

The Grace Greeter!

**Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502
September 2021**

Dear Grace Lutheran Church Members,

I haven't seen many of you to give you an update on my seminary journey because of the pandemic precautions in place. Considering that, Pastor Eric asked me to write to update you on what I've been up to in the last year.

After finishing the spring semester of my second year of seminary on Zoom, I moved to Carbondale, IL, to complete my internship in July 2020. Some of you might remember the classical term, Vicarage, and some you might remember when Grace had vicars from Gettysburg Seminary. For one hundred and thirty-one years of being a congregation, Grace has walked and helped educate fourteen interns. It shapes the student's ministry in ways we expect, and least expect that lasts throughout a person's pastoral call.

The traditional track of internship happens during the third year of seminary education. Most students assume many of the pastoral roles during a pastoral internship except for presiding over the sacraments of baptism and communion. The student is heavily involved in the community's life – in its teaching, preaching, worship planning, fellowship, pastoral care, tending to those who are dying, reading, studying, and many other things. Throughout the internship, there are checks and balances from the supervising pastor, seminary, and internship committee at the congregation. The checks and balances happen through the three evaluations that the supervising pastor, internship committee, and intern complete.

Last summer, after being at Epiphany Lutheran for a little over a week, I posted some photos from the week on Facebook. I'm reminded of a comment on that post by a pastoral friend of mine, Pastor Paul Hoffman, who said, "If you have half as good of an experience as I had 40 years ago at your home church, Grace Lutheran in Lincoln, NE, you'll be one blessed man."

As I reflect on my time at Epiphany Lutheran, I'm confident that I've had just as good of an internship experience as Pastor Paul Hoffman had at our congregation of Grace Lutheran. This experience has blessed me with many different opportunities and relationships that will last a lifetime. Amid a pandemic, I'm very grateful for the various ways people from Epiphany supported me, taught me, walked with me, listened to me, provided specific and quality feedback, prayed for me, asked difficult questions, and the list goes on.

During my time at Epiphany Lutheran Church, I was challenged and stretched in healthy and helpful ways that will benefit my ministry significantly in the future. We adapted our ministry like many congregations because of COVID-19, often using Zoom to worship, meet, and conduct the congregation's business. And at the end of the day, we used some "new" technology called a telephone to provide pastoral care and check-in with folks. There were many cups of coffee shared – albeit physically distant this year. Tears were shed as loved ones died. There were challenging conversations about the life of the community in the congregation and the world. There were healthy disagreements about different aspects of ministry. But, the bottom line – it was an excellent experience.

After finishing my internship, I spent a month at Valparaiso University for Lutheran Summer Music (LSM). You may also remember that Grace Lutheran has a connection to Lutheran Summer Music. Grace Lutheran housed Lutheran Summer Music for many years. In addition, two of our very own members, Sandi Anderson and John Lunde, were foundational to getting the Lutheran Music Program started and worked for them for many years.

