



# Grapevine

## American Lutheran

### October 2011



#### *ALC Staff*

Henry Thorberg - Pastor  
Jane Plettner-Nielson -  
Director of Music  
Clarice Riege Secretary

#### *ALC Council*

##### *Executive Committee*

President - Keith Spilker  
Vice-President - Michael Welsh  
Secretary - Joel Bacon  
Treasurer - Char Rohl

##### *Committee Chairs*

Finance-Dustin Lottman  
Outreach-Dave Dermann  
Parish Education- Wendy Hirsch  
Property-Mike Wheeler  
Social Concerns-Liz Cooper  
Stewardship-Trevor Hanson  
Worship-Mavis Seelmeyer  
Youth- Doug Dexter/  
Brenda Spilker



### Worship Schedule

**October 2**



**16th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sanctuary Choir**

8:15 am Traditional Worship/Communion  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Praise Worship/Communion/St. James

**October 9**



**17th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Joyful Noise**

8:15 am Traditional Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Praise Worship/St. Thomas  
1:30 pm CROP WALK [Christ United Methodist Church]

**October 16**



**18th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Gospel Rings/ Mission Sunday**

10:00 am Mission Sunday Worship  
11:30 am Potluck Dinner  
3:00 pm Synod Fall Doing at ALC

**October 23**



**19th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sunday School Kids**  
**Theological Conference/Kearney [Oct. 23-26]**

8:15 am Traditional Worship/Communion  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Praise Worship/Communion/ St. Paul

**October 30**



**Reformation Sunday/Confirmation**  
**Sanctuary Choir & Gospel Rings**

8:15 am Traditional Worship/Communion  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Praise Worship/Confirmation/Comm./St Peter

# Really Equalized



I have been thinking a great deal about equal treatment of each other for a while and quite a lot as well; because we seem to be yielding to the temptation to think some are more equal than others – even in the church. While I recognize that is normal for us and that we all do that at some point or other and with varying frequency, I also know that this is not the way GOD wants things to be for us. Although we are constantly in danger of thinking GOD is on our side. In that we are right! We also tend to extend that to mean, GOD is not on their side! In that we are wrong. We are right insofar as GOD knows there is something wrong with them! Yet, we also need to remember, there is something wrong with us, too.

If we are going to insist that GOD is against anything that is wrong, we are going to have to recognize that means GOD is going to be against us, too. As Christians, as Lutherans, as people of ALC, we should know that is not true. GOD is not against us – even though we are not 100% right. That also means that GOD is not against them – even though it is clear, they are not 100% right either.

That makes it clear that there is something wrong with thinking that dwells on that which is not good about us; because the end result of such considerations is that GOD cannot be for any of us. From scripture it is clear that statement does not ring true; because it would mean that GOD does not love people. It is also clear from scripture that GOD does not like sin at all! This was the dilemma that troubled Martin Luther so much of his life, and it is exactly the issue which finally led him to conclude that GOD must deal with us on a level that did not revolve around what we can earn!

As he studied the word of GOD, it struck him like a bolt of lightning that GOD relates to us in love. I really do not believe this should have been such a surprise to any of us; but in his day, the Christian environment concentrated on how bad people were and not on how loving GOD is! It took a mighty struggle in the 16<sup>th</sup> century for the church to change from focusing on our human short-comings to focusing on the love of GOD. It is a lesson and a battle we

should have done much better at internalizing; but we have failed to do that!

As I look at where we stand in our faith journey five centuries later, we seem to have let ourselves go back to focusing on how wrong things (other people) are! Oh how frustrating it must be for GOD to see us doing that again and again! This would seem especially so when we already went through the battles that causes! It is a recurring theme in the divine human relationship. It was present in the Old Testament. It is clear in the New Testament. It was there in early Christian Churches. We have always expended a lot of energy pointing out the failures of others, and when we are honest with ourselves – our own failures, too.

GOD has tried to show us over and over again that dwelling on such things is a colossal waste of energy! GOD expends the Divine Energy reminding us of how much we are loved!

Now what would happen if we picked up on that divine message and began to live like that for each other? What would happen if each and every time someone fails us or we fail someone else, we would dwell on the love GOD has for them/us? What if every time, our first thought about the other would be: “Jesus loves you!”? Talk about a reformation!!! In GOD’s love we are all equal – even though we are all very different!


September was an interesting month for me; because in many conversations I found myself expressing this in very practical terms in situations where it was important for people to hear the other side of an issue! GOD is for us! Us, includes those on the other side of an issue from us. GOD loves us! That GOD is for YOU does not mean that GOD is against THEM! In every issue, GOD cares more about the people than the issue. GOD’s care makes us equally loved! Our appetite for success is willing to belittle the other! GOD’s LOVE will never do that! BELOVED, let us Love one another as GOD loves us!

*Pastor Henry*

## From the Music Director:

WE HAVE BEGUN REHEARSALS AND IT'S GOING GREAT!!

