



Philippians 4:13 & Football Playoffs

Philippians 4:13 might be the most athletic Bible verse: *I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.* Put it on a gym shirt. Put it on a locker-room wall. Get it inked on your arm.

Is St. Paul really a motivational speaker? “Not so fast” as the retired College Game Day sports commentator, Lee Corso, used to say. Why? Because Paul was not talking about winning. He was writing from prison about the Lord giving him contentment in spite of his circumstances.

Right before verse 13, he talks about how he has learned to live with plenty and not much. Well-fed and hungry. In abundance and in need. The “all things” were not what Paul could accomplish. They were all the circumstances he could endure. Paul was not saying, “Jesus gives me strength to win.” He was saying, “Jesus gives me strength even when I am out of strength!”

There is a reason why we prefer the motivational version. We would rather believe Jesus is the co-signer on our plans. Then we are in charge. Rather than trusting Jesus will still be enough when our plans fall apart.

We often take this verse to mean: Dream bigger, try harder, and Jesus will help you crush it. Paul’s version says: I’ve been hungry. I’ve had plenty. I’ve been in need. I’ve had abundance. And I have learned that my circumstances will never determine whether Christ is enough.

That works way better when....you don’t get the job. A relationship goes off the rails. The diagnosis is bad. Your prayer is not answered like you had hoped. When you lose in the football playoffs or don’t even make the playoffs. (High school football playoffs will soon be here!) Beloved in Christ, when we taught this verse to our kids in Vacation Bible School, we helped them realize that no matter what happens—Christ is enough!

Philippians 4:13 is not getting enough Christ-powered strength. It is about Christ sustaining us through all our trials and tribulations. This verse does not promise we will reach all our goals. It teaches Jesus Christ is enough!

Love them like Jesus,
><> Pastor Kevin

Serving Grace October 2026

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ~ 9:00 AM

Position	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Greeters (1)	Ann Bertolotto	Bob Tesch	Dennis Chowen	Confirmands
Ushers (4)	Russell & Patsy Lisko	Al Weidenbach and Brandon Caneva	Bonnie Lange and David Lyons	Boone and Caron Collins
Assisting Ministers	Garland Dobler	Tim Patmore	Tim Patmore	JD Williams
Lesson Reader (1)	Shirley Halverson	Tim Patmore		Confirmands
Serving Communion (1)	Mary Ellen Kreutz	Dennis Chowen & Connie Hurlburt	Madison Bestgen &	Robin Baldwin & Tessa Gunderson
*Coffee Hosts (3)	Eldon & Kathy Christians	"Thanks A Brunch Meal"		Confirmation Reception
Sunday Acolytes	Lincoln & Layton Wilson	Coral Nikkila & Kambria Meland	Braylee Blakeman & Ava Williams	Landry Wilson & Blain McGillivray

*Coffee Hosts– please bring 4 dozen cookies each, help set up, serve and clean up.
Worship helper instructions are located in the front entryway.

~ WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE ~

Position	October 7	October 14	October 21	October 28
WNL Meal Hosts	GLC Quilters	GLCW	GLC Council	Garland Dobler & Crew
Wednesday Night Acolytes	Braxten & Josslyn Bahe	Bryson Potter & Jett Leonhardt	Lincoln & Layton Wilson	Coral Nikkila & Kambria Meland

October Serving Grace Members

Aga, Karel
Bestgen, Andrew and Madison
Bunkowske, Matt & Carrie
Cammack, Calvin and Kristin
Chowen, Dennis
Erion, Linda
Fischer, Robyn
Goergen Kaylynn
Jewell, Dick and JoAnn
Johnson, Janet

Jorenson, Barney and Dawn
Karrels, Amanda
Lange, Bonnie
Mahoney, Bryan
McFarland, Ardith
Mortenson, Einar and Gail
Mullins, Darlene
Pankratz, Chris and Melissa
Pickar, Ranae

Raftevoll, Casey and Heidi
Rasmuson, Dean
Schulz, Darlene
Sjomeling, Jason and Celena
Stubstad, Carol
Walker, Paulette
Whitford, Sue
Wilson, Pete and Mikayla

Serving Grace November 2026

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ~ 9:00 AM

Serving Grace sign up board is located near the entrance of the church.
If your name is listed below, please sign up for November before October 26th.

