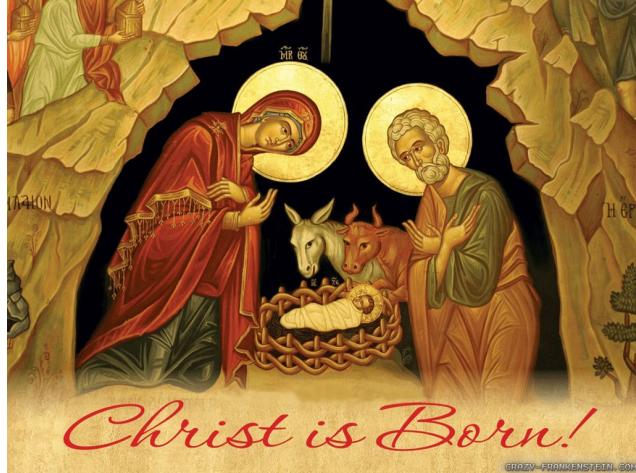


# The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502

December 19, 2017



December 24  
Lessons and Carols of Christmas

5:00 PM

Hearing the story. Rejoicing in song.

The Christmass

11:00 PM

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

December 25  
The Nativity of our Lord  
10:00 AM



During the Epiphany Season we will be studying the issue of conflict during our Adult Study on Sunday morning. Come and join us! Conflict is everywhere. It is a natural part of problem-solving. We have different ideas on how to achieve a common goal and so we work together to reach the goal. Naturally we have different ideas on how to accomplish the goal. Disagreement can arise as we work together. When disagreement occurs it becomes important for us to remember some basic guidelines.

1. Stick to the issue
2. No character attacks or backbiting
3. Own your feelings rather than blaming others
4. Avoid building highways that lead to hostilities

When we forget these guidelines then the disagreement can lead to a contest whose goal is to win over the other. Winning becomes the goal here as the original issue drifts into the past. Finally the contest can become relational warfare. At this level divisions run deep and people can be hurt emotionally or even physically. So join us this Epiphany as we shed some light on the conflict that is all around us all the time.

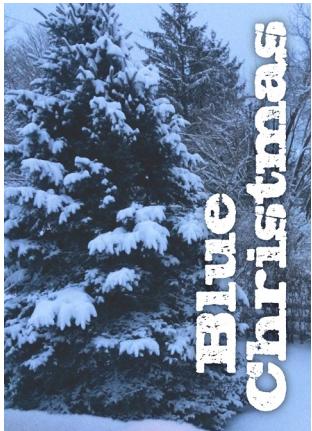
Pn. Eric Tesher



# FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

- ◆ 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).
- ◆ 2018 Grace Greeter Schedule— The Greeter is mailed on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The deadline for the newsletter articles will always be the 20th of the month. The only exception will be in December when the deadline for articles will be the 16th, with publication on the 18th.  
The publication schedule is: January 23; February 27; March 27; April 24; May 22; June 26; July 24; August 28; September 25; October 23; November 27; December 18.
- ◆ 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.

- ◆ Please remember to get all 2017 offerings into the US mail, the offering plate or the church office on or before December 31. For offerings to be recorded as 2017 contributions, they must be postmarked by 12\31\17. Anything received after this MUST be considered a 2017 contribution
- ◆ To All Committee Chairs and Auxiliaries: Please turn in your report for the annual reporting meeting by January 15. 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 deadline for the next Greeter will be January 20th. It will be mailed on Tuesday, January 23.
- ◆ The 2018 flower chart is now available on the bulletin board in the Atrium. The fellowship book is also updated for 2018. 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.
- ◆ Bulletins have been shared by: Darlene Stutheit [First Presbyterian Church, Nebraska City]



**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. Despite 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!



*Grace Lutheran Church  
wishes everyone  
a Blessed Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year!*



# Mark Your Calendars EVENTS



## Wednesday Night at Church

### January Schedule

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 (Jan. 2) Book Club  
7:30—8:00 (Jan. 10,24) Creative Faith Practices

- Join your Women of the ELCA friends on Wednesday, January 3 for the monthly general meeting. Lunch will be a potluck, hosted by the WELCA board. Bring a dish to share along with your own table service. We hope to see you all on the 3rd for food, fun and fellowship. Bring along a favorite mug/ coffee cup of yours and share some memories.
- Yesterday's Youth welcomes anyone (55+) or over. Come join us, Wednesday, January 10 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.

