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# September In Touch with Grace



Where on Earth is

Pastor Karen

(part 1) ????

Dear family and friends of Grace,

The beginning of my Sabbatical has brought many adventures! I am starting out with our wonderful church group co-led with Pastor Jan Mehlhoff. We started out on an afternoon flight to Amsterdam and transferred to **Berlin**. We started our adventures with a city tour to explore the sometimes tortured history of this fascinating city. We experienced many reminders of Berlin's recent tragic past - the remains of the Berlin Wall, the place where Checkpoint Charlie once stood, the new Jewish Memorial— but also the elegant avenue Unter den Linden, the Brandenburg Gate, once symbol of the divided city, the Cathedral, Reichstag and the beautiful symmetry of Gendarmenmarkt. Then, on to nearby **Potsdam**, crossing the Glienicke Bridge, where east and west swapped their spies during the Cold War. As the playground and favorite residence of the Prussian kings and German Emperors, our tour of Potsdam included a visit to Cecilienhof Palace, which hosted the Potsdam Peace Conference in the summer of 1945 and the gardens of Sans Souci Palace, the rococo residence of Frederick the Great. We travelled next to **Wittenberg**, a journey in the footsteps of Martin Luther, in the city where he lived and worked from 1508 to 1546 and which is regarded as the very Cradle of the Reformation. We visited the Luther House, formerly the Augustinian Monastery, later the home of the Luthers and now the largest museum dedicated to the Reformation in the world. Our walking tour continued to the Town Church, where Luther preached and the Castle Church, where he posted his 95 theses and where both he and his associate, Phillip Melancthon are buried. Next, we went to the market town of **Eisleben**, where we visited the houses connected with Martin Luther's birth and death. Both buildings have recently been transformed into state of the art museums, which vividly set the story of Luther's life and the Reformation in the context of the age in which he lived and died. In the afternoon we made a haunting visit to **Buchenwald** Concentration Camp, a reminder of the darkest period of Germany's recent history and now a memorial to the victims of Nazi terror. On to **Erfurt**, one of Germany's oldest towns, with a skyline dominated by the

spires of its Cathedral and St. Severi Church. Our morning walking tour included the 600-year-old Kraemer Bridge, the Collegium Maius where Luther attended the university and the remains of the Augustinian Monastery, where he began his monastic life. From here, we made the short journey to **Eisenach** to visit the **Wartburg**, one of Germany's most ancient castles. It was here that Martin Luther lived in hiding as Junker Jörg for 10 months following the decree which declared him an outlaw after the Diet of Worms in 1521. We left the land of Luther and the Reformation, driving south to visit the Imperial City of **Nürnberg**. The city evolved from being the unofficial capital of the Holy Roman Empire, to the heartbeat of the German Renaissance, and centuries later the hotbed of twentieth century Nazi activities. Following our visit of Nurnberg we continued to **Oberammergau** in the **Bavarian Alps**. The **Passion Play** has been performed in Oberammergau since 1634. It is a tradition which, although common throughout Europe at that time, largely disappeared over the centuries. Except in this small Bavarian farming village it not only survived more than 350 years, but became famous all over the world. Oberammergau is also well known for the traditional craft of wood-carving and for the frescoes decorating the village houses. This morning we absorbed the unique atmosphere of this Alpine village, before the afternoon and evening performance of the Passion Play. The next day included a visit to **Neuschwanstein** - the fairytale castle of 'mad' King Ludwig II, which we recognized as the model for Disney's Cinderella Castle. Then on to **Munich**, where we had an orientation tour of the city before our farewell dinner.

Pastor Jan and I sent the group home and we continued on to **Iceland** with another colleague, Pastor Betsy. We hiked and explored the incredible beauty of this North Atlantic island. We went to the national park with a tremendous glacier. Large calved icebergs floated into glacier lagoon and out to the ocean. Pieces of ice drifted on to Diamond Beach. We walked on black beaches, wooded trails, behind waterfalls, in the crevice of the tectonic plates between two continents, saw Icelandic horses, the incredible Lutheran cathedral, the Golden

Circle and so much more.

Next, we flew to Scotland and experienced ancient castles, Edinburgh and its Military Tattoo at the castle parade grounds. Then, on to Inverness, the Highland's rugged beauty, crossed the North Atlantic to the Orkney Islands, then south on the western edge of the country to Isle of Skye, Loch Ness, Loch Lomond, Oban, Iona, Isle of Mull, the Hebrides, and finally Glasgow before heading home to Minnesota.

