

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

**GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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The Scroll

**Grace Lutheran
Church**

September 2019



TOP OF THE LIST

At the beginning of each week, I have developed the habit of making a list of the various activities that I want to accomplish that week. Some weeks I get them all done and some weeks, I find that other needs arise and my listed items must wait for next week's list. One fact I have discovered is that if I don't plan to do a certain task, it usually doesn't get done. There is always enough to do with visiting or meetings or other activities that if I don't keep to my list, certain less demanding, but just as important tasks are forgotten.

The same thing can happen to any Christian. There are so many demands upon us that we may put aside those needed activities that don't seem so demanding. If we miss a Sunday at church, God won't show up and threaten to fire us as if we missed a day on the job. If we don't take time for the family of God, they won't keep nagging at you like some might when they want you to do something for them. If you don't get to your daily devotions, your faith won't immediately be lost, will it?

In the short run, it seems that with all the demands on life, that those that come from God can always be added to next week's list. But we find that the more we put off God's requests today, the more we will be lost tomorrow. If we don't share the values given to us by God with our children, we have only ourselves to blame when they don't share those values with their children. If we don't take time to share in Christ's ministry to others, chances are that it will not be there to be shared with us when we need it. If we don't take time to be nourished and strengthened by God, His strength will not be there when we need it the most.

As we start a new church year, please take time to list what is really important in your life and the life of your family. I firmly believe that God should be at the top of your list. I also firmly believe that you are on God's list of people to be with this week.

Pastor Baker

Inside this issue:

NALCW Meeting	2
September Greeters	2
Council Meeting	2
Circle Meetings	2
Attendance & Offerings	2
'Men of Courage'	2
Financial News	3
Help Wanted	3
Acolytes & Video Techs	4
5th Quarter News	4
Our New Bishop	5
Blessing of the BackPacks	6
Sunday School News	6
Convocation Notes from Gary Walter	6
NALCW News	7
Giving Opportunity	7
Convocation Notes from Paul Mahlen	7
September Council Minutes	8
September Council Minutes, continued	9
Council Minutes, continued	10
Council Minutes	11
Calendar News	11
From the Pastor, continued	12
Convocation Report from Pr. Baker	12
Message from Bishop Selbo	13
Autumn Praise	13
September Calendar	14

Continued on Page 12



The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday September 11th at 8:00 PM. All meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise stated.

North American Lutheran Church Women of Grace

The Grace NALCW will meet on Thursday September 12th at 3:30 PM. Group #7 will serve from 4:30-6:30 PM. Members of Group #7 are Denise Ness, Marsha Hoffmann, Dawn Jacobson, Kris Nornes, Marilyn Branstner, and Patti Hamre.

***Please note change in serving time.**

Circle Meetings

Hope Circle: Thursday September 26th at 2:00PM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: Thursday September 26th at 6:30PM at the church.

Mission Circle: Friday September 27th at 2:00PM at the church.

GRACE CHURCH

June 28th:

Attendance~ 69

Offering~ \$2,349.21

August 11th:

Attendance~ 72

Offering~ \$1,423.56

August 25th:

Attendance~ 68

Offering~ \$1,751.10

August 4th:

Attendance~ 64

Offering~\$2,391.93

August 18th:

Attendance~ 59

Offering~\$1,953.00

SEPTEMBER GREETERS

1st: Daryl & Yvonne Halvorson

8th: David & Jean Halvorson

15th: David & Patti Hamre

22nd: Don & Bev Hamre

29th: Wayne & Marie Hamre



The Grace 'Men of Courage' will meet on September 3rd and 17th at 5:30 PM, at Grace Church. Bring your own meat for grilling. All men are welcomed to join this group.

