

The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502 November 15, 2016 www.egrace.org, facebook.com/glclincoln, prayer requests, dialogue and questions welcomed.

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.

November 27

1st Sunday in Advent: Worship - Saturday: 5:30 PM or Sunday: 9:00 AM or 11:30 AM

November 30

Advent Vespers - 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

December 4

2nd Sunday in Advent: Worship - Saturday: 5:30 PM or Sunday: 9:00 AM or 11:30 AM

December 7

Advent Vespers - 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

December 11

3rd Sunday in Advent: Worship - Saturday: 5:30 PM or Sunday: 9:00 AM or 11:30 AM 12th Annual Bells of Grace Christmas Concert -- 3:00 PM

December 14

Advent Vespers - 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

December 18

4th Sunday in Advent: Worship - Saturday: 5:30 PM or Sunday: 9:00 AM or 11:30 AM Sunday School Christmas Program -- 10:30 AM

December 21

Advent Vespers - 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

pastor's page

Welcome to the Feast!

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God. - Ephesians 2:19

Thanksgiving is a time of the year for gathering with others. In our homes and in our churches. Not only do we gather for worship on Thanksgiving Eve but we gather for pie fellowship after!

In this season of giving thanks it is important to remember how blessed we are to have each other. To have a long standing congregation with a rich history that has served many generations and has served our community as well.

A difficult part about being in relationship with family, even a church family, is that everyone has different wants and needs. Working to build strong Christ Like relationships and working to meet people's needs as a worshipping community is not easy.

So in this time of family gatherings I want to share with you some tips from the ELCA for building strong relationships and community:

- Every person is a child of God. Always speak respectfully. One can disagree without being disagreeable.
- As you patiently listen and observe the behavior of others, be open to the possibility that God can change the views of any or all parties in the discussion.
- Listen patiently before formulating responses.
- Strive to understand the experience out of which others have arrived at their views.
- Be careful in how you express personal offense at differing opinions. Otherwise dialogue may be inhibited.
- Accurately reflect the views of others when speaking. This is especially important when you disagree with that position.
- Avoid using inflammatory words, derogatory names or an excited and angry voice.
- Avoid making generalizations about individuals and groups. Make your point with specific evidence and examples.
- Make use of facilitators where this will enhance conversation and awareness.

Remember that people are defined, ultimately, by their relationship with God — not by the flaws we discover, or think we discover, in their views and actions.

In Christ,

Pr. Eric Lesher

Pr. En Jester



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.

Congratulations to the following people who were elected to the Church Council: Karen Billings, Doug Krueger, Curt Mann, Dave Ripa, Barb Smith.

Because of Christmas, the deadline for the next Greeter will be December 16. It will be mailed on December 20.

The Lutheran food pantry needs: pasta, soups including cream, fruit, pork N beans, hamburger/tuna helpers. They are also looking for some volunteers. Leave a message at 402-310-8919.

Bulletins have been shared by: Phyllis Narveson [Zion Lutheran Church of Amor, Battle Lake, MN]





- **Nov. 23:** Thanksgiving Eve, 7:00 p.m. Join us for this beautiful service in which we bring our thanks to God for all that God has done, especially the blessings of creation, faith, family and home. The nave will be beautifully decorated and there will be a pie social afterward! Bring your favorite pie to share
- **WOMEN of the ELCA**-All women are invited to our unit luncheon meeting on December 7. The meal will be potluck so bring a dish to share and your own table service. We would love to have you join us

as we enjoy a Christmas themed program. You are welcome to stay for the business meeting which follows. Group members will be called, and others may call Tricia Rosno at 402-540-5020 for reservations.

• Yesterday's Youth welcomes anyone (55+) or over. Come join us, Wednesday, December 14th 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. The meal is pot luck, so bring a dish to share and your table service. Drinks are furnished. This will be our Christmas meeting with with a program including hymn singing.



