

Living with Christ, Growing in Grace!



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



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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West Point, NE 68788

402-372-2050

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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

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Grace & Trinity Newsbites

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

One of my favorite questions is from a Mary Oliver poem, “what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” “God our

God has blessed us” the psalmist writes. Paul wrote to the Romans. “¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” We were talking in Bible study about Christians who face persecution or death rather than deny their faith; we wondered what we would do. The thing is that all of us are faced every day with a choice – to act out of love of God and neighbor or to act out of fear, willful ignorance, pride or self-gratification. We may not face a firing squad but we do face the daily death to self that the Gospel demands of us. We are to present our bodies as holy and pleasing living sacrifices to God – that’s our answer to that favorite question of mine. Or rather it is the answer demanded by faith and Gospel living. God has blessed us. That doesn’t mean we don’t experience sadness or despair or the chances and changes of this broken world. God blessing us means that God has become flesh and dwelt among us and Jesus had sent us the Spirit and we are beloved of God for ever and for always. So what is your plan, so that you might be open to being transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern the will of God? I hope that plan includes time to worship and pray together with other followers of the way; frequent partaking of the bread of life and cup of salvation; regular bible study and conversation with God. With God all things are possible; but we will be less likely to recognize the possibilities if we have not spent time with the glorious impossibility of the Triune God. Make time and space for God in that plan for your one wild and precious life, not conformed to this world, but transformed by God’s love for you.

Traveling mercies, Pr. Priscilla

Throughout the Christian Ed program this year we will have multiple opportunities for cross generational fellowship and learning. We kicked this off with Bible Olympics on the 23rd. We stacked apples, built plastic cup towers and put the books of the Old Testament in order, among other things. Next week it should be a bit cooler so we can be outside for the 2nd round of games at Trinity. Supper - 5ish; games begin around 5:30 and we finish by 6:30.

Don't Forget!

You can still bring in items for the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. We will assemble the shoeboxes for delivery on September 24 after Worship.

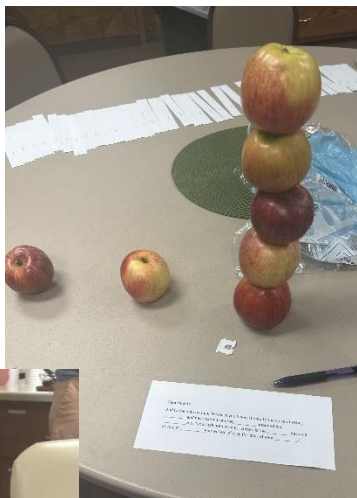
The object was to drop an animal from chin high into the plastic cup without knocking over the cup.



Connor had other games to play with the animals.



Various methods of stacking cups and apples.



Pastor will be facilitating an Introduction to the Old Testament course this fall. We will be using a Select Learning DVD course, with lectures from an Old Testament Seminary professor and along with other readings. This is a course used for Parish Ministry Associates in the NE Synod; but it is being offered for anyone who would like to engage in a more scholarly study. There will be 5 3-3 1/2 hour classes on Sunday afternoons: noon-3:30; Sept 10; Oct 1; Oct 29; Nov 5 and Dec 3. We may add one more in January if needed. Please register by Sept 3.

September 6: Brad Ramp and friends in concert at the West Point Theater; 6:30 PM. Sushis Wendy LLC, Las Canas, La Bonita and Jersey Sweet Ice Cream food trucks will be set up in the theater parking lot from 5-6; theater concessions will be open during the concert. Thanks to Charter West Bank, F & M Bank and Franciscan Healthcare for sponsoring the concert, which is hosted by the West Point Ministerial Association. Invite all your friends and neighbors.

September is fast approaching and that means it's almost time for the rummage/yard sale in support of Pastor's trip to Tanzania with the Nebraska Synod in January 2024. Smaller items may be brought to Trinity; if possible, larger items should wait until the first weekend in September.

Yard sale set up is Tuesday the 5th in the afternoon from 1pm to ?, Wednesday the 6th in the morning from 9am to Noon, and maybe Thursday morning.

The sale is Thurs the 7th: 4-7 PM (Setup 1 hour before); Friday the 8th 8-1 and 4-7; Saturday the 9th 8-10ish (Clean-up 10ish to Noon). There will be a sign-up sheet for work crews available, beginning this weekend. All items and assistance is much appreciated.



**September 13.
Food Truck
Wednesday and
Gospel on the
Grass at Trinity!
Bargman's will be
here again from 5-
6 ish for supper
(free will); then
the Heavenly Hens
will have a**

**concert, followed by root beer floats. Come for all or part of
the evening.**

Mark your calendars - Saturday, October 14 we will have a joint service at Trinity for the **2nd annual Harvest festival & auction**. Keith Lutz has agreed to be our auctioneer again. We have been gifted several of Don Maack's paintings which will be up for bid this year. Last year pies were the most exciting bidding contests; will it be paintings this year? Or will pies win out again? You'll have to be there to find out. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite harvest dish and/or dessert for supper and to bring something for the auction table. Baked goods, fall themed arts & crafts, produce or home preserves Proceeds recipient to be determined; but rest assured it will be for a good cause. We have been blessed in order to be a blessing; so, we share the work of our hands in service to others. Service at 5:30 p.m. with special music; supper and auction follow.

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

Dinners will be delivered to your Vehicle!

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

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

Proceeds will go to local needs

*After August 28th

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 18. The meal will be lasagna (beef or chicken), dinner roll, salad and dessert. Serving from 5:30 - 7:30. We will be selling tickets for \$10.00. 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 beginning October 1 from a "Friendship Circle" member or call Mary Vander Pol.

