

*"Serving all people by sharing God's Word
and Gift of Grace"*

**GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

May 2019



The Fine Art of Standing Around

Acts 1:3-12

After his suffering Jesus presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. [4] While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. This, he said, is what you have heard from me; [5] for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

[6] So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" [7] He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. [8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." [9] When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. [10] While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. [11] They said, Men of Galilee, **why do you stand looking up toward heaven?** This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

[12] **Then** they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

In my four years in the United States Air Force, I acquired many skills and abilities to help me in the years ahead. One of the skills that is learned in an organization that is always looking for volunteers is the *Fine Art of Standing Around*. This is the ability to look busy when you are not, to avoid being picked (or volunteered) to do this task or another, or to have suitable excuses whenever needed why it should be someone else who is called and not you. The ability to avoid, delay, excuse, and generally just stand around is not as easy as it seems.

Christians since the beginning have made use of this fine art. At the ascension, after Jesus had given instructions to the disciples, it was necessary to send two angels to stop the disciples from just standing around looking up into the sky where Jesus had just ascended into heaven. After ten more days, it took the power of the Holy Spirit to drive those same disciples out into the world to follow the last command of Jesus. Of course, they had some fairly powerful excuses for not going out. That they might be killed like Jesus was a pretty

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GRACE CHURCH

March 31st:
Attendance~ 93
Offering~ \$2,306.60

April 7th:
Attendance~ 188
Offering~\$2,910.21

April 14th:
Attendance~ 138
Offering~ \$2,762.61

April 21st:
Attendance~ 61 (7am)
219 (10:30)
Offering~\$4,475.00

The Grace Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday May 8th at 8:00 PM at the church. Committees will meet at 7:30 PM or at their discretion. Please note that all Council meetings are open to members of Grace Church.

North American Lutheran Church Women of Grace

The Grace NALCW will meet on Thursday May 9th at 3:30 PM. Group #1 will serve from 4:30-6:30 PM. Members of Group #3 are Lori Hole, Lisa Stuhaug, Lila Gunderson, Julie Derosier, Mary Bratrud.

**Please note change in serving time.*

Circle Meetings

Hope Circle: Thursday May 23rd 2:00PM at the church.
Rebecca Circle: Thursday May 23rd at 6:30PM at the church.
Mission Circle: Friday May 24th at 2:00PM at the church

MAY GREETERS

5th: John & Pam Carlson
12th: Diane Christianson
19th: Jon & Julie Clementson
26th: Mark & Laurie Coleman



The Grace 'Men of Courage' will meet on May 7th and 21st at 5:30 PM, at Grace Church. All men are welcomed to join this group.

MAY 2019

Grace Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9am-ABS 10:30am-Worship w/Holy Comm. 2-4pm-Catechism	6 8am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	7 5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	8 12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Choir 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7:30pm-Committees 8pm-Council	9 3:30pm-NALCW	10	11 9:30am- Rebroadcast
12 Mother's Day 9am-ABS 10:30am-Worship w/ Holy Comm.	13 8am-MBS 9:30am -LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	14 7pm-'Women of Grace' Bible Study 8pm-AA mtg.	15 12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	16 10am-NALCW @ PMCC	17	18 9:30am- Rebroadcast
19 9am-ABS 10:30am-Worship 2-4pm-Catechism	20 8am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	21 5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	22 12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	23 2pm-Hope Circle 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	24 2pm-Mission Circle	25 9:30am-Rebroadcast
26 9am-ABS 10:30am-Worship	27 8am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	28 10:30am-NALCW @ Mac St. Living 7pm-'Women of Grace' Bible Study 8pm-AA mtg.	29 12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	30 ASCENSION DAY	31	
			Greeters: 5th: John & Pam Carlson 12th: Diane Christianson	19th: Jon & Julie Clementson 26th: Mark & Laurie Coleman		

