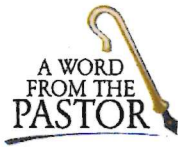


Grace Lutheran Church

November 2026



Dear Friends in Christ,

"Joyful living. Joy is just about the best feeling there is. What a gift God has given us! Life does not always provide for us a reason for joy. The good news is that we have access to joy that is peace beyond measure. It is the joy of the Lord.

His joy is My strength as spoken by Nehemiah 8: 10

Jesus said-As the Father love Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep my commandments a, you will abide in My love, just as I have keep My Father's commandments and abide in His love. Thes things I have spoken to you that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. John

I 5:9-11.

In this busy time of the year, as we rev up after a nice summer, take time to rest in Jesus. Let his love take the stress and cares. They aren't ours to carry alone. We can learn to live in the Spirit of the Living God and the strength of His Joy.

Alive in Christ together,
Pastor Pam

We lift up our prayers for Pastor Pam as she undergoes knee surgery. She will be out of the office for about 2 weeks. Pastor Lonnie Wilkerson will be preaching on November 15th.



The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday November 18th at 7:00PM. A reminder that all regular meetings are open to members of Grace Church. ***Please note change in date.**



Tithes & Offerings:

September 27th:

Attendance~ 89

Offering~ \$ 2,335.00

October 4th:

Attendance~ 63

Offering~\$5,435.00

October 11th:

Attendance~ 65

Offering~\$2,269.00

October 18th:

Attendance~ 84

Offering~ \$2,875.00



The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday November 12th at 7:00PM. Guest Speaker will be Ali Johnson. Please bring a savory or sweet dish to share.

Theme: God gives each of us gifts, and every life has a story worth telling.

Meet Alice Claire "Ali" Johnson

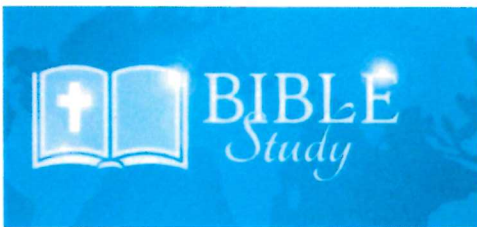
Affectionally known as Ali, Alice Claire Johnson is a wife, mother, grandmother, and author with a love for writing and storytelling. She has authored both daily devotionals and children's books, drawing inspiration from the beauty of everyday life and the lessons God teaches us along the way.

Ali will share about discovering and developing the unique talents God has placed within each of us and the importance of recording our life experiences. She believes our stories are worth preserving, reminders of God's faithfulness and encouragement to others who may one day need them.

- Hope Circle: November 18th 9:00AM at the church.
- Rebecca Circle: November 19th 6:30PM at the church.

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Pastor Pam Thorson, Joanne Sannes, Helen Lee, Janet Hamre, Becki Haugen, Del Hemmingsen, Jr. Pr. Tim Lundeen, Shirley Salverson, Don Lundin, Judy Tadman, Linda Jorgenson, Judi Hoeft, Jon Clementson, Ogden Farder, Jr., Maci Smeby, Spencer Hanson, Steve Evenson, Louise LaBrecque, Bev Greaver, Jesse Hickman, Greg Kaster, Steve Bradley, Jolene Bradley, Mark Wild, Amy Carpenter, Jason Schneider, Our Military, Shut-ins and Nursing Home members.



Women's Bible Study:

Women's Bible Study is held Monday mornings beginning at 9:30AM in the Fellowship Hall at Grace. This is open to all women who wish to join the group.

Men's Bible Study:

Men's Bible Study meets on Tuesday mornings at 7:00AM at Ness Cafe. This is open to any men who would like to be a part of the group.



September 2026 Financial Summary

Regular Offerings to the General Operating Fund -	\$16,325.85
Misc giving used for the General Operating Fund -	\$793.75
Interest Earned -	<u>\$ 133.09</u>
Total Income	\$17,119.60

Expenses:

Administrative - \$	7,729.59
Education - \$	778.40
Mission Outreach - \$	1,230.00
Pastoral - \$	8,025.44

Worship - \$ 476.91
Total Expenses \$18,240.34
Net Income \$ (1,120.74)

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 –



Donations vs Expenses



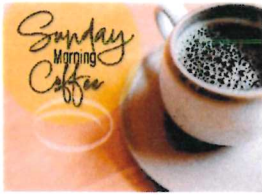
General Fund Balance



As you can see in the first chart, July's donations basically covered July's expenses. However, that was not the case for August and September.

