

# Tower Echoes 2021



## From the Pastor,

A natural theme for November is thankfulness. It is a month to count our blessings. But counting blessings with the willingness to say thank you to someone creates a feeling of entitlement. Some people fail to say thank you out of forgetfulness and some out of embarrassment that they received something they did not feel they deserved. Some refuse to give thanks so they do not feel as if they owe the other anything in return. Some just believe they deserve it and you are lucky that you had a chance to serve them.

Giving thanks for one's blessings often leads to gratitude. People who are grateful for what they receive are more likely to be generous with others. Thanksgiving is a time more people seem grateful and are willing to help others in need. Many charities try to take advantage of this general gratefulness and mail requests or phone with request for donations for their charities.

For Christians gratefulness begins with God's grace given to us on the cross and empty grave. Feeling forgiven leads to counting the other blessings God has given to us. We can ignore what we don't have and center on God and what we do have. When I realize I have more than I actually need I can then seek ways to share with others. God's generosity can be contagious. Catch gratitude and generosity and avoid colds, flu and Covid this holiday season.

Pastor Jim

*We give thanks for the lives and memories of our Saints who began their new journey with Christ in 2021.*

***Verna Brinkman, Eldon Dieckgrafe,  
Evelyn Effken & Marianne Parde***

*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 2021 by memorial funds.*

*The replacement candles for Candlelight service, MIDI update for the Organ and the Grace Lutheran Pastor Memorial Board.*

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service, is  
Wednesday, November 24, at 7:00 p.m.  
at Hope Lutheran Church.**

Grace Lutheran, Hope Lutheran and UCC Osage  
congregations will worship and give thanks  
together.

The Luther League will once again be collecting  
pop cans to help raise money for the trip to  
the National Youth Gathering. Cans will be  
collected on the first Sunday of every month.  
The youth will be in the church parking lot  
following worship to collect your donations.  
Please make sure cans are rinsed, crushed, and  
in a bag to make collection easier.

Thank You!

Luther League

Thank You! Words cannot express my thanks  
for the honors you gave to me. It is very  
humbling. I am thankful God gave me the ability  
to provide music as well as the opportunity to do  
so all these years.

Thanks for all the kind words, gifts, flowers and  
reception for a wonderful day that the Lord  
provided.

Grace Bentzinger

**Church Seasons:** This is the last month in the church  
season of Time after Pentecost. The Advent Season  
begins November 28th.

Church Festival Days:

Nov 1 - All Saints Sunday  
Nov 7 - All Saints Sunday  
Nov 10 - Martin Luther (birth) Doctor & Confessor  
Nov 21 - Christ the King Sunday  
Nov 28 - 1st Sunday in Advent  
Nov 30 - St. Andrew, Apostle

U S Holidays: Nov 2 - Election Day  
Nov 7 - Daylight Savings Time  
Nov 11 - Veteran's Day  
Nov 25 - Thanksgiving Day

**Thanksgiving Project**

November 7th there will be 10 green bags  
with instructions on what to purchase at the  
back of the church. These bags will need to  
be returned November 14th to the church  
filled with the ingredients for a Thanksgiving  
meal. The meat will be purchased by the  
recipient with a certificate to the Tecumseh  
Central Market. The Tecumseh Pastors work  
with the Tecumseh Office of SENCA to help  
provide these meals. (Pastor's note: The  
meeting to actually discuss this project is  
10/28—so information may change)

# NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/8– Eugene & Donna Rosenthal

11/9– Steve & Shari Siepelmeier

11/13– Brad & April Medina

## Assisting Minister

### November

7— Kathy Helgren

14 —Bret Wellensiek

21—Dean Wellensiek

28— Diane Ekhoﬀ

### November

### Altar Committee

**Lori Panko**

## November Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> – Joan Staack

3<sup>rd</sup> – Laura Purcell

Brittany (Siepelmeier)  
Eggerling

5<sup>th</sup> - Cooper Kuhl

6<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Eden

Dean Wellensiek

7<sup>th</sup> – Elijah Dorn

9<sup>th</sup> – Cheryl Grundman

Brennan Garday

11<sup>th</sup> – Shelley Moles

14<sup>th</sup> – Judy Schmidt

15<sup>th</sup> – Bret Wellensiek

17<sup>th</sup> – Larry Grundman

21<sup>st</sup> – Dawn Thompson

Lily Bilsend

22<sup>nd</sup> – Brian Mannschreck

23<sup>rd</sup> – Blaine Siepelmeier

26<sup>th</sup> – Gene Ekhoﬀ

Keith Weber

Tonia Mannschreck

27<sup>th</sup> – Janice Rader

## Thank Offering




The Thank Offering service for  
Grace and Hope Women of the  
ELCA will be held on November  
21st during the morning  
worship services.



## Thank you!!

Pastor and Kathy would like to thank  
Grace and Hope for their gifts for my  
Ordination Anniversary, Birthday and  
our wedding anniversary. Also, thank  
you to members for cards and to those  
who were able to enjoy the beautiful  
day, October 17<sup>th</sup> celebrating with us.

