



**Grace Lutheran Church of Erhard(LCMC)**

PO Box 10

Erhard, MN 56534

April

2026 Grace Gazette

To:

**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 year)

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

**Grace Choir:** Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. during school year unless noted otherwise

**The Foundry (Youth Group) Gatherings:** Wednesday 7:00-8:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise

## **You are blessed**

How does a traditional Christian worship gathering conclude? In all of your church experience, how would you answer this question? For generations, traditional Christian worship gatherings have concluded with what is called the Aaronic Benediction. (named for Aaron, Moses' brother)

No doubt you have heard other pastors and myself use this benediction at the conclusion of a worship service countless times. What does it actually mean? What does it mean in its original context? Why should this be used over other suitable passages of scripture which could serve the same purpose?

To answer these questions, let's ask another. Do you know what your name means? When I was a child? I got a plaque as a gift with my name on it. It had the name Steven, and underneath was the meaning of my name with suitable Bible verse coinciding. Perhaps you've seen something like it in the past. As you think about your name, maybe you've spent your entire life not really liking your name or wishing you had a different one. Theologically speaking, God is in the naming business—or perhaps more specifically the renaming business. He has been declaring things into existence, calling things by name since the beginning of time. He is in a unique position to rename things according to faith. For example, when Abraham receives the promise of Genesis 12, his name is changed from Abram to Abraham. When the apostle Paul receives his call to be missionary to the Gentile people, his name is radically transformed on the Damascus Road from Saul to Paul. God wants to rename you as well. He wants to rename you in faith, changing your name of sin to now a name of faith.

What is fascinating to me is the verse that appears after this benediction in Numbers 6. At its conclusion, Aaron was declaring his blessing over the people. Verse 27 of the sixth chapter of Numbers says: "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel and I will bless them." It's as if the blessing of God is contingent on the renaming of the children of Israel. Until they receive a new name, which the Lord will give them, He is not in a position to bestow a blessing on them. But once they are renamed through faith, the blessings of God abound at an unprecedented level. So, the next time you hear me or anyone else at the conclusion of a church service declaring the Aaronic Benediction of Numbers 6, hear those words for you: that the Lord will both bless you and keep you, protect you and to watch over you. The Lord will make His face to shine upon you and He will show you grace, which means the complete pardon of all of your sins and the cleansing of your very soul. The Lord would declare peace over you because of the peace He has achieved at Calvary 's Cross on your behalf. Therefore, church hear the benediction anew this Easter season as God declares once again the eradication of your sin, the annihilation of death, and his complete power overall satanic forces. All of this achieved for you so that you can receive blessing from Him and Him alone.

It is also noteworthy to mention that the words of this benediction appear in Psalm 67. However, the scope of the blessing is growing. This is not a blessing reserved for only the children of Israel. But rather it is a blessing designed for all of humankind. "That your ways may be known on the earth and you salvation among ALL nations. (Psalm 67:2, NIV) The redemptive focus here is on not just one group of people but on all people. This again illustrates the universal nature of God's love, his is a God who has loved the entire cosmos and has given his son as a ransom for many.

Do you know of anyone who is in need of a blessing? Do you know anybody who needs help? We would be hard pressed to find anyone who would pass on a more blessed life, regardless of their belief system. These words could be incredibly helpful because they, like all of Scripture, are designed to be helpful. Be reminded of an overarching hermeneutical principle which is that all Scripture is designed to be perfect for “teaching and training and righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16) In other words, all scripture is designed to be efficacious. That is all of God ‘s word is designed to be helpful. It’s all given to us as the primary means by which God demonstrates to us who he is and what he’s accomplished for us. The word of God is designed to be a blessing from beginning to end, so be blessed when you receive the word of God when you hear it preached and read and prayed. The promise of the benediction is that God will keep you, and he will protect you. He will be gracious to you forever!

4 Him,  
Pastor Steve



## Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes March 10, 2026

Present: Jeff Carlson, Duane Haiby, DeAnn Melkert, Karen Rossum, Shelly Fresonke, Phyllis Rossow, Rick Drevlow, Jim, Klitzke, Brady Stadum, and Pastor Steve

President Rick Drevlow called the meeting to order and we read our mission statement.

Pastor Steve then gave opening devotions and prayer.

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Pastor Steve gave his visitations' report.

