



# The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502 January 22, 2019

## Burning of the Palms

Leshar Lounge  
Sunday, March 3

Join our Sunday School children immediately following worship for the brief liturgy of the Burning of the Palms in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

**Worship with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion  
Wednesday, March 6**

**\*\*watch the Sunday announcements for the evening schedule**



The optional imposition of ashes for those who desire it will be offered. Ashes in both Jewish and Christian traditions are a sign of mortality, repentance and sorrow for sin. Join us as we gather around the font and remember the power of baptism.



### **What's Love got to with It?**

Ephesians 5:1-2 The Message (MSG)

*Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.*

February 14<sup>th</sup> is known as Valentine's Day. A day that folks in the floral business claim as their busiest and maybe most frustrating day. The background story of the actual St. Valentine is just as frustrating and murky. Some legends have St. Valentine being martyred for marrying men after an emperor declared that marriage was illegal because married men made bad soldiers. Another legend has St. Valentine martyred for helping Christians escape the beatings and torture of Roman prisons.

Whatever the legend, it is interesting that the history of Valentine's Day comes out of pain and suffering. It was not a holiday grounded in boxed chocolates and flowers. Maybe there is a lesson here about the love we seek and seek to give. Maybe too often the love we seek or desire to give is shallow at best. Fleeting moments that come and go as quickly as night and day.

But the love Christ offers the world is steadfast and everlasting. Love grounded in commitment and sacrifice. This is the love that changes the world and the lives it touches. So, love like that says the book of Ephesians. Love like that because our world needs less romance and more justice. Justice grounded not in love for self but for others. A desire not to control or harm but to serve and empower. That's what Jesus did for us and he asks that we do the same. St. Valentine knew this and so should we.

*P. 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).
- ◆ If you would like to be included on the weekly email update list (it comes from Constant Contact), please send an email to the office at: [office@egrace.org](mailto:office@egrace.org). These messages will normally go out on Wednesday and will also inform the congregation of a members death.
- ◆ Funeral: Ed Binder, January 14
- ◆ Bulletins have been shared by: Megan Morrow [St Paul Lutheran & Catholic Community of Faith, Denver, CO]
- ◆ The deadline for the next Greeter will be February 20. It will be mailed on February 26.
- ◆ There are lots of open dates for hosting Sunday morning fellowship. Please sign up for one! If you don't want to host a Sunday but would still like to provide treats (they don't have to be homemade), you can leave them in the kitchen freezers (make sure they are labeled for fellowship). Thanks!
- ◆ We are looking for committees, groups or individuals to prepare and serve a meal for Wednesday evenings in Lent. It doesn't have to be fancy... something simple is perfect! We would need to serve about 60 people. Please consider signing up! You can contact Curt Mann for more information or to sign up.



Starting this Saturday, January 26, Saturday evening worship will begin at 5 PM.



**Dinner:** 5:30 pm—Leshner Hall.

**Wired Word** with Pastor Eric: 6:00 pm—Library

**Youth Choir Rehearsal:** 6:15 pm - choir room

**Evening Prayer:** 7:00 pm - Christ Chapel

**In Stitches:** 7:00 pm—Atrium

**Confirmation:** 7:30 pm - Conference room



Mark Your Calendars

# EVENTS



- ♦ The semi annual reporting meeting will be held on January 27 beginning at 10:30 am. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the reports of the congregation. The brunch immediately preceding the semi-annual meeting will be prepared and served by members of Grace's Thrivent Financial group. A Thrivent Action Team grant will cover the cost of most of the food ingredients, so that the meal offering can be donated to the renovation fund for the restrooms. The menu includes Oven Denver Omelet, ham, fresh fruit medley, homemade coffee cakes and muffins, and beverages. Suggested minimum donation for adults is \$5.00.
- ♦ Grace's Thrivent Financial group will meet in the staff conference room at 10:30 am on February 3. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend.
- ♦ The Boy Scout troop will be serving breakfast from 10—11:30 on Sunday, February 3. The menu is hotcakes and sausage, biscuits and gravy, fruit and juice.
- ♦ Women of Grace: Join us for the Women of the ELCA general meeting on February 6 at 1 PM. The program will be a presentation from "100 dresses" given by Beth Kimmerling Dumler. This is our first meeting for our new afternoon dessert only format. Come and join in the fun!
- ♦ Yesterday's Youth welcomes any one 55 or older. Please come and join us Wednesday, February 13th. We meet the second Wednesday of each month in Leshner Hall. 11:00 to 12:00 we meet for some social time. We eat at 12:00 after which we have devotions and a program. The meal is pot luck. So bring a dish to share and your table service and enjoy the fellowship.



