

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
500 BUSINESS 23 W
PAYNESVILLE, MN 56362**



Church Website: www.paynesvillegrace.org

Regular Sunday Worship Service Time: 9:30 AM

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8am-3pm

Church Doors Open:

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Friday 8am-3pm,

Wednesday, 8am-8pm

Sat 8-Noon, Sun 7:30am-Noon

Grace Church Office: graceumc@paynesvillegrace.org

Phone: 320-243-3601

Pastor Jill Meents: jill@paynesvillegrace.org

Cell: 612-867-1979

Kari Schaefer, Youth Ministry: kari@paynesvillegrace.org

Cell: 701-866-7365

Sue Jansen, Office: sue@paynesvillegrace.org

MARCH 2025

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Note from our Pastor



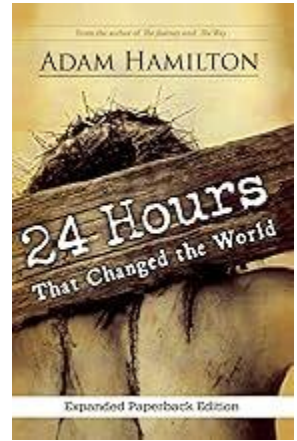
WE ALL HAVE OUR COURTYARDS

We all have our courtyards,
those times and places we face
like Peter
when we must decide
to stand up or to say
whether we know him or not.
Those crossroads in our lives,
when we go along with things as they are,
or we say, as Luther did,
Here I stand, I can do no other.
We all have our courtyards....
Lent is the time to prepare
for our courtyards,
the time to listen to who *he* says he is.
And he did you know,
He did tell us who he is.
He is that one who brings good news to the poor,
freedom to the oppressed,
sight to the blind...
That Holy One who said,
Follow me.
Feed my sheep.

*Taken from Anne Weems' book entitled
"From Advent's Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light"*

GREETINGS FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GRACE CHURCH,

Pastor Ric and I will be leading a Lenten Study on Sunday and Tuesday mornings. We will be following Adam Hamilton's book entitled "The 24 Hours That Changed the World". We will be watching a video followed by a meaningful discussion. We will be guided through the last 24 hours of Jesus' life; to see more clearly the theological significance of Christ's suffering and death; reflecting on the meaning of these events for our lives.



The Tuesday Lenten class will be held at 11:00 AM on March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, and 15. The Sunday Lenten class will be held at 10:45 AM on March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 and 13.

It would be helpful for you to purchase the book for \$10 in preparation for our study. You can reach out to Sue in the office, as she has the books for sale.

Blessings,

Pastor Jill Meents



UPCOMING LENTEN DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Transfiguration Sunday – March 2, 2025
Ash Wednesday – March 5, 2025
Palm Sunday – April 13, 2025
Maundy Thursday – April 17, 2025
Good Friday – April 18, 2025
Easter Sunday – April 20



Grace Youth News

Greetings!

The month of February flew by with lots of fun had by our kids! We had some great lessons and discussions. We enjoyed a performance by the "Gumpets" about Valentine's Day. Grace Kids made some Valentine cards which were mailed out to various congregation members. And we held our Valentine Bake Sale where we raised \$1,075 to help our Mission Team headed to Belize this summer. It was such an incredible month!

As we move into March, we continue to have a lot of fun things happening. This is an exciting time of year as the daylight hours are getting longer and we hope the weather starts to warm up!

During this season of Lent, our Grace Youth (those in 6th-12th grade) will be taking a break from their lessons & completing some service projects, as well as doing some fun events too. This is always a fun time of year for our youth to give back to others. Grace Kids will start practicing for the Palm Sunday drama towards the end of March. The parts will be handed out on Wednesday, March 26th. They will perform the drama on Palm Sunday, which is Sunday, April 13th this year. It is a pretty powerful experience for them to be able to see & portray what it was like for Jesus during his final days on this earth.

Finally, we will again be hosting a Silent Auction to help those on our Mission Team headed to Belize this August. If you have any items, baskets or services that you would like to donate, please have them to Kari by March 26th. The Silent Auction will run from March 30th-April 13th.

Much Love,
Kari Schaefer



MARCH YOUTH EVENTS

Sunday, March 2nd

Gumpets perform during the worship service

Wednesday, March 5th (Ash Wednesday)

Grace Kids: Lent festivities

Grace Youth & Confirmation: Will attend the 6:30 pm worship service together

Wednesday, March 12th

Grace Kids: Simply Loved, Unit 2/Week 1

Grace Youth: Be Bold! Quarter 2, Lesson 13

Confirmation: "Is the Holy Spirit a person or wind or fire or what"?

Wednesday, March 19th

Grace Kids: Simply Loved, Unit 2/Week 2

Grace Youth & Confirmation: Service Project @ Community Service Center

Wednesday, March 26th

Grace Kids: Palm Sunday Drama parts handed out & practice

Grace Youth & Confirmation: Bingo @ Koronis Place

Today is the deadline to donate items for the Silent Auction

Sunday, March 30th

Silent Auction begins

Easter Candy Donations



We need candy donations for the Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held on Easter Sunday at 10:30 am.