The General Fund is used to pay all the church's regular expenses such as payroll and utilities. As you can see in the second chart, the General Fund graph is reflecting a downward trend that actually started after March when the balance was at \$23,596.22. Since that time, the General Fund has decreased approximately \$8,500.

We are grateful for all donations given to the church. If you would like to increase your offering to the church, please see information elsewhere included in the Scroll.



Sunday Morning Coffee:

November 2026-Group-# 1

December 2026-Group-#2

January 2027-Group-#3

February 2027-Group#4

Cover all Sundays in the month with the members in your group

Set out 3 carafes coffee, 3 dozen donuts (warmed 2 min in microwave) cups and napkins on round table in narthex by 9:15-9:30. Cleanup after church.

Thank you for serving

~Hollie



**HUNTERS MEATBALL SUPPER
NOVEMBER 7TH, 2026
SERVING 4:30PM - 7:30PM
(note time change)**

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

All Saints Sunday November 1, 2026

First Reading • Revelation 7:2-8, 9-17

Psalm • Psalm 149:1-9

Second Reading • 1 John 3:1-3

Gospel • Matthew 5:1-12

Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost November 8, 2026

First Reading • Amos 5:18-24

Psalm • Psalm 70:1-5

Second Reading • 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel • Matthew 25:1-13

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 15, 2026

First Reading • Zephaniah 1:7-16

Psalm • Psalm 90:1-12

Second Reading • 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel • Matthew 25:14-30

Christ the King November 22, 2026

First Reading • Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm • Psalm 95:1-7a

Second Reading • 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Gospel • Matthew 25:31-46

First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2026

First Reading • Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm • Psalm 80:1-7

Second Reading • 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel • Mark 13:24-37

GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pr. Pam Thorson	Pastor
John Carlson	President
Tyler Brekken	Vice President
Carla Ferden	Secretary
Tina Farrell	Financial Secretary
Jim Ferden	Treasurer
Wendy Lee	Deacon
Dearmina Gustafson	Deacon
Gene Haugom	Trustee
Ray LaBrecque	Trustee
Steve Jacobson	Trustee
Andrew & Becky Hanson	Education Directors
Sarah Strom	Education
Kristen Morgenroth	Education
Hollie Stewart Pres.	WNALC
Paula LaBrecque	Stewardship
Becky Lindseth	Stewardship
Marie Hamre	Stewardship



Grace Council Minutes: October 14, 2026

Present: John Carlson, Tyler Brekken, Pastor Pam Thorson, Gene Haugom, Tina Farrell, Hollie Stewart, Carla Ferden, Jim Ferden, Marie Hamre and Steve Jacobson

Call to Order: John called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Devotions: John led us in devotion and prayer

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Tyler. Second by Steve. Motion carried

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve September 9, 2026 minutes by Tyler. Second by Gene. Motion carried

Financial Secretary's Report: Tina reported:

General Giving:

Envelopes/Loose Checks of Members	\$10,935.00
Loose Giving – Cash	\$64.00
Loose Giving – Cash (Visitors)	\$200.00
Electronic Giving – CC/Debit	\$1,536.85
Electronic Giving ACH	\$3,590.00

Total General Giving **\$16,325.85**

Other Giving:

Copy Machine	\$96.75
Designated Memorial – Bulletins	\$200.00
Undesignated Memorial	\$100.00

Electronic Giving – Designated to Various Funds:

Grace Youth Group	\$110.00
HS Scholarship	\$10.00
Organ Repair	\$5.00
Sunday School Equipment	\$5.00
Vacation Bible School	\$10.00

Total Other Giving **\$536.75**

Outreach Giving:

Sunday School Giving (Sept-Dec)	\$94.87
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Electronic Giving – Designated to Various Funds:

Sunday School Outreach	\$10.00
Grace Cemetery	\$10.00
Grace Food Shelf	\$110.00
After School Backpack Program	\$10.00

Total Outreach Giving **\$234.87**

Building Giving:

Building Fund	\$35.00
Electronic Giving – Building Fund	\$10.00
Total Building Giving	\$45.00

