

Living with Christ, Growing in Grace!



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America



*Rooted In Christ - Growing in Love -
Branching out in Service*



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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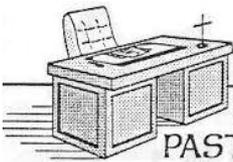
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Grace & Trinity Newsbites

JULY/AUGUST 2021



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

We're half way through 2021 already! There are 2 months of summer left before the rush towards fall begins in September. I think maybe next year we will plan summer events in January; somebody make a note.

More info on summer (and Advent/Christmas) planning on page 3.

We had a really encouraging task force meeting on June 17. We talked a lot about how much stronger we can be together than we are apart. We talked about how to encourage each other in our separate identities; and how we need to listen, learn and live together to discern what our shared identity will be.

We will be encouraging lots of conversation, prayer and discernment in the next few months.

We, I hope, will be bold in experimenting with new ideas and with the traditions we cherish. I use experiment because one can always learn from experiments. We may not get the outcome we were expecting or hoping for; but we can still learn and expand our understanding through whatever it is we do. Who is God calling us to be and what does God have for us to do here in Cuming County, and in West Point? What are the gifts we have individually, as congregations and as a partnership that will best serve God, our neighbors and the whole church? What are the needs in the community that we are called to address? What opportunities do we have to work for the good of all? How can we be the most believable and relevant witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ? How are we continuing to grow in faith and understanding? How is our discipling going? How are we encouraging one another to work together for the good of all?

Please hear this again (I said it last year too): We have to be bold and have no fear when it comes to working together for the good of the church and in service to God and our neighbors. If there is a project, an activity, a need and the invitation goes out ‘be a part of the team’, that is your invitation to pray and discern if you are called to say yes. I know, I know; we all like to receive a personal ask; it makes us feel good; maybe even a little special. We want to be needed and we want someone to tell us that we in particular are the ones needed. Maybe we’ve said yes before and then been told no; or worse yet, criticized for what we did (been there, done that, doesn’t feel good). Whatever the reason you, if you are the one who generally waits for a personal ask (from the pastor or someone else), PLEASE think on this: It is a massive energy drain to have to make what feels like a zillion calls to accomplish one task or put something together. It is so much more life giving to have 4 or 5 people respond to HELP NEEDED invitations. Then all the energy goes into the task at hand. All those personal asks can make a set of stairs feel like Mt. Everest. Also, ‘We don’t do things that way’; or ‘We’ve never done it that way’; or ‘It’s my way or no way;’ are not life giving. Each of us has something to offer, no one has to do everything; however, if each of us does something, all that is necessary for the health and vitality of the body will be accomplished. Love, generosity, passion, faith and kindness go further towards building a vital church than numbers do. Does what I’ve been saying make you weary? Do not fear! As we pray and worship, discern and educate, serve and play together we do not do it alone. God who has known us since before the world began, loves us and will not let us go. We are fed and nourished around the Table and in the word, and the Spirit will guide us into all truth. Work that is worth doing is work accomplished and empowered by the Spirit in and through us. Be bold! Be the first to say yes. Risk being part of experiments, and doing something for the first time, or doing something different! God’s work requires our hands and hearts.

Traveling mercies,

Your travel companion, Pr. Priscilla

All Kinds of Plans:

There is still time to plan for a Trinity & Grace float for the parade at the fair; but we definitely need a committed small group to organize now to get plans going. Interested? Let Pastor know ASAP. All ages are welcome.

Let's plan ahead for Advent & Christmas! Let's get a Trinity – Grace group together and talk about these first 2 seasons of the church year. Let's think about how we've celebrated in the past and be creative in thinking about this year. What do we do as congregations? What will we do together? What will we need in order to accomplish the plans we make, apart from God's help that is. July 22, 5:30 – 7:00 at Grace as a first try at a meeting time that will work for all who are interested. Let me know if you want to be part of this exciting advance planning effort; if this time doesn't work for most, we will find a new time.

Summer 'clear the clutter' work groups at Grace & Trinity!
With 8-10 strong (tall is very helpful) people our plans:

Grace. Tuesday, July 13; 7-8:30 PM. Take most everything out of the music room & cabinets in the Fireside room; take most everything out of the store rooms behind the sanctuary; get all the books down from all the high shelves in another closet and the sacristy. All these items will then, in the next several weeks, be sorted through; cleaned and put away, given away or tossed. The second work group will be: Tuesday July 27; 7-8:30 – Sunday School rooms at Grace.

Trinity. Wednesday, August 4; 7 – 8:30. Sort, toss, clean the Sunday School rooms.

Calling sewers in our congregations: Between Grace & Trinity we have a number of costumes; some in good repair; some not so much. We have some supplies to make more. We need to do an inventory, make repairs, wash (and press?) what we have & make or order enough to have on hand for future programs. Wednesday, July 14; 1 PM at Trinity, meet & take stock with Pastor & then the sewing work group can go to town!

