

Good News From Grace



God's work. Our hands.



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Celebrating Our 64th Year



As we may look back on our many Easter Sundays as children, what do we remember? Do we remember the brightly colored Easter eggs or the large beautifully wrapped Easter baskets, overflowing with candy and goodies? While many of us attended Easter Sunday services with our parents, we did not fully understand the true meaning of Easter.

We enjoyed the fun of coloring eggs, and having the Easter Bunny visit our homes. We had no understanding of what the eggs and the bunny meant to Easter. In Christian tradition, Easter eggs symbolize the empty tomb from which Jesus resurrected, representing new life and rebirth. In earlier times Easter eggs were painted red to symbolize the blood Jesus shed with death on the cross. The greatest sacrifice of all.

When Jesus was born, he came into this world as a Mortal. He experienced pain and suffering, as any human would. His life wasn't one of grandeur, but that of a common man. He was born in a stable, among animals and there were no fancy garments.

Even his disciples had a difficult time believing that Jesus was truly God. They thought of him as a prophet, teacher and friend. After all, he didn't look like a God or dress like one. He looked like them, human. He didn't possess a crown or riches. Yes, they watched him perform countless miracles but never fully understood that the greatest miracle would be his resurrection from the dead and his ascension into heaven. In John 20: 1-18 we see evidence of this, as the disciples and Mary Magdalene visited the tomb early on that first day, the human body of Jesus was missing. As Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, "Do not hold onto me, because I have not yet ascended to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." They wanted the human man, Jesus, to continue his teachings and stay with them on earth. However, that was not to be. He was sent to earth to accomplish this mission, to free people from sin and give them a rebirth with God.

Have a Blessed and Wonderful Easter, Pastor Johanna Kiefner



April 2025

Church Contacts

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CHURCH STAFF

<p>Interim Pastor</p> <p>Organist</p> <p>Office Administrator</p> <p>Bookkeeper</p> <p>Financial Secretary</p>	<p>Pr. Johanna Kiefner</p> <p>Corine Keefer</p> <p>Ellie Faust</p> <p>Gail Atkinson</p> <p>Sandy Hostettler</p>
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COUNCIL MEMBERS

<p>President</p> <p>Vice President</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Council Members:</p>	<p>Tom Starling</p> <p>Rich Brown</p> <p>Rich Jeanes</p> <p>Barbra Sparber Barnes</p> <p>Dave Bendorf</p> <p>Peter Koehneke</p> <p>Ted MacLeod</p> <p>Janet Renick</p>
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CHURCH FINANCIALS February 2025

INCOME	MONTH-Actual	MONTH-Budget	YEAR to Date-Actual
Regular Giving	\$ 12,512	\$ 10,000	\$ 22,276
Loose Offering	555	500	1,474
Other Income	8,751	4,019	22,994
TOTAL INCOME	21,818	14,519	46,744
EXPENSES	15,511	17,255	31,543
NET INCOME / LOSS	\$ 6,307	\$ (2,736)	\$ 15,201



Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA)
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Thrivent Members

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, did you know you have "Choice" dollars that you can allocate every year to your favorite non-profit? Also, every Thrivent member has access to "Thrivent Action Grants" which are mini-grants to kick-start community service projects (pumpkin patch, quilting, trunk sale and more).

If you are a Thrivent member and would like to learn more about these, please let us know



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



PALM SUNDAY, April 13th, 2025 - 10 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 17th, 2025- 6 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, April 18th—12 NOON

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20th—10 AM

Every One is Always Welcome!

GAME DAY

Please join us on Sunday, April 6th from 3-5 pm for a "Game Day". For the April Game day we will be playing "Bunco". If you are unfamiliar with the game, it's fun and easy. Doesn't take any particular skill, except throwing dice. There will someone there to show you how it's done. There will be prizes, refreshments and, of course, good conversation. This is a free event. We are asking that you just bring your favorite snack. Drinks will be provided. If you are interested in having a fun afternoon, please sign-up in the lobby or call the Church Office to add your name to the list. If there is a good turn-out for this event, we may have "Game Day" monthly with other easy games! So, join in the fun!!!





April Newsletter Article– President’s Message

One of our goals for this year is to keep the Congregation as informed as possible as the Council works to conduct the business of the Church and to find ways to keep our beautiful facility in good shape. We hope to do this with a series of “Town Hall” meetings. The first one for this year was planned for the 30th of March, immediately after the service. The intent is for these meetings to be a conversational discussion. We on the Council are looking forward to your input as much as we are providing updates to our activities. We are working to reduce current expenditures as much as possible while creating a priority listing of those maintenance issues that need to be addressed. The first issue that we will approach is the roof over the Sanctuary and offices. The property committee is meeting with roofing companies to get an assessment of the condition of the roof as well as a quote for repair or replacement of the roof. It is the intent to tackle the outstanding maintenance items one at a time. We value your input into all these activities. And of course, if you have questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to discuss them with any of our Council members. We all make up Grace Lutheran Church and we are all in this together. Thank you!

