

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

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# The Scroll

Grace Lutheran  
Church

October 2019



## BUCKET LIST

There is always a Bucket List. Those things that still need to be done. In my personal life, there is my hope to someday visit all the states in our nation. (I've only five to go: Oregon, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Hawaii.) Other things that I have wanted to do in my life, I have crossed off my list. This also true for the interim ministries that I have been called to do. For the first time, I have accomplished all that I had listed at an interim site. (You were in good shape when I arrived and with the Call Process continuing with a candidate pastor, I can leave with a sense of completion.

This does not mean that your Bucket List as a congregation is complete. In the next few months, there are several items that need to continue or start so that the call process is faithfully completed.

1. The prayers for your new pastor which many started when I arrived need to continue through the call process and as long as your new pastor serves Grace Lutheran. The relationship that you have with your new pastor is not a business deal, but a relationship between you, the pastor and God. For this to work, the Holy Spirit must be active in the hearts and lives of all the people of God here in Erskine and wherever you are called in Christ's ministry.

2. Maintaining or even raising the level of ministry of Grace Lutheran Church. There is a temptation to coast when a pastor is not present or maybe to wait for the next pastor. The ministry of Christ and His gospel do not wait. Our home-bound members still need visited and to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. The involvement of the laity in the life and service to Christ needs to be increase which means more Bible study, worship and ministry. Opportunities to share the love of Jesus with each other and with those in need must not be postponed.

3. Stewardship needs to be above the expected.

Some people think that our stewardship of Time, Talents, and Treasure is done in relationship of what the church provides us. Without a pastor, we don't get as much, therefore, we can give less. (Since we don't have the expenses of a full-time pastor, we can afford to give less.) If this is how you think, you need

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Reformation Day

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**GRACE CHURCH**

**September 1st**  
Attendance~ 6102  
Offering~ \$2,481.00

**September 8th:**  
Attendance~ 100  
Offering~\$4,072.25

**September 15th:**  
Attendance~ 86  
Offering~ \$1,857.00

**September 22nd:**  
Attendance~ 103  
Offering~\$2,062.47

The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday **October 16th** at 8:00 PM. All meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise stated. *\*Please note change in date.*

**North American Lutheran Church Women of Grace**

The Grace NALCW will meet on Thursday October 10th at 3:30 PM. Group #8 will serve from 4:30-6:30 PM. Members of Group #8 are Renee Howe, Mary Ellen Salveson, Joyce Voxland, Laura Perkerwicz, Hollie Stewart and Liz Jenson.

**OCTOBER GREETERS**

- 6th: Scott & Jaci Hanson
- 13th: Gene & Mavis Haugom
- 20th: Audrey Hemmingsen
- 27th: Ira & Shar Hill

Circle Meetings

- Hope Circle:** Thursday October 24th at 2:00PM at the church.
- Rebecca Circle:** Thursday October 24th at 6:30PM at the church.
- Mission Circle:** Friday October 25th at 2:00PM at the church.

The Grace 'Men of Courage' will meet on October 1st and 15th at 5:30 PM, at Grace Church. Bring your own meat for grilling. All men are welcomed to join this group.



**OCTOBER 2019**

**Grace Lutheran Church**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 Confirmation 9:15am-Sunday School 10am-Cake w/ Pr. Baker 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	7 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	8 7pm-'Women of Grace' Bible Study 8pm-AA mtg.	9 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-RT Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	10 3:30pm-NALCW	11	12 9:30am- Rebroadcast
13 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/ Holy Comm.	14 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	15 5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	16 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-Jr. High RT 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7:30pm <b>Committees meet</b> 8pm-Council mtg.	17	18	19 9:30am- Rebroadcast
20 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	21 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	22 7pm-'Women of Grace' Bible Study 8pm-AA mtg.	23 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-RT Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	24 2pm-Hope Circle 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	25 2pm-Mission Circle	26 9:30am- Rebroadcast
27 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	28 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	29 8pm-AA mtg.	30 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-Jr. High RT 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	31		
			<b>Greeters:</b> 6th: Scott & Jaci Hanson 13th: Gene & Mavis Haugom	20th: Audrey Hemmingsen 27th: Ira & Shar Hill		

