

Grace Lutheran Newsletter

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH • 1100 G STREET • FAIRBURY, NE 68352

July, 2022



The Pastor's Pen

July is here! As a teacher, I never really liked July much because it pretty much meant the end of your summer. It was a mental shift – away from being done with school in the spring and doing summer activities to being done with summer activities and starting to think about the new school year in August! Like I said, it was a mental thing! But truth be told, a teacher's mind never stops. We're always looking at the world around us thinking of ways to incorporate this or that neat thing into our lessons! God bless teachers!!

Guy is here! I have been looking forward to his arrival, and I hope you have, too. I'm looking forward to the expertise and new ideas he will bring into our congregation. I'm looking forward to having a colleague join our ministry team and accomplishing great things. Grace has so many opportunities and people to do great things in God's kingdom. It takes a team to organize and execute those opportunities. Guy will be a big help!

But let me caution you. Guy will help us accomplish great things, but he isn't going to do it alone – or by himself. **YOU HAVE TO HELP!** Just like when I arrived, I encouraged you not to sit back and let me do it all – but that you, as the **CHURCH**, would bear the biggest share of the work. That remains true today. Both Guy and I want and need your help to do the work God has called us to do. Let me also encourage you to respond quickly and often when volunteers are needed. One of the things that can bog down our work and enthusiasm is when asking for help becomes like pulling teeth. That's no fun, so please don't put us through that!!

Remember to pray for our LYF kids and adult leaders who will attend the National Youth Gathering in Houston this month. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in their faith along with thousands of other young people. I pray that they will come home being ready to boldly proclaim their faith in Jesus and the values He gives us. The world needs this. Our young people need this. If we don't teach this, believe this and proclaim this, who will? Don't count on the media!

A personal note to you – Vickie and I will be gone when you get this. I have the honor of preaching for the 175th anniversary of St. John Lutheran Church in New Minden, Illinois. It is a charter congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. That takes place on Sunday, June 26th. Vickie and I served in that congregation in the early 1990's. And I taught at the Lutheran School of that congregation. They remain a dear memory for us and our ministry, so this a special gift for me to celebrate with them in this way!

Then Vickie and I will be going to Los Angeles with my mother on a tour with WHO radio in Des Moines. We will be traveling to Catalina Island, touring the Nixon Library, Reagan Library and Reagan Ranch, and we'll have lunch on the USS Iowa moored in LA Harbor. On July 4th, we'll enjoy the fireworks show from a boat located near the Queen Mary. We'll enjoy the trip, the lessons learned, and the time with my 84 year old mother. I'm thankful she can still travel!

Pastor Emery

Who to Call? If you should need pastoral care during my absence, please contact an elder. They will know what to do and who to call.

Nebraska District Convention: Guy and I attended the Nebraska District Convention on Friday and Saturday, June 24 – 25. It was held in Kearney at the Younes Center. Important elections took place and decisions for the good of God's kingdom were made. This is an important element of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod because our church body is driven by the laity.

Tri-Church Youth Group: The TCYG will gather together on July 27-28 for an overnight campout at Lonestar Lake near Ohiowa. Watch for details on this event and put it on your calendar to join us!

Men's Bible Breakfast: Men meet on Tuesday mornings at 7:00 to have a specially prepared breakfast (by Leola Weers) and a discussion of God's Word. We have 7-10 men meet regularly, and we'd love to have more. Right now we are studying the Prodigal Son but soon will be moving on to a new topic. Try us – you'll like us!

Sunday Morning Bible Class: This is open to all adults to learn more about God's Word. Who can't learn more?! Right now we're studying Hebrews. It has been interesting to see how much it has to say about our worship practices. We usually have a treat along with coffee, so join us for a great study – and a bird walk now and then!!

Tuesday Bible Break: Ladies of the congregation meet at noon to study God's Word for an hour (over lunch break). Currently they are studying the book of Esther. Bring your lunch and feed on God's Word while you feed your tummy!



