

# The Grace Greeter

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

[www.e grace.org](http://www.e grace.org), [facebook.com/glincoln](https://facebook.com/glincoln), prayer requests, dialogue and questions welcomed.

**April 26, 2016**



**Ascension Day Worship  
Thursday, May 5  
6:30 pm**



*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. - Ps. 118;24*

As I write this reflection the day is perfect. Sunny, no wind and 68 degrees. "Why can't today be Easter Sunday?" I ask myself. This would make a great Easter Sunday! Why can't we cancel the appointed Easter and move that Sunday to the day we want. Like today! This weekend is the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa. Rain is in the forecast. It always rains during the Drake Relays. Sometimes it even spits a little snow. But the weekend never changes. The Drake Relays always compete against the Penn Relays in Philadelphia. The forecast for the Penn Relays is sunny. So why not change the weekend. Maybe the event would draw even more athletes. But some things never change.

The life lesson for me is that many times I would love to control God's use of my time. Usually the preference is to speed things up. Let's get there faster! Why wait! The best moment is now! But God's use of my time is not mine to control. In fact I can't control time. I can delay or quicken certain moments or events in life but ultimately time tells and I don't. So I wait for time to tell me when it's the right time. On a bad night of basketball Coach Phil Jackson told Michael Jordan "Let the game come to you." Forcing your way into a moment not meant to be only disrupts the flow of the game. So enjoy the day today for what it is worth. A day that God has made! Leave it at that. Don't try to change it into something you want or need. That will come in its own time.

In Christ,

Pr. Eric Lesher

Pr. Eric Lesher



## From the Church Office

**Baptism:** Vivian Louise Fischer, daughter of Robert and Nina Fischer, on April 17.

**To contact Pastor Eric after office hours,** you can call or text him at 308-708-1146 or email [pr.eric@egrace.org](mailto:pr.eric@egrace.org).

**Bulletins have been shared by:** Keith & Corene Herbster [Mount Cross Lutheran, Payson, AZ]

**In the next several weeks,** the office is trying out a new email system to send out updates. The program is through Constant Contact. Please check your inbox and junk mailbox, in case the emails from the church are going there. Please add [office@egrace.org](mailto:office@egrace.org) to your address book to make sure you are getting emails from us! Please share your email address if you would like to get these weekly church updates.

**To reach Tyler,** you can call the church office and leave her a voicemail message (press 4) or you can email her at: [tyler@egrace.org](mailto:tyler@egrace.org)

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

**Is there a graduate in your family this year?** If so, please notify the church office as soon as possible so that all the names of the graduates may be included in the June 28 Greeter

**Uarda Damkroger has moved to Texas** to be closer to family. If you would like her new address, please contact the church office.



We will receive new members into the congregation on Sunday, May 15 at the 9:00 am worship service. If you wish to be received as new members, please let us know if you will be present on May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to attend a class on Lutheran doctrine, Pastor Eric will be leading that on Thursday, May 12, from 6:30 – 7:45 pm, in the Lounge. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to the office for this class. Please contact us if you have any questions. You can email ([office@egrace.org](mailto:office@egrace.org)) or call (402-474-1505).



**On May 1 and May 8,** in Lesher Hall, the Social Ministry Committee will provide tomato and bell pepper plants, free of charge, to those individuals who wish to add them to their gardens. A Thrivent Financial Action Team grant is helping to support this endeavor to have a bountiful produce table during the growing season.