\*CIRCLES\*  
Hope  
Rebecca  
Mission

**Ushers :**  
Terry Lucken  
Terry Strom  
Allen Jenson  
Austin Tadman  
Brian Stuhaug family  
Tony Stuhaug family

**Communion Assistants:**  
Hollie Stewart and Mavis Haugom

**Altar Flowers:**  
Rebecca Circle

**Altar Guild:**  
Lori Hole

**R= Reader**  
**V= Video**  
**A=Acolyte**

**OCTOBER 6th:**  
R~ Mary Bratrud  
V~ Josie Johnson  
A~ Riley Kochmann and Cameron Svalen

**OCTOBER 13th:**  
R~ Joanne Sannes  
V~ Kianna Tadman

**OCTOBER 20th:**  
R~ Kim Mahlen  
V~ Clare Stuhaug  
A~ Sydney Svalen and Presley Haugen

**OCTOBER 27th:**  
R~ Betty Lundin  
V~ A~

at the church  
at the church  
at the church



August 2019 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$10,377.09

Expenses:

Administrative - \$10,458.09

Education - \$205.70

Mission Outreach - \$700.00

Pastoral - \$5,617.85

Worship - \$418.83

Total Expenses - \$17,400.47



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](http://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.



**Simple Ways to Grow in Giving**

Jesus often spoke of the life of faith in terms of growth and bearing fruit. One of the ways that we can be intentional about growth in our life of faith is to set a pattern for growth in our regular weekly giving. Instead of falling into the same rut year after year, there are some ways we can move forward in sure and simple steps.

*The following are a couple of ideas for how you might consider growing in your giving this year.*



**Good Idea #1 – Percentage Growth**

Step 1: Using the chart on the reverse page, find the figure that is closest to your annual income. Then move across the row to find the dollar amount you currently give in offerings this year. Look at the top of the column to find out the approximate percentage of your income you currently give.

- My Yearly Income: \_\_\_\_\_
- What I Currently Give Each Week: \_\_\_\_\_
- The Percentage of My Income that I Currently Give: \_\_\_\_\_

Step 2: Now simply shift left one space to the next higher column. This will increase your giving to the next percentage step. Use the amount for this percentage in your planned giving for the coming year.

- The Percentage of My Income I Plan to Give Next Year: \_\_\_\_\_
- The Amount I Plan to Give Each Week Next Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**Good Idea #2 – Dollar Growth**

Step 1: Write down what you give per week this year: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Step 2: Write down how many "tens" you currently give: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(for example, \$20 is 2 "tens" — if no tens, write in 1)*

Step 3: Increase the amount in Step 1 by the dollar amount in Step 2. Use this new figure as your weekly planned giving amount for next year.

- The Amount I Plan to Give Each Week Next Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chart of Percentage Giving**

Use this chart to find out what percentage of your annual income you give in offerings per week:

Annual Income	12%	Weekly Giving (in Dollars)						
		10%	8%	6%	4%	2%		
\$ 5,200	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00		
\$ 6,500	15.00	12.50	10.00	7.50	5.00	2.50		
\$ 7,800	18.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	3.00		
\$ 9,100	21.00	17.50	14.00	10.50	7.00	3.50		
\$ 10,400	24.00	20.00	16.00	12.00	8.00	4.00		
\$ 11,700	27.00	22.50	18.00	13.50	9.00	4.50		
\$ 13,000	30.00	25.00	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00		
\$ 14,300	33.00	27.50	22.00	16.50	11.00	5.50		
\$ 15,600	36.00	30.00	24.00	18.00	12.00	6.00		
\$ 18,200	42.00	35.00	28.00	21.00	14.00	7.00		
\$ 20,800	48.00	40.00	32.00	24.00	16.00	8.00		
\$ 23,400	54.00	45.00	36.00	27.00	18.00	9.00		
\$ 26,000	60.00	50.00	40.00	30.00	20.00	10.00		
\$ 28,600	66.00	55.00	44.00	33.00	22.00	11.00		
\$ 31,200	72.00	60.00	48.00	36.00	24.00	12.00		
\$ 36,400	84.00	70.00	56.00	42.00	28.00	14.00		
\$ 41,600	96.00	80.00	64.00	48.00	32.00	16.00		
\$ 46,800	108.00	90.00	72.00	54.00	36.00	18.00		
\$ 52,000	120.00	100.00	80.00	60.00	40.00	20.00		
\$ 65,000	150.00	125.00	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00		
\$ 78,000	180.00	150.00	120.00	90.00	60.00	30.00		
\$ 91,000	210.00	175.00	140.00	105.00	70.00	35.00		
\$ 104,000	240.00	200.00	160.00	120.00	80.00	40.00		
\$ 117,000	270.00	225.00	180.00	135.00	90.00	45.00		
\$ 130,000	300.00	250.00	200.00	150.00	100.00	50.00		



