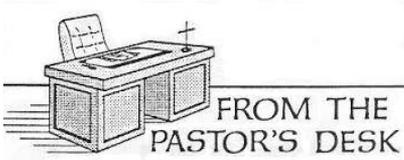


Grace & Trinity Newsbites

JULY & AUGUST 2022



Greetings,

Here we are – it's summer time; and though the living is easy for some, it is not for many today. We pray for those

living in the midst of war and violence; those who are grieving; farmers and ranchers working hard through heat and drought. For immigrants and refugees seeking a better life, and sometimes losing their own on the journey. We pray for all who govern, for wisdom and compassion, for courage and boldness in working for justice and peace. We pray for increased civility and respect for one another, even as we hold widely divergent views on many things, big and small. Our unity is in Christ not in the uniformity of our opinions. May we all heed Jesus' call to follow him. May we be faithful and bold disciples, living out the commandment that sums up all the rest – love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself. We can do this because we are beloved of God, freed in Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit!

We have multiple opportunities for fellowship and special worship services in these next two months. All are great opportunities to invite a friend. Interesting fact – the #1 reason someone attends a church for the first time is that a friend invited them. The reason they might stay? Relationships; with people who care and with God.

Gospel on the Grass – July 17 and September 8. A contemporary Christian musician in July and “our” own Heavenly Hens in September.

Joint worship services: Christmas in July on Saturday, July 30 at Trinity. Fair weekend - Sunday, August 14 at 9 AM at Trinity. Table Grace Ministries - Saturday, August 20. Both July 30 and August 20 will be outside.

Movie nights – July 26 and August 23 @ Grace. Pot-luck supper at 6 and the movie 6:30ish. You are welcome to come just for supper or just for the movie; or both. Bring a lawn chair, invite a friend or two. It's a great time for fellowship and fun together.

On the deck (of the parsonage) – no boats involved! Wednesdays, July 6 and August 3, 7 – 8:30. Pastor will have chips, water and iced tea. You are welcome to bring your own beverage. Come for a few minutes or the whole evening, for fellowship and to enjoy time together. There's plenty of lawn for games for the more ambitious among us.

We will begin planning for fall Christian Education for all ages sometime in July. Watch for information in the weekly bulletin/emails. Have ideas for adult classes? Let me know; in writing is best, email or texts are great.

Finally, a word about Sabbath. Sabbath was created for humankind, a good gift from a good God. A sabbath in which we remember who we are and to whom we belong; and a time to rest. A gift for we who so often get fooled into thinking that we are in control and responsible for ultimate matters; who think that our salvation and our very lives depend on our working hard every moment; that perfection is the only acceptable outcome of every venture; that if we don't do something it won't get done and the world as we know it will collapse. A sabbath allows us to remember that we are God's beloved, sinner and saint, moving on toward perfection; saved by God's grace; a child in the arms of a loving God. We are God's beloved, not God. Our primary and ultimate citizenship is in God's realm. We have work to do, yes, but everything is held in God's hands, not all in ours. Letting go of busy – ness for a time – allows us to be still; to just be. Worship and rest, and play are all elements that make for good celebration and use of sabbath. Historically sabbath has been weekly; for seasonal workers and professions, shift work and for those in the gig economy sometimes it can't be. Nonetheless, it is essential for our spiritual, as well as physical and mental, health and well-being! In this age, perhaps more than in any other, we are having to be creative, flexible, and resilient in finding, building and holding space and time for sabbath. I invite you to ponder, reflect, PRAY about how you balance sabbath, including worship, rest and play, with work time; and be bold in claiming this necessary spiritual practice.

Traveling mercies, Pr. Priscilla

Mark your calendars:

- ❖ Thursday, September 8 – Gospel on the Grass at Trinity
- ❖ Watch for information about Octoberfest supper – Wednesday, October 5!



“Christmas in July” July 30 – supported by Thrivent Action Teams.

Gifts for Jesus

- Hear a bit about Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes.
- Give diapers & formula to split between WIC & other local affiliates and Lutheran Family Services in Fremont!
- Create an amazing Christmas T-Shirt and compete for “fabulous” prizes! (And there may be other contests)
- Sing Christmas Carols
- *Be a part of portraying the Christmas Story. Let Pastor know ASAP.
- “Tacos & More” food truck will be here for supper. Free will donation. Watch for more info!

Christmas in July.

Come to Worship at Trinity Church July 30th and learn about a ministry we all can contribute to. Go to www.samaritanpurse.org for more information and ideas on items you could contribute. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan’s Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S. Shoebox gifts go to the ends of the earth to children in some of the hardest-to-reach places—whether deep jungles, city slums, steep mountainsides, or one of 1,000 remote Pacific islands. Many of these areas are resistant to the Gospel, for cultural or religious reasons, and are home to numerous unreached people groups, some of whom have never heard the Name of Jesus Christ. Just a few items you could bring July 30 would be: school supplies (that fit in a shoebox), simple children’s crafts, hats, gloves, scarves, fashion accessories, quality toys, stuffed animals (small). We have plenty of shoeboxes at church...we just need lots of fun items to fill them.



August 20 - Worship Service & Supper at Grace

ABOUT TABLE GRACE MINISTRIES

Our mission is 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.

Table Grace Ministries was founded by Simone and Matt Weber in 2008, combining Matt's culinary education with Simone's mission and music outreach vision. The seed money for the organization came from Grace Hansen of Omaha. From 2008 to 2011, personal chef services were provided to single-parent families to encourage healthy meals eaten as a family. Operations took place out of First Lutheran Church's kitchen in cooperation with the food pantry.

