

MARCH 2026 • VOLUME 25, NO. 3

## Day by Day

*“Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, bringing comfort to my anxious soul...*

*Day by day, I know you will provide me strength to serve and wisdom to obey;*

*I will seek your loving will to guide me o’er the paths I struggle day by day.*

*I will fear no evil of tomorrow, I will trust in your enduring grace.” – “Day by Day” ELW 790*

Sometimes, we take things one day at a time. Some days, we take things one moment at a time. One step after another. One thing at a time.

In the blur or full schedules, personal struggles alongside global events, in the mystery of time — may we tend to God’s steadfast presence each day.

When we pray as Jesus taught, we pray for God to give us this day our daily bread. Martin Luther writes in the Small Catechism that this means “In fact, God gives daily bread without prayer, even to all evil people, but we ask in this prayer that God cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it with thanksgiving.”

As you lean into an intentional Lenten season, I invite you to consider a new daily faith practice. Give thanks to God for one thing each day. Begin with an affirmation or your trust in God’s enduring grace. Or consider a daily prayer prompt.

I’ve recently learned about a new daily devotional (information below) that I invite you to try adding this devotion to your day. May you be blessed by God’s daily presence and commit to faithful living for these days.

Peace,  
Pastor Amanda



**d365** is a daily devotion written for youth and adults. The devotion follows a five-step format – Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go.

- The *Pause* step remains the same all week and is designed as a centering tool as you begin the devotion;
- The *Listen* step is the scripture passage for the day, using the Common English Bible translation;
- The *Think* step is the devotional thought by the week’s writer;
- The *Pray* step is the start of a prayer that you can expand into your own conversation with God;
- The *Go* step is a call to action — launching you from this moment toward acting on what you have heard.

You can subscribe to daily emails or texts, or download the app and set a daily reminder notification.

**d365** is sponsored by the ELCA and is free for you to use. Learn more at [d365.org](http://d365.org).

# Prayers

## Home Communion

If you are unable to gather for worship and would like communion to be brought to you at home, please reach out to the church office. Grace has a team of home communion ministers who visit and bring communion from worship to you.

## Senior Phone Calling

If you are interested in joining the senior calling team or are a senior who would be interested in learning more about this ministry of conversation and prayer, please call the church office.

## Prayers

Please lift up these petitions in your prayers—To become a praying member of the Friends in Prayer, please submit name and e-mail address to [dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org).

**Woodstock:** Pastor Amanda Bergstrom & her family; Grace Staff; Grace Council

**Health Concerns:** Wayne Aavang (son of Joy Aavang and brother of Barb Aavang), Charlie Bell (friend of Jamielynn Wedoff), Butch Borchardt (friend of Barb Aavang), Marlene Botts, Barb Carmichael, Jim Davis, Patrice Dunn, Marshall and Paige (Behrens) Fink (great granddaughter of Joy Aavang and great niece of Barb Aavang), Connie Fischer, Robert Giron (brother of Patty Kozlow), Christy Goodman (sister of Jennifer Robbins), Tom Goggin, Marie Grob (family member of Kevin &

Carrie Jarnecke), Becca Guenther (niece of Gretchen & Claude Hutchens), Tamasa Gutierrez (mother of Patty Kozlow), Cindy Hertrampf (sister of Tammy Hansing), Dan Hess, Denise Hoover, Wayne Japp, Anne Johnson, Nicholas Karasch (nephew of Jamielynn Wedoff), Tiffany Kurth (niece of Sue & Al Beckman), Elminster Lovejoy, Amanda McNally (grandniece of Diane Baker-Lockwood), Ben Miller (nephew of Mary Johnson), Natalie Miller (sister to Mary Johnson), Kem Moran (friend of Barb Aavang), Jenny Perrone (friend of Cindy Walters), Joe Pienschke, Dorothy Potoczky, Ila Randolph, Sheila Readel, Jayne Reicher (great niece of Barb & Wayne Japp), Herb & Bev Renner (brother & sister-in-law of Ken & Gladys Renner), Nick Resek (son of Tammy Resek-Goggin), Diane Rouse (cousin of Lisa Washkowiak), Orest Rychtytzkyj, Ryan Rychtytzkyj, Nathaniel Shipp (family friend of Brian Meyers), Ann Sinnett (friend of Shirley Berna), Kathy Stone, Samuel Sweeney (nephew of Melissa McMahon), Brian Tobin (grandson of Enn Teetsov), Marilyn Vanskike, Cindy Walters, Mary Widmayer, Caitlin Wilcox (niece of Anne Johnson)

**Sorrow:** Gloria Holy

## Prayer Requests

If you wish to add a prayer request for the newsletter, please call the church office at: **815-338-0554**.

