

# *The Grace Greeter!*

**Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502  
January 2020**





New Year's Day is also the festival we know as the "Name of Jesus". One reading from this holy day proclaims:

*4When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. - Galatians 4*

"You are no longer a slave but a child" says Paul. This statement comes as a bit of a surprise. Paul often refers to Christians as servants. But here we are claimed as children. Slaves you have been adopted by their master as children. Not because the children have earned it but because the master loves them.

So we enter a New Year with the mind of a child. An open mind to what God has in store for us in this new year. A curious mind that is always aware of how God is present in the world today. Pr. Alan Brehm writes,

*" The purpose and meaning of our lives is to be open to the love at the heart of all things and share that love with those around us in a world that can be incredibly loveless at times. So, I'm going to be giving up some things this year—at least I hope. I'm going to try to give up being short-tempered in stressful situations. I'm going to try to give up thinking about myself so much and think about others more. But one thing I will never give up is the conviction that at the heart of all things there is a divine compassion that defines and surrounds us all constantly."*

So, let us be open and curious to how God's compassion will shape and lead us in the year ahead.

*Pr. Eric Tesher*



- ◆ 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](mailto: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](mailto:pr.eric@egrace.org).
- ◆ The deadline for the next Greeter will be January 20th. It will be mailed on January 28th.
- ◆ Holiday office hours: January 1 & 2—closed; January 3—open until noon.
- ◆ To All Committee Chairs and Auxiliaries: Please turn in your report for the annual reporting meeting by **January 10**. You can send them via email to [office@egrace.org](mailto:office@egrace.org). This is the preferred way of turning in your reports! There is a great deal of work that goes into preparing the Annual Report of the Congregation after your report is turned in, so please get your reports into the office on time! Thanks.
- ◆ The 2020 flower chart is now available on the bulletin board in the Atrium. The fellowship book is also updated for 2020. Feel free to sign up for a Sunday or two! It is on the table outside the office.
- ◆ If you would be interested in being on an Altar Guild crew (it would be about every 8 weeks) or baking communion bread (it would be about every 12 weeks), please contact the church office.
- ◆ Church Council Vacancy: We currently have a vacancy on our church council. This is a three-year position beginning January 2020. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Pastor Eric, Neil Larson, or the church office.
- ◆ Congratulations to the 2020 Church Council Leaders: Neil Larson, President; Carla Ingersoll, Vice President; Connie Thorson, Secretary; Jim Krueger, Treasurer.
- ◆ Committee assignments for council members will be determined in January 2020.



Mark Your Calendars

# EVENTS



THRIVENT®

The Grace Thrivent

Financial Group will meet

at 10:30 am on January 5th in the staff conference room. Visitors are welcome to attend.



Grace Women of the ELCA will hold their general meeting on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> (this is a week later

than normal for WELCA because of the holiday.)

We are joining with Yesterday's Youth for food and a program. Bring a food dish to share and join us for a potluck lunch at noon. After lunch, our speaker, Ryan Sothan-Nebraska Consumer Protection Division's Education and Outreach Coordinator, will speak on consumer fraud and identity theft. Ryan is a great speaker—humorous and informative. This is an afternoon that both men and women will enjoy. We're excited about this combined event. Don't miss it!

## Congregational Meeting



The semi annual reporting meeting will be held on January 26 beginning at 10:30 am. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the reports of the congregation



**Get Ready!** The Third Annual *Silent Basket Auction* will take place at our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26th. All church committees, groups, and individuals are encouraged to donate a basket for this auction. Proceeds will benefit the Lutheran Campus Ministry at UNL.



