



Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC)

PO Box 10
Erhard, MN 56534

November

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:

Signpost or Destination?



Imagine a group of people on a journey to a good destination. As they travel, they come upon a signpost pointing the way to that destination. Yet, rather than continuing on, they stop and set up camp beneath the signpost. They get comfortable, and before long, their camp turns into a civilization. As they live beneath the signpost, they tell stories, write songs, and develop rituals to celebrate the signpost as if it were the destination. Although a few of the travelers continue on to the destination and then come back to the signpost community to tell them about it, the signpost people are not interested – they are more interested in their own civilization than the original destination. They are too comfortable in their signpost living to change anything.

This is a story that theologian Karl Barth used to illustrate how the truth about Jesus Christ can get hijacked by human culture. As humans, we are naturally inclined to add our own clutter to the simplicity of God's work for us in Christ. Left to pile up, this clutter takes on a life of its own, and creates a human religion that replaces the true nature of who Jesus is and what He has done. Barth's illustration brings us face to face with some serious questions: "If Jesus stepped into our churches today, and redefined for us what we should be doing, would we welcome Him, or fight Him?" And, "If He challenged us further, would we let go of the clutter we've added, or just wave Him off and get on with life as we see fit?"

But the question that challenges us the most when we try to reshape Christ into

something that's more palatable to our modern taste is: "Why the cross?" It's the cross of Christ that reveals something about the Person of God, and about ourselves, that we are not naturally willing to embrace. For it's the cross that points out our sin and tells us that God's values are so absolute that Jesus had to die for them to pay our penalty for breaking them. When we look at the cross, we begin to realize that our culture has re-created a Jesus to fit its own values (a signpost Jesus). "Jesus is loving and accepting" our culture tells us, but there is no mention of human sin as God defines it. There is no mention of the price Jesus paid to remove our condemnation for being sinners in order to make us acceptable to God (the destination God has in mind).

But, if we turn away from our culture and listen to God's Word, we see that God Himself meets us at the cross, washes us clean from our sin, and then says, "Welcome home My beloved children." As we look at the cross, God reminds us that though it may be painful to face the depth of our sin as He defines it, He nonetheless faced the penalty of that sin for us by taking it upon Himself at the cross. It was at the cross that He suffered and died to make us sinners acceptable to God – now that's true love and acceptance.

Following Christ must always recon with the cross. Although the truth of the cross forces us to agree with God that we are sinners, it also heals us for eternity. As we admit our sinful failings in light of God's standards, we find ourselves in the arms of the Real Jesus who loves us and gave Himself unto death for our sin so we can arrive at God's good destination. The Jesus of the cross calls us to surrender our culture's view of Him and walk in His truth – though that truth may hurt, it also heals us for eternity. May we hear Jesus' Word echoing in our ears,

"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8: 31-32)

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes October 10, 2023

Present: Curt Cardwell, Duane Haiby, Shelly Fresonki, DeAnn Melkert, Jeff Struck, Karen Rossum and Gaylene Bader.

Absent: Jeff LaVigne, Harlan Seidell, and Pastor Brad.

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

Jeff Struck gave an opening prayer.

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- We reiterated our commitment to evangelism and outreach.
- As soon as we sign off , the directories will be published.
- The loss of concert organizer was discussed and what to do moving forward. Several ideas discussed were dropping concerts altogether or having quarterly concerts. This is still open to discussion.
- The repair to the sanctuary wall will be done this fall.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Geralyn Lyseng is a possible part-time organist. After discussion, a motion was made to offer her \$80 to \$85 plus mileage.
- Pastor appreciation is October 29.

Mission of the month for November is the Christmas Dinner.

A motion was made to adjourn and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is November 14, 2023 at 6:00.

Usher for November is Jennifer Larson.

GRACE GAZETTE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

September 30, 2023

GENERAL FUND: September 2023

Monthly Budget

Amount	Receipts	Gain/ (Shortfall)
\$16,354.84	\$12,217.54	(\$4,137.31)
Attendance Average, 4 services		114
Concert Receipts		\$ 417.00
Mission Receipts		\$991.00

GRACE BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

Balance, September 1, 2023		\$ 6,109.00
September Receipts		\$.00
September Disbursements		(\$.00)
Balance, September 30, 2023		\$ 6,109.00

GRACE MAJOR MAINTENANCE FUND:

Balance, September 1, 2023		\$16,098.88
September Receipts		\$ 2015.00
September Disbursements		\$.00
Balance, September 30, 2023		\$18,113.88

CONCERT/MISSION OF THE MONTH

Balance, September 1, 2023		\$6897.12
September Receipts		\$1408.00
September Disbursements		(1291.00)
Balance, September 30, 2023		\$7,041.12

Submitted by Gaylene Bader, Treasurer

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone during my hip replacement surgery. Thank you for the visits, phone calls and the food. It meant a lot. Thank you and God Bless You! Lynette Motz

Grace Lutheran Church

Mission of the Month

Grace's
"Community Friendship"
Christmas Dinner



"Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
Revelation 7:12, NRSV

November Library Corner

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

By Paulette Haddock

Thanksgiving is the holiday that can be celebrated by Americans of every religion. Indeed, it is the favorite holiday of many. For all Christians the purpose of this holiday ("holy day") is something we could be living every day of our lives. God has done so much for us! We in turn, do for others. Laura and Robert Hatch, the parents of seven-year-old Meredith, asked me to express "A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF GRACE LUTHERAN!" They were impressed that a small church in a state far away from them would do so much for their family. You are a very caring and giving congregation. They thank you for the bag of gifts the Women of Grace sent to Meredith, the even more unexpected financial help from the congregation, and the months of prayers. We rejoiced over Meredith's reprieve from leukemia, but it returned a third time. Meredith has undergone radiation to kill her bone marrow and will have received a transfer of bone marrow from her older sister, eleven-year-old Arianna, by the time you read this article. She will need to be isolated from outside contact until April 2024. Laura will be homeschooling Meredith and may also need to teach her siblings.

