



## From the Pastor,

I just returned from a whole week at Confirmation Camp. I tease that my “Camp High” lasts about 2 weeks. That excitement about the camp activities and twice a day worships, and the energy that middle schoolers and college age counselors bring to the week.

What excites you? What gives you energy or renews your energy? Many get energized for the week by attending Sunday Worship. We receive forgiveness for things done/left undone the past week and begin the week being renewed by worship and the body and blood of Christ, and being in God’s word. My “worship high” is not usually the same level as my “camp high”, but there is something about worship that prepares me for the upcoming week. Some people even say the week feels off when they were unable to attend Sunday worship.

Pastor Jim

**Church Seasons:** We are now in the Time after Pentecost Church season. There are few festival days and the Sunday text center around how to live our lives as children of God.

Church Festivals—	July 3 Thomas, Apostle
	July 22 Mary Magdalene, Apostle
	July 25 James (son of Zebedee), Apostle
	July 29 Mary, Martha and Lazarus of Bethany
U.S. Holiday—	July 4 Independence Day

### **COOK COMMUNITY WORSHIP**

*Worship in the Park on July 20, 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 sponsoring 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 & Kathy will be on vacation July 22—30. They will be on a charter bus tour of South Dakota. Pastor Kate Woolf will be available in case of emergencies. Her cell phone # is 316-371-0803.

Worship on July 28th will be a Joint Worship at Hope at 10:00 a.m. PMA Fred Bredehoeft will lead worship. There will not be worship @ Grace.

### **COOK RESCUE BREAKFAST**

PANCAKES, EGGS, SAUSAGE,  
BISCUITS W/SAUSAGE GRAVY,  
COFFEE, MILK, ORANGE JUICE

### **COOK FIREHALL**

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025

8 A.M. TO 11 A.M.

FREE WILL DONATION

CELEBRATING **47 YEARS**  
OF SERVICE TO THE COOK  
COMMUNITY

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 Blunt Scissors.

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.

## July Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup> – Linda Daniels

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

18<sup>th</sup> – Michelle Dutcher

Mike Weber

19<sup>th</sup> – Jason Dorn

21<sup>st</sup> – Shaun Thompson

23<sup>rd</sup> – 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—70th Anniversary  
Louis & Grace Bentzinger

7/31—Tom & Lori Brinkman

### **Louis & Grace Bentzinger**

are Celebrating **70 years** of love. Their Anniversary is on July 24th and they were married here at Grace Lutheran. Anyone wishing to send them Anniversary wishes, here is their address:

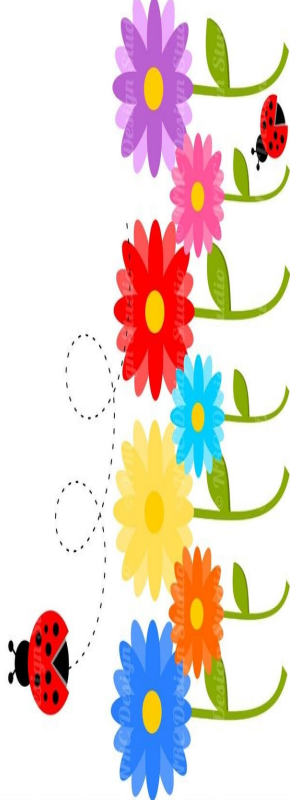
Louis & Grace Bentzinger, 62054 73750 Road,  
Cook, NE 68329



They have truly been blessed!

### **BLESSING**

Grace Lutheran and Hope Lutheran Church 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 3rd

# July 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Happy 4th of July!	5 
6 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 8:30 am Worship Osage Ice Cream Social—5-7 p.m.	14 Bible Study 2:00 p.m.	15	16	17	18	19
	Community VBS - July 14—18, 5:30 - 7:45 p.m. At Grace Lutheran Church					
20 9:00 am—Cook Community Worship @ the Park VBS children to sing 8-11 am -Cook Rescue Pancake Feed 11 am—2 pm—Museum Food Stand & Bake Sale @ CCC	21 Church Council 7:00 p.m.	22 Piecemakers Blanket Making	23	24	25 Tower Echoes Deadline	26
	Pastor will be on vacation July 22-30					
27 10:00 am Joint Worship at Hope Lutheran Church—Burr	28	29	30	31		





Picture ID – Bishop Shoo, Janet Shoo and members of Grace Lutheran Church in Cook



Picture ID: Left to right – Ronnie Green, Janet Shoo, Bishop Shoo, Bryce Cropp, and Carl Purcell after a close up inspection of the 24-row planter.

## Tanzanian Bishop Visits Cook

Members of Grace Lutheran Church in Cook recently welcomed Bishop Dr. Frederick Shoo of the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT-ND) to their community. Bishop Shoo was accompanied by his wife, Janet, and Ronnie Green, Tanzanian Missions Volunteer Coordinator for the Nebraska Synod.

The morning started with a gathering at Grace Lutheran Church. Cheryl Grundman, Church Council President, welcomed the guests. She provided a history of Cook and Grace Lutheran Church. In addition, several favorite hymns were sung during the program.

