

The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502

November 28, 2017

Advent Activities

Advent is the season in which we prepare for Christ's birth. Here at Grace, we have many opportunities for you in which to participate in as we prepare for Jesus' coming. Please post this list on your calendar and plan to attend.

December 3

1st Sunday in Advent: Worship - Saturday: 5:30 PM or Sunday: 9:00 AM

December 6

Advent Vespers - 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

December 10

2nd Sunday in Advent: Worship - Saturday: 5:30 PM or Sunday: 9:00 AM 13th Annual Bells of Grace Christmas Concert -- 3:00 PM

December 13

Advent Vespers - 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

December 17

3rd Sunday in Advent: Worship - Saturday: 5:30 PM or Sunday: 9:00 AM Sunday School Christmas Program -- 10:30 AM

December 20

Advent Vespers - 7:00 PM—in Christ Chapel

December 24

4th Sunday in Advent: Worship - Saturday: 5:30 PM or Sunday: 9:00 AM



I was watching the news this weekend after Black Friday. Numbers are up. Internet business is still booming but people are still flooding into stores to buy their Christmas presents. This coming Cyber Monday, millions will be spent on electronic gifts. I am reminded in these reports that giving gifts is always a part of the Christmas season. Especially this year! So don't forget to include Grace Lutheran on your Christmas list this year!

I suppose it seems fitting to give gifts in response to the gift of Christ's birth given to us. But then I think about what happens to all those gifts a year or so from now. How many end up broken or ignored. Thrown away or given away because their purpose is no longer meaningful or needed.

I wonder what Christmas would be like if we would think about giving virtues as gifts to each other. Maybe not as exciting or profitable but in a world where vices seem to rule the day the idea of giving away virtues may not be a bad idea.

I stumbled upon these gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your compassion. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.

This is just a starter list. Are there other virtues you could be giving to others this Christmas season that might help you and them know and experience the true meaning of Christmas found in the birth of child named Jesus?

Pr. En 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.
- ♦ Baptism: Elizabeth Jane Heim, November 25, daughter of Kara and Kevin Heim, granddaughter of Rod and Debbie Basler
- Because of Christmas, the deadline for the next Greeter will be December 17. It will be mailed on December 19.
- Congratulations to the following that were elected to 3 year terms to the Grace Church Council:
 Karen Billings, Dustin Haider, Carla Ingersoll, Teddi Reckling
- Congratulations to those elected to a one year term for Nominating Committee:
 Kevin Gade, Amanda Genuchi, Michael Lewis, Kathren Miller

Burial plots available for sale: The church received 3 burial spaces at Lincoln Memorial Park from former members, Melvin and Beverly Wibbels who have moved to Idaho. The spaces are along South 14th Street, entrance #1, in Section Q and the Church Council is interested in selling these spaces. Anyone interested should contact the church office for further details.

Make your preparations 'Advent'-urous

Advent — the first season of the liturgical year — includes the four Sundays and weeks prior to December 25. Advent dates from the fourth century, when it lasted 40 days and included fasting and solemnity, much like Lent. *Advent* is from *Adventus*, Latin for "coming," referring to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and also his second coming. The traditional colors of Advent are purple for penitence or blue for hope. Observing Advent is a meaningful, adventurous way to prepare for Christmas. Buy or make an Advent wreath and use candles of your choice: four blue, four purple, or three blue or purple and one pink. If you have a fifth spot, add one white Christ candle. During meals or devotions, light only one candle the first week. Add another for each new week (the pink candle traditionally marks the third week), concluding with the white candle (if you have one) on Christmas. The increasing light reminds us we're getting closer to celebrating Christ's light coming into the world.



Wednesday Night at Church

December Schedule (No activities on Dec. 27)

5:15—5:45 (Dec. 13) preschool Craft Class

5:45-6:15 (Weekly) Dinner

6:15—6:55 (Weekly) Adult Bible Study

6:15—6:55 (Weekly) Youth & Children's Choirs

7:00-8:30 (Weekly) In Stitches

7:00—7:30 (Weekly) Advent Vespers

7:30—8:30 (Dec. 6) Book Club

7:30—8:30 (Dec. 13) Creative Faith Practices

• On December 3, the Grace Lutheran Thrivent Financial group will meet in the staff conference room at 10:30 am. Members and non-members are welcome to be there for our first meeting of the new church year.