The Social Ministry Committee will be having our annual food drive for the Thanksgiving baskets we assemble. Items to donate: canned vegetables, boxes of jello, boxes of stuffing mixes, cans of pumpkin filling, canned cranberries – jellied or whole, cans of condensed milk, boxes of instant potatoes, envelopes/jars of gravy, cans of fruit, canned yams, marshmallows, and cash donations to purchase the perishable items. There will be containers available in the atrium to collect your donations—the deadline is Nov. 20. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to pack the boxes and/or deliver them, please send an email to:

Idrake2@unl.edu or phone/text Lori at 402-310-8386 (leave a voice message if I'm unable to answer). -Social Ministry Committee; Lori Drake, Larry Clymer, Sue Clymer, Steve Paschold, Regina Paschold, Pat Lickei, Pastor Megan Morrow, and Barbara Smith

Thanksgiving prayer

Author and radio host Garrison Keillor put a unique spin on expressing gratitude for special meals. He painted the following table prayer on his dining-room wall, encouraging guests to sing it together before eating: O Lord, we thank Thee for this food,

For every blessing, every good.

For earthly sustenance and love Bestowed on us from heaven above.

Be present at our table, Lord.

Be here and everywhere adored.

Thy children bless and grant that we

May feast in paradise with Thee.

"It's inspiring to hear 15 people find harmony around the Thanksgiving table," Keillor writes. Singing together "sets a tone. No crying in the cranberries. ... There is much to be grateful for."



November:

Parent Meeting about 2017 Youth Trips & Events has been rescheduled. This meeting will be held on Sunday November 20th at 10:40 am and will occur in the staff conference room attached to the Gym. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. We care deeply about your opinions and concerns. This meeting will, with the parents input, hope to gauge interest and plan the possible 2017 trips for kids in grades 6th+.

December:

2nd - 4th Family Advent Retreat — Bring your family together to be purposefully present as we prepare for the Christmas season. Through devotion, project, and inter-generational fun, the whole family will be actively engaged in learning about the meaning of the season. This event is through Camp Carol Joy Holling and registrations will be on their website: cjhcenter.org/familyadvent and the event will cost 225\$ per room. The rooms will be in the Sjogren Retreat Center. Financial Assistance may be available. Please email me once you have completed registration. tyler@egrace.org

Saturday 17th Christmas Program Rehearsal - 10 am - 12pm - **Rehearsal for the Christmas program** will be from 10 am until noon (unless they finish earlier). If your child is interested in being in the Christmas program, they must attend Sunday school regularly, as they are practicing every Sunday.

ATTENTION MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS & PARENTS:

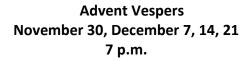
Once middle school students are finished, they will be working on their December Service Project (prepping Gingerbread houses). They will have pizza there for them to eat. They will be working till 1:00 pm (unless the Program Rehearsal gets finished earlier). Parents are welcome to attend with their Middle School kid (please email Tyler at tyler@egrace.org if you plan to do so).

Sunday December 18th - Christmas Program & Advent Celebration 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

All are welcome to come enjoy the Children's Christmas program at 10:30 in the Nave. Afterwards, there will be Ginger bread houses afterwards (sponsored by the Middle School Sunday School Class) as well as a Soup Potluck Contest!

IF you think you've got the best soup around, please email Tyler (tyler@egrace.org) if you plan on participating and sign the board in the Atrium. YOU MUST REGISTER BEFORE OR ON DECEMBER 11th TO PARTICIPATE. Please include the name of your soup and an ENTIRE list of ingredients in this email. The rest of the congregation attending will all be the judges. There will be a congregational choice award "The Golden Ladle" and a kids choice award "The Golden Spoon". Join us in celebrating this advent season with your family!

If you're interested in donating \$ or resources to any of these projects, please feel free to drop off your \$ or any of the following items to Tyler's office: Graham Crackers, Hot Glue Sticks/Hot Glue Guns, Red/Green/Gold Plastic Tablecloths, Mason Jars, Christmas Paper Bowls & Spoons, Candy (Gumdrops/dots, Mike & Ike's, MnM's, Hershey Kisses, Skittles, Sprinkles, Candy Corn, etc.)





