The Grace Visitor

March 2024 Edition

Bingo Bash!!

Bingo Bash on Sunday, February 4 was well attended with many players going home with fabulous prizes!















PRAYER LIST



Surgery, sick, chronic conditions: Dick Michael, Dick Anderson; Ada Kelley, great niece of Pat & Judy Reed; Marlin Snyder, father of Cindy Snyder; Teresa Walters, mother of Laura Walters; Kris Stein, daughter of Dee Fenchak; Bonnie Cramer; Byron Itzen, son of Linda Itzen; Claudia Lyons, Stepmother of Martha Kersbergen, Delores Black; Rene' (Funk) Newman, former member & friend of Leslie Reetz.; Arlene Wold, sister of Lola Dillon; Brianna Clarahan; Donna Lachelt, mother of Laurie Miller, Marilyn Kiliper; Bill Albers, cousin of Sue

and cousin of Rose Clark; **Steve**, Son of Randy and Linda Birchall, **Cole Theander**, nephew of Mark Gustafson; **Nolan Bennett**, grandson of Marty Bennett; **Rich Weiss**, brother to Crystal Michael; **Jason Stanek**, family friend of Linda Itzen, Corinna & Kevin; **Ryder Schwieger**, son of Kathy Schweiger; **Brad**, son-in-law of Mark & Connie Gustafson; **Melinda Witzke**, friend of Laurie Wagner; **Christina Schoon**, friend of Dick & Crystal Michael; **Joan Miller**, Judy Duffield's sister.

Bereaved: The family of **Mary Ann Winninger,** sister of John (Darlene) Winninger; The family of **Don "Jumbo" Sells**; the family of **Kathy Korner**, sister-in-law of Mark and Connie Gustafson; the family of **Dennis Passow**, brother of Swede Passow.

Those in military service: Brandon LaForce, son-in-law of Rick & Laurie Wagner, based in Fort Leavenworth, KS. **Zachary Napier**, Army Special Forces, son of Paul & Deb Napier of Salt Lake City, Utah and grandson of Betty Evans. Zachary is now serving in Germany.





KATLYN GRIEP and DAN GRIEP	9
JUDY and GARY DUFFIELD	9
STAN and LYNN PAMPERIN	11

JANUARY FINANCIAL NOTE

Offerings: \$ 20,604 Expenses: \$ 16,158 Difference: \$ 4,445

Year to Date January 31, 2024

Offerings: \$ 20,604 Expenses: \$ 16,158 Difference: \$ 4,445

MARK JESSEN 1 **NOLAN WAYNAR** 1 3 **BOB KERSBERGEN** 3 **CHASE TRENARY** LINDSEY WAGGONER-EISEN 4 KRISTI ANDERSON-RICHARDSON 5 PAM HALVORSON 5 7 **GLADYS MEIER** 8 LYRA LANE **HEATHER KOPPEN** 11 JISELLE DONAHE 15 JON NELSON 15 KYLE GILLILAND 16 **GWEN ANDERSON** 17 BRAD LEMKE 18 **EVA BAKER** 21 GIANNA ARCHIBAI D 24 24 **HELEN PATTERSON** 25 AMY PRESLER TREVOR ARCHIBALD 29 **BROOKLYN GILLILAND** 29

30

SHELLI GROAT

LENTEN QUARTER FOLDERS/ ELCA WORLD HUNGER ENVELOPES

Quarter folders/ELCA World Hunger envelopes are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. If you want to use the daily quarter folders, please take one and return the filled folder in the white envelope at Easter time. If you would rather give cash or a check, please take an envelope.

Lenten proceeds will go to Hospice, AFES and Beacon of Hope. See page 8 for more information on these charities.

<u>Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran.</u>

All money will be sent in at the same time.

