

Living in Grace

Celebrating
125 years

1890 – 2015



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Grace Greeter

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Street Lincoln, NE 68502

June 23, 2015

An invitation....

Please join us in worship as we

celebrate the installation

of our new Senior Pastor-Head of Staff,

Rev. Eric K. Leshner,

on the weekend of August 9.

A reception will follow

the worship service.

Grace Lutheran Church

2225 Washington Street, Lincoln, Nebraska



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

2225 Washington Street | Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

Phone (402) 474-1505 | www.egrace.org

June 9, 2015

To all,

I have accepted your call to me to serve as your next Senior Pastor. The cycle of life is filled with mystery. I could not have predicted serving at Grace in Lincoln but here I am. I am here because the Holy Spirit closed doors and opened others. The Holy Spirit is now ready to lead us into a new chapter of ministry at Grace.

So I look forward to opening a new chapter of ministry with you. I hope the chapter we write together will have a lasting impact on our members, our community, the Nebraska Synod and our church we know as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

I want to thank the Call Committee for their care and faithfulness to the call process and each other, the Congregational Council for their questions and concerns about our life together and my own well-being as a pastor and I want to thank the Rev. Megan Morrow for her guidance through the call process.

Right now it looks like July 19th will be my last Sunday here at First in Kearney. I hope my first weekend with you will be July 25th and 26th or August 1st and 2nd.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pr. Eric Leshner".

Pr. Eric Leshner

MANY THANKS FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED DURING OUR TIME HERE

My husband, Lynn McPheron, and I say thanks to all of you with deep gratitude for our time among you as I served as intentional transitional pastor. From the beginning on that first hot day at the very end of August 2014, when we met with the Executive Committee, we have been blessed to know fine servants of our Lord who witness with their time and talents through the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church.

We especially thank Connie Whyrick, our 'landlady', for these past ten months. As most of you know, we rented the basement of her home and shared the kitchen and laundry. She also graciously allowed our two cats, Pete and Cleo, to live with us there, and occasionally, along with her cat Babe, we had some interesting growling and prowling going on.

Also, let me lift up the leadership of last year's council and this year's council – these witnesses of faith put in many hours of effort. They disagree by speaking their truth in love. They agree by seeing common efforts that lead our congregation forward. That's what they are supposed to do, and each person takes this effort seriously. I thank them for their support for me as the transition pastor and know they are set for continuing their leadership into the future.

A great gratitude goes to all our staff, from those who work full time to those who work just a few hours. They all help to make this place be the wonderful congregation it is! We had some fun, we got things organized, and we did our best to serve in ministry and mission together, all in preparation for new pastoral leadership. Each person on staff contributes in his or her way, and all together, they make our church hum along. After all, we are like a small town of several hundred people, with all the coming and going that happens all through the week!

Every member is a part of the whole of our congregation. Whether you serve on a committee, help behind the scenes, or lift up our ministry in prayer, you are an important part of Grace Lutheran Church. Thanksgiving goes to all of you and praise to God for the rich blessings we share in this community of faith.

I'll miss you all of course. And I'll think of you often and with prayers. Once I've left, your new pastor will take over as he should on all pastoral acts and decisions. Thus, as I have done before in other congregations, I leave you with deep gratitude for your ministry and thank you for your friendship.

My last weekend with you is June 20-21. I have two weeks of earned vacation due, so I will take them, making my last day "on payroll" of July 7. (I had already planned to have the last week of June off for the "world famous" Bertrand Fair and Rodeo. At least it's famous to us, ha, ha.) In between when I leave and the new pastor arrives, we have weekend worship and pastoral care coverage scheduled, and Sandi, our Parish Administrator, knows all the phone numbers and who's up for what.

God is good! Lynn and I have been so richly blessed to serve among you and to know you. Thank you so much!

In Christ's peace, Pastor Sylvia



Ill or Hospitalized: Claire Baumann, Birdeen Havlicek, Becky Wilcox, Ted Weigandt

Birth: Eleanore (Ella) Sophia Billings, daughter of Jordan (Lantis) and Devin Billings, on June 15