CIRCLES

Hope at the church
Rebecca at the church
Mission at the church

Ushers :
Keith Sannes
Jason Juve
John & Pam Carlson
Keith Stuhaug
Steve Jacobson family

Communion Assistants:
Gary & Maxine Walter

Altar Flowers:
Hope Circle

Altar Guild:
Betty Lundin

R=Reader
V=Video
A=Acolyte

MAY 5th:
R~ Kim Mahlen
V~ Josie Johnson
A~ Riley Kochmann and Cameron Svalen

MAY 12th:
R~ Austin Tadman
V~ Kianna Tadman
A~ Josie Fortman and Clair Juve

MAY 19th:
R~ Jeff Nornes
V~ Clare Stuhaug
A~ Sydney Svalen and Presley Haugen

MAY 26th:
R~ Hollie Stewart
V~ Riley Kochmann
A~ Josie Johnson and Paige Breitbach



March 2019 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$17,021.00

Expenses:

Administrative - \$7,648.75

Education - \$361.04

Mission Outreach - \$814.00

Pastoral - \$5,167.77

Worship - \$646.12

Total Expenses - \$14,637.68



Giving Options

Not only can you give through your offering envelope on Sunday morning, but our church offers other options to receive your offering:

Automatic Giving – You can set up monthly or weekly automatic deductions from your bank account. Contact the church office (218-687-4035) for a form to complete.

Online Giving – There are several links throughout our website (www.gracechurcherskine.org) that will allow you to give a one-time or regular donation from your bank account, credit card, or debit card.

Mobile Giving – You can utilize your mobile device and scan the following code –



Benevolence Ideas

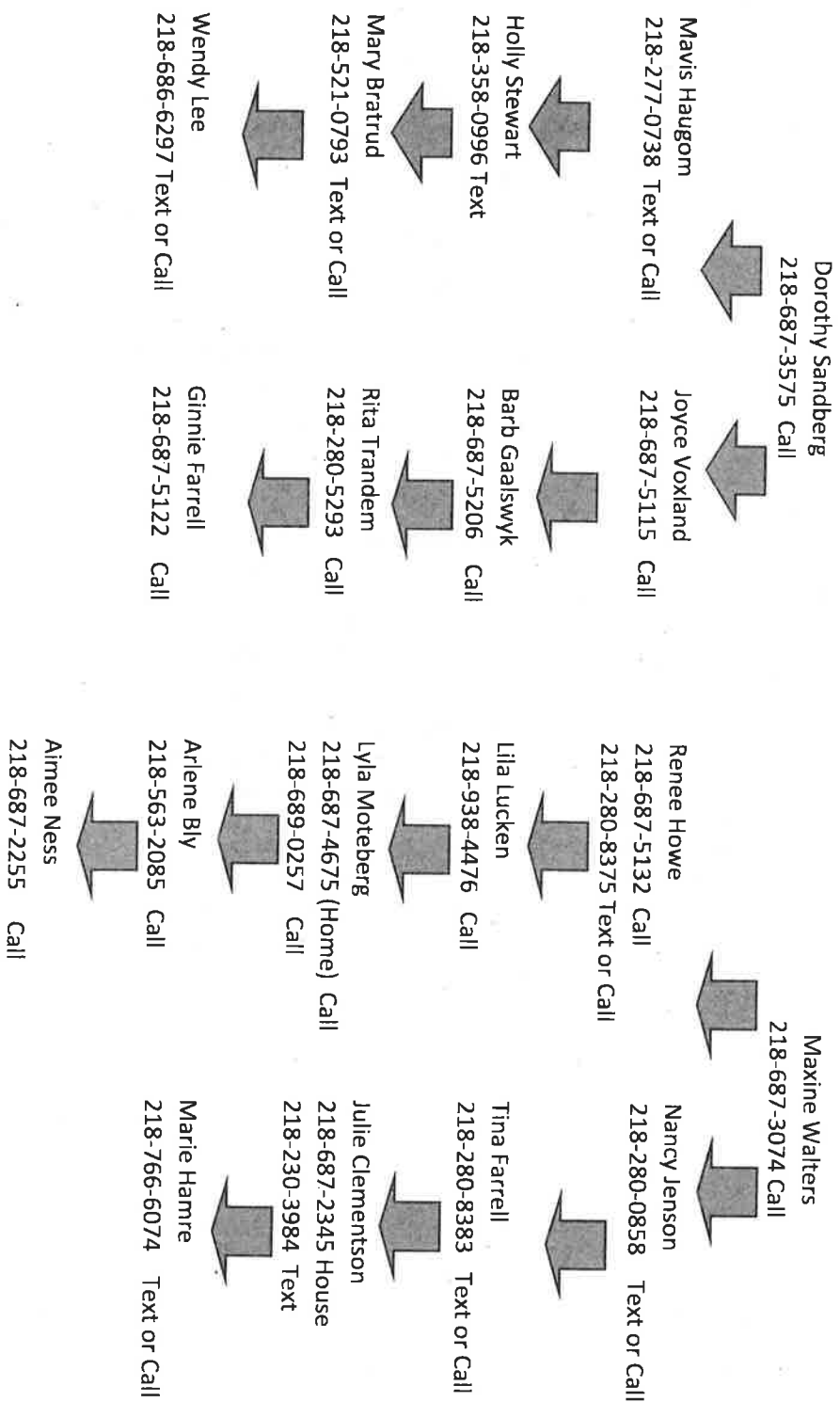
Our church has several special funds to meet needs that can't be met through our General Fund. Currently, these special funds are: Building Improvements, Grace Youth Group, Joy Ride Fund, Oil Candle, Sunday School Improvements/Supplies, Sunday School Outreach, Video Ministry, Vacation Bible School, Worship Hearing Aids, 'Men of Courage' Men's Group, and Shoebox Funds. In addition, our church houses the Grace Food Shelf and we ask for donations on their behalf as well as for the After School Backpack Program. Finally, our church is a part of the Grace Cemetery Association and we ask for donations on their behalf for the maintenance of the Synod, Pioneer, and Fairview Cemeteries in rural Erskine. Please contact Jim Ferden if you have any questions.



