

February 2025 



## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16



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"We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity will one day be restored. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, and they'll know we are Christians by our love."

--*We Are One in the Spirit* by Peter Scholtes

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we embark on the second month of a new year, a month typically attributed to romantic love, I wonder how our perspective on this month would change if we focused on God's love, and our call to reach out in that same love, to those we encounter in our daily lives. As followers of Jesus, discipleship means doing the work that Jesus began no matter where our day takes us: from the car ride to school, the doctor's office, checking out at the grocery store, to sharing the day's recap with a good friend or family member. Jesus was always found with those who others in society looked past including those the religious folks even ostracized. Who would those people be in our community and do we expect to see the face of Jesus in them?



*"We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, and they'll know we are Christians by our love."*

At our recent annual meeting, you heard stories of how God is at work through you at Grace Lutheran Church. Through your invitation to "come and see," warm welcome, and engaging hospitality, 56 people joined our congregation last year to be a part of a faith community that puts the core values of Faith, Christ-centered Community, and Service on the wall by the front door. We welcome all to work together, sharing our gifts of time, skills, and financial support, to follow Jesus. It takes all of us to walk alongside each other in good times and challenging times, both personally and as the body of Christ, to live out our calling as disciples as one.

*"We will work with each other, we will work side by side, we will work with each other, we will work side by side, and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, and they'll know we are Christians by our love."*

One of the ministry areas that Grace continues to expand is our Congregational Care. Did you know that along with pastoral care, Grace has a vibrant prayer ministry, homebound visitation, meal ministry, funeral team, celebration of life planning, prayer shawl knitters, the Grace Pantry and care bags for guests in need, grief card writers, and hospitality teams to usher and greet? Walking with each other and working together to support the body of Christ at Grace and our neighbors in the community is an important way to live out our faith. If there are any of these ministries that the Spirit might be nudging you to inquire about, please let me know. I would love to share opportunities to participate in Congregational Care.

*“All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ Jesus, who is God's only Son, and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, and they'll know we are Christians by our love.”*

This beloved hymn, They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love, was written during the civil rights movement in Chicago during the 1960's. God's people have been called to show love and support in a myriad of ways throughout history. Where is God calling us to show Christ's love today?

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Allison



We welcome Nancy Backer, Kirsten Bressler, Chery Brumbaugh, Corey Klanderud, and Andy Kryzer to the Congregation Council and Louise Hendricks and Jane Reiman as our Synod Assembly delegates. We thank you for sharing your gifts at Grace!





# Southeastern Minnesota Synod ELCA Looking Toward Ministry in 2025



*For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so, through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 1:20, NIV)*

*The Use of the Means of Grace*, a teaching document of our denomination, emphasizes the importance of baptism happening in the midst of the gathered assembly. In baptism, we claim the promises of God for the baptized, and the gathered assembly has the distinct privilege of hearing those promises for themselves, too.

Baptism happens in community because the promises of baptism are for the community.

Indeed, in the rite of baptism, members of the congregation participate as the newly baptized is welcomed among them. Promises to accompany the newly baptized in the journey of faith are spoken aloud.

In baptism, we remember the promises of God as we hear them spoken, again and again, by those in our midst.

I spent a number of years in a faith tradition that emphasized the power of personal testimony. Individuals would testify to the work and power of God in their lives and the lives of those they knew. In these spaces of testimony, we collectively remembered the promises of God. The faith of those gathered was buoyed as they were reminded of God’s work in the world.

Testimony. Reclaiming of the promises. These essential practices in the Christian faith keep us grounded and assured in who God is and what God does, especially in times when it is hard to see. We hear the promises of God over and over again because we often need to be reminded of them. We need to be reminded that in Christ, all God’s promises are “Yes!” Practicing faith in community strengthens us to reply, “Amen!”

