

The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502

June 27, 2017



**Prayer Around the Cross
Wednesdays, at 7 p.m.
Christ Chapel**

These are short, quiet, candelit, contemplative services that use music from many sources, but mostly from Taize. Each week will have a theme, readings and prayers will be centered on that theme. Each service also has a time for individually offered prayers for healing, peace and other concerns. If you could use a little more beauty, quiet, and peace in your life, this service is for you.



- ◆ 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 July 20th. It will be mailed on Tuesday, July 25.
- ◆ Marriage: Matthew and Jordan (Murphy) Peppmuller on June 3.
- ◆ Bulletins have been shared by: Betty Shaw [Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Petersburg, FL]



A produce table will be set up in Lesher Hall on Sunday mornings. It is a way for those who have surplus items from their gardens to share with others at Grace. A container will be available for freewill contributions, which will be donated to the cause of relieving world hunger.



Lutheran World Relief School Kits: Education is important for any community, especially where poverty or disaster has limited the options for young people to reach their potential.

Include the following items in each school kit:

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide, or college ruled paper approx. 8 x 10 1\2, no loose—leaf paper

One 30—centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

One pencil sharpener

One blunt scissors

Five unsharpened # 2 pencils with erasers: secure together with a rubber band

Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

One box of 16 or 24 crayons

One 2½ inch eraser

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All should be new and in good condition.

Remove any excess packaging, pack all items in the bag and close. The bags will be located on the table outside the church office in the next several weeks. Slips with the supply list are also available on the table.

Faithful Conversations

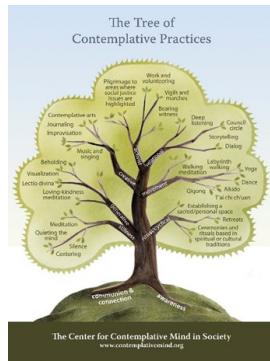
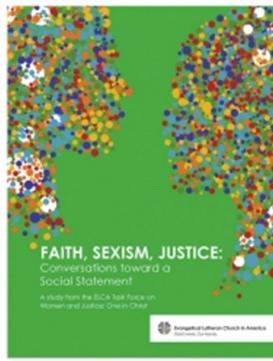
"Be the change you want to see in the world" (often falsely attributed to Gandhi)

Are you concerned with the state of the world today? Do you tend to avoid "uncomfortable" subjects out of concern for your friendship with others? Are you wondering where God is in all of this? Do you feel separated from God?

You are not alone. Grace Lutheran Church is spearheading a new program that will allow us to discuss difficult topics in a supportive environment while listening to others with respect. It will also have a component on learning spiritual practices which can help to re-connect with God/Divine/Greater Power.

First, the Faithful Conversation committee will be continuing a discussion on the ELCA resource, "Faith, Sexism and Justice Conversations toward a Social Statement" on July 6th and 13th from 7-8p in Lesher Lounge. We will be learning how to listen well to others and have respectful conversations. A healthy community does not shy away from difficult topics and disagreement. This is just a beginning for us to speak about difficult topics. If you have suggestions for other topics, please let a FC committee member know. Members are: Carol Olson, Pastor Megan Morrow, Barb Smith and Teddi Reckling. No RSVP necessary.

Carol Olson, Spiritual Director, will lead at Grace on Saturday, July 8 from 1-4pm entitled "Creative Faith Practices for Busy People". This retreat will give you opportunities to "try out" various spiritual practices. All are welcome to attend; we will begin in Lesher Lounge. Please RSVP to Carol by July 1st (402-486-0864 or carolinroma@yahoo.com)



Items on the Lutheran Food Pantry "Wish List" at this time include: The Lutheran Food Pantry is busy. Any monetary donations or shelf staple items are greatly appreciated, but items that we have an urgent need for now include:

Instant oatmeal packets; Canned chicken; Canned peas; Macaroni and cheese; Jelly; Peanut butter; Fruit juice; Personal care items (toilet paper, shampoo, bath/bar soap, lotion - even the sample size items)

Thank you for your generosity in helping the food needy in our community!

