

# The Scroll

Grace Lutheran  
Church

March 2024



## PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends in Christ,

We're in the heart of Lent, the 40 day preparation for the Easter Resurrection of our Lord Jesus. On Wednesday evenings we're having a soup supper followed by a beautiful setting of Evening Prayer – Holden Evening Prayer composed by Marty Haugen. The meditation topic throughout these Wednesdays is the “I Am” statements of Jesus found in John’s Gospel.

We remember that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness with wild animals. That wouldn't have been easy. Then the devil came and offered him good things, but Jesus did not give in to those temptations.

While our journey is different than our Lord's path, we sometimes find ourselves in a wilderness time. Grief, sickness, loneliness, loss of something, and other things cause us angst. It is in these times that we can remember our Lord Jesus who knows what we're going through. He carried all of our griefs to the cross and all of our sins and troubles. He walked the paths of wilderness time and knows what our human life is like. Remember Him as he remembers us to the Father. We will come out of the wilderness as we journey with Jesus in the power of the Spirit.

*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19*

On a personal note, I am finished with chemotherapy. My surgery date has been changed to March 12 at Mayo Clinic. It has been difficult, but with God on our side, who can stand against us?

In ministry together,

Pastor Pam

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**CHURCH  
COUNCIL**

The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Sunday, March 10th after church service. A reminder that all regular council meetings are open to all members of Grace Church.



**Hope Circle:** March 27th at 10:00 AM at the church.

**Rebecca Circle:** March 28th at 6:30 PM at the church.



- \* Owen Strom
- \* Riely Kochmann
- \* Ron Juve
- \* Mark Wild
- \* Bill Donner
- \* Pastor Pam Thorson
- \* Annette Farder
- \* Carr Smeby
- \* Wendy Smeby
- \* Maci Smeby
- \* Allen Jenson
- \* Steve & Linda Evenson
- \* Becki Haugen
- \* Dianne Hamre
- \* Dan Salvhus
- \* Jesse Hickman
- \* Dustin Close
- \* Greg Kaster
- \* Jolene Bradley
- \* Torrey Erickson
- \* Shut-ins and Nursing Home members
- \* Ukraine
- \* Israel



**January 28th:**  
Attendance~94  
Offering~\$1,718

**February 4th:**  
Attendance~ 69  
Offering~\$3,760

**February 11th:**  
Attendance~ 65  
Offering~\$2,375

**February 14th:**  
Attendance~ 49  
Offering~\$39

**February 18th:**  
Attendance~ 62  
Offering~\$2038.62



### WNALC MEETING:

Hello Ladies,

March is here and that means its to for us to gather again. Our first meeting of the year is March 14 at 2:00. Hope to see you there.

Our service books will be printing soon and will be available at the back of the church for a week and then will be mailed out.

We will be starting a new study this year, more on that in the bulletin.

Mavis Haugom has agreed to be our Vice President in the coming year. Thank you Mavis. May this be a blessing to you.

Enjoy the rest of your winter!



**January 2023 Financial Summary**

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$14,568.00

Expenses:

Administrative -	\$9,747.28
Education -	\$592.74
Mission Outreach -	\$660.00
Pastoral -	\$9,080.50
Worship -	\$1,071.89
Total Expenses -	\$21,152.41
Net Loss -	(\$6,584.41)

Grace is a generous congregation and we thank you for contributing to the work of God. We do have some financial concerns. In 2023, giving did not keep pace with expenses. We were in the red at the end of 2023. Our main fund is the general operating fund. As a council, we encourage our members and friends to contribute directly to the General Fund first and foremost. While we have endowments, we cannot rely on those to take care of our everyday needs. God always provides and we will continue to be faithful stewards of all we have.



**NEWS FROM THRIVENT**

In 2023, Grace Lutheran Church received \$1,057 in Thrivent Choice Dollars. Members of the congregation have until March 31, 2024 to direct remaining 2023 Choice Dollars to our church. Please contact your local Thrivent office for further information and assistance.

