

The Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church November 2026

November Worship:

Sundays:
9:00 am

Wednesdays:
6:30 pm
(No Worship on 11-25)

Messy church on 11-18 at 6pm

Sunday School
10:00 am

Like us on facebook

Become Part of Our Church Family

If you are interested in becoming a member of Grace Lutheran- Please reach out to Pastor Lon, Tristin Plienis or Deb Van Hove, church secretary.
New Member Reception Coffee and Fellowship will be after worship on November 15, 2026.

Share Your Talents

Time and Talent Information Sheets are available on the table in the Narthex.
The annual Time and Talent Information sheet allows us to inventory the ways that you wish to participate in the ministry of Grace Lutheran. All adults and children are encouraged to complete the sheet.

P.O. Box 667 Parker, SD 57053
605.297.4417
gracelutheranparkersd@gmail.com www.gracelutheranparker.com

A Message from Pastors Heidi and Lon

Some thoughts on the 8th commandment during an election year…

Election day, November 3, is fast approaching; and we are really looking forward to it. Not so much because we're eagerly awaiting the results, but because we are weary of the negative campaigning, the mudslinging, and the divisive rhetoric. Mudslinging has probably been part of American politics since mud was around to sling, but many journalists, politicians, and analysts claim that 2026 has taken incivility to a new level. Attacks on a candidate's character, patriotism, and fitness for office have become routine. Politicians and political action committees have been breaking new ground in their willingness to bend the truth.

The problem, of course, with all this negative banter is that it feeds on itself, draws us into the fray, and leads us into a downward spiral. In other words, negative talk begets negative talk. God has something to say about all of this in the 8thcommandment: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Words are powerful. They can bring love, hope, healing and encouragement. They can also bring pain, confusion, betrayal and hatred. God is warning us of this danger, and God commands us to be mindful of our words and honest in our speech. Do not bear false witness, he tells us. Martin Luther explains the commandment in this way: "We are to fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, or lie about our neighbor, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain his actions in the kindest way."

We don't have any control over the content of political ads or the words that fly during a heated political debate, but we do have control over the words that we ourselves speak. We don't need to descend into the fray of hurtful or judgmental comments that seem so prevalent in our culture. There's not much we can do about the political ads, but we can do something about our own words – in our home, our places of work, among our friends and acquaintances, and even among those people with whom we disagree.

Defend others, speak well of them, and explain their actions in the kindest way. The commandment to "not bear false witness" may sound rather quaint and unrealistic in our day and age; but perhaps because of what's happening in our day and age, we need to hear it and heed it all the more.

Pastor Heidi and Pastor Lon

Advent Is Just Around the Corner

Pastor Heidi

The first Sunday in Advent is November 29. This four-week season takes us to Christmas. The Wednesday services this Advent (beginning in December) are focused on three words: Wait, Watch, and Wonder. "Holden Evening Prayer" will be sung, and Lon and I will prepare different sermons than what you hear on Sundays. The services are from 6:30 to 7:00. Prepare your hearts for Christmas!



December 2: Wait

December 9: Watch

December 16: Wonder



November Message
From Church Council President

Psalm 107:1
"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"

Entering November helps remind us of the wonderful holiday of thanksgiving to come! We remember first and foremost Gods love for us and the gratefulness we hold for his never-ending Grace in our lives.

I have been sitting in so much gratefulness for our shifts at Grace. As we embark on a new call process, I'm so grateful to our call committee and their time that will be given to help guide our next steps and decisions. It truly takes a village. And I'm so grateful for each perspective. Please keep them in your prayers as they will face decisions along this journey. I trust they will do a wonderful job for the greater good.

I am also so very grateful for Pastors Lon and Pastor Heidi. They have been such a blessing to us during the Interim time, they both bring years of knowledge and have such a beautiful way to connect with all of us.

As our world is in strife during uncertain times I want to take a moment to be grateful for our military and ask for protection and prayers for all those we know who serve.

