

# The Scroll

Grace Lutheran  
Church

May 2024



## PASTOR'S CORNER



This is a beautiful time of year as finally the trees are budding and the grass is green. Thank you, Lord. May is always a busy time in communities as another school year wraps up with all the activities. Graduation time for seniors and families is a tremendous event. This year there will be a Baccalaureate service for the seniors at Win-E-Mac Arts and Events Center on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. We've got involvement local churches, parents and our Community Youth Group as well as teachers and most of all the seniors. This is a time to acknowledge our Lord and pray blessing for the class as they begin a new phase of their lives.

The church enters a new season this month with Pentecost Sunday on May 19<sup>th</sup>. This is the infilling of the church with Holy Spirit who descended on the those many gathered in prayer and worship in Jerusalem where Jesus directed them. <sup>8</sup> *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8.*

We pray for a fresh wind of the Spirit to blow and fan the flames of love in the church today. We have the Spirit within us as we come to faith in Jesus. But we can always grow in love and in the gifts that the Spirit brings. Pentecost season continues through the rest of our church year. For Christians Pentecost is a never-ending gift.

This summer we may take vacations, but don't take a break from God and church. We're all stronger as we share together in worship and prayer.

Come Holy Spirit and bless the lives of our children, our youth, our graduates, young families and older, our senior members, and our community.

In ministry together,

Pastor Pam

WNALC Meeting	2
Attendance & Offerings	2
Circle Meetings	2
Council Meeting	2
Prayer Concerns	2
Financial News	3
Honoring Our Graduates	4
New Roof News	5
WNALC News	5
Summer Worship Service	5
Grace Council	6
May Readings	7
Grace Council Members	7
Grace Council, continued	8
May Happenings	9
May Calendar	10

### 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 May 8th at 7:30 PM. A reminder that all regular council meetings are open to all members of Grace Church.



**April 7th:**  
Attendance~ 81  
Offering~\$4,215.00

**April 14th:**  
Attendance~ 74  
Offering~\$3030.89

**April 21st:**  
Attendance~107  
Offering~\$4,955.00

**April 28th:**  
Attendance~113  
Offering~\$1686.00



The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday May 9th at 2:00 PM at McIntosh Senior Living. *\*Please note change in location.*

**Hope Circle:** May 22nd at 9:00AM at the church.

**Rebecca Circle:** May 23rd at 6:30 PM at the church.

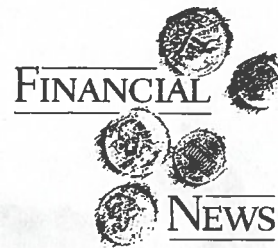


**REMINDER** – Please save your grocery receipts from Groceries Plus in Erskine and Jered's Grocery in McIntosh. Both stores are donating one percent of the total purchases to the youth group. There is a container for the receipts at the church in the hallway by the coat racks.



- \* Pastor Pam Thorson
- \* Annette Farder
- \* Steve Jacobson
- \* 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





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](http://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 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.

**March 2024 Financial Summary**

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$16,592.25

Expenses:

Administrative - \$7,407.27

Education - \$235.93

Mission Outreach - \$930.00

Pastoral - \$7,574.16

Worship - \$1,269.17

Total Expenses -

\$17,416.53

Net Loss

(\$ 824.28)

**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



*Dylan Hagen  
Sydney Tadman  
Sydney Svalen  
Kyra Stuhaug  
Emily Strom  
Clare Stuhaug*

*Win-E-Mac Commencement  
Ceremony will be held on  
Saturday May 25th at 2:00  
PM.*

*This is my prayer: that your love  
may abound more and more in  
knowledge and depth of insight, . . .  
Philippians 1:9*



## *Baccalaureate Service*

*You are  
cordially invited  
to attend the  
Win-E-Mac  
Baccalaureate  
Service on  
Wednesday May  
15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
at the Win-E-  
Mac Arts and  
Entertainment  
Center.  
Refreshments  
will be served  
following the  
service.*



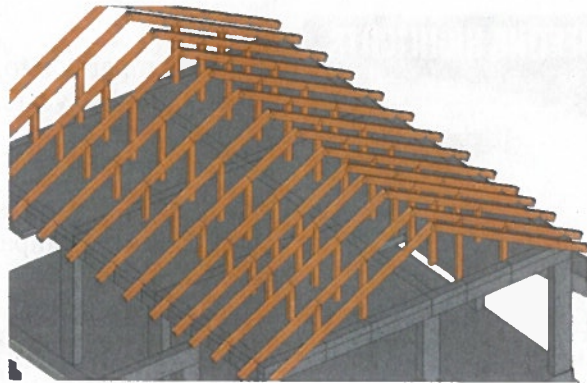


Hello Ladies!

