

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

February 2022

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

January 12, 2022

7:00 P.M.

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

Present: President Jason Carlson, Nick Walk, Maxine Walter, Yvonne Halvorson, Gene Haugom, Lori Hole, Gary Walter, John Carlson, Wade Farrell, Ann Brekken, Dorothy Sandberg

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

Devotions: Jason led us in devotions with fellowship as the topic. When we meet as a council it is about the business at hand, but also about the fellowship that helps sustain us. We need to remember why we are here and what we need to do. 1 Thessalonians 2:8 Bible reference that discusses after we become children of God we want what God wants from us. We no longer strive to focus only on ourselves. We delight in worshiping Jesus. We must keep our Christian brothers and sisters in our life and prayers.

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

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

Financial Secretary's Report: Dorothy reported. There was some Christmas money that has come in since the 1st of the year that will be added to the Christmas offering. Yvonne moved to approve. Seconded by Gene. Motion carried. (Report on file).

Treasurer's Report:

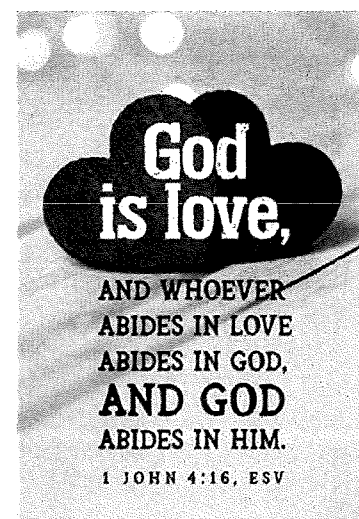
Cash Flow Report

- Undesignated funds available to be used for December's General Fund expenses totaled \$14,424.65. This amount was slightly below the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$14,949.90.
- Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$14,325. The monthly budget goal is \$16,880.54.
- Noteworthy Other Giving:
 - o Christmas Offering - \$1,506.

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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday February 9th 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.



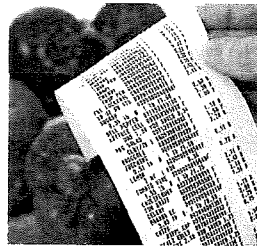
- * Dennis Nikolayson
- * Ron Howe
- * Mark LaPlante
- * Allen Jenson
- * Jerome Strand
- * Everett Osland
- * Paul & Bev Stennes
- * Burton Stennes
- * Steve & Linda Evenson
- * Steve Jacobson
- * Becki Haugen
- * Don Lundin
- * George & Pat Osland
- * Bruce McWilliam
- * Jolene Bradley
- * Dean Lindberg
- * Mark Thompson
- * Torrey Erickson



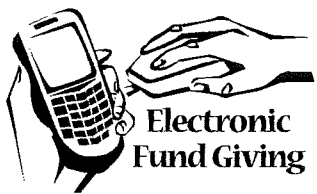
- January 2:**
Attendance~40
Offering~\$1,970.00
- January 9th:**
Attendance~ 64
Offering~\$3,902.00
- January 16th:**
Attendance~53
Offering~ \$745.00
- January 23rd:**
Attendance~ 50
Offering~\$2,818.00

Hope Circle: February 24th 2:00 PM at the church

Rebecca Circle: February 24th 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.

December 2021 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$14,325.00

Expenses:

Administrative - \$8,564.32

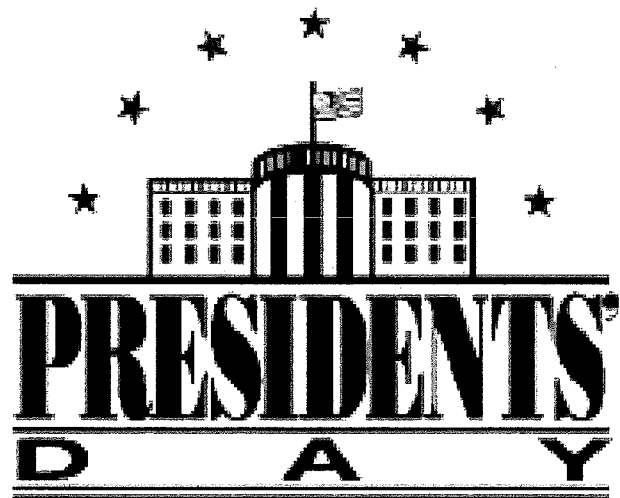
Education - \$1,200.00

Mission Outreach - \$65.00

Pastoral - \$2,942.26

Worship - \$2,178.32

Total Expenses - \$14,949.90



GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration – Church & Parsonage Fuel – A large amount of propane was used during the month despite somewhat mild weather. Wade & I have been monitoring the usage. Wade can fill you in on more details.

