

August/September 2020

# HERALD OF GRACE

More 2020 Medal of Grace Recipients!



**Nathan Butler**

**Pastor Miller**

**Chris Mangino**

*Rev. Wayne J. Miller, Pastor*

*Connie Rowe, Organist*

*Debbie Milling, Office Volunteer*

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## FROM YOUR PASTOR

### A New Season

*“There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.” -Ecclesiastes 3:1*

You have been hearing the term “new normal” during this very long summer or whatever time of year it might be. If you’re like me, I am unfortunately losing my sense of time and space. I can physically look at the calendar and see that we are almost in August but I’m not there mentally and even sometimes spiritually. Our minds have been warped by endless Covid-19 math and the various interpretations of them. We have seen some sports start up again but with empty ghost-like parks and stadiums. I stopped watching the news now for about 3 weeks as another statue is taken down or as another Trillion-dollar stimulus bill is debated. I’m sure those things are still being reported. My routine is way off which has promoted a strange variation of sleep schedules and diet choices which has caused me to join millions of Americans in gaining the “Quarantine 15”. Social life has become more sterile and distant even at Grace when we were open for a few weeks. We can become discouraged and frustrated in this season.

In the midst of this season, are we neglecting one another and our neighbors? Are we becoming complacent in not praying for the bad situations in the world? Are we not waiting on the Lord in due season? Are we becoming selfish in a taken-for-granted world of ours that all generations since the Great Depression got used to? Thank God for this season which allows us to ask questions and reflect on the very nature of seasons. Seasons have the purpose of strengthening you.

I wouldn’t say these days are the “new normal”, but just a new phase or a new season. Coronavirus numbers are not going to be increasing forever. Things will get better hopefully by Christmas or sometime next year. When you think about Jesus in the wilderness for 40 days or the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years, this isn’t so bad. Right now, we stay the course in doing our part and serve and act within this new season. I see no reason to “try” to get back to normal just yet. God will deliver us. In the meantime, we still worship, pray, study the Word of God, love our neighbor, and use the various tools given to us by God to worship during this new season. In observation of the Mobile County health numbers and the likelihood of Grace having a positive case again, there is absolutely no reason to rush back to public gatherings just yet. There is no real need for us to get back before Labor Day Weekend. Most of the congregation agrees. Therefore, right now, the earliest return we are looking at is September 20<sup>th</sup>. Maybe sooner. Maybe later. Seasons are not limited in time though I assure you it’s temporary. As much as I personally want normalcy, the season has a purpose for us. In the meantime, Grace is continuing to improve the quality of our communication and worship technologies. Grace will be making improvements in enhancing our worship at Grace so our sound system and streaming capabilities will be top notch. Lots of growth can happen during this season. I ask you to continue to participate in our worship services online. Please share them with others. Also be a part of our at-home bible study. Continue to support the ministry of Grace as we live in this season. Every season mentioned in Ecclesiastes for the Christians is for the living. Even in death, there is life. Jesus’ entire ministry, a very short season of only 3 years, was full of trust in the Heavenly Father and constantly being “refueled” by God’s Holy Word. Jesus truly maximized every season including the last 2000 years since His Resurrection. This season is not a new normal, it is just a season and seasons change. We pray that it ends. We pray that it is for our good.

With Praise and Thanksgiving,



Pastor Wayne J. Miller

## 2020 Medal of Grace Recipients

### Chris Mangino

Many times, the Medal of Grace is given to members of this church who have served and been present for a long time. There are some members who serve in extraordinary circumstances. People that God has brought to right place at the right time. Today we honor two such people.

When we first suspended services on March 15 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, one of our members immediately volunteered to chart a new area of ministry that we suddenly found ourselves needing. He was the one who brought you Sunday morning services when we were not able to worship. He is the one who gave hours of his time so that you could receive God's Word the last 4 months including Holy Week and Easter. He is the one who makes your Pastor look better than he does. Without being asked, Chris Mangino stepped up and grew Grace's online presence in creative ways sustaining a 153-year ministry overnight. We thank God for young working families like

the Mangino's who find the time to work, raise a family, and serve the Lord. We hope they are blessed by Grace as much as we are through them. Therefore, the Medal of Grace for this year of 2020 is given in Glory of God to Chris Mangino.



