

The Grace Greeter!

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502
June 2020

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. - Psalm 118:24

The longest day of the year (Summer Solstice) falls in the month of June. This year it is June 21. During a spring that has been cloudy and cool, most of the time, I look forward to June 21. A day to remind me that brightest and best day of the year lies ahead for me.


I think this is important for us to remember during a pandemic that has made calendars useless and time seems to have been lost. Do you find yourself reminding yourself what day it is? I do. I lose track of time in this pandemic. It not only steals away human life but time as well. So today I remember my life verse, Psalm 118:24.

A verse given to me by a woman who lived in a senior care facility in Iowa City, Iowa. She would stare out the same window every day. She would watch the same flag raised up the pole every day. Because she was in the front of the building she was able to, at the least, watch people coming in and out of the building. Today she would see only delivery people.

And yet, she always had a smile and an encouraging word to share. Why? Because, for her, every day was the Lord's day and that truth helped her to rejoice and be glad in the day God had given to her.

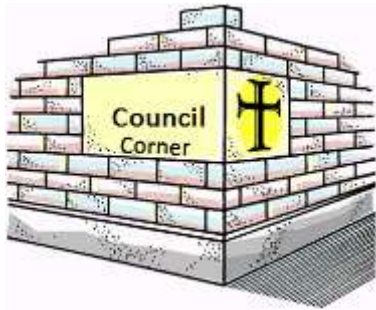
In the midst of pandemic that steals lives and time, let's not forget the wisdom of Psalm 118. Remember whose day it is and take time to rejoice and be glad in the day God has given you.

In Christ,
Pr. Eric Leshner





- ◆ 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 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 June 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.



Financial Secretary—A lower giving month but a lower expense month has us still sitting in a solid position

Worship & Music-We are recording audio downloads for online worship. Better sound quality. Exploring better live streaming sound for in-person worship.

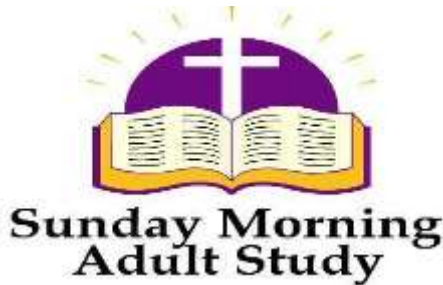
Education - Online Sunday School now on the church website. We are still exploring a possible virtual VBS in July. Confirmation Sunday moved to Fall.

Property - Stained glass repair will resume (hopefully) at the end of May. Nave roof repair still being explored.

Social Ministry - Will redistribute usable food donations from Prescott Food Pantry to Lincoln Lutheran Food Pantry.

Mark Your Calendars

UPCOMING EVENTS



This month we explore the theme “**Many Faces of Wisdom**”. God does not hide life from us but gives us the wisdom to live that life through faith in Christ and for the sake of the world. So we explore this wisdom through the words of Proverbs, the Gospels, and James. Join us for a short lesson after our online worship service.

Sunday School at Grace is now online.
Click the **Online Sunday School** link on the front page of our website! Ends June 7th!



The Grace Lutheran **Thrivent Financial** group June meeting has been canceled.

**Wednesday Online
Saturday Online
Sunday Online**



Sundays in June

Sunday June 7

First Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit.

Readings

Genesis 1:1–2:4a

Psalm 8 (1)

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Prayer of the Day

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sunday June 14

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

Readings

Exodus 19:2-8

Psalm 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35—10:8

Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Sunday June 21

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

Readings

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalms 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18 (16)

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Sunday June 28

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

Readings

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

Prayer of the Day

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



The great end for which you are to worship here is, that you may worship everywhere.

-William Ellery Channing, Perfect Life

Prayers

Art Hillman is recovering at home. **Bob Anderson** needs prayers of healing as he deals with health issues at home. **Robert Stimbert** needs prayers of healing as he recovers at home from a fractured knee cap after falling on the ice while shoveling. **Steve and Trish Rosno** need prayers of hope as extended family members battle health issues related to Covid-19. **Gladys Badberg** died at the age of 101 on May 21st.

