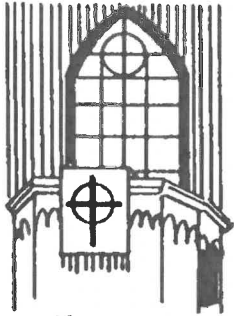


March
2025
Edition

The Lamp

Grace Lutheran Church

Making Christ known to all through Worship, Service, and Fellowship



From the
PASTOR

"Enough"

I share a story with you in my pastor's message for March because I sense it has some relevance for Lent, which begins Ash Wednesday. Sharing in enough struggle and sacrifice, and discipline of Lent is an essential to understand the enough of the Easter victory. There can be no Easter without Good Friday. Here is the story:

A father and daughter were in their last moments together at the airport. The airline had announced her departure and standing there near the security gate, they hugged and he said, "I love you and I wish you enough." She replied, "Dad, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I love you so much... and I wish you enough, too, Dad." They hugged and held each other tightly and then she turned and left. The father walked over toward the window to watch his daughter's plane take off. Tears rolled down his cheeks.

Another man had been watching them. The father turned to the man and said, "Did you ever say goodbye to someone knowing that you would not see each other again in this lifetime?" "Yes, I have," the man said. Please forgive me for asking, but why is this a final goodbye?" The father answered, "I am old now... not in good health and the real truth is that her next trip back will be for my funeral."

"I'm sorry," said the stranger.

"It's O.K. I have had a wonderful life and it will soon be over for me. But it's been a great ride. God has blessed me and He has always been with me... and He will be with me in the life to come. I have no regrets. I trust God for whatever is ahead."

The other man said, "May I ask you about something? When you were saying goodbye, I heard you say, 'I wish you enough.' What does that mean?"

The father smiled and said, "That's a wish that has been handed down for many generations in my family. My parents used to say it to everyone."

When we say, "I wish you enough," we are wanting the other person to have enough good things to sustain them. The wish goes like this:

"I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough adversity so the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to be grateful for all you possess.

I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final goodbyes."

The father looked at the other man and said, "I wish you enough"... and then he turned and walked away.

Since we are Easter People we have enough Lenten reflection to know the powerlessness of our human condition. Since we are Easter People we sense enough ugliness, pain and sacrifice of Good Friday. Since we are Easter People, we can know enough empty grave victory to feel the hope and joy of our baptismal promise in Christ. Have a meaningful 40 Days as they come on Ash Wednesday which is March 5th.

Pastor Paul

Grace Lutheran Church LENT/EASTER SCHEDULE FOR GATHERING TOGETHER for reflection and celebration 2025



Ash Wednesday March 5th
Worship Service with the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00pm

Lenten Mid-Week: a time for Nourishment, Reflection and Prayer

Each Wednesday evening at 6:00pm we will share in a meal prior to our midweek adventure in Prayer

At 7:00pm "Turning Toward God's Abundance"

A Lenten Service of Word and Prayer

Each week we will explore a different way to pray in this Lenten Season

- March 12 Visio Divina Prayer
- March 19 Prayer with Movement
- March 26 Bidding Prayer
- April 2 Petitions with Music
- April 9 Anointing Prayer



HOLY WEEK



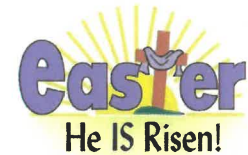
Palm Sunday April 13th Worship service at 9:00am

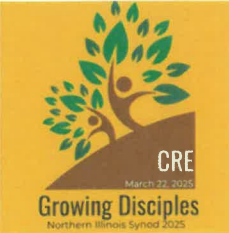
Maundy Thursday April 17th Worship service at 7:00pm



Good Friday April 18th Service of Darkness at 7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY April 20th Resurrection Celebration at 9:00am





You are invited to the Congregational Resourcing Event on March 22, 2025 at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, Illinois. Come gather together with members from across our synod as we share ideas and inspiration for all the great ways we can grow disciples in our congregations and in our communities.

The day is \$35 which includes coffee, breakfast treats, a joint session, lunch, and choice of breakout sessions. The website lists descriptions of the 20 offered breakout sessions which include A Gazillion Outreach Ideas, The Grief Box, and Community Engagement. All congregation members are invited and we will be carpooling from Grace leaving at approximately 7am and returning close to 6pm. Register and pay for your spot on your own, and then let Paula Webb know that you are interested in carpooling on that day. We hope you will join us!