It's time to get initial plans together for Christian Education. Interested in being a teacher or mentor or assistant? Have ideas or expertise in planning and/or implementing learning experiences, drama, art? It would be marvelous to have 4-5 people get together in July to brainstorm for this next school year. Once I have 4 willing folks, we will schedule a meeting.

Looking ahead - Pastor has put an invite in the paper for people who would be interested in planning a community service of remembrance on the morning of September 11. If you would like to be part of planning such a service, let Pastor know.

Now is always the right time to be a part of the Saturday and Sunday servants list. Ushering, reading the lessons, assisting with communion, special music, providing rides for folks from St. Joseph's and the Villa, running the camera, sound system or Mevo and iPad... hosting fellowship. There will be sign-up sheets available in each building. You can sign up to be added to the list for either congregation; depending on whether you are more available on Saturday or Sunday. Not in the building; call the office and Teala will gladly add your name. Training will be provided as needed.

Families with children: If you and your child would like to participate in a communion preparation mini-retreat this summer, contact Pastor. In God's name, we welcome all to the Table, trusting that receiving the Sacrament is truly between God and communicant. However, we do offer a time to learn more about Holy Communion and to schedule a special celebration for children who may be receiving for the first time. In July and August, we have a series of Gospel texts on Jesus, the bread of life so this is a wonderful time in the liturgical year to learn more and celebrate this great gift that is given for us.

Trinity Church/Grace Lutheran Church Task Force

The Trinity/Grace Task Force met on Thursday, 6/17/21. Committee members present were Dave Wimmer, Bob Wilson, Pam Peterson, Terry Nelson, and Steve Blocher. Pastor Priscilla, along with Rev. Chad Engelmeier, UMC DS from Norfolk & Rev. Kristen Van Stee, the Associate to the Bishop of the ELCA were also in attendance.

- Discussion was held regarding how each congregation felt about the pastor sharing agreement Trinity has with Grace Lutheran. Consensus of the group was the agreement is working well. Plans are to continue discussing the shared ministry with the individual congregations.
- The group also discussed putting together a more formal agreement between Grace & Trinity regarding the common expenses, church services, etc.
- District Superintendent, Chad Engelmeier, gave us a page from the Methodist Book of Discipline with several ways congregations can work together. Chad discussed what he's seen across the state with regard to minister shortages, and the use of shared ministries.
- Kristin from the Bishop's office of the Lutheran Synod, discussed what they are seeing regarding shared ministry situations from across Nebraska, including different denominations, and different situations.
- Both Chad & Kristin were very helpful. Neither was pushing the 2 congregations to do one thing or another. They made it known that they were there to help Trinity & Grace in any way they could.

Several times throughout the task force meeting, the Mission of the congregations was brought up. It was also noted the goal of the task force is to determine how the shared ministry can do God's work as 2 congregations working as 1.

If anyone has any questions regarding the Task Force, please feel free to email or call.

Steve Blocher & Bob Wilson

In Our Prayers this Week:

To See An Updated List Please Contact The Office.

Trinity News

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

To See An Updated List Please Contact The Office.

Meet Akim, age 11. Akim is a boy from Furkina Faso in Central Africa, who the Trinity Sunday School started to sponsor through Compassion International nearly 6 years ago. Akim lives with his mother and because of our sponsorship is able to attend a Child Development Center which helps provide Akim with Bible teaching, hygiene education, medical checkups, group games, social activities, tuition and vocational skills training. It is most likely that Akim would not receive schooling without Compassion International. The center staff will also provide meetings, discipleship and parenting skills



for the parents. In his last letter, Akim asked us to pray that he understands his school lessons. I can attest that he is excelling in handwriting. I believe that his letters are written in French, and I need to read the translation, but his letters are very neat. First started in 1952, Compassion International's works around the world helping children being raised in poverty. 81.5% of funds go directly to sponsorship. Compassion is Christ

centered, and church based. Our monetary support helps to feed and educate Akim. We need your help in continuing to sponsor Akim at a cost of **\$38 a month**. If you can help sponsor Akim for a month, a partial month, or several months, we invite you to do so.

It's easy –

1. Just make your check out to Trinity Church and mark in the memo area – Compassion International.
2. Let Jean know, so that we can stay abreast on where we are in our sponsorship progress. Thank you.

Jean Schlickbernd – For contact information contact the office!

Highlights from the Trinity Church Council meeting on 6/16/21.

Council Members: Larry Merchen, Steve Blocher, Barb Schroedter, Terry Nelson, Kathi Sherwood, Brenda Larson. Jim Summers will be joining the council at the next meeting.

New officers were elected:

President:	Steve Blocher
Vice President:	Barb Schroedter
Treasurer:	Larry Merchen
Secretary:	Brenda Larson

Council discussed the changes of moving from the committee system to the council system. The need for communication between the council & membership will be extremely important. In the future, we will be having in-depth discussions regarding the building & grounds; Diaconate & worship; education; outreach & growth; music, etc.

