

June 2021

Graceline

Grace Lutheran Church E-newsletter

Living in Between

It feels like an in between time to me. We've come through sixteen months of pandemic living. We've been through many phases of isolation and waiting. We've witnessed how science searches, studies and moves back and forward. Now we're stepping out into a changed world, feeling our way into life together. It feels like we're in between with possibilities all around.

Grace Lutheran wants to enjoy this moment of in between with possibilities all around. The leadership has a spirit of courage and hope in this in between time. There's no need to go back to what was for security or comfort. There's no need to rush to a set vision of what will be for security or comfort. The possibilities are our dwelling place for now and it is enough.

The summer begins Ordinary Time in the seasons of the church. It extends to the end of October giving us plenty of time to hear the Bible stories of ordinary folks living as disciples. I've always heard Ordinary Time with a bit of sarcasm. It is a joyful proclamation that my life, your life, our daily lives that we can experience as ordinary are being shaped by God. God chooses the ordinary to touch the world.

“We can be messengers to the world...”

Maybe this season of the church year could be called In Between Time. We can enjoy these months hearing stories of God's kingdom come through ordinary lives without needing to seek comfort in the past or future. We can be messengers to the world that in between possibilities can stir us to new visions. We can be comforters to the world that in between possibilities can heal and bring peace.

Christians are used to in between time. We enter it with courage, hope and excitement at what God can do.

See you there,
Pastor Cindy



Grace Members.

As we have begun in person worship after 15 months of Zoom worship we are trying to get committees set up again.



I will be taking on the responsibility for Ushers as of now. We will begin in June. I'm hoping that you will be interested in being on this committee.

There are only a few responsibilities for the usher:

1. arrive about 15 minutes prior to worship.
2. Hand out bulletins which are located on the right side shelf going into the sanctuary. There will be several large print bulletins for those that need it.
3. Close the sanctuary and office doors after announcements.
4. Light the candle lighter for the acolyte (as of now the acolyte is the lay assistant until youth are back in attendance).
5. Assist with managing Zoom service.
6. Count members in attendance and if possible Zoom attendance and record it on attendance sheet on shelf where bulletins are located.
7. The usher will pass the offering plate during the offering time and return it to the lay assistant who will receive it.
8. During communion the usher will direct members to the communion table. The dates needed in June are: June 6, 13, 20, and 27.
9. A separate sheet will be forthcoming to sign up on.

Thank you,
Shirley Shay



Finance Update

Our expenses exceeded our income in April by \$2,617.32. We received a water bill for over \$600 because of the broken pipe in the TEC. When I reported that to the water company, they credited us with \$577. Thank you for your continued faithful giving.

Sheila Moldenhauer, Treasurer

April		2021 YTD	
Operating Income	\$10,406.10	Operating Income	\$76,329.63
Operating Expenses	\$13,023.42	Operating Expenses	\$73,621.47



Grace's Offering and Outreach

Grace's offering and outreach includes Meals on Wheels and the Round Rock Serving Center. MOW will resume their daily deliveries out of Grace house August 23, 2021.

Meals on Wheels is Amazing!



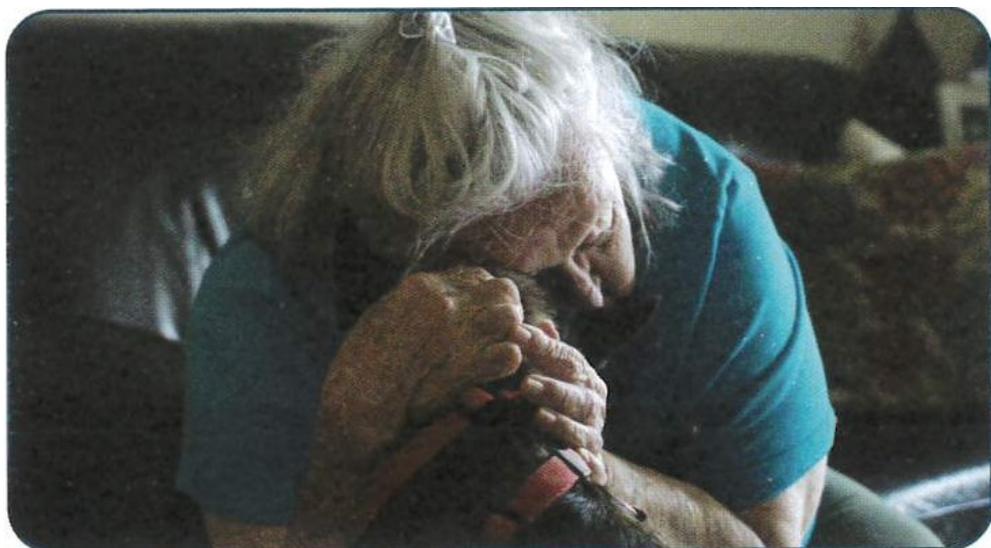
Winter Storm Response.

