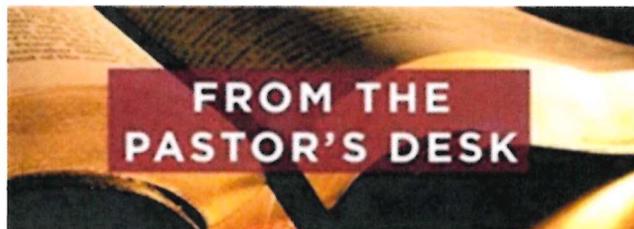


The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

July 2025



Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

Summer is officially here and with it comes warm weather and sunshine. Living as we do in our northern tier of Minnesota, cool nights are expected, but we are prepared and we enjoy the season anyway.

There have been so many destructive storms. They have wreaked havoc throughout our country and region. Many people's lives will never be the same. We grieve for our neighbors who have lost so much. Keep them all in prayer and help as you can.

We still have much for which to be thankful even in the midst of calamity. Jesus promises to be with us through all of life's storms as well as the good times.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." – Isaiah 41:10.

We do learn that this life is precious as well as fleeting. What's most important in this life is relationships, not things. Let us live each as with thankfulness for what the Lord has given us. Faith, love, hope, joy, and peace that only comes from God, this is what sustains us and strengthens us.

Here's a reminder to all. When you're at church, look around for those you don't know. Say hello and share a few moments. Hospitality is so important. We invite people into our homes and make them welcome. The church cannot do anything less. New folks may need help finding a place to sit and finding their way through the service. Just be as gracious as our Lord Jesus. Hospitality is the Word.

In ministry together,

Pastor Pam

NOTE~~ Pastor Pam will be making some visits to the Minkota Mission District churches this summer. She looks forward to meeting and getting to know our fellow Mission District members. Her first visit will be in Jasper, MN on July 13th. Due to her being away this day, **Communion in July will be served on the 6th and 20th.**

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BLESSED
be the
NATION
whose
GOD IS THE
LORD
psalms 33:12



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



NO WNALC MEETING IN JULY

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

Rebecca Circle: No meeting through the summer months.

*Praise
the
Lord*

The loan for the roof project has been paid off! See this edition of the Scroll for more information.



June 1st:

Attendance~ 60
Offering~\$1,875.00

June 8th:

Attendance~ 47
Offering~\$1,000.00

June 15th:

Attendance~ 65
Offering~\$2,335.00

June 22nd:

Attendance~ 53
Offering~ \$3,528.00



Don Lundin

Shirley Kraft

Judy Tadman

Linda Jorgenson

Judi Hoeft

Paula LaBrecque

Paul Stennes

Jon Clementson

Pastor Pam Thorson

Ogden Farder, Jr.

Carr Smeby

Verra Smeby

Maci Smeby

Allen Jensen

Steve & Linda Evenson

Louise LaBrecque

Dianne Hamre

Gloria Bixby

David Ward

Jesse Hickman

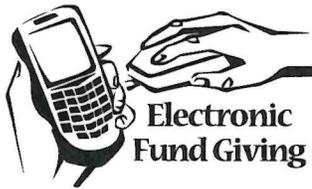
Greg Kaster

Jolene Bradley

Mark Wild

Amy Carpenter

Shut-ins and Nursing Home members



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 \(cotribute.co\)](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.

May 2025 Financial Summary

Regular Offerings to the General Operating Fund -	\$14,782.50
Other Giving used for the General Operating Fund	\$1,020.00
Thrivent Choice Program -	\$8.00
Interest Earned -	\$ 108.41
Total Income -	-\$15,918.91
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Administrative -	\$6,687.77
Education -	\$133.33
Mission Outreach -	\$820.00
Pastoral -	\$7,826.62
Worship -	\$817.58
Total Expenses -	-\$16,285.30
Net Income	-336.39

ROOF PROJECT SUMMARY

Original Loan Amount Approved -	\$175,000.00
Loan Funds Advanced -	\$50,000.00
Principal & Interest Paid -	\$52,982.03
Labor & Material Costs –	\$99,477.16
Other Costs -	\$785.37
Donations –	\$87,182.00
Oil Building Funds used for loan payoff -	\$16,062.56

GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

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



The building committee has looked around the building and decided that the bathroom downstairs needs to be redone. The council has put this on hold until funds can be located to do this work. Several contractors have looked at it and will come with proposals. In the meantime, if you would like to give to the Bathroom fund, that would be well received. Thank you.

