

The Grace Greeter!

Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502
February 2021

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it" - Psalm 118

"What would you do if you were stuck in one place and every day was exactly the same, and nothing that you did mattered?" This is the complaint of the crabby weatherman Phil Connors, Bill Murray's character in the 1993 film, Groundhog Day, after he finds himself perpetually living out the February 2nd holiday in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, his least favorite day of the year. If we're honest, our lives aren't completely dissimilar from this movie as most life is spent doing the same tasks with same people, and yes, we often wish for more exciting days. If we look at Groundhog Day through the lens of God's Word, we can learn how to extract more joy from our daily routine.



The answer may be found in the rest of this film when Phil realizes the world around him doesn't have to change and in many ways, it will not change, but how he views and interacts with the world can change. **So, we see a shift in attitude as Phil focuses less on what he wants and more on what others need.** The story ends with Phil using his special knowledge of everyone in town to change flat tires, give the Heimlich maneuver to the choking mayor, and bless countless people he'd previously mistreated.

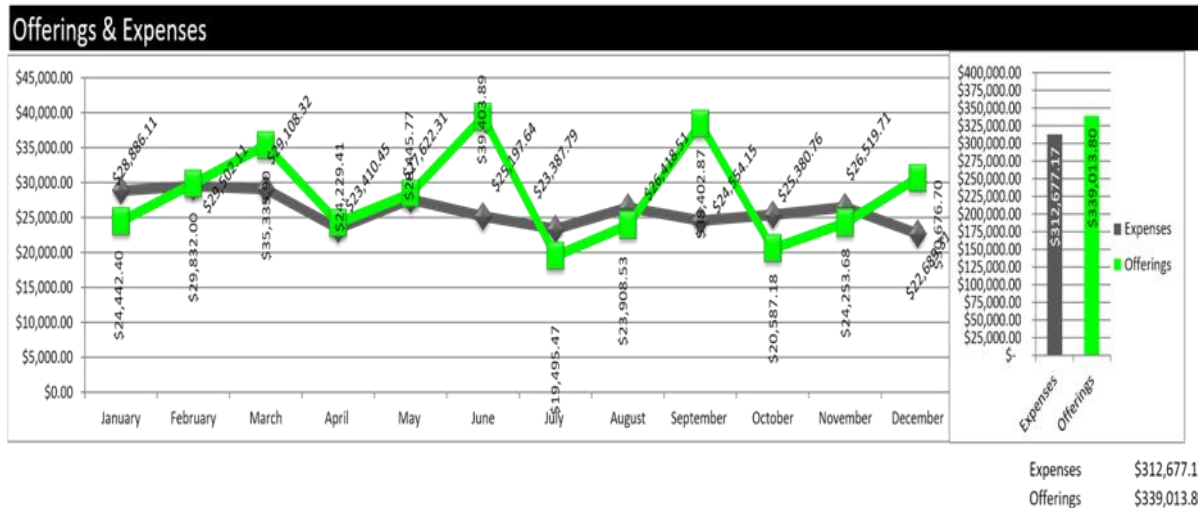
Joy is an attitude that can change you and those around you. Like I've said before, joy is contagious. People want to spend time with others who bring joy to their lives. So, what will you spread in your everyday world? Joy or something else?

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 February 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



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!**



Ash Wednesday Service
In-person and online
6:30 PM on February 17

Lenten Midweek Service
In-person and online
6:30 PM on February 24,
March 3, March 10,
March 17, and March 24



Tell the Story

"Accepting the Call"

Nebraska Synod

Originally from Coleridge, Neb., Rev. Amanda Day Hefner attended and graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC). Rev. Hefner is fluent in Spanish and specializes in bilingual ministry development. She has been active in ministry, education, and activism with immigrants and refugees in Nebraska, Illinois, New Mexico, and Texas. She currently serves St. John's in Schuyler.



Growing up in a more conservative community and experiencing the loss of her mother at an early age, Rev. Hefner had never thought about going into church leadership. Though she had always enjoyed attending and singing in church, her first real connection with it came from her participation in camp at Carol Joy Holling in eighth grade. But the idea of rostered ministry for her was still too far away.

As she entered her undergraduate years at Nebraska Wesleyan, she felt that connection to the church fading. She found herself questioning many things about her life and exploring her spirituality. It was during these years that she ended up going back to camp at Carol Joy Holling to work. Again, camp reignited that deep connection to the church for her. She discovered that even though she saw herself broken, she could use those wounds to help others.