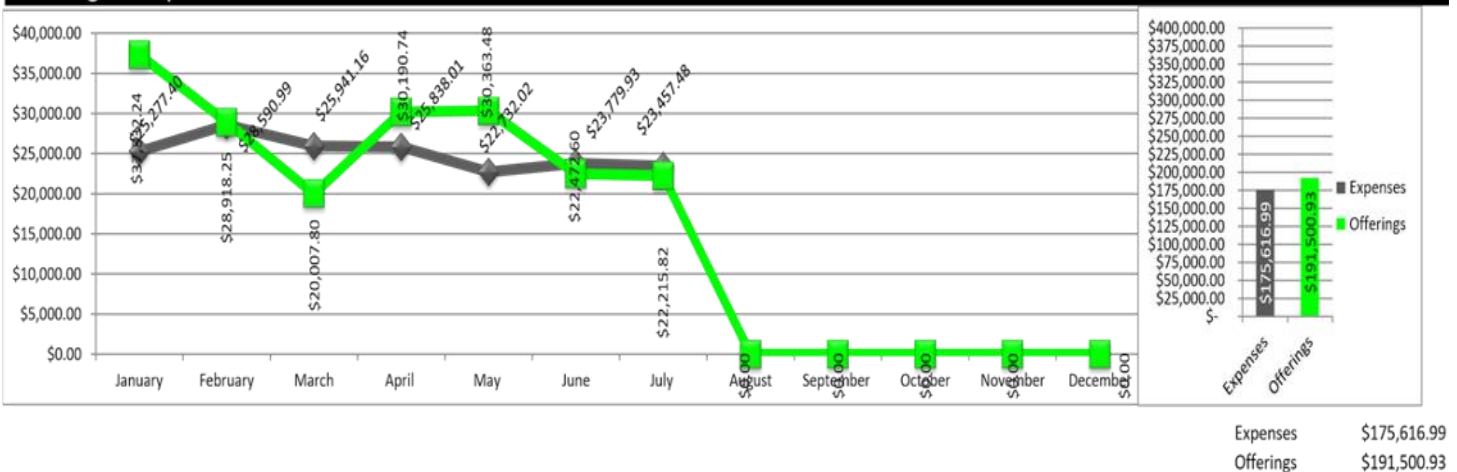
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- ♦ **PLEASE CONTACT US!** HIPPA laws do not allow the hospital to notify the church if there is a member in the hospital. The patient or a family member must contact the church office to let us know that about the hospitalization. **During office 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 September 20th.
- To help us stay connected during our time apart please send an email or letter with any personal update you want to share about yourself or prayer concern for someone else. We will post these under news and prayers in our weekly digital newsletter and/or our monthly newsletter.

Update

Offerings & Expenses



2021 Giving Envelopes

You can pick-up your box of 2021 giving envelopes in the atrium after worship on Sunday morning or during the week Monday-Friday 9am-3pm.

During the summer, I served as the sacristan. As part of that role, I helped set up the chairs, prepare the bread and wine, coordinate and teach the students who are assisting worship services, chant evening prayer occasionally, help plan worship, and other various tasks. This experience was formative and life-giving. Grace Lutheran Church enhanced this experience because I was taught and embodied liturgical worship during my years as a member. I hope you think about sharing the incredible story about Lutheran Summer Music with others in the Lincoln area. I also hope that the ELCA continues to think about how we participate in this remarkable story of love through words, actions, symbols, rituals, and sacraments. The things we do and speak have great importance in helping turn our hearts and minds towards trusting in the promises of baptism, which frees in love and turns us outwards towards our neighbors in need.

As I finish up my last year of classes, I will have a full year. Along with completing courses, I will be serving as a sacristan and helping steward and attend to the daily chapel. On April 23, 2022, I will be marrying Nichole' Coco' Lyons, a deacon at Saint Michael's Lutheran Church in Omaha, in Waukon, IA. I will also be completing my paperwork and going through my approval interview. Upon completion and recommendation of the faculty at Wartburg Theological Seminary and the Nebraska Synod Candidacy Committee, I will be ready to receive a call from a congregation. Upon acceptance of a call, I will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Thank you for your prayers, questions, comments, and monetary support as I finish my seminary journey. Know that you all are in my prayers and intentions.

I leave you with these words, my prayer for you all:

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and keep us all in Grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all harm in this world and the next.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 839- Now Thank We All Our God

God be with you,
Jacob Krueger

This year's annual pledge campaign theme is **"Every Perfect Gift"**. During this campaign we will reflect on the cycle of abundance sparked with the first light and made manifest in the Creation, in the calling of prophets, and in the gift of God's own son on Earth. As we share our gifts through our offerings and through our service to the world, we participate in the ongoing creation of God's abundance and generosity. **Stewardship Sunday will be October 17th.**



Faith Partners Sunday will be September 19th. The mission of Faith Partners is to establish faith communities that promote prevention of substance abuse and where addiction, recovery and mental health services are valued and supported. Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Otto Schultz, who is an associate trainer for Faith Partners.

Please note that our "Reunion Sunday" for September 12th has been postponed until further notice due to the recent surge in Covid cases. We hope to reschedule in October or November.



The Gathering Place

At The Gathering Place on August 16, Regina and Steve Paschold represented Grace and helped to box meals of oven baked chicken, tossed lettuce salad, fruit salad, bread, and a small box of raisins. The daily count of individuals served has typically been around 70.

