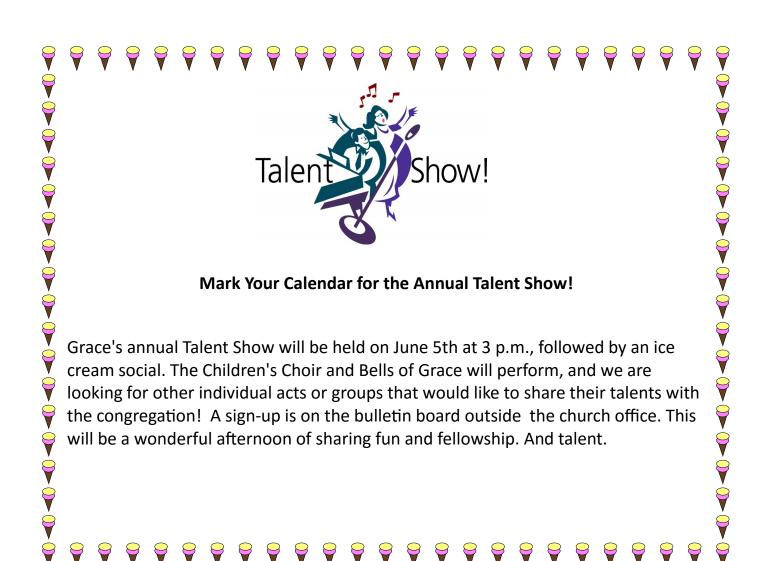


The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502 May 24, 2016 www.egrace.org, facebook.com/glclincoln, prayer requests, dialogue and questions welcomed.





"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:3-6)

This is the verse selected for this year's Synod Assembly in June. The theme is "Called in Hope, Diverse in Mission, United in Christ". The assembly will provide participants with ways to experience what it means to be called from all of our various backgrounds and walks of life to be the church together, centered around the cross of Jesus Christ.

Unity is never an easy thing to accomplish. The unity Paul recognizes is not a unity where everyone looks the same, talks the same and acts the same. Paul envisions a diverse church unified in its mission of proclaiming Christ to the world. He uses the word "effort" because it is hard work to be a diverse group unified in one mission. That effort means that sometimes I have to let my idea be shaped by another. The end result is that a new idea emerges and not just my idea. Getting my way does not help in our life together as a church. It can actually take away from the new ideas that are ready to emerge through us.

What new ideas are emerging through us as we think and plan our mission together at Grace? How have you contributed to the growth of our vision? How have you stunted the growth of our vision? It takes effort to listen and share but remember our listening and sharing are not for our benefit but for the benefit of those who do not know the hope we have in Jesus. So keep listening and sharing so that the Holy Spirit can create among us a community of grace bonded by peace.

In Christ.

Pr. Eric Lesher

Pr. En Jester



Birth: Chloe Christine Robinson, daughter of Todd and Sandra, born on May 18

Baptism on April 30: Lela Faith Heim, daughter of Kara and Kevin Heim

To contact Pastor Eric after office hours, you can call or text him at 308-708-1146 or email pr.eric@egrace.org.

To reach Tyler, you can call the church office and leave her a voicemail message (press 4) or you can email her at: tyler@egrace.org

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

Is there a graduate in your family this year? If so, please notify the church office as soon as possible so that all the names of the graduates may be included in the June 28 Greeter

This month, the Metro Parish Food Pantry needs peanut butter, jelly, canned beans, fruit, rice, syrup. Donations can be left in the food barrels outside the church office.

If you go to garage sales this summer, don't forget to watch for stuffed animals and long necklaces for Tabitha Bingo Prizes!

From the Memorials Committee: Memorial money from Bertha Sears and undesignated funds were used to donate \$1000.00 towards the stained glass window fund.



We welcomed new members on May 15.

Robert Fischer
Tyler & Nick Johnson
Ben, Jennifer and Sadie Klein

So good

At the communion rail, a man held out his hand to receive the bread. His curious toddler by his side loudly asked, "Is it good, Daddy?" He smiled and nodded yes.

Indeed, communion is a good gift from Jesus, who wants us to remember his sacrifice for us. The next time you receive communion, remember to "taste and see that the LORD is *good!*" (Psalm 34:8, emphasis added).





WOMEN of the ELCA: have a great summer and be ready to start anew in the Fall.

- 1. Watch for information about the summer Bible study, probably in August.
- 2. Remember to attend the June Brunch at the Eatery on June 1st at 1:30 p.m.
 - 3. More information about the Autumn Renewal in Grand Island will

be coming your way.

