



**Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC)**

PO Box 10

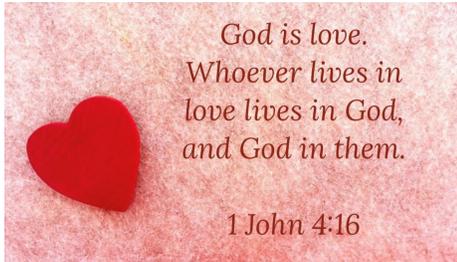
Erhard, MN 56534

To:

*February*

2026 Grace Gazette

*Grace Lutheran Church*



**Mission Statement:**

Grace Lutheran strives to be a welcoming church family, committed to the Bible as God's truth, worshiping together, and reaching out to love, pray for, teach, and serve others in Christ's name.

**U.S. Highway 59 in Erhard, MN**

Visit us online at – <http://gracechurchoferhard.org>

**Facebook Pages:**

The Foundry @ Grace Lutheran Erhard  
Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC) of Erhard, MN  
Grace Lutheran Church Women "GLW" & Friends

A member of the LCMC  
(Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ)

*A Lutheran community of faith engaging the present while embracing the Biblical and Reformation heritage of:*

**Grace Alone:**

God, out of His great mercy, has reconciled humanity to Himself through His Son Jesus Christ. Acts of Christian goodness are a thankful response to God's mercy shown to us in Christ.

**Faith Alone:**

God's gift of faith apprehends the great work of eternal redemption accomplished for us by Jesus Christ. A faith relationship with the Triune God is the key to our eternal future and it brings meaning and joy to our present lives.

**Word Alone:**

The Bible is God's authoritative Word to humanity. It is the sole and true guide for Christian faith, doctrine, and living.

**YOU ARE WELCOME AT GRACE**

**Sunday Worship:** 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion the first Sunday of every month. Coffee Fellowship every Sunday after Worship.

**Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Adult Bible Study:** 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. (during school months)

**Morning Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. with prayer group to follow

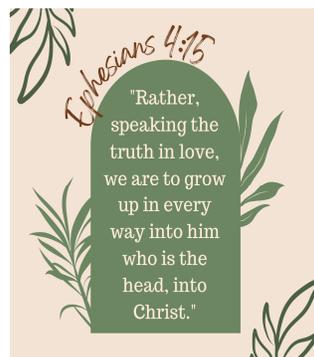
**Grace Choir:** 6:00 p.m. Wednesday nights during school year

So here we are, all of the holidays of 2025 are over and a New Year has begun. Perhaps you're doing quite well with your New Year's resolutions or not very well at all. I would contend we're now in the midst of a bleak midwinter, even though the weather has been somewhat cooperative recently.

We now turn our attention to the annual gathering of our congregation. For me, this means both an analysis of what has taken place as well as a consideration of the future. Where have we been? Where are we going? As your pastor, my first order of business is to learn who you have been historically. I think this coincides well with our recent 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration as a church. It gave me a unique and very special opportunity to look back to the origins of Grace as a congregation. It allowed me to look at founding members, influential people, as well as faithful servants, both pastors and lay people. They say history repeats itself, so it has been a real blessing for me to see the historic faithfulness of God to this congregation and all who are in its orbit. In addition, I've tried to immerse myself in all that is currently happening, getting an opportunity to see what's taking place, and how you take is a congregation as well as what you're passionate about.

Ephesians 4:15 speaks of the unique importance of churches to "equip the Saints". One of Paul's favorite designations for the church is to refer to them both individually and collectively as Saints. He does this repeatedly in his letters; he is downright habitual in this designation for God's chosen, redeemed people. These are people that are not Saints based on their behavior, or in works of external righteousness. Rather, Scripture clearly states that God bestowed the title of saint exclusively on the basis of faith, and the object of that faith is always Christ himself. This is again the beauty of the Church: we're never saved in isolation, but we're literally saved to serve. This salvation is not because we perform some sort of service; rather, we're saved so that we can reciprocate to love our neighbor as self. As Paul, in the fourth chapter of Ephesians, is exploring what is sometimes referred to as the fourfold ministry giftedness. Evangelists, pastors, shepherds, and teachers are given the admonition for full ministry giftedness to have a focus on equipping the Saints for ministry. One of the prayerful goals as your pastor in the year 2026 and moving forward is that God, by the power of His Spirit, will continue to equip me to equip you. God will help assist us as we grow the gifts that He has given us for the mutual edification of the church. My prayerful hope is that we will continue to work towards collaboration in ministry so we can truly work together for the betterment, not just of the body of Christ, but also for the advancement of his Kingdom. This is the DNA of the church. The church should be regularly multiplying, growing, and equipping saints for future acts of service. I look forward to partnering in ministry with you as we collectively seek His will here at Grace.

