

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

December 2024

PASTOR'S CORNER

Bidden or unbidden, God is present.

This ancient proverb reminds us that whether we believe it or not, 'Called upon or not, God is still here.' God will be present wherever and whenever he wants.

Found among the Latin jottings of Renaissance scholar Erasmus, the quote was found in the writings of Erasmus, the Renaissance scholar and humanist who found it in the writings of Erasmus. He found it from the writings of the ancient Roman poet Ovid who cited the oracle of Delphi popular between the 8th and 4th centuries BC.

The Almighty's place in this great universe is not dependent on what we want or do not want. This is great comfort to us. So often we worry that God is far away and doesn't wait for us to summon Him. God is great and involved in His creation.

It is good and wonderful to ask God to be close. He will always answer these prayers. We sing the Advent song: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Emmanuel means God with us. Yes! This is who Jesus is – God with us.

We are in the season of Advent, the preparation time for the 2nd coming of Christ Jesus to the world when all will be done. Jesus has been with us, is with us in Spirit, and will be with us to the end and beyond.

Come to worship each week and seek the Lord who wants companionship with us, his creation. Our humble orchestra will be with us on the 1st of December. Jass quintet "Windblown" on the 8th, and children's Christmas pageant on the 15th.

Let's seek the light of Jesus together. We do want God to come and bring His light to this world. Let us freely desire the coming of the Lord, in whatever way the Lord chooses to come.

In ministry together, Pastor Pam

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday December 11th 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 not be meeting during the winter months. See you in March.

Hope Circle: Will not meet in December.

Rebecca Circle: December 19th at 6:30PM at the church.



- Judy Tadman
- Linda Jorgenson
- Judi Hoeft
- 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
- David Ward
- Jesse Hickman
- Brady Langemo
- Greg Kaster
- Jolene Bradley
- Torrey Erickson
- Ron Juve
- Mark Wild
- Mike Johnson
- Shut-ins and Nursing Home members
- Ukraine
- Israel



December 24th
4:30 PM



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 –



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 \(cotribute.co\)](https://www.thrivent.org/teams). 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

October 2024 Financial Summary

Regular Offerings to the General Operating Fund -	\$17,578.75
Other Giving used for the General Operating Fund -	\$ 240.00
Anonymous Donation -	\$ 1,728.81
Interest Earned -	\$ 180.46
Total Income -	\$19,708.02

Expenses:

Administrative -	\$8,742.40
Education -	\$502.59
Mission Outreach -	\$1,320.00
Pastoral -	\$7,482.37
Worship -	\$490.50
Total Expenses -	\$18,537.86
Net Income -	\$1,170.16



- November 3rd:**
Attendance~ 110
Offering~\$3,145.00
- November 10th:**
Attendance~ 65
Offering~\$3,655.00
- November 17th:**
Attendance~ 64
Offering~\$7,345.00



Financial Secretary:

General Fund giving \$19,307.56
 Outreach Giving \$1582.31
 Designated Fund giving \$1210.00
 (\$270 various funds + \$940.00
 Roof)
 Total October Giving: \$22,099.87

Secretary mailed giving statements to everyone.

Treasurer: See report in the office.

Pastor's report: (abbreviated)
 Attended NALC Dean's meeting 11/12-13. There will be NALC constitutional changes in 2025. Vision 2020 is on the table to raise funds to support the work of the NALC. Read the Initiative Impact Report Vision 2020.

<https://vision.thenalc.org/> Initiative Impact Report. Minkota Council will meet in January.

Weekly prayer meeting Thursdays from 9-10. All are invited. Area Lutheran Clergy meet at Grace 2 times a month.

Area Youth:

December: Caroling at Poplar Meadows followed by a Christmas Party.

January 12 meeting at Grace.

February: Tubing at Bemidji. April: "Feed My Starving Children"

March: Movie at Fosston theater.

Stewardship: October Love offering month. (\$1,500).

Education: Sunday School Attendance: High and low attendance. Encourage parents to send kids.

Singing in Church/Christmas: Sunday School sang during the service on November 3rd.

The pageant will be on December 15th during church.

Operation Christmas Child: Cassie delivered 77 shoeboxes to Grand Forks on Monday!

Donations exceeded what we needed, so some money will go toward a Giving Tree Star, a project done by the 5th and 6th grade.

Release Time: Nancy reported that things are going well! However, we still need one more teacher or aide to help with her class. (3rd and 4th grade together have more than 30 students) Email with any questions: education@gracechurcherskine.org
WNALC: November 15 meeting. Group 3 served. Elections on hold. Thank you to Becky Lindseth for her service as secretary. Designated this year's disbursements (\$6,600). Donating a quilt to the After Prom Party.

Trustees: Furnace room pump issue being addressed. Hoping to get the front yard sign lit up. Will be having a budget meeting with pastor and Jim, hopefully Saturday, Dec 7).

Deacons: Continue to serve as needs arise. Encouraged all to be reaching out to our isolated and lonely people.

