# Grace Lutheran Newsletter

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

May, 2021

I'd like to take my space in this month's "Pastor's Pen" and introduce you to our new funeral palls that will be a blessing for the loved ones who have a funeral here in the future.

Grace has purchased two palls from the generosity of memorials given to our church and from Thrivent Action grants. We are in the process of ordering an overstole for me to wear that will complement the funeral palls. We have an Urn Pall, to cover the urns that contain the cremains of the deceased, and we have a Casket Pall, used to cover the casket and carriage of the deceased. These palls are made of beautiful white royal brocade fabric with embroidered symbols of the church.



Palls are an essential part of nearly every Christian funeral and contain rich symbolism. The symbols on our Casket Pall are the cross, an Easter Lily, a baptismal chalice and a sea of baptismal water. Along the base of the pall, on each side, is a cross and flame.

The Easter Lily is the sign of new life in Christ, especially as we celebrate His resurrection on that first Easter morning. The baptismal chalice and water symbolizing the new life we have been given in Christ at our baptism. The sea of water, with the cross rising out of it, shows us that new life is ours through the cross and given through those waters. The cross and flame at the base reminds us that it is by the gift of faith, giving by the Holy Spirit, that enables us to grasp our eternal life in Christ.

Why is using a pall so important for us at Christian funerals? When did its use come about? If you have ever attended a Christian funeral, you might have seen a large cloth that covers the casket during the liturgy. This cloth is called the pall and from it we also get the word pallbearers, designating those people who assist in carrying the casket during the funeral.

As part of the liturgical emphasis (order of service) that occurs within our church, the primary emphasis in funerals has moved from mourning the death to expressing hope in the resurrection. Our liturgy emphasizes the promise that all who are baptized into Christ have "clothed themselves" with Christ, and that all who are buried with Christ in baptism will be raised with him in newness of life.

It's unclear when exactly Christians began to place a large cloth over the casket, but the tradition appears to have begun during the Middle Ages. Originally the pall had multiple uses, as it would be later used for priestly vestments for the celebration of the Mass. These palls were quite elaborate and were various colors according to the situation. Eventually the pall was entirely black in color to match the priest's vestments, symbolizing the grief experienced by the death of a loved one.

After the Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church, the pall was ordered to be primarily white in color. The white color of the pall reminds those assembled of their faith in the resurrection and further symbolizes putting on the robe of Christ's righteousness in baptism. It is especially appropriate to recall baptism—the beginning of a Christian life—as the body of someone who has faithfully served Christ during life enters the church triumphant. At a Christian baptism the newly baptized receives a white garment, which symbolizes their purity.

Another reason for its use is the incorporation of our sense of sight in the funeral service. While our ears hear the Good News of Jesus for us, our eyes see the visual reminder of our new life in Christ in our baptism!

The pall also helps the congregation focus on the worship of God and the hope of the resurrection by de-emphasizing the relative expense of coffins and showing the equality of all people in Christ. It has a democratizing value, for it prevents both the display of a costly coffin and the awkwardness of a simple one.



The offering will still be collected in the back of the church but will be brought to the front during the service. The bulletins will not be handed out and will be available on the card table and stand in the Upper Narthex as we have been doing. Holy Communion will be celebrated by communing by tables at the rail as done before COVID.



Baccalaureate will be held on Sunday, May 9 at 8:30 AM. Our graduates for 2021 are:

### Cashe Kroll,

son of Shawn & Teresa Kroll **Erin Kujath**,

daughter of Frederick & Jennifer Kujath **Maggie Layton,** 

daughter of Scott & Heidi Layton

Page Nippert,

daughter of Ryan & Amy Nippert

Joshua Robertson,

son of Rick & Shannon Robertson

Brittyn Wentz,

daughter of Brett & Rachel Wentz Congratulations Graduates! May God continue to bless you as you go out into the world!

#### FROM KAY'S DESK

Summer is just around the corner and we are gearing up for a fun Vacation Bible School this year - June 7-11, 9 AM - 12 Noon. Come with us as we leave for a fun adventure and become Rainforest Explorers. Jesus leads the way! VBS is for children ages 3 through 6th Grade. Cost is \$10 per first child and \$5 for each additional child and includes a free DVD of the VBS songs. Return the registration sheet to the office by May 30. Guests are welcome! VBS Staff Meetings will be Sunday, May 30 at 6 PM and Wednesday, June2 at 6 PM.

Sign up sheets for VBS supplies (cookies, paper products, drinks, etc.) are in the upper narthex. We will also need mesh bags (like the ones that onions and citrus fruit come in) for a VBS craft project. Please drop them off at the church office.

**Thank you** to all the parents and volunteers who have taught Sunday School this year! You've done a great jot and we are grateful for your involvement in this vital ministry at Grace. We are preparing for a fun summer theme with activities the children will enjoy! Please sign up to lead a Sunday School class one or more Sundays this summer!

**Thank you** to all the children and adults who participated in the "Raise Our Praise" Children's Music Program. We have been blessed with great music talent in our church and it is such a blessing to hear our youth sing and share these talents and hear their praises to God!

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

"Raise Our Praise" Children's Music Program will be Sunday, May 2 at 9:45 AM. Join us for song and instrument praise by the Sunday School and Midweek Children! Guests and extended family are encouraged to come as well. A brunch in the Fellowship Hall will be served following the program.

**The LWML** will have a Salad Luncheon on Tuesday, May 4 at 12:00 Noon. Please bring a salad. All women from the congregation are invited to attend. **"Bible Break"** will **NOT be held on May 4**.

**Men's Bible Breakfast** will be held on Tuesday mornings (May 4, 11 and 18) at 7 AM. We are studying "The Prodigal Son". The coffee pot will be on and we will have something to eat. We will end our study so that those who have an 8-5 job can get there on time.

**A Prayer Walk** will be held on Thursday, May 6 at 6 PM. We will start at the Methodist Church.

**Quilt tying** is Monday, May 10 at 1 PM.

**A hymn sing** will be held Tuesday, May 11 at 2:20 PM at Gardenside.

**Elders** will meet Tuesday, May 11 at 7 PM. Church Council will follow at 7:30 PM.

**Men's Fellowship** will meet Sunday, May 16, 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM.

#### Elders will meet Wednesday, May 19 at 7:30 PM.

**Ruth Circle** will meet at Cedarwood at 10 AM on Thursday, May 20 at 10 AM.

**Ladies Aid** will meet Thursday, May 20 at 1:30 PM.

**VBS Staff meetings** will be Sunday, May 30 at 6 PM and Wednesday, June 2 at 6 PM.



Pastor Emery is starting a prayer chain that will be distributed by text message. If you would like to be included, please let him know, along with your cell phone

number and phone carrier. This will be a great way we can be in constant prayer for the many needs of our family and friends!



Grace Lutheran Church 1100 G Street Fairbury NE 68352

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### INSIDE NEWS FOR MAY

"Raise Our Praise" & Brunch - May 2
Men's Bible Breakfast - May 4, 11 & 18, 7 AM
LWML Salad Luncheon - May 4
Prayer Walk - May 6
Baccalaureate Service - May 9
Elders/Church Council - May 11
Men's Fellowship - May 16
Elders Meeting - May 19
Ladies Aid - May 20
VBS Staff Meetings - May 30 & June 2



\$30,000

## 2021 MISSION GOAL

\$14,001