

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.

MARCH 3

2nd Grade Faith
Milestone Presentations
@ both services

MARCH 6

Lenten Meal 6PM
Hosted by Council
Lenten Service 7PM

MARCH 10

Daylight Savings
Spring Forward

MARCH 13

Lenten Meal 6PM
Hosted by Men's Group
Lenten Service 7PM

MARCH 17

OCC Soup Sale

MARCH 18

Worship & Music 6PM
Council 7PM

MARCH 20

Lenten Meal 6PM
Hosted by Youth Group
Lenten Service 7PM

MARCH 28

Maundy Thursday Service
7PM

MARCH 29

Good Friday Service 7PM

MARCH 31

Easter Sunday
8:30am Service
10:45am Service

Messenger



March 2024
Volume 113 Issue 3

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, believe it or not, says more about you than it does about God. But your answer to this seemingly innocent question will 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 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service</u> <u>(includes designated giving)</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings Received</u>
Feb 4	8:30am	85	\$9,011.95
	10:45am	68	
	Online Giving		\$ 958.00
Feb 11	8:30am	95	\$5,485.37
	10:45am	79	
	Online Giving		\$1,568.00
Feb 14	7:00pm (Ash Wednesday)	154	
Feb 18	8:30am	91	\$5,791.00
	10:45am	65	
	Online Giving		\$ 813.00
Feb 21	7:00pm (Lenten Service)	60	
Feb 25	8:30am	68	\$2,510.11
	10:45am	65	
	Online Giving		\$ 688.00

Financial Report

Operations Checkbook (GENERAL OFFERING) - Month of February 2024

Beginning Balance 1/31/2024	+\$33,809.32
Deposits Operating Fund	+\$22,573.43
Disbursements Operating Fund	—\$19,511.98
Ending Balance 02/29/2024	+\$36,870.77
Mortgage Loan Balance 2/05/2024.....	\$37,469.29
Monthly payment of principal.....	\$ 1,772.71
Monthly payment of interest.....	\$ 109.29
Additional principal.....	\$ 328.00

If you are in need of a 2023 detailed giving statement for tax purposes, please email the office at grace@graceocontofalls.org or call (920)848-2177.

Thank you.

Grace Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2024

Meeting was called to order by President Jared Alfson at 7:12pm.

Present: Jared Alfson, Allie McDonald, Melanie Rice, Kent Lyng, Heidi Anderson, Andy Shamburek, Andy Mercier, Jeff Schullo, Jerry Riste, Ellen Pritzlaff, Pastor Gary Olson

Absent: Grace/Faith Shamburek, Lyle Nichols

Opening Prayer by Allie McDonald & Devotion by Pastor Gary Olson

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Andy Mercier and seconded by Jerry Riste to approve the August 2023 minutes without corrections. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Shamburek provided a paper report detailing a net ordinary income of \$7,000. We have approximately \$41,158 in our operating fund. Jeff Schullo made a motion to approve the report and Heidi Anderson seconded it.

Old Business – none

New Business

Oconto Falls Community Garden Request from Sarah Schindel – Heidi Anderson made a motion to adopt a garden plot and donate \$10. We will ask the small groups to support/lead the effort and then open the signup to the congregation. Jeff Schullo seconded the motion. Motion approved.

March 13th meal – we will ask the Tuesday morning small group to cover since the men's group has a conflict

Upcoming Events

- **February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20 – Wednesday Lenten Meals/Services**
- **March 24 – Palm Sunday**
- **March 31 – Easter Sunday** – Heidi will accept candy donations for the between service Easter Egg Hunt. Extra snacks for fellowship are welcome. There is no J.A.M. but the egg hunt will be held instead. A brass quintet will be playing for the Easter services.

