



Tower  
Echoes  
2022

### From the Pastor,

My family has owned a total of seven cats in our life together. We have three cats right now. Cats believe that they are the center of the universe. They have ways to get your attention in order to be the center of your universe. Our cats have even set up the picking order of who is the center of the center of the universe in our home. To complicate things our lives, Saddle the center of our universe has been diagnosed with diabetes on September 8th. She received insulin shots every twelve hours. Our family schedule will now be determined around trying to keep her alive and well. Plans I was making for our anniversary next month were changed to accommodate the center of our family universe, (Written 9/13).

Today, September 15, my cat Saddle died. We put her to sleep because she was not adjusting well to her diabetic treatment. Her quality of life was quickly digressing. But just because she is gone doesn't mean she will no longer be the center of our family universe. The other two cats do not yet understand that she is no longer with us and not just hiding under the bed until it is time to remind everybody who is in charge and the true center of the center of the household universe is.

The truth is Saddle was not the center of our family universe. God was and is. Our love for our cats and children and each other came from the center of our lives both separate and complete. God's love for us in Jesus Christ informed our love for God which then extended to ourselves and our family. Love for cats or family that is not God-centered will be an unhealthy love for cats and family. Try explaining that to young children or cats. One can't. One can only struggle to keep Jesus at the center of one's life and universe no matter how noble or demanding your cat may be.

Pastor Jim

**Church Season:** Two months left in Time after Pentecost. The color remains green. We continue the everyday struggle to live our lives with Christ at the center of it.

Festival Days: October 18 St. Luke, Evangelist  
October 23 St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus & Martyr  
October 28 St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles  
October 31 Reformation Day  
October 31 Reformation Day

National Holidays: October 10 Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples Day  
October 16 Sweetest Day  
October 31 Halloween



## CROP WALK 2022

CROP Walk 2022 will be held on Sunday, October 2, 2022. Walkers will start at the Hope Lutheran Church in Burr at 2:00 p.m. Pledge envelopes are available on the back table. We will open with a brief worship service and then walk along the Burr Spur to Craig and Jane Neemann's home. Walkers will be treated to cookies, fruit & beverages at the Neemann home.

Walkers of all ages are invited. Any distance can be walked and the "water wagon" will be traveling along the road and will take walkers to the end point.

Pledge envelopes and donations need to be turned into Pastor Helgren by Sunday, October 16th. The money raised helps educate and feed people all over the world and here locally.

## MISSION FESTIVAL 2022

The Mission Festival 2022 will be on October 9th at 10:00 a.m. at Hope Lutheran. A covered dish will follow with Hope Lutheran members providing the main course and Grace members bringing salads and desserts. Place settings & drinks will be provided by Hope.

The ministry focus this year is SENCA Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Robbie Green, CASA Coordinator will lead the presentation. The offering this morning will be used to provide the children under CASA jurisdiction things not in the CASA budget to help the children feel like children.

Hot air balloons:

Congratulations to Hunter & Shawna Thompson on the birth of their son Jaxson Theodore Thompson. Jaxson arrived on September 11, 2022. Grandparents are Dawn & Chris Thompson & Cecelia Thompson.

Hot air balloons:

Butterflies:

Linda Daniels has moved!! She will now be closer to family members. She now resides at: Richmont Senior Living 620 Fort Crook Road South Room 305 Bellevue, NE 68005 Her new email address is: raylynnd14@gmail.com

Butterflies:



## Trunk or Treat

**Grace Lutheran Church Parking Lot  
Monday, October 31, 2022  
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

You are invited to come and join us at the church parking lot for "Trunk or Treat". Bring your treats and your trunk, and remember to decorate . . . the kiddies love it!! Treats, hot dogs, chips, and bottled water will be served. Come and join the fun for a "**howling**" good time.

# October Birthdays

4th Erin Ebeler  
7th Kirk Ullrich  
Brylee Cropp  
9th Michael Melson  
10th Travis Dorn  
James Helgren  
12th Kali Drake  
15th Grace Bentzinger  
18th Kandi Bilsleld  
20th Kali Effken McGinnis  
25th Shawn Grundman  
26th Tucker Thomas  
28th Andrea Eggleston  
Penny Weber  
Megan Wirth  
31st Eleta Eisenhauer

# October Anniversaries

8th - Kyle & Megan Mabbitt  
10th - Jim & Kathy Helgren  
10th - Chris & Dawn Thompson  
19th - Mike & Penny Weber  
19th - Makayla & Grant Shippert  
22nd - Brian & Tonia Mannschreck  
23rd - Lindsay & Grant Badertscher  
28th - Arlin & Judy Brinkman

## Assisting Minister October

2—Jody Bruns  
9—Mission Festival @ Hope  
16—Kathy Helgren  
23—Sarah Purcell  
30—Erin Ebeler