CIRCLES

Hope at the church
Rebecca no meeting
Mission at the church

Ushers :
Russell Johnson
Bob Carlson
Daryl & Yvonne Halvorson
Chris DuChamp family
Lee Tradewell family

Communion Assistants:
Mark & Cindy Nelson

Altar Flowers:
Mission Circle

Altar Guild:
Betty Lundin

R= Reader
V=Video
A=Acolyte

SEPTEMBER 1st:

R~ Jeff Normes
V~ Kyra Stuhaug
A~ Savannah Svalen and Bret DuChamp

SEPTEMBER 8th:

R~ Nancy Jensen
V~ Dylan Hagen
A~ Izabelle Ostenaar and Tabitha Bratager

SEPTEMBER 15th:

R~ Paul Mahlen
V~ Shayna Juve
A~ Melissa Pries and Emily Strom

SEPTEMBER 22nd:

R~ Sherry Hoaa
V~ Lily Pries

A~ Kyra Stuhaug and Dylan Hagen

SEPTEMBER 29th:

R~ Ann Brekken
V~ Paige Breitbach
A~ Kianna Tadman and Clare Stuhaug

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	2 Labor Day 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast	3 5:30pm- Men of Courage	4 12pm-AA mtg. 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	5	6	7 9:30am- Rebroadcast
8 Grandparents Day 9am-Adult Bible Study 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	9 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast	10 8pm-AA mtg.	11 Patriot Day 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-RT Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7:30pm Committees meet 8pm-Council mtg.	12 3:30pm-NALCW	13	14 9:30am- Rebroadcast
15 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	16 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast	17 5:30pm- Men of Courage 8pm-AA mtg.	18 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-Jr. High RT Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	19	20	21 9:30am- Rebroadcast
22 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	23 Fall Begins 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast	24 8pm-AA mtg.	25 7:30am-See You At the Pole 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-RT Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	26 2pm-Hope Circle 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	27 2pm-Mission Circle	28 9:30am-Rebroadcast
29 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	30 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast		Greeters: 1st: Daryl & Yvonne Halvorson 8th: David & Jean Halvorson	15th: David & Patti Hamre 22nd: Don & Bev Hamre	29th: Wayne & Marie Hamre	



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.



July 2019 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$12,191.74

Expenses:

- Administrative - \$6,182.54
- Education - \$252.81
- Mission Outreach - \$700.00
- Pastoral - \$5,167.77
- Worship - \$350.60
- Total Expenses - \$12,653.72



Wanted: A few strong Men

Grace food shelf needs some help in unloading the food truck the second Wednesday of the month.

We have 2 women but would also like 2 men for the heavier items. This usually happens around 10:30 in the morning and done by noon or 12:30 that day.

If you want to help, please call Dave Hinkley at 701-361-3136 or Mavis Haugom at 218-563-3292. Thank you very much!



SEPTEMBER ACOLYTES

1st: Savahanna Svalen and Bret DuChamp

8th: Isabelle Ostenaar and Tabitha Bratager

15th: Melissa Pries and Emily Strom

22nd: Kyra Stuhaug and Dylan Hagen

29th: Kianna Tadman and Clare Stuhaug

SEPTEMBER VIDEO TECHS

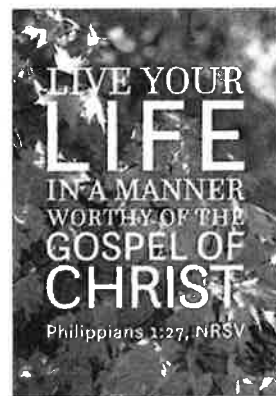
1st: Kyra Stuhaug

8th: Dylan Hagen

15th: Shayna Juve

22nd: Lily Pries

29th: Paige Breitbach



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.



- * Allen Salverson
- * Shirley Uang
- * Don Barrow
- * Bonnie Strand
- * Michael Jenson
- * Neva Schepersky
- * Steven Baker
- * Grace Call Committee

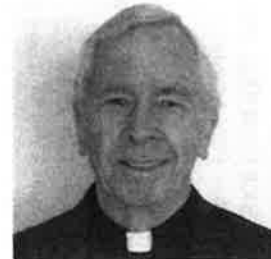


WILL THERE BE A 5TH QUARTER IN 2019?

Our first opportunity to host a 5th Quarter Event for our youth will be on Friday September 13th after the Win E Mac/Park Christian football game. It will start after the game is over until midnight.

