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# April 2026 In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,

As I write this, a heavy swirl of snow is blowing around my house after dropping twelve inches in my yard. How is it possible that such small snowflakes can bring so much snow? It is sometimes hard to believe that Spring officially begins in a few days. Life is like that, too. When we are caught in the storms of life, it is hard to imagine that warm, sunny days are ahead. New life springs out of the ground from what seemed to be dead. Resurrection of the earth and all that is in it reminds us of the wonder of Easter. April begins with Easter on the first Sunday this month. Join us in worship for a beautiful festival service at 9:30 a.m. followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. New life always finds its way through the storms.

I am looking forward to see if the many bulbs I planted last fall will emerge and blossom. I have been making plans for my garden and have seeds ready to start indoors. For those of you who like to garden, I have an idea. I would like some of us to rejuvenate the courtyard garden which could use some love and care. I have a few ideas for what we might do in that space. If you would like to help or have plants to divide and share when planting time arrives, please let me know.

This Easter, we will hear the resurrection story from the Gospel of John where Mary Magdalene goes early in the morning to the garden. She is alone and there in the garden she discovers the risen Christ. Jesus visited many gardens and

often used the metaphor of seeds throughout his ministry, teaching that a seed must fall into the ground, seemingly dead, to grow into new life and transformation. This highlights the paradox of life through death that brings new life. Sometimes in life, we must let go of those things that no longer serve us in order to be transformed into something new. What might you let die, so to speak, that will allow seeds of new life to blossom? As Easter people, we believe in the hope of new life, not just in this world, but also in the next. As our Lenten Creed from the Parish of Bolerno states: "We believe that people can change, attitudes can change, and that God keeps leading us towards life and to a new world of justice and joy."

This Spring, may you see and experience new life in all its many forms,

Pastor Karen



## Announcements

Easter, April 5 - 9:30 am Worship  
Family Easter Egg Hunt after Worship

**April 5th is Food Shelf Sunday!!**



- Plan to join us for Talk Points on May 19 after worship. We will learn more about the ministry and the focus of our Mission of the Month, A Day of Grace in Tanzania.
- Camp Onomia brochures are available with descriptions of another great summer at camp! Pick one up and see where you and your family will fit in. There are programs for all ages. Getting away from the city and experiencing God in the beauty of nature is one of the best ways to refresh and renew your faith. Early bird deadline has been extended so get your registrations in to escape to this wonderful church camp.
- Good News Fridays are weekly posts on our church Facebook page. These offer a bright spot where God's light shines during troubled times. For March, we will be posting inspirational photos – no words, just beauty. Watch for them and perhaps share some of your own in the comment section of the post. Let's be light and love this season!
- 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.
- Do you like to pray? All of us appreciate prayers especially in times of need. Grace has a prayer chain that holds our beloved church family in prayer when prayer requests come in. We could use a few more members. If you are interested in praying, please contact Pastor Karen or Carolyn Hesterberg. Thank you!

**Do you have an extra couple of hours a month to spare to deliver non-perishable food items collected by the Congregation of Grace to Merrick Food Shelf?**

Merrick Food Shelf is housed in Gustavus Adolphus Church located at 1669 Arcade Street across from Phalen golf course. The food shelf is open Monday 3-5 p.m. and Tuesday and Wednesday 10a.m. to 12 p.m. Deliveries are accepted 1/2 hour prior to dispensing times and help is available to unload and accept the donations.

Norm Walby has been doing this task for many years but unable to deliver at this time due to health issues. We are so appreciative of his efforts.

For more information or questions or willingness to take on this task at least for the present, please call Sue Atneosen 651-774-9114.

## APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH

April's Mission of the Month at Grace is Days of Grace in Tanzania. Days of Grace is a program through St. Paul Area Synod's ministry in Tanzania.

Days of Grace is a retreat held two or three times annually for pastors and church leaders to provide respite and to care for these church leaders who work so hard to provide ministry and care to others with limited resources and never ending demands of time and energy.