Women of Grace:

Join your Women of the ELCA friends on Wednesday, December 6th for the monthly general meeting. Lunch will be served at noon by Group 6 and a Christmas program will follow. Please RSVP to Tricia Rosno so lunch can be planned accordingly. We hope to see you all on the 6th for food, fun and fellowship.

• Yesterday's Youth welcomes anyone (55+) or over. Come join us, Wednesday, December 13 at 11: 30. We meet the second Wednesday of each month in Lesher 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. Bring a dish to share and your table service. Come enjoy the fellowship.

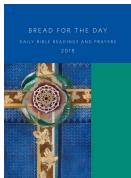


Holiday Baskets for Prescott

We will be putting together 30 Holiday Basket for our Prescott family once again this year. These basket are given based on needs and the families are carefully chosen by the school. We will be putting up a tree in the Atrium with tags on it instead of decorations. On the tags you will find food items that we will be asking for to put in the food baskets. Pick as many tags as you would like from the tree and purchase the items and place under the tree. If you would rather we do the shopping, donations can be made to the Prescott Fund by leaving them with Sandi in the office. The perishable items will be purchased the day we deliver the baskets with the Prescott funds. I have checked with my contact at Prescott and the delivery date is set for Dec. 20th. The final day for having your items under the tree will be December 15. Thank you for your help in advance.

—Sue and Larry Clymer

Group purchase for Devotional Resource!



Bread for the Day is a daily-use devotional resource filled with rich treasures: A brief scripture reading (NRSV texts) for each day following the daily lectionary developed by the Consultation on Common Texts and presented in Evangelical Lutheran Worship

- The devotions begin January 1, 2018
- A prayer and hymn for each day
- Brief yet helpful introductions to the seasons
- Table graces/meal prayers for the holidays and seasons
- Household blessings for special times throughout the year (for example: Blessing for the New Year, Blessing of the Home at Epiphany, Prayer for Placing Palms in the Home,

Blessing of the Easter Meal, Blessings for Mother's and Father's Day, Remembering Those Who Have Died, Lighting the Advent Wreath, Blessing of the Christmas Tree)

- Monthly pages for recording prayer requests
- Notes on festivals and commemorations
- Simplified forms for morning and evening prayer
- Waking prayers and bedtime prayers, including prayers with children

If 10 or more people order the books, the cost will be \$8.00 each. Otherwise, they are \$10.00 each. Please sign up on the sheet outside the office door (or email the office) by December 11, so we can have them ordered and shipped before the new year begins!



The Giving Tree—Once again in 2017, Cub Scout Pack 30 will be sponsoring a **Giving Tree** to benefit the Friendship Home. In November, the tree will be located in the Atrium and will contain tags of desired gifts. Select a tag, purchase the item requested, and place the unwrapped gift under the tree. This was a huge success in 2016 and the members of Pack 30 hope that this year's campaign will be equally successful. Thank you!

Parish Education News

Noisy Offering will be participating in the Christmas Ornament Program. For \$10.00 the students will be donating money for little chicks and an ornament will be presented for their donation. Adults are always welcome to join the children in this mission offering.

Please support our youngest members by attending the annual Christmas Program. We will have coffee after church but then want you to join us in the sanctuary for the program which will start at 10:30. Following this program you will be treated to a soup lunch and special Christmas cookies. You might want to help a child decorate a Ginger Bread House or a Sugar Cookie.

Sunday School Classes will not be held on the 24th and the 31st of December. We will resume classes on the 7th of January 2018.

We would like to invite our parents to join the Parish Education Committee. We need parent input and support on this team. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. We hope you will consider to join this committee.



Advent Vespers December 6, 13, 20 7 p.m.

Advent is traditionally a time of deepened devotion and worship. To that end, we again will offer Advent Vespers service each Wednesday night in December, leading up to Christmas Eve. These short candlelit services in Christ Chapel are an oasis of peace and calm in this busy

season. We hear the scriptures, sing Advent hymns and Mary's Song, the Magnificat, sit in silence and prayer. The theme this year is "Fear Not!"

The angels who appeared to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph all proclaimed "Fear not!" in response to the human emotions displayed before them. God's word also breaks into the fears of our world with the promise of Christ. Surely God is our salvation; we will trust, and will not be afraid.

Please join us for these services and make them a part of your December traditions!

Bells of Christmas

13th Annual Holiday Concert

December 10th, 3 p.m.



