



GREET. GATHER.
GROW AND GO
IN GOD'S GRACE

Peace † Grue

God's Country News

An ELCA Parish



TO BECOME THE
VOICE AND HANDS
OF JESUS

MARCH 2026



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LENTEN SCHEDULE 2026

Weekly services will be held at 7:00pm each
Wednesday evening, alternating churches,
with light supper served beginning at 5:30pm.

Ash Wednesday Services

February 18th: OSTML at 7:00pm with
imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

February 25th: Grue

March 4th: First Presbyterian

March 11th: Peace

March 18th: OSTML

March 25th: Grue

Maundy Thursday: First Presbyterian

Good Friday: Peace

Order subject to change.

A soup luncheon and abbreviated service
will be held at noon each week at Peace.

All are welcome at either service.
Contact Linda Bahnson at 218-685-4301
if you would like to volunteer.




LENT



*“Then I will speak upon the ashes.” Sojourner Truth
“If I could have convinced more slaves that they were slaves, I could have freed thousands more.”
Harriet Tubman*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of Peace and Grue Parish,
Blessings to you and as we find ourselves in the season of Lent. You may or may not be aware that March is Women’s History Month. March 10 is the day we remember two extraordinary women of faith who faced tremendous adversity living into their call of being the hands and feet of Christ: Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman. Sundays and Seasons says this regarding these two extraordinary women: “Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.”
I found Sojourner Truth’s quote regarding speaking upon the ashes particularly timely, since we have entered into the season of Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday, when we are told to “Remember we are dust, and to dust we shall return”. In this season of Lent, where we are called to reflect on God, and our own journeys, we can give thanks for people such as Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, women who were about as low on the social hierarchy as you could get, yet, so strong in their faith which enabled them to live out the Gospel message under seemingly impossible circumstances. Their stories remind us that nothing is impossible with God. As we venture towards the Cross on our Lenten journey, we too, are reminded of the transformative power of Christ’s death and resurrection. An act of love that frees and empowers us to take part in the mission of God’s Kingdom on earth, regardless of the odds stacked against us. Jesus’ ministry teaches us that following him is often counter-cultural, childlike in its simplicity of a mission of loving and serving God and neighbor. A far cry from the convoluted worldly systems put in place to oppress and create a playing field that is far from level. Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth took to heart the fact that “if God is for us, who can be against us” in their ministry and mission alongside countless other women who stood up and claimed their God-given voices, challenging social norms and expectations in order to live into their call to love and serve others. Fueled by Christ’s transformative love, Sojourner Truth understood that the ashes of a church burned in hatred and anger could be transformed into a pulpit for her to proclaim the Gospel of our redeeming, loving Christ. Likewise, Harriet Tubman found her voice in speaking to others to empower them to see themselves not as slaves, but as equally beloved children of God, no better or worse than the most elite members of society.
I am grateful for the numerous women of the past and present. When I was born, women were not eligible to be ordained pastors, and am grateful for those who blazed the trail before me to empower and inspire me to live into my call to love and serve God and my neighbors.
God’s Peace, Pastor Julie
“She reaches out to the needy; she stretches out her hands to the poor. Strength and honor are her clothing; she is confident about the future.” *Proverbs 31:20 & 25*

READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

<p>March 1, 2026 First Reading <u>Genesis 12:1-4a</u> Psalm <u>Psalm 121</u> Second Reading <u>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</u> Gospel <u>John 3:1-17</u></p>	<p>March 8, 2026 First Reading <u>Exodus 17:1-7</u> Psalm <u>Psalm 95</u> Second Reading <u>Romans 5:1-11</u> Gospel <u>John 4:5-42</u></p>	<p>March 15, 2026 First Reading <u>1 Samuel 16:1-13</u> Psalm <u>Psalm 23</u> Second Reading <u>Ephesians 5:8-14</u> Gospel <u>John 9:1-41</u></p>
<p>March 22, 2026 First Reading <u>Ezekiel 37:1-14</u> Psalm <u>Psalm 130</u> Second Reading <u>Romans 8:6-11</u> Gospel <u>John 11:1-45</u></p>		<p>March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday Processional Gospel <u>Matthew 21:1-11</u> First Reading <u>Isaiah 50:4-9a</u> Psalm <u>Psalm 31:9-16</u> Second Reading <u>Philippians 2:5-11</u> Gospel <u>Matthew 26:14—27:66</u></p>

