

Grace & Trinity Newsbites

MAY & JUNE 2023



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

This verse is part of the Gospel text for May 30. What does it mean to have the full life that Jesus came to give? What is it that steals that life away? There are many things that diminish our sense of self and dull our understanding of ourselves as beloved children of God. Many voices in our time and culture tell us that we are not enough as we are; or they encourage us to believe that we are the center of the universe. What is required to have the life that Jesus came to give? Simply to be the beloved child of God that we are; to live out of and through the love God has for us shown most clearly and definitively through Jesus the Christ. If we listen to the many voices, it is easy to despair, to lose hope, to let go of all that is good and true and beautiful in our lives and see only what is wrong. It is easy to sink into the hole filled with what 'we had hoped' or to stay mired in the past which is the muckiest mud to be found. When the many voices make it difficult to hear the one voice who calls you beloved, call a friend, grab a lifeline, ask for help, pray. Listen to the one voice that is always there saying, "I love you" even when you are being stubborn, slow of heart, sinful, destructive, downright foolish. When the many voices are clamoring for your attention; stop and be sure you are thinking clearly so that you make good decisions. Sin curves us inward so that we only see ourselves and only what we want or think or feel seems important. Love says different. Whenever there is a choice, choose life, love, hope, joy, kindness. If ever you are about to do something, and there is even a whisper that perhaps you shouldn't; stop and listen. Like when you've indulged in alcohol or other drugs and you wonder for a moment if you should drive. Or when you are at your lowest and think that death is the right choice. Stop. Wait. Listen. Ask for help, own your own stuff and be responsible. Life can be hard and unfair and unreasonable; and life is amazing, joyful, an incredible gift. Living to the fullest, knowing who and whose we are is worth every moment we are given. Listen until you hear the one voice that matters – the one who spoke creation into

existence, the Word who become flesh, the voice that says, “I have come that you might have life and have it fully.” Listen carefully. Play safe, be well, live without fear, love wisely and whole heartedly. Do the right thing and trust that you are never alone because God who loves you is with you.

Traveling mercies,
Pr. Priscilla

We are grateful and blessed to have many friends who worship with Grace and Trinity and who are active participants in our mission and ministry. If ever you would like to talk about moving into the member category, please give Pastor a call and we'll talk. Members or friends, we are glad to be walking the road together.

Pastor is on vacation and doing a week of continuing education from May 8- 26. Pastor Charlotte Eversoll is available for pastoral emergencies during this time.



The Mother's Tea was great fun. Thanks to all who worked to make it happen and all our guests who enjoyed the fellowship.





The weather was grand, the fish occasionally biting, the fire made for some "perfectly" charred hot dogs and marshmallows. Fun was had by all. Thanks to Sandy for hosting and Tom & Carol for helping and welcoming the ball players to their yard.



Pastor is very excited to have signed on for the 2024 Vision trip to Tanzania with the NE Synod! Pastor is planning a yard sale in September to help towards a portion of the cost; and will also be using some continuing education funds and applying for grants from another congregation's foundation as well as Grace's Endowment Fund.

Anyone else interested? There may still be room. Here's some info from the synod webpage:

Our companion relationship enlarges our world view.

American Lutheran work began in 1922 when the Augustana Synod sent Ralph Hult to the former Tanganyika. During the following decades, many more Augustana missionaries arrived and served in central Tanganyika, in the area in and around Singida. Born in 1888, Pastor Hult grew up at Bethany Lutheran Church of Axtell, Nebraska.

The Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT-ND) is among the fastest growing Christian churches in the world. With over 400,000 members, the ELCT-ND is led by Bishop Dr. Fredrick Shoo and many fine diocese officers. The ELCT-ND reaches out to people in the Kilimanjaro region with education, health-care, programs for the physically disabled, and most importantly the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Northern Diocese and the Nebraska Synod share a relationship through the ELCA Companion Synod Program (www.elca.org/companionsynod), which continues to grow deeper. We continually work together to enable dozens of projects. A number of congregations in the Nebraska Synod enjoy a church-to-church relationship with a congregation in the Northern Diocese. In partnership with CHI (formerly Alegent) Health and Immanuel Communities, significant work continues in healthcare. Vision trips to Tanzania are hosted annually. Many Tanzanian visitors, including diocesan leaders, members of parishes, teachers, pastors and others, are welcomed to Nebraska routinely. These relationships are lived out in the lives of individuals, congregations, agencies and institutions of Christ's Church. Through these relationships, we have nurtured and strengthened one another for life and mission within the Body of Christ.

