

Calendar Events



Please continue to watch for updates on our website, email and Facebook. Feel free to contact the office with any questions 920-848-2177.

APRIL 1
Cantata 7PM

APRIL 2
Palm Sunday Services
8:30 & 10:45AM
Cantata 2PM

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

APRIL 6
Maundy Thursday Service
7PM

APRIL 7
Good Friday Service
7PM

APRIL 9
Easter Services
8:30AM
10:45AM
Fun kid's Easter activities
between services

APRIL 11
God's Glory Luncheon
11:30AM - 1:30PM

APRIL 17
Worship & Music 6PM
Council 7PM

APRIL 25
6th Grade Faith
Milestone Class 6PM

APRIL 30
Combined Fellowship
Service 9:30AM
NO JAM
6th Grade Faith
Milestone
Presentations

Messenger

April

Volume 102 Issue 4

Grace Lutheran Church 920-848-2177

501 S. Main St.

Oconto Falls, WI 54154

"what comes to our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us" A.W. Tozar

Greetings Grace Family!

As we continue our way through the Lenten season and progress towards Easter, this A.W. Tozar quote becomes a question we should all ask ourselves; What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think about God? Is it: God our Creator? God our Provider? God our Comforter? God our Judge? God our Savior?

Obviously there is no right or wrong answer to this question, and your answer, of course, says more about you than it does about God. But your answer to this seemingly innocent question will, in part, define your relationship with God. Your answer will either limit your relationship with God or explode it like it a rocket!

Throughout our Lenten series, you have heard many times that Lent is a time to grow closer to God and to build a stronger relationship with Him. It starts with, not only how we view God but also how and when we turn to Him in our time of need.

Easter is a time for us to be reminded who our Savior is and where our salvation comes from. God the Father authored our salvation and God the Son delivered it. In order to have a relationship that matters, we need to embrace the fact that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son to save everyone who believes! And Easter is time to live into those life-giving words of comfort and encouragement. We celebrate the Risen Lord Jesus, not as a history lesson, but as a personal promise and guarantee that Jesus lives and He lives for you.

So the million-dollar question is: what comes to your mind when you think about God? Is it that Jesus conquered the grave to give us new life and to call us into a relationship with Him and to commit everything to become His disciples?

We serve, worship and praise an amazing God! May His endless Love and Grace be the first thing that comes to mind when you think about Him!

In His service,

Pastor Gary

OFFICIAL ACTS—FEBRUARY 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service</u> (includes designated giving)	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings Received</u>
Mar 1	7:00PM (Ash Wed Service rescheduled from 2/22)	108	\$ 926.00
Mar 5	8:30am 10:45am Online Giving	90 84	\$ 5,343.20 \$ 973.00
Mar 8	7:00PM Wednesday Lenten Service	63	
Mar 12	8:30am 10:45am Online Giving	38 63	\$1,735.35 \$ 838.00
Mar 15	7:00PM Wednesday Lenten Service	59	
Mar 19	8:30am 10:45am Online Giving	76 70	\$5,475.59 \$ 798.00
Mar 22	7:00PM Wednesday Lenten Service	49	
Mar 26	8:30am 10:45am Online Giving	67 90	\$4,532.37 \$ 543.00

Financial Report

Operations Checkbook (GENERAL OFFERING) - Month of March 2023

Beginning Balance 3/01/2023	+\$24,174.66
Deposits Operating Fund	+22,660.51
Disbursements Operating Fund	-32,717.96*
Ending Balance 03/31/2023	+14,117.21
Mortgage Loan Balance 3/07/2023.....	\$60,872.40
Monthly payment of principal.....	\$ 1,704.46
Monthly payment of interest.....	\$ 177.54
Additional principal.....	\$ 398.00

*Please note that disbursements were higher because we had to pay three months of benevolences as they were voted on at the last council meeting. Disbursements for benevolences include January, February and March.

Grace Lutheran Council Minutes
March 20, 2023 @ 7:00PM

Meeting was called to order by President, Jared Alfson at 7:07pm.