Advent is traditionally a time of deepened devotion and worship. To that end, we again will offer Advent Vespers service each Wednesday night in December, leading up to Christmas Eve. These short candlelit services in Christ Chapel are an oasis of peace and calm in this busy season. We hear the scriptures, sing Advent hymns and Mary's Song,

the Magnificat, sit in silence and prayer. Pr. Eric will be preaching on "Tidings of Comfort and Joy". This Advent series gives voice to the complex situations and emotions with which we greet the coming Messiah and uses the reactions of those who first received the news of Jesus' birth (Zechariah, Joseph, Mary and the shepherds) to do so. Please join us for these services and make them a part of your December traditions!

Bells of Christmas 11th Annual Holiday Concert December 11th, 3 p.m

Please join the Bells of Grace and their musical friends for a wonderful concert of Christmas music arranged for handbells. This year, the concert will feature a rendition of Clement C. Moore's "Twas the Night Before Christmas" with baritone Colt Ballou accompanied by handbells, as well as other Christmas favorites. In addition, the Grace Foundation Brass, the Grace Notes Bell choir, Lisa Howell, and other yet-to-beannounced guests will appear. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the music ministry at Grace.



Sunday School Christmas Program Come to the Manger: A Service of Lessons and Carols December 18th, 10:30 a.m.

Join our Sunday School students this year for a special Christmas program in which they will present the Christmas story through a series of lessons and carols. The students need an enthusiastic congregation to help with the carol singing, so please consider supporting our youth and children by attending this event!



In the case of those who ate at The Gathering Place when Grace served on Halloween, hunger didn't stand a ghost of a chance. Regina and Steve Paschold prepared the macaroni and cheese with ham bits, and in a twist on the standard "Trunk or Treat", food for the meal was loaded into their trunk, transported to the soup kitchen, and folks there were treated to a hearty meal (inside the facility). The menu also included tossed lettuce salad donated by Carla Ingersoll, bread, green beans, bananas, and a variety of home baked desserts contributed by Pat Lickei,

Carley Weixelman, Terry Branting, Helen and Don Carnes, Joy Kokes, and Steve and Regina. Pat Weixelman joined all of those mentioned above, except for Carley, to serve and to clean up after 116 portions had been distributed. Thanks go to Lorraine James for a recent financial gift to support this important ministry.

New additions!! See top shelf of Book Cart!



VeggieTales DVDs: Minnesota Cuke & the Search for Noah's Umbrella; Madame Blueberry; King George & the Ducky. Danger Rangers: Mission 547 Adults: Fiction-Above the Line Series by Karen Kingsbury: Take One, Take Two, Take 3, Take 4 **CHURCH LIBRARY** Sommerfield Trilogy by Kim Sawter: *Bygones, Beginnings, Blessings* (Mennonites) *When* the Nile Runs Red by Diann Mills. My Sister Dilly by Maureen Lang. Non-Fiction-Stepfamily Success: Practical Solutions to Common Challenges & The Grace of Catastro-

phe: When What You Know About GOD Is All You Have.

Giving Tree for the Friendship Home



For the second year, Cub Scout Pack 30 will be trying to make the holidays a little brighter for those in need at Lincoln's Friendship Home through their Giving Tree project. To help out, you simply will select a tag from the tree located in the Atrium, purchase the item, and place it under the tree by December 18th. All items must be new and in their original packaging. The Scouts ask that you fill out the requested information on the tag and tape it to the item that you are donating. Financial contributions for the project

are also accepted. Please make checks payable to Cub Scout Pack 30 and in the memo line indicate that your gift is for the Friendship Home Giving Tree. The Scouts will then use those gifts to purchase any items that are still needed at the end of the project. If you have any questions, please contact Curt Mann. Thank you!



From the Social Ministry Committee: A big "THANK YOU" goes to all who shared produce for the produce table during the growing season, as well as those who donated to the World Hunger canister. Just over \$285. was contributed. Thanks also go to people who donated to the "Trick or Treat for The Gathering Place" collection. Director James Riley was appreciative for all of the non-food items.

On October 30, we received the following people into membership at Grace.





Jim, Ching and John Hiltner, Lincoln



Dustin, Rachel and Aislynn Haider, Crete



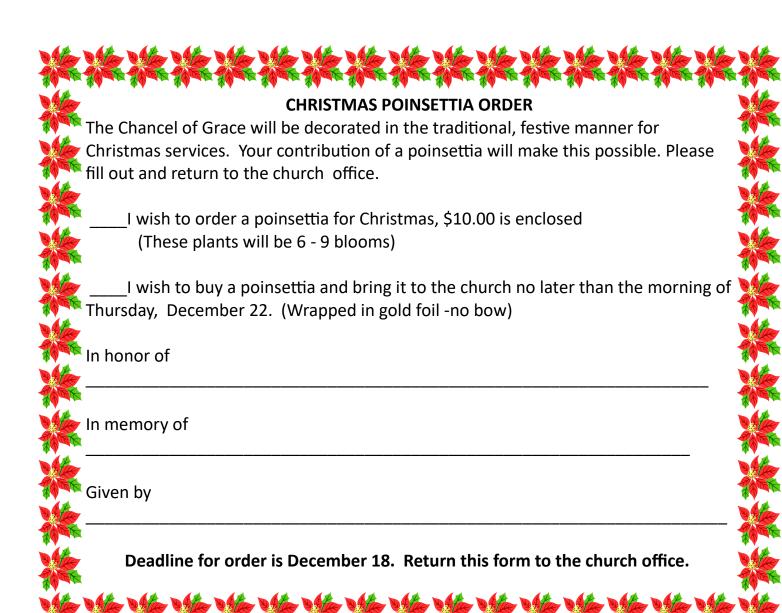
Matt Peppmuller and Jordan Murphy, Lincoln.

December 24

Lessons, Carols & Holy Communion 5:00 PM The Christmass - 11:00 PM

December 25

The Nativity of our Lord - 10:00 AM





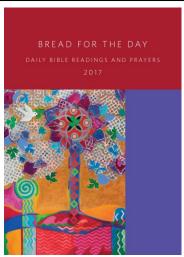
Sampling stewardship

God has come down to us in love, entrusting an abundance of resources to our care. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to give generously as a grateful response to God's abundance.

We give our time and talents to serve both within the congregation and in outreach to our community. We give our money and our stuff to support the congregation and the community and their relationship to each other.

When we give, we act on Jesus' love for us and his words to us: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

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



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, 2017
- 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 9, so we can have them ordered and shipped before the new year begins!

October Council Meeting Tuesday, October 11, 2016

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

Vice President Terry Branting called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call taken

Terry provided devotions and the opening prayer.

Approval: Barb made a motion to approve the September minutes as written. Seconded by Connie. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

Senior Pastor: Written report **Director of Music:** Written report

Director of Faith Formation: no written report

Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report: Written report

Treasurer's Report(including Good Samaritan and Voices of Grace): Written report

Barb made a motion to accept and file for audit all financial reports. Seconded by Kevin. Motion carried.

Barb moved that the council move into Executive Session. Connie approved. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Parish Education: no Written report

Evangelism: Written report. **Property:** Written report. **Social Ministry:** Written report

Stewardship: no Written report.

Finance: Written report.

Youth: No report

Memorials: No written report

Worship and Music: no Written report Media Ministry Committee: No report

Terry made a motion to move out of Executive Session. Kevin seconded. Motion Carried.

Peter moved that the meeting be adjourned. Barb seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed at 9:25.

Respectfully Submitted, Carla Ingersoll, Council Secretary

December 4	
Assisting Minister	Tina Loseke
Lector	Cindy Eberspacher
Communion Assistants	Cindy Eberspacher, Lori Drake, Bruce & Cheryl Petersen
Altar Guild	Kurt & Cindy Eberspacher
Greeters	Bruce & Cheryl Petersen, Chris & Wendy Apple
Acolyte	Chloe Fitzgibbon
Communion Bread	Cindy Eberspacher
December 11	
Assisting Minister	Dean Dumler
Lector	Beth Kimmerling Dumler
Communion Assistants	Beth Kimmerling Dumler, Jan Branting, Connie Whyrick, Fran Gade
Altar Guild	Dave & Kathren Miller
Greeters	Steve & Teddi Reckling, Lori Drake, Teresa Serafin
Acolytes	Kaitlyn Dumler
Communion Bread	Karen Billings
December 18	
Assisting Minister	Barb Smith
Lector	Carol Olson
Communion Assistants	Carol Olson, Karen and Mark Billings, Lois Schuerman
Altar Guild	Jon & Connie Thorson
Greeters	Joyce Krueger, Steve & Tricia Rosno
Acolytes	Kyle Givens, Conrad Schroeder
Communion Bread	

5th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 20, 3 pm South Street Temple 2061 S 20th Street Fellowship reception will follow



14

John & Joyce Lunde

16

George & Norma Sturgeon

22

George & Marsha Foster

30

Brian & Erica Eck

31

Dustin & Rachel Haider Steven & Stefanie Neal



1 Linda Baker Elizabeth Krueger Jacob Krueger Carly Weixelman

2 Larry Clymer

3 Bonnie Drohman Steve Reckling 7 Don Carnes

8

Katie Fritchie Kinzie Lange

10

Norbert Hildreth Betty Maun

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

20

Teri Roti

21

Elizabeth Garza

22

Lois Moss Jack Reighard Seth Riemann Cindy Watchorn

23

Marcia Oetjen

25

Robert Stimbert

26

Irene Moore

27

Scott Drake Ashlyn Jensen Chris Schroeder

29

Mark Billings Tanja Noecker

30

Ron Most



Thursday, December 1

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

Friday, December 2

5:00 pm Family Ministry Game Night, Suzu- 8:00 pm AA Mtg. ki rehearsal 5:45 pm YWCA respite care

Saturday, December 3

5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, December 4

9:00 am Worship * 10:30 am Fellowship, Thrivent, Sunday School, Adult Choir, A.S.F. 11:30 am Worship, Grace Notes bell choir

Monday, December 5

9:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes, WELCA exec. Board mtg. 7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, December 6

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

Wednesday, December 7

12:00 pm WELCA lunch and meeting 6:15 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm In Stitches 7:00 pm Advent Evening prayer

Thursday, December 8

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

Friday, December 9

5:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved

Saturday, December 10

10:00 am Conf. Rm reserved 12:00 pm Lounge reserved 5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, December 11

9:00 am Worship * 10:30 am Fellowship, Sunday School, Adult Choir, A.S.F.

11:30 am Bells, Worship 3:00 pm Bell Choir Concert

Monday, December 12

9:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes 1:00 pm WELCA #2 Mtg. Lounge 7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, December 13

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

Wednesday, December 14

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

Thursday, December 15

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

Friday, December 16

4:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved

Saturday, December 17

10:00 am Sunday School program practice 1:00 pm Chapel reserved 5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, December 18

9:00 am Worship * 10:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program and Advent celebration 11:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Chapel reserved

Monday, December 19

9:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes 5:00 pm Gathering Place 7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, December 20

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

Wednesday, December 21

1:00 pm WELCA #1 meeting 6:15 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm In Stitches 7:00 pm Advent Evening prayer

Thursday, December 22

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

Saturday, December 24

5:00 or 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 25

10:00 am Christmas Day Worship



Monday, December 26

Office closed

Tuesday, December 27

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

Thursday, December 29

9:00 am Quilting 7:00 pm Bells, N. A. Mtg.,

Saturday, December 31

5:30 pm Worship



*child care provided

Grace Staff and Council Members

Rev. Eric Lesher,

Senior Pastor 308-708-1146 pr.eric@egrace.org

Sara Schott,

Director of Parish Music sara@egrace.org

Tyler Johnson,

Director of Faith Formation tyler@egrace.org

Sandi Knippelmeyer,

Parish Administrator office@egrace.org

Colt Ballou,

Assistant Director of Parish Music

Robert Stimbert,

Custodian

Judi Schroeder,

Nursery Coordinator

Elizabeth Krueger,

Nursery attendant

2016 Council members and committee assignments:

Wendy Apple—Worship and Music

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

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln NE 68502 402-474-1505 office@egrace.org

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