Living in Grace



The Grace Greeter

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502

March 24, 2015



Palm Sunday, March 29, 9:00 AM (Procession with palms, Holy Communion, reading of the Passion)

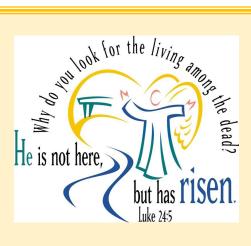
Holy Week Morning Prayer, March 30, 31, April 1, 9:00 AM in Christ Chapel

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 6:30 PM (dinner preceding at 5:30 PM) (Holy Communion, stripping of the altar)

Good Friday, April 3, 6:30 PM (Adoration of the Cross, Solemn Reproaches)

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, April 4, 6:30 PM

(Holy Communion, receive new members, reception following service, please bring an appetizer or dessert to share)



Resurrection of Our Lord April 5

Festival Easter Services with Holy Communion 7:30 and 10:30 AM

Featuring the Choirs of Grace and the Grace Foundation Brass

Breakfast in Lesher Hall, 8:30—10:00 AM Menu: Egg bake casserole, ham, muffin, fresh fruit, Orange juice, milk, coffee

Pastor's Prayers

Dear Friends in Christ,

During the past few months, I've noticed in meetings and individual conversations, that I've often been explaining what the role of a called pastor is in a congregation. Now, with 125 years of history, you've had a lot of called pastors, so you might think you already know what a pastor is supposed to do. After all, twenty-six pastors have served here over the course of these years. Some were solo pastors, some were senior pastors and associate pastors, and some were interim pastors. In addition to these 26, you've also had interns, visitation pastors, occasional guest preachers, and so on – all part of being the Body of Christ. Your longest-serving pastor was Leland H. Lesher, who was here for 25 years. But most of the called pastors were here between 4 and 14 years or so, a much more average span.

The average time has shortened since 2002, when Pastor Hallstrom and Pastor Jacobson both resigned that summer, because you have had five different pastors since then. So – let's just realize it's a lot of change in the recent years, although it has not always been like that.

It seems to me the last 13 years have been challenging for the congregation regarding the relationship with a pastor. Many things have happened, some wonderful things, and some not so good, so that now I suggest respectfully that, as a whole, we have some anxiety about our next steps.

Let me state a few things that hopefully will ease that apprehension and help us prepare ourselves to enthusiastically look forward to the upcoming changes, as Grace Lutheran anticipates extending a Letter of Call to a new Senior Pastor, probably within this calendar year.

- According to the Interim Ministry Network, I learned the average time of a pastor serving a congregation, (not just in ELCA churches) is about 7 years.
- From our Ministry Site Profile, certain things have been marked to show prospective candidates what this congregation is looking for. And, you may pick up a copy of the MSP for yourself to read by calling the church office. Here are some things about it:
 - With forty choices of Ministry Tasks, we are allowed to only mark five as "top" ones.
 - Out of another list called Gifts for Ministry, with 25 choices, we can pick five for top priority, and another five as 'very helpful.'
 - Candidates are sent to us through the ELCA Synod's process that closely matches these gifts and tasks, yet it's not that cut and dried.
 - ♦ These top priority choices are not the only skills, gifts, or training a given candidate will have. They are also not the only things we hope to find in a pastor. Remember, every pastor comes as a "package deal."
- In past articles, I've gone into some detail about how the size of our congregation pushes the pastor as leader to operate in certain ways, so I won't review all of it again, but I hope you'll recall that we are now a congregation with average weekend attendance of 183. What we do and how we do it, as a congregation is different than it was 13 years ago.
- Each pastor has his or her own ability to manage and supervise, interact with people and develop relationships, self-differentiate as a leader, take time for self-care and so on.
- In addition, I boldly claim that men and women go through the rigorous process for ordination because they hope to do the basics of pastoring preach, teach, lead worship, preside at sacraments, care for people, keep confidences, and love the people as Jesus loves us!
- In our constitution, Chapter 9 is the place where the expectations and responsibilities of a pastor are all written out. It's an important document, and it's quite clear. Again, a copy is available for anyone to read and have. Just ask in the church office.
- Finally, pastors are set apart in ordination to serve the church of Jesus Christ in pastoring and leading organizations. But we know all pastors are human beings, children of God who have been gifted with talents by our marvelous Creator, yet also sinners seeking forgiveness. Just like we all are.

Please pray diligently and strive to minimize any nervousness you might have about these inevitable steps ahead. As we continue awaiting a truly big change for Grace Lutheran, keep praying! And let's always remember the true head of the church is Jesus Christ! He leads us as his followers, and as his congregation. This is His church – not ours!