Present: Andy Shamburek, Faith Shamburek, Jeff Schullo, Jennifer Lyng, Kent Lyng, Allie McDonald, Jared Alfson, Melanie Rice, Lyle Nichols, Ellen Pritzlaff, Dave Borisch, Andy Mercier, Brooke Siolka

Guest: Holli Kussow

Opening Prayer by Jared Alfson and Devotion by Pastor Gary

Secretary's Report: No corrections were made. A motion was made by Andy Mercier and seconded by Melanie Rice to approve the February 2023 minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Shamburek provided a paper report detailing a net ordinary income of \$1,783.96 and a net loss of \$7,533. Giving is still down but in line with 2022. Allie McDonald made a motion to approve the report and Faith Shamburek seconded it.

Old Business

- **Office and sound booth computers** – the office computer has been ordered and received. It will be installed this week.
- **Planning Workshop** – We agreed that now is not the right time for a workshop. Jared did some research and provided a printout of attendance records since 2001. Overall attendance declined 30% between 2012 and 2014. It had remained at around 9,000+/year until 2020. It declined by 45% in 2021 increased by about 15% in 2022 and is on track to increase in 2023.

New Business

- **Main Street Christmas Event** – Melanie Rice is looking for ideas to promote and engage the community regarding the Christmas on Main St event. The theme for this year is the Nativity.
- **Spring Semi-Annual Meeting** – The date is set for May 7th, 2023.
 - **Nominating Committee Update:** Jeff Schullo, Ellen Pritzlaff & Allie McDonald will be running for a second term in their positions.
- **Flower Fund** – Holli would like for us to get back in the practice of sending flowers for funerals and for hospital stays from the congregation family. We will add envelopes to the back of the pews for those who are interested in contributing to the fund. We can also use the funds to sponsor flowers at the altar on behalf of the donors.

Upcoming Events:

- March 26 – 4th Grade Faith Milestone presentations at both services (Class on March 21)
- April 1, 2023 – Cantata performance 7PM
- April 2, 2023 – Cantata performance 2PM
- April 6, 2023 – Maundy Thursday service 7PM
- April 7, 2023 – Good Friday service 7PM
- April 9, 2023 – Easter Sunday services 8:30AM & 10:45AM
- April 30, 2023 – Fellowship Sunday & 6th Grade Faith Milestone Presentation

Committee Reports:

Evangelism – Jeff Schullo – shared that this month's For God's Glory soup lunch welcomed 41 guests! Flyers have been passed out at Kingdom Come Food Pantry. There was a band switch for the 6/24 Joyful Noise concert. Lyle Nichols offered the use of a hay wagon for the Memorial Day Parade.

Parish Education – Brooke Siolka reported that the last day of J.A.M for this school year is 5/14.

Parish Fellowship – Andy Mercier asked for those using the upstairs kitchen to be diligent about returning items used and making sure that dishes are washed and coffee machines are turned off.

Property & Maintenance – Kent Lyng reported on a 4th furnace that was purchased. The heat exchange was plugged. This furnace was 20 years old and serviced the offices. The parsonage wall oven control panel failed and a new wall oven was ordered. It will arrive this week. Allie McDonald made a motion to approve a building usage request for 6/25 from 10am-4pm and Ellen Pritzlaff seconded it.

Public Relations – Jennifer Lyng reported that the website content is being updated and she hopes to have it completed by Easter. The PR group use funds (\$100) to be a Bronze Sponsor for the Oconto County Tuesday Night Farmer's Market. The Women's Group will be hosting the Jellybean JAM on Easter Sunday between services.

Stewardship – Ellen Pritzlaff reported no update at this time.

Youth Ministry – Faith Shamburek reported that EPIC Youth will be hosting the 3/29 Lenten Service. They had a few new faces at Silver Birch Ranch last month and hope to see them at Youth Group.

Worship & Music – Lyle Nichols reported that the new hymnals are out. The old green ones need to be organized by donor/memoriam name and then they'll be available for pickup. The Easter Cantata Group needs help with clean up after their performances on 4/1 and 4/2.

Endowment – Melanie Rice reported that currently there aren't any available funds in the endowment. We had a request but aren't able to pull money from the principal balance.

