
June In Touch with Grace



Dear friends in Christ,

We have turned a corner in the restrictions of this pandemic. We have reason to celebrate while still remaining smart by following the science. One of the things we have to look forward to is gathering together once again. Our reopening task force has worked for about one year establishing our guidelines and protocols for safety. We have a bipolar ionization system that cleans the air inside our entire building. We have taken steps to sanitize and keep everyone safe as we begin to open the doors to one and all. Here are some of the questions I have heard:

Why have small groups been allowed to meet before worship? The reopening task force determined that small groups would be allowed to meet if there was unanimous consent among the members of the group which means that all are vaccinated. Masks, hand sanitizing and distancing are recommended. Zoom has been a great option as has meeting outside on the church grounds.

When will indoor worship begin? Indoor Worship has been delayed until the end of the school year to allow more opportunities for those who need vaccinations to obtain them. We also have to think of our children in school settings. By waiting until June, we mitigate the risk. To begin with, we will be indoors on the first and third Sundays of June and July at 10:30 a.m. Each week will still have parking lot worship at 9:30 a.m. and there will always be the online option, too. As you can imagine, it has not been easy to navigate the needs and safety expectations for all of our members.

Will we be wearing masks? We are in St. Paul which has a mandate for wearing masks inside. We will continue this practice indoors at Grace. Outside gatherings allow the option of not wearing a mask.

This is a time to be filled with gratitude for coming through the pandemic. It is also a time to remember those who have been affected by COVID-19. It has been a challenging year to say the least.

1 Corinthians 16:14 - Let All That You Do Be Done in Love. This is what we must keep in mind as we move forward into a more normal time. We must think of our children and younger adults who may not be vaccinated yet. By Rally Day, we expect everything will be as we hope it will be. Thank you for your patience, your on going support for our church, your prayers, and most of all, for the love we have shown to one another. Let us continue to move forward in love.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Karen



Announcements

WORSHIP NEWS!

As we move toward a complete reopening, we will be offering options for worship:

Each Sunday - Online worship

Each Sunday - a printed order of worship for home or travel inside the monthly In Touch

Each Sunday June and July – parking lot worship at 9:30 a.m.

First and Third Sundays June and July – Indoor worship at 10:30 a.m. (after parking lot worship)

Each worship service will be 30 minutes long including Holy Communion. Join us!

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Connect the Drops! Out and About on Wednesdays! This summer we have a focus on God's Beautiful world as we engage in Creation Care! If you are interested in the Gardens at Grace, please consider joining us on this garden tour. We will meet in the church parking lot and drive to view rain gardens and pollinator gardens in the St. Paul area. We will get ideas and do some dreaming about what could be done at Grace. Planning will take place in July.

Garden tour on Wednesday, June 16, at 10 a.m. Meet in the church parking lot to get the map and directions. Sign up with Pastor Karen.

Word poet, Joe Davis, will be at Shobi's Table on Thursday, June 24. Come have lunch at 11:30 a.m. with Pastor Karen at Faith Lutheran Church parking lot and hear his presentation. This is not a Wednesday but well worth the outing!

Boat Tour! Wednesday, June 30, 12:30 p.m. on the Jonathan Paddleford Mississippi River boat tour. Sign up by Sunday, June 20, Father's Day, when you are at church. \$18 adults, \$16 seniors, under 18 \$10.

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Hi 5 devotions have been a joy for many for the duration of the pandemic. It's time for something new! Our summer online devotions will transition to Word of the Week which will be available on Facebook each Wednesday. A member of our church will share a favorite Bible verse with you and offer a prayer. Look for them beginning in June.

Memorial Day, May 31, at 10 a.m.- Pastor Karen will be serving as the minister for an online live broadcast Memorial Day service at Union Cemetery. Russ Carlson and Carly Kinney will also be participating and the American Legion will provide taps. Due to COVID precautions, this virtual remembrance service will be broadcast from the Veterans Memorial at Union Cemetery. The broadcast can be found on Facebook. Check the website for Union Cemetery for updates and information.

