

# The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502

July 25, 2017



Mark your calendars for a church picnic on Sunday, July 30 in Lesher Hall, beginning at 5:45 pm. Please bring your favorite picnic dish to share. Hot dogs, drinks and tableware will be provided. We will carpool or take the Church bus to Antelope Park for the Lincoln Municipal band concert that begins at 7:00 pm. The theme for the concert will be **Nebraska 150:** *Celebrating the Good Life* 

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During the hot days of summer I always hear someone say, "Wow, the temperature sure ramped up this afternoon!" Usually, this means more sweat and possible storms later in the day. This is August and our summer for some of us is almost over. Back to school and work for some. More of the same for others. This fall here at Grace we are ramping up our Wednesday night program. It has been a dream for some of us for some time to have a vital Wednesday night program. Our Congregational President Curt Mann has included a diagram of what might be offered on a Wednesday (see page 7).

In addition to leading Evening Prayer and teaching Confirmation, I will be leading a Bible study that takes a look at stories right of the news and applies them to the Bible and our faith. If you like images then imagine this class as one that carries the newspaper in one hand and the Bible in the other. Some of the news stories will be comforting. Some of them will be challenging. As we dialog about these topics we will also learn to listen and be respectful of one another. Something our Quick Check survey says needs attention as we live our life together here at Grace.

Other classes will depend on your willingness to lead and participate. We already have a meal coordinator. Maybe a group of us want to walk after our evening meal. Maybe you know someone who wants to offer a parenting class to our members and neighbors. Maybe you know someone who can teach a painting or craft class. The ideas are many but their success depends on all of us "ramping up" our efforts to contribute to the success of this ministry.

So give it some thought and share your ideas and your time with myself or Curt Mann or a note to the office.

Thanks and see you this fall.

Pr. Ene Jester

Pr. Eric Lesher

#### Volunteers needed at the Lutheran Center:

On August 16th, the center is having a purge day. This includes cleaning the inside of the building, cleaning the yard, and making necessary repairs to the property. They will provide free lunch for those who help.

The second event is the Welcome Back BBQ. In the past, Grace has helped by cooking and serving the food so student staff can walk around and meet/engage new students. They will need about 8 people for this and anyone can help. This event is on Saturday, August 19, 5-8pm.

Please contact Jacob Krueger at 402-560-6580, if you would like to help.



- ♦ 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 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.
- Death and funeral: Viletta Haddal
- The deadline for the next Greeter will be August 20th. It will be mailed on Tuesday, August 23.



A produce table will be set up in Lesher Hall on Sunday mornings. It is a way for those who have surplus items from their gardens to share with others at Grace. A container will be available for freewill contributions, which will be donated to the cause of relieving world hunger.



Lutheran World Relief School Kits: Education is important for any community, especially where poverty or disaster has limited the options for young people to reach their potential.

#### Include the following items in each school kit:

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide, or college ruled paper approx. 8 x 10 1\2, no loose—leaf paper

One 30—centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other One pencil sharpener

One blunt scissors

Five unsharpened # 2 pencils with erasers: secure together with a rubber band

Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

One box of 16 or 24 crayons

One 2½ inch eraser

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All should be new and in good condition. Remove any excess packaging, pack all items in the bag and close. The bags will be located on the table outside the church office. Slips with the supply list are also available on the table. When the bags are gone, we will collect supplies for Prescott Elementary.

# Prayer Around the Cross on Wednesdays, at 7 p.m., in Christ Chapel

These are short, quiet, candelit, contemplative services that use music from many sources, but mostly from Taize. Each week will have a theme, readings and prayers will be centered on that theme. Each service also has a time for individually offered prayers for healing, peace and other concerns. If you could use a little more beauty, quiet, and peace in your life, this service is for you.

**Grace's Thrivent Financial group** will meet in the staff conference room on August 6, at 10:30 am. There are important items on the agenda. Non-members are also welcome to attend the meeting.

**The Faithful Conversation committee** continues to lead discussions on the ELCA resource, "Faith, Sexism and Justice Conversations toward a Social Statement" from <u>6:45-8p</u>, in the Lounge.

July 27: Why do words and images for God matter?