**REMINDER** – Please save your grocery receipts from Groceries Plus in Erskine and Jered’s Grocery in McIntosh. Both stores are donating one percent of the total purchases to the youth group. There is a container for the receipts at the church in the hallway by the coat racks.



GRACE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

January 10, 2024

7:00 P.M.

*'Serving all people by sharing  
God's Word and Gift of Grace'*

**Present:** President John Carlson, Pastor Pam, Russ Johnson, Hollie Stewart, Yvonne Halvorson, Gene Haugom, Lori Hole, Gary Walter, Tina Farrell, Carla Ferden, Steve Jacobson

**REPORTS**

**Financial Secretary:**

Tina Farrell. Tina has begun using our new software program, Church Meetings.

**Treasurer's:**

General Fund expenses totaled \$15,603.50. Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$14,568.00. The monthly budget goal is \$21,363.85.

We ended the month at approximately 0.5% or \$1,300 under budget.

January 2024 giving is slightly below January 2023 giving.

In order to cover the negative balance, funds were transferred from the Oil Church Operating Fund to help cover the deficit. There was not enough money in that fund to cover the deficit.

Church financial records were audited in December with no concerns.

**Pastor's:**

Minkota Mission District of the NALC Annual Meeting is April 5-6 at Sandhill Bible Camp in Fosston.

Minkota Mission District Council meeting at Grace February 21 @ 10 AM.

A vision for the year is Hospitality.

Worship: Wednesday Lenten liturgy is Holden Evening Prayer. After Easter we will learn a new liturgy introducing it slowly.

**President's:**

Church software has been purchased. John and Tina have been working on learning a section at a time.

Continuing to work with the Youth Christian Ministry. Working with the team toward accomplishing their goals. Events: Feb. 25 at St. Lawrence. March is movie night in Fosston – "The Passion." April is "Feed My Starving Children" in Grand Forks. May: Event will be service.

**Stewardship:**

Changed the newsletter to 8 ½ x 11 size.

Some forms have to be completed regarding bulk mailing.

**Education:**

Ann Brekken has resigned after 14 years. Thank you, Anne! She will continue to the end of the school year. We will look for a replacement.

**Trustees:**

The roof project will be done by Lance Erickson and may begin in July. Jeff Norness will work on fundraising.

**Food Shelf:**

40 households served with 2600# of food disbursed. 106 individuals (infants to elderly).

Counters for Sunday offerings have begun.

Lenten worship: Wednesday's 7 PM w/ free soup @ 6 PM.

Events: Creating an Event Task Force

John made a motion to form an Event Task Force. Hollie seconded. Motion carried

Easter Breakfast w/ Egg hunt. Announce a request next Sunday asking for a person to coordinate the breakfast, and another person for the egg hunt.

*Continued on page 5*

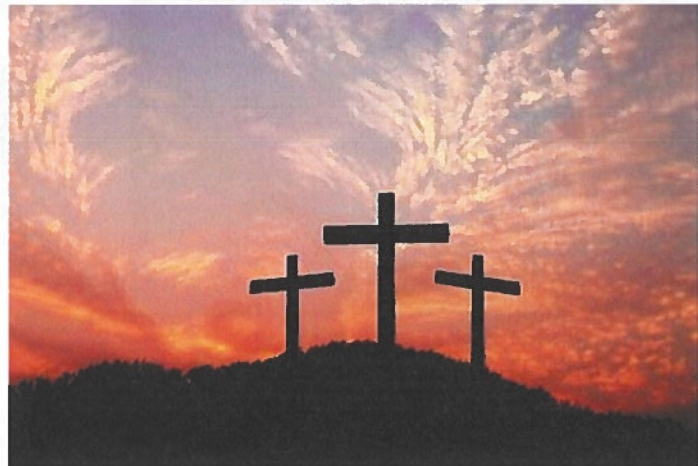
*Council Meeting Highlights Cont'd*

Other events to consider: Bicycle Rodeo, Picnic, Joy Ride, outdoor services uptown during Water Carnival, meal for the carnival workers.