**October**  
**Altar Committee**  
**Judy Brinkman**



# October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<sup>2</sup> <b>8:30 am Worship w/Communion</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 2:00 pm CROP Walk	<sup>3</sup> <b>MISSION FESTIVAL</b> Joint Worship @ Hope Lutheran 10:00 a.m. Luncheon to follow worship	<sup>4</sup> <b>Bible Study</b> 1:30 p.m.	<sup>5</sup> <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 p.m.	<sup>6</sup> <b>Kids for Christ—</b> 4:00 p.m. <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 p.m.	<sup>7</sup> <b>Kids for Christ—</b> 4:00 p.m. <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 p.m.	<sup>8</sup> WELCA Autumn Renewal @ St. Paul's— Grand Island
		<sup>10</sup> <b>Bible Study</b> 1:30 p.m.	<sup>11</sup>	<sup>12</sup> <b>Kids for Christ—</b> 4:00 p.m. <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 p.m.	<sup>13</sup>	<sup>14</sup> <b>Kids for Christ—</b> 4:00 p.m. <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 p.m.
				<sup>18</sup> <b>Piecemakers</b> Blanket making All Day Church Council 7:00 p.m.	<sup>19</sup> <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 p.m.	<sup>20</sup>
				<sup>21</sup>	<sup>22</sup>	
						
					<sup>26</sup> <b>Kids for Christ—</b> 4:00 p.m. <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 p.m.	<sup>27</sup>
				<sup>25</sup> <b>Pastor @ RE:Formation</b> (Theological Conf.) 24-26	<sup>28</sup>	<sup>29</sup>
			<sup>24</sup>			
						
						<sup>30</sup> <b>8:30 am Worship</b> 9:30 am Sunday School
						

## **Grace Lutheran Church Council**

### **September 20, 2022**

Grace Lutheran Church Council met September 20, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Bret Wellensiek. Pastor Jim Helgren started the meeting with a prayer. Council members present were Kate Dietz, Erin Ebeler, Bret Wellensiek and Mike Weber. Also in attendance were Pastor Jim Helgren and Diane Wilken-church secretary/treasurer. Absent members were Amber Beard and Tucker Drake.

Erin Ebeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the 8/18/22 meeting. Mike Weber seconded. Motion carried.

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

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

- Pastor will get his stitches out on Thursday and get rid of special shoe
- Crop Walk is scheduled for 10/2 at 2pm at Hope in Burr. Noisy coin offering for September will go to the Crop Walk
- 10/9 Mission Fest at Hope with a potluck to follow. CASA will be presenting. Grace members are supposed to bring salads and desserts
- Pastor will be attending RE:Formation theological conference on 10/24-10/26 in Kearney
- Pastor shared the visits from the last month
- Kathy will be leaving for Arizona on 10/31 for 10 days to help her sister
- Pastor from St. Paul in Auburn asked in a cluster meeting what other churches do for funerals of non-members.

#### **Correspondence:**

- Pack Shoebox Gifts – October Noisy Coin Offering
- American Water Resources – Insurance – nothing new to change

#### **Property Committee: Mike Weber**

- Neon cross – has been fixed. Cost \$665.80
- Floor in kitchen – still waiting to get fixed
- Carpets cleaned – Thank you GLC WELCA for doing this.
- Got the bill for the office furnace - \$4,096

#### **Worship, Evangelism, Music, and Fellowship – Erin Ebeler**

- Assigned Acolytes for the rest of the year
- Duty roster – was passed around

#### **Parish Education & Young People –Bret Wellensiek**

- Sunday School is running. Material matches the services.
- Need a new youth advisor/leader. Have an opportunity for a parent or a member of the church to step up. They can reach out to Amber if they are interested. [Amber.beard611@gmail.com](mailto:Amber.beard611@gmail.com)

#### **Stewardship & Memorial – Kate Dietz**

- Reviewing the catalogs to buy white paraments

#### **Old Business**

- Grant Applications – no ideas

## New Business

### Noisy Coin Offering Designation

- September – Crop Walk
- October – Pack Shoebox Gifts postage

Health Insurance – Stay with Gold Plus for 2023 for Pastor and Kathy. Bret made a motion, Mike seconded  
Meet October-Early November to discuss budget items

Next meeting will be October 18, 2022 at 7pm.

Meeting was adjourned by Amber Beard and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Kate Dietz



## Grace Lutheran Church WELCA Meeting Minutes

August 07, 2022 – Following church service

President Carolyn Cropp discussed the need to have the carpet in the church basement, stairs, and narthex professionally cleaned by Epler's Carpet cleaning of Auburn at a cost of \$1420.00. Motion Julie Effken, second Lori Panko to proceed with the carpet cleaning, motion carried.

### Regular Business Meeting – September 08, 2022

President Carolyn Cropp called meeting to order. Devotion: 1 Peter 4:10

Present: Carolyn Cropp, Penny Weber, Jody Bruns, Kathy Helgren, Cheryl Grundman, Eleta Eisenhauer, Alta Bohling, Julie Effken, Joyce Roesener, Diane Ekhoff, Pastor Helgren

Secretary's Report approved as printed and read

Treasurer's Report, \$4,367.10 checking, \$1,815.36 savings, \$1,146.94 CD, motion Kathy Helgren, second Julie Effken to approve report, motion carried.

