

GRACE



For the Moment

The Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

August 2026



August
Worship:

Sundays:
9:00 am



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FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It will not be long before Hannah and I make our journey to Liberia, where God has called us to accompany our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are not going there to teach them to become Christians. We are going to learn and build the church together. While we may be leaving our responsibilities as your pastor, we are a church called into the world, together. The ELCA joins 142 member churches in 79 countries, walking together with 70 million Lutherans to grow the church and participate in God's reconciling work.

Liberia is one of the 79 countries we have been called to serve. We are entering a place where ministries are not abstract ideas but realities shaped by resilience, faith, and community. We will accompany the people of Liberia in education, health and wellness, economic empowerment, and agriculture.

After so many years of living in intentional relationships, we are now called to live those relationships among our siblings (in Christ) in Liberia. I learned a lot from all of you. The cross-cultural relationships among you have strengthened my belief that coexistence is possible. A few of you have become very good friends with us. We are thankful for these relationships and hope to stay in touch. To those who have chosen the path of avoidance, I am also grateful. You taught me to remain strong, calm, and resilient. Ministry carries tension, and it is that tension we navigate each moment as baptized Christians.

It is our prayer that you will stay in contact with us and help support us as we accompany our brothers and sisters in Liberia. Thank you for allowing us to accompany you on your spiritual journey.

Blessings,
Pastor Henrique



A Message from Tristin Plenis, Church Council President



Lamentations 3:22-23

"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

Greetings to our church family, I pray summer has been good to you and you have had many good times with friends and family.

We are excited for Turner County Fair coming up in August and I would like to thank all of our volunteers who work so hard to make our stand a success! Many hands make for light work. And it's always such a blessing to be together serving our community.

Thank you to all who came for our meeting for our parking lot repair. It has been needed for years now, and will feel really good to get that done. Thank you to Jim Johnson for the time put in to find us the best option, appreciate his knowledge and willingness to help. The last time the parking lot was worked on was 2010, so it has done us well.

We have had a couple more Messy Church events, put on by Chela Bolte who runs our Holy Playground program. The goal is to incorporate all ages and spend time in fellowship and enjoying life together. We thank those who have come and look to continue growing the program and relationships with all!

As most of you know by now, Pastor Henrique will be taking another call with his wife Hannah. His last day will be August 16th, we will be having coffee and cake after service so please feel free to come say goodbye or give a card of encouragement. We wish them well on their next journey!

Council is working together with the synod on finding an interim Pastor, first and foremost. Then we will continue the process of the call committee. We are working out details of what that will look like and will inform you as soon as we know exactly how we will handle it. If you have an interest please let Marci Leberman, Lori Jones or myself know.

Please take rest in knowing we are working on the next chapters of Grace and all will be well. These processes take time, and we don't want to rush anything. We need to get back to the drawing board and make sure we make the best decisions possible for our future. We have a fantastic group on council and it's been my honor to work along side all of them. So please know we have all of your best interest at heart.

Great is thy faithfulness. Even though we may not know exactly what's next, we know who holds us. God bless, and enjoy the last of summer!!

Tristin

From The Church Council

Dear Grace Lutheran Family,

As many of you know, Pastor Henrique's call at Grace Lutheran Church will be ending on Sunday August 16 where he is transitioning to global ministry in Liberia. We are grateful for the time he has shared with our congregation. We invite everyone to join us on **Sunday, August 16**, as we celebrate Pastor Henrique's ministry and wish him God's blessings in the next chapter of his journey. Following worship, we will gather for cake and coffee as we say our farewell.

Your Church Council has already begun preparing for the months ahead. We recently met with our Synod Bishop Constanze Hagmaier to discuss the next steps for Grace Lutheran. On Friday we were informed that Pastor Lon Kvanli has agreed to be our interim pastor. At this time, we do not have all the details but we will share that information as soon as we know more details. Sunday pulpit services will be filled by supply pastors until Pastor Lon can start hopefully in early fall. We are very thankful for this placement and look forward to this consistency as we go through the call process to find our permanent pastor.