We had a wonderful Trunk or Treat event again this year, thank you to all those who put this on and those who took the time to create a trunk! It is always such a fun event and such a blessing to see many from the community come and enjoy it!

We will be having our next holy playground event Wednesday, November 18th at 6pm, please join us for a night of fun and fellowship!

New member Sunday will be November 15th, please join us in welcoming new members and enjoying fellowship after service.

Lastly, I am grateful for ALL who serve and attend Grace Lutheran. Through my own struggles and celebrations in life I have always had a friend near by willing to help. Those who pray for me, and those who look out for my family and I. This church family has many generations of love, commitment to community and serving God in many ways. And I'm so very grateful for each of you.

Happy thanksgiving to all!

Thank you for your presence at Grace.
Tristin

CHURCH COMMUNITY

Senior FROGS Trunk or Treat Fun!

A look back at an evening of pumpkins, costumes & fellowship







Thank you to everyone who helped make our Trunk or Treat a fun time for our church and community! From creatively carved
pumpkins to festive games and costumes, the evening was full of smiles, laughter, and opportunities to enjoy time together.
We are grateful to all who volunteered, participated, and helped create such a welcoming event!

UPCOMING YOUTH GATHERING MEETING

Informational Meeting — November 8
Join us after worship to learn more about the ELCA National Youth Gathering.

LOOKING AHEAD

Senior Frogs Meetings
November 11 & November 25
Both meetings will be held at the church.

Thank you for being part of our church community!

Pictures from Trunk or Treat on October 28, 2026













A Few More Pictures from Trunk or Treat on October 28, 2026







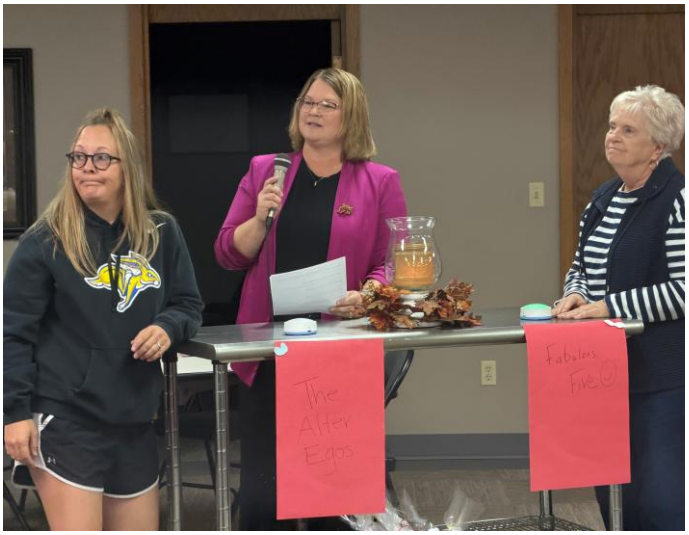
CPR Skills, AED Training and Choking Review

Kristi Nogelemeier and Denny Johnson
will lead the session following
Worship, Sunday, November 29.

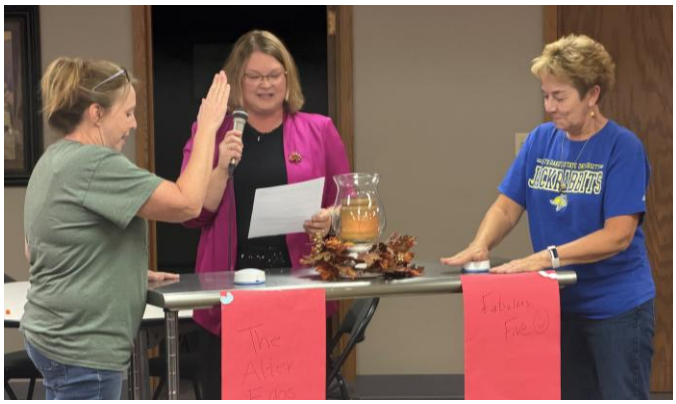
CPR

“Church Ladies Family Feud”
October 23, 2026











Poinsettias



Order envelopes for poinsettias are available on the ledge in the narthex.
All are welcome to help celebrate Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia
in honor of or in memory of someone special. Cost this year is $20.00.
Poinsettias can be taken home after Christmas Eve service.

