Grace Lutheran Worship Folder

March 9 & 10, 2024

FOURTH WEEKEND IN



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)

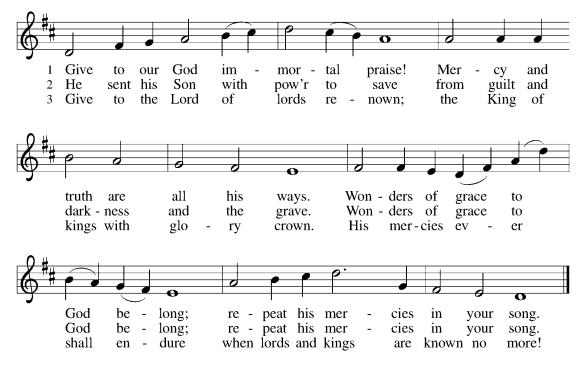
- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.
- C: Amen.
- P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

GATHERING HYMN

R848



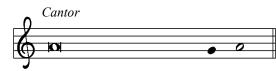
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793 This selection is in the public domain.

GREETING

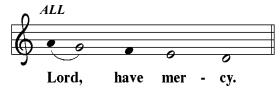
P: The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.

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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through 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 Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

³gathering them in from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

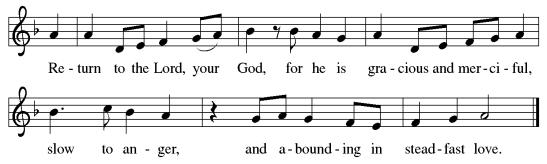
L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable for the Gospel)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



- P: The Holy Gospel according to John.
- C: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 3:14-21

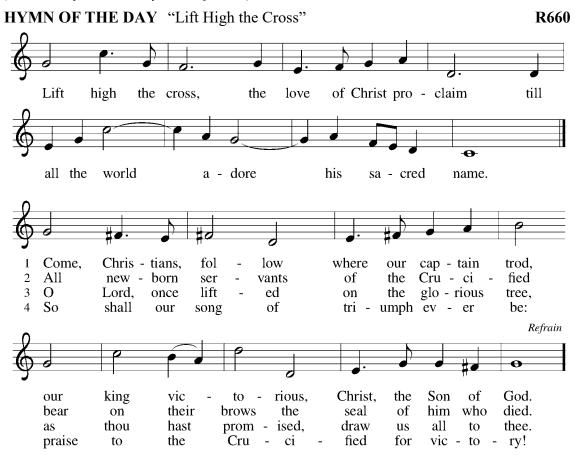
To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HOMILY



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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.
- surfered under Pontius Pliate, 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

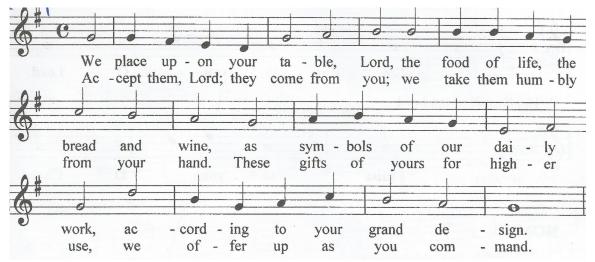
(Response after each petition)

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

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (the assembly stands as they are comfortable & sings as the gifts are brought forward)

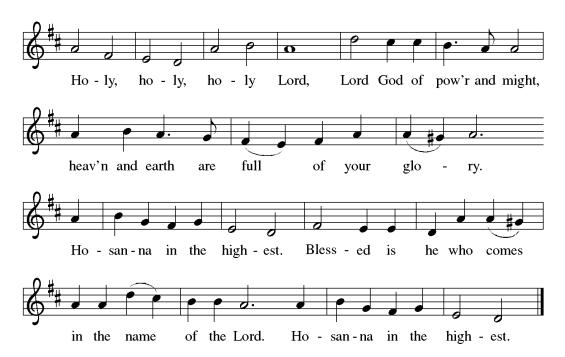


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- P: Let us pray...Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.
- C: Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray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

