



**May
2026**

Campus Locations:

Grace Lutheran
PO Box 7
Brandon, MN 56315
www.gracethroughfaithministries.com

Faith Lutheran
526 State Street
Evansville, MN 56326
www.gracethroughfaithministries.com

Worship Schedule

Pastor

Pastor Bradley Pearson
Hours:
9 am to noon Mon/Tues/Thurs - Faith
Noon - 2 pm Mon/Thurs - Grace
9 am to 2 pm Wed - Grace
Phone: 320-834-5179
Email: pastorbrad@gctel.net

Office-Grace

Kelli Wendel
Hours: 8:30 am - 4 pm T-TH
Phone: 320-524-2262
Email: grace@gctel.com

Office-Faith

Hours: Contact Pastor Brad
Phone: 218-948-2574
Email: faithlc@gctel.com

Parish Council President

Lon Burgess
Phone: 320-266-8407

Grace Council President

Steffen Morical
Phone: 320-808-5828

Faith Council President

Bob Anderson
Phone: 701-260-4302

You are encouraged to routinely check the parish web & Facebook pages to keep up to date on any changes with worship schedules and activities.

Worship Times

9 am - Grace 11 am - Faith

Worship online when you can't make it in person.
Visit

www.gracethroughfaithministries.com
and click on the LIVE STREAM button to watch.



Those without computer/internet access can watch at 8 am daily on Gardonville TV Channel 4 and Selective TV 21.4



**Summer Worship Times
Starting
Memorial Day Weekend
May 24**

8:30 am at Grace and 10:30 am at Faith

Summer Hours will run Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Dates to Remember :

May 10 - Mother's Day - Last day of Sunday School

May 17 - Senior Recognition Sunday - Grace

May 21 - Habitat Build Day

May 22 & 23 - Grace Rummage Sale

May 24 - SUMMER WORSHIP TIME BEGINS!

May 25 - Memorial Day - Offices Closed



CELEBRATE



Senior Recognition Sunday

May 17 - Grace

Join us as we celebrate this with these young people!

Congratulations to our members who will be graduating high school!

We are so proud of your hard work and achievements!

Best of luck in your plans following graduation - our prayers go with you.

Grace Lutheran Graduates:

- Colton Breitreutz, son of Clayton & Tonya Breitreutz
- Mia Elmer, daughter of Jason & Heidi Elmer
- Bryce Froemming, son of Ken & Jennifer Froemming
- Landon Stich, son of Jason & Jennifer Stich
- Madeline Stich, daughter of Jason & Jennifer Stich



Congratulations, Graduates!

What's Happening in Sunday School at Grace:

We are wrapping up Sunday School for the school year. Thank you to all of our teachers for their work this year, and for all the families who made it a priority to attend!

The Board of Education will begin planning for next school year. If you are interested in helping out, please let the office or Pastor Brad know.

Date

Theme

Teachers

5-3

God's House
John 14:1-14

Erin Okerlund

5-10

Mother's Day

Tina Pikkaraine
Danielle Anderson

Last Day of Sunday School - May 10 Last Day of Confirmation - May 6



Grace Rummage Sale May 22 & 23

You can bring items May 17 to 21. The church will be open from 8:30 to 6 pm for those dropping off items. Contact Peg Okerlund or Pam Mickelson if you are able to help organize during the week.

In Loving Memory



In what would have been his senior year of high school, a memorial has been given toward senior scholarships in memory of Jon Dingwall, Jr. by Tom & Kim Dingwall. This gift is a celebration of Jon Jr.'s life.



The following Baptisms have been celebrated so far this year at Grace:

Mack Alan Hintermeister, son of Zach and Katie Hintermeister. January 18, 2026

Sabrina Lorraine Hamberg, daughter of Shane and Sandra Hamberg. April 19, 2026

As I served during Faith's Scandinavian Dinner, I met a spirited, joyful woman with a bright smile that could save electricity in anyone's home.

After eating her meal, she bounced to the serving line with a compliment I've not heard before, "Thank You for using real silverware and plates!"

Not only was she serious, but genuine and enthusiastic.

She spoke of her passion for taking care of God's creation and how she's trying to get her church to embrace "green". Her compliment about silverware and plates was a happy nod for less garbage!

