



Tower
Echoes
2024

From the Pastor,

Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! We are not done telling the story of God rising His Son, Jesus, from the dead and what that means for us. And to be honest, every Sunday is a little Easter and every time we worship on a Sunday we proclaim that Christ has risen from the dead. May 19 is The Day of Pentecost. This is the Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus the Christ and the gifting of the Holy Spirit to the Church in order to empower it to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God. On May 26 we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and how God defines God's self: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Two of Grace's young people will proclaim their faith in God during the Rite of Confirmation on May 12. Their faith statement will be in the bulletin that Sunday. The event takes place on a Sunday which is the Church's faith statement. Christ is Risen!

Why do I go to church on a Sunday to state my faith? God has raised Jesus from the dead!

Pastor Jim

Church Seasons: The Sunday's of Easter continue until May 19. It is a season that we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead and conquering sin, death, and the power of the devil over us. May 19 is the day of Pentecost, the gifting of the Holy Spirit to the church . The Sundays following are the Time after Pentecost. The church color remains green, except for festival days, until Advent.

Church Festival Days: *May 1—Philip and James, Apostles*
May 9—The Ascension of our Lord
May 19—Day of Pentecost
May 26—The Holy Trinity
May 31— The Visitation

U.S. Holidays: *May 1 – May Day*
May 2—National Day of Prayer
May 5—Cinco de Mayo
May 12 – Mother's Day
May 18 - Armed Forces Day
May 27 – Memorial Day

May Anniversaries

5/7 - Kyle & Ashley Wellensiek
5/24 - Steve & Jodell Bridgmon
5/27 - Dean & Jody Wellensiek
5/27 - Ryan & Amy Beethe
5/29 - Jack & Shelley Moles

Rite of Confirmation

Sharley Thompson and Kael Fricke will be confirmed May 12 at the 8:30 a.m. worship service. The parent of Sharley are Chris & Dawn Thompson. The parents of Kael are Casey & Emily Fricke.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 4th Sharley Thompson
May 6th Travis Armknecht
Aiden Weber
Allison Brinkman
May 8th Carol Armknecht
May 12th Isabell Gerking
May 13th Alta Bohling
May 15th Carl Purcell
May 27th Steve Schulte
May 28th Eunice Weber
Carol Wiebke
May 29th Luetta Bruns
Blakely Kuhl
May 30th Bryce Cropp
Holly Kuhl
Henry Rolf

Our final meeting for “Kids for Christ” will be May 8 for this school year. It is hoped that all our students can attend. Vacation Bible School will be our next opportunity to have youth worship. Please plan to attend “Kids for Christ” after school on Wednesday May 8.

Senior members if you wish to share a meal with our Kids for Christ on Wednesday, May 8th, please call the church @ 402-864-4201, by noon on May 5th.

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, beginning April 14th, we will be collecting items that will be used to assemble 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.

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

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

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)

Nail Clippers (Metal, attached file optional).

Mother’s Day will be the last Sunday of the gathering, but items can be brought at any time.

GO AND...

What does it mean to be church? The Holy Spirit is moving and blowing through, with, and for God's people. To Go and... means we pray, listen, share our story, serve with neighbors, ask, be honest, be present, rest, have the conversation, be intentional, tell the story, and be the church. Everybody has something to offer – Let's Go!

Questions to Consider:

- If you overheard someone talking in the grocery store about your congregation/ministry site, what do you hope people are saying?
- Use your imagination! What is your big dream for your congregation? (No limits!)
- What gifts, talents, and expertise do you hold and how can you share?
- I am going to Go and be church by _____.

Prayer: Holy God who gathers and sends us, we give you thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Equip us, give us language to proclaim the Good News, and empower us to GO forth into the world. **Amen**

Suggested Song: Go to the World (ACS 991)

Learn More at www.nebraskasynod.org

GO AND ... BE CHURCH

The twelfth and last monthly theme is GO AND ... BE CHURCH. All the commands up until now made some sense. Each month built upon the previous month's command. It was more aimed at the individual rather than Grace or Hope as a congregation. But both the children at Hope and I are confused about how to be church outside the church doors. After all isn't telling the story about Jesus being raised from the dead being church? Can't get much more churchy than that right? This is a call for us to be reminded that our church is God's Church and we spent eleven months preparing to Church the community. As individuals we have prepared to church in our communities and neighborhoods.

