



November

TOWER ECHOES 2025

From the Pastor,

The November Tower Echoes (Hope Newsletter) article is always about giving thanks to God. This article is about me doing thanks.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Mission Festival and/or contributed to the mission project—Pastor's Discretionary Fund. The churches raised over \$2800 for the two churches accounts. This fund is just sitting like a fireman just waiting for the next fire to break out. When someone calls me and says my life is falling apart and I need help with my electric bill or the power will be turned off, I can now say meet me in my office and we will see how I can help you. I worry about their dignity as well as their need. I try to treat those in need the way I wanted to be treated in my past time of need. Again, thank you for teaming with me help people in their time of crisis. I do report to the church councils when I help someone from the Pastors discretionary fund, but do not use names. This is part of being accountable for the use of the fund.

Thank you to Mike and Penny Weber for the making, baking and decorating of the 40th Anniversary of Ordination and my 70th birthday cakes. Thank you to the servers and everyone who helped in some way and/or came to the celebration. I found it very meaningful.

Thank you to both congregations for the Moostash Joe gift certificate. It is a use it or lose it deal and we will use it. After our first trip this year we have made a list of at least 4 bus trips we would like to take in the next two years.

I would like to thank Kathy for being my partner in ministry for the last forty-five years, married forty-four. Next year I will skip my birthday and celebrate forty-five years of marriage. One pastor friend once shook his head and said smiling "how does Kathy put up with you?"

And of course, I want to thank God for calling me and then equipping me for ministry. And thank you for calling me here out of your need at the time but then out of the desire to be church together at Grace and Hope.

Pastor Jim

thank you, God.

We give thanks for the lives and memories of our Saints who began their new journey with Christ in 2025.

***Jodell Bridgmon, Luetta Bruns, Wayne Parde,
Gayleen Eden and Eunice Weber***

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 2025 by memorial funds.

*25 New Hymnals and the anonymous
donation of Rolling Chairs in the Basement*

Church Seasons: We are still in the church season of Time after Pentecost. November 30 begins the Season of Advent, the time to prepare the building and of our hearts to celebrate the birth of God's Son.

Church Festival Days: Nov 1 - All Saints Day

Nov 10 - Martin Luther Birthday

Doctor & Confessor

Nov 23 - Christ the King Sunday

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Nov 30 - First Sunday in Advent

St. Andrew, Apostle

U.S. Holidays: Nov 2 - Daylight Savings Time Ends

Nov 4 - Election Day

Nov 11 - Veteran's Day

Nov 27 - Thanksgiving Day

Cream Chicken Dinner – Sunday, 11/16/25: Grace Lutheran Church will once again be hosting the Cream Chicken Dinner at the Cook Community Building. Many hands are needed for this endeavor. There are signup sheets on the table at the back of the church. We will need desserts, salads, and people to work shifts serving, organizing and manning the salads, desserts and drinks. People to setup the tables and chairs and take them down and also clear tables. This is a church congregation event and all are welcome to help. Please signup as this will help eliminate the need for phone calls. Thank you!

Sunday School
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
PRACTICE

The Christmas Program Practice will begin on November 9th during Sunday School hour. If you know of someone who would like to join us, please let Melissa know at 402-957-7272 .



Thank
Offering

The Thank Offering service for Grace and Hope Women of the ELCA will be held on November 23rd during the morning worship services.

Grace Lutheran church
Creamed chicken Dinner

Cook Community building

Sunday, November 16, 2025

10:30 a.m. to 1:00 P.M.

