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# May In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,  
The Old Testament book of poetry, Song of Solomon says in Chapter 2: <sup>11</sup>For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; <sup>12</sup>The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; <sup>13</sup>The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

May is the month that truly brings Spring to life. We have had a long winter and it seemed that spring was delayed in April. April gave us Easter which always brings the promise of new life. Not just from death – which of course is a huge gift – but a chance to rediscover our own lives as Easter people – people who know that God will always bring new life out of seeming death. When we have those moments when it seems all hope is gone or that the death of dreams and plans has seemed imminent, God often has a new idea for us.

We have just passed our 105 anniversary as a church called Grace established here on the East Side of St. Paul. So many faithful people and ministries have passed through this building and into the community. Our ministry is not over. Now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, God is bringing new life to us in a way that needs a new focus, a willingness to adapt, and a trust in where God is leading. Church may look different from the church of 105 years ago, but isn't that a wonderful thing? None of us are the same as we

were when we were born, so why should our church not also grow and develop to face new ways of being?

Focusing on God's call, centering our ministry in prayer, and being open to new ideas of what life looks like, will guide us to where God is leading us. Spring, with its new growth, is an exciting time to be alive. As blossoms unfold, as the hatchlings emerge from their eggs, as the world around us grows green and lush with color, Grace is also coming to life with new growth. God is present in all of this. Just as Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb did not recognize the risen Jesus at first, so we, too, need to look with a fresh perspective to see where Jesus is present in our lives and the life of our church. As we move forward into spring, may the God of all hope and resurrection inspire each of us to see our church, our world, and ourselves in new ways as we live into our call as Easter people. Thanks be to God for the hope of new life!

Pastor Karen

Hail bounteous May that dost inspire Mirth  
and youth, and warm desire,

Woods and Groves, are of thy dressing, Hill  
and Dale, doth boast thy blessing.

Thus we salute thee with our early Song, And  
welcome thee, and wish thee long."

— John Milton, [\*Song on May Morning\*](#)

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## Announcements

**New Member Sunday!** We will welcome new members into our church family on May 1<sup>st</sup> during worship. Please welcome them and help them to feel at home!

Confirmation will meet on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> for Deep Dive from 1-3 p.m. We will gather with our area churches for a Sacred Site tour.

**Shobi's Table** will be visiting our church on Sunday, May 22. Deacon Kari Olsen, Director of this food truck ministry will be with us in worship to share a message of hope about this initiative of the St. Paul Area Synod. We will hear of the lives impacted through this food ministry and have the chance to enjoy a meal afterwards from Shobi's Table. Donations are welcome to support this important and wonderful ministry!

The congregations of the St. Paul Area Synod will be meeting the second weekend of May to support, learn, and lead the ministry of the Synod. Our representatives are Monique Hegge-McClure, Jeff Oberlander, and Pastor Karen. Please keep our churches, leaders, and bishop in your prayers.

**Memorial Day at Union Cemetery** will offer a service at 10 a.m. Our Director of Music Ministries, Russ Carlson, and Pastor Karen will be leading the service along with a speaker from a branch of the military. There may be a flyover again this year and the public is invited for the first time since before the pandemic. Consider joining us there. Please keep our service men and women, our leaders, and the world in your prayers for peace among all people and for the safety and well - being of all.



## From the Intern's Desk -

Greetings Collaborators!

Though it is a gloomy day with a wintry mix as I write this, I am celebrating the sunshine and the bright colors of a full garden. After all, there is nothing quite like a cold and blustery April afternoon to inspire a deep and unshakable hope for the magnificent month of May! And, as Christians, we know a little bit about hope, don't we?

Speaking of hope, it has been quite the spring already for our collaborators from Hope Lutheran. Over the past few months—and, in particular, during Holy Week—I've had the deep honor to work and learn alongside them as they navigate the sale of their property, the process of moving, and all of the celebration and mourning, stresses and joys that go along with such a time as this. The fine people of Hope Lutheran are doing the good, brave, hard and holy work of exploring just what it means—in the words of a council member—"to do greater things than 1340 N. Hazel Street." It has been a fascinating and powerful experience accompanying them on this resurrection journey and I look forward to having the chance to engage the newness that comes from all of this work.

As you might expect, my work with each of the congregations continues as we move through the spring and look forward to those much anticipated summer days. If you're looking for me, you might find me working with the confirmation students at Grace and Our Redeemer, enjoying Bible Study with the folks at Hope, or sitting in on committee meetings at Arlington Hills, or imagining the possibilities of shared ministry leaders from all four congregations. Wherever you do find me, please stop and say hello! I want to hear what is going on in your neck of the woods! I want you to show me how God is at work in your day-to-day! I want to know how spring is lifting your spirits!

-Per, the intern



## May Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month for May at Grace is Youth Link. Youth Link is a nonprofit in downtown Minneapolis that helps young people between the ages of 16 and 23 on their journey from homelessness to hopeful. Young people of all backgrounds, races, genders, and orientation are welcome. Youth Link is dedicated to helping stabilize and create futures for its clients.

