

The Scroll

Grace Lutheran
Church

October 2025



Autumn is a treasured time of year. The cheerful pink, purple, red, and yellow flowers fade for another year, but God is not done with splendor.

The trees show forth their glory as if they've been holding their breath and giving us green shade and now they get to explode in brilliance of color and scent. The air is crisp as are those good apples. We've had a good harvest with more to come.

In our church life, the pace has picked up. The sound of children's hustle and bustle is in the air in our church. Our Sunday School classes are in gear, children with families are in worship, and our weekly Released Time is overflowing with the joy of the Lord for about 100 community children and youth. God is good!

What a privilege it is to serve our Lord in giving of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. It's a call and duty to serve Jesus in serving others. What generous hearts and hands we have here at Grace and in our community. It's amazing that as we give, we receive far more in return. Isn't it so?

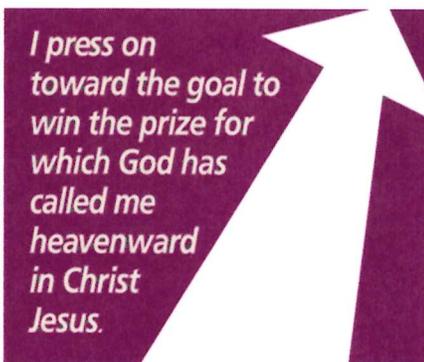
Ephesians 3:20-21 – "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

God delights in exceeding expectations and in pouring out mercies in abundance. This truth stands in contrast to our fears about lacking what we need for "this body and life."

In the house of the Lord we find strength, refuge, help, and hope. Most of all we meet with our Savior. Let's rejoice and keep on in ministry together.

Pastor Pam

WNALC Meeting	2
Circle Meetings	2
Council Meeting	2
Prayer Concerns	2
Attendance & Offerings	2
Financial News	3
Grace Council Members	4
October Readings	4
Prayer Chain	4
Grace Council Highlights	5
Council Highlights, continued	6
Grace Calendar Notice	6
WNALC Fall Auction	6
Stewardship Moment	7
News from Our Treasurer	8
October Calendar	9



Philippians 3:14

Dear Heavenly Father,

We have voices, O Lord. They are yours. Empower us not only to speak as Christians should, but to reveal the Christ behind the Christian. We have hands, O Lord. They are yours. Guide us to use them for your glory, in prayer and in compassion. We have hearts, O Lord. They are yours. Help us to love you beyond our natural ability, and to do likewise for those who need you in us. All that we have, and all that we are, all is yours. May we become ever more faithful in what we say & do, through him who first was faithful to us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday October 8th 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 **NOT** meet in October. Next meeting is November 13th at 7:00 PM at Grace Church.



- Shirley Salverson
- Sherry Hoaas
- 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



It is with joy that on Sunday, October 26th, Reformation Celebration, our Confirmation Class of 2025 will Affirm their Baptism at our Service of Holy Communion. We rejoice with:

Haylee Beckett, Addison Clow, Charles Carlson, Gracey Gunderson, Cameron Holthusen, Malaina Jax, George Juve, Bella Senn, Kale Smeby, and Owen Strom.

Hope Circle: October 22nd at 9:00AM at the church.

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



August 31st:

Attendance~ 62
Offering~\$1,550.00

September 7th:

Attendance~ 91
Offering~\$2,215.00

September 14th:

Attendance~ 110
Offering~\$9,438.00

September 21st:

Attendance~ 129
Offering~ \$2,280.00

September 28th:

Attendance~ 80
Offering~ \$4,263.00



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 \(contribute.co\)](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.

August 2025 Financial Summary

Regular Offerings to the General Operating Fund - \$14,705.85

Other Giving used for the General Operating Fund - \$ 354.00

Undesignated Memorial - \$ 500.00

Thrivent Choice Program - \$ 36.00

Interest Earned - \$ 40.95

Total Income \$15,636.80

Expenses:

Administrative - \$ 8,738.97

Education - \$ 693.04

Mission Outreach - \$ 970.00

Pastoral - \$ 9,637.09

Worship - \$ 780.68

Total Expenses \$20,819.78

Net Income -5,182.98



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 OCTOBER****17th Sunday after Pentecost
October 5, 2025**

First Reading - Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
 Psalm - Psalm 62:1-12
 Second Reading - 2 Timothy 1:1-14
 Gospel - Luke 17:1-10

**18th Sunday after Pentecost
October 12, 2025**

First Reading - Ruth 1:1-19a
 Psalm - Psalm 111:1-10
 Second Reading - 2 Timothy 2:1-13
 Gospel - Luke 17:11-19

**19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 19, 2025**

First Reading - Genesis 32:22-30
 Psalm - Psalm 121:1-8
 Second Reading - 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
 Gospel - Luke 18:1-8

