



TOWER ECHOES 2026

Pastor Kate Woolf will be available in case of emergencies for August.
Her cell phone # is 316-371-0803.

Special Meeting following the church service on **Aug 9th**. Items for discussion:

- 1) how often we want communion,
- 2) how often we want a lay minister,
- 3) service time in Nemaha Valley Observer and Syracuse Paper, if you want service times to continue to be published, we need a volunteer to inform them of the service times,
- 4) a vote on amended budget for 2026. Please note that the salary and benefit package for Pastor Kate will be effective from Sept 01, 2026, through Dec 31, 2027.

Welcome Pastor Kate Joint Service

There will be a 3-Point joint service on September 13th at Grace at 10:00 with a potluck dinner served after the service. Please bring one or two covered dishes of your choice. If you are single do not feel that you need to provide a covered dish or you may team up with another single.

UPDATED INFORMATION - 3 POINT MINISTRY

Communion: We need to poll if we want to continue with twice a month or once a month. (Faith – once monthly, Hope – bimonthly) My concern with twice a month is the lack of volunteers at Grace. We will take a poll on August 9th.

Starting Service Times: This has changed. Faith will always be at 8:00. Grace will alternate with Hope quarterly. Our service for the first 3 months, September, October, and November will be at 10:00, December, January, and February will be at 8:00. **You have received a color-coded schedule in this issue of Tower Echoes.**

Months with 5 Sundays – There will be a joint rotating service starting at 10:00. Other Rotations: Lent, Maudy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Christmas.

Salary, benefits – split 1/3, 1/3, 1/3, we will vote to amend our budget on Aug 9th . The salary and benefit package for Pastor Kate will be effective Sept 01, 2026, through Dec 31, 2027.

Communication with Pastor Kate: You may call Pastor Kate or text her at 316-371-0823.

Service when Pastor Kate is not in pulpit. Grace does have the advantage of Nick Weber and Erin Ebeler. We may have them serve once a month, bimonthly, or less often. I just talked to the Synod, and we are free to set our own rates for volunteer lay ministers. Previously the Synod stated the same as a PMA or Pastor. We will decide how often we want Nick and/or Erin on Aug 9th. Their pay through 2026 was established by the council, at \$200.00 per service plus mileage.

Offering: At our joint council meetings, it was decided that members give their offering at their own churches. **DO NOT** take your offering when you travel.

Confirmation: Pastor Kate has been given names, parents' names, and addresses.

Sunday School: All decisions will be made by Bret and Mellisa Wellensiek.

Kids for Christ: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month (when school is in session), Sept through end of school year with the same volunteers.

Discover and Invite committee: Bret Wellensiek, Erin Ebler, and Lisa Weber. The three councils will have a joint council meeting quarterly.

Thank you for your patience, things are happening rapidly and please continue to be flexible and subject to tweaks.

Cheryl Grundman

FAITH, GRACE, HOPE LUTHERAN CALENDAR
SEP 1, 2026 - DEC 31, 2026

—PASTOR KATE WOOLF—

Pastor Kate's Phone #: (316)-371-0803

Date	Day	Faith's Church Time	Grace's Church Time	Hope's Church Time
September 2026				
September 6	Sunday	8:00 AM	No Pastor Led Service	10:00 AM
September 13	Sunday	Joint Service between Faith, Grace & Hope: 10:00 AM @ Grace Followed by a Potluck to Welcome Pastor Kate Woolf		
September 20	Sunday	No Pastor Led Service	10:00 AM	8:00 AM
September 27	Sunday	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	No Pastor Led Service
October 2026				
October 4	Sunday	8:00 AM	No Pastor Led Service	10:00 AM
October 11	Sunday	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	No Pastor Led Service
October 18	Sunday	No Pastor Led Service	10:00 AM	8:00 AM
October 25	Sunday	8:00 AM	Mission Fest Hope & Grace: 10:00 AM @ Grace	
November 2026				
November 1	Sunday	8:00 AM	No Pastor Led Service	10:00 AM
November 8	Sunday	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	No Pastor Led Service
November 15	Sunday	No Pastor Led Service	10:00 AM	8:00 AM
November 22	Sunday	8:00 AM	No Pastor Led Service	10:00 AM
November 25	Wednesday	Thanksgiving Service Grace, Hope & Osage: 7:00 PM @ Grace		
November 26	Thursday	Thanksgiving Service: 8:00 AM @ Talmage Community Building		
November 29	Sunday	Joint Service between Faith, Grace & Hope: 10:00 AM @ Hope		
December 2026				
December 6	Sunday	8:00 AM	No Pastor Led Service	10:00 AM
December 13	Sunday	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	No Pastor Led Service
December 20	Sunday	No Pastor Led Service	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
December 24	Thursday	Christmas Eve:	4:00 PM @ Hope 6:00 PM @ Grace 8:00 PM @ Faith	
December 27	Sunday	8:00 AM	No Pastor Led Service	10:00 AM

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex to sign up to bring Cookies for the Kids for Christ program. They would like 4 dozen cookies for each date - those kids like their afternoon snack!! Cookies will be provided by Grace & Osage.

