

# *The Grace Greeter!*

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502  
April 2020





8So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him." - Matthew 28

It is interesting that in this Easter story the faithful women who have come to the tomb leave with fear and joy. During this time of exile, we can certainly relate to the fear! Look at what is happening to the world we live in today. But what about the joy? That is harder to find. It seems that this is somehow connected to worship. The reading says these women took hold of Jesus' feet! In Old Testament thought, taking hold of God's feet, could mean certain death. But here it is a source of joy.

I have never thought of worship as "taking hold of Jesus' feet". But that is what we have here. Maybe during this time of exile, we need to find ways of "taking hold of Jesus' feet". Strange but true. I have already discovered that online worship is no replacement for the real thing. Something is missing. You! Me! But Jesus is always present where two or three are gathered online or in-person. The joy is that the Easter Jesus knows no boundaries. He exists for us in a way that goes beyond our own experience of time.

So find ways to "take hold of Jesus' feet". They are there. He is here. Come let us worship Him in any way we can so that we can not only experience the fear of our faith but the joy as well.

By the way, I have included some personal worship material in this newsletter. Opportunities to "take hold of Jesus' feet".

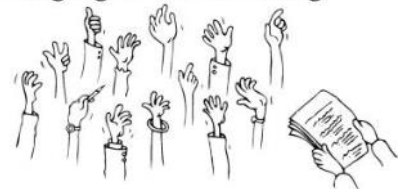
Shalom,

*P. 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](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 April 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. Feel free to sign up for a Sunday or two!
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ (tentative) Official Notice for Special Congregational Meeting to be held at 10:30 in Leshar Hall on April 19th. We will approve or not approve the Council recommendation to reduce Council terms from 3 to 2 years. We will then ratify or not ratify the 2019 ELCA Model Constitution for approval at our November Semi-Annual meeting.

### Special Congregational Meeting



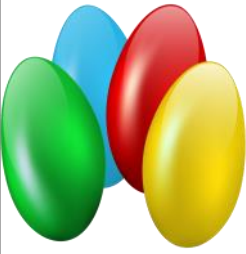


Mark Your Calendars

# EVENTS



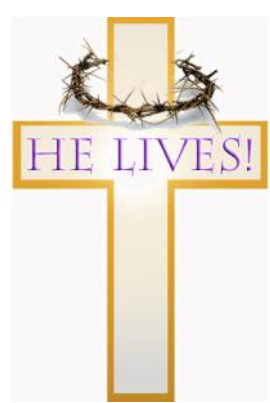
The **Grace Lutheran Thrivent Financial group** will cancel the meeting that was scheduled for April 5th has been canceled.



The Congregational Life committee is sad to announce that **Spring Eggstravaganza!** Will have to be canceled this year because of COVID-19



- April 4-5: Passion/Palm Weekend  
5:00/9:00
- April 9: Maundy Thursday  
12:00/6:30
- April 10: Good Friday  
12:00/6:30
- April 11: Easter Eve  
6:30



- April 12: Easter Sunday  
9:00



## Sunday Morning Adult Study

This month we explore the theme **“Justice and the Prophets”**. God calls us to be a people of both justice and compassion. So we will explore what this means as God’s people living in today’s world. Come joins us on Sunday mornings in Lesher Lounge at 10:30 AM.



- Midweek worship and study resumes
- April 15:
- Evening worship at 5:45
- Wired Word Study at 6:15
- Youth Choir at 6:30 (?)
- Confirmation at 7:00 (?)
- Midweek activities will end May 20.

**Please remember that these activities will be either in-person or online.**

**April 5, 2020**

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

**Prayer of the Day**

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gospel Readings: Matthew 21:1-11 and Matthew 26:14--27:66

**Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses**

Many indeed are the wondrous happenings of that time: God hanging from a cross, the sun made dark, and again flaming out—for it was fitting that creation should mourn with its Creator. The temple veil rent; the earth shaken, the rocks shattered because of the Rock; the dead risen to bear witness to the final and universal resurrection of the dead;...who can fittingly recount them? Yet no one of them can be compared to the miracle of my salvation. A few drops of blood renew the whole world,...joining us and binding us together. —Gregory of Nazianzus  
[Gregory of Nazianzus, in *The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, II: 261.]

