

# Greenfield + Good News!

February 2025

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## Thank you

Thank you for all the prayers, meals and support given to my family, myself, and Kaylee as we go through ongoing illnesses and medical issues.

Peace,  
*Pastor Kurt*



## The 2024 Annual Report is out

Copies of the Annual Report are available at church.

They are on the table outside of the church Sanctuary, or you can



# Southeastern Minnesota Synod

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



January 28, 2025

## A Pastoral Message from Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Bishops in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota

*Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27*

As ELCA bishops in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota we serve in contexts that stretch from the badlands to the prairies, from fertile farmlands and forests to urban centers. Though the contexts are diverse, God's mandates for how we are to live are the same.

In recent days, the heightened rhetoric of violence and newly enacted Executive Orders compel us to remind people of faith of God's fundamental blessing of all human life. In the language of the Bible, we say that all people are made in the image of God. Every person - without exception - has inherent dignity and value because all people are made in God's own image. Human dignity and value come from God. People of faith throughout our region, and indeed this world, are compelled to speak and act toward others in ways that honor the image in which we all are made. All people and groups deserve to be treated with dignity and respect in our common speech and in our public and private interactions. If we wonder what such dignity and respect look like, Jesus made it simple with a teaching known as "the Golden Rule," "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Matthew 7:12)

The apostle Paul wrote in the book of Galatians, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23) These are the traits that guide our interactions with all our neighbors and inform our conduct in daily life. These are the characteristics that embolden us even as we work for justice and peace.

Across this region we are grateful for the many people of good will who are working to increase dialogue, seek the common good, and treat our neighbors, near and far, as those who bear the image of God. We are with you in prayer as, together, we seek to live lives worthy of this ancient admonition from God's word, "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD." (Leviticus 19:18)

In Christ,

**Bishop Constanze Hagmaier**, South Dakota Synod - ELCA

**Bishop Regina Hassanally**, Southeastern Minnesota Synod - ELCA

**Bishop Patricia Lull**, Saint Paul Area Synod - ELCA

**Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth**, Eastern North Dakota Synod - ELCA

**Bishop Jen Nagel**, Minneapolis Area Synod - ELCA

**Bishop Amy Odgren**, Northeastern Minnesota Synod - ELCA

**Bishop Dee Pederson**, Southwestern Minnesota Synod - ELCA

**Bishop Craig A. Schweitzer**, Western North Dakota Synod - ELCA

**Bishop Bill Tesch**, Northwestern Minnesota Synod - ELCA



# GF February 2025 EVENTS

**Calendar Events may be added  
and information is always  
subject to change.**

Please check your bulletin, the website and Facebook for the most up to date information. Please contact the office to get your events and activities information into the Greenfield Good News!

## FEBRUARY

- **Sunday, Feb. 2** – Service at 9 am. Sunday School at 10 am.
- **Monday, Feb. 3** – Quilters meet
- **Tuesday, Feb 4**—Stewardship Meets at 4:30 pm at the church
- **Tuesday, Feb 4**—Worship and Music Meets at 6:30 pm at the Community Center
- **Wednesday, Feb. 5**—Confirmation Class. 6 pm meal, 6:30 pm class.
- **Sunday, Feb. 9** – Service at 9 am. Sunday School at 10 am. Church Choir Sings
- **Tuesday, Feb 11**—Martha Leah Circle at Janet Ewalt’s home at 2 pm.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 12**—Miriam Circle 10 am
- **Wednesday, Feb. 12**—Holiday Bazaar Organizational planning meeting at 6:00 pm in the Youth Room. Anyone interested in helping with the 2nd Annual Holiday Bazaar is invited to attend. If you have questions or are interested on being on the committee or cannot attend, please feel free contact Laurie Magnus at 507-272-2033 or Marian Morem at 507-951-6661 or Linda Snyder 830-832-9866. Looking forward to seeing you there!
- **Wednesday, Feb. 12**—Confirmation Class. 6 pm meal, 6:30 pm class.

Continued on next page...

