



Grace Abounds

April 2026

A Center of Mission and Ministry – Celebrating and Sharing God's Grace!

APRIL EVENTS

- Maundy Thursday Service April 2, 7pm
- Good Friday Service April 3, 7pm

EASTER SUNDAY

- 7am Sunrise Service
Community Breakfast
- 9am SS Easter Celebration
10:30am Resurrection Celebration and Holy Communion
- GYM Time April 26
12-1:30

FROM PASTOR DAVE'S DESK

When this edition of Grace Abounds arrives in your mailbox, we'll be in the final stages of getting ready for the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection at Easter. It is truly the most important day of the Christian calendar reminding us of God's amazing power over death, and His eternal love for us His children. Celebrating Easter is something we should do every day of each year!

When we gather for worship on Sunday morning, we are remembering Easter every weekend as we share Scripture and Jesus' gift of His Body and Blood. We might even be right to say every Sunday is kind of like a "Little Easter." So why not join in the celebration of God's gift of grace at Grace as many Sundays as you can?

If you're connected to our Facebook page, you receive a Bible passage just about every day throughout the year. These come to my inbox so I can share more of God's Inspiring Word to help each of us build our faith in the Triune God. You've probably heard me say many times how "the Spirit of God is at work in me (us)," and it happened while I was composing this article. The following is what came up on my feed at a time when I was searching for "the right Words" to share.

*Give Thanks to the Lord and Proclaim His Greatness!
Let the Whole World Know What He Has Done.*

This is Psalm 105:1 and it reminds us to let the whole world know of God's greatness and His good grace that He gives freely. This was truly a gift on a day when the creative juices were low in quantity, but it is also another example of how God works many times when we are not expecting it. What a God...what amazing gifts He gives at the most needed times.

With the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection at Easter, and with all that we have been given by the grace of God, we should continually give thanks and let the world know what He has done!

Scripture provides for us the foundation of God's inspiring Words that help guide us back to His image. We can find His guidance in countless places in the Bible, but the following is very special as we keep the Easter promise alive! "...pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this."

(1 Thess. 17-18, 23-24) Amen!

Blessings always, *Pastor Dave*



Birthdays

- 1 Bryan Hall
- 5 Edwina Wicker
- 7 Chad Frick
- 8 Sally Dominick
- 12 Andy Hawkins
- 14 Walt Quattlebaum
- 25 Nancy Derrick, Georgie Riley
- 28 Hayden Hall
- 29 Zach Frick
- 30 Susan Dawkins, Beverly Merck, Lillie Waters

Anniversaries

- 11 Andy & Kim Metz 12th
- 16 Tim & Lagina Harmon 43rd
- 18 Mike & Kelly Whitlock 28th
- 21 Phil & Deborah Ruff 25th
- 24 Nathan & Sydney Shealy + memorial

Baptism Anniversaries

- 2 Beverly Hawkins
- 3 Emmett Wicker
- 13 Lyla Kedrick
- 15 Thomas Mewbourn

**SANCTUARY
LAMP
SPONSORS**



April Sanctuary Lamp

During the month of April, the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in honor of her siblings: Anna, Emmett, and Kevin by Edwina Wicker.

**Altar
Flower
SIGN-UP**



The 2026 Altar Flower and Sanctuary Lamp Chart is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Sign up on the chart or contact the church office to reserve your special dates. **Many dates are open.**



The 2026 Yearbook is available in the narthex. It serves as our congregation's annual report for 2025 and contains year-end information from ministry teams, groups, and treasurer's reports as well as information for 2026 about ministry assignments and tentative calendar dates. Please pick up your copy.



Baby Congratulations!

James Rhett Long was born January 21, 2026 to Robbie & Lauren Long. He weighed 8' 10 oz.

Cayden James Derrick was born March 19, 2026 to Michael & Stephanie Derrick. He weighed 8' 3 oz.

The proud grandparents are Allen & Lori Derrick and great grandparents are James & Nancy Derrick.

Serving in April

Assisting Ministers

- 2 Johnny Merck (*Maundy Thursday*)
- 3 Deborah Ruff (*Good Friday*)
- 5 Candace Frick
- 12 Teresa Cooper
- 19 Julie Shealy
- 26 Sally Dominick

Altar Flowers

- 5 Lynn Wessinger (*Easter Sunday*)
- 12 Cindy Amick
- 19 Phil & Deborah Ruff
- 26 Brad & Melodie Waters

Live Stream Operators

- 2 Johnny Merck (*Maundy Thursday*)
- 3 Johnny Merck (*Good Friday*)
- 5 George Dawkins
- 12 George Dawkins
- 19 Brad Waters
- 26 Mike Whitlock

Acolytes

- 5 Zoe Frick
- 12 Lillie Waters
- 19 Helena Mewbourn
- 26 Allie Waters

Crucifer: Easter Sunday- Jonathan Shealy

Torchbearers: Easter Sunday- Hannah Moates, Jaxon Yarborough

Communion Assistant Andy Hawkins

Communion Preparation Emmett Wicker

Communion Clean Up Brad & Melodie Waters

Ushers Craig Farr, Robert Martin, Andy Metz, Mike Shealy, Brad Waters

Greeters Cindy Amick, Diane Gonzales

Offering Tabulators Sally & Wayde Dominick, David Luther

Front Sign Emmett Wicker

Altar Guild Emmett Wicker

Pew Rack Helper Edwina Wicker

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday	Sanctuary	* Online	Total
3/01	70	16	86
3/08	72	24	96
3/15	64	18	82
3/22	74	10	84

✓ Sunday School ATTENDANCE

- 3/01 - 33
- 3/08 - 27
- 3/15 - 25
- 3/22 - 25

Manna House Items for April:

Jelly and Peanut Butter

Donations can be left in the Manna House box in the narthex. Thank you.



Backpack Ministry

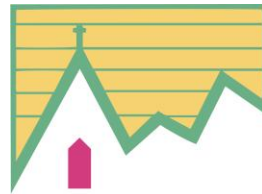
We are now feeding 12 needy children at Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School. There are lists of needed items on the narthex bulletin board for your convenience. Please leave your food donations in the red wagon. Thank you!

Check Our Lost and Found

Have you lost something at Grace and haven't found it? During April, the Lost and Found basket will be on a table outside the church office. Please check the basket to see if anything belongs to you. **All items remaining at the end of April will be donated to Grace's May 2 yard sale.**



Deadline for the May newsletter is April 21st.



Offerings for March

(Does Not Include March EFTs)

Goal through 3/22/26 =
\$43,710.48

Given through 3/22/26 =
\$31,047.60

Amount behind goal = \$12,662.88

Church FINANCES

MINISTRY BUDGET Our Monthly Need:

\$ 15,784.33

Given during March\$ 9,880.25
 Given year-to-date \$ 31,047.60
 Goal through March 22.....\$ 43,710.48

MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP

Given during March\$1,551.44
 Given year-to-date..... \$3,252.72

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Given during March\$124.00
 Given year-to-date\$300.00

SCHOLARSHIP

Given during March..... \$ 25.25
 Given year-to-date\$475.25

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND YTD

Community Assistance\$520.00
 Bookbag Food Ministry\$248.67

SPECIAL 2026 OFFERINGS YTD

Souper Bowl of Caring Offering\$ 420.00
 Youth Ministry \$ 165.50
 Parsonage Fund\$24,931.21
 Lenten Offering\$466.00
 Easter Lilies\$196.25

Electronic Giving



Giving is an option at Grace through Vanco. Scan the QR Code or go to our online giving page via graceluth.org to get started.

March Memorials and Honorariums

To the Current Fund:

- In honor of Emmett Wicker's birthday by Kevin & Diane Wicker
- In memory of Diane Adams' siblings by Phil & Deborah Ruff



Council Minutes

MEETING – March 10, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Len Fulmer with a reading of the Mission Statement. Edwina Wicker shared devotions based on Ephesians 4. We all have gifts to serve the lord.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dave was unable to attend this meeting due to Diane's hospitalization. Len read aloud Pastor Dave's prepared report discussing excellent participation in midweek Lenten services and gatherings, upcoming events and activities including the Easter Egg Hunt (Sunday, March 22), our first quarterly meal after Sunday worship on Palm Sunday (March 29), Maundy Thursday service at 7 PM on April 2nd, and Good Friday service on April 3rd. Devotionals and other materials will be available in the Sanctuary at these services. This year, Grace will be responsible for organizing the Easter Breakfast following the Sunrise Service in Prosperity. Johnny Merck will be organizing this event and requests assistance with this activity. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of June 22-26. Julie and Jessica Shealy are leading preparations for this event and also request assistance.

Adoption of Reports: After discussion, Robert Martin moved to adopt the reports as presented, seconded by Linda Cromer, and passed.

Discussion: Chop Cooper reported that carpet has been cleaned. Johnny is working with a company to get the Sanctuary flood lights replaced but it could take a while.

Len reported that Norton anti-virus has been installed and church computers and printers are now protected. Electronic signage options were discussed, and a decision was made to postpone this upgrade while affordable options are explored.

The Community Service Fund, along with the non-profit We Care, was able to assist two people who requested help with their power bills.

Craig Metz updated the council on Parsonage repairs. Estimates are being obtained for bathrooms and kitchen cabinets. Kelly Fulmer will provide contact information for non-profit contractors who have good track records. Craig plans to expedite work on the lower floor first.

Len reported that much progress has been made in starting a Men's Group at Grace. Details on date, time, and location are being worked out, and the first meeting will be in May.

Julie requested use of the Ministry Center, if available, on Saturday, May 9th. Len moved to accept the request, seconded by David Luther, and passed.

Ministry Team Updates: Edwina agreed to be the third member of the Audit Committee joining Len and Walt Quattlebaum to complete the team. The Care and Fellowship Team will start sending birthday cards out to members of the congregation. Grace will have a covered dish event after every 5th Sunday beginning on March 29. The Hobby Fair was a successful event with over 50 participants and additional attendees. On May 5th, Grace will have a yard sale in conjunction with Prosperity Hopping. Brochures with information about Grace's services, pre-school, and bible study will be available at this event. The Youth Team has plans in progress for a summer event/pool party and a Youth Sunday. The Lifelong Education Team is planning a celebration with a puppet show on Easter Sunday. Grace also has plans to distribute door hangers and flyers in new communities in the area. The Communications Team is working on a new Mission Statement and logo.

Shepherding Concerns: Prayers and concern were shared for Diane Adams at Prisma Parkridge who is having tests for aortic stenosis, Kelly Fulmer's brother stationed in the Middle East who has not been heard from in a couple of weeks, and Julie's daughter in law who is recovering from a kidney stone procedure.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center.

Johnny Merck closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Luther, Council Secretary



April 14, 2026
6:30 pm



Monthly GYM Time

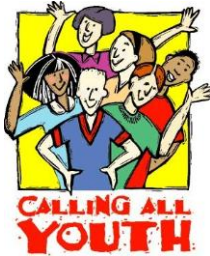
Sunday, April 26

Faith, Fellowship, Fun & Food!

This will be our last GYM Time until August. A sign up sheet will be on the narthex board for those who plan to attend so we can get a head count for our hamburger and hotdog meal.

Sunday Easter Celebration

An Easter Celebration is being sponsored by the Lifelong Education Team on April 5, beginning at 9:15 a.m. for all ages. As a part of the festivities, our Youth and Young Adult Sunday School Class will be putting on a puppet show! Invite your friends to come and celebrate Easter at Grace with us!



YOUTH Sunday is Back!

Grace Youth will lead the May 17th worship service as we observe Youth Sunday. You will read lessons, lead our music, and serve in other leadership roles as ushers, greeters, and communion assistants. We will be making assignments and practicing during Sunday School on May 3, 10, and 17. Please plan to be a part of this special Sunday!

Save the date for VBS!

Grace Youth are encouraged to participate in Grace's Vacation Bible School the week of June 22-26. Youth in 7th grade and up will be needed to serve as group assistants and station helpers. Preschool aged and K-6th youth are invited to participate as students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 5 – 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School Easter Celebration

Sunday, April 26 – 12-1:30 p.m.

GYM TIME

Sundays, May 3, 10, & 17 – 9:30 a.m.

Practice for Youth Sunday

Sunday, May 17 - **YOUTH SUNDAY**

Tuesday, June 23 – 12:45-2 p.m.

GYM Volunteering at Manna House



Easter Egg Hunt

Grace Youth Ministry's annual Easter Egg Hunt was on Sunday, March 22, and it was an egg-citing afternoon! Around 20 kids from the community, our Grace Preschool families, and our church family were there to participate in the egg hunt and other fun!



Yard Sale and Tabling Event Planned for May 2



Grace will sponsor a yard sale and tabling event on Saturday, May 2, in conjunction with the annual Prosperity's Hoppin' with Arts and Crafts Festival. The yard sale will last from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will benefit the American Cancer Society.

In addition, we will have a tabling event where we will share information about Grace, including our worship times, Preschool materials, VBS registration fliers, and other information about Grace's ministries. This will be an opportunity to let our community know more about our Grace congregation.

For the yard sale, we will need all types of items. Please start looking around your house for items you can donate. Clothing donations should be clean and folded neatly with minimal wrinkles. We will begin accepting donations after worship on Sunday, April 26. Deadline to bring items for the sale will be Friday, May 1, at noon.

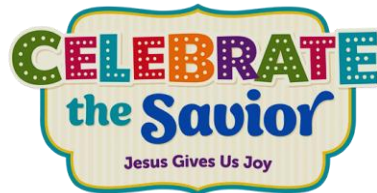
We would also appreciate donations of breakfast items, snacks, and sandwiches to fuel those who will be working this event. Look for a sign-up sheet on the narthex board later in April.

