



From the Pastor,

I am preparing to attend the Nebraska Synod Assembly on Friday. I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting some new acquaintances. This is my last assembly representing Grace and Hope. That feels strange. Next year I will need to pay my own way to attend. I am beginning to feel like a Pastor without a home.

But the Day of Pentecost reminds us that God does have a plan for His Church, the Kingdom of God on earth. And we are part of that plan. I just need to be patient and allow the plan to unfold. The same thing for Grace and Hope. The Day of Pentecost not only empowered the 12 appointed leaders of the Church, the Apostles, but also 108 laity. The Church grew because of the clergy, Apostles, but also because of the work of the ordinary believers.

Grace and Hope will be experiencing church and being church differently than before I retired and yet they will still be a Church and do Church. God's Holy Spirit is with us.

Members of the Papillion Lions Club have already reached out to Kathy and me to consider transferring our Lion membership to their club when we settle into our new living arrangement. April 19, Lisa from the Synod office invited me to consider attending the church in Bellevue that she attends. It's nice to feel wanted by people who do not even know me well, just by representation. (pause for your jokes!) Remember to invite others into the chaos we are entering come August. We can all grow together in that Holy Spirit thing called the new Grace and Hope.

Pastor Jim

June 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship w/Communion - 8:30 am	8 <i>Grace & Hope</i> Bible Study 2:00 p.m.	9 Church Council 7:00 pm	10	11	12	13
14 Worship - 8:30 am		15	16 Piecemakers Blanket Making	17	18	19
21 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY Worship w/Communion - 8:30 am	22	23	24 <i>TOWER ECHOES DEADLINE</i>	25 ELCW Mtg. 7:00 pm	26	27
	Pastor at Confirmation Camp—June 21—26					
28 Worship - 8:30 am	29	30				

Pastor will be at Confirmation Camp June 21—26. 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.



Vacation Bible School 2026

Hosted by Grace Lutheran, St. Paul's UCC Osage and Hope Lutheran
All kids pre-K through 6th grade are welcome!
Minimum age of 3 and must be fully potty-trained.

Where: St. Paul's UCC Osage, 3288 R Road, Cook, NE
When: July 13-17
5:30-7:45 each evening
Supper provided during VBS

VBS Kids will perform songs at the Cook Community
Church Service on July 19th!

RSVP: Please RSVP by June 28th to ensure we have the necessary
t-shirts, food and craft supplies. There is NO COST to attend!

Use the QR code to go directly to registration link or go directly to the
following registration link

(Google Form): <https://forms.gle/T7itFZYGTGVqsuVE9>





**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



**JUNE
ANNIVERSARIES**

- June 1st—Larry & Cheryl Grundman**
- June 20th—Carl & Sarah Purcell**
- June 25th—Travis & Mikaela Thomas**

**PASTOR'S RETIREMENT
DINNER**

Hope will host Pastor's retirement dinner on Sunday July 12th. Worship service will be at 10:00 AM with potluck dinner to follow. The meat will be provided by Hope. Grace members are requested to bring a covered dish.

Burr Days Community Worship will be on June 28th at 10:00 a.m. at the Burr Methodist Church. Meal to follow at the Burr Community Center and is sponsored by Burr Community Club.

Church Seasons: We are now in the Time After Pentecost. The color is green and the scriptures read invite us to live in the Holy Spirit that was gifted to the Church on the Day of Pentecost.

Church Festival Days: JUNE 11– Barnabas, Apostle
12-The Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, AD 325
24-The Nativity of John the Baptist
25-Presentation of the Augsburg Confession
29-St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles

U.S. Holidays: JUNE 14—Flag Day
19-Juneteenth National Independence Day
21-Father’s Day
Summer Begins

VISITATIONS – With Pastor Jim’s retirement fast approaching members were invited to participate in two visitation training sessions. These visits would include members homebound, members in care facilities, and visits requested by members. The committee will begin their service of visitations in August. Members home bound and in care facilities can expect a visit once a month and communion will be included.

Pastor Kate Woolf (316-371-0803) of Faith Lutheran has agreed to do hospital visits upon the personal request of our members. When Pastor Kate receives a request from a Grace member, we will need to provide mileage and an agreed upon compensation until we become a 3-Point Ministry.

You are free to call the following visitation members to request a visit beginning August 1st , Judy Brinkman – 402-239-8029,
Cheryl Grundman – 402-873-2468,
Diane Wilken – 402-297-3863, and
Jody Wellensiek – 402-335-7121.

Grace Lutheran Church Council May 11, 2026

The regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Cheryl Grundman at 7:01 pm – Members present: Cheryl Grundman, Mike Carman, Ryan Panko, Sarah Purcell, Lisa Weber, Diane Wilken (Church Treasurer), and Owen Weber (Luther League). Pastor Helgren led with an opening prayer.

Minutes of the April 2026 meeting were reviewed. Owen Weber motioned to accept and Mike Carman second. Minutes approved.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed.

It was noted Nick Weber will be reimbursed the \$50 application fee to the PMA program.

Sarah Purcell motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Owen Weber second, motion carried.

Correspondence:

Gottula Propane sent a letter to inform that inspections on propane tanks are now required. An inspection will be conducted soon.

A new battery and pads have been ordered for the AED.

A thank you card was received from Lois Stelmach (Owen Weber's grandmother) in appreciation for the senior breakfast.

Amy Woods, assistant to the Bishop, continued with her monthly check-in.

Pastor's report:

April visits reported on shut-ins, hospitalized.

A Baptism for Asher David Moses will be held Saturday, May 16 at 10:00am with use of the church basement following.