NEW CHOIR MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!!! ALL REHEARSALS ARE ON TUESDAY

	<b>Joyful Noise – 5:45 to 6:25</b> Children in grades 1 to 5 – Sing and play chimes
	<b>Gospel Rings – 6:30 to 7:10</b> Youth in grade 6 to adult – Play handbells
	<b>Sanctuary Choir – 7:15 to 7:55</b> Youth in grade 6 to adult - Sing
	<b>Praise Team – 8:00 to 8:45?</b> <b>Singers</b> – Confirmed youth to adult and <b>Instrumentalists</b> - Youth in grade 6 to adult – lead the contemporary worship service

## ALL GROUPS SHARE THEIR MUSICAL GIFTS IN WORSHIP SERVICES ABOUT ONCE A MONTH

The schedule (tentative) for sharing our musical gifts during worship is as follows:

Date	Group for Special Music	Praise Team singers
Oct. 2	Sanctuary Choir	(St. James) Bruce, Kim, Morgan, Claire, Marcia
Oct. 9	Joyful Noise	(St. Thomas) Keith, Jana, Michelle, Arlene
Oct. 16	Gospel Rings	No praise team (Combined service for Mission Sun.)
Oct. 23	Sunday School Kids	(St. Paul) Jim, Mavis, Angie, Marcia, Pastor
Oct. 30	Sanctuary Choir and Gospel Rings	(St. Peter) Travis, Brenda, Laura, Kelli, Sherri
Nov. 6	Sanctuary Choir	(St. James) Bruce, Kim, Morgan, Claire, Marcia
Nov. 13	Joyful Noise	(St. Thomas) Keith, Jana, Michelle
Nov. 20	Sunday School Kids	(St. Paul) Jim, Mavis, Angie, Marcia, Pastor
Nov. 23	Sanctuary Choir	No praise team (Thanksgiving Eve)
Nov. 27	Gospel Rings	(St. Peter) Travis, Brenda, Laura, Kelli, Sherri
Dec. 4	Sunday School Kids	(St. James) Bruce, Kim, Morgan, Claire, Marcia
Dec. 11	Sanctuary Choir (cantata)	(St. Thomas) Keith, Jana, Michelle
Dec. 18	Joyful Noise	(St. Paul) Jim, Mavis, Angie, Marcia, Pastor
Dec. 24	4:00 – Joyful Noise 7:00 – Gospel Rings and Sanc. Choir	No praise team (Christmas Eve services)
Dec. 25	Special Music	(St. Peter) Travis, Brenda, Laura, Kelli, Sherri

## NEW MEMBERS FOR PRAISE TEAMS

If you are interested in serving on a praise team, please talk to Jane. We can use more singers and instrumentalists.

## WEATHER REMINDER

While I hope we are weeks away from snow falling, I want to remind everyone that in the event Lincoln Public Schools cancels school on the day of a rehearsal, we also cancel rehearsals at the church.

Thank you for your continued support of the music ministry.

Jane Plettner-Nielson

## Attendance and Stewardship

	Worship		General	Phase III	Other
	8:15 am	10:30 am	Offering	Offering	Offering
August 21	58	95	\$2385.00	\$40.00	\$170.00
August 28	69	103	\$2423.00	\$50.00	\$ 70.00
September 4	71	64	\$4517.00	\$715.00	\$125.00
September 11	74	81	\$1719.62	\$78.00	\$100.00
September 18	44	87	\$1825.00	\$190.00	\$183.25

## Financial Statement

Financial Results through 8/31/2011

	August	YTD
<b>Budget Income</b>		
Pro-rata needs	\$ 13,910.00	\$121,711.00
Offerings	\$ 14,226.00	\$120,723.00
Difference	\$ 316.00	(\$ 988.00)
Budget Expenses	\$ 15,057.00	\$122,453.00
<b>Phase III:</b>		
Debt Obligation	\$ 2,976.00	\$23,808.00
Budgeted (mortgage )	\$ 1,250.00	\$10,000.00
Building Fund	\$ 726.00	\$ 4,878.00
Phase III Offerings	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 8,930.00
Total Paid	\$ 2,976.00	\$23,808.00
Additional Principal	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 4,799.00
Cause of the Month [Lutheran Campus]	\$235	
 <b>Lincoln Cluster Food</b>		

*God*

## Pantry



In October, the food pantry needs: **EVERYTHING**. We are broke so whatever we can get we can use. The biggest things we are out of right now are pancake Mix, Jelly, Beef Stew/Soup, fruit, canned meat and boxed dinners.

Cash donations are used for immediate needs. To donate cash, place it in the collection plate, clearly marked "Food Pantry"

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### *It's Almost Here . . .*

Our annual Mission Sunday

Join us in **One Combined Service**

On Sunday, Oct. 16, at 10:00 am

Pastor John Eggen will be our guest speaker. He will be speaking about his mission work, working with the children of Bolivia.

