



The Scroll

Grace Lutheran Church

May 2026



May

¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. Psalm 146:1

Listening to the birds arriving this spring has been wonderful. The geese make themselves known along with the majestic swans. The waters are lively again after the winter. It's the small birds that tell us hope has been fulfilled as life is renewed once more in the sound of squawks, honks, and chirps. It's as if the earth and all things of God's beautiful creation are singing praise.

Praise to our Lord is refreshing. Lifting up our soul to the living God who loves us is renewing and refreshing. Taking a deep breath of fresh air is one of those things that brings us peace, centeredness, and clears the mind. Ahh, the ability to come up out of whatever has us and look up – that's nice. Spring is like that. We go through long winters, and the earth seems to groan – well we do, too, no matter how much we like snow. But along comes the sun and people smile. The grass is green outside my window. The trees? No buds to be seen, but they are bursting and ready – hope. Just as the earth is more joyful, so are we.

The good news is, we don't wait for spring or summer to be renewed. We're designed to worship and praise God. It's quite amazing to enter into words of praise. We enter heaven itself in the presence of the Lord. Try starting your prayers as those in the Bible have done with adoration and acknowledgement of the Almighty's greatness and lovingkindness. The breath of the Holy Spirit refreshes our souls and brings us into the heavenlies. That's energy for the day and beyond. So, take a deep breath of God and sings praise to His name even if it sounds like squawks, honks, or chirps. It's a joyful sound unto the Lord.

In joyful ministry together,

Pastor Pam

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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday May 13th 7:00PM at the church. A reminder that all Council meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise specified.



March 29th:

Attendance~ 106
Offering~\$2,465.00

April 5th:

Attendance~ 139
Offering~\$3,122.00

April 12th:

Attendance~ 69
Offering~\$2,790.00

April 19th:

Attendance~ 101
Offering~ \$2,580.00

April 26th:

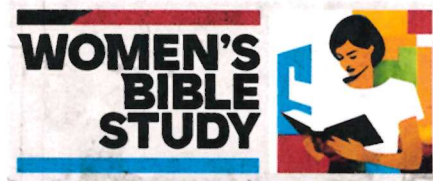
Attendance~ 104
Offering~\$3,165.00



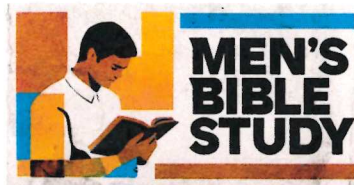
The Grace WNALC will meet on Thursday May 7th at 2:00 PM at Mac Senior Living. ***Please note date and place of meeting.**

Hope Circle: No meeting in May.

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



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.



- Helen Lee
- Janet Hamre
- Del Hemmingsen, Jr.
- Pr. Tim Lundeen
- Shirley Salverson
- Don Lundin
- Judy Tadman
- Linda Jorgenson
- Judi Hoeft
- Jon Clementson
- Pastor Pam Thorson
- Ogden Farder, Jr.
- 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



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 \(contribute.co\)](https://www.thrivent.org/teams-hub). 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.

March 2026 Financial Summary

Regular Offerings to the General Operating Fund -	
\$24,390.85	
Misc giving used for the General Operating Fund -	
\$ 556.38	
Thrivent Choice Program - \$	219.00
Interest Earned - \$	169.73
Total Income	\$25,335.96

Expenses:

Administrative - \$	9,442.28
Education - \$	426.07
Mission Outreach - \$	1,430.00
Pastoral - \$	8,099.49
Worship - \$	1,351.15
Total Expenses	\$20,748.99
Net Income	\$ 4,586.97



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



Thank you to the many who helped prepare for Bishop Selbo's visit. From fluffing the parsonage to providing food and setting up tables for Sunday dinner and so much more.