Prayer chain

For a prayer request, please contact the top two people below. If you do not receive an answer or acknowledgement when you call,

please contact the next person on the list.



For any Questions, please contact Mavis Haugom at 218-563-3292
FYI: The Monday morning Ladies' Bible Study also prays for people's needs.

**MAY ACOLYTES**

5th: Riley Kochmann and Cameron Svalen

12th: Josie Fortman and Clair Juve

19th Sydney Svalen and Presley Haugen:

26th: Josie Johnson and Paige Breitbach

MAY VIDEO TECHS

5th: Josie Johnson

12th: Kianna Tadman

19th: Clare Stuhaug

26th: Riley Kochmann



REMINDER – Please save your grocery receipts from Groceries Plus in Erskine and Jered's Grocery in McIntosh. Both stores are donating 1 percent of the total purchases to the mission trip youth. There is a container for the receipts at the church in the hallway by the coat racks.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who came to the Lenten Suppers! We really appreciate your support. Due to your generosity, we raised \$449.00.

~Grace Youth Group

FROM THE PASTOR, con't. good excuse for just standing around. Yet, they did go out and proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ and people believed.

Unfortunately, today, Christians still practice the *Fine Art of Standing Around*. We too have found numerous excuses not to be about our Lord's work. We are too busy or too tired or too this or that. We have excuses for not attending worship or for not talking to people about Jesus or for not following the ways of Christ in our daily lives. We have become experts at the *Fine Art of Standing Around*. Maybe we need a kick in the pants like the disciples got on the Day of Pentecost to remind us that Christians don't stand around, they are to go out to "the ends of the earth" with the message of Christ. How good are you at the *Fine Art of Standing Around*?

Are you too good?

