



TOWER  
ECHOES  
2024

#### From the Pastor

I like bread. Any kind of bread, even the green bread in my wallet. I enjoy the smell of bread, the feel of bread. Even how different bread loaves look different from each other. I will more often than not, go past the bakery in the store I am in just to look at and smell the different breads for sale. Some people even have to squeeze the bread just to see if it is fresh, even if they are not buying any bread.

I eat less bread these days for health and weight reasons. That means I also eat pasta in moderate portions. Bread is my comfort food staple. There may be nothing else to eat but a small, hard loaf of bread.

We will be spending five weeks in John 6 talking about wine and bread. Hopefully all this reading and preaching about bread will not tempt me to seek out more than I should of my comfort food. But all this discussion on bread is really about Jesus and his blood and body. Followers of Jesus begin to leave Jesus when he insists that one must eat his body and drink his blood in order to have eternal life. Many are offended and walk away from Jesus, yet he never stops insisting that he abides in us when we consume his body and blood.

John and Jesus of course are talking about Holy Communion. Jesus gives us his body and blood through bread and wine (juice, water). Jesus calls us to do this often in remembrance of his life, death, resurrection and ascension. Do this for the forgiveness of sins. Wow, what a true comfort food. A comfort food for the soul. A chance to eat and drink for forgiveness of sins. Taste forgiveness. Taste that the Lord is good to you.

The church is the only institution that provides this comfort food. Need to feel close to God, eat and drink Christ. Need to feel forgiveness, eat and drink Christ. Need to know that you are special and important to God, eat and drink Christ. Why do we attend church? Because Jesus said he abides in you when you eat his flesh and drink his blood. The only place set up to help us achieve that is the church, His body. Jesus the bread of life is my soul food staple.

Pastor Jim



July 16, 2024

Dear Grace Lutheran 75th Anniversary Committee, We want to thank you for your extensive planning and preparation that went into providing the opportunity to worship together and celebrate Grace Lutheran Church's 75 years of ministry in the local, synod, national and global Lutheran church. We know that in addition to all of the committee members, that many other hands and participants were involved. The big ideas down to the smallest details were considered and provided for. Our gratitude is extended to those individuals as well. Our family was among the many that had generational reunions that day. It was great to re-connect with current and former members, fellow confirmands, Luther Leaguers, friends and neighbors! It was truly special! We were so glad to be a part of the celebration!

Sincerely, the family of Louis and Grace Bentzinger

## BLESSING

There will be a blessing of backpacks August 4 during the worship service to kick off the school year. Any student, any age is invited to bring backpacks to church to be blessed. Adults are also invited to bring their “backpacks” as well for blessing.

There will be Joint worship August 11 at Grace Lutheran Church at 8:30 a.m. Worship will be led by PMA Fred Bredehoeft from Luther Memorial Church, Syracuse. There will not be worship @ Hope.

# VACATION

Pastor will be on vacation August 10–16. Joint Worship on August 11 for Grace & Hope will be at Grace Lutheran at 8:30 a.m. lead by Fred Bredehoeft. Pastor Kate Woolf will be available in case of emergencies. Her cell phone # is 316-371-0803.

# Confirmation Begins

There will be a confirmation meeting for parents/students August 28 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.

Church Seasons: We are in the Church Season of Time (Sundays) after Pentecost. The Gospel readings to be read focus on Jesus' teachings and actions instead of his life activities like birth and death. July 28-August 25 we will be discussing bread and how this staple in life compares to the body of Christ.



### CULTIVATING RE-CREATION

We cultivated love in July. This month we are Cultivating Re-Creation. This a play on the word recreation, a time to play, rest, vacation. We need time to just "be". The first round of my vacation time was in July with a staycation ending with a play and boat ride in Brownville. I am wring this July 15 so I have no idea if I actually rested and was recreated at that time.

The second round of my vacation will be in Goodyear, AZ with Kathy as we will rest and take care of my sister-in-law recovering from back surgery. She needed 4 weeks of recovery and only had 3 children to rotate with caregiving. Poor planning on her part.

How does God keep re-creating you in this image? Does private devotions and public worship assist you in the Holy Spirit's ability to recreate you weekly?



Local attendees of  
the Nebraska Synod  
Convention 2024

Sarah Purcell, Pastor  
Kate Woolf, Pastor  
Jim Helgren, Diane &  
Paul Wilken and Rita  
and Steve Ruenholl.

# 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



# AUGUST

## BIRTHDAYS

- 8th - Diane Ekhoff
- Ryan Weber
- Madison Lang
- 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

## **“THE MUSICAL” by Table Grace Ministries**

THE MUSICAL is loosely based on the mission and the impact of Table Grace Ministries through Table Grace Café and 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.

# August 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>8:30 am Worship w/ Communion</b> <b>Blessing of Backpacks</b>						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>8:30 am Joint Worship with Hope @ Grace Lutheran</b> <b>led by PMA Fred Bredehoeft</b>						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>8:30 am Worship w/ Communion</b> Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m.	Piecemakers Blanket Making			Tower Echoes Deadline		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>8:30 am Worship</b>				Parent/Student Confirmation Meeting @ Grace Lutheran— 7:00 p.m.		

## Grace Lutheran Church Council

**July 11, 2024**

The July meeting of the Grace Lutheran Council was called to Order at 7:00 pm by President Bret Wellensiek. Those in attendance were Bret Wellensiek, Sarah Purcell, Cheryl Grundman, Robin Eggleston, Pastor Helgren and Diane Wilken, Church Secretary/Treasurer. Pastor Helgren led an opening prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Cheryl Grundman motioned to accept the minutes, Robin Eggleston second the motion. Minutes approved.

