

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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# The Scroll

Grace Lutheran  
Church

May 2023

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### Pastor's Corner

This is a nice time of year when the birds are busy chirping and our steps get a little lighter. With spring comes new life and we're glad to have it. Some are ready to dig into the ground and get it ready for planting. Others are opening up cupboards and drawers, corners of the garage and shed and with a "heave ho" getting rid of junk and organizing our accumulations. That's a good thing to do. And it's a good thing to do spiritually. The long winter is through, we hope, and so we can clean out of our lives the extra things that weigh us down.

What might they be? Worry. Anxiety. Gossip. Attitude. And whatever. Better yet, let's look at the opposite of what we don't want. *Galatians 5:22* *By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.*

So, as we plant our gardens, let's plant these seeds and watch them grow as we tend them and let the Spirit tend them in our lives. God is the best gardener and has made us fertile ground. He may have to dig a bit to get the rocks and weeds out, but Jesus knows how to do it. We join in this time of growth until the harvest comes.

In ministry together,  
Pastor Pam

Create in me a  
clean heart,  
O God,  
and renew a  
right spirit  
within me.  
Psalm 51:10, ESV

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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday May 10th at 7:00 PM. A reminder that all regular council meetings are open to all members of Grace Church.



**March 26th:**  
Attendance~ 79  
Offering~\$1,575.00

**April 2nd:**  
Attendance~ 20  
Offering~\$ 3,368.00

**April 9th:**  
Attendance~187  
Offering~\$2,755.00

**April 16th:**  
Attendance~ 86  
Offering~\$1,760.00

**April 23rd:**  
Attendance~93  
Offering~ \$2084.00



The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday May 11th at 2:00 PM. Group #4 will serve.

**Hope Circle:** May 24th at 9:00 AM at the church.

**Rebecca Circle:** May 25th 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.



- \* Carr Smeby
- \* Wendy Smeby
- \* LeRoy Johnson
- \* Maci Smeby
- \* Allen Jenson
- \* Steve & Linda Evenson
- \* Becki Haugen
- \* Judy Boucher
- \* David E. Hamre
- \* Dianne Hamre
- \* Jesse Hickman
- \* Dustin Close
- \* Greg Kaster
- \* Lucas Rose
- \* Jolene Bradley
- \* Torrey Erickson
- \* Tim & Diane Jagol
- \* Nursing Home members
- \* Ukraine
- \* Cholera Epidemic in Malawi
- \* our friends of the ELCM – (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi)

**MAY 2023**

**Grace Lutheran Church**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 9am-ABS 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm. First Communion Sunday	1 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	2 7am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	3 6pm-Conf. Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	4 6pm-Conf. Class 7pm-Rebroadcast 7pm-Council Mtg.	5 6pm-Conf. Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	6 9am- Rebroadcast
14 <b>Mother's Day</b> 9am-ABS 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	8 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	9 7am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	10 6pm-Conf. Class 7pm-Rebroadcast 7pm-Council Mtg.	11 2pm-WNALC 3-7pm-Food Shelf is open	12 6pm-Conf. Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	13 9am- Rebroadcast
21 9am-ABS 10:30am- Worship	15 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	16 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	17 6pm-Conf. Class 7pm-Rebroadcast	18 10a-2pm-Food Shelf is open	19 <b>SCROLL ARTICLES DUE</b>	20 9am- Rebroadcast
28 <b>Pentecost</b> 9am-ABS 10:30am- Worship	22 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	23 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	24 9am-Hope Circle 7pm-Rebroadcast	25 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	26 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	27 9am- Rebroadcast
	29 <b>Memorial Day</b> 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	30 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	31 7pm-Rebroadcast			
			<b>Greeters:</b> 7th: Daryl & Yvonne Halvorson 14th: David & Jean Halvorson	21st: David & Patti Hamre 28th: Scott & Jaci Hanson		

