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# November In Touch with Grace



Dear friends and family of Grace,  
"To everything there is a season..." is a well known scripture that is also a well known song. We are in a season of turning – from fall to winter, from harvest to fallow, from isolation to connection. Through all of this, we have found that those who are resilient have more capacity to adapt to the changing seasons of life. Through all of the challenges that we face, those who have an attitude of growth and learning from their experiences find new outcomes for hope and possibilities.

Resilience isn't always easy. It takes courage to get up each morning, even when we don't want to, and take life one day at a time. We know loss, grief, and loneliness, but these wilderness stories create in us something new. We find comfort in the familiar and we yearn for a return to normalcy. I think we know by now that we will not have the same old normal but a new normal is developing that will shape us and the future.

With God in our future, we have nothing to fear, for God leads us to still waters and green pastures, and abundant life where our cups overflow and bounty is provided. As we give thanks this month for all that God has given us as well as for our journey through this past 21 or so months, let us remember that what matters most is our relationship with God and our love for one another. I give thanks for each of you as we have travelled this road together and I look forward to what lies ahead "for with God, all things are possible."

See you in worship!

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

Our ecumenical **Thanksgiving Service** will be held at St. Pascal's this year on Tuesday, November 23 at 7 p.m. Join our neighbors in giving thanks for another year of God's grace.

**Thanks to all** who supported our youth through our annual Pasta Party (aka spaghetti dinner). The proceeds will go towards sending our youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in July 2022. This event takes place every three years and is a wonderful opportunity for our young people.

**Advent begins** the last Sunday of November on November 28<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate the season each week with readings and our Advent candles along with three Wednesday Advent services leading the way to Christmas Eve, Christmas Morning, and our Annual Carol Sing on December 26. Watch for announcements and scheduling as the month of December approaches.



**The first Sunday of November is known as All Saints Day.** This year it is November 7. We will remember and name those who have died during this past year since last All Saints Day as well as those new saints among us who have been baptized during the past year. **You are invited to bring a photo of those you are remembering and line the photos up on the ledges around our sanctuary.** We will gather with the saints in heaven and the saints among us in our worship. We will also have the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of those we love.

**We have supported Summit Hill Senior Living** with a gift of a Thrivent Action Gift Card. This gift created the opportunity for several seniors to visit the Minnesota Zoo Pumpkin Spectacular. Many enjoyed the outing and have offered their words of thanks for the partnership we have provided. Pastor Karen offers worship with communion once each month for the residents.

**“Gifts of Engagement” is our Stewardship theme for this fall.** We have the opportunity to be a gift to one another both within our church and in the greater community through our financial gifts, sharing our talents, and supporting the ministries and missions of our church. We will hear temple talks, receive information of how to give for the 2022 year, and have an opportunity to share our own time through volunteerism. When we engage in ministry and commit our work to the Lord, following where God is leading, our church will do amazing things!

**Engagement Sunday is November 21** where we will bring the gifts of our pledges and Time and Talent forms up to the altar as a way of saying that we are answering God’s call, we are engaged in the ministry of our church, and we support the budget and ministry of Grace. Thanks be to God!

XYZ's - If anyone is interested in attending the Christmas Lunch at Lake Elmo Inn on Dec. 9th and has not already spoken with Larry Carlson, please do so ASAP. He will be able to give us the cost after he confirms the attendance count.

From the Intern's Desk -  
Greetings Collaborators!

As fall finally starts to feel like fall, I am enjoying my time at Hope. I enjoyed getting better acquainted with many of the members at Grace. I also had a great time being able to preach from the great big pulpit! I had a rich and very informative time at Arlington Hills where I was able to engage with some funeral planning, some committee meetings, and to preach there, too! During my time at Arlington Hills, I was also blessed to be able to attend the Bishop Lull's Theological Conference with Pastor Mitch (Arlington Hills), Pastor Karen (Grace), Deacon Jennifer (Our Redeemer) and many other clergy and synod staff. It was a joy filled time of deep engagement, renewal, and reflection against the beautiful backdrop of Gull Lake near Baxter, Minnesota.

As the second round of my time at each of the four churches begins, I anticipate an intensification of my participation in the life of each congregation, a deepening of our journey together, and a great deal of fun! I am excited to explore more opportunities to expand our shared ministry together during the holy season of Advent and the blessed days of Christmas.

I can't wait to see more of you—yes, you!

-Per



## NOVEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month for November at Grace Lutheran Church is ELCA World Hunger. It is not a coincidence that we use this mission in November when most of us are celebrating Thanksgiving and indulging in feasts. It is a reminder that many of God's people all over the world including the United States often do not have enough or anything to eat.

ELCA World Hunger creatively and courageously works toward a just world where all are fed. More than 820 million people- that's about 11% of people in the world today- are hungry. As members of the ELCA we are called to respond.

Please prayerfully consider making a generous donation to this wonderful ministry serving a basic need for people everywhere. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering on Sunday or send to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.

