

The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502

February 28, 2017



Themes for Midweek Lenten services - beginning at 6:30 pm

March 8 "We are Church"

The Church is a gathering of people

March 15 "We are One"

Unity is not uniformity

March 22 "We are Holy"

Holiness isn't just sinlessness

March 29 "We are Catholic"

We are a small piece of the bigger picture

April 5 "We Are Apostolic"

We build on the foundation of the apostles and prophets

Mid week Lenten offerings have been designated for the Lutheran food pantry.

Midweek Lenten Dinners will be served starting at 5:30 PM

We are trying something new... Join us in Christ Chapel for a noon midweek service. The service will begin at 12:15 and end by 12:45. The themes will be the same as Wednesday evening, but we will use the Responsive Prayer service.



I read the following from the document title "From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017":

"On this occasion, Lutherans will also remember the vicious and degrading statements that Martin Luther made against the Jews. They are ashamed of them and deeply deplore them. Lutherans have come to recognize with a deep sense of regret the persecution of Anabaptists by Lutheran authorities and the fact that Martin Luther and Philip Melanchthon theologically supported this persecution. They deplore Luther's violent attacks against the peasants during the Peasants' War. The awareness of the dark sides of Luther and the Reformation has prompted a critical and self-critical attitude of Lutheran theologians towards Luther and the Wittenberg Reformation. Even though they agree in part with Luther's criticism of the papacy, nevertheless Lutherans today reject Luther's identification of the pope with the Antichrist."

This reading and my own visit to the Luther exhibit in Minneapolis during Christmas holiday helps me to remember why lamenting and remembering is so important. We are not perfect. But that does not mean we give up on living life in response to the Gospel. Sometimes our passions outrun our prayers and soon we say or do something that we later regret. But this is what Lent is all about. Letting God clean up the mess we have made of ourselves and of our life together as sisters and brothers in the faith. God loves the church and us too much to let us fail so learn to lean on the grace of God that surpasses even the darkest side of being human.

Pr. Eric Lesher

Constitutional changes meeting date:

--March 12th...10:30 am...Special Congregational Meeting--called for the purpose of voting on the proposed changes to the GLC constitution.

From the Church Office

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The deadline for the next Greeter will be March 20th. It will be mailed on Tuesday, March 28.
- ◆ Pastor Eric will have a First Communion Class for anyone in 1, 2 or 3 grade. If your child hasn't taken the class and would like to, please contact the church office. The class will be held on Wednesday, April 12 from 6:00—7:30 PM and then First Communion would be on Maundy Thursday.
- ◆ In order to continue making our church a welcoming place, we are updating our wifi equipment. We'd like to thank everyone that has helped install and maintain our wifi system, especially Brady Garvin. To access the wifi, the log in information will be located in the Atrium, conference room, Leshar Hall and Leshar Lounge.
- ◆ Are you interested in planning and organizing the Easter breakfast? If so, call or email the church office.
- ◆ We would love to have a few more people to help with communion setup and cleanup throughout the year. If this is something you might be interested in, please contact the office: office@egrace.org
- ◆ This month the Lutheran food pantry needs: canned fruit, hamburger or tuna helpers, canned meat, pasta, Crackers. Monetary donations can also be made.
- ◆ A memorial service and internment for former member Nye Sutherland will be held for family, friends and other loved ones at 10:30 a.m. in the Osceola (Polk Co.) cemetery on Saturday, April 22nd, reception to follow.

For your April calendar:

April 2—Lincoln Lutheran Choir concert at 3 PM in the Nave

April 9—Palm Sunday

April 10, 11, 12—Holy Week morning prayer at 10 AM in the Chapel

April 13—Maundy Thursday worship at 6:30 PM

April 14—Good Friday Worship at 6:30 PM

April 15—Easter Eve Vigil at 6:30 PM

April 16—Easter Sunday worship at 7:30 or 10:30 AM





- WOMEN of the ELCA – please note—because Lent begins on the day of our Unit Meeting and there will be a Lenten Supper that evening, our Unit Meeting will be a Pot Luck **BRUNCH** at 9:30 am, on March 1. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. The program will be given by Peter Schnake, a member of our congregation, who is employed by Cedars Home. He will share with us things about Cedars Home that you may never have known and current information, a very interesting program! Please join us – all are welcome.

Group Two will serve as host for the meeting; Kathren Miller will give devotions. Also – mark your calendars for the Spring Gathering on April 1st at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Wahoo, NE. The topic will be *Sisters in Christ*. More information may be found on the WELCA bulletin Board in Leshar Hall. And – remember, beginning this year we only do Tabitha Bingo in October, so use the summer to begin thinking Bingo prizes.