News from Prescott Elementary:

They are looking for someone to teach children basic sewing or knitting /needle work. This would be for the fall semester and is once a week. Its also a paid position. They need to know by July 15.

Mark your calendars for their Summer Festival on July 28, in the evening. They will be asking for volunteers to help. Watch for more details in the Sunday announcements.

Thank you, Grace Lutheran!

Thank you for generously providing office space for me to serve congregations across southeast Nebraska on behalf of the Nebraska Synod! You make mission and ministry possible because of the support we extend to congregations and rostered ministers and PMAs!

With gratitude,

Pastor Megan Morrow
Assistant to the Bishop
Nebraska Synod, ELCA



What does an Assistant to the Bishop do??

Currently, I am working on the following:

I. Congregations in the Call Process/Transition

- supporting 20 congregations in transition/call process (some are in multi-point parishes, some are multi-point in ecumenical partnerships) – lining up transitional ministers, training councils and call committees, advising congregations on their Ministry Site Profiles and other details, lining up practice interviews, searching for potential candidates, joyfully installing newly called pastors!
- supporting 2 congregations considering the viability of their future

II. Leadership Development

- Coordinating the Synod's "Essential Boundaries for Wise Leaders" planning team and synod-wide training program for rostered leaders and PMAs
- Coordinating the Synod's TheoCon planning team for the annual fall gathering of rostered ministers and PMAs from across the synod – it will be held in Lincoln this year over the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.
- Coordinating the Synod's Nominations process for synod council, synod committees and officers.
- Working with Mission Cluster Deans in southeast Nebraska
- Leading the Nebraska Synod Holy Land Accompaniment trip in April 2018 (let me know if you'd like to go!)

III. Care & Support

- Providing pastoral care for rostered ministers, PMAs and their families as an extension of the Bishop's office
- Providing pastoral care and support for congregational leadership in challenging times
- Working with the new Synod Substance Abuse Resource Person in developing resources for the synod

God's Work. Our hands.

Let's celebrate Sunday, Sept 10.

Following the service on Sunday, September 10, we will practice our stewardship by observing the ELCA's "God's work. Our Hands" Sunday. We will divide into teams and go out to pick up trash in Grace's neighborhood. Please wear your yellow t-shirts or feel free to help with this project *without* wearing a yellow t-shirt. Need a t-shirt? Talk to Sandi in the office. With a minimum order of ten we can purchase more t-shirts.

If you aren't up to being a part of the cleanup crews, you can use your hands to write and send note cards to members who are sick or shut-in or who haven't been to church for awhile. These messages you send will help Grace reach out to those who can't join us on a regular basis.

We will finish celebrating our commitment on September 10 with a light meal provided by the Stewardship/Parish Ed. Committees.

Please be a part of God's Work. Our Hands. at Grace!

Sometimes we use our time and our talents to do God's work. We do things like this:

- We sing in the choir.
- We help paint a room in the church.
- We serve at the Gathering Place.
- We teach Sunday School. Sometimes we use our monetary gifts to do God's work.
- Our donations do things like this:
 - *Pay the salaries of our pastor and other staff.
 - *Help members of the church and the community in emergencies.
 - *Keep the church building in good shape for use by members of the community.
 - *Support the ministry of the Nebraska Synod.

In July, your completed Time and Talent surveys let us know what kinds of ways you will use your "hands" to do God's Work. In the coming weeks, we are asking you to tell us what monetary gifts you will give to support Grace's mission in 2017. Here's how that will work.

1. Pledge cards will be mailed to all members by September 11.
2. Timothy Siburg, Director for Stewardship Nebraska Synod, ELCA will be our guest preacher on Stewardship Weekend: Saturday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17. He will also meet and greet the congregation at adult fellowship and answer questions about how our gifts make us God's hands in the world.
3. On Saturday and Sunday, September 23 and 24, we will ask you to return your 2018 pledge cards as a special part of the worship service, pledging to continue to God's hands in here at Grace.