Let's willingly go through a deeper time of contemplation as we near Holy Week. And then let's prepare for the joyous celebration of Easter. Truly, that is what our church is all about! Praising God and witnessing and serving to others.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Sylvia



Ill or Hospitalized: Harold Paschold, Judy Holtgrewe, Ann Gebhard, Carol Bernasek, Nora Johnson, Phyllis Krueger, Ken Holmstrom, Darlene Stutheit, Bonnie Drohman

Baptism on February 28: Charlie Benjamin Matya, son of Ben & Kylie, great nephew of Rod & Debbie Basler

The deadline for the next Greeter will be April 20th. It will be mailed on Tuesday, April 28.

Bulletins have been shared by: Keith & Corene Herbster (Mount Cross Lutheran Church, Payson, AZ); Connie Whyrick (Edensburg Lutheran, Malmo, NE)

From the Memorials Committee: Memorials from Anita Van Cleaf were used for the lounge furnishings. Part of the memorials from Ruth Rosenburg were used for the church bus safety bars.

ուսանականականականականականական

Charlie Leftridge presents his Master's recital on Tuesday, March 31st at 7:30 p.m. in the nave of Grace Lutheran Church, with a reception to follow in Lesher Lounge. This recital showcases Charlie's original compositions, including his Master's thesis project, of seasons have I sung, a seven-part cantata featuring the UNL Chamber Singers in collaboration with a UNL string quartet under the direction of Dr. Therees Tkach Hibbard. The Bells of Grace, under the direction of Sara Schott, will open the evening with He gives rain upon the earth, an original piece written specifically for the ensemble. Works for string quartet and woodwind duet will also be performed. Please join Charlie for an evening of remarkable music in a transcendent space.

innananananananananananananan

We have made postcards giving information about our Holy Week and Easter services. Our hope is that you will take one for your household and then take one to invite a friend to come to our services. The postcards will be at each entrance to the nave, on the table outside the office and on the tables for Lent suppers.

Calendar of Upcoming Quasquicentennial Anniversary Events

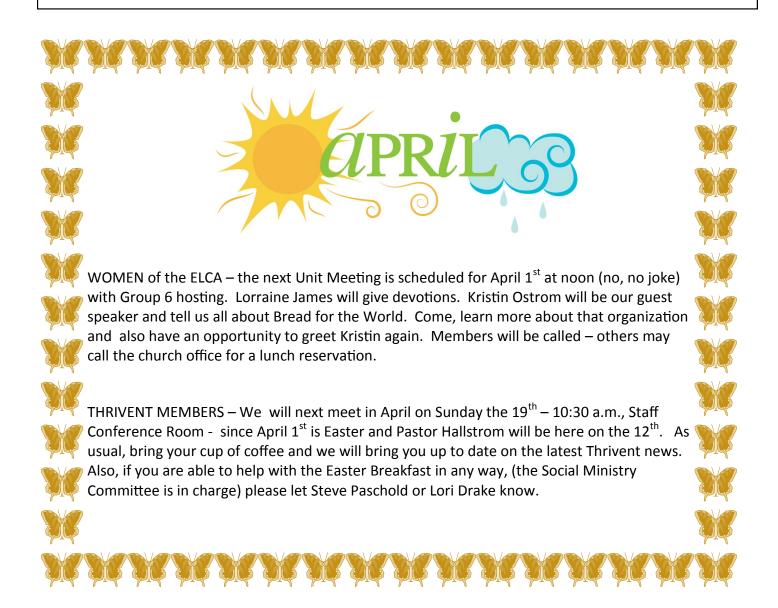
March 31	Composition Recital: Charlie Leftridge
April 11-12	Guest Preacher Series: Pastor Tom Hallstrom
April 19	Hat Sunday!
May 3	Grace Talent Show & Cookbook Potluck
May 9-10	Guest Preacher Series: Bishop Dennis Anderson
June 13	Quasquicentennial Banquet
June 14	Quasquicentennial Festival Worship



Be part of the Passion (Palm) Sunday processional on Sunday, March 29. by coming to the atrium prior to the worship service. Receive a palm branch, hear the children sing Hosanna, and process with us into the nave, remembering that procession so long ago in Jerusalem! This service brings us into Holy Week, the most important week in the church year, as we remember Christ's suffering and dying, and ultimately

his resurrection. We'd really like to encourage you to COME TO THE ATRIUM! The service begins there with a prelude; the children's choir will sing there (you will miss them if you don't come to the atrium); and the Palm Sunday gospel is read there. If the weather is nice, we will process outside the church. If it is inclement, we will process down the hallway

Holy Week Morning Prayer - "O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise". So begins the beautiful service of Morning Prayer, which once again will be held during Holy Week, March 30, 31 and April 1. The short service (20 minutes) begins at 9 a.m. in the Christ Chapel, and is followed by fellowship and refreshments. Martin Luther once described prayer and worship as "holy conversation" - God's speaking the living and saving word and the church replying in song and prayer. The scriptures for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Holy Week focus on the events of the last week of Jesus' earthly life.