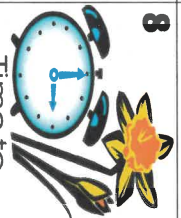
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
907 LUTHER DRIVE
WILMINGTON, IL 60481
(815) 476-9480

March 2025

Kuzma Item
Canned
Meat/Fish

Making Christ known to all through Worship, Service, and Fellowship

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

							1 Noon-5p.m. Fellowship Hall rented out-funeral dinner
2 9am Worship Coffee time Council Meeting 10:30-10:50 Sunday School	3 Pulaski Day No Preschool	4	5 Ash Wednesday 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	6	7 9am Friday Crew	8  Time to Spring Ahead	
9 9am Worship Coffee time 10:30-10:50 Sunday School	10	11	12 6pm Supper 7pm Lenten Service	13	14 9am Friday Crew	15	
16 9am Worship Coffee time 10:30-10:50 Sunday School	17	18 Eat @ Monical's Pizza today only	19 6pm Supper 7pm Lenten Service	20	21 9am Friday Crew	22	
23 9am Worship Coffee time 10:30-10:50 Sunday School	24 <i>Lamp articles due!</i>	25	26 6pm Supper 7pm Lenten Service	27	28 9am Friday Crew	29	
30 9am Worship Coffee time 10:30-10:50 Sunday School	31 Spring break begins thru 04/04/25						

VOLUNTEERS

Assisting Minister

Lector

- | | | |
|-------|----------------|---------------|
| 03/02 | Dee Eisner | Jackie D. |
| 03/05 | Dave Philllips | Gary Gruhn |
| 03/09 | Christy Ziller | Helen Watke |
| 03/16 | Dee Eisner | Paula Webb |
| 03/23 | Dave Philllips | Jeff Reents |
| 03/30 | Dee Eisner | Karen Nielsen |
| 04/06 | Christy Ziller | Susan Trimby |
- Videographer**
- | | |
|-------|----------------|
| 03/02 | Mark Lange |
| 03/05 | Christy Ziller |
| 03/09 | Mark Lange |
| 03/16 | Christy Ziller |
| 03/23 | Mark Lange |
| 03/30 | Lynn Stehlik |
| 04/06 | Lynn Stehlik |
- Greeters**
- | | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 03/02 | Terry & Dave Philllips |
| 03/05 | Cindy & John Filas |
| 03/09 | Maryann & Will Ricken |
| 03/16 | Marsha & Phil Keller |
| 03/23 | Diane Creed & Paula Webb |
| 03/30 | Jim & Arlene Hankins |
| 04/06 | Terry & Dave Philllips |
- Ushers**
- | | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 03/02 | Maryann & Will Ricken |
| 03/05 | Dan Bell & Diane Creed |
| 03/09 | Terry & Dave Philllips |
| 03/16 | Cindy & John Filas |
| 03/23 | Dan Bell & Bruce Eisner |
| 03/30 | Gary Gruhn & Kurt Stehlik |
| 04/06 | Diane Creed & Paula Webb |
- Altar Guild: Christy Ziller**



In Our Prayers



Members: Sharon Folkestad, Arlene Hankins, Susan Trimby, Terry Phillips, Cindy Filas, Andy Nielsen, David Kirstein

Home-bound: Norma Siebring (at home), Ruth Chew (at home), Marie Christian (at home), Jean Goodwin (Bickford House, Bourbonnais), Doris Dickey (Riverside Senior Living, Kankakee), Joann House (Sunny Hill, Joliet), John Muday, (Arcadia Care, Morris)

Friends and Family of Grace: Kathy Schwiesow (sister of Dan Bell), Harry Bond (friend of Janelle Reents), Sandy Carlson (Pr. Paul's wife), Carrie Francis (friend of Jackie Danalewich), Mary Ellen Webb (sister of John Filas), Al Zlomie Sr. (our custodian), Candy Marshall (Jim Hankins' sister), Sarah (Jean Petersen's granddaughter), Karen (Jean Petersen's daughter), Bobby Schamonski (friend of Grace Lutheran), Melinda (niece of Jodi Dzak), Robert Cooper (friend of Dan Bell), Jeanie (sister to Bonnie Hill), Linda Wilder (daughter of Marie Christian), April Highbaugh (friend of the Folkestads), Lucy Cranmer (great granddaughter of Helen Warke), Yaniv (grandson of Ruth Chew), Edward McCarthy (son of Barbara Kirstein), Brian (son of Marie Christian), Rita Francis (friend of Jackie Danalewich), Chris Thompson (grandson of JoAnn Thompson), Brenda (daughter of Norma Siebring), Christopher Warke (son of Helen Warke), Roger Gundersen (son-in-law of Helen Warke), Reese Wyers (granddaughter of Cindy & John Filas), Catherine Conger (daughter of Karen Nielsen), John Pick (nephew of Helen Warke), Matt Prodehl (son-in-law of Dan Bell)



Preschool News



March is one of our favorite months! We anxiously await a visit from the leprechauns. We never seem to be able to catch them! We will be having an assembly this month from The Incredible Bats company. They will talk about and show us 12 animals and we will be able to touch them. Some of the animals are a fox, a box turtle, a possum and a porcupine. It will be very cool!

