

The Grace Greeter!

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

A Prayer for Lent

This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2. During Ash Wednesday worship services, there will be an imposition of ashes. Ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday branches are marked in the form of a cross on the foreheads of those attending worship.



Why ashes? Traditionally, they're a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19). Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The season of Lent lasts 40 days. Lent does not include Sundays because Sunday is always a celebration of Easter promise. But why 40 days?

In Scripture, this number often indicates a time of trial or testing, or simply marks a significant time in history. It rained 40 days and nights during the Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension.

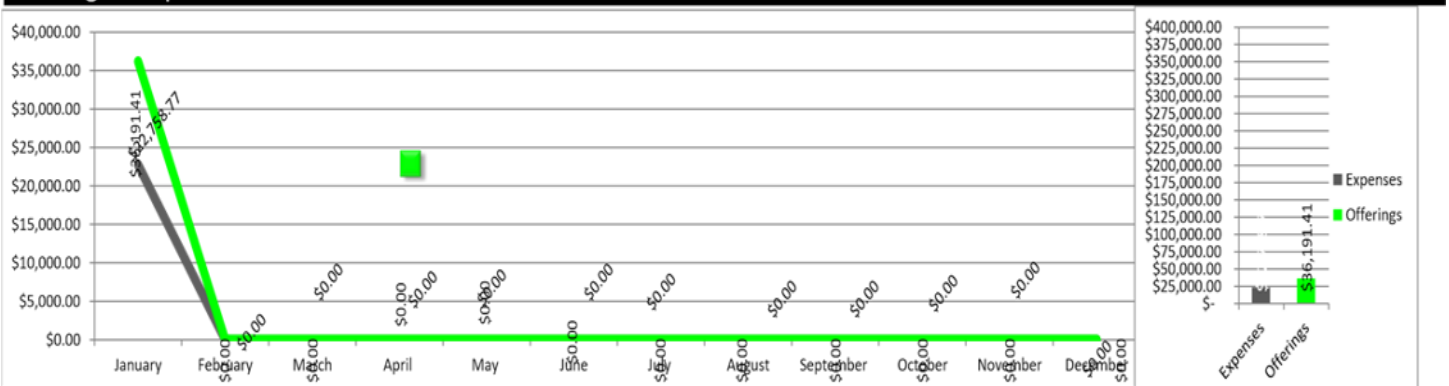
So, for Ash Wednesday and throughout the 40 days of Lent ponder this ancient Italian prayer: "O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit. Amen."



- ◆ **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 **Mach 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

Offerings & Expenses



Expenses	\$22,758.77
Offerings	\$36,191.41

2022 Giving Envelopes

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



Thrivent News

Given the fact that there is currently no specific business to transact, Grace’s Thrivent Financial group will not meet in March. Assuming continued diminishment of COVID-19 infections, there will be a meeting on April 3.

Thrivent Financial members should be sure to direct any 2021 Choice Dollars which they have yet to allocate..

St. Patrick’s Card Outreach Event

We will be writing St. Patrick's Day cards to residents at Sumner Place Retirement Community. Packets of cards will be available after worship on March 6. You are asked to complete the cards in the packet and return them by March 13.



On **Ash Wednesday** we are marked with ashes—a sign of our death and of sins—but the ashes trace a cross on our forehead, where the baptismal water first marked us with God’s grace.

There will be one worship service at 12:15 pm in the chapel and another worship service at 5:30 pm in the nave. The late service will also be online.

March 9
Job 1:1-22
Temptation in Despair

March 30
2 Kings 4:1-7
A Future Given not Earned

March 16
2 Chronicles 20:1-22
Prayer in Fear

April 5
Habakkuk 3:2-15
Marked for Salvation

March 23
Numbers 13:1-2, 25, 27-28, 36-40
Promise in Uncertainty

12:15 pm in the chapel
5:30 pm in the nave



MAKING CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL THROUGH GRACE

January Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 11, 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,

Neil Larson called the council meeting to order at 7:00 PM (meeting in-person and online)

Opening Prayer: Neil

Approval of December Meeting Minutes:

Doug moved to approve minutes for the December 2021 Church Council Meeting. Carla seconded. Motion passed.

