

M A Y 2 0 2 1

NOTATIONS

COMING TOGETHER TO LEARN, LIVE, AND SHARE THE TRUTH OF CHRIST



Confirmation



We have two confirmands this year at Grace. On Saturday, May 15, Bryce Blaubach and Ava Garske will be confirmed in their Christian faith in a private 9:00 a.m. service. We welcome these young people into communicant membership, and pray that God ever keep them firm in their faith.



Baptism



Kinsley Lorraine Helvey, daughter of Derek & Nicole Helvey, will be baptized at Grace in a private service on Sunday, May 2. Kinsley was born on April 2, 2020. Witnesses to the baptism are Jade Hackbarth and Mike Anderes. Kinsley, welcome to God's family! May he bless and keep you always.

Moms, grandmas, aunts, and nice next-door ladies are all wonderful gifts from God, given to love and nurture us along life's way. We certainly thank him for these special people, and wish them God's blessings on Mother's Day and every day.

Thank You

Thank you to our faithful video crew: Lee McCauley, Alyse Neumann, and Jack Hahn. Their diligent service each week ensures that our worship is filmed and posted for anyone to view at home. Thanks also to Brenda Meyer for making the YouTube link available on Facebook.

WORKDAY

Grace will hold another work day on May 8, beginning at 9:00 am. Please come by and lend a hand to move everything back into the church following the painting/carpeting project.

HYMNALS

A fair number of old hymnals (The Lutheran Hymnal of 1941) are available at both churches. Please pick one or more up if you'd like to keep and use copies at home!



Bible Class is beginning a new study on the four levels of the Christian's relationship with Christ. Join us every Sunday at 9:15 at St. Paul's for this hour of fellowship and study.

St. Paul's Greeters for May

May 2
Dan & Rita Pittsley
May 9
Ben Krenz
May 16
Gene & Sharon Bartelt
May 23
Joy Taylor
May 30
Mark & Joline Bartelt



Northland Lutheran High School is looking for a bus driver for the Merrill-Wausau route which begins at Grace. If you or someone you know would be interested, please call Ryan Wiechmann at 715-297-4427.



The Good Samaritan Fund

at St. Paul's has been used to benefit those in need. Please continue to give to this fund! If you know of someone in need, please speak to Lee McCauley. All recommendations will be kept in confidence. Thank you for your generosity!

St. Paul's Financial Update

March Income:	\$ 8,732.00
March Disbursements:	\$ 5,569.48
Christian Ed Fund:	\$ 2,973.00
<i>(2021-2022, begun July 1, 2020)</i>	
YTD NLHS Offerings:	\$ 958.00
<i>2021 NLHS Commitment:</i>	\$ 4,000.00
NLHS Debt Reduction:	\$ 960.00
YTD Mission Offerings:	\$ 1,013.00
<i>2021 Mission Goal:</i>	\$ 2,800.00
Painting Project:	\$ 3,232.00

Grace Financial Update

March Income:	\$ 9,019.12
March Disbursements:	\$ 8,372.43
2021 Mission Goal:	\$ 5,000.00
YTD Mission Offering:	\$ 1,408.00
Percentage of Goal:	28.16%
Checkbook balance:	\$ 7,029.47



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our high school graduates! May God guide, guard, and keep you as you set your course in life.

Dylan Butler
Emily Christian
Kian Garske

Frederick Lehrke
Brooke Neumann
Tanner Zunker



God Demands – and *GIVES* – Holiness

Dear members and friends of St. Paul's and Grace,

The elderly member said to the pastor, "I'm at ease and unafraid. I've led a good life. I'm secure in my relationship with God." The pastor took a step back, and with a serious look on his face replied, "I have not lived a good life. That makes me afraid. My life gives me no security in my relationship with God. It only reminds me that I deserve nothing but God's wrath and punishment. And in that respect, your life is not unlike mine."

We all like to think that we're good, moral, and upright people. But the fact is, we are sinful, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." [Romans 3:23] "There is no one righteous, not even one." [Romans 3:10] We don't need to search far in God's righteous commands to discover gross failures and wrongs in our thoughts, words, and actions.

Only God is holy in himself. He demands that we, his people be holy. "Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy." [Leviticus 19:2] "The wages of sin is death." [Romans 6:23] The wonderfully astonishing thing is that in Jesus, God shares his own holiness with all his children.

Jesus alone lived a holy life, and lived every day of it for you, in your place. Jesus alone suffered and died an innocent death, and suffered and died every moment of it for you, in your place. The very Son of God paid the full price for all of your sins, and has given you his own, God's own holiness!

This alone is our sure security in our relationship with God; he has granted me Jesus' holiness! This alone is our sure comfort as we approach death; I am God's holy child in Christ, and he has made heaven my own!

This holiness God gives us alone is our powerful motivation to live holy lives day by day, guided by his word! We live in Christ's forgiveness. We live with his righteousness as our own. To us has been granted the great privilege of serving our holy God as his holy people!

**Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, with exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice and holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done, how his right arm the vict'ry won. How dearly it has cost him!**

**Fast bound in Satan's chain I lay; death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day; in sin my mother bore me.
Yet deep and deeper still I fell; life had become a living hell, so firmly sin possessed me.**

**My own good works availed me naught, no merit they attaining;
My will against God's judgment fought, no hope for me remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair left naught by death to be my share and hell to be my sentence.**

**But God beheld my wretched state before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of his mercies great, he planned my soul's salvation.
A Father's heart he turned to me, sought my redemption fervently; he gave his dearest treasure.**

**He spoke to his beloved Son: "Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of my crown, and bring mankind salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free; slay bitter death for them that they may live with you forever."**

**The Son obeyed his Father's will, was born of virgin mother,
And, God's good pleasure to fulfill, he came to be my brother.
No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore; a servant's form like mine he bore to lead the devil captive.**

**To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me—I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I myself will be; for you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, your friend divine, and evermore you shall be mine; the foe shall not divide us.**

**"The foe shall shed my precious blood, me of my life bereaving.
All this I suffer for your good; be steadfast and believing.
Life shall from death the vict'ry win; my innocence shall bear your sin, and you are blest forever.**

**"Now to my Father I depart, the Holy Spirit sending
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart, my help to you extending.
He will a source of comfort be, teach you to know and follow me, and in all truth will guide you.**

**"What I on earth have lived and taught be all your life and teaching;
So shall my kingdom's work be wrought and honored in your preaching.
Take care that no one's man-made laws should e'er destroy the gospel's cause. This final word I leave you."
(CW 377)**

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Willitz

Worship Options

Despite COVID-19, we still have a full and active worship life with several options, so each family can go to church as they feel comfortable.

Face-to-Face



Join us each Sunday in church for regular congregational worship! Masks encouraged.

8:00 am at St. Paul's 10:30 am at Grace
 9:15 am Family Bible Hour at St. Paul's

YouTube Worship



Join us each week from your home. Links to our YouTube services are emailed to our members each Sunday, and can be found on our congregations' Facebook pages. Call 715-675-3751 to be added to the email list, or to add a friend.

Radio Worship

Join us each Sunday in your car in the St. Paul's parking lot! Hymnals available just inside the door.



8:00 am at St. Paul's, 99.7 FM



Note: On May 30 our Family Bible Hour begins its summer recess, and worship time at Grace moves to 9:30 am.

