

The Grace Greeter!

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502
September 2020



God's work.
Our hands.

When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man." - Luke 5:8

Once again, Peter feels like he has failed as a disciple. He once again has fallen short of the glory of God. The problem is that we all fall short. Peter reminds us that sometimes ministry and mission change because we fall short. Maybe it is our fault. Maybe it the fault of others. Maybe it is due to something beyond our control.

September 13th is this year's "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. Normally we would be planning a congregational service event. But not this year. Hopefully this will be our first Sunday back for in-person worship. We have been physically apart for seven months. Safety restrictions will not allow us to engage in a service project together.

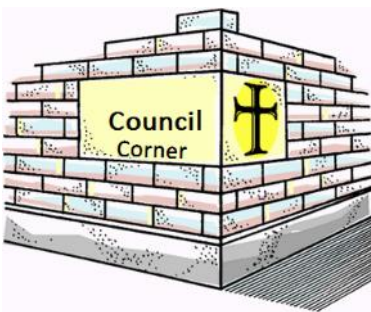
It will take a long time to get back into the "swing of things." But in the meantime, find something you can do to celebrate "God's work. Our hands." 2020.

Our mission and ministry together are different now. Some of us may be feeling like we are falling short. But we are not. We are just trying to figure out how to be the church together in a unique and challenging time in human history. May the Holy Spirit continue to move in and through you as God continues to work through your hands today.

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 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 September 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.



Foodnet is a group of volunteers from many different churches and other non-profit organizations trying to stop the waste of food and provide for those in need. They collect food from donors for distribution at sites around the Lincoln area each day. They provide mostly perishable foods such as fruits, vegetables, dairy products, bread, etc. These are items not usually found at a dry goods food pantry, but are still in demand.

With the desire to better serve our neighborhood, Grace Lutheran Council has agreed to become a Foodnet Distribution site for a trial period of three months. No food will be stored here. Our kitchen will not be available for food preparation. Donated food items will be delivered to our gym and distributed the same day. That day will be every Monday from 1:30 to 5:30. Start date is currently unknown.

UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



One Day Without Shoes
August 31 – September 12th

Please donate gently used shoes in
the box inside the main entrance at
Grace.



At the current time, no September,
2020 meeting is planned for Grace's
Thrivent Financial group.

In-person on Sunday at 9:00 AM
beginning September 13 in the
nave or online.



Sundays in September

Sunday, September 6, 2020

Introduction

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20



Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Introduction

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm: Psalm 103:8-13

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35



Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Introduction

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

First Reading: Jonah 3:10--4:11

Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16



Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Introduction

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32



Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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 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.

July Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 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:

Roger made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. Cindy 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; Grace doing fine meeting expenses. Sage looking into a state funded paycheck-type grant for \$10,000.

Treasurer's Report: Sage is breaking down general office supplies from pandemic supplies.
Karen 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; no Zoom for Vacation Bible School, packets will be sent out to participants.

Congregational Life – did not meet

Property – written report; the first of three stained glass windows is back in, tentative date of August 16 for the other two.

Social Ministry – did not meet

Memorials – did not meet

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

Old Business:

FoodNet Distribution site – Council is interested in becoming a site at some point, but needing to work out logistics pertaining to storage for their equipment including rolling carts and tables, etc. or do they take with them every week? Pastor Eric will contact them.

Shared Ministry – what is next? – After meeting with Grace Walton last month via Zoom, council discussed the next process. Pastor Eric will talk to them again to get a better understanding of their needs.

In-person worship – when and how? Agreed to delay opening August 16 due to current virus numbers rising, and until Lincoln is in the "safe zone." Council will re-evaluate monthly.

New Business:

Nebraska Brass using the chancel area for two recording sessions – council voted to not open-up the building to any outside groups at this time.

Media Specialist Pay – No decision; more information needed.

Jan closed with 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

Coronavirus caution continues at The Gathering Place.

