

The Grace Greeter!

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

The subversive table

“The Lord’s Supper [is] a profoundly subversive political event in the lives of the participants,” writes Richard Beck in *Unclean*. “The sacrament brings real people — divided in the larger world — into a sweaty, intimate, flesh-and-blood embrace where ‘there shall be no difference between them and the rest.’” Beck is quoting Walt Whitman, for whom “them” refers to “the wicked and the righteous.”



In our day, I think of political conservatives and liberals who receive equally the grace of God through Christ’s body and blood. I think of the man in a church I pastored, who took pride in stirring up controversy. I didn’t like him. But at the Lord’s table, though “divided in the larger world,” we shared a sacrament with no difference between us.

I think of my former parish near an Air Force base. Many members were military personnel and surely knew one another’s rank. But in church — at the conference table, the dinner table and especially the communion table — no difference existed between a colonel and a captain, a commissioned officer and an NCO. It was a beautiful example of God’s kingdom subverting the world’s tendency to divide.

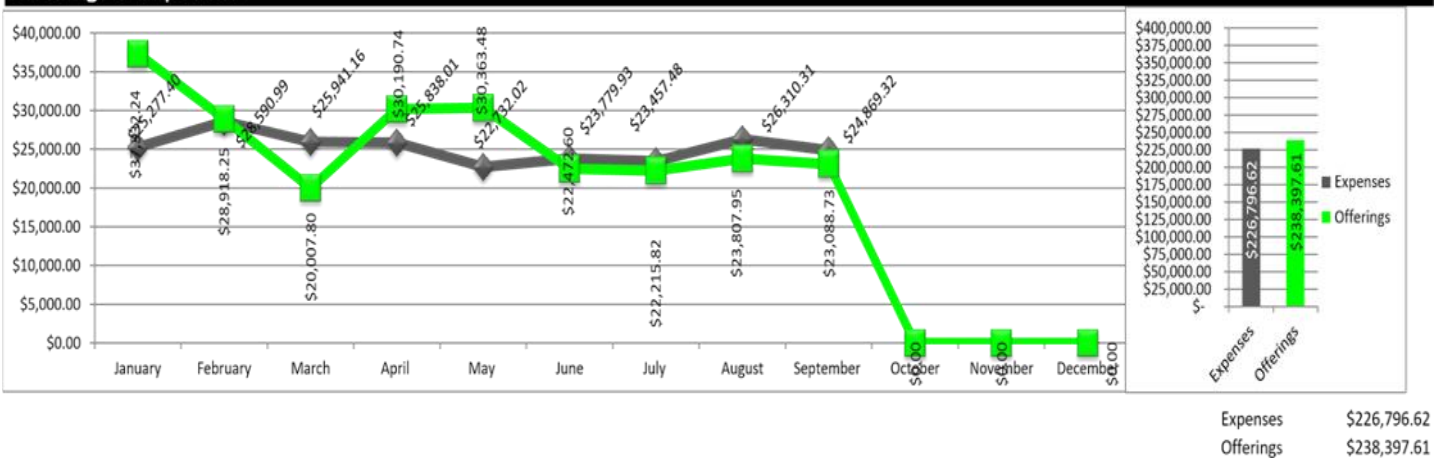
—Heidi Hyland Mann



- ♦ **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 **November 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



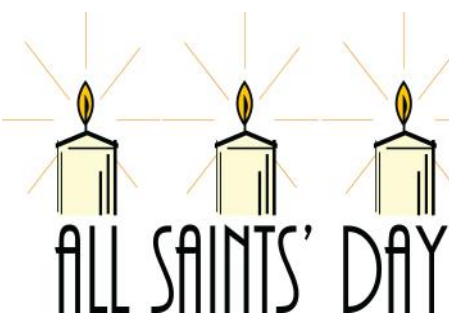
2021 Giving Envelopes

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.

The Social Ministry Committee will be having our annual food drive for the Thanksgiving boxes we assemble and deliver. Items to donate are canned vegetables/fruits, canned cranberries – jellied or whole, boxes of Jello, boxes of stuffing mixes, boxes of instant potatoes, envelopes/jars/cans of gravy, and cash donations to purchase the perishable items – turkeys, hams, pumpkin pies, rolls, and butter. **There will be a container available in the narthex and by the church office to collect your donations starting the first weekend of November.** We will also need some boxes – something sturdy and about 18" x 11" x 9 1/2".

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to pack the boxes and/or deliver them, please send an email to: ldrake3@neb.rr.com or phone/text Lori at 402-310-8386 (leave a voice message if I'm unable to answer).

