

“Serving all people by sharing God’s Word
and Gift of Grace”

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

332 Vance Avenue
Post Office Box 204
Erskine, MN 56535
Phone: 218-687-4035
Email: gracelc@gvtel.com

Return Service
Requested

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage
Paid Permit No. 12
Erskine, MN

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

September 2022

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

August 10, 2022

7:00 P.M.

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

Present: President Jason Carlson, Hollie Stewart, Yvonne Halvorson, Gene Haugom, Lori Hole, John Carlson, Wade Farrell, Jim Ferden, Dorothy Sandberg, Gary Walter

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

Devotions: Jason led us in devotions. The text was about needing to serve in humility and unity, putting others above yourself. Jesus loved unconditionally and selflessly. Jason took time to remind us of our mission statement. We are to bring the word to all and love to one another.

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

Secretary’s Report: Gary moved to approve the June, July Special Meeting, and August Congregational minutes. (No regular meeting was held in July). Seconded by Wade. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary’s Report: Dorothy reported.

Yvonne moved to approve. Seconded by Gene. Motion carried. (Report on file).

Treasurer’s Report: Jim reported.

Cash Flow Report

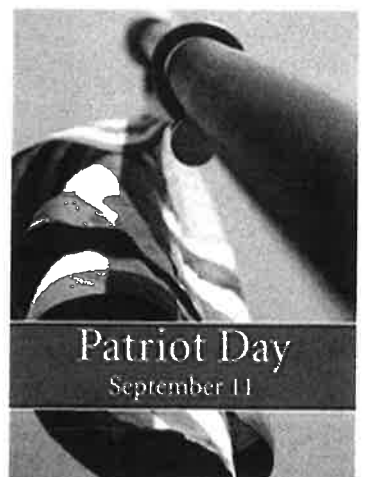
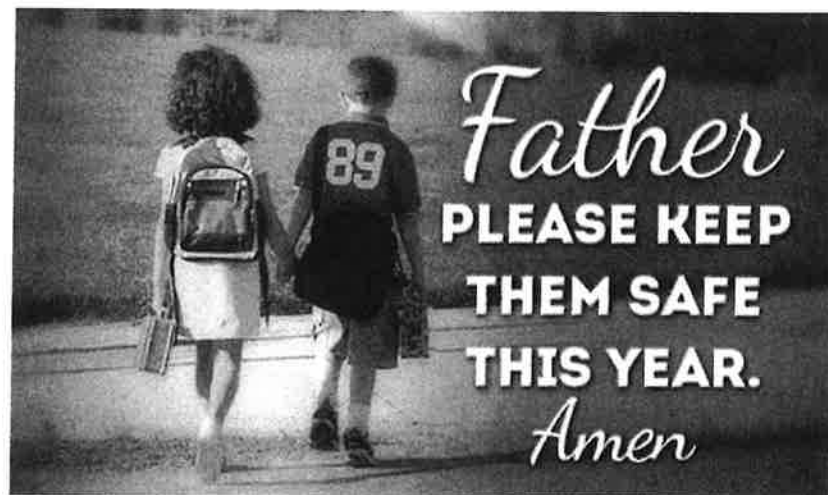
- Undesignated funds available to be used for July’s General Fund expenses totaled \$24,412.91. This amount was above the month’s General Fund expenses totaling \$22,021.91.
- Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$13,847.00. The monthly budget goal is \$19,160.69.
- Noteworthy Other Giving:
 - o Miscellaneous - \$10,000 pass through grant to the Grace Food Shelf, \$410 pass through donation to the Grace Cemetery Association; and \$225 donations to various funds.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Continued on Page 5

Inside this issue:

WNALC Meeting	2
Attendance & Offerings	2
Circle Meetings	2
Council Meeting	2
Prayer Concerns	2
Financial News	3
Sunday School News	4
Food Shelf News	4
Grace Council, continued	5
Grace Council, continued	6
Grace Council, continued	7
Bible Study Fellowship	7
September Readings	8
Grace Council Members	8
Rev. Harold Petersen	9
September Calendar	10





The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet on Wednesday September 14th at 7:00 p.m. A reminder that all council meetings are open to members of Grace Church unless otherwise stated.