Please join the Bells of Grace and their musical friends for a wonderful concert of Christmas music arranged for handbells. This year, the Bells will be joined by the Grace Adult choir, the Grace Foundation Brass, the Grace Notes Bell Choir, soprano Lisa Howell, and other yet-to-be announced guests. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the music ministry at Grace.

Sunday School Christmas Program
A Children's Service of Lessons & Carols
December 17th, 10:30 a.m.

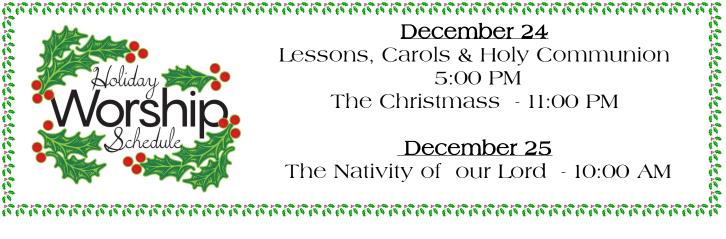
Join our Sunday School students this year for a special Christmas program in which they will present the Christmas story through a series of lessons and carols. The students need an enthusiastic congregation to help with the carol singing, so please consider supporting our youth and children by attending this event! The program will be followed by lunch and gingerbread house building in Lesher Hall.

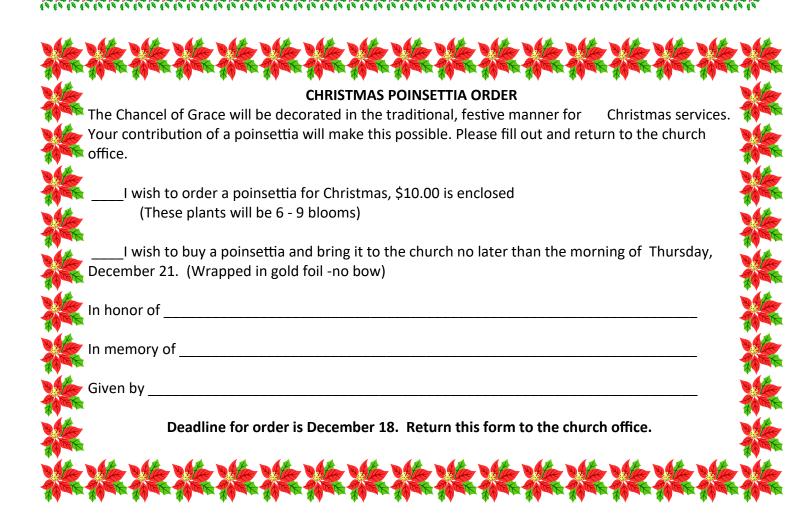
Blue Christmas Service, December 21st, 6:30 p.m. Christ Chapel

Grace will offer its first Blue Christmas service on Thursday evening, December 21st at 6:30 p.m. A "Blue Christmas" service is often held on the longest night of the year, and is geared to those who mourn the loss of a loved one or a relationship, a job or health. De-



spite the cultural pressure to feel "festive", some of us long for comfort and hope. This quiet service will be a chance to reflect and pray on those themes. If you have a friend or neighbor who is going through a tough time this season, consider inviting him or her to this service!





December 3	
Assisting Minister	Dean Dumler
Lector	Lisa Holmstrom
Communion Assistants	Lisa Holmstrom, Connie Whyrick, Lori Drake, Brady Garvin
Altar Guild / Communion bread	Dave & Kathren Miller\Karen Billings
Greeters	Karen and Mark Billings
Acolyte	Kaitlyn Dumler
December 10	
Assisting Minister	Barb Smith
Lector	Kyle Givens
Communion Assistants	Alan Givens, Don and Helen Carnes, Peter Schnake
Altar Guild / Communion bread	Doug & Sarah Krueger\Wendy Apple
Greeters	Helen and Don Carnes
Acolyte	Kyle Givens
December 17	
Assisting Minister	Jacob Krueger
Lector	Steve Rosno
Communion Assistants	Julene Lesher, Steve & Tricia Rosno, Lorraine James
Altar Guild / Communion bread	Ginny Potts & Carla Ingersoll\Helen Carnes
Greeters	Ginney & Roger Potts
Acolyte	Erin Krueger
December 24	
Assisting Minister	Charlyne Berens
Lector	Karen Billings
Communion Assistants	Mark & Karen Billings,Beth Kimmerling Dumler,Peter Schnake
Altar Guild / Communion bread	Dave & Kathren Miller/ Fran Gade
Acolyte	Jacob Schott



According to legend, three trees grew near Jesus' manger: an olive tree, a palm tree and the fir. The olive offered its fruit to the newborn king, and the palm tree gave its dates. The poor fir, having nothing to give but worship, raised its boughs in adoration, and the angels hung stars on its branches. So the fir became the first Christmas tree.

