

SCANDIAN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

One day you will look back and see that all along: you were blooming!

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

County Road #52 • Saint Peter • MN • 56082 • 507.246.5195

May 2024

Striving to Live, Love, Serve, all for the Glory of God.

Bernadotte Lutheran Church

Plant SALE!

REMINDER! All orders need to be picked up on Saturday, May 11 between 10:30am and 1:30pm

in the Bernadotte Lutheran Church Park!

More information can be found by going online to <u>field-sofgracemn.com</u> or calling Shaun at 507-381-3858.

NOTE! Pre-orders and payments were required no later than Wednesday. April 10.





The last day of

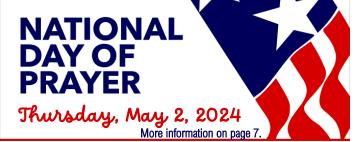
Sunday School & Adult Forum

will be Sunday, May 19, 2024

A heartfelt <u>Thank you</u> to our parents, students, teachers, and the Education Committee for your dedication.

We hope you will continue with some faith building experiences this summer through VBS or a Bible Camp and we look forward to reuniting again in 2024 September!

Enjoy your summer!





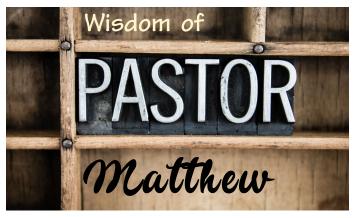
We will *recognize academic achievements* of our members on **Sunday**, **May 26**, **2024** during the worship service.

If a member of your family should be recognized, please submit the student's information to the church office by Sunday, May 19, 2024.

<u>PLEASE</u> include students full name, name of high school or college attended, degree achieved, upcoming program of choice, and future plans.

MEMBERS SAY HI & CONNECT

On <u>Sunday</u>, <u>April 14</u>, <u>2024</u>, Scandian Grove warmly and officially welcomed <u>new members</u>, **Alyssa Dodgen**, **Betsy Blume**, and **Elise Wilker**. We look forward to joining with you on our faith journey and working together in the body of Christ.



To Honor And Glorify God In All We Do

Dear Beloved Members of Scandian Grove Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we gather in fellowship and worship, let us reflect on the profound privilege and responsibility we have as servants of God. Today, I write to you with a heart filled with gratitude for your dedication to serving our community and a fervent call to continue this work for the glory of God alone.

In our journey of faith, we are called not to seek recognition or praise for ourselves but to uplift the name of God through our actions. As it says in 1 Corinthians 10:31, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Every act of service, no matter how small, becomes an offering to our Creator when done with a heart aligned with His will.

At Scandian Grove Lutheran Church, we have witnessed the beauty of God's love reflected in the selfless acts of our congregation. Whether it's through volunteering, providing meals for the hungry, or lending a listening ear to those in need, your commitment to serving others echoes the teachings of Christ Himself. As we continue to serve, let us remember that our ultimate aim is not to draw attention to ourselves but to magnify the greatness of God.

In a world often consumed by self-interest and personal gain, our church stands as a beacon of hope and light. Through our collective efforts, we have the power to transform lives and bring about positive change in our community. Let us never lose sight of the true purpose behind our service – to honor and glorify God in all that we do.

As we embark on this journey together, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to serving for the glory of God alone. May our actions be guided by love, humility, and a deep desire to reflect the character of our Heavenly Father. Let us pray for His strength and guidance as we seek to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

In closing, I urge you to continue serving with joy and enthusiasm, knowing that your labor in the Lord is never in vain. Together, let us shine brightly for His glory, sharing the love of Christ with all whom we encounter.

May God bless you abundantly as you serve Him faithfully. In His Service,

Pastor Matthew Garavalia

Mother's Day Sunday, May 12, 2024

	<u>May 2024</u>	<u>June 2024</u>
ALTAR GUILD	Karrie Anderson	Laurie Webster
READERS	Vicki Hermanson	Jay Hanson
USHERS	Kris & Patti Kelly	Wallace & Kazuko Larson
COUNCIL COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Marie Engel Dave Hermanson	Collin Johnson David Kleppe
Council Host	Kris Kelly	David Hermanson



Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Council Minutes Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Members Present

Jay Hanson, Collin Johnson, David Hermanson, Kris Kelly, Pam Rogich, Heidi Scheurer, Rhonda Hermanson, Marie Engel, David Kleppe, and Pastor Matthew

Excused Gary Miller, Jeff Allerson

<u>Call to Order</u> The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm and lead by President Heidi Scheurer.

