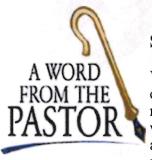
### The Scroll

### Grace Lutheran Church

April 2025



### **Seeking Jesus**

We are walking through our Lenten journey, exploring once again the final weeks of Jesus. It is important to remember and let it soak in to our being the depth of what Jesus, God in the flesh, has gone through for us—all to redeem the world. He have his life so that we might live. I invite you to come to worship as often as

you can in this season – Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and in Holy Week Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. It is important in our walk to faith to step into the life of Jesus and his sacrifice of Redemption.

But we always remember, too, that there is more. Why do you seek the living among the dead? These are the words spoken by the angels to the women who had come to the tomb after the Sabbath to prepare Jesus' body. They were looking for the dead Jesus, the one they expected to find. After all, he was put in a tomb completely lifeless with no breath in him. Why wouldn't they find him there? What they didn't grasp in all their experiences with Jesus, which included countless miracles, teaching, and messages, was his true identity. Jesus is God.

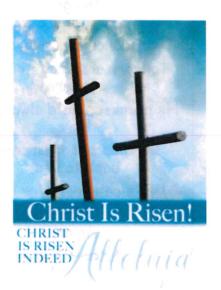
I wonder that any of us truly understand this Jesus – Jesus who works miracles, who loves us to wholeness, who gave himself to save us. We can see the man. Can we see the God that he is? Where do we seek him? Is it in rituals like the women with the spices? Do we seek a living Jesus whose life continues as it has from before the beginning of time? Jesus is alive and the world needs to know this truth. There is no other hope for our world than Jesus. He is the light that conquers the darkness. He is the Savior who conquered death. He is the King who reigns.

He is risen! Alleluia!

Pastor Pam



WNALC Meeting	2
Circle Meetings	2
Council Meeting	2
Prayer Concerns	2
Attendance & Offerings	2
1. C. Jan. 1997.	_
Financial News	3
Legend of the Donkey's Cross	4
Grace Council Members	5
April Readings	5
Grace Council Highlights	6
Holy Week	7
An Easter Prayer	7
Grace Council, continued	8
Youth Summer Camp	8
Grace Council, continued	9
Summer Worship Poll	9
Biblical Stewardship Practices	9
April Calendar	10





The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Monday April 7th at 7:00PM at the church. Please note change of date. A reminder that <u>all</u> Council meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise specified.



### Easter Children's Prayer

God made you and God made me,

He made the world for us to see.

God loves you and long ago, He sent his Son to tell us

Jesus showed us many things,

To love and share and dance and sing.

To learn and pray, to help and care,

He promised he'd always be there.

He died but then came back to life,

Let's celebrate for he's alive!

Amen.

- Author Unknown



The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at Mac Sr. Living. A short program, entertainment, and a craft is on the agenda. Not to mention a time to visit with our Grace Church friends.

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

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



### March 2nd:

Attendance~ 61 Offering~\$2,046.01

### March 9th:

Attendance~87 Offering~\$2,496.00

### March 16th:

Attendance~ 79 Offering~\$3,877.00

### March 23rd:

Attendance~ 70 Offering~ \$2,274.00



Don Lundin Shirley Kraft Judy Tadman Linda Jorgenson Judi Hoeft Paula LaBrecque Paul Stennes Jon Clementson Pastor Pam Thorson Ogden Farder, Jr. Carr Smeby Wendy Smeby Maci Smeby Allen Jenson Steve & Linda Evenson Louise LaBrecque Dianne Hamre Gloria Bixby David Ward Jesse Hickman Greg Kaster Jolene Bradley Torrey Erickson Ron Juve

Shut-ins and Nursing Home members

Mark Wild



### 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 (<a href="www.gracechurcherskine.org">www.gracechurcherskine.org</a>) 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). 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.



### February 2025 Financial Summary

Regular Offerings to the General Operating Fund - \$19,075.60

Other Giving used for the General Operating Fund - \$ 462.54

Interest Earned - \$ 145.60 Total Income - \$19,683.74

### Expenses:

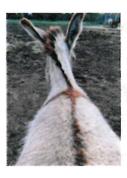
Administrative - \$ 9,107.63 Education - \$ 229.10 Mission Outreach - \$ 820.00 Pastoral - \$ 9,265.33 Worship - \$ 750.38 Total Expenses - \$20,172.44 Net Income- (\$488.70)

### <u>Financial Summary -</u> <u>Education Wing Roof Project</u>

Cost of the Project - \$99,618.95 (does not include the cost of gutter installation)
Donations (as of 2/28/25) - \$82,986.00
Loan Funds Advanced - \$50,000.00
Loan Balance (as of 2/28/25) - \$35,845.77
Roof Repair Fund Balance (as of 2/28/25) - \$16,934.30

We are hoping to pay off the loan as quickly as possible in order to save interest expense. Based on the current numbers, approximately \$19,000 more is needed to pay off the loan.

