

COUNCIL NEWS, continued
and ideas of the volunteers.

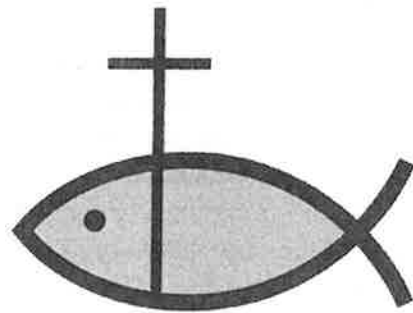
A couple of weeks ago, I spent a couple of minutes talking about church finances. I briefly explained how our General Fund coordinates with other gifts and Council established funds to pay our bills. I also explained our General Fund deficit and why the Council chose not to square up the balance at the end of 2018. If you were at that service and I didn't explain things well enough, or if you weren't there and would like more information, please let me or Jim Ferden know. It is important that all members have at least a basic understanding of how our church operates fiscally.

I would like to thank our Call Committee for the outstanding service they have rendered and encourage everyone to pray for the group as they face the tasks still in front of them. I have heard that the discussions have been rich and that the information gathered from the congregation has been taken to heart by the committee. Thanks again to all who accepted the opportunity to serve our congregation as a member of the Call Committee. Your efforts are appreciated more than you know.

I will close by encouraging everyone to recognize the many blessings that have been bestowed on our church. Continue to help each other get the most out of worship services by

helping someone at the Communion rail, pitch in to usher, encourage others to attend worship, etc. While it is good to recognize the many blessings we have received, we cannot become complacent.

~Jason Carlson, Council President



CONFIRMATION

Please keep these young people in your prayers as they come forward to affirm their baptismal promise.

Bret DuChamp

Savahanna Svalen

Sydney Svalen

Dylan Hagen

Clare Stuhaug

Tabitha Bratager

Shea LaBrecque

Maci Smeby

Izabelle Ostenaar

SUMMER PARABLE

Now it came to pass that, as the time of vacation drew near, a certain member of the church bethought him of cool streams where fish were found, and his children thought of sandy beaches by the sea, and his wife thought of the mountains. And this church member spoke and said, "Lo the hot days come and my work lieth heavy upon me. come, let us depart and go where fishes do bite, and where the cool winds bring refreshment and the land is beautiful about us."

"Thou speakest words of wisdom," said his wife. "Yet three, nay, even four, things must we do ere we go."

"Three things I think of, but not a fourth," said her husband, "that we ask our neighbors to minister unto our flowers, that we arrange for our grass to be mowed and watered, that we have our mail forwarded; but no other thing cometh to my mind."

"The fourth is like unto other three, but greater than all," said his spouse, "even this, that thou dig into thy purse and remember thy God, in order that the good name of the church may be preserved, that the heart of the treasurer be made glad, and that

Continued on Page 7



"WHAT TOOK SO LONG"

The Creation of a Congregational Profile (Timeline)

Our pastor received and answered a new call (Sept)
We received an interim minister (Oct)
Pr. Baker led us through the beginning stages of our loss and grief (Oct- continuing)
The Council compiled a list of congregational members as a Call Committee (Dec.)

At our congregational annual meeting a Call Committee was elected (Jan.)

The Call Committee met with Pr. Baker and received manuals and an overview of our assignments (Feb.)

The Call Committee met via conference call with Dr. Wendel to hear in more depth about our privilege in their role and their responsibilities. (Feb.)

A Congregational Workshop open for participation to all members (Mar.)

The Call Committee began to compile congregational information, meeting weekly for 1.5 hrs. (Mar. and Apr.)

Posting of our first profile draft for additions or cor-

rections (input) from the congregation. (Apr.)

Sent a final copy to Dr. Wendel and our Minkota Dean, Pastor Lyle Belleque. (May)

The profile had four stand out sections:

Demographics

Discussion and essay questions regarding the spiritual health of our congregation and our mission and vision for the future of this church body.