Committee Reports

1. **Evangelism** – Jeff Schullo reported that 82 people were served at the February For God's Glory lunch. Compassion Sunday will be 4/28.
2. **Parish Education** – Heidi Anderson expressed her gratitude for the volunteers that stepped up to support J.A.M. thru April.
3. **Parish Fellowship** – Andy Mercier will continue with coffee and treats after our church services. Feel free to bring any treats you would like.
4. **Property & Maintenance** – Kent Lyng reported that our phone system will be updated to an internet based system. He completed some repairs including the Sacristy refrigerator.
5. **Public Relations** – open
6. **Stewardship** – we had about 50 people join us for bowling – Kathy Borisch earned the high score! We're expecting the church directory to be available in June.
7. **Youth Ministry** – EPIC Youth has 40 kids signed up to attend Silver Birch Ranch the weekend of Feb 22-24th. They will update the congregation about their weekend at the 2/28 Lenten service.
8. **Worship & Music** – the carillon and its use, repair and replacement is still being discussed

- 9. **Endowment** – Melanie Rice reported that she will be discussing how our endowment works at the next church service.
- 10. **Long Range Planning** – Jerry Riste discussed what the LRP team is working on: Weighing complaints to wants.
 - Building safety, training and security.
 - How are we showing that we care?
 - How are we making an impact?
- 11. **Pastor’s Report** – no update at this time

Andy Mercier made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jerry Riste seconded it.
 Closed with the Lord’s Prayer at 8:47pm.
 Respectfully submitted,
 Allie McDonald

LONG RANGE PLANNING

A word from Jerry Riste, chair of Long Range Planning and our Safety Committee.

Long Range Planning

Long Range Planning is looking into devising a vision for the future of Grace Lutheran Church. Looking into a potentially 1 year, 3 year, 5 year and 10 year plan. Our first step is to investigate what we are doing and interviewing groups/members to obtain their input. We have talked with the Men’s Group, Women’s Group, Maintenance Committee, and Pastor to get their perspective. Takeaways from these meetings are getting people involved, family activities, children involvement with service, mentorship, group support, partnering with outside sources, caring, making an impact, and basement floor resurfacing.

Safety

Church mutual has sent several flyers associated with church security, Armed vs Unarmed, a Security Assessment, and five ways to keep your building secure. From these flyers we discussed armed vs unarmed and determined unarmed was for us, and the security assessment (I could answer yes to 6 of 50 items). From these items we are looking into our options such as greeters, communication, de-escalation, and local law enforcement interaction.

EASTER BLOOMING PLANT ORDERS

Orders due by MARCH 10th.

All plants are \$24.00 each and will be decorated with foil and a bow & include a memorial gift tag.
 (Specify Number)

<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Lily	TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANTS: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tulip		x	\$24.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mum	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:	\$	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Kalanchoe			



The Flower Shoppe will use their best judgement to select best quality and colors for you.

In MEMORY or in HONOR of _____
 (CIRCLE ONE)

In MEMORY or in HONOR of _____
 (CIRCLE ONE)

FROM: _____

Orders may be placed by completing & returning this form with payment to the church office.
 Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church and write “Easter Plant” in the memo line.

MARCH Birthdays



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1— Ryan Thomson
Hannah Schullo | 17— Macy Magnin |
| 2— Bryent Magnin
Lillian Olson
Brady Vorpahl | 18— Joe Collar |
| 3— Abby Gardebrecht
Will Johns
Hailey Peitersen | 20— Stu Anderson
Kent Lyng |
| 4— Marshall Klitzka
John Marquardt | 23— Jenna Lefevre
Cara Peterson
Brooke Siolka |
| 5— Paul Schmidt | 24— Liam Spillane
Dean Tappa
Nicole Warner |
| 6— Shannon Jarvey
Richard Helstad | 26— Daylen Hischke
Jim Rouse |
| 7— Makayla Derouin | 27— Mark Leitzke
Diane Peitersen
Matthew Tappa |
| 10— Dorothy Ellner | 28— Collin Schindel
Bernice Stuckey |
| 11— David Kowenstrot
Travis Schindel | 29— Carol Marquardt |
| 13— Myles Jahnke | 30— Robert Klimpke |
| 14— Kelly Brabant
Andy Shamburek
Connor Trempe | 31— Kraig Patenaude |
| 16— Suzi Bukowski
Reuben Radke | |

HAPPY Anniversary!

