

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

December 2021



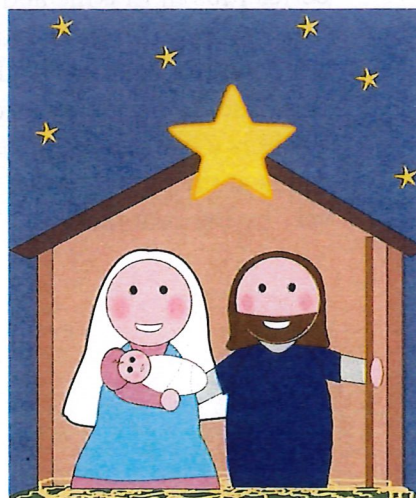
Christmas Program



Grace Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday December 19th during
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

(Alternate date due to bad weather will be December
21st at 7:00 PM.)



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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday December 8th at 7:00 PM. All meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise stated.



The WNALC are off for the winter months. They will return in the Spring.



I am currently home continuing to recover from my battle with COVID-19.

I am doing well and getting stronger all the time.

My family and I are so thankful to this wonderful church for all your thoughts and prayers during my recovery. Also, thank you for all your cards, gifts, food, texts and phone calls.

Your encouragement and generosity have meant so much to us and we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

We sincerely believe in the power of prayer. It has made all the difference in my recovery.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Steve Jacobson Family



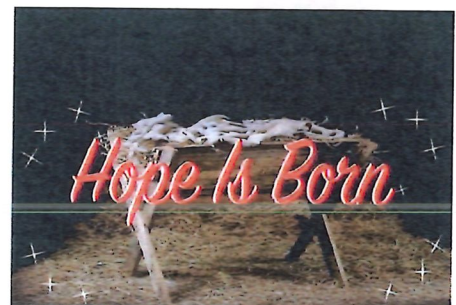
- October 31st:**
Attendance~55
Offering~\$3,482.86
- November 7th:**
Attendance~ 65
Offering~\$ 2,699.00
- November 14th:**
Attendance~ 61
Offering~ \$2,034.00
- November 21st:**
Attendance~ 68
Offering~\$2,409.02

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

Rebecca Circle: December 23rd 6:30 PM at the church.



REMINDER – Please save your grocery receipts from Groceries Plus in Erskine and Jered’s Grocery in McIntosh. Both stores are donating 1percent 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.





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.

October 2021 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$15,670.00

Expenses:

Administrative - \$5,126.59

Education - \$0

Mission Outreach - \$1,123.00

Pastoral - \$3,839.34

Worship - \$542.65

Total Expenses - \$10,631.58



December 24th
4:30 p.m.

GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING

Oct 13, 2021

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, Lori Hole, Dean Bernard, Gary Walter, John Carlson, Wade Farrell, Ann Brekken, Jim Ferden

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

Devotions: Jason shared devotions from 1 Peter Chpt 5 starting with verse 2. As a council, we are here to serve. We are doing our best to follow our Mission and serve our Lord. God will give us strength and lead us in the right way.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the amended agenda by Gary. Seconded by Wade. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Nick moved to approve Sept. minutes and the Executive Committee minutes. Seconded by Dean. Motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report

- Undesignated funds available to be used for September's General Fund expenses totaled \$15,829.76. This amount was nicely above the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$13,612.71.

- Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$13,703. The monthly budget goal is \$16,880.54.

- Noteworthy Other Giving:
 - o Anonymous Donation of \$35,000!

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration – Various property taxes: 2nd half was due

Financial Secretary: Quarterly payment

Miscellaneous: Gifts for Vivian and Dale

Education – Instruction Costs: Sunday School - Renew license for electronic materials

Mission Outreach – Minkota Mission District: Payout half of regular donation

Miscellaneous: Pass through portion of anonymous donation to WNALC

Pastoral – Pastor's various expenses: paid out half of normal monthly expenses due to resignation in middle of month.

Worship – Worship Aids: Communion wine and wafer packets

Budget Report

- We ended the month at approximately 10.9% or \$22,100 under budget.

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

All property tax expenses are over budget as actual expenses were higher.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- September's giving was up nicely from August.

- It was the highest giving since May.

- Out of 9 months in 2021, it was the 4th highest.

- Looking back since 2011, this was the 5th highest offering for the month of September.

- Year-to-date giving is nicely above last year at this time. Otherwise, year-to-date giving is the third lowest in 11 years.

History of the General Fund Balance The September balance reflects a nice increase from the August General Fund balance.

Account Balances Report

- Building Fund - Reflects donations made during the month (including a portion of the anonymous donation @ \$30,000). In addition, it reflects expenses for the separate elevator phone line (\$39.24).

- HS Scholarship Fund – Reflects donations (including a portion of the anonymous donation @ \$2,000).

- Oil Fund – Bldg Upkeep reflects a portion of this month's

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OCTOBER COUNCIL, con't.

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. Also reflects Sunday School offerings for September and a portion of the anonymous donation (\$250.00).
- SS Fund Raiser Fund – Reflects a portion of the anonymous donation (\$250.00).
- VBS Fund – Reflects a portion of the anonymous donation (\$500.00).

Brovold Investment Valuation Report The ending balance dropped somewhat since last month.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

- The ending balance increased nicely from last month. This is the highest balance ever in the account!

Other Information I continue to work with the Trustees in reviewing the property and liability insurance coverages.

Nick made the motion to approve the report. Wade seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Report: Jason reported. Jason asked if we had any questions regarding Pastor Mike and his taking on a more active role

as an interim.

