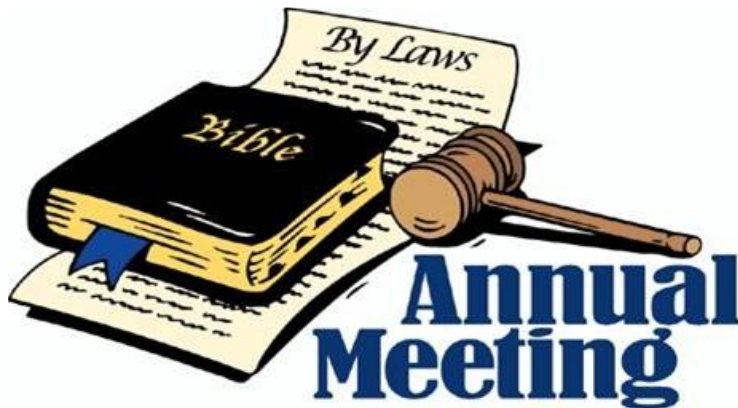


GRACE

for the moment

The Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

January 2026



January Worship:

Sundays:

9:00 am

Wednesdays:

6:30 pm

Sunday School & Adult Education

10:00 am

Confirmation Classes

Resume January 7

Pre-Confirmation 4pm

Confirmation 5 pm

2025 Annual Meeting

January 18 following Worship
Senior FROGS will provide food
and coffee

All reports and financial information are due in the
Secretary's office by January 11.

P.O. Box 667 Parker, SD 57053

605.297.4417

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year! The new year is always a time for reflection. We asked ourselves what worked and what did not. There is a desire to do things differently this year. This year, I hope to let go of anxious presence and practice “Being still...” (Psalm 46:10). Being still is a gift that allows us to discover ourselves and others. Some of us have experienced illnesses, the deaths of loved ones, hardships, and isolation, yet God keeps rewarding us with His love and grace. To be still is to understand God’s unconditional love.

As you travel through the pastures, fields, and towns, I hope you find time to be still and listen to God. God’s unconditional love turns our burdens into blessings. This new year is an opportunity to walk with God. Life will bring many unexpected events our way, but our stillness in Christ will give us a new perspective. Our decisions will be grounded in Christ. Each year brings its own challenges. As we walk along this new path in life, I invite you to pause, breathe, and listen. God might be leading you to something new. Our God is faithful. We could not have made it to this year without His faithfulness.

This year, we commit ourselves to being still to:

- deepen our faith through prayer, Scripture, and fellowship
- practice authentic relationships among all generations
- create a space for intergenerational worship, fellowship, and encouragement

Thank you for your ministry last year, and welcome to a new beginning of being still and knowing God is with us.

Pastor Henrique

January Message

From Church Council President



Well, here it is, my final message as your council president. Where did the year go? As we approach 2026, I would like for you to consider the words we find in 1 Chronicles 14:13-17 which reads, Later the Philistines raided the valley again, and again David asked God what to do. The Lord replied, "Go around by the mulberry trees and attack from there. When you hear a sound like marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, that is your signal to attack, for God will go before you and destroy the enemy." So David did as the Lord commanded him and he cut down the army of the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer. David's fame spread everywhere and the Lord caused all the nations to fear him.

In almost every new situation, David prayed for guidance. New developments offer new challenges as well as new risks. We should be open to seeking God's guidance in each new situation because this will help us avoid certain dangers. Don't assume that God's will or way of working in your life will always be the same. If you seek God's leading as circumstances change, you will not see change as a threat but as an opportunity to let God work in new ways.

The new year ahead will most likely bring about changes, circumstances and challenges. So, don't forget to include God in every situation and put your trust in him just as David did. As of January 1st, I will begin actual retirement and just work part time. Am I scared and nervous? You bet!! I have brought it before God many times and I ask him regularly to put my mind at ease and my hands to work doing his will.

Will we as Grace Lutheran be met with some changes, circumstances and Challenges? I can't imagine that there won't be a few. One of the first changes will be Missy, Derek and myself leaving council and new members added. It has been a privilege to serve with my fellow council members, and I thank you, the congregation, for placing your trust in us.