Position	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Greeters (1)	Char Wilson	Randy Carlson			
Ushers (4)	Russell & Patsy Lisko	Al Weidenbach and Brandon Caneva	Bonnie Lange and David Lyons	Boone and Caron Collins	
Assisting Ministers	Tim Patmore	Maddie Anderson	Tim Patmore	Garland Dobler	Tim Potts
Lesson Reader (1)					
Serving Communion	Bonnie Lange	Darlene Mullins	Terri Huntley		
*Coffee Hosts (3)				Thanksgiving Meal No Coffee Hour	
Sunday Acolytes	Beckem Pudwill & Rye Gunderson	Christian Pankratz, Eekiah Beug & Brennan Aldren	Blaisely Haugen & Cassidee McPherson	Lincoln & Layton Wilson	Coral Nikkila & Kambria Meland

Avery, Dan and Dadra
Bauer, Diane
Berg, Randy and Connie
Brunner, Mildred
Caneva, Brandon
Haugen, Tyler and Dee
Huiner, Greg and Cherie
Kelly, Matt and Amanda

Koontz, Chris and Shawn
Lange, Clay and Cinthia
Little, Rick and Kris
Magdanz, Thomas & Kelly
McGillivray, Brandon & Maranda
Mechling, Ruth

Mechling, Shawn
Nikkila, Doug
Norwig, Richard & Teresa
Rossow, Bill
Tebben, Jameson & Stevie
Weimer, Jan
Wiedmann, Ron and Gloria



PROJECTOR OPERATORS IN OCTOBER

1st Sunday:
2nd Sunday: Debbie Patmore
3rd Sunday: Bob Tesch
4th Sunday: Michelle Williams

ALTAR GUILD IN OCTOBER

Ann Bertolotto & Garland Dobler



"The Grace Vine" is a new article for the Grace Lutheran Newsletter. Here we have the opportunity to share news in our congregation. If you would like the congregation to share in your news please contact Lynette Kvanvig or Keri in the office.

~ Dan and Mona Zeiner would like to thank Jarred Curry for being so kind and caring to them at such a difficult time, it meant a lot. Also thank you to Pastor Kevin for his visits while Dan was in the hospital and coming to their home. P.S. Thank you Keri, David and so many others. Grace Lutheran has been a blessing for us.

~Korbin Meland, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, on September 18, 2026 after completing a 13 week training. Mom and Dad, Tessa and Chris Meland and Korbin's sisters were able to attend the graduation. After a short visit home, Korbin will continue training at the school of Infantry at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA.

~ Heidi Rafftevoid is the New ER Nurse Manager at Exceptional Community Hospital in Rapid City.



Confirmation Sunday October 25 at 9am.

Please join us as the Confirmands, JoLei Avery, Pate Gunderson, Kwynnlee Meland, Torin Monahan, Willow Nikkila, Sawyer Shryock, and Khiana Williams-Oviatt confess their faith in The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Sturgis Alliance
Of Churches

The **Alliance of Churches** exists for the purpose of working together in the Spirit of Christ to accomplish the work of Christ. We hope to give a hand – up to those in tough situations and pray that soon with our help they will become self-sufficient.

Please take a moment to pray for the Alliance of Churches. This organization exists to bring the Community together through Christ. It also gives generously to members of the community who are in need of such things as groceries, gas, utilities, prescriptions, rental assistance, and many other needs.

In 2025 the group spent approx. \$25,000 for requests. Currently there are no funds in the account to disperse. There is a fundraiser coming up October 26th. Please plan to attend! Watch for the poster.

"Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" – James 2:15-16



Kiwanis

Sturgis Golden K Annual Fall Fund Raiser

**All you can eat Hobo Stew!
Sunday October 25th 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
at the Sturgis Community Center
All proceeds benefit our local youth projects!
All tickets \$10.00**



STURGIS ALLIANCE OF CHURCHES

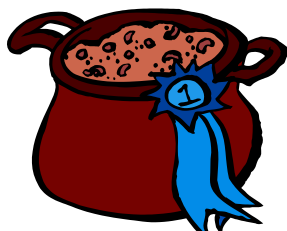
GREAT CHILI COOKOFF!!!!!!!!!!!!

MONDAY OCTOBER 26, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE CHILI WITH YOUR
GOODWILL OFFERING
DONATIONS ASSIST LOCAL FAMILIES IN CRISIS with

*FOOD UTILITIES TEMPORARY
HOUSING TRANSPORTATION*

WHERE? STURGIS COMMUNITY CENTER
CHILI, DESSERTS, DRINKS & COFFEE



2026 YEAR TO DATE

OFFERINGS

\$209,825.35

EXPENSES

\$200,899.24

BUDGET

\$192,433.36



SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE

Sundays

Sept 6 - 109

Sept 13 - 115

Sept 20 - 115

Sept 27 - 114

Wednesdays

Sept 16 - 23

Sept 23 - 29

Sept 30 -

PRAYER REQUESTS



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Dennis Johnson, Joann Danielson, Marilyn Johnson, Justin Lisko, Tim Stroschein, George Lisko, Casey Raftevoid, Marcia Potts, and Allan Collins.

