

The Grace Greeter!

**Grace Lutheran Church 2225 Washington Lincoln, NE 68502
April 2022**

Symbols of Easter

Christianity has many symbols; the most recognizable is, of course, the cross. But there are a number of symbols linked with Easter or the Resurrection besides the empty cross.

The butterfly represents the Resurrection and eternal life. It emerges from its cocoon or chrysalis and gloriously rises into the sky in its splendid new body. Similarly, Jesus and his followers are born into a new life on Easter.

The lily is perhaps the most common Easter symbol because it's displayed during Easter worship services and blooms around this time each year. The lily's bulb decays in the earth, yet new life sprouts from it in the form of the flower — reminiscent of the new life that emerged from the tomb so many years ago.

The pomegranate is used as a symbol of the power of Christ and his Resurrection because of the many seeds that burst forth from the fruit. These seeds represent the many believers who follow Christ. They also represent the magnificence of divine grace and the fertility of the Word.

The peacock sheds his feathers annually. Each year the feathers grow back more beautiful and more brilliant in color. This renewal symbolizes eternal life or resurrection. There's also a myth that the peacock's flesh doesn't decay after death — immortality. (The peacock is sometimes used to represent human vanity, because of the way he proudly struts and displays his plumage.)

The phoenix was a mythical bird that lived in the Arabian Desert for five hundred years. It set its own nest on fire and perished in the flames. But on the third day it rose from its own ashes and ascended into the sky as a new and beautiful creature. It's easy to see why the phoenix represents immortal life and the Resurrection.

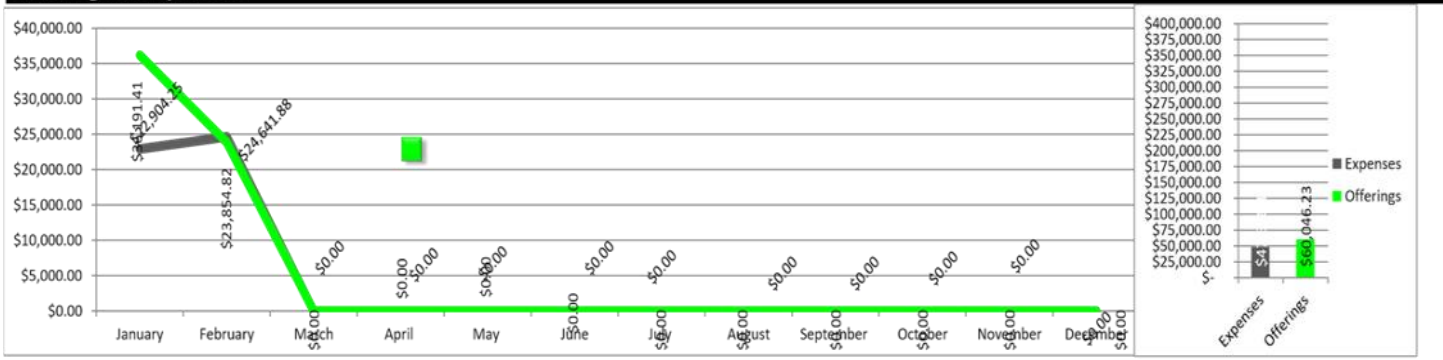


- ◆ **PLEASE CONTACT US!** HIPPA laws do not allow the hospital to notify the church if there is a member in the hospital. The patient or a family member must contact the church office to let us know that about the hospitalization. **During office hours, call 402-474-1505 or email office@egrace.org to 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 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

Running \$13,287.16 \$12,500.10 \$12,500.10 \$12,500.10 \$12,500.10 \$12,500.10 \$12,500.10 \$12,500.10 \$12,500.10 \$12,500.10 \$12,500.10 \$12,500.10

Offerings & Expenses



Expenses	\$47,546.13
Offerings	\$60,046.23

2022 Giving Envelopes

You can pick-up your box of 2022 offering envelopes in the atrium.