After college, Rev. Hefner traveled outside of the U.S. and once again was searching for a way to reconnect to her spirituality. It wasn't until she moved back to Nebraska that she made her way back to the Lutheran church. Her move to Lincoln brought her directly to **Grace Lutheran Church**. In her own words, she described it as "the place where I experienced grace for the first time in a really powerful way." It was in her experience at Grace that she felt reaffirmed in the sense that God could use and heal all of her brokenness. She learned that just because she felt broken didn't mean she didn't belong in the church; instead she realized that was exactly where she belonged. It was at Grace where Rev. Mike Ostrom became the first person to sow the seed of pursuing a call to church leadership.

Once the seed was planted, the idea was one that stayed with her. And from then on, doors leading to a call to ministry continued to open for her. Others soon began to encourage the idea as well and that's when she knew that this was where her life was headed. The process of preparing for seminary seemed to flow naturally for her. After graduating from LSTC and completing all requirements, Rev. Hefner was ordained Aug. 30, 2018, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Coleridge.

**January Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2021**

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

Absent: none



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

Opening Prayer: Neil

Approval of Council Minutes:

Roger moved to approve the December meeting minutes as submitted. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

President's Update/Correspondence: Grace received thank you cards from: Community Action Partnership for our matching campaign contribution to The Gathering Place; and from the parents of Alex Chapman who graduated in Dec. 2020 from UNL, thanking our congregation for showing their son kindness while living in Lincoln.

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. Cindy seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship – council position remains vacant

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

Parish Ed – did not meet

Congregational Life – Patty Plambeck will send out cards to shut-ins and others in need.

Property – written report submitted; a railing will be installed in the center of the stairway into Narthex.

Social Ministry – did not meet

Memorials – did not meet

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

Old Business:

Discussed keeping a binder with copies of the monthly written staff reports and a brief summary of each committee report that is accessible to members to read.

New Business:

Congregational Meeting logistics – reviewed agenda to amend our 2017 Constitution, approve a 2021 budget, vote for council members, etc. to be voted on by quorum present, followed by approval from the synod.

Closing Prayer - Jan Branting

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Connie Thorson, Secretary

Prayer Ventures for February 2021

1 Pray that the Spirit will guide, inspire and shape the Future Church structure being implemented in the churchwide organization to renew our sense of purpose and activate the entire church so that more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.

2 Black History Month Give thanks for the gifts, accomplishments, influence and witness of our African-descent neighbors who stand together with us as partners in the gospel, doing God's work in the world. Though unified as siblings in Christ, we ask God to guide and help our church in its commitment to socioeconomic equity and racial justice and reconciliation.

3 Give thanks for our freedom in Jesus Christ and pray that we might use that freedom to proclaim the glory of God and serve our neighbor in obedience to God's word, will and ways.

4 Pray for the children, youth and family ministry leaders of our church participating in the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza, "Holding Loosely." Pray that they will grow and be strengthened for ministry through this time of spiritual renewal, continuing education, networking and mutual support.

5 Pray for ELCA Global Mission and for our ministry of accompaniment with churches, leaders, institutions and companion agencies in Asia and the Pacific region as we work together to grow the church, share the gospel, equip leaders, serve the needs of communities, address issues of development and justice, and assist with disaster preparedness and relief.

6 Ask God to help us listen to each other with respect and to address and heal the political and ideological divisions that discourage us from treating one another with love and concern as neighbors and siblings in Christ. Pray that the Spirit will unite us and lead us in the work we must do together for the well-being of our communities, nation and neighbors in need.

7 Illness, oppression, desperation and spiritual darkness are no match for the healing and redemptive power of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our Savior. Praise God!

8 Pray for all those who experience food insecurity across our nation and around the world. Ask God to help us envision how we can work together to bring relief and hope and to address the root causes of hunger and poverty.

9 Give thanks to God for people of all ages, cultures, races, life experiences and perspectives who are new to the ELCA. Pray that, as siblings in Christ, we will nurture and equip one another for participating in God's work in the world.

10 Give thanks and praise to God for God's abundant love, which "heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds."

11 Pray for our outdoor ministry organizations and their leaders as they continue to discern and plan for adapting their ministries during the pandemic — especially as they envision what this summer might bring.