Aug 3: How do we challenge the misuse of Scripture against women and girls?



Congratulations and God's blessings to former Grace member, Dave Hellerich, as he is consecrated to the Ministry of Word and Service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on July 30, 2017. Dave's new title will be Deacon, and he will serve at Christ Lutheran in Yakima, Washington. Pr. Carolyn Hellerich is currently serving

Central Lutheran in Yakima. The Ministry of Word and Sacrament was adopted at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as a way to unify the roster of lay professionals in the church (formerly Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers). Congratulation wishes can be sent to him at: Christ Lutheran Church, 5606 West Lincoln Ave, Yakima, WA 98908

**Items on the Lutheran Food Pantry "Wish List" at this time include:** The Lutheran Food Pantry is busy. Any monetary donations or shelf staple items are greatly appreciated, but items that we have an urgent need for now include: Breakfast cereals

Instant oatmeal packets, Breakfast bars, Canned chicken, Canned peas, Macaroni and cheese, Jelly Peanut butter, Fruit juice, Saltine crackers, Any shelf stable food items

Personal care items (toilet paper, shampoo, bath/bar soap, lotion - even the sample size items)

Thank you for your generosity in helping the food needy in our community!



Please join us for Rally Day on September 10, 2017. We will introduce our Sunday School teachers and welcome all students that morning. There will be opportunities for everyone to participate God's Work Our Hands program that morning also. Please join us in the gym that morning at 10:15.



On July 9, we welcomed little Everett to the Lord's family with the Sacrament of Baptism during worship. What a joy to celebrate this important day with Everett and his family!



Scouts from Troop 30 spent a week at Camp Cornhusker near Humboldt, Nebraska. Grace is the charter organization for Troop 30.

# God's Work. Our hands.

Stewardship Sunday: a chance to show our love for our Lord

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 26: 35-36

Have you ever given food to God? Have you ever given him clothes or a bed for the night? How about a drink of water when he was thirsty? Do you remember doing any of that?

Of course, you have done those things. We care for our Lord every time we care for his people:

when we give to the Prescott Pantry or the Gathering Place or the Good Samaritan Fund.

when we volunteer at or donate to one of the many caring agencies in our community.

when we hold the hand of someone in pain or despair.

when we teach Sunday School, provide food for Fellowship Hour, bake bread or provide wine for communion, serve on a Grace committee, sing in the choir.

when we give our monetary gifts to support our congregation's staff and its programs and those of our synod and the ELCA.

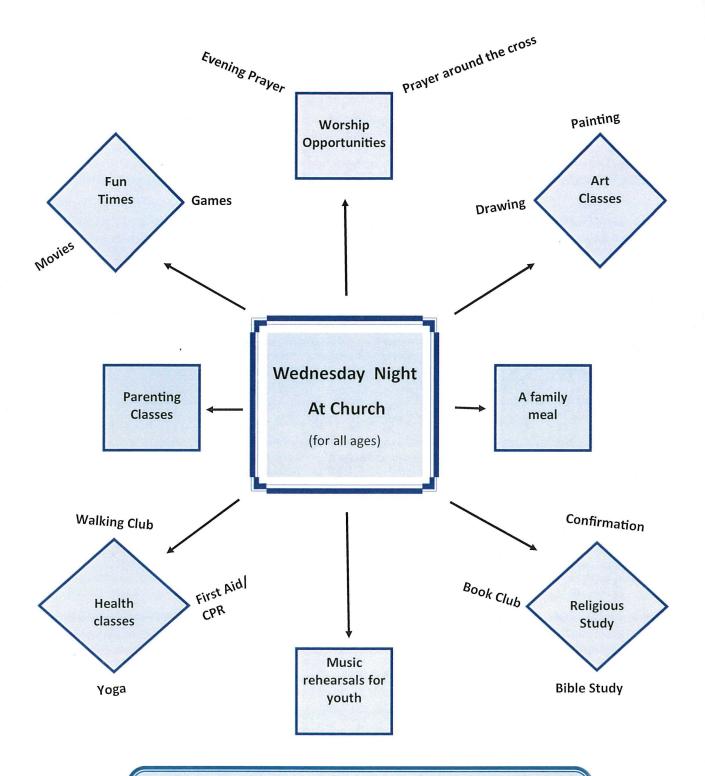
During the week of Sept. 11, you will receive a pledge card in the mail, asking you to indicate what monetary gifts you will give to support Grace's mission of caring and ministry in 2017. Please fill out the pledge card and bring it with you to present to the Lord in a special part of the worship services on *Sept. 16 and 17*. Tim Siburg, the Nebraska Synod's new director of stewardship, will be our preacher for our celebration that day.

