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# March 2025 In Touch with Grace



Dear Family and Friends of Grace,  
How often have you overheard conversations and wondered what was going on?

My mother had a wonderful group of friends. The women would meet one evening each month, rotating between their homes. These lovely ladies had grown up together on the Eastside. They went to school together. They attended Sunday School and were Confirmed together. They lived through the Great Depression supporting one another. They watched their loved ones going off to war and formed their Sewing Club to roll bandages, write letters, and cry together at the loss of life among those they knew. They were bridesmaids for each other, they watched their children grow, and they remained friends in this sisterhood for life, until one by one, each lady passed on to her heavenly home.

As a child, I remember being upstairs in bed and overhearing the ladies in the living room talking and laughing. Usually, I could not make out the words, for there were times when the conversation was barely more than a whisper. Then all of a sudden, great bursts of laughter would break out. The love they shared shows us a model for Christian living.

Conversations that are overheard tell us a lot about the people speaking and their

relationship to one another. This Lent, we will be overhearing some of the conversations that may have occurred around the cross. Join us on Wednesdays in March to hear what they have to say.

On our journey with Jesus to the cross this Lent, we find that we need our church family through all the seasons of life. Caring, supporting, whispering, laughing, living and dying, the love that God has given to us is a gift we share with those around us. As we begin this season on Ash Wednesday, we will hear the words that we are dust and to dust we shall return, but the one thing that never turns to ashes is the love that God has given us.

"We love, because God first loved us."  
1 John 4:19.

See you in worship,  
Pastor Karen



## Announcements

- Sunday, March 2, is the Day of Transfiguration. It is the end of Epiphany and the day we celebrate Jesus on the mountaintop transfigured into a divine vision. We will have brass in worship leading us in hymns in a Mardi gras style. We will celebrate a Mardi Gras themed fellowship hour after church with a potluck. Join us!
- **That Mardi Gras theme will be in the form of an Appetizer and Dessert potluck!!** Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert and we will celebrate before the Lenten disciplines begin on Ash Wednesday.



### Lent begins March 5 on Ash Wednesday.

March 5, Ash Wednesday worship at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays March 12-April 9, Soup Suppers begin at 5:45 p.m., Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday, April 13 Worship 9:30 a.m. followed by Brunch hosted by our Youth families

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 10:30 a.m. worship followed by lunch, 6:30 p.m. worship

Good Friday, April 18, 7 p.m. with our Eastside neighboring congregations, refreshments follow

Easter, April 20, 9:30 Festival Worship



- If you have a family member suffering from dementia, there is a Dementia Support Group that meets every third Wednesday of the month from 2-3 p.m. at Cerenity-Marian. (225 Frank Street, St. Paul. All are welcome to attend.

## MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month for Grace for March is Every Meal. Their mission is to fight child hunger. More than 300,000 children in Minnesota live with food insecurity. Every Meal fights child hunger by focusing on filling the food gaps children face especially on the weekends when they're not able to access school meals. When they don't have consistent access to enough food, the risk of hunger is very real. Through multiple food gap programs, Every Meal provide children and families experiencing food insecurity with access to good food.

On Fridays a bag of food is discreetly placed in qualifying student's school backpack. This allows the child to arrive to school on Monday morning ready to learn., There are approximately 375 schools in Minnesota participating in this program. The closest school to Grace is Nokomis South Montessori program (formerly Sheridan).

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this charity which helps to fill a gap in food access in our area. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.



**EVERY MEAL**  
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

**FOOD SHELF SUNDAY IS MARCH 2nd!!**



## Music Notes -

The year 2025 began with devastating fires in California, destroying over 250,000 acres of land containing thousands of people's homes and businesses. Along with so many lives ruined, there was unredeemable destruction of personal memories. Yes, people's memorabilia was reduced to ashes, not ever to be able to be replaced. Add a layer to that loss by musical history that was reduced to ashes. What if some of that lost memorabilia was owned by a man who changed the course of 20<sup>th</sup> century music.