President's Update/Correspondence: N/A

Staff Reports:

Pastor Eric's Report: submitted annual report

Director of Music Report: submitted annual report

Financial Secretary's Report: submitted annual report

Treasurer's Report: submitted annual report

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

Committee Reports:

Finance/Stewardship – reports submitted

Worship & Music – report submitted; virtual meeting. Assigned communion assistants through the end of April, added new volunteers. Donors of wine notified they can skip their turn or limit to one bottle due to ample supply. Prefer earlier Christmas Eve service next year at 6:00 PM. No fellowship coffee hour in January due to Covid outbreak; continue masks.

Parish Ed – did not meet

Congregational Life – did not meet; Coffee and Fellowship hour and several activities planned for February on hold; council will review at next meeting. Looking for more members to serve on this committee.

Property – report submitted; email correspondence. Received insurance checks to cover new roof.

Social Ministry – report submitted; met via phone / virtually. Considering providing food do-

nations to stock Little Free Pantry outside The Gathering Place. 30 Prescott families picked up their food baskets on Dec. 21.

Memorials – did not meet; \$8,000 available in fund; security cameras and two Christmas trees were purchased this year; \$1700 reserved for landscaping from Bob Anderson’s memorial. Considering refinishing chalices.

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

Business:

Reassign Council Officers – Glatha, President; Neil, Vice President; Carla, Secretary. Committee assignments are as follows: Finance/Stewardship, Neil; Worship & Music, Connie; Parish Ed, Amy; Congregational Life, Cindy; Property, Roger; Social Ministry, Carla; Memorials, Doug.

Roger motioned to accept reassignments for officers and committee representatives. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

Red Zone Restrictions – anticipated through January 31. Suspend coffee hour, require masks in building. Keep Congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 30, 2022 to be held in gym. Brief meeting on annual reports, nothing to vote on. Hybrid meeting via Zoom and in-person. Organizations using our building will need to clean-up; masks required until council re-visits at next meeting on February 8, 2022. Goal is to resume Fellowship on February 13 for the Valentine’s Day activity planned by Congregational Life.

Closing Prayer: Doug

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Thorson, Secretary

Risk of Love

In *Wholehearted Faith*, Rachel Held Evans writes: “I am a Christian not because of anything I’ve done but because a teenage girl living in occupied Palestine at one of the most dangerous moments in history said yes — yes to God, yes to a wholehearted call she could not possibly understand ... yes to a vision for herself and her little boy of a mission that would bring down rulers and lift up the humble, that would turn away the rich and fill the hungry with good things, that would scatter the proud and gather the lowly, yes to a life that came with no guarantee of her safety or her son’s. ... And through Mary’s example, God invites us to take the risk of love.”



The Gathering Place

At The Gathering Place, the exclusion of volunteers from helping to serve meals will continue until the beginning of March, so there is no report of representatives from Grace assisting in February.

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)
- **Canned tuna
- **Fruit juice (large bottles or boxes/packets)
- **Pancake mix and syrup
- **Peanut butter
- **Ramen noodles
- **Saltine crackers

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

Instant oatmeal packets

Canned chicken

Canned vegetables (especially peas, mixed vegetables)

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

Canned beans (chili, kidney, pinto)

Canned tomatoes

Canned meals (meatballs & spaghetti, ravioli, etc.)

Jelly

Noodles, dry

Pork and beans

Macaroni and cheese

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

Richard	Higbea	March 1
Janice	Branting	March 5
Lisa	Holmstrom	March 5
Arlene	Reighard	March 6
Brittany	Johnson	March 7
Nora	Knobbe	March 7
Janice	Walker	March 9
Richard	Block	March 11
Carol	Jensen	March 13
Jordan	Murphy	March 13
Alex	Thorson	March 13
Kevin	Fritchie	March 14
Elli	Petersen	March 16
Vernon	Hunzeker	March 19
Shannon	Mills	March 19
Daryla	Isaacs	March 20
Kevin	Dumler	March 21
Jazmyn	Zimmerman	March 21
Sadie	Klein	March 22
Michael	Plambeck	March 22
Dennis	Berens	March 24
Betsy	Johnson	March 24
Sandie	Anderson	March 30

Wedding Anniversaries

Ronald and Carolyn Ossian	Mar 1, 1953
Steve and Teddi Reckling	Mar 20, 1973



“The Serenity Prayer” attributed to theologian Reinhold Niebuhr:

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference, living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; taking this world as it is and not as I would have it; trusting that you will make all things right if I surrender to your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.”

◀ March 2022 ▶

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 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	2 9:15–10:45 AM: Lincoln Literacy 12:15–12:45 PM: Ash Wednesday Worship 5:30–6:15 PM: Ash Wednesday Worship 6:20–7:20 PM: Bell Choir A Practice 7:20–8:20 PM: Bell Choir B Practice	3	4	5 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
6 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir 11:30 AM–12:30 PM: Recital 3:00–5:00 PM: LLC Practice	7 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 4:30–6:45 PM: Wildlife Rescue Orientation Meeting 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	8 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	9 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	10	11	12 1:00–2:00 PM: Danish Sisterhood 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
13 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir 3:00–5:00 PM: LLC Practice	14 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	15 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	16 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	17	18 4:00–9:00 PM: BNRR	19 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
20 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir 3:00–5:00 PM: LLC Practice	21 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	22 9:30–10:30 AM: Al-Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts	23 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	24 6:30–7:30 PM: Wildlife Board Meeting	25 3:00–6:00 PM: Suzuki	26 5:30–6:15 PM: Worship
27 9:00–10:00 AM: Worship 10:15–11:15 AM: Adult Choir 3:00–5:00 PM: LLC Practice	28 9:15–11:15 AM: Lincoln Literacy 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 7:00–8:00 PM: Scouts BSA	29 9:30–10:30 AM: Al-Anon meeting 4:00–6:00 PM: Lessons 6:30–7:30 PM: Cub Scouts	30 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	31		

Grace Staff & Council

Rev. Eric Leshar

Senior Pastor

308-708-1146

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David Sage

Parish Administrator

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Anne Melang-Thoren

Director of Music

anne@egrace.org

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

Current monthly council minutes and reports are available on the Welcome Table.

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



Special dates in March

- Ash Wednesday, *March 2, 2022*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 4, 2022*
- **Daylight saving time begins, *March 13, 2022***
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2022*

Puzzle!

Complete the Scripture verses (NIV, unless marked)
using letters found in the words



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



See! The winter is _ _ _ _ ; the rains are over
and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season
of singing has come. (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

“Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no
part of it _ _ _ _ , it will be just as full of light as
when a lamp shines its light on you.” (Luke 11:36)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your
fingers, the moon and the _ _ _ _ , which
you have set in place, what is mankind that you
are mindful of them ... ? (Psalm 8:3-4)

We all, like sheep, have gone _ _ _ _ _ ,
each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD
has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but
you are fellow citizens with the _ _ _ _ _
and members of the household of God.
(Ephesians 2:19, ESV)

Answer: past, dark, stars, astray, saints



More than Enough Space

The process of letting go of something that once added value to our lives can be uncomfortable, even painful. In letting go of old patterns that no longer serve us, we make space for new, healthier ones. The Lenten season is an excellent time for re-centering, reevaluating, and recommitting to letting go of whatever it is that holds us back from living a fuller life. We all deserve to make space for ourselves.

It takes intentionality and discipline to commit to making space for all the delightful and messy parts that come with our fullness. We can make more than enough room for it by engaging in rituals— rituals that anchor us in a special time and place, which disrupt thought patterns, reframe perspectives, and ultimately transform the ways we relate to ourselves. Sometimes our own anxiety can develop unhealthy patterns of thought and emotions that can entrap us rather than liberating us

Lent invites us to employ all of our senses and bodies in a way that is even different from each Sunday's set of holy practices and meditations. The very act of engaging in ritual, religious or secular, creates sacred space for subtle mental transformations. Though sometimes difficult to commit to, ritual importantly disrupts daily life, allowing for new connections with ourselves, the light, and the enough-ness, that's within us already. In making space for ritual, we craft a sacred space for ourselves, allowing room for our whole human experience to exist in, to take up space.

To make space for our complete fullness, anxious thoughts and all, we need to commit to small, attainable rituals. Even when it feels like there is no room or time, ritual creates the room and time to confront, process, and make space for healing.

Question

What might you need to let go of in order to make space for your fullness— whether it be your spirituality to blossom or space to simply exist in?

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

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