## Wednesday Nights at Grace

Resumes January 8th

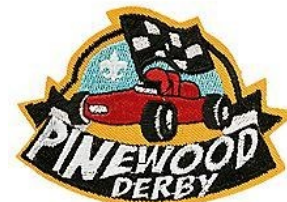
Evening Prayer @ 5:30 pm

Dinner @ 6:00 pm

Wired Word @ 6:30 pm

Youth Choir @ 6:30 pm

Confirmation Class @ 7:00 pm



Cub Scout Pack 30 Derby Day  
January 25th  
10:00 am





On December 16th, six Scouts from Troop 30, along with their leader and several parents assisted at The Gathering Place. Regina and Steve Paschold prepared chili, utilizing ground beef donated by Kaitlyn, Kevin, and Cynthe Dumler. Carla Ingersoll contributed tossed lettuce salad. The menu also included bananas, carrot and celery sticks, and crackers, as well as desserts provided by Joy Kokes, Steve and Regina and some of the scouts. Except for the Dumlers, all of those mentioned above helped to serve and to clean up after 124 portions had been distributed. Thanks go to Marilyn Holmquist, Lois Schuerman, Brady Garvin, and the members of Circle 2 of Grace's Women of the ELCA for recent financial gifts to support this important ministry.



**Thank you to everyone who contributed to, assembled, and delivered the holiday food baskets to Prescott School!**



*Thanks  
Many Thanks  
Thanks  
Thanks  
Thanks*

On behalf of Pack & Troop 30 as well as the Friendship Home of Lincoln, we would like to thank you all for your participation in this year's Giving Tree. In total, nearly 100 gifts were dropped off for the clients who utilize the services of the Friendship Home. Over this last weekend, adult clients were able to 'shop' for themselves and their children. The Friendship Home offers emergency and continual resources to those escaping domestic violence by providing emergency and transitional housing, counseling, etc. As many of us know, the holiday season can be both emotionally and financially difficult for many people, especially individuals and families that are displaced. Your kindness and generosity will bring joy to many this holiday season. Again, thank you for your participation. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Rachel Johanson



## **November Council Meeting Tuesday, November 12, 2019**

**Present:** Doug Krueger, Karen Billings, Dave Ripa, Carla Ingersoll, Jan Branting, Fran Gade, Roger Potts, PR. Eric Leshner

**Absent:** Teddi Reckling

Fran Gade called the Council meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**Devotions:** Curt (Karen will have December devotions.)

### **Approval of Council Minutes:**

Curt made a motion to approve the October 8 minutes. Dave seconded. Motion passed.

Dave made a motion to approve the October 27 minutes. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

**Correspondence:** Thank you from the People's City Mission for the water bottle kits.

Thank you from the Lutheran Center for Grace's support.

Received catalogs for ELCA-Good Gifts. This is the same catalog that is used for the children's Noisy Offering. Will put on the tables in the Atrium.

**Pastor Eric's Report:** Youth Choir Christmas program on December 15 at 9 at Grace and 10:30 at Frieden.

**Director of Music Report:** written report

**Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports:** written reports

Dave made a motion to accept Pastor's and Director of Music reports and to approve the financial reports. Jan seconded. Motion passed.

### **Committee Reports:**

Finance/Stewardship-did not meet

Worship & Music-written report

Parish Ed- written report

Congregational Life- did not meet

Property-written report

Social Ministry-written report: Fair Trade products for sale have been suspended.

Memorial-written report—next meeting December 4 in library. Dave request that Matt transfer the money to the stain glass window fund.

Dave made a motion to accept the committee reports as printed. Roger seconded. Motion passed.**Old Business:**

### **Old Business:**

**Review of Church Rolls:** Twenty household letters have been sent out. Response was requested by December 1. Will act on who will be remain on roster in the December council meeting.

**Donation for Joyce Palmer:** Transfer of money has been made.

**Wednesday Evening Events:** None during Advent-services 6:30-7:00. Will continue again January 8.

Curt made a motion to move into executive session. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

Jan made a motion to move out of executive session. Curt seconded. Motion passed.

Roger made a motion to make a job offer for the office administrator position to the applicant, contingent upon completion of background check and contact with references. Jan seconded. Motion passed.

**Constitutional updates from Synod and Council Term Limits for Council Members (2 years):** Curt made a motion that the constitutional changes will be deferred to the 2020 council. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

#### **New Business:**

**Lutheran Campus Ministry Capital Fund Drive:** Pr. Eric will contact Campus Ministry to see if they have letters and envelopes for the fund drive that we could mail to our members.

**December Council meeting and social gathering:** Fran will invite newly elected council members. New officers will be elected. Social gathering after to include old and new council members and staff.

