
October In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,
How do we stay centered and grounded in a world that is in perpetual chaos? We have been through nearly two years of change and separation. We are trying new ways to be church together even while in so many ways, we are apart. God is the foundation and source of hope, joy, and peace. If we look for them, we will find them because God's blessings are always with us. Sometimes, they are just harder to see.

John Lewis has said the following: "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

We are not lost in a sea of despair because God is at sea with us guiding us to the places we need to go. We are never alone. We have our faith. We have our church family. We have been through this pandemic and our church still stands and

within it, the people of God in this place.

Friends, we need one another. Keep our church and one another in prayer. Come together for worship - in person, online, or phone in. Remember to support our expenses with your giving. Most of all, turn to God in all things.

For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1: 6-7.

This is how we stay centered and grounded in this world. Through faith and strength that comes from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Be well and filled with blessing,
Pastor Karen



Announcements

Worship news! As we go forward, Grace will continue to offer the following worship experiences:

Sanctuary worship at 9:30 a.m.

S. Tower Room livestream worship for those with young children

Livestream worship which will also be recorded for later viewing

Audio phone system for those without internet to call a local number and listen to the worship service (833) 579-2830

Confirmation classes will be held one Sunday each month this school year during our Education Hour beginning Sunday, September 19, at 11:00. We will also be partnering with our St. Paul Area ELCA congregations for a monthly 'Deep Dive' into afternoon lessons as a large group. We pray for each of our students as they grow into a deeper faith relationship with our Lord.

Youth and parents meeting Wednesday, October 6, 6:30 p.m. S. Tower Room. Join us for discussion and planning for upcoming youth events!



Our Annual Spaghetti Dinner is coming up fast! Reformation Sunday is October 31st and we have contracted with Lake Elmo Inn again this year to cater our Spaghetti dinner. Stay tuned for ticket information but we will hopefully see you at 10:45am on Sunday, October 31st, for some great food and fellowship. (If you wear red the red sauce spills won't show). We have also been talking about the possibility of take-out dinners since we know not everybody is ready yet for the closeness of eating together. See you there!



From the Intern's Desk -
Greetings Collaborators!

It has been quite the first month with all of you! My family and I greatly appreciated the joyful welcome you all gave at the end of August at our joint worship service at Arlington Hills. And, after spending a couple of days getting acquainted with the four congregations, I settled into the day-to-day rhythm at Our Redeemer. I spent my two weeks there sharing in bible study, getting to know the staff, hauling food donations, and preaching to the kids (and the grown-ups, too!) As I write this note to you all, I am just beginning my time with Grace where I preached in the parking lot at the beginning of September. And I've been busy already—leading devotions for the Bishop's Eastside Discernment group, meeting with old and new friends, and preparing to help lead worship as we celebrate our confirmands (one of whom is my goddaughter Carly!) on the 26th. I look forward to spend the beginning of October at Arlington Hills with Pastor Mitch and the team and am excited to celebrate Reformation Sunday with the fine people over at Hope!

What an adventure we are on together!

-Per



OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the month for October at Grace Lutheran Church is Sharing and Caring Hands. The guiding principle states that Sharing and Caring Hands is dedicated to the proposition that the community can make a difference in the lives of others through volunteerism, donation and commitment, and that this can be accomplished without creating an expensive bureaucracy that saps the resources necessary to carry out its vision and achieve its goals. S & C Hands serves over 157,000 meals each year to people in need. S&CH provide bathing facilities to people with no other access to take care of hygiene needs. They also provide dental care to low or no income children and adults.

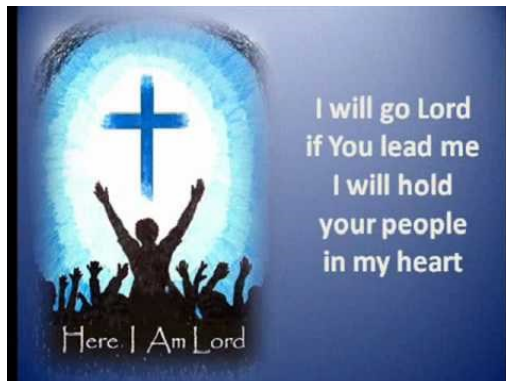
Your generosity allows Sharing and Caring Hands to help thousands of individuals and families with emergency needs for health expenses, food, clothing, shoes, travel expenses, job related costs and much more. S&CH provides 3,300 beds to adults and children that would otherwise be sleeping on the floor. Mary's Place Transitional Shelter houses over 600 people each night of which 400 are children.

It is important to note that 91% of money donated goes to the needs of the poor. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this organization reaching out in Christian love to our neighbors in need. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.