If you're not able to attend church that weekend, please mail your card to the church office, 2225 Washington, Lincoln 68502.

We recognize, of course, that we do not earn our salvation by what we do and what we give, but we know we are feeding, clothing and caring for our God when we feed, clothe and care for his people. Both as individuals and as a congregation, we *are* God's hands in this world. What greater joy could there be?



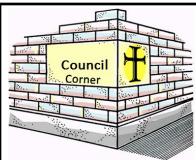
Following the service on Sunday, September 10, we will practice our stewardship by observing the ELCA's "God's work. Our Hands" Sunday. We will divide into teams and go out to pick up trash in Grace's neighborhood. Please wear your yellow t-shirts or feel free to help with this project without wearing a yellow t-shirt. Need a t-shirt? Talk to Sandi in the office. With a minimum order of ten we can purchase more t-shirts. The deadline to order is August 6.



What we would like to see happen on Wednesday nights...

Can you help us out? To make this work, we need volunteers!

If you would be interested in helping with any of these ideas,
please contact the office.



# **Proposed Constitutional Changes**

(Note: Specific language will be shared in next month's *Greeter*.)

## Change #1: Congregation Council Membership

- a) To reduce the number of Council members from 12 to 9.
- b) To eliminate language that asks the congregation to consider having a youth and/or young adult member serve on the Council.

<u>Rationale</u>: We believe that with the size of our congregation, we are able to handle all of our responsibilities with a group of nine individuals. We also believe that all youth and young adult members of the congregation should feel free to seek participation on our Church Council through the election process.

# **Change #2:** Nominating Committee Membership

a) To reduce the number of individuals serving on this committee from 6 to 4.

<u>Rationale</u>: This request came to the Council from the previous Nominating Committee. They felt that they can accomplish their task with fewer people and the Council agrees.

# **Change #3: Evangelism Committee Name Change**

a) To change the name the Evangelism Committee to the Congregational Life Committee.

<u>Rationale</u>: We believe that this new name better reflects the responsibilities of this committee at Grace. Note: There are two different areas within the GLC Constitution where it mentions the Evangelism Committee. Our intention is to change the name in both locations.

#### **Change #4:** Stewardship and Finance Committees

a) To provide language that allows these committees to operate as one or continue as two separate committees.

<u>Rationale</u>: This language change will allow for flexibility to operate in the best interests of these two committees. Presently they operate separately. However, in the future, the committees may want to join forces and work as one committee. The proposed language would allow this to happen.

#### Change #5: Columbarium Committee

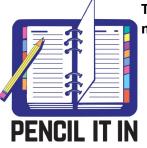
- a) To provide language that describes the purpose of the GLC Columbarium Committee.
- b) To provide language as to the number of members of this specific committee and terms of office.

<u>Rationale</u>: This would give needed language describing the make up and responsibilities of this committee. Previously, there was no language provided in the GLC Constitution.

#### Change #6: Reporting to the Congregation Council

- a) To provide language describing when written reports are to be given to the Congregation Council.
- b) The language would change from requiring these reports be delivered by the Sunday prior to the Council meeting instead of the Friday before.

<u>Rationale</u>: This change would just reflect the current practice of the Council.



The Congregation Council has set the dates for three upcoming congregational meetings. They are:

October 8th: To approve the proposed changes to our GLC Constitution.

November 5th: To adopt the proposed constitutional changes; to adopt the 2018 spending plan; and to elect members of the congregational council and nominating committee.

January 28th: To accept the reports of the congregation

Benedictine Oblates are women and men of all Christian denominations who are interested in enriching their Christian way of life. Benedictine Oblates live in today's society to bring the world to God by being a witness to Christ by word and example to those around them.

