



From the Pastor,

The Theme for the Nebraska Synod Assembly is Imagine! Imagine! Imagine! I will be more able to explain what we are to imagine after the assembly is over. I have been told that there will be a Synod yearly theme for 2025-2026. We will stop Cultivating Love at the end of May as the Synod Church year comes to an end.

But wait! If memory serves me well, Grace & Hope have an additional theme for 2025. Our church theme is to be Christlike. Being Christ like explains why we Cultivate love for God, others, and self. That is what Christ would do. But it is more than just asking the question "What would Christ do?" as was a popular Evangelical youth leader challenge for their youth. The question is what is being Christlike? It is allowing the Holy Spirit to transform your old human nature to be more like the very nature of Christ.

I no longer am kind because God expects me to be kind and being unkind probably breaks a commandment or two. I am kind because that is the nature of Christ. Kindness is a gift of the spirit. A gift that makes me Christlike. Our challenge in 2025 is to allow the Holy Spirit work the Spirit's gifts in us not to just make us Christlike. We are kind because that is part of being in the new nature God has begun in us since we were baptized.

Plus, don't forget you have a star word for the year. Mine is "Be".

Pastor Jim

JUNE

BIRTHDAYS

3rd - Steve Bridgmon
Tucker Drake
6th - Kaiden Dorn
7th - Kenna Thomas
10th - Kelly Bridgmon
Erica Medina
13th - Kyle Wellensiek
17th - Karsten Bruns
18th - Trevor Brinkman
19th - Ann (Moles) Keigher
20th - Jack Moles
Kurt Effken
21st - Charlene Helgren
25th - Travis Thomas
26th - Angie Ekhoff
Steven Carman
27th - Mitchell Faris
29th - Aaron Cropp
Edgar Dorn
Taylor Kuhl

JUNE

ANNIVERSARIES

June 1st—Larry & Cheryl Grundman
June 20th—Carl & Sarah Purcell
June 21st—Taylor & Sara Kuhl
June 25th—Travis & Mikaela Thomas

Pastor will be at Confirmation Camp June 16–20. Call his cell phone if you need to talk to him and he will return the call when he is not around campers—as per camp rules.



Let's HAVE A
G R E A T
Summer

June 2025

Summer

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am Synod Assembly Worship @ Grace Lutheran in the Church Basement—Live Streaming No Sunday School	2 3	4	5	6	7	
8 Pentecost—Wear Red 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion	9 10 Bible Study 2:00 p.m.	11 12	13	14		
15 Happy Father's Day! 8:30 am Worship	16 17 Piecemakers Blanket Making	18 19	20	21		
		Pastor at Confirmation Camp—June 15–20				
22 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion Grace Lutheran Cemetery Committee Presentation following worship	23 24 Church Council 7:00 p.m.	25 TOWER ECHOES DEADLINE	26 ELCW Meeting 7:00 p.m.	27	28	
29 8:30 am Worship 11:00 a.m. Burr Community Worship @ Hope Lutheran						

YOU'RE INVITED!
Open House Celebration
Honoring the Retirement of
Pastor Paul Lillenas and family

Join us as we celebrate and give thanks for 18 years
of faithful ministry and devoted service to
our church and community.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." – Matthew 25:21

Date: Sunday, June 8, 2025

Time: 12:30-2:00 pm

Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church – Hickory Grove
72796 634 Avenue, Auburn

Come and go as you please. Cake will be served.

Your presence will be a blessing to

Pastor Lillenas as we reflect on
a legacy of love, leadership, and faith.

All are welcome!



Vacation Bible School 2025

Hosted by: Grace Lutheran, St. Paul's UCC Osage, and Hope Lutheran

All Kids Pre-K through 6th Grade are Invited to Attend.

Minimum age of 3 years old by July 14 and must be fully potty trained.

Where: Grace Lutheran Church, 306 N 1st Street, Cook, NE 68329

When: July 14-18, 2025

5:30 – 7:45 pm each night

Supper provided during VBS.

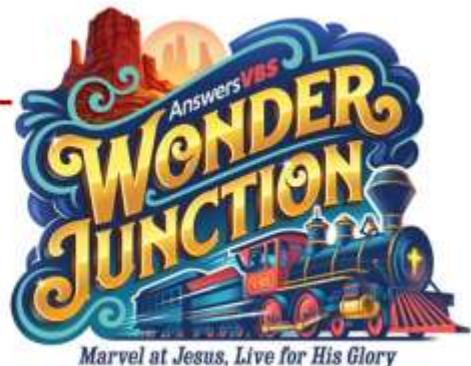
VBS Kids will perform songs at the Community Church Service on July 20th!