This February, a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, our community was hit by an unprecedented winter storm that affected our clients, volunteers and staff. But it was also a moment that really showed the strength of community. Everyone came together to help those affected by the storm damage, and power and water outages.

During the storm, the Meals on Wheels Central Texas Client Services team called all of our clients even from their driveways—charging phones in their cars when their own homes lost power—to ensure they were safe and warm. In the aftermath of the storm, many of the older adults we serve were in need of food and clean drinking water. Right away, 200 dedicated volunteers answered our “call to action” by delivering donated emergency meals and clean drinking water to our senior neighbors.

After the storm left our region, we received calls from clients who were still experiencing home damage due to frozen water pipes. Our Home Repair team worked every day of the week to fix pipes and other structural damage as a result of the storm. Thank you to everyone in our community who donated, volunteered and advocated for our mission to care for homebound elders when they needed us the most.

Older Americans Month 2021: Communities of Strength



Eva McKay credits her furry companion, dog Maizey, with saving her life. Maizey kept rubbing against her neck—where she had been experiencing pain—and it prompted her to see the doctor. That is when she found out she had cancer.

And while her furry friend supports her during these hard times, the MOWCTX Pets Assisting the Lives of Seniors (PALS) program helps Ms. McKay care for Maizey. The program provides free pet food and veterinary care to our senior clients and their animal companions. She says she is thankful for assistance: “...just somebody caring enough about me and Maizey. Forget about me, caring for Maizey. Because Maizey is a special being.”



PALS

Greater Austin Pet Food and Veterinary Care
Assistance for Pets of Seniors



WHAT PALS DOES

ELIGIBILITY



To receive services from PALS:

- You must already be receiving home-delivered meal service from Meals on Wheels Central Texas.
- Your pet must be a dog or a cat. We are unable to provide services for other animals.

Pets in the home must be spayed/neutered already, or the client must agree to have PALS pay for that surgery.

PET FOOD ASSISTANCE

PALS provides free dog and cat food on a monthly basis to more than 450 pets owned by current Meals on Wheels Central Texas clients. Pets get the food they need and our clients, many of whom are socially isolated, benefit from interaction with our pet-loving volunteers.

PALS (Pets Assisting the Lives of Seniors) provides assistance in caring for the pets of current Meals on Wheels Central Texas clients.

A pet can provide much needed companionship and help to reduce the isolation and loneliness that many of the homebound seniors and adults with disabilities we serve experience.

VETERINARY CARE ASSISTANCE

PALS provides access to, and payment for, veterinary care for current Meals on Wheels Central Texas clients. In order to provide these services, we partner with two other local non-profit organizations: Emancipet and the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation (TVMF). TVMF recruits partner veterinarians to provide veterinary care, and also donates all of the vaccines, heartworm preventative, and flea preventative that PALS pets receive annually. Through these partnerships, PALS will provide annual veterinary care (exams, vaccinations and preventatives) for more than 450 pets this year alone. In addition, our partnership with the TVMF allows us to assist pets with larger medical procedures such as heartworm treatment, dental extractions and mass removals.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

PALS also works with volunteers and community partners to provide services such as grooming and trap-neuter-release of stray and feral cats, all at no charge to clients.

PALS is able to easily utilize donations of cat litter, as well as dry and canned cat and dog food. We also accept new or gently used pet supply items such as collars, leashes, bedding, toys, scratching posts, etc... Donations may be dropped off at Meals on Wheels Central Texas at 3227 East 5th Street, Monday through Thursday, 8am to 5pm, and Friday, 8am to 2:30pm.



For more info on MOWCTX other programs visit:

www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org

click under the Other Programs tab at the top of the page.



TEXAS
VETERINARY MEDICAL
FOUNDATION

VETERINARY CARE FOR PALS PETS IS PROVIDED IN PART THROUGH THE TEXAS VETERINARY MEDICAL FOUNDATION. PALS IS GRATEFUL FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION.

