

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

October 2024



PASTOR'S CORNER



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Fall is here and it's so exhilarating! Well, for some of us. It's awfully busy with school, sports, and church activities. Soon there will be Lutefisk and Meatball dinners and all the fun that goes with it.

But with all the busyness, take time out for God. I like to begin my day with Bible study and devotions. Sometimes I don't get the full works and it shows the rest of the day. Set time to read or listen to the Word. Jesus speaks to us and wants us to live in His Word. Do you want to build your faith?

Proverbs 30:5 ESV *Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.*

Colossians 3:16 ESV *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Romans 10:17 ESV *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

I encourage you to come to Grace on Sundays. We need you all. We've got an excellent Christian Education department with classes for everyone. The Adult class at 9 AM is studying the 46 Parables of Jesus. The children and youth at 9:15. But that's not all, I ask that you come to church. It's not the same when you're not in the sanctuary among people of faith. Psalm 27:4 ESV *One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.*

May you be blessed.

In ministry together,

Pastor Pam



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us



The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday October 9th at 7:00PM at the church. A reminder that All Council meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise specified.



The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday October 10th at 2:00 PM at McIntosh Sr. Living. Group #2 will serve.

Hope Circle: October 23rd at 10:00AM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: October 24th at 6:30PM at the church.



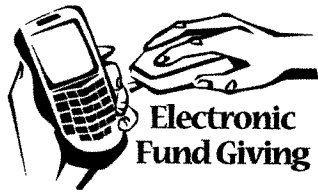
- Paula LaBrecque
- Paul Stennes
- Jon Clementson
- Pastor Pam Thorson
- Annette Farder
- Ogden Farder, Jr.
- Carr Smeby
- Wendy Smeby
- Maci Smeby
- Allen Jenson
- Steve & Linda Evenson
- Becki Haugen
- Dianne Hamre
- Jesse Hickman
- Judson Nornes
- Greg Kaster
- Jolene Bradley
- Torrey Erickson
- Ron Juve
- Mark Wild
- Mike Johnson
- Shut-ins and Nursing Home members
- Ukraine
- Israel



BREAKING NEWS Beginning with the November edition of the Scroll, there will be changes. It will no longer be mailed in bulk. It will, however, be mailed to our shut-ins and members who live away. If we have an email available for you, you will receive it via email. It will also be available at all entrances of the sanctuary as well as the church office during business hours. You can also find it on our church web page.



- September 1st:**
Attendance~ 66
Offering~\$2,800.00
- September 8th:**
Attendance~112
Offering~\$2,530.00
- September 15th:**
Attendance~ 91
Offering~\$2,941.00
- September 22nd:**
Attendance~ 84
Offering~\$1,365.00



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.



August 2024 Financial Summary

Regular Offerings to the General Operating Fund - \$13,630.00
 Other Giving used for the General Operating Fund - \$484.50
 Interest Earned - \$190.02
 Total Income \$14,304.52

Expenses:

Administrative - \$8,305.80
 Education - \$2,058.84
 Mission Outreach - \$920.00
 Pastoral - \$7,002.12
 Worship - \$629.66
 Total Expenses - \$18,916.42
 Net Loss - (\$ 4,611.90)

Did you know?

thrivent

If you are a Thrivent member, you are eligible to receive money to help support events you or others are hav-

ing. 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



Council highlights September 11, 2024

Full report available in the Church Office after the October meeting.

Call to order by Acting President, Steve Jacobson

Pastor Pam led devotions.

Treasurer's Report:

Income: Congregational giving to General Operating offering \$13,805.50. Monthly goal is \$21,363.85.

Total undesignated funds for August Operating Fund **\$14,304.52**. This is giving plus interest, Thrivent, etc.

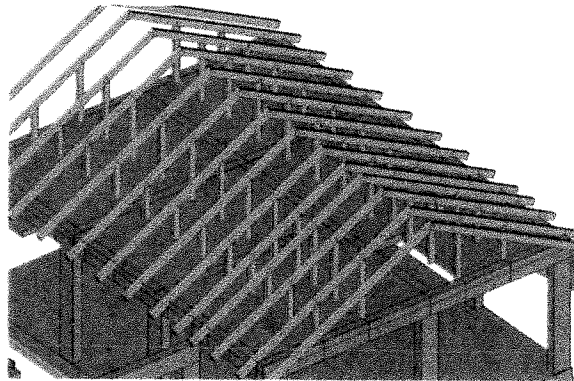
Expenses: General Operating expenses \$18,916.42.