You can place the candy in the box by Kari's office. The older youth will be filling the Easter Eggs on Wednesday, April 16th, during Youth Group. Thank you!

Youth Silent Auction

The Belize Mission Team will be hosting a Silent Auction that will run from **March 30th-April 13th**. All funds raised will be used for our Mission Trip this summer.

If you have any items, services or baskets you'd like to donate, please have them to Kari Schaefer by March 26th. All items are appreciated. The more items we get, the more we can raise for our trip.



Thank you!



Congratulations to Casey & Aly Hopfer on the birth of their son, McCoy William, born on February 10th, 2025.

Proud Grandparents are Dan & Diane Schultz and William & Tracy Hopfer. May God bless this family!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED OUR YOUTH VALENTINE BAKE SALE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH. With your help, we raised \$1,075. All the money raised will benefit our Mission Team headed to Belize this summer. Thank you for your generosity!

~Belize Mission Team



March Missions

March is National Food Shelf month.

We will be partnering with the Paynesville Community Service Center to collect items and monetary donations. The Center is always in short supply of both and is grateful to accept either.

Items Requested:

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Soups

Canned fruit

Spaghetti Sauce

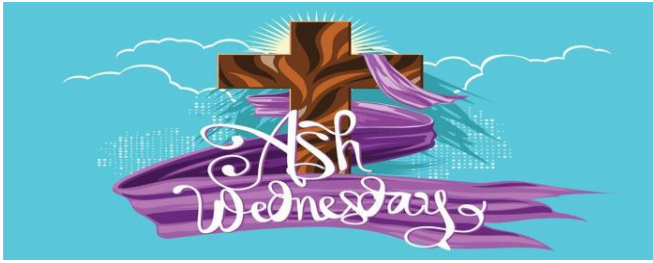
Cereal

Pasta

There will be a cart located outside Kari's office to collect your donations. If you would like to give monetary donations, please put "March Missions" in the memo line of your check.

Your generous gifts go a long way to ease the burdens of families in need. Thank you for your generosity!

~Grace Missions Tea



ASH WEDNESDAY IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH.

Everyone is invited to a soup & sandwich meal made by our young people that will be served from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Ash Wednesday service will follow at 6:30 pm in the Worship Space.

We hope to see you all there!



COFFEE HOUR will be hosted by Host Committee #1 during the month of March. The chairs are Mary & Harlan Beek and Karen Odberg. If you are in this group, please let them know if you are able and willing to help with this ministry.

You can also sign up on the sheet posted in the Gathering Space. It's such a wonderful opportunity for fellowship!

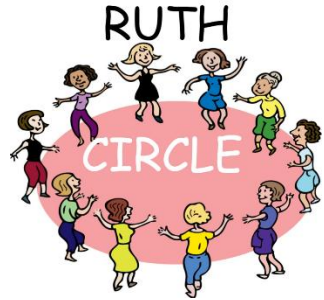
GRACE CHOIR (GRACE SINGERS)

will practice on Thursday, March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th.

Grace singers will be singing during our worship service on March 2nd and March 16th.



RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. Cindy Holmberg will be leading the devotionals. The hostess will be Ramona Frank and Paula Lingl will be assisting her.



CALLING ALL PRAYER

WARRIORS! We all know the power of prayer. Grace Church would like to restart a prayer chain, praying for anyone in need. If you would like to be a member and faithfully pray when a

request for prayer is received, please contact Joan Bruntmyer at joan1744@gmail.com or (612) 865-9087.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9, at which time clocks 'spring forward' and reset to 3 a.m.



REST IN PEACE – In February, we lost members Eileen Werner and Jerry Dittman. Eileen's service was here at Grace on February 10, 2025. Jerry's

service was also here at Grace on February 25, 2025. Pastor Jill Meents presided at both services.



Memories of Grace

If you have been worshipping at Grace Church for a number of years, you may have some special memories. The following was taken from the March Grace Notes in the year 1980.

GREETERS

- March 2 – Mr/Mrs. Gilbert Tritabaugh & Mr/Mrs. Austin Seastedt
Mr/Mrs. Jim Elseth & Evelyn/Diane Moore*
- March 9 – Mr/Mrs. Ken Deadrick & Mr/Mrs. Art Berglund
Mr/Mrs. Orion Miller & Tina Manz/Delia Gieseke*
- March 16 – Mr/Mrs. Wallace Krupke & Doris/Jane Monson
Mr/Mrs. Leslie Fuchs & Freda Heitke/Fern Krupke*
- March 23 – Mr/Mrs. Gary Haglund & Irene/Patty Kruger
Mr/Mrs. Craig Heitke & Mr/Mrs. Ed Heath*
- March 30 – Mr/Mrs. Henry Brauchler & Mr/Mrs. Ed Albrecht
Bernie Nehring/Marie Revier & Nolene Stanger/
Mae Liestman*

Here are some nuggets of wisdom from the same Grace Notes.

