

# The Scroll

Grace Lutheran  
Church

January 2020



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2019 ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 26, 2020  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

# ANNUAL MEETING

## NOTICE

**Grace Cemetery  
Association (GCA)  
Annual Meeting**

Monday January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

7:00 pm

Grace Lutheran Church in Erskine

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**I'M NOT  
RELIGIOUS...  
I'M JUST  
INTO JESUS**



The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday January 8th 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 are on vacation until April. See you then.

Circle Meetings

**Hope Circle:** January 23rd, 2:00 PM at the church

**Rebecca Circle:** January 23rd, 6:30 PM at the church

**Mission Circle:** No meeting

GRACE CHURCH

**December 1st:**

Attendance~ 72

Offering~ \$2,130.43

**December 15th:**

Attendance~ 220

Offering~ \$2,573.00

**December 29th: No church due to weather**

**December 8th:**

Attendance~ 84

Offering~\$2,091.78

**December 22nd:**

Attendance~ 79

Offering~\$5,002.00

JANUARY GREETERS

5th: Bryan & Nicole Johnson

12th: LeRoy Johnson

19th: Russell Johnson

26th: Linda Jorgenson



The Grace 'Men of Courage' will meet on January 7th and 24th at 5:30 PM, at Grace Church. All men are welcomed to join this group.



### 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.

### November 2019 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$15,952.81

#### Expenses:

Administrative - \$6,416.16

Education - \$135.19

Mission Outreach - \$1,700.00

Pastoral - \$1,923.76

Worship - \$1,039.37

Total Expenses - \$11,214.48





**GRACE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**December 11, 2019**

**8:00 P.M.**

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

**JANUARY ACOLYTES**

5th: Calvin Hill and Josie Fort-  
man

12th: Claire Juve and Paige  
Breitbach

19th: Lily Pries and Lillian  
Shimpa

26th: Riley Kochman and Char-  
ley Carlson

**JANUARY VIDEO TECHS**

5th: Presley Haugen

12th: Josie Johnson

19th: Shayna Juve

26th: Carter Fortman



- \* Samantha Lunsetter
- \* Gloria Staehnke
- \* Don Barrow
- \* Peggy Cook
- \* Michael Jenson
- \* Neva Schepersky
- \* Grace Call Committee

**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 January 14th and 28th at 7:00 PM. Contact person is Rhonda Breitbach at 218-368-8543, if you have questions.

**Present:** President Jason Carlson, Nick Walk, Hollie Stewart, Yvonne Halvorson, Gene Haugom, Don Lundin, Jim Ferden, Lori Hole, Patti Hole, Dean Bernard

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

**Devotions:** Jason led us in devotions. Devotion "Psalm 130 vs 5) Hope--with the frustration of "waiting" we are reminded of all the blessings we have been experiencing. As we wait we know there is a flicker of light. We must keep our eyes fixed on God, our source of hope.

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

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

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

*Continued on Page 5*

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

- Undesignated funds available to be used for November's General Fund expenses totaled \$22,339.94. This includes approximately \$2,800 from our insurance company for theft losses, \$1,800 from the meatball supper, and \$1,500 in health insurance refunds. This amount exceeded November's General Fund expenses totaling \$11,125.46. This excess helped to erase the negative General Fund balance and provide a nice positive ending balance for November!
- Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$15,952.81. The monthly budget goal is \$17,651.60.
- Noteworthy Other Giving –
  - o Anonymous Donation - \$30,000
  - o Property Ins. Proceeds - \$2,759.37
  - o Meatball Supper - \$1,794
  - o Debit Card Fraud Reimbursement - \$273.68
  - o Pastor's Health Ins. Refunds - \$1,546

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

- Administration – Custodian – Only one paycheck due to timing; no employment tax expense due to timing. Office Secretary – No employment tax due to timing. Miscellaneous – \$717.41 expenses for meatball supper; \$273.68

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## December 2019 Youth Group News

A youth group meeting was held on December 11, 2019. Three parents and two youth were in attendance as well as Jim Ferden, Hollie Stewart, and Tina Farrell. Jim and Hollie will be filling in as temporary youth group leaders until a new pastor arrives and a parent or group of parents come forward to lead the group.

Activities for the rest of the school year were discussed. There will be 5<sup>th</sup> quarters held at Grace on Dec. 13 and Jan. 3. Our Saviors Lutheran in McIntosh will host 5<sup>th</sup> quarters on Dec. 20 and Jan. 10. We will try to go skiing/tubing sometime in January. Activities such as movies, music concerts, and bowling were also discussed.

Although a large mission trip is not planned, the group discussed the importance of doing local mission work. The Feed My Starving Children event is already planned for April. The group may also visit a homeless shelter and local nursing homes.

Tina Farrell discussed the annual calendar project which is a major

fundraising activity for the youth group. She asked for assistance in delivering the calendars once they arrive.

