

# *The Grace Greeter!*

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502  
March 2020

40  
  
days  
of Lent



He lifted me ... out of the mud and mire ... and gave me a firm place to stand. - Psalm 40:2

I remember travelling down the interstate the day after a winter storm went through the area. There were vehicles everywhere in the ditches and medians along the route. There were also road crews working hard to clear the route and rescue stranded vehicles. Not an easy job as these crews battle cold temperatures and frozen ground. Getting these vehicles off the road was no easy task.

The comparison to our spiritual lives is inescapable. We and the world we live in is stuck in sin. We are unable to get out on our own. Like the various vehicles stuck in the ditch and medians, some of us may seem upright; others are obviously bent; still others seem irreparably damaged. Our sin has different faces, yet we all need help.

But here is the telling difference. Jesus Christ did not stay on the high, dry, safe ground of heaven above. He took the risk and plunged into our sin to rescue us. He did not merely extend a long arm that we could grab on to. He came down, lifted us up and gave us a firm place to stand.

Lent is a good time to thank Jesus for lifting us out of the sin of this world and giving us a firm place to stand.

#### Prayer

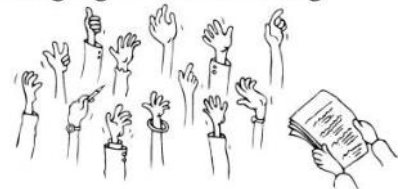
Lord Jesus, in this Lenten season we thank you for lifting us up and sending us on your way to be your body in the world today. In your name we rejoice. Amen.

*Pr. Eric Tesher*



- ◆ PLEASE CONTACT US! HIPPA laws do not allow the hospital to notify the church if there is a member in the hospital. The patient or a family member must contact the church office so we can schedule a visit while you are in the hospital here in Lincoln or Omaha. During office hours, call 402-474-1505 or email [office@egrace.org](mailto:office@egrace.org) to let us know. Thank you!
- ◆ To contact Pastor Eric after office hours, you can call or text him at 308-708-1146 or email [pr.eric@egrace.org](mailto:pr.eric@egrace.org).
- ◆ The deadline for the next Greeter will be March 20th.
- ◆ Fellowship Signup: Please sign up to host Sunday Fellowship Hours for 2020. The notebook is outside the church office. If you like to have cookies and other treats with your coffee, please sign up!
- ◆ The 2020 flower chart is now available on the bulletin board in the Atrium. Feel free to sign up for a Sunday or two!
- ◆ If you would be interested in being on an Altar Guild crew (it would be about every 8 weeks) or baking communion bread (it would be about every 12 weeks), please contact the church office.
- ◆ Church Council Vacancy: We currently have a vacancy on our church council. This is a three-year position beginning January 2020. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Pastor Eric, Neil Larson, or the church office.
- ◆ Official Notice for Special Congregational Meeting to be held at 10:30 in Leshar Hall on April 19th. We will approve or not approve the Council recommendation to reduce Council terms from 3 to 2 years. We will then ratify or not ratify the 2019 ELCA Model Constitution for approval at our November Semi-Annual meeting.

### Special Congregational Meeting

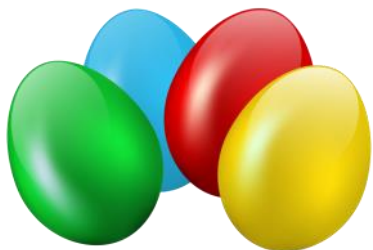




The **Grace Lutheran Thrivent Financial group** will meet at 10:30 am on March 1 in the staff conference room. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

**Thrivent Financial members** should be aware that March 31 is the deadline, for those who are eligible, to **designate Choice Dollars** accumulated in 2019.

Please consider Grace when directing the dollars. Simply call 800-THRIVENT (800 847-4836) and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



It's that time of year again!

The Congregational Life committee is again sponsoring the **Spring Eggstravaganza!**

It is scheduled for **Saturday, April 4, 1-3 pm**. We need candy donations, volunteers to run games and someone to be the Easter Bunny! We have the costume.



March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1

12 PM—Worship in the Chapel

12:30 PM—Lenten Lunch

6:30 PM-Worship in the Chapel

Food Servers:

March 4—WELCA #6

March 11— Men

March 18-WELCA #3

March 25-Council/Staff

April 1-WELCA Board



This year's **Midweek Lenten Series** is titled "Open My Life, Lord". Each week we will have a theme for our worship and an activity related to the theme. Here is what that will look like:

#### Week of Lent 1: Open My Eyes, Lord

Context: Paul saw the light of Christ shining around him on the road to Damascus. As individuals and communities, what do we have difficulty seeing? How does our perspective change when we view the world through the eyes of Christ?