The robins and the blackbirds are telling me spring is really here. In April we had our first meeting this year and started our Bible study "The Fruit of the Spirit". Books will be available for \$5.00 and the balance paid by the women's group. We will be on lesson 2 in May.

***Our next meeting will be held at McIntosh Senior Living on May 9th at 2:00.*** They are excited to host our group and will be providing the dessert. We had brought this up at our last meeting so it's great that this works on our usual meeting day. It will be fun to have our members who live there and other friends there join us for this time of fellowship and sharing together as we have Bible study. If you would like to join, please feel free to come. All are welcome always. God's blessings to you.

~Hollie



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. **\*UPDATE** ~ As of April 30th, we have reached 27% of our goal. Total contributions thus far is \$46,929. Praise the Lord for this news. Thank you for seeing the need of this building project. As we move forward, seek the Lord in deciding how you can contribute. Earmark your giving to the Roof project. Above all, keep this in your prayers.



**9:00 AM**  
**June 2nd—August 25th**



## GRACE COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL

### Treasurer's Report:

#### Cash Flow Report

- Undesignated funds available to be used for March's General Fund expenses totaled \$17,982.86. This amount was **slightly above** the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$17,416.53!

- Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$16,592.25. The monthly budget goal is \$21,363.85. Noteworthy Expenses: Church & Parsonage Fuel – Two propane fills in March. Fuel usage comparison: Oct-March 22/23 = 6,155.7 gallons; Oct-March 23/24 = 5,336 gallons. Custodian – Only one pay period paid in March. NALC Convocation Delegates – Attendance fees for the April joint convocation were paid for Mavis, Hollie, Pastor Pam, Kevin, and Gary.

Other Properties/Legal Expenses – Paid additional attorney fees related to research of the mineral rights in ND.

#### Budget Report

Overall, we ended the month at approximately 3.4% or **\$8,700 under budget.**

#### History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- Giving in March increased nicely over giving in February.
- Highest monthly giving so

in 2024!

- In comparison to giving for March in other years, this is the best year ever!!
- Giving to date in 2024 is well ahead of 2023, and is the best ever at this time compared to any previous year!!

**Hopefully, this trend continues in order to replenish the General Fund.**

#### History of the General Fund Balance

- The General Fund CD was cashed in on March 4, with the proceeds added to the General Fund.

The General Fund had a negative balance of \$15,310.51 prior to that.

#### Account Balances Report

- Building Fund - Reflects donations of \$200.00. It also reflects expenses related to the separate elevator phone line (\$39.21).
- General Fund CD – Cashed in CD and added it to the regular General Fund.
- Oil Fund – Bldg Upkeep reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.
- Oil Fund – Church Operating Emergency Fund reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue and a refund of the funds previously transferred to the General Fund.
- Oil Fund - Missions reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.

- Organ Fund – Reflects a donation of \$5.00.

- Roof Repair Fund – Reflects donations of \$5,850.00 and expenses of \$135.37.

- Scholarship Fund – Reflects a donation of \$10.00.

- SS Equipment Fund – Reflects a donation of \$5.00.

- SS Outreach Fund – Reflects donations of \$53.00, and the expense of the monthly gift of \$43.00 to Compassion International.

VBS Fund – Reflects a donation of \$10.00.

#### Brovold Investment Valuation Report

Balance is up slightly from last month.

#### Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

Balance decreased slightly from last month.

#### Pastor's Report:

- Pastor had her surgery.

- Served home communion to some members.

- Provided the nursing home service in McIntosh in April.