Pastor reported the Roadshow event went well, and two members from the Synod attended worship the following day.

A second Visitation training was held.

Confirmation was held on April 26. Pastor reminded council that someone will need to make an acolyte schedule for next year, and that Jude Fricke should still be included in duties.

Pastor attended two graduation parties - Owen Weber (Grace) and Harley Lubben (Hope).

Pastor will attend Synod Assembly May 29 - 31. He will be at the required workshop on May 29 from 1-4pm. Pastor will be staying at the Fairfield Inn.

Pastor also reported a problem with the urinal in the men's restroom at church.

Property - (Mike and Ryan co-chairs) Mike made a note to look into the urinal issue in the Men's restroom at church.

An update on the issue with the neon cross on the exterior of the church was given. An estimate to repair the cross was given, but more problems have since been found. More estimates for repairs or replacement will be needed.

The light sensor for the church and post for parsonage are ready to be installed.

Worship, Evangelism & Fellowship - (Sarah Chair) –Hymns have been selected through July 5.

Thank you for all who helped make the Senior Breakfast a success!

Parish Ed & Young People – (all co-chairs) -

May 13th will be the last Kids for Christ for the school year.

VBS will be July 13-17 at St Paul's Osage.

Options for Confirmation classes were discussed. It was suggested parent input would be beneficial before a decision is made. Confirmation parents will be contacted to set up a meeting.

Stewardship & Memorial – (Lisa Chair) discussions on the cross and upgrades to the PA system continue. Council is waiting for estimates on upgrades to the PA system.

Old Business: none

New Business

Updates to church bylaws are needed. Cheryl and Sarah agreed to sit on a committee. Other volunteers to review bylaws would be appreciated.

A parsonage tour will be conducted by council.

Options for visitations starting in August, including hospital visits, were discussed by council.

Pastor's retirement dinner on July 12 will be held at Hope at 10:00am. Hope will provide the meat. It is requested that others bring a covered dish.

Compensation for lay leaders was discussed- no decisions made.

Discussion was had on the structure of worship for May 31st. Service will be held at 8:30 with singing of hymns, reading of lessons and a prayer. Fellowship to follow in the basement. The Closing worship from Synod Assembly will be available to view in the church basement at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you to..

Thank you to the Piecemakers for the beautiful graduation quilts.

Thank you to all who provided food for the senior breakfast. This tradition is greatly appreciated by the graduates and their families.

Thank you to Dave Smith for the excellent lawn care.

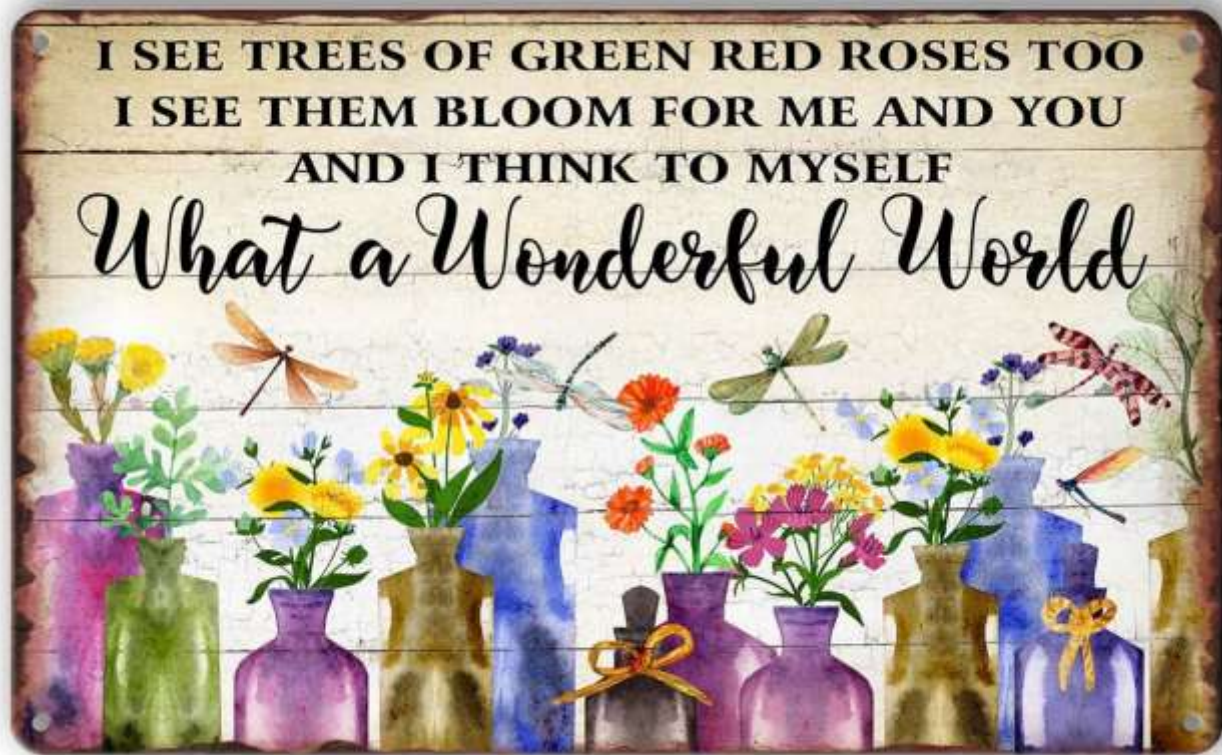
Thank you to Diane Wilken for the beautiful flowers and all the future care in watering them.

The church property looks beautiful!

Next meeting – June 9, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 after the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Weber



Grace Lutheran
Church

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