4. And- we are tentatively planning something special to celebrate Bold Women's Day in the early Fall. We look forward to the new 2016-17 year!

THRIVENT ADVOCATES AND MEMBERS - Remember we plan to meet next in September unless something special comes before. See you then.





Westminster Concert Bell Choir

"Songs of America" Tour, featuring arrangements of patriotic favorites and American songs and hymns plus original works performed on the world's largest range of hand bells and Choirchimes.

Tuesday, May 31, 7 p.m.Grace Lutheran Church
Free will offering

The Westminster Concert Bell Choir is composed of students at Rider University's Westminster Choir College, which was the first institution in the world to develop such a program.

Hailed for its virtuosity, the ensemble performs on the largest range of hand bells in the world — 8 octaves, from C1 to C9. Many of the bells are made of bronze and range in weight from four ounces to 11 pounds; the Choir also uses the large "Basso Profundo" aluminum-cast bells that are a new phenomenon in hand bell ringing. The Choir supplements its hand bells with a six-octave set of Malmark Choirchime® instruments from C2 to C8 — the widest range in existence.



Save the date...

July 31 Antelope Park (log cabin shelter) 5:00 PM (we will eat around 5:30)

Hot dogs, buns, condiments will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share, along with your table service and drink.

The Lincoln Municipal Band will have a concert at 7:00 PM at the bandshell. Admission is FREE. The theme that night is: *Give My Regards: Music from Broadway*

Arts Camp

We'd like to invite children (Pre K - Sixth Grade) to join us for Arts Camp (VBS) this summer. It will be held June 6 - 9 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The theme is Praise, and kids will explore the following questions: What is praise? How do we praise? and Why do we praise?

<u>©</u>@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Do you like to teach or do you want to try it out for a week? Do you want to help with VBS this year but don't know what you want to help with? Please get in contact with Elizabeth Krueger either on Sundays after church or call or text at (402)-430-5826.

Registration is free, and you can sign your children up using this link: http://egrace.org/vbs-enrollment.cgi

Congratulations to: Elizabeth Garza and Owen Petersen who were confirmed on May 15.

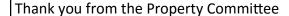




On May 16, when Grace was responsible for serving meals at The Gathering Place, it was a relatively routine event. Spaghetti with meat sauce was the main course, prepared by Regina and Steve Paschold, using ground beef donated by Kaitlyn, Cynthe and Kevin Dumler. There was also lettuce from Carla Ingersoll, applesauce, and bread, along with dessert treats contributed by Joy Kokes, Dennis Madison, Don and Helen Carnes, Kaitlyn, and Regina and Steve. Except for Cynthe Dumler, all of those mentioned above helped to serve and to clean up after 88 portions had been distributed. Thanks go to Lois Moss for her recent

financial donation to support this important ministry.

Donations to Refurbish Stained Glass Windows: If you're interested in making a donation toward the stained glass window refurbishing, you may use the pew envelopes and just mark them for the Stained Glass Window fund. Please feel free to talk to a Property Committee member about this project should you have any questions or need additional information.







From Ken & Lisa Holmstrom: Thank you all for your prayers, visits, and caring inquiries while we both have been recovering from our surgeries and other health concerns. We would especially like to thank the Grace Quilters for the quilt they made for Ken and to Pastor Eric for visiting us both when we were in the hospital and at home.

Thank you from Cornhusker Bank and the People's City Mission: Dear One Day Without Shoes Partner, Thank you for helping make One Day Without Shoes a success for the 6th year in a row! Over 180 businesses, organizations and schools pulled together to collect shoes and donations for the benefit of the People's City Mission. We announced the shoe and donation totals at the shoe distribution event on Friday, April 22nd. Over 20,000 pairs were collected this year and \$8,750 was used to purchase more. Together we are investing in our Lincoln community and changing lives!

From Donna Schnell: Thank you so much to the Grace quilters for the generous donation of the quilts for the fundraiser for my daughter in law. They brought over \$200! The money raised will help defray medical costs and their generosity is greatly appreciated.



You are invited...

Come celebrate with us on Sunday, June 26, as we celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary with an open house from 2-4 pm in Lesher Hall.

Keith and Corene Herbster

Consecrated to serve

"Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee," we sing.

But what does that mean? What does it mean to consecrate our lives to the Lord?

The rest of the hymn gives us lots of hints:

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose.

