



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## a Launchpad for God's Kingdom

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416 W Park Ave, Norfolk, NE 68701

www.gracelutherannorfolk.com

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



### Sunday School News 2023- 2024

Sunday School starts on September 10th at 8:30 am in the Church Sanctuary. We will meet for Opening and then head to our rooms to start our Creation Story. This year will be filled with a journey through Old Testament lessons and adventures.

We have so many great activities planned and invite all young people age 2 years through 8th grade to join us as we grow in our faith together.

If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office, 402-371-1044 or Sunday School Superintendent Linda Baumann at 402-841-8999.

### Building Faithful Families

Please join us Sunday mornings in the conference room from 8:30-9:30 while

your child attends Sunday School. This year we will be studying Effective Parenting in a Defective World by Chip Ingram. This study is a combination of book study and video. Topics covered include:

- How to raise positive kids in a negative world
  - How to develop your child's full potential
- How to prepare your kids to win life's biggest battles
- How to discipline your child effectively

If you would like me to order you a book, please contact Lois Leckband at loisleckband@gmail.com or (402) 992-0356

**Deadline for articles** for the October newsletter is Thursday, September 21.



### A Whole Body and Mind

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”  
Philippians 4:8

What's on your mind? For some its the troubling news inundating their phones every day. For some its adjusting to a new school or schedule. For some its just waiting for the next doctor's appointment or diagnosis. What is on your mind?

Creation is groaning. Birds and beasts, lands and seas, bodies and minds... Everything is affected by a sin-sick, spiritually dead world. This includes mental health which affects us all in different ways, for the worse and for the better. Mental health and psychological disorders are affected by everything and conversely they also affect everything. Like our bodies parts, if one member suffers, the whole body suffers. Sometimes to a fault.

How does your mind wrestle and rest day to day, night to night? Work never ceases. Rest is problematic for those who do not sleep, work 24/7, and run the rat

race without regard to their well-being. School's back in session. Resiliency is often a struggle for students already, but now some claim to be traumatized by biological teachings or political beliefs with which they disagree. That is a problem

One of the worst diseases during covid and now was not viral or bacterial, but mental. Now we suffer together in the post-covid crisis. Some struggle to see the possibility of a good day or that tomorrow is a gift from God. Some blind to this issue wonder how this happened. Well, isolate people and lock them up for months or years, leave them to their own devices and what do you think will happen?

Psychological dis-orders and mental dis-ease affect everything. Broken people are born in a broken creation. The subject many in our own town are thinking about is transgenderism. Gender Identity Disorder used to be diagnosed by psychologists using the DSM IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders). I learned about transgenderism first in my Abnormal Psychology class at my public university. There are real people who really think they are the opposite sex. It turns out even sexuality is affected by

mental health and dis-ease. But many now think sexuality is somehow unaffected by mental health. Even those who update the DSM for psychologists have deleted the diagnoses related to sexuality. They want sex on their terms governed by their own feelings instead of facts based on biology. What is our world thinking?

If a child breaks their leg they need to go to the doctor to have the leg set and cast. We do not leave them suffering. If an adult has congestive heart failure they may need a bypass and medication. We care for them, not harm them. If a person struggles with an eating disorder like anorexia we show them compassion and help save their lives. We do not celebrate their disease, affirm their disorder, and let them continue to hurt themselves. If a person suffers from depression, we help them find good counseling and proper medication to help. If a person believes they are actually an animal, we do not leave them to their own devices. We may even want to consider bringing back asylums to keep them and others safe. And if a person has gender identity disorder we do not let boys play on sports teams as if they are girls, but we try to help them appropriately. And there is help.

But to complicate matters, we all have sin struggles. Sin is different from disorders and diseases. Please remember, being sick is not what makes us sinful.