**LECTIONARY READINGS
FOR MAY****Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026**

First Reading - Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60
Psalm - Psalm 146:1-10
Second Reading - 1 Peter 2:2-10
Gospel - John 14:1-14

**Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2026**

First Reading - Acts 17:16-31
Psalm - Psalm 66:8-20
Second Reading - 1 Peter 3:13-22
Gospel - John 14:15-21

**Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2026**

First Reading - Acts 1:12-26
Psalm - Psalm 68:1-10
Second Reading - 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11
Gospel - John 17:1-11

**Day of Pentecost
May 24, 2026**

First Reading - Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm - Psalm 25:1-15
Second Reading - Acts 2:1-21
Gospel - John 7:37-39

**The Holy Trinity
May 31, 2026**

First Reading - Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm - Psalm 8:1-9
Second Reading - Acts 2:14a, 22-36
Gospel - Matthew 28:16-20



APRIL COUNCIL MEETING Highlights

Financial Secretary's Report: Tina Farrell reported:

General Fund Giving

Envelopes/Loose Checks of
Members - \$16,895.00

Loose Giving – Cash - \$89.00

Loose Giving – Checks
(Visitors) - \$40.00

Loose Giving – Cash (Visitors)
\$50.00

Electronic Giving – CC/Debit
\$1,556.85

Electronic Giving ACH
\$5,760.00

**Total General Giving -
\$24,390.85**

Other Giving

Sunday School Giving (Jan-
May) \$97.75

Misc Check– Restitution \$13.63

Electronic Giving – Designat- ed to Various Funds

Grace Youth Group - \$110.00

HS Scholarship -\$10.00

Organ Repair- \$5.00

Sunday School Equip-\$5.00

Vacation Bible School-\$10.00

Total Other Giving- \$251.38

Outreach Giving

Grace to Ukraine -\$100.00

Lent -\$323.00

Electronic Giving – Designat- ed to Various Funds

Electronic Giving – Designat- ed to Various Funds

Sunday School Outreach \$10.00

Grace Cemetery- \$10.00

Grace Food Shelf- \$110.00

After School Backpack Program
\$10.00

**Total Outreach Giving-
\$563.00**

Building Giving

Building Fund - \$45.00

Electronic Giving – Building
Fund- \$10.00

Total Building Giving -\$55.00

**Total Monthly Giving-
\$25,260.23**

Treasurer's Report: Jim Fer- den reported:

Cash Flow Report

Regular Offering to the General
Operating Fund was \$24,390.85.
Undesignated funds available to
be used for March's General
Fund expenses totaled
\$25,335.96. This total is com-
prised of the regular offering,
interest, a donation through the
Thrivent Choice Program, and
various other giving that can be
used to meet General Fund ex-
penses.

The total of undesignated funds
received were well above
(\$4,586.97) the month's General
Fund expenses of \$20,748.99.

In addition, the regular offering
was also above (\$2,586.17)
what is needed to meet monthly
budgeted expenses of
\$21,888.02.

Budget Report

Overall, we ended the month at
approximately 3.9% or \$10,000
under budget.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

Giving in March was way up
from giving in February.
This was the best giving in any
March since I have tracked
giving!

Year-to-date giving is above
2025 year-to-date giving.
This was also the best year-to-
date giving over all!

History of the General Operating Fund Balance

The balance increased from
February as giving was well
above the monthly expenses.

Account Balances Report

Building Fund - Reflects
donations of \$55.00. Expenses
consisted of \$1,418.28 for the
renewal of the elevator
maintenance contract, \$1,244.29
for upgrading the sound system
in the sanctuary, and \$79.10 for
the phone line in the elevator
(double cost due to timing).

HS Scholarship Fund – Reflects
a donation of \$10.00.

Oil Fund – Bldg Upkeep reflects
a portion of this month's oil/gas
revenue.

Oil Fund – Church Operating
Emergency Fund reflects a
portion of this month's oil/gas
revenue.

Oil Fund - Missions reflects a
portion of this month's oil/gas
revenue.

Organ & Piano Repair Fund –
Reflects a donation of \$5.00.

SS Equipment Fund – Reflects a
donation of \$5.00.

SS Outreach Fund – Reflects
donations \$53.00 and the
expense of \$43.00 to
Compassion International for
the regular monthly gift.

VBS Fund – Reflects a donation
of \$10.00.

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

Continued on Page 6

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

The balance decreased by approximately \$1,200.00 from last month.

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

The balance remains the same as last month.

Other Information

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

Submitted Federal and State monthly payroll tax withholding.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Pam reported

Pastoral Care – Visits with communion to Poplar Meadow and Mc Sr. Living residents in addition to Bible study ladies. Worship at Fair Meadow.

First Communion scheduled for April 19 – Easton Lee

Confirmation youth took on the Gospel reader's theater on Palm Sunday. Last day of confirmation is May 6. We will have a summer gathering.

