



Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC)

PO Box 10
Erhard, MN 56534

October

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...

Seasonal Changes



I think most of us really enjoy this time of the year. Yes, we are a little sad to see the long warm days of summer pass, but we have to be honest: a little nip in the morning air gets our Minnesota blood going. And then there is the visual change. My daily drive to Grace now features the stunning colors of fall – all the yellows, oranges, and reds we associate with the changing of the season greet me every morning as they jump through my windshield dancing with the morning sun.

Our lives also have seasons of change, and we can see this change in the church. Maybe it's our children or grandchildren starting Sunday School or Confirmation for the first time. It could be that our family pew is filling up with new arrivals. Or maybe someone is no longer sitting in that pew because of military service, college, or relocation to another address – earthly or heavenly.

A new seasonal change came to me when my oldest and youngest daughters took new last names. I got two new sons-in-laws, and then eventually three grandchildren and a grand puppy! My girls now have other places to be on the weekends – but this is life, it changes.

Whatever our season of life may be, it's good to know that we are not alone in it, because God is in it with us:

I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

(Psalm 116:1-2)

Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.

(Psalm 54:4)

Change can be hard, worrisome, frustrating, and even painful, especially when we find ourselves looking back on something that was comfortable and familiar – but that “something” has now changed, and we are searching for a new normal. Yet, one look at the cross of Jesus should remind us that God is serious about being with us, that He was even with us through our worst season of estrangement from Him. That season ended when He allowed our sin to land upon His Son so we could enter the beautiful season of His friendship (and this season does not change).

When we think of Christ's resurrection, we are reminded that we are never alone in our ever-changing seasons of life; we have a living Savior who will not let us walk alone. And, while we may not know the future, we do know that He is on the journey with us, and unlike the seasons, He does not change, for “He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

As you take in the beauty of this new fall season, be reminded that our world and our lives are full of changes. But also remember that our heavenly Father will “uphold” us through all of them, and He invites us to “call upon Him as long as we live.”

Look upon the beauty of the changing season... and to God be the glory!

Grace Lutheran Council Minutes September 12, 2023

Present: All members were present as well as Pastor Brad, Gaylene Bader, and John Ripley.

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

Pastor Brad gave opening devotions and prayer.

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

John Ripley gave a presentation for an upgrade to the audio/visual room. The new control panel would take the place of the computer now used. It would be much smaller and simpler. The cost of \$3000 to \$3500 is already in the audio-visual fund. The council approved the expenditure.

John then resigned as concert organizer as of January 2024. This warrants more discussion regarding future concerts.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- We continue our commitment to promote evangelism and outreach.
- Duane gave a directory update. The company wants another proof.
- Organ update: We are still looking for an organist. A new organ is not needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Pastor Brad requested visitation help and one Sunday a month off. The council called Hans Ronnevik to be our Minister of Visitation. A committee will meet with Hans to determine compensation. A motion was made and passed to pay \$75 a visit plus mileage.
- DeAnn Melkert presented the Lions contribution of boxes of packets of food that can be made simply by adding water. We were given eighty-one boxes to distribute as needed. Each packet can feed four people. They are free thanks to the Lions.
- October 22, 2023 is Gideons Sunday. Three of our members will do the service.
- November 26 the group Crossroads will do the service.
- A letter from Julie Smude was read and it was decided to put a copy in Sunday's bulletin. She needs help with travel expenses.
- There is a Go Fund Me page on Grace website for Brenda Wasvick. She needs the support of our church.

Mission of the month for October is the Anne Carlsen Center which provides help, support, and nurturing for highly disabled children.

A motion was made and approved to adjourn. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is October 10, 2023 at 6:00.

Usher of the month for October is DeAnn Melkert.

Karen Rossum, secretary

GRACE GAZETTE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

August 31, 2023

GENERAL FUND: Aug 2023

Monthly Budget

Amount	Receipts	Gain/ (Shortfall)
\$16,354.84	\$10,976.50	(\$5,378.34)
Attendance Average, 4 services		98
Concert Receipts		\$ 0.00
Mission Receipts		\$1,062.00

GRACE BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

Balance, August 1, 2023	\$ 6,069.00
August Receipts	\$ 40.00
August Disbursements	(\$.00)
Balance, August 31, 2023	\$ 6,109.00

GRACE MAJOR MAINTENANCE FUND:

Balance, August 1, 2023	\$16,098.88
August Receipts	\$.00
August Disbursements	\$.00
Balance, August 31 2023	\$16,098.88

CONCERT/MISSION OF THE MONTH

Balance, August 1, 2023	\$6,897.12
August Receipts	\$1,062.00
August Disbursements	(\$1,062.00)
Balance, August 31, 2023	\$6,897.12

Submitted by Gaylene Bader, Treasurer



THANK YOU SO MUCH for your generosity toward Heart to Heart Thailand and the purchasing of uniforms and Bibles for the students. I am so excited to tell you that we have purchased 22 student uniforms, shoes, socks, underclothing, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, personal hygiene products, and all but four Bibles.

In addition, a small sum of money is left over, and I am researching the possibility of acquiring the new Thai translation of the Bible, which has recently been made available. The original Thai Bible was written and translated into formal, Royal Thai and is extremely difficult to read and comprehend. I will keep you posted.

Also, I want to thank the families who donated toward my personal travel expenses.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again in two years. Until then, I pray the Lord will return to you a hundred-fold of all you have given, not only to me, but to all the outreach you do.

I covet your continued prayers.
Julie Smude

October Library Corner By Paulette Haddock

I recently read that "life on this earth is preparation for life in the next." That puts a different perspective on how I live every day. Do I live with eternity in mind? How much of what I do is for the Kingdom of God? Do I act for the good of others, or purely for selfish reasons? In August I inventoried books about the Christian life, experience, and practice.

The 248 Dewey Category books are about how we live as Christians every day and the impact that choices have on our relationship with God and with others. These books cover a wide range of topics from what it means to be a Christian child, teen, mother, father; how we relate to God; marriage, parenting, old age; grieving, spiritual warfare, coping with health issues; story collections that restore hope and cause us to laugh again; and several other topics. The Christian life and experience is as varied as we are, and so are the books we have in this category. We have 72 adult books and 15 children's books plus 13 movies about living the Christian life.

A few examples are *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, *A Dad After God's Own Heart*, *Screwtop Letters*, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*, *War Room* (DVD), *How to Pray for Your Children*, *Miracles of Healing*, *101 Testimonies of Hope*, *Shattered Dreams*, *When God and Cancer Meet*, *Where is God When it Hurts? Fireproof* (DVD), *I Promise*, *Fathered by God*, *For Young Women Only*, *You Were Made to Make a Difference*, *God's Not Dead* (DVD), *Soul Surfer* (DVD), and *What is Faith?* one of the children's books. The teen and adult books and movies are on the left side of the top library shelves and the children's books are at the right side of the very bottom shelf. Please check them out!

Both of the new items added in August address our daily relationship with God and others. The movie version of *90 Minutes in Heaven*, based on John Piper's book of the same title, gives us a peek into Piper's life-changing experience that brought him to a deeper faith in Christ and strengthen his wife as she persevered in faith and love while he struggled with "excruciating pain and emotional turmoil." The second item is *Pilgrim's Progress in Today's English*, a retelling of John Bunyan's classic by James H. Thomas. In Part One we follow with Christian as he travels from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City, encountering those who would either detour him from his objective or help him reach his eternal reward. In Part Two we follow his wife, Christiana and their children as they follow the route to Heaven, encountering a few additional temptations and helpers. The names of some tempters and helpers have been changed and three new characters added, without changing the message of the passage.

Grace Lutheran Church

MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Anne Carlsen Center



Dr. Anne Carlsen, our namesake and former administrator, believed in the worth of every individual. Throughout her life she exemplified strength and nurturing, advocating for individuals with disabilities, and teaching them how to advocate for themselves, while creating a life of independence.

The Anne Carlsen Center offers a rich tradition of educational, residential, therapeutic, evaluation, and community-based services. Our individualized services include care for individuals — and families — of all ages with cerebral palsy; orthopedic, vision and hearing disabilities; autism, pervasive, and other behavior disorders; and other medical acuties.



- 1 -Ashley Hammer
- Teresa Johnson
- Boone Stoll
- 2 -Andy Anderson
- Roger Michaelson
- Sawyer Milbeck
- 4 -Rena Kubitz
- Connie Rutherford
- 5 -Allen Stadum
- Avery Hill
- 7 -Eleanor Stadum
- Paul Aaberg
- Colt Peterson
- 8 -Mark LaPoint
- Kayla Norman
- 9 -Jessica Garner
- Ethan Bennett
- 10 -Gary Stadum
- Ben Dillon
- Kristi Christianson
- Lindsay Milbeck
- Dawn Haiby
- Dax Haiby
- 12 -Craig Ripley
- Phyllis Rossow
- 13 -John Nordling
- 14 -Alexis Ouren
- 15 -Kevin Nehk
- Brianna Norman
- Jeff Struck
- 16 -Whitmen LaVigne
- Dawsen Stoll
- Jessica Grunewald
- 18 -Jenna Dillon
- Jeff Anderson
- Diane Klitzke
- 20 -Joanie Fouquette
- 21 -Viva Dillon
- 22 -Amber Martin
- Kelly Dillon
- 23 -Mallory Sand
- 24 -Diane Pauli
- 25 -Kristen Haiby
- Cassie Dillon
- 27 -Brent McKellips
- Brock Hasling
- 28 -William LaVigne

The GLW Minutes

GLW met Aug. 16, 2023. Welcome and table prayer and we had brunch. We had devotions and Bible Study with Pastor Brad, "Mirror, Mirror".

We began our meeting by reading 1 John 4-12 on page 4 of our booklets. Secretary and Treasurers reports were read, approved and placed in file.

Old Business: Blood Drive was Aug 22, Window washing on Sept 15th, Bazaar Tickets are 2.00 a piece, Potluck & Celebration for Cheryl Melkert Aug 27 (group I), Rally Day Sept 10th (Group II)

New Business: Thank you to all who helped with VBS, There will be a bus trip to Park Rapids on Sept 27 if they get enough people, Chicken Dinner is Oct 14, Thoughts on what to do if the big coffee pot has more issues. Faye made a motion and Cynthia 2nd it to use until this one goes

Thank you to Cynthia and Pat for our great brunch. Volunteers for September are Debbie and Faye.

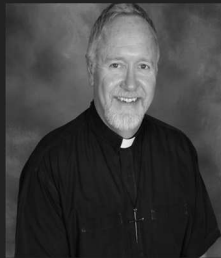
Birthday and birthday song, offering and offering song.

Next meeting is September 21, 2023.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sheila Ouren, Secretary

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY!



Let's celebrate Pr. Brad in honor of

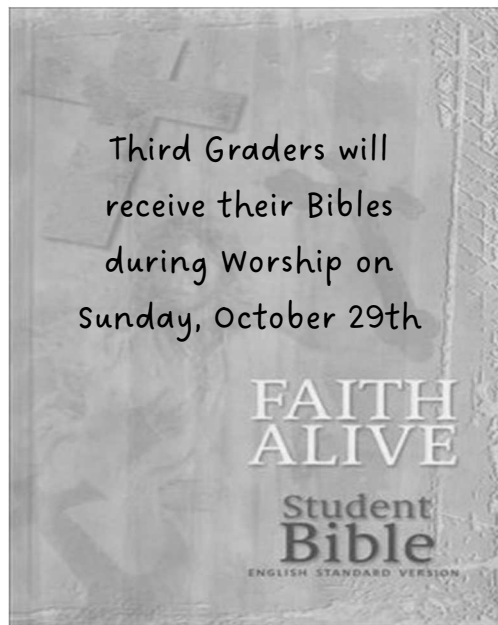
October 29th

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Potluck

We are so BLESSED to have P.B. S.

here at Grace!



The Grace Concert Series Presents...



Wednesday, October 11th~7:00 pm

Grace Lutheran Church

Hwy 59

Erhard, MN

Free will offering.....refreshments and fellowship following concert

THANK YOU

from Fergus Falls Area Habitat for Humanity FAITH BUILD
Your gift will directly benefit our mission of providing affordable housing in the FF area. Contributions like yours help to sustain our nonprofit affiliate and move us closer to our vision of a world where people have a decent place to live.



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF ERHARD
NORTH OF ERHARD ON
HIGHWAY 59



Eighteenth Annual Chicken Dinner

SATURDAY
October 14, 2023
4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Free Will Offering
A Thrivent Action Team Event

EVERYONE WELCOME!!

MENU

- Chicken
- Mashed Potatoes
- Gravy
- Green Beans
- Coleslaw
- Desserts
- Bread
- Beverages



Dine In and Take Out Available!

Check our Facebook Page for UPDATES:
Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC) of Erhard, MN

2023	OCTOBER					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
9:00 AM: Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship with Holy Communion followed by Fellowship	9:30 AM: Womens Home Bible Study at Rachel Ronnevik's		8:00 AM: Bible Study with Pr. Brad 9:15 AM: Prayer Fellowship Meets 6:00 PM: Choir Practice 6:30 PM: The Foundry Meets			
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 AM: Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship		6:00 PM: Council meets	8:00 AM: Bible Study with Pr. Brad 9:15 AM: Prayer Fellowship Meets 7:00 PM: Concert -The WoodPicks			4:30 - 7:00 PM 
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 AM: Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship	9:30 AM: Womens Home Bible Study at Rachel Ronnevik's		8:00 AM: Bible Study with Pr. Brad 9:15 AM: Prayer Fellowship Meets 6:00 PM: Choir Practice 6:30 PM: The Foundry Meets	9:00 AM: GLW meets		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 AM: Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship			8:00 AM: Bible Study with Pr. Brad 9:15 AM: Prayer Fellowship Meets 6:00 PM: Choir Practice			
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
9:00 AM: Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship with presentation of Bibles to 3rd graders & Pastor Appreciation followed by a Potluck		Trunk or Treat 4:00 - 6:00 PM in church parking lot!				