# GF EVENTS continued...

- **Wednesday, Feb. 12**—Church Council Meets at 8 pm.
- **Sunday, Feb. 16** – Service at 9 am. Sunday School at 10 am. Children's Choir Sings
- **Monday, Feb. 17** – Quilters meet
- **Wednesday, Feb. 19**—Confirmation Class. 6 pm meal, 6:30 pm class.
- **Sunday, Feb. 23** – Service at 9 am. Sunday School at 10 am. Church Choir Sings
- **Wednesday, Feb. 26**—Confirmation Class. 6 pm meal, 6:30 pm class.

## COMING UP IN MARCH

In March we move into the **Lenten Season** with Ash Wednesday on March 5th and Lent Services starting March 12th.

**Daylight Savings** time takes place on March 9th.

There will be a **St. Patrick's High Tea** on March 15th at 10 am at the church. Church women are invited and reservations are needed.

Please see more details in this Newsletter and contact Janet Ewalt or Laurie Magnus with questions or to RSVP.

Wearing O' the Green is encouraged at what's sure to be a fun event!

More to come in next month's Greenfield Good News...

*Please let us know if you have something you would like included in the Greenfield Good News. This is YOUR newsletter. Submissions would be greatly appreciated by the second week of the month for the next month's issue.*

**Good Things Are Always Happening at Greenfield!**



# ***Greetings***

***From the Youth Program!***



*Hello Friends!*

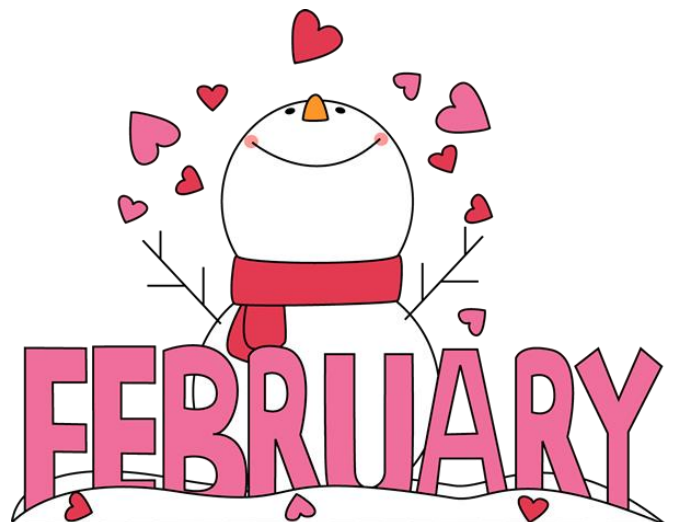
As mentioned in my December report, January is a slow month where our younger families (and mine) are struggling to keep up with sports, school, music, church and other schedules. With that being said, its nice that our Sunday School Kids / Confirmation Kids come to both Sunday School and Confirmation to worship. The commitment from our families to spend time at church and worship is a true blessing.

In January we ended up canceling the Children's Choir due to numerous illnesses/weather. However, we will hit it hard again in February and our kids will sing in church on Sunday February 16th.

I am trying to work with the many schedules both our young/older Youth have. I will share what I came up for February in my March Letter.

I hope all of you are doing well and staying healthy.

*Peace -*  
Josh Krage  
Youth Director



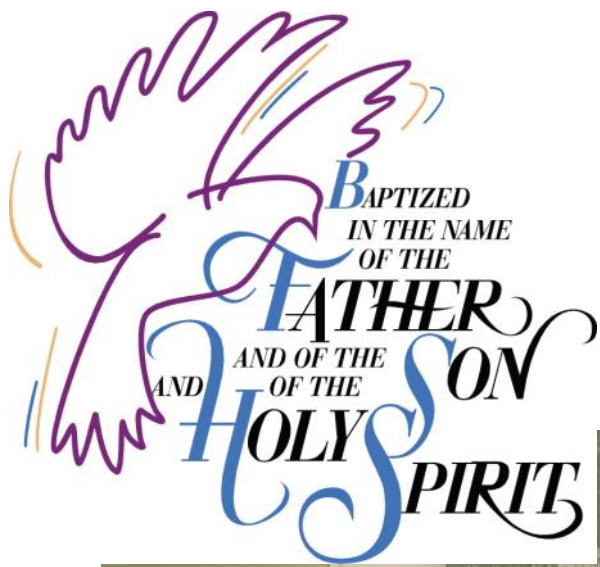


# Maverick Bradley Kingsley

**October 27, 2024**

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share.