This will be the first opportunity to test the Youth Team idea. We are looking for volunteers for the evening to help in various areas. Chaperones (inside and outside), Pizza pick up, donations of soda, donations of cookies, chips, and other snacks.

In the past, we had between 50 to 70 youth. If you can help in any way, please sign at church by September 1.



A Message From Our Bishop

“Dear friends in Christ, brothers and sisters, I am, as I shared last evening, honored to be standing here and humbled by the decision that’s just been made,” Bishop Selbo said following the announcement of his election.

“I am hearing and accepting this as a call not only from Christ and His Church but from God Himself,” he said. “I want you to remember this day because if this works out, it is evidence that the Holy Spirit has been at work. And if it does not, this was your vote,”

he added with a smile. “The theme, ‘Walking by the Spirit with the Fruit of the Spirit,’ this does not work without Jesus. Apart from Christ, it just has no future and hope. But, in Him and with Him and by His power, there is a lot of work to be done and this is a body through which God will work to carry out His purposes in this world.

“Called to be shepherd in the NALC, called to be your shepherd, I will work hard to help keep you and us on track and on task. But I want you to help me because

I, like you, am called to follow the Shepherd, and I find myself

each day needing to be reminded of what that means and what it looks like. I need your help to follow so I can help you to follow,” he said.

I am asking for your prayers today for wisdom, for grace to help me keep my eyes on Christ,” Bishop Selbo said. He also asked for prayers for his wife, Mary.

“Thank you for who you are, for being the Body of Christ,” he said. “I am honored to be part of the North American Lutheran Church. It is a powerful voice that is so needed in this world today. And we are on track, we are being led by the Spirit, we are following Jesus Christ, and we have a message this world is dying to hear and we need to share it. Thank you for your vote of confidence. I ask for your continued prayers in the four years ahead.”



Autumn Praise

I praise you, Lord, for autumn: for falling temperatures and morning chill, trees turned gold and red, brown and orange, falling leaves and blowing leaves, the smell of burning leaves, the joy of leaf-pile jumping.

I praise you, Lord, for autumn: the interplay of outside temperatures and inside warmth, the promise of cider and pumpkin bread, the blessing of blankets and sweaters.

I praise you, Lord, for autumn: the beauty and hope in the change of season, the promise that the coming of autumn heralds another ending, a new beginning, and the wonder of another winter, another spring, another summer, yet to come.



FROM THE PASTOR, con't.

(Of course, there are other viewpoints)

OPEN LETTER TO A PASTOR

Dear Pastor,

You often stress attendance at worship, Sunday School, and Bible study as being very important for a Christian, but I think a person ought to be excused for the following reasons and the number of times indicated:

CHRISTMAS – (the Sundays before and after-2) – JULY 4TH (nobody ever stays home-1) – LABOR DAY (got to get out of town-1) – MEMORIAL DAY (got to visit my home-1) – SCHOOL CLOSING (the children really need a break-1) – SCHOOL OPENS (one last trip-1) – FAMILY REUNIONS (two per family-2) – SLEEP LATER (due to long Saturday nights-4) – VACATIONS AND LONG WEEKENDS (4) – BAD WEATHER (rain, wind, fog, clouds, hot weather-6) – BALL-GAMES (4) – UNEXPECTED COMPANY (can't just leave-5) – TIME CHANGES (spring ahead, fall back-2) – SPECIALS ON TV (Superbowl, etc.-4)

Pastor, that only leaves two Sundays per year, so you can count on us to be there the third Sunday of March and the first Sunday of August. We look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,
E.X. Keuses



HOMELESS IN INDIANAPOLIS

(Pastor's Report on the N.A.L.C. Convocation)

My week at the N.A.L.C. Convocation found me homeless and a bit frustrated. The reservations that I had booked for me and Pastor Lundeen had disappeared somewhere between Erskine and Indianapolis and the motel's reservation center somewhere in the world. I had cancelled my first booking so that I could share a room with Pastor Lundeen, but then had re-booked for the both of us. I had a cancellation number given to me and a new reservation number, but when I presented myself on Tuesday, I was told that the cancellation number was correct, but the other number was also a cancellation number for the room that I had not booked. The inn was full and the next inn was full and the next inn was full. I think the clerk realized my quiet anger. With the help of the clerk, I finally found a room (a bit farther away and a bit more expensive) so I was no longer homeless. At least this helped me get my daily exercise each day.