Devotions by Pastor Matthew

When Jesus appeared to the disciples, the last thing he said to them was, "Stay here in the City until you have been clothed with power from on high." Jesus was not talking about the clothing we need for work-hard hats, suit and tie etc., he was talking about the way God enables us and clothes us with the fruit of the Spirit to do his work.

Secretary's Report

Council Secretary David K read the March 2024 Meeting Minutes. David H made a motion to accept the March 2024 meeting minutes as is; seconded by Collin J. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary's Report

Council Financial Secretary Collin J reviewed the report. Rhonda H made a motion to approve the Financial Secretary Report as is; seconded by Pam R. Motion passed.

Savings Account Balance as of 3/31/24		<u>Treasurers Report</u>		
Family Medical Fund Balance:	\$5,521.01	Beginning Balance: (3/1/24)	\$15,263.75	
Improvement Fund Balance:	119.56	Total Deposits:	40,925.03	
Memorial Fund Balance:	4,958.89	Total Expenses:	-\$55,374.30	
Scholarship Fund Balance:	5,859.29	Checking Balance: (3/31/24)	\$814.48	
		+Sunday School Fund:	340.41	
		Ending Balance: (3/31/24)	\$1,154.89	

Treasurer's Report

David H reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the group. Rhonda H motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report as is; seconded by Pam R. Motion passed.

One note to the congregation at large: The new furnaces have been installed and are fully functional to heat the sanctuary.

Committee Reports

SOCIAL MISSIONS

A special thank you goes out to the Scandian Grove Congregation for its continued support of *"The Kitchen."* Time, talents, and financial support of \$484 are all valued and celebrated contributions that you have made.

Scandian Grove serves on the fifth Monday of any month. This will total five times in the 2024 calendar year.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The Council had a brief discussion about the large print hymnals that we recently purchased and how to best put them to use. The issue at hand is that they are enormous and hard to handle. Marie E offered the help of her family to piece the hymnals together, only including the pages to be used in the upcoming month. This will hopefully be more useable to those that need it.

PROPERTY

Pam R reached out to ECHO Labs concerning pest and rodent control at Scandian Grove. They have offered to send out a member of their team to give us an estimate of cost for their services.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Matthew reviewed the many activities and tasks he has been involved in throughout the month.

Pastor Matthew asked the Council for volunteers to attend a meeting with Pastor Scott of Trinity and St Paul's as a joint visioning meeting. Heidi S, Kris K, and Marie E offered to attend the meeting.

Old Business

Lawn Mowing Bids have been received and were reviewed by the council. Thank you to everyone that submitted a bid. After discussion, Kris K made a motion to accept Cole Pankratz bid for mowing the church lawn for 2024, seconded by Pam R. Motion passed.

The Church Council is pursuing Gustavus Adolphus as a potential host for the Church Council retreat in May.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Pam R motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm, seconded by Collin J. Motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 6:30pm, hosted by Kris Kelly.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kleppe, Church Council Secretary

Womén ELCA 👺

Join the

SW MN Synodical Convention of Women of the ELCA on Saturday, May 4 at

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 301 N Lincoln St, Redwood Falls, MN Plan to attend with your sisters in Christ as we gather to

"Be the Light"

Come and enjoy the one-day convention for worship, speakers, displays, and fellowship!

Our theme verse is Psalm 82:4: "Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." NRSV

Coffee and a snack will be furnished as you arrive, and a noon lunch will be served. We suggest you bring your own water bottle to use during the day.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- There will be a truck for in-kind offerings this year. It will be open from 7:30 to 10:30am.
- Just like last year, units are asked to include all donations and service projects on their in-kind offering forms.

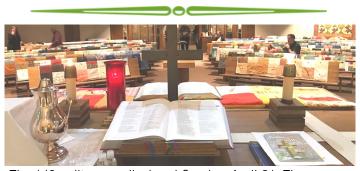


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WELCA Spring Meeting At Kazuko Larson's Home April 6, 2024



<u>Left to Right:</u> Donna Pankratz, Elna Rodning, Maria Lokensgard, Louise Fitzke-Poncin, Elaine Hermanson, Kazuko Larson, Laurie Webster, Joni Anderson, & Judy Schultz.



