

GRACE

for the Moment

The Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

August 2025



August Worship:

Sundays:

9:00 am

Wednesday Worship

Will resume on
September 3

Community Picnic and Fellowship

Sponsored by the Parker Ministerial group will be
Sunday, August 24 at 5pm at Heritage Park at the
Fairgrounds.

(Grace Lutheran Church will be the location if weather is
not cooperating.)

Hotdogs and chips will be provided,
Youth groups from the local churches have
been asked to provide outdoor games and activities.
Bring a lawn chair and join the fun.



More details to follow.



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FROM THE PASTOR

From Storage to Service

A storage facility is a common part of our society today. Everywhere you go, you see some kind of storage facility. Why? Why do we need storage facilities? Storage facilities are typically built to store items for future use. Possibly “stuff” that we may never use again, but the sentimental value of these items keeps us hauling and building bigger barns to store them.

Luke 12:13-21 tells a parable about a man who had more than he needed and decided to build a bigger storage to keep his excess, as he had nowhere else to store it. The thought of having more than he needed gave him great confidence about his future. He began to make long-term plans for his life in three areas: relax (life is so good, he doesn't have to worry about the future), drink (with the abundance of goods in the storage, enjoying pleasures is the way to go), and be merry (there is no reason to be sad).

However, this man did not consider the source of his abundance in his plans. Who provided the land, the rain, the sunshine, and life? God did. God is the source of everything we have. Let us not forget the One who made it all possible. The message serves as a warning to remember the source of our blessings and their true purpose. God's gift is not meant for building bigger barns to store things that only benefit us.

We are meant to build lives. What does that mean? It involves shifting our focus and priorities from constructing bigger barns to investing our resources in making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Our true inheritance is found when we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit those in prison (Matthew 25:34-40). Christianity is not a storage facility; it is a service.

Blessings,

Pastor Henrique

A Message from Joel Plucker, Church Council President



Well, here we are again! Just a few more days until "The Best Four Days of Summer! I know we all have busy schedules, but I hope everyone has a chance to help in our fairstand in one way or another. As you all know this is a great fund raiser for others in our church and community. I am reminded of Matthew 25:34-40 which says, Then I, the King, shall say to those at my right, "Come, blessed of my Father, into the Kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me water; I was a stranger and you invited me into your homes; naked and you clothed me; sick and in prison, and you visited me." Then the righteous ones will reply, "Sir, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you anything to drink? Or a stranger, and help you? Or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And I, the King, will tell them, "When you did it to these my brothers you were doing it for me!" So, let us look at our efforts and time spent with the fair stand as not just helping others but also pleasing God at the same time. Thanks in advance to our fairstand committee and all that they do in advance, during and after the fair.

A big thank you to those who worked in the heat and cleaned up the bushes and the area around the bell tower! It looks great. We still plan to get together again on Monday evening August 4th to tackle a few more projects outside the church, so if you have some free time stop by and lend a hand in making our church look sharp for all those who pass by during the fair. Also take a look at our new sidewalk and retaining wall. Next, is to get some grass seed down and have Pastor pray for rain again!

Our council meeting in August will be a week early due to the fair, so, if you have anything that you would like us to address please let one of us know before Wednesday, August 6th. At that meeting we will be making plans for the Sunday School Rally Day scheduled for **Sunday, September 7**, which we also plan to make an outdoor service Sunday and new member recognition day and as always in the good Lutheran manner we will include a potluck meal.

Until next month, keep cool, enjoy the fair and as always, remember, your life may be the only Bible some people read.

Your President, Joel

Happening at Grace



From the Board of Ed.....

Sunday, September 7 will be Rally Sunday.

Parents - You can pick up Sunday School sign up forms in the church entrance.

Contact the Board of Ed with any questions.

Missy, Alexxis, Sara

Planning Ahead...

Pre-Confirmation Class will begin on Wednesday, September 3 at 4 pm.

Confirmation Class will begin on Wednesday, September 3 at 5 pm.