**Worship:**

Quarterly Theme Services - Examples: Contemporary service, Country Western service, Jazz service (open for ideas).

Home Communion Distribution Team formation. Need a team to distribute Holy Communion to the shut-ins. The team will do a short liturgy with individuals.

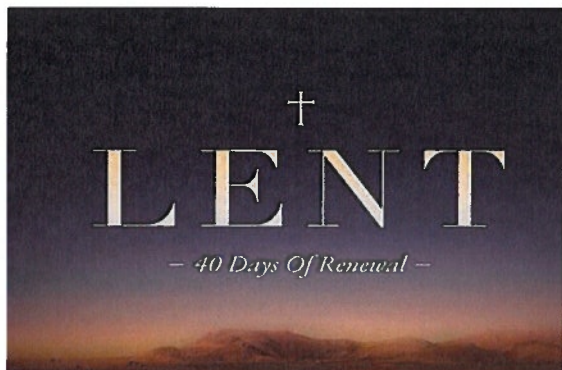


## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday March 24 w/ Procession of Palms  
@ 10:30 AM Holy Communion

Good Friday Noon Meditation  
Evening Tenebrae Service of Shadows @  
7 PM

Easter Sunday Holy Communion 10:30 AM



## *WHAT IS LENT IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH*

The term "Lent" derives from the same source as one of the German words, "Lenz," which means spring. When nature awakens from the end of winter, the Christian discovers the newness of life in Christ, emerging from the death of sin. Over the 40 days of Lent, God's baptized people cleanse their souls by the discipline of repentance, prayer, and fasting. Lent is when God's people joyfully prepare for the Paschal feast (Easter). It is when God renews His people's zeal in faith and life. Grant us the fullness of grace that belongs to God's children.

## *WHAT IS THE MEANING OF HOLY WEEK*

**Holy Week** is a significant time in the Christian calendar, especially for Lutherans. It recalls the events leading up to the death and resurrection of **Jesus Christ**. Here's what it entails:

**Palm Sunday:** This marks the beginning of Holy Week. We rejoice as Jesus enters Jerusalem, with crowds waving palms and shouting "Hosanna!" It's a day of celebration and anticipation.

**Maundy Thursday:** The name comes from the Latin word for "commandment." On this day, we remember Jesus' new commandment to love one another. We also commemorate the Last Supper and the washing of the disciples' feet.

**Good Friday:** A solemn day when we contemplate the cost Jesus paid for our redemption. It's a time to reflect on His sacrifice and the cross. No celebrations or Holy Communion take place on Good Friday.

**Easter Sunday:** The joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection. It's a day of victory over sin and death. Lutherans gather to hear the story of salvation and rejoice in the resurrection.

## Benevolence Ideas

Our church has several special funds to meet needs that can't be met through our General Fund. Currently, these special funds are: Building Maintenance/Improvements, Vacation Bible School, and Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes. In addition, our church houses the Grace Community Food Shelf and we ask for donations on their behalf. Finally, our church is a part of the Grace Cemetery Association and we ask for donations on their behalf for the maintenance of the Synod, Pioneer, and Fairview Cemeteries in rural Erskine. Please contact Jim Ferden if you have any questions.



# thrivent



### Did you know?

If you are a Thrivent member, you are eligible to receive money to help support events you or others are having. Simply gather a team of friends, family or neighbors to put on a fundraiser, educational event or service activity. We'll provide the resources you need to get started – including up to \$250 in seed money. Clients with benefit membership are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year, and clients with associate membership are eligible to lead one per calendar year. There are many examples on the Thrivent website @ [Thrivent Action Teams Hub \(cotribute.co\)](http://ThriventActionTeamsHub.cotribute.co). Some ideas: Grandparents Day, Vacation Bible School, Fish Fry, Easter Festival, Food Shelf, Disaster Response Buckets/kits, K9's for Mobility, Quilts for Others, or Yarn for Prayer Shawls. Let's get together and figure out how we can use these benefits for the work of ministry.