Meals with a Mission

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY, ONE MEAL AT A TIME.

THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS BOX DONATIONS NEEDED

We are collecting food items to put together Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes for local families.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Green beans
- French onions
- Cans of cream of mushroom soup
- Cans of corn
- Dinner rolls
- Cans of cranberry sauce
- Pie fillings
- Cans of evaporated milk
- Pumpkin puree
- Potatoes
- Gravy
- Stuffing



COLLECTION DATES:

November 1st - December 14th

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

- Jones
- Grace Lutheran Church
- St. Christinas Catholic Church

MONETARY DONATIONS ALSO ACCEPTED

Money donations will be used to purchase cold items such as pie crust cool whip, etc.

Do you know of a family who could use one of these holiday boxes this season?

Please reach out and let us know.

FAITH IN ACTION LUNCHEON BINGO

BINGO FUN FOOD

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2026

11:30 AM

RSVP by 9 AM on November 24, 2026

Senior Center

605-297-0176



Faith in Action Brunch

Join us after worship on Sunday, November 8, 2026, for brunch. Faith In Action is hosting a free-will donation and will be serving egg bake, cinnamon rolls, and coffee/juice. All proceeds will go to support community services.



GRIEVING?

Know someone who is?

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS helps participants:

- How to deal with emotions
- What to do about traditions
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- Hope to find hope for the future

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Please join us for this encouraging seminar.

GriefShare

Monday, Nov. 9
Meal provided.
Program to start at 5pm
Chancellor Reformed Church
500 3rd St., Chancellor, SD

RSVP TO JOAN MULLER 605-595-2003

Planning Ahead



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



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

Mailing Address for Grace Lutheran Church
Please use **Box 667** if you are having anything mailed to the church.
Thank you

Please check your kitchen cabinets at home-if you happen to find any items that you borrowed from the church, please return them to the church kitchen thank you!

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

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

November AV Schedule



Sunday
Nov. 1 Derek
Nov. 8 Chela
Nov. 15 Chela
Nov. 22 Derek
Nov. 29 Derek

Wed. Dec. 2 Kerri

Pre-Confirmation and Conformation Students

Communion Assistant		Acolyte	
Nov. 4	Joe	Nov. 1	Paige
Nov. 11	Blaine	Nov. 8	Joe
Nov. 18	None	Nov. 15	Emrick
Nov. 25	None	Nov. 22	Vaun
		Nov. 29	Hudson


CHRISTMAS
Coffee
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026
9:00 – 10:30 AM
Grace Lutheran Church
Parker, SD
100% OF THE PROCEEDS GO TO
various organizations within Northern Turner County that provide support and assistance to those in need.
TICKETS $20
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED:
Rivers Edge Bank
OR
by contacting Kerri Meyer at
kerrim01@yahoo.com


ELCA
National YOUTH GATHERING
Minneapolis, MN
June 28 – July 2, 2027
Your chance to
SPONSOR OR PARTIALLY SPONSOR
one of our high school youth to attend the gathering!
Early registration is $450 per attendee.
Housing and travel costs are in addition to registration.
Contact Jenn Wall or the church office to sponsor a youth.
Invest in a young person's faith journey!

Holy Playground Committee Update

Messy Church: "Our Father Gives Good Gifts"
When: Wednesday, November 18th
Theme: Our Father Gives Good Gifts
Join us for our next Messy Church gathering!

This month, we'll be focusing on God's generosity as we make Christmas presents together—a wonderful opportunity for hands-on, creative fun for all ages.