**OCTOBER ACOLYTES**

6th: Riley KochmanN and Cameron Svalen

13th: Josie Fortman and Claire Juve

20th: Sydney Svalen and Presley Haugen

27th:

**OCTOBER VIDEO TECHS**

6th: Josie Johnson

13th: Kianna Tadman

20th: Clare Stuhaug

27th:



**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.

- \* Allan Salverson
- \* Shirley Uang
- \* Don Barrow
- \* Bonnie Strand
- \* Allen Jenson
- \* Michael Jenson
- \* Neva Schepersky
- \* Steven Baker
- \* Joey Bauer
- \* Robert Rohrbaugh
- \* Grace Call Committee



Hello ladies. It's that time again The fall auction and bidding time. October 9th the auction will start with free pie social at 6:30. Joe McMullen has volunteered to be our auctioneer again this year. We are so thankful he does this for us. He keeps us moving along and having fun. Bidding starts at 7:00. Becky Lindseth is chairing this event. Your donations of goods for bidding can be brought that same day. Each of the serving groups will please bring 2 pies and 1 man (husband, son, grandson) to serve in the kitchen.

Renee brought us a proposal for the serving of our ladies aide meetings. Be sure to read it elsewhere in the scroll. It was tabled till next month.

Please join us on October 6th for cake and coffee for Pastor Baker. He will be leaving that week for his next assignment. Come wish him well and God's Blessings. We will miss him.

God's blessings to each of you as fall gets us ready for the season of snow to come. Happy raking and sunsets.



***“By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.” (2 Tim. 1:14)***

**Join us in celebrating Stewardship Sunday on October 13<sup>th</sup>!**

We will celebrate Stewardship Sunday by having a potluck dinner after the church service on Sunday, October 13. Please bring a dish of your choice to share!

Included in this edition of the Scroll you will find a “Love Offering” envelope. We are continually repairing and improving our beautiful building and grounds. We strive to keep current with new technology that will improve our worship services to benefit our church members. The general fund has been in negative territory for quite some time and we are trying to get it back into positive territory during 2019. We ask that you prayerfully consider a special Love Offering to help us obtain that goal and to stay ahead of the expenses that arise in our church. You have the option to mail it in, drop it off at the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

**We would also like to remind you that we have the option of electronic giving. If you would like to sign up for electronic giving, or change your electronic giving amount, please contact the church office.**

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we want to thank you for your generous contributions of money, time, resources and talents to our congregation.

God bless you!



**GRACE COUNCIL, continued**

They will be dealt with.

We are going to need someone new to mow the church, parsonage, and parking lot for Grace.

Need to check into a roof leak in the church entry before winter.

Deacons: (Gene reported)

Acolyte training session on September 29 during the Sunday School hour.

Call Committee: Mary reported on Sunday during services that we have received a profile. Committee will meet on Tuesday.

**Old Business: (none)**

Stained Glass Report: Mary met with the designer from Mpls. He was very knowledgeable and provided a great deal of information. He will be getting back to the committee with a proposal. Funds for the window have been raised.

**New Business:**

*General Fund deficit balance.*

Stewardship Sunday coming. Focus on the LOVE offering to hopefully help with the balance. It is difficult to make plans during this transition time so we will move forward accordingly as we wait for a new pastor. Five Sundays in September should be helpful with the balance.