Depression and other disorders are like diseases. If someone has cancer we do not call the cancer sin. Our own sinful nature and our sinful actions are what makes us sinful. Still the pride movement is a perfect name for those who lift up sexual sin as all sin is rooted in ungodly pride. But sin affects all people including healthy people and unhealthy people alike. No one is more or less sin-filled than another. Paul claims to be the “chief of sinners.” But Jesus came to forgive sinners AND heal the sick. He came to die for all our sin and put back in order our chaotic world. And he will.

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar, and His word is not in us” (1 John 1:8-10).

Somehow, somehow — sharing the truth in love — God calls us to both care for the sick and call all to repentance and faith in Jesus. But we live in an age where sickness and sin are both denied by many. Some wonder if God made them how they feel. No! God did not make people sick and God did not make us sinful. Being born into our sin-riddled world is what makes us all sick. All people - even the whole creation - waits for the day where all is good again.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”  
Philippians 4:8

God can help. God will help. God came to heal our sickness, not to make us sicker. First identify not with how you feel but with what God says. Jesus can make us whole: body, mind, and soul.

*Pastor Asbury*

### **Confirmation Classes**

Wednesday afternoon 5th-8th Grade Confirmation Classes begin September 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 p.m. We are so excited for a new year. Parent and youth meeting will be September 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:00 p.m. in the South Basement. It is important that all parents and youth attend this meeting.



Handbell choir will be starting up again on Wednesday September 13<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. Spots are available in all choirs. If you are interested in playing, whether you have played before or not, please contact Kelly Asbury at 402-371-3521.



Adult Choir practices will start back up again on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Church. We are in need of all range of voices. Please join us as we “make a joyful noise unto the Lord.”

### **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 [glnorfolk416@gmail.com](mailto:glnorfolk416@gmail.com) and let us know your address!



**Stewards of the “Good News”**

The Christian steward is told to be faithful and trustworthy. “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). The Apostle Paul is telling us that we are expected to tell others that Jesus can provide comfort to people whose lives are filled with hurts, self-centeredness, divorce, doubt, drugs, and living in a world that is not perfect, as well as living with people who are not perfect. Even more, our calling is to be faithful and trustworthy as we live and share the greatest gift we receive through Jesus—the mysteries of God, the Good News of the perfect gift of salvation, in spite of our sinful and imperfect ways.

Think of the things you may do as a Christian. You may serve on a church committee, sing in the choir, usher, visit people who need love, provide generous financial support for the work of the church, and go to church regularly. Being faithful in each of these is

ultimately about living a Christian life and being a steward of the Good News in Christ.

Attending worship and Bible study and being involved as part of the church is how we grow in our Christian maturity, for we are to continue to grow (Ephesians 4:15-16). The Holy Spirit brings this growth about in us and leads us as we are involved in Word and Sacrament. As we grow, we are to be trustworthy and faithful and daily focus upon being a steward of the Good News in Christ!

**STEPHEN MINISTRIES**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Have you been praying about becoming involved in our church’s new Stephen Ministry program? We will begin working on connecting with people who are interested and are willing to make this commitment. It is an experience that will help you grow in your faith life and will equip you to be a blessing to others. To become a Stephen Minister, you will

be asked to commit to the following:

- Training that involves twenty 2½ hour modules to teach you thoroughly how to become an effective care giver.
- Being assigned to a care receiver and committing to spend approximately one hour a week with that person.
- Meeting every other week with other care givers for approximately 90 minutes to share, improve your skills, and to lift each other up with prayer and encouragement.
- Make a 2-year commitment to Stephen Ministries.

If you want to know more about this ministry, please contact Pastor Asbury or Lois Leckband.

**Give it a try!**

Starting the second weekend in September, Grace Lutheran members will notice a “connection card” in the red membership folders in the pews. They’ll be available on a regular basis to allow members to share with the church office their cell numbers and email addresses as a way of improving communication.

But Grace members also have the option of entering their information via a QR code. The one found on this page can be used to get a head start on being

part of the enhanced communication effort at Grace. So, give it a try!



**Sendoff Invitation**

The congregation is invited to an Open House sendoff for Zachary Baumann, hosted by his family, on Sunday, September 17 from 1-3 p.m. in the Church fellowship hall. Zachary enlisted in the Nebraska National Guard and is shipping to basic training later that week. It would mean a lot, as his church family, if you could come, wish him well, and offer him words of encouragement. Your presence is all that is requested. Light refreshments will be served.

**September Birthdays**

- Mattalyn Boning. . . . . 9-01
- Paeton Coler. . . . . 9-02
- Brad Hoelscher. . . . . 9-02
- Don Mertes. . . . . 9-02
- Eastyn Schroeder. . . . . 9-03

(September Birthdays continued)

Sandy Turley. . . . . 9-03  
 Sydney Owen. . . . . 9-04  
 Palmer Wiggins. . . . . 9-04  
 Tim Gansebom. . . . . 9-06  
 Megan Asbury. . . . . 9-07  
 Bailey Bowers. . . . . 9-07  
 Blake Faust. . . . . 9-07  
 Harlow Sicka. . . . . 9-07  
 Stetsyn Watson. . . . . 9-07  
 Ray Wilke. . . . . 9-07  
 Kendall Dennis. . . . . 9-08  
 Josh Moenning. . . . . 9-08  
 Curtis Tunink. . . . . 9-08  
 Greg Alder. . . . . 9-09  
 Heidi Bonsall. . . . . 9-09  
 Carrie Cook. . . . . 9-09  
 Gabriel Daniels. . . . . 9-09  
 Jade Freudenburg. . . . . 9-09  
 Hudson Scott. . . . . 9-09  
 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  
 Amber Nielsen. . . . . 9-15  
 Lincoln Wingate. . . . . 9-15

Lori Boning. . . . . 9-16  
 Lawrence Latham. . . . . 9-16  
 Jay Baumann. . . . . 9-17  
 Shari Blecher. . . . . 9-17  
 Brian Boning. . . . . 9-17  
 John Dinkel. . . . . 9-17  
 Dave Pinnt. . . . . 9-17  
 Isabelle Robertson. . . . . 9-17  
 Gabe Anderson. . . . . 9-18  
 Kevin Baker. . . . . 9-18  
 Sandy Swanson. . . . . 9-18  
 Zachary Baumann. . . . . 9-19  
 Jim Scheer. . . . . 9-19  
 Brandon Scheffler. . . . . 9-19  
 Adrian Boelter. . . . . 9-20  
 Sarah Boelter. . . . . 9-21  
 Paula Freudenburg. . . . . 9-21  
 Mayme Klein. . . . . 9-21  
 Aly O'Bryan. . . . . 9-22  
 Karen Christiansen. . . . . 9-23  
 Carson Collins. . . . . 9-23  
 Colton Collins. . . . . 9-23  
 Dylan Grey. . . . . 9-23  
 Jessica Moenning. . . . . 9-23  
 Kate Stonacek. . . . . 9-23  
 Wendell Newcomb. . . . . 9-23  
 Deacon Beaudette. . . . . 9-25  
 Waylon Petsche. . . . . 9-25  
 Dustie White. . . . . 9-26  
 Eileen Hoskinson. . . . . 9-27  
 Kaitlin Schaefer. . . . . 9-28  
 Jacob Jansen. . . . . 9-29  
 Eleanor Sunderman. . . . . 9-29  
 Annika Thomas. . . . . 9-29  
 Laura Alder. . . . . 9-30  
 Harry Lorenzen. . . . . 9-30

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



**Grace Lutheran Church Officers for 2023**

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**Vice President** Kent Warneke  
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**Treasurer** Kristen Rosner  
**Finance Secretary** Marge Reikofski

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 Shawn Beaudette  
 Adrian Boelter  
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 Jake Dinkel  
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