

March 2026



THE SEASON OF LENT



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39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to [Jesus], they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Woman at the Well, John 4:5-42.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we walk together this month during the next five weeks of Lent, we will hear wonderful and familiar Bible stories each week. March begins with the Pharisee, Nicodemus, who comes to Jesus at night, away from judgmental eyes of his peers, and asks Jesus what it means to be born again and have new life. Jesus proclaims, 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17)

We learn very early on that Jesus did not just come for the religious, the perfect, or the familiar, but he came for the world. And on the third Sunday in Lent, we will hear a story of the woman at the well, but this woman is not Jewish. It was culturally inappropriate for Jesus to be talking with an unaccompanied woman, let alone a Samaritan. This outsider carried her own burdens and shame, along with her water jug, coming to the well in the heat of the day, alone, and Jesus speaks to her. He notices her and offers her living water. She then runs back to her village and shares this good news, and the entire village believes because of her.

This healing on the inside is then followed up by healing on the outside where Jesus heals a man who was born blind and then raises Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus was his good friend, along with his sisters Mary and Martha. We will witness Jesus' humanity as he cries at the death of his friend, and his divinity as he brings him back to life. Martha is the first person in John's gospel to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." (John 11:27)

Our journey through Lent ends on the final Sunday in March with Palm Sunday where we hear shouts of Hosanna!" as Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey. The one who welcomed Pharisees, Samaritans, women, the sick, outsiders, and his own Jewish community, is now welcomed by ones who will betray him in a matter of days. The fickleness and sinfulness of humanity will lead from praise to punishment as Jesus soon will be betrayed by those closest to him.

Where do we find ourselves in this story? Are we ones who have been given new life, welcomed into God's family, been healed, have walked away or denied our Lord, have judged others? All of us have at any given time done these things or been these things, and Lent provides a few dedicated weeks to be honest about our sinfulness and need for our Savior.

Therefore, I welcome you to mid-week worship at Noon and 6:30pm where we take 30 minutes to pray, sing, and reflect. On Sundays, you will hear these gospel stories in depth and may ponder the deep grace and mercy of God for you. And in the sanctuary, our baggage box will remain, and you are invited to write down your burdens, sin, and shame and leave it at the foot of the cross. On Easter morning, we will burn this box, remembering the refining fire of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of our sins, and light the Christ candle from these flames.

Trust that you are loved by God who walks with us on life's journey. And this faith community walks together too. From the cross, to the empty tomb, and into the heavenly communion of saints to come.

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Allison

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 8:30AM Traditional
10:45AM Contemporary

Tuesdays: 2:00PM Fairmont Cable TV
Channel 12 (pre-recorded)

Wednesdays: 6:30PM *Unfailing Light* Lenten Worship
Noon *Holden Evening Prayer* Lenten
Worship



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

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



Senior Living Worship Services this month: March 9 at Lakeview Methodist Home, 10 AM. Then March 11 at Goldfinch, 10 AM in Memory Care. Please come and worship with our friends and members of Grace!

Mid-Week Lenten Worship! The season of Lent began on Wednesday, February 18, 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. Confirmation students and their mentors are asked to worship together on Wednesdays in Lent as we sing *Unfailing Light* together with a time for discussion, ending at 7:15PM. 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.



Easter Lily Order Form:

**I would like to buy a Easter Lily
IN MEMORY OF:**



IN HONOR OF:

FROM:

Easter Lily: \$11.00

Quantity: _____

Please drop off order form and payment in church office. Deadline for orders is March 19. Flowers may be picked up anytime after the 10:45am Easter Service.

A few things you should know about the

Southeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The mission of our synod:
To walk together proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of over **98,200** baptized people in **165** congregations. It is one of the **65** synods that make up the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The synod includes **two** synod-authorized worshipping communities (SAWCs), **three** campus ministries, **one** camp, and many South Sudanese worshippers.

Find the office in-person...

(But make an appointment before visiting!)