Can't be more vague than that. On the other hand that means you cannot do it wrong. Go represent God and be yourself as a child of God.

GO AND ... BE CHURCH!



May 2024



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	8:30 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	8th Grade Confirmation— 6:00 pm Adult Education @ Grace Lutheran – 7:00 p.m.	Final/Kids for Christ for the 23/24 Season—4:00 pm		
12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30 am Worship w/ Rite of Confirmation 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	Bible Study 2:00 pm Church Council 7:00 p.m.				
19	20	21	22	23	24
DAY OF PENTECOST	8:30 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	Mother's Day HAPPY	Piecemakers Blanket Making		
26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30 am Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School					



JUNE 23, 2024

GRACE *Celebrating seventy-five years!*

MENU

choices include

Baked Ham
BBQ Beef Brisket
Chicken Breast
Seasoned Pork Loin

Corn
Green Beans
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Scalloped Potatoes

Ambrosia
Cole Slaw
Macaroni Salad
Peach Parfait
Strawberry Fluff

Dessert

Dear Friends of Grace Lutheran Church,

You and your family are invited to join us as we celebrate 75 years of worshiping together at Grace Lutheran Church!

75th Anniversary Celebration • Sunday, June 23, 2024

8:30 a.m.

Registration is open with coffee, pastries, and fellowship.

10:00 a.m.

Worship Service with Nebraska ELCA Bishop Scott Johnson providing the sermon.

All confirmands, former pastors, and their families will be recognized.

Lunch served following the worship service
across the street at
Johnson County Central School –
Cook Site New Gymnasium.



scan the **QRC** and
register on your phone!

RSVP

by Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Number of adults (age 13 and up)

Please list the first, maiden (if Grace Lutheran confirmand) and last name of all individuals attending.

Number of children (age 4-12)

Age 3 and under don't need to register.

Mail form to: Grace Lutheran Church, PO Box 96, Cook NE 68329 Questions? Email GraceLutheran75@gmail.com,
text/call 402-269-5593 or Message us on Grace Lutheran Church – 75th Anniversary Celebration

75th Anniversary Celebration

- It's exciting to open the envelopes with the 75th Anniversary Celebration forms. We just received a reservation from Eleanor (Miller) Haeffner and her husband Jack. They live in Lincoln and Eleanor was confirmed in 1957. Eleanor wrote "We are looking forward to the day. Thanks for the celebration." Yes, this will be an exciting day for those returning to Grace Lutheran and for all of us that worship here regularly.
- If you haven't registered yet, please do so and encourage your family to register for the June 23rd celebration. This helps the committee continue to plan for the coffee bar and meal.
- Special Request: If anyone has a great Grace Lutheran Christmas Eve picture, please give it to Andrea Eggleston. Thank you!
- The 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Vacation Bible School 2024

Hosted by: Grace Lutheran, St. Paul's UCC Osage, and Hope Lutheran
All Kids Pre-K through 6th Grade are Invited to Attend.

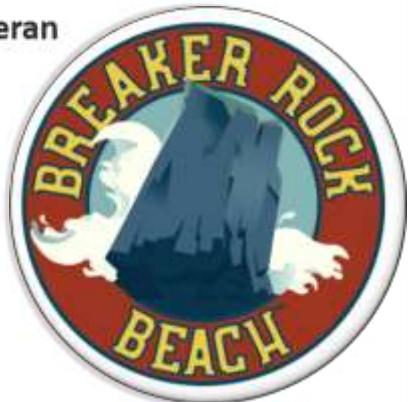
Where: St. Paul's United Church of Christ (Osage)
3288 R Rd, Cook, NE 68329

When: July 15-19, 2024
5:30 – 7:45 pm each night
Supper provided during VBS.
VBS Kids will perform at the Community Church Service on July 21st!

