

SEPTEMBER



**TOWER
ECHOES
2024**

From the Pastor,

Kathy and my vacation time in August was a vacation with a purpose. We were there to be help to Kathy's sister as she recovered from her recent back surgery. We did not do tourist activities but we did go for early morning walks at 6:30 a.m. when the temperature was only 86 degrees and drive around the immediate area and we discovered the deliciousness of Del Taco. We came back to Nebraska feeling relaxed and refreshed.

I did miss not being in John 6 for five Sundays. I was present for just three of the Sundays. I enjoy being reminded every three years about the importance of Holy Communion and thus the church. The eating and drinking of the body and blood of Christ gives eternal life. The church is the only institution established by Christ to give this gift of life. My appreciation for the Lord's Supper is heightened during these five weeks of being in John 6 and talking about bread.

Our nephew discovered that walking barefoot on the sun soaked patio bricks could be very painful. After-noon temperatures in Pebblecreek, Goodyear, Arizona were between 106 and 112 degrees during our week there. I imagine how hot the patio bricks are in hell. Jesus offers us eternal life with God. To reject this gift means having eternal life without God.

Pastor Jim

* **75th ANNIVERSARY LUNCH** *
*
* The actual date of Grace Lutheran's 75th anniversary is September 12th, so let's
* celebrate again! The church council is inviting all members to join us for a lunch
* at the New Sidelines on Sunday September 15th at 11:00 a.m. A hot beef meal
* followed with anniversary cake will be served. We appreciate having assistance
* from Thrivent for the meal. The church council wishes to thank everyone for
* making the July 23, 2024 celebration a beautiful and successful event.
* You **must** RSVP to Cheryl Grundman at 402-873-2468 or Sarah Purcell at
* 402-269-5593 by September 9th to attend.



Congratulations!

Dr. Laura Purcell, daughter of Carl and Sarah Purcell, graduated from Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at the UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas this past July. She previously completed General Surgery Residency at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which included performing global surgery research in Lilongwe, Malawi and obtaining her Master's Degree in Public Health. Dr. Purcell is now employed as a Pediatric Surgeon at Children's Medical Center Dallas.

Charla Eggleston graduated from Creighton University, Phoenix AZ accelerated nursing program with her Bachelors of Science in Nursing on August 9, 2024. Her parents Robin & Andrea Eggleston were in Phoenix to help her celebrate along with her brother Caleb and her Grandmother Eleta Eisenhower. She has accepted a Registered Nurse position at Mayo Clinic Hospital ICU in Phoenix AZ.



Church Season: We remain in the Church Season Time after Pentecost. The color remains green and the texts continue to inform us how to live our lives for Christ. The Gospels in August reminded us the importance of receiving Holy Communion on regular basis.

Church Festival Days: September 14: Holy Cross Day

September 21: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

September 29: St. Michael & All Angels

US Holidays: September 2: Labor Day

September 8: Grandparents Day

September 11: Patriots Day

September 22: Fall Begins

Grace Lutheran and DQ

Our church sign in the park had a new look for August with the message "We are not DQ but we have great Sundays!" The new DQ (Dairy Queen) in Tecumseh loved the message and they provided 20 free sundae coupons. The youth who had their backpacks blessed on August 4th were each given a coupon. A drawing was conducted during Fellowship for the remaining coupons. Thank you DQ!



Sunday School

Sunday School will resume on
September 8th following the
Sunday Worship Service at
approximately 9:30 a.m.

Please help us share the
wonderful story of Jesus with
your children.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd - Richard Roesener