What we learn through the words of the hymn is that everything we do, in every aspect of our lives, we do in response to God's love for us – the love that forgives us, saves and supports us.

God gave us our hands, our feet, our silver and gold, our brains and our talents. We thank him by using those gifts to do God's work in the world.

The week of June 13, you will receive a Time and Talents survey in the mail. The survey will give you a chance to respond directly to God's love and God's gifts by indicating your willingness to volunteer in a variety of ways to serve God in our congregation and our community.

Please fill out the survey and return it by Sunday, June 26, either in person or by mail. The Stewardship Committee members will tabulate the surveys and forward the results to the church council and congregational committees in early August. The council and committees will be in touch by September with everyone who has offered to help.

As the hymn concludes, "Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee." This is how we consecrate our lives to God: by using the gifts God gives us to do God's work in our congregation, our community and our world.



Sampling stewardship

We are busy people, using the days and hours God has entrusted to us. We invest time in our jobs, our families and friends, in recreation and in service.

Just like our talents and our resources, our time is a gift from God. Are we doing the best we can to steward the time God has given us? Perhaps we should set a goal for ourselves and our congregation to spend a certain amount of time serving our community and the world during the coming months.

Adapted from the ELCA publication "Stewards of God's Love"

In John 13: 34-35 Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that your are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

What a powerful message to people of all ages and all generations!

When I read this passage, I thought immediately about the Grace community and the many members who demonstrate this love. As a member, I thank all of you for this community and culture.

My next thought was, how can we help more Lincoln people, people who may not feel that love, to know that Grace is here to share our ministry and community with them? How can each of us do more to make this happen?

For one thing, we want to make it easy for the community to know we're here and what we have to offer. As you have seen in our presentations and newsletters, we are beefing up our electronic communications at Grace.

- Sandi has found a new design for a weekly email to keep people updated about the congregation's events
 and ministries. If you use email but are not receiving these messages, please give us your email address so
 you can be included.
- Our web page keeps getting better, giving us more ways to reach out to the community. In addition, we
 are adding all our church policies to our web site. Please take a look at all the information that's available
 at egrace.org, and share the link with friends and acquaintances.
- Sara has worked to add more information to the Grace Facebook page. We hope you will use your own Facebook page to share the posts from the Grace page and invite other to be part of this community.
- The electronic bulletin board in the atrium helps you and our guests and visitors know about coming events and opportunities to serve and give.

We could do more with digital and electronic media. We want to know what you think about the following options:

- Should we stream our Sunday services/sermons so they can be watched live on the Internet?
- Should we offer digital lessons to families with children, lessons that can then be coordinated with our Sunday School program?
- Should we do short videos for the web page that feature some of our members talking about our ministry?
- Should we make DVD recordings of the services for our members who can no longer attend?
- What else would you like to see happening with our digital ministry?

Council continues to work hard to streamline the work of our church, our committee and our facilities.

- We have identified the goals we want our new faith formation director to address.
- We have streamlined and standardized our staff contract and evaluation documents.
- As funding becomes available, we are catching up on some postponed building repairs.
- Our Audit Committee has presented its findings/recommendations to the Council. The Council will work on their suggestions this month and next.
- We have brought in an expert from the Synod to help members plan their estates and advanced directives.
- The Columbarium Committee has presented the Council with some policy revisions that should enable the columbarium to be available well into the future.
- The Committees of Grace will have their budgets ready by July 1 and will be working on a narrative budget model to help all of us see the stories of ministry proposed.

We truly are "Gathered to Worship, Called to Witness, Sent to Serve."

At Grace, we are living out Jesus' commandment to love one another. Our goal now is to better share this ministry of love and forgiveness with all.

Blessings on each of your efforts!

Denny Berens, Council president



April Council Meeting Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Present: Pastor Eric Lesher, Denny Berens, Terry Branting, Connie Whyrick, Dave Ripa, Kevin Gade, Barb Smith, Peter Schnake, Teddi Reckling, Wendy Apple, Elizabeth Krueger, Carla Ingersoll

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

Roll call taken

Teddi provided devotions and the opening prayer.

Corrections were made to the March minutes. Barb S. moved that the March minutes be approved. Connie W. seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Connie W. made a motion to add the Good Samaritan Fund and Music Fund to the Treasurer and Financial Secretary's reports for approval from the council. Barb S. seconded. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

Senior Pastor: Written report—Discussion on potential change from Wednesday evening service to Wednesday morning during the summer starting the first Wednesday in June. Change will be publicized and see what response is.

