



# *The Grace Greeter*

Grace Lutheran Church,  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Faithful Preaching ✚ Fine Music ✚ Liturgical Worship

February 21, 2008

## **GRACE STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Bradley Brauer,  
489-9381 *Senior Pastor*  
Rev. Dr. Robert Rademacher,  
484-6394 *Visitation Pastor*  
Kris Bohac, *Pastoral Intern*  
Sara Schott,  
*Director of Parish Music*  
Andrew Gades,  
*Assistant Organist*  
Sandi Knippelmeyer,  
*Office Manager*  
Beth Kimmerling Dumler,  
*Staff Assistant/Volunteer Co-ord.*  
Robert Stimbert, *Custodian*

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Chris Apple      | 325-6973 |
| Wendy Apple      | 325-6973 |
| Ed Binder        | 328-2307 |
| Lori Drake       | 466-8612 |
| Dean Dumler      | 484-8388 |
| Kevin Dumler     | 328-9186 |
| Phyllis Krueger  | 477-4300 |
| Neil Larson      | 476-9896 |
| Kathie Remington | 436-1124 |
| Dave Ripa        | 489-7487 |
| Anna Schundrenko | 466-3664 |
| Dan Warren       | 840-0709 |



## **Wednesdays in Lent**

February 27  
March 5, 12

### **5:30 PM - Dinner in Leshar Hall**

5:45 PM Cherub choir  
6:00 PM Girls Choir

### **6:30 PM - Evening Prayer Liturgy in the Nave**

7:30 PM Confirmation  
7:30 PM Grace Notes Bell Choir

This year's mid-week Lenten offerings have been designated to go to the Lakota Lutheran Native American Ministry in Scottsbluff, NE.



## DANCING IN GOD'S KINGDOM BY INTERN KRIS BOHAC

My 17 year old daughter, Erica, is a dancer. She is in fact a beautiful dancer, and her dad and I aren't the only ones who think so. She danced for a couple years when she was little, and while little girls in tutus are inevitably adorable, I would never have guessed she had the gift for dancing that she does. After several years of not dancing, she started again when she was 12. From that moment on, you could watch her dance and say, "This is what God created her to do."

God has given Erica this gift, and now the challenge for her is to discern how to use it for the good of God's world. Anybody who doubts that God meant for there to be dancing in his Kingdom should watch Erica and her teammates dance.

The Apostle Paul writes about the gifts we are given to do God's work. In First Corinthians 12:4-7, Paul writes, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

We are all given at least one gift that can in some fashion be our way of serving God and the world that God loves. For some people, it's very obvious. Other times it's not so clear. Talent and ability aren't necessarily the same things as spiritual gifts, although in some cases they are.

During Lent, we as individuals and as a congregation are wrestling with what centers us and what it means to be centered in Jesus Christ. We are learning how to live out our lives from that center and also what it means as a congregation to live with Jesus Christ at the center. Our own spiritual gifts are given to us so that we might live from that center in service to God and to the world that God loves.

As this congregation begins to discern a path to healing, renewal, and mission, understanding our own gifts becomes essential to finding our place in that mission. Whether your gifts are going to be best used within the church or in service to the world in all your places of vocation, they were given to you by God for the good of the Kingdom. It is in the use of those gifts that you can experience the deepest joy imaginable. I believe that is the joy I see when I watch my daughter dance.

How do you know what your particular spiritual gifts are? There are many tools and questionnaires various people have designed to help people figure out what their gifts are. Some probably make it way too complicated.

Here are a couple of quotes that I've found helpful in thinking about spiritual gifts. The first is from a poster that was on the wall at my daughter's dance studio. It was a quote from a renowned choreographer/teacher who said, "I don't want dancers who *want* to dance, I want dancers who *have* to dance."

The second quote is from theologian Frederick Buechner who defines a spiritual gift as "that place where your deepest passion meets the world's greatest need."

Keep those two thoughts in mind as you think more about your own spiritual gifts. Rev. Albert Winseman in his book, "Growing an Engaged Church," recommends just three questions to help people find their own spiritual gifts.

1. Name two or three things you are really good at.
2. Name two or three things you love doing and are passionate about.
3. If time and money were no object, what would you do to serve God?

