

The Grace Greeter!

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

St. Patty Green

Later in life, as a Catholic bishop, St. Patrick said that he was called to return to Ireland to win over the Irish who held a belief in many gods. It is believed that he used the shamrock to illustrate the doctrine of the trinity.



Although originally being associated with blue, gradually green became the representative color for St Patrick's Day. It is believed green has been associated with the celebration due to the color of the shamrock and the green vegetation found in Ireland. The symbolic use of green is not limited to the St. Patrick's Day holiday. In the Bible green is often associated with the state of our faith in God. Psalm 52:8 reads, "But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God for ever and ever."

As we see the "wearing of the green" on this St Patrick's Day, let all of us be reminded of the blessed life based upon God's steadfast love shown to us. Once reminded of God's steadfast love shown to us, let's appreciate God's love in our lives by taking advantage of the opportunities that God places before us. When we have the opportunity, let us be a good example of holy love and encouragement to others who need to grow in their faith as well.

P.S.

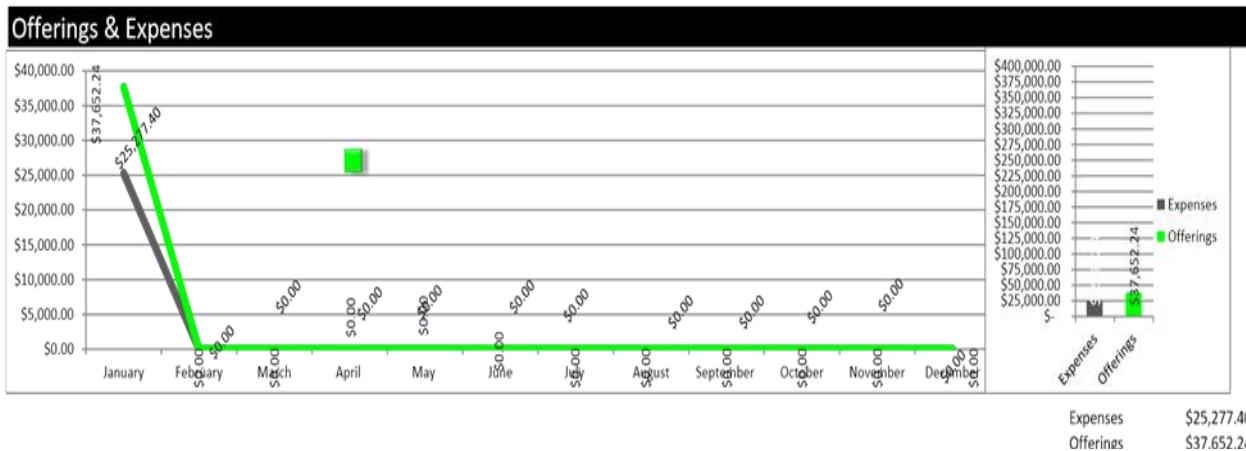
Thanks for all the 60th Birthday cards and well wishes. They were great! Even the funny ones!

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 March 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!**

Lenten Midweek Service

In-person and online

6:30 PM in the nave on March 3,
March 10, March 17, and March 24 .



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





**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Individuals who hold Thrivent Financial products which are eligible for Choice Dollars are reminded to be sure to direct those dollars soon so that what was earned in 2020 does not expire. Choice Dollars designated for Grace Lutheran have supported various church projects, such as the recent renovation of stained glass windows. A call to 800-THRIVENT, or going online at thriventfinancial.com, will enable members to take care of the designation.