July 31st:
 Attendance~41
 Offering~\$1,535.00

August 7th:
 Attendance~91
 Offering~\$4,675.00

August 14th:
 Attendance~45
 Offering~ \$ 2,125.00

August 21st:
 Attendance~54
 Offering~\$2,120.00



The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday September 8th at 2:00 p.m. Group #5 will serve. All women are invited to attend.

Hope Circle: September 28th
 9:00 AM at the church

Rebecca Circle: September 22nd
 at 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.



- * Marlene Ross
- * Allen Jenson
- * Everett Osland
- * Steve & Linda Evenson
- * Steve Jacobson
- * Becki Haugen
- * Judy Boucher
- * Jolene Bradley
- * Mark Thompson
- * Torrey Erickson
- * Mark LaPlante
- * Nursing Home members
- * Grace Call Committee
- * Ukraine



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 –



July 2022 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$13,847.00
 Expenses:
 Administrative - \$6,431.12
 Education - \$50.00
 Mission Outreach - \$11,160
 Pastoral - \$3,499.72
 Worship - \$881.07
 Total Expenses - \$22,021.91

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 Maintenance/Improvements, Sunday School Outreach, Vacation Bible School, and Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes. In addition, our church houses the Grace Community 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.



SEPTEMBER 2022 Grace Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	5 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	6 8:00am-MBS	7 1:55pm-RT Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	8 2pm-WNALC 3-7pm-Food Shelf is open	9	10 9am- Rebroadcast
11 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	12 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	13 8:00am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	14 1:55pm-RT Class 7pm-Council Mtg. 7pm-Rebroadcast	15 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open	16	17 9am- Rebroadcast
18 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	19 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	20 8:00am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	21 1:55pm-RT Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	22 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	23	24 9am- Rebroadcast
25 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	26 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	27 8:00am-MBS 3pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	28 9am-Hope Circle 1:55pm-RT Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	29 18th: Dean & Mary Ellen Salvesson 25th: Joe & Dorothy Sandberg	30	

CIRCLES at the church
 Hope no meeting
 Rebecca

Ushers :
 Russell Johnson
 Lee Tradewell family
 Bob Carlson
 Daryl & Yvonne Halvorson
 Chris DuChamp family

Communion Assistants:
 Mark & Cindy Nelson

Altar Flowers:
 Rebecca Circle

Altar Guild:
 Betty Lundin

R= Reader
 A=Acolyte
 P=Power Point
 SEPTEMBER 4th:

R~ Josie Fortman and Presley Haugen
 P~ Jareth Walk and Lillian Shimp
 SEPTEMBER 11th:
 R~
 A~ Calvin Hill and Riley Kochmann
 P~ Josie Fortman and Presley Haugen
 SEPTEMBER 18th:
 R~
 A~
 P~

SEPTEMBER 25th:
 R~
 A~
 P~



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

FIRST DAY OF
SUNDAY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 11TH
9:15 A.M.

BIBLES WILL BE
PRESENTED TO
3RD AND 7TH
GRADE STUDENTS
DURING WORSHIP
SERVICE AT 10:30
A.M.

BLESSING OF THE
BACKPACKS WILL
ALSO TAKE PLACE
DURING WORSHIP



We are getting closer!
We need teachers for
3/4 grade, 5/6 grade,
and Junior High for Sun-
day School, AND teach-
ers for 3rd grade and
6th grade for Release
Time. The commitment
for all of these positions
is only 2 hours a month!
Please prayerfully con-
sider helping out!



Food Shelf



Grace Community Foodshelf Update: NEW HOURS

Starting in **September**, we
will be changing our
hours, not our dates.

The hours for the second
Thursday of each month will
move to 3pm to 7pm.

The hours for the third
Thursday of each month will
stay at 10am to 2pm

If anyone has extra produce
from their garden, please
think of donating these items
to the food shelf.

However, we can only
accept these items the
second and third week of
each month.

[foodshelf@gracechurcherski
ne.org](mailto:foodshelf@gracechurcherski
ne.org)

218-687-2250

I wish that you would announce or post this.