New Member Sunday is June 6, 2021, at our parking lot worship.

Graduation Recognition Sunday will be held on June 6 at parking lot worship. We look forward to celebrating with you. Congratulations to all!



Bach Society mini-concerts -

5-13 -- Marco on Violin

5-16 -- Phil on Lute - pictured at left

5-20 -- _Ginna on violin - pictured below (with concert dog, Daphne)



Summer Stretch will be offered again this summer. It is for those students who have completed 6th Grade and up. We have a variety of events based on Connect the Drops as we care for God's creation. Sign up with Pastor Karen. Friends are welcome, too!

Now that travel is opening up, you may be thinking of a trip next year. Our trip to the Passion Play in Germany has some space for more travelers and we would love to have you join our church group! The dates are July 29 - August 10, 2022, so plan to travel to Germany with Pastors Karen and Jan. We will have an informational meeting later this summer. Questions? Just ask!

One of the exciting outcomes of this pandemic is the partnership between our Eastside churches. Arlington Hills, Hope, Our Redeemer and Grace have been meeting on a regular basis to find ways to partner. We are stronger together when we join in ministry. A new opportunity has come to us in the form of a shared pastoral internship. Together, the four churches are hosting a student from Luther Seminary in the final stages of preparing for ordained ministry in Word and Sacrament. Pastor Karsten Nelson has generously offered to be the lead Supervisor with input from the rest of us. We will be welcoming a familiar face for some of you. Per Halaas will begin his pastoral internship in August with our four churches. Many of you may remember him from the days when his father served as a pastor here at Grace. We look forward to this partnership. Per will include an introduction in the July In Touch as we prepare to welcome him among us.



JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH

The mission of the month for June at Grace Lutheran Church is ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response. LDR brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.

When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Examples of ministry provided includes US severe storms, hurricane response, Middle East crisis, US wildfires, COVID-19, US tornadoes, US flooding, South Sudan Relief, Middle East and Europe refugee crisis and AMMPARO - Protecting migrant minors.

The need is great and there are so many of God's people in need, please prayerfully consider making a donation to this worthwhile organization. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering at drive-in worship on Sunday mornings or mail to the office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.

Music Notes:

The Bible has been a constant source of inspiration in the various forms of art—paintings, literature and music. What may not be as obvious is its' influence on popular music. Some popular music can definitely be defined as religious in nature i.e. "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" by the Carter family or "I Saw the Light" by Hank Williams. But what about some classic popular songs that actually began by being inspired by the Bible? Author Steven Turner has written the book "Turn! Turn! Turn!" Popular Songs Inspired by the Bible. He has written about 100 songs that date from 1935 through 2017, but admits there could have been many more to quote. Here are just a few of his examples.

"Stand by Me" , written and performed by Ben E. King and his producers, came to be after listening to a rendition of a 1905 hymn of the same name. The phrase *stand by me* continually appears in the lyrics. Mr. King also rephrased Psalm 46 vv.1-3, a portion of which is "Therefore we will not fear, though the earth do change, and though the mountains be shaken into the heart of the seas. (v.2)

"Bridge Over Troubled Waters" began as an inspiration coming from an adlib line sung by Claude Jeter of the group the Swan Silvertones. They were singing the Pre Civil War spiritual "Oh Mary Don't You Weep", which creates what Jesus might have said to Mary after Lazarus' death. Simon was inspired by Jeter's insertion "I'll be your bridge over deep water if you trust in my name". Jeter later admitted his line was based on Isaiah 43:2. Even the beginning of this classic song has Biblical ties—"When you're weary" refers to Matthew 11:28—"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest".

