



The Reach



March 2025

From the
Pastor's
Desk



Dear Friends ~

March will be a very busy month! **Lent** begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 5th**. We **worship at 7:00 pm**. Sanctified Art, the artists' collective that produces the beautiful material we have been using for Lent and Advent in recent years, titles this year's Lenten theme as "**everything [in] between**." This theme "invites us to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and an openness to be transformed." Watch and listen as this theme unfolds all throughout Lent. There'll be a new banner in the sanctuary too!

Lenten devotional materials following this same theme are available now, as either a full-color booklet or a set of 50 daily prayer cards. You are encouraged to choose one or both, available now Sunday mornings or in the church office. If you have someone who would appreciate their own copy, we encourage you to take one to share. Free will offerings are appreciated.

- Rev. Dawn Ramstad is leading an **Adult Bible Study** during Lent using the book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, by Amy-Jill Levine. It meets **Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 2:00 pm**, for seven weeks beginning March 5th. Bring a sack lunch if you like! Books are available in the church office for \$12, or you can order the Kindle e-book version directly from amazon for approximately \$9.

I also want to highlight the following events in March:

- **Sunday, March 9 : a training event for worship leaders and readers.** Might you be willing to help lead Sunday worship or read scripture? Are you at least curious? Stick around after the service for a short hour! The training is appropriate for new people and veterans alike.
- **Sunday, March 16 : Potluck** after worship! Corned beef & Cabbage in recognition of Saint Patrick's Day (with an alternative for anyone who'd like something else). Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

every blessing,

Pastor Andrew

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:

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ruztyhalo@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Susan Colbeth
office@spiritofgracerf.org

Treasurer:

Carl Gaulke
treasurer@spiritofgracerf.org

Director of Children, Youth and

Family Ministries:

Emma Esanbock
emma@spiritofgracerf.org

Senior Choir Director:

Al Madison

Organist:

Cami Madison
Elissa Ribbens

Information, Technology, and Media Coordinator:

Ash Patterson

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SPIRIT OF GRACE BROCHURE

A new brochure about Spirit of Grace has been designed and produced. There will be copies at the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings and displayed at other events. Please stop and take a look! We think this brochure will make it easier to tell our story to visitors and potential members.

If you have a particular use for the brochure, please let us know. We will always have a limited supply available and will print more depending on the need and demand.

PART TIME POSITION AVAILABLE - MINISTRY STAFF SUPPORT

This position cares for individual tasks and details that support various ministries of Spirit of Grace Church. Currently this position is designed to be done remotely 6 hours per week. Qualifications include effective communication and computer skills, as well as exceptional organizational skills and attention to details. A list of specific duties included in this position can be obtained from the church office. Hourly compensation is determined by the SPRC committee, within a range of \$15 -\$20 per hour.

To obtain a detailed job description and/or application form please contact the Spirit of Grace Office at (715) 425-6233, or office@spiritofgracerf.org



Ash Wednesday

March 5

Gather at **7:00 pm** in the
sanctuary for worship.



SPIRIT of GRACE

Reaching Out in Love Since 1857

OFFICE: 715.425.6233

WEBSITE: spiritofgracerf.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am-5:00 pm

E-MAIL: office@spiritofgracerf.org

Please check the calendar on our website (www.spiritofgracerf.org) for further information.

Clicking on an event will bring up details regarding that event.



Thanks to the following individuals for all they have done for our faith community:

To **Gospbells, Al Madison, and Spirit of Grace Choir** for sharing their talent of music with us. To **Cami Madison and Elissa Ribbens** for their gift of playing the piano and organ.

To **Lynn Nelson** for preparing the communion elements, and to **Lynn Nelson, Karen Leichtle, and Marlys Bradford** for serving communion in February

To **Kurt Leichtle, Janet Ellinger, Sue Christopher, and Mark Christopher** for being Worship Leaders in February

To **Dallas Dosdall, Virgil Nylander, Gary Eloranta, Blaine Westberg, Steve Nelson, and Lynn Nelson** for ushering in February.

To **Blaine Westberg, Steve Nelson, Aleisha Colbeth, Mark & Julie Freeborn, and Dallas Dosdall** for being greeters.

To **Janet Dosdall, Susan Colbeth, Fay Westberg, and Marlys Bradford**, for being at the Welcome Desk.

To **Sue & Steve Nelson, Susan & Aleisha Colbeth, Georgia & Ed Goodman, and Laura Carlson** for serving Fellowship treats on Sunday after worship service in February.

To **Jonah Thompson and Keagan Kuhl, and David Rusterholz** for doing Sound Board during worship service. To **Chris Thompson, Brian Kuhl, and Euge Isherwood** for doing Video Tech during worship service.

To **Aleisha Colbeth, and Linda Henderson** for helping out in Sunday School.

To **Euge Isherwood, Dean Loney, Kurt & Karen Leichtle, and Patti & Lynn Nelson** for being hospitality hosts.

To **Linda & Dean Henderson** for providing and serving the food for the All Church Wednesday Bingo Night on February 12.

If we missed somebody in our thanks, please let us know. We want to thank everyone!

THANK YOU

The following "thank you" message comes from the four families who received gifts from Spirit of Grace members and Noisy Can donations for the Giving Tree in November. I thought you might enjoy hearing from those families, and how very much your gifts of items and money enabled me to provide, through your generosity, purchase gifts for each family member and to provide gift cards for groceries and gas.

- One example: "Thank you to all who donated profusely. All the gifts meant so much to us as a family. The kids really enjoyed the toys. As far as us parents, we appreciate everything very much, seeing the look on our kids faces and the thought, time, and money put into every gift means a lot to us. We're happy to know that future families will also be blessed with gifts from you all and that as a society some of us look after one another without knowing each other personally!"
- From the director of our Neighbors' Place, Shelly Smith: "Thank you so much for doing the Christmas gift collection for the families living in our Transitional Housing building! We appreciate the support and we know your thoughtfulness is appreciated by our families!"

GIVE BLOOD

You can make a difference



BLOOD DRIVE

Spirit of Grace will host a **Red Cross Blood Drive** on **Monday, March 24**, with **appointments available from 11:30 am**

to 5:15 pm. We hope to fill all of these appointment slots! To find out if you are eligible to donate blood or platelets, go to redcross.org and click on "Give Blood." You can select an appointment time and register now. A person can donate blood every 56 days. To be eligible to donate on March 24th your previous donation must be before January 25th.

Another way to support the drive is to volunteer at the drive. A volunteer will be needed to welcome and register donors and another in the recovery canteen visiting with donors before they depart. This can be done in 1 or 2 hour shifts if desired. If you would like to help with the drive, please let Susan in the church office know. We can also offer after donation snacks in addition to what the American Red Cross offers. A sign-up will be set out in March.

Spirit of Grace Church has received a **very generous bequest** from the estate of Loren R. Albert. This gift is in memory of Loren and his parents, Earl G. and Dorothy M. Albert. Loren, like his cousin Dean Albert, grew up in our congregation. We feel blessed that Loren's foundation in our church was so strong that he wanted to extend and support our work with his very generous gift.

A Bequests Committee was recently formed to handle large, undesignated bequests exceeding \$100,000 in value. Current members of the Bequest Committee are Robin Murray (Council), Kristin Thompson (Trustees), Linda Henderson (Finance) and Phyllis Albert (representing the family and the Memorial Committee). Pastor Andrew Church and Treasurer Carl Gaulke will consult with and advise the committee.



MARCH NOISY CAN OFFERING

RELAY FOR LIFE



RELAY FOR LIFE – April 11th, River Falls High School

Join the 2025 Relay for Life Spirit of Grace Team. This year is the 40th anniversary of the Relay for Life event with the theme of being a "Ray of Hope". The American Cancer Society is there for those who are battling cancer, their families support the fight, and the teams of medical providers who work with both patients and their families for the best possible outcome. Fighting cancer is not a one-person battle. It's a team effort American Cancer Society funds vital lifesaving research, provides free rides to chemotherapy, helps pay for lodgings near hospitals, has a 24/7 lifeline, and offers education and advocacy. The battle against cancer takes a team, so join the Spirit of Grace Team for the 2025 Relay for Life!

Join the Spirit of Grace Team to raise money and join in the fun at the April 11th Relay for Life event. Last year, our team raised \$5269 and always had at least one person on the track. If you would like to provide a Silent Auction Basket, there will be forms in the church office. Luminaria can be found in the Gathering Area leading up to the event. This year's Spirit of Grace Team is being led by Belle Peterson. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Belle (651)-764-6373 or email her at isabellepeterson02@gmail.com. Any donations can be handed to Blaine Westberg who is overseeing the donations this year. Team sign-up and additional information is at www.RelayForLife.org/RiverFallsWI. To join the Team: create an account, and then find our team's selection which will have a button to join the team.

The Relay for Life of River Falls-Pierce County will be held at the River Falls High School on April 11, from 5-9:30 pm. Please wear a Spirit of Grace shirt or a blue shirt so we all look like a team! The goal is to have someone from the Spirit of Grace Team on the track the entire time!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

YOUTH GROUP

Wednesday Night Schedule for Middle School and High School students.

Youth ages 11-18 are encouraged to join us every Wednesday for a meal, lesson, and worship.

4:30 - 5:00 pm Youth Room Open

5:15 - 5:45 pm Dinner served

6:00 - 6:50 pm Lesson

7:00 - 7:30 Worship

YOUTH OVERNIGHT

Youth grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a fun filled overnight **March 7-8th**. Join us as we start on our Lenten Journey! We'll play games, learn about God, and do some service work! Drop off will be at 5:30pm on the 7th and pick up will follow the community breakfast on the 8th. RSVP to emma@spiritofgracerf.org and keep an eye out for more details.

LENT BEGINNING

Ash Wednesday is March 5th. That means our children and youth will be joining in following along with the Lenten Material. Sunday School families are invited to take family **conversation cards** to guide them through Lent at home. Middle and High School students are encouraged to pick up **daily devotional cards** or the **weekly devotional booklet!**

Emma's Office Hours

My drop-in office hours are Mondays from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Feel free to email me at emma@spiritofgracerf.org to schedule another time to meet.

SPARK STORY BIBLES

If you weren't aware, we make use of Sparkhouse Story Bibles in our Sunday School classes. If your family would like one so you and your family can read the stories together at home, please reach out to me! We have a lot and it's a great way to help your child grow in their faith!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Don't forget about these volunteer opportunities for CYFM:

SUNDAY SCHOOL - One weekly volunteer age 18+ needed after Children's Time. Volunteers are welcome to participate in lessons as much as they are comfortable. One weekly volunteer age 11-17 is welcome to join each Sunday to help with the lesson, run for supplies, and check on worship.

YOUTH GROUP - One weekly volunteer age 18+ needed on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 pm. Volunteers are welcome to share stories, talents, or participate in lessons as much as they are comfortable.

YOUTH MEAL - We are looking for 1-2 weekly volunteers from 5:00-6:00 pm to help cook, serve, and clean up after the meals for our youth on Wednesday nights. Food will be provided by the church.

A MESSAGE FROM EMMA

While Christmas may have my favorite vibes, Lent is my favorite church season by far! I love the idea of picking up new practices and recentering myself to God! Remember to check in with the youth in your life and encourage them to try something new this Lent!

-Emma Esanbock



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications are available in the church office and online at spiritofgracerf.org

Completed applications along with accompanying transcripts, references, and photos are due in the church office by April 1st. Please make sure all requirements are completed on time.

.SUNDAY, MARCH 9

10:45 am

Worship Leaders and Readers Training: Are you willing to help lead Sunday worship or read scripture? Stick around after the service for a short hour! Appropriate for new people and veterans both.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The UWF will meet Tuesday, March 11 at 1:00 pm in the Conference Room.

This meeting is open to all UWF members.

Come join us and learn more about United Women in Faith.



Don't forget to turn your **clocks** ahead on **Sunday, March 9th** at 2 a.m.



Celebrate March

Braham Schwenke - March 3	Merry Harris - March 22
George Baumgartner - March 4	Bill Barnes - March 23
Emma Esanbock - March 6	Steven Goff- March 23
Jeanne Clark - March 11	Bruce Harris - March 24
Jacob Vorwald - March 12	Andrew Church - March 25
Laura Carlson - March 15	Dean Arneson - March 26
Jeanne Zirbel- March 15	Liam Winberg - March 26
Lawrence Hamilton - March 16	Ann Stannard - March 29
Elizabeth Goff - March 17	Isabelle Peterson - March 30
Avery Holbrook - March 18	Garett Cook - March 31
Jadyn Holbrook - March 18	Tiffany Hoover - March 31

If we missed your birthday, we apologize and invite you to call the church office and let us know your birth date.

COKESBURY BOOK SALE



The Cokesbury book sale is on its way for the season of Lent and Easter. These wonderful resources for children and adults are offered at discounted prices and are tax free. Check the display for inspirational gifts or resources for your own faith journey. A sample of titles include: *Through the Year with Jimmy Carter*, *Choose Hope*, *Eve Isn't Evil*, *Prayers of the Presidents*, *Look and Find Easter Stories*, *Laughter Therapy* and *Yappy Easter!* Come and browse a wide selection of books in the Gathering Area on Sundays, beginning March 9th.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE
ACTUAL VS BUDGET
GENERAL FUND**

	Actual <u>Jan. 2025</u>	Budget <u>Jan. 2025</u>
Income	\$ 24,964	26,493
Expenses	\$ <u>25,072</u>	\$ <u>30,312</u>
Net Income	\$ (108)	\$ (3,819)
	=====	=====

	Actual Year to date <u>Jan. - Dec. 2025</u>	Budget Year to date <u>Jan. - Dec. 2025</u>
Income	\$ 24,964	\$ 26,493
Expenses	\$ <u>25,072</u>	\$ <u>30,312</u>
Net Income	\$ (108)	\$ (3,819)
	=====	=====

Spirit of Grace now has the ability to receive online donations via credit card. Scan the QR code and be directed to a secure giving window. Thank you.



SATURDAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

We will serve our Community Breakfast on Saturday, March 8. We need a lot more volunteers to help! We need people to cook, set up, welcome, serve, clean up and support. If you can help, please sign up on the clipboard in the Gathering Area on the fellowship table. If you haven't done it before, it is a great way for you to get to know community members and other church members. Many hands make light work!



POTLUCK

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Join us for our **All-Church Potluck on Sunday, March 16 at 10:45 am**. The main entrée is Corn Beef & Cabbage in recognition of St. Patrick's Day (an alternative is available as well). Please sign up in the Gathering Area and put down what you are bringing for a salad, side dish, or dessert.



SMALL FARMERS , BIG CHANGE

Support Small farmers around the world by purchasing Equal Exchange Fair Trade Products. Our cart in the Gathering Area has been freshly stocked with coffee, tea, hot cocoa mix and the candy! These products are great for gift- giving and the cold winter months ahead!

*Spirit of Grace
127 S. 2nd St.
River Falls, WI 54022*



*If you would like to be removed
from this, mailing please
contact the office.*

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 46
River Falls, Wisconsin

March

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm					1	
2 9:30 am Worship Sunday School After Children's Time	3 7:00 pm Yoga	4 11:00 am Lions 1:00 pm Member Care 6:00 pm SPRC	5 Ash Wednesday 1:00 pm Bible Study 1:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 	6 5:30 pm Youth Overnight	7 8:00 - 10:00 am Saturday Breakfast 	8 10:00 am Youth Pick up from the Overnight
9 9:30 am Worship Sunday School After Children's Time 10:45 am Sunday Morning Worship Leaders and Readers Training	10 1:00 pm Ministry Team 7:00 pm Yoga	11 1:00 pm United Women In Faith 5:00 pm Memorial Committee 6:00 pm Trustees	12 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Youth Room Open 5:15 pm Youth Dinner 6:00 pm Youth Lesson 7:00 pm Youth Worship 7:00 pm Spirt of Grace	13 14	15	
16 9:30 am Worship Sunday School After Children's Time 10:45 am All-Church Potluck	17 7:00 pm Yoga	18 6:00 pm Finance Com. 7:00 pm Church Council	19 NO YOUTH ACTIVITY 1:00 pm Bible Study	20 21	22	
23 9:30 am Worship Sunday School After Children's Time 10:45 am Bequest Team	24 11:30 am - 5:15 pm Blood Drive 6:00 pm Journey House Board Meeting 7:00 pm Yoga	25	26 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Youth Room Open 5:15 pm Youth Dinner 6:00 pm Youth Lesson 7:00 pm Youth Worship 7:00 pm Spirt of Grace	27 28	29	
30 9:30 am Worship Sunday School After Children's Time	31 7:00 pm Yoga					

Worship Schedule March 2025

Ash Wednesday

	03/02/2025	03/05/2025	03/09/2025	03/16/2025	03/23/2025	03/30/2025
Front Door Greeter	Marlys Bradford	Dallas Dossdall	Steve Nelson Aleisha Colbeth	Dallas Dossdall	Blaine Westberg	Dean Arneson Darlene Arneson
Worship Leader	Kurt Leichtle	Robin Murray	Mark Christopher	Laura Ida	Robin Murray	Sue Christopher
Ushers	Dallas Dossdall Virgil Nylander	Gary Eloranta Carl Gaulke	Carl Gaulke Dallas Dossdall	Carl Gaulke Steve Nelson	Lynn Nelson Dallas Dossdall	Blaine Westberg Lynn Nelson
Communion Preparation	Lynn Nelson Servers: Lynn Nelson Belle Peterson Karen Leichtle					
Pastor	Pastor Andrew	Pastor Andrew	Pastor Andrew	Pastor Andrew	Pastor Andrew	Pastor Andrew
Fellowship	Kathy Hilden	No Fellowship on Ash Wednesday		All-Church Potluck	Georgia & Ed Goodman	
Sound Board Tech	Keagan Kuhl	Jonah Thompson	Jonah Thompson	Jonah Thompson	Keagan Kuhl	Keagan Kuhl
Video Tech	Brian Kuhl	Chris Thompson	Chris Thompson	Chris Thompson	Brian Kuhl	Brian Kuhl
Hospitality Hosts	Dean Loney	Carl Gaulke	Carl Gaulke	Carl Gaulke	Lynn & Patti Nelson	
Welcome Desk	Susan Colbeth	Janet Dossdall	Jenny Califf	Brenda Gaulke	Janet Dossdall	