



Grace Lutheran Church of Erhard (LCMC)

PO Box 10

Erhard, MN 56534

July

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

To:

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 (only During the school year)

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

Joy of Salvation

The vast majority of commentaries on Philippians will argue that this is Paul's letter of joy. When you read this particular letter, you get no sense of Paul's frustrations that he exhibits in the book of Galatians. You get no sense of his rebuke of the church of Corinth, or even his laser, focused, systematic tenor that he writes with as it relates to his letter to the Romans. This sentiment of joy reverberates from the opening lines to the refrain of chapter 1 verse six where Paul outlines the work of the triune God, which is ongoing and within you. All the way to chapter 4, where we are called to rejoice in the Lord always and again, I say rejoice.

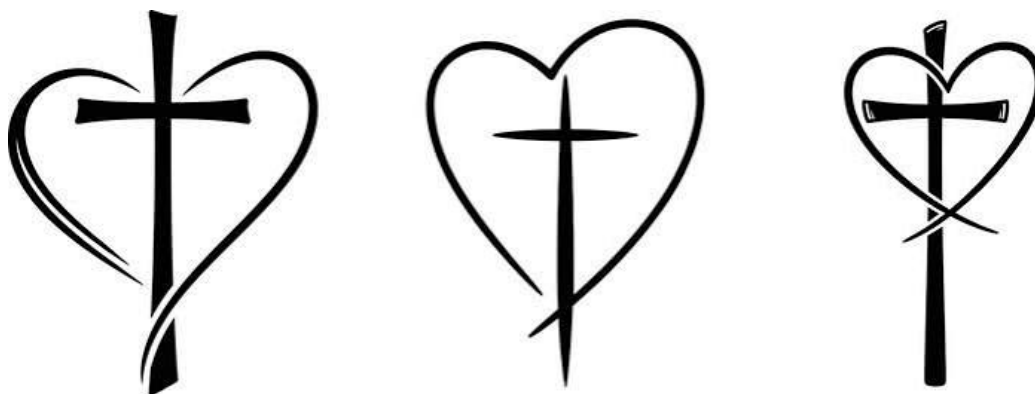
Philippians is joyful not just because of the lack of any doctrine or issues relating to church, which are apparent in and around this region of Philippi and would cause Paul or any other church leader to be agitated; but in addition, it is joyful because of the subject matter. It is the joy of the life lived for Christ and the gain of heaven (1:21). It is the joy of the gospel saturated life, a life rich in grace and mercy, which is all predicated on God's love for you in Christ. It is the joy of the great Christological hymn of chapter 2 where we are reminded of the attributes of God and how we are to reflect him in our daily lives. There is an ironic joy in working out the "fear and trembling," the salvation that we have been given in faith. When we go through the process of analyzing all the ramifications of our salvation, the conclusion is joyous because we see with greater clarity the magnitude of what it means to be saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. We can even find joy in minor, seemingly insignificant, details of the epistle as Paul draws the letter to a close. Chapter 4 verse 22 Paul, in his customary fashion, invites Philippians to greet a list of individuals who are common to Paul and the Philippian Church. Now be honest, when you read the New Testament do you read the beginning of every letter and do you read the end? Or like so many of us, it's easy to skip around because we think it's just perfunctory or unnecessary theologically speaking. When we have those thoughts, we make a categorical error as to the nature and purpose of Holy scripture. We believe that the Bible is a living, breathing document, and that every single word comes right out of the mouth of God. Because it's His word, every single syllable has value, including the seemingly insignificant conclusions to Paul's letters. Let me give you an example. At the end of chapter 4 as he is drawing this epistle to a close, he makes this reference: he invites the Philippians to greet people. In addition, he goes on to tell them how all of the Saints, which are sending greetings also through Paul to the Philippian congregation, with specific emphasis for those belonging to Caesar's household. This is a fascinating phrase to me because of what Paul is indicating. He shares that there are Jesus followers (people we would refer to as Christians) who are member of the household of Caesar, the leader of the known world of the time.

