

The Scroll

July 2020



Members of Grace:

The full Church Council met on June 10th. The sole item of new business was discussion and action on a re-opening plan. The result of the discussion was a vote to

keep the sanctuary closed for worship but to allow small groups such as bible studies to meet as long as they adhere to our written plan. The Council will revisit this decision monthly.

Please know that there is a strong recognition of the fact that many in our membership miss worshipping together. It is important to keep in mind that the worship we would see if we opened now would look nothing like the worship we all miss. Given the fact that we have great alternatives to hear God's Word and the ability to take Holy Communion, the Council is just not in a hurry to put several dozen of our members in the same room.

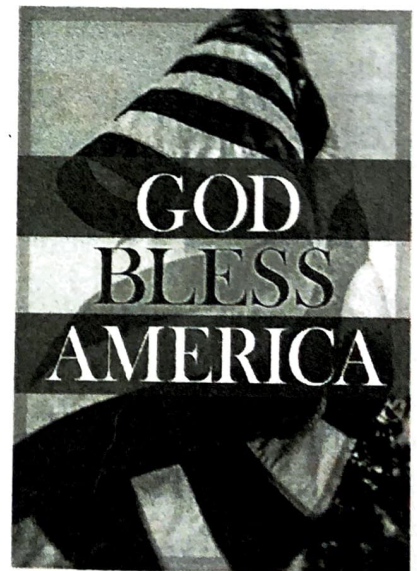
One option that was discussed was the fact that we have had members engaging in home church with small groups of friends and family. Our family has done this and I think it is great. I encourage anyone who feels comfortable with this to reach out to friends or family to share the worship service together, while taking proper precautions. This would be especially meaningful if you have an acquaintance who doesn't have Garden Valley TV or a computer.

Please contact me or another member of the Church Council with any questions.

~~Jason Carlson, President

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



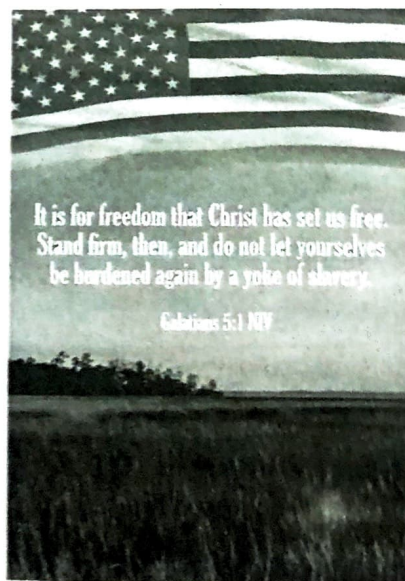
- May 31st:**
Attendance~ 7
Offering~ \$1,051.00
- June 7th:**
Attendance~ 7
Offering~\$1,365.00
- June 14th:**
Attendance~ 7
Offering~ \$3,765.00
- June 21st:**
Attendance~ 7
Offering~\$1,100.00

"I was **sick** and **you visited me . . .**"
—Matthew 25:36 NKJV

As deacons we made it known at the last council meeting that we are committed to making pastoral visits to the sick and dying. If someone were to call with a prayer request you may ask them if they wish a visit and give them our information.

We thought the congregation should be aware of this commitment with it being addressed in a bulletin from time to time and same with the scroll.

- *Mary Bratrud~~ 218-521-0793 (daytime)
218-687-2150 (nighttime)
- *Gary Walter~~ 218-687-3074
- *Gene Haugom~~218-563-3292



**NALCW Meeting:
July 9th, 2:00 PM.**

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

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

**Mission Circle: July 24th,
2:00 PM at the church**



The Grace 'Men of Courage' will meet on July 7th and 21st 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) that will allow you to give a one-time or regular donation from your bank account, credit card, or debit card.

Mobile Giving – You can utilize your mobile device and scan the following code –



Benevolence Ideas

Our church has several special funds to meet needs that can't be met through our General Fund. Currently, these special funds are: Building Improvements, Grace Youth Group, Joy Ride Fund, Oil Candle, Sunday School Improvements/Supplies, Sunday School Outreach, Video Ministry, Vacation Bible School, Worship Hearing Aids, 'Men of Courage' Men's Group, and Shoebox Funds. In addition, our church houses the Grace Food Shelf and we ask for donations on their behalf as well as for the After School Backpack Program. Finally, our church is a part of the Grace Cemetery Association and we ask for donations on their behalf for the maintenance of the Synod, Pioneer, and Fairview Cemeteries in rural Erskine. Please contact Jim Ferden if you have any questions.

