

SEPTEMBER

TOWER
ECHOES
2025

From the Pastor,

Life is beginning to get back to “normal”, School has begun and vacations have been lived. School, work, and church activities resume like “regular” or “normal”. Others prefer the opportunity for things to be “different” from the “norm” in their time.

I prefer routine. And yet I have enjoyed my life as a pastor which is routine until the phone rings. On my internship the chaplain at the Lutheran Hospital in Saginaw, Michigan advises our group of interns in the area meeting with him to “stay supple”. Try not to be so rigid about your daily routine that a change in your day due to an emergence would ruin your day. Welcome the challenges that God will place in your day. Even expect that whatever is stated on the calendar for the day will change. Anyone spending time with a child understands how the unexpected event is to be expected.

September 20 is my 40th Anniversary or Ordination. It has been a privilege to have spent the last 14 years of the 40 years with Grace and Hope. I have hoped to wait until I was 70 before retiring and on October 10 I will have achieved that goal. The plan is to retire the end of July 2026. There is still no plan as to what retirement will actually be or look like for Kathy and myself. We are not sure where retirement will be lived. I think I will desire to be a supply pastor and/or interim pastor. We will see what God has in store for us.

My running joke with myself is that September 1 I will begin my farewell time at Grace & Hope. Every worship, every special worship & every activity will be my last at Grace & Hope. I will try to relish every moment. I invite you to come and relish every Sunday with me as well. The future after July 31, 2026 is unknown right now for Kathy and myself, and Grace and Hope, so let us just enjoy God’s presence with us right now knowing that God will be present in our future as well.

Pastor Jim

Church Season: We continue in the Church Season of Time After Pentecost. The texts continue to challenge us to consider how we can live out our lives for Christ.

Church Festival Days:	September 5: Zacharias and Elizabeth
	September 14: Holy Cross Day
	September 21: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
	September 29: St. Michael & All Angels

US Holidays:	September 1: Labor Day
	September 7: Grandparents Day
	September 11: Patriots Day
	September 22: Fall Begins

Sunday School

Sunday School will resume on September 7th following the Sunday Worship Service at approximately 9:30 a.m. Please help us share the wonderful story of Jesus with your children.



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 17th

Terry & Beth Panko

Sept 21st

Thomas & Ann Keigher

Sept 30th

Gene & Diane Ekhoff

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥
Thank you to all who remembered
us with cards, letters and good wishes
for our 70th Anniversary.
God has truly blessed us!
Louie & Grace Bentzinger

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd – Richard Roesener

6th – Nick Weber

9th – Cory Panko

11th – Lindsay Badertscher

Dean (Little) Wellensiek

12th – Amy Cropp-Perkins

17th – Robert Schmidt

24th – Kate Dietz

26th – Beth Panko

27th – Baker Schippert

29th – Dave Smith

Members of Grace Lutheran,

The current expense balance has dropped significantly due to some planned expenses and possible decreased giving. Please consider helping us **increase giving** to bring this back to a more effective working balance.

**One time bonus giving appreciated
as you are able.**

Thank you,
Jody Wellensiek, Stewardship Chair

Kathy Scheer
August 18, 2025

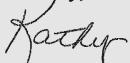
Dear Fellow CROP Walk Churches,

I want to thank you for your continued support of our CROP Walk for many years.

There is a season for everything and this is the season we will no longer hold the CROP Walk.

I urge you to continue to support meeting the food and water needs of many by contributions you individually choose.

Again, thank you for your most generous support of the Cook/Burr CROP Walk.

Sincerely,

Kathy Scheer

KIDS FOR CHRIST

Kids for Christ will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays after school on the days that school is in session. The after-school program will run from 4 pm to 6 pm, beginning Sept 10th. All children K thru 6th grade are welcome to attend.

Pastor will meet the school bus and help the students cross the street. The students will participate in devotion, a Bible lesson, music, crafts, and an evening meal. We ask that the consent form accompany your child on the first day of class.

Calling all high schoolers in grades 9-12, Luther League will have a planning meeting after church on September 21st at 9:30 am at Grace. If you would like to be a Luther League member but cannot attend contact Nick Weber at 402-310-2136.

Hello Tanzania Sponsors,

Thank you again for sponsoring students at a school in Tanzania! If you would like to send a letter to your students, you may do so now. You can send a photo and **up to \$20 in cash** to each student if you would like to, but it is not required. Please have letters back to the church office **no later than September 2nd**, to be delivered to Sheridan by the 6th.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of all of these students in Tanzania!

LET'S CELEBRATE!

MISSION FESTIVAL, PASTOR'S 40 YEARS IN THE MINISTRY,
AND PASTOR'S 70TH BIRTHDAY!