- Grace's Thrivent Financial group will meet on January 14 at 10:30 am in the staff conference room. Members and non-members are welcome as we consider upcoming activities.
- Grace Global Dining Group! It's time for another exciting--and scrumptious--year! As always, we'll have 3 meals over the course of 2018. And the menu for those 3 meals is up to you!! This year's kickoff meeting will be on Saturday, January 27 in Lesher Lounge. The meeting begins at 6:30, after evening services. Please call Susan & Alan Givens at 402-484-5042 no later than Sunday, January 21 to reserve your place at the dinner table. For the January kickoff, please bring a favorite dish to share; drinks will be provided. See you then!
- The semi annual reporting meeting will be held on January 28 beginning at 10:30 am. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the reports of the congregation and to share information about the constitution changes.



## Epiphany Service of Holy Communion

January 6,

5:30 p.m.

Christ Chapel

Join your church family for the word and sacrament in a beautiful service full of candlelight and wonderful music!

<b>December 25</b>	
Assisting Minister	Roger Potts
Lector	Steve Paschold
Communion Assistants	Steve Paschold, Ginny Potts
Altar Guild	Jon & Connie Thorson
Communion bread	Sharon Genthe
Acolyte	Sophie Schott

<b>December 31</b>	
Assisting Minister	Roger Potts
Lector	Steve Rosno
Communion Assistants	Dave Ripa, Steve & Tricia Rosno, Ginny Potts
Altar Guild	Sharon Gottsche, Jacob Schott
Communion bread	Sharon Gottsche
Greeters\Acolyte	Sarah and Doug Krueger
Acolyte	Conrad Schroeder

**Christmas Carol Sing!** Come to church a little early on December 31st! Sara will be at the piano, taking requests for favorite Christmas carols at 8:45 a.m. before we celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas in worship. We'd love to see YOU there to sing with us!

**Adult Study on December 31** will be a showing of the movie: Rick Steves' European Christmas. We will start the movie right at 10:30 AM.

About the movie: Join Rick Steves for a colorful, musical celebration of Christmas across Europe. From England to Wales, France, Norway, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy, you'll see the bright Christmas markets, hear local choirs, share holiday traditions with families...and even play in the snow.



**Silent Auction:** The Church Council invites you to participate in a silent auction during our semi-annual meeting in January to help fund our *Wednesday Night at Grace* program. We invite our committees, organizations, families, and individuals to prepare a theme basket for the cause. Some possible themes for your basket might include: Movie Night; Gardening fun; Favorite Books; Craft Night at Home; A Grandkid Special; or Dinner Out. Use your imagination and make up a basket that you'll enjoy sharing with others and help us fund our special Wednesday night program. Your baskets may be brought to the church office any time between now and our meeting on January 28th. Thank you!



# **EMPYREAN**

## **TRAIL RUN: 1M • 5K • 10K**

**Raising Money for Camp Scholarships**



**January 20, 2018 • 11 a.m.**  
**Carol Joy Holling Camp, Ashland**

**NEW in 2018: 1 mile walk, 5K run or 10K run**

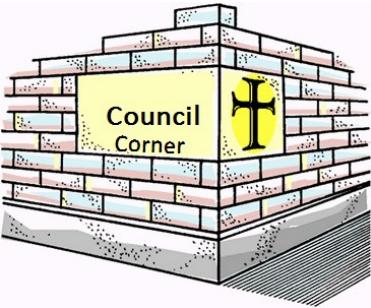
Adventurous running, wonderful Lazlo's food,  
amazing Empyrean beer and a FREE stocking hat!

**Funds raised support the camp scholarship fund at Carol Joy Holling Camp.**

**No child is ever turned away because they can't afford the fee.**

**In 2018, around 300 kids will receive scholarship assistance to attend camp.**

**[www.CJHCenter.org/Run](http://www.CJHCenter.org/Run)**



**From the Church Council:** We have received word from the Nebraska Synod that our church constitution has been approved. Thank you to all for making this happen!

Remember that our semi-annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th. We will begin with a meal provided by the WELCA. Following the meal, we will hear reports from our various committees, organizations, and staff. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

**From the President of the Congregation:** Have you attended one of our Wednesday Night at Grace events? There are craft classes for pre-school children. Bible studies with Pr. Eric dealing with today's issues. A fine meal offered at 5:45 pm each week. A special worship service at 7:00 pm in Christ Chapel. And much, much more. Please check the bulletin board outside of the office for specific times and dates for our weekly offerings.

