

“Abiding in Christ through grace, we are gathered to grow and sent to serve.”

Notes of Grace

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Brownton, Minnesota

November 2019

November Servants

Acolyte

- 3 Ava Waller
- 10 Kaden Wendlandt
- 17 Sydney Harpel
- 24 Baylee Hahn
- 27 (Thanks Eve) Youth Group

Communion

Michelle Gens

Altar Guild

Cheryl Schwarze

Ushers

- 3 Jeff & Shannon Streich,
Oather & Sandy Martin
- 10 Diana Lindeman &
Sherry Husske
- 17 Brad & Karla Trettin,
Rory & Mae Hansch
- 24 Keith & Jane Tongen,
Sarah & Louise Tongen
- 27 (Thanks Eve) Youth Group

Readers

- 3 Kerry Ward
- 10 Keith Tongen
- 17 Steffie Gronlund
- 24 Joyce Peterson
- 27 (Thanks Eve) Youth Group

Greeters

- 3 David & Sharon Carrigan
- 10 Norm & Cheryl Schwarze
- 17 Ben & Gloria Schuft
- 24 Darrell & Michelle Gens
- 27 (Thanks Eve) Larry & Jeanette
Tongen

Special Congregational Meeting Nov. 3

To vote on calling a Pastor

The Church Council has set a **special Congregational Meeting for November 3** after the 8:45 a.m. worship service to vote on a Pastoral call for Grace Lutheran. The council enthusiastically received the recommendation of the Call Committee at a special council meeting on October 13 and has recommended we move forward with a vote to call this Pastor to serve our congregation. Because of confidentiality regarding the candidate no additional information will be available before the meeting on Nov. 3. Specific details will be presented before the vote. You must be present to vote. The Grace constitution requires at least two-thirds of the members present and voting be in favor of extending the call. Please continue to pray for God's guidance as we and the candidate consider this call.

“Trick or Treat” on Sunday, Nov 3

On Sunday, November 3 youth are encouraged to wear their friendly Halloween costumes for Church and Sunday School. Adults are asked to bring treats to give our Halloween guests as they walk through the Fellowship room during coffee time. (For those young at heart, feel free to wear a friendly Halloween costume if you want.)



Thanksgiving Eve Worship on Nov 27 at 7 p.m.

There will be a Thanksgiving Eve worship at 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 27 at Grace. The offering that evening will be going to ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

RAISE THE ROOF PROJECT UPDATE

Project Costs (Work complete and bills paid)	\$45,101.68
Funds Raised as of 9/30/19	\$25,457.00
Loan Balances as of 9/30/19	\$30,642.22
Funds Needed To be raised	\$9,633.54

Thank you to everyone who helped contribute their time, talents and monies to get this project to a successful finish despite the uncooperative weather! The congregation has really pulled together to get to the results shown above! We have a beautiful new roof over the church, bell tower and shed. Thank you to the contractors of KWAM Construction for doing such a quality job! We hope to have another \$1,500 transferred over from the General Fund to the Building Fund by the end of the year and apply \$10,000 from a maturing CD in Jan. 2020.. Now our next step is to pay back the loans starting this month.

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Abiding in Christ through grace, we are gathered to grow and sent to serve.

September 11, 2019

Attending: Pastor Linda Pedersen, Nancy Deppe, Michelle Gens, Oather Martin, Jan Messner, Tim Olson, Vicki Schlenner, Ben Schuft, Dave Wendlandt and Keith Tongen.

Absent: None

President: Jan Messner called the meeting to order.

Devotions/Bible Study & Prayer - Pastor Linda led devotions and prayer. Council members were asked to tell whom has been influential in their Faith Journey.

Treasurer's Report:

- 1) Treasurer Nancy Deppe provided August and September financials.
- 2) General Fund Checking: \$3809.51 as of August 31, 2019. \$9377.80 as of September 30, 2019.
- 3) Memorial Fund Checking: \$3529.30 as of August 31, 2019. \$3531.03 as of September 30, 2019.
- 4) Building Fund Checking: \$10,745.72 as of August 31, 2019. \$7,761.65 as of September 30, 2019.
- 5) Building Fund Certificate of Deposit: \$10,000 as of August 31, 2019 and September 30, 2019.
- 6) Memorial Fund Certificate of Deposit: \$20,000 as of August 31, 2019 and September 30, 2019.
- 7) Total Contributions and Other Income: \$71,748.22 through August 31, 2019. \$84,525.50 through September 30, 2019.
- 8) Total Operating Expenditures: \$108,755.34 through August 31, 2019. \$119,046.65 through September 30, 2019.
- 9) M/S/C to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Secretary's Report: Following amending the Treasurer's Report to read: No Treasurer's Report was given due to transition of Treasurer. M/S/C to approve the September 11, 2019 minutes.