Congregational finances and our report of compensation given to our previous pastor

Our "want ad" that announced our vacancy and summarized our needs and vision.

All the above was accepted as a privilege and responsibility by your elected Call Committee. As a group we felt confident that all our generations in this multigenerational congregation had a voice. We worked based on respect for one another, prayer, and a heartfelt trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We study God's Word regarding calls, ministry, the command of the Great Commission, servant-hood and discipleship.

At the end of the journey we saw our congregation with new eyes. We are a strong and thriving congregation. We are guided by the Holy Word of God. We have a purposeful mission to serve locally and globally. We nurture and heal within the church family. We are open to change and growth.

We are abundantly patient and will WAIT prayerfully for the Lord to answer our call.

We begin the continuation of this call journey as soon as we receive names of those interested in ministering to Grace. We, as a congregation, will be entering into a long-term, covenantal relationship with our next pastor, like we had with our previous pastors. The main focus should be prayerfully considering our potential "marriage" partners now going forward.

Thank you for the trust, privilege, and continued prayers,

Your call committee:

Mary Bratrud, Nick Walk, Gary Walters, Shirley Kraft, Mavis Haugom, Rhonda Breitbach, Brady Lee, Austin Tadman

SUMMER PARABLE, con't.

and that it may be well with thee. For verily I say unto thee, thou hast more money now than thou wilt have when thou dost return."

And the husband replied, "Verily, thou art noble and wise among women." And he did remember God and God's work in the days of the summer heat, and the treasurer rejoiced greatly, saying, "Of truth, there are those who care for the good of the church." And it was so.

**Grace Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
May 8, 2019**

Present: President Jason Carlson, Nick Walk, Hollie Stewart, Patti Hamre, Jim Ferden, Dean Bernard, Don Lundin, Rita Trandem, Gene Haugom and Pastor Scott Baker.

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

Devotions: Pastor Baker led us in prayer.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda by Gene. Seconded by Don. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve the 3/31/19 Executive Committee minutes, the 4/10/19 regular Council meeting minutes and the 4/13/19 Council Retreat minutes by Nick. Seconded by Hollie. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Motion to approve by Patti. Seconded by Rita. Motion carried. (Report on file).

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report:

Undesignated funds available to be used for April's General Fund expenses totaled \$17,333.46. April's General Fund expenses totaled \$14,637.68.

Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$16,932.83. The monthly budget goal is \$17,651.60.

Despite having only four Sunday's in April, Congregational

cally equaled March giving (\$17,021.00) which had five Sundays.

Noteworthy Other Giving –

Miscellaneous – Majority consisted of donations and memorials to the Stained Glass Window Fund (\$1,105), funds contributed to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (\$375), and reimbursement for debit card fraud (card was hacked - \$176.38).

Oil Leases – We received a double payment from Oasis Oil Company in April.

Thrivent Choice Program.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration –

Church & Parsonage Utilities – Double payment

Miscellaneous – Consisted of advertising expense from Deer Hunter's Supper and Pastor Tim's farewell gathering. Also includes some computer repairs, and debit card fraud (card was hacked).

Copier Maintenance – For some reason, we are not getting billed for copier maintenance again.

Education – None

Mission Outreach – None

Pastoral – None

Worship – Organist Salary – Higher due to Lenten season. Budget Report: We ended the month at 7.7% or approximately \$16,400 under budget. All of the major budgeted expense catego-

ries ended under budget for the month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report: Almost as high as giving in March. Giving in April was third highest in 9 years. Year-to-date total is behind last year at this time by approximately \$6,000; and is the lowest at this point since 2016.

History of the General Fund Balance: While still negative, April's negative balance is half of what March's was!! This is the second month with an improving ending balance! This is the best ending balance so far in 2019.

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 paying the remaining balance of the cost for the new hearing aid system.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund – Reflects the establishment of a new fund by Pastor Baker and a disbursement from it.

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.

