

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

November 2024

PASTOR'S CORNER

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We've enjoyed the beautiful change of seasons. The final burst of color as the leaves change and show their glory give us such a boost. This change signals transition. We know that winter is coming and all that that means.

Transition is a season unto itself. Our lives do change. Sometimes we get a signal that change is on the way. Other times it is thrust upon us without warning and we begin our adjustment rather abruptly. We are made to adjust, but it isn't without difficulty.

Transition is about letting go of one thing and eventually or right away reaching out for what is next. It's a scary time. Humans are wired to feel comfortable with what we know. But, we have a God who is with us all the way.

Jesus walked this earth with family, friends, and later with disciples who followed him and learned to believe in him as Son of God, Messiah, Savior. But, his physical time here came to end with his sanctifying death on the cross, resurrection from the dead, and his going to heaven. That transition was tough for the newly formed church, his followers. What would they do without Jesus? But God had not left them hopeless, nor have we been left to fend for ourselves. Jesus is our High Priest who intercedes for us. We also have God's Holy Spirit to comfort, teach, empower, and fill us with God's abundant Grace. That is God's promise to us.

Whatever is happening in your life, look to the Lord Jesus. Our amazing God can handle anything.

In ministry together,

Pastor Pam

Pledge Cards ---

Budget planning for 2025 is upon us. All are invited to submit a Pledge card indicating how much you intend to give to the work of the church for the year. We give out of what God has given us.

Please help us plan for the new year and the new work that God has for Grace Church.

All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you. Deuteronomy 16:17





The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday November 13th at 7:00PM at the church. A reminder that All Council meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise specified.



November 11th



November 25th



The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday November 14th at 2:00 PM. Group #3 will serve.

Hope Circle: November 27th at 10:00AM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: November 21st at 6:30PM at the church.



September 29th:
Attendance~ 84
Offering~\$2,032.00

October 6th:
Attendance~ 66
Offering~\$2,313.00

October 13th:
Attendance~ 79
Offering~\$5,171.06

October 20th:
Attendance~ 95
Offering~\$3,270.00

October 27th:
Attendance~ 165
Offering~\$3,332.00



- 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
- Jesse Hickman
- Brady Langemo
- Greg Kaster
- Jolene Bradley
- Torrey Erickson
- Ron Juve
- Mark Wild
- Mike Johnson
- 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 –



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



September 2024 Financial Summary

Regular Offerings to the General Operating Fund -	\$15,657.25
Other Giving used for the General Operating Fund -	\$240.00
Interest Earned -	\$179.16
Total Income	\$16,076.41

Expenses:

Administrative -	\$13,977.70
Education -	\$ 183.89
Mission Outreach -	\$ 1,320.00
Pastoral -	\$ 8,022.27
Worship -	\$ 737.02

Total Expenses -	\$24,240.88
Net Loss	(\$ 8,164.47)



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.



Grace Council Highlights
October 9, 2024

Present: President John Carlson, Pastor Pam, Hollie Stewart, Yvonne Halvorson, Gene Haugom, Gary Walter, Jim Ferden, Carla Ferden, Steve Jacobson, Tina Farrell, visitor: Lily Shimpa

Financial Secretary's Report: (Report on file) Tina reported.

Tina asked if we wanted individual giving reports to be sent out 3rd qtr. Council recommended Tina prepare the reports and send.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported.

Cash Flow Report

Building Fund Roof Repair Fund – Another good month for donations.

Regular Offering to the General Operating Fund was \$15,657.25. Monthly budget goal is \$21,363.85.

Undesignated funds available to be used for September's General Fund expenses totaled \$16,076.41. This total is comprised of the regular offering, interest, and a portion of other giving.

The total of undesignated funds was again below the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$24,240.88. However, the entire remaining portion of the property insurance premium was paid (\$7,071.84) which distorts this

month's overall expenses. Without considering that, monthly expenses would total \$17,169.04. ***Expenses would have still exceeded undesignated funds for the month.***

Noteworthy Other Giving:

Miscellaneous – Contribution by an area church to assist with release time transportation expenses from the last school year (\$200) and several pass-through donations.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration: Church and Parsonage Property Taxes – Second half was paid.

Custodian – Brian's compensation was for the end of August and the first half of September.

Financial Secretary – Quarterly salary was paid.

Property Insurance – This expense is the normal monthly payment plus the remaining balance.

Worship: Worship Aids – Communion supplies and worship planning education materials.

Budget Report

We ended the month at approximately ***10.2% or \$26,000 under budget.***

All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month.

These items went over budget this month:

Property Insurance due to expensing a year and half of cost in one year;

Parsonage Property Taxes – expense was more than budgeted for the year.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

Giving to date in 2024 continues to be well ahead of 2023 (\$12,000) and is the best ever at this time compared to any previous year!!

History of the General Operating Fund Balance

Total did not cover the month's expenses. General Operating Fund balance is down again from last month. Excluding the full insurance premium payment, the general fund balance would be at \$1,546.28.

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

Account Balances Report

Building Fund - Reflects donations of \$105.00. It also reflects expenses related to the separate elevator phone line (\$39.33).

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.

Oil Fund - Missions reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.

Organ Fund – Reflects a donation of \$5.00.

Roof Project Fund – Reflects donations of \$2,120.00 and expenses of \$1,652.31 (SS room painting), \$198.07 (materials for new wall in SS room), \$150.00 (gift certificate for Bursheim), and \$328.97 (loan interest).

Scholarship Fund – Reflects a donation of \$10.00.

SS Equipment Fund – Reflects donations of \$25.00.

SS Outreach Fund – Reflects a

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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 NOVEMBER****All Saints Sunday****November 3, 2024**

First Reading - Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm - Psalm 149:1-9

Second Reading - 1 John 3:1-3

Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12

25th Sunday after Pentecost**November 10, 2024**

First Reading - 1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalm - Psalm 146:1-10

Second Reading - Hebrews 9:24-28

Gospel - Mark 12:38-44

26th Sunday after Pentecost**November 17, 2024**

First Reading - Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm - Psalm 16:1-11

Second Reading - Hebrews 10:11-25

Gospel - Mark 13:1-13

Christ the King**November 24, 2024**

First Reading - Isaiah 51:4-6

Psalm - Psalm 93:1-5

Second Reading - Revelation 1:4b-8

Gospel - Mark 13:24-37

**DEER HUNTERS****SUPPER**

The Annual Deer Hunters Meatball Supper will be held on Saturday November 9th serving from 5:00-8:00 PM. The supper is

curbside "to go" from the west alley at the Erskine Community Center. The cost is a free will donation.

*November 28th*

GRACE COUNCIL, continued donation of \$10.00, SS offerings of \$74.76, 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 increased approximately \$500.00 from last month

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

Balance increased approximately \$1,600.00 from last month.

Other Information

To date financial summary of roof project:

Original Loan Amount Approved - \$175,000.00

Loan Funds Advanced - \$50,000.00

Principal & Interest Paid - \$785.47

Loan Balance - \$49,978.77

Donations – \$80,176.00

Labor & Material Costs – \$90,606.73

Other Costs - \$785.37

Roof Project Fund Balance (as of 9/30/24) - \$37,998.43

Flooring Estimate for Education Wing

Called Five Star Flooring and let them know the Council accepted their bid.

Scroll Newsletter – The annual pre-sort permit was due in August and unfortunately had to be paid to get the October Scroll mailed - \$350.00.

**Jim's comments. We are still continuing to have expenses higher than the donations. Gen-*

eral Fund is continuing to decrease. Currently, the General Fund is in the red (negative balance).

Pastor's Report:

Pastoral Care - Home visits.

Confirmation - Reformation Sunday for Rian Bergh, Carter Fortman, Jayden Haugen, Hayden Johnson, Lillian Shimpa, Jareth Walk, Rodney Stephens.

NALC Business

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

October 20, In Washburn, ND for Installation.

Attended Order of St. Luke Healing Conference in Ashville, NC as Hurricane Helene hit.

Bible Study be Poplar Meadows Thursdays at 1:00. Studying Daniel.

Encourage Sunday attendance. Our main focus as Christians is to worship Almighty God. Be sure to talk with people you don't know well. Council can set the atmosphere for the church. Weekly prayer meeting begins again. This would be an Open Prayer time. Consider committing to come.

Committee Reports:

Youth Ministry: Pres. John reported. Youth Group cleaned ditches and made \$300. 25 students cleaned ditches and 29 were at the bonfire. Oct 16 has changed to a worship service for all. Free will donation basket. The WEM youth group will be involved and artists will be coming.

Education: Andrew sent a re-

port.

SS attendance dropped a bit, probably due to illness.

Sept. 29th they sang in church (23 elementary students)

Nov 3 is Operation Christmas Child Sunday with Sunday School singing.

First Elementary Released Time went well.

You may email Andrew with any questions at: education@gracechurcherskine.org

WNALC: Hollie reported

Meet tomorrow (Oct 10) at Mac Senior Living with Bible Study, games and lunch.

Auction and serving group donation funds will be decided for disbursement with list given to WNALC members to decide.

They will be discussing donations for the hurricane victims. The NALC Disaster Response warehouse in Chatfield has had much taken to help.

Trustees: Gene reported

Gene has been working on the sign out front replacing plexiglass and electricity.

Pastor found a company with signs that could be put on HWY 2 for church info. MNDOT will have to be contacted before anything can be ordered. Gene noted in Sunday School rooms that they are going to put some type barrier in front of the registers on the floor to prevent the chairs from hitting them before the new carpet is

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued
installed.

Video Ministry:

A new larger TV will be installed with a volunteer team.

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

30 households served the first shopping day, 14 households second shopping day and 2 on Saturday. 2942 pounds of food was delivered today to restock.

Thanksgiving boxes will be distributed again this year.

Oct. 14 is the Advisory Meeting for the Food Shelf at 10:00 at Grace.

We are saying good-bye to Shirley M. for the winter months. We are also saying good bye to Betty H. who moved to Texas. Prayers continue for Judy T.

Received a \$7500 grant for the Food Shelf that can be used for any purpose.

Thanks to Dave H. for getting our new keyless entry for the Food Shelf door.

Thanks to Scott and Dave H. for getting the new banner for the Food Shelf.

Old Business:

Building Committee Update- Steve reported

Finished blowing in insulation and the bill came in under budget.

Gutters are still on the agenda.

Matt Schow is going to start landscaping next week.

Heaters are all installed. Some

cosmetic work needs to be done by John.

Carpet – color chosen. Scheduling time for installation.

New Business:

Motion made by Gene to approve Amy Bartz and Kim Mahlen to be on the Backpack Program’s bank signature card.

Lesly Tradewell’s name will be removed. Seconded by Hollie, Motion carried.

Other: John received a letter from Erin Greene asking for a donation for the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals that she provides.

Youth Mission Trip: 2026 the NALC will have a National Conference for youth. Pastor would also like to take a mission trip this year. Destination still to be determined. Council is in favor of this. We want it to be open to all of the WEM Youth Group. Each church would be able to help their students financially. There will be additional opportunities for the current WEM group to do some fund raising together (in addition to what their church would give) to help with expenses.

Calendar:

Next Council Meeting: November 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
(NOTE DATE CHANGE)

Oct 27 Confirmation--
Reformation Sunday with Affirmation of Baptism

Nov 3 All Saint’s Day

Nov 9 Hunter’s Supper

Nov 12-13 Dean’s Meeting, Dallas (11-13 w/travel time)



“A Thanksgiving Day Prayer”

Anonymous

Lord, We humbly ask thy blessing on the turkey and the dressing, on the yams and cranberry jelly, and the homemade pickles from our kitchen.

Bless the coffee, tea, apple and pumpkin pies.
Bless each and every calorie... :-).

Let us enjoy Thanksgiving dinner, tomorrow we can all get thinner.

For all thy help along the way we’re thankful this Thanksgiving Day.

We’re thankful, too, for all our dear ones,
for all the far away and near ones.

Although we may be apart, we’re together in our hearts.

Keep us in thy loving care, this is my Thanksgiving prayer.

P.S.: Anyone who wishes may help with the dishes.



NOVEMBER

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES

Hope at the church
Rebecca at the church

Ushers :
Shawn Ostenaar

Communion Assistants:
Barb Gaalswyk and Jim Ferden

Altar Flowers:
Hope Circle

Altar Guild:
Lesly Tradewell and Cindy Nelson

R= Reader
A=Acolyte
P=Power Point

NOVEMBER 3rd:

R~ Dorothy Sandberg
A~ Addyson Morgenroth and Hannah Shimpa
P~ Wyatt Lee and Shelby Shimpa
NOVEMBER 10th:
R~ Hollie Stewart
A~ Scott Omundson and Jorgen Johnson

P~ Faith Omundson and Hope Omundson

NOVEMBER 17th:

R~ Kevin Thorson
A~ Bridger Huschle and Logan Johnson

P~ Owen Strom and Jon Hill

NOVEMBER 24th:

R~ John Carlson
A~ Karl Jax and Carson Fortman
P~ Malaina Jax and Bella Senn

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 All Saints Sunday 9a-ABS School 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a- Worship	4 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	5 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	6 1:55p-Release Time 6p-Confirmation Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	7 6:30p-Orchestra practice	8	9 9a- Rebroadcast 5-8 pm-DEER HUNTERS SUPPER
10 9a-ABS School 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a- Worship w/ Holy Comm.	11 Veterans Day 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	12 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	13 1:55p-Release Time 6p-Conf. Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast 7:00p-Council Mtg.	14 2p-WNALC Mtg. 2-6p-Food Shelf is open	15 SCROLL ARTICLES DUE	16 9a- Rebroadcast 9a-12pm-Food Shelf is open
17 9a-ABS School 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a- Worship	18 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	19 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	20 10a-Hope Circle 1:55p-Release Time 6p-Confirmation Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	21 10a-2p-Food Shelf is open 6:30p-Rebecca Circle	22	23 9a- Rebroadcast
24 9a-ABS School 10:30a- Worship	25 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	26 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	27 1:55p-Release Time 6p-Confirmation Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	29	30 9a- Rebroadcast
				Greeters: 3rd: Rob & Lori Hole 10th: Derek Holthausen	17th: Scott & Kristen Hornbuckle 24th: Nancy Jensen	