



Tower Echoes 2021

From the Pastor,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

The resurrection of Christ gives us hope that death is not the end of life but the beginning of eternal life with God. It is a promise that can not be proven. Books have been written presenting proof of life after death. Members in the past have even suggested or tried to get me to read some of these books. I have declined. I don't need proof that there is life after death. The resurrection Christ is my proof that there is life after death. Paul said, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) My faith allows me to trust in God's promise without seeing proof. Others may find it helpful to their faith to read these books. Just please don't look at me funny because I would rather use my spare time differently.

Peter said, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3) The old self needs proof. The old self still clings to our new nature in Christ. Baptism brings into a new birth or born again into a living hope. This hope is kept alive by the faith given to us through the Holy Spirit. As long as I believe and trust that Christ has been raised from the dead I have a living hope in eternal life and life after death and need no further proof. Paul says, "and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans 5:5) And again he says, "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." (Romans 8:24-25) Sometimes we may become impatient and need reassurance for our hope in Christ. But the only proof really presented to us by God is the empty tomb. Faith and hope claims it is empty because God raised Jesus from the dead.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Pastor Jim

The Grace Lutheran Church Council and the Hope Lutheran Church Council request that the congregations be understanding with the churches plans for expanding worship and fellowship. The councils do not want to move too hasty. The end of strict restrictions seems to be in sight. There will still be restrictions for the rest of 2021. But there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The councils do not want to move too fast and become a hot spot. They ask that we please be patient.



Holy Week and Easter Services

Come Worship With Us!

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 Sunday - April 4

Easter Sunrise Worship Service at Grace Lutheran Church - 7:00 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.



Church Seasons: April 4 begins the Easter Season. The Church celebrates God saving His creation through the life, death and resurrection. Hope is given to the world through the empty tomb.

Festival Days: April 1 Maundy Thursday

April 2 Good Friday

April 3 Holy Saturday

April 4 The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 25 Mark, Evangelist

US Holidays April 4 Easter

April 15 Tax Day

April 21 Administrative Professionals Day

The Rite of Confirmation is April 25th during the Worship Service.

Kali Drake and Tucker Thomas

have completed their three year confirmation program and are ready to affirm the faith to which they were baptized.

Sidewalk Project

The bid to replace most of the sidewalks on the south and east sides of the church, the sidewalk coming out from the front door of the parsonage and replace the patio at the parsonage was accepted with a total of \$12,750.00. The plan is to have it started the end of May or the 1st part of June. 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 in the amount of \$8,600 and we are thankful for them. If you would like to donate, please mark it as "Sidewalk Project" and send with your offering to the church.

April Birthdays

5th – Alexis Wagner

Ryan Panko

7th – Gayleen Eden

8th – Janet Dieckgrafe

9th - Lisa Cropp

13th – Robin Eggleston

15th – Mitchell Brinkman

17th – Tom Brinkman

19th – Robyn Faris

21st – Michael Carman

24th – Lori Panko

27th – Larry Naber

28th – Owen Weber

29th - Amber Beard

BASKETS OF PROMISE

The Women of Grace are again sponsoring the “Baskets of Promise” project for Lutheran World Relief. This has been a successful project and we thank everyone who participated in the past and again this year.

For 5 weeks we will be collecting a different item that will be used to assemble the items for the Personal Care Kits. We will end the collection on Mother’s Day as we honor these mothers by helping them ensure health for themselves and their families by being able to use these kits that we provide for them.

April 11 - Bars of Soap (4-5 oz.) Any brand in the original wrapping.

April 18 - Bath Towels (lightweight, maximum size 52” x 27”, dark colors are recommended).

April 25 - Toothbrushes (adult size)

*May 2 - Combs and Nail Clippers
(Metal, attached file optional).*

*May 9 - **Mother’s Day** - this will be the last Sunday of the gathering, so you can bring any of these items.*

*The above collection dates are suggestions. Items can be brought at anytime. Last year we collected enough supplies to put together **100 kits.** Thank you to*

Thrivent Action Team contribution.