December 24 – 5:00 PM	
Assisting Minister	Tina Loseke
Lector	Cindy Eberspacher, Jeanne Weisbrook, Chloe Fitzgibbon, Sara Schott, Sharon Genthe, Sophie Schott
Communion Assistants	Cindy Eberspacher Joyce Krueger, Dennis Madison, Kevin Dumler
Altar Guild	Kurt & Cindy Eberspacher
Communion bread	Cindy Eberspacher
Greeters	Fran and Kevin Gade
Acolytes	Luke Filbert, Chloe Fitzgibbon, Kaitlyn Dumler, Erin & Cameron Krueger, Kaiden Noecker
December 24 – 11:00 PM	
Assisting Minister	Jacob Krueger
Lector	Barb Smith
Communion Assistants need 2	Barb Smith , Neil Larson
Altar Guild	Neil Larson, Robert Stimbert
Communion bread	Fran Gade
Acolyte	Jacob Schott



On October 30, the night before Halloween, individuals representing Grace Lutheran served at The Gathering Place, and in the Near South Neighborhood helped to give hunger the BOOt. Thanks go to Grace's WELCA group for leftover lasagna from one of their events, which supplemented spaghetti with meat sauce that was prepared by Regina Paschold. The menu also included bread, bananas, and tossed lettuce salad donated by Carla Ingersoll. Cakes and brownies were contributed by Joy Kokes, Terry Branting, Ginny and Roger Potts, and Regina. All of those mentioned above, along with

Donna and Tom Range, helped to serve and to clean up after 141 portions were distributed.

When people representing Grace served at The Gathering Place on November 20, just a few days before Thanksgiving, a number of guests expressed their appreciation for the meal. Recently, when staffers surveyed guests regarding their feelings about The Gathering Place, comments included, "It is a blessing to be treated with respect and love." and "I appreciate the food, volunteers, staff, and never having to worry about how to feed my kids or myself." On November 20 the menu included spaghetti with meat sauce prepared by Regina and Steve Paschold, tossed lettuce salad, bread, canned peaches, and dessert treats donated by Joy Kokes, Helen and Don Carnes, Dennis Madison, Ginny and Roger Potts, and Steve and Regina. All of those mentioned above helped to serve and to clean up after 126 portions were distributed.

You can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.

-Maya Angelou



At least once a year, in children's or youth choir, we talk about Martin Luther. And of course, every year, some of my young singers are confused by Martin Luther not being the same person as Martin Luther King, Jr. I was so happy when I got my copy of the new Luther biography by Eric Metaxas, and read this in the opening paragraph of the introduction:

In 1934, an African American pastor from Georgia made the trip of a lifetime, sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, through the gates of Gibraltar, and across the Mediterranean Sea to the Holy Land. After this pilgrimage, he traveled to Berlin,

attending an international conference of Baptist pastors. While in Germany, this man -- who was named Michael King -- became so impressed with what he learned about the reformer Martin Luther that he decided to do something dramatic. He offered the ultimate tribute to the man's memory by changing his own name to Martin Luther King. His five-year-old son was also named Michael -- and to the son's dying day his closest relatives would still call him Mike -- but not long after the boy's father changed his own name, he decided to change his son's name too, and Michael King Jr. became known to the world as Martin Luther King, Jr. (From Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World by Eric Metaxas).

I took my book to church and read this paragraph to the choirs, so they would know the story of how Martin Luther King, Jr. came to share part of his name with a German pastor who lived five centuries ago.

Another book I've come across and would heartily recommend is All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings by Gayle Boss. I heard an interview with the author, and this book came from the idea of an Advent calendar. Her son was young at the time, and she wanted an Advent calendar that didn't actually center on Christmas imagery. So she drew pictures of animals that are "waiting" in the windows of a calendar. Years later, she developed that idea into this book. The book is published by and available from Paraclete Press (paracletepress.com). Here is the publisher's description:

Open a window each day of Advent onto the natural world. Here are twenty-five fresh images of the foundational truth that lies beneath and within the Christ story. In twenty-five portraits depicting how wild animals of North America ingeniously adapt when darkness and cold descend, we see and hear as if for the first time the ancient wisdom of Advent: The dark is not an end but the way a new beginning comes.