**PEACE CHURCH
 ACOLYTE SCHEDULE 2026**

March

- 1 Bently Olson / AJ Olson
- 8 Coffee Cup Sunday
- 15 Coffee Cup Sunday
- 22 Coffee Cup Sunday
- 29 Coffee Cup Sunday

April

- 5 Easter 8:00
 Darian Holte / Isaiah Anderson
- 12 Coffee Cup Sunday
- 19 Bently Olson / AJ Olson
- 26 Tracy Norenberg / Gavin Balgaard



******If you are unable to acolyte on the Sunday that you are listed please contact another youth (at least a week before) and switch or ask them to cover for you - thanks.***

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1

Troy Johnsrud
Harold Jensen

March 2

Allen Hammer
Dee Holte
Michael Maunumaki

March 4

Trevor Beving
Lynn Jensen

Keith Nichols

March 5

Evelyn Schamber

March 6

Rachel Runningen
Alexa Griep

March 7

Terry Fick

March 8

Zach Cunningham

March 9th

Ethan Roley

March 11

Karl Miller
Michael Wahl

March 12

Kathy Van Santen

March 13

Miles Wing

March 15

Brighton Moen

March 17

Susan Casberg
Paul Christensen
Terrance Johnson

Penny Scholl

March 18

Jill Evavold
Gordan Rohloff



March 19

Gary Adams

March 20

Kirsten Drexler

Brady Sunby

March 21

Chloe Runningen

March 22

Katherine Jensen
Deanna Thronson

March 24

Vanessa Field
Anne Mueller
Becca Lillemon

March 25

Paul Johnsrud
Robert Moerke

March 28

Kyle Fick – 1997

March 29

Steven Alvstad

March 30

Vance Johnson
Aiden Eberhardt

=====

*If I don't have your
birth date or if I
have it listed incor-
rectly please
e-mail or call me at
peace-
grue@outlook.com
or 747-2273
Melissa R*



<p><u>Grue Bible Study</u> March 17th, 1:30 pm at Living Center</p>	A graphic for 'Bible Study' featuring the words 'Bible Study' in blue and red text above a blue Bible with a yellow cross on the cover.
<p><u>Peace Bible Study</u> March 17th, 9:00 a.m. at Peace</p>	



Peace Lutheran Sunday School for the remainder of 2026.

Teacher: Carol Koefod

Sunday School will be held on the following dates:

Feb. 8, 10:00-11:00 Theme: Love

March 15, 10:00-11:00 Theme: Sacrifice

April 12, 10:00-11:00 Theme: Blessings

May 10, 9:30-10:30 Theme: Gifts

Please let Carol or Melissa in the church office know if your child(ren) will attend on any of these dates so the proper number of supplies can be prepared.

Any questions contact Carol Koefod.

	Grue - MARCH 2026 - Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
1	9:30 a.m.
8	9:30 a.m.
15	9:30 a.m.
22	9:30 a.m.
29	9:30 a.m.

No Sunday School on Easter, April 5th



The Grue Women's Bible Study will resume in March.

February 17th we brought treats to the Ashby living center.

Have a great day

Bea Runningen, Sec.



March 2026

Marie Hoffman was February WELCA leader. Thank you for coordinating volunteer positions for Coffee Cup Sundays. As always, appreciate you who responded YES when asked to help with communion, read or serve.

