

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

April 2024

PASTOR'S CORNER

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Happy Easter to all,

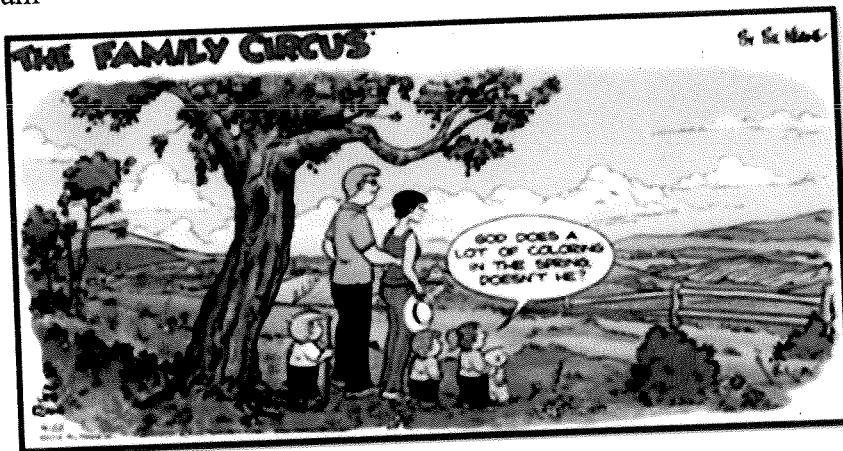
As Christians we take time every year to remember the sacrifice that our Lord Jesus made for us to carry our sin and suffering to the Cross upon which he died. In his death as fully man, he could carry sin. Because he is fully God, he can forgive. By this our sin and suffering was placed on the Cross. But the grave is not the end. On the third day Jesus conquered death, sin, and evil as he rose from the dead through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the meaning of Easter whereby we are set free from the bondage to sin. Jesus made the way for us to the Father and the promise of Eternal Life. This is the joy of Easter. Jesus Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Our long winter here in Minnesota is nearly over. In my own life, my long winter of journeying through cancer treatments is just about over. Chemotherapy and surgery have been successful. Now it is time to heal. Kevin and I give thanks for all the notes, prayers, and gifts to make sure we're eating well. God has provided the good folk of this community to surround us well. As we look to the future, we do so with hope. Many have been through difficulties and we keep all in prayer.

As spring is budding with hope, we find renewal in this Easter time. God is good to us in giving the sun to shine and longer days. Let us rejoice in the Son whose light shines always.

In ministry together,

Pastor Pam



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Pastor Pam will be leading a New Member Class on Sunday May 5th and May 12th at 9:00AM. If you or someone you know would like to join the Grace family, please call the church office to speak with Pastor Pam.



The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday April 10th 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 April 11th at 2:00 PM. Group #4 will serve.

Hope Circle: April 25th at 10:00AM at the church.

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



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



February 25th:
Attendance~ 71
Offering~\$2,070.00

March 3rd:
Attendance~60
Offering~\$1,807.25

March 10th:
Attendance~ 76
Offering~\$2,603.00

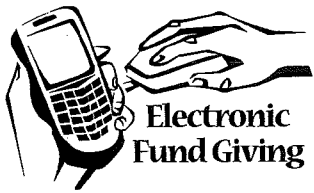
March 17th:
Attendance~ 78
Offering~\$1,673.00

March 24th:
Attendance~ 117
Offering~ \$3934.00

March 31st:
Attendance~ 163
Offering~ \$2,550.00



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.



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.



February 2024 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$14,283.26

Expenses:

Administrative - \$9,924.19
 Education - \$0.00
 Mission Outreach - \$820.00
 Pastoral - \$6,859.33
 Worship - \$874.41
 Total Expenses - \$18,477.93

Net Loss- (\$4,194.67)

thrivent

Did you know?
 If you are a Thrivent member, you are eligible to receive mon-

ey 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.org/cotribute). 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



In the absence of Council president, Vice President Russ Johnson chaired the meeting.

Financial Secretary:

Operating Income - \$14,744.90

Outreach Income - \$133.00

Building Fund - \$2890.00

Roof fund- \$ 2800.00

Gen. Building- \$90.00

Treasurer highlights:

Undesignated funds available to be used for February's General Fund expenses totaled \$15,018.24. This amount was **substantially** less than the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$18,477.93.

o For four months (since November 2023), General Fund expenses have exceeded General Fund donations. Expenses have exceeded donations in a range from \$3,400 - \$7,200; with February being the smallest deficit. Donations to the General Fund need to increase and expenses need to be closely watched.

o Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$14,568.00. The monthly budget goal is \$21,363.85. Noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration:

Church & Parsonage Fuel –

Two propane fills in February.

