

Living in Grace

Celebrating
125 years

1890 – 2015



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502

April 28, 2015

Calendar of Upcoming Quasquicentennial Anniversary Events

May 3	Grace Talent Show & Cookbook Potluck - 5:30 PM
May 9-10	Worship with Guest Preacher: Bishop Dennis Anderson
June 13	Quasquicentennial Banquet: begins at 5:30 PM
June 14	Quasquicentennial Festival Worship at 9:00 AM & Fellowship Hour with Bishop Brian Maas

RSVP to the Fellowship Banquet!

Reserve your place at the Quasquicentennial Weekend Fellowship Banquet on Saturday, June 13! The banquet will combine food, fellowship, history and entertainment into a night to remember. Several former pastors, interns, musicians and staff will be attending the event, as will our current Bishop of the Nebraska Synod, Brian Maas. In order for everyone to have the opportunity to share in this celebration, there will be no Saturday worship service on June 13.

The banquet will be held at The Towers Event Center, 6891 A Street, in Lincoln. Social hour will begin at 5:30pm; dinner will be at 6:30pm. The cost of the banquet will be \$20 per adult meal and \$10 per child meal (ages 12 and under). In order for us to plan seating and food appropriately, reservations are required. Please RSVP with the number of people attending, and the corresponding payment amount, using the reply card enclosed with your recent invitation. Reservations are due in the church office no later than Sunday, May 31. Make your checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church, with Q125 in the memo portion.

Pastor's Prayers

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our vision statement says these powerful words: *GATHERED TO WORSHIP, CALLED TO WITNESS, SENT TO SERVE!* Those words are right up front in our Ministry Site Profile, being used so well during this time of searching for a new senior pastor. Please use these words in your personal prayer time, as all together we look to the bright future ahead of us, built upon the strong foundation we have at Grace Lutheran Church!

As you read this, you probably already have heard the good news from the Call Committee that the next step of moving ahead with a chosen candidate is underway. We aren't "at the finish line" yet, but we are getting closer.

Let's remember we have not been "on hold" during any part of this transitional time. I'd like to mention some things that have been looked at, studied, reviewed, and in some cases, changed during these recent months. Like most congregations I have served over these past 15 years of intentional interim ministry, we needed to do some rebuilding.

For example, when I arrived last August, the Council had already undertaken the task of updating the church's constitution. It was ratified by the whole congregation at our January 2015 meeting. So, we might say, well that's done, and a big part is. However, now is the time to take a good look at the by-laws so that our committees review the words and decide whether what is written down is what the committee really is about.

Another example that's been accomplished with help from the Council has been going over the staff employment agreements. Last fall, I asked staff what they had for job descriptions. Again, some things were clear, but other things had not been reviewed for quite a while. The Council appointed an ad hoc committee to review the documents, and, now we have a process in place for an annual cycle of updating the job description as needed, looking at the compensation package, and providing an appraisal for each staff member. We expect this effort to be helpful to the new Senior Pastor who comes here to also act as Head of Staff.

A policy subcommittee was formed by the Council to take a look at various policies we have. Some are written but others seem to be "word-of-mouth," which is a category that I call "tribal knowledge." That means there are some things we take for granted and think that "everybody knows," yet probably only a few know. It's good to look at it to be sure we haven't unintentionally set up barriers to participation in our community.

We've had many more things going on, and here's a short list: The Council took time away for a visioning retreat. The Mutual Ministry committee is focusing on how they can "mutually" be helpful to a new pastor for our ministry together. A Council officer and I spent individual time with staff members last fall to validate the hard work they had to take on through multiple pastor changes. We now have fairly regular staff meetings too. Council meetings have good discussion time, even on tough issues. Church members lifted up their hopes and some hurts at the listening sessions we held. In the meantime, the mortgage was paid off and Leshner Lounge was completely redone. We've done a lot to try for a smooth transition to a newly called pastor. And don't forget, we are still worshipping, fellowshiping, learning and praying together. Okay, folks, take a minute to say a prayer of thanks to God for all these blessings, and then lift up an arm, bend it down, and give yourself a pat on the back!

As the Body of Christ, and in distinct ways, we have celebrated the many good ministries happening here even while grieving the times of tension we experienced from having five pastors in the past 13 years. Through it all, God's abiding presence has been felt, and so this congregation remains faithful to being *GATHERED TO WORSHIP, CALLED TO WITNESS, SENT TO SERVE*. Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Sylvia Karlsson



Ill or Hospitalized: Judy Holtgrewe; Carol Bernasek; De Ferguson; Harold Paschold; Birdeen Havlicek; Beth Kimmerling Dumler; Vern Hunzeker; Rodney Wood; Donna Nelson

Our Christian sympathy is expressed to the entire Paschold Family on the death of Aldyth, age 96, on Good Friday. Our sincere condolences to her husband, Harold, sons and spouses: Steve and Regina, Dave and Susan, Calvin and Bonnie and all their families. She and Harold celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary January 25th. May she rest in God's eternal peace.

Our Christian sympathy is expressed to the family of Cy Miller, age 94, who died on April 16. Cy most recently lived at Orchard Park, but was recuperating from several falls at Homestead Rehab at the time of his death.

