

# The Grace Greeter!

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502  
December 2020

## Silence is Golden

This is an old phrase that reminds us that many times it is better to listen rather than speak. So true for the social media world we live in today.

In 1831, the poet, Thomas Carlyle, wrote:

*"Silence is the element in which great things fashion themselves together;  
that at length they may emerge, full-formed and majestic,  
into the daylight of Life, which they are thenceforth to rule."*

This quote leads me to one of my favorite Christmas Carols, "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Stanza three of this carol reads:

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

Sometimes, maybe many times, the gift of Christmas is given silently. In a way that we do not always understand. So all we are left with is the promise that despite our world of sin the dear Christ enters in. May this promise hold true for you and may this promise find you in ways known and unknown.

So, don't be afraid of the silence, because sometimes that is when God speaks the loudest. Thanks for reading,

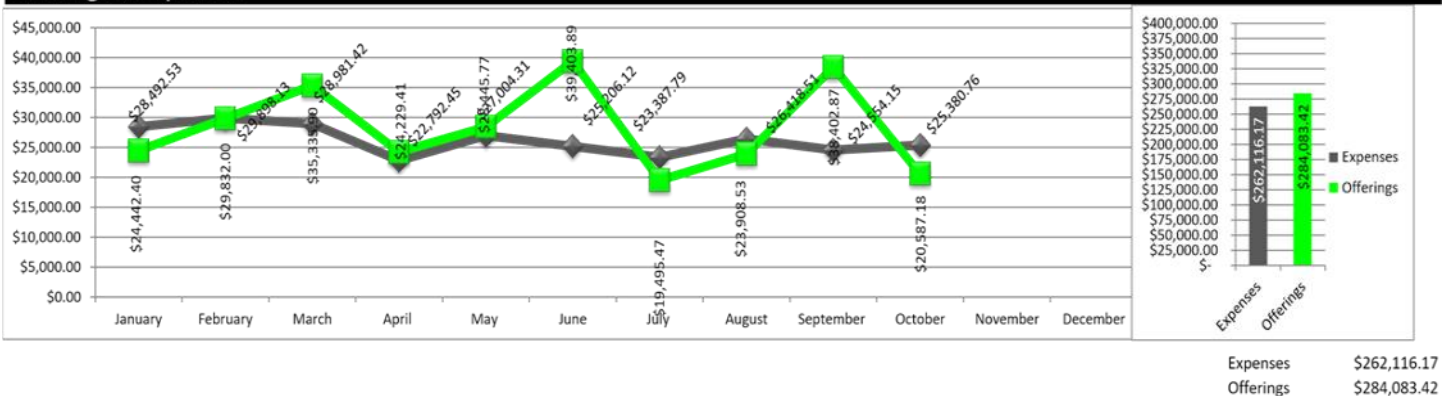
*Pr. Eric Tesker*



- ◆ 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 December 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.

## Update

### Offerings & Expenses



# UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* **EVENTS**



Advent Midweek Services will be held in-person and online on December 2, 9 and 16 starting at 7:00 pm in the nave. This year's theme is "Prepare the Royal Highway"



Christmas Eve service will be held in-person and online beginning at 6:00 pm in the nave. Due to health restrictions the attendance will be limited to 50. You will need to make a reservation for this service. Contact Pr. Eric via voicemail at 402-474-1505 ext. 3 or email at [pr.eric@egrace.org](mailto:pr.eric@egrace.org) with your name and number attending.

Christmas Day service will be held in-person and online beginning at 10:00 am in the nave.



Lessons and Carols service will be held in-person and online on December 27 at 9:00 am in the nave.

**Notice of Congregational Meeting**  
**January 24, 2021 at 10:00 AM in the nave**

At this meeting we will accomplish the following agenda items:

- Approve a 2021 Budget
- Vote for new Council Members
- Amend our 2017 Constitution
- Receive Reports

To prepare for this meeting a copy of the 2021 budget will be available in the narthex and outside the office starting January 17.

