

Watch worship online - connect through www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

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Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME/PRELUDE

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

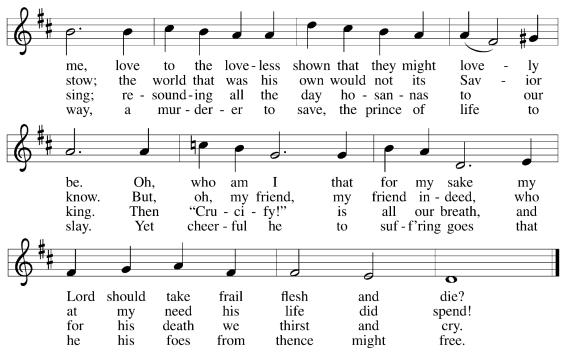
(The assembly stands as you are comfortable)

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.
- C: Amen.
- P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P: Holy God,
- C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.
- P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.
- C: Amen.





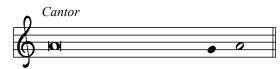
Text: Samuel Crossman, alt.

Music: LOVE UNKNOWN, John Ireland Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784. Music © 1919 John Ireland, admin. The John Ireland Trust (outside USA).

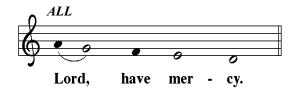
GREETING

- P: The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.
- C: And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.





For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(the assembly may be seated)

<u>WORD</u>

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:1-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses,

and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

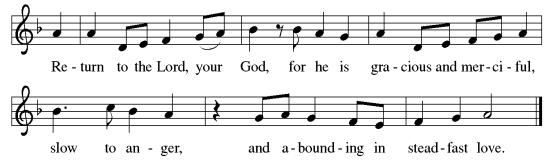
⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 12:20-33

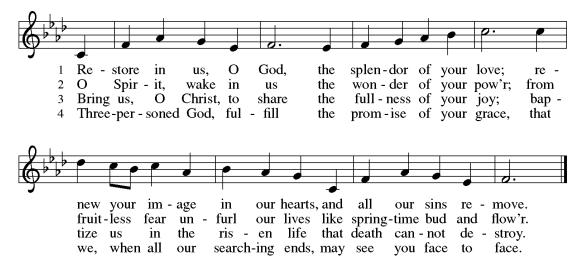
Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. ²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

- **P:** The Gospel of Our Lord.
- C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY "Restore in Us, O God"



R328

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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

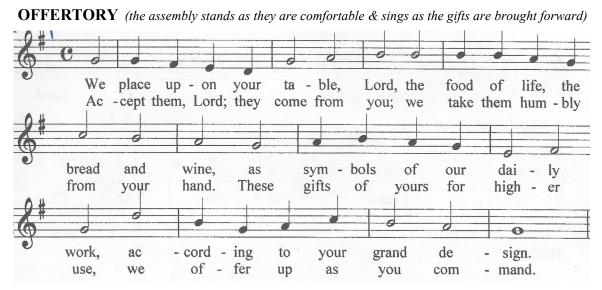
INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Response after each petition)

- P: Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.

<u>MEAL</u> God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING

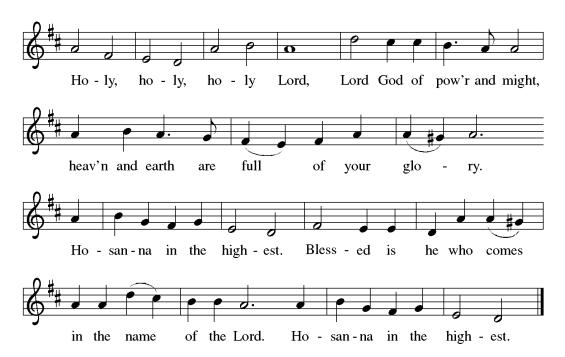


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- P: Let us pray...Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.
- C: Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- **P:** The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P: It is indeed our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...*(concluding)*...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe... With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P: O God of resurrection and new life: ... Grace our table with your presence.
- C: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
- C: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

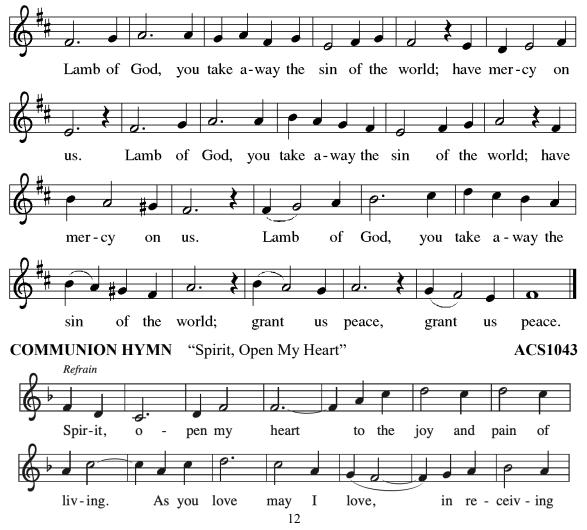
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