\*CIRCLES\*  
Hope  
Rebecca

at the church  
at the church

**Ushers:**  
Keith Sannes  
Jason Juve

John & Pam Carlson  
Steve Jacobson family  
Keith Stuhaug

**Communion Assistants:**  
Gary & Maxine Walter

**Altar Flowers:**  
Rebecca Circle

**Altar Guild:**  
Hollie Stewart  
Mavis Haugom

**R= Reader**  
**A=Acolyte**

**P=Power Point**  
**MAY 7th:**  
R~Gary Walter

A~Rian Bergh and Carter Fortman  
P~Logan Johnson and Carson Fortman

**MAY 14th:**  
R~Yvonne Halvorson

A~Hayden Johnson and Owen Strom  
P~Jorgan Johnson and Scott Omundson

**MAY 21st:**  
R~ Betty Lundin

A~Claire Juve and Lillian Shimpa  
P~ George Juve and Jareth Walk

**MAY 28th:**  
R~Jim Ferden

A~Jordyn Halstad and Josie Johnson  
P~ Cameron Svalen and Riley Kochmann

# Letter to my sponsor

Tanggal: 13/01/2023

Compassion

**RAN**

AGE 13

BIRTHDATE  
June 25, 2009

CENTER NAME  
Kharis Student Center

REGION NAME  
Sulawesi Utara

COUNTRY  
East Indonesia

You've been providing hope and love to Ran as his sponsor since **March 2014!**

Grace Lutheran Youth (02411421)



**Ran**  
February 2023

January 13, 2023. Shalom, hello friends. How are you? I hope you and your family are doing well and always under protections of the Lord. I wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope this year we will pleased God more. How as your Christmas and New Year holidays? I hope it was fun, I had fun holidays and celebrated Christmas and New Year happily. I also met my friends and relatives. I was grateful to celebrate Christmas and New Year with my family. Now I am back to learn at school and school holiday was over.

I am grateful and thank the Lord because friends still want to be my faithful sponsor. I hope the Lord will always bless you. Until we meet in the next letter, may the Lord Jesus bless you. Shalom.



### 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](http://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.



### March 2023 Financial Summary

- Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$12,780.00
- Expenses:
  - Administrative - \$8,937.92
  - Education - \$693.09
  - Mission Outreach - \$800.00
  - Pastoral - \$8,176.43
  - Worship - \$1,007.85
  - Total Expenses - \$19,615.29



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 \(cotribute.co\)](http://ThriventActionTeamsHub.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

GRACE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

## COUNCIL MEETING

April 12, 2023

7:00 P.M.

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

**Present:** Vice President Nick, Pastor Pam, Hollie Stewart, Yvonne Halvorson, Gene Haugom, Lori Hole, Gary Walter, Ann Brekken, Jim Ferden, Dorothy Sandberg, Paul Mahlen

**Call to Order:** Vice President called the meeting to order.

**Devotions:** Pastor Pam lead us in devotions and prayer. Pastor talked about Matthew 28: last verses in the chapter about "The Great Commission." We have power in Jesus' name because we are baptized in Christ and He gave his life for us. We are charged to "make disciples of all nations." Teach us all to be obedient to all that God has commanded us. Our life needs to show our obedience to the Lord. 1<sup>st</sup> John is a wonderful book to look up to learn about love.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve the amended agenda by Ann. Seconded by Lori. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** Gene moved to approve March minutes. Seconded by Ann. Motion carried.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Dorothy reported. (Report on file).

**Treasurer's Report:**Cash Flow Report

Undesignated funds available to be used for March's General Fund expenses totaled \$13,720.08. This amount was less than the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$19,615.29.

Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$12,780.00. The monthly budget goal is \$20,221.69.

Noteworthy Other Giving:

Miscellaneous – Consists of donations to the youth group and the food shelf, and reimbursement by the youth group for a meal after the FMSC event.

Thrivent Choice Program – Donations of \$162.00 was received through this program.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration: Church & Parsonage Fuel – March 2023 usage was 1,149.9 gallons and March 2022 usage was 810.3 gallons. Custodian/Salary – Three pay checks due to timing. Financial Secretary – Quarterly salary Education: Miscellaneous – Bible study for Ladies Aide Youth Leader Activities – Mileage and a meal for the group that participated in the recent FMSC event in Grand Forks.

