


The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church


November 2019

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TRUST
in
the LORD
with
All Your Heart
and lean not unto your own
UNDERSTANDING
in ALL thy ways
ACKNOWLEDGE HIM
and he shall
Direct
THY PATHS
PROVERBS 3:5-6





The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday November 13th 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 November 14th at 3:30 PM. Group #9 will serve from 4:30-6:30 PM. Members of Group #8 are Judi Hoeft, Sandy Nordheim, Bonnie Salveson, Lila Lucken and Trudy Carlson.

Circle Meetings

Hope Circle: Thursday November 21st at 2:00PM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: Thursday November 21st at 6:30PM at the church.

Mission Circle: Sr. Meal Site for Thanksgiving Dinner

GRACE CHURCH

September 29th

Attendance~ 74
Offering~ \$2,303.63

October 13th:

Attendance~ 100
Offering~ \$2,576.85

October 6th:

Attendance~ 144
Offering~\$2,653.91

October 20th:

Attendance~ 71
Offering~\$2,104.29

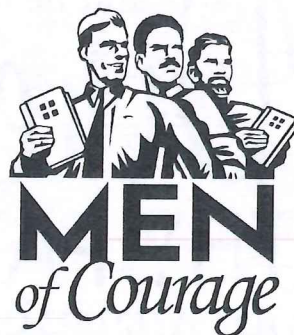
NOVEMBER GREETERS

3rd: John & Tanika Hillstad

10th: Lee & Sherry Hoas

17th: Judi Hoeft

24th: Jim & Marsha Hoffmann



The Grace 'Men of Courage' will meet on November 5th and 19th at 5:30 PM, at Grace Church. All men are welcomed to join this group.



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.



September 2019 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$15,886.35

Expenses:

Administrative - \$6,598.51

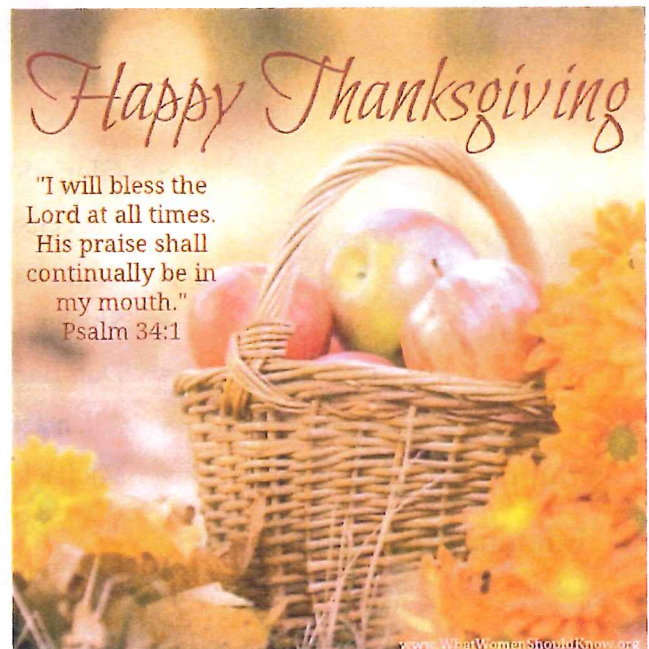
Education - \$810.96

Mission Outreach - \$1,123.00

Pastoral - \$5,167.77

Worship - \$466.44

Total Expenses - \$14,166.68





NOVEMBER ACOLYTES

3rd: Sydney Svalen and Emily Strom

10th: Presley Haugen and Josie Fortman

17th: Josie Johnson and Paige Breitbach

24th: Shayna Juve and Lillian Shimpa

NOVEMBER VIDEO TECHS

3rd: Dylan Hagen

10th: Calvin Hill

17th: Claire Juve

24th: Lily Pries



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.

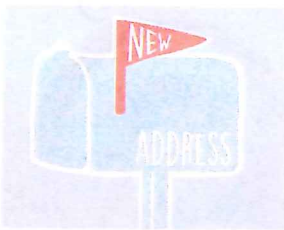


The 'Women of Grace' young women's Bible Study will meet Tuesday November 12th and 26th at 7:00 PM. Contact person is Rhonda Breitbach at 218-368-8543, if you have questions.