All of this revealed treasures of ancient Celtic, Viking, and Indigenous culture. I look forward to sharing more with you when I return.

Blessings on your own journeys,  
Pastor Karen

### Announcements

- 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.

### **Sunday School Restart!**

Families of *Grace*, we are working hard to bring back our Sunday School Program this fall. Starting September 11th on Rally Day our families will have time to gather, and start planting new seeds of faith and growth for the coming year. We ask for the first day parents and families join us. We will then continue meeting every other week after the church service around 10:30am. We have an amazing group of people that have shared their passion for teaching our youth for many years and I'm so excited they will come back again to help. There is always room for more that are willing to help, so anyone interested let Amanda Christie know.

On Rally Day we will have a blessing during the service for all the children and teachers that are starting a new school year.

## September Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month for September at Grace is Sharing and Caring Hands. S&CH is a non-profit organization which offers health care, medical, social, counseling, welfare, rehabilitation, community care, family support, housing development, transportation, refugees, disasters, food, human and temporary relief services. S&CH serve the people in the state of Minnesota.

S&CH was founded in 1985 as a safety net organization to help those who could not obtain help from the welfare system. It exists as a vehicle for volunteers to commit their time and resources to make a difference in the lives of the people in the community.

In these increasingly tough times of government cutbacks, the private sector must provide for the individuals falling through the cracks in the government welfare system.

S&CH provide a host of services to over 20,000 people each month. Over \$400,000 is spent each month on the needs of the poor. Run by volunteers with few paid staff, the center relies solely on donations of time, goods, services and money from the community it services. It does not accept Federal or State financial assistance and is not affiliated with United Way, but relies entirely on donations.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this organization which reaches out to God's people in Minnesota who are 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..

**The people of Grace, through the month of July, donated over 320 pounds of** non-perishable food items for Merrick Food Shelf. **Thank you** for reaching out to our neighbors on the east side of St. Paul who are unsure as to where their next meal will come from for their families. Another check was issued to Merrick Food Shelf for \$475.00 to purchase needed items!

**Another Thank you!!** The Congregation of Grace Lutheran Church has stepped up to make a difference for the students in Sierra Leone AGAIN this year. Because of your generosity 89+ students will be able to attend school this upcoming year. WOW!! That's over \$6,250.00. On behalf of the students and their families and the Mission Committee, please accept our heartfelt thanks. We are helping to make a difference, bring God's light, and to promote a brighter future through education for these students. To God be the glory!

**And while we're at it - Thank you to all who donated to the school tools drive this year.** We were able once again to bring a trunk full of school supplies to the Interfaith Action group who will distribute them to local kids!

**And...**Many thanks also to all who brought toys, books, and games for the Alley Shoppe Toy drive! We were able to bring a large number of those to the Park Worship and Picnic on Aug. 21st! What a generous congregation! The Community Connections Committee is grateful for all of you.

## Music Notes -

At the end of July, I had the opportunity to attend a 4 day workshop led by Mark Lawson of Morningstar Publications and David Sims of Augsburg Fortress Publications, held at St. Olaf College. The opening service highlighted women composers and writers, one of which was the composer, conductor and teacher Nadia Boulanger. She is best known for her teaching some of the 20<sup>th</sup> century greatest composers, both classical and popular i.e. Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Phillip Glass, as well as Michel Legrand, Quincy Jones and even Burt Bacharach. I wrote recently about an Afro-American classical composer who was also one of her students, George Walker.

France invited American musicians to study at the American Conservatory at Fontainebleau for free in gratitude for their service in World War I. Nadia taught there until Germany's invasion of France. During World War II, she taught and gave lectures at several American universities including Juilliard, Harvard and Peabody. She returned to France to teach at the American Conservatory after the war. In addition, she was the first woman to conduct the Boston Symphony as well as the Philadelphia Orchestra. Even though she had won awards for her composing, she stopped composing and concentrated on teaching after her sister Lili, also a composer, died of tuberculosis at the age of 25. Trivia: she was the one who arranged the music for Grace Kelly's wedding to Prince Rainier in Monaco.

Amy Beach a.k.a. H.H.A. Beach was the first American woman to have her composition not only published in America, but also performed by the Boston Symphony Orchestra. When she was 18, she married a doctor 24 years older and of high society. Because of that, she was limited in what she could do musically i.e. only give concerts twice a year, never teaching because that would be beneath her status and even taking music lessons. She made up for lost opportunities after he died, touring Europe and America. Trivia: After hearing her 1<sup>st</sup> Symphony, the composer George Chadwick dubbed her "one of the boys", putting her in the group of six composers from the Boston area, which included himself, Horatio Parker, John Paine, Arthur Foote, and Edward MacDowell.

