



From the Pastor's Cup...

Dear Church Family,

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS!

May is a month of transitions. What does the month of **May** remind us of?

"It was the month of May, the month when the foliage of herbs and trees is most freshly green, when buds ripened and blossoms appear in their fragrance and loveliness. And the month when lovers, subject to the same force which reawakens the plants, feel their hearts open again yearning for a renewal of the magical awareness which is love." Almanac

It is the month when we celebrate graduations, Mother's Day, weddings, reunions, the end of school for another year, and the beginning of summer. We transition out of one season of the year into the next season of the year when being outdoors is the norm rather than the exception.

We also add to this transition such fun as travel and vacations, ball games and tournaments, picnics and fairs, gardening and farming, and camping and parks. But even with all this playful activity, there will be the need for rest and relaxation, and maybe a book to read.

I have been reading the book **Nearing Home: Life, Faith and Finishing Well** by Billy Graham. On page one, Billy Graham writes:

"Growing old has been the greatest surprise of my life. The young live for the here and now. Thinking ahead seems to be in the form of dreams that promise fairy-tale endings. Though I am nearing ninety-three, it doesn't seem so long ago I was one of those dreamers."

I find this book a good primer for what to expect as I grow older, and also what adult children should expect as their parents grow older. **TRANSITIONING well with GRACE!** Billy Graham shares the challenges of failing strength but still standing strong in our commitment to finishing life well.

This book is all about finishing well the life we have been given. Billy Graham writes, "I would have never guessed what God had in store me, and I know that as I am nearing home, He will not forsake me the last mile of the way."

Any guesses on what was Billy's dream when growing up? **BASEBALL!** There were few things he loved more than baseball, and as a young man he dedicated himself to the sport and hoped that his passion would take him straight to the major league. His goal was simple: stand at home plate, with bat in hand, immersed in as important game. He often pictured himself hitting a big league grand slam into the stadium seats hearing the crowd roar as he ran the bases, **nearing home**.

Billy Graham did fill stadiums with people not because he was a baseball player, but as God's voice in a world dying to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. What a **TRANSITION** that was. God made the impossible possible, running the bases with Billy as he **neared home**.

One last quote from the author, "Growing older with grace is possible for all who will set their hearts and minds on the Giver of grace, the Lord Jesus Christ."

God bless, Pr. Jer

JAVA & MOVIE SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

We will gather at 9 am in the fellowship with coffee on Sunday, May 1st for the Sight & Sound Theater production of **NOAH**. This past December we watched the marvelous Sight & Sound Theater's production of **Jesus**. This is NOT a Bible study so come and join us and who knows we all might learn something new.

Filmed in front of a live audience, **NOAH** is an original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres that takes you on board one of the world's best-known voyages as live animals fill the stage and aisles. Set sail inside the enormous ark in this extraordinary Bible story that has captivated audiences for generations! It is a 2 hour and 15 minute production that will be divided over many Sundays in May.

We thank Ruth Huls for providing us her DVD copy of this production,

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Wiese

Members present: Kristi Dorn, Brenda Gronewold, Alan Folkerts, VeAnn Jurgens, Neal Meints, Cindy Parde, Paul Remmers, Pam Trauernicht & Gary Wiese

Members absent:

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes from the 3/08/2022 meeting.

Motion made and seconded to accept meeting agenda for 4/05/2022 meeting.

Upcoming Weddings:

- 05/07/2022 - Caylee Lueders & Connor Mason
- 06/11/2022 - Jayde Carstens & Jared Marsh
- 06/18/2022 - Dillon Buss & Cari Lineweber
- 07/09/2022 - Nicole Busboom & Nathan Bartels
- 07/16/2022 - Blake Lenner & Marisa Pitre (Omaha) taking weekend off to do wedding
- 10/29/2022 - Brooke Mason & Daniel Barr
- 06/10/2023 - Abby Mason & Heath Hovendick

Upcoming Baptisms:

- 4/10/22 Finn O'Brien Sturek son of Kelly & Brittany Sturek
- 5/15/22 Watson Ridge Gronewold son of Joel & Joselyn Gronewold