February 9th, Val and I delivered ten (10) beautiful quilts to Micah's Mission, a shelter and community center supported by Churches United in Moorehead. Thank you WELCA quilters! I think Val's grandchildren helped tie a few as well J

Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent, was February 18th. Thank you to Ione and Linda for hosting the noon services Wednesday at noon. **March 11th services will be at Peace and will serve a light supper starting at 5:30. PLEASE let me know if you can serve or bring soup and/or sandwiches. Text me 612-385-2730.**

As reminder, each month we are honoring a group from our community or elsewhere to celebrate our country's Semi Quincentennial. In January, we celebrated members who have had 90 or more birthdays. We honored our Presidents in February. March is known as Women's History Month acknowledging women's contributions to history, culture and the work of God's mission. They have served as leaders, teachers, missionaries and advocates for the marginalized. The Bible is filled with examples of godly women who were part of God's plan. Deborah, a prophetess and judge led Israel during time of oppression. Lydia who sold purple cloth, opened her home to Paul was instrumental in growth of early Christian church. Esther, Ruth and Mary played key roles. Mother Teresa was a beacon of light and awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Florence Nightingale laid foundation of professional nursing and the development and running of our health care systems. A leader in the 1950's Civil Rights Movement was Rosa Parks. Amelia Earhart, first female pilot to fly across Atlantic Ocean, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, first Jewish woman to be appointed to Supreme Court and Marie Currie, scientific genius in radioactivity and xrays and also recipient of Noble Peace Prize in 1903. **First Sunday, 3/1, look for colorful cake to honor these women and others.**

Josie Thompsulos was winner of the cute Valentine quilt at Second Chance Thrift Store.

What will you bake this year? Please mark your calendars for Spring Bake Sale, Saturday, March 28th. Candy will be leading this event as well as calling for other March volunteers.

If you are interested in a visit by Pastor Julie, please call the office.

Sister in Christ and WELCA Co President, Janet Novak

P.S. Did you see announcement for Sunday School services led by Carol Koefod? We appreciate Carol sharing her time and talents!

Please check your contact information in Annual Report and WELCA handbook for accuracy. Call church office at 218-747-2273 to provide correct information.

Welca Spring Gathering, April 18, 2026 at Bethesda Church in Alexandria. Theme is "Serving with Love". Speaker is Peggy Kallevig, from Women of Valor. Peace Welca will cover the \$20 fee for any member of Peace wanting to participate.

PEACE COUNCIL MEETING

Peace Council Meeting, February 8, 2026

Meeting called to order by V. Pres Wayne Vorland

The election of Peace Church Council Officers was held. The following individuals were elected to serve:

President: Wayne Vorland Dee Holte motion/Linda Bahnson seconded/C

Vice President: Dee Holte Brenda Johnson motion/Donna Grover seconded/C

Treasure: Tim Cunningham M/S/C

Co-Secretary: Brenda Johnson and Jeremy Anderson

Dee Holte motion/Donna Grover seconded/C

Attendees: Wayne Vorland Pres, Dee Holte V. Pres, Tim Cunningham Treas, Brenda Johnson Co-Secretary, Linda Bahnson Council, Donna Grover Council, Jeremy Anderson Co-Secretary

Secretary's Report: Jeremy Anderson motion/Donna Grover seconded/C to approve as written

Treasurer's Report: Tim will be allocating funds according to the Peace Lutheran Church Gift Policy on pg. 20 in Annual Report. Dee Holte motion/Linda Bahnson seconded/C to allocate as written.

Peace Lutheran Church will be required to pay \$22.45 this year into the Family Leave Act. Dee Holte motion/Linda Bahnson seconded/C

Team Reports:

Education Team: Donna Grover motion/Jeremy Anderson seconded/C see attached

The Peace Church Council would like to thank Lead Sunday School Teacher Heidi Balgaard and youth support helpers Amber Driggins and Liz Norenberg for their time, prayer, preparation, and willingness to teach God's Word to our youth. Your commitment has helped build a strong foundation of faith in our church.

Peace Lutheran Sunday School times and dates in Feb-May please see attached schedule. The Peace Church Council would like to thank Carol Koefod for volunteering her time to teach our youth.

Worship Team: Based on past Easter Service attendance at Peace, the worship team made a suggestion to only have one service @ 8:00 am on Easter Sunday. Donna Grover motion/Jeremy Anderson seconded/C WELCA asked if Peace would pay for the rolls being served after the Easter Service. M/S/C

Property Management Team: Improve lighting around the outside of the church. Replace or fix the front door handle. Replace Women's Restroom sign with new sign.