The group would like to have monthly meetings if possible. However, no set day was determined. The youth group is open to all youth in grades 7 – 12. Invitations have been extended to youth at Vernes, Our Saviors, and Mt. Carmel churches in McIntosh to participate in activities with Grace youth.



The youth group would like to thank John Nelson and Brian Stuhaug for cleaning snow away from the church shed. Also thanks to Dawn Jacobson and Shawn and Tamera Ostena for chaperoning our December 5th quarter.

## Food Shelf



### Grace Community Food Shelf Advisory Board Meeting

*Grace Community Food Shelf, serving the communities of Erskine, McIntosh, Winger, and Mentor will hold its quarterly Advisory Board Meeting on Thursday evening, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Basement Meeting Room at Grace Lutheran Church, 332 Vance Ave. in Erskine.*

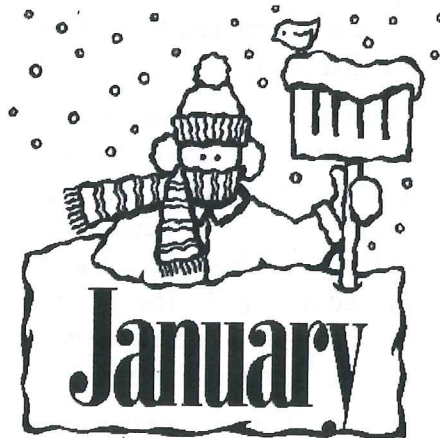
#### Advisory Board Makeup:


The Grace Community Food Shelf Advisory Board is an "open board" meaning that there is not a formal selection/election process. Membership is open to anyone that wants to assist in fighting hunger in our area. The only requirement is that you attend the meetings, participate in the discussions, and help set the policies that govern the Food Shelf. You do not have to volunteer in the food shelf to be on the Advisory Board. You can help to make a difference!

We are currently looking for a couple more volunteers to help us staff the Food Shelf! No experience necessary with lots of on-the-job training. Of particular need is one or more men to help with unloading and stocking on Truck Day. We get a delivery from North Country Food Bank on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. We

start at 10:00 AM and are usually done by noon. Total delivery is about 1200 pounds. If you can help with the lifting your help would really be appreciated. The Food Shelf is open the second and third Thursdays of each month from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We also distribute the Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) food boxes during those times.

If you are interested in helping with the Grace Community Food Shelf please attend the Advisory Board meeting or contact [food-shelfcoordinator@gracechurcherskine.org](mailto:food-shelfcoordinator@gracechurcherskine.org) or stop by the Food Shelf at 332 Vance Avenue in Erskine on the days we are open. **You can also call us on our NEW phone number at 218-687-2250.**



Direct Your  
**THRIVENT**  
**CHOICE DOLLARS**   
today!

### Thrivent Financial Program

Thanks to everyone who has designated our church to receive your Thrivent Choice Program Dollars in 2019. You need to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars annually in order for the church to receive them. If you have not recently designated your Thrivent Choice Dollars, please do so by contacting your local Thrivent Financial Representative.

Unless the donation is specifically designated by you, your Thrivent Choice Dollars go into the church's general fund to help meet monthly operating expenses. If you wish to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to a specific fund, you will need to contact your local Thrivent Financial representative to find out the exact amount and then contact Church Treasurer Jim Ferden.

**GRACE COUNCIL, continued**

in debit card fraud charges; \$257.68 for new safe and cash-box.

Office Secretary – No employment tax expense due to timing.

Workers Comp – Annual premium

Education – None

Mission Outreach –

Miscellaneous – Pass through portion of anonymous donation to the Grace NALCW.

Donations – All donations have been paid out for the year.

Pastoral – Interim Pastor – Health Insurance: health insurance premium for Pastor Baker for December. I did not expect to see this payment for December after my previous conversation with the NALC benefits office. They promised the church would not get charged for December once Pastor Baker got his paperwork filed for his new church. It took another phone call and a somewhat more stern conversation with the staff to ensure we got our premiums refunded. Unfortunately, I am still waiting for \$218 which is an additional health insurance premium to be refunded.

Worship –

Miscellaneous – Pass through portion (\$500) of anonymous donation to the Grace Choir. Balance was for additional acolyte robes.

Organist - No employment tax expense due to timing.

Budget Report

- We ended the month at approximately 23% or \$49,000 under budget.

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

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- November's giving was up somewhat from October and ended up being the third highest giving so far in 2019!!
- November 2019 had the second highest giving for a November in 9 years!!!
- Nevertheless, year-to-date total giving continues to be behind last year at this time by approximately \$6,000; and is the lowest at this point since 2015.

Balance does not include any of monies received from insurance companies or the meatball supper.