We also want to remember Pastor Tsena and we want to make sure that he knows we are thankful for the time he was with us and we wish him the very best.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Lori reported. Love envelopes went out last month. They will have the report on that next month. **Education:** Ann reported. Started SS and Rally Day was fun. We are averaging about 35 students per Sunday. Visited with Pastor Mike about Confirmation and 1st Communion. Information regarding 1st Communion has been sent to parents. Ann is hoping to use the video screen more with the SS songs. The Shoe Box project will happen in mid-November. **Youth Group:** Ann reported. Sept 11, seven adults and five youth gathered up bags of cans. \$265.65 was collected.

NALCW: Hollie reported. Auction Sale took in over \$7,000. Earnings from quilt will go to DL shelter. Earnings from the sale of the tables will go to new furniture for SS. Tomorrow is aid. Mary B will do the Bible Study. Mavis Finseth and friend will provide music. Activity tomorrow will be to make notes, write on them, and send them. We received a Thank You note from Bev Hamre for the prayers when she was so ill. Will be discussing the Hunters Super tomorrow. If there is anyone who knows someone who is 80 in 2021 please let Hollie because they receive a devotional. Will be

setting up a nominating committee for future elections. Will be asking for ideas with how to dispense the money from the sale.

Trustees: Wade reported.

Received a quote for the sidewalk at \$12,226. Talked to Sand Hill—Ryan is done except for one part still on order for the air conditioning. Ryan checked the noise issue from the fan as issued and didn't find anything. Wade suggested if we hear it again when we are at church we should call Ryan right away so it can get checked out. Brian Stuhaug called asked permission to trim all the trees and bushes. We all agreed it should be done. Dean completed the tuck work—thank you Dean. Didn't get time for the painting of foundation this fall so it will be taken care of right away next spring. We are going to keep our water softeners because they would do a better job and do it more efficiently. Heat has been turned on in the parsonage at 50 degrees. Basement was dry when Wade checked.

Deacons: Gene reported. Talked about visitation and Gary came up with a list of names. Ann asked for the list too, so the SS could send cards. Gary thanked all who brought in coats for the Salvation Army.

Video Tech: Nick reported. Things are going much better with our video broadcasts after GV did some rebooting of their equipment. Jim did talk to the Gen Mgr of GV to address some

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OCTOBER COUNCIL, con't. of the broadcasting issues. GV is well aware of the issues and are addressing them. Nick also now has some clearance to re-boot some equipment if there is broadcasting trouble on a Sunday. Ann asked if it would be possible for us to see the text for our songs on the screen. Nick will check into it. The rest of the equipment for the audio system should be here by December unless it gets pushed out again. (2 hand held mics and two over the belt mics are in this equipment)

Food Shelf: Gene reported.

Thank you to Joette, Mary, and Betty for working today. First day this month served 9 families and today they served 15 families total 24. Total distribution for the month was 1,527 pounds. Per family served 63.7 pounds. These amounts are the lowest amounts of this year. Thank you to Mavis, Gene, Jim, and Dave L for working Truck Day. They brought in 861 pounds of food. September, they had 621 pounds for first pickup, 501 pounds from Grocery Plus, and then 861 this time for a total of 1,983 pounds of food coming in. Amounts are getting scaled back. Poundage down due to availability. They are planning for Thanksgiving boxes. Have an advisory meeting coming up next week.

Welcome Committee: No report

Old Business:

Education Building Roof:

Wade reported. Received quote on materials only for a pitched

roof from Lakeside Bldg. Prices will fluctuate depending upon the materials. \$70,000 to \$75,000 minimum total that would include labor. Materials bid was \$56,000. Skinner Roofing indicated that they could come and patch it, but reminded us that it could get very costly over time. They cannot give us guarantees. The question is: do we want a more permanent fix, or do we want to continue patching. The roof project will be discussed further at the November meeting. All materials will be purchased locally. Wade will get more information.

Cleaning service (Maid to Perfection) Wade reported. Wade and Gene both called some recommended people and were turned down. Maid to Perfection would cost about \$400 a month. They would come in once per week and do weekly cleaning and take care of some monthly projects. We were extremely happy with the deep cleaning they did for us earlier. We have decided that Maid to Perfection can meet our needs. Wade will call to get things started as soon as possible.

Key cards. Jason reported. We have a lot of ministries supported by the church so this would work well so different groups can get access to the building. Jason said Tri-Valley could print on the cards for us and we could get them numbered. The major cost for the project is the controller. We would like Jason to get us a quote. We decided we would have only one door that could be

accessed. John made a motion to have the trustees move ahead on the key access project and the sidewalk project, as discussed in the trustees report, as soon as possible. Gary seconded. Motion carried. Osland Construction could possibly do this the first week of November if weather permits.

New Business:

Approve ending of Mission Circle. The Mission Circle will be closing down after 100 years. Lori made the motion to approve their dissolving. Dean seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Appreciation Month is October. Ann will arrange to get a card or poster together from the SS. We will give Pastor Sletto a gift card. We will give Pastor Mike the card in church and take the opportunity to publically thank him on Sunday Oct 17.

Investments: Jason just reminded us that we did decide to review our investments on a regular basis.

