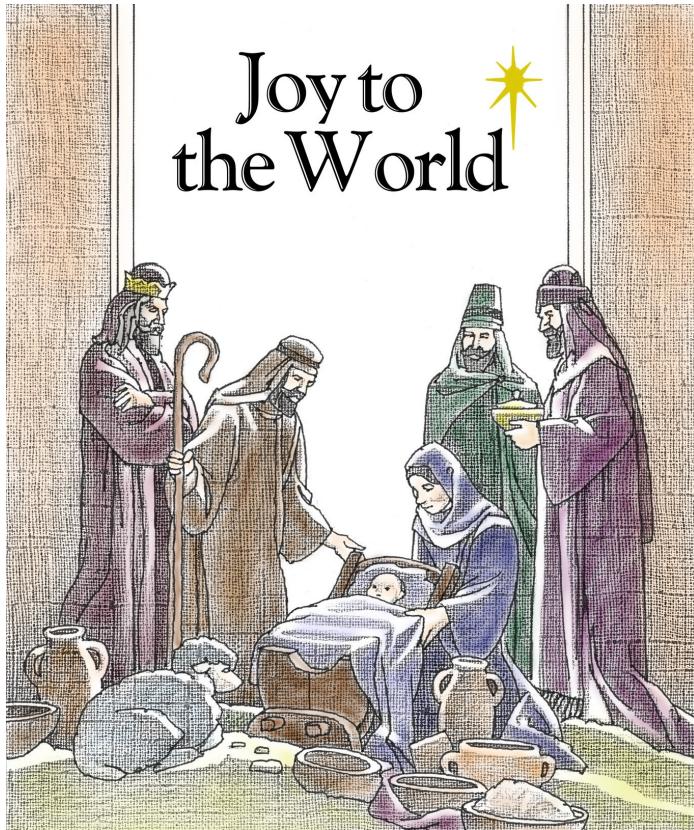


The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502 December 20, 2016

www.e grace.org, facebook.com/gclincoln, prayer requests, dialogue and questions welcomed.



December 24
*Lessons and Carols
of Christmas*
5:00 PM
Hearing the story.
Rejoicing in song.

The Christmass
11:00 PM
Worship the Lord in the
beauty of holiness.

December 25
*The Nativity
of our Lord*
10:00 AM



⁵*And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” – Rev. 21*

This is the second reading for New Year's Eve. A time of year when we remember the year past. I was reading elsewhere that some social commentators have listed 2016 as one of the worst years ever. All of the global and national violence and a difficult election in our own country has left many feeling like this is a year to forget.

But it turns out that “one year, around 72,000 B.C.E., there was a volcanic super-eruption on the island of Sumatra in present-day Indonesia. The volcano exploded with the force of 1.5 million Hiroshima-size bombs. Rock and magma were hurled continental distances. A layer of volcanic ash approximately six inches thick settled over Asia with traces as far as East Africa. The skies darkened and global temperatures fell. Food sources died off, and DNA testing indicates that the human population was reduced to between 3 and 10 thousand people.”

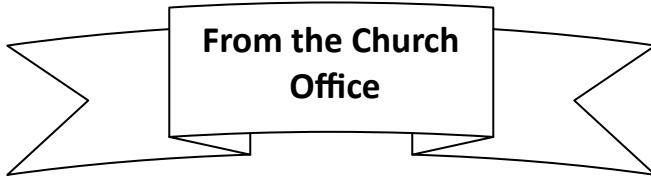
So maybe 2016 is not that bad after all. The hate, fear, and confusion that circles our globe has been here all the time. It's called sin and remember that sin is not always the things we do but sometimes it's the things we don't do.

Christians know that we live in a messy world but we also know that we live in a world that is being made new every day. New in ways known and unknown to us. Lauren Muratore, Director of Admissions at Gettysburg Seminary writes, “We worship one who is bound up in fragile skin and also God. Who is all about solidarity and suffering and all about goodness and glory. Who dies, but lives. We are people who believe that redemption is every bit as real as that which needs to be redeemed, and we experience *both* things. Sometimes all at once. So when *there is* dismay, confusion, fear, and foreboding—in this and at all times—people of God, we stand up—or take comfort in knowing that someone is standing for us until we catch our breath. We don't hide or deny or sweep the uncomfortable under the rug. No. Together, we raise our eyes with eager expectation for the new thing God is doing for us and among us.”