As we look ahead to the coming year, I want to pay particular attention to our claiming, naming, and proclaiming of God’s promises for us and all of creation. There may be days in which our faith wobbles, when the promises of God seem a far cry from fulfillment. On those days, harkening back to our baptisms, we benefit from hearing the promises of God proclaimed by our communities loud enough for others to hear. *(continued)*

## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- 42 congregations were engaged in call process
- 13 Rostered Ministers were welcomed to the synod
- 1 new worshipping community was created: the Nuer Community Lutheran Church
- 3 Power+Boundaries workshops were hosted to equip lay people, church staffs, and Rostered Ministers
- A Chrism Mass Advent Worship was offered to leaders for the first time



In the first part of 2025, members of the Office of the Bishop will intentionally collect stories of God's work in the world from members throughout the synod. Our hope is to create a library of stories told by all kinds of voices that give testimony to what God has done and hopes of what God will yet do.

How have the promises of God been fulfilled in your life? In the lives of those you love? In the aspects of creation you explore? In the life of your congregation or larger community? What testimony can you share for the sake of building up the community of faith?

The life of discipleship is, in the words of the late Rev. Eugene Peterson, "a long obedience in the same direction." It is an obedience best undertaken in community with a chorus of believers surrounding us crying, "Yes!" and "Amen!" as we lift our voices to do the same.

May this year in ministry be one in which we claim and proclaim the fulfillment of all the promises of God so that our faith might grow and the world might live more fully into abundant life.

How is the Spirit inviting your congregation to join the chorus of "Yes!" and "Amen!"?

In Christ,

*Rev. Regina Hassanally*

Bishop Regina Hassanally



## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Synod Assembly took place with roughly 360 people in attendance, celebrating the theme: **"Every Congregation Connected"**
- Fall Theological Retreat took place with 145 attendees (including Rostered Ministers and congregation staff) in La Crosse, WI, with the theme **"Will You Be My Neighbor? Called to Community"**
- Gatherings were hosted to support leaders who are new to the synod, in their first years of ministry, and retired







# Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love

**"Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph.4:3), as both individual members and the body of Christ, we pledge that we shall:**

In Thought	
Accept conflict	1. Acknowledge together that conflict is a normal part of our life in the church. <i>Romans 14:1-8, 10-12, 17-19; 15:1-7</i>
Affirm hope	2. Affirm that as God walks with us in conflict, we can work through to growth. <i>Ephesians 4:15-16</i>
Commit to prayer	3. Admit our needs and commit ourselves to pray for a mutually satisfactory solution (no prayers for my success or the other to change but to find a joint way). <i>James 5:16</i>
In Action	
Go to the other...	4. Go directly to those with whom we disagree; avoid behind-the-back criticism. * <i>Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-20</i>
...in the spirit of humility	5. Go in gentleness, patience and humility. Place the problem between us at neither doorstep and own our part in the conflict instead of pointing out the others'. <i>Galatians 6:1-5</i>
Be quick to listen	6. Listen carefully, summarize and check out what is heard before responding. Seek as much to understand as to be understood. <i>James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13</i>
Be slow to judge	7. Suspend judgments, avoid labeling, end name calling, discard threats and act in a nondefensive, nonreactive way. <i>Romans 2:1-4; Galatians 5:22-26</i>
Be willing to negotiate	8. Work through the disagreements constructively. <i>Acts 15; Philippians 2:1-11</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify issues, interests, and needs of both (rather than take positions).</li> <li>• Generate a variety of options for meeting both parties' needs (rather than defending one's own way).</li> <li>• Evaluate options by how they meet the needs and satisfy the interests of all sides (not one side's values).</li> <li>• Collaborate in working out a joint solution (so both sides gain, both grow and win).</li> <li>• Cooperate with the emerging agreement (accept the possible, not demand your ideal).</li> <li>• Reward each other for each step forward, toward agreement (celebrate mutuality).</li> </ul>
In Life	
Be steadfast in love	9. Be firm in our commitment to seek a mutual solution; be stubborn in holding to our common foundation in Christ; be steadfast in love. <i>Colossians 3:12-15</i>
Be open to mediation	10. Be open to accept skilled help. If we cannot reach agreement among ourselves, we will use those with gifts and training in mediation in the larger church. <i>Philippians 4:1-3</i>
Trust the community	11. We will trust the community and if we cannot reach agreement or experience reconciliation, we will turn the decision over to others in the congregation or from the broader church. <i>Acts 15</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In one-to-one or small group disputes, this may mean allowing others to arbitrate.</li> <li>• In congregational, conference district or denominational disputes, this may mean allowing others to arbitrate or implementing constitutional decision-making processes, insuring that they are done in the spirit of these guidelines, and abiding by whatever decision is made.</li> </ul>
Be the body of Christ	12. Believe in and rely on the solidarity of the Body of Christ and its commitment to peace and justice, rather than resort to the courts of law. <i>1 Corinthians 6:1-6</i>