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.

Bible Study Fellowship at Trinity

Wednesday Evenings – 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday Mornings – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

You are invited to join us as we study the book of John. Classes for women start September 13 and continue through the school year. Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) is a global, in-depth, non-denominational Bible study ministry offering local and on-line classes, in a variety of languages, for men, women and children.

To find out more go to www.bsfindernational.org. Registering is easy -- select "Find a Group" to locate a variety of group options. All are welcome!

In Our Prayers this Week:

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

Trinity News:

It's time for some more work on the 'back forty' wild flower garden. We have lots of ideas - a weed digging walking party; reconfiguring the space; raised beds...Let's talk! After service on September 9 - all are welcome to pitch in ideas (and labor).

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Trinity – July Financial Report – General Fund	
To see the latest report please contact the office.	

Grace News

Louise Schluzkump will have a new address in September. She will be moving to (ask the church office for her current address)

September Birthdays & Anniversaries
 October Birthdays & Anniversaries

To see an updated list
please contact the office.

Grace’s July 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 Report	
General Fund – July 2023	
To see the latest report please contact the office.	

We are coming up on our 150th anniversary - 2024 is it. To that end we are having a **brainstorming** session for ideas of how we'd like to celebrate. All ideas are welcome & wanted - so come out on Monday, September 11 at 5:30 PM. Plan for an hour. Don't miss your chance to be a part of developing a plan for the year.

Participating in this idea gathering meeting does not obligate you to be part of an anniversary committee. Of course, there won't be a celebration without people to organize; so, let's all figure out how we can make this a fun project for all.

High School students- watch for more info about the newest Grace scholarship for graduating seniors.



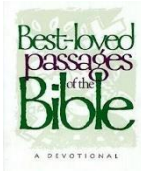
Despite the rain, Camp Carol Joy Holling hosted another successful quilt auction and are happy to share with you... our quilts raised \$1,410!!! We're so blessed to be able to help.

The women of your church are invited to our Women of the ELCA Guest Night at Christ Lutheran Church in Wisner on Monday evening of September 18th. The meal will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a program to follow. The Humanities Nebraska program will be presented by Paul Siebert, a musical living history presentation of a family's journey from Russia to Nebraska in the 1870's. Using the Nebraska State Seal and Flag as a backdrop, Mr. Siebert will tell the story using original and period music, accompanied by different acoustic instruments, including the hammer dulcimer, guitar, banjo, and button accordion. Please R.S.V.P. if you can attend by September 15th to LaRayne at Please contact Vicki Furchert if you plan to go.

The Memorial Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, September 12 at 5:30 PM. This group manages memorial money & gifts. It generally meets quarterly and occasionally makes decisions via email. If you are interested in becoming part of this committee, come to the meeting and check us out. Contact Vicki Furchert if you have any questions.



Celebrating Fern's 90th Birthday during coffee fellowship.



Friendship Circle - August 14, 2023

Members present: Linda Lofgren, Nancy Petersen, Vicki Furchert, Mary VanderPol, Ruth Maresh, Sandy Boots, Mary Thomas, and Pastor Priscilla Hukki.

Ruth served as both lesson leader and hostess. After finishing our meal, Ruth led us in a devotional from the Book of Best Loved Passages of the Bible. We each took turns reading some of those favorite passages as Ruth read a narrative called the Greatest Blessing. The focus of those verses was forgiveness. We were reminded that that is our “greatest blessing.” After our devotional, Mary VanderPol led through the business portion of the meeting. We had several events that needed some advanced planning. The first one we discussed was the 2024 North East Nebraska WELCA Spring Gathering which Grace Lutheran is hosting on Saturday, April 20. The theme this year is ***Open Our Hearts - Listen, Be Kind, Pray!*** We brainstormed ideas for catering the event, who could provide music, creative hands-on workshop activities—all keeping with the theme. Pastor is going to contact Table Grace and see if they would be available that day to cater the lunch. Ideas will be narrowed down after we have made some initial contacts with those involved in various aspects of the program or workshops.

In the Nebraska Women of ELCA Expressions mailing, there was a registration form for the Biennial Convention and Gathering at Camp Carol Joy Holling October 6-8.

Next, Mary read an invitation from Christ Lutheran in Wisner. They extended an invitation to area churches to join them for guest night on Monday, September 18. A meal will be served followed by a presentation by Paul Siebert. The program will be a blend of music and history led by Mr. Siebert.

Our annual Lasagna Drive Through Dinner date has been set for Wednesday, October 18. We reviewed our menu and discussed making some minor changes to the packaging but concluded that it has worked well as it is and decided to leave it. Our menu will remain the same also: chicken or beef lasagna, dinner roll, applesauce salad, and chocolate frosted cake with candy corn. We will have 250 tickets printed and prepare food for approx. 300. This year we will assign several pans of lasagna to be baked at home and brought to church. Some batches will still be prepared and baked at church, but having some prepared off site will be helpful. Tickets will be sold the week after the Trinity Supper, which is the first week in October.

On Sunday, August 20, Friendship Circle will host the coffee hour. We will serve cupcakes and finger sandwiches.

In place of our regular meeting date in September, we will plan to attend the Guest Night at Christ Lutheran in Wisner on Monday September 18.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Thomas

Application for Endowment Grants

Applications are due in the church office by

October 13th.

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. (Investment returns were low this past year, so applicants be mindful that you may not receive as much this year.)

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_



**Grace Ev. Lutheran Church**  
**104 South Colfax Street**  
**West Point, NE 68788-1811**  
***Address Service Requested***