

“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

Pastor Pam Thorson

Phone: 218-687-4035

Email: gracelc@gvtel.com

Pastor Email: pastorglc@gvtel.com

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The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

June 2023

PASTOR'S CORNER

Psalm 100 is one of my favorite psalms. ¹ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. ² Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. ³ Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵ For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Here we are enjoying the summer sun and temperately warm weather. I wonder that around here we have a tremendous appreciation of God’s great gift of summer that others in warm climates take for granted. I can vouch for that having left our Kentucky home of 28 years with its **long hot** summers. It is easy to take the good things for granted. We tend to forget that the Almighty is the source of it all. Giving thanks turns our attention from the negative things and gives us hope that things will get better. There is always something good to thank God for. Thanks goes along with praise. Praise lifts us to another realm, the heavenly realm and out of our doldrums. Praise God in the good times and in the bad and we find strength and help.

We shout for joy when something good happens to us like winning a game or at the birth of a baby. The earth shouts as creation blooms before us in the flowers and crops. We can too. Worship our Lord Jesus in joy. Worship isn’t supposed to be a dull duty. It’s supposed to be a joyful gift we give to our God who lifts us into the heavenly realm as we do.

What we do need to know is that God loves us and gives good gifts to his children. Knowing Jesus is belonging. This psalm calls us to know God and all the goodness that He is. We have this place of belonging in his pasture and in his courtyard.

Remember that God doesn’t stop loving us and is faithful forever. I have learned to give thanks even for the not so good things. One of my sons came home from elementary school with an itchy head. As he was combing his hair after a bath, I discovered the culprit – you guessed it – lice. We were in Germany with nowhere to buy anything to treat it since it was evening. So, there we went to the kitchen where I picked out all the nits. It wasn’t much fun, but what caught my attention was a picture I had on the wall. *In everything give thanks. 1 Thessalonians 5:18.* Well, that was a challenge. But I took it on deciding that it gave us a chance to visit and make it a special time of sharing.

That may be simple, but it’s a good place to start and carries over to the harder things.

God is good. Let’s take time out and rejoice while we give thanks.

In ministry together,
Pastor Pam

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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday June 14th at 7:00 PM. A reminder that all regular council meetings are open to all members of Grace Church.

The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday June 8th at 2:00 PM. Group #5 will serve.

Hope Circle: June 28th at 9:00 AM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: June 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 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.

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

- April 30th:**
Attendance~ 98
Offering~\$3,108.25
- May 7th:**
Attendance~ 109
Offering~\$3,523.00
- May 14th:**
Attendance~ 60
Offering~\$1,201.00
- May 21st:**
Attendance~ 53
Offering~\$1,390.00
- May 28th:**
Attendance~ 50
Offering~\$1,277.00

Grace Lutheran Church

JUNE 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:00am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	5 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	6 7am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	7 7pm-Rebroadcast	8 2pm-WNALC 3-7pm-Food Shelf is open	9 10am-Pastor at Fairmeadow Nursing Home	10 9am- Rebroadcast
11 9:00am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	12 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	13 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	14 Flag Day 7pm-Council Mtg. 7pm-Rebroadcast	15 10a-2pm-Food Shelf is open	16 10am-Pastor at Fairmeadow Nursing Home	17 9am- Rebroadcast
18 Father's Day 9:00am- Worship Compassion Sunday	19 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	20 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café SCROLL ARTICLES DUE 8pm-AA mtg.	21 First Day of Summer 7pm-Rebroadcast	22 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	23 30	24 9am- Rebroadcast
25 9:00am- Worship	26 9:30am-LBS 10am- Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	27 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	28 9am-Hope Circle 7pm-Rebroadcast	29 18th: Lee & Sherry Hoas 25th: Judi Hoelt	30 Greeters: 4th: Jenny Haugen 11th: Gene & Mavis Haugom	