**Confirmation will be April 26, 2026.**

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



### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- We continue our commitment to promote evangelism and outreach.
- Vacation Bible School committee met. VBS will be held July 21-26. It will include PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Phyllis Rossow reviewed the audit results. All procedures were found to be in good financial order.
- Jeff Carlson gave a report on researching outdoor security cameras.
- The report on progress of Youth Group was very encouraging.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- There is a need to find office space for music. The file cabinets in the office need to be downsized.
- Offering receipt will only be given on request ahead of time.
- Men's Ham Dinner is March 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm-7:00pm. Prep will be done on Friday morning. Good will offering.
- There will be a blood drive on April 7<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-6pm.

Mission of the Month of April is Yancy Wifall.

Our next meeting is April 14, 2026 at 6pm.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The usher for the month of April is Brady Stadum.

Karen Rossum, Secretary

\*For clarification of receipts for donations-If you give a one time gift of \$250 or more and would like a receipt, please attach a note to the donation or let the office know at the time of the donation.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## The GLW Minutes

March 19, 2026

Welcome & Table Grace  
Pastor Steve with Bible Study.  
Opened our meeting reading Scripture on page 4 of our booklets.  
Secretary and Treasurer's reports.

### Old Business:

- Wednesday Lenten Service supper is Potluck, anybody can work in the kitchen.
- Sign-up sheets for the Ham Dinner are on the back table.

### New Business:

- Sign-up sheets for Easter Breakfast are on back table.
- Benefit for Cari Ripley, Saturday April 25th in Asbhy. Baked goods and pies are needed.
- Ardis Jorgenson will be at the Broen Home for about 2 weeks after getting her pacemaker.

Next Meeting is April 16, 2026

Thank you to Jeanette and Debbie for the great brunch. Volunteers for April are Sandy and Cindy.  
Birthday and birthday song, offering and offering song.  
We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sheila Ouren, Secretary



## Treasurer Report

February 2026

<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income: \$10,280.54	Income: \$22,302.09
Expenses: \$13,877.29	Expenses: \$25,863.97

Submitted by Mary Ferguson & Rick Drevlow

## APRIL LIBRARY CORNER *by Paulette Haddock*

Easter is almost here! You'll find books and movies focusing on Jesus' life and work on our behalf on the display shelves. One is ***The Passion of Jesus Christ***, by John Piper, subtitled "Fifty Reasons Why He Came to Die." Each reason is explained in two pages. We have two fiction novels set at the time of Christ, if you prefer reading fiction: ***I Came to Love You Late***, about the biblical Martha and ***AD 30***, a fiction story about a young Bedouin woman who unexpectedly meets Jesus. Lots of good movies are available related to Easter!

Two sets of donated children's Bible story books were added to our library: Ten volumes of ***The Bible Story***, by Arthur S. Maxwell and five volumes of ***My Bible Friends*** by Etta B. Degering. Books for the older elementary children have been moved to the center top shelves.

Two of our new books are for parents and teens. ***Permanent Markers: Spiritual Life Skills to Write on Your Kids' Hearts*** by Janel Breitenstein. Topics include identity, prayer, self-control, studying God's Word, community, service, and respecting authority. ***Pure Excitement: 3 Truths for Teens in a Time of Sexual Lies***, by Joe White, has four sections: *God Loves Us*; *God Designed Sex for Our Good*; *Challenges to Sexual Purity*; *God Can Help Us Stay Sexually Pure*. Written by a youth leader and "popular guest" on Focus on the Family radio broadcast.

These books will help your faith grow. ***Your God is Too Small*** by J.B. Phillips. This book explains how we can know a God who is "big enough to command our highest admiration and respect." ***Glory Hunger: God, the Gospel, and Our Quest for Something More*** by J.R. Vassar, asks the reader, "Whose glory are you seeking?" Pastor Steve recommended this book in our Wednesday Bible Study and from the pulpit one Sunday.

***The Amazing Grace of Freedom: The Inspiring Faith of William Wilberforce, the Slaves' Champion***, by Ted Baehr, Susan Wales, and Ken Wales, tells the story of how William Wilberforce, who was only 4 feet 10 inches tall, had significant influence in Great Britain. Because of his persistence and his joyful personality, Wilberforce exerted enough pressure on Parliament to end the slave trade and then slavery all together in the British Empire. That would have been enough to secure his place in history, but it was not all he did. This "giant of a man" also brought cultural change to Britain, especially among his corrupt, immoral, wealthy peers in Parliament. Read this book or watch the movie "***Amazing Grace***" to learn where his joy and drive for change came from. We now have both in our library.



