

How Does God Regard Our Offerings?

Genesis 4:2-5: Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.

Happy New Year church! I'm going to dive right into the subject of offerings here. First, we know that Cain then lured Abel into a field and killed him out of jealousy. So, I have a critical thinking question for you. Why did "the Lord have regard" for Abel's offering and not Cain's? They both offered what they had. Abel from his flocks, and Cain from his crops.

Noticing some little clues can help. Abel "brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions." This was the best of the best that Abel had. Now notice what Cain gives: "an offering of the fruit of the ground." The text says nothing about the offering being the best of Cain's crops.

But when we first read this passage—we do struggle to understand what was wrong with Cain's offering. After all, Cain's job was to work the land, so for him to bring grains as an offering instead of animals was expected.

So, by reading the text more critically, we realize a possible lack-of-faith is what God did not like about Cain's offering. Perhaps there wasn't any sincerity in his giving. He gave because he was supposed to.

Hebrews 11:6 says, *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that...he rewards those who earnestly seek him.* Hebrews 11:4 also says, *By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did...*

So that leaves us with a question: When we give our tithes and offerings—do we do "first fruit giving"? In other words, after we deposit our monthly income—do we give to God the first gift or do we keep that for ourselves?

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, help us to come before you with sincere hearts. When we give, let it be for your glory and not our own. Amen.

Love them like Jesus, >< Pastor Kevin



Funeral Services

January 3 - John & Eileen Raforth



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25

immediately following the service.

Annual report copies will be available or can be downloaded and printed from our website at: sturgisglc.org. If you would like a hard copy prior to the meeting, please stop in the office and pick one up after January 19.



I want to thank everyone for the wonderful Christmas gifts. It fills my heart with joy to know that I am so appreciated. I love my job and all of the people that come with it! ~Keri



**GIVING
STATEMENTS
NOW
AVAILABLE**

Beginning January 5

If you would like your Giving Statement printed or emailed, please stop in the office or give Keri a call at 605-347-2713.



Dear Beloved Church Family of Grace. We sincerely appreciate your thoughtful and generous Christmas gifts. Your kindness and support mean so much to us as a family, and we are truly blessed to serve such a loving congregation. May God bless you richly in the coming year, as you have blessed us with your love and care. With heartfelt gratitude, Pastor Kevin & Pastor Carla

Serving Grace January 2026

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ~ 9:00 AM

Position	Jan 4	Jan 11	Jan 18	Jan 25
Greeters (1)	Lynette Kvanvig	Clay & Cindy Lange	Tim & Debbie Patmore	Jarred & Inga Curry
Ushers (4)		Al Weidenbach and Brandon Caneva	Bonnie Lange and David Lyons	Boone and Caron Collins
Assisting Ministers	Garland Dobler	Kim Webber	Tim Patmore	JD Williams
Lesson Reader (1)	Carolyn Ruff		Sandy Molitor	Tim Patmore
Serving Communion	Lynette Kvanvig	Terri Huntley	Darlene Mullins	Connie Hurlburt
*Coffee Hosts (3)	Pastor Carla and Bonnie Lange			
Sunday Acolytes	Sawyer Shryock and Brennen Aldren	Pate and Rye Gunderson and Eekiah Beug	Landry and Layton Wilson	Blaisely Haugen and Sawyer Shryock

*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	Jan 7	Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 28
WNL Meal Hosts	Tim and Debbie Patmore	Tim and Debbie Patmore	Tim and Debbie Patmore	Tim and Debbie Patmore
Wednesday Night Acolytes	Braxten and Josslyn Bahe	JoLei Avery and Khiana Williams-Oviatt	Willow and Coral Nikkila	JoLei Avery, Khiana Williams-Oviatt and Eekiah Beug

January Serving Grace Members

Adam, Laura
Aldren, Kelly and Jennifer
Bertolotto, Jerry and Ann
Carlson, Randy & Petrowske, Denise
Curry, Jarred and Inga
DeKraai, Jeff and Darla
Engebretson, Dave & Jackie
Geppert, Dan and Dawn
Halverson, David and Shirley

Halverson, Sonja
Hurlburt, Mick and Connie
Kaufman, Bob and Marie
Kopren, Darlyne
Kvanvig, Lynette
Leonhardt, Bryce and Megan
McPherson, Elizabeth & Luke
Meyer, Gary and Liane
Potts, Tim and Marcia

Rush, Grant
Schaefer, Lorayne
Schummer, Kenya
Selting, Rob and Carmen
Tesch, Bob
Tesch, Norma
Ward, Jeff and Shellie
Whitford, Sue
Williams, J.D. and Michelle

Serving Grace February 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 February before January 26th.