Food Shelf: 19 households the first Thursday, 22 the second Thursday, 3 on Saturday totaling 44. Brought in 2900# of food and dispensed 2600#. Receiving confirmations to the Thanksgiving boxes. Volunteers, keep in mind that we will be packing and dispensing the Thanksgiving boxes on Saturday, November 23rd from 11 A.M.-1 P.M.

Old Business:

Building Committee Update: Keeping the building committee together meeting on a semi-regular basis. Considering a regular inspection of the roof, annual window inspection, look in the attic in the sanctuary to see what is going on up there. Consider evaluating the bell's structure. Possibly replace basement carpet. Evaluate Sunday School wing's windows. Lawn is seeded and hopefully will be growing in the spring.

Carpet: If things go well we may be looking at installation next week. Jim will be on hand to advise and answer questions from the carpet layer.

Road signs: Polk County will install them for cost of labor. They will meet the requirements. Location to be decided. John said HWY 2 signs go through MNDOT engineering and permit departments. Yvonne made the motion to order two signs and when they arrive proceed with the county installation. Gary seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Christmas Eve Worship Service: (time) 4:30

Janitor: We will be making janitorial changes due to budget restraints.

Also, we feel these changes would be an opportunity to involve more of our members.

Thank You to Marie Hamre for taking over and coordinating our Deer Hunter Supper. We also want to thank all who contributed in any way to its success.

Lance Erickson will install the new gutters and once they arrive. **Pastor asked if the candelabras,** used prior to the current pair, could be donated to another church who was interested in them. Council unanimously agreed that this was a great idea.

Calendar:

December 1: Special Music at service

December 8: Windblown will perform at service

December 11: **Next Council Meeting (7:00)**

December 15: Sunday School Christmas Pageant (during Sunday service)

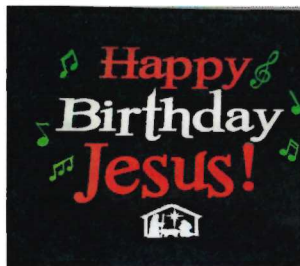
December 24: **Christmas Eve Service at 4:30 p.m.**

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	

Nativity of Our Lord
December 24, 2024 • Christmas
Eve

First Reading - Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm - Psalm 96:1-13
 Second Reading - Titus 2:11-14
 Gospel - Luke 2:1-14, 15-20



Nativity of Our Lord
December 25, 2024 • Christmas Day

First Reading - Isaiah 52:7-10
 Psalm - Psalm 2:1-12
 Second Reading - Hebrews 1:1-6, 7-12
 Gospel - John 1:1-14, 15-18

**LECTIONARY READINGS
FOR NOVEMBER**

First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024

First Reading - Jeremiah 33:14-16
 Psalm - Psalm 25:1-10
 Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 Gospel - Luke 21:25-36

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024

First Reading - Malachi 3:1-7b
 Psalm - Psalm 66:1-12
 Second Reading - Philippians 1:2-11
 Gospel - Luke 3:1-14, 15-20

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024

First Reading - Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Psalm - Psalm 85:1-13
 Second Reading - Philippians 4:4-7
 Gospel - Luke 7:18-28, 29-35

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024

First Reading - Micah 5:2-5a
 Psalm - Psalm 80:1-7
 Second Reading - Hebrews 10:5-10
 Gospel - Luke 1:39-45, 46-56

First Sunday after Christmas
December 29, 2024

First Reading - Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15
 Psalm - Psalm 111:1-10
 Second Reading - Colossians 3:12-17
 Gospel - Luke 2:22-40





Grace WNALC Meeting – Thursday, October 10, 2024

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

Devotions: Joanne Sannes provided devotions.

Opening Hymn: The group sang Alas and Did My Savior Bleed, accompanied by Mavis Haugom on the piano.

Game: A game of “favorite things” was played with many winners receiving selection from assorted candy.

Bible Study: Conducted by Hollie Stewart, titled, Faithfulness, from the Fruit of the Spirit.

Secretary’s Report: No secretary’s report given for the September meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer’s report was read by Barb Gaalswyk. Beginning balance was \$3,380.00. Revenue from the auction totaled \$8,262.00. Discussion was held regarding a financial need for the Kuwala Christian Girls School. A motion was made by Maxine Walter to send Kuwala Christian Girls School \$650. The motion was seconded by Joanne Sannes and passed. After checks and deposits for the month, the balance is \$10,734.18.

Old Business:

Auction Wrap Up – The auction details were discussed and rec-

ognized the proceeds totaled \$8,262.00.

New Business:

Erin Green – Discussion was held about the Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by Erin Green. Informed people that donations could be made at the bank.

Disbursement of Funds – Information was shared that the Officers will meet to determine recommendations for disbursement of funds and the Officers are seeking suggestions.

Circle:

Hope – Will meet October 24, 2024.

Rebecca – Will meet October 23, 2024.

Thank you: Hollie Stewart thanked McIntosh Senior Living for hosting the group and the dessert, Mavis Haugom, and Joanne Sannes for their assistance.

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

Dessert: Table grace was sung and a delicious dessert was served by McIntosh Senior Living.