Worship in the Sanctuary: Talk to pastor about formally receiving offering even without the plates. We need to have some kind of acknowledgment of offering that is received. Since the Covid numbers in Polk County are very high again we will continue to follow procedures that take the safer route for worship. We will revisit these issues every month and try to reinstate some of our normal

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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
John Carlson	Deacon	
Wade Farrell	Trustee	563-2216
Dean Bernard	Trustee	687-2105
Ann Brekken	Superintendent / Education	687-2205
Sarah Strom	Education	687-3488
Shelly Juve	Education	687-2929
Cassie Senn	Education	687-3313
Hollie Stewart	Pres. WNALC	687-3730
Lori Hole	Stewardship	687-3585
Tyler Brekken	Stewardship	687-2205
Bobbi DuChamp	Stewardship	687-3000

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR
DECEMBER****Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021**

First Reading - Malachi 3:1-7b

Psalm - Psalm 66:1-12

Second Reading - Philippians 1:2-11

Gospel - Luke 3:1-14, 15-20

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021**

First Reading - Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm - Psalm 85:1-13

Second Reading - Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel - Luke 7:18-28, 29-35

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021**

First Reading - Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm - Psalm 80:1-7

Second Reading - Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel - Luke 1:39-45, 46-56

Nativity of Our Lord**December 24, 2021 • Christmas Eve**

First Reading - Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm - Psalm 96:1-13

Second Reading - Titus 2:11-14

Gospel - Luke 2:1-14, 15-20

Nativity of Our Lord**December 25, 2021 • Christmas Day**

First Reading - Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm - Psalm 2:1-12

Second Reading - Hebrews 1:1-6, 7-12

Gospel - John 1:1-14, 15-18

**First Sunday after Christmas
December 26, 2021**

First Reading - Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

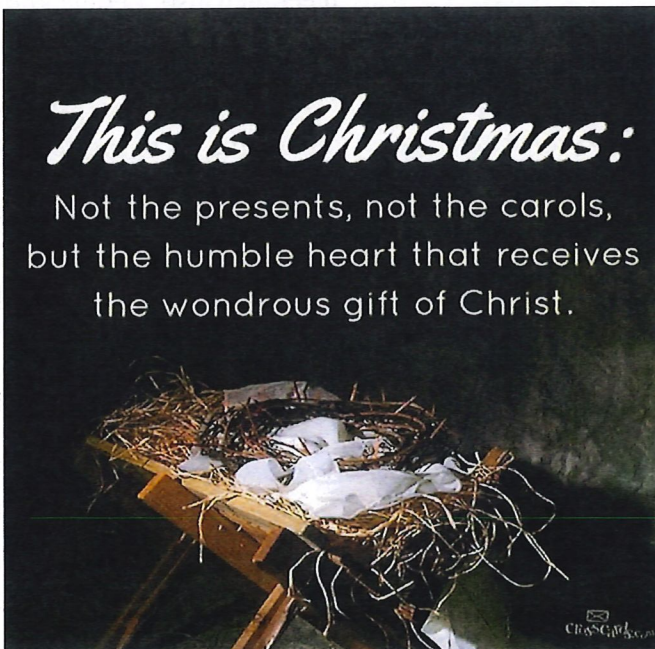
Psalm - Psalm 111:1-10

Second Reading - Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel - Luke 2:22-40

This is Christmas:

Not the presents, not the carols,
but the humble heart that receives
the wondrous gift of Christ.



OCTOBER COUNCIL, con't.

practices as soon as we can.

Nominating Committee: We will be needing a nominating committee. Currently we have only three members and traditionally we have five. We can add people without an official meeting.

Anonymous Gift: We are so humbled to receive this give. Dean Made a motion to honor this gift and humbly accept it. Wade seconded. Motion carried. Madyson Plante made a request for the church on September 3, 2022 for her wedding. The officiant will be determined at a later date. Wade made a motion to approve the date. Dean seconded. Motion carried.

Holly will update the sign in front of the church.

Announcements

Next month's meeting date is November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn**The Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Halvorson



Hello Ladies!
Wow! again. I gotta say it again. Wow! We dispersed \$11,900.00 to

Missions at our last meeting. Where did it come from? From very generous people at the Fall auction, Women's Ministry meetings, and an anonymous donation designated in part to WNALC. Thank you to all our members, friends and neighbors who helped this happen. . . that we can glorify God with ourselves and our offerings. Thank you Lord.

We held elections with all members currently serving agreeing to serve again and were voted in. Thank you to them for keeping us going.

This year we were able to honor one of our own, Tillie Osland, with a devotional for this being her 80th year. Congratulations Tillie! We look forward to seeing you often in the years ahead. God Bless!

Elsewhere in the scroll you will find a 2022 Mission Bank Partner label to cut out and use on any jar or bottle to collect change over the winter months. These donations come to our meeting in the spring and then are given to the national WNALC before the annual meeting in August. These missions are the NALC Disaster Response and the Great Commission Society of the NALC. We have collected items for the Disaster Response before and the Great Commission Society of NALC supports spread of the Gospel at home and around the world. See more at: thenalc.org/

[nalc-disaster-response/](http://thenalc.org/gcs/). or the [nalc.org/gcs/](http://thenalc.org/gcs/).

This was our last meeting of the year and we will resume in April 2022. IN THE MEANTIME, let's not lose touch and keep up the new ministries we have begun. December -March, I want to invite any one who would like to come, even if it's the first time, to come downstairs on our regular meeting day - 2nd Thursday of the month - and make cards and write a note to those on our prayer lists or bring a name that is dear to you. I'll make coffee and bring your own snack if you want one. I'll

be in the basement from 4:30 - 6:00. NOTE TIME - IT'S DIFFERENT. Stay for one card or a few or to visit. I hope this time will let some who work or pick up/drop off at school drop in for a bit. No business or Bible study, just the hands and feet of God at work with each other. Any other ideas for this winter break time-let me know. Maybe the people making prayer shawls would like to meet then also. Let me know or just show up. If it's the hands and feet of God working, let's gather. New service books will go out around the 1st of the year. Any changes, let me know before the end of the year. We will continue with our \$50.00 donation in lieu of our former supper meal as described in the pages of the service book. We welcome anyone who would like to join this ministry.