Your prayer concern will run for one month and may be renewed. Submissions to the *Friends in Prayer* email may be submitted by telephone to the church office or via email to [grace@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:grace@gracewoodstock.org).

Due to confidentiality laws, hospitals no longer notify churches or pastors when a member is hospitalized.

If you or a member of your family have a medical procedure planned or is admitted to the hospital, please call the church (815-338-0554).

## Pinochle

Pinochle meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Our daytime group will meet on Wednesday, March 4, and March 18 at 1 p.m. in room 101. Contact Barb Murray for any questions.

—Sally Sheahan



## February Church Council News

### Job Description

Grace Church Council approved the newly revised Director of Worship and Music job description at the Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The job description will be posted on our designated sites.

### Truck Sale Listing

Church Council approved listing the sale of our 2012 F350 truck with snowplow and salter. Further information will be upcoming.



## Volunteer Treasurer Wanted



If you have a background working with numbers or own/operate a business, could you find it in your heart to accept the volunteer position of treasurer?

Knowledge of QuickBooks is

useful but training will be provided. You do not need to be a Council member or go to the meetings but will be required to prepare periodic reports for the council and congregation.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact a council member (as listed on the last page of this publication) or the church office.

**GRACE FOR TODAY**—The deadline for the **April 2026** newsletter is **March 15**. Please send articles to Kari Gippert at [kgippert@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:kgippert@gracewoodstock.org), or the church office. Questions: Call the office at **815-338-0554**.

# Worship this March

This March, we gather for worship in the season of Lent. Attentive to God’s steadfast love, we recall how God saves and how we align our priorities and lives in response to God’s grace.

May this season be a time set apart for intentional prayer and faith practices. May God’s call, forgiveness, and promises speak to you anew as we gather in community to be sent back into the world to love and serve God and neighbor.

Make plans now to gather for worship during Holy Week. Hear the story, remember Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, be filled with wonder at the grace of God we receive and share.

We gather for worship on **Sundays at 9:00 a.m.** as a faith community, and continue to give thanks for A/V Team volunteers who make worship accessible via the [YouTube livestream](#) or the posted worship videos on our website.



## Holy Week & Easter Sunday

*Palm Sunday, March 29 at 9 a.m.; Maundy Thursday, April 2 at noon & 7 p.m.*

*Good Friday, April 3 at noon & 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, April 5 at 8 & 10 a.m.*

**Thank you** for being a part of Grace’s worshipping community. We give thanks for your time and presence.

- Sign up here to serve as an [Usher](#), [Greeter](#), [Reader](#), or [Communion Assistant](#), for additional questions, please contact Fay Wilson.
- If you’d like to join in sharing a children’s sermon message, please contact Nyji Sirreayah.
- If interested in joining this A/V team rotation, please contact Bill Nattress.
- To learn more about participating in the altar guild to set up before or clean up after communion, please contact Karen Reinhard.
- Contact Jan Burns to learn more about vocal and handbell choirs, contemporary band, instrumentalist, soloists, and small group opportunities.

We give thanks for the many volunteers who support Holy Week and Easter Sunday services. Please call the church office or reach out to Pastor Amanda or Jan if you would like to participate in additional reader and special musical opportunities for these worship services.



## EASTER FLOWERS DONATION

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHOOSE ONE PER COUPON

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God: \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_



Help provide flowers for our sanctuary on Easter. Give a gift in “honor of someone” or “in memory of a loved one,” or “to the glory of God.”

