

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

September 2025



Welcoming the Season of Change and Returning

It's hard to see summer fade away; we sure enjoy the days while we have them. As September gently ushers in the turning of the seasons, we find ourselves at the threshold of autumn — a time when the world outside our windows transforms into vibrant bursts of color, and the air grows crisp with promise.

September is energizing as we get look to the regular rhythms of the season. It's renewal as we reconnect at school, work, and the events put on pause for the summer.

Renewal and Reconnection in Church and Home

With the rush of everyday life, it is easy to lose sight of the deeper rhythms that sustain us. Consider this your invitation to return to regular worship —to be reminded that you belong, that you are loved, and that this church family is incomplete without you. We need one another in worship together as the full body of Christ. Children and adults belong in church. That is good for all of us and encouraging for others.

Harvest of Gratitude

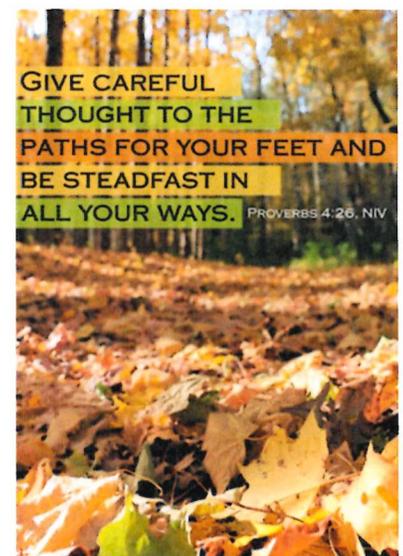
The fields are ripening, the gardens overflow, and farmers prepare for their long-awaited harvest. In many ways, September is the month when we see the fruits of labor, patience, and prayer. Pause to recognize all that God has given us—blessings both seen and unseen. I encourage you to make gratitude a daily practice this month. Take a moment each day to give thanks, whether for the warmth of family, the beauty of a sunset, or the gentle nudge of the Spirit

“The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.” — Psalm 67:6

As summer fades and autumn approaches, our church stands on the threshold of new opportunities for growth, service, and worship. I urge you to pray for our church leaders, volunteers, and ministries. Pray for the schools – children, teachers, and administrators

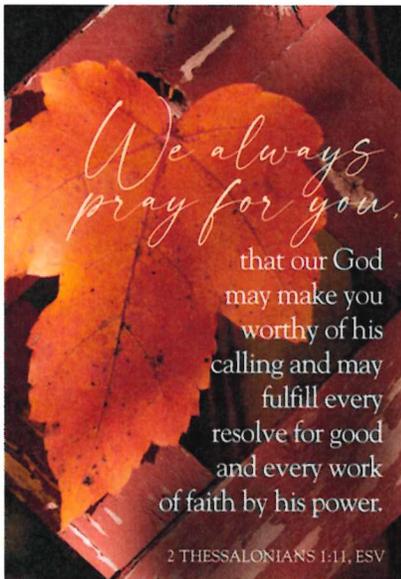
In joyful ministry together,
Pastor Pam

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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday September 10th 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 **meet at Mac Sr. Living** on Thursday September 11th at 2:00 PM. This is a great way to visit our ladies who reside there.

Hope Circle: September 24th at 9:00AM at the church.

Rebecca Circle: September 25th at 6:30 PM at the church.



August 3rd:

Attendance~ 85
Offering~\$1,090.00

August 10th:

Attendance~ 47
Offering~\$2,689.00

August 17th:

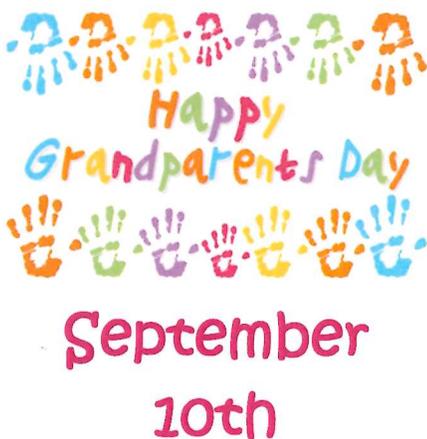
Attendance~ 54
Offering~\$1,220.00

August 24th:

Attendance~ 58
Offering~ \$3,470.00



- Sherry Hoas
- Lyla Moteberg
- Don Lundin
- Judy Tadman
- Linda Jorgenson
- Judi Hoeft
- Jon Clementson
- Pastor Pam Thorson
- Ogden Farder, Jr.
- Verra Smeby
- Maci Smeby
- Allen Jenson
- Steve & Linda Evenson
- David Ramse
- Louise LaBrecque
- Bev Greaver
- Zach Haugen and daughters
- Amy Carpenter
- Gloria Bixby
- David Ward
- Jesse Hickman
- Greg Kaster
- Jolene Bradley
- Mark Wild
- Amy Carpenter
- Shut-ins and Nursing Home members





Electronic Fund Giving



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 \(contribute.co\)](http://ThriventActionTeamsHub.contribute.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.

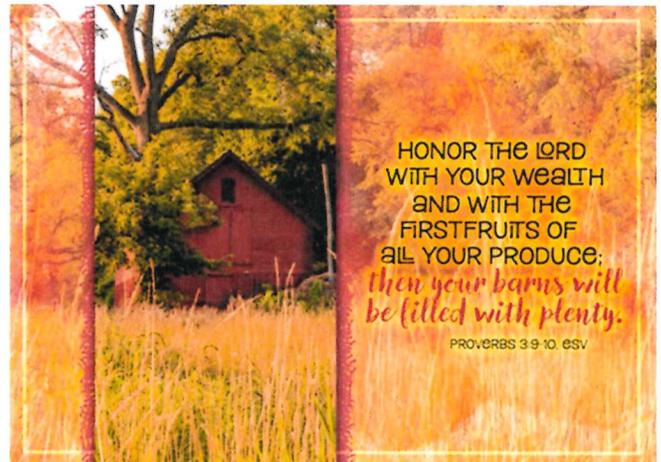
Let's get together and figure out how we can use these benefits for the work of ministry.

July 2025 Financial Summary

Regular Offerings to the General Operating Fund - \$15,942.10
 Other Giving used for the General Operating Fund - \$ 957.05
 Interest Earned - \$ 51.06
 Total Income - \$16,950.21

Expenses:

Administrative - \$ 9,135.21
 Education - \$ 133.33
 Mission Outreach - \$ 1,020.00
 Pastoral - \$ 6,918.81
 Worship - \$ 949.37
 Total Expenses - \$18,156.72
 Net Income -1,206.51



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	

**LECTIONARY READINGS
FOR SEPTEMBER****13th Sunday after Pentecost
September 7, 2025**

First Reading - Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm - Psalm 1:1-6
 Second Reading - Philemon 1-21
 Gospel - Luke 14:25-35

**14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 14, 2025**

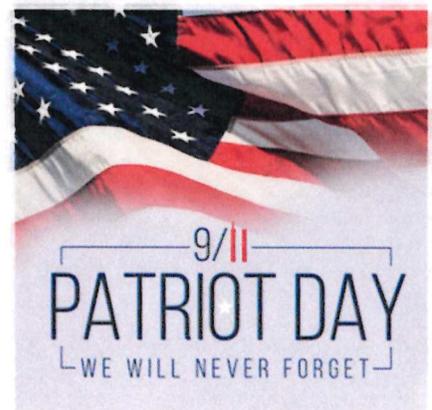
First Reading - Ezekiel 34:11-24
 Psalm - Psalm 119:169-176
 Second Reading - 1 Timothy 1:5-11, 12-17
 Gospel - Luke 15:1-10

**15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 2025**

First Reading - Amos 8:4-7
 Psalm - Psalm 113:1-9
 Second Reading - 1 Timothy 2:1-15
 Gospel - Luke 16:1-15

**16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 28, 2025**

First Reading - Amos 6:1-7
 Psalm - Psalm 146:1-10
 Second Reading - 1 Timothy 3:1-13
 Gospel - Luke 16:19-31





August 2025

Financial – Grace giving is not keeping up with expenses. Our budget is lean, however, costs have gone up. Treasurer Ferden expressed great concern.

Regular Offering to the General Operating Fund was \$15,942.10.

The monthly budget goal is \$22,077.10.

Undesignated funds available to be used for July’s General Fund expenses totaled \$16,950.21. This total is comprised of the regular offering, interest, and various other giving.

The total of undesignated funds given was below the month’s General Fund expenses (\$18,156.72) by \$1,206.51.

With the exception of last November, the General Fund has had a negative balance for ten consecutive months.