- 1-Ava Lewis
- Reed Stengrim
- 3-Phyllis Gilbertson
- Hannah Motz
- 4-Gary Motz
- Terry Motz
- Benton Rossum
- Mya Braman
- 7-Jack Dillon
- Trisha Nord
- Aubrey Stoll
- Robin Swanson
- 10-Lori Craig
- Zachery Rossum
- Lainey Motz
- 11-Jordan Arntson
- 12-April Arntson
- 13-Darcie Hill
- Lois Bogenreif
- 16-Hailey Nord
- Avery Nehk
- 18-Carrie Peasley
- Alec Mavis
- 19-Cari Ripley
- Chuck Sonmor
- Payton Johnson
- 20-Nathan Ouren
- Stacie Scheer
- 22-Greg Anderson
- 22-Tonya Honrud
- 23-Philip Johnson
- Jordan Rasmusson
- 24-Duane Haiby
- Sam Ripley
- Kolby Spaeth
- 25-Caren Dillon
- Bethanie Skunberg
- 26-Devin Christianson
- 27-Mason Price
- 28-Samuel Rotz
- 30-MaKenzie Hams
- Samantha Milbeck
- Paislee Price

**May Gazette Deadline.....  
April 24th!**

Please join the Foundry for  
**Easter Sunday**  
**Sunrise Breakfast**  
following the 7:30 A.M.  
Sunrise Service

**Confirmation Sunday**  
April 26th at 10:00 A.M.

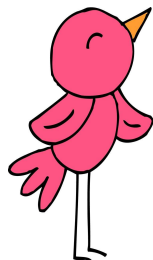


Thea Axness  
Avery Mansfield  
Owen Grunewald  
Ben Honrud  
Leah Ravenscraft  
Colton Hill  
Dawson Stoll

Grace 2026 High School Graduates

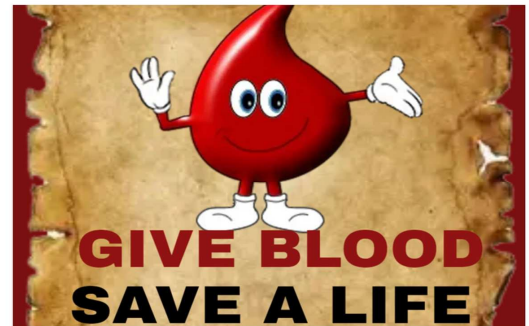
Hannah Nelson  
Mason Olson  
Easton Thorson  
Jackson Peasley  
Kendra Ross  
Lineah Thomas  
Elise Hasling

If a graduate was missed please let  
the office know!



# let April be

- A - Abide in God daily (John 15:4)
- P - Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- R - Rest in the Lord (Psalm 37:7)
- I - I can do all things in God (Philippians 4:13)
- L - Let the Lord lead the way (Proverbs 3:5-6)



**Grace Lutheran Church**

Tuesday  
April 7th, 2026  
12:00PM - 6:00PM

726 Fergus Ave  
Erhard, MN 56534

For an appointment, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)  
Or call or see DeAnn Melkert 701-640-3461

**Good Friday Service along with First Communion**

April 3rd at 6:30pm.

First Communion Students:

Haiden Dewey, and Jens Axness



# Grace Lutheran Church

## Mission of the Month

### Yancy Wifall

Yancy Wifall, age 46, of Pelican Rapids, MN, is the son of Wally and Audrey Wifall, and the nephew of Orlander and Karen Nelson, and Vernon and Connie Wifall.

In May 2023, Yancy was hospitalized after experiencing a dangerously rapid heart rate (A-Fib), reaching 194 beats per minute while at rest. Since then, he has been under the care of a cardiologist, with annual checkups each September. During a routine visit in September 2025, including an ultrasound of his heart, doctors initially reported that everything looked and sounded normal. However, just three days later, his doctor called back requesting further testing.