As a final example, the classic "Great Balls of Fire" which every pianist at one time or another has played, might not have been performed by Jerry Lee Lewis if not for a persistent producer who convinced him he was not going to be damned by doing rock n' roll. The term "great balls of fire" had existed in the South since the 1800's with fire referring to various Biblical references

such as God's revelation to Moses on the mountain, or the tongues of fire revealed on Pentecost. There are many more popular songs that Steve Turner wrote about in his book "Turn! Turn! Turn!". He also has written the book *Imagine*, which concerns Christianity and the arts, *Hungry for Heaven*, a book about the relationship between redemption and rock music and *The Gospel According to the Beatles*.

FROM THE LIBRARY:

Donations this month reflect the interesting variety of books we receive in our library. Thank you to everyone. Keep the books coming.

FICTION

Listening is an Act of Love
Unsheltered
The German Girl
Things in Jars
The Family Upstairs
Little Fires Everywhere
The Only Good Indians
The Great Alone
Land More Kind Than Home
Things You Save in a Fire
Deadline
Rena's Children
The Witch Elm
One By One
Mrs. Everything

Dave Isa
 Barbara Kingsolver
 Armando Lucas Correa
 Jess Kidd
 Lisa Jewell
 Celesta Ng
 Stephen Graham Jones
 Kristin Hannah
 Wiley Cas
 Katherine Center
 John Sanford
 Tilar J. Mazzeo
 Tana French
 Ruby Ware
 Jennifer Weider

NONFICTION

White Frailty Roben Diangelo
 Why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism.
 BIBLE REFERENCE
Study Bible The New Student bible, RSV
 FOOD
The Lutheran Book of Cooking UCC, Red Wing

READ THIS BOOK!

Anthony Ray Hinton is both the author and subject of this book.

Anthony Ray Hinton is a Black Man. He is a Poor Black Man. He is a Southern Poor Black Man.

READ THIS BOOK!

Anthony Ray Hinton spent nearly 30 full years on Death Row in an Alabama prison for a murder he didn't commit. He was wrongly identified, wrongly arrested, wrongly tried, wrongly convicted and wrongly sentenced to DEATH.

READ THIS BOOK!

The Sun Does Shine is a story of strength, faith, and humor, and what it takes to survive nearly 30 years alone in a 5 by 7 foot cell. And also the story of God's Best Lawyer!

READ THIS BOOK!

The Sun Does Shine was recommended to the Grace Book Club by Karin Nikula and Karin, I thank you.

READ THIS BOOK!

June President's Message

Waiting in Hope

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

The St. Paul Area Synod Assembly met in mid-May over zoom with the theme Waiting in Hope. Monique McClure Hegge, Jeff Oberlander, Pastor Karen and I attended. Elizabeth A. Eaton, the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, addressed the assembly with a letter that included these thoughts:

"We've learned over the past year how resilient we are as church and as people of God. It's been a time of pain, loss, injustice and uncertainty. It has also been a time of learning, listening and trying new things — stepping out of our comfort zones and into a more digital world. This church persevered in so many ways." She asked that we dream with her and "imagine more people knowing Jesus. Imagine creating communities of love and justice online and in real life. Imagine our online communities and pews filled with new, young and diverse members. Imagine spending more of your time collaborating with others to have a bigger impact in our neighborhoods and in the world."

These are all part of the mission of Grace Lutheran Church. In order to accomplish these dreams, we continue to work diligently to "step out of our comfort zones and into a more digital world."

The Reopening Task Force has been meeting monthly to monitor the health and safety metrics, to review and update the protocols for reopening, and deliberated on the plans to open the building to worship and meetings. The Council has accepted their recommendation to:

Open worship in the sanctuary first and third Sundays in June and July; June 6, June 20, July 4, and July 18 at 10:30 AM. Our wonderful janitorial staff, Linda and Larry Denson, have been working on the cleaning protocols and actions to insure a safe, healthy building space. The worship team is excited and ready to be a part of the reopening. We will still honor "wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch social distancing." Parking lot services will continue throughout the summer at 9:30 A.M.

Council approved a resolution from the Reopening Task Force in support of the Sierra Leone Community's request to use Grace Lutheran as a place for vaccinations for their community. This helps the state move towards the goal of 70% vaccinated.

