

# *The Grace Greeter!*

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

## **Quiet Place**

*"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." Mark 6:31*

When I was a boy, August was vacation time. Time spent at the lake. A place that for me became a quiet place. Indeed, there were many things going on everyday but I could always find a quiet place. Along the shore, in the woods, along the side of a remote road. Those became important places for me.

As I have grown older those places have become harder to find but they are just as important. In a strange way, the pandemic has created a quiet place of sorts. Solitude has become part of our routine as we physically distance ourselves from others. I have also discovered that too much solitude is also not a good idea. We are not designed for solitary confinement. It can change us into something we are not. Into someone that nobody wants to be around.

So make sure you find your quiet place but use this space as a way to not only get connected to God but to celebrate others in your life. There is a difference between solitude and isolation. We seek solitude so that we can reconnect to God and others in our lives. Remember that there are six days of being engaged in the world before we get to the seventh day of rest. The Sabbath that reconnects us to God and refreshes our relationships with others.

So find your quiet place to reconnect to God and celebrate with gratitude all those who have encouraged you and escorted you along the journey of life.

**In Christ,**

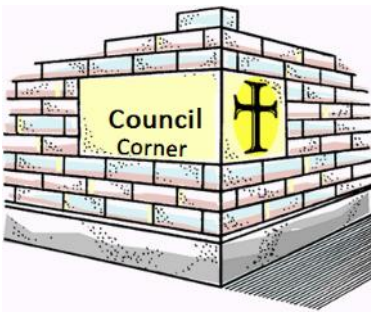
*P. Eric Tesher*



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

### Stained-Glass Windows

We are very pleased and greatly appreciate everyone who donated to the refurbishing of the four (4) large stained-glass windows in the nave. We now have two of the four windows refurbished and installed. One of the two remaining windows to be refurbished will be installed the week of July 20th and the last one will be removed this week, refurbished and planned to be installed by the first week of August.



Thank you from the Property Committee



In light of the cancellation of the 2020 Nebraska Synod Assembly, Bishop Maas would like to take this opportunity to share more about what it means to be the Nebraska Synod.

Bishop Maas will be presenting, in three brief videos, how the synod is Growing Disciples, Walking Together, and Serving God's World. These videos will be available on the synod website beginning the final week of July. The website link is: <https://nebraskasynod.org/>



As follow up to the videos, the Bishop and Synod Staff would also like to invite congregations to join them on Wednesday, August 19 at 7:30pm CST or Sunday, August 23 at 7:30pm CST live online to discuss What's Next.

We encourage congregations to watch and share the videos, then attend one of the discussion sessions. We hope to see you there!

Registration link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/686987367762311184>

Or

Go to the Nebraska Synod website for updated information: <https://nebraskasynod.org/>

**Wednesday Online**  
**Saturday Online**  
**Sunday Online**



## Sundays in August

**Sunday, August 2, 2020**

**Lectionary 18, Year A**

### Introduction

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalm: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21



### Prayer of the Day

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, August 9, 2020**

**Lectionary 19, Year A**

### Introduction

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears.

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33



### Prayer of the Day

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, August 16, 2020**

**Lectionary 20, Year A**

### Introduction

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society?

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8  
Psalm: Psalm 67  
Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28



#### Prayer of the Day

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Sunday, August 23, 2020**

#### **Lectionary 21, Year A**

#### Introduction

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ.

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6  
Psalm: Psalm 138  
Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8  
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20



#### Prayer of the Day

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **Sunday, August 30, 2020**

#### **Lectionary 22, Year A**

#### Introduction

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds joy in God's words. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Paul describes such sacrificial love when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21  
Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8  
Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21  
Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28



#### Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## News

### **Nebraska Corona Bible**

The Nebraska Corona Bible is a project intended to be a low-tech means to stay connected during physical distancing and inviting everyone into a faith practice. What we're envisioning is people across Nebraska each copying a chapter from the Bible in their own handwriting. The final result will be a "Nebraska Corona Bible," a powerful testimony to hope and connection in this time of crisis. People can add their commentary and art in the margins, and once collected, we believe this hand-written manuscript will be a beautiful witness to this time. Rev. Adam White and his colleague from the PCUSA invite you to review the website, <https://nebraskacoronabible.com/>, and to share this with others. They would love for the Nebraska Synod to have wide-spread participation.

### **Sermon mailing list!**

We are developing a mailing list of folks who might not have access to our online worship services and would want a copy of the worship/sermon mailed to them. We currently have 21 households on the mailing list. If you know of someone that might be interested then leave a voicemail for or send an email to Pr. Eric at [pr.eric@egrace.org](mailto:pr.eric@egrace.org)

### **Giving and Stewardship.**

Offering income during a time like this could be a concern. How can you give if you cannot make it to worship? Three easy options are to mail your offerings to the church office, drop it off in person (call ahead) or use the online giving link on our website.

### **Devotional Booklets for personal worship.**

The Word in Season and Christ in our Home devotional booklets are available at the church. We also have copies of the latest Living Lutheran magazine. Copies will be available in the main entrance doorway for you to pickup during the day.