On-going prayers: , David Gibson, Ted Sigman, Ken Beug, Bree Mack, Boone Collins, Ruth Mechling, Danny Chapman, Dan Zeiner, Paulette Walker, Ron Monson, Jody Wilke, Ethan Dschaak, Bud Rank, Dale Kreutz, Morgan Myers, Larry Schemmel, Ally (Tedder) Opstedahl, our homebound members and those serving In the military.



Deadline to submit items for the November, newsletter is *Monday, October 19th.*

Please send your newsletter items to Keri at gracelutheran@rushmore.com.
Let us send you an email with a link to our newsletter when it's posted to our website.
If you are interested, please send your email address to the office at:
gracelutheran@rushmore.com or call Keri at 605-347-2713.

Did you know... Our website contains the weekly worship bulletins, monthly newsletter, sermon broadcast, monthly calendar, Council and Committee minutes, and much more. For a printed copy, see the info rack at the entrance of the church.

Check it out at: www.sturgisglc.org.

See special events on Facebook.



Has your address or phone number changed?

Please let Keri know at 605-347-2713 or e-mail us at gracelutheran@rushmore.com.

LUTHERAN PLANNED GENEROSITY OF SD ANNOUNCES PAUL KNECHT AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sioux Falls, SD — September 16, 2026 — Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota (LPGSD) is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Knecht as its new Executive Director, succeeding Kathy McHenry, who is retiring after nearly ten years in the role.

“Paul brings more than 30 years of nonprofit leadership experience and a firm commitment to his faith and to the church and its ministries,” said McHenry. “I am especially grateful that the board took the time for a careful search and thoughtful transition. I look forward to seeing Paul build on LPGSD’s 40+ year history, leading it into the next chapter.”



Knecht most recently served as Executive Director of the South Dakota Dental Association and Dental Foundation, leading both organizations since 1998. A South Dakota native and graduate of SDSU, Paul is a member of Lutheran Memorial Church in Pierre. He and his wife, Kim, make their home in Pierre, South Dakota, and have two children and two grandchildren. Outside of his professional and community involvement, Paul enjoys spending time in the great outdoors, with a particular passion for upland game hunting and fly fishing.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as Executive Director of LPGSD,” said Knecht. “I look forward to getting to know the people, congregations and ministries we serve across the state and to working together to encourage faithful generosity in support of those ministries.”

McHenry will work with Knecht during the transition before officially concluding her tenure on Oct. 31.

Those interested in an introduction or conversation with Knecht may contact Bob Jensen, LPGSD Administrative Assistant, at 605.274.5030 or lpgsd@sdsynod.org.

About Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota

Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota is a ministry of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, in partnership with the ELCA Foundation, Augustana University, Luther Seminary, Lutheran Social Services, Wartburg Seminary, Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota, St. Dysmas Prison Ministries, Lutheran Campus Ministries, and Heartland Ephphatha dedicated to providing education and assistance with charitable giving and legacy planning. For more information, visit www.lpgsd.org.

Media Contact:

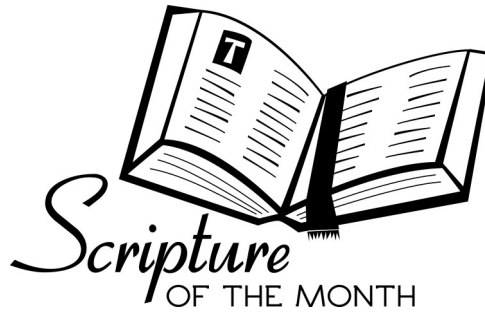
Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson
Director of Communications
South Dakota Synod, ELCA
605-274-5035
amatson@sdsynod.org
www.sdsynod.org

October 4

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14



October 18

Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9[10-13]
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

9 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS

The radio broadcast calendar for 2026 is posted on the bulletin board in the entryway of the church. You are invited to place your name on the date you wish to sponsor. You may also call the office 347-2713 to reserve a date. The cost per broadcast is \$65. Partial sponsorships are invited and encouraged.

Oct 4 - Pastor Kevin & Pastor Carla, in celebration of their 29th anniversary.

Oct 11 - Lynette Kvanvig, in loving memory of Darrel & Boyd Swenson.

Oct 18 - Diana Glover & Bonnie Lange, in loving memory of Alven "Buster" and Linda Babb.

