

# *The Grace Greeter!*

**Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502  
January 2022**

Be of good cheer

The third Monday of every January, is known as "Blue Monday". This day is supposedly the year's most depressing day. Factors include broken New Year's resolutions, Christmas debts and cold weather. But this phenomenon actually originated as a PR gimmick. U.K. marketers invented Blue Monday as "the best day to book a summer holiday," and a psychologist they enlisted to help later admitted the saddest-seeming day became a self-fulfilling prophecy. In fact, it didn't take much for companies to embrace the idea of Blue Monday and use it to sell products that can improve a gloomy outlook, eventually perpetuating the use of the term Blue Monday.



Unfortunately, depression is not something that is over and done with in a 24 hour period. There is a condition known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), which is a form of depression that may manifest in certain seasons including winter. Many of us find ourselves in subzero weather this time of year, looking at our post-Christmas credit card bills and realizing we might already be breaking our new year's resolutions. Are we destined to be blue on this specific Monday?

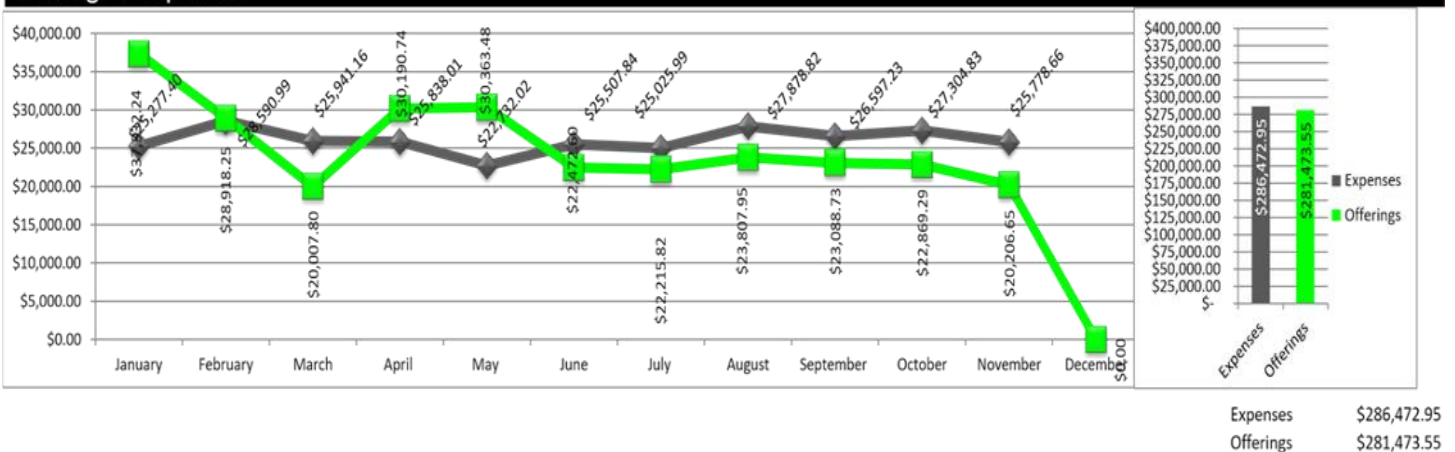
January may lack the excitement of December, but it doesn't have to be a letdown. Christmas is over, but the good news of the Gospel is still with us! No matter the season of the year or our season of life, Christians always have reason for joy: God's promises of forgiveness and eternal victory. As Jesus says in John 16:33, "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"



- ♦ **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 to let us know that about the hospitalization. **During office hours, call 402-474-1505 or email [office@egrace.org](mailto:office@egrace.org) to let us know. Thank you!**
- ♦ To contact Pastor Eric after office hours, you can call or text him at 308-708-1146 or email [pr.eric@egrace.org](mailto:pr.eric@egrace.org).
- ♦ The deadline for the next Greeter will be **January 20th**.
- To help us stay connected during our time apart please send an email or letter with any personal update you want to share about yourself or prayer concern for someone else. We will post these under news and prayers in our weekly digital newsletter and/or our monthly newsletter.