418 Sumner Street E, Suite 200
Northfield, MN 55057

Office phone: (507)280-9457

...and online!

www.SEMNSynod.org

Facebook and Instagram:

[@semnsynod](https://www.facebook.com/semnsynod)

[YouTube.com/c/SoutheasternMinnesotaSynod](https://www.youtube.com/c/SoutheasternMinnesotaSynod)

Meet Bishop Hassanally:

Rev. Regina Hassanally has served as Bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA since September of 2019. As bishop she delights in conversations with pastors and deacons, walking alongside congregational leaders, Sunday morning coffee hours, and imagining future possibilities. She believes in the power of God to transform lives and her ministry is focused on gospel proclamation. Prior to being called as bishop, Regina served a vibrant and lively congregation in rural southeastern Minnesota. While serving as a parish pastor, she loved preaching, teaching confirmation, and, along with her congregation, exploring Scripture as they discerned together the ways the Spirit was at work for the sake of God's glory in the world. Regina has a B.A. in Biology Health Professions from Northwestern College, Orange City, IA, and a Master of Divinity from Palmer Theological Seminary in Wayne, PA. She is married to Terrence, an avid Manchester United fan, and together they parent four active boys who have no trouble finding adventure.



Meet the Office of the Bishop Staff:



Cheryse Brenno
Call Process & Roster Administrator
brenno@semnsynod.org



Rev. Emily Carson
Assistant to the Bishop/Director for Evangelical Mission, Cultivator of a Culture of Generosity and Care



Sadie Neigum
Office Administrator
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Rev. Matt Larson
Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, Leadership, and Congregation Care
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Kathy Chatelaine
Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry
chatelaine@semnsynod.org



Rev. Barb Streed
Assistant to the Bishop for Call Process and Congregation Care
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Ashley Corbett
Director of Communications
corbett@semnsynod.org



Tharan Leopold
Gifts Officer & Endowment Specialist – ELCA Foundation
tharan.leopold@elca.org

Be in the Loop:

There are various ways to stay connected, including email! We urge everyone to join our weekly email list called the **RC Weekly**. All rostered leaders should receive the **Monthly Memo** email September through June. Finally, the list for the synod's **Faith Formation Network** is open to anyone interested in Faith Formation meetings and updates.



Scan the QR code to join now! (Or visit: semnsynod.org/RCW)

HOT TIP: Add the following email address to your contacts list to decrease odds that messages get caught in spam filters: communications@semnsynod.org

Synod means “to walk together.”

The three expressions of the ELCA are congregations and specialized ministries, synods, and the churchwide organization. The synod consists of congregations, groups, leaders, and members. Our domestic partner synod is the New England Synod. Our global partners include Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania - Central Diocese (ELCT-CD), and Evangelical Lutheran Church of Africa – Mission in South Sudan (ELCA-MSS).

The Office of the Bishop is one part of the synod. It exists to accompany congregations and leaders, serve as a bridge between worshipping communities and the churchwide organization, and equip and empower the people in our communities as they proclaim the gospel of Jesus.

The Five Conferences:

- Blue Earth River Conference**
- Cannon River Conference**
- Minnesota River Conference**
- Root River Conference**
- Zumbro River Conference**



Each conference serves to cultivate relationships between congregations, provide a community for ministry leaders, select representatives to synod boards and committees, and create workgroups in alignment with the mission of the synod. Each holds monthly meetings and annual conference assemblies. Officers are also elected to represent each conference. Learn more at: semnsynod.org/conferences.

Call Process:

Pastoral transitions are inevitable and important times for both congregations and leaders. The Office of the Bishop will work with you during this journey to make it as smooth as possible for everyone involved.

The **four phases of the call process** for congregations are:

1. The Transition Process
2. The Self-Study Process
3. The Interview Process
4. Welcoming Your New Pastor



For downloadable resources, important links for rostered leaders, who to contact, and more, scan the QR code or go to semnsynod.org/call.

Candidacy:

Candidacy is the churchwide process of preparation and formation leading to approval for the public service in this church as a rostered **Minister of Word and Sacrament (Pastor)** or as a rostered **Minister of Word and Service (Deacon)**. Candidacy calls for active partnership between candidate, congregation, synod, seminary, and the Congregational and Synodical Mission (churchwide unit).

It is by Christ's gift that all baptized persons are called to ministry in daily life. The ELCA is committed to the intentional identification and recruitment of those persons who are so gifted by God that they can provide leadership in this church. Through a process of reflection and discernment, individuals are encouraged to consider whether they are called by God through the church to serve as a rostered minister.

For more information or to start a conversation, send a message to candidacy@semnsynod.org. You can also contact the Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, Leadership, and Congregation Care or visit semnsynod.org/candidacy.