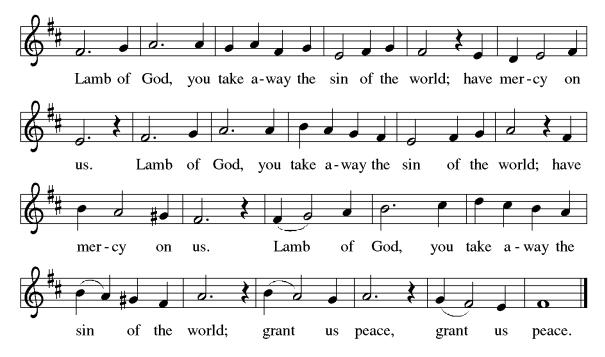
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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) Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!



COMMUNION HYMN "By Grace We Have Been Saved"

ACS1006



Text: Jonathan Rundman, b. 1971

Music: BY GRACE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977, and Jonathan Rundman Text © 2006 Jonathan Rundman and Salt Lady Music (ASCAP), admin. Augsburg Fortress Music © 2006 Nathan Houge and Lutefist (ASCAP), and Jonathan Rundman and Salt Lady Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

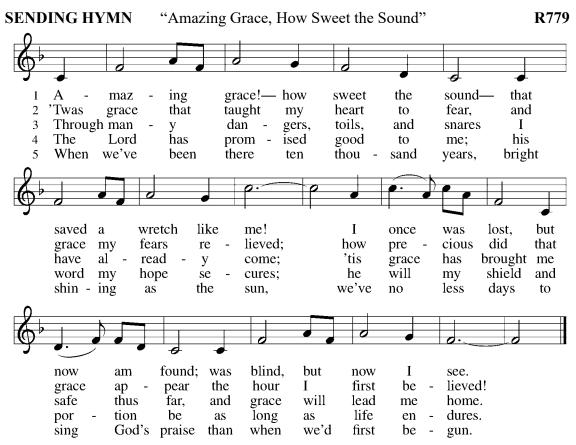
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the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

- 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.

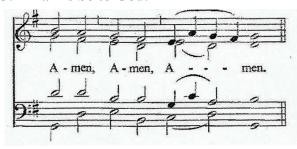


Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835 This selection is in the public domain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



POSTLUDE

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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.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Myra Cross, 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 Sunday School Program at Grace Lutheran Church. Our Synod Prayer Partner for this week: Christ Lutheran Church/ Michigan Center, Rev. Robert Martin, and Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod Staff.

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

ADULT CE FOR MARCH 10 Church of Christ, Scientist

This week we look at Church of Christ, Scientist, the Christian Science tradition - as we continue our series on Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith. It will also prompt us to discuss how we understand evil and sin. Join us at 11 in the Lounge.

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).

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.

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).

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 \$380*.

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*</u> *plan to attend and if you are able to help*. Thanks!

YOU ARE INVITED TO SING WITH THE COMMUNITY CHOIR

You are invited to sing with the Community Choir for the ecumenical Good Friday Worship Service on March 29th. Rehearsals will be held at 6:30 p.m. on March 14 at First Congregational UCC, and 6:30 p.m. on March 21 and 11:15 a.m. on March 29 at First United Methodist Church on Ripley for a final run-through. Any questions call Kat Tomaszewski at 989.255.8750 or Sandy Jarmuzewski at 989.255.7894. **Please note change in rehearsal times previously posted.**

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUP SALE!

For the second year, Miss Maggie's Nearly Famous Vegetable Soup will be available at Trinity Episcopal Church. You can reserve a quart (or as many as you would like) of soup for \$10, by phoning Cheryl Bates at (989) 657-2939 or Sonya Titus at (989) 354-6031 and then <u>picking up your order on March 15 from 1 to 3 or March 16 from 11</u> to 1 in Trinity Episcopal Church Parish House, 124 East Washington Ave., <u>Alpena</u>. Other pick up times can be arranged. In addition, on a first come first serve basis for as long as they last, small loaves of homemade bread will be available for \$3. Monies go to support our outreach programming.

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!

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.