Music Notes:

How do we know when God is calling us. All we can do is be ready at any moment, saying "Here I Am, Lord". That's what Dan Schutte said 40 years ago when he composed the hymn of that name. It was for a friend's ordination, which was to take place 3 days later. On top of it, he was battling a case of the flu. All he could do was to ask God to help him find the words, calling on Jeremiah and Moses who needed the same help. Somehow he came up with the words, trying out the tune on some friends who were part of the St. Louis Jesuit song writing group who contributed so many songs in the 1970's. They helped change the beginning of the chorus from "Here I am, Lord; here I stand, Lord" to what we sing today, "Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord?".

As we don't know the ramifications of our efforts, how they affect others, so with Mr. Schutte who in writing a song for a friend, created a meaningful hymn that has won accolades throughout the world.



FROM THE LIBRARY:

Books love to be touched and read. They do not want to transmit disease. We are asking all who browse in the library to follow pandemic safety measures; wear a mask if you can, physically distance as is possible, if you sneeze, "God bless you" and sanitize your hands before you continue browsing.

Donations to the library are its mainstay. \$6.00 received in coins and bills, sacks of magazines and boxes of books are a treasure. Thank you to everyone who has donated and to all who will in the future.

Some of the recent donations include:

| | | |
|-------------|--|----------------------|
| YOUTH | <u>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</u> (Humorous story of a China rabbit) | Katie DiCamillo |
| LARGE PRINT | <u>The Lonely House</u> , strength during loss | Lowell Erdahl |
| REFERENCE | <u>Our Endangered Values</u> | Jimmy Carter |
| | <u>Most Certainly True</u> (75 Stories About Lutherans Since 1517) | Mark Granquist |
| | <u>Go Make Disciples</u> , Invite to Baptismal Living | Augsburg Publishing |
| SPIRITUAL | <u>Grace for Today, Hope for Tomorrow</u> <u>2 Maps</u> , 4' x 2', of the Holy Land | Adrian Eisenmann |
| NONFICTION | <u>They Called Me Teacher</u> MN Country School Teachers 1915-1960 | |
| | <u>Just Peace: A Message of Hope</u> | Mattie Stepanek |
| | <u>Everything to Gain; Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life</u> | Jimmy Carter |
| FICTION | <u>Fearless</u> | Max Lucado |
| | <u>One of Ours</u> | Willa Cather |
| | <u>God Is Not Great</u> | Christopher Hitchens |
| | <u>Killing England</u> | Bill O'Reilly |
| | <u>Joy, The Life of Charles Eagle Plume</u> Interpretation of Indian lore, life and culture | |
| | <u>Lamb; Gospel According to Bif</u> | Christopher Moore |
| | <u>The Latecomer</u> Hmong Family memoir from Laos to America | Kao Kalia Yang |
| | <u>The Last Letter Home</u> Swedish emigrant novels, Book IV | Vilhelm Moberg |

President's Message

We are enjoying the lovely late summer early fall weather we love in Minnesota! It's nice to see the colors change and the more moderate weather. It's good to be back together worshipping.

The Church Council held a Planning Retreat on September 18. We combined the retreat with our September Council Meeting. During the retreat, Adeline provided a devotion and discussion around some of the issues related to "compassion fatigue" which is defined as the physical and mental exhaustion and emotional withdrawal experienced by those who care for sick or traumatized people over an extended period of time. It can relate to health care providers, teachers, service workers. It can also relate to the volunteers in the church who often are the same people who are asked to do so many activities. We need to be sensitive to the many around us who have been working hard to serve others during the Pandemic.

Grace needs more people to get involved. Please let members of Council know if you are interested in any of the committees. We talked about getting many of the good ideas into an action plan now that we are beginning to see hope beyond the pandemic. We need to be mindful of the Parable of the Talents. God expects us to be good stewards of the talents and resources provided to us. We are the church!

We reviewed the following topics during the council meeting.

Enlighten Academy Update began the Phase I of painting and cleaning carpets. They have painted the hallways and ceiling. They are wiring for internet and technology use. No additional work will be done until next June. Enlighten will be paying \$1200 in rent for the year. We will have ongoing use of the spaces for Sunday School and other activities.

Council voted to accept the Worship & Music proposal to reconfigure the Choir Director position and create a Director of Music Ministries. A search for that position will begin soon.

We reviewed a Property Management report on the many facility needs required to sustain our building. The 60+ year-old building is showing its age. Property Management continues to prioritize the work that is needed while fielding the day-to-day issues of maintaining the building.

Please continue to pray for the church, the leadership, and our community. Thank you.

