



## THE PROCLAIMER

### Do We Get a Mulligan Year?

Have you ever heard of a “mulligan?” It is a poor (or in my case, bad) golfer’s term. It’s a term that means, “Oops, I really messed that up—can I have a do-over shot?” For some golfers, it is a gift that isn’t wasted, and the “do-over” is usually, but not always, better than the first shot. In my particular case, it would be for comic relief.

This year. Many people have wanted a mulligan. COVID-19 has caused a massive paradigm shift on how we do everything. Many now “office” from home—a thought unthinkable just one year ago. We have virtual doctor’s visits, plenty of Zooming and face-timing, and even virtual online church services. Did you picture that happening here—even as late as December? That wasn’t even on my radar.

There is little doubt that this first half of the year has not been “according to plan,” as one might say. The real question is, “Whose plan?” Hospitalized three times since I arrived, the last one with the original coronavirus carrier from Wuhan—then a pandemic that causes us to close down the second Sunday of March, losing a secretary to another job—none of these were in my playbook coming here, I was charged with the task of making this church grow. None of these is in the playbook to making that happen. Not a single one.

You and I like to think we are in control. The fact is, as Christians, we are not in control. This verse has come back to me time and time again during this crisis: **“A man’s heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps” (Proverbs 16:9, NKJV)**. This verse simply says what we already know: we have an all-powerful, all-knowing, God who knows and knows what is best for us.

Did God lose the road map for His creation? What exactly is going on here?

Let me start with this question: What is your dream for this congregation? Do you want to see it over the next ten years grow in size, and more importantly, effective ministry? We can look at congregations around us and say, “Gee, I wish we were like that!”

I DON’T.

One of the greatest truths is this: if you want to grow, and succeed in anything you do, you will encounter one thing: OBSTACLES. Every congregation you want this congregation to be like had their unique set of obstacles to overcome.

One of my favorite TV shows is “Searching for the Lost Gold of World War II.” Some of these men have been after this treasure for over a decade. They have finally closed in on where they think it is located. But there are obstacles that have been placed in the way of anyone getting to the treasure.

They know two things: first, that there is treasure, and second, they are very close. If you were say, within 100 feet of a vast treasure, would any obstacle thwart your attempt to get it?

We have encountered setbacks this year, no doubt about that. However, every setback, every problem, and every mistake brings with it a unique teaching opportunity. Each problem brings with it a chance to learn, a chance to grow, a chance to become greater as a congregation.

This past Sunday, we experienced one of those problems. Just before we were set to start the service, Deacon Mike lost all the sound to the service. There simply was no time to go in and fix it. At that moment, we were toast. We simply could not broadcast the service.

That was frustrating to both of us.



**FROM THE DEACON:****What's Good about America**

June 20, 2020

Last August I wrote an article: "What's Good About America." It was written in the wake of the killings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio. The rhetoric at the time was being supercharged, and political leaders were trying to figure out what more they can take away from American citizens; what do they need to do increase their control over us and give more power to the State and Federal Government to protect us from their perceptions of evil.

The horrific events in El Paso and Dayton are pretty much forgotten. They have been replaced by Corona Virus, Government lockdowns and civil unrest in response to an evil act.

Although the international pandemic and how we deal with it affect us in different ways, the political leaders have assumed as much control as they can over our rights while claiming to be doing it for our own good. But I am not so sure of that.

When it comes to the graphic loss of an individual life and liberty as witnessed in Minneapolis; we see that evil people do evil things. This tragic event has brought additional evil to the surface that needs to be seriously discussed before violence takes over and everyone's rights are trampled upon.

Free Speech should be free, but it is not without consequence. Confronting what you hear with violence is not an acceptable consequence. Cancelling a dissenting person or voice is also an unacceptable consequence. We should listen until we hear what is being said. Understanding and accepting or rejecting the perspective of the speaker does not require a confrontational response. Our response should be directed at communication and persuasion not confrontation, accusation, and a total rejection of an individual's humanity.