May 2020 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$10,771.00

Expenses:

Administrative - \$6,365.80

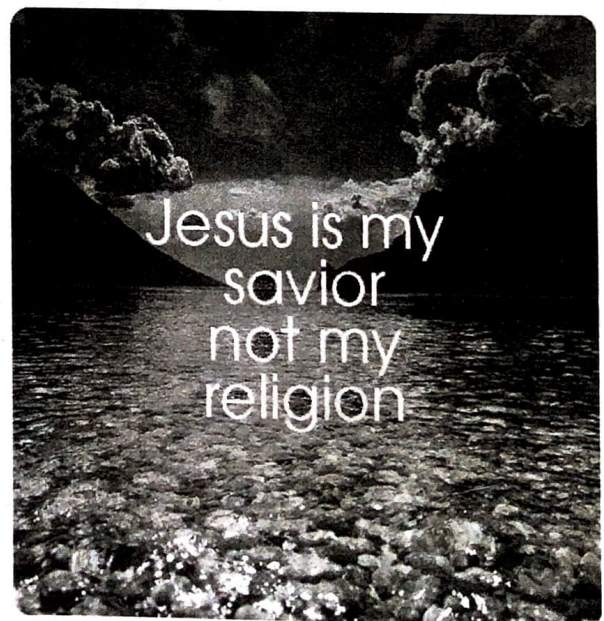
Education - \$0

Mission Outreach - \$1,200.00

Pastoral - \$3,041.72

Worship - \$299.97

Total Expenses - \$10,907.49





JULY ACOLYTES

- 5th: Lily Pries and Lillian Shimp
- 12th: Riley Kochman and Charley Carlson
- 19th: Jareth Walk and Cameron Svalen
- 26th: Bret DuChamp and Kianna Tadman



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 family of Terry Lucken
- * The family of Don Barrow
- * Cassie Senn
- * Don Lundin
- * Hazel Bernard
- * Darrel Johnson
- * Michael Jenson
- * Elaine Austin
- * Mark Thompson
- * Grace Call Committee

JULY VIDEO TECHS

- 5th: Shayna Juve
- 12th: Carter Fortman
- 19th: Jayden Haugen
- 26th: Melissa Pries



* Type gracechurcherskine.org into your computer browser. You will see the YouTube recording front and center on the page. Click the Play button in the center of the picture to view the video. You will also find a link to our church Facebook page on the right side of the screen.

* Garden Valley Channel 30 will broadcast replays of our service on Mondays at 10:00 am, Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and on Saturdays at 9:00 am.



The 'Women of Grace' young women's Bible Study will not meet during the summer months. They'll be back in the Fall ready to dig into the Word.

**GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING**

June 10, 2020

7:00 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, Wade Farrell, Dorothy Sandberg, Gary Walter, Mary Bratrud, Lori Hole, Jim Ferden, Ann Brekken, Ryan Breitbart

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

Devotion: Jason lead us in devotions with the subject of encouragement.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by Hollie. Seconded by Gary. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report:

No minutes from April due to Covid 19.

May monthly minutes on the 13th were presented. Nick made motion to approve. Gene seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Committee minutes for meetings on the 14th and 17th were presented. Wade made a motion to accept. Hollie seconded. Motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report

Cash Flow Report

- Undesignated funds available to be used for May's General Fund expenses totaled \$11,388.53. This amount exceeded the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$10,907.49.
 - Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$10,771. The monthly budget goal is \$17,957.40.
 - Noteworthy Other Giving –
 - o Interest – Earned \$252 from Ultima Bank on Scholarship CDs.
 - o Miscellaneous: Majority was a \$200 reimbursement from Dale Branstner as a refund of a portion of his choir director salary and \$349.22 was capital credits from Garden Valley.
 - o Oil Leases – Did not receive any payment from Continental Oil this money. Balance must have been too small.
- Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:
- Administration –
- Custodian: Federal Tax – Over paid IRS in April, so no payment in May.
- Insurance: Double expense due to timing of when premium was paid.
- Education – None

Mission Outreach – None
Pastoral – Miscellaneous: Expenses relate to new pastor visit.
Worship – Worship Aids: Drive by communion supplies.