**Reformation Sunday
October 26, 2025**

First Reading - Revelation 14:6-7
 Psalm - Psalm 46:1-11
 Second Reading - Romans 3:19-28
 Gospel - John 8:31-36

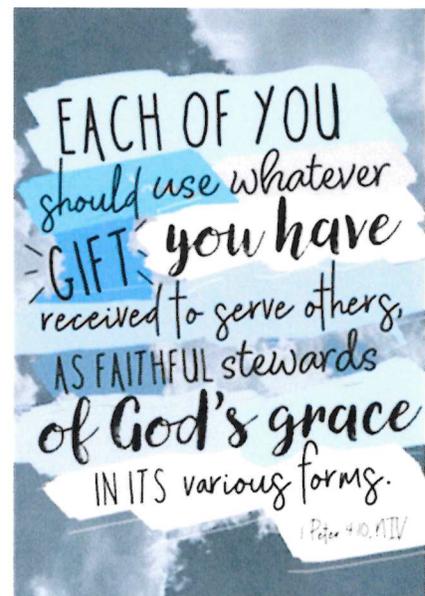
**PRAYER CHAIN**

As followers of Jesus, we are called to pray one for another. Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." Colossians 1:3-4 "We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints."

Prayer is the life of a Christian.

Did you know Grace has a group of members in a specific ministry of intercessory prayer? We call this the "Prayer Chain." When prayer requests are made known, such as when someone is hospitalized or other urgent prayers are needed, the word goes out to this group and prayers begin. Members of the Prayer Chain opt for a phone call or a text, whichever fits best. If you'd like to be part of the Chain, let us know.

POC: Mavis Haugom.





Treasurer's Report:

August's General Fund income
\$ 15,636.80
expenses \$ 20,819.78

Budget Report

Overall, we ended the month at approximately 11% or \$30,000 under budget.

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

Giving in August was the lowest ever so far in 2025!

History of the General Operating Fund Balance

The negative ending balance for the General Fund increased significantly from last month as the monthly giving was not enough to cover the monthly expenses.

The negative balance continues to exceed the special emergency operating funds. It is now almost double that amount.

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

Cash Balance – \$29,401.03 as of August 31 to pay bills. In other words, this is our cushion for meeting monthly expenses when the monthly giving does not.

Available cash has decreased \$4,736.40 since last month. If this level of deficit spending continues, we have approximately 6 months of available funds left before we have to look at alternative funding for the General Fund.

Stewardship – presentations in the worship service will include our financial state. October is stewardship month. Pastor has a letter that will be sent to members with a pledge card included.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam reported

NALC - As Dean, I attended worship presiding and giving a presentation on the NALC along with a Call Workshop on August 17. American Lutheran is our newest NALC congregation in the Minkota Mission District. I will be at Peace Lutheran in Devils Lake on Friday, September 12 for a Dean's visit. NALC presentation at Holt, MN on October 14 for 2 churches discerning their affiliation future.

Pastoral Care - Nursing home worship at Fair Meadow and Mc Sr. Living along with visits there as well as visits and Bible Study at Poplar Meadow as well as shut-ins in our community. The swimming area is a great place to meet people and get to know them. Hospital visit to Fargo.

Baptisms –September 21 Oakley Ose.

Confirmation has started. I will be taking the 10th grade students on Sundays as a wrap up for them until they are confirmed the last Sunday of October.

Thank you to Hollie Stewart and Kris Nornes for continuing to be part of the teaching team.

Youth Group plans

September 14th –Kickoff for the season welcoming the new 7th graders at Grace.

September 27th – Ditch cleaning

and bon fire
October 18th – Mercy Me concert
November – Worship event
December – Christmas Party and caroling

Education:

Sunday School: Began September 7.

Nursery/Office: Education Office moving Room 7. Room 1 will be for infants and nursing moms. We can use a gently used rocker or glider for the space from those in the congregation.

Released Time begins September 24th. We still need teachers!

September 14th: Bibles given to 3rd and 7th graders. Blessing of backpacks will occur.

Email with any questions: education@gracechurcherskine.org

Women of Grace

Hope Circle – September 24th at 9 AM at Grace

Rebecca Circle – September 25th at 6:30 PM at Grace

Trustees - Landscaping - Two loads of black dirt to the area where the rock had been removed.

Deacons - 50 people attended the Rally Sunday meal

Video Ministry -

Continue to look for a person to lead. John bought a monitor to use on Sunday's that will show the slides for the service.

Food Shelf: Thank you to those who have worked at the food shelf this month. Laura, Sharon, Vicki, Dave Lindseth,

Continued on Page 6

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

Mike, Judy, Jim G and granddaughter, Juliet (a big help), Shirlee, Marcy, Gene, Jim F, Becky & Dan, Wendy and Dot. We had 30 shoppers on the first day and 16 on the second day. Total of 46.