# Niyah Lynn Walker

**November 17, 2024**

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share.





# FEBRUARY

## 28 DAYS TO

### LOVE ONE ANOTHER

**1. 1 John 4:7 – Love Comes from God**

*"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."*

**2. Leviticus 19:18 – Love Your Neighbor**

*"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD."*

**3. 1 John 4:11 – If We Love One Another**

*"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."*

**4. John 13:34 – A New Command**

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."*

**5. 1 Thessalonians 3:12 – May the Lord Make Your Love Increase**

*"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."*

**6. Luke 6:35 – Love Your Enemies**

*"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back..."*

**7. 1 Peter 1:22 – Love One Another Deeply**

*"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart."*

**8. 1 John 4:19 – We Love Because He First Loved Us**

*"We love because he first loved us."*

**9. Galatians 5:13 – Serve One Another in Love**

*"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."*

**10. Romans 12:10 – Be Devoted to One Another**

*"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."*

**11. Colossians 3:12 – Clothe Yourselves with Love**

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."*

**12. 1 Peter 4:8 – Love Covers Over a Multitude of Sins**

*"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."*

**13. Ephesians 4:2 – Bear with One Another in Love**

*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."*

**14. 1 Corinthians 13:1 – Love is Paramount**

*"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal."*



# ALL WE NEED IS LOVE ♥♥♥

## **15. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 – The Qualities of Love**

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

## **16. Proverbs 10:12 – Love and Hatred**

*"Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs."*

## **17. 1 Corinthians 16:14 – Do Everything in Love**

*"Do everything in love."*

## **18. John 15:12 – Love as Jesus Loved**

*"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."*

## **19. Ephesians 5:2 – Walk in the Way of Love**

*"And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us..."*

## **20. Proverbs 17:17 – A Friend Loves at All Times**

*"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."*

## **21. Galatians 6:2 – Carry Each Other's Burdens**

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

## **22. 1 John 3:18 – Love with Actions**

*"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."*

## **23. Proverbs 3:3 – Let Love and Faithfulness Never Leave You**

*"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."*

## **24. Philippians 2:3 – Value Others Above Yourself**

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."*

## **25. Romans 13:8 – Owe Nothing but Love**

*"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another..."*

## **26. Matthew 5:44 – Love Your Enemies**

*"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*

## **27. Luke 10:27 – Love with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind**

*"He answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

## **28. John 15:17 – Jesus' Command to Love**

*"This is my command: Love each other."*





Women of the church you are cordially invited to attend

A St. Patrick's Day  
**HIGH TEA**

March 15 at 10:30 am

In the Church Fellowship Hall

Wearing o' the Green is highly encouraged!

RSVP required to  
Janet Ewalt or Laurie Magnus

## Greenfield Lutheran Church Prayer Chain

Thank you to those Greenfield Members who have opened their hearts and answered the call to be a prayer warrior on Greenfield's prayer chain. We want our Church Family to feel comforted in knowing that they are held close to our hearts in their time of need as we unite to think of them, stand by them, and uplift their loved ones and needs in prayer. Prayers can and do move mountains! ~Janet Ewalt



*"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord who made Heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved, he who keeps you will not slumber. Psalms 121:1-3*

Please contact Janet to be added to the Prayer Chain

# 10 Hidden Benefits of Acolyting

Article by Lisa Brown Director of Digital Ministry for Membership Vision.



