

Grace's Mountain View

Mission Statement---Grace by Grace, Seeking to be God's Faithful

THE MOUNTAIN VIEW is published monthly. The purpose of the NEWSLETTER is to inform the congregation about upcoming events and activities in the life of the Church. Articles for the Newsletter should be submitted by the 20th of the month.

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Grace Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship @ 9:30 A.M.

Sunday School @ 10:00 A.M.
Sept. through May

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Quilters.....Thursdays...9:30 A.M.
Fellowship/Game Day...Wednesdays...1:00 A.M.
Confirmation.....Wednesdays...6:30 P.M.
Church Council.....2nd Sunday...10:25 A.M



We will be honoring our 5 graduates on Sunday, May 19th during our worship service. Congratulations to Mason Carrier, Henry Alley, Nathan Flaa, Connor Nelson and Loghen Olson who will be graduating this spring. Each graduate will receive a quilt as a gift from the Grace Lutheran Quilters. A reception in their honor will be held following the worship service. *God bless you as you move into a new milestone in your life.*





May 2024

I'd like to share with you a story from my past which seemingly has nothing to do with faith, and yet, it has everything to do with our faith. It was the spring of the year when a fourth-grade boy's fancy turns to baseball. I had come to know quite a few new classmates during my first year at the elementary school on the north side of town. Many of the interests were the same, but they did play some games which I hadn't played often. One, was baseball. We didn't have enough boys in our neighborhood to field a couple of teams for a game. As a result, my playing skills were painfully poor. Several times a week, my classmates would take off after school to an open area behind by aunt and uncle's house to "get up" a game of baseball. For many, many weeks, I would tag along only to sit on the sidelines and watch. I was excluded – sometimes because I didn't want to show how badly I played and sometimes because my classmates felt the game that day was especially important and required only the best players. So, more often than not, there I sat.

It was common for boys of all grades to join in these games. This made it even more difficult for a young kid, let alone a kid who couldn't play ball well, to be included. Until one day... when an older boy, whose name was Steve, came to play. Rather than simply walking past me in order to get on with the game, Steve stopped and talked with me. When he found out I was watching because I didn't play well, he spent time with me between his times at bat to try to teach me some of the basic skills of the game. I remember riding my bike home that afternoon and feeling like I was floating on a cloud! It was terrific! Someone who, I thought, didn't know I existed took time **for me!!!**

That day would have been enough to carry me for a long time. However, Steve showed up again and again when I was watching those games. He continued to spend time with me. He continued to teach me. He continued to build up my confidence! It was finally, **by his insistence**, I was included in the games! WOW!

This doesn't sound like a typical faith story. Still, it had a profound impact on how I saw faith at work in a person's everyday life! To be honest, I didn't make the connection right away between what Steve was doing and the fact this was a demonstration of his faith. Steve never said he was doing this because he was a child of God. But, in time, this became crystal clear to me! I saw him at different activities at church. I saw him at worship. I saw him befriending others – both popular and not so popular. It was through these observations I came to realize Steve was living out his faith in very tangible and, might I add, life-changing ways! I don't believe Steve was ever singled out or recognized as one who really sought to live out his faith. But that

didn't seem to affect what he did. And what he did was perhaps one of the most effective evangelism efforts I have experienced personally. This person's caring demonstrated for me, a fourth grader, that God's love wasn't just something to talk about or to believe in my head, but it is something which needs to be lived and shared from the heart every day – with those who live on the fringes as well as our friends and family!

That's evangelism!! We need to recognize evangelism happens in the very common moments of life as well as those more predictable times. Evangelism is:

- + not just *sending* your family to worship, but worshipping with them so they can see your faith draws you every week to be renewed and empowered through worship.
- + calling a person just to say you were thinking of them and praying for them.
- + making a conscious effort to befriend someone who would otherwise be left out.
- + inviting a friend to worship or to a church event.
- + sharing a bit of your faith story with someone who asks you how you can get through your difficult days.
- + taking time to write a note to some of the people who have made a difference in your Christian faith and growth (this lets them know their witness has made a difference).
- + taking time to have coffee with someone you haven't been in touch with for a while.
- + taking the risk to care for and love others simply because you know God loves you!

This list could continue on and on. I would invite you to add ways YOU can “do” evangelism in your everyday life! Evangelism isn't something to be reserved for pastors or church staff. It's not just for adults either! It's a task... a responsibility, ... even a need for young and old alike – anyone who claims the name of Jesus Christ!

Christ, in claiming you, has changed your life! He has also entrusted to you this life changing message! The challenge before each of us is this – how may we use the gifts God has given us to share this message of life, hope, and forgiveness?

Blessings to you as you live evangelism!