**LECTIONARY READINGS
FOR JULY****Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
July 6, 2025**

First Reading - Isaiah 66:10-14
 Psalm - Psalm 66:1-7
 Second Reading - Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18
 Gospel - Luke 10:1-20

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 13, 2025**

First Reading - Leviticus 18:1-5, 19:9-18
 Psalm - Psalm 41:1-13
 Second Reading - Colossians 1:1-14
 Gospel - Luke 10:25-37

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 20, 2025**

First Reading - Genesis 18:1-10a, 10b-14
 Psalm - Psalm 27:1-6, 7-14
 Second Reading - Colossians 1:21-29
 Gospel - Luke 10:38-42

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 27, 2025**

First Reading - Genesis 18:17-19 (20-33)
 Psalm - Psalm 138:1-8
 Second Reading - Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)
 Gospel - Luke 11:1-13





June Council Meeting Highlights

General Fund Offering - \$14,782.50
 Designated Offering - \$835.00
 Designated Outreach Offering - \$835.00
 Building Fund Offering - 450.00
Total Monthly Deposit - \$16,902.50

Monthly budget goal:
 \$22,077.10 = shortfall **\$5174.60**

Income available for budget
 \$15,918.00 – Expenses
 \$16,830.30 = **-\$912.30**

Giving was down significantly from last month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

Giving in May is significantly down from April and is the lowest monthly giving so far in 2025. However, this is the best giving for a May since I started tracking giving in 2011. Ahead of last year to date giving by \$6,300. Best year to date giving ever! Due to lower giving in May, the negative ending balance for the General Fund unfortunately is increasing again after decreasing for the past two months.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report - Balance increased slightly from last month. Alvin Brovold's wishes for this investment included sharing a portion of it with the cemetery association. I have contacted the ac-

I have contacted the account representative to make a \$5,000 donation to the association in the coming days.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report - Balance increased slightly from last month.

Roof project:

Original Loan Amount Approved - \$175,000.00
 Loan Funds Advanced - \$50,000.00
 Principal & Interest Paid - \$31,432.75
 Loan Balance - \$21,426.45
 Donations – \$86,882.00
 Labor & Material Costs – \$98,833.58
 Other Costs - \$785.37
 Roof Project Fund Balance (as of 5/31/25) - \$5,830.30
 I am still waiting for the expense of installing the rain gutters. Once the funds from the Roof Repair Fund are gone, I will use funds from the Oil Building Fund to cover the balance of the loan since the Building Fund currently has a negative balance.
Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam reported

1. Miles -May 117.7 x .07= 82.39
2. Visits - Nursing homes, Evening pastoral call to McIntosh Sr Living, Homebound
3. Baseball game in Bemidji – WEM Boys
4. Garden Valley invocation
5. Worship McIntosh Sr. Living, visit as many as I can afterward
6. Working on curriculums for Education in the Fall
7. Upcoming service for Ellen Roux, June 20th in Winger

Minkota Dean's visit to United in Gonvick, June 29 for noon service and potluck

Youth Group plans:

End of June or beginning of July – Canoeing, date will be set after the summer sports practice schedule is posted

First week in August - Camping at Maple Lake. The week will depend on what week that the athletes can't have contact with coaches

October 18th – Mercy Me concert

NALC Youth Gathering in 2026

WNALC: Ali Johnson will be talking at the NALC meeting on June 12th at 7:00 pm with the theme "I am the Vine". There will be games, music, and gifts. Free will offering for meal

Trustees: The alter rails to John's shed.

Will fix the corner by the Piano/Organ area that is a tripping hazard.

Discussion about refurbishing the downstairs bathroom. A builder has been identified and is available to begin work in approximately one month. A motion to refurbish the bathroom was made. After discussion, the motion was tabled until firmer pricing can be presented.

Video Ministry: The rotation schedule for the year is set for Kevin Thorson, Tyler Brekken, Jason Carlson, and John Carlson

Food Shelf:

Regular Service:
 Ages 0-17 ~ 16
 Ages 18-64 ~ 40
 Age 65+ ~ 20

Continued on Page 7

Stewardship



The Heart of Stewardship

A Call to Faithful Living

Stewardship is more than just a duty; it is a sacred privilege that reflects our gratitude to God for the blessings showered upon us. It invites us to honor Him through the diligent care and wise management of the gifts we have been entrusted with—our time, talents, and treasures.

At its core, stewardship is a spiritual act of worship. When we acknowledge that all we have comes from God, we are moved to live in a way that expresses our thankfulness and commitment to His purposes. Scripture reminds us in 1 Peter 4:10, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” This verse encourages us to extend our blessings outward, serving as conduits of grace in the lives of others.

Stewardship in the church community takes many forms—contributing resources to support ministries, volunteering time to serve, and using our God-given talents to glorify Him. Whether we are helping a neighbor, teaching a Sunday school class, or simply offering a listening ear, every act of stewardship deepens our connection to the divine and to one another.

Let us embrace the call to stewardship with open hearts and joyful spirits, recognizing that when we give generously, whether of our time, skills, or finances, we mirror the boundless generosity of God. May our stewardship reflect a living faith, one that transforms both our lives and the world around us.