Place the coupon below, along with your \$18.00 in an envelope and mail to the office (1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road, Woodstock, IL 60098), drop it off at the church office, or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday. Please

**print clearly**, as you want a name(s) to appear.

Anyone donating is welcome to pick up a lily following the 10 a.m. Easter worship on Sunday, April 5. If any are left over, we are going to share them with our homebound members. **DEADLINE FOR DONATION FORMS & MONEY: Friday, March 27, 2026.**



	January 2026			2026 Annual Budget
Operating	Actual	Budget	Difference	
<b>Income</b>	\$35,421.68	\$40,886.76	(\$5,465.08)	\$431,321.20
<b>Expense</b>	\$43,248.64	\$46,470.70	\$3,222.06	\$500,371.63
<b>Balance</b>	(\$7,826.96)	(\$5,583.94)	(\$2,243.02)	(\$69,050.43)



This month Sewing Circle meets Tuesday, March 3 and March 17, from 8:30 a.m.-noon in Grace Center.

Everyone is welcome. The group needs sewers and non-sewers alike. We always are in need of sheets (hint: buy new for yourself and give us your old ones to recycle ... regular or flannel, fitted or flat sheets — doesn't matter as all are used.) Other items needed include quilt batting, fabric, pillow stuffing, thread, etc. Come join us! We can find a place for you!

Contact Tammy Hansing at [hansings1981@gmail.com](mailto:hansings1981@gmail.com).

—Tammy Hansing



**Rooted & Renewed** is your monthly reset.

A space just for adults and parents to unplug, laugh, connect, and refill your cup. This isn't another meeting or responsibility ... it's a breath of fresh air.

Once a month — Wednesday, March 18 — we come together to ground ourselves, build real connections and enjoy genuine fellowship in a relaxed, welcoming environment. Think encouragement, community and good energy. All in one place.

Come as you are. Leave refreshed, renewed and reminded that you're not doing life alone.

This is your time. Join us.

If you have questions, contact Nyji.

### Sunday Book Club Meetings

The Sunday Book Club met on Feb. 15 to vote on its next read, which begins Sunday, March 1. Participants voted on a novel titled, "Under the Bayou Moon," written by Valerie Fraser Luesse.

We will meet all five Sundays in March for discussion and reading. Come and join us at the table in the church parlor after worship on Sunday mornings for lively discussion and Christian viewpoints. For more information, contact Paul Lockwood.

—Paul Lockwood & Sally Sheahan

### 2026 Bulletin, Presence Light Sponsors Needed

The 2026 Bulletin & Presence Light sponsor sheets are available in the white binder at the Information Desk.

A month prior to your sponsoring, a form will be sent to you requesting information and a donation of \$20 for the Bulletins & \$10 for the Presence Light. Thank you for helping us fund these weekly.

## The Season of Lent Calendar



### Palm Passion Sunday

March 29

9:00 a.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)



Maundy Thursday

April 2

12:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)

### Holy Week



Good Friday

April 3

12:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)



Easter Sunday

April 5

8:00 a.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)

10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)



Attention families of all ages!

Grace Lutheran Church's next Faith Factory Fridays will take place Friday, March 27, from 5:30 -7:30 p.m., and is open to all ages.

You must be registered to attend. Faith Factory Fridays is a fun, faith-filled evening with games, activities, and Bible exploration where kids can play bold, love big, and grow in faith.

Friday Faith Nights will be held on the last Friday of every month. We hope to see many of our families there!

To register, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code above.

## Vacation Bible School (VBS) Help Needed

VBS 2026 is around the corner, and we need amazing volunteers for four days of biblical structured fun for our pre-K through fifth grade students. No dates have been set. Contact Nyji for more info.

We need: daily registration, group leaders, Bible story/lesson team, crafts team, games team, snack team, decorations & setup team, security, prayer team, music & worship team, & floaters. High school & confirmation class are encouraged to volunteer.



### March 8: An Intergenerational Women's Faith Adventure!

Get your passports ready!

*Intergenerational*  
**WOMEN'S DAY**  
Passport Event March 8<sup>th</sup> 10am *After worship service*

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- MEET MARY, ELIZABETH, ANNA, AND MARY MAGDALENE
- INTERACTIVE STORYTELLING STATIONS
- CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN
- PASSPORT JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE
- FELLOWSHIP AND FUN FOR ALL AGES

COME DISCOVER HOW GOD USED WOMEN TO HELP CHANGE THE WORLD!