-Social Ministry Committee; Lori Drake, Steve Paschold, Regina Paschold, Pat Lickei, Pastor Megan Morrow, and Jan Branting



We Say Their Names!

On All Saints Sunday we remember the following members who have entered the church triumphant: Doug Allen, Marlan Anderson, Robert Anderson, Carol Disney, Bonnie Drohman, Glen Drohman, Marilyn Holmquist, Barry Moore, Marjorie Nolte, John Plambeck, Wayne Remington, Betty Shaw, Rodney Wood and all those who have died in the Coronavirus Pandemic. Window candles will be available to remember your own loved ones

Congregational Meeting

Semi-Annual Congregational meeting will be held on November 21st at 10:05 am in the nave following worship. We will approve a 2022 budget and elect the 2022 nominating committee. This will be an in-person and Zoom meeting. Log-in information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://s02web.zoom.us/j/84783657533pwd=aWtxc1d0VWlhZGlpR25ZVTVaZEh2QT09>

Meeting ID: 847 8365 7533

Passcode: 484404



Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 25th at 6:30 pm in the nave.

Watch, Wait, and Wonder: A Midweek Series for Advent

Services will be held in the chapel from 5:30 to 6:00 pm on December 1st, 8th and 15th. An abbreviated service will also be recorded and posted on our Facebook Live Worship page.

More information will be provided in our December newsletter.





The Gathering Place

On October 18, Regina and Steve Paschold represented Grace, as they volunteered at The Gathering Place.

Serving and distribution practices mentioned in earlier articles remain in place.

The menu included vegetable beef stew, dinner roll, cookies, and a mandarin orange.

The daily meal count has recently been just shy of 100.



As the fall season progresses and perennial plants are losing leaves heading into winter, **Grace's Thrivent Financial group** will be emerging from dormancy. A meeting is planned for **November 7**, in the staff conference room, following the worship service. Masks will be expected if the Lincoln/Lancaster County mask mandate is still in effect. Anyone is welcome to attend.

THE LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

CURRENT NEEDS LIST:

- **Fruit juice (large bottles & juice boxes);**
 - **Breakfast bars (Pop Tarts, granola bars, oatmeal/fruit bars);**
 - **Boxed instant oatmeal packets;**
 - **Peanut butter;**
 - **Jelly; Instant oatmeal packets;**
 - Canned fruits (pears, peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail);
 - Canned vegetables;
 - Condensed soups (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom);
 - Saltine crackers;
 - Ramen noodles;
 - Pork and beans;
 - Canned beans (chili, kidney, pinto);
 - Canned tomatoes;
 - Canned meals (spaghetti & meatballs, ravioli, etc.);
 - Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.);
 - Pancake mix & syrup;
 - Spaghetti sauce;
 - Macaroni and cheese;
 - Personal care items (shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes).
- (** indicates most needed items)

PANTRY HOURS:

Please bring your donations to St. Andrew's Lutheran at 1015 Lancaster Ln between the hours of 8-3 Tuesday through Friday. FYI, St. Andrew's will be open on Monday, November 22, but closed on Thanksgiving and the day after, November 25 & 26.

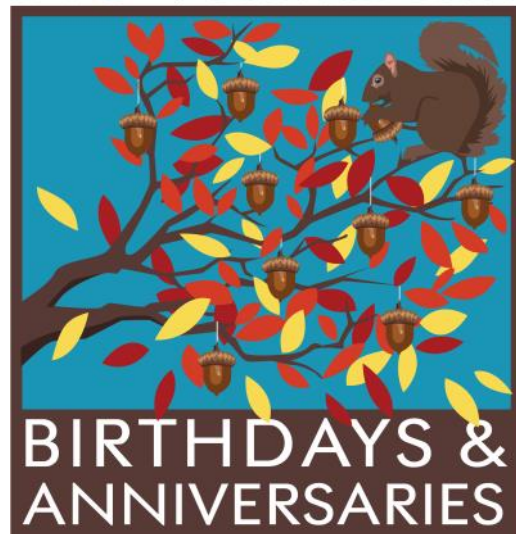
Birthdays

First Name	Last Name	Birthday
Henry	Lambert	Nov 2
Michael	Genthe	Nov 3
Blake	Anderson	Nov 4
Paul	Mehling	Nov 5
Haidyn	Haumont	Nov 6
Sasha	Hoxie	Nov 6
Todd	Robinson	Nov 6
Beverly	Melichar	Nov 7
Ashley	Branting	Nov 9
Susan	Paschold	Nov 9
Teddi	Reckling	Nov 9
Terrill	Branting	Nov 10
Evan	Johnson	Nov 10
Owen	Petersen	Nov 11
John	Johnson	Nov 12
Cynthe	Dumler	Nov 14
Ken	Holmstrom	Nov 15
Jennifer	Serafin	Nov 15
Kathleen	Miller	Nov 16
Nanci	Wells	Nov 16
Olga	Nielsen	Nov 17
Scott	Krueger	Nov 21
Connie	Thorson	Nov 24
Francesca	Ptacek	Nov 25
Keith	Herbster	Nov 27
Lori	Drake	Nov 30