As with any program we offer at church, there are costs to make things happen. This includes our Wednesday Night at Grace program. To help cover the costs of the program, the Church Council is going to host a silent auction at the semi-annual meeting on January 28th. We are asking each committee to contribute a theme basket for this silent auction. In addition, we invite congregational members to contribute a basket from your family for this cause. Some possible themes for your basket might include: Movie Night; Gardening fun; Favorite Books; Craft Night at Home; A Grandkid Special; or Dinner Out. Use your imagination and make up a basket that you'll enjoy sharing with others and help us fund our special Wednesday night program. Thank you!

**From the Worship & Music Committee:** Thank you to all who participated in the annual Bells of Grace concert. Wonderful music filled our sanctuary once again as it does each Sunday morning. We hope you will join us for worship during this Christmas season. A new offering this year is our 'Blue Christmas' service on December 21st at 6:30 pm in Christ Chapel.

**From the Parish Education Committee:** Special thanks to everyone who helped with our annual Sunday School Christmas program, the meal following, and those wonderful cookies and gingerbread houses.

**From the Congregational Life Committee:** The committee has prepared special bookmarks that will be distributed during our Christmas services.

**From the Property Committee:** The committee picked up and set up the Christmas trees on December 2nd. As you've probably noticed, the new copper on the steeple has been installed along with the painting of the cross. They gleam brightly in the neighborhood. The work on the vertical roof over the gym will begin soon. We also look forward to the installation of a new dishwasher in the kitchen!

**From the Social Ministry Committee:** What a blessing our Prescott Helping Hands project is for the students and their families. Many are in need of assistance to help cover their daily needs. All donations are very appreciated and used for clothing items, hygiene items, and food.

**From the Finance & Stewardship Committee:** If you haven't returned your 2018 commitment cards, please do so right away. We appreciate your generous donations and support for Grace Lutheran Church. As to date, we have received \$230,719 in pledges for 2018.



#### From Social Ministry Committee:

We wish to extend a big "Thank You" to all who donated towards another successful year -2017 Thanksgiving Baskets. Thanks to Sandi Knippelmeyer for everything you did to help behind the scene. We had donations of non-perishable food items, monetary gifts, and time. Special thanks to Laila Faust and Darlene Stutheit for helping with the shopping; to Darlene for getting the donation from Thrivent; Darlene, Pastor Megan, Dennis Madison, and Lorraine James for packing and delivering the boxes. What a blessing all of you are to Grace!

**From Larry and Sue Clymer:** Thank You to Grace Lutheran Members who donated food to our Prescott Tree, and Money to Prescott Helping Hands to make our 30 food baskets a success again this year. All of the tags were taken from the trees this year. That is such a big help to us that you do the shopping for the non perishable items. Any cash that was donated was used to help purchase the perishable items. I will have to say we have the delivery system down much better now then we did when we started seven years ago. There were only 5 people who helped deliver our first baskets. We have always had 10 or 12 since then, and it really goes quit smooth. Thanks to all those people who helped with the delivery of the baskets again this year.

**From Charlene Johnson:** Thank you for your wonderful cards, filled with love and support. They are so helpful. This has been a difficult time for me and I appreciate all your support.

Items on the Lutheran Food Pantry's "wish list" include:

- Canned fruit
- Canned meals (stew, spaghetti with sauce, ravioli, etc.)
- Canned meats, especially chicken and Spam
- Fruit juice
- Oatmeal, instant (boxes with individual packets)
- Ramen noodles
- Personal care items (shampoo, toothpaste, bath soap)
- Monetary donations to purchase food from the Food Bank



Thank you for your generosity in helping the food insecure in our community!

#### Lessons from a snowman

- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!



**November Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 2017**

Present: Kevin Gade, Wendy Apple, Doug Krueger, Pastor Eric Lesher, Dave Ripa, Curt Mann, Teddi Reckling, Carla Ingersoll, Barb Smith, Dustin Haider

Absent: Karen Billings

Curt Mann called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Curt gave devotions.

Approval: The October Council Minutes, October Congregational Minutes and November Congregational Minutes were approved as written.

**President's Report:**

Nursery update-Nursery staff will stay in the nursery during the service. New procedure started on November 5 will be a check in/check out system with the children.

December council meeting will be December 12. Shortened meeting at 6:30 with the council members and staff will gather in Lesher Lounge for refreshments and socializing.

January meetings-Committee meetings on Jan. 2. January Council meeting on Jan. 8.