News

Chris Schroeder's father, Randy Schroeder, died suddenly May 18 from complications related to an infection. Keep Chris and Judi in your prayers.

Steven and Tricia Rosno are new grandparents. Granddaughter Hannah Sue Huded was born on May 12! Make sure to congratulate the new grandparents!

Don and Helen Carnes report the good news that their oldest Grandson Jon Carnes and his fiance, Ingrid Jans were married as planned on May 5 in Minneapolis. Their bad news is that Helen's first cousin Clara Theye of Wymore, NE, who was the maid of honor in their wedding died . Don's nephew, Richard Kuzelka, the ring bearer in their wedding, died in Tucson, Arizona.

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.

If you know of someone that might be interested then send an email to Pr. Eric at 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. Come pick one up or let us know if you want one delivered to you. Copies will be available in the main entrance doorway for you to pickup during the day.

Gratitude

Thank You! We received the needed funds for the renovation of the two bathrooms across from the office. We received a grant from the Nebraska ELCA Synod for \$19,000, donations from congregational members, from Thrivent and the balance needed from the Irvin and Dorothy Petersen memorial for a total of \$37,689. We are very pleased and greatly appreciate the memorial funds, donations from members, Thrivent and the grant funds for this renovation project. We hope that everyone will have a chance to see and use them sometime soon. -The Property Committee

Robert Stimbert would like to thank the congregation for all the meals and the get well cards and the phone calls while I was recuperating from his fall and knee surgery. Thanks again! I am so blessed to have a caring congregation here at Grace!

April Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 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

Prayer: Read aloud together

Approval of Council Minutes:

Roger made a motion to accept the March meeting minutes as approved. Jan seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence: Thank you card from Sandi Knippelmeyer for the gift card and card

Staff Reports:

Pastor Eric's Report: written report submitted

Director of Music Report: written report submitted

Financial Secretary's Report: written report submitted

Treasurer's Report: written report submitted; Black Hills gas bill considerably lower due to church closing.
Roger made a motion to accept the reports. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship - written report submitted; council position still vacant

Worship & Music - did not meet

Parish Ed - online curriculum for Sunday School is on the website. Vacation Bible School will be determined mid-May.

Congregational Life - did not meet; the June 7th "First Annual Grace Jello Potluck" has been postponed.

Property - written report submitted; stained glass window project planned to start the end of May; new restrooms have been completed.

Social Ministry - everything is on hold. Gathering Place is continuing but in a whole different way with only two people asked to help, Steve and Regina Paschold, and food is distributed in take-out boxes.

Memorials - did not meet

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

Old Business:

Shared Ministry - discussed pursuing a dialogue with council and long-time members from Grace Lutheran in Walton in a Zoom meeting; we agreed it would be better to wait for an in-person meeting between the churches with a written agenda and involve Pastor Megan to sit in. Pastor Eric will contact her.

New Business:

Approve our participation in the Paycheck Protection Program but not to exceed \$25,000. Cindy moved Grace Lutheran participate in the Paycheck Protection Program to the amount but not to exceed \$25,000 for payroll protection for our staff. Roger seconded. Motion passed. Sage will finish up paperwork soon.

Scouts request to hold their May meeting and garage sale - Council will let them know when it feels safe to allow them into building, and suggest they wait to have their garage sale in July. Karen made a motion that all meetings and gatherings at Grace Lutheran in Lincoln, NE, shall be suspended for the month of May and then reassessed by council, and that future meetings will be based on local and statewide recommendations. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

Dinners for Robert Stimbert during his recovery - Jan will co-ordinate a volunteer schedule for meals 3x weekly; Roger will cover minimal tasks in the building.

Being no further business to discuss, Karen made the motion to adjourn and Roger seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Thorson, Secretary



Procedures continue to evolve at **The Gathering Place**. Now, besides the wearing of masks and gloves, along with prescribed social distancing, volunteers are asked not to bring any food into the facility. So on May 18th Regina and Steve Paschold simply helped to fill 101 food containers to be distributed outside the building. Program manager and part-time chef Lisa Janssen theorized that lower meal counts lately could be due to the receipt of government economic stimulus checks.