Happy NEW Year!

Pr. Eric Lesher

Pr. Eric Lesher



Funeral: Phil Sorensen, December 22

To contact Pastor Eric after office hours, you can call or text him at 308-708-1146 or email pr.eric@egrace.org.

2017 Grace Greeter Schedule— The Greeter is mailed on the 4th Tuesday of the month (January—October) The deadline for the newsletter articles will always be the 20th of the month. The only exceptions will be in November when the deadline will be the 12th with the publication on the 14th and in December the deadline for articles will be the 17th, with publication on the 19th.

The publication schedule is: January 24; February 28; March 28; April 25; May 23; June 27; July 25; August 22; September 26; October 24; November 14; December 19

Please remember to get all 2016 offerings into the US mail, the offering plate or the church office on or before December 31. For offerings to be recorded as 2016 contributions, they must be postmarked by 12\31\16. Anything received after this MUST be considered a 2016 contribution.

To All Committee Chairs and Auxiliaries: Please turn in your report for the annual reporting meeting by **January 25**. You can send them via email to 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.

Congratulations to the following who were elected to be 2017 Council officers:

Curt Mann, president; Karen Billings, Vice-president; Carla Ingersoll, secretary; Jim Krueger, treasurer

2017 offering envelopes are ready to be picked up! They are located in the atrium.

The deadline for the next Greeter will be January 20th. It will be mailed on Tuesday, January 24.

The 2017 flower chart is now available on the bulletin board in the Atrium. The fellowship book is also updated for 2017. Feel free to sign up for a Sunday or two! It is on the table outside the office.

Worship schedule:

December 25—only 1 service at 10:00 AM, no other activities are scheduled.

December 31—NO Saturday evening worship

January 1—only 1 service at 9:00 AM, no other activities are scheduled.



WOMEN of the ELCA – mark your calendars for the new year. The Unit Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 4th, 2017, beginning with a Pot Luck Luncheon at noon. Bring a covered dish to share and your own table service. The program will consist of members sharing their talents and treasures. A business meeting will follow. Come join us for a delightful time of sharing; good food - timeless memories - treasured articles that you have made or cherish - your talents, musical or whatever! See you there!

**Epiphany Service of Holy Communion , January 6,
7:00 p.m. Christ Chapel**

Join your church family for the word and sacrament in a beautiful service full of candlelight and wonderful music!

