

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

October 2023

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

We've moved into the fall season with all the activity that comes with it. Autumn is such a bounty of joy with the trees that give us a wonderful show of God's Grace. Even as these prepare to lose their leaves, they do so with attitude! What kind of attitude do we have as we go about our daily lives?

Our Sunday lessons this month of October include a walk through Paul's letter to the Philippian church. It's full of joy, but it's helpful to remember that he wrote this while he was a prisoner whose execution might be anytime. Can we have an attitude of Joy no matter what comes our way?

Philippians 4:4-7 ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Rejoice in the Lord always. That is not a surface emotion that depends on our circumstances. It is a conscious movement of God's people to take the joy and the peace and the blessing that God is and that is for each of us!

So, when things are good, turn to God and rejoice with thanksgiving. When things are terrible, look to the One who loves and hears your cries. Let Jesus know what is on your heart and what you need. We do this by prayer opening the door, by asking, and with the thanksgiving for all that is. Yes God knows, but we are supposed to share everything and in return are kept in Grace with peace that defies explanation.

We wallow in the muck, it's true, but we can with a movement of will turn and rejoice in God. Holy Spirit is always close at hand and ready to fill us with Holy love, peace, and joy no matter the circumstances. I will rejoice in the Lord. Attitude makes a difference!

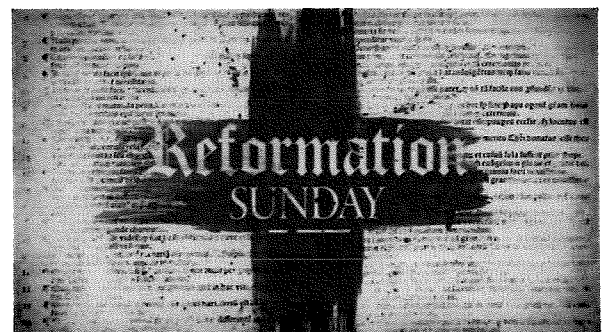
May the joy of the Lord be your strength.

In ministry together,

Pastor Pam

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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday October 11th at 7:00 PM. A reminder that all regular council meetings are open to all members of Grace Church.



September 3rd:

Attendance~ 38
Offering~\$1,622.00

September 10th:

Attendance~98
Offering~\$4,045.000

September 17th:

Attendance~87
Offering~\$1,695.00

September 24th:

Attendance~81
Offering~\$1,720.00



The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday October 12th at 2:00 PM. Group #1 will serve.

Hope Circle: October 25th at 9:00 AM at the church.

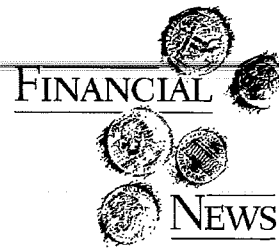
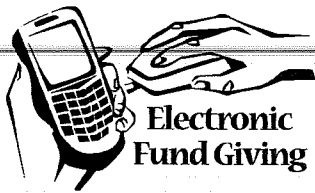
Rebecca Circle: October 26th at 6:30 PM at the church.



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.



- * Pastor Pam Thorson
- * 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



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.



August 2023 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$12,956.00

Expenses:

Administrative - \$6,896.60

Education - \$1,363.91

Mission Outreach - \$957.14

Pastoral - \$7,003.27

Worship - \$687.75

Total Expenses - \$16,908.67

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



Council Notes (full minutes will be available in the office.)

September 13, 2023

Devotions: Pastor Pam based on Exodus 18: 21 & 22 – Moses father in law, Jethro, calls him to share the load of ministry. How can we share the ministry here at Grace?

Approved reports: Council Secretary August minutes. Financial Secretary.

Treasurer's Report Highlights

August **Monthly budget goal** is \$20,221.69. Congregational giving to the **General Fund**: \$12,956. Total General Fund income: \$13,377.95. General Fund expenses: \$16,908.67 for a shortfall of \$3,530.72.

August giving down significantly from July. General Fund balance continued its declining trend in August – giving less than monthly expenses.

Pastor's Report Highlights

Home visits continue, especially with the Howe family.

Nursing home visits: Fair Meadow service every 6 weeks. McIntosh Sr. Living visits to include a full day spent with as many as possible to include memory care. Most of these are not members of Grace. Poplar Meadow Holy Communion begins monthly. Thank you to Leslie Tradewell for organizing

and assisting.

