

# The Grace Greeter!

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

## **The Beauty and Lessons of Fall**

*"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19*

Fall is my favorite season. The cool but not cold weather. The colors of changing leaves. The harvest of crops to feed the hungry. But some things are different or even missing. College football is played with little or no fans to watch. Trunk or Treat will not be held this year. Trick or Treat is now a high risk activity.

Fall is a great season but it is also a season that turns into Winter. A time when some things die or hibernate. A season when snow and ice can make travel difficult or impossible. A time of year spent mostly inside as we await the sunshine of spring.

So in this time of fall when change, both good and bad, rages around us we need to remember the new thing God is doing among us. But as God engages this new thing we have a difficult time perceiving it. Isaiah even asks the question, "do you not perceive it?". Most of the time I do not. Maybe after the new thing arrives but before it arrives I have a hard time perceiving it.

Which is why the closing of verse 19 is so important. The way is being paved in the wilderness. The river is being made in the desert. Wilderness and desert. Moments of disengagement, despair and disillusionment are also the moments that God does God's new thing!

So be ready for the new thing God is doing. Even when you least expect it!

*Pr. 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 October 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.

### **Nominating Committee**

Don't forget to vote! Will your name be on the ballot? Fall is almost here and that means a Congregational Meeting will be held in November. Time to vote!

There are five (5) openings on the Grace Church Council for 2021. We are searching for people to run for those positions. Please prayerfully consider being on Council. We need you! If you get a call from a member of the search team, consider saying "yes" to the invitation to serve. Better yet, call one of us and get your name on the ballot. God asks all of us to be active members of the church. Are you?



Your Search Team: Fran Gade, Pat Lickei, Dave Ripa, Peter Schnake

### **Food Net Update**

After further discussion and discernment, Grace will **NOT** be a distribution site for the Food Net program in Lincoln.

UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars

# EVENTS



**Reformation Sunday**  
October 25th  
Wear red!



Given the fact that there is no business to transact, Grace's Thrivent Financial group will not meet again until further notice.

Sunday at 9:00 AM in the nave  
or online.



**Notice of Congregational Meeting  
November 22 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

To prepare for this meeting in the midst of our current pandemic:

A copy of the 2021 budget will be available in the narthex and east entrance starting November 8. Pick up your copy before or after worship or during the week from 9 am to 3 pm in the east entrance.

A ballot will be available in the narthex on November 8. You can fill out and bring it with you to the meeting or you can pick up a ballot after November 8 in the east entrance, complete the ballot and place it in the ballot box located in the entrance way. The ballot box will be available until November 13 at 3:00 pm.

The following amendments are suggested for our current Congregational Constitution:

Add

C10.08. This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

Change:

C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) ,the deacon(s), shall be elected by written ballot at a legally called semi-annual meeting of the congregation during the month of November to serve for two years (**currently three years**) or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin January 1 and end December 31.

This meeting will be in-person and via Zoom for those unable to attend because of the coronavirus. Zoom meeting details will be included in our November newsletter.

## **ELCA and Lutheran World Relief partner to fight COVID-19 around the world**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has worked with Lutheran World Relief (LWR) to repurpose \$160,000 in project funding for emergency responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

In Latin America, the funding will be used for food assistance in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, which have been hard-hit by the coronavirus and the resulting economic disruption that is causing increased hunger. In Africa, the support will provide improved water, sanitation and hygiene, along with personal protective equipment, to displaced communities in South Sudan. And a project in Nepal will ensure that quarantine facilities are hygienic and comfortable, and that households economically affected by COVID-19 are able to cultivate their crops and sustain their small-scale businesses.

"Thanks to the flexibility and rapid action of our ELCA partners, Lutheran World Relief has been able to quickly ramp up these emergency responses to COVID-19," said Daniel Speckhard, LWR president and CEO. "This is so important because COVID-19 is a major threat to the resilience and well-being of the communities where we serve. Lives will be saved as a result of this support."

"The ELCA has a tradition of standing with our global neighbors in good times and in bad," said the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA. "Our partnership with Lutheran World Relief is a reflection of that strong commitment and allows us to deepen and extend it in this time of extreme crisis."