Food containers are filled inside the building, then distributed outside. Because no volunteer groups are allowed to bring prepared food into the facility, two individuals simply help to fill the containers.

On August 17th, Regina and Steve Paschold assisted when 132 meal boxes of ham loaf, hot mixed vegetables, tossed lettuce salad, an orange or an apple, and cookies were filled.

Community Action Partnership, the umbrella organization which oversees activities at The Gathering Place, has determined that with individuals currently being served outside, now would be a good time to update the HVAC system in the house built in 1905.

Because meals will be prepared and boxed off site from the last week in August until the end of September, Grace members will not help on the 31st of August or the 21st of September.

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--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>Edward Hoffman, Jr.</u>	<u>Sep 4</u>
<u>Mark Block</u>	<u>Sep 5</u>
<u>Nancy Hoffman</u>	<u>Sep 5</u>
<u>Kurt Eberspacher</u>	<u>Sep 7</u>
<u>Curtis Mann</u>	<u>Sep 8</u>
<u>Sophie Ostermeyer</u>	<u>Sep 9</u>
<u>Peggy Pederson</u>	<u>Sep 9</u>
<u>Danielle Billings</u>	<u>Sep 10</u>
<u>Jayne Brown</u>	<u>Sep 13</u>
<u>Edward Vader</u>	<u>Sep 13</u>
<u>Alicia Andersen</u>	<u>Sep 16</u>
<u>Connor Knobbe</u>	<u>Sep 16</u>
<u>Makenna Riemann</u>	<u>Sep 17</u>
<u>George Sturgeon</u>	<u>Sep 21</u>
<u>George Foster</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>
<u>Christine Loseke</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>
<u>Deborra Watson</u>	<u>Sep 24</u>
<u>Jason Guern</u>	<u>Sep 25</u>
<u>Cameron Krueger</u>	<u>Sep 26</u>
<u>Debbie Winterfield</u>	<u>Sep 26</u>
<u>Maxwell Rathjen</u>	<u>Sep 27</u>
<u>Susan Coatney</u>	<u>Sep 28</u>
<u>Megan Ptacek</u>	<u>Sep 30</u>



Anniversaries

<u>Larry and Sue Clymer</u>	<u>Sep 2</u>
<u>Kelly and Justin O'Hara</u>	<u>Sep 13</u>
<u>Chris and Judith Schroeder</u>	<u>Sep 17</u>
<u>Todd and Sandra Robinson</u>	<u>Sep 19</u>
<u>Rod and Deborah Basler</u>	<u>Sep 29</u>



September Calendar

September 01:	Committee Meetings	7-8m
September 06:	Worship (online only)	9-10am
September 08:	Council Meeting	7-8:30pm
September 13:	Worship	9am
September 14:	Lincoln Literacy Boy Scouts	9-11am 7-8pm
September 15:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts WELCA Group 6 Alcoholics Anonymous	9:30-10:30am 6:30-7:30pm 7-8:30pm 8-9pm
September 16:	WELCA Group 3	1-2:30pm
September 17:	Men's Bible study Quilting Lincoln Literacy Narcotics Anonymous Grace Bells	6:30-7:30am 9-12pm 9-11am 7-9pm 7-8pm
September 18:	BNRR Meeting	4-9pm
September 20:	Worship	9am
September 21:	Lincoln Literacy Gathering Place Boy Scouts	9-11am 5-6pm 7-8pm
September 22:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts Alcoholics Anonymous	9:30-10:30am 6:30-7:30pm 8-9pm
September 24:	Men's Bible Study Quilting Lincoln Literacy Narcotics Anonymous	6:30-7:30am 9-12pm 9-11am 7-9pm
September 27:	Worship	9am
September 28:	Lincoln Literacy Boy Scouts	9-11am 7-8p
September 29:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts	9:30-10am 6:30-7:30

Grace Staff & Council

Rev. Eric Leshner

Senior Pastor

308-708-1146

pr.eric@egrace.org

2020 Church Council

David Sage

Parish Administrator

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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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