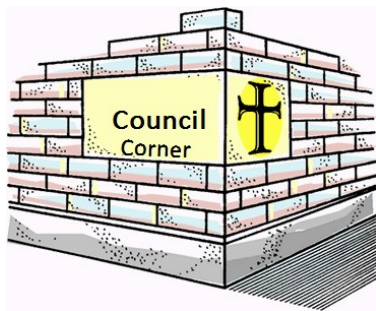
**2019 Committee Annual Reports:** Due to office by January 10.

Being no further business to discuss, Roger made the motion to adjourn and Jan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carla Ingersoll, Secretary



The Lutheran Food Pantry needs the following food items: canned fruit, canned peas, cereal, fruit juice, instant mashed potatoes, jelly, pancake mix, pork & beans, saltine crackers, tuna. Monetary gifts are also appreciated.



**From the Church Council:** The church council met for the last time for 2019. We invited the newly elected 2020 council members to the meeting so they could see how the council meetings are run. There was also some business they needed to handle with the rest of the 2020 council members, the election of officers. The new officers for next year are: President-Neil Larson, Vice President-Carla Ingersoll, Secretary-Connie Thorson and Treasurer-Jim Krueger. The 2020 council installation date is December 22<sup>nd</sup> during the church service.

We discussed the silent basket auction that will be held at the semi annual reporting meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> and decided the money raised would go to the Lutheran Center's building fund. We also had an update on the offer of the office position to David Sage and his acceptance. He is already hard at work learning the ropes from Curt who has been handling all of the office duties. The property committee has been given the go ahead to look into the purchasing of 2 pre-lit artificial Christmas trees for next year. The church was approached by Karen Christian Revival Church for possible use of our facility for their services. We decide to offer the Chapel on Sundays from 12:00-2:30. This time may not work for them. Pastor Lesher will let them know about the time we have offered and get back to the council.

**There is still an open seat for the 2020 council. It is a 3 year term. Please consider volunteering to fill this seat.** Let contact Pastor Lesher or a council member if you are interested.

I want to thank Jan, Carla, Karen, Doug, Curt, Roger, Teddi, and Dave for their work and service on the 2019 council. Fran Gade, Council President

**From the Parish Education Committee:** We will have Sunday School classes on January 5th. There will not be any classes on January 26th due to the congregational meeting that day.

**From the Social Ministry Committee:** 30 Holiday food baskets were assembled and given to families identified by a Prescott School staff member.

**From the Property Committee:** We are picking up the two Christmas trees at Spilker's Pineridge Tree Farm this week. We're taking advantage of the LES Energy Program incentives for lights. The stained glass window project status is that we'll have all three refurbished beginning in the spring of 2020. Bus service was again discussed. We're applied for a grant through the Nebraska Synod for renovating the two bathrooms across from the office. Update: The grant was approved. Renovations will begin soon.



**Wednesday Nights @ 5:30 pm**  
**Saturday Nights @ 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday Mornings @ 9:00 am**





10  
Mandi & Robert Haumont



1  
Dave Stokke

2  
Bev Madison  
Dave Ripa

3  
Grant Jensen

4  
Charlyne Berens

6  
Mandi Haumont

7  
Dean Dumler  
Nancy Melichar  
Nancy Schilke

8  
Rod Basler

10  
Gene Garza

11  
Jeff Rosno

14  
Jessi Anderson

15  
Estelle Riemann  
Elysabeth Wells

16  
Luke Filbert  
Jennifer Klein

17  
William Anderson

18  
Judy Holtgrewe  
Carolyn Ossian

19  
Michelle Jensen  
Louise Tollefson

20  
Rhonda Ihrle

22  
Bill Hokanson  
Yvonne Nielsen  
Eliza Williams

23  
Kiley Schumacher

24  
Abbie Andersen  
Steve Paschold

25  
Drew Ostermeyer  
Kyle Thorson

27  
Rachel Haider

28  
Adam Fitzgibbon

30  
Nancy Andersen  
Blake Rathjen





### **Wednesday, January 1st**

Office Closed

### **Thursday, January 2nd**

Office Closed

### **Friday, January 3rd**

5:30 pm YWCA Respite Care

### **Saturday, January 4th**

5:00 pm Worship

### **Sunday, January 5th**

9:00 am Worship  
10:15 am Sunday School, Fellowship,  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Adult  
choir, Thrivent