Linda Baer

President

Special Music Scheduling

Because of the Covid issues we have delayed the beginning of our choir rehearsals this year. In the case of the Sanctuary Choir, we have no director yet. So in the meantime --- we would like to schedule solo and small group music to add to our worship experience. If you are willing and able to help out with voice, instrument, etc. please talk to or send an email to Kathleen Hollar or the church office and we can once again enjoy the music that we know our talented members can supply. Thanks.



Grace Book Club schedule -

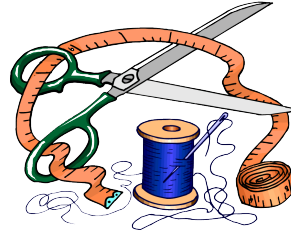
To discuss on October 7th - "The Vanishing Half" - by Brit Bennett



Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

Internal, Local and Global

While we are still not back to our usual pace, we have managed to move forward with a few projects.



We are again serving refreshments following Sunday worship for those who are comfortable with it. Please consider signing up for a Sunday at some time in the future.

Although our picnic on September 12th was mostly indoors since the weather was not cooperative, we had a great time reconnecting with many of our church friends! Thanks to all who stayed.

Mission 2021 Lutheran World Relief Collections:

Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 and 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz);

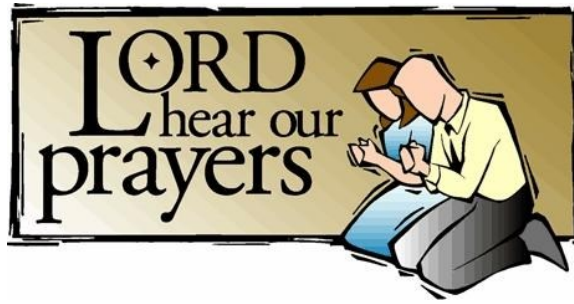
Other on-going collections at Grace - used eye glasses and cancelled stamps. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf. Thank you!



We have again begun assembling quilts for LWR. We will be gathering on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month in the S. Tower Room at 10 am for 2 -3 hours, Everyone is welcome. We provide supplies and even training if needed. The coffee pot will be on and maybe even some treats. Call the office or Linda Sackreiter at 612-747-7783 if you have questions. See you on **October 9th & 25th at 10am!**

Miles of Pennies The large collection jar in the library is always accepting donations toward helping the LSS fund which helps homeless Youth in St. Paul. Our goal is \$200.00 for 2021. Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your generous donations of pennies and coins, are appreciated. *Let's exceed our goal in 2021!*





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 Ed Holtan, Larry Gebhard, Carol Sprau, the family and friends of Lorraine King, 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>August Actual</u> | <u>YTD Actual</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | \$26,079.61 | \$207,554.15* | \$211,916.64 |
| Expenses | \$30,506.28 | \$201,579.89 | \$228,655.36 |
| Deficit/Overage | - \$4,426.67 | \$ 5,974.26 | -\$16,738.72 |

*YTD excludes Legacy Gift rec'd in January 2021



3 Kimberly Childs

4 John Klein

6 Kathleen Hollar

14 Larry Carlson

15 Sandra Groth

16 Dan Goebel

17 Adam Revier

18 Lydia Rose

19 David Miller

Joel Nikula

Karin Nikula

22 Holly Nikula

24 Linda Gorton

Merton Miller

26 Christopher Williams

27 Joseph Wintheiser

Megan Wintheiser

29 Lauren Alleman

Sharon Jack



Worship Leaders for October- We are now back in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am each Sunday and online. Stay tuned for any changes going forward. The online services will continue to be posted to the Facebook page and our website.

| <u>Date</u> | | <u>Liturgist</u> |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| 3 | Sanctuary 9:30am | Linda Sackreiter |
| 10 | Sanctuary 9:30am | Connie Smeby |
| 17 | Sanctuary 9:30am | Jan Steingas |
| 24 | Sanctuary 9:30am | Barb Holtan |
| 31 | Sanctuary 9:30am | Linda Sackreiter |

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Ushers</u> | |
|-------------|---------------|---|
| 3 | Team H | Karin Nikula, Youth, Bob Golder |
| 10 | Team A | Norm Walby, Ron House, Larry Carlson, Ron Swenson, Roger McClure |
| 17 | Team B | Rick Major, Julie Major, Karen Boehne-Warner |
| 24 | Team C | Brian Jackson, Thomas & Violet Rose, Jonathan & Lydia Rose |
| 31 | Team D | Norm Walby, Randy Nikula, Jim Geister, Jonathan Williams, Josh Williams |



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Pastor:

Rev. Karen Williams

Per Halaas, Pastoral Intern

Custodial Staff:

Larry and Linda Denson

Office Staff:

Linda Sackreiter

Music Staff:

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Peter Zitzewitz—Bells of Grace

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

