

The Grace Greeter!

**Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502
May 2022**

May is the month that Lincoln runs its annual marathon. It is a large event that impacts the lives of many. May is also graduation month in Lincoln. University, college and high school students head off for ventures known or yet unknown.

So here is a “letter” to Mr. Rogers from Fred McFeely Rogers that highlights the direction our race of life should follow.



Mr. Rogers, to grads — and to us all,

Our world hangs like a magnificent jewel in the vastness of space. Every one of us is a part of that jewel, a facet of that jewel, and in the perspective of infinity, our differences are infinitesimal. We are intimately related. May we never even pretend that we are not. ... Deep down, we know that what matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What really matters is helping others win too, even if it means slowing down and changing our course now and then. ...

[Roman philosopher] Boethius wrote this sentence: “Oh happy race of mortals if your hearts are ruled, as is the universe, by love.” ... [There is a] deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive: love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed. So in all that you do, in all of your life, I wish you the strength and the grace to make those choices which will allow you — and your neighbor — to become the best of whoever you are.

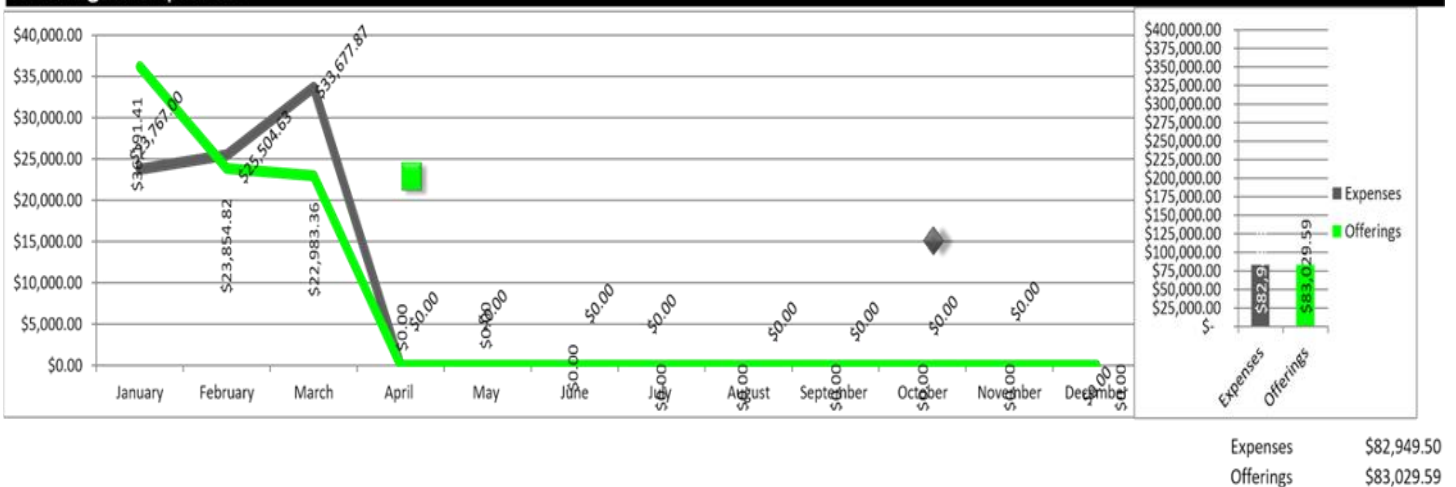
—Fred McFeely Rogers



- ♦ **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 **May 20th**.
- To help us stay connected 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



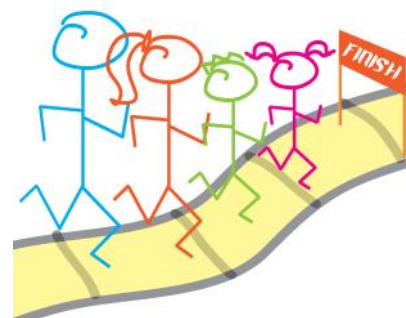
2022 Giving Envelopes

You can pick-up your box of 2022 offering envelopes in the atrium.

Run the Race!

May is marathon month here in Lincoln! So, we have included a summer Bible reading plan called "Running the Race" in this newsletter.

Feel free to reading the readings once a week or once a day or twice a week. Hopefully this reading plan will help you endure in the faith this summer!



The next meeting of **Grace's Thrivent Financial** group will be in the staff conference room, at 10:30 am on June 5, 2022.

