
August In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." Isaiah 12:3.

This is the theme verse that I used on my sabbatical proposal. Water is also the theme for our August scripture stories in worship. Water refreshes us and cleanses us. Water renews life. As we have gone through these hot days of summer, we might notice that our garden plants and flowers are drooping. A little water goes a long way to revive them. Have you ever noticed the smell of the air before a summer rain? It is something that tells us that we are about to receive the gift of life in the form of water. Our bodies need water. Did you know that our bodies are 60-70% water? Without it, life dries up and we cannot function well. Neither can our earth. Scripture describes water as life-giving. Jesus said that he is living water - the gift of salvation and eternal life. When the woman at the well encountered Jesus, he told her that she would never thirst again. He wasn't just speaking of physical life, but also of the things we need and long for emotionally, mentally, psychologically, and spiritually - those things that give our life meaning and purpose. I will be drinking from the waters of ancient wells as I travel through Europe. The adventure of discovering ancient practices of spirituality, the renewing of my mind, body, and spirit through the places

I visit, the people I meet, and the experiences of finding joy and serendipity in the most unexpected places. I ask that you pray for me as I travel. I look forward to sharing my adventures with you when I return in November. I have included an insert in this newsletter that provides information of which pastors will be at Grace in my absence. Together with each of these wonderful pastors, you will be on a journey to discover ancient wells of your own these three months. You will have the opportunity to hear many voices and perspectives in worship and education. May you be blessed with the life-giving waters of God's presence in each voice you hear. May you enjoy the journey through these three months. May you be renewed and refreshed with the waters of life. May you experience joy, meaning, and purpose as you draw from the waters of salvation.

In Christ, Pastor Karen

"Travel safely and gently. Joy hides in places you have yet to discover. you do not need to know precisely what is happening or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment and to embrace them with courage, faith, and hope." Thomas Merton

Announcements from Pastor Karen

- If you have any pastoral needs or concerns, please contact Linda S. in our church office or our council president, Linda B. We have several pastors on hand ready to support and help.
- Confirmation kick off will be on Friday, November 11, at 8:30 p.m. for Moonlight Madness, an overnight activity filled with fun and adventure. Pastor Karen and our new intern, Becky Sliva, will take our youth on an unforgettable event with youth from several other congregations. Mark your calendars and prepare for an amazing time!
- Sunday School will begin this September led by Amanda Christie and Kelley Reed. Watch your inbox for an email invitation and a possible postcard mailer. All children are invited to join our Sunday School. Contact Amanda with questions and if you are willing to help with our wonderful children's ministry.
- Talk Points will return in October with a presentation on Sunday, October 16, with Rev. Kathryn Tiede, from Lutheran Social Services, and also on Sunday, October 23, with Rev. Julie Wright, who will speak about several initiatives from LSS. In November, we will hear about Families Together Preschool with Alexis Oberdorfer. Don't miss out on these exciting and informative opportunities!
- Spaghetti Dinner will be served on Reformation Sunday, October 30, after worship. Catered by Lake Elmo Inn and supporting our youth ministry, join us for a well loved tradition at Grace.

Some photos from our Battle Creek worship 7/24



Lutheran Night at Target Field: August 2nd

Lutherans are taking over Target Field to cheer on the Minnesota Twins on August 2, 2022, against the Detroit Tigers! Pastor John Hierlinger at G.A. is organizing tickets for anyone interested in going to the game with Gustavus. If you are interested please contact the office. The cost is \$20/ticket and the deadline for sign up is July 10th.

Another opportunity --

GA is once again a site for parking for the State Fair. They also staff their lot and volunteers make \$25 per shift worked for their church. GA will send the money from Grace volunteers to Grace so it would be a fundraising opportunity for us. To sign up for shifts go to Sign-Up Genius at the link below and choose as many shifts as you would like to work.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d44acac28a64-state>

Greetings Collaborators!