A ballot for new Council members will be available the day of the meeting.

The following changes are suggested for our current 2017 Congregational Constitution:

Chapter 12.

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), the officers of the congregation, and five (**currently six**) members of the congregation. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service, which is no more than two consecutive two (**currently three**) year terms. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected at a legally called semi-annual meeting of the congregation during the month of November. The term of office shall be for two (**currently three**) years. The term of office begins on January 1 and ends on December 31. Newly elected Congregation Council members and those who will continue on the Council shall be installed at a Sunday worship in December following their election.

C12.03. Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next semi-annual meeting. Individuals who have served less than a full term in this way shall be eligible for election to complete the term at the semi-annual meeting.

## Grace Lutheran Covid-19 Ongoing Response

When Martin Luther was dealing with the Black Plague in his time, he wrote, *"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others.... If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go..."* (Luther's Works, Volume 43, pg. 132).

### Worship Life (Sunday service only. No Saturday service until further notice)

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.
- Wearing a **face covering that covers the mouth and nose is required** while you are in the building. A disposable mask will be provided if you do not have one.
- We will **enter** the building through the **North doors**. The doors will be locked at 9:10. All other doors will be locked.
- At the north door you will be given a **bulletin**. You will **take this home** with you after worship. Do not leave it in the building.
- There will hand sanitizers at the entrance door to the sanctuary. **Sanitize your hands** prior to entering the worship space.
- **Sit** only with persons from **your own household**.
- During worship we ask you to **refrain from physical contact** especially as you greet one another. Practice good "physical distancing". Use a wave in place of a hand shake. 6 feet is the minimum. 12 feet is recommended.
- There will be **no offering**. There will be an offering basket located in the narthex.
- There will be **no sharing** of the Peace.
- There will be **no singing out loud**. You can hum or sing to yourself.
- The **presiding minister** will not greet you after worship.
- There will be **no assisting minister, reader, or acolyte**
- There will be **no nursery available**.

### Community Life

- There will be **no fellowship** after worship.
- **Sunday school, Adult Education, and Confirmation** will be in-person or virtually during this time. We will announce this at the appropriate time.
- **Committees, auxiliary groups, and council** will meet in-person or virtually. This will be left to our committees, auxiliary groups and council to decide.
- **Choirs** will meet in-person or virtually. Choirs will need to decide how they want to meet.

### 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? Two easy options are to mail your offerings to the church office, deliver them in person to the office, or take advantage of online giving on our website. Good stewardship also involves self-care. Be aware of and maintain your health. Engage in the best practices of handwashing, wearing a mask, staying home if you are sick or at risk, and physical distancing.

## **Advent Affirmation of Baptism**

When we affirm our baptism, we ask God to help and guide us as we commit to the five faith practices listed below. Each of the following has the potential to be “a gift” of immeasurable value in our lives. Like many gifts, we first need to open the gift, prayerfully ponder it, and discern a place for that gift in daily life. Thanks be to God who sends the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

Use the following questions for small group discussions in your home or for personal devotions to begin the conversation on the five gifts of discipleship. Take your time reflecting on each gift, so you might claim and rediscover these five gifts of discipleship.

### **To live among God’s faithful people.**

What does it mean for you to live among God’s faithful people?

Name someone who influenced your faith journey. Describe that person’s faith.

How might “living among God’s faithful people” be considered a gift? What are the consequences, if any, if we do not allow this gift to be part of our life?

**Challenge:** List three reasons to be part of a church family.

### **To hear the Word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper.**

What does it mean for you to hear the Word of God?

Describe what it feels like to receive the Lord’s Supper.

When did you first experience the Word of God and/or Lord’s Supper as a priceless gift from God? Explain.

**Challenge:** Take a few minutes for silent prayer. Listen for a phrase, verse, or image from scripture that comes to mind. Share with others.

### **To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.**

What does it mean for you to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word AND deed?

What prevents you from freely sharing the good news of God in Christ?