Short, daily reflections that paint vivid, poetic images of familiar animals, paired with charming original wood-cuts, will engage both children and adults. Anyone who does not want to be caught, again, in the consumer hype of "the holiday season" but rather to be taken up into the eternal truth the natural world reveals will welcome this book.

And a quick recommendation for some Advent music to brighten your December: Hark the Glad Sound by Steve Eulberg is a wonderful album of Advent tunes that you will recognize, all played on mountain dulcimers. You can find it at Amazon, or on Spotify.



Lincoln Lutheran Choir is very thankful to Grace members who attended the concert last Sunday afternoon. We were packed in tightly with standing room only, and we ran out of programs. Good problems to have!

Grace's own Sexton, Robert Stimbert, was there always available, always helpful, always thinking, always anticipating our needs, and always smiling. His exceptional help to the Lincoln Lutheran Choir is gratefully acknowledged.

It was a wonderful concert with professional soloists and orchestra, and it also included a presentation from the LPS All-city girls chorus. What a wonderful space in which to sing music from our Lutheran heritage, particularly just days after the founder of the Choir, Dr. Carlos Messerli, left his earthly life to sing in the company of angels. Thank you to Grace!

Nebraska Synod Holy Land Trip

HOLY LAND VISIT WILL INCLUDE A VISIT TO PETRA, JORDAN

The Nebraska Synod group NSHLA will take another travel group to the Holy Land April 16-28, 2018, with Rev. Megan Morrow as the leader.

Have you ever heard of PETRA? It's located in southern Jordan and hundreds of thousands of people visit every year! The area in and around Petra is blessed with beautiful and colorful rocks and sand. Before the time of Christ, the Nabatean people created a village and cemetery in the midst of the colorful rocks. Now today, almost 25 centuries later, it is possible to walk through Petra and even go into the rooms and caves carved in the rocks. Many people say this visit is on their "bucket list" but it is very far away from us in the United States!

The group from Nebraska will cross the border to visit Jordan, which will include a bus trip to Petra. Take your cameras! It is a gorgeous place!

Pick up a brochure about the trip at the church office or by contacting Rev. Morrow at 402-580-7222 or megan@nebraskasynod.org

Christian Symbol



Pax

This Latin word for peace is frequently seen in Christmas art and decorations, reminding us that Jesus came as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). After announcing the Savior's birth to the shepherds, the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace ..." (Luke 2:14, NKJV).

Grace Lutheran Church Congregation Council Minutes October 10, 2017, 7:00 PM

Present: Curtis Mann, Teddi Reckling, Dave Ripa, Wendy Apple, Barb Smith, Kevin Gade, Karen Billings

Absent: Carla Ingersoll, Doug Krueger

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Council President, Curtis Mann.

Opening Devotions – by Barb Smith

Minutes of the 09/12/2017 Meeting - Approved as printed.

President's Report

Trunk or Treat - Sandi reported six or seven trunks identified, fliers sent to three schools (Prescott, Saratoga, Everett) and Boy Scouts to deliver two blocks out in all directions from Grace; additional candy and trunks are requested.

- 11/05/2017 Congregational Meeting election of Council members, Nominating committee, and presentation of the 2018 Spending Plan/Budget; audit report will be given at the January 2018 in the Annual Reports.
- Columbarium, committee and funds questions and discussion; motion by Dave Ripa by the recommendation of current Columbarium committee members as Neil Larson (term expires 2017), Carla Ingersoll (term expires 2018), and Dean Dumler (term expires 2019), seconded by Kevin Gade; vote called, motion carried.
- Wednesday Nights @ Grace discussion; for the suppers free will donations are being recorded as a separate entry under "Wednesday Dinners", we are averaging 20 to 35 attendees; may need to relocate Pastor's class to a bigger room to accommodate attendees; positive comments on Grace's Wednesday night activities.
- Nominating Committee, update met Sunday, making calls; current council member terms reviewed, open seats announced, thanks extended to all who serve and work on Council and Committees.

Choral Scholars – eight slots were open, four – possibly five – filled at this time.