The deadline for the next Greeter will be May 20th. It will be mailed on May 27.

Bulletins have been shared by: Darlene Stutheit [Our Savior Lutheran, Wayne, NE]; Robert Stimbert [Southview Baptist Church, Lincoln]

The new church directories are in!! To pick up your copy, please stop by the library either before or after Sunday worship service and see Janet Jodais.

Wanted: A typewriter, electric or standard, in good working condition, for the Archives Room. If you have one you would donate please call Sandi (402-474-1505) or Phyllis (402-477-4300)

On Sunday, May 3, fellowship will be in honor of the birthday of Frank James, hosted by his family and Beth Kimmerling Dumler, who after 10 years of being our Administrative Assistant in the church office, has decided it's time to retire! Beth's last official day is April 30th. However, she will still be a volunteer in the office when we need her!

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 23 Greeter.



Adult Study Forum for May:

May 3rd: Bread for the World with Kristin Ostrom, all-congregational event

May 10th: No ASF; fellowship hour with Bishop Dennis Anderson, Q125 event

May 17th: May 24th; May 31st: These dates are remaining open, depending upon events with pastoral candidate/congregational meeting. If these events do not occur on these dates, a study will be announced at the appropriate time.

June, July, August: Adult Study Forum is taking a three-month break to re-group, refresh and reflect. We welcome your ideas for topics for ASF in the fall; please speak with me if you have suggestions or send them by email to me at pr.bob@egrace.org.



Thrivent Financial Members will meet again on Sunday, May 3rd, 10:40 a.m. in the Staff Conference Room. Bring your cup of coffee and get caught up on the latest Thrivent news as well as to have some fellowship time. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us.

The Grace Talent Show & Cookbook Potluck: Now is the Time! A sign-up sheet for the Grace Talent show, to be held on May 3rd, is posted by the office, and we need YOU to share one of your talents! We will kick off the evening at 5:30 pm, with a potluck featuring dishes made from recipes out of the latest Grace cookbook, and when the eating is done, the entertaining will begin! Both the Children's Choir and the Bells of Grace will perform, as well as individual acts. If you have any questions, please see Sara Schott. Sara and Jameson are willing to accompany instrumentalists or singers who need piano accompaniment, as long as you get us the music in a timely fashion! Please bring your own table service and drinks will be provided.

Women of the ELCA – The May Unit meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6th, at noon. Group 1 will host the luncheon, Beth Kimmerling Dumler will give devotions. The program will be presented by Linda Stevenson of Aging Partners on *Depression*. Group members will be called, others may call the Church Office for a reservation. The cost of the luncheon is \$4.00. Everyone is welcome – join us for good food, interesting programs, and fellowship. This is a good way to get acquainted with other women in the congregation.

Do you like to sew? A group of women meet every Thursday morning in the lower level sewing room to make quilts and lap robes and would welcome you to sew with them. Did you know that the quilts they make are given to the People's City Mission, Lutheran World Relief, Prison Ministry, Friendship Home, and other organizations that help the needy? That members of the congregation who are hospitalized are given a lap robe – and newly baptized babies receive a blanket? ALSO – all types of fabric are needed for quilt blocks and quilt backing (exception – no drapes). There are many opportunities to get involved!

If you are 55 years or older, come join us at Yesterday's Youth, Wednesday, May 13th at 11:30. We meet the second Wednesday of each month in Leshar 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 will be pot luck, so bring a dish to share and your table service. Drinks are furnished. Come and enjoy the fellowship. The program will a DVD on the book of Esther from the Old Testament, "For Such A Time."



Ascension Day Worship
Thursday, May 14
6:30 pm

First communion class offered

We are planning a First Communion Class at Grace Lutheran for Saturday morning, May 9, 2015, 9:00 to 12:00 in the lounge and kitchen area. We have resource materials appropriate for children as young as 3 and up to 4th grade. Our day of celebrating the First Communion for these children will be Sunday May 10, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. We will want to take a photograph of the children prior to worship that day at about 8:30 in the nave of the church. If your child is already taking Holy Communion, but has not had the class, please consider bringing him or her to the class. It's a good way for the children to meet each other and learn more about being the Body of Christ together. Let's recall that many of us grew up in a time when younger children were not "allowed" to receive Holy Communion. However, we know through studying history that this practice of insisting children be older in order to "understand" is quite recent and not biblical. During the time of Martin Luther, for example, everyone was encouraged to participate in the sacrament, including very young children – even babies. **Please call the church office at 402-474-1505 and let us know if your child will be coming!** It's important that we have enough books and enough dough to make bread! By the way, if you have any food concerns, we provide grape juice and gluten-free wafers for communion at each worship service too.



The family of Aldyth Paschold greatly appreciates the support shown to Harold and others during their time of loss. The cards, the visits, the pastors' care, and the many heartfelt prayers have allowed good memories and sincere devotion to be remembered as treasured blessings.

The Quasiquicentennial Committee would like to thank the congregation for continuing to make the Guest Preacher Series such a phenomenal success!! The time with Pastor Hallstrom and his family was wonderful and reflective. It was also unique in simultaneously celebrating both our liturgical and musical heritage!