Released Time will stop for the year on April 29. This has been a great year.

NALC – the Minkota Mission District Convocation April 17-18 in Fargo is nearly ready.

NALC Bishop Dan Selbo is the keynote speaker. There will be an ordination for Paul Both who is from Sudan. It will be a lively closing worship with a Sudanese choir. We are looking forward to a powerful time in the Lord.

Bishop Dan and Mary Selbo will come to Erskine Friday evening and spend the night in

the parsonage. They will be with us for worship and for a meal after and depart in the evening to visit family in the Twin Cities. Let's welcome them!

President's Report: John Carlson reported

Working with video ministry

Helping with Released time

Working on the Grace Opportunities spreadsheet for helping with maintenance around the church

Building an inventory sheet of the supplies at the church

Removing the carpet rack from the basement now that all the pictures have been removed

Talking with Ray Voxland regarding bible study for Men's Group. No More Excuses is the bible study they have started

Committee Reports:

Youth Ministry: John reported March saw Case for Christ at the Fosston Theatre and had about 25 kids attend

April 25th Feed My Starving Children

May Ditch cleaning

Christian Education: Andrew reported

Easter Egg Hunt: The Easter Egg Hunt was a success! We had 30 kids hunting for over 850 eggs hidden around the church. We thought the staggered release worked well. This gave the littles an opportunity to search at a bit slower pace before the older kids started searching. We want to thank everyone who donated candy and prizes for the kids! The ex-

change worked well, and we had more than enough rewards for the kids.

Teacher Appreciation: The last day of Sunday School is April 26th. We are looking forward to previewing this year's Vacation Bible School theme in church that Sunday.

Vacation Bible School: We are already ordering and planning for VBS this year, which will be Sunday, August 2nd through Thursday, August 6th, with a program that night.

Last 7 Sundays of Sunday School: Talking with the kids about the 7 circles found in the Sanctuary and the meaning of each. Email with any questions: education@gracechurcherskine.org

Woman of Grace: Hollie reported

May 7th will be the next meeting and it will be at McIntosh Senior Living

Trustees: Gene reported

Once things dry up will get more gravel in the parking lot- Put more grass seed down on the spots where the rye has died

Going to have electrician to look at the fans in the floor of the balcony

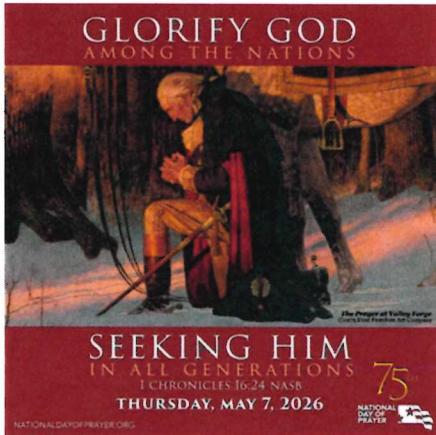
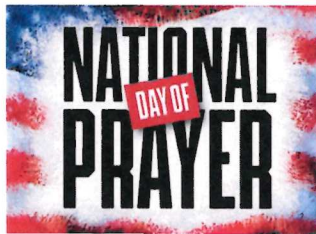
New controller on the ceiling fan in sanctuary

Deacons: Wendy reported

Easter morning breakfast served about 75 people. Many thanks to Wendy, Marie, Carla and Lesia for helping and donating muffins

Food Shelf: Gene reported (Mavis Haugom, Coordinator submitted report)

Continued on Page 8



May 24th

May 10th



May 31st



May 25th

May 16th



Here are some words of praise right out of our Bible.

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. 1 Chronicles 29:11

The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation... Psalm 18:46

The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; my father's God, and I will extol Him ... Exodus 15:2

Who is like You among the gods, O LORD? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders? ... Exodus 15:11

O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting. Then say, "Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us and deliver us from the nations, to give thanks to Your holy name, and glory in Your praise." Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting even to everlasting. Then all the people said, "Amen," and praised the LORD ... 1 Chron 16:34-36

GRACE COUNCIL, continued
Thanks to Dave, Jo, Sharon, and Mike for working truck day. Thanks to Gene, Jim F, Becky, Dan, Cherie, Marcy and Sharon working on the 12th. 18 clients came that day. Thanks to Mike, Wendy, Gloria, Laura, Connie and Julie for working the 19th. We served 12 clients that day. Then on the 16th Mike and I assisted one of our clients with food. I also want to say goodbye and thank you to Gary Walter for volunteering at the food shelf.