Budget Report

- We ended the month at approximately 19% or \$41,700 under budget.

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

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- May's giving was down again from last month and is the lowest to date in 2020.
- Third month of a decline in giving.
- This was the lowest giving for a May since 2013.

This was the lowest giving year to date since 2011.

History of the General Fund Balance

- Highest balance ever!!
- Balance continues to increase due to decreased monthly expenses.

Account Balances Report

- Building Fund - Reflects the month's donations as well as the monthly expense for the separate elevator phone line.
- HS Scholarship CD – Reflects interest earned of \$297.18
- HS Scholarship Fund – Reflects a donation.
- Oil Fund – Bldg Upkeep re-

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued
flects 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 interest earned of \$54.98.
- SS Offering Outreach Fund - Reflects the monthly donation of \$38 to Compassion International.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

- The ending balance had a nice increase over last month.
- This is the second month with an increase in the balance. This is the lowest balance since February 2020.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

- The ending balance had a nice increase over last month.
- This is the second month with an increase in the balance. It is now at its highest balance ever!!

Other Information

Due to the significant agenda items tonight and continued Covid concerns, staff from Ameriprise (Brovold Investment) were rescheduled to attend a Council Meeting later this year. Jim reported. We are no longer with Wells Fargo with the Bro-

vold Investment. We are now with Ameriprise.

We want to note that Andrew H. has donated all of his music and playing organ during this time of Covid 19. We are so thankful for his wonderful ministry to all of us, and his generosity. We do want to offer him the opportunity to get reimbursed for music he has been purchasing out of pocket for our Sunday worship.

Motion to approve by Gary. Seconded by Ann. Motion carried.

Pastor Report: Jason has been in contact with Pastor Mike during this time and all is well with our current arrangement. We are so very thankful for his service to us.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Lori reported. They have not met. Many positive comments on the video with many hits on the website.

Education: Ann reported. They have started talking about Vacation Bible School. At this time, we do not know if it will be a traditional "in person" opportunity, or if it will be a remote situation. They will wait until later this summer to make a decision based on the Covid 19 situation. There is digital curriculum available if we would need. Pathways is also doing a lot of interactive work off their website. It's good to know we have options.

Mary brought up giving families the opportunity to submit pictures, video, etc., of their children worshipping or singing

that could be posted. We so dearly miss seeing our children. They are so vital to our congregation.

Youth Group: Jim reported: The shed is quickly filling up with cans and this will need to be dealt with soon. We will need a big trailer and a place to turn in the cans. Jim will check to see if they are even open to accept cans. We will need to make some kind of decision regarding storage if we want to continue to collect. We have volunteers to help.

NALCW: Hollie reported. Executive officers met Monday to discuss plans regarding the reopening of meetings starting in July. They will be starting a new Bible Study. No singing at the meeting. Offering will be taken at a designated location. Program will also include prayer, discussion, and lunch.

At present, there is no place to distribute the quilts so please let them know if you have any ideas. Jason suggested checking to see if the First Responders would want any donated to them to use in time of crisis on their calls.

Bibles will again be collected for Disaster Relief from July 12 to July 19th.

There is also going to be a "Stuff the Truck" event again that the NALCW will participate in.

Question regarding when Monday Morning Bible Study could start.

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GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jason Carlson	President	563-2490
Nick Walk	Vice President	637-2219
Yvonne Halvorson	Secretary	687-5190
Dorothy Sandberg	Financial Secretary	687-3575
Jim Ferden	Treasurer	563-2377
Gene Haugom	Deacon	563-3292
Gary Walter	Deacon	687-3074
Mary Bratrud	Deacon	687-2150
Wade Farrell	Trustee	563-2216
Ryan Breitbach	Trustee	687-2215
Dean Bernard	Trustee	687-2105
Ann Johnson	Superintendent / Education	687-2205
Sarah Strom	Education	687-3488
Shelly Juve	Education	687-2929
Cassie Senn	Education	687-3313
Hollie Stewart	Pres. NALCW	687-3730
Lori Hole	Stewardship	687-3585
Tyler Brekken	Stewardship	687-2205
Bobbi DuChamp	Stewardship	687-3000