Assistant Organist – Jennifer Aliwarga will be Grace's assistant organist; a formal contract will be in place by 01/01/2018 and presented to Council by 01/15/2018; motion made by Teddi Reckling to hire Jennifer Aliwarga as a full-time substitute organist for October/November/December 2017 at the rate paid to Grace's previous Assistant Organist, seconded by Dave Ripa; vote called, motion carried.

Dishwasher, update – noted in the Property Committee report.

Staff Reports

Pastor Eric – Approved as printed.

Sara – Approved as printed.

Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports

Actual expenses exceed contributions.

Treasurer's letter to the congregation reviewed, will be mailed this week.

Reports submitted for audit.

Committee Reports – Approved as printed.

Finance – please refer to notations, above.

Worship and Music -10/30/2017, 7:30 PM, Southwood Lutheran, Bells of Grace will play the prelude at 7:15 PM for the city-wide 500^{th} Reformation service.

Parish Ed – reminder of Children's Christmas Program at 10:30 AM, December 17, 2017, lunch and activity will follow in the gym; discussion of Good Gifts tags received in the office, committee will discuss at their 11/07/2017 meeting.

Congregational Life – as submitted.

Property – as submitted.

Social Ministry – as submitted.

Stewardship – as submitted.

Old Business

Wedding and Funeral policies – motion by Dave Ripa to accept the revised/proposed policies as submitted, seconded by Teddi Reckling, discussion ensued, exception ruled noted, vote called, motion carried.

New Business

2018 Spending Plan – reviewed, discussed; motion by Dave Ripa to retain the Assistant Organist salary at the current 2017 amount, seconded by Barb Smith, discussion ensued, vote called, motion carried; motion by Dave Ripa, seconded by Barb Smith to recommend the 2018 Spending Plan/Budget to the congregation at the 11/05/2017 Congregational Meeting, vote called, motion carried.

Grace Constitution – minor non-substantive corrections noted by Synod attorney, reformatting title page and grammatical/typographical corrections; motion made by Barb Smith to accept changes as recommended by the Synod attorney, seconded by Teddi Reckling; vote called, motion carried.

Other Items

Motion to adjourn by Barb Smith, seconded by Dave Ripa, vote called, motion carried.

Grace Lutheran Church Congregation Council meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Billings.

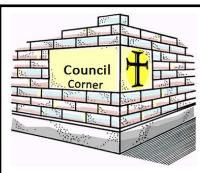
The giver

Many Christian families struggle with what role — if any — Santa Claus should play in their Christmas celebrations. No matter what you decide, it's fascinating to know the history of the real-life St. Nicholas.

Born about 270 A.D., Nicholas was a bishop in Myra, or modern-day Turkey. In the year 325, he was part of the Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed.

Nicholas, known for his generosity, often gave away his money anonymously. According to tradition, he secretly provided dowries for the three daughters of a bankrupt merchant. Nicholas threw two bags of gold through open windows and placed the third in a stocking hanging by the fireplace to dry. Thus began the Christmas tradition of placing gifts in stockings.

St. Nicholas is quoted as saying, "The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves."



From the Church Council: In preparation for our semi-annual reporting meeting on January 28, 2018, please have your staff, committee, and church organizational reports into Sandi by January 8th. During our meeting will be reviewing these reports plus we will also be holding a silent auction that will benefit our Wednesday Night at Grace program. Our brunch will be hosted by WELCA members.

From the Worship & Music Committee: As we prepare for Christmas, please plan to attend the music concert on the afternoon of December 10th at 3:00 pm. Our bell choirs, choirs, and other musicians will join together for an enjoyable holiday experi-

ence. This year we will also be holding a 'Blue Christmas' service on December 21st at 6:30 pm. This service is a way to support those dealing with loss, grief, and darkness during the holiday season.

From the Parish Education Committee: The children's Christmas program is scheduled for December 17th at 10:30. Join us for soup and Christmas cookies following the program.

From the Congregational Life Committee: The committee is reviewing the areas of focus as identified for this committee in our Grace constitution. They include: reaching the unchurched, the inactive, the sick and shut-ins; the promotion of the congregation in the community; training and educating members for outreach and visitation; and providing for the nurturing and integration of new members. Please join us on this very important mission of our church.

From the Property Committee: The committee members will be setting up the Christmas trees on December 2nd. They are also working on the replacement of the dishwasher in Lesher Hall. You've also probably noticed the work has begun replacing the copper on our steeple. Work will soon begin on the vertical roof over the gym along with the skylight windows and frames.