As we wait for the birth of Jesus this Advent season, have a wonderful Christmas and God's Blessing to all of you!

~~Hollie



DID YOU KNOW?

Grace Lutheran church has a beginning foundation of 7 people dedicated to praying 24/7.

Pastor Tsena made an invite to begin a prayer group to have someone praying intentionally each day of the week.

Each of the 7 have one day of the week dedicated to prayer. Our first goal and prayer would be to increase our numbers to 31 persons anxious to participate in communicating with God and growing in relationship with Him and our community.

The 7 of us meet Monday evenings from 6-7 pm in the church basement. Why? To share our week experiences with growth in prayer. Encouragement to continue prayers that "seem" unanswered and give thanks and celebration for the answered and to be answered prayers.

"Pray without ceasing" 1 Thessalonians 5:17. A huge task especially when we do not live a cloistered life.

So, we are learning from scripture, the Holy Spirit and each other to **DEPEND ON GOD, PRAY REPEATEDLY AND OFTEN, STAY STEADFAST AND BE DISCIPLINED.**

"Praying without ceasing is as easy as breathing when you make prayer **part of your lifestyle.**

That way it pleases God and satisfies Paul's advice. Therefore, you can pray while you work, while taking a shower, while waiting at

a stoplight, and while doing everything else in the course of a day.

You do not have to kneel, prostrate yourself on the floor, look toward heaven, or close your eyes to pray. Audible praying is just one way to pray. Let prayer be **part of your lifestyle.**" Rev. M. Minnicks

Would you join us on Mondays, and we will share with you our focused prayers for this church, community, country, universal church and more. We need you! 24/7 Group



- * Jerome Strand
- * Rosie Kolstad
- * Everett Osland
- * Paul & Bev Stennes
- * Burton Stennes
- * Steve & Linda Evenson
- * Steve Jacobson
- * Becki Haugen
- * Don Lundin
- * George & Pat Osland
- * Bruce McWilliam
- * Jolene Bradley
- * Dean Lindberg
- * Mark Thompson
- * Torrey Erickson

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Nov 10, 2021

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, Lori Hole, Gary Walter, John Carlson, Wade Farrell, Ann Brekken, Dorothy Sandberg, Jim Ferden

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

Devotions: Jason led us in prayer to open our meeting.

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

Secretary's Report: Gary moved to approve Oct. minutes. Seconded by John. Motion carried.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report

- Undesignated funds available to be used for October's General Fund expenses totaled \$18,256.86. This amount was nicely above the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$10,631.58.

- Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$15,670. The

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I have a couple of updates and a call to action for our membership this month. Our first update is that the council has decided to offer a second option for Holy Communion. In addition to the prepackaged elements (which will remain available), those who would like to come forward will be able to do so and will be able to serve themselves while assistants say the words we use during distribution. While the distribution is going on, Pastor Mike will lead those in the sanctuary and at home through Holy Communion with the prepackaged elements.

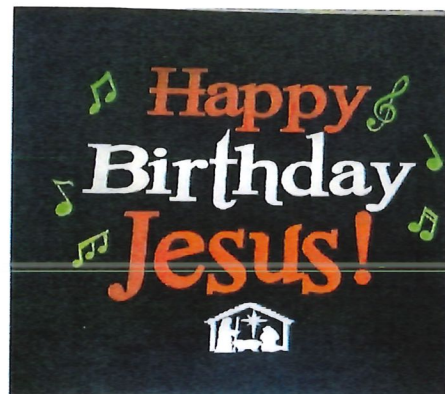
Our second update has to do with church security. We have decided to lock the church outside of business hours. There have been a couple of recent incidents, along with the theft from a couple of years ago, that have led to this decision. To facilitate the use of our church outside of times the office is open, we are installing a key card access system. That way, anyone representing a mission the council supports will have access to the church. The cards will be identifiable so we will be able to be relatively free in handing them out. We don't know who may have used a brass key but we will absolutely know what key card opened the door. Policy is being developed to support this change. The decision was not easy to lim-

it access to our church. We may be able to amend the policy somewhat when we have a full-time pastor but that is not our reality right now.

I'm going to close with a call to action. As I have said before, we need folks to be willing to serve on our council. The same faces cannot, should not, be at the table forever. Please thoughtfully and prayerfully consider serving on the council. Also, we are in need of members to serve on our next Call Committee. We should have a list of folks available for the council to send through to our Annual Meeting in January. If a term on the council seems like too much of a commitment, perhaps a stint on the Call Committee is more to your liking? Please let me or another member of the council know if you are willing to serve.

Thank you all for the support so many of you show for our church.

Jason ~ Council President



OUR CHURCH'S HISTORY

Over the years, Grace Church has raised up and supported many missionaries. Dr. Oliver Distad, who served as a medical missionary from 1918-1921. He died in China at the age of 37 as a result of typhoid. Clara Jones served in China for 17 years and Taiwan for 7 years. She has forever been woven into the fabric of the Lutheran Missionaries in China. Judy Hyland served in the Philippines, and through most of her time spent 3 1/2 years in a Japanese prison camp. Dr. Myles and Olivia Efteland served as medical missionaries to Taiwan and China. Theodore and Betty Homdrom served in South Africa for 35 years, and was many times under suspicion due to his objections to Apartheid. Russell Sanoden served in Japan for 36 years, Sharilyn Nielson-Walters along with her husband Mark served in Madagascar. Rev. Philip and Margaret Luttion served in Japan for 37 years. We also supported missionaries in later years such as Kent Truehl and Dan and Cheryl Jore.

Grace WNALC Meeting – Thursday, November 11, 2021

Opening and Prayer – Attendance at the meeting was 14. Hollie Stewart began with a welcome and prayer.

Devotion – In recognition of Veteran's Day, devotion was conducted by Joanne Sannes with the reading of a true coming home story of Clifford Anderson (stepfather of Barb Gaalswyk) from August 1945.

Bible Study – Bible study was given by Mary Bratrud. The women of focus for the bible study were Rachel and Leah. Readings from Genesis 29:1-30, James 3:13-18, Philippians 2:3-4, Colossians 3:12-15, and Proverb 14:30. The study focused on competition, jealousy, deceit, and bitterness and the patience needed to follow God.

Music – An acapella singing of America the Beautiful, was done by the group.

Secretary's Report: - The secretary's report for the October 2021 meeting was read by Becky Lindseth. Motion to approve by Dorothy Sandberg, which was seconded by Joyce Voxland. The minutes were approved. A thank you cards from North American Lutheran Church and the students of the Win-E-Mac High School were read.

Treasurer's Report: - The treasurer's report was read by Barb Gaalswyk. Beginning balance was \$5,503.69. Deposits from auction and expenses leave a balance of \$14,945.40. Motion to

approve by Maxine Walter, which was seconded by Joanne Sannes. The treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business: Deer Hunter's Meatball Supper – Becky Lindseth shared 204 meals were served with the event being sold out at 7:30 p.m. Gross revenue totaled \$3,000.

Tillie Osland will receive the Garden of Truth devotion book.

New Business: December through March, on the 2nd Thursday of the month, Hollie Stewart will be in the basement of the church from 4:30-6:00 p.m. to write cards and make envelopes for those on the prayer list.

WNALC Serving Book for 2022 will be updated in December.

WNALC Mission Bank Partner will be collected in June to support the Disaster Relief Fund and Great Commission.

WNALC Officer Elections – All individuals from 2021 have agreed to continue to serve in their current office position. Motion made by Maxine Walter, which was seconded by Audrey Hemmingsen to approve officer list. Motion passed. Officers are as follows:

President – Hollie Stewart
Vice President – Maxine Walter
Secretary – Becky Lindseth
Treasurer – Barb Gaalswyk and Nancy Tradewell
Mission Action Co-Chairs – Audrey Hemmingsen & Mary Bratrud

Mission Growth Chair – Joanne Sannes

Bookstore – Dorothy Sandberg
Quilt Co-Chairs – Barb Gaalswyk & Nancy Tradewell

Altar Committee – Lori Hole, Maxine Walter, Mary Bratrud, & Betty Lundin

Pianist – Mavis Finseth

Financial disbursements totaling \$11,900 are recommended by the officers. Motion to approve financial disbursements was made by Becky Lindseth, which was seconded by Mary Bratrud. The motion passed. Financial disbursements are as follows:

Sunday School for chairs and rack - \$3,000

Win-E-Mac Giving Tree - \$500

Win-E-Mac Backpack Program - \$500

Salvation Army - \$500

Compassion International - \$500

Great Commission - \$2,000

Ronald McDonald House, Fargo - \$500

Children's Miracle Network, Fargo - \$500

Boys/Girls Club, Detroit Lakes - \$300

Crisis Center, Detroit Lakes - \$500

Northland Rescue Mission - \$500

North Country Food Bank - \$700

Cemetery Association - \$600

NALS - \$1,300

Church Council Meeting – Hollie Stewart shared the following from the Church Council meet-

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NOVEMBER COUNCIL, con't.

monthly budget goal is \$16,880.54.

- Noteworthy Other Giving:
 - Love Offering -\$1,145.00
 - Anonymous Donation of \$1,361.86.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Mission Outreach – Minkota Mission District: Payout second half of donation.

Pastoral – Pastor Tsena's health insurance, taxes, retirement – final expenses from last month paid this month due to timing.

Interim Pastor expenses – New payment structure for Pastor Mike

Budget Report

- We ended the month at approximately 14% or \$28,400 under budget.

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

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- October's giving was up very nicely from September.
- It was the highest giving in 2021 to date!
- Looking back since 2011, this was the 3rd highest offering for the month of October.
- Year-to-date giving continues to be nicely above last year at this time.
- Otherwise, year-to-date giving is the lowest since 2014.

History of the General Fund Balance

- The October balance reflects another nice increase from the September General Fund balance.

Increase due to lower monthly expenses, good level of donations in October, Love Offering, and the anonymous gift.

Account Balances Report

- Building Fund - Reflects donations made during the month and expenses for the separate elevator phone line (\$38.91).
 - HS Scholarship Fund – Reflects donations.
 - 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 plus a Christmas gift of \$50. Also reflects Sunday School offerings for October.
- SS Fund Raiser Fund – Reflects a donation.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

The ending balance is similar to last month.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

The ending balance is similar to

last month.

Other Information

- I continue to work with the Trustees in reviewing the property and liability insurance coverages.
- I completed the quarterly withholding tax returns and submitted them to the state and federal authorities.
- I will be meeting with the Trustees sometime before the next council meeting to develop a budget for 2022.

The budget typically doesn't change a lot from year to year. Please let any one of us know if there is something you think should be added or deleted from previous budgets for the 2022 budget. Jason went over Jim's report in his absence tonight. (Jim came later in the meeting) Nick made a motion to approve. Seconded by Wade. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Jason has talked with Pastor Sletto about service and all is going well.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Lori reported. Did a LOVE offering comparison. This year was 1145 in 2020 it was 2040 and 2019 4800.

Education: Ann reported. Stop and look at the new desk/chairs and they are very pleased. They purchased 12 from Office Depot. Thank you also to the Ladies Group for their donation to help too. Shoe Box collection on Sunday. Outreach coming up with 5th and 6th graders going to shop for

Continued on Page 13

NOVEMBER COUNCIL, con't.

the Food Shelf from Groceries from Jason. Going to try to take children shopping for the Giving Tree too sometime in December. No SS Nov 28 for Thanksgiving. Confirmation starting Dec 1. Starting at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday. One Wednesday will be at Grace then the next Sunday it will be at Mentor. Dec 19 Christmas Program during the service.

Youth Group: No report

NALCW: Hollie reported Meeting Nov 11. They will recognize one 80 year old member, Tillie Osland, who will receive a devotional. Continuing with the current Bible Study program. They will be recapping the Hunter's Supper. Had 204 meals served and were sold out by 7:30. \$3000 gross was received. Electing officers. They will be disbursing dollars for missions. They will have \$7,100 from the auction plus additional funds from the general fund of Ladies Aid. New books will be prepared that include current changes. These books will be given out prior to the April meeting. This will be the last meeting until April. New practice: On the day of the month that would normally have been the meeting date in January, February, & March, Hollie will come to the church from 4:30-6:00. The ladies will all be invited to come and they will do card making for the prayer list requests. The cards will be written on and these notes will be sent out. This allows us to stay connected during the winter when we do not meet.

They are going to do the bottle change collection project with funds to be sent in in the Spring. They will again be collecting for Care and Share.

Trustees: Wade reported. Sidewalk is complete. Thank you to Osland Construction for a job well done. Called Maid to Perfection-Vassa. Wade will call Dec 1 to get things set up. Hollie reported that there is a ceiling light out in the Narthex. There are several other maintenance issues that need addressing. Wade will notify Brian.

Deacons: Gary reported. Gary did some visiting. Both at Pioneer and some residences. The home is now closed due to Covid so that will be on hold for a bit. John is going to try to join Gary in this mission. Ann requested a visitation list from Gary so that the SS could write cards and send to individuals.

Video Tech: Nick reported. No news is good news! Nick checked on the wireless mics to see if they are still on track for delivery. He did pick up a couple of updated mics from another church in Inkster, ND.

Food Shelf: Gene reported. Thank you to Cheri, Betty, and Judy for working today. Total food distributed for month was 1,834 pounds equaling 67.9 pounds per family and 49.6 pounds per person to 27 families. 2,298 pounds came in on the truck today. They are well stocked coming into this season. November and the Thanksgiving boxes are coming up. Completed

the planning for this at the Board meeting. Upcoming Events: Truck Day will be November 10, Food Shelf/Naps on Nov 11 and 18, Thanksgiving boxes distributed on November 22. Let them know if you can work on any of these days.

Welcome Committee: No report

Old Business:

Education Building Roof Wade talked to Devin about the pitch on the roof that we were concerned about. He assured us that this pitch is adequate for northern Minnesota. Still looking for quotes and we will hopefully have a few quotes by next meeting. Timeline for materials is 1 to 2 months.

Key cards Wade got quote from Garden Valley for \$2,848.50 installed. Can't do Kim's office door because of the type of the door it is. We would have to replace the door which would be quite expensive. Jason will work on Key Card policy. Cards will be issued as soon as policy is complete. Hollie moved to accept the bid. Nick seconded. Motion carried.

Investments Jason suggests that we don't deal with this right now due to the fact that we have some large projects coming up. We can revisit investments following the completion of the projects.

Worship in the Sanctuary / Youth led services

Worship in the sanctuary. Ann made the motion to start continuous communion the first Sunday

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NOVEMBER COUNCIL, con't.

Ann made the motion to start continuous communion the first Sunday in December. Lori seconded. Motion carried.

Youth Lead service. Jason has also discussed this with Pastor Sletto. We discussed several different options that included more contemporary music added to the service. We threw out some ideas and we want to think about things and we will pick up the discussion next month. We are excited about the prospects of a monthly youth service and we know that it will need to be implemented a step at a time.

Nominating Committee: No report.

New Business:

Faith Comes By Hearing: We need to check for the materials. We are interested in doing this again. These are the military USB sticks. Hollie moved to take a collection for the sticks at our Sunday service. John seconded. Motion carried. We will announce next week and take the collection on the 21st.

Space Needs: Questions to consider: Should there be additional space considerations since we are putting on a roof? What really are our needs? Should we consider an addition? We must assess our needs for now and what we can project into the future. We will leave this on the agenda and have more discussion at an upcoming retreat. We are all asked to think about these issues.

Announcements:

Received a letter from Pioneer Memorial Home asking for donations for their fund raising campaign.

Received a Thank you note from NALS for our donation to them.

Next month's meeting date is December 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Halvorson



Grace WNALC packing boxes for the Care and Share in Crookston. Great mission work, ladies! Thank you!!

**2022 WNALC
Mission Bank
Partner**

Grace WNALC, continued
ing, which was held on November 10, 2021:

Christmas Program will be performed at the church service on December 19, 2021. No Sunday School will be held on November 28, 2021. Communion will be distributed “walk through” on the first and second Sunday of December.

Dessert – Delicious dessert selections were served by Joyce Voxland. Other members of Group 8 are Mary Ellen Salvesson, Laura Perkerwicz, Liz Jenson, Renee Howe, and Hollie Stewart.

Closing Devotions – Closing devotions were given by Maxine Walter from 1 Thessalonians 5:8 focusing on Thanksgiving and being thankful.

Announcement – Father Adam Hamness serving the Catholic Churches of Gonvick/Oklee Brooks is hospitalized with COVID and will be added to the Prayer Group.

Adjourn: The gathering was closed with a prayer, Lord’s Prayer and singing of Table Grace.

The minutes will be reviewed and approved at the April 2022 WNALC meeting.

Submitted by Becky Lindseth,
Secretary WNALC



“JOSEPH’S LULLABY”

Go to sleep my Son
This manger for your bed
You have a long road before You
Rest Your little head
Can You feel the weight of Your
glory?
Do You understand the price?
Or does the Father guard Your
heart for now
So You can sleep tonight?
Go to sleep my Son
Go and chase Your dreams
This world can wait for one more
moment
Go and sleep in peace
I believe the glory of Heaven
Is lying in my arms tonight
But Lord, I ask that He for just this
moment
Simply be my child
Go to sleep my Son
Baby, close Your eyes
Soon enough You’ll save the day
But for now, dear Child of mine
Oh my Jesus, Sleep tight

Devotion by Aaron Waid

Our son, Rhett, turned two years-old recently. A few weeks before his birthday, a NICU nurse at Florida Hospital in Orlando (where our daughter was staying at the time) asked me how old Rhett was. I responded, “Oh, he’s 23 months.” “Oh, so he’s two,” she responded. I laughed and gasped, “No! He’s 23 months, he’s not two yet! I know that’s practically two years-old, but I don’t want to age him any faster than I have to!”

Although our son is only two years-old, I try every single day to try to cherish and remember something about him. My wife and I love marveling over something new that he’s learned that day, or a words that has learned to suddenly surprises us with, or a new means of playing with a toy that he wasn’t capable of before.

Our home is a place of celebrating and encouraging our son, and now our daughter, because we know that one day they will grow up and seek out their own vision and purpose in life, and the best thing that we can do for them is to show them God’s love as much as possible.

Joseph and Mary were Jesus’ parents. They raised him in the same way that any other Jewish boy in Ancient Palestine would have been raised at the time. They helped him learn how to speak, how to read, and guided him in his adherence to the Jewish religion, such as observing all the feasts and customs of the time.

Joseph and Mary knew all the concerns and difficulties of parenthood, and carried that joy and burden with them throughout their lives.

Although most of the Gospel accounts depicts the three years that Jesus spent publicly ministering, in reality he spent far more time in his thirty-three years of life in the company of his parents. Luke describes this largely unrecorded childhood and young adulthood in 2:51-53:

“Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart. Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.” We can only speculate about how much Jesus was shaped by his

Continued on Page 16

JOSEPH'S LULLABY, con't.

parents. No doubt many of his perspectives and ideas were rooted in wisdom passed onto him by his parents, just as it is the same for any child. Joseph and Mary were divinely selected to raise God Incarnate, and we have to believe that one of the reasons they were picked is because of the unique love, devotion, and care that they would give him in his youth to fulfill his purpose and mission on this earth.

For those of you who are parents, or aspire to be parents, we can look to Mary and Joseph as role models. Their dedication and sacrifice for their child helped Jesus to grow up into the man he would become. If we want our children to make real, lasting impact on this world and contribute to the advancement of God's kingdom, then we too have to take on the responsibility of raising them in the lens of God's love and wisdom.

The best thing that we can do for our children is, like Mary and Joseph, to be followers of God, obedient to his direction, and willing to follow the mission of the Gospel in our own lives.

Prayer

Lord,

I pray for each person who is responsible for the care and development of a child or youth, or stewarding the path of an adult who has since grown. There are many ways that we can foster the next generation, and it is humbling to know that you entrust us with their needs. I pray that you will strengthen all of us to follow your will as the caretakers of your children, and overwhelmingly convince us that your ways are best for us and our families. Amen.