Lenten dinner menus:

March 25— ham, scalloped potatoes, corn, rolls, cake. Served by WELCA group 2

April 2—cheesy chicken vegetable casserole, cinnamon apple jello salad, rolls, sugar cookies, fruit. Served by WELCA group 6

Free will offering (suggested \$5.00 adults; \$3.00 children)



Adult Study Forum will include the following topics:

- ~ Palm Sunday: a DVD on "Palm Sunday," discussion led by Dan Warren
- ~ Easter Sunday: no adult study forum session
- ~ April 12th: Q125 Visiting Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tom Hallstrom
- ~ April 19th: The ELCA Call Process, with Rev Megan Morrow, assistant to Bishop Maas, NE Synod
- ~ April 26th: "The Holy Spirit," a discussion of the third person of the Holy Trinity, led by Pr Doug Allen.

As always, you are most welcome to attend any one or all of the ASF sessions. Sessions are in the newly-renovated Lesher Lounge.



Reserve your Easter Lily now for our Easter Garden (deadline for ordering, Monday, March 30)
Please complete and return this form to the church office by the deadline

Luies Parker and the second se
I will place an Easter Lily (gold foil, no bow):
In memory ofor
In honor of
I will purchase the plant and bring it to the church myself by April 2.
I would like the church office to order a lily for me at \$10.00 each. (Payment is enclosed)
Plant (s) given by:

Celebrate the Triduum at Grace! All services begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Three Days is the church's annual experience of the heart of the Christian faith. At Grace, we refer to this three-day service by its ancient Latin name of Triduum. The service begins on the evening of Maundy Thursday, continues on Good Friday, and ends finally with the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. Please join us -- each day's installation is a vital part of understanding the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection!

Maundy Thursday: The gospel for this day narrates two events on the Thursday before Jesus' death: his last meal with his disciples, and his symbolic gesture of washing their feet. We begin our service by acknowledging our sin and receiving forgiveness. Being forgiven by God turns us toward reconciliation with and service to our neighbor, as commanded by Christ when he said, "Love one another as I have loved you." The service ends with the Stripping of the Altar. In medieval times, the stripping of the altar was likened to the stripping of Jesus' body before his crucifixion. Perhaps you think instead of the church's sorrow over Christ's death, or the paring down of the self in order to receive the life of Christ, or the final stripping away of your own life before death. Psalm 22, chanted during this ritual, provides metaphors to accompany the somber emptying of our beloved worship space. The psalm ends, and there is silence. The service pauses, to be resumed on Good Friday.

Good Friday: We return to an empty room, an unfolding story, the mystery of faith. English-speaking Christians call this day Good. It is a day, not of unmitigated mourning as if Jesus were dead, but of profound contemplation of the mystery, that from the cross of death, God grants the world new life. Held together in the passion of Christ, we hold out our hands in prayer for all the world. Having heard the Passion of Christ according to St. Luke on Palm Sunday, now we turn to the Passion according to St. John. John offers a triumphal view of Christ's death; Christ, God among us, reigns from the cross. From his divine death comes human life. The great intercessions of the Bidding Prayer open to ever-widening circles of concern. We pray in front of the cross, and ask God to have mercy on every living person and thing in the cosmos. We sing the Solemn Reproaches, Christ's lament against the church, and a final triumphant hymn (Sing, My Tongue) before leaving. Our service will continue on Holy Saturday.

Easter Vigil: The Easter Vigil is the central event of the Lenten and Easter seasons. It is truly the most significant liturgy of the year. We gather outside around a new fire; we follow the paschal candle (the Light of Christ) into a darkened nave. We gather to hear the ancient stories of God's saving acts for God's people. We remember baptism on this day that emphasizes renewal, rebirth and resurrection. And finally, we celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter, with bells, lights, lilies and joy! This service is rich and wonderful and full of symbolism, and is followed by a reception so that we can break our Lenten fasts and celebrate Christ's resurrection together!

