

*Our Mission: To boldly live out our faith in Jesus through worship, fellowship, and service to God and our neighbor, here and around the world.*

February 2026 



## 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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## Loving our Neighbor

*Luke 10:33-37, "But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend. Which of these three do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."*



I am thinking that much has been on your heart and mind, especially with recent events throughout Minnesota and with current events that have unfolded in the world. Many have found themselves in challenging times, many that are just beyond being scared, many that are separated from loved ones and doing some deep grappling with everything that has been going on. Please continue to take time in your day to be prayerful as our God is at work and is that ever living presence in times of great trouble and need. This brings me to a question. **What does it mean to you to love your neighbor?** Maybe consider striking up a conversation with as many people as you can throughout this month about this very question of faith. A well-known story in the Bible is the Good Samaritan from the Gospel of Luke that unpacks this exact topic. Someone is left by the side of the road beaten by robbers. The first two to walk by just continue to walk on. A Samaritan is moved with mercy and ends up taking care of the person. **Caring for and loving our neighbor is not always going to happen in ways or times when it is convenient for you. Sometimes it will be easy and other times it will be incredibly difficult. These are invitations and opportunities that Jesus remains sharing with you and me as he is the one that has cared for and shown you mercy each day and you in return can go and do likewise.** These words of love are with you as a time of self-reflection starts with Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**However, before we officially begin Lent, I would like to personally invite you to join us on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> as some special things to acknowledge all the ways that we can care for, support and love all our fellow neighbors in the body of Christ will be going on.**

- **Assembling care bags in the chapel between services that get distributed to families locally that can use some personal care items.**
  - **Picking up "You Matter" cards that can be shared with others**

**Heart shaped cookies will also be served for fellowship between services, and we invite you to come to connect with people that you worship with.**

Blessings as the season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>!

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

**Wednesdays:** 6:30PM WOW, Worship on  
Wednesday!



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

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



**Mid-Week Lenten Worship:** Come for Wednesday worship this Lenten season at Noon and 6:30PM. We will be singing *Holden Evening Prayer* at noon and *Unfailing Light* in the evening and hear a meditation read each week that focuses on this important season of the church year. We hope to see you there for a time to breathe and be in community with others as we walk this road to the cross.

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



**We welcome Stephanie Busiahn, Brenda Lubenow, Terry Maakestad, Katie Teachout, and Cindy Wohlhuter to the Congregation Council and Louise Hendricks and Jane Reiman as our Synod Assembly delegates. We thank you for sharing your gifts at Grace!**



**Lent Begins Ash Wednesday, February 18!** The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18, with Ash Wednesday where we will be joining with our ecumenical partners for a community Noon service held at First Congregational United Church of Christ as well as worship at 6:30PM at Grace. 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.

# Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA 2025 Ministry Report



We gathered at **Council as Leaders** to think collaboratively and further equip ourselves for ministry as lay and rostered leaders.



**Nuer Community Lutheran Church**, a new worshipping community, was established! Rev. Yang Tut was ordained.



We had four new entrants to the **Candidacy** process! 13 were in process as '25 concluded. 19 attended the annual **Candidacy Retreat** at Good Earth Village.



A variety of **Power and Boundaries educational workshops** were offered to equip church council members, faith formation professionals, and rostered ministers for leadership.

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, **and that is what we are.**”  
—1 John 3:1 (emphasis added)

Through Christ, we have been made children of God! What good news! It is out of this identity, the truest proclamation of who we are, that we live as followers of Jesus in this world.

As members of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA, we strive to *walk together proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ*. We live in this community of faith, across sixteen counties with 100,000 baptized members as the children of God. Because this is who we are, we celebrate all the ways God is at work in us and through us – not only in our own communities but throughout the synod and church - for the sake of the world.

Join me in celebrating all the ways God has been at work in our midst over the past year, and let's look ahead, together, with joyful anticipation for what God will yet do, in us and through us, for the sake of the good news of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

*Rev. Regia Hassanally*  
Bishop Regina Hassanally



**Rev. Sarah Krolak** was called to serve as pastor of **Connections Ministry/Shelter Church**, which is a Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry based in Mankato.