Our right to liberty allows us to live and associate freely with others in a peaceful way; in the spirit of a community that recognizes the value of all people and all Americans. We can be members of open or closed-minded groups that share and influence our values. But again, we are not given the right to impinge on the safety, security, and liberty of others in our or their pursuit of happiness.

In the beginning the downfall of man was an ability to recognize the difference between good and evil. Today it is still hard to describe evil. We know it when we see it. But it does not mean we should demonize people we disagree with as evil; they are Americans too. Our political leaders cannot legislate away true evil; but they should stop making rules against good.

Our Nation's founding values include freedom from a government religion and freedom from government prohibition on the free exercise of religion. In our quest for safety and security we recognize laws created by man to protect our citizens and our way of life. But along the way other rules created by man have gotten in the way of teaching what is good. In the absence of describing evil, can we describe what is good and teach it to our children and live it with each other?

When we take away things that are good and right like discipline or caring for our neighbors, we make the prevalence and acceptance of evil more difficult to overcome. Shouldn't we be able to show and teach each other what is good and right?



Currently, we do not have a way to get feedback. Mike Konicke indicated that he would like to see a way to advertise when the recording of the church service is happening and he believes that some people would attend during the recording to see how it goes.

Mike Ryan suggested that there be a Web-Ex training session. He would, also, like to see a Membership Bible Study “on line”.

Everyone is anxious to be able to hold “in person” church services and according to the WA State Governor’s Shelter-in Place Directive that would not be until Phase III of the Directive which would authorize group meetings of 50 people or less with an indoor capacity of 50% and June 21<sup>st</sup> would be the first Sunday that, that would be effective.

A Task Force should be identified to make sure that proper sanitizing and Social Distancing is provided. Guidelines for that need to be identified, as well.

### Financial Secretary

Mike Ryan sent out reports for March and April

Church Offerings have been surprisingly strong as people have been continuing to give. Living Word Church has shutdown their payments for use of the facility.

But, comparing from 2019 to 2020, at the same time, giving has been \$4,200 less than 2019.

~~We have a positive cash flow at this time.~~ **We do not have a positive cash flow. For the last two months we have had a \$9,351 negative cash flow. After income and expenses, YTD 2020 is that we are \$28,247 behind 2019. We have enough cash on hand to cover us through the 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr, until we begin to grow again.** We are still up-to-date on paying bills. A letter to the congregation would be good to let folks know about the need for donations.

It was stated that we should be willing to absorb the 2% handling cost of an on-line giving option. Also, we should still allow folks to send in their donations by mail or drop them off at the church. There should, be a place on-line as well, on the Home Page ?, where people can submit Prayer Requests and advertise “virtual” Mid-Week Bible Study.

**Motion was made to give Mike Ryan James Koch and Helen Holton the “go ahead” to implement a tool for “on-line” giving and report to Council their findings. It was seconded by Margaret--PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### New Business

Mike Ryan stated that the insurance claims for loss have been submitted and are “in process”.

Mike, also, stated that there has been no progress on the selling of the wooded property. He is thinking we should contact a different Real Estate.

In regard to complying with the re-opening of the church building in compliance to Governor Inslee’s Phase III reopening of churches, Jackie stated that “Everyone should wear masks and & we should have them available. We should strive for limiting to 25 people to begin with. There should be a Task Force in place to wipe things down. Should we implement a way to take peoples’ temperatures from a distance?

May 17 Voters’ Meeting should be cancelled until we are up-and-running and schedule a new meeting.

Meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer at 8:09 pm

Respectfully Submitted  
Margaret Dildine  
Council Secretary

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 8, 2020

**Members Present:** Mike Konicke (President), Mark Anderson (Pastor), Mike Ryan (Treasurer/Deacon), Marvin Lauterbach (Elder), James Koch (Financial Secretary), Margaret Dildine (Council Secretary) Jackie Fannin (Fellowship)--

Jackie and Margaret attended virtually by phone

**Absent:** Lonnie Hendrix, (Vice President), Kathy Lawson (Outreach/Evangelism/Stewardship) Walt Ziebell, (Elder)

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

Pastor Anderson led with prayer

Meeting Minutes for May 11 Need to be Amended to include Mike Ryan's Report

**Pastor/ Elder's/ Deacon Report**

There were technical difficulties with the on-line church service on Sunday, June 7. Mike Ryan logged in on Monday June 8 and it played. He posted a revised version that day around mid-day. The sound was improved and the video color was better. There are 3 cameras. He had to do 3 re-starts when it got overloaded. He is working on improvements and they are in-process for use this Sunday and the following Sunday. They will be live-stream on Facebook.

Pastor Anderson stated that we are now in Phase II of the Governor's Plan to Re-open. Phase II directs that churches are approved to have group meetings of 50 members or 25% of Building capacity. He believes that that will not cause us any constraints.

He believes that it would be too early to target this coming Sunday for re-opening as he feels it's important to get the word out to our members that we are ready to re-open. A Pastoral Letter needs to be sent out stating that June 21 is the goal for re-opening. June 21 will be a Communion Service. There are 50 masks on order and items for safe distribution of Communion have been ordered. There will be an Easter celebration as we were not able to do it on the calendar date of April 12 due to "sheltering-in place".

There will be a table in the back of the church allowing for people to give their offerings before and after the service. Adequate precautions will be taken. We will try to procure a touchless thermometer, but expect people to examine themselves and not attend if feeling ill. Mike Ryan, Marv Lauterbach and Pastor Anderson will be here in June 21.

Vaccines take a long time and each of us need to do our part to protect everyone. Most of us feel safe in our local area.

We have not given any "green light" to Living Word Church for facility use at this time. We may consider allowing facility use by Phase III of the Governor's directives.

It was mentioned that we should be focusing some attention on yard work for the church.

E-mails have gone out to potential members. We are trying to stay in touch and will make contact with the names on the list.

**Financial Secretary**

James Koch gave a report of \$1,900 of on line donations.

This was from current members. There were "O" donations from non-members.

There is a slide on U-tube video that shows the process.

He has been requested to give a weekly update regarding online giving.

There was a \$500 donation reported on Tithely last week.

Mike Ryan stated that Church Mutual has processed our claim for the stolen mover and lawn equipment. There will be a \$1,000 reduction for depreciation. We should be getting a net amount of around \$2800. He should receive the written notice next week.

There are miscellaneous expenses for camera purchases.

May ended with a negative cash flow of \$2,635.69 after all income and expenses were accounted for.

Available/unrestricted cash on hand is declining at a slow pace. In spite of not meeting for worship services member giving is holding up quite well both as mail in and online.

Member online giving through the web site link was a net amount of \$1923.68. No non-members contributions were received.

Mike made contract with the Real Estate Agent we met with in January. We confirmed that since he felt our wetlands agreement with the City of Everett in 2002 is a barrier to marketing the property, he has done nothing to move the listing forward. It was agreed that since an agreement to proceed had not been formalized, an official notice to part ways without any responsibility for either party is not needed.

Weekly we are experiencing incremental improvement in recording our worship services and posting them to YouTube/Facebook for Sunday morning viewing. The learning curve to achieve a quality product is very steep.

Pastor Anderson needs a subscription to Lutheran Service Builder.

There is a 3 month extension on the copier. \$398.00

#### **New Business**

Kathy Lawson will be playing the organ.

Khristina Berger will be playing the organ every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday to give Kathy a week off.

Voters' Meeting has been delayed from the original schedule of May 11.

Elders need to contact their assigned folks to ask if they have any problems to be re-introduced back to church services. June 21<sup>st</sup> is the Grand Re-opening.

