



**Grace Lutheran Church
April 2026 Newsletter**

Pastor's Pen

Romans 8:38-39 *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

In this text from Paul's letter to the Romans, we are given words of encouragement. Encouragement is something we really need in our sometimes very frustrating world, filled with self-centered and power-hungry responses to our needs. These two short verses remind us we are never alone in this often difficult journey of life.

In this verse there are 10 things that cannot separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord..... 8 of them are in pairs: For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. This statement by Paul contains words placing us in the midst of security and should give us peace. For God wants us to experience deep, unshakeable confidence that we are secured in God's love.

So why does this need to be reemphasized for us in our lives? If we step back to verse 36 we can read a passage Paul shares with us from Psalm 44; *"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."* This is what our earthly lives often look like, and has looked like for Christians for centuries. Not very hopeful words to hear and could make us feel very insecure and separated from the love of God.

But going back to verse 33 of this chapter we can see these verses are describing the security of "God's elect", not the security of everyone in the world. So, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, he has chosen you, you are his, you belong not to yourself, but to Him. If we go back even further to verses 28 and 29, we are called according to God's purpose. And we are predestined to be like Christ, and each of us are called from death to life, for through Christ you are all justified once and for all.

These are promises made to us through our promises to Jesus Christ at our baptisms, and this make us inseparable from God's declaration that we will be saved by God and nothing can destroy us. Each of us has the gift of these promises if we proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior and treasure. THANKS BE TO GOD!!!

Yours in Christ!

Pastor Roger

Grace Lutheran Church Council Highlights - March 12, 2026

Minutes from our February 12, 2026 meeting, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Pastor's reports were read and approved.

Pastor's Report Highlights:

Highlights:

- Planned and led two Ash Wednesday services
- Conducted mid-week Lenten Services at Trinity with good attendance from Grace members
- Attended Worship & Music and Finance Committee meetings on March 2nd
- Attended the UNYS's Lutheran Day at the Capital on March 9th and 10th
- Attended the Foothills Conference Ministerium on February 19th in Canajoharie
- Taking vacation March 15 - 21 (Annual Golf outing)
- Taking time off (out of town) April 12 - 17 (will lead worship on April 12th)

Council Actions and Announcements:

- Approved the 2-year contract renewal of Pastor Roger Behrens
- Approved participating in the Johnstown City Wide Garage Sale May 8th and 9th. Project to be headed by Kathy VanValkenburgh
- Accepted, with regret, the retirement of Bonnie Olendorf as our Office Administrator (Church Secretary) effective April 30th and giving her the two weeks vacation pay.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property:

- Bollard Sleeves for the parking lot poles are here. They will be installed when the snow is gone.

InReach/OutReach:

- Relay for Life of Fulton and Montgomery Counties is 5 pm on Friday, June 5th at GHS
- Sign up is open online - go to Relayforlife.com and then enter your ZIP code
- To make a donation see Ashley Gaugler

Worship and Music:

- Palm Sunday - March 29th - Procession including youth
- Maundy Thursday - April 2nd - Soup and Sandwich Supper 5 pm; Service 6 pm
- Good Friday - April 3rd - Last Words of Christ - 6 pm
- Easter - April 5th - Procession

SERVING SCHEDULE - APRIL - 2026 (subject to change)