~Pastor Baker



**Pastor Baker will be away on vacation May 13-17. Pastor Mike Sletto will cover our emergencies. Pastor Sletto's phone number is 218-280-1454.

Happy MOTHER'S DAY!

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Cannot be patched unless it's 40 degrees.

Parsonage repairs have been completed.

Thank you to Ryan for handling the Telecoil installation.

Internet issue has been remedied by Garden Valley. We have a new modem wireless transmitter.

The new microphone is working and we are working on fine-tuning it's use. We thank Nick for his work on this.

Noisy light in the back of the sanctuary was reported by Nick and will need to be addressed.

Deacons: Rita reported and suggested the remaining balance for surround sound could be paid for out of memorials and donations. Jason indicated that we do have building funds to cover this and we had planned for this so the cost will be covered.

Training for communion assistants needs to be provided for the new people interested. A date will be set.

Summer service schedule will run from June-August with services at 9:00.

Call Committee Report: Received a good outline from Jim about salary and they received guidance from the executive committee regarding beginning salary. Call Committee is aware that they need to start on the lower end of the salary range if a pastor does not have experience. Our current budget was right in line with Dr. Wendel's recommenda-

tions. (see Executive Minutes for more information). There was no action to take. Executive Committee meeting was just to provide guidance to the Call Committee.

Call Committee has the first draft of the Profile completed. Council is highly encouraged to look at it and make suggestions. Also, everyone is encouraged to review it and recommend reviewing to other congregation members. The Call Committee welcomes and wants input. The Profile will be sent in after Easter.

Old Business: None

New Business: Lenten offerings: (No offering on Good Friday) however there will be services. Maundy Thursday Services will have offering. The decision of where the Lenten offering will be designated is tabled until the May meeting.

Retreat Agenda: Retreat is Saturday morning, April 13. Begins at 8:30 with the meeting starting at 9:00 sharp. All committee members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Topics that will be included are: Address the issue of getting more people involved in leadership at all levels. Stewardship—we need to help our committee and talk about the deficit.

We need to record the policies that we have implemented so that there is record for the future councils. Council needs to review these policies yearly so that when the leadership changes we can have the procedures continue seamlessly. We do not want to be dependent on the "person" in office, but have make sure that we

have written policies to refer to for guidance.

Do we want committee time? Overall opinion reported was "no".

Pastor Baker reported on a Confirmation date issue. Pastor had set the date for June 9, however there are conflicts that have been presented to him by parents. Pastor indicated that the date problem was his communication error and he takes full responsibility for it. We discussed some solutions and these solutions will be shared with the parents for their additional input. Also, to be discussed will be student readiness for Confirmation this year. There were many storm days and conflicts that may have lessened the instructional time. Confirmands do have a choice of when they want to be confirmed, or if they wish to be confirmed. Confirmation is their promise to God. Don made the motion that the Council recommend that we will honor the June 9 date, but the president and pastor will meet with parents to consider an alternate date for those that would be interested in that. Gene seconded. Motion carried.

Announcements

Next meeting May 8, 8:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Halverson

GRACE COUNCIL, continued
contract (\$1,123.56) with Otis Elevator and an \$1,100 payment to some of our Amish community members for cleaning snow off of the education wing and the parsonage.

The Oil Fund – Bldg Upkeep reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.

The Oil Fund – Church Emergencies reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue and the transfer of the balance at month end to the General Fund.

The Oil Fund - Missions reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.

SS Outreach Fund – Reflects the monthly payment to Compassion International.

Stained Glass Window Fund – Reflects donations received during March.

Worship Hearing Aids Fund – Reflects large donation received in March.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

Balance increased approximately \$1,500 since last month and is at its highest balance since October 2015.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

Balance dipped slightly since last month, but is at the third highest balance since the investment originated in July 2016.

Five Sundays in the month was helpful.

Motion to approve by Nick. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.