-Adapted from Worship Guidebook for Lent and the Three Days published by Augsburg

"One Day Without Shoes" Collection of Shoes for the People's City Mission (Sponsored by Cornhusker Bank)

This will be the fourth year that we've participated in this event. Last year Grace was one of the many drop-off sites available throughout the Lincoln area. Together over 9,000 pairs of shoes and over \$9,000 were collected for the People's City Mission. A barrel will arrive at Grace by April 3 and be picked up by the 20^{th} . That gives us about 2 weeks to fill it up with new and (gently) used footwear. If you would rather make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to the People's City Mission with "One Day Without Shoes" in the memo portion. Drop in the offering plate or deliver to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Social Ministry Committee.

God's Blessings, Barb Smith, Lori Drake, Larry & Sue Clymer, Steve Paschold, and Joyce Lunde



GREETERS FOR COMING SUNDAYS:

MARCH 29 Karen and Mark Billings; Charlene Johnson

EASTER, APRIL 5, 7:30 A.M. Don and Helen Carnes

EASTER, APRIL 5, 10:30 A.M. Jeannette Allen; Barry Moore

APRIL 12 Sharon & Larry Genthe; Phyllis Krueger

APRIL 19 Lois Schuerman; Darlene Stutheit

APRIL 26 Jolene and Bill Hokanson; Sarah and Doug Krueger

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.



Jim Krueger presents the mortgage
"Paid in Full" certificate to council
president Steve Rosno. After 15 years,
the mortgage is paid in full!!

Living in Grace

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



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Quasquicentennial Committee cordially invites you to the fourth installment of the Guest Preacher Series! Pastor Tom Hallstrom will be returning to Grace to preach during services on April 11 & 12!

Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Hallstrom was first called to Grace Lutheran Church as an Associate Pastor under Pastor Stan Ecklund. He served as Associate Pastor from 1986-1987. In 1988, Pastor Hallstrom became Senior Pastor. He served as Senior Pastor from 1988-2002. In 2002, Pastor Hallstrom accepted a call to serve Reformation Lutheran Church

in Wichita, Kansas. In 2007, he began a series of interim calls in Kansas. Currently, Pastor Hallstrom serves part-time at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Peabody, Kansas.

When reflecting on his time at Grace, Pastor Hallstrom notes: "During my tenure at Grace, many exciting opportunities were afforded me. Among them was the privilege of working with the best staff any Pastor could imagine. My love for worship was accented greatly by the honor of having Rev. Peter Jacobson as an Associate. While at Grace, I had the great pleasure of being a part of the renovation of the worship space, the addition and remodeling project of the building, and especially the design of the new Ludden Memorial Chapel with the installation of the Bedient organ. I truly loved the members of Grace and consider my time in Lincoln as among the best times in my ministry."

Pastor Hallstrom was born and raised near Webster, South Dakota. He graduated from Webster High School and subsequently from Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. In 1978 he graduated with a Masters of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina. He earned a Doctor of Ministry from Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago in 1995.

Pastor Hallstrom's wife, Marlene, serves as Parish Musician at St. James Episcopal Church in Wichita. Their children, Eric, Erin and Betsy are doing well. Eric and his spouse, Jessica, are in the process of moving to St. Paul, MN where Eric will work for the state government. Erin and her spouse, Michi, live and work in Graz, Austria, and have two beautiful children: daughter Zoe and son Nils. Betsy is completing her first year teaching 3rd grade at Capital Beach Elementary in the Lincoln Public Schools.

Please plan on attending these services to hear Pastor Hallstrom's message. In addition, please join us for Fellowship Hour following the April 12 service. There will be no Adult Study Forum that Sunday so that the congregation may catch up with Pastor Hallstrom and share memories of Grace!

Travel with Grace!!

Tote bags commemorating our 125th anniversary will be available for sale on Sunday, April 12! These two-tone totes can help you cart groceries, books, hobby supplies, or whatever else you need to move from here to there. The totes are \$5 each; proceeds will go toward quasquicentennial activities.

Thirsty??

Travel mugs commemorating our 125th anniversary will also be available for sale on April 12! These insulated mugs are great for drinks hot or cold, keeping their temperature for hours and hours!! The mugs are \$20 each; proceeds will go toward quasquicentennial activities.

Thank you!

The Quasquicentennial Committee would like to thank the congregation for continuing to make the Guest Preacher Series such a phenomenal success!! The time with Pastor Lesher was reflective, both as he reflected on his "show and tell" items, as well as when he asked us to reflect on what makes us proud to be members of Grace!!

Hat Sunday!

Ladies' hats have long been a cultural tradition. So, in this year of celebrating our heritage, it only seems fitting that we should also celebrate this fashion mainstay. And what better time for celebration than during the Easter season! Let's "bring in spring" on April 19 with Hat Sunday!!

