



# The Grace Greeter

**Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502 November 28, 2018**

## **Advent Activities**

Advent is the season in which we prepare for Christ's birth. Here at Grace, we have many opportunities for you in which to participate in as we prepare for Jesus' coming. Please post this list on your calendar and plan to attend.

### **December 2**

1st Sunday in Advent: Worship - Saturday: 4:45 PM or Sunday: 9:00 AM

### **December 5**

Advent Evening Prayer - 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

### **December 9**

2nd Sunday in Advent: Worship - - Saturday: 4:45 PM or Sunday: 9:00 AM  
A Grace Christmas Concert: Bells, Brass, & Blues!" - 4:00 PM

### **December 12**

Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

### **December 16**

3rd Sunday in Advent: Worship - - Saturday: 4:45 PM or Sunday: 9:00 AM  
Sunday School Christmas Program -- During the worship service

### **December 19**

Advent Evening Prayer - 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

### **December 23**

4th Sunday in Advent: Worship - - Saturday: 4:45 PM or Sunday: 9:00 AM  
Hanging of the Greens—right after Sunday worship

*Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year  
from the staff and council*

### **Christmas Worship Schedule**

Christmas Eve

Family service with Holy Communion - 5:30 pm  
Candlelight service with Holy Communion - 7:30 pm

Christmas Day

Worship with Holy Communion - 10:00 am





## From the Church Office

- ◆ PLEASE CONTACT US! HIPPA laws do not allow the hospital to notify the church if there is a member in the hospital. The patient or a family member must contact the church office so we can schedule a visit while you are in the hospital here in Lincoln or Omaha. During office hours, call 402-474-1505 or email [office@egrace.org](mailto: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](mailto:pr.eric@egrace.org).
- ◆ Because of Christmas, the deadline for the next Greeter will be December 15. It will be mailed on December 18.
- ◆ The church office will close at noon on December 24 and December 31.
- ◆ Need ideas for Christmas gifts? We have extra Grace Cookbooks, insulated cups, Post-it cubes, and ornaments from the Quasquicentennial celebration. The prices are discounted! They will be on sale Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> during Fellowship Hour.
- ◆ The offering envelopes for 2019 are available in the Atirum for the next several weeks.
- ◆ No Jazz Evening Prayer in December... we will start again on the third Sunday in January.

### Praying with the Saints in Advent



The Sundays of Advent, like all Sundays, are a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Midweek worship in Advent, while anchored in the Sunday cycle of readings, can make room for an additional layer of prayer and praise by observing the commemorations that fall during the month of December. Commemorations “illuminate various aspects of the church’s life and mission through the lives of women and men who have followed Christ in succeeding generations” (ELW Leaders Edition, p. 13). Even as we look to Christ as our light, breaking through the darkness of these often cold and weary days, we can also see that light reflected—however imperfectly—in the lives of the saints triumphant who continue to inspire us today. May this great cloud of witnesses inspire our prayer as we prepare to receive in faith what they see face to face.

Focus reading and saint for each week:

December 5- Isaiah 11:1-9 (St. Nicholas)

December 12 - Romans 8:31-39 (St. Lucy)

December 19 - Colossians 3:12-17 (Katharina von Bora Luther)