Pastor Report:

Visits-3, Hospital Visits-1, Homebound-2

Activities Within the Congregation:

Worship; Office Hours; Adult Sunday School; Release Time Elementary; Release Time Jr/High; Catechism Class; Men of Courage Bible Study; Youth Group; Mid-Week Lenten Service Council; Congregation Call Workshop; Call Committee; Wedding Preparation; Meeting Hope Circle; First Communion Classes. Motion to approve pastor's report by Hollie. Seconded by Rita. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Stewardship Sunday. Discussion of how to best gather info. Postcards for people who give electronically have been designed and they are available now at the back of the church for those who would like to use them. This allows for people to have something to put into the offering plate when their giving is electronic. Notice for congregation members in the bulletin about getting pictures to Bobbi for the video next fall. Notice in bulletin about the year-to-date budget information has been a good thing.

Education: Report from Sarah. Elementary will be singing Palm Sunday and we'll have an Easter egg hunt after worship.

SS went shopping for the TRF Humane Society on Saturday, April 6.

April 28 will be the last day of Sunday School with coffee, lemonade, and cake following. Vacation Bible School will be August 12-15. Again, this year we will not be hiring a team. We had a lot of participation and very good feedback last year.

Youth Group: Not getting a lot of response for summer plans for the youth at this time due to our youth's very busy schedules. Pastor may schedule something during the summer but that remains to be set. Before the fall pastor would like to get congregation volunteers to over the youth group. We need to think about the future of the youth group.

NALCW: Will meet tomorrow at 3:30-4:30 with serving from 4:30-6:30. This will be the first time for the new meeting and serving time. Pastor Baker will do Bible study. Dean and Bev Lindberg will be singing.

NALCW be singing and having a program at Pioneer May 16 and at McIntosh Senior Living on May 28.

NALCW will be asking for unused or gently used Bibles for the WLC

NALCW will be looking at putting together health and/or school kits.

Circles will be meeting this month.

Trustees: Need to repair some holes in the roof. Need to purchase the materials and wait until the temperature is warmer.

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NEWS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE AND CHURCH COUNCIL

President Jason Carlson will be addressing the congregation on April 28 regarding the negative balance in our general fund. You may be wondering what exactly is our general fund? Our general fund's income comes from the congregational giving. The expenses paid out of our general fund are the general daily operational expenses including administrative, education, mission outreach, pastoral and worship. While we have other funds within our overall cash total those are designated funds that are to be used for specific purposes, for example our building fund, stained glass fund, scholarship fund, etc. These funds have been funded by donations or memorials that have indicated they are designated for those funds. Those funds are to be kept separate from our general fund. So when we have a negative balance in our general fund it means that our congregational giving is run-

ing behind our operational expenses paid. Our hope as a Council is that we can chip away at the negative general fund balance and get back into positive territory during 2019. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jason Carlson or Jim Ferden. Grace Lutheran Church has been blessed by the amazing financial support given by its members and we thank you all for that!

*Stewardship
A way of living*

“Giving is more than a responsibility—it is a privilege; more than an act of obedience—it is evidence of our faith.”

~~ William Arthur Ward



Upcoming events in May for the Grace NALCW

May 16th~ The Grace NALCW will put on a program at Pioneer Memorial Care Center at 10:00 AM.

May 28th~ The Grace NALCW will put on a program at Mac Sr. Living at 10:30 AM.

During the month of May the NALCW will be collecting gently used Bibles to send to the WLC. A box may be found at the back of the sanctuary for the Bibles. The Bibles collected will be mailed off on May 30th.