The woman tied creation-care to Jesus' command to wash feet. Caretaking isn't limited to loving our neighbors, it's about tending to, protecting, conserving the ground, air, water and the life that flourishes and depends on all three.

Growing up, there were three colored bins in everyone's garage – we had to separate our recycling and carry it to the curb once-a-week. Looking back, few of those bins made it to the curb, but the garbage cans were always plumb full.

Like millions of people, I was fascinated with NASA's recent pictures of the Moon. A cousin retired from her work on the Space Shuttle – this "inside connection" has kept me curious about space.

As I saw pictures of the great beyond and marveled at God beyond that, I understood what motivated the joyful woman at the dinner. Earth is our home. If we don't take care of it, who will? If we waste, pollute, destroy and are thoughtless, will living on Mars or the Moon be any different?

We appreciate convenience and easy clean-up. Yay, weekly garbage collection – out of sight, out of mind. Our trash and sewage goes somewhere; someone deals with it; it piles up. Then what!?!

Want to honor and thank the Risen Jesus? Recycle. Conserve. Reuse. Donate. Share. Repurpose. Be creative!

If you see garbage, pick it up and throw it away – don't assume or expect someone else to do it. Chances are, that "someone else" is thinking the same!

With the warming weather, ice out, birds singing and windows open, be glad of life! Welcome the privilege to enjoy and care for what God has given us ... ground, air and water.

See you in Worship!
Pastor Brad

Pastoral Care

If you, a family member or friend of yours is sick, hospitalized, having or going to be having surgery or have any other concerns needing pastoral care - please call the Church Office: Faith at 218-948-2574 or Grace at 320-524-2262 and the Parish Assistant will contact Pr. Bradley. After hours, Pastor can be reached at the parsonage 320-834-5179.

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Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, April 12, 2026

Council Members Present: Bob Anderson, Diane Bukkila, Doug Alvstad, LeAnn Strand, Warren Erickson

Guests Present: Pastor Bradley Pearson and Candi Steer

Council started the meeting with Thanksgivings.

The meeting was called to order by Doug Alvstad. Bob moved to approve the Agenda; Diane seconded. Motion carried.

Bob moved to approve last month's minutes; Warren seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- Candi presented and reviewed the financials.
- Thrivent Choice hasn't been sending emails to coincide with donations; will work to get our email added in Thrivent's system.
- Confirmed Vanco has been cancelled.
- \$1500 donation received and earmarked for a portable sound system.

Motion was made by Diane that Candi investigate a portable sound system and use \$1500 donation towards this purchase. Warren seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

- Ruby's Pantry's has unexpectedly shut down their operations. Pastor Brad is meeting with Main Street Market to look into options for an alternate plan.
- Aanika Wendt has agreed to continue with custodial duties.
- Joint outdoor service is Sunday, July 19. Grace is responsible for lunch; Faith is responsible for desserts.

Old Business:

- Diane received letter/quote from Steffel Pest Control. The cost is \$200 for each external application. Bob motioned to move forward with Steffel Pest control for a spring and fall treatment. Warren seconded. Motion carried.
- John Hanson to repair seals in the front entry doors.
- Tree trimming was discussed. Warren moved to have Matt Kronberg trim the two large maple trees east of the church. Bob seconded. Motion carried.
- Faith bake sale confirmed for Saturday, July 4.
- Warren confirmed furnace work has been done/new coil has been installed.
- Reminder: All groups using the kitchen are responsible for clean-up including coffeemaker, dishes, dishwasher, sinks, etc.

New Business:

- Bid was received from Englund Lawn Care for lawn maintenance. LeAnn motioned to accept the bid. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, May 17 at 12 noon

Pastor Brad closed the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting was adjourned by Doug Alvstad

Respectfully submitted: LeAnn Strand



Bible Studies:

Mondays

7:00 pm

Tuesdays

Men's: 6:30 am

Women's: 9:00 am

Prayer & Share:

Thursdays
9:30 am

Faith Lutheran
Fellowship Hall

Prayer & Share is an informal gathering of Faith members to visit, share concerns and pray. This group is open to everyone (men and women).