North American Lutheran Church NALC (our church body affiliation) - Several NALC constitutional changes were passed by the assembly of the churches in Pittsburgh August 3-8. We will have to vote on those at a special congregational meeting. These must be ratified by 2/3 of the NALC congregations or they will not be acted on. More information to come.

Baptisms – Huxley Anderson July 27. September 21 Oakley Ose.

WEM Youth Group has many activities planned.

August 10th - Camping at Maple Lake went well

September 14th –Kickoff at Grace with a faith-based sports event

September 27th – Ditch cleaning and bon fire

October 18th – Mercy Me concert

Vacation Bible School: We had 32 students attend, and believe it or not, we had 7 adult teachers and 17 older student volunteers! It was a really good problem to have so much help available to us! The program on Thursday was very well attended!

Christian Education: The first day of Sunday School is September 7th. There will be a teacher installation that day.

Release Time Prep: We currently do not have enough teachers for RT. The first Wednesday of Release Time is September 24th.

Bibles for 3rd & 7th: We will give Bible on September 14 during worship.

Email with any questions: education@gracechurcherskine.org

Women of the NALC: Will be meeting at McIntosh Senior Living on September 11th at 2:00 p.m.

Trustees:
Step done in Piano/Organ area. Greatly appreciated by those that use the area
Sound system – tested that as long as the mic on the pulpit is muted when Pastor Pam is using her headset mic the sound is better .

Deacons: 80 people were served at the meal for the VBS kickoff. Continuing to look into provid-

ing welcome kits for visitors attending worship

Grace Food Shelf: 17 households were served the first Thursday.

We only want the donated items in the weeks that we are open. Which means the second and third Thursdays or weeks of the month.

Regular Service (1st Visit This Month)	
Individuals Ages 0-17	27
Individuals Ages 18-64	48
Individuals Age 65+	25
Households	41
New Visits	1
Pounds	1897.70

Grace to Ukraine – Keep information going out for opportunities to give

Rally Day September 7. There will be Installation of Teachers, Blessing of Backpacks and a meal after worship (Bibles presented on the 14th) - Wendy volunteered to coordinate the meal

Bathroom – due to cost and budget constraints the renovation has been tabled

Landscaping – The rocks in front of the church will remain for now. Black dirt will be added and grass seeded where the rocks were removed from the side. Andrew thanked the council for allowing him to use those rocks.

Undesignated Memorial money – Put it in undesignated memorial fund.

Continued on Page 6

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Mid-year letter – Pastor will prepare and send out.

Worship participant equipping/refreshing – offering instructional sessions for various roles, such as ushers and readers, to ensure skills remain current and responsibilities are performed effectively. (Altar Guild, Usher, Reader, Communion Assistants).

Calendar

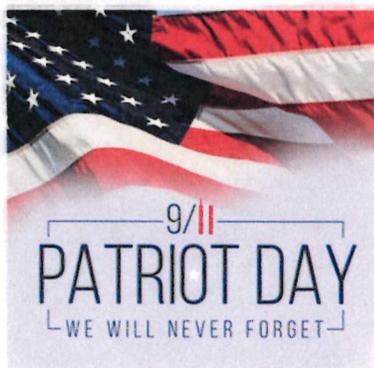
*Fall Worship – 10:30 AM
worship begins September 7.

*Rally Day September 7 – 9:15
AM Christian Education, 1st
Day of Sunday School

*Bible Presentation September
14

*Confirmation begins September
10 Baptism September 21

*Release Time Starting Date
September 24



A LETTER FROM RAN (Our Compassion Child)

July 10th, 2025. Peace be with you! Dear Friends, greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ! I am thankful and thrilled to be able to write to you at this time. I believe that it would not have been possible if it were not for the kindness of God upon me. My family and I are all in good health over here. I need to inform you that I took the grade promotion exams in May. I will carry out the field work practice in July. Please pray for me, so that I can get the best scores. By the way, I had my birthday in June. God was so kind to grant me the chance to have another year added to my life. I always pray that you will be blessed with good health and strength. That would be all for now. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you! Peace be upon you! Heartfelt wishes, Ran.



LABOR DAY September 1st



WNALC Pittsburgh Convocation 2025

- Available via newsletter, Website and Facebook, and can submit your women gathering on their sites

-Were able to fill all of the board member positions, Welcome to all.

