



Nebraska Synod Sunday
August 29, 2021

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Making Christ Known to all Through Grace

2225 Washington Street, Lincoln NE 68502 + 402-474-1505 + www.egrace.org

Network: GLC-Balcony

Password: AlphaOmega

WELCOME to worship

Grace Lutheran Church, a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has been at the heart of the faith community in Lincoln since 1889.

- We follow our mission: "Making Christ known to all through Grace."
- We celebrate our purpose: "That by God's grace we have been gathered to worship, called to witness, and sent to serve."
- We seek our vision: "To become a church with a passion for fostering a welcoming community that strives for peace and a sense of belonging."

Thank you for worshipping with us today and join our community at any time!

WORSHIP notes

Remember your response is marked in **BOLD** font.

Hearing enhancement devices are available in the entry space. Ask an usher to assist you.

Restrooms are located next to our chapel on the other side of the courtyard.

Masks are required for everyone while in the building.

INTRODUCTION to worship

The official founding date of the Nebraska Synod is Sept. 1st, 1871. So, this weekend we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Nebraska Synod.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE: "For The Beauty Of The Earth", Dix, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872, setting by Henry J. Markworth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Built on a Rock



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, we bring our praise and thanks for your steadfast love that you have shown to Your church. Especially on this occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Nebraska Synod. We give you thanks for guidance in the past. We thank you for bishops and presidents that led us and were there with us and for us in times of celebration and turmoil. We give you thanks for those in our Synod that challenged us to open our eyes for the sake of social justice and peace. Now we pray for your continued guidance into the future. May the fires of compassion and justice burn within our hearts. May the evangelical zeal of the apostles consume us. May our baptism and the promised coming of your Son give us the hope we need to meet any challenges that lie ahead, trusting always in the Jesus, who has claimed us and made us his own. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SIT

First Reading: First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

A reading from Deuteronomy:

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:19-2

A reading from Ephesians:

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

STAND

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark
Praise to you, O Christ.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus],
²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,
‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’
⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”
¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”
²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder,
²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Thanks be to you, O Lord.

SIT
SERMON (written by Bishop Brian Maas)

STAND
HYMN OF THE DAY

We've Come This Far by Faith

Refrain – All



We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;



trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.



Oh, can't turn a-round, we've come this far by



faith. We've come this far by faith.

Leader



1 Just re-mem-ber the good things God has
2 Don't be dis-cour-aged with trou-ble in your



done, things that seemed im-pos-si-ble; oh,
life; he'll bear your . . . bur-dens, and

Refrain



praise him for the vic-t'ries he has won. Oh!
move . . . all the dis-cord and strife. Oh!

Text: Albert A. Goodson, 1933–2003

Music: THIS FAR BY FAITH, Albert A. Goodson

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APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended to the living,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that it is a haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for individuals in positions of authority. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in every country throughout the world, especially the country of Afghanistan, and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. We pray especially for those we now name before you...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those beginning a new school year. Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful departed who showed us how to honor God with their heart. We pray especially for soldiers and citizens killed in Afghanistan. Inspire us by their example and renew our faith, trusting that we will be united with all your beloved in glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

MUSIC OFFERING: "Come To Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty", *Beach Spring, The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844, arr. Rachel Trelstad Porter, 2000

STAND

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

DIALOG



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come and receive the gifts of God for the people of God!

COMMUNION

Come forward by way of the center aisle to receive the wafer (Body of Christ). Gluten free is available upon request. Move to the next station to receive the cup (Blood of Christ). Red grape juice is available. Return to your pew by way of the side aisle. Please dispose your used cup into the basket at the head of the side aisle.

STAND

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: “For The Beauty Of The Earth”, *Dix*, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872, arr. Anne Krentz Organ, 2003

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WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship leader: Rev. Eric Leshner
Organist/Pianist: Ms. Anne Melang-Thoren

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE NEBRASKA SYNOD

The very first Lutherans in the Territory of Nebraska were among the waves of homesteaders of the 1840s and 50s who the U.S. government settled here on indigenous land. But these lay Lutherans preceded the church; no Lutheran churches or pastors were here in Nebraska until the missionary Pastor Henry Kuhns arrived in the late 1850s to organize the Lutheran settlers he found already living here. Preaching points slowly became congregations and the church members eventually constructed their own church buildings.

The Nebraska Synod as a governing body was first established in 1871 as a conference of the larger General Synod, the Lutheran denomination on the east coast dating back to the colonial period. However, throughout the 19th and 20th century, there were many different and evolving denominations of Lutherans in America (many represented within the Nebraska state border), divided along lines of national origin and language. In addition, these Lutherans held different convictions on doctrine, worship practices, and spirituality which resulted in yet more denominational splits. The congregations of the Nebraska Synod, ELCA today are descended from many of these antecedent Lutheran bodies.

