



The Scroll

Grace Lutheran Church

April 2026



Hope Beyond the Stone

Friends and family,

Easter morning begins with a stone that seems as if the story of Jesus was dead and gone. That heavy stone signal finality as it was sealed with grief, fear, and loss. For the followers of Jesus it represented hopes dashed. Evil had the victory.

But there is hope beyond the stone. God has the final word. That heavy stone was rolled away. We may think it was so Jesus could get out, he didn't need it to move. No, the stone was removed so that the world could see in.

The tomb appeared to be an ending, but it was victory! Victory over the devil, death, and the grave. Jesus is Risen! The Christ Lives!

This is the message we need today, the world needs to know! Many are carrying our own stones. worry about the future. of grief over loved ones we miss. Stones of exhaustion, disappointment, or unanswered questions. God does not ask us to pretend those stones are not there. But, because of what Christ Jesus has done by dying on that cross and being raised from the death, we have hope – all because of the victory won by our Savior. So we gather our burdens and bring them to the empty tomb trusting in our Lord Almighty to move into our needs carrying our stones, removing them and giving us hope beyond measure.

Jesus still bears the scars of the cross. The tomb was still real. The grief was still deep. But resurrection tells us that God is at work even when we cannot see it—especially when we cannot see it. Because Jesus lives, hope lives. He walks with us through our darkest times and in our happiest of times and all things in-between.

Jesus Christ is Risen! There is Hope Beyond the Stone.

I want to invite you to come to worship regularly. There is nothing like the love of our Lord Jesus to bring us hope, joy, and courage.

We have a special Sunday when our Bishop, Rev. Dan Selbo will be with us for worship. Let's fill the house of the Lord on that day! He will be staying in the parsonage. There is also a celebration of First Communion that day.

Also, be sure to consider attending our Annual NALC Minkota Mission District Gathering in Fargo, April 17-18.

In joyful ministry together,
Pastor Pam

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HOPE
LIVES
BECAUSE
JESUS
LIVES.



The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday April 8th 7:00PM at the church. A reminder that all Council meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise specified.



The Grace WNALC will not meet during the winter months

Hope Circle: March 25th at 9:00AM at the church

Rebecca Circle: March 26th at 6:30PM at the church.



- Pr. Tim Lundeen
- Shirley Salverson
- Liz Jenson
- Don Lundin
- Judy Tadman
- Linda Jorgenson
- Judi Hoeft
- Jon Clementson
- Pastor Pam Thorson
- Ogden Farder, Jr.
- Verra Smeby
- Maci Smeby
- Allen Jenson
- Steve & Linda Evenson
- Louise LaBrecque
- Bev Greaver
- Amy Carpenter
- Gloria Bixby
- Jesse Hickman
- Greg Kaster
- Jolene Bradley
- Mark Wild
- Amy Carpenter
- Shut-ins and Nursing Home members



March 1st:

Attendance~ 79
Offering~\$3,098.00

March 8th:

Attendance~ 68
Offering~\$5,925.00

March 15th:

Attendance~79
Offering~\$3,181.00

March 22nd:

Attendance~ 77
Offering~ \$2,405.00



Women's Bible Study is held Monday mornings beginning at 9:30AM in the Fellowship Hall at Grace. This is open to all women who wish to join the group.



Men's Bible Study meets on Tuesday mornings at 7:00AM at Ness Café. This is open to any men who would like to be a part of the group.



The Grace Quilters meet on Thursdays at 12:00PM in the Fellowship Hall.



**Electronic
Fund Giving**

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) 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 –



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 \(contribute.co\)](http://ThriventActionTeamsHub.contribute.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.



February 2026 Financial Summary

Regular Offerings to the General Operating Fund -	
\$16,085.85	
Misc giving used for the General Operating Fund -	
\$ 365.53	
Undesignated Memorials \$	55.00
Interest Earned - \$	151.33
Total Income	\$16,657.71

Expenses:

Administrative - \$	7,976.71	
Education - \$	141.67	
Mission Outreach - \$	630.00	
Pastoral - \$	8,549.07	
Worship - \$	827.98	
Total Expenses		\$18,125.43
Net Income		\$ (1,467.72)



GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pr. Pam Thorson	Pastor
John Carlson	President
Tyler Brekken	Vice President
Carla Ferden	Secretary
Tina Farrell	Financial Secretary
Jim Ferden	Treasurer
Wendy Lee	Deacon
Dearmina Gustafson	Deacon
Gene Haugom	Trustee
Ray LaBrecque	Trustee
Steve Jacobson	Trustee
Andrew & Becky Hanson	Education Directors
Sarah Strom	Education
Kristen Morgenroth	Education
Jason Carlson	Education
Hollie Stewart Pres.	WNALC
Paula LaBrecque	Stewardship
Becky Lindseth	Stewardship
Marie Hamre	Stewardship

