



# Hilltop Lights

MAKING BELIEVERS, GROWING DISCIPLES, DEVELOPING LEADERS



FIRST COMMUNION

## Mountain Top Experiences is our Lenten theme for 2026.



Often when a person has a stirring spiritual event, one might refer to it as a mountaintop experience. Each drama in the series Mountaintop Experiences represents a transformation happening from the Bible that took place on a mountain. Sir Everest Hillervalley interacts with various biblical characters for each week of Lent.

- On Mount Ararat God's new creation began after the ark found a safe landing spot.
- On Mount Moriah God asks Abraham to make the ultimate sacrifice.
- On Mount Sinai Moses waited for the Ten Commandments.
- On Mount Carmel a smackdown between the prophet Elijah and foreign prophets results in the God of Israel reigning supreme.
- On the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus preaches to the people that God's kingdom is based on love.
- On the Mount of Olives Jesus prays and accepts his death amid denial and desertion.
- On Mount Calvary we hear the seven last words of Christ from the cross.

**WEDNESDAY** Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm both in person and livestreamed on Facebook.

We continue with our theme of Mountain Top Experiences through drama and song.

March 4: Mt. Moriah  
Abraham and Isaac

March 11: Mt. Sinai  
Moses and the Commandments

March 18: Mt. Carmel  
Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

March 25: The Sermon on the Mount  
Jesus Teaches

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

### March 29: Maundy Thursday

- Mt. of Olives
- Potluck Supper: 5:30 pm

Worship around the tables in the Fellowship Hall

- **Worship: 6:30 pm**  
(not livestreamed)

### March 30: Good Friday

#### Seven Last Words of Christ

- **Service: Service of Shadows with Carpenter and the Cross**
- **Worship at 7:30 pm.**

Worship in March  
Services at 9:00 am both in person and livestreamed on Facebook.

### March 1

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
*Born Again*  
Setting 10  
**Bold Women Sunday**

### March 8

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
*Give Us Hope*  
Setting 4

### March 15

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
*Give Us Sight*  
Heartland Liturgy

### March 22

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
*Give Us Life*  
Setting 8

### March 29

Palm/Passion Sunday  
**Choir Cantata: Portraits of Grace by Joseph M. Martin**

## facebook

Facebook Live devotions occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 am and are available for later viewing on Facebook.



We are in the midst of the Lenten season, that 40 day time period when we reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for our salvation. During this intentional time of prayer, worship, and service, we are called to deepen our faith in the one who loves us.

During this season, we are hearing both the stories of God's covenants with us in our Old Testament readings and the stories of Jesus' encounters with people who grow in their understanding of who he is and what it means to have faith in him. These scriptures tells us that God has always been at work to draw us to himself and God's desire to live in relationship with us. God comes to us in Jesus that we might have life in his name.

Our midweek services are reminding us of mountain top experiences when God worked through specific people and through Jesus to tells us of his great love for us. May the Spirit so work in us to deepen our understanding of that love and deepen our love for God that we walk in the way of the cross, the way of life.

Blessings on your Lenten journey and your March as we live our faith in the one who loves us and gives us life!

On Palm Sunday, the Synod is organizing a public, positive, non-partisan, prayer procession and worship as a public witness to the love of God. The announcement about this event is included in this newsletter. As we live as people called to proclaim our faith, this is meant to be an uplifting proclamation of God's love in Jesus. It is not a protest, but a witness of faith.