Pastor Mike

Pastor Mike Schendel

Greetings Grace Family,

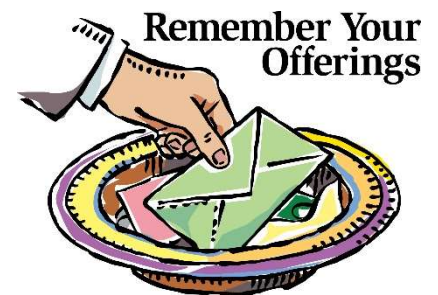
As we transition from Spring to Summer and our lives become increasingly busier, least we not forget our church still needs us. There are community gardens to water, there is grass to mow, there are annual cleanup projects, lessons to read, greeters and ushers to assist and pews to fill. God doesn't take a "summer break" and neither should we. On the business side of operations, tithing needs to continue and without your support and attendance during the summer months we fall behind. Please consider scheduling Sunday Worship into your Summer plans.

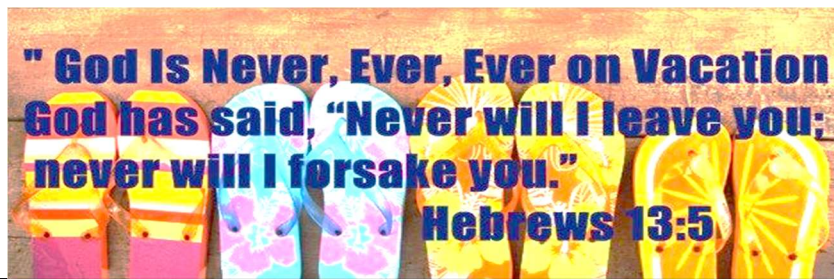
Don't forget to come and wish our high school graduates congratulations as they begin a new journey in their life. We will be honoring the graduates on May 19, 2024 during the worship service. Each graduate will receive a quilt lovingly made by our Grace Quilters. Following the service, there will be a reception in their honor in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend this joyous occasion!

Have a wonderful month of May!

Church Council president

Jim Brogren Jr.





As we move into the summer months, please don't forget about God and Grace Lutheran Church! Even though you may go on vacation or go camping or participate in other summer events, Grace continues to provide spiritual worship services. But we must not forget that the monthly expenses of the church also continue on despite summer vacations.

When possible, please continue to tithe and give your offerings to Grace Lutheran. You can mail in your offerings, drop them off at the office, or use VANCO Giving which is found on our website, www.gracelutherandl.org



THANK YOU to all who helped with the Meatball/Pork loin dinner on April 19th. Your help was much appreciated. We served around 160 people and our profits were \$1,961.00. Part of the profits will be going to the purchase of the new sound system.

THANKS to those who helped with the Rummage Sale on May 3rd and 4th. Thank you also to those who donated items and/or monetary gifts to the cause. With everyone's help we had another successful Spring Rummage Sale. A BIG THANKS to Gale LaFerriere who organized the sale and set up the items for the sale. Thanks to Blace Schmidt who did the meal on Friday night. Thanks to everyone who worked in the kitchen and/or helped organizing all the merchandise. 10% of the profits will be going to a local charity.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- * Last day of Sunday School will be on Sunday, May 12. The Sunday school children will be singing that Sunday.
- * Thanks to the children for another great year. We hope to see you back in the Fall when Sunday School will begin on September 8th
- * Thanks to Traci Mace who is the Sunday School teacher. Your dedication to the children is greatly appreciated.

CONFIRMATION

- * Last day of Confirmation is April 24th.
- * Confirmation students are to keep in mind the requirements that are needed to be met. There are the opportunities to be a greeter, lector, or usher during the summer months. Also, you may help at the Rummage Sale on May 3th & 4th.
- * Congratulations to our Graduates: Henry Alley, Maari Badar, Mason Carrier, Nathan Flaa, Conner Nelson, Loghen Olson!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MAY

DATE	PSALM	LESSONS	GOSPEL
May 5, 2024	Psalms 98	Acts 10:44-48 1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
May 12, 2024	Psalms 1	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
May 19, 2024	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 26, 2024	Psalms 29	Isaiah 6:1-8 Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17

MAY USHERS, GREETERS, GREETERS--9:30 A.M.