Stewardship – sharing our gifts to do God's Work – is a privilege, not just a duty. God gives us everything: our lives on earth and eternal life in heaven. He promises His love, support and help in all we do. In response, we use our gifts to be His hands in our church and our community. What could be better than that?

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.

Luther invented the Christmas tree. BUSTED

Of course, every age reinvents historical figures to serve their times. In this case, a famous 19th-century etching showing Luther and his family sitting around a Christmas tree rewrote history.

In Luther’s day the home Christmas tree had not yet been invented. Only in the 19th century do we find this practice spreading — first in Lutheran and Roman Catholic lands, and then in the U.S., from German and Scandinavian immigrants to others. Because of his well-known Christmas hymn “From Heaven Above” (ELW, 268), Luther was often associated with Christmas practices he had never heard of — the tree, the Advent wreath and, in this country, even “Away in the Manger” (ELW, 277).

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.



Similarly, stewardship is not solely defined by what one gives to the church. As Christians, we profess that God cares about all of life, not just one’s church attendance on Sunday morning or one’s financial contribution in the offering plate. While churches certainly want to encourage members to give financially and otherwise to the ministries of particular congregations, stewardship leaders do well to recognize other forms of charitable giving as participating in the work of God’s kingdom.

Effective stewardship leaders practice the art of saying, “thank you.”

Generosity is often born from gratitude. When we recognize all of life as a gift, we are more likely to share of that gift as an act of thanksgiving. Similarly, stewardship leaders are called to recognize the gifts that others offer, financial or otherwise, and to respond with gratitude to the giver. Cultivating a climate of gratitude helps grow future acts of generosity.



How much do you know about refugees?

Take our Refugee Quiz to find out!

1. How many refugees are there in the world today?

- a. Under 1 million
- b. Over 5 million
- c. Over 15 million
- d. Over 21 million

2. How many refugees have been resettled by

Lutherans in the U.S. since LIRS's founding in 1939?

- a. Around 150,000
- b. 212,000
- c. Over 500,000
- d. Around 300,000

3. Out of the millions of refugees currently in need, how many were resettled in a third country last year?

- a. 140,000 thousand
- b. 1.5 million
- c. 850,000 thousand
- d. 5 million

4. What are the top three states for resettlement?

- a. California, Texas, Michigan
- b. Wisconsin, Maryland, New York
- c. Alabama, South Dakota, Florida
- d. Washington, Colorado, Illinois

5. From which countries do the 5 largest refugee populations currently being resettled in the United States come from?

- a. Syria, South Sudan, Iraq, Ukraine, Russia
- b. Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Syria, Myanmar (also known as Burma), Iraq, and Somalia
- c. Palestine, Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Bhutan
- d. Pakistan, Somalia, Iran, Iraq, Syria

6. How many refugees have fled Syria since the start of the war in 2011?

- a. Less than a million
- b. 1.5 million
- c. 2 million
- d. 4.95 million

7. How long does it take a refugee to go through the vetting and background checks?

- a. 2 weeks to 1 month
- b. 5 months
- c. 10 months
- d. 18 months to 24 months

8. What percentage of refugees are ever resettled?

- a. Less than 1%
- b. 5%
- c. 15%
- d. 50%

9. Which country hosts the most refugees in protracted displacement?

- a. Turkey
- b. Pakistan
- c. United States
- d. Kenya

10. How many refugees were resettled in the United States last fiscal year?

- a. 46,050
- b. 69,933
- c. 92,121
- d. 120,650



From the MUSIC DIRECTOR

An interesting post came across my Facebook feed last week. It was from *Ponder Anew*, written by Jonathon Aigner, who describes himself as “post-evangelical” and who has many interesting things to say about worship, music and culture in our time. Of course, I don’t agree with everything he says, but I wholeheartedly agree with this particular post, which is available in its entirety at www.patheos.com/blogs/ponderanew/2017/06/20/everyone-can-sing-or-how-to-stop-the-non-singer-epidemic-in-our-churches/

Below is the opening section of the post:

Everyone can sing. Yes, you can. Everyone can sing.