*Pastor Siri*

## From the South Dakota Synod Love on the Way: A Palm Sunday Procession and Worship

**On Palm Sunday (March 29th), from 2-4 pm, Christians of all denominations are invited to gather in downtown Sioux Falls for a positive, non-partisan, and prayerful procession, worship, and reflection on Jesus' way of love. We will walk, pray, and sing as a public witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ: love that welcomes, feeds, and heals. Participants are invited to bring palms from their Sunday worship services. Clergy are encouraged to wear the symbols of their office.**

**Details on starting and ending location(s) will be forthcoming. Individuals with limited mobility are invited to join us for worship at the end of the procession. Following worship, participants are invited to gather at local establishments for informal conversation. Details about specific locations will follow.**

**We are committed to this being a peaceful, nonpartisan, and prayer-centered gathering and, if you choose to attend, we expect you to uphold that commitment. Love welcomes. Love feeds. Love heals.**



# Upcoming Events and Small Groups



## Let's Bake

March 21st  
9:00am



This fun-sized crew is welcoming all baking enthusiasts to whip up some scrumptious goodies for our Sunday morning coffee hour! Don't worry about a thing—supplies and recipes are all provided!



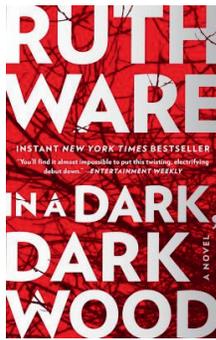
## Grace kids

Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30pm

Grace Kids is our K-5th grade youth group that meets on Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall.

## NOVEL IDEA

March 23 @ 10:30am  
In the meeting room.



Books are available to check out in the office.

## Aging Gracefully

Thursday, March 5  
at 9:30 am.

Come get to know Thomas Kenison, our director of youth and young adult ministry



## Easter EGG HUNT

\*3 yr old-4th grade will also sing in worship March 29th.

March 29th

After Sunday School meet in the Narthex.  
All children are welcome!!



## WELCOME New MEMBERS

Clark and Laura Miles  
Cooper and Parker



On March 22nd, Andy Wingert from St. Francis House will provide an update on their ministry at our worship service.



It's time to order Easter Lilies for church decoration. Orders can be placed by mailing to Grace Lutheran or dropping the order form in the offering plate. Include your order amount. The deadline to order is March 15th.

Easter Lily Order Form - \$12 Per Plant

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# SERVICE/MISSION & CARING MINISTRIES

## Prayer Chain

If you have a request for the email prayer chain, or would like to be a "pray-er" on it contact Sharon Dierks  
Phone: 605-759-7009 or  
email: dsdierks2@gmail.com.



## Grief Support Group

Tuesday, March 10

at 10:00 am in the meeting room. This is a group for people who have experienced grief of any kind.

There are free blood pressure and blood sugar checks on the first Sunday of the month after worship.



## Hospital Visitation Note:



If you are hospitalized and don't receive a visit from Robin Hofkamp or Pastor Siri, it means you weren't on our visitation list. Please inform us of your hospital stay so we can ensure a visit, as we may not be notified if you are admitted through the ER.

## PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

You are invited to pray with Pastor Siri for a shepherding group of families from the congregation each week.

May God bless:

### March 1-7: Shepherding District 18, Zone B:

Curt Brandenburg; Dave & Sharon Dierks; Matt Geistfield, Chelsie & Christian Schmidt, Bodhe; Darlene Nipp; Deanna Rollag; Aaron Soterau, Kylie; Jim & Elaine Tatge

### March 8-14: Shepherding District 19, Zone A:

Glenyce DeGeest; Robin Erdmann; Judy McKittrick; Stephanie Miller, Paige, Chloe; Erik & Jenn Spencer, Izzy, Sebastien, Gwin; Pat Strand

### March 15-21: Shepherding District 19, Zone B:

Robin & Wes Hofkamp; Brian & Lori Penn; Jim Thorson; Nancy & Terry Watters, Elijah

### March 22-28: Shepherding District 20, Zone A:

Jerrod Atkinson, Cole, Landon; Gail Dybdahl; Greg & Chelsea Koch, Violet; Greg & Karol Kooopman Alex; Judy Nearman; Roger & Cheri Schumacher

### March 29-April 4: Shepherding District 21, Zone A:

Diane & Rich Andresen; Katie Archer, Hannah; Rita Blake; Pete & Rhonda Bruggeman

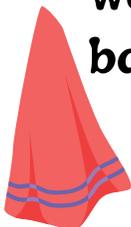
## NOW COLLECTING UNDERWEAR

We will be collecting underwear in all sizes during the months of March and April for Church on the Street and other local organizations.