- THRIVENT MEMBERS – The next meeting will be held on March 5, at 10:30 a.m. in the Staff Conference Room, so please join us. We would really like to have more of you meet with us and help us with planning and projects. Our group will host the Ash Wednesday Lenten supper on Wednesday, March 1st. A Thrivent Action Team will again provide the food through Thrivent for the meal, with the free will offering proceeds designated for the Lutheran Center on Campus for their fund-raising campaign. The menu: Roast Pork Loin, Au Gratin potatoes, Green Beans, Orange Glow Salad, and Assorted Cakes.
- If you are 55 years or older, come join us at Yesterday's Youth, Wednesday, March 8 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 is potluck, so bring a dish to share and your table service. Drinks will be furnished. Come and enjoy the fellowship. The program will be "The constitution" presented by Sheila Collins. Please come and hear our guest speaker



Lenten meal menus:

March 1 (served by Thrivent): Pork loin, au gratin potatoes, golden glow salad, green beans, assorted cakes

March 8 (served by WELCA group 6): Chili, relishes, homemade cinnamon rolls

March 15 (served by WELCA group 1): Chicken noodle or Vegetable beef soup, crackers, bread, cookies

March 22 (served by Grace men): Pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, cole slaw, ice cream

March 29 (served by Church Council): Baked potato bar, tossed salad, dessert

Suggested donation—\$5 adults, \$3 children (under age 10) Dinner proceeds will be given to The Lutheran Center, UNL or the Grace dishwasher fund.

Freed & RENEWED in Christ 500 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ACTION

Lutheran mythbusting or.... Things you thought you knew about Martin Luther

On the show *Mythbusters*, the hosts unmask assumptions about our world — scenes from movies, familiar sayings or Internet sensations — and rigorously test their plausibility. When it comes to history, however, certain legends and inaccuracies can persist for generations without being challenged or corrected.

In the run-up to commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we will share some “myths” about Martin Luther that deserve busting.

On Oct. 31, 1517, Luther “posted” the 95 Theses in protest against the church. (This one is plausible)

Here modern historians have questioned two things. Since the 1960s some scholars have thought it highly unlikely that Luther ever nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. They point to the fact that Luther never mentions it. Also, the posting is first mentioned in a sketch of Luther’s life written shortly after his death by a colleague, Phillip Melancthon, who didn’t arrive in Wittenberg until 1518, well after the alleged act.

While some scholars (including this author) still argue that such a posting really did take place, all agree that the more important “posting,” which we know occurred that day, was in the mail as an enclosure to a letter addressed to Archbishop Albrecht of Mainz, head of the German church. The original, dated letter is in an archive in Stockholm, Sweden.

But the notion that the 95 Theses were, from their inception, a protest rests on the mistaken idea about the function of such “theses” in late-medieval university life. In those days, to receive any university degree students had to defend theses, usually composed by their professors and posted on the churches’ doors in advance of the oral defense.

In addition, as a professor of theology, Luther had the right to hold “quodlibital disputations” — debates on any subject whatsoever to clarify church teaching, which usually were presented in the form of theses. In the case of the 95 Theses, Luther was clearly thinking in those terms. His intent wasn’t protest but open debate about an issue over which there was great uncertainty: What were indulgences and how did they relate to a Christian’s sorrow over sin?

It was the reactions to Luther’s theses — the archbishop sent them to Rome because he suspected they contained heresy — that turned a sharp inquiry over church practice and teaching into protest and reform.

By Timothy J. Wengert

Wengert, an ELCA pastor, is professor emeritus of Reformation history at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Reprint information was granted by Living Lutheran magazine for this article as it first appeared in the (Feb./2015) issue of Living Lutheran.

Update on the Lutheran Food Pantry:

The executive board of the Lincoln area cluster voted to pass the administration responsibilities of the pantry to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, so that the ministry can best continue to serve the Lincoln area. St. Andrew's will take over the Pantry as a ministry of their church, using volunteers for staffing and administration.

Grace has designated our midweek Lenten offering to the Lutheran Pantry. Food donations are still needed and can be left in the baskets outside the church office. Monetary donations can also be made.