Current Offering & Attendance January 7

Attendance 70
Offering Receipts \$ 10,075

January 14 Services Cancelled

Attendance
Offering Receipts \$

January 21

Attendance 56

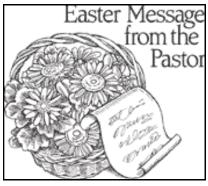
January 28Attendance56Offering Receipts\$ 3,691

February 4Attendance
Offering Receipts

Offering Receipts

62 \$ 2,888

\$ 6193



"For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain." Philippians 1:21

"Everybody sees the big sun setting. Everybody rides the hearse. Yeah, but you can't build up nothin' 'til you knock down something first" –Jonathan Rundman, "Ashes"

Another Holy Week will soon be upon us. This is the most important week in Christianity, but often you would never know it. We live in a culture that is at the same time numb to death and scared to death about death. Many people like to go straight from Palm Sunday to Easter. They try to forget the betrayal and the death that happens in

between. There is no way around it. Unfortunately, in our culture the story of Jesus' death and resurrection has been relegated to a motivational pep talk right next to the poster of the cat that says, "Hang in there." This is when our Lutheran "Theology of the Cross" is so important. Far too often we want to just talk about the cross rather than experience it. We want to do that because the cross is death. The cross is the place that most reminds us we are not in control. We die to ourselves and live in Christ. We would like to avoid this because it's extremely uncomfortable. But we can't. We would like Jesus to be just a little pick-me-up on an as-needed basis, but he's not. We would like this to simply be like getting a correct answer on Jeopardy, but it's not. It is a matter of death and life.

St. Francis of Assisi spoke of "sister death." He could embrace his mortality only because he knew that what he called his "second death" meant nothing because of his "first death." Dylan Thomas wrote, "Do not go gentle into that good night... Rage, rage against the dying of the light." (You may recognize this from a pharmaceutical company advertisement). The poem urges us to hold on to life. But there is a difference between affirming life and fearing death. True life, life in Christ comes through the cross. It comes when we relinquish our lives. It seems counterintuitive, to say the least. But this is how we can say with the Apostle Paul, "To live is Christ, to die is gain."

It's exceedingly appropriate that Easter falls so close to April Fool's Day. Our faith takes us beyond logic. It seems foolish to have an instrument of torture as the symbol of our faith. But it's only through the cross that the empty tomb takes on life-changing meaning. It's when we realize that we are utterly dependent on Christ that we begin to understand our life as a Christian. A theology of the cross doesn't pretend suffering and pain and death aren't there. We go through those things knowing that we can totally trust Jesus. May God bless you through death and life this Holy Week.

God loves you and so do I, Pastor Dan

Friendship Salad Luncheon Wednesday, February 21

Several people attended the Friendship Salad Luncheon. Many types of salads (pasta, fruit, dessert, lettuce, vegetable, etc.) were served and enjoyed by all! Thank you to WELCA for hosting this fun event!





On Monday, February 12 at the 2024 Agribusiness Conference in Altoona, Dave Lemke was named the Iowa Certified Crop Advisor for 2024. Dave got his award at the banquet at Prairie Meadows Event Center. He was selected to be the recipient of this award by the Board of Directors of the CCA and has been a member of the CCA for 30 years. Congratulations, Dave!!



Birthday girl Martha Kersbergen came into the birthday to bring us treats!

Birthday girl Martha Kersbergen came into the birthday to bring us treats!

Birthday girl Martha Kersbergen came into the bring us treats!

Church office on her birthday to bring us treats!

Church office on her birthday to bring us treats!

Thanks Martha!

Celebrate her birthday!

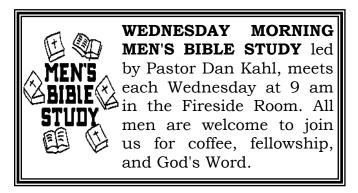




Everleigh Mae Wagner

Daughter of Olivia Kristine Wagner Born: December 15, 2023 Baptized: February 11, 2024 Grandparents: Rick & Laurie Wagner Great-Grandmother: Marilyn Kiliper







Sunday mornings at 10:40 am. We meet in the upper level main sewing room.





FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

Classes began February 28 for any fourth grade student and older, through adult, who have not received instruction and would like to take First Communion Classes.

We will meet at 5:30 pm Wednesdays, February 28, March 6, 13, 20 & 27. On Wednesday, March 20, the Communion class will be making bread for the Maundy Thursday Service for Communion.

Participants will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at the 6:30 pm service. Questions? Please see Pastor Dan.

