

Grace

for the Moment



The Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

October 2025



October Worship:

Sundays:

9:00 am

Wednesdays:

6:30 pm

No Worship on October 29

Sunday School & Adult Education

10:00 am

Third Graders Receive Bibles



On Sunday, September 28, we celebrated a wonderful milestone with our third graders. The Board of Education purchased the bibles for 3rd graders, and the Milestone committee met with the third graders earlier in the week to look at the new bibles and talk about ways we can find scripture and stories in our bibles. The third graders were very excited to learn and share what they already knew. Six of our seven 3rd graders and their families were able to be at church on Sunday to celebrate getting a bible.

Congratulations to Amara, Carter, Londynn, Morgan, Adley, Halle, and Aubrey.

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Finding your value

September focused on the Gospel of Luke. Over the past four weeks, we heard Jesus teach His disciples through parables. The genesis of the parables was in response to the Pharisees' devaluing the people around Jesus. They called them sinners and tax collectors. Their value was in their wealth and status. Jesus' value lies in those who are lost. Whether it's the parable of the Lost Coin or the Rich Man and Lazarus, something is missing in these stories. It wasn't just the coin that was missing or the plight of Lazarus; it was the value that came into play for each of those missing things.

People only seek out things that have meaning. Things that possess value. We are shaped by what we cherish. That's why many believe faith is personal—because what they cherish feels exclusive. We saw this in the Gospel of Luke, where each person pursued what was valuable to them. The same applies to our relationship with God. God sees us and loves us regardless of who we are. He values us, and it cost Him His life to find us.

Personally, I find it hard to separate my faith from what I cherish. Everything I am reflects God's plan for my life. This expression of faith remains the main focus of my life's journey. Over the past four weeks, I have found meaning in the gospel of Luke, which encourages me to pursue my lost coin. Each of us volunteers our time, talent, and money to find our lost coin because it is valuable to us. Whether you teach Sunday School, lead Senior/Junior Frogs, sing in the choir, serve on the council, or volunteer in other ministries, you are searching for your lost coin. We are all missing people, and our mission is to find each other because we are valuable to God and this ministry.

Blessings,

Pastor Henrique

October Message

From Church Council President



Greetings from your president.

What a great way to start off the 25-26 education year here at Grace Lutheran with the Sunday School Rally Day! Thank you to all that had a hand in planning the events, activities and for all those who attended. We also welcomed several new members into our congregation. I tend to think that pot luck should be a regular event! Confirmation has begun as well as adult Bible study and Junior and Senior Frogs. Thank you to all those who are involved in any way.

Sometime in October we will find out how much we have to distribute from the fair stand proceeds. Then at our November council meeting we will allocate those to different organizations. So, if you have any suggestions please let any one of your council members know so that we can include them.

Pastor Henrique will be gone November 11 to December 2 on his annual trip to Liberia. So, please pray for him that he may have a safe trip and complete some more of his mission work. Pastor Lon Kvanli will be with us the first Sunday and Larry Poppens will speak to us the second Sunday. The third Sunday is still open so if you have ever had the itching to lead a service, here is your chance!

I'm actually preparing this a few weeks early, as I will be somewhere between Montana and home when this is sent out. I was blank at first as to what I should write about. As I was going over my list and beginning to pack, I wanted to make sure I was prepared for my trip and anything that may arise during my time away. It made me think of Matthew 24:42 which reads "So be prepared, for you don't know what day your Lord is coming." With my trip to Montana, I know when I am leaving and about when I will return. With the return of our Lord and Savior, we know that it will occur, but we just don't know when.

To prepare for this we must daily pray, study God's word and live the way he requires us to. If something arises on one of my hunting trips and I'm not prepared, the odds are that I will survive and I probably won't let it happen again. I get a second chance. When Christ returns again there are no "do overs."

So, in conclusion, ask God to help you to be prepared and also help others to be prepared by remembering that your life may be the only Bible some people read.

Your President, Joel

NEW DAWN LEARNING CENTER SCHOOL UPDATE

INSPIRE, DEVELOP, TRANSFORM

Monrovia, Liberia

The students, families, and staff at the New Dawn Learning Center are excited to begin the second school year at the facility, which opened in the fall of 2024. This happened only with the generous support from Spirit of Joy and other partners. Thank you very much for helping provide a place for these students to learn and grow in a Christ-centered environment.



For those following the progress, one physical improvement to the facility is the exterior paint on building 1, which makes for a much more inviting student arrival. Another plus is replacing bare dirt with a playground area.

The other two building sections remain much as before, with foundation and beam work completed, but no roof or interior work. The grid work is complete, ready for roofing to be funded, purchased, and installed.

The goal is to complete work on building 2 as soon as possible to give the 7th graders a designated classroom. \$22,500 is needed to complete the roofing on buildings 2 and 3, with additional funds needed to complete interior work.



In addition to funding the construction, there are many other ways to help; supporting student tuition, monthly teacher salaries, student uniforms, and school supplies. Most importantly, please keep the students and staff at the New Dawn Learning Center in your prayers as they begin the new school year.