12 Thank God for our special relationship with The Episcopal Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, and pray that together we will find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these uncertain and challenging times.

13 When have you felt proud, boastful or self-congratulatory for your ministry, witness or service to others? Ask God to forgive you and to refocus your attention on the good news and blessings of grace given to us through Jesus Christ, which we are called to share without bias, hesitation or expectation of recognition or reward.

14 We are not much different from Peter, James or John, who were unsure what they were witnessing when God's glory shined brightly in Jesus during his transfiguration. Pray for patience and for faith in God's promise, that we, too, will someday experience glory and joy in the kingdom of heaven.

15 Pray for our new U.S. president, vice president and members of Congress, that they will find strength, support and unity for their difficult work of serving a diverse nation. Ask the Spirit to help us guide, shape and embolden our culture and nation so that we practice justice, care for our neighbors in need, strive for truth and support our global neighbors.

16 Pray that when people witness our actions and hear our words, they will see the light of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ in us and will be moved to believe in God's love, forgiveness and actions in the world today.

17 Ash Wednesday Someone tracing the sign of the cross on our forehead with ash speaks to our need for physical reassurance that God has done something special and mysterious in the world through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Speak to God about what this smudge of ash — the cross — means to you and says to people who notice it on your forehead.

18 Ask the Spirit to teach us humility and to remind us that God made us to care for one another, love one another, be generous with what we have and participate in God's good, reconciling work in the world.

19 Pray for families, caregivers and friends who cannot be physically present with hospitalized loved ones. Pray that we will support and comfort them through their time of separation and worry and reassure them of God's very real presence and love.

20 God knows our complexities, vulnerabilities and shortcomings yet still considers us with the wisdom of a fair and merciful judge. With a deep sigh of relief, lift up thanks and praise to God!

21 Renewed, claimed and sent forth through the word and the waters of baptism, we pray that our life in the Spirit will help us resist temptations that draw us away from God and God's ways and will keep us focused on our baptismal journey of faith, learning, service and sharing the good news.

22 Give thanks for everyone involved in the extensive effort to vaccinate people against COVID- 19 even as we work to prevent its spread and treat those who are ill. Pray that the hope and the emotional, spiritual and physical stamina of these workers will be sustained for the long haul.

23 Let our prayers and yearnings echo those of the psalmist who wrote, "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation."

24 Pray that throughout Lent we will reflect on our faith, lives and endeavors with honesty and humility while trusting in God's grace to restore our spirit and to reassure us that we will always be disciples of Christ and loved children of God.

25 Remember in prayer the Deaconess Community of the ELCA. Give thanks and pray for women who respond to God's call to serve as deaconesses and who use their passions, spiritual gifts and education to serve in a wide variety of roles and ministry settings worldwide.

26 Praise God for being patient and loving toward us and for saving us in our desperation and darkness through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

27 Pray for the ELCA Young Adult Ministry's work with young adults ages 18 to 30 and for leaders who facilitate young adult ministry in their communities of faith. Pray that young adults will find places in our communities of faith where they belong and ministries both at home and abroad where they can grow in faith, discern and use their unique gifts and passions, and engage in acts of service, justice and peace in the world.

28 We cannot fully comprehend God's ways or what Jesus has accomplished for our sake and salvation. Pray daily to be alert and receptive to what God is revealing to us and to how the Spirit stirs in us faith, wisdom and understanding.

Barnabas Community

This community is an outreach of Sheridan Lutheran to low-income families in Lincoln. You can donate new or used clothing and household items to Barnabas Community. The store is entirely stocked by incoming donations from community supporters like you.

Donation Hours:

Thursdays: 9:30am-12:30pm & 6-8pm

Saturdays: 9am-3pm

Location:

931 Saunders Ave

Lincoln, Nebraska 68521

402-742-0035

Ongoing Needs

Barnabas can always use in-season clothing for all sizes. It's always helpful if you can donate clothing in the season when it can be worn because we are not able to store many items for later use in the store.

Men's Jeans (All sizes)

Men's Briefs (All sizes)

Men's Shirts/ Sweaters (Large to XXXL)

Women's Jeans (All sizes)

Women's Clothing (L, XL, XXL)

Pots and Pans

Dishes

Bedding (sheets, blankets, etc.)