The Grace Talent Show & Cookbook Potluck

On May 3, you are cordially invited to enjoy—and/or participate in—the Grace Talent Show & Cookbook Potluck!

Celebrate your talent, be it great or small, Bring a potluck dish to share with all. But the only food that you can cook Must have appeared in a Grace Cookbook!

Fun and food are such a great combination!! Stay tuned for more details!!!

Celebrating 125 years 1890 – 2015

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

God's grace: the same yesterday, today and online

If you want to reach people today, you need to give them a digital option.

That's what Grace's website offers: a way to find out about the congregation's mission and ministry and events simply by searching for "Grace Lutheran Church Lincoln NE" or going directly to egrace.org.

Dean Dumler, chair of the Evangelism Committee, said the committee sees a good website as an essential way to reach out to both members and the larger community. "Young people, especially, go online for everything," he said, and the congregation wants to be sure anyone searching for information about Grace can find it on the Internet.

Grace first developed a website about 15 years ago and made some updates since then. But in the face of changing technology, the Evangelism Committee decided last fall that it was time for a major website upgrade. Brady Garvin, Margaret Gipson and Jeanne Weisbrook, all members of the committee, donated their time to develop the latest site. Matt Knobe also helped with revisions.

Brady said the Evangelism Committee had, for many years, been supporting the website by contracting with a firm in Lincoln. One goal for the new site was to find a less expensive model, and the committee did that – even chose a free template for the site. The only ongoing cost is 30 cents per day or about \$9 per month for Web hosting.

The committee also wanted to improve the look and navigation of the page. "We wanted to streamline things so that if a visitor comes to the site, the content on the home page is likely what he or she wants to see," Brady



said: the calendar, service times, links to sermons and so forth

Another goal was to make the site more accessible on mobile devices. Thanks to the new template, the page adapts to a cell phone screen and shares content with the desktop site, whereas they were managed separately before.

Once they settled on a template, the three members of the ad hoc website committee divided the information that appears on the site and went to work.

"We pared down the content," Margaret said, "trying to keep things focused and relevant." For example, on the old site, each standing committee had its own page, but the page often included only one paragraph of text or one or two photos. "We wanted to compile information" in ways that made sense for someone searching for it, Margaret said.

The committee said it was important, too, that it be easy for someone to update the website frequently and easily. As part of her work as parish administrator, Sandi Knippelmeyer will post information for the calendar and events. Dean said one goal in updating the website was to make the

process easier and less time consuming for her.

While the site is not completely finished, and the committee is still seeking feedback, Brady said traffic is already up. "People are coming to the new page."

The Evangelism Committee hopes the website will be an important way to help

both current and potential members of the congregation see how Grace and its members are using their hands to do God's work in the community.



MEMBERSHIP ROLLS REVIEW

Our council is moving forward on the need to go over our membership rolls of voting members and bring them up to date. This is a normal and vital activity for every congregation, and our constitution calls for it being done in odd-numbered years.

It's important to know that in Chapter 8 of the constitution, we define voting members as confirmed members who have communed in this congregation and have made a contribution of record to this congregation during the current or preceding calendar year. (C8.02) Please know that no one is being removed from the rolls for any incongruous reasons. Those who are elderly or housebound are, of course, not being removed, as we know they would participate as much as they could. And, they receive communion through our ministry of visitation.

We also want you to know that anyone who was baptized, confirmed or married here at Grace Lutheran have the names written in the historical records, which are permanent and not altered. Those names may be reviewed in the church office. However, what we are doing now is going over the names of current voting members to keep on the active rolls.

As we communicate with those who have not been around much, we invite them to rejoin us and make this place be their community of faith in nurturing and supportive ways. People are also asked to call Pastor Sylvia if there is something they are unhappy about, because we want them to be heard and to feel like they have been heard. And, it may also be that our records are inaccurate, and either the person has already moved to another church, or the person has been in attendance here at Grace, and we didn't know it.

For those who want to stay on our rolls, we will then make sure each household gets a monthly newsletter, and all members will receive other occasional correspondence, such as stewardship letters, notice of congregational meetings and so on.

We are surrounding this effort in prayer, and ask for your prayers for us as we go about this task. The *ad hoc* group is Teddi Reckling, Barbara Smith, Sandi Knippelmeyer, and Pastor Sylvia. We will report to the council each month until the work is done for this year.

Grace Lutheran Church January Council Meeting

February 10, 2015

Present: Doug Allen, Terry Branting, Lynn Chamberlin, Dennis Berens, Steve Rosno, Barbara Smith, Dave Ripa, Teddi Reckling, Mar-

garet Gipson, Connie Whyrick, Jacob Krueger, Pastor Sylvia

Absent: Jeanne Weisbrook (excused) Staff: Pastor Bob Rademacher

President Steve R. called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pastor Doug provided the opening devotions and prayer.