Larry Schoenberg, the son of the Austrian-American composer Arnold Schoenberg, kept over 100,000 scores of his father's in a building located behind his house in the Palisades. These scores were rented out to symphonies and ensembles all over the world, possibly even to the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, along with groups performing at the Schubert Club. Not only were the scores destroyed but also picture files, letters, things that would eventually be collected in a museum, now gone forever. Thank goodness the majority of Schoenberg's master scores are located in Vienna, Austria.

Who was Arnold Schoenberg? Did he compose music for the church? No, but he revolutionized the way musicians thought and created music. Up until he came along, music was primarily written in certain keys, major, minor or a mode. But what if every note in a composition was created equal, not revolving around a particular key i.e. D Major, f minor. He laid out a plan, aptly named 12 tone, where you the composer could choose what order the 12 notes would be in. You had to use them in that order, though you could clump them together or repeat them i.e. 1234,1234. You could also reverse the order and go backwards. There were a few other ways you could have fun doing your 12 tone creation, kind of like designing a puzzle.

Schoenberg wrote mainly for orchestra and string ensembles, but he did write one piece for organ, "Variations on a Recitative for Organ (in D) op. 40 (1941). Ironically, in an article, to be published but never finished, called "The Future of the Organ", he felt the organ was an obsolete instrument. Several years later, when this piece was to be performed in 1949, he described the ideal organ for this piece to be a lot smaller than the average organ, having 2 manuals with only 2 or at the most 6 sounds.

Schoenberg might not have contributed to our wealth of hymns or organ music, but he made us reexamine the makeup of what goes into a tune and why they are our favorites.



## FROM THE LIBRARY:

Our long-time librarian passed away a few weeks ago and the Council has agreed to designate our library in her name. The Carol Golder Memorial Library will live on in her memory.

Have a look at her legacy and find something to read!

Here are a few suggestions:

### FICTION -

<u>Dust</u>	Patricia Cornwell
<u>The Night Circus</u>	Erin Morgenstern
<u>Maybe in Another Life</u>	Taylor Jenkins Reid
<u>All The Broken Places</u>	John Boyne
<u>Bones to Ashes</u>	Kathy Reichs
<u>Sing you Home</u>	Jodi Picoult
<u>Sympathizer</u>	Viet Thanh Nguyen
<u>Born a Crime</u>	Trevor Noah
<u>John 3:16</u>	Nancy Moser

### BOOK CLUB READS -

<u>The Orphan's Train</u>	Pam Jenoff
<u>The Nightingale</u>	Kristin Hannah
<u>Water for Elephants</u>	Sara Gruen
<u>Chasing Fireflies</u>	Charles Martin

### NONFICTION

<u>The Only Plane in the Sky</u>	Garret M. Graff
<u>An Unbroken Chain</u>	Henry A. Oertelt



### Grace Book Club -

Here are the latest titles chosen -

For discussion on:

March 6	<u>West With Giraffes</u>	Lynda Rutledge
April 3	<u>The Thursday Murder Club</u>	Richard Osman
May 1	<u>The Berry Pickers</u>	Amanda Peters
June 5	<u>Demon Copperhead</u>	Barbara Kingsolver
No July meeting		
August 7	<u>Remarkably Bright Creatures</u>	Shelby Van Pelt

## Sunday School

This month the Sunday School children have been learning more about Jesus and his life, and we talked about talking to God through prayer. They created prayer jars where they wrote people and things to pray for on sticks. This way they could pull out a stick to start their prayers, and also to encourage them to talk to God about the good and the bad things in their lives.

How are you doing on the Sunday School questions in the weekly Grace at a Glance?

Great job to the youth for another amazing Pancakes and Puppets show.

**As always, if anyone is wanting to help out with Sunday School in any way please contact Amanda Christie.**



← Fishers of Men Craft

Prayer Jars →



## XYZ's March Meeting

Protect Yourself from Fraud and Identity Theft

Presented by AARP

**Thursday, March 13, 1 pm**

Financial crimes including scams, identity theft and consumer fraud are the most frequently attempted crimes every day in the United States. In this session, we share an inside look at how scammers think, how to safeguard against identity theft and fraud, first-hand accounts from victims, and what to do if you or someone you know has been a victim.