## Update

### Offerings & Expenses



### 2022 Giving Envelopes

You can pick-up your box of 2022 offering envelopes in the atrium.

## Semi-Annual Meeting

Meeting of Reports to be held January 30th in the gym after worship. This will be both an online meeting and in-person meeting.

Here is the online meeting information for those attending via Zoom:

Topic: Grace Lutheran's Semi-Annual Zoom Meeting

Time: Jan 30, 2022 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89961168229?pwd=VE52SXc0bXF0cjd1ZVFwZzhyTXV6dz09>

Meeting ID: 899 6116 8229

Passcode: 065087



## January 9—Epiphany Sunday

The word Epiphany means “showing forth,” and it names the day that the church tells Matthew’s story of the magi from foreign lands who follow the light of the star and thus “see” Jesus as Christ. Their gifts are symbols: gold, because they honor Jesus as the king; frankincense, because they worship Jesus as divine; and myrrh, because they are readying for his death.

## January 16—Baptism of Our Lord

The gospel for this Sunday is about Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist. A voice speaks from heaven, and the Spirit descends like a dove. This story is also about us: we too have been baptized, we have heard God’s loving call, and we have received the Holy Spirit. What is God’s voice like? Psalm 29 says that God’s voice can break the cedars and strip the trees bare, but also give a blessing of peace.



**November Council Meeting  
Tuesday, November 9, 2021**



**Present via Zoom/in-person:** Neil Larson, Doug Krueger, Cindy Eberspacher, Connie Thorson, Jan Branting, Glatha Rathjen, Pr. Eric Leshner

**Absent:** Carla Ingersoll, Roger Potts, Amy Knobbe

Neil Larson called the council meeting to order at 7:00 PM (meeting in-person and online)

**Opening Prayer:** Neil

**Approval of Council Minutes:**

Doug moved to approve minutes for the October 2021 church council meeting and October 23 special meeting as submitted. Glatha seconded. Motion passed.

**President's Update/Correspondence:** Belva Gleason sent a gratitude card for cards/letters she has received.

**Staff Reports:**

**Pastor Eric's Report:** submitted

**Director of Music Report:** submitted

**Financial Secretary's Report:** submitted

**Treasurer's Report:** submitted

Doug made a motion to accept the reports as submitted. Jan seconded. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance/Stewardship** – Follow-up letter was sent out.

**Worship & Music** – report submitted; met virtually. Charlyne to draft a schedule of Readers for the next few months. Discussed decorations for upcoming holidays; Poinsettias will be offered for \$10 to those who wish to purchase one in memory of or in honor of someone.

**Parish Ed** – did not meet

**Congregational Life** – did not meet; Patty Plambeck asking for a team of members to call and check in on other Grace members.

**Property** – report submitted; email correspondence. Installed three additional cameras inside the church building, one outside covering east entrances and parking lot. Ongoing work with insurance company re: roof damage.

**Social Ministry** – report submitted; met virtually. Thanksgiving Boxes collecting food items for

Nov. 23 pickup or delivery; Thrivent Action Team grant used for this project. Christmas boxes for Prescott families will be available for pick-up in our gym.

**Memorials** – nothing to report.

Jan made a motion to accept the reports as submitted. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

**Business:**

**Outreach Team questions** – Discussed protocol for making phone calls to other members to remind them about online worship and just touch base.

**Neighborhood Association content** – Agreed to buy a quarter page ad in neighborhood paper, four ads every three months, \$200.00 per year.

**Nominating Committee ballot** – Congregational meeting on November 21 will approve budget and Nominating Committee for next year. Those on ballot are Lori Drake, Kevin Dumler, Jan Branting. A written ballot with names and a blank line for a write-in.