Pastor Steve



Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
January 13, 2026

All council members were present and Pastor Steve.

President, Curt Cardwell, opened the meeting and we read our mission statement.

The agenda was then reviewed and approved.

The treasurer's and secretary's reports were reviewed and approved.

John Ripley addressed the council regarding several concerns. First, he advised us on the status of security cameras. The company whom we bought the cameras from has moved and has been difficult to reach. The council approved a motion for John and Phil to contact that company personally and research other options. Second, because the organ is quite loud, John suggested possibly putting the speakers behind the altar. Third, a cold weather policy needs to be put into place. Several years ago, we had a committee of people living in different areas to advise about weather conditions.

OLD BUSINESS:

- We continue our commitment to evangelism and outreach.
- The budget was approved and the congregation will get a copy prior to the annual meeting.
- The Christmas Dinner was a great success. Thank you to all who made it possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mary Ferguson, Jennifer Cardwell, and Phyllis Rossow will audit the books.
- There was a lengthy discussion regarding VBS. Because the dates we have had from Inspiration Point have been problematic, we would do our own VBS. However, we need volunteers, a good plan, and promotion to have it happen.

Mission of the Month for February is the Pelican Food Shelf.

A motion was made to adjourn and approved.

Usher for the month of February is DeAnn Melkert.

Our next meeting is February 10, 2026.

Karen Rossum, Secretary



No treasure report for December 2024, since we had the annual meeting in January.

GLW did not meet in January

*Sheila Ouren*, Secretary



No Library Report for February, but here are some pictures of the addition to the library! Located in the room next to the Pastor's office!!!

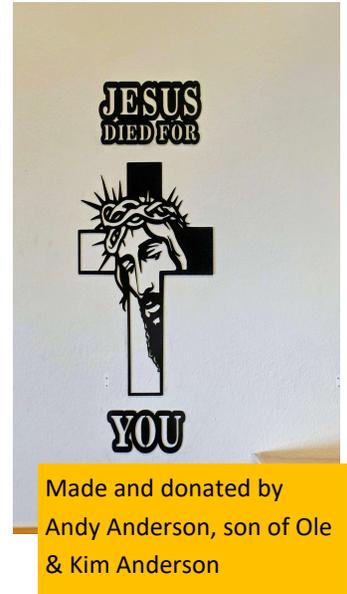




# 28 Day Scripture Writing FEBRUARY

God speaks to us through His Word, so take some time each day to write down the following scripture. If you have time, you might want to also write a prayer that the scripture leads you to pray, or your reflections as you write. Come back next month for a fresh scripture writing challenge!

February 1	Psalms 3:2-6	February 15	John 3:16
February 2	Ecclesiastes 7:9	February 16	Zephaniah 3:17
February 3	Proverbs 3:5-6	February 17	Jonah 2:2
February 4	Psalms 34:14	February 18	Psalms 22:19
February 5	Matthew 11:28	February 19	Malachi 1:11
February 6	Psalms 37:37	February 20	1 Samuel 2:2
February 7	Titus 1:15-16	February 21	1 Chronicles 16:11
February 8	James 1:5	February 22	Isaiah 40:30-31
February 9	Mark 12:30-31	February 23	2 Timothy 4:7
February 10	John 13:34	February 24	Jude 1:20
February 11	1 John 4:7	February 25	Hebrews 11:1
February 12	Ephesians 4:2	February 26	Galatians 5:22-23
February 13	Isaiah 54:10	February 27	Matthew 21:21
February 14	1 Corinthians 13:4	February 28	1 Peter 1:21