History of the General Fund Balance

- November is the first month in 2019 to end with a positive balance and it is significant!!
- Due to the funds received from the insurance companies, the meatball supper, bank refunds, and expenses being down, the negative General Fund balance was erased in November!
- This is the highest positive balance for any November in 9 years!

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

Account Balances Report

- Building Fund - Reflects the month's donations (including the \$25,000 anonymous donation) as well as the monthly expense for the separate elevator phone line. In addition, shelving, etc. was purchased to organize the furnace rooms (\$273). Finally, a new toilet and air filters were purchased for the parsonage (\$196).
- HS Scholarship CD – Reflects \$297 in interest earned for 6 months.
- HS Scholarship Fund – Reflects donations of \$1,025 (includes a portion of the anonymous donation).
- 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.
- Oil Fund - Missions reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.
- Seminary Scholarship CD – Reflects \$55 in interest earned for 6 months.
- Shoebox Fund – Reflects donations and the partial payment for the expense of mailing the boxes (\$403).
- SS Fund Raiser Fund – Reflects a portion of the anonymous donation.
- SS Outreach Fund – Reflects the monthly donation to Compassion International, monthly SS offerings, reimbursement for the

*Continued on Page 8*

**GRACE COUNCIL, continued**

Compassion Christmas gift from the Grace Youth Group, a portion of the anonymous donation, and the remaining expense of mailing the shoeboxes (\$245).

VBS Fund – Reflects a portion of the anonymous donation.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

- The balance increased slightly over last month.

Highest balance since July 2019.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

- Down slightly from last month.

Highest balance since September 2019.

Other Information

The trustees and I met on Monday night to develop the church budget for 2020

We want to make special note to thank Jim for all the financial work that he does and all the extra time he gives us. Nick made a motion to approve the report. Dean seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor Report:** No formal pastor report. We want to recognize and express our gratitude to Pastor Sletto for his work with us. He is very much appreciated.

**Committee Reports:****Stewardship:** Patti reported.

Quiet time right now for the committee. Checked with Kim about any Time & Talent cards, and no more have been turned in to date. We will bring it up again at the spring Retreat.

**Education:** Report was sent. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders went shopping last week to shop for 5 children on the Giving Tree. Christmas Program will be held Sunday during the service. Two Sundays of no Sunday School due to the Christmas calendar.

**Youth Group:** Hollie and Jim met tonight with two parents and two students. They had good conversation with the parents in attendance. There is interest in a Mission Trip IF we could someone willing to take on the leadership for this. Talked about maybe doing something more local instead of such a big mission trip project. They would like to have monthly meetings, but with a more informal meeting structure. There will be a 5<sup>th</sup> quarter on the 13<sup>th</sup> providing we get parent help. Jim has contacted Our Saviors about joining us. We have four potential 5<sup>th</sup> quarters coming up. Our Saviors will take two and we will do two. Vernes and Mt. Carmel are also very interested in being invited.

**NALCW:** Christmas Party tomorrow at 2:00 Dec 19, 10 a.m. program at Pioneer. Maxine will line that up. Working on completing the new service book. Next meeting will be in April.

**Trustees:** Budget was discussed on Monday night.

Jason talked with Dean about doing some parsonage painting. Dean had volunteered previously. Dean can choose to do as much as he wants to take on then we will hire some to complete the rest. Don has also agreed to help. They will try to complete as much as possible in January and then will evaluate what is left. There is money available in the maintenance budget to complete this. We are very thankful to Dean and Don for their willingness to serve.

There has been some discussion regarding cleaning expectations. A suggestion has been made about perhaps hiring additional help to cover just cleaning. With the current (15 hours a week) maintenance position it is difficult to get all of the cleaning, maintenance and snow removal in the winter completed. Prior to making any kind of decision the Council needs additional information. We need accurate job descriptions for all lay positions in order to evaluate required tasks vs additional tasks. We have completed the job descriptions for the elected and non-elected positions so the lay descriptions would complete the overall picture of our church's needs. For the lay positions, we need a list of what is done weekly and/or monthly that includes time needed to complete the tasks. We need a better idea of the time requirements necessary to cover everything that we need/want done.

*Continued on Page 9*



**GRACE COUNCIL, continued**

These job descriptions are so necessary to aid our current employees with their tasks, as well as to give a credible outline to the Council regarding job expectations and hours necessary to meet these expectations. These descriptions are always a win/win for employees and boards.

We want to thank Doug and Mary Bratrud for volunteering their time to help with the cleaning out and organizing of the custodial room, which probably had not been addressed since Ruth was with us. Their work was great!

**Deacons:** Communion visits have been done by the Walters and Haugoms. The visits went very well and we have everyone covered at this time. We thank them for their service.

Advent Christ's Candle is covered for the rest of the season.

Rita has resigned as of the end of the year as a Deacon. We thank her for her service.