Mission Outreach: Miscellaneous – Pass through donations to Grace Food Shelf and Grace Youth Group.

Pastoral: Personal Compensation/ Pre-tax Retirement Contribution – This is three month's expense due to the delay in the establishment of the pastor's retirement

account at Hahn Financial Group, Inc.

Worship: Worship Aids – Liquid paraffin quarts and wax remover. Budget Report We ended the month at approximately 4.6% or \$11,100 under budget. All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report March giving was in line with February. In comparison to giving for March in other years, this is the fifth lowest since 2011. Year-to-date giving is only slightly less than 2022. However, year-to-date giving is the fourth highest since 2011!

History of the General Fund Balance The General Fund balance is continuing a downward trend in March. The General Fund balance is down from February due to less giving and higher expenses in March. The March 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), and the replacement of the parsonage furnace (\$4,510.00). General Fund CD – Reflects interest received (\$70.77). 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

*Continued on Page 6***May 14th****May 29th****Brett DuChamp  
Izabelle Ostenaar**

First Communion Sunday will be on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Please pray for these students as they prepare to receive the Sacrament for the first time.

Carson Fortman  
Brecken Gunderson  
Gracey Gunderson  
Jordyn Halstad  
Bridger Huschle  
Wyatt Lee  
Serenity Lundin  
Addyson Morgenroth  
Faith Omundson  
Hope Omundson  
Scott Omundson  
Hannah Shimpa  
Taytum Smeby



**GRACE TO UKRAINE, con't.**

He love us and everything what He gives us is free. She started to weep, took food package and hugged us.

Sometimes God wish us to do more than we used to do in order we can see great and wonderful things.

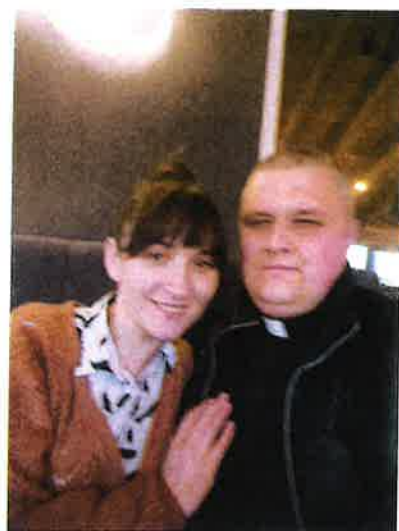
We also had one more educational meeting for pastors, deacons and preachers. The topic was: "Three goals of the church ministry in the modern world"

1) Preaching the Gospel Mat. 28:19,20

2) Glorification of God Eph. 3:20,21. Mat. 5:16

3) Spiritual growth of church members Eph..4:11-16

Spring is coming to Ukraine...We rejoice and give thanks to God for His creation... Thank you for your prayers and support!



Hello Ladies!  
We are in a winter wonderland again. Uff da!  
This is for the May scroll!

WNALC will be handing out Gatorade bottles on the last day of Sunday School, April 30th, for WNALC Mission Fund donation. This donation is divided between the NALC funds for Disaster Relief Fund and The Great Commission Society. We have collected blankets, kits, flood buckets and Bibles with the congregation for Disaster Relief before. The Great Commission Society is for missionaries at home and away. We usually do this though our meetings but decided to invite the whole congregation to join us this year. Have a drink on us and collect change in the bottle during May. Then, return it the first Sunday in June during the Water Carnival and we will have a prayer for it's use before we send it. If you don't get a Gatorade any bottle/jar will work. We collected 6 boxes of Bibles and sent with Convocation delegates Gary and Paul last month. Thank you both.

Have a wonderful spring and God's Blessings to you!

~Hollie



**DEER HUNTERS SUPPER**

I know, November 4,2023 seems a long way off but we will need a few new volunteers to come on board for next fall's supper. Becky and Dave Lindseth will not be available for the actual days of prep and serving, Friday and Saturday Nov.3&4,2023. Becky will be able to get pre-event work done - ads, poster, ordering, sign-up sheets etc. We will need their spots filled plus 2 more for Nov 3&4. Please prayerfully consider this as we will need to fill this soon. This is a ministry of Grace Lutheran church and monies from the free will offering taken go to Grace general fund for council designation.