The lectures were O.K. (though one was excellent) on the Holy Spirit and the Lutheran Church. There was sharing of what our church is doing and our partner churches throughout the world.

There was Bible Study and worship and time to talk with other Christian brothers and sister in our denomination. The business part of the meeting included the election of our new bishop. (See the article elsewhere in the newsletter.) And the rest of the business meeting was necessary



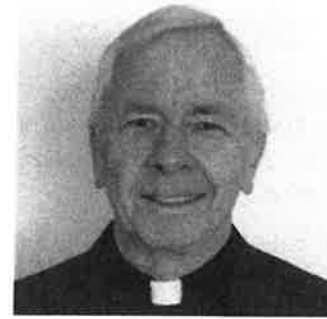
though not necessarily exciting.

As I left for home, I realized two things. Our denomination had matured and the focus on Christ and discipleship is no longer new and exciting, but the way the church needs to be to stay faithful to the mission given to us. The second thing I realized was that I was not angry. In the last years of my service in the E.L.C.A., I left such meetings frustrated, depressed, but mostly angry at the failure and direction of the denomination. In the N.A.L.C., I left with hope and excitement, but mostly with satisfaction, that we are faithfully following the work of our Savior. Without drama and debate, we are doing the work of Christ and walking in the Holy Spirit that He gave us.

If you would like to see some of what happened at the convocation, visit thenalc.org/2019-lutheran-week-archive/

You will also find various resources to help the ministries of the congregation.

I learn that trying to academically nail down what the Holy Spirit is is not easy or even possible. Seeing the work of the Holy Spirit in the life and action of the church is easy to see in the works and hearts of the people of the N.A.L.C.



The Rev. Dr. Dan Selbo
San Jose, California

Current Call: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (San Jose, California)

Denominational Affiliation:
NALC

Basic Biographical Information:

Married for 33 years. My wife, Mary, and I have been blessed with four children and just recently with two grandchildren. I graduated from San Jose State University in 1982 with a B.A. in Religious Studies. I received my Masters of Divinity in 1986 from Luther Seminary, and earned a Doctorate of Ministry in Biblical Preaching in 2013, also from Luther Seminary. I enjoy golfing, fishing, working in the yard and spending time with family and friends.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

My experience of God's activity in my life is directly related to the priority I give to the relationship He has established with me in His cross and in my Baptism. On days when my relationship with Christ is central, giving Him the time and the place in my life He deserves, I see His hand at work in many ways. In contrast, when my relationship with Him gets set aside and I busy myself with other priorities, even though He is still actively

at work, my experience of His activity is not the same.

Personally, I experience God opening and closing doors in response to specific prayers I offer. He provides opportunity, on a daily basis, for witnessing to people I had not on my own even considered. He strengthens the relationships I have at work. He grows and develops the partnership I share with other sisters and brothers in the Church. He strengthens and increases the love I have for my wife and family.

He also, on an even more personal level, enables me to grow in my individual relationship with Christ. Through His Holy Spirit, He strengthens my faith, provides an assurance and a peace that I know come from Him, and gives me the gifts and insights and wisdom I need to live each day as a follower of Jesus. The more disciplined I am in making time to spend with my Lord, the more fully I realize and recognize His daily activity in my life.

In my role as a pastor, the same relationship-driven principle has proven to be true. Having had the joy and privilege of serving for more than 30 years in a Word and Sacrament ministry, I have seen God actively at work in the lives of countless people. The power of His Word, faithfully preached and taught, and His life-giving presence in the Sacraments, regularly and properly administered, have had an eternal impact on the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of people I have served and for whom our Lord died.

