

TOWER  
ECHOES  
2021



### **From the Pastor,**

February 17 was Ash Wednesday. The eighth grade confirmation class met from 6:00—6:30 p.m. The week before I had highly suggested the youth staying for Ash Wednesday worship, but did not require their attendance. All three students stayed for the worship service.

After class I went about getting ready for worship. I came downstairs at one point and the three students were hanging out. Two were talking to each other and one was on his phone not participating in their conversation.

The Grace Lutheran female student looked at me with sass in her eyes and said something like they were talking and we didn't need a pastor tonight because the two of them could lead worship. I am not sure what reaction they expecting from me, but they were surprised by my reaction. I remarked that it was great that they thought so and I was looking for volunteers to train to lead worship (see "Worship Leader").

The third youth immediately looked up from his phone and said I am not part of this. He then explained how challenging it was for him to read a speech in front of people. The Holy Spirit gives all of us different gifts. Public speaking was not his gift, but he did light the candles before church began utilizing an ability the Holy Spirit did gift him.

I hope my Grace Lutheran and Hope Lutheran Church students will strongly consider "replacing me". Let us use Lent, 2021 to do the disciplines of Lent, but also focus on discovery or rediscovering the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit and finding ways to use them.

Pastor Jim

### Worship Leader

One thing I learned from my experience with Covid-19 is that neither congregation is prepared for worship on a Sunday that I may not be able to attend at the last minute.

To resolve this issue I would like to train at least one member of each church to be able to lead worship. Preaching is optional, but I am hoping to find members willing to be available to lead the congregation through a Lutheran Book of Worship or With One Voice liturgy. Please contact me if you are willing to at least consider it. I will help train anyone who is open to at least see if the Holy Spirit has given them worship leader gifts. Some qualities needed are a respect for worship and the liturgy, the ability to speak in front of others, and love of God and the congregation.

### Synod Ambassadors

The Nebraska Synod is attempting to address the more than 1,000 open calls for full-time pastors in the ELCA.

One way is to seek Synod Ambassadors in each congregation. One role of an Ambassador is for connecting people in the congregation to what's going on in the larger church about trainings and events that the Synod and ELCA offers. Another role is inviting people in the congregation to discern their vocation - or God's call - in their lives.

Congregations may have a connector and an inviter, or one person could do both functions. Synod will provide training for Synod Ambassadors. Please see Pastor for more information.

**Church Seasons:** We will be in the Church Season of Lent through the entire month of March. The Sunday texts will focus on Jesus' ministry and journey to Jerusalem to carry out the purpose for which he came from heaven to do. We have the opportunity to focus on our relationship with God and our need to follow Jesus to the cross, the grave, and His resurrection.

Church Festival Days:

- March 19 - St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus
- March 25 - The Annunciation of Our Lord
- March 28 - Palm Sunday, Sunday of the Passion
- March 29 - Monday in Holy Week
- March 30 - Tuesday in Holy Week
- March 31 - Wednesday in Holy Week

U.S. Holidays:

- March 14 - Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 - Spring Begins

Jewish Festivals: March 27 - Passover Begins



## *March Birthdays*

1<sup>st</sup> – Terry Panko  
Malia Ullrich Walters

2<sup>nd</sup> – Megan Mabbitt

3<sup>rd</sup> – Derrie Medina

4<sup>th</sup> – Kristy Ebeler  
Darlene Peters  
Briley Tams

7<sup>th</sup> – Brenda Ullrich

8<sup>th</sup> – Colleen Naber

11<sup>th</sup> – Karen Cerny

12<sup>th</sup> – Tim Weber  
Everett Bohling

13<sup>th</sup> – Doug Armknecht

14<sup>th</sup> – Todd Dorn

15<sup>th</sup> – Bradie Medina  
Shyanne Thompson

16<sup>th</sup> – Jay Ullrich

22<sup>nd</sup> – Annika McDonald  
Cecelia Thompson

24<sup>th</sup> – Arlin Brinkman

27<sup>th</sup> – Mike Wiebke

28<sup>th</sup> – Diane Wilken

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March Anniversaries

March 2nd

Rodney & Diane  
Roesener

March 15th

Robert & Judy  
Schmidt



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Church Women United  
World Day of Prayer  
**March 5th**  
@ Osage UCC has been  
cancelled for this year

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9401 Andermatt Drive, Lincoln,  
NE 68526  
  
Cards & letters are welcome!

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***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.

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The date for the ELCW  
Spring Gathering on  
March 20th has been  
changed to June 27th at  
Trinity Lutheran in DeWitt.  
Save the Date!



## Midweek Lenten Worship Schedule

***"Created for Community"***

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

*"In Community with All the Saints"*

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

*"In Community with Our Neighbor"*

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

*"In Community with Those on the Margins"*

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

*"In Community with Christ"*

## Holy Week and Easter Services



***Come Worship With Us!***

### ***HOLY WEEK***

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 with communion at Hope Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m.

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

### ***Easter - April 4***

Easter Sunrise Worship Service at Grace Lutheran Church - 6:30 a.m.



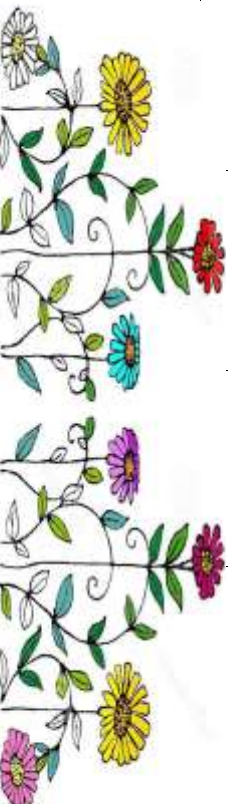
No formal breakfast

Easter Sunday Worship at Grace Lutheran Church - 8:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday Worship at Hope Lutheran Church - 10:00 a.m.

