



{on the corner of Fourth and Main}

grace lutheran church

come . grow . serve

Ash Wednesday and Lent February 17 — April 1

Ash Wednesday 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with all of the normal precautions in place for safety. Distribution of ashes will be at the end of the service as you exit. The service will also be livestreamed onto Facebook.

6 pm Lenten Services will be held in the sanctuary and livestreamed for you to join us from home if you prefer. We will begin our Lenten sermon series on "Faithful Feelings," where we will explore texts that speak to the whole human experience and demonstrate that there is room for all of our feelings in the Christian faith and life.

♥ Pledge Cards ♥

Community is important to us at Grace...and a big part of who we are, is what we do. Through God's abundant love we live and work to serve others. At Grace we believe everything we do, and everything we have comes from God, and so we want to make the most of it.

Grace is a generous place. As we continue to be generous and give to serve others both inside our church and in our community at large, we live out our calling to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world. Please look into your heart and then fill out a pledge card and return it to the church so we can plan to be generous as a congregation as well. Thank you for your commitment to the ministry we share.

Staying Connected

- ◆ **Facebook.** See www.facebook.com/gracemankatoelca at 9:55 a.m. Sundays for the worship service.
- ◆ **YouTube.** Watch the worship service. Find a link on our website homepage.
- ◆ **Television.** On KTV, Public Access Television for the Mankato Area.
Consolidated 7 or 507 (HD)/Spectrum 181 on Tues 1 p.m. & Wed. 7:15 p.m.
- ◆ **Radio.** Listen to the worship service at 10 am on KTOE-AM 1420 or ktoe.com.
- ◆ **By Phone.** Sometimes the most simple thing we can do is just pick up the phone and call people to say hello and find out how they are doing.
- ◆ **In the Sanctuary.** The sanctuary space is open for worship. All Covid rules will still apply if you are joining us in-person. Masks will need to be worn and physical distancing will need to be observed.

Our Address is:
Grace Lutheran Church
110 N 4th St.
Mankato, MN 56001

Office Email addresses:

Rev. John Odegard...pastor@gracemankato.org
Ben Geer.....dsg@gracemankato.org
Rich Krause.....parish@gracemankato.org
Joan Hertel.....office@gracemankato.org

Jan—March 2021
MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

Sunday Worship at 9:55 am

9:55 am in person and on
Facebook

Tuesdays

9:30 am Music with Mr. Ben
1:30 pm Prayer Grp (HR)

Wednesdays

6 pm Lenten Worship

Thursdays

8 pm ZOOM Bible Study

WORSHIP BROADCASTS

Radio

KTOE 1420AM on Sunday 10 am

Television

Consolidated 7(507)/Spectrum 181
Tues 1 p.m. & Wed. 7:15 p.m.

COVID Office Hours

M - Th 10 am - 5 p.m.
Friday 10 am - Noon

Office Phone

507.345.4248

**Grace is serving dinner at
Connections Shelter the
second and fourth Sunday of
every month.**

If you would like to sign up to help out for any of the next times we're serving you can reach out to Ben through the church office or at DSG@gracemankato.org



From Rev. John Odegard

Friends of Grace,

I want to begin with a heartfelt thank you to all those who attended our annual meeting this last week in person or virtually. Together we had an attendance that was very close to what we have had in previous years without the pandemic. It is a great thing to have so many committed to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ through Grace Lutheran Church. I am happy to announce that we have passed a ministry spending plan that reflects our commitment to living and working to serve others, growing in generosity by including designated giving on a significant level for local organizations in addition to what we have already been giving to our synod and larger church-wide missions. Grace is a generous place. As we continue to be generous and give to serve others both inside our church and in our community at large, we live out our calling to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world. Thank you for your support in this.

To help us reach these goals and have another strong financial year, would you consider the ways you might be able to grow in your giving this year? Generosity looks different for every family, and sometimes the first step is just making a pledge. By deciding to be generous your actions put your heart into alignment with your faith. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." It is tempting to believe we will be more generous once we have grown in faith, but often it works in the other direction too. Once we have committed our time and treasures to the mission of Christ through our church, we become invested in that mission and grow in faith. Wherever you are on your journey of generosity, will you take a moment to consider how you will continue to grow

this year? Then, please fill out a pledge card and return it to the church so we can plan to be generous as a congregation as well. Thank you for your commitment to the ministry we share.