Director of Music: Written report

Financial Secretary's Report: Written report

Treasurer's Report: Written report

Dave R. made a motion to accept and file for audit all staff and financial reports. Seconded by Teddi R. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Parish Education: Written report-instead of VBS, will be called Art Camp. Offered to neighborhood.

Evangelism: Written report: Work on revising "green card"

Property: Written report-

Social Ministry: Written report-Day without Shoes barrel in Atrium

Stewardship: Written report Finance: Written report

Youth: No report

Memorials: written report

Worship and Music: Written report Media Ministry Committee: No report

Terry B. made a motion to receive and place on file all committee reports. Seconded by Barb S. Motion

carried.

Old Business:

Columbarium: Columbarium committee will work on the consent transfer form and reviewing all other forms church policy.

Bus Sale: Bob Anderson will begin working on getting the bus sold in the next six months. **Values:** Gracious hospitality, honest conversation, genuine humility, and divine anticipation.

Vision: Making Christ known to all through Grace

Theme/Mission Statement: Gathered to Worship, Called to Witness, Sent to Serve. Connie made a motion to use gathered to worship, called to witness, sent to serve as our theme. Dave R. seconded. Motion carried. Theme suggested for 2017: Living in Gratitude, Growing in Grace, Giving in Love.

Gift Giving Workshop: Date set is May 1 during coffee hour. Should last 45 minutes. Continental breakfast. **Vanco Model:** Will present and train congregation after gift giving workshop. Should take 15 minutes.

May 15: Music Sunday, confirmation, new members

Near South Neighborhood Parks: Terry B. made a motion to take \$500 per park, \$1000 total, from the Janet Jodias fund to give to the Near South Neighborhood park fund, with a volunteer offer. Connie seconded. Motion carried.

Property committee: Postpone parking lot repair. Dave R. made a motion for Roger Potts to give a temple talk about the funding for the stained glass window repair and sending out a mailing to the congregation for a one time donation for funding. When the funding goal was met the funding drive would be stopped. Barb S. seconded. Motion carried.

Narrative Budget Model: Use theme as narrative budget "buckets": gathered to worship, called to witness, sent to serve. Take to committees and prepare a tentative budget. Peter S. to give council a story prompt guideline.

Giving By-Laws: The council will be informed of all special funding requests and will approve or not. **CPR Update:** Dave R. made a motion to apply to be a CPR approved site (AP/LTP), purchase the 1 on 1 training kit, using the debt reduction money. Seconded by Teddi R. Motion carried. Teddi R. moved that we authorize Pastor Eric to apply for a grant for \$1500 from Immanuel Vision to purchase equipment to expand the CPR program. Seconded by Kevin G. Motion carried.

New Business:

Faith Formation Evaluation Form: Installation on April 24. Council will serve cake etc. at Fellowship hour.

Memorial Process: Barb S. moved that the Memorial process be approved. Dave R. seconded. Motion carried. Teddi R. moved that the painting for the lounge be purchased, as is, from the Jolene Hokansen memorial. Barb S. seconded. Motion carried.

500th **Reformation Ideas:** Committees should discuss ideas

There being no more business to bring before the Church Council the meeting was closed by saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Carla Ingersoll, Council Secretary

June 5	
Assisting Minister	Tina Loseke
Lector	Connie Whyrick
Communion Assistants	Brady Garvin, Connie Whyrick, Joyce Krueger, Steve Paschold
Altar Guild	Mark & Karen Billings
Acolyte	Chloe Fitzgibbon
Communion Bread	Barb Smith
June 12	
Assisting Minister	Charlyne Berens
Lector	Denny Berens
Communion Assistants	Denny Berens, Steve & Tricia Rosno, Dave Ripa
Altar Guild	Doug & Sarah Krueger
Acolyte	Luke Filbert
Communion Bread	Darlene Stutheit
June 19	
Assisting Minister	Doug Allen
Lector	Kyle Givens
Communion Assistants	Darlene Stutheit, Alan Givens, Jeannette Allen, Fran Gade
Altar Guild	Ginny Potts, Carla Ingersoll
Acolyte	Kyle Givens
Communion Bread	Wendy Apple
June 26	
Assisting Minister	Roger Potts
Lector	Carol Olson
Communion Assistants	Bruce & Cheryl Petersen, Carol Olson, Ginny Potts
Altar Guild	Dave & Kathren Miller
Acolyte	Owen Petersen
Communion Bread	Fran Gade