Premarital Preparation with Jarrin Gunderson and Alaina Juve through July and August. Wedding September 30.

Attended Win-E-Mac open house for Release Time registration.

The Community Wide Youth Event was well attended. Andrew Hanson lead music and a testimony. 26 youth attended!

Summer worship music was well received. We returned to LBW setting 2, our familiar music, for the fall. We will try a few new things as we go. Give feedback.

I have been asked to join the North American Lutheran Church Pastor Vetting team to evaluate pastors seeking to be received in the NALC from other denominations. This work is online.

Personal notes. Family time in Texas with our son and family. It was fun. My Aunt Violet died and I attended to the memorial service in the Twin Cities.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Stewardship Sunday is October 15th.

Love offering envelopes in the Scroll with money given to the Win-E-Mac Back Pack Program.

Short Temple talks 4 Sundays to encourage stewardship in all areas. Lori Hole will arrange with members to give a personal testimony. We have to remember that we need to keep our church strong and healthy and that means we must be able to pay our expenses. Ann will talk to the Sunday School to learn about stewardship.

Pastor Pam has written a study. This is available in the sanctuary.

Sunday October 15. of soup for the food shelf.

Time and talent cards will be available.

Education: About 30 students came for the 1st day of Sunday School.

Concern was raised about getting children to stay for church and their families. Please pray for this.

Need a 5th and 6th grade teacher. More materials ordered.

Release Time: 61 signed up for Grace and 20 for those who meet at Thriving Life. Elementary alternate with Middle and High School every other week.

Youth - Community Youth Action team consists of Grace, St. Lawrence, and Mt. Carmel leaders. First event well attended.

WNALC: September 14. Study: Joy week 5. Group 8 serving.

Auction coming up. Wade making corn hole for auction. Pie Social.

In October discussion will center on new ideas to disburse money earned.

Hollie asks for names of 80-year-old women for November; they will receive a devotion book.

Trustees: Air conditioner not working properly. Running on one compressor or not at all. Gene reminding Ryan.

Sunday School room wall removed creating a big room. Lance Erickson did the work. Food Shelf building – Lance put in eave trough and downspout on the garage to keep water off concrete. Church will pay for the

Continued on Page 7



Graceful Living – Creating a Biblical Attitude of Graceful Living (Stewardship)

Pastor Pam

I wrote this bible study a few years ago. I was tasked with talking about Stewardship. Yes, that word that church people dread. I can hear the comments already, “Stewardship time again and the church asks for money!” I came up with a totally different viewpoint as I delved into God’s design. Pick up a copy on the table in the sanctuary.

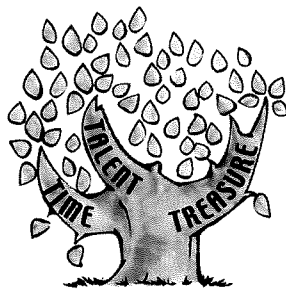
We are Merely Managers.

What is stewardship? A steward is someone put in charge of that which they’ve been entrusted, a manager. A steward takes care of resources making the greatest return on investment for the owner.

We learn that God owns everything. All that we have comes from God and belongs to God. (1 Chronicles 29). We also learn that God provides for those who know and love him. I think knowing that sets us free to give of our time, our talents, and our treasure.

I invite you to consider your giving for the coming year. It is our responsibility to give in **Care of Creation**, of **God’s Grace**, and of the **Gospel Truth**. What **Time** can you give

to the Lord, to the church? What **Talents** do you have that will bless the Lord and how will you use them in the church and community? What will you do with the money, (**Treasure**) that God has given? We give what is: 1. Due. 2. First. (before we spend our time, talents, and treasure). 3. Intentionally setting apart. 4. Proportionally. 5. Regularly. 6. Generously. 7. Cheerfully.



Confirmation NEWS

Confirmation Classes will be held at 6 PM Wednesdays with the exception of October 18 which is a Win-E-Mac football game. If you can assist in helping Pastor Pam teach, see Pastor since we don’t know what the medical schedule will be.



On Sunday October 29th, 5 students will come forward and reaffirm their baptismal promise. Please keep these young people in your prayers.

Jordyn Halstad, Josie Johnson, Claire Juve, Riley Kochmann and Cameron Svalen.



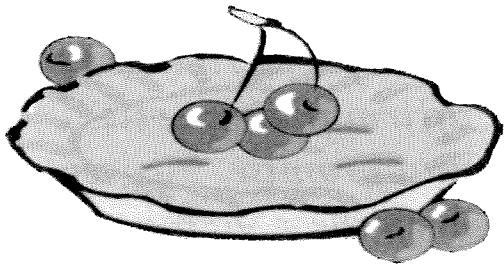
Community Wide Youth Group

Bonfire at the Nathan Johnson place. October 20. More information coming.

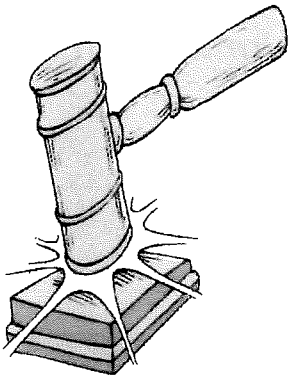
Grace Lutheran Church Erskine, MN WNALC

Annual Auction

Wednesday, October 4, 2023



6:30 p.m. Free Pie Social



7:00 p.m. **AUCTION BEGINS**

Baked goods, canned goods, arts, crafts,
plants, and maybe a batch of lefse or two.

Bring your auction spirit and wallet!



Church Orchestra

On 21 September, the Grace Lutheran Church orchestra began its fall rehearsal season. There are several musicians that enjoy making music together and are planning to enhance our worship services..

Our current repertoire includes a few Bach chorales and hymns from the Lutheran Book of Worship. As we move forward, we have identified some contemporary praise and worship songs i.e., *Amazing Grace*, *My Chains Are Gone* and are also looking forward to Christmas with A Christmas Trilogy (*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, *Silent Night* and *Angels We Have Heard on High*).

The orchestra's next rehearsal will be on 19 October from 7:00 to 8:00 pm and continue on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Any other people interested in participating should contact Kevin for information and/or attend the next rehearsal.

Please pray for this up-and-coming ministry.

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

GRACE COUNCIL, continued
expense since we own the property.

Eave trough installed on church by the front door of the narthex.

Deacons -Did congregational visits, gave rides, and visited Polk County Jail.

Video Tech -Boosted the microphones. Working on the mic issue.

Food Shelf: 36 households. 2,605.4 pounds of items disbursed. Win-E-Mac seniors helped. Thank you to volunteers Shirlee M., Marcy, Cherie, Betty, and Mike. Move: Floor is nearly done. LED lighting put up. Mavis plans move August 30-31. New shelving to arrive soon.

Food Shelf sign to be placed in Narthex for donations.

Open House for Grace October 1 after church and during SS for students.

Old Business:

Building Committee: Met with Professional builder/architect. 2 proposals. Plans to fix SS roof must fit long-term plans to make additions or changes to building's footprint. We don't want to have to redo work. We must spend money to give us concrete, long-term plans to guide in decision making about additions. Plans are both functional and in tune with mission and needs.

Rally Day. Low attendance for potluck. Good food and good time.

Usher Team – Meeting October 24 after worship.

Youth Action Team: meet September 20. Youth attend concert Rend Collective in Bemidji October 1.

Outdoor sign will continue to be looked at. Gathering proposal from Steward Co.

Next meeting October 11 at 7 PM.

Anonymous donation for \$35,000 with designated funds listed.

USHER MINISTRY

Do you have a servant's heart? Do you love Jesus? Ushers serve a vital role in the worship life of the church. They make people feel comfortable, welcome, and cared for. In addition, ushers assist in the flow of movement for things like Holy Communion.

The fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23 is a solid guideline for a good usher: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Take care of the people. Assist the pastor in worship needs.

We are seeking to involve men, women, and children in the usher ministry. Families can certainly work together. We are revamping this ministry and will have duties and schedules. Please make yourself known. Sign up on the sheet in the sanctuary. It is a privilege to serve.

To Pay your offering via ACH to Grace Lutheran Church, please return this completed, signed form and a deposit slip or voided check to the church office at 332 Vance Ave, Erskine, MN 56535.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

**ACH Authorization Agreement
Offering (ACH Debits)**

I hereby authorize Grace Lutheran Church to initiate debit entries, via Automatic Clearing House (ACH), to my Account at the depository financial institution named below, hereafter called DEPOSITORY, and to debit the same to such account. I acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

Depository Name: _____ Branch Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Routing Transit Number: _____ Account: _____

Account Type (Please Circle): Savings Checking (attach deposit slip or voided check)

Pay Weekly Fixed Amount: \$ _____.
(Withdrawn Monday following Worship)

Pay Monthly Fixed Amount: \$ _____.
(Withdrawn First of the Month)

Start Date: _____

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until Grace Lutheran Church has received written notification from authorized individual of a change or termination in such time and in such manner as to afford Grace Lutheran Church and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name: _____
Customer

Required Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

For Grace Lutheran Church Accounting Purpose Only

Building Fund \$ _____ General Fund \$ _____ Offering Envelope # _____

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 OCTOBER**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

October 1, 2023

First Reading - Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm - Psalm 25:1-10

Second Reading - Philippians 2:1-4, 5-13, 14-18

Gospel - Matthew 21:23-27, 28-32

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023

First Reading - Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm - Psalm 80:7-19

Second Reading - Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel - Matthew 21:33-46

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023

First Reading - Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm - Psalm 23:1-6

Second Reading - Philippians 4:4-13

Gospel - Matthew 22:1-14

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023

First Reading - Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm - Psalm 96:1-9, 10-13

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Gospel - Matthew 22:15-22

Reformation Sunday

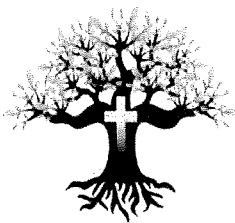
October 29, 2023

First Reading - Revelation 14:6-7

Psalm - Psalm 46:1-11

Second Reading - Romans 3:19-28

Gospel - John 8:31-36

**STEWARDSHIP***Managing God's Gifts To Us*

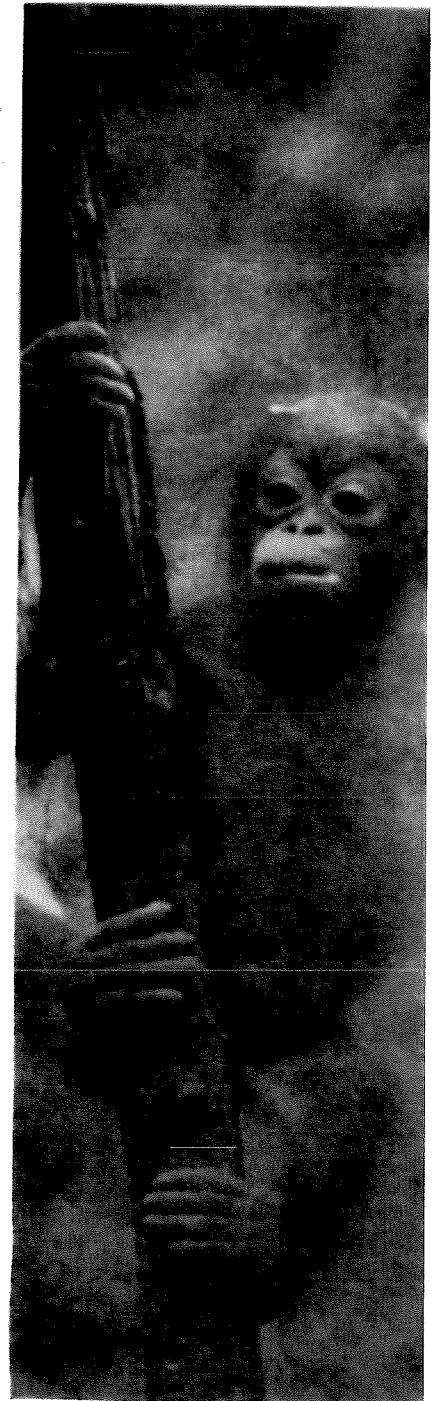
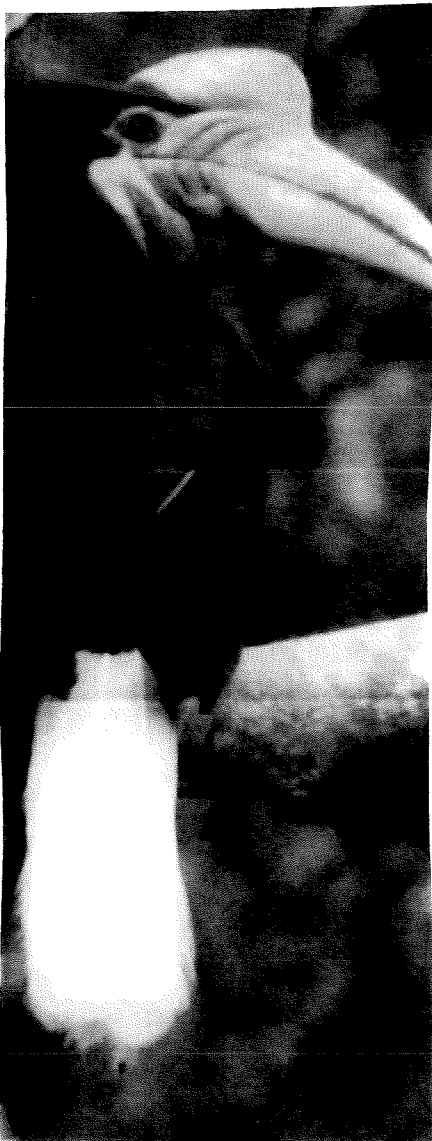
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
OCTOBER 15TH

