

# The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502 May 22, 2018



# Grace has a new worship offering for the community!

**Evening Prayer with Jazz** 

Please join us at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of each month for a Jazz service in Christ Chapel.

Grace member Anne Melang-Thoren, jazz pianist, will be joined by other vocalists and musicians.



Our Father in heaven, help us to honor your name. (CEV, Matthew 6:9)

In June we remember Father's Day. That is why this verse catches my attention. Many have debated if the word "Father" is appropriate when naming God. What about "Mother"? Or some other parental title. But before we get too caught up in the name of God debate it is important to remember what we do with the name. We give honor to the name of God. Whatever the name and no matter the name we ask God to help us give honor to God.

So how do we give honor to God? In the Small Catechism Luther ties honor and love together. Honor is grounded in love. I honor God because I love God. So, I give God honor by revealing God to others in the best possible light. I always have the best interests of God in mind. I partner with God by keeping God's desire ahead of my own. I push my own ego aside so that God can fill me with the wisdom I need to honor God's desire in all that I do.

Honoring God is never easy. There are many temptations that want me to hate God and love myself. To forget about God and to follow only what I want. But honor is always tied to love for God and others in my life. So, honor God and others through the love you show them and the love they show in return.

Pr. Em 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.
- ◆ The deadline for the next Greeter will be June 20th. It will be mailed on Tuesday, June 26.
- A copy of the draft social statement on women and justice is available in the office. The response can be filled out and returned to the ELCA
- Congratulations to the following who were confirmed on Sunday, May 20.
   Kaitlyn Dumler, Luke Filbert, Kyle Givens, Cameron Krueger, Elli Petersen, Jacob Schott
- On the table outside the church office are copies of the updated Church constitution, the Congregational Survey Results and the ELCA Vitality Project results. Please take a copy if you would like to review them.
- Is there a graduate in your family this year? If so, please notify the church office as soon as possible so that all the names of the graduates may be included in the June 26 Greeter.

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

- •Canned meals (stew, ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, etc.)
- •Canned tuna
- Saltine crackers
- •Soups, condensed and ready to eat
- Spaghetti sauce
- Pancake syrup
- Dry dinners (Hamburger Helper)
- •Personal care items (shampoo, toothpaste, bath soap, etc. these items cannot be purchased with food stamps and are greatly needed by the families we serve. *Hotel/sample size items are great, too!*)
- Monetary donations to purchase food from the Food Bank
- •We are collecting the UPC labels from Best Choice products. Please clip and 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.



- Special Church Council Meeting---Tuesday, May 29th @ 7:00 pm Purpose: To approve job descriptions for organist, choir director(s), and accompanist.
- June WELCA General mtg. is our annual breakfast out, on June 6, at 9:30am at the Eatery Restaurant, at 48th and Van Dorn. Any and all Grace church women are invited, and no reservation is required. We will order off the menu. Please join us.
- Congregational Meeting: June 24, 2018, 10:20 am Purpose: To approve a financing plan for the replacement of the roof above Lesher Hall.
- Boy Scout Troop 30 will be hosting a Garage Sale on July 26-28 to support the troop's activity fund. Encourage members to start finding those 'treasures' that they'd like to donate to the Scouts. More info coming next month.



Bible School this year is July 9 - 13 and the theme is RENEW. This special Bible School week will empower our youth to grow in faith, have fun and make a difference in the world we live in. Each day the students will study the Parable of the Sower and learn how to care for God's creation.

A family meal will be served each evening starting at 5:30. We will then have opening services, lessons, crafts, music, and games. We are excited for your children. grandchildren and their friends to join us.

How can you help? We need volunteers to help us each evening with the food, crafts, and games.

#### So good

At the communion rail, a man held out his hand to receive the bread. His curious toddler by his side loudly asked, "Is it good, Daddy?" He smiled and nodded yes.

Indeed, communion is a good gift from Jesus, who wants us to remember his sacrifice for us. The next time you receive communion, remember to "taste and see that the LORD is *good!*" (Psalm 34:8, emphasis added).



#### **Dear Members of Grace**,

**Thank you** for helping "**Bridge the Gap**". The objective to get our total offerings to offset our total expenses by the end of May was successful, and we're financially back on track for 2018.