Come for coffee, conversation and end with prayer for people within the congregation and community

Fund Balances as of 3/31/26:

General Fund	\$106,241.65
Building Fund	\$1,313.53
Benevolence Fund	\$7,637.22
Faith Ministries Fund	\$19,519.33
Scholarship Fund	\$5,171.72



As of 3/31/2026

General Fund Giving: \$29,806.07

General Fund Expenses: \$32,549.70

Please Note Christian Ed & Faith Ministries Funds were merged per council

Faith's Noisy Offering for May will Support West Central Minnesota Car Care Program

The Car Care Program is a 501c3 nonprofit, faith-based community uniting human services agencies and faith-based social ministries addressing people in poverty challenged with transportation barriers. Car Care Program serves Douglas and Pope Counties. Their mission is to "Promote Independence, Restoring Hope, One Car at a Time".

Since 2013:

- 550+ cars were gifted to clients
- 1,600+ cars repaired by volunteers
- 1,500+ cars donated 15,000+ volunteer hours
- 4,000+ individuals served

Faith Partners with Main Street Market

In the Narthex, there's a table with Meal Packs – everything needed for a balanced and filling meal at no cost. Inside, there's coupon for cold items redeemable at Main Street Market (Evansville).

The Plate It Forward Meal Packs are for local individuals or families who could use "a little extra blessing".

Pick out a meal for yourself or deliver to someone you know. Monetary and time donations can be made to Main Street Market. Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who helped make the Scandinavian Dinner in April such a meaningful and memorable evening.

In true Faith family fashion, we are especially grateful for those who simply showed up and asked, "What can I do to help?" So many of you stepped in wherever there was a need—through generous donations, preparing, serving, welcoming, and cleaning—each part coming together to make the evening such a success. Everyone played a role. How awesome!

The impact was incredible. In just a few short hours, over \$3,000 was raised, with 100% of the proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity and the Outreach Food Shelf.

Even more meaningful was the sense of connection throughout the evening—people visiting, sharing stories, and enjoying one another's company.

At the end of the evening, the kitchen crew was ready to turn off the lights and head home, but when we looked out into the fellowship hall, people were still gathered—laughing, talking, and sharing life together. It was a beautiful reminder of what community truly looks like. What a wonderful evening!

With heartfelt thanks,
Mary & Deb

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The food pantry comes to Evansville the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 11:30 am to 1 pm at the Evansville City Hall.

How Can I Help?

- Volunteers are needed to help people register, shop, carry groceries etc. Please contact either Diana at City Hall or Deb Erickson to volunteer.
- The pantry will accept donations of non-perishable food or garden produce. If you have something to donate, please bring it the 2nd Tuesday of the month while the mobile unit is in town.
- Pass the word on to anyone that might need these services and let them know this help is available.

Any further questions? Contact city hall or one of the volunteers.

May 2026 Faith Worship Assistants

	May 3 11 AM -Faith Communion	May 10 11 AM -Faith	May 17 11 AM - Faith	May 24 11 am - Faith Communion	May 31 10:30 AM - Faith
Sound/Video	Brad Anderson	Heidi Johnson	Larry Carlson	Sandy Alvstad	Brad Anderson
Reader	Deb Berry	Candi Steer	Rita Loftness	Brad Anderson	Angie Baker
Ushers	Elise LeMay Family	Dennis Week	Doug Alvstad	Dennis Anderson	Larry Carlson
Communion Servers	Eme Quinn			Bob Anderson	

Grace Lutheran Church Minutes - 4/8/26

Grace Members Present: Don Bakken, Tom Behlke, Cheryl Lund, Steffen Morical, Tina Pikkaraine, Clem Roers, Dawson Staple, Renee Thompson
Guests Present: Pastor Bradley Pearson, Kelli Wendel



Giving to the General Fund (this is the fund that covers the majority of our ministry and operating expenses for the year) has fallen short of

budget by over \$10,000 for the first quarter of the year. Although we have tried to keep expenses as low as possible, we have still expended over \$6,000 more than we have taken in so far this year. The council asks those who are able, to consider helping us catch up. Thank you!