Nora Johnson would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, visits and especially for keeping her in your prayers. She also wants to thank the sewing group for the beautiful handmade quilt.



I truly found my time at Grace this past weekend a rewarding experience. Thank you for giving me the opportunity. Please pass along my gratitude to Pastor Karlsson, to the Church Council, to the 125th Anniversary Committee, and to the many friends who took time to come and visit with us. This was truly a sublime experience. Thank you all once again.
In Christ, +Pastor Tom Hallstrom

We welcome the following who were received into membership at the Easter Eve service:

Lonnie Brejcha - sponsors are Pastor Doug and Jeannette Allen. Lonnie has been attending at Grace for this past year and is excited to join our church through baptism.

Emilie Collins—sponsor is Darlene Stutheit. Emilie is mother to Melissa Roberts and works in administration in the probation department of Lincoln. She is a lifelong Lutheran and is joining us through affirmation of baptism.

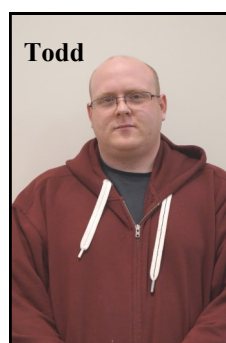
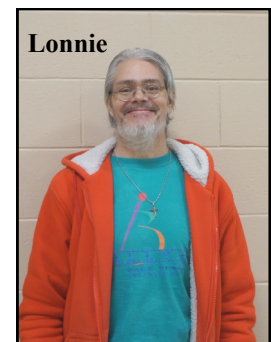
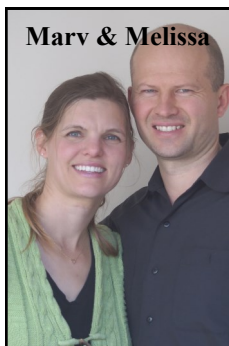
Gigi Lange— sponsors are Pastor Doug and Jeannette Allen. Gigi grew up in the Lutheran church, primarily at the two churches, St. Luke and St. Paul, in Emerson, Nebraska. She comes to us through affirmation of baptism.

Marv & Melissa Roberts—sponsor is Carol Olson. Marv and Melissa's three children have been baptized at Grace, and they are joining their children in membership here. Sam, Anna, and Will are growing up fast, and keep them very busy. They are both joining through affirmation of baptism.

Todd Robinson—sponsor is Terry Branting. Todd is married to the former Sandra Anderson, and their baby girl Sydney was baptized here last fall. Todd is a manager in the fast food industry. He grew up in California and is joining us through affirmation of baptism.

Peter Schnake—sponsor is Dave Ripa. Peter has been attending Grace for several months, and feels like this is a good fit for him in his faith journey. He is a published author of downloadable fiction books that are not printed the old fashioned way. He is joining through affirmation of baptism.

Chris Schroeder—sponsor is Terry Branting. Chris is married to Judi Schroeder and has been attending at Grace for a long time. He works at Kawasaki making cars for subway trains. He grew up in a small country church and is joining us through affirmation of baptism.



**In various ways, pastors equip Christians to be
God's hands in the community and the world
— The Stewardship Committee**

Hear the word “pastor,” and you’re likely to think of someone preaching from the pulpit or praying at the altar. Leading worship is probably the most visible part of a pastor’s job.

But a pastor’s duties and commitment at Grace, like a pastor’s duties and commitment in any congregation, go well beyond the few hours a week that God’s people gather in public worship. Those duties range from teaching and counseling to working with staff and congregational leaders, all with the same goal: to help the people of Grace be God’s hands in the world.

Pastor Sylvia High Karlsson, currently interim pastor at Grace, said there is no typical day in her job. But she said the joy she finds in leading worship reminds her each week of her call to ministry, and she has felt that joy here at Grace and the other churches she has served.

Of course, that experience in the chancel require a lot of preparation, and Pastor Karlsson said she uses a variety of resources as she prepares a sermon. “As Lutherans, we study the Bible in context,” she said, and she has accumulated files of commentaries on Scripture passages to help provide that context for a particular text and topic.

She said she also appreciates what she learns by attending the clergy “cluster” meetings where pastors of area ELCA congregations discuss Scripture and bounce ideas off each other. “That’s where a pastor gets fed,” she said.

Although she starts working on a sermon about a month in advance, she said she usually is polishing her final draft on Thursday or Friday before she will preach the sermon. “I’ve found the Holy Spirit works best under deadline,” she said with a smile.

But, important as it may be, leading worship is only part of a pastor’s job. Roger Potts, Property Committee member, and Curt Mann, Worship and Music Committee member, both named communication as one of a pastor’s most important tasks.

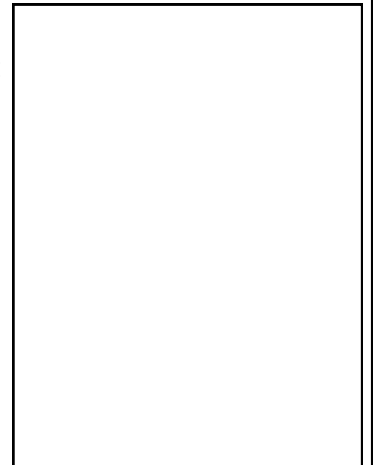
When it comes to communication, Pastor Karlsson, pictured above (left) with Grace’s Parish Administrator, Sandi Knipplemeyer, said she sees her job as helping all the staff and lay leaders to be as transparent as possible about their various projects, goals and activities. That means staying in close touch with the congregation via the bulletin, The Greeter, bulletin boards and announcements – both “real time” and via email and the church’s website.