## Nathan Butler

While we thank God for certain individuals and committed longevity to Grace, we must recognize the younger generation who also serve the Church in extraordinary ways. Our youth has been very small in recent years but they are very strong. One individual in particular comes to mind when thinking about God's grace living in a young soul. Maybe he has helped you to your pew on a Sunday morning, he has certainly helped assist as Acolyte and Crucifer, he took the lead on our inaugural Trivia Night as Master of Ceremonies and ran with his Souper Bowl idea that he also began. He represented Grace at two National Youth Gatherings, at the age of 13 he was given the job of researching, designing, and dedicating our 150th Anniversary Historical Marker posted on Government Street. He is willing to help with anything, but if he is going to do something, he wants to do it right. Most recently, he has offered and followed through with any help needed during this pandemic. And believe it or not, he gets me and other church volunteers through many Sunday mornings and Christmases and Easters with his humor, his maturity, and his love of life. Many of you have watched him grow up and now the same will pray for what he will become as he attends Hillsdale College in Michigan and we hope he returns home when he can. Like other youth in our church we want to appreciate them and recognize how God uses them too. We above all want Grace to go with him and so the Medal of Grace for this year of 2020 is given in Glory to God to Nathan Butler.



## Rev. Wayne John Miller



We recently acknowledged the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the installation of the Rev. Wayne J. Miller as the 16<sup>th</sup> Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. While we were unable to celebrate together at Grace, we acknowledged that achievement.

After graduating from Roosevelt University in Chicago with a Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management. With much prayer and guidance from his family and friends, Pastor enrolled into Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He served as Vicar at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Elberta and was known as "Vicar Wayne". Pastor graduated from Concordia Seminary in 2015 with his Master of Divinity Degree and was awarded with a theological diploma. He was ordained on June 21, 2015 at St. Paul Lutheran in Oak Lawn by his home Pastor, Rev. John Moeller who had confirmed him 15 years prior. He was called and installed as Pastor of Grace Lutheran on July 12, 2015.

When Pastor arrived at Grace, he was welcomed with open arms and a bold plan called New Beginnings. Over the past five years, Pastor Miller has pastored us through many new beginnings at Grace, including fellowship events like movie nights and chili cookoffs, Lenten Dramas, new Christmas decorations and the Wandering Nativity, Constitution and Bylaws update, our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and changes/improvements to our facilities.

However, little did any of us know that his biggest challenge in those five years was going to be a pandemic. COVID-19 presented Pastor with the need to immediately create a new beginning through an online ministry. In less than a week, with a calm and steady hand, he established online services and bible studies. He has continued to grow and enrich this ministry. We feel confident that whatever the next New Beginning brings he will be ready. Therefore, we present the Medal of Grace for this year of 2020 given in Glory to God to the Reverend Wayne J. Miller.





## **From your Congregational President**

Members of Grace Lutheran:

It is my pleasure to announce that your Church Council, on Monday, June 8, 2020, voted to move up the reopening of Grace to Sunday, June 21, 2020. This decision was reached after review of the current situation regarding COVID-19 and the implementation of guidelines which will help to provide as safe an environment as possible.

You will find the reopening guidelines following this letter. They include both what Grace Lutheran is doing and what we request that you, as members, can do to help with providing a safe experience for all.

In addition to the guidelines there are a few other items I'd like you to be aware of:

- 1) Those serving will be wearing masks when appropriate.
- 2) The Basement will be closed.
- 3) Restrooms will be open.

We will be having 2 services, 8:00AM & 10:00AM. Attendance is going to be limited to 50 people per service. I would ask that those who can, attend the 8:00AM service. This will allow those who may need more time in preparing for church the ability to come to the 10:00AM service. We are going to try and prevent assigning services, but if conditions require, we will have to make that decision.