Particularly, over the past eight years, since the time our congregation made a conscious and deliber-

ate decision to move away from being a program-driven ministry to becoming a disciple-making ministry, I have seen God's Spirit at work in transforming lives in ways I would never have imagined. Regardless of how long they have been connected to the church, the same life-transforming work is taking place. Regular Sunday morning attenders are being transformed into faithful and committed followers of Christ. People who used to volunteer their time because of their membership in the church are now serving in ministries because they have fallen in love with their risen Lord. Vocations in life are being viewed not only as a means of earning a living to support their families, but as an opportunity for living out their faith as members in God's family. Priorities are different. Life's purpose is not the same. The definition of success has dramatically changed. God is at work, through His Holy Spirit, to grow and transform lives into the shape and image of Christ.

I have seen it happen in the lives of congregational members as they have committed themselves to worship and opened themselves to a new and a living relationship with Jesus. I have experienced it in my own life as I give priority to the disciplines of the Christian life and to the relationship God has established with me in His Son. I know it works. I have seen it happen. I experience it on a daily basis. God is active and faithful in His promises as we open our lives to His guiding and life-changing presence.



Blessing of the Backpacks



On Sunday September 1st, we'll be blessing the backpacks during our 9:00 AM Worship service. Children are encouraged to bring their school backpacks to church so they can be blessed before you head off to your first day of school.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your support so I can attend camp. I had lots of fun, I enjoyed the all-camp games. I met a lot of nice people. I hope to go back next year.

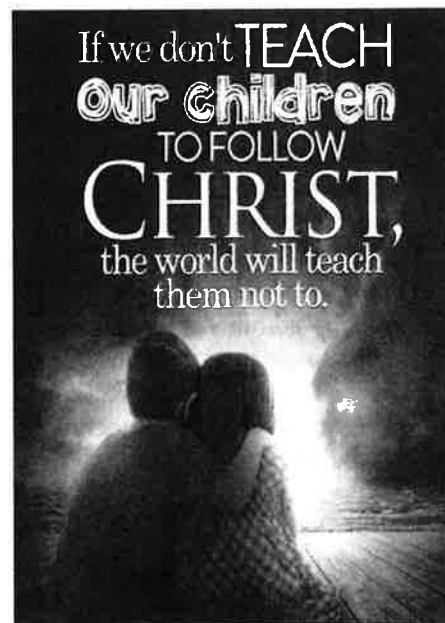
Thank you~~

(Jareth Walk)



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

First day of Sunday School is September 8th at 9:15 a.m. During the worship service, 3rd and 7th Grade students will receive their Bibles and Teachers will also be installed.



HOW IS A BISHOP ELECTED?

The nominated candidates are voted on until the top candidates are selected.

Top candidates give a presentation to the entire convocation, resulting in two candidates with one being elected Bishop.

Recalling the first Bishop election, one of the top two candidates talked about his accomplishments, while the second one talked about how the Spirit had lead his family in personal struggles. This lead us to a Spirit lead, humble Bishop John.

At the 2019 convocation we had fourteen candidates. The top four were elected and gave a presentation to the convocation. The candidate with the most votes, talked about rumors going around about him. And asking individuals to come and talk to him personally. Question coming to mind, is what rumors? And if there is smoke there is probably fire some where.

Next candidate had been nominated, but said no, but when nominated from the floor, accepted.

The last two candidates talked about the church, resulting in being elected in the top two. Another presentation with Bishop Dan being elected. Bishop Dan said the church is not about me or anyone here, it is about Christ.

I believe the election of Bishop is Spirit lead, resulting in a humble, Christ center Bishop.

May our prayers always include Bishop Dan.

~~Gary Walter

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Grace is to provide food and drink for the program. If Pastor Baker is here he'll make sure to get the food. Otherwise someone will need to step in to help.

The key is gone for the file cabinet that has our Petty Cash fund and credit card. Trustees will work at solving this problem and they will get into the file cabinet.

We will leave sign-up sheets regarding Youth Group Leadership Team in the church for a few weeks. We want to reinforce that **we need volunteers for different events and activities, this does NOT mean that someone has to take all of it over.**

New Business:

Stained Glass Committee—Mary has tried to find companies to create the window. She hasn't had the best response, but does have one that has agreed to come here and give us ideas and a bid. She and Shirley are on the committee and Mary would like a volunteer from the Council. Yvonne will call Mary to find out about what she needs. If it works with Yvonne's subbing schedule she will volunteer.