Wedding Anniversaries

Larry and Sharon Genthe	Nov 5
Jack and Arlene Reighard	Nov 22
Edward and Kathryn Vader	Nov 25
Jayne and Richard Brown	Nov 29
Janice and Terrel Branting	Nov 30

NOVEMBER



One additional celebration. A celebration of life will be held for the Rev. Doug Allen on November 26 at 10:00 am in the nave. A reception will follow.

Every Perfect Gift



“Keep awake!” Jesus tells us, as if we could possibly let ourselves sleep right now. This year, full of plot twists has not given us a chance to rest. Staying vigilant has been standard operating procedure since the first cases of COVID-19 started making news. This was followed quickly by economic unrest and work disruptions, changes of our routines. Suddenly our living rooms were classrooms and our kitchens stocked snacks for quick meals between web conferencing. Our summer was marked by political upheaval, demonstrations for justice, natural disasters of every kind – more sleepless nights. Thank you for the words of advice, Jesus, but keeping awake has not been a problem this year.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION



What gifts can Advent offer to you?

What Advent gifts can you offer the world around you?

But Jesus was not worried about our sleep cycles; rather, his words were a caution to stay focused, to pay attention. Further, Jesus was not asking us to merely pay attention to the news cycle, to the obvious events that shape the big moments in the world around us, but to notice the subtleties, the patterns of behavior, the nuances.

Advent is a subtle and often overlooked season. Its quiet refrain offers us hope and patience in equal measure. Around us it is characterized by a frenzy of shopping and planning; but deep into the darkening evenings and cooler days of the Northern Hemisphere, or fully into the languid heat

and brightening skies of the south of our globe, there is a silent stirring of movement and of expectation, as the things we have planted deep, begin to take root and find the light. Those small moments, the delicate actions and thoughts of Advent, open our hearts to see that faint light as it breaks through the chaos of our culture.

These are the gifts of the season: patience, hope, anticipation, and like every perfect gift, these presents bestow on us just what we need when we need it most. In a season marked by the opposing forces of starkness and extravagance, God’s generosity appeals to us in the simplicity of God’s desires for us: to be patient, to live in hope, to anticipate the freedom that will unshackle us from oppression. “And what I say to you, I say to all: Keep awake!”

Finance/Stewardship – Stewardship Sunday was October 17. Developing a follow-up letter.

Worship & Music - Lincoln Lutheran choir will be hosting a Christmas Carol concert at Grace in December.

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. Confirmation and Adult Class have restarted in-person.

Congregational Life – Patty Plambeck is organizing an outreach calling ministry to members of Grace.

Property – Hoping to receive adequate payment for a new roof.

Social Ministry – Organizing Thanksgiving boxes.

Memorials – Approved spending for new livestream camera if needed. Looking into the possibility of renting a camera first and trying it out for a couple of Sundays.

Council Corner

**September Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 14, 2021**



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

Absent: none

Neil Larson called the council meeting to order at 7:00 PM (meeting in-person and online)

Opening Prayer: Neil

Approval of Council Minutes:

Doug moved to approve the August church council meeting minutes as submitted. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

President's Update/Correspondence: none to report

Staff Reports:

Pastor Eric's Report: submitted

Director of Music Report: submitted

Financial Secretary's Report: submitted

Treasurer's Report: submitted

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

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship – Stewardship Sunday will be October 17. Initial budgets needed from committees.

Worship & Music – The committee communicated via email. Planning an October Zoom meeting to discuss responsibilities with regard to the pandemic and creating a year-rotation for communion assistants.

Parish Ed – email correspondence; Sunday School on pause for now

Congregational Life – report submitted; reunion brunch pending due to Covid numbers; Trunk or Treat – scouts will organize event on October 23, 6-7:30 PM. Candy donations welcome.

Property – report submitted; email correspondence: had scaffolding in to clean out skylights in the nave and work on lights in the chapel; submitted budget

Social Ministry – report submitted; email correspondence; Steve and Regina Paschold serving at The Gathering Place; Prescott Helping Hands needing tissues and hand sanitizer.

