

# The Scroll

Grace Lutheran  
Church

August 2024



Summer is still with us with it's warmth and beauty. It is good to take time to enjoy. Our peace gets interrupted all to often. So many things are happening in our world these days. The tension is high in around the globe and in our own nation - War in the Middle East,

Presidential Elections here at home, an assassination attempt, etc. There seems to be little haven of peace as one turns on the news! At least our Minnesota Twins are winning a bunch of games.

But, where do we find peace in all this turmoil? The good news is that we don't have to live in fear and angst. We can live in Jesus Christ. Learning to trust our Lord often happens when we have little other choice. You can think of it as babes and children. Dependence on parents and caregivers is all they have. Sometimes we think that if we try to take care of most things and only ask God when it's too hard, that that's the way it ought to be. But we're not intended to live like that. We can learn as did our forebearers in the faith. *Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

God can and does shelter us in this world. He bears with us in grief and sorrow, in joy, and in the everyday. Jesus walked our walk and knows what we're dealing with. Take shelter in His refuge. The enemy of our souls, the evil one, loves to stir up trouble hatred and fear. God is love and all that is good and far stronger than any evil out there. We will live in the safety of The Almighty's loving arms. In God is our peace that passes all understanding.

I have listed some scriptures to teach us and give us hope. We are not left alone. Our Lord Jesus in the power of the Spirit through the love of the Father is willing and able to give all that we need. Yes. His peace is perfect.

*Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. <sup>6</sup> The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. <sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

Pray for our nation and for our world even as we pray for our own needs and those of others.

I thank you for your prayers and cards as I completed a second major surgery. I am recovering well and expect to be fully healed in a few weeks. It's not easy to

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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday August 14th at 7:30PM at the church. A reminder that All Council meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise specified.



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!



The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday August 8th at 2:00 PM at Grace Church. Group #8 will serve.

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

**Rebecca Circle:** No meetings for the summer months.



**June 30th:**  
Attendance~ 47  
Offering~\$822.00

**July 7th:**  
Attendance~55  
Offering~\$2,945.00

**July 14th:**  
Attendance~38  
Offering~\$2,260.00

**July 21st:**  
Attendance~43  
Offering~\$2,475.00

**July 28th:**  
Attendance~57  
Offering~\$2,170.00



- \* Paula LaBrecque
- \* Paul Stennes
- \* 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
- \* Jesse Hickman
- \* 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](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.



**June 2024 Financial Summary**

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$14,710.00

Expenses:

Administrative - \$8,772.60

Education - \$ 0.00

Mission Outreach - \$ 820.00

Pastoral - \$7,482.37

Worship - \$ 581.80

Total Expenses -

\$17,656.77  
 (\$ 2,946.77)

Net Loss

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

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

With fall approaching, the Education Committee is again preparing for Release Time classes.

This is an important mission of our church. Last year we served over 80 students in grades 1-8.

The majority of these students are not members of Grace, and some are unchurched.

Elementary classes will begin on September 25, and Jr. High classes start on October 2nd.

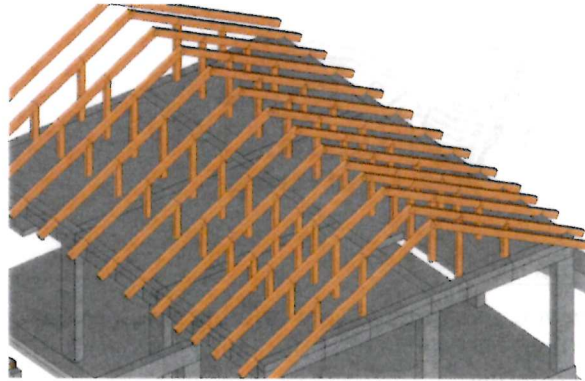
Classes meet every other Wednesday for 45 minutes.

This year, we are looking for a 6th grade teacher, as well as substitute teachers. We use a curriculum with materials and easy to follow lesson plans. If you are considering being a substitute teacher, you might be more comfortable coming up with your own lesson plan. For example, we have noticed that our students are interested in stories about personal faith journeys. If you have traveled to the Holy Land, have experience ministering at a homeless shelter or jail, or have taken a mission trip, you could build a lesson around that.

Your faith will GROW as you work with these students! If you are led to participate, or just want to ask questions, please call or text Nancy Jenson or Hollie Stewart.

Nancy 218-280-3858

Hollie 218-358-0996



Our roof is completed and so far no leaks have been seen! There is still work to be done to complete the education wing before Sunday School starts. Following is a short list of what needs to be completed.

1. Gutters on the South side of the education wing to direct water away from the building.
2. Landscaping on the south lawn to move water away from the building.
3. Insulation will be blown in after the electrical work is completed. This will have a major impact on our heating bills in the future.
4. Electrical work needed. The education wing was built in the 60's and the classrooms were not wired for power. While the roof is open we will have all our classrooms wired for power.
5. Plumbing leak outside of Kim's office repaired, along with heating register covers repaired in the classrooms.
6. Cover exposed pipes in the East classroom.
7. Move the wall in the library to make 2 large classrooms. This will require moving a light fixture and light switch.
8. Paint the ceilings of the classrooms that had walls taken out or moved.
9. Replace flooring in the classrooms that had walls taken out or moved.
10. We are getting bids to replace the carpet in the education wing. It is very old and worn, puckering in spots and has been rained on (leaked) many times.
11. Put a small AC unit in the Narthex.
12. Lights will be put in place behind the stain glass window in the sanctuary.

These updates will enable Grace Church to continue to use the Education Wing effectively for many years in the future.

John Carlson

### The Word in Troubled Times

*Matt. 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

*Philippians 4:4-9 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

*Psalms 4 Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. <sup>2</sup> How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods? <sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. <sup>4</sup> Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. <sup>5</sup> Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the LORD. <sup>6</sup> Many, LORD, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?" Let the light of your face shine on us. <sup>7</sup> Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound. <sup>8</sup> In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.*

What's your favorite Bible lesson in times of difficulty?



## Confirmation

**7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> (+a bit of 10<sup>th</sup>) grade Confirmation Planning is Gearing Up!**

It's time to register for the upcoming confirmation class. First time students need to register. It's a 3-year program designed to learn the basics of our Christian faith according to Martin Luther's Catechism.

**Sophomore** students will be confirmed  
Reformation Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

We need you to sign up!

**FROM THE PASTOR, continued**

stop and then go slow. It's rather similar to construction on the highway when you have to come to a complete stop for oncoming traffic and when you do get to go you follow the slow guide car flashing "slow." But in all that it gives us time to pray and study the Word and listen for directions. Isn't that a great way to live?

God is good.

In ministry together,

Pastor Pam

**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 JULY**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
August 4, 2024**

First Reading - Exodus 16:2-15  
 Psalm - Psalm 145:10-21  
 Second Reading - Ephesians 4:1-16  
 Gospel - John 6:22-35

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 11, 2024**

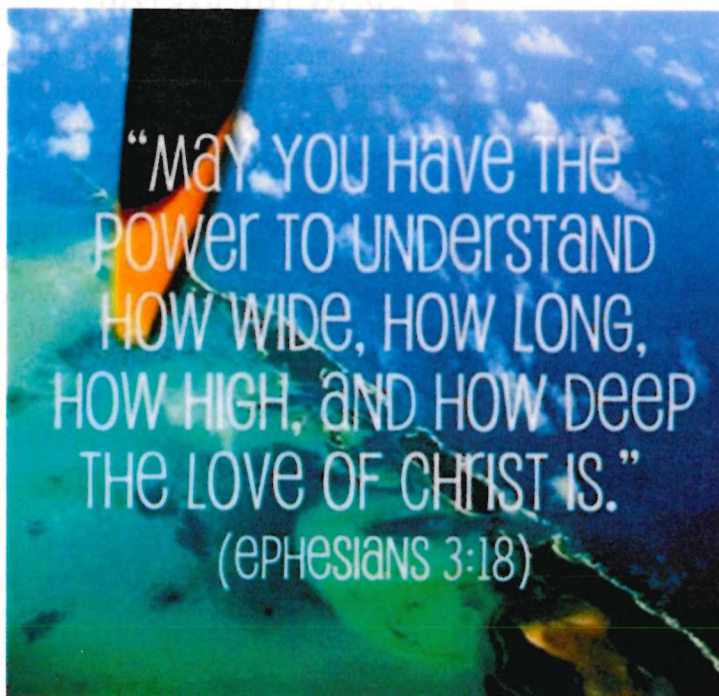
First Reading - 1 Kings 19:1-8  
 Psalm - Psalm 34:1-8  
 Second Reading - Ephesians 4:17-5:2  
 Gospel - John 6:35-51

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 18, 2024**

First Reading - Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18  
 Psalm - Psalm 34:12-22  
 Second Reading - Ephesians 5:6-21  
 Gospel - John 6:51-69

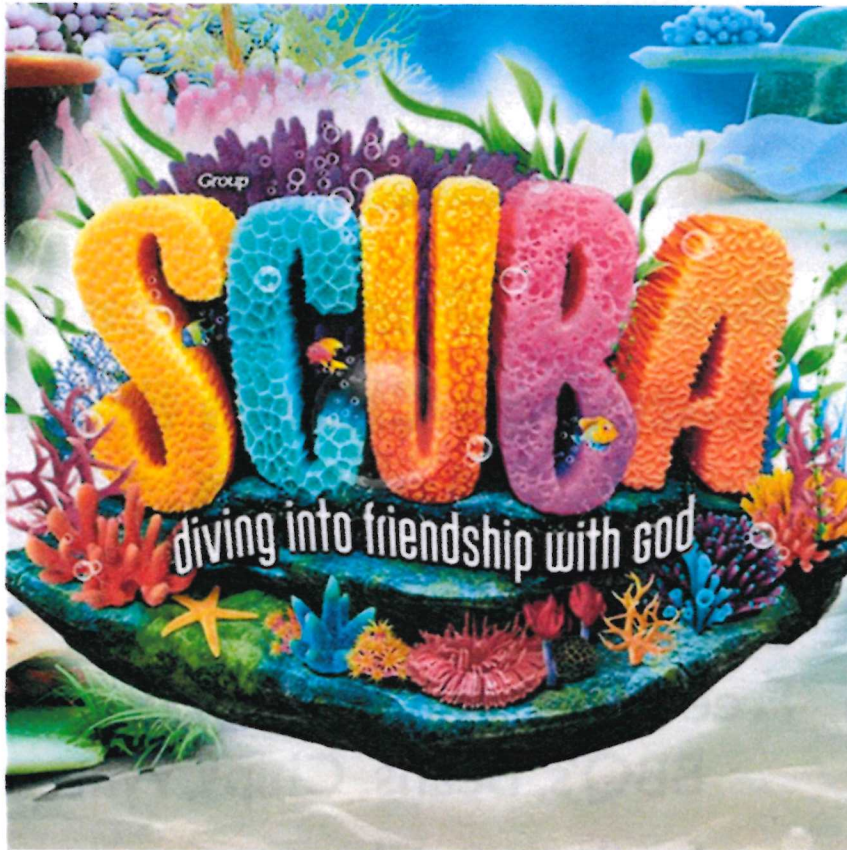
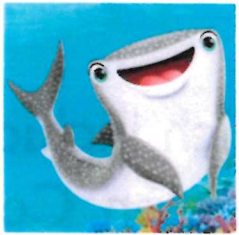
**14th Sunday After Pentecost  
August 25, 2024**

First Reading - Isaiah 29:11-19  
 Psalm - Psalm 14:1-7  
 Second Reading - Ephesians 5:22-33  
 Gospel - Mark 7:1-13



If anyone is interested in being a communion assistant for the month of August, please let Carla Ferden know. Also, if anyone would like to be added to the reserve list, please let Carla know.

## 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!



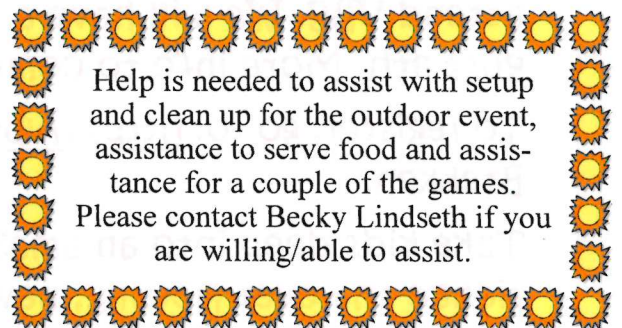
# **Fellowship, Families, and Fun Grace Lutheran Church Erskine, MN Sunday, August 4, 2024**

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 indoors 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!**



# AUGUST

# Grace Lutheran Church

\*CIRCLES\*

Hope at the church  
Rebecca no meeting

Ushers:

Jim Ferden  
Brady Lee  
Ray LaBrecque  
Randy & Wendy Lee

Communion Assistants:  
Becky Lindseth and John Carlson

Altar Flowers:  
Rebecca Circle

Altar Guild:  
Lesia Juve and Becky Lindseth

R= Reader  
A=Acolyte  
P=Power Point

AUGUST 4th:  
R~ Kris Nornes  
A~ Jorgen Johnson and Scott Omundson  
P~ Hayden Johnson and Jayden Haugen

AUGUST 11th:  
R~ Liz Jenson  
A~ Carson Fortman and Logan Johnson  
P~ Carter Fortman and Rian Bergh

AUGUST 18th:  
R~ Ann Brekken  
A~ Shelby Shimpa and Hannah Shimpa  
P~ Charley Carlson and George Juve

AUGUST 25th:  
R~ Jason Carlson  
A~ Faith Omundson and Hope Omundson  
P~ Lillian Shimpa and Jareth Walk

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 9am- Rebroadcast
4 9am- Worship w/Holy Comm. 10:30am-Picnic Dinner / Fellowship / Games	5 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast  6:30-8:30pm-VBS	6 7am-MBS @ Ness Caf�e  6:30-8:30pm-VBS 8pm-AA mtg.	7 6:30pm-Rebroadcast  6:30-8:30pm-VBS	8 2pm-WNALC 2-6pm-Food Shelf is open  6:30-8:30pm-VBS	9	10 9am- Rebroadcast
11 9am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	12 9:30am -LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	13 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Caf�e  8pm-AA mtg.	14 6:30pm-Rebroadcast 7:30pm-Council Meeting	15 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open	16 SCROLL ART-CLLES DUE	17 9am- Rebroadcast 9am-12pm-Food Shelf is open
18 9am- Worship	19 9:30am-LBS 10am-Rebroadcast	20 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Caf�e  8pm-AA mtg.	21 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	22	23	24 9am- Rebroadcast
25 9am- Worship	26 9:30am-LBS 10am-Rebroadcast	27 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Caf�e  8pm-AA mtg.	28 10am-Hope Circle  6:30pm-Rebroadcast	29	30	31 9am- Rebroadcast
				Greeters: 4th: Daryl & Yvonne Halvorson 11th: David & Jean Halvorson	18th: David & Patti Hamre 25th: Wayne & Marie Hamre	

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

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*332 Vance Avenue*

*Post Office Box 204*

*Erskine, MN 56535*

*Pastor Pam Thorson*

*Pastor Phone: 270-872-8269*

*Office Phone: 218-687-4035*

*Email: [gracelc@gvtel.com](mailto:gracelc@gvtel.com)*

*Pastor Email: [pastorglc@gvtel.com](mailto:pastorglc@gvtel.com)*

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