Women of Grace invite you to have a drink on us!  
Please join our Mission outreach and return bottles with spare change on June 4th. Our WNALC Mission Fund supports

NALC Great Commission Society and NALC Disaster Relief Fund. Be the HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS. We will bless this work and money donated that Sunday. Thank you.



**CLEAN UP WEEKS** at hand.

It is time for some spring cleaning... time to open up the cupboards and clean... Time to throw out the old... There is work that needs to be done inside and out. Get a friend and come when you can. We'll get items ready for the community yard sale where we will simply give items away and receive donations as they come. Let's clean and organize God's Grace Church. There is a chore list. Choose your area. Note: Some things will need supervision. There's work to be done inside and outside. Let's get this wonderful property in good order and set our best step forward in ministry for Christ Jesus!



Grace Church will be a part of the City Wide Garage Sales on May 26-27. Volunteers will be needed to set up and oversee the tables. Items will be marked as 'free' with donations received. Let us know if you can help. Thank you.

**GRACE COUNCIL, continued** reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue. Oil Fund - Missions reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue. SS Outreach Fund - Reflects the expense of the monthly gift of \$38 to Compassion International. Brovold Investment Valuation Report The balance increased slightly since last month. Gunderson Investment Valuation Report The balance increased slightly since last month. This is the highest balance since May 2022.

#### Other Information

Since the last Council meeting, I have completed the quarterly payroll tax withholding returns for the state and federal governments. I have also completed the paperwork to establish a new savings account for the church at Ultima Bank, Winger. Currently the church is earning little to no interest in its Erskine and Ultima checking accounts, while the savings account at Ultima Bank will be earning 2.60%! Gary moved to receive report. Seconded by Paul. Motion carried.

#### Pastor's Report:

*Pastoral Care*- Home visits in Erskine. Pioneer Holy Communion. It was better attended. The aides assisted me. McIntosh Senior Living visit. I will begin Pre-marital counseling for Alaine Juve and Jarrin Gunderson.

*NALC*- Lutheran Week is August 7, 2023 - August 11, 2023 in Oklahoma City.

Minkota Mission District Convocation - April 14-15, Hosanna Lutheran, Watertown, SD. *Worship*-Good Friday was well attended. Thank you to the many who served. Wade on lights, Charley as Acolyte, Andrew as Organist, Jim, Daryl, and Paul as assisting ministers, and Kim for her work. Palm Sunday and Easter went well. After action report will be given on Retreat. First Communion has been changed to **Sunday, May 7**. Baptism - This Sunday - Jordyn Halstad. Confirmation is going well. Many participated in Palm Sunday. We have begun a new unit of the sacraments. Our last meeting is May 17. We need a party. There will be service and other events in the summer. Jim and I are working on sorting out benefits with Hahn and insurance.

*Deacons*- Gary continues to give out Holy Communion. John returns after being gone a month taking care of grandchildren while mom recovers from 2 foot surgeries.

Yearly calendar will be discussed on retreat. Suggest after action reports of events which will help the planning for next year.

*Personal*- My shoulder is not in need of surgery. Praise God. I will be gone June 8-10 for a class reunion in Hallock. I will not be at Grace for Sunday service.

We will need supply or a lay led service w/o Communion.

Gary moved to receive report. Seconded by Gene. Motion carried.

Pastor Pam read a letter of resignation presented to the Council from Jason Carlson, resigning as president.

Hollie made a motion, with regret, to accept the resignation of Jason Carlson as President. Gene seconded. Motion carried.

#### Committee Reports:

*Stewardship*: Lori reported. Pastor Pam gave Lori a lot of information about the Stewardship Committee. Lori emailed the info to the committee, but hasn't had responses to date. Lori updated some pictures and posted them on the bulletin board. Hollie asked about the updating of the picture racks with current confirmation pictures. We will look into that.

*Education*: Ann reported. Palm Sunday with the marching in and waving palm branches was very successful for the SS. Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades are going to the Humane Society. Last day SS is April 30<sup>th</sup>. There will also be recognition and appreciation shown to the teachers. SS will also be singing. Starting to get kids signed up for Bible camp. VBS is tentatively July 31 - August 3. Will start advertising soon making sure to note that ALL are welcome regardless of the church they attend.

*Youth Group*: Jim reported.

*Continued on Page 8*

Thank You

The Grace Youth Group received a very nice thank you from the Grand Forks Feed My Starving Children Team, for their work and monetary donation.

Well done kids and leaders!

March 31, 2023

Dear Grace Lutheran Church Youth,  
Thank you so much for the \$1,025.00 donation to help us pay for fuel we picked at our FMS mobile truck last weekend. This paid for 3,534 meals, enough to feed 9.6 children for an entire year.

Also thank you for donating your time + hands to help us meet our goal to help feed 2500 starving children.  
Serving the Sevier Together with You!  
Blessed Feeds Starving on behalf of the GGF  
FMS Core Team

## NALC YOUTH GATHERING

An NALC Continental Youth Gathering will be held July 1-4, 2024, in Boerne, Texas (near San Antonio).

#### Who can attend?

Youth Ages 12-18 can attend as youth participants. Young adults ages 19-24 can attend as Leaders in Training.

Adults 25 and older can attend as Team Leaders (one leader for a maximum of seven youth).

#### What is the NALC Continental Youth Gathering?

It is a four-day gathering that provides opportunities for NALC youth to grow in faith and relationship with others as the body of Christ. It is a time to worship together, study God's Word, be equipped through large and small group sessions, reach out to



**WE BELONG**  
KNOW WHO WE BELONG TO. KNOW WHO WE BELONG WITH.

the community through mission events, and engage in fellowship and fun.

#### Why are we having this gathering?

Because we belong! We belong to Christ. We belong to the Church. We belong to the community. We belong to each other. We belong!

For more information go to [thenalc.org/cyg](https://thenalc.org/cyg).

## GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pr. Pam Thorson	Pastor	270-872-8269
John Carlson	President	
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 / 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  
MAY**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

May 7, 2023

First Reading - Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Psalm - Psalm 146:1-10

Second Reading - 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel - John 14:1-14

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

May 14, 2023

First Reading - Acts 17:16-31

Psalm - Psalm 66:8-20

Second Reading - 1 Peter 3:13-22

Gospel - John 14:15-21

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

May 21, 2023

First Reading - Acts 1:12-26

Psalm - Psalm 68:1-10

Second Reading - 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

Gospel - John 17:1-11

**Day of Pentecost**

May 28, 2023

First Reading - Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm - Psalm 25:1-15

Second Reading - Acts 2:1-21

Gospel - John 7:37-39



**Summer Worship Schedule  
begins on Sunday June 4th.  
9:00 a.m.**

*Thank You!*

A HUGE thank you to the volunteers who answered the call to teach Release Time. We had approximately 75 students from elementary age to jr. high age come through the doors of Grace Church, every Wednesday afternoon. Some may not have heard about Jesus and how blessed they are that you were the first to share that news with them. Life is busy and our days are full so **THANK YOU** for giving an hour of your day to these kids. **GOD BLESS YOU!!**

**UPDATE FROM SERGEY  
(Grace to Ukraine)**

Greetings dear family in Christ. We continue to spread Gospel among the people.

God is so good to us...

Do you remember my last post about Zhenya?

God started to bless him so much after he accepted Jesus as his own Saviour.

He got a reward from President of Ukraine. He also got free (very expensive) prosthesis and went through rehabilitation program. So he can walk now by himself.

Another miracle started to happen two weeks ago.

We started to promote a need about car for him and his family (They have 3 kids). God opened doors and two rich people from government donated a car for him. Now Zhenya drives 7 seats Mitsubishi. Car is 16 years old but still in very good condition. We took care about some things and now it runs perfect.

He often says: "I was so depressed, hopeless and helpless without God.

Now I am so thankful to my Lord Jesus for everything. He gave me new life, new family, new home, new leg and new opportunities to serve Him!"



Last two packages....

During last year we spread couple thousands food packages to many refugees, elderly people, needy families... Each time when we help somebody we give them New Testament and share Gospel with them. I always try to spend some time with every person in order they can feel God's love and His care about them.

But this time it was very very interesting situation. I came to elder of one village. Her name was Maria. She was very thankful for the help to poor people. She told that often she bought food and cookies from her own money and helped to elderly people in her village. She gave me list of needy families. We prepared food packages and we started to drive from house to house and deliver packages to people. Two elderly ladies lived 6 or 7 miles from that village. We drove 40 minutes through dirt and mud and we cannot reach them that day because it was no road to get there. Local farmer plowed the road which went to 5 houses last autumn. 3 houses are empty for many years and in other 2 lived two ladies. The water, dirt and mud everywhere...

So next day I asked my friend Bogdan with horse wagon to get me there. We drove 1 hour 20 minutes one way and near 2 hours on the way back. When I came to first lady, her name is Stepania. She said: "You came from God. Only He could

So next day I asked my friend Bogdan with horse wagon to get me there. We drove 1 hour 20 minutes one way and near 2 hours on the way back. When I came to first lady, her name is Stepania. She said: "You came from God. Only He could send you!" I was almost without food at all. I started to think who can help me but there were no people. So I started to ask God for help. And here you are... You came to visit me... She was extremely glad to get food. It will be enough food for her for couple months. But she was more glad to get New Testament with big letters. She started to read it with tears.

We drove another couple miles and get to second lady. The second's lady name is Stefania (only one letter difference between these two ladies names). She was very glad to see us but she started to say: "In my 86 years nobody gave me anything for free. I have some potatoes and apples. I wish to change them for your food". We started to say to her: "God loves you and He gives you all these things for free". She replied: "When I was able to walk for longer distances. I was coming to Orthodox church. And I always needed there to pay for something. So even God wants money from me!"

So we started to explain her the Gospel and shared that God gave His Son in order to forgive our sins. God is not looking for our money.

*Continued on Page 12*

**GRACE COUNCIL, continued**  
Feed my Starving Children trip went great. Snowbanks have been in the way of can donation. That project will start soon when it dries up. Gary asked about the Groceries Plus 1% that they give back to us. Jerod's in McIntosh also does this, but instead of cash he donates gift cards. Both donations are wonderful and appreciated.

**WNALC:** Hollie reported. Meeting tomorrow, April 13. New Stone Cross bible study about Joy will be starting based on Ephesians. Discussion items: They will be talking about the Gatorade Change Bottle fund raiser that we have done in the past. This is where we receive a bottle of Gatorade at the end of the church service and we are asked to put our spare change into it for a period of time until the collection date. They will be giving out these bottles after services (date hasn't been set). Collection date will be Sunday, May 7. Big need is we will need someone to take over the Hunter's Supper. Becki has done this and we are so appreciative of all her work, however, they will not be here at deer hunting time as they will be leaving for the winter prior to the event. They will be looking at the calendar to set the day for the auction. Pastor Pam suggested that we put a separate request for input and volunteers for these needs in the newsletter.

Hope will meet April 26 at the church, Rebecca will meet the 27th at the church in the evening.

**Trustees:** Gene reported. Roof leaked badly with damage to the library and a few other areas. Thank you to all who helped clean up. There is still much work to be done. Gene is asking for some help to get the carpet removed. Gary and Gene will be here tomorrow morning to work on the carpet. Gene will take care of putting the new locks on a cabinet for the Altar Guild. Gene replaced a light in the Narthex. Gene also replaced a light switch that needed repair.

**Deacons:** Gary reported. Continued to do visitations at Pioneer in Erskine and McIntosh Senior living. Gary took a couple over to the emergency center in Crookston. Gary did some meal delivery at the senior center. Received a call to do a welfare check. Gentleman from Winger came over with breathing trouble and asked to be transported to the Bemidji Emergency Center. One of our members called and needed the driveway cleared. A gentleman shared with Gary some really kind remarks about the kind of people that live around Erskine and how wonderful it is to live here. Pastor Pam said the service at Pioneer is growing and that's very rewarding.

**Video Tech:** Nick reported. Nothing new all has been working well.

**Food Shelf:** Gene reported. (Report submitted by Mavis H.) For the month of March they served 24 households with 38

individuals. Had 5 new visitors and dispensed 1380.5 pounds of food. Thank you to everyone who helped especially Gerri. We will miss you! We qualify to apply for the Emergency Response Food Shelf Grant. Will be receiving the initial amount of \$5,000 in May, 2023. Advisory Board meeting will be April 11 at 7 p.m. at Grace Church. Meeting went well. They had co-coordinators but that didn't work well. Mavis has now taken over the position. They are trying to trim down some of the duties so it's not so overwhelming. New board is: Vicki Gustafson Chairperson, Mavis Haugom Coordinator, Jim Ferden Treasurer, Judy Tadman as Secretary. Truck day today so they are well stocked. Dalton Agnes put together 11 Easter meals on Easter Sunday. He got donations and made the donations to Erskine and Fosston. Open from 3-7 tomorrow. Received a donation yesterday from Scouler of 344 pounds of food.

**Welcome Committee:** No report

#### Old Business:

Council Retreat: April 22 8:30 coffee and refreshments 9-12 retreat. Pastor Pam talked to Jason about some agenda items and ideas that had priorly been discussed. Nick and Pastor Pam will discuss it further. Nick will get an agenda out.

Food Shelf representative: Gene and Jim talked about the issue and they decided that between the two of them they will cover it.

*Continued on Page 9*

#### GRACE COUNCIL, continued New Business:

Summer worship schedule. Nick will check with GV about IF we have any option to change the time. Nick will report back as soon as he can. (\*\*NOTE\*\* Nick received word that we can have the 9:00 a.m. slot with GV, so June, July, and August Sunday services will be at 9:00 a.m.)

Roof Repair Committee. Gene discussed the issues and why one is needed. Nick will get the info from Jason, who will put him in touch with the architect we've been communicating with. Nick will get back to Gene. Paul made the motion to approve setting up a Roof Committee. Ann seconded. Motion carried.

Summer Advertising – Lake Cabin Directories—do we wish to be included? We will pass for this year. We can post some flyers to post at the some of the “lake” businesses. No action required.

Summer Picnic—Suggestion is to have one at the church. We will discuss the particulars at the Retreat on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to formalize a date.

Clean-up Day—Inside and outside. We will offer the extra desks and some of the ELCA dishes that are taking up space in our kitchen for FREE on the city wide rummage sale in May. We will have Andrew post it to Facebook.

Compassion Sunday—Pastor Pam made motion to set June 18<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Ann. Motion

carried.

#### Upcoming Schedule:

April 14-15~Minkota MD Convocation – Watertown, SD

April 16~ Jordyn Halstad baptism after worship

April 22~ Council Retreat 8:30 – noon

April 23~ Blessing of the Quilts in service

April 30~Last Day of Sunday School

May 7~1<sup>st</sup> Communion

May 17~Last day of confirmation

May 28~Pentecost

June 4~Summer worship schedule 9:00 a.m.

#### Announcements

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

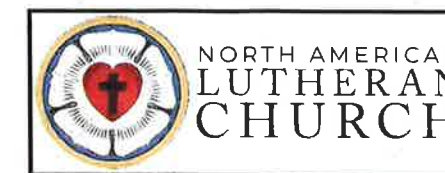
#### Adjourn

#### The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

*Yvonne Salvoson*

**\*\*Due to the resignation of Jason Carlson as Council President, John Carlson has agreed to fill the position for the remainder of the year.**



#### Did you know?

Grace Church is affiliated with the North American Lutheran Church

*Bishop Dan Selbo has a weekly update on NALC Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/thenalc/>*

*“A renewed Lutheran community moving forward in faith, the NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples in North America and around the globe.”*

The NALC embodies the theological center of Lutheranism in North America and stands firmly within the global Lutheran mainstream.

We are a church family committed to the authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God. In keeping with the Lutheran Confessions, we believe all doctrines should and must be judged by the teaching of Scripture.

### Our Core Values

**Christ Centered**

**Mission Driven**

**Traditionally Grounded**

**Congregationally Focused**