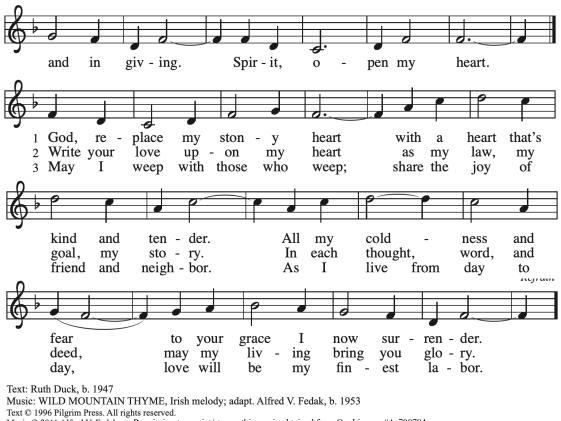
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

(All who desire to receive Christ's presence in bread and wine are welcome to participate in the Eucharist)

P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!





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the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

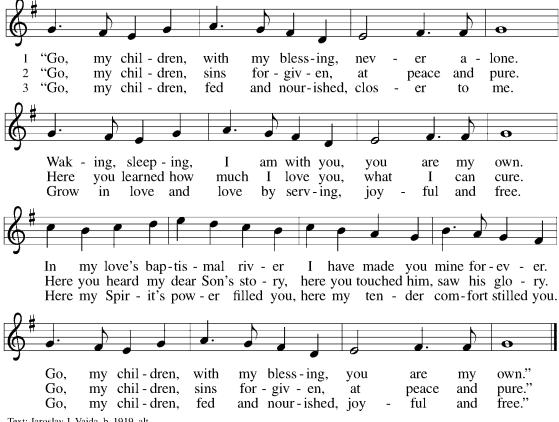
- P: Let us pray...Generous God,
- C: at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.

BLESSING

- P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless us and keep us, shower us with mercy, fill us with courage, and + give us peace.
- C: Amen.

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

R543



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.C: Thanks be to God.



POSTLUDE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE LUTHERAN A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are glad to have you here worshiping with us. For visitors, we would be glad to tell you more about Grace Lutheran and how we share God's love. Please leave the best way to contact you on the visitor sheets in the Sanctuary Narthex or the Office Lobby or use the bulletin and give it to an usher.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us for a time of fellowship with coffee/tea/juice and treats in the Fellowship Hall off the Office Lobby after our Sunday worship.

ALTAR FLOWERS

In Thanksgiving for God's Blessings Given by Polly Cook

IN OUR PRAYERS

Ali Lewis, Tammy Furze, Mary Barney-Bock, Eleanor Coddington, Sandy Malaski, Janet Chroninger, Bonnie Cross, Elfie Jahnke, Budd & Marlene Jobson, Lisa Wooll, Kristin Berles, Don Barnard, Meredith Smith, Robert Larsen, Vicki Piontkowski, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Gerald Lancaster, Dorothy Hansen, Larry & Emma Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Jim Malaski, Katherine Rettell -- Jerry Austin, Annie Olsen, Brenda Donajkowski, Rev. Laraine Sundin, Rev. Sarah Samuelson, Duane Morin, Linda, Kaye Harry, Sandra Beck, Kevin Carlson, Laura Fettes (Don Cross' granddaughter), Arlie Prevost, Donna Kendziorski, Jeff Kendziorski, Geraldine Rhoads, James Marculewicz, Herb Schiller, Ann Haske, Joanne Coughlin, Jimmy Lappan, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Emily Cross, and Joseph Hansen.

PRAYER PARTNERS

From the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, this weekend we pray for the Children's Worship Center at Trinity Episcopal Church. Our Synod Prayer Partner for this week: Trinity Lutheran Church/ Midland, Rev. Jeffrey Gramza and Rev. Danielle Shealy, and Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod Staff.

ADULT CE FOR MARCH 17

Latter Day Saints - Mormons will be the focus of Adult CE Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith

This week we will look at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, often called the Mormons. Organized and founded in the US it is now a world-wide denomination. We'll learn a little about them and compare their thinking to the ELCA Lutheran tradition. Join us at 11 in the Lounge.

