

GRACE

For the Moment

The Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

July 2026



Willa Fleming was baptized on June 28, 2026
Her parents are James and Chelsea Fleming.
Joel Fleming and Caleb Tilstra are Willa's sponsors.
Willa's grandparents are Pastor Henrique and Deacon Hannah Fleming and Brian and Michelle Tilstra.

July Worship

Sunday 9 am



Wednesday Worship
will resume in
September



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Theme: Steps to a Sustainable Fellowship

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

I would like to share with you the three biblical steps of sustaining a fellowship. They are:

I. A sustainable fellowship trusts its Leaders (v.12,13)

“But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect (trust) those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you, esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

No matter what type of program the church designs, if leadership is not trusted, loved, or respected, nothing happens. A sustainable church makes trust foundational to its culture. Paul’s letter to the church in Thessalonica is clear: Trust your leaders, and you will be successful. Distrust your leaders, and you will fail miserably. Congregation failure is not that they lack the resources to do the work they want to do. Every congregation has resources, but not every congregation has trust in its leaders, and that’s the difference. To sustain lasting fellowship among the believers, we must commit to trusting one another. Trust in God, trust in the leaders, and trust in the people. The earthly ministry of Jesus was sustainable because the disciples trusted him. They pledged their loyalty to him and were willing to travel with him. Nothing happens in a sustainable congregation without trust, respect, and a sense of belonging. Do you know of any organization where the people doubted everything yet remained strong?

II. A sustainable fellowship empowers the people (14, 15)

“And we urge (empower) you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all”.

Paul understood that the congregation could go no further unless the people were empowered to act in line with the church’s mission and vision. A sustainable congregation fosters a positive culture by drawing on its own source of power. In Paul’s case, this meant a call for all hands on deck to achieve the change needed for the congregation of Thessalonica. Based on verses 14 and 15, the church of Thessalonica included lazy people (idlers), people afraid to face a crisis (faint-hearted), and people who were easily persuaded (weak people). The congregation’s diversity was evident, but Paul did not say “throw them out.” Paul would be patient with them, work with them, and empower them. No congregation will survive without the empowerment of the laity (people). The indwelling of God’s Spirit is meant to empower us for ministry like this.

Continued on following page...

Pastor's Message continued...

III. A sustainable fellowship is always happy or vibrant (16, 17, 16,18)

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.

A sustainable congregation does not rejoice when things are great and grumble when they are bad. Rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks are not for the circumstances we face. They are for the circumstances we are already in. Part of being a sustainable congregation is valuing risk in the growth process. Jesus said to his disciples, “Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head” (Matthew 8:20). A sustainable congregation knows that everything will not always work in its favor, yet it remains happy in its congregational life. We are to remain happy because our sins were borne on the cross by Jesus. We are to remain happy because our faith is grounded in Christ's resurrection. We cannot be happy with the circumstances we are in, but we can be happy in them. God always comes through on his promises. Our happiness in Christ minimizes our risk of failure. Stay happy in all circumstances. The Holy Spirit is the source of our happiness, vitality, and vibrancy. Paul said, “Do not quench the Spirit” (19). The Spirit gives joy. Sustainability is viable when its members maintain joy, prayer, and thanksgiving.

I hope three steps will be utilized to improve the congregation as they work to becoming a sustainable congregation.

Truly yours,

Henrique Fleming

Message from the Church Council President, Tristin Plienis

We are halfway through the year, my how time goes. I am so grateful for the many wonderful people of our congregation who donate their time and talents to Grace. We truly have a wonderful community.

This month I keep returning to Joshua 1:9.

“Be strong and courageous, do not be discouraged. For the Lord your god will be with you wherever you go.”

This verse has been with me often as I have served on council. There are many times one has to choose to stay focused on the big picture. Some may understand decisions, some may not. But I always pray, council and I make the appropriate decisions for the good of our church. And the strength of our future. As many of you have heard Pastor and Hannah have taken another call, and he will be finishing his time with us in August. We thank him for his time here and pray their next journey will be a wonderful journey of hope, love and sharing faith with as many as possible.

As we move forward, I ask for your patience and grace as the council navigates this transitional time. We will work closely with the synod to decide our next steps.

One thing you can have total peace in... is that our council has nothing but your best interest in mind.

We want to make decisions based for the betterment of our future and financial peace.

We will be working diligently to get us to our next chapter.

Enjoy the rest of summer, and can't wait to have our Turner County Fair here soon. It always reminds me how much I love this community and all those who work so hard to make it a great place to be.

