

April 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

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.

Grace Through Faith Ministries

Growing Together God's Love to Serve Others

Worship Schedule

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

Maundy Thursday, April 2:

7 pm Faith Lutheran

Good Friday, April 3:

5 pm Grace Lutheran

7 pm Faith Lutheran

Easter Sunday, April 5:

9 am Grace Lutheran

Easter Brunch following

11 am Faith Lutheran

Easter Brunch prior

Grace Rummage Sale will be in May - date TBD. Spring Cleaning - save those items for our sale. Questions or want to help? Contact Peg Okerlund.



Holy Week Helpers

- April 2 **Maundy Thursday - Faith**
 Musician: Joni Barsness & Elaine Kronberg
 Usher:
 Communion:
- April 3 **Good Friday (5 pm) - Grace:**
 Musician: Annette Helder
 Song Leader: Tom Helder
 Usher: Dan Anderson; Kent & Brenda Hintermeister
- Good Friday (7 pm) - Faith:**
 Usher: Roger Bukkila
 Sound Board:

Grace Senior Scholarship

Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund



Scholarships will be available to any graduating senior who is an **active** and **confirmed** member of Grace and is pursuing a post-secondary education for the first time.

Letters/Application Forms will be mailed to all eligible seniors. Students need to completely fill out the application form and return it to the Grace Office by April 30. The Endowment Committee will review and determine award based upon available funds to be distributed for the second semester of study sometime in December.



Meet New Grace Members:

We will be introducing our newest members in upcoming newsletters. Be sure to introduce yourself and get to know these families better.

Shane & Sandra Hamberg Family:

We welcome the Hambergs to our Grace family. Shane is employed at Gardonville Cooperative Telephone. His hobbies are technology, nature and cooking. Sandra is employed at Sanford Health. Her hobbies are coffee, socializing and adventure. Together they live in Brandon with their daughter Sabrina whom they welcomed in early March.

Please join us in welcoming the Hambergs.

What's Happening in Sunday School



Grace Lutheran Church
 Faith Lutheran Church
 10 to 10:30 am
 Age 3 to Grade 4

Grace:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
4/5	No SS - Easter	
4/12	Doubting Thomas John 20:19-31	Karen Wirtjes
4/19	The Road to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35	
4/26	Intergenerational	Tina Pikkaraine
5/3	God's House John 14:1-14	Erin Okerlund
5/10	Last Day of SS	Tina P. & Danielle A.

Nearing the end of an overnight flight from Detroit to London, I saw one of the most spectacular sunrises ever.

The entire left side of the plane shined with hues of yellows, oranges and pinks. My side was still jet black with night.

Trying not to stare through the other passengers, I wanted to catch a glimpse of the sun as she popped up from underneath the horizon.

Cruising turbulence-free, thousands of feet in the air, I'm smack in the middle of morning and night. This is heavenly peace!

By the time we landed, morning was in full bloom and the world was bright with activity.

26 years later, I'm still tapping into that soul-calm – where Jesus revealed Himself as the “chaser of darkness”. As the Light of the world, nothing has power to dim Jesus. Nothing!

Within our parish family, we're struggling with different kinds of “darknesses”. Many stories we know; others we don't. People asked for and want privacy (we need to respect that).

As much as I appreciate the music, lilies and the joy of Easter, what I relish most is knowing Jesus busted out of the tomb – flabbergasting His mockers. What was laughed as “the end”, became the glorious new.

As we celebrate the Resurrection, the “chaser of darkness” is with us – helping, healing, supporting, encouraging.

The Son always rises ... we will, too!

Happy Easter!
See you in Worship!

Pastor Brad

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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.

Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 8, 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 minutes. Warren seconded. Motion carried.

Diane moved to approve last month's Minutes. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- Candi presented and reviewed the Financials.
- Discussion was held pertaining to CDs. Bob made a motion to purchase an additional CD for \$25K. Warren seconded. Motion carried.
- The last Vanco transactions will be at the end of March.

Pastor's Report:

- Ruby's Pantry application has been turned in and will await their decision.
- Council approved a request to use the Fellowship Hall on occasion for Spanish classes.
- Easter and Scandinavian Dinner planning are underway.
- Memorial donation received and will be earmarked for new hymnals.
- Reminder the sound system in the Sanctuary is only to be used by individuals from Faith who have been trained on the system.

Old Business:

- Diane will contact Steffel Pest Control to determine if there is anything that can be done for Asian beetles.
- Railing in front of building needs repair. It will be fixed at the same time as cement work is done.
- Bob made a motion the Lenten and Freewill Offering should go into the Benevolence Fund and used to donate to various organizations. Warren seconded. Motion carried.