Financial Secretary – quarterly payment.

Education – Education Director – Annual compensation.

Mission Outreach – Miscellaneous: Passing through mission designated donations received during the year and the Thanksgiving offering.

Worship – Tuning & Repairs: Annual cost of maintenance of the organ and piano.

Worship Technology Supervisor: Annual compensation.

Budget Report

- We ended the month at approximately 18% or \$36,000 under budget.
- All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month.
- As a result of heavy usage in December, church & parsonage fuel went over budget.

In addition, insurance expense and office secretary compensation are slightly over budget.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- December's giving was up nicely from November.

- It is the third highest monthly giving in 2021.

- Looking back since 2011, this was the 3rd lowest offering for the month of December.

- Year-to-date giving was nicely above last year at this time.

Otherwise, year-to-date giving is the lowest since 2014.

History of the General Fund Balance

- The December balance reflects a nice increase from the November General Fund balance.

Highest balance ever!

Account Balances Report

- Building Fund - Reflects donations made during the month and expense for the separate elevator phone line (\$38.91). In addition, expenses related to the new key card system (\$2,777.87) are included.

- HS Scholarship Fund – Reflects a donation and the payout of one scholarship.

- 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 and the payout of funds to the Grace To Ukraine mission.

- Organ Fund – Reflects the transfer of expenses to the General Fund.

- Shoebox Fund – Reflects the transfer of expenses to the SS

Outreach Fund.

- SS Fundraiser Fund – Reflects a refund from the return of broken SS chairs/desks.

SS Outreach Fund – Reflects Sunday School offerings, the monthly donation of \$38 to Compassion International, the payoff of the Shoebox expenses (\$217.00, and the Jr High Sunday School shopping for needy kids (\$357.26).

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

The ending balance is basically unchanged from November.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

- The ending balance increased nicely over last month.

It has the highest balance ever!

Other Information

- Sorry I could not be at tonight's meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions on my reports.

- I have contacted the church's insurance agent to increase various insurance coverages. I am still waiting to hear about what the new premium expense will be.

- January is extremely busy preparing quarterly tax withholding returns, W2's, 1099's, and the numerous reports for the annual meeting.

In addition to the \$1,506 Christmas offering in December, an additional offering of \$200 was given in January for

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued
Christmas. So Christmas offering totals \$1,706.00. Lori made motion to approve. Seconded by Wade. Motion carried.

Pastor Report: Jason reported that he had written an identification letter for Pastor Tsena. He has returned to Ethiopia. Pastor Mike and Jason discussed that Pastor will raise plates at the altar rather than having the ushers bring the plates up front. Communion seemed to go well on Sunday with people choosing to go up front or to use the pre-packaged elements.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Lori reported. Nothing new to report this month. *Education:* Ann reported. The Sunday School Christmas Program was well attended and it went very well.

Received an update that the Shoe Boxes our SS sent ended up in Mexico.

Confirmation going on as scheduled. We had perfect attendance this evening with 14 students!

Youth Group: No report

NALCW: No report. Maxine attended in Hollie's absence. She reminded us that Hollie will be here at church tomorrow afternoon from 4:30 to 6:00. She will have cards and stamps with her if there is anyone who would like to get one ready to send. We encourage anyone to come. The first regular meeting of 2022 will be in April.

Trustees: Wade reported. We have a propane leak somewhere and they are trying hard to find its source. Right now there is a pressure test being done. Ryan from Sand Hill has been notified is checking on it in reference to the new furnace system, but has found no problems. Fertile Oil was also here checking on their part of the system with no results. Therefore, we will continue to pursue the problem and hopefully the pressure test will show the source. We had to wait until the weather got a bit better so that it wouldn't be so cold to turn off the heat in the church.

Roof update. Wade visited with Devin again about costs. Bryce Stordahl has been asked to give a construction quote. He recommended hiring an architect company so that we are sure it is constructed to be structurally sound as well as aesthetically pleasing. Bryce wants to make sure that his quote covered all the needs of this type of renovation.

Wade got a list of people from Bryce that he is familiar with and one company has experience specifically with churches.

Wade's question to the council is "should we hire an architect?"

