



The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502
September 2019



The book of Proverbs starts out with the claim that, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." (Proverbs 1:7)

What is this fear of the Lord that the Bible talks about in Proverbs?

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word does not just mean "fear." It also invokes emotions of awe and honor that comes from contemplating God's character.

God's character is the source for each of the wise sayings in the book of Proverbs. When Proverbs encourages you to be trustworthy, shrewd, diligent or generous it is because God's character is trustworthy, shrewd, diligent and generous.

The fear of the Lord changes how you live. You do not strive to serve your own ends or to please other people, but instead, you take actions based on God's character. Living in fear of the Lord means you do not need to live in fear of other's expectations or your status because you are rooted in God's character. This is the beginning of wisdom.

So how will your fear of the Lord give you wisdom today?





At the Churchwide Assembly in August, the ELCA declared itself a "Sanctuary Church". The question we ask is, "what does this mean?" (Luther would be proud!) In answering this question, Bishop Maas provided some clarification points in a recent letter to the Nebraska Synod. Here are those points:

Being a "Sanctuary Church" means:

- The ELCA is not mandating (and cannot mandate) that its congregations engage in any practice, related to sanctuary or otherwise
- The ELCA is not condoning or advocating illegal conduct on the part of its congregations or members
- The ELCA is not recommending any specific way(s) for each congregation and member to practice sanctuary
- The ELCA is renewing its public commitment to take concrete action to fulfill scripture's mandate to welcome strangers—including immigrants and refugees—and provide for their needs
- The ELCA is renewing its commitment to advocating for reform in our nation's broken immigration system and for humane treatment of immigrants and refugees
- The ELCA is renewing its commitment to the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) initiative

As a follow-up to the Churchwide Assembly, I will be offering a class based on new material from Augsburg Fortress. The course title is "The Refugee Crisis". There is a learner book for each participant to read for discussion purposes. One chapter per week. The cost of the book is \$10.00. The class will be on Mondays from 6:30-7:30 PM. We will meet in Leshner Lounge. We will begin September 16. Each week's discussion includes a chapter from the learner book and a DVD presentation. Our last week will explore the AMMPARO initiative and its impact on Grace.

Please call or email your desire to participate in the class so I can order the learner books.

In Christ,

Pr. Eric Tesher



From The Church Office

- ◆ PLEASE CONTACT US! HIPPA laws do not allow the hospital to notify the church if there is a member in the hospital. The patient or a family member must contact the church office so we can schedule a visit while you are in the hospital here in Lincoln or Omaha. During office hours, call 402-474-1505 or email office@egrace.org to let us know. Thank you!
- ◆ To contact Pastor Eric after office hours, you can call or text him at 308-708-1146 or email pr.eric@egrace.org.
- ◆ The deadline for the next Greeter will be Friday, September 21st.
It will be mailed on Wednesday, September 25th.

Golf Outing

There will be a Church Golf Outing at Pine Lake Golf Course on Sunday September 29th starting at 2pm. Please respond by September 22nd. Cost will be approximately \$10. Anyone interested should contact Dean Dumler via email at ddumler1@gmail.com or text at 402-432-1105.

We will have a gathering afterwards either at the clubhouse or the Dumler's home.



We all have a desire to let others know about our church. Here is one way to get the word out. Car clings are available on the table next to the office. They read "Follow me to Grace" and "There is a Place for You". Pick one up and let our neighbors know who we are.

Wednesday Nights at Grace

Summer vacation is coming to a close and it's time to start up our ***Wednesday Nights at Grace*** program. Please make this evening a part of your weekly church life and join other friends at one or several of the following weekly events. It all starts on **September 11th @ 5:30 pm.**



- ♦ **Evening Prayer:** A midweek inspirational worship service in Christ's Chapel. 5:30
- ♦ **Family Meal Time:** Join us for a delicious mid-week meal.
6 pm in Lesher Hall. Free-will donations accepted.
- ♦ **Adult Bible Study :** Discuss present day events and relate them to scripture.
6:20 pm in the Library.
- ♦ **Youth Choir Rehearsal:** Come join in song and prepare for sharing your joyous music with the congregation. 6:30 pm at Friedens
- ♦ **Confirmation Classes:** Join Pr. Eric at 7 pm.

We are always open to other ideas for activities to be included in our Wednesday Nights at Grace program. If you have a suggestion, please contact the church office. Thank you!

To tell the truth

To prepare for a sermon on honesty, a pastor asked church members to read Joshua 25. The next week, he asked, "How many of you read it?" Half the hands in the church went up.

"Great," the pastor said. "You're the ones I want to talk to...because Joshua has only 24 chapters."

—From *The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart*, Charles Swindoll

Don't Forget these Activities at Grace

The Wired Word

An adult class that applies news headlines to our faith life through the wisdom of scripture. We gather at 6:25 on Wednesday's in Leshar Lounge. Join us for Evening Prayer (chapel) and a meal (gym) prior to class.



Adult Bible Study: Responding to God's Grace

Sunday morning class resumes on September 15. The class will come to appreciate and rejoice in God's grace known through the lives of Old and New Testament characters. Such grace calls for our personal and communal response of faith, gratitude and reliance on the Holy Spirit to live in ways that praise and honor God.

WINE. WINE. WINE. It is that time of the year when we organize those who choose to donate wine for our worship services. We appreciate the members of Grace who filled out their Time and Talent surveys. If you marked your desire to provide wine, you are on our list. Those on the current list of donors will remain unless we hear from you otherwise. We welcome any member of Grace to donate a bottle of wine in the coming year. Please contact Dave Ripa at 402.499.9708 or dripa333@gmail.com if you'd like to be added to our wine donation list. All will receive a confirmation letter toward the end of September. To all of you that contributed wine this past year...



Thank You! —The Worship and Music Committee

A note from the Director of Music...

I hope that everyone had a wonderful, fun, and even restful summer these past few months! Now that school is back in session and most folks are back from their vacations, it's time to start thinking about how we can serve Christ and our congregation this fall, winter, and beyond.



One enjoyable and fulfilling way to serve our Lord is to share our musical gifts! I'm hoping that you who have musical talent (you know who you are!) will consider participating in one of our music groups!

Calling all singers and ringers (this means you)!

- ⇒ Adult Choir joined by our Choral Scholars rehearses on Sundays at 10:30 am and at 8:15 am Sundays proceeding any service that this group sings.
- ⇒ Youth Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm and at 8:15 am Sundays proceeding any service that this group sings.
- ⇒ Bell Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7 pm and at 8:15 am Sundays proceeding any service that this group rings.

For those of you that haven't joined one of these groups, but are thinking about it, YOU'RE INVITED!!! Come and be a part of something fun and uplifting. I'd love to have you! Rehearsals start Sept. 9th.

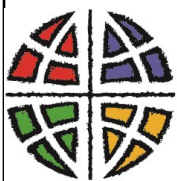
Calling all instrumentalists (this means you, too)!

I'm always on the lookout for instrumentalists to enrich worship! This may include playing for prelude, offering, or postlude from time to time, accompanying liturgy or hymnody, or even playing jazz, if you're up for it! It's a joy to share your instrumental talents with God and neighbor! Come and see for yourself! Rehearsal dates and times TBD depending on people's interest and availability.

Please consider joining one of these great groups! This music season promises to be inspiring!

Music
is the voice of the soul

Anne Melang-Thoren
Director of Music



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Stewardship Sunday: a chance to show our love for our Lord

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 26: 35-36

Have you ever given food to God? Have you ever given him clothes or a bed for the night? How about a drink of water when he was thirsty? Do you remember doing any of that?

Of course, you have done those things. We care for our Lord every time we care for his people:

- when we give to the Prescott Pantry or the Gathering Place or the Good Samaritan Fund.
- when we volunteer at or donate to one of the many caring agencies in our community.
- when we hold the hand of someone in pain or despair.
- when we teach Sunday School, provide food for Fellowship Hour, bake bread or provide wine for communion, serve on a Grace committee, sing in the choir.
- when we give our monetary gifts to support our congregation's staff and its programs and those of our synod and the ELCA.

During the week of Sept. 9, you will receive a pledge card in the mail, asking you to indicate what monetary gifts you will give to support Grace's mission of caring and ministry in 2020. Please fill out the pledge card and bring it with you to present to the Lord in a special part of the worship services on *Sept. 21 and 22*.

Joyce Palmer will be our preacher on Stewardship Sunday, Sept 15

If you're not able to attend church that weekend, please mail your card to the church office, 2225 Washington, Lincoln 68502.

We recognize, of course, that we do not earn our salvation by what we do and what we give, but we know we are feeding, clothing and caring for our God when we feed, clothe and care for his people. Both as individuals and as a congregation, we *are* God's hands in this world. What greater joy could there be?

Grace and peace!

Members of your Grace Lutheran Church Council



Typically when Grace Lutheran serves at The Gathering Place toward the end of the month, numbers are high. Such was the case on July 29th when, as Pastor Megan Morrow said, we had a “packed house” and the count was 165 meals distributed. Regina and Steve Paschold prepared macaroni and cheese with ham bits. Carla Ingersoll donated the tossed salad. There was also bread, corn and Bananas. Various baked desserts were contributed by Joy Kokes, Ginny and Roger Potts, Lorraine James, Sharon and Larry Genthe and Regina and Steve, Except Lorraine , all of those mentioned above helped to serve and clean up.

In the month of August, when the “dog days of summer” occur, what would be more appropriate to serve at The Gathering Place than hot dogs? On August 19th lots of people were going for those “dogs”. Regina and Steve coordinated the Grace meal event and Prepared the Baked beans. As usual, Carla Ingersoll contributed the tossed salad. Also on the menu were bananas and potatoe chips. Baked desert items were donated by Joy Kokes, Helen and Don Carnes, Connie Whyrick, Jan and Terry Branting and Steve and Regina. All those Mentioned above helped serve and to clean up after 169 portions had been distributed.

Items on the Lutheran Food Pantry’s “wish list” at this time include:

- Breakfast bars
- Canned fruit
- Canned peas
- Cereal
- Fruit juice
- Peanut butter
- Pork and beans
- 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



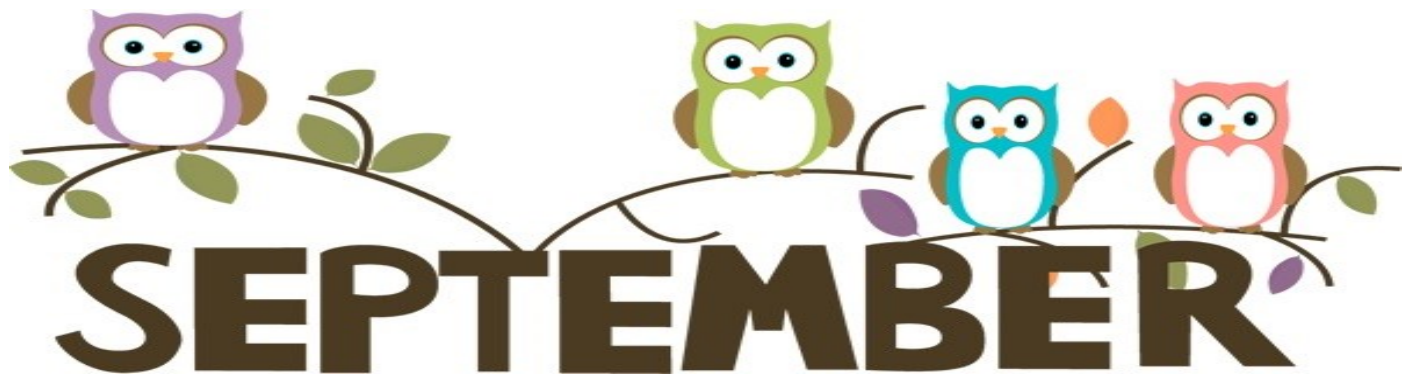
Thank you for Helping the food needy in the community!

Grandparents are great!

“What a bargain grandchildren are,” said comedy writer Gene Perret. “I give them my loose change, and they give me a million dollars’ worth of pleasure.”

When it comes to family heritage, grandparents are worth their weight in gold. They serve as storehouses of history and wisdom, helping children see how they fit into a family’s legacy. Christian grandparents also provide a faith heritage that passes from generation to generation.

The apostle Paul acknowledged this important role of family elders when he wrote to young Timothy: “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you” (2 Timothy 1:5, NRSV).



Anniversaries

2
Larry & Sue Clymer

13
Kelly & Justin O'Hara

17
Chris & Judi Schroeder

19
Todd & Sandra
Robinson

26
Johnny & Megan
Winterfeld

29
Rod & Debbie Basler

Birthdays

1
Tom Lantis
Lindsey Williams

4
Ed Hoffman Jr

5
Mark Block
Nancy Hoffman

7
Kurt Eberspacher

8
Curt Mann

9
Sophie Ostermeyer
Peggy Pedersen

10
Danielle Billings
Ayda Matya

13
Jayne Brown
Edward Vader

16
Alicia Andersen
Conner Knobbe

21
George Sturgeon

23
George Foster
Tina Loseke

24
Deb Watson

25
Jason Guern

26
Cameron Krueger
Debbie Winterfeld

27
Maxwell Rathjen

28
Susan Coatney
Megan Ptacek

**Tuesday, September 10**

9:30 am Al-Anon
6:30 pm CS Popcorn Kickoff
7:00 pm Council Mtg. & Wildlife
Rescue
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

Wednesday, September 11

** Fire Alarm Inspection
11:30 am Yesterday's Youth

5:30 pm Evening Prayer
6:00 pm Family Meal Time
6:15 pm Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm Youth Choir at Friedens
7:30 pm Confirmation

Thursday, September 12

9:00 am Quilting & Lincoln Literacy
6:30 pm CS Popcorn Pickup
7:00 pm N. A. Mtg., Bells

Friday, September 13

5:30 pm YWCA respite care

Saturday, September 14

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, September 15

9:00 am Worship
10:00 am Fellowship
10:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Adult Choir
10:45 am Adult Class
3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal
6:00 pm Faithful Conversations

Monday, September 16

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

Tuesday, September 17

9:30 am Al-Anon
6:30 pm CS Scout Den meeting
7:00 pm WELCA Group 6
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

Wednesday, September 18

5:30 pm Evening Prayer
6:00 pm Family Meal Time
6:15 pm Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm Youth Choir at Friedens
7:30 pm Confirmation

Thursday, September 19

9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy
7:00 pm NA & Bells

Friday, September 20

4-9pm BNRR

Saturday, September 21

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, September 22

9:00 am Worship
10:00 am Fellowship
10:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Adult Choir
10:45 am Adult Class
3:00 pm L.L.C rehearsal

Monday, September 23

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy
7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, September 24

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

Wednesday, September 25

5:30 pm Evening Prayer
6:00 pm Family Meal Time
6:15 pm Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm Youth Choir at Friedens
7:30 pm Confirmation

Thursday, September 26

9:00 am Quilting & Lincoln Literacy
7:00 pm NA & Bells

Saturday, September 28

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, September 29

9:00 am Worship
10:00 am Fellowship
10:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Adult Choir
10:45 am Adult Class
3:00 pm L.L.C rehearsal

Monday, September 30

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy & WELCA
5:00 pm Gathering Place
7:00 pm Scouts

Sunday, September 1 (Robert Gone)

9:00 am Worship
10:00 am Fellowship
10:15 am Sunday School
10:45 am Adult Class

Monday, September 2 (Robert Gone)

Labor Day—office closed

Tuesday, September 3 (Robert Gone)

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

Wednesday, September 4 (Robert Gone)**Thursday, September 5 (Robert Gone)**

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

Friday, September 6 (Robert Gone)

5:30 pm YWCA
4:00 pm Suzuki lessons

Saturday, September 7

8 am-4 pm College of Cub Scouting
10:00 am Home School Quartet-Chapel
5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, September 8

9:00 am Worship
10:00 am Fellowship
10:30am God Work, Our Hands
3:00 pm LLC rehearsal

Monday, September 9

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy
1:00 pm WELCA meeting
7:00 pm BSA Scouts— Troop mtg

Grace Staff and Council Members

Rev. Eric Lesh,

Senior Pastor

308-708-1146

pr.eric@egrace.org

Amanda Whited,

Church 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:

Fran Gade: Council President

Dave Ripa: Worship & Music
Memorials

Carla Ingersoll: Congregational Life

Curt Mann: Stewardship\Finance

Karen Billings: Congregational Life

Jan Branting: Social Ministry

Teddi Reckling: Worship and Music

Doug Krueger: Property
Parish Education



SEPTEMBER

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