Synod members participated in the **Lutheran Church of Colombia's National Assembly** where Rev. John Rojas was elected as bishop.



About 140 ministry leaders attended the **Fall Theological Retreat**, which includes fellowship, education, and retreat. Rev. Leila Ortiz led the presentations and discussion on pneumatological estuaries, with the theme of Baptism in Muddy Waters.

We gathered under the theme “Remember what God has done. Prepare for what God will do.” at the **Synod Assembly**. Three resolutions were passed regarding *Support for the Least of These and the Ministries that Serve Them and Expanded Preaching and Teaching on the Stories of Women in the Bible and Use of Female Imagery of God and of God's Work in the World*. On the first ballot, Bishop Hassanally was elected to a second six-year term.



**17 Rostered Ministers** joined our synod!





# 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	<b>1.</b> 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	<b>2.</b> Affirm that as God walks with us in conflict, we can work through to growth. <i>Ephesians 4:15-16</i>
Commit to prayer	<b>3.</b> 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...	<b>4.</b> 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	<b>5.</b> 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	<b>6.</b> 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	<b>7.</b> 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	<b>8.</b> 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	<b>9.</b> 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	<b>10.</b> 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	<b>11.</b> 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	<b>12.</b> 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.

# BUSINESS OF GRACE

## Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes January 18th, 2026 - 9:30 am

-Opening Devotions- Pastor Allison

-Call to Order-Troy – 9:48am

- 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes- Motion to approve: Andy Traetow, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Katzenmeier, motion carried

-2025 Financial Report- Jane Reiman- All bills were paid for the year, but our budget wasn't met so a few of our commitments were not made to the tune of \$3500 which was earmarked for the synod and Lutheran Social Services.

-Nominations and Vote

2-year term

-Cindy Wohlhuter

3-year term

-Stephanie Busiahn, Brenda Lubenow, Terry Maakestad, and Katie Teachout

Synod Assembly Delegates

-Louise Hendricks, Jane Reiman, and Becky Whitmore

Audit Committee -1-year term

-David Johnson and Randy Lubenow

Other nominations: none, motion to approve: Mark Morris, 2<sup>nd</sup>Andy Kryzer, motion carried

-Old business

-Pastor Allison and Pastor Cole said Thank Yous for the supporting ministries at Grace. As staff restructuring has taken place, they are very grateful to all the volunteers involved in the many ministry groups. This allows our church to have 3 worship services per week, and we open our doors to over 200 kids and their families every Wednesday evening. Currently we have 1,414 active members (447 of those kids.)

-New business

-Review and approve 2026 budget- Jane Reiman- Increase in budget is for payroll per synod guidelines, looking to add CYF assistant paid position of 10 hours per week/ 9 months a year, unsure of what the increase in insurance will be for the year-but increased budget for expectation that it will increase, staff continually coming up with ways to save money including: switching phone companies and decreasing bulletin paper size and formatting. The total suggested increase in budget for 2026 is \$18,726/ 3.5% increase from 2025.

Motion to approve 2026 budget: Mike Katzenmeier, 2<sup>nd</sup> Louise Hendricks, motion carried

- Review and Approve Grace Lutheran Constitution- Troy Nemmers

-Council has been working on this for the last two years, changes in wording to look more like the ELCA standard constitution, copies of new constitution available at meeting and in church office

-Grace Stories

-Dar Parks- has been a member of Grace for 23 years, she considers herself a child of God, one of the many things she loves about Grace in how welcoming everyone is and how many offerings there are both socially and religiously, she encouraged everyone to keep inviting others to Grace

-Justin Schmidt- Moved to town for his career and joined Grace looking to be part of the community, he helps on Sunday mornings with sound and while doing this reached out to an older Blast student sitting near him and asked him if he would like to help him. It was such a positive experience for both of them and he sees moments like this occur all the time at Grace.