Treasurers report was reviewed. Sarah Purcell motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, Cheryl Grundman seconded, Report approved.

Pastor's report:

Funeral July 2, 2024- Jim Pope, July 6<sup>th</sup> – inurnment at Hopewell.

Attended Confirmation camp with 3 boys.

Memorial June 19<sup>th</sup> for Elizabeth Eisenhauer Santoro at Helena.

VBS is scheduled for July 15 – 19, 2024 with the kids singing at worship at 9 AM on July 21<sup>st</sup> in the Cook park.

Pastor's vacation July 22 – 28<sup>th</sup>. PMA Fred Bredehoeft will be leading worship at Hope at 10 AM – no service at Grace that day. Vacation days August 10 – 16<sup>th</sup> to help Kathy's sister in Goodyear, AZ. PMA Fred leading worship at Grace on 8/11/24 at 8:30 AM.

August 4<sup>th</sup> will be the blessing of the backpacks for all kids Preschool to College prior to their return to school.

5<sup>th</sup> graders have been approved to acolyte per their request.

Correspondence:

Immanuel Vision foundation grant information.

Thank you from the Probst family.

Training toolbox Webinar information.

Committee Reports:

Property – trees at parsonage to be scheduled. Church lawn and flowers look great!

Worship, Evangelism – John Weber tuned the piano. Back pack tags previewed. Hymns to be selected.

Parish Ed & young people – 3 boys to confirmation camp. Bible School scheduled – Melissa is in charge of music.

Stewardship & Memorial – Scheduled trip to the Sunken Garden had to be cancelled due to conflict. Memorial committee had committed \$350 to the Chrismon project. Table Grace musical had wonderful reviews & will be presented at Lofte Theater August 8 & 9.

Old Business – Worship duty covered.

Vacation Bible School in progress. Noisy Coin offering reviewed.

New Business – Windmill City days -worship in park. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Recap in Tower Echoes. Propane bid reviewed with past usage. Motion by Sarah, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cheryl to prepay 2750 gal @ 1.54. Motion approved.

Next meeting: Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

Council closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jody Wellensiek, secretary

## Minutes – Grace Lutheran Church WELCA Meeting

**Thursday, June 27, 2024**

Ladies of the ELCA meeting was called to order by President Carolyn Cropp at 7:00 pm. on Thursday, June 27, 2024. Carolyn Cropp read a devotion taken from “Grace Finds Wings” by Jill Miller.

Present at the meeting were Carolyn Cropp, Joyce Roesener, Julie Effken, Kathy Helgren and Pastor Jim Helgren

### **Old Business:**

Minutes from the February 15, 2024 meeting were read. A motion was made by Julie Effken to accept the minutes as read, second made by Joyce Roesener and all were in favor.

Treasurer’s Report was not given as Penny Weber was not at the meeting. Julie Effken presented a check for \$200.00 from Jean Effken’s funeral. This money will go to help pay half the cost of students going to Camp Carol Joy Holling summer camp.

Carolyn Cropp presented a bill for the purchase of a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gift. Motion made by Joyce Roesener to reimburse Carolyn for the purchase, second made by Julie Effken, all in favor.

Payment to Kris Gerking for Spring Cleaning of the church was discussed. Motion made by Julie Effken to pay Kris Gerking \$750.00, second made by Kathy Helgren, all in favor.

Thank you card was received from Larry and Cheryl Grundman for their 50th Anniversary gift.

Southeast Conference was held on April 6, 2024 and it was an enjoyable time. Housekeeping/clothing items for veterans was provided by those who attended.

Chrismons were once again discussed. Motion was made by Julie Effken to purchase in various sizes, second made by Joyce Roesener, all in favor. Julie Effken, Carolyn Cropp, Joyce Roesener and Kathy Helgren will meet on July 3, 2024 to go through the old Chrismons and decide which symbols and sizes to order.

### **New Business:**

Vacation Bible School will be held in conjunction with Osage Church at Osage July 15-19, 2024. Julie Effken applied for a Thrivent Action Team card and the money will be used to provide meals. Osage will provide and pay for the pizza for the student’s Friday meal.

Save to Serve will be held August 2-4, 2024 at First Lutheran Church in Blair. Joyce Roesener and Eleta Eisenhauer will attend. Tangible offering items such as bar soap, laundry soap, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper and quilts are being asked for donation. These items will help young adults exiting out of the foster care program to setup housekeeping. Registration is due on July 19, 2024 with a fee of \$39.00.

The 55 cup electric coffee pot is no longer working. Julie Effken went on line to Amazon. Motion was made by Kathy Helgren to purchase a 60 cup coffee pot for \$133.87, second by Julie Effken, all in favor.

Table Grace the Musical will be held August 8-9, 2024, 7:00 pm at the LoftTheater.

Autumn Renewal will be held at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Grand Island, October 12, 2024.

Mission Fest will be held at Hope Lutheran Church, Burr on October 13, 2024. There will be a pot luck lunch with Hope Lutheran providing the meat and Grace Lutheran providing the side dishes.

Nominations for WELCA Officers are to be given to Carolyn Cropp by July 31, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m. with Pastor Helgren leading us in the Lord’s Prayer.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,      Kathy Helgren, Secretary



Grace Lutheran  
Church

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