Wednesday, June 1

7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service

Thursday, June 3

9:00 am Quilting 10:30 am Lincoln Lit. conversation class 7:00 pm N. A. Mtg. 8:00 pm Bells

Saturday, June 4

10:00 am Linc. Lit. classes 5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, June 5

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship
10:40 am ASF
3:00 pm Talent Show and ice cream social

Monday, June 6

6:00 pm Arts Camp

Tuesday, June 7

9:30 am Al-Anon 6:00 pm Arts Camp 7:00 pm Committee Mtgs. 8:00 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, June 8

6:00 pm Arts Camp 7:00 pm **NO** Evening Prayer Service

Thursday, June 9

9:00 am Quilting
10:30 am Lincoln Lit. conversation class
6:00 pm Arts Camp
7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.
8:00 pm Bells

Friday, June 10

5:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved

Saturday, June 11

10:00 am Linc. Lit. classes1:00 pm Lounge reserved5:30 pm Worship6:30 pm Lounge reserved

Sunday, June 12

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship
10:30 am Lounge reserved

Tuesday, June 14

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

Wednesday, June 15

7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service

Thursday, June 19

9:00 am Quilting10:30 am Lincoln Lit. conversation class3:00 pm Lounge reserved7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

Saturday, June 18

10:00 am Linc. Lit. classes 12:00 pm Lounge reserved 5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, June 19

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship
10:40 am A.S.F.— Lounge
1:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved

Monday, June 20

5:00 pm Gathering Place

Tuesday, June 21

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

Wednesday, June 22

7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service

Thursday, June 23

9:00 am Quilting 10:30 am Lincoln Lit. conversation class 12:00 pm Lounge reserved 7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

Saturday, June 25

10:00 am Linc. Lit. classes 5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, June 26

9:00 am Worship *
10:30 am Fellowship
10:40 am A.S.F.— Lounge
1:00 pm Lesher Hall reserved
3:00 pm Chapel reserved

Tuesday, June 28

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

Wednesday, June 29

7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service

Thursday, June 30

9:00 am Quilting10:30 am Lincoln Lit. conversation class7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

^{*}child care provided



4 David & Kathren Miller

6 Larry & Cindy Watchorn

7 Melvin & Darlene Brydl Art & Bev Hillman

8 Jay & Amy Ostermeyer

12 Steve & Laila Faust Barry & Irene Moore

13 Bob & Sandie Anderson Brent & Kendra Jensen

15 EJ & Jill Marshall

16 Gerald & Debra Hilde

18 Greg & Susan Barnason Dennis & Charlyne Berens

24 Keith & Corene Herbster

25 Chris & Nancy Andersen

27 Devin & Jordan Billings

28 George & Mary Hickey

29 Kevin & Anne Melang-Thoren



1 Andy Anderson Larry Group George Hickey

3 Emily Johnson Bud Narveson

4 Stefanie Neal Becca Wilcox

5 Ty Chamberlin Charlene Johnson Jim Zak

6 Darlene Brydl Deb Hilde

9 Anders Jensen

10 Ted Weigandt

11 Michael Carnes Drew Ostermeyer

12 Felicia Keiser Brad Potts

13 Grant Johnson Julie Lantis Kyle Petersen 14 Joel Brown

15 Ella Billings Harold Paschold Peter Schnake

16 Adam Brown Beckett Jensen Anne Senkbeil

17 Kendra Rathjen

18 Greg Barnason Ansli Petersen

21 Chloe Fitzgibbon Maren Stewart

25 Palmer Hildreth Shyanne Schroeder

26 Norah Noecker

27 Susan Barnason Inge Steffens

28 Sharon Genthe

29 Viletta Haddal Bruce Petersen Connie Whyrick

30 Delmar Motycka Anna Roberts

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

Tyler Johnson,

Director of Faith Formation tyler@egrace.org

Sandi Knippelmeyer,

Parish Administrator office@egrace.org

Colt Ballou,

Assistant Director of Parish Music

Robert Stimbert,

Custodian

Judi Schroeder,

Nursery Coordinator

Elizabeth Krueger,

Nursery attendant

2016 Council members and committee assignments:

Wendy Apple—Worship and Music

Denny Berens— President

Terry Branting—Property

Kevin Gade—Finance

Carla Ingersoll—Evangelism

Elizabeth Krueger—Parish Ed.

Teddi Reckling—Finance

Dave Ripa—Stewardship

Peter Schnake—Evangelism

Barb Smith—Social Ministry

Connie Whyrick—Parish Ed. And Memorials

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

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