**Closing Prayer:** Doug

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Thorson, Secretary



***Dear Saints of the Nebraska Synod:***

In this season of giving thanks and this time of reflecting on blessings, I am writing to you with a profound sense of gratitude for the ways in which I am blessed by all of you. It is a privilege to serve as your bishop, and a gift to get to see you in action as Christ's church.

Yet there is indeed a season and a time for everything; for beginnings and for endings. I am writing to share with you that one such ending is coming. I will be ending my term as bishop early, on August 31, 2022. After I leave the office of bishop, I will transition into the role of Vice President for Mission and Spiritual Care at Immanuel, one of Nebraska Synod's Serving Arms ministries.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

*Bishop Brian D. Maas*





### **The Gathering Place**

Procedures at The Gathering Place continue essentially unchanged. Meals in containers are distributed on the porch, with guests required to wear a mask to approach the distribution point. Assisting organizations are limited to two volunteers. Regina and Steve Paschold assisted on Nov. 29th, when the main course was goulash. When they helped to box the meals on Dec 20th pot roast was featured.



### **Thrivent News**

The Grace Lutheran Thrivent Financial group will **NOT** be meeting in January.

## **THE LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY**

The Lutheran Food Pantry appreciates all donations of shelf-stable food and personal care items. Items always needed include (items with \*\* are especially needed at this time):

- \*\*Boxed instant potatoes
- \*\*Boxed breakfast cereal
- \*\*Canned chicken (small cans)
- \*\*Ramen noodles
- \*\*Tomato soup
- \*\*Spaghetti sauce
- Breakfast bars (Pop Tarts, granola bars, oatmeal/fruit bars)
- Canned fruits (pears, peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail)
- Canned vegetables (especially peas, mixed vegetables)
- Condensed soups (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, cream soups)
- Saltine crackers
- Canned beans (chili, kidney, pinto)
- Canned tomatoes
- Canned meals (spaghetti & meatballs, ravioli, etc.)
- Fruit juice (large bottles or boxes/packets)
- Jelly
- Noodles, dry
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Peanut butter
- Pork and beans
- Macaroni and cheese
- Snack items (small packages of cookies, nuts, fruit flavored snacks, etc.)
- Personal care items (shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes)

### **PANTRY HOURS:**

Please bring your donations to St. Andrew's Lutheran at 1015 Lancaster Ln between the hours of 8-3 Tuesday through Friday.

## **Birthdays**

First Name	Last Name	Birthday
David	Stokke	1-Jan
Beverly	Madison	2-Jan
David	Ripa	2-Jan
Grant	Jensen	3-Jan
Charlyne	Berens	4-Jan
Mandi	Haumont	6-Jan
Dean	Dumler	7-Jan
Nancy	Melichar	7-Jan
Nancy	Schilke	7-Jan
Rod	Basler	8-Jan
Gene	Garza	10-Jan
Jeffrey	Rosno	11-Jan
Jessi	Anderson	14-Jan
Estelle	Riemann	15-Jan
Elysabeth	Wells	15-Jan
Luke	Filbert	16-Jan
Jennifer	Klein	16-Jan
William	Anderson	17-Jan
Judy	Holtgrewe	18-Jan

Carolyn	Ossian	18-Jan
Michelle	Jensen	19-Jan
Rhonda	Ihrie	20-Jan
William	Hokanson	22-Jan
Yvonne	Nielsen	22-Jan
Eliza	Williams	22-Jan
Kiley Schu- macher	Schumacher	23-Jan
Abbie	Andersen	24-Jan
Steven	Paschold	24-Jan
Drew	Ostermeyer	25-Jan
Kyle	Thorson	25-Jan
Rachel	Haider	27-Jan
Adam	Fitzgibbon	28-Jan
Nancy	Andersen	30-Jan
Blake	Rathjen	30-Jan



