



## Tower Echoes 2021

### From the Pastor,

It is 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. I feel human again. I shaved for the first time since last Tuesday. My energy level feels normal but I know that can change at any minute. Fatigue has plagued Kathy and me for a week. I look forward to getting back to “normal.”

We want to thank the congregations for their support, understanding and encouragement. Thank you to those who provided meals and groceries during our quarantine. We appreciated the texts and phone calls checking on us to ensure that we were still alive.

We are very fortunate to be living in Cook and being part of Grace and Hope Lutheran Churches. I came to serve two churches that were already loving and faithful servants of God. My call was to encourage you to be who you already were and join you in ministry in the congregations and communities. I hope I have been achieving this.

February 17 is Ash Wednesday. Lent is the season of self-examination. How am I following Christ to the Father? How are any parts of my life interfering with my relationship with God? What must I change? What is working and do I need to continue doing it? Is there any activities I can participate in during the forty days of Lent that would help me appreciate more the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and the Resurrection on Easter Sunday?

Lent is the opportunity to change and for change. Creating a new habit or destroying an old habit takes at least forty days. We usually give ourselves a month and wonder why we failed. The Holy Spirit had reasons for guiding us into the church season of Lent to be at least forty days. Let us take advantage of the liturgical calendar and take time to change for God.

Pastor Jim

**Church Seasons:** The Church Season of Epiphany continues through February 16. We seek to find God’s light shining in our world, no matter how dark that world may seem. The Church Season of Lent begins February 17th with Ash Wednesday. Lent is the time to reflect on our sinfulness and the need to be reconciled to God. Holy Week leads us to understand that only God’s actions through Jesus can reconcile us to God. We can not do it on our own.

#### Church Festival Days:

February 2—Presentation of Our Lord  
February 14 -Transfiguration of Our Lord  
February 17—Ash Wednesday  
February 18 - Martin Luther, re-newer of the church  
died 1546

#### U.S. Holidays

February 2—Groundhog Day  
February 7 - Super Bowl Sunday  
February 14—Valentine’s Day  
February 15—President’s Day

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 17th. This day begins Lent. Historically ashes were put on the forehead in the sign of the cross was beginning one's penitent journey towards the cross on Good Friday. This year the service will be held at Grace Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. The service includes the imposition of ashes and holy communion.



**Ash Wednesday**  
— Lent Begins



## LENT & HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 17, Ash Wednesday Worship at Grace Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m.

February 24, Midweek Lenten Service at Hope Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m.

March 3, Midweek Lenten Service at Grace Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m.

March 10, Midweek Lenten Service at Hope Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m.

March 17, Midweek Lenten Service at Grace Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m.

March 24, Midweek Lenten Service at Hope Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m.

March 28, Palm Sunday - Worship at Grace Lutheran Church - 8:30 a.m.  
Worship at Hope Lutheran Church - 10:00 a.m.

April 1, Maundy Thursday Worship at Hope Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m.

April 2, Good Friday Worship at Grace Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m.

April 4, Easter - Easter Sunrise Worship Service at Grace Lutheran Church - 6:30 a.m.  
Easter Sunday Worship at Grace Lutheran Church - 8:30 a.m.  
Easter Sunday Worship at Hope Lutheran Church - 10:00 a.m.

### ***Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®***

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2021 to direct any remaining 2020 Choice Dollars. Help support an organization of your choice. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

The Sunday bulletin is available to anyone who would like it emailed, so you have it while watching at home. It is usually done on Friday and can be sent to you on completion.

Please email the church @ [grace68329@gmail.com](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com) or call the church @ 402-864-4201 & leave your email address or address if you would like it mailed.

## Church Women United World Day of Prayer

March 5th at  
UCC Osage, Rural  
Cook



### PIECEMAKERS

The Piecemakers meet every Tuesday during the months of January, February and March - all day. And you are welcome to join them if you feel safe doing so. Since there are no activities going on at church at this time, you are welcome to come at any time you wish to tie blankets. There are usually 3-4 blankets in frames ready to tie, and Rich and Joyce come to check if they need to roll the blankets or put one in the frame. Please come and join in the fellowship of making some beautiful warm blankets for those in need.

At the 2021 Annual Meeting Paul Wilken asked about the total quilts made by the Piecemakers. That got me to thinking about the project. So I looked back on the records that we have. The records that we have date back to 1990, with 1992 numbers missing. The banner year for Piecemakers was 2010 having completed 614 blankets. 2000 had the least blankets, 200 made that year. The average number is 370 over these years. There were 8 years in the 400's, 11 years with 200's, 6 years in 300's and 4 years (including 2020) with totals in the 500's. We only had one year—2010 with an amount over 600. That makes a total of 11,112 blankets that we have recorded being made.

In the nineties there were approximately 29 ladies attending the blanket making days to help. Back in those days the quilt tops and backs were sewn together at church. Now we just tie the blankets with the tops and backs put together at someone's home. On a good day the last few years we have had 10—12 ladies help tie the blankets.

