

The Scroll



Hello Sunday School families!

After much thought and discussion, Grace Sunday School will be starting the year offering online Sunday School. We will evaluate our plan month to month, with guidance from the church council and MN Dept. of Health recommendations.

As of now, Sunday School will start on September 13 and will continue online throughout the month of September. Mid-September we will re-evaluate, and let you know the plan for October, and so on. We have purchased the online curriculum that pairs with our current Sunday School lessons. Each week, you will get your child's lesson, song links, and activities emailed to you. This option will continue to be available for families when we return face to face as well.

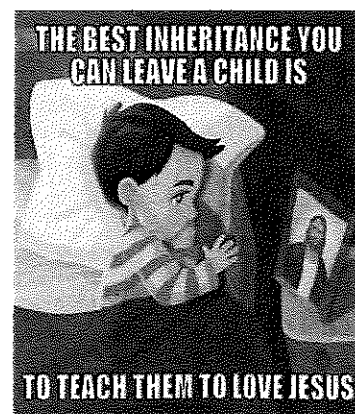
To participate, please contact Ann at ann.brekken@yahoo.com with the email address you'd like used as the contact for your family. Please also include the names and grades of your children.

We know this isn't the same as being together-but we are working hard to offer you solutions in the meantime while we wait to gather again safely.

Contact Ann at the email above or call or text 218-280-8580 with any other questions.

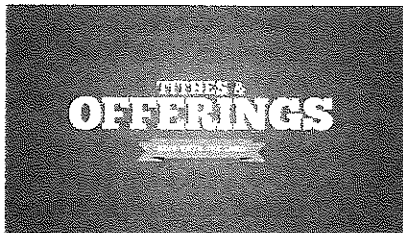
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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday September 9th at 8:00 PM. All meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise stated.



- July 26th:**
Attendance~ 7
Offering~ \$1,300.59
- August 2nd:**
Attendance~ 7
Offering~\$1,820.00
- August 9th:**
Attendance~ 7
Offering~ \$1,431.53
- August 16th:**
Attendance~ 7
Offering~\$495.00
- August 23rd:**
Attendance~ 7
Offering~ \$1,290.00

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

As deacons 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.

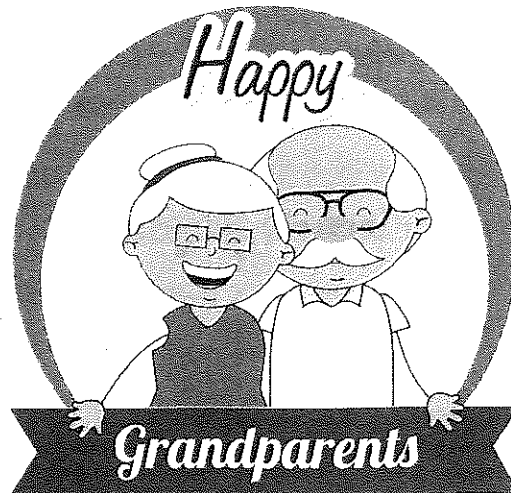
We thought the congregation should be aware of this commitment with it being addressed in a bulletin from time to time and same with the scroll.

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

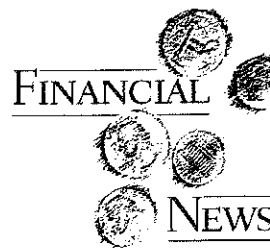
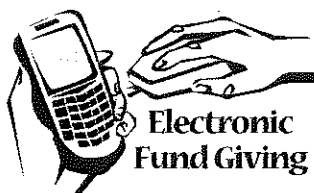


NALCW Meeting:
September 10th,
2:00 PM.

- Hope Circle:** September 24th, 2:00 PM at the church
- Rebecca Circle:** September 24th, 6:30 PM at the church
- Mission Circle:** will not meet in September



The Grace 'Men of Courage' will not meet in September.



Giving Options

Not only can you give through your offering envelope on Sunday morning, but our church offers other options to receive your offering:

Automatic Giving – You can set up monthly or weekly automatic deductions from your bank account. Contact the church office (218-687-4035) for a form to complete.

Online Giving – There are several links throughout our website (www.gracechurcherskine.org) that will allow you to give a one-time or regular donation from your bank account, credit card, or debit card.