*Confirmation
Classes*



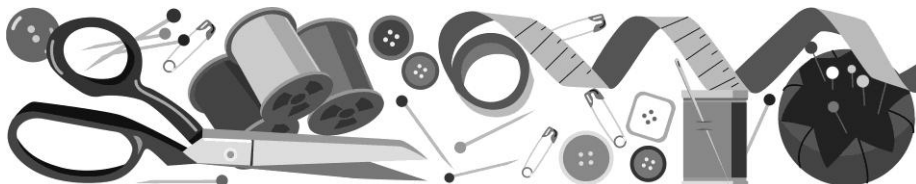
Connecting Threads is going to focus on sewing dresses and feminine hygiene kits.

Infant clothing and items used to create layettes has been donated to the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, Nebraska.

The sewing group will meet on September 15 at 1pm.

The group meets on the third Monday of each month-September through May.

All are welcome to come and help.



Exciting News for Our Youth

Chrystal will be leading our 5th–8th grade youth group, lovingly known as **F.R.O.G.S.** — *Fully Relying on God*. We will traditionally meet monthly throughout the school year at the church, with a few field trips sprinkled in.

We're kicking things off this year with a fun-filled evening of **fellowship, pizza, and swimming!**

 **Where:** Parker Pool Park Shelter

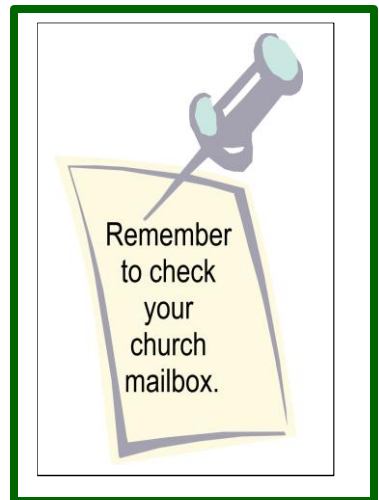
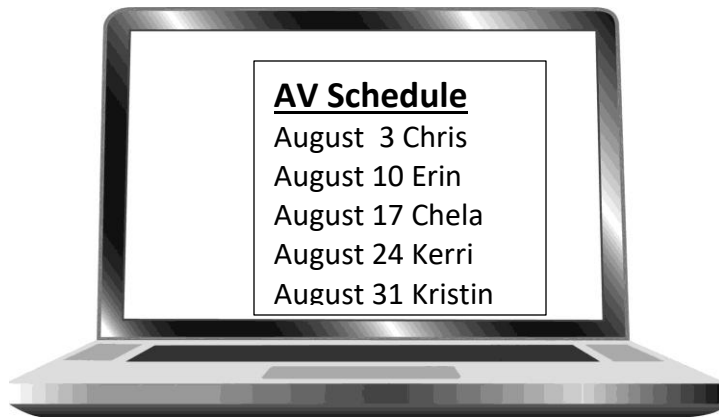
 **When:** August 5th at 5:00 PM

 **Why:** To connect, have fun, and grow in faith

 **Who:** Kids entering 5th–8th grade

Come join us as we dive into a new season of faith and friendship.

Please call/text Chrystal with any questions 605-321-1776



Weekly Worship Helpers:

Please use the link below to check:

<https://gracelutheranparker.com/weekly-worship-helpers>

Thank you

Mailing Address for Grace Lutheran Church

Please use **Box 667** if you are having anything mailed to the church.

Thank you.

SENIOR FROGS

Plan on attending the Community Picnic on Sunday, August 24 at 5pm at Heritage Park.

Please bring some outdoor games to play.

More details to follow.



All are welcome to assist with outside yardwork on Monday, August 4. Check with Joel Plucker for details.

Faith In Action BINGO

July 22, 2025

Faith in Action sponsored ten meals at the Senior Nutrition site on Tuesday, July 22.
BINGO followed.

Plan to attend on Tuesday, August 26 for lunch at 11:30 am and stay to play BINGO.



Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Council Members Present: Joel Plucker, Alexxis McKinney, Tristen Plienis, Kristi Nogelmeier, Missy Gillespie, Pastor Henrique

Call to Order:

- Meeting called to order by Joel Plucker.

Devotion:

- Pastor Henrique

Approval of Agenda:

- Motion by Kaylyn, seconded by Tristen. Motion carried – all aye.

Treasurer's Report:

- Line item 605 was added.
- Motion to approve by Kaylyn, seconded by Missy. Motion carried – all aye.

Secretary's Report:

- Motion to approve by Missy, seconded by Tristen. Motion carried – all aye.

Pastor's Report:

- No midweek services at this time.
- Council will need to revisit the compensation package following the annual synod conference.

Board of Education Report:

- Vacation Bible School (VBS) starts June 12.

Trustees Report:

- Motion lights have been installed.
- Ron Nelson will spray for weeds this fall.

Congregational Input:

- Items discussed:
 - Dirt pile
 - Sanctuary fans
 - Broken window

Old Business:

1. **Microphone Repair** – Ongoing.

2. Outdoor Service

- Scheduled for June 29
- Potluck to follow in the fellowship hall
- Ran will provide the sound system

3. Venmo Account – Still under consideration.

4. Printer Rental

- Motion to approve the purchase of the model 40041 made by Kaylyn, seconded by Missy. All aye.

5. Sidewalk

- Approval granted at the Special Congregational Meeting to proceed with the increased bid amount.

6. Accounts Motions – June 11, 2025

- Motion to change the Luther League Account (5180052847) to “Senior FROGS.”
Motion made by Kaylyn, seconded by Tristen. All aye.
- Motion to add Alexxis McKenney, Erin Patten, and Jenn Wall to the Senior FROGS account.
Motion made by Kaylyn, seconded by Missy. All aye.
- Motion to remove Michelle Nolan from the FROGS account (5180055693).
Motion made by Missy, seconded by Tristen. All aye.

New Business:

1. New Member Sunday

- Tabled; proposed to coincide with Rally Sunday.

2. Property Insurance

- Mark Kasten attended to explain the rate increase.
- Will follow up with Marianna Berens for a potential alternative rate.

3. Landscape Clean-Up

- Proposed date needed.

4. Viet Church Usage – July 13

- Approved by the board.

5. Storage Shed Placement

- Proposed to be placed in the southwest area of the parking lot to minimize disruption.
- Motion by Kaylyn, seconded by Tristen. Motion carried – all aye.

6. Church Sign

- Proposal to update and replace the existing logo on the church sign.

Next Meeting:

- Scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn by Alexxis, seconded by Missy. Motion carried – all aye.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT 6/1/2025-6/30/2025

INCOME:	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
101 General Offering	\$7,541.79	\$62,744.79
102 Envelope Offering	\$2,035.00	\$8,610.00
103 Quarterly Offering	\$920.00	\$6,705.00
104 Lenten Offering		\$4,273.00
109 Camper Savings		
202 Use of Building		
203 Misc. Income		\$107.77
205 Thrivent		\$524.00
208 Amazon Smile		
219 Transfer from Building Fund		
TOTAL INCOME:	\$10,496.79	\$82,964.56

SUMMARY GENERAL CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2025	\$6,125.77
Total Income	\$82,964.56
Total Expenses	\$88,544.59
Ending Balance	\$545.74

Monthly Summary	<u>Offering Total</u>	<u>Misc Income</u>	<u>Monthly Expenses</u>
January	\$11,926.00	\$212.77	\$11,927.50
February	\$16,156.00	\$173.00	\$12,393.46
March	\$14,293.00	\$80.00	\$16,535.32
April	\$16,670.00	\$166.00	\$21,719.60
May	\$12,791.00	\$0.00	\$13,196.32
June	\$10,496.79	\$0.00	\$12,772.39
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
Total	\$82,332.79	\$631.77	\$88,544.59