MARCH



- 5—Kris & Christy Garbrecht
6—Paul & Sue Mogged
18—Robb & Kelly Brabant
25—Jeffrey & Raachel Hosking

Baptism of Walker William Le Mere



Parents: Zach & Makenna Le Mere

Prayer REQUESTS

GRACE MEMBERS

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Carol Burns | Continued healing/strength |
| Kim Desterheft | Ovarian cancer |
| Donnie Drews Jr. | Recovery - liver transplant |
| Dorothy Ellner | Strength/healing |
| Jerry Fischer | Health concerns |
| Heim Family | Loss of Jerry's mother, Angie |
| Diane Malcomson | Health concerns |
| Lorraine Murphy | Strength/healing |
| Randy Nelson | Macular degeneration |
| Lyle Nichols | Strength/cancer treatment |
| Bonnie Peterson | B-Cell lymphoma |
| RaeAnn Rouse | Recovery from knee surgery |
| Julia Schullo | Strength/healing |
| Bob Thomson | Health concerns |
| Don VanArk | Health concerns |
| Don Voermans | Health concerns |
| Leslie (Butch) Vorpahl | Cancer treatment |
| Shirley Vorpahl | Recovery shoulder surgery |
| Tami Wall | Thyroid disease |

FAMILY/FRIENDS OF GRACE

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ashleigh Mercier Bordelais | Breast cancer |
| Kevin Breuninger | Lung cancer |
| Liam Britzke | MPGN-Disease of kidneys |
| Ethan Burant | Complications -liver transplant |
| Kim (Capelle) Fischer | Health concerns |
| Tara Foht | Breast cancer |
| Barb Hillyer | Loss of Larry |
| Hodkiewicz Family | Loss of Bryant |
| Carol Hostrawser | Health concerns |
| Maggie Jones | Cancer treatment |
| Cathy Kaster | Rare progressive dementia |
| Julie Luebeck | Cancer treatment |
| David Majeski | Continued strength/healing |
| Teri Malingowski/Schwenke | Breast cancer |
| Greg Meilahn | Liver transplant |
| David Nelson | Awaiting new kidney |
| Brett Nichols | Strength/healing |
| Bryan O'Leary | Pancreatic Cancer / Strokes |
| Rochell Otto | Cancer treatment |
| Rollyn Radke | Health concerns |
| Amira Rynish | Leukemia |
| Barb Schaal | Healing from Infection |
| David Schefdore | Dialysis |
| Bob Schindel | Health concerns |
| Ruth Schulz | Health concerns |
| Vern Tamura | Cancer |
| Mary Thompson | Cancer treatment |
| Gail Venne | Cancer treatment |
| Carol Weber | Healing & recovery |
| Jim Wesley | Prostate/Lung cancer |



Please email grace@graceocontofalls.org

GRACE MEETINGS & SCHEDULES

MARCH/APRIL COMMUNION DUTIES

March 3:

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

March 17:

SET UP 8:30: Kriss Krause
CLEAN UP 8:30: Kriss Krause
CLEAN UP 10:45: Holli Kussow train Maddie/Brynn

March 28: (Maundy Thursday)

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

March 31: (Easter Sunday)

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

April 7:

SET UP 8:30: Kriss Krause
CLEAN UP 8:30: Kriss Krause
CLEAN UP 10:45: Jenny Mercier

April 21:

SET UP 8:30: Rosemary Lyng
CLEAN UP 8:30: Rosemary Lyng
CLEAN UP 10:45: Maddie Kussow/Brynn Larsen



Choir Practices will start again on Wednesdays at 6PM. Hope to see both existing and new choir members!

