



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

PO Box 10

Erhard, MN 56534

June

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 the school year)

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

**The Foundry (Youth Group) Gatherings:** Wednesdays at 7:00-8:30p.m.

## The Great Promise

Welcome, once again to the season of “The Ascension!” You made it! Or perhaps I should say you have arrived, because the grace of God has delivered you to this moment. Nestled toward the end of the Easter season, normally right before Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, the Church has traditionally celebrated the Ascension. Maybe you have witnessed churches who observe a separate worship service, customarily on a Thursday evening for the purpose of remembering the ascension. On other occasions, it is incorporated into a Sunday morning worship service. The reality is, this is another important component of the Christian life, this is incredibly valuable because of the implication for us.

Luke concludes his Gospel with ascension at the end of chapter 24 verse 49. He tells us, in the words of Jesus, that he is sending the promise of his father upon his followers. The implication for us is the Great Promise of the Gospel. The complete forgiveness of sin, new life forged through faith, and the gifting of immortality are all being sent to us as Jesus is on the cusp of ascending back to the Father’s right hand. The necessity of the ascension, without Jesus coming full circle so to speak, means there is no Great Promise. The Great Promise of the Gospel is predicated on all elements of the passion story. To use the language of the book of Acts, in the first chapter, as the disciples minus Judas are about to call a new apostle to take his place. The litmus test for any disciple was that they witnessed the totality of the ministry of Christ beginning with verse 22 of the first chapter. Peter in his Pentecost sermon states that one of the events that proves that Jesus is the Messiah is the ascension. Here, using language saturated in the language of the theology of ascension, Peter draws emphasis to the ascension as the means by which God ratifies all that Christ had accomplished. The Great Promise is completed by Jesus being born in human likeness, living a life we couldn’t live, and then dying a death that we were supposed to die. Jesus was living in active righteousness every single day of his earthly existence. Finally, being falsely accused, convicted, and then executed. That execution was done exclusively for the remission of all human sin. Then to descend to the very depths of hell to proclaim liberty to the captives, only to be resurrected on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. But a resurrected Christ cannot stay on earth. The language of John 14, the mission of the resurrected Christ, is to ascend back to the Father’s right hand so that he can make a place for us in heaven. Moreover, the heavenly intercession of Jesus is pictured as one who is at the Father’s right hand praying for us, Hebrews 7:25.

In conclusion, in one of many incredible passages pertaining to the ascension, Jesus offers this as a joyous exchange within the fellowship of the Trinity. John 16:7 tells us, “Truly I tell you, when I go, I will send the Advocate (The Holy Spirit).” (ESV) He goes on to say that this is to our collective advantage. It’s as if the world is not big enough for both the son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus states that unless he (Jesus) ascends to Heaven, the Holy Spirit cannot come. But, because the ascension really happened, then the Holy Spirit has come! He has come as your advocate, as your eternal support for all the trials of life and an everlasting help in times of trouble. Thanks be to God for the ministry of the Holy Spirit for us.

4 Him,  
Pastor Steve

## Grace Lutheran Church Unapproved council meeting minutes May 12, 2026

President Rick Drevlow called to order the regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council.

Other council members present were Jeff Carlson, Shelly Fresonke, Duane Haiby, Jim Klitzke, DeAnn Melkert, Phyllis Rossow, and Brady Stadum; council member Karen Rossum was absent.

Pastor Steve Walswick also was in attendance. Our church's mission statement was read in unison:

*Grace Lutheran Church 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.*

Pastor Steve led devotions, based on 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, and prayer including for Roger and Karen Rossum.

The agenda was approved with one addition.

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

- He plans to start meeting with church staff to better help them with their mission.
- He had two volunteers, in addition to himself, who have agreed to serve on our congregation's core team on the LCMC Augustana District's 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. He is seeking another volunteer.

Following discussion, the treasurer's reports were filed for audit following Klitzke's motion and Haiby's second. As of April 30, 2026, cash and various bank accounts totaled \$406,381.62. April income was \$18,517.31; expenses totaled \$16,321.29. Yancy Wifall received \$721 as Mission of the Month for April. Drevlow reminded the council that a large insurance premium soon would be due.

The secretary's report of the April 14 council meeting was reviewed and, with several corrections, approved unanimously following Haiby's motion and Carlson's second.