**Although we reached our goal, we can't relax**. Summer activities can result in lower worship attendance and reduced giving, which could put us right back in the same financial trench we just worked so hard to climb out of.

This summer, if you can't attend worship, you can still give by using our online offering service. Just select the Online Giving link from <a href="http://www.egrace.org/">http://www.egrace.org/</a> and make a one-time

donation, or create an account and set up a recurring donation that's automatically deducted from the account of your choice. It's easy and online giving really helps reduce summer offering slumps.



So once again, **Thank you** for your help with reaching our goal, and for your continued support, online or in-person, to **keep us in great financial shape for the rest of 2018**. Have a great summer -

Sincerely,

Jim Krueger Treasurer jkrueg@msn.com

# **Focusing on the Trinity**

Christians are monotheists, meaning we believe in only one God. Yet we talk about the doctrine of the Trinity. In the church year, the Sunday after Pentecost is known as Trinity Sunday. It's a day for focusing on what theologians call the Triune God — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Someone said about the concept of the Trinity, "You will lose your soul if you don't believe it, and you will lose your mind if you try to explain it."

The bottom line is this: God (one Person) has been revealed to mankind in three ways. He is our Creator, who then came to Earth as our Savior (in the person of Jesus) and is eternally present with us as the Holy Spirit.

On Trinity Sunday, we praise our Triune God for meeting all our needs.

The children's choir sang on May 13.





We extend our best wishes for all of God's blessings on our confirmation class of 2018: Kaitlyn, Luke, Kyle, Cameron, Elli and Jacob. We pray for their continued growth in faith, and that they may always know the power and richness of God's love for them.



When individuals representing Grace served at The Gathering Place on April 30, a question regarding a listing of the previous week's menus provided an insight into why guests really appreciate Grace's meals. Besides the main course and side dishes, "snack" was listed a couple evenings. Upon inquiry, manager James Riley explained that for some meals, the dessert, or "snack" was simply a miniature candy bar, and that home baked desserts such as those which folks from Grace bring are an unusual treat. On the 30th, besides cakes, brownies and crispy rice bars donated by Joy Kokes, Jan and Terry Branting, Ginny and Roger Potts, and Regina and Steve Paschold, the menu included bread, bananas, tossed lettuce salad contrib-

uted by Carla Ingersoll, and spaghetti with meat sauce prepared by Regina and Steve. After 134 portions had been served, all of those listed above helped to clean up.

Many Thanks Y

From the Social Ministry Committee (Steve, Regina, Larry, Sue, Pat, Barb, Pastor Megan, and Lori): One Day Without Shoes: We assisted Cornhusker Bank again this year for this event. The shoes collected and money collected went to the People's City Mission. Thank you to everyone for your donations.

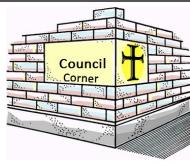
From Barry and Irene Moore: We thank our Grace friends for the cards, visits, concern and prayers while I was in the hospital and when Barry and I were in the Eastmont Care Center. Also thanks to Pastor Lesher for his visits.

From Sara Schott: Thank you to everyone who sent cards, gifts and well-wishes upon learning that I was leaving Grace. We are so sad to leave Grace. You have been our church home for more than 20 years, and what a blessing you have been. Jacob and Sophie have grown up here, without any of our extended family nearby, but you took them in and provided them with surrogate grandparents, aunties and uncles and cousins. We have made great, life-long friends in this place. As a church musician, who was called to the organ bench at the age of 15 when my hometown congregation needed someone to play, I have been so privileged to lead God's people in song in that wonderful worship space. Working with the choir members, the ringers, the brass and the kids of this congregation taught me so much and brought me such joy. Steve, Jacob, Sophie and I are taking many wonderful memories with us. We wish the congregation the best, and will keep you in our prayers. Much love to all of you, Sara

# Benefits of worship

We go to church to be with others who either know God or wish to know God. The church is a place of acceptance, friendship and fellowship. It's a place to honor and worship our loving Creator who accepts us as family.

In church we pray to God, sing about God, hear God's Word for us and find support and direction for whatever challenges face us. In church we find comfort in our sorrow, encouragement in our struggles and the Holy Spirit's assurance that "all things work together for good for those who love God" (Romans 8:28, NRSV).