I pray that for those of you who have read my articles that I didn't put you to sleep but rather that you maybe got something useful or encouraging from them. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to serve on council and as your president this past year. And, as always, [please remember one thing, your life may be the only Bible some people read. So, live your life accordingly and ask God to help you.

Yours in Christ, Joel

Junior FROGS

From Chrystal Schulte,

I am are delighted to share highlights from the Junior Frogs' adventures this fall and winter.

Friendsgiving at Grace (November)

Late in November, our Junior Frogs gathered at Grace for a special Friendsgiving celebration. We enjoyed Marcella's delicious nacho bar, which brought smiles and full plates all around. After dinner, the youth turned their creativity into heartfelt gifts for family:

- Mixing their own dry rub and steak spice blends, carefully packaged into charming glass jars.
- Crafting colorful polymer clay earrings/ jewelry in every shape and size and color.

As a tradition, the junior and senior flags helped decorate the beautiful blue Christmas tree in the sanctuary.

Christmas Celebration (December)

In December, we met at the Methodist Church for a festive evening together. The highlight was enjoying A Christmas Story, beautifully performed by our local high school CYT youth group. It was a joyful reminder of the hope and love we celebrate during this season.

Through these gatherings, the Junior Frogs have not only shared meals and laughter but also grown in fellowship, creativity, and faith.

May the joy of Christ's birth fill your homes with peace and love this Christmas and throughout the New Year.



More pictures from Junior FROGS



Senior FROGS

Senior frogs met in December and helped assemble hygiene kits for students in need. We then had a Christmas party where we played “Let’s Make a Deal”.





Together we're serving our *Rural Neighbors*

Bringing nutritious meals, support, and connection
to **23 communities** in southeastern South Dakota.
Help us keep our seniors thriving!

DONATE. VOLUNTEER. SHARE OUR STORY!



WWW.ROCSINC.ORG/DININGDONATIONS

*Is there a community you'd like your donation to help?
Let us know, and we'll take care of the rest.*

Together, we're fighting hunger - one meal at a time.

ROCS DINING SERVICES

At ROCS, we believe every senior deserves access to hot, nutritious meals served with care and connection. The Dining Services program offers delicious meals in a welcoming environment that fosters fellowship & community.

WWW.ROCSINC.ORG/RDS



Within the **23 communities** we serve:

20-30% of residents are seniors

Poverty rates reach up to 21.5%

Meeting this need will require
more than 173,000 meals in 2026.

Community support is needed to cover
60% of our meals.

More Than A Meal

- Nutritious, senior-friendly meals.
- Connection, conversation & community.
- Friendly staff & volunteers.
- Flexible options for limited mobility or transportation.

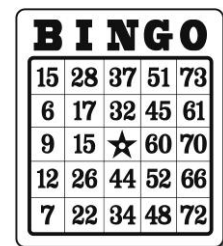
Join us for BINGO at the
ROCS Nutrition Site in
Parker on Tuesday,
January 27 following the
meal.

The meal is served at
11:30 am.

Call 605-297-0176 to sign
up for the meal.


BINGO with prizes will
follow at noon.

BINGO is open to
everyone.



Happenings At GRACE

January AV Schedule



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
4 Derek	7 Kerri
11 Chela/Shari	14 Chrystal
18 Kristin	21 Kerri
25 Chris	28 Chrystal

Weekly Worship Helpers:

Please use the link below to check:

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

Thank you

Parker Community Ministerial

Lenten Luncheons

Meal begins at noon



February 26 at Grace Lutheran

March 5 at United Methodist

March 12 at First Presbyterian

March 19 at St. Christina's

March 26-snow date

Freewill Offering to support Community
Vacation Bible School

Pre-Confirmation & Confirmation Students

Communion Assistant		Acolyte	
January 7	Brenna	January 4	Jaylea
January 14	Everly	January 11	
January 21	Dawson	January 18	Emma
January 28	Everly	January 25	Dawson

**Grace Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025**

Council Members Present:

Missy Gillespie, Kristi Nogelmeier, Derrek Sattler, Pastor Henrique, Marci Leberman, Tristin Plienis, Alexxis McKenney, Jim Johnson and Kaylyn Andersen

1. Call to Order
 - Meeting called to order by Tristin Plienis.
2. Devotion
 - Led by Pastor Henrique.
3. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to approve by Kaylyn, seconded by Jim.
 - Motion carried – all aye.
4. Treasurer's Report
 - Benevolence hasn't been paid for 2 months.
 - Motion to approve by Missy, seconded by Kaylyn.
 - Motion carried – all aye.
5. Secretary's Report
 - Motion to approve by Alexxis, seconded by Jim.
 - Motion carried – all aye.
6. Pastor's Report
 - Pastor will be gone November 11–December 2, 2025.
 - The Bishop will visit Grace Lutheran on December 21, 2025.
 - Grace will be hosting Good Friday service this year through the ministerial group.
 - Motion to approve by Derrek, seconded by Tristin.
 - Motion carried – all aye.
7. Deacons' Report
 - Music has been selected.
 - December 14, 2025 will be the Children's Christmas Program.
 - Time and Talent Surveys will be going out.
 - Motion to approve by Derrek, seconded by Missy.

Pulpit Supply:

- Pastor Lon will provide coverage on November 16, 2025.
- Larry P. will provide coverage on November 23, 2025.
- Joel – to be confirmed.

8. Board of Education Report
 - Children's Christmas concert scheduled for December 14, 2025, with Senior Frogs serving the meal after the concert.
 - Fishbowl offering will be donated to the Parker School lunch program.
 - Motion to approve by Kaylyn, seconded by Missy.
 - Motion carried – all aye.
9. Trustees' Report
 - Motion to approve by Derrek, seconded by Marci.
 - Motion carried – all aye.

Council minutes continued...

Congregational Input

Items Discussed:

The microwave in the kitchen has not been working. A motion was made by Kaylyn to have Deb order a new microwave, seconded by Derrek. Motion carried – all aye.

Old Business

- Church sign inserts
- Holy Playground – Chela Bolte, Crystal Shulte, and Tristin Plenis will be organizing.
- SAIL Balance Class – Discussed the initial reasons for declining. The council welcomes the option of organizing a class through individuals in the congregation rather than through the SAIL program itself due to extensive legal obligations.
- Fans – Robb and Sheri offered to purchase fans for the sanctuary. Once the fans arrive, Kettwig's will be contacted for installation. Kaylyn made a motion to approve the specific fans and Derrek seconded.

New Business

- Checking account for Milestone Committee

Grace Lutheran Church

Special Council Meeting Motion

Date: November 5, 2025

- *A motion was made by Alexxis McKenney and seconded by Derrek Sattler to authorize the Milestone Committee to open a checking account, with Kristi Nogelmeier and Kirsten Weiman listed as authorized account holders.*
- *The motion received unanimous approval.*

Additional Items:

- Coffee pots monitoring due to possible leaks
- Annual Meeting will be held January 18, 2026
- Website
- Next Council Meeting
 - o Scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2025
- Fill-in custodian

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Kristi, seconded by Derrek.
- Motion carried – all aye.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT 11/1/2025-11/30/2025

INCOME:	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
101 General Offering	\$7,124.34	\$106,376.36
102 Envelope Offering	\$770.00	\$14,970.00
103 Quarterly Offering	\$2,395.00	\$14,240.00
104 Lenten Offering		\$4,273.00
109 Camper Savings	\$0.00	\$1,765.00
202 Use of Building		
203 Misc. Income	\$2,600.00	\$2,707.77
205 Thrivent	\$149.00	\$718.00
208 Amazon Smile		
219 Transfer from Building Fund	\$0.00	\$18,583.49
TOTAL INCOME:	\$13,038.34	\$163,633.62

SUMMARY GENERAL CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2025	\$6,125.77
Total Income	\$163,633.62
Total Expenses	\$169,085.12
Ending Balance	\$674.27