Totals for March: Households – 31; Pounds – 2,871.10; Participants - 82

Old Business:

Promotional T-shirt for WEM School – the design was sent to Pastor for review and approved

Prepare for Bishop Selbo's visit April 18. Parsonage getting ready. Meal will be served after worship.

Sound system: Andrew will pursue a company to give professional help.

New Business:

Summer Worship Hours – 9:30 from June through August.

Maintenance Personnel – John and Gene will be meeting with Brian to talk about job duties

Water Carnival Worship- at 10:00 AM at the lake on June 7th. If raining will be at the church.

Push for Contact Info Again – Make a renewed effort to gather members' contact information (email and/or text) so that important updates, like emergency worship cancellations due to weather, can be communicated

efficiently.

Give State of the Finances Talk/Newsletter Article - Jim will speak to the congregation on the 26th of April regarding the state of the finances.

Lent Offering – tabled at this time

Nomination to the Board of Regents for the NALS – Request from Pastor Paul Krueger asking for Grace to give him a nomination to the Board of Regents for the NALS (seminary). Council voted and agreed to nomination.

Calendar:

May:

6 - Last Day of Confirmation

10 - Baccalaureate 4 PM

22 - Fair Meadow Worship @ 10

24 - Baptism

June:

7 - Begin Summer Worship at Lake 10 AM.

9 - AM Sunday worship through August.

Next Council meeting: May 13, 2026

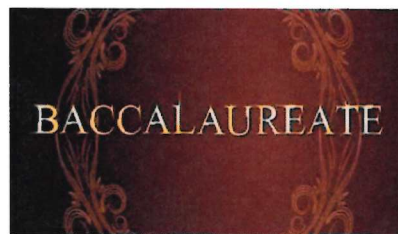




A Letter from Ran:

Date: February 27, 2026.

Shalom, Praise God, at this time I have the opportunity to write a letter to my friends. I am currently in good health. Are you and your family also in good health at this time? Right now, my family is in good health. Currently, I am very happy being together with friends at school, especially in my class. I really like the subjects of Social Studies (IPS) and Science (IPA) because I believe these subjects will help me in the future. When I want to have fun, I meet up with friends and play together. The "winter" in my area only consists of lots of rain, and the sun is covered until nightfall. A special activity conducted by my family is that at the end of every month, there is a family gathering to build good relationships. This is all for my letter for now. Shalom.



Sunday May 10th

4:00 PM

*Win-E-Mac Arts
and Event Center*



*Win-E-Mac
Graduation
May 23rd*



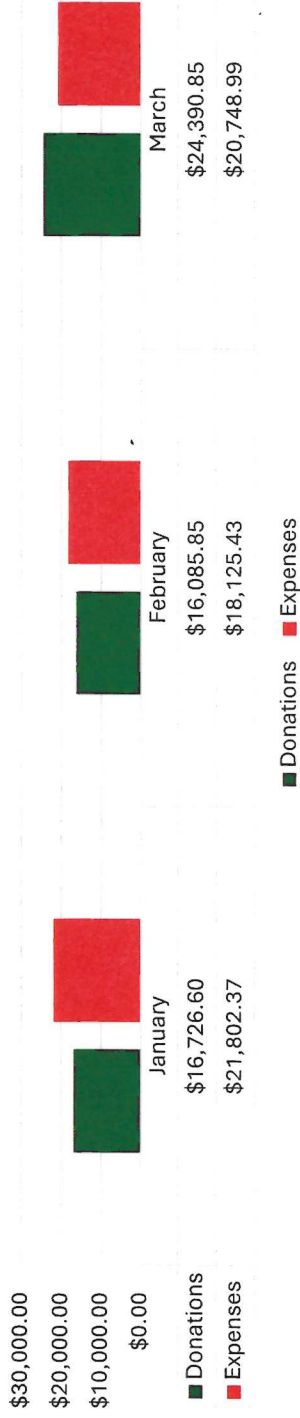
Our Church's Graduates

- **Jordyn Halstad*
- **Josie Johnson*
- **Claire Juve*
- **Riley Kochmann*
- **Cameron Svalen*