From Don Carnes: I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and offered prayers for Helen and me during my surgery and recovery. God Bless

CONGRATULATIONS! Grace Thrivent members. Your Grace Lutheran Church Advocates are excited to share that in 2016 over 335,000 Thrivent members chose to direct Choice Dollars to more than 32,000 churches, schools and other non-profits, including Grace Lutheran Church through Thrivent Choice. Based on member recommendations, Grace Lutheran Church received \$2,388 in charitable outreach funding in 2016. The Thrivent Choice program helps members of Thrivent Financial make a positive impact in their communities.

The "FEAST" is a meal served each Sunday at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church to some individuals from the Community Corrections Center. Their relatives and friends are welcome to accompany them at worship, as well as the lunch which follows. Members of Grace's Social Ministry Committee donated, prepared, and served the food for the meal on February 19. The menu included ham, baked beans, corn, tossed lettuce salad, bread, and brownies and ice cream. Committee members are Lori Drake, Pat Lickei, Pastor Megan Morrow, Barb Smith, Sue and Larry Clymer, and Regina and Steve Paschold.

Happy Birthday Carol Schroeder!

Carol will be celebrating 90 wonderful years with an open house on March 19, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Church in Leshar Lounge. Please join us for cake and ice cream as we honor Carol. In lieu of a gift, please write down a special memory to share with Carol. If you are not able to join us, cards and your special memory may be mailed to 8103 South 13 Street, Lincoln, NE 68512.



The number of servings distributed at The Gathering Place has, month to month, been on the rise over the past several months. For the statistics, a person's first meal, and seconds, as well as containers of food taken out by guests, count as a serving or portion. For some people, that "take home" meal becomes breakfast or lunch on the following day. On January 30, Scouts, parents and leaders from Troop 30 helped to serve 160 portions. Regina and Steve Paschold prepared chili. Also on the menu were crackers, canned peaches, tossed lettuce salad, and dessert treats donated by Joy Kokes and the Scouts. Those helping to serve and to clean up were Joy, Regina, Steve, Carla Ingersoll, Collin Sipple, Jacob Gleason, Parker Cline, Liam, Glen and Lisa McChristian, Trenton and Shawn Johanson, Esten and Tad Rezek, Daryl Korinek, Kurt Kruse, and Curt Mann.

On February 20, when Grace was responsible for the meal at The Gathering Place, the number of portions distributed (183) fell only several servings short of breaking the all time record held by Grace. Sloppy joes prepared by Regina and Steve Paschold proved to be very popular. There was also tossed lettuce salad donated by Carla Ingersoll, baked beans, applesauce, potato chips, and desserts contributed by Joy Kokes, Ginny and Roger Potts, Dennis Madison, Kaitlyn and Kevin Dumler, and Steve and Regina. Leftovers from the FEAST meal served on February 19 were utilized to help to stretch the available food. All of those mentioned above helped to serve and to clean up after the meal. Special thanks go to Kaitlyn, Kevin and Cynthe Dumler for the donation of a large quantity of beef for use in these and future meals. Recent financial gifts from Marilyn Holmquist and Lois Schuerman are also greatly appreciated.



New members received...

John and Debbie Winterfeld and their son Johnny have rejoined Grace after several years away. We are happy to have them back at Grace!

Johnny and his wife Megan, have 3 children, Gabby (age 9), John (JP, age 4) and Joel (age 2).

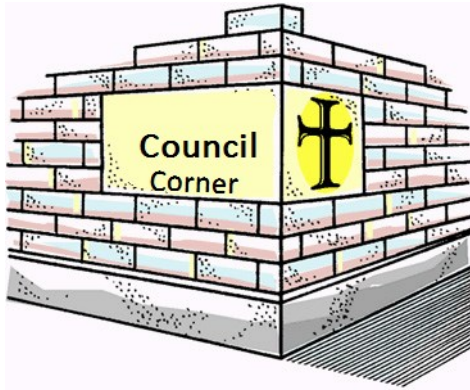
The color purple

We are in the church season of Lent. Many churches have purple paraments on the altar, lectern and pulpit. Many pastors and choir members wear purple stoles. Why purple?

In ancient times, purple garments were expensive and hard to find. The dye came from rare sea mollusks that had to be crushed to garner their purple fluid. (One ounce of purple dye required 250,000 mollusks!) Then the right kind of fabric had to be placed in the dye, dried and made into clothing, which was time-consuming.

Generally, only wealthy people and members of royalty could afford purple garments. For example, in the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man "was dressed in purple and fine linen" (Luke 16:19, NRSV).

Purple is used in church sanctuaries during Lent because Christ is revered as the King of Kings.