March mileage: 343 miles

Celebrating God's Work in Progress – Old Business

- **Well Update** – Can start digging as soon as we locate a viable source. May need to look West of church.
- **Elevator** – Identified that our source company has been out of business 15+ years. Damage has been done to the elevator that cause it to work without weight but binds when loaded. Looking to evaluate the options available to repair or will look for replacement options.
- **Parrish Hall Bathrooms** – Mostly cosmetic updates. Major purchase may be a vanity in Women's room. Evaluating ceiling options.
- **Storage Shed/Garage** – Continue to look at options including a breeze way connection to garage/storage shed. Potential timeline.
- **List of members with medical training for help in emergencies.**
 - Keep list in closet for emergencies.
 - Updated first aid kit with ice packs, bandages, etc. Add to yearly list.
 - **Picture Directory** – advertise for members who are interested in a committee, and potential photographers, publication options books, online, apps, etc.

- **Information for potential new members –**
 - Welcome bags have been assembled and are in the welcome center to potential members.

Discerning God’s Will – New Business

- **Little Public Library** – discussed add a little public library, but think we are too rural for this to be effective.
- **Greeters** – reinstating greeters – will be identifying a new list
- **Wedding protocols** – New coordinators -Danelle Evers, Kelly Lenner, Karla Holland
 - Council will offer SD recording of weddings but will not be offering livestreaming
- **Copy contract** – provided by Eakes. Updated council members to include a 2nd year council and 1st year council member. Numbers reported automatically each quarter, contract paid monthly. Current copies are well under allowed number.
- **Upcoming celebrations**
 - **Administrative Assistant Day** – April 22nd
 - **Mother’s Day** - May 8th newest mother, oldest mother in turn.
 - **Graduate recognition – May 22nd** Will check with Hospitality committee for refreshments.
 - **Mission Festival** – September 25, 2022 – considering speakers for the service.

Ministry Team Report as of 4/05/2022

• Financial-General Fund-Balance on hand 3/01/2022	\$94,299.04
• Income- \$29078.25	Expenses- \$17,417.29
• Balance on hand- 3/31/2022--	\$105,960.00
• Sinking Fund -	\$139,189.36
• Seminary Fund -	\$30,831.03
• Thrivent Mutual Funds -	\$2,819.15
• Open Savings -	\$27,404.12
• Memorial Balance -	\$12, 229.80

Motion was made to approve the Financial and Ministry Team reports.

Next council meeting will be Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Devotions – 7:00

Committees – 7:05

Council – 7:30

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted, *Brenda Gronewold*, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship Committee: Did not Meet

Parish Ed: Heather Hippen, Kate Meints, Linsey Gronewold

Old Business: Sunday School Teachers, Curriculum for the year, New Members- Jay Bartlett, Allison Lane.

New Business: Mother’s Day Carnations, Last day of Sunday School is May 8th, VBS Starts Tuesday May 31st.

Park Board: Did not meet.

Property & Management: Chris Mason, Paul Remmers-Council Rep, Doug Parde.

Old Business: Well, Parish Hall Elevator, Clean up day went well, cleaned gutters, cut trees, oiled bells

New Business: Locating good sources for water west of parish hall, Have an elevator repair company look at the parish hall elevator, Parish hall bathroom remodel.

Memorial Committee: Cindy Parde, Carrye Meints. Jason Wallman, Kevin Trauernicht, Terry Oltman

Willard Waltke Memorial \$1500 Treasurer's Reported a balance of \$12,229.80

Thank you will be sent to Willard Waltke Family.

Endowment Committee: Did not meet.

Hospitality Task Force: Did not meet.

Publicity: Did not meet.

Willie and Anna Meints Youth Endowment Fund.

Committee members: Steve Oltman, Deann Oltman, Doreen Wallman, Council Rep. Brenda Gronewold.

New Business: Advisory account balance: January \$356,875.01 February \$336,348.97

March 22 \$333,488.00

February 2022, 20 College Student Application checks wrote for \$941.00 each, for a total of \$18,820.00.

