

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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

July 2023



PASTOR'S CORNER

Prayer Time

Prayer is the basis of our Christian walk. It's God's means of fellowship with us. As God breathed life into our being as we were created, so too in prayer the Holy One nurtures us on the very presence of the Almighty.

When we pray to our Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we are drawn into the Holy. God listens and wants us to listen as well. Prayer is a two-way relationship just like in our earthly relationships. We may think of this as talking to a loving parent who listens, advises, holds us close, and can work things out and does.

Psalm 91:15 is a promise - *“He shall call upon me and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him.”* In Matthew 7:7 God promises that in the seeking, we will find God. *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you”* Yes, God hears and answers. We have many serious things in our lives. Turn them over to the One who has the heart and the power to help.

I invite you to join a in a special prayer time on Wednesdays at 8 AM beginning July 5th, at Grace Church. This will be approximately one hour of intercession. I will provide clear guidance for our time together. We will cover our church, community and families in prayer as the Spirit leads.

I am encouraged as we look forward to forming a community wide youth group. Please keep this Youth Group Formation Team in your prayers as we seek to listen to the Spirit as we move forward with building lives on the Rock of Jesus Christ.

You've noticed or will notice some changes in our music for the summer. We're learning new liturgies and songs as we branch out a bit from our more traditional Green Book settings. We will return to those familiar pieces, but in changing our style from time to time, our worship becomes new and fresh.

Also, the council has discussed removing the kneelers from the sanctuary for awhile. There are some options we're exploring to come to the altar and make our kneelers a bit easier for stiff knees by eliminating the need to step up. This summer we have returned to receiving while standing.

Kevin and I are in the process of moving out of the parsonage. Thank you to the many who have helped us make the move. We're close by, so I am always available. It will be nice to settle in.

Keep the love of Jesus in your heart.

In ministry together,

Pastor Pam

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



June 4th:
Attendance~ 60
Offering~\$4,135.00

June 11th:
Attendance~ 43
Offering~\$1,710.00

June 18th:
Attendance~ 62
Offering~\$1,170.00

June 25th:
Attendance~59
Offering~\$1,590.00



The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday July 13th at 2:00 PM. Group #6 will serve.

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

Rebecca Circle: July 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.



- * 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
- * Shut-ins and Nursing Home members
- * Ukraine
- * Cholera Epidemic in Malawi
- * our friends of the ELCM – (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi)

JULY 2023

Grace Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	3 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	4 7am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	5 8am-Prayer Gathering 7pm-Rebroadcast	6 2pm-WNALC 3-7pm-Food Shelf is open	7 Deadline to register for Canoe Trip	8 9am- Rebroadcast
9 9:00am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	10 9:30am -LBS 10am- Rebroadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	11 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	12 8am-Prayer Gathering 7pm-Council Mtg. 7pm-Rebroadcast	13 2pm-WNALC 3-7pm-Food Shelf is open	14 Deadline to register for Canoe Trip	15 9am- Rebroadcast
16 9:00am-Worship	17 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group 7pm-Food Shelf Advisory Board Mtg	18 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	19 8am-Prayer Gathering 9am-Canoe Trip 7pm-Rebroadcast	20 10a-2pm-Food Shelf is open SCROLL ARTICLES DUE	21 10a-2pm-Food Shelf is open	22 9am- Rebroadcast
23 9:00am-Worship	24 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group	25 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	26 8am-Prayer Gathering 9am-Hope Circle	27 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	28 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	29 9am- Rebroadcast
30 9:00am-Worship	31 9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-broadcast 6pm-24/7 Prayer Group VBS		Greeters: 2nd: Jim & Marsha Hoffmann 9th: Rob & Lori Hole	16th: Scott & Kristin Hornbuckle 23rd: Nancy Jenson	30th: Russell Johnson	

CIRCLES
Hope
Rebecca

at the church
at the church

Ushers :
Lee Hoas
Jim Ferden
Brady Lee
Ray LaBrecque family
Randy Lee family

Communion Assistants:
Liz Jenson and Yvonne Halvorson

Altar Flowers:
Rebecca Circle

Altar Guild:
Becki Lindseth
Lesia Juve

R= Reader
A=Acolyte

P=Power Point
JULY 2nd:

R~ Joanne Sannes
A~ George Juve and Jareth Walk

P~ Claire Juve and Lillian Shimpa
JULY 9th:

R~ Carla Ferden
A~ Cameron Svalen and Riley Kochmann

P~ Jordyn Halstad and Josie Johnson
JULY 16th:

R~ Gary Walter
A~ Kale Smeby and Charley Carlson

P~ Gracey Gunderson and Shelby Shimpa
JULY 23rd:

R~ Dorothy Sandberg
A~ Karl Jax and Brekken Gunderson

P~ Bella Senn and Malaina Jax
JULY 30th:

R~ Hollie Stewart
A~ Rian Bergh and Carter Fortman

P~ Logan Johnson and Carson Fortman



Electronic Fund Giving



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, 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. 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.



May 2023 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$11,596.00
 Expenses:
 Administrative - \$7,884.09
 Education - \$761.46
 Mission Outreach - \$800.00
 Pastoral - \$10,735.68
 Worship - \$687.20
 Total Expenses - \$20,868.43



Did you know? If you are a Thrivent member, you are eligible 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 \(cotribute.co\)](https://www.thrivent.com/ThriventActionTeamsHub). 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

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

June 14, 2023

7:00 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, Paul Mahlen, Ann Brekken, Jim Ferden, Dorothy Sandberg

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

Devotions: Pastor Pam lead us in devotions based on Luke 19: 11-27. We are expected to use what we are given as a church and make use of our resources our gifts, talents, and money. God will provide as long as we are faithful, and He will increase the blessings. We need to be brave and step out.

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

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported.

Cash Flow Report

Undesignated funds available to be used for May's General Fund expenses totaled \$12,260.87. This amount was less than the month's General Fund expenses totaling

\$12,260.87. This amount was less than the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$20,868.43. Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$11,596.00. The monthly budget goal is \$20,221.69.

We ended the month at approximately 7.5% or \$18,300 under budget. All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

May giving was down from April and lowest so far in 2023.

History of the General Fund Balance

The General Fund balance is down due to less giving and higher expenses in May.

Other Information

I have gotten the insurance claim resolved for our recent water damage.

I have contacted the installer to get the flooring replaced. Possible installation this week.

The lease on the office copier expires in July. Our current provider met with Pastor and Kim and gave us a quote.

Pastor's Report:**Pastoral Care**

Visits to Fargo several times for Allen Jenson. He's in Essentia in Fosston now.

Phone calls to various parishioners.

Nursing care visits to McIntosh Sr. Living some with Holy Communion. I am on the supply list for weekly services and will be there August 23rd.

Fair Meadows services continue every 6 weeks unless we exchange weeks.

NALC

Lutheran Week is August 7, 2023 – August 11, 2023 in Oklahoma City.

NALC Continental Youth Gathering, July 1-4, 2024. Boerne, Texas. We will work towards attending.

Confirmation

We will have a canoe day trip in July. John Carlson is helping to arrange this.

After this 3rd year class is confirmed, we may consider moving the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism to Pentecost Sunday in the spring.

Worship

Summer liturgy has begun – familiar songs. The hymns will continue to be a mix of old and new. A few parts will change each month, but keeping enough time to learn them and be comfortable.

Later in the fall we'll move to a different setting.

Prayer meeting

Will begin on Wednesday mornings at 8 AM. This is open to all. It will start in July.

I have a plan for how we will pray each week for our church ministries, the people, and our community primarily. (1 hour)

Future considerations:

Alpha Course – 12 weeks. Winter or fall.

Women's Area Saturday gathering – late fall or spring

President's Report: Pastor Pam and John meet each week. John asks for us to remember him in prayer.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Lori reported. Researched some information from Sola Publishing about Time

Continued on Page 6



VBS is going to be out of this world!

Join us July 31-August 3, 6:30-8:30 for STELLAR VBS, where we will shine the light of Jesus!

Anyone entering PreK through 6 grade is welcome to attend.

We need lots of volunteers to make this week a success! If you are interested in teaching, being a teacher helper, leading our science activity, games, snack, music, or just helping decorate with our fantastic space theme, contact the church or Ann Brekken.

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	

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JULY

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 2, 2023
First Reading - Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm - Psalm 119:153-160
Second Reading - Romans 7:1-13
Gospel - Matthew 10:34-42

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 9, 2023
First Reading - Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm - Psalm 145:1-14
Second Reading - Romans 7:14-25a
Gospel - Matthew 11:25-30

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023
First Reading - Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm - Psalm 65:1-8, 9-13
Second Reading - Romans 8:12-17
Gospel - Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023
First Reading - Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm - Psalm 119:57-64
Second Reading - Romans 8:18-27
Gospel - Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023
First Reading - Deuteronomy 7:6-9
Psalm - Psalm 125:1-5
Second Reading - Romans 8:28-39
Gospel - Matthew 13:44-52



Youth Canoe Trip

A day of canoeing at Oliver's in Crookston, has been planned for Wednesday July 19th. Departure will be from the church at 9:00 a.m. and return about 2:00 p.m. We'll stop for lunch at McDonald's after. We are looking for donations to

cover the cost of the canoes which are \$40 each. This trip is for youth grades 7th and up. Sign up before Friday July 7th. All skill levels are invited. The sign up for the canoe trip is July 14. RSVP to John Carlson : praunion@google.com



Letter to my sponsor

Tanggal 28 Maret 2023

Dear Friends,
I hope this letter finds you all well and protected by God. I am doing well and are protected by God. At home, I often help my mother and take care of my little sibling. In my spare time, I also like playing soccer. Dear Friends, what are your current activities? What were your activities this week? During the Christmas holiday, I spent time with my family and hung out with my friends. It is the rainy season in our place.

28 March 2023. Peace be with you. Dear Friends, how are you? Hopefully, this letter finds you all well and protected by God. Praise God. My family and I are doing well and are protected by God. At home, I often help my mother and take care of my little sibling. In my spare time, I also like playing soccer. Dear Friends, what are your current activities? What were your activities this week? During the Christmas holiday, I spent time with my family and hung out with my friends. It is the rainy season in our place.

Dear Friends, how is the weather there? My prayers and heart are always with you and the family. May God abundantly bless and protect you and your family. Would you pray for my family and me? Dear Friends, thank you for still sponsoring and supporting me until this time. I am so grateful for it. This is all for now. Thank you for everything.

Dear Friends, how is the weather there? My prayers and heart are always with you and the family. May God abundantly bless and protect you and your family. Would you pray for my family and me? Dear Friends, thank you for still sponsoring and supporting me until this time. I am so grateful for it. This is all for now. Thank you for everything.

May Lord Jesus bless you.



GRACE COUNCIL, continued

and Talent pledge cards. Children's stewardship form is being considered.

Deer Hunters' supper will be coordinated by Nicki C. and Lori H. Becki & Dave Lindseth will assist prior to leaving for the winter.

Education: Ann reported. Planning for VBS July 31-August 3. VBS is free to anyone who wants to come. You do not have to be members of Grace. All are welcome!

In July the Sunday School will do their school supplies drive. They will do their "big" collection during VBS.

Youth Group: No report.
NALCW: Hollie reported. Met last Thursday, June 8.

Discussed Fall Auction on October 4.

June 21st will be cleaning day from 9-12. Please bring your own supplies.

Sunday, July 9 we will have a "Noisy Offering" for Disaster Relief. Bring your change to church.

Trustees: Gene reported.

Roof repair is 99% done. Lance did a wonderful job. Airconditioning at the parsonage has been repaired.

Deacons: Gary reported. Studying the book *Having the Mind of Christ*. God communicates love through his Son and through the Holy Spirit.

Video Tech: Nick reported. 2 weeks ago we had a power outage and it caused a choppy video. Nick had to restart the camera. It worked very well this

last week.

Food Shelf: Gene reported. May Food shelf report (submitted by Mavis Haugum). Served 24 households and had 2 new visitors this month.

Made an emergency visit to someone who needed food. We delivered the food since they had no way to get to the Food Shelf. Rewarding!

Welcome Committee: No report



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.



Church Orchestra

Members of Grace Lutheran Church are invited to an information meeting to discuss formation of a band / orchestra / group. Kevin Thorson will lead an information meeting will be at Grace Lutheran Church on the 16th of July. We will gather in the sanctuary after worship service.

This church orchestra will have regularly scheduled practices and a repertoire that can be called upon by the pastor and organist to enhance worship. All types of instruments are welcome: brass, strings, woodwind, percussion, and guitars. All musicians are welcome: girls and boys, women and men, young and old, inexperienced and experienced.

To many, the concept of an instrumental music program may seem daunting. As an instrumentalist . . . first, and a church leader . . . second, I want to encourage you to consider participation in an instrumental music program. This church orchestra will provide an opportunity for young and old to connect with each other and allow the church to move out into the community in new and innovative ways.

Kevin Thorson, 270-872-8268,
kevint@kthorson.net

A Fourth of July Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for this Nation.

We thank you for the freedom we enjoy daily.

May we never take for granted the liberties we have been given.

May we remain humble and conscious of the blessings we enjoy because of the sacrifices made by countless men and women.

We thank you for the abundance we enjoy.

May we be sensitive to those around us who are in need, and may our hearts be quick to help when we have the means to do so.

We pray for our leaders.

For those placed in authority over us.

Father, we ask that you guide every decision they make.

May they lead us with wisdom, humility, and grace.

Father bless our Nation with Your peace.

May Your love flow through each one of us,

and may we never forget to give You thanks, always.

May you receive the glory, honor, and praise.

In Jesus Name we pray,

Amen.