-donations by check, write out to NALC and WNALC Designation in the memo line.

-Great Commission by Carol Fryer - individuals and congregations can give, 12K grants for global workers, prayer cards, grants for congregational renewal, new start ups in USA & CA, and projects

-Rev Patti Morlock speaker, run with perseverance the race marked out for us by God which is a lifetime race. Heb 12:1-3

Are other things taking over (Like TV, etc) my time for reading the bible? Do these things, like movies, help me in godliness? Garbage In, Garbage Out (GIGO)

2 Tim 4:7-8 fix our eyes on Jesus the author of our faith, for there will be a crown in store for me.

Submitted by Mavis Haugom



September 7th

*9:00AM Adult Bible Study

*10:30AM Worship w/ Holy Communion and Installation of Teachers

*Dinner following Worship

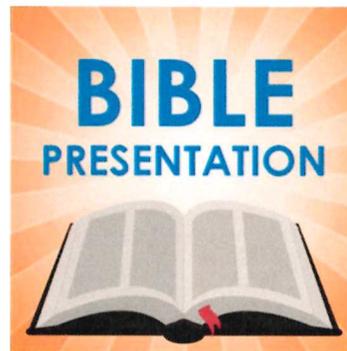


Be a Teacher



September 7th 9:15AM

*Bring your backpack to worship at 10:30AM so it can be blessed



Grace Sunday School will once again present our 3rd and 7th Grade students with their own Bibles.

Bibles will be presented during Worship Service on Sunday September 14th.



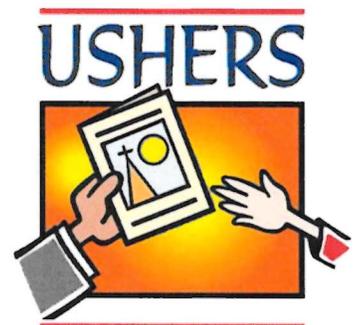
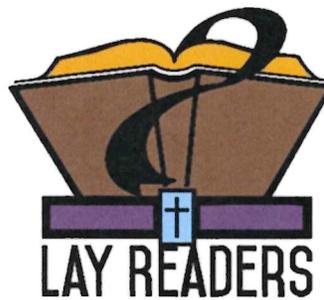
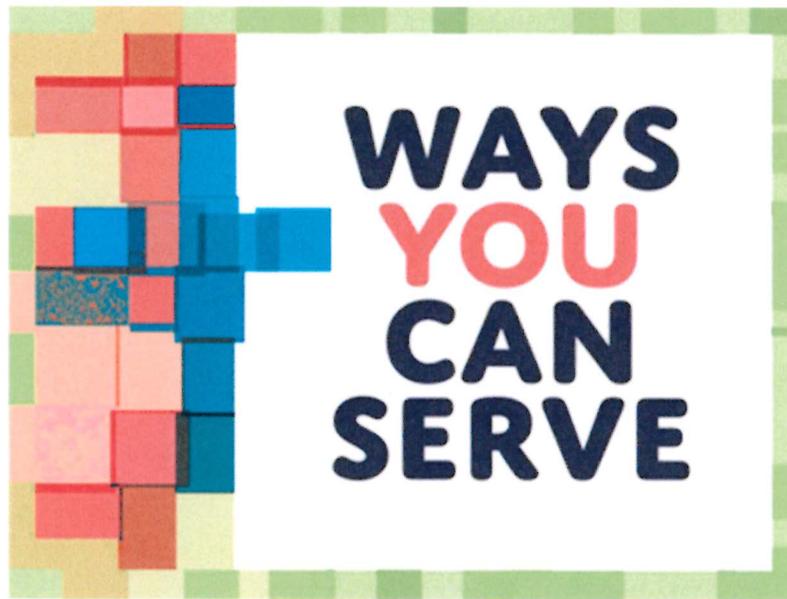
Confirmation CLASSES

It's time for a new year of Confirmation. All students in grades 7-9 are invited to sign-up. Classes will meet on Sunday's during the education time and Wednesday evenings from 6-7PM. Sign-up forms are located at the back of the church. Classes begin September 10th.