GRACE CALL COMMITTEE

Mary Bratrud	687-2150	Chairperson
Austin Tadman	280-8266	Vice-Chairman
Nick Walk	637-2219	Sec'y / Council Rep
Gary Walter	687-3074	
Brady Lee	289-5587	
Mavis Haugom	563-3292	
Shirley Kraft	687-4477	
Rhonda Breitbach	687-2215	



On Saturday June 20th, a group of adults and youth from the church recycled the cans and batteries in the church shed. When they completed their work, there were 15 large tote bags containing 1,317 lbs of aluminum! Those bags along with 5 batteries were hauled to Fertile for recycling. Helping on this project were Tamera and Izzy Ostenaar; Hollie Stewart; Wade and Tina Farrell; Michael, Katelyn, and Jordyn Bolz; Ericka Kramer; and Jim Ferden.

Word was just received that the Feed My Starving Children Project has been rescheduled for October 31 and November 1. The event has been shortened by a day and less volunteers are needed. Youth group members and leaders will need to discuss if this is something that they still want to participate in this year.

GRACE COUNCIL, con't.

Trustees: Wade reported: The following parsonage repairs have been made by Wade and we thank him so much for his service.

Shower heads have been replaced, doorsteps fixed, scuff marks fixed. Flashing has been cleaned and caulked.

Wade will also shut off the water and the water softener since the parsonage is empty at this time.

Wade will paint the doorframe to the garage as soon as he gets the correct color.

Wade will also get rid of the old refrigerator that is not being used and is currently in the big garage.

Deacons:

Mary reported: The Deacons did not meet.

Mary asked when Bible Study can reopen. It was felt that Bible studies could resume since the numbers are limited. They will get some procedures set up and then announce when this will take place.

Mary noted that she has been doing the reading just to keep the continuity of the service and to lessen the amount of calling needed and number of people involved. Safety is our priority.

Altar flowers were discussed briefly. Decisions will be based on availability. Mary may contact some local gardeners to see if they can provide any. This

isn't a priority at this time.

Jason noted that we really appreciate the willingness of the Deacons to serve this congregation during this time of need.

Gary noted that the communion was so well received. Jason thanked all who distributed and shared in this. We had over 100 participate with over 50 households involved.

Call Committee:

Mary reported. The committee met last Tuesday to discuss and vote regarding a possible pastoral call. A unanimous vote was cast to not call the current applicant. Jason noted that the Call Committee has a tremendously difficult task and they have taken on a huge responsibility. They have been entrusted with this task and are taking it very seriously, striving to find the best fit for our congregation. We trust them and must support them and uphold them in prayer. Discussion followed. The search process will continue at this time.

Food Shelf:

Gene reported. Food shelf numbers being served has been running close to usual. Their food distribution amount as increased, but the number of people served hasn't gone up as much as expected. The school's food program during Covid has probably made an impact on the numbers too. This has been a wonderful service to our community. The Food Shelf will do a food distribution at the School on Monday.

Old Business: (none)**New Business:**

Re-opening plan. Jason reported first. He shared his thoughts regarding our services. A good point made was that if we are not going to be able to have worship where we can visit, sing, and have a fairly "normal" Sunday worship, why move forward too quickly? We must make our decisions based on "our congregation" and its safety for not only our worshipers, but also to all those who are needed to take part in the service. We have an obligation to all. Bible studies and the ladies' groups have numbers that are smaller and could probably resume. Jason's recommendation is to not open until we can have an actual worship where we can have fellowship with each other. We are so fortunate to be so well equipped to fulfill the needs of our church with our streaming and rebroadcasts. We are serving the vast majority of our members in this way. Our services and our sharing of communion has been very fulfilling and met with many positive comments. Our ministries are intact, and we have continued to find alternatives to provide for our congregation during this pandemic. We are served, we are safe, we are healthy. The Council was unanimous in agreement with Jason's assessment of our current status. We totally support his recommendation to not open. At this time, we will continue to monitor the situation based on "our congregation" and what is

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued right for us. We will continue to revisit this issue as a Council and stay abreast of the recommendations made by the medical professionals regarding the pandemic. We will assess and make decisions accordingly. Gary made a motion to continue to keep "in person" Sunday worship and the sanctuary closed for now with close monitoring by the Council. Small groups can meet with proper procedures in place. Mary seconded. Motion carried. We will notify the congregation on Sunday, and in the newsletter regarding this decision.