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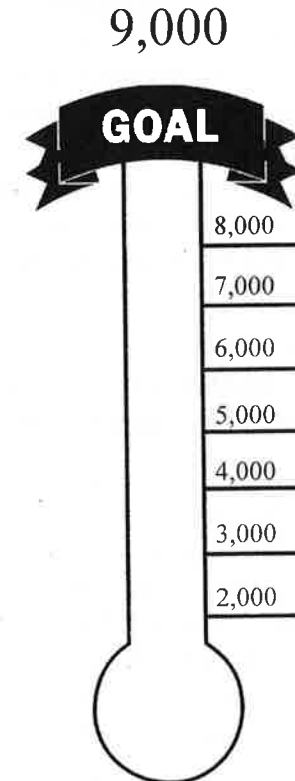
**STAINED GLASS
WINDOW PROJECT**

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: \$7,634.00

Our Goal: \$9,000.00



FROM THE PASTOR, con't

**What are you clinging to?
Who are you sharing God with?**

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Who will perish because of your silence?

And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18 20

The first and primary mission of each disciple of Jesus Christ has been, is, and will be, until Christ's return, to invite those who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior to know him. All else must support this.

In private and in public worship, the Spirit calls us through the Word to "preach" our faith as we serve our neighbor. But where are our pulpits? Wherever those who cling to Christ in their hearts are present.

Pastor Baker



It feels like the right time for an update to the congregation. Much has happened since the last one and there is much to come on our immediate horizon.

The first update is very recent, just made official on May 8th. Grace now has a Youth Team! I am very excited about this. The idea came from our recent Council Retreat. In a nutshell, we are forming a team of individuals who would like to share their time, wisdom, and faith with our youth. This concept is intended to apply the old axiom 'Many hands make light work' vs. counting on a couple of individuals to coordinate all activities for a period of time. The hope is that we will get enough interest from adults to be able to provide a rich slate of activities for our youth and that no one feels burdened by volunteering. If you have any interest at all in working on this team, please let me or the church office know. We will convene a kick-off meeting after folks have had some time to consider volunteering. The Council has purposefully not suggested how the team may be organized. The reason for that is to leverage the energy

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**JUNE ACOLYTES**

2nd: Lily Pries and Shayna Juve

9th: Maci Smeby and Shea LaBrecque

16th: Savahanna Svalen and Brett DuChamp

23rd: Izabelle Ostenaar and Tabitha Bratager

30th: Melissa Pries and Emily Strom

JUNE VIDEO TECHS

2nd: Cameron Svalen

9th: Josie Fortman

16th: Claire Juve

23rd: Sydney Svalen

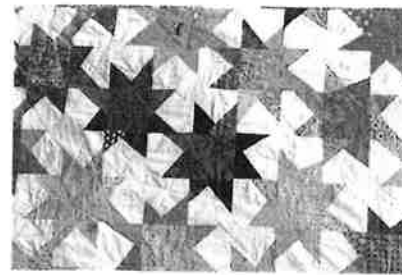
30th: Presley Haugen



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 youth group. There is a container for the receipts at the church in the hallway by the coat racks.



- * Michael Jenson
- * Neva Schepersky
- * Allen Jenson
- * Marie Johnson
- * Grace Call Committee
- * Steven Baker

**QUILTING NEWS**

The Grace NALCW Quilting Group met on Tuesday mornings for a couple of months this past winter, to put together quilts for various organizations.

Usually 10 women got together to put together and tie quilts. After all the batting was gone, several pots of coffee served and out of this world goodies consumed, they counted up their labor and had made 50 large quilts, 2 youth quilts, 16 baby quilts and 5 Sr. Graduate quilts for a total of 73.

They boxed up the quilts and donated them to Indian Mission in Bemidji; Salvation Army in Grand Forks; Northland Mission in Grand Forks; Women's Crisis Center in Detroit Lakes; Cross Roads in Erskine; and the Win-E-Mac After Prom Party.

Thank you ladies for sharing your time and talents. Job well done!

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Scholarship Fund – Reflects the payment of a scholarship.

SS Outreach Fund – Reflects the monthly payment to Compassion International and funds used for supplies donated to the animal shelter in TRF.

Stained Glass Window Fund – Reflects donations received during April.

Worship Hearing Aids Fund – Reflect payment to Modern Technology, Inc. for the new hearing aid system.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report:

Balance increased approximately \$3,500 since last month and is at its highest balance since October 2015.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report:

Balance dipped slightly again last month, but is at its highest balance since August 2018.

Other Information: Giving for the Lenten season totaled \$1,633.75. Motion to approve by Gene. Seconded by Dean. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Baker supplied his report with activities and future events (including the Baccalaureate Service date of May 19, 2019) to the Council. Motion to approve by Hollie. Seconded by Nick. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship – There were 47 time and talent cards turned in. It's a start but work will continue

on getting members to complete the cards. The completed cards were supplied to Yvonne to update the spreadsheet. Planning has started for Stewardship Sunday next fall.

Education – A reminder that VBS will be the second full week in August.

Youth Group – Youth will be gathering on 5/11/19 to work on aluminum can recycling.

NALCW – Will meet tomorrow at 3:30 – 4:30 with supper being served from 4:30 to 6:30. Hollie reported on the upcoming activities for the NALCW.

Trustees: Waiting for warmer weather to check on the roof and needed repairs. They are working on updating the custodian's job description. A bid has been received from No Boundaries Contracting to replace light fixtures under the balcony with LED fixtures and to replace the light bulbs in the hanging fixtures with LED bulbs. There is a problem with the hot water heater that will be checked on.

Deacons: There will be Communion Assistant and Altar Guild training in the near future. An announcement will be put in the bulletin regarding a float for the Water Carnival parade. Gene has a tractor and trailer available for use. A prayer chain has been started. Patti mentioned that there were quite a few individuals who had expressed interest in participating on the Time & Talent cards.

Call Committee – the profile has

been submitted.

Old Business – The Lenten offering total was \$1,633.75. A motion was made by Patti to split the offering equally between the PMCC Foundation and the Backpack Program. Seconded by Hollie. Motion carried.

New Business – President Carlson explained the idea of a Charter Youth Team. He was encouraged by the response he had received from parents at a recent meeting. A motion was made by Hollie to Charter the Youth Team and extend an invitation to interested parties. Seconded by Nick. Motion carried.

Announcements – date was not discussed for the next meeting. Per the calendar the date should be June 12 at 8:00 pm.

