

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**500 BUSINESS 23 W**  
**PAYNESVILLE, MN 56362**



**Church Website:** [www.paynesvillegrace.org](http://www.paynesvillegrace.org)

**Regular Sunday Worship Service Time:** 9:30 AM

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8am-3pm

**Church Doors Open:**

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Friday 8am-3pm,

Wednesday, 8am-8pm

Sat 8-Noon, Sun 7:30am-Noon

**Grace Church Office:** [graceumc@paynesvillegrace.org](mailto:graceumc@paynesvillegrace.org)

Phone: 320-243-3601

**Pastor Jill Meents:** [jill@paynesvillegrace.org](mailto:jill@paynesvillegrace.org)

Cell: 612-867-1979

**Kari Schaefer, Youth Ministry:** [kari@paynesvillegrace.org](mailto:kari@paynesvillegrace.org)

Cell: 701-866-7365

**Sue Jansen, Office:** [sue@paynesvillegrace.org](mailto:sue@paynesvillegrace.org)



**May 2025**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# Note from our Pastor

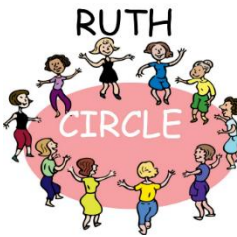
Christ is risen; Christ is risen indeed. The resurrection of Jesus profoundly changed the lives of the people who followed him, and it can also transform our lives. The first followers were really blown off course when Jesus was crucified, and the experience of the resurrection put them back on course.

We also need the resurrection to put us back on course. It is both an experience of the power of God and a truth about Jesus that offers us all hope. Because of the resurrection, we know that God offers new beginnings, no matter what our present-day reality.

During the next few weeks, we will be exploring not only what the resurrection meant to Thomas, Paul, Mary Magdalene and Jesus, we will also explore what it means to us. It is the beginning of all of our stories and the day when hope broke through. When we consider the difference, the resurrection made to those who first experienced the risen Christ, our lives will experience the joy of new life as well.



**COFFEE HOUR** will be hosted by Host Committee #3 during the month of May. The chairs are Ramona Frank, Gloria Bruntlett, and Jim & Betty Freilinger. If you are in this group (See the list in the Gathering Space), please let them know if you are able and willing to help with this ministry. You can also sign up on the sheet posted in the Gathering Space. It's such a wonderful opportunity for fellowship!



**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Hattie McCann will be leading the devotions and hosting.

**SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULES** will be sent to all team members in the month of May. Thank you, leaders, for getting these to me by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Much appreciated!

**GRACE CHOIR (GRACE SINGERS)** will practice on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. during the month of May. The choir will sing on the following Sundays: May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>. They will also be singing on June 8<sup>th</sup>, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, and July 6<sup>th</sup>.



**MEMORIAL DAY** is Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. The Church will be closed on this federal holiday.



## Grace Youth News

Greetings!

With Easter being late this year, April was a blur! We started the month with a snowstorm & our first and only snow day of the season. Our "Grace Kids" practiced and performed their Palm Sunday drama. They did a fabulous job! Grace Youth took some time during lent to do some service projects which is a nice break from lessons. And our Belize Mission Team hosted a Silent Auction. Whew, what a busy month!

As we move into May, it's hard to believe that we are entering the final month of the school year. Grace Kids will clean up the prayer garden for the summer. They always do a great job & it is fun to watch all the kids, even the little one's help clean up. Grace Youth will have one more service project to complete as we missed that one during the April snowstorm.

On Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our last night for this school year. We will have a celebration at the Paynesville Inn & Suites with swimming, food & fun!

Finally, on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> we will honor our youth leaders & helpers as well as share our favorite moments from this year. That day will also be Senior Sunday, and we will honor seven seniors from Grace Church. Coffee & cake will be served during coffee hour to honor our volunteers & seniors.

We look forward to all that God has in store for the coming month!

Much Love,  
Kari Schaefer



## **MAY YOUTH EVENTS**

### **Wednesday, May 7th**

Grace Kids: Prayer garden clean-up  
Grace Youth & Confirmation: Service Project

### **Sunday, May 11th**

Happy Mother's Day  
Gumpets will perform during the worship service

### **Wednesday, May 14th**

End of Year Party @ Paynesville Inn & Suites  
Grace Kids: 3:15-5:30 pm  
Supper from 5:30-6:30 pm  
Grace Youth: 6:30-7:30 pm

\*Please watch your email for more information\*

### **Sunday, May 18th**

Youth & Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

#### **Senior Sunday**

Grace Church's Seniors: Abby Braun, Lexy Frank,  
Brooklyn Frank, Peyton Hemmesch, Adisen McCann, Lilly Smith &  
Grant Wendlandt