- THIRVENT MEMBERS – Next meeting – Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 a.m. in the Staff Conference Room. We will host the Fellowship Hour on June 5<sup>th</sup> in honor of and thanks to all volunteers. Bring your cup of coffee and ideas and join us.
- Join us on Sunday, May 1, for a seminar on charitable estate planning. Our guest will be Mr. Craig Stirz, President of Lutheran Planned Giving Services of Omaha. The mission of this agency is to educate, motivate, and assist in developing planned gifts in support of ELCA ministries as tangible expressions of gratitude for God's blessings. One of the services offered from this agency is to provide seminars for congregations wishing to promote charitable estate planning. Grace Lutheran will be hosting a seminar with Mr. Stirz on Sunday, May 1 at 10:30 AM in Lesher Hall. A continental breakfast will be served.
- After the seminar by Mr. Stirz, Jim Krueger will give a short demonstration on how to give electronically, by navigating to the giving site from our website, and showing members how they can set up their own personal account so they can establish an online giving program and have the flexibility to sign in and change amounts or give to special designations. Jim will also share how the information automatically flows to our giving records and answer questions.
- WOMEN of the ELCA – The next Unit Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at noon hosted by Group 6 with devotions by Darlene Stutheit. Pr. Megan Morrow, Assistant to Bishop Maas, will be our speaker. On Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> the meeting will be a Brunch at The Eatery, 2545 S. 48<sup>th</sup> St., 9:30 a.m. A sign-up sheet will be available at the May meeting for you to indicate whether you plan to attend.

COMING UP:

Saved to Serve Opportunities:

Help make Camp Carol Joy Holling ready for summer campers May 13-15.

Autumn Renewal – Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016 at Lutheran Church of the Good

Shepherd, Hastings, NE. This year's theme is *Of Many Generations* and will feature a fashion show of grandmothers, mothers and daughters. If you are interested in any of these activities, check the WELCA bulletin board in Lesher Hall, Donna Hansen, or Trish Rosno for more information.

- If you are 55 years or older, come join us at Yesterday's Youth, Wednesday, May 11 at 11:30. We meet the second Wednesday of each month in Lesher hall. From 11:30 to 12:00, we meet for some social time. We eat at 12:00 after which we have devotions and a program. Hot Dogs and buns will be provided, drinks will be provided. Please bring something to complement the hot dogs.



### A prayer for Mom

A young boy had been misbehaving, so his mother sent him to his room. Sometime later, he came out and told his mom he'd prayed about the matter. "That's good," she replied. "If you ask God for help to not misbehave, he'll help you."

"Oh, I didn't pray for help behaving," said the boy. "I prayed for God to help you put up with me."



Please welcome Tyler Johnson, Grace's new director of faith formation. Ms. Johnson will be working closely with Pastor Lesher, the Parish Education Committee and the Council to renew and expand ministry within our parish and our community.

Ms. Johnson grew up in Minnesota but moved to Nebraska to attend Midland University where she earned a bachelor's degree in youth and family ministry in December 2015. She met her husband, Nick, at Midland, and they were married in May of 2015.

Ms. Johnson has worked at Carol Joy Holling and the Open Door Mission's Lydia House in Omaha. She had an internship at Salem Lutheran Church, in Fremont, Ne., where she worked with confirmation youth as a teacher and assisted with mission and other field trips. She also helped to expand the church's high school ministry.

While at Midland she worked as a childcare provider/tutor with the Washington (county) Literacy Project, helping adults in the community to learn English and also working with their children. Her senior thesis addressed emotional intelligence for an intergenerational Bible study. The goal will be to teach the skills of emotional intelligence to enhance the intergenerational work of ministry.

We welcome Ms. Tyler Johnson into this new, half-time position as part of the ministry team at Grace. We encourage all our members to get to know her and to pray for her ministry among us.



### ***Sampling Stewardship***

God loved us so much that God gave each of us a variety of talents, time, money and stuff. Each of us has resources that we can use to love God and our neighbor. We need only to look in, at our Grace community, to discover the abundance that God has entrusted to us.

Jesus talks about money more than any other subject except the Kingdom of God. Money is a powerful resource because it has the power to take our hearts with it.

How might God be calling us, both as individuals and as a congregation, to use our time and our unique gifts to love God and our neighbors?

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



**SOUP KITCHEN**

What happened on March 21 was a “first” as far as anyone could remember for an evening when Grace members have served at The Gathering Place over many years. Shortly after serving began, everyone was evacuated from the building because of the smell of the compound mixed with natural gas to signal a gas leak. After about 15 minutes people were allowed to return (neither the source nor the solution was shared with Grace folks) and eventually 90 portions were distributed. Pork donated by Charlyne and Dennis Berens, along with leftovers from a Lenten supper served by the men of the church, yielded pulled pork sandwiches for the main course. The rest of the meal, coordinated by Regina and Steve Paschold, included tossed salad, potato chips, applesauce, and dessert treats contributed by Dennis Madison, Joy Kokes, Pat Lickey, Ginny and Roger Potts, and Regina and Steve. All of those who brought desserts, along with Tom Range, helped to serve and to clean up after the meal.