A list of March birthdays and anniversaries can be found on our website at:

www.gracelutheran-alpena.org/2024-birthdays

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 13	First Presbyterian	Rev. Tom Orth
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	

GRACE LUTHERAN COUNCIL BRIEFS FROM FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Attendance - Bill Platt, Dennis Werblow (Treasurer), Steve Hansen, Elsa Phillips, Rick Engstrom (Vice-President), Sharon Engstrom, Pastor Tom Orth, Tom Lappan (President), and Mary Lappan (Secretary).

Secretary's minutes for December 2023 accepted as printed.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Orth gave his report.

Treasurer's/Finance Report for December 2023 and January 2024 submitted by Dennis Werblow was accepted.

Work Groups -

Discipleship - report given by Steve Hansen.

Little Food Pantry - report given by Mary Lappan.

Education - report given by Elsa Phillips.

Finance and Stewardship - motion to accept the resignation of Treasurer Don Barnard with much regret.

Property - report given by Bill Platt.

Worship - report given by Sharon Engstrom.

Old Business -

- Due to 150th Anniversary Dinner with Bishop Satterlee at Sunday service, motion was made and accepted to cancel Saturday night service on April 27, 2024.
- Discussed need for volunteers to assist in preparation for Anniversary Celebration.
- Accepted proposal for a joint fundraiser for the Little Food Pantry and Friends Together gathering on October 4, 2024.

New Business -

- Motion made and accepted to initiate a committee to revise the church constitution.
- Quilters are requesting a Fundraiser Game Night on October 17, 2024. Motion passed.
- AED training through Alpena Fire Department to take place in the Spring. Motion made and passed to do this at the cost of \$60.
- Alpena Peace Community is requesting to apply for grants with Grace's 501c(3) status. Motion passed with development of policy that all grant applications require prior authorization of church.

GENERAL FUND GIVING FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Average needed in February (4 weeks) to meet budget\$ 18,944.00Monthly Giving - February18,599.02(Includes a one-time donation of \$1,500)18,599.02

We received:

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

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

SERVING MARCH 9/10 Pastor Rev. Tom Orth Sunday School Music Director.....Claire Witt Worship Recorded Accompaniment..Kat Tomaszewski Adult Ed - Lounge

Monday - 11th

Sunday - 10th

9:00 am

9:30 am

11:00 am

8am-noon 8am-2pm 6:15 pm

Church Office Open Kitchen Reserved Friends of Alpena Co. Animal Control - Hall

Tuesday - 12th

8am-noon 9:00 am 11:00 am 5:30 pm

Church Office Open Sewing/Quilting Pastor's Text Study Alpena Wildlife/TB River Center Boards - Hall

Wednesday - 13th

8am-noon 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm

Church Office Open **Bell Choir Practice** Soup Supper & Mid-Week Lenten Worship at First Presbyterian

Thursday - 14th 8am-noon

Church Office Open Catechism Class **Community Choir** Rehearsal at UCC

Friday - 15th 8am-noon

5:00 pm

Church Office Open

6:30 pm 6:30 pm

Saturday - 16th

Worship

Charter, Don LaBarre, Alex Struble Counters.....Cheryl Lang, Cindy Suszek Coffee HourRuby Haske & Family

Comm. Asst..... Joe Gentry/Wayne Lewis

Ushers...... Dale Schultz (Sun.)

GreetersBill & Nancy Platt

Altar Guild...... Mary Rowader, Elsa Phillips

Livestream Team Dawn Anderson, Jan

Counters.....Cheryl Lang, Cindy Suszek

Coffee Hour Joel & Cindy Suszek

SERVING MARCH 16/17

Pastor Rev. Tom Orth

Music Director.....Claire Witt

Recorded Accompaniment..Kat Tomaszewski

Lector Joe Gentry

Comm. Asst..... Joe Gentry/Wayne Lewis

Greeters Steve & Janie Hansen

Altar Guild...... Mary Rowader, Elsa Phillips

Livestream Team Dawn Anderson, Jan

Charter, Don LaBarre, Alex Struble

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 E-mail: pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org

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