

## ***Living in Grace***

Celebrating  
125 years

1890 – 2015



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

# The Grace Greeter

**Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502**

**February 24, 2015**

### **WE WELCOME SPEAKERS FOR OUR LENTEN SERVICES**

For our five Wednesday Lenten services, from February 25 through March 25, we welcome speakers from several church-related and community non-profit agencies. Each of these agencies and the help given through them reminds us of our Christian response to Jesus' words in Matthew 25 in the Parable of the Judgment. When Jesus is asked about when he is seen hungry, naked, in prison, and a stranger, he answers: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Please come hear a representative from each group give a faith-based homily at our Lenten service and then stay for a short presentation after the worship time.

- February 25    Voices of Hope, an organization that provides services regarding relationship violence and sexual assault, Sue Andersen, Community Education Coordinator
- March 4        Followers of Christ, Nebraska Synod prison ministry providing outreach to prisoners and their families, Bob Bryan, Pastor
- March 11       Community Action Partnership, providing basic services for those in need. The Gathering Place, which we support through Grace Lutheran, is one of their services. Jill Connor, Speaker
- March 18       Lutheran Family Services, an initiative in Lincoln called Health 360, providing a holistic approach to behavioral health and physical health services. Kerry Kernen, Director
- March 25       Interfaith Peacemaking Coalition, a Lincoln-based organization that has organized peacemaking workshops since 1981, bringing internationally known speakers to our community. Chris Blake, Chairperson

**Wednesday Schedule:** Dinner begins at 5:30 pm.

Worship begins at 6:30 pm.

## ***Pastor's Prayers***

Dear Friends in Christ,

Here it is – March! That transitional month when we hope for change! We want the snow to turn to rain, the temperature to go up from colder to warmer, the wind to stop roaring like a lion and to start murmuring like a lamb!

For us as Christians, the month of March is always right in the middle of the season of Lent. This season of the church year is also a transitional time, no matter how often we have gone through it. We hope to turn from worldly concerns to spiritual concerns, from being so busy we have no time to pray to making time, not just finding time, for prayer. It's a time to calm the roar of the world around us into the quieter whisper of hearing God's guidance for our lives.

Of course, right here at church, although we might not be hoping for change, we know we are in the middle of it! And, when we follow Jesus, we really need to remember that He always calls us to change. To grow and change. To mature in faith. To respond to the world around us as it is, not as we wish it to be.

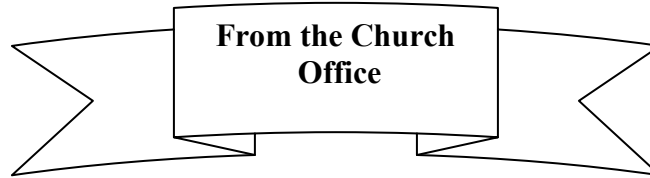
Now the word or notion of change does not mean just mixing things up or stirring things up. This concept of change is about being intentional, even methodical, about making changes. In our lives. In our church. In our community. But we do make changes! Whether we like it or not! Life hands us events, struggles, celebrations, and "time marches on." So, if we don't take time to be intentional and methodical about what is to be, change will overwhelm us like a big wave on the beach.

On the last Saturday of March, your council has taken a big step to reinstate holding a council retreat. We will go to our Lutheran camp, Carol Joy Holling at Ashland, on that morning to spend a half-day on the topic of "visioning." First, I ask you to pray for your council members, for all their meetings, but especially for that day. (Their names are listed in the back of the bulletin.) Pray for us to receive insight through the power of the Holy Spirit, listening for God's guidance and purpose, and collaborating with each other in developing ideas - some new ones, some old ones.

Second, make known your own ideas about vision to members of your elected council. Vision goes together with planning for needed intentional and methodical changes in order to respond to where we are in this place and at this time.

Third, remember that having a vision and making changes forces us to reconsider the words that are ironically called the seven last words of the church: "We've never done it that way before." Or the corollary: "That's not the way it's done here." Intentionally and with vision, let's replace them with the seven words of the church that shall lead us forward: "Lord, guide us to follow your will."

Blessings and prayers, Pastor Sylvia



**Ill or Hospitalized:** Ann Gebhard, Leoma Winch, Delores Sorensen, Sue Clymer, Harold Paschold, Carol Bernasek, Pat Lickci

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

**Pastor Sylvia is available by cell phone at 308-995-7161.** If you have any pastoral care emergency, please do not hesitate to call her. You may text her also. She also likes to meet people, and enjoys visiting over a cup of coffee!