Budget report: Ended the month at approximately 11.3% or \$29,000 under budget. **This is a deficit of \$4611.90. Donations did not cover the month's expenses. General Operating Fund balance is down again from last month decreasing significantly (\$4,600)!**

The General Operating Fund balance has continued to decrease since April. August has the lowest General Operating Fund balance so far in 2024.

Roof Report: August donations \$6225. Expenses of \$25,370. To date financial summary of roof project: Original Loan Amount Approved - \$175,000.00
 Loan Funds Advanced - \$50,000.00
 Principal & Interest Paid - \$456.50

Continued on Page 5



Grace Lutheran Church Members

Our Church is one of members who have faith in what our Lord can do. We give our time, talents, treasures, and especially our prayers in serving the Lord. We have seen His work in our building

project. As an example, about a month ago while giving an update on the roof project we asked if you would pray that the electrician and plumbers would find time in their busy summer schedules to complete the work on our church so we would be ready for the start of Sunday School. Within two weeks the electricians were finished and they got done in half a day! No word on the plumbers yet but the insulation company had time in their schedule this week because so many of his scheduled projects were backed up and not ready for him! Of course we all know the Lord is in charge and answering our prayers.

Now for an update cost of the Roof Project.

Roof Material and Labor	\$85,723
Misc. Materials	\$1,000
Total	\$86,723

Electrical bill still to come.

Insulation Bid estimate	\$9,045
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Estimates still to come in for gutters, landscaping, and new carpet.

So far the project is coming well under what was projected \$175,000.! Thank the Lord!

When the project was started we had a line of credit through the bank of \$50,000. But because of our generous giving (Total so far is \$72,789) so far resulting in Grace only has needed to use \$15,000 out of the original leaving the remaining \$35,000 to finish the rest. We estimate that to finish the project we would need to donate about \$50,000 more so we wouldn't have any loans.

Please pray and give as your conscience and the Lord directs you over the coming weeks. It is possible that Grace Church can raise enough funds to pay off the loan and not have to take out any additional loans! Have Faith and pray.

God Bless,
 John Carlson

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Loan Balance - \$49,978.77

Donations - \$78,056.00

Labor & Material Costs -
\$88,756.35

Other Costs - \$635.37

Roof Project Fund Balance (as
of 8/31/24) - \$38,207.78

Pastor's Report

Pastoral Care~

August 23, Fair Meadow Nurs-
ing Facility service. August 28,
Mac Sr. Living service.

Phone calls and visit. Attending
to Bonnie Strand family.

Confirmation begins September
18. Wednesday's 6:00-7:00.

Sunday School is part of the
Confirmation course grades 7-9.

Thank you to Hollie Stewart,
Kris Norness, and Cassie Senn
for sharing the instruction.

NALC Business~

September 22, Minkota Bus
ness. I will be at Washburn, ND
for an Installation .

Dean's Meeting: November 12-
13 Dallas (11-15 w/travel time)

September 26-29 Attending an
Order of St. Luke conference in
Ashville, NC.

Two lay Sundays will be cov-
ered by Tyler Brekken & Jason
Carlson

Bible Study at Poplar Meadows.
Date has not been set.

**Info: Newsletters will not be
mass mailed beginning Nov. 1.
Spread the word and collect
emails. Notices are going out
on several venues. A notice
will also be published in the
last newsletter. PLEASE let
the office know your e-mail so
that you can continue to re-
ceive. There will be some that
will continue to be sent. The
newsletter will also be avail-
able at the back of the church
where they can be picked up.**

Thank you to the WNALC for
supporting the Evangelical
Lutheran Church of Malawi
(ELCM) for the upcoming conse-
cration of a new Bishop in an
expanded Diocese. Due to ty-
phoons and sickness, the Dio-
cese asked for funds. The
WNALC had earmarked money
in December, but that did not
materialize due to circumstances
in Malawi. The new Bishop is a
colleague with whom I worked
as 1 of 3 guests teaching cate-
chetical conferences in 2018.

Thank you card was received by
Steve Jacobson for all the sup-
port and prayer he has received
during his journey back to
health. God is good.

Committee Reports

Stewardship: Lori

Love offering will be sent out in
the Scroll. Inserts for the bulle-
tin on Stewardship through Oc-
tober. Handout will be given at
SS students on Stewardship
Sunday.