President Steve added an item to the New Business Section of the Agenda of the meeting at the request of Pr. Bob: Financial Assistance to the Seminarians.

The minutes from the January Council meeting were presented.

It was moved (Ripa), seconded (Reckling) and carried that the minutes be approved and filed.

Correspondence:

A Thank you note from Paula R. Rezek, Cubmaster Pack 30.

A Thank you from Robert Jensen, 3rd Platoon Bravo Company 1st 502 Infantry.

Staff Reports:

Interim Pastor: Written report

Pastor Sylvia reminded everyone about the upcoming opportunity to attend a Mass with Bishop Maas. She encourages all lay lead-

ers available to attend.

Visitation Pastor: Written report **Director of Music:** Written report.

Financial Secretary's Report: Written report presented.

Treasurer's Report: Written report presented

It was moved (Ripa), seconded (Berens) and carried that the financial and staff reports be filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Parish Education: Written report **Evangelism:** Scheduled for this week

Finance: Written report
Property: Written report
Social Ministry: Did not meet
Stewardship: Written report
Youth: Written report

Memorials: Scheduled for this week Worship and Music: Written report Mutual Ministry: Did not meet

Quasquicentennial Committee: Written report

Policy Sub-Committee: Written Report

It was moved (Smith), seconded (Whyrick) and carried that all committee reports be filed.

Old Business:

Website Update: Provided by Margaret Gipson with some follow-up discussion on the calendar update process.

Election of the Trustees for the Foundation Board: President Steve explained that based on the By-Laws of the Foundation it is the responsibility of the Council to elect the Foundation Trustees, one per year for 5-year terms, which has not been done for a number of years. Following discussion with the Foundation, he presented the following slate of candidates for Council approval:

1-year	Tina Loseke
2-years	Ron Holtgrewe
3-years	Barry Moore
4-years	Rod Basler
5-years	Phil Sorenson

It was moved (Berens), seconded (Ripa) and carried to accept and approve the slate as presented.

The appointment of Matt Knobbe as Financial Secretary was moved (Whyrick), seconded (Smith) and carried.

Council/Staff Sponsored Lenten Dinner Update: Dave Ripa provided a sign-up sheet for donations of food and assistance for the March 18th dinner.

Delegates to the Synod Assembly Update: President Steve indicated that as of today Lindsey Howard has volunteered to attend, Jameson Leftridge is considering attending, and he is still looking for additional volunteers to represent Grace at the Assembly.

Audit committee: The Constitution requires the completion of an annual in-house audit, to be completed by a Council appointed 3-person committee with one person newly appointed per year. President Steve presented the following slate of candidates for Council approval:

1-year	Roger Potts
2-years	Lois Schuerman
3-years	Karen Billings

It was moved (Smith), seconded (Berens) and carried to accept and approve the slate as presented. This year's audit is scheduled for completion by May 1, 2015.

Update on the Employee Agreements for Staff: President Steve indicated that following review of the updated agreements with the staff, there were questions and concerns that needed to be addressed. The concerns will be addressed, required modifications made and the revised documents will be presented to the Council at a future meeting.

Approval of expenses by Committees: President Steve indicated that he had reviewed the current payment/ reimbursement process and he believes that it is not feasible for payments to be "signed-off" by Committees prior to payments being made and still make payments in an appropriate time-frame; the number of payments issued monthly is just too high. He did indicate that all Committees should review monthly payments made from their budgets and if they have any questions the documentation can be retrieved by Sandi and/or Jim K. for review.

Council Retreat: As a follow-up to a suggestion made at last month's meeting; it was determined that the Council would be well served with a ½ day, off-site, facilitated retreat, which should become an annual event. Pastor Sylvia indicated that many Councils are very successful holding annual retreats with a revolving focus (Vision, Programs, Spirituality). The retreat will be on March 28, 2015 and Pastor Sylvia will try to secure a room at Camp Carol Joy Holling. There was extensive discussion on staff involvement in the retreat; it was decided that at this point attendance/involvement in the retreat will be limited to the elected Council of the church. Any specific ideas for inclusion in the retreat discussion should be forwarded to Steve R.

Janet Jodais fund: Tabled until next month.

New Business:

Review of the Membership Roster of the Congregation: The Constitution requires the roster to be reviewed every "odd" numbered year. President Steve asked for two volunteers to assist Sandi and Pastor Sylvia with the 2015 review. It is anticipated that the process will be completed within two months. Barbara Smith and Teddi Reckling volunteered to assist with the roster review.