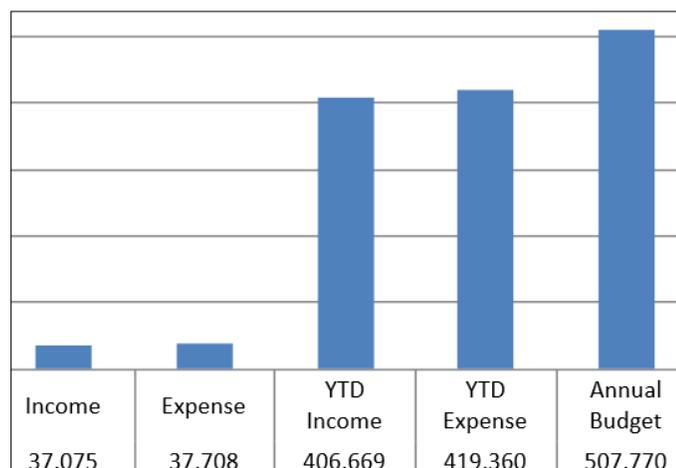
-Grace Lutheran's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary May 7, 2028

-The Faith Legacy Team has been created to plan, more are welcome to join, planning 1 service that Sunday with a meal after, working on the history of Grace with the help of Lenny, more ideas are welcome

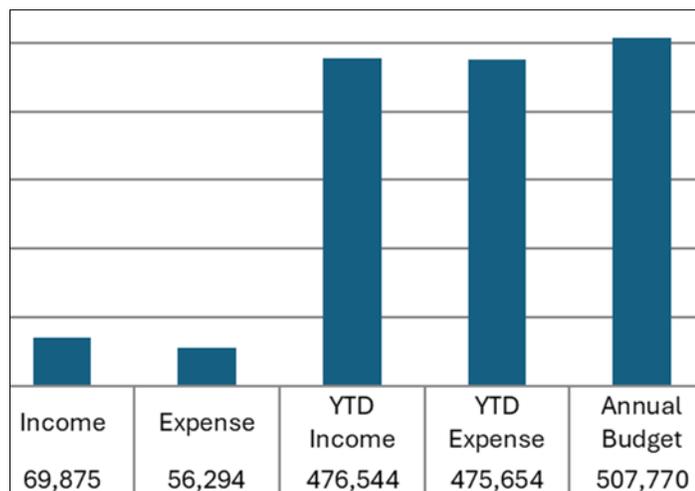
-Closing, Lord's Prayer- Pastor Cole

-Adjournment- 10:29am

### FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR NOVEMBER



### FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR DECEMBER



## Baptisms

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

## Memorials:

### Luella Fisher Memorial

Cynthia Corey

### NOVEMBER:

Undesignated Memorials

### Lois Kessler Memorial

Arvin & Joanne Soma

Undesignated Memorials

### DECEMBER:

### Lois Kessler Memorial

Ross & Cindy Wohlhuter

People Helping People

Rod & Diane Palmquist

Undesignated Memorials

### Reily Junkermeier Memorial

Patricia Jones

Youth Fund

Harry & Chery Brumbaugh

Youth Fund

David & Beck Johnson

People Helping People

Shelley & Denny Junkermeier

Undesignated Memorials

### Velma Vickerman Memorial

Judy & Ron Kopeschka

Undesignated Memorials

Patricia Jones

Undesignated Memorials

Arvin & Joanne Soma

Undesignated Memorials

### Tim Sime Memorial

Arvin & Joanne Soma

Undesignated Memorials

Janice Lemon

Undesignated Memorials

*Thank you for your memorial gifts!*

**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 Reily Junkermeier, Tom Sime, and Velma Vickerman. Rest eternal grant Reily, Tom, and Velma, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Gracious God,

Surround the family of Reily, Tom, and Velma 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.