Did you know that on any given night in Minnesota 4,000 young people will experience homelessness? For more than 40 years Youth Link has helped connect young people with a community of resources and support, Whether it's basic needs like a hot shower or a warm meal, assistance with employment or educational goal, accessing mental and physical health resources or finding supportive housing. Youth Link helps young people at all stages of their journey.

Please prayerfully consider financially supporting this ministry. Your gift can really make a difference in the life of a young person at one of their very lowest points of their life and give them a future and most of all hope. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace Thank you.

### Music Notes -

Most of the music we hear on the organ at church was written by men who died many years ago. I will be attempting to rectify that. The United States has contributed quite a few classical composers, even those who have become household names i.e. Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, George Gerschwin. Not to mention the orchestral music, produced by classically trained musicians, that we hear integrated into the movies we see, written by such composers such as John Williams, Hans Zimmer and Danny Elfman just to name a few.

Starting in May I will be highlighting American composers, men and women alike, who have written for organ, starting with Richard Purvis. We heard on Palm Sunday one of his compositions, "Vegilla Rexis", but throughout May we will hear some additional pieces that he composed.

Richard Purvis was born in San Francisco in 1913. He had a varied career playing popular music on radio station KRE as well as classical. At that time his pseudonym was Don Irving. He later studied organ at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. During the time he was in Philadelphia, he became the music director of Episcopal Academy and established their boys choir. Many years later, I would accompany that choir for concerts and chapel services.

In 1942 Purvis joined the Army, eventually becoming bandmaster of the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Band. He fought at the Battle of the Bulge, was captured and held prisoner for 6 months.

After the war, from 1947 to 1971, Purvis was organist and choir master at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. As composer, he contributed more than 200 compositions. He is just one of many American organists/musicians who have propelled music into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond.

**FROM THE LIBRARY:**

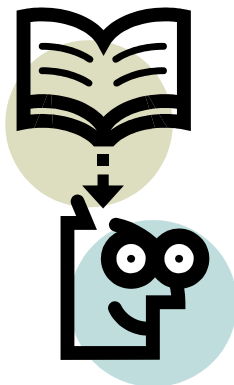
An interesting variety of books are available on the top shelves in the library. Top-shelf books are moved out, closer to the shelf edge making them visible and accessible as viewed from the floor. Happy reading!

Books of interest suggestions:

AUTOGRAPHED BOOK	<u>Ending Poverty, a 20/20 Vision</u>	Peter Rogness, Nancy Maecker
BIBLICAL REFERENCE	<u>The Life and Teaching of Jesus Christ</u>	
	<u>The Evangelical Pastor</u>	James S. Stewart
	<u>The Letters of Paul</u>	Mark A. Olson
	<u>Worship Matters</u>	Calvin Roetzel
FICTION	<u>Into the Wild</u>	Jon Krakauer
	<u>Cockroaches</u>	Jo Nesbo
	<u>Blood on the Snow</u>	Jo Nesbo
	<u>The Secret Keeper</u>	Kate Morton
YOUTH	<u>Everybody Loves a Friend</u>	Barbara Sorenson
MUSIC	<u>With One Voice</u>	Resource for Worship      Augsburg Fortress

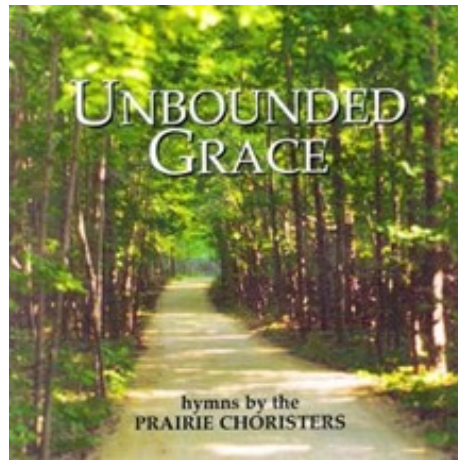
Grace Book Club schedule -

For May 5th - The Calligrapher's Daughter - Eugenia Kim



## President's May Report

### Unbounded Grace



An Augsburg devotion book entitled *Grace Unbounded* speaks to the fact that Jesus reaches out to all kinds of people. "He proclaims good news—in particular, to those experiencing poverty, oppression, or captivity. He responds to those who want healing, welcomes time with children, shows great regard for women, shares meals with "unsavory" characters, and seeks out people who have lost their way. No limits, no restrictions, no boundaries---not even death---can stop Christ's love and grace for all people."

May the Spirit empower us each day to love God, and to love one another as God has loved us---with grace unbounded. We, at Grace, claim this unbounded promise to serve God, each other, and the community.

#### Report from Council

The Council received a great report from the Legacy Giving workgroup. We will be reviewing the recommendations and reporting some exciting activities after the May Council meeting.