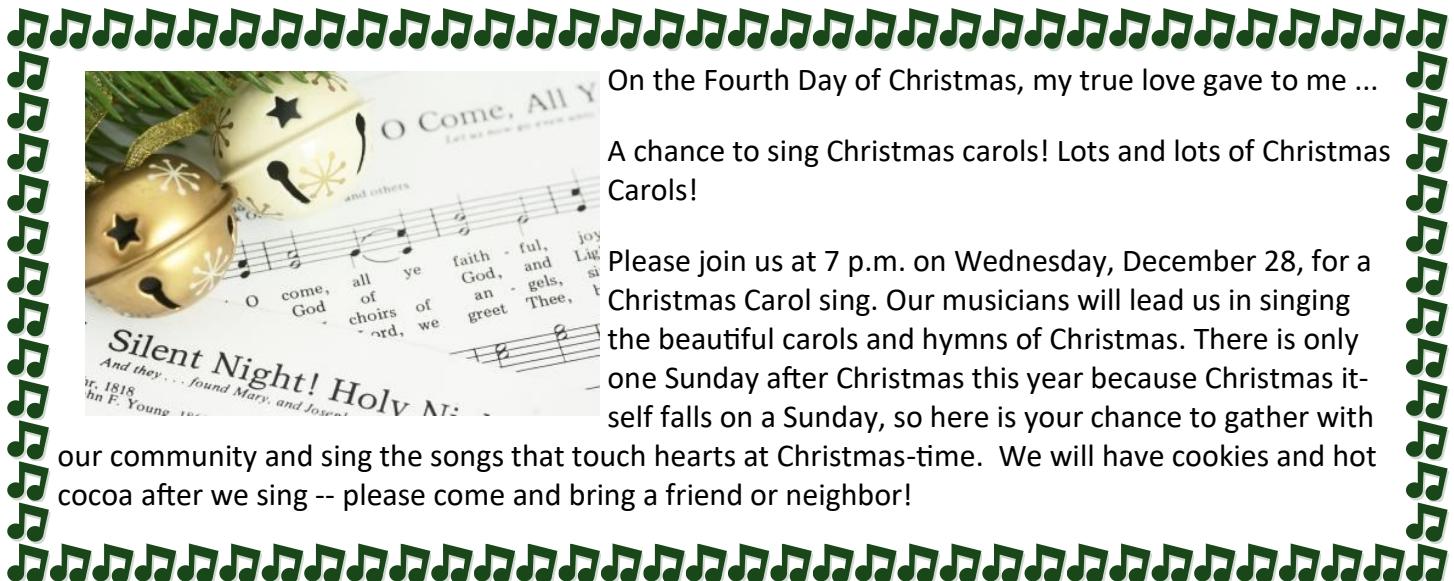


THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS – Please Note – The next meeting of Thrivent members will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2017, 10:30 a.m. in the Staff Conference Room. Plan to attend – bring your cup of coffee and your ideas – so that we can start thinking about and planning for a new year!

If you are 55 years or older, come join us at Yesterday's Youth, Wednesday January 11th at 11:30. We meet the second Wednesday Of each month in Lesher Hall. From 11:30 to 12:00, we meet for some social time. We eat at 12:00 after we have devotions and a program. Soup will be provided so bring a side dish to go with the soup and your table service. Drinks will be furnished. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

Grace Global Dining Group! It's time for another exciting--and scrumptious—year! As always, we'll have 3 meals over the course of 2017. And the menu for those 3 meals is up to you!! This year's kickoff meeting will be on Saturday, January 28 in Lesher Lounge. The meeting begins at 6:30, after evening services. Please call Susan & Alan Givens at 402-484-5042 no later than Sunday, January 22 to reserve your place at the dinner table. For the January kickoff, please bring a favorite dish to share; drinks will be provided. See you then!

Semi Annual Reporting Meeting will be in Lesher Hall on Sunday, February 12 after worship.



On the Fourth Day of Christmas, my true love gave to me ...

A chance to sing Christmas carols! Lots and lots of Christmas Carols!

Please join us at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 28, for a Christmas Carol sing. Our musicians will lead us in singing the beautiful carols and hymns of Christmas. There is only one Sunday after Christmas this year because Christmas itself falls on a Sunday, so here is your chance to gather with our community and sing the songs that touch hearts at Christmas-time. We will have cookies and hot cocoa after we sing -- please come and bring a friend or neighbor!



The image features sheet music for "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night! Holy Night". A gold bell ornament hangs over the music. The background includes green pine branches and small white stars.



A Voices of Grace Concert
Dr. Elizabeth Grimo, piano
January 15, 3 PM
Grace Lutheran Church,
2225 Washington Street, Lincoln

Voices of Grace is pleased to welcome Dr. Elizabeth Grimo as part of our celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Dr. Grimo will perform *Das Jahr*, a piano cycle of twelve pieces – one for each month of the year. This piano cycle by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel has a Lutheran connection in that Hensel incorporates the Easter hymn *Christ ist erstanden* (*Christ is Arisen*) in March, and the Christmas hymn *Vom Himmel Hoch* (*From Heaven Above*) in December. It is a beautifully expressive piano cycle and speaks to the fact that God graciously brings us through each year.



*Grace Lutheran Church
wishes everyone
a Blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*



December 24 – 5 pm	
Assisting Minister	Tina Loseke
Lectors	Kaitlyn Dumler, Jeanne Weisbrook, Chloe Fitzgibbon, Sharon Genthe, Sara Schott, Pr Eric Lesher
Communion Assistants	Kevin Dumler, Joyce Krueger , Dean and Beth Dumler
Altar Guild	Doug & Sarah Krueger
Acolytes	Cameron Krueger, Luke & Abby Filbert, Kaitlyn Dumler, Chloe Fitzgibbon
Communion Bread	Dave Ripa
December 24 – 11:00 pm	
Assisting Minister	Jacob Krueger
Lector	Barb Smith
Communion Assistants	Dave Ripa, Barb Smith
Altar Guild	Neil Larson, Robert Stimbert
Acolyte	Jacob Schott
Communion Bread	Barb Smith
December 25 – 10 am	
Assisting Minister	Roger Potts
Lector	Janet Jodais
Communion Assistants	Ginny Potts, Tyler Johnson
Altar Guild	Ginny Potts
Ushers	Jacob and Steve Schott
Acolyte	Sophie Schott
Communion Bread	Darlene Stutheit