Changes to the 2026 Council members and Committee Members.

Worship Team: Pastor Julie Carlson, Carol Koefod, Teresa Ohren, Brenda Risbrudt,

Candy Catoe, Cindy Vorland

Property & Management: Duane Spielman, Kristyn Fick, Tim Cunningham, Jeff Merrick,

Jeremy Anderson

Peace Personnel: Wayne Vorland, Dee Holte

Donna Grover motion to adjourn/Linda Bahnson seconded/C

Co-Secretary Peace Church Council: Brenda Johnson

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Parish Council Meeting February 11th, 2026

Parish Council Meeting February 11, 2026 @ Peace

Attendees: Pastor Julie, Sonia, Melissa, Linda, Donna, Tim, Brenda, Dee, Wayne

Absent: Char, June, Gwen, Bob, Randy, Darlene

Meeting called to order by Sonia

Devotions by Pastor Julie

Additions to Agenda: Family Leave Act

Secretary's Report: Dee Holte motion/Donna Grover seconded/C approved as written

Treasurer's Report: Brenda Johnson motion/Dee Holte seconded/C approved as written

Pastor's Report: M/S/C approved as written

Old Business:

New Business:

Review of the Lenten Service schedule: see attached

No meals will be served at the following evening services: Ash Wednesday, 2/18 @ OSTML, Maundy Thursday, 4/2 @ First Presbyterian, Good Friday 4/3 @ Peace

Shared Ministry Update: There are still some questions that need to be answered for Pastoral support. Pastor Julie will continue to do devotions during Lent at the ALC, lead midweek Lenten services for all services, and provide pastoral care as needed. see attached

Palm Sunday Path: Pastor Julie's theme; Our Call to Love and Serving our Neighbor

Pastor Julie and Peace WELCA will be serving Sandy's Donuts on Fat Tuesday, 2/17 @ 9:00am at the Ashby Senior Center.

Lenten Service offerings: It has been brought to the Parish's attention about a local family in need and possibly donating the Lenten Service Offering to them. After much discussion the Parish Council decided to continue to give the Lenten Service offering to the Food Shelf. Soup and Sandwich free will offering where to donate will be decided by the individual church where the service takes place. Wayne Vorland motion/Linda Bahnson seconded/C

APS has requested the use of the Peace Lutheran Church dining room for ACT testing on April 8th. This is not something new, APS has done this for several years. A church provides a no interruptions space and open concept area for monitoring. Donna Grover motion/Dee Holte seconded/C

Family Leave Act: It is required by law that all church parishes abide by the FLA of 2026. The Parish has two choices; Pay the full \$184 for the year 2026 for their employees or pay half \$92 for the 2026 year. After an explanation of the FLA from Treasure Tim Cunningham and parish discussion it was decided to pay the full amount. This will be a year-to-year decision by the Parish to pay 1/2 or full. M/S/one not in favor.

Mutual Ministry: see attached

This will be a small group of 2 to 3 people from the parish to meet with Pastor Julie 4 times a year to discuss possible frustrations, conflicts, or things that are working in the Parish. Dee Holte volunteered from Peace. Grue will be discussing this item at their next council meeting and asking for a volunteer to be on the team.

Donna Grover made a motion to adjourn/Linda Bahnson seconded/C

Peace Council Co-Secretary: Brenda Johnson

Grue Council Meeting: February 11, 2026

Attending: Sonia Heibel, Melissa Runningen, Pastor Julie

Absent: Dar Miller, Gwen Lillemon, Randy Koefod, Char Woldahl, Bob Torgrimson, June Bjornson

Grue had a informal meeting following the Parish meeting and discussed pertinent items.

Secretary's report was read-there was a correction to the date of Synod Assembly it is only one day May 30th. A virtual meeting.

Treasurer's report was reviewed.

Old Business:

New Business:

- There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for the Feb 25th Lenten service meal.
- Lenten Services at Grue will be Feb. 25th & March 25th. Discussion-It was decided to send the soup and sandwich meal offerings to a local family in need.