### Music Notes:

#### Thankful Hymns

November 25<sup>th</sup> this year we not only celebrate Thanksgiving but also a Feast Day acknowledging the hymn writer Isaac Watts who died on November 25, 1748. If you look on page 1193 of our hymnbook, you find he wrote the texts to 10 of our hymns, including the words to the Christmas carol, "Joy to the World" as well as "Jesus Shall Reign", "O God, Our Help in Ages Past", and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". He couldn't attend Oxford or Cambridge because at that time, you needed to be Anglican, whereas he was part of the non-conformist movement, a popular English Protestant movement.

Similar to Martin Luther, Watts wrote poems and lyrics which were not direct translations of the psalms. Earlier English theologians believed that only direct translations of the psalms should be sung in church. This is what he had to say about that: "To see the dull indifference, the negligent and thoughtless air that sits upon the faces of a whole assembly, while the psalm is upon their lips, might even tempt a charitable observer to suspect the fervency of their inward religion." Watts wanted the psalms to be more relevant to Christianity. For instance, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" is actually Watt's way of presenting the beginning of Psalm 90 i.e. *Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God became Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame, from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.* Watts paraphrased all 150 psalms, though we sing only a fraction of them.

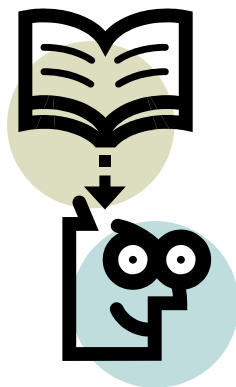
Not all of Watts' hymns are based on psalms. "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" actually is based on Galatians 6:14; "Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs" has references to Revelations 5:11-13. No wonder his nickname is "Father of English Hymnody".

## FROM THE LIBRARY:

Use of the inside library is understandably limited during these days of pandemic concern but it has given us home time when book shelves have been cleaned. The library is more complete with gifts received after home cleaning and sorting. Thank you also to unknown people or persons who close the outdoor library door when it is left open. This kindness is valuable. The community of Grace brings life to tow libraries!

Recent anonymous donations include:

<u>The Vanishing Half</u>	Brit Bennett
<u>Songs for the Silent Moments</u>	Lois Walfrid Johnson
<u>Hard Marching Every Day</u>	Emil & Ruth Rosenblatt
	Civil War letter of Pvt. Wilbur Fisk buried @ Freeborn, MN
<u>Countdown</u>	Iris Johansen
<u>The Enemy</u>	Lee Child
<u>Black Creek Crossing</u>	John Saul
<u>The Lion's Game</u>	Nelson DeMille
<u>A Faint of Fear</u>	Karin Slaughter
<u>Die In Plain Sight</u>	Elizabeth Lowells
<u>Constantine's Sword</u>	James Carroll - The church & the Jews through 20 centuries
<u>1000 Places to See Before You Die</u>	Patricia Schultz - A Traveler's Guide



Grace Book Club schedule -

For November 4th: The Glass Castle - Jeannette Walls  
For December 2nd: Wolf Hall - Hilary Mantel  
For January 6th: My Life and Hard Times - James Thurber  
For February 3rd: People We Meet on Vacation - Emily Henry  
For March 3rd: The Alice Network - Kate Quin

## **President's Report**

We are renewed by the bright, colorful, sunny days of fall. We are renewed by the protection we have available from Covid. We are thankful for many things. We are thankful for family and friends. We are thankful for vaccines. We are thankful that, as a caring community, Grace is observing masking and social distancing. There is much we know about Covid but more that we need to learn. Continuing to be cautious and vigilant is important to maintain health and safety for all.

### **Metropolitan Council Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (GBRT)**

Grace Lutheran received a letter from the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding research on property that will be needed for the construction of the planned GBRT project which includes our property. Metro Council and MnDOT representatives attended the October Council meeting to discuss what this means for our property. The project will start in January 2022 and conclude in January 2027. Construction is estimated to begin July 2022. We will continue to discuss impact on Grace Lutheran and provide regular updates as the project begins.

### **Enlighten Academy Update**

Enlighten Academy received several donations from Edmentum via Bridging Project Management, LLC. These include tables, chairs, whiteboards, shelving, video monitors and cards, and Chrome Books. They continue to do painting and cleaning. They have installed internet connectivity in the basement. The Academy plans several outreach events in the fall and winter including connecting with the apartments in the neighborhood. They plan an Open House January 15<sup>th</sup> at Grace.

### **2022 Budget Information Meeting**

The Council reviewed the 2022 Budget proposal from the Business Management Committee to be presented for Congregational approval at the Annual Meeting November 14<sup>th</sup>. We will hold an information meeting following the service November 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Annual Meeting November 14**

We will be providing **both on sight and online opportunities** to participate in the upcoming budget 2022 information meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> and the Congregational Annual Meeting November 14. Please plan on attending.