2024 Vision Trip to Tanzania

The partnership between the ELCT Northern Diocese and the Nebraska Synod, ELCA is over 28 years old. For many years, Synod sponsored Vision Trips have provided an opportunity to get an insider's view of one of the most amazing countries on the planet. We live in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro, witness the many important ministries of the Northern Diocese, make Tanzanian friends, and experience a fabulous safari to the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park.

YOU can experience the amazing country of Tanzania and meet our many friends in the ELCT Northern Diocese (and the animals in Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti region). The 2024 Tanzania Vision Trip is planned for Jan. 21 – Feb. 6, 2024. The cost is expected to be about \$2,900 plus actual airfare (currently about \$1,600). Space is limited. If you are interested, review the information and please register at [Tanzania Vision Trips](#). If you have questions contact Marty Malley, Tanzania Ministries Coordinator, at mjmalley@gmail.com.

Here's a new thing for this summer – 1st Sunday theology on the deck (or in the living room) from 6:30 – 7:30ish. BYOB and a lawn chair if you'd like. Give pastor suggestions for topics. They will be randomly chosen for the 1st Sunday of each month, June – October. All are welcome.

And another new thing! A progressive supper among various churches on Sunday, July 9. Mark your calendars and watch for more info. Want to be part of the planning team? Let Pastor know.

Other summer fun includes a concert for the summer solstice, a Table Grace Ministry Sunday (August 27) and Gospel on the Grass... and maybe an ice cream social... a camping trip... an afternoon or day at St. Benedict Monastery...

Brad Ramp will be here for the 5th weekend joint service on July 29 at Trinity! Some of you will remember that he was here for Gospel on the Grass a year or two ago.

Of course, there's gardening too – well, yard maintenance but gardening sounds more fun, right? Both congregations will have sign-up sheets

available soon. If every member family who is able took a turn, most of us at Grace would only be responsible for 1-2 weeks and at Trinity 1-3 weeks. **At Grace**, we also need to get our Ted Buchholz gardening group going. We made a great start last year; let's get a team together for this year. Weather permitting let's plan to be in the garden **Thursday the 4th at 6:30** to get started.

Finally – some of us think it's time to offer '90 Days Through the Bible' again. This time it's going to be an early bird class – **Tuesday mornings at 6:30 AM** at Grace. Each class is approximately an hour which includes a 20-25 minute video and then discussion. This class requires 30-45 minutes per day for reading. We will begin **June 6** and end September 5. It is most useful if you can be there every class, but it is possible to miss one or two and still get a lot out of the class. Interested? Register in either church office by phone or email (to the church office). Minimum of 6 people required for the class to happen.

A vibrant poster for a Summer 'Soul'stice Music Concert. The poster features a central white rectangular area with text, surrounded by a decorative border of green and yellow musical staves and notes. At the top center is a smiling sun with rays. The text is centered and reads: 'Summer "Soul"stice Music Concert Singin' & Sundaes TUESDAY, June 20th, 2023 6:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church Presented by: Grace Praise Team'. Below the text is a small illustration of a sundae. To the right of the sundae is the text 'Free Sundae Bar after the concert!'. At the bottom, in green text, it says 'Concert is Free admission. A Free-Will Offering will be collected to purchase protein & dairy for the monthly food distribution.'



Summer "Soul"stice
Music Concert
Singin' & Sundaes
TUESDAY, June 20th, 2023
6:30 pm at
Grace Lutheran Church
Presented by: Grace Praise Team

 **Free Sundae Bar**
after the concert!

Concert is Free admission. A Free-Will
Offering will be collected to purchase protein &
dairy for the monthly food distribution.

In Our Prayers this Month:

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 – February Financial Report – General Fund	
To see the latest report please contact the office.	.
Trinity – March Financial Report – General Fund	
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Trinity’s March Minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the office. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please contact the office.