Thrivent Group Update

Given the current fluid situation regarding COVID-19, along with the fact that there is no business to consider, Grace's Thrivent Financial group will **not meet in September**.



THE LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

CURRENT NEEDS LIST:

Canned fruits - pears, peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail
Condensed soups - chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom
Saltine crackers
Ramen noodles
Canned meals
Fruit juice - large bottles or boxes/packets
Breakfast bars - Pop Tarts, granola bars, etc.
Instant mashed potatoes
Tuna
Dry pasta noodles
Pork 'n beans
Canned tomatoes
Pancake mix and syrup
Personal care items (shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes)

We know the Lutheran Food Pantry is a blessing to families in our community and we appreciate your help and prayers in making it successful!

Tom and Lynn Ochsner
Coordinators, The Lutheran Food Pantry



Edward	Hoffman	4-Sep
Mark	Block	5-Sep
Nancy	Hoffman	5-Sep
Kurt	Eberspacher	7-Sep
Curtis	Mann	8-Sep
Sophie	Ostermeyer	9-Sep
Peggy	Pedersen	9-Sep
Danielle	Billings	10-Sep
Ayda	Matya	10-Sep
Jayne	Brown	13-Sep
Edward	Vader	13-Sep
Alicia	Andersen	16-Sep
Conner	Knobbe	16-Sep
Makenna	Riemann	17-Sep
George	Sturgeon	21-Sep
George	Foster	23-Sep
Christine	Loseke	23-Sep
Deborra	Watson	24-Sep
Jason	Guern	25-Sep
Cameron	Krueger	26-Sep
Debbie	Winterfeld	26-Sep
Maxwell	Rathjen	27-Sep
Susan	Coatney	28-Sep
Megan	Ptacek	30-Sep



Wedding Anniversaries

Larry and Sue Clymer on Sept 2nd
 Chris and Judith Schroeder on Sept 17th
 Todd and Sandra Robinson on Sept 19th
 Rod and Deborah Basler on Sept 29th



UNL Campus Ministry is looking for volunteers from local congregations to cook a meal for the student congregation at the Lutheran Center following the 11am Sunday service.

They cook for about 40-60 people. You can bring the food prepared or prepare it here at the Lutheran Center (new commercial kitchen!) the Saturday before or Sunday morning, and you can attend worship with us as well. You can also provide your own ingredients, or we can purchase them for you with a \$100 budget. We do have members who are vegetarian, gluten free, and dairy free, so we ask that you could accommodate them in the meal also. We hope to hear back from you soon. Here is the sign-up link:

<https://forms.gle/CiKrZa2hZHxK4qJy6>

Sincerely,

Melissa Graue

mgraue0121@gmail.com

Every Perfect Gift



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION



How do you decide what you are willing or unwilling to share in doing God's work?

Where do you draw your lines?

This is difficult!

In the Gospel of John, Jesus offers himself to be miraculously created, broken, and shared to the nourishment of the whole world, and this is the teaching that we, his disciples, find "too difficult."

The temple authorities and the Pharisees object to this teaching on theological grounds, as they perceive Jesus to be coming too close to blasphemy as he compares himself with the manna that sustained their ancestors in the wilderness, but what excuse do we have?

We are not concerned with the theological argument of sacrifice and miracle, but perhaps we are disturbed by a more personal and more complicated truth.

If Jesus offers himself to be broken and shared, what does that mean for those who follow him? What is our role in feeding, caring for, saving the world? Deep down we know the answer; that we also must be willing to be blessed, broken, and shared in order to accomplish God's saving work in the world, and this is a difficult teaching. When Jesus asks us "Do you also wish to go away?" how will we answer?

Finance/Stewardship – The annual pledge campaign is titled "Every Perfect Gift". Stewardship Sunday will be October 17. Initial committee budgets need to be submitted before our next meeting.

Worship & Music - The Music and Worship committee communicated via text messaging. Anne will continue to select songs. We agreed that a year-rotation for worship leaders could work much like altar guild. A new liturgy will be introduced in September.

Parish Ed – Unfortunately the committee is still deciding between in-person or take-home curriculum based on the surge in current Covid case numbers. Especially among children.