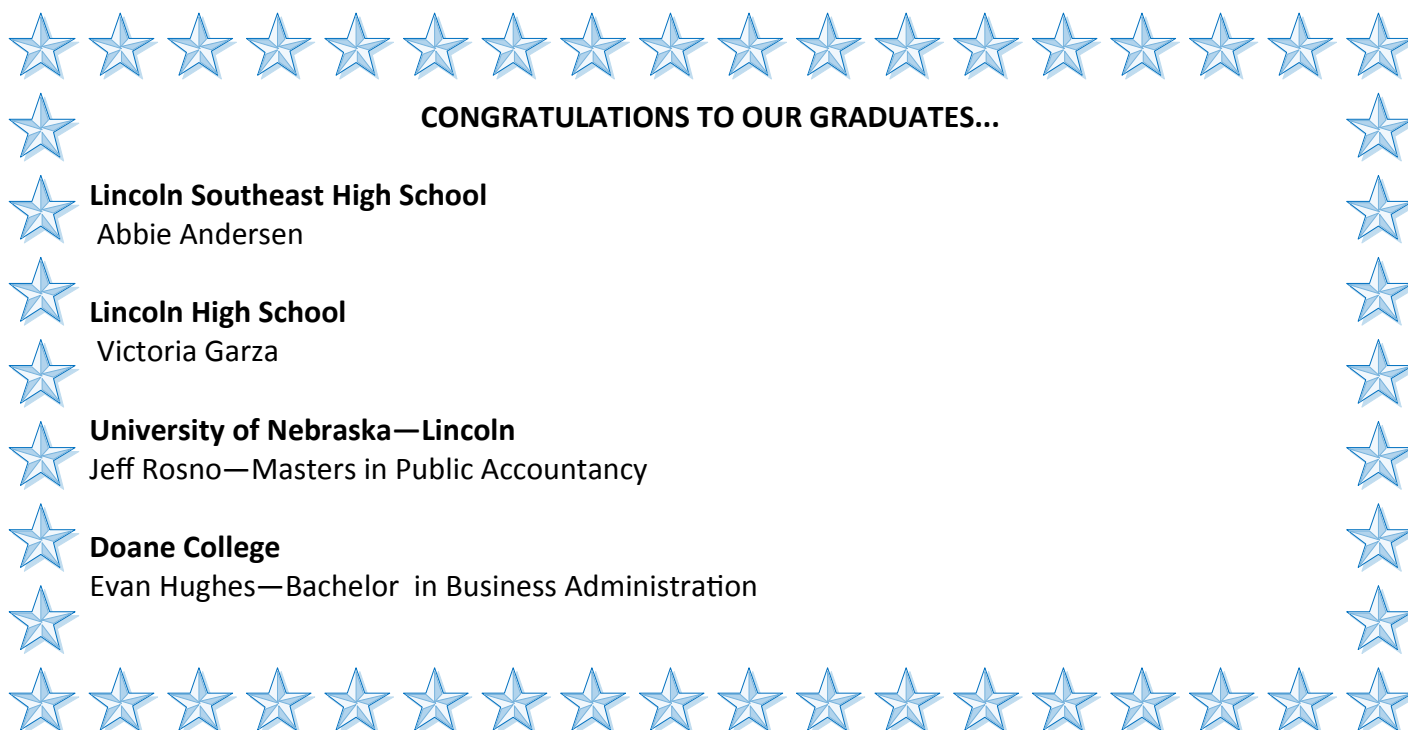
Funeral service for Herb Steffens, age 86, was held at Grace Lutheran on Thursday, July 11 with Pr. Sylvia officiating; interment was at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery

The deadline for the next Greeter will be July 20. It will be mailed on July 28.

For July, the Lincoln Lutheran Food pantry needs: juice, macaroni and cheese, canned beans, stews/soups, fruit.



From now until late summer a produce table will be set up in Leshar Hall on Sunday mornings. It is a way for those who have surplus items from their gardens to share with others at Grace. A container will be available for freewill contributions, which will be donated to the cause of relieving world hunger.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES...

Lincoln Southeast High School
Abbie Andersen

Lincoln High School
Victoria Garza

University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Jeff Rosno—Masters in Public Accountancy

Doane College
Evan Hughes—Bachelor in Business Administration

Dear People of Grace,

Thank you. In the past two years, I have been blessed by this community of saints and have found a church home among you. Your work together has fostered a place in which I had opportunities to grow and develop my skills for both music and ministry. My time here has strengthened my sense of vocation. Now, I look to the next community that I will serve, continuing to support God's work amidst God's people.

I have accepted a position at Grace Lutheran Church in Wenatchee, WA as their Director of Music Ministries. My last Sunday worshipping with you will be July 12. Grace in Wenatchee shares many characteristics with Grace in Lincoln. I will work with an adult choir, a children's choir, youth musicians, a bell choir, a part-time organist, and a number of other instrumentalists. In some ways, it feels much like home already. The chance that I had to learn from you and your ministry prepared me for this step. I am honored to have served this community in my position as Assistant Organist.

We have spent time reflecting this year, celebrating 125 years of work as this community of Christ. Many ministries have been recognized in this time. I would like to draw your attention to a very important, quiet ministry that all of you have faithfully supported. The Assistant Organist position at Grace serves, in many ways, as an apprenticeship for music ministry within a congregation that offers a wealth of resources for both music and worship. Your collective investment in this ministry is astounding because you, the people of Grace Lutheran in Lincoln, do not directly see the fulfillment of your work. You have sent many assistants to many places, prepared to lead the people's song, to glorify our Creator.

Here is a short list, generated with Sara's help, of just a few of your former assistants and their continued work:

Lisa Klinsky Knutson has served several Catholic parishes as church musician, organist, and choir director and now is the mother to four girls. She continues her work in church music and recently presented an organ recital with her husband, Nathan, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN.

Vidas Pinkevicius and Ausra Motuzaitė-Pinkeviciene left Grace to return to Vilnius after completing their doctoral degrees in organ performance at UNL. There, they co-founded the National Association of Organists and are active recitalists. Vidas is the organist of Vilnius University and the head of the university's organ studio. Both Vidas and Ausra teach at the National Ciurlionis School of Arts. Vidas also writes a blog, "Secrets of Organ Playing", giving tips and training help for organists. He and Ausra have truly helped to create an organ culture in Lithuania.

Andrew Gades earned a doctoral degree in music therapy at Florida State University and is now assistant professor of music at The College of Idaho.

Chris Lyons served for the Peace Corps in Mongolia following his time at Grace. He is now pursuing a masters degree in organ performance at the University of Washington and serves as organist at Fairwood Community United Methodist Church in Renton, WA. He plays frequently for recitals hosted by the Seattle American Guild of Organists and is scheduled to play following a compline service at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral.

— continued on next page

Tysen Dauer relocated to San Francisco, CA after leaving Grace and is now pursuing a PhD in musicology at Stanford University. He continues to play as a substitute organist for churches in the San Francisco area. Tysen also continues to teach piano and perform piano recitals, exploring newly composed music as well as music of the standard repertoire.

I am humbled to be included in this list of assistants from Grace. The work you do through your assistant organists is important work, indeed. Your congregation, through these individuals, has touched the lives of many through music and ministry. Your generous investment in the growth and development of these musicians enriches God's creation. I hope to be worthy of my fellow assistants in my pursuits in music ministry, to share the good news that flows from Grace.

You have my deepest gratitude and appreciation. I intend to continue my relationship with Grace through the years to come. If any of you should find yourselves in the northwest, please let me know and visit Grace in Wenatchee.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Jameson Leftridge

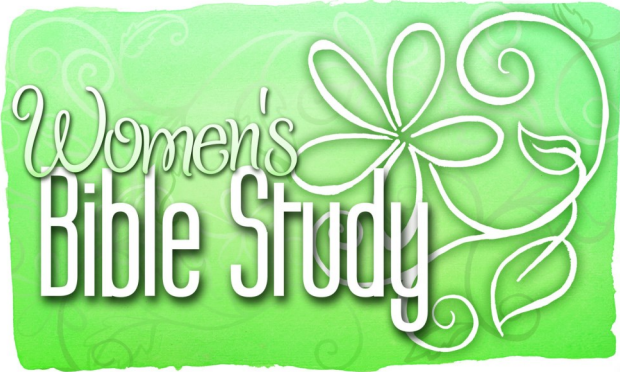


Q125 Christmas Ornaments Available

The Worship and Music Committee, in consultation with the Q125 committee, has ordered a small quantity of beautiful, high quality brass plated Christmas ornaments to sell to Grace members and friends. The ornaments come in a gift box with a brief write up of Grace's history on the back -- perfect for gift giving! They are only \$15 each (checks made out to Voices of Grace), and proceeds go to the Voices of Grace fund. They are available from the church office, or see Sara or Jameson on a Sunday morning. Hurry though; only about 60 ornaments are still available!



Hot dogs were a hit at The Gathering Place when people from Grace provided the meal on June 15. The count of portions served at that time was 114, more than any other evening to that point in the month. Regina and Steve Paschold prepared baked beans to go with potato chips, bananas and the hot dogs. Home baked desserts were donated by Helen and Don Carnes, Ginny and Roger Potts, Donna Hansen and Phil Sorensen, and Joy Kokes. Helping to serve and to clean up after the meal were Donna, Phil, Helen, Don, Joy, Roger, Regina, Steve and Pastor Bob Rademacher.



**“Reading the Gospel With New Lenses”
—A Bible Study with Pastor Bob**

All women of Grace—August 12th is our summer Bible study! Pastor Bob has graciously agreed to lead us. He is selecting his own study material so no need to bring your magazines, just your Bibles. We'll be treated to an inspiring morning. Beth and Tricia will serve coffee, pastries and fruit at 9:00 a.m. and we'll start our study around 9:30. Bring something to share for lunch and your own table

service and we'll do what we do best and eat again after our study is finished. You are welcome to join us for any part of the morning that works for you! Hope to see many of you on August 12 in the Lounge!!

THRIVENT FINANCIAL Members – we will take a hiatus during July and August and will not meet again until September 6th – the first Sunday in September. That is during Labor Day Weekend, but unless you will be out of town for the holiday, we hope you will join us – 10:30 a.m. in the Staff Conference Room.

WOMEN of the ELCA – As we take a break from our meetings for the summer, watch for an announcement concerning the Summer Bible Study. If you plan to attend the Biennial Convention on September 18-20 – **which will be held in Lincoln at First Lutheran Church this year** – you should register by September 1st. Also keep in mind that bingo prizes will be needed for Tabitha bingo in October; and items for Lutheran World Relief kits in the Fall. A Lutheran World Relief booklet may be found on the WELCA bulletin board in Leshner Hall for information about these kits. Our sewing ladies make quilts year-around and some of those go to LWR. **All members of the congregation are encouraged to contribute to these worthwhile projects as well.**

Five gifts from God



Love makes our friends a little dearer.
Joy makes our hearts a little lighter.
Faith makes our paths a little clearer.
Hope makes our lives a little brighter.
Peace brings us all a little nearer.

—Author unknown

Grace members help Near South neighbors at The Gathering Place

Only a few years after The Gathering Place opened its doors, members of Grace became part of the “gathering.”

Opened in spring 1982 as a hospitality center where people from all walks of life could come together in fellowship, the house at 1448 E Street shifted its mission in 1984 to become what it is today: a soup kitchen that provides free evening meals five days a week for those in need.

It wasn't long before Nora Johnson and Dorothy Decker and some other women from Grace got the church involved at The Gathering Place, according to Steve and Regina Paschold, who coordinate today's efforts. “They said we should be helping people at our own back door,” Regina remembers, and Grace members have been doing exactly that for about 30 years.

In the '80s, when fewer women worked outside the home, the food for nearly all the evening meals at The Gathering Place was prepared and served by women from different churches or organizations. Now, though, while volunteers serve the food every week night, Grace is one of only three churches that also brings prepared meals monthly and serves them about 16 times a year: on the third Mondays of each month and whenever there is a fifth Monday.

Early on, the standard menu was soup – made from scratch – sandwiches and desserts. Eventually, though, the menu began to vary and now usually includes spaghetti, macaroni and cheese or another main dish that can be made for a crowd – usually about 120 to 130 people.

Sometimes, the menus incorporate leftovers from events at Grace. Individuals as well as some Grace groups donate cash to a fund that the Pascholds usually use to buy the groceries for the main dish and a vegetable.



Helen and Don Carnes, right, and Joy Kokes help serve desserts at The Gathering Place.

Carla Ingersoll regularly donates salad, and a pool of members, on a rotating basis, bring desserts and help serve and clean up. Carla said she's been part of that pool for about eight years, inspired partly by remembering the impact serving at The Gathering Place had on her daughter when she helped out as part of her confirmation class.

Steve said Grace holds the record for number of portions served at one meal: 187. He added that the people who eat at The Gathering Place really enjoy the home-baked desserts they get when Grace members are the hosts.

On nights when no outside group is bringing food, Michael Ryan, administrator of The Gathering Place, which operates under the Lincoln Action Program umbrella, uses food that is close to its “sell by” date, donated by local grocery stores, and monetary contributions to buy food that he prepares.

Regina said people also appreciate being able to take home any food that remains after all are served so they can have it for their lunch the following day.

She added that the guests at The Gathering Place recently have included four very polite, well-mannered young boys and their uncle who comes with them. Those who serve at The Gathering Place are often moved by the young children who come through the food line, Steve said.

Regina said she and the other Grace members who serve at The Gathering Place see their work as a way to “put our faith into action. It’s the joy of helping others.”



Steve added that it’s a response to Jesus’ words in Matthew 25: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.”

Carla said she knows that people sometimes go through tough times and that “one thing that can give them some sort of hope is not to be hungry. ... Also, you just never know what will be the trigger to point a person to God.”

If you’d like to get involved, with The Gathering Place, please indicate your interest on the Time and Talent sheets that were sent to all members at the end of June.

Feeding our Near South neighbors at The Gathering Place is another way that the people of Grace are God’s hands, doing His work in the community.



Thank you!

The Quasquicentennial Committee would like to thank the congregation for making this an anniversary celebration to remember! From Rally Day last September to Quasquicentennial Weekend a few weeks ago, what a wonderful year it has been! This anniversary has truly been a time when our past, present and future have come together.

During Quasquicentennial Weekend, Bishop Brian Maas continually explored the symbolism and meaning of our anniversary’s logo of “Living in Grace”. However, he also challenged us to be living *outside* of Grace. As we look to the future, by furthering our ministries outside of our building, our community will indeed know Grace--without ever being inside its walls.

As we mentioned during the Fellowship Banquet, a history booklet highlighting our past 125 years is being compiled and will be available to the congregation in the near future. We are anticipating this booklet to be available in early September. Watch for it!

--The Quasquicentennial Committee

Karen Billings, Mark Billings, Alan Givens, Susan Givens, Phyllis Krueger, Pat Lickei, Arlene Reighard, Dave Ripa

FOOTPRINTS ON THE WATER

VBS 2015

July 17 6:00-8:30PM

July 18 9:00-12:00PM

July 19 10:30-12:00PM



Potluck

Come one, Come all!

Join us for a multi-generational weekend.

We invite you to take a step back in time
and experience Bible School again (or for
the first time)!

A potluck lunch will be held,
following Vacation Bible School, on
Sunday, July 19th. Sandwich fixings
and drinks will be provided. Please
bring a side dish or dessert to share,
along with your own table service.
Lutheran Student Center Students
will be visiting and will speak about
the Student Center.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2015

Please return to church office by 7/05/15

Name: _____

Parent/Guardian/Responsible Party: _____

Contact Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade in the Fall _____

Email _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Emergency Contact Number: _____

Allergies or Health care concerns:

Permission to take and post VBS pictures: YES NO please circle

Grace Lutheran Church
May Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Present: Dennis Berens, Terry Branting, Pastor Sylvia, Jacob Krueger, Teddi Reckling, Dave Ripa, Lynn Chamberlin, Connie Whyrick, Barb Smith, Jeanne Weisbrook

Absent: Steve Rosno (Excused), Pastor Doug Allen [Excused]

Guests: Pastor Bob

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

Roll call taken

Barb Smith proved devotions and opening prayer.

Correspondence:

Thank You from Cornhusker Bank for contribution to One Day without Shoes project.

The April Council meeting minutes were reviewed. Connie W. made a motion to approve and file the minutes. Seconded by Teddy B. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

Senior Pastor: Written report presented.

Visitation Pastor: Written report presented.

Director of Music: Written report presented.

Financial Secretary's Report: Written report presented.

Treasurer's Report: Written report presented.

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

Committee Reports:

Parish Education: Written report presented

Evangelism: No report

Property: Written report presented

Social Ministry: Written report presented

Stewardship: May meeting will be held 5/13

Finance: Written report presented.

Youth: Did not meet

Memorials: May meeting will be 5/18

Worship and Music: Written report presented

Quasquicentennial Committee: Written report presented

Ad hoc Subcommittee on Church Policy: Did not meet

Ad hoc Subcommittee on Membership Committee: Have compiled list, written report presented.

Ad hoc Subcommittee on Personnel: All contracts signed; Committee no longer needed at this time.

Audit Committee: No report.

Subcommittee for Seminary Support Fund: Lynn C. moved we approve the creation of this Subcommittee, Connie seconded. Motion carried. Guidelines for this Fund were presented in a written report. Barb S. moved we approve these guidelines. Seconded by Teddi R. Motion carried.

Dave R. made a motion after all reports were presented to accept and file the committee reports. Seconded by Barb S. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Organ Repair Committee: Motion was made by Teddi R. for the creation of this committee. Seconded by Lynn C. Motion carried.

Discussion on raising funds for this expense: It would be in two phases

Teddi moved that the Council approve use of \$10,000 from the Gail Moss fund and \$15,925 from the Janet Jodais fund to be used for Phase I of the organ repair which will be presented to the congregation for approval in May at a date to be determined. Seconded by Lynn C. Motion carried.

Phase II action tabled at this time.

Inactive Members: Dave R. moved we approve the list of inactive members to be removed from the active church membership role (98 people/47 households). Seconded by Connie W. Motion carried.

Wish List: Additional item added: Tech director for the church (to be a line budget item).

Budget: Denny B. reminded members to plan in their committee meetings to have a submitted budget plan for our July Council meeting.

Replacement Names: More names are needed for replacement of Margaret, please send them to Denny B.

VISION Process: Tabled action on this until our potential new pastor is approved.

New Business:

Pastor Sylvia shared with the council that the Lincoln Area Cluster Lunch will be at Grace at noon on November 17.

Pastor Sylvia shared information about the Midland Campus Ministry needs

Recognition for the Q125 Committed was discussed. It was moved by Terry B. that we present them with a token of our appreciation at the banquet. Teddi R. seconded. Barb S. and Pastor Sylvia will coordinate. Motion carried.

At 8:25 p. m., Connie W. moved we go into executive session. Seconded by Barb S. Motion carried.

Those in attendance: Connie W., Barb S., Denny B., Terry B., Jacob K., Teddi, R., Lynn C., Dave R., Jeanne W.

Those absent: Pastor Doug A., Steve R.

At 8:52 p. m., Lynn C. moved we come out of executive session. Seconded by Barb S. Motion carried.

Pastoral Candidate:

Dave R. moved that we present to the congregation the pastoral candidate recommended by the call committee to serve as our Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. Seconded by Teddi R. Motion unanimously carried.

Connie W. moved that the congregation will be immediately informed of the council's vote and that the candidate will be conducting the service on May 23 and May 24. Dave R. seconded. Motion carried.

On May 31, a congregational meeting will be held to approve the call and the salary package.

Barb S. moved that Vice-President Denny B. should send a letter to the congregation about these dates and activities AND that a letter of thanks should be sent to the Synod office for their help. Seconded by Teddi R. Motion carried.

There being no more business to bring before the Church Council Denny B. asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Terry B. Seconded by Barb S. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeanne Weisbrook, Council Secretary



Meet our Seminarians . . .

SEMINARIAN STEVEN NEAL VISITS GRACE

It was such a delight to have Steven Neal and his family (wife Stefanie and daughter Adelyn) visit Grace the weekend of June 6 and 7 and to hear him preach as well as visit with us during fellowship hour.

Steven comes to us from First-St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hastings, formerly an ELCA congregation. When that church left the ELCA, Pr. Mike invited him to seek membership at Grace. He did and we did! He became a member here on May 6, 2014. (All seminarians in our ELCA seminaries must have membership in an ELCA congregation.) He finished his second year of studies at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa in May of this year.

Starting in late August, Steven will become the intern at First English Lutheran Church in Platteville, WI, a 25 minute drive from Dubuque where they will continue to reside at WTS student housing. He will also be involved in the University of Wisconsin at Platteville campus ministry . He is doing a four-week stint with the Iowa National Guard this summer.

Steven hails from Edgerton, KS. In 2004 he served at First-St. Paul as youth ministry and attended college at Hastings College focusing on religious studies and political science and was graduated from there in 2008. After graduation, he went to First Lutheran in Kearney (the church where Pr. Eric Leshner is finishing his ministry to come to Grace). He was in Kearney for one year and then returned to Hastings for two and one half years and entered seminary in Dubuque in the fall of 2013.

Stephanie, Steven's wife, recently graduated as a respiratory therapist. She is a Kearney High School graduate. Steven and Stefanie are the parents of Adelyn, now three years of age.

We are so pleased to have "adopted" Steven and look forward to his coming again to Grace.



Both the Old and New Testaments speak of God's people as seeking and achieving freedom. The freedom we Americans have to worship without government restriction has deep roots in our Judeo-Christian heritage.

Which Bible verse about freedom is inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia?

A. "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10, KJV).

B. "And ye ... had done right in my sight, in proclaiming liberty every man to his neighbour" (Jeremiah 34:15, KJV).

C. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free" (Galatians 5:1, KJV).

D. "As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God" (1 Peter 2:16, KJV).

Answer: A

“THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE. LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.” Psalm 118:24

During these days of transition at Grace, we can rejoice in our past, present and future, knowing that the Lord has given us every one of our days to do His work here in our community.

First, let us rejoice in the 125 years of grace that we have celebrated during the past year, culminating in a worship service on June 14 that we will never forget. What a wonderful gift of ministry the Lord has given our congregation!

Our yearlong celebration was an uplifting and joyful expression of our community of grace. As we look back in thanksgiving, may we also look forward to more years of blessings on our mission-driven future.

Second, let us rejoice that through all of our 125 years of history, the Lord has guided us to continue to preach His Word and deliver His Sacraments. As Lutherans we understand the central role that these Sacraments play in our life as a congregation, feeding our faith and strengthening us to be God’s hands in the world.

Thirdly, we rejoice that, during our times of transition, the Lord has given us workers who have continued to lead us in our mission. Today we thank Him especially for Pastor Sylvia, who has been a loving, caring and faithful shepherd of this flock. She has been a faithful steward of God’s Word, and her organizational skills have been a great blessing to the work of the congregation and council.

We rejoice, also, in the work of the staff who have faithfully served our congregation through several transitions. We thank God for their commitment and hard work.

Also, we rejoice in the work of all of our formal and informal committees at Grace. Our congregation is blessed with volunteers who keep the church community functioning and who lead our outreach to the greater community.

Looking forward, we rejoice that Pastor Eric Leshar has accepted our call to be our next shepherd and ministry leader, teacher and motivator. We look forward to working in co-ministry with him. We pray for his transition and for safe travels as he prepares himself and his family to move to Lincoln and to become part of our community of faith.

Council members want to publicly express their thanks to the Call Committee and to the members of the congregation who participated in the call process at the May congregational meeting. What a joy it was to share in the excitement of that day!

We rejoice even in the details of our ongoing mission and ministry here at Grace. For example, the Council has asked all committees to have their budget proposals ready by July 1 so that the Finance Committee can review the proposals in July and submit questions and budget information to the Council in July and August. On Aug. 25 the Finance Committee and the Council will identify budget and ministry priorities and prepare to bring their recommendations and a budget proposal to the congregation for our annual meeting in November.

We rejoice that Grace is the sponsor church to three seminarians. The Council has accepted the Parish Education Committee’s recommendation that the congregation send a gift to each of our seminarians this year. More information about this plan and our work toward this effort will follow.

We rejoice in finding ways to use new technology to foster the congregation's mission. The Memorials Committee has agreed to fund, with Council approval, the placement of an electronic bulletin board in the Atrium to provide one more way to keep members and guests up to date about events and programs at Grace. The Council will work with our new pastor to develop a comprehensive plan to address our ongoing digital ministry needs.

We rejoice that our worship continues to be enhanced by fine church music. The congregation approved Phase 1 of the organ repair contract. Phase 2 of this project will be part of our July and August budget and priority setting process. Pray for the committees and Council as we proceed with all these efforts.

Let us rejoice and be glad in each day that the Lord has given us, both individually and as His church at Grace!

On behalf of the Church Council and Steve Rosno, Council president,
Denny Berens, Council vice president



It has been a long season of disquiet in our country. From Ferguson to Baltimore, simmering racial tensions have boiled over into violence. But this ... the fatal shooting of nine African Americans in a church is a stark, raw manifestation of the sin that is racism. The church was desecrated. The people of that congregation were desecrated. The aspiration voiced in the Pledge of Allegiance that we are "one nation under God" was desecrated.

Mother Emanuel AME's pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, was a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, as was the Rev. Daniel Simmons, associate pastor at Mother Emanuel. The suspected shooter is a member of an ELCA congregation. All of a sudden and for all of us, this is an intensely personal tragedy. One of our own is alleged to have shot and killed two who adopted us as their own.

We might say that this was an isolated act by a deeply disturbed man. But we know that is not the whole truth. It is not an isolated event. And even if the shooter was unstable, the framework upon which he built his vision of race is not. Racism is a fact in American culture. Denial and avoidance of this fact are deadly. The Rev. Mr. Pinckney leaves a wife and children. The other eight victims leave grieving families. The family of the suspected killer and two congregations are broken. When will this end?

The nine dead in Charleston are not the first innocent victims killed by violence. Our only hope rests in the innocent One, who was violently executed on Good Friday. Emmanuel, God with us, carried our grief and sorrow – the grief and sorrow of Mother Emanuel AME church – and he was wounded for our transgressions – the deadly sin of racism.

I urge all of us to spend a day in repentance and mourning. And then we need to get to work. Each of us and all of us need to examine ourselves, our church and our communities. We need to be honest about the reality of racism within us and around us. We need to talk and we need to listen, but we also need to act. No stereotype or racial slur is justified. Speak out against inequity. Look with newly opened eyes at the many subtle and overt ways that we and our communities see people of color as being of less worth. Above all pray – for insight, for forgiveness, for courage.

Kyrie Eleison.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

July 5, 2015	
Assisting Minister	Darlene Rademacher
Lector	Jacob Schott
Communion Assistants	Janet Jodais, Joyce Krueger, Neil Larson, Pastor Bob Rademacher
Acolyte	Jacob Schott
Altar Guild	Charlene Johnson, Carla Ingersoll
Communion Bread	Laila Faust
Greeters	Darlene Rademacher, Kathie Remington
July 12, 2015	
Assisting Minister	Bob Anderson
Lector	Sandie Anderson
Communion Assistants	Karen and Mark Billings, Steve Paschold, Sandie Anderson
Acolyte	Luke Filbert
Altar Guild	Jon & Connie Thorson
Communion Bread	Dave Ripa
Greeters	Ron & Carolyn Ossian, Betsy Johnson
July 19, 2015	
Assisting Minister	Estelle Riemann
Lector	Phil Sorensen
Communion Assistants	Phil Sorensen & Donna Hansen, Ginny Potts, Lisa Holmstrom
Acolyte	Chloe Fitzgibbon
Altar Guild	Mark & Karen Billings
Communion Bread	Sharon Gottsche
Greeters	Fran & Kevin Gade, Sharon Gottsche, Beth Kimmerling Dumler
July 26, 2015	
Assisting Minister	Roger Potts
Lector	Cindy Eberspacher
Communion Assistants	Cindy Eberspacher, Carol Olson, Steve & Tricia Rosno
Acolyte	Kaiden Noecker
Altar Guild	Cindy Eberspacher
Communion Bread	Cindy Eberspacher
Greeters	Yvonne Nielsen, Don & Helen Carnes



8
Jameson & Charlie Leftridge

15
Richard & Sondra Block

16
Dean & Beth Dumler

18
Reid & Amanda Genuchi
Matt & Amy Knobbe

20
Bob & Donna Schnell

23
Ted & Grace Weigandt

25
Michelle & Shane Jensen

28
Michael & Lynette Lewis
Steve & Sara Schott



2
Elizabeth Johnson

3
Mary Hickey
Lindsey Howard
Austin Horwart-Martinez

4
Adam Branting
Bob Viox

5
Steven Neal

6
Lynn Chamberlin
Audrey Coatney

7
Ed Hoyt
Cindy Morales
Judi Schroeder

9
Abby Filbert
Jo Miller

10
Kevin Bard
Janet Jodais
Sarah Krueger
Mac Madison
Sydney Robinson

11
Norma Bryant

12
Darlene Motycka
Lois Schuerman
Tanya Zimmerman

13
Lonnie Brejcha
Drue Genthe

14
Tim Barnason
Skylar Hoxie
Cheryl Petersen

17
Claire Baumann

18
Steve Faust
Arlene Higgins

20
Doug Allen
Chris Disney
Leoma Winch

22
Craig Potts

23
Kaycee Lange
Lilyann Newman

24
Lorraine James
Barb Smith
Savannah Newman

25
John Lunde
Kathryn Vader
Grace Weigandt

28
Sue Clymer
Kim Fritchie
Barry Moore

29
Judy Grabow

31
Wendy Apple
Ken Johnson



Wednesday, July 1

7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg.

Thursday, July 2

9:00 am Quilting\Sewing

7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

Friday, July 3

Office Closed

Saturday, July 4

5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, July 5

9:00 am Worship *

10:30 am Fellowship

Monday, July 6

7:00 pm Committee Mtg.

Tuesday, July 7

9:30 am Al-Anon

7:00 pm Committee mtgs.

8:00 pm AA Mtg.

Wednesday, July 8

7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg.

Thursday, July 9

9:00 am Quilting\Sewing

7:00 pm N. A. Mtg.

Friday, July 10

9:00 am Lounge reserved

5:45 pm YWCA Respite care

Saturday, July 11

10:30 am Lincoln Literacy

5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, July 12

9:00 am Worship *

10:30 am Fellowship

Tuesday, July 14

9:30 am Al-Anon

7:00 pm Council, W.R.T. Mtg.

8:00 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, July 15

7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg.,

Thursday, July 16

9:00 am Quilting

7:00 pm N. A. Mtg

Friday, July 17

6:00 pm VBS

Saturday, July 18

9:00 am VBS

10:30 am Lincoln Literacy

5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, July 19

9:00 am Worship *

10:30 am Fellowship, VBS

12:00 pm Potluck lunch with Lutheran

Student Center

Monday, July 20

5:00 pm Gathering Place

Tuesday, July 21

9:30 am Al-Anon

8:00 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, July 22

7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg.

Thursday, July 23

9:00 am Quilting

7:00 pm N. A. Mtg

Saturday, July 25

5:30 pm Worship

Sunday, July 26

9:00 am Worship *

10:30 am Fellowship

Tuesday, July 28

9:30 am Al-Anon

8:00 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, July 29

7:00 pm Comm. Mental Health Mtg.

Thursday, July 30

9:00 am Quilting

7:00 pm N. A. Mtg

*child care provided





Grace Staff and Council Members

Rev. Dr. Robert Rademacher,

*Visitation Minister
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*

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

Carla Ingersoll 477-5049

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

Curt Mann, chair
Wendy Apple
Charlyne Berens
Brady Garvin
Margaret Gipson
Carla Ingersoll
Sarah Krueger
Roger Potts

Our Seminarians

Brian Eck
Amanda Hefner
Steven Neal

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

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