Helping maintain that kind of transparent communication is a primary way the pastor leads the congregation, said Margaret Gipson, church council member.

“The pastor doesn’t orchestrate everything that’s happening,” Margaret said, “but she’s a part of all of it.”

Administration also is a major part of her ministry, Pastor Karlsson said. A pastor needs to know the “business” of the congregation, including its financial condition. “That’s stewardship,” she said, “and that’s ministry.”

— continued on next page





But working individually with people who need her help or support is also essential, she said. She tries to be sensitive to people who may be under stress and reach out to them, sometimes just to have coffee and an informal conversation, sometimes to provide more structured pastoral care.

Carla Ingersoll, a member of the Call Committee, said a pastor's role as a counselor can be crucial, helping to bring God's love, grace and comfort into the equation when someone is going through tough times.

The pastor also helps the congregation reach out to the larger community, said Brady Garvin, a member of the Youth Committee. And, in fact, that is part of the vow of ordination every pastor takes, Pastor Karlsson said: working to extend the Kingdom of God into the community.

In addition, an intentional interim pastor takes on some duties specific to that position, Pastor Karlsson said. She has served as an intentional interim at 11 congregations since 2000. At each one, she has worked with elected congregational leaders to improve their role as leaders and also to help them update and streamline the congregation's primary documents such as the constitution, staff job descriptions and church policies.

ELCA pastors and lay people agree that a congregation should not and cannot rely on a pastor to manage and direct every aspect of a congregation's ministry. After all, Lutherans believe in the priesthood of all believers and the joyful duty of every Christian to be God's hands in the world.

But a pastoral leader helps to build up a community of believers, grounded in faith, as they reach out to share that faith with their neighbors.



It was a warm day on March 30 when people from Grace served at The Gathering Place, but hot bowls of chili were popular, as evidenced by the 129 portions distributed. Regina and Steve Paschold coordinated the meal preparation, which also included applesauce, crackers, and tossed lettuce salad donated by Carla Ingersoll. Dessert items were contributed by Pat Lickei, Dennis Madison, Joy Kokes, and Helen and Don Carnes. All of the individuals mentioned above helped to serve and to clean up after the meal.

On April 20, a day after the Third Sunday of Easter, the meal served at The Gathering Place had an Easter flavor. Ham, scalloped potatoes, bread, and green beans were prepared by Regina and Steve Paschold. The menu also included bananas, as well as cakes and brownies donated by Helen and Don Carnes, Joy Kokes, and Ginny and Roger Potts. Helping to serve and to clean up after 134 portions were distributed were Helen, Joy, Ginny, Roger, Regina, Steve, Pastor Bob and Darlene Rademacher, and Carla Ingersoll. Thanks go to Barb and Rocky Wussow and to Norma Larson-Bryant for recent financial donations to support this important ministry.

Living in Grace

Celebrating
125 years

1890 – 2015



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Guest Preacher Series: Celebrating our Congregation's Liturgical Heritage May 2015

The Quasquicentennial Committee cordially invites you to the fifth installment of the Guest Preacher Series! Bishop Dennis Anderson will be returning to Grace to preach during services on May 9 & 10!

Rev. Dr. Dennis A. Anderson served as Bishop of the Nebraska Synod from 1978 to 1990. More specifically, he was the Nebraska Synod Bishop for the Lutheran Church in America from 1978-1987, and subsequently for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from 1988-1990. He served as bishop while Stan Ecklund and Tom Hallstrom served as Senior Pastors at Grace Lutheran Church.

In 1990, Bishop Anderson left Nebraska to serve as President of Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. He held this position until 2000. Since 2000, Bishop Anderson has continued to serve the ELCA in several capacities and positions. He has also written a variety of articles and publications, including three books: *Baptism and... A Series of Sermons Relating Sunday Faith to Monday World*; *Jesus, Our Brother in Suffering: Messages for Lent and Easter*; and *Searching for Faith Within a Confused Society*.

Bishop Anderson was raised in Minnesota. He was born in Glenwood, graduated high school in nearby Morris, and subsequently graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. In 1963 he graduated with a Masters of Divinity from Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. He first came to Nebraska in 1973, where he served at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island.

Bishop Anderson and his wife, Barbara, currently live in Omaha. They have two children, Kristin and Charles, and four grandchildren. Their daughter Kristin is married to Rev. Mike Ostrom, who served as Senior Pastor here at Grace from 2012-2014. Please plan on attending these services to hear Bishop Anderson's message. In addition, please join us for Fellowship Hour following the May 10 service. There will be no Adult Study Forum that Sunday so that the congregation may catch up with Bishop Anderson and share memories of Grace!