- *CIRCLES*
Hope Rebecca at the church
- Ushers : Gary & Maxine Walter Scott Hornbuckle family Jason Carlson family
- Communion Assistants: Paul & Kim Mahlen
- Altar Flowers: Hope Circle
- Altar Guild: Hollie Stewart Mavis Haugom
- R= Reader A=Acolyte P=Power Point
- JUNE 4th: R~~Carla Ferden A~~Gracey Gunderson and Shelby Shimpa
- JUNE 11th: P~~Kale Smeby and Charley Carlson
- R~~ Gary Walter A~~ Bella Senn and Malaina Jax P~~ Karl Jax and Brecken Gunderson
- JUNE 18th: R~~ Daryl Halvorson A~~ Logan Johnson and Carson Fortman P~~ Jayden Haugen and Carter Fortman
- JUNE 25th: R~~ Jim Ferden A~~ Jorgen Johnson and Scott Omundson P~~ Hayden Johnson and Owen Strom



Kevin Thorson



Windblown

Thursday, June 15

4:00 pm

Red Lake Falls Public Library

east lawn

seating & refreshments provided



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 –



April 2023 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$14,941.25

Expenses:

- Administrative - \$6,660.74
- Education - \$0
- Mission Outreach - \$4,413.81
- Pastoral - \$4,419.96
- Worship - \$1,106.85
- Total Expenses - \$16,601.36



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

May 10, 2023
7:30 P.M.

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

Present: President John Carlson, Pastor Pam, Nick Walk, Hollie Stewart, Yvonne Halvorson, Gene Haugom, Lori Hole, Gary Walter, Ann Brekken, Jim Ferden, Paul Mahlen

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

Devotions: Pastor Pam lead us in devotions and prayer. Devotions were taken from Daily Office which is in the front of the LBW. Romans 13: 1-10. Submit to government. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love is the fulfillment of the law. What do we do when we don't have such good rulers? Remember in biblical times they were ruled by the Romans. In today's world we have such a polarized society. We must remember that God is always our leader. We are to focus on "love our neighbors and that love will not do harm." Our mission as leaders is "Who are we and what are we about?" Love is the fulfillment of the law.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as amended by Paul. Seconded by Hollie. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Gary moved to approve April minutes. Seconded by Nick. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Yvonne moved to receive report. Seconded by Gary. Motion carried. (Report on file).

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported.

Cash Flow Report

Undesignated funds available to be used for April's General Fund expenses totaled \$19,273.99. This amount was more than the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$16,601.36. Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$14,941.25. The monthly budget goal is \$20,221.69.

Noteworthy Other Giving: Interest - \$185.01 was earned in April from our new savings account at Ultima Bank!

Outreach Giving - anonymous donation given for world missions.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration: Miscellaneous - Gift for Jason Carlson
Mission Outreach: Miscellaneous - Pass through donations to Grace Cemetery Association, NALC World Missions, PMCC Shamrock Fundraiser, Grace Food Shelf, and Grace Youth Group.

Worship: Worship Aids - Altar linens, altar candles for Good Friday, linen collar, gluten free wafers, wine stain remover

Budget Report

We ended the month at approxi-

Budget Report

We ended the month at approximately 7.6% or \$18,500 under budget. All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

April giving was up nicely from March. April had the best giving so far in 2023! In comparison to giving for April 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 grew nicely in April. The General Fund balance is up due to more giving and lower expenses in April. The April balance includes the \$25,000 CD plus interest.

Account Balances Report

Building Fund - Reflects regular donations made during the month (\$40.00). It also reflects expenses related to the separate elevator phone line (\$38.96).

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.

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Deer Hunters Supper: Drive Through or Sit-down format. Lori made motion for the Drive Through format. Yvonne seconded. Motion carried.

Water Carnival parade float— Sunday afternoon at 5 June 4th. Ask the confirmation students to participate in decorating and manning the float. Decorate about 3:00 at Grace. We will use Gene's "people mover." Gene offered to drive.

Announcements:

Upcoming Schedule:

May 19-20 Rummage Sale

June 4th (9:00 a.m.) Summer Worship schedule begins

June 18th Compassion Sunday (Gary Walter is in charge)

July 30th Church Picnic

THANK YOU was received and read from LaVonne McWilliams for the Easter Egg Hunt.

THANK YOU from Jason Carlson was received and read for our recognition of his service on RECOGNITION SUNDAY.

Adjourn

The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Halvorson



JUNE 14th



JUNE 21st

Happy Father's Day!



Godliness with contentment
is great gain.

1 Timothy 6:6, ESV

JUNE 18th



Youth Canoe Trip

Canoe Day Trip
Summer time is a
time to get out on
the river. This trip
is open to Grades 7
and up, as well as
adults. See Pastor
Pam for details.



GRACE COUNCIL, continued to refute the allegations prior to the vote of the Board Members. was decided that the coordinator should be able to cosign checks with the Treasurer as well as the Advisory Board Chair. The following will have access to signing checks:

Board Chair Vicki Gustafson, Coordinator Mavis Haugom and Treasurer James O. Ferden. Checks will not need a co-signature until the amount of the check is over \$500

Vicki will make these changes to the bylaws for review by the board members and vote via email.

Gene will report any information to the Church Council when asked at their meeting. It was discussed the many roles that require the Food Shelf to operate. The roles of ordering, inventory, checking phone, messages and replying, thank you notes, Facebook articles, newspaper articles, NAPS boxes and the paperwork, patron paperwork, checking dates on food, point person on truck days and food shelf days. Many other roles.

Dave did it alone for 7 years, now 2 Coordinators found the amount of time it takes to run a food shelf is a lot. We are all Volunteers and time to help with the roles. We are asking our Volunteers to help. Let the Board Chair or Coordinator know what you can do. Election of officers-Dave is stepping down from his position

and there will be only 1 Coordinator. Nomination by Mavis for Vicki to be chairperson. She accepted the nomination. No other nominations for Coordinator, Treasurer or Secretary. Mavis, Jim and Judy said they would stay in their positions if accepted by those present. Myles and Holly made a motion to accept the slate of officers. Motion carried. Civil Rights Training- All volunteers must read and sign annually. The training and sign off sheet will be on the bottom shelf of the scale.

Motion by Holly to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Welcome Committee: No report. Pastor Pam said she has a lot of info on hospitality and new member options. Please share the names of new people in the community with Pastor.

Old Business: Building Committee Update. Met last Friday. Many ideas aimed at our youth. Getting bids for paving the parking lot. Perhaps we can pave and then painting for a basketball court to be used by youth. No formal decisions at this time. Next meeting will be sometime in June.

Summer congregational picnic—July 30th after services at Grace. VBS kickoff—have a cookout and games. Just a fun afternoon of activities. Cater the food. Would be great to have a Fellowship Group help out. Lori will reach out to Tina F. about doing the food.

GRACE COUNCIL, continued Church Spring Clean-up—Schedule is up for the projects that need volunteers. Ann will do the education cupboard. We need a designated spot for “give aways” and for the items to be sold.

New Business:

Library Floor Covering—Jim reported on costs by Vern’s Carpet from Fertile. Motion made to purchase vinyl sheet flooring by Gene. Seconded by Paul. Motion carried.

Usher Team Reorganization—Pastor visited with current Head Ushers LeRoy and Ogden. We thank them so much for all their service. They will both be happy to answer questions for their replacements. We are in need of two Head Ushers. John will talk to Daryl & Wade.

Rummage Sale: Food shelf needs a couple of desks if they go back to a shopping format. They are welcome to take what they need from the ones that are in the SS room that we will not use anymore. Dates: Friday the 19th & 20th. Starts at 5 on Friday and 8 on Sat. We need workers to watch and move things. Lori got us on the map being provided by the city.

Lay Delegates for 2023 Convocation in Oklahoma City Aug 9 & 10. We have two voting delegates this year. NALC wants an equal number of clergy and delegate votes. Gary & Paul are our delegates.

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Hello Ladies!

Summer is here. I hope your gardens and plantings are bringing you joy!

We will collect the Gatorade change bottles for the national WNALC mission fund raiser on Sunday June 4th. If we missed getting you a bottle, any jar will do. These are going to disaster relief and world missions in our NALC. Pastor Pam will say a prayer for work and people this money will go to help. We can be the hands and feet of God. Grace church participated in the Erskine clean-up and rummage sale in May by putting out things found in some cupboard and other cleaning that we did this spring. A free sign went up and things found new homes. Now we need to go back and finish up with our pre-COVID style June cleaning. So at our Women's meeting we will set a date around the middle of June. I'll post that date in the bulletin. We'll bring our buckets, dusting tools, window cleaning and pruning tools and maybe a ladder and we'll enjoy some fellowship along with our work. Hope to see lots of us there. Our wonderful "Joy" study from the book of Philippians will be on lesson #3 in June. Each time has been such a blessing in a

way that I don't know if we always come away with. God is certainly at work here in this place. Books are still available and are \$5. I would love to have to order more.

Our next Women's Ministry meeting will be June 8th at 2:00p.m. Officer retreat meeting at 12:30 that day. All are welcome. See you then!

~~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 Com-

mission 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.



Compassion Sunday at Grace Church is June 18th.

An opportunity to sponsor a child will be available on that Sunday. See Gary Walter if you have questions.

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

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 and the purchase of items for the humane society (\$101.35).

VBS Fund – Reflects the purchase of materials (\$289.99).

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

I have been working on the insurance claim for our recent water damage. I submitted the last piece of information to the claim representative on Monday. I have heard nothing back from him yet, but will be following up with him soon. I obtained four quotes for different types of flooring for the library. The Council will need to make a decision this evening so I can contact the installer to get the flooring replaced. The lease on the office copier expires in July. Gene asked me to do some research on options for a different one. I am just starting that process and hope to have more information for review at the next Council meeting.

As Pastor Pam noted at the

retreat, Kim needs a new computer. I did contact Garden Valley to have them stop by and discuss options. They have not been over to visit with Kim, Pastor Pam, and Nick yet. So I will be contacting them again real soon. I participated in a recent meeting of the Roof/ Building Committee. Good month financially. Jim also reported that we received interest of \$195.00 for one month on our savings account that we recently moved. Regarding the insurance claim everything has been submitted. Since our deductible is \$2500 we probably qualify for any insurance payment.

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

Pastor's Report: (Pastor Pam reported)

Pastoral Care~ Closing of Pioneer~ I spent several days visiting there in addition to the Wednesday Eucharist services. Several have gone to McIntosh Manor and Fair Meadows. In addition to Grace members, I have included others who were part of the Pioneer group who attended Holy Communion in my regular visits.

NALC~ Lutheran Week is August 7, 2023 – August 11, 2023 in Oklahoma City. Nomination to the Executive Council has gone through.

NALC Continental Youth Gathering, July 1-4, 2024. Boerne, Texas. Let's plan to attend.

Confirmation will cease for the summer next week, May 17. Family Memorial Service is June 24. I will be gone for the weekend taking my cousins with me to Owatonna. Supply needed: I have contacted someone. Need follow up.

Worship~ First Communion recognition happened May 7. Several were absent. We will have another for the rest.

There will be a summer liturgy as we move further into the season – familiar songs. The hymns will continue to be a mix of old and new. Youth begin doing some parts on Sundays. Planning for the rest of the year. It would help me to have a calendar of events.

Points for discussion~

Concerns: Worship – Communion means changes to the altar area. Lori moved to receive report. Seconded by Nick. Motion carried.

Presidents Report: John reported. Pastor and the President John will meet weekly to improve communication throughout the church.

We have a great need to get information out to our congregation. We now need to look into what tools we can use to communicate. We will continue to look into some software that may be able to help.

Pastor would like us to meet at 10:00 prior to a 10:30 service (or 8:30 prior to our 9:00 service) in Pastor's office to pray before the service.

Continued on Page 8

Athanasian Creed

Whoever wants to be saved should above all cling to the catholic faith. Whoever does not guard it whole and inviolable will doubtless perish eternally. Now this is the catholic faith:

We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being. For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Spirit is still another. But the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory, coeternal in majesty. What the Father is, the Son is, and so is the Holy Spirit.

Uncreated is the Father; uncreated is the Son; uncreated is the Spirit. The Father is infinite; the Son is infinite; the Holy Spirit is infinite. Eternal is the Father; eternal is the Son; eternal is the Spirit: And yet there are not three eternal beings, but one who is eternal; as there are not three uncreated and unlimited beings, but one who is uncreated and unlimited. Almighty is the Father; almighty is the Son; almighty is the Spirit: And yet there are not three almighty beings, but one who is almighty.

Thus the Father is God; the Son is God; the Holy Spirit is God: And yet there are not three gods, but one God. Thus the Father is Lord; the Son is Lord; the Holy Spirit is Lord: And yet there are not three lords, but one Lord. As Christian truth compels us to acknowledge each distinct per-

son as God and Lord, so catholic religion forbids us to say that there are three gods or lords.

The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten; the Son was neither made nor created, but was alone begotten of the Father; the Spirit was neither made nor created, but is proceeding from the Father and the Son. Thus there is one Father, not three fathers; one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three spirits. And in this Trinity, no one is before or after, greater or less than the other; but all three persons are in themselves, coeternal and coequal; and so we must worship the Trinity in unity and the one God in three persons.

Whoever wants to be saved should think thus about the Trinity.

It is necessary for eternal salvation that one also faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus became flesh.

For this is the true faith that we believe and confess: That our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man. He is God, begotten before all worlds from the being of the Father, and he is man, born in the world from the being of his mother— existing fully as God, and fully as man with a rational soul and a human body; equal to the Father in divinity, subordinate to the Father in humanity.

Although he is God and man, he is not divided, but is one Christ. He is united because God has

taken humanity into himself; he does not transform deity into humanity. He is completely one in the unity of his person, without confusing his natures. For as the rational soul and body are one person, so the one Christ is God and man.

He suffered death for our salvation. He descended into hell and rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people shall rise bodily to give an account of their own deeds. Those who have done good will enter eternal life, those who have done evil will enter eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith. One cannot be saved without believing this firmly and faithfully.



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
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	



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

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE

The Holy Trinity

June 4, 2023
 First Reading - Genesis 1:1-2:4a
 Psalm - Psalm 8:1-9
 Second Reading - Acts 2:14a, 22-36
 Gospel - Matthew 28:16-20

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 11, 2023
 First Reading - Hosea 5:15-6:6
 Psalm - Psalm 119:65-72
 Second Reading - Romans 4:13-25
 Gospel - Matthew 9:9-13

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 2023
 First Reading - Exodus 19:2-8a
 Psalm - Psalm 100:1-5
 Second Reading - Romans 5:6-15
 Gospel - Matthew 9:35-10:8, 9-20

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 2023
 First Reading - Jeremiah 20:7-13
 Psalm - Psalm 91:1-10, 11-16
 Second Reading - Romans 6:12-23
 Gospel - Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the "Shepherd Psalm." There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don't know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord's sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help

themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:
lcms.org/stewardship



Summer time is precious in this part of the world. Be sure to enjoy the warm weather that our Lord has blessed us with. We say thank you, Jesus for this good earth.

There are some things to remember this Summer:

- ◆ Give thanks to God for all the good things.
- ◆ Don't take a vacation from worship or prayer life. Jesus never did.
- ◆ Keep your giving up to date. Our church bills don't take vacations.

Online giving:

1. Go to: gracechurch-erskine.org. Hit the giving button
2. Scan the QR code found on Page 3 of this newsletter.

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

We will start this Sunday.

Mission statement and Vision statement.

We want to decide upon a goal for this year. One BIG goal is best.

It was agreed that our continued need is to reach souls for Christ, especially our youth people and young families. We decided that this year's goal would be to achieve the "Best Christian Youth Ministry" anywhere.

How do we get there? We need to look at successful Youth Ministries, learn from others, and decide our needs:

Study/visit the best youth ministries and apply it to us. Compare what is working to us.

Hollie, Gary and Pastor Pam will work toward finding the best youth groups to observe. If we visit, we should have 3 visitors from our congregation. We need to ask "How did they achieve success?"

Build a blueprint of the plan and timelines to implement.

We need to look into the possibility of hiring a youth leader.

Financing has to be accounted for.

A community youth group would be part of the goal.

Study and evaluate what our needs will be for the next 10 years in regard to space needs for Sunday School, building needs, electronic needs.

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Study and evaluate what our needs will be for the next 10 years in regard to space needs for Sunday School, building needs, electronic needs.

Look into creating a committee. Ann will reach out to some of the moms in her Bible Study group as volunteers.

We want to accomplish this goal at the end of two years.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Lori reported.

No meeting.

Education: Ann reported. Took students to the Humane Society in April. They purchased over \$200 of supplies to donate. Celebrated all of our volunteers for Released Time, VBS, and Sunday School. Education Committee will meet this summer to review the previous year and set calendar for 2023-24. VBS will be July 31-August 1. Materials have arrived.

Youth Group: Jim reported. Snow is melted so we can get to our cans. This will be a summertime/early fall project.

WNALC: Hollie reported. Meet tomorrow, May 11 with Group 4 serving. 2nd lesson in the Joy Bible Study lead by Becki Lindseth. Gatorade bottles will be collected first weekend in June.

Trustees: Gene reported.

Committee Reports:

Trustees: Gene reported. Roof is in the process of getting fixed. Lance Erickson is doing the work. Changing the roof line by adding a pitched roof to problem areas. We will side the elevator walls with the same color as the Sunday school.

Deacons: Gary reported. No meeting tonight. Gary said he had been doing some studying about "What is a Deacon?" Deacons are servants as is described in Genesis 1: 26 & 27. God tells us to be his agent. God is Love. God shows us he loves us through Christ. Sign for the love God has for us is the Cross. Another way God communicates his love is through the Holy Spirit. Fruit of the Holy Spirit is love. (1 John 3:18) Let us not love with words and speech, but with actions and truth. I am the truth, the way, and the life. God's love NEVER fails. Gary said that in our congregation he observes many acts of love. Examples: Wayne Trandem's cookies. Dorothy's Grandparents and great grandparents bringing their grandbabies to church. We are so grateful for all who constantly and quietly do little things that show love in our congregation and community.

Video Tech: Nick reported. All is well and working fine.

Food Shelf: Gene reported. (Report submitted by Mavis Haugom). They are considering being open every Thursday for 2 hours.

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Served 27 households, 2009.2 lbs. of food dispensed, 1 new recipient. Easter baskets were given to 11 families equally 235 lbs. Easter baskets were furnished by Dalton Agnes from Jered's Grocery.

Food Shelf Advisory Board meeting minutes are included below. (Report submitted by Judy Tadman). Discussion was held regarding volunteers who would be willing to be leaders for various responsibilities. This would greatly help the work load for the coordinator. Vicki has started working on what these leadership roles would entail. We appreciate our volunteers so much! Advisory Checking account: As of April 7, 2023, Balance \$17,527.89. Savings account: As of April 7, 2023, Balance \$27,362.81. CD account - Balance \$25,081.92. CD due soon, and Jim will try to renew at a 4% or more interest. Last meeting there was a discussion of the Movement of monies to a higher rate savings account. Jim reported he and Mavis discussed that \$10,000 be drawn from the regular savings account and placed at the Ultima Bank at the interest rate of 2.9%. Grant Status report: Minnesota Foodshare Yearly-Monies were used and the final report sent in. Hunger Solutions-American Rescue Plan Food Support Plan (ARPA)-Final report sent in March, 2023. Minnesota Emergency Response Grant-The \$5000 can be used starting May 1st.

March campaign-report sent in April 2023 Cargill grant-\$10,000

Old Business: Announcements: Per North Country Food Bank, we can buy eggs from Annie's Garden. Donations: Garden Valley donated Cider. Dalton from Jareds in McIntosh donated 11 meals. These meals made up Easter baskets. Mavis called our patrons and were asked if they wanted a basket. The baskets were delivered April 7th. Patrons were pleased.

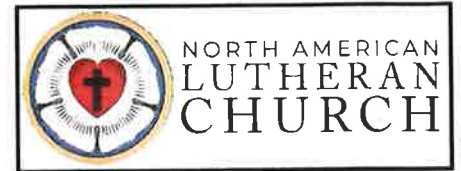
Food Shelf Status report: In and Out tracking Mavis handed out the quarterly report from January 1-March 31, 2023. The year-to-date cost of food from NCFB was \$.88 per lb. Food by source: NCFB-82%, Donation-Purchased was 10%. Total #s received 5,011.8. Average monthly cost-\$1,573.22. Cash donations for the quarter were \$740.

Audit done by Jackie Huschle and Mavis Haugom. No problems noted.

New Business: Bylaws-Vicki reviewed the Bylaws before the meeting that needed updating. During the meeting the bylaws were reviewed and discussed by those present. Some were changed, added, deleted, removed, and formatting done. Some suggestions were discussed.

On removal of an Advisory Board Member, Pastor Thorson stated a member should be able

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**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/thenalcl/>

"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