PRESS RELEASE

DISCRIPTION OF DEVOTIONAL BOOKS



Rev. Harold E. Petersen is a graduate of Waldorf College, Forest City, IA, Concordia Colleges, Moorhead, MN and Luther Seminary St Paul, MN. Rev. Petersen served as a missionary pastor/teacher in Ethiopia for six years. He has also served as Pastor in six rural parishes in the states. Pastor Petersen served as pastor of The Erskine Parish from 1978- 1982. He was involved in the Teens Encounter Christ retreats of the Red River Valley. Grace Lutheran Church had a vital part in his ministry.

Rev. Petersen shares, "The Word of God, the Bible, has been a part of my life. We had family devotions mornings and evenings, Sunday school, and worship services. These continued to draw me into the Word. I was in high school when I was led to read the Bible through in a year, which I have continued down to the present time. It was in the seminary that I was inspired to mark a special verse in every chapter of the Bible. Some chapters were so full of gems of truth that I chose several." Rev. Petersen's lifelong devotion to the study of God's Word is apparent within the pages of these compelling devotionals.



I have written five books as devotional commentaries on a verse or so from each chapter of the Bible. I have related stories of his life and ministry. He also includes hymn verses that support the devotional. Rev Petersen now resides in Fergus Falls, MN with his wife, Susan. They have four sons, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

The first to be published was "Alive in Me" the devotional book on verses in the New Testament. The Gospels are rich with the live of Jesus Christ. The Epistles are filled with gems about the Christian life.

"Alive in Me: The Word Is Alive in Me: Galatians 2:20 and Hebrews 4:12": an inspiring reminder of the power of God's Word. "Alive in Me: The Word Is Alive in Me" is the creation of published author Rev. Harold E. Petersen.

The second book that has recently come off the press, is "The Word of the Lord came to the Prophets: Jeremiah 1:9-10; Isaiah62:2 and Ezekiel 3:17-19". I identify with the prophet Jeremiah. His call is in chapter one speaks to me about the task the Lord has given me. I cherish the prophesies of Isaiah. I see the gospel clearly foretold. The prophets speak to the people of their day to encourage but also to warn. They were calling the people back to the covenant. Their message is for us also. The Spirit can take these words of the prophets and interpret them for us today. It is my delight to share with you these devotions on verses from the prophets. Published by Christian Faith Publishing, Rev. Harold E. Petersen's new books will



engage and entertain as the author presents an inspiring opportunity for reflection.

The third books that is in the printing stage of publication is "The Word of God Is Wisdom: Wisdom Is Knowledge

Applied: Proverbs 2:6; 1 Corinthians 1:30; James 1:5."

The book of Job deals with suffering we believers can face. The Psalms are hymns that extolled the praise of the Lord and called upon the Lord to help bring justice. Proverbs provides wise sayings about many subjects. Ecclesiastes point out the truth that things of this world have no lasting significance. The Song of Songs is a love poem that celebrates courtship and marriage. Rev Harold E. Petersen's newest book on Wisdom Literature will lead each reader to glimpse the depths of the riches of the Lord.



The Bible, The Word of God, is the one possession that will always be the most precious item I have. I find in the Word of God encouragement, correction, instruction on living, and warnings. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." (Ps. 119:105) No matter how many times I read it through each year, there is always some truth that I find to refresh and renew my spirit.

There will be two more coming off the press this year. The Torah, the first five books of the Bible and the Historical books. You can purchase "Alive in Me: The Word Is Alive In Me;" "The Word of The Lord Came To The Prophets" and "The Word of God Is Wisdom" at traditional brick & mortar bookstores like Lundeen's, or online at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble. These are also available in digital format.

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
Gary Walter	Deacon	687-3074
John Carlson	Deacon	
Gene Haugom	Trustee	563-3292
Wade Farrell	Trustee	563-2216
Ray LaBrecque	Trustee	
Ann Brekken	Superintendent / Education	687-2205
Sarah Strom	Education	687-3488
Pam Walk	Education	637-2219
Shar Hill	Education	
Hollie Stewart	Pres. WNALC	687-3730
Lori Hole	Stewardship	687-3585
Tyler Brekken	Stewardship	687-2205
Becky Lindseth	Stewardship	

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

**13th Sunday after Pentecost
September 4, 2022**
 First Reading - Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm - Psalm 1:1-6
 Second Reading - Philemon 1-21
 Gospel - Luke 14:25-35