Towels

The Lutheran Food Pantry

CURRENT NEEDS LIST:

- Pork and beans
- Jelly
- Saltine crackers
- Breakfast bars (Pop Tarts, granola bars, etc.)
- Canned tomatoes
- Cereal
- Canned pears
- Snack items (small packages of cookies, crackers, nuts, etc.)
- Personal care items

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>Bonnie Krueger</u>	<u>Feb 1</u>
<u>Shirleen Hoffman& Liam Hughes</u>	<u>Feb 2</u>
<u>Ben Klein& Judith Lambert</u>	<u>Feb 3</u>
<u>Shaton Gottsche,& Austin McKillip</u>	<u>Feb 7</u>
<u>Patience Bukasa& Willis Weisbrook</u>	<u>Feb 8</u>
<u>Keith Oetjen& Conrad Schroeder</u>	<u>Feb 9</u>
<u>W Hartley</u>	<u>Feb 11</u>
<u>Karen Billings</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
<u>Jackson Bukasa, Neil Larson</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>
<u>Timothy Riemann</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>
<u>Sondra Block, Kay Ossian</u>	<u>Feb 15</u>
<u>Pr. Eric Leshner & Tricia Rosno</u>	<u>Feb 16</u>
<u>Lela Heim</u>	<u>Feb 18</u>
<u>Evan Hughes, Kathrin Miller</u>	<u>Feb 19</u>
<u>Anne Melang-Thoren, Ardyth Wolfe</u>	<u>Feb 19</u>
<u>Cindy Eberspacher, Kathie Remington</u>	<u>Feb 20</u>
<u>Roger Potts</u>	<u>Feb 20</u>
<u>Darlene Stutheit</u>	<u>Feb 21</u>
<u>Devin Billings, Matt Knobbe</u>	<u>Feb 22</u>
<u>Donna Carnes, Lee Delka</u>	<u>Feb 23</u>
<u>Kara Heim</u>	<u>Feb 23</u>
<u>Madeleine & Miles Melang-Thoren</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>
<u>Chris Apple</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
<u>Larry Watchorn</u>	<u>Feb 27</u>
<u>Pamela Zilly</u>	<u>Feb 28</u>

Anniversaries

Lee and Raymond Delka Feb 24





February 1:	WELCA Board Boy Scouts	9:00 am 7:00 pm
February 2:	Al-Anon Meeting Cub Scouts Committees	9:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm
February 3:	Confirmation	7:00 pm
February 4:	Quilting Bell Quartet B	9:00 am 7:00 pm
February 5:	Respite Care	5:45 pm
February 7:	Worship Bell Quartet A	9:00 am 9:45 am
February 8:	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
February 9:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts Wildlife Rescue Council	9:45 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm
February 10:	Confirmation	7:00 pm
February 11:	Quilting Bell Quartet B	9:00 am 7:00 pm
February 12:	Respite	5:45 pm
February 13:	Danish Sisterhood	1:00 pm
February 14:	Worship Bell Quartet A	9:00 am 9:45 am
February 15:	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
February 16:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts WELCA 6	9:30 am 6:30 am 7:00 pm

February 17:	WELCA 3	1:00 pm
February 18:	Quilting Bell Quartet B	9:00 am 7:00 pm
February 19:	BNRR	4:00 pm
February 21:	Worship Bell Choir A Eagle Scouts	9:00 am 9:45 am 7:00 pm
February 22:	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
February 23:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts	9:30 am 6:30 pm
February 24:	Worship	6:30 pm
February 25:	Quilting Bell Quartet B	9:00 am 7:00 pm
February 26:	Blue and Gold Banquet	5:00 pm
February 28:	Worship Bell Quartet A Eagle Scouts	9:00 am 9:45 am 7:00 pm

February Holidays

February 2 2021 Groundhog Day
 February 12 2021 Lincoln's Birthday
 February 14 2021 Valentine's Day
 February 15 2021 Presidents Day

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”

—Booker T. Washington

“Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another’s uniqueness.”

—Ola Joseph

Grace Staff & Council

Rev. Eric Lesher

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 Stimbert,

Custodian

2020 Church Council

Neil Larson

Carla Ingersoll

Vacant

Jan Branting

Cindy Eberspacher

Doug Krueger

Roger Potts

Vacant

Connie Thorson

Jim Krueger

Council President

Vice President

Congregational Life

Social Ministry

Parish Education

Memorials

Property

Stewardship/Finance

Secretary

Treasurer



Grace Lutheran Church
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