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner:
We will share a Thanksgiving-themed potluck supper together during Messy Church. Turkey, mashed potatoes, and gravy will be provided. Please feel free to bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share with everyone!

Family New Year's Eve Party Planning
Building on the wonderful time we had ringing in the New Year together last year, the Holy Playground Committee is planning another family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration!
Get Involved:
We would love to have extra hands and fresh ideas! If you are interested in helping plan the celebration or volunteering during the event, please reach out to any committee member. Your help will ensure another fun and memorable evening for our church family.

Thank you for supporting Holy Playground as we build community and faith together

Board of Education Newsletter

Welcome to this month's Board of Education update! We are so grateful for our vibrant Sunday School and youth programs, and we are excited to share what our children have been up to throughout October, as well as what's coming up in the months ahead.

October Highlights

* A Wonderful Song & Performance: Our children brought so much joy to our hearts this month with their precious rendition of "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock." Their energy and enthusiasm were a wonderful reminder of building our lives on a strong foundation of faith!
* Service Projects in Action:
* Spreading Fall Joy: The children spent time painting decorative gourds, which were hand-delivered to local community members to brighten their autumn season.
* Honoring Our Heroes: They also wrote heartfelt letters to veterans participating in the Midwest Honor Flight, expressing our gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

Looking Ahead to Christmas

It's hard to believe, but the Christmas season is right around the corner!

* Rehearsals Begin: Christmas program practices will officially kick off on November 1st.
* Post-Thanksgiving Practice: We will hold an additional practice session after Thanksgiving for anyone able to attend. Our last practice will be December 6th.
* Christmas Program Date: Mark your calendars! Our Christmas Program will take place on December 13th. We can't wait to celebrate the Savior's birth together through our children's gifts.



The following Meeting Minutes were approved at the 10/14/2026 council meeting.

Grace Lutheran Church Council
Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Members Present: Jim Johnson, Kristi Nogelmier, Tristin Plienis, Ashlynn Wildeboer, Marci Leberman, Kaylyn Andersen, Chela Bolte, Lori Jones, Shelly Payntor, Pastor Lon and Heidi

Call to Order

Tristen called the meeting to order.

Devotion

Pastor Lon and Heidi led the devotion.

Approval of Agenda

Kaylyn made a motion to approve the agenda. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Reports

Secretary's Report

The minutes were updated to reflect the Holy Playground Checking Account.

Deacon's Report

Music selections for October are in process.

Board of Education Report

Lessons will be held during the sermons on Rally Sunday, September 13. Going forward, lessons will be held after church. Special music will be held in October.

Trustees' Report

Pavement work will begin the week of September 14.

Treasurer's Report

$3,500 was transferred back to the General Fund. The ACH issue has been fixed. Kaylyn made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Jim seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Pastor's Report

Pastor's hours will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. A fill-in pastor will be needed for October 4.

Congregational Input

No congregational input was noted.

Ongoing Business

- Pavement
- Vote on Call Committee members

New Business

Stewardship Sunday Logistics

Pledge cards will be handed out and collected on September 13 and September 20.

Adjournment

Jim made a motion to adjourn. Lori seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

The following Treasurer's Report was accepted at the 10/14/2026 council meeting.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT 9/1/2026-9/30/20226

INCOME:	**Current**	**Year To Date**
101 General Offering	$14,620.52	$83,475.66
102 Envelope Offering	$515.00	$22,405.00
103 Quarterly Offering	$2,730.00	$25,465.00
104 Lenten Offering		$2,625.00
109 Camper Savings		
202 Use of Building		
203 Misc. Income		$650.52
205 Thrivent	$0.00	$985.00
208 Amazon Smile		
219 Transfer from Building Fund		$3,500.00
220 Transfer to Building Fund	$0.00	($3,500.00)
TOTAL INCOME:	**$17,865.52**	**$135,606.18**

SUMMARY GENERAL CHECKING:	
Beginning Balance 1/1/2026	**$4,329.47**
Total Income	**$135,606.18**
Total Expenses	**$130,354.53**
Ending Balance	**$9,581.12**

MONTHLY SUMMARY:	**Offering Total**	**Misc Income**	**Monthly Expenses**
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	$14,477.58
July	$20,194.38	$0.00	$15,300.44
August	$6,140.88	$0.00	$5,033.63
September	$17,865.52	$0.00	$19,869.66
October			
November			
December			
Total Monthly Offering	**$130,604.66**	**$5,001.52**	**$130,354.53**

OTHER ACCOUNT BALANCES:	
First Savings Campers Savings	$3,520.19
First Savings Building Fund Savings	$54,860.46
First Savings Bank Money Market	$4,317.56
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	$3,833.33	$38,478.82	$54,000.00
302 Pastor Housing Allowance	$0.00	$11,799.69	$18,900.00
303 Employer Paid Pension/Retirement	$991.52	$6,223.36	$7,500.00
304 Pastor SECA Allowance	$613.33	$4,127.00	$5,600.00
305 Pastor Car Allowance	$0.00	$1,106.79	$2,000.00
307 Employer Paid Pastor Insurance - Health & Benefits	$5,659.58	$18,272.96	$22,000.00
308 Pastor Continuing Education	$0.00	$500.00	$1,000.00
320 Custodian/320A Contract Cleaning Co	$450.00	$2,561.94	$7,000.00
321 Organist	$0.00	$0.00	$1,560.00
322 Secretary	$745.72	$8,489.51	$12,000.00
323 Groundskeeper	$0.00	$444.11	$3,000.00
325 Sub Pastor	$428.10	$1,251.20	$2,000.00
326 FICA Expenses	$0.00	$1,036.02	$2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-SALARIES/BENEFITS:	**$12,721.58**	**$94,291.40**	**$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	$12.74	$1,768.34	$3,000.00
405 Electricity and Water	$579.66	$4,163.61	$4,750.00
407 Insurance	$3,365.00	$9,906.73	$12,500.00
408 Misc. Bldg. & Grnd. Exp.	$459.65	$1,923.93	$5,000.00
409 Piano Tuning	$0.00	$0.00	$175.00
409A Organ Maintenance	$0.00	$0.00	$200.00
413 Workmans Compensation	$190.25	$595.25	$850.00
415 Audio Visual Expenses	$0.00	$266.00	$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-BUILDING & GROUNDS:	**$4,607.30**	**$19,424.86**	**$29,975.00**

EXPENSES: CHURCH PROGRAMS	Current	Year-to-Date	2026 Budget
502 Bible Camp Sponsorships	$1,257.50	$1,797.50	$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	$84.95	$100.00
508 Misc. Program Expense	$71.69	$1,476.72	$2,500.00
512 Bank Service Charges	$0.00	$89.75	$250.00
513 Bank Reconcile Adjustment	$0.00	$0.20	$0.00
517 Bibles for 3rd Graders	$0.00	$0.00	$200.00
519 Postage	$82.25	$301.65	$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:	**$1,411.44**	**$4,899.54**	**$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	$4,500.00	$6,000.00
604 Shetek Bible Camp	$0.00	$650.00	$650.00
605 Crossroads Conference Dues	$0.00	$28.40	$50.00
615 The Banquet	$0.00	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-MISSONS:	**$500.00**	**$6,178.40**	**$8,700.00**

EXPENSES: OFFICE	Current	Year-to-Date	2026 Budget
701 Copier Lease	$361.74	$1,642.97	$2,600.00
702 Bulletins and Inserts	$0.00	$1,609.54	$2,000.00
703 Church Office Phone/Internet	$119.05	$1,759.84	$2,000.00
704 Office Supplies	$148.55	$547.98	$750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES - OFFICE:	**$629.34**	**$5,560.33**	**$7,350.00**

GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:	**$19,869.66**	**$130,354.53**	**$195,085.00**