



## **FROM THE PASTOR,**

It is Tuesday, June 25, and the June 23rd 75th Anniversary Celebration is over as well as most of the clean up from the celebration. We can now relax and bask in the memory of the worship and the lunch. We celebrated "US" with members and past members. We remembered who we were and who we are.

Guests thanked us for inviting them. It was enjoyable hearing 255 voices respond in church on Sunday. A past newsletter someone passed around showed that that may have been a regular number that year. But was less than the year before. Attendance has been dropping for twenty years or more. The norm always changes. We celebrated the past and present, while being aware of an uncertain future. The gospel Sunday talked about Jesus sleeping in the boat while everyone panicked in the storm. The Bishop said he didn't believe God always sends the storms in our lives, that sometimes they just happen. But Jesus is always with us in the midst of the storm. Jesus is in the boat with us.

Whatever the future holds for Grace and Hope the Holy Spirit will be right there with us in every challenge and decision that we make. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Jim

P.S. A group of 60 something year old men were looking forward to the 100th Anniversary of Grace figuring they could just enjoy the day and not help with. Yeah, like any of those guys at 93 years old could just sit and watch others do the work and not at least get in the trying to help.

### **Cultivating \_\_\_\_\_**

The Nebraska Synod theme for 2024-2025 is Cultivating \_\_\_\_\_. The June theme was "Cultivating Love". This will be Grace and Hope's July theme. It was decided we will just be a month behind next year when the theme changes next year. We found out last year that the theme is introduced at Synod Assembly and then we play catch up for the month of June trying to how we will use the new theme. Delaying the use of the new theme will just allow us a less anxious June trying to incorporate the theme of the year.

In July ask the question "How is this action, words, inaction cultivating love"? Make all your decisions based on how you answered the question.



## **COOK COMMUNITY WORSHIP**

*Worship in the Park on July 16, at 9:00 a.m. sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church, Hope Lutheran Church and St. Paul UCC, Osage.*

*VBS Students will sing during the worship. The community choir will also sing, please contact Dean Wellensiek for choir information.*

*Even though the Grace Lutheran Church women are not having the traditional food stand at the Cook Days this year, all are invited to donate pies for the Food Stand and/or pies and baked goods for the Museum bake sale.*

## **VACATION**

Pastor will be on vacation July 22—28. Pastor Kate Woolf will be available in case of emergencies. Her cell phone # is 316-371-0803. Pastor & Kathy will be doing a staycation but, Pastor, Kathy & Char will be out of town July 26-28.

There will be joint worship July 28 will be at Hope Lutheran Church at 10:00 a.m. Worship will be led by PMA Fred Bredehoeft from Luther Memorial Church, Syracuse. There will not be worship @ Grace.

## **BLESSING**

Grace Lutheran and Hope Lutheran Church will be doing something new August 4th. (I know CHANGE?)

We will be doing a blessing of backpacks for students and adults who use a backpack or briefcase or lunch receptacle. If you have seen my “briefcase”, then you know it needs a good blessing. So bring your backpacks to church on Sunday, August 4th.

## "THE MUSICAL" by Table Grace Ministries

THE MUSICAL is loosely based on the mission and the impact on the life of the characters in the musical.

WHERE: Lofte Theatre, Manley, NE

WHEN: Aug 8 & 9, 7:00 PM.

Tickets are \$24.00, they may be purchased online or on site the evening of the show.

The mobile Grace Café Food Truck will be available from 5 to 7 PM. Plan to arrive early and enjoy fellowship and a meal before THE MUSICAL. The goal for this project is to increase awareness about the impact of Table Grace and its funding sources.