The following article was submitted on time for the May, 2020 Grace Greeter, but omitted.

As has been the case in so many aspects of life during these days of concern regarding the new corona virus, procedures at **The Gathering Place** have changed considerably at mealtime. The number of those from an organization helping to serve has been limited to three people. So on March 30, Joy Kokes and Regina and Steve Paschold assisted with the filling of meal boxes inside the building, which were then handed over the fence to individuals outside. As people lose jobs, food insecurity increases. Compared to March 16, when 69 boxes were distributed, the count on March 30 was 122. The program manager at The Gathering Place was of the opinion that it would be better for staff there to prepare most of the food on site in order to decrease the possibility of any COVID-19 contamination from outside. However, Joy, Regina and Steve did bake and donate the brownies for dessert. Special thanks go to Marilyn Holmquist and Brady Garvin for their ongoing financial support.



Currently the Food Bank of Lincoln is unable to provide food to local sites which usually rely on their donations to provide food for their clients. In order to try to fill a need, the **Lincoln Lutheran Food Pantry is collecting donations** of food to be distributed to Matt Talbot, Fresh Start Home, The Good Neighbor Center and the City Mission. We are collecting food outside the entrance of Firs Lutheran (1551 South 70th) on Saturdays from 2-4pm likely through June. Items needed include:

1 pound bag of rice, Canned fruit, Canned chicken, Ramen noodles, Hamburger helper, Dry pasta noodles, Canned meals with meat (spaghettios, ravioli, stew), Peanut Butter, Juice (large cans or plastic bottles), Canned beans (pinto, kidney, chili etc.), Pork and beans, Saltine crackers, Canned tomatoes (any kind), Pancake mix, Syrup, Instant potatoes, Canned Peas and other canned veggies (not green beans or corn)

The Lutheran Food Pantry needs the following food items: Canned spaghetti sauce, canned meals (spaghetti o's, ravioli, etc.), Canned chicken, Canned fruit, Canned red beans (kidney, chili, etc.), Pancake mix, Pancake syrup, 1 pound bag of rice, Peanut butter, Jelly, Dry pasta - noodles and elbow macaroni, Boxed macaroni & cheese, Hamburger helper, Ramen noodles, Shampoo, Any shelf stable item.





Birthdays

<u>Andy</u>	<u>Anderson</u>	<u>Jun 1</u>
<u>Larry</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Jun 1</u>
<u>Emily</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Jun 3</u>
<u>James</u>	<u>Zak</u>	<u>Jun 5</u>
<u>Darlene</u>	<u>Brydl</u>	<u>Jun 6</u>
<u>Debra</u>	<u>Hilde</u>	<u>Jun 6</u>
<u>Alexis</u>	<u>Lipson</u>	<u>Jun 8</u>
<u>Patty</u>	<u>Plambeck</u>	<u>Jun 8</u>
<u>Anders</u>	<u>Jensen</u>	<u>Jun 9</u>
<u>Michael</u>	<u>Carnes</u>	<u>Jun 11</u>
<u>Jay</u>	<u>Ostermeyer</u>	<u>Jun 11</u>
<u>Bradley</u>	<u>Potts</u>	<u>Jun 12</u>
<u>Kyle</u>	<u>Petersen</u>	<u>Jun 13</u>
<u>Joel</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Jun 14</u>
<u>Ella</u>	<u>Billings</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>
<u>Peter</u>	<u>Schnake</u>	<u>Jun 15</u>
<u>Adam</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Jun 16</u>
<u>Beckett</u>	<u>Jensen</u>	<u>Jun 16</u>
<u>Anne</u>	<u>Senkbeil</u>	<u>Jun 16</u>
<u>Kendra</u>	<u>Jensen</u>	<u>Jun 17</u>
<u>Ansli</u>	<u>Petersen</u>	<u>Jun 18</u>
<u>Chloe</u>	<u>Fitzgibbon</u>	<u>Jun 21</u>
<u>Palmer</u>	<u>Hildreth</u>	<u>Jun 25</u>
<u>Shyanne</u>	<u>Schroeder</u>	<u>Jun 25</u>
<u>Norah</u>	<u>Noecker</u>	<u>Jun 26</u>
<u>Sharon</u>	<u>Genthe</u>	<u>Jun 28</u>
<u>Bruce</u>	<u>Petersen</u>	<u>Jun 29</u>
<u>Connie</u>	<u>Whyrick</u>	<u>Jun 29</u>
<u>Delmar</u>	<u>Motycka</u>	<u>Jun 30</u>

