



First Fruits Giving— Based on Love

I want to start this article with a question: When we give our tithes and offerings—do we do “first fruit giving”? That means the first gift we give is a tithe to God, not ourselves, after we deposit our monthly income.

The tradition for doing that goes back to the book of Genesis. In Genesis 14:20 after God blessed Abraham, the patriarch’s response was: “And Abram gave him one tenth of everything.” In Abraham’s case, that meant making sacrifices of animals, gathering grain, and offering them to God.

Such offerings no longer need to happen—because of Jesus, we no longer have to bring animal sacrifices or grain offerings to God like they did in Abraham’s day. Christ’s sacrifice covers it all. When we place our trust in him, we go directly to him for forgiveness. We give him our thanks and also tell him our needs.

Another interesting Old Testament ritual is described in Leviticus 8:22-24: *Then he brought forward the second ram...Moses took some of its blood and put it on the lobe of Aaron's right ear and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot. After Aaron's sons were brought forward, Moses put some of the blood on the lobes of their right ears and on the thumbs of their right hands and on the big toes of their right feet; and Moses dashed the rest of the blood against all sides of the altar.*

Scholars have identified what this is about. The blood put on the lobes of their right ears was to help them listen to God; on their thumbs for doing God’s work; and on their big toes to go out and share God’s love.

So without doing those types of rituals, how can we do the same? One key way is in “first fruit giving”! When we dedicate our tithes and offerings and make sure to give to God first before anything else, we are showing we’ve heard God and we are willing to respond to God’s love by doing and sharing that love.

I have been a first fruits giver and tither for all 30 years of my pastoral ministry. At times, I am tempted to think I need to keep more. But then I realize I have been blessed beyond measure—materially, spiritually, and with family, friends, and this congregation. Truly, first fruit giving means responding joyfully to God’s care, which is always based on love.

Love them like Jesus,
><> Pastor Kevin

Serving Grace October 2025

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ~ 9:00 AM

Position	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Greeters (2)	Tim & Debbie Patmore	Randy Carlson & Denise Petrowske	Dawn Geppert	Robyn Fischer & Darlene Mullins
Ushers (4)		Al Weidenbach and Brandon Caneva	Bonnie Lange and David Lyons	Boone and Caron Collins
Assisting Ministers	Tim Patmore	Garland Dobler	Tim Patmore	JD Williams
Lesson Reader (1)	Tim Patmore	Bill Rossow	Sandy Molitor	Paul Haedt
Serving Communion (2)	Terri Huntley & Sandy Molitor	Dennis Chowen & Terri Huntley	Sandy Molitor & Dawn Geppert	Terri Huntley & Paul Haedt
*Coffee Hosts (3)	Mick & Connie Hurlburt & Gene & Audrey Konold	Stewardship Committee		Confirmation Education Committee
Sunday Acolytes	Landry & Layton Wilson	Kwynnlee & Kambria Meland	Landry & Layton Wilson	Landry & Layton Wilson

*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 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29
WNL Meal Hosts	Tim and Debbie Patmore	Tim and Debbie Patmore	Tim and Debbie Patmore	Tim and Debbie Patmore	Tim and Debbie Patmore
Wednesday Night Acolytes	Kwynnlee Meland & Madeline Vliem	Braxten & Josslyn Bahe	Bryson Potter & Jett Leonhardt	Blaisely Haugen, Khiana Williams-Oviatt & Eekiah Beug	Blain McGillivray & Brennan Aldren

October Serving Grace Members

Aga, Karel
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

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

Serving Grace November 2025

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 October before September 22nd.