Energy Saving Thermostats—Should we look into up-dated thermostats for the church? We may want to look into programmable thermostats. Jason talked to the trustees about working on that. Updated thermostats would make heating/cooling more consistent and easier to manage the variety of areas in our church.

Sunday School furniture surplus—We have surplus desks in the Sunday School. We may be able to sell them at the NALCW auction sale.

Patti made a motion that we allow the Sunday School to place any extra furniture on the sale. Nick seconded. Motion carried.

Donation request from the Polk County Sheriff's Office--We received a letter from Sheriff Tadmanson asking for a donation for a Child Safety program as a public service. This is a Polk County initiative and a very worthwhile cause.

We decided to advertise on our web site and publications to encourage personal donations rather than a church donation.

Announcements

A "Thank You" from Jereth Walk was received regarding his Bible Camp experience. He had a wonderful time and his note was very much appreciated by the Council.

Next meeting is September 11 at 8:00 p.m.

Adjourn

The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Salvason



CALENDAR TIME

It is that time of year that we start preparing the community calendar for the upcoming year "2020".

Letters will be going out to the businesses to see if they would still be interested in a very cost-effective advertisement.

For those who like to take pictures of our lakes, country side and sunsets please submit those photos, we will then vote on our new center.

If you know of any changes that need to take place whether it be to add, delete or update. Please forward that information to Tina Farrell email address:

grace_youthcal@gvtel.com or you may leave a message 218-563-2216. I will then follow up with you and confirm changes. Thank You! For your continued support.



GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Education—Written report was submitted.

The Sunday School schedule was provided

Blessing of the Backpacks—Sept 1 (REMEMBER church is at **10:30** Sept 1)

First day of Sunday School is Sept 8. Distribution of Bibles & Teacher installation will also take place on the 8th.

Need one more teacher for 1st & 2nd grade. They are considering asking one of the senior students.

Released Time—We have **no one** for the Jr. High. There is new material this year that can be copied.

Starting on Sept 11 with the elementary. This will be primarily an organizational day. Free Church will also be attending Released Time classes.

5th & 6th grade materials are here, we need another teacher to take Pastor Baker's spot—otherwise there is a problem and the classes would have to be combined which would be a very large group.

7-9th will **NEED** a volunteer IF we are going to get to have Released Time classes. We will **not be able to offer** Released Time to this group unless we get a teacher for 7-9. Please prayerfully consider and let Ann Brekken or the office know if you can fill this need.

VBS successful with about 50 students participating.

The new furniture has arrived and

looks great.

Youth Group: Discussion in the Old Business)

NALCW: This month's meeting Marilyn Ness sang. Reported on the Tonka Truck fund raiser that was very successful.

Auction will be Oct 9 starting at 6:30 with the Pie Social. Auction begins at 7:00.

August 15th had a program at Pioneer Memorial home.

Hope and the Mission Circle will meet this month.

Next meeting Sept 12 at the new time.

Trustees: We have some roof leaks due to snow removal. Don tried to patch most of them, but there are still some that need work. There are other issues with the roof and the trustees feel that they will need a professional for advice about how to deal with them.

Some bulbs and lights need replacing above the stairway. We will need an electrician to evaluate if the wiring is o.k. If there are no electrical issues then they will just replace the necessary bulbs.

We need to be looking for a person who can mow the church, parsonage, and parking lot on a permanent basis. Currently, we've been using volunteers to fill in during Daryl's absence due to surgery. However, Daryl has indicated he is downsizing his mowing responsibilities and plans to be done permanently with these particular duties.

There is a crack in one of the win-

Committee Reports:

There is a crack in one of the windows of the SS addition that will need fixing.

Nick would like to replace the HDMI boost box for the TV. One has already been replaced and it appears the other is also failing.

Deacons: Things are going well.

Church will start at 10:30 on September 1st. No other business.

Call Committee: Nothing at this time from the Call Committee.

