

The Grace Greeter!

**Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502
April 2021**

The Son of Man must suffer many things . . . and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. — Luke 9:22

Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. In the previous Julian Calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1.

People who failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate the New Year around April 1 became the focus of jokes and hoaxes and were called "April fools."

So in April we recognize our foolishness. But, also this month we'll recall Christ's journey to Jerusalem, where he was crucified for the sins of this world. Many saw this journey to the cross as foolishness. Even Peter, one of Jesus' most devoted followers, said, "Never, Lord! This shall never happen to you!" (Matthew 16:22). But Jesus did not waver from his journey to Jerusalem.

So, Paul is able to write, "For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God". (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Our foolishness and our weakness become opportunities for God to act among us. Opportunities for God to help us see our foolishness and weakness for what it really is and how it negatively impacts us and our world. Opportunities for us to turn to God in our foolishness and weakness and be made whole again.

Prayer

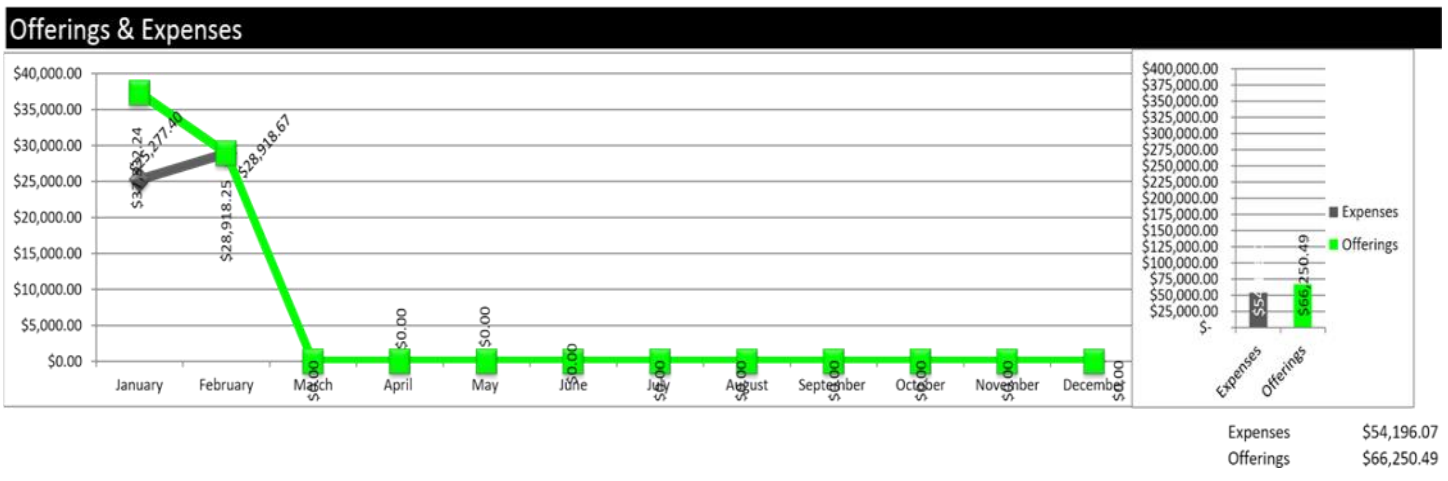
Lord Jesus, to the world, your mission may seem foolish, but we are grateful that you remained faithful even when we were foolish. Give us repentant hearts and faithful souls so that we can share in your resurrection and spread its joy. Amen.

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 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 April 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/or our monthly newsletter.

Update



2021 Giving Envelopes

You can pick-up your box of 2021 giving envelopes in the atrium after worship on Sunday morning or during the week Monday-Friday 9am-3pm.



**Mark
Your Calendar!**

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday

In-person and online on March 28 at 9:00 am in the nave

Maundy Thursday

In-person and online on April 1 at 6:30 pm in the nave

Good Friday

In-person and online on April 2 at 6:30 pm in the nave

Easter Sunday

In-person and online on April 4 at 9:00 am in the nave



Congregational Meeting



What: Congregational Meeting

When: April 25 at 9:45 am

Where: Nave

The purpose of this meeting is to incorporate required changes from the 2019 ELCA Church-wide Assembly and the recommended changes approved at our 2021 Annual Meeting into our 2019 Constitution.

These recommended changes shortened the length of one council term to two years and kept the number of terms served consecutively to three.

Approving the ELCA required changes will bring our 2017 Constitution into compliance with the current 2019 Model Constitution. Copies of this constitution, 2019 Churchwide Assembly amendments, and 2017 “cross-out” Constitution are found in the narthex. The 2019 Constitution has been reviewed by our Synod Attorney and is in compliance with the current ELCA model constitution.

If you have any questions then please call Synod Attorney, Bill Biggs, at 402-679-5758 or Pr. Eric.



