



The Reach



June 2026

*Adapted from a post-Easter article by Bishop Schwerin
first published on the conference website*

Signs of Hope

A blessed Eastertide to you. I praise God for the ongoing love in resurrection that lures us into God's possibilities. In this year of practicing hope, I have enjoyed your voices amplifying the deep goodness in our "good news" work.

I was telling one of our clergy people that the poetry I write has been changed by the dispiriting signs of authoritarianism, the rise of detention centers, and brutal immigration enforcement in our country. My eyes have been on the sparrow, and the small things among us that whisper gently about our interdependence—that by grace we are here for a kin-dom of mutual benefit.

This is nesting season. Every dry spear of grass made into a nest and every egg being cradled is a quiet resistance to this culture's desperate appetite for going it alone. In the King James Version of Paul's words in Philippians 2:3, the word "vainglory" describes the fruit of a desperate mind that often becomes guilty of overreaching behavior. Hear Philippians 2:3: *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."*

Let us keep an eye on small signs of hope.

For example, Rev. Carlos Sandoval and his modest-sized congregation in Johnson Creek have been praying with area farmers who have lost workers due to the immigration crackdowns and with the farm workers and their families about how God is guiding their steps in this moment of hardship. We know ministry comes to life at the speed of relationship.

We pray for peace with flourishing for the planet, its people, and the relationships that contribute to mutual benefit. In my opinion, we are called to follow Jesus in footsteps that demonstrate God's relentless solidarity with the powerless and the immigrant, and to bear witness to Easter inclusion in a world of division.

Peace to you.

Bishop Daneil W. Schwerin
Resident Bishop, Northern Illinois and Wisconsin Episcopal Area

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Andrew G. Church
rutztyhalo@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Susan Colbeth
office@spiritofgracerf.org

Treasurer:

Melissa "Mei Mei" Abdouch
treasurer@spiritofgracerf.org

Ministry Staff & Congregational Support:

Fay Westberg
fay@spiritofgracerf.org

Senior Choir Director:

Al Madison

Gospbells Director:

Dean Loney

Organist:

Cami Madison
Elissa Ribbens

IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from Bishop Daneil W. Schwerin.....	Front Page
Church Staff.....	Page 2
Part Time Children, Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator Staff Hours.....	Page 2
Thank You, Volunteer For Video Tech Needed, With Deepest Sympathy.....	Page 3
Congratulations Graduates.....	Page 4
Valley Wide Pride Fest, United Women in Faith, Scrip Cards, Recycling.....	Page 5
June Birthdays, June Noisy Can.....	Page 5
Summer Samplers: All-Church Game Night, The Amazing Life Of A Duck Decoy....	Page 6
Vacation Bible School (VBS), Building Committee Update,	Page 6
Special Music During the Summer, Saturday Community Breakfast.....	Page 6
Peeps Art, Small Farners, Big Change Online giving,	Page 7
Calendar, Worship Schedule.....	Insert

PART TIME POSITION AVAILABLE:

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

This professional position plans and leads the children, youth, and family ministries for Spirit of Grace Church, requiring 40-60 hours a month (10-15 hours a week), including Sunday morning worship. Qualifications include a love for children and youth, the ability to implement developmentally-appropriate programs, and good organizational and time management skills. A list of specific duties included in this position can be obtained from the church office. Hourly compensation is \$21-25 per hour based on qualifications. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. **SPRC will consider splitting the position and hiring a candidate interested in either elementary-age children or middle to high school age youth.**

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

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Susan, Administrative Assistant: Mon-Fri, 8 am-5 pm

Pastor Andrew: Tue-Thu (call ahead with the church office to confirm)

Fay, Ministry Staff & Congregational Support: Wed, 2-3 pm (or by appointment)

Mei Mei, Church Treasurer: Mon and Wed mornings



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 **Al & Cami Madison** for leading the Saturday Breakfast in April and to **Roger Wiff, Shayna Hall, Belle Peterson, Deborah Smith, Linda Henderson, Marlys Bradford,** and **Susan & Aleisha Colbeth** for helping.

To all who shared their musical gifts including, **Spirit of Grace Choir** and the **Gospbells**. To **Cami Madison** and **Elissa Ribbens** for their talents on the piano/organ.

To **Karen Leichtle** for preparing the communion elements, and to **Karen Leichtle, Marlys Bradford,** and **Dallas Dosdall** for serving communion.

To **Mark Christopher, Sue Christopher, Janet Ellinger, Robin Murray,** and **Laura Ida** for being Worship Leaders.

To **Belle Peterson, Marcus Califf, Katelyn Nill, Patti Nelson** and **Shelby Tylicki** for reading Scripture.