WORSHIP LEADERS SCHEDULE

May 1, 2022

Acolytes– Savannah Mahler, Nicole Davison

Reader – Paul Jurgens

Breakfast Club Food –

Special Music – Randie Ehmen

May 8th, 2022

Acolytes–Navaeh Niles, Kameron Riha

Reader – Todd Bohlmeier

Breakfast Club Food-

Special Music – Kids of the Kingdom

May 15th, 2022

Acolytes– Dawson Smith, Gage Smith

Reader- Elnora Lenners

Special Music –

May 22nd, 2022

Acolytes –Dalton Sullivan, Braxton Trauernicht

Reader – Gerald Ideus

Special Music- Amigos

May 29th, 2022

Acolytes– Morgan Behrens, Kyson Kolm

Reader – Kenny Reed

Special Music

May Altar Guild: Susan Newman, Lorene Wallman, Sandy Meints, Marcella Rademacher

Table Troop Volunteers: Linda Ideus, Les Rademacher, Mert Rademacher, Don Schuster, John Gronewold, Robert Ideus, Paul & Shellie Remmers

May Birthday's

1 Diane Andrew
Doug Dorn

4 Natalie Boyer
Trip Cornelius
Betty Daubendiek
Sandi Johnson

5 Jenny Busboom
Bob Freeman
Graham Schlake

6 Macy Holland

7 Arnold Baehr
Kody Jurgens
Emily Lenners
Maggie Parde

8 Annette Daubendiek
Jesse Gronewold
Jace Harms
Konnor Kolm
Stanley Lenners
Alyssa Lieneman
Rosanna Miller

9 Art Schuster
Jason Wallman

10 Brooke Jensen

11 Sharon Schuster

12 Kelsey Fossler
Jason Lovitt

14 Brantley Glynn
Larry Johnson
Terra Wiese

16 Dion Parks
Amy Wallman

17 Diane Oltman

18 Lucas Archer

19 Kipton Lovitt
Lindsay Mierau

22 Bryleigh Ideus
Connie Thornburg

23 Angela Jurgens

24 Nolan Buhr
Jocelyn Gronewold
Kenny Jurgens
Wayne Trauernicht

25 Matthew Knipe
Jeff Riha

26 Brittany Podany
Jacob Scholl
Kenny Schuster

27 Evelyn Meints

28 Chad Fikar

29 Russell Wallman

30 Doreen Ideus
McKendrick Sutter

31 Darwin Buss
Janice Parde

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THANK YOU'S

It happened much too soon, but here we are again. It is with much Gratitude we Thank You for the many expressions of sympathy - whether it was with cards and wonderful messages, thoughts and prayers, phone calls, visits, food, floral arrangements or memorial donations for St Jude's Children's Hospital. Your support of our family during this challenging time humbles us. Many of the cards/messages confirmed what we already knew - that Dad was very respected and loved! We are so Blessed! Dad has finished his chores. He has waited his whole life to hear Him say "Well Done my good and faithful one-Welcome to the place where you belong." He has run the race and now he is Home.

My Dad

Now that I'm grown I realize
The silent teachings of his eyes.
Few words were ever spoken and yet
The heartfelt thoughts are with me yet.
Plowing God's earth was his trade
Giving back in return of what he made.
Working hard from sun to sun
Always there for work to be done.
A faithful and religious man
He taught me how to pray.
To appreciate everything in this world
And accept life day to day.
Lord, you sent him to earth years
Ago to touch our lives, and then-
You welcomed him to heaven
To be with you forever. Amen

Thank you! The family of Lawrence Gronewold

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

You are invited to enjoy an informational evening Wednesday, May 18th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall with guest speaker, Amber Lovitt, Executive Director CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Gage County for abused and neglected children hosted by Zion's WELCA (Women of the ELCA). Amber recruits, trains and mentors' volunteers who are appointed by the County Judge to gather information. These children are in the court system of no fault of their own but due to abuse and neglect. They offer training services and supplies to the community to help children and families thrive together. Area churches have been invited as well, so please bring a friend. Refreshments will also be served

The fifth Sunday in May offering has been designated to go to the Evan and Kaitlyn Buss Family to help with Tholen's medical expenses.