2021 Online Synod Assembly

In order to help keep people safe and healthy amid the continued global pandemic, the 2021 Nebraska Synod Assembly will be held exclusively online on Saturday, June 5. The event will be a one day remote gathering to do the business of the church, worship, and engage in learning and fellowship together. More information and registration materials will be coming soon. If you would like to participate then let Pr. Eric know. We are allowed one male and one female representative from our congregation.

Help our Scouting Troops!

Our two Scout troops are growing and are in need of additional camping equipment. We need more tents, cook sets, patrol boxes, etc. so that our troop members can go camping. Like everything else, the cost of such items have skyrocketed. Below is a photo of the new tent we would like to purchase. It sleeps 4 (in non-Covid times) and costs \$199.



The troop members would greatly appreciate your financial support in purchasing the needed tents and other camping equipment. Would you be willing to help out? If you can help, please make checks out to Grace Lutheran Church and on the memo line indicate it is for Troop 30's Camping Fund. Checks can be placed in the offering plate or sent directly to the church office.

If you have any questions, please contact Curt Mann @ 402-488-4280.

Thank you!



Rummage Sale

(note: A rummage sale raises money for an organization. A yard or garage sale raises money for an individual.) So.....

Troop 30 is planning a rummage sale on the Grace parking lot in May. If congregational members would like to donate 'treasures' for the sale, they should leave those items on the stage in the gym. Drop items off Monday through Friday, 9-3. Call ahead so we know you are coming.

**February Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2021**



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

Absent: Glatha Rathjen

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

Opening Prayer: Roger

Approval of Council Minutes:

Roger moved to approve the January 12 church council meeting minutes and the January 31 annual congregational meeting minutes as submitted. Jan seconded. Motion passed.

President's Update/Correspondence: Grace received a thank you card from Lutheran Food Pantry for our ongoing support providing financial donations and 429 lbs. of food.

With 30 days' notice, the congregation will hold a special meeting on April 25, 2021 to update our current 2017 constitution to comply with the 2019 model constitution. The 2019 model constitution allows us to have electronic meetings in the event our November congregational meeting will be a Zoom meeting. The amendments made at the January congregational meeting have already been approved by the Synod. Any member with questions can call the Synod attorney.

Staff Reports:

Pastor Eric's Report: submitted

Director of Music Report: submitted

Financial Secretary's Report: submitted

Treasurer's Report: submitted

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

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship – did not meet

Worship & Music – did not meet; Anne will continue to select the music for worship.

Parish Ed – Thinking about vacation Bible school for this summer; will reach out to Friedens.

Congregational Life – Patty Plambeck continues to send out cards to members unable to attend church

Property – written report submitted; unexpectedly had to replace two sewage pumps, waiting for cost

Social Ministry – did not meet

Memorials – did not meet

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

Business:

Contact Information – asked for contact updates and added two new members, Glatha and Amy

Committee Assignments – Congregational Life, Glatha and Carla; Worship and Music, Connie; Parish Ed, Amy; Finance/Stewardship, Cindy; Social Ministry, Jan; Memorials & Property, Doug; Property, Roger

Officers: President, Neil Larsen; Vice President, Carla Ingersoll; Secretary, Connie Thorson; Treasurer, Jim Krueger; Finance, Matt Knobbe

Annual Meeting Follow-up - We will need to ratify changes to the amendments at the next congregational meeting April 25 2021. The synod attorney has reviewed and approved the necessary changes to our 2019 constitution.

Lenten Offerings - Via email, the council decided that the Lent offerings should go to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Retreat – Not likely this year in-person with Covid; we may do something via Zoom.

We will discuss the idea of doing a special memorial service for those who have passed over the last year. Amy read the closing prayer.

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Connie Thorson, Secretary

Council Corner

As we continue to move into the new year and hopefully towards a more “normal” expression and experience of what we know as Grace Lutheran, the council thought it would be good to review our standing committees and their purpose as outlined by the congregational constitution. If you might be interested in any area of ministry listed here then contact the council members listed towards the back of the newsletter.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE.

Remembering God's mighty acts in the past, celebrating God's abiding presence and faithfulness, and moving toward God's promised fulfillment, this congregation shall seek to proclaim faithfully the love of God in Word and Sacrament.

PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Remembering our Lord's command to teach and make disciples, this congregation shall seek to provide opportunities for Christian Education for all members.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE.

Relying on the Holy Spirit, this congregation shall proclaim the Gospel by example and by programs to invite all people to repent and share the Lord's kingdom.

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Remembering Christ's call to minister to those in need, this congregation shall live by faith active in love.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Remembering God's charge to care for His creation and return a tithe back to Him, this congregation shall endeavor to be responsible stewards over all that with which God has blessed its members.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

Noting that care and maintenance of the physical properties belonging to this congregation is an important part of good stewardship this committee shall...carry out specific functions of support as it relates to the stewardship of congregational property.



What is the "respite care" on our calendar?

The program is actually called "Take a Break" and is sponsored and managed by the Lincoln YWCA. Take a Break offers a break to any parent or guardian of children 1 year through 10 years of age. (If you have children older than 10 that have special needs or have younger siblings, please talk with the program director as exceptions are made.)