Date	Assisting Ministers	Reader	Usher(s)	Crucifer	Altar Guild - Bread	Counters
April 2 Maundy Thur. <u>ELW</u> <u>setting 4</u> 9:00	Presiding - Pastor Roger Behrens NANCY DEMAREST Communion Assistant NANCY DEMAREST	CLYDE SMITH	DARLEEN GAUGLER LEE MITCHELL		BONNIE OLENDORF <u>Bread Baker</u> (At the rail) NANCY DEMAREST	
April 5 Easter <u>ELW</u> <u>setting 4</u> 9:00	Presiding - Pastor Roger Behrens NANCY DEMAREST Communion Assistant NANCY DEMAREST	GREG NIFOROS	CLYDE & DONOVAN SMITH	DERRICK MCGUINNESS	<u>Bread Baker</u> (At the rail) NANCY DEMAREST	
April 12 <u>ELW</u> <u>setting 4</u> 9:00	Presiding - Pastor Roger Behrens DONNA COONRADT Communion Assistant LINDA BUMPUS	MARYLAND WARNER	FRED GILBERT KATHY VANVALKENBURGH		PEGGY NIFOROS <u>Intinction</u>	DARLEEN GAUGLER BONNIE OLENDORF
April 19 ELW <u>setting 4</u> 9:00	Presiding - Pastor Roger Behrens PEGGY NIFOROS Communion Assistant PEGGY NIFOROS	SAMARA SMITH	LINDA BUMPUS NANCY DEMAREST		DARLEEN GAUGLER (Intinction)	KATHY VANVALKENBURGH BONNIE OLENDORF
April 26 ELW <u>setting 4</u> 9:00	Presiding - Pastor Roger Behrens Kathy VanValakenburgh Communion Assistant Kathy VanValkenburgh	GRETA DAVIS	DARLEEN GAUGLER LEE MITCHELL		KATHY VANVALKENBURGH <u>Bread Baker</u> (At the rail) MARY ANN HATHAWAY	NANCY DEMAREST BONNIE OLENDORF



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|------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Robert VanSlyke | 2 - | Emily Frasier |
| 2. | Maundy Thursday | 7 - | National Day of Prayer |
| 3. | Good Friday | | Esther Weaver |
| 5. | Easter | 10 - | Happy Mother's Day |
| 4 - | Kathleen VanValkenburgh | 11 - | Cynthia Clo |
| 7 - | Sandy Jackson | | Linda Bumpus |
| 9 - | Vicki Behrens | | Phyllis Wright |
| 11 - | Chris Rohrs | 15 - | Don Phelps |
| | Rhyleigh Bills | 16 - | Armed Forces Day |
| 12 - | Grady Shea | 18 - | Mary Phelps |
| 13 - | Haley Claes | 19 - | Carol Preston |
| 21 - | Wendy Hollenbeck | 20 - | Carol Paxton |
| 24 - | Pastor Roger Behrens | 21 - | Karl Blanchard |
| 25 - | Casey VanValkenburgh | | Larry Preston |
| 26 - | Rebecca Rulison Roy | | Tabetha Angus |
| | | 22 - | James Wallace |
| | | 23 - | Joshua Brown |
| | | 25 - | Memorial Day |
| | | 30 - | Connie Clouthier |
| | | 31 - | Joshua Harvey Fountain |

CHURCH ACTIVITIES - APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 9:00 a.m. - Worship with Communion 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School	6	7	8	9 5:30 p.m. - Church Council meeting	10	11
12 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. - Worship with Communion 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Sc. 1100 - Retirement luncheon for Bonnie	27	28	29	30		

PLANT YOUR GARDEN TODAY

FIRST PLANT 3 ROWS OF PEAS

Patience
Promptness
Prayer

NEXT PLANT 3 ROWS OF SQUASH

Squash Gossip
Squash Indifference
Squash Criticism

Then Four Rows of Lettuce

Let us obey the Lord
Let us be loyal
Let us be true to our obligations
Let us be unselfish

Finish with four rows of turnups

Turn up when needed
Turn up with a smile
Turn up with a vision
turn up with determination.

"God's Vitamin "C" for the spirit"

Author unknown

JOHNSTOWN CITYWIDE GARAGE

Council has approved us participating . Planning on Fri May 9th and

Sat May 10 th (if items are left over)

The Twist- everything is free

It's a great time as you may be doing spring cleaning to find items that have not been used in years. However,must be in good working order to be used by someone else.

Such as books read but don't want anymore.

Household items not used in years- ex: dishes, pots ,pans

Only clothing - infants up to teenage years

Children's toys - out grown

Please bring to church starting the week of May 3rd. Necessary arrangements can be made for pickup. Please no huge or heavy items.