A potluck meal will be held in the Parish Hall immediately following the service. Each family is asked to bring a main dish along with a vegetable, salad or dessert and your own table service.

We hope you will be able to join us for this special worship service & also for the fellowship with one another at the potluck meal!

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**CROP WALK** is coming soon! On Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup> will be the day of our annual CROP Walk to Stop Hunger. Please stop by the table in the Narthex to sign up to either walk with our ALC team or sponsor someone who is walking. Your help is much appreciated.

## Executive Committee and Church Council

will meet Thursday evening, October 13th, at 6:15 pm and 7:00 pm respectively.

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## All Saints Sunday

Sunday November 6th is All Saints Sunday. As we remember those who have gone before us, a "remembrance wreath" will be brought forward during the service.

Beginning on Sunday, October 16th, a grapevine wreath, along with pieces of white ribbon will be available in the Narthex. If you have anyone you wish to remember on this special day, we ask that you write that name/names on a white ribbon & then tie the ribbon on the wreath.

Thank you, The Worship Committee

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## **Family Fall Festival -**

### **October 9, 2011**

Sunday, October 9th · 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Carol Joy Holling Center, Ashland, NE

Come and enjoy an afternoon at Carol Joy Holling Camp! We will be having free fun for the whole family including a moon walk, hiking, face painting, hayrack rides, zipline rides for 2nd graders and older and fun activities at the lake such as fishing, canoeing and paddle boating!

Don't miss out on this fun afternoon enjoying a few of camp's fun activities!

## September Statistics:

### Change of address:

Justin Spilker	to:	2454 N. Palo Santo Dr.	Tucson, AZ	85745-1084
Sara Wheeler	to:	1023 Jones St. Apt. 705	Omaha, NE	68102-2938
Don Robertson	to:	S70W15623 Princeton Dr.	Muskego, WI	53150-7950
Gladys Messman	to	5324 Starling Ct.	Lincoln, NE	68516-2375
Grace Martin	to:	4901 W. Benton St.	Lincoln, NE	68524-1232
Hua, Xiao & Zheng, Yaling	to:	2226 Vale St.	Lincoln, NE	68521-1280

### Transfer Out:

Troy, Melissa, Brook & Bailey Bernadt - personal request

### Baptism:

Jensen Tennyson Goings - born February 21, 2011- baptized September 4, 2011  
Parents: Cory & Roxy Goings & sister Marjorie (Jorie)

Florence T. Kayoka - born June 9, 2002 - baptized September 18, 2011  
Sponsors: Ryan & Char Rohl

### Death:

Helen M. Wohlers Died - August 30, 2011 in Syracuse, NE  
Memorial Service - September 7, 2011 at Lincoln Memorial

### Birth:

Beckett Lottman - born Parents: Dustin & Jennifer Lottman  
Wyatt Stelmach - born Parent: Joe & Jeannie Stelmach







**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Lincoln, Nebraska  
Permit No. 201

Henry Thorberg, Pastor  
Sunday Worship 8:15 am  
Praise Worship 10:30 am  
Christian Education 9:15 am

Address Service Requested

*I am the vine, you are the  
branches.*

*He who abides in me, and I in  
him, bears much fruit.*

*John 15:5*



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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10/01 Stephanie Engstrom | 10/10 Sophie Holihan     | 10/18 Seth Sharpe        |
| 10/01 Riley Clark        | 10/11 Clarlee Stevens    | 10/19 Addison Everett    |
| 10/02 Karen Duryea       | 10/11 Zachary Rotschafer | 10/21 Kay Kulek          |
| 10/03 Barbara Andersen   | 10/12 Betty Meyer        | 10/22 Dustin Lottman     |
| 10/05 Anthony Johnson    | 10/13 Alyssa Malone      | 10/23 Jennifer Lottman   |
| 10/06 Harry Groathouse   | 10/13 Natalee Foote      | 10/24 Lois Disney        |
| 10/06 Paul Falck         | 10/14 Carl Tesch         | 10/24 Tory Harrington    |
| 10/06 Dee Broz           | 10/15 Nancy Walker       | 10/25 Florence Hannan    |
| 10/06 Ramona Welsh       | 10/15 Ashley Clark       | 10/26 Natalie Dermann    |
| 10/06 Reggie Janssen     | 10/16 Lonnie Buresh      | 10/27 Lois Gillispie     |
| 10/07 Keith Spilker      | 10/16 Ryan Evans         | 10/27 Madelon Leslie     |
| 10/07 Jana Spilker       | 10/17 Delores Meeske     | 10/28 Yaling Zheng       |
| 10/07 Grace Martin       | 10/17 Kaitlyn Foley      | 10/29 Bernice Westerholt |
| 10/07 Corey Harrington   | 10/17 Aden Wikoff        | 10/30 Grant Welsh        |
| 10/08 Brandon Krause     | 10/18 Gary Voss          | 10/31 Jack Farrall       |
|                          | 10/18 Deb Wall           |                          |