**14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 11, 2022**
 First Reading - Ezekiel 34:11-24
 Psalm - Psalm 119:169-176
 Second Reading - 1 Timothy 1:5-11, 12-17
 Gospel - Luke 15:1-10

**15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 18, 2022**
 First Reading - Amos 8:4-7
 Psalm - Psalm 113:1-9
 Second Reading - 1 Timothy 2:1-15
 Gospel - Luke 16:1-15

**16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 25, 2022**
 First Reading - Amos 6:1-7
 Psalm - Psalm 146:1-10
 Second Reading - 1 Timothy 3:1-13
 Gospel - Luke 16:19-31



Pray for Our Students

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported.

Administration: Custodian Salary – Higher as it also includes the last half of June. Postage – Includes renewal of bulk mailing permit for \$265. Education: Miscellaneous – Pass through donation to the youth group (\$50). Mission Outreach: Miscellaneous – Pass through Grace Food Shelf grant and donations to the Grace Food Shelf and the youth group. Pastoral: Miscellaneous – Expenses from Pastor Pam's visit. Worship: Worship Aids – Renew software license for video program used for worship.

Budget Report

• We ended the month at approximately 20% or \$47,000 under budget.

All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month, with the exception of Mission Outreach due to previously discussed reasons.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- Giving is up from last month.
 - July giving is the third highest so far in 2022.
 - This is the best year-to-date giving since 2018.
 - This is the fourth highest year-to-date giving since 2011.
- July giving is the third best

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- Giving is up from last month.
- July giving is the third highest so far in 2022.
- This is the best year-to-date giving since 2018.
- This is the fourth highest year-to-date giving since 2011.

July giving is the third best since 2011.

History of the General Fund Balance

• The July balance reflects a nice increase from June's balance.

• The General Fund balance is the highest ever!

The July balance includes the \$25,000 CD.

Account Balances Report

• Building Fund - Reflects donations made during the month and expenses for the separate elevator phone line (\$39.17); paint for church foundation and fence (\$148.00); and labor for painting church foundation and fence around AC unit (\$1,157.50).

• 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

• Oil Fund - Missions reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.

• Organ Fund – Reflects a donation.

• SS Fundraiser Fund – Reflects the purchase of additional chairs for the SS rooms (\$1,928.14) and a cart for the chairs (\$287.52).

• SS Outreach Fund – Reflects a donation and the monthly gift of \$38 to Compassion International.

VBS Fund – Reflects donations.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

The balance is up approximately \$1,000 from last month's balance.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

The balance is up approximately \$400 from last month's balance.

Lori made the motion to accept the report. Hollie seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: No formal report. An idea was presented to ask about interviewing Vivian about her Grace memories. Lori will contact Sherry.

Education: Ann mailed in a report. VBS went well. We had an average of 33 kids each night and attendance was steady. (This number is up from last year, and fits with our elementary Sunday School numbers right now, con-

Continued on Page 6

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

sidering we had a few families out of town and unable to attend VBS.) 9 of those kids do not attend Sunday School with us, but heard about our VBS and decided to come, and they had great things to say about it, so that was fun. We had so many wonderful adult and junior high volunteers that made the whole week run so smoothly, so a big thank you to them! Sunday School is around the corner. The first day of Sunday School will be September 11. We'll also do presentation of 3rd and 7th grade bibles, teacher installation, and blessing of the backpacks that day during church. All curriculum and materials have been ordered. We are looking for teachers now. Thank you to Nancy Jensen and Hollie Stewart for stepping up to help coordinate Release Time. We are looking for teachers and possibly making some curriculum changes. We also want to note how appreciative we are to work with the Win-E-Mac school district. Jim will bring our compliments to them at the next school board meeting.

Youth Group: Jim reported. Cans are going to come out of the shed on August 20. They also got a donation of some aluminum awnings from the store uptown that was torn down. Let them know if you can help.

NALCW: Hollie reported. Meet tomorrow and will complete the

last "Women of the Bible" study. They are looking for another study. Joann will bring music and Joyce will have opening devotions. Group 6 serving. Hope meeting 27th at 9 a.m. Rebecca does not meet. Looking at setting date for the auction. 16 quilts went to the Boys and Girls Club delivered by Hollie. She will deliver the rest of the quilts to the Indian Mission on Friday. Thank you Hollie.