From the Council— We welcome Emily Freeman to our Grace Lutheran staff. Emily will be working with our children's choir as an intern.

Last month, a Latino worship service has begun in Christ's Chapel. They spend a couple of hours in worship and study on Sunday evenings. We thank them for their recent generous \$200 cash offering to Grace.

From the Worship & Music Committee—We are currently preparing for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Sara and the choirs put in a lot of work this time of year and we are very thankful to them for this! We are excited to add new altar guild members this spring. We are always looking for additional members for both it and for ushering.

From the Parish Education Committee—We will be planning an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 16th. We would appreciate your monetary gifts or contributions of candy to assist with this project. Plus, if anyone would like to make some new bean bags (3 red, 3 blue, and 3 green), we would be very appreciative.

From the Evangelism Committee—We are brainstorming ways to increase our visibility in the community. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

From the Property Committee—We have refurbished the custodians apartment with fresh paint, new carpeting, and ceiling repair work. Newer appliances were added too. Work will begin soon on the refurbishing of our stained glass windows. We are also working with insurance claim adjuster regarding the roof damage caused by last year's hail storm.

From the Social Ministry Committee—We will be serving lunch at *Our Savior's Lutheran Church* for a group of individuals in a prison release program. After the group assists us in cleanup, they will move to another part of the church for their bible study.

From the Stewardship Committee—We will be focused on the *Time and Talent* surveys, *God's Work. Our Hands*, and Stewardship Sunday. *Time and Talent* surveys will be mailed in early June. Stewardship Sunday is September 17th with guest preacher Timothy Siburg, Nebraska Synod, Director of Stewardship. *God's Work. Our Hands* is yet to be determined.

From the Memorials Committee—We have held an organizational meeting in February. Members of the committee include: Bob Anderson (Chair), Sandie Anderson (Secretary), Kathren Miller, Robert Stimbert, Arlene Reighard, Matt Knobbe, Kim Mills, and Dave Ripa. The standing committees have been asked to update a Memorials 'Wish List' over the next month.

March 5	
Assisting Minister	Roger Potts
Lector	Barry More
Communion Assistants	Ginny Potts, Jan Branting, Connie Whyrick, Joyce Krueger
Altar Guild	Dave & Kathren Miller
Greeters	Jeannette Allen, Ginny Potts
Acolyte	Cameron Krueger
Communion bread	Dave Ripa
March 12	
Assisting Minister	Charlyne Berens
Lector	Denny Berens
Communion Assistants	Denny Berens, Curt Mann, Doug & Jeannette Allen
Altar Guild	Dustin & Rachel Haider, Doug & Sarah Krueger
Greeters	Denny Berens
Acolyte	Kaiden Noecker
Communion Bread	Barb Smith
March 19	
Assisting Minister	Tyler Johnson
Lector	Jacob Schott
Communion Assistants	Fran Gade, Neil Larson, Carol Olson,
Altar Guild	Sharon Gottsche, Pat Lickei, Ginny Potts, Carla Ingersoll
Greeters	Carol Olson
Acolyte	Chloe Fitzgibbon
Communion Bread	Darlene Stutheit
March 26	
Assisting Minister	Jacob Krueger
Lector	Sharon Genthe
Communion Assistants	Kathie Remington, Lois Schuerman, Darlene Stutheit, Pat Lickei
Altar Guild	Jon & Connie Thorson
Greeters	Sharon & Larry Genthe; Kathie Remington
Acolyte	Kyle Givens
Communion Bread	Wendy Apple

Our assistant organist, Colt Ballou, will be conducting part of the below-mentioned concert as part of the requirements for his doctoral degree in choral conducting at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Everyone is invited to this free concert of choral music with a special Nebraska connection.

AN OPEN HOUSE: Celebrating the music of the Boys Town Choir



In honor of Boys Town's 100th Anniversary, the University Singers will present a concert celebrating Boys Town's rich history of choral music. The concert will include sacred works performed by the Boys Town Choir during their touring years in the 1940s through 70s, and will feature Faure's Requiem. The performance will take place in Boys Town's own beautiful Dowd Chapel.

Performed by the
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University Singers

Thursday, March 16th 7:30pm
Dowd Chapel
Boys Town

St. Patrick's Day trivia

You may know that St. Patrick used shamrocks to teach about the Trinity, but did you know these other facts about him?

- St. Patrick wasn't Irish. (His parents were Roman citizens living in either Scotland or Wales.)
- He was kidnapped and sold as a slave at age 16. After escaping six years later, he joined a monastery in England.
- March 17 is the date of St. Patrick's death, not his birth. He died in 461 A.D.
- The color originally associated with St. Patrick is blue, not green.
- The harp, not the shamrock, is the national symbol of Ireland.