One of our first priorities will be forming a Call Committee to begin the search for our next pastor. This committee should reflect the diversity of our congregation through a variety of ages, experiences, and interests. If you feel called to serve in this important role, please reach out to one of our deacons—Tristin Plenis, Marci Leberman, or Lori Jones. We will be accepting names over the next four weeks, with a deadline to express interest of **August 30**. After this date, council will choose the call committee members from this list. Not all listed will be chosen for the committee but all will have a voice in the call process through a congregational survey during the call process. The ELCA synod is committed to helping this committee through the entire process.

As we enter this season of transition, we also want to focus on stewardship—not only through our financial giving, but also through sharing our time and talents. **We all carry this ministry together.** In the months ahead, we will rely on members of our congregation to help in many ways, including helping with teaching our youth through confirmation classes as well as First Communion classes, assisting with worship, and even sharing a message during a service. It will take all of us working together, and we are confident that our wonderful church family is ready to answer God's call. If you feel called to help in any of these ways, please reach out to a council member.

We also look forward to gathering together this fall. **Rally Sunday** will be celebrated on **September 13**, as we kick off another year of Sunday School, followed by **Stewardship Sunday** on **September 20** where we will focus on our giving not only financially but of our time and talents as well. An outdoor service is being planned along with a potluck to follow..

This is an important season in the life of Grace Lutheran Church. It is an opportunity to prayerfully discern what God is calling our congregation to be in the future. It is a time to listen, to be patient, and to trust that God is leading us forward. We ask that you continue to pray for our congregation, our council, our future Call Committee, and for one another. Above all, we ask for your grace and encouragement as we walk this journey together.

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth"

God has faithfully guided Grace Lutheran through every season, and we trust He will continue to do so.

In Christ, **Your Grace Lutheran Church Council**

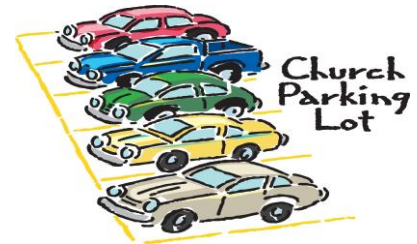
Happening at Grace

Update from Trustees:

We are excited to share that Grace Lutheran Church has contracted with Alpha Asphalt to repair and improve our parking lot. Work is scheduled to begin as soon as possible after the Turner Count Fair and will include cleaning and sealing the cracks, repairing damaged areas, and replacing deteriorated concrete on the southeast side of the parking lot. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$15,500 and will be funded through our Building Fund. We are truly grateful for the continued generosity and faithful support of our congregation, which allows us to care for our church facilities and ensure they remain welcoming and safe for everyone.

Thank you for investing in the ministry and future of Grace Lutheran Church.

Kaylyn Andersen, Jim Johnson, Bill Leberman



Weekly Worship Helpers:

Please use the link below to check and trade if needed:

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

Mailing Address for Grace Lutheran Church

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



If you are interested in serving **Coffee and Fellowship** on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month. There is sign-up sheet on the hallway bulletin board.
Thank you.

Weekly Bulletins are posted on the Church's Website under What's Happening then News & Events then Quick Links

For your Information:
The Church Secretary's Office is closed on Fridays.

August AV Schedule



Your church mailbox is often used as a regular mailbox-so please check it regularly.

YOUTH GROUP POOL NIGHT



JR FROGS

FULLY RELYING ON GOD

Dinner + Games + Swimming
A fun night for 5th - 8th grade students
Bring a friend. Bring your swimsuit. Bring your best cannonball energy.

WHEN	WHERE	5:00 PM	6:00 PM
Thursday August 13	Parker Pool	Dinner & Games	Swimming Begins

FAITH FOCUS
Trust in the Lord with all your heart. - Proverbs 3:5
Come laugh, connect, and grow in faith together.

WHAT TO BRING
Swimsuit • Towel • A friend • A heart ready for fun

Parents can pick up any time.
Pool Hours: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Questions: Contact Chrystal Schulte 321-1776
JR FROGS = Fully Relying On God

MAKE A SPLASH. BRING A FRIEND. RELY ON GOD.

