



### From the Pastor,

I was working on the Tower Echoes newsletter article on September 12 when I looked at the October calendar to find the U.S. Holidays. The first one I looked at read October 9 "Indigenous People's Day (Columbus Day)". My desk calendar stated "Columbus Day". The third calendar read "Indigenous Peoples Day". The fourth calendar stated "Indigenous Peoples Day (Columbus Day)". Oh yeah, three agreed it was also "Thanksgiving Day (Canada)".

Older people roll their eyes when they are corrected that October 9th is Indigenous Peoples Day and not Columbus Day. We hate change. We also don't understand why we just can't celebrate Columbus Day like we always did because migrants (Europeans) coming to North America was a good thing. Yes, good for many of us but at the expense of those already living on the land.

We can not change the past but we can try to understand how the past has negatively affected others and their descendants. We can try to help find ways to help others improve their lives and overcome the wrongs of the past. This is a justice issue. The ELCA has attempted to approach the injustice of the past with apologies and support of minority rights. Micah 6:8b tells us what is expected of the God-lover. "Do justice, love kindness and mercy, and walk humbly with your God".

It is hard to change our attitude about things. Perhaps one way to view October 9th is we commemorate Columbus Day, celebrate Indigenous People Day, and say "Happy Thanksgiving" to any Canadian friends.

October 31 is Reformation Day. This is another day that I had to have my attitude checked. Former Bishop Maas reminded pastors at a Theological Conference that we celebrate it. We don't celebrate the breach in the church. That was the last year I celebrated it and now I remember it every year. I do cheat thought. I do joke that it is the one day that I am a Lutheran. The rest of the year I am a Lutheran Christian.

Pastor Jim

**Church Season:** We are still in the church season of Time After Pentecost. We are still being challenged to live our lives for Christ. Have you found that focusing on a different challenge each month helpful in your faith journey this year?

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 9 Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples Day  
October 21 Sweetest Day  
October 31 Halloween

### CROP WALK

Crop Walk begins at 2:00 p.m. on October 1st at Hope Lutheran Church, Burr and then travels the Burr Spur. All are welcome to walk or run. Forms for collecting donations for walkers are on the table at the back of the Church.

### LUTHER LEAGUE MEETING

Luther League will be having a planning meeting at 9:30 am before Mission Festival services at Grace on Sunday, October 8th. High school students, as well as confirmation students, are invited to attend. We will be discussing Trunk-or-Treat plans, as well as setting dates for November service and fellowship activities. If you would like to participate, but are unable to attend the meeting, please call or text Nick Weber at 402-310-2136.

## Mission Festival

Mission Fest is October 8 at Grace Lutheran Church with the Joint Worship Service starting at 10:00 a.m. People's City Mission is the highlighted mission this year.

Breakfast will be served beginning at 9:00 a.m. Grace will be responsible for providing breakfast casseroles, juice, and coffee. Hope will be requested to provide rolls and side items.

The offering will be for People's City Mission and we will also be collecting an in-kind offering of toiletry items such as combs, brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, disposable razors, etc. for the People's City Mission.



## Trunk or Treat

Grace Lutheran Church Parking Lot

**Tuesday, October 31, 2023**

**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.





Grace (Seeba) Bentzinger is celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 15th.

Her family would like to honor her with a card shower.

Birthday wishes may be sent to:

62054 73750 Road  
Cook, NE 68329

## 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 Bilslend

20th Kali Effken McGinnis

25th Shawn Grundman

26th Tucker Thomas

28th Andrea Eggleston

Penny Weber

Megan Wirth

31st Eleta Eisenhauer

## October Anniversaries

10th - Jim & Kathy Helgren

10th - Chris & Dawn Thompson

16 - Hunter & Shawn Thompson

19th - Mike & Penny Weber

19th - Makayla & Grant Shippert

22nd - Brian & Tonia Mannschreck

23rd - Lindsay & Grant Badertscher

28th - Arlin & Judy Brinkman

## Assisting Minister

### October

1— Bret Wellensiek

8 — Mission Festival @ Grace

15— Erin Ebeler

22— Nick Weber

29— Jody Wellensiek

### October

## Altar Committee

Judy Brinkman

## COOK LEGION POST #360

### FUNDRAISER

**Sunday, October 29 @ Cook Community Center**

**10:00 am to 1:00 pm**



The Cook Legion Post #360 will offer a breakfast consisting of sausage gravy, biscuits, link sausage, scrambled eggs, mixed fruit, juice, milk and coffee on Sunday, October 29, 2023 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Cook Community Center. Free will donation!