We are waiting for a zoning report from the city regarding the church being zoned to be a school. We are also exploring a second opinion on the land assessment for the MnDot Met Council Rapid Bus Line Project.

We continue to plan forward with the Enlighten Academy Charter School. They will be hosting an event in the church parking lot on April 30<sup>th</sup>. This will serve as another open house to the community to advertise the school.



# Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

## Internal, Local and Global

The Community Connections Committee is currently collecting items for the LSS Circle of Welcome project. There is a grey bin outside the Sanctuary on the North side of the Narthex for any donations. There is also a list of requested items attached to the bin which you can take with you to do any shopping.

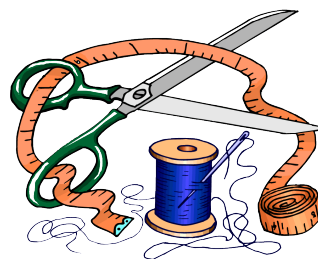
The **Circle of Welcome** is a project intended to make new refugees to this country a little more comfortable with their relocation by offering them assistance with finding a home, basic needs for living in that home and introductions to goods and services in their neighborhood. It can certainly be more than a little scary to move into a new place let alone a new country with a whole new set of rules and expectations. LSS is attempting to mitigate some of the fear by coming alongside them while they acclimate to new surroundings.

### **Mission 2022 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). In February 2022, Grace's delivery for 2021 to Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul happened. Other on-going collections at Grace - used eye glasses and cancelled stamps. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf. Thank you!



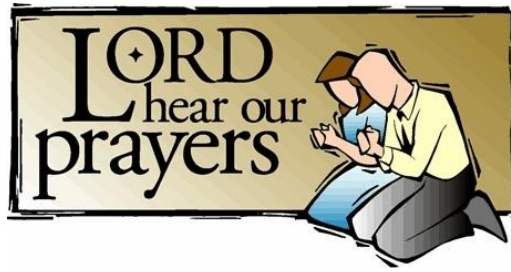
**Quilt Days-** May 14, 10 am, Tower rooms. Come and join our faithful energetic quilters who work assembling, pinning, and tying approximately five quilts each meeting. Crochet thread is now used for tying, but we have a good supply. Come to work, to chat, to laugh, to enjoy being God's hands for a time! Snacks available, bring a friend. A good time, well spent. We will be taking a summer hiatus after May 14th and resume again in September on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. New helpers are always welcome!



**Miles of Pennies** The large collection jar in the library is always accepting donations toward helping the LSS fund for helping homeless Youth in St. Paul. Our goal is \$250.00. for 2022 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 2022!*

**Sunday Coffee Hour** Pick a Sunday to serve coffee and treats following worship. Open to all committees, individuals, groups. Sign-up clipboard is on the table inside the South Tower Room. Any questions, call Linda in the church office.





**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 Curt Kinnunen, (Patty Young’s brother-in-law), Phyllis Acker, Carol Sprau, Butch Nelson, and those we name in our hearts.

(Many of these people have long term situations so if we discontinue listing them specifically please continue to pray for their healing.)

**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 works best on the Firefox or Edge browsers. 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-2022**

	<u>March Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$18,841.68	\$54,282.71	\$72,574.98
Expenses	\$32,847.25	\$88,393.47	\$90,744.27
Deficit/Overage	-\$14,005.57	-\$34,110.76	-\$18,169.29



- 1 Carol Anderson
- 4 Kaity Major Billstein
- 11 Sarah Pearson  
Henry Slotsve
- 14 Larry Atneosen  
Anna Runquist
- 16 Eric Eng  
Xenia Rose
- 17 Jim Heimkes  
Christian Ray-Taylor Sr.
- 19 Norm Baer  
Ryan Westling
- 20 Ed Holtan
- 22 David Killeen
- 25 Ronald Swenson
- 29 Joel Johnson



# Worship Leaders for May 2022 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
1	Jeff Oberlander	Lauren Alleman
8	Connie Smeby	Dakota Reed
15	Per Halaas	Olivia Childs
22	Per Halaas	Lauren Alleman
29	Barb Holtan	Dakota Reed

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
1	Team F- Peter Hultgren, Linda Denson, Rich Castle
8	Team G- Brian Jackson, Patty Young, Chris Wintheiser, Kristen Wintheiser
15	Team H - Karin Nikula, Bob Golder, Youth
22	Team A- Norm Walby, Ron House, Ron Swenson, Larry Carlson, Roger McClure
29	Team B- Rick Major, Julie Major

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
1	Kate Pray team
8	Amanda Christie team
15	Monique McClure-Hegge team
22	Kate Pray team
29	Amanda Christie team



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**Pastor:**

Rev. Karen Williams

**Custodial Staff:**

Larry and Linda Denson

**Office Staff:**

Linda Sackreiter

**Music Staff:**

Russ Carlson—Director of Music Ministries

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Peter Zitzewitz—Bells of Grace

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