We are getting ready for the big Easter egg hunt and are very appreciative for any donations you can give. We are looking for plastic eggs, pre wrapped candy and prizes. There is a bin in the fellowship hall you can drop them in. Thank you!

Learning Concepts: Alphabet -E, V, J,U Color - Yellow Shape -Diamond

Number- 7,8 Emphasis - Farm Animals, Farmer, St. Patrick's Day & Spring

Value - Patience Special Events - St. Patrick's Day Opposites - Wet/Dry

Bible Story - Jesus stills a storm

There are registration forms for the Easter Egg Event in the Fellowship Hall, please take them for your family!

**Grace Lutheran Church Council
Minutes
Sunday, December 1, 2024**

Devotions were offered by Mark Lange - He read from James 1:7

Members marked as present were Gary Gruhn, Phil Keller, Mark Lange, Mila Morrison, Paula Webb, Christy Ziller, and Pastor Carlson. Absent was Bruce Elsner.

Approval of the prior minutes of November 2024. A motion was made by Pastor and seconded by Mila M. A vote was cast and the minutes were approved with corrections.

Pastor's Report: A report was given by Pastor Paul Carlson

- There are baptisms being planned.
- Pastor is keeping up communications and discussing church business with Barb.
- Pastor is here on Mondays to visit with shut-ins; Wednesdays, during Advent; and this Thursday for a meeting.
- Advent Services have been good with a meal and then the worship service.

Properties: A report was given by Mark Lange

- \$150,000 is the goal for the roof repairs which is about \$50,000 per year.
- A task force should be developed. Multiple people will be asked to be a part of this task force.
- A special offering envelope may be developed for the roof repairs. However, for now, specifically write on your check that you would like your donation to go to our special project.
- \$950 of repairs to the roof have been completed.
- Window film has been added to the fellowship hall and the offices.
- There is a broken urinal in the preschool side men's restroom. Jason Winker's name was given as a possible plumber contact.

Finances and Stewardship A report was given by Gary Gruhn.

- The monthly report from January and December was discussed. The financial report was presented. Paula made a motion to accept and Phil seconded. A vote was cast. Motion passed.
- The budget committee consisted of Gary, Mark and Bruce; they put together a budget for next year. The 2025 budget was presented and discussed. There were changes to fellowship lines, children's education, church gifts, and added additional monies to youth line items to the budget. Paula made a motion to accept. Pastor seconding it. A vote was cast. Motion passed.
- The budget will be presented to be approved at the next congregational meeting. Gary will present the reported budget.

Outreach Report

- Gift cards of \$25 each will be given out from our outreach line totaling \$250.00 for people in need for Dollar General. This will be organized by Cindy Filas.
- Pastor Paul made a motion to complete this mission and it was seconded by Mila. A vote was cast and it passed.
- Pastor Paul and Mark will call and make arrangements with Cindy.

Worship Committee: Report: A report was given by Pastor Paul Carlson

- Christmas Eve, Monday, December 23 will have a 5:30 coffee, juice, and cookie bar with service at 6:00 pm. Jackie D. is working on getting the word out on postcards. Pastor Paul will connect with Jackie D.

Preschool Report The report was shared by Mark Lange.

- Mark shared the child safety document. There was discussion about the treatment of known sex offenders and background checks. The last look will take place now until the next meeting with approval in January.
- **The Preschool Christmas program** will be December 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Education Report The report was shared by Christy Ziller.

- **Sunday School** Current option, Bible in a Bag. There will be a lesson and a craft.
- No children for Sunday School.

The next meeting is January 5, 2025. .

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Christy Ziller

Grace Lutheran Church Council Secretary, Wilmington, Illinois

Our 15th annual Easter event is coming up on April 13th.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the prize table, hiding eggs and monitoring the game and craft rooms.

We are also in need of donations to help make this event a success. Below is a list of items we need. Please drop off the items in the container in the fellowship hall. Thank you!!

We really appreciate all the help you have given us throughout the years ! Registration forms are available in the fellowship hall.

