



The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502 December 18, 2018

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve

Family service with Holy Communion - 5:30 pm
Candlelight service with Holy Communion - 7:30 pm

Christmas Day

Worship with Holy Communion - 10:00 am





Rev. Jeff Farley tells the story of a poor girl in Philadelphia during the early 1900s who was found crying outside a church the Sunday before Christmas. The pastor who found her crying asked her why she was crying. She said the church had told her that the Sunday school was full and that she would have to go somewhere else.

Judging by her tattered clothing the pastor guessed there may have been other reasons as well. Later into the next year, the girl died and the pastor who found her crying in the street was asked to preside over her funeral.

While preparing for the funeral he was going through some of the few possessions the girl had left behind. One was a small pocket purse filled with 57 cents and a note stating the money was for helping the church build a bigger Sunday school.

This story, once told, inspired members of that small church to raise money for a bigger facility. Today that church is Temple Baptist church with a seating capacity of 3,300.

This Christmas story reminds us that the heart of the Christmas story is giving and not getting. As we give, we grow in faith towards God and love for each other. It is a story about God giving us Jesus who promises an abundant and everlasting life to those who trust in Him.

So, this Christmas give generously to your family, your community and your church. Give so that you may grow in faith and love. Give so that God can do extraordinary ministry through you! Just like God did with the girl from Philadelphia so many years ago.

Pr. Eric Teshen

*Lessons
& Carols*

Don't forget that Christmas lasts 12 days not one! So, the Sunday after Christmas, December 30, 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! Please note that we will not have worship on Saturday, December 29.



- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Bulletins have been shared by: Dave Ripa [Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN]
- ◆ The deadline for the next Greeter will be January 20. It will be mailed on January 23.
- ◆ The church office will close at noon on December 24 and December 31 and will open at 10 AM on December 27
- ◆ 2019 Grace Greeter Schedule— The Greeter is mailed on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The deadline for the newsletter articles will always be the 20th of the month. The only exception will be in December when the deadline for articles will be the 15th, with publication on the 17th.
The publication schedule is: January 22; February 26; March 26; April 23; May 28; June 25; July 23; August 27; September 24; October 22; November 26; December 17.
- ◆ Please remember to get all 2018 offerings into the US mail, the offering plate or the church office on or before December 31. For offerings to be recorded as 2018 contributions, they must be postmarked by 12\31\18. Anything received after this MUST be considered a 2019 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. 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 2019 flower chart is now available on the bulletin board in the Atrium. The fellowship book is also updated for 2019. 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 one-year position beginning January 2019. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Pastor Eric or Curt Mann.
- ◆ Officers for 2019 are: President--Dustin Haider; Vice President--Dave Ripa; Secretary--Carla Ingersoll; Treasurer--Jim Krueger. Congrats to each one and thank you for agreeing to serve!
- ◆ Committee assignments for 2019 are; Worship & Music--Teddi Reckling, Dave Ripa; Parish Ed--Karen Billings; Congregational Life--Carla Ingersoll; Property--Doug Krueger; Social Ministry--Jan Branting; Finance & Stewardship--Curt Mann; Memorials--Dave Ripa.



Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



- Help us “Hang the greens” and decorate the sanctuary on Sunday, December 23, right after worship. We will put the Chrismons on the trees, hang the greenery and bring in the poinsettias. It shouldn’t take longer than 15 minutes, if we have lots of helping hands! Fellowship and Bible Study will be after the decorating.

Wednesday Nights at Grace

(we won’t meet on December 26 or January 2)

Dinner: 5:30 pm in Leshner Hall.

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

Youth Choir Rehearsal: 6:15 pm - choir room

Evening Prayer: 7:00 pm in Christ Chapel

Confirmation: 7:30 pm (beginning Jan. 9)

- WELCA has no Board Meeting or Unit Meeting in January. Meetings resume in February. The Unit Meeting will begin at 1:00, rather than noon, with only dessert served.

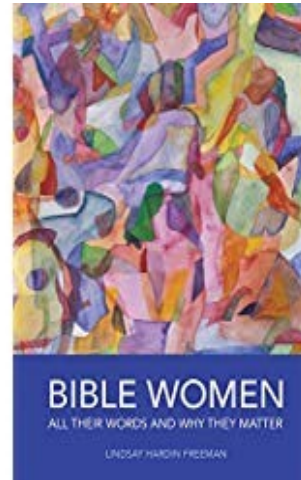


Jazz Evening Prayer

January 20

7 PM

Chapel



“Their Words and Why They Matter”

Beginning in January, join us on the 3rd Sundays, 6 p.m., Grace Library (Right before the Jazz Evening Prayer service at 7!)

Who are the women who speak in the Bible? What are their stories? Using selected chapters from Lindsay Hardin Freeman’s book, Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter, we’ll hear from the women of the Bible and hear God speaking through them into our lives. (Purchasing the book is optional.) Sponsored by Faithful Conversations (Megan Morrow, Carol Olson, Teddi Reckling)

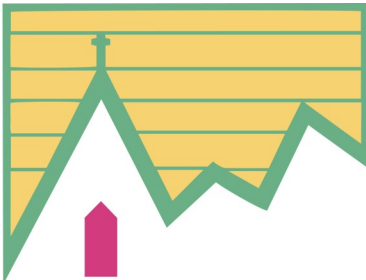
- The semi annual reporting meeting will be held on January 27 beginning at 10:30 am. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the reports of the congregation

Noisy Offering money for 2019 will be used to buy a farm of animals. The cost is \$750. This is a big challenge for the children and we invite the entire congregation to support this program. The children will be happy to take your contribution up to the bucket or you can designate a special offering envelope for this program and put it in with your offering. We will keep you posted on the progress. Check out the electronic announcement board and also your bulletins.

VBS Vacation Bible School for 2019 will be held the last week of July which starts on July 29. Please put this on your calendar and also let your friends, neighbors and grandchildren know the dates so they can plan their summer activities.



The Second Annual ***Silent Basket Auction*** will take place at our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on January 27th. All church committees, groups, and individuals are encouraged to donate a basket for this auction. Proceeds from the auction will be used for our stained glass window repairs.



It's been a remarkable year - we were able to Bridge the Gap and retire our Holy Roof loan in just 60 days - but we have ***one final challenge***, and that's ***to match the offerings given in December 2017***.

If we can match the \$53,571.25 given last December, we'll meet all of our 2018 financial obligations and re-establish our cash reserves we'll need for 2019. The Huskers finished strong this year, we can too.

Church FINANCES

Thank you for your tremendous generosity this year -

Sincerely,
Jim Krueger, Treasurer



From Darlene Stutheit: I sincerely want to thank all who said prayers, came to visit, sent card, gifts, brought food to my house and gave me rides while I am recuperating from a broken hip. Also thanks to Pastor Eric for his nice visits. All was really appreciated—you really don't know until you can't do it!

November Council Meeting : Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Present: Karen Billings, Doug Krueger, Pastor Eric Leshar, Dave Ripa, Curt Mann, Carla Ingersoll, Dustin Haider, Teddi Reckling Absent: Wendy Apple, Barb Smith

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

Devotions: Teddi

Approval of Council Minutes:

October 9, 14 and 21 council minutes approved as printed

President's Report:

Church calendar: Reminder that everyone should check with Sandi and the church calendar **before** setting an event date.

December Council meeting: Main agenda point is the election of new officers. Starting time will remain 7:00. Afterwards there will be a staff, council members, and significant others holiday gathering in Leshar Lounge.

Council Member installation: Date selected was December 16

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

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

Bus Driver: A new volunteer is needed, since one of our drivers is retiring after many years of outstanding service to his church members.

Pastor Eric's report:

There will be no December 29(Saturday evening service), due to inability to find a replacement pastor.

Council Retreat: Tentative date set as January 19, 9-11AM.

Director of Music Report:

Pastor and Director of Music Reports: Approved as printed.

Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports:

Approved and submitted for audit.

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship-written report.

Worship & Music-written report.

Parish Ed- written report

Congregational Life- written report

Property-written report

Social Ministry-written report.

Committee reports approved as printed.

Old Business:

Transformational Ministry: Additional work needed to give information to the congregation for assessment.

New Business:

Debt Reduction Fund: Karen made a motion that the debt reduction fund line in the 2019 spending plan be eliminated and replaced with Building Improvement Fund. All monies in the debt reduction fund and any additional monies received for the roof loan be moved to this new designation. Dave seconded. Motion carried.

Memorials Committee “wish list”: Dave presented a list to the council with existing suggested memorial gifts. Council members are to take this list to their committees in December for any additions and give back to Dave.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

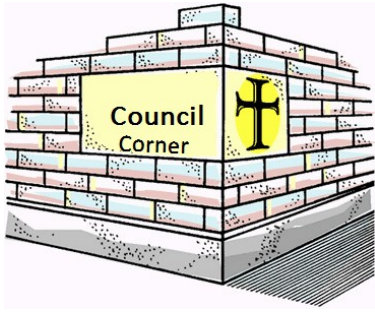
Pastor closed meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carla Ingersoll, Council Member



2018 Sunday School
program





From the Church Council: Council officers for 2019: Dustin Haider, President; Dave Ripa, Vice President; Carla Ingersoll, Secretary; and Jim Krueger, Treasurer. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

Council member committee assignments: Congregational Life—Carla Ingersoll; Finance & Stewardship—Curt Mann; Memorials—Dave Ripa; Parish Education—Karen Billings; Property—Doug Krueger; Social Ministry—Jan Branting; Worship and Music—Teddi Reckling & Dave Ripa.