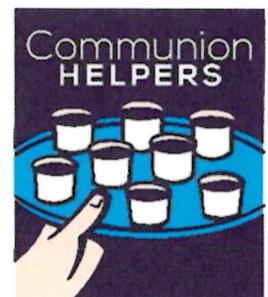
Register for CLASSES

Released Time Classes are scheduled to begin on Wednesday September 24th. Grace Church has a wonderful history of reaching children who may not know of Jesus, through this ministry. We want to see this continue and we will **IF** we can find teachers. Let our Education Coordinators, Andrew & Becky Hanson, know what class you're willing to take. You will be blessed and glad you did.

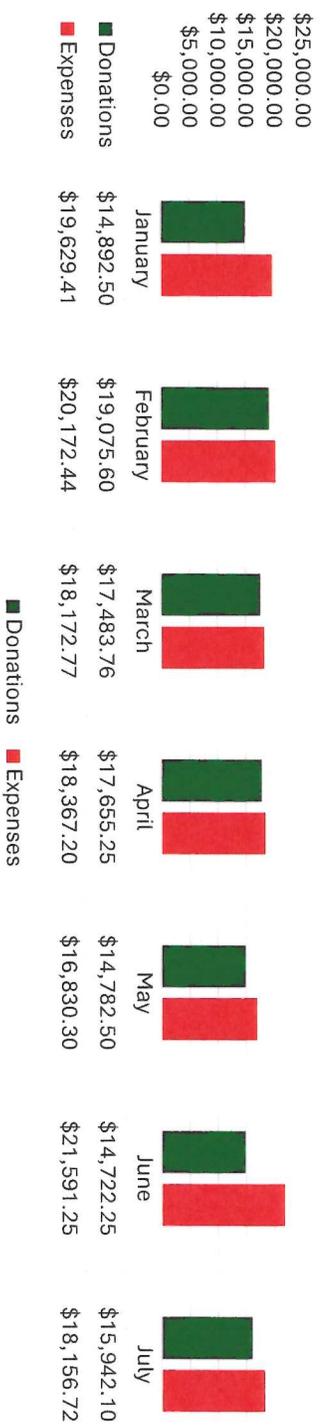
** If you wish to have your child attend Released Time Classes, you can sign them up using the permission slip from the school.*



Do you feel the Lord calling you to serve at Grace Church. There are many ways you can do servant work at Grace and you don't have to be a professional. Training and instructions are provided. If you're ready to take the next step to serve the Lord, reach out to a Council member or Pastor Pam and let them know they can count on you.

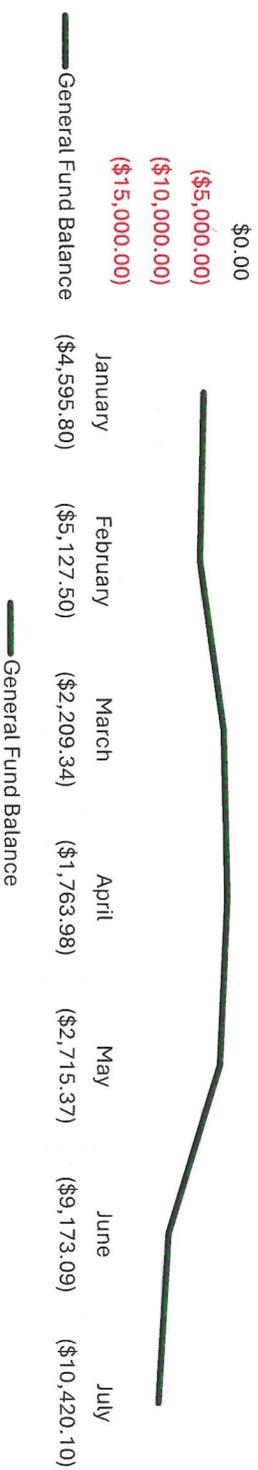


Donations vs Expenses



While donations have been good in 2025, this graph indicates that the monthly giving has not been enough to cover the monthly expenses anytime during 2025. Overall, donations have been approximately 7% less than expenses.

General Fund Balance



The General Fund is used to pay all the church's regular expenses. This graph indicates that the General Fund has had a negative balance during all of 2025. Because of the negative balance, money from other funds have been used to cover the monthly expenses. Currently, there is only \$34,137 in cash available from other funds to pay expenses not covered by donations.

We are grateful for all donations given to the church. However, as indicated in the graphs, donations need to increase. Please consider increasing your offering to the church. If you would like to start giving your offering electronically, please see information elsewhere in the Scroll.