As a Benedictine Oblate you will spend time studying the Rule of St. Benedict. You will also pledge yourself to a life of deeper prayer through Lectio Divina, the Liturgy of the Hours in the monastic tradition, and the study of spirituality. There is no cost to become a Benedictine Oblate other than the cost for occasional books. Benedictine Oblates generally commit to at least one meeting per month.

The three chapters of the Benedictine Oblates are affiliated with Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota. Lincoln Oblate Deans are: Carol Barry, Steve Blum, Carol Olson, Jim Rea, and Mary Schroer. Additional information can be found our Facebook page—Nebraska Oblates.

Sr. Phyllis Hunhoff, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota is the Associate Director of the Nebraska Benedictine Oblates.

Benedictine Oblate Orientation will be held at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, 5401 South Street, at 7 PM, Sunday, August 27 in Sheridan Rooms A and B. For additional information, call Lead Dean Carol Olson at 402-486-0864 or carolinroma@yahoo.com or visit our website at <a href="www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org">www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org</a> for more information.



Many thanks for all the well wishes received following my recent hospitalization. They are so heartwarming and I am very grateful for all my friends at Grace. Thank you, thank you!

From Phyllis Krueger



I was able to attend the national conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians in Minneapolis, July 10-13. It was a fantastic week of learning and worshiping and connecting with new and old friends. One of those old friends, our former assistant Jameson Varpness, sends his greetings to everyone at Grace. Jameson is the Director of Music at Grace Lutheran in Wenatchee, Washington. He is enjoying his job and the beautiful hiking trails near Wenatchee very much. I thought you might like to know what goes on at a conference for church musicians, so here you go ...

Opening worship was held at Augustana Lutheran in West St. Paul. What a beautiful space! The church is in a more contemporary style of architecture, but has soaring ceilings, wonderful acoustics and a very nice pipe organ. This worship service was supposed to be at Boe Chapel on the campus of St. Olaf, but an unfortunate lightning strike wrecked the blower motors of the chapel organ, so we had to move.

A hymn festival led by David Cherwien (some of you should remember him and his wife Susan from their wonderful hymn festival here at Grace a couple of years ago) and the National Lutheran Choir was held at St. Olaf Catholic Church on Tuesday night. Wow! That hymn festival began with goosebumps for me, and ended with both goosebumps and tears. More than 300 Lutheran church musicians, plus public attendees, with the leadership of that incredible choir and gifted organist ... I'm pretty sure that was a glimpse of the heavenly singing we all will get to be part of someday.

Wednesday night was a special worship service at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota. What an incredible place. The monks welcomed the Lutherans with open arms, and it was a meaningful night of ecumenical dialogue, fellowship, and a beautiful Evening Prayer service. I actually got to be in a choir of eight Lutherans who sang the third psalm of the evening (the monks sang the first two psalms). Scary but fun. J Anthony Ruff, OSB arranged the service to use Lutheran chorales and hymns along with Catholic pieces. He wrote an article describing the service at

http://www.praytellblog.com/index.php/2017/07/15/lutherans-and-monks-together/

This service was an incredible experience, and it gave me great hope for the future of Christ's church.

Closing worship on Thursday was at Central Lutheran, and the organist for this service was Sarah Herzer. Sarah has a connection to Grace, in that while she was a student at UNL (in the late 1990s, I think), she and her husband Thomas attended here. She and Thomas are now cantors at the Castle Church in Wittenberg (yes, THAT Wittenberg ... the very one on whose doors Luther nailed his 95 Thesis 500 years ago!) She played and led the hymns marvelously, and the service was extremely moving, with a sermon by Frederick Niedner, senior research professor of theology at Valparaiso University. At the end of the service, we followed the processional cross outside and did an Affirmation of Baptism and a blessing for travel in front of the church. To close, we sang ELW 313, O Lord Now let Your Servant. More than 300 voices, a capella, in harmony, outside, with the sounds of traffic and the city all around ... another goosebump moment.

During the day, I was able to attend workshops, plenary sessions on the role of church musicians in their congregations and in the church at large, and reading sessions. I renewed old friendships and met new colleagues, and was just generally refreshed by the wonderful week of being around so many people who are as passionate about the music and worship of the church as I am. I am very grateful for the congregation's support in helping me to attend this conference, and I know that my time in Minneapolis will have a positive effect on worship here at Grace in this coming year!