In October I inventoried books in the 259-299 Dewey categories. These categories cover Christian ministry, organizations, history and denominations, and other religions. We only have 15 books, but we have 21 movies, mainly about missionaries and the persecution of Christians. You will find them on the top left-hand shelf. The lives of other Christians can be very inspirational! I hope you will find something of interest in what we have available. Most people know who **Corrie ten Boom** is, but have you heard of **Amy Carmichael**? We have movies about both women. A favorite book of mine is *Foxe's Book of Martyrs, Updated Through the 21st Century*.

New books are *The Voyage and Shipwreck of St. Paul: With Dissertations on the Sources of the Writings of St. Luke, and the Ships and Navigation of the Antients*, by James Smith. Pastor Brad suggested it to our Wednesday morning Bible Study attendees. The second new book is *The Tender Years*, by Janette Oke, the first book in *A Prairie Legacy* series. This is a follow up to the popular *Love Comes Softly* series about Marty and Clark's granddaughter. It is a large print edition recommended by Karen Nelson.

Dear Grace Family,

I am so thankful for each and every one of you. This cancer journey has been made much more tolerable because of the love and prayers I have been shown by all of you. From the cards, hugs, prayers, encouraging words and donations to my Go-Fund-Me account. But this last show of support by gifting me 1/2 of the proceeds from the chicken dinner fund truly has left me speechless. I am so humbled by your kindness and promise to spend my days with kindness in my heart and helping others in need. You are all the best and I thank God every day for leading me to Grace. All my love, Brenda Wasvick



- 1 -Nora Nelson
- Liliana Hesse
- 2 -Darin Teberg
- Elsa Grunewald
- 3 -Gary Longfors
- Amy Anderson
- Isabel (Ella) Bigelow
- 4 -Sadie Haarstick
- Nick Jessen
- Blake Dillon
- 6 -Mason Christianson
- Tarin Sundblad
- Kindle Sundblad
- Gene Bogenreif
- 8 -Crew Gaustad
- 9 -Nicholas Teberg
- Mary Nelson
- 12 -Nichole Scheer
- Mars Sundland
- 13 -Izabella Hultin
- 15 -Allison Nirschl
- Liam Scheer
- 16 -Peggy Skunberg
- Casey Grunewald
- 18 -Wendy Scheer
- Ricky Stadum
- Randy Sundblad
- 19 -Kyle Skunberg
- Cash Sondeland
- Chase Pourrier
- Anthony Spaeth
- 20 -Mary Anne Frank
- 21 -Jeanette Ripley
- Alesha Ouren
- Don Suiter
- 22 -Brenda Rasmussen
- Allison Haiby
- Leah Ravenscraft
- 25 -Kaytlin Winkels
- 26 -Jay Fresonke
- Abby Fresonke
- 27 -Karen Rossum
- 28 -Tracy Williams
- Delores Pederson
- Debbie Bergren
- 29 -Bryon Bennett
- Pr Brad Soenksen
- Jennifer Cardwell
- 30 -Renaë Rocholl
- Joe Hill

It's time to think about the Holidays!

If you would like to pre-order a poinsettia to be placed in honor/memory of a loved one, please see the sign up sheet in the

Fellowship Hall or

contact Jeanette Ripley or Teresa Johnson



Orders are due SOON!

\$17.00 ea

December Gazette

Deadline.....

November 23rd!





Greg HAGER

IN CONCERT

NOVEMBER 8, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church
Grace Concert Series
US Hwy 59, Erhard, MN
Call (218) 842-5205 for more info.

All Are Welcome!!!
A Free-Will Offering will be taken.

2020 Artist of the Year - Academy of Western Artists
2018 Entertainer of the Year - Pro Cowboy Country Artist Association
Nashville Produced artist with nine albums & over 120 Annual US Shows

GREGHAGER.COM   

Mark your calendars!

The Annual Sunday School
Christmas Program will be

Sunday, December 10th

during 10:00 AM Worship

In the event of bad weather, the
program will be held the following

Sunday. Please check with your
child's Sunday School teacher for
practice times!

**The Salvation Army Toy Drop
Box will be available soon in
the Narthex**

Thanksgiving Eve

WORSHIP

Wednesday, November 22nd at 6:30 PM
followed by Pie Fellowship

2023	NOVEMBER					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
			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			
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
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 7:00 PM: Concert -Greg Hager			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 AM: Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship	9:00 AM: Grace Quilters Meet	9:00 AM: Grace Quilters Meet 6:00 PM: Council meets	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		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 AM: Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship with CROSSROADS 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: Thanksgiving Eve Service followed by Pie Fellowship			
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
9:00 AM: Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship 1:00 - 3:00 PM: CHURCH RESERVED			8:00 AM: Bible Study with Pr. Brad 9:15 AM: Prayer Fellowship Meets 6:00 PM: Choir Practice			