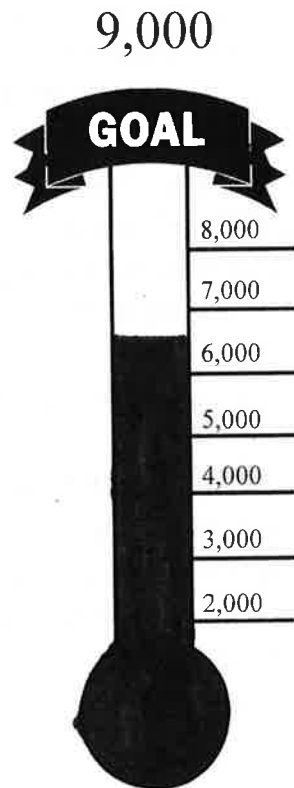
STAINED GLASS WINDOW PROJECT

We have received several gifts toward the stained glass window project. We are blessed by the kindness shown.

Here's where we're at so far.

Amount Received: \$6,529.00

Our Goal: \$9,000.00



- * Michael Jenson
- * Neva Schepersky
- * Lynn Lucken
- * Allen Jenson
- * Marie Johnson
- * Grace Call Committee



The 'Women of Grace' Bible Study will meet on Tuesday May 14th and 28th at 7:00 PM.

CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Mary Bratrud – Chairperson
218-521-0793
- Austin Tadman – Vice Chairman
218-280-8266
- Nick Walk – Sec'y/Council Rep.
218-230-8457
- Mavis Haugom – 218-563-3292
- Rhonda Breitbart – 218-368-845
- Brady Lee – 218-289-5587
- Gary Walter – 218-687-3074
- Shirley Kraft – 218-687-4477



- Tapanga Bratager*
- Kylie Brekke*
- Brekken Lindberg*
- Madyson Plante*
- McKenzie Reep*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

April 10, 2019

8:30 P.M.

'A Ministry For All Ages'

Present: President Jason Carlson, Nick Walk, Hollie Stewart, Yvonne Halvorson, Pastor Baker, Dorothy Sandberg, Marc Plante, Dean Bernard, Rita Trandem, Patti Hamre, Lori Hole, Gene Haugom, Sarah Strom, Don Lundin, Ryan Breitbart

Call to Order: President Jason called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pastor Baker led us in prayer.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the amended agenda by Rita. Seconded by Nick. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Patti moved to approve amended minutes. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Yvonne moved to approve. Seconded by Gene. Motion carried. (Report on file).

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report

Undesignated funds available to be used for March's General Fund expenses totaled \$17,882.45. March's General Fund expenses totaled \$14,637.68.

Treasurer's Report:

Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$17,021.00. The monthly budget goal is \$17,651.60. Certainly, five Sunday's in March helped us get close to the goal for the month.

Noteworthy Other Giving – Miscellaneous - \$5,000 given for the new hearing aid system; \$500 from the AFLC parish in McIntosh for release time materials; \$345 donations and memorials to the Stained Glass Window Fund.

Oil Leases – This is only from Continental Oil this month. There was an issue with receiving the Oasis Oil payment in March (some of our bank information with them was old). It is now resolved and we received a double payment from them in April.

Thrivent Choice Program.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

- Administration –
- Financial Secretary – quarterly payment.
- Workers Comp – Annual audit adjustment.
- Education –
- Miscellaneous – Year end teacher gifts.

Youth Leader Activities – Mileage for Pastor Baker taking the youth group to DL tubing.

Mission Outreach –

Miscellaneous – Pass through \$14 of Thrivent Choice Program

Treasurer's Report:

dollars to Grace Cemetery Association.

Pastoral – None

Worship – None

Budget Report

We ended the month at 6.3% or approximately \$13,400 under budget.

All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

Best giving so far in 2019!

Giving in March was the highest in 9 years!!

March giving was the highest since April 2018.

Year-to-date total is behind last year at this time by approximately \$3,000; and is the lowest at this point since 2014.

History of the General Fund Balance

March had the lowest negative balance so far in 2019.

March had the lowest negative balance since October 2018.

March was the sixth month in row with an ending negative General Fund balance.

Account Balances Report

Building Fund - Reflects the month's regular donations and the monthly payment for the separate phone line in the elevator. Activity also included the annual elevator maintenance

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