Submitted by: Hollie Stewart,
WNALC President



Grace WNALC Meeting – Thursday, November 14, 2024

Opening and Prayer: Hollie Stewart began with a welcome and opening prayer. Eleven women were present for the meeting.

Opening Hymn: The group sang Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God, accompanied by Mavis Haugom on the piano.

Dessert: Table grace was sung and a delicious dessert of bread pudding was served by Wendy Lee from Group 3.

Devotions: Joanne Sannes provided devotions with a reading from Quiet Time for Your Soul, titled Choosing Gratitude.

Game: A game was played with everyone winning a prize.

Music: The group sang Jesus, Lover of My Soul, accompanied by Mavis Haugom on the piano.

Bible Study: Conducted by Hollie Stewart, titled, Gentleness, from the Fruit of the Spirit.

Secretary’s Report: The secretary’s report for the October 10, 2024, meeting was read by Hollie Stewart.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer’s report was read by Barb Gaalswyk. Beginning balance was \$10,734.18. After checks and deposits for the month, the balance is \$10,617.68.

Old Business:

Disbursements – The list of recommendations from the Officers was distributed. Discussion was held.

Continued on Page 7

GRACE WNALC, continued

Motion was made by Dorothy Sandberg to approved the disbursements, in the amount of \$6,600, as recommended by the Officers. The motion was seconded by Joanne Sannes and passed.

New Business:

Confirmation Display – Discussion was held about the need for a new display for confirmation history. A motion was made by Mavis Haugom to designate \$1,500 for the purchase. The motion was seconded by Bonnie Salveson and passed.

80 Year Old Recipient – Joyce Voxland was presented with a devotional.

Election of Officer – The matter is tabled until the March/April 2025 meeting.

WEM After Prom Party Request – Discussion was held and it was decided that a quilt will be donated for the event.

Circle:

Hope – Will meet November 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Rebecca – Will meet November 21, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Thank you: Hollie Stewart thanked Mavis Haugom, Wendy Lee, and Joanne Sannes for their assistance.

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

Submitted by: Becky Lindseth,
Secretary WNALC

Christmas Poinsettia Garden

If you would like to bring in a red or white poinsettia during the Advent and Christmas season, you may give in remembrance or in honor of someone. Fill in a slip with the information you would like listed in the bulletin.



Sunday December 15th

10:30 AM

(During Worship Service)



In case of bad weather, the pageant will be held on Wednesday December 18th at 7:00 PM.

DECEMBER

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES

Hope no meeting
Rebecca at the church

Ushers :

Gene & Mavis Haugom
Ray Voxland
Jon Clementson
Ogden Farder, Jr.

Communion Assistants:
Mavis Haugom and Betty Lundin

Altar Flowers:
Rebecca Circle

Altar Guild:
Lesly Tradewell and Cindy Nelson

R= Reader
A=Acolyte
P=Power Point

DECEMBER 1st:

R~ Jim Ferden
A~ Taytum Smeby and George Juve
P~ Kale Smeby and Rodney Stephen

DECEMBER 8th:

R~ Carla Ferden
A~ Grace Gunderson and Wyatt Lee

P~ Brecken Gunderson and Addyson Morgenroth

DECEMBER 15th:

R~ Liz Jensen
A~ Shelby Shimpa and Bridger Huschle

P~ Hannah Shimpa and Jon Hill


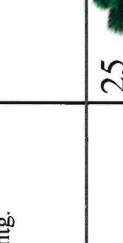
DECEMBER 22nd:

R~ Josie Johnson
A~ Hope Omundson and Faith Omundson

P~ Scott Omundson and Jorgen Johnson

DECEMBER 29th:

R~ Nancy Jensen
A~ Owen Strom and Kale Smeby
P~ Logan Johnson and Taytum Smeby

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a- Worship w/Holy Comm.	2 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	3 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	4 1:55p-Release Time Class 6p-Confirmation Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	5 1:55p-Release Time Class 6p-Confirmation Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast 7:00p-Council Mtg.	6 	7 9a- Rebroadcast
8 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a- Worship w/Holy Comm.	9 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	10 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	11 1:55p-Release Time Class 6p-Confirmation Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast 7:00p-Council Mtg.	12 2-6p-Food Shelf is open	13	14 9a- Rebroadcast
15 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a- Worship w/Sunday School Christmas Program	16 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	17 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 8p-AA mtg.	18 1:55p-Release Time Class 6p-Conf. Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	19 10a-2p-Food Shelf is open 6:30p-Rebecca Circle	20 SCROLL ARTICLES DUE	21 9a- Rebroadcast 9a-12pm-Food Shelf is open
22 9a-ABS 10:30a- Worship	23 9:30a-LBS 10a-Rebroadcast	24 4:30p-Candlelight Worship Service	25  MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28 9a- Rebroadcast
29 9a-ABS 10:30a- Worship	30 9:30a-LBS 10a-Rebroadcast	31 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 8p-AA mtg.				
				Greeters: 1st: Allen & Liz Jensen 8th: Russell Johnson	15th: Jason & Shelly Juve 22nd: Kevin & Lesia Juve	29th: Calvin Kolstad