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



Benevolence Ideas

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

July 2020 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$8,276.77

Expenses:

Administrative - \$5,896.11

Education - \$63.99

Mission Outreach - \$700.00

Pastoral - \$1,365.40

Worship - \$39.54

Total Expenses - \$8,065.04





SEPTEMBER ACOLYTES

6th: Carter Fortman and Charley Carlson

13th: Jayden Haugen and Jareth Walk

20th: Bret DuChamp and Melissa Pries

27th: Izabelle Ostenaar and Kyra Stuhaug

SEPTEMBER VIDEO TECHS

6th: Riley Kichman

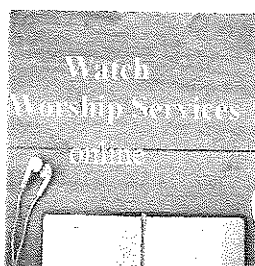
13th: Cameron Svalen

20th: Kianna Tadman

27th: Clare Stuhaug



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.



* 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.



- * Becki Haugen
- * Don Lundin
- * Hazel Bernard
- * Sonja Kilberg
- * Michael Jenson
- * Elaine Austin
- * Mark Thompson
- * Grace Call Committee



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

August 12, 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, Lori Hole, Dean Bernard, Ryan Breitbach, Jim Ferden, Wade Farrell, Gary Walter, Mary Bratrud, Ann Brekken, Guest: Ryan Schow

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

Devotions: Jason chose devotions dealing with wisdom from a Billy Graham writing.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the amended agenda as presented by Ann. Seconded by Wade. Motion carried.

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

Financial Secretary's Report: Yvonne moved to approve. Seconded by Dean. Motion carried. (Report on file**report does not reflect the credit card giving—CC amounts in Jim's report). Jim and Dorothy are working on a method to report all giving income on the Financial Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report

- Undesignated funds available to be used for July's General Fund expenses totaled \$9,088.91.

This amount exceeded the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$8,065.04.

- Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$8,276.77. The monthly budget goal is \$17,957.40.

- Noteworthy Other Giving –
 - o Oil Leases – Did not receive any payment from Oasis Oil this month. Balance must have been too small.

- o Undesignated memorials - \$800 was received from the Lucken Family

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration – Office Expenses-Copier Monthly Usage – Way down due to lack of use.

Postage – Renew mail permit

Education – Miscellaneous – A digital thermometer was purchased for VBS but also could be used for other purposes.

Mission Outreach – None

Pastoral – None

Worship – Worship Aids – Reimburse Andrew Hanson for worship music he purchased.

Budget Report

- We ended the month at approximately 29% or \$61,350 under budget.

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

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

July's giving was down again from last month and is the low-

est to date in 2020.

- Fourth month of a decline in giving.
- This was the lowest giving for a July in 10 years.

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 purchase of a \$25,000 CD and the monthly expense for the separate elevator phone line.

- HS Scholarship Fund – Reflects a 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.

- SS Offering Outreach Fund - Reflects the monthly donation of \$38 to Compassion International.

- Stained Glass Window – Paid off the balance owed on the new stained glass windows in the narthex.

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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	

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR
SEPTEMBER****September 6th~Fourteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

First Reading - Ezekiel 33:7-9
 Psalm - Psalm 32:1-7
 Second Reading - Romans 13:1-10
 Gospel - Matthew 18:1-20

**September 13th~Fifteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

First Reading - Genesis 50:15-21
 Psalm - Psalm 103:1-12
 Second Reading - Romans 14:1-12
 Gospel - Matthew 18:21-35

**September 20th~Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

First Reading - Isaiah 55:6-9
 Psalm - Psalm 27:1-9
 Second Reading - Philippians 1:12-14,
 19-30
 Gospel - Matthew 20:1-16

**September 27th~Seventeenth Sun-
day after Pentecost**

First Reading - Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
 Psalm - Psalm 25:1-10
 Second Reading - Philippians 2:1-4, 5-
 13, 14-18
 Gospel - Matthew 21:23-27, 28-32

GRACE COUNCIL, continued**Brovold Investment Valuation Report**

• The ending balance had a nice increase over last month. This is the highest balance since January 2020.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

The ending balance had a nice increase over last month.