### **Monday, January 6th**

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
WELCA Board Mtg.  
7:00 pm Scouts BSA

### **Tuesday, January 7th**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:30 pm Cub Scout den mtgs.  
7:00 pm Committee Mtgs.  
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

### **Wednesday, January 8th**

11:30 am Yesterday's Youth &  
WELCA Unit Mtg.  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer  
6:00 pm Dinner  
6:20 pm Wired Word Bible Study  
6:30 pm Youth Choir @ Friedens  
7:00 pm Confirmation

### **Thursday, January 9th**

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

### **Friday, January 10th**

5:30 pm YWCA respite care

### **Saturday, January 11th**

1:00 pm Danish Sisterhood  
5:00 pm Worship

### **Sunday, January 12th**

9:00 am Worship  
10:15 am Sunday School, Fellowship,  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Adult  
choir

### **Monday, January 13th**

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
7:00 pm Scouts BSA

### **Tuesday, January 14th**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:30 pm Cub Scout Den mtgs.  
7:00 pm Church Council, WRT mtg.  
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

### **Wednesday, January 15th**

1:00 pm WELCA #3 mtg.  
5:30 pm Evening Prayer  
6:00 pm Dinner  
6:20 pm Wired Word Bible Study  
6:30 pm Youth Choir @ Friedens  
7:00 pm Confirmation

### **Thursday, January 16th**

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

### **Friday, January 17th**

5:00 pm BNRR/-Gym reserved

### **Saturday, January 18th**

5:00 pm Worship

### **Sunday, January 19th**

9:00 am Worship  
10:15 am Fellowship, Sunday School  
10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Adult  
choir

### **Monday, January 20th**

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
12:00 pm Lounge reserved  
5:00 pm Gathering Place  
7:00 pm Scouts BSA

### **Tuesday, January 21st**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Mtg.  
7:00 pm WELCA #6  
8:00 pm AA mtg.

### **Wednesday, January 22nd**

5:30 pm Evening Prayer  
6:00 pm Dinner  
6:20 pm Wired Word Bible Study  
6:30 pm Youth Choir @ Friedens  
7:00 pm Confirmation

### **Thursday, January 23rd**

6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 am Lincoln Literacy, Quilters  
7:00 pm NA, Bells

### **Friday, January 24th**

5:00 pm Pinewood Derby set up

### **Saturday, January 25th**

8:00 am Pinewood Derby Races  
5:00 pm Worship

### **Sunday, January 26th**

9:00 am Worship  
10:30 pm Semi-Annual Mtg. &  
Brunch

### **Monday, January 27th**

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
7:00 pm Scouts BSA

### **Tuesday, January 28th**

9:30 am Al-Anon  
6:30 pm Cub Scout Comm. Mtg.  
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

### **Wednesday, January 29th**

5:30 pm Evening Prayer  
6:00 pm Dinner  
6:20 pm Wired Word Bible Study  
6:30 pm Youth Choir @ Friedens  
7:00 pm Confirmation

### **Thursday, January 30th**

6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 am Lincoln Literacy, Quilters  
7:00 pm NA, Bells

### **Friday, January 31st**



# Grace Staff & Council

**Rev. Eric Leshner,**

*Senior Pastor*

*308-708-1146*

*pr.eric@egrace.org*

2020 Church Council

**Vacant**

*Parish Administrator*

*office@egrace.org*

**Anne Melang-Thoren,**

*Director of music*

*anne@egrace.org*

**Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson**

*Assistant Organist*

**Robert Stimbert,**

*Custodian*

**Judi Schroeder,**

*Nursery Coordinator*

**Elizabeth Krueger,**

*Nursery attendant*

Neil Larson

Council President

Carla Ingersoll

Vice President

Karen Billings

Jan Branting

Cindy Eberspacher

Doug Krueger

Roger Potts

Connie Thorson

Secretary

Jim Krueger

Treasurer



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