Creamed chicken on biscuits

Salads, Desserts, Tea, coffee, water

Free will donation



Community Thanksgiving
Eve Service

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service, is
Wednesday, November 26, at 7:00 p.m.
at Grace Lutheran Church.**

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

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY

11/9– Steve & Shari
Siepelmeier

Lutheran World Relief

The Lutheran World Relief Ingathering was held on October 27–31 at 5 different locations in Nebraska. Magnum Trucking has joined with LWR to ship the kits to a warehouse where they are distributed to those in need.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) was founded in 1945 in the wake of World War II, with the intention of sending foods, quilts, blankets, and clothes to European families struggling to face the devastation of the war. The founders didn't even plan for LWR to continue its work for more than a few years. But, just like Luther, LWR went global. They now operate in over 20 countries around the world, and the kinds of work they do has expanded and changed. In addition to providing emergency relief in the wake of natural disasters, LWR also works to lift farming families out of poverty and to become resilient in challenging climates. Like Luther's movement, LWR quickly grew and continues to have an international impact.

Today, all over the Nebraska Synod, Lutherans from across the state reach out to those in need through Lutheran World Relief's Quilt & Kit Ministry. Congregations, students, and groups of all types create and/or gather quilts and kits for LWR making a lasting difference in the lives of our neighbors around the world. Your gifts of love reach out to people all over the world. You provided opportunities for education for children from Honduras to Zimbabwe to Syria. You gave hope to refugees in Mauritania, Bosnia, and Iraq. You help bring comfort to displaced families in Haiti and Dominica.

Thank you for making and collecting Quilts and Kits for Lutheran World Relief's Ingathering!

November Birthdays

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

Thank you to Dave Smith for delivering the School Kits, Quilts, Personal Care Kits, Sewing Kits and Baby Kits to Omaha for the LWR Ingathering!

Thank you to the Piecemakers—who sew, put together, tie, and bind the quilts that are sent to LWR.

And THANK YOU to those who contribute to our School Kits and Personal Care Kits throughout the year. We were able to send 188 Quilts, 8 baby Kits and 6 Fabric Kits, also 100 School Kits and 100 Personal Care Kits again this year!!.

November 2025

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

Grace Lutheran Church

October 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: Cheryl Grundman, Mike Carman, Robin Eggleston, Lisa Weber, and Owen Weber (Luther League Representative). Sarah Purcell excused. Pastor Helgren led with an opening prayer.

Minutes of the September 2025 meetings were reviewed. Robin Eggleston motioned to accept and Mike Carman second. Minutes approved.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. The mission festival offering from Grace Lutheran Church totaled \$1,395.00. Robin Eggleston motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Mike Carman second, motion carried.

Correspondence: A thank you was received from Pastor Helgren in appreciation for the celebration of his Ordination and birthday. The Synod sent a letter requesting all congregations send an updated copy of their constitutions for review of any necessary changes.

Pastor's report:

September visits reported on shut-ins, hospitalized.

Pastor attended the Synod Listening Post on 9/29/25 at 7 pm. He noted it was well attended.

Funeral was held for Eunice Weber on 10/14/25.

Pastor will lead worship at Orchard Park on 10/30/25.

Pastor will lead worship at Linden View on 10/29/25.

Trunk-or-Treat is scheduled for 10/31/25 from 5:00-6:30pm.

All Saint's Day is 11/02/2025.

A graveside service at Hope Cemetery is 11/08/2025.

Creamed Chicken Dinner will be 11/16/2025. A joint service will be held at Grace at 10:00 am.

Thanksgiving Eve Service will be at Grace at 7:00pm on 11/26/2025.

A baptism for Theo James McGinnis is scheduled for 11/30/2025.

Pastor also noted a small leak in the parsonage bathroom will be taken care of by Southeast Plumbing.

Property - (Robin chair)

The parsonage and fence have been power washed.

Worship, Evangelism & Fellowship - (Sarah Chair) –

Hymns selected for worship

Synod Listening Post on September 29 was well attended with 16 people from 5 churches. We are eligible to apply for a synod grant next spring/summer to help with donations for the Osage Food Bank.

Parish Ed & Young People – (Mike Chair)

Kids for Christ continues to have good attendance.

Owen Weber agreed to serve as a youth representative to the council.

Stewardship & Memorial – (Lisa Chair) none

Old Business

Pastor received an \$800 gift card to Moostach Joe Tours, with \$400 given from Grace and \$400 given from Hope.

