

GRACE

for the moment

The Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

September 2026



September Worship

Sundays:
9am

Wednesdays
Time to be
determined

Sunday School

10am
Sunday School will
begin on
September 13



Sunday, September 20

8:30 am Donuts and Coffee
9:00 am Outdoor Worship
10:30am Potluck Meal

You are welcome to bring your
outdoor folding chairs and blankets
for the Outdoor service.

Please bring a dish to share
for the potluck meal.

Fair Stand was a Success!

Thank you to all the many volunteers that made the 2026 Fair Stand a success. We had another successful year that included great comradery and teamwork while providing family friendly food options at the Turner County Fair. Please look for financial information in the coming newsletters.

Fair Stand Committee



PO Box 667 490 E. 1st St. Parker SD 57053
605-297-4417

gracelutheranparkersd@gmail.com

www.gracelutheranparker.co

Message from Tristin Plenis, Church Council President



Greetings Grace Lutheran!

What a busy and wonderful summer.

First and foremost THANK YOU to all volunteers and committee members on another amazing year of the Fair Stand. It warms my heart every time I see everyone working together and having fun. It is such a joy to see the success, so thank you so much for sharing your time with us!

Council and I have been busy working behind the scenes getting Pastor Lon our interim pastor, here while we begin our call process. I am so very grateful to have him and his wife Heidi join us this year. It will be a huge blessing for us to have a consistent, positive & devoted Pastor as we begin our call process for our next journey.

Through speaking with Pastor Lon he will be covering Sunday worship, confirmation class & Wednesday night worship consistently. He will also have some office hours and will of course be there in times of need for those needing pastoral care. I'm so grateful this came to us as soon as it did, and I thank Bishop for helping find offers for our next steps. They will start with us September 8th and will be with us until spring and then will return to their lake home up north.

Please give them a warm Grace welcome, and be at peace knowing we are covered until spring.

Call committee is next on the list. We will be voting on all applicants at our next council meeting and I will make you aware of the seven that were chosen. Thank you to all who have offered, every voice matters and every experience matters. I look forward to seeing who/what God brings!

We look forward to Rally Sunday and Stewardship Sunday coming here in the next weeks. I would like to thank Chela for all her care and work for Rally Sunday, and Marci for all her work leading up to stewardship Sunday! One of the greatest blessings of working on council is seeing all the amazing gifts people bring for the greater good of Grace. We are truly blessed with a wonderful church family!

As always, reach out to me with any questions or concerns as we navigate these next months! Thank you for your patience and understanding as council and I work out all the details to come!

Blessings on the end of summer, and I know I'm looking forward to some cooler temps! Thank you for being here with us, and I'm so grateful for all of you!

Tristin

Sunday, August 16

We celebrated Pastor Henrique's Ministry with Cake and Fellowship



**We prepared potato salad and cut pies for the Church Fair Stand-
"many hands make work light"**



More pictures of making potato salad



The dressing for the potato salad



Pictures from the Church Fair Stand



Happening at Grace

Senior Frogs

Wednesday, September 16
at 7pm

Dinner provided

Come see what the group is all
about!



Update from Lavonne Meyer

Fall is coming and it's time to start working on our projects again.

This year, we will meet on the **2nd Monday** of each month at 1:00pm, so the first work day will be Monday, September 14. I hope you can join us as we connect with each other and connect with those in need.

Sewing skills are not necessary!

Junior Frogs

August Kickoff Recap

Our Junior Frogs officially kicked off the new season this August with a fantastic evening at the pool park! The kids gathered for supper and joined in a lively desert-journey wildlife game. To simulate the Israelites 40-year journey through the wilderness, the kids had to travel around the park stepping only on cut-out feet footprints while gathering hidden rubber ducks along the way.

September Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 9: Skit Practice

Sunday, September 13: Skit Performance during Morning Worship

Sunday September 13: Host Coffee & Cookies following Worship (Reminder: Each child is asked to bring 2 dozen cookies to share) Wednesday

September 23: Skit Presentation at Messy Church





**Join us for Lunch and BINGO
on Tuesday, September 22 at
the Parker Senior Center.**

Lunch begins at 11:30
and BINGO will follow.
Call **605-297-0176** by
September 21 to sign up
for the meal.

Sponsored by Faith In Action of Grace
Lutheran.



September AV Schedule-

Sunday

September 6 Chela
September 13 Chris
September 20 Derek
September 27 Kristen



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

Mailing Address for Grace Lutheran Church

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

Weekly Worship Helpers:

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

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

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.