The presenters from our January meeting on down sizing and decluttering were so excited about our group and the enthusiasm we had, asked if they could come back to help educate us on this subject. This is an opportunity to stay up to date on the latest scams, etc. hope to see you there. Treats, of course!



Grace Lutheran Church First Annual Puzzle Competition. Teams of Four compete to see which team can finish a 500 piece puzzle the fastest. 3/30/25 3:00pm Gather your team!

Calling all puzzle enthusiasts, Grace is going to have our First and hopefully annual Puzzle Contest on March 30th at 3:00pm in the tower rooms. This is a very informal and friendly competition for all ages. There will be teams of four working on a puzzle together and racing to see what team can finish the same 500 piece puzzle the fastest. There will be a two hour limit, and there will be ways to bring any unfinished puzzles home to complete. We are asking for a donation of \$15 per team to cover the cost of the puzzle, and the team gets to take their puzzle home. Sign up sheets will be available, and if you don't have a team you can still sign up individually and we can create a team with those interested. There will also be some kid puzzles and games to play as well. Pizza will be provided, but please feel free to bring a snack or treat to share. Contact Amanda Christie if you have any questions.



# Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

## Internal, Local and Global

**If you would consider serving treats** on a Sunday morning, we would appreciate your help. Please take a look at the sign-up schedule in the South Tower room and see if there is a date that works for you to help out! If you would be willing to bring treats but would prefer to not serve, please speak with Linda Sackreiter and we can arrange that as well.

Thanks for your help!!

### 2025 Collections

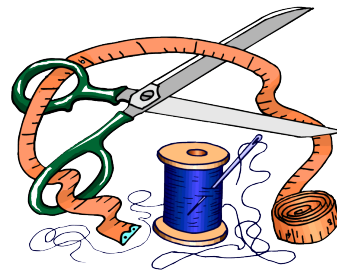
**Quilts, baby care kits** (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 or 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz)

We delivered 30 Quilts and 9 baby kits to the LWR warehouse last year and have 26 new ones ready to go!

Other on-going collections at Grace - used eye glasses and cancelled stamps. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf. Also, Sandy Abernathy will take any American Flags that need to be disposed of properly. These can be left in the collection area in the library. (We are not currently saving soup can labels) Thank you for all donations!

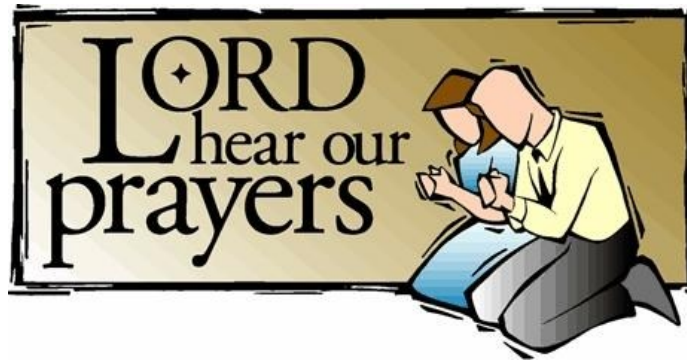


**Quilt Days**— We will be meeting again in March on the 2nd Saturday (8th) and the 4th Saturday (22nd). All are welcome to join us. No skills necessary, we will teach. Most months we meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in the Tower rooms. Come join us in this month for some good conversation and to put those hands to use for a wonderful cause. Lutheran World Relief distributes donated quilts all over the world including in the US.



**Miles of Pennies** The large collection jar in the library is always accepting donations toward giving to the LSS fund for helping homeless Youth in St. Paul. Our goal was \$250.00 for 2024 and we sent \$275 to LSS! Let's exceed that again in 2025! Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your generous donations of coins and paper money are appreciated.





**We lift our prayers to God** in times of thanksgiving and times of need, in times of joy and times of sorrow. This month we especially pray for Jaxon and Piper Sliva on the death of their father, Tim, (Becky Blau's children), Rich Raschke, Stacy Bray, (Marlene Hockbein's niece), Judy Adam, Bev Henderson, Ron House, Carol Anderson, Butch Nelson, April Premo (niece of Judy Nelson), our whole Grace family at the loss of Carol Golder and Russ Carlson, and all those we name in our hearts.

#### **How to donate other than in the offering plate:**

There is always snail mail. The office is open to receive the mail and our bookkeeper will count what comes in each week and deposit it in the bank. Our address: 1730 Old Hudson Road, St. Paul, 55106.

To donate electronically: You can schedule a transfer of funds with your own bank if they have bill pay available and it will come automatically on the date you choose. Otherwise, you can go to our website ([www.gracelutheranstpaul.org](http://www.gracelutheranstpaul.org)) and click on the GIVE page.

This site is secure for financial transactions through Vanco which is the Simply Giving program. At the GIVE page you can go through the steps as directed and give whatever amount you wish to several different categories (general, other, etc.) This works best on the Firefox or Edge browsers. This does get to us electronically in a very timely manner. If you are comfortable using the QR, it will take you directly to the GIVE page on the website. **Please call the office if you have any questions.** Thank you.



#### **Financial Snapshot for GLC-2023**

	<u>January Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual*</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$ 29,494.83	\$ 29,494.83	\$20,784.17
Expenses	\$ 25,954.58	\$ 25,954.58	\$29,426.66
Deficit/Overage	\$ 3,540.25	\$3,540.25	-\$8,642.49



2 Luke Runquist  
5 Anne Oberlander  
Jennifer Trulen  
6 Isaiah Ray-Taylor  
8 Christiana Ray-Taylor  
10 Pam Trulen  
11 Karen Doree  
Peter Hultgren  
12 Nancy Zitzewitz  
14 Paul Hesterberg  
16 Olivia Childs  
Patricia Flores  
Lexi Revier  
London Trulen  
19 Dakota Reed  
21 Susan Atneosen  
Luke Christie  
22 Margaret Swenson  
23 Danita Hanson

24 Thomas Rose  
25 Barb Kinney  
26 Kathleen Voss  
27 Carol Westling  
28 Jan Steingas  
29 Karen Olson  
30 Joshua Wickert  
31 Judy Adam  
Cynthia Wood



## Worship Leaders for March 2025 -

<u>Date</u>		<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
2		Barb Holtan	Cami Alleman	Linda Sackreiter
5	Ash Wednesday 10:30am 6:30 pm	Pete Zitzewitz Jan Steingas	Alexis Petersen	Bob Golder Barb Holtan
9		Connie Smeby	Cami Alleman	Carolyn Hesterberg
16		Dave Hunter	Tony Childs	Phyllis Hunter
23		Monique McClure-Hegge	Kaliska Reed	Linda Baer
30		Jeff Oberlander	Cami Alleman	Sig Johnson

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u> (the families of the acolytes are also helping out)
2	Brian Jackson, Lydia Rose, Violet Rose
5	6:30 pm Brian Petersen, Rachel Petersen, Molly Petersen
9	Brian Jackson, Patty Young
16	Norm Walby, Jonathan Williams, Linda Denson?
23	Bob Golder, Karin Nikula
30	Oberlanders

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
2	Monique McClure-Hegge team
9	Kate Pray team
16	Amanda Christie team
23	Monique McClure-Hegge team
30	Kate Pray team

**We could use some additional usher volunteers - Please contact Brian Jackson if you are interested in helping out. 612-323-5673**



Grace Lutheran Church  
1730 Old Hudson Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55106



Wednesday, March 5th

Phone: 651-774-9617

FAX: 651-774-0006

[www.gracelutheranstpaul.fyi](http://www.gracelutheranstpaul.fyi)

[gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com)

**Pastor:**

Rev. Karen Williams

**Custodial Staff:**

Linda Denson

**Office Staff:**

Linda Sackreiter

**Music Staff:**

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Sanctuary Choir

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

