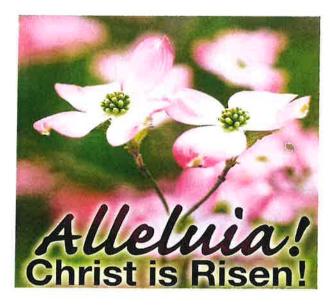
"Serving all people by sharing God's Word and Gift of Grace"

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Email: pastorglc@gytel.com

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The Scroll

Grace Lutheran Church

April 2023

PASTOR'S CORNER

We look to spring and with it comes the joyous time of Easter. But neither spring nor Easter comes of itself. We go through a long, *very long*, winter and finally comes a hint of warmer days. It's a treasure more fully appreciated because of the cold season. Likewise, we must go through the journey of Jesus to the Cross in order for Easter to come. Without Jesus' death there is no resurrection.

The good news is that Jesus did come. God has come among us in flesh and blood and in the power of the Holy Spirit. He walked in our footsteps ever drawing all to Him so that the world would know that God is love and cares for each and everyone. Jesus walked his way to the cross not simply for 40 days as we think of Lent. He walked this road for his lifetime. He was willing to do it to save the world from the grip of evil and death.

As he hung on that cross in terrible pain, he was encumbered with a great weight placed upon him; that weight is our sins. Our sins and our sicknesses, our pain and our sorrow, the injustices done to us and the things we've done to others – these are the sins of the world. All were on him as God in human flesh who could carry them and through this forgive them.

We reflect upon this sacrifice and its consequences. We are no longer at the whim of our sins. They no longer have to hold us down. In Jesus they are forgiven as we believe in Jesus, examine ourselves, repent, and receive forgiveness and new life. This is the miracle of Easter day.

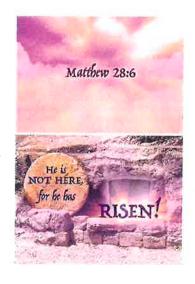
¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. Romans. 8:1-2.

Jesus took our penalty and beat it. He conquered death and the grave. He rose from the dead and lives. Throw off the grave clothes and live in the freedom and love of Jesus who is the Christ. Happy Easter!

Kevin and I are settling into the community and feeling comfortable. We're learning how cross country ski and are enjoying the extremely crisp fresh air. It will be nice for all of us when we can get out and enjoy the warm days that are to come.

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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday April 12th at 7:00 PM. A reminder that all regular council meetings are open to all members of Grace Church.



March 5th:

Attendance~76 Offering~\$3,779.00

March 12th:

Attendance~ 23 Offering~\$1,635.00

March 19th:

Attendance~ 98 Offering~\$2,023.00

March 26th:

Attendance~ Offering~\$



The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday April 13th at 2:00 PM. Group #3 will serve.

Hope Circle: April 26th at 9:00 AM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: April 27th 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 one percent of the total purchases to the youth group. There is a container for the receipts at the church in the hallway by the coat racks.



- Wendy Smeby
- LeRoy Johnson
- Maci Smeby
- * Allen Jenson
- * Steve & Linda Evenson
- * Steve Jacobson
- Becki Haugen
- * Judy Boucher
- David E. Hamre
- Dianne Hamre
- Lyla Jean Gunderson
- Pr. Tim Lundeen
- Jesse Hickman
- Dustin Close
- Greg Kaster
- * Lucas Rose
- Jolene Bradley
- * Torrey Erickson
- Tim & Diane Jagol
- Nursing Home members
- * Ukraine