*October Council meeting date.*  
Conflict with the auction. **Date change will be October 16 at 8:00.**

*Office break-in*—The door stops were moved and the lock was jimmied on both the outside door and the office door. It was evi-

dent that the office was broken into and the Food Shelf. The debit card was taken and used. Decisions will not be made in terms of insurance until there is an official police report. New locks needed due to the break-in. Dead bolts will be put on the Food Shelf, Office, and Pastor's Study. We may need to look into where/who has keys and times for the church opening and locking each day. We may want to consider some type of lock box for spare keys. Decisions will need to be made regarding who has a combination. We will need to implement some type of formal security procedure. We will need to replace the damaged safe.

**Announcements**

(Average Summer Attendance from May 1-Aug 31 was 81)

**\*\*NOTE\*\***Next meeting will be October 16 at 8:00 p.m.

**Adjourn****The Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,

*Yvonne Salvo*

**When We See The Harvest**

A harvest of apples,  
a harvest of corn;  
A harvest of plenty,  
an autumn adorned.  
With bright colored leaves,  
a fall festive blend;  
A wonderful time  
for families and friends.

A harvest of pumpkins,  
a harvest of grain;  
A harvest of bounty,  
and cool autumn rains.  
A big harvest moon—  
way up in the sky;  
A harvest of blessing  
that God has supplied.

Be grateful, be humble,  
give thanks to the Lord;  
He has showered His blessing  
here in our world.  
But have we been faithful,  
and have we been true?  
Have we put God first  
in all that we do?

A harvest that God sees  
is not food or crop;  
Not pumpkins, or grain,  
not apples that drop.  
But God sees the harvest  
of souls needing Him;  
A harvest of people who need  
to be saved from their sin.

A harvest of souls  
and A harvest of love;  
A harvest of mercy  
from our Father above.  
When we see the harvest  
let's see through God's eyes;  
And share with the nations  
the life He supplies.

~~Susan Y Nikitenko



The 'Women of Grace' young women's Bible Study will meet Tuesday October 8th and 22nd at 7:00 PM. Contact person is Rhonda Breitbach at 218-368-8543, if you have questions.



**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**  
Confirmation Sunday at Grace will be held on Sunday October 6th. Confirmed on that day will be:  
Kyra Stuhaug  
Kianna Tadman



*Loving Father, you alone are the source of every good gift. We praise you for all your gifts to us, and we thank you for your generosity. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Help us to be grateful and responsible. You have called us to follow your son, Jesus, without counting the cost. Send us your Holy Spirit to give us courage and wisdom to be faithful disciples. We commit ourselves to being good stewards. Help us to be grateful, accountable, generous, and willing to give back with increase. Help us to make stewardship a way of life. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. AMEN*

**FROM THE PASTOR, con't.**  
study the Bible and be reminded that no amount of giving can earn the love of Jesus on the cross. We don't give to pay the bills, but to share the love of Christ. Practically, this is the time to prepare for the expenses of a new pastor (moving costs, etc.) It is also the time to show that our giving is done rightly in gratitude for what Christ has already done.

Our service to Christ is never done, but maybe, we need to think how we can best serve.

I thank you for your many blessings that you have given me as I move to serve Christ in a new place with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Oklahoma. God bless you as you walk with our Savior.

~~Pastor Baker

**Pastoral Care**

As we find ourselves between pastors, Pr. Mike Sletto has agreed to assist us with pulpit supply and pastoral emergencies. Pr. Sletto can be reached at 218-280-1454.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING

Sept 11, 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, Dorothy Sandberg, Patti Hamre, Dean Bernard, Don Lundin, Ryan Breitbach

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

**Devotions:** Pastor Baker lead us in devotions. "Jesus is coming soon" was the book he based devotions on.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve the amended agenda by Patti. Seconded by Yvonne. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** Nick moved to approve minutes. Seconded by Don. Motion carried.

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

Cash Flow Report

- Undesignated funds available to be used for August's General Fund expenses totaled \$10,449.14. August's General Fund expenses totaled \$17,400.47.

- Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$10,377.09. The monthly budget goal is \$17,651.60.