Financial Secretary – Paid Dorothy for her work in January.

Workers Comp – Paid an additional premium after the audit was completed.

History of the General Fund Balance

The General Fund had a negative balance at month end, similar to several prior months.

The balance in the report reflects the balance of the CD less the deficit in the General Fund.

Pastor:

Surgery March 12.

Lay Sunday March 17 – Jason Carlson.

Minkota Mission District Convocation – April 5-6 @ Sandhill Lake Bible Camp. Elections to be held.

February Miles submitted. 137.

Worship – Lenten Wednesday Evening services going well.

Home Communion Team – Several have agreed to bring communion into homes. Training will follow. List is prepared.

Good Friday Service is the 7 Last Words of Christ. 7 PM. Rehearsal will be at 9:30 Palm Sunday.

Youth:

February 25 @ St. Lawrence. 26 students in attendance.

March 24th renting the Fosston Theatre for youth and families.

Movie not chosen yet.

April 27th service event for Feed My Starving Children.

May will be the service activity of cleaning ditches.

August 4 Toby Mac concert in Grand Forks.

Stewardship:

Easter breakfast will be muffins and sides. An egg hunt will follow. Youth will fill and hide the eggs. Jason Carlson donated 2-4ft tables for the back of the sanctuary. Thank you Carlsons.

Education:

- Feb sent out 19 cards for Valentines. Received very nice responses and a check to help this event continue.

- Operation Christmas Child—most at the distribution center ever!

- Bible camp info went out today.

- Palm Sunday children will be singing and marching in the palm processional.

- Finalizing VBS dates.

- Ordered released time materials for next year.

We NEED to find a new Director of Education. Please prayerfully consider serving.

WNALC: First meeting will be in April.

- o We will be making Health Care kits for Disaster Response. Inviting congregation to make these. They will go to the Minkota MD meeting.

Thank you Mavis Haugum for agreeing to be the VP!

Trustees & Building Committee. Gene reported

- Roof Reconstruction. The project may start earlier than originally anticipated due to the warm weather.

- o Possibly adding an egress entry as emergency exit for the balcony if feasibility and costs are reasonable.

- o Steve Jacobson plans to meet with a structural engineer to confirm that the new construction creates no issues with the existing building.

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Created Janitorial contract. Met with and renewed contract with Brian Stuhau. Text Brian with any extra needs. .

Deacons: Carla is coordinating the communion servers.

Food Shelf: Feb 2024 report

Served 34 households with 8 new visitors. Distributed 2007# of food.

Ages 0-17 = 21; Ages 18-64 = 51; Age 65+ = 16; **88** individuals served.

Old Business:

Usher team: They are using the new software to compile the list.

Software update. Implementing financial use.

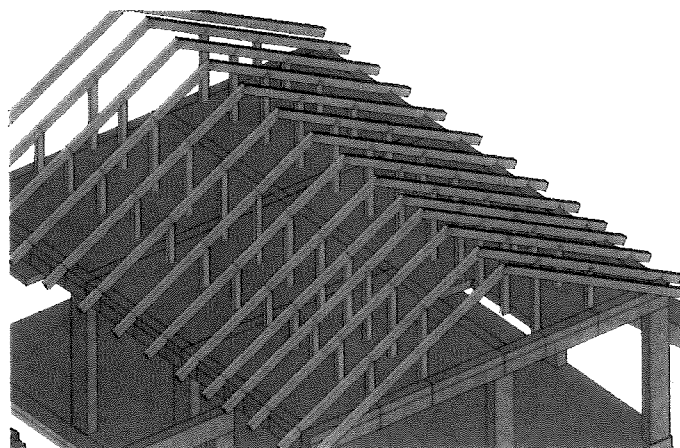
New Business:

Win-E-Mac Community Youth Group: Ann Brekken made a motion to make a donation of \$1000 to "Feed My Children" on behalf of the WEM Community Youth Group from GLC. Motion carried.

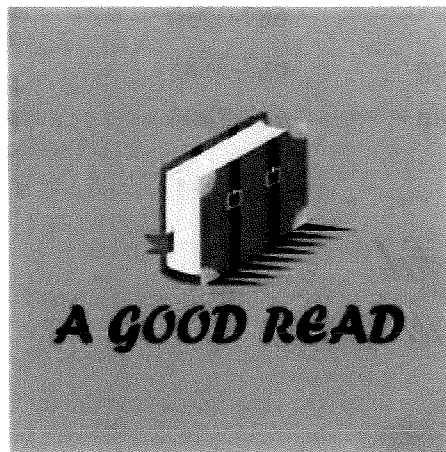
Roof Loan Application: Hollie Stewart made a motion to authorize trustees and Jim to set up a construction loan with a line of credit up to \$175,000.