### **Old business:**

- Our church's commitment to evangelism and outreach continues.
- Pastor Steve reported that preparations continue for Vacation Bible School, which will take place the week of July 21.
- Carlson reported that he'd had one vendor look at our church's situation regarding security cameras, but he had not received a quote.
- Stadum reported that he had located a company that could supply plexiglass protection for the youth room television for approximately \$500. The TV will be

donated for the youth room after the size is selected. Stadum suggested a 65-inch TV, and the council agreed.

- Klitzke reported that he had contacted Emma Rasmusson, who is an architect, regarding preserving our church building's original blueprints. She agreed to digitize those blueprints. Council discussed obtaining a plastic tote for the paper blueprints and storing them in the church basement. He also reported that he, with assistance from Jeanete Ripley and Cheryl Rotz, had emptied two file drawers in the church office and transferred the contents to the basement.
- Drevlow reported that he had referred obtaining nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status to Curt Cardwell, who serves on the Bagstevold Cemetery Board, noting that the Board must adhere to Minnesota statutes pertaining to human remains and proper financial reporting.

### **New business**

- Haiby volunteered to represent our church council on the LCMC Augustana District's Momentum Network.
- With Drevlow serving as council liaison to the Bagstevold Cemetery Board, Melkert will be council liaison to the Fundraising Committee.
- Following discussion, the council agreed that our church should have a float in the Erhard July 4 parade to advertise Vacation Bible School. Pastor Steve will ask for volunteers from the congregation to make this happen.
- Because Ruby's Pantry has disbanded, the council recommended that our church newsletter include information regarding pre-made meals and a food bank that will be available at Hilltop Celebration Church in Fergus Falls beginning in June.

Mission of the Month for June will be Bryon Koch, a custodian in the Pelican Rapids school system, who is being treated for bladder cancer.

Following discussion, the council agreed that Mission of the Month for July will be Lisa Emery, whose rural Erhard home and all its contents burned; Mission of the Month for August will be Amanda Grover of Barnesville, whose pancreas must be removed. Mission of the Month for May is Zach Bohn in memory of his wife Kenzie and infant daughter Posey.

Next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 6 P.M. in the chapel. Klitzke will be usher for the month of June.

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

Phyllis Rossow, Acting Secretary

June Library Corner by Paulette Haddock

Happy Father's Day, June 21!

Are you a man who trusts in the LORD? If you do, the Bible says you are "Blessed." (Jeremiah 17:7.) It also says you are "Blessed" if you have many children. (Psalm 127:4-5.) Children often learn more by watching how you live your daily life, than from your words. I love this quote by Dr. Charles Stanley: "You cannot live a godly life with a closed Bible." Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, mentors: How often do you open your Bible? How often do your children see you in prayer? How do you interact with their mother and with them?

We have some great books for your growth and entertainment. I have moved many of them to the shelves by fellowship hall. Often the comments on the book cover help me decide whether to read a book or not, so I have included some of those to entice you.

Books for fathers include ***A Dad After God's Own Heart***, by Jim George "Becoming the father your kids need" and ***Fathered by God***, by John Eldredge "Learning what your dad could never teach you." There are two books about prayer: ***Prayer***, by O. Hallesby "A world famous classic to deepen and enrich your prayer life" and ***Prayer***, by Timothy Keller "Experiencing awe and intimacy with God." Do you have a skeptic in the family? These books may help: ***Letters from a Skeptic***, by Dr. Gergory Boyd and Edward Boyd "A son wrestles with his father's questions about Christianity" and ***The Case for Christ***, by Lee Strobel, "A journalist's personal investigation of the evidence for Jesus." Do you want to grow closer to God? ***Your God is too Small***, by J.B. Phillips "A guide for believers and skeptics alike" and ***Wild at Heart***, by John Eldredge "Discovering the secret of a man's soul" may be for you. Here is a good reminder of your marriage commitment: ***I Promise***, by Dr. Gary Smalley "How 5 commitments determine the destiny of your marriage."