Education: Andrew

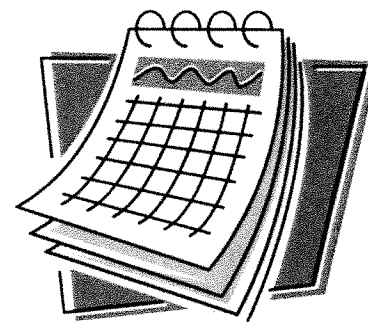
On the roster there are 44 stu-
dents from pre-school through
junior high. (35 attended the
first Sunday). Andrew lead mu-
sic on 1st Sunday. SS will sing in
church Sept 29. **3 more teach-
ers needed for Released Time**

NALC: Hollie

Meeting Thurs, Sept 12—
Lesson 6 of "Fruit of the Spirit"
study. Group 1.

Fall Auction: Wednesday, Sept
18 with 6:30 pie & coffee. Sale
starts at 7:00.

Received a "Thank you" from
the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Malawi for our dona-
tion.

**CALENDAR TIME**

It is that time of year that
we start preparing the
community calendar for the
upcoming year "2025".

Letters will be going out to
the businesses to see if
they would still be interest-
ed in a very cost-effective
advertisement.

We invite you to add your
birthdays and anniversaries.
If you know of any changes
that need to add, delete or
update, please forward that
information to Tina Farrell
email address:

[grace_youthcal@gvtel.c
om](mailto:grace_youthcal@gvtel.com) or you may leave a
message at 218-563-2216. I
will then follow up with
you and confirm changes.

Thank You! for your contin-
ued support.

Grace Lutheran Youth
Group

Continued on Page 7

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	
Andrew & Becky Hanson Education Directors		
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 OCTOBER

**20th Sunday after Pentecost
October 6, 2024**

First Reading - Genesis 2:18-25
 Psalm - Psalm 128:1-6
 Second Reading - Hebrews 2:1-13, 14-18
 Gospel - Mark 10:2-16

**21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 13, 2024**

First Reading - Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
 Psalm - Psalm 90:12-17
 Second Reading - Hebrews 3:12-19
 Gospel - Mark 10:17-22

**22nd Sunday after Pentecost
October 20, 2024**

First Reading - Ecclesiastes 5:10-20
 Psalm - Psalm 119:9-16
 Second Reading - Hebrews 4:1-13 (14-16)
 Gospel - Mark 10:23-31

**Reformation Sunday
October 27, 2024**

First Reading - Revelation 14:6-7
 Psalm - Psalm 46:1-11
 Second Reading - Romans 3:19-28
 Gospel - John 8:31-36

Our Yearly Stewardship Emphasis:

Household Giving Plan Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

For the coming year, I/we plan to give as an offering:

\$ _____ per week.

this amount is based on a percentage of income.

this amount represents an increase from last year.

A Giving Plan is an estimate of household's giving for the coming year, meant to assist in healthy financial planning by individuals as well as the congregation. All individual financial information provided here is confidential, and never published or listed to the public.

PLEASE TURN IN THIS PORTION OF THE CARD IN CHURCH

Yearly Stewardship Emphasis

**Household Giving Plan
Reminder Card**

For the coming year, I/we plan to give as an offering:

\$ _____ per week.

Signed: _____

Date: ____/____/____



PLEASE KEEP THIS PORTION OF THE CARD AS A REMINDER OF YOUR PLAN

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Deacons: Gary

He has witness so much love and giving in this community.

Video Ministry: Nick

Larger TV for the sanctuary arrived broken. On the reorder he was able to get a TV at a lower price plus a new laptop for almost the identical price of the broken return. The new equipment will arrive soon.

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

August Food Shelf Report

Served: 29--age 0-17, 49--age 18-64, 18--age 65+

Total Households - 36 (New visits - 5) **Total Pounds** - 2289#

This month we had 5 visits on the Saturday that we were open. New computer system that is being implemented by the Food Shelf. With a computer or IPAD they will be able enter new persons into the computer system, and the previous clients will be pulled into the system.

Old Business:

Building Committee Update

Waiting on the electrical inspection to be completed so that the insulation can be completed.

Landscaping needs to be completed before new gutters can be installed.

Education Wing finish work

Painting will be done by Sept 12. Lighting to be completed. Some heat registers will be updated.

Carpet: (Jim reported). Received 3 bids for **carpet tile**.

Gary made a motion to hire 5 Star. Gene seconded. Motion carried.

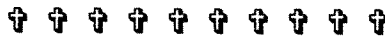
Received a wonderful "Thank you" note from Emily Strom for

Received a wonderful "Thank you" note from Emily Strom for her Grace Scholarship. Emily is studying at NDSU. It was very appreciated.