Dates to Save:

Each year we hold various events, so mark your calendars now! Of course, just as the Spirit moves, our list of events is always subject to change. Check our online calendar regularly for upcoming events and details by visiting: semnsynod.org/events.

Reports to Synod Due
**Multiple reports from congregations and leaders*
February 15

Councils As Leaders
March 14, 2026
Annual Synod Assembly
May 2, 2026

Campus Ministry Sunday
Fall (date TBD), 2026
Fall Theological Retreat
October 11-13, 2026

Partner organizations:

These partner organizations are financially supported by the synod through mission support dollars.

Crossroads Campus Ministry, Mankato
crossroadsatmnsu.org

Good Earth Village, Spring Valley
goodearthvillage.org

Luther Seminary, St. Paul
luthersem.edu

Minnesota Council of Churches, Minneapolis
mnchurches.org

ELCA Region 3 Archives
luthersem.edu/archives

Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota
lutheranadvocacymn.org

Lutheran Campus Center, Winona
lccwinona.com

And more:

This brief introduction to the synod isn't everything! Please see the staff positions on the back and visit our website for more on the many moving pieces of this synod.

BUSINESS OF GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes February 8th, 2026

Members Present: Joyce, Pastor Allison, Jane, Nancy, Mark, Chery, Terry, Pastor Cole, Steph, Corey, Cindy and Jaime

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes from 1/18/2026:

Motion By: Terry Seconded By: Nancy
Motioned Carried: yes

Approval of Financial Report

Motion By: Corey Seconded By: Nancy
Motioned Carried: yes

Team Reports: reviewed via email prior to meeting

Old Business:

-Constitution status update: Congregation approved updated constitution at annual meeting. This updated constitution will be used until next year's annual meeting when it will be voted on to permanently replace the 2012 GLC Constitution. The council also would like to review the constitution every 3 years based on synod guidelines (2029).

New Business

-Elect Council Officers:

Co-Presidents: Corey Klanderud and Mark Morris

Secretary: Katie Teachout

Treasurer: Cindy Wohlhuter

Motion By: Nancy Seconded By: Joyce

Motion Carried: yes

-Choose Team Liaisons:

Children, Youth and Family: Jaime, Brenda, Steph

Fellowship and Outreach: Joyce and Chery

Worship: Andy and Katie

Service: Corey

Stewardship: Cindy and Nancy

Personnel: Mark

Missions: Terry

Discussed and developed 2026 focus areas and champions

1. Stewardship (income generation through facility usage)

Cindy, Jane, Pastor Allison, Nancy, Corey

2. "Come and See" (Invitation and team engagement)

Joyce, Chery, Terry, Mark, Andy

3. Engage with youth and young adults (up to age around 35)

Jaime, Brenda, Steph, Katie

Retreat recap with Pastor Emily on Sunday, February 8 at 9:40am in the Chapel

Pastor reports reviewed via email prior to meeting

Other

- Easter Worship to be changed from 3 services to 2 (8:30am 10:45am) due to schedules/ conflicts with musicians and continued low attendance at the sunrise service did not support the need for two traditional services

Motioned By: Cindy Seconded by: Joyce

Motion Carried: yes

-Discussion was had to invite Thrivent representative to council meeting in March or April

Adjournment: 5:35pm

Motioned by: Cindy Seconded by: Joyce

Motioned Carried: yes

Next meeting

Sunday, March 15th at 11:45am

Respectfully submitted by Jaime Core

Memorials:

Lois Kesler memorial

Carolyn Bird
Patricia Jones

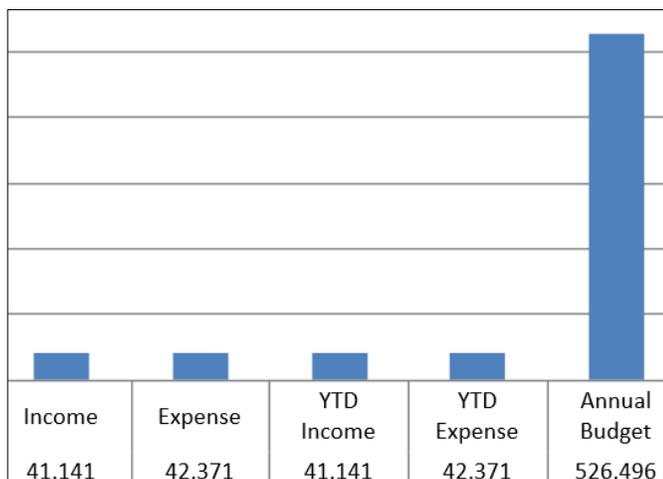
Missons
Missons

Velma Vickerman Memorial

Michael & Linda Katzenmeyer	Undesignated
Daniel & Mary Kehrberg	Undesignated
Enos & Charlotte Breitbarth	People Helping People
Harry & Chery Brumbaugh	Youth Fund
Beth Christianson	Undesignated
Robert & Debra Bonk	Undesignated
Dwight & Barbara Hilburn	Undesignated
Rod & Diane Palmquist	Undesignated
Shelly & Denny Junkermeier	Undesignated
Julie Barts	Undesignated
Lenny & Carol Tvedten	Undesignated
Ross & Lisa Hunwardsen	Undesignated
Bob & Barb Duffey	Undesignated
Michelle Duncan	Undesignated
Harlan & Larainne Gorath	People Helping People
Janet Nielsen	Building
Lorraine Hintze	Building

Thank you for your memorial gifts!

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR JANUARY



Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die. John 11:25"



In profound grief and hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we announce the death of Patricia Knewton. Rest eternal grant Patricia, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Gracious God,

Surround the family of Patricia with your love, and grant them your peace, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come. Thanks be to you, O God, for you give us the victorious through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Baptisms

In February we celebrated the baptisms of Leo Dean Anderson, Melody Sofia GraJales Albores, and Leah GraJales Albores.



March Ministry Assistants

Ministry Assistants for March- 8:30AM Traditional Service

	Sunday, March 1	Sunday, March 8	Sunday, March 15	Sunday, March 22	Sunday, March 29
Communion Preparer	Nancy Backer Kirsten Bressler	Sharon Elliot Jennifer Moore	Joyce Eisenmenger Peggy Jones	Kris Head Peggy Jones	Nancy Backer Kirsten Bressler
Communion Server	Nancy Backer Kirsten Bressler	Marian Holland Mary Kotewa	Joyce Eisenmenger Peggy Jones	Kris Head Ben Jordan	Nancy Backer Kirsten Bressler
Lector	Scott Drever	DeeAnne Helfritz	Ben Jordan	Allen Struck	Scott Drever
Sound Tech	Justin Schmidt	Jolene Rosol	Mark Vogelsang	Justin Schmidt	Mark Vogelsang
Ushers	Arv Soma Allen Struck	Arv Soma Allen Struck	Arv Soma Allen Struck	Arv Soma Allen Struck	Arv Soma Allen Struck

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, please email Brian at bhuebert_ford@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Ministry Assistants for March- 10:45AM Contemporary Service

	Sunday, March 1	Sunday, March 8	Sunday, March 15	Sunday, March 22	Sunday, March 29
Communion Preparer	Becky & Dave Johnson	Connie & Bruce Donnelly	Abby Ehlert Coleen Ehlert	Del Prescott Jane Reiman	Brenda & Randy Lubenow
Communion Server	Connie Donnelly Joice Forster	Carolyn Bird Rochelle Bremer	Elayne Baumgart Abby Ehlert	Del Prescott Jane Reiman	Carolyn Bird Rochelle Bremer
Lector	Brian Roggow	Debbie Morris	Abby Ehlert	Joice Forster	Carolyn Bird
Sound Tech	Louise Hendricks	Pam Krill	Amber Hansen	Amber Hansen	Blake Potthoff
Slide Tech	Amber Hansen	Corey Klanderud	Louise Hendricks	Justiss Hansen	Corey Klanderud
Ushers	Brian Roggow Enos Breitbarth Louise Hendricks Chris Nasby 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, please email Bruce at bruce.ehlert53@gmail.com. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...

Faith Legacy Team Seeks Your Ideas! The Faith Legacy Team has begun planning the 100th Anniversary celebration for Grace Lutheran Church. We would love to hear your ideas that you have seen as part of church anniversaries in the past, here, and in other congregations. Please pass along your ideas to one of the team members: Nancy Backer, Lenny Tvedten, Cindy Wohlhuter, Jane Reiman, Pastor Cole, and Pastor Allison. Thank you!