The 148 quilts were displayed Sunday, April 21. These were stitched together in love by our Quilting Group this winter and will be donated to Missions to *cover those in need with God's warmth*.

NOTE! The ladies are asking for continued donations of fabric, filler, and/or funds to allow them to continue this ministry. Talk to Donna or Maria if you would like to support the Quilting Group.



We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Rhonda Hermanson whose mother, **Ruth Shiell** age 92, passed away on Wednesday, April 24, 2024. The Memorial Service will be at Edina Community Lutheran Church on Friday, May 31, 2024. Visitation starting at 1:00pm, worship at 2:00pm, with lunch to follow.

To Rhonda, and all your family, we share in your grief & sadness at the loss of your mother, wife, and grandmother! Oh Lord, we give You thanks & praise for Ruth's life! Amen. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Remember in prayer...

We pray for those who are having difficulties in their relationships, the lonely, neglected, hungry, and those financially strained, those fighting anxiety and depression, recuperation from illness and surgeries, those grieving the loss of a loved one, and those serving in the military along with their families still at home. Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.



LIFE TOGETHETZ IS A BEAUTIFUL RIDE!

OPEN HOUSE BRIDAL SHOWER FOR



<u>Please Note</u> the change of date for the Shower. It was originally scheduled for May 5th, but was <u>rescheduled to Sunday, June 2nd</u> to accommodate the couple's travel plans as they live in Michigan.



We celebrate with the new parents, Arik & Lauren Lokensgard on the birth of their first child, Quincy Ann Lokensgard. She was born at 3:09pm on April 26, 2024 and weighed in at 7.1 lbs, and measured 20 inches long. Arik & Lauren are filled with joy but exhausted from a very long process. The excited Grandparents are Tim & Anna Lokensgard, along with Great Grandma, Emily Lokensgard.



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We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of **Marjorie Renneke** who passed away on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at Oak Terrace, Le Sueur MN. The family will be planning a service to honor Marjorie in early June, so keep them in your loving care through the coming weeks.

To Rhonda, and all your family, we share in your grief & sadness at the loss of your mother, wife, and grandmother! Oh Lord, we give You thanks & praise for Ruth's life! Amen.

CHRISTIAN LYMPACTRY

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

Remember in prayer...

We pray for those who are having difficulties in their relationships, the lonely, neglected, hungry, and those financially strained, those fighting anxiety and depression, recuperation from illness and surgeries, those grieving the loss of a loved one, and those serving in the military along with their families still at home. Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.

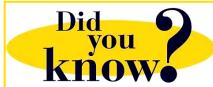


MAY BIRTHDAYS					
1	Daisy Johnson		20	Arik Lokensgard	
	Lily Johnson			Meagan Speiss	
7	Sarah Bjorklund		22	Gail Norell	
8	Tom Hanson		24	Merlin Myhra	
	Tyler Hanson			Sydney Schott	
10	Andrew Hermanson		27	Marilyn Bjorklund	
11	Marty Schott			Anne Marie Grimmius	
12	Marshall Bye		28	Kelsey Anderson	
15	Beth Kinkeade		29	Elna Rodning	
18	Jodi Bushman				

"Come to me... and I will give you rest."

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Matthew 11:28



The two Lennox furnaces have been installed in the church. The total cost for the

two furnaces was \$8,886.00. The down payment of \$4,443.00 came from the Improvement Fund, which brings the current balance to \$119.56.

If anyone would care to make a donation for the furnace, please write in your check memo line "furnace".

We appreciate any donations received for the furnace.



Remember when planning events that you *must* first reserve the space through Anna. If you would like to check the Calendar for available dates, you can preview it on the website at scandiangrovelutheranchurch.org



Calling all kids Pre-K to 6th grade! It's almost time for Vacation Bible School!

Like last year we will be partnering with Trinity and St. Paul's and we have again invited **Green** Lake Bible Camp to come and lead Vacation Bible School.

