

## The Messenger July 2023

### *Rector's Corner*

Time is sneaky, and it has an amazing ability to get away from us when we are not paying attention. I remember telling someone during Holy Week that as much as I love it, I was looking forward to the calm on the other side of Easter. It was right around that same time that I saw a joke on social media that said something like, "Being a pastor means saying, 'I will get to that next week,' for the rest of your life," which is probably true of a lot of vocations.

The calm that I had anticipated never really came, though. In fact, it is crazy to think those conversations were nearly three months ago, and here we are already in July. Church life and the ministries of which it is comprised just keep right on going, presenting new opportunities to seek and serve Christ in others.

July has several of these opportunities for ministry coming up, serving both the wider community and Grace Church itself.

Freeport Area Church Cooperative (FACC) has two special fundraisers, both of which are associated with the Stephenson County Fair, held July 25-29. The first is volunteering directly through the Stephenson County Fair Association working the gate. For every volunteer hour spent as a ticket taker or cashier, \$10 will be donated to FACC. You may read more about it and sign up to participate at the following link: <https://stephensoncountyfair.org/volunteer/>

FACC's fundraising committee, which I am on, has also secured Friday, July 28 to scoop ice cream at the Union Dairy booth from 10:00 a.m. to Close that evening. Scoopers and cashiers will be needed during that time, and we are hoping to break it into shifts of only a few hours, so the more volunteers the better. Right now, we are just compiling a list of people who would be interested in working a shift, along with their preference for time of day. Later, we will begin getting a schedule together. If you are interested, please let me know.

Rebuilding Together Stephenson County will also be having its next build day on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like to be a part of this growing non-profit's volunteer corps, please reach out to our volunteer coordinator by emailing [volunteer@rebuildingtogethersc.org](mailto:volunteer@rebuildingtogethersc.org). Your name will be added to a list, and when projects and build dates come up, you will receive an email asking if you are available for that particular date. A schedule for the day and the scope of work are also listed in that email so you can see if it is something you are able to do both in terms of time and ability. Dates for August and September will be available as well.

Within Grace Church, I mentioned in a recent email that I am looking to bring back a second chalice bearer to our eucharist. This would be an individual who comes up from the congregation at the conclusion of the eucharistic prayer to assist in dispensing the Blood of Christ from a second chalice. It was a ministry we had a few parishioners involved with prior to COVID, and we have reached an average Sunday attendance where I believe it would be helpful for its return, which is a wonderful sign.

Lastly, as I will be gone on vacation for services on July 30<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be having Liturgy of the Word on those Sundays. If you would like to lead a service of Liturgy of the Word on one of those Sundays, please let me know and I would be happy to walk you through what to do. There is no need to vest, unless you want to, nor do you need to give a homily. You simply serve as the presider that keeps the liturgy in motion. We have had a few

people who have graciously stepped in to lead Morning Prayer or Liturgy of the Word when I have been away, and I would love for others who may want to give it a try to have an opportunity. You might even find it to be fun! (Plus, the presider has the best view in the house with the Sunrise window, in my opinion).

Summertime is such a busy time, and doesn't it go by in a blink? In the month ahead, however, the harvest remains plentiful, but the laborers are few. I hope that you can find time to participate in these important ministries, meet some new people, and have a great time. And if you have family and friends who might be up for it, go ahead and pass it along.

Stay cool,  
Fr. Brian

### Prall Family Vacation

The Pralls will be leaving on their annual vacation to the Adirondacks July 24<sup>th</sup> and returning late August 8<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Brian plans to be gone Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. Due to limited availability of supply clergy, Liturgy of the Word will be held on those Sundays. Details for pastoral care in the event of an emergency are still being worked out, though Fr. Brian will be reachable via email and from there can get to town where there is better cell service to check in.

## Grace Church News & Events

***FACC Meal Donation Sunday*** is July 2nd.

***ECW NEWS*** Greeting to the Women of Grace,

At our June gathering, besides having a wonderful time of fellowship, we discussed many opportunities for outreach. We voted to send \$125 to the Diocesan ECW as our church's "Fair Share". We were informed of the ceiling collapse in the women's dorm at FACC; we voted to send a donation of \$300 to help with the repairs. We also were told of a summer program for youth called Hope WINS! This local program offers activities and daytime care for children with specific needs not met elsewhere. We voted to send \$500 to help with this program.