Spring Flowers to Decorate the Sanctuary at Easter

Flowers may be ordered through the church office. Please return this form and payment (Payable to Grace Lutheran Church) for spring flowers no later than **Sunday, March 10**. The order will be placed on Monday, March 11. Prices are as follows:

Easter Lily, 1 stem, \$1	3.50 Easte	r Lily, 2 stems, \$22.00	
Tulip \$19.00	Daffodil \$19.00 _	Hyacinth \$19.00	
New this year, Hydran	or Purple		
Given by			-
In Honor of			OR
In Memory of			



Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement As a Mary Circle will meet Wednesday March 20th at community of women created in the image of 9:30. Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday March 26th, God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and at 6:30. Our Gather Magazine Bible study will empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit our- be "Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith" by selves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. March lesson will be one another in our callings, engage in ministry "Rivers: Springs of Life and Hope", All ladies are and action, and promote healing and wholeness invited to attend either Circle for Bible study in the church, the society and the world.

2024 Grace Women of the WELCA Yearbooks are now ready.. They are available in the tray above the coat rack.

WELCA Annual Meeting was held following the quilts Luncheon. It was a wonderful potluck with a

Valentine theme. It was good to be together. Thanks to everyone who attended and made the time special.

and fellowship.

Willing Workers meet Mondays at 8:30AM to put quilts together. There are many tasks, including cutting squares, layout/design quilt tops, and The "Friendship Salad Luncheon" was held tying quilts. Some of these tasks can be done at Wednesday Feb. 21, in the Fireside Room. The home. Come join us. Many hands make many

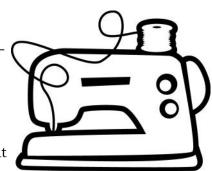


Knit & Purl meet the 1st and 4th Tuesday at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We continue to work on prayer shawls and baby blankets. We welcome a new fellow crafter, Nancy Schmidt, who has joined us and is brushing up on her crocheting - we are always happy to have a new face join us and so if you want to bring a friend please do. It is a good time to enjoy fellowship and fun. Connie Gustafson

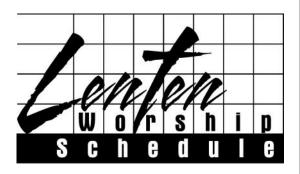
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE at GRACE

Our Office Administrator, Linda Itzen, is retiring—her last day will be March 31. This is a parttime position of under 30 hours a week. Interested parties can pick up an application in the office—office hours are 8:30 to 3:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday, closed on Fridays. For more information, please call Helen Patterson, Personnel Director at 515-302-4078

Lutheran World Relief Quilt Kits—If you like to sew but don't have time to quilt with the Willing Workers on Monday mornings, please consider assembling quilt tops at home. There is a basket in the Fireside Room filled with plastic bags. Each bag contains enough quilt blocks to make one twin-size quilt top, a spool of thread, and an instruction sheet. Place the completed quilt top back into the bag and return it to the basket in the Fireside Room where it will be collected by the Willing Workers, layered, tied, and sent off to keep people warm around the world. There is no time limit for completion. Sew at your own speed and enjoy sharing your time and talents.



Thank you, Willing Workers Quilting Group.



February 28

Altered on the Edge of Belonging (Acts 8:26-40)

March 6

Altered Alongside Our Enemies (Acts 9:1-12)

March 13

Altered by Disruption

(Acts 10: 1-16, 34-35, 44-47)

March 20

Altered Through Stories We Don't Trust (Acts 12:6-17)

Wednesday Midweek Lenten Services with meals start February 21 to March 20

Wednesday, February 28

5:30 pm meal—Turkey Noodle Soup (Chuck & Leslie Reetz) 6:30 pm Worship

Wednesday, March 6

5:30 pm meal—Maidrites & Pasta Salad (Fellowship Team) 6:30 pm Worship

Wednesday, March 13

5:30 pm meal—Chicken Casserole & side (Education Team & Youth) 6:30 pm Worship

Wednesday, March 20

5:30 pm meal—Potluck (Congregation) 6:30 pm—Worship

March 24 (Palm Sunday)

Worship at 9:30 am

March 28 (Maundy Thursday)

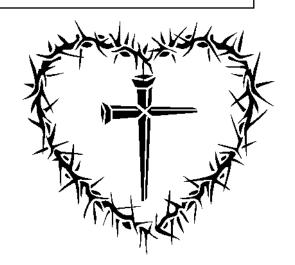
Worship at 6:30 pm

March 29 (Good Friday)

Worship at 6:30 pm

March 31 (Easter Sunday)

Worship 9:30 am
Easter Breakfast—8:00 am by
ARiSE & Friends





DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Sunday, March 10.