- 3 -Ben Honrud
- 4 -Terry Pauli
- 8 -Derek Tollefson
- 9 -Doug Motz
- Evan Kubitz
- Peter Ronnevik
- 10 -Roger Rossum
- Ryder Noble
- 11 -Shaun Ripley
- David Motz
- Cassie Bugbee
- Andrea Nelson
- 12 -Daryl Stadum
- Nicholas Anderson
- Reid Norgren
- Janna Gerold
- 13 -Hailey Peasley
- Ole Nelson
- 14 -Liala Nordling
- Anna Erlandson
- 15 -Owen Field
- 17 -Amie Chouinard
- Ava Martin
- 18 -Toni Meyer
- Aiden Michaelson
- 19 -Lincoln Haiby
- 20 -Dale Gilbertson
- Jon Mayfield
- Lily Teberg
- 21 -David Ripley
- Colleen LaPoint
- Joseph Gerold
- Denver Gast
- 22 -Ryan Melkert
- Sherri Peterson
- 23 -Carol Ripley
- Marty Soenksen
- Julia Weiss
- Diane Haugrud
- 25 -Greta Tollefson
- Amanda Aaberg
- 26 -Lucy Stadum
- Hailey Nord
- 28 -Barbara Schaible

## Grace Lutheran Church

### MISSION OF THE MONTH

## PELICAN RAPIDS FOOD SHELF

My little children,  
let's not love in  
word only, or with  
the tongue only,  
but in deed  
and truth.

1 John 3:18 WEB

FunHappyHome.com

If there is any changes that need  
to be made to the address's that  
are in the annual meeting book,  
please send me an email, text/  
phone call or in person

Thanks  
Tiffany Nelson

701-866-7768  
glclmc@gmail.com

### Mission Quilting

February 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00am  
with a Potluck lunch!!!



### Bible verses for kids

## February

1 John 3:16	2 1 John 4:9	3 Romans 5:8	4 1 Corinth. 13:4	5 1 Corinth. 13:5	6 1 Corinth. 13:6	7 1 Corinth. 13:7
8 1 John 4:19	9 1 Corinth. 16:14	10 1 John 4:8	11 Ephesians 6:24	12 1 Corinth. 13:13	13 Hebrews 13:1	14 Peter 4:8
15 1 John 4:11	16 Psalm 18:1	17 1 John 15:9	18 1 John 13:34	19 Romans 13:10	20 1 John 4:21	21 1 John 15:12
22 Psalm 145:20 Matthew 11:29	23 Proverbs 10:12	24 Philippians 1:9	25 1 John 13:35	26 Romans 12:9	27 Colossians 3:4	28 Hebrews 10:24

## I am the Way: Cross or Glory? On Being a Theologian of the Cross

"I am the way and the truth  
and the life." - John 14:6

"A theology of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theology of the cross calls the thing what it actually is." That thesis, #21 in the Heidelberg Disputation, reverberated throughout the Reformation, and still does to this day for those of us who confess as did Martin Luther. Join us for a three-year series on some of the most explosive theses in the Heidelberg Disputation - all with an eye on why it matters for pastors today. Year one will be "Theology of the Cross vs. Glory: Clothed in Christ." Year two will focus on "What Makes a Work Good?", and year three will explore "The Problem of the Will."



**AUGUSTANA  
DISTRICT**  
THEOLOGY | CHURCH | MISSION

Send completed form with payment to:  
Augustana District  
335 Main St S  
Hutchinson MN 55350

Or register on-line at  
<https://augustanadistrict.org/uvhc>

## Guest Speaker: Chris Crogan



As the founder of the Luther House of Study, Chris is driven by the same motives that inspired Luther: a deep seated concern for the proclamation of the Gospel and the care of souls.

Trained as a Reformation scholar specializing in the life and teachings of Martin Luther, pastoral ministry remains central to Chris' vocational identity. After graduating from Augustana College, Chris earned his M.Div. and was ordained in 1995. He returned to Luther Seminary five years later and was granted a Ph.D. in church history.

