

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

**GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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**U.S. Postage
Paid Permit No. 12
Erskine, MN**

The Scroll

**Grace Lutheran
Church**

July 2019



INTERDEPENDENCE DAY



In our modern-day America, the separation of church and state has come to mean that any hint of religion within our governing authorities and its agencies is seen as unacceptable

and should be stopped because it might offend someone somewhere somehow. On the other hand, it has become fashionable in some churches to ban the display of the flag as if it is in competition with the cross of Christ. It is true that in the past, some governments have used religion to enforce their political agendas and some churches have failed to keep the necessary boundary between the will of the state and the Word of God (especially when they were truly in opposition.) Some seem to think that it is for the best, that the church deals with God’s will and the state doesn’t. The fact that this is not historical and is literally impossible does not seem to stop the forward march of those who would separate God from our nation.

Though some may debate if our country’s forefathers were truly Christian (all history seems debatable these days), the documents that they left us clearly show that God was expected to play a role in this new nation. They were clear that it was not the government’s role to enforce the faith in a particular form, but the role of God was assumed in the nation that they formed.

For us, as Christians, the ideal of God not being active in government is not faithful to God’s Word. Paul states clearly in Romans chapter 13, when describing governing authorities and the Christian’s responsibility to them, that there is no authority except from God, and those governments that exist have been instituted by God (vs. 2.) With this understanding, Christians don’t pay taxes because it is the law, but because it is a measure of our obedience to God. (vs. 7.)

For Luther, the difference between the church and the state was described as the two kingdoms, the two responsibilities. The task of the church is to be responsible for the spiritual welfare of the people. The task of the state was to be responsible for the physical safety and security of the people. One deals with forgiveness and salvation, the other with the power of the sword to protect the weak and ensure the common good. Laws cannot change people’s hearts, only the Spirit of God can. The church cannot enforce faith with the sword (or new laws), but the sword is an effective tool for the State to provide justice for all.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9am- Worship w/ Holy Comm.	7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	8pm-AA mtg. 5:30pm-'Men of Courage'	12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Rebroadcast No Committee or Council meeting this month	3:30pm-NALCW GOD BLESS AMERICA		9:30am- Rebroadcast
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9am- Worship w/ Holy Comm.	7:30am-MBS 9:30am -LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Rebroadcast			9:30am- Rebroadcast
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9am- Worship	7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	8pm-AA mtg.	12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	2pm-Hope Circle	2pm-Mission Circle	9:30am- Rebroadcast
28	29	30	31			
9am- Worship	7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	8pm-AA mtg.	12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	21st: Jim & Carla Ferden 7th: Ginnie Farrell 14th: Wade & Tina Farrell		

CIRCLES
 Hope at the church
 Rebecca no meeting
 Mission at the church

Ushers :
 Lee Hoas
 Jim Ferden
 Brady Lee
 Ray Labrecque family
 Randy Lee family

Communion Assistants:
 Liz Jenson and Yvonne Halvorson

Altar Flowers:
 Rebecca Circle

Altar Guild:
 Mary Bratrud

R= Reader
 V=Video
 A=Acolyte

JULY 7th:
 R~ Mavis Haugom
 V~ Maci Smeby
 A~ Kyra Stuhang and Dylan Hagen
 JULY 14th:
 R~ Lila Lucken
 V~ Shea Labrecque
 A~ Kianna Tadmnan and Clare Stuhang

JULY 21st:
 R~ Mary Bratrud
 V~ Savannah Svalen
 A~ Riley Kochman and Cameron Svalen

JULY 28th:
 R~ Hollie Stewart
 V~ Bret DuChamp
 A~ Josie Fortman and Claire Juve

GRACE CHURCH

June 2nd:
 Attendance~ 62
 Offering~ \$2,367.00

June 16th:
 Attendance~ 75
 Offering~ \$2,293.90

June 9th:
 Attendance~ 203
 Offering~\$2,070.00

June 23rd:
 Attendance~ 62
 Offering~\$1,688.36

JULY GREETERS

7th: Ginnie Farrell
 14th: Wade & Tina Farrell
 21st: Jim & Carla Ferden
 28th:Lenny & Trisha Fuller



The Grace 'Men of Courage' will meet on July 2nd and 16th at 5:30 PM, at Grace Church. Bring your own meat for grilling. All men are welcomed to join this group.



NO COUNCIL MEETING IN JULY

North American Lutheran Church Women of Grace

The Grace NALCW will meet on Thursday July 11th at 3:30 PM. Group #5 will serve from 4:30-6:30 PM. Members of Group #5 are Dorothy Sandberg, Audrey Hemmingsen, Becky Lindseth, Betty Lundin, JeNelle Falset, Yvonne Halvorson.