We are 5 months out from Octoberfest. The council would love to know if you are interested in being a part of 'Team Supper'. If we get started now, there's plenty of time for soliciting ideas, communicating decisions and making a plan for the real push in August and September. Talk to a council member if you are interested; preferably before the council meeting on May 3.



The chairs that were in the church need a new home. Trinity members have first refusal so let Teala know if you are interested. If there are multiple folks, we will do a drawing. If no one is interested, they may be part of pastor's Tanzania trip yard sale in the fall.

Grace News

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

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

Grace Lutheran Church - Financial Reports

General Fund – February 2023	
To see the latest report please contact the office.	
General Fund – March 2023	



Grace Lutheran is approaching a huge milestone in its history in 2024! Next year, Grace will be 150 years old, and it would be a good time to celebrate this momentous occasion. As such, the Grace

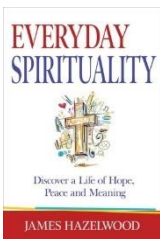
Lutheran Council is looking for interested individuals to help plan and organize some summertime events to celebrate our birthday. We are wide open to any creative ideas that we can all take part in to honor our history. If you want to be part of a once-in-a-lifetime planning team, please submit your name by May 31st to Pastor, Teala, or any Council member. Thank you and we hope to have a large number of members to help out!



Confirmation with
Teagen, Samantha
and Ellie.

Baptism of Charlotte
Marie Gregerson.





April 10, 2023

Friendship Circle met at 5:30 in the Parish Hall. Pastor Priscilla served us a light supper.

In attendance were: Mary VanderPol, Pastor Priscilla Hukki, Vicki Furchert, Ruth Maresh, Nancy Peterson, Fern Thorman, Mary Thomas, and Linda Lofgren.

During our meeting we discussed the Spring Gathering that will be held in Wayne next weekend. Our church will be hosting the 2024 Spring Gathering and we shared some ideas for entertainment, programs, and meals.

We talked about the Lenten Supper meal that we served on March 29. Our menu was ham balls, macaroni and cheese, salads, and desserts. Many compliments were received from those who ate.

We offered to serve Coffee Hour on Sunday, April 30. The high school graduates will be honored at that service. It will be a joint service and we will be asking Trinity members to help serve. Pastor told us that there are eleven graduates this year.

There wasn't any other business to consider at this time.

Pastor read a passage from the book "Everyday Spirituality" by James Hazelwood. The story honored Rebekah and Isaac (whose name literally means "one who laughs or rejoices.") We learned that today is Holy Humor Day which is a day reminding us of the importance of finding gladness and joy—and to laugh! Joy is a dominant theme in the Bible and appears nearly 300 times. We were invited to contemplate what brings joy and gladness to us and then we shared our thoughts.



Our next meeting will be Monday, May 8. Sandy Boots will serve as host and lesson leader.



Logan Consbruck plans to attend Northeast Community College for animal science and agronomy. After getting her undergrad at NECC, she plans to attend South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD and enter into the SDSU-University of Minnesota Veterinary Medicine School. Her long-term goals are to become a large or mixed animal veterinarian.

Parents: Todd & Kayla Kuxhausen
Todd Consbruck

Jamison Evert
Northeast Community College
Undecided
Parents: Chad & Miranda Evert



Emily Hoffman plans on attending Southeast Tech in Sioux Falls, SD this fall for Vet Tech. Parents: Alan & Marcia Hoffman

Jax Jacobson will be attending Concordia University in Seward. He will be majoring in Computer Science and will be a member of the Track & Field team (competing in Pole Vault).
Parents: Jason & Tana Jacobson



Mollie Nielsen will attend UNO as a Scott Scholar in the fall. She will major in a STEM field, possibly bioinformatics.
Parents: Paul & Melissa Nielsen

Abigail Sara Osman
She is planning on going to Wayne State College with plans to be a Forensic Psychiatrist.
Parents: Angela Osman & Mohamed Osman.





Ashlynn Boell

Future Plans: To attend UNO majoring in Molecular and Biomedical Sciences then to continue on to become a Doctor of Radiology.

Parents: Travis & Jennifer Streeter

Andy & Micky Boell

Carsten Walker graduates May 7th from West Point Beemer High School and will be attending Missouri Welding Institute in Nevada, MO this fall for pipe fitting. He is excited to start in August.

Parents: Terry & Carly Walker

