

Living with Christ, Growing in Grace!



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Linda Johnson Swyenkulo

Ministers: Everyone!

Pastor: Rev. Priscilla Hukki

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Administrative Assistant:

Teala Connealy



Trinity Church UCC/UMC

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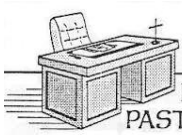
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*Rooted In Christ - Growing in Love -
Branching out in Service*



Grace & Trinity Newsbites

MARCH & APRIL 2025



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

Here we are - flying into March and April - Lent and Easter! Our Lenten Wednesdays will focus on 'the bread of life'. We'll enjoy a meal together and then gather in the sanctuary for worship and reflection. Weekends we will consider our response to God, to Word and Sacrament. How does what we believe matter in daily life? During Easter time we will celebrate our life in Christ, made new in the waters of Baptism and fed with the Bread of Life. There are a variety of ways to mark Lent, to engage in the traditional practices of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Be intentional and ENGAGE! There are many ways in which Easter joy and hope color our lives and change our hearts. Keep your eyes open. As we walk together our individual paths, Christ is the way, the truth and life. Do good. Be kind. Traveling mercies, Pr. Priscilla

Something to think about, from the Nebraska Synod ELCA Webpage: "Cultivating Response: Transfiguration of Our Lord Gospel Text: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]. It's hard not to be like Peter, especially in imagining oneself on the mountaintop in the midst of the Transfiguration story. If you have just seen the majestic, wouldn't you want to sit in it for a while? To stay awhile and continue to experience and enjoy it? I imagine if I ever climbed Mt. Rainier, or Mt. Denali or Mt. Everest, I wouldn't want to just spend a second at the summit. I'd want to take in the experience as long as possible. Or, if my hometown Mariners ever won the World Series, or I imagine for us in Nebraska, that would be how most congregations might feel if the Huskers ever win the College Football Championship again. That's human nature. We want to sit in those moments of glory and joy, as fleeting as they might be. But we know the rest of the story too. They have to come down from the mountaintop, to go to the valley of life, ministry, and work, and so do we. In coming down from those mountaintop experiences, how do we respond? How do we live life changed? How do we show up in our daily lives and vocations as stewards and disciples?" How do we allow those mountain top experiences to enhance our moments and days rather than become simply nostalgic longing for what has come and gone or anticipation for the next 'big' thing? (PH)

Sabbatical news - On May 19th I will be heading out, kitted out for 'car camping'; destination Denali National Park. On the way back, there will be 10 days at the Lutheran retreat center, Holden Village, in the Cascade Mountains in Washington state. Along the way, signs and wonders and who knows what. On your way, while I'm away, guest preachers from the staffs of the Nebraska Synod, the Greatplains UMC Conference and Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota Conference UCC; along with some familiar faces, including Table Grace! I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunities to hear some great guest preaching and the chance for our yoked congregations to worship together. Pr. Priscilla

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER
SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025
10:30 AM-2:00 PM

Nielsen Community Center
200 Anna Stalp Ave.
West Point, NE 68788

FEATURING:
BREAKFAST BY
THE WAFFLE MAN - Free Will Donation
SILENT AUCTION
SURVIVOR RECOGNITION
LUMINARIA DISPLAY

For more details, please contact:

Donna Greve 402-380-1097
or go to

www.relayforlife.org/cumingne

All proceeds benefit the
American Cancer Society



Free meal for each Cancer Survivor and a Caregiver, additional guest with free will offering. To RSVP for the survivor meal please call or text Carly at 402-430-6369.

Survivors can register for a Relay T-Shirt online at www.relayforlife.org/cumingne or call 800-277-2345 option 4. Your complimentary Survivor shirt will be mailed to you.

Christian Ed news to note:

As has become our custom, children will be assisting with the leadership of the Wednesday Lent services. Our theme this year is 'Bread of Life'. Each week we will hear a different 'bread' text from the Gospels. Among our three denominations, and throughout the Christian church, there is a rich variety of communion practices. We will be learning and experiencing some of these as a means to broaden our understanding of the means of God's grace which is holy communion.

We will be offering communion classes for children who have not yet begun receiving communion. The hope is that we would celebrate together on Maundy Thursday at the 7 PM service at Trinity. Let Pastor know asap if you feel your child is eager and ready to participate.

We will be doing something a bit different this year - instead of a Mother's Tea our children will be hosting a celebration of spring for their parents and grandparents. This will take place on Wednesday, April 23, from 5-7ish. On the 30th we will have our annual end of program year fishing extravaganza. Mark your calendars!

Get ready for a night of fun, food, and friends. Movie Night is back!