**Please note change in serving time.*

Circle Meetings

Hope Circle: Thursday July 25th 2:00PM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: does not meet for the summer months

Mission Circle: Friday July 26th at 2:00PM at the church



Registration Form

(One Per Child)

Child's name: _____ Child's gender: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cellphone: (____) _____

Home email address: _____

Home church: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____



In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____



Electronic Fund Giving



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.

May 2019 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$11,612.07

Expenses:

Administrative - \$6,077.64

Education - \$738.28

Mission Outreach - \$2,460.88

Pastoral - \$5,235.05

Worship - \$709.56

Total Expenses - \$15,221.41





JULY ACOLYTES

7th: Kyra Stuhaug and Dylan Hagen

14th: Kianna Tadman and Clare Stuhaug

21st: Riley Kochman and Cameron Svalen

28th: Josie Fortman and Clair Juve

JULY VIDEO TECHS

7th: Maci Smeby

14th: Shea LaBrecque

21st: Savahanna Svalen

28th: Bret DuChamp



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.

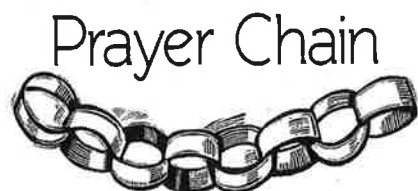


- * Michael Jenson
- * Neva Schepersky
- * Bonnie Strand
- * Steven Baker
- * Allen Jenson
- * Grace Call Committee

FROM THE PASTOR, con't.
Both church and state serve God and are responsible to God.

Our founding fathers knew that whether we said it or not, we are one nation under God. They knew the dangers of letting the government enforce religion. (Many came to our nation to escape such religious persecutions.) They also knew the dangers of a nation without a moral foundation that came from faith in God. As we celebrate the Fourth of July, let us remember that as Christian citizens, we have a responsibility to serve both kingdoms, calling our government to serve the cause of justice and peace and calling our neighbors to serve our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. True freedom, for body and soul, is found in serving both kingdoms.

---Pastor Baker



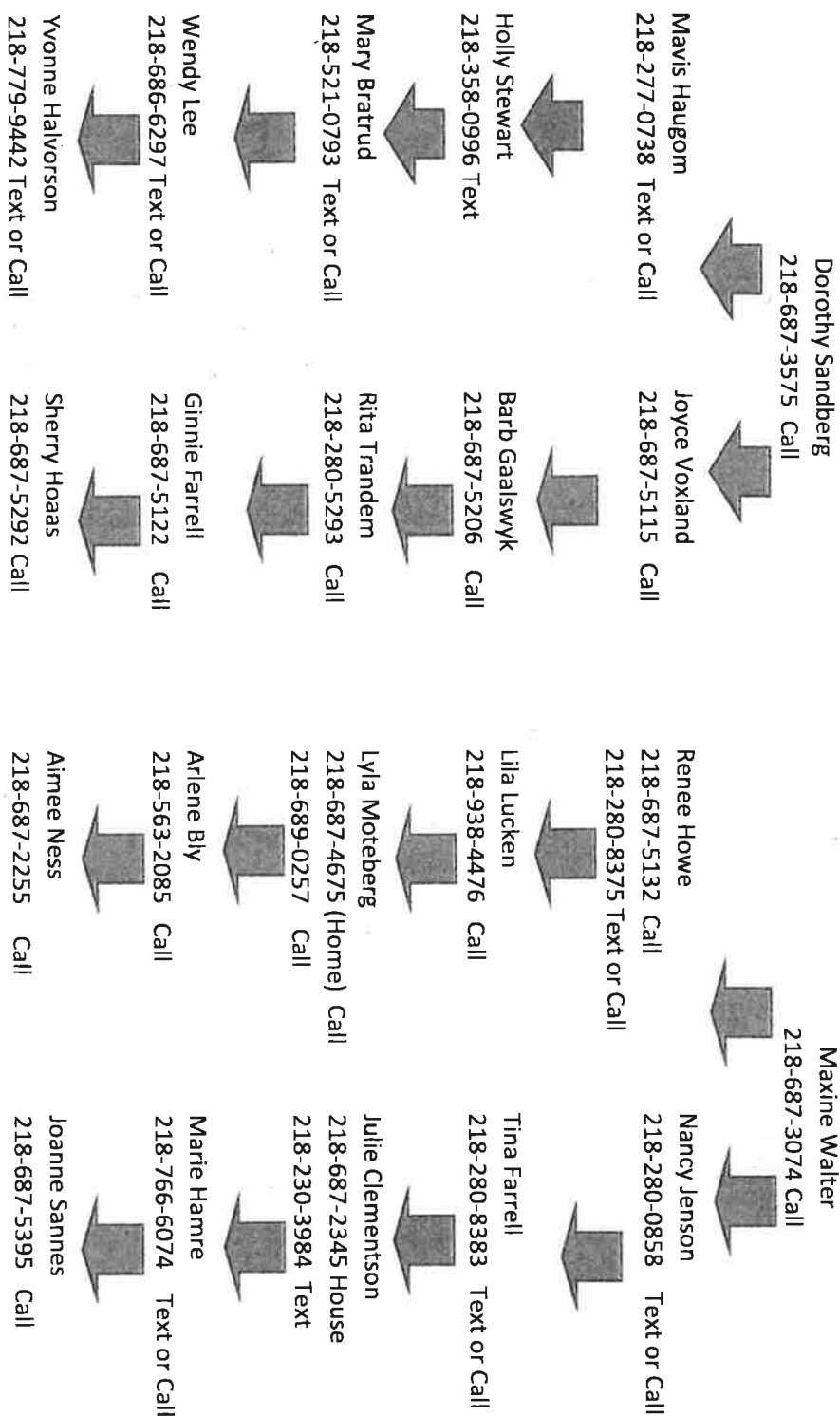
Please see the updated prayer chain in this newsletter. There have been some people who have been added to the list.

