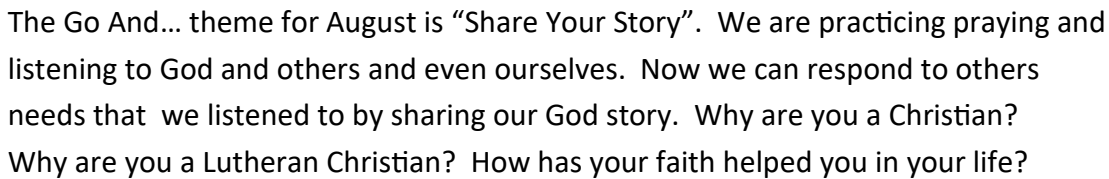



In the Friday, July 7, Lincoln Journal star, “Pearls before Swine” comic written by Stephan Pastis has pig flying in the sky holding a balloon. Goat and Rat are watching Pig float happily through the sky. Rat asks Pig what he is doing and Pig replies “Floating cluelessly through life.” Rat argues frantically that Pig needs to be informed by the daily news like everyone else. Pig answers that he thought so too, but one can just be happy.



People are watching the news trapped on their phones reading social media trying to get rich being an influence. And no one is happy. The “influences” are using this right “happy” message, but we can share the proper message of how the love of God has influenced us to be loving in our lives towards God, others, and self which leads to true happiness.

Pastor Jim

Church Festival days: August 15 - Mary, Mother of Our Lord
August 2 - Bartholomew, Apostle

August Anniversaries

8/2 - Kirk & Robyn Faris
8/3 - Kate & Russ Dietz
8/5 - Makenzie & Gabe Hoins
8/7—Bret & Melissa Wellensiek
8/22 - Richard & Joyce Roesener
8/31 - Kurt & Julie Effken

Thank you all for your prayers
and kind expressions of
sympathy during Eugene's
illness and passing.

Donna, Brian & Kimberly

August
Altar Committee
Cheryl Grundman

Assisting Minister

August
6— Carl Purcell
13— Jody Bruns
20—Eleta Eisenhauer
27— Jody Wellensiek

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8th - Diane Ekhoﬀ
Ryan Weber
Madison Panko
Violet Wellensiek
9th - Diane Smith
12th - Lucas Cropp
13th - Hayden Wellensiek
14th - Carolyn Cropp
15th - Charlotte Wellensiek
16th - Mackenzie Hoins
17th - Melissa Wellensiek
19th - Lee Cannon
28th - Bruce Armknecht
Travis Effken
30th - Michael Purcell

Noisy Coin Offering will be collected the
last Sunday of the month. So save your
change and make some NOISE!

Confirmation Begins

There will be a confirmation meeting for
parents/students August 30 at 7:00 p.m. in
the basement of Grace Lutheran Church.
It is for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade,
We will discuss class requirements,
day and time we will meet, and just get
reacquainted.

"The Quilt & Kit Ministry allows Lutheran World Relief to love our neighbors during the hardest time of their lives, when they are exhausted, homeless, grieving and terrified. Without your generosity, some neighbors may be completely on their own to survive when everything they worked for is gone. Your quilts and kits are literally the answer to their prayers.'

Daniel Speckhard, president & CEO of LWR

School Kit items for Lutheran World Relief will be collected until the end of August (so we can get in on the back to School sales).

The items needed are:

70 sheet spiral notebooks

(4 needed for each school kit),

Boxes of 16 or 24 crayons,

Ball point Pens,

Unsharpened #2 Pencils.

School Sales are happening!

Donations are welcome to help

purchase the items and Thrivent

Action team funds will also help fill

these back packs.

During fellowship following worship on June 18th this group of ambitious workers put the strings into 100 backpacks that were sewn by Joyce Roesener. After they figured out how to do it they had a fun time. There was much laughter shared among all!

Now we need the supplies to fill them!



August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2		3	4	5 ELCW Saved To Serve With MOSAIC at Axtell NE "Make People Smile" August 4 - August 6
6 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 8:30 am Worship	14 Bible Study 1:30 pm	15 Piecemakers Blanket Making Church Council 7:00 p.m.	16	17	18	19 Johnson County Fair—August 18-20
20 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion	21	22	23 TOWERECHOES DEADLINE	24	25	26
27 8:30 am Worship	28	29	30 Parent/Student Confirmation Meeting @ Grace Lutheran Church— 7:00 p.m.	31	<div>GO AND...</div> <div>SHARE YOUR</div> <div>STORY</div>	

Grace Lutheran Church Council

July 6, 2023

Grace Lutheran Church Council met on July 6, 2023. The meeting was called to order by President Bret Wellensiek. Pastor Jim Helgren started the meeting with a prayer. Council members present were Erin Ebeler, Mike Weber, Sarah Purcell, and Cheryl Grundman. Also in attendance was Pastor Jim Helgren and Diane Wilken – Church Secretary/Treasurer.

Previous Month's Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Grundman made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2023 meeting. Bret Wellensiek seconded. Motion carried.

The financial report as of June 30, 2023, was reviewed. Bret Wellensiek moved to accept the treasurer's report. Sarah Purcell seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Monthly Report

Pastor gave his monthly report. Among items shared included the following:

Past Events:

Reviewed past visits to members.

Reported on kids' experiences at confirmation camp – everyone had a great time. Thanks to Pastor Kate (Faith) for taking care of our kids!