Baccalaureate @ 4:00 pm at Evangelical Free Church





Thank you to everyone who donated items, services, or baskets, as well as everyone who purchased these amazing items from our Youth Silent Auction this year. With your help we raised \$3,343.00 to help those going on the Mission Trip to Belize in August. We are beyond grateful to all of you & are so humbled by your generosity. ~Grace Youth

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped put on the Palm Sunday drama! I want to thank Jim & Betty Freilinger and Jim & Gretchen O'Fallon for helping to create the set and costumes. Thank you to David Herzberg and Levi Schaefer for running the sound and lights, and to Faye Paster for playing the piano. Thank you to my adult helpers Gretchen O'Fallon, Vicky Frank, Jim & Betty Freilinger, Deb Thomsen & Steph Hemmesch for keeping the kids quiet, helping them get ready and out on stage when they needed to be. And finally, a big thank you to the kids. I am so proud of you! This is a hard play to perform, and you did it! Thank you for working hard and practicing your lines so you were ready. Much Love! Kari Schaefer

A BIG thank you to Stan & David Herzberg for putting out all the Easter eggs on Easter morning. I know it makes for an early day for you, and we appreciate all you do! Thanks again!



Food  
Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Food Shelf which was our Mach Mission. With your help we were able to collect \$440.00 and a shopping cart of food. All of this was delivered to the Paynesville Community Service Center. Thanks again!  
~Grace Missions Team



**Congratulations to the graduating class of 2025!**

We will honor this year's graduating seniors from Grace Church on **Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** during the worship service with cake & coffee served in their honor after the service.

**Abby Braun** daughter of Justin & Angie Braun

**Lexy Frank** daughter of Ryan Frank & Erin Kain

**Brooklyn Frank** daughter of Ryan & Haylie Frank

**Peyton Hemmesch** son of Mike & Stephanie Hemmesch

**Adisen McCann** daughter of Josh & Sara Baker

**Lilly Smith** daughter of Ryan & Emily Smith

**Grant Wendlandt** son of Ryan Wendlandt & Valerie Callenius

May God bless them in their life & in their future endeavors!





On Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate our Children & Youth Ministry during the worship service. Our young people will share stories and favorite moments from the year, and we will recognize our amazing volunteers.

Come and see all that we have learned this year!  
We look forward to this special day!



Baccalaureate

### BACCALAUREATE

The Baccalaureate Service for Paynesville High School will be held at Evangelical Free Church on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

All graduates, families and friends are invited to attend.



### THE 2ND ANNUAL CHURCHWIDE BAKE SALE ON MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>

is quickly approaching and to make this a success we need your help! There is a sheet in the gathering space to sign-up to bring treats to support this event. All money raised will be used for ALL ministries at Grace Church. If you have any questions, please see Co- Chairs Duane Damhof & Kari Schaefer. Thank you!





**To: Grace Kids & Grace Youth  
You are Invited!**



**When:** Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Where:** Paynesville Inn & Suites

**Time:**

Grace Kids – 3:15-5:30 pm

Meal from 5:30-6:30 pm

Grace Youth – 6:30-7:30 pm

\*Please bring your swimsuit, towel & life jacket if needed.

**\*NOTE:** All activities will be at the hotel. The bus will pick up from school for our last day & bring the Elementary kids to the hotel.  
Please pick your child up at the hotel.

\*Any questions please see Kari Schaefer

## MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>!



The official flower of Mother's Day is the carnation, the favorite flower of the mom of the holiday's founder, Anna Jarvis. Over time, the custom arose of wearing a white carnation on Mother's Day if your mother has died and a red one if she's living.

In fact, many carnation colors have special meanings. Pink carries the richest Christian symbolism. According to legend, carnations first appeared on earth as Mary wept while watching Jesus carry his cross. Where her tears fell, there appeared pink carnations, symbolizing a mother's undying love.

According to one theory, the English word for carnation comes from *carnis*, Latin for flesh. From the same root comes *incarnation*, God's coming to earth in flesh. Thus, carnations remind us of our loving mothers as well as our loving Savior.



- Knock, knock! Who's there? Olive. Olive who? Olive you, Mom! Happy Mother's Day!
- Why did the Mother's Day gift arrive the day after Mother's Day? It was choco-LATE
- What did the mommy spider say to the Baby spider? You spend too much time on the web.