How might the opportunity to proclaim the good news of God in Christ become a transformative gift to the proclaimer?

**Challenge:** Find someone to share our faith story in less than three minutes.

### **To serve all people, following the example of Jesus.**

What does it mean for you to serve all people following the example of Jesus?

Describe the example of Jesus as he served others. Describe what it feels like to serve others.

How might the act of serving others (like Jesus) become a gift to both the server and the one who is being served?

**Challenge:** Brainstorm potential partners to deepen and widen your service to others.

### **To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.**

What does it mean for you to strive for justice?

What can we do as individuals to promote peace in all the earth?

What advice would you give to someone exhausted from striving for justice and peace?

**Challenge:** Select an injustice or area of strife which concerns you. Identify one thing you will commit to do to make a difference.

October Council Meeting  
Tuesday, October 13, 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: Doug

Approval of Council Minutes:

Jan made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes as submitted. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

President's Update/Correspondence: none

Staff Reports:

Pastor Eric's Report: submitted

Director of Music Report: submitted

Financial Secretary's Report: submitted

Treasurer's Report: submitted

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

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship – council position remains vacant

Worship & Music – met via Zoom; written report submitted

Parish Ed – written report submitted

Congregational Life – did not meet

Property – written report submitted

Social Ministry – did not meet; discussed delivering Thanksgiving baskets and virtual crop walk

Memorials – did not meet

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

Old Business:

November Annual Meeting – Grace members cannot vote virtually; in-person meeting must have a quorum present – 10 percent of our confirmed, contributing and communing members. If unable to vote, we will have to run the church budget based on 2019. Post in The Greeter to encourage members to come OR wait until January meeting with a second meeting the fourth Sunday in January to ratify amended changes.

Media Specialist – Council affirmed earlier decision to support this volunteer position by considering purchases for better sound equipment as needed.

Constitution – Discussed permanently reducing council from nine to eight members, going to a two-year term and keeping the term limits to two.

New Business:

2021 Budget – Nursery Assistant position can be eliminated since nursery is not being used. \$1500 budgeted and can be added later if needed. Congregational Life will eliminate \$500 budgeted for a camera.

Nominating Committee Update – Five positions are available for three-year commitments.

Cub Scout Food Pantry – Council supports the pack's proposed service project to build a free small food pantry on church property provided they stock and maintain.

Neil read the closing prayer.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Thorson, Secretary

## **The Gathering Place**

With the Lancaster County COVID-19 Risk Dial in the “Red Zone” currently, the assistance of volunteers at The Gathering Place is not being utilized. Instead, staff people from Community Action Partnership (of which The Gathering Place is an outreach effort) are serving to prepare and distribute meals seven days per week.

## **Prescott Elementary**

Thank you to everyone who donated paper cups, tissues and money to Prescott School. They are always so appreciative as well as myself. They do not need anymore paper cups but with winter and flu season upon us soon, they will continue to need tissues. If you would like to donate tissues, please leave them at the office and I will get them to Prescott.

Thank you for your continuous support of Prescott School.  
Pat Lickei

## **The Lutheran Food Pantry**

### **CURRENT NEEDS LIST:**

- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Canned meals (spaghetti & meatballs, ravioli, etc.)
- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Soups: Cream of Chicken, Cream of Mushroom, Tomato, Chicken Noodle, Vegetable
- Canned tomatoes (all types)
- Pork 'n beans
- 1 pound bags of white rice
- Breakfast bars (granola, pop tarts, etc.)
- Person Care Items (shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bath soap) **WE ARE RUNNING LOW ON PERSONAL CARE ITEMS!**

Thank you for your continued support of the Lutheran Food Pantry. The food needy in our community depend on you!

### **PANTRY HOURS:**

Please bring your donations to St. Andrew's Lutheran at 1015 Lancaster Ln between the hours of 8-12 am Tuesday through Friday.