~ Pastor Pam

### Giving Options

Not only can you give through your offering envelope on Sunday morning, but our church offers other options to receive your offering:

**Automatic Giving** – You can set up monthly or weekly automatic deductions from your bank account. Contact the church office (218-687-4035) for a form to complete.

**Online Giving** – There are several links throughout our website ([www.gracechurcherskine.org](http://www.gracechurcherskine.org)) that will allow you to give a one-time or regular donation from your bank account, credit card, or debit card.

**Mobile Giving** – You can utilize your mobile device and scan the following code –



02413421 - Friends -  
ID023300324 - Ran - Male - 14

TL: English  
GP:US

Types:   
TID: ID-E-5S12-1



09411215-02413421-C0078083711-5

05411215-02413421

# Letter to my sponsor

Tanggal (Date) 13-12-2023



Shalom, senang boleh menulis surat untuk Friends.  
Halo apa kabar Friends dan keluarga? Ran berharap  
Friends dan keluarga dalam keadaan sehat dan baik  
baik saja dan keluarga disini Ran dan keluarga dalam  
keadaan baik-baik saja. Di sekolah Ran sudah selesai  
mengikuti ujian mid semester dan Ran berharap bisa  
mendapatkan nilai yang bagus, sehingga bisa mem-  
banggakan orang tua Ran.

Dalam menyambut Natal dan tahun baru orang tua  
Ran sudah mulai mempersiapkan segala sesuatu  
dalam menyambut Natal dan tahun baru. Berke-  
maha persiapan Friends dalam menyambut Natal dan  
tahun baru? apakah keluarga Friends berkumpul  
bersama? Disini Ran dan keluarga bersama-sama  
dalam menyambut Natal dan tahun baru yang  
panas. Harapan Ran di tahun yang baru bisa menjadi

### Translation

December 13th, 2023. Shalom (peace be upon you), I am so happy I could write for you Friends. Hallo, how are you and your family doing? I hope all of you are doing great and also in good health. My family and I are doing well here. I just finished my semester exams, and I hope I could have good grades and make my parents proud of me. TO celebrate christmas and new year, my parents have prepare everything to celebrate it. How was your preparation to welcome christmas and new year so far? Will your family come and celebrate together? My family and I will celebrate christmas and new year together. Hopefully in the new year



TID: ID-E-5S12-1







Pribadi yang lebih baik, lebih semangat dalam bersakoleh sehingga bisa membanggakan keluarga dan bisa menggapai cita-cita. Apa yang menjadi harapan Friends ditahun baru yang akan datang?

Ran dan keluarga mengucapkan terimakasih untuk gift natal yang diberikan melalui PPA. Ran sangat mendapatkan gift natal. Gift yang Ran terima Ran gunakan untuk membelanjakan baju baru. Ran dan keluarga berdoa agar supaya friends terus diberkati Tuhan sukses dalam segala hal. Karuh satla

Translation

I could be a better person, I could do better in school, and make my family proud and I could achieve my dreams and goals. What is your hope for the new year, Friends? Thank you very much for the christmas gift you sent for me through the Center. I was so happy when I received it. I have used it to buy some new clothes. My family and I will always pray for you Friends, may God bless you all abundantly in everything you do.

Tuhan pasti menyatki.

Demikian surat Ran, selamat menyambut sukacita Natal dan tahun baru

Translation

That is all from me right now, looking forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you, and God bless. Much love, Ran. Merry Christmas and Happy new Year.

Dear Friends,

Ran is now in an exciting season: life as a 14-year-old! As he reaches this life stage, we celebrate! Not only because he is growing physically, but because it represents another year of development that will equip him to escape the cycle of poverty.

Throughout this year of life, Ran will grow and develop in exciting ways spiritually, cognitively, physically and socio-emotionally. Keep reading to review the ways 14-year-olds typically develop in East Indonesia ...