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL THROUGH GRACE

March Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2022



Present via Zoom/in-person: Neil Larson, Doug Krueger, Cindy Eberspacher, Connie Thorson, Glatha Rathjen, Carla Ingersoll, Roger Potts, Amy Knobbe, Pr. Eric Leshar,

Glatha Rathjen called the council meeting to order at 7:10PM (meeting in-person and online)

Opening Prayer: Glatha

Discussion Points for Council each month:

We follow our mission: "Making Christ known to all through Grace."

We celebrate our purpose: "That by God's grace we have been gathered to worship, called to witness, and sent to serve."

We seek our vision: "To become a church with a passion for fostering a welcoming community that strives for peace and a sense of belonging."

How have we followed our mission this past month?

We have placed an ad in the Near South quarterly newspaper announcing our location, service times and social media sites.

How have we celebrated our purpose this past month?

Congregation completed a service project. Water bottles filled with miscellaneous supplies were filled and transported to People's City Mission. Congregation started a service project to send St. Patrick's Day cards to the residents at Sumner Place retirement home.

How have we sought our vision this past month?

Two new visitors were welcomed at church on Sunday, March 6. As Covid numbers go down, more people are attending services.

Approval of January Congregation Minutes and February 2022 Council Minutes:

Roger moved to approve amended minutes for the January 2022 Church Council Meeting and the amended February 2022 amended minutes. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

President's Update/Correspondence: None

Staff Reports:

Pastor Eric's Report: Submitted. Two congregation members have volunteered, along with Pr. Eric to represent Grace at the Synod meeting in June: Julene Leshar and Neil Larson.

Director of Music Report: Submitted. Comments have been received on how beautiful the music was on Ash Wednesday (As always)

Financial Secretary's Report: Submitted

Treasurer's Report: Submitted

Neil made a motion to accept the reports as submitted. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship – did not meet

Worship & Music –met virtually Easter Lilies have been ordered. Congregation will be asked for donations with “in memory and/or in honor” designations.

Parish Ed – did not meet

Congregational Life – Water bottles were filled by the congregation and taken to the People's City Mission. City Mission have asked if the congregation could collect sample sized personal hygiene items for distribution. A receptacle will be placed near the Welcome Table. Will be advertised in bulletin and Greeter. Congregation volunteers have taken St. Patrick's Day cards home to complete and bring back to church for Sumner Place residents. An Easter Brunch is being planned.

Property: met via email. Spring Yard Cleanup is planned for on April 9. Repairs made in Men's restroom and a furnace blower (Thanks, Roger!)

Social Ministry: The Feast is resuming at Our Savior's. More planning will take place at the April meeting.

Memorials – did not meet. Campbell's has been contacted about planting 3 Red Bud trees this spring. They will be planted when the weather is suitable. These are from Bob Anderson's memorial.

Doug made a motion to accept the reports as submitted. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

Business:

Review Covid Restrictions – Face masks are no longer required. Those who are more comfortable wearing a mask in church are encouraged to continue to do so. Signage around church will be removed. If changes are to the Lincoln City health measures, this will be reviewed.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Midweek offering designation: Pr. Eric moved that Lenten Offerings will be designated to Lutheran Disaster Response-Ukraine Refugee Relief. Doug seconded. Motion passed

Closing Prayer: Roger

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carla Ingersoll, Secretary

The Gathering Place

April 17th through the 23rd was designated as National Volunteer Week, and on the 18th, Regina and Steve Paschold continued to represent Grace at The Gathering Place. Safety precautions are ongoing, with only two volunteers, wearing masks, permitted to help inside the building. Meals in containers are distributed on the porch. On that day the menu included pork sandwiches, potato chips, tossed lettuce salad, pineapple, and cookies. Most days the count has been approximately 90, as was the case on March 21st, when the meals included chicken nuggets, potato chips, cold macaroni salad, an apple, and a granola bar.

Grace's Social Ministry Committee is making it possible to conveniently donate items for the "Little Free Pantry" located outside The Gathering Place at 1448 E Street. Any non-perishable food, as well as personal care items, can be left at the designated spot in the church's entryway to the atrium, and are later transported to the pantry. Lisa Janssen, the program manager at The Gathering Place, has commented that the little pantry is such a welcome addition to the neighborhood, because anyone can leave any size of donation, at any time, in order to help those in need.