# < January 2022 >

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  5:30–6:30 PM: Worship
2  9:00–10:00 AM: Worship	3  9:00 AM–3:00 PM: Office Closed  9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy  4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons  7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	4  9:30–10:30 AM: Al-Anon meeting  4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons  6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts  7:00–8:00 PM: Committee Meetings	5  9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy  6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice  7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice	6	7	8  1:00–2:00 PM: Danish Sisterhood  5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
9  9:00–10:00 AM: Epiphany Worship  10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	10  9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy  4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons  7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	11  9:30–10:30 AM: Al-Anon meeting  4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons  6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts  7:00–8:00 PM: Wildlife Rescue  7:00–8:30 PM: Council Meeting	12  9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy  6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice  7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice  7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class	13	14  5:00 PM–12:00 AM: Scout Lock-in	15  12:00 AM–12:00 PM: Scout Lock-in  5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
16  9:00–10:00 AM: Baptism of Our Lord  10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir  10:15–11:15 AM: Faith Partners Meeting  3:00–6:00 PM: Recital	17  9:00 AM–3:00 PM: Office Closed  9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy  4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons  5:00–6:00 PM: Gathering Place  7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	18  9:30–10:30 AM: Al-Anon meeting  4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons  6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts  7:00–8:30 PM: WELCA Group 6	19  9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy  1:00–2:30 PM: WELCA Group 3  6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice  7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class  7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice	20	21  4:00–9:00 PM: BNRR	22  5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
23  9:00–10:00 AM: Worship  10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	24  9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy  4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons  7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	25  9:30–10:30 AM: Al-Anon meeting  4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons  6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts	26  9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy  6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice  7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice  7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class	27	28	29  5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
30  9:00–10:00 AM: Worship  10:00–11:00 AM: Semi-annual Meeting  10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir	31  9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy  4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons  5:00–6:00 PM: Gathering Place  7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA					



# Grace Staff & Council

## **Rev. Eric Lesher**

*Senior Pastor*

*308-708-1146*

*pr.eric@egrace.org*

## **David Sage**

*Parish Administrator*

*office@egrace.org*

## **Anne Melang-Thoren**

*Director of Music*

*anne@egrace.org*

## **Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson**

*Assistant Organist*

## **Robert Stimbert,**

*Custodian*

## 2022 Church Council

Neil Larson

Carla Ingersoll

Connie Thorson

Jim Krueger

Glatha Rathjen

Carla Ingersoll

Amy Knobbe

Doug Krueger

Roger Potts

Cindy Eberspacher

Connie Thorson

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Congregational Life

Social Ministry

Parish Education

Memorials

Property

Stewardship/Finance

Worship/Music

Current monthly council minutes and reports are available in the narthex.

Contact the church office to get connected to a council member.