VBS will be held Monday, July 8th through Thursday, July 11th at Trinity Lutheran Church in rural Gaylord from 3:00 to 6:00pm.

On Thursday, July 11 at 6:00pm there will be a family meal followed by the VBS program at 7:00pm.

If interested please fill out a Registration Form found in the narthex and make checks payable to Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp, then please return these items to **Emily Kleppe** by Friday, May 31, 2024.

The cost of camp is \$25 per child but if cost is a barrier, scholarships are available so that every kid can go to camp. You can talk to Pastor Matthew confidentially about scholarships.

All are welcome!

Can you help??

We are still collecting old magazines of any descent/clean subject matter and blank/unused greeting cards with envelopes (birthday, get well, new baby, thinking of you, sympathy, anniversary, etc.).

The magazines are used for projects the women do as part of their treatment and recovery program. Cards are for their personnel use.

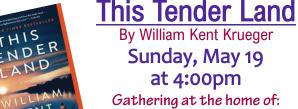
The Wellcome Manor Family Services in Garden City, MN is an inpatient treatment center that empowers women who struggle with substance use, chemical dependency or cooccurring disorders to achieve freedom from addiction, while rebuilding family relationships.

Donations can be dropped off and put by the grocery cart in the narthex.

Contact Pam Rogich with any questions or visit the centers website at:

https://www.wellcomemanor.org/.

The SGLC Book Club invites you to discuss...



By William Kent Krueger Sunday, May 19 at 4:00pm

Gathering at the home of: Wallace & Kazuko Larson Discussion Leader: Don Hermanson

In the summer of 1932, four vagabond orphans take an unforgettable journey in a canoe from Minnesota's Gilead River towards the great Mississippi and into the unknown. Along the way, they cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls.

You're invited to read and discuss, This Tender Land, an enthralling, bighearted story that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

> In June, we will be reading & discussing the historical fiction...

Not The Camilla We Knew

By Rachel Hanel (Local Author)

Celebrating Norseland 4-H Club's



The Norseland 4-H Club would like to invite the Norseland Community to celebrate the Club's 100th Year Anniversary with an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 14, 2024 at 3:00 pm at Scandian Grove Lutheran Church. Ice cream sundaes & root beer floats will be served for all to enjoy. The Event will feature a Historical Play performed by current club members, and a kick ball tournament will be held. Everyone is invited to come and help celebrate 100 years of the Norseland 4-H Club and enjoy ice cream, good company, and reminiscing.

As part of the celebration there will also be a display honoring the club's rich history. Norseland 4-H Club Alumni are encouraged to reminisce on their 4-H days and bring projects or other memorabilia to display. These items could include softball jerseys, photos, scrapbooks, banners, and old 4-H projects. 4-H projects could be display boards, sewing, needle arts, wood working, quilts, arts & crafts, and more. Projects can be dropped off at Scandian Grove Lutheran Church on Sunday, July 9 from 3:30 to 5:30pm or by appointment. With questions or to arrange a drop off appointment, contact Joni Anderson at 507-380-6691 or jonigailanderson@gmail.com

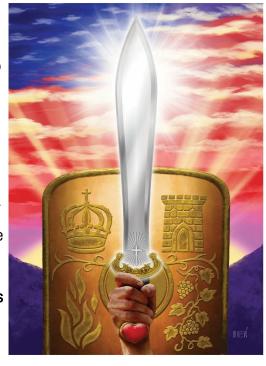
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2024 National Day of Prayer - REFLECTION

Greetings prayer partner,

As we continue to study the Scripture verses that inspired the 2024 National Day of Prayer theme, "Lift Up the Word, Light Up the World," we also want to direct your attention to our 2024 theme artwork that seeks to remind us to take up the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, from EPHESIANS 6:16-17.

These verses connect with great power and promise. 2 Samuel 22:31 begins with the promise that God's way is perfect, and since His Word is a lamp to our feet, Scripture lights the way, His perfect way for us to follow. Life came with an instruction manual; daily information, inspiration, and application that will bring transformation to our lives. The Word of the Lord proves true, it is The TRUTH. We continue to hear people say their perspective is their truth, but their version is only a perversion of The Truth. We are commanded by God not to add or take away from His Word. Our prospective and preferences will not come through for you, veering from the ways of God will only leave you lost. God's perfect and proven Word prompts us to pick up our shield of faith and follow the God who shields us as we take refuge in Him. He is the warrior, He is our protection and provision as we battle the enemy, our shield through every situation and season of life in this broken world, and He alone is our rest and refuge; no position, possession, platform, or person defines or defends us - only our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer is a shield for ALL those who choose to take refuge in Him. Pause and ponder His



THE 73rd ANNUAL NATIONAL

faithfulness throughout your life as you chose to trust Him and take refuge in Him.

This history of His faithfulness continually strengthens us as we take up our shield and lift up our prayers in faith. Our shield extinguished all the flaming arrows of the evil one. No matter what the enemy throws at you. the trials and troubles of this world that Jesus warned us about, we take heart and courageously claim the victory that is already ours in Christ and the reward that awaits us when we finish the race.

The Word of the Lord, the sword of the Spirit, was wielded by Jesus at Satan as he attempted to tempt Jesus after 40 days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness. Jesus answered, "It is written..." This is our same weapon against Satan but not against flesh and blood, we don't stab people with this sword but rather beat it into a plowshare for harvesting hearts to Jesus. Sadly, we can push away those we were sent to draw near and make disciples by wounding them with the Word. Note the heart between the hand and the sword on our theme art, it reminds us that we handle and lift up the Word of God with love. God is our Lamp, His Word is a lamp to our feet and we need to lift it so others can find His perfect way and leads them to the Lord.

LIFT UP THE WORD - LIGHT UP THE WORLD

For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him. 2 SAMUEL 22:29-31

Will you join me in prayer?

God, Your way is perfect and we give You praise and thanks as You are perfecting us and conforming us to the character of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are commanded to abide in You and Your Word in our hearts that all that we would think, feel, say and do would overflow from what we have seen

and received from You. We are commanded to love, give mercy, and forgive just as You have given these to us. Thank You holy Spirit for working in us and equipping us to live fruitful lives

that can express these with great grace as we are called to be salt and light in this world. Each day brings its battles but You are our shield and we put on the full armor of God, pray and stand with shield and sword in hand as You command us to, "Lift UP the Word, Light Up the World!" In our Savior's name we pray, Amen!

Serving Him with gladness, Kathy Branzell, President

This God--his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

YOU'RE INVITED

Please join us at the

Resurrection Lutheran Church

(1735 East Main Street – Mankato) for their

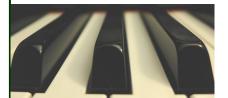
Annual National Day of Prayer worship service on

Thursday, May 2, 2024, at noon

Please join them in singing hymns and offering petitions for our American families, churches, businesses, educators, military members, government officials and media.

Invite your friends and neighbors!

Micah Holten



Piano Recital

Sunday May 12 at 6:30 pm

A Night with the Classics & Romantics in concert at

<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>

Gaylord, MN

Mothers' Day evening with dessert to follow!

Dear friends in Christ,

Micah Holten will be doing a special piano recital to thank God for his recovery after the accident and to support the Deaconess Intern at Immanuel, Gaylord, MN.

Micah is known by many dear friends at Scandian Grove, and he would like to invite everyone to his recital.



A <u>special</u> Thank You to everyone who took part in the spring clean-up of the church grounds on Saturday, April 20, 2024! With all the past rains, the grounds are greening up and looking lush and healthy!

Nice job & thanks to all!

thank you

Even though we had a very mild winter, we'd still like to say a *heartfelt* Thank You to all those who cleared the sidewalks and parking lot of snow and ice! It is sooo appreciated by everyone in the congregation! You are truly angels doing God's work! Until next winter, Thanks again!