## Birthdays

<u>Elizabeth Krueger</u>	<u>Dec 1</u>
<u>Jacob Krueger</u>	<u>Dec 1</u>
<u>Carley Weixelman</u>	<u>Dec 1</u>
<u>Larry Clymer</u>	<u>Dec 2</u>
<u>Bonnie Drohman</u>	<u>Dec 3</u>
<u>Steve Reckling</u>	<u>Dec 3</u>
<u>Donald Carnes</u>	<u>Dec 7</u>
<u>Katie Fritchie</u>	<u>Dec 8</u>
<u>Betty Maun</u>	<u>Dec 10</u>
<u>Marsha Foster</u>	<u>Dec 13</u>
<u>Noah Guern</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>
<u>Raymond Guern</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>
<u>Christopher Anderson</u>	<u>Dec 15</u>
<u>Dustin Haider</u>	<u>Dec 15</u>
<u>Dean Ossian</u>	<u>Dec 17</u>
<u>Sam Ihrle</u>	<u>Dec 18</u>
<u>Elizabeth Garza</u>	<u>Dec 21</u>
<u>Lois Moss</u>	<u>Dec 22</u>
<u>John Plambeck</u>	<u>Dec 22</u>
<u>Jack Reighard</u>	<u>Dec 22</u>
<u>Seth Riemann</u>	<u>Dec 22</u>
<u>Cynthia Watchorn</u>	<u>Dec 22</u>
<u>Gladys Meyer</u>	<u>Dec 23</u>
<u>Robert Stimbert</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>
<u>Irene Moore</u>	<u>Dec 26</u>
<u>Scott Drake</u>	<u>Dec 27</u>
<u>Ashley Jensen</u>	<u>Dec 27</u>
<u>Chris Schroeder</u>	<u>Dec 27</u>
<u>Mark Billings</u>	<u>Dec 29</u>
<u>Ronald Most</u>	<u>Dec 30</u>

## Anniversaries

<u>John and Joyce Lunde</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>
<u>George and Norma Sturgeon</u>	<u>Dec 16</u>
<u>George and Marsha Foster</u>	<u>Dec 22</u>
<u>Dustin and Rachel Haider</u>	<u>Dec 31</u>





December 1:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts Committees	9:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm
December 2:	Advent Service	7:00 pm
December 3:	Men's Bible Study Quilting Lincoln Literacy NA Bell Quartet B	6:30 am 9:00 am 9:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm
December 4:	YWCA Respite Care	5:45 pm
December 5:	Danish Sisterhood	11:30 am
December 6:	Worship Bell Quartet A	9:00 am 9:45 am
December 7:	Lincoln Literacy Boy Scouts	9:00 am 7:00 pm
December 8:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts Wildlife Rescue Council	9:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm
December 9:	Advent Worship	7:00 pm
December 10:	Men's Bible Study Quilting Lincoln Literacy NA Bell Quartet B	6:30 am 9:00 am 9:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm
December 11:	YWCA Respite Care	5:45 pm
December 13:	Worship Bell Quartet A	9:00 am 9:45 am
December 14:	Lincoln Literacy Boy Scouts	9:00 am 7:00 pm
December 15:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts WELCA Group 6	9:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm

December 16:	Advent Worship	7:00 pm
December 19:	Men's Bible Study Quilting Lincoln Literacy NA Bell Quartet B	6:30 am 9 am 9 am 7 pm 7 pm
December 18:	BNRR	4:00 pm
December 20:	Worship Bell Quartet B	9 am 9:45 am
December 21:	Lincoln Literacy Gathering Place Boy Scouts	9:00 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm
December 22:	Al-Anon	9:30 am
December 24:	Christmas Eve Service	6:00 pm
December 25:	Christmas Day Service	10:00 am
December 27:	Lessons and Carols Bell Quartet A	9:00 am 9:00 am
December 28:	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
December 29:	Al-Anon	9:30 am



# Grace Staff & Council

**Rev. Eric Lesher**

*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



**SCHOOL PRAYER**

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office@egrace.org

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