Blessings to you, and always know I am here for any questions or concerns you may have.

Tristin



Students in grades 8-12; plan ahead to attend the National Youth Gathering! It is held in Minneapolis on June 28-July 2, 2027! More details to come soon.



Happening at Grace

**Community Vacation Bible School
June 7-10, 2026**



**More pictures from Community Vacation Bible School
Photo Booth Fun!**





Summer Greetings from the Board of Education!

We are so excited to share that this June, our church hosted thirty-five children for a wonderful week of community Vacation Bible School (VBS)! Our theme this year, Rainforest Falls, reminded us all that God is love, our safe place, our Creator, and that He knows everything.

Each day was filled with joy and meaningful lessons. During our "Tune Lagoon" sessions, the kids loved singing and dancing along to upbeat songs. A highlight for many was a moving performance by Hudson Nogelmeier, who portrayed Jesus. Hudson shared a beautiful message about how Jesus takes away our hurts, places them at the foot of the cross, and replaces them with His love.

Our "Rainforest" was busy with activity all week:

Craft Canopy: Brad and Keri Bailiff helped the kids express their creativity with tie-dye shirts, potted flowers, paper parrots, bracelets, photo frames, and decorated crosses.

Treetop Snacks: Robin Viet and her team of volunteers provided delicious meals and treats that perfectly coordinated with each day's message.

Wild Games: Chrystal Schulte kept the energy high with fun games, a scavenger hunt, and even handmade slushies!

Bible Adventures: Ashlynn Wildeboer brought God's Word to life, using engaging props and skits to help the message resonate with our students.

We concluded our week with an Open House, where families joined us for a shared meal and a chance to dance along to our favorite VBS songs. It was such a blessing to hear so many children say they wished VBS could continue all summer long! We are already looking forward to hosting everyone again next year.

We want to extend a massive thank you to the twenty-one volunteers and leaders from our community churches. This success would not have been possible without your hard work and dedication—we are truly grateful for each of you!

Finally, please remember that our "Fishbowl" offering for June and July is being donated to the Parker Learning Center (PLC). As many of our students spend their summer days there, we would love to support the activities and field trips that keep our kids safe, engaged, and active throughout the summer.

**Vacation Bible
School
Pictures from
the Board of
Education**



From the Fairstand Committee

Before we know it the four best days of summer will be here! Please prayerfully consider signing up for a shift or two. The fair stand offers an opportunity to give back to our community and also provides funding for in-house programs such as Sunday School, youth mission trips and faith in action to name a few.

If you have not worked in the fairstand come and spend some time serving others while serving God.

We hope to see some new faces along with the regulars.

Fairstand Committee: Don Nolan, Ryan Penning, Julie Anderson, Sara Creegan, Shari Jensen

Holy Playground: A Successful First "Messy Church"

In June, the Holy Playground team hosted our very first "Messy Church" event, and it was a wonderful, spirit-filled evening of fellowship across all generations!

Our night began with a delicious baked potato bar, giving everyone a chance to enjoy a meal together before diving into the evening's theme: Prayer. Pastor Henrique delivered a touching message based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, reminding us of the importance of constant, joyful connection with God.

The "messy" fun was in full swing with a variety of hands-on activities:

Creative Crafts: We used fabric markers to design personalized cloth dinner napkins and created our own prayer books, where we practiced learning new table prayers.

Edible Lessons: We decorated hand-shaped sugar cookies with icing and sprinkles while learning the "Five-Finger Prayer" method—a practical and sweet way to remember who to lift up in our daily conversations with God. After sharing in Holy Communion, we wrapped up the evening with a joyous celebration of our Lord Jesus, singing and dancing along to our favorite worship songs. As Psalm 95:1-3 reminds us:

"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving... For the Lord is the great God."

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers who helped with setup and made this inaugural event so meaningful. We are so grateful for your support as we work to cultivate authentic, intergenerational relationships within our congregation!



Join Us for Our Next Event!

We would love to see you at our next Messy Church on July 22nd at 6:00 PM. Our theme will be "Holy Fire," and we'll be enjoying a family favorite—s'mores!