As we seek to be faithful stewards, let us continually ask ourselves: How can I serve God and His kingdom today? In answering this question, we step closer to the fullness of His love and purpose for our lives.



2026 YOUTH GATHERING MEETING

There will be a meeting for parents and 7-12 grade youth, on Sunday July 20th following worship service. Topic of discussion will be the 2026 NALC Youth Gathering in Roanoke, Virginia

AGONY

by Pastor Jeff Larson
thebackpew.com

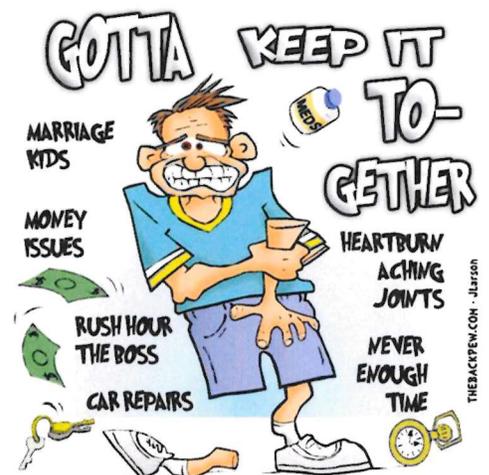
So for all of us losers in Loserville, the question of the hour is.. *If God is for us, who can be against us? Ro: 31 This is easily one of the most significant rhetorical Bible verses EVER!*

Don't be like this guy - >

Instead of the worry and angst that come with living imperfectly in this imperfect world, in a very imperfect year like 2025, we can find peace and perspective in our God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

This peace comes when we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and others as ourselves. All of life hangs on those two commandments. - Jesus, Matthew 22:36-40



Don't worry ... instead pray about everything; tell God what you need & thank him for all He has done. vs 4a

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Households ~ 35
New Visits ~ 3

Old Business:

Summer Worship / Picnic / VBS Kickoff /Food - Wendy will coordinate the food. Service will be at 4:00 PM with the picnic to follow. VBS kickoff will start at approximately 6:30 pm. VBS August 3rd - 7th.

2026 NALC Youth Event – July 13th will be meeting after church

Clean can shed – cans were taken out. Wade cleaned out the white bags and can bag loader. Jim will sweep.

Release Time – Pastor working on curriculum. Sherry Hoas will contact other churches regarding help

Building Committee – The Building Committee discussed the future of the parsonage. Meeting Outcomes:

Retain and make use of the parsonage and will revisit this topic in one year.

If the parsonage is to be used, there may be a need to furnish it.

Another consideration is to maintain the house to accommodate a potential future intern.

Agreed to retain the land.

New Business:

Dearmina Gustafson was appointed as Deacon.

Calendar:

Pastor on NALC visit to Gonvick – June 29, 2025

VBS August 3-7

Next Council Meeting July 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm

A Prayer for America

Dear God, Thank you for your great power. We praise you for your Truth. We're grateful that you have set us free from the clutching grasp of sin and death.

Would you be with your people, extending your grace, granting your freedom, providing your protection, and empowering with your strength.

We ask that you'd bring about an awakening of your presence as never seen before. We ask that your Name be proclaimed, that all plans to silence the Name of Jesus would be thwarted and crushed.

We pray that many would come to know you as Lord and Savior, we pray that many would see your Light, that you would open blind eyes and release those still imprisoned.

We pray that you would unify your people for the glory of your Name, that all who call themselves Christians would rise up, believing your great Truth.

Wake us up Lord! Remind us to live aware, to redeem the time, to listen to your words, to be willing to make a difference in this land.

We pray for all those in authority, that you would give them your wisdom and discernment as they lead. We ask that you would appoint strong, faithful men and women to serve this

nation and our people.

We pray for your great healing on our land. Shine your face on us dear God. We need you now, more than ever before. Our times are in your hands.

Thank you that you are rich in mercy and full of grace. Thank you that you are forgiving and merciful. Thank you that you are strong and mighty. Thank you that you are for us and that you fight for us still today.

Bring honor to your Name, Oh Lord, for You alone are worthy. In the Powerful Name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

(by Debbie McDaniel)



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY,
AMERICA!**

Psalm 42 *Longing for God and His Help in Distress*

¹ As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and behold the face of God?

³ My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

⁴ These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:

how I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help ⁶ and my God.

