

# *The Grace Greeter!*

**Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502  
December 2019**



## **Christmas Services at Grace**

**Christmas Eve, December 24th, 5:30 pm  
Christmas Day, December 25th, 10:00 am**



## **2 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. - Matthew 24**

I have always associated Advent with preparation. Preparing for the birth of Jesus among us again. But in the text above, we are told to stay awake. This feels different for me. I have a hard time staying awake. It's easy for me to fall asleep. Experts say not to watch television before you go to bed because it will hamper your ability to fall asleep.

Not a problem with me. I cannot count the number of times I have awakened to discover the game or show is long over and programming is well into the nightly newscast. Falling asleep at the wheel after a few hours of driving is easy to do. But I don't! Why not? Because sometimes staying awake means staying alive.

Being alert can add and even enhance your life. During the recent funeral for my Uncle Fred, we talked about how aware he was of what was going on around him. He was very attentive to creation and others. Especially birds. If the river went to the left and he suddenly steered the canoe to the right then you knew a rare or special bird had been sighted or heard.

So during the forgotten season of Advent we will focus on being alert or aware of Christ's presence with us during this busy holiday season. Our midweek Advent worship services provide prayer, readings, reflections, and songs around the themes of "Do Less," "Wonder," and "Hope." So join us in Christ Chapel as we work hard at keeping awake and aware of how Jesus is with us and among us all the time.

*Pr. Eric Tesher*



**December 4th, 11th, and 18th.**

**Christ Chapel 6:30 pm**



- ◆ 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 December 16th. It will be mailed on December 23rd.
- ◆ Holiday office hours: December 24—open until noon; December 25 & 26—closed; December 27—open until noon. December 31—open until noon; January 1 & 2—closed; December 3—open until noon.
- ◆ Please remember to get all 2019 offerings into the US mail, the offering plate or the church office on or before December 31. For offerings to be recorded as 2019 contributions, they must be postmarked by 12/31/19. Anything received after this MUST be considered a 2020 contribution
- ◆ To All Committee Chairs and Auxiliaries: Please turn in your report for the annual reporting meeting by January 10. You can send them via email to [office@egrace.org](mailto:office@egrace.org). This is the preferred way of turning in your reports! There is a great deal of work that goes into preparing the Annual Report of the Congregation after your report is turned in, so please get your reports into the office on time! Thanks.
- ◆ The 2020 flower chart is now available on the bulletin board in the Atrium. The fellowship book is also updated for 2020. Feel free to sign up for a Sunday or two! It is on the table outside the office.
- ◆ 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, Fran Gade, or the church office.
- ◆ We welcome David Sage to our Grace staff. He will assume the duties of the office manager on Dec. 2nd.



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.



Mark Your Calendars

# EVENTS



Help us "Hang the greens" and decorate the sanctuary on Sunday, December 22, right after worship. We will put the Chrismons on the trees, hang the greenery and bring in the poinsettias.



## Grace Bells, Brass & Jazz Concert

December 8th @  
4:00 pm



## Grace Women of the

**ELCA:** Our December gen-

eral meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1:00 pm. Please bring an ornament that holds special meaning for you to share with the group. If your ornaments are still stored away, bring a special Christmas memory to share instead. We will share our memories, sing Christmas songs, have dessert, enjoy friends and fellowship, and make an ornament to take home. Please RSVP to Tricia Rosno so that we have enough craft materials for everyone. Hope to see you on the 4<sup>th</sup>!



**THRIVENT® The Grace Thrivent Financial Group will**

**meet at 10:30 am on December 1st in the staff conference room. Visitors are welcome to attend.**

## Congregational Meeting



The semi annual reporting meeting will be held on January 26 beginning at 10:30 am. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the reports of the congregation.



## Wednesday Nights at Grace

**Resumes January 8th**

Evening Prayer @ 5:30 pm

Dinner @ 6:00 pm

Wired Word @ 6:30 pm

Youth Choir @ 6:30 pm

Confirmation Class @ 7:00 pm



# Lessons & Carols



Don't forget that Christmas lasts 12 days not one! So, the Sunday after Christmas, December 29, we are featuring a Lessons and Carols service. A wonderful service filled with the promise of the Christmas story and the hope of Christmas carols. So come to listen and sing the joy of Christmas!

**Note: There will not be a Saturday night service on Dec. 28th.**



**Get Ready!** The Third Annual *Silent Basket Auction* will take place at our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26th. All church committees, groups, and individuals are encouraged to donate a basket for this auction.



In 2018, more than 29,000 meals were served at the Gathering Place. That figure was up over 6% from 2017. On November 28, 2019 individuals representing Grace distributed 145 portions—as usual, more than the average number for a given day. Regina and Steve Paschold prepared the spaghetti with meat sauce. Carla Ingersoll donated the tossed lettuce salad. The menu

also included bananas and bread, along with desserts contributed by Joy Kokes, Jan Branting, Connie Whyrick, Ginny and Roger Potts, and Steve & Regina. All of those mentioned above helped with serving and with clean up after the meal.



When it comes to thank you's, this is one is BIG! The Lutheran World Relief school kits and quilts were efficiently packed and labeled by a talented group of worker bees. A huge thank you goes out to Jeannette Allen, Darlene Stutheit, Arlene Reighard, Kathren & Dave Miller, Sue Clymer, Lorraine James, Robert Stimber, and Curt Mann. In all, 48 quilts and 74 school kits were boxed and delivered to the truck at Sheridan Lutheran Church. Thanks to Steve Rosno and

Kathren Miller for the delivery services. We are thankful for another year of generous giving of time, talent and supplies to Lutheran World Relief.



## **October Council Meeting—Tuesday, October 8, 2019**

Present: Doug Krueger, Karen Billings, Teddi Reckling, Dave Ripa, Carla Ingersoll, Jan Branting, Fran Gade, Roger Potts

Absent: Pr. Eric

Fran Gade called the Council meeting to order at 7:02PM.

**Devotions:** Doug November will be Curt.

### **Approval of Council Minutes:**

Curt made a motion to approve the September 10 minutes as amended. Dave seconded. Motion passed.

**Pastor Eric's Report:** Written report

**Director of Music Report:** Written report

**Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports:** Curt made a motion to accept Pastor's and Director of Music reports and to approve the financial reports of June, July, August, September and October reports. Dave seconded. Motion passed.

The Wednesday night designated fund can be used for Sunday Fellowship, if necessary.

### **Committee Reports:**

Finance/Stewardship-written report

Worship & Music-written report

Parish Ed- written report

Congregational Life- written report-Received \$1000 grant from Immanuel Vision for outreach projects. Trunk or Treat on October 31---need volunteers and donations. Pr. Eric and Carla to ride the PCM Only 251 shuttle on October 10 to hand out water bottles and sack lunches.

Property-written report-Craft Memorial Grant Application: Will apply for grant money. If granted, we would need matching funds from congregation.

Social Ministry-did not meet

Memorial-Did not meet-next meeting is October 15

Dave made a motion to accept the committee reports as printed. Karen seconded. Motion passed.

### **Old Business:**

**Visitor's Welcome Table:** Received oven mitts, pens and pencils. Visitor letter has been updated and has been sent out to visitors. Looking at a paper cube design from Frosty's Advertising. Cost is approximately \$6.50 each. Order requirement is 250. Will revisit at a later council meeting.

**November Congregational Meeting:** WELCA will provide brunch at 10:10-10:15. Meeting will start at 10:30. WELCA will serve light meal. Dave will be the contact between council and Tricia Rosno.

**January Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting:** Thrivent will do a brunch.

**Review of Church Rolls:** Council will take a list of members from Church 360 that are not listed as having attended or contributed in the last 2 years. Return to Curt by October 13. Goal is to send out letters in November.

**Shared Ministry:** Youth choir will have children from Frieden's and Grace and will sing at Grace in October.

**Thrivent** is going to use Choice Dollars to repair one stained glass window. The Foundation will be asked to match.

**New Business:**

**Special Council Meeting to go over 2020 spending plan:** Date set as October 27 at 10:30.

**Donation for Joyce Palmer:** Dave made a motion to donate \$150 to the Nebraska Synod Fund for flood relief. Teddi seconded. Motion passed.

**Council Term Limits:** Any change would require a constitutional change. Since Synod is reviewing their constitution, this might be a good time to make any change. Jan will write up a proposed congregational change and present to council in November.

**Scout Trailer:** Scouts need a larger trailer for their equipment. Council gave approval to allow the Scouts to approach the congregation for donations.

Roger made a motion to move into executive session. Teddi seconded. Motion passed.

Dave made a motion to move out of executive session. Jan seconded. Motion passed.