PLEASE NOTE - THERE WILL BE NO CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEKEND

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS! GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER Sunday, April 28, 2024

Make your reservation as seats are limited for our 150th celebration dinner on April 28. Cost is \$20 a person for dinner catered by JJ's. We will have our dinner after our Sunday morning service on April 28. Festivities acknowledging our church's history will also be celebrated.

For your convenience, Janet Bettega and Elsa Phillips will be available after church services to make your reservation and collect your fee. (You may also contact Janet Bettega by email at: janetbettega@yahoo.com). In-person reservations may be paid by cash or check (payable to Grace Lutheran Church). <u>The last day for reservations and payment will be SUNDAY</u>, <u>APRIL 14</u>.

<u>ON THE MENU</u>: strawberry spinach salad with pecans and feta cheese, chicken piccata, meatballs with beef sauce, pan style twice baked potatoes, wild rice, glazed carrots, steamed asparagus, soft rolls and homemade cake (donated by Pam Kirchoff).

RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle will meet in the church lounge on March 20 at 1:00 p.m. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS

Another 4 sturdy Combs (not picks or fine toothed combs) are needed to complete our Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Just drop them off at the Life of Grace table. Thanks.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF - GIFTS OF LOVE - ON THE FARM

During the Lenten Season, Grace will be participating in the LWR Gifts of Love On the Farm program. We will be collecting funds to donate various farm animals and farming seeds through Lutheran World Relief. You can use the pew envelopes, designate or include an amount in your regular church contribution, or drop a donation at the office. Please indicate the amount as LWR-FARM.

As funds are collected, we would like to donate one or more of each of the following <u>gifts</u>: \$45 - piglet; \$80 - hen and chicks; \$100 - goat; \$100 - sheep; \$220 - one goat, three hens and 18 chicks; \$240 - two goats, 1 hen, and 6 chicks; \$265 - a goat, a sheep, a piglet, a hen and three chicks; \$265 - a goat, a piglet, a hen, and 6 chicks; \$300 - high - quality, drought-tolerant seeds for a farming community; \$530 - two goats, two sheep, two piglets, one hen and six chicks. *Amount donated to date is* \$775.

EASTER FLOWERS

This year we are asking for donations for Easter flowers for the church in lieu of individual plants. Donations may be made in honor or memory of someone. Several larger plants will be ordered with the money collected to beautify our sanctuary for our Easter service. Forms are available on the table in the Office Lobby. Deadline to submit forms with information to be included in the Easter bulletin is March 17.

EASTER BREAKFAST POTLUCK

We are planning an Easter Breakfast Potluck following our 9:30 am Easter Worship Service on March 31. Sign-up sheets for the potluck (#attending, dish you are bringing, help with clean up) are located in the Office Lobby. <u>*Please sign up by March 24 if you plan to attend and if you are able to help*. Thanks!</u>

GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Scholarship Applications are now available in the church office. Please email or call the office to request an application: officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org or 989-354-2640. Deadline to apply is April 15th.

PEACE GATHERING

You are invited to the Alpena Peace Community's Peace Gathering from 7-8:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 14 at Grace Lutheran Church. Come and take part in an evening of gentle music provided by Mr. David Usher followed by intermittent readings and quiet reflection.

2ND ANNUAL FREE COLLABORATIVE PIANO TRAINING

Thunder Bay Arts invites your music ensemble to a free collaborative workshop on Friday, May 3 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at First Congregational UCC, 201 S. 2nd Ave., Alpena. This event begins with a classical voice and piano performance on Friday night, followed by a Saturday morning workshop teaching collaborative techniques to local registered ensembles (an ensemble consists of a pianist and music conductor, a pianist and choir, or a pianist and vocalist or instrumentalist). Registered space is limited. Ensembles will come with a prepared piece of their choice. Both events are open to the public. **Ensembles must register at office@thunderbayarts.com by April 1.**

THE CHURCH OFFICE COULD USE YOUR HELP

Looking for volunteers to fold weekly bulletins (on Thursday or Friday mornings, your choice.) If you are able to help, please contact Peggy in the Church Office (989.354.2640).

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES Grace Lutheran Rummage Sale - August 23 & 24

Please remember our rummage sale as you are Spring cleaning.

Quilters Game Night at Grace - October 17

More details coming as these events get closer!