In 2023, the Church Council adopted a covenantal agreement called *Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love*. This document provides the necessary guidance for how to handle conflicts in a healthy way within the church. It is Biblically based and sets a standard of behavior and actions that we as Christians are to follow. Jesus commanded us to love one another at Grace. Others will know we are Jesus' disciples because of the love we show one another. As Christians, we are called to love one another even when we are in a disagreement. We are to work for a solution, figure it out together and then live together with the solution.

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>Sundays:</b>	8:30AM Traditional 10:45AM Contemporary
<b>Tuesdays:</b>	2:00PM Fairmont Cable TV Channel 12 (pre-recorded)
<b>Wednesdays:</b>	6:30PM WOW, Worship on Wednesday!
<b>Fridays:</b>	1:00PM Fairmont Cable TV Channel 12 (pre-recorded)



**\*Communion** is offered each Sunday and Wednesday.

**\*Sunday services will be streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and our webpage.**

**Goldfinch Senior Living Worship Service:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10AM on the Memory Care side with Communion at Goldfinch and every 2nd Monday of the month, 10AM, at Lakeview Methodist home, with communion. Please come and worship with our friends and members of Grace!



## **Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5!**

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5, with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a season of repentance and self-examination where we see what is not life-giving, ask for God's forgiveness, and turn our lives back around to God. In the sanctuary, you will find a black box which is our Baggage Box. During this season, you are invited to write down any burden, sin, shame, or fear that is weighing you down and holding you back in your life and relationship with God and one another. On Easter

morning, we will burn this box as a symbol of the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, lighting the Christ Candle from these flames. On Ash Wednesday, we will be joining with our ecumenical partners for a community Noon service held at St. John's United Church of Christ as well as worship at 6:30PM at Grace. Confirmation students and their mentors are asked to worship together on Wednesdays in Lent as we sing Holden Evening Prayer together with a time for discussion, ending at 7:30PM. We will also offer Holden Evening Prayer Wednesdays at noon in the chapel. We hope you will come for a time of mid-week reflection, to take a breath, and acknowledge the presence of Christ in our midst.

# BUSINESS OF GRACE

## Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes January 19th, 2025

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Troy Nemmers, Council Co-President at 9:44 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with a quorum present.

**Opening Litany:** Pastor Allison Cobb led the Opening Litany from the 2024 Annual Report with the members present.

**Secretary's Report:** The 2024 Annual Minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Larry Traetow to approve. Dennis Madsen seconded. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Jane Reiman, Financial Director, provided information of the 2024 finances. All obligations were met and bills were paid. Brian Huebert moved to accept the report. Seconded by Kirsten Bressler. Motion carried.

### **Elections:**

#### **Congregational Council:**

**3 year term:** The following members were nominated:

Nancy Backer  
Corey Klanderud  
Kirsten Bressler  
Chery Brumbaugh  
Andy Kryzer

A motion was made to accept nominations by Paul Kloekner. Second by Brian Roggow. Motion carried.

Harlan Gorath moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the election of the nominees. Second by Bruce Ehlert. Motion carried.