Palm Sunday (Saturday at 5:30 pm in the chapel and Sunday at 9:00 am in the nave)

Oftentimes, to grasp the fullness of something significant, we have to look at both sides. So it is that to approach the meaning of Christ, we have to say two things: Jesus and Christ; human and divine; death and resurrection; bread and body. This Sunday celebrates these two sides: we begin by praising Christ with the song of the angels, and we go on to shout "Crucify him!" Come to join us as we fit both truths into one service.

Maundy Thursday (12:15 pm in the chapel and 5:30 pm in the nave)

This Thursday is called "Maundy," which means "command," from the verse in John's gospel in which Jesus commands us to love another as he loved us. We celebrate this love through our confession, our celebration of Holy Communion (Jesus' Last Supper) and finally we strip the chancel bare to prepare ourselves for Good Friday.

Good Friday (12:15 pm in the chapel and 5:30 pm in the nave)

Why do we call this day Good? In John's telling of Jesus' passion, Jesus is "I am," the God who reigns from the cross. This is why this day is "good". At this service we pray for all the broken world, and we confess that it is our sin that crucified Christ.

Easter Eve (5:30 pm in the chapel)

This service begins with the burial story of Jesus. We then pause in silence to remember that we are nothing without Easter. After the silence our Easter celebration begins.

Easter Sunday (9:00 am in the nave)

What does it mean to be Christian? Christians are those who are enlivened by their faith that the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ can transform themselves and the world. Each Sunday we gather to praise the resurrection, but Easter is our annual blow-out celebration. This year we hear the gospel from Luke, we share the meal of the Lord, and we sing Alleluia over and over again.

Chapel services are shorter and in-person only. **Nave services** are longer and are both in-person and online

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL THROUGH GRACE

February Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2022



Present via Zoom/in-person: Neil Larson, Doug Krueger, Cindy Eberspacher, Connie Thorson, Glatha Rathjen, Carla Ingersoll, Roger Potts, Amy Knobbe, Pr. Eric Leshner,

Glatha Rathjen called the council meeting to order at 7:04 PM (meeting in-person and online)

Opening Prayer: Glatha

Discussion Points for Council each month:

We follow our mission: "Making Christ known to all through Grace."

We celebrate our purpose: "That by God's grace we have been gathered to worship, called to witness, and sent to serve."

We seek our vision: "To become a church with a passion for fostering a welcoming community that strives for peace and a sense of belonging."

1. How have we followed our mission this past month?
2. How have we celebrated our purpose this past month?
3. How have we sought our vision this past month?

We have followed our mission by pushing the article in the Lincoln Journal on our Facebook site about Grace being a participating location for Lincoln Literacy. We continue to celebrate our purpose by offering an online service to not only our congregation, but to others outside of our congregation.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes:

Neil moved to approve amended minutes for the January 2022 Church Council Meeting. Roger 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

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

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship – did not meet

Worship & Music – did not meet

Parish Ed – did not meet

Congregational Life – The committee will invite the congregation to help fill the water bottles for the homeless with miscellaneous supplies on February 27. They will ask the congregation to pick out packets of St. Patrick's Day Cards for Sumner Place residents on March 6th complete them with messages and return to church on March 13th for mailing.

Property: met via email

Social Ministry: Committee will help supply the Little Food Pantry outside of the Gathering Place. A donation box will be placed in the Atrium.

Memorials – did not meet

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

Business:

Red Zone Restrictions – Remain the same as January—masks required. Will reevaluate at the March meeting.

Lincoln Campus Ministry Meal Coordinator Invite: Will discuss further in March for more concise planning.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Midweek start times: Evening services in person and on line will begin at 5:30. The 12:15 service will be in person only.

Lenten Meals: None served.

Strategic Planning: Discussion about the Synod tool for congregation vision planning for mission and congregation life. Since the synod will be transitioning to a new bishop and staff in August, we decided to wait until August to proceed with any action with synod. We could start the process to look at this planning as a congregation. Discussion will continue at the March meeting.

Synod Assembly Delegates: Numbers suggested are 2-4. Pr. Eric needs volunteers by the end of February.

Glatha read the closing prayer.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla Ingersoll, Secretary



Grace's **Thrivent Financial group** will meet in the staff conference room on April 3rd at 10:30 am.



