



# The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502

November 18, 2014

## **Advent Activities**

Advent is the season in which we prepare for Christ's birth. Here at Grace, we have many opportunities for you in which to participate in as we prepare for Jesus' coming. Please post this list on your calendar and plan to attend.

### **November 30**

1st Sunday in Advent: Worship - 9:00 AM

Gingerbread House Building and Suzuki Strings Students concert - 2:00 PM

### **December 3**

Advent Vespers - 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

### **December 7**

2nd Sunday in Advent: Worship—9:00 AM

Advent Lessons and Carols - 2:00 PM at Grace

### **December 10**

Advent Vespers - 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

### **December 14**

3rd Sunday in Advent: Worship—9:00 AM

10th Annual Bells of Grace Christmas Concert -- 7:00 PM

### **December 17**

Advent Vespers - 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

### **December 21**

4th Sunday in Advent: Worship—9:00 AM

Sunday School Christmas Program (A Hanging of the Greens Service) -- 10:30 AM, followed by a chili lunch provided by the Grace Youth Group

## *Pastor's Prayers*

Dear Friends in Christ,

This past month I've turned my thoughts to the great need we humans have for communication. The need for improved communication is always around us, but during a transition time, it's especially important.

You know this word communication has a really simple definition: to send or receive a message. To transfer information. To exchange ideas. Did I just use the adjective "simple?" Ha! I'm guessing we all know how hard it is to communicate with each other – yet we must try.

For example, in our congregation we have people whose ages span four generations. And each generation in the past hundred years has learned new technologies to communicate. And so, with the blessing of people of all ages around us, we have to use varied methods for getting the word out! From meeting times to celebration events, from prayer concerns to invites for a small group. Each generation is important, and each generation may use a subset of all the communication methods available to us.

Just think about it - a hundred years ago people were beginning to install telephones in houses. Now we all have phones, and most of us have cell phones. So we talk and text both. (But never while driving!) Thirty years ago some households began to have a computer in their home. Now, many of us have computers and email or social media are a daily routine. Of course there is much more out there!

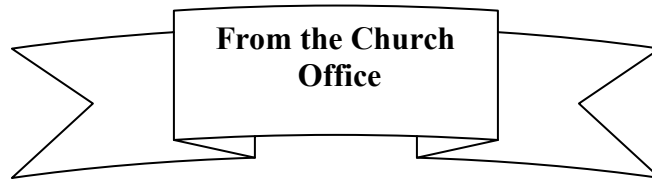
Our wonderful staff at church are working together to be more intentional about communicating to all the people. But, please remember - communication is a "two-way street." We can work extra hard to get the announcements out in multiple ways: email, snail mail, bulletin boards, our website at [www.egrace.org](http://www.egrace.org), and so on, but you still have to read it. If we use things to grab your attention, like pictures, color, graphics, and the like – you'll have to stop and look at it.

Here's just one example of how we're trying to use multiple methods to communicate. On another page of this newsletter we have reprinted the latest article from Bishop Brian Maas. It first appeared on the Synod website, then in a small printed piece mailed to congregations for people to pick up, and now it's re-printed in our congregation's newsletter. See the ways to communicate? Hearing from our bishop is important enough to try to ensure you've seen it.

As we take a good look at these things around Grace Lutheran Church, it will be important for us to remember the most important communication of all is prayer! That's how we "speak" with God and how we "listen" for God's message to us. Now, as we enter this Advent season – let's remember how God is communicating to us through sending his Son to live among us.

Blessings and prayers, Pastor Sylvia

P.S. Please make it a habit to look up our Churchwide and Synod happenings at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) or [nebraskasynod.org](http://nebraskasynod.org). I'm confident you will find lots to learn about the wider ELCA.



**Ill or Hospitalized:** Claire Baumann, Phyllis Krueger, Ted Weigandt, Larry Clymer, Susan Paschold

**Welcome to our newest members:** Rev. Megan Morrow, Rev. Terry & Jill Cosier

**Bulletins have been shared by :** Pr Bob & Darlene Rademacher [Living Water Church, Sun Prairie, WI] Phyllis Narveson [Zion Lutheran Church, Amor, MN; First Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN]; Connie Whyrick [Edensburg Lutheran, Malmo, NE]

**Pastor Sylvia is available by cell phone at 308-995-7161.** If you have any pastoral care emergency, please do not hesitate to call her. You may text her also. She also likes to meet people, and enjoys visiting over a cup of coffee!

**The council would like to thank** those who agreed to have their name on the ballot for council elections this year. Congratulations to Margaret Gipson, Barbara Smith, Dennis Berens, Jacob Krueger, Teddi Reckling and Steve Rosno.

**If you haven't returned your Fearless Generosity Investment Card for 2015,** they are available in the church office.

**2015 offering envelopes** are ready to be picked up! They are located in the atrium.

**Acolytes needed!** For our upcoming festival services (especially Christmas Eve and Christmas Day), we need more acolytes! Adults are very welcome to serve in this role; please contact the office if you are willing to do so.