RSVP: Please RSVP by June 27 to ensure we have the necessary t-shirts, food, and craft supplies.

Use the QR Code to go directly to registration link or go directly to the following registration link (Google form):

<https://forms.gle/mXb4pNRu4GCetRwL7>

No Cost to Attend.



Church Seasons: The last Sunday of Easter is June 1. The Sundays after Pentecost begin June 15. Time After Pentecost is six months of the Church just living as children of God. The scriptures chosen guide us in being Christlike in our faith journey.

Church Festival Days: JUNE

- 8-The Day of Pentecost
- 11– Barnabas, Apostle
- 12-The Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, AD 325
- 15-The Holy Trinity
- 24-The Nativity of John the Baptist
- 25-Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the Church
and Author of Augsburg Confession
- 25-Presentation of the Augsburg Confession
- 29-St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles

U.S. Holidays: JUNE	14—Flag Day
	15—Father's Day
	19—Juneteenth National Independence Day
	20—Summer Begins

Grace Lutheran Church Council

May 22, 2025

The regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Cheryl Grundman at 7:00 pm. Members present were Cheryl Grundman, Robin Eggleston, Sarah Purcell & Jody Wellensiek. Mike Carman excused. Pastor Helgren led with an opening prayer and report on the Strategic Reconciliation Report to be reviewed at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Minutes of the April 2025 meetings were reviewed. Robin Eggleston motioned to accept and Sarah Purcell second. Minutes approved.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Sarah Purcell motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Robin Eggleston second, motion carried.

Correspondence

Policy information received from Brotherhood Mutual.
Lutheran Campus Ministry request for funding.

Pastor's report:

Communion will be observed on June 8th and 22nd.

Two shut ins are currently hospitalized. Report of shut in visits conducted past month.

Worship is scheduled for 6/1/25 at 10 am at Grace. Erin Ebeler will connect television for Synod Assembly broadcast in the basement.

Pastor will be at Confirmation Camp June 15 – 20th

Burr community worship on 5/29/25 at 11 am at Hope with Pastor Karen Lamb to preach.

Pastor vacation Sunday on 7/27/25 - PMA Fred will be at Hope for worship at 10:00 a.m.

Possible vacation on 8/27/25 – will report when finalized.

Last Kids for Christ for school year was held.

Gayleen Eden funeral was on 5/3/25.

Kids for Christ will be looking for a replacement for Eleta Eisenhauer for the coming year.

Rogation Sunday was observed on 5/18/25.

Worship was conducted at Orchard Park and Linden View.

Faith Forward Training completed.

Little Jesus' handed out to congregation members.

Property - (Robin chair)

Weeds in landscaping sprayed.

Flowerpots were planted. Thank you Dean & Jody!

Trees at the parsonage will be trimmed.

Worship, Evangelism & Fellowship (Sarah Chair) –

Senior Breakfast was served on May 4th to recognize our two graduates- Kali Drake and Tucker Thomas. Thank-you to Cheryl, Eleta, Pastor & Kathy, Dean & Jody and Carl for helping.

Grace will be hosting Bishop Shoo from Tanzania on 5/24/25 at 9:30 am. We will have a Meet and Greet at the church and then tour the Eggleston and Cropp farms.

Parish Ed & young people – (Mike Chair)

The VBS organizational meeting was held on 5/14/25. Registration information is available at church and on Facebook. Pastor West will teach, Melissa Wellensiek is in charge of music, Lisa Cropp in charge of crafts. Food committee in place. The dates are 7/14 – 7/28. Time 5:30 – 7:45. Thrivent card approved for shirts.

Eleta retiring from Kids for Christ – replacement wanted.

Stewardship & Memorial – (Jody Chair)

Hymnals received as ordered @ \$26.50 each. They have been stamped and distributed in the church – including the balcony.

Memorial money was received in honor of Luetta Bruns.

Old Business

Thank you to Kurt and Julie Effken for taking council duty. Volunteers in place for June – openings in upcoming months.

New Business

Synod Assembly – Gene and Diane Ekhoff are representing Grace. Joint Worship at Grace Lutheran with broadcast of Synod Closing worship is at 10 am on June 1, 2025 in church basement.

Pastor vacation dates – as above.

Next meeting – Monday, June 23, 2025 at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Wellensiek



Welcome June

May your heart and
mind to open enough to
receive the **Blessings of**
New Month!

Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give
you the desires of your heart. - Psalm 37:4



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