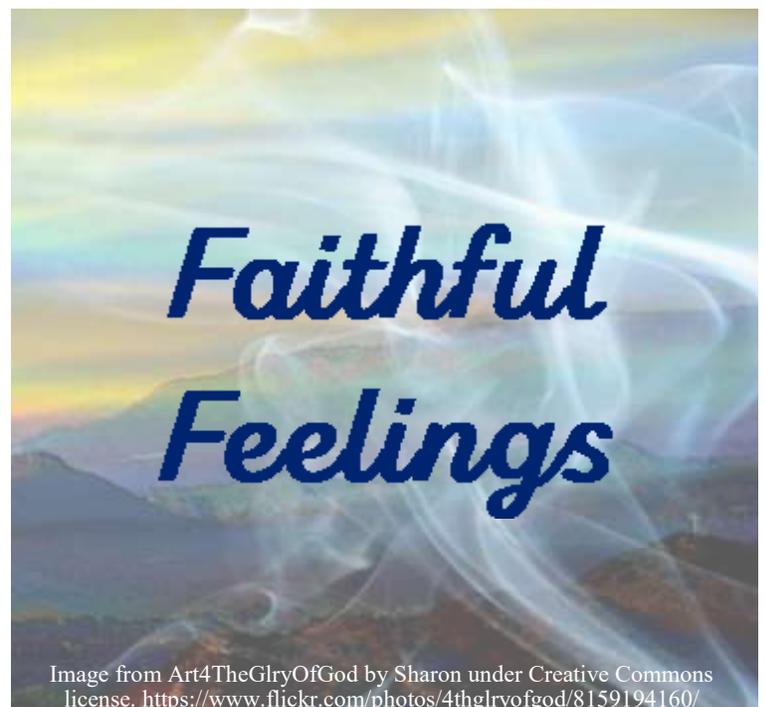
Finally, with Christmas and annual meeting season behind us, we look ahead to Ash Wednesday and Lent. **Ash Wednesday will be celebrated at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary with all of the normal precautions in place for safety. There will be a distribution of ashes at the end of the service rather than in the middle, as you leave worship.** This will help reduce congestion and contact. We will also have this, and all of our Lenten services livestreamed for you to join us from home if you prefer.

Following Ash Wednesday, we will begin our Lenten sermon series on "Faithful Feelings," where we will explore texts that speak to the whole human experience and demonstrate that there is room for all of our feelings in the Christian faith and life. I am excited to explore this theme together and hope you will find it meaningful as we continue to grow together throughout these 40 days. As always, it is my great pleasure to serve alongside you in this ministry we share.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. John Odegard





From Ben Geer Director for Spiritual Growth

Dear Grace Family,

Hi everyone. We are more than halfway through winter.... Maybe. It is hard telling these days. The calendar tells me that we are but with the mild first part, I worry that we will get a longer second half. The cold snap we have been in sure gets me anxious for summer though and much, much warmer temperatures. Every year going into Lent though, I feel like spring is right around the corner. The sun being out a bit more every day, hearing the sounds of more birds chirping in the morning, the large pool of water at the end of my drive way because it cannot make it to the storm drain. All the signs point to a rebirth of the color green, which gives me hope.

In a way, I almost feel like we have been in a year-long winter. Waiting to turn the corner on Covid to see what is in store for us next. I am optimist though that we are on our way through it all and that is why I am so excited about the events we have planned for this summer. I am excited to have an in person vacation bible school for our younger kids at the church in June right after school gets out. I am excited to have four and a half fun filled days looking at the ways that God is the King

over everything. He rules over the animals in the sea and on land, and he is even in all of us as he is the "King in me." King in me is the theme for this summer and we will be looking at the familiar stories of David and Goliath, Jonah, and Daniel in the lion's den. We will do crafts and have a whole lot of fun. In June, we will keep the fun rolling with a service trip to Duluth, MN. Confirmation and High School students get the chance to go up and service the community of Duluth. This five-day trip will be a blast as we also study about how God is a shining light in our lives. God guides us through dark times and shines a pathway for us to serve and to be able to be a light to others reflecting God's amazing light to the world around us. July, I am excited to be going along with a great group of adults to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. I think it has been a while since we have offered a trip like this for adults to share the experience and the beauty of the BWCA. The trip I hope is a time for people to Pause, Ponder, Relax and Reflect and to come back refreshed. You can find more information and see how to sign up for any of this in this newsletter.

It may be tough to think about warmer days ahead when I look at the temperature as I am typing this and it says 1° F outside but it will come, and until then it is warm thoughts about that time to come.

Thank you all for allowing me to continue to serve here at Grace and being able to do what I truly love to do.

Peace and I will see ya soon!

Ben Geer

At the Annual Meeting We Approved an Amendment to the Constitution

This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically

Events



Music with Mr. Ben

Initially for children at Golden Heart Child Care Center, it is now done on Facebook Live al-

most every **Tuesday at 9:30am**. During Covid it is a great way to connect with the kids and even more people are able to jump on and enjoy.

Thursday's Zoom Bible Study at 8 PM

Zoom Meeting ID for this is #857 5766 8823

If you have not had a chance to check out our Thursday night bible study now is a great time. We've just finished a study on parables and are starting a new one. Having the bible study through Zoom means you do not have to leave the house to attend. You can even attend in your pajamas and go right to bed when you are done. The bible studies are filled with great fellowship and conversation and last about an hour and fifteen minutes. If you need help getting connected to zoom you can contact Ben and he'd be happy to help you get set up on your device.

**Connections Shelter
is in need of
toilet paper
donations.**

**Drop some off in
the narthex**



Connections is in need of another donation item that our Grace family will be able to help them out. It has been brought to our attention they could use toilet paper donations. With the great success, we had with the quarter drive and the continued commitment with servicing meals at connection the 2nd and 4th Sundays we know we can gather a lot of toilet paper to donate. Stop in any time and add to the pile started in the narthex. We will see how large we can get it then delivered to the shelter.

Grace Lutheran Church 2021 Summer Service Trip

7-12th Grade

**NORTH SHORE MN
JUNE 13-18TH**

REGISTER AT
[GRACEMANKATO.ORG/YOUTHANDFAMILY](https://www.gracemankato.org/youthandfamily)

**Cost
\$200**



June 7-11th
2021

Grace Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible
School



King of Me

OUR 2021 SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THEME IS "KING OF ME" WE'LL EXPLORE SOME OF THE CHARACTERS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT AND HOW GOD IS BIGGER THAN SOME OF THE OBSTACLES THAT WERE PUT IN THEIR WAY AND HOW GOD IS THE KING OF ALL THOSE THINGS. WHEN WE FEEL ALONE GOD IS WITH US.

K-6TH GRADE
ALL ARE WELCOME

"I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY"
JOHN 10:10



REGISTER AT
GRACEMANKATO.ORG/YOUTHANDFAMILY

We are planning an in-person Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer. We will be holding it here at Grace the week after schools get out. The theme for the week is "King of Me." We will explore some of the characters from the Old Testament and how God is bigger than some of the obstacles that are put in their way, and how God is the king of all those things. When we feel alone, God is with us. The week will be full of fun worship, crafts, and activities. This will be fully run by Grace so we will be looking for volunteers to help during the week. If you have time available or an older child at home that you want to get out of the house to help, please let Ben know (DSG@gracemankato.org) and he'd love to have some help. He will take help during the days with programing, food, childcare before and after, or even planning the VBS if you are feeling very adventurous.

**All kids are welcomed to attend.
They do not have to be a member of Grace
Ages Kindergarten - 6th Grade are invited.**

- * Programing will run from 8:30 - 3:00 Monday - Thursday and 8:30 - noon on Friday.
- * Early drop off and late pick up will be available to families that need it.
- * Meals will be provided Monday - Thursday
- * Suggested Donation of \$35 to cover cost of food and craft supplies
- * You can sign up for VBS by going to gracemankato.org/youthandfamily

2021 Summer Service Trip

We are excited to offer a summer service trip for youth grades 7th – 12th this year. We will be traveling to Duluth, MN for a week of service and fun. We will be staying the evenings at First Lutheran Church, which is right across the street from Leif Erikson Park. The park is located right on the shore of Lake Superior. For service, we will be working with Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative. Some of our projects will include mulching, laying down cedar, planting, and weeding. As the year progresses there may be more options, depending on Covid, but right now service opportunities will be outside. Along with serving the community, we will have the chance to check out the area. We will go for walks on the lake walk, visit Enger Tower, and maybe even jump in the lake. Cost for the trip is \$200. If you have any questions about the trip or would like to possibly go along as an adult leader please reach out to Ben at dsg@gracemankato.org

Sign up for the trip by going to gracemankato.org/youthandfamily

2021 Adult Boundary Waters Trip

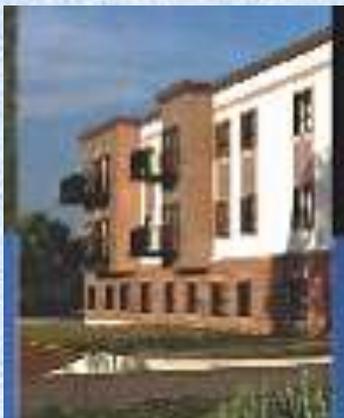
JULY 9TH - 14TH 2021

\$200

Limited Space available
Contact Ben at DSG@gracemankato.org
if interested

There are just a few more spots available for our Boundary Waters trip this summer. The kids got their chance last year and this year it is the chance for adults to have some fun. We will spend four days and three nights in the BWCA. We will be entering in through entry point 64, which is on East Bearskin Lake.

During the trip, there will be time for fellowship, hiking, exploring, fishing, checking out waterfalls, and much, much more fun and excitement. If you have been looking for an excuse to go to the boundary waters this is it. You can get more information by contacting Ben at DSG@gracemankato.org. Sign up for the trip by visiting gracemankato.org/adultbwca



Welcome to Ecumen Pathstone's Latitude

Grace Lutheran Church and Ecumen Pathstone have a long, shared history and together, we are celebrating the newest addition to the Pathstone family! Beginning in February, Ecumen Pathstone will welcome residents to its new Independent Living community, Latitude.

The addition of Latitude offers residents a full continuum of care, as Ecumen Pathstone also offers Assisted Living, Memory Care and Skilled Nursing.

With floor plans and amenities all named after other cities around the world also on the 44th Parallel North, the new community celebrates Mankato's location on the globe. It also features a club room, a terrace overlooking the beautiful Minnesota River Valley and bluffs, a fitness room and learning center.

Grace Lutheran members also may recognize Latitude's warm, Scandinavian architecture and furnishings reflecting our church community's own Swedish heritage.

Call today (507) 381-3255 to book an appointment
ecumenpathstone.org/latitude



BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO OUR January and February BIRTHDAY PEOPLE!



Annual Meeting: Feb. 7, 2021

Grace Lutheran Church Women

GLCW Board Meeting

Is normally held on first Monday each month at 10 am.
However, our next meeting will take place in April.

GLCW Unit Meetings:

All Grace Church women are invited to join a unit.

It is a time for: Bible study, a short business meeting,
and warm fellowship.

Unit meetings are on a "Covid-19 Hold"



FROM THE FAIR TRADE CART...

(located downstairs just outside of the narthex)

Coffee - Tea - Chocolate - Olive Oil - Spices

Fair Trade Chairperson: Audrey von Holt



All fair trade/organic coffee is now \$7 a bag

Individual Coffee packets (makes 10-12 cups) 60¢ each

All tea is \$3

Large Chocolate Bars are \$2.50 each

Communion Available

You can now bring communion home with you.

Pre-consecrated elements are available at the church.

You can stop in to pick it up and bring home to have
during service on Sunday morning.

If you can't make it in let us know and we can bring it to
you and drop off during the week.

If you'd like, you can make your own communion bread at
home. Check out the link below for a great recipe.



<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/09/reader-recipe-communion-bread/>



Grace Lutheran Church
110 N 4th st
Mankato, MN 56001

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Mankato, MN
56001
Permit No. 136

Address service requested:



Through God's Abundant Love, We Live and Work to Serve Others



We are a community of faith...

- Gathering in God's Love
- Celebrating God's Presence through Life Events
- Caring for God's People
- Deeply Rooted
- Valuing Life-long Learning

gracemankato.org

 [Grace Lutheran Church ELCA](#)

 pinterest.com/gracemankato