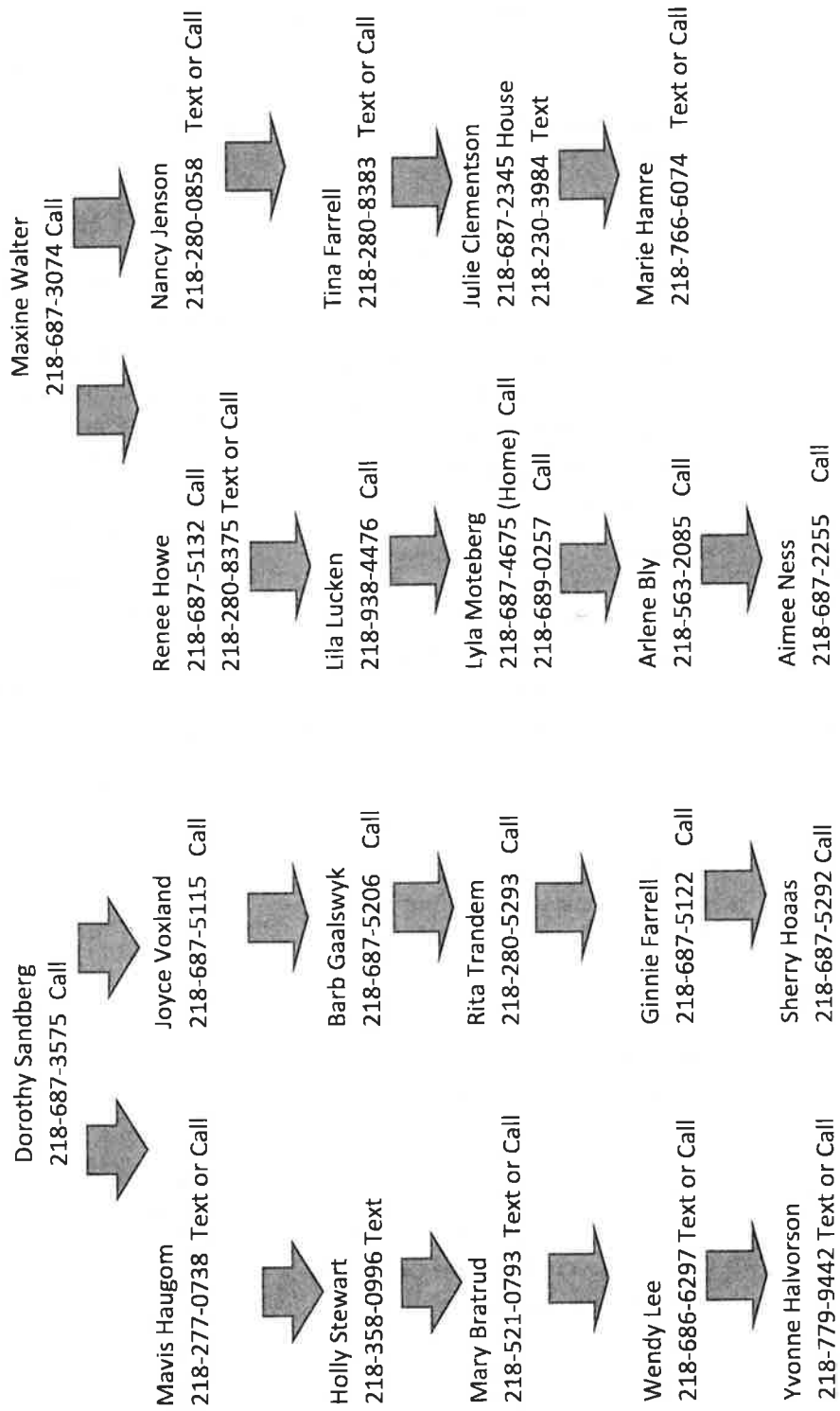
Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Hamre



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.



UPDATED: MAY 20, 2019

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



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.



April 2019 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$16,932.83

Expenses:

- Administrative - \$8,299.59
- Education - \$37.91
- Mission Outreach - \$800.00
- Pastoral - \$5,038.04
- Worship - \$774.33
- Total Expenses - \$14,949.87





GRACE CHURCH

April 28th:

Attendance~ 137
Offering~ \$3,974.01

May 5th:

Attendance~ 98
Offering~\$2,949.11

May 12th:

Attendance~ 112
Offering~ \$2,343.00

May 19th:

Attendance~ 71
Offering~\$1,847.44

May 26th:

Attendance~72
Offering~ \$1,661.52

The Grace Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday June 12th 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 June 13th at 3:30 PM. Group #4 will serve from 4:30-6:30 PM. Members of Group #4 are Rita Trandem, Gloria Staehnke, Mavis Haugom, Maxine Walter.

**Please note change in serving time.*

Circle Meetings

Hope Circle: Thursday June 27th 2:00PM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: does not meet for the summer months

Mission Circle: Friday June 28th at 2:00PM at the church

JUNE GREETERS

2nd: Chris & Bobbi DuChamp

9th: Karl Erickson & Sue Rasmussen

16th: Darrin & Kris Faldet

23rd: JeNelle Faldet

30th: Ogden & Annette Farder



The Grace 'Men of Courage' will meet on June 4th and 18th at 5:30 PM, at Grace Church. Bring your own meat for grilling. All men are welcomed to join this group.