My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

⁷ Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your torrents;
all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

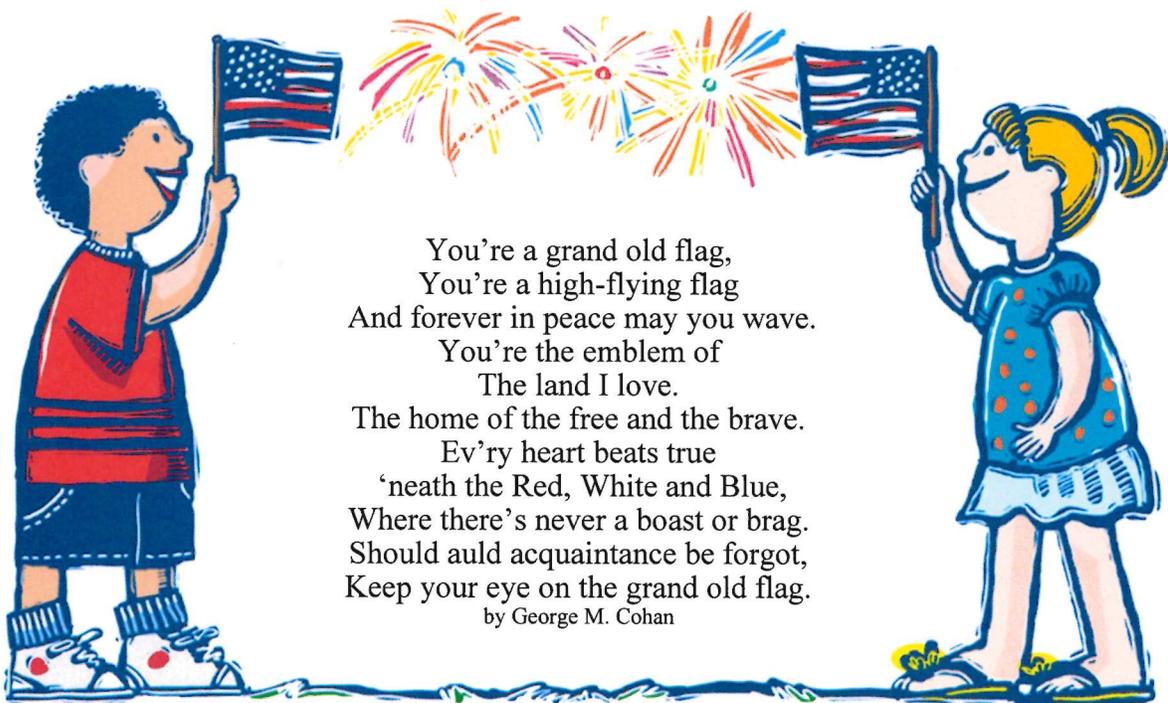
⁸ By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹ I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me?

Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?"

¹⁰ As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.



You're a grand old flag,
You're a high-flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave.
You're the emblem of
The land I love.
The home of the free and the brave.
Ev'ry heart beats true
'neath the Red, White and Blue,
Where there's never a boast or brag.
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.

by George M. Cohan

JULY

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES
 Hope
 Rebecca

at the church
 no meeting

Ushers:

Ray LaBrecque
 Jim Ferden

Communion Assistants:

Liz Jensen
 Yvonne Halvorson

Altar Flowers:
 Hope Circle

Altar Guild:

Becky Lindseth
 Lesia Juve

R=Reader

A=Acolyte

P=Power Point

JULY 6th:

R~ Kevin Thorson

A~Karl Jax and Carson Fortman

P~ Bella Senn and Malaina Jax

JULY 13th:

R~ Carla Ferden

A~Addyson Morgenroth and

Tatum Smeby

P~ Kale Smeby and Charley

Carlson

JULY 20th:

R~ Jim Ferden

A~ Logan Johnson and Scott

Omundson

P~ Faith Omundson and Hope

Omundson

JULY 27th:

R~ Sherry Hoas

A~ Shelby Shimpa and Hannah

Shimpa

P~ Rodney Stephen and George

Juve

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 8p-AA mtg.	2 6:30p-Rebroadcast	3	4  GOD BLESS AMERICA	5 9a- Rebroadcast
6 9a-Worship w/ Holy Communion	7 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	8 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 8p-AA mtg.	9 6:30p-Rebroadcast 7:00p-Council Mtg.	10 2-6p-Food Shelf is open	11	12 9a- Rebroadcast
13 9a-Worship	14 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	15 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 8p-AA mtg.	16 6:30p-Rebroadcast	17 10a-2p-Food Shelf is open	18 SCROLL ARTI- CLES DUE	19 9a- Rebroadcast
20 9a-Worship w/ Holy Communion 10a-Parent/Youth Meeting	21 9:30a-LBS 10a-Rebroadcast	22 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 8p-AA mtg.	23 10a-Hope Circle 6:30p-Rebroadcast	24	25	26 9a- Rebroadcast
27 9a-Worship	28 9:30a-LBS 10a-Rebroadcast	29 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 8p-AA mtg.	30 6:30p-Rebroadcast	31		
				Greeters: 6th: Jim & Stacy Tadman 13th: Nancy Tradewell	20th: Lee & Lesly Tradewell 27th: Jennifer Venem	

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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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