Jazz Evening Prayer  
February 17  
7 PM  
Chapel

## **"Their Words and Why They Matter"**

Join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 6 p.m., Grace Library (Right before the Jazz Evening Prayer service at 7!) Who are the women who speak in the Bible? What are their stories? Using selected chapters from Lindsay Hardin Freeman's book, Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter, we'll hear from the women of the Bible and hear God speaking through them into our lives. (Purchasing the book is optional.) Sponsored by Faithful Conversations (Megan Morrow, Carol Olson, Teddi Reckling)



**December Council Meeting  
December 18, 2018**

Present: Karen Billings, Doug Krueger, Pastor Eric Leshar, Dave Ripa, Curt Mann, Carla Ingersoll, Dustin Haider, Teddi Reckling, Jan Branting

Absent: Wendy Apple, Barb Smith

Curt Mann called the Council meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**Devotions:** Karen

**Approval of Council Minutes:**

November 13 council minutes approved as printed.

**President's Report:**

There is now a one-year vacancy on the council that needs to be filled. Request for a volunteer will be added to the bulletin and the weekly email. Interested people should contact either Pr. Eric or Curt.

Council Member installation: December 16

January committee and council meeting dates: Committees will meet on January 8. Council will meet on January 15.

End of year reports: All reports are due to Sandi by January 10.

**Pastor Eric's report:**

Council Retreat is set for January 19, 9-11AM. Focus will be on creating a visioning statement and what the means for the council and congregation.

**Director of Music Report:**

Pastor and Director of Music Reports: Approved as printed.

**Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports:**

Approved and submitted for audit.

**Committee Reports:**

Finance/Stewardship-No written report.

Worship & Music-No written report.

Parish Ed- written report

Congregational Life- written report

Property-written report

Social Ministry-written report.

Committee reports approved as printed.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:****Election of officers:**

President: Dustin Haider

Vice President: Dave Ripa

Secretary: Carla Ingersoll

**Committee Assignments:**

Finance/Stewardship: Curt Mann

Worship & Music: Teddi Reckling, Dave Ripa

Parish Ed: Karen Billings

Congregational Life: Carla Ingersoll

Property: Doug Krueger

Social Ministry: Jan Branting

Memorials: Dave Ripa

**Internet/phone provider:**

Teddi made a motion that Grace change the internet/phone provider from Spectrum to Allo for a lower monthly rate. Karen seconded. Motion carried. Roger Potts will be the contact to make the change.

**Candles for Christmas Services:** Worship and Music Committee has made a recommendation to replace the real candles used by the congregation during Christmas Eve services with battery operated candles.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Pastor closed meeting with prayer.

Council moved to Leshar Lounge to meet with staff and spouses for a Christmas celebration

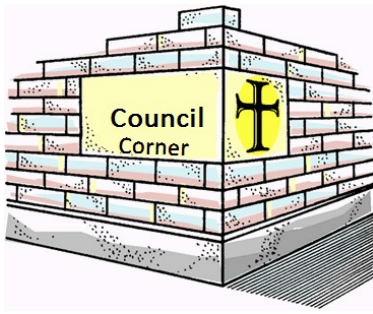
Respectfully Submitted,  
Carla Ingersoll, Council Member



Scouts from Troop 30 assisted several people from Grace on December 17 at The Gathering Place. Regina and Steve Paschold prepared chili, using ground beef from Grace's Women of the ELCA. Carla Ingersoll donated the tossed salad. The menu also included crackers, bananas, and various cookies, cakes, and other dessert items contributed by the Scouts and Joy Kokes. The following Scouts and leaders helped to serve and clean up after 167 portions had been distributed: Mitchel Kingery, Lucas Davis, Glenn McChristian, Kelli Baker,

Trenton Johanson, Sirius Johnson, Ryan Baker, Austin James, Landon Koepke, Landyn Johanson, Esten Rezek, Dayton Ganow, Shawn Johanson, Tad Rezek, Russell Dethloff, DJ Davis, Marcy Ganow, Tim Ganow, Kurt Cruze, and Jennifer Baker. (Regina should be considered for a merit badge, having worked to find a task for almost all of those individuals.) Thanks go to Joy Kokes, Marilyn Holmquist, and Brady Garvin for recent financial gifts of support.





