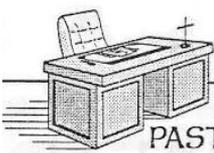


Grace & Trinity Newsbites

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

2022



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

It's a new calendar year. We've just lived through what I think I can safely say are two of the longest and most challenging years of this century. Sadly, we are figuring out that many of the

challenges remain and likely will be part of our continuing story. Out of the things we at Trinity and Grace have learned is how to use some basic level tech so that people can join in worship even when they can't be physically in the building. We certainly aren't perfect at this, but what a gift it has been for many. There are more ways to use the tech we have; a challenge for this year is to keep learning and growing, being inventive and creative as we go – all for the sake of God's kingdom and the good of God's people.

As I was preparing for the Epiphany celebration, I wrote up some figures that were enlightening.

Christian Ed classes for children are at best 40-50 hours a year (for 8 -12 years that is 400 to 600 hours total). Even if children go to a religious school, K-12th grade, that's still perhaps 10 hours a week or 360 a year, 4680 total. Community worship gathers us together to remember who we are and who God is, and sends us out to 'serve the Lord'. It takes up perhaps 80 -100 hours a year. That's of the 8760 hours in a year!

Why enlightening? Well, faith formation, conditioning and strengthening our hearts and minds for discipleship are lifelong. We all know that forming healthy habits take work and time. How healthy is our faith life and religious training if we spend only 600 (or 4680) hours of our entire life in education and 100 hours per year in corporate worship?

If we don't build daily & weekly practices of prayer, devotions, Bible studies and religious education classes, throughout our lives, beginning when we are very young, we will not be the strong and faithful disciples that Jesus calls us to be.

How can we help each other to be strong and faithful disciples?

Adults – what classes would you be interested in and able to make a commitment to? Day and time; number of weeks? An overnight retreat at St. Benedict?

Youth & parents – interest in a monthly breakfast and devotion? A monthly service and/or rec activity? A quarterly activity with other churches?

Children & families and all – Summer camp? A family overnight retreat in the late winter or early spring?

How can we use Zoom and other tech to make learning together more accessible for a more diverse group of people?

Let's focus this year on being the church, which includes gathering in our church buildings, but is all about us being the living stones that build the church in the world. Let's commit ourselves to working together, worshiping together, learning together as we discern how best to serve God and our neighbor as partners in ministry.

Traveling mercies,

Pr. Priscilla

Thank you for the Christmas greetings and gifts. All are appreciated and gratefully received. Pr. Priscilla

Thank you to all who gave such lovely Christmas cards, treats and gifts. I appreciate it all very much. Teala

Scammers used my name to text some folks and ask for gift cards. If this happens to you, don't bite! I will never text or email or message and ask for gift cards or money from a member of the congregation.

If it is a legitimate request, it would be asking for a donation to the church for a specific purpose. Also, if a text is signed Pr. Priscilla Hukki chances are it's not me.

Please, if you ever wonder, even a bit, about a text or email, please call. In these cases, being prudent means being suspicious.

I did call the sheriff's office; unfortunately, there is not much to be done. Scammers are very sophisticated these days and are hard to trace. Even so, if you do respond to any request like this, and give what is asked, please do contact the sheriff's department so it will be on record.

2022 begins the biggest experiment yet for Grace and Trinity!

Both councils have committed to alternating **service times** between the congregations. **Odd months** the schedule is Trinity Saturday evening and Grace Sunday morning. **Even months** the schedule is Grace Saturday evening and Trinity Sunday morning. The times remain the same; Saturday evening 5:30 and Sunday morning 9:00.

4 times, Sundays January 30 (G), May 1 (G) and October 30 (T) and Saturday July 30 (T), there will be one joint service.

There are small and large versions of the schedule available. The larger again in this newsletter; the smaller ones on cardstock in both buildings.

Holy Week, Easter and Christmas Eve services will likely be similar to 2021; but will be set by the councils.

As we schedule servers for weekend services, remember that you can serve at either service. Both use essentially the same camera for filming for cable and both use the same set up for livestreaming. Communion is prepared and served differently; so that may be the only one best served by members who know the routine. Please let Teala know if you are available only Sunday or only Saturday and if you would be willing to serve at the 'other' church.

Both congregations could use a few more folks to **run the camera & drop the card at the city office drop box**. Not hard to learn, but at Grace you have to be able (and willing 😊) to climb the ladder to the 'crow's nest' and at Trinity able to climb the steps to the balcony. At Trinity to run power point and sound system. **Also, to run the Mevo** – no stairs or ladders; just a willingness to sit in the front! Training provided.

For fun -- on Saturday, January 8 we are having a games, cards and puzzles time after worship, at Trinity. Another is on the schedule for February 12, at Grace. If Saturday evenings don't work, would a Sunday afternoon be more attractive? If you are interested, be the 'host' and put it on the calendar.

For January 30 - 2nd annual Ice Fishing extravaganza for children, families and friends. We had so much fun last year, we are doing it again. Ice permitting, January 30. **Mark your calendars and watch for more details.** It will definitely involve hot dogs and S'Mores at our 'hospitality' corner across from the park.

End of year

Both congregations came in under budget for expenses; and thankfully with income to expense ratios that are reasonable for the year we have had. Full end of the year reports will be out after the January council meetings. Giving statements 2021: Printed statements will be available the weekend of January 22 & 23. Any not picked up at church will be snail mailed.