**From the Church Council:** We would like to thank each and everyone of you for helping us **Bridge the Gap!** Your generous donations have helped us overcome this financial hurdle and it is greatly appreciated.

**From the Parish Education Committee:** Mark your calendars for the 2018 Vacation Bible School at Grace. It will be held from July 9th through July 13th from 5:30-8:00 PM.

From the Property Committee: We continue to experience some leaks from the roof over Lesher Hall. These will be repaired until a determination is made by the congregation as to when we will replace it. The committee has designated a above-ground planting area on the south side of Lesher Hall. Our VBS students will be planting flowers, shrubs, and other perennials in this area during their summer program. There will also be some work completed in the old choir rehearsal room downstairs as the old risers will be removed.

From the Social Ministry Committee: April 10th was the 8th annual *One Day without Shoes* event organized by Cornhusker Bank. The bank was inspired to start promoting this event by TOMS Shoes which donates a pair of shoes to a child in need in a third-world country for every pair of Tom's Shoes which are sold. Cornhusker Bank recognized the needs in our community for those with inadequate footwear and partnered with People's City Mission to help satisfy those needs.



On May 6, we hosted fellowship in honor of Day Hefner. She will be graduating from seminary this month. We wish her the best!

**Stars and stripes:** Since the early 1800s various groups have observed a day to display the American flag. Presidents Woodrow Wilson (in 1916) and Calvin Coolidge (in 1927) issued proclamations marking June 14 as National Flag Day. But it wasn't until August 3, 1949, that Congress approved June 14 as a day of national observance. President Harry Truman signed it into law.

The American flag has changed designs more than any other flag in the world. In fact, the United States didn't have a standardized flag until 1912! And even after standardization, the flag changed three more times with the addition of new stars representing new states.

# **Consecrated to serve**

"Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee," we sing.

But what does that mean? What does it mean to consecrate our lives to the Lord?

The rest of the hymn gives us lots of hints:

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose.

What we learn through the words of the hymn is that everything we do, in every aspect of our lives, we do in response to God's love for us – the love that forgives us, saves and supports us.

God gave us our hands, our feet, our silver and gold, our brains and our talents. We thank him by using those gifts to do God's work in the world.

The week of June 11 you will receive a Time and Talents survey in the mail. The survey will give you a chance to respond directly to God's love and God's gifts by indicating your willingness to volunteer in a variety of ways to serve God in our congregation and our community. Now more than ever, Grace needs your time and talents!

Please fill out the survey and return it the weekend of June 23/24, either in person or by mail. The Stewardship Committee will tabulate the surveys and forward the results to the church council and congregational committees in early August. The council and committees will be in touch by September with everyone who has offered to help, we hope this includes YOU!

As the hymn concludes, "Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee." This is how we consecrate our lives to God: by using the gifts God gives us to do God's work in our congregation, our community and our world.

#### **Priorities**

My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, "You're tearing up the grass." "We're not raising grass," Dad would reply. "We're raising boys."

Harmon Killebrew

#### Kids are free

A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed the offering plates. When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so everyone could hear: "Don't pay for me, Daddy. I'm under five."

# Church Council Meeting April 10, 2018

Present: Wendy Apple, Karen Billings, Dustin Haider, Carla Ingersoll, Doug Krueger, Jim Krueger, Pastor

Eric Lesher, Curt Mann, Roger Potts, Teddi Reckling, Dave Ripa, Sara Schott

Absent: Barb Smith

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by President Curt Mann.

Devotions were given by Curt Mann.

March Council Meeting minutes were approved as edited for correct attendees.

# President's Report:

The Council will host a dinner for the 6 confirmands and their families on Saturday, May 19, 2018 after worship.

Lutheran Center Banquet: The Intern Fundraiser Banquet will be May 1, 2018 on in the Regency Room in the UNL campus Union) from 6:00-9:00 pm. Grace will be hosting an 8-person table; the Leshers, Kruegers, Dave Ripa, Teddi Reckling, Carla Ingersoll, and Pastor Megan are expected to attend.

# **Staff Reports:**

**Senior Pastor:** Written Report **Director of Music:** Written Report Staff reports approved as written.

#### **Finanical Reports:**

**Treasurer:** Written Report

Financial Secretary: Written Report

Financial reports approved as written and filed for audit.

# **Committee Reports:**

Congregational Life: Written Report

Finance: Written Report Memorials: Did not meet

Parish Education: Written Report

VBS will be 7/9-7/13. The Baslers are donating materials, the Millers spearheading dinners, and

Debbie and Elizabeth are planning. Volunteers will be needed for "guides."

Eagle scout project approved to build raised beds on the lawn for planting.

Sunday school schedule planning will occur at the next meeting.

Property: Written Report
Social Ministry: Written Report
Stewardship: Written Report
Worship and Music: Written Report

The committee would like to take a proposal to the Foundation to fund the Choral Scholar program for another year, as well as for sponsorship for a Lincoln Organ Showcase concert to be hosted at Grace this fall.

Dave Ripa made a motion to allow Sara to approach the Foundation for funding for the Cholar Scholar program and a Lincoln Organ Organ Showcase Concer; Dustin Haider seconded; motion carried.

Committee reports approved as written.

#### **Old Business:**

Roof Over Lesher Hall

Financing will like need to be in the form of a loan; the congregation will need to approve a loan of

Further investigation into the loan will remain on hold until after the Bridge the Gap campaign

Teddi Reckling made a motion to have a Congregational meeting 6/24 to determine financing for roof; Dustin Haider seconded; motion carried.

Bathrooms by Lesher Hall

There is possible money in the Phil Sorensen fund and from Lenten dinners.

The project will currently remain on hold as other financial issues are being address.

Ongoing Large Maintenance Projects

The Council should present a list at each November congregational meeting for what we'd like to accomplish in the following year.

**Survey Results** 

Dustin will create summary of responses to the three questions.

The summary, as well as graphs should be available to the congregation outside office and at each door at worship by May 6, 2018.

#### **New Business:**

Jim Krueger Presented on Current Financial Situation:

Our current cash reserve is significantly depleted compared to normal for this time of year.

March's expenses were higher than normal/expected; did include the insurance deductible for the prior hail claim on the roof and increased utility and snow removal costs due to colder than normal weather.

Would like to see more people signed up for automated giving to lessen the affect of decreased attendance on Sundays during inclement weather.

A letter has been composed to send to the Congregation regarding our current financial status, which can be sent out with the quarterly offering statements. Will also include an envelope to make an additional donation for a "Bridge the Gap" fund.

Curt will present a temple talk at the beginning of worship Sunday April 15. We will include the financial status in the Greeter, the Wednesday email, and a visual representation for the atrium.

Goal would be to be complete the campaign by May 27, 2018.

Pastor discussed the possibility of hiring a company to assist with a possible capital campaign.

Two possible companies are Brown Church Development and Kairos Church Resource Development.

Pastor will contact these companies to determine their cost to provide an assessment of needs/capacity.

Sara Schott provided an update on the Youth Group

The youth have suggested creating a periodic congregational game night for all ages, as well as a group bike ride at some point this summer.

The youth have expressed a desire for a ping pong table for the youth room; the old table was disposed of at some point.

Meeting adjourned at Teddi, Carla 9:42pm.

Closing prayer led by Pastor Lesher.

Respectfully Submitted, Wendy Apple, Council Secretary

June 3	
Assisting Minister	Pr Megan Morrow
Lector	Connie Whyrick
Communion Assistants	Connie Whyrick, Kathie Remington, Arlene Reighard, Brady Garvin
Altar Guild	Lois Schuerman, Betty Shaw
Communion bread	Pat Lickei
Greeters	Steve & Teddi Recklling
Acolyte	Conrad Schroeder
June 10	
Assisting Minister	Tina Loseke
Lector	Kaitlyn Dumler
Communion Assistants	Kevin Dumler, Dennis & Bev Madison, Jeannette Allen
Altar Guild	Jon & Connie Thorson
Communion bread	Bev Madison
Greeters	Doug & Jeannette Allen
Acolyte	Kaitlyn Dumler
June 17	
Assisting Minister	Jacob Krueger
Lector	Curt Mann
Communion Assistants	Curt Mann, Dave Ripa, Steve & Tricia Rosno
Communion bread	Cheryl Petersen
Greeters	Doug & Sarah Krueger
Acolyte	Erin Krueger
June 24	
Assisting Minister	Roger Potts
Lector	Amy Knobbe
Communion Assistants	Joyce Krueger, Bruce & Cheryl Petersen, Dave Ripa
Altar Guild	Dustin & Rachel Haider
Communion bread	Dave Ripa
Greeters	Matt, Amy, Nora, Conner, Caleb Knobbe
Acolyte	Kaiden Noecker