Remember to turn your clocks AHEAD one hour on Saturday night, March 9, before you go to bed.



RUMMAGE SALE

Planning Meeting for our Annual Rummage Sale March 4, 2024 - 6:30 pm Upper level library

All are welcome to attend the planning meeting. We will discuss all aspects of the rummage sale event. We plan to continue to have a bake sale, café, and silent auction as in the past. New ideas/suggestions and new volunteers are always welcome. Volunteer sign up sheets will be available in the near future. Look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Jim Blocker, Rummage Sale Chair.

LENTEN OFFERING PROCEEDS

The Church Council voted to send our Lenten Offerings to the following local charities:

Athletics For Education and Success, or "AFES"

AFES is an organization striving to help the youth and families of Fort Dodge and Webster County by providing hope and motivation for them. They aim to do this by any means necessary, giving youths and parents the power to decide what they need, want, and what may help them be successful. They offer after-school programs, sports teams, mentoring groups, drum line groups, educational & cultural opportunities, and more. In addition to providing exceptional programming, they provide young people with a sense of belonging and the determination to succeed.

Beacon of Hope

Beacon of Hope's mission is to reach out to men who are homeless, hungry and/or in need of hope by demonstrating the Grace of Christ through food, shelter, clothing and the Word of God. On their website they state: "We, as Christians, need to be able to provide people with that sense of security, perspective, victory, forgiveness, belonging, and hope. We must be willing to help, one person at a time. Every individual matters. [We] believe that we all have been homeless at one time, at least in our hearts. Everyone has a story and Beacon of Hope Shelter gives us all an opportunity to be a part of someone else's story."

Paula J. Baber Hospice Home

Here you will find a place where individuals with life-limiting illnesses and their families can come together with a professional staff that will support their end-of-life choices with extraordinary care and compassion. As a nonprofit, community-based organization dedicated to providing end-of-life care, the Paula J. Baber Hospice Home in Fort Dodge, Iowa, continues a strong hospice tradition that first began as a volunteer effort in 1983. The Paula J. Baber hospice home was built with our patients and their families in mind. Our hospice home has many unique features that makes it feel less like a hospice care facility and more like your home. We want to make sure your stay is as comfortable as possible. To do this, we offer a variety of different amenities and accommodations.

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, May 3 & Saturday, May 4

Annual rummage sale, bake sale, silent auction, & café at Grace!

Proceeds from this event helps Grace support our Companion Congregation in Matembwe, Tanzania, Africa. Secondary Education Scholarships are given to the girls in that congregation. The girls are always appreciative to receive one of these life changing scholarships. Plan to join in on the fun and fellowship of this event by volunteering. Jim Blocker, Sale Event Chair



Have items you no longer need? Consider donating them to Grace for the Sale.

Congregation Council Meeting February 20, 2024

1. Call to Order Council President, Judy Stilwell, called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Present: Janet Carlon, Roger Harris, Linda Itzen; office administrator/financial secretary, Pastor Dan Kahl, Dave Lemke, Kevin Lingner, Rod Poppinga, Leslie Reetz, Marlys Taylor, Katie Waynar, **Absent:** Marty Bennett

- **2. Open Forum** Helen Patterson spoke to us about the Terms of Employment for Office Administrator/ Financial Secretary. Pam Halvorson spoke about possible use of Foundation support for a potential Parish Support Position. Foundation will provide advice if we have questions or requests.
- **3. Opening devotions** Pastor Dan read from Romans, and spoke about nothing separating us from the love of God, followed by prayer.
- **4. Review Agenda** Janet Carlon moved to approve the agenda with the addition of item e in new business, Leslie Reetz 2^{nd} , approved.
- **5. Review minutes of January 16, 2024 Council Meeting** Dave Lemke moved to approve the minutes as written, Katie Waynar 2nd, approved.