Synod Ambassadors Wanted

The Nebraska Synod is looking for one or two people from each congregation in the state to serve as Synod Ambassadors. One role of an Ambassador is to connect people in your congregation to what's going on in the larger church. Who do you know that likes to tell stories and share resources? Another role of an Ambassador is to invite people in your congregation to discern their vocation--or God's call--in their lives. Who do you already know that's good at paying attention to the gifts others have? Depending on your particular setting, there might be one person who could serve as both a connector and an inviter, or there might be two people whose gifts would suit one of those roles well and they could be a team. Ambassadors won't be alone in this work! Nebraska Synod staff and members of the Synod's Sow the Seeds team will walk with them on this journey. On March 4, 2021, from 7-8pm Central/6-7pm Mountain, there will be a free, online Ambassador orientation session. If you are willing to serve as a Nebraska Synod Ambassador, please complete the online form at this link: <http://bit.ly/2KAwVMW>



March Stewardship Theme: God's purpose

Focus reading: Luke 7:33-35

"John the Baptizer came fasting and you called him crazy. The Son of Man came feasting and

you called him a lush. Opinion polls don't count for much, do they? The proof of the pudding is in the eating."“

God's purpose can only be known through what we do. Our successes and failures help shape who God wants us to be. What can you do this month to know God's purpose for you?

When disasters strike, do people behave more generously or more selfishly?

As the Stanford psychologist Jamil Zaki has documented, there are two basic stories people like to tell about how human beings behave in times of crisis.

According to one story, individuals panic, flout social norms, and behave selfishly. The crisis unleashes an amoral free-for-all as each person gives in to a scarcity mentality and decides to look out for their own interests.

The other story holds just the opposite: People are wonderfully generous in the wake of disaster! They donate money, they volunteer, they try to help their neighbors. We see more altruism and prosocial behavior during a crisis than we do in normal times.

The first narrative is often seen reflected in media coverage. For example, after Hurricane Katrina, the New York Times described New Orleans as a “snake pit of anarchy, death, looting, raping, marauding thugs.” And partly because of media portrayals, this lawless behavior is what many people have come to expect in times of crisis. In one study, people generally agreed with statements like “When there is an emergency, crowd members act selfishly” and “When there is an emergency, social order breaks down.”

But when you look at the historical record, it actually offers a lot of support for the second narrative. “Catastrophe compassion,” Zaki writes, “is widespread and consistent; it follows earthquakes, war, terrorist attacks, hurricanes, and tsunamis, and — now — a pandemic.” For example, as Covid-19 spread, volunteers around the world began creating mutual aid Google docs. In these shared spreadsheets, they jotted down their contact information and offers to bring groceries or medications to vulnerable neighbors. (Likewise, in the wake of Katrina, most people in New Orleans were peaceful and helpful to each other.)

Athena Aktipis, a psychologist at Arizona State University, own research with the Human Generosity Project, convinced her that times of crisis can bring out the best in us, so long as we’re not worried that others will take advantage of our willingness to cooperate.

So the surge in pandemic-related generosity hasn’t come as a surprise to Aktipis. As she said, “When people are most in need, that’s when most of the giving happens.”

Faith, Hope, and Love...

By Bishop Brian Maas

“Now faith, hope, and love abide, these three. And the greatest of these is love.”

I’m confident it would be far easier to tally the number of weddings I’ve presided over or attended that didn’t include this passage than it would be to tally those that did. It is of course a beautiful and powerful passage, even though it’s targeted not at a couple’s relationship but at an entire people living in community.



While that’s the passage that immediately pops to mind, it’s not the first time Paul lifted up this trio of virtues, and certainly not the only. Already in the opening of 1 Thessalonians, the earliest of his letters, Paul writes that he keeps the Thessalonians in prayer constantly, remembering “your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope.” These are clearly three essential marks of the Christian’s life, as far as Paul is concerned.

It’s nothing new to note that faith is a matter rooted in the witness (and our experience) of the past, that hope is oriented toward the future, and that love is a matter ever in the present—hence love is the greatest because love is always about now.

I can’t argue with that, but for the duration of this pandemic (and grief and divisiveness and so much more), I’m proposing we let hope occupy a higher spot. Love is probably more important to practice now more than ever, yet physical distancing, viral infection, crowd limiting, and more have made loving all the more challenging. When have you ever felt down or depressed and thought, “I could really use a Zoom call right about now?” There’s no substitute for a hug—or even close proximity.