Devin has agreed to help with making inquiries with the architect firms. We are looking at building a sloped roof with a 1/12 pitch on the flat SS portion of the building. We agreed that we should hire the architect and then act on the quotes next month.

Brian reported that our snow blower isn't in the best of shape. He was going to try to do some

repairs on it as well as check into replacement options.

Deacons: John and Gary reported. John reported that they did several visitations and they dropped off some communion cups at Pioneer. We are going to start bringing a flower to each member when we visit. This has been a wonderful practice in another church and we would like to try it. We want to try a few things to really make our visits a really special event in someone's day.

Video Tech: Nick reported. Nothing new to report.

Food Shelf: Gene reported.

Thank you to Judy, Betty, Myles, and Shirley for working Thursday. For December we distributed 1,507 pounds of food to 18 families. That is 83 pounds per family and 58 pounds per person. Processed the third and final shipment of food from the Win-E-Mac Honor Society. They brought in another 571 pounds of food. Their total for their food drive was 1,653 which was above and beyond for them. They averaged 700 pounds in each of the previous 4 drives. This was an increase of 250% more food for this year. Thank you!!! Cash donations totaling \$3,695 for the month of December.

Welcome Committee: No report

Old Business:

Key cards ~ initial key card list

Jason got the cards printed and they will be numbered. Jason will get the card holder roster to-

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued**Old Business:**

Key cards ~ initial key card list
Jason got the cards printed and they will be numbered. Jason will get the card holder roster together and get it to Kim. Garden Valley set up the original schedule for the hours that the cards could be used. They set up only one card that would have 24/7 accessibility. The rest of the cards we set up for 8 to 4:30. We discussed this and determined that all cards should be 24/7 usable. Every time a key card is used it records the time and the user, therefore we don't have to worry about what time an authorized key holder needs to use the card. We agreed to have the all cards redone so that the keyholder has 24/7 access. Kim will have the list of authorized persons. Yvonne made the motion to have the keys 24/7 authorized and to approve the list of authorized persons that Jason will give to Kim. Nick seconded. Motion carried.

Maid to Perfection Cleaning (update) Jason reported that we are very pleased with their work. The process seems to be working out well in conjunction with Brian doing the maintenance.
Nominating Committee: Nick reported. We have holes to fill. We need one Deacon, one Trustee, Stewardship member, Education members, one auditor, one nominating committee. We need to approach people and ask them to consider serving. Jason will also be sending out a letter

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Nominating Committee: Nick reported. We have holes to fill. We need one Deacon, one Trustee, Stewardship member, Education members, one auditor, one nominating committee. We need to approach people and ask them to consider serving. Jason will also be sending out a letter announcing the Annual Meeting and he will encourage Kim will have the list of authorized persons. Yvonne made the motion to have the keys 24/7 authorized and to approve the list of authorized persons that Jason will give to Kim. Nick seconded. Motion carried.

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*Call Committee-*Jason reported. Jason will contact Pastor

Shultz and discuss our needs. We will ask for Call Committee names to be recommended by the Council to the congregation. We will need five names to present for approval at the Annual Meeting. Motion made by Nick that the Council will direct the officers to forward a list of names to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Seconded by Lori. Motion carried.

Designation of Christmas donations: \$1,706 Christmas offering plus \$25 for Thanksgiving. Historically this dollars have gone to local organizations. Yvonne made the motion to split the dollars evenly between the Win-E-Mac Back Pac program and the Win-E-Mac Discretionary Fund for student needs. Seconded by Ann. Motion carried.

Plante / Carlson Wedding September 3 2022 (revisit). Lori made the motion to allow Pastor Tim Lundeen to officiate the wedding on Sept 3, 2022. Nick seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

More offering boxes. Gene brought to our attention that there are times that having an additional offering box at the balcony level may be a good idea. This is especially true for Christmas and other larger services where we have more visitors who may not be aware of our offering boxes in the sanctuary. We also need to communicate to the congregation where the offering boxes are located and we will make sure that is

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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
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
FEBRUARY****Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 6, 2022**

First Reading - Isaiah 6:1-8, 9-13

Psalm - Psalm 138:1-8

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians
14:12b-20

Gospel - Luke 5:1-11

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 13, 2022**

First Reading - Jeremiah 17:5-8

Psalm - Psalm 1:1-6

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:1-
11, 12-20

Gospel - Luke 6:17-26

**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 20, 2022**

First Reading - Genesis 45:3-15

Psalm - Psalm 103:1-13

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:21-
26, 30-42

Gospel - Luke 6:27-38

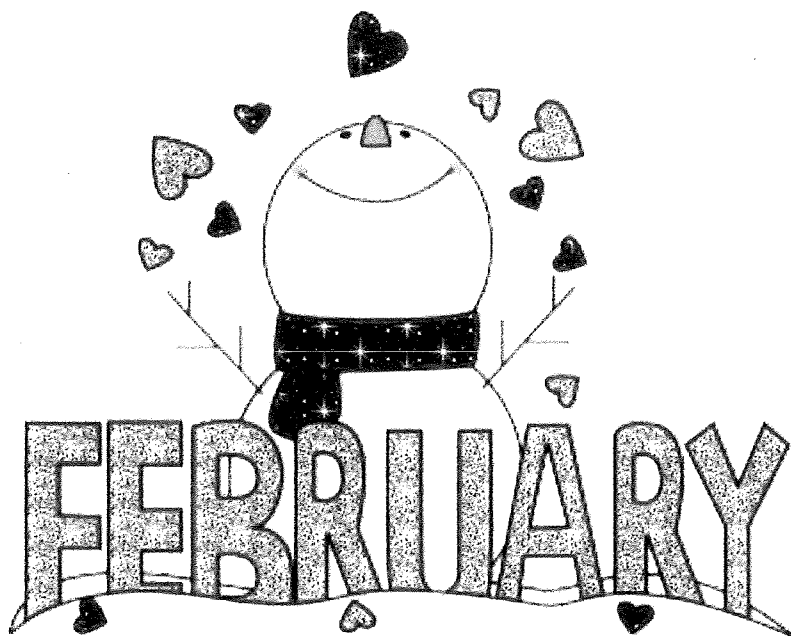
Transfiguration**February 27, 2022**

First Reading - Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalm - Psalm 99:1-9

Second Reading - Hebrews 3:1-6

Gospel - Luke 9:28-36



GRACE COUNCIL, continued

is done. We will evaluate if we should purchase more at a later date.

Set date for Council Retreat Jason proposed that once we have the Annual Meeting we will set a Saturday morning sometime in February or March.

Set date for Annual Meeting The meeting must be announced to the congregation two weeks prior during services, and a letter must be sent out 10 days prior to the meeting. Gene made the motion to set the meeting date Jan 30, 2022 after services. Wade seconded. Motion carried.

Announcements:

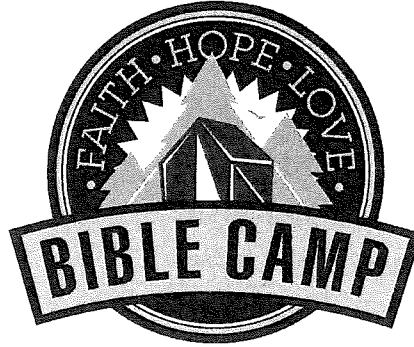
Annual Meeting: January 30, 2022 after worship.

Next month's meeting date is February 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn**The Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Halverson



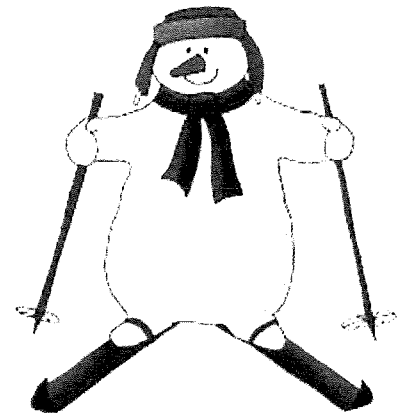
Let's Think About Summer!

Registration for Pathways Bible Camp is now open! Parents, if you are looking for a fun activity that will grow your child's faith, please consider sending him or her to Camp Emmaus, near Park Rapids, MN. Please note the following information.

- Half of the cost of camp will be paid for all campers through confirmation who are members of Grace.
- Please register and submit payment for your child. Then contact Jim Ferden to be reimbursed for expenses.
- To register, see the schedule, or ask questions, contact www.pathwaysbiblecamps.org.

- The Early Bird Discount is April 1st. This is a \$20 discount.
- You can also contact Nancy Jenson (218-280-3858) with questions.
- A representative from Pathways will be visiting our Sunday School classes and church on March 13.

Please take advantage of this generous opportunity from Grace. This is a mission that our church is proud to support!





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



* Winter



OUR CHURCH'S HISTORY

History of the Choirs

Lars Benson was the first choir director in the old church. He was followed by G.D. Aakus. In the fall of 1915, the new building was completed and ready for use. Conrad Finsand directed the Choir, followed by Supt. Haldson during his stay in the schools. In the 1930's a ladies choir was organized under the direction of Mrs. C.M. Ness. It was named the Naronia Chorus. There were 16 members. Marie Ness led the choir for 25 years, during that time, Mrs. Bloyd Talge was the accompanist. The women would meet at the homes of women who had pianos in their homes so the church would not have to be heated for practices. For many years the men joined the choir at Christmas time.



COMMUNION ASSISTANTS FOR 2022

NOTE:

If anyone is interested in helping with communion, please contact one of the deacons.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>MAIN ASSISTANTS</u>
January	-
February	- Dorothy Sandberg Stacy Tadman
March	- Jason & Nicki Carlson
April	- Jeff & Kris Nornes
May	- Gary & Maxine Walter
June	- Paul & Kim Mahlen
July	- Liz Jenson Yvonne Halvorson
August	- Mary Bratrud Becky Lindseth
September	- Mark & Cindy Nelson
October	- Hollie Stewart Tyler Brekken
November	- Jim Ferden Barb Gaalswyk
December	- Mavis Haugom Betty Lundin

RESERVE LIST

Nick and Pam Walk
Tina Farrell
Julie & Jon Clementson

CURRENT COVID DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS

Currently, there is one continuous offering of the Lord's Supper. (People who do not come up for communion are to use prefilled communion cups).

One assistant is to sanitize hands, wear a mask, and only drop the wafer/bread into a person's cupped hands. If the assistant accidentally touches a person's hands, they need to resanitize their hands.

The second assistant is to sanitize hands, wear a mask and hold the wine/juice tray for the communicants. The cups are spaced in every other hole so the communicant can pick up their own cup.

THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE.

PRE COVID INSTRUCTIONS

As Main Assistants, you are responsible to obtain a helper for Communion at the floor level when there are two lines of disbursement (minister and 3 assistants). You may pull help from the reserve list or anyone else from the Assistant list above.

If you are unable to be present during your scheduled time, please get a substitute either from the Reserve list or switch with another assistant.

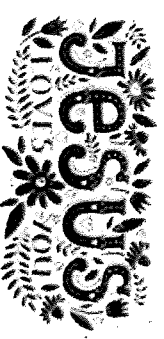
Some months, there may be more than 2 Sundays of communion. Communion is also served on special Church Occasions.

Thank you for helping. Grace church Deacons and communion committee

FEBRUARY 2022

Grace Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:00am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	2 2pm-RT Class 7pm-Confirmation Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	3 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open	4	5 9am- Rebroadcast
6 9am-Bible Study 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Communion	7 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	8 8:00am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	9 2pm-RT Class 7pm-Confirmation Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	10 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open	11	12 9am- Rebroadcast
13 9am Bible Study 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Communion	14 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	15 8:00am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	16 2pm-Jr. High RT Class 7pm-Conf. Class 7pm-Council Mtg. 7pm-Rebroadcast	17 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open	18	19 9am- Rebroadcast
20 9am-Bible Study 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	21 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	22 8:00am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	23 2pm-RT Class 7pm-Conf. Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	24 2pm-Hope Circle 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	25	26 9am- Rebroadcast
27 9am-Bible Study 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	28 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group					
		Greeters: 6th: Jennifer Haugen 13th: Jenny Haugen	20th: Gene & Mavis Haugom 27th: Lee & Sherry Hoas			



CIRCLES

Hope at the church
Rebecca at the church

Ushers :
Scott Sandberg
Mark Nelson

Communion Assistants:
Dorothy Sandberg and Stacy Tadman

Altar Flowers:
Hope Circle

Altar Guild:
Lori Hole

R= Reader
A=Acolyte
P=Power Point

FEBRUARY 6th:
R~ Mavis Haugom
A~ Malaina Jax and Josie Johnson
P~ Cameron Svalen and Shelby Shimpa

FEBRUARY 13th:
R~ Jason Carlson
A~ Bella Senn and Clare Juve
P~ Hayden Johnson and Carter Fortman

FEBRUARY 20th:
R~ Mary Bratrud
A~ Presley Haugen and Brooklyn Gunderson
P~ Jareth Walk and Lillian Shimpa
FEBRUARY 27th:
R~ Yvonne Halvorson
A~ Calvin Hill and Riley Kochman
P~ Brooklyn Gunderson and Presley Haugen