To **Carl Gaulke, Virgil Nylander, Dallas Dosdall, Steve Nelson, Blaine Westberg,** and **Roger Wiff** and for ushering.

To **Dallas Dosdall, Marlys Bradford, Steve Nelson, Susan Colbeth,** and **Dean & Darlene Arneson** for being greeters.

To **Janet Dosdall, Mary Baumgartner, Marlys Bradford, Fay Westberg,** and **Brenda Gaulke** for being at the Welcome Desk.

To **Georgia & Edward Goodman, Fay & Blaine Westberg, Nancy & Grant Hanson, Brenda & Carl Gaulke,** and **Sue & Steve Nelson** for serving Fellowship treats on Sunday after worship service.

To **Jonah Thompson, Keagan Kuhl,** and **Mikayla Kuhl** doing Sound Board during worship service. To **Chris Thomspson,** and **Brian Kuhl** for doing Video Tech during worship service.

To **Fay Westberg** and **Laura Ida** for teaching Sunday School. To **Aleisha Colbeth** and **Fay Westberg** for helping out in Sunday School. To **Samantha Miller** for being in the Nursery during Sunday School.

To the **Ending Hunger Group** for organizing the "Load a Truck" event.

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

VOLUNTEERS FOR VIDEO TECH NEEDED

Interest in learning to run the Video for Sunday morning worship services? No experience is necessary. Chris Thompson, Brian Kuhl, or Euge Isherwood can provide training. If interested, please let one of them know or contact Fay Westberg to schedule a time for training.

Fay's contact is (715) 307-4645 or fay@spiritofgracerf.org

With Deepest Sympathy



A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, May 23, at Spirit of Grace for

Sue Ammerman

November 22, 1935 - May 5, 2026

We extend our deepest condolences to Sue's sons, Dean and Steve, and to all her extended family.



Pictured: Ron Zirbel

THANK YOU to our church family for their generosity in helping LOAD A TRUCK with 265 lbs. of food and \$985 for the River Falls Community Food Pantry on May 3rd!

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

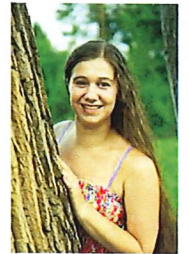


Pictured Left to Right: Samantha Miller, Sydney Thompson, Pastor Andrew, Belle Peterson, Marcus Califf. Missing : Elijah Arneson



Marcus Califf, son of Bill and Jenny Califf, and brother Jackson, will graduate on May 22 from Augustana Colledge, Rock Island, IL. Marcus plans to be a Speech–Language Pathologist at Minneapolis Public Schools.

Samantha Miller, daughter of Daniel and Aleisha Miller, and sister of Niki will graduate on May 31 from River Falls High School. Samatha plans on going to University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in the Fall for English Education.

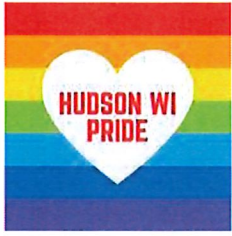


Isabelle Peterson, daughter of Tom Peterson and Laura Carlson, will be graduating from the University of California on June 13 with a Master of Applied Geospatial Information Systems and Technologies, that has an acronym of MAGIST. Belle plans to get a PhD in Geosciences at Stony Brook University, New York in the Fall.

Sydney Thompson daughter of Chris and Kristin Thompson, and sister of Jonah will graduate on May 31 from River Falls High School. Sydney plans on going to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the honors college and majoring in nursing.



Elijah Arneson son of Darlene Arneson graduated from the Air Force Basic Training in Texas.



VALLEY WIDE PRIDE FEST

Saturday, June 20

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hudson Lakefront Park

Spirit of Grace will have a booth at the Valley Wide Pride Fest in Hudson again this year. This is a day-long event to celebrate and support our LGBTQ+ community and a chance to acquaint people with our Reconciling Congregation. People of all ages can enjoy this family-friendly event. Watch for more news from us on ways you can participate, or contact Linda Henderson, John Ramstad or Shelby Tylicki with questions. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area for volunteers to help us staff our booth.

RECYCLING

You will find the recycling bins downstairs in The Landing (the room when you get down the steps) behind the room divider. This includes empty prescription pill bottles, used gift cards, spray bottles, used batteries, used eyeglasses, empty ink cartridges, pens and markers that don't work, and more.



Celebrate June Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jerry Wilkens - June 2 | Katelyn Nill - June 20 |
| David Keating - June 4 | Brian Doolittle - June 24 |
| Henry Barnett - June 5 | Asher Arneson - June 27 |
| Carol Knudsen - June 5 | Deborah Smith - June 27 |
| John Watschke - June 5 | Phyllis Albert - June 28 |
| Barb Rasmussen - June 16 | Shelby Tylicki- June 28 |
| Kelly Kuhl - June 18 | Heidi Mangelsen - Jun 29 |
| Crystal Larsen - June 19 | David Rusterholz - June 29 |
| Grayson Varo - June 19 | Kurt Leichtle - June 30 |

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

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The UWF will meet Tuesday, June 9th

1:00 pm in the Conference Room.

