

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
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**Grace Lutheran Church**  
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Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor  
Kirsten Jines, Preschool Director  
Joyce Dubach, Organist  
**April 26, 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**



### **Introduction to the day**

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

**Food pantry need: cereal and soup**

**Attendance for April 19.2026 -**

**PRELUDE**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,

now and forever. **Amen.**

## ENTRANCE HYMN

## O Christ, Our Hope

(ELW 604)

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-  
1876, adapt. Music: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE



☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



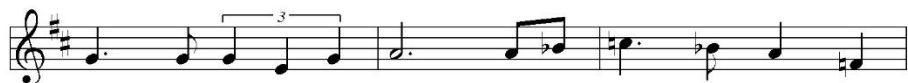
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

I  
II For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## **FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47**

A reading from Acts.

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **He makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> He revives my soul

and guides me along right pathways | for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I  
shall | fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they | comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You spread a table before me in the presence of those who | trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days |  
of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

A reading from 1 Peter.

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

<sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but

the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection may follow.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**(ELW 778)**

### **The Lord's My Shepherd**

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh, 1650

Music: James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1895-1984

## **CREED**

*A Creed may be said: the Nicene Creed, on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter; The Apostles' Creed, at other times. When Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is celebrated, this creed may be omitted.*

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.*

## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Merciful God,**

**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.**

**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.**

**Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

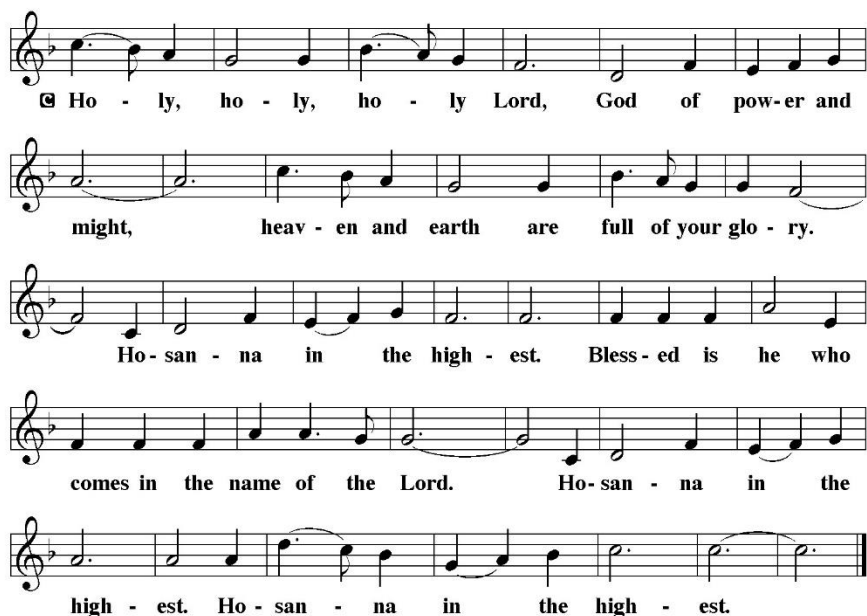
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Glory to you, God from before the beginning,  
God bearing from above your Word of grace,  
God sending on us the Dove of peace.  
Glory to you, O God!  
Glory to you, O God!

You are the great I AM,  
feeding your people with manna in the wilderness.  
You are the Father of our beloved Jesus,  
whom you gave to the world  
to be the Lamb, the King of Israel, the Son of Man.  
Glory to you, O God!  
**Glory to you, O God!**

You anointed Jesus to be our messiah and teacher.  
He is the bread from heaven, the fruitful vine,  
the good shepherd, the gate of protection, our very Lord and God,  
our way, our truth, and our resurrection to life eternal.  
Glory to you, O God!  
**Glory to you, O God!**

On the night that he washed his disciples' feet,  
he took bread, and gave thanks,  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With Lazarus we wait in our tomb,  
we hear you call our name,  
and we come out from our death into your life.  
With Mary Magdalene we cry out,  
We have seen the Lord.  
**We have seen the Lord.**

Breathe your Spirit of power on us.  
Nourish us with your living water,  
and sustain us with the body and blood of your Son.  
Claim us as your friends.  
Birth us anew and enlighten our eyes.  
Unbind us, that as your servants we may unbind one another.

Glory to you, O God!

**Glory to you, O God!**

Glory to you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
the Source of all, the Light of the world, the Advocate for your  
children.

Blessing: **Blessing**

and thanksgiving: **Thanksgiving**

and honor: **Honor**

and might: **Might**

be to you forever and ever.

Amen.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **COMMUNION**

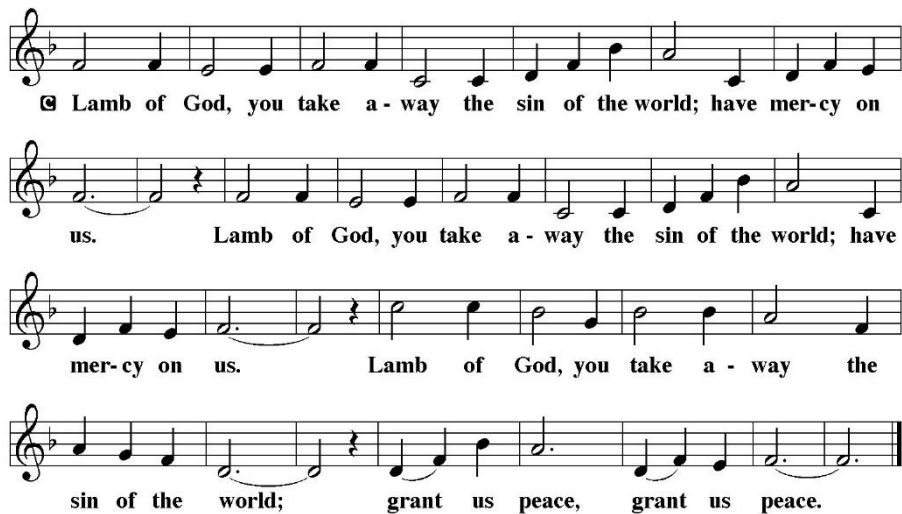
*The communion follows. The bread may be broken for distribution.*

