



Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC)

PO Box 10
Erhard, MN 56534

June

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.

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...

God's Aliens



(Ray Walston as "Uncle Martin" in the television comedy *My Favorite Martian*, 1963-1966)

Born in the late 1950's, I did my growing up in the 60's and 70's, so I cannot remember life without television. I feel about television the same way my parents felt about radio – so many living room memories are connected to the family enjoying a program together.

In 1963, CBS broke new ground in the typical television world of westerns and variety shows by airing a weekly sitcom about an alien. Actor Ray Walston played a very human looking alien from Mars (with retractable antennas) who had come to earth to study human culture. Taken in by a young newspaper reporter (played by Bill Bixby), the Martian was passed off to others as Bixby's "Uncle Martin."

This thread of comedy begun by CBS, spawned other television shows – *Saturday Night Live* offered us *The Cone Heads* (1977-1982), comedian Robin Williams launched his career in *Mork and Mindy* (1978-1982), and then *Third Rock from the Sun* aired from 1996 to 2001. Each of these television comedies challenged us to look at our American culture and its values through the eyes of other-worldly visitors.

The Apostle Peter challenges us Christians to look at, and to live in our world as aliens – visitors from God's heavenly kingdom.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens... who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ...
(1 Peter 1:1-2)

Peter calls us "aliens" because we live in a culture that does not share our values of following Jesus rather than popular opinion, because we are called to live by grace and peace rather than force and domination, and because we can live with hope and joy during difficult times. And these other-worldly values are God's gifts to us, as Peter says,

God... according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. (1 Peter 1:3-4)

As "aliens" from God's eternal kingdom who are born again to a living hope, we are in a unique position to show the world something truly other-worldly. We are free from living in our world as if it contains all there is. We are free to value God's gifts of grace and peace over temporary material things. We are free to have peace in our present trials because God's best is yet to come.

This "alien" way of living is based, as Peter says, solely on God's mercy. It's in what He has done for us in Jesus Christ where we find our true identity as His alien ambassadors to a troubled world. Because of God's mercy, we are free to love others because God has loved us. We are free to obey Christ because He has forgiven us of our rebellion. We are free to live by grace and peace because He has given it to us freely and fully. So, put your antennas up. Listen to those around you, and then act in Christ's name. Act because of His mercy and love; be an alien! To God be the glory!

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes May 9th, 2023

Present: Duane Haiby, Jeff Struck, Shelly Fresonke, DeAnn Melkert, Harlan Seidell, Curt Cardwell, Jeff LaVigne, Jennifer Larson, Gaylene Bader, and Pastor Brad.

Absent: Karen Rossum

President Duane Haiby called the meeting to order, and our mission statement was read.

Pastor Brad gave the opening devotions and prayer.

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

We continue our commitment to promote evangelism and outreach.

Directory update- 2nd proof coming this week for approval, if all goes well, we should receive the directories the first part of June.

Secretary update- Mary Ferguson has said she would step in until a permanent replacement is found.

Scholarship Fund- 4 students from Grace wanted to go to camp and granted through the fund. A motion was made and approved to remove Rena's name from the fund and replace with Gaylene.

Erhard Webpage- Duane spoke with Gary Stadum, was informed there is no charge and a form was filled out to add Grace to their webpage with a link to ours.

Rena's Appreciation gift was selected and Jeff Struck will get.

Water damage estimates- Insurance deductible is \$2,500 and estimates are in the works.

Cheryl Melkert's resignation letter was read and a motion to approve was made. August 27th was decided on as an appreciation Sunday for her along with cake and a potluck.

Weed and feed will be May 22nd 5:00 PM- a request was made for \$2,000 for mulch, funds to come out of the major maintenance fund and approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Change August Council meeting from the 8th to the 15th.

Water fountain pressure- Dean Nelson will be contacted to see if the pressure could be turned down since it sprays onto the floor.

Discussion on looking into getting a used organ since a keyboard in current is not doable.

Mission of the month for June- Brian Fresonke

Motion to adjourn--- Lord's Prayer

Next meeting is June 13th, at 6:00 PM, Usher for June is Harlan Seidell.

GRACE GAZETTE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

April 30, 2023

GENERAL FUND: April 2023

Amount	Monthly Budget	Receipts	Gain/ (Shortfall)
\$16,354.84		\$15,290.62	(\$1,064.22)

Attendance Average, 4 Services 159

No Concert

Mission Receipts \$1,731.96

GRACE BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

Balance, Apr. 1, 2023 \$6,029.00

April Receipts \$ 20.00

April Disbursements (\$ 00.00)

Balance, April 30, 2023 \$6,049.00

GRACE MAJOR MAINTENANCE FUND:

Balance, Apr. 1, 2023 \$16,740.53

April Receipts \$ 00.00

April Disbursements \$ 646.65

Balance, April 30, 2023 \$16,093.88

CONCERT/MISSION OF THE MONTH

Balance, Apr. 1, 2023 \$6,281.12

April Receipts \$ 1,731.96

April Disbursements (\$ 1,731.96)

Balance, Apr 30, 2023 \$ 6,281.12

Submitted by Gaylene Bader, Treasurer



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OUR FUTURE BLOOD DRIVE DATES

8/22/23

12/18/23

5/28/24

JUNE LIBRARY CORNER-by *Paulette Haddock*

War. It's something we don't like to think about. Yet, Memorial Day, was originally set aside for remembering those who died in war. When it comes around each year some of us put flags or flowers on the graves of family and friends who served in the armed forces, it matters not whether they died in battle. For some of us, it's a day to honor everyone who has died. For others, it just means the first grilling feast of summer. For those with the stomach for battle, we have added two war time movies to our collection: **Gettysburg** (254 min.-PG.), an historically authentic depiction of that great turning point battle of the American Civil War, and **Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years** (115 min.- PG-13) the depiction of the true story of Sabina and Richard Wurmbrand. The extra features added at the end of each movie are worth watching, too.

There is another kind of warfare going on, whether we are aware of it or not, and we are part of it. In the book of Ephesians we are told, "Put on the full armor of God that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." Ephesians 6:11 NASB. The **Chosen, Season Two** (2 discs, 8 episodes), depicts the battles Jesus and his disciples had against the "schemes of the devil." The disciples were real people, just like us, and Jesus was in a human body, just like ours. We can learn from them.

The enemy often attacks by using other people. A new book, **Skeptics Answered**, by D. James Kennedy, and **Pilgrim's Progress**, by John Bunyan, a replacement for a lost book, can also give us help in fighting our daily battle with our own sin nature and "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Eph. 6:12 NIV

An inventory was completed this month of the numbers 080-229 (Quotations, Psychology & Philosophy and Bible's and Religion: God), and only one book is missing: **How Evil Works: Understanding and Overcoming the Destructive Forces That Are Transforming America**, by David Kupelian. Please let me know if you have this book at home. It sounds like a good "warfare" book!

Free **Christianity Today** magazines are on the library counter.



- 2-Kathy Johnson
- 3-Jason Winkels
- Londyn Milbeck
- 5-Ashley Bilden
- 6-Rachel Longfors
- 9-Michael Lewis
- 12-Brenda Wasvick
- 13-Judy Michaelson
- 14-Shelly Grunewald
- Kaleb Tollefson
- Shelly Beyer
- 15 -Mary Ferguson
- 16-Bryce Monson
- Amy Hasling
- Ted Tollefson
- Kash Nehk
- 17-Roger Anderson
- Dennis Haiby
- Teena Jessen
- 18-Crosby Westby
- Elisse Hasling
- Harlen Seidell
- 19-Julie Larson
- Kaytlyn Thorson
- Thomas LaVigne
- 21-Owen Grunewald
- 24-Kim Pederson
- 26-Liza Bennett
- 27-Eric Ripley
- Troy Milbeck
- 28-Cadynce Norgren
- 29-Chase Winkels
- 30-Stacy Carlson
- Kasey Clark

Words can not express how much all of the prayers, cards, calls, and kind thoughts have meant to me during my illness. It is a humbling experience to realize how wonderful this church family really is, when you are the one on the receiving end of their grace!

How can I not succeed with all of you and God on my side!

Thank you again,
Cheryl Rotz



Mission of the Month

Brian Fresonke

Brian received a kidney transplant on March 12th at Sanford in Fargo. He was discharged from the hospital on March 17th. It was advised that Brian and Shelly stay in a hotel for 2 weeks as they lived so far away and needed to be at the hospital for labs. On April 26, Brian developed an infection and had to have a toe removed. There were complications with the healing of that surgery. Brian still has to go back and forth to Fargo to see his doctor and make sure all is well.

The Grace Concert Series Presents...



Off the Hook

Grace Lutheran Church, LCMC
US Hwy 59, Erhard, MN

Wednesday June 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Free will offering~Refreshments served following concert!

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 contact Gaylene Bader or Kim Pederson for more information.

Thank you for your generosity and partnering with Grace to live our mission.

Foundry Summa Time Schedule '23

June 7th - Summa Time Kickoff Potluck and Uncle Eddie's Ice Cream 6:30-9:30

June 14th - Christ Hike @ Inspiration Point Bible Camp (RSVP to Dacia or FB by June 12th) 5:00-10

June 21st - Regular Night @ Church 6:30-8:30

June 28th - Meal, Worship, and Float Prep (meet @ 5:30)

July 4th - Parade & Bingo in the Park 10:00- 4:00

July 6th - No Foundry

July 9th - Foundry Family Day Sky Zone/ Red Hawks Game (RSVP to Dacia by July 4th) 2:00-10:00

July 20th - Senior High 9-12 Night at the Fair meet at the West Otter Tail Co. Fairgrounds Open Class at 7:00pm-10:00pm

July 23rd - River Tubing 1:00- 6:00pm

August 2nd - Regular Night @ Church 6:30-8:30

August 7th - Valley Fair PRAY End of Summer Bash

August 19th/20th - Day @ The Lake & Campout @ LaPoint's 2:00pm-11:00am

August 23rd-24th - Foundry Lock-In 6:30-10:00am

August 30th - Summer Party/Water Works 6:30-8:30

September 6th - No Foundry (1st Week of School)

September 20th - Fall Schedule Kickoff!!! 6:30-8:30

GLW Minutes

Grace Lutheran Women met Mary 18, 2023. Welcome and Table Grace. Devotions and Bible study with Pastor Brad was Mirror Mirror. The Meeting was opened with Bible reading 1 John 4:12 on page four of our booklets. Secretary and Treasure reports were read and approved and placed on file.

Old Business

1. We had a great Mother's Day Celebration and Senior graduate recognition.
2. Mary Ferguson is going to be interim staff person.
3. A new garbage can has been bought and GLW will pay for it.

New Business

1. August 27th we will honor and celebrate Cheryl Melkert's years of service. We will have potluck with Group I serving. Her resignation was read at the last council meeting.
2. We are not able to simply put a keyboard in the existing organ and we need someone to play it or an alternative.
3. Weed and Feed is May 22 starting at 5:00.

Thank you to Shelia and Debbie for our delicious brunch. Volunteers for June are Dareen and Ardis. Birthday song offering and offering song & closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is June 15, 2023

Sheila Ouren, Secretary