Joyce Roesener

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1st—Mikaela Thomas

3rd—Prestin Thomas

5th—Eliot Bohling

6th—Bill Cropp

13th—Rachelle Grof

16th—Louis Bentzinger

18th—Charla Eggleston

20th—Devon Roesener

23rd—David Armknecht

27th—Ethan Bohling

29th—Diane Roesener

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Louis  
Bentzinger

Louis Bentzinger is celebrating his  
**90<sup>th</sup>** birthday on  
February 16<sup>th</sup>.

His family would like to honor  
him with a card shower.

Birthday wishes may be sent to  
62054 73750 Road,  
Cook, NE 68329.



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

**14TH**

Bill & Carolyn Cropp

Bruce & Carol Armknecht

**26th**

Les & Kris Gerking



Our sincere thoughts and prayers go out to  
the family and friends of ***Eldon Dieckgrafe***  
who passed away on January 4, 2021.  
Funeral services were held at Grace  
Lutheran Church on January 7th.



**Reverend Robert J. Schaff** passed away  
on January 3, 2021. Reverend Schaff  
was the pastor of Grace Lutheran  
Church from 1957 to 1961. Our  
thoughts & prayers to his family.

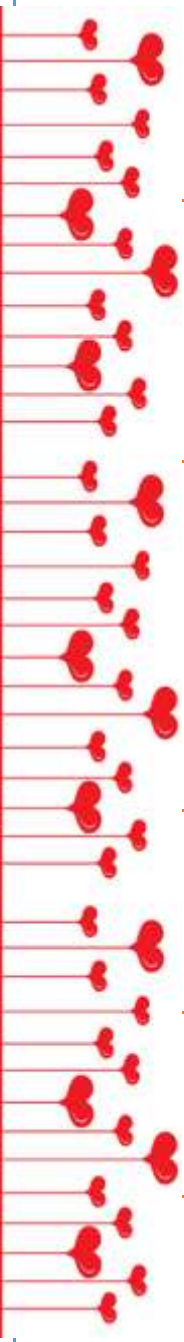


# February 2021



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5	6
			Piecemakers Blanket Making	8th Grade Confirmation 6:00 p.m.			
7		8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>8:30 am Worship w/ Communion</b>		Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	Piecemakers Blanket Making	8th Grade Confirmation 6:00 p.m.			
14		15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>8:30 am Worship</b>			Piecemakers Blanket Making Church Council 7:00 p.m.	8th Grade Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship at <b>Grace Lutheran</b> 7:00 p.m.			
21		22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>8:30 am Worship w/ Communion</b>		Tower Echoes Deadline	Piecemakers Blanket Making	Midweek Lenten Worship at Hope Lutheran 7:00 p.m.			
28							
<b>8:30 am Worship</b>							

Happy Valentines Day



## **Grace Lutheran Church Council**

### **12 January 2021**

Grace Lutheran Church Council met 12 January 2021. 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, church secretary/treasurer.

Richard Roesener made a motion to accept the minutes of the 15 December 2020 meeting. Gene Ekhoﬀ seconded. Motion carried.

The financial report was reviewed. Robin Eggleston made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Richard Roesener seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Pastor Helgren's Monthly Report:**

Confirmation will have two students ready for confirmation this spring—date TBD. January 7<sup>th</sup>, Pastor had a funeral. He also assisted two families with bills. Ash Wednesday is the February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Correspondence – Grace Bentzinger sent a thank you to the congregation & council for the recognition of her years of dedication to our church.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Property committee: Council – Gene Ekhoﬀ:

Water fountain will still need to be removed & wall repainted.

Grace Lutheran Pastor's Plaque is a work in progress—to be finished when we receive warmer weather.

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

The sound system was worked on to ensure that the residual noise is minimized.

Parish Ed & Young People: Council – Amber Beard:

Nick & Lisa Weber have agreed to assist with the program next year – they are a welcomed duo for their creativity, positivity, and dedication to the Christian youth. Melissa Wellensiek is also willing to help when available.

Stewardship & Memorial: Council – Robin Eggleston:

Nothing to report

#### **Other Business:**

##### **Old Business**

Services and Funerals - The current COVID standards are still in practice.

Annual Meeting - The Grace Lutheran Annual Meeting be held following worship on January 17<sup>th</sup>, with a joint service with Hope at 10:00 a.m. The church council members will contact congregational members to remind them of the meeting and time change.

##### **New Business**

Newsletters - It was determined by the council that we will minimize the social presence of the church's minutes and reports

Next Meeting will be 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7PM

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

Respectfully submitted, Amber L. Beard



BE STRONG  
AND OF A GOOD  
COURAGE;  
BE NOT AFRAID,  
NEITHER BE THOU  
DISMAYED:  
FOR THE LORD  
THY GOD SHALL  
LEAD THEE  
WITHersoever  
THOU GOEST. JOSHUA 1:9

## Grace Lutheran Church

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