Mission's Phantom Tea: Letters from the Mission Team annual "Phantom Tea for Mission" will be emailed out. A bag of tea can also be picked up from the missions table in the back of the sanctuary. Please take time to sit down, relax, and have a cup of tea on us, while contemplating all the blessings God has bestowed on us! The Phantom Tea is an effort to raise funds for many worthwhile projects locally and globally that our Mission Team from Grace supports. Thank you for your continued outreach support for others!

Communion Servers Needed: Do you love serving others and sharing God's grace with them? If so, serving communion is a great way to volunteer! Communion servers are assigned to a Sunday morning service once per quarter, at your preferred worship time. The pastors will share with you the procedures which include offering the bread or wine/grape juice, saying "The body/blood of Christ given for you." We also take communion to people in their pews. If standing is difficult for you, we can also provide a stool to sit on during distribution. Please contact Pastor Allison or Del Prescott if you are interested. Thank you!



Have you ever wondered about the Worship Team? The Worship Team is a collaborative group of our pastors, musicians, and lay people who plan and organize meaningful, thoughtful, hospitable, and welcoming worship for all. Christ is the focus as we are led in worship by God's Holy Spirit through Word and song, share in the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Holy Baptism, following the liturgical calendar to honor the seasons of the church year, and mark milestones in one's faith journey including first communion and confirmation. The Worship Team assists the pastors in fulfilling their call to equip the saints for ministry by providing worship as the main gathering and focal point of Grace Lutheran Church and passing along the faith to the next generation through a variety of worship settings and services.

Thank you, Care Ministry Team! Many thanks to our Care Ministry Team members who visit people in their homes, take communion to them, write cards to our homebound members, and send grief packets to next of kin. If you would like more information on being a care minister, please see Pastor Allison. She would be happy to train you and share with you the Homebound Communion flyer that is on our Care Table as well as our green congregational care brochure.



Praying for our Military and Veterans! Friends of Grace, in the Gathering Space, you will find a framed set of prayers which honor our veterans and active military, alongside our current roster. As you will see, the list needs updating. If you are a veteran or active in the military, please contact the office. Thank you for your service and sacrifice!



Love your Neighbor Day: Thank you to everyone that was able to attend on Feb. 15th for our “Love Your Neighbor Sunday.” Heart shaped cookies were shared and enjoyed between services, approx. 80 care bags assembled and “You Matter” cards were distributed.



Welcome to the Staff!

We welcome Jaime Core to the Grace staff as our new Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator. This 9-month position runs May through January and assists the CYF team in volunteer recruitment, program registration, and communication. Grace is fortunate to have such wonderful and passionate youth leaders and volunteers. We are glad to have Jaime on board!



March Open Door Meal Menu

Join us in the Fellowship Hall
on Wednesday evenings
from 4:30-6:00 PM

Mar 4: Creamed Chicken
on a Biscuit

Mar 11: Baked Potato

Mar 18: Chicken Breast/Nuggets

Mar 25: Spaghetti





Stewardship Corner:

For Thrivent Financial members, depending on the products you have, you likely receive one or two opportunities a year to apply for a Thrivent Action Team grant. These \$250 grants can be applied for online or over the phone, and we are here to help you too. Pastor Allison has put together a calendar with many projects at Grace that could benefit from a grant each month. This calendar is now located by the volunteer sign-ups next to the Care Table. By using these grants, we help reduce the need to use our general budget which helps us to stay within our annual budget. Thank you for your generosity of time, talents, and treasures!

The Stewardship Team: Cindy Wohlhuter, Chair, Nancy Backer, Pat Jones, Becky Johnson, Jane Reiman, Becky Whitmore, and Pastor Allison

Living Out Our Faith Together

- † **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 Ministers**: Call, visit, and possibly share communion with a homebound member! Contact Pastor Allison 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 such as Oktoberfest, Fill the Altar Food Drive, and service days.
- † **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 to join this group.
- † **Prayer Team**: Meets every Tuesday at 1pm to pray over the congregation's prayer list.

Congregational Care



God calls us to keep our eyes open to opportunities to serve God and our neighbor using the gifts and talents that God has given us. One place to start looking for opportunities is at Grace's Care Table. This will help you to get connected to Grace and its ministries. By the Care Table you will find a large volunteer sign-up board. It covers opportunities to serve as an usher, lector, sound person, and many other possibilities. Just sign the sheet and Nicole from the office will contact you.