### MOBILE GRACE CAFÉ FOOD TRUCK

#### SIDES

##### BAKED MAC ... 3

Macaroni with cheesy sauce

##### POTATO WEDGES (GF) ... 3/5

Baked- Skin On- Butter-Herbs- Parmesan - Gluten Free

##### QUINOA SALAD ... 4/6

Bed of Greens with Quinoa and seasonal veggies - vinaigrette

##### KETTLE CHIPS ... 2

Crispy Kettle Cooked Potato Chips(gf, v)

#### BURGERS AND SUCH

##### JR BURGER ... 5

3 oz patty - Bun, Burger

\* add bacon and/or cheese \$1 \*

##### CLASSIC BURGER ... 9

5 oz patty - Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, house Pickle

\* \$1-add: cheese, bacon \*

##### VEGGIE CLASSIC (VEGAN) ... 10

Veggie Version of Classic Burger

\* \$1-add cheese \*

##### THE LAMB ... 12

Lamb burger with lettuce, tomato, onion, aioli and goat cheese

\* add bacon \$1 \*

#### CATCH OF THE DAY ... VARIABLE

Fish Sandwich of the Day - Chef's choice - seasonal - common options include: Seared Tuna, Griddled Salmon, Crab Roll, etc.

\* \$1-bacon - \$1-Cheese - \*

#### POULTRY OF THE DAY ... VARIABLE

Chef's choice - poultry sandwich Special

\* add cheese (\$1) - add bacon (\$1) \*

#### CHEF'S SPECIAL BURGER ... VARIABLE

Special Burger of the day

#### DRINKS

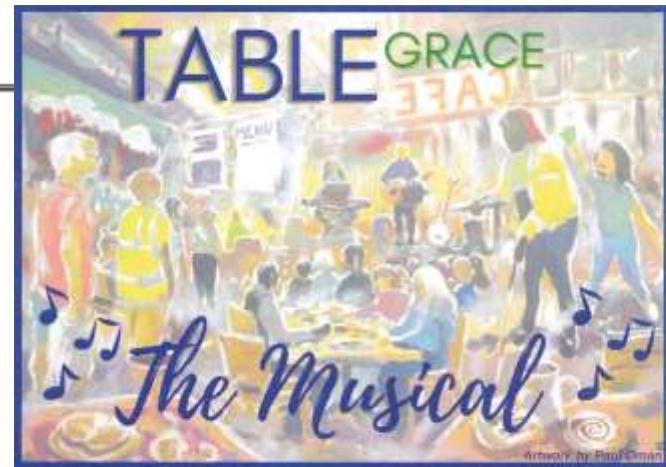
#### VARIETY OF DRINKS

\$2 - Soft Drinks variety \$1 bottled Water - \$1 juice boxes

#### MENU BY:

Chef Matt Weber and Greg Foote

\* Menu subject to change based on availability of fresh, quality ingredients \*



# July Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup> – Linda Daniels

6<sup>th</sup> – Wayne Parde

8<sup>th</sup> – Lori Brinkman

10<sup>th</sup> – Judy Brinkman

    Hunter Thompson

11<sup>th</sup> – Samantha Effken

12<sup>th</sup> – Taylor Bailey

14<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Carman

16<sup>th</sup> – Joe Brinkman

    Sara Kuhl

    Arlene Panko (90th)

18<sup>th</sup> – Michelle Dutcher

    Mike Weber

19<sup>th</sup> – Jason Dorn

21st – Shaun Thompson

23rd - Russ Dietz

26<sup>th</sup> – Sarah Purcell

27<sup>th</sup> – Chris Thompson

    Wrenley Moss

29<sup>th</sup> – Daniel Moles

    Ellen Mannschreck

30<sup>th</sup> – Ayden Smith

    Jane Keigher

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/1—Robin & Andrea Eggleston

7/6—Mike & Kathy Carman

7/9—Alex & Holly Kuhl

7/11—Kirk & Brenda Ullrich

7/13—Nick & Lisa Weber

7/24—Louis & Grace Bentzinger

7/31—Tom & Lori Brinkman

## 90th Birthday Card Shower

Arlene Sillman Panko will be turning 90 years young on July 16th.

Please celebrate with her with a card shower.