#### **Council Members (Term Continuing):**

##### **One Year Remaining:**

Troy Nemmers  
Kris Boerner  
Ardel Prescott

##### **Two Years Remaining:**

Jamie Core  
Joyce Eisenmenger  
Mark Morris

##### **Departing Council Members (Term Fulfilled)**

Joice Forster  
Josh Ensrud  
Carolyn Bird  
Brandon DeClercq

Larry Traetow moved to elect Jane Reiman and Louise Hendricks as delegates to the 2025 Synod Assembly. Second by Ben Jordan. Motion carried.

Kirsten Bressler moved to accept David Johnson, Randy Lubenow, and Jody Saxton as members of the audit committee. Second by Marion Holland. Motion carried.

Jane Reiman presented the 2025 budget. The budget will increase by \$770 over the 2024 budget. Harry Brumbaugh moved to approve. Seconded by Kirsten Bressler. Motion carried.

##### **Old Business**

The Call Committee was able to call Pastor Cole McCormick as associate pastor at Grace Lutheran Church. Pastor Cole was overwhelmingly voted to take on this role by the congregation. He began his ministerial duties in September of 2024. Amber Hanson was hired to be the Open Door Meal Coordinator starting in September of 2024.

Co-president Carolyn Bird reviewed the Grace Lutheran Church core values and mission statement. She then thanked council members, staff, pastors, teams, and all the volunteers of the Grace Family.

##### **New Business**

Troy Nemmers gave a report from the Service Team. He referenced a Capital Improvement Plan which will prioritize the needs of the church



building. He requests if anyone sees building needs to please contact members of the service team or the pastors.

Pastor Allison announced that the church’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary is July 8, 2028. She is looking for volunteers to serve on the planning committee.

Harlan Gorath, a long-term member of Grace, shared why he and his wife enjoy Grace Lutheran Church as their church home. They saw many ways to serve God and be a part of a welcoming church. They love the mission work that takes place at Grace and all the opportunities for youth to come to know the love of Jesus!

**Closing:** Pastor Cole thanked the members for coming and an appreciation to all members of the Grace Lutheran Church family.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 10:27 a.m..

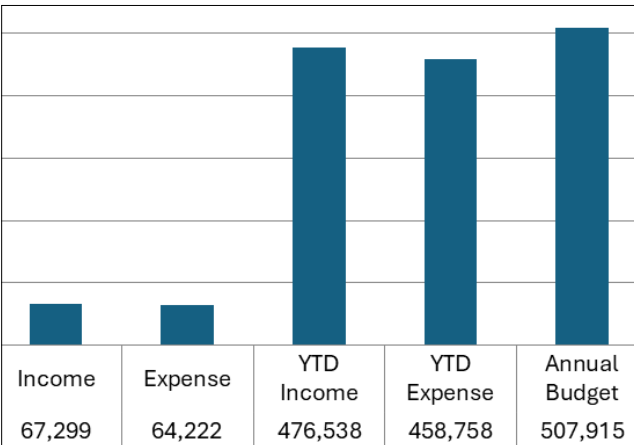
Respectfully Submitted,

Joice Forster, Council Secretary

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Joice Forster, Council Secretary**

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR DECEMBER



Memorials:

**Karen Hertzke**

Chris & Carol Nasby	Undesignated
Arvin & Joanne Soma	Sound System
Enos & Charlotte Breitbarth	People Helping People
Harlan & Larainne Gorath	Open Door
Dan and Mary Ann Kerberg	Missions
Ken Rose	Missions
Anne and Javen Holm	Missions
Judy Klenz	Missions
Calvin & Jody Saxton	Missions
Scott Drever	Missions
Nyla Gerhardt	Missions
Lyn and Lynn Johnson	Missions
Ross and Cindy Wohlhuter	Missions
Rod and Diane Palmquist	Missions
Marian Holland	Missions
Ernie Nuss	Missions
Mike and Linda Katzenmeyer	Missions
Carol Cress	Missions
Velma Vickerman	Missions
Betty Dawson	Missions
Marv and Marie Johnston	Missions
Lenny and Carol Tvedten	Missions
Kevin and Betty Williams	Missions
Louise Hendricks	Missions
Jennelle Cuning	Missions
Liz Hartke	Missions
Fred and Lorraine Carlson	Missions
Ken and Gloria Carlson	Missions
Todd and Patti Mathews	Missions
Al and Darlene Hauglid	Missions
Carol and Sherwood Sagedahl	Missions
Curt and Ellen Nelson	Missions
Paul & Sue Ruen	Undesignated
James Rusch	Undesignated
Patricia Jones	Missions
Janet Nielsen	Building
Renee Tillotson	Youth Fund

**Kay Wrucke Memorial**

Mark & Ilene Reiter	People Helping People
Renee Tillotson	Youth Fund

**Harey & Sue Moeller Memorial**

Jan & Roger Peterson	Building
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**Joyce Dillion Memorial**

Jan & Roger Peterson	Building
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## BUSINESS OF GRACE CONTINUED...

### Kathreyn Detert Memorial

Jan & Roger Peterson Building

### Marieanne Hagen Memorial

Jan & Roger Peterson Building

### Larry Norem Memorial

Jan & Roger Peterson Building

### Sheelagh Rosenberg Memorial

Jan & Roger Peterson Building

### Beverly Villeneuve Memorial

Jan & Roger Peterson Building

### Elaine Christ Memorial

Jan & Roger Peterson Building

### Leo Krumholz Memorial

Jan & Roger Peterson Building

## Ministry Assistants for February- 8:30AM Traditional Service

	Sunday, February 2	Sunday, February 9	Sunday, February 16	Sunday, February 23
Communion Preparer	Dawn Becker	Dawn Becker Peggy Jones	Sharon Elliot Jennifer Moore	Peggy Jones Jennifer Moore
Communion Server	Marian Holland Mona Scheerle	Peggy Jones Daw Becker	Allen & Karen Struck	Marian Holland Mary Kotewa
Greeters	Darlene Parks, Marian Holland	Wayne & Marlene Olson	Peggy Jones, Patricia Jones	Arv & Joanne Soma
Lector	Scott Drever	Ben Jordan	Ben Jordan	Neal Becker
Sound Tech	Darlon Widener	Justin Schmidt	Jolene Rosol	Mark Vogelsang
Ushers	Curtis Bressler	Curtis Bressler	Curtis Bressler	Curtis Bressler
	Kirsten Bressler	Kirsten Bressler	Kirsten Bressler	Kirsten Bressler

*If you are unable to serve on your day, please find a replacement and ask them to let the head usher, Brian Huebert, know when they arrive. If you can't find a replacement email Brian at [bhuebert\\_ford@yahoo.com](mailto:bhuebert_ford@yahoo.com). Thank you!*

## Ministry Assistants for February- 10:45AM Contemporary Service

	Sunday, February 2	Sunday, February 9	Sunday, February 16	Sunday, February 23
Communion Preparer	Jane Reiman, Del Prescott	Elayne Baumgart Coleen Ehlert	Brenda & Randy Lubenow	Becky & Dave Johnson
Communion Server	Brian & Deb Roggow Elayne Baumgart	Elayne Baumgart Abby Ehlert	Brian & Deb Roggow	Becky Johnson, Enos Breitbarth
Greeters	Elayne Baumgart	Tom & Nona Larson	Becky Whitmore, Deb Roggow	Dennis & Carol Madsen
Lector	Carolyn Bird	Deb Morris	Deb Roggow	Brian Roggow
Sound Tech	Pam Krill	Jolene Rosol	Amber Hansen	Blake Potthoff
Slide Tech	Amber Hansen	Corey Klanderud	James Miller	Amber Hansen
Ushers	Brian Roggow, Enos Breitbarth, Louise Hendricks, Tracy Bremer	Brian Roggow, Enos Breitbarth, Louise Hendricks, Tracy Bremer	Brian Roggow, Enos Breitbarth, Louise Hendricks, Tracy Bremer	Brian Roggow, Enos Breitbarth, Louise Hendricks, Tracy Bremer