Thank you to all of those who put quilts together, tie and bind them. There is a lot of time and love put into each quilt that is made. Right now we have 300 quilts that will be distributed between Lutheran World Relief, The Linus Project, Barnabas, Carol Joy Holling Auction, People's City Mission and Project Response.

100 School Kits were put together with the help of the coffee fellowship (the pens & pencils were easy, it was those backpacks that were a challenge!)

100 Personal Care Kit items were collected and put together with love to those who receive them .

### Minutes – Grace Lutheran Church WELCA Meeting

**Sunday, September 3, 2023 at 9:30 am**

This was an impromptu meeting of the Women of the ELCA, Grace Lutheran church, after Worship Service on Sunday, September 3, 2023 called by President Carolyn Cropp. The purpose of this meeting was to go over information regarding the purchase of kitchen stoves.

Present at the meeting were: Carolyn Cropp, Joyce Roesener, Julie Effken, Jody Wellensiek, Eleta Eisenhauer, Charlene Helgren, Karen Cerny, Diane Ekhoff, Kate Dietz, Kris Ebeler, Gayleen Eden and Alta Bohling.

Julie Effken presented findings of a Maytag stove with a regular oven and a convection oven. The stove retailed for \$1,400.00, Home Depot had it on sale for \$950.00 and when Julie spoke with Damme Appliance they would sell it to us for \$900.00 the stove is stainless steel as there was a 6 month waiting list for this stove in white. Damme Appliance would install the stoves and remove and dispose of the old stoves.

A motion was made by Karen Cerny to purchase the stoves, in stainless steel, from Damme Appliance for \$900.00 and a second was made by Charlene Helgren. All were in favor. The stoves were delivered and installed on Friday, September 8, 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Helgren

# October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>8:30 am Worship w/Communion</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 2:00 pm CROP Walk	2	3	4	<b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 p.m.	5	6 7
8 <b>MISSION FESTIVAL</b> <b>Breakfast—9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Luther League Meeting—9:30 a.m.</b> <b>Joint Worship @ Grace Lutheran</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b>	9	<b>Bible Study</b> 1:30 p.m.	10	<b>Kids for Christ—</b> 4:00 p.m. <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 p.m.	12	13 14
15 <b>8:30 am Worship w/Communion</b> 9:30 am Sunday School	16	17	<b>Piecemakers</b> <b>Blanket making</b> <b>All Day</b> <b>Church Council</b> 7:00 p.m.	18	<b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 p.m.	19 20 21
22 <b>8:30 am Worship</b> 9:30 am Sunday School	23	24	Tower Echoes Deadline	25	<b>Kids for Christ—</b> 4:00 p.m. <b>Confirmation</b> 6:00 p.m.	26 27 28
29 <i>Reformation Sunday</i>	30		Pastor @ RE:Formation (Theological Conf.) 23-24			31 <b>TRUNK OR TREAT</b> @ Grace Lutheran 5:30—7:00 p.m.



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

**TRUNK OR TREAT**  
Grace Lutheran

5:30—7:00 p.m.

# GO AND...

ASK

In a world that is shifting and changing, we have come to recognize the importance of asking good questions. Good questions come from intentional listening and a willingness to engage with the unknown. God, Jesus, prophets, disciples, crowds, and Martin Luther all asked questions. As followers of Jesus, we are called to wrestle with questions, which do not always result in clear answers.

**Questions to Consider:**

- What big questions are on your heart and mind?
- What is a question you are afraid to ask?
- What would you add to Martin Luther's 95 Theses?
- What is a 'GO to' question as you engage in conversation?