Attendees are provided a respite from their daily challenges of parish ministry as well as the gift of good medical care, eye exams, etc. All expenses are provided free of charge through this program.

Please prayerfully consider making a gift to St. Paul Area ELCA's sister church - the Iringa diocese in Tanzania - so that they may continue the amazing work of spreading the good news to God's people. 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.



### Dear Grace Community,

On behalf of the families, I am writing to express our deepest gratitude for your overwhelming and generous support. The donations of diapers, pullups, wipes, diaper cream, and the monetary contributions have been a tremendous blessing during this challenging time

As families navigate the difficult transition back to work and school, many are facing the aftermath of missed wages. Your support arrived at a critical moment, providing not just necessary supplies, but immense hope and relief.

Because of your generosity, we have been able to support families by:

- Delivering diapers, pull-ups and wipes directly to families.
- Purchasing and delivering much needed essential paper products, home cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene care items.

I am incredibly humbled to see the community come together to support our neighbors. And I am equally humbled by being with families and bearing witness to their experiences during this time. Your kindness and generosity has removed a significant burden for families. Thank you for your loving support and for being a beacon of light in our community.

In the word of one family, 'Mil gracias pro todo lo que hae, que su hogar sea de bendiciones' - Thank you so much for everything you do, may your home be filled with blessings.

Alicia Runquist and the St. Paul ECSE program.

## Music Notes -

Sometimes there are hymn tunes that are so workable they get used for several sets of texts. Sometimes hymn tunes are forever associated with one set of words. In April we come across 5 hymns that have multiple sets of texts, which at times can be confusing. Haven't we sung this tune recently? Yes, but with other words. In fact three tunes have 3 different texts.

One of the most famous tunes goes by the name "Duke Street", named for the street on which the composer lived. We don't know much about John Hatton, the composer, except where he lived. In hymns #434 as well as #848, Isaac Watts set Hatton's tune to his New Testament interpretations of Old Testament messages. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be singing Samuel Medley's set of words to this tune, #619. He was a Baptist minister in Liverpool, England, (where the Beatles began) writing his poem in 1775, a rather important year on this side of the pond.

On the same day, we will be opening with a hymn that also has three versions, one found in the baptism section, one in the sending section and the one we will be singing, in the praise section. The one in the praise section was the first to be written, penned by the hymnist Fred Pratt Green, who has contributed eleven texts to our hymnal. He wrote this hymn in 1972 as a hymn of praise, set to a tune written by Charles Villiers Stanford who wrote the tune in 1904. Stanford was not only a famous Anglo-Irish composer of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, he also taught musical composition at Trinity College, Cambridge, teaching several notable students who contributed to British classical music, including Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams. He based his poem, set to the tune "Engelberg", on Psalm 150, which reinforces the importance of music as praise to God.

The third hymn with 3 sets of words is called "Beach Spring". It's named after the church where the composer, Benjamin Franklin White, was the minister. He included it in his 1844 version of *The Sacred Harp*. Someone didn't do a very good job of spellchecking because the church's name is Beech Spring. We'll be singing the #712 version during communion on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The other 2 versions that we've sung before are #445 in the baptism section, "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" and #777 in the trust, guidance section, "Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty".

Even though having varying texts to tunes can be quite confusing, it shows how versatile hymn tunes can be. You can check out more hymn tunes with multiple texts in the back of our hymnal, **starting on page 1195**. Enjoy!

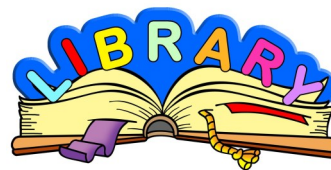
From the Alphabetical Index of Tunes beginning on pg. 1195 of our hymnbook:

**Beach Spring 445, 712, 777**

**Engelberg 449, 546, 851**

**Duke Street 434, 619, 848**

## FROM THE LIBRARY:



### BOOKS FOR SALE:

The "Books for Sale" basket has gotten a refresh!