Mark Your Calendars

# EVENTS



## Wednesday Nights at Grace

**Dinner:** 5:30 pm in Lesher Hall.

**Wired Word** with Pastor Eric: 6:00 pm—Library

**Youth Choir Rehearsal:** 6:15 pm - choir room

**Advent Evening Prayer:** 7:00 pm in Christ Chapel

- Grace Lutheran's Thrivent Financial group will meet on December 2nd at 10:30 am in the staff conference room. Anyone is welcome to attend. Activities for 2019 will be considered.
- Please join us for the Women of the ELCA general meeting and Christmas festivities on Wednesday, December 5, 2018. Beginning at noon, it will be an afternoon filled with fun, food and fellowship. RSVP as usual to Tricia Rosno. Hope to see you there! PS--December is the last monthly luncheon meeting. At future meetings we will change to dessert and coffee instead of a full meal.
- WELCA has no Board Meeting or Unit Meeting in January. Meetings resume in February. The Unit Meeting will begin at 1:00, rather than noon, with only dessert served.
- ♦ On Wednesday, December 12, Yesterday's Youth will meet for their meeting in Lesher Hall. We meet the second Wednesday of the month. From 11:00 to 12:00, we have some social time. We eat at 12:00, after which we have devotions and a program. The meal is pot luck, so bring a dish to share and your table service and enjoy the fellowship. Drinks are furnished. The program will be the second DVD on the topic "Amazing Grace Stories, Music and Words".



"A Grace Christmas Concert: Bells, Brass, & Blues!"

Sunday, December 9

4:00 pm - Nave

Please come celebrate the sounds of the season with the Bells of Grace, Grace Foundation Brass, and Grace Jazz Group! We are excited to share our music with you! A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the music ministry at Grace. See you there!

- Sunday School program: Please join us for worship on December 16. The children of Grace are going to give the special Advent message that Sunday. We invite all youth to join us in presenting this homily during the service. You do not need to be in Sunday School to participate. All we ask is that you come on Saturday, December 15 at 9:30 A.M. to practice with the entire group. Following the church service that Sunday the Parish Ed. committee will be serving treats to go with your coffee and juice.
- Help us "Hang the greens" and decorate the sanctuary and the Chapel on Sunday, December 23, right after worship. We will put the Chrismons on the trees, hang the greenery and bring in the poinsettias.



The members of Cub Scout Pack 30 invite members of Grace to participate in this year's **Giving Tree** campaign. Beginning November 19th, members can select a gift tag from the tree, purchase the requested item, and return the gift (unwrapped) to church and place it under the tree. All gifts will benefit the **Friendship Home** of Lincoln. The campaign will continue through December 16th.



### Holiday Baskets for Prescott

We will be putting together 30 Holiday Basket for our Prescott family once again this year. These basket are given based on needs and the families are carefully chosen by the school. We will be putting up a tree in the Atrium with tags on it instead of decorations. On the tags you will find food items that we will be asking for to put in the food baskets. Pick as many tags as you would like from the tree and purchase the items and place under the tree. If you would rather we do the shopping, donations can be made to the Prescott Fund by leaving them with Sandi in the office. The perishable items will be purchased the day we deliver the baskets with the Prescott funds. I have checked with my contact at Prescott and the delivery date is set for Dec. 17th. The final day for having your items under the tree will be December 12. Thank you for your help in advance. -Pat Lickei



### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER

The Chancel of Grace will be decorated in the traditional, festive manner for Christmas services. Your contribution of a poinsettia will make this possible. Please fill out and return to the church office.

I wish to order a poinsettia for Christmas, \$10.00 is enclosed  
(These plants will be 6 - 9 blooms)

I wish to buy a poinsettia and bring it to the church no later than the morning of Thursday, December 21. (Wrapped in gold foil -no bow)

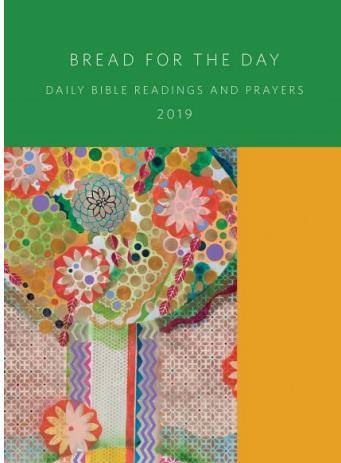
In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for order is December 16. Return this form to the church office.**





### Group purchase for Devotional Resource!

*Bread for the Day* is a daily-use devotional resource filled with rich treasures: A brief scripture reading (NRSV texts) for each day following the daily lectionary developed by the Consultation on Common Texts and presented in Evangelical Lutheran Worship