BACKPACK BLESSING

The new tradition at Grace of blessing the student backpacks will be during worship on August 9th to kick off the school year. Students of any age should bring their backpacks to church that morning to bless them, and students will receive a backpack tag.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8th - Diane Ekhoﬀ
Madison Lang
Theo McGinnis
Violet Wellensiek

9th - Diane Smith

12th - Lucas Cropp

13th - Hayden Wellensiek

14th - Carolyn Cropp

15th - Charlotte Wellensiek

16th - Mackenzie Hoins

17th - Melissa Wellensiek

19th - Lee Cannon

28th - Bruce Armknecht
Travis Eﬀken

30th - Michael Purcell

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/2 - Kirk & Robyn Faris

8/3 - Kate & Russ Dietz

8/5 - Makenzie & Gabe Hoins

8/7 - Bret & Melissa Wellensiek

8/24 - Allison & Mike Bousquet

8/31 - Kurt & Julie Eﬀken

August 2026

Please note that the worship time for August is 9:30 a.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Joint Worship @ Hope Service led by Nick Weber - 9:30 am	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Joint Worship @ Grace Service led by Erin Ebeler - 9:30 am Special Meeting following worship	10 Grace & Hope Bible Study @ Grace 2:00 pm	11	12	13	14	15
					NE ELCW Saved to Serve @ Midland Univ. Fremont – Aug 14-16	
16 Joint Worship @ Hope Service led by Pastor Jim - 9:30 am	17	18 Piecemakers Blanket Making - All Day Church Council - 7:00 pm	19	20	21	22
23 Joint Worship w/communion @ Grace Service led by Pastor Jim - 9:30 am	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Joint Worship @ Hope Service led by Erin Ebeler - 9:30 am	31					

Grace Lutheran Church Council

July 14, 2026

The regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Cheryl Grundman at 6:58 pm – Members present: Cheryl Grundman, Ryan Panko, Sarah Purcell, Mike Carman, Lisa Weber, Diane Wilken (Church Treasurer). Pastor Helgren led with an opening prayer.

Minutes of the June 2026 meeting were reviewed. Sarah Purcell motioned to accept and Ryan Panko second. Minutes approved.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed.

It was noted that a bill of \$1070.31 from Nebraska Sign Company was received. Sarah Purcell motioned to pay the bill. Ryan Panko second, motion carried.

A motion was made by Ryan Panko to pay \$371.02 for a blue tooth speaker and microphone that can be used for Kids for Christ be paid for with funds from Kids for Christ. Mike Carman second, motion carried.

Ryan Panko motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Sarah Purcell second, motion carried.

Correspondence: none

Pastor's report:

June visits reported on shut-ins, hospitalized. July visits will be completed by July 15.

A Baptism for Brewer Izaak DeKoning was held on July 11.

Scott Herman transferred membership on July 12.

Property - (Mike and Ryan co-chairs)

The broken neon cross lighting on the front of the church will be replaced with LED lighting from anonymous donations. Thank you for this generous gift!

The west ceiling fan in the church basement is not working. Repair will be addressed.

Worship, Evangelism & Fellowship - (Sarah Chair) –Backpack tags will be handed out when backpacks are blessed on August 9 during worship.

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

Kids for Christ: All volunteers from last year have agreed to continue.

It would be appreciated if the congregation would provide cookies for the after school snack. A sign-up sheet will be displayed in the fall.

Confirmation: Cheryl will provide Pastor Kate with the names and contact information for the students.

Stewardship & Memorial – (Lisa Chair) none

Old Business:

Pastor's Retirement Dinner was held July 12 and was well attended.

Sunday School schedule will be decided by Sunday School leaders.

The 3-Point Ministry will begin on September 1st. We are waiting on a finalized schedule for worship times and dates from Amy Woods. It was decided that all three congregations will share Pastor equally.

New Business

The Mission Festival will be at Grace again this year on October 25 at 10:00. McKenna Olson will be preaching, and offering will go towards the Lutheran Student Center.

A church credit card will be looked into.

A committee for Discover and Invite has been formed to complete our church profile.

It has been a while since the church has had a termite inspection. A discussion was had on when the next inspection should be conducted. No decisions at this time.

Diane Wilken will be in charge of picking up the church mail from the post office, following Pastor's retirement.

It was noted that the recorded message on the church telephone will need to be updated after the Pastor retires. The exterior signs and church bulletins will also need to be updated.

A motion was made by Ryan Panko to purchase 2,300 gallons of Propane for the next season. Sarah Purcell second, motion carried.

Thank you

Thank you to Pastor Helgren and Kathy for all your years of service. We greatly appreciate all you have done for the church, its members and the community. You will be greatly missed!

Thank you to all who attended Pastor's Retirement Dinner at Hope. It was a wonderful day and the food was delicious!

Thank you to the anonymous donors for the lights on the exterior cross. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

And thank you to all the members for your continued patience as we work through this transition together.

Next meeting – August 18, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 after the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Weber

Scott Herman was received into membership on July 12th, through letter of transfer from St. John's Lutheran Church, Bennington, NE.

Brewer Izaac DeKoning was brought into the Kingdom of God and the Grace Lutheran Church family through baptism on July 11, 2026. He is the son of Buck and Heather DeKoning. His sponsors are Lynn & Cecelia DeKoning.



Kathy & I thank Grace Lutheran Church for the retirement gift and the retirement potluck. Thank you for the last 15 years of ministry together.

COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.



Grace Lutheran Church

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