

Living with Christ, Growing in Grace!



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America



The
United
Methodist
Church

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



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

104 S. Colfax St.

West Point, NE. 68788

402-372-2050

gracewpn@hotmail.com

www.gracewpn.org

Missionary:

Rev. Linda Johnson Swyenkulo

Ministers: Everyone!

Pastor: Rev. Priscilla Hukki

402-841-0220

pjhukki@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Teala Connealy

Trinity Church UCC/UMC

900 E. Decatur St.

P.O. Box 156

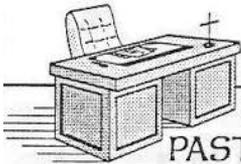
West Point, NE. 68788

402-372-2271

trinity.church.ucc.umc@gmail.com

Grace & Trinity Newsbites

SEPTEMBER 2021



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

Many of us know the quote from the book of Joshua, “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15) For Joshua and his household that meant, in

particular, not engaging in worshipping other gods; a difficult task in his era, in a culture comfortable with polytheism. What does it look like for us, to serve God, to be good stewards of that which God entrusts to us? How do we hold ourselves accountable? Are we clear about who (what) we worship? How do we ‘refuel and recharge’ so that we are the best stewards we can be? How do we support and challenge one another in serving God?

Being a good servant has a lot to do with being a good steward. Stewardship is about time and talent and treasure. We belong to God, to a family, to a faith community; we live in a specific place, in a country, in the world. How is our time spent in service to God, to family, to our faith community, to the neighbors God sends our way? How is our money used with regards to each? How are we developing and using our talents and abilities?

It's up to each of us to reflect on those questions and take an honest look at our lives. God knows our heart, we each know our own mind and heart; we are the only one, with God's help, who can change our attitude, behavior, choices so that we live as, and work towards becoming, the person God calls us to be.

As your pastor, I encourage you to build the practice of regularly examining your lives; check your calendar, budget, spending patterns; your Facebook and Twitter and Snapchat ... habits; Netflix and Amazon lists ... Are you where you want to be? Where you believe God wants you to be?

Are you supporting the work of the church with your time, talent and treasure? Do you give on a 'pay as you go' model or do you give regular, generous support to the congregation so that we might do the work of the church in the world?

Are you supporting and upholding the congregation with your presence? We are better together; we are able to do far more together than we could ever do by ourselves. We all are better selves when we engage with others, pray for one another, worship together and wrestle with the Gospel, together. Together we are the body of Christ, each part essential for the whole.

As you make plans for fall, are worshiping and serving God part of your plans? For most of us, creating habits and patterns of behavior does not come easy. If we don't include faith practices, service, prayer, worship, Christian Education on our calendars, and include a tithe in our budget; chances are they won't become habits.

Is it your desire and choice that you and your household serve God? If so, would anyone know it from your home, your calendar and your spending and viewing history?

Tough questions. They were for Joshua and his people; for the disciples and their families, for our ancestors who settled here and there and everywhere, for us and for those who come after us. We are after all, human; and sin would have us worship and serve ourselves. Take hold of the saintly side and worship and serve God instead, first and foremost. Then you (and I) will be living witnesses to the power of God to make us whole.

Traveling mercies,
Pr. Priscilla

*Congratulations to all
Cuming County Fair Participants and
to our children & youth with entries at
the State Fair!*

Christian Education

It's that time of year! Food Truck Wednesday will kick off our Christian Ed program for fall. Everybody is welcome - Bargmann's will be serving walking tacos & hot beef sundaes. No set price; make a donation. If we're short, we will make up the difference; if there's extra money, we will let the students decide where to give it away. There will be several activities and door prizes as well as gift bags for our families with children.

September 1; 5ish to 6:30; outside at Trinity.

Adults will be invited to indicate interest in several possibilities for study.

All of our national denominations, ELCA, UMC and UCC have excellent disaster relief programs. As part of the larger church, we are working with communities devastated by forest fires, floods and hurricanes in the USA. We are working with Afghan refugees and with Haitian communities recovering from the earthquake and storms. If your budget allows, please consider an offering to any of 'our' agencies to help those in such desperate need.

TeamMates Mentoring Program

As Christians we are called to serve. The one to one transformative power of mentoring results in a ripple effect that over time, makes a huge difference and can impact families for generations. The TeamMates Mentoring Program is a one to one, school-based mentoring program serving kids in 3rd through 12th grade that will support you in your quest to make that difference for a child. To learn how you can become a TeamMates Mentor visit teammates.org and click "Become a TeamMates Mentor" to complete the application.

September 11 Service

Grace and Trinity Churches are hosting a service of remembrance on Saturday, September 11 at 9 AM at Grace Lutheran, 104 S. Colfax St.

We are inviting you to attend as we honor the first responders who died in service 20 years ago on that September day. You will be asked to stand for the EMT's, Law Enforcement officers, Fire Fighters, and members of the Armed Services who perished. As each group stands, bells will be tolled and we will observe a moment of silence.