Still we are called to love, but it’s a challenge. This is why I’m suggesting we need to lift hope a little higher. Hope is that light that shines in the future, pointing not only ahead, but reflecting into whatever deep shadows we’re struggling through in the now. It’s what lets us put one foot in front of the other even in the dark. When those shadows—pandemic, division, loss, fear—make it harder for us to see others enough to let us practice fully loving them, hope shines just enough for us to make out others, bridges the dark gaps between us, moves our hearts toward one another even when our bodies (or minds, attitudes, or memories) keep us at a distance.

Mind you, I’m not talking about mere optimism. I’m talking about HOPE. Optimism says, “I’ll be okay because things will get better.” Hope says, “I’ll be okay whether things get better or not.” Optimism is the practice of magical thinking (and it’s not without value—but it’s limited). Hope is the practice of deep trust; trust in the God who created, sustains, and holds us.

When we have hope, the petty things that divide us in the moment don't seem so significant; we can manage to step over them and towards one another to practice true love.

"Faith, hope, and love abide..." The greatest of these is love, but in the midst of all we're experiencing now, the most needed of this is hope.

May God grant us the faith to live them both richly.



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.

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 are found in the narthex. They have already been approved by our Synod Attorney.

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

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:

- 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.



Anniversaries

Carol and Ron Ossian on March 1
 Kathie and Wayne Remington on March 13
 John and Patty Plambeck on March 19
 Steve and Teddi Reckling on March 20

Birthday	First Name	Last Name
1-Mar	Richard	Higbea
3-Mar	Joyce	Lunde
5-Mar	Janice	Branting
5-Mar	Lisa	Holmstrom
6-Mar	Pat	Kendle
6-Mar	Arlene	Reighard
7-Mar	Brittany	Johnson
7-Mar	Nora	Knobbe
9-Mar	Janice	Walker
11-Mar	Richard	Block
11-Mar	Victoria	Garza
13-Mar	Carol	Jensen
13-Mar	Jordan	Murphy
13-Mar	Alex	Thorson
14-Mar	Kevin	Fritchie
16-Mar	Elli	Petersen
19-Mar	Carol	Disney
19-Mar	Vernon	Hunzeker
19-Mar	Shannon	Mills
20-Mar	Daryla	Isaacs
21-Mar	Kevin	Dumler
21-Mar	Jazmyn	Zimmerman
22-Mar	Sadie	Klein
22-Mar	Michael	Plambeck
24-Mar	Dennis	Berens
24-Mar	Betsy	Johnson
30-Mar	Sandra	Anderson



March

March 1:	WELCA Board Boy Scouts	9:00 am 7:00 pm
March 2:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts Committees	9:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm
March 3:	Worship	6:30 pm
March 4:	Quilting Bell Quartet B	9:00 am 7:00 pm
March 5:	Respite Care	5:45 pm
March 7:	Worship Bell Quartet A	9:00 am 9:45 am
March 8:	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
March 9:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts Wildlife Rescue Council	9:45 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm
March 10:	Worship	6:30 pm
March 11:	Quilting Bell Quartet B	9:00 am 7:00 pm
March 12:	Respite Care	5:45 pm
March 13:	Danish Sisterhood	1:00 pm
March 14:	Worship Bell Quartet A	9:00 am 9:45 am
March 15:	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
March 16:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts WELCA 6	9:30 am 6:30 am 7:00 pm
March 17:	WELCA 3 Worship	1:00 pm 6:30 pm

March 18:	Quilting Bell Quartet B	9:00 am 7:00 pm
March 19:	BNRR	4:00 pm
March 21:	Worship Bell Choir A Eagle Scouts	9:00 am 9:45 am 7:00 pm
March 22:	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
March 23:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts	9:30 am 6:30 pm
March 24:	Worship	6:30 pm
March 25:	Quilting Bell Quartet B	9:00 am 7:00 pm
March 28:	Worship Bell Quartet A Eagle Scouts	9:00 am 9:45 am 7:00 pm
March 29:	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
March 30:	Al-Anon Cub Scouts	9:30 am 6:30 pm



March 17, 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.



"WHICH COUNTRIES HAVE YOU VISITED RECENTLY?"

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Lincoln NE 68502
402-474-1505
office@egrace.org

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