It is the highest balance ever.

**Jim reported that the monthly giving is down. We are very thankful to those who have continued to be so supportive.

Gary made motion to approve. Mary seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Report: No reported changes. Things are going fine and we are very grateful to Pastor Sletto.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship—Lori reported. (Bobbi, Tyler and Lori met via e-mail). There was discussion regarding Rally Sunday. The giving reports will go out in September. The Love Offering envelopes will go out in the newsletter. The video that Bobbi created for Stewardship Sunday will be shown again Rally Sunday, and also posted to our website and Facebook page. We want to continue to reach as many people as possible. Obviously, due to Covid 19, this year we will not have a pot

luck.

Education—Ann reported. VBS was quite successful considering the pandemic. This year we had 16 in person students and 7 on-line students. Ann surveyed last year's Sunday School teachers to see if they were willing to teach again this coming year. Currently she is short about 3 or 4 teachers. We did purchase the on-line curriculum for both elementary and Confirmation classes. Ann is very pleased with the on-line curriculum, as she was with the VBS on-line curriculum. A decision regarding face-to-face start-up for SS will be made contingent upon the decision to reopen the sanctuary.

Youth Group—Jim reported. There probably won't be a 5th quarter activity during this pandemic, especially when all athletics are already postponed to spring. Jim and Hollie are open to suggestions for activities, but at this time there probably will not be much planned.

NALCW—Hollie reported. There will be NALCW Thursday, Aug 13. Hollie will give devotions. Deserts will again be served. They will be discussing the auction options at the meeting. The circles will meet as scheduled. Rebecca will not meet this month, but will start up again in September.

Trustees—Wade reported. Ryan Schow, from Sandhill Heating and Plumbing and AC, addressed the Council regarding his bid for a new heating system. He presented two separate bids

options—1st one would be a commercial setup (labor cost was incorrect and he has to adjust the bid amount), the second bid shows costs using our current setup (a residential setup). Both systems should be 94-98 percent efficient. He estimates our old boiler is about 75 percent efficient. In the commercial system, we would only have one piece of equipment to maintain vs four with a residential system. Ryan's recommendation is to go with the commercial system. The commercial system is the more expensive system but the long-term advantages would be cost saving. It would take approximately two weeks to install. Pres. Jason indicated that due to the cost this purchase does need have a congregational vote. Grace will need several weeks to give a firm commitment. Ryan indicated that he'd be willing to do a walk-through to show us where things would be installed if there are any questions regarding either system. The question was asked about any available rebates—Ryan indicated that there may be some rebates available and that he would check into that for us. In beginning this project Wade contacted two of our local companies; Ryan Schow with Sandhill responded and other company did not respond. We want to stay local due to maintenance and emergency service. There are dollars available in our budget to pay for this project. Wade reported that Ottetail came and took care of the branches in the power lines by

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued

the church that were causing concern. Lights in the sanctuary still need dealing with—Wade will call Al's Electric to come and take a look and get a price.

Deacons—Gary Reported At the convocation, there were three new amendments approved by the delegates. These amendments now need to be approved by the NALC congregations before the constitution can be changed. Change convocations from annual to a bi-annual. It costs about \$1300 per delegate to attend a convocation. Ten years ago, there were only 17 churches in the NALC (Grace was one of them). Currently, we have 444 churches involved in the NALC. Twenty-five percent of the churches do not send benevolence dollars in. The amendment proposed is due to the high costs of attending the convocation. Increase delegate numbers for the convocation. 750 is the number of delegates that were provided initially in the NALC constitution. The change proposed is for additional delegates to be added in order to achieve an equal number of pastors and lay persons which is now a requirement. Due to the increase in NALC congregations 750 is not enough. Change the title Mission Districts to address our current practice of using our specified names for our Regional Mission Districts.