Position	Feb 1	Feb 8	Feb 15	Feb 22
Greeters (1)				
Ushers (4)		Al Weidenbach and Brandon Caneva	Bonnie Lange and David Lyons	Boone and Caron Collins
Assisting Ministers	Tim Patmore	Tim Potts	Garland Dobler	Kim Webber
Lesson Reader (1)				
Serving Communion (1)	Bonnie Lange			
*Coffee Hosts (3)		Lyla White		
Sunday Acolytes	Braylee Blakeman & Ava Williams	Kwynnlee and Kambria Meland	Braylee Blakeman & Ava Williams	Blain McGillivray and Torin Monahan

Avery, Dan and Dadra
Bisson, Paul and Mary
Boy, Dan and Sheri
Boy, Sandra
Casteel, Clayton and Janice
Collins, Sharon
Gabriel, Larry
Greslin, Don and Judy
Hencke, Bryan and Tammy

Jorensen, Barney and Dawn
Kelly, Matt and Amanda
Kreutz, Dale and Mary Ellen
Lange, Bonnie
Lisko, Russell and Patsy
Pankratz, Chris and Melissa
Petersen, Kimberly
Reder, Hope
Shryock, Nick and Michelle

Shuck, Denise
Smit, Ruth
Stubstad, Carol
Weimer, Jan
White, Lyla
Wiedmann, Ron and Gloria
Wilson, Pete and Mikayla



PROJECTOR OPERATORS IN JANUARY

1st Sunday: Debbie Patmore
2nd Sunday: Deb Haivala
3rd Sunday: Debbie Patmore
4th Sunday:

ALTAR GUILD IN JANUARY

Deb Haivala and Tonya Atyeo



Marshal Paul Littler

Parents: Leonardo Comperatore
& Bethanie Littler

Sponsors: Wayne and Kelly Jo Patterson



Singers are invited to join the 2026 Easter Cantata Choir

Practices will be held every Sunday from 1:30-3:00 pm beginning Feb. 15 – March 22 at Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis. Performances will be March 29 and 31. All interested singers must contact Marlene Kotab at kotabgmc@rushmore.com or 605-347-1375 by January 25th. Come share the Easter message with our community.



2025 YEAR TO DATE

OFFERINGS
\$281,559.24

EXPENSES
\$264,758.94

BUDGET
\$268,950.00



DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Wednesdays</u>
Dec 7 -141	Dec 3 - 36
Dec 14 -127	Dec 10 - 31
Dec 21 -201	Dec 17 - 110
Dec 24 -301	
Dec 28 -57	

PRAYER REQUESTS



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Ken Lehmann, Baeleigh Polsfut, Bob Lyons, Boone Collins, Eekiah Beug, Kevin Forrester, Jessica Magdanz, Thane and Tim Tetrault, Bree Mack, Ted Sigman, Kaylynn Goergen, Myles Hupp, George Lisko, and Laurie Adkins-Heydon.

On-going prayers: Renee Geppert, Barb Haivala, Ruth Mechling, Danny Chapman, Donzetta Strandjord, Dan Zeiner, Paulette Walker, Ron Monson, Jody Wilke, Ethan Dschaak, Bud Rank, Dale Kreutz, Morgan Myers, Ally Tedder, Marcia Potts, and Larry Schemmel, our homebound members and those serving in the military.
(Please notify the office of changes)



Deadline to submit items for the February, newsletter is *Monday, January 26th*.

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.



GUIDELINES FOR USHERS

GREETING:

- Arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the service.
- Turn the lights on. The panel of switches should have the top row and the two switches on the right of the second row turned on. These are the chancel and nave light switches. The two to the left on the second row are for dimming/brightening the main lights. Hold these switches up to make sure the lights are bright for the Sunday service. If a video is presented, dim the lights until the end of the video, and then turn them back up.
- 2 Ushers welcome the worshipers at the front doors while the other 2 ushers greet worshipers with a bulletin inside. Please keep the front doors shut.
- Standing at each side of the aisle, please offer children's busy bags to all young children. Stand near the pews to prevent congestion at the back of the church. You may usher people to their seats. Never seat anyone during a prayer, but wait until the prayer is finished.

WORSHIP SERVICE:

- After the service begins, one of the ushers must count the worshipers (including all the children and the worship leaders). Do this from the balcony. Record the number on the clipboard in the drawer in the table at the back of the church.
- Offering plates are in the ushers' cabinet. Have the plates uncovered and ready. Come forward as soon as it is time for the offering. Offering should be received starting from the front and proceeding to the back. Two ushers should be on the outside aisles and two ushers in the center aisle. After the offering, two ushers shall bring the plates to the front and give them to the acolytes.
- Be alert for any emergency.