**April 12, 2020**

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

**Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses**

If you would learn of God the Father, listen to this word. When it is too dark for you to see, seek Christ, for he is the light. Would you know by whom the world was made and all things are sustained? Believe in him, for he is the arm and right hand. Are you afraid of this or that? Remember that on all occasions he will stand by your side like an angel. If you do not know the way of salvation, look for Christ, for he is the road for souls. If it is truth that you want, listen to him, for he is the truth. If you are afraid that your body is failing and have a dread of death, remember that he is the resurrection, and can raise up what has fallen. —Nicetas  
[Nicetas, in *A Treasury of Early Christianity*, ed. Anne Fremantle (NY: Viking, 1953), 401-403.]

**April 19, 2020**

Second Sunday of Easter

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

**Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses**

O Lord, I acknowledge and give thanks that you created in me your image so that I may remember, contemplate, and love you. But this image has been so effaced by the abrasion of transgressions, so hidden from sight by the dark billows of sin, that unless you renew and refashion it, it cannot do what it was created to do....For I do not seek to understand in order to believe, but I believe in order to understand. For I believe even this: that I shall not understand unless I believe. —Anselm  
[Anselm, *Anselm of Canterbury*, ed. Jasper Hopkins and Herbert Richardson (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen, 1974), 93.]

**April 26, 2020**

Third Sunday of Easter

### Prayer of the Day

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:13-35

### Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

Lord! Open our eyes that we may behold thee. Open our ears that they may recognize thy voice. Not in some special religious experience, some great moment or wonderful service or perfect setting, but just as we go along the common road. Come to us with your living touch on events; your sacred hand opening the scriptures. You have the words of eternal life. Lord! Give us courage and love to open the door and constrain you to enter, offer all my resources, whatever the disguise you come in, even before I fully recognize my guest. Come in! Enter my small life! When out of the heart of my own homely circumstances you feed me, then my eyes are open to the presence I long for and can never understand. Come and abide with me! Meet me, walk with me! Enter my humble life with its poverty and its limitations as you entered the stable of Bethlehem, the workshop of Nazareth, the cottage of Emmaus. Bless and consecrate the material of that small and ordinary life. Feed and possess my soul!—Evelyn Underhill [Evelyn Underhill, *Mediations and Prayers* (London: Longman, Green and Com., 1949), 14, 17, 20.]

February Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020



Present: Neil Larson, Doug Krueger, Cindy Eberspacher, Connie Thorson, Carla Ingersoll, Jan Branting, Roger Potts, Pr. Eric Leshar

Absent: Karen Billings

Neil Larson called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### Opening Prayer

### Approval of Council Minutes:

Roger made a motion to approve the January minutes. Jan seconded. Motion passed.

### Semi-Annual Minutes:

Council received and accepted the January 26, 2020 Semi-Annual Meeting minutes.

Correspondence: Letter received from Lutheran Food Pantry thanking us for our donation of \$1040.00 and 242 lbs. of food. Letter will serve as an official tax receipt.

### Staff Reports:

Pastor Eric's Report: Discussed Pastor Eric's list of people who have not responded after receiving two letters sent to them about retaining membership, so they will be removed; one individual wished to be retained as a member. Discussion and clarification of newsletter "Council Corner" - will include approved council minutes; committee meeting summaries/highlights will be included monthly.

Director of Music Report: written report submitted

Financial Secretary's Report: written report was not sent to all council members; finished ahead for the month due to members who paid their offering for the year.

Treasurer's Report: written report was not sent to all council members; Roger will inquire about high LES bill. Cindy motioned to approve the Pastor's and the Director of Music's reports and to receive the Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, but not approve them until next month when members can review them. Roger seconded.

Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

Finance/Stewardship - written report submitted

Worship & Music - written report submitted and read

Parish Ed - written report; discussion on combining Grace Lutheran VBS with Friedens Lutheran Church. Coordination needs to be worked out including price of materials, ample space, meals, etc. May make more sense to remain at Grace.

Congregational Life - written report submitted. Reminder about Spring Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 4. Volunteer sign-up sheet will be posted soon.

Property - written report and summary by Roger on restroom progress and stain glass windows; nothing back from roofing contractor yet; one damper is in, the other is still in the works; front door in narthex has been repaired.