**Adult Study Forum has returned to the lounge!** On Sunday, March 1st, we hear a lecture from Dr. Bart Ehrman, whom we've heard before, this time on comparing the theologies of Jesus and Paul and addressing the question, "Is Paul the Real Founder of Christianity?" This is a logical question since many of the church's chief doctrines arise from Paul's theology rather than from Jesus. On Sunday, March 8th, Pastor Megan Morrow, our resident assistant to the NE Synod Bishop will talk about the Call Process. Since we are in the midst of that process, this is a very timely presentation; here is your chance to ask questions about this very detailed and important procedure in the church. On March 15th, Pastor Eric Leshar is the next Q125 guest preacher and will use the ASF time for a presentation. March 22 and March 29 will feature some special drama presentations, led by Dan Warren. You are most welcome to attend any and all of these.

#### **Calendar of Upcoming Quasquicentennial Anniversary Events**

March 3	Concert: Valparaiso University Chorale
March 7-8	Guest Preacher Series: Pastor Eric Leshar
March 22	Recital: Tysen Dauer
March 31	Composition Recital: Charlie Leftridge
April 11-12	Guest Preacher Series: Pastor Tom Hallstrom
April 19	Hat Sunday!
May 3	Grace Talent Show & Potluck
May 9-10	Guest Preacher Series: Bishop Dennis Anderson
June 13	Quasquicentennial Banquet
June 14	Quasquicentennial Festival Worship Bishop Brian Maas

# ***Living in Grace***

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## **The Guest Preacher Series: Celebrating our Congregation's Liturgical Heritage March 2015**

The Quasquicentennial Committee cordially invites you to the third installment of the Guest Preacher Series! Pastor Eric Lesher will be returning to Grace to preach during services on March 7 & 8!

Pastor Lesher served as a vicar at Grace Lutheran in Lincoln, Nebraska from 1985-1986, under Pastor Stan Ecklund. He was Pastor Ecklund's last vicar. Pastor Lesher served as an Associate Pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran in Iowa City, Iowa from 1987-1992. He served as Pastor of Central Lutheran in Des Moines, Iowa from 1992-2000. He served as Senior Pastor at Living Lord Lutheran in Bartlett, Illinois from 2000-2007.

He is currently serving as Senior Pastor at First Lutheran in Kearney, Nebraska.

Pastor Lesher has a passion for helping congregations grow in their mission and for helping people grow in their faith through preaching, teaching and administration. In Des Moines he helped launch the consolidation of Central Lutheran and First Lutheran churches into what is now Capitol Hill Lutheran. He also launched a Vietnamese ministry that continues to worship at Capitol Hill Lutheran. At Living Lord, Pastor Lesher helped create a culture of change, launched NCD, a men's ministry, a contemporary worship service, created a team-oriented staff and led the congregation in a visioning campaign that continues to shape their mission today. While serving at First, he has been President of the ministerial association for six years. He has helped launch a contemporary worship and media ministry. He has also led a successful capital campaign, two building remodels, and a team-oriented staff.

Pastor Lesher is a native of Iowa, graduating from Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa. He subsequently graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Pastor Lesher attended seminary at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1987.

Pastor Lesher has been married to his wife Julene for 25 years. They have two sons: Steven (age 20) and Joshua (age 18). Pastor Lesher's hobbies include running, walking, sports, and spending time with his wife and family.

Please plan on attending either (or...both!) of these services to hear Pastor Lesher's message. In addition, please join us for Fellowship Hour following the March 8 service. There will be no Adult Study Forum that Sunday so that the congregation may catch up with Pastor Lesher and share memories of Grace!

**Travel with Grace!!** Tote bags commemorating our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be available for sale on Sunday, March 8! These two-tone totes can help you cart groceries, books, hobby supplies, or whatever else you need to move from here to there. The totes are \$5 each; proceeds will go toward quasquicentennial activities.

**Keep Warm!!** Travel mugs commemorating our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary will also be available for sale on March 8! Several congregation members have agreed with what we already know: these insulated mugs keep hot things hot for hours and hours!! The mugs are \$20 each; proceeds will go toward quasquicentennial activities.



**From the Q125 Committee:**

The Quasquicentennial Committee would like to thank the congregation for continuing to make the Guest Preacher Series such a phenomenal success!! The time with Pastor Hoffman was reflective, heartfelt and uplifting. To use his words, what a way to simultaneously look through both our rear-view mirror and our larger windshield at what lies ahead!!

**From Pastor Hoffman:**

I have returned to Seattle with a heart full of memories from the wonderful weekend that we have just spent together. Thank you for your generosity and your great Anniversary celebration that made this visit possible. The spirit of Grace and its usual sense of joy and faithfulness were so evident to me in the time we spent together. Those gifts will serve you well as you move into the future, just as they have served you in your vibrant past. As always, I look forward to our next opportunity to be together. I hope it comes soon.