Our next meeting will be held at NOON at The Muse Winery in Cedarville on Friday, July 7th. You may choose your lunch off their large menu: salads, soup, flatbreads, sandwiches, rice bowls, and wraps. Please note that this will be on the 2nd Friday of July, at 12:00. Please contact me (text, email, or phone) with your reservation. Also, please let me know if you need transportation.

Enjoy these beautiful summer days!

Peace to all,

Connie B.

[cburden43@gmail.com](mailto:cburden43@gmail.com)

815-789-3181

***People of Grace Breakfast*** - Saturday, July 15th, 8:00am at 9 East Coffee Shop. All are welcome to attend.

***Vestry Meeting*** - Sunday, July 16th after the 9:00am service.

**FACC Donation** for July is chunky soup.

**Rock River Canoe/Kayak Trip** We have had to change the date of the canoe trip from July 15 to Saturday September 9. Briefly, the plan is to drift/paddle from Oregon to the our house on the Rock River. Even if you don't want to get on the water please join us for lunch. Please mark your calendars, full details to follow. Allison and John Gush

## Afternoon at the Theatre

We have reserved a block of Tickets for September 17 at 2:00 for the performance of *Church Basement Ladies* at Timber Lake Playhouse. The cost will be \$25.00 per person. Please let Mike Shore ([theshorefamily@comcast.net](mailto:theshorefamily@comcast.net)) 815-233-0507 if you would like to attend.

Book by Jessica Zuehlke and Jim Stowell  
Music and Lyrics by Drew Jansen

A celebration of the church basement kitchen and the women who work there, *Church Basement Ladies* is a musical comedy featuring four distinct characters and their relationships as they organize the food and solve the problems of a rural Minnesota church about to undergo changes in 1965. From the elderly matriarch of the kitchen to the young bride-to-be learning the proper order of things, we see them handle a record-breaking Christmas dinner, the funeral of a dear friend, a Hawaiian Easter fundraiser, and a steaming hot July wedding. They stave off potential disasters, share and debate recipes, instruct the young, and keep the pastor on course while thoroughly enjoying, (and tolerating) each other as the true "steel magnolias" of the church. Funny, down to earth, and is inspired by the humorous book *Growing Up Lutheran* by Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson.

Mike Shore

## Treasurer's Report

Below is a comparison of the first 5 months of 2023 financial results compared to 2022.

	2023	2022	Difference	2023 Annual Budget	Per Cent of Budget
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>113235</b>	<b>80876</b>	<b>32359</b>	<b>219832</b>	<b>52%</b>
Expenses:					
Personnel Costs	60837	58211	2626	138922	44%
Bldg. & Grounds	35882	25756	10126	50767	71%
Diocese Pledge	3750	3542	208	9000	41%
Other Expense	9713	(233)	9946	21550	45%
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>110182</b>	<b>87276</b>	<b>22906</b>	<b>220239</b>	<b>50%</b>
Gain(Loss)	3053	(6400)	9453	(407)	

If you look at the comparison of the 2023 results compared to 2022 for the same period of time you will see that we are tight on target. I have also added a new column showing how much we budgeted for revenue and expenses for the whole year of 2023. I think we are far enough into the year so we can start comparing actual results with the budget. I have also added a column showing what per cent of our budgeted revenues we have received and how much of our budgeted expenses we have incurred. Five months is 42% of the year so that is the amount we are looking for. Our revenue received is 52% of our budget which is what we expect to see. The one expense item that stands out is Building & Grounds. So far we have spent 71% of the total budgeted for the year. This is because 70% of our heating

costs are in the first five months and we have paid for the annual premiums for property and liability insurance. The total amount is \$14,000. This will even out as the year progresses. Please call me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Duane Price, Treasurer  
815-233-0006  
daprice68@yahoo.com



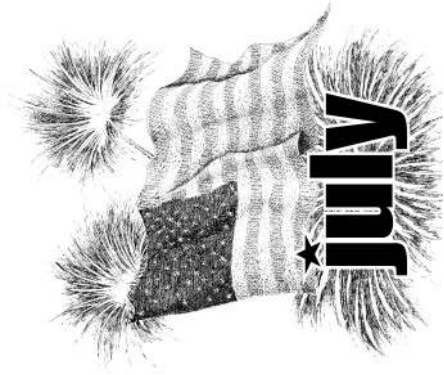
*July*

4th Ann Elmer  
6th Owen Helm  
19th Martha Furst

5th Brian & Ellen Prall  
11th Skip & Mary Lehnhard  
19th John & Elizabeth Woodward

***Deadline*** for the August "Messenger" will be July 14th

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July Newsletter