Future Events:

July 10, 2023 – Bible School begins

July 16, 2023 – Community Church Service in the park

Eleta Eisenhower is working on "Go And..." banners for the church. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church if members would like to assist in this process.

Temple Talks by members are being considered for the month of August – the theme is "Share Your Story." (August "Go And..." theme) Members will have the opportunity to share about significant moments in their faith (e.g., how they chose to be a member of Grace; a time when God touched their life; etc.). If Members are interested in doing this, they should contact Pastor to discuss.

Correspondence

Bret Wellensiek reviewed correspondence, which included a request from the national ELCA organization for donations to certain nationally-sponsored ministries and a newsletter from Brotherhood Mutual.

Committee Reports:

Property: Mike Weber hasn't heard back on the cleaning of the gutters and drains at the parsonage. Parsonage garage steps need work yet. Mike did not see a need for pressure washing the church.

Worship and Fellowship: Worship roster was reviewed, and it is currently filled through September. See comments above in Pastor's report.

Youth: Erin Ebeler reported on Vacation Bible School plans. Currently 30 students (age 3 – 6th grade) are signed up to attend. Approximately 10-15 students (7th -11th grade) have agreed to assist that week (helpers will vary each evening), and eleven adults are involved in the leadership of the week from Grace, Hope, and Osage churches. The Kids will sing at the community church service on July 16, 2023.

Erin moved to pay Kandi's Creations \$460 for the purchase of 46 shirts to be passed out to students and helpers. Mike Weber seconded. Motion carried.

Other Items of Discussion

75th Anniversary Committee: Met on June 29.

- They have been working on the budget and location (basement, outside, renting a tent, hosting at the school, etc.). Dean Wellensiek will consult with Rich Bacon regarding the use of the school.
- They're evaluating table / chair rental or using the tables/chairs at the Community Hall.
- They've been working on reminder postcards that will go out in August 2023.
- They are trying to decide about whether there should be a meal charge, a suggested donation amount, or free will, etc. Expected per meal cost is approximately \$10/person before tip and taxes.
- Committee will need to approach the Congregation to approve the expenditure of funds. That request will be made following the next committee meeting so that multiple funding requests can be consolidated and considered by the Congregation at one time.

Diane Wilken reported on propane usage and contract options from Gottula Propane. Bret Wellensiek moved to pre-pay 3,000 gallons of propane. Erin Ebeler seconded. Motion passed.

Safety deposit box keys. One will be kept at the church. One will be kept in the safe at Bret Wellensiek's house to ensure access in the event of a fire or other disaster. Diane Wilken will bring the keys to the next meeting, and the Council will address necessary requirements to ensure different individuals can access the safety deposit box as needed.

Diane Wilken reported a gift of \$80 was made for lawn mowing. Erin Ebeler moved that an \$80 gift card to Casey's be purchased and given to Dave Smith for use in lawn mowing. Bret Wellensiek seconded. Motion passed.

Articles to the August Tower Echoes need to be in by 7/12/2023 for publication.

Next Council Meeting will be held on August 15, 2023 at 7 pm.

Meeting was adjourned by Bret Wellensiek, and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Erin Ebeler



Synod Assembly
members from
Faith & Grace

Back Row -

Dean Wellensiek,
Sarah Purcell,
Pastor Kate Woolf,
Rita & Steve
Ruenholl

Front Row -

Pastor Jim Helgren &
Erin Ebeler

GO AND...

Children freely share their stories – often full of actions, sound effects, and details (sometimes minute) that bring a story to life. We all have a story to share: stories of families, friendships, histories, and faith. We connect the dots and see our connections.

Questions to Consider:

- When was the last time you listened to a child tell a story? What did you hear?
- What is a biblical story that connects with your own story?
- What is your story? Where are you GOING to share your story?

Prayer: Creator God, our story starts and ends with you. Give us the wisdom to see where and how we might share our stories and the courage to share them. Amen.

Suggested Song: Jesus Loves Me (ELW 595)

Learn More at www.nebraskasynod.org

SHARE YOUR STORY

Go And...

Our Nebraska Synod has issued a challenge for our Lutheran congregations to Go And... With this in mind our church has a banner going for each month as the Go And...

direction changes. Consider this your invitation to sign up for making a specific month's banner. Your portion of the banner needs to not exceed 30 inches wide and about 42 inches long. This can be your own creation that conveys the months message. Your banner should have a way to hang it when it is displayed independently. Young and/or old are welcome to participate. Just be reminded it will be displayed in Gods house. There is a signup sheet in the back of the church or you can call the office to let us know which month you would be willing to do. August is "Share your Story", September is "Serve with Your Neighbor", October is "Ask", November is "Be Honest", December is "Be Present", January is "Rest", February is "Have the Conversation", March is "Be Intentional", April is "Tell the Story", and May is "Be the Church".

If you are willing and supplies are an issue Joyce and Eleta both have access to fabric, felt, Heatbond, and other banner making items. Don't hesitate to ask. Let's make this a congregational project. It will be interesting to see what Grace can Go And...!

Eleta Eisenhauer

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANING

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. *That is faith.*
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. *That is trust.*
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we set alarms to wake up. *That is hope.*
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. *That is confidence.*
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. *That is love.*
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience. *That is attitude.*

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories.

Remember—Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

Grace Lutheran Church

306 N. First St.

P.O. Box 96

Cook, NE 68329



Church Office: 402-864-4201

Pastor Jim Helgren: 402-864-2113

Church Email: grace68329@gmail.com