*plastic eggs

*pre-wrapped candy

*small prizes such as: bubbles, kites, Easter toys, stuffed animals, sidewalk chalk or use your imagination!

Congregational Resourcing Event 2025

Join leaders from across our synod for a day of learning, networking, worshipping, and growing as disciples.

March 22, 2025

Sauk Valley Community College

9:00 - 3:45

\$35 per person

Register at

www.nisynod.org/cre



Growing Disciples

All congregational members are invited to registration for the **Congregational Resource Event** in Dixon IL. Registration closes on March 10. Please register on your own. This still gives you time to sign up for this day of networking and learning. Join our group as we carpool to Dixon for the day. Registration includes all the sessions and lunch. The link with all the information can be found at <https://nisynod.org/programs/cre>

There are many many workshops to choose from. Descriptions are accessible on the website. Workshops include (but are not limited to) tricks and tips for livestreaming services, how do companion churches work, and navigating the changing and slimming congregation outlook. There are also workshops on practicing discipleship and community engagement. Don't be thinking this workshop is not for you. It is a time for all to step out and gather new insight and growth. Our carpool home will be a time of sharing all of our new ideas and how any of these practices might be applied to Grace. Be sure to let Paula Webb know once you are registered so that we can set up the carpool.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, March 18th for Grace's Eat at Monical's Pizza Day. On that day, Monical's will be generously donation 20% of sales (with flyer) to Grace. A flyer to be presented that day is in this Lamp. There are more flyers in the Fellowship Hall. Save the date to help the Roof Fund.

MONICAL'S PIZZA® invites you to participate in a *Community Day!*
This is one of many ways we help area organizations, and is a wonderful opportunity for us to say thanks and give back to our loyal customers and communities.

**Grace
Lutheran
Church and
Preschool**

It's easy *and* tasty: you, your family, your friends, and your neighbors mention or show this flier to any of the area Monical's Pizza® restaurants listed below and enjoy a delicious meal. In return, Monical's Pizza® will donate 20% of your bill* to the designated organization.

Don't miss your opportunity to help out! Please remember that this special is ONLY good on the date (open-close) listed below. Tell everyone to join in! With Monical's Pizza®, you're raising money by eating great food. What could be easier?

Community Day Guest copy...

Organization: **Grace Lutheran Church and Preschool**

Community Day: **Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

Guest Check Total \$ _____
(before sales tax)

20% Contribution \$ _____



MONICAL'S PIZZA® copy... _____

Organization: **Grace Lutheran Church and Preschool**

Community Day: **Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

Guest Check Total \$ _____
(before sales tax)

MONICAL'S PIZZA®

Kankakee

815-928-8043

1155 W. Court Street

Bourbonnais

815-932-9100

597 William Latham Dr.

Offer valid only on date listed. For donation to be applied, please mention, show on phone/tablet or surrender flier. Must mention flier when ordering Carry Out/Delivery. Failure to do so may result in donation not being applied to organization. Gift card purchases will not be eligible toward total donation. Fliers are not allowed to be distributed on restaurant property. Other restrictions may apply. Additional details available at www.monicals.com

Daylight saving time

Daylight saving time, is the practice of advancing clocks to make better use of the longer daylight available during summer so that darkness falls at a later clock time.

Date: Sun, Mar 9, 2025 – Sun, Nov 2, 2025

Event Length: 240 Days

Observed for: 116 years

Significance: The practice of advancing clocks during warmer months so that darkness falls at a later clock time .

Don't forget to set your clocks forward 1 hour before retiring on March 8th.

Raise the Roof Fundraiser - Monical's Pizza

Excitement is building for our very first fundraiser as we share a meal with family and friends at Monical's Pizza, while generating donation to our fund. How easy is that? Thank you to our very own Janelle Reents who helped organize our Community Day at Monical's on Tuesday, March 18th.

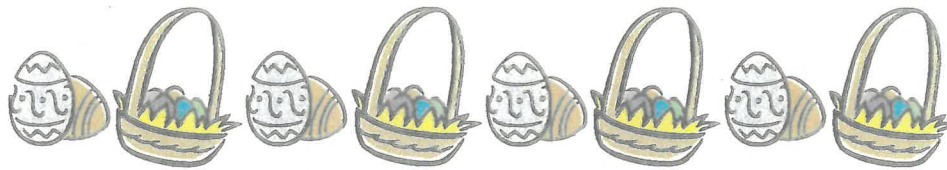
Here is how it works:

Be sure to take the flyer found in this Lamp with you. Perhaps put it in your glove compartment or purse now so that you don't forget it. On Tuesday, March 18th, take your family and friends to the Monical's in Bourbonnais or Kankakee and enjoy a wonderful meal. Hand the server your flyer, and that's it! Monical's will donate 20% of the dine-in purchase and no dishes or cleanup needed! Before you pay your bill, don't forget to add some frozen pizzas, a pizza cutter or retail dressing so you will have dinner for a different night. If you don't have time to eat in the restaurant, just show your flyer when you pick-up a pizza, salad, sandwich and/or pasta.