COVID-19 Update

It has been one year of COVID19. COVID19 abruptly altered the operation at the Round Rock Area Serving Center. The Serving Center closed the facility to the public on March 18, 2020, and began a drive-through food distribution the same day. The offices, pantry, and stores were closed. After ten weeks, the drive-through food distribution was converted to a curbside pick-up. The stores reopened on a part-time basis after two and a half months but continue to operate with reduced hours.



The caseload for 2020 increased by 102% and 16,364 households were assisted. A total of 52,488 people were helped and 1.8 million lbs of food were processed through the food pantry. Utility assistance increased by 134% and housing assistance increased by 402%. In 2020, a total of **\$3,444,628** was spent on program services. As of March 2021, the Serving Center spent \$3.8 million on assistance for COVID19 impacted families.



For information about programs and services at RRASC visit: www.rrasc.org/what-we-do/

Round Rock Serving Center food pantry is currently in need of recycled bags. Please save and bring your used grocery sacks to the food pantry.



New Cleaning Company

During the pandemic Perry Wall submitted his resignation for the custodial position. He is still employed as our Maintenance staff. The Church Council has employed ERA Janitorial Solutions, LLC. to

clean our 3 buildings. They will be cleaning overnight on Saturdays. They use a hospital grade disinfectant. They cleaned for the first time Saturday, May 22, the day before our first in person Worship Service.

We are excited about this new partnership.
The Church Council



PRAYER REQUESTS

Michael Campbell, who is in the Army, begins a one-year tour of duty in South Korea. May God's wisdom and the gift of duty guide him through this deployment.

Caroline Meadows has graduated from the Naval Academy Preparatory School. We rejoice with her at her accomplishment and pray that it lift her and guide her future.

Terry Petocz (Kari W. friend) hospitalized with heart issues. Received both a pacemaker and a defibrillator to steady the beat of her heart. She is back home recovering. May God's care comfort and strengthen her to full recovery.

Jan Czenkusch Recovering from hospitalization. May God send her strength and health.

Darlene Richards May God bless her new home that she feels peace and ease living there.

Shareen Hiemke (friend of Grace) Beginning chemo treatments. May Shareen feel God's loving, calming and healing presence.

Terry Cox (Kathy Thomas' friend) undergoing chemo & radiation treatment for esophageal cancer in preparation for surgery. Through is time may God's wisdom lead the medical team and strengthen Terry.

Siva & Aditi's family in India (Kathy Thomas' coworkers) besieged with COVID19. May the world reach out to assist India and may God bring peace into their hearts that are so far away from family.

Marty Heany (Sue M friend)- has died. May the peace of God that passes all understanding surround his wife, Kristy, 2 girls and Sue with the endless love.

Val (Valarie's father) Various medical appointments. We pray for wisdom, peace and strength as Valarie travels and cares for her dad. May he adjust to these new challenges so that he can remain where he is, which is what he wishes to do.

Emilio Soto (Cheryl McVay's in-law) has been living with critical medical issues since last summer. He has been treated for multiple brain bleeds over the past weeks but is able to return home. May God's hand reach into his life with power and comfort.

Prayer list changes-Names will remain on the list for up to 4 weeks unless kariw@graceline.org is contacted with an update for the list.



PRAYER REQUESTS

John Pfaff (Bill's brother) has been diagnosed with colon cancer. He will have chemotherapy. May God's wisdom fill his medical staff and God's peace be with him.

David Moldenhauer (Sheila's brother-in-law) is recovering from heart bypass surgery and having a pacemaker implanted. May his recovery be complete, and God's love be his strength.

Families of the dead 3.42M of COVID19 throughout the world. Hear the cries of those who mourn and bring peace from heaven.

Essential Workers, Nursing Homes, Care Centers, Prisons and Detention Centers -that life and safety may be protected. May God reach out to bring courage and comfort.



Birthdays

- 1 Shirley Bowman
- 2 Gary Wilson
- 3 Charlotte M. Reemts
- 8 Shannon Crippen
- 13 Brayden Michael Wilson
- 20 Erin Smith
- 26 Emily Saccone Canady
- 29 Shirley Shay
- 30 Tyler Elsass

Anniversaries

- 1 Jan & Jim Czenkusch (1975)
- 7 Angela & AJ Sjolander (2010)
- 17 Kelly & Ed Fahrenkrug (1989)
- 20 Joyce & Ralph Remmert (1959)
- 28 Mary Ellen & Troy Campbell (1990)



4-6 Online Synod Assembly

Every Sunday @ 10:30a Sunday Worship

Every Monday @7p- Women's Study

June 20 Father's Day

June 23 @ 6:30p-Council Meeting on Zoom