Activity: We will view projected images in the that speak of transformation and new vision. We will personally reflect on how each object speaks of change and the new vision that can come from change.

#### Week of Lent 2: Open My Hands, Lord

Context: We use our hands to pick up a child, to serve a meal, to play an instrument, to wipe away a tear. Jesus used his hands for healing and for deeds of great power, and the psalmist reminds us that we are always held fast in God's hands. In Deuteronomy, Moses encourages us to open our hands in service to others.

Activity: We will bless the hands of the gathered community during worship.

#### Week of Lent 3: Open My Ears, Lord

Context: Ancient Greek philosophy notes that we have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak. Jesus reminds us that we sometimes hear but don't listen, listen but don't understand. Opening our ears isn't as easy as it sounds.

We will use a time of silence for reflective meditation.

#### Week of Lent 4: Open My Heart, Lord

Context: Listening to Paul's teaching, Lydia opened her heart to God and was baptized. Her willing, trusting faith echoes down through the centuries as we witness her "open heart procedure."

Activity: We will gather food items for the Lincoln Food Pantry.

#### Week of Lent 5: Open My Life, Lord

Context: Moses presents us with a choice: death and adversity, or a life cracked open to the love of God. Writing to the Galatians, Paul tells us that we have died to the law so that we might live to God. It is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us.

Activity: A member of the congregation will share one way in which God has opened his or her life.



**January Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2020**

**Present:** Neil Larson, Doug Krueger, Cindy Eberspacher, Connie Thorson, Carla Ingersoll, Jan Branting, Roger Potts, Pastor Eric Leshner

**Absent:** Karen Billings

Neil Larson called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Opened with Prayer**

**Approval of Council Minutes:**

Cindy made a motion to approve the December minutes. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

**Pastor Eric's Report:**

Marilyn Holmquist is a permanent resident of Gateway Vista, Apt 503

**Director of Music Report:**

Neil mentioned the Lincoln Organ Showcase at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Grace Members get in free. Typically runs one hour.

**Financial and Secretary Reports:**

Roger made a motion to accept Pastor's and Director of Music reports and to approve the financial reports. Jan seconded. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance/Stewardship** - written report - Matt Knobbe's report was discussed; church is in the black

**Worship & Music** - written report

**Parish Ed** - written report

**Congregational Life** - written report – 2 tickets for Jan 26 Ross Theatre given to Pr. Leshner. Received total of ten for sponsorship; April 4<sup>th</sup> is the Spring Eggstravaganza.

**Property** - written report - Roger reported that the restroom remodeling started today, January 14.

Despite low need for the bus service on Sunday morning, Pastor would like the service to be available.

There was a discussion about locking both entrances during worship service. Roger made a motion we should start immediately locking both main and atrium entrances when worship begins. Cindy seconded. Neil requested further discussion. All agreed there needs to be a plan in place. Pastor Eric suggested locking doors from outside using a hex key just after 9 AM Worship. Motion passed.

**Social Ministry** - written report

**Memorials** - written report - New podium w/microphone arrived purchased from Carol Schroeder fund. \$800 remains in window account. Council members will edit memorial gift request items before March meeting.

Cindy made a motion to accept the committee reports as printed. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

**Member rolls update** – Finance and Stewardship: Neil (?); Worship & Music: Connie; Parish Ed: Cindy; Congregational Life: Karen & Carla; Property: Roger & Doug; Social Ministry: Jan; Memorials: Doug

**Baskets** – off to a strong start

**Grace Foundation Treasurer** - Jan motioned that Steve Rosno be approved as Grace Foundation Treasurer. Cindy seconded. Motion passed.

**Bathroom remodel update:** Roger reported that the remodel started January 14. Due to the expense of changing electrical for installing blow dryers, we will keep paper towel dispensers. The two stall bathrooms will have new lighting, new heating and cooling; handicapped accessible with automatic doors.

**Congregation Constitution Revisions:** Pastor Eric reported the changes being made are mostly grammatical in nature. The most significant change is that votes can be taken via Skype or teleconferencing and no longer require being physically present.

We will recommend by-laws be adopted for council members to serve two year terms instead of three. Must confirm timeline for doing this, but will tentatively present changes to congregation on April 19..

**New Business:**

**Lenten & Basket Offerings:** Jan motioned all Lenten meal offerings go to Lutheran Campus Ministry debt reduction. Cindy seconded. Motion passed.

**Lenten Meals:** Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, an evening meal will be served by Thrivent. Noon and evening services will be provided. Discussion that all remaining Wednesdays in Lent will offer a simple luncheon at 12:30 with ham sandwiches, chips and salad. Jan made a motion to move all remaining Lenten “dinners” to lunches this year following Ash Wednesday. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

**Ecopalms:** Pastor Eric found a less expensive Catholic ordering house, 200 for \$25.00 plus \$35.00 shipping.

**Council contact information** – Neil passed out a spreadsheet asking for updated contact information; Pastor Eric asked for an update on committee member terms and to notify Sage with this information.

