



# 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



### “A Man Under Authority”

There is a great and intense conversation swirling about in this country about the subject of immigration. Differing ideologies are pitted one against another as to how this matter should be resolved. From the beginning of our countries existence, it has been established that it is the duty of the government to keep order. From the time of the beginning of the church it has been established that it is the church's joyful duty to care for the widow and the orphan, for the poor and the ailing, in a manner that reflects the hands and heart of Jesus. Those who hold to Jesus' teaching understand how this works. Jesus is the one who said, “render unto Caesar things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's.” Even Jesus submitted to the authority of the state in matters that belonged to it. Then, even in the midst of the state's jurisdiction, he cared for those who suffered. He even defied the authority of the temple by healing on the Sabbath. In matters of Gospel purity and human care, our forbears went to great trouble to live in the midst of people who would gladly be like minded in these matters.

Seven hundred fifty people left their

homes and friends in Saxon, Germany in November 1838 and arrived in St. Louis in January 1839. The “Emigration Regulations” state the reason: “All the undersigned acknowledge with sincerity of heart the pure Lutheran faith as contained in the Word of God, the Old and New Testaments, and set forth and confessed in the Symbolical Books of the Lutheran Church. After deliberate and mature counsel they can, humanly speaking, see no possibility of retaining in their present home this faith pure and undefiled, of confessing it and transmitting it to their posterity. Hence they felt, in duty, bound to emigrate and to look for a country where this Lutheran faith is not endangered and where they can serve God undisturbed in the way of grace revealed and ordained by Him, and where they can enjoy, without being interfered with, fully, without adulteration, the means of grace ordained by God for all men unto salvation, and can preserve them in their integrity and purity for themselves and their children...Such a country as they are looking for is the United States of North America; for there, as nowhere else in the world, perfect religious and civil liberty prevails.”

It is easy to see how such a church

### SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

Rally Day will be September 8, 2019 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Church Sanctuary.

Come join the fun as we start our Sunday School year with a Creation Rally Day!

We will have music and activities as we begin our year learning about our Savior Jesus Christ, what our Savior Jesus Christ means for us, and how to defend and teach our faith.

This years theme verse is Grace's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Verse: Colossians 2:6-7--“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Hope to see everyone on September 8!

### Catechism Classes to Begin

Fifth thru Eighth graders and parents—Come to our Confirmation Orientation on Wednesday, September 11th at 5:30 p.m. to get all the information needed for this year!

Regular confirmation classes begin on Wednesday, September 18th from 3:45-5:00 p.m.



Adult Choir practices will start back up again on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00p.m. in the North Basement. We are in need of all range of voices. Please join us as we “make a joyful noise unto the Lord.”

with a singular German ethnic background could become singular in its manner and ministry, and not be inclusive at all. And yet the Gospel which the church holds dear clearly teaches inclusivity, not exclusivity in all of its history in both the Old and New Testaments.

Psalm 117, which is brisk in its pointedness by means of its brevity, is the shortest chapter in the Bible. Psalm 117: “Praise the Lord all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.”

1 Kings 8:41-43 announces the prayer that King Solomon prayed on the day he dedicated the Temple in Jerusalem. If the lection had gone further, this is what you would have heard: 1 Kings 8:41-43: “As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name—for men will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when he comes and prays toward heaven, your dwelling place, do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.”

There is a mound of dirt near the place where the old city of Capernaum once stood called Tell Hum. The “Hum” stands for Nahum, which is the last part of the name: CaperNahum,” the city of

Nahum. Archeologists recently uncovered a lintel (an engraved single limestone which served as the entrance to the synagogue); it was clearly part of the doorway to the synagogue in Capernaum in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century. They are presently excavating the rest of the synagogue. We know about this synagogue, don’t we? We read about it in the Gospel. Luke 7:1ff: “When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, ‘This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.’ So Jesus went with them.” (Don’t you just love it when history bears out what you and I have already taken by faith?) But there is more to the story. The centurion in Capernaum was under the authority of a paun King who was a known criminal: This centurion’s boss was none other than Harod Antipus, the one who had stolen Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife. He also is the one who was caught up in Herodias’s revenge against John the Baptist’s protest against the adulterous marriage. This centurion’s boss had killed John the Baptist, and had been nicknamed, “That Fox”, by Jesus himself. It was against all odds that the

centurion would place trust in Jesus of Nazareth.

Those of you who participate in Sunday morning bible class have heard me talk about the three classes of people on the face of the earth; they are believers, seekers, and unbelievers. God seems to have a special love for seekers; we saw that in the Psalm and in Solomon’s prayer for the foreigner. Jesus also talked about the man who left the 99 sheep and went looking for the 100<sup>th</sup>. And the woman who swept the house, looking for her coin. Jesus said in Luke 15:10: “in the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Jesus has a special place in His heart for the outsider whose heart is contrite. And he has strong words of judgement for the insiders who feel no need for contrition.

In a story of a college town, there was a freshmen student who was looking for a church. He’d had difficulty with acceptance in churches because he had a shaved head and had an earring, besides he always went to church in jeans. On a particular Sunday morning the young man entered the church, but finding no vacant seat, kept moving toward the front. When he found no seat even in the front row, he moved beneath the pulpit and sat down on the floor. All eyes in the congregation were focused on him. The head usher noticed what was going on and slowly began moving down the isle

toward the young man. The church grew silent and intent upon each step that the usher made toward the young man seated on the carpet beneath the pulpit. Without missing a beat the head usher drew up beside the student on the floor and sat down beside him. Thus they worshiped throughout the service. When the pastor mounted the pulpit, his opening remarks were “You likely won’t remember what I say here today, but I dare say you will not forget what remarkable things you saw here.” Veteran Christians with great faith are always very accepting of seekers, and go out of the way to make them welcome, just as Jesus did. Because of Jesus’ acceptance, the seeker centurion moved very quickly from seeker to man of great faith. The centurion was not only in agreement with Jesus’ teaching, but he trusted the life of his servant to Jesus words.

At the circus, the high-wire walker was very popular. The audience knew all about his daring feats. They agreed that he could do almost anything on that wire. Suddenly he appeared. There was a noisy welcome. “How many of you believe that I can walk this wire with a chair strapped to my back?” he asked. Everyone cheered. They all agreed that he could do it. “And how many of you believe that I can walk this wire with somebody sitting in the chair?” he asked. Again they cheered. They all agreed that he could do it. Waving his arms for quiet, he next posed this question;

“Which one of you is willing to sit in the chair?” There was silence. No one dared to speak. They agreed that he was the best, but no one was willing to trust him with their own lives. Jesus spoke the Gospel in truth and purity and he welcomed outsiders and seekers. And he moved them toward a trusting relationship with Himself. Churchmen worthy of a boat trip ticket from Germany will do the same. *Pastor Wilke*



### Giving Sacrificially

Sacrificial giving can be defined as “giving something we love to something or someone we love even more.” We value our time and money, yet we are willing to give them away in our service to our Lord, because of our love for Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Through faith, we understand that God is the source and owner of all things and any success that we have financially is made possible by God. It is God Who gives us the ability to make and earn money. *“Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my*

*hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you the power to get wealth...”* (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).

Our giving gives evidence of our relationship with Jesus. Of all the tools that Satan may consider using to separate us from an intimate relationship with Jesus, money is his best tool. Our love for money and the things that money can buy can become stronger than our love for the Lord. The writer of Hebrews admonishes, *“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have...”* (Hebrews 13:5). Paul warns Timothy, *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs”* (1 Timothy 6:10). If we love money, we can be separated from God just as the Rich Young Man was because he was unable to part with his fortune (Mark 10:17-22).

When we have a proper attitude and perspective toward what we own and when we, with the help of the Holy Spirit understand Who God is and what He has done for us, we are empowered to give sacrificially. Sacrificial giving represents the depth of our love for the Lord. As the writer of Hebrews wrote, *“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”* (Hebrews 13:16).



Handbell choir will be starting up again on Wednesday September 18<sup>th</sup>. The Jubilee Ringers will meet from 5:00-5:30 p.m., the Ding-A-Lingers from 5:30-6:00 p.m., and the Shekinah choir from 6:00-7:00 p.m. If you are interested in playing in any of the choirs, whether you have played before or not, please contact Kelly Asbury at 402-371-3521.

### Grace Craft and Vendor Show

Grace Lutheran’s First Annual Vendor and Craft Show will be on Saturday, September 21st from 9 am to 3 pm. This will be held in the Church parking lot. All vendors fee’s will be supporting the Grace Lutheran Youth Group. *We still have room for a few more vendors.* Please contact Sue Wyant 402-640-7384 for a vendor contract if you are interested in being a vendor. The Youth Group will have a booth selling food and other items. Please plan to attend and support this event.

### Baptisms

Baptized on Sunday, August 4 was Rhen Lorraine Klawitter, daughter of Andy and Ashley Klawitter. May the Lord bless Rhen all the days of her life.

### Weddings

United in marriage on Saturday, August 10 was Hanna Wilke and Ryan Freudenburg. May the Lord bless them as they begin their life together.

United in marriage on Saturday, August 24 was Courtney Anderson and Brandon Timmerman. We ask God’s blessings on their life together.

### Attention All College Students and/or Parents

We are looking for addresses of all our college students. We would like to be able to send them care packages from their home church throughout the school year and also to send them newsletters to keep in touch with them. Please call Vicki at the church office at (402) 371-1044 or e-mail at [glnorfolk@q.com](mailto:glnorfolk@q.com) and let us know your (or your college student’s) new address!

## Moms & Tots

Moms and Tots will be starting **September 5<sup>th</sup>**. Any moms and their children, age birth to preschool, are welcome to attend Moms and Tots every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 9:30 to 11:00 AM in the north basement. Each week, there will be an activity, story, and snack for the kids, and moms can enjoy fellowship time while their little ones play. Come join the fun!! (Like on Facebook @ Moms and Tots, Grace Lutheran Church).

## Items Needed

Grace Lutheran Quilters are in need of patterned sheets that they can use for the backs of quilts. They also need plain sheets or light blankets that can be used for batting. If you have any of these items available, please bring them to the church office.

## What's Our Address?

Today's Scripture: (Jesus said), "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts. 1:8

**Our 2019 Centennial Scripture:** "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." Col. 2:6-7

**Today's Meditation:** What's the address of Grace Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska? What's our street address? I'll give you a moment to think . . . No fair asking someone else or checking us out in the phone directory or on our web page! Time's up! Our street address is 416 Park Avenue.

Or is it? A constant challenge for many churches is a parochial mindset, i.e., a mindset that tends to think of our ministry in entirely local terms. It's easy to get very comfortable with thinking that our mission and ministry doesn't extend much beyond our property lines. When Jesus spoke to His first century disciples in Jerusalem, just before He ascended into heaven, He certainly made it clear that they weren't to think of their address as located in Jerusalem only. He charged them to "be My witnesses," not only in Jerusalem, not only "in all Judea and Samaria," but "to the ends of the earth."

A daunting challenge? To be sure! Most of those first disciples had likely never strayed beyond the boundaries of Palestine, and they were expected to be Jesus' witnesses to the whole earth!

I have news for you. Jesus' words were also meant for His 21<sup>st</sup> century

disciples, and that would be you and me. A daunting challenge? Of course, but not impossible. It's not impossible, because we have the same promise that those first century Christians had. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."

Jesus spoke those words 10 days in advance of the first Pentecost. He speaks those words to us now who have received the power of the Holy Spirit through our Baptism . . . Who continue to be nourished by the power of the Spirit through Word and Sacrament.

Our Lord in His great love never intended His Gospel message to be reserved for a few Jewish Christians in the first century. He intended the message of His forgiveness and salvation to reach throughout the whole world. And He empowers us to be His witnesses.

We've been celebrating the centennial of our home congregation. We've had 100 years of God's grace at Grace to celebrate, but we have something even greater to celebrate.

Somewhere in time you became the beneficiary of that grace. You became forgiven and saved through faith in the one and only Lord and Savior of all humankind—the root of our faith. That faith is a free gift, and now our Savior entrusts the Message to us.

And so we become His evangelists. It may be to our own circle of family and friends. It may be to an acquaintance at

work or even a complete stranger whom you encounter. It may be through your offerings that support our congregation's mission budget. It may be through your personal support for missionaries or for the mission and ministry of Orphan Grain Train, Christ Lutheran School, Lutheran High Northeast, our Concordia University System or seminaries.

It's a sacred commission that we've been given. If you've never thought of yourself as a missionary before, guess what? Jesus Christ has commissioned you—has commissioned Grace Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska—to spread the Good News in Norfolk, Nebraska, the United States, and "to the ends of the earth."

Celebrate the centennial of Grace Lutheran Church! Celebrate the missionaries whom Christ has empowered to spread the Gospel "to the ends of the earth." Celebrate . . . because He has honored you by making you one of His very own missionaries.

Celebrate! *~Paul Leckband*

Our centennial anniversary devotion series continues with a daily devotion for the month of September. Printed copies are available at the back of church. They are also available at [www.graceluthernnorfolk.com](http://www.graceluthernnorfolk.com) and Facebook. Thank you to Paul Leckband for writing the devotions.

## Anniversary Sunday

**We will be joined by Dr. Dale Meyer for our Celebration Worship on Sunday, September 29.** Dr. Dale A. Meyer is president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Meyer's first call was as pastor of St. Salvator Lutheran Church in Venedy, Ill., and St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Memphis, Ill. (1974-81). Meyer first joined the faculty at Concordia Seminary as a guest instructor in 1979 and served as an assistant professor from 1981 to 1984. He went on to become senior pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Collinsville, Ill. (1984-88). Meyer was a speaker on The Lutheran Hour radio program (1989 to 2001). In 2001, he rejoined the faculty at Concordia Seminary and continues to serve as professor of practical theology in addition to his role as president. He became the 10th president of Concordia Seminary in 2005.

After earning a Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary (1973), Meyer earned a master's degree (1974) and a doctorate (1986) in classical languages from Washington University in St. Louis. He completed his bachelor's degree (1969) at Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Ind.

He has also hosted the national television show On Main Street for Lutheran Hour Ministries. Meyer has served LCMS and the church at-large

over the years in several capacities. He served as third vice-president of the LCMS from 1995 to 1998. He was a charter board member of the Association of Lutheran Older Adults (ALOA), has served as an honorary director of God's Word to the Nations Bible Society and as a member of the Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry for the LCMS. He was pastoral adviser for the Southern Illinois District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League and has served as first vice president, second vice president, secretary and circuit counselor of the LCMS Southern Illinois District. He served on the Board of Trustees of the American Bible Society from 2001 to 2013.

Meyer has written numerous sermons and columns for Lutheran Hour Ministries. He has co-authored Bible Studies for LifeLight and has been published by the Concordia Publishing House, Issues in Christian Education and Concordia Journal. His daily devotions have been compiled into Timely Reflections: A Minute a Day with Dale Meyer.

Meyer has been speaking and preaching for more than 40 years. His areas of interest and study include 1 Peter, the church in a changing culture and the Sabbath applied to life today.

He lives in St. Louis with his wife, Diane. Their family includes two daughters, two sons-in-law, and five grandsons.

## September Birthdays

Mattalyn Boning. ....	9/1
Amanda Gross. ....	9/1
Marvin Pospisil. ....	9/1
Paeton Coler. ....	9/2
Megan Ellenwood. ....	9/2
Brad Hoelscher. ....	9/2
Don Mertes. ....	9/2
Kayla Shaver. ....	9/2
Joyce Gansebom. ....	9/3
Sydney Owen. ....	9/4
Palmer Wiggins. ....	9/4
Tim Gansebom. ....	9/6
Megan Asbury. ....	9/7
Bailey Bowers. ....	9/7
Blake Faust. ....	9/7
Harlow Sicka. ....	9/7
Ray Wilke. ....	9/7
Kendall Dennis. ....	9/8
Josh Moenning. ....	9/8
Curtis Tunink. ....	9/8
Dana Wright. ....	9/8
Greg Alder. ....	9/9
Heidi Bonsall. ....	9/9
Carrie Cook. ....	9/9
Jade Freudenburg. ....	9/9
Hudson Scott. ....	9/9
Tristen Kittelson. ....	9/10
Marilyn Krueger. ....	9/11
Gene Lorang. ....	9/11
Scott Tunink. ....	9/11
Marla Meyer. ....	9/12
Aspyne Kuntz. ....	9/13
Jill Stonacek. ....	9/13
Lee Obermeyer. ....	9/14
Kaitlynn Sharples. ....	9/14

Phil Zastrow. ....	9/14
Sherry Dinkel. ....	9/15
Ethan Gansebom. ....	9/15
Jerry Janssen. ....	9/15
Rick Klug. ....	9/15
Lincoln Wingate. ....	9/15
Lori Boning. ....	9/16
Lawrence Latham. ....	9/16
Jay Baumann Sr. ....	9/17
Shari Blecher. ....	9/17
Brian Boning. ....	9/17
John Dinkel. ....	9/17
Dave Pinnt. ....	9/17
Tyson Suckstorf. ....	9/17
Kevin Baker. ....	9/18
Sandy Swanson. ....	9/18
Zachary Baumann. ....	9/19
Jim Scheer. ....	9/19
Brandon Scheffler. ....	9/19
Paula Freudenburg. ....	9/21
Mayme Klein. ....	9/21
Aly Wilke. ....	9/22
Karen Christiansen. ....	9/23
Dylan Grey. ....	9/23
Wendell Newcomb. ....	9/23
Deacon Beaudette. ....	9/25
Waylon Petsche. ....	9/25
Jon Allen. ....	9/26
Johnana Peterson. ....	9/26
Dustie White. ....	9/26
Eileen Hoskinson. ....	9/27
Eleanor Sunderman. ....	9/29
Annika Thomas. ....	9/29
Alexis Wright. ....	9/29
Laura Alder. ....	9/30
Harry Lorenzen. ....	9/30



## Lutheran High Northeast News September 2019

### Welcome New Students!

We are very excited this year to welcome 38 new students to Lutheran High Northeast. These students kicked off the year with new student orientation on August 7. With almost a month of school in the books, these students are off and running and we look forward to all of the great things we will see from them in the years to come!

### Homecoming 2019

This year's homecoming activities will take place the week of September 23-28. We would like to invite everyone to join us for our home games that week. Tuesday, September 24 our Volleyball teams will be taking on Howells/Dodge at home starting with C team at 5:30pm, JV team at 6:30pm, and Varsity at 7:30pm. Our Football team will take on Howells/Dodge on Friday, September 27 at 7:00 pm at Memorial Field.

### Welcome New Faculty Members

This year we are welcoming two new members to our LHNE faculty. Mr. Justus Utecht joins us this year as a full-time faculty member. He is a recent graduate of Concordia University in Seward and will be teaching Advanced Math, Algebra 2, Calculus, and Geometry. Ms. Martha Cook joins us as a part-time faculty member and will be teaching Chemistry. She previously

taught at Norfolk High School.

### Upcoming Events

September 2–No School  
September 12–No School  
Parent/Teacher Conferences  
September 13–No School Teacher  
In-Service  
September 14–LHNE Music Clinic with  
Dr. VonKampen  
September 23-28–Homecoming Week  
September 24–Volleyball Homecoming  
Game  
September 27–Football Homecoming  
Game  
September 28–Homecoming Dance

**Deadline for articles** for the October newsletter is Thursday, September 19.

Grace Lutheran Church  
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



### Grace Lutheran Church Officers for 2019

<b>President</b>	Maynard Thompson
<b>Vice President</b>	Tim Gansebom
<b>Secretary</b>	Paul Leckband
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kristen Rosner
<b>Finance Secretary</b>	Melodee Drenkow
<b>Elders</b>	Matt Sheriff
Shawn Beaudette	Glenn Spreeman
Bob Hering	Christopher Waldrop
Gerry Mansfield	Mike Wiederin
Waylon Petsche	
Justin Shaver	
<b>Trustees</b>	Dave Pinnt
Mike Cleveland	Phil Zastrow
Craig Drenkow	
Rob Jenkins	
<b>Board of Education</b>	Andrew Sunderman
Tristan Clyde	Karri Wiederin
Melissa Dinkel	Alyson Wilke
Janet Mansfield	
Christine Eisenhauer	
<b>Family Life Board</b>	Lee Obermeyer
Andrea Beaudette	Barb Schaefer
Sherry Dinkel	Sheri Sheriff
Lois Leckband	

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### September 2019 Vol. 39, No. 9

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