*As the ministers give the bread and cup to each communicant, they say  
these words:*

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen***

## COMMUNION SONG

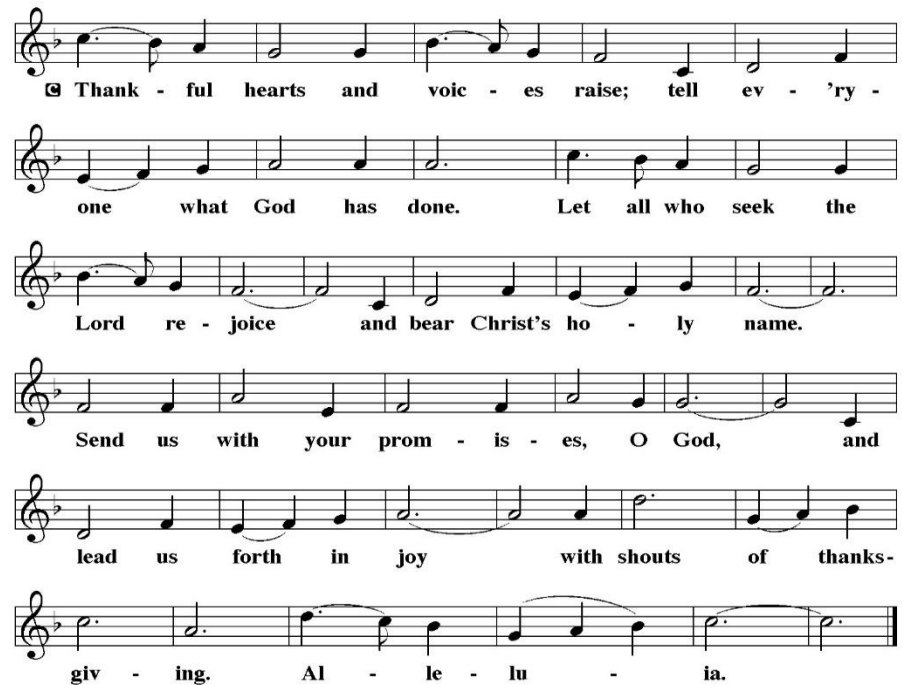


☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN Shepherd Me, O God (ELW 780)

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23 Music:  
Marty Haugen

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

Holy One,

through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,

and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,

Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,

and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

### Guide My Feet



1 Guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand  
3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
4 I'm your child  
5 Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



for I don't want to run this race in vain.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **BREAD LOAF OFFERING - MARCH- Gafkjen Endowment Fund**

- **INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD YOUTH MISSION TRIP**
- **June 14–20, 2026 | Indianapolis, Indiana**
- Get ready for a week of service, growth, and unforgettable experiences in Indianapolis! Youth and adult mentors will spend the week serving alongside inspiring local ministries and nonprofit organizations, putting faith into action through meaningful, hands-on opportunities to love and serve our neighbors.
- This mission trip will be a chance to make a real difference, build new friendships, deepen faith, and discover more about what it means to follow Jesus in everyday life. Along the way, participants will also enjoy evening activities that highlight the culture, energy, and diversity of Indiana's largest city.
- Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Carmel will serve as host site for the week. This trip is open to students in grades 7–12 and adult mentors. Cost: \$250 per person. The cost is all-inclusive except for travel to Indianapolis. Scholarships are available.
- Come be part of a week that will challenge you, inspire you, and remind you that God can use every one of us to make a difference.

- Gloria Pelfrey has moved to 4725 N State Rd 9 Columbia City IN, 46725
- The Care Team will meet Tuesday, April 21 at 10:30z
- **Bread Loaf Offering for April- Synod Disaster Relief Fund**
- The Bread Loaf Offering for April will be the Synod disaster relief fund: The funds collected will go towards helping restore the town of Lake Village Indiana. They were hit with a tornado on March 10th that did significant damage to many structures. There is a write up by the bread loaf offering basket that explains in detail what the funds will be used for. Please pray and donate to help the families of Lake Village.

## **Weekly Agenda at Grace Lutheran Church**

### **Monday April 27, 2025**

Helping hands 12:30 pm

Scouting America Troop 84 6:30 pm

AA 7:30 pm

### **Tuesday April 28, 2025**

T.O.P.S 9:30 am

Staff Meeting 3:40 pm

3082 6:30 pm

WC Quilters 6:30 pm

### **Wednesday April 29, 2025**

Men's Breakfast 8 am

Food Pantry 12 pm

Voucher 4 pm

### **Thursday April 30, 2026**

AA 7:30 pm

Al-non 7:30 pm

### **Friday May 1, 2026**

#### **Pastor's Day Off**

Food pantry 12 pm

Girl scout lock-in 5 pm

### **Saturday May 2, 2026**

Girl scout lock-in 10 am

### **Sunday May 3, 2026**

Worship @ Hope 8:15 am

Worship @ Grace 10:00 am

Fellowship 11:15 am

Bp check 11:15 am

Girl scouts 2 pm

**We have new sign-up sheets in the parish hall, for coffee hour.  
Coffee hour will be after church service, for anyone that would  
like to stay.**