Please RSVP here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L6V822K>

Blessings,

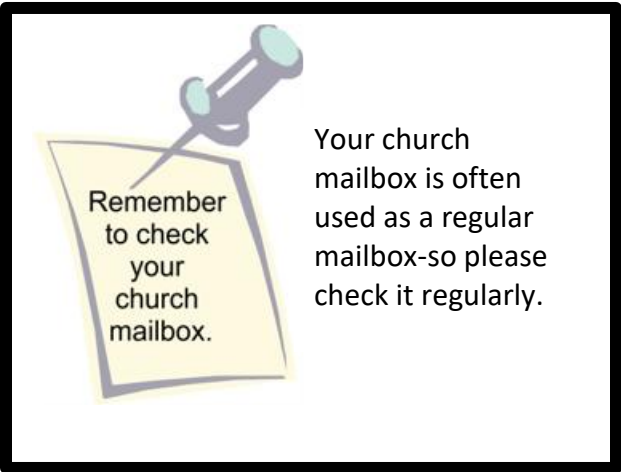
The Holy Playground Team

Chela Bolte & Tristin Plienies





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 Worship Helpers:
 Please use the link below to check:
<https://gracelutheranparker.com/weekly-worship-helpers>
 Thank you

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

July 5	Chela		August 2	Kristen
July 12	Kristen		August 9	Chris
July 19	Chris		August 16	Derek
July 26	Derek		August 23	Chela
			August 30	Kristen

Online Offering now available through PayPal for Business!


Note: New users will need to setup an account and associate preferred payment method

Using your mobile device:

1. Scan the QR code to donate to the General Offering Fund



2. Input your desired offering amount



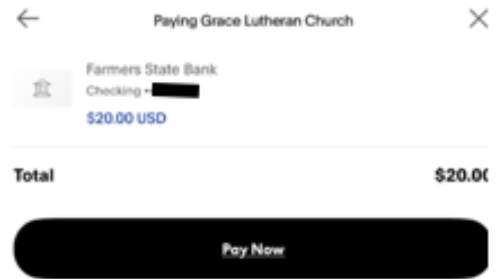
Grace Lutheran Church

\$20.00

Add a note (optional)

Next

3. Confirm Payment



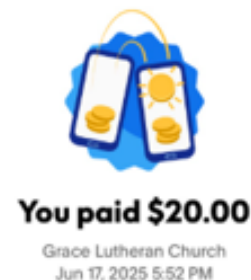
← Paying Grace Lutheran Church ×

Farmers State Bank
Checking • [REDACTED]
\$20.00 USD

Total \$20.00

Pay Now

4. Lastly you'll receive a confirmation message (and email depending on your user settings).



Done

- o PayPal Offering transactions can occur any time
- o Please note this is not replacing ACH (Electronic Fund Transfer) Reach out to Deb Van Hove for questions on ACH
- o Receipts available through PayPal for tax/tracking purposes
- o Reach out to Kristi Nogelmeier with questions

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT 5/1/2026-5/31/2026 (Approved by Council 6/10/2026)

INCOME:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
101 General Offering	\$14,756.78	\$46,089.28
102 Envelope Offering	\$3,490.00	\$8,110.00
103 Quarterly Offering	\$2,360.00	\$16,850.00
104 Lenten Offering		\$2,625.00
109 Camper Savings		
202 Use of Building		
203 Misc. Income		\$650.52
205 Thrivent	\$293.11	\$780.00
208 Amazon Smile		
219 Transfer from Building Fund	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$24,399.89	\$78,604.80

Note: *Offering includes misallocation of funds - \$2306 4/19 offering*

SUMMARY GENERAL CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2026	\$4,329.47
Total Income	\$78,604.80
Total Expenses	\$75,673.22
Ending Balance	\$7,261.05

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			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
Total Monthly Offering	\$73,674.28	\$4,930.52	\$75,673.22

OTHER ACCOUNT BALANCES:

First Savings Campers Savings	\$4,773.05
First Savings Building Fund Savings	\$44,711.57
First Savings Bank Money Market	\$3,434.94
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	\$21,187.68	\$54,000.00
302 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$1,565.00	\$7,835.00	\$18,900.00
303 Employer Paid Pension/Retirement	\$1,307.96	\$3,923.88	\$7,500.00
304 Pastor SECA Allowance	\$466.66	\$2,331.39	\$5,600.00
305 Pastor Car Allowance	\$413.25	\$988.61	\$2,000.00
307 Employer Paid Pastor Insurance - Health & Benefits	\$3,765.62	\$11,296.86	\$22,000.00
308 Pastor Continuing Education	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
320 Custodian/320A Contract Cleaning Co	\$300.00	\$1,361.94	\$7,000.00
321 Organist	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,560.00
322 Secretary	\$1,098.97	\$5,549.78	\$12,000.00
323 Groundskeeper	\$146.30	\$146.30	\$3,000.00
325 Sub Pastor	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
326 FICA Expenses	\$502.46	\$502.46	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES-SALARIES/BENEFITS:	\$13,910.10	\$55,623.90	\$139,060.00
EXPENSES: BUILDING/GROUNDS	Current	Year-to-Date	2026 Budget
401 Snow Removal	\$801.00	\$801.00	\$2,500.00
402B Natural Gas	\$116.23	\$1,678.37	\$3,000.00
405 Electricity and Water	\$362.18	\$2,064.27	\$4,750.00
407 Insurance	\$0.00	\$3,176.73	\$12,500.00
408 Misc. Bldg. & Grnd. Exp.	\$75.14	\$724.44	\$5,000.00
409 Piano Tuning	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175.00
409A Organ Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
413 Workmans Compensation	\$0.00	\$202.50	\$850.00
415 Audio Visual Expenses	\$266.00	\$266.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-BUILDING & GROUNDS:	\$1,620.55	\$8,913.31	\$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	\$65.65	\$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	\$65.63	\$1,018.24	\$2,500.00
512 Bank Service Charges	\$17.95	\$89.75	\$250.00
517 Bibles for 3rd Graders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
519 Postage	\$15.40	\$219.40	\$400.00
524 Lenton Meals	\$254.36	\$783.73	\$600.00
526 High School Graduate Gifts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-CHURCH PROGRAMS:	\$418.99	\$3,016.16	\$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	\$2,500.00	\$6,000.00
604 Shetek Bible Camp	\$0.00	\$650.00	\$650.00
605 Crossroads Conference Dues	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
615 The Banquet	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-MISSIONS:	\$500.00	\$4,150.00	\$8,700.00
EXPENSES: OFFICE	Current	Year-to-Date	2026 Budget
701 Copier Lease	\$185.41	\$937.43	\$2,600.00
702 Bulletins and Inserts	\$338.21	\$1,418.83	\$2,000.00
703 Church Office Phone/Internet	\$120.29	\$1,258.74	\$2,000.00
704 Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$354.85	\$750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES - OFFICE:	\$643.91	\$3,969.85	\$7,350.00
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$17,093.55	\$75,673.22	\$195,085.00

Grace Lutheran Church Council (Approved by Council 6/10/2026)

Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Present: Pastor Henrique, Jim Johnson, Bill Leberman, Marci Leberman, Kristi Nogelmeier, Shelly Paynter, Ashlynn Wildeboer, and Lori Jones.

Kaylyn Andersen attended virtually.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Marci.

Devotion

Pastor Henrique led the devotion.

Approval of Agenda

Lori made a motion to approve the agenda. Jim seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Secretary's Report

Chela made a motion to approve the Secretary's Report. Lori seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Deacon's Report

No report provided.

Board of Education Report

- Sunday School held its final day for the season.
- Bags for moms were made for Mother's Day.
- A lock-in is scheduled for May 22.
- Planning is underway for Vacation Bible School (VBS), which will be held June 7–10.
- Enrollment in VBS has been declining over the past several years.

Trustees' Report

- Jim planted grass and has spent significant time helping with church upkeep.
- Jim also hired a lawn service to apply fertilizer and provide weed control.
- Installation of church fans is still ongoing.
- Robb will be using the extensions from the old fans.

Treasurer's Report

- April ending balance: \$42.11
- \$3,500 was transferred from the building fund to pay expenses that were due. Those funds will be paid back.

The following expenses have been paid:

- Bible Camp
- Confirmation
- Lenten meals
- Benevolence
- Banquet expenses
- Groundskeeping

Jim made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Chela seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Pastor's Report

- Pulpit supply will be needed for May 31 and June 14.
- Confirmation Sunday went well.
- A baptism is scheduled for May 24.

Congregational Input

None.

Ongoing Business

Microphones/Speakers

A quote of \$6,000 was received for microphones. The council decided to hold off at this time.

Church Fans

The project remains ongoing.

Curtains

The project remains ongoing.

Fellowship Hall Carpet Cleaning

Trustees will look into renting a carpet cleaner from Ace Hardware rather than hiring a professional service.

Pavement Repairs

The council will seek quotes for repairing cracks in the pavement.

New Business

Budget/Income

A survey will be developed for the congregation.

CPR Class

A CPR class will be held this fall.

Groundskeeping

The council will explore lawn spraying options. Ron Nelson, who previously sprayed the lawn in the fall, is retiring, so an alternative provider will need to be found.

Closing Prayer