Long Range Planning – Dave Borisch reported no update at this time.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Gary reported no update at this time.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kent Lyng and seconded by Brooke Siolka.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie McDonald
Council Secretary

Rummage Sale at Grace

We will again be hosting a church rummage sale here at Grace in August. Please feel free to start bringing in items.

(NO ELECTRONICS OR FURNITURE PLEASE)

Items should be placed downstairs in the Women of Grace storage room. It is in the hallway with the kids handprints made into flowers.

APRIL Birthdays



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 - Tammy Kardoskee | 17 - Tyler Klimpke |
| 2 - Chris Desterheft
Noah Pagel | 18- Brecken Alaniva |
| 3 - Kelly Haselhuhn
Stephanie Peitersen
Shelby Neta | 19 - Andrew LeFevre |
| 4 - Jameson Beaman | 20 - Joan Peterson |
| 11 - Judy Kopczynski
Jeff Neta | 21 - Kris Garbrecht |
| 12 - Patty Belongia
Mya Magnin
Laura Delzer | 23 - Tami McQuillan |
| 13 - Mason Anderson
Renee Klitzka
Grant Shallow | 24 - Mark Neta |
| 14 - Jane Bigelow
Kilyn Brabant
Allissa Stanek
Jamie Warner | 25 - Andrew Derouin
Ruth Heimke
Hudson Klitzka |
| 16 - Eden Paitl
Tim Peterson | 27 - Justin Beaman
Robb Brabant
Luke Gilbertson
Randi Maloney
Yvonne Nelson |
| | 28 - Carol Burns
Lily Delzer |
| | 30 - Madeline Maloney |

Prayer REQUESTS

GRACE MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Carol Burns | Health concerns |
| Dorothy Ellner | Strength/healing |
| Barb Merwin | Alzheimer's |
| Lorraine Murphy | Strength/healing |
| Randy Nelson | Macular degeneration |
| Barb Nickel | Health concerns |
| Diane Peitersen | Strength/healing |
| Leanne Riste | Cancer treatment |
| Julia Schullo | Strength/healing |
| Aidan Spillane | Army @ Ft. Bliss |
| Al Sutrick/Family | Loss of Jane |
| Bob Thomson | Health concerns |
| Betsy Voermans | Hip replacement |
| Don Voermans | Health concerns |
| Mary Vowinkel | Strength & healing |

FAMILY/FRIENDS OF GRACE

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Annie Boehmer | Sight loss - diabetes
Loss of Greg |
| Janice Bloemer | Breast cancer & dementia |
| Ashleigh Mercier Bordelais | Breast cancer |
| Liam Britzke | MPGN-Disease of kidneys |
| C.J. Edwards | Brain cancer |
| Kim (Capelle) Fischer | Health concerns |
| Rick Fries | Heart problems |
| Cody Fries | Continued healing |
| Angela Heim | Health concerns |
| Larry & Barb Hillyer | Healing & support |
| Bryant Hodkiewicz | Cancer treatment |
| Carol Hostrawser | Health concerns |
| Cathy Kaster | Rare progressive dementia |
| David Majeski | Continued strength/healing |
| Greg Meilahn | Liver transplant |
| David Nelson | Awaiting new kidney |
| Brett Nichols | Strength/healing |
| Sharon Raatz | Health concerns |
| Rollyn Radke | Health concerns |
| Amira Rynish | Leukemia |
| David Schefdore | Dialysis |
| Bob Schindel | Health concerns |
| Mary Thompson | Cancer treatment |
| Ruth Trudell | Healing & recovery |
| Gail Venne | Cancer treatment |
| Carol Weber | Healing & recovery |
| Amy Winkler | Cancer recovery |
| Katie Zak | Continued growth/healing |

HAPPY Anniversary!