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM. Dave made the motion and Teddi seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carla Ingersoll, Secretary

## **October Council Meeting Sunday, October 27, 2019**

Present: Doug Krueger, Karen Billings, Dave Ripa, Carla Ingersoll, Jan Branting, Fran Gade, Roger Potts

Absent: Pr. Eric, Teddi Reckling

Fran Gade called the Council meeting to order at 10:35AM.

Purpose of the meeting: Decide on staff compensation and approve 2020 budget

Roger made a motion to approve a 1.5% compensation increase for the church staff. Dave seconded. Motion carried.

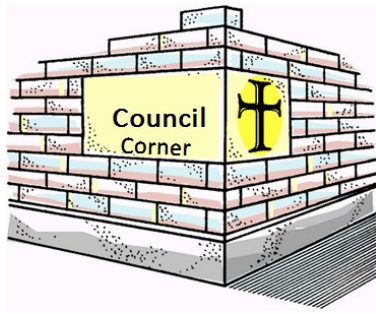
Curt made a motion that the 2020 budget, including the 1.5% compensation increase, be presented to the congregation at the November congregational meeting. Doug seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion about process of getting a new office administrator in place. Karen will call one of the previous candidates to see if that person is still available, if yes, will get 2-3 dates to re-interview, and if all goes well the candidate will meet with the council.

Being no further business to discuss, Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roger seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carla Ingersoll, Secretary





**From the Church Council:** At the November meeting, we were updated by the Congregational Life committee that the Trunk or Treat event was a huge success. This event has grown each year. Thanks to all who volunteered and supplied treats. We also received thank you cards from the People's City Mission and the Lutheran Center. They are posted on the atrium bulletin board.

We want to congratulate those re-elected (second term) and new elected to council at the November semi-annual meeting: Doug Krueger, Roger Potts, Cindy Eberspacher, Neil Larson, and Connie Thorson. Congratulations to the newly elected nominating committee for 2020: Fran Gade, Pat Lickei, Dave Ripa, and Peter Schnake.

**Thank you!** We are so grateful to the Thrivent group, the Foundation, and the Memorials committee for the funds to refurbish the three stained glass windows. The Thrivent group challenged the Foundation which then challenged the memorials committee to each provide funding for a window. The memorials committee is using undesignated memorials given in memory of Ed Binder, Everett & Velma Giles, and Joyce Krueger. Thanks to the property committee and Roger Potts for overseeing the repairs to the windows.

**From the Parish Education Committee:** The Parish Education committee wants to thank the congregation for their contributions to the World Hunger Farm project. The noisy offering campaign is growing each month. You will see updates of the amount collected on the electronic board, the bulletin board in the gym and in the announcement sheet.

**From the Congregational Life Committee:** Thank you to all of the volunteers and people who donated candy for this year's Trunk or Treat event. It was a huge success and fun for all. Approximately 320 children attended with adult family members. A great event to keep Grace a vibrant part of the neighborhood.

**From the Property Committee:** The committee has tagged two Christmas trees at Spilker's Pineridge Tree Farm. The stained glass window project's status is that we'll have all three refurbished beginning in the spring of 2020. The Lutheran music program's file cabinets will be moved from the old choir room to the new music room. Bus service was again discussed. We've removed the large, mostly dead spruce tree northeast of the building. We've applied for a grant through the Nebraska synod for renovating the two bathrooms across from the office.

**From the Social Ministry Committee:** Thrivent Financial action team grants are providing \$250 toward each of our committee's projects to distribute Thanksgiving baskets as well as providing boxes of food for needy families at Prescott just before winter holiday break.



*Merry Christmas*





14  
John & Joyce Lunde

16  
George & Norma Sturgeon

22  
George & Marsha Foster

31  
Dustin & Rachel Haider



1  
Elizabeth Krueger  
Jacob Krueger  
Carly Weixelman

2  
Larry Clymer

3  
Bonnie Drohman  
Steve Reckling

7  
Don Carnes

8  
Katie Fritchie  
Kinzie Lange

10  
Betty Maun

13  
Marsha Foster  
Katrina Lange

14  
Noah & Raymond Guern

15  
Chris Andersen  
Robert Fischer  
Elias Genuchi  
Dustin Haider

17  
Dean Ossian

18  
Vivian Condon  
Sam Ihrle

21  
Elizabeth Garza

22  
Lois Moss  
John Plambeck  
Jack Reighard  
Seth Riemann  
Cindy Watchorn

25  
Robert Stimbert

26  
Irene Moore

27  
Scott Drake  
Ashlyn Jensen  
Chris Schroeder

29  
Mark Billings  
Tanja Noecker

30  
Ron Most



Cub Scout Pack 30 and Scouts BSA Troop 30 are once again sponsoring the GIVING TREE which you will find in the Atrium. Congregational members are encouraged to select an ornament from the tree, purchase the item, and return it to the church (unwrapped) no later than Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. These requested gifts will be given to the Friendship Home of Lincoln. Thank you!