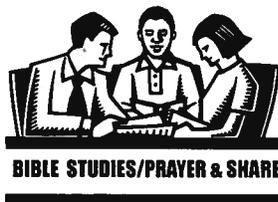
New Business:

- Warren made a motion for April Noisy Offering to be given to Alexandria Mentoring Partnership and June Noisy Offering to be given to Car Care Program. Motion seconded and carried.
- Tree removal discussed. More discussion next month.
- Participation in Evansville's Red, White & Boom Days discussed. More discussion next month.

Next Meeting Date: April 12, 2026 - 12 pm

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 2/28/26:

General Fund	\$106,920.78
Building Fund	\$1,059.53
Benevolence Fund	\$6,502.12
Faith Ministries Fund	\$17,577.74
Scholarship Fund	\$5,171.72



As of 2/28/2026

General Fund Giving:	\$16,464.74
General Fund Expenses:	\$18,541.65

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

Quilting

Faith Lutheran Church

Wednesdays 9 am to noon
All are Welcome!

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!



Faith's Noisy Offering for April will support The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP). AMP, formed in 2006, is a network of local mentoring programs working together to ensure every young person who needs an advocate has access to a caring, well-trained mentor.

With the support of MENTOR National, AMP provides the tools, training and guidance needed to recruit, screen and prepare mentors so they can make a lasting, positive impact to help youth grow, thrive and build brighter futures.

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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.

April 2026 Faith Worship Assistants

	April 5 11 AM -Faith Communion	April 12 11 AM -Faith	April 19 11 AM - Faith	April 26 11 am - Faith Communion
Sound/Video	Heidi Johnson	Brad Anderson	Larry Carlson	Sandy Alvstad
Reader	Kelly Smith	Karen Howell	Heidi Johnson	Vicki Carlson
Ushers	Dennis Anderson	Larry Carlson	David Jante	Brad Anderson
Communion Servers	Warren & Deb Erickson			Sharon Denardo

Grace Lutheran Church Minutes - 3/11/26

Grace Members Present: Tom Behlke, Cheryl Lund, Steffen Morical, Tina Pikkaraine
Guests Present: Pastor Bradley Pearson, Kelli Wendel



Steffen called the meeting to order. Tom motioned to approve the agenda. Tina 2nd. Approved.

VISITOR REPORTS: None

PASTORAL REPORT: Ruby's Pantry application has been submitted. Should know sometime in April if approved. The Salad Luncheon for Summerfest has been changed to a breakfast. Plans are underway, with new leaders. We will be serving blueberry pancakes with blueberry/wild rice sausage. Plans for the Summerfest Parade float are also underway.

Pastor shared his frustration and sadness with how confirmation has been going this year. This has been trending for a while, however this year has been particularly difficult. Accountability and responsibility for turning in assignments and meeting the basic requirements has been poor across the board. Pastor has been visiting with some other churches to get ideas on what is working/not working for them for both Sunday School and Confirmation. He has ideas for changes to come in the fall. He would like to have a plan in place May/June timeframe so it can be ready for start of school year. Lengthy discussion took place. Council supports Pastor in establishing consequences and not confirming students who are not meeting the basic requirements.

Pastor asked council if they would support him publicly reaching out to St. Ann's members and welcoming them to use/meet at Grace if they need a spot to maintain their identity and share fellowship following the closing of St. Ann's this summer. Council indicated Grace would welcome them at any time.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kelli presented financials. We continue to see our general giving significantly below budget for the year. Giving is down over \$8,000 year to date. Expenses are all within budget – fuel and water have been trending high. Insurance premiums looking like they will be higher than budgeted, should know more sometime this month. Tina motioned to approve. Tom 2nd. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

MN Paid Leave: Kelli has a video hearing for MN Paid Leave rate determination on March 16. First appeal was denied.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parish Council Update: Steffen highlighted discussion from the last Parish Council meeting. We are in need of someone to step in to the Treasurer position. Pastor has reached out to a few individuals.

Joint Outdoor Worship: Grace hosting this year. We will plan on Sunday, July 19 at 10:30 am at Long Lake Lodge. Grace will plan/serve the meal. Will look into availability and cost for The WoodPicks and Gloryland Gospel Band. Pastor will visit with Jim Neumann to see if he is able to get an outdoor tent set up for weather.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DEACON'S REPORT: None

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Covered during Pastoral Report

TRUSTEE'S REPORT: Took care of some water issues in basement restrooms/kitchen. Several lighting ballasts repaired. There is an ice dam causing issue at the back door. We will have roofing contractor come back and repair that area sometime in April.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, April 8 - 8 pm

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

Submitted by: Kelli Wendel, Parish Assistant

Grace Giving at a Glance

General Fund:

Giving March 1	\$2,820.00
Giving March 8	\$3,503.95
Giving March 15	\$849.00
Giving March 22	\$2,843.00
Giving March 29	TBD
Coffee	\$37.00
Building Giving	\$300.00
Mission Giving	\$220.00
Noisy Offering	\$394.32
World Hunger	\$320.00
Sunday School	\$4.00
Camperships	\$385.00

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

Fund Balances as of 2/28/26:

General Fund	\$78,651.88
Building Fund	\$43,036.77
Christian Ed Fund	\$32,808.57
Mission Fund	\$14,907.16
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>.