Lutheran

Church

APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9 9am-Egg bake Breakfast 9:30am-Easter Egg Hunt		54	Sasten Blessings			1 9am- Rebroadcast
2 Palm Sunday 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School / First Communion Class 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	3 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	4 7am-MBS @ Ness Café 9am-Quilting 2pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	5 1:55pm-RT Class 6pm-Conf. Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	6 Maundy Thursday	7 Good Friday 12pm- Noon Meditation 7pm-Tenebrae Service	8 9am- Rebroadcast
9 Easter 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm. Continued above	10 9:30am -LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	11 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Cafe 9am-Quilting 7pm-Food Shelf mtg 2:00pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	12 1:55pm-RT Class 6pm-Conf. Class 7pm-Rebroadcast 7pm-Council Mtg.	13 2pm-WNALC 3-7pm-Food Shelf is open	14	15 9am- Rebroadcast
16 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School / First Communion Class 10:30am-Worship	17 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	18 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 2:00pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	19 1:55pm-RT Class 6pm-Conf. Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	20 10a-2pm-Food Shelf is open SCROLL ARTICLES	21	22 8:30am-12pm- Council Retreat 9am- Rebroadcast
23 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	24 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re- broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	25 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 2:00pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	26 9am-Hope Circle 1:55pm-RT Class 6pm-Conf. Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	27 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	28	29 9am- Rebroadcast
30 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday 10:30am-Worship			Greeters: 2nd: Ginnie Farrel 9th: Wade & Tina Farrel	16th: Jim & Carla Ferden 23rd: Barb Gaalswyk	30th: Matthew & Ashley Gunderson	

CIRCLES

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12:00 noon~ Meditation
7:00 p.m.~ Tenebrae Worship
(Service of Darkness)

10:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion

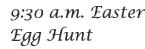
Presentation of the Passion of Our Lord

Special Music~ Sunday School





9:00 a.m. Egg Bake Breakfast







10:30 a.m. Resurrection of Our Lord Worship Service w/ Holy Communion





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 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.



Congregational Offering to the General Fund -

February 2023 Financial Summary

\$12,637.00 Expenses: Administrative - \$10,457.88 Education - \$651.52 Mission Outreach - \$1,080.69 Pastoral - \$4886.64 Worship - \$1,405.78 Total Expenses - \$18,482.51



Did you know? If you are a Thrivent member, you are eli-

gible to receive money to help support events you or others are having. Simply gather a team of friends, family or neighbors to put on a fundraiser, educational event or service activity. We'll provide the resources you need to get started – including up to \$250 in seed money. Clients with benefit membership are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year, and clients with associate membership are eligible to lead one per calendar year. There are many examples on the Thrivent website @ Thrivent Action Teams Hub (cotribute.co). Some ideas: Grandparents Day, Vacation Bible School, Fish Fry, Easter Festival, Food Shelf, Disaster Response Buckets/kits, K9's for Mobility, Quilts for Others, or Yarn for Prayer Shawls.

Let's get together and figure out how we can use these benefits for the work of ministry.

~~ Pastor Pam

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING March 8, 2023

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

8:00 P.M.

Present: Pastor Pam, Nick Walk, Yvonne Halvorson, Gene Haugom, Lori Hole, John Carlson, Paul Mahlen, Jim Ferden, Dorothy Sandberg

Call to Order: Vice President Nick called the meeting to or-

Opening Prayer: Pastor Pam lead us in an opening prayer.

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

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve the minutes by Lori. Seconded by Paul. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Dorothy reported.

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

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported.

Cash Flow Report Undesignated funds available to be used for February's General Fund expenses totaled \$13,394.19. This amount was somewhat less than the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$18,482.51. Congregational giving to the

General Fund was \$12,637.00. The monthly budget goal is \$20,221.69.

Noteworthy Other Giving: Miscellaneous - Consists of various fund donations and reimbursement by the quilters for quilt backing.

Thrivent Choice Program – Donations of \$468.00 was received through this program. Some of the noteworthy expenses

this month included: Administration:

Church & Parsonage Fuel – Expenses are from a late January fill as well as 2 fills in February. January usage was 1,275.1 gallons and February usage was 1,305.8 gallons.

Church Cleaning – Two months of expense due to timing. Custodian/Salary – Only one pay check due to timing.

Miscellaneous – New checks

Mission Outreach: Miscellaneous – Pass through donations to Grace Cemetery Association, Grace Food Shelf, and Grace Youth Group (\$248.00). Expense for the quilters quilt backing is also included here (\$132.69).

Pastoral: Continued Education – Travel expenses for January NALC pastors conference in Tex-

Worship: Worship Aids - Communion supplies (\$179.94), altar bible (\$49.69), and palm branches (\$99.60).