**Spiritual**

Describe God's nature

Talk about leaders from Scripture

Participate in church activities and worship services

**Physical**

Identify changes during puberty

Refuse and avoid unhealthy and risky habits

Know about illnesses and illness prevention

Explain negative impacts of premarital sex

Know how to identify and report threats and abuse

**Cognitive**

Complete primary education and progress to secondary education

Identify ways to improve learning

Set short-term goals

Learn skills to generate income

**Socio-Emotional**

Make smart decisions

Solve problems

Contribute positively to the community

Communicate well, verbally and nonverbally

Our hope is that through the information you've received, you'll gain a deeper understanding of what it's like to be 14 in East Indonesia. The more you know about the milestones Ran is reaching, the more you can encourage and empower him in his growth!

Thank you again for continuing to help release Ran from poverty in Jesus' name. Your support and prayers are making an eternal difference in his life.

Blessings,

Dan Mangan

Sr. Director of Supporter Experience

Compassion International



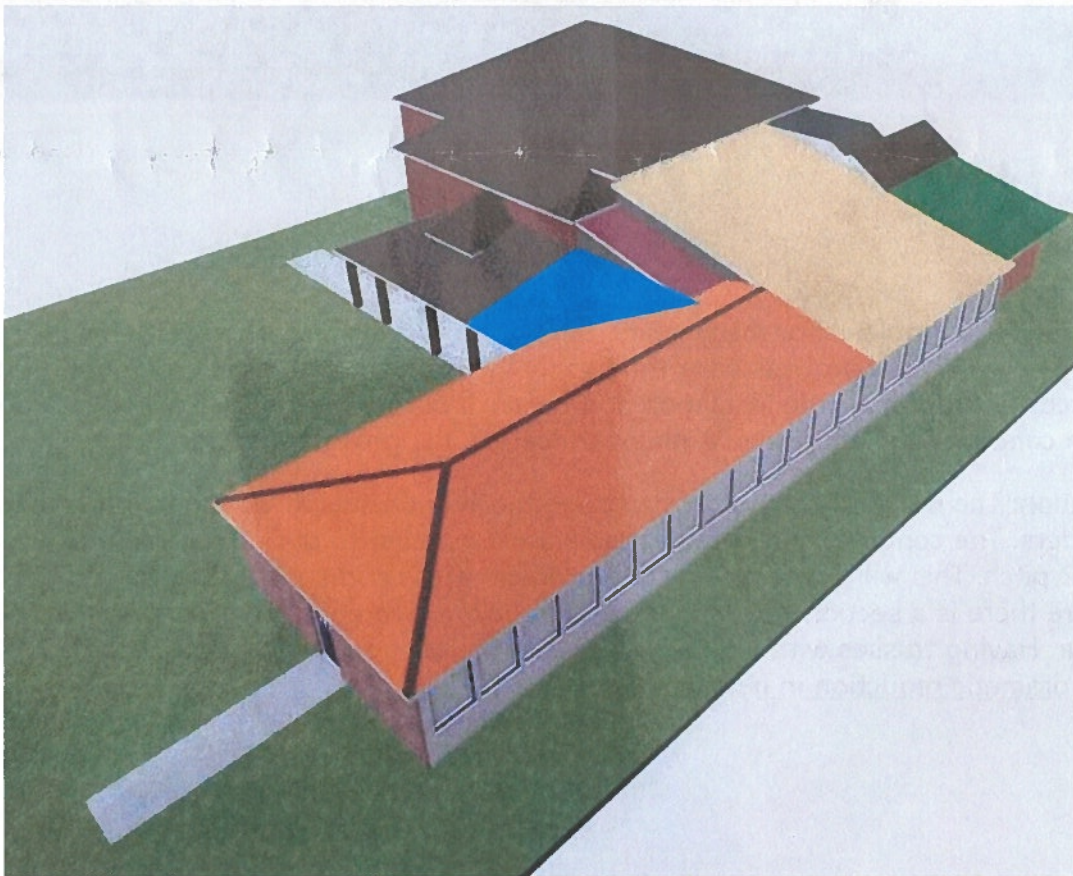
# Grace Lutheran Church

*Erskine, Minnesota*

Serving All People by Sharing God's Word and Gift of Grace

## Education Wing Roof Reconstruction

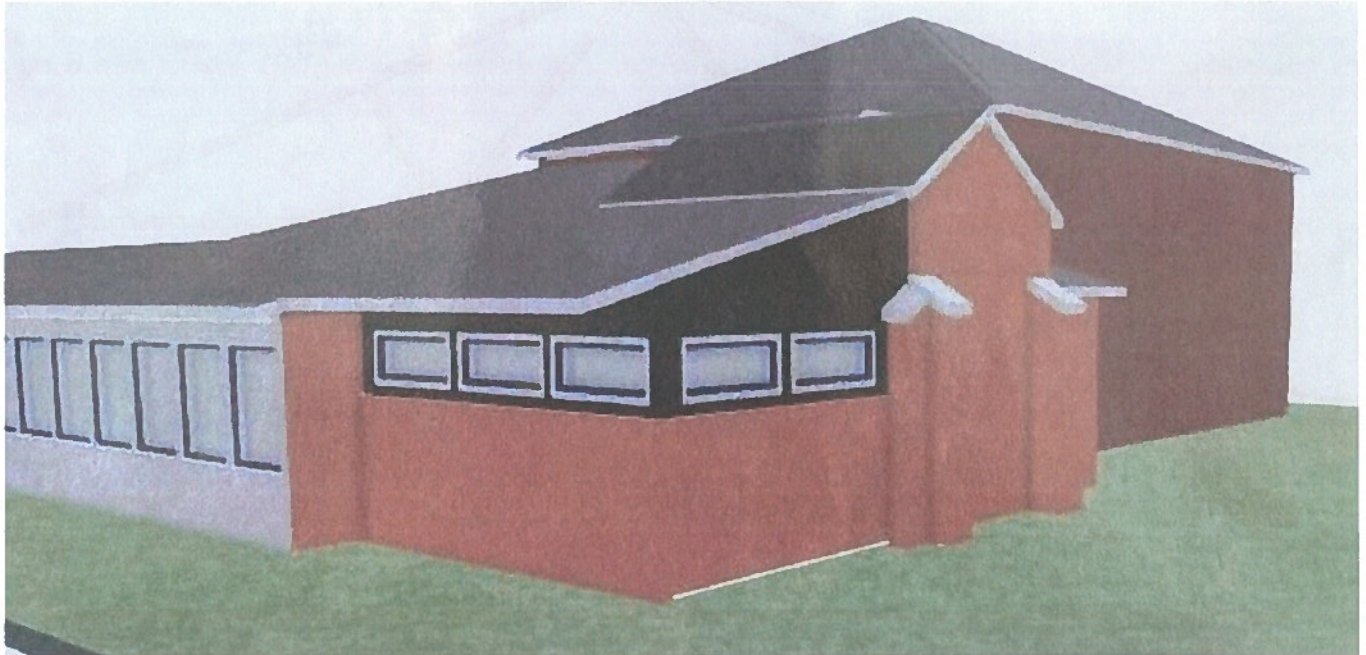
*O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. 1 Chronicles 29:16.*





**Scope of the Problem:** For many years, the flat roof of the education wing has leaked in various places. Several projects have tried to fix the problem, but more and more leaks occur. The current roof has little insulation and because of the design the leakage is probably from both condensation and leaks. A major concern is the growth of mold.

**Solution:** The Building committee has done thorough research working with architects and builders. The congregation voted at the annual meeting to put on a traditional roof with a 3/12 pitch. This will cover the existing problem areas and connect the roof to the sanctuary where there is a section without all the protrusions and corners where problems naturally occur. Having trusses with a 3/12 will enable the contractors to blow in insulation resulting in a dramatic reduction in heating costs.