Correspondence:

- 1) Green Lake Ministries - requesting additional and on-going support.
- 2) ELCA World Hunger - asking for support. It was M/S/C to give Thanksgiving Eve offering in 2019 and also a special "Souper Bowl" offering in 2020 to this appeal.
- 3) A Thank You card was sent to Congregational Church-Brownton for advertising our Fall Festival, as well as other community announcements on their electronic message board.

Pastor's Report:

- 1) Pastor's Calendar of September and early October was presented.
- 2) Pastor Linda Pedersen gave a report on the Fall Theological Conference she attended October 7-8.
- 3) Pastor Linda and husband Dave will be presenting a Marriage Encounter Weekend and will not be able to conduct services on October 20. Pastor Mahlon Bekedam of St Paul's- Stewart will be guest Pastor that day.
- 4) Requested Vacation-October 29-November 1 (week days). Confirmation class may be subject to change that week.
- 5) In regards to possible leave of duties for Church Secretary Sarah Tongen (maternity), Pastor Linda will take care of bulletins and Dave Pedersen will take care of November newsletter.
- 6) Bridge Interim contract will expire on November 6, 2019. M/S/C to extend contact for one month.

Calendar:

- 1) Oct 12- WELCA Fall Gathering, Scandian Grove, St Peter.
- 2) Oct 20- Hymn Sing at Winthrop Evangelical Covenant Church (sponsored by Winthrop ministerial) 6:30 p.m.
- 3) Oct 27- 9th Grade Confirmation Sunday
- 4) Nov 3- All-Saints Sunday
- 5) Nov 22-23- Jr High Youth Gathering in Willmar.
- 6) Nov 27- Thanksgiving Eve Service (offering to ELCA World Hunger).
- 7) Dec 7- Grace WELCA Guest Day

Old Business

- 1) Fall Festival - 313 meals served. \$3,528.75 net profit. Detailed notes were printed and recorded into Fall Festival file folder. Tickets will be revised for 2020.
- 2) Quilt raffle - \$518 was raised.
- 3) Raise the Roof- Job is now complete, total bill was \$45,101.68. This amount includes the reroofing of the garage. \$26,722.26 has been raised so far. Loan repayments of \$3830.28 to the two lenders are scheduled to begin Oct 15, 2019.
- 4) Kunkel Electric Inc- Installed new LED lights for roof cross. \$698.04

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- 5) Zeigler Seamless Rain gutters- Replaced storm damaged rain gutters. \$600.00 (\$1265.26 was received from insurance).
- 6) Vinyl Fence Company- \$159.97 for Church sign posts damaged by wind storm.
- 7) Call Committee Update- met for second time with candidate on October 9, 2019. Pastor Linda explained the process of making a call happen when that time comes.
- 8) Lutheran Study Bibles and Handbooks for Confirmation- have been purchased and will be paid from general fund. \$228.00

New Business:

Policy of handling the church offering was reviewed.

Cake and flowers need to be ordered for Confirmation. Vickie Schlenner will take care of this.

Snow Plowing- After a brief discussion it was decided to try to handle snow plowing with volunteers who wish to help.

Committee and Group Reports:

Stewardship Committee met and will do two presentations in November (dates yet to be determined).

Nominating Committee- Jan Messner, Oather Martin Jr, and Dave Wendlandt will be looking for candidates for various positions.

Next Meeting: 7 p.m. November 12, 2019

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Keith Tongen, Secretary

Word from the Pastor

The month of November brings to mind gratitude. Of course it is the month in America that we celebrate Thanksgiving and the emphasis is on counting our blessings. Traditionally, the harvest is complete and we are more aware of the blessings God has poured out for us in the bounty of the harvest from the fields that surround us, especially here in Southwestern Minnesota. This year we hope the harvest will be complete by Thanksgiving.

We at Grace can also express gratitude for the work of our Call Committee and their search for a called Pastor to join us soon. We are hopeful this will bring to a close our time with interim pastors like myself and Pastor Leonard Hummel. Although I trust we have been grateful for the service of these "temporary servants" I am also aware it is not the same as a settled pastor who we look forward to getting to know.

But gratitude for me goes beyond these particular November emphasis. It is an attitude for living every day. An attitude that puts God's blessings in ourselves first. This attitude seems to go counter cultural to the world we live in. By that I mean a world that emphasized not what I have but rather what more I need to be happy.