Position	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
Greeters (1)					
Ushers (4)		Al Weidenbach and Brandon Caneva	Bonnie Lange and David Lyons	Boone and Caron Collins	
Assisting Ministers	Tim Patmore	Tim Potts	Kim Webber	Tim Patmore	JD Williams
Lesson Reader (1)		Rick Little	Sandy Molitor		
Serving Communion	Terri Huntley	Dennis Chowen	Darlene Mullins & Sandy Molitor		
*Coffee Hosts (3)			Ruth Smit, Bonnie and Cindy Lange	No Coffee Hour Thanksgiving Meal for GLC Seniors	
Sunday Acolytes	JoLei Avery & Torin Monahan	Braylee Blakeman & Ava Williams	Landry & Layton Wilson	Blain McGillivray & Torin Monahan	Braylee Blakeman & Ava Williams

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

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

Nohava, Randy and Brenda
Rossow, Bill
Swenby, Don and Cynthia
Weimer, Jan
Walker (Weisz), Chaska
Weisz, Richard and Cheryl
Weitzel, Larry and Ann
Wiedmann, Ron and Gloria
Williams, Larry



PROJECTOR OPERATORS IN OCTOBER

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

ALTAR GUILD IN OCTOBER

Ann Bertolotto and Garland Dobler

2025 YEAR TO DATE

OFFERINGS

\$195,706.20

EXPENSES

\$200,016.31

BUDGET

\$179,300.00



SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE

Sundays

Sept 7 - 110

Sept 14 - 140

Sept 21 - 153

Sept 28 - 126

Wednesdays

Sept 10 - 46

Sept 17 - 43

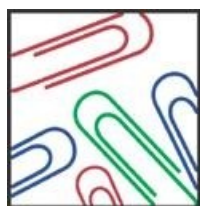
Sept 24 - 48

PRAYER REQUESTS



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Renee Geppert, John Raforth, Thane and Tim Tetrault, Bree Mack, Ardith McFarland, Lynn Aga, Ted Sigman, Kaylynn Goergen, Myles Hupp, Barb Haivala, George Lisko, Laurie Adkins-Heydon and the family of Robert Ruff.

On-going prayers: 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, Larry Schemmel, and Roger Ivers, our homebound members and those serving in the military.
(Please notify the office of changes.)



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Deadline to submit items for the November, newsletter is *Monday, October 20th.*

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 COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

1. There should be cookies, bars, or other snacks available for Sunday coffee hour. If two families are serving, each should bring 6 doz.
2. Coffee and juice will be mixed in the kitchen. Check the refrigerator for leftover juice to be used.
3. Coffee must be made and turned on before the 9:00 am service. Make both big pots of coffee and one small pot of decaf each Sunday. More may be required depending on the Sunday demand.
4. Set out offering basket, napkins, and cups.
5. After everyone has passed through the line, you may offer refills of coffee, juice, and treats.
6. Clear and wipe off tables when people leave.
7. Take coffee offering to the office if a teller does not pick it up.
8. Coffee hosts will serve from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. If anyone stays after 11:00 am it will be their responsibility to clean up.
9. Please clean dishes, coffee pots, counter tops, etc. in the kitchen before leaving. Take the dirty towels home, launder them, and return them the following Sunday.

We thank you for your time and service to our church in this way. Coffee fellowship is an important ministry of this congregation.

Notes to Serving Grace people:

- Please try to have at least one experienced person serve each week, especially when there are new people. These experienced people will help show the new ones how to make coffee, find serving trays, etc. or ask someone at coffee for help. Everyone is glad to help.
- Instructions for making coffee are on the cupboard above the coffee pots.
- Please keep your receipts and turn them into the office if you would like to be reimbursed.



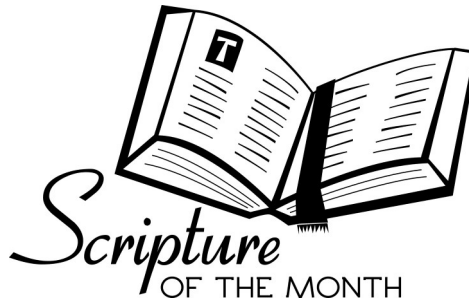
To volunteer for coffee hour you can sign up in the church entry or call Keri at the church office at 605-347-2713.

October 5

Habakkuk 1:1-4;2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 12

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19



October 19

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14--4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 26

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

9 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS

The radio broadcast calendar for 2025 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 5 - Lynette Kvanvig, in loving memory of Boyd and Darrel Swenson.

Oct 12 - In honor of Kent and Heather Kreutz's anniversary.