Call Committee: Nick reported. We have an person who indicated interest but has not submitted a Profile yet. The committee needs to have the Profile before starting

any part of the Call process. The committee is revisiting a previously submitted Profile. They hope to do an interview in the next couple of weeks. Committee member, Shirley Kraft, resigned due to distance since her move to Fertile. She knows there will be difficulty traveling here, especially during the winter. Shirley is also recovering from surgery. We are very thankful to Shirley for her contributions to our Call Committee and her willingness to serve. The committee numbers, with her resignation, will still meet the requirements because our alternates have attended all meetings and are up to speed. Austin is also moving, but this will not be a problem because most things will be done via e-mail and Zoom so he will be able to remain a member of the committee. Therefore, we still have a full Call Committee with one alternate.

Food Shelf: Hollie reported in Gene's absence. There is a quite lot of grant money that needs to be used up prior to expiring dates. Food from the "Farm to Table" provides a large amount of food. The Food Shelf doesn't have enough freezer space even though they have used some space provided by Groceries Plus. The Food Shelf is wondering if Grace has any space for an additional freezer. They did not indicate what length of time would be needed for additional freezers. The Council will need more clarification about this request. Grace has offered the parsonage for extra

storage until a pastor is hired. The Food Shelf doesn't feel that this will work for them because they may need something more permanent. August 24th there will be another drive through at the school and more volunteers are needed. Please let them know if you are able to donate some time.

Old Business: A final report on new stained glass window (Mary) The window (group of 3) is installed and complete. The bill has been paid with \$1,673 left in the fund. The committee (Mary and Yvonne) would like to use the remaining funds to purchase more flags for the outside of the church. Mary printed a card to thank Marty Stone for the wonderful job he did with the windows. Mary will sign it on behalf of the Council, congregation, and the donors of memorials.

New Business: BSF Bible Study (Mary) The Council received information explaining the Bible Study Fellowship. This is non-denominational study and is not sponsored by Grace. However, Grace is extremely happy to provide the location for BSF. We have an obligation to share God's word to all, and this is a wonderful opportunity. This is the first time BSF has been offered in our area. BSF is an International program that usually has study groups of up to 15. The first study starting in September will focus on Genesis. Jason shared a message from the head of the organization telling us how grateful

Continued on Page 9

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

they are to Grace for allowing space for a meeting place. She indicated that they will abide by our Covid 19 protocols.

Worship in Sanctuary (Jason)

Pres. Jason will share a communication that addresses and clarifies the decisions that the Council has made regarding Covid 19 and Grace's worship opportunities. Jason will also address our members regarding the importance of continued giving and continued stewardship. We have been so blessed with Grace's ability to maintain our worship opportunities and we need to stay committed to continuing. Jason's message will be sent out to all members via mail, posted on the website and Facebook. Grace is committed to making sure we have robust ability to deliver our services via Facebook, YouTube, Garden Valley. Presently, we are able to provide coverage of our worship services but our equipment is not adequate to continue over the long haul. The Walks have "made things work", but we want to give them the opportunity to plan for equipment and software that is user friendly and simple. We want to be confident that the Walks do not always have to be responsible for production, and that others will also be able to step in with success. The Council wants to encourage the purchase of a "big" system that has longevity and that can handle our needs. Pres. Jason has asked Nick and Pam to research and put together a request for what an updated system would

require. This is our opportunity to share God's word. Our services need to be posted on Facebook, YouTube, and via our Website even after the Covid 19 situation improves. Nick moved that we will revisit reopening the sanctuary again in September and that Sunday School be on-line until the sanctuary is open. The Education Committee will make the recommendation regarding face-to-face SS. Dean seconded. Motion carried.

Action on heating system. Due to a congregational vote required for purchasing a new heating system Pres. Jason suggested mailing out a ballot with a sign-in sheet to all members. The Council plans to have another Communion event and members could vote by delivering their ballot and sign-in sheet to the Council member dispensing the elements that evening. This would meet the requirements of a congregational vote during this Covid 19 situation. The Trustees recommended to the Council the purchase of the commercial system from Sandhill Heating, Plumbing & AC. They felt that a commercial system will save money, require less maintenance, and be beneficial for a building like ours for a much longer life. Ann made the motion to purchase the commercial system per the submitted bid. Hollie seconded. Motion carried.

Jason shared that the person arrested for breaking into the church will be accepting a plea agreement. We will pray for reform and the ability to move pro-

ductively forward following the required time served.