6th - Nick Weber

9th - Cory Panko

11th - Lindsay Badertscher

Dean (Little) Wellensiek

12th - Amy Cropp-Perkins

17th - Robert Schmidt

24th - Kate Dietz

26th - Beth Panko

27th - Baker Schippert

29th - Dave Smith

75th Anniversary Dinner

September 15, 2024

Worship 8:30 am

Congregational Meeting

Sunday School 9:30 am

Coffee – Social Hour

11 a.m. Dinner @ The New Sidelines

**Join us for this final celebration
of our 75th Year!**

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 17th

Paul & Diane Wilken

Terry & Beth Panko

Sept 21st

Thomas & Ann Keigher

Sept 30th

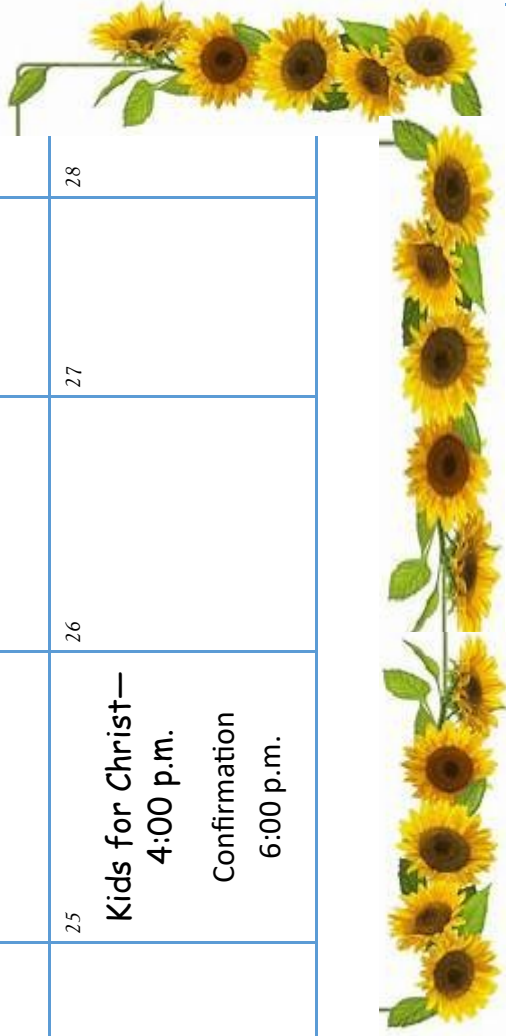
Gene & Diane Ekhoﬀ

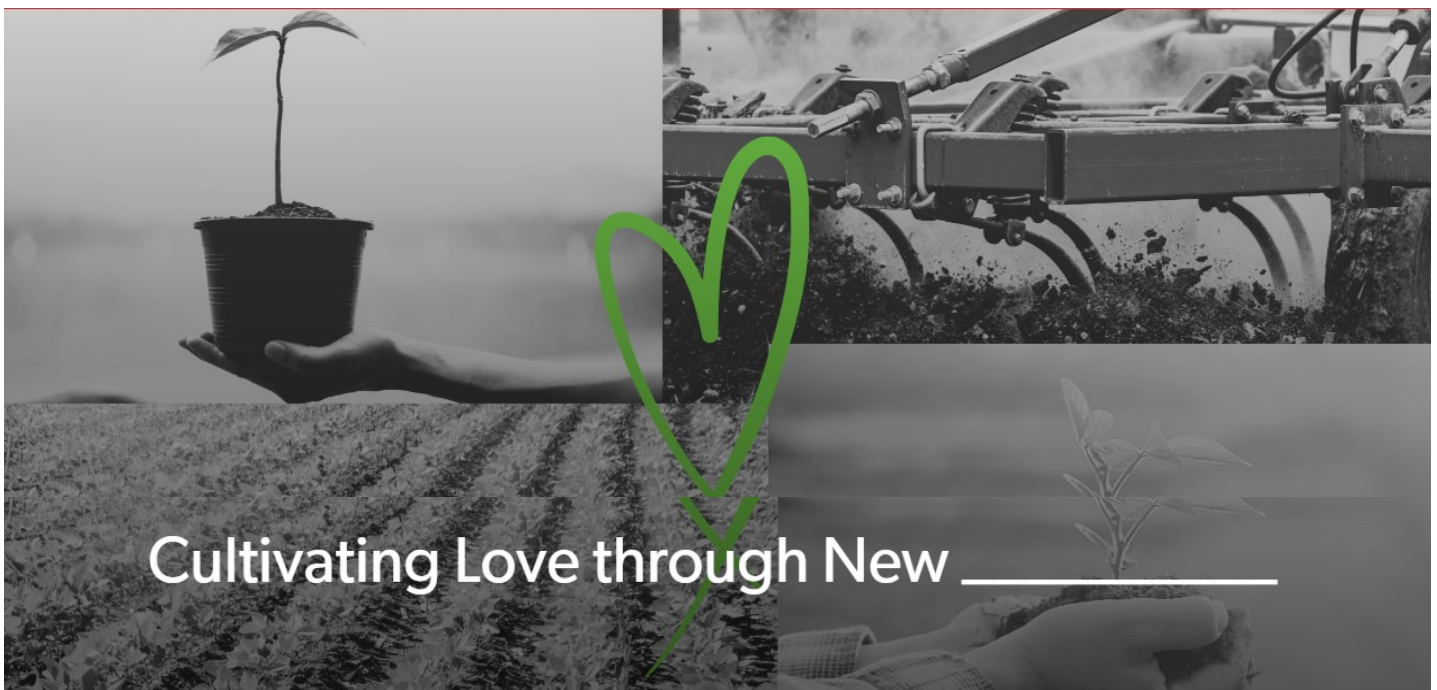
*Congratulations to
Allison (Brinkman) and Mike
Bousquet on their marriage
here at Grace Lutheran on
August 24th.
Prayers for a long happy
life together.*

September 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion	2	3	4 Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	5 ELCW Meeting 7:00 p.m.	6	7
8 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School	9	10	11 Kids for Christ— 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	12	13	14
15 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion Special Meeting following worship 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Anniversary Dinner @ The New Sidelines	16 Bible Study 2:00 pm Church Council 7:00 p.m.	17 Piecemakers Blanket Making	18 Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	19	20	21
22 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School	23 Tower Echoes Deadline	24	25 Kids for Christ— 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	26	27	28
29 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School	30					





Cultivating Love through New _____

We have Cultivated love, Cultivated love through re-creation, and this month, September, we Cultivate Love through New _____. Take a change on doing a new God thing. Try using a different prayer tool. Try varying your prayer time. Try visiting with person new to you. Add a new way of serving God. Read scriptures as prayer or just read scripture if that is new. Stay silent for thirty seconds and listen for the Holy Spirit to speak to you during your waking hours.

We can cultivate love through new questions, new ideas, and new dreams and imaginations. Sometimes to move forward in our lives and/or our faith we need the Holy Spirit to challenge us to do something new or different. I officially hate change yet I understand that the cross changes everything. So maybe I can embrace change (sometimes). Have fun challenging yourself this month to cultivating love through a new challenge.

Welcome back to “Kids for Christ!” Again this year we will meet the second Wednesday and the fourth Wednesdays after school on the days that school is in attendance. To adapt to the school schedule change we will meet from 4 until 6.

Our routine usually will be a snack, devotions, a story, and singing, a craft and closing prayer followed by an evening meal. Our purpose is to help young ones grow in faith and reinforce that God loves them. All school age children are welcome. Pastor meets the school bus and children depart in front of the church so young ones don't have to cross a street.

Hope to see you at the church basement on September 11. It will be very helpful if the child brings the name and number of an emergency contact person for us to have on file. Older students will again have the opportunity for Community Service by helping prepare the evening meal.

We invite interested community persons to join us about 5:30 to share our evening meal. Call the church 402-864-4201 by Tuesday noon so we can have enough food prepared.

ELCW Saved to Serve

The Saved to Service in gathering for the Dana Village was tremendous. It would not have been possible without all of you. Over one hundred thirty quilts were donated. About half of them tied and half quilted. The young people were allowed to pick one of each. Shelves were assembled and placed in three or four store rooms and they were FILLED! Everything from stool plungers, to sets of dishes or from soaps to pots and pans. For example we took 3 van loads, floor to ceiling including the passenger seat of just toilet paper to the shelves.

This is a new program for Lutheran Family and Social Services so it is going to continue to need our prayers. Part of their grant money has been used to purchase a large van for making transportation to jobs available. Young people are expected to pay at least four hundred fifty dollars a month toward their rent plus utilities and communication service so a job is a necessity. The first resident of the program received training through Job Core. The young people we met were very appreciative and glad to be there.

We learned of "Youth Mart" a donation center that serves former foster care youth ages 16-24. They are allowed to shop free of charge for household essentials. The public can donate household essentials, furniture and personal care items. It is operated by Partnership 4 Hope on the Omaha Home for Boys Campus, 5111 Sprague Plaza, Omaha, NE 68104, Phone 531-389-7551 and the email is youthmart.p4h@gmail.com. A volunteer truck brigade does some pick up and does deliver to the youth (The Dana Village Youth have been getting their bedroom furniture there.) youthmart@Omahahomeforboys.org for opportunities to donate.