APRIL



- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 4 Nick & Nikki Tolzman | 27 Mike & Patty Belongia |
| 16 Adam & Laura Zielinski | Duane & Danna Magnin |
| 23 Roger & Dawn Grenke | 28 Jerry & Donna Heim |
| 25 Bill & Stephanie Paitl
Joy & Paul Schmidt | 29 Dano & Mary Suttrek |
| | 30 Brian & Sarah Rajkovich |

If anyone knows of someone in need of a home visit, please contact the office at 920-848-2177 or email grace@graceocontofalls.org



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GRACE MEETINGS & SCHEDULES

APRIL/MAY COMMUNION DUTIES

April 2: (Palm Sunday)

SET UP 8:30: Kriss Krause
CLEAN UP 8:30: Kriss Krause / Vicki Thomson
CLEAN UP 10:45: Nancy Weiss / Joy Schmidt

April 6: (Maundy Thursday)

SET UP 7:00: Holli Kussow
CLEAN UP 7:00: Holli Kussow

April 9: (Easter Sunday)

SET UP 8:30: Sue Mogged
CLEAN UP 8:30: Rosemary Lyng
CLEAN UP 10:45: Holli Kussow

April 16:

SET UP 8:30: Rosemary Lyng
CLEAN UP 8:30: Rosemary Lyng
CLEAN UP 10:45: Nancy Weiss / Joy Schmidt

April 30: (Combined Service @ 9:30AM)

SET UP 9:30: Pam Langlay
CLEAN UP 9:30: Pam & Brad Langlay

May 7:

SET UP 8:30: Rosemary Lyng
CLEAN UP 8:30: Rosemary Lyng
CLEAN UP 10:45: Shamburek Family

May 21:

SET UP 8:30: Pam Langlay
CLEAN UP 8:30: Pam Langlay
CLEAN UP 10:45: Sue Mogged

COMMUNION BREAD SCHEDULE

MARCH/APRIL

APRIL 2 (Palm Sunday): Susan Krumrei
APRIL 6 (Maundy Thursday): Kelly Haselhuhn
APRIL 9 (Easter Sunday): Sue Mogged
APRIL 16: Rosemary Lyng
APRIL 30: (Combined service) Pam Langlay
MAY 7: Rosemary Lyng
MAY 21: Pam Langlay

Mark your Calendars for the
Semi Annual Meeting
May 7th following the 2nd
service.

Taste of Grace to follow meeting.

WORDS
OF HOPE

CARD WRITING MINISTRY

Monday, April 3rd @ 6PM



Tuesday Morning
BIBLE
8:00AM
RESUMES ON APRIL 11
STUDY



April 11
6:30PM
All women welcome!

Men's Breakfast is cancelled for April.
See you the first Saturday in May!

MONTHLY MEETINGS

APRIL 17
Worship & Music Meeting 6PM
Council Meeting 7PM

TO GOD'S GLORY



UPCOMING DATE!
Free Luncheon / Social
Tuesday, April 11 @ Grace
Serving 11:30AM-1:30PM

GRACE EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023

PALM SUNDAY
8:30AM Service
10:45 AM Service



THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
7:00PM



FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2023

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
7:00PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023

EASTER SERVICES
8:30AM

EASTER CANTATA



Performances:

Saturday, April 1 @ 7PM

Sunday, April 2 @ 2PM

Christmas Year Round

The surprises found in the OCC tote near the office door are so fun. Not only are you, Grace Lutheran members, faithful in supplying the necessities like washcloths, soap and school supplies, but you also find the cutest surprises the children will love finding in their shoeboxes. You are such terrific bargain hunters from clothing to fun toys or games; I love finding your gifts in our little blue tote.

God bless you, Grace Lutheran!

Save
the Date

2024

Grace Lutheran Church Directory Pho-

It's time for a new church directory! Family and individual photos will be taken by Kallies Photography for the directory on November 5th, 8th, 11th and 12th of 2023. A sign-up with specific times will be available starting in September.

There is no charge for directory photos, however, photo packages will be available for purchase just in time for Christmas. Directories should be available early in 2024.

Bibles for 2023 Graduates

Each of our graduates will be gifted a Ryrie Study Bible as their final Faith Milestone at Grace. The cost of each bible is \$60.00. If you are interested in sponsoring a Bible, please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran and indicate "Bible Sponsorship" in the memo/notes line of the check.

The Bibles will be presented to our graduates at our Baccalaureate Service on May 21, 2023. Thank you!





Youth news

APRIL

All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

Isaiah 40:6



No Confirmation or EPIC Youth April 5th. Youth are encouraged to attend the Holy Week services with their families.