Congregational Life – Is tentatively planning a "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday. This might get moved to Stewardship Sunday in October. Also planning an outdoor "Trunk or Treat" event in the parking lot.

Property – Added new security cameras. More to come.

Social Ministry – Most events on hold due to recent Covid surge. They are looking for a team leader for this year's Crop Walk.

Memorials – Approved spending for security cameras. Landscaping project on hold.

Council Corner

June Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Present via Zoom: Doug Krueger, Connie Thorson, Carla Ingersoll, Jan Branting, Roger Potts, Amy Knobbe, Glatha Rathjen, Pr. Eric Leshner



Absent: Neil Larson, Cindy Eberspacher

Carla Ingersoll called the council meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Opening Devotion and Prayer: Pastor Eric

Approval of Council Minutes:

Roger made a motion to approve the May church council meeting minutes as submitted. Jan seconded. Motion passed.

President's Update/Correspondence: Nothing to report

Staff Reports:

Pastor Eric's Report: written report

Director of Music Report: written report

Financial Secretary's Report: written report

Treasurer's Report: written report

Jan made a motion to accept the reports as submitted. Amy seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship – written report submitted

Worship & Music – email correspondence; no report submitted. Anne continues to select music. Discussed resuming some Sunday worship positions

Parish Ed – email correspondence; no report submitted. Friedens will host VBS July 28 - 31

Congregational Life – no report submitted; will meet in July with Pastor Eric to discuss ways to adapt programs

Property – written report submitted; outside AC for Chapel will need to be serviced due to vandalism

Social Ministry – did not meet; off July

Memorials – did not meet; off July

Doug motioned to accept those committee reports submitted. Glatha seconded. Motion passed.

Business:

Monthly Review of our Safety Protocol – Immediate changes: Pastor and assisting minister will do readings; removal of tape between pews; sanitizing pews after worship is no longer necessary; offering basket will remain at front entrance; north door will remain as the main entrance for now; add hymns and singing/music options; signs posted at entrance that masks are optional for vaccinated members, but mandatory for those not vaccinated; "flow-through" communion will continue with two communion assistants; resume certain volunteer positions for communion/worship and resume fellowship hour sign-up to bring food (gloves required for serving). Updates to congregation will be sent via Constant Contact, the Greeter, the bulletin, signs posted in entrances.

Faith Partners for Nebraska – Council will review materials and discuss at next meeting

July Meeting – A brief meeting might be held via Zoom; no committee reports necessary

Saturday Evening Service – Tentatively July 3, 5:30-6:00 PM provided AC is fixed.

Being no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn made by Doug. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Carla closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Thorson, Secretary

◀ September 2021 ▶

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice 7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice	2 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting 12:00–1:00 PM: Prayer Group 1:30–2:30 PM: Lessons 4:30–6:30 PM: Lessons	3	4 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
5 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	6 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Boy Scouts	7 9:30–10:30 AM: Al-Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts 7:00–8:00 PM: Committee Meetings	8 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice 7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice	9 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting 1:30–2:30 PM: Lessons 4:30–6:30 PM: Lessons	10	11 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
12 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	13 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Boy Scouts	14 9:30–10:30 AM: Al-Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts 7:00–8:00 PM: Wildlife Rescue 7:00–8:30 PM: Council Meeting	15 1:00–2:30 PM: WELCA Group 3 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice 7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class 7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice	16 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting 1:30–2:30 PM: Lessons 4:30–6:30 PM: Lessons	17 4:00–9:00 PM: BNRR	18 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
19 9:00–10:00 AM: Faith Partners Sunday 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	20 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 5:00–6:00 PM: Gathering Place 7:00–8:00 PM: Boy Scouts	21 9:30–10:30 AM: Al-Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts 7:00–8:30 PM: WELCA Group 6	22 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice 7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice 7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class	23 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting 1:30–2:30 PM: Lessons 4:30–6:30 PM: Lessons	24	25 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
26 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	27 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Boy Scouts	28 9:30–10:30 AM: Al-Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts	29 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice 7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class 7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice	30 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting 1:30–2:30 PM: Lessons 4:30–6:30 PM: Lessons		

Grace Staff & Council

Rev. Eric Lesher

Senior Pastor

308-708-1146

pr.eric@egrace.org

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Anne Melang-Thoren

Director of Music

anne@egrace.org

Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson

Assistant Organist

Robert Stimbert,

Custodian

2021 Church Council

Neil Larson

Carla Ingersoll

Connie Thorson

Jim Krueger

Glatha Rathjen

Jan Branting

Amy Knobbe

Doug Krueger

Roger Potts

Cindy Eberspacher

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Congregational Life

Social Ministry

Parish Education

Memorials

Property

Stewardship/Finance

Current monthly council minutes and reports are available in the narthex.

