

The Grace Greeter!

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

It is summer. Many, many people are on their way, on their way and on the move. Moving in many ways that have not been possible during the past two years while we were in the pandemic. People are once more visiting their families. People are once more going on vacations. People driving and flying to far away places. It is summer and people are traveling but this summer too many flights have been canceled, gasoline is far too expensive and vacation plans have to be modified.

In our Gospel reading for Sunday, July 3rd Jesus is sending people out, Luke 10:1-11. He is sending people out to the places where he himself is intending to go. Jesus sends them out in pairs. Telling them first to say "Peace to this house!" before going into the house.



Whether we travel or stay home this summer, we have the responsibility and the joy of sharing Jesus' peace with all. Sometimes that peace is shared by those with us and sometimes not so much but Jesus encourages us to bring healing and peace, whether it is immediately appreciated or not. Jesus encouraged the Seventy he sent and Jesus encourages us to help people to understand and knows that "... the Kingdom of God has come near."

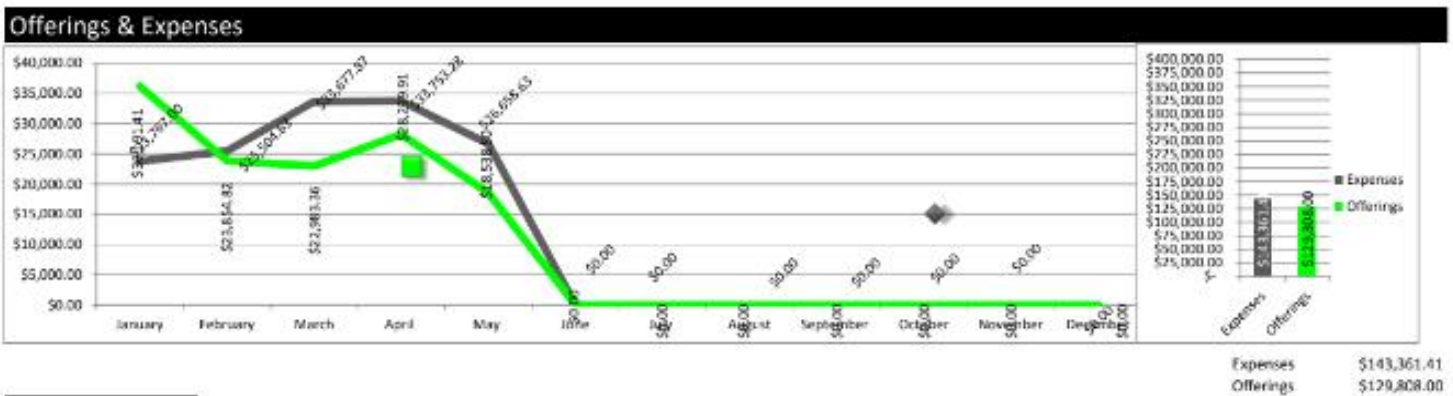
May your summer be filled with travel and receiving travelers. May you fly or drive without worry about cancelation or costs. And, most of all, may God's presence bring you and those with you comfort, peace and joy.

Glatha Rathjen, Council President



- ◆ **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 **July 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



2022 Giving Envelopes

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

Happy Fourth of July!

Also known as Independence Day is a celebration of the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on the Fourth of July in 1776.

The holiday is commonly celebrated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, and family reunions.

Although the holiday celebrates the ratification of the Declaration of Independence, the thirteen colonies were actually separated from the rule of Great Britain on July

2, when Congress approved the resolution of independence. It took a full two days of vigorous debate to agree on the wording and exact message of the Declaration of Independence. Although the holiday ended up being celebrated on July 4, John Adams was remarking on the day independence actually occurred by writing to his wife Abigail,

“The second day of July 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as a day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”

By an extraordinary coincidence, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the only two signatories of the Declaration of Independence to later serve as Presidents of the United States, both died on the same day, July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Another President of the United States, James Monroe also died on July 4 in 1831. He was the third president who was so patriotic that he died on July the Fourth.

Please celebrate the holiday safely!



Grace's Thrivent Financial group will meet not be meeting in July or August

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL THROUGH GRACE

May Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2022



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

Absent: Carla Ingersoll

Glatha called the council meeting to order at 7:05 PM (meeting in-person and online)

Opening Prayer: All

Approval of April Council Minutes:

Roger moved to approve minutes for the April 2022 Church Council Meeting. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

President's Update/Correspondence: None

Staff Reports:

Pastor Eric's Report: Submitted letter of resignation May 2, 2022; council will meet with Pastor Eric on May 12 for an exit interview, followed by a call process meeting with Pastor Megan, Assistant to the Bishop from the Nebraska Synod.

Director of Music Report: Submitted.

Financial Secretary's Report: Submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted.

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

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship – report submitted

Worship & Music – report submitted; donators of communion wine were notified

no need for wine the next few months. Readers and communion assistants are scheduled through July. Request to Memorials to purchase new lighted Ficus trees for Easter and the festival season.

Parish Ed – Collaborating with Frieden’s to hold Vacation Bible School at Grace this summer.

Congregational Life – Council will co-host Pastor Eric’s 35th Anniversary Ordination *and* his and Julene’s departing reception on June 12.

Property – report submitted; roof repairs start May 23 to be completed in two weeks. Discussed new equipment for livestreaming service.

Social Ministry – Collecting non-perishable items for the Little Free Pantry outside The Gathering Place. Serving lunch at “The Feast,” for 50-60 people, held at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church May 22.

Memorials – three redbud trees planted on northeast lawn in memory of Bob Anderson. Will meet in June to discuss request by Worship and Music for new lighted Ficus trees for the Nave.

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

Business:

Transitional Duties – Pastor Eric will leave notes on all duties; volunteers needed

Newsletter Editor – Need someone to help Sage edit monthly

Bulletin Editor – Anne will take over for now

Camera Operator – Person will need to upload service onto Facebook Live Worship page

Blogger Editor – Need person to copy and paste sermon weekly

Others – “Constant Contact”

Closing prayer: Pastor Eric

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Thorson



Procedures continue mostly unchanged at The Gathering Place. Assisting volunteers are limited to two masked individuals each day, and boxed meals are handed to guests on the porch.

The daily count has risen to approximately 100. When Regina and Steve Paschold represented Grace on June 20th, the menu included ham, turkey, and cheese sandwiches, potato chips, canned mixed fruit, and cookies.

THE LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

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

- **Cereal, boxed breakfast
- **Chicken, canned
- **Fruits, canned (pears, peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges)
- **Jam and jelly
- **Meals, canned (meatballs & spaghetti, ravioli, etc.)
- **Peanut butter
- **Pork and beans
- **Potatoes, boxed instant mashed
- **Soups, condensed (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom)
- **Tomatoes, canned

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

Instant oatmeal packets

Canned chicken and tuna

Canned vegetables (especially peas, mixed vegetables)

Canned beans (chili, kidney, pinto)

Fruit juice (large bottles or boxes/packets)

Macaroni and cheese

Noodles, dry

Pancake mix and syrup

Pasta, dry (spaghetti, macaroni, noodles, etc.)

Ramen noodles

Rice, 1 pound bags

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)



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

Elizabeth	Johnson	2-Jul
Robert	Johnson	2-Jul
Lindsey	Howard	3-Jul
Adam	Branting	4-Jul
Bob	Viox	4-Jul
Audrey	Coatney	6-Jul
Cynthia	Morales	7-Jul
Judith	Schroeder	7-Jul
Abby	Filbert	9-Jul
Jo	Miller	9-Jul
Lee	Schumacher	9-Jul
Kevin	Bard	10-Jul
Sarah	Krueger	10-Jul
MacIntyre	Madison	10-Jul
Sydney	Robinson	10-Jul
Colton	Anderson	11-Jul
Darlene	Motycka	12-Jul
Lois	Schuerman	12-Jul
Tamya	Zimmerman	12-Jul
Raymond	Delka	13-Jul
Drue	Genthe	13-Jul
Emersyn	Haumont	14-Jul
Skylar	Hoxie	14-Jul
Cheryl	Petersen	14-Jul
Matt	Peppmuller	15-Jul
Leo	Volkmer	15-Jul
Donald	Riemann	17-Jul
Christine	Disney	20-Jul
Craig	Potts	22-Jul
LilyAnn	Newman	23-Jul
Lorraine	James	24-Jul
Savannah	Smith	24-Jul
John	Lunde	25-Jul

Kathryn	Vader	25-Jul
Braden	Riemann	26-Jul
Sue	Clymer	28-Jul
Kimberly	Fritchie	28-Jul
Judy	Grabow	29-Jul
Wendy	Apple	31-Jul



Wedding Anniversaries

Richard and Sondra	Block	15-Jul
Eric and Julene	Lesher	15-Jul
Dean and Beth	Kimmerling	16-Jul
Matt and Amy	Knobbe	18-Jul
Michael and Lynette	Lewis	28-Jul



◀ July 2022 ▶

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 10:00–11:00 AM: Irene Moore Funeral
3 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship	4 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons	5 9:30–10:30 AM: Al- Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Committee Meetings	6 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy	7 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting	8	9 12:00–2:00 PM: Danish Sisterhood 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
10 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship	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 7:00–8:00 PM: Wildlife Rescue 7:00–8:30 PM: Council Meeting	13 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy	14 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting	15	16 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
17 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship	18 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 1:00–2:30 PM: WELCA Group 3	21 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting	22	23 12:00–5:00 PM: Family Event 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
24 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship	25 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	27	28 9:00 AM–12:00 PM: Quilting	29	30 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
31 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship						

Grace Staff & Council

Rev. Eric Lesher

Senior Pastor

308-708-1146

pr.eric@egrace.org

David Sage

Office Administrator

office@egrace.org

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.

Special dates

Independence Day, July 4th



Dear Grace friends,



Thank you very much for the reception honoring the 35th anniversary of my Ordination, as well as to say goodbye to Julene and I as we move to Minnesota. We thank you for the lovely gifts and flowers, the thoughtful cards, and many kind words and well wishes. Your partnership in ministry these 7 years has meant so much, and God has great plans in store for us all! We go with many happy memories of times shared with you.

In Christ,
Pastor Eric and Julene

Grace Social Ministry Committee

The Social Ministry Committee has decided to revive the produce table this summer, if there are sufficient garden surplus contributions.

A table will be provided most Sundays in Lesher Hall.

F.E.A.S.T.

Grace's Social Ministry Committee served the FEAST meal at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on May 22nd. "FEAST" is an acronym from Friends Eating And Studying Together. On Sundays, low security inmates from the Lincoln Correction Center are welcome to attend a Sunday morning worship service and a Bible Study, followed by lunch. Friends and family members may join them.

The program was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, and only recently has been resumed. A grant from Thrivent Financial helped to cover the cost of the lunch served by Grace members to approximately 30 individuals. The menu include fried chicken, potato salad, tossed lettuce salad, fruit salad, and brownies.



Grace Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held this month, July 27-July 30
6:30pm-8:00pm Wednesday through Friday, and 9am-11am on Saturday

Register now at: <https://tinyurl.com/egracevbs>

This survey is being distributed at Sunday church service June 26 and July 3. If you are not going to be at the next service, please complete this survey and return to the church office. Council is using this feedback from the congregation to work on the call process.

June 26, 2022

Your council is working hard on the process of moving toward welcoming our next pastor. To accomplish this mission, we would like our members to complete a questionnaire about their wishes and goals.

Please complete the following questions to the best of your abilities. If you have further comments or wishes, please add at the bottom of the page.

1. What is one of your highest priorities for the next ministry?

2. List the top 3 goals you want to see in the next ministry leadership for our congregation?
 - 1.

 - 2.

 - 3.

3. Moving forward, list 3 ideas you would like to see implemented for the continued development and for increased growth of our congregation.
 - 1.

 - 2.

 - 3.

4. Additional comments:

Grace Lutheran Church
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402-474-1505
office@egrace.org

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