THANK YOU

We are very grateful for all the well wishes for our marriage and the gift card to Red Brick. We thoroughly enjoyed a nice meal together! -- Claire & Don Witt

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAMED AND RECORDED

Our Sunday worship service is livestreamed, shown on the internet, as it is happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday service may be seen as part of the livestream and recording.

Lenten Series 2024 Series Theme: Peace - Shalom - Wholeness - Wellness Soup Supper at 6pm. Worship services at 7pm.			
This year's offering goes to Hope Shores Alliance and The Friendship Room. (Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church)			
Date	Host	Preacher	
March 20	St. Paul Lutheran	Rev. Robert Nystrom	
Maundy Thursday March 28	Trinity Episcopal	Rev. John Shipman	
Good Friday March 29 12 PM	First United Methodist		
GENERAL FUND GIVING FOR FEBRUARY 2024Average needed in February (4 weeks) to meet budget\$ 18,944.00Monthly Giving - February18,599.02(Includes a one-time donation of \$1,500)W			

We received:

108 envelopes, 84 Simply Giving recurring payments, 10 Give+ payments made from our website and 1 Thrivent Choice donation.



Anniversaries of Baptism



March 3 Arnold Jahnke

March 11 Hadleigh Suszek

March 17 Patricia Schultz Adam Urlaub Brody Yuchasz

March 19 Joel Suszek March 23 Robert Greene

March 26 John Kuligowski

March 27 Eleanor Coddington

March 28 Allison Urlaub



March 1 Gene Domrase Anna Greene

Birthdays

March 2 Alisha Poirier

March 6 Patrick McCourt Tiffany Oliver

March 8 Dorene Schultz

March 9 Matthew Gillard

March 11 Norm Timm

March 12 Donice Ziberna

March 14 Barbara Mudge

March 15 Janet Bettega Kathy Piontkowski



March 18 Kayla Bertrand Vicki Cripps

March 19 Bonnie Cross Tyler Suszek

March 21 Anna Lewis

March 22 Karen Klee Gerald Lancaster

March 24 Tracie Granata

March 25 Larry Rettell Sheri Smith Emmett Suszek

March 29 Jeanette Chroninger

March 31 Emma Barber



HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday – 17th

9:30 am 11:00 am

NO Sunday School today Worship Adult Ed - Lounge

Monday - 18th 8am-noon

Church Office Open

Tuesday - 19th

8am-noon 9:00 am 11:00 am Church Office Open Sewing/Quilting Pastor's Text Study

Wednesday - 20th

8am-noon 1;00 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm Church Office Open Ruth Circle Bell Choir Practice Soup Supper & Mid-Week Lenten Worship at St. Paul

Thursday - 21st

8am-noon 6:30 pm Church Office Open Community Choir Rehearsal at First United Methodist

Church Office Open

Friday - 22nd 8am-noon

<u>Saturday - 23rd</u> 5:00 pm

Worship

SERVING MARCH 16/17

Ministers	God's People	
Pastor	Rev. Tom Orth	
Music Director	Claire Witt	
Recorded AccompanimentKat Tomaszewski		
	Joe Gentry	
Comm. Asst Joe Gentry/Wayne Lewis		
	Dale Schultz (Sun.)	
	Diane Prevost (Sat.)	
Greeters	Steve & Janie Hansen	
	lary Rowader, Elsa Phillips	
Livestream Team Dawn Anderson, Jan		
,	Don LaBarre, Alex Struble	
	Cheryl Lang, Cindy Suszek	
Coffee Hour	Ruby Haske & Family	

SERVING MARCH 23/24

Ministers	God's People	
Pastor	Rev. Tom Orth	
Music Director	Claire Witt	
Recorded Accompanin	nentKat Tomaszewski	
Lector	Dawn Anderson	
Comm. Asst Jo	e Gentry/Wayne Lewis	
Ushers		
	Diane Prevost (Sat.)	
Greeters Dawn A	Anderson, Anne Gentry	
Altar Guild Mary	Rowader, Elsa Phillips	
Livestream Team Dawn Anderson, Jan		
Charter, Dor	n LaBarre, Alex Struble	
CountersChei	ryl Lang, Cindy Suszek	
Coffee Hour	Dale & Pat Schultz	

Large print worship folders & hearing assistance devices are available from ushers

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707 Phone: Office 989-354-2640 Web Site: www.gracelutheran-alpena.org Give online at www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

Pastor: Rev. Thomas W. Orth Pastor's Home 989-356-8729 Pastor's Cell Phone 989-916-8759 <u>E-mail</u>: pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org View our services on YouTube



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