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.



Pr. Scott Baker
2700 E. Danforth Road
Edmond, OK 73034

- * Gloria Staehnke
- * Liz Jenson
- * Allan Salverson
- * Shirley Uang
- * Don Barrow
- * Allen Jenson
- * Michael Jenson
- * Neva Schepersky
- * Joey Bauer
- * Grace Call Committee



Thanksgiving month. What do we give thanks for. When Paul wrote his books in the Bible many of them had a paragraph 'I give thanks for'. He was thankful for fellow believers. That's a good place to go with our thanks. We have had our auction in October which raised \$4562 for missions. Before our next NALCW meeting officers will meet to make a list of proposed mission donations. We will include near and far, hoping to spread the gospel of Jesus. I am thankful for the generous donations of time, merchandise, good fun, and good hearts as we raised funds to give money to spread God's love.

At our September and October meeting a proposal for a change in serving at our meetings was brought. On motion, a small group wrote the following proposal.

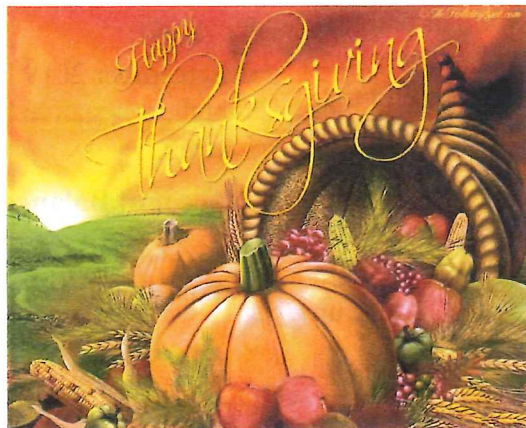
NALCW NEWS — Please vote

A motion was passed at the October NALCW meeting that active ladies aide groups vote regarding the structure and policy of the NALCW serving groups. Listed below are the two options for consideration. Please vote and submit to Hollie Stewart or your group chair by November 9th as the matter will be included on the November 14th NALCW agenda.

_____ **RETAIN CURRENT** (This option groups continue serving an evening meal) --- We meet the second Thursday of March through November at 3:30 pm serving from 4:30 - 6:30 in the basement of Grace Lutheran Church. This is a change per our November 2018 meeting. There will be no meeting in December, January or February.

_____ **CHANGE TO PROPOSED** --- We meet the second Thursday of April through November at 2:00, serving dessert & coffee from 3:00 - 4:00 pm in the basement Grace Lutheran Church. There will be no meeting in December, January, February or March. (With passage, this proposal would encourage a donation of \$50⁰⁰ per any NALCW member in lieu of serving a meal.)

PLEASE CHECK ONE AND RETURN



Gratitude

This Thanksgiving, as you gather around the dinner table with your friends and family, consider reading aloud some biblical reflections on the topic of thanksgiving.

1 Corinthians 4:7

For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

Psalms 126:3

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

Colossians 1:12-14

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Psalms 100:4-5

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING

Oct 16, 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, Dorothy Sandberg, Patti Hamre, Dean Bernard, Don Lundin, Rita Trandem, Jim Ferden, Lori Hole visitor-Mary Bratrud

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

Devotions: Hollie lead us in devotions.

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

Secretary's Report: Don moved to approve the September Council minutes and the September 16th Executive Committee minutes. Seconded by Dean. Motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report

- Undesignated funds available to be used for September's General Fund expenses totaled \$15,935.17. This was a significant improvement over August! Certainly 5 Sundays in September

helped. This amount also exceeded September's General Fund expenses totaling \$14,166.68 which helped to somewhat reduce the negative General Fund balance.

- Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$15,886.35. The monthly budget goal is \$17,651.60.

- Noteworthy Other Giving –
 - o Miscellaneous - \$1,000 donation was given for the Stained Glass windows.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration – Church & Parsonage expenses – Due to timing, there were no expenses related to telephone, internet, and the fax machine this month. The second half of property taxes were due for the church, parsonage, and the parking lot.

Financial Secretary – Quarterly compensation was due.

Miscellaneous – Cost of the various lock services we received due to the recent theft.