- The devotions begin January 1, 2019
- A prayer and hymn for each day
- Brief yet helpful introductions to the seasons
- Table graces/meal prayers for the holidays and seasons
- Household blessings for special times throughout the year (for example: Blessing for the New Year, Blessing of the Home at Epiphany, Prayer for Placing Palms in the Home, Blessing of the Easter Meal, Blessings for Mother's and Father's Day, Remembering Those Who Have Died, Lighting the Advent Wreath, Blessing of the Christmas Tree)

- Monthly pages for recording prayer requests
- Notes on festivals and commemorations
- Simplified forms for morning and evening prayer
- Waking prayers and bedtime prayers, including prayers with children

If 10 or more people order the books, the cost will be \$8.00 each. Otherwise, they are \$10.00 each. **Please sign up on the sheet outside the office door (or email the office) by December 11, so we can have them ordered and shipped before the new year begins!**



Serving hot dogs made with turkey seemed appropriate on November 19, the Monday before Thanksgiving, when Grace was responsible for the meal at The Gathering Place. Regina and Steve Paschold coordinated the effort, with baked beans, bananas, potato chips, and home baked dessert items also on the menu. Joy Kokes, Kaitlyn Dumler, Ginny and Roger Potts, Sharon and Larry Genthe, and Regina and Steve donated the brownies, cake, and pumpkin and banana bars. All of those mentioned above helped to serve and to clean up after 139 portions had been distributed. Thanks go to Brady Garvin, Marilyn Holmquist, and Janet Jodais for monetary gifts to support this important ministry.



- ♦ Spectacular costumes and big smiles from the kids and adults that visited Grace on Halloween. Thank you to all the volunteers and people who made donations and gave of their time for trunk or treat. We had a great turnout, somewhere around 250 kids. WOW! Everyone had a wonderful time! Thanks, Carla
- ♦ Thanks to everyone who donated to the "Trick or Treat for The Gathering Place" collection. Operations Manager, James Reilly was appreciative for all of the non-food items.



Several Grace members braved a chilly and wet day on November 3rd to visit the Holy Family Shrine near Gretna, Nebraska. They enjoyed a tour of the shrine and a lunch stop at Cheri O's Cafe in Ashland.

## **October Council Meeting—Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

Present: Karen Billings, Doug Krueger, Pastor Eric Lesher, Dave Ripa, Curt Mann, Carla Ingersoll, Dustin Haider, Teddi Reckling

Absent: Wendy Apple, Barb Smith

Guest: Jim Krueger

Curt Mann called the Council meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

**Devotions:** Doug

**Approval of Council Minutes:**

June 12 council minutes-recreated

September council minutes

Approved as printed

**President's Report:**

**Congregational Meetings:** November 11 and January 27 @ 10:15. The lunch hosts will be WELCA for November 11 and Thrivent for January 27. Topics for the November meeting: Spending plan for 2019, election of new council member and presentation to the congregation of Transformational Ministry.

**Elections:** Elections are in November. The Nominating Committee (Kevin Gade, Mike Lewis, Kathren Miller) will need to find candidates for 1-3 year council member and 4 members of the next nominating committee.

**Holy Roof Funding Update:** Total amount of money pledged or received: \$60,287.14. Discussion followed on how much of this money would be made as an immediate down payment. Remainder would remain in a separate account and would be used to make the monthly payment until used, then the monthly payment would be from the general fund. Teddi made a motion that we would pay Union Bank \$40,000 upfront to the principal and then use the remaining \$20287.14 for the monthly payments of \$1399.00 until used. Seconded by Karen. Motion passed.

**Pastor Eric's report:**

**Transformational Ministry Program:** Synod would like congregations to participate in the Transformational Ministry Program. The program objective is to create vital and healthy congregations. It is a 2-year process. PR Eric will see if he can get a speaker to come and explain the program at the November congregational meeting. After the presentation, we could have a question and answer session. A vote will be taken at the meeting, whether or not the congregation wants to pursue. Information about the program will be put into the next Greeter.

**Director of Music Report:**

Pastor and Director of Music Reports: Approved as printed.

**Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports:**

Approved and submitted for audit.

**Committee Reports:**

Finance/Stewardship-written report.