We currently have a vacancy on the church council. It is a one-year position. Please contact Pr. Eric and/or Curt Mann if you are interested.

All committees, organizations, and staff are asked to submit their annual reports to Sandi by January 10th. These reports will be presented to the congregation at the semi-annual meeting set for January 27, 2019.

The second annual *Silent Basket Auction* will be held at the semi-annual meeting in January. All committees, organizations, and individuals are invited to make a special basket for the auction. It might be a Read a Book basket, a Night Out basket, a Let's Go Fishing basket, a Go Big Red! basket, a Fun Night with the Kids basket, or any other possibility. All proceeds from the auction will be applied to the Stained Glass Window fund.

From the Parish Education Committee: The youth of our congregation are planning on 'buying a farm' through their weekly *Noisy Offering*. The goal is \$750. A wonderful opportunity for our youth to help with this important ministry.

From the Congregational Life Committee: Plans are being made for our 2nd annual Easter Extravaganza on April 13th.

From the Property Committee:: The internet service provider for the church will now be ALLO. They are able to provide nearly twice the speed of service (100 mbps up from 60 mbps) at a lower price saving us \$50 per month in costs.

From the Social Ministry Committee: Pat Lickei will be leading the Prescott Helping Hands project. Thank you, Pat! Thank you also to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving baskets. Everything went well! A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All!

From the Finance & Stewardship Committee: It's been a remarkable year - we were able to *Bridge the Gap* and then retire our *Holy Roof* Loan in just 60 days - but we have *one final challenge*, and that's to match the offerings given in December 2017. If we can match the \$53,571.25 given last December, we'll meet all of our 2018 financial obligations and re-establish our cash reserves for 2019. We can do it!

"What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year."
—Vern McLellan



10
Mandi & Robert Haumont



1
Dave Stokke

2
Bev Madison
Dave Ripa

3
Grant Jensen

4
Charlyne Berens

6
Mandi Haumont

7
Dean Dumler
Nancy Melichar
Nancy Schilke

8
Rod Basler

10
Gene Garza

11
Jeff Rosno

14
Jessi Anderson

15
Estelle Riemann
Elysabeth Wells

16
Luke Filbert
Jennifer Klein

17
William Anderson

18
Judy Holtgrewe
Carolyn Ossian

19
Michelle Jensen
Louise Tollefson

20
Rhonda Ihrle

22
Bill Hokanson
Yvonne Nielsen
Eliza Williams

24
Abbie Andersen
Steve Paschold

25
Drew Ostermeyer
Kyle Thorson

27
Rachel Haider

28
Adam Fitzgibbon

30
Nancy Andersen
Blake Rathjen

**Thursday, January 3**

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

Saturday, January 5

1:00 pm Lounge reserved
4:45 pm Worship

Sunday, January 6

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Sunday School, ASF, choir, fellowship
5:00 pm Latino worship

Monday, January 7

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy
7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, January 8

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

Wednesday, January 9

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

Thursday, January 10

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

Friday, January 11

4:00 pm Suzuki music lessons
5:00 pm Pinewood Derby set up

Saturday, January 12

9:00 am Pinewood Derby -gym
4:45 pm Worship

Sunday, January 13

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Fellowship, Choir, Sunday School
2:00 pm Chapel reserved
5:00 pm Latino worship

Monday, January 14

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

Tuesday, January 15

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

Wednesday, January 16

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

Thursday, January 17

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

Friday, January 18

5:00 pm Gym reserved

Saturday, January 19

9:00 am Council retreat
4:45 pm Worship

Sunday, January 20

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Fellowship, choir, Sunday School
5:00 pm Latino worship -Lounge
6:00 pm Faithful conversations group
7:00 pm Jazz Evening Prayer

Monday, January 21

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

Tuesday, January 22

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

Wednesday, January 23

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

Thursday, January 23

6:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy
1:00 pm Lounge reserved
6:00 pm gym reserved
7:00 pm N. A. Mtg., Bells

Saturday, January 26

4:45 pm worship

Sunday, January 27

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Semi Annual Reporting meeting
5:00 pm Latino worship

Monday, January 28

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy
6:30 pm Memorials Committee mtg.
7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, January 29

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

Wednesday, January 30

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

Thursday, January 31

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

Grace Staff and Council Members

Rev. Eric Lesh,

Senior Pastor

308-708-1146

pr.eric@egrace.org

Sandi Knippelmeyer,

Parish Administrator

office@egrace.org

Anne Melang-Thoren,

Director of music

anne@egrace.org

Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson

Assistant Organist

Robert Stimbert,

Custodian

Judi Schroeder,

Nursery Coordinator

Elizabeth Krueger,

Nursery attendant

Council Assignment to Committees:

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

For the new year

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)
Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)
Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
Aim for a perfect, mature faith (Hebrews 6:1)
Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)



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

Return Service Requested

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