Tom Starling, Council President

Easter Plants

Due to the high cost of flowers and the limited supply available this year, if you wish to order an Easter Plant you will have to prepay by April 13th. The price will be \$15 for a Lily Plant, and \$25 for a Spring Plant (such as tulips, mums, or hydrangeas) As in the past you will be able to dedicate your plant in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Dedications will be printed in a special Easter booklet. The plants you purchase will help us to have a beautiful altar on Easter. You will also be able to take your purchased plants home after the Easter service. Thank you for understanding and helping us to have our usual beautiful Easter Altar.



Recipes Wanted

How many times have been to an event and absolutely loved one of the desserts, appetizers or main dishes? That has happened many times here at Grace. With that in mind we will begin to publish some of our favorites in the newsletter and perhaps put together a cookbook for all of us to share later on. So please, share your favorite recipe with us. Doesn't have to be typed. Just get it to Ellie. She will take care the rest. Thanks!

Recipe of the Month for April 2025

Submitted by Joyce Jeanes

Hello Church Family. Are you looking for a Healthy Snack? Try this one -

Peanut Butter Balls

Ingredients:

1/2 Cup Peanut Butter	1 Cup Oatmeal	1/4 Cup Dark Choc Chips
1/3 Cup Honey	1 Cup Rice Cereal	
1/2 Tsp Vanilla	1/4 Sunflower Seeds or your Favorite Nuts	
1/4 Tsp Cinnamon	1/4 Cup Dried Cranberries	

Mix All Together and Chill. Roll into balls. Store in air-tight container and refrigerate.

(This would be a great treat for the coffee/fellowship hours)



Quilters Are Working

Everyone is welcome.

No experience necessary.

Quilters meet Tuesdays at 9:30am

to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Join us for this worthwhile project and good fellowship.



Birthdays



Anniver-

April Birthdays

- 01 John Stratton
- 08 Kim Heffner
- 09 James Crowley
- 16 Joyce Northridge
- 23 Erin Morgan
- 24 Gust Manos
- 28 Randy Miller

May Birthdays

- 08 Gail Starling
- 12 Bill Lort
- 13 Doris Earnhardt
- 18 Diane Miller
- 19 Patricia Brown
- 19 Judy Dammes
- 21 Sandy Lort
- 27 Paul Kinzer
- 27 Kelley Eckert
- 31 Lexi Thomas

April Anniversaries

- 01 Richard & Patricia Brown
- 05 Justin & Kimberly Hyatt
- 17 Bill & Sandy Lort

May Anniversaries

- 08 Jack & Gail Atkinson
- 12 Mark & Jessy Crabb
- 19 Michael & Sarah Covitt



The Power of a Quarter



GLC has really been successful with the “clink” of our **quarters**. We have paid for so many things that upgrade the church over the past 5 years we have been collecting **quarters**. Please put a couple of quarters in your purse or pocket and place in the offering plates—many quarters make a difference! **Grace Quarterstone Project**



Altar Flowers and Communion Elements



WHO: You!
WHAT: Altar Flowers and/or Communion Elements
COST: \$45.00 Flowers and \$30.00 Elements
WHERE: Dated sign up book in Lobby
WHY: To commemorate a loved one or an important event
HOW: Use pew envelope or drop off a check in the church office

Thank You very much

Grace Monthly Social Ministry Committee Activity Report

Month/Year March 2025 – February Collection

Chair Mare Koehneke

Agency St. Brendan Food Pantry

Agency Contact Vince

Donations Delivered 300 Cans Of Soup and 50 Assorted Dry Goods

Monetary Donation Delivered If Applicable NA

Dollar Approximation Of Donations \$950

Volunteer Hours 4

Dollar Approximation Of Volunteer Hours \$100

Additional Comments If Any: Very appreciative as their pantry was very low.



APRIL Need of the Month

PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER

The Pregnancy Crisis Center provides free pregnancy testing, referral and information for housing, medical care, adoption and education. The Crisis Center also provides counseling, food, clothing, and furnishings for both mother and baby. There are also support groups in place to assist mother and child. The Crisis Center has provided assistance to over 5,000 mothers and babies.

The Pregnancy Crisis Center is in need of the following items:

Diapers



Bottles

Receiving blankets

Baby wipes

Shampoo and baby wash

Onesies and other newborn clothing

Baby clothes for infants up to one year old

Crib sheets