Please review for any additions to your column. Thank you!

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: June 20, 2019

For any Questions, please contact Mavis Haugom at 218-563-3292



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: ROAR!

Life is wild, God is good!

VBS will be held the week of August 12-15 from 6:30-8:30 pm. We are now taking pre-registration for any child entering preschool through 6th grade. Pre-registration is not required, but helpful in planning. Please include child's name, guardian, phone number, and any important medical info.

We are also looking for adult volunteers to teach, help with crafts, games, and decorating. Any junior/senior high students are invited to assist in these areas as well!

There are lots of ways to get in touch with us to pre-register or volunteer! Contact us at:

*Ann's email:
ann.brekken@yahoo.com

*the Sunday School Facebook page: Grace Lutheran Sunday School

*the church office



THE PARABLE OF
THE FRUITLESS
FIG TREE
(Luk. 13:6-9)

⁶ Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" ⁸ He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.''

Budget Report

We ended the month at 9.5% or approximately \$20,000 under budget.

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

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

May had the second lowest giving in 2019.

Giving in May was second lowest in 9 years.

Year-to-date total is behind last year at this time by approximately \$8,000; and is the lowest at this point since 2015.

History of the General Fund Balance

May's negative balance is almost twice as much as April's.

All month ends in 2019 to date have been negative.

There has not been a positive month end balance since September 2018.

~From Council Minutes for June 2019

For the last several years, we have ended the year in the red. We have been able to adjust this by propping up the regular giving with funds from other sources, but the reality was that we were not meeting our current expenses with regular giving. The problem with this is that those other sources may not always be available and we have become dependent upon them instead of paying our current needs.

Instead of just doing what we have always done, the council put off bailing us out of the red to see if we could do it ourselves. As you can see in the minutes above, it has not worked.

I am not sure that it is possible at this point to get ourselves out of the red, but I believe that the congregation deserves another chance to try and come closer. Like the fig tree, we have until the September council meeting to try.

In reality, the bills will be paid and ministry will continue, but are we setting the best example for our future? Will we be able to bear fruit "next year"? Can we do better?

God's blessings upon you.
Pastor Baker

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

June 12, 2019

8:00 P.M.

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

Present: President Jason Carlson, Nick Walk, Hollie Stewart, Jim Ferden, Yvonne Halvorson, Gene Haugom and Pastor Scott Baker, Lori Hole, Dorothy Sandberg, Marc Plante, Ryan Breitbach, Cassie Jax

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

Devotions: Pastor Baker lead us in devotions where we shared a favorite Bible verse and prayer.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the amended agenda by Hollie. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Nick moved to approve amended minutes. Seconded by Gene. Motion carried.

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

Note: Stained Glass Window Fund has been met! It will be reported in the Scroll.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report

- Undesignated funds available to be used for May's General Fund expenses totaled \$11,922.21. May's General

- Fund expenses totaled \$15,221.41.
- Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$11,612.07. The monthly budget goal is \$17,651.60.

- Noteworthy Other Giving –
 - Miscellaneous – Majority consisted of donations and memorials to the Stained Glass Window Fund (\$445), funds contributed to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (\$150), gift from Albert & Clara Jones estate (\$100), and Garden Valley Capital Credits (\$87.36).

- Thrivent Choice Program.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration – First half of property taxes were due for the church, parsonage, and parking lot.