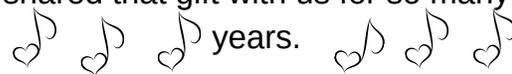
## March Hygiene Collection Items

deodorant  
wash clothes  
bars of soap



thank you

Thank you to Jerry Goddard who has served as one of our organists for many years. He is now stepping down from that position. We give thanks to God for his gift of music and worship leadership and that he shared that gift with us for so many years.



## Volunteers needed



Every week, we're on the hunt for 8-10 awesome volunteers to sprinkle some magic into our worship services! Think serving up coffee, reading scripture like a pro, or rocking our Facebook livestream—there's something for everyone! Huge shoutout to our current volunteers; you're the real MVPs! But hey, we can always use more helping hands! Swing by our website, hit that SIGN UP CENTRAL button, and discover a treasure trove of opportunities waiting just for you!

## BOLD WOMENS DAY

Bold Women's Day, March 1, celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ. Are you bold?

## LENTEN MEALS

Our service groups will be serving supper on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM during Lent. This year the free will offerings for the suppers will go to Lutheran Outdoors, Cleveland Elementary Lunch Fund, Youth, and the WOG. We would appreciate everyone's help in cleaning up before church.

# Menu

Wednesday, March 4  
Ham & Cheese Sandwiches  
& Pasta Salad

Wednesday, March 18  
Barbeques/Beans/Chips

Wednesday, March 11  
Spaghetti & Meatballs/Lettuce  
Salad/Garlic Bread

Wednesday, March 25  
Walking Tacos

### Maundy Thursday Potluck, April 2

Please bring your own dishes & utensils and a dish for the potluck.



## Bible Study Meeting Times

Thursday, March 19th

Martha Bible Study @ 9:30am  
Hannah Bible Study @ 2:00pm

Both groups meet in the Fellowship Hall

### Bread, vine and light: Abiding with us (John 6, 8 and 15)

We begin this session by rooting and grounding ourselves in the story of Moses at the Burning Bush, learning about God's holy name, I AM—a name that holds all of time and space, all that was and all that is and all that will be, past, present and future.

From there, we will explore three of Jesus's "I AM" statements: "I am the bread of life," "I am the true vine," and "I am the light of the world." Each of these declarations bring to the fore the ways that God, whose name is "I AM," abides with God's people, providing, nurturing and sustaining us in day-to-day life.



## Crossroads Conference Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering

April 25, 2026 from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Beaver Valley Lutheran Church

The theme is "Give Me Peace"

Registration will be \$10, which includes lunch.

RSVP by Friday, April 17, 2026 to Sharon Dierks

The "Love" gift items will go to "Sleep in Heavenly Peace". They provide beds for children in need. The wish list includes new regular size pillows, new twin size sheets, new pillow cases or anything that will complete a bed.

## YOUNG ADULTS

During the past 2 months, I have met with pastors from Gloria Dei, Peace, Our Savior's, and Augustana Lutheran Church. We are all working on getting a Gather Network started in the Sioux Falls Area. The Gather Network focuses on local ELCA churches collaborating to start young adult groups in communities nationwide. Stay tuned for more information on any upcoming events or updates! You can reach out to Thomas Kenison with any questions about The Gather Network.



JOIN OUR GROUP CHAT!



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!



# YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS MARCH 2026

## A Note From Our Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry:

Each Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday, when we have ashes placed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross. The dust reminds us that “we are dust, and to dust we shall return” (Genesis 3:19), and that because of our sins, we need a Savior. The following 40 days are a period of expectation, reflection, and preparation for the celebration of Easter. In light of our sinfulness and mortality, we must cling to the hope we have in Jesus Christ — the One who died on the cross for us, was raised from the dead, and ascended into heaven. Because of Jesus, the ransom for our sins has been paid in full, and we are set free by His grace. May this Lenten season be full of renewal and a deeper awareness of the love Christ has shown us.

Blessings,  
Thomas



## YOUTH EVENTS

### MOVIE NIGHT

The youth group will be watching *I Can Only Imagine* together on Saturday, March 14, from 7-9pm, in the fellowship hall. Ice cream and other snacks will be provided.



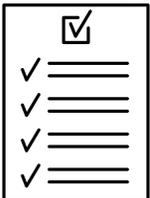
### KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

Youth are invited to serve at Kids Against Hunger on Saturday, March 28, from 10-11:30am. This is an amazing opportunity for our youth to serve children their own age by helping pack meals for those in need.



### MISSION TRIP REGISTRATION

The final date to register for the summer mission trip is Sunday, March 29. If anyone is interested in going and has not signed up, please do so before then.

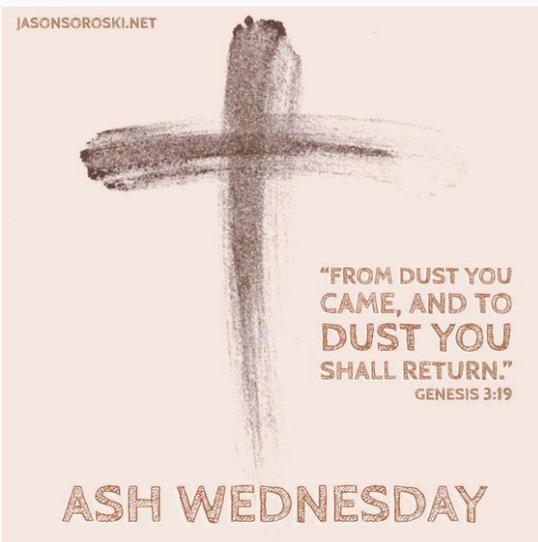


### CAMP REGISTRATION

Youth group parents — if you haven't filled out the Google Form about camp options yet, please do so as soon as possible. We're working to finalize plans and need your input.



## BIBLE VERSE & DEVOTIONAL



## CALENDAR



Did you know that you can subscribe to the youth calendar directly from our website? All youth events and confirmation dates will automatically be added to your calendar!

## YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE FOR LENT



During Lent, the youth group schedule will change. The updated schedule is as follows:

**2/18:** No youth group due to Ash Wednesday

**2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, & 3/25:** Middle and high school youth group meet together from 7-8pm

**4/1:** No youth group due to Holy Week

## JOIN OUR GROUP CHAT!



Middle School



High School



FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM!



# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 6:30pm Committee Meetings 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen 7:30pm Council Meeting	<b>4</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:00pm Adult Chimes 6:30pm Grace Kids 6:30pm Worship 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:00pm MS/HS youth group	<b>5</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 9:30am Aging Gracefully	<b>6</b> <b>World Day of Prayer</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Bread Break Sunday</b> Celebrant Choir <b>Daylight-Saving Time Begins</b> <b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 10:00am Grief Support 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	<b>11</b> 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:00pm Adult Chimes 6:30pm Grace Kids 6:30pm Worship 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:00pm MS/HS youth group	<b>12</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00am 4H  7:00pm Youth Movie Night
<b>15</b> <b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	<b>18</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:00pm Adult Chimes 6:30pm Grace Kids 6:30pm Worship 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:00pm MS/HS youth group	<b>19</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 9:30am Martha Bible Study 2:00pm Hannah Bible Study	<b>20</b> <b>First Day of Spring</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00am Let's Bake
Celebrant Choir <b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	<b>25</b> 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:00pm Adult Chimes 6:30pm Grace Kids 6:30pm Worship 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:00pm MS/HS youth group	<b>26</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00am Youth Serving at Kids Against Hunger
<b>29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>9:00am Worship- 3yr old-4th grade sing &amp; Choir Cantata</b> 10:15am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am Novel Idea 11:15am Easter Egg Hunt 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:00am FB live Devotion 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	<b>1</b> 6:00pm Adult Chimes 7:00pm Celebrant Choir	<b>2</b> Maundy Thursday 9:00am FB live Devotion 9:30am Aging Gracefully 5:30pm Potluck 6:30pm Worship	<b>3</b> Celebrant Choir Good Friday 7:30pm Good Friday Worship	<b>4</b>