**The deadline for the next Greeter will be Friday, December 12.** It will be mailed on Tuesday, December 16. Please make sure to have all your articles submitted by the 12th. Thanks!

**A YEAR-END GIFT FOR OUR MINISTRY** – As we come to the end of 2014, it's a great time to count our blessings! It's also a great time to make an extra year-end donation to keep our community strong! If we could finish the year by meeting our current spending plan goal, then our council has a great start to managing expenses going into the new year. Let's remember that God has abundant blessings flowing over us – for the last 125 years – for this transition time – for going into the future! A blue offering envelope is in the pew holder for your extra Advent contribution. Or you may drop it off or send it into the church office. Please be generous.



**Breathe...**

I've never been much of an athlete, maybe because I've always had Exercise Induced Asthma. My body gets ahead of my breathing, and I have an asthma attack. When I was first diagnosed, my octogenarian small-town doctor didn't want to write a prescription and advised instead, "Just slow down sooner." When I asked what would happen if I didn't slow down soon enough and experienced a really serious attack, he replied, "Well, eventually you'll pass out and your breathing will return to normal on its own." He was a big fan of no-nonsense medicine.

Thanks to no-nonsense medicine, I still know what asthma attacks feel like. For years, I thought the asthmatic attack meant I was getting too little air, and in my pained panic I would always try to breathe in even more deeply. I eventually learned that the problem isn't getting too little new air in, it's getting the old air out. Concentrating on exhaling rather than inhaling helps.

St. Paul's image of the Church as the Body of Christ continues to inspire vivid imagery—including the imagery of asthma. No human body survives, let alone thrives, without a steady rhythm of breathing in and breathing out. In the Church, that has to do with a community being gathered in for worship, inspiration and learning, and then sent out to be Christ's voice, hands and feet in the world.

But we're in an era when the air has gotten a little thin and our breathing has gotten a little ragged. The Body of Christ—or at least the parts of it which most North American Christians claim as their denominations—isn't as vital as it once was. The cultural pressure that once drove people into congregations' doors isn't there any more—and in fact, is more likely pulling people out. We all know stories of congregations struggling with unhealthy trends of membership, participation, support.

Too many of us—and I'm at the front of the line here—have responded to these trends with a sort of churchly asthma attack. We've made panicky efforts to try to draw more people in by any way possible, while we've forgotten that healthy bodies exhale every bit as much as they inhale. Too often, Church has been a place we go to weekly, not a body we're a part of daily. We don't let the Spirit exhale through our congregational and personal lives Monday through Saturday. Our congregations' breathing becomes imbalanced, we try to breathe in more deeply, we panic and we suffer.

It doesn't need to be that way. And with apologies to the good doctor, we don't need to pass out—or die—before it gets better. There is no one-size-fits-all solution to the challenges of demographic change and congregational decline. But the one consistent element of all thriving congregations is their unique and active connection to their own unique communities. Congregations that are doing well are exhaling people and service, connection and hospitality into their neighborhoods and their communities. It looks different everywhere, but it always looks like congregations being turned outward, like members being breathed out into the world.

I'm urging (or challenging or inviting—you pick the verb) you to take a really deep and honest look at your congregation. Then start a conversation with other members willing to take the same look. Is your congregation exhaling as much as it's inhaling? Is there as much energy going into getting the congregation into the community as there is in trying to get the community into the congregation? And if not, what would that look like?

As we continue to struggle with the new realities of being Church in our culture, I wonder if the Body isn't responding to no-nonsense medicine just like my old doctor prescribed. Sooner or later, the Body will be visibly vibrant and healthy, regardless of what happens to individual congregations or denominations. Wouldn't it be great if we still had the chance to focus on our exhaling, on breathing ourselves out into the world for the sake of both God's world and God's Church? Wouldn't it be fantastic if by focusing on our exhaling, we could end our panic and restore health and balance to the Body? Wouldn't it be worth celebrating vibrant life without having to first pass out?

Or die?

As God breathed life into the first humans, so God continues to breathe life into us and our congregations daily. Let's fulfill our call to be God's partners in the world by doing the same—breathing in, breathing out, bearing the breath of God's Spirit to every corner of the world.

That is no-nonsense medicine. And it's what the Body needs.



*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4*

God's people are called to lives of prayer and thanksgiving. Please join us for worship on Thanksgiving Eve, November 26, at 7 p.m. We will join together as Christ's body to offer our thanks in song and prayer, to hear the Word, and to share in the Meal. Put the holiday into perspective by beginning it at Grace! After the service, Leshar Hall is the place to be for our annual pie social! This event is for us, yes, but also for the People's City Mission. Bring your favorite pie to share ... there will be plenty for us to eat, and also to deliver to the mission.