*If you are unable to serve on your day, please find a replacement and ask them to let the head usher, Bruce Ehlert, know when they arrive. If you can't find a replacement email Bruce at [blehlert@midco.net](mailto:blehlert@midco.net). Thank you!*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

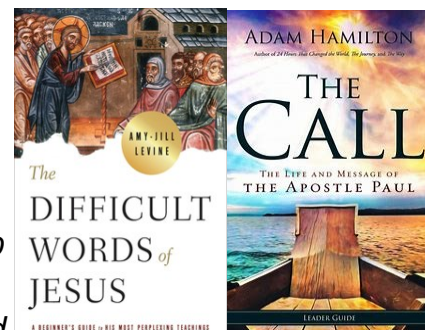
## ***Have you ever wondered the purpose of the CYF Team?***

The Children, Youth, and Family team supports and nurtures disciples of all ages by providing opportunities of Christian education, recognizing milestones, and spiritual growth. We are one part of the journey in helping to fulfill promises that have been made at Holy Baptism and helping to make Christ known to all. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry team, please sign up on the board in the Gathering Space. Thank you for sharing in God's work here at Grace!



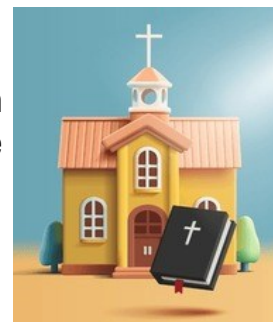
**Men's Breakfast on Monday:** Men of all ages are invited to a monthly breakfast at The Ranch restaurant on the first Monday of the month at 7:00AM. Come for a devotion, fellowship, and good breakfast food. **When: Monday February 3 at 7:00AM Where: The Ranch Restaurant Why: Because Jesus says that when a few are gathered in his name, he's there too!**

**Adult Bible Study:** Invite a friend, grab your coffee and donut holes, and come to adult Sunday School between the worship services. We meet at 9:35am for a variety of topics throughout the program year. Each week will include a brief video lesson from a Bible scholar or preacher followed by discussion. Come for light-hearted conversation and faith education. We continue this month with *The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings*. Then, On March 9, we will begin our six-week Lenten study by Rev. Adam Hamilton entitled *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul*. Come and study together the beatitudes as well as many other "teachings of Jesus that he shared with the crowd and his disciples. Hope to see you there!



**The Gift of Final Wishes:** Thank you to everyone who attended this discussion on planning your funeral worship service. For those unable to attend, funeral guides can be found on our Care Table in the gathering space as well as under the Resources tab on our webpage. Over time, as you hear a song or scripture in worship that is meaningful to you, jot it down and share with your family your wishes. When you are finished, please bring a copy of your planning sheet to the office and we will keep it on file for you. For more information, please see Pastor Allison.

**Grace Lutheran's At Home Congregation:** Do you primarily attend worship at Grace from the comfort of your home, either streaming online or during the weekly TV broadcasts? If so, we would like to learn who is worshipping in that manner so we can connect more directly with you. If you worship primarily at home, please call the office at 507-238-4418 or email at [office@gracelutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@gracelutheranchurch.org). Also, we would love to include insights from your experience as an at home worshipper on our Worship Team. If you would like to serve on this Team, we meet the first Monday of the month at 6:30PM. Thank you for faithfully being a part of the body of Christ at Grace!



**Donut Holes:** Delicious donut holes are always enjoyed on Sunday mornings. If we pick up the donut holes on Saturday, we can save Grace over \$850 a year! We are hoping for a team of people that would be willing to keep up with this important fellowship treat. If you are interested in being part of this pickup team, please contact our church office at 507-238-4418



## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...