The program facilitates opportunities for caregivers to recharge while their children are cared for in a safe, fun, and nurturing environment.

Childcare is provided by fully trained "Take a Break" staff, on the second and fourth Fridays of each month from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church. For more information please contact E. Hanah at tab@ywcalincoln.org or call (402)434-3494.

The Lutheran Food Pantry

CURRENT NEEDS LIST:

- Fruit juice - large bottles and juice boxes
- Vegetables - peas, corn, mixed (green beans are available from the Food Bank)
- Pork and beans
- Jelly
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Saltine crackers
- Snack items - small packages of nuts, crackers (with cheese or peanut butter), cookies

PANTRY HOURS:

Please bring your donations to St. Andrew's Lutheran at 1015 Lancaster Ln between the hours of 8-3 Tuesday through Friday.



Florence	Stokke	Apr 2
Stormy	Eberspacher	Apr 4
Rick	Williams	Apr 4
Joan	Anderson	Apr 5
Carla	Ingersoll	Apr 5
Carmen	McKillip	Apr 7
Brittany	Billings	Apr 10
Arthur	Hillman	Apr 11
Florence	Prusia	Apr 12
Kennedy	Abbott	Apr 16
Sara	Olston	Apr 17
Deborah	Basler	Apr 19
Marilyn	Holmquist	Apr 19
Susan	Gruttis	Apr 21
Ben	Ptacek	Apr 22
Betty	Shaw	Apr 22
Lianne	Garza	Apr 23
Julene	Leshner	Apr 26
Teresa	Serafin	Apr 27
Jeanne	Weisbrook	Apr 27
Becky	Williams	Apr 27

Wedding Anniversaries

Judy and Ronald Holtgrewe on April 2
 Joanie and Shawn Rathjen on April 2
 Jackson and Patience Bukasa on April 7
 Delmar and Darlene Motycka on on April 7
 Jon and Connie Thorson on April 16
 Rick and Becky Williams on April 18
 Shirleen and Robin Hoffman on April 26
 Mark and Karen Billings on April 30
 Bruce and Cheryl Peterson on April 30

I sincerely want to thank everyone for sending so many cards on my 90th Birthday (Feb 21), all were enjoyed.

Love Darlene Stutheit





April 1:	Quilting Worship Bell Quartet B	9:00 am 6:30 pm 7:15 pm
April 2:	Bell Rehearsal Worship	6:00 pm 6:30 pm
April 4:	Bell B Rehearsal Bell A Rehearsal Worship Eagle Scouts	8:00 am 8:30 am 9:00 am 7:00 pm
April 5:	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
April 6:	Election Al-Anon Cub Scouts Committees	8:15 am 9:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm
April 7:	Confirmation	7:00 pm
April 8:	Quilting	9:00 am
April 9:	Respite Care	5:45 pm
April 10:	Danish Sisterhood	1:00 pm
April 11:	Worship Bell Quartet A Eagle Scouts	9:00 am 9:45 am 7:00 pm
April 12:	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
April 13:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts Wildlife Rescue Council	9:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm
April 14:	Confirmation	7:00 pm
April 15:	Quilting Bell Quartet B	9:00 am 7:00 pm
April 16:	BNRR	4:00 pm

April 18:	Worship Bell Quartet A Eagle Scouts	9:00 am 9:45 am 7:00 pm
April 19:	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
April 20:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts WELCA Group 6	9:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm
April 21:	WELCA Group 3 Confirmation	1:00 pm 7:00 pm
April 22:	Quilting Bell Quartet B	9:00 am 7:00 pm
April 23:	Respite Care	5:45 pm
April 25:	Bell Choir Rehearsal Worship Bell Quartet A	8:30 am 9:00 am 9:45 am
April 26:	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
April 27:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts	9:30 am 6:30 pm
April 28:	Confirmation	7:00 pm
April 29:	Quilting Bell Quartet B	9:00 am 7:00 pm



April 1, 2021

Grace Staff & Council

Rev. Eric Leshner

Senior Pastor
308-708-1146
pr.eric@egrace.org

David Sage

Parish Administrator
office@egrace.org

Anne Melang-Thoren

Director of Music
anne@egrace.org

Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson

Assistant Organist

Robert Stimbart,

Custodian

2021 Church Council

Neil Larson	President
Carla Ingersoll	Vice President
Connie Thorson	Secretary
Jim Krueger	Treasurer
Glatha Rathjen	Congregational Life
Jan Branting	Social Ministry
Amy Knobbe	Parish Education
Doug Krueger	Memorials
Roger Potts	Property
Cindy Eberspacher	Stewardship/Finance

Current monthly council minutes and reports are available outside the office.

Contact the church office to get connected to a council member.



Grace Lutheran Church
2225 Washington Street
Lincoln NE 68502
402-474-1505
office@egrace.org

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lincoln, NE
PERMIT NO. 5