Over the following weeks, Yancy underwent extensive testing, including an EKG, echocardiogram, event recorder (TER), cardiac MRI, cardiac CT scan, and a left heart angiogram. These tests revealed that his aortic valve was severely leaking. Approximately 70% of the blood being pumped out of his left ventricle was flowing backward into his heart, preventing proper oxygen circulation.

Complicating matters further, Yancy was born with a ventricular septal defect—a hole between the two ventricles of his heart—causing abnormal blood flow between the high- and low-pressure chambers.

Due to the complexity of his condition, the first surgeon he consulted did not feel comfortable performing the procedure, noting limited experience with this type of defect. While the Mayo Clinic was suggested, Yancy ultimately sought a second opinion closer to home.

In October 2025, Yancy met with Dr. Roxanne Newman, who scheduled surgery for November 24, 2025. During a successful open-heart procedure, Dr. Newman repaired the hole in his heart and replaced the damaged valve with a mechanical one.

Yancy now faces a long recovery. Doctors estimated he would be unable to work for approximately three months to allow his breastbone to heal. He will also participate in eight weeks of cardiac rehabilitation to rebuild his strength and support his heart's recovery.

Any donations are greatly appreciated, and continued prayers mean so much to Yancy and his family during this time.



Just a little note from the secretary at Grace Lutheran Church this Easter season.

For quite some time, I've been wanting to share the lyrics of a song that has meant a great deal to me, along with a few thoughts about it. It's a song I first heard over 30 years ago, thanks to my dad. I've shared the video on my Facebook page and may also have posted it on Grace's Facebook page. I could share lots of lyrics and thoughts about songs from over my years of listening to gospel/hymnal music. I love music, especially old country gospel/hymnals and bluegrass!

When I was around 11 years old, my dad had an 8-track of Conway Twitty that I played often, along with several others—including a Charley Pride (Sunday Morning with Charley Pride). One song in particular always stuck with me: "The Third Man." Back then, I didn't think too deeply about it—I just enjoyed the sound and thought it was a pretty neat song.

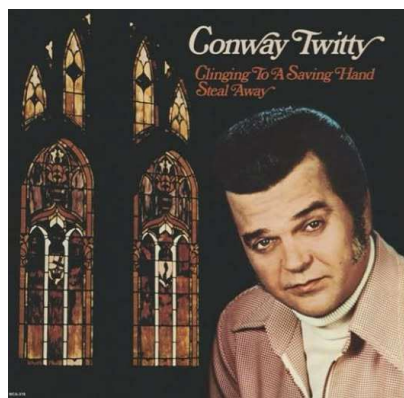
About 3 years ago, I was listening to old country gospel music while driving, when that same song came on. I remember thinking, "Wow, I haven't heard this in so long," and yet somehow, it had stayed with me all those years. As I drove down the road with the volume turned up, I really listened to the lyrics—and suddenly, it hit me in a completely different way. I got chills, and before I knew it, tears were rolling down my face.

The message of the song struck me deeply. I found myself overwhelmed by the reality that God gave His Son, and that Jesus Christ gave His life for us. That kind of love—the depth of it—is truly beyond understanding. It was then and still is today. And even more amazing is that God/Jesus Christ continue to love us so completely, even when we stray and go down the wrong paths in life.

This Easter season, I invite you to read through the lyrics I've included—and if you can, take a few moments to listen to the song as well, whether on YouTube, Pandora, or wherever you listen to your music from. I encourage you to close your eyes and simply take it all in. I truly believe that when you do, you feel the message even more deeply. I do this with a lot of songs actually!

Tiffany Nelson

\*This song is recorded by Loretta Lynn also, but I personally, as much as I love Loretta Lynn, prefer the Conway Twitty version. The original writers of this song were Frances Heighton, Don Helms and Teddy Wilburn. Loretta released the first version in 1965 on her album *Hymns*, while Conway released his version in 1973 on his album *Clinging to A Saving Hand*. (which I love by the way, great songs on there beside The Third Man).



### THE THIRD MAN

Last night, I dreamed I took a walk  
on Calvary's lonely hill.  
The things I saw with my own eyes,  
could not have been more real.

I saw upon three crosses,  
three men in agony.  
Two cried out for mercy,  
and the third Man looked at me.

Oh the hurt in this Man's eyes,  
just broke my heart in two  
And it seems I could hear Him say,  
"Child, I'm doing this for you."