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**ANNUAL  
BAKE SALE  
FUNDRAISER**

**Thursday, May 8th, 7:30am - 5:30pm**  
or until supplies last

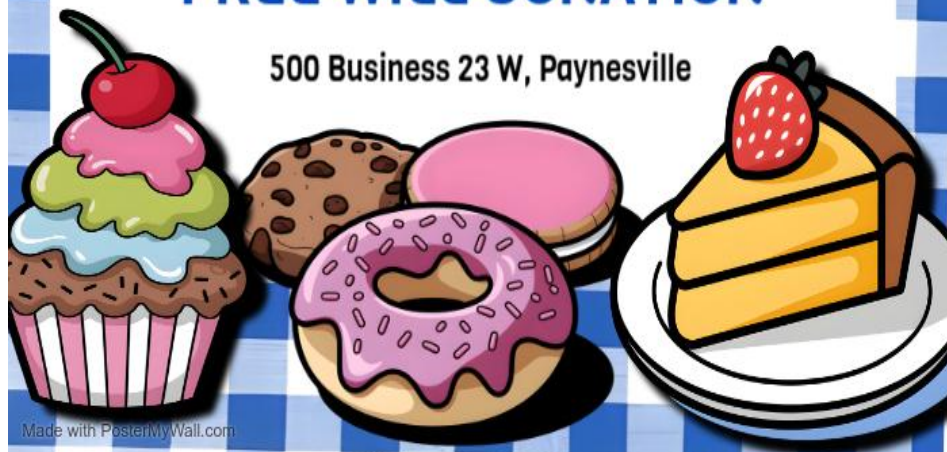
**GRACE CHURCH PARKING LOT**

**Cookies, pies, brownies, cakes,  
cupcakes and more!**

**All proceeds support the ministry at Grace Church**

**FREE WILL DONATION**

**500 Business 23 W, Paynesville**





## FOR OUR MONTHLY MISSION FOR MAY, WE ARE COLLECTING A “LOVE OFFERING”.

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session.

Our Love Offering theme this year is “Love in Action.” Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as we put love into action.

This year’s Love Offering will go to:  
30% will go to Africa University for student scholarships.  
30% will go to Immigration Law & Justice Network.  
20% will go to OC Ministries.  
20% will go to Midwest Mission.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!  
~Grace Church Missions Team



## BINGO AT PAYNESVILLE HEALTH CARE CENTER!



Ruth Circle will be facilitating BINGO at the Paynesville Health Care Center during the month of May. BINGO is played on Thursdays at 2:00 pm in the Care Center Dining Room. Please join us for the fun! Any questions can be directed to Cindy Holmberg (612-618-3783)

## APPRECIATION DAY FOR CENTRACARE -



Once again, we are participating in the Appreciation Days for healthcare workers at CentraCare on Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be providing cookies again! Cards and individual cookie baggies will be handed out to the bakers next week. (We already have several bakers signed up for this event). Anyone baking cookies should bring them to the Fireside Room on Tuesday morning by 9:30.a.m. The Ruth Circle group will do the final packaging. Thank you!



**FINANCE TEAM MEETING** – Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

**EBENEZER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION UPCOMING DATES –**  
Ebenezer Cemetery Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Grace Church

Ebenezer Cemetery Assn. Annual Picnic

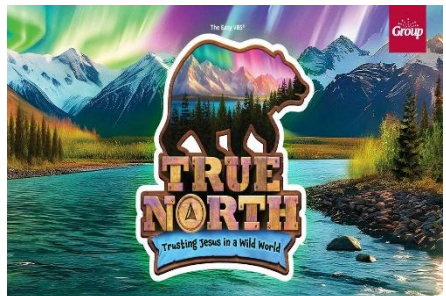
Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Paynesville Historical Society

**LAST DAY OF NEEDLE CRAFT CLASS** – Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## SUMMER VBS

Paynesville Community VBS is scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:30 am each day at the Paynesville Elementary School.

Mark your calendars!







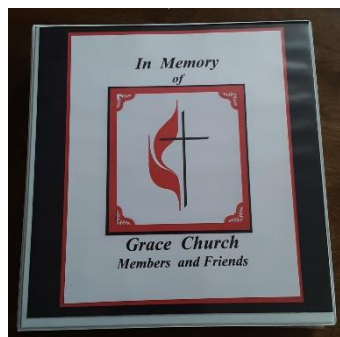
## AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE –

Grace United Methodist Church will be hosting the Paynesville Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, May 22, 2025. We will need four volunteers to work at this event. Two people from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm and two from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. One person will work at the registration table and the other in the recovery

area. Please sign up in the Gathering Space if you would like to volunteer. Also, please help by donating blood. “Every 2 seconds someone in the US needs blood.” Call: 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to schedule an appointment. Thank you for giving such a special gift!

## MEMORIAL SCRAPBOOKS

With the month of May comes Memorial Day when we remember loved ones who have passed on. Our church library has scrapbooks that contain obituary cards of past members and friends of Grace Church. They are a big part of the “history” of our church.



Recently, an index has been added to the front of each book stating the name (alphabetized) and date of death. Each book contains information for ten years, in chronological order with an index for each year. If you are looking for a certain name, you can easily find it with this information. Thanks to Sharon Bryce for taking on that project!