Financial Assistance to the Seminarians: Pastor Bob asked for approval from the Council to approach the Foundation requesting that they modify their terms regarding making financial assistance available to Grace's Seminarians. The current terms require that the assistance be used for only for tuition and that the Seminarian must have been a member of Grace for a minimum of three years, unfortunately none of our current Seminarians meet both of those terms. It was moved (Ripa), seconded (Berens) and carried that the Council approve Pastor Bob approaching the Foundation to request modification of their Grace Seminarian financial assistance terms.

Steve asked if there was any more business to bring before the Church Council, seeing none, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Lynn K. Chamberlin, Council Member



From Sue Clymer: I would like to thank Pastor Sylvia and Pastor Bob for visiting me while I was in the hospital. Also, thank you for all of the prayers and get well cards I received from members of the congregation. By far to many to list all the names. Also thanks to everyone who has helped out with the dinners that I was not able to help with. I am getting better each day but is seems to slow for me. Thanks to my wonderful Church friends.

From Rev. Eric Lesher: Thank you to everyone who made my visit possible. I enjoyed reconnecting with so many who helped launch me into parish ministry. Like I mentioned in the sermon: you wrapped in grace, encouraged my call and sent me on my way.



Even though it was the eve of St. Patrick's Day when people from Grace served at The Gathering Place, the menu had an Italian flavor. Spaghetti with meat sauce was prepared by Regina and Steve Paschold. We did have a touch of "green" in the tossed lettuce salad. There were also bananas, bread, and homemade cakes and dessert treats donated by Ginny and Roger Potts, Joy Kokes, Pat Lickei, and the Pascholds. Helping to serve and to clean up after 113 portions were distributed were Pat, Joy, Ginny, Roger, Regina, Steve, and Dennis Madison and Tom Range.



Palms

When Jesus entered Jerusalem days before his death, crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, which were common symbols of victory and rejoicing. Thus churches continue to use them in remembrance of that occasion, knowing that Jesus' crucifixion was ultimately his triumph over sin and death. As early as Leviticus 23:40, God commanded Israel to use palms in a festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-10, Christian martyrs carry palm branches as they praise the Lamb before the throne of God.

REVIEW OF LISTENING SESSIONS – WINTER 2015 LED BY INTERIM PASTOR SYLVIA KARLSSON

Here are the numbers:

We had four sessions, with 23 participants, 7 of whom are council members. This overall number of participants is not very many, based on our average number of people in worship on a weekend, and, generally, the number of active members we have.

We let people know about these sessions through the newsletter, bulletin announcements, and a couple of general emails sent out. Possibly, if we had made a separate post card mailing, we might have had more attendees. As a comparison, a post card mailing was used in addition to these other methods at Our Savior in Wayne, which has an average attendance of 210, and the attendance at Listening Sessions was about 90 people. Our average attendance is at 183, and, already stated, there were 23 at Listening Sessions.

How notes were taken and reviewed:

The sessions included three periods of quiet thinking and then each person had time to express his or her thoughts, going around the table. There was no back and forth discussion time. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

During the sessions, I made short notations of comments made, and now I have gone back over my notes, making a small graph of what things were brought up. If something was brought up only once, it is still of value, but not included in this report. If something was brought up at each session, then it is included.

No person's comments are meant to be identified, so I have re-worded any specific comments. Everyone was told this at the beginning of the session that the report would be done in this way. So attendees could feel they could be as open as they wanted to be.

Notes made during the sessions and summed up:

Here are the three main areas that were brought up at each session-

- I. Appreciation for our music program, yet wishing for more variety in worship.
 - There were no examples of a desire for *regular* use of other types of music, including contemporary music. Almost everyone voiced their appreciation for the traditional style. But they want more variety.
 - Want to see children participating in worship in different ways: musical talent, reading, ushering, and so on. It's already going on some, but would like this to happen often, including children who are not around much. Have children take part, even if they lack polish or even if they are just beginning to learn an instrument.
 - Don't be overly concerned about level of excellence, but about including the youngsters and members of the church. Yes, we want to give glory in our worship, yet it's about the people gathered, not about professionalism.

Keep the "kids' talk" in worship as often as possible, meaning almost every time.

Would like more variety of small changes in the service, so it seems a little bit more flexible.

Use a variety of instruments in worship, in addition to the organ. Examples were to include things like piano, guitar, violin, flute, Cornell service, other liturgies, etc., more often than we are doing now.

It was expressed that the discussion about worship and music, and hoping for some change, has been going on so long, some are tired of even talking about it, because "nothing changes."