RSVP: RSVP by June 30 to ensure we have the necessary t-shirts, food, and craft supplies.

Use the QR Code to go directly to registration link or
Email [Erin Ebeler](mailto:Erin.Ebeler@gmail.com) ([eebeler@gmail.com](mailto:Erin.Ebeler@gmail.com)) or
[Carley Goracke](mailto:Carley.Goracke@jeremyandcarley@yahoo.com) ([jeremyandcarley@yahoo.com](mailto:Carley.Goracke@jeremyandcarley@yahoo.com)) to request the registration link be sent to you.

No Cost to Attend.



Grace Lutheran Church Council

April 16, 2024

President Bret Wellensiek called the April meeting of the Church Council to order at 7:06 pm with all members, Pastor Helgren and church Secretary/Treasurer Diane Wilken present. Pastor led with an opening prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Cheryl Grundman motioned to accept the minutes, Sarah Purcell 2nd – minutes approved.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed, and clarification received as needed. Jody Wellensiek motioned to accept, Robin Eggleston 2nd – treasurer's report approved.

Pastor Helgren provided his monthly report:

- Mission Fest has been scheduled at Hope for October 13th with Martin Malley as guest speaker.
- Pastor will lead worship at Linden View of 4/24.
- Provided report on sick and shut in visitations.
- Conducted a funeral at Hope on 4/10.
- Adult Education sessions at being held on Wednesday evenings.
- Chrism Mass presentation in Adams 3/19.
- Lenten meals were held on Thursdays with participants from Grace/Hope/Osage.
- Grandview university training in Des Moines 4/29-4/30 "Faith Forward".
- Confirmation at Grace on 5/12 – 2 confirmands.
- Panko/Lang wedding 5/25.
- Go and Tell the Story has been our Theme, with the next is Go and Be Church.
- Rogation Sunday was held with a Blessing of the Seed, Soil and Water.
- The last Kids for Christ for the school year will be 5/8/24.

Correspondence received and reviewed by Council president – NLOM Thak-you, Thanks from ELCA for the Mission Support, Information regarding Synod Assembly on 6/2/24, and SENCA CASA information.

Committee Reports:

Property – Windows have been returned and installed. Total cost for the project - \$5,880.00. Previous contribution applied to the balance with \$3,096.98 being taken from the Memorial Fund to complete payment. The committee plans to clean up trees at the parsonage. Council discussed plans to do a walk-through at the parsonage to determine need for repairs/updates,

Worship, Evangelism Music and Fellowship - John Weber will install new contacts for the organ. Lois Linke will be playing the organ on June 30th.

Parish Ed & Young People – Easter Egg Hunt was enjoyed! VBS meeting scheduled at Osage. SS Materials have been purchased.

Stewardship & Memorial – Cheryl reported that 17 people will be going to tour the People City Mission distribution center.

Old Business:

Worship Duty – volunteers needed from the congregation. Bret took duty on 5/5, Cheryl 5/12. Jody tried to recruit volunteers for worship duty at previous week's worship.

75th Anniversary committee – 62 people have sent their registrations in to date. We have had \$900 donated of a wanted \$2,825.00 to pay the meal expense. Committee meets again in April.

New Business:

Church Cleaning – will schedule cleaning of beams closer to Anniversary.

Vacation Bible School – will be held at Osage, info coming.

Synod Assembly – Grace will be able to watch via live stream with congregation on 6/2/24 at 11 am.

Other Topics – Diane reminded council that the post office prefers we use PO Box 96 for mailing correspondence.

Video presentation from America Church Group RE: property insurance premiums, and changes with availability of deductible buy back policy. Motion was made by Robin and 2nd by Cheryl to increase deductible to \$7,500 and add deductible buy down policy. Motion carried.

Next meeting – Monday 5/13 at 7 pm. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Jody Wellensiek, secretary

Minutes will be approved at next meeting.

Happy Mother's Day



This is the day the
LORD has made;
We will REJOICE
and be GLAD in it.

~ Psalm 118:24

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