If you have an interest in genealogy or learning about families and relatives that connect the generations, feel welcome to browse through the scrapbooks. You will be amazed by what you can learn!



## *Memories of Grace*

If you have been worshipping at Grace Church for a number of years, you may have some special memories. The following was taken from the May Grace Notes in the year 1980.

### *Our Graduates*

*Congratulations to those graduating from Paynesville High School. Those from Grace Church graduating are: Steven Albrecht, Jill Brown, Heidi Bruntlett, Jade Eastman, Charlene Gilmore, Paul Heitke, Mark Knebel, Kristi Krupke, Jodi Schmitt, Debra Schoenherr, Daniel Schultz, Diane VanderBeek, Ken Wendlandt, and Larry Wendroth.*

*May the Lord go with each and everyone as they go forth with their chosen goals. We will be honoring these students during both services on June 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*Our eight confirmands have been working hard to meet the requirements of becoming full working members of Grace Church. Our group this year includes: Edman Beek, Kim Christensen, Cindy Gilmore, Brian Johnson, Neal Kurtz, Troy Miller, Jane Monson, and Cindy Nehring. Congratulations to each of you and may God's love surround you as you take this great step in His service*

.....  
*A recipe that is as old as time itself,  
Yet always delightfully new,  
They call it simply friendship  
Beloved, tried and true*



## FINANCE REPORT

### March

#### Foundation Report 2025

February Ending Balance:	\$	1,100,053.61
March Ending Balance	\$	1,078,476.70
Loss:	\$	<u>(21,576.91)</u>

Year to Date:

January 1, 2025	\$	1,077,071.56
March 31, 2025	\$	1,078,476.70
Gain:	\$	<u>1,405.14</u>

#### Grace Budget Report 2025

February Ending Balance:	\$	44,515.43
March Expenses:	\$	<u>(27,507.52)</u>
		17,007.91
March Income:	\$	<u>24,950.82</u>
March Ending Balance:	\$	41,958.73
Less March Deferred Amount:	\$	<u>(11,426.89)</u>

March Spendable:	\$	30,531.84
February Spendable:	\$	<u>(33,084.77)</u>
Loss:	\$	<u>(2,552.93)</u>

#### Year to Date for 2025

January	\$	(5,801.79)
February	\$	(1,243.52)
March	\$	(2,552.93)
	\$	<u>(9,598.24)</u>

#### March

**Giving:** \$24,264.82      **Needed:** \$29,150.00      **Short:** \$(4885.18)

Coffee Fund:	\$201.00	Deferred Campership:	\$100.00
Youth/Wedge:	\$243.00	Deferred AV:	\$140.00
Missions:	\$440.00		





## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May 1	Lilly Butzin
May 3	Terry Thomsen
May 4	Harlan & Mary Beek, Luke & Missy Recknor
May 7	Jon & Chelsea Person
May 9	Delane Burr
May 12	Jon Person
May 15	Chloe Hemmesch
May 16	Eric Frank
May 17	Jordy Frank
May 19	Eli Karpinske, Tracy Sander
May 20	Phyllis Nielsen
May 21	John Swanson
May 22	Doug & Shirley Stade, Daphne Barg
May 23	Brittany Frank
May 24	Morgan Stafford
May 25	Tom Ramler, Pastor Jill Meents
May 26	Roger & Donna Lang, Hailey Baker, Landyn Arneson, Maelynn Warriner
May 27	Marcia Gray, Neil & Patty Herzberg
May 29	John & Laurel Liestman, Gannon Hemmesch
May 31	Brad Mehlhop, Austin Person



## SERVICE SCHEDULES

### READERS:

May 4	Nancy Deadrick
May 11	Linda Liestman
May 18	Nathan Loso
May 25	Kari Schaefer
June 1	Paul Larsen

### GREETERS:

May 4	Chuck and Linda Hunter
May 11	Harlan and Mary Beek
May 18	Terry and Deb Thomsen
May 25	Tom and Nancy Deadrick
June 1	Betty Keller, Roxann Bergstrom

### COUNTERS:

May 4	Carolyn Swyter, Bonnie Schwartz
May 11	Mike Nehring, Jane Burr
May 18	Mary Beek, Sue Arend
May 25	Gary smith, Betty Freilingner
June 1	Jim Elseth, Bonnie Schwartz

### USHERS: Head Usher - Gene Schultz 320-293-1395

Month of May: Tom and Nancy Deadrick

Month of June Bob Lindbloom, Paul Larsen

### BANNER COMMITTEE: Deanna Fuchs

### WORSHIP ENHANCEMENT TEAM: Gretchen O'Fallon, Betty Freilingner

### COMMUNION STEWARDS:

May 4: Patty Herzberg, Linda Johnson