Oct 25 - Kent and Heather Kreutz, in celebration of their anniversary.

Offering Information

Send your offering to PO Box 577,
Sturgis, SD 57785,
or drop off at the church Office
Mon - Fri 8 am - 12 pm / 1 pm - 5 pm

To Use Venmo:

1. Scan the QR code with your smartphone.
2. Login or setup your account (first time only).
3. Make your gift.



The Red Bucket Ministry For the 4th Quarter

Pine Ridge Ministry Center

Leave a donation in
the Red Bucket
located in the back of
the church and your
donation will help
their Day Center
provide a safe warm
place with food,
coffee, showers and
laundry for their local
residents in need.



CHURCH COUNCIL



Grace Lutheran Council Meeting September 3, 2026

Present: Robin Baldwin, Diana Bauer, Jarred Curry, Jeff DeKraai, Paul Haedt, Terri Huntley, Heather Kreutz, Kelly Magdanz, Debbie Patmore, Bob Tesch, Jeremy Vliem, Pastor Kevin, Pastor Carla.

Absent: Chris Pankratz, Casey Raftvold

Meeting called to order by President Tesch at 5:27 p.m.

Special guest: Deacon Jessica Newnan from Strategic Planning and Vision gave a presentation via a Zoom meeting. She spoke on three phases of the program: 1. Listen to God, 2. Focus Phase 3. Act. The program would be a year long effort to raise awareness on how to grow Grace Lutheran Church in our community. The cost of the program is \$20,000.00 plus travel and meal expenses for two trips to SD from Texas.

There were no additions or adoptions to the agenda. Motion by Debbie to accept the agenda, second by Jeff. MP

Secretary's report: approved with corrections. Pastor Kevin and Pastor Carla attended the July council meeting. Motion by Kelly to approve minutes with corrections, 2nd by Debbie. MP

Treasurer's report: was presented by Robin.

Old Business:

New Business:

- Money counters:

September 13 – Paul and Terri	Oct. 4 - Diana and Jarred
September 20 – Debbie and Diana	Oct. 11 – Terri and Debbie
September 27 – Bob and Paul	October 18 – Bob and Paul
	October 25 – Kelly and Heather
	November 1 – Debbie and Heather
- Red Bucket: Motion by Jeff to give 4th quarter Red Bucket donations to Outreach Reconciliation Center (Pastor Dan) at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. 2nd by Kelly. MP
- Picture "His Hands" donated by Lynelle Chapman. Motion by Jeff to frame and hang newspaper article about the picture on the adjacent wall by the picture. 2nd by Paul. MP
- WNL Meal September 16 will be served by Debbie, Terri, Kelly, and Diana. They will meet on Sept. 10 at 8:00 am to plan menu. Council will also serve WNL meals on Oct 21 and Nov 18.
- Pastor Carla made a motion to adjourn meeting, 2nd by Jarred. Pastor Kevin closed the meeting with prayer.

Secretary, Diana Bauer



GLCW Minutes – September 8, 2026

Deb Patmore called the meeting to order in Jesus' name. Following a devotion and singing, the minutes were approved as read. The treasurer's report showed \$13,431 income in August (including a \$200 donation for the John Lovald funeral). Expenses included a \$1,950 bill from Grocery Mart for Rally food. Courtesy Chairman Lynette Kvanvig sent 3 cards.

Old Business:

- Cindy Gehringer reported that the pie sale will be November 24, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Fruit pies will be made at the church on Monday, November 23, with pick up on Tuesday. A \$250 Thrivent grant will pay for the ingredients. All should come to assemble the pies. Cindy will send advertising to the surrounding churches and Deb will put it in the Pioneer Hills Happenings.
- The Fall Retreat is Friday and Saturday, Sept. 11-12. Marlene Kotab and Deb Patmore will attend.
- WNL begins Sept. 16. GLCW will prepare the meal on Wed., Oct. 14. All groups should record how many they serve and what food they prepare. Cindy Gehringer, Ruth Smit, and Marlene Kotab volunteered to organize, but more help is needed.
- We will finish collecting school kits in September and assemble them during the Oct. 13th GLCW meeting.

New Business:

- The downstairs kitchen will be cleaned on Tuesday, Sept. 22 beginning at 8:00 a.m. All members should plan to help.
- October will bring election of officers with new officers beginning in January of 2027. The President and Vice-President are elected annually and Secretary and Mission Growth will be elected to serve a 2-year term beginning in odd-numbered years (2027-2028). Please consider volunteering for these important positions at Grace.
- The next meeting is Oct. 13 with Pastor Carla as the hostess and Bible Study leader. We will assemble the school kits, so we need help with that project.
- The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Carla led the Bible Study and Deb and Marlene served as hostesses.

