	06/21
Debra Stewart	06/06	Lisa Sipes	06/22
Jeff Schmitt	06/08	Caitlin Schmitt	06/25
Stan Long	06/11	Christopher Gurecki	06/27
Saylor Hummel	06/12	Dean Oen	06/29
Susan Gunning	06/15		
Judy Rosenberg	06/17		

If you have a name you would like to add to the birthday list or a correction, please call the church office at 483-3787.

Weber continued from Page 1

Sheni's Project

Using her artistic ability and interests, Sheni created three canvasses, on which she drew symbols to illustrate significant events or people in her life. These are illustrated in Photo 2. For example, her favorite flower is the sunflower, represented by the symbol in the upper left corner of the picture she is holding. In the center is a baseball cap and bat, representing her favorite ballplayer, Babe Ruth. The picture of the cross, at right, represents elements of her faith.



Confirmation

Above, Sheni presents her project. At left, (L to R) Pastor Paula Smith, Lisa Sipes, Sheni Weber, and Valerie Hansen.

Photos by Stan Long



Dear Sisters in Christ,

The 35th Convention of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA will be held at the Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center in Augusta, Georgia September 15-17, 2023. I am planning to attend & would love to have some of you to go with me. Contact me for the Call to Convention, convention information, and a registration form. The registration cost includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast & lunch as well as the Saturday night banquet, and Sunday breakfast.

The convention is a wonderful way to find out just what the women of the Southeastern Synod do and an opportunity to meet many women throughout the synod. There are interesting workshops as well as ample opportunity for fellowship. There is a worship service on Friday evening and at the end of the convention on Sunday. Those services are always very inspirational. Please consider attending this year.

Grace & Peace,
Donna Hoglund

June Love Offering – Food for the Poor*

* <https://www.foodforthe poor.org/>

June Happenings

Sunday School for Children, Adults, and Youth is on recess for summer. Watch Announcements for Start-up dates.

Is there interest in a CPR class?? Please let Donna Gurecki know if you would be interested in a class.

Looking to spend time outdoors? And get some exercise? – Since volunteers do our lawn maintenance, we need a group of volunteers to share the responsibility. The objective is to have a group large enough that no one needs to mow more than once every other month. All the equipment and fuel that is needed is available at the church or you can bring your own equipment. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the back entrance to the Church where you can indicate your willingness to mow on a specific week. Or contact Rick Rawl of the Property Task force (call 865-919-3230 and leave a voicemail if necessary or email rickrawl@comcast.net) and he will coordinate scheduling and answer any questions you have.

PUZZLES-PUZZLES-PUZZLES! Every 2nd Thursday at Judy Joy's house from 10a.m. - 2p.m. Bring a lunch and enjoy the fun! .

ESOL: No Monday morning classes for the summer. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday classes will still be held for beginners (taught by Sylvia Countess).

Grace Photography Club: The club will meet on Saturday, June 17 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 101. Let Stan Long (865-356-2871, Longse@aol.com) know if you're interested in participating in this group.

Grace Writers meet June 5 and Poetry Pie meets June 26. Email Pat Hope for link.

The Book Discussion Group: This group meets on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. You can call or text Diane Weaver at 828-687-0422 or email me at dgweaver7169123@comcast.net to get on the Zoom invitation list. The discussions are recorded, so anyone who wants a recording emailed to them should contact Diane.

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee continues to work on the Ministry Site Profile and hopes to have a draft ready by the end of June. Please continue to keep the members of this committee in your prayers.

Thrivent members, have you remembered to contribute part of your Choice Dollars from Thrivent to the Thrivent fund here at church. Years ago, we (the Thrivent members) voted to spend \$150 each month for supplies for the Ecumenical Storehouse. I have been faithfully buying whatever they needed, and now the fund is nearly gone. We also said we would help with the nursery costs for the ESOL classes. That hasn't been necessary so but the classes are growing and the need could arise. Shall we continue these project and do you want to fund them? Call Judy Joy or Claudia Lever and let them know.

OLSE: Our Spanish class will continue through the summer with a new twist. Senora Mena will be making it more conversational going forward. It is small enough that students can receive significant individual attention. The class meets on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 in Room 101 and new students are welcome.

Women's Bible Study Begins June 20

Nurturing will begin a Women's Bible study on June 20, 2023. The title of the study is "Messy People" written by Jennifer Cowart. We will meet in Room 101, at 6:30. If you are interested, please join us. You may purchase a study guide for \$12.69 on Amazon.

If you have questions, please call or email Beverly Bauman or Candy Yugo.
Beverly Bauman bbauman56@gmail.com
Candy Yugo cyugo54@gmail.com

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Condolences

May 5

Edward Bailey

Cards may be sent to David Bailey at 8819 Trafalgar Ct.
 Springfield, VA 22151

May 15

Edward Aebischer

Cards may be sent to Paul Aebischer, 2229 Quail Hollow
 Ct., West Columbia, SC 29169

May 22

Benjamin David Brown

Joy Fournier's son
 Services 6/17, 1 p.m., St. Stephens, Oak Ridge

May 22

Mike Ledbetter

Pat Hope's brother

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**Want to win a gift card?
 Find the three graduation caps.**

In June we celebrate weddings, Father's Day, and graduations. See if you can find the mortarboards. They may not all look the same.

Please send the page numbers where you find them to Pat Hope (thetwohopes@aol.com) by June 30. Only email or text messages (865-310-0722) accepted. Prize to be

awarded in Junly The one pictured here doesn't count.

The three Mom Hearts in May were on Pages 7, 8, and 18.

Congratulations to past winners:

- Janet Rawl — April Eggs
- Donna Hoglund — March Clocks
- Paula Smith — February Hearts
- Lorraine Huynh — January Hats
- Crista Froeling — December Snowmen
- Emilie Damos — Nov. Turkeys
- Rhonda Ashburn — Oct. pumpkins
- Debra Stewart — Sept. Music Notes
- Teresa Mustaffa — August Ice Cream