Memorials – The group will meet in October if they have something to discuss

Business:

Initial 2022 Budget Review – Council will meet October 24 after church to review and approve budgets before the Congregational meeting on November 21st. Budgets will be available several weeks before at the North Entrance.

Neil read the closing prayer.

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Connie Thorson, Secretary

CALENDAR

◀ November 2021 ▶						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	2 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	3 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	4 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting	5	6 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
7 9:00–10:00 AM: All Saints Sunday 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir 10:30–11:30 AM: Thrivent Meeting	8 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	9 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	10 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	11 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting	12 5:00–7:00 PM: Prescott Waffleman Event	13 1:00–2:00 PM: Danish Sisterhood 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
14 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	15 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	16 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	17 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy 1:00–2:30 PM: WELCA Group 3 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	18 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting	19 3:00–6:30 PM: Suzuki Group 4:00–9:00 PM: BNRR	20 3:30–4:30 PM: Recital 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
21 9:00–10:00 AM: Christ the King Sunday 10:00–11:00 AM: Semi-annual Meeting 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	22 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	23 9:30–10:30 AM: Al-Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts	24 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	25 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting 6:30–7:30 PM: Thanksgiving Eve Service	26	27 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
28 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	29 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	30 9:30–10:30 AM: Al-Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts				

Grace Staff & Council

Rev. Eric Leshar

Senior Pastor

308-708-1146

pr.eric@egrace.org

David Sage

Parish Administrator

office@egrace.org

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

Connie Thorson

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Congregational Life

Social Ministry

Parish Education

Memorials

Property

Stewardship/Finance

Worship/Music

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

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

Appreciation for Job Well Done

As Property Committee Chairman, I would like to express sincere appreciation for the help from several individuals who worked to set up scaffolding to clean the sky-lights in the chancel of the Church. Also, worked to move the scaffolding into the Christ Chapel and repair two light fixtures. Those individuals were: Jim Krueger, Doug Krueger, Duane Mischnick, Dennis Madison and myself. Doug provided his trailer to haul the scaffolding. We are very grateful to all who helped to make it possible for the sky-lights to be cleaned and the lights fixtures to be repaired.



Thank you all very much, Roger Potts



Outreach Callers

Patty Plambeck is wanting to organize a small team of members who would be willing to call and check on other members of Grace. If interested please voicemail (474-1505) or email (pr.eric@egrace.org) Pr. Eric and he will send your name to Patty.

WELCA Thankoffering

Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? And we are so grateful. Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Grace women please remember your gift on November 21st!



Complete each friend pair from the Bible, using the verses as hints. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below to complete Proverbs 17:17.

“ _____ ”

Answer: Hushai, Festus, Ruth, Silas, Caleb, John, Bildad, Elisha, Job, David, James, Mary, Martha, Paul, Lazarus, Elizabeth, Eliphaz, Moses; A friend loves at all times.

Followers of Christ
Sharing the Good News in Nebraska's Correctional Facilities

Followers of Christ (FoC) prison ministry leads worship as part of a monthly rotation of Protestant ministries for 3 populations between the Nebraska State Penitentiary (NSP) and the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women (NCCW), as well as Bible Studies and small groups.



FoC is also a connecting point to other programs such as Kairos, which brings the love of Jesus to people who would not normally attend worship, Crossroads Connection at Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church for people at Community Corrections in Omaha, the FEAST Ministry at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church for people at Community Corrections in Lincoln, and Bridges to Hope, which serves and encourages people transitioning back into the community after incarceration by providing clothing, kitchen/household goods, furniture, and hygiene products at no cost. These connections help inmates maintain the unity and support of the Body of Christ during incarceration and through transitions out of it, to stay out.

We are all on a journey to become who God made and redeemed us to be. FoC not only provides a means of showing God's love to people in prisons, but also of connecting people inside the walls with people outside the walls on this same journey. Visiting the prisoner has an impact on volunteers, as participants go from being "criminals," to being part of a shared humanity that Jesus loves.

Rev. Rob Corum serves as the pastor for Followers of Christ Prison Ministry of the Nebraska Synod. ELCA. Pastor Rob works with volunteers to experience and be the Body of Christ in worship at NSP and NCCW. We invite all disciples of Jesus to be part of the Body of Christ visiting the prisoner, if not as the feet & voice entering the prison, then as the hands & lungs, supporting the ministry. If you are interesting in volunteering or supporting this ministry then please contact Pastor Rob at prisonministry@nebraskasynod.org.



Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the "opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice." In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It's a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will continue to bring peace on earth.

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