**LECTIONARY READINGS
FOR APRIL**

**Resurrection of Our Lord
April 5, 2026**

First Reading - Acts 10:34-43
 Psalm - Psalm 16:1-11
 Second Reading - Colossians 3:1-4
 Gospel - Matthew 28:1-10

**Second Sunday of Easter
April 12, 2026**

First Reading - Acts 5:29-42
 Psalm - Psalm 148:1-14
 Second Reading - 1 Peter 1:3-9
 Gospel - John 20:19-31

**Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026**

First Reading - Acts 2:14a, 36-41
 Psalm - Psalm 116:1-14
 Second Reading - 1 Peter 1:17-25
 Gospel - Luke 24:13-35

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026**

First Reading - Acts 2:42-47
 Psalm - Psalm 23:1-6
 Second Reading - 1 Peter 2:19-25
 Gospel - John 10:1-10





GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

MARCH 17, 2026

7:00 P.M.

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

Financial Secretary

**Total Monthly Giving
\$16,486.38**

General Operat-
ing Fund 16,085.85; Other
315.53; Outreach 40.00;
Building 45.00

Treasurer's Report:

The total of undesignated funds received was slightly below (\$1,467.72) the month's General Fund expenses of \$18,125.43.

However, the regular offering was below (\$5,802.17) what is needed to meet monthly budgeted expenses of \$21,888.02.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Budget Report

Overall, we ended the month at approximately 3.3% or \$8,500 under budget.

All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

Giving in February was down slightly from giving in Janu-

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

Giving in February was down slightly from giving in January.

However, this was the second best giving in any February since I have tracked giving.

Year-to-date giving was below 2025 year-to-date giving.

However, this was the second best year-to-date giving over all.

History of the General Operating Fund Balance

The balance decreased from January as giving was not sufficient to cover the monthly expenses.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

The balance increased by approximately \$700.00 from last month.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

The balance decreased by approximately \$300.00 from last month.

Other Information

Projects during February/March

- Monitor all church bank accounts multiple times on a weekly basis.

Submitted Federal and State monthly payroll tax withholding.

Submitted payroll information for MN Paid Leave Program.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam reported

1. **Pastoral Care** – Nursing Home visits and worship services continue at Fair Meadow in Fertile and Mc Sr. Living.

2. **Released Time** - We have good attendance. A family has visited Grace because their child

loves to come for release time.

3. **First Communion Class** – 1 student.

4. **Personal** – I attended the memorial service for a cousin on March 14 in Sioux Falls, SD. A blizzard slowed our return home drive, but we made it.

5. **Confirmation** students attended Confirmation Camp at Inspiration Point near Vining, MN. The weekend was hosted through the Augustana District of the LCMC. Our group included 5 boys, 1 girl, 3 chaperones – Cassie Senn, John Carlson, and me. The content was good.

6. **Summer Camps** – Thank you to Nancy Jensen for encouraging kids to go to summer camp. We always have a good number of campers. I have been searching for a summer camp experience that is more in line with our statement of faith and belief than we currently have. Inspiration Point is owned by Lutheran Brethren who lead their own summer camp. They may be a good fit that is more in alignment with our direction and beliefs. Vining, MN is 2 hours south of Erskine. I will continue to explore other options for next year.

7. **NALC/Minkota Mission**

District – The annual convocation of the mission district is April 1-18 convocation of the mission district is April with Eastern South Dakota. I made a final visit to Atonement Lutheran LCMC in Fargo who will be our venue. They are happy to have us with them.

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued
All are invited to attend in addition to delegates.

I have several **Zoom** meetings on my schedule in the next 2 weeks dealing with various areas of the **NALC**. I believe we are under the umbrella of a solid Lutheran orthodox church. Keep all of our leaders in your prayers.

We are preparing for our Bishop to attend Grace worship on 19th. He will stay in the parsonage.

Committee Reports:

Youth Ministry: John reported March 22nd at the Fosston Theater. Showing "The Risen" or "Case for Christ"

April 24-25th Feed My starving Children

April or May Ditch cleaning
Christian Education: Andrew reported

Easter Egg Hunt: Like last year, we put little ducks and bears into the Easter eggs that kids can exchange for prizes at the end. These prizes can be candy, but popular choices last year were also Easter books or toys or other items. We thought this worked well last year, but we plan to make one tweak: Rather than separate locations for the upper and lower elementary, we plan to do a staggered release instead, so the younger kids can find the easier-to-find eggs first, leaving more challenging hiding spots for the older kids. We greatly appreciate any prize donations from the congregation! They can be delivered to the Education Office, which is Room 7.