Address—370 Swanson Dr.,  
Syracuse, NE 68446



# July 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 <b>8:30 am Worship w/ Communion</b> Bible Study 2:00 p.m.	9	10	11 Church Council 7:00 p.m.	12	13
14	15 <b>8:30 am Worship</b> <b>Osage Ice Cream Social—5-7 p.m.</b>	16 Piecemakers Blanket Making	17 <b>Community VBS - July 15—19,</b> <b>5:30 - 7:45 p.m.</b> At St. Paul's UCC, Osage	18	19	20
21	22 <b>Cook Community Worship @</b> <b>the Park— 9:00 am</b> <b>Cook Rescue Pancake Feed—</b> 8-11 am	23	24	25 <b>Tower</b> <b>Echoes</b> <b>Deadline</b>	26	27
28	29 <b>10:00 am Joint Worship at Hope</b> <b>Lutheran Church—Burr</b>	30	31			

# Vacation Bible School 2024

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

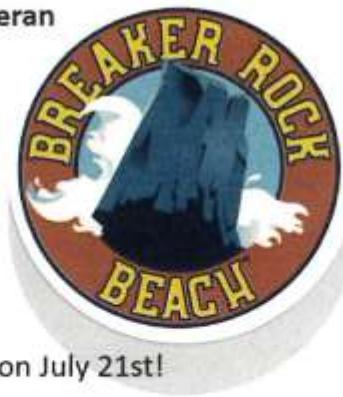
**Where:** St. Paul's United Church of Christ (Osage)  
3288 R Rd, Cook, NE 68329

**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 ([eebeler@gmail.com](mailto:eebeler@gmail.com)) or  
Carley Goracke ([jeremyandcarley@yahoo.com](mailto:jeremyandcarley@yahoo.com)) to request the registration link be sent to you.

**No Cost to Attend.**



You are invited to Carol Joy Holling Camp's

## Quilt Auction

Saturday, July 27, 2024  
Starts at 9 a.m.

A photograph showing several people looking at various colorful quilts displayed on a line.

Quilts handcrafted by individuals, congregations, and groups from Nebraska and beyond will be auctioned to fund summer camp scholarships.

*View quilts, schedule, and more:*

[CJHCenter.org/quilt-auction](http://CJHCenter.org/quilt-auction)

More than just an auction! Bring the family for a day of fun: camp tours, BBQ lunch, and more!

Free parking & admission!

Carol Joy Holling Camp  
27416 Ranch Road, Ashland, NE 68003

School Kit items for Lutheran World Relief are being collected.

The items needed are:  
70 sheet spiral notebooks  
(4 each school kit),

Boxes of 16 or 24 crayons,  
Ball point Pens,  
Unsharpened #2 Pencils,  
and 12 inch rulers.

School Sales will be happening soon!  
Donations are welcome to help purchase the items and Thrivent Action team funds will help fill these back packs.

## Grace Lutheran Church Council

June 10, 2024

The regular meeting of Grace Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Bret Wellensiek at 7 pm. Present were Bret Wellensiek, Robin Eggleston, Sarah Purcell, Cheryl Grundman, Jody Wellensiek, Diane Wilken, & Pastor Helgren. Pastor Helgren led with an opening prayer. He also introduced a prayer labyrinth for council to use in their prayer life.

Minutes of the May meeting were reviewed. Sarah Purcell motioned to approve and Robin Eggleston 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Minutes approved as presented.

Treasurer Diane Wilken presented the Treasurer's Report. Sarah Purcell motioned and Cheryl Grundman seconded approval of report. Motion carried.

### Pastor's Report/Calendar:

Hospital visitations.  
5/22/24 – Inurnment Bill Bohling  
5/25/24 – Panko/Lang wedding  
5/26/24 – Releasing of Bruce Gerking's ashes  
6/7/24 – Funeral Gene Gartner  
6/11/24 – Faith Forward Coaching  
6/12/24 – Tecumseh Ministerial Association – discuss Jr. High Practice schedule  
6/16/24 – 6/21/24 – Confirmation camp  
6/19/24 - Inurnment at Helena – Elizabeth Eisenhauer Santoro  
6/23/24 – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
6/26/24 – Linden View Worship scheduled  
6/30/24 – Possible Faith Forward Activity  
7/22/24 – 8/5/24 – Pastor vacation – *tentative*  
8/11/24 – Blessing of back packs

**Correspondence** – Fidelity Charitable donation - \$500. Robin motioned to put into Anniversary Fund – Cheryl 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports:

**Property committee** – Pull weeds and clean up rocks. Church yard is looking amazing!

**Worship, Evangelism** – Chris Harris worked on organ, replaced contacts. Thank you to John Weber. Bret motioned, Jody 2<sup>nd</sup> to pay John for 2 Sundays in thanks for the music for Anniversary Celebration. Motion carried. August 11<sup>th</sup> – Blessing of Back packs is scheduled. Thank-you to the Weber's for painting. Will start synod theme of Cultivating Love in July. Decision to put up the handrail and leave in place for safety.