Regular Service (1 st Visit This Month)	
Individuals	
Ages 0-17	29
Individuals Ages 18-64	61
Individuals	
Age 65+	21
Households	46
New Visits	5
Pounds	2470.4

Old Business:

Grace to Ukraine – Keep on advertising

NALC changes to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in January

Worship participant equipping/refreshing – for Alter Guild, Readers and Ushers.

Released Time Classes – We do not have enough teachers! Please consider helping.

New Business:

Sound system –Gene will change the angle of the speakers to be towards the congregation. Microphones are being adjusted to be louder for pastor and readers.

Calendar:

Release Time Starting Date September 24

Confirmation Sunday October 26

Next Council Meeting October 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm



CALENDAR TIME

It is that time of year that we start preparing the community calendar for the upcoming year “2026”.

Letters will be going out to the businesses to see if they would still be interested in a very cost-effective advertisement.

If you know of any changes that need to take place whether it be to add, delete or update.

Please forward that information to Tina Farrell email address: grace_youthcal@gvtel.com or you may leave a message 218-563-2216. I will then follow up with you and confirm changes.

Thank You! For your continued support.

~~Grace Lutheran Youth Group

GRACE WNALC FALL AUCTION



**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 29**

**PIE
SOCIAL
6:30PM**



**AUCTION
7PM SHARP**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

What do we really own?

'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' --Job:1:21

There's the joke about the nosy neighbor attending a rich woman's funeral. Peering into the coffin with a friend, he asked, "How much money did she leave?" The friend smiled and replied, "All of it, of course!"

As Job laments, we come into the world naked and leave the same way. We may be dressed in our best clothing on our way out, but we take it to the grave, not the afterlife.

The joke and Job reveal a basic concept of stewardship: We don't really own anything. We may take possession of it for a period of time, but we eventually leave it for others.

Yet we spend so much of our energy and life accumulating more and more – as if we were going to have it forever, as we were going to live forever. The danger is that absorbed with accumulating wealth, we shortchange the most valuable treasures – loving the Lord our God with all our being and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

That's why the Bible consistently warns us about wealth. Jesus repeatedly points out the pitfalls. Money and possessions can turn us inward, stunting our growth and preventing us from being the people God created us

to be.

Generosity is the preventative cure for this malady. The Bible counsels that tithing – giving away 10 percent of our income – is a good benchmark for faithful giving (although on several occasions Jesus told his disciples to give away ALL their possessions).

Giving 10 percent, or any amount substantial enough to be sacrificial, is a declaration that you are free from the power that money might have over you. Because however much money you can accumulate in life, you will be like the rich woman in the joke: You will leave it all.

--Rob Blezard

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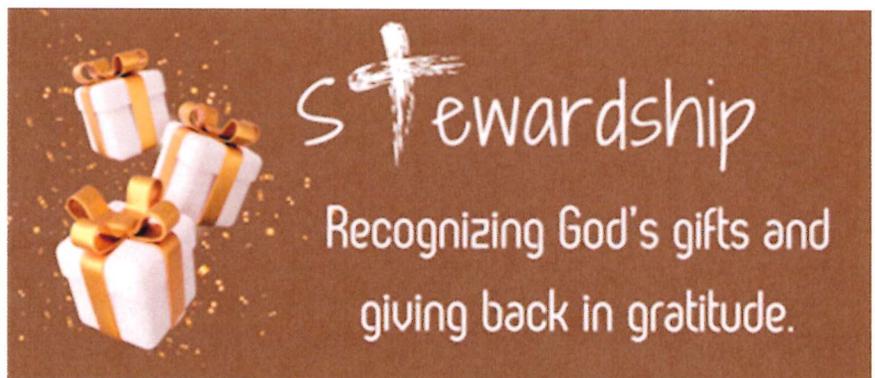
****We will be distributing Pledge Cards marking our time, talent, and treasure for the coming year. These will be received on Sunday November 2 and throughout the month.***