Our culture is obsessed with musical superstars. We see American Idols high and lifted up as the pinnacle of vocal prowess. The commercial music industry has furthered the idea that those who can truly sing should be rewarded with recording contracts, while others are better off sitting and being spectators. Those who love to sing but feel they are lacking in talent will relegate themselves to singing along with the radio, or only sharing their voices with an audience of shampoo and conditioner bottles.

Sadly, instead of counteracting the myth that singing is something only a few are born to do, churches embrace this musical culture. We place a holy microphone in a few select hands, reducing the congregation to an inaudible, unnecessary backup group.

But singing isn’t a talent. It’s a skill, one that must be developed, encouraged, and consistently used. Oh sure, not everyone is a potential Callas or Pavarotti (or, for my fellow baritones, Fischer-Dieskau). But the truth is that everyone can sing. Science tells us that tone deafness is a rarity. Practically anyone with functional hearing can distinguish pitch and learn to replicate it vocally. My experience as an elementary music teacher confirms this. Having taught more than a thousand children in an underprivileged school, I never found a student who, with instruction and practice, couldn’t improve as a singer. Even those who began with monotone droning would show some improvement over time.

The post goes on, and toward the end, the author lists several things congregations can do to encourage congregational singing:

- Bring back the choirs for all ages.
- Build a resonant worship space.
- Support the fine arts in your community.
- Sing all the time, not just in worship.
- Foster individual musicianship.

Looking at this list, you can see that Grace already does these things. We have always placed a high priority on congregational song. Sure, our choir prepares an anthem most weeks, but their real job is to help encourage congregational song. A singing congregation is a counter-cultural thing these days ... and I would encourage each and every one of you to keep on singing (sitting close to other people so you can all hear each other sing helps tremendously). Think of the witness to visitors who attend a worship service and hear enthusiastic singing, fervent prayer, and holy participation from everyone involved. If you are shy about your voice, don’t be! After all, who gave you your voice? God did, and I believe God absolutely loves to hear YOUR voice lifted in songs of praise and prayer!



How much do you know about refugees?

Answer Key and Further Information

1. **How many refugees are there in the world today?**
D. 21.3 million people have been forced to flee their homes to other countries, 16.1 million are under the U.N. Refugee Agency's mandate. A staggering 65.3 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide, which includes refugees and internally displaced persons within their own countries.
(<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html>)
2. **How many refugees have been resettled by Lutherans in the U.S. since LIRS's founding in 1939?**
C. Lutherans have welcomed over 500,000 refugees and helped them restart their lives.
(<http://lirs.org/>)
3. **Out of the millions of refugees currently in need, how many were resettled in a third country last year?**
A. In 2016, only around 140,000 resettlement spaces were made available by the 30 countries, of which the United States is one, who take refugees.
(<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/resettlement-in-the-united-states.html>)
4. **What are the top three states for resettlement?**
A. California, Texas, and Michigan were the top three states for resettlement in fiscal year 2016.
(<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/resettlement-in-the-united-states.html>)
5. **From which countries do the five largest refugee populations currently being resettled in the United States come from?**
B. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Syria, Myanmar (also known as Burma), Iraq, and Somalia were the primary countries of nationality, accounting for 71 percent (60,204) of all refugees admitted in 2016. Rounding out the top ten were Bhutan, Iran, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Eritrea. Together, nationals of these ten countries totaled 91 percent (77,000) of all refugee arrivals in 2016.
(<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states#RefugeesAsylum>)
6. **How many refugees have fled Syria since the start of the war in 2011?**
D. As of March 2017 over 4,958,000 Syrians had registered as refugees. There are over 6.5 million people, including 2.8 million children, displaced within Syria, the largest internally displaced population in the world.
(<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>)