There will be no Bible Study on June 21.

Pastor Anderson asked about lettering for the signs out front. He was directed to ask Byron Malloy who may know where they are located.

Lisa Kusler is gone now and there have been no responses on the published ad for a replacement.

Mike Konicke suggested the ad be posted on a site called Zip Recruiter.

Mike Ryan suggested contacting the Everett Work Source Center aka Unemployment Office.

Jackie Fannin brought up the fact that we should have sanitizers set out for the church services as well as masks available for anyone who does not have their own. Jackie agreed to have her e-mail address added to the minutes. It is: wackyjackiejf@gmail.com.

Action: was given to Jackie to come up with a list of items that are of concern that will be addressed. Insiders view of requirements of what we need to do at Grace before opening church.

The real estate agent we had in relation to the wooded property sale has dropped out. We will discuss this more at our next meeting.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer at 7:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Dildine  
Council Secretary

#### FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Thank you to all of our members who gave during the quarantine months of March, April, and May. Our offerings were reduced, but mostly held up during the months of quarantine, especially considering that there were no Lenten services. The month of May also saw the launch of our giving portal through Tithely that allows members and visitors to give online. The give online button can be found on our homepage at <http://www.grace-everett.org>

As a reminder, you can give by bringing offerings to church, giving automatically through your bank, mailing offerings to the church office, or by giving online.

James Koch  
Financial Secretary





National logo



District logo



District Biennium logo

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Membership is available to any woman who is a communicant member of a congregation in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Forty districts make up LWML in the United States.

We are in the Washington-Alaska (WA-AK) District; and 11 zones comprise our district. We are in the Mt. Baker Zone. Each zone consists of groups (societies) usually in a congregation. The name of our church society is The Women of Grace.

Carol Davis is the society president. Marilee Ryan is the secretary/treasurer.

We have a Heart to Heart Committee encouraging women of diverse ethnic groups to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness to the world, and grow in relationships.

We also have a Young Woman Committee to energize and mentor younger women to connect and grow in relationships as sisters in Christ.

Donations to WA-AK District help fund the mission grants, twenty-five (25) % of the money goes to LWML to help fund the national grants. Since the beginning of LWML 78 years ago, over ten million dollars has been received through the giving of mites.

With so many gatherings being canceled, the mite donations have, of course, gone down, too. The good news is that all the district grants for the 2018-2020 biennium have been paid, and our 25% obligation to national is also

current!

We will be choosing grants for the next biennium at the district convention in September. We plan to gather at the Great Wolf Lodge September 25-27. Our convention theme is "Walk in the Light". Deb Burma, national speaker and author, will be there presenting the

keynote address and sharing a Bible study. We have two local mission speakers sharing how our district mites have provided for their missions, trips, and activities. Everyone is invited to attend. Please ask Marilee for details.

I invite you to visit our district website at [www.wa-aklwml.org](http://www.wa-aklwml.org) and the LWML website at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).



*Marilee Ryan*

Marilee Ryan, President,

Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Washington-Alaska District

Mark Anderson  
Pastor  
glcpastor8401@gmail.com

Kathy Lawson  
Chairman Board of Stewardship  
Local Missions \$ Focal

Mike Konicke  
Council President  
Chair Building Committee  
mkonicke@aol.com

Lonnie Hendrix  
Vice President

Helen Holton  
Webmaster

Mike Ryan  
Council Treasurer

Margaret Dildine  
Council Secretary

James Koch  
Financial Secretary

Marvin Lauterbach  
Chairman Board of Elders

**JULY CALENDAR NOTES:**

**Independence Day July 4**

**Mite Sunday-July 26**




**Kathy Lauterbach. 2**

**Lois Moa.....8**

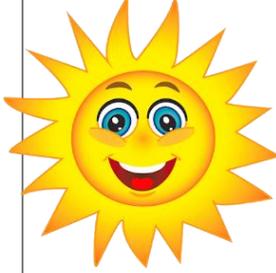
**Mark Anderson.....29**

**Michael Gillespie....31**



- **Rose Mino, recent, health and mobility concerns**
- **Forest Van Duyn, health and mobility concerns**