Anniversaries

<u>Matt Peppmuller & Jordan Murphy's</u>	<u>June 3</u>
<u>David and Kathrin Miller</u>	<u>June 4</u>
<u>Larry and Cynthia Watchorns</u>	<u>June 6</u>
<u>Arthur and Beverly Hillman</u>	<u>June 7</u>
<u>Jay and Amy Ostermeyer</u>	<u>June 8</u>
<u>Barry and Irene Moore</u>	<u>June 12</u>
<u>Steven and Laila Faust</u>	<u>June 12</u>
<u>Kendra and Brent Jensen</u>	<u>June 13</u>
<u>Robert and Sandra Anderson</u>	<u>June 13</u>
<u>EJ and Jill Marshall</u>	<u>June 15</u>
<u>Gerald and Debra Hilde</u>	<u>June 16</u>
<u>Dennis and Charlyne Berens</u>	<u>June 18</u>
<u>Keith and Corene Herbster</u>	<u>June 24</u>
<u>Christopher and Nancy Anderson</u>	<u>June 25</u>
<u>Devin and Jordan Billings</u>	<u>June 27</u>
<u>Kevin and Anne Melang-Thoren</u>	<u>June 29</u>



United in Baptism



There is an Irish saying: “It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.”

As I write this, I don’t know what the world will look like when you read this at the beginning of May. COVID-19 has the world sheltering-in-place. We’ve learned new concepts such as “social distancing” and “flatten the curve.” We have stopped physical contact—no handshakes, hugs or high fives. We even wear masks and gloves. It is a strange new world we live in.

There is fear in this new world. Over a million people have been infected and thousands have died. We can’t see the virus. We don’t know where or when it will strike next. Our lives have been disrupted—restricted travel and closed churches, schools, businesses, parks and stores. Health care workers, those dedicated to healing, find themselves as soldiers on the front line. Pray and give thanks for them.

In this highly anxious time, some—individuals, communities and countries—are seeking safety and certainty by stockpiling as many provisions as they can and walling off others. Barricaded behind rolls of toilet paper and Clorox wipes, fortified with generators and Spam, some will try to wait this out by themselves. There has been a spike in sales of firearms and alcohol. Not a good combination. Taking precautions is wise. Believing that it is possible to isolate and cut off from neighbors and nations so that one will never be touched either by the virus or the fallout of this pandemic is unreasonable.

For me, one of the cruelest effects of this pandemic is that we cannot gather. Our natural inclination in a time of crisis is to draw together, hold on to each other, support each other. Life passages, births, birthdays, weddings, baptisms, funerals, holy days, holidays, will be remembered as times of isolation and absence.

And yet, in the deepest, truest sense, we are connected to one another. In baptism we are united with Christ and are members one of another. Baptism makes a difference and makes us different. We are no longer lone travelers making our way through this life. We don’t have to go it alone. In fact, we cannot, because, in Christ, we are knit into one body. And just as surely as Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one—this wildly mysterious community of the Trinity—so are we one.

Jesus clearly stated this and daily fulfills this promise: “My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one” (John 10:27-30).

Baptism makes us different. The immutable gracious truth that we are God’s makes it possible for us to feel the connection with each other, even, and especially, when we are separated. This is a great paradox—the more we are separated from each other, the deeper our connection to each other becomes. I find myself thinking about family and friends more often now that we can’t be physically together.

And here is another paradox—when we are alone, when “the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 325), then, in the stillness and solitude, we feel the presence of God.

When life gets back to “normal,” I pray that I do not slip back into casual encounters with people and God. We can’t think of ourselves as islands. Because we belong to God, we belong to each other. The author of Hebrews puts it this way: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

Rev. Elizabeth Eaton
ELCA Presiding Bishop

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