Steffen called the meeting to order. Tom motioned to approve the agenda. Clem 2nd. Approved.
 VISITOR REPORTS: None

PASTORAL REPORT: Continued discussion on challenges with Confirmation. Pastor hopes to have a plan for some changes by June. Council encouraged there to be more accountability on the part of families. Ruby's Pantry has shut down, so that mission effort has been put on hold.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Cheryl motioned to approve minutes as presented. Tina 2nd. Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kelli presented financials. We are over \$10,000 under budget for giving to General Fund this year. Year-to-date, our expenses have been over \$6,000 more than our receipts. Council asked that Kelli share this information in the newsletter so people are aware. Don motioned to approve. Renee 2nd. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

•MN Paid Leave: Kelli appeared in online hearing for the appeal of the rate determination. Received word that our appeal was accepted and our rate has been moved down to the small employer rate.

•Joint Outdoor Worship: Planned for July 19 at Long Lake Lodge at 10:30 am. Gloryland Band is confirmed. Light meal will be served following. Kelli will coordinate getting a Thrivent Action Team approved for this project. Need a team of people to coordinate/serve meal. Pastor will check on meat. Need a few grills/grillers. Steffen will start asking for help.

NEW BUSINESS:

•Synod Assembly May 30: Spot available for someone to attend – it is online only. Pastor will be in attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DEACON'S REPORT: None

BOARD OF EDUCATION: None

TRUSTEE'S REPORT: Thanks to Terrill and Clem for their work covering snow removal when there was nobody signed up. Thank you to Zach Hintermeister for keeping parking lots cleared.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 13 at 8 pm

Don motioned to adjourn. Cheryl 2nd. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by: Kelli Wendel, Parish Assistant

Grace Giving at a Glance

<u>General Fund:</u>	
Giving March 29	TBD
Giving April 5	\$4,248.00
Giving April 12	\$3,218.95
Giving April 19	\$2,357.00
Giving April 26	TBD
Coffee	\$43.00
Building Giving	\$192.00
Elevator	\$20.00
Mission Giving	\$280.00
Noisy Offering	\$266.05
World Hunger	\$325.00
Camperships	\$499.00
Thrivent Choice	\$79.00
Scholarships	\$200.00

Weekly General Fund Giving needed to meet the budget = \$3,000.00

Fund Balances as of 3/31/26:

General Fund	\$79,309.98
Building Fund	\$44,465.77
Christian Ed Fund	\$33,373.57
Mission Fund	\$14,852.16
Scholarship Fund	\$3,288.15



Ways to Give: During Worship



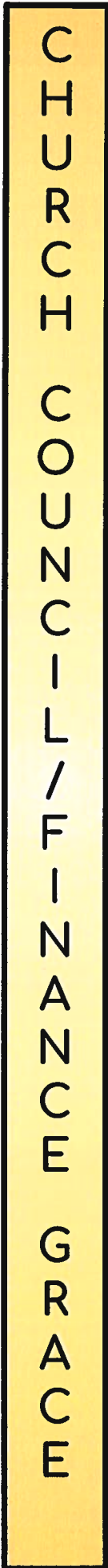
Remember Your Offering

Mail a Check:

You can share your offering gift by placing a check in the mail: Grace Lutheran Church, PO Box 7, Brandon, MN 56315

Online Giving through Parish Website:

You can make a one-time gift through the site or you can create a recurring gift. You can visit Grace's giving page at: <https://gp.vancopayments.com/gpo/#/donateNow/b6cb1b0eb4bd10ebc95886d20feb9cf7>.



Grace Beyond Our Doors



Next Meeting: Sunday, May 17 following worship - Library.

We are always looking for new ideas on mission giving. Please join us!

Upcoming Noisy Offerings:

May: Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County

June: B/E School Backpack Attack Program

July: Douglas County Food Shelf

August/September: LWR School & Health Kits

GBOD approved sending \$200 to Children to Love International to help sponsor Helen Oslund's mission trip to Romania. She will be teaching young women/girls to sew as a means of supporting themselves. Helen has sewn and donated the raffle quilt for last year's and this year's Fall Bazaar.

May's Noisy Offering Habitat for Humanity



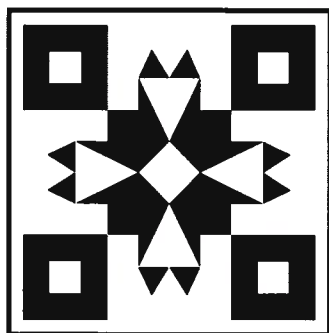
It has been our tradition for many years to support our local Habitat for Humanity at this time of the year with a financial offering and a work day. This year is no exception. A couple weeks ago ground was broken for the 100th new home built by our chapter. That's a lot! In addition, each year HFH helps many older adults make adjustments to their houses so that they can remain living at home.