Later in the morning Robin and Andrea Eggleston's farm southwest of Cook was toured. The visitors had an opportunity to learn about solar wells. Raising horses and growing flowers for sale were business opportunities that were explored.

Lunch was enjoyed at the annual Memorial Day weekend luncheon at Hope Lutheran Church in Burr, giving the Shoos an opportunity to visit a neighboring community.

The final stop was a tour of Bryce and Lisa Cropp's farm north of Cook. Bishop Shoo and Mrs. Shoo were thrilled to learn about corn and soybean production. They were delighted to see up close a 290 HP tractor, a 24-row planter, and a 12-row combine.

Bishop Shoo was in Nebraska to receive an honorary Doctorate of Divinity Degree from Midland University in Fremont and to be a Keynote Speaker at the ELCA Nebraska Synod Assembly in Kearney.



Picture ID: Left to right – Robin Eggleston, Janet Shoo, and Bishop Shoo discussing solar wells.

# Grace Lutheran Church Council

## June 23, 2025

The regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Cheryl Grundman at 7:00 pm – all members present. Pastor Helgren led with an opening prayer and history of the Athanasian Creed and Nicene Creed as reported in *Living Lutheran*.

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

**The Treasurer's report** was reviewed. Jody motioned to accept the treasure's report, Sarah second, motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

Thank-you note from ELCA for donations.  
Outreach for World Hunger received.

### **Pastor's report:**

Attended Synod Assembly in Kearney.  
June visits reported on shut-ins, hospitalized.  
Pastor attended Confirmation camp this past week with 2 students.  
Led worship at Orchard Park on 6/12.  
Will lead worship at Linden View on 6/25.  
The "Homework Committee" for the synod call process will meet with a Synod representative at Grace on 6/27.  
Vacation Bible School July 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. 5:30 – 7:45 pm.  
Cook Community worship at 9 am in park on July 20<sup>th</sup>.  
Pastor's vacation 7/22 – 7/30. Pastor Kate will cover while on vacation. 316-371-0803  
July 27<sup>th</sup> PMA Fred Bredehoeft will lead joint worship at Hope at 10 am.

### **Property - (Robin chair)**

Trees at the parsonage will be trimmed. Glass to be ordered for front walkway light.

### **Worship, Evangelism & Fellowship ( Sarah Chair) –**

Grace hosted Bishop Shoo and his wife Janet from Tanzania on 5/24/25 at 9:30 am. Meet and Greet at the church and then tour the Eggleston and Cropp farms. The Shoos were able to see solar well, flowers, cows, horse and farm equipment. Thank you to the Eggleston and Cropp families for their generosity, Cheryl Grundman for history of Cook and Grace, Purcell's, Eisenhower's, Wellensiek and Eggleston's for helping with the reception. Report given to local papers.

Blessing of the backpacks scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup> prior to the start of the school year. JCC schedule to start 8/5, SDA – 8/12.

### **Parish Ed & young people – (Mike Chair)**

VBS Registration deadline is this next week at church and on Facebook. Pastor West will teach, Melissa Wellensiek oversees music, Lisa Cropp in charge of crafts. Food committee in place. The dates are 7/14 – 7/28. Time 5:30 – 7:45. Thrivent cards approved for shirts and food. Kandi Bilsend is making shirts.

### **Stewardship & Memorial – (Jody Chair)**

Memorial money received in honor of Gayleen Eden.

### **Old Business**

Thank you to Kurt and Julie Effken for taking council duty. Cheryl and Jody covering July – openings in upcoming months.

Gene and Diane Ekhoft attended synod convention as our delegates. Cheryl will ask them to report back orally or in writing in Tower Echoes.



### New Business

June 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm the Homework committee will meet with Synod representative. Council members from Hope, Grace and Faith are invited to discuss how to prepare for a call.

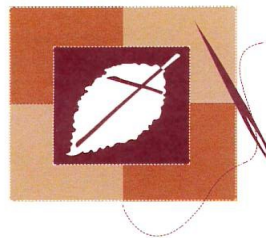
Dave Smith will no longer be spraying the weeds along the south side of the church, sidewalk cracks and parking lot cracks. Robin will assume this duty pending another volunteer.

Pastor vacation dates – as above.

Next meeting – Monday, July 21, 2025 at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jody Wellensiek



Carol Joy Holling Camp, Conference & Retreat Center

## Quilt Auction

Saturday, July 26, 2025

Plan to join us for the 37th annual Quilt Auction!

It's a day filled with good food, great fun, and hundreds of beautiful quilts! Help us provide Camperships for campers who can't afford the full cost of a week at camp.

To view the schedule and preview quilts, visit

[NLOM.org/quilt-auction](https://NLOM.org/quilt-auction)



## Join us in the Fight Against Child Hunger in Johnson County

Please join us for a conversation to learn more and how you can help with the Backpack Program.