March Family Ministry Events:

Game Night - Friday March 3rd from 5-7pm

Families and individuals are welcome to come for a fun game night! Feel free to bring your family, invite a friend, or both! We have several fun games to play here, or bring your favorite! Can't wait to see you there!

Family Faith - Wednesday March 15th from 7:30-8:00 pm

A family bible study geared towards building familial relationships and teaching a system you can take home with you and use every night to continue to build these relationships! Families with any aged children are welcome! We Will meet outside the nave after the Wednesday service, and meet in the Leshar Lounge for the study itself! I can't wait to see you there! :)

Camp informational session - Sunday March 5th from 10:30 - 11:00 am

Interested in sending your child, niece, nephew, or grandchild to camp? Don't know anything about it? Come to this informational session about Camp Carol Joy Holling, led by Tyler Johnson (a previous summer staff member). Learn about everything from taste of camp around grand camp (for the younger kids) or the high school camp and unique trips! Can't wait to see you!

Indulge for Lent?

Rather than sacrificing something for Lent — especially something easy and spiritually insignificant, such as chocolate — Patty Kirk, in *Guideposts* magazine, suggests finding new ways to indulge in God's presence. Surely one can do this by having extra devotions or attending Lenten worship services. But Kirk offers these ideas:

- Spend time outdoors, sensing God's magnificence.
- Spend time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus' promise that when you care for others, you care for him (Matthew 25:31-46).
- Pray for the "little things," coming before God in childlike trust and feeling peace.
- Watch attentively for God's answers to prayer, and receive them as reminders of his presence.
- Turn anxiety into prayer. As you frame concerns as prayers and entrust them to God, you "sacrifice" the tendency to wallow in worry.

A new spring



Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves. Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances.

—Jane Truax

Embracing the Journey of Lent

by Sara Schott, Director of Music

A few weeks ago in children's choir rehearsal, I explained that we were in the "Time After Epiphany" and we reviewed the church year:

- Advent, the start of the year, readings about the coming of a Messiah
- Christmas, the celebration of God among us
- Epiphany, the celebration of Christ as light of the world (all of the world!)
- The Baptism of Our Lord, celebrating the start of Jesus's public ministry
- Time After Epiphany, when the gospel readings highlight the work that Jesus did during his public ministry, and ending with the celebration of the Transfiguration
- Lent, when readings point us to the coming darkness of Holy Week, which culminates in the beautifully blinding light of ...
- Easter!

Now, we don't have very long rehearsals, and I only see the kids once a week, but we have repeated these things with them many times, and they are beginning to understand and value the church year and the liturgical holidays we celebrate. One of the reasons I work with the kids on this is so that they can understand and value life in a worshipping community.

Following the liturgical calendar gives a beautiful and counter-cultural rhythm to our lives. As the days shorten and darkness increases, we find ourselves in Advent. As the culture tells us that we need to be super busy in preparations for the coming holiday, the church is telling us to quiet ourselves. This happens again with Lent. Just as the earth is hinting that spring is coming (despite late winter Nebraska snowstorms!), we come to a darkened church in silence, and gather together to sing, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love." We hear the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," and we have an ashen cross marked on our foreheads. We think about our mortality yes, but also about our new life in Christ through our baptism.

So begins our Lenten journey. Some people see this as a dreary time of year, but I think dreary is the wrong word. It is a quiet time, a rich time. A time to pray. A time to think about deep things, especially the deep love of a God who loves us in spite of ... us! The image of God coming to us, reaching for us, as we are turning back to God is powerful, and of course is what the parable of the prodigal son is all about. Journeys are not the same as day trips. There are bends in the road, there are troubles. And yet, through it all, God is still there as we turn around that final bend.

Lent is not a dark time, not in the negative sense of the word. It is more a time of incubation, a time of growth in the womb, so to speak. Forty days of devotion, simplicity, and quiet celebration. Grace has devotional booklets available, the daily lectionary readings are found in the ELW, p. 1121 ff), or you can pick up a copy of daily lectionary readings for Lent outside the office. You can also google "Revised Common Lectionary" and find the readings on the Internet. Watch the church's Facebook page for links to music and other devotional items as well. Start the Lenten journey and see where it takes you during this beautiful season!

January Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2017

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

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

Pastor Leshar provided devotions and the opening prayer.