7. **How long does it take a refugee to go through the vetting and background checks?**
D. The refugee admissions process can take up to 18 to 24 months, and longer in some cases. They must pass through a series of security screenings, including biographic and biometric checks, medical screenings, forensic document testing, and in-person interviews. The information examined to confirm a refugee's identity is checked against law enforcement and intelligence databases, including those of the National Counterterrorism Center, Department of Defense, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of State, and Department of Homeland Security. If there is any doubt about who a refugee is or their motivations, he or she will not be admitted to the United States. Period.
(<http://www.state.gov/j/prm/policyissues/issues/protracted/>)
8. **What percentage of refugees are resettled?**
A. Less than 1%. Most refugees will never be able to participate in the resettlement process and will either wait to return home or attempt to integrate into the countries to which they fled.
(<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/resettlement-in-the-united-states.html>)
9. **Which country hosts the most refugees in protracted displacement?**
A. Turkey. Turkey hosts nearly three million refugees as of March 2017.
(<http://www.unhcr.ie/about-unhcr/facts-and-figures-about-refugees>)
10. **How many refugees were resettled in the United States last year?**
B. According to the U.S. State Department Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System (WRAPS) data, 84,994 refugees were admitted to the United States in FY 2016. The Obama administration had raised the refugee ceiling to 110,000 for FY 2017, considering the overwhelming need. However, President Trump has sought to reduce that ceiling to 50,000 for FY 2017.
(<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states#RefugeesAsylum>)



The Council Corner—June 2017

From the Council—In September or October, we will hold a special congregational meeting to vote on recommended changes to our GLC Constitution. The Church Council has approved the revisions which include: a) Reducing the total number of members on the council from twelve to nine. b) Reducing the total number of members on the nominating committee from six to four. c) Renaming the Evangelism Committee to the Congregational Life Committee. d) Providing language regarding the Columbarium Committee. e) Providing language that would allow the Stewardship and Finance Committees to operate as one committee and/or separate committees. More information will be shared in the coming months regarding the specific language and the exact date of the special congregational meeting.

From the Worship & Music Committee—It was determined that one of the pipes and a pair of wind boxes in our pipe organ need to be replaced and/or repaired. The estimated cost of this project is \$3500 and will be paid from the organ repair designated funds.

From the Parish Education Committee—Special thanks to everyone who helped make our 2017 Mighty Fortress Vacation Bible School a success. We couldn't do it without YOU! We now begin our planning for Rally Day and the 2017-18 Sunday School year. If you would be interested in serving as a teacher, please contact the church office. We would love to have you join us!

From the Evangelism Committee—We are finishing up on several advertisement projects: the car window clings, magnets, and the Ross Theater advertisement. We will also begin advertising in the Near South Neighborhood Association newsletter which will reach hundreds of homes and businesses in our church neighborhood. We are continuing to work on our new Welcome Mitts.

From the Property Committee—We have reviewed our budget for 2018 and have the numbers to be approved. We continue to work with our insurance adjuster for the hail damage to the exterior surfaces. Our service company now has the boiler in operating condition. Several youth and adults will be coming to Lincoln on a week-long mission trip and have tentative plans to help Grace with several tasks.

From the Social Ministry Committee—During the summer months, our committee reminds our gardeners that surplus produce is welcomed for the produce table in Lesher Hall on Sunday mornings. Stop by for some fresh garden produce!

From the Stewardship Committee—We have mailed the Time and Talent surveys to all members of the congregation. We will collect the data and present it to the Council and committee chairs in August. We are continuing to develop plans for ***God's Work. Our Hands.*** Sunday (September 10th) in cooperation with the Parish Education Committee. Plans for Stewardship Sunday and Commitment Sunday are also progressing well.

From the Finance Committee—We appreciate your continued giving of offerings in both time, talents, and monetary gifts. In May, our offerings were about \$3800 less than our expenses. Our givings to date are comparable to this time last year.