Budget Report

We ended the month at approximately 4% or \$10,100 under budget.

All of the major budgeted ex-

pense categories ended under budget for the month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

February giving was down from January. In comparison to giving for February in other years, this is the second highest since 2011. Year-to-date giving is only slightly less than 2022. However, year-to-date giving is the second highest since 2011!

History of the General Fund Balance

The General Fund balance is down from January due to less giving and higher expenses in February. The February balance includes the \$25,000 CD plus interest.

Account Balances Report Building Fund - Reflects regular donations made during the month (\$20.00). It also reflects expenses related to the separate elevator phone line (\$39.15), the cleaning of the air ducts in the parsonage (\$487.54), and the Otis Elevator maintenance contract for 2023 (\$1,281.12).

HS Scholarship Fund – Reflects a donation (\$25.00).

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.

Organ Fund – Reflects a donation (\$25.00)

SS Outreach Fund – Reflects the

Continued on Page 6

The Scroll Page 9

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

ing the Food Shelf activities once he is no longer on the Council. We decided that report would suffice. Formal action not necessary. With the Food Shelf Annual Meeting coming up, Gene asked the question of how to deal with the Food Shelf space issue. As a council, we've discussed several possible options previously, we will seriously discuss the issue again at our Retreat.

Pioneer Shamrock Campaign Pioneer A fundraiser being done by Pioneer Memorial Care Center. Part of the funds are to pay the grant writer that has been hired. Pioneer Shamrock Campaign is the name of their fund raising campaign. There are shamrocks that will be given to people who contribute during March. The area businesses received packets with letters and information regarding the campaign and shamrocks that can be displayed in their respective businesses.

Announcements

Next month's meeting date is April 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn

The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,





Registration for Pathways Bible Camp is now open! Half of the cost of camp will be paid for all campers through confirmation who are members of Grace. Register and submit payment for your child. Then contact Jim Ferden to be reimbursed for expenses.

You can contact Nancy Jenson (218-280-3858) with questions.



Food Shelf meeting will be on April 11 at 7 pm at Grace church.



First Communion Sunday will be on May 7th. Pray for the children that are learning and preparing to receive the Sacrament for the first time.



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GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pr. Pam Thorson	Pastor	270-872-8269
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
Paul Mahlen	Trustee	687-5343
Ray LaBrecque	Trustee	
Ann Brekken	Superintendent / Educ	cation 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	

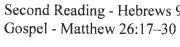
Maundy Thursday

April 6, 2023

First Reading - Exodus 24:3–11

Psalm - Psalm 116:12-19

Second Reading - Hebrews 9:11–22



Good Friday

April 7, 2023

First Reading - Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm - Psalm 22:1-31 Alternate: Psalm 31

Second Reading - Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

Gospel - John 18:1–19:42

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR **APRIL**

Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023 First Reading - Isaiah 50:4–9a Psalm - Psalm 118:19-26 Second Reading - Philippians 2:5-11 Gospel - Matthew 26:1-27:66

Resurrection of Our Lord

April 9, 2023 • Easter Day First Reading - Acts 10:34-43 Psalm - Psalm 16:1-11 Second Reading - Colossians 3:1-4 Gospel - Matthew 28:1-10

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023 First Reading - Acts 5:29-42 Psalm - Psalm 148:1-14 Second Reading - 1 Peter 1:3-9 Gospel - John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023 First Reading - Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm - Psalm 116:1-14 Second Reading - 1 Peter 1:17-25 Gospel - Luke 24:13-35

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023 First Reading - Acts 2:42-47 Psalm - Psalm 23:1-6 Second Reading - 1 Peter 2:19-25

Gospel - John 10:1-10



Altar Guild Ministry

We are blessed by many hands who do the work of ministry at Grace. This year we have many who have joined the Altar Guild and are ready to serve in such a humble and wonderful ministry. We have 13 ladies who have come forward. Many thanks to those who have served in the past and continue to give time and effort to our Lord still.