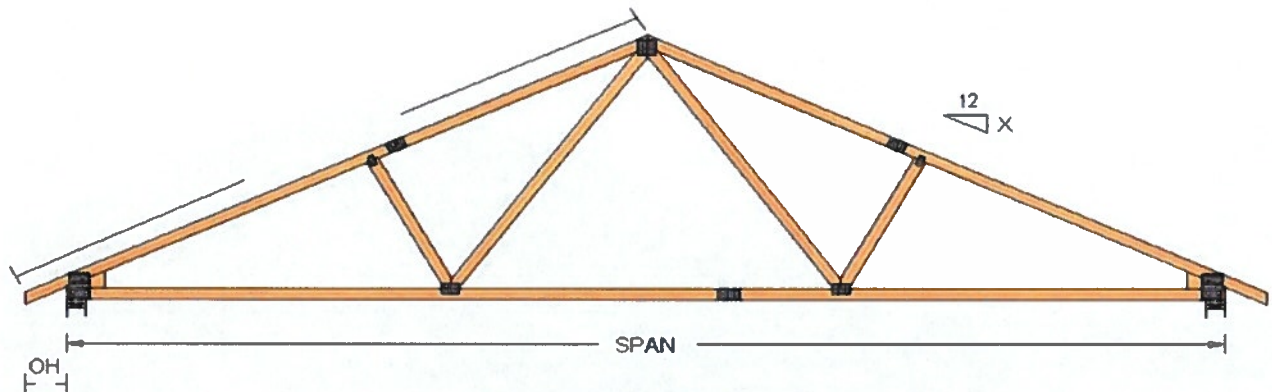
This plan will solve our water leakage problems and keep our offices and classrooms dry.

Cost: \$175,000 to complete the new roof.

Our goal is to raise this amount so that we do not have to take out a loan. God will provide all that we need for this worthy project.

We ask our members to contribute to this project that will solve our problems and take us into the future.

Project work will begin in the summer of 2024.



**Buy a Rafter Build a Roof**

**Goal: \$175,000**

## **Help Grace Continue the Ministry of Jesus Christ**

- **Pray for our Education of our children and adults and the completion of our Education Wing Roof Reconstruction.**
- **Share the Word**
- **Give the work of the church out of what God has given to us.**

*We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A Trust, O Lord from Thee.*



### **CHMEETINGS SOFTWARE UPDATE:**

As mentioned in our annual meeting Grace Church has purchased a software system to help track our Tithes and Offerings and help our communication with the members. To date all our members have been entered from the current member list. What is needed from members are cell numbers and email addresses. Having these will enable the church to communicate when needed. Church wide emails and text messages will be few so don't worry about Grace filling up your in box. Where it is a big help is within our groups. An example is what we are testing now is our prayer chain group. Instead of having to call each person on the list, Mavis can select the Prayer Chain group and send a notice to all in a few seconds.

### **List of software rollouts:**

1. Continue to update member data, especially cell numbers and email addresses.
2. Build our groups. Ex: Womens bible study, men's bible study, youth group, WNALC, etc
3. Build our calendar so all can see what is going on in our church.
4. Eventually roll out the Chmeeting app so members have access to the church on their cell phone or computer. Exciting!

If you have not sent your cell number and email address to the church so we can update our database please send them to the church email and John Carlson's email address.

Church - [gracelc@gvtel.com](mailto:gracelc@gvtel.com)

John Carlson - [johnpraunion@gmail.com](mailto:johnpraunion@gmail.com)

Thank you to everybody for helping make this roll out a success.

John Carlson

**GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Pr. Pam Thorson	Pastor	270-872-8269
John Carlson	President	
Russ Johnson	Vice President	
Yvonne Halvorson	Secretary	687-5190
Tina Farrell	Financial Secretary	
Jim Ferden	Treasurer	563-2377
Gary Walter	Deacon	687-3074
Carla Ferden	Deacon	563-2377
Gene Haugom	Trustee	563-3292
Ray LaBrecque	Trustee	
Steve Jacobson	Trustee	
Ann Brekken	Superintendent / Education	687-2205
Sarah Strom	Education	687-3488
Pam Walk	Education	637-2219
Shar Hill	Education	
Hollie Stewart	Pres. WNALC	687-3730
Lori Hole	Stewardship	687-3585
Tyler Brekken	Stewardship	687-2205
Becky Lindseth	Stewardship	