**JULY 2020**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Happy Birthday Kathy Lautenbach!!!  ELDERS MEETIYING 6:30 PM	3 Happy Birthday Lois Moa!!!!	4 
5 9:00 Education Hour 10:00 Worship Service With Holy Communion	6 <b>CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 6:30PM</b>	7	8	9	10	11 
12 9:00 Education Hour 10:00 Worship Service	13	14	15	16	17	18 
19 9:00 Education Hour 10:00 Worship Service With Holy Communion	20	21	22	23	24	25 
26 9:00 Education Hour 10:00 Worship Service	27	28	29	30	31	



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**  
**LCMS Stewardship Ministry**  
**Newsletter Article – July 2020**



“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And the ruler replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:18-22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.

We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.

Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits - the best from off the top - even as Abel gave the best of generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, his gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament

### Introduction to the Bible

For an organization (the church) to have the same book for so many years, and not know much about it, is unfathomable. Pastor Anderson will introduce the books of the Bible through the newsletter. What you see is a "wool-gathering" about the Bible from Pastor Anderson going back to 1982.

### Books of the Bible: Old Testament

#### Law--5

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

**Genesis:** literally *beginnings*; beginning of world (chapt.1) , man (chapt.1&2), sin (chapt.3), death (chapt.4), different languages (chapt.11), Jewish nation--beginning of fulfillment of Gospel promise (chapt.12, 15).

#### Important Chapters/verses/events/people:

Creation--Chapter 1

first Gospel message--Genesis 3:15

The Flood--Genesis 6

Important Chapters/verses/events/people:

Beginning of Jewish people (Abraham) Genesis 12,15

Covenant with Abraham--Genesis 17 (foreshadowing of Baptism)

Life of Joseph--Genesis 37-50

Exodus: Account of Israel leaving slavery of Egypt to go to promised land; focus is on Moses, Aaron, and Israel (nation)

Important Chapters/verses/events/people:

Moses called by God to deliver Israel--Exodus 3

Ten Plagues of Egypt--Ex.7:14-11:10

The Passover--Ex.12-13

The Ten Commandments Given--Ex.20

The Golden Calf--Ex.32

Leviticus: written to tell about worship of Israel; contains many things which help us to understand the New Testament--two important chapters to remember:

Chapt.16--Deals with Day of Atonement--picture of our sins being dealt with

Chapt.23--The Feasts of Israel--Includes Sabbath, Passover, Pentecost--7 in all

Numbers: The Book of Numbers deals mainly with the Wilderness wanderings of Israel--the 40 yrs. they spent wandering around the desert because of their disobedience. Very Important chapters here though--

Chapt.11--rebellion of Israel against God

Chapt.14--Israel refuses to go into the promised land

Chapt.21--Fiery Serpents--VERY IMPORTANT CHAPTER--PICTURE OF CROSS--the Bronze serpent

Chapt.25--23,000 die because of sexual immorality (cont. back to p.8)

Deuteronomy--literally *second law*--*deutero=two, nomos=law*--second giving of the Law (10 Commandments) by Moses--

Important Chapters/verses/events/people of Deuteronomy

Deut.5--10 Commandments

Deut.6--The Great Shema "Hear O Israel"

Deut.16--The Feasts of Israel

Deut.19--The Cities of Refuge

Deut.30--Covenant Accepted By Israel

Deut.32--The Death of Moses



## Grace Lutheran Church

8401 Holly Drive  
Everett, WA 98208  
(425)353-1852  
Web: [www.grace-everett.org](http://www.grace-everett.org)  
Email: [gracelcms8@gmail.com](mailto:gracelcms8@gmail.com)