Compared to the previous month, it was a rather uneventful time when individuals from Grace were responsible for the evening meal at The Gathering Place on April 18. Regina and Steve Paschold prepared the spaghetti with meat sauce. Carla Ingersoll contributed tossed lettuce salad. The balance of the menu included bread, bananas, and desserts which were donated by Jan and Terry Branting, Helen and Don Carnes, Joy Kokes, and Regina and Steve. All of those mentioned above helped to serve and to clean up after 108 portions were distributed. Sincere thanks go to Ken Johnson, Marilyn Holmquist and Lois Schuerman for recent financial gifts to support this important ministry.

#### **Ascension:**

Forty Days after Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. The ascension is an important Christian holiday that attests to the reality of Jesus Christ, God and human, returning to the Father, to return again in the future second coming. The Ascension is the final component of the *paschal mystery*, which consists also of Jesus' Crucifixion (and related components like his suffering and death) and Resurrection. The Ascension was an important event to early Christians, as is evidenced by the frequency of the Ascension as a theme in early Christian art and iconography. Evidence from John Chrysostom, Egeria, Gregory of Nyssa, and Church historian Socrates, suggest that Ascension Day probably originated in the 4th century AD. However, Augustine says the festival is apostolic. Often the feast was celebrated with a procession, symbolizing Christ's journey to the Mount of Olives.

Ten days after Ascension Day is Pentecost, which commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. Pentecost ends the cycle of Easter-related events in the Christian Calendar.

#### **Fun facts about Ascension Day:**

**Colombia:** In Colombia, as with other Christian holidays, Ascension Day is celebrated on the Monday after the actual date.

**England:** An old English tradition is that if it is sunny on Ascension Day, it will be a warm summer; but if it rains, it will a poor harvest and livestock will suffer from disease.

**Sweden:** In Sweden people go into the woods very early in the morning to hear the birds at sunrise. It is said to be good luck if a cuckoo is heard from the east or west.



#### **From the Memorials Committee:**

The cross painting that is hanging the Lounge was purchased using memorial money from Jolene Hokanson. The Lincoln artist, Julia Noyes, is influenced by her travels and studies from around the world. Her art gallery is at 119 S 9th ST. Stop in the lounge and look at this beautiful cross—see if you can spot the hidden inspirational words.

**Have you heard the new Electronic Chimes?** The Worship and Music Committee and the Property Committee would like to express our sincere appreciation for the memorial funds from Clara Jacobson and Norma Larson Bryant memorial donations for the Electronic Chimes. We are very grateful to have received funds for the total cost of hardware, software and installation expenses. The Chimes will be played each Sunday morning at 8:50am for now. This will be a nice addition for Grace Lutheran Church community outreach. Thank you for these memorial funds.



Our Grace quilters put together fleece kits for the 2016 Camp Carol Joy Holling Fleece Blanket Project.



**From Everett and Velma Giles:** We would like to thank all of their Grace family for sharing in their celebration of 75 years of marriage and wonderful memories.

**From Joyce Krueger:** Thanks to the Grace family for calling and sending me good wishes following my recent aortic heart valve surgery. I was recovering nicely until a nasty cough and bronchitis dealt me a setback. I hope to be able to join you for worship soon.

## **Gathered to Worship, Called to Witness, Sent to Serve**

This mission statement adopted by the Grace Council on April 12, will help guide our collective work this year. We are asking all committees to focus their efforts, commitments and prayers around this mission.

### *Welcome to Tyler Johnson*

On April 24, we welcome Tyler Johnson to our ministry team as our new part-time faith formation director. Council and staff are excited to have this talented person among us. To begin with, she will work primarily with Pastor Eric and the Parish Education Committee. We have asked her to develop our youth ministry and then to expand her work to people of all ages at Grace and the community. Exciting times, challenges and opportunities for Grace!