Deposits Made **\$11,725.62**

Electronic Giving **\$5,416.85**

Total Monthly Giving **\$17,142.47**

Report received for filing

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported:**Cash Flow Report**

- Regular Offering to the General Operating Fund was \$16,325.85.
- Undesignated funds available to be used for September's General Fund expenses totaled \$17,119.60. This total is comprised of the regular offering, interest, and various other giving that can be used to meet General Fund expenses.
- The total of undesignated funds was lower (\$1,120.74) than the month's General Fund expenses of \$18,240.34.
- In addition, the regular offering was well below (\$5,562.16) what is needed to meet monthly budgeted expenses of \$21,888.01.
- Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:
 - Administration:
 - Church Cleaning – Double expense due to timing
 - Financial Secretary – Quarterly salary
 - Miscellaneous – Expenses for summer picnic
 - Education:
 - Miscellaneous – Bibles for the Sunday School and first communion materials
 - Mission Outreach:
 - None
 - Pastoral:
 - None
 - Worship:
 - None

Budget Report

- Overall, we ended the month at approximately 12.3% or \$32,300 under budget.
- All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- Giving in September was up from August.
- September giving was average for this year.
- However, this is the second highest September giving ever.
- Year-to-date is still above 2025 year-to-date giving, but not by much.
- So far, this year continues to have the best year-to-date giving, but not by much.

History of the General Operating Fund Balance

- The balance decreased again, but not as much as in August.

- As noted earlier, the total of undesignated funds was lower than what was needed to meet monthly expenses.
- This is the lowest balance so far in 2026.
- With the exception of July, the balance has continued to decrease since March.
- However, compared to this time in 2025, the balance looks good.

Account Balances Report

- Building Fund - Reflects donations of \$45.00. Expenses consist of \$39.60 for the separate phone line in the elevator.
- HS Scholarship Fund – Reflects a donation of \$10.00.
- 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 – Reflects a donation of \$5.00.
- SS Equipment Fund – Reflects donations of \$5.00.
- SS Outreach Fund – Reflects donations of \$60.00, SS Offering of \$94.87, and the expense of \$43.00 to Compassion International for the regular monthly gift and \$50.00 for Xmas gifts.
- VBS Fund – Reflects donations of \$10.00.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

- The balance decreased by approximately \$1,200.00 from last month.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

- The balance increased by approximately \$70.00 from last month.
- This is the highest balance since May 2026.

Other Information

- Projects during September -
 - Monitor all church bank accounts multiple times on a weekly basis.
 - No word yet from the church auditors regarding the 2025 financial records.
- Copier Lease –
 - I had an annual conversation with our copier lease representative.
 - He noted that we were under our b/w copy limit by 14,936 and our color copy limit by 6,674.
 - In addition, he noted that the number of b/w copies has decreased 10,092 since last year. However, the number of color copies has increased by 6,464 since last year.
 - It should be also noted that our monthly payment has increased by \$13.10 per month per our lease agreement.

Report received for filing

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam reported

1. Pastoral Care – Worship service Fair Meadow residents 2 times in the last month.
Various Hospital and Nursing Home visits
2. Youth - See You At The Pole – Win-E-Mac. 9/23

Attending WEM football games home and away (except far away) and younger football.

3. Minkota – Congregational visits

Immanuel Lutheran in Crosby, MN 10/10-11.

Pastor's monthly Zoom

4. Community Youth Group– @ Grace 9/13. I led the session. Leaders provided excellent food.

5. Confirmation October 25, Reformation Sunday

Need boutonnieres and altar flowers – WNALC will provide

6. Released Time is going well.

7. Bible Studies: I am teaching the Monday Ladies a study on Angels.

Thursday at Poplar Meadow – The book of Acts

President's Report: John reported

- Working with video ministry
- Working with Released Time
- Working with Win-E-Mac Youth Ministry
- Updated Usher calendar and the video ministry schedule

Committee Reports:

Youth Ministry: John reported

- Sept 13th worship night
- October 10th was ditch cleaning – is a service which raises money and the kids have fun. Had a bonfire after the ditch cleaning
- Nov 22nd will be a community event at the school featuring a comedian. It will be a fundraising event
- December will have a Christmas party, date to be determined

Stewardship: Marie reported

- Temple talks - have of the 4 weeks have 3 covered to speak on stewardship during worship

Christian Education: Andrew emailed:

Total Offering for September: **\$94.47**

Average Attendance for September: **86%**

September Recap: Grades PreK-6 sang "All Creatures of Our God and King" during the church service on September 27th. We also handed out three NIV Adventure Bibles to third graders and four ESV Study Bibles to seventh graders on September 20th.

Upcoming Events: Our next "Sing in Church" Sunday is October 18th. We will be singing a medley of "Father Abraham" and "What a Mighty God We Serve".

