

Tower
Echoes
2020



From the Pastor,

The Day of Thanksgiving is a national holiday. It is not a church festival day. Christians thank God every Sunday for forgiveness and the other blessings we have received from God. The communion portion of the liturgy is called "The Great Thanksgiving." Another name for Holy Communion is Eucharist (Thanksgiving).

Lutherans Celebrate Thanksgiving with a worship service on Thanksgiving Eve or the day of Thanksgiving. We do not need to do so the day of Thanksgiving. We don't need to do so but it does not feel right doing so. I believe that this year more than ever that Christians need to worship during a Thanksgiving worship either in-person or on-line to give hope to our nation. Many are falling into despair because they do not feel that they have received any type of blessing. This isolation COVID-19 has caused is harming people's spirit. Something needs to be done to help people count their blessings like they would in a "normal" year.

Health experts are highly suggesting we curtail the normal Thanksgiving gatherings. This means isolation during a holiday that gathers families out of isolation. This could lead to more despair. Despair can lead to depression and even suicide. Despair can lead to the attitude of "Oh, just forget it, I am tired of being cautious."

Our Pluralistic nation can no longer say let us thank God. The phrase is now count your blessings and give thanks. Life has become extremely hard and very scary for many people. Hope simply in a cure or vaccine can fade every time a vaccine test study test is postponed or cancelled. Hope simply in the human spirit can fade as people show their sinful sides. The Church has a hope that does not fade. Our hope is in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Gathering in some way to worship helps us to proclaim Jesus and spread a hope that does not fade.

Paul advises to give thanks in all circumstances. Here is our opportunity to do so this year as a people of Hope.

Have a Joyful Thanksgiving despite it being a quiet Thanksgiving.

Pastor Jim

We give thanks for the lives and memories of our Saints who began their new journey with Christ in 2020.

***Rosalyn Grundman, Galen Grotrian,
Troy Bailey & David Eisenhauer***

We also give thanks for all the memorial funds that have been given to us so generously over the years. Below are the items that have been purchased in 2020 by memorial funds.

The Southeast Door Closure, Small Sunday School tables in the basement, Entryway Mats, Garage, & 6' Ladder

First Communion

COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the Maundy Thursday Worship and thus postponed first communion classes. Grace students will finally receive their first communion during the worship on November 1, All Saints' Sunday.

Since I have a Hope student in confirmation who has not received first communion, I decided to involve Hope students. I made this decision because I do not know if there will be a Maundy Thursday Worship at Hope in 2021. Who knows besides God what 2021 will bring? Let us just welcome our fourth, fifth, and sixth graders into participation in the glorious sacrament after having received communion classes.

Grace students: Prestin Thomas Kenna Thomas Sharley Thompson

Hope students: Trey Lubben Kael Fricke Jacob Rumery



Thanksgiving *Eve Service*

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service, is
Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m.
at Osage UCC Church.**

Grace Lutheran, Hope Lutheran and UCC Osage
congregations will worship and give thanks
together. Pastor Helgren will give the
Thanksgiving message.

Masks are highly encouraged. There will be
music, but no singing. Communion will be in
the pew.

Church Seasons: The church season of Time After Pentecost ends November 28. November contains two festival days on Sunday, so there are only 2 more Sundays when the paraments are green.

Church Festival Days:

- Nov 1 - All Saints Sunday
- Nov 10 - Martin Luther (birth)
 Doctor & Confessor
- Nov 22 - Christ the King Sunday
- Nov 30 - St. Andrew, Apostle

U S Holidays: Nov 1 - Daylight Savings Time

- Nov 3 - Election Day
- Nov 11 - Veteran's Day
- Nov 13 - World Kindness Day
- Nov 26 - Thanksgiving Day

Shoe Boxes

Many local churches participate in the Good Samaritan Shoe Box project. It costs \$9 per box to ship. Grace Lutheran will participate by collecting money on October 25th as part of our Noisy Coin Offering. Cash, coins or checks made out to Grace Lutheran Church will be accepted. Those giving coins may drop them into the bucket and make a Joyful Noise.

FYI—we collected \$101.39 on October 25th to help mail the boxes.

November Birthdays

- 1st – Joan Staack
3rd – Laura Purcell
Brittany (Siepelmeier)
Eggerling
5th – Cooper Kuhl
6th – Dennis Eden
Dean Wellensiek
7th – Elijah Dorn
9th – Cheryl Grundman
Brennan Garday
11th – Shelley Moles
14th – Judy Schmidt
15th – Bret Wellensiek
17th – Larry Grundman
21st – Dawn Thompson
Lily Bilslend
22nd – Brian Mannschreck
23rd – Blaine Siepelmeier
26th – Gene Ekhoﬀ
Keith Weber
Tonia Mannschreck
27th – Janice Rader



Our Heartfelt thoughts and prayers to
the family and friends of

David J. Eisenhower

March 19, 1945—October 2, 2020

David's funeral service was held at
the Helena Cemetery on October 9th.

Dear Members of our Grace Lutheran Church Family,

David Eisenhower's family would like to thank you for all the cards, notes, phone calls, and words of encouragement that David and I received during his battle with cancer. Thank you also for the many expressions of sympathy since his passing, food, flowers, memorials, kind words and just letting us know that you cared. I feel that your prayers were answered in that David did not have to suffer the pain generally associated with his type of bone cancer. Again thank you for reaching out and supporting us.

Eleta and family

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 11/8– Eugene & Donna Rosenthal
11/9– Steve & Shari Siepelmeier
11/13– Brad & April Medina

Thank Offering

The Thank
Offering
service for
Grace and
Hope Women
of the ELCA



will be held on November 22nd
during the morning worship services.



Jambo (Swahili for "hello") wonderful Tanzania Student Sponsors!

Happy fall dear Tanzanian Student Sponsors!

It is a lovely fall day which is a seasonal reminder that it is time to renew your Tanzanian student sponsorship.

We are so thankful for your continued faithfulness in supporting a child who might not otherwise have an opportunity for education. You are a difference maker!

You will enjoy seeing the short videos and photos shared during the Sunday services. Also please seek us on Facebook under "Sheridan Lutheran Scholarship Project"

Fall is harvest time and we are bringing the abundance from our church family to share with these young people.

Blessings!

Rose Bouvier & Judy Sorensen
Tanzania Scholarship Facilitators

THE PROJECT



Grace Lutheran again this year is sponsoring—The **Tanzania Orphan Scholarship Project**. This project sponsors orphans so they can attend a Christian high school. Primary schools in Tanzania are free but secondary schools have fees. Our scholarship students attend one of eleven Lutheran High Schools in northern Tanzania, East Africa. The scholarship for one year of tuition, boarding, uniforms, and school supplies is \$450. In the past thirteen years of this project we have witnessed God working through his people. ***We have made a difference!***

There are many orphans in Tanzania who have no parents due to motor accidents, malaria, or other illness. This is leaving many orphans who go to live with extended families. These families do not have the money to pay the orphan's secondary school fees. Without a scholarship, some of these orphans will have to leave school at a young age and fend for themselves. These students are very thankful for the opportunity that the project provides.

In the past 3-4 years Grace has received donations to sponsor 3 orphans. Your contribution is tax deductible. 100% of your donation goes to your orphan's education! ***Donations towards this project should be designated on your offering envelope and then one check will be sent to Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln. These donations must be in NO LATER than November 29th.***

We will receive the name of your orphan, a picture, and a letter from your orphan. Sheridan Lutheran has members who travel to Tanzania and visit the schools. We are encouraged to write letters to the orphan(s) that we are sponsoring. They collect letters from sponsors in January and September and deliver those letters directly to the schools via Sheridan Lutheran missionaries.

NOVEMBER 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion | 2 | 3 | 4 Confirmation 6:00 p.m. | 5 ELCW Yearbook Planning Meeting 7:00 pm | 6 | 7 |
| All Saints Sunday/1st Communion | | | | | | |
| 8 8:30 am Worship | 9 Bible Study 1:30 p.m. | 10 | 11  | 12 | 13 World Kindness Day | 14 |
| | | | Confirmation 6:00 p.m. | | | |
| 15 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion | 16 | 17 Piecemakers Blanket Making Church Council 7:00 pm | 18 Confirmation 6:00 p.m. | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 8:30 am Worship ELCW Thank offering Sunday | 23 | 24 | 25 Thanksgiving Eve Worship @ Osage UCC 7:00 pm | 26  | 27 | 28 |
| 29 First Sunday in Advent 8:30 am Worship | 30 |  | | | | |

Grace Lutheran Church Council

20 October 2020

Grace Lutheran Church Council met 20 October 2020. The meeting was called to order by Paul Wilken. Pastor Jim Helgren started the meeting with a prayer. Council members present were: Paul Wilken, Amber Beard, Richard Roesener, Robin Eggleston, Mitchell Brinkman and Gene Ekhoﬀ. Also in attendance were Pastor Jim Helgren and Diane Wilken.

Robin Eggleston made a motion to accept the minutes of the 15 September 2020 meeting. Richard Roesener seconded. Motion carried.

The financial report was reviewed. The account balances as of September 30, 2020 are:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Current: \$ (-1,334.69) | Memorial: \$ 12,549.05 |
| Improvement: \$3,666.11 | Luther League: \$5,093.87 |
| PPP Loan: \$9,637.96 | |

Richard Roesener made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Gene Ekhoﬀ seconded. Motion carried

Pastor Helgren's Monthly Report:

First Communion classes completed. 3 children from Hope and 3 children from Grace are ready to receive First Communion on All Saint's Sunday November First. Pastor is attending physical therapy twice a week to adjust muscular concerns. Mission Festival went well, raising \$1,250 for Project Response. Samaritan Shoe Boxes costs \$9 per box to ship the materials so we will be using the Noisy Coin offering on Reformation Sunday, October 25th and through the month of November to cover some of the cost to mail. Tecumseh Ministerial will be offering \$25 gift card from Tecumseh Central Market this year in lieu of the Thanksgiving Food Bags collected in the past and we will be accepting donations for the Thanksgiving Gift Cards. We have raised money for 3 orphans in the past years and will be collecting in November for the Tanzanian Orphans again. Pastor is part of the Syracuse ministry and meetings and they are asking organizations and churches to have a flatbed decorated for the holiday. Please contact Pastor to sign up to decorate a flatbed. Sunday, October 25, Pastor is leaving for Camp Carol Joy Holling to partake in the Re.Formation Conference. The annual Trunk or Treat is cancelled for the year. Creamed Chicken Dinner is cancelled also. Christmas plans are underway, and we will be looking at different options to minimize contact and maximize social distancing. Options discussed are having solos, requesting RSVPs, and playing music. Thanksgiving Eve Service will be offered at Osage, and masks are highly requested. October 9th was the funeral for David Eisenhower that was held at Helena Cemetery. It was a nice turn out to show the family love and give them prayers.

Correspondence – A big Thank You to Cory Panko for making the payment for tree removal.

Committee Reports:

Property committee: Council – Gene Ekhoﬀ:

- Concerns about the yard were addressed.
- The sidewalk at the parsonage will be worked on in the spring.
- Trees are taking to their new locations well.
- Concerns about the potential settling of the new garage were brought up. The door is difficult to open and secure.
- Parking curbs were moved to the south side of the church lot to assist with keeping the rock in location.

Church Council - continued

Worship, Evangelism, Music & Fellowship: Council – Richard Roesener:

- Still waiting on more information on upgrades for computer, amplifier, and music for the Carillon.
- Services – no lunches will be provided for funerals; social distancing will be requested as well as masks.

Parish Ed & Young People: Council – Amber Beard:

- Grab and Go Sunday School material is successful, and we are sharing those with Hope.

Stewardship & Memorial: Council – Robin Eggleston:

- Nothing to Report

New Business

- Giving - Pastor created a letter offering some insight as to the low financial status in the General Fund. The loan has not been forgiven, but an interest deferment period was offered.
- Pastor's Insurance - PORTICO Benefit Services sent the 2021 Cost Comparison for all currently sponsored plan members. ELCA recommends the Gold+ package. Robin Eggleston makes the motion to accept the Gold+ package. Mitchell Brinkman second. Motion passed.
- Meeting with Hope to negotiate Hope's portion of the budget will be held via phone call due to fear of COVID spread.

Next Meeting will be 17th November 2020 at 7PM.

Meeting was adjourned by Paul Wilken and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Amber L. Beard

Thanksgiving Gifts

The Tecumseh Ministries will once again, in association with SENCA sponsor the Thanksgiving Gifts in November, but of course it will be a little different this year. The sponsoring churches are asked to donate toward Gift Cards that will be purchased and then redeemed at Tecumseh Central Market in Tecumseh for food items. Each church is asked to donate at least \$250 that will take the place of the Thanksgiving bags that we normally fill. We will collect for the gift cards the first 3 weeks in November, so the gift cards can be distributed before Thanksgiving.

Please place your donation cash, coin, check with the memo Thanksgiving Gifts in the Noisy Coin bucket or designate on your offering envelope.

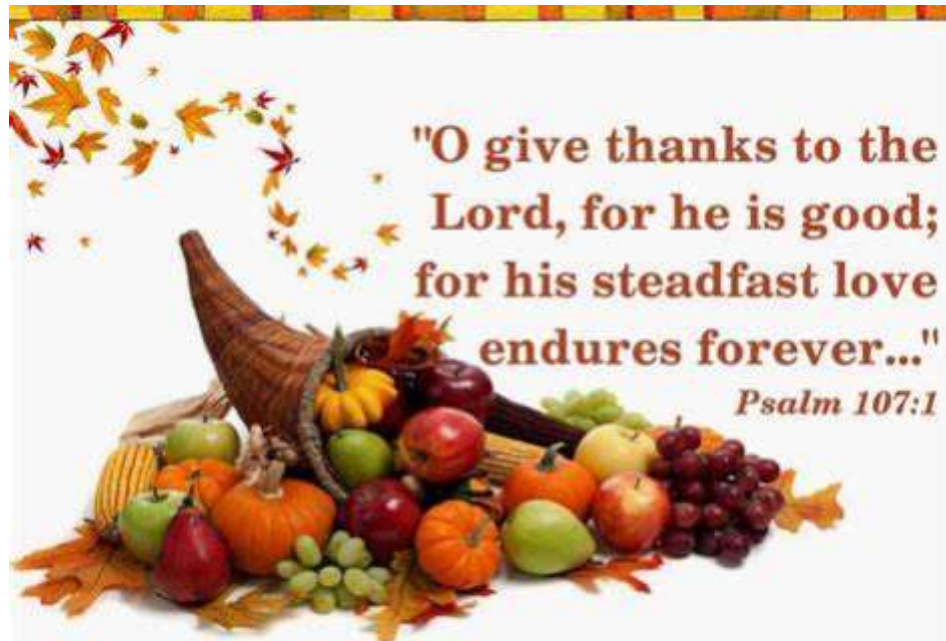
SAVE THE DATE

December 12, 2020

The Women of Grace Lutheran Church are planning a modified Santa Visit. Due to COVID-19 we will not be able to have our Cook Community Christmas at the Cook Community Center.

More details to follow
SAVE THE DATE!





HAPPY
Thanksgiving

Grace Lutheran Church

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