- Pastor Pam is the new Dean for the Minkota Mission District of the NALC.

Hollie Stewart was named the new representative of the WNALC of the Minkota Mission District.

#### President's Report:

- Working with Kim Mahlen getting a calendar set up in the new software.

- Continuing to work with the WEM Youth group.

- Working with Pastor Pam and Jeff Nornes on fundraising for the roof project.

A letter about the roof fundraising is being drafted to be sent to the congregation.

#### Committee Reports:

- **Youth Ministry:**

*Continued on Page 8*



## 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	
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 MAY**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 5, 2024**

First Reading - Acts 10:34-48  
 Psalm - Psalm 98:1-9  
 Second Reading - 1 John 5:1-8  
 Gospel - John 15:9-17

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**May 12, 2024**

First Reading - Acts 1:12-26  
 Psalm - Psalm 1:1-6  
 Second Reading - 1 John 5:9-15  
 Gospel - John 17:11b-19

**Day of Pentecost**  
**May 19, 2024**

First Reading - Ezekiel 37:1-14  
 Psalm - Psalm 139:1-12, 13-16  
 Second Reading - Acts 2:1-21  
 Gospel - John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**The Holy Trinity**  
**May 26, 2024**

First Reading - Isaiah 6:1-8  
 Psalm - Psalm 29:1-11  
 Second Reading - Acts 2:14a, 22-36  
 Gospel - John 3:1-17



**THANK YOU ANN BREKKEN FOR  
 14 YEARS AS EDUCATION DIREC-  
 TOR! YOUR DEDICATION AND  
 LOVE FOR OUR KIDS IS OUT OF  
 THIS WORLD!**

**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.

**GRACE COUNCIL, continued**

o Event: Movie at the Fosston Theater with 37 participating. They watched *Running the Bases*.

o Service project: Saturday, April 27, the youth will be in Grand Forks for *Feed My Starving Children*. Currently have 30 participating.

o Service project: May will be to clean ditches. Working with the Lions to get the schedule.

Event: August 4 will be to attend the Toby Mac concert in Bemidji.

- **Stewardship:**

o Served 45 people for the Easter brunch with 18 participating in the egg hunt.

o Administrative Professionals Day is April 24.

o **Education:** Ann reported

o 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> going to the Human Society on April 20. Bringing donations.

o April 28 is the last day of Sunday School and will be celebrated with cupcakes.

o Vacation Bible School is set for August 5, evenings 6:30-8:30.

o **WNALC:** Hollie reported Meeting tomorrow, April 11. Speaker: TRF Pregnancy Center. New women's study is Fruits of the Spirit.

o Health kits donated and delivered. Extra kits will be put together and stored for emergency.

o Mavis and Hollie attended the convocation as delegates for the NALC. Hollie elected as WNALC representative on the Minkota Mission District.

o **Deacons:**

Gary was involved in several service activities.

o Deacon Carla is organizing the communion assistants.

o **Food Shelf:** We received 2006.5# of food from the food bank. First shopping day 2005.6# dispensed. 25 households served in 4 hours. Whew! 43 households (individuals of 97) served this month. "Thanks to all of the volunteers for keeping us running." Mavis

**Old Business:**

*Building Committee Update.* Steve reported. Material ordered and waiting until materials are in and work can begin. We thank the committee for all the hard work.

**New Business:**

- *Loan signature for roof project:*

o Motion approved: Steve Jacobson, Gene Haugom and Jim Ferden be authorized to sign for the roof project loan at American State Bank of Erskine. Roof Talks:

o Temple talks will be given each week in church. John Carlson began April 7. Various members will speak. Russ Johnson is slated to talk.

o Discussed Advertising for our church activities. We need a coordinator or 2. Great ideas generated.

o *Parsonage:* Discussion of future of use having received a request to rent. Motion made and passed that the parsonage is not available for rental. Offices will move there during roof reconstruction.

*Summer Worship:* June-August at 9:00 a.m.

*Summer Picnic:* Sunday, August 4. This will be a VBS kickoff. We need volunteers for planning and advertising team.

*Lenten Wednesday Service Offering:* \$692.00 Motion and passed to designate to the roof fund.

*Church access key and locking times of the church discussion.* John will research the options available in our security system software with Garden Valley. Times and process Decision to follow at a later date.



***Pentecost Sunday***

***May 19th***



# FAITH5

FAITH5 is a tool for every household to use every night in their homes. Spend 15 minutes doing:

- SHARE** highs and lows
- READ** the weekly Bible verse
- TALK** about the weekly Bible verse
- PRAY** your highs and lows
- BLESS** each other



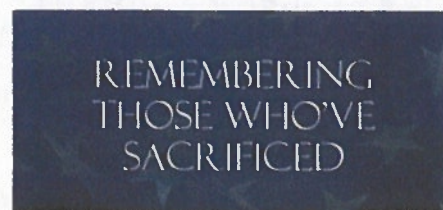
© Faith Builders. All Rights Reserved. [www.fath5.com](http://www.fath5.com) | [www.fath5.org](http://www.fath5.org)

## Faith at Home:

Here's a challenge: Include the **FAITH5** Faith practice of "SHARE" your highs and lows" into your daily life and into your family. Sharing the good and not so good parts of your day with someone helps us all - grown-ups and kids alike to get better at telling the truth about who we are and what we need. Sharing is caring and adds a sense of peace and calm, vital elements to one's spiritual and physical health. In May, we challenge you to **READ** a bible verse or story and then **TALK** with someone about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows. Sounds like a good way to end the day with a bible story to nurture the connection and communication with your family.

Listed below are some bible stories that you may enjoy to get started.

- Love Your Enemies - Matthew 5: 38-48
- Fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5: 16-26
- Jesus Blesses the Children - Mark 10: 13-16
- The Good Samaritan - Luke 10: 25-37



# MAY

# Grace Lutheran Church

\*CIRCLES\*

Hope at the church  
Rebecca at the church

Ushers :

Keith Sannes  
Jason Juve  
John & Pam Carlson  
Steve Jacobson

Communion Assistants:

Altar Flowers:  
Hope Circle

Altar Guild:  
Hollie Stewart and Mavis Haugom

R= Reader  
A=Acolyte  
P=Power Point

MAY 5th:  
R~ John Carlson  
A~ Kale Smeby and Owen Strom  
P~ Tatum Smeby and Addyson  
Morgenroth

MAY 12th:  
R~ Kevin Thorson  
A~ Jorgen Johnson and Scott  
Omundson  
P~ Hayden Johnson and Jayden  
Haugen

MAY 19th:  
R~ Nancy Jensen  
A~ Carson Fortman and Logan  
Johnson  
P~ Carter Fortman and Rian Bergh

MAY 26th:  
R~ Andrew Hanson  
A~ Shelby Shimpa and Hannah  
Shimpa  
P~ Charley Carlson and George  
Juve

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00pm-Conf. Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	2 National Day of Prayer 7pm-Orchestra Practice	3	4 9am- Rebroadcast
5 9am-ABS 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	6 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	7 7am-MBS @ Ness Café  8pm-AA mtg.	8 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7:30pm-Council Mtg.	9 2pm-WNALC @ McIntosh Sr. Living  2-6pm-Food Shelf is open	10	11 9am- Rebroadcast
12 9am-ABS 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	13 9:30am -LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	14 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café  8pm-AA mtg.	15 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7pm-WEM Bacca- laureate	16 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open  7pm-Orchestra Practice	17 SCROLL ARTI- CLES DUE	18 9am- Rebroadcast 9am-12pm-Food Shelf is open
19 9am-ABS 10:30am-Worship	20 9:30am-LBS 10am-Rebroadcast	21 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café  8pm-AA mtg.	22 9am-Hope Circle  6:30pm-Rebroadcast	23 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	24	25 9am- Rebroadcast 2pm-WEM Gradua- tion
26 9am-ABS 10:30am-Worship	27 9:30am-LBS 10am-Rebroadcast	28 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café  8pm-AA mtg.	29 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	30	31	
				Greeters: 5th: Dalton & Lau- ren Agnes  12th: Ron & Melis- sa Bergman	19th: Scott & Sandy Bixby  26th: Mike and Katelyn Bolz	