Holy Playground in July

We are feeling blessed this summer! The Holy Playground hosted the Grace on July 22nd. The theme was "Holy Fire" and our focus verse was *sound like blowing of a violent wind came from Heaven and house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

As we learned in the Messy Church training Chela attended that week, Messy church has 5 core values: creativity, hospitality, Christ-centered, celebration and for all ages. We want to reiterate that the Function of the Holy Playground is to help intergenerational relationships grow at Grace. Please remember that ALL AGES are invited! The key components of Messy Church are 1: Welcome, 2: Activities, 3: Celebration Time and 4: Meal. It may seem like a lot squished into a small

amount of time, but that's kind of how life feels sometimes too...a little messy. This format is a wonderful way to encourage fellowship and time to build friendships.

This month, we had Ham sandwiches (using the Grace cookbook marinade! Which was noticed by some!!) and salads for supper and S'mores for dessert. Our message was brought to us through a heartwarming skit, performed by Brad Bailiff and Hudson Nogelmeier. They taught us about how the Holy Spirit can help us love others, especially when it feels too difficult.

During activity time, we had the sanctuary open for peaceful prayer time and we shared some of our favorite prayers on sheets to add to our prayer books. We made beaded sun catchers/keychains and made water and oil sensory bottles to remind us that *"For our God is a consuming fire."* -Hebrews 12:29. The celebration occurred during our time outside making s'mores. We



Beaded sun catchers

had a nostalgic time singing songs with instruments around the campfire. We even had lyrics on a giant notepad as a Shetek throwback!

The Holy Spirit was truly present all evening as we experienced special moments of connection and faith. The Spirit followed us through the next day as we received so many nice comments and reviews about the Holy Playground work. Its been such a blessing to see the growth and passion in our family at Grace. We encourage continued feedback and your ideas for future events too.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped us set up, clean up, make food and serve, for those who shared the message and helped with crafts and music. A special thank you to Calla Creegan, who did an amazing job taking photos to capture all the fun memories at Messy Church!



We cordially invite everyone, of ALL AGES to our upcoming Messy Church events.

SEPTEMBER 23rd will be "Wilderness" theme and NOVEMBER 18th will be "Our Father Gives Us Good Gifts" where we will be making gifts for Christmas. Both events will be at 6pm at Grace Lutheran Church. As you can imagine, Messy Church takes a lot of planning. If you would like to help plan (even if you cant make to the event) or if you can volunteer at the event, it would be truly appreciated! Sign up sheets will be on the bulletin board.

Blessings!

-The Holy Playground Team



**Prayer
Station**



S'mores and music celebration!



Campfire songs



Meal and Fellowship



Board of Education

Greetings from the Board of Education! We hope you are enjoying your summer vacation!

Mark your calendars for Rally Sunday! This will be our Sunday School kick off event on September 13th. We look forward to having students back for a wonderful school year. Please be on the lookout for Sunday school teacher sign ups. We are asking for volunteers to help teach lessons and activities this year. If you or someone you know (including middle school and high school students!) Are interested in teaching this year, please reach out to us.

For our August Fishbowl offering, we have the privilege of wrapping our arms around Austin and Kenda Carroll and their three young children, who live in Highmore, South Dakota. Tragically, the family's home was destroyed during the recent, devastating storm that struck Highmore, and heartbreakingly, they are without home insurance to help rebuild.

Because Highmore is the hometown of our Board of Education member, Shelly—who previously worked alongside Kenda—this hardship feels especially close to home. In moments like these, our community's compassion shines brightest. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to stand alongside this family, offering not only financial support to help them find their footing, but also holding them close in our hearts, sending an abundance of love and prayers for comfort, strength, and provision during this unimaginably difficult season.

We send abundant blessings over you all while you soak in the rest of the summer sun.

From your Board of Education: Chela, Shelly and Ashlynn. ~We pray:

Dear God,

Thank you for the bright sun, green trees, and fun summer days.

Please keep us safe when we swim, run, and travel to new places.