We have moved to serving 2 kinds of communion wafers the regular in the main dish and gluten-free which is in the gold protected container. Those who would prefer the gluten-free will receive as the wafer is distributed with a tong and placed in the hand of the person receiving.

We have begun to come to the rail to receive the body and blood of Jesus. The ushers will guide everyone as we partake of this Holy Sacrament of the Altar.



The Scroll

Hello Ladies! Aren't these longer days of sun nice? I like it when we can get past 6:30 in the

light. We have just about every variety of woodpecker there is visiting our bird feeder. We love watching them and all the others that come.

Thank you to Nancy Tradewell for filling in as secretary in March. You did a great job. This year for our Mission Fund change collection for WNALC, we decided to do a Gatorade bottle hand out. The bottles will have a label for return to the church with change for that fund. Everyone will be invited to take a bottle to enjoy and bring back with change in it. We will collect them the first Sunday in June, during the Water Carnival. This fund supports Missions and Disaster Relief of the NALC. There have been a lot of weather events this year that have used the resources given before. There is always need. We can feel good that this money is put to good

Our new books are here now so we will start using them in April. Cost is \$5, the balance paid by our group. The study is on JOY. What a good thing to look into and see what God says. Our next meeting will be April 13th at 2:00. Hope to see you there! God's Blessings to you! ~~Hollie

FROM THE PASTOR, con't.

Page 5

As for local happenings, I have reinstituted a Holy Communion service at Pioneer Nursing Facility. This is the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 10 AM. I invite any who would come to participate and help along with the Deacons. I do need a pianist. This is a vital ministry to our elders.

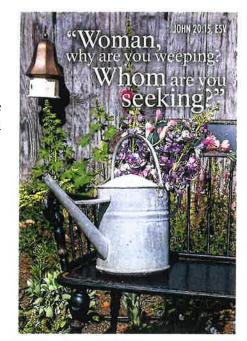
Come for Good Friday at noon for a meditation on the cross. 7PM will be a service of darkness with special readings.

In ministry together,

Pastor Pam

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!



The Scroll Page 6

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

expense of the monthly gift of \$38 to Compassion International and a donation (\$50.00).

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

The balance decreased approximately \$1,000 since last month.

<u>Gunderson Investment Valuation</u> Report

The balance increased approximately \$1,300 from last month. This is the highest balance since May 2022.

Other Information During February, I continued to work with Hahn Financial Group, Inc. to begin making payments to Pastor Pam's retirement account. Finally at the very end of February, her account was established. So I now can start making retirement contributions to her account. The General Fund CD matured on March 1. I renewed it for one year at 4.25%. Noted: Jim reported that we used 200 gallons less gas for heating from January last year, and 300 gallons less than last year for February. This is good news because we are also heating the parsonage this year. CD has been renewed for 4.25 percent with Ultima Bank in Winger. Motion to receive made by John.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam reported.

Seconded by Lori. Motion

carried.

Pastoral Care: Attended to the family of Nordean Salverson

and had the memorial service the week of February 25. Pioneer Memorial Care Center Holy Communion on March 1. The sound system did not work. Found the problem which was a short in the cord. Pioneer will order a new one. John Carlson attended and ministered as a deacon. See Deacons' report. Home visits continue as people are available and willing. NALC Lutheran Week is August 7-11, 2023 in Oklahoma City. Minkota Mission District Convocation – April 14-15, 2023 at Hosanna Lutheran, Watertown, SD. Paul & Gary plan to attend as delegates along with Pastor Pam.

Worship: New liturgy is going well. We will try to improve the look of the text on the screen to make them easier to read. Altar Guild training will be Saturday, March 11th and 18th. Additional training will be provided as needed later in the year. First Communion will be Sunday, April 23. Baptism – Briar Jo Venem, after worship next Sunday, March 19, following church. There will also be a private baptism in April.

Confirmation is going well.
Deacons: We meet regularly to discuss the role of deacons within the congregation. We will expand the role of deacons, as needed, after laying the organizational groundwork, mission, and vision.

John is creating a system to track visits made to members. This will aid greatly with communication so everyone gets the same info.

Summer camp. Pastor Pam would like to attend camp with students this year.