New Business

Possible ways to save printing costs of weekly bulletins were discussed.

The church constitution will be sent to the Synod for review as requested. All congregations are being asked to submit their constitutions.

A motion was made that the use of paper products vs Corelle dishes is at the discretion of the person/people in charge of the event. Motion was made by Robin Eggleston, Owen Weber second. Motion approved.

Thank you to Joyce Roesener for fellowship coffee, Richard Roesener for his PA work, Andrea Eggleson for the beautiful altar flower arrangements, Dave Smith for excellent lawn care, Kurt Effken for power washing the parsonage and fence, Gene & Diane Ekhoff for Sunday church duty, and Mike and Penny Weber for donating the cakes and cupcakes for Pastor's Ordination Anniversary and birthday celebration. We greatly appreciate Penny's time and talents for baking and decorating the delicious cakes and cupcakes. Thank you to Bret and Melissa for leading Sunday School, assisting in church duty and helping with our PA System. Finally, thank you to Jody Wellensiek for serving on the church council for 1 year and 9 months. Prayers for quick healing and recovery!

Next meeting – November 24, 2025, at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Weber



Q3 update: Dana Village, for youth aging out of foster care and low income elderly

Good Morning,

We are dedicated to establishing an innovative approach to supporting youth transitioning out of foster care, addressing homelessness, and cultivating a new generation of workforce-ready individuals.

A number of our youth come from Omaha. Most do not want to go to college. We work to get them accustomed to living on their own while giving them the tools to do so. Some have had very tough lives up until this opportunity at Dana. It is exciting to see them return as welders, in the automotive industry, and in construction. Some stay in Blair and continue working in the area's companies.

Activities this past quarter:

1. We launched a diesel mechanics program and have one youth investigating an opportunity with Omaha Truck Center. Another young woman received her CNA while living and working on campus, her story is below.
2. We held our 1st Annual Vintners Dinner at the Holland Center. Led by Chuck Olson (Main Street Cellars) and Mike West (Quest Distributing), we had 16 extraordinary vintner pair their wine with an exclusive **7 course menu put together by chef Ben Maides of Au Courant and OPA's chef Michael Anderson**. It was magic and we raised \$295,000 for the gym.
3. The date for the next dinner is August 15th, 2026. Mark your calendars!

Dana Story Time: [The Dana Village Opportunity: From Potential Homelessness to College](#)

In December 2023, we met a young woman referred to us by CASA. She had faced more challenges in her short life than many in a lifetime. Without credit history, without a co-signer, and without family to turn to, she was facing the homelessness where 20% of these youth fall. *We were told we were her last hope.*

On April 19th, 2024, she became a resident of Dana Village, and for the first time she had a home she could call her own. Thanks to our donors, Lutheran Family Services was able to fully furnish her apartment and provide her many other services.

When she walked in and saw the space prepared for her, she paused and said: ***"You don't know what this means to me. I was going to be homeless. It's going to take me a few days to process this. Letting it sink in that I don't have to go to another foster home. This is my home. I can't believe I made it."***

The very next morning, she shared something with her CASA counselor that speaks volumes: ***"I haven't slept this peacefully for as long as I can remember."*** With a safe roof over her head and an opportunity many of her peers do not receive, she threw herself into every amenity available, job leads in Blair, life skills classes, financial literacy, and how to establish credit, all while studying to earn her CNA license.

This August, just 15 months after arriving, she moved into her own apartment in Omaha. Today, she is working as a CNA, attending school, and pursuing her dream of becoming an attorney, so she can one day advocate for foster youth who, like her, need someone to believe in them. The 2 elderly women who befriended her on campus are so excited for her and are glad they helped her learn that you must do more to chicken than put flour on it and place it in the oven.

Please keep us in mind for your end of the year donations.

Thank you for all your support!

"Each person saved from the streets is a huge win and you never know how that one act changes the world" -
Chuck Olson