The Church Council would like to thank everyone who has donated to the Roof Repair Fund. If you haven't made a donation to the Roof Repair Fund yet, or are able to make an additional donation, it would be greatly appreciated.



### Legend of the Donkey's Cross

A poor farmer near Jerusalem owned a donkey far too small to do much work at all. He felt that he couldn't afford to feed a worthless animal like this, one that could do him no good whatsoever, so at the supper table he told his family that he was going to kill the donkey.

His children, who loved the little donkey, begged him to sell it rather than harm it. But the farmer said, "It's wrong to sell an animal that can't do a good day's work."

Then his oldest daughter suggested, "Father, tie the donkey to a tree on the road to town, and say whoever wants it may take it for nothing." And the next morning, that's what the farmer did

Soon, two men approached and asked if they could have the donkey. "It can carry almost nothing," the farmer warned them.

"Jesus of Nazareth has need of it," replied one of the men. The farmer couldn't imagine what a great teacher would want with such a worthless donkey, but he handed it over.

The men took the animal to Jesus, who stroked the grateful donkey's face and then mounted

it and rode away. So it was on the day we call Palm Sunday, Jesus led his followers into the city of Jerusalem riding on the back of a small, common donkey.

The donkey so loved his gentle master that he later followed him to Calvary. Grief-stricken by the sight of Jesus on the cross, the donkey turned away but couldn't leave. It was then that the shadow of the cross fell upon the shoulders and back of the donkey, and there it stayed. All donkeys have borne the sign of the cross on their backs since that very day.

Excerpted from Sue Weaver, *The Donkey Companion* (Storey Publishing, 2008).



### The Old Rugged Cross

### Verse 1

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,

The emblem of suffring and shame;

And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain.

### **Chorus**

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,

Till my trophies at last I lay down.

I will cling to the old rugged cross.

And exchange it some day for a crown.

### Verse 2

O the old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for

For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above

To bear it to dark Calvary.

### Chorus

### Verse 3

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.

### Chorus

### Verse 4

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true; Its shame and reproach gladly

bear.
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,

Where His glory forever I'll share.

### Chorus



### **GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Pr. Pam Thorson 270-872-8269 Pastor John Carlson President Vice President Carla Ferden Secretary 563-2377 Tina Farrell Financial Secretary Jim Ferden Treasurer 563-2377 Wendy Lee Deacon Gene Haugom Trustee 563-3292 Ray LaBrecque Trustee Steve Jacobson Trustee Andrew & Becky Hanson Education Directors Sarah Strom Education 687-3488 Cassie Senn Education Jason Carlson Education Hollie Stewart Pres. WNALC 687-3730 Paula LaBrecque Stewardship Tyler Brekken Stewardship 687-2205 Becky Lindseth Stewardship

### Maundy Thursday April 17, 2025

First Reading - Jeremiah 31:31–34 Psalm - Psalm 116:12–19 Second Reading - Hebrews 10:15–25 Gospel - Luke 22:7–20

### Good Friday April 18, 2025

First Reading - Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm - Psalm 22:1-31 Second Reading - Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Gospel - John 18:1-19:42

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL

### Fifth Sunday in Lent April 6, 2025

First Reading - Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm - Psalm 126 Second Reading - Philippians 3:4b-7, 8-14 Gospel - Luke 20:9-20

### Palm Sunday April 13, 2025

First Reading - Deuteronomy 32:36–39 Psalm - Psalm 118:19–29 Second Reading - Philippians 2:5–11 Gospel - Luke 22:1–23:56

### Resurrection of Our Lord April 20, 2025 • Easter Sunrise

First Reading - Job 19:23–27 Psalm - Psalm 118:15–29 Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:51–57 Gospel - John 20:1–18

### Resurrection of Our Lord April 20, 2025 • Easter Day

First Reading - Isaiah 65:17–25 Psalm - Psalm 16:1–11 Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:19– 26 Gospel - Luke 24:1–12

### Second Sunday of Easter April 27, 2025

First Reading - Acts 5:12–20, 21–32 Psalm - Psalm 148:1–14 Second Reading - Revelation 1:4–18 Gospel - John 20:19–31

He is Risen



### GRACE COUNCIL MEET-ING March 2025

### Financial Secretary February 2025

General Offering \$19,075.60; Other Offering \$298.54; Outreach Offering \$40.00; Building Fund Offering \$430.00

### Treasurer's Report:

Cash Flow Report

Regular Offering to the General Operating Fund was \$19,075.60. Despite only 4 Sundays in February, giving was very good for the month.

