



Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC)

PO Box 10
Erhard, MN 56534

January
2023 Grace Gazette

Grace Lutheran Church



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.

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

To:

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 (only During the school year)
Morning Bible Study: Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m.
The Foundry (Youth Group) Gatherings: Meets the first and third Wed of each month. (unless otherwise specified).

From Pastor Brad...

Looking Back



It was about this time 10 years ago, when I received a phone call from my older brother Phil. As we were wrapping up, he said, “Brad, I’ve been wanting to talk to you about something else. I’m going to lose my engineering job, and my training and experience are so narrow that I won’t be able to find any work in my field.” Although not spoken, the burden of supporting his family came through the phone loud and clear. Put against the background of a faltering economy, all I could do was offer him the prayer, “Lord have mercy.”

The next day, I sat in my office trying to perform a mental juggling act between my task-list for the day and imagining what the future held for my only brother. My juggling act quickly came to an end as I became completely distracted by the question of what an uncertain future must look like from a present that seems to offer little hope. “Only God knows the future,” I told myself. “Yet, what hope is there in the present?” was the question that my mind quickly landed on.

I should have seen what was coming since God has done this to me so many times, but in eliminating *my* only options (the present and the future), I had arrived at *His* answer – the past. Let me explain. First, if a look into to the future is unattainable, and second, if we are struggling with the present, then all that’s left is the past. But my next question soon followed, “What value is there in the past? Aren’t we always told

to never look back? Yet, in God’s kingdom, the past offers us a lot... if we look in the right place.

The most important past we can look to for encouragement is God’s past – the visible record of God’s history with humans found in the Bible. When we look here, we see a God who helps those who cannot help themselves – that’s after all, what we just celebrated at Christmas. As theologian Helmut Thielicke once remarked,

Jesus Christ did not remain at base headquarters in heaven, receiving reports of the world’s suffering from below and shouting a few encouraging words to us from a safe distance. No, He left the headquarters and came down to us in the front-line trenches, right down to where we live, where we contend with our anxieties and the feeling of emptiness and futility, where we sin and suffer guilt, and where we must finally die. There is nothing that He did not endure with us. He understands everything.

Because He has come down to us, we can be encouraged in any circumstance. His presence in the real world on our behalf is something of substance, something for the worrying mind to latch onto. And, as we follow the Bible’s narrative from the cradle to the cross, we also see quite clearly that our Lord has completely committed Himself to us!

As you look back on 2022, look back further to God’s long history of past faithfulness, and then take your first steps into 2023. With this faithful God at your side, you’re on solid ground. And by the way, Phil found an open door to attain his teaching degree and fulfill a life-long dream of teaching science from a Christian perspective. To God be the glory! May the peace of the faithful Christ rule our hearts in 2023!

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes – December 20, 2022

Present: Jeff LaVigne, Duane Haiby, Curt Cardwell, Harlan Seidell, Gaylene Bader,
Cheryl Rotz, DeAnn Melkert, Shelly Fresonke

Absent: Pastor Brad, Jennifer Larson, Karen Rossum

Duane Haiby brought the meeting to order and we read the mission statement.

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

There was no secretary's report, Karen was absent.

The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

A motion was made and carried to check with GLW about funds designated for propane also being allowed to be used for other heating sources. Gaylene agreed to check with GLW.

A motion was made and carried to raise substitute pastor(s) fees from \$100 to \$150 plus mileage when they conduct a service.

The blood drive was held at Grace on December 19th and went well. 32 people donated blood. We are anticipating holding three (3) blood drives this coming year.

Motion was made and carried to *recommend* to install automatic door openers on east front door along with the new locks.

Chris Bilden has agreed to take care of snow removal in the parking lot and will be using his own vehicle.
Motion was made and carried.

Council discussed a revised budget for 2023.

New Business:

Motion was made and carried to move money in the bank that is not drawing interest, into interest bearing CD's.

Mission of the Month for January is both the Matthew House and the Barbara House. They will share the funds equally. Information on these Houses is on the bulletin board.

Motion was made and passed to adjourn.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is January 10, 2023.

Usher for the month is: Jeff Lavigne

Submitted by Cheryl Rotz for Karen Rossum

The GLW Minutes

GLW met November 17, 2022. Welcome and table prayer.

We had brunch served by Karen N. and Jeanette. Pastor Brad, Bible Study-Mirror, Mirror Refections on God's Word.

We began our meeting with Pslam 31.3 on page 4 of our booklet. Secretary and Treasurers reports were read and place on file.

Old Business:

- Tabled carpet cleaning.
- GLW voted to give \$200.00 for utilities.
- The cleanup of the storeroom is ongoing.
- Faye will take on being the treasurer.

New Business:

- Trunk or Treat was s success again this year
- Finalized the Christmas list.
- The officers will stay the same, no election. President, Karen Rossum; Vice President, Carol Haiby; Secretary, Sheila Ouren; Faye Thompson, Treasurer; Sunshine, Karen Nelson.
- Karen N asked for a new ironing board.
- The Lions donated diabetic kits and we donated \$50.00 to the Lions for the kits.
- We had a lot of quilts so they are being donated to the Salvation Army and Someplace Safe.

Next meeting, December 15 at 9:30 AM is a potluck and the men are invited for dinner at 11:00 AM. Thank you to Karen N. and Jeanette for a great brunch. We had Birthday and birthday song, offering and offering song.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sheila Ouren, Secretary

GRACE GAZETTE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

November 30, 2022

GENERAL FUND: November 2022

Monthly Budget

Amount	Receipts	Gain/ (Shortfall)
\$15,481.81	\$15,047.94	(\$433.87)

Attendance Average, 5 Services	104
Wednesday Concert	\$344.00
Mission Receipts	\$758.00

GRACE BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

Balance, November 1, 2022	\$54,604.00
November Receipts	\$ 190.00
November Disbursements	(\$.00)
Balance, November 30, 2022	\$54,794.00

GRACE MAJOR MAINTENANCE FUND:

Balance, November 1, 2022	\$11,234.53
November Receipts	\$.00
November Disbursements	(\$.00)
Balance, November 30, 2022	\$11,234.53

CONCERT/MISSION OF THE MONTH

Balance, November 1, 2022	\$6,467.97
November Receipts	\$ 1,140.54
November Disbursements	(\$1,196.54)
Balance, November 30, 2022	\$6,411.97

Submitted by Gaylene Bader, Treasurer

JANUARY LIBRARY CORNER by *Paulette Haddock*

Thank you to everyone who used our library last year! It was exciting to see the new movies, books, and magazines come into our collection. A full report will be given in February.

If you have had a book or movie for more than three months, please return it promptly.

When I return in a week from my vacation, I will be contacting those of you who have grossly overdue items.

This year we want to do a careful check of all our inventory to identify lost items. Since we have around one thousand items, we need to keep some in storage and rotate items and in out. Therefore, you may be seeing monthly changes in what is available on the shelves.

Please be patient if your favorite author's books or a series of fiction disappears. They will reappear at some point in the year.

Happy New Year from your library committee:

Paulette Haddock, Karen Nelson and Cheryl Rotz!



- 2 Brenna Davis
- 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
- Cynthia Sheide
- 14 Matthew Sundblad
- Kalli Christianson
- Cassidy Seiple
- Keith Rutherford
- 15 Tina McKellips
- Angie Motz
- 17 Arlinda Tollefson
- Emma Rasmusson
- 18 Jim Waters
- 19 Bradley Winkels
- 20 Mindy Peterson
- Dylan Peasley
- 21 Matthew Wright
- Nicole Thorson
- 22 Molly Braman
- 24 Rachel Ronnevik
- Melvin Frank
- 25 Tara Motz
- 26 Elizabeth Bigelow
- 27 Parker Sanchez
- Wanda Norman
- Dawson Westby
- 29 Aailah Dewey
- 31 Stacy Spaeth

Annual Meeting
Minutes and Reports
are due to the office
by Friday, January
20th to allow Rena
proper time to
prepare the report.
Thank you and
Happy New Year!

DVD copies of services
are available
on the Nathex or
contact the
church office!



Grace Lutheran Church

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Matthew House &
Barbara House of Fergus Falls



Some of you know that we've launched online giving at Grace Lutheran Church of Erhard through Tithe.ly, a safe and secure giving platform that allows you to give one-time or recurring gifts!

You can get started by using one of the below options.

1. Tithe.ly Giving App:

- Download the Tithe.ly App from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android). Once you've downloaded the app select Grace Church of Erhard. If this is your first time giving with Tithe.ly you will be prompted to create an account that you can use for all future gifts.
- The first time you will also need to add your credit/debit card or ACH/banking info. Once your account has been created you will not need to enter your personal or payment information. Just enter your PIN and give!
- A reminder you can set your gift up as recurring.

2. Website Giving:

- Click on this link gracechurchoferhard.org to give through the church website. It's a safe and easy way to give any time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rena Kubitz or Kim Pederson for more information.

Open House

90th Birthday Celebration for

Adrian Westergard

Saturday, Jan 7th, 2-4 PM

Grace Lutheran Fellowship Hall

Everyone Welcome-No Gifts Please

Grace Lutheran Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29th following

10:00 AM Worship with a Potluck

Meal following

2023

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
10:00: Worship with Holy Communion followed by Fellowship	9:30 AM: Women's Home Bible Study at Rachel Ronnevik's		6:30 PM: Youth Group Meets	8:30 AM: Stephens Ministry Meets		2:00-4:00 PM: Open House 90th Birthday Party for Adrian Westergard
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
9:00: Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship	Quilters will meet Monday and Tuesday					
		6:00 PM: Council Meets				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00: Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship	9:30 AM: Women's Home Bible Study at Rachel Ronnevik's		6:30 PM: Youth Group Meets		ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00: Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship						
				Gazette Deadline		
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
9:00: Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship followed by ANNUAL MEETING & Potluck						