No JAM on Easter Day or April 30th. There are fun activities for the kids on Easter between services.



April Faith Milestone

6th Grade

Parent /Student Class: April 25 @ 6:00PM

Presentation: April 30 @ 9:30AM Service

Watch the mail for your 6th Grader's invitation.

SPECIAL EVENT

May 7, 2023



taste of grace

Mark your calendars for the annual Taste of Grace Fundraiser hosted by our EPIC Youth Group. Food tasting, silent auction raffle and fellowship!

Please support our youth!



Wednesday Night Parent Meal Schedule

APRIL

Serving: 5:30 - 6:30PM

April 12 - **OPEN**

April 19 - Angie Magnin

April 26 - **OPEN**

If you have not provided a meal for youth night, please consider signing up for one of the open spots above. Thanks!

Service Duty Schedule

APRIL/MAY

APRIL SERVICES

April 2 - Communion (Palm Sunday)

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Pat Spillane & Beth Lehner

Lay Reader: Josh Wendt

Communion Set Up: Kriss Krause

Communion Assistant: Barb & Jeff Schullo

Communion Clean Up: Kriss Krause / Vicki Thomson

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Nathan & Teresa Raddatz

Lay Reader: Nathan Raddatz

Communion Assistant: Kandice Bero / Zoey Thomson

Communion Clean Up: Nancy Weiss / Joy Schmidt

April 6 (Maundy Thursday) 7:00PM Service

Ushers: Don & Sharon Van Ark

Lay Reader: Josh Wendt

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Holli Kussow

Communion Assistant: Andy & Jenny Mercier

April 7 (Good Friday) 7:00PM Service

Ushers: Andy & Lisa Shamburek

Lay Reader: Lyle Nichols

April 9 - Communion (Easter Sunday)

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Kent Lyng, Wally Krueger, Jerry & Vicki Fischer

Lay Reader: Lyle Nichols

Communion Set Up: Sue Mogged

Communion Clean Up: Rosemary Lyng

Communion Assistant: Barb & Jeff Schullo

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Paul & Sue Mogged, Donna & Jerry Heim

Lay Reader: Sue Mogged

Communion Assistant: Shamburek Family

Communion Clean Up: Holli Kussow

April 16 - Communion

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Brad & Pam Langlay / Becky Pytak

Lay Reader: Pam Langlay

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Rosemary Lyng

Communion Assistant: Barb & Jeff Schullo

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Jeff & Allie McDonald

Lay Reader: Allie McDonald

Communion Assistant: Donna & Jerry Heim

Communion Clean Up: Nancy Weiss / Joy Schmidt

April 23

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Don & Sharon VanArk

Lay Reader: Sally Krueger

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Jerry & Vicky Fischer

Lay Reader: Heidi Anderson

April 30 (Combined Service) 9:30AM Service

Ushers: Andy & Jenny Mercier

Lay Reader: Ellen Pritzlaff

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Pam & Brad Langlay

Communion Assistant: Brad & Pam Langlay

MAY SERVICES

May 7 - Communion

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Kent Lyng & Wally Krueger

Lay Reader: Sally Krueger

Communion Set Up: Rosemary Lyng

Communion Assistant: Barb & Jeff Schullo

Communion Clean Up: Rosemary Lyng

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Shamburek Family

Lay Reader: Faith Shamburek

Communion Assistant: Donna & Jerry Heim

Communion Clean Up: Shamburek Family

May 14

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Don & Sharon Van Ark

Lay Reader: Josh Wendt

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Jeff & Allie McDonald

Lay Reader: Allie McDonald

May 21 - Communion BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Beth Lehner & Pat Spillane

Lay Reader: Lyle Nichols

Communion Set Up: Pam Langlay

Communion Clean Up: Pam Langlay

Communion Assistant: Brad and Pam Langlay

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Jerry & Vicky Fischer

Lay Reader: Sue Mogged

Communion Assistant: Paul & Sue Mogged

Communion Clean Up: Paul & Sue Mogged

May 28

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Kent Lyng & Wally Krueger

Lay Reader: Sally Krueger

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Andy & Jenny Mercier

Lay Reader: Heidi Anderson