Worship & Music-written report. Christmas Eve Services will be at 5:30 and 7:30.

Parish Ed- written report Children's Christmas program will be during 9:00AM service on December 16

Congregational Life- written report

Property-written report

Social Ministry-written report. Need volunteers to manage Prescott activities.

Committee reports approved as printed.

**Old Business:**

**Trunk or Treat:** October 31 from 5-7PM. Hope all committees have a game/activity to participate. No other church events are planned for that night.

**New Business:**

**Lincoln Literacy "Scrabble Scramble":** This fund raiser for Lincoln Literacy is being held at Grace on November 4. Dave made a motion that Grace sponsor a premier sponsorship table at the Scrabble Scramble for \$500. Dustin seconded. Motion carried.

**Bedient Pipe Organ Maintenance Contract for 2019 & 2020:** The contract for servicing is \$1500 per year. This is four tunings per year of the cassavant organ and one tuning of the bedient pipe organ in the chapel. Line item is already in the budget. Approved.

**2019 Budget:** Went through line by line to make some adjustments. Further adjustments to be made. Council will meet after service on October 14 to approve.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35PM.

Pastor closed meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carla Ingersoll, Council Member

**October Council Meeting - Sunday, October 14, 2018**

Present: Karen Billings, Doug Krueger, Dave Ripa, Curt Mann, Carla Ingersoll, Dustin Haider, Teddi Reckling

Absent: Wendy Apple, Barb Smith, Pr. Eric

Guest: Jim Krueger

Curt Mann called the Council meeting to order at 10:20.

Purpose of Meeting: Approve Staff Compensation and 2019 proposed spending plan

A motion was made to increase the 2019 compensation package of Pr. Eric, Sandi, Robert and nursery staff by 2.5%. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the total 2019 church spending plan for presentation to the congregation at the November 11 meeting for their approval. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carla Ingersoll, Council Member

## **October Council Meeting—Sunday, October 21, 2018**

Present: Karen Billings, Doug Krueger, Pastor Eric Lesher, Dave Ripa, Curt Mann, Carla Ingersoll, Dustin Haider,

Absent: Wendy Apple, Barb Smith, Teddi Reckling

Guest: Steve Rosno

Curt Mann called the Council meeting to order at 10:19.

Purpose of Meeting: Discuss proposal by Foundation

Doug made a motion that the council should accept the Foundation's proposal:

The Foundation will transfer to the Grace Lutheran Church \$14,000 to the Roof Repair Fund for the purpose of paying off in full the roof repair loan subject to the Church Council taking the following action to match our contribution. Transfer funds to the Roof Repair Designated Fund as follows:

Current Expense Fund:

Replenish Maintenance Facility Fund as included in the 2018 budget: \$5000

Facility Maintenance Fund: \$2,272

Debt Reduction Fund: \$165.

Seminarian Support Fund: \$3000

Janet Jodais Fund: \$3563.

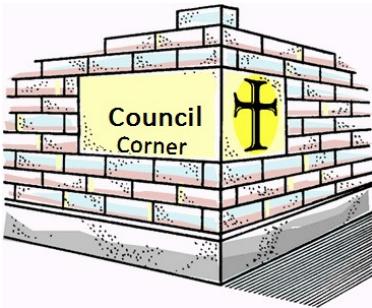
Carla seconded. Motion carried.

Dustin made a motion to make an additional line in the 2019 budget under the Worship and Music Committee for Musicians fund for the amount of \$6000. Seconded by Karen. Motion carried.

Dave made a motion to approve the amended 2019 spending plan and present to the congregation. Doug seconded. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 11:04AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carla Ingersoll, Council Member



**From the Church Council:** Congratulations to Jan Branting who was elected to the Church Council at the last congregational meeting. Mark Billings, Bruce Petersen, and Connie Thorson were elected as 2019 Nominating Committee members. Thank you to all for volunteering to serve your church!