Old Business:

Charter Youth Team—There was a meeting after worship last week and there were only three people in attendance who are on the Council. No additional people were interested in signing up. It was decided that Pastor will put something in the newsletter asking for help again. We must have volunteers if our Youth Group is going to exist.

Hollie sent Pastor Baker an e-mail dealing with a 5th Quarter—first opportunity will be Sept 13th. **Needed** are volunteers for chaperones, food, and setup. This info will be in the newsletter and if pastor can get volunteers by **Sept. 1** he will go ahead and get the invitations to the school. Expecting about 50-75 students. 5th Quarter takes place after the football game and is usually from about 9:00 to midnight. Our students really want this to happen.

Gather at the Pole is Sept 25th. Nate Johnson at the school will coordinate.

Continued on Page 11



Can you feel fall moving in? I don't like to see summer go but I do like the fall colors and cooler temperatures. I'll miss the long days- the best part of summer. Some of our ladies were helping with VBS last week. It came at the end of summer this year. We all had a lot of fun with the kids We have something coming up that has a lot of fun in the night and a few things for kids. I'm talking of our fall auction The date has been set for October 9th starting at 6:30 with pie for all. Auction bidding starts at 7:00 There's always some crazy bidding and fun going on. That's where we could use some help from the kids, helping get the item in the hands of the winning bidder. It would be fun if we had many kids helping. They add to the fun just like the ladies did. Sometimes we have 8 items of the same thing to get in the hands of 8 people who won the bid. Think about joining us. We'd love it. Next month at our meeting we will be recognizing those women who have turned 80 this year. They will receive a devotional that has become loved by many who received it. Last I want to mention the time

the time change we made for the serving at our meetings. We now start at 3:30 and serve 4:30 till 6:30. I hope when things get busy this fall this later time might help you grab a meal you don't have to make. Happy Begin-agains.

GIVING OPPORTUNITY

A letter has been received by the Polk County Sheriff's Office regarding a child safety prevention education program they are developing for children and adults in the community.

The department will be providing child safety and drug prevention education material for the children, preschool and older, as well as materials on Bullying, Identity Theft, Internet Safety and safety for our senior citizens..

If you would like to make a donation to help cover the cost of the materials, you can do it online with a debit or credit card at donate.nationalchildsafetycouncil.org

Call the Council with a debit or credit card toll free at 1-877-472-3377

Make your check payable to the National Child Safety Council and mail it to:

Sherriff James Tadman
Polk County Sheriff's Office
PO Box 416
Crookston, MN 56716

CONVOCATION NOTES

I attended Lutheran Week 2019 in Indianapolis the week of August 5th. Theme of the Convocation was 'Walking by the Spirit with the Fruit of the Spirit' based on Galatians 5:16, 22-23. :But I say, walk by the spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh...but the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control; against such things there is no law."

On a personal note, some of the older members will remember a Pr. Paul Larson who trained under Pr. Dennis Everson, who served back in 1975-1978. He is in Mansfield, Ohio and said to say hi to everyone. Had a nice visit.

At the convocation there was 299 clergy and 328 lay for a total of 627 registered. In the NALC this year there is a total of 433 congregations, an increase of 14, and 669 clergy.

Thanks to the Council for letting me attend the convocation and I was truly inspired as the NALC met for Lutheran Week 2019.

~~Paul Mahlen



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING

August 21, 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, Yvonne Halvorson, Gene Haugom, Pastor Scott Baker, Lori Hole, Dorothy Sandberg, Marc Plante, Cassie Jax, Lori Hole, Patti Hamre, Dean Bernard, Rita Trandem, Don Lundin

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

Devotions: Pastor Baker lead us in devotions based on a book he is currently reading, *The Discipleship Difference*. Closed with prayer.

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

Secretary's Report: Patti moved to approve June minutes. (no meeting in July) Seconded by Dean. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Yvonne moved to approve. Seconded by Rita. Motion carried. (June & July reports on file).

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report

- Undesignated funds available to be used for July's General Fund expenses totaled \$12,220.35. July's General Fund expenses totaled \$12,653.72.

- Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$12,191.74. The monthly budget goal is \$17,651.60.