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Grace Beyond Our Doors



Next Meeting: Sunday, April 12 following worship

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

Upcoming Noisy Offerings:

April: ELCA God's Global Barnyard

May: Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County

June: BE School Backpack Attack Program

July: Douglas County Food Shelf

August/September: School & Health Kits

Extra mission support given in January:

- Alex Tech Food Shelf - \$300
- DC Salvation Army Kettle Campaign (stays local) - \$300
- Sanford Children's Hospital - \$200 (triple match)

Members Present: Pat Freese, Kathy Fynboh, Annette Helder, Pam Mickelson, Terrill Morical, Diane Olson

SWO Conference 8 Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 18 - 8:30 am to 12 pm

Bethesda Lutheran Church

1204 North Nokomis St NE, Alexandria

Join us for the Spring Women's Gathering on April 18, 2026, at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Alexandria. Celebrate the theme "Serving with Love" with inspiring speakers, worship, and community. All women are welcome! Cost is \$20 per person.

Guest speaker is Peggy Kallevig. Bethesda WELCA is requesting guests bring items for Life Connection of Alexandria. Suggestions are baby wash, ointment, wipes, Huggies or Pampers sized premie to size 12.

A sign-up sheet is outside the office at Grace. A group of women are planning to carpool from Grace and will leave at 8 am. ?'s - contact Annette Helder.

April's Noisy Offering God's Global Barnyard



Noisy Offering

Calling all - young and "older" - to fill barns and yards this April. Our Noisy Offering will be going to support God's Global Barnyard. Your gift can provide a sustainable food source to stop hunger and even help families to earn an income to purchase other necessities.

If this sounds like something we've done before, you're right. In the past, members had the opportunity to grab an ornament and make a contribution directly to GGB. This year, we will raise money through our Noisy Offering and giving banks set up around the church.

We kicked off during Intergenerational Sunday School on March 22.

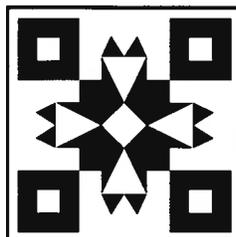
There are several choices of animals to choose from:

Chicks (\$10), Community Vegetable Garden (\$200), Two Goats (\$100), Cow (\$500), Family Farm (\$715), Fish Farm (\$250), Fruit Tree Farm (\$150), Herd of Goats (\$300), Honeybees (\$20), Piglet (\$30); Rooster (\$15)

If you choose an animal yourself, that is great. With general monies raised, our Grace youth will decide on the animals to be gifted.

There are times when we are called to help here at home and other times to do work around the world. If you want to give directly or in honor or memory of a loved one or friends, visit www.goodgifts.elca.org

Mark April 12 on your calendar for our Noisy Offering or drop off your change, cash or checks in the many banks around the church.



**Join Us for
Quilting at Grace
Thursday,
April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
9 am**

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April Birthdays

GRACE		GRACE (cont.)		GRACE (cont.)		FAITH	
Nash Hanson	2	Rachel Goble	10	Katrina Gillespie	20	Kristi Mounts	1
MaryAnn Keller	2	Layla Mohagen	10	Cora Peterson	20	Kim ERickson	2
Aleksander Pikkaraine	4	Nora Swiontek	10	Calvin Peterson	22	Elaine Kronberg	2
Caroline Stromberg	4	Brandon Johnson	11	Gene Rossum	25	Duane Ostlund	3
Jason Elmer	7	Skip Okerlund	12	Maguire Rusch	26	Kyle Steffenson	4
Emma Roers	8	Mary Hefti	13	Rebecca Anderson	27	Abby Solemsaas	8
Tony Schaffran	8	Sadie Riedel	13	Tom Anderson	27	Melanie Andersen	13
Tom Dingwall	9	Jace Gasser	14	Thielen Bossert	27	Matthew Kronberg	13
Leila Preston	9	Dianna Roers	14	Ryder Santjer	28	Elaine Elmer	19
Kobe Rieland	9	Kya McFarlane	16	Aaron Lund	29	Kali Johnson	22
Tony Wright	9	Elizabeth Schiele	16	Jenna Sturges	29	Joann Augdahl	23
Payton Gasser	10	Nash Jesnowski	18	Jane Croonquist	30	Sandy Reddick	25