From the President of the Congregation—Once again, my sincere thanks to all who make Grace Lutheran Church a very special place here in the Near South Neighborhood. To our GLC members and staff....thank you! You are who help make us all feel 'at home' here at Grace!

500th Anniversary of the Reformation events:

September 11th—7:00 pm Reformation Prayer Service @ Kountze Memorial (2650 Farnam) in Omaha.

October 29th—2:00 pm Reformation Commemoration Service @ St. John's Parish, Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE



On May 29, Memorial Day, some of Grace's members spent time serving at The Gathering Place. Normally, on a fifth Monday, there would be a high count of portions served. But on that date the number was 103, fewer than expected, perhaps because some people figured there would not be a meal on the holiday. Sloppy joes and baked beans were prepared by Regina and Steve Paschold. The menu also included potato chips, bananas, hard boiled eggs, and desserts provided by Brady Garvin, Kaitlyn Dumler, Dennis and Bev Madison, and Regina and Steve. Besides those mentioned above, Kevin Dumler and Sharon Gottsche helped to serve and to clean up after the meal. Thanks go to the Dumler family for donating the ground beef for the sloppy joes.

- As prepared food for The Gathering Place was being carried into the building on June 19, one of the staff noticed that there was spaghetti. She then said that during just the past week, one of the guests had said that she wished they could have spaghetti for a meal. So if she was there when Grace served, one person should have been very happy. Besides the spaghetti with meat sauce prepared by Regina and Steve Paschold, there was also tossed lettuce salad donated by Carla Ingersoll, bread (left from VBS meals—thank you), bananas, and dessert treats contributed by Joy Kokes, Helen and Don Carnes, Ginny and Roger Potts, Lorraine James and Steve and Regina. Except for Lorraine, all of those mentioned above, along with Carmen Garcia, an acquaintance of Helen and Don, helped to serve and to clean up after 135 portions were served.



THANKS A MILLION! Thanks to my Grace family, for your concern in the form of cards, gifts, visits, and prayers before, during and after my recent back surgery. I feel confident that my healing is going as well as it is because of all of your prayers and concern, along with the ever steady help from hubby Bob!

Forever grateful, Sandie Anderson

I would like to thank Pr Eric for his many visits and prayers with me in the hospital and rehab and also the support he offered my family. Thank you all for the visits, prayers, cards and the beautiful quilt from the "sewing ladies". What a blessing it is to me to be part of the wonderful, caring Grace Family.

Thanks, Carla

Grace Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Minutes
May 09, 2017

Present: Curtis Mann, Pastor Eric Lesher, Wendy Apple, Doug Krueger, Kevin Gade, Barb Smith, Teddi Reckling, Dave Ripa, Karen Billings, guest – Steve Rosno

Absent: Carla Ingersoll

The meeting opened with a reading/devotion by Karen Billings.

Approval of the April 18, 2017 meeting minutes will be held over to the June 13, 2017 Council meeting.

Steve Rosno presented and reviewed the recommended Constitution revisions, as well as Continuing Resolution definitions and references with Council members present. Motion made by Dave Ripa to accept the revisions as printed, the revisions placed in the current Constitution, and forward the revisions to Synod staff attorney Bill Biggs for the Synod's review. Seconded by Wendy Apple. Vote taken, all "Ayes", motion carried. Curtis extended thanks to the subcommittee for all of their work. The Constitution Review subcommittee members were Steve Rosno, Dave Ripa, Sarah Krueger, and Karen Billings.

Reminder on the May 21, 2017 observance and fellowship hour event.

No volunteers yet to serve as Grace's representative on the Near South Neighborhood group, and representation from Grace is needed. The meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, beginning at 7:00 PM, at First Plymouth.

2018 Budget timeline reminder – Committees need to look at their lines in the previous year's budget and make their request for the 2018 budget. Curtis requested Committees to submit their budget to his attention by the next Council meeting (June 13, 2017) and a narrative explanation to be provided by the August 2017 Council meeting which will go along with their budget request(s).

July Committee and Council meetings will be suspended.