JUNE 2019

Grace Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9am- Worship w/ Holy Comm.	3 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	4 5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	5 12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	6 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	7 Pr. @ Mac Sr. Living	8 9:30am- Rebroadcast
9 9am-Worship w/ Holy Comm.	10 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	11 8pm-AA mtg.	12 12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7:30pm-Committees 8pm-Council	13 3:30pm-NALCW	14 FLAG DAY	15 9:30am- Rebroadcast
16 9am-Worship	17 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	18 5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	19 12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	20 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	21 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER	22 9:30am-Rebroadcast
23 9am-Worship	24 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	25 8pm-AA mtg.	26 12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	27 2pm-Hope Circle	28 2pm-Mission Circle	29 9:30am-Rebroadcast
30 9am-Worship			Greeters: 2nd: Chris & Bobbi DuChamp 9th: Karl Erickson and Sue Rasmussen	16th: Darrin & Kris Faldet 23rd: JeNelle Faldet	30th: Ogden & Annette Farder	

CIRCLES

Hope at the church
Rebecca no meeting
Mission at the church

Ushers :

Lenny Fuller
Scott Bixby
Gary & Maxine Walter
Scott Hornbuckle family
Jason Carlson family

Communion Assistants:
Paul & Kim Mahlen

Altar Flowers:
Mission Circle

Altar Guild:
Lori Hole

R= Reader
V=Video
A=Acolyte

JUNE 2nd:
R~ Bev Hamre
V~ Cameron Svalen
A~ Lily Pries and Shayna Juve

JUNE 9th:
R~ Gary Walter
V~ Josie Fortman
A~ Maci Smeby and Shea LaBrecque

JUNE 16th:
R~ Andrew Hanson
V~ Claire Juve
A~ Savannah Svalen and Brett Duchamp

JUNE 23rd:
R~ Kim Mahlen
V~ Sydney Svalen
A~ Izabelle Ostena and Tabitha Bratager

JUNE 30th:
R~ Joanne Sannes
V~ Presley Haugen
A~ Melissa Pries and Emily Strom

*“Serving all people by sharing God’s Word
and Gift of Grace”*

**GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

*332 Vance Avenue
Post Office Box 204
Erskine, MN 56535*

Phone: 218/687.4035

Email: gracelc@gvtel.com

Pastor Scott Baker

Cell Phone ~ 740-794-1001

Home Phone ~ 218-687-4015

E-mail ~ sbaker575@att.net

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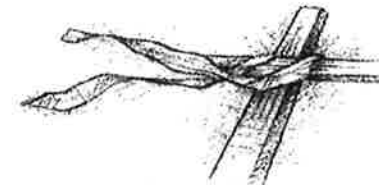
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The Scroll

**Grace Lutheran
Church**

June 2019



Sharing Faith

*Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.*

Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion on the world.

Yours are the feet with which Christ looks to do good

Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses all the world

Christ has no body now but yours

No hands, no feet on earth, but yours

Teresa of Avila, reformer of the church in the 1500s

A few days after Pentecost, the Devil asked Jesus, “What makes you think that this church idea is going to work? Who’s going to do it?” Jesus replied, “I have given the job to Peter and the apostles.” “And if they fail?” responded Satan. “Then the rest of the witnesses and their children and their children’s children will spread the good news,” Jesus answered. “And if they fail to keep the message going?” jeered the Tempter. Jesus was silent for a moment. Then he proclaimed, “I have made no other plans.”

Is the faithful witness still alive with you?

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? Romans 10:14

Dwight L. Moody once said that his favorite picture was of a girl clinging to a cross-shaped rock in the midst of the storm-tossed sea. Clinging tightly with both hands she was saved.

Another picture was found that made this first seem almost meaningless by comparison. The picture was almost the same--the same girl, the same storm-tossed sea, the same rugged, cross-like rock. But now the girl clung to the rock with only one hand and with the other reached out to save another from the sea. This is witnessing. This is sharing Christ today: clinging to Christ’s Word tightly and sharing it freely that all may hear and by God’s grace believe and live.

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**I LOVE
GOD**
BECAUSE THOUGH
I DESERVE NOTHING
HE GAVE ME
**EVERY
THING**