The home that we will be supporting this year is being built in the new HFH Summer Meadows development in Alexandria. When all are completed, there will be 42 new affordable homes in this development. That is a whole community! In 2023, the City of Alexandria determined that 8-10 new affordable homes are required each year to keep up with demand. HFH is providing 4-6 of these so it is a project well worth supporting.

Grace and Faith have each committed to raising \$750 this year for Habitat. We will be accepting donations all month towards our goal in addition to our Noisy Offering. Please note HFH on your check or donation. There are still a few openings to help on the build site. We will be painting in the house the morning of May 21. If that interests you, please contact the office or sign up outside the office. Thanks for supporting our efforts to build one more affordable house in our county!



An anonymous gift of \$3,000 was given in support of youth camperships - thank you for helping make Bible camp affordable for our families!



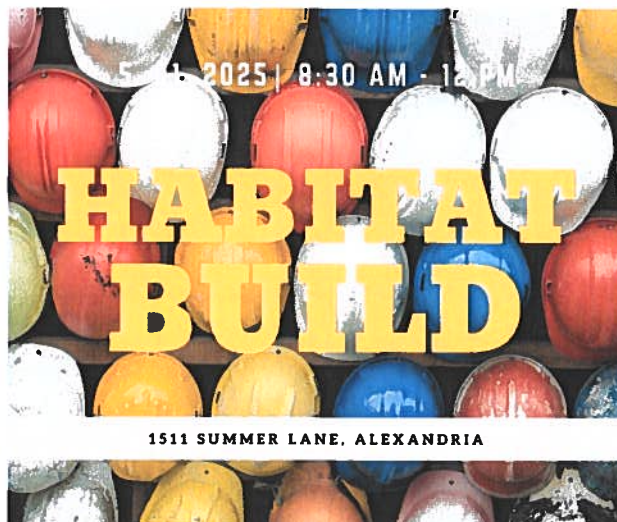
Join Us for Quilting at Grace

Thursday,
May 7 & 14

9 am



As you begin plans for your garden, please remember to plant an extra row or two for the Fall Bazaar Produce Wagon! Happy Planting!



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may Birthdays

GRACE	
Cash Wagner	2
Monica Sieling	3
Boone Wagner	3
Sheila Weets	4
Benjamin Traphagen	6
Shane Hamberg	7
Eric Johnson	7
Shiloy Baldwin	9
Chloe Hinz	9
Dave Timmerman	9
Elton Kohnen	10
Lenni Anderson	13

GRACE (cont.)	
Britta Burgess	13
Kevin Challes	13
Betty Stricker	13
Ben Rusch	14
Aubree Swiontek	14
Alice Pikkaraine	15
Chase Hanson	17
Mary Burgess	18
Nathaniel Okerlund	20
Chris Anderson	21
Nicole Olson	21
Trenten Anderson	23

GRACE (cont.)	
Mike Daniels	23
Riley Dell	23
Ken Froemming	23
Brittany Korkowski	24
Emily Borgstrom	25
Brittany Feller	25
Megan Peterson	28
Kendall Hoidahl	29
Livia Wirtjes	29
Ron Jacobson	30
Izzy Rusch	30
Maxwell Wagner	30

FAITH	
Elaine Eidem	2
Avery Andersen	5
Lance Johnson	5
Hannah Anderson	28
Monty Carlson	29
Joyce Moebius	29
Darlene Jante	30
Candi Steer	30