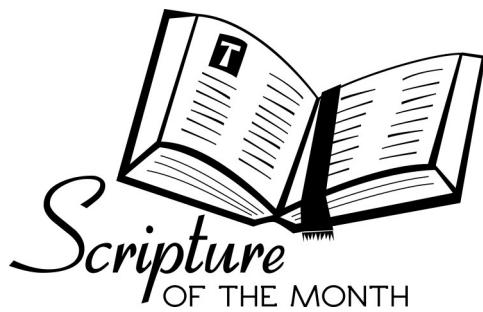
COMMUNION/AFTER SERVICE:

- During communion, ushers should put down the kneelers in the front pews and begin ushering communicants to the altar rail first and then to the front pew. Two ushers should stay in the center aisle on each side by the front pew to usher people to the rails and two should usher communicants from each pew. Time them getting to the front so they don't have to wait long in the aisle. (When communion is continuous, only two are needed to usher communicants from their pew.)
- After the service, pick up any papers/trash left in the pews and put hymnals in their proper place and place all bibles between the hymnals and in front of the Other Song Book.

To volunteer as a communion server you can sign up in the church entry or call Keri at the church office at 605-347-2713.



January 4
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18



January 18
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 11
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 25
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

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.

Jan 4 - Norma Tesch, in memory of David Tesch's birthday, her niece Caitlain Walsh & her sister Connie Kindsfater.

Jan 11-

Jan 18 - Sandy Molitor, in loving memory of those who passed before me - my husband Bill, my son Jim, and my grandson Chris Mullen.

Jan 25 -

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 1st Quarter

Camp Scholarships for all 5th Grade Students

Leave a donation in the Red Bucket located in the back of the church and your donation will help send all of our 5th grade students to summer camp at Outlaw Ranch.





CHURCH COUNCIL

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting December 4, 2025

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

President Tesch called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

Devotions by Bob Tesch.

Addition/Adoption of the Agenda. Motion by Deb to add Mutual Ministry to the agenda, 2nd by San. Motion passed.

Motion to approve minutes by Jeremy, 2nd by Chris.

Treasurer's report given.

Old Business:

- 2026 Budget was approved by congregation.
- Still need one council member for 2026.

New Business:

- Money counters:
 - Jan. 4, 2026 – Deb and Pam
 - Jan. 11 – Jarred and Terri
 - Jan. 18 – Deb and Diana
 - Jan. 25 – Bob and Kelly
 - Feb. 1 – Deb and Pam
- Red Bucket, 1st Quarter 2026: Motion by Debbie to give monies to the Outlaw Ranch Camp for 5th graders to attend. 2nd by Jeremy. Motion passed.
- Annual meeting of GLC will be on January 25, 2026.
- Committee annual reports are due to Keri by January 5.
- Mortgage on the parsonage was explained by Robin. We have a rolling interest mortgage; Bob will look into refinancing the parsonage mortgage. Pioneer Bank and Thrivent were two suggested loan institutions to check with about refinancing.
- Discussion on wages. Executive committee met before church council meeting and then presented wages, bonus and gift cards for Pastor Kevin and Pastor Carla, Keri and David.
- Motion by Jeff to give Pastor Kevin and Pastor Carla an 8% raise (salary for 2026 will be \$92675.00 to comply with synod guideline), 2nd by Jarred. Motion passed.
- Motion by San to give Keri a \$1.00 raise, 2nd by Kelly. Motion passed.
- Motion by Heather to give Keri a \$750.00 bonus. 2nd by Kelly.
- Motion by Jeff to give the pastors each a \$100.00 gift certificate to the same place as last year. 2nd by Deb. Motion passed.
- Motion by San to give David a \$100.00 gift certificate, 2nd by Jeff. Motion passed.
- Discussion on roof. Roof is leaking again. Paul will check with Kent on roof contractors. We will need the roof patched and also look into a new roof for the church building. We talked about a Capital Campaign to replace the roof.
- Mutual Ministry committee needs to replace 3 members to serve two-year terms on the committee.
- Devotions for January 8 – Kelly.
- Thank you, Pastor Kevin and Pastor Carla for the gift bag of Pistachios.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting by San, 2nd by Deb. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm with prayer.

Secretary
Diana Bauer



GLCW Minutes, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025

President Deb Patmore called the meeting to order with 10 in attendance. Marlene Kotab read a devotion. The minutes were approved as corrected. The treasurer's report included:

Income - \$0 Expenses \$150.80 Balance \$22,163.02 Mission Investment
\$26,275.74

Lynette Kvanvig, Courtesy Chairman, sent 2 cards.