This event is being sponsored jointly by our Care and Fellowship Team, our Community Hope Team, our Good News Team, and Grace Christian Preschool.

If you have questions about this event, contact Julie or Jessica Shealy, or Emmett Wicker.

Attention 2026 Grace Graduates

Please let the church office know of any Grace member who will be graduating from high school, tech school, or university in May or June (or who has graduated since May 2025). We don't want to leave anyone out. The date for Grace's annual Graduate Recognition Sunday is May 17.



Vacation Bible School - June 22-26

This year's VBS theme will be ***Celebrate the Savior: Jesus Gives Us Joy***. The next meeting for those interested in helping with VBS will be Wednesday, April 15 at 5 p.m.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will resume Wednesday April 15th at 6:00 PM.
The title is *The Promise and Power of Easter* by Christine Caine and Lisa Harper.



April 2 - Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm

On the night when Jesus is betrayed yet commands us to love and shares His body and blood in the sacrament of Holy Eucharist, we will gather at 7pm for our Upper Room Communion Service. While our congregation sings on this solemn night, ushers will escort groups of 12 into the Good Shepherd “Upper Room” for Holy Communion. This time of worship will guide us through the final hours of Jesus’ life before he was crucified on the Cross.

April 3 - Good Friday

On Good Friday, the Sanctuary opens for prayer and meditation at 9 am. Please bring your Bible and other favorite devotion material. We will also have several devotional resources in the Sanctuary for your prayer time with God. At 7pm please join us for a solemn time of prayer, scripture, and hymns as we remember the sacrifice fulfilled by Jesus as He dies for our sins on the Cross.

April 5 - Easter Sunday

There will be a Community Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning at the walking track across from Wightman Methodist Church. Grace will provide breakfast for the community after the service.

During Sunday School, at 9:15 a.m. we will have a special Easter Celebration. At 10:30 a.m. we will worship and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord in the Sanctuary adorned with Easter lilies. Holy Communion will be celebrated.



Please remember to bring cut flowers from your yards and gardens on Easter Sunday for our special Easter Cross. Please leave the flowers in the narthex by 9:30 a.m. so that the cross can be assembled and placed in the sanctuary before the service.

Don’t forget your Easter Lilies!

Easter lilies can be picked up on Easter Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. service. Thank you to all who donated lilies in memory or in honor of loved ones to decorate the sanctuary for Easter morning.

Easter Celebration During Sunday School April 5

Grace will have an Easter Celebration on Easter Sunday, April 5, beginning at 9:15 a.m. with a light breakfast in the Ministry Center. There will be an Easter puppet skit and a fun craft for children and youth. All are welcome! The Lifelong Education Team is sponsoring the celebration.

Easter Invitations

Colorful invitations for our Easter Sunday services and activities are on the table near the Ministry Center doors. Take one and invite a family member, neighbor, or friend to join us on Easter Sunday.

Nursery Helpers Needed

On Easter Sunday, Grace will offer a nursery for infants and young children. If you would like to help staff the nursery, please contact Jessica or Julie Shealy.

APRIL

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Manna House Items this month: Jelly & Peanut Butter</p>			<p>1 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 7pm Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>3 7pm Good Friday Service</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>Easter Sunday 5 7am Sunrise Service Breakfast 9am SS Celebration 10:30am Resurrection Celebration in the sanctuary!</p>	<p>6 </p>	<p>7 Preschool back from Spring Break</p>	<p>8 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 6pm *Confirmation Class *Joyful Noise</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SundaySchool 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 6:30 Council Meeting</p>	<p>15 5pm VBS Meeting 6pm Women's Bible Study 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 6pm *Confirmation Class *Joyful Noise</p>	<p>17 </p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SundaySchool 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>20 </p>	<p>21 May Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>22 6pm Women's Bible Study 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 6pm *Confirmation Class *Joyful Noise</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SundaySchool 10:30 Worship 12-1:30 GYM Time </p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 6pm Women's Bible Study 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 9:30 Newsl. Team 6pm *Confirmation Class *Joyful Noise</p>	<p> </p>	<p>YARD SALE MAY 2nd 9am-1pm</p>

Ministry Center reserved this week for Yard Sale preparations →

Grace Lutheran Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming up at Grace

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday

April 2 7pm Service

Good Friday

April 3 7pm Service

Easter Sunday April 5

7am Sunrise Service

9am Sunday School Celebration

10:30am Resurrection Celebration

GYM TIME

April 26 12-1:30pm

BIG YARD SALE

May 2 9-1pm

Preschool Year End Programs

May 11 and 12

Youth Sunday/Graduate Recognition

May 17