- 1. Acolyting is essential** Think of services where no acolytes are present. Much of the beauty and the glorious pageantry is missing. Processions without torches and crosses, and a Gospel reading without anyone to hold the book? Not as impactful. Furthermore, services without acolytes means clergy have less support when preparing Communion, and facilitating worship.
- 2. Acolyting allows young people to be active participants in worship** Everyone I spoke with echoed the same refrain. They felt much more engaged in the worship service by playing an active role rather than sitting in the pews. Even young people who reported that their parents had at first “forced” them to acolyte, expressed a newfound connection to worship and an enthusiasm for being at church.
- 3. Acolyting is intergenerational** A young person who acolytes is more likely to feel a connection to adults serving in other worship-related ministries: clergy, altar guild members, greeters, ushers, lectors, lay eucharistic ministers, and choir members. This is truly important! Young people who connect to generations of adults in the congregation – rather than only forming relationships with youth peers – are more likely to feel a deep connection to their church community. Faith formation is strengthened by these intergenerational relationships.
- 4. Acolyting is relational** Acolyting helps young people form bonds with their peers, and with older and younger teens at church. Faith is meant to be practiced in community, and when a young person finds community for themselves, they are more likely to grow in faith. Young acolytes spoke proudly of having older teen friends who they knew through acolyting; older teens spoke proudly of acting as role models to the younger teens on their acolyte teams.
- 5. Acolyting is a family affair** Many young people recalled that they began to acolyte as a way of emulating older siblings. Families are more likely to attend and be connected to a church community when their children serve at the altar.
- 6. Acolyting allows kids to play with fire** Admit it, everybody likes to play help with fire. But more importantly, when we trust young people with significant and potentially dangerous tasks, we show them that we see them as capable and competent. Inevitably they then live up to our expectations.

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**7. Acolyting makes a young person the center of attention** This surprised me. Many young people commented on how they enjoyed the feeling of having all eyes on them as they walked down the aisle with the cross. But isn't it supposed to be about God? Yes. So are we raising a generation of egomaniacs? I don't think so. Everyone's deepest desire is to be known, accepted, and loved. We want to have value in the eyes of others. Consider scripture and the many instances where Jesus paused to truly see and engage people who were otherwise invisible in society. Often our young people feel unseen and unimportant in our faith communities. Acolyting allows them to be seen, to be important, and to make a difference in our communal worship.

**8. Acolyting makes young people nervous** When asked what they wished other people knew about being an acolyte, many young people said they wished others knew how seriously they take their role. They try very hard not to make mistakes, and when they do, it weighs heavily on them. Yet in talking about lessons learned as an acolyte, one young person told me the following: "Whatever I do, even if I'm not sure of what I'm doing, as long as I do it with confidence, it will be ok." Or as Julian of Norwich wrote, "All shall be well."

**9. Acolyting is formational, and teaches liturgy** In conversations replete with teenage slang, I also heard vocabulary that reflected a deep knowledge of liturgy and church tradition. In fact, one of the many reasons youth enjoyed being acolytes is that they learned more about the shape, structure, and flow of liturgy and worship traditions. Young people even mentioned some of their favorite services: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday – services often under-attended, especially by young people.

**10. Acolyting is leadership** A component of good church leadership is being able to grow more fully into a ministerial role. The young people I spoke with reflected on their evolving acolyte responsibilities, and how moving from torch to Eucharistic server was "...a big leap." One young person explained how managing her acolyte team was an opportunity for her to demonstrate maturity and responsibility. Some young people spoke proudly of how acolyting encouraged them to seek out other roles in the church – as vergers, altar guild members, lay eucharistic ministers, and as members of the church's worship commission.

## So Let There Be Acolytes!



Acolyting is an essential ministry, and one that imbues our worship with beauty, solemnity, and pageantry. Acolytes support both clergy and laity, ensuring that the behind-the-scenes tasks and logistics of worship flow smoothly. Most importantly, our acolytes, whether they are 9 or 19 years old, are leaders in our communities, worthy of appreciation and respect. Next time you see a young person who is an acolyte, make sure to compliment them and thank them for their ministry! Article from Building Faith website.



**Reminder:** When you do automatic giving from your checking or savings accounts you can use this slip shown for the offering plates. **They will be in the pews with the regular offering envelopes. Thank You!**



*Income & Expenses*

**Greenfield Lutheran Church**  
Income and Expense

**DECEMBER 2024**

Revenue: \$57,051  
Expense: \$20,482  
Balance: \$36,569

Beginning checkbook balance to start the 2024 year:	\$5,647
Year End Revenue as reported in the Annual Report:	\$277,658
Year End Expenses as reported in the annual Report:	<u>\$243,871</u>
Ending balance in checkbook to start the 2025 year:	\$39,434



**SCAM ALERT!!**

**Reminder!**

Pastor Kurt, Josh, Sam, and all of the church staff will NEVER EVER ask for gift cards or anything else by email.

Please remember to double check email addresses carefully and when in doubt always call. The email might say our name but have a different email address.

Email scams are getting more difficult to detect,. ALWAYS call before responding to any suspect emails.