Old Business:

- Mary Ann Stroschein installed the 2026 officers: President/Treasurer-Deb Patmore, Vice-President-Shirley Halverson, Secretary/Growth/Community-Marlene Kotab, Courtesy-Lynette Kvanvig.
- \$2,090 was collected during the Thankoffering Service.
- All expressed thanks to the youth for the thanksgiving meal for Seniors.
- Many helped decorate the church for Christmas on Nov. 23rd.
- All changes (emails and phone numbers) should be sent to Deb Patmore or Keri in the church office before the end of the year so that the 2026 GLCW booklets are accurate.
- Bags for our elderly and shut-ins will be filled on Sat., Dec. 13 at 9 a.m. Lynette has purchased fruit. Christmas stockings prepared for finishing were found in Paulette Meland's fabric. The quilters finished sewing them and they will be included in the bags and also given to the Campus Ministry students.

New Business:

- Shopping for a needy family (information from the school Social Worker) will be on Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 10:30 a.m.
- The 2026 quarterly funeral leadership signup sheet was circulated. Thanks to all who continue to volunteer and help with this important mission.
- The next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. Shirley Halverson will host and Pastor Carla will lead the Bible Study.
- All shared goodies brought by those in attendance. A Christmas Trivia Quiz and singing closed the meeting.

Marlene Kotab, Secretary



Worship Committee Minutes – Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025

Ruth Mechling, Kris Little, Tim Patmore, Candy McKay, Pastor Kevin Jensen, Chris Pankratz, Marcia Potts, and Christian and Marlene Kotab attended the Dec. 16th Worship Meeting. Pastor led the group in an opening meditation and prayer.

Old Business:

- The Advent Candle readers have done a wonderful job. Readers for Dec. 21 are the Curry Family and Dec. 24 are the Monahan and Dschaak Family. It was noted that the name of the family should be read in the introduction so that our radio listeners know who is reading.
- The Children's Christmas Program is Wed., Dec. 17 at 6:00 pm.
- The Special Christmas Music Service is Sunday, Dec. 21. Narrators are Mikayla Wilson, Garland Dobler, Tim Potts, and Pastor Kevin.
- The Blue Christmas Service is Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4 pm at the Presbyterian Church.
- The Christmas Eve service is at 5:00 p.m. Tim Potts is the Assisting Minister, Tim Patmore will run the sound, and Marcia and Candy are in charge of the music. Paul Haedt, Dan and Danilee will also sing.
- The John and Eileen Raforth funeral is Jan. 3 at 11 a.m.
- Ash Wednesday is Feb. 18. Palm Sunday is March 29 and Easter is April 5.
- The camera was used for the baptism and worked very well.

New Business:

- Lenten services will have the theme "Making Sense of the Cross" with video clips.
- The cantata performances are March 29 and 31.
- Christian will continue to work on the purchase of a faster wi-fi. Funds have already been donated for the purchase.
- Liturgies – Jan. 5-Service of the Word, Jan. 12 – Spoken, Jan. 19 - #7, Jan. 26 – Remembering the Promise.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 5:30 pm.
Marlene Kotab, Chairman





January

BIRTHDAYS

4 Kristin Cammack
Taya Tucker

5 Coleen Hanes
Mel Hanes

7 Pastor Kevin

10 Darlene Mullins

11 Marjorie Erion-
Johnson
Jake Vliem

13 Ward Dobler

14 Judy Greslin

15 Larry Crawford

18 Vivian Kreutz

20 Aimee Jost
Paul Haedt

23 Ardis McFarland
Ruth Mechling
Ranae Pickar

25 Pate Gunderson

26 Glynda Smith

27 Jason Kreutz
Cindy Gehringer

28 Dorothy Bostrom
Barb Haivala
Thomas Magdanz Jr.

31 Austin Hall
Jesse Blakeman



January

ANNIVERSARIES

3 Bernard & Marie Ritten

13 Allen & Linda Hemmah

Grace Lutheran News and Events

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 OFFICE CLOSED 	2 OFFICE CLOSED 	3 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
4 9:00 am Worship (HC) 10:00 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 5:30 pm Council Meeting	9	10 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
11 9:00 am Worship (HC) 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Choir	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 6 pm Evangelism Mtg.	16 	17 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
18 9:00 am Worship (HC) 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Choir	19 Pastor's Day Off 	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 Annual Congregational Mtg. 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Choir	26 Pastor's Day Off Newsletter Deadline	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 9:30 am Bible Study	30	31 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast