

Living with Christ, Growing in Grace!

Grace Evangelical Lutheran
Church

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



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Grace & Trinity Newsbites

MAY & JUNE 2026

Dear Members of Trinity Church and Grace Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you.

In recent weeks, we have been encouraged by our strong participation in our Lenten services. The spirit of worship and fellowship we experienced together has inspired us to consider new ways to build on that momentum and continue strengthening our shared ministry.

As congregations joined through a shared Pastor, Trinity Church and Grace Lutheran Church are exploring the addition of regular Wednesday evening worship services. These services would be held following the children's Christian education classes, providing a convenient opportunity for families and individuals already gathered midweek.

To encourage fellowship, a meal may be offered beginning at 5:45 p.m., followed by worship services at 6:30 p.m. The shared meal will be served once per month, with the possibility of more frequent meals depending on interest and participation. We hope this will foster deeper fellowship and connection between our congregations.

Midweek services would also provide a meaningful alternative for those who are occasionally unable to attend weekend services due to travel or other commitments.

The proposed Wednesday evening worship service would **replace** the Saturday evening services. The Sunday 9:00 am services would remain unchanged.

We are considering a start date of September 1, 2026, and welcome your thoughts and feedback as we move forward. **With this being a Spirit-led experiment, your input is very important and will determine the schedule & time as we seek to shape opportunities that best serve our congregations.**

Thank you for your continued commitment to the life of our church communities. We look forward to growing together in faith and fellowship.

In Christ,

Steven A. Blocher & Renee Smid

Trinity Church & Grace Lutheran Church

Well, it's almost summer! Just a few more weeks of school for most and then it'll be June before we know it. Sometimes in tending to the land, we can forget to listen to God speaking through the beauty that surrounds us. Sometimes in tending to our work, we can forget that God provides and that moments or hours or even a day doing nothing is good for the soul, mind and body. Sometimes in tending to the family obligations and vacation plans, we can forget to just have fun! Sometimes we put worshiping together with a faith community in the same category as school or work; when not in school or on vacation, worship gets left behind also. All this to say: I hope your spring and summer plans include regular times for worship, prayer and sabbath rest & times to listen to the sounds and sights of the natural world through which God speaks to us as well.

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' 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'?

Good farmers know that you reap what you sow. Athletes and musicians know that if you don't practice, you lose your skills. If you aren't spending time worshiping God, who & what do you worship? If you don't spend time being fed on the Word and at the Table, what food is shaping you? The Jesus road is a *communal* walk.

Each of these text boxes is from a previous May/June newsletter. Each contains some food for thought which seems as much on point in this year as in the past. The chaos in the world, the trials and tribulations of the space we inhabit can be overwhelming. That's why we are called to walk together, a *community of faith* who wrap one another in prayer and love; who care for one another with food and fellowship and service and hope. We are entering into a season of discernment of our shared mission and ministry. I can only encourage you to step out, step up and show up. Make worship, service and building community a priority. Schedules can't always be adjusted; but sometimes, you can be the voice that says, this time, worship/fellowship/service takes precedent over _____ (fill in the blank). Maybe your choice will give others the courage to do the same. A vital, flourishing community of faith is built by all of us together. If you are not building it, who will?

Traveling Mercies, Pr. Priscilla

Community Involvement Action VBS (Very Blessed to Serve)

is gearing up to love our neighbors and serve our community! This is open to our Youth of our congregations to be able to get out and serve someone in need and spread smiles throughout our community. We would like to get a count of youth who would like to be part of VBS and schedule a meeting to brainstorm some ideas and set some dates.

Examples would be to bake cookies and deliver to people who are unable to leave their homes, spend some time playing games at the Villa or St. Joe's, plant and mulch some gardens, help our elders bring out their patio furniture or volunteer at the theatre... and other ideas the kids can come up with!

Please email myself jamie.l.stigge@gmail.com or the church so we can get a count and send some meeting times. I would also like a few other adult leaders to help so if you are willing, please also reach out to me or the church.

Blessings- Jamie

We thought we'd give a summer Wednesday night a try - in a week when we had already planned on just one weekend service at Grace (July 5). Table Grace Ministries and Food Truck can be here on Wednesday July 1! For those with 4th of July plans, it's a great way to gather for worship that week. We're thinking 5-7 @ Trinity, on the front lawn. We'd have food available from 5-6:30; with music most of that time; then have service at 6:30 with music, prayer, word & sacrament. To make it happen we need a couple of things - some Thrivent members to help out with Thrivent Action Teams and your presence! Can't do a show of hands, but would you let pastor or a council member know that, all things being equal, you'd plan to be there for the fellowship, mission outreach and worship?

Check out the Nebraska Synod webpage for info on Emmaus Courses. Most are conducted via Zoom, so it makes attending class pretty easy!