Bills: 4 confirmation Bibles \$125.58, motion Diane Ekhoff, second Joyce Roesener to pay bill, motion carried  
Old Business:

Carpet cleaning completed

Cook Days Food Stand Report: Profit \$588.50, many concerns were presented and discussed

### New Business:

Election of Officers, President and Secretary. Carolyn Cropp volunteered to continue as President  
No one volunteered to fill the secretary position

Time and Talent: Diane Ekhoff and Kathy Helgren will draft a Time and Talent letter to send to all Grace Lutheran women. Every member will have the opportunity to indicate her personal interest in ways where she can serve.

Autumn Renewal, St Paul's in Grand Island, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Motion Joyce Roesener, second Diane Ekhoff to donate \$75.00 for the offering, motion carried.

Trunk or Treat: Grace Lutheran will provide use of the parking lot from 5 to 7 pm to anyone in the community interested in participating in Trunk or Treat. Kathy Helgren will make posters informing the public.

ELCW Church Dinner: Team Alta Bohling and Julie Effken will plan a creamed chicken dinner to be held Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Community Family Christmas Event will be Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Joyce Roesener reported 438 blankets made to date, 100 school kits, and 100 personal care kits.

WELCA Yearbook Planning, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm

Thank Offering Sunday Nov 20<sup>th</sup>.

Cheryl Grundman, Secretary

## **“Kids for Christ”**

Is on its way back!

Kids for Christ has been and will continue to be an afterschool program for ALL school age kids, hosted by Grace Lutheran Church with additional support from friends at Osage Church. Students older than 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to be kitchen helpers, cooking and serving the evening meal. (Kitchen helpers, here is an opportunity for community service.)

Plan for some changes. The first change being in the meeting time. We will meet right after school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month as long as there is school that day. We will continue with the format of a cookie snack upon arrival for the children, a short devotion, a picture book story, a craft, some singing, prayer and a shared evening meal. We will have students ready for pick up or to go home between 5:30 and 5:45. Expect to see some new faces in the adult helpers. Because our students have continued to have birthdays and have moved on up the grades at school we will see new faces too. Invite your friends and plan to come!

Leaders will be Sarah Purcell and Eleta Eisenhauer, and head kitchen Cooks will be Carl Purcell and Andrea Eggleston, pastor Jim Helgren will be there too! We welcome additional helpers from the community. If you have a craft to share, something that could be developed into a 15 minute program, an interesting hobby, talent, or food in quantity to share please contact one of these people and you will be welcomed into a time slot! Working with children can be a very rewarding Christian experience. You do not need to commit to every time, occasional help as it works in your schedule is always welcome.

We will want a contact adult person's name and phone number and to be made aware of any food allergies for each child who plans to attend. If you could stop by at our first meeting, send that written info along with your child, or text it to me @ 402 921 0042 it would be appreciated

Our goal is to teach children that there is a God and that he loves them. Those of us who love God also want to share some of the basic expectations of a Christian. We look forward to meeting the community children and sharing God's love with them!

Southeast Nebraska ladies of the ELCA,

You have been a vital part of making our “Saved to Serve” and Prison Ministry Kitchen Kit Projects such a success. Thank You doesn't seem adequate.

At Lodge Pole we were able to assemble 27 quilts for refugees and Lutheran World Relief. Some of you sent blocks which were sewed into tops and some of you sent completed tops as well as sheets of various kinds for middles and or backs.

Linda Eisenhauer's family contributed many yards of her quilting stash in her memory for us to use as backs for these quilts. It is so nice to have new fabric which somewhat coordinates with the top for these blankets. It seems to be the finishing touch. Linda was an active member at Hope in Burr.

We were able to assemble 25 prison ministry kits that included a 12 quart tote, 3 dish towels, 2 potholders, a mitt, measuring cups, measuring spoons, 2 rubber scrapers, spatulas, either or various other items to include paring knives, kitchen knives, pizza cutters, silverware for 2, a glass dish or glass, Scotch Brite type items, dish soap, recipe books, wash cloths, can openers, kitchen scissors, bag clips, wooden utensils, whisks, tongs, large forks, cutting pads, steak knives and even a few place mats. Other and extra items were sent along to Bridges of Hope to dispense as they saw fit.

At Lodge Pole we did a leftover Bible School project. We make little globes using ping pong balls and after they were painted we slipped them over battery operated tea light candles to serve as a reminder to be a light in the world. Like us one little light doesn't do much in the darkness but all of our lights together made quite a glow. Yes ladies, working together on these projects we have made quite a GLOW! Thank You!!!

The Kitchen Kits have been delivered to Bridges for Hope and 10 of the blankets were sent to Lutheran World Relief and 17 were sent to the Refugee director at Lutheran Family and Social Services in Omaha for distribution. He came and visited (educated) us. We were made aware of some of the needs of Afghanistan and Ukrainian refugees.

Wherever we call home, let us remember not everyone is as fortunate as we are and we need to remember to be Gods hands doing his work.

Eleta Eisenhauer



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