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.



Stewardship Sunday — September 20

The church council has been working on plans for Stewardship Sunday which will be September 20th. During the next 4 weeks we will focus on what stewardship is and how we can be good stewards.

So what does stewardship really mean?

The definition of stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to our care.

As members of Grace Lutheran Church, God has entrusted each of us with gifts, talents, time, resources, and opportunities. Stewardship is about how we choose to use those gifts to care for one another, to care for our church, and to share God's love with our community. Along with many of you, I recently attended the funeral of a long-time Grace Lutheran Church member, Ron Nelson. As I sat there and witnessed that celebration of Ron's life, something that I already knew became even more apparent to me: Ron was an amazing steward of this church.

Watching the slideshow that was played at the beginning of his service, many of the pictures included happenings here at Grace Lutheran. Emphasizing the importance of this church in his life. Ron didn't just attend Grace Lutheran. He was invested in it.

He gave his time. He gave his talents. He gave of himself. He was someone who cared about this congregation and wanted to see it continue to be a place where people could worship, gather, serve, and feel that they belonged.

I have been a member here at Grace for over 28 years, a newbie compared to a lot of you. I've had the pleasure of working alongside many of you who exemplify what stewardship is all about.

You've watched this church change. You've seen people come and go. You've celebrated baptisms, confirmations, weddings and anniversaries. You've mourned the loss of people you loved. You've watched children grow up and you've welcomed new people into this church family.

I think being part of a church family is about more than just Sunday mornings. To me, it's about finding ways to be connected and invested in the life of the church and in the people around us.

I've found that the things I get the most out of are the things where I take the time to be involved — whether that's singing in the choir, church council, spending time with people here, or being part of something that benefits our community.

We each have different gifts. We each have different abilities. We each have different amounts of time and different resources.

Continues on the following page...

Stewardship Sunday continued...

We don't all have to give the same thing. We just have to be willing to give what we have.

And yes, part of stewardship is also sharing our financial resources. Our church needs those resources to keep the lights on, pay the bills, maintain our building, support our ministries and continue the work God has given us to do.

As we approach Stewardship Sunday on September 20, we're going to have some opportunities for all of us to think about our gifts and blessings and to celebrate what Grace Lutheran means to us.

Think about the people who walked through these doors years ago and helped make Grace Lutheran what it is today.

And think about what this church might mean to someone who hasn't even walked through our doors yet.

I want to encourage each of us, between now and September 20, to focus on the blessings and gifts in our lives. Be grateful for them.

Just as Ron Nelson gave so much of himself to Grace Lutheran, each of us has an opportunity to help carry this church forward.

And someday, years from now, I hope we can look back and feel proud of what we did together—knowing that we cared for this church, invested in its future, and were good stewards of all that had been entrusted to us.

Thank you,

Marci Leberman, church council member



Mark your calendars for our next Messy Church event on September 23rd, offering a unique blend of worship and fellowship. This month, our theme centers on the wilderness periods in our lives when we feel struggling or alone. Enjoy dinner, treats, crafts, and activities—including decorating birdhouses!

Please RSVP using the link, QR code, or sign-up sheets in the Narthex. If you would like to help, you can also sign up to volunteer using the yellow sheets on the bulletin board at church. We look forward to seeing you at Messy Church!

News from the Holy Playground



Over the summer, we've been busy updating our spaces to help everyone—from our youngest worshippers to adults—engage more deeply during our time together.

For the Children

We introduced new tools and toys to keep little hands and minds active in ways that work best for them. Busy bags for worship now feature Bible action figures—including Moses, Jonah, Daniel, and David with Goliath—paired with books already in our library. In the sensory bin, you will now find a

Galilean boat complete with Jesus and all 12 disciples. We also swapped our traditional paper children's bulletins for durable, menu-style activity sheets paired with dry-erase markers for reusable fun. For older children, we added comic book-style selections from The Action Bible series to the bookshelf in the Narthex.

For Adults and Teens

Adults, older children, and teens seeking a bit more complexity during service can now find a dedicated bin of coloring books, markers, and sermon notes on the table. A new basket filled with stickers and motivational cards is also available to share. We always welcome your feedback on these updates and would love to hear what else you would like to see. For our note-takers, we are hoping to add a station for Bible notations in the future with highlighters, pens and note paper.

For Everyone

Because our core goal is building relationships, we purchased new games and conversation-starter books for our fellowship times. Please take advantage of these in the fellowship hall during our gatherings. We want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported the Holy Playground through your encouragement and creative ideas. It has been truly heartwarming to see this community actively identifying ways to weave intergenerational relationships into the core culture here at Grace Lutheran Church.

From the Board of Education

Kick Off a New Sunday School Year!

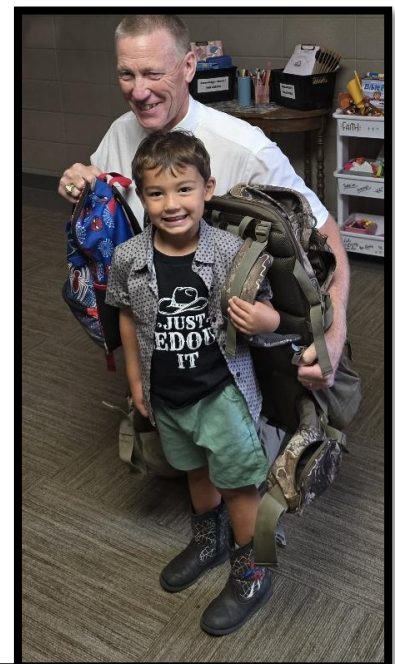
Autumn is right around the corner, and our Christian education programs are gearing up for an exciting season of faith, fellowship, and learning. Mark your calendars for Rally Day on September 13th, marking the official first day of Sunday School. We invite all children from preschool (aged 3) through 4th grade to join us for a celebration featuring a bouncy house and ice cream treats.

To help us prepare for classes, please register your children online or fill out a physical form in the narthex. We are also actively seeking passionate teachers and Sunday school helpers to support our classrooms. Volunteer sign-ups are likewise available online and in the narthex. Remember, we will be having lessons during worship this fall and activities during normal Sunday school hour.

Following our kickoff, we warmly welcome all Sunday school children and their families to our outdoor worship and stewardship Sunday on September 20th, where we will celebrate our church family outdoors together.

Later in the month, on Sunday, September 27th, we will continue a cherished tradition by presenting Bibles to our 3rd graders during worship. If your child is in 3rd grade this year, please notify the Board of Education right away so we can prepare a Bible for them.

Finally, our September fishbowl offering will support LuMin-The Hills Lutheran campus ministry at Black Hills State University, helping sustain this vital outreach to college students. We look forward to a blessed and vibrant month ahead!



Photos: from blessings of the backpacks on August 23rd. Joel shared some fancy hunting backpacks for those that didn't bring one!

The following Treasurer's Report was approved at the 8/12/2026 council meeting.

*****Kristi transferred the \$3,500 back to the building fund!**

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT 7/1/2026-7/31/2026

INCOME:	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
101 General Offering	\$8,888.83	\$63,097.71
102 Envelope Offering	\$8,300.00	\$19,115.00
103 Quarterly Offering	\$3,025.00	\$21,780.00
104 Lenten Offering		\$2,625.00
109 Camper Savings		
202 Use of Building		
203 Misc. Income		\$650.52
205 Thrivent	\$0.00	\$851.00
208 Amazon Smile		
219 Transfer from Building Fund		\$3,500.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$20,213.83	\$111,619.23

SUMMARY GENERAL CHECKING:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2026	\$4,329.47
Total Income	\$111,619.23
Total Expenses	\$105,541.79
Ending Balance	\$10,406.91

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	\$20,213.83	\$0.00	\$15,362.59
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
Total Monthly Offering	\$106,617.71	\$5,001.52	\$105,541.79

OTHER ACCOUNT BALANCES:

First Savings Campers Savings	\$4,775.43
First Savings Building Fund Savings	\$48,845.88
First Savings Bank Money Market	\$3,435.39
River's Edge Bank CD	\$42,849.95

Kristi Nogelmeier, Treasurer

EXPENSES: SALARIES/BENEFITS	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
301 Pastor Salary/Benefits/Pension	\$9,613.93	\$34,645.49	\$54,000.00
302 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$1,565.00	\$10,965.00	\$18,900.00
303 Employer Paid Pension/Retirement	\$653.98	\$5,231.84	\$7,500.00
304 Pastor SECA Allowance	\$466.66	\$3,264.71	\$5,600.00
305 Pastor Car Allowance	\$118.18	\$1,106.79	\$2,000.00
307 Employer Paid Pastor Insurance - Health & Benefits	\$658.26	\$12,613.38	\$22,000.00
308 Pastor Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
320 Custodian/320A Contract Cleaning Co	\$0.00	\$1,811.94	\$7,000.00
321 Organist	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,560.00
322 Secretary	\$675.08	\$6,911.71	\$12,000.00
323 Groundskeeper	\$0.00	\$292.60	\$3,000.00
325 Sub Pastor	\$323.10	\$323.10	\$2,000.00
326 FICA Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,036.02	\$2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-SALARIES/BENEFITS:	\$14,074.19	\$78,702.58	\$139,060.00
EXPENSES: BUILDING/GROUNDS	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
401 Snow Removal	\$0.00	\$801.00	\$2,500.00
402B Natural Gas	\$12.74	\$1,742.86	\$3,000.00
405 Electricity and Water	\$460.15	\$3,040.54	\$4,750.00
407 Insurance	\$0.00	\$6,541.73	\$12,500.00
408 Misc. Bldg. & Grnd. Exp.	\$87.13	\$1,251.07	\$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	\$405.00	\$850.00
415 Audio Visual Expenses	\$0.00	\$266.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES-BUILDING & GROUNDS:	\$560.02	\$14,048.20	\$29,975.00
EXPENSES: CHURCH PROGRAMS	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
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	\$18.53	\$1,077.76	\$2,500.00
512 Bank Service Charges	\$17.95	\$107.70	\$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	\$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:	\$36.48	\$3,093.83	\$10,000.00
EXPENSES: MISSIONS/BENEVOLENCES	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
602 Augustana PACT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
603 ELCA Benevolence	\$500.00	\$3,500.00	\$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	\$5,178.40	\$8,700.00
EXPENSES: OFFICE	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
701 Copier Lease	\$0.00	\$1,106.40	\$2,600.00
702 Bulletins and Inserts	\$0.00	\$1,418.83	\$2,000.00
703 Church Office Phone/Internet	\$163.50	\$1,565.72	\$2,000.00
704 Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$399.43	\$750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES - OFFICE:	\$163.50	\$4,490.38	\$7,350.00
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$15,362.59	\$105,513.39	\$195,085.00

The following Meeting Minutes were approved at the 8/12/2026 council meeting.

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Members' Present

Shelly Paynter, Tristen Plenis, Lori Jones, Chela Bolte, Marci Lebeman, Bill Leberman, Jim Johnson, Kristi Nogelmeier, Ashlynn Wildeboer, and Kaylyn Andersen

Call to Order

Tristen Plenis called the meeting to order.

Devotion

Approval of Agenda

Bill Leberman made a motion to approve the agenda. Kristi Nogelmeier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports

Secretary's Report

Marci Lebeman made a motion to approve the Secretary's Report. Lori Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Deacon's Report

- Worship music has been selected through the month of July.

Board of Education Report

- Rally Sunday is scheduled for September 13, 2026.
- The Christmas Program will be held on December 20, 2026.

Trustees' Report

Marci Lebeman made a motion to approve the Trustees' Report. Shelly Paynter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Workers' Compensation was paid and was a larger expense for the month of June.
- The \$3,500 borrowed from the Building Fund has not yet been repaid due to consistently low operating funds.

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

Pastor's Report

- No report.

Congregational Input

- Steve and Deone Christensen requested permission to use the two projectors from the music room for spare parts. Bill Leberman made a motion to approve, Lori Jones seconded. Motion carried.

Ongoing Business

Curtains

- The project remains ongoing.

Parking Lot Pavement

- Five bids have been received.
- Bill Leberman made a motion, seconded by Kaylyn Andersen, to move forward with a congregational meeting to discuss proceeding with the bid from Alpha Asphalt. Motion passed with 9 in favor and 1 opposed.

Welcoming New Member Ideas

- Tabled.

Custodian

- A revised schedule has been established to accommodate the summer schedule and the fair.

Door Locks

- This project has been completed.

Stewardship Sunday

- The council will be working with the Synod on suggestions.

New Business

Calling Process

- The bishop has agreed to come for a meeting.
- Representatives from all age groups will be included.
- Tristen Plenis made a motion, seconded by Kristi Nogelmeier, to begin collecting names for the Call Committee. Motion carried.

Holy Playground

- The altar ramp has been received.

Adjournment

Marci Lebeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kaylyn Andersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.