**Prayer:** Knowing God, what are you asking of me? Amen.

**Suggested Song:** Ask the Complicated Questions (ACS 1005)

*Learn More at [www.nebraskasynod.org](http://www.nebraskasynod.org)*

## GO AND ...

Octobers theme is:

## GO AND ... ASK.

Each month we will add to our challenge to grow as Christians and serve others. We do not stop doing one month's theme, we just add on another challenge.

So we Pray, Listen, Share our Story, Serve with Neighbors, and now we ask questions.



## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

### September 19, 2023

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL** met September 19, 2023. The meeting was called to order by President Bret Wellensiek. Pastor Helgren opened the meeting with prayer. Council members present were Bret Wellensiek, Mike Weber, Sarah Purcell, Cheryl Grundman, Pastor Jim Helgren, and church secretary/treasurer Diane Wilken. Erin Ebeler, council member, absent.

**Minutes** were amended to read Chris Harris, organ specialist, reported to our organists that the organ should be insured for \$150,000. Motion by Mike Weber to approve minutes as amended, second by Sarah Purcell, motion carried.

**Financial report:** Reviewed the account balances as of August 31, 2023. Motion by Cheryl Grundman to accept report, second by Sarah Purcell, motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** September 2023; burial at Hope, worship service at Good Sam's, visits to Linden View and Richmont Senior Living. 19 students attended the first day of Kids for Christ, a meeting was held with first year confirmation parents. Grace has 3 first year confirmation students. There will be no youth from Grace attending the 2024 Youth Gathering. Pastor Helgren and Eleta Eisenhauer will attend "IDEA Training". Crop Walk scheduled for October 1, 2023.

**Correspondence:** Thank you from Oaks Indian Mission for \$195.00 offering.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Property:** Aeration and necessary seeding to church/parsonage lawns completed. One tree was replaced on the west side of the church by Mike Wiebke. A recommendation by Dave Smith and Paul Wilken to take down and replace 2 trees at the parsonage.

**Worship and Fellowship:** Motion by Bret Wellensiek and second by Sarah Purcell to pay \$250.00 invoice for repair of organ. Motion passed.

**Parish Ed and Youth:** Bret Wellensiek reported that there are two sessions of Sunday School this fall. Luther League will meet October 8, 2023.

**Memorial:** Motion by Sarah Purcell and second by Bret Wellensiek to use memorial funds for 2 new trees at the parsonage. Motion carried. The council approves the recommendations of the tree removal timeline, selection of new trees and planting of trees to be at the discretion of Dave Smith and Paul Wilken.

#### **Other items of Discussion:**

**Mission Festival:** Council will set up, women will be asked to make coffee and put center pieces on the tables. Breakfast is at 9:00 and worship is at 10:00. Grace breakfast casseroles, Hope rolls and side dishes.

#### **75th Anniversary:**

JCC will allow Grace the use of the new gym and commons area at no charge. Tables and chairs can be used from the school, the community center, and the church. Lori Panko will provide updated information of the anniversary on Facebook. Save the Date cards have been mailed. Mike Weber made a motion that the church offering go 50/50 to the Mission Field Nebraska and Osage Food Pantry, second by Sarah Purcell, motion carried. Sarah Purcell made a motion that the council with approval from the congregation offer the noon meal at no charge with a free donation available, second by Bret Wellensiek, motion carried. The meal will be prepared and catered by Ricky's Cafe. Motion by Sarah Effken to approve the budget as presented by the anniversary committee, second by Bret Wellensiek, motion carried.

Next council meeting, October 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned, closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Acting Secretary, Cheryl Grundman

When you are near or passing through the church kitchen take some time to notice our two new cook stoves. After Vacation Bible School it was reported that one of the cook stoves didn't cook the meals and that the other one burned what was to be cooked. The kitchen help was so frustrated they served cold sandwiches the last day and didn't try to deal with the stoves. It was brought to the attention of the church council and to the church women. At their July meeting the women brought along an oven thermometer and discovered that when set at 350 one stove never got out of the two hundred degree range while the other stove advanced to over four hundred degrees. Since there was recall that one stove had been repaired in the not too distant past it seemed that new stoves were in order.