Thank you for protecting families and children at camp, parks, and on the road.

Help us to be good friends and show your love to everyone we meet. In Jesus's name we pray.

Amen.



Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

June Meeting Minutes, which was approved by Council 7/8/2026.

Members Present

Pastor Henrique, Shelly Paynter, Tristen Plienis, Lori Jones, Chela Bolte, Marci Lebeman, Kristi Nogelmeier, and Kaylyn Andersen

Call to Order

President Tristen Plienis called the meeting to order.

Devotion

Pastor Henrique opened the meeting with devotion.

Approval of Agenda

Lori Jones made a motion to approve the agenda. Kristi Nogelmeier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports

Secretary's Report

Kristi Nogelmeier made a motion to approve the Secretary's Report. Kaylyn Andersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Deacon's Report

- Worship music has been selected through the month of June.
- The Worship Committee will begin meeting on the third Sunday of each month.
-

Board of Education Report

- Vacation Bible School had an attendance of approximately 30–40 children.
- Rally Sunday is scheduled for September 6, 2026.
-

Trustees' Report

- Appreciation was expressed for the significant amount of time Jim has dedicated to maintaining the church grounds.
- Parking Lot: The board is waiting for a third quote before making a decision.
- Custodial Services: The council discussed adjusting custodial service frequency during the summer and other slower seasons while remaining within the approved budget.

Shelly Paynter made a motion to approve the Trustees' Report. Lori Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- Offerings have increased since the previous report.
- There was a misallocation offering from May that has been reconciled.
- Going forward, the weekly church bulletin will indicate whether the weekly offering is above or below the budgeted amount.

Kaylyn Andersen made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Marci Leberman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Henrique recommended developing a mission plan and convening the Stewardship Committee to begin budget discussions well in advance of the annual budgeting process.

Kristi Nogelmeier made a motion to approve the Pastor's Report. Kaylyn Andersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Congregational Input

No additional congregational input was recorded.

Ongoing Business

Curtains

- The project remains ongoing.

Fellowship Hall Carpet Cleaning

- Deb will send an email to the congregation to see if anyone has a carpet cleaning machine available to borrow.
- A quote will also be requested from Ace Hardware.

Parking Lot Pavement

- Two bids have been received.
- A third bid will be requested to provide additional options before a decision is made.
-

New Business

Budget Planning

- The council discussed having the Stewardship Committee meet earlier in the year to begin budget planning before the annual meeting.

CPR Class

- A CPR class is being planned for September or October.

Board Member Mentoring

- The council discussed creating a mentoring process for new council members so they are better prepared when they begin their terms.

Door Locks

- The council discussed the church's door lock system. Further discussion and planning will continue.
-

Marci Leberman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristi Nogelmeier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

June Treasurer's Report, which was approved by Council 7/8/2026.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT 6/1/2026-6/30/2026

INCOME:	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
101 General Offering	\$8,119.60	\$54,208.88
102 Envelope Offering	\$2,705.00	\$10,815.00
103 Quarterly Offering	\$1,905.00	\$18,755.00
104 Lenten Offering		\$2,625.00
109 Camper Savings		
202 Use of Building		
203 Misc. Income		\$650.52
205 Thrivent	\$71.00	\$851.00
208 Amazon Smile		
219 Transfer from Building Fund		\$3,500.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$12,800.60	\$91,405.40

SUMMARY GENERAL CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2026	\$4,329.47
Total Income	\$91,405.40
Total Expenses	\$90,179.20
Ending Balance	\$5,555.67

MONTHLY SUMMARY:

	<u>Offering Total</u>	<u>Misc Income</u>	<u>Monthly Expenses</u>
January	\$13,931.25	\$378.41	\$16,164.76
February	\$16,139.06	\$237.00	\$10,150.89
March	\$11,881.89	\$476.00	\$17,520.58
April	\$11,115.30	\$46.00	\$14,743.44
May	\$20,606.78	\$3,793.11	\$17,093.55
June	\$12,729.60	\$71.00	\$14,505.98
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
Total Monthly Offering	\$86,403.88	\$5,001.52	\$90,179.20