**Parish Ed/Young People** - VBS meeting in July, providing meals this year – request for food support. Sunday School is on hold for the summer, Kids will be playing Bells for the Anniversary

**Stewardship & Memorial** – Tour of Sunken Gardens scheduled with Pizza to follow. Info for Table Grace.

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report

Duty Assignments reviewed. Discussed accommodations needed. Planning committee to meet following day and follow up on council discussions,

### Old Business

Worship Duty is covered – volunteers needed for upcoming weeks.

Diane reported Brotherhood Mutual conversation RE deductible for policy.

### New Business

Synod Assembly – very enjoyable, good message, excellent music. Members in attendance in basement enjoyed the format.

Windmill City Days – Pastor Helgren in providing the message. Pastor West in leading the service.

**Next meeting – Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Jody Wellensiek, secretary

# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

All the glory to God for giving us a wonderful day to celebrate the ministry of the Gospel at Grace Lutheran Church. A warm thank you to each of you for doing your part to make the celebration a tremendous success. Many hands make a light load.

The morning began with renewing friendships, eating a variety of delicious pastries, and enjoying coffee on the east parking lot. A memento of the celebration included a photo of Grace Lutheran with a cross pendant. A variety of musical selections were sung during this time by Alberta Block, Sharon Carman, and Kathy Hackstadt, members of the group *Grace Notes*. Amazingly the morning temperature was comfortable with no wind! God's presence was surely in this place!

We welcomed 255 people from several generations to our worship service. Nebraska Synod ELCA Bishop Scott Johnson offered a powerful sermon and John Weber provided amazing organ music. A special adult choir provided three musical selections, while the children's handbell choir played "Amazing Grace." 2 new banners were made for the celebration by Shelley Moles.

The offering gifts of \$3,481.00 will be divided equally between the ELCA's Mission Field Nebraska and the Osage Food Pantry.

We were thrilled to receive two beautiful flower arrangements and a potted plant from local churches. The card from Faith Lutheran Church in Talmage read "May the love of God continue to guide and inspire you as you celebrate this special anniversary!" The message from Hope Lutheran in Burr stated "Congrats on your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!" The card from Luther Memorial in Syracuse was signed "We thank God for our brothers and sisters in Christ at Grace Lutheran and their special anniversary." Letters from Pastor Roger Hoffman and Sandy Olson were received and are included in this month's Tower Echoes.

Artist Kris Seeba Wellsandt, who was confirmed in 1973, created a painting of Grace Lutheran entitled "Easter Sun Rise." She gifted the framed artwork to the church which included this note:

"Congratulation on 75 years! I feel so blessed to have had Grace as a part of my early church family. I wish all the past generations of friends and family could be here today – mom and dad (Glen and Izma Seeba), Grandma Seeba (Lena Seeba), Aunt Emma (Emma Ocker). All the people were so instrumental in shaping my life and teaching me about faith.

One of my favorite memories of the church was the outside Easter Sunrise Services and special music (my brothers Russ and John Seeba playing trumpets). What a feeling to see the sun rise and spread its warmth and light – reminding us of God's wonderful gift of salvation and love.

May the spirit of Grace Lutheran continue to shine bright in the world! Happy Anniversary to the wonderful members! Thank you for including me in your celebration!"