Going forward, Council Members will be responsible for counting the offering after services. We would like to have 2 people be involved with counting the offering. We will also be having training on how to fill out the deposit tickets, completing the giving sheets, etc.

Also going forward, Teala will be doing the primary duties of the previous treasurers. She will document deposits and the payment of expenses. Teala will write the checks and Larry will review invoices and sign the checks. If anyone has bills to pay, please drop off at the church office.

If anyone has any questions about any of the items listed above, please feel free to call or email. Next meeting: July 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Steve Blocher

Grace News



On July 8th, the Grace Quilters are “road tripping” to Camp Carol Joy Holling to deliver nine quilts for the auction. The auction will be Saturday, July 21. Check out all quilts available at NLOM.org. There will also be a silent auction, and Bob Schulzkump has donated a home-constructed red barn. (Check it out in Parish Hall by July 8.) All proceeds from the auction help support camp operations.

A Little Housecleaning

We have been given several old church directories and now we have several duplicates. If anyone would like one before we properly dispose of the duplicates, please stop by the church office.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries
August Birthdays & Anniversaries

To See An Updated List Please Contact The Office.

Contact the church office for the information of new members:

Grace Lutheran Church

Council Minutes May 18, 2021 (pending council approval)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Vice President Kathy Mahannah. Other council members present Lynn Stofferahn, Melissa Nielsen, Pam Petersen and Todd Kuxhausen. Bob Wilson was absent. Pastor Hukki was also in attendance.

Melissa moved and Todd seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Pam moved and Kathy seconded to accept the minutes from the April 20, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Pastor report: Everything is covered under old and new business.

President's report: no report.

Treasurer Report: The counters will meet every other week rather than weekly. Trinity will pay a flat amount for their part of the expenses every month and will make up the difference yearly. Kathy moved and Todd seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property: Work is progressing on the water damaged rooms. Pastor will call electrician to see where lights need to be moved to. Ernesti trimmed the trees. Carol's brick has been ordered. The roof appears to be repaired but there has been no contact with McKinnes. Pam will check with them.

Worship & Music: Hymns are picked through June. Kathy is going to clean and organize the music room.

WELCA: no report

Christian Education: Easter program on May 12 went well. Fishing on May 19 is scheduled. Confirmation Sunday will be May 23rd and two students will be confirmed. Council will host a coffee hour in their honor.

Endowment: no report.

Memorial: no report.

New Member: There will be a baptism on June 12. There will be a baptism and new members joining on June 13.

OLD BUSINESS:

· COVID-19 Restrictions: In response to the CDC recommendations, masks will be encouraged but not required. Communion will revert to prior practice at the front of the sanctuary. An area on the south side will be reserved for people who prefer to take communion in their seats. The offering plate will remain at the entrance of the sanctuary. Coffee hour will resume to those who want to attend. Sanitizing will continue after large groups meet.

· Landscaping: Tisha Wilson and Sue Schroder will work on a plan to do some updated landscaping on the south side and possibly on the north side.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Damaged bench: a car hit and damaged the bench on the north side of church. A police report was made. The legs of the bench are ok and a new top has been ordered and gifted to the church.
 - Summer council meetings: Council will meet for an abbreviated meeting June 15, specifically to address COVID protocols.
- Announcements: Next meeting will be June 15, 2021

Melissa moved and Kathy seconded to adjourn the meeting and it was closed with the Lord’s Prayer at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by Melissa Nielsen, Secretary

Council did not meet on June 15, 2021. Next meeting is scheduled for July 20 at 5:30 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">Grace Lutheran Church Financial Report – April/May 2021 General Fund for April</p>
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To See An Updated List Please Contact The Office.



Friendship Circle met on Monday night, June 14, 2021.

In attendance were Pastor Priscilla, Vicki Furchert, Mary VanderPol, Sandy Boots, Nancy Petersen, Fern Thorman, and Mary Thomas.

Pastor Priscilla hosted a build-your-own taco supper for us on her outdoor patio.

After we were nourished with the delicious meal and conversation, we went to the Parish Hall for a

work night. Nancy had prepared the tables with the items to be made into Newborn Kits, Personal Care Kits, and Sewing Kits. We formed assembly lines and under Nancy's expert instruction we completed all the kits with the materials available.

Prior to the assembly of the kits, Nancy led us in this prayer: Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank you for giving us gifts and talents to use in service and share our love for others. Place in our hearts a desire to live faithfully and do the things you have prepared in advance for us to do. Today we pray that you would bless the work of our hands. May we be good stewards of your blessings and may many lives and hearts be impacted today. May all honor and glory be yours. Amen

Our next meeting is July 12. Linda Lofgren is hostess for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Thomas, Secretary of Friendship Circle

**Grace Ev. Lutheran Church
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