

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

January 2025

PASTOR'S CORNER

Want to know how to Pray?

Prayer is communication with God. Simply, we can talk to God any-time and anywhere. The Almighty can hear our thoughts and knows the intentions of our hearts. We can pray out loud or silently. We can listen as Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts. There are many ways to pray. This ACTS method is an easy one to remember.

The **ACTS** prayer acronym stands for:

Adoration – praise for who God is. You are *Wonderful. Almighty. Great. Holy. King of Kings. Lord of Lords. Ruler. Savior. Etc.* (“Lord God in Heaven, You are worthy to be praised. You are the Creator and Sustainer of Life and from everlasting to everlasting You are God.”)

Confession – tell your sins. Ask forgiveness for specific things. God forgives.

Thanksgiving – State those things that God has done for you.

Supplication – Ask for needs and concerns. Healing for the sick. Help wherever you or someone you know needs help. Pray for the world. Our community. Family. Nation. Weather. And so forth.

Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to “*approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need*” (NASB). So, here is a way that you can confidently come before God’s throne to praise Him, repent, thank Him and request what it is you need.

What Is the ACTS Prayer Method?

This method of prayer serves as an outline or guide for prayer so you can organize your thoughts and requests. The acronym **ACTS** stands for *adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.*

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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday January 8th at 7:00PM at the church. A reminder that All Council meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise specified.



November 24th:
Attendance~ 92
Offering~\$2,558.00

December 1st:
Attendance~ 86
Offering~\$2,825.00

December 8th:
Attendance~ 91
Offering~\$1,807.00

December 15th:
Attendance~ 167
Offering~ \$4,249.00

December 22nd:
Attendance~ 53
Offering~ \$2,115.00

Christmas Eve:
Attendance~ 192

December 29th:
Attendance~ 37
Offering~ \$1,667.00



The Grace WNALC will not be meeting during the winter months. See you in March.

Hope Circle: January 22nd at 10:00AM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: January 23rd at 6:30PM at the church.

LETTER FROM OUR COMPASSION CHILD

Date: September 28, 2024.

Shalom. May peace be with you.

Hi dear friends. I am grateful to God to have another chance to write you a letter. I am grateful, my family and I are healthy. I am able to finish my school activities and got good grades, so I am promoted to next grade. Several times ago, my father had birthday. My younger sibling, mother and I are grateful, we celebrate it with simple celebration.

Dear Friends, I hope you and your family are healthy. That is all from me for now. Look forward to reading your reply.

Shalom. *Ran*



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
Jerry & Gloria Bixby

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



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 –



December 2024 Financial Summary

Regular Offerings to the General Operating Fund - \$16,909.25
 Other Giving used for the General Operating Fund - \$ 5,010.00
 Interest Earned - \$ 174.46
 Total Income - \$22,093.71

Expenses:

Administrative - \$ 9,122.56
 Education - \$ 541.19
 Mission Outreach - \$ 3,763.00
 Pastoral - \$10,384.95
 Worship - \$ 3,273.83
 Total Expenses - \$27,085.53
 Net Income (\$4,991.82)



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 LUTHERAN
CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
December 11, 2024

Present: President John Carlson, Pastor Pam, Hollie Stewart, Yvonne Halvorson, Jim Ferden, Carla Ferden, Steve Jacobson, Andrew Hanson, Tina Farrell, Lori Hole

Financial Secretary's Report:
(November 2024) Tina reported.

General Fund Offering Income: \$20,712.25

Total General Fund

Operating Offering:

Total Operating Income
\$2,792.00

Total General Fund/Operating Income \$23,504.25

Outreach Offering: Total Outreach Income \$ 1,270.90

Building Fund Offering:

Total Building Fund Income
\$ 375.00

Total Deposits Made:
\$21,050.90

Electronic Deposit: \$ 4,099.25

Total Monthly Deposit:
\$25,150.15

Financial Secretary's financial report was received for filing.
(Report on file)

Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report

Regular Offering to the General Operating Fund was \$20,712.25,

a nice increase from last month! The monthly budget goal is \$21,363.85.

Undesignated funds available to be used for November's General Fund expenses totaled \$24,101.58. This total is comprised of the regular offering, interest, proceeds from the Deer Hunter's Supper, Love Offering, and other giving.

The total of undesignated funds given was above the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$17,272.79.

Noteworthy Other Giving:

Love Offering - \$325.00

Deer Hunter's Supper - \$2,713.00

Operation Christmas Child - \$742.00

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration:

Church & Parsonage Fuel – The heating season has begun!!

Church & Parsonage Maintenance – Fire extinguisher inspection comprises the bulk of this cost.

Custodian – Brian's compensation consists of only one request for payment.

Workers Comp – Annual premium.

Mission Outreach:

Miscellaneous – Pass through donations.

Budget Report

Overall, we ended the month at approximately 12.7% or \$32,500 under budget.

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

The cleaning service line item went over budget this month.