FAITH, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

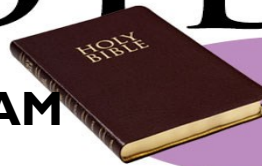
MEN'S BREAKFAST



Saturday, March 2
8:00-10:00am

Tuesday Morning

BIBLE



8:00AM

STUDY

COMMUNION BREAD SCHEDULE MARCH/APRIL

MARCH 3: Rosemary Lyng
MARCH 17: Kelly Haselhuhn
MARCH 28: (Maundy Thurs) Pam Langlay
MARCH 31 (Easter): Sue Mogged
APRIL 7: Susan Krumrei
APRIL 21: Rosemary Lyng



TO GOD'S GLORY



FREE LUNCHEON / SOCIAL

UPCOMING DATE!

Free Luncheon / Social
Tuesday, March 12 @ Grace
Serving 11:30AM-1:30PM

All are welcome.



March 12, 2024
6:30PM
All women welcome!



FELLOWSHIP MEAL - 6PM

SERVICE - 7PM

Groups that serve the meal also serve as ushers, greeters and readers for the service.

March 6th - Council
March 13th - Men's Group
March 20th - EPIC Youth

MONTHLY MEETINGS

March 18, 2024
Worship & Music Meeting 6PM
Council Meeting 7PM

GRACE EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

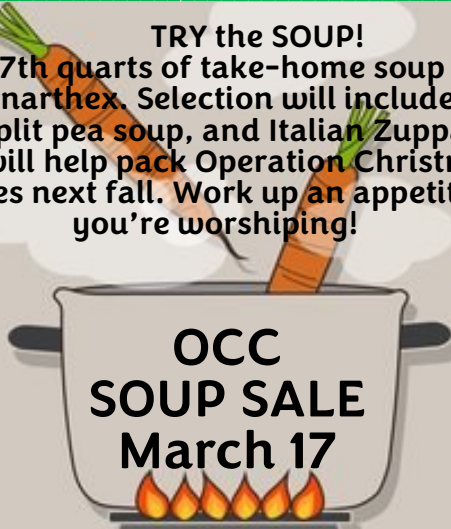
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



Sunday, March 10
Set your clocks
forward one hour!

TRY the SOUP!

On March 17th quarts of take-home soup will be on sale in the narthex. Selection will include: chicken booyah, split pea soup, and Italian Zuppa. All the proceeds will help pack Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes next fall. Work up an appetite while you're worshipping!



LENTEN *Schedule*

MARCH 6, 2024

6:00PM Lenten Fellowship Meal
(Hosted by Council)
7:00PM Service

MARCH 13, 2024

6:00PM Lenten Fellowship Meal
(Hosted by Men's Group)
7:00PM Service

MARCH 20, 2024

6:00PM Lenten Fellowship Meal
(Hosted by EPIC Youth)
7:00PM Service

MARCH 28, 2024

7:00PM Maundy Thursday Service

MARCH 29, 2024

7:00PM Good Friday Service

MARCH 31, 2024 - EASTER SUNDAY

8:30AM & 10:45AM Services

Easter Sunday

March 31st, 2024



Join us at 9:40am for Fellowship
(light brunch items in the narthex)
& an Easter Egg Hunt!

Also this year, a drawing will be held for kids who attend our JAM program. 3 gift baskets will be given away. For every Sunday your child has attended JAM, their name will be put in the raffle.

(Must be present to win)

JAM class will resume on April 7th at 9:40am

E	B	C	R	O	S	S	P
A	P	H	F	Y	I	T	L
S	K	R	H	N	A	A	O
T	R	I	S	E	N	T	V
E	U	S	A	V	E	D	E
R	W	T	O	M	B	X	D

Find the words in the puzzle:

LOVED
TOMB
EASTER
SAVED
CROSS
SIN
SENT



Welcome to our newest member,
Walker William Le Mere,
baptized on February 4, 2024,
Parents: Zach & Makenna Le Mere
Sponsors: Alex Le Mere & Maddie Kussow

Youth news

MARCH

Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11



CONFIRMATION & EPIC YOUTH WILL HOST THE LENTEN FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE ON MARCH 20, 2024. WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR DETAILS.