With the publication of the last Tower Echoes and the advertising and launching of a new church opportunity that involved food it was realized that something needed to be done to rectify our cooking problem. A committee was appointed and they were able to research available stoves at Lincoln stores that sell appliances and took their findings to our local Damme Appliances Store and found them willing to go below quoted prices. Labor Day sales worked to our advantage.

It was decided to go with stoves that had convection settings so that if two shelves of food need to be warmed or cooked at the same time it could be. Convection was no extra cost. One of the main considerations was that anyone would be able to operate the stoves without having to consult a manual to do so.

The church women along with the church council provided funds for this purchase. Some memorial money was used. It is hoped that many meals and treats will be prepared and that good food and good fellowship will continue at Grace Lutheran.

Eleta Eisenhauer



### **Minutes – Grace Lutheran Church WELCA Meeting**

**Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting of the Women of the ELCA Grace Lutheran Church was called to order by President Carolyn Cropp at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 7, 2023.

Present at the meeting were Eleta Eisenhauer, Carolyn Cropp, Joyce Roesener, Julie Effken, Kathy Helgren and Pastor Jim Helgren. Carolyn read the September 7 devotion from Portals of Prayers taken from Exodus 20:8-11.

#### **Old Business**

- Secretary Report was given by Kathy Helgren and minutes read from the July 26, 2023 meeting. Motion was made by Julie Effken to accept Secretary Report as read and second by Joyce Roesener, all in favor.
- Treasurer Report: Checking: \$5983.26, Savings: \$1819.25, CD: \$1154.33. Motion was made by Kathy Helgren to accept the Treasurer Report as read and second by Julie Effken, all in favor.
- Kitchen Stoves: The stoves have been ordered through Damme Appliance, will be delivered and old stoves removed and disposed of.

- No nominations for 2024 Women of the ELCA officers given to Carolyn. Sitting officers will remain.
- Saved to Serve was a success with 19 women in total attending. This was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saved to Serve.

## **New Business**

- National Women's Convention will be held September 21-24, 2023 in Phoenix Arizona with Eleta Eisenhauer attending.
- Women's Fall Convention will be held October 6-8, 2023 with Eleta Eisenhauer and Carolyn Cropp attending. The convention's theme this year is "Be Still". The in-kind offering is ACCESS PERIOD with feminine hygiene products being requested. The various products where discussed and a motion was made by Kathy Helgren to send an in-kind offering of \$125.00 so ACCESS PERIOD could purchase the feminine hygiene products of their choosing. Second was made by Eleta Eisenhauer. The regular offering to the Women's Fall Convention was discussed and a motion was made by Kathy Helgren and second by Joyce Roesener to send \$125.00. This money goes to scholarships and other programs.
- Mission Fest will be held on Sunday, October 8, 2023 at Grace Lutheran Church. People's City Mission will be the guest speaker. Breakfast will be held in the church basement at 9:00 a.m. with Grace Lutheran Church providing breakfast casseroles, juice and coffee. Hope Lutheran Church will provide side dishes. Worship Service will be held at 10:00 a.m.
- Pastor Helgren reported that he purchased four Bibles for the new Confirmation students. Julie Effken made a motion that the Women of the ELCA pay for the four Bibles and a second was made by Joyce Roesener. Pastor will have four new 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with one being from Faith Talmage.
- Cream Chicken Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2023. Eleta will contact Jeanne Speckman to reserve the Cook Community Building for that date. Eleta will make the signup sheets to post at church for food items and workers. Kathy Helgren will contact the newspapers for advertisement. We will talk with Erin Ebeler to have her put the advertisement on the church's Facebook page.

## **Committee Reports**

- School Kits – pens and pencils where bundled at coffee fellowship with enough items to make 100 school kits.
- Personal Care Kits – 100 will be made.
- 283 quilts have been completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Helgren



## 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

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