The monthly budget goal is \$22,077.10.

Undesignated funds available to be used for February's General Fund expenses totaled \$19,683.74. This total is comprised of the regular offering, interest, and various other giving.

The total of undesignated funds given was just slightly below the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$20,172.44.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration:

Church & Parsonage Fuel –
Three propane fills – One in January and two in February.
Custodian – Compensation for

Custodian – Compensation for December, January, and half of February.

Mission Outreach: Miscellaneous – Pass through donations. Pastoral: Pension – 403(b) – Due to timing, only one payment in February.

**Budget Report** 

Overall, we ended the month at approximately 2.9% or \$7,600 under budget. All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month, except for the Pastoral area which was slightly above budget overall.

<u>History of Regular Giving to the</u> General Fund Report

Giving in February was well ahead of January. This is the best giving for February since I started tracking giving in 2011. Well ahead of last year's to date giving. Best to date giving ever! History of the General Operating Fund Balance

Due to giving in February being almost in line with expenses for the month, the negative ending balance for the General Fund only increased slightly since January.

Account Balances Report
Building Fund - Donations of
\$30.00. Expenses related to the
separate elevator phone line
(\$39.46); replacement of furnace
pump (\$1,067.80); purchase
lavalier microphone for worship
services (\$148.63); and electrical
work in Education Wing, outside
sign, and heat pump (\$6,219.65).
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 & Piano Repair Fund – Donation of \$5.00.

Roof Project Fund – Donations of \$400.00 and the loan payment (principal & interest) of \$5,000. Scholarship Fund – Donation of

\$10.00 and the payout of one scholarship of \$500. SS Equipment Fund – Donations of \$55.00.

SS Outreach Fund – Donations of \$103.00. Expense of \$43.00 to Compassion International for the regular monthly gift.

Stained Glass Window/Banner Fund – Expense of new banner (\$279.00).

VBS Fund – Donation of \$10.00. Brovold Investment Valuation Report Balance increased approximately \$500.00 from last month. Highest balance since September 2024.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report Balance increased approximately \$500.00 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 - \$16,432.75 Loan Balance - \$35,845.77 Donations - \$82,986.00 Labor & Material Costs - \$98,833.58

Other Costs - \$785.37 Roof Project Fund Balance (as of 2/28/25) - \$16,934.30 I am waiting for the expense of installing the rain gutters. Once those have been installed, I will apply the remaining balance in the Roof Repair Fund to the balance of the loan.

I provided my records to the auditors on January 27<sup>th</sup>. I have yet to hear anything back from them.

### Pastor's Report:

Pastoral Care:

Continued on Page 8





10:30 AMWorship w/
Holy Communion
Special Music
by the Sunday

School Children



7PM-Worship w/Holy Communion



Noon-Worship 7PM-Worship



9A-Egg Bake Breakfast 9:30A-Easter Egg Hunt 10:30A-Worship w/ Holy Communion



Heavenly Father,

On this blessed Easter Sunday, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and joy. We rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we gather with loved ones and fellow believers, we are reminded of the glorious victory over sin and death that He accomplished on the cross.

Lord, we thank you for the promise of new life and the hope that Easter brings. Your mercy and grace shine brightly on this day, illuminating our lives with the warmth of your love. May we never forget the incredible sacrifice of Jesus and the profound significance of His triumph over the grave.

On this sacred day, fill our hearts with the joy of the resurrection. Help us to experience the transformative power of your love, renewing our spirits and strengthening our faith. As we celebrate together, may the message of Easter resonate deeply within us, inspiring us to live as reflections of your grace and compassion.

As we rejoice in the miracle of Easter, we lift our prayers for

those who may be struggling, lonely, or in despair. May your comforting presence be with them, bringing healing and hope. Use us, Lord, as instruments of your peace and vessels of your love in the world.

We dedicate this Easter Sunday to you, grateful for the promise of redemption and the assurance of your unfailing love. May our lives be a testament to the power of your resurrection as we seek to follow you faithfully.

In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.





### Let's Think About Summer!

Registration for Pathways Bible Camp is now open! Parents, if you are looking for a fun activity that will grow your child's faith, please consider sending him or her to Camp Emmaus, near Park Rapids, MN. Please note the following information.