Quasquicentennial Commemorative Items

Tote bags, travel mugs and cookbooks commemorating our 125th anniversary will be available for sale during fellowship hour on Sunday, May 10! Proceeds will go toward quasquicentennial activities. So if you've been waiting to purchase any of these items...mark your calendar accordingly!

Seminarian Support Fund

The Grace Church Council has approved the Seminarian Support Committee's request to set up a fund to receive donations to assist our three seminarians with living expenses. Seminarians are encouraged *not* to hold jobs so they may devote all their time to study; thus some seminarians, especially those with families, need food stamps in order to survive. These students often receive no financial assistance from home or church and are literally "going out on the limb of faith" in order to complete their studies and to serve in Christ's church. This is our opportunity to help lift the burden of worry of where the next meal is coming from or how they can put gas in their car or provide diapers and necessities for young children. You can help.

Grace is blessed to have three seminarians at three of our ELCA seminaries at this time. If you would like to donate funds, in any amount, to assist these seminarians with their ongoing living expenses, you may indicate on your check or offering envelope or in a mailing to the church office earmarked "Seminarian Support Fund." All funds will be divided among the seminarians with an accounting to the church council. Our support continues throughout the summer months as well as the school year as the seminarians continue with Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), or begin internship or work in other ministries through the summer, often with no pay, but with the expenses continuing.

Any help you can give will be appreciated by the seminarians as well as by the Grace Seminarian Support Committee: Connie Whyrick, Lynn Chamberlin and Pastor Bob. Thank you so very much on behalf of our three seminarians.



Library Notes –

Who are the Poor? See the Library Bookcart

Without a Net: Middle class and homeless in America

Michele Kennedy A newly divorced Mom with only her car and two kids

Nickeled and Dimed: on (not) getting by in America by Barbara Ehrenreich

Experiences working as a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing home aide, and Wal-Mart salesperson

Alone – Not Lonely by Janet Sesken Independent living for women over 50
Janet Jodais, Librarian

Volunteers needed to prepare for Summer Camp at Carol Joy Holling!

Saturday, May 16

8 am—1:30 pm (ending with lunch at 12:30)

All skill levels are needed!

There are lots of options—from setting up tents and moving bunk beds to planting flowers and cleaning. Please let Amanda know if you can help... asliva@nlom.org

The 2015 Nebraska Synod Assembly will be held May 28-30, 2015, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska.

"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." (Isaiah 64:8)

This scripture verse eloquently illustrates the relationship we have with God: God's hands formed us and we are the work of His hands. But what does faith formation look like in a world that is increasingly fast paced and tech-savvy?

The **2015 Nebraska Synod Assembly, "Formed by Faith: The Work of God's Hands,"** will explore emerging practices of 21st Century faith formation and present examples of faith formation strategies that utilize new digital tools, technologies and resources.

Come and experience the church together at the 2015 Synod Assembly! Grace's Voting Members will be Steve & Tricia Rosno and Lindsey Howard.

Presenters: John Roberto of Lifelong Faith Associates is editor of the journal Lifelong Faith. He works as a consultant to churches and national organizations, teaches courses and conducts workshops in faith formation, and has authored books and program manuals in faith formation.

The Rev. Justin Eller has been a missionary and ordained ELCA pastor since 2009. He has served in Bolivia as an educator of pastoral teams in the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church and a professor at the Andean Ecumenical Higher Institute of Theology

Rozella White is the ELCA's Program Director for Young Adult Ministry. She has served youth, young adult and family ministries in Texas, Pennsylvania and Georgia and as the Youth and Family Ministry Ministry Coordinator for the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.

GREETERS

May 3 Margaret and Philip Gipson; Mike and Lynette Lewis

May 10 Betsy Johnson; Kathleen Miller; Jacob Krueger

May 17 Glen and Bonnie Dohman; Carla Ingersoll

May 24 Ken Johnson; Neil Larson

May 31 Steve and Teddi Reckling; Jeannette Allen

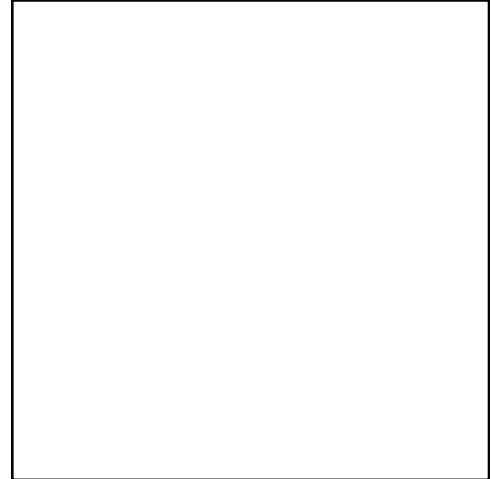
Serving as greeters is an excellent way to get better acquainted with people in the congregation; please contact Jeannette Allen (402-420-9422) if you might be willing to assist in this.

BIKE-A-THON! Bridges to Hope, sponsored by Thrivent Financial and Followers of Christ Prison Ministry, will be hosting their 4th annual Bike-A-Thon on Saturday, June 13th, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Funds raised will allow us to assist former offenders while they are moving out of the correctional institutions and into the community. For more details and to register go to the event section of Bridges to Hope web page at www.bridgestohope.org or <http://www.getmeregistered.com/BridgestoHope>



April 19, 2015 - Hat Sunday!

