

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

July 2024

PASTOR'S CORNER

It's summertime and time to get outside and enjoy the God's gracious gift of creation. Not that you can't in winter, but with our long winters (generally) summer is special. When the warm weather hits and everything is in full bloom, the reaction is much like letting the cows out of the barn

after a long winter. Freedom at last!

This is our first full summer of life on a lake. We're newbies and learning the way of life. It's a good thing we've got experienced neighbors. It's good to live in a community. We all need one another. None of us can be totally self-sufficient.

Martin Luther wrote many articles (treatises). In "Freedom of a Christian," he states, **"A Christian is an utterly free man, lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is an utterly dutiful man, servant of all, subject to all."**

We live in a land of freedom, but the greatest freedom is that found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are free from the bondage to sin and made alive in Christ. But we are subject to love. Love and serve one another.

"...in I Cor. 9 [:19], 'For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all,' and in Rom. 13[:8], 'Owe no one anything, except to love one another.' Love by its very nature is ready to serve and be subject to him who is loved. So Christ, although He was Lord of all, was 'born of woman, born under the law' [Gal. 4:4], and therefore was at the same time a free man and servant, 'in the form of God' and 'of a servant.' [Phil. 2:6-7]."

This community lives out God's design well. Where there is need people step in to help. How good is that? Sometimes we need those reminders. It occurs to me that we may be more willing to give help than to receive! It helps to know that this is what community is all about.

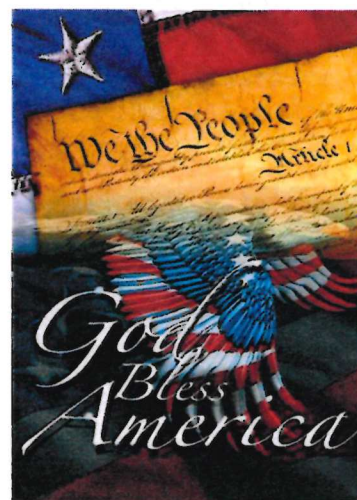
A personal word, too. Kevin and I would like to thank you for all the understanding and support we've been given in this loving community. I'll be taking some Sundays off in July as I recover from a medical procedure. I expect to be strong and sturdy soon.

Blessings to all in this beautiful summer season. God is good and gracious all the time.

In Ministry together,

Pastor Pam

WNALC Meeting	2
Attendance & Offerings	2
Circle Meetings	2
Council Meeting	2
Prayer Concerns	2
Financial News	3
New Roof News	4
Opportunities to Serve	4
Church Picnic	4
Grace Council Highlights	5
Grace Council Members	6
VBS	7
July Calendar	8





The Grace Lutheran Church Council will **NOT** meet in July.

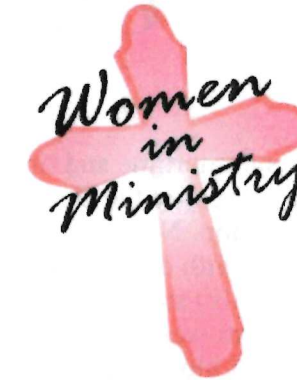


June 2nd:
Attendance~ 48
Offering~\$2,115.00

June 9th:
Attendance~ 59
Offering~\$2,815.00

June 16th:
Attendance~ 56
Offering~\$3,482.00

June 23rd:
Attendance~63
Offering~\$1,501.00



The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday July 11th at 2:00 PM at Poplar Meadows Assisted Living in McIntosh. Group #7 will serve.

Hope Circle: July 24th at 10:00AM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: No meetings for the summer months.



NOTICE

Groceries Plus no longer has a drop box for grocery receipts for Grace Lutheran Church. If you want your receipts to go to the youth at Grace Lutheran Church, please bring them to the box on the table by the mailboxes.