The Social Ministry Committee will have their annual food drive for the Thanksgiving baskets we assemble. Items to donate: canned vegetables, boxes of jello, boxes of stuffing mixes, cans of pumpkin filling, canned cranberries – jellied or whole, cans of condensed milk, boxes of instant potatoes, envelopes/jars of gravy, cans of fruit, canned yams, marshmallows, angel food cake mixes, and cash donations to purchase the perishable items. There will be containers available in the atrium to collect your donations. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to pack the boxes and/or deliver them, please send an email to:

ldrake2@unl.edu or phone Lori at 402-310-8386. -Social Ministry Committee, Lori Drake, Joyce Lunde, Larry Clymer, Steve Paschold

## Gingerbread Fun!

Grace's annual Gingerbread House Building event will be November 30th from 2 to 4 p.m. We will be joined by violinists and cellists from the studios of Donna Carnes, Tracy Sands, and Leslie Tien, playing favorite Christmas carols and songs. Gingerbread houses are provided (or you can bring your own, if you intend to be a Gingerbread Hero), as well as frosting. Please bring a bag of decorative candy or other items to share. This is such a fun event for all ages, and it is a great chance for Grace to play host to many young families from around Lincoln. We need YOU to come and be a part of the audience for the strings concert, and to build a fun holiday decoration for your home as well!





**WOMEN of the ELCA** – Unit Meeting will be held Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon with Group 6 hosting. The program will be *The Colors of Christmas* by members of our Groups and will include some Christmas Carol singing. Come, enjoy a delicious lunch and a seasonal program. Group members will be called – others may call Tricia Rosno (402-488-6775) for reservations. We will also decorate the atrium and lounge that morning.

**Lutheran World Relief** donations were taken to the drop-off center for transport to the warehouse in Minneapolis recently. 130 school kits, 12 health kits, 41 baby layettes and 62 quilts were included. It is now possible to track where these gifts are sent, and we will notify you when we are told. Thank you to all who helped provide kits or quilts in any way.

**THRIVENT FINANCIAL** members – our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Bring your cup of coffee and join us for information and fellowship. All are welcome.

**If you are 55 years or older, come join us at Yesterday's Youth**, Wednesday, December 10th at 11:30. We meet the second Wednesday of each month in Leshner Hall, from 11:30 to 12:00, we meet for some social time. We eat at 12:00, after which we have devotions and a program. The lunch is pot luck, so bring a dish to share and your table service. Drinks are furnished. The program is to be announced.



### **Advent Lessons and Carols, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m**

On December 7th, the Adult Choir will present its annual Service of Lessons and Carols. This is a beautiful service with readings and music that will help you get away from the "busyness" of December and truly prepare in peace for the Christ Child to come into your heart. Please join us in Christ Chapel for this service, and consider bringing a friend. This moving service will be well worth your time!





**Advent Vespers**  
**December 3, 10, 17**  
**7 p.m.**

Advent is traditionally a time of deepened devotion and worship. To that end, we again will offer Advent Vespers service each Wednesday night in December, leading up to Christmas Eve. These short (30 minute) candlelit services in Christ Chapel are an oasis of peace and calm in this busy season. We hear the scriptures, sing Advent hymns and Mary's Song, the Magnificat, sit in silence and prayer. Please join us for these services and make them a part of your December traditions! Again this year, we will provide a reading plan to study each Sunday's lectionary readings and a hymn for the week. These will be available on November 23, and the readings will begin on Monday the 24th. If you fall behind, don't be discouraged! Just jump back in and start up again where you can. Pr. Sylvia will lead a small group on Wednesdays at 7:30 for anyone who wants to discuss and study the scriptures with others. No reservations necessary -- just show up with your Bible!

**Bells of Christmas**  
**10th Annual Holiday Concert -- "By Request"**  
**December 14th, 7 p.m**



Please join the Bells of Grace and their musical friends for a wonderful concert of Christmas music arranged for handbells. This is the 10th Christmas concert, and so favorite pieces from the past 10 years are making reappearances on the concert program. Beautiful sacred pieces, as well as some very fun secular Christmas music is planned. In addition, the Grace Foundation Brass, the Grace Adult Choir, the Grace Notes Bell choir, soprano Lisa Howell, pianist Sandie Anderson, and other yet-to-be-announced guests will appear. It is even rumored that some Winter Wizards will be on the program. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the music ministry at Grace. The Bells of Grace are raising funds for a newly commissioned piece that they will premiere in May of 2015 as part of the 125th anniversary celebration of Grace.



**Sunday School Christmas Program**  
**The Hanging of the Greens**  
**December 21st, 10:30 a.m.**

Join our Sunday School students this year for a special Christmas program in which they will present the traditions involved in decorating the church for Christmas, as well as actually doing the decorating before your very eyes. The students and congregation will sing Christmas carols and songs, place greens, change paraments, and decorate the Christmas tree. Everyone who attends will be able to help decorate the tree as well. After the program, everyone is invited to Leshar Hall for a chili feed sponsored by the Grace Youth Group.



