

*Living with Christ, Growing in Grace!*

**Grace Lutheran Church**

**May 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29**  
**9AM Service**



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**WEST POINT, NE**

MAY 2022  
**Services Sunday**  
104 S Colfax St.  
West Point, NE 68788

May 1 Joint Service at  
Grace/Confirmation 9AM  
**May 8, 15, 22, & 29**  
**9AM Service**

402-372-2050

gracewpn@hotmail.com

[www.gracewpn.org](http://www.gracewpn.org)

**Missionary:**

Rev. Linda Johnson Swyenkulo



**Evangelical  
Lutheran**  
Church In America



**Ministers: Everyone!**

**Pastor: Rev. Priscilla Hukki**  
402-841-0220  
pjhukki@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Teala Connealy

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

**Trinity Church UCC/UMC**

**May 7, 14, 21, & 28**  
**5:30 PM Service**



**TRINITY CHURCH UCC/UMC**  
**WEST POINT, NE**

MAY 2022  
**Services Saturday**  
900 E. Decatur  
West Point, NE 68788

May 1 Joint Service at  
Grace/Confirmation 9AM  
**May 7, 14, 21, & 28**  
**5:30PM Service**

P.O. Box 156

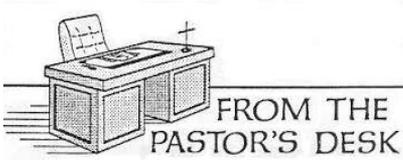
West Point, NE. 68788

402-372-2271

trinity.church.ucc.umc@gmail.com

# *Grace & Trinity Newsbites*

MAY & JUNE 2022



Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! I hope that your celebration of the 50 days of Easter will continue with great joy and peace.

Each season has its own gifts of work and play; and every day, in every season we have Jesus' commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you". He follows that with "They will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." The best way to spread the Good News, to evangelize, is to serve and love our neighbors as Jesus has served and loved us. As we live out this commandment, we live out of our Baptism. On May 1, we celebrated with Samuel and Campbell as they affirmed the promises their parents made for them – "to live in the covenant that God makes with us in baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth". No matter the season, the weather, our age or stage of life, in good times and in bad, these are the promises we have made. Christianity is a communal way of life. Each of us is a beloved child of God who need all the help we can get to live in the covenant God made with us. Because we are God's children we are not in bondage to fear. Because we have received the peace that Jesus gives, we are not to be troubled or afraid. Now, that is easier said than done! It seems to me that a lot of decision making – in homes, in churches, in communities and in the world – is made in bondage to fear. We fear a scarcity of goods, we fear change, we fear those who are not like us, we fear that we are not enough for whatever challenges might come our way. What would the world look like, I wonder, if we gave up our fear? What would we look like? How would we act? What might we be freed up to do and to be? What if instead of fearing a lack of privilege, we worked for justice? What if, instead of fearing the stranger, we welcomed him/her/they as another child of God with the same fears and dreams as we have? What if we read our history with 'God vision' rather than allowing fear to rewrite the story? What if

we sang with gusto, danced with passion, and embraced joy; rather than fearing the reaction of those around us? What if we embraced change as a means of growth? What if we gave up our fear of failure and experimented with new things, ideas and possibilities? What if we lived every day as citizens of God's realm, children of God who are but sojourners in this land? What if we lived fully in the present and gave up our fear of death? What if we left the judgment to God, and accepted that we are all equally flawed? What are your 'what ifs'? It is not easy to give up fear. As disciples of Jesus, gathered around Word and Table, walking together, we are called and commanded to do it anyway. Love one another as I have loved you, Jesus said. Fear has no part of that commandment. What if, what if; indeed, what if and why not? Why not believe what Jesus says, and live as if it is true? Why not give up the excuses, and live, rather than just work on preventing death? What if we gave up our fear and embraced love? What if we embraced the peace of Christ and trusted that we are never alone? We are on this road, *The Way*, together; let us encourage one another to follow where Jesus leads, to claim our identity as children of God, and to revel in the gifts of the Spirit.

Traveling mercies, Pr. Priscilla

We are always excited to have new members. If you are interested in membership with either congregation, please let Pastor know. A weekend in June would be a wonderful time to welcome you.

Parents and children - it's time to schedule another First Communion preparation retreat. At both Grace and Trinity children are welcome for communion at any age. Generally, when children begin asking to receive, it's a good time to engage in some education about this most gracious gift of Jesus for us. We generally have a 3-4 hour retreat for children and parents which includes a meal, a video & discussion, making bread and decorating a wine glass to use for their first communion. Please let Pastor know if you and your children are ready for this. The time of the retreat and celebration of first communion are set with the families of those involved and Pastor.

Women of the church - watch for info about a day of retreat at St. Benedict. We are tentatively looking at the last week of June.