Following the worship service, a drone photo of attendees was taken on the front church steps and lawn. The group then made their way to the JCC Middle School for a delicious buffet meal served by Ricky's Café from Hanover, Kansas. For dessert, we enjoyed cupcakes baked and decorated by Penny Weber. Special touches in the gym included centerpieces that were miniature replicas of Grace Lutheran Church and quilts created by the Piecemakers. Historical documents including a video history of Grace Lutheran was available for viewing. You can find the video at: <https://tinyurl.com/3mm57f7e>

A donation box at the school collected \$570.00 to add to the previously collected amount of \$3,560.00 for a total of \$4,130.00. Ricky's Café was paid \$2,880.50 – 241 adult meals at \$9.50 each, 14 youth meals at \$6.50 each, with the remainder a tip. Grace Lutheran, as a church did not have to pay the Kansas tax. The two porta potties were \$95 a piece with a \$45 delivery/pickup charge for a total of \$235.00. We received three Thrivent cards to help offset other expenses. The remaining dollars will go into the church's general fund. We thank everyone who helped support the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration through contributions of time, talents, and resources.

To God be the glory!

- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee

Andrea Eggleston

Pastor Helgren

Lori Panko

Sarah Purcell

Dean Wellensiek

Melissa Wellensiek



June 25, 2024



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FAX 402.896.5354  
[www.nebraskasynod.org](http://www.nebraskasynod.org)

Pastor Jim Helgren  
Grace Lutheran Church  
306 N 1st St  
Cook, NE 68329-0096

Dear Pastor Jim and the saints of Grace Lutheran Church,

I want to thank you for the invitation to preach during worship for the 75th Anniversary celebration this past weekend. Your gracious welcome and hospitality was incredibly warm and genuine (and no, I'm not only thinking of the weather!).

I thought your bulletin was a particularly well-crafted document that both lifted up the history and stories of Grace Lutheran and helped us worship together well. Please be sure to send one or two copies to Nebraska Synod archivist Ian Hartfield, % Sheridan Lutheran Church in Lincoln - he'll be glad to add them to our archives. I particularly enjoyed the acknowledgment of confirmants through the years - that's a practice we'll suggest to other congregations as they plan their celebration services. The meal was delicious and it was good to meet so many members, past and present, as well as some of the ministers who have served Grace Lutheran over the years. Kudos to your planning team for a job well done!

I know that the future for our rural congregations can seem as uncertain as the seas which Jesus and his disciples sailed in the scripture reading for the day. Remember, though, that God is in the boat with us, and that no storm can ever take us beyond the reach of God's steadfast love. It is good to share this ship of faith with you.

With gratitude and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized 'J' and 'A' followed by a signature line.

The Rev. Scott Alan Johnson  
Bishop



June 23, 2024

Dear Members of Grace

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Psalm 72:9.

It is with joy and thankfulness that I congratulate you and am able to attend your 75th Anniversary celebration. I commend you for your faithfulness to the Gospel and your present witness and ministry.

There are many fond memories of the time we were a part of the Grace congregation when Orv served as your pastor. I am grateful for the love and support you showed us especially during Orv's illness. Your faithful support of missions and the greater church, your emphasis of worship, the tradition of music and the abundance of fellowship were greatly appreciated. You were an example of dedication to us but more importantly to the community and beyond.

I know God has been with you and that He will continue to bless your ministry here at Grace for many years to come.

I think of the wonderful hymn, "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty", stanza one:

'Open now Thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there.  
Where my soul in joyful duty  
Waits for God who answers prayer.  
Oh how blessed is this place,  
Filled with solace, light and grace!"



On behalf of Orv and our Family  
God's richest blessings be with you.



Sandy Olson

 From  
PASTOR  
**Roger Hoffman**

230 Elm St., Syracuse, Me. 68446-9614

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart..." Proverbs 3:5

Friends in Christ,

Although I will not be with you during your 75th anniversary I cherish the memory of Grace Lutheran Church!

My first knowledge of the parish was in the 1950's and through the years I have personally known all of the pastors which have served the parish.

Also, from Sept. 9th, 2002 through the date of June 8th, 2003 I had the honor and privilege of serving as an interim pastor. However the beauty of the parish is it's mission, true to it's name "Grace Lutheran Church"! Through the 75 years the parish has received and imparted the GRACE of God in Christ and now, the parish continues into the future with a mission and ministry of GRACE reaching out into the community and world to the glory of God in Christ Jesus!

WITH PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING...  
AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND!

  
Pastor Roger Hoffman



# One Nation Under God



Grace Lutheran  
Church

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P.O. Box 96  
Cook, NE 68329



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Pastor Jim Helgren: 402-864-2113

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