



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a Launchpad for God's Kingdom

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www.gracelutherannorfolk.com

Rev. Ray Wilke – senior pastor Rev. Chris Asbury – associate pastor



Come explore the rainforest at VBS!

July 12-16, 2021 come explore the rainforest with

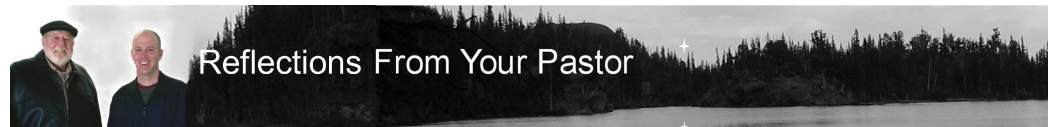
us and learn how Jesus is your guide. Supper will be provided starting at 5:30 p.m. with VBS ending at 8:30 p.m. Sign up for children ages 3 through entering 6th grade can be done at <https://vbsmate.com/events/glnorfolkvbs/20349> or pick up a registration form at Grace Lutheran Church in the Narthex or in the Church Office.

Looking for VBS volunteers: We are looking for volunteers to help with Vacation Bible School the week of July 12-16, 2021. Vacation Bible School will run from 5:55-8:30 p.m. (We will be serving a light supper beginning at 5:30 p.m.) Volunteers should be 6th grade

thru Adult. Providing the children with a memorable VBS experience requires many people who want to share how “Jesus Leads the Way.” We need your help! There are leadership positions and helper positions available, whether you can help all week or just a couple days. Look for the sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the Narthex or sign up at <https://vbsmate.com/events/glnorfolkvbs/20349>. If you have any questions, please contact Vicki at the church office (402-371-1044) or Emma Baumann at 402-841-7489.

Baptism

Baptized during the service on Sunday, May 2, was Luca Steven Dolezal, son of Paul and Natalie Dolezal. May God richly bless this new heir of His Kingdom.



Reflections From Your Pastor

Being a father or mother is a lot like being a priest. It doesn't matter if you're Jewish, Christian, or one of the “religious nones.” Whatever faith—or the lack thereof—parents affirm, they spend about eighteen years conducting a profoundly influential worship service in the lives of their children.

Parenting is basically the liturgy of child-rearing.

Through tens of thousands of ordinary, daily interactions, moms and dads orient young hearts toward a vision of what James K. A. Smith calls “the good life.” Parents show their children what to love, what to desire, what matters most. This usually happens unconsciously. By example, practice, habit, and speech, parents are saying to their children, “This is the good life. The fulfilling life. The life worth living.” In other words, parents teach their children what or who to love, to trust in, to rely upon to find fulfillment in life.

That “who” or “what” is their G/god. The question is not: should you choose your child's religion? Rather, it's this: which religion are you choosing for your child? It may be one of the traditional faiths. Or it may be plastic religions such as The Next Big Thing or iFaith.

In the religion of The Next Big Thing,

the sacraments are degrees, promotions, acquisitions, whatever moves one along toward (what has been determined to be) the good life. If I get into this university, I'll finally be happy. If I make this much money, I'll matter. If I marry this person, I'll find contentment. If I buy this house, I'll be important.

If The Next Big Thing in my life happens, I'll be able to justify my existence. I'll be resurrected from a life of boredom and discontent. I'll mean something. I'll be somebody. That's what I love so that's what I pursue with my whole heart. This is the stuff of religion. It just goes by a different name.

Perhaps it's the religion of iFaith. In this faith, what matters is saying something new, believing something new, breaking religious barriers, rewriting creeds, moving beyond the dead doctrines of dead people expressed in their dead rituals. In iFaith, the versions are constantly being updated so you have to constantly be adapting. Whatever was cutting edge yesterday is dull today. Whatever is new is better. If something is said in a way no one has said it before, it's probably true.

The good life in iFaith is found in being different, special, unique from others.

Whatever faith—or cocktails of faiths—parents embrace, we’re teaching our children to trust that they will be fulfilled, find purpose and meaning, in something or someone. We are directing the compass of their hearts toward certain loves.

We, like parental priests, are conducting the liturgy of child-rearing.

So, first of all, let’s stop pretending that we’ll wait for our children to grow up so they can choose their religion. Parents always choose their children’s religion. Without exception. It’s just that, in some cases, this religion operates under a different name. It’s the vision of the good life, the object of our loves, that Thing that will justify our existence.

Secondly, to speak directly to Christian parents, let’s cultivate an awareness of how we, as parental priests, are conducting the daily, heart-shaping, love-directing liturgy in our homes. If we take our kids to church on Sunday, then spend the other 6 ½ days around the altar of Materialism and memorizing the chief parts of the catechism of iFaith, we don’t have to be a prophet to foretell what their vision of the good life will be.