Think about **your** answers to these questions. We aren't all dancers, but we all have our place in the dance of God's Kingdom. And we have all been given the gifts we need to take our place in that dance. As we grow in understanding of life with Jesus Christ at our center, may we feel the spirit in our feet...and let the dancing begin.

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

### In the Military:

Jeff Kuklis, in Afghanistan

Tim Riemann, who will be leaving for Korea

### Those who have specifically asked for our prayers for:

Paul Smith

Janice Walker

Paul Smith's brother, Earl

Evelyn Holtgrewe, mother of Ron

Phyllis Krueger

Jane Johnson

Paul & Donna Campbell

Guidance through turbulent times

Chris & Ruth

Everyone in the world who is in pain or grief

Harry Von Don, Lois Bates & Joyce Benedict

Savannah Smith

Tim Riemann

Daniel and Sue

## TUESDAY EVENING WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP OFFERED . . .

Are you a woman Grace member? Are you unable to join in for the Wednesday noon women of the ELCA gatherings because you work outside the home or over the Noon lunch hour and are not able to participate in the Congregation's monthly Women of the ELCA Unit programs and fellowship. With that in mind, a group of women are attempting to remedy this situation with the offering of a Tuesday Evening Women's Fellowship. All Grace Women are invited and will be welcome. Join us on Tuesday evening, February 26 at 6:00 P. M. Bring a sack supper if you'd like. You can come early or a little later. You can come right after work, eat with us, and attend the program. Let this opportunity be a way to "connect" with other women AND with the ELCA Women's ministries and programs, congregation Unit, Synodical, and churchwide. Call Estelle Riemann at 438-2934 if you can join us. Leave a message. We'd love to have you be present.

## GRACE ABOUNDS BIBLE STUDY MANAGING STRESS: SEEKING SERENITY FOR THE SOUL

This study will examine some of the real spiritual causes of current widespread frustration and fatigue. Moreover, it will teach biblically based, spiritual responses to stress that can lead to growing and enduring peace. The soul centered in Christ rests in grace, lets go of the driven

pursuits of the ego and finds deep joy in a sane and genuinely fulfilling daily life. There is a work book which goes along with the study. The cost is \$7.00; it is not necessary to purchase the workbook to get something out of the class. Join us on Sunday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 in the conference room. This study will run from March 2 through April 13. We will not meet on Easter Sunday, March 23.

## WEDNESDAY LENT SUPPER MENU

Serving begins at 5:30 pm

### February 27

Turkey Casserole

Cranberry Salad

Vegetable

Dinner Roll

Ice Cream roll

Hosts: Nora Johnson and Dorothy Decker

\* Reservations are appreciated, but not required. To make a reservation, please use the slips in the pews. Please join us!! **Suggested donation: \$5 adults; \$2.50 children, under 12**

## 30 HOUR FAMINE!

The 30 Hour Famine will be February 29<sup>th</sup> – March 1, from 7 pm to 8 am at the church for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. We will then have our break fast at 6:00 pm on March 1 at the Valentino's on 35<sup>th</sup> and Holdrege. The kids will be asking congregation members for donations to WorldVision, a non-denominational hunger-fighting organization.

## THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEETING

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members, coordinators, and all who are interested - we will meet on Sunday, March 2, following the worship service. Bring your cup of coffee, hear a report on the Lenten dinner, and your ideas for other fund raisers. Our congregation has again been awarded \$1600.00 in supplemental funds for 2008. your Congregation Coordinators, Steve and Regina Paschold, Jeannette Allen, and Phyllis Krueger.

## Bulletins have been shared by:

Elenora Caspers [St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Grand Island, NE]

### **MARCH W-ELCA BRUNCH & MEETING**

Women of the ELCA will meet Wednesday morning, March 5th in Leshler Hall for a 9:30 BRUNCH and program. Hostesses will be Group 5. The devotions will be given by Dorothy Decker. Our program will be presented by Gail and Lois Moss, who will show slides and talk on "Wildlife Rescues". Come and bring a friend and remember this is a 9:30 brunch. Group members will be called to get a count. Call Tricia Rosno 488-6775 for brunch reservations. Please call Ruth Rosenberg 435-6943 if needing transportation.