The **WELCA Group 3** will resume their monthly meetings beginning April 20th at 1 pm. Review the lesson from the March/April "Gather" magazines. We will continue to meet the 3rd week of the month through December.

THE LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

The Lutheran Food Pantry appreciates all donations of shelf-stable food and personal care items. Items always needed include (the items with ** are especially needed at this time):

- **Boxed instant mashed potatoes
- **Boxed breakfast cereal
- **Canned fruits (pears, peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges)
- **Canned meals (meatballs & spaghetti, ravioli, etc.)
- **Canned tomatoes
- **Jam and jelly
- **Peanut butter
- **Pork and beans
- **Soups, condensed (tomato, vegetable)

Breakfast bars (Pop Tarts, granola bars, oatmeal/fruit bars)

Instant oatmeal packets

Canned chicken

Canned tuna

Canned vegetables (especially peas, mixed vegetables)

Condensed soups (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom)

Canned beans (chili, kidney, pinto)

Fruit juice (large bottles or boxes/packets)

Noodles, dry

Pancake mix and syrup

Macaroni and cheese

Ramen noodles

Saltine crackers

Snack items (small packages of cookies, nuts, fruit flavored snacks, etc.)

Soups, condensed (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, cream soups)

Spaghetti sauce

Personal care items (shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes)



rin

PANTRY HOURS:

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

Birthdays

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

Wedding Anniversaries

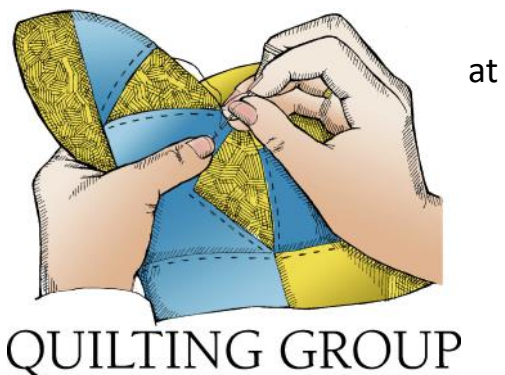
Judy and Ronald	Holtgrewe	2-Apr
Joanie and Shawn	Rathjen	2-Apr
Darlene and	Motycka	7-Apr
Connie and Jon	Thorson	16-Apr
Becky and Rick	Williams	18-Apr
Robin and Shirleen	Hoffman	26-Apr
Karen and Mark	Billings	30-Apr
Bruce and Cheryl	Petersen	30-Apr

APRIL



Quilting at Grace

The quilters will resume on April 28th starting 9:00 am in the quilting room. Come and join us as we cover the world with the love of God through the quilts we make and the kits we assemble.



◀ April 2022 ▶

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
3 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir 10:30–11:30 AM: Thrivent Meeting 3:00–5:00 PM: LLC Practice	4 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	5 9:30–10:30 AM: Al- Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts 7:00–8:00 PM: Committee Meetings	6 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy 12:15–12:45 PM: Lenten Worship Service 5:30–6:00 PM: Lenten Worship Service 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice 7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice	7	8	9 1:00–2:00 PM: Danish Sisterhood 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
10 9:00–10:00 AM: Passion / Palm Sunday 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir 3:00–5:00 PM: LLC Practice	11 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	12 9:30–10:30 AM: Al- Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts 7:00–8:00 PM: Wildlife Rescue 7:00–8:30 PM: Council Meeting	13 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice 7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice	14 5:30–6:15 PM: Maundy Thursday Worship	15 4:00–9:00 PM: BNRR 5:30–6:15 PM: Good Friday Worship	16 5:30–6:15 PM: Easter Eve Worship
17 9:00–10:00 AM: Easter Sunday 10:00–11:00 AM: Easter Breakfast 3:00–5:00 PM: LLC Practice	18 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 5:00–6:00 PM: Gathering Place 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	19 9:30–10:30 AM: Al- Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts 7:00–8:30 PM: WELCA Group 6	20 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy 1:00–2:30 PM: WELCA Group 3 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice 7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice 7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class	21	22	23 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
24 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir 3:00–4:00 PM: LLC Choir	25 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	26 9:30–10:30 AM: Al- Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts	27 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy 6:00–7:00 PM: Bell Choir A Practice 7:00–8:00 PM: Confirmation Class 7:00–8:00 PM: Bell Choir B Practice	28 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting 2:00–3:00 PM: Family Event	29 3:00–6:00 PM: Suzuki	30 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship

Grace Staff & Council

Rev. Eric Lesher

Senior Pastor

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David Sage

Office Administrator

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Anne Melang-Thoren

Director of Music

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Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson

Assistant Organist

Robert Stimbart,

Custodian

2022 Church Council

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

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

I'm writing on behalf of my son Adam and myself, to express our sincere thanks for all the prayers and expressions of care we have received during this difficult journey. We as a people tend to acknowledge the big things others have done for us, but rarely the little things; an unexpected note or text, a hug, do not underestimate the significance of these things when someone can barely see beyond the moment. As Jesus was holding my right hand, the power of your prayers lifted me up in my darkest moments at his bedside. While Adams journey isn't over yet, his next surgery is scheduled for May 9th. With Gods' Love, your prayers, his doctors and caregivers he has overcome Cancer and the Covid 19. Blessings and my enduring thank you to You the people of Grace Lutheran Church. - **Connie Whyrick**



Thank You to all my good friends at Grace that sent me get well cards when I had my stroke. I am doing well. I have home health therapy at present, but think I am about to graduate to outpatient therapy soon. - **Sue Clymer**

Because of my wonderful Grace family I am doing very well. After four weeks in hospital and rehab I am finally home. Thank you for all your prayers, visits, cards and phone calls which helped me through this difficult time. Also, thank you Pastor for you visits and phone calls. - **Pat Lickei**



10:00 am on April 17 in Lesher Hall

You bring a baked breakfast casserole (kitchen warming ovens in will be ready for you)

Sign-up board for breakfast casserole providers is next to the Welcome Table at church.

Congregational Life and Council will provide fruit, pastries, orange juice and coffee.

See you then!

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

As Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, crowds praised him loudly. When Pharisees told him to silence the people, what did Jesus say would shout if his followers didn't?

- A. Stones
- B. Palm branches
- C. Trees
- D. Hillsides

An illustration of Jesus riding a grey donkey. He is wearing a blue robe and a red sash. The donkey is walking to the left. The background is a stylized yellow sun with green palm branches. The entire scene is set within a white rectangular frame.

Answer: A (See Luke 19:40.)



The story of the opening of the tomb after Christ's resurrection is short but complex. In the Gospel of Luke's rendition of the tale, two men in dazzling clothes ask the women disciples: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

As humans, it is extremely difficult for us to process death since it is by definition, removed from our lived experience. In reading scripture, we remind ourselves that Christ's death would have been extremely traumatic for his disciples. No amount of consolation or preparation from Jesus would have helped his closest circle to watch him be humiliated and put to death.

There is much to mourn at first with any kind of loss, which allows grief to make us painfully aware of how much we invested in love for what we've lost. But the mourning period is a natural transition for transformation.

In Lent, we focused a lot on the lack of something or the loss of something significant in our lives. In letting go, we have to ask ourselves for what are we making room? For Easter, the story of Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the conquering of death (or at least conquering the finality of death), comes about as part two of the healing cycle. In His resurrection and ascension, Easter reminds us that there is room for yet more abundance, more faith, and more than enough opportunities for renewal at every stage of life. There is hope.

The disciples are reminded to have faith. In our own lives, we encounter uncertainties wherein we are asked to have faith. Miracles happen when faith is renewed in the face of uncertainties, and when faith is extended to others who support us in the journey.

We need each other for support, for reminders to look for the living where there is already life, which naturally perpetuates in our relationships with each other and the environment. If we restore faith in ourselves in whatever struggle and restore faith in our communities, we can lovingly receive the joys that come from sharing the faith.

Questions

What kind of support has surprised you this year? In what ways has your faith been restored this year? What prevents you from accepting and providing support to others?

More Than Enough is the theme for this year's 2022 fall pledge campaign.

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