On August 21st we will be gathering together for a shared worship service at the picnic pavilion on the shores of Lake Phalen. This service will be a great opportunity to be with one another—to meet new faces and to reconnect with old friends—all while enjoying God's beautiful creation. It will also be my last time with all of you as the pastoral intern for the congregations of the East Side Collaborative. I can hardly believe that it has already been a whole year since this journey began!

Naturally, I have found myself reflecting quite a lot in recent days about the multitude of experiences I have been blessed to have this past year. While I would love to include a list with this article, there are, quite simply, too many experiences to mention! At the heart of all of these experiences, though, is you! Every experience, every learning opportunity, every example of God's work in this world that I have been so lucky to have encountered this year has come through meeting you! And it is to you—the members, volunteers, pastors, and staff—that I owe a great deal of thanks for making this unique internship possible and for helping me to become the pastor I have grown into because of it.

Goodbyes can be difficult. And certainly, for me, this will be no exception. However, I look forward to what the future holds for these four congregations. As you continue to imagine new ways of being church together through your work as partners in shared ministry; as you continue to encourage leadership in ministry through the sponsoring of another intern; as you strive to be the clearest reflections of God's abundant and grace-filled love that you can be to a neighborhood and world in need, I am filled with great confidence and anticipation for all that the next tomorrows will hold for the East Side Collaborative.

I just can't wait to see what will happen next!

Yours in peace, love, and collaboration!

-Per, the (soon-to-be former) intern and forever friend.



The East Side Collaborative explores new ways of being church together by engaging in shared ministry opportunities that deepen our relationship with God, one another, and our neighborhoods.

Hello, Fellow East Side Collaborative Congregation Members!

This is the first of our monthly articles that we plan to share with each congregation.

We want to highlight activities and efforts that have been completed as well as share with you news items and upcoming events!

Intern Per Halaas has been our leader and facilitator for the past year during his internship. Pastors and Lay Leaders from each of the four congregations have attended these meetings. The four congregations that are engaged in the Collaborative are: Arlington Hills Lutheran, Grace Lutheran, Hope Lutheran and Our Redeemer Lutheran. We have also invited Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran to join us in our monthly meetings.

One of the activities that has been completed is our logo and tag line (see above). An abbreviated version of the tagline text is included with the logo. We wanted the logo, short text and tagline to identify who we are and hope to be.

News: New intern to succeed Per Halaas. Welcome Intern Becky Silva! Here is Becky's letter of introduction:→

To all the members of Grace, Hope, Arlington Hills and Our Redeemer Church,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! Thank you for inviting me to work alongside your ministries as an Intern Pastor in the upcoming 2022-2023 year! Here is a bit about me. I was born the 4th of 5 children, raised in the Eau Claire area of Wisconsin, where we faithfully attended worship and our church school. Secondary education was completed at Osseo-Fairchild School District, where I was actively involved in sports, extracurricular activities and working at the 'famous' Norske Nook Restaurant.

Graduating Cum Laude from OFHS, granted me scholarship opportunities, alongside loans, to support my undergraduate studies at Winona State University in Southeastern Minnesota where I graduated in Health Education Cum Laude. After a few years of working in business as a regional manager, I furthered my education at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh to find more fulfillment and purpose as a teacher of students with special needs.

Teaching in the Green Bay Area for five years, I gained experience through professional development, specialized trainings, working with mental health, family systems, leadership, navigating conflict and working with best practices for teaching students with special needs. Leadership on varying committees came naturally, as I was often appointed and/or nominated for those roles. Green Bay School District presented my name to the Golden Apple Award Committee for distinguished abilities in education. I am honored and humbled.

After our time in Eastern Wisconsin, my spouse, Tim and I, moved to the twin cities to be closer to our family of origin. Maplewood schools became home to me professionally at Carver and Edgerton Elementary. I stepped into varying leadership roles quickly and was asked my middle management to provide consultation services across the district for systems in elementary special education classrooms.