Next meeting will be March 8th at 9:45 am.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Runningen.

LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

Volunteers needed to bring soup for the
Lenten noon meals at Peace.

Dates needing volunteers are
March 25th, & April 2nd.

Please contact
Linda Bahnon at 218-685-4301.
If you would like to volunteer.

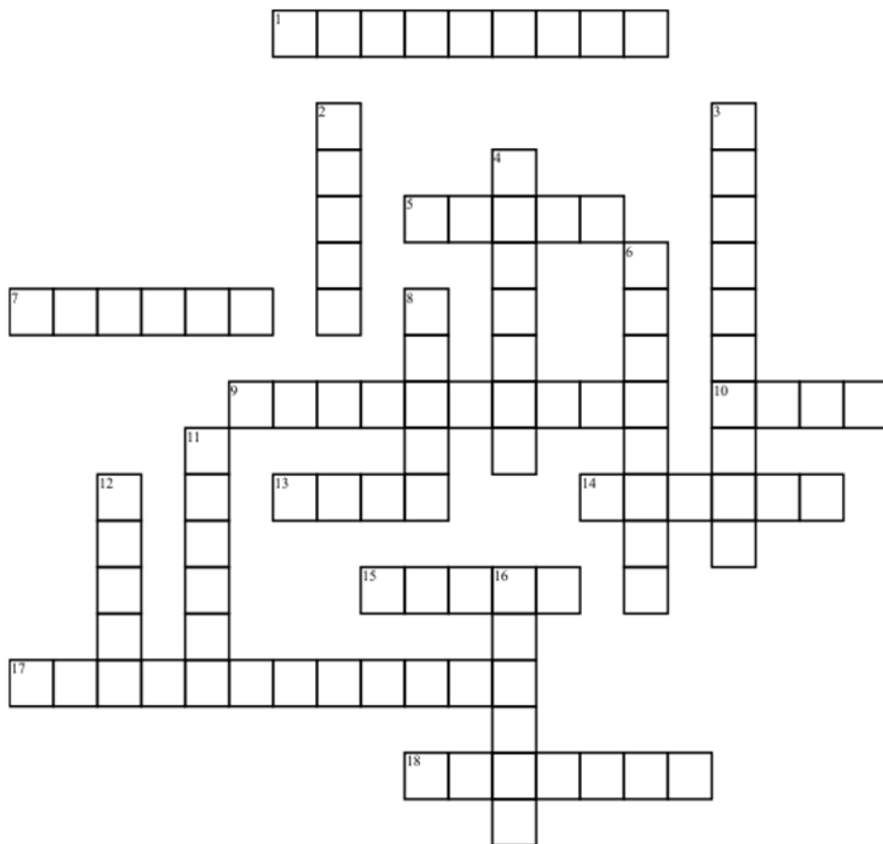
ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love



LENTEN CROSSWORD



Across

1. ASH _____
 5. The Christian holy book
 7. Jesus entered Jerusalem on this animal
 9. Day in Lent recalling Jesus' death (2 words)
 10. Branches waved at Jesus upon his entry into Jerusalem
 13. Was with Jesus at the cross

14. Jesus prayed for 40 days here
 15. What Jesus died upon
 17. We spend Lent preparing for Jesus death and _____

18. Giving to _____ is a good Lenten practice

Down

2. What Jesus shed for our sins

3. Holy Communion started after this
 4. To go without
 6. The final week of Lent (2 words)
 8. Number of days in LENT
 11. Season after Lent
 12. Disciple who betrayed Jesus
 16. PALM _____