Several **Thank You's** from the Church Council...

To all of the committee, organizations, and individuals who provided baskets for our silent auction benefiting our Wednesdays at Grace program.

To the members of our Thrivent Group and WELCA for providing delicious meals for our semi-annual meetings.

**From the President of the Congregation:** We know WHAT we do at Grace Lutheran: Making Christ known to all through Grace. We know WHY we are here: we believe that by God's grace we have been gathered to worship, called to witness, and sent to serve. Now we need to consider the outcome of our ministry. This year we are asking congregational members to talk about and consider the desired results of our WHAT and WHY. The council is going to be taking up this question as well. Being a member of Grace Lutheran should provide us with a roadmap of how we interact with other people and our world on a daily basis. We want to continue to grow our ministry in the Near South Neighborhood. To do so, we need to be flexible and we need to take risks. Please continue to pray for our ministry and give something new a chance; you might find that God is working through you in ways you least expected.

**From the Worship and Music Committee:** Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas and Epiphany services so inspirational. We are excited to introduce new kinds of music and new liturgies throughout 2019!

**From the Parish Education Committee:** Vacation Bible School will be held the week of July 29. We are going to use the ELCA resource for VBS and it is called "Who Is My Neighbor?" The focus is on world hunger. We invite all members of the congregation to join us on February 5, at 7:00 P.M. to make specific plans for the Vacation Bible School program.

**From the Congregational Life Committee:** The Congregational Life Committee will be hosting Fellowship time on Sunday, February 10 and will be serving Valentine cookies and making cards for our shut in members. The Lincoln Kids! Newspaper with our ad for the Spring Eggstravaganza will be distributed to many locations in Lincoln the first week in February. The Eggstravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, from 1-3 pm. We will need volunteers to help with games and serving refreshments. Other possible projects and ideas were also discussed.

**From the Property Committee:** The committee has been hard at work already in 2019. The stained glass windows project is entering into the refurbishing phase; they are now repairing the interior stained glass windows. The risers in the old choir room have been removed. The committee has also been working with Allo to change our telephone and internet service. As if that wasn't enough, they are replacing the wicker chairs and table by the library with a cast aluminum set and have been studying ways to create a safer church.

**From the Social Ministry Committee:** In December, boxes of food were distributed to 30 needy families at Prescott School! We will continue the monthly sales of Fair Trade coffee and candy, which benefit small scale producers in developing countries. Please consider helping us support them!

**From the Finance & Stewardship Committee:** We wish to thank everyone for their continued willingness to share of their time, talent, and financial resources! We couldn't have done it without you. We are working on reconciling all of our accounts for 2018.





24

Ray & Lee Delka



1

Bonnie Krueger

2

Shirleen Hoffman

Liam Hughes

Gabby Winterfeld

3

Ben Klein

Judy Lambert

7

Sharon Gottsche

Austin McKillip

8

Patience Bukasa

Willie Weisbrook

9

Keith Oetjen

Conrad Schroeder

12

Karen Billings

Jackson Bukasa

Neil Larson

13

Tim Riemann

15

Sondra Block

Velma Giles

Kay Ossian

16

Pr Eric Lesher

Tricia Rosno

18

Lela Heim

19

Evan Hughes

Anne Melang-Thoren

Kathren Miller

Ardyth Wolfe

20

Cindy Eberspacher

Roger Potts

Kathie Remington

Bob Schnell

21

Darlene Stutheit

22

Devin Billings

Matt Knobbe

23

Kara Basler Heim

Donna Carnes

Lee Delka

24

Dennis Berens

Madeleine Melang-Thoren

Miles Melang-Thoren

26

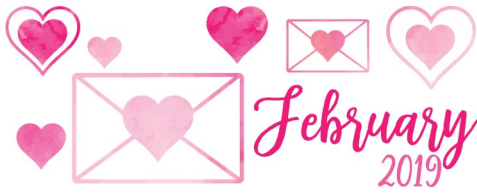
Chris Apple

27

Larry Watchorn

28

Pam Zilly

**Monday, February 11**

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
1:00 pm WELCA #2 Mtg.  
7:00 pm Scouts