New Business:

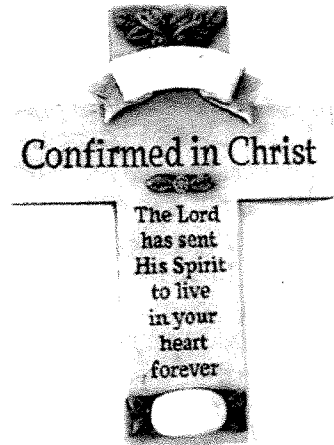
Backpack coordinator at WEM will now be Amy Bartz.

Update on the Ukraine: Jason will give an update at the September service when he provides pulpit supply.



**Prayer
is a strong wall
and fortress
of the church,
it is a goodly
Christian
weapon.**

- Martin Luther



Confirmation Sunday will be held on Sunday October 27th. During the worship service, the following students will come forward to reaffirm their baptismal promise. Please remember them in your prayers.

They are:

Rian Bergh

Carter Fortman

Jayden Haugen

Hayden Johnson

Lillian Shimpa

Jareth Walk

Reformation

Who was Martin Luther?

Author of the 95 Theses which sparked the Reformation M L
Martin Luther Born: Nov. 10, 1483 | Eisleben, Germany Died:
Feb. 18, 1546 | Eisleben, Germany As an Augustinian monk,
Luther fasted, prayed, attended and led Mass. Despite this ho-
ly life, he was in constant doubt of his salvation. Luther began
concentrating his studies on the Bible rather than the Church
Fathers. In 1514, while studying Paul's letter to the Romans in
his tower room in Wittenberg, he finally saw the pure Gospel.
He realized that sinners are saved not through good works but
by the gift of God through faith. This realization sparked a
concern that the church's practice of selling a certificate of
forgiveness (called an indulgence) would lead to the loss of
true contrition for sins. If people could receive pardon from all
sins, then they could spend the rest of their lives not worrying
about the status of their souls. Luther felt he must protect his
flock from this dangerous practice. On Oct. 31, 1517, Luther
posted his 95 Theses on the Castle Church doors, seeking a
scholarly debate on the sale of indulgences. This led to a se-
ries of written materials and debates on the church practices of
the time, the final culmination of which resulted in Luther be-
ing called before Emperor Charles V at a meeting in Worms,
Germany, where Luther was asked to recant his writings. He
did not. "My conscience is captive to the word of God! To go
against conscience is neither right nor safe," Luther asserted.
"I therefore cannot, and I will not recant! Here I stand. I can
do no other."

We stand on the Word of God. On scripture alone, in Christ
Alone, by Grace Alone, Through faith Alone, to the Glory of
God Alone.



Stewardship

It's time to beginning thinking about our church's annual fall stewardship campaign. Stewardship Commitment Sunday is Oct 29. On that Sunday we will present our pledges of commitment of time, talent, treasure and testimony to our church and community.

Generosity is a lifestyle in which, as a demonstration of God's love and grace, we share all that we have and all that we are or ever will become. It involves both attitude and action and enhances the well-being of the receiver. Generosity flows from hearts that have been transformed as they conform their lives to Jesus Christ, who is generous. The Holy Spirit activates giving in such a way that the giver overflows with joy as they give liberally and abundantly of their time, talents, treasure and witness to the mission of Jesus Christ.

The story of the Widow's Offering in Mark 12:41-44 is a true example of "Living Generously." "And He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And He called His disciples to Him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Please join in our commitment to Living Generously as we give from the time, talent, treasure and testimony, that God has first given us.

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Stewardship Merely Managers

1. Stewardship is...

What do you think of when you hear the word stewardship?

What does stewardship mean?

First, we look at what it is to be a **steward** for that is the heart of stewardship.

The Biblical definition as found in the New Testament Greek (**oivkono,moj**)(1) (a) one put in charge of a household or estate steward, manager; (b) a community official in charge of public funds and properties treasurer, overseer; (2) one entrusted by God with spiritual authority and administration steward, administrator. (Friberg)

Stewardship is: the office, duties, and obligations of a steward. **Define Steward/stewardship in your own words.**

A steward takes care of the resources of which they have been entrusted making the greatest return on investment for the owner who would return and expect the goods to have been cared for and if possible, bring forth a greater return. There are good stewards and bad stewards.

Of what are you a steward?