Approval: The December Council Minutes were approved as written.

However, a change was noted that needed to be made to CR13.07.G14. "Written reports shall be submitted by the Friday before the council meeting by either electronic means, if at all possible, or paper copy." Change will be that "Written reports shall be submitted by the Sunday before.....". Council approved wording change.

Additions to agenda:

Congregational meeting plans: Meal, How to present constitutional changes and resolutions to congregation

Annual Audit of Congregation books: Need addition of one more member

Discussion:

Committee Reports—how to communicate what the committees are doing to the congregation. Ideas: put summary in the Council Minutes, have something called "The Council Corner". This summary would be put into the Greeter. Will start in February.

Council Goals for Grace: Promoting Grace with small yard signs, bumper stickers or "sticky things" to put in car windows. Facebook boosting of Grace events. Other ideas should be given to Curt.

Staff Reports:

Senior Pastor: Written report

Latino Ministry will begin in Christ's Chapel on January 22 from 5PM to 8PM.

Quick Survey that needs to be completed. Numbers of that survey are part of an annual report given to ELCA, which is done in February. Hand out with bulletin at a service in January. Members could complete either prior to service beginning or after at Fellowship.

Director of Music: Written report

Director of Faith Formation: written report

Reports approved as printed.

Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report: Written report Send out quarterly financial reports to Congregation

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

Approved as printed.

Committee Reports:

Parish Education/Youth: No written report:

Parents afternoon out. Middle schoolers are doing this as their service project. Will take place on Feb. 12 from 11:30 to 3:30

Evangelism: Written report.

Property: Written report.

Correction-Jacob Krueger polished the brass candle posts, the cross pole, door plates and handles and the offering plates before Christmas. Thanks, Jacob.

Discussion of Nave temperature. Need smaller temperature range so that the tuning on the organ and piano are not so affected. Will experiment and see how this affects the utility budget.

Social Ministry: Written report

Stewardship: Written report.

Focus on Time and Talent Surveys in June and Stewardship in September. T&T surveys will be similar to last year's format. Dave will give each committee copies of last years. Any edits to format should be given to Dave in February council meeting.

Finance: written report

Memorials: No written report—Need members

Worship and Music: Written report

Committee reports approved as printed.

Old Business:

Proposed Changes to the GLC Constitution:

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), the officers of the congregation, and 6 members of the congregation. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service, which is no more than two (2) consecutive three (3) years terms. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances. **C12.02.** The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected at a legally called semi-annual meeting of the congregation during the month of November. The term of office shall be for three (3) years The term of office begins on January 1 and ends on December 31. Newly elected Congregation Council members and those who will continue on the Council shall be installed at a Sunday worship in December following their election.

Barb moved that the changes to the Congregation Council provision be accepted as written. Dave seconded. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CR13.01.A17 The Executive Committee of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church consists of the Pastor and officers of this congregation. Normally, they will meet right after the congregation's committees meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. Additional meetings can be called, as needed. The work of the Committee, on behalf of the full council, is as follows: 1). Review the proposed upcoming council agenda and discuss any issues that may need to be added. 2). Discuss issues that each member is aware of that may need to be addressed at a later time or given to a committee for ideas and/or actions. 3). Provide a sounding board on policy and procedural issues that need to be discussed. 4). Discuss personnel issues as needed or required by council actions. The committee will ensure completion of the staff evaluation process.

Teddi moved that we establish a continuing resolution CR13.01.A17, that defines the executive committee,as written. Barb seconded. Motion carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

C13.02. A *Nominating Committee* of **four** voting members of this congregation, two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council, shall be elected at the November semi-annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive re-election.

This was approved in the December 13, 2016 meeting.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

CR13.07.B17 In order to fulfill the function of WITNESS there shall be a CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE. This congregation will work together, through this committee, to support the community of Grace. The goal of this committee is to facilitate connections/bridges between all the committees and members of Grace. Through these linkages we aim to build and enrich inter-generational relationships within and outside the congregation and its location. With the help of this committee, we will directly address the core values of our membership, in partnership with all members and committees of Grace. Initial work identified for this committee includes but not limited to: a) WITNESS: encourage and develop structures and programs which fulfill the imperative to tell the Good News in word and deed. b) WELCOMING: visitor information collection and follow up. c) FELLOWSHIP: help with the organizing of fellowship events within and outside of our church community. d) MEMBERSHIP: help identify new members and working with members who have left us. e) SICK AND SHUT-IN MINISTRY: help identify members who need additional contact and support. f) MEDIA MINISTRY: continue to develop our media outreach within and outside of our membership. The purpose of this committee will be to support the community of Christ as we grow together as a body of believers in Christ, to facilitate God-centered connections between a diverse people, inside and outside the church, and to assist in the development and enrichment of ensuing relationships over time. This partnership development model will rely on the promise of our Savior to help us and the work of the Holy Spirit, who invites us and nurtures us to share the good news of salvation.