### *Gift-Giving Workshop planned*

May 1 will be a time for all of us to consider our individual and family financial planning together through a Legacy Seminar after the church service. The Foundation Board and the Council will provide a light breakfast of Miller and Paine cinnamon rolls and fruit.

After the 45-minute workshop, led by the director of Nebraska Planned Giving, Craig Stirz, our congregation treasurer Jim Krueger will take 15 minutes to explain the option of electronic giving for those willing to venture down that road. Great training for everyone!

### *Stained glass window repair needed*

Our next special project will be a campaign to preserve and rehab the stained glass windows on the east side of the church.

Take a close look at the windows and you will see that they are bowing and really showing their age. We don't want these windows to collapse and break because it is unlikely that we could find replacement glass to match. We have scheduled the work for this fall or early next year.

The project is expected to cost about \$8,000. The donations made at the Easter breakfast plus some memorial money are committed to this project, but we will need to raise more funds.

### *CPR training on the way*

CPR is coming to Grace. Julene Lesher, R.N., has agreed to be our trainer, and the Council agreed to allow Grace to be a certified training site for CPR. We are ordering a small amount of the training equipment to help some of our members renew their training certificates. In addition we are applying for a foundation grant to purchase a larger amount of training equipment so we can train all our ushers, staff and committee members who feel they need the training. More information will be coming later about how others can get this training.

### *Special thanks*

To our members who helped with the spring cleanup.

To the Property Committee members who have prepared an office for Tyler Johnson, purchased some necessary equipment and will soon add soil and plantings on the west side of the church.

To all who are working on the sale of the old bus, which the congregation approved in our January annual meeting.

The dedicated Council members who give so freely of their time, talents and energy to ensure that Grace is well managed. We also are blessed with a staff that is dedicated to the ministry of Grace and the care of her members.

## *Notes and news*

The Council approved Windstream's proposal and \$5,000 payment to install a small communication box on our south parking lot. While the Council has not made a decision about how to spend the funds, they will likely be used to cover repair projects.

The Property Committee recommended that we hold off one more year on the repair of the two parking lots.

2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The Council is asking all committees and members to think about how Grace can celebrate this anniversary. Please submit your ideas to the church office for Council consideration.

May our Gracious and Loving Lord continue to bless us as a congregation and each of our cherished members.

Dennis Berens, Council president

## **Arts Camp**

We'd like to invite children (Pre K - Sixth Grade) to join us for Arts Camp (VBS) this summer. It will be held June 6 - 9 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The theme is Praise, and kids will explore the following questions: What is praise? How do we praise? and Why do we praise?

Do like to teach or do you want to try it out for a week? Do you want to help with VBS this year but don't know what you want to help with? Please get in contact with Elizabeth Krueger either on Sundays after church or call or text at (402)-430-5826.

Registration is free, and you can sign your children up using this link: <http://egrace.org/vbs-enrollment.cgi>



### **Mark Your Calendar for the Annual Talent Show!**

Grace's annual Talent Show will be held on June 5th at 3 p.m., followed by an ice cream social. The Children's Choir and Bells of Grace will perform, and we are looking for other individual acts or groups that would like to share their talents with the congregation! Please watch for a sign-up by the church office. This will be a wonderful afternoon of sharing fun and fellowship. And talent. :)

## **Advice for grads**

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

**March Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

Present: Pastor Eric Lesher, Denny Berens, Terry Branting, Connie Whyrick, Dave Ripa, Kevin Gade, Barb Smith, Peter Schnake, Wendy Apple, Elizabeth Krueger, Carla Ingersoll,  
Absent: Teddi Reckling

President Denny Berens called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.  
Roll call taken

Tyler Johnson, Faith Formation candidate, provided devotions and the opening prayer

Council interviewed Tyler Johnson. Discussion followed. Terry B. moved to Accept Tyler as our Faith Formation Director. Connie W. seconded. Motion carried.

Terry B. moved that the February minutes be approved. Barb S. seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence. Lutheran Center, LMTA, and a request from Near South Neighborhood for help in park restoration funding. Further discussion on the Near South request at April meeting.