**LECTIONARY READINGS  
FOR MARCH****Third Sunday in Lent**

March 3, 2024

First Reading - Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm—19

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Gospel - John 2:13-22

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 10, 2024

First Reading - Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm—107:1-3, 17-22

Second Reading - Ephesians 2:1-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

March 17, 2024

First Reading - Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm—51:1-12

Second Reading—Hebrews 5:5-10

Gospel - John 12:20-33

**Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**

March 24, 2024

Procession with Palms: Mark 11:1-11

First Reading - Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm: 31:9-16

Second Reading - Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel - Mark 12:1-15:47

**Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day**

March 31, 2024

First Reading - Acts 10:34-43

Psalm - 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel - Mark 16:1-8



# MARCH

# Grace Lutheran Church

\*CIRCLES\*

Hope at the church  
Rebecca at the church

Ushers: Wade Farrell, Brad Stewart, Jeff & Kris Nornes

Communion Assistants:  
Jason & Nicki Carlson

Altar Guild: Lori Hole & Nicki Carlson

R= Reader  
A=Acolyte  
P=Power Point

**MARCH 3rd:**  
R~ Yvonne Halvorson  
A~ Shelby Shimpa, Hannah Shimpa  
P~ Charley Carlson, George Juve

**MARCH 10th:**  
R~ Kris Nornes  
A~ Faith Omundson, Hope Omundson  
P~ Lillian Shimpa, Jareth Walk

**MARCH 17th:**  
R~ Ann Brekken  
A~ Gracey Gunderson, Bella Senn  
P~ Brecken Gunderson, Karl Jax

**MARCH 24th:**  
R~ Jeff Nornes  
A~ Tatum Smeby, Addyson Morgenroth  
P~ Kale Smeby, Owen Strom

**MARCH 31st:**  
R~ Tyler Brekken  
A~ Hayden Johnson, Jayden Haugen  
P~ Jorgen Johnson, Scott Omundson

**Greeters:**  
March 3rd: Jim & Stacy Tadman  
March 10th: Judith Tadman  
March 17th: Nancy Tradewell  
March 24th: Lee & Lesly Tradewell  
March 31st: Jennifer Venem

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9am- Rebroadcast
3 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm.	4 9:30am-LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	5 7am-MBS @ Ness Café  2pm-BSF  8pm-AA mtg.	6 6:00 pm—Lent Soup Supper 7:15 pm Holden Prayer Service	7 12:00 pm Quilters 7pm-Orchestra Practice	8	9 9am- Rebroadcast
10 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am- Worship w/Holy Comm. 11:30—Council Mtg.	11 9:30am -LBS 10am- Rebroadcast	12 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café  2pm-BSF  8pm-AA mtg.	13 6:00 pm—Lent Soup Supper 7:15 pm Holden Prayer Service	14 12:00 pm Quilters 2-6pm-Food Shelf is open 2:00 WNALC Meeting	15	16 9am- Rebroadcast
17 9am-ABS 9:15am-Sunday School 10:30am-Worship	18 9:30am-LBS 10am-Rebroadcast	19 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café  2pm-BSF  8pm-AA mtg.	20 6:00 pm—Lent Soup Supper 7:15 pm Holden Prayer Service	21 12:00 pm Quilters 10am-2pm-Food Shelf is open 7pm-Orchestra Practice	22	23 9am- Rebroadcast
24 9am-ABS 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am- Procession of Palms w/ Holy Comm	25 9:30am-LBS 10am-Rebroadcast	26 7:00am-MBS @ Ness Café  2pm-BSF  8pm-AA mtg.	27 10:00 am Hope Cicle 1:55pm-RT Class 6:00pm-Conf. Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast	28 12:00 pm Quilters 6:30pm-Rebecca Circle	29 GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 pm Meditation 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service of Shadows	30
31 EASTER  9am-ABS 10:30am-Worship w/Holy Comm			EVERY WEDNESDAY:  1:55pm-RT Class 6:00pm-Conf. Class 6:30pm-Rebroadcast			