As part of Grace's Quasquicentennial events, it seems fitting that we should celebrate a fashion mainstay – hats!



A Big "Thank You" to the Yard Clean-up Group!

The Property Committee would like to express appreciation to all who helped out at the Annual Spring Yard Clean-up on Saturday, March 21st. We had approximately 30 helpers including at least 20 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, leaders and parents of Pack and Troop #30. We want to give them a big special thanks. Several church members including some youth group members and property committee people volunteered and without everyone's hard work this would not have been successful. We cleaned up around the whole yard and facility and edged all the walkways. We hauled out a large trailer load of

debris making the grounds look really good. Terry Branting provided the trailer. Goodies and beverages were provided for all.

Roger Potts,
Property Committee Chairman



May Volunteers

May 3, 2015	Easter 5 - Kids choir
Assisting Minister	Roger Potts
Lector	Chloe Fitzgibbon
Communion Assistants	Ginny Potts, Tina Loseke, Jan Branting, Karen Billings
Acolyte	Chloe Fitzgibbon
Greeters	Philip & Margaret Gipson, Mike & Lynette Lewis
Altar Guild	Lori Drake, Carla Ingersoll
Communion Bread	Margaret Gipson
May 10, 2015	Easter 6 - Adult choir
Assisting Minister	Dean Dumler
Lector	Alan Givens
Communion Assistants	Bishop Anderson, Bob Anderson, Brady Garvin, Phyllis Krueger
Acolyte	Kyle Givens
Greeters	Betsy Johnson, Kathleen Miller, Jacob Krueger
Altar Guild	Cindy Eberspacher
Communion Bread	Cindy Eberspacher
May 17, 2015	Easter 7 -Sunday School choir
Assisting Minister	Barb Smith
Lector	Kaitlyn Dumler
Communion Assistants	Kevin Dumler, Lois Schuerman, Dave Ripa, Charlie Leftridge
Acolyte	Kaitlyn Dumler
Greeters	Glen & Bonnie Drohman, Carla Ingersoll
Altar Guild	Ginny Potts, Darlene Rademacher
Communion Bread	Katrina Lange
May 24, 2015	Pentecost - Adult Choir
Assisting Minister	Jacob Krueger
Lector	Carol Olson
Communion Assistants	Arlene Reighard, Darlene Stutheit, Dan Warren, Carol Olson
Acolytes\Procession	Jacob & Sophie Schott, Kyle Givens, Chloe Fitzgibbon
Greeters	Ken Johnson, Neil Larson
Altar Guild	Jon & Connie Thorson
Communion Bread	Pat Lickei
May 31, 2015	Holy Trinity – Adult Choir
Assisting Minister	Darlene Rademacher
Lector	Peter Schnake
Communion Assistants	Peter Schnake, Bruce & Cheryl Petersen, Kathie Remington
Acolyte	Cameron Krueger
Greeters	Steve & Teddi Reckling, Jeannette Allen
Altar Guild	Mark & Karen Billings
Communion Bread	Dave Ripa

Grace Lutheran Church
March Council Meeting
March 10, 2015

Present: Doug Allen, Dennis Berens, Terry Branting, Margaret Gipson, Pastor Sylvia, Jacob Krueger, Teddi Reckling, Dave Ripa, Barb Smith, Jeanne Weisbrook, Connie Whyrick
Absent: Steve Rosno (Excused), Lynn Chamberlin (Excused)
Guest: Sara Schott

Vice-President Denny Berens called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call taken

Connie Whyrick provided the opening devotion and prayer.

The February Council meeting minutes were reviewed. Connie Whyrick made a motion to approve and file the minutes with minor modifications. Seconded by Barb Smith. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Pastor Sylvia shared correspondence from Prescott School – asking for someone from Grace to serve on the Advisory Committee, Larry and Sue Clymer will check on this

Staff Reports:

Senior Pastor: Written report presented.

Pastor Sylvia asked who was attending the Chili with the Bishop, will extend an invitation to the entire congregation

New member class will began on March 1. A final list of potential members will be emailed to council for approval; it was proposed that new members be welcomed on April 4 at the Easter Vigil.

Visitation Pastor: Written report presented.

Director of Music: Written report presented.

Financial Secretary's Report: Written report presented.

Treasurer's Report: Written report presented.

Barb Smith made a motion to accept and file for audit all staff reports. Seconded by Terry Branting. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Parish Education: Written report presented.

Evangelism: Written reported presented. Discussion was held on the website.

Property: Written report presented.

Social Ministry: Written report presented.

Stewardship: Written report presented. Dave R. made a motion, that with the support of the Finance Committee, the Stewardship Committee requests that every standing committee submit its 2016 budget to the Finance Committee by July 1, recognizing that budgets can be adjusted through September. Seconded by Teddi R. Motion carried. Dave also recommended, we compile a group email list from the information collected by the photo directory company, for future communication to the congregation.

Youth: Written report presented.

Memorials: Did not meet.

Worship and Music: Written report presented. VBS was discussed.