**Staff Reports:**

**Senior Pastor:** Written report

**Director of Music:** Written report

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Written report

Dave R. made a motion to accept and file for audit all staff and financial reports. Seconded by Barb S. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**(Dennis asked the group to interact about how to use these minutes for better collaboration)**

**Parish Education:** Written report

**Property:** Written report

**Social Ministry:** Written report-Likes the Olive Oil sale model to help support hospital at the Mt. of Olive. In conjunction with Fair Trade sales,

**Stewardship:** Written report-Gave out 3 note cards to write thank you notes to people who have helped their committee

**Finance:** Written report

**Youth:** No report-Lock in at Omaha Church

**Memorials:** written report

**Worship and Music:** Written report

**Media Committee:** Written report

Dave R. made a motion to receive and place on file all committee reports. Seconded by Barb S. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

**Organ Rededication Concert:** Dave R. moved to approve \$1500 for the concert and \$3200 for the zimbabwe. Barb S. seconded. Motion carried.

**Columbarium:** \$7700 transferred to Columbarium fund. Group is working on the revised transfer form and reviewing all other forms and church policy.

**Bus Sale:** Bob Anderson will begin working on getting the bus sold in April.

**Values:** Dave R. moved to approve the values: gracious hospitality, honest conversation, genuine humility, and divine anticipation. Barb S. seconded. Motion carried.

**Theme:** Further discussion in April.

**Vanco Model:** Kevin will work with Finance Committee to find a date in April for training.

**CPR Update:** Denny will check with Bryan Hospital

**Giving By-Laws:** Barb S. moved that the council have further discussion in April. Kevin seconded. Motion carried.

**Gift Giving Workshop:** Date set is May 1 during coffee hour. Terry will look into having a meal.

**Property committee:** Dave R. made the motion to give the property committee approval to buy a scrubber. Connie W. seconded. Motion carried. Connie W. made the motion to add the stain glass window repair on the memorials list. Dave R. seconded. Motion carried.

**Media Ministry:** Evangelism Committee requested that social media information be added to each bulletin and Greeter. Barb S. moved that the social media information be added to the bulletin and Greeter and that Lenten Service information be added to Facebook. Terry B. seconded. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

**Faith Formation Evaluation Form:** Dave R. made a motion to approve the performance evaluation form for the Faith Formation Director. Terry B. seconded. Motion carried.

**Narrative Budget Model:** most agreed to do it but further discussion among the committees needed by April.

**Thrivent Projects:** Need to update Sunday School rooms with white boards.

**Recognition of Retiring Council Members:** Will discuss further in April.

**Volunteers for Synod Assembly In June:** Lindsay Howard. Need one other person.

**Joint Advertising:** Talk in committees

There being no more business to bring before the Church Council, Dave R. moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 p.m. and was seconded by Peter S. Meeting was closed by saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carla Ingersoll, Council Secretary

**+ Christian Symbols +****Tongues of Fire**

Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2 when "tongues of fire" rested on the disciples' heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church, images of flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background — other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian's life.

Grace received this special recognition this past week. What an achievement for those that have helped with the Gathering Place over the years.



**Westminster Concert Bell Choir**  
“Songs of America” Tour, featuring arrangements of patriotic favorites and American songs and hymns plus original works performed on the world’s largest range of hand bells and Choirchimes.

**Tuesday, May 31, 7 p.m.**  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Free will offering

The Westminster Concert Bell Choir is composed of students at Rider University’s Westminster Choir College, which was the first institution in the world to develop such a program.

Hailed for its virtuosity, the ensemble performs on the largest range of hand bells in the world – 8 octaves, from C1 to C9. Many of the bells are made of bronze and range in weight from four ounces to 11 pounds; the Choir also uses the large “Basso Profundo” aluminum-cast bells that are a new phenomenon in hand bell ringing. The Choir supplements its hand bells with a six-octave set of Malmark Choirchime® instruments from C2 to C8 – the widest range in existence.