This meeting is open to all UWF members.

Come join us and learn more about

SCRIP CARDS

Scrip cards are available for purchase on Sundays, June 7 & 21. Some of the cards in-stock to consider include West Wind, Red Lobster, Applebee's, Olive Garden, Arby's, Chipotle, Subway, Table on Main, Panera, Taco Bell, Papa Murphy's, Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Starbucks, Noodles & Company,

JUNE NOISY CAN OFFERING

Brazilian Fund – Barb de Sousa

Our church family member, Barb de Souza (along with her husband Gus who passed in 2019), taught health education classes in the slums of Sao Paulo & Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 1985-2012. They organized the students in Rio into AECS (Association of Community Health Educators), who then started a small community clinic on a rooftop that grew into 3 small buildings plus a Physical Therapy room. The city of Rio recognized their great service and built a new family health clinic in 2016, christened the Barbara Mosley de Souza Family Health Clinic.

In 2023, Barb was appointed as a volunteer Health Education missionary which allowed her to return to her beloved Brazil to continue working with AECS.

In July 2024 Barb fell and hit her head resulting in a brain bleed. She is now exhibiting increasing dementia and much slower progress with PT. One of her students, Isabel "Bel" was trained by Barb to continue leading the AECS Board and programs. Bel has visited our church with Barb several times. Bel and several other graduates of Barb's health classes provide Barb's care now!

Barb misses her beloved RF church family. Please send your love by sending her a note via her daughter Judy by EMAIL: jfrances40@earthlink.net OR POSTAL MAIL: Barb de Souza, c/o Judy Brown, 2623 Fargo Rd, Hillsborough NC 27278. She would love to see a picture of you! Thank you!



SUMMER SAMPLER ALL-CHURCH GAME NIGHT



June 24

Please join us in using our new "spiffed-up" rooms downstairs for a game night on **Wednesday, June 24**, from **6:00 – 8:30 p.m.** We have many new games suitable for people of all ages which we'd like to try out in our lovely, improved facilities. Light snacks will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Gathering Area on which you can indicate your interest in the event and request for particular games.

The Bequest Committee is eager to have our members and friends enjoy the improvements made in our lower-level rooms, now named the Youth Room and The Lounge. This will also be a chance for us to initiate the procedures for use and care of the facilities. We hope that this event stimulates your ideas for other uses for the spaces! We are very grateful for the bequest from Loren Albert in honor of his parents, Earl and Dorothy Albert. The new games were purchased with funds from the Memorial Committee.



SUMMER SAMPLER



Date: Sunday, June 28

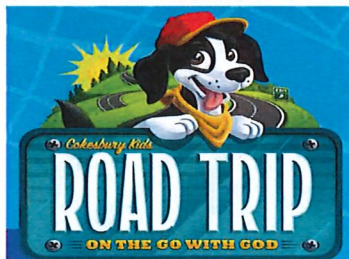
Time: 10:45 AM (following service)

Location: Spirit of Grace Fellowship Hall
(lower level)

THE AMAZING LIFE OF A DUCK DECOY

Don Stannard will present a program that is entertaining, educational and unique. There will be a variety of materials used to make decoys and examples of decoys. You will have an opportunity to personally hold a hundred-year-old decoy.

At the conclusion of the program there will be a drawing for one attendee to win one of Don's handmade decoys.



Come to
Vacation
Bible
School!

FUN Times - Food, Story, Music, Crafts, Science, Recreation!

Mon-Thur, Aug 17- 20, from 6-8 PM

Spirit of Grace Church, 127 S 2nd St, River Falls

Call to pre-register by Monday , August 10

715-425-6233

www.spiritofgracerf.org

SPIRIT OF GRACE CHURCH Building Committee Update

The Building Committee met Thursday, May 7 to interview three contractors for the proposed remodel project. The Committee selected GS Construction from St. Paul, MN as our contractor. They are a small-owned firm, with extensive experience in remodel projects for churches and have worked with older buildings. They will be working with StudioEA to put together a plan and exact cost that can be presented to the congregation hopefully by mid-summer

Building Committee Members: Roger Wiff (chair), Dean Albert, Rev. Andrew Church, Dean Henderson, Brian Kuhl, Euge Isherwood, and Carrie Main



SPECIAL MUSIC DURING THE SUMMER

We are looking for people to perform special music this summer. It can be vocal, instrumental, or both. If you are willing to share your special gift of music on a Sunday, please let Susan know by calling (715) 425-6233 or emailing her at office@spiritofgracerf.org.



SATURDAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

We will serve our Community Breakfast on **Saturday, June 13**. 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.

PEEPS ART



SMALL FARMERS, BIG CHANGE

Support small farmers around the world by purchasing Equal Exchange Fair Trade Products. Our cart is in the Gathering Area. These products are great for gift giving. If anyone wants other items such as coffee, tea, cocoa or chocolate bars, you can email Christine Muenich at bnmcam13@yahoo.com or text her at 715-307-8547.

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.



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

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from this, mailing please
contact the office.*

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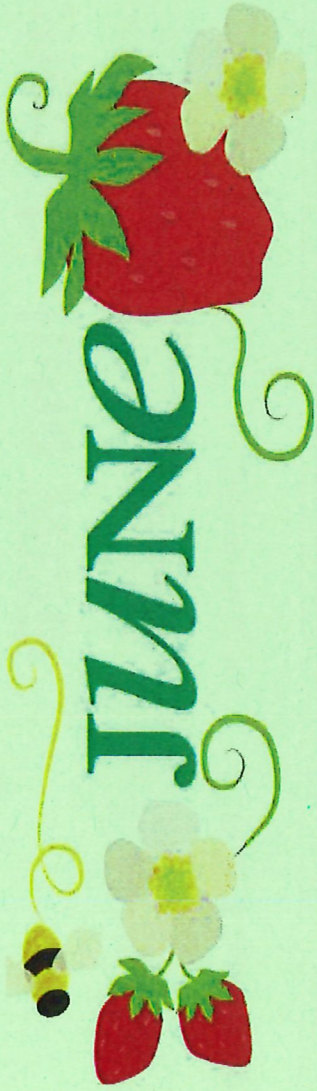
PAID

Permit No. 46

River Falls, Wisconsin



Worship Schedule June 2026

	6/7/2026	6/14/2026	6/21/2026	6/28/2026
Front Door Greeter	Blaine Westberg	Dallas Dosdall	Steve Nelson	Dean & Darlene Arneson
Worship Leader	Sue Christopher with Wendy Wall as Reader	Laura Ida with Belle Peterson as Reader	Shelby Tylicki with Carrie Main as Reader	Janet Ellinger with Linda Henderson as Reader
Ushers	Dallas Dosdall Lynn Nelson	Steve Nelson Blaine Westberg	Clark Fredrickson Andy Rudesill	Dallas Dosdall Steve Nelson
Communion Preparation	Prep: Karen Leichtle Servers Karen Leichtle Lynn Nelson Blaine Westberg			
Pastor	Rev. Dr. Dawn Ramstad	Rev. Andrew G. Church	Emma Esanbock	Rev. Andrew G. Church
Fellowship	Julie & Les Webster	Becky Kleager & David Rusterholz	Jeanne & Ron Zirbel	Susan & Aleisha Colbeth
Sound Board Tech	Jonah Thompson	Chris Thompson	David Rusterholz	Dean Loney
Video Tech	Euge Isherwood	Euge Isherwood	Chris Thompson	Jackson Califf
Hospitality Hosts	Patti & Lynn Nelson	Dean Loney	Rose Rudesill	Carl & Brenda Gauke
Welcome Desk	Janet Dosdall	Mary Baumgartner	Mariys Bradford	Fay Westberg



JUNE

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm	1	2 9:00 am Men's Coffee "Fellow-ship" 6:00 pm SPRC	3 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	4	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship	8 7:00 pm Yoga	9 9:00 am Men's Coffee "Fellow-ship" 12:00 pm Book Study 1:00 pm UWF 5:00 pm Memorial Com. 6:00 pm Trustees	10 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	11 5:00 pm PFLAG Executive Board 6:00 pm PTO Chapter T		13 8:00 - 10:00 am Saturday Breakfast 
14 9:30 am Worship	15 2:00 pm Ministry Team 4:00 pm Bequest Team	16 9:00 am Men's Coffee "Fellow-ship" 12:00 pm Book Study 6:00 pm Finance Com.	17 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	18	19	20 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Valley Wide Pride Fest at Lakefront Park, Hudson
21  HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	22 7:00 pm Yoga	23 9:00 am Men's Coffee "Fellow-ship" 12:00 pm Book Study	24 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 - 8:30 pm Summer Sampler - Game Night	25 6:00 pm PFLAG	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship	29	30 9:00 am Men's Coffee "Fellow-ship" 12:00pm Book Study				
10:45 am Summer Sampler - "The Amazing Life of a Duck Decoy" Presentation By Don Stannard						