# March Ministry Assistants

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

	Sunday, February 1	Sunday, February 8	Sunday, February 15	Sunday, February 22
Communion Preparer	Sharon Elliot	Joyce Eisenmenger	Sharon Elliot	Peggy Jones
Communion Server	Allen & Karen Struck	Peggy Jones Mary Kotewa	Allen & Karen Struck	Marian Holland Ben Jordan
Lector	Scott Drever	DeeAnne Helfritz	Ben Jordan	Allen Struck
Sound Tech	Justin Schmidt	<b>Replacement Needed!</b>	Jolene Rosol	Mark Vogelsang
Ushers	Curtis & Kirsten Bressler	Curtis & Kirsten Bressler	Curtis & Kirsten Bressler	Curtis & 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. Thank you!*

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

	Sunday, February 1	Sunday, February 8	Sunday, February 15	Sunday, February 22
Communion Preparer	Brenda & Randy Lubenow	Elayne Baumgart Coleen Ehlert	Brenda & Randy Lubenow	Brian & Deb Roggow
Communion Server	Brian & Deb Roggow	Becky Johnson Enos Breitbarth	Elayne Baumgart Abby Ehlert	Brian & Deb Roggow
Lector	Deb Morris	Abby Ehlert	Joice Forster	Carolyn Bird
Sound Tech	Pam Krill	Jolene Rosol	Amber Hansen	Blake Potthoff
Slide Tech	Enos Breitbarth	Corey Klanderud	Amber Hansen	Corey Klanderud
Ushers	Joel Teskey, Harry Brumbaugh, Mark Morris, Mark Paskey			

*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 bruce.ehlert53@gmail.com. Thank you!*



## Now Hiring: CYF Team Youth Coordinator

We're excited to share that we are now accepting applications for a Youth Coordinator position at Grace.

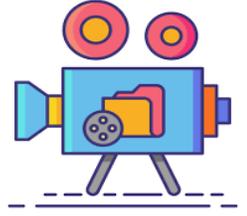
The Youth Coordinator supports the purpose and programming of the Children, Youth, and Family Team in conjunction with the core values, mission, and vision of Grace Lutheran Church. Please visit our website for the employment details and application.

# 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!

**Tech Training For All!** All current sound and video tech volunteers, and all interested in learning more, are invited to our 2026 tech training. Blake will share how to work our new TV's for slides, run the camera, and has significantly simplified the sound board to make things easier than ever. Even if you have run tech for years, please plan to attend one of two training sessions: Sunday, February 1 at 9:40am OR Wednesday, February 4 at 5:30pm. Both sessions meet in the sanctuary balcony. Thank you to everyone interested in this important outreach ministry. You bring worship to hundreds of people in their homes each week! For more information, please contact the office.



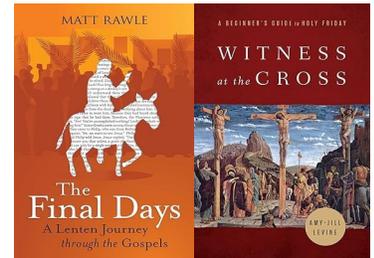
**Men's Breakfast on Monday:** Men of all ages are invited to a monthly breakfast at The Ranch restaurant on the first Monday of the month at 7:00AM. Come for a devotion, fellowship, and good breakfast food.

**When: Monday February 2 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 Final Days: A Lenten Journey Through the Gospel*. Then, On March 9, we will begin our six-week Lenten study by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine entitled *Witness at the Cross: A Beginners Guide to Holy Friday*. Hope to see you there!



**Cup of Hope: Monthly Grief Support:** You are welcome to bring a lunch to Grace as we share in this walk together and hear God's words of love and comfort along the way. We meet this week, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Noon, in the lounge. All are Welcome!

## Stewardship Corner

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the annual meeting last month. The congregation voted to approve a 3.5% increase in our annual budget. This means that Grace needs to bring in an additional \$1500 a month to meet our budget. Please prayerfully consider your financial giving as we look to support the many wonderful ministries for all ages here at Grace!



**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.

**Homes for Homeless Snowmen:** Thank you to Carol Cress and all the team members who helped with the Homes for Homeless Snowmen Project. Together we raised \$605. Great job everyone!



**Missions Christmas Tree Sale:** Thank you to Roger and Beth Neist for their generous donation to the Missions Christmas Tree Sale. We truly appreciate your support!