- Noteworthy Other Giving –
 - Oil Leases – Only monthly payment from Cont. Oil Co. included in July income since the Oasis Oil payment came early at the end of June, so it was included in June's revenue.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration – NALC Convocation Offering – Donation at national gathering in Indianapolis in August.

Postage – Includes the renewal of the bulk mailing permit (\$235), stamps for Jim (\$55), and postage for the church office (\$73).

Budget Report

- We ended the month at approximately 13% or \$28,200 under budget.

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

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- July had the fourth highest giving in 2019 to date.
- July 2019 had the fifth highest giving for a July 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

- All month ends in 2019 to date have been negative.
- This is the second highest negative balance for 2019 to date.
- There has not been a positive month end balance since September 2018.
- All July's have ended in a negative balance except 2 in 9 years.
- July 2019 had the highest negative balance for any July in 9 years.

2014 was similar to 2019 in that the first 7 months of the year all ended with negative balances. That year turned around in August and had 5 positive months and ended with a positive balance. However, only one of those negative balances in the first 7 months of 2014 were higher than the ones in 2019.

Account Balances Report

- Building Fund - Reflects the month's donations and the monthly payment for the separate phone line in the elevator. Activity also included materials to fix the roof on the education wing and purchase a new door lock.
- Oil Fund – Bldg Upkeep reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue and the purchase of a \$20,000 CD.

Continued on Page 9

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

- 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.

- Oil Fund - Missions reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue and the donation of the first six months of revenue to Grace to Ukraine as designated at the Annual Meeting.

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

- Scholarship Fund – Reflects a donation.

- SS Outreach Fund – Reflects the monthly donation to Compassion International.

VBS Fund – Reflects a purchase of materials.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

Basically no change since last month

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

Balance is up slightly from June.

Jason noted it's been a tough summer financially. We will need further discussion regarding finances next month.

Nick moved to approve. Gene seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Report (June & July)
Visits: 4 Hospital visits: 10

Future Events:

David Senn/Cassie Jax Wedding—October 5, 21019

Other Information:

Baptism—Harper Ann Hansen-Graveside Committals—Craig Vincent Haugom

Wedding--Osland/Peterson

New Members—Jennifer Haugen children—Brecken Gunderson, Gracey Gunderson

Pastor provided us with the Grace Membership List as required by our Constitution. He asked that we review it for additions, corrections, or deletions. This will become the updated membership list for 2019.

Pastor Baker is talking with a congregation where he may be accepting a new interim position. Pastor will be talking with them this week; he is fairly confident that this position will happen. He has had conversations with Pastor Sletto who has agreed to do emergency Word and Sacrament ministry, baptisms, and funerals. He would not be in the office or at our Council meetings, this is emergency service that he would provide. We have had a nibble on our call, however formal paperwork has not happened, and the what ifs are still to be determined.

We must pray for the right thing to happen. Pastor Baker will notify Jason as soon as he has made a formal decision. Pastor Baker will give us a 30-day notice prior to leaving employment with us.

There will be ample time to make the proper arrangements once he accepts another position. There is nothing official right now. Pastor Baker will let us know as soon as possible.

Marc made a motion to approve Pastor's Report including the new members and mileage. Seconded by Hollie. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship—Time and Talent report. The Stewardship Committee will get the info dispensed to the correct people. Yvonne compiled the report and now the file will be updated and maintained by the Stewardship Committee. New members will get the Time & Talent cards with their "Welcome to Grace" information when they join. The Stewardship Committee will update the file upon receiving their new information.

The bulletin board at the top of the stair will be updated by the Stewardship Committee.

Stewardship Sunday—Oct 13. Plans are in the making and Bobbi will be doing a video. Patti will be e-mailing the Council asking for video information and photos. Patti will collect any pictures of activities at church or they can be sent directly to Bobbie. They are also looking for short 30 sec. snippets of testimony about "What Does Stewardship Mean". Please let Patti or Bobbie know if you are willing to do this. There will be a potluck again.

The committee is talking about the deficient and things they can do. They are going to do a LOVE offering again to give us a boost if possible.

Continued on Page 10