Janelle's staff also suggested that we sell digital e-gift cards (not physical gift cards). This will enable contributions by out of towners and anyone that cannot attend on March 18th. Between March 3 and March 10, Monical's will donate 10% of purchases of our personalized digital e-gift cards. Below is the link for the e-gift cards, but remember the link to purchase the cards will only be active from March 3—March 10. Here is a secret from Janelle. If you purchase a digital card and then use it to pay for your meal on Tuesday, March 18th, it's like you are earning more toward our fundraising. So, text your friends, post it on social media, share the link at work, and call your friends and family to spread the word. There are Monical's restaurants throughout Illinois. The e-gift cards will never expire and can be used at any of their restaurants.

So be sure to write Monical's Day on your calendar, put the flyer somewhere that you will remember it, invite family and friends to join you, give extra flyers you pick up on Sunday to neighbors and work associates, purchase a digital e-gift card or two on March 3 through 10, and have a relaxing dinner at Monical's on Tuesday, March 18th.

Here is the link to the digital e-gift cards activated for a 10% donation to Grace, March 3 through 10th: <https://www.monicals.com/dd-glc/>



Grace Lutheran Church and Preschool present

“Our 15th Annual Easter Egg Hunt Event”

Sunday, April 13th from 10:30 am – 11:30 a.m.

Bring your camera and baskets and enjoy a special visit with the Easter Bunny!

ADMISSION IS FREE and includes an egg hunt with prizes for children ages 0-10, a craft, and games. **This event is for Preschool families, church members and their families.**

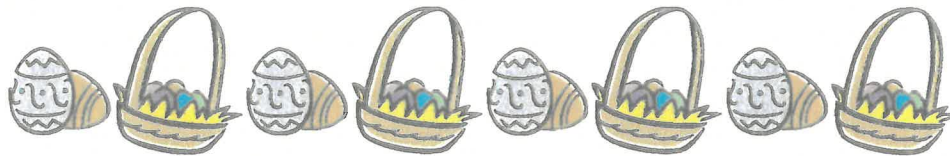
Advanced Registration is required by Friday, April 11th.

Forms are available in the church office or at the Preschool.

The Egg Hunt and all activities will be outside weather permitting.

For more information or a registration form call 815-476-9480

Or email us at gracepreschool@ymail.com



(Detach Here)

Registration Form for Our 15th Annual Easter Egg Hunt Event

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone Number _____

Please return by April 11th to Grace Lutheran Church or Preschool

907 Luther Drive Wilmington, IL 60481



What is Ash Wednesday?

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, marking the start of Lent. Traditionally, it's a time for confession, repentance, and feasting before the fasting season. The name "Shrove" comes from the Old English word *shriven*, meaning to confess sins and receive absolution.

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday, the day when you might see people with a cross of ashes on their foreheads. These ashes are a reminder of our need for repentance and the reality of our human frailty. The ash marks symbolize sorrow and mourning over sin. The Biblical support for this observation comes from the following verses:

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes ([Daniel 9:3](#)).

There was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes ([Esther 4:3](#)).

From: Christianity.com



Missionary for a Day ~ March 2025

03/03	Christy Ziller	In Honor of Shelby Eaker
03/10	Mark & Brenda Lange	In Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary
03/11	Helen Warke	In Memory of Guy Warke
03/14	Gary Gruhn	Forgive as you are forgiven
03/17	Dan Bell	In Memory of Chet & Betty Kennedy
03/18	Christy Ziller	In Memory of father, James Winker
03/20	Susan Trimby	In Memory of Vivian Trimby
03/21	Roy & Bonnie Hill	In Celebration of Roy's Birthday
03/27	Red & Sharon Folkestad	In Celebration of Red's Birthday



BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH



03/08	Chris McPherson	03/11	Christy Ziller
03/14	Beth McPherson	03/21	Roy Hill
03/27	Earl (Red) Folkestad	03/30	Brenda Lange



Anniversaries ~ March 2025



03/04	Chris & Beth McPherson
03/10	Mark & Brenda Lange