- Half of the cost of camp will be paid for all campers through confirmation who are members of Grace.
- Please register and submit payment for your child. Then contact Jim Ferden to be reimbursed for expenses.
- To register, see the schedule, or ask questions, contact www.pathwaysbiblecamp.org
- You can also contact Nancy Jenson (218-280-3858) with questions.

Please take advantage of this generous opportunity from Grace. This is a mission that our church is proud to support!

### GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Mc Sr. Living, Visits in Erskine, Phone calls and notes

Minkota Mission District- Convocation April 4-5 Watertown, SD. Stuff the truck with Disaster Response items

Attended worship at Wannaska Parish. 3 services. 2 baptisms. 3 First Communions.

### Lent

- 1. Mid-week Lenten services.
- Wednesday is Holden Evening Prayer. This year there are dramas for the message time.
- 2. Sunday Lenten Worship is a different liturgy.
- 3. Holy Communion every week including Palm Sunday and Easter. For the latter we will have 2 stations.
- 4. Good Friday Services will be Noon for a read Stations of the Cross and prayer. Evening will be 7 PM with a Tenebrae (Service of Darkness).

First Communion – 5-6 elementary age children Sunday mornings.

Baptism this Sunday – Twyla Sannes. The norm for all baptisms is to be during worship services.

### President's Report:

Church road signs are in progress. Working on getting an accordion photo display for the basement which the WNALC is paying for.

Working to have in-house care for the church with sign ups and personally talking to people.

Youth Group plans:

March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Movie in Fosston "The Forge" @6:00 p.m.

April 12<sup>th</sup> - "Feed My Starving Children"

May - Ditch cleaning and bonfire.

June - Canoe trip

July - Camping trip to Maple Lake

### **Education Committee:**

Singing in Church: We sang "Jesus Loves Me" in church on February 23rd. There was a lot of great feedback on that from the congregation, stating that they would love to hear more songs from the piano rather than from CDs or videos, or more "older" songs that the congregation would be familiar with rather than newer VBS songs. One favorite we have been working on is "I am a C". The next time we sing is March 23rd.

Vacation Bible School: Sunday, August 3rd through Thursday, August 7th. We are excited to add a fifth day! We're hoping for a big kick-off that Sunday!

Easter Egg Hunt: The Education Committee/Sunday School teachers (and older students) will be taking on the hiding of eggs and supplying candy and prizes. Email with any questions:

education@gracechurcherskine.org

**Trustees:** Fixed the drain in the kitchen sink. Air conditioning in the Narthex –Inspected the bell twice and was structurally good

Continued on Page 9

### GRACE COUNCIL, continued

**Video Ministry:** Nick submitted resignation as Technology Director, effective May 2025.

**Food Shelf:** <u>Total served</u> 44 households

### **Old Business:**

Lenten soup suppers – Will need volunteers to sign up for last 4 weeks as still unfilled.

Easter Hunt and Breakfast on April 20<sup>th</sup> –Wendy Lee volunteered to head up the breakfast

Summer Worship / Picnic / VBS Kickoff – A poll will be taken on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 or 10:30.

### **New Business:**

Resolution for the Education Director(s) to have vote on Council – motion carried.

Win-E-Mac Shirt Sponsorship - Approved 5x2 advertising on the back of t-shirts for \$399.

Designation of \$200 gift received to Building fund lighting project

2026 NALC Youth Event – Fundraising – in Virginia – Pastor Pam discussed using money we already have in the Grace Youth Group fund. They will also do fundraising.

Mission Opportunities: Girls School Malawi (Winnipeg)/
LMVFM / Grace to Ukraine –
Pastor Pam asked for input on bringing one of the groups in to speak and need to create a committee for mission opportunities.
Well received.

Library fund dissolved with money remaining in the general fund. Thank you to Pam Walk for her care. June 8<sup>th</sup> Erskine Water Carnival. Will plan to have worship service at the lake on Sunday. \*A full copy of Council Minutes is on file in the church office. It can be obtained by any member of Grace Church.



### Summer Worship Poll

Grace Council is seeking to decide our Summer Worship schedule – 10:30 or 9:30. A good number of folks have expressed that we ought to keep it at 10:30 for several reasons – continuity, no confusion, later is easier for those who require time to get going (especially our honored eldest members), and changing will most likely not increase our attendance. We'll be taking a poll in April. Let us know which you will attend.