Oct 19 - Bonnie Lange & Diana Glover, in Memory of their parents Alvin (Buster) and Linda Babb.

Oct 26 - Marlene and Christian Kotab to celebrate Gordon's birthday.

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 Scoopers Sam's Closet and Stallion Closet

Leave a donation
in the Red Bucket
located in the back
of the church and
your donation will
help support Sam's
Closet in Sturgis and
the Stallion Closet in
Piedmont to help
students in need with
food, school supplies
and clothing.





Kiwanis

Sturgis Golden K Annual Fall Fund Raiser

**All you can eat Hobo Stew!
Sunday October 26th 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

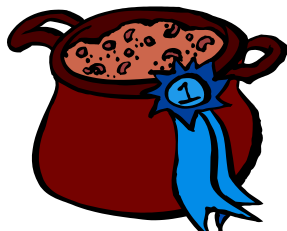
GREAT CHILI COOKOFF!!!!!!!!!!!!

MONDAY OCTOBER 27, 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





GLCW Minutes – Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025

GLCW met on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025. Pastor Carla Nelson led the Bible Study. The minutes were read and approved. The Rally Breakfast Financial Report will be presented in October. Lynette Kvanvig, Courtesy Chairman, sent 5 cards.

The October meeting will include election of officers. (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Mission Action). The women of Grace are encouraged to volunteer for these necessary positions. Please prayerfully consider accepting a nomination or just attending a meeting. The fellowship is great.

In October, Pastor Carla Nelson will lead the Bible Study. Shirley Halverson will be the hostess.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Marlene Kotab was the hostess.
Marlene Kotab, Secretary



FUNERALS

September 19 - Joy Conway

September 30 - Robert Ruff



Worship Committee Minutes, Sept. 16, 2025

Pastor Kevin Jensen led the committee in an opening devotion used at the Fall Theological Conference in Mitchell. Present at the meeting were Pastor Kevin, Marlene and Christian Kotab, Candy McKay, Kris Little, and Ruth Mechling.

Old Business:

- The Altar Guild meets Tues, Sept. 23.
- Mary Kettl from Outlaw Ranch comes on Oct. 1st to discuss summer camp.
- The new microphones are now being used. Pastor Carla's mic needs some adjusting.
- Consecration Sunday is Oct. 12 with a Thanks-A-Brunch after the service.
- Confirmation and Reformation liturgies will be used on Oct. 26. The 6 confirmands will serve at the various worship positions and share their faith statements.
- Sunday, Nov. 23 is the Senior Thanksgiving Meal after church.
- There is no WNL on Nov. 26 because of Thanksgiving and Dec. 31 during Christmas vacation.
- Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2 pm is the Community Christmas Concert at the theater
- The Grace Children's Christmas Program is Wed., Dec. 17 at 6:00 pm.
- The Christmas Eve Service is at 5:00 p.m.

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New Business:

- Prayers of intercession responses and format will be discussed with Tim Patmore.
- We will remember to use only one special part of the service each Sunday to ensure we finish by 10 a.m. so that our radio listeners hear the entire service. (healing service, sharing of the peace, thanksgiving for baptism, etc.)
- Military/Veterans Appreciation is Nov. 9.
- WELCA Thankoffering Sunday is Nov. 16. Women volunteers should contact Deb Patmore or Marlene Kotab if they will serve that Sunday. (usher, communion, etc.)
- Advent begins Nov. 30. We will decorate the church after the Nov. 23rd Senior Dinner. Families are needed for the Advent Candle readings Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 24. Contact Marlene if your family would like to do the reading and lighting.
- A sound tech is needed on the Sundays of Nov. 30 and Dec. 21 and for Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th
- We will ask Keri to include the information about a member's funeral in the bulletin and in the script.
- Liturgies for October 5 – Spoken or #10 (Musicians will decide), 12-#7, 19 - #8, 6 – Confirmation/ Reformation liturgy
- The next meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 5:30p.m.
Marlene Kotab, Chairman



CHURCH COUNCIL



Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting

September 4, 2025

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

Absent: Paul Haedt, Chris Pankratz.

