

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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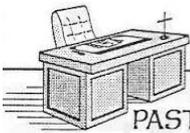
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Grace & Trinity Newsbites

MAY/JUNE 2021



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

Dear church,

Let's talk about stewardship and generosity. Stewardship is about much more than just money; but money is one aspect of how we do support the work of the church. How much we give is not as important as it is that we are generous givers. Generosity looks different for each of us. For some \$10 is a very generous amount; for others it's a \$100 or \$1000. You are the only one who can determine how generous you and your family are able to be, while being responsible for your well-being.

Income for congregations always ebbs and flows. Everyone's pattern of giving is different; and a year of pandemic has not been helpful in figuring out budgets. Congregations have experienced a gradual decline in contributions; attendance is not as robust as it has been. Covid? Cultural shift? Many activities? Freedom to travel? It's very hard to make predictions based on this past year. However, as your pastor, I will challenge you to do a bit of a reality check.

Take a look at your contributions to the congregation for 2020 and this first quarter of 2021. Have you been contributing as generously as you are able? If so, yeah you! If not, perhaps it is a good time to examine how you give. Consider using Vanco, the automatic withdrawal program through the church or check with your own bank about their programs. Or make a plan to mail in a check when you do your beginning or end of the month bills. Not sure how much to give? Many church folks aim for at least a 10% tithe – giving away 10% of their income; to the church and to other non-profits.

I'll tell you the story of my reality check and where I am right now. Some years the congregation I served in Maine invited people to make a pledge in advance of the new year. One year I

had made a pledge of a certain amount per month; not nearly 10% but as much as I felt able to do at the time. Late in the year as I was looking back at my contributions, I realized that I had not written checks to the church Jan.-Mar. It had been an expensive heating season and it was again winter; I had no 'extra' to give; so I was not able to keep my pledge. In January of the following year I started giving through automatic withdrawal from my checking account. I haven't missed a monthly tithe since! I decided a few years ago to aim for 10% of my income as a tithe. Currently I give slightly less than 10% of my income in regular monthly giving to Trinity and Grace; and another 1-2% in other giving through the church and various non-profits.

I challenge you to be generous! Whatever that looks like for you. If you haven't been a consistent giver, make a commitment to begin now. Being consistent in contributing is helpful in terms of cash flow; however, those full or half year tithes given in one lump sum, towards the beginning or end of the year also are very welcome. I'm not suggesting your generosity should put you at risk of not paying bills or buying groceries; but I do ask you to pray and discern what it is God would have you keep and what God would have you give.

I am also going to challenge you to be generous with your presence. Christians are called to be in community; to care for, challenge and nurture one another for the sake of the world. This year of pandemic has made it difficult for Grace and Trinity to figure out where our membership is and how walking together is going. Churches across the board in the US have seen declining membership and attendance, particularly in the past 5-10 years. 'Regular' church attendance used to mean every week for most households; now it is more often defined as once or twice a month. Cultural shifts, different work schedules, many more youth activities on Sundays... A year of pandemic has led us into the possibility of virtual attendance. It's a marvelous gift and opportunity; and involves a steep learning curve when it comes to figuring out how to gather and form community. Walking together means we have 2 opportunities for worship – Saturday evening and Sunday morning. I know, I know, one of those times isn't in 'your' church. We have preferences and places we feel more comfortable; spaces full of memories, and different ways of theologizing. All

important; but being a good steward of our presence means that we gather regularly to worship God; to be present for one another, regardless. So, on-line and greeting one another through our comments; on a Saturday or Sunday, in person, even if it's at the 'other' church or not first choice of time and day. In the last few months, or year, have you made time for worship? If Saturday or Sunday don't work, have you made a plan to regularly gather 'around the screen' for church at some other time and day? Good farmers know that you reap what you sow. Athletes and musicians know that if you don't practice, you lose your skills. If you aren't spending time worshiping God, who & what do you worship? If you don't spend time being fed on the Word and at the Table, what food is shaping you? The Jesus road is a communal walk. It's always a good time to get back on the road together.

No guilt, no worries; just challenges to keep us moving forward on the road, together; trusting that God's grace is sufficient and will sort us out as only God can do.

Traveling mercies, Pr. Priscilla

The West Point Ministerial Association is a loosely knit group of area churches. There are occasional community worship experiences and regular men's breakfasts during Advent and Lent. Of course in this year of pandemic we did not host these. The offering given at these breakfasts has been used for one time scholarships given to high school seniors. As you might imagine the fund is a bit low at the moment. So, we thought we'd offer the opportunity to make the contribution you would have made had you attended a breakfast! Checks should be made payable to West Point Ministerial Association and sent to Grace.

Don't miss the 'Wednesday' school Easter program on Wednesday, May 12 at 5:30 PM at Trinity. We will be done by 6:30.

Children and families, and friends, are invited for an hour or so of fishing and a campfire on Wednesday, May 19; 5ish at the park and campfire at 'Boots corner' 6:15ish. Let pastor know if you plan to fish, so we can have equipment and bait enough.

Here are some summer worship plans: There are 2 weekends when we will have just one service - Sunday June 6 9 AM at Trinity and Saturday, July 3 5:30 PM at Trinity. August 15 our joint service will be at the Fairgrounds; no service in either building that weekend. Each will be livestreamed.

Last year we were set to do a float in the parade at the fair; no parade! Is there a group who would like to come up with a plan for a Grace/Trinity float? Seems like a long time from now, but it will be here before we know it. Let's plan early if we are going to do this.

St. Joseph Elder Services

Save the date for Friday, June 11, 2021 for a Summer Celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph with Family and Friends. They are planning to celebrate with an outdoor Mass, have a picnic style lunch. They also hope to have tours of St. Joseph Retirement Community and St. Joseph Hillside Villa if restrictions allow.

In Our Prayers this Week:

To See An Updated List Please Contact The Office.

Trinity News

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

To See An Updated List Please Contact The Office.

Trinity Council met April 21, 2021. At that meeting, we discussed many items that need the attention of the congregation. I would like to take some time in this newsletter, to bring the congregation up to

date and to ask for assistance with some items. As discussed at our November all church meeting, we are currently working through the process to streamline the governing and operation of Trinity Church. Our decreasing membership and participation has necessitated this move to keep Trinity viable. If you remember in this process, we are eliminating individual committees and turning those duties over to the council as a whole. To that end, we need to be looking towards the June all church meeting, currently planned for June 12th. That is an important date for our church and we need as many members present as possible. The first agenda item for that meeting would be to ratify our new bylaws containing the streamlined organization. Following that, a “new” church council will be formed. We would propose that people currently serving unexpired terms on council, or committees would continue into this new council. At the May council meeting, we will be proposing nominations for the new people to join the new council. We are only seeking people to fill the council, not individuals to fill certain roles on the council. All together, these are the name that will be presented in our June meeting. This newly confirmed council will consist of 7-9 persons that will serve 2 or 3-year terms. The first order of business for our new council will be to elect officers. Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary would be the primary offices. The council as a whole will undertake the operation of the church having members that have a gift or calling for particular areas of need moving in and out of leadership for those specific areas. To assist in the smooth transition one thing this council will need, are yearly calendars from the different current committees so the new council can develop an effective master church calendar. Examples of things for this calendar, Trustees – when and where do you send the mowers for yearly maintenance, who handles HVAC filters? Diaconate - when are the alter colors changed, where are the communion elements obtained? PPRC- when are evaluations done? There are many things that happen behind the scenes that only some people know about. We need this information as soon as possible. Change is always difficult, but if we can all work together for the good of Trinity Church, we can get through this with a stronger, more active church doing the works of Jesus.

Jim Sherwood – your outgoing council chairperson

To See An Updated List Please Contact The Office.

Reminder Trinity sponsors a child through Compassion International. January through May is covered, the months of June through December are available for sponsors.

Grace News

May Birthdays & Anniversaries
June Birthdays & Anniversaries

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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.

Grace will be welcoming new members on Sunday, June 13. Please let Pastor know if you would like to become a member/associate member of the congregation.



Friendship Circle met in the Parish Hall on Monday, April 12 at 5:30 pm.

The meeting was a work night spent removing packaging and folding items for Lutheran World Relief.

We are overjoyed to announce that we will resume our regular monthly meetings. A sign-up sheet was distributed and members signed up to be the hostess and/or leader of devotions. Hostess duties were simplified to serving a dessert or an appetizer rather than a meal. Our May meeting will be held on May 10 at 5:30 in the Parish Hall. Vicki will serve as hostess and Mary Thomas will lead the devotions. All women are invited and welcome to attend.



Grace Lutheran Church

Council Minutes April 20, 2021 (pending council approval)

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

Melissa moved and Pam seconded to accept the amended agenda.

Changes were made to the committee liaisons. Motion carried.

Pam moved and Lynn seconded to accept the minutes from the March 16, 2021 meeting. Motion carried

Pastor report: will be on vacation starting Thursday. Jean Schlickbernd will be presiding over the service Sunday. Synod assembly is June 5 and is one day, online. Two voting members are invited to join pastor.

President's report: Bob will work on getting the task force and liaisons from the Methodist conference and ELCA Synod together to discuss what is working and any concerns regarding the agreement between the churches.

Treasurer Report: Melissa moved and Pam seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property: McKinnes will look at what is flapping on the roof. Ernesti has been called to look at the ice damage to the trees. The mowing scheduled has been posted. Lynn will arrange Dinslage Small Engine to service the mower. Bob will contact Pedro to see if deck or concrete needs to be sealed.

Worship & Music: Hymns are picked through June

WELCA: met to work on LWR kits

Christian Education: There will be an Easter program May 12. May 19 the youth will be fishing to celebrate the end of the year.

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: Bob will plan a council get together for several new members that have joined in the last year and those that will be soon.

OLD BUSINESS:

· COVID-19 Restrictions: no changes to the procedures. We will be putting the pew cushions back in the sanctuary in May.

· Water damage – some bills have arrived. Church Mutual has settled and checks have arrived. We will be looking for someone to finish the repairs.

NEW BUSINESS:

· Summer Worship schedule: Table Grace will be June 6 outside at Trinity. They provide the service and a free-will food truck. There will be no service July 4th at Grace and everyone will be encouraged to attend Trinity Saturday night. At this time, we will plan on having church at the park during the fair.

· Mower maintenance – see property report

Announcements: Next meeting will be May 18, 2021

Pam moved and Lynn seconded to adjourn the meeting and it was closed with the Lord’s Prayer at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by Melissa Nielsen, Secretary

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

**Grace and Trinity are hosting
Mobile Grace Café on Sunday,
June 6; 9 AM at Trinity!**

(No Saturday service on the 5th.)

Table Grace will be leading
worship and preaching, Pr.
Priscilla will preside at the Table. After
worship, brunch at the Food truck!



Mobile Grace Café is taking Table Grace’s mission on the road. “Nourishing Hungry bodies and souls through music” is our vision and calling. We do this by offering food made with the highest quality ingredients and culinary standards to all who approach our truck or café whether they are able to pay or not. Our mission states we work “To foster a healthy community by offering great food prepared and served with dignity and to provide opportunities for transformation both personally and spiritually through hospitality, music and fellowship.” We offer music with a mission and open faith discussions to build community. If you choose to eat at Mobile Grace Café we invite you to be generous with your donation. Your dollars help to pay it forward to others who are not able to pay for their food with money, but perhaps pay with their time or talent by volunteering or offering music, art or poetry through our music with a mission program.



We invite you to consider purchasing vouchers on top of your meal cost for \$8 per voucher at the truck, which will go toward supporting others who may not be able to afford the full price of the meal. Together we are building community and transforming lives one meal at a time. A meal at Mobile Grace or Table Grace often turns into a relationship, which turns into support and can mean a homeless addict finds their way through recovery and toward a sustainable career, all the while being fed and nourished with food, fellowship and community.

Simone Weber co-founded Table Grace Ministries in 2008 with her husband Matt and served as Table Grace’s COO and musical missionary since 2014 and in 2018 transitioned into the role of CEO. Simone’s calling and vision is in music, ministry, hunger outreach

and development. Matt Weber is the Chef and COO of the organization and sings and plays with Simone whenever possible. Simone obtained her BME degree and ESL endorsement from UNL in 2002.

While in college in Lincoln Simone and Matt worked at Hudson Bay company as a professional fundraiser and Canvass Director and traveled on several overseas mission trips to serve in various third world countries. Simone then went on to sing professionally, teach ESL and work in many restaurants in New York City, while Matt received his culinary education at the Natural Gourmet Institute for food and healing. In 2005 they returned to Nebraska.

Simone is a Nashville recorded singer/songwriter who plays several instruments. Matt also sings and plays several instruments. They have a passion for “nourishing hungry bodies and souls through music” with their food truck Mobile Grace Café, and their community restaurant Table Grace Café and using music as a vehicle to bring people together, raise funds for Table Grace and inspire all people to use their talents to serve one another.

Supporting Table Grace's mission has become a family endeavor over the years, as Alexandra and Hope Weber have naturally grown into being a part of the Weber family band. Growing up around music, Hope (13) and Alexandra (11) have been singing, and now playing instruments with their parents at church, at Table Grace and many places all across Nebraska. They both play piano, violin, ukulele, and sing, and Alexandra added Clarinet this year. It is a joy to make music as a family while inspiring others to support Table Grace's Outreach.

More info can be found at www.simonegweber.com or www.tablegracecafe.com or www.mobilegracefoodtruck.com

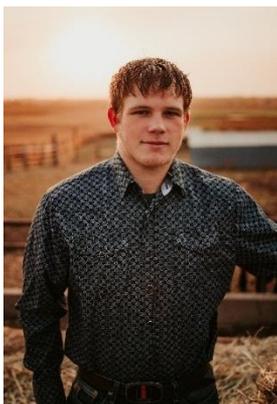
Weather permitting we will be outside; please bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Brunch is a free will offering – please plan to be as generous as you are able in support of this ministry of the church. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend for church and brunch.

Celebrating Grace's & Trinity's

2021 High & College School Graduates

James Hansen

Parents: Garry & Bev Hansen. James is a confirmed member of Grace. He will be attending Northeast for Agronomy/Science. He has been a member of FFA for 4 Years. He received his State Degree and also was 4th in the State of Nebraska Land Judging. James is a member of the WP Power Drive Team. He has also been employed at Graybeal's Foods for 4 years and did snow removal and lawn mowing on the side. He enjoys hunting and fishing with his 2 brothers and 7 sisters and totally enjoys his 2 nephews and 2 nieces.



Cash Meier

Parents:
Cash will graduate from Guardian Angels Central Catholic. Cash will be attending the University of Nebraska in Lincoln majoring in Agronomy. Cash hopes to return to West Point.

Braden Schantz

Parents:
Braden has been accepted to the mechanical engineering program at UNL where he will be attending this fall. He will also be participating in the Air Force ROTC program alongside his major while attending school.





Evie Schlickbernd

Parents: Jean & Pat Schlickbernd. Her plans are to attend Midland University this fall with a major in Health Science, Pre-Chiropractic.

Ronny Petersen

Parents: Pam & Jeff Petersen. Ronny will be graduating from NECC with a degree in Agronomy & Precision Ag. Following graduation he will be doing a crop scout internship with CVA. Then he will pursue a job in the field of Agronomy.



Ellie Alfson

Parents: Tisha and Bob Wilson and Brad Alfson. Ellie Alfson graduated from Wayne State College on Nov 20, 2020, with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. Ellie is currently teaching preschool at Winside Public Schools and was recently hired by Winside to be a 5th grade teacher for the 2021/22 school year.

Address Service Requested

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