

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

February 2024



PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends in Christ,

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." Philippians 4:8

Keeping one's spirit in good shape is difficult when bad things are happening in one's life. I cannot say that Chemotherapy and all things surrounding cancer and really any illness is easy. There are times when misery sets in and if we're not careful, it can overtake us. I have found this verse from Philippians to give me help. We have a choice, wallow in the worst, which we might do for a while, or/and find something positive to think about.

I think about the many good people surrounding me with prayer, soup, cards, and love. I am truly grateful for the caring people of Grace and the body of Christ that surrounds me. I'd be remiss if I didn't thank my husband, Kevin for his care and patience – and sense of humor. There have been complications that the body decided to enact that have little to do with cancer treatments. Those are not fun. But even so, God is still sovereign and loves us more than we can imagine. The Almighty doesn't decide if we'll get cancer or any other disease, but walks with us in the journey. God gives good gifts. We don't know why some make it and some don't. But we do know that this is a fallen world with a Savior who loves us and promises to be with us. That gives me strength.

Someone asked me, "don't you wonder 'why me?'" That never occurred to me. Why should it? No one should have to suffer. What that old devil puts on us, doesn't even belong to us. With God on our side, we will face whatever lies ahead and trust in Jesus to make something good of it. We do know that the greatest promise we have is that whether we live or die, we will be with Christ. That's good news.

In ministry together,

Pastor Pam

Inside this issue:

WNALC Meeting	2
Attendance & Offerings	2
Circle Meetings	2
Council Meeting	2
Prayer Concerns	2
Financial News	3

January Grace Council	
Highlights	4
Grace Council continued	5
Ash Wednesday	6
Giving Options	7

February Readings	8
Grace Council	8
Members	
February Calendar	



The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Sunday, February 11th after church service. A reminder that all regular council meetings are open to all members of Grace Church.



The Grace WNALC does not meet during the winter months. See you in the Spring.

Hope Circle: February 28th at 10:00 AM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: February 22nd at 6:30 PM at the church.



- * Pastor Tim Lundeen
- * Ron Juve
- * Mark Wild
- * Bill Donner
- * Greg Strand
- * Pastor Pam Thorson
- * Annette Farder
- * Carr Smeby
- * Wendy Smeby
- * Maci Smeby
- * Allen Jenson
- * Steve & Linda Evenson
- * Becki Haugen
- * Dianne Hamre
- * Dan Salvhus
- * Jesse Hickman
- * Dustin Close
- * Greg Kaster
- * Jolene Bradley
- * Torrey Erickson
- * Shut-ins and Nursing Home members
- * Ukraine
- * Israel



January 7th:
Attendance~72
Offering~\$2,630

January 14th:
Attendance~ 70
Offering~\$3,690

January 21st:
Attendance~ 77
Offering~\$2,200

January 28th:
Attendance~
Offering~\$



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.



Financial concerns. Grace is a generous congregation and we thank you for contributing to the work of God. We do have some concerns. In 2023, giving has not kept pace with expenses. Even by cutting expenses, our giving is not holding tight. We are in the red at the end of 2023. Our main fund is the general operating fund. As a council, we encourage our members and friends to contribute directly to the General Fund first and foremost. While we have endowments, we cannot rely on those to take care of our everyday needs. God always provides and we will continue to be faithful stewards of all we have.



November 2023 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund -
\$13,462.00

Expenses:

Administrative -	\$13,098.30
Education -	\$0.00
Mission Outreach -	\$3,123.00
Pastoral -	\$7,003.27
Worship -	\$588.87
Total Expenses -	\$23,813.44
Net Loss -	(10,351.44)

December 2023 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund -
\$16,395.50

Expenses:

Administrative -	\$10,790.03
Education -	\$2,726.83
Mission Outreach -	\$1,244.96
Pastoral -	\$7,667.55
Worship -	\$4,424.00
Total Expenses -	\$26,853.37
Net Loss -	(10,457.87)



GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

January 10, 2024

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

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

Devotions: President John lead us discussion from *Growing Together*. Our prayer dealt with worrying and reminding us to know that God will take care of us Today, in the Future, as he has in the Past. Do NOT worry about all our day-to-day frustrations. We talked about what do we as a council about worry. 1 John chapter 4: says worry is fear. God will provide us with all we need.

Approve Agenda: Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Motion carried. (Report on file)

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report

Undesignated funds available to be used for December's General Fund expenses totaled \$20,024.48. This amount was again **significantly** less than the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$26,853.37.

Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$16,395.50. The monthly budget goal is \$20,221.69.