**Call Committee:** Video has not been revisited at this time. Rhonda will be talking to Bobbi in the future.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Review and approve the 2020 budget. Budget line item changes- Church and parsonage fuel was raised by \$1000. Convocation Delegates will be going to Pittsburgh this year. Budget raised \$500 based on this year's costs.

Mission Outreach section. NALC Missionary was removed just be-

cause there is not one at this time, and nothing on the horizon for the future. The former missionary had to leave due to health issues.

Salaries (Total increase to budet is about \$4300)

Raised Custodian salary from \$14 to \$15 dollars per hour. This added \$720 total for the year.

Raised Secretary from \$16 per hour to \$17 per hour. This added \$1600 total for the year.

Education Director currently \$950 raised to \$1000.

Choir Director currently \$640 raised to \$840.

Organist raised from \$80 per event to \$85.

Gene moved to accept the budget as presented. Hollie seconded. Motion carried.

Decision regarding where to donate Christmas Eve offering \$60 received from Thanksgiving offering that will be combined with the Christmas Eve offering.

Patti moved to table this until a need is presented. Yvonne seconded. Motion carried.

**Nominating Committee update:** Hollie & Nick reported. The committee will continue their work on a slate of candidates.

Contacts will be made for the non-elected positions.

Elected positions. Some names have been suggested and the committee needs to contact those people.

Set date for Annual Meeting which is historically the 4<sup>th</sup> Sun-

day of January. That will mean that our meeting will be Sunday, Jan 26, immediately after worship. Nick moved to set the date. Gene seconded. Motion carried.

**Announcements:**

Next meeting January 8, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Yvonne Halvorson, Council Secretary



To Pay your offering via ACH to Grace Lutheran Church, please return this completed, signed form and a deposit slip or voided check to the church office at 332 Vance Ave, Erskine, MN 56535.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACH Authorization Agreement  
Offering (ACH Debits)**

I hereby authorize Grace Lutheran Church to initiate debit entries, via Automatic Clearing House (ACH), to my Account at the depository financial institution named below, hereafter called DEPOSITORY, and to debit the same to such account. I acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

Depository Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Routing Transit Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Type (Please Circle): Savings Checking (attach deposit slip or voided check)

Pay Weekly Fixed Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Withdrawn Monday following Worship)

Pay Monthly Fixed Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Withdrawn First of the Month)

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until Grace Lutheran Church has received written notification from authorized individual of a change or termination in such time and in such manner as to afford Grace Lutheran Church and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Customer

Required Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For Grace Lutheran Church Accounting Purpose Only		
Building Fund \$ _____	General Fund \$ _____	Offering Envelope # _____

# JANUARY 2020

# Grace Lutheran Church

\*CIRCLES\*

Hope at the church  
 Rebecca at the church  
 Mission no meeting

Ushers :  
 Don Lundin  
 Dean Bernard  
 Jim Hoffmann  
 Ryan Breitbart family

Communion Assistants:  
 Dorothy Sandberg and Stacy Tadman

Altar Flowers:  
 Rebecca Circle

Altar Guild:  
 Betty Lundin

R=Reader  
 V=Video  
 A=Acolyte

JANUARY 5th:  
 R~ Jim Ferden  
 V~ Presley Haugen

A~ Calvin Hill and Josie Fortman

JANUARY 12th:  
 R~ Andrew Hanson  
 V~ Josie Johnson

A~ Claire Juve and Paige Breitbart

JANUARY 19th:  
 R~ Sherry Hoas  
 V~ Shayna Juve

A~ Lily Pries and Lillian Shimpa

JANUARY 26th:  
 R~ Ann Brekken  
 V~ Carter Fortman

A~ Riley Kochman and Charley Carlson

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast	5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4 9:30am- Rebroadcast
5 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	6 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast	7 5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	8 12pm-AA mtg. 1:55pm-Jr. High RT 6:30pm-Choir 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7:30pm Committees meet 8pm-Council mtg.	9	10	11 9:30am- Rebroadcast
12 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Communion	13 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast	14 7pm-'Women of Grace' Bible Study 8pm-AA mtg.	15 1:55pm-RT Class 6:30pm-Choir 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	16 7pm-Food Shelf Advisory Board Mtg.	17	18 9:30am- Rebroadcast
19 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	20 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast	21 5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	22 1:55pm-Jr. High RT 6:30pm-Choir 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	23 2pm-Hope Circle 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	24	25 9:30am- Rebroadcast
26 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship 11:30am-Grace Annual Mtg.	27 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast 7pm-Grace Cemetery Assn. Mtg.	28 7pm-'Women of Grace' Bible Study 8pm-AA mtg.	29 1:55pm-RT Class 6:30pm-Choir 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	30	31	
			Greeters: 5th: Bryan & Nicole Johnson 12th: LeRoy Johnson	19th: Russell Johnson 26th: Linda Jorgenson		