Adult Study Forum for the rest of November and into December will be led by Dan Warren and takes an historical and cultural look at various biblical stories; the schedule looks like this:

November 23rd: "Young Guns" Who were the disciples and what did it mean to be a disciple? Matthew 17:24-27

November 30: "Uplifting Women" the Canaanite woman's faith. Matthew 15:21-28

December 7: "Who was Pharaoh and how do the plagues represent the Egyptian gods?"

December 14: "What's there and what's not there?" The Christmas story according to the Bible. You might be surprised at what's not in the biblical story yet plays prominent parts in our usual Christmas narrative.

December 21, @ 10:30 a.m. is the Sunday School Christmas program in the nave, so there is no ASF. Please plan to attend and support our kids.

December 28th, the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's is "break time" for ASF.

### **Some Things to Look for in Adult Study Forum in the New Year**

January 4<sup>th</sup>: All Good Things About Tabitha's Offerings to the Community with Francie Cable from Tabitha.

January 11<sup>th</sup>: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Hospice Care, but Were Afraid to Ask with our own Jan Branting, R.N. and Connie Whyrick, R.N.

January 18<sup>th</sup>: Former Pastor Peter Jacobsen returning as a Q125 guest.

January 25<sup>th</sup>: And, of course, the ever-popular Annual Congregational Reporting Meeting.

### **Moving on to February:**

February 1<sup>st</sup>: Pastor Sylvia and husband Lynn tell us all about it ("it" is whatever they choose to tell us all about!)

February 8<sup>th</sup>: Former intern/pastor Paul Hoffman coming as Q125 guest.

February 15<sup>th</sup>: Our own resident bishop's assistant, Pr. Megan Morrow, on all of the ins and outs of the Candidacy Program of the ELCA – that's the program one enters if one wants to enter seminary to be a member of the ordained ministry of the ELCA.

... and lots more to come throughout the year. Come, visit ASF any time you like; you'll be glad you did.



In the next couple of weeks the Grace Women of the ELCA will put up a tree in the atrium which will represent the "Prescott School Tree of Hope". Since the Prescott School families receive Thanksgiving baskets, but not Christmas baskets and because they are not in need of mittens and scarves right now (which is what we generally request from Grace members) we are asking for non perishable food items instead. There will be tags on the tree which will have food items listed on the back. The process is simple. You pick your tag or tags off the tree, shop for your items, bring the items to church and put them in the receptacle near the tree. Very

simple, very needed and it puts you in the real spirit of Christmas. Please be generous. Thanks in advance!

Note: Monetary donations for this project can be given to Beth Kimmerling Dumler.



# Living in Grace

Celebrating  
125 years

1890 – 2015



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Introducing the Guest Preacher Series!!!

The Quasquicentennial Committee is proud to announce the next 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration event! From January to May, we will highlight our liturgical heritage with the assistance of pastors and bishops from Grace's past ministry. The dates for these Guest Preacher events are as follows:

January 17 & 18	Pastor Peter Jacobson
February 7 & 8	Pastor Paul Hoffman
March 7 & 8	Pastor Eric Leshner
April 11 & 12	Pastor Tom Hallstrom
May 9 & 10	Bishop Dennis Anderson

They will be preaching at both our Saturday evening and our Sunday morning services. Also, the Quasquicentennial Committee will be hosting the Sunday Fellowship Hour on each of these weekends as a time to catch up and share memories of Grace!

Mark these dates on your calendars now so you can help celebrate our congregation's past, present and future ministry!!

## Group Purchase for Devotional Resource!

*Bread for the Day* is a daily-use devotional resource filled with rich treasures:

A brief scripture reading (NRSV texts) for each day following the daily lectionary developed by the Consultation on Common Texts and presented in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

- The devotions begin January 1, 2015
- A prayer and hymn for each day
- Brief yet helpful introductions to the seasons
- Table graces/meal prayers for the holidays and seasons
- Household blessings for special times throughout the year (for example: Blessing for the New Year, Blessing of the Home at Epiphany, Prayer for Placing Palms in the Home, Blessing of the Easter Meal, Blessings for Mother's and Father's Day, Remembering Those Who Have Died, Lighting the Advent Wreath, Blessing of the Christmas Tree)
- Monthly pages for recording prayer requests
- Notes on festivals and commemorations
- Simplified forms for morning and evening prayer
- Waking prayers and bedtime prayers, including prayers with children

Use *Bread for the Day* for personal, household, or group devotions. This is the perfect resource for individuals, congregations, households, Bible study groups, prayer groups, pastors, church councils, outreach teams, confirmation students, and teachers.

If 10 or more people order the books, the cost will be \$7.50 each. Please sign up on the sheet outside the office door by December 7th, so we can have them ordered and shipped before the new year begins!