<b>May 1</b>	
Assisting Minister	Roger Potts
Lector	Chloe Fitzgibbon
Communion Assistants	Ginny Potts, Jan Branting, Dave Ripa, Neil Larson
Altar Guild; Communion Bread	Dave & Kathren Miller; Bev Madison
Greeters	Bonnie& Glen Drophman; Dave Ripa
Acolyte	Luke Filbert
<b>May 8</b>	
Assisting Minister	Barb Smith
Lector	Peter Schnake
Communion Assistants	Peter Schnake, Lorraine James, Carol Olson, Jeannette Allen
Altar Guild: Communion Bread	Ginny Potts, Carla Ingersoll; Karen Billings
Greeters	Roger & Ginny Potts; Lorraine James
Acolyte	Elizabeth Garza
<b>May 15</b>	
Assisting Minister	Dean Dumler
Lector	Beth Kimmerling Dumler,
Communion Assistants	Beth Kimmerling Dumler, Charlene Johnson, Lori Drake, Kathie Remington
Altar Guild; Communion Bread	Jon & Connie Thorson; Pat Lickei
Greeters	Beth & Dean Dumler, Joyce Krueger
Acolyte\Procession	Owen & Elli Petersen, Cameron Krueger, Jacob & Sophie Schott
<b>May 22</b>	
Assisting Minister	
Lector	Karen Billings
Communion Assistants	Karen and Mark Billings, Don and Helen Carnes
Altar Guild; Communion Bread	Mark & Karen Billings; Dave Ripa
Greeters	Bev & Art Hillman; Sharon Gottsche
Acolyte	Kaitlyn Dumler
<b>May 29</b>	
Assisting Minister	Jacob Krueger
Lector	Cindy Eberspacher
Communion Assistants	Cindy Eberspacher, Arlene Reighard, Steve Schott, Robert Stimbert
Altar Guild; Communion Bread	Cindy & Kurt Eberspacher; Cindy Ebespacher
Greeters	Jeannette Allen, Robert Stimbert
Acolyte	Kaiden Noecker



Steve Schott is helping our first communion students bake bread. Taking the class and receiving their first communion were: Ashlyn Jensen, Drew & Sophie Ostermeyer and Austin McKillip.



The Grace WELCA helps with bingo at Tabitha in April and October. They are getting very low in prizes. Here is a list of the most popular items:

Stuffed animals in all shapes and sizes (they can be from a garage sale as long as they are clean)  
quarters  
long necklaces or bracelets (no earrings)

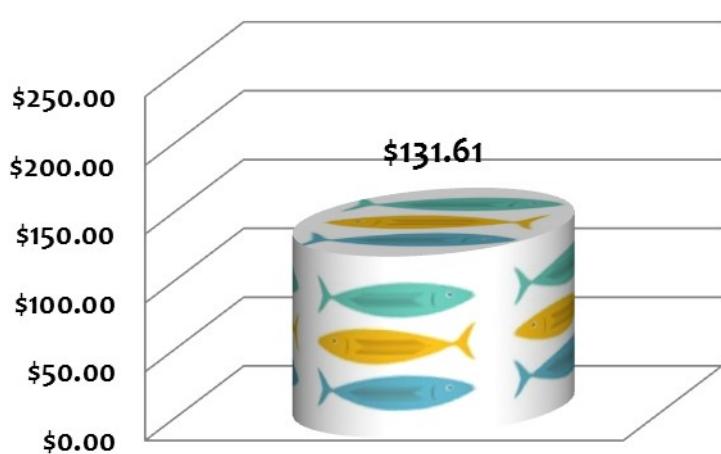
easy puzzle books, like word find

Lotion (trial size, or from hotels)

The things that don't go over are: notepads, pencils, greeting cards and they can't have any sort of food item.

Please bring any donations to the church office. Thanks!

### Noisy Offering - Goal \$250.00





### Sunday, May 1

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Fellowship, Sunday School,  
Choir, Thrivent , Legacy Seminar and Vanco  
giving presentation  
3:00 pm Chapel reserved

### Monday, May 2

9:00 am WELCA Exec. Board Mtg.  
7:00 pm Scouts

### Tuesday, May 3

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:00 pm Scouts, L.L.C. Mtg.  
7:00 pm Committee Mtgs.  
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

### Wednesday, May 4

12:00 pm WELCA lunch & meeting  
6:15 pm Children's Choir  
6:30 pm In Stitches  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service

### Thursday, May 5

6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy classes  
4:30 pm Lounge reserved  
6:30 pm Ascension worship service  
7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.  
7:30 pm Bells