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	\$7,576.00	\$21,719.60
May	\$12,791.00	\$0.00	\$13,196.32
June	\$10,496.79	\$0.00	\$12,772.39
July	\$12,194.00	\$25.00	\$11,745.02
August	\$14,355.58	\$0.00	\$11,778.51
September	\$8,132.25	\$11,173.49	\$33,665.72
October	\$12,730.40	\$20.00	\$9,057.63
November	\$10,289.34	\$2,749.00	\$11,458.64
December			
Total	\$140,034.36	\$22,009.26	\$166,250.11

SAVINGS / OTHER ACCOUNT BALANCES:

First Savings Campers Savings	\$3,431.54
First Savings Building Fund Savings	\$37,374.68
First Savings Bank Money Market	\$3,508.52
River's Edge Bank CD	\$43,483.11

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

EXPENSES: SALARIES/BENEFITS	Current	Year-to-Date	Proposed Budget
301 Pastor Salary/Benefits/Pension	\$4,910.33	\$48,765.42	\$54,000.00
302 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$1,575.00	\$17,325.00	\$18,900.00
303 Employer Paid Pension/Retirement	\$673.60	\$6,559.42	\$7,848.00
304 Pastor SECA Allowance	\$464.74	\$5,137.49	\$5,577.00
305 Pastor Car Allowance	\$140.00	\$1,293.67	\$2,000.00
307 Employer Paid Pastor Insurance - Health & Benefits	\$4,175.76	\$20,112.06	\$21,000.00
308 Pastor Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$946.06	\$1,000.00
320 Custodian	\$87.73	\$2,240.65	\$7,000.00
321 Organist	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,560.00
322 Secretary	\$369.40	\$8,828.65	\$12,000.00
323 Groundskeeper	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
325 Sub Pastor	\$466.50	\$1,172.02	\$2,000.00
326 FICA Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,530.92	\$2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-SALARIES/BENEFITS:	\$12,863.06	\$113,911.36	\$138,385.00
EXPENSES: BUILDING & GROUNDS	Current	Year-to-Date	Proposed Budget
401 Snow Removal	\$0.00	\$394.00	\$2,500.00
402B Natural Gas	\$39.16	\$2,055.14	\$3,000.00
405 Electricity and Water	\$307.01	\$3,952.52	\$4,750.00
407 Insurance	\$0.00	\$8,881.26	\$10,000.00
408 Misc. Bldg. & Grnd. Exp.	\$523.00	\$24,069.68	\$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.	\$0.00	\$500.21	\$700.00
415 Audio Visual Expenses	\$0.00	\$618.01	\$1,000.00
416 Building Loan Payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-BUILDING & GROUNDS:	\$869.17	\$40,470.82	\$32,325.00
EXPENSES: CHURCH PROGRAMS	Current	Year-to-Date	Proposed Budget
502 Bible Camp Sponsorships	\$0.00	\$2,405.50	\$1,100.00
503 Offering Envelopes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
504 Confirmation Expense	\$0.00	\$777.16	\$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	\$92.17	\$544.78	\$4,000.00
512 Bank Service Charges	\$47.95	\$227.45	\$250.00
517 Bibles for 3rd Graders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
519 Postage	\$0.00	\$282.40	\$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:	\$140.12	\$5,388.61	\$10,200.00
EXPENSES: MISSIONS/BENEVOLENCES	Current	Year-to-Date	Proposed Budget
602 Augustana PACT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
603 ELCA Benevolence	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$6,000.00
604 Shetek Bible Camp	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.00
605 Crossroads Conference Dues	\$0.00	\$27.60	\$0.00
615 The Banquet	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-MISSONS:	\$0.00	\$4,027.60	\$8,400.00
EXPENSES: OFFICE	Current	Year-to-Date	Proposed Budget
701 Copier Lease	\$181.96	\$1,862.20	\$2,000.00
702 Bulletins and Inserts	\$122.77	\$1,511.55	\$2,000.00
703 Church Office Phone/Internet	\$116.56	\$1,419.66	\$1,500.00
704 Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$493.32	\$900.00
TOTAL EXPENSES - OFFICE:	\$421.29	\$5,286.73	\$6,400.00
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$14,293.64	\$169,085.12	\$195,710.00