Noteworthy Other Giving:

Miscellaneous – A majority of this category is comprised of a capital credit check from Garden Valley (\$13,244.12). This represents a special payout of 50% of all capital credits that the church had at Garden Valley. The remaining 50% is retained by the cooperative and no longer owed to the church. Per the direction of the Trustees, this balance was moved to the Building Fund in anticipation of the construction of a new roof on the Education Wing in 2024.

Budget Report

We ended the month/year at approximately 13.7% or **\$33,300 under budget.**

All of the line items that ended up over budget at year-end were closely reviewed and considered when determining the 2024 Budget that will be approved at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

History of the General Fund Balance

Despite the increase of donations in December, expenses again **significantly** exceeded total giving.

As a result, there was a negative balance at month/year end.

Since the General Fund CD does not mature until March 2024, funds were transferred from the Oil Church Operating Fund to cover the deficit and bring the balance to \$0.

Other Information

January 1st marks the start of my 17th year as your treasurer.

(**THANK YOU JIM!)

Since there is currently conversation regarding fixing the education wing roof, the council may want to consider liquidating the Gunderson Investment since it is at the highest balance ever and is currently approximately \$26,000 over our initial investment.

Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Youth Ministry: Pres. John reported Upcoming tubing trip to Buena Vista. Going to take a bus with a 60 passenger capacity.

Feb 5 will be the next event planning meeting. The event will be at St. Lawrence on Feb 25. March: Possibly cross-country skiing or broomball. April: Feed My Starving Children in GF.

Stewardship: No report

Education: Ann submitted a written report. Sunday School presented their Christmas program on Sunday, December 17. After a two week holiday break, Sunday School classes resumed on January 7. We are looking forward to a good second half of the year.

WNALC: Hollie reported. No meetings until March. Working on the WNALC serving book at this time.

Trustees: Gene reported (report in the old business section)

Deacons: Gary reported. God has a perfect plan from Genesis Chapter 1:27 & 28. Work in God's image. Say YES to God's love and No to Satan's influence. Go and serve the Lord.

Video Ministry: Nick reported. Still working on buying a new tv.

Food Shelf: Gene reported (Mavis Haugum, Coordinator submitted report). In December we served 39 households. (The previous 3 months we served 42-45 households per month). Disbursed 2500# of food in December. Of the 39 households, we served 90 individuals. (served 1 new patron). Changing hours: Moving our second Thursday hours from 3-7pm to 2-6pm. Received over 2700 pounds of food today. Two more volunteers will start this week.

Old Business:

Nominating Committee: Nominating Committee presented a slate for the Annual Meeting. Gary made a motion to approve the nominating committee's list. Nick seconded. Motion carried. Hollie made a motion to approve Tina Farrell as the Financial Secretary. Pastor Pam seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary (see motion above) Dorothy is retiring after 49 years! Thank you Dorothy!

Usher Team: Team will be calling interested people. Please volunteer if you can be a user. Let John, Daryl, Wade or Ogden know

Office help update: Marcia H. and Mavis H. are doing the in-house office fill while Kim is on leave. Carla F. is doing the Newsletter and Bulletin from home. Lori H will be running off the newsletters and getting them ready for mailing. Yvonne H. will be doing the PowerPoint slide shows with Pastor and getting them to Nick for publication.

Building Committee Update: Gene reported. Dean Bursheim gave a presentation, regarding what can be done to fix our roof, to the committee. He will be at the Annual Meeting with information for the congregation. Steve Jacobson is working with him. They provided the council with printed plans for the roof along with some cost estimates.

Hollie moved that the Council give the Building Committee permission to present this plan at the Annual Meeting. Seconded by Gary. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting – reports due January 19th. **No exceptions.**

Church Database software update: John reported. Pastor Pam and John have been evaluating options. The *Church Meetings* software will run \$35-\$39 per month. The charges are based on the number of users. John is recommending that we purchase *Church Meetings* which also includes training. Pastor Pam agreed with this choice. Gary moved that we purchase *Church Meetings*. Gene seconded it. Motion carried.

Counter Reports: Pastor Pam provided us with an example of counter sheets that can be used for offerings. We will be beginning to use counters for offerings.

New Business:

Distribution of Thanksgiving and Christmas donations. \$2480.00. Hollie moved to designate the funds to the General Fund. Lori seconded. Motion carried.

Lent: Begins February 14, Ash Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. Soup supper before Lenten services will be served. We need to ask for volunteers! Supper will be served from 6-7.

Set time for Executive Council to set the agenda for the Annual Meeting. John and Pastor.