## A New Way To Join In The Worship Of Giving

**You can give using your smartphone. Just download the Vanco Mobile App from Apple or Google Play.**



- Enter our church's name and click Search. Then, select our church.
- Log in, don't have an account? Sign up.
- Select your fund and donation frequency.
- Select a payment method and enter your credit card, debit card or bank account information. You can save this payment method for future donations.
- You can choose to cover the donation processing fees by adding a small amount on top of your gift. Click the button to opt in.
- Review and complete your gift by clicking Submit.



**Donating to the church is now easy with the new Vanco mobile app.**

**Consider using this secure method to support Greenfield Lutheran Church Harmony, Minnesota**



**VANCO**  
FAITH



**Church Council Officers:** President - Paul Hemenway ~ Vice President- Mary Beth Ostrom  
Secretary - Mindy Kingsley ~ Treasurer - Vicky Tribon

**Church Council Members:** Matthew Anderson, Janet Ewalt, Paul Hemenway, Mindy Kingsley, Josh Krage, Stephanie Morse, Mary Beth Ostrom, Scott Snyder, Owen Schoepski, Vicky Tribon

## Church Council Minutes\*

### January 8, 2025 8:00 pm

**Members Present:** Paul Hemenway, Josh Krage, Vicky Tribon, Scott Snyder, Mindy Kingsley, Stephanie Morse, Pastor Bockoven

**Absent:** MaryBeth Ostrom, Owen Schoepski

Called to order at 8:08 PM

Devotions led by Scott

Code of Conduct Reviewed

Steve Donney would like to be designated as the Endowment treasurer for Thrivent.

There was a motion for the Council President of Greenfield Lutheran Church, [Paul Hemenway](#), to be the designated the representative of this church to sign the Business Entity Form authorizing the following people as authorized signers: Steve Donney-Endowment Funds Treasurer, Samatha Grabau Financial Secretary, Sandy Stroyk-authorized signer, and [Matthew Anderson](#)-council member. Motioned by Vicky, and Stephanie seconded. Motion carried.

#### 1. Consent Agenda

A. Reviewed Minutes from December meeting.

Add Janet Ewalt as Present. (Change Made)

Motion to approve minutes by Vicky, seconded by Janet. Motion carried.

#### B. Approval of Committee Reports

Vicky motioned to approve, seconded by Scott. Motion carried.

#### 2. Financial Report

Revenues for the month of December was \$57,051.18. Expenses for December were \$20,481.90.

Revenues exceed expenses by \$33,786.99 year-to-date for 2024. There were some big gifts given by a few families.

Revenues exceed expenses for the month of December by \$36,569.28

Ending checkbook balance was \$39,434.15.

Stephanie motioned to approve the financial report, seconded by Janet. Motion carried.

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### **3. Old Business**

### **4. New Business**

#### **A Endowment Committee Recommendations**

Vicky motioned, seconded by Scott, to approve the Endowment Committee's recommendations of allocations. Motion carried.

#### **B. Approve 2025 Budget**

C. Motioned to approve the 2025 budget as proposed. A motion by Josh, 2nd by Mindy. Motion carried.

C. Approve Samantha Grabau to renew the First SE Bank Line of credit up to \$40,000 as needed along with Vicky Tribon. Motion to approve by Stephanie , 2nd by Janet. Motion carried.

Approve Samantha Grabau to access the First SE Bank Line of Credit up to the \$40,000 as needed along with Vicky Tribon. Motion to approve by Stephanie , 2nd by Janet. Motion carried.

### **5. Pastor Report**

176 people attended the 1st Christmas Eve service, and the second service was under 40.

Bazaar would like \$500 of seed money. Scott motioned to give \$500 of seed money, seconded by Matt. Motion carried.

We are allowed up to 3 representatives from our church to the Synod Assembly in May in Mankato. \$500 allocated to cover costs motioned by Janet, seconded by Scott. Motion carried.

The Pastor is not requesting any vacation time in January.

### **5. Children, Youth and Family Report**

The big event for the youth in December was the Christmas program which included confirmation kids this year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 pm.

**\*Please note, these Church Council Minutes are unapproved so they can be in the Newsletter in a timely fashion. Minutes for each month are approved at the next month's Church Council Meeting.**