**Tuesday, February 12**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:30 pm Scout  
7:00 pm Council Mtg., W.R.T. Mtg.  
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

**Wednesday, February 13**

11:30 am Yesterday's Youth  
5:30 pm Supper  
6:00 pm Wired Word  
6:15 pm Youth Choir  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer, In Stitches  
7:30 pm Confirmation

**Thursday, February 14**

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

**Friday, February 15**

5:00 pm Gym reserved

**Saturday, February 16**

9:00 am Lounge reserved  
5:00 pm Worship

**Sunday, February 17**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Fellowship,  
choir, Sunday School  
1:00 pm Leshar Hall reserved  
3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal  
6:00 pm Faithful conversations group  
7:00 pm Jazz Evening Prayer

**Monday, February 18**

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

**Tuesday, February 19**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:00 pm Scout Pack Mtg.  
7:00 pm WELCA #6 Mtg.  
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

**Wednesday, February 20**

1:00 pm WELCA mtg.  
5:30 pm Supper

6:00 pm Wired Word  
6:15 pm Youth Choir  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer, In Stitches  
7:30 pm Confirmation

**Thursday, February 21**

6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy  
6:00 pm gym reserved  
7:00 pm N. A. Mtg., Bells

**Friday, February 22**

4:00 pm Suzuki lessons

**Saturday, February 23**

5:00 pm worship

**Sunday, February 24**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Fellowship,  
choir, Sunday School  
3:00 pm L.L.C.

**Monday, February 25**

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
7:00 pm Scouts

**Tuesday, February 26**

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

**Wednesday, February 27**

5:30 pm Supper  
6:00 pm Wired Word  
6:15 pm Youth Choir  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer

**Thursday, February 28**

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

**Friday, February 1**

5:30 pm YWCA respite care

**Saturday, February 2**

1:00 pm Lounge reserved  
5:00 pm Worship

**Sunday, February 3**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Sunday School, Bible study,  
choir, fellowship, Thrivent Meeting  
3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal

**Monday, February 4**

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
7:00 pm Scouts

**Tuesday, February 6**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:30 pm Scouts  
7:00 pm Committee Meetings  
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

**Wednesday, February 6**

1:00 pm WELCA meeting with dessert  
5:30 pm Supper  
6:00 pm Wired Word  
6:15 pm Youth Choir  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer, In Stitches  
7:30 pm Confirmation

**Thursday, February 7**

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

**Friday, February 8**

5:30 pm YWCA respite care

**Saturday, February 9**

9:00 am Council retreat  
5:00 pm Worship

**Sunday, February 10**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Fellowship,  
Choir, Sunday School  
3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal



## Grace Staff and Council Members

**Rev. Eric Lesh,**

*Senior Pastor*

*308-708-1146*

*pr.eric@egrace.org*

**Sandi Knippelmeyer,**

*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*

### **Council Assignment to Committees:**

Dustin Haider:	Council President
Dave Ripa:	Worship & Music; Memorials
Carla Ingersoll:	Congregational Life
Curt Mann:	Stewardship\Finance
Karen Billings:	Congregational Life
Jan Branting:	Social Ministry
Teddi Reckling:	Worship and Music
Doug Krueger:	Property
Fran Gade:	Parish Education

### **Love and laughter go hand in hand!**

Share these jokes with your beloved on February 14 — or whenever some humor can brighten a day!

Q: What valentine did the French chef give his wife?

A: A hug and a quiche

Q: What did the paper clip say to the magnet?

A: "I find you very attractive."

Q: What did the pencil say to the paper?

A: "I dot my i's on you!"

Q: How did the phone propose to his girlfriend?

A: He gave her a ring.

Q: What do you call a very small valentine?

A: A valentiny

Grace Lutheran Church  
2225 Washington Street  
Lincoln NE 68502  
402-474-1505  
office@egrace.org

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Lincoln, NE  
**PERMIT NO. 5**