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.**

Please let Teala know of any changes to the prayer list.

Trinity News

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

**To see an updated list
please contact the office.**

Trinity – November Financial Report – General Fund

**To see an updated list
please contact the office.**

On January 18 – 2:30 p.m. – You are invited to be part of picking hymns & planning worship for February to April at Trinity. All are welcome.

Grace News

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

**To see an updated list
please contact the office.**

Grace members – **the annual meeting of the congregation is January 23 after worship.** All confirmed members are voting members. Please plan to be here to do this necessary work of the church. We would like to have 2 voting members to the Synod Assembly appointed at this meeting. These voting members will be part of a very important vote this year – for a new Bishop. Bishop Maas has accepted a new call that begins in August.

FYI The Nebraska Synod council has voted on and approved the following COVID-19 protocol for the 2022 Synod Assembly.

- Participants (i.e. voting members, visitors, vendors, volunteers, staff) over the age of 5 attending the 2022 Nebraska Synod Assembly are required to either show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or the negative result of a COVID-19 test taken no more than 3 days before the start of the assembly.
- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth while indoors except when eating or drinking.

Grace Lutheran Church

Council Minutes December 14, 2021 (pending council approval)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Bob Wilson.

Other council members present: Kathy Mahannah, Melissa Nielsen, Pam Petersen, and Todd Kuxhausen. Absent: Lynn Stofferahn. Pastor Hukki was also in attendance.

Kathy moved and Pam seconded to accept the amended agenda which added Pastor salary denotation onto new business. Motion carried.

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

Pastor report: Will be on vacation December 31-1.

President's report: Received good comments on the hanging of the green service and would like to do that again. The intern committee is reviewing the application and will be sent this week.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property: Kathy moved to hire Tony Kaup to remove snow this season per the verbal agreement. Pam seconded and motion carried. Lights and ballasts were replaced throughout the building.

Worship & Music: Christmas services are set. Choir and bells will perform at 2pm and 5pm. Tuesday December 21 there will be a blue Christmas service.

WELCA: got together to visit shut ins and visit the tour of homes

Christian Education: no report

Endowment: no report.

Memorial: no report

New Member: possible new member coming in January

OLD BUSINESS:

- 2022 Budget – Melissa moved and Todd seconded a motion to create a maintenance supervisor position and adjust the church maintenance budget. The motion also includes approving the submission of proposed budget to congregation at annual meeting. Motion carried.
- Visual monitors in sanctuary – Chad from Midwest Music will come and review options.
- Stained Glass Inspection – Bob continues to work with Jason from Reinart's Stained Glass Studios located in Winona, MN that can do the minor repairs to the stained glass.
- Council member recruiting update – several names were discussed, and potential nominees will be approached.

· Exterior door locks – Bob is working with Tony from Glass Edge in Norfolk, NE who can repair the locks on the north side of church.

NEW BUSINESS:

· Staff evaluations – Bob and Steve will work on a performance evaluation for parish coordinator and will investigate methods on evaluating pastor.

· Staffing/sanitizing for Christmas services – 2:00pm service will be ushered by Pam and Kathy. Kathy will start sanitizer after. 5:00 pm service will be ushered by Melissa and Bob. Melissa will start sanitizer after.

· Other council concerns – due to high winds and storms projected for Wednesday, December 15, services, Christian Education, and dinner will be cancelled.

· Pastor salary denotation – Todd motioned to designate \$2,500 of pastor’s 2022 salary as parsonage furniture allowance. Kathy seconded and motion passed. This will be a line on the budget.

Announcements: Next meeting will be January 18, 2022. Congregational annual meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2022.

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

Submitted by Melissa Nielsen, Secretary

Grace Lutheran Church - Financial Report General Fund– November 2021	
November To see an updated list please contact the office.	Jan-November 2021 Year to Date

2022 Worship Schedule

	<u>Grace Lutheran</u>	<u>Trinity UMC/UCC</u>
January	Sunday 9 am *Jan 30th - Joint Service @ Grace- Sun am *5 th Sat (Jan 29 th) - No Service at Trinity	Saturday 5:30 pm
February	Saturday 5:30 pm	Sunday 9 am
March	Sunday 9 am	Saturday 5:30 pm
April	Saturday 5:30 pm *5 th Sat (April 30 th) - No Service at Grace	Sunday 9 am
May	Sunday 9 am *May 1st – Joint Service @ Grace – Sun am	Saturday 5:30 pm
June	Saturday 5:30 pm	Sunday 9 am
July	Sunday 9 am *July 30th – Joint Service @ Trinity – Sat eve *5 th Sun (July 31 st) - No Service at Grace	Saturday 5:30 pm
August	Saturday 5:30 pm	Sunday 9 am
September	Sunday 9 am	Saturday 5:30 pm
October	Saturday 5:30 pm *Oct 30 – Joint Service at Trinity – Sun am *5 th Sat (Oct 29 th) - No Service at Grace	Sunday 9 am
November	Sunday 9 am	Saturday 5:30 pm
December	Saturday 5:30 pm *5 th Sat (Dec 31 st) - No Service at Grace *Jan 1, 2023- joint service @ Grace – Sun am	Sunday 9 am

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 Grace ELCA 402-372-2050 gracewpn@hotmail.com

www.gracewpn.org

Pastor: Rev. Priscilla Hukki