**Lenten dinner menus:**

**February 25:** Several types of soup, crackers, rolls, and dessert. Served by the WELCA executive board

**March 4:** pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw, and ice cream sundaes. Served by the Grace men

**March 11:** Tater tot casserole, green beans, apple salad, roll, ice cream roll. Served by WELCA Group #1

**March 18** Crusted baked Chicken, vegetable, tossed salad, rolls, and pie. Served by the council and staff

**March 25—** Ham, scalloped potatoes, corn, rolls, cake. Served by WELCA group 2

Free will offering (suggested \$5.00 adults; \$3.00 children)

**The Social Ministry Committee** is looking for a couple of full size mattresses (box springs and frames would be welcome too) and bedding. Lori Drake would be happy to make all of the arrangements (with the help of a friend or two) to pick up and deliver these mattresses and bedding sets. Call/text Lori at 402-310-8386 or catch me during the Sunday School hour in her classroom across from the old choir room in the basement.



**Thrivent Financial** will meet on Sunday morning, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 10:30 a.m. in the Staff Conference Room. Bring your cup of coffee and join the group for fellowship and the latest news from Thrivent. All are welcome.



**The Valparaíso University Chorale** will be in concert at Grace on Tuesday, March 3 at 7 p.m. Please consider attending this concert ... Valpo is a university of the ELCA, and the director of this choir, Christopher Cock, is a wonderful musician. More information on the choir will be coming, but right now, we need people who might be willing to provide overnight housing for a pair (or two

pairs) of students. This involves taking the students home after the concert, maybe giving them a little snack and then letting them sleep, feeding them breakfast and bringing them back to church on Wednesday morning. More details will be coming, but please consider helping us put these kids up for the night and showing them some wonderful GLC-style hospitality! People who have hosted in the past have always remarked about how enjoyable it was to get to know these outstanding young people a bit better -- it is a rewarding experience. If you can host a pair of students, please contact the church office. Thank you!

**WOMEN of the ELCA** - The Unit Meeting is a brunch at 9:30 A.M. on March 4<sup>th</sup> with Group 2 hosting, devotions by Beverly Hillman. Pastor Sylvia will be the guest speaker. All are welcome. Join us for an interesting morning, good food and fellowship. Group members are called, others may call the church office for reservations.

**A concert opportunity on Sunday March 8 at 3:00 p.m. at the Sheldon Museum of Art, 12th and R Street:** "Seasons of Song" will feature the Chamber Singers, the Skyros String Quartet and Dr. Christopher Marks. A performance of Bach Cantata No. 4 Christ Lag in Todesbanden [Christ lay in death's bonds]; and the premiere of a new cantata for chamber choir and string quartet "of seasons have I sung" words and music by Charlie Leftridge; a Master's student in Composition at UNL and member of the Chamber Singers. The Skyros Quartet and Chamber Singers will also perform several selections individually as well as collaborating on the two cantatas.

**If you are 55 years or older**, come join us at Yesterday's Youth, Wednesday, March 11th at 11:30. We meet the second Wednesday of each month in Leshar Hall. From 11:30 to 12:00, we meet for some social time. We eat at 12:00 after which we have devotions and a program. The meal will be pot luck, so bring a dish to share and your table service. Drinks are furnished. Come and enjoy the fellowship. The program will be a DVD "Jesus, His Life."

**Scout Pack 30 wants** to extend an invitation to the church members for their annual cake auction on Tuesday March 17 at 6:30 pm in Leshar Hall. Grace members are invited to make a cake, using the Pinewood Derby theme, or come and bid on a cake.

**New Member Classes in March!**  
**Sign up for new member classes!**

The Evangelism Committee is holding new member classes coming up in March. Please know you are welcome to attend the classes even if you are just “thinking” about joining and want to learn more. The classes will be held at 10:30 on Sunday mornings of March 1, March 15 and March 22 in the Conference Room at the church. (Note – we are skipping March 8.) New members will join at the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening worship of April 4. We will have some fun, eat some donuts, get to know each other, and learn about being Lutheran. Included will be some information about our own congregation and even a little bit of what we know about Martin Luther!

As our constitution says about reaching out to newcomers: *“Relying on the Holy Spirit, this congregation shall proclaim the Gospel ... provide for the nurture and integration of new members ... and in general encourage members to claim their evangelical heritage.”*

That ‘evangelical heritage’ is always about sharing God’s good news of love and grace – which we’ve been doing for 125 years – and will continue to do well into the future! COME JOIN US!