### Friday, May 6

5:30 pm YMCA Respite Care

### Saturday, May 7

12:00 pm Chapel reserved  
5:30 pm Worship

### Sunday, May 8

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Fellowship, Sunday School, Choir  
10:40 am ASF  
11:30 am Bell Choir

### Monday, May 9

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

### Tuesday, May 10

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

### Wednesday, May 11

12:00 pm Yesterday's Youth  
6:15 pm Children's Choir  
6:30 pm In Stitches  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service

### Thursday, May 12

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

### Friday, May 13

4:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved

### Saturday, May 14

12:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved  
1:30 pm Chapel reserved  
5:30 pm Worship

### Sunday, May 15

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Fellowship, Sunday School, Choir  
10:40 am A.S.F.— Lounge  
11:30 am Grace Notes bell choir  
1:00 pm Lounge reserved

### Monday, May 16

5:00 pm Gathering Place  
7:00 pm Scouts

### Tuesday, May 17

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

### Wednesday, May 18

1:00 pm WELCA #1 Mtg.  
6:15 pm Children's Choir  
6:30 pm In Stitches  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service

### Thursday, May 19

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

### Friday, May 20

4:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved

### Saturday, May 21

11:00 am Chapel reserved  
1:00 pm Chapel reserved  
5:30 pm Worship

### Sunday, May 22

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Fellowship, Sunday School,  
10:40 am A.S.F.— Lounge  
11:30 am Grace Notes bell choir

### Monday, May 23

7:00 pm Scouts

### Tuesday, May 24

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

### Wednesday, May 25

6:30 pm In Stitches  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service

### Thursday, May 26

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

### Saturday, May 28

5:30 pm Worship

### Sunday, May 29

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Fellowship  
10:40 am A.S.F.— Lounge

### Monday, May 30



Church office closed

5:00 pm Gathering Place

### Tuesday, May 31

9:30 am Al-Anon  
5:00 pm gym reserved  
7:00 pm Westminster Bell Choir Concert  
8:00 pm AA Meeting

\*child care provided



1  
Ed & Nancy Hoffman

6  
Kevin & Fran Gade

7  
Dennis & Bev Madison

14  
Don & Estelle Riemann

15  
Kevin & Cynthe Dumler

19  
Ken & Carmen McKillip

21  
Andy & Joan Anderson

27  
Chris & Wendy Apple

31  
Ed & Emilie Collins



1  
Chris Linville  
Mildred Needham

2	Colton Billings Joanie Rathjen	17 Day Hefner Corene Herbster Patricia Lickei Siri Stewart
3	Gladys Badberg Jordan Billings Sawyer Jager Shawn Rathjen	18 Brian Eck
6	Amy Knobbe Ginny Potts	20 Michael Lewis
7	Adelyn Neal	21 Ron Ossian
14	Grace Fitzgibbon Phil Sorensen	22 William Abbott Emilie Collins Earl Ford
15	Margaret Gipson	24 Kevin Melang-Thoren
19	Sadie Heim	25 Laura Coatney Amber Collins
21	Kaitlyn Dumler	26 Bob Anderson Andrea Holtgrewe
27	Josh Lantis	27 Shawn McKillip
31	Erin Graverholt	28 Rhys Hughes
	Ken McKillip Johnathon Olston	29 Robin Hoffman Phyllis Krueger
	Sandra Robinson Jacob Schott	30 Kevin Gade Anthony Zimmerman
		31 Jon Thorson

## News from our seminarians

Hello!

This is Steven Neal, seminary student at Wartburg and adopted member there at Grace. I hope things are going well. I believe you requested an update on how things are going?

First I want to thank you so much for your financial and prayerful support. Seriously. Thank you. Seminary can sometimes feel like a vow of poverty, especially for a young family and even more so when both parents are students. Thank you so very much.