### **YESTERDAY'S YOUTH**

Yesterday's Youth (retired & older) will meet March 12. Visitation and sign in at 11:30 and eat at 12:00. Bring your table setting and a pot luck dinner to share. We have devotions, prayer and a program. Join us to see what all the fun is about. Drinks are furnished.

### **FEBRUARY COUNCIL SUMMARY**

Following each council meeting, the Council and staff plan to include a summary of the meeting's highlights. These are the highlights for the February 11, 2008 meeting:

- Usual reports from staff and committees presented, some verbal, some written.
- Update on Director of Education/Youth Ministry: the search committee is in communication with a number of candidates via phone and in person.
- The new computer system is at the church and council is working on getting them installed soon. This will enable all staff members to be on the same system.
- Lenten (Wednesdays) offerings designated for Nebraska Mission Field, specifically for Lakota Lutheran Center in Scottsbluff (same as last year).
- Approval given to First Lutheran Church of Kearney (an overnight for their youth group) and Lincoln Area Baseball Umpire Association (for two meetings including Pr. Brauer who is a baseball umpire) to use Grace's facilities.
- Status of evaluation of PMA Estelle Riemann discussed; no action yet.
- Membership: no gains/losses
- Worship committee is discussing the item of one or two Sunday worship services and will likely make a recommendation to council.
- Sandi Knippelmeyer is now the council recording secretary for minutes.

### **LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEKS:**

#### **February 24 - Lent 3**

Exodus 17:1-7

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

#### **March 2 - Lent 4**

I Samuel 16:1-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1- 41

### **THANK YOU**

#### **From Phyllis Krueger:**

My sincere thanks for the get-well wishes, calls, and cards that I received while hospitalized and during recovery. Thanks also to Pastor Bob and Kris for their visits. I appreciate you all, and look forward to returning to worship and other activities.

#### **From Darlene Stutheit:**

I want all of you who so willingly helped in anyway with the Ash Wednesday dinner to know how much you were appreciated. Without your help this would not be possible. Thank you!

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

A shut -in member of Grace is in need of a sturdy, large recliner. If you have one you could donate, please contact Pastor Bob at the church, 474-1505 or by e-mail at rdrademacher@hotmail.com.

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEEDS HELP**

Habitat for Humanity is in urgent need of lunch providers for our construction volunteers. The lunch providers bring a simple lunch to the construction site on a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. We would be happy to have you sign up for one day a month or one a quarter or just one time. Please call Marilyn or Sharon at 477-9184 for details or to sign up for a day that works with your schedule.

### LIBRARY NOTES

Preschool children - we have added a number of Board books in memory of Claudia Overgaard from Women of the Church, Group 2. These are on the bottom shelf of the Children's side of the Library Cart.

Pastor Bob Rademacher has donated a number of books. These include: song books and stories of Christian Hymns (264-264.21); seasons and symbols (263) and "40 Tellable Stories" related to the seasons of the church year (251.08). These are on the north wall of the Library, near the east end. Janet Jodais, Librarian

### CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR GRACE SOLDIERS

We are gathering items to send overseas to our members that are in the military. There is a box outside of the church office where donations can be left. Jeff Kuklis is in Afghanistan and Tim Riemann will be stationed in Korea. Do not bring anything that is chocolate or has alcohol in it. The following are suggestions of items that soldiers can use:

Magazines, DVD's, Puzzle Books, Snacks: Beef Jerky, nuts (in the individual packs), individual flavor packs for bottled water, nutrigrain bars, gum, hard candy, pop tarts, protein bars, tuna packs, sunflower seeds, individual crackers and cheese or cookie packs.

Monetary gifts can also be given and it will be used to pay for the postage to send the care packages out. You can write a check payable to Grace with care package in the memo portion.

### RESERVE YOUR EASTER LILY NOW FOR OUR EASTER GARDEN

(deadline for ordering, Monday, March 17)

Please complete and return this form to the church office by the deadline

I will place an Easter Lily (no bow):

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
or

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

I will purchase the plant and bring it to the church myself by March 20.

I would like the church office to order a lily for me at \$10.00 each. (Payment is enclosed)

Plant (s) given by: \_\_\_\_\_

### Pastor Brauer Shares "Study Questions" for 'Unpacking Sunday's Lenten Gospel' from John 4: 5-52 (3 Lent, Feb. 24)

1. Enter into the story of a Jew in Samaritan "no-man's desert land." What prejudices or stories of 'ethnic hatred' do you see in our community and our state? Who are our modern-day 'Samaritans' "?"

