



**Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC)**

PO Box 10  
Erhard, MN 56534

To:

January

2020 Grace Gazette



**Grace Lutheran Church**



**Mission Statement:**

Grace Lutheran strives to be a welcoming church family, committed to the Bible as God's truth, worshipping together, and reaching out to love, pray for, teach, and serve others in Christ's name.

**U.S. Highway 59 in Erhard, MN**

Visit us online at – <http://gracechurchoferhard.org>

**Facebook Pages:**

The Foundry @ Grace Lutheran Erhard  
Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC) of Erhard, MN  
Grace Lutheran Church Women "GLW" & Friends

A member of the LCMC

(Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ)

*A Lutheran community of faith engaging the present while embracing the Biblical and Reformation heritage of:*

**Grace Alone:**

*God, out of His great mercy, has reconciled humanity to Himself through His Son Jesus Christ. Acts of Christian goodness are a thankful response to God's mercy shown to us in Christ.*

**Faith Alone:**

*God's gift of faith apprehends the great work of eternal redemption accomplished for us by Jesus Christ. A faith relationship with the Triune God is the key to our eternal future and it brings meaning and joy to our present lives.*

**Word Alone:**

*The Bible is God's authoritative Word to humanity. It is the sole and true guide for Christian faith, doctrine, and living.*

**YOU ARE WELCOME AT GRACE**

**Sunday Worship:** 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion the first Sunday of every month. Coffee Fellowship every Sunday after Worship.

**Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Adult Bible Study:** 9:00 a.m. every Sunday.

**Morning Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m.

**Prayer Fellowship:** Every Wednesday immediately following Morning Bible Study.

**The Foundry (Youth Group) Gatherings:** Meets the first and third Wed of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise specified).

**Choir Practice:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

*From Pr. Brad*

### **God Breaks the Silence**



“God, where are You?” is a question of deep struggle that we have all experienced. Sincere prayers, even desperate cries sent up to God seem to bounce off the ceiling, or just dissolve into thin air. The thought we entertain at these times is, “Maybe one of us in this prayer conversation has gotten up and left the room, and it’s not me.”

The perceived silence of God can be one of the greatest tests of our faith – to feel that loneliness, to feel like we’ve been left out in the rain. But as we bask in the glow of Christmas, gathering at the manger to look at the Christ Child, we realize that even when we can no longer think about God or pray to Him, He still thinks about us. Even if we can feel nothing of His presence, He still feels for us. Even when we give up searching for Him, He has already found us. In the person of Christ, God is always there with us and for us – and that is the good news of Christmas we carry into the New Year of 2020!

May we continue to return to the cradle of Christ and gaze at the reality of what happened on that first Christmas

Eve. Our hungry souls need to contemplate the wonder of the God-made-flesh Baby as God’s answer to our lonely question of, “God where are You?” Yes, God does allow us to struggle, to ask that question, but only to lead us away from the answers we wish to impose on Him, to His answer. And it’s His answer in Christ that answers all our other God-questions of “Why?” “Where?” “How?” and “What?” He answers them all with the “Who” of His Son. The Christ Child, God’s Son, and our Brother, was sent to meet us in our questions, our troubles, our loneliness, and yes, even in our sinful rebellions. It’s in Him where we find God’s forgiveness, help, and companionship.

Theologian and pastor, Helmut Thielicke who preached in the context of a devastated post World War II Germany, put it this way.

"The Child in the crib was homeless, a refugee. Then came the life-long hostility of men. Finally His life ended on a cross. I believe that all this, is infinitely more comforting than the soft spirit we seek at Christmas. He came down to us in the trenches, down to where we live and worry, and where we must finally die. There is nothing that He did not endure with us. He understands everything."

In the birth of Jesus Christ into our world to be with us and to save us, God has given us the answer of His own Son. In Him, God has indeed broken the silence as He proclaims to us, “Here I am. My arms are open wide for you.”

## Grace Lutheran Church

### Unapproved council meeting minutes

December 10, 2019

President Jeanette Ripley called to order the regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council on December 10, 2019, at 6:02 P.M. in the chapel. She read our church's mission statement:

*Grace Lutheran strives to be a welcoming church family, committed to the Bible as God's truth, worshiping together, and reaching out to love, pray for, teach, and serve others in Christ's name.*

All other council members were present including Duane Haiby, Karen Nelson, Kim Pederson, Rachel Ronnevik, Phyllis Rossow, Cheryl Rotz, Bruce Schaible, and Jim Klitzke, by phone, as well as Pastor Brad Soenksen and Treasurer Lucy Stadum.