2. Ownership

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.... Genesis 1:1^{ESV}

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;... Psalm 24:1^{NRSV}

Read: 1 Chronicles 29:10-16^{NRSV}
¹⁰ Then David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestor

Israel, forever and ever. ¹¹ Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹² Riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³ And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name. ¹⁴ "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵ For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. ¹⁶ O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.

From this passage:

a. Who is God in verse 10?

What belongs to God in verse 11? List each (8) and note the differences.

What comes from God in verse 12? List each (6)

In verse 14?

What is the response of God's people?

a. verse 13? List 2

b. verse 16?

What do you learn about God's responsibility?

God does promise to provide for the people of God

With this foundation comes the understanding that we are not owners of anything on this earth.

From what does this set us free?

How can you live out this principle this month?

3. In the end:

Matthew 16:27^{NRSV} "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

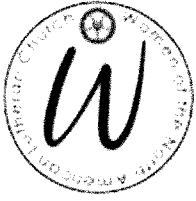
2 Peter 3: 9^{ESV} The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

What will be the result?

God is the owner of everything. We will learn that **the work of the steward** is the Lord's work, **spreading the kingdom of heaven**. Jesus has promised that he will return to judge. This is the urgency of our work as the Lord's managers **that none would perish**.

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

Martin Luther – Small Catechism, First Article of the Apostles' Creed, Explanation



**Grace
WNALC
Meeting –
Thursday,
September 12,
2024**

Opening and Prayer: Hollie Stewart began with a welcome and opening prayer.

Opening Hymn: The group sang Jesus Name Above All Names, accompanied by Mavis Finseth on the piano.

Dessert: Table grace was sung and a delicious dessert was served by Bonnie Salvesson and Maxine Walter from Group 1.

Game: A number game was played with Bonnie Salvesson winning a bar of soap from Howard Soap.

Devotions: Maxine Walter provided devotions with readings from McDuffy's Reader and Psalms 17.

Music: The group sang There Shall be Showers of Blessings, accompanied by Mavis Finseth on the piano.

Bible Study: Conducted by Becky Lindseth titled, Goodness, from the Fruit of the Spirit.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report for the August 8, 2024, meeting was read by Becky Lindseth.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was read by Barb Gaalswyk. Beginning balance was \$3,644.43. After checks and deposits for the month, the balance is \$3,380.43.

Old Business:

Fall Auction – Will be held on September 18, 2024, beginning

with pie social at 6:30 p.m. and the auction beginning at 7:00 p.m.

New Business:

Thank you was received from Evangelical Lutheran for the \$650 in emergency relief sent from WNALC.

80 Year Award – Given to Joyce Voxland.

Next Meeting – The October meeting of the WNALC will be held at McIntosh Senior Living beginning at 2:00 p.m.

WNALC Minutes in Scroll – Discussion was held about including the WNALC meeting summary in the scroll. A motion in support was made by Marie Hamre, which was seconded by Dorothy Sandberg. The motion passed.

Deer Hunter's Supper – Discussion was held regarding the date and it was determined the date of the Deer Hunter's Supper will be November 9, 2024.

Circles:

Hope – Will meet September 25, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

Rebecca – Will meet September 26, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

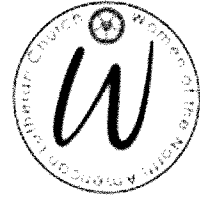
Offering/Closing Devotions:

Closing devotions were given by Audrey Hemmingsen.

Thank you: Hollie Stewart thanked Mavis Finseth, Maxine Walter, Audrey Hemmingsen, and Bonnie Salvesson for their assistance.

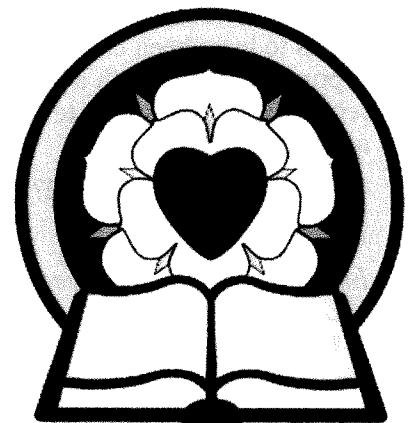
Adjourn: The gathering was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by: Becky Lindseth,
Secretary WNALC



Hello ladies!! Fall colors are starting to show up. I love seeing the maples get their start. We will be going down the road to our neighbors for our next meeting in October. We will join at Mac Senior Living on October 10th at 2:00 in the dining room. This is our regular meeting time and day. We'll have a very short meeting, play games and our Bible study. Come join our fun as we visit and fellowship. All are welcome! Hope to see you there !

~~Hollie



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

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