I knelt beneath the third Man's cross,  
and slowly bowed my head.  
I reached out to touch His feet  
and it stained my hands with red.

When I heard Him cry out in pain,  
I raised my eyes to see  
The blood spilled from the third Man's side,  
and some spilled out on me.

The third Man wore a crown of thorns;  
spikes held Him to the tree.  
And I heard Him say, "Oh God, My God!  
Why hast Thou forsaken me?"

There within the mighty crowd,  
the ones who mocked Him cried,  
"King save Thou self if Thou art The King,"  
and then the third Man died.

Suddenly I heard the thunder roll,  
saw lightning pierce the sky.  
The third Man was still hanging there,  
and I began to cry.

I saw the boulders fall and heard  
the breaking of the ground  
Then I awoke and thought I'd dreamed,  
I touched my cheek and found,

My eyes were wet where I had cried,  
the dream I wish I knew.

I still can hear the third Man say,  
"I'm doing this for you."



# April

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SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

## Repentance & Renewal

Day 1: II Corinthians 6:1-2

Day 2: Revelation 3:19-22

Day 3: Ephesians 5:8

Day 4: Hebrews 10:16-17

Day 5: Philippians 1:3-6

Day 6: Galatians 6:1-5

Day 7: II Peter 3:13-14

Day 8: II Timothy 1:12-13

Day 9: Philippians 3:13-14

Day 10: James 5:16

Day 11: James 5:19-20

Day 12: II John 9

Day 13: I John 3:1-3

Day 14: II Corinthians 6:16-18

Day 15: Hebrews 7:25-27

Day 16: II Corinthians 7:9-10

Day 17: I John 2:28

Day 18: I Corinthians 13:11-12

Day 19: I John 1:5-10

Day 20: Hebrews 12:1-3

Day 21: Titus 3:3-7

Day 22: I Peter 1:22-23

Day 23: I Timothy 1:14-17

Day 24: Ephesians 6:11

Day 25: Hebrews 2:1-4

Day 26: II Corinthians 13:5

Day 27: Ephesians 2:1-7

Day 28: Ephesians 2:8-10

Day 29: I Peter 3:10-12



Day 30: Luke 15:20-24

*Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to meditate and reflect on God's Word.  
Write down what you have gleaned from each day's scripture.*

*The Ruffled Mango*

2026

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		31	01	02	03	04
			6:00 PM: Choir Practice		6:30 PM: Good Friday & First Communion Worship	12:00PM: Grace Youth prepping for Easter Breakfast with a Pizza Party
<b>HAPPY HOLY WEEK</b> (March 30th-April 6th)						
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
<b>7:30 AM:</b> Sunrise Easter Worshipw/Holy Communion <b>8:30 AM:</b> Easter Breakfast <b>No SS, Confirmation or Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM:</b> Worshipw/Holy Communion <b>~Happy Easter!</b>		12:00-6:00 PM: Blood Drive	<b>9:00 AM:</b> Bible Study with Pr. Steve, Prayer Fellowship following <b>7:00PM-8:30PM:</b> Youth Group meet			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>9:00:</b> Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study <b>10:00 AM:</b> Worship followed by Fellowship	<b>9:00 AM:</b> Quilters will meet Monday and Tuesday with Potluck		<b>9:00 AM:</b> Bible Study with Pr. Steve, Prayer Fellowship following <b>6:00 PM:</b> Choir Practice <b>7:00PM-8:30PM:</b> Youth Group meet	<b>9:00 AM:</b> GLW meets		
		6:00 PM: Council meets				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>9:00:</b> Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study <b>10:00 AM:</b> Worship followed by Fellowship	<b>9:30 AM:</b> Women's Bible Study at Rachel Ronnevik's		<b>9:00 AM:</b> Bible Study with Pr. Steve, Prayer Fellowship following <b>6:00 PM:</b> Choir Practice <b>7:00PM-8:30PM:</b> Youth Group meet		<b>Gazette Deadline</b>	
						
26	27	28	29	30		02
<b>9:00:</b> Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study <b>10:00 AM:</b> <b>CONFIRMATION</b> Worship			<b>9:00 AM:</b> Bible Study with Pr. Steve, Prayer Fellowship following <b>6:00 PM:</b> Choir Practice <b>7:00PM-8:30PM:</b> Youth Group meet			