In Concert  
Tysen Dauer, piano

March 22, 3 p.m.  
Grace Lutheran Church  
2225 Washington Street

This concert is part of our Q125 celebration, and features former Grace Assistant Organist Tysen Dauer. Admission is free; please come and hear beautiful piano music in our beautiful nave!

## Grace's "Prescott Pantry" gives neighborhood children a hand up

Fuller tummies, warmer hands, fewer germs and better sports skills.

The children at Prescott Elementary School are the recipients of all those things because Grace members use their hands to do God's work, helping to support the children who attend school just a few blocks south of our church.



Many of the pre-school through grade five children at Prescott need that extra help. Robin Klipper-Fischbein, the school's registrar, said 70 percent of the 578 children at Prescott qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, a measure often used to indicate families' financial need.

The idea for an emergency food bank or "pantry" at Prescott came up about eight years ago as a way the church could reach out to its neighbors. Kathie Remington was Grace's first Prescott coordinator, and Sue and Larry Clymer took over in 2011.

Members donate food items like granola bars, mac and cheese, canned chicken and tuna, peanut butter and cereal as well as boxes of tissues and bottles of hand sanitizer, depositing them on a set of shelves in the church's atrium. Many individuals and some church groups also contribute cash that the Clymers use to purchase more food or other necessities.

In December 2014, Grace members gave both food and money so that the Clymers could assemble 30 Christmas food baskets complete with meat, potatoes, butter, eggs, fresh vegetables and more. "I've never seen anything like it," Robin said. "It was *real* food," she said, and the families who received it "really appreciate the help."

The Prescott project also provides sweat pants, socks and underwear that are stored in the school nurse's office for students who need them. And there are the gloves and hats, kept in a huge tub in the school's main office. "We can hand those over immediately to children who need them," Robin said.

The storage shelves in the Prescott basement include grocery bags already made up and ready to go home with a child in an emergency. Families can even stop by the school during the summer and pick up a bag.

Sue Clymer said she remembers using the Prescott fund to buy basic meat, milk, vegetables and bread for a family that simply had no food in the house. "I have checked," she said, "and that family is doing well now."

Three years ago, a group of Grace men began working with Prescott fourth and fifth graders in an after-school sports program: first baseball and now basketball. Many middle-grade children don't get much experience with sports, Dean Dumler said, and many families can't provide the support to help the kids learn. Dean said two or three "coaches" from Grace work with the students one afternoon every other week.

"Some kids have had some experience with basketball," Dean said, "but many of them don't even know which hand to dribble with." So they start with the basics, and many of the children – mostly boys in this case – learn the fundamentals and also discover their own potential talent.



But there's more. Grace also helps Prescott children by:

hosting Prescott's Waffle Man fundraiser each year.

paying for the fifth graders' spring field trip to go bowling.

paying for the bus rental to take the kids to the bowling alley.

paying a gas bill one month for a family whose heat source was about to be shut off.

sponsoring Trunk or Treat at Halloween for all the neighborhood children, many of whom attend Prescott.

"We hear all the time from families about how grateful they are for the help," Robin said. Anytime Prescott's children have a need, Grace responds: "Whatever you need, we'll provide it," she said.

If you want to use your hands to do God's work among the children of our neighborhood, watch for regular bulletin announcements about what kind of pantry items are needed. Or make a monetary donation to the Prescott fund.

"It makes an enormous difference," Robin said. "We just couldn't do this without the support we get from Grace Lutheran Church."



**Photo of Robin Klipper-Fischbein with shelves at the school**

**Caption:** Prescott School's Robin Klipper-Fischbein shows off some of the food and other necessities donated by the people of Grace.



**GREETERS FOR MARCH SUNDAYS:**

March 1 Doug and Jeannette Allen; Sharon Gottsche

March 8 Steve Schott, Jacob and Sophia; Don Most

March 15 Kaitlyn Dumler, Kevin Dumler; Dean Dumler and Beth Kimmerling Dumler

March 22 Jim and Johanna Krueger; Charlie Leftridge

March 29 Karen and Mark Billings; Charlene Johnson

**Wanted:** a person to join the cadre of Table Leaf Ministers to take communion to a shut-in living in an assisted living facility about once every month to six weeks. If you are interested in learning more about this and perhaps volunteering to do this, please contact Pastor Bob either in person, via e-mail ([pr.bob@egrace.org](mailto:pr.bob@egrace.org)) or by phone: 402-430-6661 (cell).

**Grace History – our vicars from 1978-1986:**

Myron Herzberg

Steve Houtz He did not become ordained.

Paul Hoffman, wife Donna. He became Associate Pastor at Grace from 1982 – 1984.

Joe Vought

Roger Quay

Paul Gausman, and his wife.

Scott Noon, wife Becky.

Eric Leshner

Grace church has had 7 Associate Pastors. The Reverend Stanley Rogge was with Pastor Leshner from 1958-1961. The Reverend Nathan Houfek, with his wife Linda, was with Pastor Benson from 1975-1978. He had to resign when Pastor Benson retired because of the rule – when a senior pastor resigns or retires all associate pastors must resign. Pastor Ecklund had 3 associate pastors. Reverend Paul Hoffman, with his wife Donna, from 1982-1984. Reverend Robert Hansen from 1985-1986. Reverend Thomas Hallstrom, with his wife Marlene, from 1986-1987. In the fall of 1986 Pastor Ecklund suffered a brain aneurysm. He went on short-term disability, but the road to recovery was going to be long. The short-term disability ran out on June 30, 1987. Upon advice from his doctor and Bishop Anderson he decided it would be best to retire. Since Pastor Hallstrom was associate pastor he would have to resign also. Ed Binder, President of the Church Council, went to the Synod Office and told Bishop Anderson that Grace Church wanted to keep Pastor Hallstrom. As Senior Pastor, Pastor Hallstrom had 2 associate pastors. Reverend Mark Jensen, with his wife Carla, from 1989-1991. Reverend Peter Jacobson, with his wife Anne, from 1992-2002. Pastor Jacobson will be the guest preacher next Sunday.

**Grace History –** When Pastor Ecklund retired in July 1987, The Reverend Tom Hallstrom was there to take over after being our Associate Pastor since March of 1986. He was born on October 31, 1949 in Webster, South Dakota. He graduated from Webster High School in 1968 and began college at Northern State College, a state owned school in Aberdeen, South Dakota. There he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in music education, having a double major in both vocal and instrumental music. It was at college he met Marlene, and they were married in the summer of 1971. After teaching vocal music for two years, he attended Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina from 1974-1978. Pastor Hallstrom did his internship at St. Paul Lutheran in downtown Columbia where Marlene was organist and he was also choirmaster. 1978 took the Hallstroms to Tabor-Grace Lutheran in Standburg-Labolt, South Dakota. In 1982 he took a call to be Pastor at Nebo Lutheran Church in Valley City, North Dakota. Pastor Hallstrom took our call in 1986 as Associate Pastor and then Senior Pastor in 1987. Marlene became the Choir Director. They have three children. When they came to Lincoln Eric was 11, Erin was 6 and Elizabeth was 4, which means they are now 39, 34 and 32 respectively.



**Upcoming events hosted by Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries:**

A retreat for grandparents and grandchildren (grades 1—6)

March 9—11, at Carol Joy Holling

Learn more and register at [cjhcenter.org/grandparentgrandchild-retreat](http://cjhcenter.org/grandparentgrandchild-retreat)

**UFO (UnFinished Objects retreats):** April 19-21; July 12-14; September 27-29; October 18-20 at Carol Joy Holling. Register online at [cjhcenter.org/ufo-winter-retreat](http://cjhcenter.org/ufo-winter-retreat)

**Spring\Summer Volunteer Opportunities at Carol Joy Holling:**

**Spring Maintenance:** Help clean up worship sites, cut firewood, revamp outdoor landscaping

**Work Day:** The annual work day is May 16. Many hands are needed to prepare for the busy summer of campers! Teams will work to set up tents, tipis and bunk beds.

**Summer service project volunteers:** Volunteers are needed in June and July assisting the campers make and finish tied quilts.

**Summer prayer team:** Every volunteer will be assigned a camp counselor to pray over and encourage throughout the summer.

For more information or to sign up to be a volunteer, contact Amanda Silva at 402-944-2544 or [asliva@nlom.org](mailto:asliva@nlom.org)

**Tabitha Hospice Invites You...**

Hospice Volunteer Training  
Tabitha Campus  
4720 Randolph St, Lincoln  
March 7 and 13—9:00 am—4:00 pm  
(must attend both sessions)

As a Tabitha Hospice volunteer in training you will learn more about:

- Tabitha's history and mission
- Hospice philosophy and eligibility
- The hospice team, its members and their roles
- Family centered services provided by Tabitha Hospice
- Grief and bereavement
- Ethics and confidentiality
- Self-care and communication

Contact Susan Eichele to receive more details, 402-486-8506.

## Get to know our Seminarians!



**Steven Neal:** Steven and Stefanie reside currently in Dubuque, Iowa, with their 2 1/2 year old daughter, Adelyn (Ady). Steven is in his 2nd year of seminary at Wartburg. He grew up in Edgerton, KS, a stone's throw from Kansas City, and is a graduate from Hastings College. He currently serves in the US Army Iowa National Guard. Stefanie is finishing her degree and registration in respiratory therapy. Stefanie is from Omaha and Kearney, and a graduate of University of Nebraska-Kearney with a degree in Exercise Physiology and Psychology. They both enjoy exercising, reading fantasy, and Netflix. Steven enjoys all thing tech, while Stef prefers long walks outside in nature. Ady is way too courageous and an avid fan of Thomas trains and Elmo!



**Brian Eck:** I was born and raised in Jamestown, New York. After high school, I spent nine years in the military intelligence working with languages. While in the military, I met my beautiful wife Erica. She introduced me to Lutheranism. I eventually joined the ELCA and was baptized in 2007. Our daughter Evangeline was born a year later. I moved to Minneapolis to study religion at Augsburg College. From there we moved to Lincoln so that I could attend Law School at the University of Nebraska. We were happy to find Grace and all the wonderful people there. We felt very welcomed and quickly became members. I started to feel a call to the ministry and spoke with Pastor Mike Ostrom about the possibility of attending seminary. I felt very encouraged by everyone with whom I spoke. I applied for Candidacy and I spent one semester in Luther Seminary's online program. My wife Erica was offered a promotion and we moved to California in February 2014. Our new home was

close to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, so I chose to transfer so I could attend seminary full-time. I have been learning quite a bit here at Seminary, but I am eager to get back to Lincoln sometime in the Fall to visit all of my friends at Grace.



Amanda "Day" Hefner is a native of Coleridge, in scenic northeast Nebraska, where she grew up in Immanuel Lutheran Church, ELCA. After graduating from high school, she majored in music at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, NE, and also minored in art and Spanish. During her college years, Day worked two summers at Camp Carol Joy Holling, which is where she first earned the nickname "Day." She graduated in December of 2007 with a bachelor's degree and every intention of pursuing a career in ethnomusicology. Shortly thereafter, she joined the Peace Corps and left for the Dominican Republic in February of 2008. During her four years living in various parts of the island, Day worked as an educator, a resource person, a community radio personality, an ethnomusicology intern, a coordinator, and a trainer, to say nothing of being an avid eater of avocados and a taker of siestas.

She moved back to Lincoln in February of 2012, where she took on jobs working in cultural education and teaching English and job skills to refugees and immigrants. That very same month, on Ash Wednesday, she had the great fortune to wander unassumingly into the place that would become her church home and where she first experienced a call to ministry: Grace Lutheran Church. She began the candidacy process for ordained ministry early in 2013 and eventually left her cultural education job for a position on the Nebraska Synod staff. She was accepted to the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago with a full tuition scholarship from LSTC and the ELCA Fund for Leaders; and began her studies there in September of 2014.

During her time at Grace, Day was privileged to be involved in the congregation in a number of ways. She served on church council, taught confirmation, co-led the youth group, helped form the "Things That Matter" discussion group and the "In Stitches" stitching group, led the refugee resettlement project, brought Lincoln Literacy classes into Grace, brought the community group Common Root's event, Free Saturdays, into Grace, served as a facilitator in the "Growing in Grace" initiative, participated in several iterations of a young adult Bible study group, preached, sang, read, played, helped lead worship, and last — but certainly not least — got pie'd in the face by nine successive Sunday school children. She is grateful to the community at Grace not only for the material support they have offered, but for the many ways they have embraced her, inspired her, and allowed her to become part of their life together.

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**January Council Meeting**  
January 13, 2015

Present: Doug Allen, Terry Branting, Lynn Chamberlin, Dennis Berens, , Steve Rosno, Barbara Smith, Dave Ripa, Teddi Reckling, Jeanne Weisbrook, Connie Whyrick, Jacob Krueger

Absent: Margaret Gipson (excused)

Staff: Pr Bob Rademacher

President Steve Rosno called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Dennis Berens provided the opening devotions and prayer.

Rev. Megan Morrow, Assistant to the Bishop, gave a presentation on the Call Process.

The minutes from the December Council meeting was presented.

It was moved (Ripa), seconded (Weisbrook) and carried that the minutes be approved as amended and filed.

**Correspondence:**

A Thank you note from Lincoln Literacy was shared.

**Staff Reports:**

**Interim Pastor:** Written report

Pastor Sylvia reminded everyone about the listening sessions that start the end of the month.

It was move (Weisbrook), seconded (Smith) and carried to divide the Lenten offerings between the 5 organizations (to be named later) that will participate in our Wednesday night Lenten services.

**Visitation Pastor:** Written report

**Director of Music:** Written report.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Written report presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Written report presented

It was moved (Berens), seconded (Smith) and carried that the financial and staff reports be filed for audit.

**Committee Reports:**

**Parish Education:** Written report

**Evangelism:**

**Finance:** Written report

**Property:** Written report

**Social Ministry:** Written report

**Stewardship:** Written report

**Youth:** Written report

**Memorials:** Did not meet.

**Worship and Music:** Written report

**Mutual Ministry:** Written report

**Quasiquicentennial Committee:** Written report

It was moved (Smith), seconded (Ripa) and carried that all committee reports be filed.



**Old Business:**

Report on Leshar Lounge - Fundraiser by Q125 committee:

It was moved (Ripa), seconded (Whyrick) and carried to approve the sending of a Lounge fundraising letter to the congregation.

Report from Ad hoc committee on Staff Job Descriptions: Staff have received copies of the descriptions.

Janet Jodais fund: Tabled until next month.

Website update: Tabled until next month.

**New Business:**

Steve shared information about: Spiritual Direction Guided Retreat: The Heart of Hospitality and Mid-land Mid-Winter Ministry Conference

Delegates to the Synod Assembly: Names were suggested and will be contacted

Election of the Trustee for the Foundation board: Tabled until next month

Assistance with lenten dinner: Dave Ripa will head up the March 18 Council sponsored Lenten dinner

Appointment of Financial Secretary: Tabled until next month

Audit committee: Tabled until next month

Fran Gade has been appointed to the Mutual Ministry Committee

Steve asked if there was any more business to bring before the Church Council. It was moved (Ripa), seconded (Chamberlin) and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 9:45 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandi Knippelmeyer, Recording Secretary



The Gathering Place provides meals on most holidays, and Presidents' Day was no exception. The February 16 meal, served by members and friends of Grace, included spaghetti with meat sauce prepared by Regina Paschold, tossed lettuce salad donated by Carla Ingersoll, with salad dressing from Darlene and Pastor Bob Rademacher, bread, applesauce, and dessert treats contributed by Helen and Don Carnes, Joy Kokes, Regina and Steve, and Donna Hansen and Phil Sorenson. All of the individuals mentioned above helped to serve and clean up after 85 portions had been distributed.

From Lynn Chamberlin: Below is a Thank You letter from my nephew Rob Jensen. He is with the 3rd Platoon Bravo Company 1st – 502 Infantry and coordinated our efforts last year (March to October) to provide "care packages" to three of his fellow soldiers, Cody Neyman, Skylar Britt and Charles Parks. The soldiers were extremely grateful for the items they received and having the opportunity to hear their names at mail call provided them with something to look forward too, as well as a small "taste of home." Sadly, one member of the Division was lost during the deployment and along with our gratefulness for the safe return of our biological and "adopted" soldiers, our hearts are heavy with the loss of this young man. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.



From Rob Jensen: Thank you again for your support, thoughts and prayers for these and all members of the military who risk their lives as they complete their missions. As 2014 becomes the past and we start the New Year I would like to take a moment and THANK all who contributed and/or made the time and the effort to shop, pack, and send the many boxes to my squad of 3<sup>rd</sup> PLT B Co. 1<sup>st</sup> 502 in Afghanistan. Words cannot express how grateful we were to receive packages. I can now tell you that we were deployed to the very remote region called Baraki Barak in Afghanistan. We had no ability for the items to be driven to us. I

have included a picture of the C130 Cargo plane dropping boxes to our location. The days of package drops were always great days. Christmas will never be the same, because those days were each BETTER than Christmas! All of the items you sent were appreciated more than you can know! For those who have been deployed you can understand the pure happiness when a box has your name on it. Some of the items you sent were shared and traded at high value, but most were used or eaten very quickly. We were only able to bring back with us a very limited amount of items so some of the items were passed on to others still on deployment. They were then appreciated over and over. I hope that you will all continue to think of our brothers still on deployment, and if possible continue to send gift boxes to them. Below are a few pictures I wanted to share. With MANY THANKS!!!



Plane flying in and then up to allow the boxes to drop out the back of the plane. (These are some of the boxes you sent.) Parachutes open and boxes are dropped. Now the race to get them before the locals do.



Robert Jensen burning boxes with labels so they would not be found by locals.





1  
Ron & Carolyn Ossian

13  
Wayne & Kathie Remington

20  
Steve & Teddi Reckling



1  
Richard Higbea  
Eileen Rudd

2  
Ken Johnson

3  
Joyce Lunde

4  
Glen Drohman  
Josie Johnson

5  
Jan Branting  
David Buckley  
Lisa Holmstrom

6  
Arlene Reighard  
Pat Weixelman

7  
Nora Knobbe  
Brittany Johnson

9  
Janice Walker

11  
Richard Block  
Victoria Garza  
Logan Johnson

12  
Kathy Havlicek-Cook  
Sara Schott

13  
Carol Jensen  
Tommy Lantis  
Alex Thorson

14  
Kevin Fritchie

16  
Andrew Martin  
Elli Petersen

17  
Tim Ingersoll  
Alex Warrick

19  
Carol Disney  
Vern Hunzeker  
Shannon Mills

20  
Daryla Issacs

21  
Carol Bernasek  
Kevin Dumler

22  
Kyle Hoffman

24  
Betsy Johnson  
Tasha Wright

27  
Erica Eck

30  
Sandie Anderson  
Jena Leslie



### **Sunday, March 1**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am A.S.F., Choir, Sunday School,  
Thrivent , New Member class  
3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal, Chapel reserved  
for recital

### **Monday, March 2**

9:00 am WELCA Executive Brd. Mtg.  
6:30 pm Stewardship Mtg.  
7:00 pm Committee Mtg., Scouts

### **Tuesday, March 3**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:00 pm Scouts  
6:30 pm Parish Ed. Cmte  
7:00 pm Valparaiso Choir Concert,  
Committee Mtgs.  
8:00 pm AA Meeting

### **Wednesday, March 4**

9:30 am WELCA lunch & mtg.  
5:30 pm Lent Supper  
6:00 pm Cherub Choir  
6:30 pm Worship  
7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg.,  
Grace Notes Bell Choir

### **Thursday, March 5**

6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 am Quilting\Sewing  
9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
6:00 pm Leshar Hall reserved  
7:00 pm Bells, N. A. Mtg., At Ease,

### **Friday, March 6**

5:00 pm YWCA Respite care, gym

### **Saturday, March 7**

5:30 pm Worship

### **Sunday, March 8**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am A.S.F., Choir, Sunday School,  
1:30 pm Conf. Rm. reserved  
3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal

### **Monday, March 9**

1:00 pm WELCA #2 Mtg.  
7:00 pm Scouts

### **Tuesday, March 10**

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

### **Wednesday, March 11**

11:30 am Yesterday's Youth  
5:30 pm Lent supper  
6:00 pm Children's Choir  
6:30 pm Worship  
7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg.,  
Grace Notes Bell Choir

### **Thursday, March 12**

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

### **Friday, March 13**

5:00 pm YWCA Respite care—gym

### **Saturday, March 14**

1:00 pm Lounge reserved  
5:30 pm Worship

### **Sunday, March 15**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Sunday School , A.S.F., Choir,  
New Member Class  
1:30 pm L.L.C. board mtg.  
3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal

### **Monday, March 16**

5:00 pm Gathering Place  
7:00 pm Scouts

### **Tuesday, March 17**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:00 pm Scouts  
8:00 pm AA Meeting

### **Wednesday, March 18**

1:00 pm WELCA #1 Mtg.  
5:30 pm Lent supper  
6:00 pm Children's Choir  
6:30 pm Worship  
7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg., 7:00  
pm Grace Notes bell choir

### **Thursday, March 19**

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

### **Friday, March 20**

4:00 pm Suzuki music lessons  
5:00 pm Leshar Hall reserved

### **Saturday, March 21**

5:30 pm Worship

### **Sunday, March 22**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am ASF, Choir, Sunday School , New  
member class  
3:00 pm Tysen Dauer's recital  
3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal  
5:30 pm Chapel reserved for a recital

### **Monday, March 23**

7:00 pm Scouts

### **Tuesday, March 24—Greeter**

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

### **Wednesday, March 25**

5:30 pm Lent supper  
6:00 pm Children's Choir  
6:30 pm Worship  
7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg.,  
Grace Notes bell choir

### **Thursday, March 26**

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

### **Saturday, March 28**

5:30 pm Worship

### **Sunday, March 29**

#### **Palm Sunday**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am ASF, Choir, Sunday School  
3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal

### **Monday, March 30**

9:00 am Holy Week morning prayer,  
WELCA Executive Brd. Mtg.  
7:00 pm Scouts

### **Tuesday, March 31**

9:00 am Holy Week morning prayer  
9:30 am Al-Anon  
8:00 pm AA Meeting

\*child care provided

## Grace Staff and Council Members

**Rev. Sylvia High Karlsson,**

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**Rev. Dr. Robert Rademacher,**

*Visitation Pastor*

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*Custodian*

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*Nursery Coordinator*

**Elizabeth Krueger,**

*Nursery attendant*

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*Please keep all these servant leaders in  
your prayers.*

**Call Committee**

Curt Mann, chair

Wendy Apple

Charlyne Berens

Brady Garvin

Margaret Gipson

Carla Ingersoll

Sarah Krueger

Roger Potts

**Our Seminarians**

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Amanda Hefner

Steven Neal

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