Announcements

Annual Meeting, January 28, following worship services. Next month's meeting date is Sunday, February 11, following services. ****NOTE** change of date.**

Adjourn

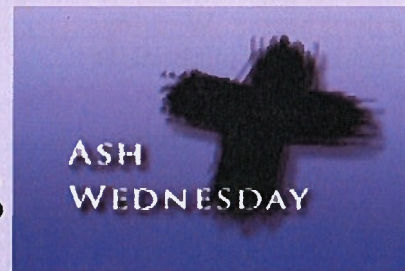
Closed with prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Halverson



Lent Begins



Ash Wednesday February 14

Evening prayer starting at 7:15 p.m.

Weekly Lenten Soup Suppers

6:00 p.m.

(please let the office know if you are willing to help.)

Sign-up sheet will be at the back of the church)

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.



thrivent



Electronic
Fund Giving

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

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 –



GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pr. Pam Thorson	Pastor	270-872-8269
John Carlson	President	
Russ Johnson	Vice President	
Yvonne Halvorson	Secretary	687-5190
Tina Farrell	Financial Secretary	
Jim Ferden	Treasurer	563-2377
Gary Walter	Deacon	687-3074
Carla Ferden	Deacon	563-2377
Gene Haugom	Trustee	563-3292
Ray LaBrecque	Trustee	
Steve Jacobson	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 FEBRUARY**

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 4, 2024 • First Sunday after Epiphany
 First Reading - Isaiah 40:21-31
 Psalm - 147:1-12)
 Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 9:16-27
 Gospel - Mark 1:29-39

Transfiguration of Our Lord Last Sunday After Epiphany

February 11, 2024
 First Reading - Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalm—50:1-6 (2)
 Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 4:1-6
 Gospel - Mark 9:2-9

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024
 First Reading - Joel 2:12-19
 Psalm—51:1-13 (14-20)
 Second Reading—2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
 Gospel - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024
 First Reading - Genesis 22:1-18
 Psalm: 25:1-10 (10)
 Second Reading - James 1:12-18
 Gospel - Mark 1:9-15

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024
 First Reading - Genesis 17-1-7, 15-16
 Psalm - 22:23-30
 Second Reading - Romans 5:1-11
 Gospel - Mark 8:27-38

President's Day!

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

LIFE MATTERS!

FOSSTON THEATRE
 MONDAY FEB. 19TH

1 PM
 HORTON HEARS A WHO

4 PM
 THE HILL

SPONSORED BY MCCL #45

FEBRUARY

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES

Hope
Rebecca

at the church
at the church

Ushers :

Communion Assistants:

Dorothy Sandberg
Stacy Tadman

Altar Flowers:

Hope Circle

Altar Guild:

Sarah Strom
Shelly Juve

R= Reader

A=Acolyte

P=Power Point

FEBRUARY 4th:

R~ Carla Ferden

A~ Brecken Gunderson and Karl Jax

P~ Gracey Gunderson and Malaina Jax

FEBRUARY 11th:

R~ Hollie Stewart

A~ Kale Smeby and Owen Strom

P~ Tatum Smeby and Addyson

Morgenroth

FEBRUARY 18th:

R~ Jim Ferden

A~ Jorgen Johnson and Scott Omundson

P~ Hayden Johnson and Jayden Haugen

FEBRUARY 25th:

R~ Mavis Haugom

A~ Carson Fortman and Logan Johnson

P~ Carter Fortman and Rian Bergh

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm-Orchestra Practice	2	3 9am- Rebroadcast
4 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	5 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	6 7am-MBS @ Ness Café 2pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	7 8am-Prayer Gathering 1:55pm-RT Class 6:00pm-Conf. Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	8 2-6pm-Food Shelf is open	9 10am-Pr. @ Fair Meadows	10 9am- Rebroadcast
11 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm. 11:30—Council Mtg.	12 9:30am -LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	13 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 2pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	14 Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm—Lenton Soup Supper 7:15 pm—Evening Prayer	15 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open 7pm-Orchestra Practice	16	17 9am- Rebroadcast
18 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	19 9:30am-LBS 10am-Rebroadcast	20 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 2pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	21 6:00 pm—Lenton Soup Supper 7:15 pm—Evening Prayer	22	23	24 9am- Rebroadcast
25 9am-ABS 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	26 9:30am-LBS 10am-Rebroadcast	27 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 2pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	29 10:30am-Pr.@ Poplar Meadows 6:00 pm—Lenton Soup Supper 7:15 pm—Evening Prayer	29 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle		
			EVERY WEDNESDAY: 8am-Prayer Gathering 1:55pm-RT Class 6:00pm-Conf. Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	Greeters: 4th: Brian & Lisa Stuhaug 11th: Keith & Linda Stuhaug	18th: Tony & Heidi Stuhaug 25th: Jason & Shannon Svalen	