“Take up your cross and follow Me” will be replaced in your children’s lives by “Take up your desires and pursue them.”

I realize we’re going to fail often at this. I certainly have. But even in our failures, there is the opportunity for

liturgical awareness. Children learn about confession and absolution most vividly when their parents admit they’ve messed up, they need forgiveness, that they too live by grace alone. They see in our home liturgy that forgiveness defines the good life, not punishment or revenge or self-justification. In many cases, the child becomes the priest, forgiving moms and dads, as my own children have more than once.

Every act of parenting is a religious act. Every decision we make forms a tiny part of liturgy we are conducting in the eighteen-year-long shaping of our children’s loves, trusts, and vision of the good life.

As important as Sunday morning is, the life-shaping liturgy doesn’t end when we walk out the church doors. It’s only getting started. *Pastor Asbury*

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.” *Winston Churchill*

“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under the trees on a summer’s day, listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.” *John Lubbock*



Being Humble

In Luke’s Gospel, we are warned that, when we exalt ourselves, we will be humbled, and, when we humble ourselves, we will be exalted (Luke 18:14). As we recognize that all of our gifts, abilities, and possessions are from God, our response is humble thanks expressed through using God’s gifts for His glory. Our attitudes correspond to the Apostle Paul’s admonition, “*Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others*” (Philippians 2:3-4). St. Peter wrote, “*Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble*” (1 Peter 5:5).

In his best-selling book *The Measure of a Man*, Gene A. Getz writes,

As Christians, it’s easy to go to extremes. We can see ourselves as nothing or we can get caught up in an exalted view of ourselves. Both are out of balance. On the one hand, we should recognize that all we are

and have is because of God’s grace. On the other hand, we should understand that God has given us special gifts and abilities, and He wants us to use those gifts and abilities to accomplish His will in our lives.

God does not want us to be prideful people because pride is destructive. Pride destroys gratitude to God for all His kindness to us. It destroys our desire and ability to serve others. It destroys contentment for it feeds our competitive nature so that we are not satisfied with just being wealthy or intelligent; we want to be wealthier and more intelligent than anyone else.

Humility allows us to accept our smallness and God’s goodness. In the words of Martin Luther, humility is the decision to “let God be God.” We are stewards through humility. We are to honor Him with what we have, what we are, and what He will make of us.

As God’s people, we live in humility as we recognize that all we are and everything we own are gifts from God. May God grant us all the attitude of humility.

Deadline for articles for the July newsletter is Thursday, June 17.

Grace Financials

Balance Sheet—05/18/2021

Assets		
Unrestricted Funds	26,964.39	
Restricted Case	<u>47,691.35</u>	
Total Checking	74,655.74	
Other Accounts	1,433,937.53	
Total Assets	<u>1,508,593.27</u>	
Liabilities and Equity		
Maintenance & Repair Loan	96,086.92	
Operating Note	---	
Payroll Liabilities	509.79	
Equity	<u>1,411,966.56</u>	
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>1,508,593.27</u>	

Income & Expenses—January 1-May 18, 2021

Income	Actual	Annual Budget
Tithes/Offerings	230,535.55	
Other	<u>19,415.32</u>	
Total Income	249,950.87	
Expenses		
Donations & Dues	7,010.00	25,175.00
Church Operation		
Utilities & Insurance	21,084.11	37,800.00
Maintenance	6,190.24	33,000.00
Supplies, Misc.	<u>11,872.47</u>	<u>51,300.00</u>
	39,146.82	122,100.00
Church Ministry		
Tuition	80,513.33	162,244.00
Ministry	<u>1,122.59</u>	<u>16,700.00</u>
	81,635.92	178,944.00
Personnel	<u>114,975.56</u>	<u>338,512.00</u>
	242,768.30	664,731.00
Net Income	7,182.57	

June Birthdays

Karen Hitz.	6/1
Margaret Carlson.	6/2
Wesleigh Von Kampen.	6/2
Jessica Bauer.	6/3
Adalia McWilliams.	6/3
Sara Sindelar.	6/3
Tristan Clyde.	6/4
Jerri Jorgensen.	6/4
Adam Wagner.	6/4
Piper Conroy.	6/5
Kim McDaniel.	6/6
Amber Drevecky.	6/7
Ben Charter.	6/8
Ava Dinkel.....	6/8
Pat Kellogg..	6/9
Annika West..	6/9
Kylene Chamberlin.	6/10
Hanna Freudenburg.	6/11
Florence Kopietz.	6/11
Kyle Phillips..	6/11
Anden Baumann..	6/12
Ashlee Pittet.....	6/12
Jaxon Pittet..	6/12
Marlee Pittet.....	6/12
Jordan Spreeman.	6/12
Donna Baumann..	6/13
Ayden Wiederin.....	6/13
Shawn Fuhrman.	6/14
Dillon Mesteth.	6/14
Parker Olson.....	6/14
Grant Daniels.....	6/15
Cathy Wilke.....	6/15
Hunter Bowers.....	6/16
Todd Hintz.....	6/16