# March 2021



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 14th!!!  <b>SPRING</b> Begins March 20th!	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	8	9	10	11	12	13	
8:30 am Worship w/ Communion	Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	Piecemakers Blanket Making	Midweek Lenten Worship at Hope Lutheran 7:00 p.m.	ELCW Meeting 7:00 p.m.	World Day of Prayer CANCELLED		
14 8:30 am Worship	15	16	17	18	19	20	
		Piecemakers Blanket Making Church Council 7:00 p.m.	8th Grade Confirmation 6:00 pm Midweek Lenten Worship at Grace Lutheran 7:00 p.m. 			ELCW Spring Gathering <b>DATE Changed</b> to 6/27/2021	
21 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion	22	23	24	25	26	27	
	Tower Echoes Deadline	Piecemakers Blanket Making	Midweek Lenten Worship at Hope Lutheran 7:00 p.m.				
28 8:30 am Worship	29	30	31				
		Piecemakers Blanket Making	8th Grade Confirmation 6:00 pm				



# **Grace Lutheran Church Council**

## **16 February 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, Bret Wellensiek, Erin Ebeler Rolf, Kate Dietz, and Mitchell Brinkman. Also in attendance were Pastor Jim Helgren and Diane Wilken, church secretary/treasurer.

Mitchell Brinkman made a motion to accept the minutes of the 12 January 2021 meeting. Amber Beard seconded. Motion carried.

The financial report was reviewed. Mitchell Brinkman made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Amber Beard seconded. Motion carried.

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

Confirmation will be held 25 April 2021. 26 April 2021 Pastor will be going to Milwaukee. Luther League, and Easter Sunrise Service was discussed. We will review the potential for having Senior's Breakfast 2 May 2021. For now, the Church Council is planning to move forward with what COVID restrictions are placed upon the congregation through the SEDHD and the Synod.

Ash Wednesday is 17 February 2021. Lenten services will be held 24 February, 3 March, and 17 March at Grace Lutheran with the theme of "Community". Noisy coin offering was discussed and will be designated to the UNL Lutheran Student Center. Pastor would like to order palm crosses for the congregation for Palm Sunday in lieu of having the palm walk. A member would be willing to pay to replace a door for the church. This was graciously accepted by the Church Council and plans will be made for this. Pastor is in contact with Bill and Alta Bohling and is monitoring his health.

Correspondence – Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska sent a thank you for our 2020 donation.

### **Committee appointments were as follows:**

Property - Bret Wellensiek

Worship, Evangelism, Music, and Fellowship – Erin Ebeler Rolf

Parish Education & Young People – Amber Beard

Stewardship & Memorial – Kate Dietz

Committee chairpersons are to ask congregational members to join their committee as they see the need for help.

### **Property committee: Council – Bret Wellensiek:**

Discussed ways to ask for help doing projects around the church and parsonage.

Worship, Evangelism, Music & Fellowship: Council – Erin Ebeler Rolf:

Pastor will be finding someone from each congregation to assist/lead in worship in case of last-minute illness or need to be away.

Parish Ed & Young People: Council – Amber Beard:

Mitchell Brinkman will be communicating with other Lutheran League members about Easter Sunrise Service.

Stewardship & Memorial: Council – Kate Dietz:

Other Business:

Old Business:

Services and Funerals

The current COVID standards are still in practice.

New Business:

A thank you gift from the Church Council will be given to Kris Gerking in appreciation for dealing with our Covid procedures.

Duty Roster -A Duty Roster was created for members to sign up to assist worship.

Lent -Offering is designated for Oaks Indian Mission.

Garage Storage -The Piecemakers are looking for a location to store boxes of completed blankets. The garage was an option.

Snow Removal -Thank you to all who have helped clear the snowy sidewalks this year. Thank you!

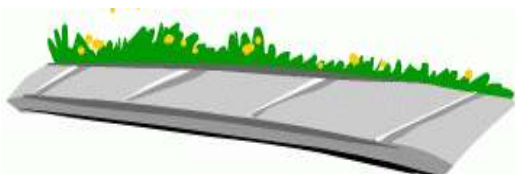
Next Meeting will be 16 March 2021 at 7PM

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

Respectfully submitted, Amber L. Beard



It was decided at the 2021 Annual Meeting to replace most of the sidewalks on the south side of the church, the sidewalk coming out from the front door of the parsonage and repair the patio at the parsonage. We are seeking bids but with the weather we have only received one thus far with a total cost of \$11,823. We would like to have this project completed as soon as possible this spring. We are afraid if we put off the contractors, who knows when it can be done. This will also include members of the church doing some of the work, by removing the old sidewalks (we have someone that will take the old concrete) and then backfilling the dirt along the new sidewalk, and reseeding.



We have received some donations already and are thankful for them. If you would like to donate, please mark it as "Sidewalk Project" and send with your offering to the church. A suggestion was made that some may be able to use their "stimulus" money to help with this project or give as additional offering.



## Grace Lutheran Church

306 N. First St.  
P.O. Box 96  
Cook, NE 68329

Address  
Correction  
Requested



Church Office: 402-864-4201  
Pastor Jim Helgren: 402-864-2113

Church Email: [grace68329@gmail.com](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)