Good morning family! Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Guy Seter and I have just begun my service here at Grace as the Director of Christian Education. Although we have just met, or, have yet to meet, I use the term "family" to describe our relationship as brothers and sisters in Christ. Across the world, and throughout the centuries, followers of Christ are united as one family. One body, many parts.

I love the metaphor of the family for many reasons. The family is united by blood and belief. The family strives toward a common goal. A family supports, loves, and encourages each member. A family defends one another's honor. Sometimes families are in conflict but seek reconciliation and forgiveness. Families contain diverse personalities and interests. Every relationship within a family is symbiotic. We depend and can rely upon each other. When a family member is in crisis, the others rally to their aid. The family's needs take priority over all things. Each member of the family contributes to the well-being of the whole.

Of course, the above description is of the ideal family situation. Our actual family might not look like this at all. After all, we are sinful people trying our best to muddle through. However, the family of God is called to rise above the societal norm. We are called to place our light on a stand for all to see. We face similar struggles, but we have an advantage; we have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

As a newcomer to this family's residence, I have no idea how close we are to living this "ideal" family structure, but you do. If your idea of a vibrant, energetic, encouraging, and equipping ministry aligns with description I've put forth, let's work together to take it to the next level. If we find ourselves lacking in some areas, let us encourage each other and listen to the Holy Spirit's whispers on our heart.

My job is to equip, empower and encourage the parents of our children to raise the next generation of disciples of Christ. Thankfully, it is a vocation in which we all share the responsibility. To that end, one of the first items on the agenda is to establish a Leadership Team—two in fact, an adult team and a youth leadership team. More details regarding that will be forthcoming. For the time being, I'm looking forward to meeting you all and getting to know the rich history of ministry that is Grace Lutheran.

May God abundantly bless your day!

Guy

In order for the youth gathering group to cut down on expenses, we are packing food for breakfast and lunch. If you would like to help us out and donate, here are some suggestions:

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| Ham Lunch Meat | Turkey Lunch Meat |
| Donuts | Fruit Snacks |
| Capri-Sun | Pop Tarts |
| Gatorade (red, blue & orange) | Granola Bars - Chocolate Chip |
| Mac N Cheese Cups | Microwave Popcorn |
| Pringles | Pizza Rolls |
| | Boxed Crackers |

Please bring to the church kitchen by Tuesday, July 5 and mark it "Houston". Feel free to leave the group a note and when we are all together, we will read them to the group and let them know their church family is thinking of them and praying for them.

Growing in Grace
2 Peter 3:18



Grace Lutheran Church
Fairbury NE

Anniversary Plans: The anniversary committee has worked diligently over the last few months to prepare for the 100th anniversary of our congregation in June, 2023. Some of the things we've accomplished are:

- Saturday evening, June 24:** Music Concert featuring "Riven" from St. Louis
- Sunday morning, June 25:** Regular Worship with Rev. Mark Bangert, guest preacher
- Sunday noon, June 25:** Catered meal from Ricky's Café
- Sunday afternoon, June 25:** Celebration Worship with Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, former Lutheran Hour Speaker and Concordia Seminary President, guest preacher.

September/October 2022: Planning to produce a new church directory and updated history

An anniversary logo has been designed as you can see here. Many thanks to Connie Schouboe for getting this process started! Memorabilia is being researched and chosen to commemorate this event. It will be for sale later this fall.

Confirmation Photos: With our 100th Anniversary just over a year away we are in search of **ALL GROUP** Confirmation pictures. We have newspaper copies of some but would like real photos if you have them. The years we have nothing for are 1924-1953, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1999, 2011-2014 and 2016-2020. There will be 2 boxes in the foyer each Sunday. The photos will be digitized and you will receive a message in your box when they are ready to be picked up. Or just check the pickup box. Thank you. If you have questions call Naomi Schroeder 402-424-3725 or Rose Wiegert 402-729-5890.

JULY - AT A GLANCE

The Youth of the congregation will have a food stand at the 4th of July Flea Market at the City Park. They will serve hamburgers, hot dogs and polish dogs on Saturday & Sunday, July 2 & 3, 10 AM to 2 PM. On Monday, July 4, they will serve breakfast only 7 AM - 11 AM.