### **Sunday, December 1**

9:00 am Worship  
10:15 am Sunday School, Fellowship,  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Thrivent,  
Adult choir  
12:30 pm Gym/Lounge reserved

### **Monday, December 2**

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
WELCA Bd. Mtg. @ Rosno's  
7:00 pm Scouts BSA

### **Tuesday, December 3**

9:30 am Al- Anon  
1:00 pm Synod mtg.  
6:30 pm Cub Scout den mtgs.  
7:00 pm Committee meetings  
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

### **Wednesday, December 4**

12:00 pm WELCA unit mtg.  
6:30 pm Advent Worship Service  
7:00 pm Memorials Comm. Mtg.

### **Thursday, December 5**

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

### **Friday, December 6**

5:00 pm Suzuki  
YWCA Respite Care  
5:00 pm (Fri) through 10:00 am (Sat)  
Scouts BSA Lock-in

### **Saturday, December 7**

10:00 am Basketball-gym  
12:00 pm Danish Sisterhood  
5:00 pm Worship

### **Sunday, December 8**

9:00 am Worship  
10:15 am Sunday School, Fellowship,  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Adult  
choir  
4:00 pm "Bells, Brass & Jazz"  
concert

### **Monday, December 9**

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

### **Tuesday, December 10**

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

### **Wednesday, December 11**

11:30 am Yesterday's Youth  
6:30 pm Advent Worship Service

### **Thursday, December 12**

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

### **Friday, December 13**

5:30 pm YWCA respite care

### **Saturday, December 14**

10:00 am Basketball gym  
1:00 pm Chapel reserved  
5:00 pm Worship

### **Sunday, December 15**

9:00 am Worship  
10:15 am Sunday School, Fellowship,  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Adult  
choir  
12:00 pm Gym/Lounge reserved

### **Monday, December 16**

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

### **Tuesday, December 17**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:30 pm Cub Scout pack mtg.  
7:00 pm WELCA #6 meeting @  
Rosno's  
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

### **Wednesday, December 18**

1:00 pm WELCA #3 mtg.  
6:30 pm Advent Worship Service

### **Thursday, December 19**

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

### **Friday, December 20**

5:00 pm BNRR/-Gym reserved

### **Saturday, December 21**

10:00 am Basketball-gym  
5:00 pm Worship

### **Sunday, December 22**

9:00 am Worship  
10:15 am "Hanging of the Greens"  
Sunday School, Fellowship,  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Adult  
choir

### **Monday, December 23**

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy

### **Tuesday, December 24**

Office closes at noon



5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

### **Wednesday, December 25**



10:00 am Christmas Morning  
Service

### **Thursday, December 26**

Office closed

### **Friday, December 27**

Office closes at noon.

### **Saturday, December 28**

10:00 am Basketball-gym  
(No Sat. night service)

### **Sunday, December 29**

9:00 am Worship  
"Lessons & Carols"  
10:15 am Sunday School, Fellowship,  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Adult  
choir

### **Monday, December 30**

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

### **Tuesday, December 31**

Office closes at noon

# Grace Staff & Council

**Rev. Eric Leshner,**

*Senior Pastor*

*308-708-1146*

*pr.eric@egrace.org*

**Vacant**

*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*

Fran Gade:

Dave Ripa

Carla Ingersoll:

Curt Mann:

Karen Billings:

Jan Branting:

Teddi Reckling:

Doug Krueger:

Roger Potts:

Council President,  
Parish Ed

Worship & Music,  
Memorials

Congregational Life  
Stewardship/Finance

Congregational Life

Social Ministry

Worship & Music

Property

Property

## 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 Sunday, December 22. (Wrapped in gold foil- no bow)

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for order is December 20. Return this form to the church office.

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

**Return Service Requested**

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