Mutual Ministry: No report.

Quasquicentennial Committee: Written report presented.

Ad hoc Subcommittee on Church Policy: Terry B. reported Policy Review Committee continues to meet.

Membership Committee: Currently going through the church membership rolls.

Dave R. made a motion after all reports were presented to accept and file the committee reports. Seconded by Barb S. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Wish List: Wish Lists presented by Worship and Music Committee and the Property Committee. Discussion on care and upkeep of the organ and building maintenance/improvement projects. Need to have a fund building with reserve money for future projects, maintenance, and improvements.

Motion of intent: Dave R moved that by the April council meeting, the council will collect data to prepare a presentation to the congregation on obtaining a loan to fulfill a list of specific financial needs. This list is being created by the council with input from the various committees. Seconded by Terry B. Motion carried.

Council Visioning:

Retreat topics and attendees discussed. It was decided to keep it just as the council members

Where we go from here...

Youth and youth activities growth

Growth in congregation

Strengthen our Mission Statement

Look out one to three years

New Business:

Margaret asked permission to approach the Foundation for funds to advertise in the Ross Theater again this year. It was moved by Jacob K. Seconded by Barb. S. Motion carried.

The Council went into closed session at 8:43 p.m. and came out of closed session at 8:55 p.m.

Barb S. moved: The Grace Lutheran Church council, under its constitutional authority, will designate the Senior Pastor to be the "Head of Staff." Seconded by Dave R. Motion carried

There being no more business to bring before the Church Council Terry B. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Barb S. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Weisbrook, Council Secretary

SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL –

July 17-18-19



Coming to terms with the times

When I'm out and about in the church, I'm often asked what I plan to do to save small congregations, reverse the decline in membership, bring young adults back to church, increase mission support, make the ELCA truly multicultural, boost our relevance in the culture and fix Congress (well, not that last one). I have no plan to do any of that by myself, but I wonder if there is a deeper concern in those questions that requires a deeper answer from all of us.

The world has changed and is changing. Residents of my mother's retirement community who waited weeks to receive letters from loved ones serving overseas during World War II are now on Facebook and regularly use Skype or FaceTime to visit with grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Air travel that was once glamorous and rare for most of us is now, both in frequency and ambiance, a lot like taking the bus. It's not unusual, even in small-town America, to have Jewish, Muslim and Hindu neighbors or those with no religious affiliation at all. We are in a strange new world and don't really know how all this will shake out.

We might be tempted to overdo our efforts, to work harder and harder developing innovative programming, reading every manual on church growth, jazzing up our websites, being present on every possible social media platform. Maybe we should discover our congregation's niche: young adults, theology on tap, justice and advocacy, care of creation, ethnic specific ministry, pet blessing liturgies, urban church, rural church, big church, small church, virtual church, home church. We have done some version of all of this somewhere across the ELCA. And good for us. We need to be brave and daring. God can use our best imagination and innovation.

Or we might be tempted to circle the wagons and hold ever more tightly to what we have left. There is much that is beautiful about our traditions and buildings and heritage. What will happen to all of that if our particular congregation ceases to exist? Who will bury our parents or us? Who will take care of the parish cemetery? This is when congregations begin eyeing visitors for their value as replacement parts.

My daughter and her significant other, who was running for county commissioner, attended a church pancake breakfast where they were swarmed by parishioners who didn't realize he was a candidate. All they saw were young adults! Potential members! It was an uncomfortable experience.

But why do we want people to join our church? What does church mean to us? When I have asked that question, people often spoke about church as community or family. People talked about the good and important work their congregations carried out to feed the hungry or shelter the homeless. Some said the best thing about their congregations wasn't programs but people.

It was rare that anyone mentioned God or spoke about an encounter with the transcendent. I don't believe our people lack faith or don't know Jesus, but I wonder if we have lost the language to speak about the love of God that has been given to us in the crucified and risen Christ. Maybe we just assume Jesus. Maybe Jesus has become like wallpaper: we know it's there and everyone can see it, but we don't have to talk about it.

The best thing about the church, the thing that is uniquely the church, is not programs or people but Jesus. If we as a people, and as congregations, don't get that right it doesn't matter how many programs we come up with.

In Christ through the Spirit, God has invited us into a deeply intimate and loving relationship with God and with each other. Being church is abiding in that love. We are God's beloved people gathered around word and sacraments. That's what gives us life. That's what shapes us. That's what sends us out into the world to do justice and to love kindness (Micah 6:8). And this must be the kind of community to which we invite others—not because we want to grow or pay for the boiler or attract young people, but because we have received this incredible life-changing gift and want everyone to be touched and claimed and transformed by it too.

From The Lutheran May 2015 copyright © 2015 Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced by permission for local use only.