SOUP KITCHEN

In the late fall, as daylight hours are fewer and temperatures become colder, concern grows for people facing food insecurity, whether or not they have a home. When Grace was responsible for providing the meals on November 21 at The Gathering Place, Regina and Steve Paschold prepared the main course of beans and wieners. Carla Ingersoll donated the tossed lettuce salad, and there was bread, and applesauce as well. Baked dessert items were contributed by Joy Kokes, Carley Weixelman, Curt Mann, Pat Lickei, and Regina and Steve. All of those mentioned above, along with Tom Range, helped to serve and to clean up after 115 portions had been distributed. Thanks go to Marilyn Holmquist and to Irene and Barry Moore for recent financial donations to help to feed the needy in the Near South neighborhood.

Thanks
Many Thanks
Thanks
Thanks

From the Property Committee: Thank you for the Donations to Refurbish Stain Glass Windows! We now have received the needed funds for the refurbishing of the stain glass windows. The total needed was \$7,750 and we have received donations of about \$25 over the needed amount. We are very pleased and greatly appreciate everyone who donated to this much needed refurbishing project. We hope to have this project commence in the spring season of 2017.

From Roger Potts, Property Committee Chairman: A young man from the Church sponsored Boy Scout Troop 30 has earned his Eagle Scout badge with several community service projects performed here at Grace that were worthy of this goal. His name is Garret Michaud and his project plans were painting the three (3) east facility metal doors and the railing, build a platform to replace the deteriorated platform in the east stairwell, to power wash the east side of the facility stone to clean off the black material and to paint the far interior walls of the scout room and the storage room. They furnished some of the paint and supplies to perform the painting tasks, the materials to build the platform and the power washer to clean the stone. Garret along with several other Boy Scouts and leaders performed this work and did a very good job. I signed off on his job performance approval letter and thanked him and the other Scouts for a job well done. We greatly appreciate the projects that were chosen and the work performed by Garrett as these certainly are noticeable improvements to this facility. We want to thank him for work well done.

From Larry and Sue Clymer, Prescott Coordinators: Thank You to everyone who donated food or donated to our Prescott Fund. Also Thank You to those folks who helped us get the baskets to Prescott and pass them out to the families. The rest of the food for the baskets was purchased at Russ's out of our Prescott Fund. Without your help it would not be possible. Once again our Prescott Tree for the food baskets was a big success again this year. We were able to make 30 food basket for the families at Prescott. They will be delivered on December 20 this year, as school is out that day for vacation.

From the Social Ministry committee: The Social Ministry Committee would like to say "Thank You" to everyone that assisted us in making sure all our families needs were met for the Thanksgiving holiday. All of the donors of non perishables, monies, shoppers, packers, and those that delivered the finished boxes!! Grace is so amazingly supportive and generous!! God Bless.

Lessons from a snowman

- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!





CHURCH LIBRARY

News

LIBRARY—WHAT'S NEW

While conducting an inventory of the Library, many books are missing which have not been checked out. If you have a Library item which has NOT been checked out, please return it or let Janet know that you have it.

I am especially looking for books like "Harvest Waiting" – a series which helps relate to immigrants, refugees, Mexicans and African Americans who are interested in our Church.

I appreciate the help of Joyce Krueger, Marilyn Holmquist, Judi Schroeder, Beth Kimmerling Dumler, Kathy Miller and others who have helped with the inventory. It is a slow process of putting books in order on the shelves, checking each book against our inventory, then following up on books that didn't show up on the inventory or were not present. We are doing this a section of the library at a time.

I have been reminded of the books we have for men, those for grieving families and friends, and information and activities for those with Alzheimer's or other memory loss.

If you are interested in a particular subject, please let me help you!

Janet Jodais, Librarian

Women: have you seen the information on the WELCA Bulletin Board in the gym?? The Women of the ELCA will hold their Tenth Triennial Gathering July 13-16, 2017, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. There will be classes, activities, entertainment and much more that will stimulate your growth as a Christian. Janet Jodais plans to go and others are considering it. Early Bird registration ends January 6.