Things are going well for my family. I am in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year of seminary, which is the internship year. I am serving at First English Lutheran Church in Platteville, WI. Half of my internship is stewarding Lutheran Campus Ministry on behalf of the synod at University Of Wisconsin – Platteville. The other half is more typical intern pastor ministries, so, preaching, teaching, programming and all the other ins-and-outs of ministry. It's going quite well. My family and I have learned a lot and I feel more prepared and more confident for ministry. I'm enjoying the opportunity to preach regularly both here and at other congregations on behalf of Lutheran Campus Ministry, and to help prepare young people as they move through their college experience.

Stefanie has completed her Respiratory Therapy degree and is enjoying the work. She loves to help people, and has that opportunity as part of her vocation. Our daughter, Adelyn, turns 4 on May 6<sup>th</sup> and sometimes I wish she'd stop growing! It is so amazing to watch her grow and learn, explore and figure things out. Seeing her personality take shape is incredible. She's pretty much fantastic.

I continue to serve in the US Army National Guard and I will separate from the Guard on Feb 03, 2017, just a few months before I graduate from seminary. As I begin my last year of 7, I'm looking forward to having more time with my family but am also proud of the time I've spent in service. It's prepared me well to see the unique needs of soldiers, and will have big benefits in my ministry.

As I move toward the end of my internship at the end of May, our family ready for summer! This summer I'll be completing a Clinical Pastoral Education program in Davenport, IA, and trying to catch some Kansas City Royals baseball in the meantime! I can listen to those games while fishing, right? It's a busy summer coming up, with CPE actually overlapping with internship by a week and then going straight into my annual training for the Guard and then straight into the semester. It's almost like ministry, where you're never truly "off the clock"!

Thank you, again, for your financial and prayerful support. We don't make it back to Nebraska very often given our schedules, but we look forward to finding a time when we can get back and see all of you.

Peace in Christ, Steven.

Greetings to everyone at Grace Lutheran from here in Chicago! It's crunch time at LSTC as we enter the final few weeks of the semester.

2016 has been a great year so far! I started off the year at a three week intensive class down in the borderlands of Texas. It was an amazing experience -- I got to visit the Río Grande, the Alamo, the San José Mission, and other sites in Austin, San Antonio, Laredo, and Houston. And I got to learn about the borderlands and the people who live there from a multitude of perspectives: theological, environmental, economic, humanitarian, legal, educational, etc.

This semester has been quite busy, as I'm taking "four and a half" classes (one class meets only monthly): Worship, Preaching, Spiritual Formation, and a Spanish language class on Latin@ theology. It has been a wonderful breath of fresh air to get to do some practical, hands-on kind of ministry, and I am continuing to discover that I really love preaching in particular. I'm also discovering that a music performance background is marvelously useful in planning liturgy!

In addition to classes, as I think I've mentioned to you all before, I've been spending time all throughout this academic year doing field education at St. Andrews/San Andrés Lutheran out in West Chicago. I've been getting to do even more preaching there (!!), in English and in Spanish, which has been great. I also just finished a two week workshop series on evangelism, which drew almost 70 people! I attached a few of the photos from some of our many, many Holy Week activities. Man, was I glad we didn't have class that week!

Aside from all this, probably the biggest news I have is that I have decided to go on internship my fourth year of seminary, instead of my third year. Happily, there are six or seven of us from my class who have decided to go this slightly less common route. It means less moving around, for one thing, and it also allows me to continue to develop the work I've been doing with immigration ministry, as well as to keep my job working as a part-time hospital chaplain.

Anyhoo, I wanted to send you all an update and to thank you for the money you recently sent me. I thank God for the support you all have shown me, throughout my discerning a call to ministry, and now that I am here in seminary. I feel tremendously blessed and affirmed in this call. Thank you for supporting me.

Blessings and happy Easter!

Peace,  
Day Hefner





## Grace Staff and Council Members

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**Judi Schroeder,**

*Nursery Coordinator*

**Elizabeth Krueger,**

*Nursery attendant*

**2016 Council members and committee assignments:**

Wendy Apple—Worship and Music

Denny Berens— President

Terry Branting—Property

Kevin Gade—Finance

Carla Ingersoll—Evangelism

Elizabeth Krueger—Parish Ed.

Teddi Reckling—Finance

Dave Ripa—Stewardship

Peter Schnake—Evangelism

Barb Smith—Social Ministry

Connie Whyrick—Parish Ed. And Memorials

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