1
Ed & Nancy Hoffman

6
Kevin & Fran Gade

7
Dennis & Bev Madison

14
Don & Estelle Riemann

15
Kevin & Cynthe Dumler

19
Ken & Carmen McKillip

21
Andy & Joan Anderson

27
Chris & Wendy Apple

31
Ed & Emilie Collins



1
Chris Linville
Mildred Needham

2
Colton Billings
Frank James
Joanie Rathjen

3
Gladys Badberg
Jordan Billings
Shawna Hightree
Shawn Rathjen

4
Amy Knobbe
Ginny Potts

6
Adelyn Neal

7
Grace Fitzgibbon
Phil Sorensen

8
Margaret Gipson

9
Sadie Heim

10
Theodore Dalka
Kaitlyn Dumler

11
Josh Lantis

12
Erin Serafin

14
Ken McKillip
Johnathon Olston

16
Sandra Robinson
Adam Marshall
Jacob Schott

17
Day Hefner
Corene Herbster
Patricia Lickei
Siri Stewart

18
Brian Eck

20
Michael Lewis

21
Ron Ossian

22
William Billings
Emilie Collins
Earl Ford

24
Kevin Melang-Thoren

25
Laura Coatney

26
Bob Anderson
Tate Charbonneau
Andrea Holtgrewe

27
Shawn McKillip

28
Rhys Hughes

29
Robin Hoffman
Phyllis Krueger

30
Kevin Gade
Anthony Zimmerman

31
Jon Thorson



Friday, May 1

4:00 pm Suzuki music lessons
5:00 pm YWCA Respite care

Saturday, May 2

9:00 am Leshar Hall reserved
5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, May 3

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am ASF, Choir, Sunday School,
Thrivent Mtg.
5:30 pm Talent Show and potluck

Monday, May 4

9:00 am WELCA Executive Brd. Mtg.
7:00 pm Scouts, Committee mtg.

Tuesday, May 5

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

Wednesday, May 6

12:00 am WELCA lunch & mtg.
6:00 pm Cherub Choir
6:20 pm Children's choir
7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg., Bells

Thursday, May 7

6:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:00 am Quilting\Sewing
9:00 am Lincoln Literacy
12:00 pm Pastor's Prayer group -The
Landing
7:00 pm Bells, N. A. Mtg.

Friday, May 8

5:00 pm YWCA Respite care—gym

Saturday, May 9

9:00 am 1st communion class -Lounge
9:00 am L.L.C. meeting
5:30 pm Worship
6:00 pm Lounge reserved

Sunday, May 10 (1st Communion)

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Sunday School

Monday, May 11

8:00—5:00 Leshar Hall reserved
1:00 pm WELCA Mtg. #2
7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, May 12

9:30 am Al-Anon
6:00 pm Scouts
7:00 pm Council, W.R.T. Mtg.
7:30 pm WELCA #6
8:00 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, May 13

11:30 am Yesterday's Youth
6:00 pm Cherub Choir
6:20 pm Children's Choir
7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg., Grace
Notes bell choir

Thursday, May 14

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

Friday, May 15

5:00 pm Leshar Hall reserved

Saturday, May 16

2:00 pm Chapel reserved
5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, May 17

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am ASF, Choir, Sunday School
2:00 pm Chapel reserved

Monday, May 18

5:00 pm Gathering Place
6:30 pm Memorials Committee Mtg.
7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, May 19

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

Wednesday, May 20

1:00 pm WELCA #1 Mtg.
6:00 pm Cherub Choir
6:20 Children's choir
7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg.,

Thursday, May 21

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

Friday, May 22

9:00 am Middle School Youth event
Leshar Hall

Saturday, May 23

1:00 pm Chapel reserved
5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, May 24

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am ASF
3:00 pm Nebraska Brass concert

Monday, May 25

Office closed

Tuesday, May 26

9:30 am Al-Anon
6:00 pm Mutual Ministry Mtg.
8:00 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, May 27

7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg.

Thursday, May 28

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

Saturday, May 30

1:00 pm Lounge reserved
5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, May 31

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am ASF, Choir

*child care provided

Grace Staff and Council Members

Rev. Sylvia High Karlsson,

Interim Senior Pastor

308-995-7161

pr.sylvia@egrace.org

Rev. Dr. Robert Rademacher,

Visitation Pastor

402-430-6661 (cell)

pr.bob@egrace.org

Sara Schott,

Director of Parish Music

sara@egrace.org

Jameson Leftridge,

Assistant Organist

Sandi Knippelmeyer,

Parish Administrator

office@egrace.org

Beth Kimmerling Dumler,

Staff assistant

beth@egrace.org

Robert Stimbert,

Custodian

Judi Schroeder,

Nursery Coordinator

Elizabeth Krueger,

Nursery attendant

Doug Allen	420-9422
Dennis Berens	480-0828
Terry Branting	435-0401
Lynn Chamberlin	489-6575
Margaret Gipson	207-610-4037
Jacob Krueger	780-6708
Teddi Reckling	435-5873
Dave Ripa	489-7487
Steve Rosno	540-0702
Barb Smith	429-8139
Jeanne Weisbrook	477-8443
Connie Whyrick	904-2919

Office email: office@egrace.org

Website: www.egrace.org

*Please keep all these servant leaders in
your prayers.*

Call Committee

Curt Mann, chair

Wendy Apple

Charlyne Berens

Brady Garvin

Margaret Gipson

Carla Ingersoll

Sarah Krueger

Roger Potts

Our Seminarians

Brian Eck

Amanda Hefner

Steven Neal

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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lincoln, NE
PERMIT NO. 5