SAVINGS / OTHER ACCOUNT BALANCES:

First Savings Campers Savings	\$5,432.06
First Savings Building Fund Savings	\$48,344.92
First Savings Bank Money Market	\$3,429.38
River's Edge Bank CD	\$42,849.95

River's Edge Bank Building Loan Approx. Balance **\$0 - PAID IN FULL**

Kristi Nogelmeier, Treasurer

EXPENSES: SALARIES/BENEFITS	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
301 Pastor Salary/Benefits/Pension	\$4,089.68	\$25,855.07	\$54,000.00
302 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$1,575.00	\$9,450.00	\$18,900.00
303 Employer Paid Pension/Retirement	\$0.00	\$3,269.90	\$7,848.00
304 Pastor SECA Allowance	\$464.75	\$2,813.74	\$5,577.00
305 Pastor Car Allowance	\$215.60	\$646.38	\$2,000.00
307 Employer Paid Pastor Insurance - Health & Benefits	\$0.00	\$8,853.50	\$21,000.00
308 Pastor Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
320 Custodian	\$326.29	\$1,371.00	\$7,000.00
321 Organist	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,560.00
322 Secretary	\$602.12	\$5,256.56	\$12,000.00
323 Groundskeeper	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
325 Sub Pastor	\$0.00	\$705.52	\$2,000.00
326 FICA Expenses	\$0.00	\$574.51	\$2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-SALARIES/BENEFITS:	\$7,273.44	\$59,296.18	\$138,385.00

EXPENSES: BUILDING & GROUNDS	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
401 Snow Removal	\$0.00	\$394.00	\$2,500.00
402B Natural Gas	\$47.11	\$1,962.12	\$3,000.00
405 Electricity and Water	\$300.35	\$2,130.04	\$4,750.00
407 Insurance	\$3,459.48	\$6,020.73	\$10,000.00
408 Misc. Bldg. & Grnd. Exp.	\$41.80	\$8,906.48	\$5,000.00
409 Piano Tuning	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175.00
409A Organ Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
413 State Farm - Workmen's Comp.	\$149.49	\$357.98	\$700.00
415 Audio Visual Expenses	\$23.54	\$496.85	\$1,000.00
416 Building Loan Payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-BUILDING & GROUNDS:	\$4,021.77	\$20,268.20	\$32,325.00

EXPENSES: CHURCH PROGRAMS	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
502 Bible Camp Sponsorships	\$130.00	\$380.00	\$1,100.00
503 Offering Envelopes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
504 Confirmation Expense	\$0.00	\$707.91	\$1,500.00
506 Synod Assembly	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$750.00
507 Books and Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
508 Misc. Program Expense	\$33.08	\$335.80	\$4,000.00
512 Bank Service Charges	\$17.95	\$107.70	\$250.00
517 Bibles for 3rd Graders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
519 Postage	\$0.00	\$198.60	\$400.00
524 Lenton Meals	\$0.00	\$551.32	\$1,200.00
526 High School Graduate Gifts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-CHURCH PROGRAMS:	\$181.03	\$2,881.33	\$10,200.00

EXPENSES: MISSIONS/BENEVOLENCES	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
602 Augustana PACT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
603 ELCA Benevolence	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
604 Shetek Bible Camp	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.00
605 Crossroads Conference Dues	\$27.60	\$27.60	\$0.00
615 The Banquet	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-MISSONS:	\$1,027.60	\$3,027.60	\$8,400.00

EXPENSES: OFFICE	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
701 Copier Lease	\$164.23	\$1,175.82	\$2,000.00
702 Bulletins and Inserts	\$0.00	\$1,026.63	\$2,000.00
703 Church Office Phone/Internet	\$104.32	\$616.70	\$1,500.00
704 Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$252.13	\$900.00
TOTAL EXPENSES - OFFICE:	\$268.55	\$3,071.28	\$6,400.00

GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$12,772.39	\$88,544.59	\$195,710.00
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