**Tuesday, July 8**



**11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Lunch provided



**Hidden Gem Bistro**

489 Broadway in Tecumseh

Questions? Please contact John Mabry at  
[jmabry@lincolnfoodbank.org](mailto:jmabry@lincolnfoodbank.org) or (402) 819-6861.



*RSVP if you can  
Thank you*





## 2025 Saved To Serve Opportunity Retreat Mosaic/Beatrice



Friday, August 8, 6:00 p.m. to Sunday, August 10, 1:00 p.m.

### **Learn about Mosaic's program and spend time with Mosaic's clients**

Spend time with your Sisters in Christ, make new friends, and renew continuing friendships as we have a fun weekend in Beatrice at the Mosaic facility. Come join us to learn about Mosaic new and existing programs. Hear from individuals sharing their stories. The weekend will also include devotions, Bingo, bell ringing, sing-a-longs with Karaoke, jokes, a picnic, jewelry making, a tour of the campus, worship will be held in the Mosaic Chapel, the closing group hug, and of course, food.

Individuals, churches and women's units are encouraged to participate by collecting and bringing items for the tangible offering.

#### Tangible items being collected:

Large hole beads, crosses, 1/8" satin ribbon, Ty or other small stuff animals, terrycloth shower mitten, and fun pillowcases

Registered attendees will receive a letter or email with more information. For answers to retreat questions, contact Mary Mayfield, call 402-778-0291, or text 402-660-9450; or Donna Bentjen, 402-429-0745.

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### **Saved to Served 2025 August Event Registration Form**

Name	_____			
Address	_____			
City	_____	State + Zip	_____	
Phone	_____	E-mail	_____	
Congregation/City	_____		Conference	_____
Special Needs	_____			

### **Registration Deadline: Friday, August 1, 2025**

Send form and \$39.00 payment to: Julie Reiser, NSWO Treasurer  
Check payable to: NSWO  
PO Box 64  
Butte, NE 68722  
nswotreasurer@gmail.com

Registration fee is transferable for one-year, not refundable



# NSWO's Saved to Serve Opportunity Retreat Mosaic in Beatrice, NE

August 8-10, 2025

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a fun weekend at the Mosaic Facility in Beatrice.

Get acquainted with your sisters in Christ from across the state as we learn about Mosaic's new and existing programs on Friday evening. Three individuals from Mosaic will tell their stories. Following closing devotions we will head for our overnight lodging.

Saturday there will be Bingo, bell ringing, sing-a-longs with Karaoke, jokes, a picnic, and jewelry making with the individuals. A tour of the campus is on the agenda as well. That evening we will enjoy dinner and activity with our Women of the ELCA sisters in Christ.

● Sunday we plan to worship in the Mosaic Chapel, have a dedication service sharing our highlight and enjoy lunch before we have our group hug and head home.

Plans are still being made. Registration forms will be in the Expressions Newsletter, on the NE Women of the ELCA website, and at Spring Gatherings. Retreat cost remains \$39 since 1998.

For questions call Mary Mayfield 402-778-0291 or Donna Bentjen 402-429-0745 leave message

## Your unit can also help by providing Monetary or Tangible Offerings:



1. Consider providing or making fun pillowcases — A few kits in the church basement
2. Try creating a terrycloth shower mitten
2. Collect Ty or other small stuffed animals Bingo Prize to include coloring books and colored pencils.
3. [REDACTED]
4. Monetary Donations to NSWO Treasurer, Julie Reiser, Box 64, Butte, NE 68722

### **Yardage for making FUN Pillowcases for individuals at Mosaic in Beatrice!**

Materials Needed: 3/4 yard or 27 inches by width of fabric for main part of pillowcase  
1/4 yard or 9 inches by width of fabric for cuff of pillowcase  
2 inch by width of fabric trim for pillowcase

You Tube Tutorial - Make an Easy Tube pillowcase with Jenny Doan (March 12, 2010)



### **How about making a shower mitt from recycled towels for our Mosaic friends?**

Tutorials - How to sew reusable bath gloves or mittens with Faithwerks Designs

How to make a bath mitt from up cycled towel with Joy - Sewing (Tie Tok)

Perhaps alter BarBQ mitt patterns...Simplicity S9858 or S9942 or McCalls M6978



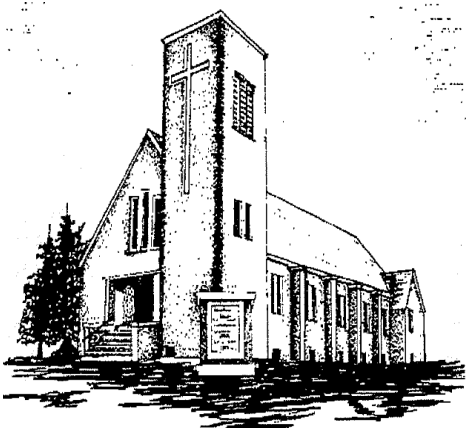


## Grace Lutheran Church

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Church Office: 402-864-4201

Pastor Jim Helgren: 402-864-2113

Church Email: [grace68329@gmail.com](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)