The ELCA and LWR share a long, historical relationship and a mutual commitment to companionship in mission. Through its ELCA World Hunger program, the ELCA has provided \$1 million in annual support to LWR for projects that serve people and communities in various regions around the world, including Latin America, Asia and Africa.

## 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).

We will offer in-person worship starting **September 13**. Our building will open **September 14**. So...

### 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 offering plates located at the entrance door to the sanctuary.
- There will be **no sharing** of the Peace.
- There will be **no singing**.
- There will be **no communion**.
- 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, staying home if you are sick or at risk, and physically distancing.

August Council Meeting  
Tuesday, August 11, 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: Neil

Approval of Council Minutes:

Jan made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. 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

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

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship – council position is still vacant

Worship & Music – did not meet

Parish Ed – written report submitted; committee is looking into online Sunday School curriculum

Congregational Life – did not meet

Property – written report submitted; a professional cleaning company hired to clean the nave; several council members volunteered to help clean balcony and altar areas

Social Ministry – written report will be submitted; Prescott Backpack program stopped during Covid; fundraiser underway to buy or collect 5 oz paper cups (used at water fountains) and Kleenex for Prescott students

Memorials – did not meet

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

Old Business:

FoodNet Distribution site – Discussion resumed regarding Grace as a FoodNet Distribution site. Roger made a motion to accept FoodNet Distribution Service at our church as a site for a three-month trial period. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

In-person worship and building opening – when and how? Discussed safety protocols and a limited church service. Pastor Eric will put together a plan and send out to the congregation. Carla made a motion to start in-person worship on Sunday, September 13 and that the building be open for all other groups on Monday, September 14 with the proper safety protocols in place. Karen seconded. Seven approved. Two opposed. Motion passed.

Media Specialist Pay – Roger motioned to allow the reimbursement of better sound equipment purchases upon request as approved by council. Jan seconded. Eight approved. One opposed. Motion passed.

New Business:

Immanuel Foundation Grant – used only for service work outside of the church, not to be used for internal items. Committees can ask for a specific amount by the deadline of September 30.

Neil read the closing prayer.

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Thorson, Secretary

The **Nebraska Environmental Trust** exists to conserve, enhance and restore the natural environments of Nebraska. Listening sessions are held every five years to help set priorities for the next round of grants. People of faith with a commitment to earth care are strongly encouraged to comment, either online or with written comments (and preferably both!). Listening sessions will be held online October 6 and 14, and registration is required. Goggle “Nebraska Environmental Trust” for a range of perspectives on the grant making process and see the Trust website for instructions on how make your comments: <https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov/publications/2020%20Category%20Roundtable%20Meetings.html>

### **Coronavirus caution continues at The Gathering Place.**

Because meals were prepared and boxed off site from the last week in August until the end of September, Grace members did not help on the 31st of August or the 21st of September. So there is no update at this time.

### **Prescott Elementary**

Grace has been asked to help provide 5 ounce paper cups. (NO PLASTIC). They also need boxes of tissues. If you are able to make a monetary contribution or purchase either of these two items, Prescott would be most grateful. If writing a check, make it to Grace Lutheran and put in the memo area “Prescott”. If you purchase either of the items you can drop them at the church in the East entry area and I will pick them up from there.

Thank you for your continuous support of Prescott School.

Pat Lickei

### **The Lutheran Food Pantry**

needs the following food items:

- Canned fruit--especially peaches and pears
- Tomato soup
- Cream of chicken soup
- Pork and beans
- Canned chicken and/or Spam
- Dry noodles
- Jelly

As always, personal care items (shampoo, bath soap, toothbrushes/tooth paste) are always needed.

Please bring your donations to St. Andrew’s Lutheran at 1015 Lancaster Ln.



