

# Grace Lutheran Newsletter

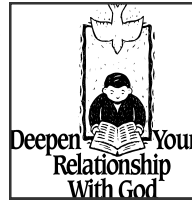
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH • 1100 G STREET • FAIRBURY, NE 68352

November, 2021

The Pastor's Pen – November 2021

It strikes me that one of the emphases of our reading lately is developing a sense of urgency. That really hits home in our readings from last Sunday when the writer of Hebrews said in 3:15 and 4:7, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion," and "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

**TODAY!** Not tomorrow, **TODAY!** Do you think the writer is telling us that we shouldn't put off to tomorrow what should be done today? Of course he is – but it isn't just any task he's talking about. The Hebrews author is telling us to get our eternal affairs in order **TODAY**. No one is guaranteed tomorrow, or even the next five minutes. Take care of the eternal business **TODAY**.



When you're young, and even some older folks, think you're bulletproof. Nothing bad can happen. You're young, vibrant, with lots of life to live. Why worry about tomorrow – there will be time for that later. But listen to what Jesus says about having your priorities in the right place.

## **Luke 12:15-21**

*Then Jesus said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."*

*And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."'*

*"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

Jesus is calling us to believe in Him **TODAY**. He is calling us to nurture our faith **TODAY**. He invites us into an intimate relationship with Him **TODAY**. This is a message we all need to hear. But I'm particularly concerned about all those who are not attending to their faith walk with God. You're letting the opportunities pass you by, and you never know when your life will end. I'm also concerned about our children and their opportunities to grow in faith. Yes, even their life can end without notice.

Please take notice **TODAY!** Please nurture your faith **TODAY!** No one knows what tomorrow will bring – if there is a tomorrow!

In Christ,  
Pastor Emery

Hello Grace!

Thanksgiving is coming up faster than it seems to be. I know for me, September and October flew by and barely gave me a chance to catch my breath. Most likely, November will be the same.

The first American Thanksgiving was celebrated with harvest, good food, and companionship, which we remember every November. However, we have an even better Thanksgiving to celebrate this month and always. The Passover meal was a type of Thanksgiving meal, as God's people celebrated and thanked God for the liberation from Egypt's slavery. After one Passover meal about 2,000 years ago, Jesus was put on trial and sentenced to death. At that time, the ultimate Passover had been completed, as Jesus' blood covered our metaphorical doorposts, and He rose from the dead to liberate us from the slavery of sin.

This Thanksgiving, let's remember to not only give thanks for the material blessings we have, but also to our Savior for the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of eternal life with Him, not only later in Heaven, but here and now.

*Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits - who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion. Psalm 103:104*

Danielle



## **THANKSGIVING SERVICES**

**Thanksgiving services will be held Wednesday, November 24 at 6:30 PM.**

**MIDWEEK CLASSES (GRADES 3-8) WILL NOT HAVE CLASS THAT EVENING.**

**The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 25 & 26.**

## NOVEMBER - AT A GLANCE

**Mary Circle** meets Tuesday, November 2 at 1:30 PM. Ruth Orth will have the topic and Jan Meredith and Vickie Emery will be hostesses. **Ruth Circle** will meet Thursday, November 18 at 10 AM at Cedarwood.

**Daylight Saving Time** ends Sunday, November 7 - be sure to set your clocks back.

**Quilt Tying** is Monday, November 8 at 1 PM.

**Elders** will meet Tuesday, November 9 at 7 PM. Church Council will follow at 7:30 PM.

**Midweek Choir & Sunday School** will sing at both services on Sunday, November 14.

**Ladies Aid** will meet Thursday, November 18 at 1:30 PM.

**The Anniversary Committee will NOT meet in November.**

**Men's Network** will meet Sunday November 28 at 12 Noon.



### Thanksgiving Meal Sunday, November 21, 12 Noon

The Thanksgiving meal will be Sunday, November 21 at 12 Noon. Turkey, ham, sides and pie will be served. This is open to the congregation, guests and their families.



The Elders have approved of having lay readers for our worship services. A lay reader is a volunteer who reads the Old Testament lesson and the Epistle lesson from the Lectern. This volunteer can be male or female. Anyone who is high school age and up is eligible. If you would like to serve in this way, please let Pastor Emery know. We will begin whenever we have volunteers.



**Christmas Chrismons:** We'd like to specially invite the children to worship on **Sunday, November 28** because we will be putting the Chrismons on the Christmas trees. That Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Congratulations to the new 2022 officers elected at the October Voters Meeting. Officers for 2022 are: **CHAIRMAN:** Ted Luebbe; **ELDERS:** Russ Hennerberg, Mike Lofing, Schaun Schroeder, Kevin Ebke, Mike Grummert, Gregg Roesler, Charles Endorf, Joel Fredrickson & Ron Klaus; **TRUSTEES:** John Hammer, Curtis Arnold & Daniel Schmidt; **FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Dave Bedlan, Mark Koenig, Trevor Steinmeyer, Ron Duensing, Chris Novotny & Beth Tegtmeier; **VICE CHAIRMAN:** Bruce Wasserman; **SECRETARY:** Tammy Weers; **TREASURER:** Lynne Blackwell; **CONTROLLER:** Joan Warnke; **CEMETERY BOARD:** Alan Dux, Dennis Meredith & Jim Schroeder; **TRUST FUND:** Don Haake, Nancy Bettin & Jerry Knispel. Linda Hammer was appointed as **RADIO BROADCAST CHAIRMAN. Installation of the new and remaining officers will be held the first Sunday in January in both services.**

A copy of the proposed budget is included in this newsletter. The payroll budget (those items marked with an asterisk (\*)) was approved at the October Voters Meeting. The balance of the budget will be voted on at the December Voters Meeting.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

**Advent Food Fellowship:** We are planning to gather for food and fellowship at 5:15 PM each Wednesday of the Advent season. The first one is December 1. If your group, or a group of families, or a single family wants to provide the meal for one of these nights, please let us know in the church office. Advent services begin at 6:30 PM. A freewill donation will be received, and as sponsor of an evening, you may choose the beneficiary!

**Christmas Plans:** It probably isn't too early to let you know our worship schedule for Christmas 2021. Our Children's Christmas program will be Friday, December 24, 5:00 PM. Our family Christmas worship service will be later that evening at 7:00 PM. Hope you and your family will be able to worship with us this Christmas!

**The Community Choir Christmas Concert** will be Sunday, December 5 at 4 PM at the Methodist Church. Singers/musicians are still welcome to join us Thursday evenings at 7 PM at the Methodist Church.

Grace Lutheran Church  
1100 G St  
Fairbury NE 68352

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## INSIDE NEWS FOR NOVEMBER

**Elders/Council Meeting** - November 9

**Ladies Aid** - November 18

**Thanksgiving Meal** - November 21

**Thanksgiving Service** - November 24

**Men's Network** - November 28

**Advent Services Begin December 1,  
6:30 PM**



# 2021 MISSION GOAL