### **OLLI**

What is OLLI?

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (OLLI at UNL) is an adult learning membership program for men and women age 50 years plus. OLLI at UNL is one of more than a hundred Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the United States. OLLI at UNL partners with and is supported by the College of Education and Human Sciences to provide stimulating and varied opportunities.

How is OLLI funded?

Programming is funded by interest from a Bernard Osher Foundation endowment, course and membership fees, and donations from OLLI members and others.

What does OLLI offer?

OLLI offers over 244 courses and events each year in five terms. Along with great courses, enjoy many social and cultural events, interest groups and travel both near and far. Membership is required to take courses, attend special events and take advantage of other OLLI opportunities.

Membership and/or additional information

Go online to [olli.unl.edu](http://olli.unl.edu) OR call the OLLI office at 402-472-6265

**June Council Meeting  
Tuesday, June 9, 2020**



**Present via Zoom:** Neil Larson, Doug Krueger, Cindy Eberspacher, Connie Thorson, Carla Ingersoll, Jan Branting, Roger Potts, Karen Billings, Pr. Eric Leshner

**Absent:** All present

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

**Opening Prayer:** Roger opened with prayer

**Approval of Council Minutes:**

Roger made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

**President's Update/Correspondence:**

**Staff Reports:**

**Pastor Eric's Report:** Potentially zoom a small adult class on "Racism in the Church." Watch a DVD followed by dialogues either in-person or via zoom.

**Director of Music Report:** Requested Chris Apple be paid 8 hours monthly for technical assistance

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Meeting expenses

**Treasurer's Report:** Will look at increased spending for office supplies - may be due to buying disinfectant and other pandemic supplies

Jan made a motion to accept the reports. Roger seconded. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance/Stewardship** – council position is still vacant

**Worship & Music** – written report

**Parish Ed** – written report

**Congregational Life** – written report; listed all events for the remainder of the year, but no firm dates set

**Property** – written report; Roger got the AC running without the usual service call to technician; first of three stained glass windows is being worked on; another roofer has assessed the roof to submit claim to insurance

**Social Ministry** – did not meet

**Memorials** - will not meet until church opens

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

**Old Business:**

**Shared Ministry follow-up** – Sent three of the completed "Who Are We" documents that represented council's thoughts on a shared ministry to Pastor Megan so she could prepare for facilitating initial zoom meeting between our church council and Grace Walton members on Tuesday, June 16.

**In-person worship – when and how?** Most still have concerns and feel that many members would not be comfortable returning to worship yet. A letter would need to be sent to congregation outlining guidelines for worshipping in-person including wearing masks, disinfecting pews, listening to vocalists on audio file only (no singing), suspending communion, etc.

Cindy made a motion that Grace Lutheran Church set a tentative date for in-person worship starting August 16. Karen seconded. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

**FoodNet Distribution Site** – looking for a new sight. Fully staffed and equipped one time weekly. Would use our gym. Final decision when we have all the information and questions answered and it will not interfere with church activities.

**Parking Lot Worship** – Dismissed idea

**July Meeting?** – Will depend on what is determined after zoom meeting with Grace Walton next week

**Additional Items** – Further discussion on a part-time (8.0 hours per month) Music Tech position to be paid or considered volunteer.

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM with closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Connie Thorson, Secretary



As is usually the case toward the end of any given month at The Gathering Place, on June 29th a large number of people came for the meals provided. Because seconds are not currently being distributed, the count (on that day, 152) reflects the number of people served.

In order to keep recommended physical distancing, only two Grace volunteers, gloved and masked, worked with a Gathering Place employee to fill food boxes that were distributed outside by the program manager.

Jan Branting and Regina Paschold worked furiously on the line (Jan said she was reminded of the "I Love Lucy" episode where Lucy and Ethel worked in the candy factory).

The menu included a ham, cheese and lettuce sandwich, tossed salad, canned pears, and a small package of candy. Special thanks go to Marilyn Holmquist, Brady Garvin, and Bev and Art Hillman who have made recent financial donations.

The number of people who are coming to The Gathering Place for food is a sobering indicator of the economic pain many are feeling during this time of the new corona virus. On July 20th, 134 was the meal count, not including any seconds.

Jan Branting and Regina Paschold helped to fill the food boxes, each of which contained a turkey, cheese and condiments sandwich, tossed lettuce salad, warm zucchini/vegetable medley, a banana, and a small package of candy.

**The Lutheran Food Pantry** needs the following food items:

- Canned fruit--peaches, pears, pineapple, Mandarin oranges, applesauce
- Peanut butter
- Condensed tomato and vegetable soups
- Noodles, dry
- Spaghetti/pasta sauce
- Personal care items (shampoo, toothpaste, bath soap)



Please bring your donations to St. Andrew's Lutheran at 1015 Lancaster Ln.  
St. Andrew's hours are currently 8-12 Tuesday through Friday.