Operation Christmas Child "Shoebox Sunday" is November 1st. Consider donating items that we can pack and send! There's more information on the bulletin boards in the Sunday School wing, plus there's a sample shoebox in the back of the sanctuary. Donation drop-off is in the Education Office (Room 7).

Questions? Please email us at education@gracechurcherskine.org.

Woman of Grace: Hollie reported

- October 21st scheduled for the church auction
- November 12th Women of Grace meeting at church @ 7:00 pm
- Funeral this coming Saturday, Oct 17th with 2 groups coming together to serve

Trustee Report: Gene reported

Will meet on Thursday, October 22nd to clean the closet in the basement under the basement steps.

Deacons: Wendy reported

No report

Video Ministry: John reported

- Had problems with tricaster which Nick and Jarreth came in and fixed the PIP. There were settings that were missing that were restored.
- Couldn't sign into GV and that has been restored
- Tyler is checking to see why there are problems with the live broadcast

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

Sept Food Shelf report:

Food Expenses: \$1512.47

Food donations: 72 pounds

Dollar General donations: 149 pounds

Money donations: \$565

Other expenses ie; electricity, phone, supplies \$198.13

Households in September: 41 w/ 98 individuals with 25 0-17yrs, 52 ages 18-64, 21 ages 65+

Distributed 2570 pounds with 27 pounds per each individual household

We were open on Oct 8th and had 26 households that day.

Did apply for MSFP grant. Should receive \$10,000 in November.

Quarterly Grace Community Food Shelf Advisory Board Minutes from October 7, 2026 received by council and on file.

Old Business:

Landscaping etc. – quote from Shane's landscaping \$1,100 for labor and materials. Includes filling the beds with black dirt and bringing them to grade. Gene will contact Lance to install a downspout with an arm

New Business:

- a. Organ concert – George French. Tentative the 2nd Sunday of Advent. Will be a community wide event coordinating with the Sons of Norway. Grace will provide refreshments and bars.

- b. Duties. Refill, order supplies, etc. – Brian was consulted and will no longer handle this responsibility. John has done up a spreadsheet of what we order and where to order.
- c. Coverage: Pastor's jury duty, surgery recovery. – November 9th surgery – Pastor Daniel or Pastor Lonnie to cover when she is recovering. Nov 15th Pastor Lonnie will be covering service.
- d. Bathroom – Remodel downstairs bathroom with funds from the building fund and the floor in the upstairs bathroom. Steve will revisit the quote received to see if prices have changed
- e. S. Sudan – Pr. Paul Both. 12/13 possibly coming. Hosting some type of forum with other congregations invited to attend.
- f. Feed My Starving Children, April 16-17th asking if we are interested in giving donation from Grace which we will again give from the Youth fund. Youth group will work at it.

Calendar:

Next Council Meeting – November 18th at 7:00

Auction 10/21

Confirmation/Reformation 10/25

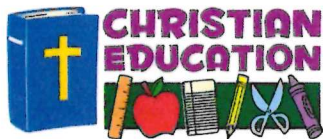
All Saints w/candles 11/1 with Baptism

Hunter's Supper 11/7

WNALC 11/12 @ 7 PM

Adjourn / Prayer

Respectfully submitted~~Carla Ferden



A Ministry for All Ages At Grace, we are so blessed to have many families with small children! We have several resources available to help parents with littles, worship here.

The Nursery If you need a space to nurse, change, or bring your fussy child, Room 1 in the Sunday School wing is where to go! There are full-length blinds on the windows, a glider chair, and a privacy lock on the door. There is a changing table with extra diapers on the shelves. If your baby spits up on you or themselves, there are extra Thrivent shirts of various sizes. There are baby books and toddler toys as well.

The Kids Corner Designed for older kids, the kids corner in the basement has kids books on top of the cabinet and many different kinds of toys inside the cabinet. If you are down in the basement during worship, the big TV on the wall is tuned to the service.

The Activity Bags There are new bags in the back of the sanctuary and up in the balcony with many different activities in them. Don't forget to come down for the Children's Sermon before the Gospel every Sunday, too!

Special Thanks Creating or updating these spaces and resources was made possible through Thrivent Action Teams, so thanks so much to Thrivent for their support!

