

The Grace Greeter!

**Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502
February 2020**





New Year's Day is also the festival we know as the "Name of Jesus". One reading from this holy day proclaims:

4When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. - Galatians 4

"You are no longer a slave but a child" says Paul. This statement comes as a bit of a surprise. Paul often refers to Christians as servants. But here we are claimed as children. Slaves you have been adopted by their master as children. Not because the children have earned it but because the master loves them.

So we enter a New Year with the mind of a child. An open mind to what God has in store for us in this new year. A curious mind that is always aware of how God is present in the world today. Pr. Alan Brehm writes,

" The purpose and meaning of our lives is to be open to the love at the heart of all things and share that love with those around us in a world that can be incredibly loveless at times. So, I'm going to be giving up some things this year—at least I hope. I'm going to try to give up being short-tempered in stressful situations. I'm going to try to give up thinking about myself so much and think about others more. But one thing I will never give up is the conviction that at the heart of all things there is a divine compassion that defines and surrounds us all constantly."

So, let us be open and curious to how God's compassion will shape and lead us in the year ahead.

Pr. Eric Tesher



- ◆ PLEASE CONTACT US! HIPPA laws do not allow the hospital to notify the church if there is a member in the hospital. The patient or a family member must contact the church office so we can schedule a visit while you are in the hospital here in Lincoln or Omaha. During office hours, call 402-474-1505 or email office@egrace.org 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.
- ◆ The deadline for the next Greeter will be February 20th.
- ◆ Fellowship Signup: Please sign up to host Sunday Fellowship Hours for 2020. The notebook is outside the church office. If you like to have cookies and other treats with your coffee, please sign up!
- ◆ The 2020 flower chart is now available on the bulletin board in the Atrium. The fellowship book is also updated for 2020. Feel free to sign up for a Sunday or two! It is on the table outside the office.
- ◆ If you would be interested in being on an Altar Guild crew (it would be about every 8 weeks) or baking communion bread (it would be about every 12 weeks), please contact the church office.
- ◆ Church Council Vacancy: We currently have a vacancy on our church council. This is a three-year position beginning January 2020. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Pastor Eric, Neil Larson, or the church office.
- Committee assignments for council members include:
 - Connie Thorson (Worship and Music)
 - Carla Ingersoll (Congregational Life)
 - Cindy Epersphacher (Education)
 - Doug Krueger (Memorial)
 - Roger Potts (Property)
 - Karen Billings (Congregational Life)
 - Jan Branting (Social Ministry)
 - Open (Stewardship/Finance)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars




The **Grace Thrivent Financial Group** will meet at 10:30 am on February 2 in the staff conference room. Visitors are welcome to attend.



Wednesday Nights at Grace

Evening Prayer @ 5:30 pm

Dinner @ 6:00 pm

Wired Word @ 6:30 pm

Youth Choir @ 6:30 pm

Confirmation Class @ 7:00 pm



Yesterday's Youth will be meeting on February 12th with a soup luncheon. Soup is furnished, bring items/food to go with it. DVD "In His Presence". Fellowship at 11:30, lunch



Scout Sunday 2020

Members of Scouts BSA Troop 30 will be serving breakfast for the congregation on February 9th beginning at 10 am to thank Grace Lutheran for their continued support of the Scouting program. Menu includes: biscuits and gravy, pancakes and sausage, fresh fruit, coffee, and juice.



Ash Wednesday

February 26

Chapel Service at 12:00 Noon

Meal served by WELCA at 5:30 PM

Nave Service at 6:30 PM



Lincoln Organ Showcase Concert

Sunday, Feb. 2, at 3 p.m. in the Grace nave. **Nicole Keller** is our guest organist and admission is *free for members of Grace*.



It was a matter of “déjà vu all over again” on December 30 at **The Gathering Place**. As was the case on December 16, parents and Scouts from Troop 30 assisted with the serving and clean up. Amazingly, the number of meals served was exactly the same as two weeks earlier, 124. Regina and Steve Paschold prepared macaroni and cheese with ham bits. Carla Ingersoll donated the tossed lettuce salad. Also on the menu were bananas, green beans, and bread, along with desserts contributed by Joy Kokes, Regina and Steve, and some of the Scouts.

Most likely, the very cold temperatures and the extremely icy conditions underfoot on January 20 contributed toward a significantly lower than usual meal count of 107 at The Gathering Place. Regina and Steve Paschold prepared macaroni and cheese with ham bits. Carla Ingersoll donated the tossed lettuce salad. Green beans, bread, and bananas were also on the menu, along with home baked desserts from Connie Whyrick, Jan and Terry Branting, Ginny and Roger Potts, and Regina and Steve. All of those mentioned above helped to serve and to clean up after the meal.



December Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Present: Doug Krueger, Karen Billings, Dave Ripa, Carla Ingersoll, Jan Branting, Fran Gade, Roger Potts, PR. Eric Leshner, Teddi Reckling

Newly Elected Council Members: Cindy Eberspacher, Neil Larson

Fran Gade called the Council meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Devotions: Karen

Approval of Council Minutes:

Dave made a motion to approve the November 12 minutes. Teddi seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence: Thank you from Joyce Palmer for the donation to the Synod Disaster Response Team in recognition of her participation of Stewardship Sunday at Grace.

The Lutheran Center asking for Grace's support in Campus Ministry.

Pastor Eric's Report:

Director of Music Report:

Treasurer and Financial Secretary Reports:

Dave made a motion to accept Pastor's and Director of Music reports and to approve the financial reports. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship-written report—Another mailing to congregation-one mailing to congregants that turned in their pledge cards and another to remind members to turn in their pledge cards

Worship & Music-written report

Parish Ed- written report

Congregational Life- written report

Property-written report

Social Ministry-written report

Memorial-written report

Karen made a motion to accept the committee reports as printed. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Review of Church Rolls: Twenty household letters have been sent out. Response was requested by December 1.

Will act on who will remain on roster in the December council meeting. Four responses were received back.

Dave made a motion to send a final letter to the non-responders, if no response by January 31, 2020, then they will be removed. Teddi seconded. Motion passed.

David Sage – Office administrator position was offered and accepted.

Semi-Annual congregational meeting: Thrivent doing the brunch. Free will offering will be given toward the bathroom remodel. Teddi made a motion that the proceeds from the silent auction be donated to the Lutheran Campus Ministry building fund. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

Lutheran Campus Ministry building campaign: Project for a possible fund raiser next year.

New Business:

Artificial Trees for the Nave and chapel in 2020: Since the Christmas tree farm that has provided in the past has quit, the Worship and Music committee made a suggestion that the Property look into artificial trees. Dave made a motion to give the Property Committee permission to look at the possibility of using artificial trees for the nave and chapel. Jan seconded. Motion passed.

Karen Christian Rival Church: A Karen Church is interested in using our chapel. Karen made a motion that the Karen congregation be able to use our chapel for a 3-month trial period from January 2020 to March 2020 from 12:00-2:30. Teddi seconded. Motion passed.

Elect new officers for 2020: Newly elected officers:

President: Neil Larson

Vice-President: Carla Ingersoll

Secretary: Connie Thorsen

Treasurer: Jim Krueger

Date for installation of new officers: December 22

2019 Committee Annual Reports: Due to office by January 10.

Being no further business to discuss, Jan made the motion to adjourn and Roger seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carla Ingersoll, Secretary

Property: We're taking advantage of LES Energy Program Incentives on lights. Bus Service was again discussed. We've applied for a Grant through the Nebraska Synod for renovating the two bathrooms across from the office and it has been approved. Two more disabled furnace dampers will be replaced next week. The narthex automatic opening disability door, that has not been working properly, will be repaired this next week.

Education: We began planning for VBS 2020. We are also looking into curriculum for the 2020/2021 Sunday School year. We also discussed starting up our Youth Group again.

Kathren Miller has resigned as Parish Education Chair and member. We want to thank her for all the great work she has done while serving on the committee.

Social Ministry: We are looking forward to serving Grace and others in 2020.

Congregational Life: Will host the Fellowship Hour on February 2 with valentine cards to be signed by congregation members.

Worship and Music: Lincoln Organ Showcase concert is February 2 at 3:00 PM in the nave. Grace members attend free.





The **Grace Women of the ELCA** will hold their next General Meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 1 p.m.

In keeping with the Synodical Women's Organization's request to increase awareness of human trafficking during January, we are dedicating the February meeting to that subject. Although this is a very difficult subject to think and talk about, it is an increasing problem in the United States and even in Lincoln, NE and we need to become aware not only of its existence, but also of ways we can help. Please join us on February 5th for food, fellowship and facts.



This month we explore the theme **“Honoring God”**. The aim of giving honor to God is to increase our love for God and for others through worship and spiritual practices. Come joins us on Sunday mornings in Leshar Lounge at 10:45 AM.



The Lutheran Food Pantry needs the following food items: canned fruit, canned peas, cereal, fruit juice, instant mashed potatoes, jelly, pancake mix, pork & beans, saltine crackers, tuna. Monetary gifts are also appreciated.



Wednesday Nights @ 5:30 pm
Saturday Nights @ 5:00 pm
Sunday Mornings @ 9:00 am





Wednesday, January 1st

Office Closed

Thursday, January 2nd

Office Closed

Friday, January 3rd

5:30 pm YWCA Respite Care

Saturday, January 4th

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, January 5th

9:00 am Worship

10:15 am Sunday School, Fellowship,

10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Adult
choir, Thrivent

Monday, January 6th

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy

WELCA Board Mtg.

7:00 pm Scouts BSA

Tuesday, January 7th

9:30 am Al-Anon

6:30 pm Cub Scout den mtgs.

7:00 pm Committee Mtgs.

8:00 pm AA Mtg.

Wednesday, January 8th

11:30 am Yesterday's Youth &
WELCA Unit Mtg.

5:30 pm Evening Prayer

6:00 pm Dinner

6:20 pm Wired Word Bible Study

6:30 pm Youth Choir @ Friedens

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thursday, January 9th

6:30 am Men's Bible Study

9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy

7:00 pm N. A. Mtg., Bells

Friday, January 10th

5:30 pm YWCA respite care

Saturday, January 11th

1:00 pm Danish Sisterhood

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, January 12th

9:00 am Worship

10:15 am Sunday School, Fellowship,

10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Adult
choir

Monday, January 13th

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy

7:00 pm Scouts BSA

Tuesday, January 14th

9:30 am Al-Anon

6:30 pm Cub Scout Den mtgs.

7:00 pm Church Council, WRT mtg.

8:00 pm AA Mtg.

Wednesday, January 15th

1:00 pm WELCA #3 mtg.

5:30 pm Evening Prayer

6:00 pm Dinner

6:20 pm Wired Word Bible Study

6:30 pm Youth Choir @ Friedens

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thursday, January 16th

6:30 am Men's Bible Study

9:00 am Quilting, Lincoln Literacy

7:00 pm N. A. Mtg., Bells

Friday, January 17th

5:00 pm BNRR/-Gym reserved

Saturday, January 18th

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, January 19th

9:00 am Worship

10:15 am Fellowship, Sunday School

10:30 am Adult Bible Study, Adult
choir

Monday, January 20th

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy

12:00 pm Lounge reserved

5:00 pm Gathering Place

7:00 pm Scouts BSA

Tuesday, January 21st

9:30 am Al-Anon

6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Mtg.

7:00 pm WELCA #6

8:00 pm AA mtg.

Wednesday, January 22nd

5:30 pm Evening Prayer

6:00 pm Dinner

6:20 pm Wired Word Bible Study

6:30 pm Youth Choir @ Friedens

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thursday, January 23rd

6:30 am Men's Bible Study

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy, Quilters

7:00 pm NA, Bells

Friday, January 24th

5:00 pm Pinewood Derby set up

Saturday, January 25th

8:00 am Pinewood Derby Races

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, January 26th

9:00 am Worship

10:30 pm Semi-Annual Mtg. &
Brunch

Monday, January 27th

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy

7:00 pm Scouts BSA

Tuesday, January 28th

9:30 am Al-Anon

6:30 pm Cub Scout Comm. Mtg.

8:00 pm AA Mtg.

Wednesday, January 29th

5:30 pm Evening Prayer

6:00 pm Dinner

6:20 pm Wired Word Bible Study

6:30 pm Youth Choir @ Friedens

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thursday, January 30th

6:30 am Men's Bible Study

9:00 am Lincoln Literacy, Quilters

7:00 pm NA, Bells

Friday, January 31st

Grace Staff & Council

Rev. Eric Leshner,

Senior Pastor

308-708-1146

pr.eric@egrace.org

2020 Church Council

David Sage

Parish Administrator

office@egrace.org

Neil Larson

Council President

Carla Ingersoll

Vice President

Karen Billings

Jan Branting

Cindy Eberspacher

Doug Krueger

Roger Potts

Vacant

Connie Thorson

Secretary

Jim Krueger

Treasurer

Anne Melang-Thoren,

Director of music

anne@egrace.org

Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson

Assistant Organist

Robert Stimbert,

Custodian

Judi Schroeder,

Nursery Coordinator

Elizabeth Krueger,

Nursery attendant



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