Contingency Fund – Line in the budget, question on the line item – check and balance, use, approval process, discussion on how the money is dispersed and who approves. Use of contingency funds requires Council approval.

Reference document (who does what and who to contact) – from Mutual Ministry, who is responsible for certain events at Grace? Committees are to submit bullet points of their responsibilities and events under their prevue to Curtis by the August 2017 Council meeting.

Discussion on how and what to do to build upon Grace's Wednesday evening/Sunday's 11:30 AM services. Discussion ensued on previous events, and ideas are requested. Possibly look at other options or timeframes, i.e. Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons.

Discussion on funds for non-event specific general Facebook "PUSH", i.e. promoting Wednesday services, which costs about \$50.00 for each 'push'. Possibly falls under the Seasonal Advertising/Evangelism budget line/fund.

Staff Reports – Approved as written:

Pastor Eric – no questions on report, found Ruth Meyer (with a thank you to Joyce Krueger), Lutheran Family Services letter shared with Council members present;
Director of Music – no questions on report;
Director of Faith Formation – no report.

Treasurer & Financial Secretary Reports – hold back on spending, currently \$40,000 short.

Committee Reports:

Worship & Music – discussion and questions on additional events, noted 06/24 is World Refugee Day w/event at Joslyn in Omaha, 06/25 is Refugee Sunday and related options;
Parish Ed – discussion on Sunday School Teacher recognition, ideas and options;
Evangelism – discussion on Ross Theatre advertisements, meeting with Ross media staff, oven mitts and clings;
Property – no questions;
Social Ministry – no questions;
Stewardship – no questions;
Memorials – no questions;
Finance – no questions.

Old Business:

Grace's response to injustice – discussion on the first meeting of the Faithful Conversation Committee. Great ideas were brought forth including creative faith practices, conference/meetings at Camp Carol Joy Holling, and Curtis's reminder to utilize the Religious Notes in the Lincoln Journal Star. The Faithful Conversation Committee members are Carol Olson, Barb Smith, and Teddi Reckling.

Policy Updates – for weddings and funerals, in process.

New Business:

Mutual Ministry Committee Recommendations – reviewed and discussed the feedback and input from the 04/30/2017 Table Talk.

Discussion/Informational Items/Correspondence:

Thank you card from Teresa Elliott at Cornhusker Bank for Grace's participation and donations on the "Day Without Shoes" community collection.

June 2017 meeting devotion by Kevin Gade.

Closing:

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM with prayer.

July 2	
Assisting Minister	Jacob Krueger
Lector	Steve Rosno
Communion Assistants	Steve & Tricia Rosno, Judi Schroeder, Lois Schuerman
Altar Guild \ Communion bread	Dustin & Rachel Haider\Fran Gade
Greeters	Doug & Jeannette Allen
Acolyte	Conrad Schroeder
July 9	
Assisting Minister	Roger Potts
Lector	Sharon Genthe
Communion Assistants	Charlene Johnson, Dennis and Bev Madison, Darlene Stutheit
Altar Guild \ Communion bread	Sharon Gottsche, Pat Lickei\Sharon Genthe
Greeters	Don & Helen Carnes
Acolyte	Kaitlyn Dumler
July 16	
Assisting Minister	Megan Morrow
Lector	Kathren Miller
Communion Assistants	Cheryl & Bruce Petersen, Ginny Potts, Lorraine James
Altar Guild \ Communion bread	Dave & Kathren Miller\Sharon Gottsche
Greeters	Bruce & Cheryl Petersen
Acolyte	Kaiden Noecker
July 23	
Assisting Minister	Tina Loseke
Lector	Sophie Schott
Communion Assistants	Fran and Kevin Gade, Julene Lesher, Kathie Remington
Altar Guild \ Communion bread	Doug & Sarah Krueger\Pat Lickei
Greeters	Kathie Remington, Pat Lickei
Acolyte	Jacob Schott
July 30	
Assisting Minister	Barb Smith
Lector	Kyle Givens
Communion Assistants	Joyce Krueger, Dave Ripa, Neil Larson, Peter Schnake
Altar Guild \ Communion bread	Ginny Potts, Carla Ingersoll\Bev Madison
Greeters	Glen & Bonnie Drophman
Acolyte	Kyle Givens