DATE	GREETERS	USHERS	LECTOR
May 5 2024	Dan & Kari Lane	Gary & Dona Rosell	Becky Esser
May 12, 2024	Sonia Anderson	Kevin & Kathy Erickson	Lois Flatau
May 19, 2024	Sonia Anderson	Tom & Kathy Lormis	Tom Lormis
May 26, 2024		Jerry & Bonnie Nygard	Glennis Olson

MAY BIRTHDAYS



May 1

Katie Blaney

May 2

Gerry Anderson

May 4

Ruby Kiihn

May 10

Mary Ann Brogren

May 11

Kennedy Erickson
Tom Lormis
Elvie Zitzow

May 12

Ava Esser
Heather Peterson

May 16

Linda Leitheiser

May 21

Devin Ladwig

May 22

Beverly Berg

May 24

Clarice Zick

May 26

William Hill

May 30

Mason Carrier
Noah Olds
Susan Rasmussen

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

God Bless You
On your
Anniversary

May 19

Greg & Megan Schwoboda

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here, PLEASE let us know so that we can add your birthdays and/or anniversaries into our computer. Thank you.

IT'S A GRACE THING!

NURSING HOME MINISTRY:

Don't forget our members in Nursing Homes and Care Facilities.

Oak Crossing #110 1040 Lincoln Ave.

Audrey Ronning

Oak Crossing #115 1040 Lincoln Ave

Clarice Anderson

MAY EVENTS

- * May 2---National Day of Prayer
- * May 3-4---Rummage Sale
- * May 12---Mothers" Day with
Sunday School children singing
- * May 12---Last day of Sunday
School
- * May 17-18---Synod Assembly
- * May 19---Honor high school
graduates with reception to follow
- * May 25---Mason Carrier
graduation open house 9-12
- * May 26---Memorial Day worship
service to honor veterans and
loved ones who have
passed away.
- * **MEMORIAL DAY**

CHURCH MEETINGS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 12, 2024 following the worship service. Steve Swanson has devotions and helping with communion.

CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, , 2024.



CHURCH COUNCIL

(UNAPPROVED) COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS April 14, 2024)

- † Meeting was called to order by President Jim Brogren Jr.
- † Devotions given by Tom Lormis
- † Correspondence was read. A donation of \$100 will be given towards the Day of Caring held by United Way.
- Motion made and accepted to advertise in the *Summer Scape* magazine at a cost of \$79.
- † Secretary report approved as read.
- † **Finance report** approved as printed.

March Total Income	\$12,720.59
March Total Expenses	\$11,859.50
Checkbook Balance 3/31/2024	\$3,825.54
Rainy Day Fund	\$10,944.85
Savings Balance	\$12,496.10
Mortgage Balance	\$102,923.12

- † **PROPERTY**—Jim will check when we can find someplace to shred our old documents.
- † **EDUCATION/YOUTH**—Pastor Mike stated he will meet with the students needing to meet their requirements for their first communion. Becky is compiling confirmation requirements. Discussion on having a fair booth at the cost of \$150.00. Decision tabled until next meeting.
- † **STEWARDSHIP/BENEVOLENCE**—A check for \$215 was sent to Becker County Food Pantry from Noisy Offerings Jan. thru March.
- † **WORSHIP**—Communion will be on the 28th instead of the 21st as Pastor Mike will be off.
- † **OLD BUSINESS**—Kraig Erickson will meet with the property community Monday, April 15th to go over the operation of the floor scrubber.

† **NEW BUSINESS**—Motion made and accepted to use the Noisy Offerings from April, May, and June along with 10% of Meatball Dinner to go towards paying the sound system bill. Motion made and seconded that 10% of the sales from the Rummage Sale goes toward paying the sound system bill. Honoring our high school graduates will be on May 15th. We have 4 boys and 1 girl graduating. The Synod Assembly will be held at the Concordia College on May 17th & 18th. Pastor Mike, Glennis Olson, and Michelle Pary are representing Grace Lutheran. Two graduation open houses will be held at Gracee. Mason Carrier will be holding his on May 25th. Connor Nelson will be holding his on June 15th. Jim will check on the purchase of a table for cremation services.

† Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

† Next Council Meeting will be held May 12th with Steve Swanson giving devotions and help serve communion during May

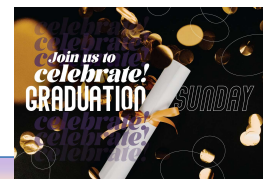
Respectfully submitted,

Gale LaFerriere
Council Secretary

YOU ARE INVITED to join in the worship service, May 19th, during which we will honor our high school graduates: Henry Alley, Maari Badar, Mason Carrier, Nathan Flaa, Connor Nelson, and Loghen Olson. Each graduate will receive a quilt lovingly made by Grace Quilters.

Following the worship service, a reception will be held in honor of the graduates. Please attend and congratulate each graduate as they enter a new adventure in their lives.

May God bless you as you enter a new milestone in your life.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held at First Lutheran Church from June 17th thru June 20th. VBS is being held from 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. and will be presented by Luther Crest Bible Camp. The cost is \$15 per child. Registration may be completed online. Web site is <https://www.firstlutheranchurch.com/>