They washed windows back in August, and this amount was not included in the budget. The

Workers Comp line item also went over budget this month due to the premium exceeding the budgeted amount.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

Giving in November increased nicely over giving in October and is the third month of increased giving since August.

This is the highest monthly giving for the year so far, and is actually the highest monthly giving ever since 2011!!

Giving to date in 2024 continues to be well ahead of 2023 (\$20,000).

Total giving for 2024 will be the highest for any year ever since 2011!!

History of the General Operating Fund Balance

Thanks to a nice increase in monthly giving, as well as donations for the Love Offering, the proceeds from the Deer Hunter's Supper; and a decrease in expenses this month; the previous negative balance in the General Fund is gone and we have a positive balance of \$4,213.39.

This is the first positive General Fund balance since August.

Account Balances Report

Building Fund - Reflects donations of \$25.00. It also reflects expenses related to the separate elevator phone line (\$39.42) and the purchase of a vacuum cleaner to replace the vacuum of the church cleaner (\$236.00). Her vacuum was used by someone at the church and now it no longer worked well.

Oil Fund – Bldg Upkeep reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.

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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 JANUARY****Second Sunday of Christmas
January 5, 2025**

First Reading - 1 Kings 3:4-15
 Psalm - Psalm 119:97-104
 Second Reading - Ephesians 1:3-14
 Gospel - Luke 2:40-52

**Baptism of Our Lord
January 12, 2025**

First Reading - Isaiah 43:1-7
 Psalm - Psalm 29:1-11
 Second Reading - Romans 6:1-11
 Gospel - Luke 3:15-22

**Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 19, 2025**

First Reading - Isaiah 62:1-5
 Psalm - Psalm 128:1-6
 Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
 Gospel - John 2:1-11

**Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 26, 2025**

First Reading - Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 Psalm - Psalm 19:1-6, 7-14
 Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
 Gospel - Luke 4:16-30



Grace Lutheran Church will hold their Annual Meeting on Sunday January 26th following the 10:30AM Worship Service.

GRACE COUNCIL, continued
Oil Fund – Church Operating
Emergency Fund reflects a por-
tion of this month’s oil/gas rev-
enue.

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

Organ Fund – Reflects a dona-
tion of \$5.00 and an expense
for tuning of \$321.00.

Roof Project Fund – Reflects
donations of \$350.00 and ex-
penses of \$381.99 (loan inter-
est).

Scholarship Fund – Reflects a
donation of \$10.00.

Shoobox Fund – Reflects dona-
tions of \$742.00.

SS Equipment Fund – Reflects
a donation of \$5.00.

SS Outreach Fund – Reflects a
donation of \$10.00, SS offer-
ings of \$63.90, and the expense
of \$43.00 to Compassion Inter-
national for the regular monthly
gift.

VBS Fund – Reflects a dona-
tion of \$10.00.

**Brovold Investment Valuation
Report** Balance increased ap-
proximately \$500.00 from last
month.

**Gunderson Investment Valua-
tion Report** Balance de-
creased approximately
\$1,400.00 from last month.

Other Information

***To date financial summary of
roof project:***

Original Loan Amount Ap-
proved - \$175,000.00

Loan Funds Advanced -
\$50,000.00

Principal & Interest Paid -
\$1,496.43

Loan Balance - \$49,936.32

Donations – \$81,436.00

Labor & Material Costs –
\$95,371.73

Other Costs - \$785.37

Roof Project Fund Balance (as
of 11/30/24) - \$33,782.47

FYI – The loan has now been
converted to monthly payments
of interest and principal until it
is paid off. The monthly pay-
ment is \$4,936.32.

Jim is waiting for the expense of
the rain gutters. Once those
have been installed, Jim will
apply the remaining balance in
the Roof Repair Fund to the bal-
ance of the loan.

***Update on flooring for Educa-
tion Wing*** The new carpet was
installed the week of December
2. The carpet in the elevator and
the stairs by the elevator going
down to the basement to re-
placed after Christmas.

The carpet base was donated to
the church by the installer, Jason
Aarestad. This was a very gen-
erous gift from him.

Thanks to Gene Haugom, Steve
Jacobson, and John Carlson for
helping move the furniture dur-
ing the week.

Also, thanks to Kim and Pastor
Pam for their patience as their
offices were torn apart and re-
constructed during the week.

Annual Budget – Gene Haugom,
Ray Labreque, John Carlson,
and I met last Saturday to deter-
mine the church budget for
2025. The Council will need to
review and approve the budget
this evening.

Pastor’s Report:

Attended the NALC Deans
meeting.

Traveled to Texas for Thanks-

Thanksgiving

Made nursing home visits

Made some hospital visits

Will be attending the NALC
Pastor’s Conference

President’s Report:

Planning for upcoming youth
meetings. - Building 2025
schedule for youth events.

Planning to build a volunteer
sheet for members helping with
maintenance. - John will give a
brief talk about member
opportunities on Sunday.

Planning to add youth to each
month’s usher list.

Committee Reports:

Youth Ministry: Pres. John
reported.

Tina has the calendars ready
except for proofing.

Youth Event Plans:

December: Caroling at Poplar
Meadows in MacIntosh. 16
attended.

January 12 youth event at Grace
for a program.

February: Tubing in Bemidji

March: Possible movie at
Fosston theater

April: Feed My Starving
Children

Education: Andrew reported

Sunday School Attendance:

We did not have Sunday School
on Thanksgiving weekend.
Attendance has been over 70%
before and after that.

Singing in Church/Christmas:

The pageant is this coming
Sunday, December 15th, during
church. We’re using a traditional

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued

script from Pastor Pam. All songs will be from CDs. Practices have been going fairly well, and we are looking forward to sharing the message of Christmas with the congregation.

Operation Christmas Child: Offerings exceeded what we needed (\$893.77 - our goal was \$770), so we will save the excess for next year. Donation of \$770 was made to Samaritan's Purse on December 11th.

Release Time: As far as I am aware, we are still in need of one more teacher or aide to help with Nancy's large class.

Email with any questions: education@gracechurcherskine.org

WNALC: Hollie reported

Officers met after meeting last month with Pastor. Meetings will be April, June, August, and November. Plan to do a different serving method for December. Mavis has added persons to the serving groups. Elections will be next year.

Trustees: Steve reported - Report will be included in the Building Committee report.

Deacons: Carla reported - List of communion assistants was compiled. Advent readers contacted for this year's Advent Sundays.

Video Ministry: - Andrew would like to use TV monitor in sanctuary on Sunday for the elementary program. See Nick.

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

November Report

50 households served (4 new visits)

November Report:

50 households served (4 new visits), 2946# of food dispensed, 27 households received Thanksgiving boxes. Saturday shopping day will be suspended (not enough participation)

Old Business:

Building Committee Update: Steve reported. Carpet is in and looks great. Will be completed soon. Gutters should be in Friday. Weather and Lance's availability will determine when they will be installed.

Road signs: John and Pastor Pam reported. Pastor passed around sign designs for opinions and approval. The new NALC logo will be on it. We want to have direction arrows included.

New Business:

Review and approval of the 2025 proposed budget: Jim reported and went over all proposed changes and the reasoning behind them.

Annual Meeting date set for January 26 following church service.

Gift Cards: Pastor receives gift cards to be given to community members. She would like some assistance with names and dispensing of the cards.

Calendar:

Dec 15: Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service—4:30 p.m.

Jan 8: Next Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

JANUARY HAPPENINGS

12th: WEM Area Youth Event for grades 7-12 at Grace Church 4:00 PM



January 20th



26th: Grace Church Annual meeting following the 10:30 AM Worship Service

JANUARY

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES
 Hope at the church
 Rebecca at the church

Ushers :
 Steve Jacobson
 Nicolas Gustafson

Communion Assistants:

Altar Flowers:
 Hope Circle

Altar Guild:
 Sarah Strom and Shelly Juve

R= Reader
 A=Acolyte
 P=Power Point

JANUARY 5th:
 R~~ Yvonne Halvorson
 A~~ Carson Fortman and Karl Jax
 P~~ Bella Senn and Malaina Jax

JANUARY 12th:
 R~~ Gary Walter
 A~~ Addyson Morgenroth and
 Rodney Stephen

JANUARY 19th:
 R~~ Kris Nornes
 A~~ Brecken Gunderson and

Hannah Shimpa
 P~~ Gracey Gunderson and Shelby
 Shimpa

JANUARY 26th:
 R~~ Ann Brekken
 A~~ Jon Hill and Logan Johnson

P~~ Hope Omundson and Faith
 Omundson

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4 9a- Rebroadcast
5 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a- Worship w/Holy Comm.	6 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	7 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	8 1:55p-Release Time 6p-Confirmation Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast 7:00p-Council Mtg.	9 2-6p-Food Shelf is open	10	11 9a- Rebroadcast
12 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a- Worship w/Holy Comm. 4p-WEM Youth Praise & Worship	13 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	14 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	15 1:55p-Release Time 6p-Conf. Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	16 10a-2p-Food Shelf is open	17 SCROLL ARTI- CLES DUE	18 9a- Rebroadcast
19 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a- Worship	20 9:30a-LBS 10a-Rebroadcast	21 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	22 10a-Hope Circle 1:55p-Release Time 6p-Confirmation Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	23 6:30p-Rebecca Cir- cle	24	25 9a- Rebroadcast
26 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a- Worship 11:30a-Grace Annual Meeting	27 9:30a-LBS 10a-Rebroadcast	28 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	29 1:55p-Release Time 6p-Confirmation Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	30	31	
				Greeters: 5th: Ray & Paula LaBrecque 12th: Brady & Katie Lee	19th: Randy & Wendy Lee 26th: Don & Betty Lundin	