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

Education – Due to a mistake in ordering SS materials, Ann obtained 2 years worth of teaching materials. After consulting with me, we decided to not send the wrong materials back as they can be used next year.

Budget Report

- We ended the month at approximately 15% or \$32,000 under budget.

All of the major budgeted expense

categories ended under budget for the month:

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- September had the best giving since April!
- It also had the third highest giving so far in 2019!!
- September 2019 had the second highest giving for a September in 9 years!!!

Nevertheless, year-to-date total giving continues to be 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.
- Due to the higher giving in September, the negative General Fund balance was reduced slightly from last month.
- This is the second highest negative balance for 2019 to date.
- There has not been a positive month end balance since September 2018.
- All September's have ended in a negative balance except 2 in 9 years.

September 2019 had the second highest negative balance in 9 years.

Account Balances Report

- Building Fund - Reflects the month's donations

Continued on Page 7

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

- HS Scholarship Fund – Reflects a donation.
- Oil Fund – Bldg Upkeep reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue and the sale of two cookbooks. Previous anniversary expenses (including the cookbook production) were taken from this account due to a deficit balance in the Anniversary Fund.
- 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.
- SS Outreach Fund – Reflects the monthly donation to Compassion International and Sunday School offerings.

Stained Glass Window Fund – Reflects a donation.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

After a large decrease last month, the balance increased by \$1,000 this month.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

- Highest balance ever!!
- Fourth month of increases in value.

Currently exceeds our original investment by \$3,300!

Yvonne moved to approve. Don seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Report

Jason visited with Pastor Mike

Sletto. Pastor and Kim were meeting to discuss procedures for working together during this transition time.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: No meeting this week. Stewardship Sunday went very well. Video was great. Bobbi's outstanding work was noted. About 40 people were at the Pot Luck. Love offering just over \$4200! Bulletin Board has been updated at the top of the steps.

Education: Fire Extinguisher purchase will be taken care of by Don and Dean. Some smaller robes will be purchased for the younger children who are now going to be involved in the worship services. Hollie noted that we need some additional volunteer supervision for Released Time. Some of the classes are quite large and the teachers need some additional help.

Youth Group: None this week. Jim and Hollie will *temporarily* assist with some coordination for an activity or two for our youth during this transition time, but we are **still very much in need of parental leadership**. We ask that youth parents prayerfully consider this opportunity.

NALCW: Hollie reported. NALCW met Oct 10. Lila had devotions and Mavis did Bible Study. Audrey and Dorothy sang. Mavis Finseth played piano. Group 8 served. \$4562.00 received from auction. A very successful evening! Hunter Supper is on Nov 9 from 5-8. Becky L. still needs more food items and some workers.

Serving groups are going through some revamping in regard to their meetings and serving. Nothing will change in terms of serving for funerals. Active members of the serving groups will be receiving a post card to vote regarding the structure and policy on the NALCW serving groups. Voting Option 1: Retain the current practice of a meeting for the ladies in attendance and following the program, the serving group responsible for the month serves a meal that is open to the public. Voting Option 2: Change the procedure from serving public meals following the ladies meeting to serving desert and coffee to those in attendance. There would be no public meal served anymore. The proposal will include a request that the active members would be encouraged to give a \$50 donation in lieu of serving.

Trustees: Don reported, and we thank him for all the extra work he has been doing.

Dead bolts have been purchased and will be installed soon.

Lighting improvements. Light fixtures (2 sets) have been replaced. There were two lights in the Narthex that were out, and one by the west wall that were fixed by Gene. He was able to replace them and match the existing fixtures. We thank Gene for the extra effort he took to do this job. Light replacements in the Sanctuary are pretty much completed, with only the one above the back bulletin bookshelf remaining to be fixed.

Continued on Page 8

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

The hanging lights in the church will need some replacement lights since they have several burned out bulbs. No Boundaries will be called to do these replacements. A new kitchen stove is needed for the parsonage. Dean and Don will go shopping. They will also get a new fire extinguisher on this shopping trip.

Roof repair is complete. Roof was leaking all the way around the edge of the roof in addition to some leaks on the roof. All has been taken care of very professionally. The leak in the corner, at the head of the stairs, was also repaired. We must continue to monitor our roof to make sure that there are no other issues. Parsonage has some issues including: the furnace needs work, sump pump is not working correctly, some of the walls need to be painted and freshened up. The parsonage will be evaluated overall for updates prior to our getting a new pastor. Dean has volunteered to do some of the painting. Thank you to Dean.

Kim is going to order a safe from the office supply company in the range of \$200-\$250 to replace the damaged one.

Deacons: Gene reported. We had previously discussed advertising in the Valley Shopper and wanted to check on cost. Gene checked and advertising for the church would be free. Mavis has been helping with getting communion assistants and she has this covered. Rita and Gene began discussion regarding holiday ser-

vices. Decisions need to be made regarding the number of services and the need for service assistants. More discussion to follow.

Call Committee: Mary B. reported. Mary read a letter that will be published in the Scroll and be read in church. A minister has been invited to visit on Nov 16 & 17. This visit is a public visit and our worshipers will be able to meet this person and ask questions. A sincere "Thank you" was expressed for the outstanding work of our Call Committee. We are very excited and look forward with positive anticipation to this next phase of the call process.

Old Business:

Stained Glass Committee Mary reported that she is still in conversation with Marty Stone to see what the progress is to date. A bid has been requested.

General Fund balance We will try to continue as is until the 1st of the year and then make some decisions based on the 4th quarter.
New locks on office door Dead bolts on the Food Shelf door, office door, and door to the pastor's study will be installed soon.

New Business:

"Faith Comes By Hearing" Bible Sticks for Military Do we wish to support this mission as we have in the past. Hollie moved to support. Dean seconded. Motion carried. (We usually have presented this opportunity to the congregation around Veterans Day)
Parsonage overview by Jason Jason did a walk through to get an overview of the condition of the

parsonage. We may want to update beyond what the absolute necessary fixes are. We should consider doing some upgrades that perhaps could be taken on by congregation volunteers. More discussion to follow.

Polk County Coordinated Victim Services Jason reported that the county court has contacted us regarding our losses from the break-in. One of the defendants is in custody and the other is still at large. Jason has requested the incident report for more information. Once we receive the report Jason will bring it to Scott for insurance review.

Furnace Room Gene brought up the condition of the furnace room. It must be cleaned because it is a safety hazard. We will add this need to the list for parsonage updates. We will be looking for volunteer assistance for these issues.

Announcements

Next meeting is November 13 at 8:00 p.m.

Adjourn**The Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Salverson



A THANKSGIVING REMEMBRANCE

My paternal grandmother lived with us. She would sit in the porch swing and I would stand behind her and brush her beautiful long gray hair. As I brushed her hair she would tell me her two favorite stories from the Bible. The only thing better was when she would have me snuggle up close to her in the swing as she read to me. As I child, I surmised that they were just good stories but now as a mother and grandmother I realize she had an ulterior motive - she was teaching me a most valuable lesson - a lesson about kindness and thankfulness.

She often added to the story of the Good Samaritan, "You never pass someone in need even if their skin is not the color of yours." And, "You should never pick and choose who you will be kind to, you just be kind," she would enumerate over and over.

This same instruction came with Manners and Etiquette. "Know what to do and do it. If you do the same right thing often enough it will become second nature to you." "That way," she would instruct, "You will always know

what to do and feel confident doing it."

Sounded complicated as a child but as I grew older I realized what I did automatically, others my age struggled with.

This tutoring soon gave me the understanding that the Kindness lessons and the Manners lessons were synonymous. They both really were practicing the Golden Rule. Which is simply put, "Treat others, as you want to be treated and never forget any kindness extended to you."

I also learned as a child growing up that my mother always had a slip of paper fastened to the inside of a cabinet door in the kitchen. It was near the sink where mother was more apt to see it. At the top of the page were written the words, "Lest I forget." There was never a kindness extended to her or our family that was not found listed on her paper. In November of each year she would in some way once again let the person or persons involved know how grateful she was for their kindness. Mother often quoted the reminder to us, "Don't remember the kindness you do for another, but never forget kindness done for you."

I am reminded even more of the lessons learned as a child and even some days I find myself missing that spot on grandma's lap and the peace that came with her loving arms around me.

I am reminded even more of the lessons learned as a child and even some days I find myself missing that spot on grandma's lap and the peace that came with her loving arms around me.

May we each give thanks and remember all kindness given to us.

Submitted by Anonymous



Thanksgiving Prayer
Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You've done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see
For joy and health, friends and family,
For daily provision, Your mercy, and care
These are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days.
 —Mary Fairchild

July 22, 2019

Peace be with you dear Grace Lutheran Youth.

How are you? I hope you are healthy and blessed by the Lord just like me and my family. Thank you for being my sponsor. I am blessed with your prayers. Please continue to pray for me so that I grow to be a good boy who obey my parents, fear of the Lord and respect all people around me. Now I am in grade 6 and am so grateful for God's mercy in my life. My favorite subject is Indonesian language lessons. I keep praying for my parents so that they will always in good health and take care of me. My activity in school and project is back on track. I am glad to meet and play with my friends. Did you celebrate Thanksgiving Day? How do you usually celebrate it? Love, Rangga.

Pray for ...

RANGGA
RAYSELI LEONAL KAMUH
EAST INDONESIA



Rangga is entering a new class!

What an exciting time for you to pray and encourage him in this next stage. Here, you will find examples of age-appropriate goals for students in your child's age range and culture.

We hope that knowing the kinds of development goals Rangga will be focusing on will help guide your prayers for him!

SPIRITUAL

Pray for Rangga as he ...

- › Learns to locate books within Scripture
- › Develops an understanding of confession and forgiveness
- › Begins to explain lessons drawn from scriptural stories
- › Develops a personal devotional and prayer time

COGNITIVE

Pray that he will develop academically by ...

- › Participating in extracurricular activities
- › Developing study habits
- › Participating in workshops and activities at the Compassion student center
- › Learning to explain abstract concepts (love, war, poverty)

PHYSICAL

Pray for him as he ...

- › Learns to observe a balanced diet
- › Begins to practice at least one physical activity or sport regularly
- › Develops an understanding of healthy habits to prevent sickness
- › Learns abuse-prevention actions

SOCIO-EMOTIONAL

Pray for your child as he learns to ...

- › Demonstrate empathy and compassion during conflict
- › Develop a relationship through letter writing
- › Not give in to negative peer pressure
- › Work cooperatively with others to accomplish tasks

NOVEMBER 2019

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES

Hope
Rebecca
Mission
at the church
at the church
St. Meal Site

Ushers:

Karl Erickson
Shawn Ostenaar
Becky Lindseth
Paul & Kim Mahlen
Mark Coleman family

Communion Assistants:

Karl Erickson and Sue Rasmussen

Altar Flowers:

Hope Circle

Altar Guild:

Mary Bratrud

R= Reader

V=Video

A=Acolyte

NOVEMBER 3rd:

R~ Bryce DuChamp

V~ Dylan Hagen

A~ Sydney Svalen and Emily Strom

NOVEMBER 10th:

R~ Hollie Stewart

V~ Calvin Hill

A~ Presley Haugen and Josie Fortman

NOVEMBER 17th:

R~ Rhonda Breitbart

V~ Claire Juve

A~ Josie Johnson and Paige Breitbart

NOVEMBER 24th:

R~ Gary Walter

V~ Lily Pries

A~ Shayna Juve and Lillian Shimpa

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 All Saints Sunday 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	4 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	5 5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	6 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-RT Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	7	8	9 9:30am- Rebroadcast
10 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/ Holy Comm.	11 7:30am-MBS 9:30am -LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast	12 7pm-'Women of Grace' Bible Study 8pm-AA mtg.	13 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-Jr. High RT 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7:30pm Committees meet 8pm-Council mtg.	14 3:30pm-NALCW	15	16 9:30am- Rebroadcast
17 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	18 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast	19 5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	20 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-RT Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	21 2pm-Hope Circle 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	22	23 9:30am- Rebroadcast
24 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	25 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast	26 7pm-'Women of Grace' Bible Study 8pm-AA mtg.	27 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-Jr. High RT 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	29	30
			Greeters: 3rd: John & Tanika Hillstad 10th: Lee & Sherry Hoas	17th: Judi Hoelt 24th: Jim & Marsha Hoffmann		