WINTER JAM was a huge success. Close to 40 youth spent the weekend at Silver Birch Ranch. A special shout out to Pastor Gary, parents, leaders, drivers & the SBR staff.



We need
YOUR HELP!



We are still in need of JAM volunteers for April & May. If you are a parent of a JAM student, please contact Heidi to sign up.

**Heidi.crittercomforts@gmail.com
(715) 307-9073**

Service Duty Schedule MARCH/APRIL

MARCH SERVICES

March 3 - Communion

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Kent Lyng / Wally Krueger

Reader: Sally Krueger

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Rosemary Lyng

Communion Assistant: Pam & Brad Langlay

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Jerry & Donna Heim

Lay Reader: Faith Shamburek

Communion Assistants: Andy & Lisa Shamburek

Clean Up: Lisa Shamburek

Money Count: Andy Shamburek / Grace Shamburek

March 10

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Adam Haselhuhn / Josh Wendt

Lay Reader: Josh Wendt

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Jeff & Allie McDonald

Lay Reader: Heidi Anderson

Money Count: Heidi Anderson / Allie McDonald train Heidi

March 17-Communion

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Matt & Emerson Rice

Lay Reader: Pam Langlay

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Kriss Krause

Communion Assistant: Pam & Brad Langlay

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Klitzka Family

Lay Reader: Ellen Pritzlaff

Communion Assistant: Sue Mogged / Ellen Pritzlaff

Communion Clean Up: Holli train Maddie K/Brynn L

Money Count: Paul Mogged / Jared Alfson

March 24-Palm Sunday

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Riste/Blom Family

Lay Reader: Lyle Nichols

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Kandice Bero / Zoey Thomson

Lay Reader: Holli Kussow

Money Count: Pam & Brad Langlay

March 28—Maundy Thursday—Communion -7PM

Ushers: Barb & Jeff Schullo

Lay Reader: Jeff Schullo

Communion Set up/Clean Up: Holli Kussow

Communion Assistants: Andy & Jenny Mercier

March 29-Good Friday—7PM

Ushers: Pam & Brad Langlay

Lay Reader: Pam Langlay

March 31—EASTER SUNDAY- Communion

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Matt & Emerson Rice, Wally Krueger, Josh Wendt

Lay Reader: Lyle Nichols

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Pam Langlay

Communion Assistants: Brad & Pam Langlay

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Paul & Sue Mogged, Andy & Lisa Shamburek

Lay Reader: Sue Mogged

Communion Assistants: Jerry & Donna Heim

Communion Clean Up: Sue Mogged

Money Count: Andy Shamburek / Paul Mogged

APRIL SERVICES

April 7 - Communion

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Adam Haselhuhn / Josh Wendt

Reader: Josh Wendt

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Kriss Krause

Communion Assistant: Jeff & Barb Schullo

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Donna & Jerry Heim

Lay Reader: Angie Magnin

Communion Assistants: Andy & Jenny Mercier

Clean Up: Jenny Mercier

Money Count: Angie Magnin / Linda Reidinger

April 14

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Riste / Blom Family

Lay Reader: Leanne Riste

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Jeff & Allie McDonald

Lay Reader: Heidi Anderson

Money Count: Heidi Anderson / Allie McDonald

April 21-Communion

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Kent & Jennifer Lyng

Lay Reader: Pam Langlay

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Rosemary Lyng

Communion Assistant: Pam & Brad Langlay

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Klitzka Family

Lay Reader: Sue Mogged

Communion Assistant: Andy & Lisa Shamburek

Communion Clean Up: Maddie Kussow / Brynn Larsen

Money Count: Paul Mogged / Andy Shamburek

April 28

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Jeff & Barb Schullo

Lay Reader: Sally Krueger

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Andy & Jenny Mercier

Lay Reader: Ellen Pritzlaff

Money Count: Pam & Brad Langlay