



Order of Worship: March 8th, 2026

Prelude/Postlude (Jacki Kline)

Welcome/Announcements

Lenten Food Drive (Bill Tollefson)

Candle Lighting

Call to Worship

Song: *"Lord of the Dance"*
"Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed"

Scripture:
Leviticus 16:15-22
Psalm 32:1-7
Matthew 27:11-18, 20-22

Unison Prayer

Song: *"Ah, Holy Jesus"*

Message: *"An Unlikely Freedom"*

Special Music (Jacki and Marsha):
"Just as I am, I Come"

Song: *"Sweet Hour of Prayer"*

Offering/Doxology/Offertory Prayer

Song: *"O How He Loves You and Me"*

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

Song: *"Nothing but the Blood"*

Blessing

The Week at Grace:

Tuesday:

Bible Study

9a

Handbell Practice

10:30a

Wednesday:

Adult Bible Study

4p

Thursday:

Men's study (offsite)

9:30a

If you are planning to meet at Grace UMC, please call ahead or email the office to reserve space and to get your meeting on the church calendar.

Office Phone:

218-568-5755

Grace Office Hours

Monday-10:30a-1:30p

Tuesday-8:30-11:30a

Wednesday-1:30-4:30pm

Thursday-10:30a-1:30p

Worship

Online--available at

www.graceumcpequotlakes.org

In-Person Sundays at 9a

Unison Prayer

“Merciful God,
save us from the time of trial and
deliver us from evil.

Forgive us our sins and fill us with
the joy and peace of your salvation.

So strengthen us with your Spirit
during this Lenten season
that we may put our whole trust in
you as confidently as Jesus did.

This we pray in Jesus’ name.
Amen.”

Call to Worship

*L: In this season of Lent, we make
our way to cross,*

**P: We remember the steps that
led Christ there: betrayal and fear,
but also trust in God, and love for
humanity.**

*L: In this season of Lent, as we
make our way to the cross, we strive
to follow Christ’s example: to admit
betrayal and fear that are part of life,*

**P: To embrace full trust in God
and deep love for humanity.**

**ALL: So, may we make our
journey alongside Jesus and
worship God with song and
praise!**

Scriptures for next week:

Luke 23: 26-31

Psalm 13

Romans 8:18-28



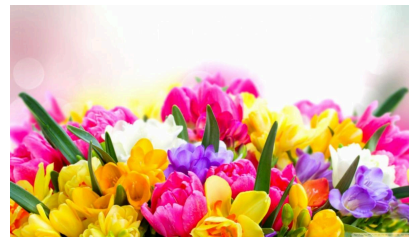
EASTER FLOWERS:

Order forms for Easter flowers are available on
a table in the narthex. All order
forms **MUST** include payment at the time of
ordering.

Last day to order is Sunday, March 8th.

NO LATE ORDERS CAN BE ACCEPTED!

If you need an order form emailed to you, contact Marsha Mower
(m.mower@sbcglobal.net).



Thanks for helping make the church beautiful for Easter!



On Ash Wednesday, 2/22, we began collecting food and monetary gifts for the Lakes Area Food Shelf. This will be our mission focus throughout the month of March. We have been challenged by Our Savior's Lutheran Church once again to see who can collect the most this year! Let's go!

Article in Echo Lakes Journal about the food drive and local needs. [Food Shelves](#)

We have chosen specific foods to be brought in each week.

- 2/22--Peanut Butter and Jelly
- 3/1--Cereal and Protein Bars
- 3/8--Canned Proteins (tuna, chicken, SPAM, beans)**
- 3/15--Soups and Stews
- 3/22--Personal Care Items (especially pads and incontinence supplies)
- 3/29--Leftovers! (Please check best by dates if you are pulling from your cupboards!)

As always, the food shelf is able to stretch our dollars farther than we can, so monetary gifts are welcome anytime!



If you have friends at OSL, please feel free to engage them with some good-natured ribbing! For your friends who worship in other spaces, ask them how their church is participating. For friends or family that are not connected to a faith community, encourage them to bring their donations to us or to give directly to the food shelf. The goal is to help feed our neighbors!

May we live out our faith by blessing others.

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." – Proverbs 22:9



An update from our Mission Partner, Steve Brennecke

Dear Friends:

As many of you know, Kim slipped away into heaven on January 9 th following a brief illness. She was a wonderful wife, a great mother & grandma, and an inspiration to many. The arc of her life is admirable. She loved the Lord and sought to follow Him throughout her life. Before we came to BMM, she was living her "American Dream." Though she was a physical therapist, her passion was in home schooling. She enjoyed a growing family and a simple house in the country with a big garden. Yet when the Lord impressed upon our hearts the need for the Gospel in a distant land, she followed the Lord, pursued the opportunity, and left her dream behind. Years later, when MS deprived her of physical abilities, she spent more time in the Scriptures. In this way she "leaned into" her disability with a smile, and the outcome was overwhelmingly life-giving. She was a blessing throughout our life together and I will miss her dearly. I had planned to retire this May to be of more help to her. As that will no longer be necessary, I'll continue in my role at the mission at least through this calendar year. There are good ministry opportunities in the months ahead; plenty to do! Hasten to the Harvest™ -- Giving Tuesday. You will recall that BMM's Giving Tuesday campaign has a unique focus: all Giving Tuesday gifts go directly to our newest missionary appointees to speed them to their fields. Well...the Lord blessed us overwhelmingly! Over \$80,000 was given in total, which provided over \$13,000 to each of our new missionary units! They were overjoyed and a bit overwhelmed at the news! In addition, gifts were designated for the 2026 campaign, and there was a large response for Kim's memorial, which is also designated for this fall's campaign. Kim would be so pleased to have helped these new missionaries even as she stepped heavenward. Thank you for your fellowship in the work! Your kind words and thoughtful notes have been a source of deep and much-needed encouragement to me and the children.

Steve Brennecke





Paint the Church Project: Understanding the Value Behind the Estimate

As we move forward with the plan to wash and repaint the exterior of Grace, several people have asked what the project includes and why the cost represents a good value. Here's a simple breakdown of the work and the benefits it provides.

What the Project Includes:

- **Full exterior washing**
- Gary's Painting will professionally wash the entire exterior of the church (excluding the detached garage) to ensure a clean, well-prepared surface.
- **Window preparation**
- All exterior window surfaces will be wiped down with alcohol before power washing. This helps remove oxidation and prevents future peeling or adhesion issues.
- **Repainting of siding, soffits, fascia, and entry beams**
- These surfaces will receive *two full coats* of Benjamin Moore's **ArborCoat** solid color stain—known for its durability and weather resistance. The final color will match the existing colors of the building.
- **Repainting exposed clad windows**
- All exposed exterior clad window surfaces will be finished with *two coats* of **Sher-Cryl** high-performance acrylic.
- The only exception is the newer wing, where the clad windows are already in excellent condition and don't need repainting.

Why This Is a Good Value

- **Thorough preparation leads to long-lasting results.** Proper cleaning and prep—especially on an older building—greatly extend the life of the paint job and prevent premature wear.
- **High-quality materials protect the building.** The products being used are premium exterior coatings designed for harsh Minnesota weather.
- **Comprehensive coverage.** The estimate includes all major exterior surfaces, detailed trim, and entry beam work, ensuring a complete and uniform finish.
- **Cost savings in the long run.** Investing in high-quality work now reduces the need for frequent maintenance or early repainting.

This project is a significant investment in the long-term care and appearance of our church. By using skilled professionals and top-tier materials, we're ensuring that the building is protected and looking its best for many years to come. ---Grace Trustees

**Old Age is NOT for Sissies 6.0
Get Prepared for Senior Series**

Personal Devices and Senior Citizen Safety 3/18 @1-3p

By Parker Deutz, Doctor of Physical Therapy for Essentia

Big Harvests in Small Spaces-Growing Veggies & Herbs in Pots 4/15 @1-3p

By Shelly Boser-Bartel of Landsburg Nursery

Exploring Naturopathic Medicine & DIY Herbal Remedy 5/20 @1-3p

By Dr. Sophia Fox of Fox Naturopathic Medicine

Pine River United Methodist Church
348 Barclay Ave, Pine River
Dining Hall- Lower Level

**Zero Charge!
Refreshments Provided!**

The church office has some new open hours.

Monday: 10:30a-130p

Tuesday: 8:30-1130a

Wednesday: 1:30-4:30p

Thursday: 10:30a-1:30p

Ring the doorbell on the south door to be admitted.

--Church office phone: 218-568-5755

--Church office (for all general inquiries and administrative/clerical duties)

graceumcpequotlakes@gmail.com

- Pastor Jen Matthees – **jenmatt20@gmail.com**



Communication Reminder.....

Please schedule **ALL** events, meetings, and building use by emailing the office. If your building use is not added to the master calendar, we may run into scheduling conflicts, and we may not be able to accommodate heating/cooling needs in the affected area.

Please submit any newsletter additions or changes to the office by email or phone by **Wednesday at 4:30p**.

If you wish to connect with Pastor Jen directly and it is not an emergency, please know that she will respond as needed during regular office hours. She is generally in the church on Tuesday (830-12) and Thursday (10-1) call the office to be sure, as her weeks vary. You may find her here at other times too! She checks her emails frequently throughout the day, and this is the best way to contact her. **Friday is her day off** as needs allow, and **Monday is a full school day** (unless it is an emergency, Monday calls will be returned on Tuesday).

Did you know the church calendar is available on our website?

graceumcpequotlakes.org

There is a tab near the top right side that you can click to see the calendar



Important note

If you are mailing something to the church, ***you must use our P.O. Box for the address.*** We do not receive mail at the church, and if you use the physical church address it will get returned and could delay your notices to us or offerings.

**P.O. Box 276
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472**

Visit our website

On our website you can find links to past services, a spot to watch this week's service, an online link to giving, and much more!
www.graceumcpequotlakes.org

Grace United Methodist Church

29318 Patriot Ave - P.O. Box 276

Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

Phone: 218-568-5755

Email: graceumcpequotlakes@gmail.com

Website: www.graceumcpequotlakes.org

(use P.O. box for mailing)





**The United Methodist Church forms disciples
of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy
Spirit, **love boldly**, **serve joyfully**, and
lead courageously in local communities
and worldwide connections.**

Grace United Methodist Church | 29318 Patriot Ave PO Box 276 | Pequot Lakes, MN 56472 US

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