**Mankato Symphony Orchestra and Fairmont Opera House present: *The Emperor and Mozart* March 16th @ 3pm at Grace Lutheran Church**

Last season the MSO brought you *Handel's Messiah* to great acclaim. This season we offer another choral masterpiece, *Requiem in D Minor* by Mozart, featuring the same fantastic soloists as last year, along with a specially selected chorus of singers from our community led by Choral Director Jon Hermanson. Pianist Clare Longendyke makes her MSO debut in the *Emperor Piano Concerto* to round off a spectacular pair of masterpieces. Join us on March 16th at 3pm to experience these masterpieces performed by top local talent! Tickets available at: [fairmontoperahouse.org/tickets](https://fairmontoperahouse.org/tickets). Get \$5 off each ticket you purchase online with discount code "ONLINE".



**Grace's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2028!** In three years, Grace Lutheran Church will celebrate 100 years of worship, service, and fellowship in the Fairmont community. A small team is being formed to plan this event, in coordination with our Fellowship and Worship Teams. Lenny Tvedten will be chairing the sub committee that will bring together historical articles, artifacts, and conduct interviews with our youngest to oldest members. If you would like to join the planning team or the history team, please contact the Pastor Allison.

**Synod Conference Assembly Meeting for Pastors and Lay People:** The Blue Earth River Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2025. Each conference shall hold a Conference Assembly at least annually, typically at the beginning of February. Each congregation shall be represented by its pastor(s), Deacons, and three times the number of lay voting members it is entitled to at the Synod Assembly. For Grace Lutheran, that is six lay people who may attend. If you are interested in going to this meeting, please let Pastor Allison know by February 2. Thank you!



## ANNOUNCEMENT REMINDERS:

- ✚ **Chancel Choir:** Practice Wednesdays at 5:15PM, Sing at 8:30AM worship services.
- ✚ **Celebration Choir:** Practice Sundays at 9:30AM, Sing at 10:45AM worship services.
- ✚ **Care Callers:** Call and visit with a homebound member! Contact office for more information.
- ✚ **Service Team:** Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 5:30PM monthly to discuss budgets, assets, and more!
- ✚ **Stewardship Team:** Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30PM monthly to oversee year round stewardship of time, talents, and treasures.
- ✚ **Fellowship/Outreach Team:** Meet 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm to discuss Grace Pantry, fellowship hour, and special events.
- ✚ **CYF Team:** Meets the 1st Monday of the month at 5:30PM to discuss youth ministry and events.
- ✚ **Worship Team:** Meets the 1st Monday of the Month at 6:30pm to plan inclusive and welcoming worship for all ages.
- ✚ **Meal Ministry Team:** Deliver a meal to someone struggling or in need! Contact Nancy Backer at nurse\_nancyb@hotmail.com

# CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

## WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

**Open Door Meal:** 4:45PM - 6:30PM - All are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a meal.

**BLAST, PreK - 6th Grade:** 5:30PM - 6:30PM - This includes Cherub & Alleluia Choir, learning lessons, and fun!

**Wednesday Worship:** 6:30PM - 7:00PM

**Confirmation, 7th-9th Grade:** 6:30PM - 7:00PM

TEXT  
ME

#LOVE

MISS  
YOU



### First Communion Class on February 23!

At Grace, we commune children at whatever age parents feel it is appropriate. Jesus welcomes all to the table so if you come from a tradition where even the littlest commune, you are welcome to do so at Grace. Likewise, if you prefer your children to have taken an introductory class to communion first, that is welcome as well. There is no “right” age to commune, and no one can ever fully understand the holy mystery of Christ being present at communion. Jesus simply welcomes all! The pastors offer a class once a year geared toward ages five through twelve which offers hands on learning as we hear the promises of Jesus brought to us in this holy sacrament. Please call or email the office if you would like to enroll your child in this year’s class which will meet on Sunday, February 23, from noon to 3pm. **An adult must attend with each student.** We will start with a pizza lunch followed by lessons, a craft, tasting communion elements, and baking communion bread. Students will mark this special milestone of first communion in both worship services on Sunday, March 2.

