



Grace Lutheran Church of Erhard(LCMC)

PO Box 10

Erhard, MN 56534

May

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 (September-May)

Morning Bible Study: Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Grace Choir: Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. during school year

The Foundry (Youth Group) Gatherings: Meets every Wednesday night 7:00-8:30 p.m. (unless otherwise specified).

Demas

Imagine you are on a game show such as Jeopardy. It's the final question, for the win, "Who is Demas?" Obviously, you have some context, some sort of topic or heading for the question, so you know it was in the context of biblical literature or obscure Bible characters. Do you know who Demas was? Does that name resonate with you? Do you have any recollection of hearing him in Sunday school or sermons from years gone by?

The question is not to make you feel bad, certainly not to belittle anyone, rather a sales pitch of sorts. The encouragement is for us to continue to dig into the Scriptures. Every day is a unique gift because it gives us an opportunity to mine the precious metals of God's word. Demas is just one example of many Bible characters who are given to us as an example of the dangers of unbelief.

The story begins innocently enough; Demas is listed three separate times in the biblical corpus. The first listing is mentioned at the end of Paul's letter in Colossians 4:14. In customary Paul's fashion, at the end of many of his letters, he has a list of people he wants to thank and greet. He serves as a messenger between the recipients of his letters and other people from other places where he has conducted ministry. These greetings are nestled right at the end of this great Christological centerpiece of the New Testament. Paul offers this quote, "Luke the beloved physician (author of the gospel that bears his name) and Demas greet you." (Colossians 4:14). A simple gleaning of the text allows us to conclude that Demas is one of many Christ-followers scattered all throughout Asia minor. He is at some level conversant with the Colossians and perhaps has either been there or has interacted with some members of the congregation.

Next, we find another listing of his name in one of the micro-Epistles of the NT. Philemon, a type of "postcard Epistle" of the New Testament has only one chapter. The occasion for this letter is a little bit different from Colossians or any other prison letters because here Paul is writing to an individual named Philemon over the issue of slavery. Instead of a letter like Galatians, Ephesians, or Colossians, that cover multiple mission issues, this letter speaks on one main topic. However, the concept of greeting remains the same because now we can find ourselves having Paul passing along greetings from Demas to the recipient of this letter. A little chronological work shows Colossians was written in the middle of the first century, probably between the years of 55 and 60. Philemon would be after that first period but certainly in the early part of the 60s. We can draw a tragic chronology about the spiritual pedigree of this man named Demas as he goes from believer to non-believer.

The last contribution of Demas to the New Testament is found in 2 Timothy 4:10. To finish the thought on the chronology, it is readily understood that 2 Timothy is the second letter of Paul to a young pastor by that name. It is one, if not the last, letter written by the apostle to make it into the New Testament. We would date it very late in the 60s, presumably not past the year 70. It is a watershed moment in first century Palestinian history because that's when the Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. With this chronology, we have two occurrences of Demas as a faithful Christ

follower passing along greetings to fellow Christians. Then we find in the last citation a tragic footnote in the personal biographical spiritual history. The pattern is the same. Paul is again drawing this epistle to a conclusion by offering some greetings and passing along encouragement, but here in verse 10 he says, "Do your best to come to me soon." Meaning he wants Timothy to visit him physically in a timely fashion. He then goes on to mention, almost in passing, that Demas, "in love with this present world has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica." This is an example of a timeless spiritual question. The question is can someone lose their salvation? First, I don't like the question. I would rather ask a question like: Can someone embrace the promises of Christianity in one season of their life and then disavow that same promise? To say that we can lose our salvation has the connotation that God is somehow careless with you and your soul or you can lose your salvation like you lose your car keys or your reading glasses. The proof text for this is in Hebrews 6:4-6. The author of the book of Hebrews uses an incredible phrase when he says that it is impossible to restore those who have tasted of the heavenly gifts, those who have been enlightened, shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God, the powers of the age to come, and yet have fallen away. Please consider the implication of this, speaking here of those who have encountered the goodness of the word of God, the power of heaven, and have interacted with the very spirit of God, and yet have relinquished the promise. This appears to be the state of Demas. He was a contemporary of the Apostle Paul and had certainly interacted with many apostles, prophets, and teachers. He had adequate exposure to the goodness and love of God through his word. There is a legacy of Trinitarian power on display as well as a foretaste of the Heavenly Kingdom itself. But Paul mentions in Second Timothy, it appeared that Demas was more in love with his present world than the world to come. The apostle John would reiterate this in the second chapter of First John when he warns his readers "not to fall in love with this present world." I think there's a valuable takeaway lesson here for us to be "in the world, but not of the world" and to recognize the transient nature of life. All life is fleeting, or as James would say, "Life is a vapor" (4:14). The great call is to "Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." It is not to love this world. This appears to me to be a wonderful antidote to the many problems we face. It's as if God has placed a wonderful countermeasure in his preservation of our faith by encouraging us to not love this world but to keep our love and fidelity exclusively to him. The result is eternal life. Praise be to God!

4 Him,
Pastor Steve



Grace Lutheran Church Unapproved council meeting minutes April 14, 2026

Present: Jeff Carlson, Shelly Fresonke, Duane Haiby, Jim Klitzke, DeAnn Melkert, Phyllis Rossow, Brady Stadum, and Rick Drevlow. Also present was Pastor Steve and Becky Hoeper. Absent: Karen Rossum.

President Rick Drevlow called the meeting to order, and our mission statement was read in unison:

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

Pastor Steve led devotions, based on Joshua 24:1, and prayer including for Roger and Karen Rossum.

The agenda was approved as presented.

Becky Hoeper gave an update on The Foundry youth group. She thanked those who built the carpet ball game for the youth room. The youth group remains small, and she is working to increase participation, including from parents who aren't responding to her attempts to communicate with them. She noted that most of the parents don't attend this church. She is trying to excite the youth and plans to offer them a summer camping experience at Camp Joy, at a lesser cost than Inspiration Point. Haiby moved to provide camp fees for all youth who would attend. Klitzke seconded this motion, which carried unanimously on vote.

Pastor Steve's report included several personal contacts and pastoral care visits.

- He recommended that seven students be confirmed on April 26: Thea Axness, Owen Grunewald, Colton Hill, Ben Honrud, Avery Mansfield, Leah Ravenscraft, and Dawsen Stoll.
- He reported that LCMC and its Augustana District, of which our church is a member, has requested a core team of four individuals from our congregation to participate in its Momentum Network. This is a project of the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) seminary at Brookings, South Dakota, whose purpose is to address the pastor shortage. Earlier, members of Grace were asked to complete an online survey as part of this project. Pastor Steve asked for volunteers for the core group, and this item was tabled until the May council meeting.
- He also reported that six members of Grace would attend the Augustana District men's retreat on April 18.

The treasurer's reports were reviewed and filed for audit following Haiby's motion and Stadum's second. March 2026 income was \$34,097.36; expenses totaled \$17,564.99. Kari Ripley received \$1,222.50 as Mission of the Month for March.

The secretary's report of the March 10 council meeting was reviewed and approved on vote following Klitzke's motion and Haiby's second.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Our commitment to evangelism and outreach continues with our church's recent arrangement with a church at Adams, North Dakota. This small congregation is without a pastor and will worship remotely with our congregation as long as necessary.

- Pastor Steve reported that preparations for Vacation Bible School are progressing under direction of the committee that includes Pastor Steve, Tiffany Nelson, and Curt Cardwell. This year's VBS theme, based on 1 Timothy 4:12, is Speech, Life, Love, Faith, Purity.
- Carlson reported that he had researched security cameras for our church and that 4k cameras would cost about \$225 each. Council authorized him to purchase what he determined were the best units and to arrange for their installation. This agenda item was tabled until the May meeting.
- Stadum reported that he had secured a donation of a television for the youth room, he needs to purchase a wall mount and some means of protecting the TV from errant game activity. The council directed him to purchase what he needs, and this item was tabled until the May council meeting.
- Haiby reported that the March 28 Men's Ham Dinner was a success with 283 meals served, netting \$3,385. All groceries were donated except the ham, which costed \$206.32. Advertising in the Pelican Press cost \$60. Half of the proceeds were designated to the Carpet Fund and half to Judy Smude's Thailand mission.
- Melkert reported a successful April 7 Red Cross blood drive with 44 units collected.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Klitzke reported that he had cleared some file space in the church office and in the music cabinet in the chapel by moving several boxes of materials to storage in the church basement. He noted that the original plans for the church building need to be stored securely. He also reported that Ole Nelson, of the Bagstevold Cemetery Board, had notified him that the building at the cemetery has fallen into disrepair and would be demolished.
- Matthew Nelson, son of the Late Reverend Ron Nelson, wants to donate a painting of the old Grace church building that his grandmother had painted while his father was pastor of this congregation from 1980-1982. Rossow reported that she had contacted Nelson for specifics. After sharing the photo of the painting that was sent, the council decided unanimously to accept the painting. Matthew, who had attended Sunday School at Grace and now is an aerospace engineering professor at Iowa State University at Ames, pilots his own plane and volunteered to deliver the painting after completing his classroom duties.

Drevlow volunteered to be the council liaison with the Bagstevold Cemetery Board and will work, perhaps with an attorney, to obtain nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status to facilitate donations.

Mission of the Month for May will be Zach Bohn, In Memory of his wife Kenzie and babygirl Posey and June's Mission of the Month will be Bryon Koch per motion by Stadum, seconded by Melkert, and carried unanimously on vote. Mission of the Month for April is Yancy Wifall, who underwent open heart surgery.

Next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel. Rossow will be usher for the month of May.

Carlson moved to adjourn, Klitzke seconded the motion, and this meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Phyllis Rossow, Acting Secretary.

The GLW Minutes

April 16, 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.

- ◆ We want to thank Sandy Sundblad for the flowers by the front doors. They are beautiful!
- ◆ The VBS committee is working on having VBS July 21-25 3:30pm to 6:00pm. Time is not yet confirmed, but that's the thought.
- ◆ May 10th, Seniors will receive their quilts and Sunday School ends May 10th also.
- ◆ May 18th at 5:00pm Weed and Feed will meet.

Next Meeting is May 21, 2026

Thank you to Sandy and Cindy for the great brunch.

Volunteers for May are Renae S. and Karen N. serving.

Birthday and birthday song, offering and offering song.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sheila Ouren, Secretary



Treasurer Report

March 2026

<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income: \$34,117.36	Income: \$56,419.45
Expenses: \$15,964.99	Expenses: \$41,828.96

Submitted by Rick Drevlow

MAY LIBRARY CORNER -by Paulette Haddock

What images come to mind when you think of your mother, grandmother, or great-grandmother? What are your favorite memories of a significant woman in your life?

I think of my mother's laugh. She loved to talk and to laugh, and she enjoyed a good joke—even if it was played on her. I remember her telling us stories. She seemed to know every fairy tale and short story ever written. She knew folk songs, too. I think of her kneeling by our bed and teaching us the "goodnight" prayer. "Now I lay me down to sleep . . ." Night after night, the routine was the same until we became teens, then she would ask, "Did you remember to say your prayers?" I remember her playing games with us, like Monopoly, checkers, or croquet. She even climbed the hills along the Mississippi River and skipped rocks with us, while dad laid on the quilt, read the Sunday paper, and watched our picnic stuff. Mom was always ready for fun! She enjoyed helping us make crafts and costumes for Halloween and Christmas plays at school or church. She helped us with homework, and she taught us to help with the housework. Sweets were her delight. I remember taffy pulls, homemade popcorn balls, and rich fudge. She loved to make pretty cakes. Mom even made a cousin's wedding cake! Mom sewed most of our clothes, and she taught us to sew when we were young children. My brother and dad even sewed! She helped dad with yardwork, and when we lived on the farm she also helped in the barn and field. Mom was a woman of many skills! Your mother probably is, or was, also.

Offer a prayer of thanks today for the significant women in your life. If they are still alive, let them know why you love and appreciate them.

On our library display shelves during May, you will find books about and for mothers. There are devotionals for women and children (***A Mother's Daily Prayer Book*** and ***Family Time Story Devotions***), parenting help books (***Five Love Languages of Children*** and ***How to Talk Confidently with Your Child about Sex***), books of godly wisdom (***Shepherding a Child's Heart*** and ***Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World***), and many story books you can read to young children were donated this month. (More can be found on the lowest shelves.) For yourself, moms, we have ***Chicken Soup for the Soul*** story collections.

Happy Mother's Day and Happy Reading!



- 2 Carol Nygaard
- 5 Lindy Motz
- 6 Jessica Metzger
- 7 Christopher Bilden
- Harrison Viger
- 12 Jeremy Winkels
- Alex Bullis
- Erica Bullis
- 13 Luke Mostue
- 14 Joshua Sundblad
- 16 Ron Stadum
- John Jenson
- 17 Brady Stadum
- Rockie Weston
- 19 Karrie Ouren
- 20 Joyce Kubitz
- 22 Lily Monson
- Dax Haiby
- 23 Easton Thorson
- 24 Emma Nelson
- 25 Janice Harthun
- McKenzie Spaeth
- 27 Oakley Carlson
- 28 Wallace Grunewald
- Charlie Mavis
- 29 Karlea Field
- Nels Nelson
- 30 Sandy Mann
- Allison Jessen
- 31 Connor Nelson
- Eli Milbeck
- Braden Thorson
- Joe Stenger

CLASS OF
2026
CONGRATULATIONS

Hannah Nelson
Mason Olson
Easton Thorson
Jackson Peasley
Kendra Ross
Linea Thomas
Elisse Hasling

I can do all this
through him who
gives me strength.

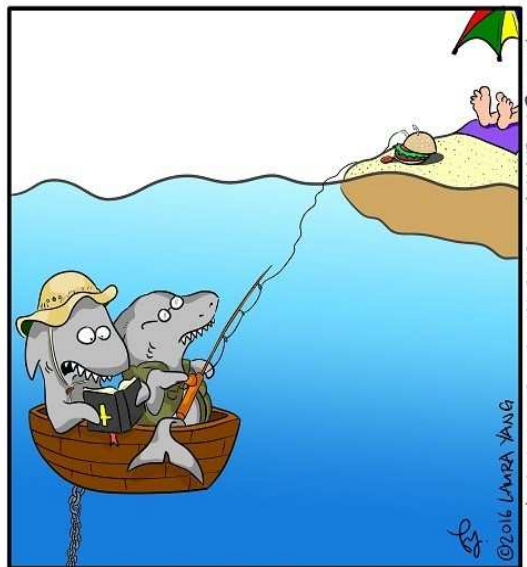
Philippians 4:13

Last day of Sunday School May
10th along with Kids singing during
Church Service!



High School Seniors
will be presented quilts
Sunday, May 11th, 10:00 AM
Worship

Yin + Yangster by Laura Yang



"Somewhere in here Jesus says
he'll make us fishers of men."

"Our flag does not
fly because the wind
moves it. It flies with
the last breath of each
soldier who died
protecting it."

— UNKNOWN



**June Gazette Deadline.....
May 22nd!**

Mason Olson



Reception
Saturday, May 29rd, 2026
11 am - 4 pm
Grace Lutheran Church
726 Fergus Ave. N., US Hwy 59
Erhard, MN 56534



Blood Drive!

I want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to each and every one of you who participated in our recent blood drive on Tuesday April 7th.

Whether you donated blood, volunteered your time, helped spread the work, your generosity and compassion truly made a difference. Thanks to your efforts, we were able to collect 44 units of blood.

Blood donation is a powerful act of kindness, and your willingness to give has had a direct and meaningful impact on our community. I am so grateful for your support and hope to see you at our next event on Tuesday August 18th.

DeAnn Melkert
Blood Drive Coordinator

FISHING LURE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

— MATTHEW 4:19 NIV

Grace Lutheran Church

Mission of the Month

In Memory of

Kenzie & Posey Bohn

Kenzie Bohn of Fargo, North Dakota, originally from Underwood, Minnesota, was 33 weeks pregnant when she unexpectedly suffered a sudden cardiac arrest at home. Her husband, Zach, immediately began performing CPR and continued until paramedics arrived. While enroute to the hospital, first responders were able to restore her pulse. Upon arrival, Kenzie was rushed into emergency surgery for a cesarean section. Doctors delivered baby Posey within two minutes. Posey required resuscitation efforts at birth, a heartbeat was successfully established. Both Kenzie and Posey were intubated for several days as medical teams conducted extensive testing. Throughout the week, physicians closely monitored both patients. The primary concern was the unknown duration of oxygen deprivation they may have experienced despite prompt CPR and intervention. Tragically, the family later received the devastating news they had feared. Plans were made to allow loved ones time to gather and say their goodbyes.

On the evening of Sunday, April 5, 2026, Kenzie and Posey passed away peacefully together.

Kenzie was truly one of a kind—bubbly, outgoing, and the life of every room she entered. She had a remarkable ability to make others feel welcomed, valued, and loved. Her laughter was contagious, and her spirit will be remembered by all who knew her. Kenzie worked as an independent cosmetologist and had a passion for cooking, baking, traveling, and spending time with family.

Kenzie and Zach were eagerly anticipating the arrival of their first child, making this loss especially heartbreaking for Zach, family and friends.

Donations will help cover medical expenses and funeral costs, while also providing Zach with the time and support he needs to grieve without the added burden of financial stress.




Donations can also be sent to the bank in Underwood (checks & cash accepted) or on Grace's Website for Mission of the Month giving.

Checks can be made out and sent to the Bohn/Woodman Family Benefit at:

Farmers State Bank
PO BOX 247
Underwood, MN 56586



*If you are unable to donate, please say prayers for Zach and the rest of Kenzie's family. Thank you!

2026		MAY				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
9:00 AM: Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship with Holy Communion followed by Fellowship	9:00 AM: Womens Bible Study at Rachel Ronneviks		9:00 AM: Morning Bible Study w/Pastor Steve, Prayer Group to follow 6:00 PM: Grace Choir 7:00-8:30 PM: Grace Youth Meet			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 AM: Last Day of Sunday School 10:00 AM: Worship with Sunday School kids singing, and Senior Recognition followed by Fellowship Happy Mother's Day!		6:00 PM: Church Council meets	9:00 AM: Morning Bible Study w/Pastor Steve, Prayer Group to follow 6:00 PM: Grace Choir 7:00-8:30 PM: Grace Youth Meet			Hall Reserved all day for Mia Rivers Graduation(Nicole) 
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 AM: Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship	9:00 AM: Womens Bible Study at Rachel Ronneviks 5:00 PM: Weed & Feed		9:00 AM: Morning Bible Study w/Pastor Steve, Prayer Group to follow 6:00 PM: Grace Choir 7:00-8:30 PM: Grace Youth Meet	9:00 AM: GLW meets	Fellowship Hall reserved for Mason Olson's Open House. All day the 23rd, set-up the 22nd Gazette Deadline	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 AM: Last Day of Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship			9:00 AM: Morning Bible Study w/Pastor Steve, Prayer Group to follow 6:00 PM: Grace Choir 7:00-8:30 PM: Grace Youth Meet		Fellowship Hall reserved for Hannah Nelson's Open House. All day the 30th, set-up the 29th.	
31	01	02	03	04	05	06