November



NOVEMBER COFFEE SERVERS

WNALC Group #9

USHERS:

Randy & Wendy Lee

Jim Tadman

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Jody Lende

Alter Guild:

Lesly Tradewell

Cindy Nelson

R = Reader

A = Acolyte

P = Power Point

NOVEMBER 1st:

R – Betty Lundin

A – Wayne Shimpa and Hannah Shimpa

P – Svea Carlson and Jon Hill

NOVEMBER 8th:

R – Del Hemmingsen, Jr.

A – Jorgen Johnson and Kai Johnson

P – Emma Bouvette and Wyatt Lee

NOVEMBER 15th:

R – Josie Johnson

A – Serenity Lundin and Ethan Hansen

P – Ireland Anderson and Kenna Bouvette

NOVEMBER 22nd:

R – Kale Smeby

A – Hope Omundson and Faith Omundson

P – Scott Omundson and Karl Jax

NOVEMBER 29th:

R- Jim Ferden

A- Elyse Morgenroth and Svea Carlson

P- Addyson Morgenroth and Dawson Gunufson

November Dates to Remember

November 4th and 18th

1:55 pm 1st thru 6th grade Released Time

November 7th

4:30-7:30 pm Meatball Supper

November 12th

2-6 pm Food Shelf

7:00 pm WNALC Meeting

November 11th and 25th

1:55 pm Jr High Released Time

November 18th

7:00pm- Council Meeting

November 19th

10a-2p Food Shelf

November 20th

SCROLL ARTICLES DUE

November 22nd:

10:30 am Worship w/ Pr. Both

November 27th

10 am Pastor at Fair Meadow Nursing Home

Reoccurring Calendar Items

Rebroadcast

9 am every Saturday

10 am every Monday

6:30 pm every Wednesday

Adult Bible Study

9 am every Sunday

Sunday School

9:15 am every Sunday

Bible Study Fellowship

2 pm every Tuesday

AA Meeting

8 pm every Tuesday

Confirmation Class

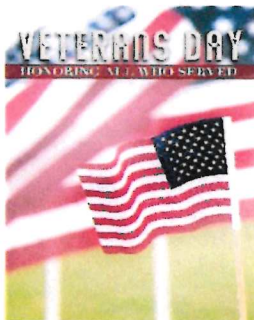
6 pm every Wednesday

Worship

10:30 am every Sunday



Sunday, November 1st is All Saints Sunday. The congregation is invited to come to the front and light a candle in memory of a loved one.



November 11th



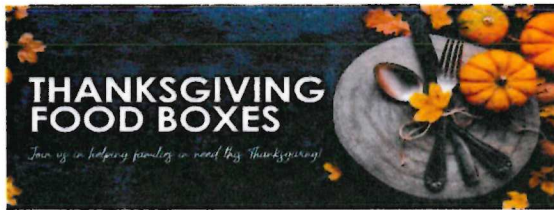
Thanksgiving Day November 26, 2026

First Reading • Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Psalm • Psalm 67:1-7

Second Reading • Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel • Luke 17:11-19



Thanksgiving is right around the corner and the Food Shelf needs your help!

This year the holiday season may prove to be especially challenging for all of us. The cost of food could make providing traditional holiday meals even harder to do. It is at times like this that it is important to assist those families that are less fortunate. The Grace Community Food Shelf would really appreciate your help in providing Thanksgiving meals for twenty-seven families.

Each year the Food Shelf would like to provide a Thanksgiving meal basket to families in need in the Erskine, Mentor, Winger and McIntosh area. This Thanksgiving basket includes a frozen turkey breast or turkey appropriate to the size of the family. Along with the turkey we provide fresh potatoes, a vegetable, mixed fruit, pumpkin pie with Cool Whip, a loaf of bread, butter, and Jell-O gelatin. The supplies come from the North Country Food Bank or are purchased locally. The cost of our Thanksgiving basket is \$45.00.

The Food Shelf this year is reaching out to ask if you or your family could sponsor a Thanksgiving basket for a family in need? If not a whole basket, if you could help to partially fund a basket. The bottom line is that we really need your financial support to make this a happy Thanksgiving for these families.

If you would like to donate toward a Thanksgiving Food basket for a family in need, please send your check to: Grace Community Food Shelf, PO Box 204, Erskine, MN 56535. To contribute through Venmo go to <https://www.venmo.com/u/ErskineMNUSA> or you can scan the QR code. You can also stop by the American State Bank in Erskine and tell them you want to contribute to the Food Shelf for Thanksgiving. If you have any questions, please call 218-687-2250 and leave a message or send an email to foodshelfcoordinator@gracechurcherskine.org.