Sampling stewardship

As we celebrate again the miracle of God's love made flesh in Jesus, we remember that we belong to God. Furthermore, all that we have belongs to God. We are bearers of God's love, grace and gospel.

Stewardship is our way of life, our way of demonstrating whose children we are. When we put to use God's good gifts to us, we respond to the boundless love God first showed us. We thank and praise God, singing "Glory to God in the Highest" in both word and deed.

Adapted from the ELCA publication "Stewards of God's Love"

**November Congregation meeting
Sunday, November 13, 2016**

Pastor Lesher called the meeting to order at 10:30AM.

Pastor Lesher gave the opening prayer.

Thank you to the 2016 nominating committee.

Congregation quorum was met.

Ballot was completed with all volunteer names. Written votes submitted for count.

Proposed 2017 budget:

Jim Krueger presented the proposed spending plan for 2017. Minor changes from 2016 budget. Cost of living increase of .5% proposed. \$424,309.25 is the 2016 budget. Proposed 2017 budget is \$428,049.15.

New Council Member Vote:

76 approved, 0 opposed

Results:

1 year: Karen Billings

3 year: Doug Krueger, Curt Mann, Dave Ripa, Barb Smith

2017 Nominating Committee Vote:

Jeanette Allen, Kevin Dumler, Neil Larson, Roger Potts

Budget Ballet submitted for count:

70 approved, 5 opposed

Closing Prayer.

Lunch prepared by the women of the ELCA. Free will offering to support the Stained Glass window project.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carla Ingersoll, Council Secretary

November Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Present: Kevin Gade, Barb Smith, Peter Schnake, Wendy Apple, Elizabeth Krueger, Pastor Eric Lesher, Teddi Reckling, Dave Ripa, Carla Ingersoll

Pastor Lesher called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pastor Lesher provided devotions and the opening prayer.

Approval: Teddi made a motion to approve the October minutes as written. Seconded by Barb. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

Senior Pastor: Written report

Director of Music: Written report

Director of Faith Formation: no written report

Dave made a motion to approve the Staff and Committee reports. Barb seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report: Written report

Treasurer's Report(including Good Samaritan and Voices of Grace): Written report

Kevin made a motion to accept and file for audit all financial reports. Seconded by Dave. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Parish Education: Written report

Evangelism: No Written report.

Property: Written report.

Social Ministry: Written report

Stewardship: no Written report.

Finance: No written report

Youth: No report

Memorials: written report

Worship and Music: no Written report

New Business:

2017 Budget: Considered 3 different budgets to present to the congregation on November 13.

Barb moved that the 2017 + .5% budget be approved and presented to the congregation for approval. Teddi seconded. Motion carried.

Latino Ministry Request: Request from the surrounding community to be able to use our facility for a Christian non-denominational service in Spanish. Requested time was 3-6 on Sunday afternoon. Barb made a motion to allow this group to meet in the Chapel on Sundays, with some scheduling flexibility to accommodate any recitals that might need to meet in the Chapel with review in 6 months. Teddi seconded. Motion approved. Pastor will work with this group.

Council Restructure: Suggestion from a congregation member that the council number be reduced to 9 members, including the officers. Wendy moved we develop a constitutional amendment at the January congregational meeting that the council members be reduced to 9, including the officers and removing the youth and young adult members. Barb seconded. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee: Alan Givens requested that the number of nominating committee members reduced. Dave made a motion that a constitutional amendment be proposed at the January congregational meeting to reduce the number of members from 6 to four. Barb seconded. Motion carried.

No business so the meeting was concluded with prayer.

Meeting closed at 8:15.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carla Ingersoll, Council Secretary