Pastor Brad led devotions, from Scott Smith's "Everyday Prayers."

The agenda was approved following Ronnevik's motion and Nelson's second.

Haiby made a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting; Schaible seconded this motion, and it carried on vote.

The November treasurer's reports were filed for audit after Pederson's motion and Rossow's second. As of November 30, 2019, the General Fund balance was \$2,265.69, the Major Maintenance Fund balance remained \$10,841.14, the Building Expansion Fund balance was \$30,925.00, and the Concert/Mission of the Month Fund balance was \$2,804.70. November's mission of the month, the Grace Christmas Dinner, received \$1,053.00.

Pastor Brad's report included Wednesday morning Bible studies; meetings with the Grace Prayer Team, The Foundry youth group, Grace Lutheran Women, and the Grace Council; attending the Grace concert, choir practices, and Sunday school Christmas program practice; numerous visitations; an LCMC Augustana District Ambassador contact; Grace Stephen Ministry peer supervision; conducting Thanksgiving eve worship followed by fellowship; and one vacation day. He also discussed ordering more chairs for the sanctuary, which the council supports.

#### **Old business:**

As the council continues to explore evangelism and mission outreach, council members thanked Danielle Grunewald for her efforts to invite parents to chat and enjoy beverages while they wait for their children at Christmas program practice and continuing when Sunday school resumes in January.

The Property Committee has ordered materials for sound abatement in the fellowship hall; \$5,000 for this project will come from the Major Maintenance Fund, as approved at a previous congregational meeting, and the Fundraising Committee has inquired as to whether their help might be needed. Roger Michaelson was crediting for lending his expertise to this endeavor.

Following further discussion, and subject to changes for employee tax amounts, Pederson moved to approve submitting the 2020 Grace Lutheran Church budget for final approval at the congregation's annual meeting on January 26. This proposed budget will be sent to all members in mid-January.

#### **New business:**

The council discussed posting signs to discourage bringing coffee and other dark-colored beverages into the sanctuary in an effort to keep our new seating and newly shampooed carpet clean.

Following discussion, Haiby made a motion to designate Heart to Heart Thailand (Julie Smude's mission) as Mission of the Month for January. Rotz seconded this motion, and it carried on vote. The Salvation Army is December's Mission of the Month.

Pederson moved to adjourn; Ronnevik seconded the motion, which carried on vote, and this meeting closed at 8:20 P.M. with the Lord's Prayer.

The next regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council is scheduled for 6 P.M. on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, in the chapel.

Ripley provided refreshments.

Phyllis Rossow

Secretary

## GRACE GAZETTE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

November 30, 2019

### GENERAL FUND:

Balance, November 1, 2019	\$7,155.82
November Receipts	\$9,608.32
November Disbursements	(\$14,498.45)
Balance November 30, 2019	\$ 2,265.69

Average Attendance (4 services) 159

Mission Receipts ~ "Grace Christmas Dinner"	\$1,053.00
Wednesday Concert – "Greg Hager Concert"	\$383.00

### GRACE BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

Balance, November 1, 2019	\$30,805.00
November Receipts	\$ 120.00
November Disbursements	(\$ .00)
Balance, November 30, 2019	\$30,925.00

### GRACE MAJOR MAINTENANCE FUND:

Balance, November 1, 2019	\$10,841.14
October Receipts	\$ 0.00
November Disbursements	(\$ 0.00)
Balance, November 30, 2019	\$10,841.14

### CONCERT/MISSION OF THE MONTH

Balance, November 1, 2019	\$2,010.70
November Receipts	\$1,436.00
November Disbursements	(\$ 642.00)
Balance, November 30, 2019	\$2,804.70

Submitted by Lucille Stadum, Treasurer

## Grace Lutheran Women Meeting Minutes

Grace Lutheran Women met on December 12, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. We filled boxes and baskets. We had a short meeting.

We started our meeting by reading Philippians 4:13 on page 4 of our booklets. Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and placed on file.

### Old Business:

- It was voted that officers would stay the same for 2020.
- No meeting in January
- The men were invited to our potluck today.