Beginning in the late 19th century, the various ethnic Lutheran denominations established academic and social welfare institutions here in Nebraska.

- The (English and German speaking) General Synod founded Midland College and Western Theological Seminary which eventually located to Fremont.
- The (German speaking) Midwest Synod (formerly German Nebraska Conference) founded Martin Luther Seminary in Lincoln.
- The Swedish Augustana Synod founded Luther College in Wahoo and the Immanuel Deaconess Institute in Omaha as well as Bethphage Mission in Axtell.
- The “Inner Mission” Danes founded Trinity Seminary/Dana College as well as a Danish language printing press in Blair Nebraska.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of Lutheran institutions; but these historic examples of Lutheran energy for education and social services are still in evidence today in our ongoing support for the Nebraska Synod serving arms and the larger work of the ELCA.

The early 20th century for Lutherans in Nebraska proved to be a deeply painful and challenging time. When the United States entered WWI, the government launched an anti-German propaganda campaign. As a result, German-speaking people, and indeed, many other non-English speaking people, were persecuted by the government as well as harassed by their neighbors. This pressured Lutheran congregations in Nebraska to quickly move towards English-only worship services and religious education. In addition, as younger generations of Lutherans became “Americanized” the previous divisions between Lutheran bodies seemed less formidable by degrees. As a result, Lutheran denominations started merging.

By the 1970s the three Lutheran bodies that would eventually join to form the ELCA were the Lutheran Church in America, The American Lutheran Church, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (having separated earlier from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod). The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was born in 1988. At that time, there were about 276 congregations in the new Nebraska Synod, ELCA. Its first bishop was Dennis Anderson.

-written by Rev. Kristen Van Stee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee and cookies in the gym following worship. Please sign up outside the office to host a coffee hour.

Green attendance cards can be filled out and returned to the Offering basket in the front of the church or the Welcome Table basket in the back of the church.

Don't forget to fill an **LWR school kit**. Bags and instructions are outside the office.

September 12 "Reunion Sunday" for this year's God's Work. Our Hands Sunday has been postponed until further notice.

2021 CROP Hunger Walk

The Lincoln CROP Hunger Walk is October 10th. To sign up or to donate, go to:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/lincolnne>

If someone would like to start a Grace Lutheran Team, please let Pr. Eric know.

UNL Campus Ministry is looking for volunteers from local congregations to cook a meal for the student congregation at the Lutheran Center following the 11am Sunday service.

They cook for about 40-60 people. You can bring the food prepared or prepare it here at the Lutheran Center (new commercial kitchen!) the Saturday before or Sunday morning, and you can attend worship with us as well. You can also provide your own ingredients, or we can purchase them for you with a \$100 budget. We do have members who are vegetarian, gluten free, and dairy free, so we ask that you could accommodate them in the meal also. We hope to hear back from you soon. Here is the sign-up link:

<https://forms.gle/CiKrZa2hZHxK4qJy6>

Sincerely,

Melissa Graue

mgraue0121@gmail.com

2021 Offering Envelope boxes are available in the atrium after worship today or during the week.

The Lutheran magazine and **Daily Devotionals** are available in the narthex after worship or in the atrium during the week.

Flower chart is available in the atrium. You can sign up for flowers there and leave through the east main entrance.

Prayers for Phyllis Holmstrom as she continues her battle with lung cancer in Omaha. She is the mother of Ken Holmstrom. Prayers for the country and people of Afghanistan, our troops in Afghanistan, those facing the threat of Covid-19 and forest fires.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

August 30:	
Lessons	4:00 pm
Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
August 31:	
Al-Anon	9:30 am
Lessons	4:00 pm
Scouts	6:30 pm

September 2:	
Quilting	9:00 am
Lessons	1:30 pm
Lessons	4:30 pm
September 4:	
Worship	5:30 pm
September 5:	
Worship	9:00 am

WORSHIP RESTRICTIONS

The following *temporary* changes will occur for the foreseeable future:

- As always, if you are ill or at risk, **please stay at home** and watch the service online.
- **Masks are required for anyone in the building.**
- We will enter the building through the **North doors**. The doors will be locked at 9:10. All other doors will be locked.
- There will **hand sanitizers** in the narthex. If you wish you can sanitize your hands prior to entering the worship space.
- There will be **no offering**. There will be an offering basket located at the entrance door to the sanctuary.
- There will be **no sharing** of the peace.
- The presiding minister will **greet** you in the narthex after the postlude.
- There will be **no** reader, or acolyte
- There will be **no nursery** available.