#### **Generous gift to Grace from Viletta Haddal**

Many of you have known Viletta Haddal as a valued member of Grace Lutheran Church. She considered many of her friends at Grace, family. She would have turned 96 on Thursday, June 29, 2017, but instead she left her earthly life on Monday, June 26 at age 95, to be in the loving arms of Jesus.

Five years ago Viletta approached the Grace Transportation Coordinator, Bob Anderson, with a confidential wish to purchase a brand new bus for the Grace congregation. This confidence has been carefully guarded throughout these five years, but after her death, we are now able to announce this generous contribution to the entire congregation – the previous purchase of a brand new bus, custom designed by Viletta and Bob, at a cost of nearly \$52,000. This kind of generosity is important to the sustainability of Grace Lutheran Church, and her gift is one that will live on for many years.

For those of you who did not know Viletta Haddal, she always sat on the pulpit side of church, about 1/3 of the way from the front, beautifully dressed in hose, heels, lovely wool slacks and jackets, matching jewelry, with her hair perfectly coifed. Viletta was totally blind at this point in her life. But in her young days she was a very accomplished woman; professor of textiles and design in the home economics department at the University of Nebraska. Prior to the loss of her sight, she and her husband ran the Nebraska Club, a Bed and Breakfast, and she was active in many ways, also serving as a volunteer for the Lutheran Music Program. Viletta appreciated classical music, fine choral music, opera, and was an accomplished pianist herself. Having no children, she dearly loved her two nieces and their families who mostly lived in Minnesota. She loved the residents at the Landing where she resided for many years, and gained many dear friends. And she loved her Grace family.

Viletta's memorial service was held in Christ Chapel at Grace on June 30, and was officiated by Pastor Rene from the Landing. She knew Viletta very well, and had lovely stories to share with those in attendance, remembering Viletta in a very meaningful tribute.

Soon you will see the lettering, "Viletta's bus" placed near the entrance to the bus. We will not forget!



On a very hot, but otherwise uneventful late afternoon, individuals served food on behalf of Grace at The Gathering Place on July 17. Regina and Steve Paschold prepared spaghetti with meat sauce. Carla Ingersoll donated the tossed lettuce salad. There was also bread and applesauce, along with dessert treats contributed by Dennis Madison, Dave Ripa, Joy Kokes, Curt Mann, and Helen and Don Carnes. All of those mentioned above helped to serve and to clean up after 90 portions were dispensed. Special thanks go to Lois Schuerman for a recent financial donation, as well as for a variety of baked

desserts left from a fellowship hour. Sincere appreciation is also extended to Joyce Krueger, Marilyn Holmquist, and Brady Garvin for their financial gifts to support this important ministry.

August 6	
Assisting Minister	Jacob Krueger
Lector	Lorraine James
Communion Assistants	Don & Helen Carnes, Curt Mann, Robert Stimbert
Altar Guild	Dave & Kathren Miller
Acolyte	Luke Filbert
Communion bread	Cheryl Petersen
August 13	
Assisting Minister	Roger Potts
Lector	Chloe Fitzgibbon
Communion Assistants	Jan Branting, Connie Whyrick, Darlene Stutheit, Tina Loseke
Altar Guild	Dustin & Rachel Haider
Acolyte	Chloe Fitzgibbon
Communion bread	Darlene Stutheit
August 20	
Assisting Minister	Charlyne Berens
Lector	Denny Berens
Communion Assistants	Denny Berens, Arlene Reighard, Donna Hansen, Pat Lickei
Altar Guild	Sharon Gottsche, Pat Lickei
Acolyte	Cameron Krueger
Communion bread	Barb Smith
August 27	
Assisting Minister	Dean Dumler
Lector	Beth Kimmerling Dumler
Communion Assistants	Beth Kimmerling Dumler, Steve Paschold, Dave Ripa
Altar Guild	Dave & Kathren Miller
Acolyte	Elli Petersen
Communion bread	Dave Ripa