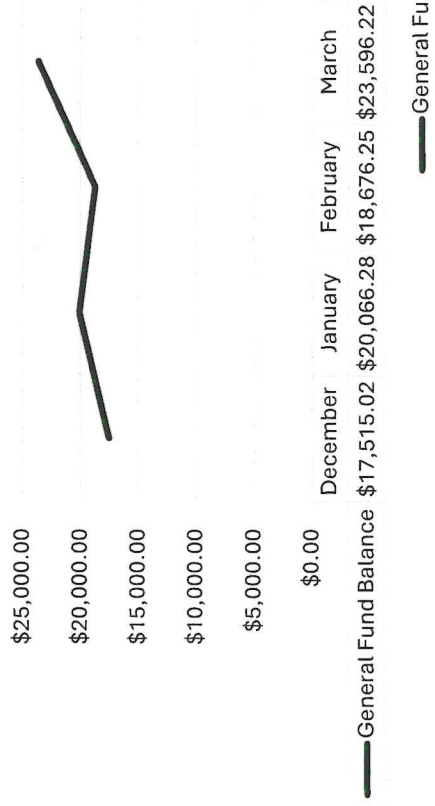
GRADUATION
sunday

*On Sunday May 17th,
our graduates will re-
ceive their quilts as a gift
from the Grace Quilters.
We pray that you will
feel the love that has
been stitched into your
quilt and that it will be a
reminder that Grace
Church is praying for
you always.*

Donations vs Expenses




General Fund Balance



MAY

Grace Lutheran Church

CIRCLES
 Hope at the church
 Rebecca at the church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9a-ABS 10:30a-Worship w/ Holy Communion	4 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	5 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 8p-AA mtg.	6 6p-Conf. Class 6:30p-Rebroadcast	7 2p-WNALC meets at Mac Sr. Living	8	9 9a- Rebroadcast
10 9a-ABS 10:30a-Worship w/ Holy Communion 4p-Win-E-Mac Baccalaureate	11 9:30a-LBS 10a- Rebroadcast	12 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 8p-AA mtg.	13 6:30p-Rebroadcast 7p-Council Mtg.	14 2-6p-Food Shelf is open	15 SCROLL ARTI- CLES DUE	16 9a- Rebroadcast
17 9a-ABS 10:30a-Worship	18 9:30a-LBS 10a-Rebroadcast	19 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 8p-AA mtg.	20 6:30p-Rebroadcast	21 10a-2p-Food Shelf is open	22 10a-Pr. at Fair Meadow Nursing Home	23 9a- Rebroadcast Win-E-Mac Gradu- ation
24 9a-ABS 10:30a-Worship	25 9:30a-LBS 10a-Rebroadcast	26 7a-MBS @ Ness Café 8p-AA mtg.	27 6:30p-Rebroadcast	28 6:30p-Rebecca Cir- cle	29	30 9a- Rebroadcast
31 9a-ABS 10:30a-Worship				Greeters: 3rd: Jeff & Kris Nornes 10th: Debbie Noyes	17th: Jon & Tiffa- ny Omundson 24th: Tami Ose	31st: Shawn & Tam- era Ostena

Ushers:
 Jason Juve
 John Carlson

Communion Assistants:
 Julie Clementson

Altar Guild:
 Hollie Stewart
 Mavis Haugom

R= Reader
 A=Acolyte
 P=Power Point

MAY 3rd:
 R~~ Mavis Haugom
 A~~ Ireland Anderson and Jorgen
 Johnson

P~~ Jon Hill and Wyatt Lee

MAY 10th:
 R~~ Tyler Brekken

A~~ Dawson Gunufson and Carson
 Fortman

P~~ Karl Jax and Logan Johnson

MAY 17th:
 R~~ Hayden Johnson

A~~ Brecken Gunderson and Scott
 Omundson

P~~ Faith Omundson and Hope
 Omundson

MAY 24th:
 R~~ Charlie Carlson

A~~ Addyson Morgenroth and Elyse
 Morgenroth

P~~ Hannah Shimpa and Shelby
 Shimpa

MAY 31st:
 R~~ Kim Mahlen

A~~ Taytum Smeby and Ireland
 Anderson

P~~ Serenity Lundin and Bridger
 Huschle