6. Celebrations:

- **a**. Bingo Bash February 4 27 attended.
- **b**. Souper Bowl Sunday, Feb. 11 49ers won, proceeds to World Hunger
- c. Everleigh Mae Wagner baptism on Feb. 11
- **d**. Ash Wednesday Feb. 14, beginning of Lent.
- e. Youth Mission Trip to Wisconsin Dells, Feb. 16-18
- f. Chairs for Change Love Without Boundaries January 28
- g. Council Retreat January 27
- **h**. Annual Meeting held January 21

7. Monthly Reports Review:

- a. Pastor's Report Dave Lemke moved to approve Pastor's Report, Judy Stilwell 2nd, approved.
- **b**. Financial Reports Rod Poppinga moved to approve the Financial Reports, Marlys Taylor 2nd, approved.
- **c**. Ministry Team Reports Marlys Taylor moved to approve the Ministry Team Reports, Leslie Reetz 2nd, approved.

8. Old/Ongoing Business:

9. New Business:

- **a.** Discuss Lenten Offerings Offerings are typically designated toward local or world-wide charities. Pastor Dan Kahl moved to give our Lenten offerings to Hospice, AFES and Beacon of Hope, Leslie Reetz 2nd, approved.
- **b.** Linda Itzen's Resignation will take effect March 31. She is willing to help train a new employee. We held discussion about the current job description, possible changes, and possible Parish Partner position. With regret, Marlys Taylor moved to accept Linda Itzen's resignation, Kevin Lingner 2nd, approved.
- **c.** Abie Seltz as Youth Coordinator Abie Seltz has been hired as the Youth Coordinator here at Grace. She has ideas that she is excited about and is looking forward to working with the youth. Leslie Reetz moved to accept Abie Seltz as Youth Coordinator, Kevin Lingner 2nd, approved.
- **d.** Building Policy Revision Council will need to review the building use policies on pages 25-29 of the packet. We will address these policies at our March meeting.
- **e.** Dedicated Funds Discussed moving Choir dedicated account money and Water Leak Ins Claim dedicated account money to the Cambridge account. Katie Waynar moved to make this change, Marlys Taylor 2nd, accepted.

10. FYI:

- a. Lenten Services meals precede worship service
- **b.** Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm
- c. Good Friday, 6:30pm
- **d.** Plastic Sleeping mat project (using loom) Midwest Mission for homeless
- e. Easter breakfast time changed to 8 am instead of 10:30 am
- f. List for turning on and off church lights, list in the back of the sanctuary
- **11. Adjournment** Katie Waynar moved to adjourn at 8:14pm, Leslie Reetz 2nd, Lord's Prayer was prayed together.

MARCH Service Assistants

Sunday, March 3—9:30 am

Usher: OPEN Lav Reader: OPEN

Communion Assistant: OPEN Coffee hour treats: OPEN

Altar Care: Ann Powers / Trudy Koppen Council on Duty: Katie Waynar

Sunday, March 10—9:30 am

Usher: OPEN

Lav Reader: Helen Patte

Communion Assistant: Helen Patterson

Coffee hour treats: OPEN

Altar Care: Judy Stilwell / Judy Duffield

Council on Duty: Dave Lemke

Sunday, March 17-9:30 am

Usher: OPEN

Lay Reader: OPEN

Communion Assistant: OPEN Coffee hour treats: OPEN

Altar Care: Helen Patterson/Martha

Kersbergen

Council on Duty: Marlys Taylor

Palm Sunday, March 24-9:30 am

Ushers: OPEN

Lav Readers: OPEN

Coffee hour treats: OPEN

Altar Care: Crystal Michael / Trudy Koppen

Council on Duty: Judy Stilwell

Maundy Thursday, March 28-6:30 pm

Ushers: OPEN

Lav Readers: OPEN

Coffee hour treats: OPEN

Altar Care: Ann Powers

Council on Duty: Janet Carlon

Good Friday, March 29-6:30 pm

Ushers: OPEN

Lav Readers: OPEN

Coffee hour treats: OPEN

Altar Care: Crystal Michael

Council on Duty: Leslie Reetz

Easter Sunday, March 31—9:30 am

Ushers: OPEN

Lav Readers: Leslie Reetz

Coffee hour treats: OPEN

Altar Care: Helen Ptterson / Martha Kersbergen

Council on Duty: Katie Waynar

Confirmation Students are Ushers & Greeters WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT Worship at 6:30 pm

COUNCIL ON DUTY **DURING LENT**

Worship at 6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 6—Rod Poppinga Wednesday, March 13—Katie Waynar Wednesday, March 20—Kevin Lingner Maundy, Thurs—March 28—Janet Carlon Good Friday, March 29—Leslie Reetz Easter Sunday, March 31—Katie Waynar



Please sign up as you can. Thank you!

Sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the Narthex for:

Usher

Lay Reader

Communion Assistant

Coffee Hour Treats

Altar Flowers



March 2024



Sat	a	o	16	23	30	
Fri	1 Office Closed 10-11:30 am Caregivers 4-6 pm Girl Scouts	8 Office Closed 10-11:30 am Caregivers	15 Office Closed 10-11:30 am Caregivers	22 Office Closed 10-11:30 am Caregivers 4-6 pm Girl Scouts	29 Good Friday 10-11:30 am Caregivers 6:30 pm Worship	
Thu		7 1 pm WELCA 6-9 pm Reflections 7 pm Al Ateen	14 5:30 pm Executive Team Meeting 6-9 pm Reflections 7 pm Al Ateen	21 6-9 pm Reflections 7 pm Al Ateen	28 Maundy Thurs 9:30 am Visitor Crew 6:30 pm Worship, First Communion Students receive communion	
Wed		6 9 am Men's Bible Study 5:30pm 1st Communion 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Lent Worship 7:15 pm Choir	13 9 am Men's Bible Study 5:30 pm 1st Communion 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:15 pm Choir	20 9 am Men's Bible St 9:30 am Mary Circle 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:15 pm 1st Communion students make bread	27 9 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir	
Tue		5 10:30 am Text Study 2 pm Knit & Purl 6:30 pm Ministry	12 10:30 am Text Study No Lemke Grace Group until April	19 10:30 am Text Study 6 :30 pm Council	26 10:30 am Text Study 11 am YOUR Headstart 2 pm Knit & Purl 7 pm Ruth Circle	
Mon		4 8:30 Willing Workers 9:15 Money counters 5:30 pm Bells 6:30 pm Rummage Sale Committee 7:30 pm FDCS	11 8:30 am Willing Workers 9:15 am Money counters 5:30 pm Bells 6:30 pm 500 Club 7:30 pm FDCS	18 8:30 am Willing Workers 9:15 am Money counters 5:30 pm Bells 7:30 pm FDCS	25 8:30 am Will Work Tie D 9:15 am Money count 5:30 pm Bells 7:30 pm FDCS	
Sun	S P B	3 Lent 3 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:40 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Coffee 2 pm Hands of Hope Conference Meeting	10 Lent 4 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:40 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Coffee	17 Lent 5 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:40 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Coffee	24 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Worship No Sunday School 10:40 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Coffee	31 Easter 8:00 am Easter Brunch 9:30 am Worship

Grace Lutheran Church 211 S 9th St Fort Dodge IA 50501 (515) 576-4106

Web Site: www.graceELCA.com

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Return Service Requested

THE VISITOR

Grace Staff

Pastor Dan Kahl dckahl@hotmail.com

Roberta Bochtler Organist / Choir Director

Linda ItzenOffice Administrator
gracefd@frontiernet.net

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Regular Worship 9:30 am

Sunday School 10:30 to 11:15 am

Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am

Adult Forum 10:40 am



LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MARCH 6, 13, 20 5:30 pm Meal 6:30 pm Worship

HOLY WEEK March 24—PALM SUNDAY 9:30 am

March 28—MAUNDY THURSDAY—6:30 pm March 29—GOOD FRIDAY—6:30 pm

March 21_FASTED

March 31—EASTER 8:00 am Easter Brunch 9:30 am Worship Service

KNOW GOD'S GRACE-SHARE GOD'S LOVE