

# The Grace Greeter!

**Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502  
February 2022**

## Faith's Role in Love

In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27, ESV).



But we can't love this way without faith, Walsh writes. “I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love God is my mind and not my faith. We're called to love God with more.”

That “more,” she explains, involves these paradoxes: “We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against us. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand.”

Even if God's purposes and plans don't make sense to us, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: “When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust God's heart.”

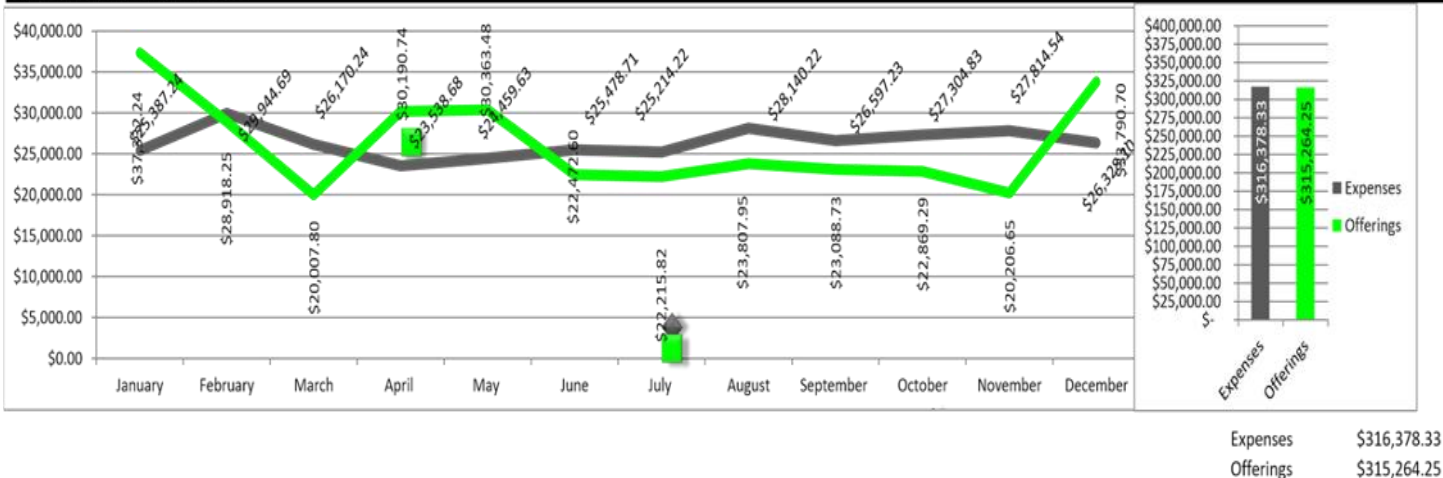
So, in this month of February remember Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine's Day is as good a reminder as any to love God and one another.



- ♦ **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 to let us know that about the hospitalization. **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 **February 20th**.
- To help us stay connected during our time apart please send an email or letter with any personal update you want to share about yourself or prayer concern for someone else. We will post these under news and prayers in our weekly digital newsletter and/or our monthly newsletter.

## Update

### Offerings & Expenses



### 2022 Giving Envelopes

You can pick-up your box of 2022 offering envelopes in the atrium.



### Thrivent News

Due to the upsurge in coronavirus Omicron cases, officers of Grace's Thrivent Financial group have decided that there will not be a meeting in February.

### Free Little Pantry

A little free pantry has been installed outside The Gathering Place by the Lincoln South Rotary Club. Non-perishable food can be left at any time, and the food can then be taken by those who need it. After interest was expressed in the possibility of establishing a place at Grace where food can be left to stock the pantry, the Social Ministry Committee decided to take responsibility for such donations. Non-perishable food items can be left in the container near the announcements board in the atrium.

During winter months, liquids and canned goods which can freeze are not recommended. Rather, things such as pasta, cereal products, dry soup mixes, granola bars, and similar edibles would be advisable.



Free Little  
Pantry



### Valentine Card Outreach Event

This event is still being planned and may not be held depending on our Covid numbers. With that said, the Congregational Life committee is hoping to have 8-10 members meet in the gym following worship on February 13. We will fill out simple Valentine Cards for the nursing home residents at Sumner Place. They will be delivered on the 14th.

### Lenten Season

Just a reminder that Lent begins with Ash Wednesday service on March 2. We will continue with midweek Lenten services that are still being planned..

Lent  
B E G I N S

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL THROUGH GRACE

**December Council Meeting  
Tuesday, December 14, 2021**



**Present via Zoom/in-person:** Neil Larson, Doug Krueger, Cindy Eberspacher, Connie Thorson, Jan Branting, Glatha Rathjen, Carla Ingersoll, Roger Potts, Amy Knobbe, Pr. Eric Leshner,

Neil Larson called the council meeting to order at 7:00 PM  
(meeting in-person and online)

**Opening Prayer:** Neil

**Approval of November Meeting Minutes:**

Roger moved to approve minutes for the November 2021 Church Council Meeting. Doug seconded. Motion passed. Cindy moved to approve minutes for the November 2021 Congregational Meeting. Jan seconded. Motion passed.

**President's Update/Correspondence:** Received letter from the Near South Neighborhood Association with information on newsletter. Connie will do a mock-up of a quarterly fourth-page ad.

**Staff Reports:**

**Pastor Eric's Report:** submitted

**Director of Music Report:** submitted

**Financial Secretary's Report:** submitted

**Treasurer's Report:** submitted

Carla made a motion to accept the reports as submitted. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance/Stewardship** – November utility, giving, spending reports submitted

**Worship & Music** – report submitted; email correspondence. Readers scheduled through end of January. Will determine if wine supply needs replenishing. Complete Christmas decorations in the nave after Dec. 19 worship.

**Parish Ed** – did not meet

**Congregational Life** – met in-person/virtually; committee will host Fellowship Hour on Feb. 13 serving Valentine cookies while members fill out Valentine cards for "missing" members, and residents of Sumner Place. The committee will provide brunch on Feb. 28 while members

stock water bottles with supplies to be given to the People's City Mission.

**Property** – report submitted; met in-person. Agreement was finally reached with insurance company with funds to cover cost of the nave and garage roofs. The project will commence this spring or early summer 2022. Three new cameras inside the church building, one outside covering east entrances and parking lot will be mounted more permanently.

**Social Ministry** – report submitted; email correspondence. Christmas baskets for Prescott families will be passed out Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 21 in our gym. Steve and Regina Paschold got the Thrivent Action Team grant to help with groceries for both Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes.

**Memorials** – Two new Christmas trees for the nave and the chapel were purchased with funds from Betty Shaw's memorial.

Jan made a motion to accept the reports as submitted. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

**Business:**

**Set January Congregational Meeting** – All annual committee reports are due by January 10 and available to the congregation by January 16 or 23. Congregational meeting will be held Sunday, January 30, 2022.

**Discuss best winter entrance (atrium or north doors)** – Roger motioned that both atrium and north doors will be open for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services (remain locked after service begins), and starting Sunday, only the atrium doors will be open during the winter months. Cindy seconded it. Motion passed.

**Hymnals in Pews** – Hymnals will be returned to pews after next Sunday's worship service.

**Content of January meeting** – Committee reports submitted

**Closing Prayer:** Jan Branting

Thanked Jan for her ministry on the Council.

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Connie Thorson, Secretary



## The Gathering Place

Those who volunteer at The Gathering Place received word on January 13 that, “. . . out of an abundance of caution, The Gathering Place has made the decision NOT to utilize volunteers at the present time, due to the current COVID-19 risk. We take the health and safety of our volunteers very seriously, and we want to make sure we all stay healthy until it is safer to be in person. This decision was based on Health Department guidance to limit interactions outside the home.” The goal at this time is to resume the service of volunteers on February 14.

## THE LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

The Lutheran Food Pantry appreciates all donations of shelf-stable food and personal care items. Items always needed include (the items with \*\* are especially needed at this time):

- \*\*Boxed instant mashed potatoes
- \*\*Boxed breakfast cereal
- \*\*Canned fruits (pears, \*\* peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail)
- \*\*Canned tuna
- \*\*Fruit juice (large bottles or boxes/packets)
- \*\*Pancake mix and syrup
- \*\*Peanut butter
- \*\*Ramen noodles
- \*\*Saltine crackers

Breakfast bars (Pop Tarts, granola bars, oatmeal/fruit bars)

Instant oatmeal packets

Canned chicken

Canned vegetables (especially peas, mixed vegetables)

Condensed soups (chicken noodle, \*\*tomato, vegetable, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom)

Canned beans (chili, kidney, pinto)

Canned tomatoes

Canned meals (meatballs & spaghetti, ravioli, etc.)

Jelly

Noodles, dry

Pork and beans

Macaroni and cheese

Snack items (small packages of cookies, nuts, fruit flavored snacks, etc.)

Soups, condensed (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, cream soups)

Spaghetti sauce

Personal care items (shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes)



## PANTRY HOURS:

Please bring your donations to St. Andrew's Lutheran at 1015 Lancaster Ln between the hours of 8-3 Tuesday through Friday.



### **Birthdays**

|          |               |        |           |               |        |
|----------|---------------|--------|-----------|---------------|--------|
| Bonnie   | Krueger       | Feb 1, | Devin     | Billings      | Feb 22 |
| Shirleen | Hoffman       | Feb 2  | Matt      | Knobbe        | Feb 22 |
| Liam     | Hughes        | Feb 2  | Donna     | Carnes        | Feb 23 |
| Ben      | Klein         | Feb 3  | Lee       | Delka         | Feb 23 |
| Judith   | Lambert       | Feb 3  | Kara      | Heim          | Feb 23 |
| Sharon   | Gottsche      | Feb 7  | Madeleine | Melang-Thoren | Feb 24 |
| Austin   | McKillip      | Feb 7  | Miles     | Melang-Thoren | Feb 24 |
| Patience | Bukasa        | Feb 8  | Chris     | Apple         | Feb 26 |
| Willis   | Weisbrook     | Feb 8  | Larry     | Watchorn      | Feb 27 |
| Keith    | Oetjen        | Feb 9  | Pamela    | Zilly         | Feb 28 |
| Conrad   | Schroeder     | Feb 9  |           |               |        |
| Karen    | Billings      | Feb 12 |           |               |        |
| Jackson  | Bukasa        | Feb 12 |           |               |        |
| Neil     | Larson        | Feb 12 |           |               |        |
| Timothy  | Riemann       | Feb 13 |           |               |        |
| Sondra   | Block         | Feb 15 |           |               |        |
| Kay      | Ossian        | Feb 15 |           |               |        |
| Eric     | Leshar        | Feb 16 |           |               |        |
| Tricia   | Rosno         | Feb 16 |           |               |        |
| Lela     | Heim          | Feb 18 |           |               |        |
| Evan     | Hughes        | Feb 19 |           |               |        |
| Anne     | Melang-Thoren | Feb 19 |           |               |        |
| Kathren  | Miller        | Feb 19 |           |               |        |
| Ardyth   | Wolfe         | Feb 19 |           |               |        |
| Cindy    | Eberspacher   | Feb 20 |           |               |        |
| Roger    | Potts         | Feb 20 |           |               |        |
| Kathie   | Remington     | Feb 20 |           |               |        |
| Darlene  | Stutheit      | Feb 21 |           |               |        |

### **Wedding Anniversaries**

Raymond Delka and Lee Delka Feb 24



# < February 2022 >

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday | Friday                       | Saturday   |
|---|--|--|---|----------|------------------------------|--|
|   |  | 1<br><br>9:30–10:30 AM: AI-Anon meeting<br><br>4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons<br><br>6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Committee Meetings                                   | 2<br><br>9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy<br><br>6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice  | 3        | 4                            | 5<br><br>10:00 AM–12:00 PM: Cluster Meeting<br><br>5:30–6:15 PM: Worship                                 |
| 6<br><br>9:00–10:00 AM: Worship<br><br>10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir<br><br>3:00–5:00 PM: LLC Practice                      | 7<br><br>9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy<br><br>4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons<br><br>4:30–6:45 PM: Wildlife Rescue Orientation Meeting<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA | 8<br><br>9:30–10:30 AM: AI-Anon meeting<br><br>4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons<br><br>6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Wildlife Rescue<br><br>7:00–8:30 PM: Council Meeting | 9<br><br>9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy<br><br>6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class  | 10       | 11                           | 12<br><br>1:00–2:00 PM: Danish Sisterhood<br><br>3:00–4:00 PM: Family Event<br><br>5:30–6:15 PM: Worship |
| 13<br><br>9:00–10:00 AM: Worship<br><br>10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir<br><br>3:00–5:00 PM: LLC Practice                     | 14<br><br>9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy<br><br>4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA   | 15<br><br>9:30–10:30 AM: AI-Anon meeting<br><br>4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons<br><br>6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts<br><br>7:00–8:30 PM: WELCA Group 6                                       | 16<br><br>9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy<br><br>6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class   | 17       | 18<br><br>4:00–9:00 PM: BNRR | 19<br><br>5:30–6:15 PM: Worship  |
| 20<br><br>9:00–10:00 AM: Worship<br><br>10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir<br><br>3:00–5:00 PM: LLC Practice                     | 21<br><br>9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy<br><br>4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons<br><br>5:00–6:00 PM: Gathering Place<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA                    | 22<br><br>9:30–10:30 AM: AI-Anon meeting<br><br>4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons<br><br>6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts  | 23<br><br>9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy<br><br>6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class | 24       | 25                           | 26<br><br>1:30–4:30 PM: Family Event<br><br>5:30–6:15 PM: Worship  |
| 27<br><br>9:00–10:00 AM: Transfiguration of Our Lord<br><br>10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir<br><br>3:00–5:00 PM: LLC Practice | 28<br><br>9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy<br><br>4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons<br><br>7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA   |  |   |          |                              |  |