Best wishes for a blessed Thanksgiving.

Linda Baer



## 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 (763-489-8501 or [holl0058@yahoo.com](mailto:holl0058@yahoo.com)) or the church office and we can once again enjoy the music that we know our talented members can supply. Thanks.



### Circle of Welcome

This is a program rolled out by Lutheran Social Services about 5 years ago intended to support Refugee resettlement efforts in Minnesota. Refugee families arrive in the U.S. legally after being forced to flee violence and persecution. Once families arrive in Minnesota, LSS Refugee Services works to secure safe and affordable housing for them. Many refugees live in the Eastside neighborhood of St. Paul! The neighborhood offers cultural resources along with affordable housing.

Part of welcoming families to their new home is helping them build connections to their community. That's where Circle of Welcome comes in, offering transformative, neighborly support for families during the challenges of resettlement. The impact of many different neighbors coming together to walk alongside a newly-arrived family is truly life-changing.

The Community Connections Committee at Grace would like to be involved with this effort in some way. Becoming a partner congregation requires a commitment of 6 months and a financial donation as well. We can be as close or as distant as we wish.

LSS is willing to provide presentations, training and ongoing support for volunteers, and other coordination as needed throughout the six-month commitment.

Our committee is interested in knowing the thoughts of the congregation regarding this project. Please send your comments to Linda at the office.

([gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com) or 651-774-9617, 1730 Old Hudson Rd. St. Paul 55106 )

# 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 and there will be more as we go forward.

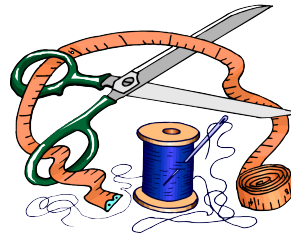
We are again serving refreshments following Sunday worship for those who are comfortable with it. Please consider signing up for a Sunday at some time in the future. If no one volunteers, there may be no coffee or treats on some Sundays.

Thanksgiving is coming! What are you doing to celebrate?

### **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!

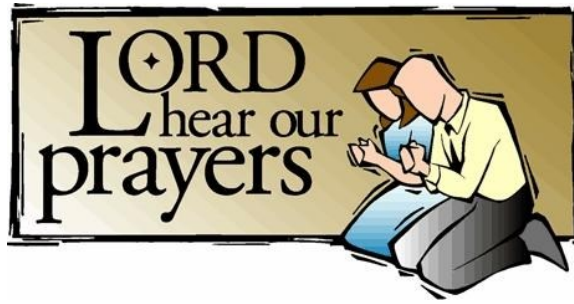


We have again begun assembling quilts for LWR. We will be gathering on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays most months in the S. Tower Room at 10 am for 2 hours, Everyone is welcome. We provide supplies and even training if needed. The coffee pot will be on and maybe even some treats. Call the office or Linda Sackreiter at 612-747-7783 if you have questions. See you on **November 13th at 10am! (We will not meet the 27th as it is Thanksgiving weekend)**

**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, Carol Sprau, 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](http://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>September Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$19,602.85	\$227,157.00*	\$238,406.22
Expenses	\$23,059.08	\$224,638.97	\$238,406.22
Deficit/Overage	- \$3,456.23	\$ 2,518.03	-\$18,831.06

\*YTD excludes Legacy Gift rec'd in January 2021



2 Jeff Oberlander

4 Beverly Gorgos

5 Peter Wickert

8 Barbara Hegge

Kelly Humphrey

9 Linda Sackreiter

10 Carol Matson

Raymond Parsons

12 Cynthia Martinson

14 Judy Nelson

15 Inez Albrecht

16 Emma Geister

20 Mary Ettl

Lois Graff

22 Erin Wintheiser

23 Byron Meyer

26 Grady Westling

27 Elvira Grundman



Worship Leaders for November- 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. We also have a dedicated phone line to call in toll -free to listen to our services (833) 579-2830

<u>Date</u>		<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
7	Sanctuary 9:30am	Connie Smeby	Olivia Childs
14	Sanctuary 9:30am	Patty Young	Lauren Alleman
21	Sanctuary 9:30am	Per Halaas	Dakota Reed
28	Sanctuary 9:30am	Pastor Karen Williams	

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	
7	Team E	Jeff Oberlander, John Klein, Anne Oberlander, Peter Wickert
14	Team F	Peter Hultgren, Linda Denson, Rich Castle, Larry Denson
21	Team G	Brian Jackson, Patty Young, Chris Wintheiser, Kris Wintheiser, Gary Petersen
28	Team H	Karin Nikula, Youth, Bob Golder



Grace Lutheran Church  
1730 Old Hudson Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55106



November 1st

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Phone: 651-774-9617

FAX: 651-774-0006

Live service phone line -  
(833) 579-2830

[www.gracelutheranstpaul.org](http://www.gracelutheranstpaul.org)  
[gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com)

**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

