



# Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press

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## Grace Lutheran, Driscoll, is closing

By Kelly Krueger

The last active church in Driscoll will be having a Holy Closing ceremony on Sunday November 2nd, 2025.

Grace Lutheran Church was organized in July of 1905. The congregation back in those days met in several different locations, other churches and unused school-houses at first, until they decided to build a church. In 1926, plans were made to build their own church. The basement was started but these plans had to be abandoned when the great depression hit. Once again, they relied on the use of the Methodist Church to hold their services. In 1938, work resumed on the basement. July 9th of 1939, the first service was held in the basement. Lack of funding caused further delay and the building of the rest of the Church took until the end of 1953 with the first service being held

on Christmas Day 1953. In 1966, the membership at the church was 225 members. It was then the church started a permanent plaque for past and current ministers.

Driscoll was also once home to St. Paul's another Lutheran Church, a Methodist Church and a Catholic Church. There was also a church north of Driscoll, Zion Lutheran, that closed in 1969. All of the Zion members were transferred to Grace Lutheran Church in Driscoll.

While it gained membership when the north church closed, as the town of Driscoll's' population decreased, so did the membership. The Congregation dwindled and no longer has the funds to continue. Now the only Church left in Driscoll will no longer be holding weekly services. They will, however, not be entirely closed. Weddings, funerals and other services will continue.

Weddings, Baptisms, Sunday school, Vacation Bible school and several other events will be remembered for years to come by many. Not just Lutherans. Everyone around the area participated in all of these events. Bible school included the whole area, the annual ham dinner fed many. Numerous people will remember their own special times at Grace.

Below are comments from previous Ministers at Grace.

**Pastor Gail Hagerty**

I was pastoral minister at Grace Lutheran from 2014 - 2020. During those years, I was in the TEEM program through Wartburg Theological Seminary. That program required that I be employed by a church. The people of Grace Lutheran gave me the opportunity to learn and grow in faith.

Grace Lutheran is made up of people grounded in their faith and willing to put their faith into



Many services have been celebrated at the altar of Grace Lutheran church through the years.

action. The kitchen has been a big part of the life and times of Driscoll. I think about the German dinners, the annual ham dinner, and the July 4 spreads over the years.

I hope people remember the Norm and Donna Meland

little free pantry, and all the kind people who shared in so many ways.

I know that people will always feel a sense of connection with Grace Lutheran, with memories of so many life events - baptisms, (See "Closing" on Page 24)

## Final budgets for 2026 highlight Commissioners October meeting

By Richard Paolinelli

The Kidder County Commissioners met on Friday for one last review, and final revisions, of the 2026 budget at the Kidder County Courthouse. The review took place during a special one-hour meeting at 9 a.m.

Before approving the budget for 2026 in the afternoon session, the Commissioners made adjustments to the Weed Control section of the budget to address areas of need in that area.

County roads became the next topic of discussion, beginning

with the 30-minute Public Comment period at the beginning of the regularly scheduled 10 a.m. meeting. The issue of the lone public commentor was the upkeep of some county roads when "softball-sized" rocks were pulled up during blading, leaving small

divots in the roads that make traversing them difficult.

While the overall state of the roads has been well-received by the general public, these issues remain a concern of the commissioners, who pledged to address it.

"The problem is these sized rocks keep working their way up to the surface," Chairman Darrell

Guthmiller remarked.

The road crews currently work 10 hours a day, four days a week, to maintain the roads, but their hours will be cut back to eight a day, five days a week, next month as the winter weather, and snow and ice, move in.

Two road-related agenda items (See "Commissioners" on Page 9)

## Kidder County area Halloween

For some people, fall brings excitement for the upcoming holiday seasons, amazing outdoor colors, hunting, and harvest. There are also many who love dressing up and decorating for Halloween. A favorite of kids, Halloween in the Kidder County area is a busy time, the school always does something, but in the past few years, trunk and treats have also become popular. Here is (hopefully) a complete guide of Halloween activities in our area.

The kid's fun starts Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> in Dawson. Callie's Patch will kick off its inaugural year!

Located in Lee Pettibone Park (Garfield St.) From 5 to 8pm, there will be vendors to feed and entertain you, a free trunk or treat (family and business trunks wanted), FFA cart rides, pumpkin patch games and more. Admission to the patch is \$8 for 11 and older, \$5 for kids ages 5 to 10, and under 5 is \$2. Inside the patch, there will be many photo ops, decorations, hundreds of pumpkins, run through the corn and sunflowers, kid's games, unique scenes, and more for the entire family. If you want to go through the Scary (See "Halloween" on Page 9)



Trick or Treat



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