As we look forward to seeing you this Sunday, please remember that each individual and family must make attendance decisions based on what is best for them. We will continue to supply online services and bible studies. We are working to live streaming the services once we return.

If you are not ready to return at this point, please know we support you in that decision and will welcome you when you are ready to return.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Yours in Christ,

Grady Luttmann, Congregational President

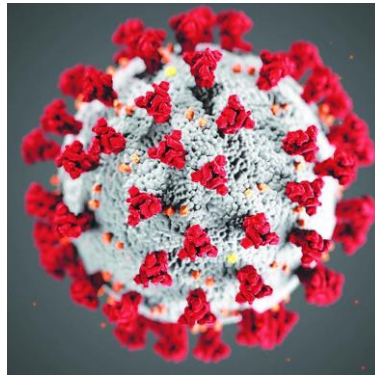




# GRACE LUTHERAN

&

# COVID-19



## *Guidelines to Our Reopening*

***June 21, 2020***

In order to reopen Grace Lutheran Church as safely as possible we have established the following guidelines.

What we at Grace are doing:

- 1) Those serving will have temperature checks upon arrival
- 2) Two Services at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM
- 3) Disinfecting touch points before and after each service
- 4) Limiting to 50 people per service
- 5) Alternating pews

- 6) Providing touchless hand sanitizer at entry points
- 7) Removing hymnals, attendance cards, pencils from pews
- 8) Providing bulletins with all hymns
- 9) Offering plates located by doors
- 10) Individual family units to communion
- 11) Safely preparing and distributing communion
- 12) Disinfecting communion ware before, during, and after communion

What we request you do:

- 1) Stay home if you or someone in your household feels sick
- 2) Stay home if you or someone in your household has a temp above 100.4
- 3) Stay home if you or someone in your household has a persistent cough
- 4) Consider wearing a mask - we will have disposable masks available
- 5) Always maintain Social Distancing - markings will be used as reminders
- 6) Take your church bulletin and personal items with you when leaving
- 7) On communion Sunday's please take all items with you when you go up for communion
- 8) Follow directions of church workers including an orderly dismissal
- 9) Inform Pastor Miller or Grady Luttmann, President if you or someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19. Note information will be used only to protect the congregation. (NO PERSONAL INFORMATION WILL BE RELEASED.)

There is an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 which exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death.

**Grace misses our Church family; however, it is not possible for Grace to guarantee that attendees will be 100% COVID-19 safe if they attend on-site services.**



In order to better reduce movement in the church throughout the remainder of this pandemic, we will celebrate Holy Communion every other Sunday including special festival services.

Our first communion Sunday will be June 28. Therefore, the second and fourth Sunday of the month should be the routine for a while. The communion schedule is as follows:

June 28

July 12

July 26

August 9

August 23

September 13

September 27

Communion will be celebrated at both the 8:00 and the 10:00 services on those days. In the ancient rite of the Christian worship service, Holy Communion was always celebrated as the last act of the service. Since social distancing measures will be taking place at Grace, returning to the pew, standing in a greeting line and everyone exiting the church at the same time does not encourage good measures. So, we will embrace the ancient format and after each family unit or pew communes at the front of the church through self-serve, continuous distribution, you will exit out of the sanctuary. So, the gift of communion will be your final blessing for that Sunday. This better paces the dismissal and keeps you safe. Remember when communing to please take your belongings with you because you will not be returning to your pew. Any medical issues or other preferences, please speak with the Pastor.

## Financial Secretary Report

- Remember when writing checks for “The Building Fund” that you must indicate if you want your money to go to the “New Building” account. Please note this on the check and/or the envelope by writing NBCF, NBF, or New Building.

If you do not put a note on your check (or envelope) and it is placed in the blue “Building Fund” envelope, or just write “building fund,” than that money will be put in the Capital Building Account which supports the maintenance of our sanctuary and Foundation Hall.

- With our “new normal” of online services, I am very thankful to all of you that are continuing your giving to the church and its ministries. I do want to remind those of you that mail in your checks that our mail system sometimes can be a little unpredictable, so mail doesn’t always come in the timeliest of manners. I might suggest you consider online giving which would avoid the post office! You can find a link at the top of our homepage of our website at [www.gracelutheranmobile.com](http://www.gracelutheranmobile.com).

Deborah Milling,

Financial Secretary

# Communications

JULY 2020

## New website platform and redesign

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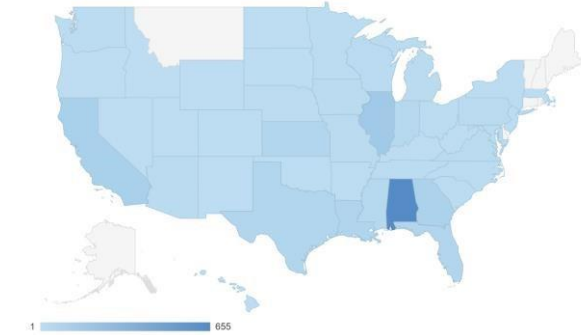
- Website redesigned.
- Bible studies added.
- Platform for future Sunday live services from the sanctuary at Grace.

### Coming soon

- Daily devotional
- Windows of Grace
- More content

*As we continue our online ministry and build out more content, let this website be a tool for you to share His Word through Grace.*

*Grace's national reach, Jan – Jun 2020* [GraceLutheranMobile.com](http://GraceLutheranMobile.com)



- Grace's online ministry has reached people in 43 states.
- Reached **1,793** new users.

[YouTube Services and Bible Studies](#)

- YouTube viewed **2,696** times.
- People watched **534.9** hours of Grace content.

## New email addresses

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| Person         | Email address  |
|----------------|--|
| Church general | <a href="mailto:grace@gracelutheranmobile.com">grace@gracelutheranmobile.com</a>         |
| Pastor Miller  | <a href="mailto:pastor@gracelutheranmobile.com">pastor@gracelutheranmobile.com</a>       |
| President      | <a href="mailto:president@gracelutheranmobile.com">president@gracelutheranmobile.com</a> |
| Elders         | <a href="mailto:elders@gracelutheranmobile.com">elders@gracelutheranmobile.com</a>       |
| Finance        | <a href="mailto:finance@gracelutheranmobile.com">finance@gracelutheranmobile.com</a>     |

\*\*The old email address of [gracelcmobile@aol.com](mailto:gracelcmobile@aol.com) is no longer in use.

## New logo

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Dove and crown of thorns logo



## New workstations added

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3 new PC's added to the church

## **HOLY LAND TRIP POSTPONED UNTIL 2022!**

Unfortunately, with the uncertainty of Covid-19, the current risk of international travel and the temporary economic factor, planning for the 2021 trip is difficult. So in collaboration with the other Lutheran Pastors who are hosting, we decided to postpone until 2022. Though the reservations of attendees were decent at this point, postponement will increase participation even more and we want this trip to be as fulfilling and fearless as possible. The dates and prices should be similar but won't be established until later this year. We are sad that we feel the need to move to 2022, but we feel it is best.

Many who have already booked can move their deposit to the 2022 trip or cancel for a full refund.

May our pilgrimage continue in 2022!

Thank you for your understanding. Any other questions, please reach out.

Pastor Wayne J. Miller and Pastor Keith and Diana Ringers

### **UPDATE ON THE NEW BEGINNINGS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

from Mike Milling, Trustee

The Church was given approval to demolish the old Education Building by the Architectural Review Board based upon the concept of the New Beginnings plans which we submitted to them. When we were first notified by the architect that the square foot cost for commercial construction was higher than he originally thought, and the estimated new cost would be over \$800,000.00, we again asked about incorporating metal building construction in an effort to reduce the cost. He stated that in his conversations with General Contractors, it was not felt that such an inclusion would significantly reduce the cost. However, given that the Council was authorized to go forward with the project based on an assumptive budget of \$600,000.00 that included the use of a metal structure, we felt it was important to verify if such an inclusion would significantly impact our cost.

Once the Council completed the desired modifications to the original plans, which involved upgrading bathrooms, kitchen, storage space and the nursery, the original footprint was re-drawn to include the changes. This footprint was then utilized to provide potential metal building contractors with the desired dimensions of the project. In selecting these contractors we followed these guidelines:

1. They needed to be a reputable, established company. If there were any questions concerning their abilities or quality of materials, they were dropped from consideration. We researched all who were considered.
2. Our initial desire was to utilize local companies, some of whom fabricate the materials locally, and do not require materials to be shipped in from out of state.
3. They needed to be able to either construct according to the desired plans, or to provide us with reasonable alternatives, which would be worked out with our architect.
4. We needed a solid indication that they could help us to reach our goal.

If we could identify a contractor who could provide us with positive evidence that our goals could be met, we could then tie him in with our architect, and the plans could continue past the 50% phase, with the metal building incorporated. This would be where we finish selecting

the interior finishes, and a scope of work could be established. This is the required document that provides the information needed by the bidding general contractors so that they could submit valid quotes for the job. Upon receipt of these quotes, we would then have a good idea of what our “true” costs would be, and we could then either select a general contractor for the job, or go back into the planning stages if the cost is too high. Again, at the present time, without metal building construction, it is anticipated to be in excess of \$800,000.00. To date, only about one third of the metal building contractors have provided tentative cost information on the project. One said it was beyond his capabilities, and another simply failed to create a quote, although they claimed on multiple occasions to have the information ready.

Another provided a quote, but it is extremely tentative with references to other costs, overruns, etc. We have at least one other we are contacting, who is an out of state business, but do not feel their input will make any big difference. The main problem seems to be with the layout of the building and the roof. Metal buildings are fine if they are rectangular or square, but require more support steel when the shape is irregular in any fashion. Also, the pitch of the roof, designed to reflect the pitch of the Sanctuary, and the acceptable roof finish, tend to give problems as everything must be shaped on site and cannot be pre-engineered (or so we’ve been told).

We sympathize with the feelings of frustration that “nothing” is being done. However, as stated above, more is being done than meets the eye. Our concern now is that to find a way to bring the project more in line with the budget, we may need to reduce the size of the project by approximately 25%. This will not give us the facility we feel we need for the future. Our other choice is to recognize that it will cost more to construct what we need, and take appropriate measures to allow the project to move forward.

Michael Milling  
Head Trustee





## Happy Birthday

May God give you the strength and wisdom to smoothly surmount all the challenges life brings you. Stay blessed and enjoy your day to the fullest.

### August Birthdays

- August 1- Abigail Gehlken
- August 2- John Lobsiger
- August 3- Dennis Harris
  - Luke Kringel
- August 5- Cliff Deakle
- August 8- Ryan Armentrout
  - Cary T. March
- August 12- Andrea Deakle
- August 14- Barbara Merritt
- August 15- Belinda Bridges
- Hannah Eiland
- August 15 - Hunter Hosey
- August 17- Connie Rowe
- August 19- Arlyn Sturtz
- August 20- Ryan Beverly
- August 21- Charles Hubbard
- August 26- Henry Tims
- August 27- Joyce Lynd
- August 29- William Kringel

### August Wedding Anniversaries

- August 8- Kevin and Kathy (Brokaw) Hansen
- August 9- Warren and Marguerite Neiden
  - Jay and Carol Mitchell
- August 11- Kenneth and Cathy Weiss
- August 24- William and Bunny Kringel

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### September Birthdays

- 1- Oscar Addison
- 3- Finn McKee
- 4- Joann Toren
- 5- Pat Cannon
- 7- Adair Baker
  - Jeffery Griffin
- 9- Joanna Arnett
- 12- James A. Andreasen
- 13- Judy Lauer
- 16- Mary Hubbard
- 18- Darrell Butler
- 21- Chris Griffin Sr.
- 22- James Oswalt
- 26- James E. Andreasen

### September Wedding Anniversaries

- 1- Nick and Ashley West
- 3- Carlos and Pam Pousson
- 6- Charles and Mary Hubbard
- 8- Cliff and Andrea Deakle
- 28- Josh and Rachel Beverly