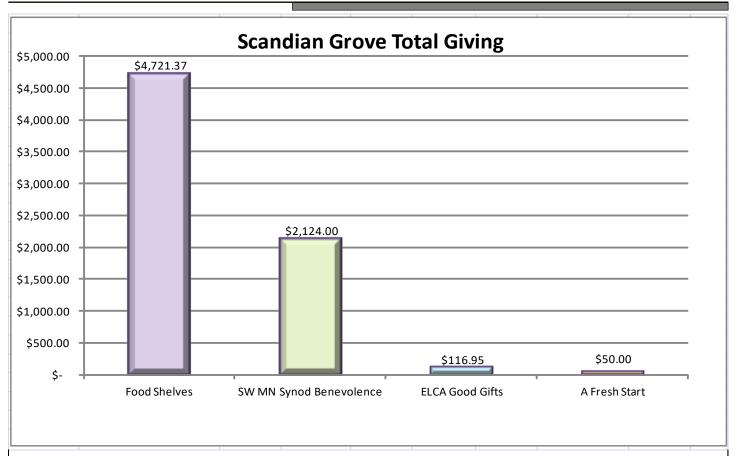
A huge <u>Thank You</u> to all who helped in anyway with food and monetary donations, cooking, serving, and clean-up for the meal at "The Kitchen" on Monday, April 29, 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Saint Peter!

Feeding a FREE meal to those in the area who are in need is "God" work, Our Hands in action.

Lord, bless all the hands & hearts who met the needs for one night, of those who have become less fortunate through no fault of their own! Praising God for providing us opportunities to be a blessing to our fellow brothers and sisters!



Scandian Great Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	helle) **	you	7:00pm Choir practice	2 National Day of Prayer 12:00pm National Day of Prayer Worship Service at Resurrection Lutheran, Mankato, MN	3 Pastor's Day Off	7:30am SW MN Synodical Convention of Women of the EL at Gloria Dei, Redwo Falls MN
8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30am Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:00am KNUJ "A New Day"	6:00pm Bridal Shower Planning Mtg for Lois Smith, fiancé of Charles Wolf in Church Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Lay Ministry Care Team Mtg	7	8 7:00pm Choir practice	9 Ascension Day	10 Pastor's Day Off	11 10:30 to 1:30 Plant pick-up at Bernadot Lutheran Park
9:30am Worship Service 10:00am KNUJ "A New Day" 3:00pm Norseland 4-H Mtg 6:30pm Micah Holten Piano Recital at Immanuel Lutheran, Gaylord, MN	13	14 6:30pm Church Council Mtg	7:00pm Choir practice Newsletter Deadline Don't Miss the	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
8:30am Last Day of Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30am Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:00am KNUJ "A New Day" 4:00pm Book Club at Wallace & Kazuko's Home Senior Information Due today!	20 6:30pm Lay Ministry Care Team Mtg	21	7:00pm Choir practice	23	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
26 Sr. Recognition Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 10:00am KNUJ "A New Day"	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	Pastor's Day Off 1:00pm Memorial Service for Ruth Shiell at Edina Community Lutheran VBS Registration Forms due to Emily Kleppe today	



Total benevolence giving thru March 31, 2024--\$7,012.32

Financial Report-March 2024							
Fund	General Checking Fund Beginning Balance Less Historical/Choir Music/ Keyboard	Deposits/Transfers/ Increases	Expenditures/Transfers/ Decreases	General Checking Fund Ending Balance Less Historical/ Choir Music/Keyboard			
General/Checking Fund-15,263.75	14,494.63	40,925.03	55,374.30	45.36			
Checking/Pastor's Stole	100.00	-	-	100.00			
Checking/Sunday School Funds	340.41	-	-	340.41			
Checking/Historical Bldg. Upkeep	769.12	-	-	769.12			
TOTAL CHECKING/SUNDAY							
SCHOOL	15,604.16	40,925.03	55,374.30	1,154.89			
Credit Line	-	-	750.00	750.00			
Family Medical Savings Account	5,519.63	1.38	-	5,521.01			
Improvement Savings Account	4,347.00	381.81	4,609.25	119.56			
Memorial Savings Account	4,957.66	1.23	-	4,958.89			
Scholarship Savings Account	5,857.83	1.46	-	5,859.29			
Mission Investment Fund	80,611.00	-	-	80,611.00			
LPL Fund-Quarterly	42,308.78	3,881.08	-	46,189.86			

<u>THANK-YOU!!</u> Your gifts are "making a difference" in the congregation, community, and throughout God's World.



ATTENDANCE

Easter Sunday, March 31 127
Sunday, April 7 78
Sunday, April 14 65
Sunday, April 21 88
Sunday, April 28 68





Scandian Grove Lutheran Church

Website: http://scandiangrovelutheranchurch.org/





MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 27, 2024

Watch for more information from the Cemetery Board when it gets closer to the day.