Don't forget summer camp - lots of opportunities at Camp Carol Joy Holling and Camp Fontanelle for overnight camp, family and grandparents camps...

## Trinity Church UCC/UMC & Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Joint Council Meeting April 27, 2022 6:45pm at Grace

The meeting was called to order at 6:45:

Members present from Trinity: Steve Blocher, Brenda Larson, Art Hickman, Suzy Anderson, Larry Merchen. Members present from Grace: Pam Petersen, Andrea Francis, Lynn Stofferahn, Todd Kuxhausen. Pastor Priscilla Hukki was also present.

Absent: Terry Nelson, Barb Schroedter, Kathy Mahannah, Jamie Stigge, Randy Rood, Bob Wilson, Linda Peterson.

Meeting was opened by Pastor with a prayer.

\*Pastoral Leadership Assessment Form: These were passed out by Pastor at individual council meetings. Trinity needs to get this filled out by Friday to be sent in by May 15th for this year. Grace will look it over and their next council meeting.

\*Possible bylaw changes (Similar to Wisner): Pastor passed out at individual council meetings a copy of the one that Wisner Church did. Discuss is that each Church comes up with their own agreement. Trinity will need to check with Chad; Grace will need to check with Kirsten for constitution changes. Grace will do a new one this year. Discussion for the bylaws were split expenses, Pastor Parsonage, call process, how it is different for each Church, line out what expenses/parsonage expenses are shared. Councils will talk about it at their next meeting. Then have it in writing by next Joint Meeting in the fall.

\* Financial Audits (possible swap of books): Councils decided to do this next year. Grace will need to have an Audit done for the 2021 year. Churches should have an outside audit done every 7-10 years.

\*Summer event planning: Joint services at Trinity on Aug. 14th at 9am. Also on July 30th at 5:30pm Pastor will check to see if Grace Food Service with the Food Truck will be available to do the service.

\*Comment/concerns/alternating service time 'experiment': Will need to talk about in the fall whether to continue or go back. Some council members have heard from members of comments that they do not like the changing.

\*Possible joint hosting of (Brethren Disaster Ministries) children's disaster services training @ Trinity: Will be overnight training minimum of 15 to maximum of 25 people for the training. Churches would need to provide Friday supper, Saturday breakfast & lunch. Councils agreed this is something we would help with.

\*Other: Discuss on how we did the goodies bags for the Healthcare works. Council wants to give back for the Teachers, so Church members will take the place of the ticket takers at a football, volleyball, girls & boys basketball game.

NEXT Meeting: August 31st 27, 6:30 at Grace.

**Thank you to all who gave gifts in response to our challenge for Lutheran Disaster Relief – Eastern Europe. We are sending \$6,135! (\$3,635 + \$2,500 Endowment Grant)**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Petersen

**In Our Prayers this Month:**

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

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

**Trinity News**

**May Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**June Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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

Trinity's March and April Minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please contact the office.

**Trinity – March Financial Report – General Fund**

**To see the latest report please contact the office.**



Trinity celebrated its graduates on April 24. Congratulations to Devon, Cooper and Chase.

## Grace News

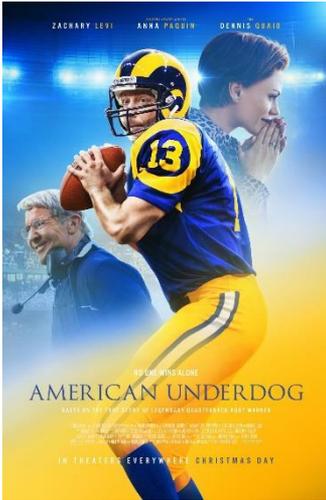
**May Birthdays & Anniversaries**  
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<b>Grace Lutheran Church - Financial Report General Fund – March 2022</b>	
<b>To see the latest report please contact the office.</b>	



Movie Night at Grace Lutheran  
featuring

American Underdog

The story of NFL MVP and Hall of Fame  
quarterback, Kurt Warner, who went from  
stocking shelves at a supermarket to  
becoming an American Football star.

Tuesday, May 24

Potluck Supper – 6:00 p.m.

Movies – 6:30 p.m.

2021, Lionsgate, Rated PG (Some Language/Thematic Elements)  
Shown under CVLI #2125731



**Campbell's creed**

I believe in God. I believe in making a good impact on people I meet. I believe in treating people with love and kindness. I believe in the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus. I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe in spreading the Word of God.

Verse: Philippians 4:13

*I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength.*

“I chose this verse because sometimes when I feel like I can’t do it I look to him and I push through it because I know he will help me get through it.

### **Sam’s creed**

God watches over us. He loves us no matter what we say or do. His Son died for our sins, and we worship Him for that. He is always with us, through the thick and thin. He is with us the day we are born, to the day we die.