You are invited to be present in uniform, to sit with family or as a group with others... your choice.

The service will last approximately a half hour. Coffee and rolls will be served outside after the service.

Thank you for your service, and we hope to show you our appreciation on the 11th.

Grace Lutheran Church ELCA

Trinity Church UCC UMC

Franciscan Healthcare

Franciscan Healthcare in West Point will be providing a grief support group called **Grieving with Great Hope**. There will be two sessions to choose from: Mondays 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm or 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm starting September 13, ending on October 11. Meetings will be held at Franciscan Healthcare in West Point on the second floor in the Francis Conference Room. Masks are currently required in the hospital. Participants are asked to enter through the Main Entrance and park in the south parking lot. For more information, please check out the flier and brochure on the bulletin boards by the church offices.

Tickets available now for
Trinity-Grace Churches'
Annual Oktoberfest Dinner
Drive-Up Take-Out Only!

Dinners will be delivered to your Vehicle!

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Serving 5:00-7:00pm

Nielsen Community Center - 200 Anna Stalp Avenue -
West Point, NE

*Serving: Chicken Fried Steak,
Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad,
Dinner Roll & Dessert*

Tickets \$10.00

Tickets available from:

Trinity Church

CharterWest Bank

Grace Lutheran Church

F&M Bank

Dave Wimmer

Brenda Larson

Please contact the office

for contact information.

Only 700 tickets available!

***Proceeds will go to Neligh Park Inclusive
Playground**

In Our Prayers this Month:

To See An Updated List Please Contact The Office.

Continued Prayer for those who have experienced a death since the last newsletter:

To See An Updated List Please Contact The Office.

Trinity News

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

To See An Updated List Please Contact The Office.

Grace News

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

To See An Updated List Please Contact The Office.

Drive - Thru Lasagna Supper
Sponsored by the Women of Grace, WELCA with help
from the Trinity Women & Christian Ed. Kids

We are again having a "drive-thru" Lasagna Supper. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 20. The meal will be lasagna (beef or chicken), bread stick, salad and dessert. Serving from 5:30 - 7:30. We will be selling tickets for \$8.00. We will be limiting the number of tickets sold, so buy your tickets earlier rather than later. There will be no meal available without a ticket. You may purchase tickets from one of several women of the church or call Mary Vander Pol or Teala at the church office during office hours.

The proceeds from our supper will be disbursed to further the work of the church missions, local needs and projects, and help maintain church needs.

If you would be willing to help with preparing and/or serving, please let Mary Vander Pol know.

Results Are In

Over \$110,000 was raised at the 33rd Annual Camp Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction on July 31. A record number of items, 513, were donated this year. The Grace Quilters did their part. Their items brought in \$1,255.

THANK YOU!

Dear Nancy and GLC Members,

I want to thank you for your \$250.00 gift to Bridges to Hope!!!

It's because of gifts such as yours that we are able to continue serving those in need! We truly appreciate your loyal support!

With Gratitude, Rhonda Mattingly, Ex. Dir.

SANITIZER

Because of recent COVID developments, we have decided to continue to sanitize when there is a group in the church. After church, it will be set to run for 2 hours so we ask that no one go upstairs to the sanctuary after the machine has been started. We are also looking for volunteers to learn to start the machine/move the machine/put the machine away. This is a very easy

process. It involves placing signs in the doorways and starting the machine. More volunteers mean less work for all of us! Please contact Bob Wilson, Melissa Nielsen, Kathy Mahannah, or the church office if you can help. We will be happy to show you what to do!

The Nebraska Synod Road Show

The Nebraska Synod staff is excited to share that we are going on the road, and we're coming to the Lewis and Clark/Northeast area clusters the weekend of November 6-7, 2021. We invite you to join us at Zion Lutheran in Creighton on Saturday, November 6 as we begin to gather at 9:00 a.m. for registration and fellowship, with the day's scheduled activities beginning at 9:30 a.m. sharp. Lunch will be provided by our hosts as well as coffee during the morning gathering time. You are invited to bring along something to share with the morning coffee. The morning will include a variety of helpful workshops for learning and growth. The afternoon will include times of intentional sharing and listening, as well as closing worship with Eucharist. In preparation for this time, please plan to share:

- One story of ministry from your faith community that you are excited about, perhaps showing an example of significant impact or transformation.
- Your hopes, concerns, and dreams for the "What's Next?" in the mission and future of your congregation.
- What your congregation needs from the synod's staff, leadership and other congregations to help fulfill your mission.

We invite you to bring at least 6 people from your congregation for this day of learning, inspiration, listening and sharing. Registration will be open through October 6. You will find the schedule on the bulletin board by the offices.