Planning on split shifts

8-12 pm

(includes setup)

11-1

kitchen, restocking food

Drinks- grill

12-4

(includes cleanup)

Also need people to just sit and tend tables- if you can only spare an hour

That would be very helpful. Please sign up in or call church

At 518 762 7924 and leave a message.

Refreshments- donuts, hot dogs,chips

Coffee, soda , water

MUST HAVE HELPERS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PROJECT!!

**Prayer Concerns
April 2026**



Remember our Shut-ins

At Home

***Jackie Hollenbeck
Erah Kilmer
Marilyn Warner***

Hillcrest - Amsterdam

Don Phelps

Riveridge Nursing Home

Stacey Keach

Wells House

Mary Phelps

Wilkenson - Amsterdam

Marlene Slingerland



Prayer Concerns:

**Donald Wright
Carol Beekman
John Mero Jr.
Kimmey
Ruth Eisenhauer
Samara Smith
Lilyann Smith
Patricia Fallis
Dan Costello
Sharon Snell
Ron Pedrick
Shaton Smith
David Seward
Greta Davis
Nancy Blanchard
Lonnie Ugalde
Michelle Stockwell**



**All those who have served
and for all those who are now
serving in the armed forces.**

Especially:

**Christopher Behrens
Brandon Caldwell
Victor Ralbovsky
Dylan Bumpus
Ryly Bumpus**

and for our enemies

**Please pray for NOAH, and all of
the food pantries of Johnstown
and Gloversville and for those in
need of them.**

The Easter Lilies which adorn our Sanctuary
are given by:

+ *Pastor Roger & Vicki Behrens* +
in honor of our grandchildren
Katelyn and Levi

+ *Nancy and Karl Blanchard* +
in loving memory of Lou, husband and dad

+ *Linda Bumpus* +
in loving memory of Richard Bumpus, husband,
Marion and Richard Bumpus and Evelyn and
Carlton Doster, Parents

+ *Oscar and Constance Clouthier* +
in memory of Oscar & May Clouthier
and Steve and Hazel Pavlus

+ *Greta Davis* +
in memory of parents and loved ones

+ *Nancy Demarest and Family* +
in loving memory of Gordon Demarest, husband and father;
parents Alvin & Helen Gage Waffle; nephew Scott Nagy;
William & Marie Demarest; and best friend Gary Lunkenheimer

+ *Ruth Eisenhower* +
in loving memory of beloved husband Harry C. Eisenhower, Jr.
and loved ones.

+ *Diana Elmendorf* +
in memory of Richard Elmendorf, husband and
parents John and Mary Femmer
brother and sister-in-law Robert and Dona Fremmer

+ *Dennis Hubley* +
in loving memory of Toni Hubley, wife

(Over)

+ ***Bob & Sandi Jackson*** +
in memory of parents,
Earl & Frances Jackson and Marvin & Nettie Dickenson;
sister Barbara Rhodes and her husband Richard
and sister, Rosalind Acquilla

+ ***Lee Mitchell*** +
in memory of wife Priscilla Mitchell
wife and mother of our three children

+ ***Peggy Niforos*** +
to the Glory of God in memory of my beloved husband, Ernie
and loved ones

+ ***Bonnie Olendorf*** +
in loving memory of husband John and family members

+ ***The Charles Schwab Family*** +
in memory of Marion & Carl Schwab

+ ***Kathy Van Valkenburgh*** +
in memory of loved ones

+ ***Phyllis Wright*** +
in loving memory of her husband Dave and their parents

The palms on the cross for Palm Sunday were given by

+ ***Maryland Warner*** +
in loving memory of Willard S. & Arbutus E. Vrooman,
parents, Mason Warner, husband, Alan Walker Jr., son,
Kim Calhoun, granddaughter and Bruce S. Vrooman, brother
Jim Calhoun, son-in-law

Thank you to all of you who purchased a lily
to adorn our sanctuary.
Please feel free to take your lily after worship today.