**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.



**Love Your Neighbor Sunday:** Join us Sunday, February 15, as we celebrate sharing God’s love with one another. We will be assembling care bags between the services and you are invited to pick up “You Matter” cards to share with your neighbors. Cookies will also be served! Come help spread a little kindness in our community!

**American Red Cross Blood Drive February 24th at Grace:** The American Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage as requests from hospitals exceed the available supply of blood, drawing down the blood supply by about 35% over the past month. Book an appointment or stop by Grace on February 24 at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to support the Red Cross. Thank you!



**Thrivent Grant Sign-Up:** Are you a Thrivent member and have Action Team Grants to use? On the Gathering Space bulletin board, by the elevator, please find a calendar of ministry items that could use a grant. Please sign up and we will contact you and help you apply. Thank you!

**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
- Glow 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



# 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



**Baby Bibles Class** will meet on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm in the chapel. We will explore the story of when Jesus calls his first disciples, sing a song, do a small craft project, and have snacks. Parents and older siblings are all welcome.

**All Sixth Grade Families:** Current 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents/guardians are invited to a pre- confirmation session on Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm in the chapel.



**First Communion Class on March 1st:** 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, March 1, 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 8.

**Confirmation Camp!** Confirmation camp at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN will be Sunday, August 2 through Wednesday, August 5 for current 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders. More details and registration information will be coming soon.



## February Youth Event in Lake Crystal

Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> to the Lake Crystal Recreation Center. Grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>.  
See the registration form below.

*\*We are looking for two parents that are willing to come along as chaperones at no cost.*

### Attention youth in Grades 6-12! Join us for a trip to the **LAKE CRYSTAL AREA REC CENTER!**

Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

#### **Schedule:**

**4:00PM** Meet at Grace Lutheran Fairmont  
**5:00 – 9:00PM** Use of the Lake Crystal Area Rec Center  
**10:00PM** Return to Grace Lutheran Fairmont



Volleyball	Scooters	Basketball
Rock Climbing Wall	Racquetball	Swimming Pool
Pizza & Snacks	Pop & Water	Hang out with friends!

**Cost: \$20.00** – Includes use of LCARC, Pizza, Snacks and Beverages

**What to bring:** Swimsuit (Be Modest), Towel, Tennis Shoes, Extra Clothes



Checks should be written out to Grace Lutheran  
If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Cole at [McCormick@gracelutheranchurch.org](mailto:McCormick@gracelutheranchurch.org)

**CUT HERE**

### REGISTRATION AND MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

My son/daughter has permission to travel to the Lake Crystal Area Rec Center (LCARC) with Blue Earth Area Churches. By our signature, we waive and release any and all claims for damages whatsoever they may be, especially against the Churches participating, staff members, and other persons connected with this trip. I am aware that if my child becomes a behavior problem, I will be called & arrangements will be made for his/her return home at my expense.

YOUTH NAME \_\_\_\_\_ YOUTH PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH YOU ATTEND \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of an emergency where medical treatment is required, I give my permission to obtain the services of a licensed physician. Please attempt to notify me immediately concerning any such emergency.

Medical Insurance Carrier and Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

A phone number where a parent can be reached during the LCARC Trip is: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to drive & chaperone the LCARC Trip: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, I can fit \_\_\_ youth in my vehicle.