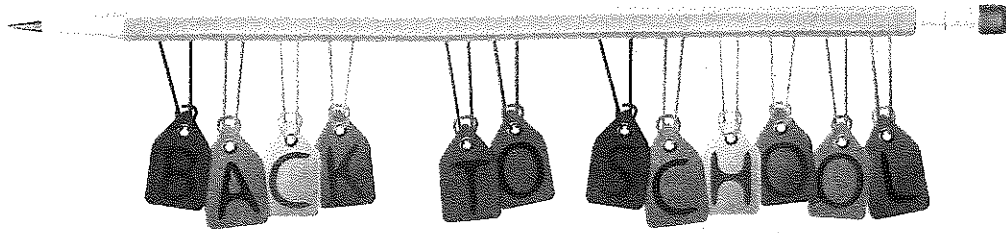
Announcements: Next council meeting is September 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn**The Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Salvason

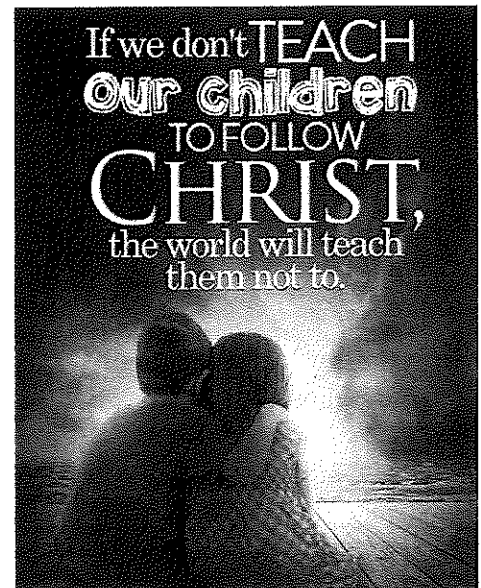




A Prayer for Our Teachers

Dear God,

Thank you for the amazing teachers who have given their lives to serve our children. As they prepare for the new year fill them with strength to lead, grace to guide and hope to thrive in their classroom. Bless them beyond measure for their willingness to pour into the next generation through education. In Jesus' name, amen.



A Prayer for Our Students

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of education in every form. As our children prepare to start a new year, may confidence be their foundation, may grace be their guide and may hope be their compass toward a bright future. I pray they would have eyes to see the needs of those around them and a heart to love well. May they face each day with positivity knowing that no matter what comes their way, they don't have to face it alone. In Jesus' name, amen.



SEPTEMBER 2020

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES

Hope

at the church

Rebecca

at the church

Mission

at the church

Ushers :

Russell Johnson

Bob Carlson

Daryl & Yvonne Halvorson

Chris DuChamp family

Lee Tradewell family

Communion Assistants:

Mark & Cindy Nelson

Altar Flowers:

Mission Circle

Altar Guild:

Betty Lundin

R= Reader

V=Video

A=Acolyte

SEPTEMBER 6th:

R

V

A

Riley Kochman

Carter Fortman and Charley Carlson

SEPTEMBER 13th:

R

V

A

Cameron Svalen

Jayden Haugen and Jareth Walk

SEPTEMBER 20th:

R

V

A

Kianna Tadman

Bret DuChamp and Melissa Pries

SEPTEMBER 27th:

R

V

A

Clare Stuhaug

Izabelle Ostenaar and Kyra Stuhaug

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8am-MBS 8pm-AA mtg.	2 7pm-Rebroadcast	3	4	5 9:00am- Rebroadcast
6 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	7 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	8 8am-MBS 8pm-AA mtg.	9 7pm-Rebroadcast 7:30pm Committees 8pm-Council mtg.	10 2pm-NALCW	11	12 9:00am- Rebroadcast
13 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Commu- ion	14 9:30am -LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	15 8am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	16 7pm-Rebroadcast	17	18	19 9:00am- Rebroadcast
20 10:30am- Worship	21 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	22 8am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	23 7pm-Rebroadcast	24 2pm-Hope Circle 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	25	26 9:00am- Rebroadcast
27 10:30am- Worship	28 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	29 8am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	30 7pm-Rebroadcast			
			Greeters: 6th: Matt & Sarah Strom 13th: Terry & Heidi Strom	20th: Brian & Lisa Stuhaug 27th: Keith & Linda Stuhaug		