

# GOOD NEWS

*from the grace vine!*

## Grace Lutheran Church

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**February 2026**



*Praising God + Serving Others + Building Friendships + Growing Faith*

### ♥ Longest Married Sweethearts Marriage Milestones ♥

#### ♥ Longest Married Sweethearts ♥

##### ♥ 70 years or more

Edward & Darleen Winkler  
(76 yrs)

##### ♥ 60 years or more

LeRoy & Lucille Charles (62 yrs)  
Gerald & Joan Check (64 yrs)  
E William & Sandra Martinson (61 yrs)  
Art & Jeanie Osero (62 yrs)  
Oscar & Diane Popp (61 years)  
Dick & Ruth Ann Richardson  
(62 yrs)  
Dan & Kay Salewske (60 yrs)  
Duane & Irene Strauss (63 yrs)  
Jim & Jan Van Norman (63 yrs)  
Gil & Mary Wessel (63 yrs)  
Gene & Roselie Wiedow (63 yrs)

##### ♥ 50 years or more

Gregg & Margaruite Albert  
David & Linda Barrows  
George & Cathy Bilansky  
Dale & Nancy Braatz  
Gary & Judi Calhoun  
LeRoy & Lucille Charles  
Bill & Patricia Erickson  
Gerald & Mary Frickenstein  
Jim & Sharon Garski  
Patrick & Sandra Granrath  
Gary & Joan Hilgendorf  
Jeffrey & Cynthia Hilmerschausen

Roger & Judith Juedes  
Kirk & Nancy Kind  
Pam & John Kopp  
Steven & Kathy Metzenbauer  
Jim & Steph Pellitteri  
Allan & Janet Raatz  
William & Sharon Reichert  
Dewey & Barbara Reilly  
Florian & Barb Ringwelski  
Bonnie & David Rudie  
Don & Mary Schumacher  
William & Carol Sparr  
Steven & Vicki Stromberg  
Earl & Peg Thomas  
Paul & Darlene Wechsler  
Bruce & Karen Wiedeman  
John & Kathleen Wolff

##### ♥ 45 years

Dan & Lori Brandt  
Ed & Sherri Nystrom  
Ed & Christine Raasch  
Dave & Cathy Schmit

##### ♥ 40 years

Mike & Cheryl Brickner  
Mark & Tammy Gustafson  
William & Rachel Jones  
Brian & Sara Olson

##### ♥ 35 years

Dale & Lisa Elliott  
Eugene & Mary Jones

Frederick & Tracy Krueger  
Kelly & Mark Martello  
Keith & Mary Sparks

##### ♥ 30 years

Craig & Heidi Lemmer  
Don & Marne Renn

##### ♥ 25 years

Aaron & Tana Evans  
Susan & Michael Pennings  
Brian & Laurie Schmidt

##### ♥ 20 years

Corey & Samantha Colburn  
Mark & Patti Gaedtke  
Brandon & Melissa Hafeman  
Erik & Jessica Halverson

##### ♥ 15 years

William & Kelly Eastwood  
Blake & Chelsey McMahon  
Kyle & Julie Powers

##### ♥ 10 years

Tyler & Kayci Stevenson

##### ♥ 5 years

Connor & Stephanie Ahrens  
Nick & Sarah Dvorak

## Pastor's Pondering – February 2026

It's a frigid -19 degrees outside my window as I write this article, and I am thankful for the warmth of our home. I am reminded of how important our family, friends and our faith community are for warming our spirits. That's especially needed when things are difficult or people give us the cold shoulder. We can experience tough times when we are following in the way of Jesus because it is the opposite of the way of worldly power, wealth and fame. Jesus calls us to love people more than things, to serve others rather than demanding to be served and to show strength in suffering rather than power in might.

As a school counselor, I used an analogy of a thermometer and a thermostat for students handling put downs. It can be helpful for us, disciples of Jesus, handling negative influences that impact us too. We don't want to be like thermometers who change with the temperature around them. Right now, there's a lot of blaming, hatred and violence around us, but Jesus tells us that we aren't to act like that. We are more like a thermostat that measures the temperature around it and adjusts to keep things at the right temperature. No matter what the "temperature" of people's words and actions around us, we maintain the love and grace of Christ. When people belittle us or disrespect others, we turn on more of Jesus' love and grace. When people try to give us praise or glory, we can act like a thermometer and downplay our pride to help people praise God and be thankful to Jesus.

Jesus' prayer for the disciples on the night before he died extends to us in our core mission of being in the world but not of the world sharing Christ's truth in love and grace;

*<sup>14</sup> "I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup> I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth" (John 17:14-19).*

In this time of cold and stress, turn up His love and grace and live in the truth of Jesus.

Pastor Julie



## Welcome our New Members



### **The Fossum Family:**

Jeffery, Kelly, Lilly, Liam, Levi  
They enjoy: doing projects together, fishing, hiking, being outside, having family and friends visit from out of state.



### **Dee Schaller**

She enjoys being with family and going out to lunch with friends.



### **The Oelke Family:**

Stetson, Amanda, Montgomery, Octavia, Hartley, Mavis  
They enjoy movies, boating, the outdoors, 4 wheeler rides.

We will feature three more members next month.

## Meet Our Lay Minister Team: Mark Gaedtke and Wendy Black

*With the shortage of rostered leaders in our area, we discussed with the synod staff about possible Synodically Authorized Ministry (SAM) for Grace. The SAM would be able to preside over communication under me as Lead Pastor in the role of Visitation pastor. The SAM committee determined that this is not the right season for Grace for SAM ministry but it might be in the future. With this information, the council made a new job position of Lay Minister to fulfill the Visitation Pastor role. We posted the job description in our congregation, and Mark Gaedtke and Wendy Black applied, interviewed and were hired in this role. We are thankful for Mark and Wendy's addition to our ministry. See their reports that follow.*

*Pastor Julie*

### **Wendy Black**

I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Grace Lutheran as one of the Lay Ministers. The partnership with Mark Gaedtke and Pastor Julie Sinkula has been a great team effort as we sort out responsibilities and work together in this ministry. My work, since we began in September, has consisted of the following:

- Preaching and leading worship approximately once per month
- Leading worship at Riverview Health Services, Tomahawk Health Services (Golden Age), and Milestone Senior Living on the 3rd Friday of each month
- Visiting homebound members and taking Holy Communion to them
- Assisting with the Family Christmas Eve worship service
- Assisting with GLOW and Confirmation when needed

I look forward to exploring more ways of serving God with the congregation in the months ahead as needs arise. May God continue to lift up the people of Grace Lutheran as we live out our mission of praising God, serving others, building relationships, and growing in faith!

Respectfully submitted

Wendy Black

January, 2026



### **Mark Gaedtke**

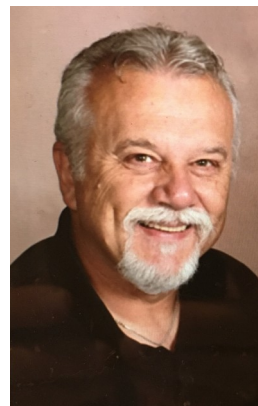
As a lay minister, I am asked to serve in a few different capacities. I've been officiating church services, pinch hitting for pastors, (all but communion) for years. It's certainly my favorite duty, as I learn something new in the preparation of each lesson. And I am inspired by the creative aspect of writing messages.

The other duty is checking in with homebound, hospitalized, and those in health care facilities. This is the part of the job I find more challenging as I never seem to know what to say. The good news is I've always been met with kindness by my church family. Even when I know they're living with great anxiety or pain.

Sometimes, I guess you say everything by just showing up. I am another example of God using average people to bring about His kingdom. I am convinced He's more interested in our availability than our ability.

Your Brother in Christ,

Mark Gaedtke



## February 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Shirley Derleth's Appreciation Party After Worship-All Are Welcome	<b>2</b> 4:00pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm Knitters Group 5:00pm Men's Bible Study	<b>3</b> 8:00am PPP Guys 9:00am Quilters	<b>4</b> 3:30pm GLOW 6:30pm Confirmation 8:00 pm Wilderness Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:00am Office hours	<b>7</b> 9:00am AA/Alanon 5:00pm Worship/ Communion Sanctuary
<b>8</b> 8:45am Grace Kids 9:00am Worship Service	<b>9</b> 3:30pm Blessings For Babies Diaper Bank 5:00pm Knitters Group 5:00pm Men's Bible Study	<b>10</b> 8:00am PPP Guys 9:00am Quilters 11:30am Joyful Noise Luncheon at Beking Chinese Restaurant 205 North 4th St.	<b>11</b> 9:00am Four Rivers Quilters 3:30pm GLOW 6:30pm Confirmation	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Quake 8:00am Office hours	<b>14</b> Marriage Milestone Quake 9:00am AA/Alanon 5:00pm Worship/ Communion Sanctuary
<b>15</b> 9:00am Worship Service Marriage Milestone Fellowship following worship services	<b>16</b> <b>Newsletter deadline</b> 4:00pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm Knitters Group 5:00pm Men's Bible Study	<b>17</b> 8:00am PPP Guys 9:00am Quilters	<b>18</b> Ash Wednesday 9:30am Prayer Shawl Meeting 4:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service 5:15pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship & Confir-	<b>19</b> 2:00 pm OWLS	<b>20</b> 8:00am Office hours 9:15am Worship at Riverview 10:30am Worship at Tomahawk Health 1:00pm Worship at Milestone	<b>21</b> 9:00am AA/Alanon 5:00pm Worship/ Communion Sanctuary
<b>22</b> 9:00am Worship Service	<b>23</b> 3:30pm Blessings For Babies Diaper Bank 5:00pm Knitters Group 5:00pm Men's Bible Study 5:30pm 4-H Club	<b>24</b> 8:00am PPP Guys 9:00am Quilters	<b>25</b> 9:00am Four Rivers Quilters 3:30pm GLOW 5:15 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:30pm Lent Worship with Confirmation	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00am Office hours	<b>28</b> 9:00am AA/Alanon 5:00pm Worship/ Communion Sanctuary

### Lenten Services Schedule, 2026

Ash Wednesday, February 18 – Worship at 4:00 pm & 6:30 pm

**Midweek Lenten Services at 6:30 pm-** Wed. February 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25

Lenten theme “Saints and Sinners”

Wednesday, February 25 – Inheritance of Faith

Wednesday, March 4 – Perseverance with Endurance

Wednesday, March 11 – Faithful in Prayer

Wednesday, March 18 – Striving for Justice

Wednesday, March 25 – Dying and Rising with Christ

We will be singing Holden Evening Prayer liturgy for the Lenten Wednesday worship on these services at 6:30 pm. Confirmation students will be participating in the worship also. Come and join us!

**Soup Suppers will be held 5:15-6:15**



#### **Saints and Sinners**

*Lent is a time of renewal. We focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus—and in turn focus on our own death and resurrection found in baptism. We who have been baptized into Christ have died to sin and are righteous saints of God. At the same time, we know that we struggle daily with sin as we seek to follow Jesus. This is the wonderful Lutheran understanding of sinner and saint.*

*We have a rich calendar of saints in the Lutheran tradition—Christians from every age who have pointed to Christ in their living and dying. In remembering these Christians who have gone before, we find inspiration for our Christian journey. Remembering these individuals is a starting point for a deeper engagement with our Christian faith.*

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## OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) News

After a productive planning meeting, we have tentatively put these events on the 2026 calendar.

February 19 at 2 PM. A funeral planning presentation with John Krueger and Nimsgern Funeral Home.

March 19 at 2 PM. Travel photos and experiences by Nancy Herbison and Marcia Sattelberg on their trip to Scotland and Sandy Wick on her family trip to London and Paris.

April 16 at 2 PM. Jim Torgerson will give a presentation about financing long-term care. After Jim's address a Thrivent representative will give a talk as well.

May 21 at 8 AM. The OWLS will be helping with landscaping and/or gardening projects at Grace. We plan to go to lunch afterward at Beking Chinese Restaurant followed by a planning meeting for our June trip to Green Bay.

June. We are planning a trip to Green Bay to various locations. This will probably be an overnight trip and details are to be determined.

July. Visits to the Dr. Kate Museum in Woodruff and the Ojibway Heritage Museum in Lac du Flambeau are in the works. In addition, 6 OWLS are heading to Glacier National Park in July. They will be flying and staying in a motel. It is not too late to join them if you are interested. We do not have "memberships" to the OWLS, so anyone can come to our events any time. We would love to have you join us.

## Thankfulness for Grace's MEMORIAL BOOK

Grace's Memorial Book was created when our new sanctuary was added in 2005.

At the time of that construction, the decision was made that plaques/plates to indicate memorial gifts would not be placed on items in the new sanctuary. Instead, a Memorial Book was created to show the gifts that were given to fund special projects in memory of loved ones.

Since that construction, the many gifts that have been given to Grace's Gift Catalog in memory of loved ones have been recorded in the Memorial Book. Since there are no current projects in the Gift Catalog, it is the right time to wrap up the Memorial Book.

No new projects will be added to the Memorial Book. The book will remain in the Gathering Space for folks to review and remember those who are memorialized on its pages.

If you have questions, please contact Sherry Clements or any Church Council member.

## In Loving Memory of Carmen Bellile



Our prayers and sympathy go to the family of Carmen Bellile who passed away Sunday, January 11, 2026. Honoring Carmen's wishes, no services were held.

**February Updates:** For Feb. 6-15 Mike and I will be in Florida visiting family. I am so thankful that Mark Gaedtke and Pastor Kathy Tulman will be leading worship while I am gone and helping with pastoral care. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Kathy at [ktulman2020@gmail.com](mailto:ktulman2020@gmail.com) or 715-579-6780. Mark can be reached at 715-612-2000, [gaedmark@charter.net](mailto:gaedmark@charter.net).

## You Are Invited To Shirley Derleth's Appreciation Celebration February 1 after worship!



Everyone is welcome to stop by the Gathering Area after worship on Sunday, February 1 to join us in thanking Shirley Derleth for her 9+ years of service to Grace as it's Treasurer. Shirley is stepping down in order to spend more time with her family. Thank You, Shirley for your selfless years of service to Grace.

## **FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFERING – Lutheran Disaster Response**

We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder. Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. We are a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others.

We recognize that every disaster is local. Because of this, we believe every response needs to be rooted in the community; we work to accompany that community from immediate relief through long-term recovery. In our international work we partner closely with companion churches and other Lutheran and ecumenical relief agencies to make sure local needs are being addressed and met. In the United States, we work through our extensive affiliate network and other partners to address these same concerns.

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
  - Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates
  - Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
  - Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes

## **November 13, 2025 Council Meeting Highlights for Newsletter**

*Full Council meeting minutes can be found in the binder in the gathering space.*

### **Where Have We Seen God at Work?**

The northern lights; Grace's giving table; In the recent baptisms; The staff and volunteers at Grace and seeing God work through them.

### **Council Agenda Highlights**

The special offering for October for Our Sisters' House took in \$1,143.10

Vacation Bible School might return to Grace for the summer of 2026

Interviews will be held for the Treasurer position

Wendy Black and Mark Gaedtke have been hired for the position of Lay Minister

## **December 16, 2025 Council Meeting Highlights for Newsletter**

*Full Council meeting minutes can be found in the binder in the gathering space.*

### **Where Have We Seen God at Work?**

The children's Christmas program; The beauty of winter; The beauty of the decorated church; All the new members

### **Council Agenda Highlights**

The special offering for HAVEN received \$777.92.

The furnace at the Grace House needed to be repaired

Cheri Perrault has been hired as the new Treasurer. Welcome, Cheri!

## AA/ALANON MEETINGS

### Grace Lutheran

- AA and Alanon: Saturday. 9:00 am

### Grace Community House

- AA: Sunday 10:10 am
- AA: Friday 7:30 pm (open)
- AA: Wednesday 12:10 pm

### St. Paul's (12 E. Wisconsin Ave.)

- AA and Alanon: Monday 7:00 pm

If you have a problem with alcohol or if someone you know suffers from the disease, AA (for the alcoholic) or Alanon (for family or friend of alcoholic) could be your lifeline. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of both these groups. If you would like to speak with someone personally, the church office, 453-4066, or Pastor can put you in touch with an AA or Alanon member.

**All communications will be confidential**

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**John 1:2**  
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Sunday: 9:00 am

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