Matt Sukup.....	6/16
Greg Timmerman.....	6/16
Paul Warneke.....	6/16
Jeff Coler.	6/17
Christine Eisenhauer.	6/17
Miley Hale.	6/17
Julie Mesteth.	6/17
Katie Owen.	6/17
Brent Uhing.	6/17
Mary Jo Wonnacott.	6/17
Fred Aufdembrink.	6/18
Vernon Hansen..	6/19
Kevin Koehler.	6/19
Gene Polenske Jr.....	6/19
Lori Hanel.	6/20
Steve Hansen.	6/20
Jean Tannehill.	6/20
Devin Baumann.	6/21
Bentley Broders.	6/21
Jason Fuhrman.....	6/21
Tammy Spiegel.	6/22
Quinn Dennis.....	6/24
Karen Drahota.	6/24
Kasey Fernau.	6/24
Jahnna Wright.	6/24
Sam Carlson.....	6/25
Dee Long.	6/25
Thomas Meyer.....	6/26
Dylan Pittet.	6/26
Finley Chamberlin.	6/27
Chuck Gubbels.....	6/27
Ted Stransky.	6/29
Kent Warneke.	6/29
Sue Wilke.....	6/29
Jill Brown.....	6/30
Wyatt Scott.....	6/30

Lutheran High Northeast News
June 2021

CONGRATULATIONS to the
Class OF 2021

Congratulations to the 35 LHNE graduates who received their diplomas on May 9th. Please keep these graduates in your prayers as they move forward in their journey with Christ.
Northeast Nebraska Toy & Farm Show at LHNE

This year the Midwest Toy Farmers will be putting on their 33rd annual Northeast Nebraska Toy and Farm Show at Lutheran High Northeast. This show features a wide variety of farm toys of all brands and sizes from 20-25 vendors. These toys include stock and customized, semis, vehicles, Hot Wheels, and more. The event will be held on June 27th from 9am-4pm. Lunch will be available through an LHNE FFA chapter fundraiser. Admission is \$3.00 for those who are 12 and older. Kids under the age of 12 are free.

Beef Blast & LHNE 25th Anniversary Celebration

If you would be interested in helping with this year’s event, please contact us. Please consider donating an item or service for this year’s special celebration – 25 years of Christian education at LHNE!


LHNE Eagle Classic

June 26th is the annual Eagle golf

scramble. Online registration details can be found on the LHNE website and Facebook Page. Find a foursome to enjoy some food, fellowship, and 18 holes at Eldorado Hills!

Upcoming Events


- June 14 – Booster Club Mtg
- June 26 – LHNE Annual Golf tournament Fundraiser
- June 27 – Northeast Nebraska Toy & Farm Show @ LHNE
- July 19 – LHNE Blood Drive
- Aug 29 – Beef Blast



Conundrums of creation

God’s creation is filled with amazing and sometimes puzzling works.

Directions: Use the bank of picture clues to answer the riddles.



You can hold but not touch this. -----

Before using this, you must break it. ---

This falls without getting hurt. ----

This gets bigger the more you take away. ----

This has an eye but cannot see. -----

“In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the ____.

It is like ... a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit

to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.”

PSALM 19:4-6, NIV

Answer: breath, egg, rain, hole, hurricane, sun

Grace Lutheran Church
416 W. Park Ave.
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Grace Lutheran Church Officers for 2021

President	Tim Gansebom
Vice President	Maynard Thompson
Secretary	Paul Leckband
Treasurer	Kristen Rosner
Finance Secretary	Marge Reikofski
Elders	Andrew Keseman
Shawn Beaudette	Kim McDaniel
Brian Boning	Waylon Petsche
Jake Dinkel	Glenn Spreeman
Josh Freudenburg	
Chuck Gubbels	
Trustees	
Mike Cleveland	Gerry Mansfield
Tim Ferguson	Justin Shaver
Rob Jenkins	
Board of Education	
Kevin Ames	Christine Eisenhauer
Ben Brummels	Janet Mansfield
Tristan Clyde	Andrew Sunderman
Family Life Board	
Andrea Beaudette	Lee Obermeyer
Sherry Dinkel	Barb Schaefer
Lois Leckband	

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