FIND

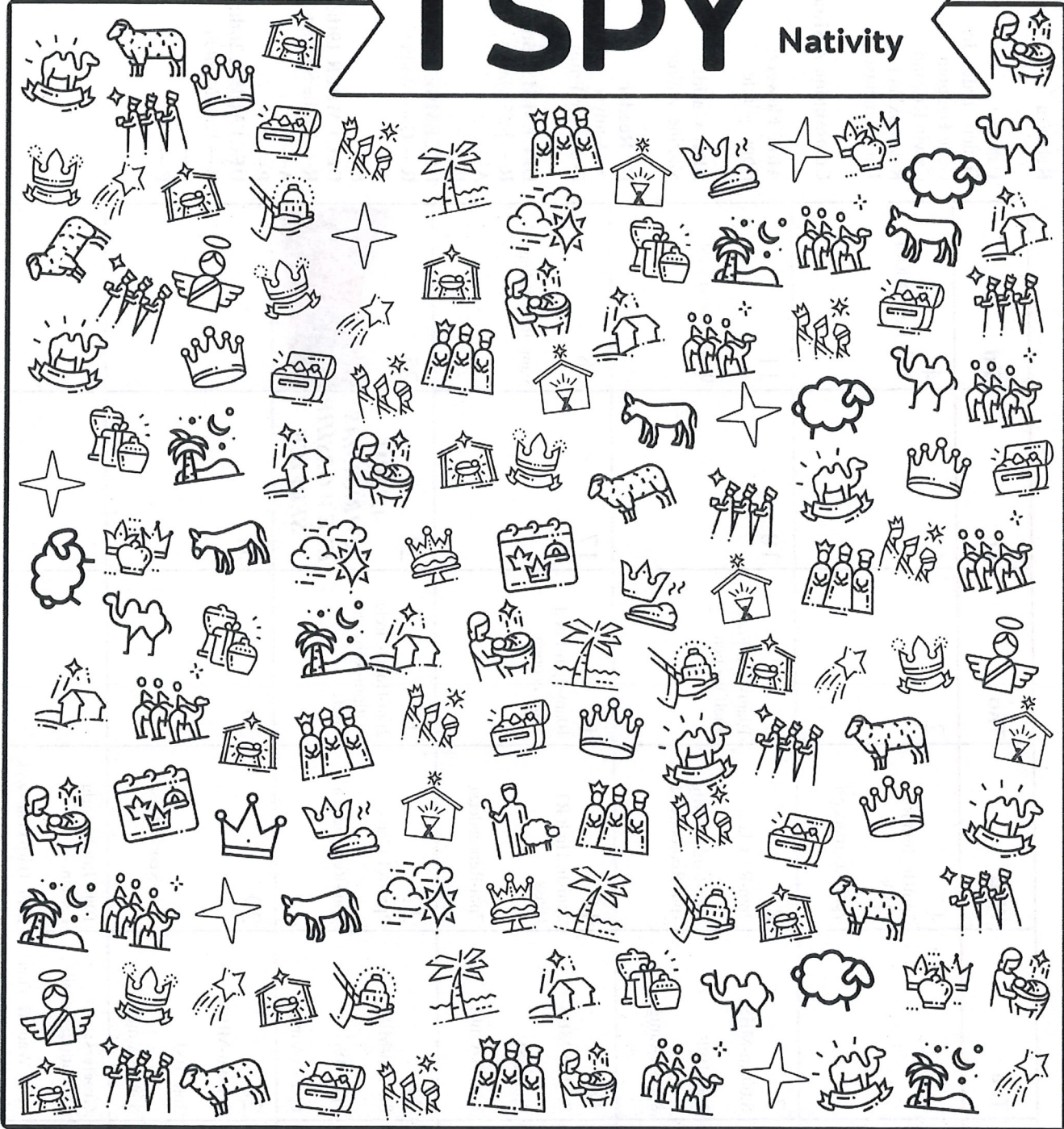
JOY

IN THE JOURNEY

December 1	John 1:1-5
December 2	Isaiah 9:2-7
December 3	Isaiah 11:1-10
December 4	Jeremiah 33:14-16
December 5	Luke 1:5-10
December 6	Luke 1:11-17
December 7	Luke 1:18-25
December 8	Luke 1:26-38
December 9	Matthew 1:18-21
December 10	Matthew 1:22-26
December 11	Luke 1:39-45
December 12	Luke 1:46-56
December 13	Luke 2:1-5
December 14	Luke 2:6-7
December 15	Luke 2:8-12
December 16	Luke 2:13-14
December 17	Luke 2:15-18
December 18	Luke 2:19-20
December 19	Micah 5:2-5
December 20	Matthew 2:1-2
December 21	Matthew 2:3-6
December 22	Matthew 2:7-8
December 23	Matthew 2:9-12
December 24	John 1:14

I SPY

Nativity



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| 1 | | 6 | | 7 | | 1 | | 3 | | 6 | | 7 | | 4 | | 7 | | 5 | |
| 3 | | 3 | | 4 | | 6 | | 2 | | 7 | | 5 | | 9 | | 6 | | 3 | |

DECEMBER 2021

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES
Hope
Rebecca

at the church
at the church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 2pm-Jr High RT Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	2	3	4 9am- Rebroadcast
5 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Communion	6 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	7 8:00am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	8 2pm-RT Class 7pm-Council Mtg. 7pm-Rebroadcast	9 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open	10	11 9am- Rebroadcast
12 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Communion	13 9:30am -LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	14 8:00am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	15 2pm-Jr. High RT Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	16 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open	17	18 9am- Rebroadcast
19 9:15am- Sunday School 10:30am-Worship w/ Sunday School Christmas Program	20 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	21 8:00am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	22 2pm-RT Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	23 2pm-Hope Circle 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	24 4:30PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE	25 
26 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30am- Worship	27 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast	28 8:00am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	29 7pm-Rebroadcast	30	31	
		Greeters: 5th:Ginnie Farrell 12th: Wade & Tina Farrell	19th: Jim & Carla Ferden 26th: Barb Gaalswyk			

Ushers :
Ogden Farder, Jr.
Gene Haugom
Calvin Kolstad
Ray Voxland
Jon Clementson

Communion Assistants:

Altar Flowers:
Hope Circle

Altar Guild:
Maxine Walter

R= Reader
A=Acolyte
P=Power Point

DECEMBER 5th:
R~~ Jeff Normes
A~~
P~~

DECEMBER 12th:
R~~ Gary Walter
A~~
P~~

DECEMBER 19th:
R~~ Hollie Stewart
A~~
P~~

DECEMBER 26th:
R~~ Paul Mahlen
A~~
P~~