At the last congregational meeting, Roger Potts presented a list of short and long term projects for Grace. They include additional work to preserve our stained glass windows, remodeling on the bathrooms in Lesher Hall, and the resurfacing of our parking lots. All will require congregational funding support. You can make contributions towards these projects right now. Please indicate on your envelopes (or through your electronic giving) that you'd like your donation to go into the newly formed **"Building Improvement Fund"**.

**The roof replacement loan has been paid off!** Thank you to all who helped make this possible in such a short time period. If you haven't finished your pledged donation, please note we are still accepting those dollars. Those additional funds will be placed in the Building Improvement Fund and be designated for future building project needs as described previously.

All committees, organizations, and staff are asked to submit their annual reports to Sandi by January 10th. These reports will be presented to the congregation at the semi-annual meeting set for January 27, 2019.

**From the Parish Education Committee:** The Christmas program will be presented by the Sunday School and Confirmation students during the December 16th church service.

**From the Congregational Life Committee:** Thanks to all who helped make this year's ***Trunk or Treat*** a huge success!

**From the Property Committee:** The project of removing the broken clear glass exterior windows is now complete. During this process it was noted that we now have other issues as was described at the congregational meeting involving the original installation of the stained glass. Roger Potts will communicate with the congregation as to what needs to be done and the projected costs in the near future. The committee also has removed the risers in the old choir room and attempted to donate those materials. They have also installed a new water pressure pump that will help the dishwasher work correctly.

**From the Social Ministry Committee:** The Thanksgiving baskets are going to be packed and delivered on November 19th. Thank you to all who have helped with this important ministry!

**From the Finance & Stewardship Committee:** The committee would like to extend a special word of thanks to all who have made their financial commitment pledges for 2019. It's not too late if you haven't turned in your pledge card.

**From the Memorials Committee:** The committee maintains a ***Wish List*** of various items needed by the church. Memorial gifts can be given to the church and designated towards any of these or additional items that congregational members identify. The current list includes: Wrought iron gates around the air-conditioning compressors; extension of the underground watering system; new choir robes; new robes for assisting ministers; choir folders; a new piano for the choir rehearsal room; books and DVD's for the children and youth library; books for adults; board books for very young readers; bike racks; equipment for on-line broadcast of services; and a podium with amplification for Lesher Lounge.

Items on the Lutheran Food Pantry's "wish list" at this time include:

- Canned fruit
- Canned meals (stew, ravioli, spaghetti, etc.)
- Dry dinners (Hamburger Helper)
- Fruit juice
- Jelly
- Pancake mix (add only water type)
- Peanut butter
- Rice, long grain (1 pound bags)
- Tuna
- Personal care items (shampoo, toothpaste, bath soap, lotion, etc. *Hotel and sample size items like dentists provide are great, too!*)

Monetary donations to purchase food from the Food Bank

Also, please remember that we are collecting the UPC labels from Best Choice products. Please donate the UPC labels (must include the words "Best Choice" with the code bar), and put them in with your donations to the Food Pantry.

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



The Grace Scrabble Team had a great time at the Lincoln Literacy Scrabble Scramble Sunday, November 4th! Our Grace team members were the Scrabble Dabble Doos (Scooby, Max, Pongo and Lady), and they battled 3 teams, one of which were the Lazer Cats! Yup, the dogs beat the cats by a whisker!



14  
John & Joyce Lunde

16  
George & Norma Sturgeon

22  
George & Marsha Foster

31  
Dustin & Rachel Haider

13  
Marsha Foster  
Katrina Lange

14  
Noah & Raymond Guern

15  
Chris Andersen  
Robert Fischer  
Elias Genuchi  
Dustin Haider

17  
Dean Ossian

18  
Vivian Condon  
Sam Ihrie

1  
Elizabeth Krueger  
Jacob Krueger  
Carly Weixelman

2  
Larry Clymer

3  
Bonnie Drophman  
Steve Reckling

7  
Don Carnes

8  
Katie Fritchie  
Kinzie Lange

10  
Betty Maun

21  
Elizabeth Garza

22  
Lois Moss  
John Plambeck  
Jack Reighard  
Seth Riemann  
Cindy Watchorn

25  
Robert Stimbert

26  
Irene Moore

27  
Scott Drake  
Ashlyn Jensen  
Chris Schroeder

29  
Mark Billings  
Tanja Noecker

30  
Ron Most





### Saturday, December 1

12:00 pm Lounge reserved  
4:45 pm Worship  
5:00 pm Lounge reserved

### Sunday, December 2

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Fellowship, Adult Bible Study, Thrivent, choir, Sunday School  
5:00 pm Latino worship

### Monday, December 3

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
7:00 pm Scouts

### Tuesday, December 4

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

### Wednesday, December 5

12:00 pm WELCA lunch & mtg.  
5:30 pm Supper  
6:00 pm Wired Word  
6:15 pm Youth Choir  
7:00 pm Advent Evening Prayer

### Thursday, December 6

6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy  
1:00 pm Lounge reserved  
6:00 pm Gym reserved  
7:00 pm N. A. Mtg., Bells

### Saturday, December 8

8:00 am Lesher Hall reserved  
10:00 am Concert rehearsal  
4:45 pm Worship

### Sunday, December 9

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Sunday School, ASF, choir, fellowship  
4:00 pm Christmas Concert: Bells, Brass, & Blues!  
5:00 pm Latino worship

### Monday, December 10

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
1:00 pm WELCA #2 meeting  
7:00 pm Scouts

### Tuesday, December 11

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

### Wednesday, December 12

11:30 am Yesterday's Youth  
5:30 pm Supper  
6:00 pm Wired Word  
6:15 pm Youth Choir  
7:00 pm Advent Evening Prayer

### Thursday, December 13

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

### Friday, December 14

5:30 pm YWCA respite care  
6:00 pm Chapel reserved

### Saturday, December 15

9:30 am Sunday School program practice  
1:00 pm Chapel reserved  
4:45 pm Worship

### Sunday, December 16

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Fellowship, Choir, Sunday School  
12:00 pm Lounge reserved  
5:00 pm Latino worship

### Monday, December 17

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
5:00 pm Gathering Place  
6:00 pm Chapel reserved  
7:00 pm Scouts

### Tuesday, December 18

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:30 pm Chapel reserved  
6:30 pm Scout pack meeting  
7:00 pm WELCA #6 meeting  
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

### Wednesday, December 19

1:00 pm WELCA mtg.  
5:30 pm Supper  
6:00 pm Wired Word  
6:15 pm Youth Choir  
7:00 pm Advent Evening Prayer

### Thursday, December 20

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

### Friday, December 21

5:00 pm Gym reserved

### Saturday, December 22

4:45 pm Worship

### Sunday, December 23

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:15 am Hanging of the Greens  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Fellowship, choir, Sunday School  
5:00 pm Latino worship –Lounge

### Monday, December 24



Office closed at noon  
5:30 or 7:30pm Worship

### Tuesday, December 25

10:00 am Worship

### Thursday, December 27

7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.,

### Saturday, December 29

12:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved  
No Worship

### Sunday, December 30

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am fellowship  
5:00 pm Latino worship

### Monday, December 31

Office closed at noon



## Grace Staff and Council Members

**Rev. Eric Lesher,***Senior Pastor**308-708-1146**pr.eric@egrace.org***Sandi Knippelmeyer,***Parish Administrator**office@egrace.org***Anne Melang-Thoren,***Director of music**anne@egrace.org***Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson***Assistant Organist***Robert Stimbert,***Custodian***Judi Schroeder,***Nursery Coordinator***Elizabeth Krueger,***Nursery attendant***Council Assignment to Committees:**

Curt Mann: Council President

Karen Billings: Vice President, Parish Ed

Dustin Haider: Stewardship\Finance

Wendy Apple: Secretary, Worship\Music

Dave Ripa: Stewardship\Finance, Memorials

Barb Smith: Social Ministry

Teddi Reckling: Worship and Music

Carla Ingersoll: Congregational life

Doug Krueger: Property

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