Trustees: Gene reported. We need to contact Tessa Balstad about doing more painting. We still have some purple showing on the trim areas that were not designated in the original work order. We will not worry about the elevator house at this time. Tessa will also look at the bathroom in the parsonage to see if she would like to paint it. We are so very pleased with her work so far. Ivory pads on the columns need to be painted. Ray LaBrecque is going to bring his boom truck to paint the high ones in the fall. We will see if Tessa will do the lower ones. We are so appreciative to Ray for offering to take care of this for us. Tree in the front yard of the parsonage has been taken down successfully. Ryan got the rest of the parts for the air conditioner and installed them. He also dealt with the toilet issue. The council met early today to look over the parsonage and church for issues that need fixing and/or replacing and compiled a list.

Deacons: Gary reported. Gave communion to those unable to attend church on Sunday. They

are still using the pre-packaged elements. Maxine and Gary did member visitations on Sunday afternoon. They had a very enjoyable experience. We appreciate these acts of showing Christian love.

Video Tech: No report. Nick had indicated that there is electronic media in the garage that he would like to take a look at. Nick lost his mom this week and we sadly extend our sympathy to him and his family.

Food Shelf: Gene reported. Our cleaning and rearranging of the food shelf and storage room has been postponed until Sept. to wait for cooler weather. We are planning to have both rooms as shopping rooms so we do not have to restock from the storage room to the shopping room. We will also have the client shopping list correspond to the shopping rooms. This will prevent searching for a product and save time. We will be transitioning to a 3-7 pm time for the first shopping day of the each month, starting in September. It is hoped this will help families take more advantage of this wonderful program. Sept 15 - 10-2 schedule as normal. If anyone can even work a half of a shift instead of a whole shift that would even be helpful. First day that they are open 3-7 they will need more help in the evening.

Statistics are for the month of: July 2022

Continued on Page 7

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

helpful. First day that they are open 3-7 they will need more help in the evening. Statistics are for the month of: July 2022 ~25 households, 4 new visits, 1909.4 pounds given out, Ages 0-17=6 individuals, Ages 18-64=18 individuals, Age 65+=17 individuals. Received a \$10,000 grant. The grant is wonderful and there are no restrictions on how the money can be used.

Call Committee: John reported. Reported that they have the packet that includes a letter of call, pastoral compensation agreement, and the insurance information. Pastor Pam is going to meet with the insurance people personally to determine what their needs would be. We will be sending the formal Certificate of Call. The Call Committee also has a form to fill out and John will send that out immediately. John has informed Pastor Pam of the results of our Sunday's vote. Pastor Pam will then have two weeks to make her decision.

Welcome Committee: No report

Old Business: Need for a Deacon Hollie did some outreach and didn't get a result. We will keep praying and be patient. Discussion regarding Worship / Covid. We will continue with our worship routine as is, at least until we see if a new pastor wants to make any changes. Michael J. Burns Architect-Jason will be reaching out to him. We have not received a bill from him for his assessment

of our needs. Down the road we will meet and get more information. We want to wait until we get a new pastor.

New Business: Bible Study Fellowship. Mary asked us to formally approve the use of the church for the coming year. Gene moved to approve. Hollie seconded. Motion carried. Parsonage tour results from tonight. We will wait with changes until we hire a new pastor to see what his/her needs will be. Trustees will probably do some necessary, simple fixes.

Announcements Received a Thank You note from Savannah Svalen with appreciation for her scholarship.

Gary received a letter from someone wanting to purchase our mineral rights. We are not interested in selling.

Next month's meeting date is September 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn**The Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Halverson



Women's Bible Study Fellowship groups begin the 2nd week of September, Tuesday the 13th at 2p.m. here at Grace. Join us as we study the Bible chapter by chapter using their four-fold approach which includes answering questions from the Bible text, discussing in a group, listening to teaching and exploring commentary. This year's study is People of Promise, Kingdom Divided covering many of the Old Testament books. Let's learn together what these ancient texts reveal about the Loving God to us today. Contact Mary Bratrud @218-521-0793 for more information or go to bsfinternational.org and find an in person or online group.