**Committee reporting and assignments update:** Cindy - Parish Ed; Connie – Worship and Music; Finance & Stewardship - no coverage at this time.

Being no further business to discuss, Jan made the motion to adjourn and Roger seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

**Closed with a prayer.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Connie Thorson, Secretary

**Council Corner:**

Parish Education: We continued discussing VBS, Sunday School curriculum and Youth Group. We began discussing plans for Confirmation this spring.

Social Ministry: Five ways to stay healthy through the winter months:

1. Banish Winter tiredness (exercise, get out when the sun is shining, and get a good night’s sleep)
2. Eat more fruits and vegetables
3. Drink more milk to help keep your immune system in tip-top condition (along with #2 above)
4. Plan activities for the whole family (ice skating, walks, build a snowman, or take a mini-vacation near your home)
5. Have a hearty breakfast (porridge, protein-packed scrambled eggs, smoothies, and granola bars)





When individuals from Grace served at **The Gathering Place** on February 17, there was a first time helper on the team.

Alex Chapman brought his high energy positivity to the serving line. Regina and Steve Paschold prepared spaghetti with meat sauce. Carla Ingersoll donated the tossed lettuce salad. Bread and bananas were also on the menu. Home baked dessert treats were contributed by Joy Kokes, Fran and Kevin Gade, and Regina and Steve.

All of those people mentioned above helped to serve and to clean up after **117 portions** had been distributed.



**Sunday Morning  
Adult Study**

This month we explore the theme **“Justice and the Prophets”**. God calls us to be a people of both justice and compassion. So will explore what this means as God’s people living in today’s world. Come joins us on Sunday mornings in Lesher Lounge at 10:30 AM.



**The Lutheran Food Pantry** needs the following food items: canned fruit, canned peas, cereal, fruit juice, instant mashed potatoes, jelly, pancake mix, pork & beans, saltine crackers, tuna. Monetary gifts are also appreciated.



**Wednesday Nights @ 5:30 pm**  
**Saturday Nights @ 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday Mornings @ 9:00 am**





## **Birthdays**

-March 01– Richard Higbea's

-March 03– Joyce Lunde

-March 04– Glen Drohman

-March 05– Janice Bramtig  
Lisa Holmsstrom

-March 06– Arlene Reighard  
Pat Kendle

-March 07– Brittany Johnson  
Nora Knobbe

March 09– Janice Walker

March 11– Richard Block  
Victoria Garza

March 13– Jordan Murphy  
Carol Jensen  
Alex Thorson

March 14– Kevin Fritchie

March 16– Ellie Petersen

March 19– Carol Disney

March 19– Vernon Hunzeker  
Shannon Miller

March 20– Daryla Isaac

March 21– Jazmyn  
Zimmerman  
Keven Dumler

March 22– Michael Plambeck  
Sadie Klein

March 24– Dennis Berens  
Betsy Johnson

March 30– Sarah Anderson



**March 01**

9:00am– Worship  
10:00am—Fellowship  
10:30am– Thrivent Meeting  
10:15am - Sunday School  
10:30am– Choir/Adult Forum  
3:00pm—LLC Choir

**March 02**

9:00am-Lincoln Literacy  
WELCA Board Meeting  
7:00pm– Scouts BSA

**March 03**

9:30am– Al-Anon  
6:30pm- Cub Scout Den  
7:00pm- Committee Meetings  
8:00pm– A.A.

**March 04**

12:00pm– Lenten Worship  
12:30pm– Lenten Meal  
6:30pm:- Lenten Worship

**March 05**

6:30am-Men’s Bible Study  
9:00am– Quilting  
Lincoln Literacy  
7:00pm– N.A.  
Grace Bells

**March 06**

9:45am– Fire Alarm Inspection  
3:00pm– Suzuki Practice  
5:45pm– YWCA Respite Care

**March 07**

12:00pm– Arlene Reighard 90th Birthday  
5:00pm– Saturday Worship

**March 08**

9:00am– Worship  
10:00am—Fellowship  
10:15am—Sunday School  
10:30am-Choir/Adult Forum  
3:00pm- LLC Choir

**March 09**

9:00am– Lincoln Literacy  
7:00pm– Scouts BSA

**March 10**

9:30am– Al-Anon  
6:30pm- Cub Scout Den  
7:00pm– Council Meeting  
Wildlife Rescue  
8:00pm– A.A.