## PRESCOTT EMERGENCY FOOD BANK

Did you know 70% of the Prescott students are on the free and reduced lunch program? That means 70% of the families can not afford to pay full price for their child's lunch. Some cannot pay any part of it. Prescott is a very diverse school. They have a huge ELL program. (English Language Learners), students from Thailand, and Burma, low income families. Many students are latch key students. They go home to an empty house and often little food. With so many families from countries with a warm climate they have no coats, hats, or mittens.

This is where Grace Lutheran Church fits into the program. We furnish food to be sent home with students when their cupboards are empty. We give Thanksgiving Baskets, for the last four years we have also given Christmas baskets, and send extra food when there are breaks from school and there will be no breakfasts or lunches served at the school.

Did you know that teachers are asked to pay for their own supply of hand sanitizer, and Kleenex? They receive a small supplement from the district but not nearly enough to pay for the entire year. Few families can afford to help out with this need. Again, Grace Lutheran Church can help. We donate hand sanitizer and Kleenex to help cover the families that can't afford to do their share.

Still not sure what to purchase? A financial donation is always welcome. We can use the money to purchase emergency items that may be needed for the families. Our goal is to care for the children. We are their advocates for comfort and safety at Prescott. Byron Clymer, an ex-Prescott student donates to the Emergency Food Bank because he knows the money goes directly to the welfare of the child. No money has to go toward office supplies or rent. 100% of every donation goes toward the Prescott Emergency Food Bank Fund.

The 5th grade students came to our church to help with the yard clean-up to show their appreciation for all we do for their school. Providing extra help to Prescott is one more way that Grace Lutheran Church is spreading love, hope, and faith in our neighborhood. Thank you on behalf of the children for your generous gifts.



### **Greeters for coming Sundays:**

November 23: Jan Branting, Connie Whyrick; Karen and Mark Billings

November 30: Sharon Gottsche; Robert Stimbert

December 7: Larry and Sharon Genthe; Ron Most

December 14: Matt and Amy Knobbe; Philip and Margaret Gipson

December 21: Dan Warren; Lorraine and Frank James

December 28: Doug and Sarah Krueger; Don and Helen Carnes

Serving as greeters is an excellent way to get better acquainted with people in the congregation; please contact Jeannette Allen (402-420-9422) if you might be willing to assist in this.

**The Nebraska Synod has joined #GivingTuesday once again in 2014 to highlight some its ministries that could use your financial support this giving season.**

Coinciding with the Thanksgiving Holiday and the kickoff of the holiday shopping season, #GivingTuesday aims to inspire people to take collaborative action to improve their local communities, give back in better, smarter ways to the charities and causes they support and help create a better world.

Last year, \$57.4 billion was spent on consumer goods during the Thanksgiving holiday season. Imagine the impact that even a small fraction of that would have on the ministries of the church.

On Tuesday, Dec. 2 – the Tuesday after Thanksgiving – the Nebraska Synod is asking its congregations, members and friends to remember four specific ministries in need of support this year. Givers are encouraged to give to those and any other ministries that they believe can change the lives of others. This year #GivingTuesday ministry focus is on:

**Seminary Debt Reduction Fund** – The Synod’s fund to help alleviate the large amounts of debt our seminarians incur en route to their service in our congregations around the state. ([“Seminary Debt: The Cost of Becoming a Pastor”](#) from the Fall 2014 issue of All Things New)

**One Another Hunger Fund** – The Synod’s fund that provides mini-grants to local hunger relief projects, working with our partners at ELCA World Hunger. ([One Another Hunger Fund page](#))

- **Synod Disaster Fund** – The Synod’s fund to provide emergency financial assistance to communities through our congregations in the days following a natural disaster.
- **New Mission Starts** – Funding for the Synod to pursue the development of new congregations as well as renewing existing ones.

Please prayerfully consider supporting these ministries this year on Tuesday, Dec. 2. If you would like to make a donation, you can visit the Nebraska Synod website, <http://www.nebraskasynod.org> or make a donation payable to Grace Lutheran, with #givingTuesday in the memo portion of the check.

**Grace History** – The 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee was held at the Lindell Hotel, which was built in 1886 at 13<sup>th</sup> & M Streets. In 1968 it was demolished and a 20 story bank was built. This is the current site of US Bank. The movie Terms of Endearment, with Debra Winger and Shirley McLane has scenes filmed in the old parsonage at 14<sup>th</sup> & F Streets. In 1931 Pastor Rubrecht formed a Building Committee to look into expanding the 14<sup>th</sup> & F Street site or look elsewhere for a new building site. Those men were Gus Prestegaard, Herman Studier, W.E. Weiland, O.I. Sturtevant, Frederick Warner, Howard H. Johnson, Dr. Joseph Alexis, H.C. Luckey and later Pastor Leshner. Starting in 1931 these dedicated men met at one of their homes to make plans to look at potential sites. They started meeting once a month, but later as things began to roll they met twice a month. The minutes of their meetings were recorded and are currently in the archives. These men met for 17 years even after the new church at 22<sup>nd</sup> & Washington was under construction. At one point in 1944 one of the men must have said or did something that he felt he needed to resign from the committee. He sent the letter to Dr. Leshner who sent a letter in response. Dr. Leshner said, “We do not accept your resignation. We expect you at our next meeting.” In 1942 the church bought the property at 22<sup>nd</sup> & Washington Streets, former site of the McDonald Mansion, for \$9,500. The McDonalds also owned a mansion on the New Jersey shore. It was called “The Blow”. The mansion in Lincoln was also referred to as “The Blow”.



**From Ken Holmstrom:** Thank you to Pastor Bob and Pastor Sylvia for visiting during my two hospital stays. And thank you to the people of Grace for their prayers.

**From Larry Clymer:** I want to thank Pastor Sylvia and Pastor Bob and all the members of Grace for your cards and prayers. God was listening because he had his hand on me. I could not have a better church family than the members at Grace.

**From Terry Branting & family:** Thanks for all of the cards, hugs, kind words and expressions of love following the death of my dad. They were all very much appreciated.



### December 24

Lessons, Carols & Holy Communion

5:00 PM

The Christmass - 11:00 PM

### December 25

The Nativity of our Lord - 10:00 AM

#### **Cedar Tree**

A species of evergreen used to decorate for Christmas, the tall cedar tree symbolizes Christ's majesty year-round. Cedars of Lebanon, which have grown to 130 feet, were known to Old Testament people. "The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted" (Psalm 104:16, NIV). David's palace and both Solomon's palace and temple were built of cedar wood. The word cedar is found 75 times in the Bible. Due to its evergreen nature and longevity, this tree is associated with eternal life and thus sometimes used in cemetery landscaping.

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**October Council Meeting**  
10-14-2014

Present: Steve Paschold, Roger Potts, Connie Whyrick, Margaret Gipson, Jacob Krueger, Terry Branting, Lynn Chamberlin, Dave Ripa, Jeanne Weisbrook, Fran Gade, Doug Allen, , Pr. Sylvia Karlsson

Absent: Lois Schuerman, excused

Staff: Sara Schott

President Fran Gade called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Lynn C. provided the opening devotions and prayer.

The minutes from the September council meetings were presented.

It was moved (Potts), seconded (Whyrick) and carried that the minutes be approved as amended and filed.

**Correspondence:**

A letter of receipt from the Nebraska Synod was shared.

**Staff Reports:**

**Interim Pastor:** Pastor Sylvia shared information on Church Size Theory. She also shared information on different education opportunities with Camp Carol Joy Holling.

**Visitation Pastor:** Written report presented

**Director of Music:** Sara Schott presented information on organ repairs that are needed. The pipes and pedal board need cleaned. The Worship and Music Committee is requesting permission to go to the Foundation with a financial request.

It was moved (Paschold), seconded (Weisbrook) and carried that Sara Schott and the Worship & Music Committee are authorized to go to the Foundation, make them aware of the pipe organ repairs and requesting financing for those repairs.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Written report presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Written report presented

It was moved (Ripa), seconded (Chamberlin) and carried that the financial and staff reports be filed for audit.

**Committee Reports:**

**Parish Education:** Written report.

**Evangelism:** Did not meet

**Property:** Written report

It was moved (Potts), seconded (Branting) and carried that the Pet Blessing service be held outside to prevent the scratching of the nave floor.

**Social Ministry:** Written report

**Stewardship:** 37 pledge cards have been received so far. A follow up contact will be made.

**Youth:** Written report

**Memorials:** Written report

**Worship and Music:** Written report

**Mutual Ministry:**

**Quasiquicentennial Committee:** Written report.

It was moved (Whyrick), seconded (Ripa) and carried that all committee reports be filed.

### **Old Business:**

Constitution revision: Corrections were made and will be mailed out to the congregation for review before the November Semi Annual meeting

Budget watch 2014: \$14,000 behind

Profile update:

It was moved (Weisbrook), seconded (Ripa) and carried to approve and forward the Ministry Site Profile to the Nebraska Synod.

### **New Business:**

Covenant of support – moved to November meeting

Website updates – moved to November meeting

Health equipment – moved to November meeting

Adhoc committee for staff job descriptions

It was moved (Whyrick), seconded (Ripa) and carried to create an Ad Hoc committee to review staff job descriptions.

Adhoc committee to review all policies: Pastor Sylvia, Dave Ripa and Terry Branting will meet to review policies.

It was moved (Krueger), seconded (Chamberlin) and passed that to create an Ad Hoc committee to review all church policies

Gift to NeLCM and Pastor Adam White

It was moved (Krueger), seconded (Weisbrook) and carried to give an honorarium for \$500.00 to Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry for Pastor Adam White preaching the weekend of October 18 and 19.

Approve Confirmation students and new members

It was moved (Paschold), seconded (Potts) to approve the names of those into confirmed membership:

Confirmation students: Alicia Andersen, Ty Chamberlin, Noah Guern, Raymond Guern, Liam Hughes, Rhys Hughes

New Members: Jill & Rev. Terry Cosier; Rev. Megan Morrow

Fran G. asked if there was any more business to bring before the Church Council. It was moved (Potts), seconded (Ripa) and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 10:50 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandi Knippelmeyer, Recording Secretary



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Special Budget Council Meeting**  
10-27-2014

Present: Steve Paschold, Roger Potts, Connie Whyrick, Jeanne Weisbrook, Pastor Sylvia, Pastor Doug, Terry Branting, Lynn Chamberlin, Dave Ripa, Margaret Gipson, Jacob Krueger and Fran Gade

Absent: Lois Schuerman, excused

Also Present: Jim Krueger

President Fran G. called the Council meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Jim Krueger updated the Council regarding the number of pledge cards received to date and the amount pledged:

77 Pledges = \$255,502.00

Steve P. made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded by Terry B. Motion carried.

Dave R. made a motion to come out of executive session. Seconded by Connie W. Motion carried.

Dave R. made a motion to approved the proposed budget as modified. Seconded by Margaret G. Motion carried.

Fran G. informed the Council that she had been contacted by Charlyne Berens who indicated that she had not been asked to serve as the *Inside the Congregation Reference* as indicated in the *Ministry Site Profile*. It was discussed that she is also serving on the Call Committee and serving as both may be a conflict. Fran indicated that she would discuss the possible conflict with Pastor Megan. It was also determined that if there is a conflict we should ask Jan Branting, Tricia Rosno or Barry Moore to serve as the *Inside the Congregation Reference*.

It was also decided that the Council's December Meeting will be held in the Lounge on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM with a Holiday Dinner to follow.

Having no further business, Dave R. made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Connie W. Motion carried as the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lynn K. Chamberlin, Secretary

**Grace History** – “A church is great, when its members are loyal.” Pastor Lesher was involved in many organizations. He was active in the Rotary, The Interprofessional Club, Capital Rotunda Christmas Committee, board member for Tabitha Home, Vice President of the Lutheran Student Association on the UNL Campus, on the board of Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, and the Pinewood Bowl Committee. Grace held Easter Service at Pinewood Bowl several years. For a number of years he served on the Commission on Church Architecture and the board of Higher Education at the United Lutheran Church in America. In 1944 the Building Committee met and discussed the problem of getting materials to build a new church during the war. One member suggested putting in a basement at the new site and covering it to worship there. Pastor Lesher said we will not build until we can build a proper church. During this year the church had received 102 new members, bringing the total to 600 members. The Sunday School enrollment was 350 members, with 2 active youth groups. On the financial side they received over \$20,000 for the year. Of that \$8,100 went to current expenses, \$6,600 for the Building Fund, \$4,000 for benevolence and \$2,000 for other organizations. In October 1945 the church held four weeks of the Greater Grace Church Building Program. Each Sunday had a program theme of Loyalty; Character Sunday; Opportunity Day; Climax and Victory Sunday. The brochure quotes “Your church needs your presence in the service of divine worship; you need the instruction and inspiration offered there.”

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER

The Chancel of Grace will be decorated in the traditional, festive manner for Christmas services. Your contribution of a poinsettia will make this possible. Please fill out and return to the church office.

\_\_\_\_ I wish to order a poinsettia for Christmas, \$10.00 is enclosed  
(These plants will be 6 - 9 blooms)

\_\_\_\_ I wish to buy a poinsettia and bring it to the church no later than the morning of Friday, December 19. (Wrapped in gold foil -no bow)

In honor of

---

In memory of

---

Given by

---

**Deadline for order is December 17. Return this form to the church office.**



14  
John & Joyce Lunde

16  
George & Norma Sturgeon

22  
George & Marsha Foster

27  
Lowell & Kathy Provancha

30  
Brian & Erica Eck



1  
Linda Baker  
Elizabeth Krueger  
Jacob Krueger  
Carley Weixelman

2  
Larry Clymer

3  
Bonnie Drohman  
Steve Reckling

6  
Anna Sump  
  
7  
Don Carnes  
Norm Nelson

8  
Michael Bodfield  
Katie Fritchie  
Kinzie Lange

10  
Norbert Hildreth  
Betty Maun

13  
Marsha Foster  
Katrina Lange

14  
Noah & Raymond Guern

15  
Chris Andersen  
Elias Genuchi

17  
Dean Ossian

18  
Vivian Condon  
Sam Ihrle

20  
Teri Roti

21  
Elizabeth Garza

22  
Lois Moss  
Jack Reighard  
Seth Riemann  
Cindy Watchorn

23  
Marcia Oetjen

25  
Robert Stimbert

26  
Irene Moore

27  
Scott Drake  
Ashlyn Jensen

29  
Mark Billings  
Tanja Noecker

30  
Ron Most



### **Monday, December 1**

9:00 am WELCA Executive Brd. Mtg.  
7:00 pm Committee Mtgs., Scouts

### **Tuesday, December 2**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:00 pm Scouts  
6:30 pm Parish Ed. Cmte, Call Cmte  
7:00 pm Committee Mtgs.  
8:00 pm AA Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 3**

12:00 pm WELCA lunch & mtg.  
6:20 pm Children's Choir  
7:00 pm Advent Vespers, In Stitches,  
Community Mental Health Mtg.  
7:30 pm Bell Choir

### **Thursday, December 4**

6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 pm Quilting\Sewing  
9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
7:00 pm Bells, N. A. Mtg., At Ease,  
Evangelism Cmte. Mtg.

### **Friday, December 5**

4:00 pm Prescott Waffleman

### **Saturday, December 6**

8:00 am Leshar Hall reserved  
10:00 am Chapel reserved  
5:30 pm Worship

### **Sunday, December 7**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am A.S.F., Choir, Sunday School,  
Thrivent  
2:00 pm Lessons and Carols

### **Monday, December 8**

1:00 pm WELCA #2 Mtg.  
6:00 pm Council Mtg.  
7:00 pm Near South Neighborhood  
Assoc. Board Meeting  
7:00 pm Scouts

### **Tuesday, December 9**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:00 pm Scouts  
6:30 pm WELCA # 6  
7:00 pm W.R.T. Mtg.  
8:00 pm AA Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 10**

11:30 am Yesterday's Youth  
6:20 pm Children's Choir  
7:00 pm Advent Vespers, In Stitches,  
Community Mental Health Mtg.  
7:30 pm Bell Choir

### **Thursday, December 11**

6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 pm Quilting\Sewing  
9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
7:00 pm Bells, N. A. Mtg., Call  
Committee Mtg.

### **Friday, December 12**

**Greeter deadline**  
5:00 pm Leshar Hall reserved

### **Saturday, December 13**

12:00 pm Leshar Hall reserved  
5:30 pm Worship

### **Sunday, December 14**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Sunday School , A.S.F., Choir  
7:00 pm Bell Choir Concert

### **Monday, December 15**

5:00 pm Gathering Place  
7:00 pm Scouts

### **Tuesday, December 16**

#### **Greeter**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:00 pm Scout Committee Mtg.  
8:00 pm AA Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 17**

1:00 pm WELCA #1 Mtg.  
6:20 pm Children's Choir  
7:00 pm Advent Vespers, In Stitches,  
Community Mental Health Mtg.  
7:30 pm Bell Choir

### **Thursday, December 18**

6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 pm Quilting, Lincoln Lit.

6:30 pm Call Cmte. Mtg.  
7:00 pm N. A. Mtg

### **Friday, December 19**

5:00 pm Leshar Hall reserved

### **Saturday, December 20**

1:00 pm Chapel reserved  
5:30 pm Worship

### **Sunday, December 21**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Sunday School Christmas  
program  
1:00 pm L.L.C. arrives  
3:00 pm Lincoln Lutheran Choir concert  
6:30 pm Chapel reserved

### **Monday, December 22**

7:00 pm Scouts

### **Tuesday, December 23**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
8:00 pm AA Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 24**

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship  
10:30 pm pre service concert  
11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

### **Thursday, December 25**

10:00 am Christmas Day Worship

### **Friday, December 26**

Office closed

### **Saturday, December 27**

5:30 pm Worship

### **Sunday, December 28**

9:00 am Worship \*  
11:30 am Leshar hall reserved

### **Monday, December 29**

5:00 pm Gathering Place

### **Tuesday, December 30**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
8:00 pm AA Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 31**

Office closed at Noon



## Grace Staff and Council Members

**Rev. Sylvia High Karlsson,**

*Interim Senior Pastor*

*308-995-7161*

*revkarlsson@aol.com*

**Rev. Dr. Robert Rademacher,**

*Visitation Pastor*

*402-430-6661 (cell)*

*rdrademacher@hotmail.com*

**Sara Schott,**

*Director of Parish Music*

*sschott@neb.rr.com*

**Jameson Varpness Leftridge,**

*Assistant Organist*

**Sandi Knippelmeyer,**

*Parish Administrator*

*glc@inebraska.com*

**Beth Kimmerling Dumler,**

*Staff Assistant*

*bethatgrace@yahoo.com*

**Robert Stimbert,**

*Custodian*

**Judi Schroeder,**

*Nursery Coordinator*

**Elizabeth Krueger,**

*Nursery attendant*

**Jordan Billings,**

*Nursery attendant*

Doug Allen

420-9422

Lynn Chamberlin

489-6575

Terry Branting

435-0401

Fran Gade

421-1283

Margaret Gipson

207-610-4037

Jacob Krueger

780-6708

Steve Paschold

791-5001

Roger Potts

489-6821

Dave Ripa

489-7487

Lois Schuerman

488-1859

Jeanne Weisbrook

477-8443

Connie Whyrick

904-2919

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