Contact the church office to get connected to a council member.

I want to thank Pr. Eric for his visits and texts after my recent hip surgery. I also want to thank our Grace family who reached out with food, flowers, cards, visits and calls.

Please know how much it was all appreciated!

- Jan Branting

Thank
you ❤️



Prescott Elementary needs boxes of tissues and hand sanitizer for the start of the new school year. Please leave donations in the pew outside the church office.

The Lincoln CROP Hunger Walk is October 10th. To sign up or to make a donation, go to: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/lincolnne>

If someone would like to start a Grace Lutheran Team, please let Pr. Eric know.





NEVER FORGET.
09.11.2001

**O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come**

This month, America marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which ended almost 3,000 lives and changed life forever for millions more. The nation was shaken to its very roots, with violence jolting out of us any assumption that “it can’t happen here.” September 11 banished any lingering notion that being on the side of “liberty and justice for all” served as insulation against mass tragedy. We now had more to fear than fear itself.

Psalms 46 reminds us that “though the earth should change” (v. 2) — as it did on 9/11 — God remains “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (v. 3). We are never alone or without hope, even on life-altering days.

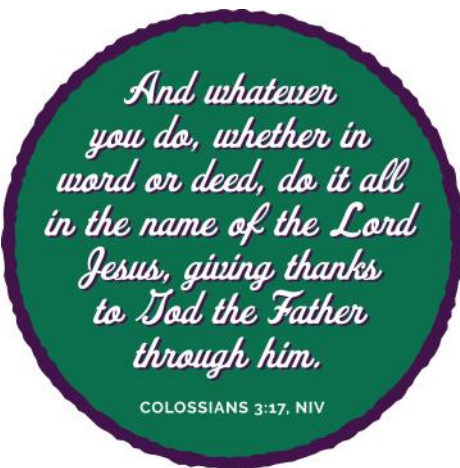
How have God’s presence and power sustained you through life’s changes? How might sharing your story help someone else when their world or faith gets shaken?

Bible Quiz

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

- A. once
- B. twice
- C. three times
- D. four times

Answer: C (See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2.)



Laboring for the Lord

For many people, the pandemic redefined work, with more employees logging hours from a home office — or kitchen table. Boundaries between job and personal life blurred, as did any sense of being “off duty.” Most of us prefer clear divisions between our tasks and time.

But Colossians 3:17 tells us to “do everything” in Jesus’ name, “giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

That means even work and worship interlock. As Rick Warren writes, “Work becomes worship when you dedicate it to God and perform it with an awareness of his presence.”

Puzzle!

Answer each statement by circling the letter in the correct column. Then write the circled letters on the numbered lines below to complete the biblical word.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Naomi is Ruth's mother.	D	Ⓐ
2. Ruth is a Moabite.	T	P
3. Naomi wants Ruth to leave her and return to Moab.	N	L
4. Orpah is Naomi's hired hand.	H	S
5. Boaz lives in Bethlehem.	C	B
6. Boaz is a farmer.	U	V
7. Ruth makes a living begging at Bethlehem's gates.	X	E
8. Boaz instructs his field workers to leave extra grain for Ruth to glean.	E	J
9. Boaz invites Ruth to eat with the harvesters.	R	Q
10. Boaz is related to Naomi.	I	W
11. Boaz refuses to marry Ruth.	F	R
12. Ruth is the great-grandmother of King David.	O	G

R

9 7 4 6 1 11 8 5 2 10 12 3

Answer: 1. R, 2. T, 3. N, 4. S, 5. C, 6. U, 7. E, 8. E, 9. R, 10. I, 11. R, 12. O; RESURRECTION

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