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- |                              |                               |                                |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>3/2 Sharon Stettmichs</b> | <b>3/11 Rosella Hanson</b>    | <b>3/21 Lois Sundvold</b>      |
| <b>3/5 Steve Warren</b>      | <b>3/11 Larry Kindopp</b>     | <b>3/22 Chloe Miller</b>       |
| <b>3/6 Carole Lee</b>        | <b>3/12 Ryker Peterson</b>    | <b>3/23 Traci Rovang</b>       |
| <b>3/7 Nathan Beyer</b>      | <b>3/13 Will Peterson</b>     | <b>3/24 Bev Hesser</b>         |
| <b>3/7 Hayley Smith</b>      | <b>3/13 Elaine Tatge</b>      | <b>3/25 Grace Finch</b>        |
| <b>3/8 Logan Brandenburg</b> | <b>3/14 Susan Smit</b>        | <b>3/26 Kathy Jacobson</b>     |
| <b>3/8 Steve Hovdenes</b>    | <b>3/15 Jean Ducat</b>        | <b>3/26 Mary Beth Jacobson</b> |
| <b>3/8 Pat Kerska</b>        | <b>3/16 Brody Smith</b>       | <b>3/26 Terry Soutar</b>       |
| <b>3/8 Roger Schumacher</b>  | <b>3/17 Pam Bowman</b>        | <b>3/27 Aubrey Chavez</b>      |
| <b>3/9 Jessica Weber</b>     | <b>3/18 Karla Rounseville</b> | <b>3/28 Deb Nelson</b>         |
| <b>3/11 Vicki Dibbet</b>     | <b>3/20 Larry Eide</b>        | <b>3/31 Gretchen Tweet</b>     |

### Treasurer's Report

All payroll taxes and benevolences are paid to date as of end of January. Paid down additional \$ 5,000.00 on HVAC Loan

### January 31, 2026

**Total Contributions: \$ 37,148.81**

**Total Expenses: \$ 30,163.97**

**Loan Balance: \$ 43,402.83**

**Operating Account \$ 5,539.75**

**Berg Fund Balance: \$ 270.24**

**Special Funds: \$ 34,326.37**



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**3300 E 18th Street**  
**Sioux Falls, SD 57103**

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SIOUX FALLS SD  
PERMIT #427**

**Or current resident**

**Siri Sorenson, Senior Pastor**  
**Office 334-0061**

**Thomas Kenison**  
**Youth & Young Adult Ministries**  
**Office 334-6066**

**Lisa Jasmer**  
**Faith & Family Ministries**

**Becky Smith**  
**Secretary and Coordinator of**  
**Communication and Technology**  
**Office 334-8625**  
**gracelutheransfsd@gmail.com**

**Rita Blake**  
**Parish Nurse**

**Robin Hofkamp**  
**Visitation Ministry**

**Del Hubers**  
**Choir/Ensemble Director**

**Dave Stoterau & Tanya Jacobson,**  
**Custodians**

**Executive Board**  
**Darrell Griggs, President**

**Wes Hofkamp, Vice President**

**Dave Stotz Treasurer**  
**glctreasurer3300@gmail.com**

**Wendy Bergen, Secretary**

**Rejoice  
greatly,**  
Daughter Zion!  
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!  
**See, your king comes to you,**  
righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt,  
the foal of a donkey.  
— Zechariah 9:9, NIV —

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**Grace Lutheran Church 3300 East 18th Street Sioux Falls, SD 57103**

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