This month we will highlight some of the Congregational Care Ministries. The Prayer Chain and weekly Prayer meeting is for lifting up in prayer a person or situation to God. Individuals who ask for prayer, are asked if they want to be on a prayer list. If they say yes, it is given to the 30+ people email prayer team, put in the bulletin and each week another prayer team of 12 prays in person for the request. Prayer requests can be given to the office, written on cards in the pews, or to a pastor.

Along with prayer are our prayer shawls and squares. Our knitters have lovingly created these items of comfort and prayed for you while they worked on them. Please feel free to take a prayer shawl or square to someone you know who needs God's love to wrap them up during a challenging time in their lives.

Grace has many food ministries. There is Open Door Meal every Wednesday night during the school year from 4:30-6:00 pm. All are welcome! Another food ministry is our meal ministry. Meals are brought to a person or family during a time of life transition like an injury, grief, a new baby, etc. Meals are brought for a few weeks to bring God's care and nourishment. Grace also has a Food Pantry for all to use. Various food items and personal care items are available. Another ministry of care are the funeral meal servers who serve a meal after a funeral in Fellowship Hall. They provide hospitality for a grieving family. Our grief card writers also connect with next of kin following the death of a loved one multiple times throughout the first year of grief.

To stay in contact with members who may have mobility issues, our care ministries reach out by phone, cards, and visits. Many care ministers meet monthly with those who want a visit and communion in their home. If you would like to be connected with one of these care ministers, or receive a call or visit from one of the pastors, please call the office.

If any of these ministries sound exciting to you, sign up on the bulletin board, contact the office or let a pastor know. Let the Holy Spirit guide and direct you to where you can use your gifts and time in service to God and neighbor.

Thrivent grant ideas:

Mission Phantom Tea
 Prayer Shawl Yarn
 Annual Meeting Treats
 Communion Elements
 Open Door Meal
 Grace Pantry
 Office Postage
 Paper for Bulletins
 Care Bags
 Grief Packets
 Council Retreat
 Palm Sunday Brunch
 Cleaning Supplies
 Baptism Bags
 God's Grace is Amazing Day Project 1
 God's Grace is Amazing Day Project 2
 God's Grace is Amazing Day Project 3
 Meal for God's Grace is Amazing Day
 BLAST/Confirmation End of Year Party
 Prayer Shawl Yarn
 Confirmation Camp Fees
 High School Bible Camp Scholarships

Summer Outdoor Worship
 Lawn Care Supplies
 Altar Guild Supplies
 Supplies for High School Class
 Supplies for Baby Bibles Class
 Grief Packets
 God's Work. Our Hands Project 1
 God's Work. Our Hands Project 2
 God's Work. Our Hands Project 3
 Apple Pie Bake
 Supplies for BLAST & Confirmation
 Glows Parade Candy
 Octoberfest Dinner
 Mission Christmas Tree Lot
 Fill the Altar Food Drive
 Thanksgiving Sunday Treats
 Homebound Christmas Care Bags
 Cocoa and Carols Christmas Eve
 Community Carols Singalong
 Sock Tree
 Star Tree

PALM SUNDAY YOUTH BREAKFAST

**Please join our Youth, grades 7-12,
 in a time of fellowship, as they host
"Palm Sunday Breakfast"**

**When: Palm Sunday, March 29,
 2026, 9:30AM - 11AM**

Where: Fellowship Hall

**Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Sausage
 Links, Muffins, Juice and Coffee**

**Free will donation will help
 support upcoming youth activities!**



CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Open Door Meal: 4:30pm – 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

BLAST, PreK - 6th Grade: 5:30PM - 6:25PM, Education wings downstairs and upstairs

Wednesday Worship: 6:30PM - 7:00PM, Sanctuary

Confirmation: 7pm to 7:45pm, Fellowship Hall

10th - 12th Senior High Group: 7pm – 7:45pm, Lounge

Note: *During Lent, students worship with mentors at 6:30PM followed by discussion until 7:15PM.*



Baby Bibles Class will meet on Wednesday, March 4, 5:30pm in the chapel. We will have a story, sing a song, do a small craft project, and have snacks. Parents and older siblings are all welcome.



First Communion Celebration: Students will mark this special milestone of first communion in both worship services on Sunday, March 8.