During this time in the twin cities our family grew! We welcomed a daughter in 2012 and a son in 2015. They attend Gethsemane Lutheran School, where they've gone to church most of their life and where their mama has worked after leaving the world of Education in 2017.

What a delight to transfer skills of teaching to our church as the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry. Alongside this, Pastor has invited me to co-officiate with her during our services, special services and in pastoral care. I've had the honor of privilege of doing this alongside her for the past four years while attending Luther Seminary.

I come to you entering my fifth year of seminary, as a culminating internship, meaning I have a course to complete during our duration of time together. My first day in office will be August 23, 2022. I welcome this opportunity to be Intern Pastor Becky as part of the East Side Collaborative, learning from each of you, your building teams and leadership. Since I will only be here a short time I am hopeful that we will be able to get to know each other quickly. I am excited about the opportunities we face together and look forward to walking alongside you in ministry.

Peace in Christ,

Becky Sliva, Pastoral Intern 2022-2023

Upcoming Events:

- Aug 2 Music on the Blacktop National Night Out at Our Redeemer 5-8pm
- Aug 21 Outdoor worship at Lake Phalen 10am with food to follow. This is Per's last Sunday - a formal farewell in the service
- Aug 15 East Side Collaborative Shared Ministry Meeting at Grace at 6:30pm

Intern Becky Sliva begins her East Side Intern work on August 23, 2022. Each church will do their own service of beginnings in the rotation (3 weeks in each church after 2 weeks of being in each for a couple of days – Our Redeemer, then Arlington Hills, then Hope, then Grace.

August Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month for August at Grace is Planting Hope campaign from St. Paul Area Synod of ELCA. Planting Hope Campaign expresses our confidence that God is at work in the 110 congregations and mission starts in the East Metro of the Twin Cities. This is a 3 year campaign which offers an opportunity to contribute to the collective involvement of 120,000 Lutherans in 4 activity areas. They include: 1. Invite neighbors into the life of Christ, 2. Renew the Congregations of the synod., 3. Raise up the next generation of leaders. and 4. Invest in a transformative project of the East Side of St. Paul with Lutheran Social Service.

The transformative project of the East Side will be the future Families Together preschool. The Congregation of Hope Lutheran (following the sale of their building) donated \$100,000.00 toward the cost of a playground at the future Families Together preschool, planned for the East Side of St. Paul. The synod is partnering with Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota on the Families Together Preschool.

Grace Endowment has made a gift of \$2,500.00 this year towards Planting Hope. Please prayerfully consider joining our neighbors in this exciting and ambitious opportunity to reach out to our neighbors and boldly move into the future spreading God's love, word and hope for the future. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering plate on Sunday mornings or mail into the office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.



Music Notes -

Some songs that we've sung since childhood and come to mind instantly are not in our hymnal. But just like the hymns we sing on Sunday, they have interesting histories. For example, "I've Got the Joy in My Heart" was written by a Methodist minister named George Cooke. He was in charge of a Bible camp outside of Wilmington, Delaware where he wrote this song in 1926.

In contrast, "Lord, I Want to be a Christian in my Heart" is a spiritual dating back to around the 1750's in Virginia. Another spiritual but from the Civil War era, from an island off the coast of South Carolina is "Michael Rowed the Boat Ashore". Slaves were left there after their owners fled the Union Army. We know it from the 1960's, the Highwaymen making it a number one hit.

A more contemporary song was written by Bill Staines who unfortunately died December 5 last year of prostate cancer. He wrote "All God's Critters Have a Place in the Choir". He tells the story of while on a camping trip, he woke up before dawn hearing a weird sound. It turned out it was a porcupine talking to himself!

So whether it be a favorite hymn or one that we sing especially in summer, they all have their own stories to tell.

FROM THE LIBRARY:

A reminder to readers that books are available on an honor system. Please return any books you have borrowed to the wicker basket on the shelf in the library.

The books are organized alphabetically by author, last name first.

Recent book donations:

FICTION	<u>The Huntress</u>	Kate Quinn
	<u>Wish You Were Here</u>	Jodi Picoult
	<u>The Last House on the Street</u>	Diane Chamberlain
	<u>The God in Flight</u>	Laura Rjiri
	<u>Cry of the Halidon</u>	Robert Ludlom
	<u>Rush of Heaven</u> (a modern day miracle)	Ema McKinley
	<u>Great Flying Doctor Stories</u>	Bill "Swampy" Marsh
	<u>The Good Left Undone</u>	Adriana Trigiani
BOOK CLUB READS	<u>Sooley</u>	John Grisham

Thank you for ongoing support of our two beautiful libraries at Grace. The little free library on Old Hudson Road gets battered by the elements but provides material for the community while the indoor library is in ongoing modification to remain current. Happy reading and sharing what you've read.

Grace Book Club Meeting - This group will be taking August off but resume in September.

From the President -

Special Congregation Meeting Summary July 17, 2022

The agenda included a discussion of the termination of the agreement with Enlighten Academy Update the end of June. They had not paid rent, they did not make the enrollment numbers again, and were considering asking for yet another year. The cost for us to remodel to meet the code standards for the school were prohibitive. Pastor Karen provided a summary of a new opportunity with Lutheran Social Services Families Together. The synod is asking if we would host the therapeutic preschool. The **Families Together Therapeutic Preschool** uses a team approach to support the development and growth of children ages three through five. We partner with parents, caregivers, teachers and therapists to develop an individualized plan for building cognitive, developmental and social-emotional skills. Bi-weekly meetings to ensure each child is making progress towards success.

<https://www.lssmn.org/services/families/therapeutic-preschool>

The school would use the basement area and pay for all expenses for the remodeling needed to meet the zoning code for a school. This preschool will provide rental income and an outstanding opportunity for outreach and service to our community.

We approved a motion to affirm that the Council continue to move forward with this LSS Families Together project.

Monique McClure Hegge reported on progress with receiving a second appraisal on the Gold Line Rapid Bus Project with MnDOT. MnDOT will pay the church for the use of the property during the construction on I94. Business Management, Property Management and the Council agreed that we should seek a second opinion concerning the appraisal we received from MnDOT. **The congregation approved paying the appraiser \$3000.** We will receive the new appraisal within 60 days. [Gold Line Project - Metro Transit](#)

Property Management has submitted a request for bids to repair the air conditioning in the sanctuary after the unit was vandalized. A claim has been submitted to the insurance company. Discussion included how much this would cost. **The congregation approved Property Management moving forward with \$60,000 to replace the air conditioning unit.** There is still \$20,000 in an air conditioning fund that will also be needed. It will probably be months before the air conditioning will be functional in the sanctuary. We will continue to worship in the Tower Room.

We provided a review of the budget situation at mid-year. There are concerns since we are already behind by \$45,000 expenses to income. This is serious since this is the farthest behind we've been and it amounts to the deficit we have seen at the end of the year. We will continue to communicate these concerns. We accepted several ideas for the Council to consider during its discussion in August. Please let Council members know of ideas or suggestions. We will be working on a plan for stabilizing the budget for the next 6 months and recommendations for the 2023 budget. Please pray for our church and its leadership.

Pastor Karen provided an update on her sabbatical schedule. She will be communicating more on the plan in the August InTouch.

Please contact Council members if you have questions or ideas. Thank you.

On August 21st we will all be coming together for worship and fellowship at Phalen Park.

As part of that event, we are asking our congregations to support the Alley Shoppe at Arlington Hills Lutheran by bringing a new, untapped toy, game book, or other fun gift for a child up to 13 years old. Christmas may seem very far off but the Alley Shoppe is desperately in need of toys this year.

Not sure what to bring? Think about what you loved to play with as a child. What about your children or grandchildren? Think about those fun toys, pray for the children that will receive the gifts this year and pick up a toy or two. If you can't make it to Phalen Park for the worship service, drop off your donation at your own church during the month of August.