We understand Philippians to be one the "captivity epistles" of the apostle Paul. There are four letters we believe that Paul wrote either while he was in prison or chained to a Roman soldier. These prison letters are again Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, and the letter to Philemon. For a moment, think about what it would be like to write a letter while you're chained to another human being. Wouldn't that change the emotional

content of the letter that you were writing? Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote a very famous letter during the Civil Rights Movement which he entitled "Letter from the Birmingham Jail." He outlined not only the need for equality between the races but also gave a wonderful articulation of Christian faith and unity. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a litany of letters while he was in prison awaiting his own execution by the Nazis at the end of World War II. Some of the most striking letters from this collection are the letters he wrote to his fiancé who would never become his wife because he was killed before they had a chance to marry. Because of the incredible emotional weight that these and countless other saints felt as they were writing, I'm hard-pressed to think that I would be able to write with as much joy as the apostle Paul rights even in the midst of his imprisonment. He can take a pause from his own personal plight and rejoice with the Philippians at the salvation received by these members of Caesar's household. This is again testament to the amazing power of the advancement of the Kingdom of God that faith has its ability to grow in all kinds of soil and in all kinds of situations: in the midst of the Roman empire and Paul being in prison. His work as the greatest evangelist the ancient world had ever seen came in the midst of all of that for faith to reach unexpected places. Places such as members of Caesar's household. Now these would either be members of the servants within the household of Caesar or members of his immediate family. Either way, this is a miraculous turn of events because we find faith again showing up all over the place.

Perhaps this is just the kind of reminder that you need today. Faith can spring up in unexpected places. Notice that all of a sudden someone you know in your family, or sphere of influence, or someone you work with, or a neighbor professes saving faith in Jesus Christ. People that you never thought would have any interest in Christianity are not only showing curiosity about the faith but are actually embracing the faith as their own. Perhaps your prayerfully that in your own life? Or maybe it's you? Maybe because of doubt or confusion or all of the sin in your life, you think that you're not worthy to be embraced by Christ? Know that faith is yours today because of what Jesus accomplished for you. Faith showed up in very unique places. It showed up in my life a long time ago and continues to germinate and mature even to this day. My hope is that is the case with you as well. That you are experiencing the joy of Christ as you trust in him, as you live for him, and as you witness to people about what he has done for you.

Pastor Steve



Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes
June 9, 2026

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

Absent: Shelly Fresonke

President Rick Drevlow opened the meeting, and we read our mission statement. Pastor Steve gave opening devotions and prayer followed by his activities report.

Margart Barringer's funeral is 11:00 am Saturday, June 13.

Julie Smude will be at church on Sunday, June 14.

Some planning is being done to celebrate Pastor Steve's Ordination.

OLD BUSINESS:

- We continue our commitment to promote evangelism and outreach.
- Jeff Carlson advised the council regarding the cost of outdoor cameras and their installation for approximately \$2,000. A motion was made by Phyllis Rossow and seconded by DeAnn Melkert to go forward with that purchase. The motion passed.
- There is a search for church blueprints.
- The church will have a float in the July 4th parade. Banners need to be made to advertise the church and VBS.

NEW BUSINESS:

- We need to be aware when pews need to be reserved for special events such as baptisms.
- There is a boat wash location at the SE corner of city property.
- A blood drive will be held on each of the following dates: 8-16-2026, 1-18,2027, 5-17-2027, and 9-20-2027.
- The church ad in Pelican Press needs to be updated.
- Council decided not to have a regular meeting on July 14. The next regular meeting will be August 11, 2026.

Mission of the Month for July is Lisa Emery who lost her home to a fire.

A motion was made to adjourn and passed.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Karen Rossum



Celebrate American Independence!
July Library Corner by Paulette Haddock

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” 2 Corinthians 3:17

The thirteen British colonies in America sent delegates to the State House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the spring of 1776. Five men were chosen to write a “Declaration of Independence.” Thomas Jefferson was the primary author, but other committee members made suggestions for revision. It was submitted to all the delegates, debated, and voted on July 1, 1776. However, only 9 of the 13 colonies voted for independence. Edward Rutledge suggested they retake the vote the next day. On July 2, Delaware and South Carolina voted for independence, and Pennsylvania’s Two delegates against independence stayed home. The resolution was passed! The Declaration was read to the people gathered outside the State House on July 4, and the Liberty Bell was rung.

Many heroes were created during the eight years we were at war with Britain. There are stories of men and women, boys and girls, young and old, rich and poor who risked their lives and all they had for freedom. One of the new books we have in the children’s collection is ***Heroes of 1776: The Story of the Declaration of Independence*** by Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch and Janie Nitze. You’ll read about famous people and some you have never heard about. It has colorful illustrations, too. Whatever your age, you will enjoy this book! Another children’s book is part fantasy and part real history. ***Rush Revere and the American Revolution***, by Rush Limbaugh and Kathryn Adams Limbaugh, invites you to travel back in time on a magic horse. Each “rush, rush, rushing into history” adventure introduces you to an historical person and event during the period just before or during the beginning of the American Revolution. This is a book for 8–11-year-olds, but a family of any age will enjoy reading it together and talking about the events.

Although he was not one of the delegates sent to Philadelphia in 1776, they voted to have George Washington lead the Continental Army formed to fight the War of Independence. He was an experienced soldier and respected farmer. A famous Indian warrior who was in battle against Washington during the French and Indian War came later to give honor to George, because, he said, “Washington was never born to be killed by a bullet! I had seventeen fair fires at him with my rifle, and after all could not bring him to the ground.” Washington wrote in a letter about this battle, “But by the all-

powerful dispensations of Providence [God], I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation; for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt, although death was leveling my companions on every side of me!" George's mother told him as she lay dying, "Remember that God is our only sure trust. To Him, I commend you . . . My son, neglect not the duty of secret prayer." We have eye-witness evidence that he followed his mother's admonition.

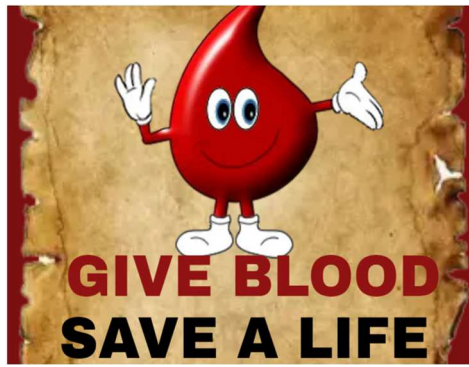
Isaac Potts, Washington's landlord at Valley Forge, heard a voice as he was walking through the forest. Potts saw "the Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the United Colonies on his knees in the act of devotion to the Ruler of the Universe!" When Potts returned home his wife could see he was agitated and asked him what the matter was. Potts replied, "I have seen this day what I shall never forget. Till now I have thought that a Christian and a soldier were characters incompatible; but if George Washington be not a man of God, I am mistaken, and still more shall I be disappointed if God does not through him perform some great thing for this country." He heard Washington praying for his men and his country and expressing gratitude to God. In the United States Capital Building, where Congress meets, I was shown a prayer room where representatives can go to pray. There is a stained-glass window commemorating Washington praying at Valley Forge. What Potts saw that day is immortalized in the window. It is a reminder to legislators that "freedom is fragile; handle with prayer." (That's a quote I read in the Minneapolis Star in the early 1960's.)

Quotes above come from ***America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations***, by William J. Federer. We also have a very good children's book, ***I Am George Washington***, by Grace Norwich. There are books on American history and heroes, real and imaginary, on the display shelves outside the sanctuary. I hope they will all be checked out by one of you!



Birthdays of the Month

2-Brad Bilden
3-Holly Stenger
4-Evelyn LaVigne
5-Jodi Lewis
Abigail John
7-Brent Walker
Tanner Steele
Matthew Peasley
8-Jane Berg
9-Cheryl Muchow
10-Mason Nelson
11-Zach Stoll
12-Hunter Pettengill
Bev Scheer
Alicia Teberg
Rick Drevlow
13-Toby Ripley
14-RayLynn Ripley
16-Michael Norman
17-Jennifer Larson
19-Charlie Haugen
Jeffrey Carlson
20-Judy Suiter
Troy Klein
21-Gaylene Bader
Wyatt Milbeck
22-Shelly Fresonke
24-Wyatt Haiby
Brett Weiss
25-Quinn Gaustad
26-Don Wahlstrom
28-Arlene Stadum
Larry Mostue
29-Carol Haiby
31-Amy Tollefson



Grace Lutheran Church

August 8th

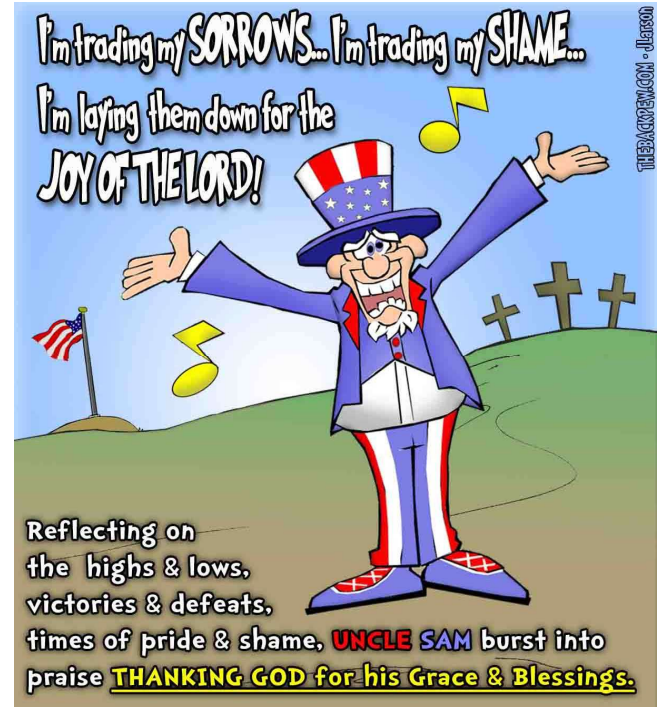
1:00PM - 6:00PM

726 Fergus Ave

Erhard, MN 56534

For an appointment, please
visit RedCrossBlood.org

Or call or see DeAnn Melkert
701-640-3461



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 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

May 2026

Monthly

Income: \$20,703.41

Expenses: \$13,435.96

Year to Date

Income: \$95,620.17

Expenses: \$73,186.21

Submitted by Rick Drevlow

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

ILLUMINATION

Don't let anyone look down
on you because you are **young,**

but set an example for the believers

in Speech

in Conduct

in Love

in Faith

and in Purity

1 Timothy 4:12 NIV

July 20 thru July 23, 2026
4:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Grades K-6th

Grace Lutheran Church
Erhard, MN

Snacks and light supper provided.

Registration available at the church the day of,
or contact Pastor Steve, Tiffany Nelson, or email glclcmc@gmail.com



Grace Lutheran Church

Mission of the Month

LISA EMERY AND JACOB



Lisa (front), niece in the middle, son Jacob in the back

On April 30, 2026 Lisa Emery and her son Jacob from Erhard lost their home due to a fire. Their home and everything in it was destroyed. Both Lisa and Jacob have such kind souls and are always willing to lend a hand when there is a need.

If you are unable to donate, please pray for Lisa and Jacob for peace, and for overcoming such a tragic loss. Any type of help is appreciated!

2026	JULY					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	01	02	03	04
			9:00 AM: Bible Study w/Pastor Steve, prayer group to follow 7:00-8:30 PM: Grace Youth Meet			11:00 AM: Erhard Parade 
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
10:00 AM: Worship with Holy Communion followed by Fellowship			9:00 AM: Bible Study w/Pastor Steve, prayer group to follow 7:00-8:30 PM: Grace Youth Meet			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship		Council will not meet	9:00 AM: Bible Study w/Pastor Steve, prayer group to follow 7:00-8:30 PM: Grace Youth Meet	GLW does not meet		Fellowship Hall reserved for Carol Haiby all day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship	Vacation Bible School July 20th-July23rd. 4:30pm-7:00pm				Gazette Deadline	
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
10:00 AM: Worship followed by Fellowship			NO BIBLE STUDY 7:00-8:30 PM: Grace Youth Meet			
Pastor Steve on Vacation; July 26th thru August 2nd!						