**March 11**

12:00pm– Lenten Worship  
12:30pm– Lenten Meal  
6:30pm:- Lenten Worship

**March 12**

9:00am– Quilting  
Lincoln Literacy  
7:00pm– N.A.  
Grace Bells

**March 13-**

5:45pm– YWCA Respite Care

**March 14**

1:00pm– Danish Sisterhood  
5:00pm– Saturday Worship

**March 15**

9:00am– Jazz Worship  
10:00am—Fellowship  
10:15am– Sunday School  
10:30am - Choir/Adult Forum  
3:00pm-LLC Choir

**March 16**

9:00am– Lincoln Literacy  
5:00pm– Gathering Place  
7:00pm– Scouts BSA

**March 17**

9:30am– Al-Anon  
6:30pm- Cub Scout Pack  
7:00pm-WELCA Group 6  
8:00pm– A.A.

**March 18**

12:00pm– Lenten Worship  
12:30pm– Lenten Meal  
1:00pm-WELCA Group 3  
6:30pm:- Lenten Worship

**March 19**

6:30am-Men’s Bible Study  
9:00am– Quilting  
Lincoln Literacy  
7:00pm– N.A.  
Grace Bells

**March 20**

4:00pm– BNRR

**March 21**

5:00pm– Saturday Worship

**March 22**

9:00am– Worship  
10:00am—Fellowship  
10:15am-Sunday School  
10:30am-Choir/Adult Forum  
3:00pm- LLC Choir

**March 23**

9:00am– Lincoln Literacy  
7:00pm– Scouts BSA

**March 24**

9:30am– Al-Anon  
6:30pm- Cub Scout Committee  
8:00pm– A.A.

**March 25**

12:00pm– Lenten Worship  
12:30pm– Lenten Meal  
6:30pm:- Lenten Worship

**March 26**

6:30am—Men’s Bible Study  
9:00am– Quilting  
Lincoln Literacy  
7:00pm– N.A.  
Grace Bells

**March 28**

05:00pm– Saturday Worship

**March 29**

9:00am– Worship  
10:00am—Fellowship  
10:15am-Sunday School  
10:30am-Choir/Adult Forum  
3:00pm- LLC Choir

**March 30**

9:00am– Lincoln Literacy  
5:00pm– Gathering Place  
7:00pm– Scouts BSA

**March 31**

9:30am– Al-Anon  
8:00pm– A.A.

# Grace Staff & Council

**Rev. Eric Leshner,**

*Senior Pastor*

308-708-1146

*pr.eric@egrace.org*

2020 Church Council

**David Sage**

*Parish Administrator*

*office@egrace.org*

**Anne Melang-Thoren,**

*Director of music*

*anne@egrace.org*

**Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson**

*Assistant Organist*

**Robert Stimbert,**

*Custodian*

**Judi Schroeder,**

*Nursery Coordinator*

**Elizabeth Krueger,**

*Nursery attendant*

Neil Larson

Carla Ingersoll

Karen Billings

Jan Branting

Cindy Eberspacher

Doug Krueger

Roger Potts

Vacant

Connie Thorson

Jim Krueger

Council President

Vice President

Congregational Life

Social Ministry

Parish Education

Memorials

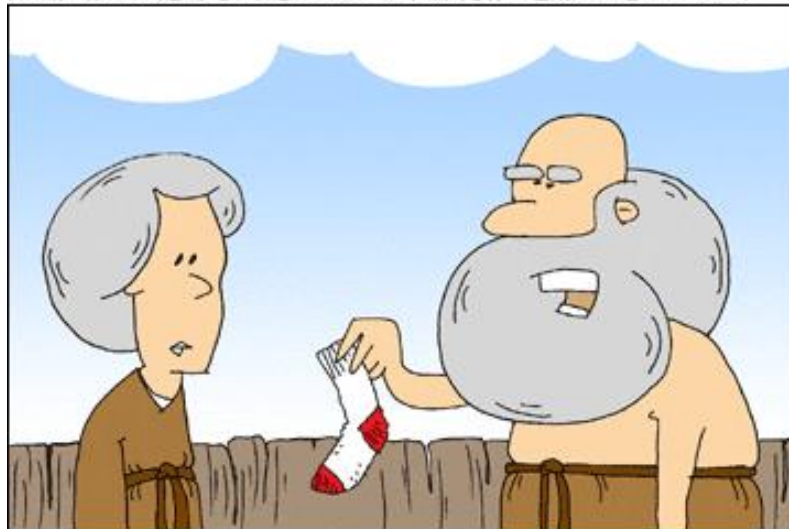
Property

Stewardship/Finance

Secretary

Treasurer

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Thanks to Jerry Moates (See Genesis 6-8) 01-29-2004

APPARENTLY I HAVE TWO OF EVERYTHING  
EXCEPT SOCKS

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