WEEK 8 | JULY 19TH - 23RD

KINNECT CAMP

KINnect Camp is for a special adult and their camper who is 5 year old up to 4th graders. It's a great opportunity to do things such as worship, Bible study, cookouts, swimming, creative arts + more! The cost is \$315.00 per pair + \$75 per additional camper(s).

TRAILHEAD

Trailhead is for campers who are in 1st grade up to 6th grade. This is our largest camp and an opportunity for campers to enjoy cookouts, ziplining, canoeing, and finally getting a taste of the camp experience. The cost is \$380.00 per camper.

THE GROVE

The Grove Camp is for campers who are in 3rd grade up to 6th grade. These campers stay in air conditioned yurts and are focused on outdoor living, worshipping around campfires, taking care of and riding horses, and tending to the camp garden. The cost is \$380.00 per camper.

NIGHT CAMP

The Springs - Night Camp is a limited edition camp where 6th -8th graders campers get the full camp experience while staying up to 2AM and sleeping in until 10! All the middle schoolers love this site and everything it has to offer. The cost is \$380.00 per camper.

RANCH CAMP

Ranch Camp is for ranchers who are in 6th through 8th grade! This is our second largest camp and it is completely western themed. Campers will get to ride horses, use our commitment high ropes course, and build meaningful connections with other middle schoolers. The Cost is \$380.00 per camper.

ADVENTURE CAMP

Adventure Camp is an opportunity for our high school campers to take on the world! These campers will get the benefits of all the fun things at camp while also going off-site for more adventures. These adventures include the Glass Chapel, Mahoney State Park, Waterparks, and more! The cost is \$450.00 per camper.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP FOR CAMP!

Or use the link provided: <https://www.niom.org/careofjoyholling/register/>



If you have any questions or issues while registering, please contact our Registrar at Registrar@NIOM.org or 402-944-2544.

Let's go to camp! We'd love to have every one of our children and youth go to camp and we have generous scholarships available. We're aiming for this week, but check out camp website for their full schedule. Contact pastor for more information.

**ST. MARY'S, ST. PAUL'S,
GRACE & TRINITY
ARE GETTING TOGETHER FOR
A PROGRESSIVE SUPPER
SUNDAY, JUNE 28**

**SPONSORED BY THE WEST POINT
MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION**

5:00 pm - Appetizers at St. Mary
(at GA Cafeteria)

5:30 pm - Salads at St. Paul

6:00 pm - Main at Grace

6:30 pm - Dessert at Trinity

Free Will Offering accepted for the West Point
Ministerial Association for the Scholarship Fund.

In Our Prayers this Week:

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

For more than 40 years, our annual Octoberfest dinner has been a meaningful tradition—bringing us together in fellowship while supporting the work and mission of our church. A large number of you have contributed your time, energy, and talents over the years to make this event a success, and we are deeply grateful.

Recently, however, we have found it increasingly difficult to gather enough volunteers to plan, prepare, and host the dinner. As a result, the leadership feels it is important to pause and seek your input before making any decisions about its future.

We would appreciate your thoughts on the following:

- Do you feel the annual dinner should continue?
- Would you be willing to help organize or work at the event?
- Do you have suggestions for changes that might make the dinner more manageable?
- Are there alternative fundraising ideas you believe we should consider?

Our goal is to make a thoughtful, community-informed decision that reflects both our traditions and our current capacity. Please share your feedback on this matter by calling, emailing, texting, or sending a letter to the Trinity Church council. The council would like to compile the comments and make an informed decision by the end of June 2026.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping guide the future of this important ministry.

With appreciation,
Steven A. Blocher Council President
Trinity Church UMC-UCC

Grace News

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

To see an updated list please contact the office.

Grace Lutheran Church - March Financial Report – General Fund Council Minutes are posted on the bulletin board by the offices.

The full financial report is available in the office.

To see the latest report please contact the office.



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.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for movie night – last Tuesday of the month.

May Movie is "Unsung Heroes"

June - TBA

Friendship Circle will be assembling Baby Care Kits. Any contributions you can make would be greatly appreciated. Thrivent Action Cards are a real help too. If you can help with that, contact Vicki Furchert.

Baby Care Kits

Bringing a baby into the world can also be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. Caring for a young child in the midst of a natural disaster can be challenging. Keeping a new baby or young child healthy, clean and comfortable can take a lot of resources.

The items included in a Baby Care Kit provide the basics a family needs to care for their littlest members in the way they hope. Worry will always be present for parents, but having some essentials allows them to enjoy and get to know their little ones and introduce them with pride to the world.

- TWO** lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)
- TWO** long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) or a top and bottom set (without feet)
- TWO** receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36” and 52” square or rectangular
- FOUR** cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- ONE** jacket, sweater, sweatshirt or cape with a hood, or include a baby hat
- TWO** new pairs of socks
- ONE** new cotton or cotton blend hand towel, dark color recommended sized 15” to 18” x 25” to 30”
- TWO** or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
- TWO** diaper pins or large safety pins

*Sizes 6 to 24 months