THE LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

The Lutheran Food Pantry appreciates all donations of shelf-stable food and personal care items. Items needed include (the items with ** are especially needed at this time):

- **Cereal, boxed breakfast
- **Chicken, canned
- **Fruits, canned (pears, peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges)
- **Jam and jelly
- **Meals, canned (meatballs & spaghetti, ravioli, etc.)
- **Peanut butter
- **Pork and beans
- **Potatoes, boxed instant mashed
- **Soups, condensed (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom)
- **Tomatoes, canned
- Breakfast bars (Pop Tarts, granola bars, oatmeal/fruit bars)
- Instant oatmeal packets
- Canned chicken and tuna
- Canned vegetables (especially peas, mixed vegetables)
- Canned beans (chili, kidney, pinto)
- Fruit juice (large bottles or boxes/packets)
- Macaroni and cheese
- Noodles, dry
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Pasta, dry (spaghetti, macaroni, noodles, etc.)
- Ramen noodles
- Rice, 1 pound bags
- Saltine crackers
- Snack items (small packages of cookies, nuts, fruit flavored snacks, etc.)
- Soups, condensed (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, cream soups)
- Spaghetti sauce
- Personal care items (shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes)



PANTRY HOURS:

Please bring your donations to St. Andrew's Lutheran at 1015 Lancaster Ln between the hours of 8-3 Tuesday through Friday.

Birthdays

Mildred	Needham	1-May	Amber	Leshner	25-May
Everett	Odem	1-May	Andrea	Holtgrewe	26-May
Colton	Billings	2-May	Shawn	McKillip	27-May
Joanie	Rathjen	2-May	Rhys	Hughes	28-May
Jordan	Billings	3-May	Robin	Hoffman	29-May
Shawn	Rathjen	3-May	Phyllis	Krueger	29-May
Everett	Haider	4-May	Kevin	Gade	30-May
Amy	Knobbe	4-May	Anthony	Zimmerman	30-May
Virginia	Potts	4-May	Jon	Thorson	31-May

Grace	Fitzgibbon	7-May
Sadie	Heim	9-May
Kaitlyn	Dumler	10-May
Erin	Odem	12-May
Ken	McKillip	14-May
Johnathon	Olston	14-May
Sandra	Robinson	16-May
Corene	Herbster	17-May
Patricia	Lickei	17-May
Chloe	Robinson	18-May
Ashley	Volkmer	19-May
Aislynn	Haider	20-May
Michael	Lewis	20-May
Ronald	Ossian	21-May
William	Abbott	22-May
Kevin	Melang-Thoren	24-May
Laura	Coatney	25-May

Wedding Anniversaries

Frances	and Kevin	Gade	May 6
Beverly	and Dennis	Madison	May 7
Ben	and Jennifer	Klein	May 14
Donald	and Estelle	Riemann	May 14
Cynthe	and Kevin	Dumler	May 15
Carmen	and Ken	McKillip	May 19
Chris	and Wendy	Apple	May 27



Thanks to all my church friends for all the birthday wishes for my 80th birthday! I also really enjoyed the party! Thanks to everyone that showed up but even receiving a card from so many was a gift! I would also like to give a special thanks to everyone who has been bringing me to church on Sunday Morning so I can share in the fellowship. God bless you all!

- Your's truly, Janice Walker

< May 2022 >

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir 3:00–4:00 PM: LLC Spring Concert	2 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	3 9:30–10:30 AM: AI- Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts 7:00–8:00 PM: Committee Meetings	4 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir Practice	5 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting	6	7 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
8 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	9 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	10 8:00 AM–8:00 PM: Primary Election 9:30–10:30 AM: AI- 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	11 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir Practice	12 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting	13	14 1:00–2:00 PM: Danish Sisterhood 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
15 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	16 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: Scouts BSA	17 9:30–10:30 AM: AI- Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts 7:00–8:30 PM: WELCA Group 6	18 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy 1:00–2:30 PM: WELCA Group 3 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir Practice	19 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting	20 4:00–9:00 PM: BNRR	21 3:00–6:00 PM: Recital 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
22 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	23 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	24 9:30–10:30 AM: AI- Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts	25 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir Practice	26 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting	27	28 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
29 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	30 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons	31 9:30–10:30 AM: AI- Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts				

Grace Staff & Council

Rev. Eric Lesher

Senior Pastor

308-708-1146

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Anne Melang-Thoren

Director of Music

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Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson

Assistant Organist

Robert Stimbert,

Custodian

2022 Church Council

Glatha Rathjen

Neil Larson

Carla Ingersoll

Jim Krueger

Cindy Eberspacher

Carla Ingersoll

Amy Knobbe

Doug Krueger

Roger Potts

Neil Larson

Connie Thorson

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Congregational Life

Social Ministry

Parish Education

Memorials

Property

Stewardship/Finance

Worship/Music

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

Thank You to the Spring Yard Clean-up Crews

The Property Committee would like to express appreciation to all who helped at the 2022 Annual Spring Yard Clean-up on Saturday, April 9th. We had 8 helpers including several Church Members and Property Committee people who volunteered and without everyone's hard work this would not have been successful. We cleaned up around the whole yard and facility, trimmed some tree branches, cleaned out gutters on the garage and cleaned out in the A/C fenced in area. We hauled out a large trailer load of debris making the grounds look really good. Terry Branting provided the trailer. We want to express our sincere appreciation to everyone for participating.