The Grace-Enspire Academy Charter School Team has worked over the past several months. The Council voted to accept the signed lease agreement with the school.

Thanks to John Klein for the great work on the lease. We have had a wonderful team working on this.

Thanks to Donn Johnson, Jeff Gorton, John Klein, and Pastor Karen. I am happy to continue to serve on this hard working team. We've added two members from Property Management to continue the work ahead. Monique McClure Hegge and Jim Dike will be joining the team. Please let us know if you have questions or comments about the school.

With regret, we accepted the resignation of Donn Johnson from Council. We thank Donn for all of his dedication and work in service of Grace Lutheran. Per the Grace Constitution, the Council elected a replacement from the membership of the Council. We elected Karin Nikula as the new Vice-President.

As we have been waiting in hope, we now have reason to feel optimistic about the levels of vaccinations and the declining number of cases of Covid. As President Biden said: America has reason to smile again.

Linda L. Baer

Creation Care Events to watch for as we grow in God's world this summer!

Growing Green Hearts for Kids summer play dates
Connect the Drops for Youth summer dates
Wakán Tipi – lower Phalen Creek restoration project at Bruce Vento Sanctuary
Garden Tours
Rain garden development
Garden Club at Grace
Paddling on our waterways
Boat tour on the Mississippi River
Sacred Site tours
So much more! Watch for announcements

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Enspire Academy Charter School- Let's help our school get off to a great start! Enspire Academy is a public charter school for younger elementary kids with a focus on values and reading readiness. The enclosed postcard is one way to share with others about this great opportunity! Tell all you know about Enspire Academy. We look forward to welcoming them into our building!

Dear Grace Lutheran Community,

We are grateful for your willingness to share your home with our new charter school. We are excited about the possibilities of our partnership for the community. Below is a letter from the founders of Enspire Academy Charter School that shares our purpose, one we feel is aligned with the values and mission of your organization. We hope you share our excitement and are willing to help us spread the news of our Fall of 2021 opening. Do not hesitate to contact the school's start up coordinator, Mary Stafford at 218-565-1456 or mstafford@synergylearn.org with any questions or ideas that would bring value to our shared partnership and to the community we both serve. Our website is enspireacademycharter.com- take a look!



Home Church for Sunday, June 27, 2021

Gathering

We gather in the name of the Creator, the Savior, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

God of life,

You have the power to bring us up even from the depths of death. Dry our tears and lift our heads to the light of your healing love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song – Hymn #853 – When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall, this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Scripture – Psalm 30 (please find this in your Bible, at the beginning of ELW, or online)

Scripture Reflections and Questions

Suffering does not have the final say. The Psalmist speaks to the journey of grief and suffering that bring us to a stronger place on more solid ground. And on the other side of suffering, we can rejoice again.

Have you ever “danced it out” when you were angry or sad? It can help!

How aware are you of how your emotions are tied to your body?

Prayers

We pray for the church, the world and all those in need. Make us bold, O Lord, to cry out to you, whatever the circumstance. This life, these sorrows, this day of mourning shall not be the end of us, with you constantly at our side. The dust may neither praise you nor tell of your faithfulness; yet we, children of dust, are as much yours as each blade of grass and each drop of ocean that you have created. Give us strength as mountains, that we might see the power of your restoration. Weeping may linger only for a night, but sometimes that night can seem endless. Sit patiently with those who wait on you, and enfold them in your tender arms. To you, O Lord, we have made our supplication. Clothe us now with the joy of your faithfulness, and receive these prayers we offer, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

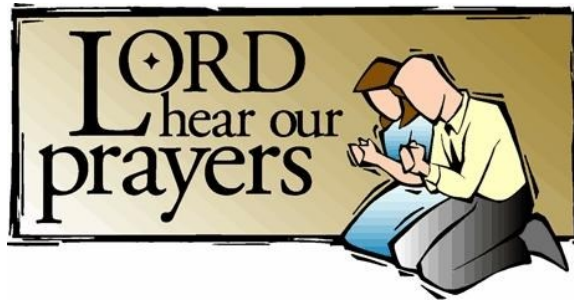
The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord’s face shine down upon you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!



We lift our prayers to God in times of thanksgiving and times of need, in times of joy and times of sorrow. Today, we especially pray for Carol Sprau, Steve Braun, those suffering in the Middle East and in India, and all those we name in our hearts.

How to donate without an offering plate:

There is always snail mail. The office is open to receive the mail and our bookkeeper will count what comes in each week and deposit it in the bank. Our address: 1730 Old Hudson Road, St. Paul, 55106.

To donate electronically: You can schedule a transfer of funds with your own bank if they have bill pay available and it will come automatically on the date you choose. Otherwise, you can go to our website (www.gracelutheranstpaul.org) and click on the GIVE page. This site is secure for financial transactions through Vanco which is the Simply Giving program. At the GIVE page you can go through the steps as directed and give whatever amount you wish to several different categories (general, mortgage, etc.) This should now work on any browser. This does get to us electronically in a very timely manner. If you are comfortable using the QR, it will take you directly to the GIVE page on the website. **Please call the office if you have any questions.** Thank you.

Give QR



Financial Snapshot for GLC-2021

	<u>April Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$29,472.06	\$101,939.38 *	\$105,958.32
Expenses	\$23,740.65	\$98,004.18	\$114,327.68
Deficit/Overage	\$ 5,731.41	\$3,935.20	-\$8,369.36

*YTD excludes Legacy Gift rec'd in January 2021

Happy Birthday

5 Monique McClure-Hegge

6 Kyle Hegge

9 Peter Gudmunson

Florence Tjornhom

12 Brianna Parsons

13 Phyllis Armstrong

14 Margaret Sonksen

16 Shirley Walby

Josh Williams

23 Anna Roux

Emma Roux

24 Addison Roux

26 Elna Livingston

Robert Soleim

27 Anna Hollar

29 Drake Jackson

Keith Smeby

30 Carolyn Hesterberg



Worship Leaders for June - Worship will be online and in the parking lot each week at 9:30 am and in-person in the Sanctuary on the 1st & 3rd Sundays at 10:30 am for June & July. Stay tuned for any changes going forward. The online recorded services will continue to be posted to the Facebook page and our website.

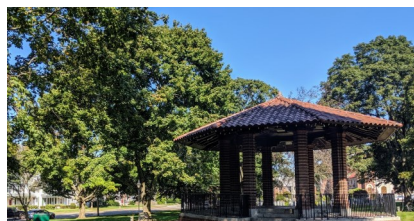
<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
6	Russ Carlson
13	Jan Steingas
20	Barb Holtan
27	Linda Sackreiter



<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
6	Brian Jackson - Patty Young, Jim Mohn, Gary Petersen, Kristen & Chris Wintheiser
13	Karin Nikula - Youth, Bob Golder
20	Norm Walby - Ron House, Larry Carlson, Ron Swenson, Roger McClure, Chris Williams
27	Rick Major - Jule Major, Karen Boehne-Warner

We have scheduled another clean-up day to take care of some of the shrubs and trees on June 5th beginning at 9 am. If it rains we will instead try June 12th beginning at 9 am. Thanks!!

Save the Date for our outdoor worship service at Walton Park in Oakdale. We will gather on **Sunday, July 25, at 10 a.m.** for a combined worship service with our Eastside partners at Arlington Hills, Hope, and Our Redeemer. Watch for more information in the July In Touch as well as the bulletins and *Grace at a Glance*. There will also be another park worship the **last Sunday in August** at Lake Phalen with our partners. How joyous to worship together in God's beautiful surroundings!



Grace Lutheran Church
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Pastor:

Rev. Karen Williams

Custodial Staff:

Larry and Linda Denson

Office Staff:

Linda Sackreiter

Music Staff:

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Russ Carlson—Sanctuary Choir

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Peter Zitzewitz—Bells of Grace

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

June