Cemetery Plots-Donation from Weibel's at Lincoln Memorial. Offer to the congregation for 2-3 months.

Wednesday Night program-Will continue as usual through Advent. Dave made a motion to change the budget line from Wednesday night dinners to Wednesday night programs so that funds can be used for Wednesday night dinners and activities. Seconded by Teddi. Motion carried.

January Congregational Meeting-Meeting January 28. Committee /staff reports should be submitted by January 8.

Council Retreat-Retreat will be January 20 from 9-11. Discussion point will be the book *Penguins in the Pews*.

**Staff Reports:**

**Senior Pastor:** Written report

**Director of Music:** Written report

Reports approved as printed.

**Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports:** Approved as written and sent for audit.

**Committee Reports:**

**Parish Education:** written report

**Congregational Life:** Written report. Possibility of having an event in the spring similar to the Trunk or Treat event.

**Property:** Written report. Working on the dishwasher replacement project. There are \$13,295.93 in the GLC Foundation designated towards this project. Additional funds may be available from memorials.

**Social Ministry:** Written report

**Stewardship:** written report

**Finance:** written report-The funds for the Youth Group and the Youth Gathering were reallocated as follows:  
\$3000 from the Youth Group was moved into the Youth Gathering line for use in 2018 and 2021 youth gathering trips.

**Memorials:** No written report

**Worship and Music:** Written report

Committee reports approved as printed.

**Old Business:**

**Silent Auction:** To take place at the January 28 congregational meeting. Each committee responsible for one basket. Members of the congregation may be able to provide additional baskets. Any monies raised will be used for the Wednesday night activities.

**New Business:**

**Youth Group:** Sara and Steve Schott have volunteered to sponsor the group with the help from other parents.

**Installation of new council members:** December 17

Motion made by Barb to adjourn. Dave seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

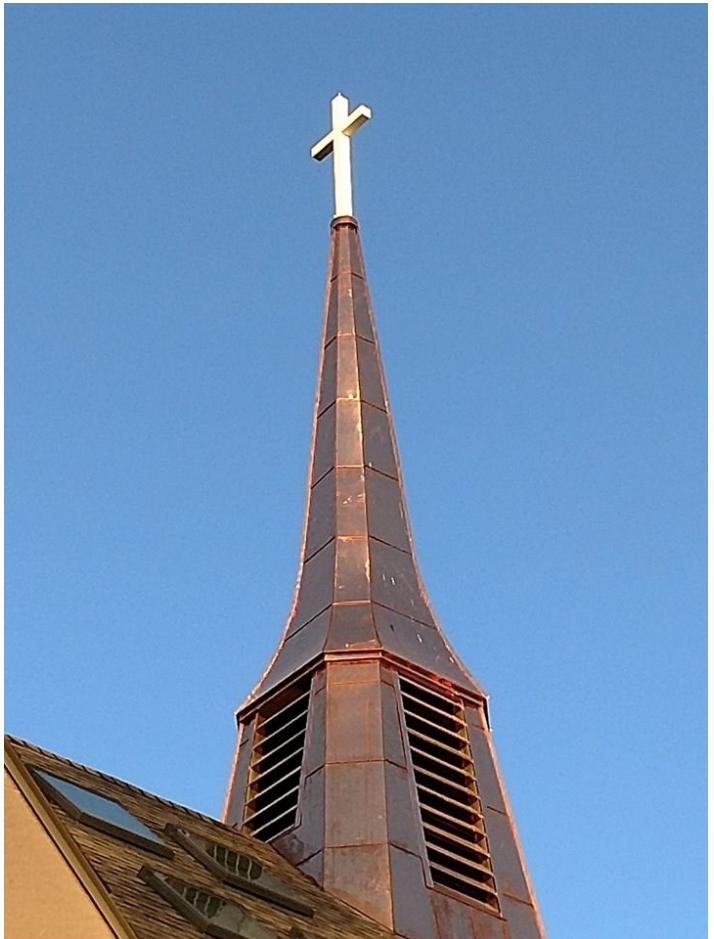
**Next Council Meeting:** December 12

Meeting concluded with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carla Ingersoll, Council Secretary



The scaffolding in the Nave to clean up the new skylight diffuser lenses.



The steeple has its new copper! The cross has been repainted and the skylights replaced. It is beautiful with the sun shining on it!