“People were made to be loved . . . and things were made to be used. We get into trouble when we reverse this, and begin to love things . . . and use people”

“You are young and useful at any age if you are still planning for tomorrow.”

“Faith is giving God the problems you can’t handle.”

“Faith does not know where it’s being led but knows who’s leading.”



FINANCE REPORT JANUARY

Foundation Report 2025

December Ending Balance:	\$	1,077,071.54
January Ending Balance:	\$	1,100,822.99
Gain:	\$	<u>23,751.43</u>

Grace Budget Report 2025

December Ending Balance:	\$	54,283.66
January Expenses:	\$	<u>(29,387.93)</u>
		24,895.73
January Income:	\$	<u>19,835.72</u>
January Ending Balance:	\$	44,731.45
Less January Deferred Amount:	\$	<u>(10,403.16)</u>
January Spendable:	\$	34,328.29
December Spendable:	\$	<u>(40,130.08)</u>
Loss:	\$	<u>(5,801.79)</u>

Year to Date for 2025

January	\$	<u>(5,801.79)</u>
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January

Giving: \$19,620.72 **Needed:** \$25,263.79 **Short:** (\$5,643.07)

Coffee Fund: \$152.00
Youth/Wedge: \$ 63.00
Missions: \$ 80.00



Lent is a 40-day period leading up to Easter that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The word "lent" comes from the old English word *lencten* which means lengthen -

referring to the season of spring and longer daytime. The length of Lent represents the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning his ministry. Lent is a time of spiritual renewal and reflection in preparation for observing Good Friday, the death of Jesus, and celebrating Easter, the resurrection of Jesus.

The purpose of Lent is to draw closer to God through prayer, repentance, and self-examination. During Lent, many Christians fast or give up certain indulgences as a form of self-discipline and penance. This may include abstaining from certain foods, activities, or habits.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. Matthew 4:1-2

KNOW WHO (AND WHOSE) YOU ARE

Actor Kirk Douglas once picked up a hitchhiker. After the man got settled in Douglas's car, he turned to look more closely at the driver. Surprised to recognize the famous man at the wheel, the hitchhiker exclaimed, "Do you know who you are?!"

We would do well to ask ourselves and each other the same thing. Often, we seem to forget — or perhaps we never knew.

Through much of life, we behave as if our identity depends on our occupation, wealth, family line, daily accomplishments or good deeds. But none of these — not even the last one — determines the core of who we are. All that matters is our Creator's opinion, and God loves us with abundant, unconditional love.

Do you know who you are? You are God's beloved child! And so is everyone else. May we live out that knowledge, treating one another as such.

—Heidi Hyland Man



MARCH

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March 1	Gary & Evie Smith
March 2	Ryan Frank
March 4	Deb Butkofski
March 5	Avery Press
March 6	Pastor Ric Koehn
March 7	Holli Gregersen
March 8	Payten Schaefer
March 9	Delores Schoenherr
March 10	Harrison Person
March 12	Jaxson Kampsen
March 16	Carol Ramler, Lilly Smith
March 17	Connie Keller
March 18	Chuck Hunter
March 19	Vicky Frank
March 20	Linda Johnson, Harper Person
March 21	Sara Whitcomb
March 24	Tim Bruntmyer
March 26	Mary Beier
March 29	Julie Schultz, Krista Kotten, Eli Bukowski
March 30	Jerry Dittman, Amy Person
March 31	Delores Heitke, Addie Holtz, Jack Schaefer



Service Assignments

READERS:

March	2	Cindy Holmberg
March	9	Chloe Hemmesch
March	16	Aly Hopfer
March	23	Sue Jansen
March	30	Deb Butkofski

GREETERS:

March	2	Jim & Lois Elseth
March	9	Beth Moerke, Sue Korman
March	16	Brad & Paula Lingl
March	23	Roxann Bergstrom, Debbie Schmidt
March	30	Mike & Steph Hemmesch

COUNTERS:

March	2	Mary Beek, Sue Drager
March	9	Mike Nehring, Jane Burr
March	16	Carolyn Swyter, Bonnie Schwartz
March	23	Jim Elseth, Betty Freilinger
March	30	Mike Nehring, Sue Drager

<u>USHERS:</u> Head Usher -	Gene Schultz 320-293-1395
Month of March:	Chuck Hunter, Randy Brink
Month of April:	Deb and Terry Thomsen

BANNER COMMITTEE: Sue Arend

WORSHIP ENHANCEMENT TEAM: Gretchen O'Fallon,
Betty Freilinger

COMMUNION STEWARDS:

March 2:	Ann Peterson, Roxann Bergstrom
April 6:	Patty Herzberg, Sue Korman