Social Ministry - written report; Feast for Prison Ministry sponsored by Thrivent - Noon, April 26 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Memorials - committee will meet April 6; only meets 3-4 times yearly. Email wish list items to Doug.

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

**Old Business:**

Final Membership Report – According to the Constitution, every odd year, the church must review and remove inactive members for maintaining accurate records. Removed members can re-join at any time. Neil motioned that members' names listed in the pastor's report will be removed except for the one individual who responded. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

Re-visit Lenten Lunches – Groups have been organized for lunches. Thrivent will serve a meal for Ash Wednesday. The remaining services will offer a lunch, no evening meal. Discussed concerns, but agreed to try it this year.

**New Business:**

Lenten luncheon – Council will do Noon lunch on March 25th.

Honorarium for Sandi – An honorarium for Sandi was discussed and approved. Motion passed.

Audit Committee – Three people are needed to serve. Council members cannot be on the Audit Committee.

Discussed several members eligible to serve who will be asked.

Retreat for Council – Possibility but nothing planned for now.

**Closing Prayer**

Being no further business to discuss, Roger made the motion to adjourn and Jan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Connie Thorson, Secretary

**Council Corner:**

**Parish Education**

We continue to plan for Confirmation this spring and VBS this summer.

**Social Ministry**

During this Lenten Season the Social Ministry Committee will be providing a devotional message to our Grace members who are homebound.

**Worship**

Decorating of the sanctuary and atrium church for Easter will take place Saturday, 4/11/20 at 10:00am.

All congregational members are welcome to join in the fun!





As is the case in many other areas of life, activities at The Gathering Place have been radically altered due to caution and social distancing brought on by COVID—19.

On March 16th, a team from Grace prepared “Grab and Go” boxes of food to be offered outside of the fence surrounding the building. Each box contained one and one half ham and cheese sandwiches, potato chips, baked beans, and a brownie, along with a banana. Sixty-nine boxes were distributed, with no second helpings being offered.. Those who donated brownies and helped to pack the boxes were Joy Kokes, Dean Dumler, Beth Kimmerling Dumler, and Regina & Steve Paschold.



**Kathie Remington** would like to thank everyone so much for the phone calls, rides, food, and prayers after her surgery. She wants you to know she feels so blessed to have you all as my church family!

**Arlene Reighard** says thank you again from the bottom of my heart, for all the birthday wishes I received. I am once again reminded of the joys that I have received from my Grace friends, and family, and how blessed I am to have so much love from everyone. I may have aged another year, but with help with help from God, my heart is kept young and joyful because I have such great friends around!



**The Lutheran Food Pantry** needs the following food items: peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, dry pasta noodles, canned meals (Spaghetti O's, stew, ravioli, etc.) personal care items (shampoo, toothpaste, bath soap, etc.) and monetary donations to purchase food from the Food Bank.



**Wednesday Nights @ 5:45 pm**  
**Saturday Nights @ 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday Mornings @ 9:00 am**





## **Birthdays**

April 02– Florence Stokke

April 04– Rick William  
Storm Eberspacher

April 05– Carla Ingersoll  
Joan Anderson

April 07– Carmen McKillip

April 10– Brittany Billings

April 11– Arthur Hillman

April 12– Florence Prusia

April 16– Kennedy Abbott

April 17– Sara Olston

April 19– Deborah Basler  
Marilyn Holmquist

April 21– Susan Grutti

April 22– Ben Ptacek  
Betty Shaw

April 23– Lianne Garza

April 25– Amanda Genuchi

April 26– Julene Leshner

April 27– Becky Williams  
Jeanie Weisbrook  
Teresa Serafin

April 30– Sarah Anderson

April 16– Jon & Connie  
Thorson

April 18– Rick & Becky  
William  
Timothy & Christina  
Riemann

April 26– Robin & Shirleen  
Hoffman

April 30– Bruce & Cheryl  
Peterson

## **Anniversaries**

April 02– Ronald & Judy  
Holtgrewe  
Shawn & Joanie Rathjen

April 07– Delmar and Darlene  
Motycka  
Jackson and Patience  
Bukasa



**April 01**

12:00pm- Lenten Worship  
 06:30pm- Lenten Worship

**April 02**

9:00am- Quilting

**April 03**

05:45pm- YWCA Respite Care

**April 04**

05:00pm- Worship

**April 05**

09:00am- Passion/Palm Sunday  
 10:00am- Fellowship  
 10:15am- Sunday School  
 10:30am- Adult Forum  
 03:00pm- LLC Choir Practice

**April 06**

09:00am- Lincoln Literacy  
                   WELCA Board Meeting  
 06:30pm- Memorials Committee  
 07:00pm- Scouts BSA

**April 07**

09:30am- Al-Anon  
 06:30pm- Cub Scout Den  
 07:00pm- Committee Meetings  
 08:00pm- A.A.