Friendship Circle met on Monday, August 9, 2021

In attendance were Fern Thorman, Mary Vander Pol, Linda Lofgren, Vicki Furchert, Nancy Petersen, Sandy Boots, and Mary Thomas. Fern Thorman was hostess for the meeting.

During the business portion of the meeting, we decided to go ahead with plans to offer a drive through lasagna supper as we did last year. We have set a tentative date of Wednesday night, October 20 for the supper with a work night on

Monday, October 18 to prepare the meal. Tickets will be sold in advance.

Mary Vander Pol said that the Spring Gathering is planned for next year in April and will be held in Wayne.

There was a brief discussion about the quilt auction at Camp Carol Joy Holling. Linda reported that the quilts and barn that were donated from Grace brought favorable bids.

Linda led our devotion. She used a lesson entitled “Miracles Abound” by Matthew Kelly. We talked about the miracles of Jesus and that they were simple and practical like his teachings. Jesus encourages us to bring the miracle of his love to others. We are invited to do small things with great love and be an answer to someone’s prayer.

Our next meeting will be September 13. Ruth Maresh is scheduled to be hostess and lesson leader.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary A. Thomas

Grace Lutheran Church

Council Minutes August 17, 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 Lynn seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

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

Pastor report: Pastor will be on vacation in August 25 – September 1. Rev Scott Johnson will preside over service on August 29th. Baptisms scheduled for September 12. September 11th memorial service is scheduled for 9am. Veterans and first responders will be invited to be recognized.

President’s report: no report

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property: Sean Linder looked at the sprinkler head. Appears to have filled with sand from the concrete work. Station is turned off for now.

Worship & Music: Bells will resume practice. Choir will hopefully resume as well. Hiring a director is on hold until students at the colleges are back in classes.

WELCA: 182 quilts have been assembled which surpasses their goal of 160.

Christian Education: Mission trip went well. The participants will recount their experience during an upcoming service. Christian Education for the new year will kick off with a food truck on September 1st from 5 – 6:30 at Trinity. Good will offering will be accepted.

Endowment: reminder that requests will be due in October for the 2022 year.

Memorial: no report.

New Member: no report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Coffee maker – tabled for now while more information is needed.
- Stained Glass Inspection -- tabled

NEW BUSINESS:

- Handicap Pews – it was decided not to designate handicap pews. Ushers are aware of where the access places are for walkers and wheelchairs.
- Other council concerns –
 - Sanitizer – we will resume using the sanitizer after most events at church. The congregation is reminded to stay out of the building if they see signs on the door indicating sanitizing is in process.

- Questions – A reminder that the council is to come up with questions to deliver to congregation for discussion on the shared mission of Grace and Trinity

Announcements: Next meeting will be September 21, 2021. There will be a joint meeting of Trinity and Grace councils on September 29 at 6:30pm.

Lynn moved and Pam seconded to adjourn the meeting and it was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by Melissa Nielsen, Secretary

Grace Lutheran Church Financial Report – July 2021 General Fund for July	
To See An Updated List Please Contact The Office.	

Application for Endowment Grants

*Applications are due in the church office by
October 10th.*

Dear friend,

Please use the Grant Request form on this page to submit Endowment requests. Provide a concise summary of need, and the anticipated benefit provided to recipients. You may attach additional information to this form as necessary.

The Endowment Committee will meet in late October or November to consider your request. You will be contacted in early January as to whether your request was granted.

Questions may be submitted to Willis Mahannah, Committee Chair, or Christy Steffen. Please call the church office at 372-2050 for their contact information.

Thank you for your submission. We pray that God will bless your ministry with every success!

Yours in Christ,

The Endowment Committee of Grace Lutheran

The Endowment Fund was established by the congregation in the early 1900s. It is a vital component of the ministry of Grace and provides a way for members and friends of Grace to make special gifts to carry on the ministry of the church. A gift to the Endowment Fund is a gift that keeps on giving. The funds are used to support projects that the general fund can't support. If you would like more information on ways to give to the Endowment Fund, contact Willis Mahannah,
contact church office for contact information.

Grant Request Form

Grace Lutheran Church Endowment

Today's Date: _____

Group or person requesting grant:

Contact Information (including phone & email):

Request & expected benefit for those served (provide a concise summary; attach additional information only as necessary):

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Date by which Grant Monies are needed: _____

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*Committee Use Only*

- Category: \_\_\_\_\_ A. Capital Improvements & Internal Ministries  
                  \_\_\_\_\_ B. Scholarships – Camp, College, Seminary  
                  \_\_\_\_\_ C. Outreach – Local, ELCA, Other  
                  \_\_\_\_\_ D. Intern (Vicar) & Missions

Date Acted Upon: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion By: \_\_\_\_\_

Second By: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Yea \_\_\_\_\_ / Nay \_\_\_\_\_

Request # \_\_\_\_\_; Amount Awarded: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chair's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