## Biblical New Year Resolutions

**Hold firmly to your faith** (Hebrews 4:14)

**Assemble with the saints** (Hebrews 10:25)

**Pray and thank God earnestly** (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

**Petition God for great blessings** (Malachi 3:10)

**Yield not to temptation** (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

**Notice opportunities to serve others** (Galatians 6:10)

**Examine yourself daily** (2 Corinthians 13:5)

**Work diligently for the Lord** (1 Corinthians 15:58)

**Yearn for righteousness** (Matthew 5:6)

**Exercise godliness** (1 Timothy 4:7)


**Aim for faithful deeds** (Hebrews 6:1)

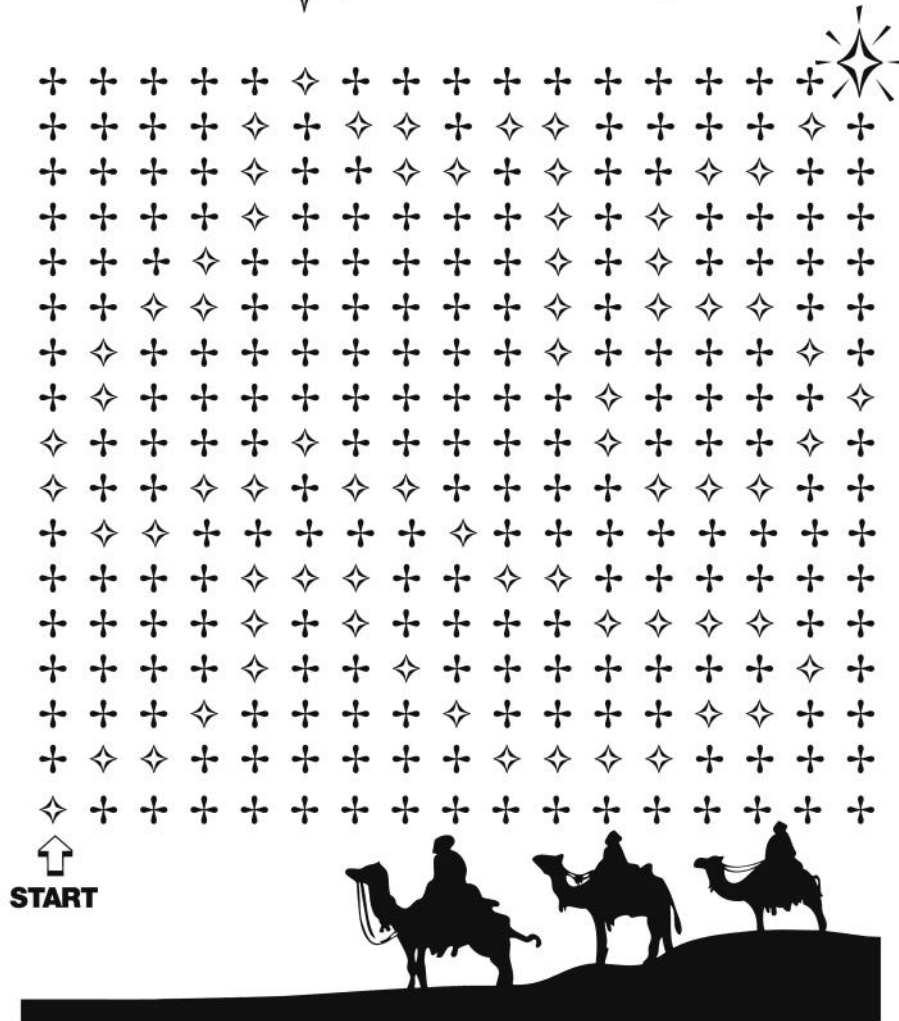
**Redeem the time, living wisely** (Ephesians 5:15-16)



—Gus Nichols (adapted)

# Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the  path that leads to baby Jesus.



Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

L D O G

N C A K N R I E N F S E

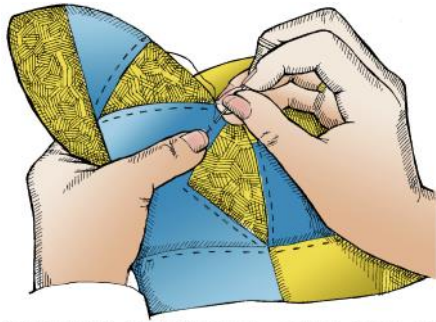
R Y H M R

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Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh



## QUILTING GROUP

### Attention Quilters

Our sewing and quilting group is in winter recess until this Spring. Join us again this Spring. In the meantime you can bring in donations to the office and we will make sure they are stored away. Thanks!

### Hand of God

This symbolizes God the Father, as well as his ownership and care of all creation. During the Christian church's first 800 years, the hand was about the only symbol used for God. Many Bible verses speak of God's loving, protective hand (Psalm 138:7; Ecclesiastes 2:24; 1 Peter 5:6). In heaven, Jesus sits at God's right hand (Mark 16:19).



### Christmas Boxes

Thank you to everyone who donated, purchased and packed 30 Christmas boxes for families of students at Prescott Elementary. Your Christmas generosity is truly appreciated!

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

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