Roger Potts,

Property Committee Chairman



Thank You to Everyone for the Easter Breakfast

This year's Easter breakfast was the first time many of us had the chance to have a meal together. It was a success! Great food and fellowship has had by all. Thanks goes out to our Council and Congregational Life committee for making this happen.

Thank You to our Worship Leaders and Participants

Thanks to everyone who made the Easter Sunday chancel and worship service a joyful and beautiful experience. He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

RUNNING the RACE

SUMMER Reading Plan

Life — and exercise — move at different paces for different people.

Some enjoy leisurely walks, strolls or rolls, while others speed-walk, jog or even sprint. Some people have a 26.2 sticker on their vehicle, indicating they've run a marathon, while others boast of running a half-marathon (13.1) or no marathon (0.0)!

Thankfully, you don't have to be an athlete of any kind to run the Christian "race." The Bible uses running metaphors, however, to encourage followers of Jesus to train, focus, persevere and attain the heavenly prize. Use this Summer Reading Plan to strengthen your faith and your relationship with Jesus. Complete one square each day or every other day, and you'll journey through significant chunks of the New Testament this summer. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join you as a "running partner"!



Mile 1 Read Philippians 1

Re-read verse 6 and consider how your faith journey is a work in progress.

Mile 3 Read Philippians 3

Look back at verses 13 and 14, and brainstorm a list of ways to keep your eyes on the heavenly "prize."

Mile 5 Read Colossians 1

Re-read verse 11. Name three specific ways God gives you strength and endurance.

Mile 7 Read Colossians 3

Look back at verses 23 and 24. What keeps you running for God, not for other people or for personal accolades?

Mile 9 Read 1 Timothy 1

Doodle about how God's law keeps you from wandering away from him.

Mile 11 Read 1 Timothy 3

What aspects of staying "above reproach" are most challenging for you as a follower of Jesus?

Mile 13 Read 1 Timothy 5

Anonymously perform a kind deed for someone in your family or community.

Mile 15 Read 2 Timothy 1

Describe specific ways your life reveals a spirit of power, a spirit of love and a spirit of self-discipline.

Mile 17 Read 2 Timothy 3

Add a daily Bible-reading time to your spiritual training regimen.

Mile 19 Read James 1

Look back at verse 12. Reflect on how God has kept his promises to you. How does that help you during times of trial?

Mile 21 Read James 3

Re-read verses 17 and 18. Pray for godly wisdom as you continue your faith journey.

Mile 23 Read James 5

After re-reading verse 19, think of ways to reach out to people who have wandered away from God.

Mile 25 Read John 20:1-18

Consider how the good news of Jesus' resurrection gives you reasons to run and share the Gospel message.

➔ Mile 2 Read Philippians 2

Re-read verse 5 and pray to have the same attitude as Jesus.

Mile 4 Read Philippians 4

Write verse 13 on a sticky note and place it where you'll see it daily.

Mile 6 Read Colossians 2

Review verses 6 and 7, make a gratitude list and say a prayer of thanks to God.

Mile 8 Read Colossians 4

Write a note or letter to someone who needs spiritual encouragement.

Mile 10 Read 1 Timothy 2

Re-read verses 5 and 6. Offer praise to Jesus for being our mediator and ransom — and for running the race perfectly for us.

Mile 12 Read 1 Timothy 4

As you exercise, ponder verse 8 and brainstorm ways to build your spiritual muscles.

Mile 14 Read 1 Timothy 6

Review verses 11 and 12. In what ways might faith be viewed as a fight? To whom have you made bold profession of your faith?

Mile 16 Read 2 Timothy 2

Re-read verse 5. The next time you participate in or watch a sporting event, compare the value of God's "victor's crown" to earthly achievements.

Mile 18 Read 2 Timothy 4

Memorize verse 7. Think about people you know who have already "finished the race." How can their example strengthen you?

Mile 20 Read James 2

Put your faith into action today by meeting someone's needs.

Mile 22 Read James 4

Review verse 8. Confess your sins to God and ask him to come near you.

Mile 24 Read Luke 15:11-32

When have you run away from God? What brought you back? When have you seen proof of God running toward you (see verse 20, as well as James 4:8)?

➔ Mile 26 Read 1 John 1

Re-read verse 7. Write "Walk in the Light" on a sticky note, and place it by a lamp or light switch.

Mile 26.2 Read Revelation 2:10 Praise God aloud: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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