



Tower Echoes 2024

From the Pastor,

I kind of think that I must talk about being thankful in my newsletter article every November. After all, it is kind of the November theme in the U.S.

We thank God for our Veteran's and take November 11 to celebrate and remember those men and women who served or are presently serving in the military. Every Veteran's Day my wife texts a "Happy Veteran's Day" greeting to my son serving in the Army Reserve. I put the middle school Veteran's Day program on my calendar to be present to honor our community Veteran's, but also to demonstrate to my middle school members that it is important to honor our country's veterans.

The Women of the ELCA hold their thank offering service in November. The original idea behind this concept was for members to put change into a piggy bank all year round and bring it to church to present to God to aid the ministries of the National and Synodical WELCA. This service is recognized each year at both churches the third Sunday of November, this year November 17.

And of course the national holiday Thanksgiving Day. My desk calendar gives the day a religious tone by referring to it as Day of Thanksgiving. For the Christians it seems natural to make Thanksgiving Day a day to give thanks to God. And the thought to do it as a nation seems appropriate. We hold Thanksgiving service the night before Thanksgiving. The tone on Thanksgiving Day is more about gathering with people to watch football and/or eat one's self into a coma. In many homes there is less a sense of giving Thanks to God, and just giving thanks to one another for not "killing" each other for another year.

For Martin Luther taking time each day to recognize where God blessed you and showered grace upon grace upon you leads to one to give thanks daily to God. If one does this daily then maybe one doesn't need one day set apart to count one's blessings from God but as a motion we do.

Happy Thanksgiving, Pastor Jim

Church Seasons: The Church Season of Time after Pentecost continues through November. It ends November 30th. The last Sunday of the Church year is November 24th.

Church Festival Days: Nov 1 - All Saints Day

Nov 3 - All Saint Sunday

Nov 10 - Martin Luther Birthday

Doctor & Confessor

Nov 24 - Christ the King Sunday

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Nov 30 - Andrew, Apostle

U.S. Holidays: Nov 3 - Daylight Savings Time Ends

Nov 5 - Election Day

Nov 11 - Veteran's Day

Nov 28 - Thanksgiving Day



Cultivating Love

Our November theme is Cultivating Love through Grace. The women were studying God's Grace this month and next month through a bible study using the book of Ephesians and Paul's understanding of grace. The author is using Ephesians to study Paul's understanding of grace even though she believes Ephesian's was probably written by a disciple of Paul's and not actually Paul himself.

Jesus calls us to love one another as he has loved us sacrificially and gracefully. Love without God's grace is just an emotion and not an action. Jesus' love full of grace has him die for us on the cross in our place to bring us the forgiveness of sins and open up the kingdom of God to us as forgiven sinners. Grace changes our relationship with God. Can our cultivating love through grace change our relationship with others in our life?

We give thanks for the lives and memories of our Saint who began his new journey with Christ in 2024.

Paul Wilken

We also give thanks for all the memorial funds that have been given to us so generously over the years. Below are the items that have been purchased in 2024 by memorial funds.

Stained Glass Window Repair, DVD Player, a donation towards the new Chrismons and the Cranberry Hymnals.

Mission Fest

\$775 given October 13 through Hope. \$662 given through Grace for a total of \$1437. This is the Mission Fest offering given to Tanzanian SUN School in Mpanda. Martin Malory our guest speaker chose this particular school because it is close to his heart being run by Sister Ann and Sister Ann.

November 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Time Change All Saints Sunday 8:30 am Worship w/Communion 9:30 am Sunday School	4 5		6 Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	7 ELCW Yearbook Planning Meeting 7:00 pm	8 9 All Saints Day	
10 No Sunday School 10:00 am Joint Worship with Hope 10:30—1:00 Creamed Chicken Dinner @ CCC	11 12 Bible Study 2:00 p.m.	13 14 Kids for Christ 4:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	15	16	17	
17 Thankoffering Sunday 8:30 am Worship w/Communion 9:30 am SS Program Practice	18 19 Piecemakers Blanket Making	20 21 Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Church Council 7:15 p.m.	22	23	24	
24 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am SS Program Practice	25	26	27 Kids for Christ	28	29 30 Happy Thanksgiving	



Happy
Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 3rd is the Talmage Fire & Rescue Pancake Breakfast. They will be serving until 1:00 p.m. with a Free Will Donation. Eat in or take out available.

Thank Offering

The Thank Offering service for Grace and Hope Women of the ELCA will be held on November 17th during the morning worship services.



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

CREAMED CHICKEN DINNER

COOK COMMUNITY BUILDING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024

10:30 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

CREAMED CHICKEN ON BISCUITS

SALADS, DESSERTS, TEA, COFFEE, WATER

FREE WILL DONATION

Sunday School

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

PRACTICE

The Christmas Program Practice will begin on November 17th during Sunday School hour. If you know of someone who would like to join us, please let Melissa know at 402-957-7272 .

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service, is
Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00 p.m. at
Hope Lutheran Church.**

Grace Lutheran, Hope Lutheran and UCC Osage congregations will worship and give thanks together.

Faith Forward

Parent Workshop online is November 7, 7:00—8:15 p.m.

Triple-A-Adult Mentors is online November 21, 7:00—8:15 p.m.

A mentor is any adult that spends time with children not their own. (Pastor's Definition)

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY

11/9– Steve & Shari
Siepelmeier

PEOPLE'S CITY MISSION TOUR:

Our second tour of the PCM, is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13th at 9:30 AM.

The tour will take us to 110 Q Street and will last approximately one hour. This location is where the Mission feeds and houses those in need. There will be stairs to climb and outdoor walking involved. The tour includes the dining and housing facility, the church, memorial garden, and the dental clinic. **CHALLENGE:** Please bring any non-perishable food item(s) canned, or boxed or paper products (dinner napkins, paper towels, bathroom tissue).

The Pizza Ranch will not allow me to reserve a dining room because I cannot guarantee 25 guests. If we decide after our tour that we want to go there as a group there should be plenty of seating at 11:00 in the public dining area.

If you need a ride please let me know, arranging your own car pooling worked well on our first tour. Michelle at the PCM would like me to call in a head count on Monday November 11th, therefore, you must RSVP to Cheryl Grundman at 402-873-2468 by text message by Sunday November 10th.



November Birthdays

- 1st – Joan Staack
- 3rd – Laura Purcell
Brittany (Siepelmeier) Eggerling
- 5th - Cooper Kuhl
- 6th – Dennis Eden
Big Dean Wellensiek
- 7th – Elijah Dorn
- 9th – Cheryl Grundman
Brennan Garday
- 11th – Shelley Moles
- 14th – Judy Schmidt
- 15th – Bret Wellensiek
- 17th – Larry Grundman
- 21st – Dawn Thompson
Lily Bilsland
- 22nd – Brian Mannschreck
- 23rd – Blaine Siepelmeier
- 26th – Gene Ekhoff
Keith Weber
Tonia Mannschreck
- 27th – Janice Rader

Grace Lutheran Church Council

October 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Bret Wellensiek at 7:00 pm. Members present were Robin Eggleston, Sarah Purcell, Cheryl Grundman, Bret Wellensiek, Jody Wellensiek and Pastor Jim Helgren. Pastor Helgren led with an opening prayer.

Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed. Sarah Purcell motion to accept the minutes as presented, Cheryl Grundman second. Minutes approved.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Cheryl motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Robin Eggleston second. Motion carried.

Pastor's report:

Charlene Helgren moved to Orchard Park on 9/29/24.

Pastor will be leading worship at Orchard Park on 10/17 and Linden View on 10/23.

Fall leadership conference

Paul Wilken funeral services 10/8/24

Communion for shut ins.

Trunk or Treat scheduled for 10/31/24 5 -6:30.

Cream chicken dinner has been scheduled for 11/10/24, joint worship at Grace at 10:00.

Boundary training complete (due every 3 years)

Faith Forward Cohort – 10/1/24 – coffee break 10/16 -promote doing workshops.

Mission Fest speaker Molley – very well received.

Dietz baptism scheduled for 12/15/24.

Any member who desires visitation/communion please contact Pastor.

Correspondence: Synod information on Lutheran Giving – Leaving a Legacy

Carol Joy Holling – fall programs.

Insurance – American Church Group

Committee reports:

Property – Church yards have been fertilized. Fire extinguishers to be serviced. Upcoming time change will require the chimes and thermostats to be reprogrammed.

Worship, Evangelism, Music and Fellowship: Organists will look into what needs to be ordered along with the new hymnals. Will develop a plan for implementation.

Parish Ed and Young People – Kids for Christ in session. Potential for engagement with North Branch youth.

Stewardship & Memorial - A tour of the People City Mission will need to be rescheduled. Date to be announced. Memorial Committee guidelines have been revised. Presented to council members. Approval at the upcoming meeting.

Old Business

Worship Duty – Oct/Nov complete

Hymnals to be ordered.

Discussion on council feedback from members – when to sit/when to stand. Consensus to stand for Confession, Gospel, Lord's Prayer. Congregation members encouraged to share with the council their opinions for future discussion.

New Business

Thanksgiving Service. Wednesday 11/27/24 at 7 pm at Hope.

Dietz request to use the church basement on 12/15/24 at noon approved.

Next meeting scheduled – Wednesday, November 20th at 7:15 pm.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Wellensiek, secretary

Heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to the
family and friends of
Paul Wilken

Paul passed away on October 2, 2024 at the
age of 68 years.

His funeral was held on Friday, October 8, 2024
at Grace Lutheran Church with burial at
Grace Lutheran Cemetery.



Thank you!

There are no words that can express our sincere thanks to the Grace Lutheran Church family for the cards, prayers, hugs, plants & flowers for Paul.

Thank you to the Church Women and all that helped with the luncheon.

We are so blessed and your thoughtfulness is much appreciated by the family of Paul



Psalm 107:1

Give thanks
to the LORD,
for He is good;
His love endures
forever.

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

H.S.

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