Due to some recent donations of brand new or like new books, we have a great selection in our basket! Feel free to browse and if you find one you just need to have, all donations are welcome!

### **Grace Book Club -**

For discussion on:

April 9 - The President's Daughter is Missing James Patterson

May 7 - Fall to Grace Kerry Casey

June 4 - Still Life Louise Penny



### The Easter Garden at Grace is growing in a new way this year.

We will not be ordering plants for you as we have in the past. Instead we are encouraging you to buy your plants at your favorite retailer (Gertens, Bachmans, Sam's Club, Costco, etc) and bring them to church on Easter morning no later than 9 am. You may also bring a non-flowering green plant if that is your choice.

We will have the garden site ready to add your plants. We realize that Easter is a time that many of you remember and honor loved ones and we want you to be able to do that. We realize that this is a different system of beautifying our chancel area and we hope that it will work for everyone.

You will pick up your plant at the end of the service as usual to take home.

**Happy Spring!**



## An Alpine Adventure Awaits!!

We are taking a group trip to Switzerland, Austria, and northern Italy this coming September 2026. Brochures are available in the Good Shepherd Lounge. Questions? Ask Pastor Karen. We hope you will join us!

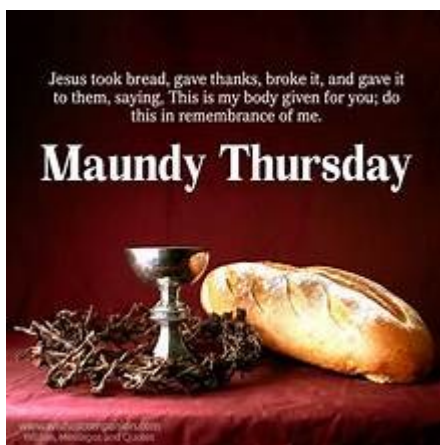
### Rhubarb Festival 2026

**This year our Rhubarb Festival will again be a Brunch and Bake Sale with a Live auction for 'Experience' packages!** The proceeds will go to the 'Meals on Wheels' program through Merrick. The brunch will take place on May 17th following worship and the bake sale will include many rhubarb items which will be available before and after the brunch. The auction items will be displayed before the brunch and the auction will take place after brunch.

Please plan to donate your favorite baked items (rhubarb especially) and to stay for the Brunch and auction. Brunch will be a free will donation.



XYZ's in April will meet after Worship on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd for our Annual Potluck. Please bring your favorite dish to share. We will have napkins, coffee, lemonade, water, plates and silverware but anything else you can bring to share and we'll see what shows up.



# 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!!

### 2026 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)

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. She will also take any plastic bags for a neighbor doing mats for the homeless in town. (We are not currently saving soup can labels) Thank you for all donations!

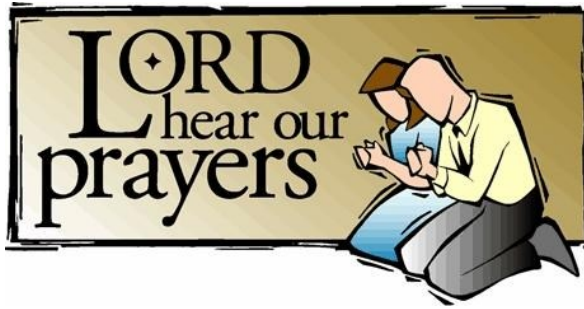


**Quilt Days**— We will be meeting again in April on the 2nd Saturday (11th). All are welcome to join us. No skills necessary, we will teach. Most months we meet on the 2nd Saturday in the Tower rooms. Come join us this month for some good conversation and to put those hands to use for a wonderful cause. 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 2025 and we sent \$275 to LSS this year! Let's exceed that again in 2026! 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 Andrea Hollister (Randy Nikula’s mom), Cindy Wood, Sandy Abernathy, Randy Proulx, Norm Walby, Josie Meyer, Phyllis Armstrong, Paul Hesterberg, Butch Nelson, 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.