From the Social Ministry Committee: Do you need gifts for those special people on your Christmas list? Check out the Advent gift items that will be on sale in the gym after Sunday services, November 26th, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th.

From the Stewardship Committee: The committee has sent out thank you letters to the 80 members who have turned in their pledge cards for 2018. Reminder letters and pledge cards were sent out to those who have not turned in one yet. It's not too late. We certainly appreciate your prayerful consideration by making a 2018 pledge to support Grace Lutheran Church.

From the Finance Committee: We appreciate your continued financial support of our congregation. We certainly appreciate those members who have added a 'little extra' to their annual giving as we approach the end of 2017.

From the President of the Congregation: I have challenged the church council and I now challenge you to think of new ways that we can expand upon the ministry here at Grace. What might it be? As people say...think outside of the box! No idea is too crazy. What is that ONE NEW THING that we might try?

Over the past year, we have begun a new *Wednesday Night at Grace* program. Our events all center around an inspirational 7:00 pm candle-lit service in Christ Chapel. We have book studies, bible studies, craft classes for pre-schoolers to name just a few of the other special events. Plus we can't forget that delicious meal that is served at 5:45 pm each week. The meal and these programs are open to all Grace members and visitors. Check on what is being offered by viewing the special bulletin board across from the church office.

In December, we will be reorganizing our youth ministry at Grace. My thanks to Sara and Steve Schott who will be sponsoring this ministry. Be looking for more information from Sara and Steve as to when these special activities will be held each and every month. This is a very important ministry for Grace not only for our present members but for all prospective members too. As visitors stop by for a visit, they not only look at worship opportunities but also opportunities for education and youth. If you would be willing to help organize and support our youth ministry at Grace, please contact Steve and Sara. So there are two new things that we are doing at Grace. What else might we try? If you have a suggestion or idea, please contact me, other council members, or a member of the staff. Thank you!



A follow-up: We recognized the ladies in the quilting group and their amazing quilts on Sunday, November 22. We just wanted you to know that last year, our Nebraska Synod churches filled over 6 semitrailers full of quilts and kits totaling over 120,000 pounds! Many of the quilts were on display at the Reformation Service last Monday evening at Southwood Lutheran. They were just a sample of the amazing quilts ministry that happens across the synod! Thank you quilters!

The Grace Scrabble Team had a blast at the 9th Annual Scrabble Scramble Fundraiser Tournament for Lincoln Literacy, Sunday, Nov. 5 at First Lutheran! About 150 people made up of about 26 teams, score keepers and other volunteers gathered for three 30 -minute rounds of Scrabble all to support the tutoring, English classes and family supports of Lincoln Literacy! Our Grace Team didn't win any prizes, but we came within 2 points of beating the Recreational division winning team

in one of our rounds! Thanks Heidi Garvin, Julene Lesher, Megan Morrow and Dave Ripa for representing Grace! Thanks to our team sponsors, and to all of you who gave additional donations! Thanks to Grace for hosting Lincoln Literacy classes in its building every week! For a people of the Word, what a great outreach!





Angels among us

"When God wants to speak and deal with us," said Martin Luther, "he does not avail himself of an angel but of parents, or the pastor, or of our neighbor." Never underestimate how powerfully God can use you in the life of a child, a church member, a friend or a stranger.

The Hebrew word for *angel* also means "messenger." *You* may be specially chosen to deliver to someone the message of God's love or guidance. Listen intently for what God would have you share with others, then do



Cold and a touch of snow caused Trunk or Treat to be moved into the gym. The little trick or treaters had a great time playing games and scoring candy! Thanks to all our volunteers for their creativity and effort to make a fun evening for area families and to everyone who donated candy!



Jacob and Sophie Schott helped lead the procession during the Reformation Service at Southwood Lutheran.