- * Jon Clementson
- * Pastor Pam Thorson
- * Annette Farder
- * Ogden Farder, Jr.
- * Steve Jacobson
- * Carr Smeby
- * Wendy Smeby
- * Maci Smeby
- * Allen Jenson
- * Steve & Linda Evenson
- * Becki Haugen
- * Dianne Hamre
- * Pr. Tim Lundeen
- * Bob Magnussen
- * Dan Salvhus
- * Jesse Hickman
- * Dustin Close
- * Greg Kaster
- * Jolene Bradley
- * Torrey Erickson
- * Ron Juve
- * Mark Wild
- * Bill Donner
- * Perry Grundyson
- * Mike Johnson (NALC Treas.)
- * 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) 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.

May 2024 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$14,195.00

Expenses:

Administrative -	\$6,927.23
Education -	\$1,035.17
Mission Outreach -	\$ 820.00
Pastoral -	\$7,482.37
Worship -	<u>\$1,277.12</u>
 Total Expenses -	 <u>\$17,541.89</u>
Net Loss	(\$ 3,346.89)



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.

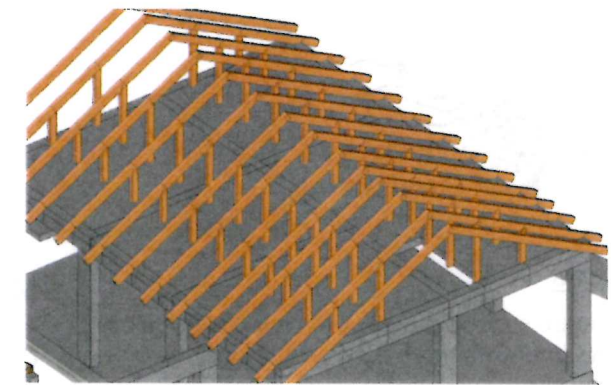
~ Pastor Pam



Grace Church is looking for a person, or persons, who would like to promote and advertise activities that take place at Grace Church. This would include social media, local and area newspapers, and TV. Let John Carlson or Pastor Pam know that you're ready to step in.



We are also in need of a coordinator for the annual Deer Hunter's Supper. See Becky Lindseth if you have questions. Let John Carlson or Pastor Pam know that you're ready to lead the pack!



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 **June 23rd**, we have reached 37% of our goal. Total contributions thus far is \$65,196. 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.

Food Shelf



During the month of July, all monies donated to the Grace Food Shelf will be matched through a grant that they received. Be a cheerful giver and help them out. They thank you for your generosity!



June Council Highlights

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report

General Fund Income:

\$14,901.92.

General Fund Expenses:

\$17,541.89

Shortfall = \$ 2,639.97

Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$14,195.00.

Monthly budget goal:

\$21,363.85.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

Giving in May decreased over giving in April and was the lowest monthly giving so far in 2024.

Giving to date in 2024 continues to be well ahead of 2023.

Investments

Brovold Investment: Balance increased slightly from last month.

Gunderson Investment: Balance increased approximately \$6,000.00 from last month.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor resumed nursing home services at Fair Meadow and McIntosh Sr. Living and was able to make several home visits.

Pastor Pam organized Win-E-Mac Baccalaureate. It was a wonderful experience and went so well. Very well attended by students and community. Pastor René Mehlberg and Father Larry Delaney were involved in the service.

Pastor gave the invocation for Garden Valley Annual Meeting. Pastor Pam will have a medical procedure on July 8 and will miss two Sundays. Jason Carlson will cover.

Youth Ministry: Pres. John reported

May 19th cleaned ditches. Had a great turnout of students cleaning 2 miles south of Winger. Had a great time serving the community.

Next planning meeting July 17 at Grace. July 30 an overnight campout is being planned.

August 4th TOBY MAC concert in Bemidji.

Youth Group is going very well with excellent planners (leaders) and student participation.

WNALC:

Hollie reported. Meeting tomorrow June 13 at Grace. Group 6 serving. Hope Circle will meet June 26th at 9:00. No meeting from Rebecca Circle in the summer.

Trustees: Gene reported

Looking into heater options for the Sunday School rooms which need repair.

Yvonne made a motion that we accept the bid from Sandhill Heating to air condition pastor's office and the secretary's office. Hollie seconded. Motion carried.

Deacons: Carla & Gary reported Carla needs more volunteers for some of the communion months.

Gary shared a short devotion regarding serving with love and keeping the passion for serving with love. He continues to do visits and delivers Meals on Wheels and helps wherever needed.

Video Ministry: Nick sent out information regarding tech upgrades/additions.

Food Shelf: Gene reported (Mavis Haugum, Coordinator submitted report)

Thanks to all who volunteered this month. On the first Thursday we served 14 households. On the second Thursday we served 21 households. On our first Saturday open, we did not have anyone shopping. Plan to try it a few more times to see if there is more interest.

Building Committee Update:

Steve reported. Lance plans to start on Monday.

Summer Picnic: August 4. Becky Lindseth is the coordinator.

Church keys: John reported. The panic bars have arrived. Key cards will work just fine.

Sunday School Room Repair:

Gene reported.

Going to remove a wall and the heater to make a larger room where the Food Shelf used to be. John and Gene will do the work. This will make much more usable space for instruction. SS wing will then have 5 large rooms.

With the roof project they are also going to update the electrical options. Some of the rooms have no outlets. We need a plan drawn up and marked where the outlets should be and/or power sources for monitors.

Jim will check on flooring to match the rest of the SS wing when the above work is completed.

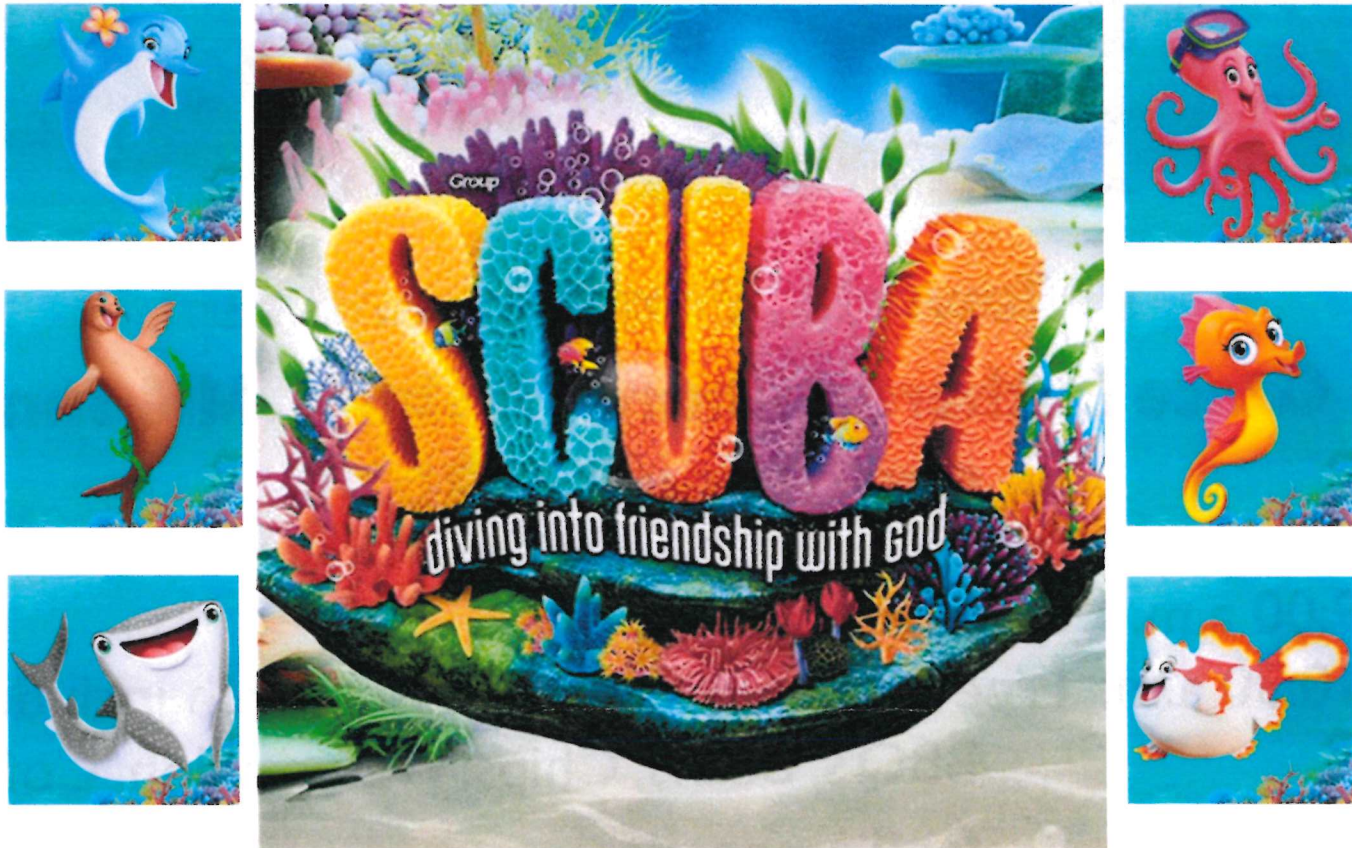
TV's in SS rooms. Based on teacher suggestions we plan to add TV/monitors for the 5 big rooms to assist with instruction.

Church wide clean-up outdoor.

June 26, Wednesday evening 6:00. Please consider helping.

Bring your rakes, trimmers, etc.

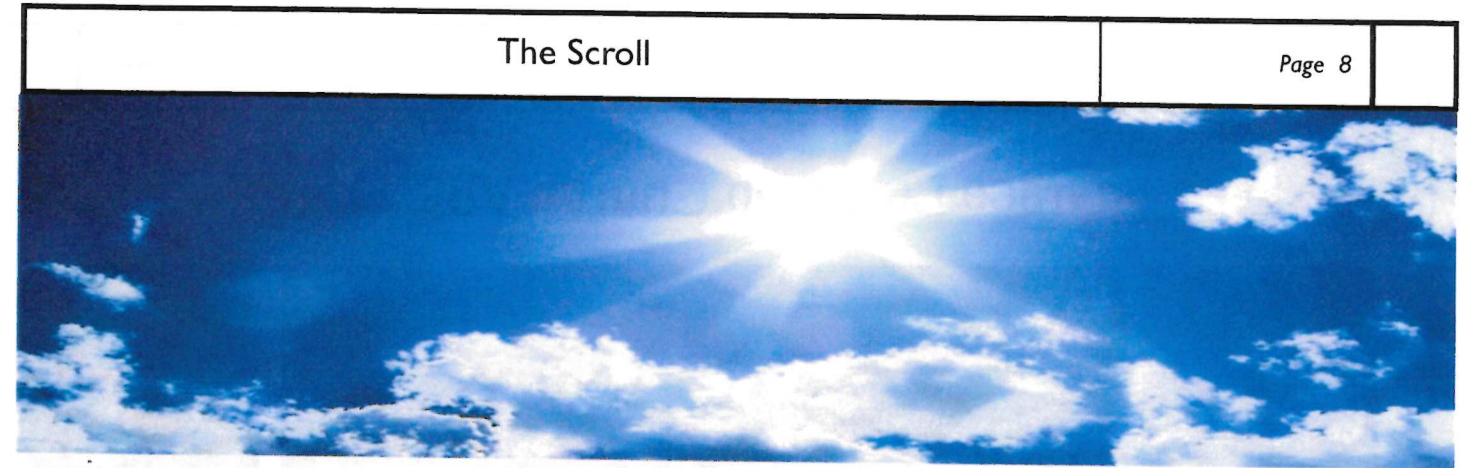
Grace Lutheran Church VBS 2024



Join us August 5-8, 2024 from 6:30-8:30 pm each evening. Classes available for those entering Pre K through 6th grade. Students entering 7th grade and up are encouraged to volunteer! You do not need to be a member of Grace to attend-invite your friends! There is NO COST to attend VBS. We will have a family program the last night of VBS, August 8th. More info to come!

To register, go to: <https://vbspro.events/p/grace-erskine> or contact Ann Brekken.

Take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!



Fellowship, Families, and Fun Grace Lutheran Church Erskine, MN Sun- day, August 4, 2024

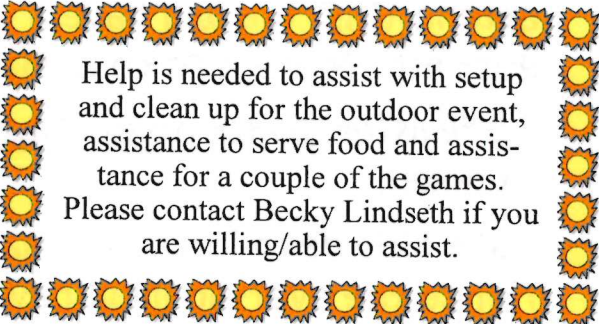
9:00 a.m. Outdoor Service

10:30 a.m. Free Picnic will be provided which includes
BBQ's, Beans, Chips, Watermelon, Coffee/Lemonade

Following the service and picnic, games will be available for children and adults to enjoy with prizes awarded for participants.

- Bring your lawn chair
- Bring a yard game to share
- The event will be held in-

doors in the event of inclement weather.


Help is needed to assist with setup and clean up for the outdoor event, assistance to serve food and assistance for a couple of the games. Please contact Becky Lindseth if you are willing/able to assist.

Everyone is Welcome!

JULY

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES
Hope
Rebecca

at the church
no meeting

Ushers :

David Halvorson

Communion Assistants:

Liz Jensen and Yvonne Halvorson

Altar Flowers:
Hope Circle

Altar Guild:
Lesia Juve and Becky Lindseth

R= Reader
A=Acolyte
P=Power Point

JULY 7th:

R~~ Mavis Haugom

A~~ Charley Carlson and George

Juve

P~~ Shelby Shimpa and Hannah
Shimpa

JULY 14th:

R~~ Joanne Sannes

A~~ Lillian Shimpa and Jareth Walk

P~~ Faith Omundson and Hope
Omundson

JULY 21st:

R~~ Kim Mahlen

A~~ Brecken Gunderson and Karl

Jax

P~~ Gracey Gunderson and Bella
Senn

JULY 28th:

R~~ Jeff Nornes

A~~ Kale Smeby and Owen Strom

P~~ Tatum Smeby and Addyson
Morgenroth

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	2 7am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	3 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	4	5	6 9am- Rebroadcast
7 9am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	8 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	9 7am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	10 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	11 2pm-WNALC 2-6pm-Food Shelf is open	12	13 9am- Rebroadcast
14 9am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	15 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	16 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	17 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	18 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open	19 SCROLL ARTI- CLES DUE	20 9am- Rebroadcast 9am-12pm-Food Shelf is open
21 9am-Worship	22 9:30am-LBS 10am-Rebroadcast	23 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	24 10am-Hope Circle 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	25	26	27 9am- Rebroadcast
28 9am- Worship	29 9:30am-LBS 10am-Rebroadcast	30 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café 8pm-AA mtg.	31 6:30pm-Rebroadcast			
				Greeters: 7th: Jim & Carla Ferden 14th: Danielle Fladhammer	21st: Barb Gaalswyk 28th: Jarrin & Alaina Gunderson	

*“Serving all people by sharing God’s Word
and Gift of Grace”*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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