## Birthdays

<u>Lynn Senkbeil</u>	<u>Aug 1</u>
<u>Brady Garvin</u>	<u>Aug 4</u>
<u>Hazel Johnson</u>	<u>Aug 4</u>
<u>Edward Meitzen</u>	<u>Aug 4</u>
<u>Ronald Holtgrewe</u>	<u>Aug 6</u>
<u>Steven Leshar</u>	<u>Aug 6</u>
<u>Steven Pozehl</u>	<u>Aug 6</u>
<u>Jeannette Allen</u>	<u>Aug 7</u>
<u>Caleb Knobbe</u>	<u>Aug 8</u>
<u>David Paschold</u>	<u>Aug 11</u>
<u>Beverly Hillman</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
<u>Stephen Rosno</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
<u>Jill Marshall</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>
<u>Kathy Zimmerman</u>	<u>Aug 15</u>
<u>Joshua Leshar</u>	<u>Aug 16</u>
<u>Belva Gleason</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>
<u>Stacey Parent</u>	<u>Aug 18</u>
<u>Dennis Madison</u>	<u>Aug 21</u>
<u>Andrew Meitzen</u>	<u>Aug 21</u>
<u>Loretta Ahl</u>	<u>Aug 22</u>
<u>Kim Mills</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>
<u>David Miller</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>
<u>Charlie Matya</u>	<u>Aug 29</u>
<u>Jillian Jensen</u>	<u>Aug 30</u>
<u>Kelly O'Hara</u>	<u>Aug 30</u>



## Anniversaries

<u>Doug and Jeannette Allen</u>	<u>Aug 1</u>
<u>Stephen and Tricia Rosno</u>	<u>Aug 1</u>
<u>Willis and Jeanne Wesibrook</u>	<u>Aug 3</u>
<u>Steven and Amber Leshar</u>	<u>Aug 4</u>
<u>Kevin and Kimberly</u>	<u>Aug 9</u>
<u>Michael and Laura Lawrence</u>	<u>Aug 9</u>
<u>Dean and Kay Ossian</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>
<u>John and Brittany Johnson</u>	<u>Aug 17</u>
<u>Ken and Lisa Holmstrom</u>	<u>Aug 18</u>
<u>Gene and Lianne Garza</u>	<u>Aug 19</u>
<u>Larry and Penny Group</u>	<u>Aug 20</u>
<u>Henry and Judith Lambert</u>	<u>Aug 24</u>
<u>John and Debbie Winterfield</u>	<u>Aug 24</u>
<u>Donald and Helen Carnes</u>	<u>Aug 30</u>
<u>Steven and Regina Paschold</u>	<u>Aug 30</u>



## Update from the Haider Family!

Greeting in Christ from up North!

Dustin has officially completed year one of his program and recently started year two. We are forever grateful for the love, support, and prayers that we know are coming from Grace. This term he was able to test out of his Greek class (all those hours in undergrad paid off!) and is actually working as the Teaching Assistant for the Greek professors. He is enjoying being “back in the classroom” as a teacher and using his Greek again. While this past spring shifted most coursework and jobs to remote work for many across the world, his program was able to seamlessly transition as they already had students doing remote work anyway; they are missing the fellowship and seeing classmates in person at the start of each term, but continue to be flexible for the health and well-being of all. We continue to worship online each week, the worship team members each go to church at assigned times on Thursdays to record their portion of the service and then our youth director and his daughter (a graphic design major) work to compile the videos for posting on Sundays; Dustin should be preaching again soon at the end of July or early August, you can check out all the services at [vimeo.com/goodshepmls](https://vimeo.com/goodshepmls).

Summer is in full swing and we are taking every opportunity to get out into the somewhat-cooler-than Nebraska fresh air to stretch our legs and explore our area. Minnesota is known as the land of 10,000 lakes and we have found a few with lots of wildlife close by that Aislynn and Everett love to explore, their favorites are the geese that hiss at us. One of our neighbors is retired and we have recently found and started exploring his gnome and mushroom habitats he creates from recycled materials, he recently added a castle with a working drawbridge. With our extra time the kids have been baking and cooking with us more, Everett can make a mean pig-in-blanket and Aislynn is exploring the world of baking with beignets, cream puffs, soda bread, and much more!

Rachel is trying hard to take a break from school this summer, but it is hard! To help ensure access to school work and maintain distance, they are transitioning to a 1:1 device program for this year so students will always have access to their own device without sharing. This comes with a much needed update to the library catalog software so they can track all devices! They are still unsure what school will look like in the fall, but she is just rolling with each new update and trying to stay positive for all involved. She is half way through her reading goal of 104 books for the year (2 books a week) and has recently gotten out her sewing machine again to make masks for the family and a few friends who need them.

We love and miss you all. We had planned to make a trip back this summer to see everyone, but understandably that did not happen. We pray for you and your ministry each day.

God's Blessings,  
Dustin, Rachel, Aislynn, and Everett Haider



# 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

Council President

Carla Ingersoll

Vice President

Karen Billings

Congregational Life

Jan Branting

Social Ministry

Cindy Eberspacher

Parish Education

Doug Krueger

Memorials

Roger Potts

Property

Vacant

Stewardship/Finance

Connie Thorson

Secretary

Jim Krueger

Treasurer



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