When: Last Tuesday of the month

Time: Potluck at 6:00 PM, Movie at 6:30 PM (considering a move to 5:30 PM/6:00 PM)

What to bring: A light snack or potluck item (no pressure -- there are never complaints about the offerings!)

Comfort Items: Bring your favorite chair, blanket, or slippers for a cozy viewing experience.

We'd love to hear your movie suggestions! Please share your ideas with Pastor or Teala, they will check our licensing to ensure we can show.

We can't wait to see you for a night of great films and even better company!

Trinity UCC-UMC and Grace Lutheran churches are ready to embark on a new community outreach project, and we encourage everyone in the community to participate. What we need from you is your plastic. Plastic sleeves from papers, magazines, grocery bags, wrap from fruits and vegetables, bubble wrap and more! We need 1000 pounds by the end of February 2026. IF we meet our goal, the company Nextrex will reward the community with a park bench! Attached is a list of plastic items you can post wherever you see it and start compiling. Starting March 1st, you can drop off your items to marked bins located at Trinity, Grace, and Franciscan Healthcare

Questions?

Contact:

- Grace Lutheran at: gracewpn@hotmail.com or phone 402-372-2050
- Trinity UCC-UMC at: trinity.church.ucc.umc@gmail.com or phone 402-372-2271
- Bev Meyer at: bevmeyer@live.com or phone/text 402-650-3241

Changing things up at the office:

New Hours: Monday at Grace - 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday at Trinity - 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday at Grace 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Thursday at Grace – 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Friday at Grace – 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Teala also works another 2 hours every day outside of these times at her discretion.)

*During periods of inclement weather, it is always best to call or check facebook for any changes. Lunch and errand breaks vary, generally not before noon or after 2, and a sign is always on the door to let you know when Teala will be back in the office.

In Our Prayers this Month:

To see an updated list please contact the office.

Trinity News

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

To see an updated list please contact the office.

<p>Trinity – January Financial Report – General Fund Council Minutes are posted on the bulletin board by the offices. The full financial report is available in the office.</p>	
<p>To see the latest report please contact the office.</p>	

Abbie Sherwood will turn 40 on April 22. Most people with disabilities don't often get to celebrate big occasions in their lives so we have decided to celebrate **40 FABULOUS YEARS OF ABBIE**, beginning 40 days before her birthday and we are inviting you to help us. Jim is creating a covered unit of boxes numbered 1-40. We are going to fill these boxes with greetings sent from her loved ones. Every morning beginning March 13 (40 days before April 22) she will get to open from box 40 down and celebrate a greeting from a loved one in whatever way they have chosen to celebrate her 40 years. Some have chosen to send her a card with a personal message, some have chosen to send a gift card to a favorite store or fast food restaurant or an Amazon card, and some have chosen to use an Amazon gift list, entitled Abbie's 40th Birthday, I have created for her. All we ask, is please send it addressed to Kathi Sherwood, call the church office for Kathi's address.

Grace News

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

To see an updated list please contact the office.

<p>Grace Lutheran Church - Financial Report Council Minutes are posted on the bulletin board by the offices. The full financial report is available in the office.</p>	
<p>General Fund – January 2025</p>	
<p>To see the latest report please contact the office.</p>	

The Grace Quilters would greatly appreciate any donations of blankets, sheets and fabric.

Reminder, Vicki Furchert is still collecting Best Choice UPC codes. Our American Legion Auxiliary gets 3 cents per code. The funds are used for Veteran's projects. There is a collection bucket in Parish Hall at Grace.

From the Nebraska Synod ELCA Webpage

Immigration and the Nebraska Synod

**March 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st
(Zoom)**

Join our four-week session to learn about Nebraska immigration, current events, church involvement, and how to advocate for immigrants and refugees.

<https://nebraskasynod.org/event/immigration-and-the-nebraska-synod/2025-03-10/>

March 16th, 23rd, 30th & April 6th (Zoom)

For those who wonder, “what can I do to help my neighbor?” and want to become more involved in immigration support, this book study can be a part of the process.

<https://nebraskasynod.org/event/holy-currency-and-community-organizing/>

Grace Lutheran Church

Invitation for Easter Flowers

(If Easter Lilies are unavailable,
other flowers will be substituted.)

We will again have a garden of lovely
Easter Flowers for our Easter worship services.

You may order and pay for your lilies direct from the church office
if done so by noon on **Monday, April 14th**.

\$19.50 per Lily for # _____ of plants.

Easter Lily given in honor/memory of (circle one)

From: _____

Or:

If you bring in your own plant, fill out the following by
Monday, April 14th in order to get your donation listed in the
Easter Bulletin. **Please do not bring your lily in until April 19th.**

Thank you – however- I would like to bring my own Easter Lily,
Given in honor/memory of (circle one)