## Birthdays

<u>Sarah Mischnick</u>	<u>Oct 1</u>
<u>Brian Carnes</u>	<u>Oct 4</u>
<u>Amy Ostemeyer</u>	<u>Oct 4</u>
<u>Richard Brown</u>	<u>Oct 5</u>
<u>Erin Krueger</u>	<u>Oct 6</u>
<u>Larry Genthe</u>	<u>Oct 8</u>
<u>Gerald Hilde</u>	<u>Oct 10</u>
<u>Elizabeth Heim</u>	<u>Oct 11</u>
<u>Reid Genuchi</u>	<u>Oct 12</u>
<u>Douglas Krueger</u>	<u>Oct 13</u>
<u>Joyce Benedict</u>	<u>Oct 14</u>
<u>Aiden McKillip</u>	<u>Oct 15</u>
<u>J.P. Winterfield</u>	<u>Oct 16</u>
<u>Brent Hoffman</u>	<u>Oct 17</u>
<u>Duane Mischnick</u>	<u>Oct 18</u>
<u>Lynette Lewis</u>	<u>Oct 19</u>
<u>Ruby Johnson</u>	<u>Oct 20</u>
<u>Amy Filbert</u>	<u>Oct 22</u>
<u>Frances Gade</u>	<u>Oct 23</u>
<u>James Krueger</u>	<u>Oct 23</u>
<u>Laura Lawrence</u>	<u>Oct 23</u>
<u>Brittany Hoxie</u>	<u>Oct 24</u>
<u>Dylan Hughes</u>	<u>Oct 24</u>
<u>Beth Kimmerling Dumler</u>	<u>Oct 25</u>
<u>Majorie Nolte</u>	<u>Oct 25</u>
<u>Helen Carnes</u>	<u>Oct 30</u>
<u>Penny Group</u>	<u>Oct 31</u>
<u>Megan Morrow</u>	<u>Oct 31</u>
<u>Norma Sturgeon</u>	<u>Oct 31</u>

## Anniversaries

<u>Scott and Lori Drake</u>	<u>Oct 4</u>
<u>Glen and Bonnie Drohman</u>	<u>Oct 4</u>
<u>John and Elizabeth Johnson</u>	<u>Oct 7</u>
<u>Duane and Sarah Mischnick</u>	<u>Oct 11</u>
<u>Douglas and Sarah Krueger</u>	<u>Oct 17</u>
<u>Ben and Megan Ptacek</u>	<u>Oct 20</u>
<u>Roger and Virginia Potts</u>	<u>Oct 24</u>





October 1:	Men's Bible Study Quilting Lincoln Literacy Narcotics Anonymous	6:30 am 9 am 9 am 7 pm
October 2:	YWCA Respite Care	5:45 pm
October 3:	Scout Training	7 am
October 4:	Worship	9am
October 5:	Lincoln Literacy WELCA Board Meeting Boy Scouts	9 am 9 am 7 pm
October 6:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts Committees	9:30 am 6:30 pm 7 pm
October 7:	WELCA Unit Meeting Confirmation	1 pm 7 pm
October 8:	Men's Bible study Quilting Lincoln Literacy Narcotics Anonymous	6:30 am 9 am 9 am 7 pm
October 9:	YWCA Respite Care	5:45 pm
October 10:	Eagle Scout Ceremony	1 pm
October 11:	Worship	9 am
October 12:	Lincoln Literacy Boy Scouts	9:00 am 7:00 pm
October 13:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts Wildlife Rescue Council	9:30 am 6:30 pm 7 pm 7 pm

October 14:	Yesterday's Youth	11 am
October 15:	Men's Bible Study Quilting Lincoln Literacy Narcotics Anonymous	6:30 am 9:00 am 9:00 am 7:00 pm
October 16:	BNRR	4:00 pm
October 17:	Danish Sisters	1:00 pm
October 18:	Worship	9:00 am
October 19:	Lincoln Literacy Gathering Place Boy Scouts	9:00 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm
October 20:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts WELCA Group 6	9:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm
October 21:	WELCA Group 3 Confirmation	1:00 pm 7:00 pm
October 22:	Men's Bible Study Quilting Lincoln Literacy NA	6:30 am 9:00 am 9:00 am 7:00 pm
October 25:	Worship	9:00 am
October 26:	Lincoln Literacy Boy Scouts	9:00 am 7:00 pm
October 27:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts	9:30 am 6:30 pm
October 28:	Confirmation	7:00 pm
October 29:	Men's Bible Study Quilting Lincoln Literacy NA	6:30 pm 9:00 am 9:00 am 7:00 pm

# 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



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