Dave made a motion to amend the approved motion of the Sept 2016 council meeting, so the constitutional resolution would read as above. Barb seconded. Motion carried.

SEPARATION OF STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

CR13.07.C17 In order to fulfill the function of SUPPORT, there shall be a: a) FINANCE: Responding to God's directive to be responsible for that which He has given us, the finance committee will take on the duty of managing the congregation's funds. This will be done by providing leadership and an organizational structure using standard accounting and banking procedures which includes the positions of the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary, a Council Representative and a unspecified number of members at large. Duties will include accurate recordings of offerings by tellers. Financial Secretary will record and monitor the placement of offerings into the general and designated funds. The Treasurer will oversee the payment of accounts and the ongoing condition of the congregation's financial profile. Further, it will be the responsibility of the Finance Committee to gather input from the congregation's committees to determine budgetary needs and prepare an annual spending plan for each upcoming year.

b) STEWARDSHIP: Remembering God's charge to care for His creation, this congregation shall endeavor to be responsible stewards over everything with which God has blessed its members. The stewardship committee shall provide leadership and organizational structure to maintain effective motives and practices of stewardship by all members of this congregation. The committee shall be responsible for, but not limited to, the following areas of ministry: helping members understand that everything we have is a gift from God and that we are simply stewards of His gifts; devising means to encourage generous giving to the work of the church at home, in the Nebraska synod, through church-wide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and throughout the world; providing for an on-going, year-round stewardship program with a yearly theme; providing an opportunity for every member to respond in gratitude to God's grace and God's gifts. Further, it shall be the responsibility of this committee to encourage members to give generously of their time and talents in order to provide support for programs and activities of this congregation and acknowledge such. This committee is composed of at least three (3) members at large.

c) PROPERTY COMMITTEE. Noting that care and maintenance of the physical properties belonging to this congregation is an important part of good stewardship, this committee shall have responsibility for, but not limited to the following areas of ministry: maintain, protect, and improve all real and personal property of this congregation; see to proper insurance programs; supervise employees and volunteers maintaining church equipment and property; develop and oversee long range plans for property, both real and personal, including the acquisition and usage thereof; provide for yard care, snow removal, and church cleaning; and maintain a current inventory of congregational personal property. Individuals, sub-committees, or task forces may be appointed to carry out specific functions of support as it relates to the stewardship of congregational property.

Kevin moved to approve the c) letter change in constitutional resolution CR13.07.E14. Barb seconded. Motion carried.

COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE

CR13.07.D17 In order to provide member and family care support there shall be a standing Columbarium Committee. The Grace community has created a Grace Columbarium and Memorial Garden to help our members and their families address needs and duties regarding the death of a loved one. Our Columbarium niche and Memorial Garden are available as a loving tribute to our members by our members. This committee shall be elected by the Congregation Council and consist of three members plus the senior pastor. The committee shall report quarterly or as any changes occur to the Congregation Council and provide a yearly update to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Above approved in the February 9, 2016 council meeting.

CR13.07.E17 All standing committees, except Memorials and Columbarium, and their appointed structures are expected to hold monthly meetings prior to the Congregation Council meeting in order to adequately care for the life and ministry of this congregation entrusted to them. Written reports shall be submitted by the Sunday before the council meeting by either electronic means, if at all possible, or paper copy.

Dave moved to change the submitted by day from Friday to Sunday in CR13.07.E17. Teddi seconded. Motion carried.

ELCA Synod amendments to the constitution. Share with the congregation at the February 12 congregation meeting.

Dave made a motion to approve presenting all the constitutional changes to the congregation. Barb seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting Dates:

February 12: Congregational meeting

February 26: Informational Meeting

March 12 Special Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting: Thrivent will provide the meal as a fund raiser for Lutheran Campus Ministry. Council members will volunteer to help with prep and clean up.