Come discover how God used women to help change the world! Step into Bible times as women of faith come to life through storytelling, crafts, and interactive activities for all ages. Children, parents, grandparents, and friends are all welcome! Passport to this event is available after service. Join your little ones on their journey with the keepers of faith.

GRACE LUTHERAN  
**YOUTH OUTING**  
AT  
**JOHN WHITE STABLES**  
March 22, 2026 11:30am  
AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL

### March 22: Sunday School Lesson: "The Wedding Banquet"

Students will learn Matthew 22:1-14

As told by Jesus comparing the kingdom of heaven to a king, hosting a wedding for his son. When invited guests refused, the king opened the feast to everyone, emphasizing that while many are called, few are chosen. After Sunday School, Sunday School families are invited to enjoy a youth outing at John White Stables. Families RSVP [Here](#).

## Presence Light Sponsors:

### March 1:

- Given to the Glory of God.

### March 8:

- Given to the Glory of God.

### March 15:

- Given to the Glory of God.

### March 22

- In memory of Marlene L. Teuber and in honor of Robert W. Teuber; given by Robert B. Teuber.

### March 29:

- In honor of my mom, Betty Kessinger's 94th birthday; given by Nancy & Bill Kreznor.

## Bulletin Sponsors:

### March 1:

- In memory of those who have passed; given by Robin Gibbs.

### March 8:

- Given to the Glory of God.

### March 15:

- Given to the Glory of God.

### March 22:

- In memory of Marlene L. Teuber and in honor of Robert W. Teuber; given by Robert B. Teuber.
- In honor of Paul's birthday; given by Cindy Meyer.
- In memory of Diane Baker-Lockwood on what would have been our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary; given by Paul Lockwood.

### March 29:

- Given to the Glory of God.

## eGiving Options

In addition to weekly offering envelopes, Grace provides electronic giving options. Please give in the way that is most convenient for you and let us know if you have any questions.

**Give Online** at our website or via our QR code



**Give by Text** by texting **877-698-3604**

Enter the 10-digit number (877-698-3604) and the amount you wish to donate, then press send, and follow the prompts to complete your donation.

**Give through Vanco Mobile App** by downloading the app

- Go to the App Store or Google Play and search "**Vanco Mobile**" to quickly find and download the app for free.
- Search "**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**" to select Grace in Woodstock, IL, then select Give to select an amount, General Operating Fund, and frequency, and the app will prompt you through completing your donation.

**Give through automatic withdrawal program.** To participate, please complete an enrollment form and return to the church office to schedule pre-authorized electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your bank account. You can change, stop, or temporarily hold your giving by contacting Grace's church office four business days in advance of a scheduled contribution.

*Please contact the church office (815-338-0554),  
if you have any questions.*

**Visit the Grace website for the most up-to-date information for all  
that is happening at Grace! [gracewoodstock.org](http://gracewoodstock.org)**

### GRACE STAFF & COUNCIL

#### Lead Pastor

Rev. Amanda Bergstrom  
[abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:abergstrom@gracewoodstock.org)

#### Office Coordinator

Kim Smith  
[ksmith@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:ksmith@gracewoodstock.org)

#### Financial Secretary

Carrie Fiorina  
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#### Communications Coordinator

Kari Gippert  
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#### Director of Youth Education

Nyji Sirreayah  
[nsirreayah@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:nsirreayah@gracewoodstock.org)

#### Organist & Interim Coordinator of Worship & Music

Jan Burns

#### Music Group Directors

Terry Aavang, Jon Bergstrom,  
Carrie Filetti, Cindy Meyer

#### Building Supervisor

Ken Zank

#### Custodians

Chris & Kim Ethridge

#### Council

Carlos Acosta, Michelle Anderson,  
Brian Gerloff, Carrie Jarnecke,  
Nancy Kreznor, Michael Liedtke,  
Mary Noe, Adele Petersen,  
Jeremy Schaaf

#### Treasurer

Jane Gerloff