15

Richard & Sondra Block
Eric & Julene Lesher

16

Dean & Beth Dumler

18

Reid & Amanda Genuchi
Matt & Amy Knobbe

20

Bob & Donna Schnell

25

Michelle & Shane Jensen

28

Michael & Lynette Lewis
Steve & Sara Schott



2

Elizabeth Johnson

3

Lindsey Howard

4	Adam Branting	18	Steve Faust
	Bob Viox		
5	Steven Neal	20	Doug Allen
			Chris Disney
6	Lynn Chamberlin	22	Craig Potts
	Audrey Coatney		
7	Ed Hoyt	23	Kaycee Lange
	Cindy Morales		Lilyann Newman
	Judi Schroeder		
9	Abby Filbert	24	Lorraine James
	Jo Miller		Barb Smith
			Savannah Newman
10	Kevin Bard	25	John Lunde
	Janet Jodais		Kathryn Vader
	Sarah Krueger		Grace Weigandt
	Mac Madison	26	Braden Riemann
	Sydney Robinson		
11	Colton Anderson	28	Sue Clymer
			Kim Fritchie
12	Darlene Motycka		Barry Moore
	Lois Schuerman	29	Judy Grabow
	Tamya Zimmerman		
13	Drue Genthe	31	Wendy Apple
			Ken Johnson
14	Tim Barnason		
	Skylar Hoxie		
	Cheryl Petersen		
17	Don Riemann		

Vacation Bible School: The theme was "Mighty Fortress" and we partnered with Friedens Lutheran for five fun-filled evenings of Bible stories, crafts, music and games.



Pastor Eric was
Martin Luther!





On Saturday, June 24, a group of Grace members traveled to Omaha to participate in the World Refugee Day Celebration. They observed a naturalization ceremony and visited exhibits. Thanks to Bob Anderson for driving the church bus!





Saturday, July 1

10:30 pm Lincoln Lit.
5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, July 2

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship

Tuesday, July 4

Office Closed

Wednesday, July 5

7:00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday, July 6

7:00 pm "Faith, Sexism and Justice Conversations toward a Social Statement" study—lounge
7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

Friday, July 7

5:30 pm YWCA respite care

Saturday, July 8

10:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes
1:00 pm Faithful Conversations retreat
5:30 pm Worship
6:30 pm Lounge reserved

Sunday, July 9

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship, ASF
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

Tuesday, July 11

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

Wednesday, July 12

7:00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday, July 13

7:00 pm "Faith, Sexism and Justice Conversations toward a Social Statement" study—lounge
7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

Friday, July 14

6:00 pm Chapel reserved

Saturday, July 15

10:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes
5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, July 16

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship, A.S.F.,
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

Monday, July 17

5:00 pm Gathering Place

Tuesday, July 18

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

Wednesday, July 19

7:00 pm Evening prayer

Thursday, July 20

7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

Saturday, July 22

5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, July 23

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship, A.S.F.
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

Monday, July 24

6:30 pm Scout Committee Mtg.

Tuesday, July 25

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

Wednesday, July 26

7:00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday, July 27

7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

Saturday, July 29

5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, July 30

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship, A.S.F.,
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

Monday, July 31

5:00 pm Gathering Place
6:30 pm Memorials Cmte. Mtg.

**child care provided*



Grace Staff and Council Members

Rev. Eric Lesher,*Senior Pastor**308-708-1146**pr.eric@egrace.org***Sara Schott,***Director of Parish Music**sara@egrace.org***Sandi Knippelmeyer,***Parish Administrator**office@egrace.org***Colt Ballou,***Assistant Director of Parish Music***Emily Freeman,***Children's Ministry Intern***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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