LET’S DO IT AGAIN!

Cooper & Blakely Kuhl are excited to tell everyone about their new brother (just ask them!)

Burke Lee Kuhl



He was born on
March 15th.

Sara & Taylor are
glad that he has
arrived and is
home.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

14th - Joe & Ellen Brinkman

29th - Dave & Diane Smith

APRIL 2021



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



April Altar Committee Penny Weber

Worship Duty 4/4 & 11 Jody Wellensiek

4/18 & 25 - TBD

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7:00 am Sunrise Service 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion			8th Grade Confirmation 6 pm			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30 am Worship	Bible Study 1:30 pm		8th Grade Confirmation 6 pm			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30 am Worship w/ Communion		Piecemakers Blanket Making Church Council 7:00 p.m.	8th Grade Confirmation 6 pm	TOWER ECHOES DEADLINE		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
8:30 am Worship Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism					ELCW Saved to Serve @ Carol Joy Holling Camp 4/30 -5/2	

ELCA WOMENS MEETING – MARCH 04, 2021

The ELCA women of Grace Lutheran held a meeting on March 04, 2021 at 7 pm. Members present: Carolyn Cropp, Joyce Roesener, Pastor Helgren, Kathy Helgren, Karen Cerny, Eleta Eisenhauer, Penny Weber, Diane Wilken, and Cheryl Grundman.

President Carolyn opened the meeting with devotion from Luke 12: 25-26.

The minutes from September 10, 2020 were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Checking \$4257.73, Savings \$1814.75, CD \$1143.04 Motion by Joyce Roesener, second by Karen Cerny to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Correspondence and Thank You recognition

- 1) Pastor and Kathy for the Costco Christmas gift card
- 2) Lutheran Family Services contribution for flood victims
- 3) Lutheran Campus Ministry contribution
- 4) Carolyn Cropp, Eleta Eisenhauer, and Kathy Helgren for Thanksgiving display
- 5) Alta Bohling, Joyce Roesener, and Karen Cerny for putting up Christmas trees
- 6) Bill and Carolyn Cropp for displaying and taking down Christmas nativity scene.
- 7) Andrea Eggleston, Julie Effken, and Eleta Eisenhauer for Christmas Family Gathering.

Old Business: World Day of Prayer has been cancelled this year due to covid.

The date for the Spring Gathering has been changed to Sunday June 27, 2021 at Dewitt. Registration deadline is June 20th. The theme is CREATION AND PRAISE. A list of suggested in-kind offerings will be posted on the bulletin board in the church basement.

The annual Christmas Family Gathering was redesigned due to covid; also included this year were gifts taken to local Cook community residents now residing in Care Centers. The committee did a fantastic job and many positive comments were received.

New Business: With less use of the church during covid the annual spring cleaning was postponed until fall or next spring. Motion by Penny Weber, second by Kathy Helgren to grant \$250 to Kris Gerking for the purpose of extra cleaning to areas that she deems necessary. Motion carried.

Saved to Serve will be held April 30 – May 2, 2021 at Camp Carol Holling. Those attending will be working on projects for International Mosaic.

Quilts for our seniors Ashlei McDonald and Mitchell Brinkman are completed.

Discussion tabled on the ELCW church stand for Cook Days. The end of May or first part of June we will revisit and make a decision based on the status of covid.

Motion by Kathy Helgren, second by Karen Cerny to repeat the Lutheran World Relief project, PERSONAL CARE KITS for 2021. Motion carried.

Motion by Eleta Eisenhower, second by Joyce Roesener to donate \$250 to Johnson County Central's BACK PACK PROGRAM. Motion carried.

Motion by Karen Cerny, second by Cheryl Grundman to donate \$130 to add to the \$120 of loose change offering from February Noisy Coin offering to be given to the Lutheran Campus Ministry; the Lutheran Center will use the funds to purchase a requested cupboard. Motion carried.