Thank you for your support of the Alley Shoppe, which is in its 53rd year of providing clothing, household good, toys, hygiene kits, birthday bags and more. The needs are great, and we thank you for living out our call to love and serve.

Pam Wiehe, Alley Shoppe director

Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

Internal, Local and Global

The Community Connections Committee is currently collecting items for the baby kits for Lutheran World Relief and 2 other ongoing projects. The lists are in the library.

Also, please be aware that Sandy Abernathy will take old flags and make sure they are disposed of properly. These can also be left in the library. Thank you!

School Tools Drive for Interfaith Action is active thru August 15th. Collection lists are available and will also be in bulletins.

Please keep these collection drives in mind as you enjoy your summer months. Any donations can always be placed in the gray bin in the Narthex of the church. Thank you for your generosity!



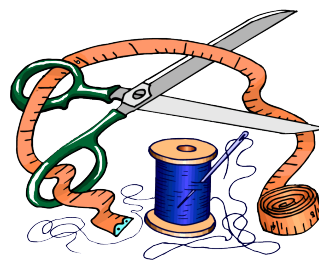
Mission 2022 Lutheran World Relief Collections:

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



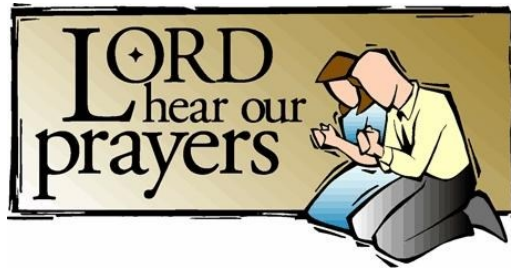
Quilt Days- We will be taking a summer hiatus after May and resume again in September on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. New helpers are always welcome!

Plan to join us in September and use your hands and time for a good cause!



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. Thanks for your help.



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 Phyllis Acker, Carol Sprau, Butch Nelson, Adam Revier and his family on the passing of his father, family and friends of Maxine Keller who passed away mid-July, 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 :

There is always the offering plate on Sundays or snail mail. 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 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.



Financial Snapshot for GLC-2022

	<u>June Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$16,672.61	\$155,793.79	\$145,149.96
Expenses	\$28,578.00	\$173,260.09	\$181,488.54
Deficit/Overage	- \$ 11,905.39	-\$17,466.30	-\$36,338.58



- 3 Jonathan Williams
- 5 Linda Denson
Cathy Geister
Evan Taylor
- 6 Jackson Geister
Gerry Lindquist
Warren Loiler
- 10 Raiha Storbakken
- 11 Jeffrey Gorton
Lynn Kolars
- 16 Randy Nikula
- 17 Bob Golder
- 24 Betty Castle
Jenna Engh
- 26 Valerie Hultgren



Worship Leaders for August 2022 - While we are worshipping in the Tower Rooms, masks are encouraged. Thank you!

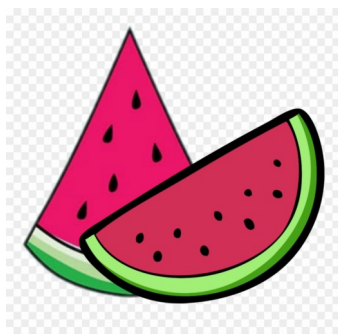
<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
7	Roger Allmendinger/Per Halaas
14	Roger Allmendinger/Becky Sliva
21	Picnic at Phalen Park Pavilion
28	Jeff Oberlander

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
7	Team D- Norm Walby, Randy Nikula, Jonathan and Josh Williams
14	Team E- Jeff Oberlander, Anne Oberlander, Peter Wickert
21	Picnic at Phalen Park Pavilion
28	Team G - Brian Jackson, Patty Young, Chris and Kristen Wintheiser

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
7	Amanda Christie team
14	Monique McClure-Hegge team
21	Kate Pray team
28	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

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