Holy Week schedule – Palm Sunday April 2. Pastor Pam asked if we wanted a Passion Sunday service on April 2. This service contains more content than the service in addition to the traditional palm branches that we have had the Sunday School open the service with.

After discussion we decided that the Holy Week schedule would be as follows. Good Friday there will be a noon half-hour meditation and then a Tenebrae – Service of Darkness at 7:00 p.m.

Yvonne made a motion that our Palm Sunday service includes the Passion. Also, that we have an Easter Sunday Fellowship Breakfast at 9:00 with an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 (There is no SS on Easter Sunday so this would take place during the normal Sunday School time.) Seconded by John. Motion carried. We will look for volunteers for donating egg bakes, muffins, fruit for the breakfast. Volunteers for plastic eggs and goodies for the Easter Egg Hunt. We will have something in the Sunday bulletin and then make plans from there.

Fellowship – we want to have more fellowship events. More discussion will come in planning additional events with our church family.

Continued on Page 7

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: No report.

Education: No report.

Youth Group: Jim reported. We are registered for Feed My Starving Children. 15 spots have been blocked off with 8 students and 3 adults planning to attend. Date Saturday, March 25 in Grand Forks, from 12-2 p.m. There is still room for a few more participants. Traditionally, they will go and eat somewhere following. It is a very rewarding experience.

NALCW: Hollie gave a written report. Meeting March 9 at 2:00. Group 2 will serve. Circles will meet in March.

Trustees: Gene reported. Gene asked about replacing the chandelier that is broken in the Narthex. He would like someone to help pick out a new one then he will install it. Gene will talk to Ryan S about what is involved if we replace the baseboard heaters in the Sunday School rooms. Ryan S. still has some work to complete in the parsonage so Gene will need tocontact him again.

Deacons: John reported. John and Pastor Pam were at Pioneer last week for a service. They started making some plans as to how all of this will work. Talked about visitations that have been done. Up to this point visitations have not been officially scheduled. We need to consider some kind of scheduling procedure so that everyone can

get visited and so that the visitation people know where they are at and what has been done. They plan to set up a monthly schedule so that there will be better communication among people doing the visiting and those being visited. This visitation report will provide information about a visit, what type of visit to provide (personal or phone based on the visitee's preference), and what the person's needs are. John has been working on a form in Excel. The goal is that in some form, everyone in the congregation can be contacted or visited. Deacons could have a Visitation Committee of some type to assist. In trying to define the duties of a deacon Pastor Pam gave John some training information. They are using and looking at the Jethro List. It will be a learning process that can evolve as things progress.

Video Tech: Nick reported. Good news is that we got our Monday morning broadcast up again. Saturday morning broadcasts continue, and we now have a live broadcast on Wednesdays.

Food Shelf: Gene reported. (Report submitted by Mavis H) We have reached our spending goal with the ARPA grant of \$12,111.47. After the statement from the North Country Food arrives we will then be able to finalize our report. February food from North Country Food Bank equaled 249.5 pounds for \$274.61.

Our truck day food order equaled 2521.5# for \$2091.53.Our cost was now 85 cents per pound. This is an increase from our prior cost of 50 cents per pound. There is a possibility of the state legislature allocating some extra funding to food banks and/or food shelves. This remains to be seen. We had to move our food shelf day from the 16th to the 23rd due to the weather. Total number of families served was 29, number of people served was 56, number of new families served was 6. Average poundage per family was 59.2#, with total pounds distributed equaling 1717.8#.We are starting to see more families with three or more in their household. Annual Meeting for the Food Shelf is tentatively scheduled for April 12th at 7 p.m. We will be voting for Coordinator, President, Treasurer and Secretary. Everyone invited to attend.

Welcome Committee: No report

Old Business:

Roofing Project—update from Jason was that he contacted Mike Burns and Mike said that he is ready whenever we are to proceed with formal plans. We will be discussing the project at length at the Council Retreat. Council Retreat: April 22nd at 8:30 coffee and 9:00 a.m. start of meeting at Grace.

New Business:

Food Shelf representative. Gene asked about having a representative and/or written report regard

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