- Noteworthy Other Giving –
  - o None

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration – Church & Parsonage Electricity – monthly expense was lower than normal due to credit balance accumulated over the previous year.

Miscellaneous – Entire balance is due to the recent break-in at the church office: debit card charges (\$2,639.42) and re-establishing petty cash for the office (\$150.00).

Office supplies – copier paper, labels, postcards, and binders

Budget Report

- We ended the month at approximately 13.5% or \$28,500 under budget.

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

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- August had the second lowest giving in 2019 to date.
  - August 2019 had the second lowest giving for an August in 9 years.
- Year-to-date total is behind last year at this time by approximately \$10,000; 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 highest negative balance for 2019 to date.
  - There has not been a positive month end balance since September 2018.
  - All August's have ended in a negative balance except 3 in 9 years.
  - August 2019 had the highest negative balance ever in 9 years!
- Without including the theft amount, the ending balance would have been
- \$12,346.77. This would still be the worst month in 2019 and the worst since September 2011.

Account Balances Report

- Building Fund - Reflects the month's donations and the monthly payment for the separate phone line in the elevator.
- Oil Fund – Bldg Upkeep reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.
- 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.
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund – Reflects a donation.

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**GRACE COUNCIL, continued  
Treasurer's Report:**

- Scholarship Fund – Reflects a donation.
- SS Outreach Fund – Reflects the monthly donation to Compassion International.
- Stained Glass Window Fund – Reflects a donation.

VBS Fund – Reflects the purchase of materials and snacks as well as donation.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

Decreased approximately \$3,000 since last month. Third month of decline.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

Balance is up slightly from July. Highest balance since March 2019. Third month of increases in value.

Other Information

- After receiving the new debit card for the church, I have implemented additional electronic controls.

At some point, the Council should address the significant deficit balance in the General Fund.

Things financially are very difficult at this time.

Gene moved to approve. Patti seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor Report:**

Visits: 6

Hospital visits: 0

**Future Events:**

5<sup>th</sup> Quarter Youth Event—Friday Sept 13.

David Senn/Cassie Jax Wedding—October 5, 21019

Confirmation-Oct 6—Kianna Tadman, Kyra Stuhaug, Breann Alexander-Dahl

**Other Information:**

Pastor accepted the offer of Peace Lutheran Church, Edmond, OK to be their Interim Minister. His last Sunday will be October 6, 2019.

Technically, with vacation Pastor will be employed until the middle of October. We will pay his insurance until the end of October. Parsonage will need to be readied prior to getting a new pastor. We will need to purchase an oven. Pastor Sletto will be helping us out throughout the transition between Pastor Baker leaving and hiring a new pastor.

Hollie will take care of an appreciation event for Pastor Baker before church (10:00-10:30) on October 6.

Hollie made a motion to approve Pastor's Report. Seconded by Dean. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

Stewardship—The committee met last week. Started distributing Time & Talent worksheets to appropriate committee people. Working on Stewardship Sunday. Discussed the possibility of having a Youth Service (the entire service taken care of by the youth)

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Stewardship—The committee met last week. Started distributing Time & Talent worksheets to appropriate committee people.

Working on Stewardship Sunday. Discussed the possibility of having a Youth Service (the entire service taken care of by the youth)

Education—SS started and Adult Class started.

Released time started with 75 students from Grace & 25 from the Free Lutheran church.

The pastor from the Free Lutheran will take over teaching from Pastor Baker when he leaves.

Catechism class started and it will be a 3-year process. First 2 years (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) will be done during Sunday School taught by the SS teachers, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> year (9<sup>th</sup>) will be taught by the Pastor.

Youth Group: 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter coming up. Pastor could still use some additional volunteer help.

NALCW: Meeting the 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30. Group 7 will serve. DeAnn Haagenon will sing. Pastor will do devotions. The 80-year-old members will be receiving devotionals. Circles will meet as usual. The Auction will be coming up in October.

Trustees: (Don reported) Lights were installed in the back of the church. (1/2 have been completed).

Nothing has been done yet with the cracked window and the missing bulbs in the stairway.

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