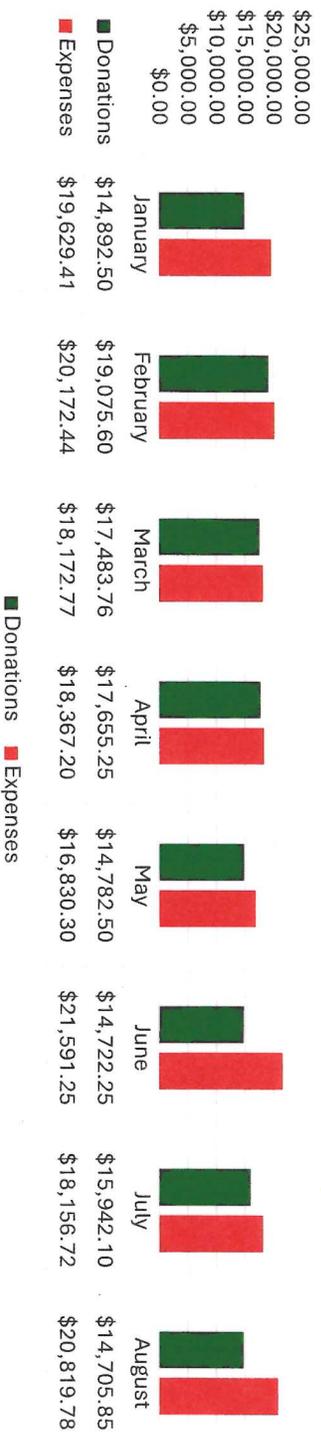
Thank + Praise + Serve + Obey

Luther reminds us in his explanation to the first article of the Apostle's Creed that because God provides all that we need, "Therefore, I ought to thank, praise, serve, and obey him. This is most certainly true." As people of faith, our response is the same. The call to thank, praise, serve and obey our Lord is central to what biblical stewardship is all about.

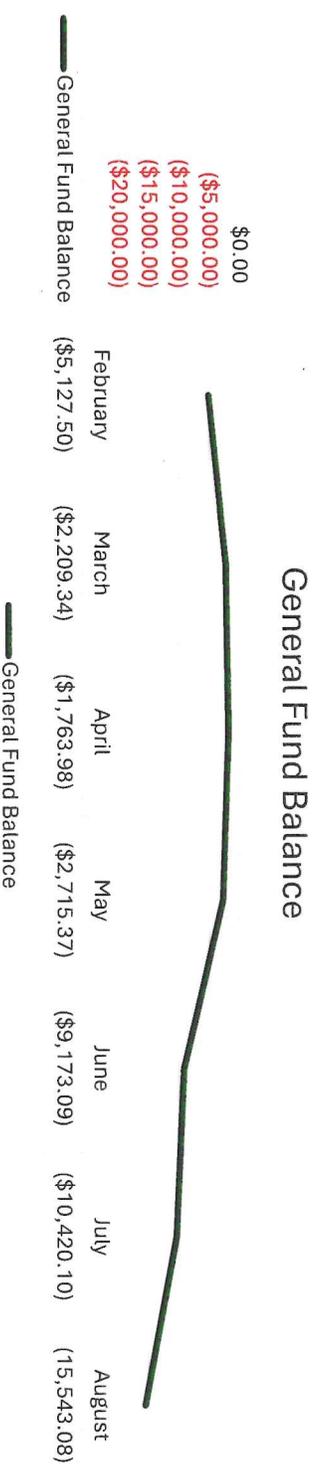
Service is a portion of stewardship in which we work in worship and in ministry for needs both of the church in worship and in outreach. We will be completing time and ability sheets for the coming year. Consider your call as we humbly serve Jesus together.



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. On average, monthly donations have been approximately 15% less than expenses.



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 \$29,401 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.

OCTOBER

Grace Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1:55p-RT Class 6p-Confirmation Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	2	3	4 9a- Rebroadcast
5 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Worship w/ Holy Communion	6 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	7 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	8 1:55p-RT Class 6p-Confirmation Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	9 2-6p-Food Shelf is open	10	11 9a- Rebroadcast
12 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Worship w/ Holy Communion	13 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	14 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	15 1:55p-RT Class 6p-Confirmation Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast 7p-Council Mtg.	16 10a-2p-Food Shelf is open	17 SCROLL ARTICLES 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 9a-Hope Circle 1:55p-RT Class 6p-Cont. Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	23 6:30p-Rebecca Circle	24	25 9a- Rebroadcast
26 Reformation 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Worship w/ Confirmation	27 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	28 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	29 1:55p-RT Class 6p-Cont. Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	30 Greeters: 5th: John & Pam Carlson 12th: Jon & Julie Clementson	31 19th: Mark Coleman 26th: Wade & Tina Farrell	

CIRCLES at the church
 Hope Rebecca at the church

Ushers:
 Daryl & Yvonne Halvorson

Communion Assistants:
 Hollie Stewart and Tyler Brekken

Altar Flowers:
 Hope Circle

Altar Guild:
 Patti Hamre and Kristi Plante

R= Reader
 A=Acolyte
 P=Power Point

OCTOBER 5th:
 R~ Ann Brekken
 A~ Hope Omundson and Faith Omundson
 P~ Scott Omundson and Jon Hill
 OCTOBER 12th:
 R~ Tyler Brekken
 A~ Addison Clow and Haylee Beckett
 P~ Malaina Jax and Bella Senn
 OCTOBER 19th:
 R~ Jeff Nommes
 A~
 P~
 OCTOBER 26th:
 R~ Confirmands
 A~
 P~