April 2026 Grace Worship Assistants				
	April 5 9 am Easter - Communion	April 12 9 am	April 19 9 am	April 26 9 am
Acolyte	Oliver Johnson	Faith Hokanson	Jorja White	Paige Schaffran
Reader	Tom Anderson	Hokanson Family	Pam Mickelson	Kids Run Church
Ushers	Hintermeister Families	Hokanson Family	Morical Family	Kids Run Church
Communion Servers	Zach Hintermeister Tom Anderson			Kids Run Church
Coffee/ Fellowship	Youth - Easter Brunch	Sieling Family	Morical Family	Dawson & Allie Staples
Musicians	Annette Helder Tom Helder	Rebecca Heyn Heyn Family	Joyce Engel Kathy Fynboh	Marcus Decker Dan Olson
Altar Guild - Tina Pikkaraine, Pat Freese				



Aiden Norman Week, son of Adam & April Week, was Baptized March 22, at Faith.



JUST MARRIED

Brandon & Carrigan
(Okerlund) Christianson
were married March 7, at
Faith.

April 2026

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Easter Sunday 9 am Worship—Grace Communion 10 am—Easter Brunch 11 am Worship—Faith Communion	6 4-7 pm Piano Lessons—Grace 7 pm Bible Study—Faith	7 6:30 am Men's Study—Faith 9 am Women's Study—Faith 10:30 am Pastor at Evansville Care Campus 1:30 pm Pastor at Evansville Assisted Living	8 9 am Quilting—Faith 5:45 pm Confirmation (Gr 5/6/7) 6:45 pm Confirmation (Gr 8 & 9) 8 pm Grace Council	9 9 am Quilting—Grace 9:30 am Prayer & Share—Faith 1 pm Pastor at Brandon Assisted Living 3-6:30 Piano Lessons—Faith 7 pm Maundy Thursday—Faith	10 BE School Practice ACT Grace Fellowship Hall 8 am—12 pm	11 Scandinavian Dinner 4:30-7 pm Faith Lutheran
12 9 am Worship—Grace Noisy Offering 10 am—Sunday School 10 am—GBOD 11 am Worship—Faith 12 pm Faith Council 4 pm 4-H—Grace	13 4-7 pm Piano Lessons—Grace 7 pm Bible Study—Faith	14 6:30 am Men's Study—Faith 9 am Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Bible Study—Grace 1:30 pm Pastor at Evansville Assisted Living	15 9 am Quilting—Faith 5:45 pm Confirmation (Gr 5/6/7) 6:45 pm Confirmation (Gr 8 & 9)	16 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	17 9 am—2 pm Grace Basement Reserved—Swiontek	18
19 9 am Worship—Grace 10 am—Sunday School 11 am Worship—Faith	20 4-7 pm Piano Lessons—Grace 7 pm Bible Study—Faith	21 6:30 am Men's Study—Faith 8 am-1 pm BE School ACT Testing—Grace 9 am Women's Study—Faith 10:30 am Pastor at Evansville Care Campus 1:30 pm Pastor at Evansville Assisted Living	22 9 am Quilting—Faith 5:45 pm Confirmation (Gr 5/6/7) 6:45 pm Confirmation (Gr 8 & 9)	23 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	24	25
26 9 am Worship—Grace Communion 10 am—Sunday School 11 am Worship—Faith Communion 3 pm Bethany Hellern Students Piano Recital—Grace	27 4-7 pm Piano Lessons—Grace 7 pm Bible Study—Faith	28 6:30 am Men's Study—Faith 9 am Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Bible Study—Grace 1:30 pm Pastor at Evansville Assisted Living	29 9 am Quilting—Faith 5:45 pm Confirmation (Gr 5/6/7) 6:45 pm Confirmation (Gr 8 & 9)	30 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		

NEWSLETTER

Grace Through Faith Ministries
PO Box 7
Brandon MN 56315

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

320-834-4873

NON PROFIT
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PERMIT #10
BRANDON MN 56315



Maundy Thursday, April 2:

7 pm Faith Lutheran

Good Friday, April 3:

5 pm Grace Lutheran

7 pm Faith Lutheran

Easter Sunday, April 5:

9 am Grace Lutheran

Easter Brunch following

11 am Faith Lutheran

Easter Brunch prior

April 11
4:30-7 pm

FREEWILL OFFERING
ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY & OUTREACH FOOD SHELF

Scandinavian Supper

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
526 STATE STREET, EVANSVILLE, MN

- Potato Sausage
- Swedish Meatballs
- Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
- Corn
- Lingonberries
- Swedish Almond Cake

JOIN US!