Announcements: Next meeting will be July 8 with social distancing and facemasks recommended. Time to be determined based on if the other committees decide to meet prior. The Council will be notified closer to the meeting date.

Adjourn

The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,



Yvonne Halvorson, Council Secretary



The time seems to be here. We will plan on meeting on July 9 at 2 o'clock for our first

NALCW meeting of the year.

June 8 the NALCW officers met to discuss a possible meeting and business for the summer. We decided to collect new or gently used Bibles for NALC disaster relief from July 12th-July 19th. They will be sent to New Brighton, MN for distribution of NALC work where help is needed in the United States.

Our July 9th meeting will look a little different but it will be good to get together. Group 4 will serve a dessert and coffee as we decided last year and we talked with the group beforehand about how that can happen. Our meeting will—for the time being—have a Bible study, lunch, stationary offering, prayer, business meeting and discussions. I look forward to seeing everyone.

SALE: The first part of July, Dorothy will have some cards laid out on the table in the corner downstairs for a marked down price. 2/\$5.00 on boxes and 5/\$1.00 on singles. Get your supply and Dorothy will get ready for the Fall season. God Bless you all.

NOTICE: Guidelines according to the CDC will be followed. Social distancing is required and face masks are encouraged.

PATRIOTIC PINWHEEL

Create this colorful July 4th craft.

What you need:

- Decorated card stock square (5" x 5")
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- 2 one-inch circles of card stock
- Glue
- Pipe cleaner (3 inches)
- Drinking straw



What you do:

1. Fold the square corner to corner to form an X. Unfold.
2. To make spokes, cut the four creases until an inch from the center.
3. Punch a hole in the middle of the square, near the tips of each spoke, and in the middle of each circle.
4. Fold each spoke toward the center, lining up the holes. Glue in place.
5. Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the top of the straw. Thread a circle, the pinwheel, and the remaining circle onto the pipe cleaner.
6. Roll the pipe cleaner end into a ball. Then spin!

JULY 2020

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES
Hope
Rebecca
Mission

at the church
 at the church
 at the church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7pm-Rebroadcast	2	3	4 <i>GOD BLESS AMERICA</i>
5 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 7pm-Rebroadcast 7:30pm Committees 8pm-Council mtg.	9 2pm-NALCW	10	11 9:00am- Rebroadcast
12 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Communion	13 7:30am-MBS 9:30am -LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	14 8pm-AA mtg.	15 7pm-Rebroadcast	16	17	18 9:00am- Rebroadcast
19 10:30am- Worship	20 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	21 5:30pm-'Men of Courage' 8pm-AA mtg.	22 7pm-Rebroadcast	23 2pm-Hope Circle 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	24 2pm-Mission Circle	25 9:00am- Rebroadcast
26 10:30am- Worship	27 7:30am-MBS 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast	28 8pm-AA mtg.	29 7pm-Rebroadcast	30	31	
			Greeters: 5th: Dean & Mary Salveson 12th: Joe & Dorothy Sandberg	19th: Scott Sandberg 26th: Keith & Joanne Sannes		

Ushers :
 Lee Hoaas
 Jim Ferden
 Brady Lee
 Ray LaBrecque family
 Randy Lee family

Communion Assistants:
 Liz Jenson and Yvonne Halvorson

Altar Flowers:
 Rebecca Circle

Altar Guild:
 Mary Bratrud

R= Reader
V=Video
A=Acolyte
JULY 5th:
R~
V~ Shayna Juve
A~ Lily Pries and Lillian Shimpa
JULY 12th:
R~
V~ Carter Fortman
A~ Riley Kochman and Charley Carlson
JULY 19th:
R~
V~ Jayden Haugen
A~ Jareth Walk and Cameron Svalen
JULY 26th:
R~
V~ Melissa Pries
A~ Bret DuChamp and Kianna Tadman