Motion by Kathy Helgren and second by Karen Cerny to send \$100 to Carol Joy Holling to go towards sponsorship of a summer camp counselor. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Stewardship – Joyce Roesener reported 137 blankets have been made to date this year. Ten lap robes were made for Syracuse Good Samaritan Society.

Education – Kathy Helgren reported a book has been purchased for the library in memory of Verna Brinkman.

Luncheon/Food Request – Eleta Eisenhower stated going forward until covid passes food items will be offered to the family of Grace members who have passed away.

Next meeting – July 08, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Cheryl Grundman



Grace Lutheran Church Council

16 March 2021

Grace Lutheran Church Council met 16 March 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. Also in attendance were Pastor Jim Helgren and Diane Wilken, church secretary/treasurer & Kris Gerking. Absent Mitchell Brinkman.

Kate Dietz made a motion to accept the minutes of the 16 February 2021 meeting. Bret Wellensiek seconded. Motion carried.

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

Pastor Helgren's Monthly Report:

Pastor presented a devotion. Nebraska Synod Meeting delegates can register for the virtual meeting. Confirmation will be held 25 April 2021. Move to accept Kali Drake and Tucker Thomas for Confirmation. Paul Wilken made motion. Bret Wellensiek second. Motion Carried. Pastor will be in Milwaukee for a period coming up soon. We will review the potential for having Senior's Breakfast 2 May 2021, Luther League, and Easter Sunrise Service. Pastor has been able to meet congregation members away from the church. Pastor talked about a sister church and helping set aside money and offering PMA (Parish Ministry Associate) training.

Noisy Coin offering for March was discussed and will be donated to help fund the current launching of a new Synod church in North Lincoln—Church of the Way. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran the "Stone Church" will be having it's final worship on April 25th. Easter Sunrise Service will be at 0700, while we are waiting for the Luther League to return response to help. Church will follow safety precautions for this event to ensure social distancing. The service will be broadcast on Facebook. It was discussed to have breakfast to go, as a free will offering for Luther League. Singing was brought up, and as the Sunrise Service is outside, singing will be permitted in family clusters. Easter Egg hunt will happen, planning is still progressing. Coffee will be offered outside after service weather permitting.

Correspondence – none to report

Committee Reports:

Property committee: Council – Bret Wellensiek:

Sidewalks – Estimates were received to replace sidewalks at the church and at the parsonage, one from JSM Concrete out of Weeping Water, the other Pieters Construction, Inc. from Auburn. Kate Dietz motioned to approve JSM Estimate. Erin Ebeler Rolf second. Motion carried.

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

Easter Services – as mentioned above in Pastor's Report. Good Friday entails windows to be covered. Council members will meet 28 March 2021 to cover windows at 1:00 pm.

Parish Ed & Young People: Council – Amber Beard:

Dawn Thompson sent out an informational text in regard to:

Luther League and the Easter Sunrise Service (set up and take down, breakfast will not be served)
Easter Egg Hunt
Youth Group Trip 2022

Stewardship & Memorial: Council – Kate Dietz:

Awards Unlimited, Inc. – a board has been donated to place past pastor's names that served for Grace Lutheran Church. Approximately \$207.00 for the name plates will be used from the Memorial Fund.

Other Business:

Old Business:

Door – Kerner's True Value has a window insert kit. Approximately \$200 should cover the cost of inserting the window into the current door.

New Business:

Council Cleaning – Church/Spring cleanup – 28 March 2021 @ 1:00

Duty Roster – people are signing up to assist.

Communion – discussed previously in Pastor's Report

Kris Gerking was present to receive a gift certificate for all the extra effort she has put forth in keeping us safe from COVID.

Next Meeting will be 20 April 2021 at 7PM

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

Respectfully submitted, Amber L. Beard



Grace Lutheran Church

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Address
Correction
Requested

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