# Grace Staff & Council

**Rev. Eric Leshner**

*Senior Pastor*

*308-708-1146*

*pr.eric@egrace.org*

**David Sage**

*Parish Administrator*

*office@egrace.org*

**Anne Melang-Thoren**

*Director of Music*

*anne@egrace.org*

**Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson**

*Assistant Organist*

**Robert Stimbert,**

*Custodian*

**2022 Church Council**

Glatha Rathjen

Neil Larson

Carla Ingersoll

Jim Krueger

Cindy Eberspacher

Carla Ingersoll

Amy Knobbe

Doug Krueger

Roger Potts

Neil Larson

Connie Thorson

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Congregational Life

Social Ministry

Parish Education

Memorials

Property

Stewardship/Finance

Worship/Music

Current monthly council minutes and reports are available on the Welcome Table.

Contact the church office to get connected to a council member.

Thank you to Steve and Regina, Jan and Terry, Roger and Jen, Ray and Lee, Neil and Robert for taking over the inventory, shopping for the food and putting the food boxes together when I was sick the month of December. Also a big thank you again for all the food donations from our wonderful church family. Our congregation is always so generous when Prescott School is in need of anything. I appreciate that and so does Prescott School.

Thank you

Pat Lickei



**Special dates in February**

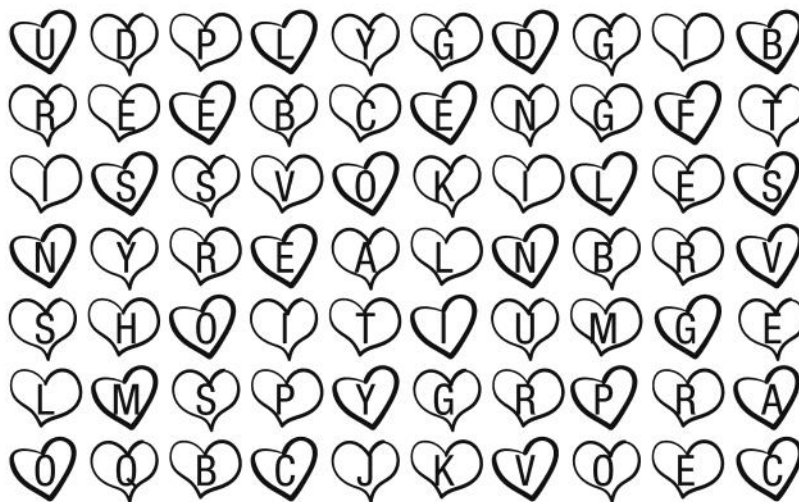
- African American History Month
- Ground Hogs Day, February 2, 2022
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2022
- Presidents Day, February 21, 2022
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 27, 2022



# The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

*Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.*



Above all, love each other   D              , because love  
               over a multitude of         . Offer  
               to one another without  
              . Each of you should use whatever  
            you have received to          others, as faithful  
            stewards of God's             in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Answer: deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, grumbling, gift, serve, grace



Stars and guidance have followed each other in many different traditions for all of Time. The Magi's encounter with Jesus is far from an unfamiliar allegory for us; it's a particularly memorable and pageant-worthy tale. And while at Epiphany we remember a certain infamous star that guided these mystics far away from their homes to pay homage to one remarkable newborn child, we may find in our own timelines that there are other far subtler luminosities from which to take guidance. If we are curious enough, we can look for the ways in which God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit manifest in the very mundanity of our surroundings. Perhaps in the night stars, but in other forms of luminosity, too: maybe the laughter of a close friend or the way your cat stretches when the afternoon sunlight hits her favorite nap spot just right.

The season of Epiphany is a stark and luminous reminder that signs of the divine light of Christ can be both tenderly subtle and glaringly obvious. You might notice that light and likeness imagery often go together in Scripture. Despite our apparent differences, class, race, or circumstance, we all share in the likeness of God. And in sharing likeness, we all share God's light as well. It's notable that the Magi's encounter with Christ's light on that day also shined a light on their differences, in home, wealth, and livelihood. To imagine their comparatively lavish arrival with gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh alongside the humble nativity scene brings light to the fact that all kinds of light can exist in the same space, even if they seem contradictory.

During the Advent season, we prepared our awareness to our inner fullness. For Christmas, we extended that grace to our relationships. And by Epiphany, just like the Magi, we are ready to witness the manifestation of Christ's light in all things, people, and the Earth that we steward. And not only to witness and find beauty and remarkability in it, but how we humbly offer our valuable gifts and reverence for others and the world. As we continue to notice these signs, big or small, there is an abundance of light and likeness to be found in our lives.

Questions:

1. Where do you witness luminosity in your life?
2. How will you let the light of Christ illuminate your life?
3. What light will you offer this Epiphany Season?

*More Than Enough* is the title for this year's 2022 fall pledge campaign.

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