Marlene Kotab, Secretary



Worship Committee Minutes – Tuesday, September 15, 2026

The Grace Worship Committee (Candy McKay, Christian and Marlene Kotab, Pastor Kevin Jensen, and Tim Patmore) met on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting opened with a devotion and discussion about the new hymnal supplement, “All Creation Sings.”

Old Business:

- The roof repair was reviewed.
- The Back-to-School service was on August 23 with lower attendance than usual. Discussion was held about the date and the inclusion of a portion to bless the school staff and teachers.
- The first WNL is Sept. 16. Faith Journey speakers will be Bill Rossow on Sept 30, Mary Ann Stroschein on October 28, Rick Little on November 11, and a possible Camp Night on October 21.
- The Stewardship Sunday is Oct. 11 followed by the Thanks-a-Brunch.
- Confirmation is Oct. 25.
- Military Appreciation is Nov. 8.
- GLCW Thankoffering Sunday is November 15.
- Advent begins Nov. 29. We will decorate the church after the Senior Dinner on Nov. 22nd.
- The Pastors will be gone on Oct. 18. The guest pastor is Pastor Chris Lenning.
- Kris Little sent a report from the Altar Guild. A cleaning tool for the wine dispenser was purchased. Extra wafers from the Sunday service will be used for the following WNL service. Fresh wafers will be used each Sunday. The Altar Guild meeting is Tuesday, September 22 at 6 pm.

New Business:

- Families will be asked to read for Advent. The choir and congregation will sing a new Advent song – “Light of Heaven, Come.”
- Liturgies for October 4 - #10, 11 – Chosen People or a special liturgy for Consecration Sunday, 18 - #7, 25 - #8.
- The next meeting is Oct. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Marlene Kotab, Chairman





October

BIRTHDAYS

1 Lynn Aga

2 Al Gunderson

5 Eric Pickar
Bryar Blakeman

7 Ryder Battles

12 John Bisson
Candy McKay

13 Mary Ann Stroschein

15 Logan Young
Shawn Koontz

16 Brynn Estes

17 Austin Atyeo
David Lyons
Richard Norwig

22 Eugene Konold
Shawn Pudwill

24 Coral Nikkila

26 Randy Carlson

28 Larry Gabriel
Gordon Kotab

29 Christian Avery

30 Carson Pankratz
Barbara Reimer
Jayde Raftevoid



October

ANNIVERSARIES

3 Allan & Pam Weidenbach

4 Matthew & Carrie Bunkowske
Pastors' Kevin Jensen & Carla Nelson

6 Matt & Amanda Kelly

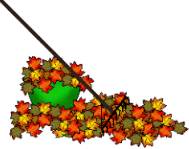
11 Brian & Aimee Jost

14 Kent & Heather Kreutz
Jennifer & Michelle Keeton

30 Todd & Nancy Collins

Grace Lutheran News and Events

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Council Meeting	2	3 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
4 9:00 am Worship (HC) 10 am Congregational Meeting 10:15 am Coffee Hour	5 Pastor's Day Off	6	7 8:30 am Quilting 5 pm Kids Alive/Confirmation 5 pm Adult Bible Study 5:30 pm WNL Meal 6:30 pm WNL Service 7 pm HS Youth Group	8 9:30 am Bible Study	9	10 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
11 Stewardship Sunday 9:00 am Worship (HC) 10:00 am "Thanks A Brunch" Meal	12 Pastor's Day Off	13 1:30 pm GLCW Meeting	14 8:30 am Quilting 5 pm Kids Alive/Confirmation 5 pm Adult Bible Study 5:30 pm WNL Meal 6:30 pm WNL Service 7 pm HS Youth Group	15 9:30 am Bible Study	16 	17 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
18 9:00 am Worship (HC) with Pastor Chris Lenning 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Choir	19 Pastor's Day Off Newsletter Deadline 	20 5:30 pm Worship Meeting	21 8:30 am Quilting 5 pm Kids Alive/Confirmation 5 pm Adult Bible Study 5:30 pm WNL Meal 6:30 pm WNL Service 7 pm HS Youth Group	22 9:30 am Bible Study	23	24 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
25  9:00 am Worship (HC) 10:00 am Confirmation Reception 10:30 am Choir	26 Pastor's Day Off	27	28 8:30 am Quilting 5 pm Kids Alive/Confirmation 5 pm Adult Bible Study 5:30 pm WNL Meal 6:30 pm WNL Service 7 pm HS Youth Group	29	30	31 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast 