

SEE YOU IN CHURCH

A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I

will be back in church next Sunday.'

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

~Submitted

PSALM 23

The Lord is my Shepherd—that's a Relationship!

I shall not want—that's Supply!

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures—that's Rest!

He leadeth me beside the still waters—that's Refreshment!

He restoreth my soul—that's Healing!

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness—that's Guidance!

For His name sake—that's Purpose!

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death—that's Testing!

I will fear no evil—that's Protection!

For Thou art with me—that's Faithfulness!

Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me—that's Discipline!

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies—that's Hope!

Thou annointest my head with oil—that's Consecration!

My cup runneth over—that's Abundance!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life—that's Blessing!

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord—that's Security!

Forever—that's Eternity!

Face it, God loves you!

What is most valuable is not what we have in our lives, but WHO we have in our lives!

+++++



A Time of Healing Prayer

At our Sunday worship on August 13, we will incorporate prayer for healing. All are invited to come forward and receive a blessing prayer for healing of body, mind, and spirit.

What is Christian healing?

That is a question that is often asked and has many answers. The answer is simple. It is asking Jesus Christ what to do about any disease and doing it that He might bring wholeness from the

Continued on Page

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Women's Area Saturday gathering. Report received.

President's Report

John is trying to attend our various committee meetings to become acquainted with both the members and the topics of concern. This will help to improve communication among the council and committees.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: No new report

Education: Ann reported.

Met July 11 and visited with Pastor Pam. Sunday School calendar for the year set up. VBS will be July 31-Aug 3. Need one more teacher. They currently have 23 students signed up on-line. Students DO NOT need to be pre-registered. All are welcome and they do not have to be Grace members. School Supplies Drive will go on during VBS for the WEM School. Thursday night will be the VBS program at 7:30. Snacks will be served.

Youth Group: (Jim, John, Ann reported)

Canoe trip July 19 at 9:00

August 16 Youth Action Team Mtg. (time 5:30)

August 27: Youth Event

NALCW: Hollie reported. Meeting tomorrow with the 4th Bible Study in *Discovering the Joy of Jesus*. 2:00 p.m. Will be getting an update on the Auction and Hunters Supper tomorrow. Lists are available with instructions to create the kits for the Disaster Response donations. Hollie brought an example of a Kitchen Kit. ANYONE is able to donate kits just drop off at the church. Put kits into a 2 gallon bag unless they call for a backpack. Kits will be due at the church by

August 10. Kits will be blessed at services on August 14. Hollie shared the WNALC Newsletter. Cleaning day went well.

Trustees: Gene reported. Had more leaks with the hard rain, including an especially large one by the front door. There were also some leaks also by the lights. They are going to try to do some more caulking and try to keep it under control until more decisions are made regarding renovation.

Deacons: Gary reported. Jail ministry--Love and it's overwhelming power to help is witnessed and experienced by all involved. Love is revealed through Christ and through the Holy Spirit. Delivering meals-- We need to remember that many times the meal deliverer might be the only person some of the meal recipients see in a day. Made calls to some of those who have been in the hospital. They are all so grateful for the prayers.

Video Tech: Nick reported. Encountered connection difficulty between the service tv and the computer during services on Sunday. The GV service went out fine, just couldn't see the PowerPoint presentation in the church. Nick found the problem and solved it. There was a burnt out HDMI connector that he has now put a surge protector on. Received a quote for a wireless receiver and gooseneck mic for the pulpit which will give us a lot more flexibility in location. Cost is \$1470.00 for one. We will also ask for a quote for a dual receiver if we wish to set up for an additional mic at a different location. Nick will get additional quotes on two receivers and then we can make a decision.

Food Shelf: Gene reported.

Food Shelf: Gene reported. July 17, 2023 Grace community Food Shelf Advisory Board quarterly meeting. 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. **This is an important meeting for all to attend. We will be moving into the parsonage double garage when our pastor moves out. We will need some suggestions on supplies, heating, cooling, shelving, chairs, tables, desk, etc. We do not have to have everything perfect right away but we need to be thinking about the move and what we will need. We could also use help from Grace church congregation in moving over to the parsonage double garage. Will keep you posted on when that will be. Connect with Gene if you wish to volunteer to help move. He will get you the date and times. June statistics: Households: 25 (3 new households) 8 - \$15 vouchers to Groceries Plus was given out the first shopping day. 1484.2# disbursed. Thanks to all who helped! We cannot serve the people without our volunteers. (Report by Mavis)

Welcome Committee: No report

Old Business:

Building Committee Update: Gene reported. Committee brought their ideas of what we would want to consider in a building project. John will share some information with the congregation on Sunday. The committee is seeking direction and input from the congregation. The outside sign was discussed due to its needing updating in order to improve visibility and communication as the public drives by. Jim will call GV about who we could contact regarding updating our sign to a digital option.

Summer Picnic: July 30st. Tina Farrell has graciously agreed to coordinate the picnic. Jason has

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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 AUGUST

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
 August 6, 2023
 First Reading - Isaiah 55:1-5
 Psalm - Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26
 Second Reading - Romans 9:1-5, 6-13
 Gospel - Matthew 14:13-21

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
 August 13, 2023
 First Reading - Job 38:4-18
 Psalm - Psalm 18:1-6, 7-16
 Second Reading - Romans 10:5-17
 Gospel - Matthew 14:22-33

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
 August 20, 2023
 First Reading - Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
 Psalm - Psalm 67:1-7
 Second Reading - Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32
 Gospel - Matthew 15:21-28

Thirteenth Sunday - Pentecost
 August 27, 2023
 First Reading - Isaiah 51:1-6
 Psalm - Psalm 138:1-7
 Second Reading - Romans 11:33-12:8
 Gospel - Matthew 16:13-20

Release Time Begins In September

Our plans for the year are coming together for another year. Every year around the country children and youth are released from school to attend religious education for 1 hour under the guidance of a federal law. Grace Church is a partner with the Win-E-Mac schools. We provide a team of dedicated teachers and assistants who nurture the young ones in the community, many of whom do not attend any church.

Here's what you can do:

- Please pray for this ministry: the youth, the teachers, and assistants.
- Consider teaching a class every other week or substituting.



Church Orchestra

On 16 July, several members of Grace Lutheran Church participated in an information meeting for a church orchestra. Eight people agreed to form an ensemble to enhance worship services. The musicians included adults and youth, men, and women. The following instrumentalists were represented: trumpet, trombone, clarinet, flute, violin, and piano/keyboard.

At the meeting, Kevin Thorson described music that could be played and used to accompany worship services. Several people identified others that might be interested in joining the group. People at the meeting agreed to email/call Kevin with names, contact information and their instruments. Any other people interested in participating should contact Kevin for information and/or attend the first rehearsal.

This church orchestra has scheduled rehearsals at 10:30 am on 6 and 20 August (after the 9:00 am worship service). These first two rehearsals will be held in the parsonage. Kevin will prepare appropriate music for the orchestra to practice and to assess our skills. After the second rehearsal, members will meet with Pastor Pam Thorson and

organist Andrew Hanson to discuss the way forward, to include: rehearsal day/time, additional music needed, use of electronic instruments (i.e., keyboard and guitar) and possible locations in sanctuary for the orchestra's participation in worship.

Please pray for this up-and-coming ministry.

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



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: gracechurcherskine.org. Hit the giving button
 2. Scan the QR code found on Page 3 of this newsletter.

GRACE COUNCIL, continued
 Report received.
Pastor's Report:

Pastoral Care~ With all of the preparations for moving, clearing, and setting up our house visits have been secondary but continue. Hospital visits include Sanford in Fargo, Essentia in Fosston.

Home visits continue with most happening around Erskine proper while in the community or in homes.

McIntosh Sr. Living service will be August 23rd. Regular visits occur monthly.

Fair Meadows in Fertile service was June 16. July will be the 28th.

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

NALC Continental Youth Gathering, July 1-4, 2024. Boerne, Texas.

Confirmation~ Canoe trip is July 19th @ 9 AM. Invites go to other churches.

Worship~ Summer liturgy seems to be well received.

This will continue through August at least.

Prayer meeting~ Wednesday mornings at 8 AM. 1 hour of organized prayer using the acronym ACTS – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.

Considerations for future:

Grief Support Group

Veterans Support: Lutheran Military Veterans and Family Ministries (LMVFM) Rev. Leslie Haines. <https://lmvfm.org/> Come in 2024.

Alpha Course – 11 weeks. Winter or fall. www.alpha.org (great for youth, too)

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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING**

July 12, 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, Ann Brekken, Jim Ferden, Dorothy Sandberg

President John shared that we will try to strive to have our meetings completed within 90 minutes.

Call to Order: President John called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Devotions: Pastor Pam introduced us to the book *Using Growing Together*. This is a book of spiritual exercises for church committees. Lesson 1 focused on Matthew 18:20: "*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*"

Secretary's Report: June minutes approved.

Financial Secretary's Report: Received.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported.

Cash Flow Report

Undesignated funds available to be used for June's General Fund expenses: \$13,150.02. General

Fund expenses: \$13,827.56. Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$12,805.00. **The monthly budget goal is \$20,221.69.**

Noteworthy Other Giving: Miscellaneous – Reimbursement by NALCW for bible study materials (\$81.30) and pass through donations to the youth group and food shelf (\$100.00).

Some expenses this month included:

Administration: Church Utilities/Internet Service – The higher cost reflects an increase in the internet speed since last month.

Custodian – Three pay periods in June due to timing.

Financial Secretary – quarterly salary payment.

Miscellaneous – Carnations for Mother's Day (\$150.00) and educational materials related to church committees, leadership, and HR (\$58.04).

Office Expenses/Postage – Renewal of annual fee for PO box (\$94.00) and postage for newsletter (\$99.64).

Mission Outreach:

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

Pastoral: Housing Equity – Only half due to timing. Pension – 403 (b) – Only half due to timing. Pre-tax retirement Contribution – Only half due to timing

Worship: Worship Aids – Olive wood communion cups for 1st

Communion students (\$39.63); communion cups for homebound members and music (\$87.75); and for altar (\$10.81).

Budget Report

We ended the month at approximately 10.2% or \$24,800 under budget. All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

June giving was up from May. June giving was the third highest so far in 2023!

In comparison to giving for June in other years, this is the 3rd highest since 2011.

Year-to-date giving is approximately \$2,600 less than 2022.

History of the General Fund Balance

The General Fund balance decreased only slightly from May due to undesignated giving almost matching the monthly expenses.

The June balance includes the \$25,000 CD plus interest.

Account Balances Report

Building Fund - Regular donations (\$40.00). Separate elevator phone line (\$38.96); new desk for pastor (\$2,187.49); and materials for repair of roof around elevator (\$4,171.20).

HS Scholarship Fund – donation (\$25.00).

Oil Fund – Bldg Upkeep reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.

Oil Fund – Church Emergencies reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.

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

SS Outreach Fund – Monthly gift of \$38 to Compassion International.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report Only slight increase in balance since last month.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report Nice increase in the balance since last month (\$1,800.00). Highest balance ever!

Other Information

Library flooring may be replaced this week. The lease on the office copier expires in July. Received quotes from two companies, Liberty and our current Loeffler.

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued

volunteered to help if needed. Lori H. will give Tina a call so she can contact Jason to decide regarding the menu. Kim will make a flyer to advertise the picnic is a community event to which all are welcome. We discussed the possibility of bounce houses.

Usher Team report: No report.

Youth Ministry (John, Jim, Ann)

August 19th--Canoeing @ 9:00. Deadline is Friday. They do not need their own boats.

August 16th--Youth event planning meeting.

August 27—6:00—Youth Event (music, lessons, games). ALL YOUTH are welcome to come from all of our communities.

Many possible events have been discussed. Let the Youth Action Team know if you have any opportunities that would be interesting to our youth. Jim brought up getting help for Tina F. in putting together the Community Calendar. Since Covid she's been graciously doing everything herself. It is a youth fundraiser. Tina should get some help with ad and calendar sales. The aluminum cans need to be taken care of since the collection location is full; we hope to get this taken care before Sept. This is a great service project and fund raiser for our youth..

NALC Convocation (August 7-11) Delegate—Paul is unable to attend this year. Gary will be attending. Gary moved to nominate Kevin T. to replace Paul. Nick seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Altar Area: Pastor Pam requested

New Business:

a table to serve from. Should match the existing wood and color of the altar. Yvonne made a motion to give Pastor Pam approval to order a table of her choice. Ann seconded. Motion carried.

Other: Pastor thanked us for her new desk.

Calendar:

Next Council Meeting: August 16 at 7:00 p.m. (**NOTE date change)

July 19th: Canoe Trip

July 30th: Church Picnic following services. ALL are welcome.

July 31st – August 3rd: VBS

August 7-11: NALC Lutheran Week

August 16: Youth Mtg. (time 5:30)

August 27: Youth Event

September 10: Sunday School Starts

Announcements

Next month's meeting date is **August 16** at 7:00 p.m.

Closed with Night Prayer liturgy.

Respectfully submitted,


A Time of Healing Prayer

inside out. It is not a process of magic whereby we get God to do what we ask. It is praying, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

The most common idea of Christian Healing is seen as the healing of the body. While it is the focus of most healing, it is only a part of the scheme of wholeness that God intends for His people. We must hold physical healing as one part of the total ministry of healing to which He has called us. While it is an important part of healing, it is just a part.

Christian Healing is the manifestation of the creative power of God's love as He comes to make us a new creation in Christ Jesus. It is concerned not only with the stewardship of our body of flesh and blood. It is concerned with our ultimate relationship with God as our Father, Jesus Christ as our Savior and Healer, and Holy Spirit, as the Executive of Father's will for us as He revealed it in Jesus Christ.

It is not simply the maintenance of life in this world, but the growing edge of God's creation where the Kingdom of God encounters the old creation, and brings about transformation as well as restoration. The purpose of Christian Healing is to grant us entry into the Kingdom now, that we might live in the world, but not of the world. It is our invitation and access to God's Kingdom and the wholeness He has prepared for us.

~Pr. Pam

IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ FIRST

HOW TO PACK YOUR DISASTER KITS:

- Please send **COMPLETE** kits as outlined here. Incomplete kits must be completed before they can be distributed.
- Pack them, in **STURDY, WELL-TAPED** boxes (not too large).
- Label contents and quantity in **LARGE BLOCK LETTERS** and place labels on at least one end and one side of the box so the contents will be visible regardless of how box is stacked.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box with a label that says:
"A GIFT FROM [name & address of your church or group]"

Financial donations designated for **NALC Disaster Response***

should be made payable and mailed to:

**North American Lutheran Church
PO BOX 860565**

Minneapolis, MN 55486-0565

***Indicate "NALC Disaster Response" on the memo line of your check.**

For more information, please email Mary Bates, disasterresponse@thenalc.org or visit thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response/

Bibles

(We encourage you to write messages of hope in the front pages of donated Bibles)

- o new or used (highlighted & underlined text is acceptable)
- o child, teen or adult
- o Bible stories for children
- o Spanish, or any language
- o large print
- o prayer books

Flood Buckets

- o 1 five-gallon bucket with lid
- o 1 jug bleach (1/2 gal. or smaller)
- o 2 large trash bags (Contractor 3 mil)
- o 1 roll paper towels
- o 2 rags
- o Comet or scouring cleanser
- o Pine Sol or liquid cleaner
- o scrub brush
- o gloves, 1 pair each, size L preferred
 - rubber (reusable, i.e. Platex, dishwashing type)
 - leather
 - cotton

Health Care Kit

(Pack in 2-gallon plastic storage bag or tote bag)

- o 1 bath towel
- o 1 wash cloth (optional)
- o 1 shampoo (2 if travel size)
- o 1 bar of soap (2 if travel size)
- o 1 toothbrush
- o 1 pack of floss (optional)
- o 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size)
- o 1 comb
- o 1 deodorant
- o 1 nail clippers (optional)

School Kit – Elementary

- o 1 backpack or duffle bag
- o 4 notebooks
- o 4 pocket folders
- o 1 blunt scissors
- o 1 ruler
- o 1 pencil sharpener
- o 4 pencils
- o 2 pens
- o 1 eraser
- o 1 box of crayons, colored pencils, or markers



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.



June 2023 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$12,805.00

- Expenses:
- Administrative - \$7,407.31
 - Education - \$0.00
 - Mission Outreach - \$800.00
 - Pastoral - \$5,051.46
 - Worship - \$568.79

Total Expenses - \$13,827.56

thrivent

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 \(cotribute.co\)](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



The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday August 9th 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 August 10th at 2:00 PM. Group #7 will serve.

Hope Circle: August 23rd at 9:00 AM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: Does not meet in the summer.



July 2nd:
Attendance~ 41
Offering~\$3,625.00

July 9th:
Attendance~53
Offering~\$2,062.00

June 16th:
Attendance~55
Offering~\$2,855.00

July 23rd:
Attendance~38
Offering~\$1,400.00



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
- * Jolene Bradley
- * Torrey Erickson
- * Shut-ins and Nursing Home members
- * Ukraine

School Kit – High School

- o 1 backpack or duffle bag
- o 4 notebooks
- o 4 pocket folders
- o 4 pencils, 1 pencil sharpener & 1 eraser
- or- 4 mechanical pencils
- o 4 pens

Miscellaneous Items

(Pack like items together)

- o Masks (bundle/pack each type separately)
 - painting
 - sanding
 - N95
- o disposable diapers, baby or adult in assorted sizes
- o feminine hygiene items
- o any school supply item can be donated in bulk.
- o mops, brooms & dustpans
- o leaf and garden rakes, flat bottom shovels, spades

Kitchen Kits

(Pack kits in a 2-gallon plastic storage bag or drawstring backpack)

cookbook

- o dish cloths
- o dish towel
- o hot pad
- o spatula
- o measuring cups
- o measuring spoons
- o another helpful kitchen item of your choice (i.e., mini cutting board, peeler, tongs, etc.)
- o storage container
- o garbage bags (a few, mixed sizes)

Quilts and Blankets

- o any size including baby
- o any fabric including religious, patriotic/military theme, seasonal

Gift Cards*

***Please write the date purchased on each card**

- o Home Depot
- o Lowes
- o Walmart

NALC Disaster Response

Needs YOUR Help!



"Serve one another humbly in love"
GALATIANS 5:13b

“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

Return Service
Requested

Non-Profit Org.

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

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

July 2023

PASTOR'S CORNER

Psalm 18:1-2 I love you, O Lord my Strength, O Lord my stronghold, my crag, and my haven. My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge: You are worthy of praise.

Some of you know the song, *On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand, All Other Ground is Sinking Sand*. What a wonderful description of our lives in this world. Today there are so many changes in our culture. It seems that what is true and sure has shifted. Even then things shift again. One year something is good for you, but in the next decade it's bad for you, then something else comes along. Things shift constantly like sand on a seashore. There is one who is unchangeable – God Almighty. *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8*. We can stand on the promises of God and God alone. Our lessons for August remind us of God's sovereignty and care for all people. Put your trust in Jesus. He is the rock that does not waver.

I want to share one of our initiatives as a church, the formation of a community Christian youth group. We have a Youth Action Team in place and are planning some events and meetings with youth leaders and parents from various churches. Pray for this endeavor as we seek to nurture the young people in their lives by learning to stand on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ.

We had a great day **CANOEING** along the Red Lake River at Crookston. In all there were **18 youth** from Erskine, Mentor, McIntosh, and Fosston area. Thank you to John Carlson who organized the trip for us along with 4 chaperones Shelly Juve, Kay Caturia (John's sister), Kevin Thorson and myself. Two of the boys found a Bison skull! It was a long 12 miles on the river in canoes and kayaks and a bit of wind and rain. In all we had a great time together. God is good!

In ministry together,
Pastor Pam

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