**THE REGISTRATION FORM AND \$20.00 FEE ARE DUE NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup>!**

# WORDS FOR WORSHIP

## **Sunday, February 1 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

## **Sunday, February 8– Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

## **Sunday, February 15 - Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

## **Sunday, February 22-First Sunday in Lent**

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

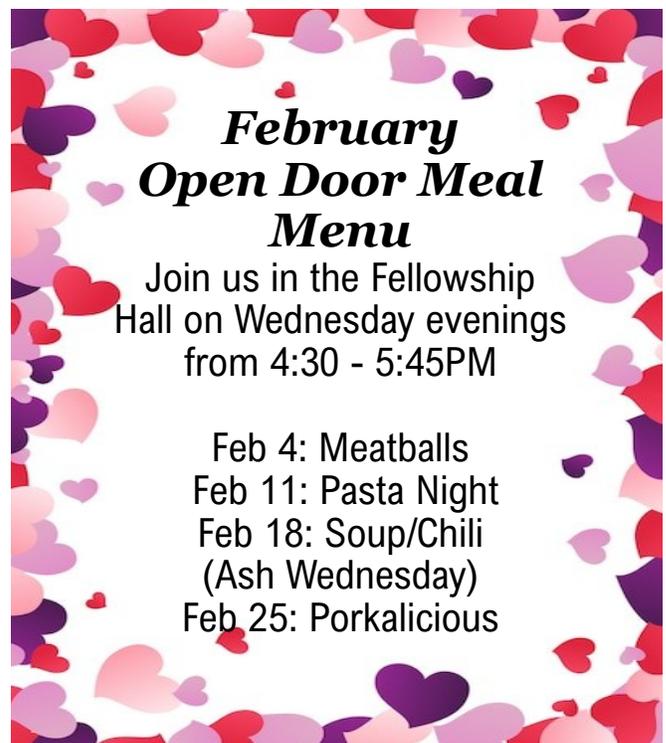
## **Sunday, March 1 - Second Sunday in Lent**

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



**February  
Open Door Meal  
Menu**

Join us in the Fellowship  
Hall on Wednesday evenings  
from 4:30 - 5:45PM

Feb 4: Meatballs  
Feb 11: Pasta Night  
Feb 18: Soup/Chili  
(Ash Wednesday)  
Feb 25: Porkalicious

# FEBRUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:35am Adult Ed. 9:40am Tech Training 10:45am Contemporary Worship	<b>2</b> <b>Groundhog Day</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast - The Ranch 9:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm - 2:00pm Mary Circle 5:30pm CYF Team Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:30pm Girl Scouts Leader Mtg. 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	<b>3</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>4</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's Community Bible Study 4:30pm - 6:00pm Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm Baby Bible Class 5:30pm - 6:25pm BLAST 5:30pm Tech Training 6:30pm - 7:45pm Confirmation 6:30pm - 7:00pm WOW - Worship on Wednesday 7:00pm High School Class	<b>5</b> 9:00am Sarah's Circle (Location Varies) 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 2026 Council Retreat
<b>8</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:35am Adult Ed. 10:45am Contemporary Worship	<b>9</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Lakeview Senior Worship 6:00pm Evening CBS 6:30pm Shalom Circle	<b>10</b> 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 Stewardship Team Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's Community Bible Study 10:00am Goldfinch Memory Care Worship 4:30pm - 6:00pm Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm - 6:25pm BLAST 6:30pm - 7:45pm Confirmation 6:30pm - 7:00pm WOW - Worship on Wednesday 7:00pm High School Class	<b>12</b> 4:30pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre 6:00pm - 8:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Happy Valentine's Day 
<b>15</b> <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> Ways of Grace Submission Deadline 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:35am Care Bag Assembly 9:35am Adult Ed. 10:45am Contemporary Worship	<b>16</b> <b>Presidents' Day</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS	<b>17</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>18</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's Community Bible Study 12:00pm Ecumenical Worship, First Congregational UCC 4:30pm - 6:00pm Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm - 6:25pm BLAST 6:30pm - 7:15pm Confirmation 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship	<b>19</b> 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:35am Adult Ed. 10:45am Contemporary Worship	<b>23</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Evening CBS	<b>24</b> <b>9:00am - 2:00pm 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>25</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Women's Community Bible Study 12:00pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship 4:30pm - 6:00pm Open Door Community Meal 5:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 5:30pm - 6:25pm BLAST 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Unfailing Light Worship	<b>26</b> 1:00pm Ways of Grace Assembly Team 4:30pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**300 S Grant St**  
**Fairmont, MN 56031**

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**Jane Reiman** - Finance Director: [reiman@gracelutheranchurch.org](mailto:reiman@gracelutheranchurch.org)

**Brad Anderson**- Maintenance Emergency contact number: 507- 236-1123

**Amber Hansen:** Open Door Meal Coordinator: [a4hansen@gmail.com](mailto:a4hansen@gmail.com)



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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