As Christians let us not be fooled by a message of "not enough" but rejoice in a message of abundance. God has promised to provide all that we need. With an attitude of gratitude we can be generous and celebrate God's goodness for us and others. The next time you are asked, "How are you?" Give this answer- "grateful" and watch how it changes you and the people around you.

Pastor Linda Pedersen

Holy Communion schedule change

Holy Communion will be served on Sunday, November 17 instead of the fourth Sunday of the month. This change is only for November. On November 24 our worship leaders will be from our Grace Women's Group and they will be receiving their annual Thankoffering.

Welcome Taelynn Grace

Congratulations to Sarah Tongen and Randy Braun on the birth of Taelynn Grace on Oct. 24. We pray God's blessing on this family as they grow in faith.

Partnership can collection

The Minnesota Valley Conference mission partnership with South Africa no longer is collecting clothes with funds going to food packs in the Vryheid Circuit. In its place is the collection of aluminum cans, which can be stored in the church garage. This is on-going so bring tall kitchen bags with draw strings any time. Information: Oather Martin (320-583-9011).

Youth Group Thanksgiving Service

The youth group will usher for the Thanksgiving Eve service at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27. Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the service.

WELCA General Meeting

October 13, 2019

Meeting was called to order with 11 women present. Secretary's report was read and approved. Treasurer Report: A balance of \$2,717.85

Old Business

Fall Festival – Country Store brought in \$544.10 and Basket Raffle \$555.10.

Mary and Jackie Bullert along with Jane and Louis Tongen will be taking responsibility of Country Store.

They will continue to work on a price list and a possible list of creative things that have been donated. Thank You to everyone who helped and or donated. Thank You to Audrey Tongen for all her years of volunteering in our Country Store.

We did not have any Summer Camp Scholarship's this year.

Fall Gathering: Six members from Grace attended. In Kind Offering: Personal care kits– We discussed how and when we would do this project. It was decided "after the holidays." We also discussed making Walker bags for collection at Synod Convention. All of this was tabled for after the Holidays.

New Business

Donations for the Year will be as follows totaling \$1,500

GIVING TREE- \$75

MCLEOD ALLIANCE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE- \$50

COMMON CUP- \$100

BROWNTON NUTRITION CENTER—\$100

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES- \$100

MCLEOD COUNTY FOOD SHELF- \$100

HEARTLAND ENERGY- \$50

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF- \$50

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY- \$50

NOAH'S ARK SCHOLARSHIP FUND- \$200

MCLEOD COUNTY HOSPICE- \$125

CHURCH ROOF- \$500

Thank Offering Service is November 24. Envelopes will be placed in mail boxes. We will have a walking offering. Joyce Peterson will do the service parts of the service will be from on line guide lines. Volunteers will read and help with service. Ileen Penk has volunteered to help.



Guest Day is Saturday December 7. Ardis Waller will do the program "Heavenly Lights & Earthly Sounds." Group 2 is serving. Mary Bullert is organizing a Thrivent card that will be applied for to help with expenses. Invitations will be sent out to area churches this week.

We will purchase two Poinsettias. Joyce Peterson will get those for us.

Christmas basket for our shut-ins will be made up by Vonnie Schuett and Gloria Schuft with volunteer's to help or to deliver. There was discussion of doing more for our shut-ins. Gloria sends a card on their Birthdays.

Quilts for Graduates: We have three seniors to make quilts for. We will need materials and a Thrivent card will be applied for. Jeans can be donated to project (no stretchy material please). The top can be cut off. They only use the legs. Jeans can be cut into squares at any time.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 All Saints Sunday 8:45 a.m. Worship/Communion (following worship) Congregational Meeting *Trick or Treat during fellowship * 10 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Choir Practice	4	5	6 4 p.m. Confirmation	7 1 p.m. Bible Study	8	9
10 8:45 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Finance Committee meets	11	12	13 4 p.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Council Meeting	14 1 p.m. Bible Study	15	16
17 8:45 a.m. Worship/Communion 10 a.m. Sunday School	18	19	20 4 p.m. Confirmation 7 p.m. Choir Practice	21 No Adult Bible Study 6 p.m. South Africa Partnership Meeting Our Saviors Fairfax	22 6 p.m. Synod Junior High Gathering in Willmar	23 Junior High Gathering ends at 11:30 a.m.
24 Womens' ThankOffering Sunday 8:45 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School	25 Deadline December Newsletter	26	27 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship (choir sings)	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30