Please remember Pastor Henrique in your prayers as he travels to Liberia in November.



New Dawn Learning Center School support team; Pastor Henrique Fleming (Grace Lutheran-Parker), Deacon Hannah Fleimng, Jane Skaar (Spirit of Joy), Elaine Roberts (Spirit of Joy), Gerry Schnabel (Grace Lutheran-Parker), Deb Van Hove (Grace Lutheran-Parker) Larry Schoeszler (Spirit of Joy)

YOUTH NEWS



We invite you to participate in helping provide a safe experience for our area trick or treaters by decorating a trunk.

Wednesday | **OCTOBER 29** | 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Grace Lutheran Church

490 E 1st Street, Parker, SD

Please contact Chrystal Schulte 605-321-1776 or Michele Nolan 712-551-6592 for more information,

Presented by Grace Lutheran and St. Christina's Youth Groups

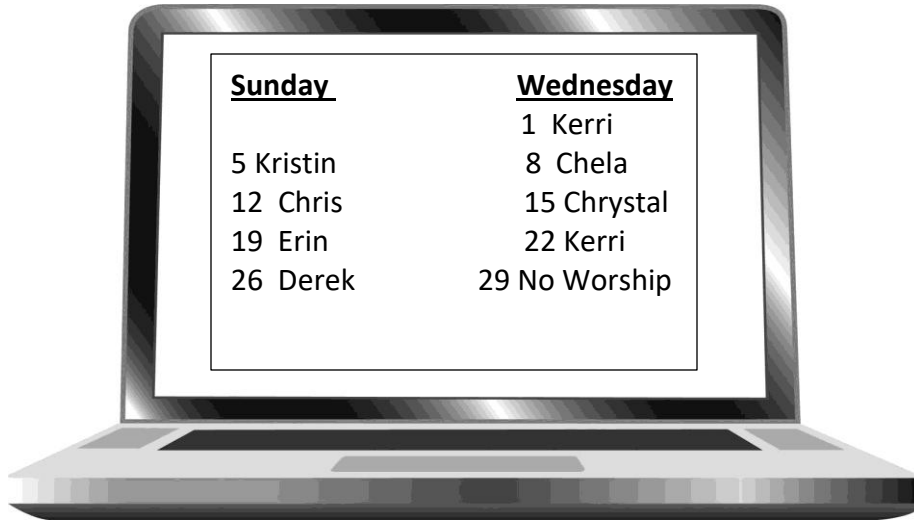
Happening at Grace



Thank you to Dave Hansen, Helping Hands in Haiti, for transporting the Faith in Action boxes to the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, Nebraska.



October AV Schedule



Sunday

5 Kristin
12 Chris
19 Erin
26 Derek

Wednesday

1 Kerri
8 Chela
15 Chrystal
22 Kerri
29 No Worship

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.

Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation Students

Communion Assistant		Acolyte	
October 1	Dawson	October 5	Blaine
October 8	Emma	October 12	Brenna
October 15	Brenna	October 19	Emma
October 22	Julian	October 26	Hudson

Religious Camp Attendees 2025

Total Campers: __15__

Swan Lake: 4

Shetek: 11

Total Expense Shetek: 3531

½ paid by Grace: \$1765.50

Total Expense Swan Lake: \$1280

½ paid by Grace: \$640

Grand Total Expense = \$4811

Grand Total Paid by Grace = \$2405.50



Parents and family joined the 3rd graders for the presentation of the bibles on Sunday, September 28.

Grace Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Council Members Present:

Joel Plucker, Missy Gillespie, Kristi Nogelmeier, Derrek Sattler, Jim Johnson, Pastor Henrique, Marci Leberman, Kaylyn Andersen

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Joel Plucker.

2. Devotion

- Led by Pastor Henrique.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Treasurer's Report

- July and August benevolence will be paid in August.
- Motion to approve by Jim, seconded by Derrek.
- Motion carried – all aye.

5. Secretary's Report

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

6. Pastor's Report

- Confirmation orientation scheduled for August 27.
- First Confirmation on September 3.
- Motion to approve by Kaylyn, seconded by Kristi.
- Motion carried – all aye.

7. Deacons' Report

8. Board of Education Report

- Curriculum has been purchased.
- Special Backpack Blessing planned for August 17.
- Sunday School sign-up will be sent out via email.
- Planning has begun for Sunday School lesson plans.
- Jenn Wall will oversee Senior Frogs.
- Crystal Schulte will oversee Junior Frogs.

9. Trustees' Report

- Fans and window repairs are in process.
- Jim has contacted an additional individual for a window bid.

10. Congregational Input

- Items brought forward:
 - Dirt pile
 - Sanctuary fans
 - Broken window

Old Business

5. Microphone Repair – Ongoing.
6. Sidewalk – In process.
7. Church Sign Inserts – Tabled.
8. Church T-Shirts – Tabled until 2026; will follow up with Sara C about design.
9. Property Insurance – Council agreed better coverage is available with updated stipulations based on the year built; recommendation is to continue with the current policy.
10. Kathy McHenry / Endowment Committee – Meeting scheduled for September 21.

New Business

7. New Member Sunday / Rally Sunday – Scheduled for September 7.
 - Outdoor service planned.
 - Potluck meal following service.
8. Storage Shed Placement – Approved for the southwest corner of the parking lot to minimize disruption.
9. Window Replacement Quote – Motion by Kaylyn, seconded by Derrek, to have Glass Doctors replace the Fellowship Hall window. Motion carried – all aye.
10. Sanford Falls Prevention – Council decided to decline offering at this time due to extensive paperwork and legal responsibilities.
11. Security System & Key Fobs – System will be reprogrammed; new key fobs will be issued to Madison and Pastor.
12. Next Council Meeting – Scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2025.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Kaylyn, seconded by Marci.
- Motion carried – all aye.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT 8/1/2025-8/31/2025

INCOME:	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
101 General Offering	\$10,695.58	\$83,514.37
102 Envelope Offering	\$2,040.00	\$11,830.00
103 Quarterly Offering	\$1,620.00	\$9,265.00
104 Lenten Offering		\$4,273.00
109 Camper Savings		
202 Use of Building		
203 Misc. Income		\$107.77
205 Thrivent	\$0.00	\$549.00
208 Amazon Smile		
219 Transfer from Building Fund		
TOTAL INCOME:	✓ \$14,355.58 ✓	\$109,539.14

SUMMARY GENERAL CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2025	✓ \$6,125.77
Total Income	✓ \$109,539.14
Total Expenses	✓ \$112,068.12
Ending Balance	✓ \$3,596.79

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	\$12,194.00	\$25.00	\$11,745.02
August	\$14,355.58	\$0.00	\$11,778.51
September			
October			
November			
December			
Total	✓ \$108,882.37 ✓	\$656.77 ✓	\$112,068.12

SAVINGS / OTHER ACCOUNT BALANCES:

First Savings Campers Savings	\$4,927.41
First Savings Building Fund Savings	\$51,081.58
First Savings Bank Money Market	\$3,431.09
River's Edge Bank CD	\$43,155.97

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>revised Budget</u>
301 Pastor Salary/Benefits/Pension	\$4,500.01	\$34,855.08	\$54,000.00
302 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$1,575.00	\$12,600.00	\$18,300.00
303 Employer Paid Pension/Retirement	\$653.38	\$4,577.86	\$7,848.00
304 Pastor SECA Allowance	\$464.75	\$3,743.24	\$5,577.00
305 Pastor Car Allowance	\$0.00	\$764.26	\$2,000.00
307 Employer Paid Pastor Insurance - Health & Benefits	\$1,770.70	\$12,394.90	\$21,000.00
308 Pastor Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
320 Custodian	\$124.67	\$1,640.37	\$7,000.00
321 Organist	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,560.00
322 Secretary	\$587.35	\$6,501.44	\$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	\$986.99	\$2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-SALARIES/BENEFITS:	\$9,676.46	\$79,269.66	\$138,385.00

EXPENSES: BUILDING & GROUNDS	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>revised Budget</u>
401 Snow Removal	\$0.00	\$394.00	\$2,500.00
402B Natural Gas	\$12.74	\$1,989.45	\$3,000.00
405 Electricity and Water	\$386.53	\$2,801.38	\$4,750.00
407 Insurance	\$0.00	\$6,020.73	\$10,000.00
408 Misc. Bldg. & Grnd. Exp.	\$0.00	\$9,090.62	\$5,000.00
409 Piano Tuning	\$89.62	\$0.00	\$175.00
409A Organ Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
413 State Farm - Workmen's Comp.	\$0.00	\$357.98	\$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:	\$488.89	\$21,272.17	\$32,325.00

EXPENSES: CHURCH PROGRAMS	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>revised Budget</u>
502 Bible Camp Sponsorships	\$0.00	\$640.00	\$1,100.00
503 Offering Envelopes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
504 Confirmation Expense	\$0.00	\$761.01	\$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	\$0.00	\$335.80	\$4,000.00
512 Bank Service Charges	\$17.95	\$143.60	\$250.00
517 Bibles for 3rd Graders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
519 Postage	\$0.00	\$198.60	\$400.00
524 Lenten Meals	\$0.00	\$551.32	\$1,200.00
526 High School Graduate Gifts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-CHURCH PROGRAMS:	\$17.95	\$3,230.33	\$10,200.00

EXPENSES: MISSIONS/BENEVOLENCES	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>revised Budget</u>
602 Augustana PACT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
603 ELCA Benevolence	\$1,000.00	\$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-MISSIONS:	\$1,000.00	\$4,027.60	\$8,400.00

EXPENSES: OFFICE	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>revised Budget</u>
701 Copier Lease	\$0.00	\$1,334.12	\$2,000.00
702 Bulletins and Inserts	\$292.20	\$1,388.78	\$2,000.00
703 Church Office Phone/Internet	\$104.28	\$1,094.60	\$1,500.00
704 Office Supplies	\$198.73	\$450.86	\$300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES - OFFICE:	\$595.21	\$4,268.36	\$6,400.00

GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$11,778.51	\$112,068.12	\$195,710.00
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