Give QR



**Financial Snapshot for GLC-2026**

	<u>February Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$ 37,316.52	\$ 71,235.21	\$52,325.00
Expenses	\$ 27,220.65	\$ 59,711.00	\$55,328.28
Deficit/Overage	\$ 10,095.87	\$ 11,524.21	-\$3,003.28

# HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY!



2 Wayne Erickson  
3 Larry Adam  
4 Johanna Oberlander  
6 Atarah Lee  
7 Wendy Brown  
    Travis Long  
12 Bill Kinney  
15 Greg Mohwinkel  
16 Catherine Beddow  
17 Dick Gunderson  
    Tootie Henningsen  
    Bill Wood  
20 Kelley Reed  
22 Tony Childs  
23 Karen Boehne-Warner

25 Knute Nelson, Jr.  
26 Char House  
    Stacy Studiner  
    Gen Wrobel  
27 Amanda Christie  
    Donna Walseth



# Worship Leaders for April 2026-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u> or	<u>Communion Asst.</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
5	Peter Zitzewitz	--	Kim Childs	Chris Jurewitsch
12	Kris Mohwinkel	--		Peg Mathison
19	--	Sue Atneosen		Kris Mohwinkel
26				Sue Atneosen

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
5	Violet & Lydia Rose	Nita Hanson & Tony Childs
12	Roger Mathison & Linda Sackreiter	
19	Greg & Kris Mohwinkel	
26		Larry & Sue Atneosen

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
5	Amanda Christie team
12	Monique McClure-Hegge team
19	Kate Pray team
26	Lana Alleman team



Please see sign-up sheets for Sunday jobs in the Narthex, and the Sunday Fellowship sign-up in the S. Tower Rm.

## Come Be a Part of the Worship Team!

Here are descriptions for each opportunity to join the Worship Team.

**Greeters** - all ages, arrive by 9:10, greet people at the lower level before the service

**Ushers** - all ages, arrive by 9:10, hand out bulletins, gather offering, help direct Communion, tidy Sanctuary after worship

**Acolyte** - all ages (with adult assistance if younger than 5<sup>th</sup> grade), arrive by 9:15, robe for festival services, light candles before the service, assist with communion during service, extinguish candles at end of service,

**Lay Reader** - all ages, arrive by 9:15, read the scripture lesson during worship

**Liturgist** - Confirmed members, arrive by 9:15, robe for most services, assist with leading the service, help serve Communion

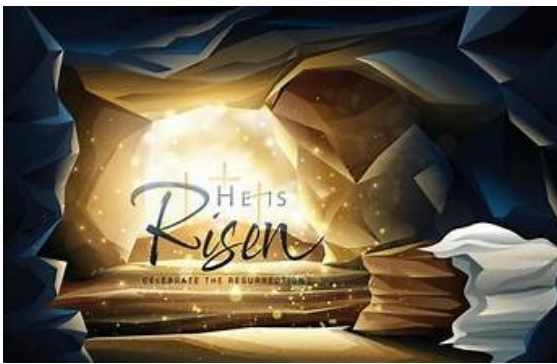
**Communion Assistant** - Confirmed members, arrive by 9:20, robe for festival services, assist serving communion during service

**Money Counter** - Confirmed member, count offering money after the service

**Chancel Care Assistant** - all ages (with adult supervision if younger than 5<sup>th</sup> grade), after the service, assist in tidying up the altar area, putting away communion ware.

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

Easter Sunday, April 5th



Phone: 651-774-9617

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

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

**Pastor:**

Rev. Karen Williams

**Custodial Staff:**

Linda Denson

**Office Staff:**

Linda Sackreiter

**Music Staff:**

Sabe Dunlap—Director of Music  
Ministries

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