Matt & Jordan Peppmuller 4 David & Kathren Miller 6 Larry & Cindy Watchorn 7 Melvin & Darlene Brydl Art & Bev Hillman 8 Jay & Amy Ostermeyer 12 Steve & Laila Faust Barry & Irene Moore 13 **Bob & Sandie Anderson** Brent & Kendra Jensen 15 EJ & Jill Marshall 16 Gerald & Debra Hilde 18 Greg & Susan Barnason Dennis & Charlyne Berens Sawyer & Felicia Jager 24 Keith & Corene Herbster 25 Chris & Nancy Andersen 27 **Devin & Jordan Billings** 29



1 **Andy Anderson** Larry Group **Emily Johnson** 

5 Charlene Johnson

Darlene Brydl Deb Hilde

Patty Plambeck

Anders Jensen

11 Michael Carnes Jay Ostermeyer

12 Felicia Jager **Brad Potts** 

13 Julie Lantis Kyle Petersen

14 Joel Brown 15 Ella Billings Peter Schnake

16 Adam Brown Beckett Jensen Anne Senkbeil

17 Kendra Jensen

18 **Greg Barnason** Ansli Petersen

21 Chloe Fitzgibbon

25 Palmer Hildreth Shyanne Schroeder

26 Norah Noecker

27 Susan Barnason

28 Sharon Genthe

29 Bruce Petersen Connie Whyrick

30 Delmar Motycka

Kevin & Anne Melang-Thoren



# Friday, June 1

5:30 pm YWCA respite care

#### Saturday, June 2

10:30 am Lincoln Literacy 5:30 pm Worship

# Sunday, June 3

9:00 am Worship \*
10:30 am ASF, fellowship
3:00 pm Lincoln Luth. Choir
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

# Monday, June 4

6:00 pm Chapel reserved

#### Tuesday, June 5

9:30 am Al-Anon7:00 pm Committee Meetings8:00 pm AA Mtg.

# Wednesday, June 6

1:30 pm Chapel reserved

# Thursday, June 7

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

# Friday, June 8

5:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved

# Saturday, June 9

10:30 am L.L.C. meeting5:30 pm worship6:30 pm Lounge reserved

#### Sunday, June 10

9:00 am Worship \*
10:30 am A.S.F., Fellowship
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

# Tuesday, June 12

9:30 am Al-Anon 6:30 pm WELCA #6—lounge 7:00 pm Council Mtg., WRT Mtg. 8:00 pm AA Mtg.

# Wednesday, June 13

1:30 pm Chapel reserved

# Thursday, June 14

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

# Saturday, June 16

10:30 am Lincoln Lit classes5:30 pm Worship

# Sunday, June 17

9:00 am Worship \*
10:30 am Fellowship
5:00 pm Latino worship
7:00 pm Jazz Evening Prayer—
Chapel

# Monday, June 18

5:00 pm Gathering Place

# Tuesday, June 19

9:30 am Al-Anon 8:00 pm AA Mtg.

# Thursday, June 21

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

# Saturday, June 23

10:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes 11:30 am Lesher Hall reserved 5:30 pm Worship

#### Sunday, June 24

9:00 am Worship \*
10:30 am Special meeting
2:00 pm Lincoln Lutheran Choir
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

# Monday, June 25

6:30 pm Memorials Committee Mtg.

# Tuesday, June 26

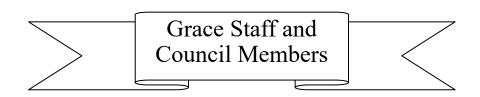
9:30 am Al-Anon 8:00 pm AA Mtg.

# Thursday, June 28

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

# Saturday, June 30

10:00 am Lincoln Lit. classes5:30 pm Worship



# Rev. Eric Lesher,

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

# Sandi Knippelmeyer,

Parish Administrator office@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: Congregational life Carla Ingersoll: Congregational life

Doug Krueger: Property

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