Those of us who attended the Dana Village "Saved to Serve" weekend came away feeling like we had helped make a difference in the lives of others, we had shared with friends while making some new ones. And had the opportunity to praise and thank our Lord. Your donations helped make this weekend the success that it was. We are passing along thanks to you from the youth, the weekend planning committee and Lutheran Family and Social Services. All were amazed and oh so thankful. Again, know your generosity was very much appreciated.

Eleta Eisenhauer

P.S. I spoke with Mary Mayfield after I turned in my report and \$5000 was donated in cash. 3 of that will be reserved for vehicle maintenance (work van) and 2 will be used for mattresses, furniture and school books as needed. Again Thank you to everyone who helped make this project a tremendous success!

Grace Lutheran Church Council

August 19, 2024

The August meeting of the Grace Lutheran Council was called to Order at 7:00 pm by President Bret Wellensiek. Present were Bret Wellensiek, Jody Wellensiek, Cheryl Grundman and Sarah Purcell. Pastor Helgren and secretary/treasurer Diane Wilken present. Robin Eggleston excused. Pastor Helgren led an opening prayer.

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

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

Pastor's report:

Letter of Transfer received for Shawna, Hunter and Jaxson Thompson to Hope, Burr Nebraska.
Parent/Student Confirmation meeting scheduled for 8/28/24
Wedding Rehearsal – Brinkman/Bosquet – 8/23/24 at 6 pm, Wedding Ceremony 8/24/24 at 4 pm.
Worship at Linden View 8/28/28 2 pm.
VBS successful – 20 kids and 5 helpers.
Backpack dedication complete – well received.
Pastor Paul to retire May 2025 from Hickory Grove.
Kids for Christ starting in September.
Boundaries class 9/28/24 10 – 4 pm over zoom.
Webinar training complete – Longevity and the Ministry
Shut in visits reported.

Correspondence:

OPPD information, Policy # Received property insurance, Grant for Accessibility available.

Committee Reports:

Property – Parsonage trees to be scheduled for trimming.

Worship, Evangelism, Music and Fellowship – New hymnal – “Cranberry” presentation. Guest attending Rita Ruenholl and Dean Wellensiek. DQ coupons handed out the day of backpack presentation. Thank you sent to Dairy Queen with a copy of the church display from the park.

Parish ed & young people – VBS complete. Confirmation parents meeting scheduled – confirmation will begin 9/4/24 at 6 pm. Sunday school begins on 9/8/24 – materials to be ordered. Committee will send postcard to children on the congregation inviting them to attend. High school youth notified of offerings of Carol Joy Holling.

Stewardship & Memorial – Committee to plan upcoming trip to Lincoln – homeless meal program.

Anniversary dinner planned for 9/15/24 to finalize the celebration of our 75th year.

Old Business:

Worship duty covered for the coming month. Openings still available for congregation members to volunteer.

Anniversary Dinner to be celebrated on Sunday 9/15/24. Worship service at 8:30 am, Special congregational meeting to follow, coffee hour and lunch for all at The New Sidelines at 11. Thrivent cards were applied for to help with costs; Cheryl motioned and Sarah 2nd to take any remaining balance for the dinner from the anniversary account. Motion carried.

New Business:

Mission Festival is scheduled at Hope on 10/13/24 at 10 am with Martin Malley as guest speaker. Members of Grace are to provide salad and desserts.

Confirmation Class – curriculum to be ordered. Parents meeting and classes scheduled.

Cranberry Hymnals – Council discussed the presentation received regarding updating the hymnals. Sarah Purcell made a motion to recommend to the congregation that the hymnals be purchased using Memorial Committee Funds. Jody 2nd, motion carried. Congregational meeting will be scheduled for 9/15/24 to hear proposal and vote on moving forward.

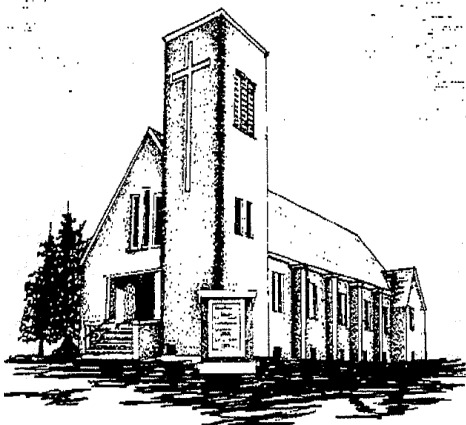
Next meeting – September 16, 2024, at 7 pm. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jody Wellensiek, secretary



Grace Lutheran
Church

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