II. The importance of fellowship and friends at church.

Fellowship and friends are the two main things that keep people here.

Seeing that newer members and visitors are welcomed during fellowship hour after worship is important, and for those who do it well, others notice it and appreciate their efforts.

Feel that Grace Lutheran is already open to outsiders and visitors, shows that diversity is appreciated, and we should lift up and even be proud of this point.

III. The desire to be open to new ideas.

Being open to new ideas is seen as a way for the church to become more welcoming, vibrant, and thriving.

Comments were made about doing more "out of the box" thinking and being willing to make tough decisions that reflect an openness to the future.

JOB READY- Free Seminar INTERVIEWING SKILLS AND RESUME' WRITING TIPS

Please be our guest to one of these seminars!

Thurs., March 26th, Noon-1PM (lunch) Mon., March 30th, 5:30-6:30PM (cookies) Fri., April 10th, Noon-1PM (lunch)

Tabitha: 4720 Randolph St.

Room: LifeQuest

Presenter: Barb Bures, HR Recruitment Coordinator

If you want food, please RSVP by the end of business the day before the seminar to 402.486.8556



2 Ron & Judy Holtgrewe Shawn & Joanie Rathjen

7 Delmar & Darlene Motycka

16
Everett & Velma Giles
Jon & Connie Thorson

18 Rick & Becky Williams

26 Robin & Shirleen Hoffman

30 Karen & Mark Billings Bruce & Cheryl Petersen



1 Tess Noecker

2 Janet Ahler Florence Stokke John Sump 3 Michael Drake

4 Stormy Eberspacher Rick Williams

5 Joan Anderson Sally Engelhardt Amy Foster Carla Ingersoll

7 Donna Hansen Carmen McKillip

8 Kelli Stokke

10 Brittany Billings

11 Timothy Hightree Art Hillman

12 Delmar Miller Florence Prusia

14 Ruth Lantis

16 Kennedy Billings

17 Christane Drake Sara Olston

19 Debbie Basler Marilyn Holmsquist 20 Jackson Hightree

21 Susan Gruttis

22 Betty Shaw

23 Lianne Garza

24 Dante Martin

25 Terry Cosier Amanda Genuchi

26 Eric Hoffman

27 Susan Givens Teresa Serafin Jeanne Weisbrook Becky Williams

30 Tyler Lowery



Wednesday, April 1

9:00 am Morning Prayer 12:00 am WELCA lunch & mtg. 6:00 pm Cherub Choir 6:20 pm Children's choir 7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg.,

Thursday, April 2 **Maundy Thursday**

6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Quilting\Sewing 9:00 am Lincoln Literacy 5:30 pm Lent Supper 6:30 Worship 7:00 pm N. A. Mtg., At Ease

Friday, April 3 **Good Friday**

6:30 worship

Saturday, April 4

Easter Eve

6:30 pm Worship

Sunday, April 5

Easter

7:30 & 10:30 am Worship * 8:30—10:00 am Easter breakfast served

Monday, April 6

Church office closed 7:00 pm Scouts, Committee mtg.

Tuesday, April 7

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

Wednesday, April 8

11:30 am Yesterday's Youth 7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg.

Thursday, April 12

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

Friday, April 10

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

Saturday, April 11

10:00 am Chapel reserved 5:30 pm Worship 6:00 pm Lounge reserved

Sunday, April 12

9:00 am Worship * 10:30 am Sunday School 3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal

Monday, April 13

1:00 pm WELCA Mtg. #2 7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, April 14

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, April 15

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

Thursday, April 16

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

Friday, April 17

5:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved 7:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal -Nave

Saturday, April 18

10:00 am L.L.C. -Nave 1:00 pm Lounge reserved 5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, April 19

9:00 am Worship * 10:30 am ASF, Choir, Sunday School 4:30 pm Nave reserved for LMTA concert

Monday, April 20

7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, April 21

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

Wednesday, April 22

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

Thursday, April 23

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

Saturday, April 25

9:00 am L.L.C. rehearsal -Nave 5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, April 26

9:00 am Worship * 10:30 am ASF, Choir, Sunday School 3:00 pm Lincoln Lutheran Choir concert

Monday, April 27

7:00 pm Scouts

Tuesday, April 28

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

Wednesday, April 29

6:20 Children's choir 7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg., Grace Notes bell choir

Thursday, April 23

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

*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	Our Seminarians
Curt Mann, chair	Brian Eck
Wendy Apple	Amanda Hefner
Charlyne Berens	Steven Neal
Brady Garvin	
Margaret Gipson	
Carla Ingersoll	
Sarah Krueger	
Roger Potts	

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