Sunday School Christmas program



Advent Festival





JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

10
Mandi & Robert Haumont



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1
Dave Stokke

2
Bev Madison
Dave Ripa

3
Grant Jensen

4
Charlyne Berens
Herb Linville

6
Mandi Haumont

7
Dean Dumler
Nancy Melichar
Nancy Schilke

8
Rod Basler
William Roberts

10
Gene Garza

11
Jeff Rosno

14
Jessi Anderson
Ruth Meyer

15
Estelle Riemann
Elysabeth Wells

16
Luke Filbert
Jennifer Klein

17
William Anderson

18
Judy Holtgrewe
Carolyn Ossian

19
Troy Guern
Michelle Jensen
Louise Tollefson

20
Rhonda Ihrie

22
Bill Hokanson
Yvonne Nielsen
Eliza Williams

24
Abbie Andersen
Steve Paschold

25
Drew Ostermeyer
Kyle Thorson

27
Rachel Haider

28
Adam Fitzgibbon

29
Chad Hohenstein

30
Nancy Andersen
Michelle Etmund
Blake Rathjen

31
Logan Linville



Sunday, January 1
9:00 am Worship *

Monday, January 2
Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3
9:00 am WELCA Executive Board Mtg.
9:30 am Al-Anon
6:00 pm Scouts
7:00 pm Committee Meetings
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

Wednesday, January 4
12:00 pm WELCA lunch and meeting
6:30 pm In Stitches
7:00 pm Evening prayer

Thursday, January 5
6:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy classes
7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

Friday, January 6
7:00 pm Epiphany worship service

Saturday, January 7
5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, January 8
9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship, Thrivent, Sunday School, Adult Choir, A.S.F.
11:30 am Worship, Grace Notes bell choir
1:00 pm Chapel reserved

Monday, January 9
9:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes,
1:00 pm WELCA #2 Mtg.
7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, January 10
9:30 am Al-Anon
6:00 pm Scouts
7:00 pm Council Meeting, W.R.T. Mtg.
7:30 pm WELCA #6 Meeting
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

Wednesday, January 11
12:00 pm Yesterday's Youth
6:15 pm Children's Choir
6:30 pm In Stitches
7:00 pm Evening prayer
7:30 pm Confirmation

Thursday, January 12
6:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy
7:00 pm Bells, N. A. Mtg., Scout Cmte. Mtg.

Saturday, January 14
12:00 pm Lounge reserved
5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, January 15
9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship, Sunday School, Adult Choir, A.S.F.
11:30 am Bells, Worship
3:00 pm Concert -Nave

Monday, January 16
9:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes
5:00 Gathering Place
7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, January 17
9:30 am Al-Anon
6:00 pm Scouts
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

Wednesday, January 18
1:00 pm WELCA #1 Meeting
6:15 pm Children's Choir
6:30 pm In Stitches
7:00 pm Evening prayer
7:30 pm Confirmation

Thursday, January 19
6:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy
7:00 pm Bells, N. A. Mtg.,

Friday, January 20
5:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved

Saturday, January 21
5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, January 22
9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship, Sunday School, Adult Choir, A.S.F.
11:30 am Worship , Bells

Monday, January 23
9:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes
7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, January 24
9:30 am Al-Anon
6:30 pm Scouts
8:00 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 25
1:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved
6:15 pm Children's Choir
6:30 pm In Stitches
7:00 pm Evening prayer
7:30 pm Confirmation

Thursday, January 26
6:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Lincoln Literacy, Quilting
7:00 pm Bells, N. A. Mtg.

Friday, January 27
3:00 pm Pinewood Derby set up

Saturday, January 28
8:00 am—5:00 pm Pinewood Derby
5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, January 29
10:30 am Fellowship, Sunday School, Adult Choir, A.S.F.
11:30 am Worship, Bells
6:00 pm Lounge reserved

Monday, January 30
9:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes
5:00 Gathering Place
7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, January 31
9:30 am Al-Anon
8:00 pm AA Meeting

*child care provided



Grace Staff and Council Members

Rev. Eric Lesher,

Senior Pastor

308-708-1146

pr.eric@egrace.org

Sara Schott,

Director of Parish Music

sara@egrace.org

Tyler Johnson,

Director of Faith Formation

tyler@egrace.org

Sandi Knippelmeyer,

Parish Administrator

office@egrace.org

Colt Ballou,

Assistant Director of Parish Music

Robert Stimbert,

Custodian

Judi Schroeder,

Nursery Coordinator

Elizabeth Krueger,

Nursery attendant

2016 Council members and committee assignments:

Wendy Apple—Worship and Music

Terry Branting—Property

Kevin Gade—Finance

Carla Ingersoll—Evangelism

Elizabeth Krueger—Parish Ed.

Teddi Reckling—Finance

Dave Ripa—Stewardship

Peter Schnake—Evangelism

Barb Smith—Social Ministry

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