1 Doug & Jeannette Allen Steve & Tricia Rosno

3 Willie & Jeanne Weisbrook

9 Kevin & Kimberly Fritchie Michael & Laura Lawrence

12 Dean & Kay Ossian

17 John & Brittany Johnson

18 Ken & Lisa Holmstrom

19 Gene & Lianne Garza

20 Larry & Penny Group

24 Henry & Judy Lambert John & Debbie Winterfeld

25 Kim & Shannon Mills

30 Don & Helen Carnes Steve & Regina Paschold



1 Lynn Senkbeil

4 Brady Garvin Hazel Johnson Edward Meitzen

6 Ron Holtgrewe Steven Lesher Steven Pozehl Megan Watchorn

7 Jeannette Allen Marvin Krueger

9 Ellie Johnson

10 Kathryn Bodfield Steven Melichar Donna Schnell

11 Ed Binder David Paschold

12 Bev Hillman Steve Rosno 13 Alan Givens Carol Olson

14 Jill Marshall

15 Kathy Zimmerman

16 Josh Lesher

17 Belva Gleason

18 Stacy Parent

19 Kris Hilde

21 Everett Giles Dennis Madison Andrew Meitzen

22 Loretta Ahl Phyllis Narveson

23 Kim Mills

26 Dave Miller

28 David Baker Dana Miller

29 Charlie Matya

30 Kelly O'Hara Jillian Jensen



# Tuesday, August 1

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

# Wednesday, August 2

7:00 pm Evening Prayer

#### Thursday, August 3

7:00 pm "Faith, Sexism and Justice Conversations toward a Social Statement" study—lounge 7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

# Friday, August 4

5:30 pm YWCA respite care

#### Saturday, August 5

5:30 pm Worship

#### Sunday, August 6

9:00 am Worship \* 10:30 am Fellowship, ASF, Thrivent Mtg.

5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

#### Monday, August 7

6:30 pm Scout Cmte. Mtg.

#### Tuesday, August 8

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

Wednesday, August 9

7:00 pm Evening Prayer

#### Thursday, August 10

7:00 pm "Faith, Sexism and Justice Conversations toward a Social Statement" study—lounge 7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

# Friday, August 11

5:30 pm YWCA respite care

# Saturday, August 12

5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Lounge reserved

# Sunday, August 13

9:00 am Worship \*
10:30 am Fellowship, A.S.F.,
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

#### Tuesday, August 15

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

# Wednesday, August 16

7:00 pm Evening prayer

# Thursday, August 17

7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

# Saturday, August 19

5:30 pm Worship

# Sunday, August 20

9:00 am Worship \* 10:30 am Fellowship, A.S.F. 5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

#### Monday, August 21

5:00 pm Gathering Place

#### Tuesday, August 22

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

#### Wednesday, August 23

7:00 pm Evening Prayer

#### Thursday, August 24

7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

#### Saturday, August 26

5:30 pm Worship

# Sunday, August 27

9:00 am Worship \*
10:30 am Fellowship, A.S.F.,
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

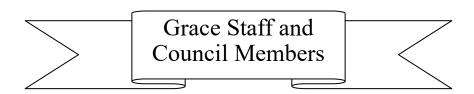
# Tuesday, August 29

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

#### Wednesday, August 30

7:00 pm Evening prayer

\*child care provided



# Rev. Eric Lesher,

Senior Pastor 308-708-1146 pr.eric@egrace.org

# Sara Schott,

Director of Parish Music sara@egrace.org

# Sandi Knippelmeyer,

Parish Administrator office@egrace.org

# Colt Ballou,

Assistant Director of Parish Music

# **Emily Freeman,**

Children's Ministry Intern

# Robert Stimbert,

Custodian

# Judi Schroeder,

**Nursery Coordinator** 

# Elizabeth Krueger,

Nursery attendant

# **Council Assignment to Committees:**

Curt Mann: Council President Karen Billings: Parish Ed and Youth

Kevin Gade: Finance

Wendy Apple: Worship and Music Dave Ripa: Stewardship and Memorials

Barb Smith: Social Ministry Teddi Reckling: Evangelism Carla Ingersoll: Evangelism Doug Krueger: Property Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln NE 68502 402-474-1505 office@egrace.org

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