Teacher Appreciation: While Becky and I or members of the Education Committee can take this on, we were wondering if this could be an opportunity for other people or other groups within the church to show their appreciation to the Christian Education program (both Sunday School and Released Time). In the past, this has been cake or cupcakes and coffee between Sunday School and church on the last Sunday of Sunday School, which is April 26th this year.

Vacation Bible School: We are working on a postcard to send out to families that advertises both the Easter Egg Hunt and the Teacher Appreciation Sunday, but we thought we should also include a save-the-date for VBS, so we need to choose dates for that. In the past, VBS has been the first week in August, which is after Summer Rec is done but before school sports activities begin. This would also be the same week as the Summer Musical at Win-E-Mac, which has now been the same week the last two years, and I think it helps both programs to run them together. We would run Sunday through Thursday again. This year, that week is August 2nd through August 6th. Email with any questions: education@gracechurcherskine.org

Woman of Grace: Hollie Stewart. Woman's service book will be out soon. Group 1 will serve the coffee hour starting in March. Next meeting will be at McIntosh Senior Living

Gene Haugom. Slowed down the ceiling fan in sanctuary due to being cool and drafty when

when sitting in middle of the church

Video Ministry: John Carlson. We are learning each Sunday...mainly by our mistakes. We could use at least 1-2 other people to help in 2026. It has been best having 2 people in back helping the new kids just starting. Nick continues to be a help when we need it.

Food Shelf: Mavis Haugom, Coordinator

Thanks to everyone who worked.

Total Households	23
Total Individuals	56
Children	11
Adults	33
Seniors	12
Total Pounds Distributed	1735.4

New Business:

Easter Breakfast – Wendy will prepare the egg bakes and order the rest from Grocery Plus. Marie and Carla will help

Prepare parsonage for Bishop Selbo's visit April 18. In need of table and chairs

Passed: Give the quarterly mission funds \$500 to Northland Rescue Mission

Passed: Promotional T-shirt for WEM School

Calendar:

March 18 and 25 @ 7:00 pm
Lenten Midweek

March 29 Palm Sunday

April 2 @ 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday

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**GRACE COUNCIL, continued
Calendar:**

April 3 Noon and 7:00 pm
Good Friday services

April 4 @ 2:00 pm Jareth Walk
Eagle Scout ceremony

April 5 @ 9:00 am breakfast
9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 am Easter Festival wor-
ship

April 26th Last day of Sunday
School and Teacher Apprecia-
tion

Next Council meeting: April 8,
2026



***WELCOME NALC BISHOP
REV. DAN SELBO***

Our NALC Bishop, Rev. Dan Selbo will be at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday April 19th for our 10:30 AM Worship Service. He will bring greetings from the NALC as well as the message for the day.

Dinner will be served following worship by the WNALC of Grace Church.

All are welcomed to attend this very special day.



WOMENS MINISTRY

Service books are out. Please pick yours up at the back of the church. They will be mailed after Easter.

New this year:

* coffee service on Sundays starting with group #1 in April
*directions will be on wall in kitchen

*new group each month

Minkota & Eastern SD Mission Districts

**North American Lutheran Church
2026 Convocation**

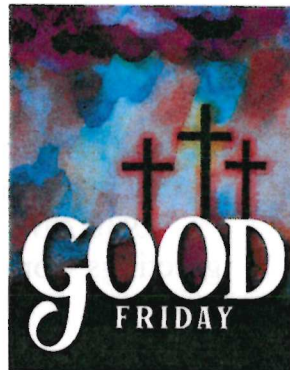
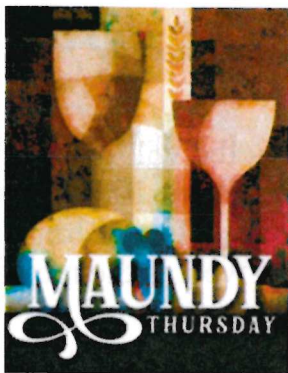
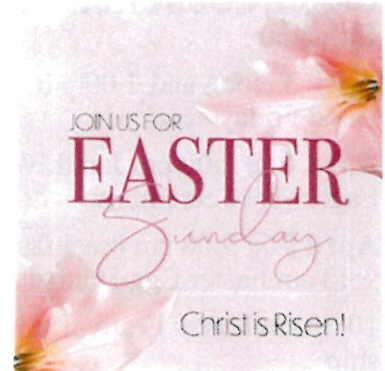
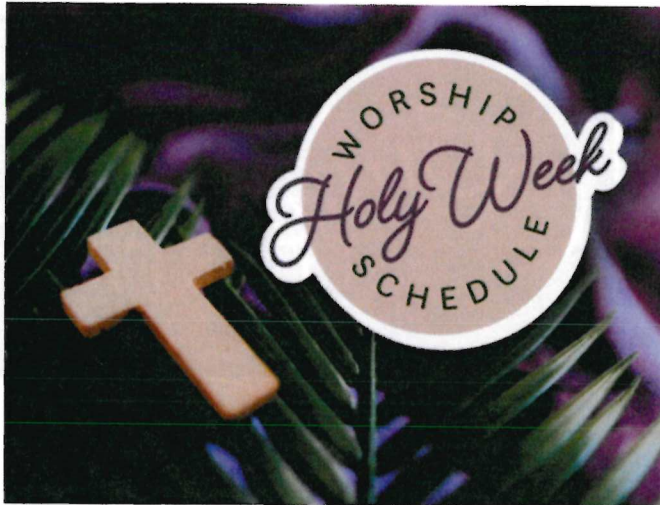
April 17-18, 2026