# November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>All Saints Day</b>		Confirmation 4:00 pm	ELCW Yearbook Planning Meeting 7:00 pm		
7 <b>All Saints Sunday</b> 8:30 am Worship w/Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 	8 Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	9	10 Confirmation 4:00 pm	11  Veterans Day	12	13
14 8:30 am Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	15	16 Piecemakers Blanket Making Church Council 7:00 pm	17 Confirmation 4:00 pm	18	19	20
21 ELCW Thank offering Sunday 8:30 am Worship w/Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	22	23	24 <b>NO CONFIRMATION</b> Thanksgiving Eve Worship @ Hope Lutheran 7:00 pm	25 	26	27
28 First Sunday in Advent 8:30 am Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	29	30				

Grace Lutheran's Church Women have once again offered to coordinate a community Santa and Appreciation for the Cook Community. Because of the challenges Covid presents it is yet undecided just how this event will look this year. Safety of our young yet unvaccinated citizens is a concern. Keeping with traditions has merit too. Watch this publication and post office posters to keep informed on what is happening. If you wish to make a donation to this project you can send donations to our women's treasurer, Penny Weber at 62351 738 Rd, Cook, NE 68329 or give to Julie Effken or Andrea Eggleston committee co-chairs.

### Are You Up for a Challenge?

Anyone who sews, the Piecemakers are inviting you to join them in a service project.

The family of Adeline Moss has given our group a quantity of nice fabric. To express

appreciation we are launching a project to make lap blankets for the Care Center in

Adams, Gold Crest, where she is currently a resident. Many of the pieces of donated

**fabrics are in fat quarters (18" by 18") or half yard pieces. If you cut these pieces in 9"**

squares you can make a lap blanket top by constructing a rectangle of blocks 4 by 6 or

composed of 24 blocks. This is only a suggestion for achieving the approximate size

(larger than 30 by 36). If you wish to make lap blankets and you have your own fabric

that would also be great. If this project interests you, you can come to the church

basement and choose the fabric that pleases you to take to make your top or tops. Each

fat quarter cuts 4 blocks and each half yard will cut 8. We would like these tops returned

to the church by January 25<sup>th</sup>. That will allow the Piecemakers a couple of weeks to tie

and bind and be able to make a projected Valentine delivery.

This is a project that could help you chase the winter doldrums away and in turn be

**special for someone else. Please join us and let's see what Grace Lutheran can**

accomplish. A good number of blankets could insure other neighboring facilities a

chance to receive some of these blankets created with our love.

# **Grace Lutheran Church Council**

## **17 October 2021**

Grace Lutheran Church Council met October 17, 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, Kate Dietz, Erin Ebeler Rolf, Amber Beard, Tucker Drake & Bret Wellensiek. Also in attendance was Pastor Jim Helgren.

Erin Ebeler Rolf made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 2021 meeting. Kate Dietz seconded. Motion carried.

The financial report was reviewed. Kate Dietz made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Bret Wellensiek seconded. Motion carried.

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

Pastor Helgren provided a list of Congregational visits for the month of September. Confirmation has begun with a student from Faith joining our sessions. Upcoming Weber Wedding was discussed. Pastor will receive his flu shot and covid booster shot soon.

Trunk or treat will be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 – 7, with NO food to be served.

Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at Hope on the 24<sup>th</sup> @7:00 PM

Luther League is planning on having a soup dinner after the Annual Meeting at the Community Building. The date for the dinner will have to be checked as to not interfere with other fund raisers. Money is being collected for the thanksgiving project.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

Sidewalks have been pushed back again. Parsonage window is in Lincoln, just waiting on getting it installed. Parsonage lawn care was discussed, Dave Smith has agreed to take care of it also.

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

Fellowship will still be held outside when possible, otherwise we will have fellowship in the basement.

Communion was discussed and we will start with Pilgrim style in November. There will be the individual packets available as before if you are not comfortable with the Pilgrim style.





Parish Ed & Young People: Council – Amber Beard:

Sunday School is started with mask optional.

A youth Luther League meeting was held to discuss fund raising for the Youth Convention in 2022. Collection of Aluminum cans on the first Sunday of the month following worship, please have cans washed and crushed & bagged). The youth are thinking of other fundraisers thru the next year. Look for more details to follow.

Stewardship & Memorial: Council – Kate Dietz:

The Pastors Memorial Plaque was discussed and we are looking at adding the son and daughter of the congregation to this also.

Other Business:

Old Business:

Cluster meeting with Megan Morrow (Assistant to the Bishop) will be held at Faith on November 14<sup>th</sup>. This is to have a discussion as to what the options are for congregations in the rural areas. Many of the council members are planning on attending.

October Noisy Coin Offering Designation – Thanksgiving Project

The Mission Festival service was discussed with many positive comments having been received.

Next Meeting will be November 16, 2021, at 7PM

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

Respectfully submitted, Amber L. Beard

Our thoughts and prayers to the families of Eleanor Tehee. Eleanor was the sister of Louis & Grace Bentzinger, Gayleen Eden, Joan Staack, & Margaret Damme. Eleanor passed away in Lincoln on October 24th.

Herbert Panko of Columbia, Missouri passed away on October 28th. He was the brother of Diane Ekhooff. Prayers to the families.





## Grace Lutheran Church

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