2. The woman in the story, who came to Jacob's well (for dull and lifeless water) thought Jesus was offering her a 'secret well with running water (a hidden spring, cold /pure?). What do you think Jesus meant her to understand by his offer of the "living water?"

3. What list of "names" or "titles" for Jesus do you see 'evolving' in the story John 4 tells as the woman and others came to faith? [I've given you the first titles or names: Jesus a "Jew" "Jewish man," Jesus as "Sir/ Lord/ Teacher" or "Rabbi"] . . . .

P \_\_\_\_\_  
M \_\_\_\_\_  
R \_\_\_\_\_  
S \_\_\_\_\_ of the world

4. What did the woman take to the well that day, but then (strangely) left behind? What do you think it means in this story?

5. What does this woman at the well really need "deep down" in her soul/ spirit/ psyche?

6. What was Jesus' offer to her?

7. How are you like the woman at the well? What do you need from Jesus/ God in your life? What "thirsts" do you bring to him?

Pastor Brad adds: "This story, from John's gospel, like that of Nicodemus, the blind-man healed, and 'Lazarus raised from the dead') are read during Lent. They were used in the early Church to teach converts. How are they good stories for our daily "coming to faith" and need for "teaching" about 'Who Is Jesus'?"

Happy reading in John, chapter 4 this week and thinking, studying! The next story we read and hear on Sunday morning is from John 9:1-41, another wonderful story of coming to "sight" and "faith" as enlightenment." – Pastor B. J. Brauer