God's People in Service
March 2026
Peace † Grue Lutheran

GRUE 10:45 am Late Service SS 9:30 a.m.	March 1 Purple Lent Holy Com- munion	March 4 Purple Lent- wed. First Presby- terian	March 8 Purple Lent	March 11 Purple Lent- wed. Peace	March 15 Purple Lent	March 18 Purple Lent- wed. OSTML	March 22 Purple Lent	March 25 Purple Lent- wed. Grue Meal @ 5:30	March 29 Purple PALM SUNDAY
Janitors/ Ushers	Greg & Gwen Lillemon, Alex Lillemon and Jordon & Becca Lillemon								
Reader	usher	.....	usher	.....	usher	.....	usher	usher	usher
Music	Denise Juven	.....	Cindy Vorland	.....	Contem- porary	.....	Denise Juven	Cindy Vorland	Denise Juven
PEACE 9:00 am Early Service SS 10:00 a.m. on March 15th	March 1 Purple Lent Holy Com- munion	March 4 Purple Lent- wed. First Presby- terian	March 8 Purple Lent	March 11 Purple Lent- wed. Peace Meal @ 5:30	March 15 Purple Lent	March 18 Purple Lent- wed. OSTML	March 22 Purple Lent	March 25 Purple Lent- wed. Grue	March 29 Purple Lent PALM SUNDAY
Music	Cindy Vorland	.....	Brenda Risbrudt	Brenda Risbrudt	Brenda Risbrudt	.....	Brenda Risbrudt	.....	Brenda Risbrudt
Ushers	Hanson Family	.....	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Readers	Candy Catoe	.....	Linda Ness	.....		.....		.....
Psalms	AJ Ol- son	.....	Linda Ness	.....		..... ..		.....
Acolytes	Bently Olson AJ Ol- son	.....	.....	.....	.....	.......	.....	.....	.....
Com- munion Helpers (set up, serve, clean)	Denise Hanson Candy Catoe	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cookie Servers	Cake	.....	Lynn Jensen	Meal @ 5:30	Candy Catoe	.....	Candy Catoe	.....	Candy Catoe

Serving Team Peace Lutheran Month of March 2026

Chairpersons: Randy & Candy Catoe

*Ushers are reminded to pick up bulletins and trash and replace hymnals in racks prior to leaving the sanctuary.

Please remember to write down the attendance for each Sunday.

MAKE SURE THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED OFF AND
ALL DOORS ARE LOCKED!

PEACE † GRUE Lutheran Parish – MARCH 2026

PARISH OFFICE 218-747-2273, Cell# 218-770-8457 Email peacegrue@outlook.com

306 Larson Avenue, Box 157, Ashby, MN 56309 Church website: www.peacegrue.org

Pastor Julie Carlson, 320-491-2304 Email: pastorjuliecarlson@gmail.com

Peace 9:00 am, Grue 10:45 am, SS 9:30 am

Office hours M-TH 9-2, closed on Fridays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Peace service 9am Grue service 10:45 am, SS 9:30 am	2	3	4 <u>Lenten services</u> Peace Church 12noon with light lunch served. <u>First Presbyterian Church</u> 7pm with light supper served at 5:30	5	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7
8 Coffee Cup Sunday Peace service 9am Peace Council meeting after Service Grue service 10:45 am, SS 9:30 am GRUE council meeting 9:45 am	9	10	11 <u>Lenten services</u> Peace Church 12noon with light lunch served <u>Peace Church</u> 7pm with light supper served at 5:30	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14
15 Coffee Cup Sunday Peace service 9am SS 10-11 am Grue service 10:45 am SS 9:30 am	16	17 Peace Bible study 9:00 am. Grue Bible study 1:30 pm.	18 <u>Lenten services</u> Peace Church 12noon with light lunch served. <u>OSTML Church</u> 7pm with light supper served at 5:30	19	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21 GRUE Church cleaning 9am, bring cleaning supplies and a lunch!
22 Coffee Cup Sunday Peace service 9am Grue service 10:45 am SS 9:30 am	23	24	25 <u>Lenten services</u> Peace Church 12noon with light lunch served. <u>Grue Church</u> 7pm with light supper served at 5:30	26	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28 PEACE Spring bake sale at Community Center
29 Palm Sunday Coffee Cup Sunday Peace service 9am Grue service 10:45 am SS 9:30am	30	31				

RETURN SERVICE REQUEST



God's Country News
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**PEACE  GRUE LUTHERAN PARISH
OF THE ELCA**

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Pastor in office M, T, &Th 9:30-12:30, Wed 12-5 or by appointment