President Tesch called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Devotions by Terri Huntley

Secretary's report – Motion to approve Secretary's report by Kelly, 2nd Jeremy Vliem. Motion passed.

Treasure's Report Accepted

Adoption/Additions of Agenda – Motion to approve Agenda by Jeff, 2nd by Debbie. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Online Directory. Kelly reported that there are no churches in our area that use online directories. We will continue to look into what type of church directory to compile.
- Church Audit – Bob talk with the auditors (Pam Weidenbach, Jenna Blakeman, and Andrea Williams) about setting a date to do the audit.

New Business:

- Money counters:
 - October 5 – Pam Weidenbach and Paul Haedt
 - October 12 – Jeff DeKraai and Jeremy Vliem
 - October 19 - Debbie Patmore and Diana Bauer
 - October 26 – Bob Tesch and Terri Huntley
 - November 2 – Pam Weidenbach and Debbie Patmore
- Carpet Cleaning: Motion by Debbie to have the carpets cleaned by the same company as last year. 2nd Jerred. Motion passed.
- Red Bucket Recipient for 4th Quarter: Motion by Pastor Carla to donate 4th quarter Red Bucket money to the Scoopers Closet and the Stallion Closets for the youth. 2nd Jeff. Motion passed.
- Re-key Locks: Bob and Pastor Kevin are working on a grant from Homeland Security for phase two of the security system for GLC.
- Carpet shampoo machine. Motion by Debbie to let David borrow the carpet shampoo machine. 2nd San, motion passed.
- Serving Grace Signup sheet or calling system tabled until November meeting.
- New toilets in fellowship hall. Motion by San to replace 3 toilets (2 in women's and 1 in men's bathroom) and install handicap grab bars. Have Paul get price quotes. 2nd Kelly. Motion passed.
- Devotion List:
 - October 2 – Debbie
 - November 6 – Heather
 - December 4 – Bob
 - January 8, 2025 – Kelly
- October 12 has been set for Consecration Sunday,
- Note time change. October 2 and November 6 meetings will start at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 7:20 p.m.

Secretary, Diana Bauer



October

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Lynn Aga | 15 Logan Young
Shawn Koontz | 26 Randy Carlson |
| 2 Al Gunderson | 16 Brynn Dobler | 28 Larry Gabriel
Gordon Kotab |
| 5 Eric Pickar
Bryar Blakeman | 17 Austin Atyeo
David Lyons | 29 Christian Avery
Karstyn Garcia |
| 10 Ruth Paulson | 22 Eugene Konold
Shawn Pudwill | 30 Carson Pankratz
Barbara Reimer |
| 12 John Bisson
Candy McKay | 24 Coral Nikkila | |
| 13 Mary Ann Stroschein | | |



October

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 3 Allan & Pam Weidenbach | 11 Brian & Aimee Jost |
| 4 Matthew & Carrie Bunkowske
Pastors' Kevin & Carla | 14 Kent & Heather Kreutz
Jennifer & Michelle Keeton |
| 6 Matt & Amanda Kelly | 30 Todd & Nancy Collins |

Grace Lutheran News and Events

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:30 am Quilting CAMP NIGHT 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	2 5:30 pm Council Meeting	3	4 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
5 9:00 am Worship (HC) with Pastor Hunzeker 10:00 am Coffee Hour	6 Pastor's Day Off	7	8 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	9 9:30 am Bible Study	10 	11 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
12 Consecration Sunday 9:00 am Worship (HC) 10:00 am Thank-a- Brunch Meal	13 Pastor's Day Off 	14 1:30 pm GLCW Meeting	15 8:30 am Quilting 4 pm Education Mtg. 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	16 9:30 am Bible Study 6 pm Evangelism Meeting	17	18 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
19 9:00 am Worship (HC) 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Choir	20 Pastor's Day Off Newsletter Deadline	21 5:30 pm Worship Meeting	22 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	23 9:30 am Bible Study	24	25 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
26  9:00 am Worship (HC) 10:00 am Confirmation Reception 10:30 am Choir	27 Pastor's Day Off	28	29 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	30 9:30 am Bible Study	31 	