### **Biblical Stewardship Practices**

Charles R. Lane in his book, "Ask, Thank, Tell" has some good ideas that can help us strengthen our stewardship lives as we consider our giving to the work not only of the church, but all the needs around us. First, celebrate the fact that God has named you as a steward. It is an honor and a privilege! Being good stewards of what God has given us can help us to grow in relationship with him. The Bible

describes certain values that we ought to aspire to and encourage each other to develop in our giving as it relates to stewardship of all

Be **Intentional** in giving -- develop a plan for your giving and follow thru on the plan. (Refer to 2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

Be **Regular** in giving -- establish a pattern; whenever you receive income, give according to your plan. (Refer to 1 Corinthians 16:2)

Be **Generous** in giving --God's incredible generosity is the basis for generous giving. (Refer to 2 Corinthians 8:1-2 and chapter 9:8)

First fruits -- Give to God first and live on the rest, rather than meeting wants and needs first and giving God what's leftover. (Refer to Deuteronomy 26:1-2)

Give **Proportionately** -- Give a percentage of your wealth; whether that is much or little, give in proportion to the blessings you have received. (Refer to Mark 12:41-44)

Give **Cheerfully** -- The key to being a cheerful giver is to practice the five Biblical stewardship values listed above. (Refer to 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

Giving intentionally, regularly, generously, first, proportionately, and cheerfully of your time, talents, and treasure will lead your heart closer to Jesus.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" Luke 12:34

## APRIL

# Grace Lutheran Church

at the church at the church \*CIRCLES\* Rebecca Hope

Wayne Trandem David Hamre

Sat

歪 4

Thu

Wed

Tue

Mon

Sun

3

1:55p-Release Time

7a-MBS @ Ness

He Is Risen!

Café

6p-Confirmation

7p-Worship

8p-AA mtg.

Class

2p-BSF

5

Ushers:

Communion Assistants: Gary & Maxine Walter Altar Flowers:

9a- Rebroadcast

Rebecca Circle

Lori Hole and Nicki Carlson Altar Guild:

A=Acolyte R= Reader

9a- Rebroadcast

2-6p-Food Shelf is open

2p-WNALC meet at Mac Sr. Living

:55p-Release Time

6

7a-MBS @ Ness

 $\infty$ 

Café

9:30a-LBS

6p-Confirmation

7p-Worship

8p-AA mtg.

Class

2p-BSF

7:00p-Council Mtg. 10a- Rebroadcast

10:30a- Worship

9:15a-Sunday

9a-ABS School

9

w/Holy Comm.

12

P=Power Point

APRIL 6th:

A~~ George Juve and Hannah R-Josie Johnson

P- Shelby Shimpa and Wyatt Lee APRIL 13th: Shimpa

9a- Rebroadcast

12 noon-Worship 7p-Worship

10a-2p-Food Shelf

1:55p-Release Time 6:30p-Rebroadcast

6p-Conf. Class

is open

Thursday

SCROLL ARTI-CLES DUE

7p-Worship w/ Holy Communion

19

18 Good Friday

17 Maundy

16

7a-MBS @ Ness

Café

9:30a -LBS 10a- Rebroadcast

14

13Palm Sunday

R-- Hollie Stewart

A ... Taytum Smeby and Kale Smeby P- Rodney Stephen and Owen

APRIL 20th: Strom

A-- Jon Hill and Addyson R~~ Yvonne Halvorson

P- Bridger Huschle and Charley Morgenroth

9a- Rebroadcast

6:30p-Rebecca Cir-cle

:55p-Release Time

7a-MBS @ Ness Café

6p-Confirmation

6:30p-Rebroadcast

8p-AA mtg.

2p-BSF

9:30a-LBS 10a-Rebroadcast

9:30a-Easter Egg

9a-Breakfast

10:30a-Worship

w/ Holy Comm.

21

20 Easter Sunday

30

28

10:30a- Worship

9:15a-Sunday

School

9a-ABS

24

23

8p-AA mtg.

2p-BSF

10:30a- Worship

9:15a-Sunday

School

9a-ABS

w/Holy Comm.

26

APRIL 27th: Carlson

R~~ John Carlson

A~Scott Omundson and Carson Fortman

P-Faith Omundson and Hope Omundson

20th: Joe & Doro-27th: Scott Sand-berg thy Sandberg 13th:Dean & Mary Ellen Salveson 6th: Dave & Bonnie Salveson Greeters: 1:55p-Release Time 6:30p-Rebroadcast 6p-Confirmation @ Ness 8p-AA mtg. 7a-MBS 2p-BSF Café 9:30a-LBS 10a-Rebroadcast