May 2026 Grace Worship Assistants

	May 3 9 am Communion	May 10 9 am Mother's Day	May 17 9 am Senior Recognition	May 24 8:30 am	May 31 8:30 am Confirmation - Communion
Acolyte	Oliver Johnson	Tyler Breikreutz	Grayson Elmer	Tristan Zastrow	Corbin Borgstrom
Reader	Oliver Johnson	Chris Pizel	Dan Olson	Richard Zastrow	Lilibelle Hokanson
Ushers	Johnson Family	Curt & Chris Pizel Dave & Pat Timmerman	Jason & Jennifer Stich	Richard & Tristan Zastrow Brad & Kelly Lund	Borgstrom Family
Communion Servers	Eric & Cassandra Johnson				Trenten Anderson
Coffee/ Fellowship	Johnson Family	Dave & Pat Timmerman	Diane Olson	Brad & Kelly Lund	Borgstrom Family
Musicians	Annette Helder Tom Helder	Rebecca Heyn Heyn Family	Joyce Engel	Marcus Decker Dan Olson	Karen Erickson Tom Helder

Altar Guild - Izzy Rusch, Jan Sponsler



May 2026

Stay up-to-date ONLINE at www.gracethroughfaithministries.com
 & on FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/gracethroughfaithministries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9 am Worship—Grace Communion 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship—Faith Communion	4 4-7 pm Piano Lessons— Grace 7 pm Bible Study—Faith	5 6:30 am Men's Study—Faith 9 am Women's Bible Study 10:30 am Pastor at Evansville Care Campus 1:30 pm Pastor at Evansville Assisted Living	6 5:45 pm Confirmation (Gr. 5/6/7) 6:45 pm Confirmation (Gr. 8 & 9)	7 Kelli Out of Office 9 am Quilting—Grace 9:30 am Prayer & Share—Faith 1 pm Pastor at Brandon Assisted Living 3-6:30 Piano Lessons—Faith 4-7 pm Piano Lessons—Grace	8	9
10 Mother's Day 9 am Worship—Grace Noisy Offering 10 am—Sunday School 11 am Worship—Faith 4 pm 4-H—Grace	11 4-7 pm Piano Lessons— Grace 7 pm Bible Study—Faith	12 6:30 am Men's Study—Faith 9 am Women's Bible Study— Faith 9:30 am Bible Study—Grace 1:30 pm Pastor at Evansville Assisted Living	13 5:45 pm Confirmation (Gr 5/6/7) 6:45 pm Confirmation (Gr 8 & 9) 8 pm Grace Council	14 9 am Quilting—Grace 9:30 am Prayer & Share—Faith 1 pm Pastor at Brandon Assisted Living 3-6:30 Piano Lessons—Faith 4-7 pm Piano Lessons—Grace	15	16 8:30 am—3 pm Grace Fellowship Hall Reserved—Breitkreutz
17 9 am Worship—Grace Senior Recognition 11 am Worship—Faith	18 4-7 pm Piano Lessons— Grace 7 pm Bible Study—Faith	19 6:30 am Men's Study—Faith 9 am Women's Bible Study 10:30 am Pastor at Evansville Care Campus 1:30 pm Pastor at Evansville Assisted Living	20	21 8:30 am Habitat Build—Alexandria 9 am Quilting—Grace 9:30 am Prayer & Share—Faith 1 pm Pastor at Brandon Assisted Living 3-6:30 Piano Lessons—Faith	22 12—6 pm Grace Rummage Sale	23 8 am—12 pm Grace Rummage Sale
24 8:30 am Worship—Grace Communion 10:30 am Worship—Faith Communion	25 Memorial Day Offices Closed	26 6:30 am Men's Study—Faith 9 am Women's Bible Study— Faith 9:30 am Bible Study—Grace 1:30 pm Pastor at Evansville Assisted Living	27	28 9 am Quilting—Grace 9:30 am Prayer & Share—Faith 1 pm Pastor at Brandon Assisted Living	29	30 Synod Assembly
31 Affirmation of Baptism 8:30 am Worship—Grace 10:30 am Worship—Faith						

NEWSLETTER

Grace Through Faith Ministries
PO Box 7
Brandon MN 56315

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

320-834-4873

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #10
BRANDON MN 56315



Summer WORSHIP TIMES

Summer Worship Times
Starting
Memorial Day Weekend
May 24

8:30 am at Grace and 10:30 am at Faith

Summer Hours will run Memorial Day
through Labor Day.



So Many
Items We
Had to Add
Another Day!

Friday, **May 22** Saturday, **May 23**
Noon to 6 pm 8am to Noon

Freewill Offering
Grace Lutheran Church
205 Central Ave, Brandon, MN

Proceeds go to Support the Women
of Grace Lutheran Church

JOIN US!