I find the lives of real people are better than fiction and can teach what we call "life lessons." Here are some interesting ones from our library. These three men took a stand for Christ and put their lives in jeopardy: ***Here I Stand***, by Roland H. Bainton "The most readable Luther biography in English," ***Tortured for Christ***, by Richard Wurmbrand "The book that shocked the world," and ***Bruchko***, by Bruce E. Olson "The astonishing story of a 19-year-old youth's capture by stone age Indians—and his adventures in Christianizing the Motilone tribe." The next two men held positions in the U.S. government after overcoming difficulties when they were young. ***Mornings on Horseback***, by David McCullough "the story of an extraordinary family, a vanished way of life, and the unique child who became Theodore Roosevelt," and ***Gifted Hands***, by Ben Carson, M.D. "The remarkable surgeon who gives children a second chance at life." Pastor Don Piper and football legend Tony Dungy served Christ wherever they were: ***90 minutes in Heaven*** by Don Piper "A true story of death and life," and ***Quiet Strength***, by Tony Dungy "The principles, practices, & priorities of a winning life." The final two are men whose lives were radically changed by Christ! ***Son of Hamas***, by Mosab Hassan Yousef "A gripping account of terror, betrayal, political intrigue, and unthinkable choices" and ***Unbroken***, by Laura Hillenbrand "A World War II story of survival, resilience, and redemption"

If you would rather read fiction, the books of Joel C. Rosenberg, a Christian Jew, are political thrillers. He has written about the Middle East, Russia, and Iran. These are a few we have: ***The Last Jihad*** "The eerily prophetic New York Times bestseller that predicted an attack on the U.S. and the war in Iraq. . .but was written before any of it happened." ***The Last Days*** "a heart-pounding, edge of your seat roller coaster ride. . ."

So intertwined with modern events, it's scary." Sean Hannity. **Dead Heat** "The stage is set for war. . . Oil prices are surging to record highs. . . China is threatening Taiwan. . . North Korean forces are ready to strike south." **Without Warning**, "Last night, enemies of the United States unleashed a cruel and cowardly attack." **The Persian Gamble** "Rosenberg cranks up the suspense, delivering his most stunning, high-stakes thriller yet."

I also brought out some "**Chicken Soup for the Soul**" story collections if you prefer to read short stories to encourage or make you laugh. Here are some great movies. Many are biographies and some are fiction with a Christian message. **Life Without Limbs** #38 "From no limbs to no limits," **Robber of the Cruel Streets** #4 "The prayerful life of George Muller," **The Pistol** #58 "The amazing true childhood story of Pete Maravich," and **Eric Liddell: Champion of Conviction** #146 "Placing himself at God's disposal, he first won Olympic gold, then later won many hearts for the Lord in China" are biographies. These are based on true events: **Woodlawn: The True Story** #51 "A combination of Remember the Titans, Facing the Giants, and Rudy" and **Radio** #182 "Inspired by a true story. . . His courage made them champions." The last two movies are fictional stories that have a spiritual message: **Fireproof** #20 "Never leave your partner behind," and "When worldviews collide, sometimes it becomes **A Matter of Faith**" #88.



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

Monday, July 20 through Thursday, July 23

4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Grades K-6

To help the planning committee prepare for this event, we would like to get an idea of how many children will be attending to aid in planning for food, needed teachers & helpers. If your child is interested please contact the church by calling 218-842-5205 or emailing at [glclcmc@gmail.com](mailto:glclcmc@gmail.com) include your name, child's name, age, and contact information. There will be registration forms at the church also. VBS is open to the community. There is no fee to attend.

If you have some time and feel moved to help out with the VBS (parent, grandparent, high school student, etc.) contact Pastor Steve!

## Treasurer Report

April 2026

### Monthly

**Income:** \$10,517.31

**Expenses:** \$16,321.29

### Year to Date

**Income:** \$74,916.76

**Expenses:** \$59,750.25

May GLW minutes will be added into the July Gazette. There is no GLW meeting in July 2026.

# Inscribe the Word FOR KIDS!

THE PROMISES OF GOD SERIES

## GOD'S PROMISES FOR JUNE!!

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Ecclesiastes 11:1  | <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Psalm 128:5       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Nahum 1:13         | <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Matthew 13:12     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Habakkuk 3:19      | <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Deuteronomy 20:4  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Malachi 3:17       | <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Isaiah 33:10      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Exodus 11:7        | <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Psalm 119:80      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Psalm 6:9          | <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Psalm 23:4        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. John 10:28         | <input type="checkbox"/> 21. Judges 4:9        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. James 1:8          | <input type="checkbox"/> 22. Proverbs 10:27    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Zephaniah 3:12     | <input type="checkbox"/> 23. 2 Kings 19:34     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Zephaniah 3:13    | <input type="checkbox"/> 24. 2 Chronicles 25:9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Isaiah 54:4a      | <input type="checkbox"/> 25. John 1:51         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Deuteronomy 33:28 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26. James 5:8         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Isaiah 27:3       | <input type="checkbox"/> 27. Psalm 140:13      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14. 1 Samuel 12:22    | <input type="checkbox"/> 28. Judges 6:14       |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> 29. Jeremiah 33:3     |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> 30. Ezekiel 16:60     |

JUNE SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

## June

- Day 1: John 15:5
- Day 2: Colossians 2:6-7
- Day 3: Galatians 5:22-23
- Day 4: 2 Peter 3:18
- Day 5: Ephesians 4:15
- Day 6: Psalm 1:1-3
- Day 7: Isaiah 61:11
- Day 8: Romans 5:3-4
- Day 9: 1 Corinthians 3:6-7
- Day 10: Philippians 1:6
- Day 11: James 1:2-4
- Day 12: Hebrews 6:1
- Day 13: 1 Peter 2:2-3
- Day 14: Psalm 92:12-14
- Day 15: Proverbs 4:18
- Day 16: Matthew 13:23
- Day 17: Romans 12:2
- Day 18: 2 Corinthians 4:16
- Day 19: Colossians 1:10
- Day 20: Philippians 3:12-14
- Day 21: Hosea 6:3
- Day 22: Hebrews 5:12-14
- Day 23: Isaiah 40:31
- Day 24: Psalm 119:105
- Day 25: 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- Day 26: Galatians 6:9
- Day 27: Proverbs 3:5-6
- Day 28: Romans 15:13
- Day 29: John 15:2
- Day 30: Micah 6:8
- Day 31: Ephesians 3:16-19

Lunakine Valley MN  
LIFE WITH PURPOSE



- 2-Kathy Johnson
- 3-Jason Winkels
  - Londyn Milbeck
- 5-Ashley Bilden
- 6-Rachel Longfors
  - Arlene Duenow
- 9-Michael Lewis
- 12-Brenda Wasvick
- 13-Judy Michaelson
- 14-Shelly Grunewald
  - Kaleb Tollefson
  - Shelly Beyer
- 15-Mary Ferguson
- 16-Bryce Monson
  - Amy Hasling
  - Ted Tollefson
  - Kash Nehk
- 17-Roger Anderson
  - Dennis Haiby
  - Teena Jessen
- 18-Crosby Westby
  - Elisse Hasling
  - Harlen Seidell
- 19-Julie Larson
  - Kaytlyn Thorson
  - Thomas LaVigne
- 21-Owen Grunewald
- 24-Kim Pederson
  - Kelly Peasley
- 26-Liza Bennett
- 27-Eric Ripley
  - Troy Milbeck
- 28-Cadynce Norgren
- 29-Chase Winkels
- 30-Stacy Carlson
  - Kasey Clark



Mark your calendars for June 22nd and 23rd! GLW is hosting two craft days to prepare for our upcoming Fall Bazaar. We will start at 9:00am both days, and you are welcome to join.

Have a craft idea? Bring your inspiration and the necessary materials so we can work on them together! We already have fabric and batting available. If your project requires special supplies, bring them along and you will be reimbursed for any items used for the Bazaar.



Monday, June 15, 2026  
11:00 am meet with lunch at 12:00pm

Women's Potluck & Fellowship  
Frank's Lodge  
30570 Lodge Loop  
Dent, MN  
(by Star Lake and parking is in the volleyball area)

Bring yourself, a friend, and lets have a great time of fellowship! Bring a dish to pass, there is also an oven, refrigerator, and outlets for your crockpot. Beverages will be provided.

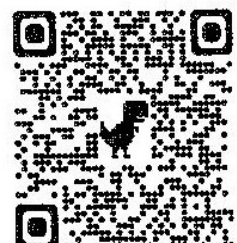
\*Barb Walswick will share about her life and experiences.  
We would love for you to join if available!

Food Bank

Pre-made meals and food bank options are available for anyone in need of food assistance. Please don't hesitate to reach out for support for more information. There is QR codes below that you can scan, or a phone number to reach someone!

Meals available for families in need!  
TO SIGN UP FOR PRE-MADE MEALS:

FOOD BANK OPENING SOON!!!  
June 2026 at Hilltop Celebration Church

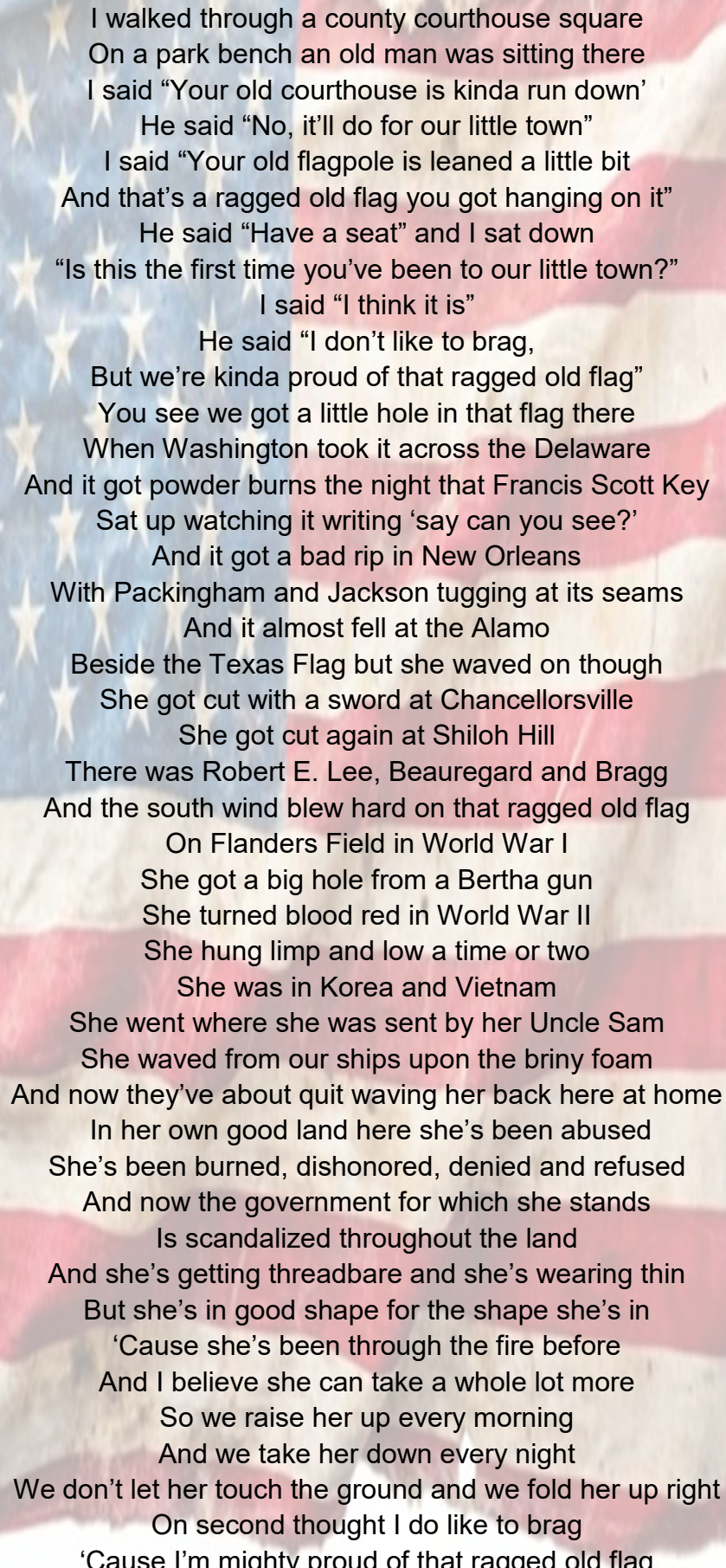


Questions? Text or call Eliza at Two-Shirt Army 405-441-2505

Join Two-Shirt Army Facebook Page for updates!

## Ragged Old Flag

Written (1974) and sung by Johnny Cash



I walked through a county courthouse square  
On a park bench an old man was sitting there  
I said "Your old courthouse is kinda run down"  
He said "No, it'll do for our little town"  
I said "Your old flagpole is leaned a little bit  
And that's a ragged old flag you got hanging on it"  
He said "Have a seat" and I sat down  
"Is this the first time you've been to our little town?"  
I said "I think it is"  
He said "I don't like to brag,  
But we're kinda proud of that ragged old flag"  
You see we got a little hole in that flag there  
When Washington took it across the Delaware  
And it got powder burns the night that Francis Scott Key  
Sat up watching it writing 'say can you see?'  
And it got a bad rip in New Orleans  
With Packingham and Jackson tugging at its seams  
And it almost fell at the Alamo  
Beside the Texas Flag but she waved on though  
She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville  
She got cut again at Shiloh Hill  
There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard and Bragg  
And the south wind blew hard on that ragged old flag  
On Flanders Field in World War I  
She got a big hole from a Bertha gun  
She turned blood red in World War II  
She hung limp and low a time or two  
She was in Korea and Vietnam  
She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam  
She waved from our ships upon the briny foam  
And now they've about quit waving her back here at home  
In her own good land here she's been abused  
She's been burned, dishonored, denied and refused  
And now the government for which she stands  
Is scandalized throughout the land  
And she's getting threadbare and she's wearing thin  
But she's in good shape for the shape she's in  
'Cause she's been through the fire before  
And I believe she can take a whole lot more  
So we raise her up every morning  
And we take her down every night  
We don't let her touch the ground and we fold her up right  
On second thought I do like to brag  
'Cause I'm mighty proud of that ragged old flag

# Grace Lutheran Church

## Mission of the Month

### Bryon Koch

Bryon Koch of Pelican Rapids has been bravely facing reoccurring bladder cancer, which now at a Stage 3 of being very aggressive. Over the years, he has endured three surgeries to remove the cancer and fill his bladder with chemo. The last procedure lasted for a year and a half. Now with his fourth round, he will do 3 months of chemotherapy, and July 10th is scheduled to have surgery to remove his bladder, prostate, a non-functioning kidney and nearby lymph nodes. Bryon's last round of chemo was on May 22nd.


This journey has brought unexpected medical hurdles. On May 18th, Bryon experienced vision changes caused by bleeding behind his right eye—a complication of high blood sugar from chemotherapy steroids. He was given an injection to help stop the bleeding. May 20th, he developed swelling and tender spots on his hand, and traveling welts on his arm, which doctors identified as three superficial blood clots. Doctors felt the clots would dissolve on their own, so he is being watched for that. Most recently, on May 27th, Bryon suffered sudden vision loss while at work. An ultrasound revealed significant bleeding and clotting behind his right eye, and doctors suspect a detached retina. He has a follow-up on June 2nd, followed by eye surgery on June 8th to clear the blood clots and assess the damage.

The emotional and financial toll on Bryon and his family is immense. Any financial donation to help offset his medical costs would be appreciated. If you are unable to donate, please keep Bryon and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this incredibly challenging time. You can follow along with Bryon's journey on his Caring Bridge page.



2026

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
	9:30am: Women's Bible Study at Rachel Ronnevik's		9:00 AM: Morning Bible Study w/Pastor Steve, Prayer Group to follow 7:00-8:30 PM: Grace Youth Meet			
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
10:00 AM: Worship with Holy Communion followed by Fellowship		6:00 PM: Church Council mtg	9:00 AM: Morning Bible Study w/Pastor Steve, Prayer Group to follow 7:00-8:30 PM: Grace Youth Meet			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship 	10:30am: Ladies of Grace meet at Frank's Lodge, Dent MN		9:00 AM: Morning Bible Study w/Pastor Steve, Prayer Group to follow 7:00-8:30 PM: Grace Youth Meet	9:00 AM: GLW meets		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship  <b>FATHER'S</b>	9:00am: GLW craft days. Potluck for lunch! (Monday & Tuesday)		No Bible Study or Prayer Group 7:00-8:30 PM: Grace Youth Meet		Church and Fellowship Hall reserved for backup of Haiby Wedding.	
28	29	30	01	02	03	04
10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship  Fellowship hall reserved for Johnson Family 12pm-6pm		<i>Gazette Deadline</i>				