Policy Exemption statement for Weddings & Funerals: Dave moved that the exemption statements that were added to each policy and revision dates be approved for the wedding and funeral policies. Barb seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

GLC Foundation Board Members: Steve Rosno will complete vacant term which will run through 2019. Ron Holtgrewe has agreed to another 5 year term. Dave made a motion to approve these two members. Wendy seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Roster Review in 2017: Needs to be completed in 2017

Next Council Meeting: February 13

With no more business to discuss, Dave moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Barb. Motion carried. Meeting concluded with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carla Ingersoll, Council Secretary



1
Ron & Carolyn Ossian

13
Wayne & Kathie Remington

20
Steve & Teddi Reckling



1
Richard Higbea
Eileen Rudd

2
Vivian Fischer
Ken Johnson

3
Joyce Lunde

4
Glen Drohman
Josie Johnson

5
Jan Branting
David Buckley
Lisa Holmstrom

6
Arlene Reighard
Pat Weixelman

7
Brittany Johnson
Nora Knobbe

9
Janice Walker
Kassidy Williams

10
Nick Johnson

11
Richard Block
Victoria Garza
Logan Johnson

12
Sara Schott

13
Carol Jensen
Tommy Lantis
Jordan Murphy
Alex Thorson

14
Kevin Fritchie

16
Elli Petersen

17
Tim Ingersoll

19
Carol Disney
Vern Hunzeker
Shannon Mills

21
Carol Bernasek
Kevin Dumler

22
Sadie Klein

24
Betsy Johnson

27
Erica Eck

30
Sandie Anderson



Wednesday, March 1—Ash Wednesday

9:30 am WELCA brunch and meeting
5:30 pm Lent supper
5:45 pm Youth Choir
6:30 pm Worship

Thursday, March 2

9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy classes
7:00 pm Bells, N. A. Mtg.

Friday, March 3

4:00 pm Suzuki music lessons
5:00 pm Family ministries game night
5:30 pm YWCA respite care

Saturday, March 4

5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, March 5

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship, Sunday School, Adult Choir, A.S.F., Thrivent
11:30 am Worship, Bells
2:00 pm Chapel reserved
3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal
5:00 pm Latino Worship—Chapel

Monday, March 6

9:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes
7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, March 7

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

Wednesday, March 8

12:00 pm Yesterday's Youth
12:15 pm Midweek Worship –Chapel
5:30 pm Lent supper
5:45 pm Youth Choir
6:30 pm Worship

Thursday, March 9

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

Friday, March 10

12:00 pm Conf. Rm. Reserved
5:30 pm YWCA respite care

Saturday, March 11

12:00 pm Lounge reserved
5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, March 12

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Special congregation meeting
Sunday School
11:30 am Worship, Beels
3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

Monday, March 13

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

Tuesday, March 14

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

Wednesday, March 15

12:15 pm Midweek Worship –Chapel
1:00 pm WELCA #1 Mtg.
5:30 pm Lent supper
5:45 pm Youth Choir
6:30 pm Worship
7:30 pm Family Faith event

Thursday, March 16

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

Friday, March 17

5:00 pm Leshar Hall reserved

Saturday, March 18

10:00 am Conf. Rm. reserved
5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, March 19

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship, Sunday School, Adult Choir, A.S.F.
11:30 am Worship
1:00 pm Chapel reserved
3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal
5:00 pm Latino worship—Chapel

Monday, March 20

9:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes
5:00 Gathering Place
7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, March 21

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

Wednesday, March 22

12:15 pm Midweek Worship –Chapel
5:30 pm Lent supper
5:45 pm Youth Choir
6:30 pm Worship

Thursday, March 23

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

Friday, March 24

6:30 pm L.L.C. rehearsal

Saturday, March 25

5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, March 26

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Sunday School, Adult Choir, ASF
11:30 am Worship, Bells
1:00 pm Chapel reserved
4:00 pm LMTA event—Nave
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

Monday, March 27

9:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes
6:30 pm Scout Cmte Mtg. Lounge
7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, March 28

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

Wednesday, March 29

12:15 pm Midweek Worship –Chapel
5:30 pm Lent supper
5:45 pm Youth Choir
6:30 pm Worship

Thursday, March 30

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

Friday, March 31

6:30 pm L.L.C. rehearsal



Grace Staff and Council Members

Rev. Eric Leshner,

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

Council Assignment to Committees:

Curt Mann: Council President

Karen Billings: Parish Ed and Youth

Kevin Gade: Finance

Wendy Apple: Worship and Music

Dave Ripa: Stewardship and Memorials

Barb Smith: Social Ministry

Teddi Reckling: Evangelism

Carla Ingersoll: Evangelism

Doug Krueger: Property

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