Sunday School will not be held on Sunday, July 3 and July 10. The leadership team will be with the high school youth at the July 4th flea market food stand and then in Houston TX for the National Youth Gathering. **Adult Bible Class will be held as usual.**

The Church Office will be closed Monday, July 4.

Mary Circle will meet Tuesday, July 5 at 12:30 PM for lunch. **Please call Arlene Luebbe (402-587-0588) by July 5 if you plan to attend.** We will come back to the church for the topic which will be led by Jan Meredith.

Pastor Emery has services at Cedarwood on Sunday, July 10 at 2 PM and at Gardenside at 3 PM.

Quilt Tying is Monday, July 11 at 1 PM.

Elders will meet on Tuesday, July 12 at 7 PM. Church Council will follow at 7:30 PM.

The Jefferson County Fair will be Thursday through Sunday, July 14 - 17.

The Quarterly Voters Meeting will be Sunday, July 17 at 2 PM.

Pastor Emery has services at Heritage on Thursday, July 21 at 10 AM.

Ladies Aid will meet Thursday, July 21 at 1:30 PM. Sherril Wegele and Joyce Holes will serve.

The Church-Wide Garage Sale will be Friday and Saturday, July 22 and 23, 8 AM to 5 PM at the Girl Scout Cabin.

Men's Network will meet Sunday, July 24 at 12 Noon.

The 100th Anniversary Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 26 at 9 AM.

The Tri-Church Youth Group (TCYG) will have a camp out at Lonestar Lake near Ohiowa on Wednesday and Thursday, July 27 and 28.



The "Church-Wide" Garage Sale has been rescheduled for **July 22 and 23** at the Girl Scout Cabin in the City Park (**8 AM - 5 PM both days**). **Please bring any items you wish to donate on Thursday, July 21, 9**

AM- 4 PM to the Girl Scout Cabin. Please have your items marked in rounded dollars. **NO CLOTHES OR SHOES PLEASE.** All money will go to the Youth Group.

Volunteers are needed on all 3 days. Please contact Barb Ebke at 402-300-0027 or Nancy Bettin 402-587-0095 the day and time that works for you and with any questions.

Our own, Adaline Linscott, is Princess of America Nebraska Junior Miss! She will be participating in the National Pageant in Branson, Missouri, July 17-24, 2022. To support Adaline and encourage her in the pageant, she is making and selling her famous Kolaches! **Order forms are available in the narthex through July 17, or you can call her mom, Deb, at 402-821-7202.** Let's support Adi and pray for a beneficial learning experience, and of course, a win!!



The Jefferson County Fair will be held July 14-17. The church will be sponsoring a booth, and we need people to man the booth each day of the fair (10 AM-10 PM Thursday-Saturday and 10 AM- 8 PM on Sunday). **We need volunteers to set up the booth (Wednesday morning before 10 AM) and take down the booth (Sunday evening after 8 PM).** You will be blessed by the conversations you have with people!

Rose Wiegert is in charge this year and she has established a sign-up sheet form via her Facebook page. Sign up sheets are on the table in the upper Narthex.

The **Ingathering** at the Jefferson County Fair will be held Thursday, July 14 at 7:30 PM. If you are interested in participating, please contact Allen & Connie Parker at 402-729-3793 or email at lambwatcher@yahoo.com by July 11.

INSIDE NEWS FOR JULY

- Youth Food Stand** - July 2, 3 & 4
- Youth Group to National Youth Gathering** - July 7 - 13
- Elders/Council Meeting** - July 12
- Jefferson County Fair** - July 14 - 17
- Voters Meeting** - July 17
- Church-Wide Garage Sale** - July 22 & 23
- Men's Fellowship** - July 24
- Anniversary Committee Meeting** - July 26
- TCYG Camp Out** - July 27 & 28



2022 MISSION GOAL

\$20,656

\$30,000