In 2011, Table Grace Cafe opened in downtown Omaha. Located at 16th and Farnam streets, it is based off of the SAME (So All May Eat) Cafe in Denver. The concept is simple: provide everyone who enters the door with the same dignified dining experience. There are no set prices on the menu; if you cannot afford to make a monetary donation, you are invited to volunteer instead. The menu selections vary based on food donations but a typical day includes soup, salad and pizza. During lunch, you can find a business person from downtown enjoying the same meal as an individual who is jobless and homeless. The meal's value is roughly \$10, with the donation per person averaging between \$1 and \$3. To cover the difference, Table Grace Cafe relies on the generosity of individuals, foundations, churches and corporations.

Within the cafe, a 10-day job experience program offers a chance to learn the skills needed to find permanent employment.

Music is a vehicle that is used in various ways to provide inspiration, nourishment for the soul as well as an outlet for creative patrons. New in 2019 were the Stage Reading Performances of "Table Grace the Musical", and also Voices of Dignity Community Choir. Music also assists in raising funds and creating awareness about the mission of Table Grace.

Mobile Grace Food Truck has been a blessing to the community since 2018.

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.

Thank you to every one for the prayers and concerns for SFC Justin Schlautman! Our grandson and brother is back from the warzone and we couldn't be happier. God is good!

Carol Sellentin, Kirsten Berg and all of Justin's Family.

Trinity News

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

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

Trinity – April Financial Report – General Fund

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

Trinity – May Financial Report – General Fund



Movie Night at Grace Lutheran - Tuesday, July 26
Featuring "Miracles from Heaven"

Based on the incredible true story of the Beam family. When Christy (Jennifer Garner) discovers that her 10-year-old daughter Anna (Kylie Rogers) has a rare, incurable disease, she becomes an advocate for her daughter's healing as she searches for a solution. After Anna has an accident, an extraordinary miracle unfolds in the wake of her dramatic rescue that leaves medical specialists mystified, her family restored, and their community inspired.

Potluck Supper – 6:00 p.m. Movie – 6:30 p.m.

2016, Columbia Pictures and Sony Pictures, Rated PG. Shown under CVLI #2125731

Grace News

July Birthdays & Anniversaries
August Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

**FYI Acolytes – You do not have to wear robes in July and August.
It's just too hot!**



Thanks to Maddie Erb, our garden manager this summer, Grace's Ted Buchholz Garden is looking good! Watch for info on work parties and gardening chores. Children/youth who weed and water will have a chance to earn prizes.

Hopefully, everyone is recovering from the effects of the pandemic and we're on our way to a new "normal" in our lives. As many congregations across the country have seen a dramatic decrease of in-person attendance at services, the councils feel fortunate that many of you have returned to worshipping in person. A welcome side effect of the pandemic is that we have discovered that we are able to reach many more people through live streaming of services and our intention is to continue with that outreach. With that in mind, the councils of both Grace and Trinity have been meeting quarterly to discuss how both congregations can work together to serve the Lord and enhance our yoked parish. Although we were denied for a vicar for this year, that won't stop us from trying again. Thank you for your support in this venture.

A recent gathering at the Nebraska Synod Assembly brought forth many new ideas and a newly elected Bishop. Some of these ideas, like community outreach and the Ministry Associate Programs, will certainly be brought forth for further discussion at the next Grace Council meeting by myself or Pastor Priscilla.

On a smaller scale, Grace has brought back "movie night" on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Even though the audience has been small, we have had a great time with great company and enjoyed a great movie as well. Bring your lawn chairs and popcorn and experience it for yourself! In addition, with the help of Midwest Music in Norfolk, we have found a way to install monitors in Grace's sanctuary to assist in projecting the bulletins on the big screen for all to enjoy! Finally, we hope that the alternating services have not been too confusing as the councils evaluate ways to offer options to both congregations. At the end of the year, we will seek your thoughts on the pros and cons of this arrangement.

In summary, I want to thank you for your support during the past couple of tough years and it is good to see many familiar faces in person again!

Robert Wilson, Grace Council President

Grace's May Minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. There was not a June meeting. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please contact the office.

**Grace Lutheran Church - Financial Report
General Fund – April 2022**

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**Grace Lutheran Church - Financial Report
General Fund – May 2022**

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

Friendship Circle met at 5:30 on Monday, June 13.

Joining in fellowship and study were Sandy Boots, Fern Thorman, Linda Lofgren, Nancy Petersen, Ruth Maresh and Mary Thomas.

Linda served as hostess and lesson leader.

The business portion of our meeting was focused on the Samaritan's Purse project. We decided to use our August 8 meeting night as a work night to assemble some of the boxes. Several suggestions were considered in regard to funding and collecting items for the project, including using Thrivent.

Our lesson for the evening was led by Linda. It was entitled "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" written by Joanna Weaver. As usual, some relevant conversation was generated during the discussion as we shared personal reflections. We concluded with a prayer for help to "choose better" as Jesus told Martha. He implores us to come, to hear, and to listen. AMEN!

Our next meeting will be held July 11. Ruth Maresh is lesson leader and hostess. All are welcome to attend.

Mary Thomas, Secretary

To the members of Grace Lutheran Church, Thank you all more than words can say for all of the support you have given Matt over the years. The church has given him a good foundation for the years to come.

To the quilting ladies, Thank you for your many hours of hard work and care you put into doing the quilts for these seniors. May they always remember your kindness in the years ahead and pass that on in their own way.

Pastor, Thank you for encouraging these kids toward their future and showing you care for how they are doing. I hope they will always remember their church days and the fun they had, learning lessons, making friends and learning how to be a part of something.

Thank you all! Dean, Kim & Matt Alberts