

August 26, 2020

Greetings all!

Aside from a snake that somehow made its way inside the building, by all accounts the first day of school went quite well. I know the faculty and staff were glad to see the kids and the kids seemed very happy to be here. As for the snake, Ms. Gromowski cornered the poor critter, coaxed it into a recycling bin and released it outside. With a cold shiver on a hot summer day she said, "I hate those things." I learned later it was about six inches long with the diameter of a pipe cleaner.

Last week the school staff jointly decided that all classes for enrolled students will also be made available online, depending on the preference of the families. You can imagine how this adds an extra layer of work and complexity for our teachers. Without exception, however, each agreed it was a good idea. They are doing it without complaint to serve our families. Currently, about a half dozen of our 150 children are choosing to learn online. We expect that number to ebb and flow. Please continue praying for the safety of our children, staff and families. It's both cute and sad to see little ones donning masks.

At the start of the day Amy and Heather are engaged in welcoming the students, taking temperatures, and asking the requisite health questions. Therefore, Dee has agreed to start her day a little earlier. Her new hours are 7:45-2:15. This will enable her to help with the daily slew of phone calls that come before the start of the school day.

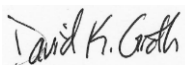
I'd love to have enough seating outdoors so that a full classroom of kids could take a mask break and enjoy a period of instruction outside. I'll need permission from the trustees, plus a lot of help, but we have lots of space and it seems this could be a nice addition for our school, youth group, even for the occasional meeting or Bible Study. Famed Wisconsin conservationist Aldo Leopold designed a simple but sturdy bench/seat that could serve well. If I can round up the permission and money for this project, is there a woodworker in the house to take this on? Are there helpers for an assembling line? Shoot me an email!

As I mentioned last weekend, I've asked our musicians to start playing at least ten minutes prior to every service. I also encouraged them to start with something peaceful and soothing, perhaps a sort of theme song and warm-up piece to help us prepare for worship. I'd encourage you to come a few minutes early for meditation and prayer.

Please pray for Phylis Zellmer, Robert Wheeler, Marge Goecke, Wendy Wilson, Agnes Thurow, John Block, Jim Strege, Patricia Fox, Eva Finger, Suzy Lapin and Carol Johnson (sister of Dorothy Wegner).

I close with the memory verse for this week. Given the daily news, it's quite relevant. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

Please read it again slowly and internalize it with a couple of deep breaths.



Pastor Groth