High School Senior Baccalaureate will be on Sunday, March 22nd at the 10:45am worship service. A save the date card was recently mailed out to all families. If you did not receive this mailing, please contact the church office at 507-238-4418 to let us know. We look forward to celebrating with our seniors!



Baccalaureate



Youth Choir: Cherub & Alleluia Choirs will sing @ 10:45AM worship on Palm Sunday, March 29th!

ELCA Imagine More: “Imagine More” is the theme for the summer 2027 national youth gathering in Minneapolis. June 28th through July 2nd. All current 7th through 11th graders invited to save these dates on your calendar. Registration will be late October/early November of this year. More information will be coming.



Confirmation Camp! Current 6th through 9th graders invited to a half week of confirmation Bible camp August 2nd (check in between 3pm and 4pm) through August 5th (2pm end time) at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, Minnesota. These days will include worship, meals, games, time with our confirmation class and more. Information will be emailed out to get registered. Cost per youth \$100.00.

WORDS FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, March 1 - Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Gospel: John 3:1-17

Sunday, March 8– Third Sunday in Lent

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Sunday, March 15 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Sunday, March 22– Fifth Sunday in Lent

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfulfilling promise in our baptism.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14—27:66

MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:35am Adult Ed. 10:45am Contemporary Worship 12:00pm First Communion Class	2 7:00am Men's Breakfast - The Ranch 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm - 2:00pm Mary Circle 5:30pm CYF Team Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	3 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	4 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's Community Bible Study 12:00pm Holden Evening Prayer 4:30pm - 6:00pm Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm Baby Bible Class 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm - 7:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Unfailing Light Worship 7:00pm High School Class	5 9:00am Sarah's Circle (Location Varies) 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing	6	7
8 Daylight-Saving Time Begins 8:30am Traditional Worship - First Communion 9:35am Adult Ed. 10:45am Contemporary Worship - First Communion	9 Mason's Spaghetti Fundraiser 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Lakeview Senior Worship 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:30pm Shalom Circle	10 Mason's Spaghetti Fundraiser 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 12:00pm Cup of Hope Grief Group 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 Girl Scouts 6:30pm Stewardship Team Meeting	11 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's Community Bible Study 10:00am Goldfinch Memory Care Worship 12:00pm Holden Evening Prayer 4:30pm - 6:00pm Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm - 7:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Unfailing Light Worship 7:00pm High School Class	12 4:30pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre 6:00pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts	13	14
15 Ways of Grace Submission Deadline 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:35am Adult Ed. 10:45am Contemporary Worship 11:45am Church Council Meeting	16 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS	17 St. Patrick's Day 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	18 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's Community Bible Study 12:00pm Holden Evening Prayer 4:30pm - 6:00pm Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm - 7:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Unfailing Light Worship 7:00pm High School Class	19 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing	20 First Day of Spring 	21
22 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:35am Adult Ed. 10:00am Hospitality Training in Chapel 10:45am Contemporary Worship - Baccalaureate Sunday/Baptism 1:30pm Hall Rental	23 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS	24 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	25 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's Community Bible Study 12:00pm Holden Evening Prayer 4:30pm - 6:00pm Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm BLAST 6:30pm - 7:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Unfailing Light Worship 7:00pm High School Class	26 1:00pm Ways of Grace Assembly Team 4:30pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 8:30am Palm Sunday Traditional Worship 9:30am Palm Sunday Youth Breakfast 9:35am Adult Ed. 10:45am Palm Sunday Contemporary Worship	30 Holy Week 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS	31 Holy Week 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	1 Holy Week	2 Holy Week Maundy Thursday 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship 9:00am Sarah's Circle (Location Varies) 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing	3 Good Friday Holy Week 12:00pm Good Friday Community Service at Grace 6:30pm Good Friday Worship	4



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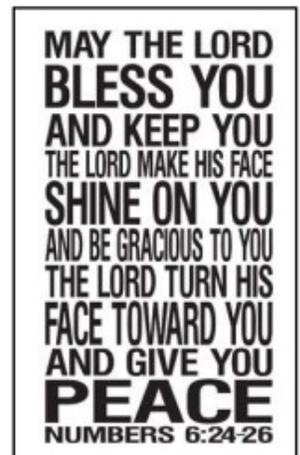
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