Sunday School Classrooms 9 & 10. Needs are: flooring, painting, trim work, electric outlet, and heating element repair.

This prompted a discussion on Building Funds. Decision was made to keep Building Funds separate from Roof Reconstruction Funds. These can be used later if need be.



Our Roof Reconstruction is on schedule for early summer. We do not have the funds to pay for this but count on God's provision as we complete this much-needed project. This will take care of the many recurring leaks throughout the Education wing. Seek the Lord in deciding how you can contribute. Earmark your giving to the Roof project. Above all, keep this in your prayers.



Do you like to read? Recommend ed: *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

This month we remember Christian theologian Rev. Dr. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German theologian, pastor, and modern Christian martyr known for opposing Nazi ideologies, helping Jews escape Germany, and conspiring to overthrow Hitler. He was hanged by the Nazis April 9, 1945 at Flossenburg Extermination Camp, Germany.

One of his most famous published

works is *The Cost of Discipleship* (1937). He taught that Christianity and discipleship are inseparable.

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." (pg. 44-45).

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



Grace is a generous congregation and we thank you for contributing to the work of God. We do have some financial concerns. In 2023, giving did not keep pace with expenses. We were 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.

**LECTIONARY READINGS
FOR APRIL****Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024**

First Reading - Acts 4:32-35
Psalm - Psalm 148:1-14
Second Reading - 1 John 1:1-2:2
Gospel - John 20:19-31

**Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024**

First Reading - Acts 3:11-21
Psalm - Psalm 4:1-8
Second Reading - 1 John 3:1-7
Gospel - Luke 24:36-49

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024**

First Reading - Acts 4:1-12
Psalm - Psalm 23:1-6
Second Reading - 1 John 3:16-24
Gospel - John 10:11-18

**Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024**

First Reading - Acts 8:26-40
Psalm - Psalm 150:1-6
Second Reading - 1 John 4:1-11, 12-21
Gospel - John 15:1-8

HELP!

We need your help! We're updating our member list for the new church software. We would like to have your contact information i.e. address, phone number, email address. Thank you for your help with this.

~Church Office

APRIL

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES

Hope
Rebecca

at the church
at the church

Ushers :

Dave Hamre
Nicolas Walk
Jim Tadman
Carr Smeby

Communion Assistants:
Gary & Maxine Walter

Altar Flowers:
Rebecca Circle

Altar Guild:
Lori Hole
Nicki Carlson

R= Reader

A=Acolyte

P=Power Point

APRIL 7th:

R~ Sandy Bixby

A~ Carter Fortman and Rian Bergh

P~ Carson Fortman and Logan Johnson

APRIL 14th:

R~ Betty Lundin

A~ Charley Carlson and George Juve

P~ Shelby Shimpa and Hannah Shimpa

APRIL 21st:

R~ Liz Jenson

A~ Lillian Shimpa and Jareth Walk

P~ Faith Omundson and Hope Omundson

APRIL 28th:

R~ Gary Walter

A~ Brecken Gunderson and Karl Jax

P~ Bella Senn and Malaina Jax

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	2 7am-MBS @ Ness Café 2pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	3 1:55pm-RT Class 6:00pm-Conf. Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	4 7pm-Orchestra Practice	5	6 9am- Rebroadcast
7 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	8 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	9 7am-MBS @ Ness Café 2pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	10 1:55pm-RT Class 6:00pm-Conf. Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7pm-Council Mtg.	11 2pm-WNALC 2-6pm-Food Shelf is open	12	13 9am- Rebroadcast
14 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	15 9:30am -LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	16 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 2pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	17 1:55pm-RT Class 6pm-Conf. Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	18 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open 7pm-Orchestra Practice	19 SCROLL ARTI- CLES DUE	20 9am- Rebroadcast
21 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	22 9:30am-LBS 10am-Rebroadcast	23 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 2pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.	24 9am-Hope Circle 1:55pm-RT Class 6:00pm-Conf. Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	25 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	26	27 9am- Rebroadcast
28 9am-ABS 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	29 9:30am-LBS 10am-Rebroadcast	30 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 2pm-BSF 8pm-AA mtg.				
				Greeters: 7th: Ray & Joyce Voxland 14th: Nick & Pam Walk	21st: Gary & Angie Walker 28th: Gary & Max- ine Walter	