### New Business:

- The booklet for 2020 was revised
- We have more copies of *Pew Sisters*. You can get one now.
- Christmas Day Dinner is from 11 to 1. Cookies needed.
- Quilting dates were set January 6-7 and 20-21 at 9:00 a.m.
- A suggestion was made to look into getting a gas convection over for the kitchen. No decision was made.

We had birthday and birthday song, offering and offering song. Next meeting is February 20, 2020. Faye and Sheila will serve.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

*Sheila Ouren*, Secretary

## JANUARY, 2020 LIBRARY CORNER

*by Paulette Haddock GLC Librarian*

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thank you to everyone who used the library and donated books, movies, and bookmarks in 2019 for all of us to enjoy! Without you we wouldn't have much of a library. Donations help our library grow and keep up to date, and users help keep our library relevant. This year we added 65 items to our library collection for a grand total of 783 items! You may ask, "Where are they?" Many are in boxes in the basement. Someday we'll have enough shelves for all of them, but for now we still need to rotate items onto the shelves. If you don't see an item, please ask. It may be checked out, or it may be in a box.

I hope those who have used the library this year have found the materials encouraging, insightful, helpful, and engaging. Although most of our movies are for entertainment, many also give instruction and inspiration. Our goal is to provide materials that ultimately help our church family grow in their faith, godly living, and godly relationships.

Every year we lose a few items. Some eventually turn up in the return drawer or back on a shelf, but there are a few still missing (one from four years ago). Have you seen any of these items?

***Redeeming Love*** by Francine Rivers, ***Know the Bible Now*** (copy 2) by Edward Engelbrecht, or ***That Hideous Strength*** by C. S. Lewis?

## Grace Lutheran Church

### *Mission of the Month*



Heart to Heart Thailand is our new ministry name! Myself together with three other seasoned missionaries are doing prayer ministry, Debriefs, and coaching. Along with that, I continue to teach Bible studies and have started teaching at Indo-China Bible Training Center as well. I also continue to have people stay in my home when they are in need of some alone-time with God or simply need a break from the stresses of the mission field. In addition, I continue to bless moms with a "breakfast out" at my house!

*-Julie Swade*



- 3 Bryce Bergren
- 4 Brittney LaPoint
- 6 Lucus Norgren
- Emily Haiby
- Alan Haugrud
- 7 Sandy Sundblad
- Ronnie Klovstad
- Michael Metzger
- 8 Curt Cardwell
- 9 Lori Anderson
- Sophie Ravenscraft
- 10 Karen Nelson
- 11 Nancy Longfors
- 12 Isla Dillon
- 13 Steven Scheer
- Justin Anderson
- 14 Matthew Sundblad
- Kalli Christianson
- Cassidy Seiple
- Keith Rutherford
- 15 Tina McKellips
- Angie Motz
- 17 Arlinda Tollefson
- 18 Jim Waters
- 19 Bradley Winkels
- Rebecca Meyering
- 20 Mindy Peterson
- Dylan Peasley
- 21 Matthew Wright
- Nicole Thorson
- 22 Molly Braman
- 24 Rachel Ronnevik
- 25 Tara Motz
- 26 Elizabeth Bigelow
- 27 Parker Sanchez
- Wanda Norman
- Dawson Westby
- 31 Stacy Spaeth

**NEW ONLINE DONATION TOOL NOW AVAILABLE!**

Grace Lutheran Church is excited to announce a new way to give to your favorite Grace mission. Donating through our online service provider, Tithe.ly:

Is simple, fast, and convenient!  
Can be made via credit card, debit card, or bank account.

Giving can be one-time or on an automatically, recurring basis.

Fees apply, and you can choose whether you want to add the small fee to your donation, or have it deducted from your donation.

It's safe and secure for donors and churches.

Donate anywhere, anytime. It's flexible! Choose where your donation goes!

- General Fund
- Sanctuary Seating
- Sunday School
- Mission of the Month
- Building Fund
- Thai Mission
- Anne Carlsen Center

Or any number of great causes supported by Grace.

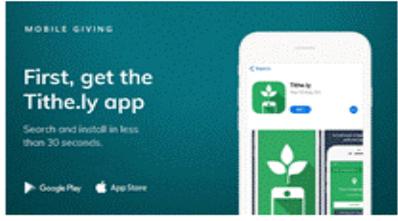
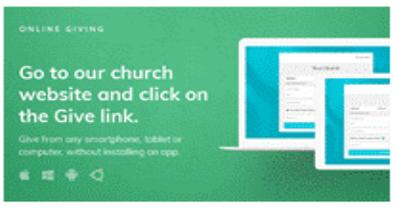
**To donate online,** go to our church website at [www.gracelutheranchurchoferhard.org](http://www.gracelutheranchurchoferhard.org) and click on the "Give" link. Simply use your computer, smart phone, or tablet to access the site.

**To donate using a mobile device,** first get the Tithe.ly app through Google Play or the Apple App Store. It takes less than 30 seconds! Then search for Grace Church of Erhard. Once you've found us click "Give" to start.

You will receive a confirmation email once your donation is received.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

We are humbled and grateful to anyone who chooses to support our mission here at Grace Lutheran Church. Donating to Grace monthly allows us to preach and teach the gospel, make disciples, and support others in our community who need help. Your financial support is making a difference. We thank you and praise God with whom all things are possible.



Tithe.ly and credit card companies charge a per transaction fee any time a payment is processed. VISA, MC, Discover fee is 2.9% + 30 per successful charge; AMEX fee is 3.5% + 30 per successful charge; ACH/ Bank fees are 1% + 30 per successful transaction.

**Reminder: NO Concert or GLW Meeting in January!**

**Annual Reports are due to the office by January 15th. Contact Rena with questions**

**The GLC Annual Meeting & Potluck**

January 26<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.

*A fellowship potluck will follow the meeting.*



Group II is in charge of the kitchen.

**January Quilters**

**January 6th, 7th, 20th and 21st~9:00 A.M.**

**If you enjoy sewing, or want to help, please join us! We will be working in the Fellowship hall with a potluck lunch each day**

Women of all ages are invited to a twice monthly women's Bible Study. We will meet the first and third Tuesday evenings each month (unless otherwise noted) from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Rachel Ronnevik's home (13855 280<sup>th</sup> Street, Fergus Falls) which is located midway between Fergus Falls and Erhard, just west of Carlisle. There is no homework or perfect attendance required—just a desire to meet with other women to read and study God's word and fellowship together. Come and see!

*A heartfelt thank you for all your prayers, love, support, cards and food during this difficult time of losing my mother on Christmas Day. God needed an angel and He got a very loved, feisty one!*

*Much love,*  
*Holly Bilden and family*

# January 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 <b>9:00 a.m.:</b> Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Study <b>10:00 a.m.:</b> Worship with Holy Communion followed cake for Herman Rocholl's 80th Birthday	6	7 <b>6:30 p.m.:</b> Womens Bible Study at Rachel Ronnevik's homoe in Fergus Falls	8 <b>8:00 a.m.:</b> Bible Study <b>9:15 a.m.:</b> Prayer Fellowship	9	10	11
12 <b>9:00 a.m.:</b> Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Study <b>10:00 a.m.:</b> Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship	13	14 <b>6:00 p.m.:</b> Church Council	15 <b>8:00 a.m.:</b> Bible Study <b>9:15 a.m.:</b> Prayer Fellowship <b>6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.:</b> Foundry meets <b>7:00 p.m.:</b> Choir Practice	16 No GLW meeting	17 <b>8:30 a.m.:</b> Stephens Ministry	18
19 <b>9:00 a.m.:</b> Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Study <b>10:00 a.m.:</b> Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship	20	21 <b>6:30 p.m.:</b> Womens Bible Study at Rachel Ronnevik's homoe in Fergus Falls	22 <b>8:00 a.m.:</b> Bible Study <b>9:15 a.m.:</b> Prayer Fellowship <b>7:00 p.m.:</b> Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 <b>9:00 a.m.:</b> Sunday School, Confirmation, & Adult Bible Study <b>10:00 a.m.:</b> Abbreviated Worship followed by our <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> and a potluck. Please attend!	27	28	29 <b>8:00 a.m.:</b> Bible Study <b>9:15 a.m.:</b> Prayer Fellowship	30	31	1
2	3	<b>NOTES:</b> GLW Quilters meet January 6, 7, 20 and 21 at 9:00 a.m. All helping hands are welcome! There is also a potluck each day.				