Education – Bible Camp – 3 students are going to bible camp!!
Mission Outreach –

Miscellaneous – Pass through Thrivent Funds as a donation to the Grace Cemetery. Also paid out ½ of Lenten Offerings to the Pioneer Memorial Care Center Foundation.

Pastoral – None

Worship –

Worship Aids – Renewed online worship resource (SOLA Publishing).

Budget Report

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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 half of the cost of replacing light fixtures and light bulbs in the sanctuary.

- The Oil Fund – Bldg Up-keep 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.

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued

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

Pastor's Discretionary Fund - Reflects a donation and a disbursement from it.

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

Stained Glass Window Fund - Reflects donations received during May.

VBS Fund - Reflects a payment for materials.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

Balance decreased approximately \$4,000 since last month and is at its lowest balance since February 2019.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

Balance dipped again last month, but is at its lowest balance since January 2019.

Marc moved to approve. Ryan seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Report:

Visits-8, Hospital Visits-2

Activities Within the Congregation (as per usual)

Other Activities, Meetings, Events: Baccalaureate Service
Food Shelf Advisory Board

Pioneer Worship Services

Water Carnival Parade

Invocation—Garden Valley Tech Meeting

McIntosh Senior Living Worship

Future Events:

Vacation June 16-21

July 27—Osland/Petersen Wedding

N.A.L.C. Lutheran Week & Convocation August 5, 2019-August 9, 2019

Other:

Funerals-2

Graveside Committals-3

Baptism-1

Confirmation-9

Pastor attended the Food Shelf/Back Pack Program meeting. We have specified some funds to be given to the Back Pack Program and the check will be sent. Pastor recommends some kind of physical financial report given to us by the Back Pack Program. The Food Shelf submitted a formal report for the Annual Report. Kim will work with the Back Pack program to get something set up for them to also submit a formal report for the Annual Report. The Food Shelf is going to be getting their own phone line to make communications regarding the Food Shelf more effective and efficient. This will take pressure off the office in answering calls and questions.

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

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: No report at this time.

Education: Working on VBS dates and plans

Pastor has volunteered for open-

ing and closing of VBS.

Pastor will also have an adult class during the VBS time for anyone in the congregation who is interested

Gary W. volunteered to cook hot dogs for VBS one of the nights. Committee is finalizing plans for the purchasing new furniture for Sunday School classrooms.

Youth Group: Had another successful can collection event. About 1200 pounds. Future discussion regarding 5th Quarter to come

NALCW: NALCW meeting Thursday June 13

July 16 cleaning church

Hope and Mission Circles will meet.

Trustees: Lighting discussion. Ryan has made phone calls regarding this. We are on the list to get this fixed.

Discussion of possible leaks in the roof-Don is looking into this.

Description of duties regarding some job titles. Will try to get this wrapped up by fall.

A process for consistent review of our financial investments needs to be set up. Trustees will discuss this and determine what would be a reasonable time frame for these reviews.

Deacons: Should we advertise in the Shopper on their church page? Gene will check into cost and get back to us.

We also want to make sure we get into the McIntosh paper too.

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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. We have now met our goal of \$9,000. Praise God!

Our Goal: \$9,000.00

**GRACE COUNCIL, continued**

Jason will contact Kim.

Call Committee: Have not met. Our Profile information was in the May 31st newsletter for all the pastors. Right now it is just a waiting game. We won't hear anything official until there is an actual name.

Pastor Baker reminded us that it takes time. Many times it's 6-9 months. We must be patient.

Old Business: (none)

New Business:

Youth Team Discussion~ Summer is a very difficult time to gather people together. Pastor Baker will start advertising for help with 5th Quarter in August. This may be a time to gather people and have a possible August date for a meeting. Our goal is to be able to split up the duties so that people can give as much or as little time as works with their particular schedules.

Brief General Fund Discussion~ Summer is a very difficult time financially. How should we (or should we), address the deficit. Pastor suggested that perhaps we should even things up in the fall. Certainly, we will encourage stewardship for the summer. We will encourage marketing automated giving. If things aren't better by fall then we will address balancing the General Fund at that time. Let's make extra effort to encourage people to come. People must make church attendance and giving a priority.

We need to have financial information in the Bulletin weekly.

We need to inform the congregation that we had hoped to recover financially, but we have failed to date and the Council will have to come up with a solution.

July meeting~ We will not meet in July

AUGUST MEETING MOVED TO 21ST due to VBS

Announcements: Received a thank you note from Madyson Plante for her scholarship.

Adjourn**The Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Salvason



CHURCH CLEANING DAY IS JULY 16. WATCH THE SUNDAY BULLETINS FOR TIME. BRING YOUR OWN CLEANING SUPPLIES.