Verse: Joshua 1:9

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*

“I chose this verse because it tells me to be strong and keep going. I tells me that God is with me wherever I go. I never have to be afraid of anything because God is always with me.”

April 11, 2022 Friendship Circle met at Grace Lutheran church at 5:30 PM.

We shared a delicious light supper of a Salad served in a cute mini taco boat and a delicious lemon poke cake served by Mary Vander Pol.

Present were Linda Lofgren, Nancy Petersen, Fern Thorman, Sandy Boots, Mary Vander Pol, pastor Priscilla and guests Joanne Deaver and her granddaughter Megan Svoboda.

Joanne and Megan shared a presentation of a mission called operation Christmas child sponsored by Samaritans purse. She shared many great ideas of things she has done in the past and where we could find more information online. Projects are due by October 1 and delivery to the pick-up sights is November 14 to the 21st at area churches. She usually took her boxes to Wayne but there are other local pick-up places as well. They showed a completed shoe box for an age 2 to 4 girl and it must have had over 20 items in it. There is no definite requirement of items other than it should have one nice WOW gift and a book. This box had a small, darling baby doll wrapped in a beautiful blanket. There was also a little girl’s purse packed full of stuff such as jewelry, necklaces, non-medicated lip gloss, whistle, coin purse, bracelet etc. There was a stocking hat and a pillowcase dress that she had made and she suggested if there was a pocket, to put

underpants in the pocket. If you include a water bottle to put some of your items in that water bottle. There was a homemade washcloth with a bar of wrapped soap. Soap is the only thing you did not unwrap, every other thing needed to be unwrapped so it didn't take up space. She showed us jump ropes that she made out of T-shirts. She cut the sleeves off to make other items. 100% cotton T-shirts are the best and in Wayne there's a store called Mica, where you can get five shirts for a dollar. There was a pencil case with pencils, crayons, scissors, erasers, sharpener, stickers, ruler etc. You can also sew a fabric case. She also reported to a website called pencil granny how many pencils she put in because in some countries one of the requirements to attend school was to have a pencil and if one child had a pencil and other kids did not, they would actually cut that pencil into four or five pieces so they could all attend school. There was a pair of shoes such as sandals. then the box was lined with a bandanna. They also suggested to include some kind of a fabric bag because when the children take their items out of the shoe box, they are not able to get those items packed back in the box the way they were originally put in there. Some people got fancy and decorated their boxes on the inside either with stickers or drawings or paintings but that's not a necessity. She left us some handouts on how to pack the boxes and suggested items to include in the boxes. Joanne also left us 20 jump ropes she made. There are Facebook and YouTube videos that help a lot. Use three rubber bands to secure the boxes shut as you do not tape them shut because when they get to the distribution center every single box is opened and inspected to make sure there are no items in there that could be harmful or whatever. If they do take items out of the box, Samaritan purse does donate them to other missions. You can also send any leftover items. marked as fillers.

As a circle we need to decide if we want to do this mission and if so, how we would like to manage this mission. We could do it as a year-round mission and every month suggest items that people from the congregation could bring or we could have a short-term project, perhaps one month and list all the items that would be appropriate. Then the next month put them together. Storage is a huge issue because it could get overwhelming.

Mary VP led a wonderful devotion entitled The Good Gardener from the Bible study book we used called Good Enough by Kate Bowler and Jessica Ritchie.

After Jesus was put in the tomb Mary stood watch after all the men had left. She did not recognize that the gardener she encountered was Jesus until he called her by name. Finally, Mary knows "Rabbouni," and she exhales her weight of despair. "My dearest teacher" she says. Maybe this is what it means to be an Easter person —to see Christ and think, Gardener, not as a

mistaken identity but a prophetic one. The seed in the ground, the body in the tomb—this is a picture of defiant hope. All of the labor and sweat and love and precious time for a single bloom. Delicate and bold. Brief but memorable.

Alleluia indeed.

We shared the following blessing from that study.

A blessing for you who are being planted.

Blessed are you who are buried. You who feel stuck in the depths of grief and despair or who sit in the pit of unknowing. You are learning to trust the timing of a tender gardener.

Blessed are you who are growing, you who burst with a new life, fresh creativity. Who understand the pain that sometimes comes with stretching and changing, pruning and being cut back.

And blessed are you in your season of fruitfulness. You who are learning to abide in the vine and to taste the sweetness of God’s loving kindness. The God who was there all along—planting, waiting, watering, pruning, delighting. The God who pays careful attention to God’s garden.

Linda Lofgren also commented that she was interested in sending cards to our members and would like some input as to who to send the cards to— Perhaps honor years of birthdays and anniversaries or send to all members over certain age or whatever. She could really use some input on this.

Pastor Priscilla asked if we could stay for a short time to fill Easter eggs for Sunday and we did that.