# MARCH

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

1  
Ron & Carolyn Ossian

13  
Wayne & Kathie Remington

24  
Lyle & Janet Schmidt

25  
Cy & Thelma Miller

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

1  
Richard Higbea  
Eileen Rudd

2  
Ken Johnson

3  
Clint Heiden  
Joyce Lunde

4  
Glen Drohman

5  
Jan Branting  
Lisa Holmstrom

6  
Norma Jean Flinn  
Kloee Iske  
Meghan Martinson  
Arlene Reighard

7  
Brittany Madison

9  
Janice Walker  
Joyce Weber

10  
Mark Nolley  
Leslie Stimbart

11  
Richard Block  
Logan Johnson  
Michele Pella  
Matthew Trout

12  
Kathy Havlicek-Cook  
Joseph Keller  
Sara Schott

13  
Scott Block  
Carol Jensen  
Tommy Lantis  
Alex Thorson

14  
Kim Carnes  
Kevin Fritchie  
Roxanne Schulz

15  
Erin Heiden

16  
Janna Jespersen  
Andrew Martin

17  
Michael Gerdes  
Jacob Hohensee  
Tim Ingersoll  
Alexander Warrick

18  
Rhonda Schmaderer  
Sarah Thompson-Krug

19  
Carol Disney  
Vern Hunzeker  
Shannon Mills  
Scott Siebenborn

20  
Daryla Issacs

21  
Kevin Dumler  
Carol Bernasek

22  
Kyle Hoffman  
Marcella Konig

23  
Carter Kuklis

24  
Tasha McKillip  
Mason White

25  
Carley Ringdahl

26  
Ethan Rymph

27  
Sharon Selvage

28  
ViAnne Block  
Molly Williams

29  
Ben Bossung

30  
Sandra Anderson  
Doris Jespersen  
Jena Eberspacher

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <h1>MARCH</h1>   |   |  |   |   |  | 1<br>5:30 pm Worship   |
| <p><b>2 Lent 4</b><br/>9:00 am Worship<br/>10:30 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Thrivent Mtg., Adult Choir<br/>3:00 pm Lincoln Lutheran Choir rehrl<br/>6:30 pm Grace Abounds Bible Study</p>  | <p>3<br/>9:00 am W-ELCA executive board meeting<br/>6:00 pm Worship/Music Cmte.<br/>7:00 pm Committee Mtgs., Boy Scouts</p>   | <p>4<br/>9:30 am MOM's Group<br/>10:30 am Pastor's Study<br/>6:00 pm Conf. Rm reserved<br/>6:30 pm Cub Scouts<br/>7:00 pm Confirmation make-up</p> | <p>5<br/>9:30 am W-ELCA brunch &amp; meeting<br/>5:30 pm Lent supper<br/>5:45 pm Cherub choir<br/>6:00 pm Girls Choir<br/><b>6:30 pm Worship</b><br/>7:30 pm Confirmation, Grace Notes Bell Choir</p> | <p><b>6 GREETER</b><br/>6:30 am Men's Bible Study<br/>5:30 pm Youth BB<br/>6:15 pm Men's BB<br/>6:30 pm Cub Scouts<br/>7:00 pm Bell Choir</p>               | <p>7<br/>4:00 pm Suzuki music lessons<br/>8:00 pm Leshar Hall reserved</p> | <p>8<br/>5:30 pm Worship<br/>6:00 pm Lounge reserved</p>         |
| <p><b>9 Lent 5</b><br/>9:00 am Worship<br/>10:30 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Adult Choir<br/>3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal<br/>4:00 pm Youth Cmte Mtg.<br/>6:30 pm Grace Abounds Bible Study</p> | <p>10<br/>7:00 pm Council Mtg., Boy Scouts</p>  | <p>11<br/>9:30 am MOM's Group<br/>10:30 am Pastor's Text Study<br/>6:30 pm Cub Scouts<br/>7:00 pm Confirmation Make up<br/>7:30 pm W-ELCA #6</p>   | <p>12<br/>12:00 pm Yesterday's Youth<br/>5:30 pm Lent supper<br/>5:45 pm Cherub choir<br/>6:00 pm Girls Choir<br/><b>6:30 pm Worship</b><br/>7:30 pm Confirmation, Grace Notes Bell Choir</p>         | <p>13<br/>6:30 am Men's Bible Study<br/>5:30 pm Youth BB<br/>6:15 pm Men's BB<br/>6:30 pm Cub Scouts<br/>7:00 pm Bell Choir</p>                             | <p>14</p>  | <p>15<br/>5:30 pm Worship</p>                                    |
| <p><b>16 Palm Sunday</b><br/>9:00 am Worship<br/>10:30 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Adult Choir<br/>3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal<br/>6:30 pm Grace Abounds Bible Study</p>                       | <p>17<br/><b>10:00 am Morning Prayer</b><br/>5:00 pm Gathering Place<br/>7:00 pm Boy Scouts<br/>7:00 pm W-ELCA #5 Meeting</p> | <p>18<br/>9:30 am MOM's Group<br/><b>10:00 am Morning Prayer</b><br/>6:30 pm Scout Pack Mtg.<br/>7:00 pm Intern Mtg.<br/>Confirmation Make up</p>  | <p>19<br/><b>10:00 am Morning Prayer</b><br/>1:00 pm W-ELCA circle meetings<br/>6:30 pm Choir rehearsal<br/>7:30 pm Confirmation</p>  | <p><b>20 GREETER</b><br/><b>Maundy Thursday</b><br/>6:30 am Men's Bible Study<br/>5:30 pm Lent Supper<br/><b>6:30 pm Worship</b><br/>7:30 pm Bell Choir</p> | <p>21<br/><b>Good Friday</b><br/><b>6:30 Worship</b></p>                   | <p>22<br/><b>Easter Eve Vigil</b><br/><b>6:30 pm Worship</b></p> |
| <p><b>23 Easter</b><br/>7:30 am &amp; 10:30 am Worship<br/>8:30 - 10:00 am Youth Serve<br/>Easter breakfast</p>  | <p>24<br/><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br/>7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>   | <p>25<br/>9:30 am MOM's Group<br/>10:30 am Pastor's Text Study<br/>6:00 pm W-ELCA fellowship<br/>6:30 pm Scouts Cmte. Mt.</p>                      | <p>26</p>   | <p>27<br/>6:30 am Men's Bible Study<br/>12:30 pm Craft Class<br/>6:15 pm Men's BB<br/>6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>  | <p>28</p>  | <p>29<br/>8:00 Spring Yard Clean up<br/>5:30 pm Worship</p>      |
| <p><b>30 Easter 1</b><br/>9:00 am Worship<br/>10:30 am Sunday School, Bible Study, Adult Choir<br/>3:00 pm L.L.C. rehearsal<br/>6:30 pm Grace Abounds Bible Study</p>                          | <p>31<br/>7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>  |  |   |   |  |  |