**Commitment forms...** are now available for the 7th through 12th grade summer mission trip to Appalachia, West Virginia July 18th through 25th. We will be staying at a local church and assisting with some of the needs of that local congregation. It might be a service project, praying with someone, evangelism, construction project, time at a homeless shelter, or whatever God reveals to us. We will also have a recreation/cultural day that the group will be able to give input on. The cost is approx. \$600 per person, and we are hoping for commitments by February 5th. Please contact Becky Kelley 651-231-4733 [rkelly1229@yahoo.com](mailto:rkelly1229@yahoo.com) or Pastor Cole 507-238-4418 or [mccormick@gracelutheranchurch.org](mailto:mccormick@gracelutheranchurch.org)



# WORDS FOR WORSHIP

## **Sunday, February 2 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

## **Sunday, February 9- Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory. "Who will go for us?" God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

## **Sunday, February 16 - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe tos" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

## **Sunday, February 23-Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having

put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

## **Sunday, March 2 - Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

First Reading: Exodus 34:29-35

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]



## ***February Open Door Meal Menu***

Join us in the Fellowship  
Hall on Wednesday evenings  
from 4:45 - 6:30 PM

Feb 5: Scalloped Potatoes/Ham

Feb 12: Valentine's Day Spaghetti

Feb 19: Brinner  
(Breakfast for Dinner)

Feb 26: Soup/Chili





# FEBRUARY



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<b>26</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:40am Adult Ed. - Lounge <b>9:40am - 10:40am Good Earth Village Meetup - Fellowship Hall</b> 9:40am Tech Training - Balcony 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service	<b>27</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS	<b>28</b> 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	<b>29</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's CBS 4:45pm - 6:30am Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm WOW - Worship on Wednesday	<b>30</b> 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing 1:00pm Ways of Grace Assembly Team	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:40am Adult Ed. 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service	<b>3</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Mary Circle 5:30pm CYF Team Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:00am Common Threads Sewing 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	<b>5</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's CBS 4:45pm - 6:30am Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm WOW - Worship on Wednesday	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Council Retreat
<b>9</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:40am Adult Ed. 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service 4:00pm Silverlake 4-H	<b>10</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting <b>10:00am Lakeview Senior Worship</b> 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:30pm Shalom Circle	<b>11</b> 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 5:30pm Outreach/Fellowship Team Meetings 5:30pm Service Team Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship	<b>12</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's CBS 10:00am Goldfinch Memory Care Worship 4:45pm - 6:30am Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm WOW - Worship on Wednesday	<b>13</b> 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing 4:00pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre 6:00pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Ways of Grace Submission Deadline
<b>16</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:40am Council & Stewardship Meeting in Chapel 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service	<b>17</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS	<b>18</b> 9:00am Common Threads Sewing 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	<b>19</b> NO Women's CBS - Winter Break 4:45pm - 6:30am Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm WOW - Worship on Wednesday	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:40am Adult Ed. 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service 12:00pm - 3:00pm First Communion Class	<b>24</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS	<b>25</b> 9:00am - 2:00pm <b>American Red Cross Blood Drive</b> 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	<b>26</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's CBS 4:45pm - 6:30am Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm WOW - Worship on Wednesday	<b>27</b> 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing <b>12:00pm Thrivent Ministerial Luncheon</b> 1:00pm Ways of Grace Assembly Team 4:30pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
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**Fairmont, MN 56031**

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Fairmont Grace Lutheran Church - [www.gracelutheranchurch.org](http://www.gracelutheranchurch.org)

**MAY THE LORD  
BLESS YOU  
AND KEEP YOU  
THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE  
SHINE ON YOU  
AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU  
THE LORD TURN HIS  
FACE TOWARD YOU  
AND GIVE YOU  
PEACE  
NUMBERS 6:24-26**



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