Thank you for your gift donation and our continued support to the Day One Ministry. God Bless you & Thank You for being a light in many lives, Day One, Pat Jobman.
Delores Huls has passed this job to Pat Jobman PO Box 86 Filley, NE 68357

SPRING GATHERING Saturday May 21st 2022 @ University of Nebraska Campus Lutheran ELCA In Lincoln , NE 535 N 16th St. Registration from 8:45-9:15 Benediction around 2 pm. Offering Opportunities, Parking is \$5 all day lot parking @ 14th and Vine or 2 hour metered parking. No free parking on campus. Preregistration form available @ tinyurl.com/nebraskawelca

FYI Next Bishop of the Nebraska Synod Bio's & Video's During the next Synod Assembly (June 1-3) process, we will be electing/calling our next bishop. There are nine candidates who have been nominated on the cluster level and then consented to be on this ballot for bishop. I invite anyone interested to type **2022 Candidates for Bishop Nebraska Synod** into the search engine of your choice and click on **Meet Your 2022 Candidates for Bishop**. You then will be able to read their bio's and watch their video interviews. (P.S. One of the candidates is Casey Lieneman a son of this church family.)

Thank to ALL who made the Easter Breakfast a blessed fellowship . THANK YOU TO Connie and Denise for table decor, table troop for setting tables up, those who provided the food and the many helping hands who helped on kitchen setting up, serving and the clean up crew. Your contribution in anyway was a blessing to our church family and the Ideus Family who will benefit from the freewill offering. How wonderful it is to serve a risen Savior!

A Thrivent Grant was used to help with supplying the kitchen with earth friendly paper products for the breakfast. In recognition of Earth Day this past week we are reminded we are called to be good stewards of God's Creation and that includes all those things we put in the trash!! Most of the items purchases are plant based products including cups made from corn! Thank you to John Busboom for providing the grant.

Graduate recognition – If you have a high school or college graduate, please forward their names and future plans to Britan at britanmeints@gmail.com or 308-730-0599. Graduation recognition is scheduled for May 22nd.

Council is looking for volunteers to serve on a committee to update Zion's picture directory. If you are interested in researching current options or providing photography services, please contact Brenda Gronewold at 402-520-039

Congratulations Confirmation Class of 2022
Confirmed on April 24th, 2022

Morgan Behrens

James 1:17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down for the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Kalleigh Bender

Matthew 6:34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself."

Addison Kastanek

Jeremiah 29:12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Cooper Lovitt

John 14:23 Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

Garrett Ideus

Romans 12:21 Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Neveah Niles

*Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?*

*The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?*

Dawson Smith

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Dalton Sullivan

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

EASTER LILLIES

(Given By In Memory of)

Bernice Parde & Family

Edward Parde

Mark Cerice Cornelius & Family

Ron & Adeline Cornelius

Diane Cornelius

Stephanie Morris

Alnora & Family

Edwin Dauubendiek

Les & Marcelle Rademacher

John & Emma Thompson

Karen & Taylor Buhr

Leonardt & Bruce Buhr

David & Carrye Meints

Walt, Katie, Jim and John Meints

Dennis Buhr & Family

Bev Buhr

Cindy, Susan, Kerri, Kelly Buss & Families

Robert & Shirleen Debuhr & Loved ones

James & Kelly Lenners, Eddie,

Lynette Dorn & Families

Ernest, Emma, Dennis & Terry Meints

Evelyn, Peggy, Janie, Nancy, Neal & Families

Vernon Meints

Families of Betty, Carol, & Connie

Walter & Angeline Johnson

Roger Daubendiek

Roger Keller

Shirley Gronewold & Family

Ehme Gronwold

Families of Devonna & Betty

Elmer & Leona Trauernicht

Elaine Waltke & Family

Willard Waltke

Anora Schoen & Family

Robert Russell

Phillip Schoen & loved ones

Children & Grandchildren

Lawrence & Shirley Gronewold

George & Eleanor Wolken

Willie & Esther Gronewold

Alvera Bade & Family

Vic Bade,

Emil & Margaret Wallman

Ralph & Neba Bade

Lorene Wallman & Family

Eldon & Scott Higgins