Soup lunch and building Gingerbread houses—December 17





The Middle School Sunday School class rang the bell for The Salvation Army on December 9. Helping out were: Jacob Schott, Kyle Givens, Cameron and Erin Krueger, Chloe Fitzgibbon, Kaiden Noecker, teachers, Brady Garvin and Alan Givens. They had a discussion about their experience in their class the next day.

**PUZZLE**

# A NEW CREATION

The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.

*Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*

THIEROEFFQORXEIDFAMNYAON  
 SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE  
 QWC'DREYATMIOCNHFASWCOR  
 MEGTHWEOFLDXHASSGZONL  
 ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

Sunday School Christmas Program  
Thanks to everyone who participated and helped!





Musicians from December 17 worship and Sunday School program. Thanks to everyone who shared their musical gifts!



## Bell choir holiday concert—December 10





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	25	Drew Ostermeyer Kyle Thorson
10	Gene Garza	27	Rachel Haider
11	Jeff Rosno	28	Adam Fitzgibbon
14	Jessi Anderson Ruth Meyer	30	Nancy Andersen Blake Rathjen
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 Ihrie		
22	Bill Hokanson Yvonne Nielsen Eliza Williams		
24	Abbie Andersen Steve Paschold		



### Monday, January 1

Office Closed

### Tuesday, January 2

9:00 am WELCA Exec. Board Mtg.  
9:30 am Al-Anon  
7:00 pm Committee Mtgs.  
8:00 pm AA Mtg.

### Wednesday, January 3

12:00 pm WELCA lunch and meeting

### Thursday, January 4

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

### Friday, January 5

6:00 pm Scout lock in

### Saturday, January 6

5:30 pm Worship

### Sunday, January 7

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Sunday School, ASF, choir,  
Thrivent  
11:30 am Bells  
1:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved  
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

### Monday, January 8

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy  
1:00 pm WELCA #2 Mtg.  
7:00 pm Council Mtg., Scouts

### Tuesday, January 9

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

### Wednesday, January 10

11:30 am Yesterday's Youth  
5:45 pm Dinner  
6:15 pm Children's Choir, Bible Study  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer, In Stitches  
7:30 pm Creative Faith Practices,  
Confirmation

### Thursday, January 11

6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy  
1:00 pm Lounge reserved  
7:00 pm Bell Choir, N. A. Mtg.

### Friday, January 12

5:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved  
7:00 pm Nave reserved

### Saturday, January 13

5:30 pm Worship

### Sunday, January 14

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

### Monday, January 15

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

### Tuesday, January 16

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

### Wednesday, January 17

10:00 am WELCA #1 Mtg.  
1:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved  
5:45 pm Dinner  
6:15 pm Children's Choir, Bible Study  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer, In Stitches  
7:30 pm Confirmation

### Thursday, January 18

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

### Friday, January 19

5:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved

### Saturday, January 20

9:00 am Council Retreat  
5:30 pm worship

### Sunday, January 21

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Sunday School , Choir, A.S.F.  
11:30 am Bells  
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

### Monday, January 22

9:00 Lincoln Literacy  
7:00 pm Scouts

### Tuesday, January 23

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

### Wednesday, January 24

5:45 pm Dinner  
6:15 pm Children's Choir, Bible Study  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer, In Stitches  
7:30 pm Creative Faith Practices,  
Confirmation

### Thursday, January 25

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

### Saturday, January 27

8:00 am Lesher Hall reserved  
5:30 pm Worship

### Sunday, January 28

#### **Semi Annual Meeting**

9:00 am Worship \*  
10:30 am Sunday School  
3:00 pm Nebraska Brass Concert  
5:00 pm Latino worship -Chapel

### Monday, January 29

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

### Tuesday, January 30

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

### Wednesday, January 31

5:45 pm Dinner  
6:15 pm Children's Choir, Bible Study  
7:00 pm Evening Prayer, In Stitches

\*child care provided

## Grace Staff and Council Members

### **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: Vice President, Parish Ed

Dustin Haider: Stewardship\Finance

Wendy Apple: Secretary, Worship and  
Music

Dave Ripa: Stewardship\Finance and  
Memorials

Barb Smith: Social Ministry

Teddi Reckling: Congregational life

Carla Ingersoll: Congregational life

Doug Krueger: Property



Oh how these Cherub choir kids have grown... the picture below was taken in 2009 (Chloe hadn't joined the choir yet). The picture to the left was on Sunday.



Grace Lutheran Church  
2225 Washington Street  
Lincoln NE 68502  
402-474-1505  
[office@egrace.org](mailto:office@egrace.org)

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