Atonement Lutheran Church Fargo, ND

Cost: \$30 per person

Open to all who wish to attend

Stop by the church office for registration form



April 5
Easter Breakfast –
9:00 AM w/ Egg Hunt



April 2

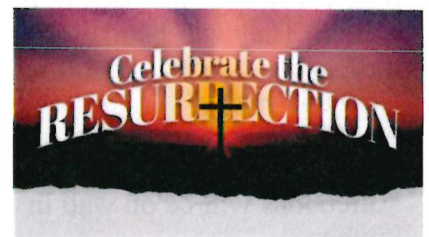
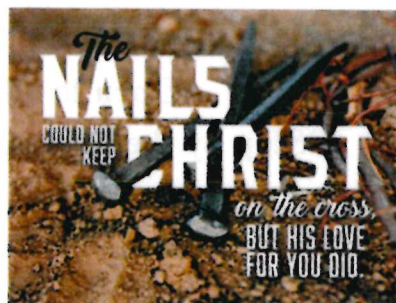
Maundy Thursday –
Celebration of the Last
Supper – 7:00 PM

First Reading - Exodus 24:3–11
Psalm - Psalm 116:12-19
Second Reading - Hebrews 9:11
–22
Gospel - Matthew 26:17–30

April 3

Good Friday Service of
Shadows – 7:00 PM

First Reading - Isaiah 52:13–
53:12
Psalm - Psalm 22:1–31 or Al-
ternate: Psalm 31
Second Reading - Hebrews 4:14
–16; 5:7–9
Gospel - John 18:1–19:42



Festival Holy
Communion
Worship 10:30 AM

APRIL

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES
 Hope at the church
 Rebecca at the church

Ushers:
 David Hamre
 Wayne Trandem
 Communion Assistants:
 Jim & Carla Ferden
 Altar Guild:
 Lori Hole and Nicki Carlson



R= Reader
 A=Acolyte
 P=Power Point

APRIL 5th:
 R~ Josie Johnson
 A~
 P~

APRIL 12th:
 R~ Yvonne Halvorson
 A~
 P~

APRIL 19th:
 R~ Kale Smeby
 A~
 P~

APRIL 26th:
 R~ Kevin Thorson
 A~
 P~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
5 Easter 10:30a- Worship w/ Holy Communion 	6 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast 10:30a-Pr. at Mac Sr. Living	7 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	8 1:55p-RT Class 6p-Conf. Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast 7p-Council Mtg.	9 2-6p-Food Shelf is open	10 7p-Service of Shad- ows Worship	11 9a- Rebroadcast
12 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Worship w/ Holy Communion	13 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	14 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	15 1:55p-RT Class 6p-Conf. Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	16 10a-2p-Food Shelf is open	17 SCROLL ARTI- CLES DUE	18 9a- Rebroadcast
19 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Worship	20 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	21 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	22 9a-Hope Circle 1:55p-RT Class 6p-Conf. Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	23 6:30p-Rebecca Cir- cle	24 10a-Pr. at Fair Meadow Nursing Home	25 9a- Rebroadcast
26 9a-ABS 9:15a-Sunday School 10:30a-Worship	27 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	28 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 2p-BSF 8p-AA mtg.	29 1:55p-RT Class 6p-Conf. Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	30 		
				Greeters: 5th: David & Becky Lindseth 12th: Don & Betty Lundin	19th: Kim Mahlen 26th: Mark & Cin- dy Nelson	

*“Serving all people by sharing God’s Word
and Gift of Grace”*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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