**April 08**

11:00am- Yesterday's Youth

**April 09**

09:00am- Lincoln Literacy  
                   Quilting  
 12:00pm- Maundy Thursday Worship  
 06:30pm- Maundy Thursday Worship  
 07:00pm- N.A.  
                   Grace Bells

**April 10**

12:00pm- Good Friday Worship  
 05:45pm- YWCA Respite Care  
 06:30pm- Good Friday Worship

**April 11**

06:30pm- Easter Eve Worship

**April 12 Easter**

09:00am- Easter Worship  
 10:00am- Fellowship

**April 13 Easter Monday**

09:00am- Lincoln Literacy  
 07:00pm- Scouts BSA

**April 14**

09:30am- Al-Anon  
 06:30pm- Cub Scout Den  
 07:00pm- Council Meeting  
                   Wildlife Rescue  
 08:00pm- A.A.

**April 15**

01:00pm- WELCA Group 3

**April 16**

09:00am- Lincoln Literacy  
                   Quilting  
 07:00pm- N.A.  
                   Grace Bells

**April 17**

04:00pm- BNRR  
 06:00pm- LLC Practice

**April 18**

01:00pm- Suzuki Practice  
 05:00pm- Worship

**April 19**

09:00am- Worship  
 10:00am- Fellowship  
 10:15am- Sunday School  
 10:30am- Adult Forum

**April 20**

09:00am- Lincoln Literacy  
 05:00pm- Gathering Place  
 07:00pm- Scouts BSA

**April 21**

09:30am- Al-Anon  
 06:30pm- Cub Scout Pack  
 07:00pm- WELCA Group 6  
 08:00pm- A.A.

**April 22**

**OPEN SCHEDULE**

**April 23**

09:00am- Lincoln Literacy  
                   Quilting  
 07:00pm- N.A.  
                   Grace Bells

**April 24**

03:00pm- Suzuki Practice  
 06:00pm- LLC Practice

**April 25**

01:30pm- Suzuki Cello Recital  
 05:00pm- Worship

**April 26**

09:00am- Worship  
 10:00am- Fellowship  
 10:15am- Sunday School  
 10:30am- Adult Forum  
 03:00pm- LLC Concert  
 04:00pm- Concert Reception

**April 27**

09:00am- Lincoln Literacy  
 07:00pm- Scouts BSA

**April 28**

09:30am- Al-Anon  
 06:30pm- Cub Scout Committee  
 08:30pm- A.A.

**April 29**

**OPEN SCHEDULE**

**April 30**

09:00am- Lincoln Literacy  
                   Quilting  
 07:00pm- N.A.  
                   Grace Bells

# 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*

**Anne Melang-Thoren,**

*Director of music*

*anne@egrace.org*

**Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson**

*Assistant Organist*

**Robert Stimbart,**

*Custodian*

**Judi Schroeder,**

*Nursery Coordinator*

**Elizabeth Krueger,**

*Nursery attendant*

Neil Larson

Carla Ingersoll

Karen Billings

Jan Branting

Cindy Eberspacher

Doug Krueger

Roger Potts

Vacant

Connie Thorson

Jim Krueger

Council President

Vice President

Congregational Life

Social Ministry

Parish Education

Memorials

Property

Stewardship/Finance

Secretary

Treasurer

## CORONAVIRUS

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath, or difficulty breathing
- Symptoms appear 2-14 days after exposure

## FLU

- Fever
- Cough
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue & weakness
- Chills & sweats
- Congestion
- Sore throat

## ALLERGIES

- Sneezing
- Itchy nose, eyes or roof of the mouth
- Runny, stuffy nose
- Watery, red or swollen eyes

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

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