Chris has been teaching college and seminary students since 2004, with his primary emphasis being nurturing faith and preparing pastors.

From the earliest days of LHOS, Chris has worked to make theological education more accessible and affordable while providing sound theological content.

## Accommodations

You are welcome to stay at any hotel you would like. If you wish to stay onsite at the Embassy Suites the AD has reserved a block of rooms for \$149 per night that will be held until midnight January 11, 2026.

You can make your reservation online at [www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/augustanadistrictconference/](http://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/augustanadistrictconference/)  
Or by calling 800-317-8143 and state that you are with the Augustana District conference room block and give them the group code **930**.

Hotel Address:  
Embassy Suites by Hilton Minneapolis Airport  
7901 34th Ave. S.  
Bloomington, MN 55425

Part 1

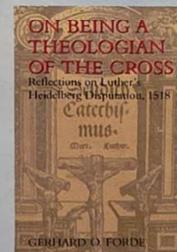
CROSS OR GLORY?

I AM  
THE  
WAY  
John 14:6

On Being a Theologian  
of the Cross

February 1 - 3, 2026

2026 Convocation of the Cross  
Annual Theological Conference



The 2026 - 2028 convocations will be centered on the book "On Being a Theologian of the Cross" Reflections on Luther's Heidelberg Disputation, 1518.

## Event Agenda

### MONDAY - Feb 2

- 9:00 AM Welcome and Opening Worship  
The Worship offering has been designated to go to the Augustana District Seminary Scholarship Fund.
- 10:00 AM AD Update
- 10:30 AM Break
- 11:00 AM Session 1
- 12:00 PM Lunch (provided free)
- 1:30 PM Session 2
- 2:30 PM Q & A
- 2:45 PM Break
- 3:00 PM Panel Discussion
- 4:00 PM Closing

### TUESDAY - Feb 3

- 9:00 AM Opening Prayer and Announcements
- 9:15 AM Session 3
- 10:15 AM Q & A
- 10:30 AM Closing Worship and Sending

Join Us  
for this exciting  
free event!  
Free Lunch Provided  
(Event will be livestreamed)

2026	FEBRUARY					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
<p><b>9:00 AM:</b> Sunday School, Confirmation &amp; Adult Bible Study</p> <p><b>10:00 AM:</b> Worship with Holy Communion followed by Fellowship</p>	<p>2026 Convocation of the Cross Annual Theological Conference-Live Streamed at Grace. Free Lunch Provided.</p> <p><b>Mon: 9:00am-4:00pm</b>      <b>Tue: 9:00-10:30am</b></p>		<p><b>6:00 PM:</b> Choir Practice</p>			
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
<p><b>9:00 AM:</b> Sunday School, Confirmation &amp; Adult Bible Study</p> <p><b>10:00 AM:</b> Worship followed by Fellowship</p>		<p><b>6:00 PM:</b> Council Meets</p>	<p><b>9:00 AM:</b> Bible Study with Pastor Steve, Prayer group to follow</p> <p><b>6:00 PM:</b> Choir Practice</p>			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p><b>9:00 AM:</b> Sunday School, Confirmation &amp; Adult Bible Study</p> <p><b>10:00 AM:</b> Worship followed by Fellowship</p>	<p><b>9:30 AM-11:00 AM:</b> Women's Home Bible Study at Rachel Ronnevik's</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>9:00AM:</b> Quilters will meet Monday and Tuesday w/potluck</p> </div>		<p><b>5:30 PM: Soup, Supper and the Word with Devotional at 6:30 PM</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM:</b> Choir meets</p>	<p><b>9:00 AM:</b> GLW meets</p>		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p><b>9:00 AM:</b> Sunday School, Confirmation &amp; Adult Bible Study</p> <p><b>10:00 AM:</b> Worship followed by Fellowship</p>			<p><b>5:30 PM: Soup, Supper and the Word with Devotional at 6:30 PM</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM:</b> Choir meets</p>			
01	02	03	04	05	06	07