OTHER ACCOUNT BALANCES:

First Savings Campers Savings	\$4,775.43
First Savings Building Fund Savings	\$47,364.88
First Savings Bank Money Market	\$3,435.39
River's Edge Bank CD	\$42,849.95

Kristi Nogelmeier, Treasurer

EXPENSES: SALARIES/BENEFITS	Current	Year-to-Date	2026 Budget
301 Pastor Salary/Benefits/Pension	\$3,843.88	\$25,031.56	\$54,000.00
302 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$1,565.00	\$9,400.00	\$18,900.00
303 Employer Paid Pension/Retirement	\$653.98	\$4,577.86	\$7,500.00
304 Pastor SECA Allowance	\$466.66	\$2,798.05	\$5,600.00
305 Pastor Car Allowance	\$0.00	\$988.61	\$2,000.00
307 Employer Paid Pastor Insurance - Health & Benefits	\$658.26	\$11,955.12	\$22,000.00
308 Pastor Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
320 Custodian/320A Contract Cleaning Co	\$450.00	\$1,811.94	\$7,000.00
321 Organist	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,560.00
322 Secretary	\$686.85	\$6,236.63	\$12,000.00
323 Groundskeeper	\$146.30	\$292.60	\$3,000.00
325 Sub Pastor	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
326 FICA Expenses	\$533.56	\$1,036.02	\$2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-SALARIES/BENEFITS:	\$9,004.49	\$64,628.39	\$139,060.00
EXPENSES: BUILDING/GROUNDS	Current	Year-to-Date	2026 Budget
401 Snow Removal	\$0.00	\$801.00	\$2,500.00
402B Natural Gas	\$51.75	\$1,730.12	\$3,000.00
405 Electricity and Water	\$516.12	\$2,580.39	\$4,750.00
407 Insurance	\$3,365.00	\$6,541.73	\$12,500.00
408 Misc. Bldg. & Grnd. Exp.	\$439.50	\$1,163.94	\$5,000.00
409 Piano Tuning	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175.00
409A Organ Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
413 Workmans Compensation	\$202.50	\$405.00	\$850.00
415 Audio Visual Expenses	\$0.00	\$266.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-BUILDING & GROUNDS:	\$4,574.87	\$13,488.18	\$29,975.00
EXPENSES: CHURCH PROGRAMS	Current	Year-to-Date	2026 Budget
502 Bible Camp Sponsorships	\$0.00	\$540.00	\$3,000.00
503 Offering Envelopes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
504 Confirmation Expense	\$0.00	\$365.04	\$1,500.00
506 Synod Assembly	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
507 Books and Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
508 Misc. Program Expense	\$40.99	\$1,059.23	\$2,500.00
512 Bank Service Charges	\$0.00	\$89.75	\$250.00
513 Bank Reconcile Adjustment	\$0.20	\$0.20	\$0.00
517 Bibles for 3rd Graders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
519 Postage	\$0.00	\$219.40	\$400.00
524 Lenton Meals	\$0.00	\$783.73	\$600.00
526 High School Graduate Gifts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-CHURCH PROGRAMS:	\$41.19	\$3,057.35	\$10,000.00
EXPENSES: MISSIONS/BENEVOLENCES	Current	Year-to-Date	2026 Budget
602 Augustana PACT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
603 ELCA Benevolence	\$500.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
604 Shetek Bible Camp	\$0.00	\$650.00	\$650.00
605 Crossroads Conference Dues	\$28.40	\$28.40	\$50.00
615 The Banquet	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-MISSIONS:	\$528.40	\$4,678.40	\$8,700.00
EXPENSES: OFFICE	Current	Year-to-Date	2026 Budget
701 Copier Lease	\$168.97	\$1,106.40	\$2,600.00
702 Bulletins and Inserts	\$0.00	\$1,418.83	\$2,000.00
703 Church Office Phone/Internet	\$143.48	\$1,402.22	\$2,000.00
704 Office Supplies	\$44.58	\$399.43	\$750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES - OFFICE:	\$357.03	\$4,326.88	\$7,350.00