14

John & Joyce Lunde

16

George & Norma Sturgeon

22

George & Marsha Foster

31

Dustin & Rachel Haider



1

Elizabeth Krueger Jacob Krueger Carly Weixelman

2

Larry Clymer

3

Bonnie Drohman Steve Reckling

7

Don Carnes

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Katie Fritchie Kinzie Lange

10

Norbert Hildreth Betty Maun 13 Marsha Foster Katrina Lange

14

Noah & Raymond Guern

15

Chris Andersen Robert Fischer Elias Genuchi Dustin Haider

17

Dean Ossian

18

Vivian Condon Sam Ihrie

20

Teri Roti

21

Elizabeth Garza

22

Lois Moss John Plambeck Jack Reighard Seth Riemann Cindy Watchorn

23

Marcia Oetjen

25

Robert Stimbert

26

Irene Moore

27 Scott Drake Ashlyn Jensen Chris Schroeder

29

Mark Billings Tanja Noecker

30

Ron Most



Friday, December 1

5:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved 5:30 pm YWCA respite care

Saturday, December 2

5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, December 3

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Sunday School, ASF, choir,
Thrivent
11:30 am Bells
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

Monday, December 4

9: 00 am Lincoln Literacy 1:00 pm Lounge reserved 7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, December 5

9:30 am Al-Anon6:30 pm Scouts7:00 pm Committee Mtgs.8:00 pm AA Mtg.

Wednesday, December 6

12:00 pm WELCA lunch and meeting5:45 pm Dinner6:15 pm Children's Choir, Bible Study7:00 pm Advent Vespers, In Stitches7:30 pm Confirmation, Book Club

Thursday, December 7

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

Friday, December 8

5:30 pm YWCA respite care 6:00 pm Chapel reserved

Saturday, December 9

9:30 am LLC Chapel12:00 pm Lounge reserved5:30 pm Worship7:30 pm Chapel reserved

Sunday, December 10

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Sunday School, ASF, choir
11:30 am Bells
3:00 Bells of Grace concert
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

Monday, December 11

9: 00 am Lincoln Literacy1:00 pm WELCA #2 mtg.6:00 pm Chapel reserved .7:00 pm Scouts, Scout Cmte Mtg.

Tuesday, December 12

9:30 am Al-Anon 6:30 pm Scouts 6:30 Council mtg. 7:00 pm WRT Mtg. 8:00 pm AA Mtg.

Wednesday, December 13

11:30 am Yesterday's Youth5:15 pm Preschool art class5:45 pm Dinner6:15 pm Children's Choir, Bible Study7:00 pm Advent Vespers, In Stitches7:30 pm Creative Faith Practices, YouthChristmas party

Thursday, December 14

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

Friday, December 15

5:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved

Saturday, December 16

10:00 am program practice 1:00 pm Chapel reserved 5:30 pm worship

Sunday, December 17

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Sunday School Christmas
program , lunch and gingerbread houses
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

Monday, December 18

9:00 Lincoln Literacy 5:00 pm Gathering Place 7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, December 19

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

Wednesday, December 20

10:00 am WELCA #1 Mtg.5:45 pm Dinner6:15 pm Children's Choir, Bible Study7:00 pm Advent Vespers, In Stitches

Thursday, December 21

6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy 6:30 pm Blue Christmas worship – chapel 7:00 pm N. A. Mtg. 7:30 pm Bell Choir

Saturday, December 23

5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am Worship *
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 25

10:00 am Christmas Day worship

Tuesday, December 26

Office closed

Thursday, December 23

7:00 pm N.A. meeting

Saturday, December 30

5:30 pm worship

Sunday, December 31

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Sunday School, Fellowship,
A.S.F.

5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel





Rev. Eric Lesher,

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

Sara Schott,

Director of Parish Music sara@egrace.org

Sandi Knippelmeyer,

Parish Administrator office@egrace.org

Emily Freeman,

Children's Ministry Intern

Jennifer Aliwarga,

Assistant Organist

Robert Stimbert,

Custodian

Judi Schroeder.

Nursery Coordinator

Elizabeth Krueger,

Nursery attendant

Council Assignment to Committees:

Curt Mann: Council President Karen Billings: Parish Ed and Youth

Kevin Gade: Finance

Wendy Apple: Worship and Music

Dave Ripa: Stewardship and Memorials

Barb Smith: Social Ministry Teddi Reckling: Evangelism

Carla Ingersoll: Evangelism

Doug Krueger: Property

A song with a message?

According to modern folklore, the song "The 12 Days of Christmas" was written to help young believers learn about their faith.

Although no evidence proves that claim, some say the popular carol contains these codes:

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds are the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The five golden rings are the Law: the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying represent the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy.

The eight maids a-milking are Jesus' eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing are the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The 10 lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.

The 11 pipers piping stand for the 11 faithful disciples.

The 12 drummers drumming symbolize the 12 statements of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

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

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