October 05, 2025 - 10:00 AM Joint Worship Service at Grace.

SPEAKER: Pastor Helgren will reflect on his 40 years in the ministry.
The OFFERING will go to the Discretionary Fund.

A meal will follow worship, pulled pork sandwiches will be provided. Please bring a covered dish or two. Place settings and drinks provided.

At 12:30 PM members from the community and area Pastor's will join us for cake.

Sun	Mon	Tue
		<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>HAPPY ★ ★</p> <p><i>Labor Day</i></p>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 HAPPY Labor Day	2	3 Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	4 ELCW Meeting 7:00 p.m.	5	6
7 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Sunday School Starts	8	9 Kids for Christ— 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	10 Patriots' Day	11	12	13
14 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School	15 Bible Study 2:00 pm Church Council 7:00 p.m.	16 Piecemakers Blanket Making	17 Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	18	19	20
21 8:30 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Luther League Organizational Mtg.	22	23 Tower Echoes Deadline	24 Kids for Christ— 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m.	25	26	27
28 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School	29	30				

Grace Lutheran Church Council

August 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Cheryl Grundman at 7:00 pm – Cheryl Grundman, Jody Wellensiek, Robin Eggleston and Sarah Purcell present – Mike Carman excused. Pastor Helgren led with an opening prayer.

Minutes of the July 2025 meetings were reviewed. Sarah Purcell motioned to accept and Robin Eggleston second. Minutes approved.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. There was significant drop in current expense account noted (\$10,000 decrease from previous month. It was noted that propane had been paid for coming year and church insurance premium payment made). Sarah motioned to accept the treasure's report, Robin second, motion carried. Sarah motioned to use the "Fellowship/Donut" money to buy meat for mission festival and close this account on the ledger.

Correspondence

Local Crop Walk has been discontinued. Members are encouraged to continue supporting causes that fight Hunger.

Thank-you received from Oaks Indian Center for \$245.17 contribution.

Thrivent invite for Boundaries Training – Pastor signed up to do required training at Theological Conference.

Brotherhood Mutual insurance information.

Leadership training available – 10 /19 – 10/20.

Pastor's report:

July visits reported on shut-ins, hospitalized.

Confirmation camp attended 6/15 - 6/20.

Will lead worship at Orchard Park on 8/28.

Will lead worship at Linden View on 8/27.

August 10th – Blessing of Backpacks PreK – college.

Confirmation student/parent meeting 8/27/25 – 2 in 8th grade, 1 - 7th grade, 2 - 6th graders.

10/20 – 10/22 Fall Leadership Conference – Kearney. Inclusiveness/Boundary Workshop.

8/25/25 Meeting is scheduled for committees to meet to discuss potential 4-point parish.

9/7/25 Gods work – our hands.

October will be writing for the Nemaha Valley Observer.

Baptism this fall.

Property - (Robin chair)

Tree removal of tree near propane tank due to significant rot. Bridgmon's will take down, estimate of \$1,500 – 2,000 for complete removal.

South door handle replaced.

Worship, Evangelism & Fellowship (Sarah Chair) –

Hymns selected for worship.

Request from several members to sing the Lord's Prayer. Will schedule.

Fact checker reviewed from ELCA regarding the organization providing false claims against ELCA. Members are warned that false info may be received as we enter the search for a minister.

Parish Ed & young people – (Mike Chair)

Kids for Christ begins 9/10/25. Will be held on 2nd and 4th Wednesday – with breaks on 11/26 and 12/24.

Sunday School begins 9/7/25 at 9:30 am.

Confirmation class begins 9/3/25,

Stewardship & Memorial – (Jody Chair)

Will communicate with members the drop in current expense balance. Donations appreciated to restore working balance for the church.

Old Business

Will research a blue tooth system for park to enhance community worship.

New Business

Mission Festival/40th Anniversary of Ordination/70th Birthday.

Pastor Helgren will be our speaker on this special service – **October 5th at 10 am.** Potluck dinner planned – Council will provide meat and bread – everyone is invited to provide a covered dish or two to share. Cheryl will be inviting neighboring churches and former congregations where Pastor has served.

Grace has been selected to host the synod – “On the Road Again” 4/26/26. Mark your calendars.

Four-point parish survey results reviewed by council.

Duty Roster - Thank-you Julie Effken, upcoming dates covered by council for coming month – volunteers needed for future dates.

Next meeting – Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Wellensiek



Blessings of
School Back
Packs Sunday
August 10,
2025



*Assembling
Back Packs for
Lutheran World
Relief!
Always a fun
time during
fellowship*



HAPPY
september

MAY YOUR HEART SING
A SONG OF PRAISE,
GIVING THANKS TO
GOD FOR HIS
GOODNESS AND GRACE.

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