Letter to my sponsor

Tanggal (Date) 03 Juni 2023

June, 19th 2023 Peace be with you. How are you Sponsor? I am happy to write you this letter. I hope you are doing well. Me and my family are all well. I am happy because I finished my study in Junior high school and I can continue my study in Senior high school. I hope I can have new friends. At the project, I am in the 15-18 years old group. I am now in the school holiday. I help my parents at home with washing the dishes, cleaning the bedroom, taking care of my younger sibling and doing the laundries. I also play with my friends, we play soccer, games and others. How are your activities? What are your activities? It is the rainy season here, the temperature here is 14 degree Celsius. How is the weather at your place? I always pray for you and your family to be in God's protection. Please pray for me and my family too.

That is all from me. God bless you. Peace be with you.



OCTOBER 2023

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES
Hope
Rebecca

at the church
at the church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	2 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	3 7am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	4 8am-Prayer Gath- ering 1:55pm-RT Class 6:00pm-Conf. Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	5 7pm-Orchestra Practice	6 9am- Rebroadcast	7 9am- Rebroadcast
8 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	9 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	10 7am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	11 8am-Prayer Gathering 1:55pm-RT Class 6:00pm-Conf. Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7pm-Council Mtg.	12 2pm-WNALC 3-7pm-Food Shelf is open	13 9am- Rebroadcast	14 9am- Rebroadcast
15 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	16 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	17 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	18 8am-Prayer Gathering 10:30am-Pr. @ Pop- lar Meadows 1:55pm-RT Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast <i>Continued Below</i>	19 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open 7pm-Orchestra Practice	20 9am- Rebroadcast	21 9am- Rebroadcast
22 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship	23 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	24 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	25 8am-Prayer Gathering 9am-Hope Circle 1:55pm-RT Class 6:00pm-Conf. Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	26 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	27 9am- Rebroadcast	28 9am- Rebroadcast
29 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/ Confirmation	30 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	31 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	4 6:30pm-Pie & Cof- fee 7pm-Fall Auction	Greeters: 1st: Don & Betty Lundin 8th: Paul & Kim Mahlen	15th: Mark & Cindy Nelson 22nd: Jeff & Kris Nornes	29th: Debbie Noyes

Ushers :
Terry Strom
Allen Jenson
Brian Stuhaug family
Tony Stuhaug family

Communion Assistants:
Hollie Stewart
Tyler Brekken

Altar Flowers:
Hope Circle

Altar Guild:
Patil Hamre
Kristi Plante

R= Reader
A=Acolyte
P=Power Point

OCTOBER 1st:
R~~ Kris Nornes
A~~ Cameron Svalen and Riley
Kochman
P~~ Jordyn Halstad and Josie Johnson

OCTOBER 8th:
R~~ Kim Mahjen
A~~ Kale Smeby and Charley Carlson
P~~ Gracey Gunderson and Shelby
Shimpa

OCTOBER 15th:
R~~ Jason Carlson
A~~ Karl Jax and Brecken Gunderson
P~~ Bella Semn and Malaina Jax

OCTOBER 22nd:
R~~ Tyler Brekken
A~~ Logan Johnson and Carson
Fortman
P~~ Jayden Haugen and Carter
Fortman

OCTOBER 29th:
R~~ Jeff Nornes
A~~ Charley Carlson and George Juve
P~~ Shelby Shimpa and Hannah
Shimpa