The third woman composer to highlight has become more well known in the last 20 years, ever since some music accredited to her husband had been found to actually have been written by her. Clara Schumann was more than being the wife of a famous composer. There have even been films about her - *Beloved Clara* was filmed in 2008 and before that *Traumerei* in 1944. During her 61 year career, Clara Schumann was best known as an outstanding concert pianist, second only to Liszt. During that same time, she also composed chamber music, piano and choral pieces. Composing was not recognized as a serious profession for women during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, being better left to men. It's hard to believe but Chopin died when Clara was only 30 years old. In her concerts, she was the one who introduced Germany to his music. Trivia: The year the Berlin Wall fell down, 1989, Clara Schumann's likeness appeared on the 100 Deutsches Mark and stayed on until 2002.

What do these three women composers have in common, besides producing beautiful music? They were all born in the month of September: Nadia Boulanger on September 16, 1887, Amy Beach on September 5, 1867 and Clara Schumann on September 13, 1819.

**FROM THE LIBRARY:**

Autumn is here but this doesn't decrease our love of books or reading!

Some of the books listed here are new additions and others are listed as a reminder of the variety of reading material available to readers.

REFERENCE	<u>Macbeth, Interfact</u>	Shakespeare
MUSIC	<u>Endings by Leonard Bernstein</u>	Simon & Schuster
FICTION	<u>Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore</u>	Robin Sloan
	<u>The Women in the Castle</u> (lives of 3 women brought together in WWII)	Jessica Shattuck
	<u>Land More Kind Than Home</u>	Wiley Cash
	<u>Leave the World Behind</u>	Rumaan Alam
	<u>One False Move</u>	Harlan Coben
	<u>The Black Box</u>	Michael Connelly
	<u>Dance of Death</u>	Doug Preston & Lincoln Child
	<u>Heart of the Dragon</u>	Alasdair Clayre
FOOD	<u>It Starts With Food</u>	Dallas & Melissa Hartwig
	<u>Beyond Parsley</u>	Jr. League of Kansas City, Missouri

Grace Book Club Meeting - Thursday, September 1st at 7 pm



**The Bach Event** that was postponed from this summer has been rescheduled for November 13th at Grace. Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, September 20th at 7 pm in the Sanctuary at Grace. Let's try this again. Come join us!

## From the President -

Fall. Fall start-up. Fall weather. Fall renewal.

These are things that come to mind as we move into September.

Fall is the time for renewal and starting up again. We are happy to have Sunday School starting up. Committee chairs have received the letter from Business Management to begin budget planning for 2023. Because we are experiencing a significant shortfall in income to expenses in 2022, we ask for careful consideration of any new expenses in 2023.

Council began our meeting with a workshop on budgeting to review trends and forecasts. We had extensive conversations about the budget situation in 2022 and 2023.

### Actions for 2022

Launch a Stewardship Campaign this fall.

Participate with the St. Paul Area Synod on Congregation Revitalization. A session will be held on October 1, 2022. If you are interested in participating, please let us know. [Congregational Vitality - Saint Paul Area Synod, ELCA \(spas-elca.org\)](https://www.spas-elca.org)

Continue to monitor the progress of the Families Together Project with LSS

### Actions for 2023

Review 2023 budget for savings.

Discussed the feasibility of paying off the mortgage early. We will retire the mortgage in October 2023.

Request that committees carefully determine budget requests for 2023 with consideration for freezing at the 2022 levels when possible.

Review income and expenses including a focus on increasing income.

Consider salary freezes.

Look for more partnerships.

Ongoing discussions about the second appraisal for the MnDOT Met Council Gold Line use of our property. We should receive a second appraisal report in early September.

**The Task Force on Legacy Giving** developed a model on how we consider spending additional money such as the land appraisal for the MnDOT Rapid Bus Line Project based on a Triangle Theory: Maintenance, Monies, Mission/Ministry:

**Maintenance:** Parking lot being a big one, but waiting until after construction is done... perhaps MNDOT will need to repair/replace as part of their efforts (Other ideas include general repair or replacement of larger items such as sound system in sanctuary, elevator, adding playgrounds, gardens, etc.)

**Monies:** Budget, Endowment, Investments, Staff

**Missions/Ministries:** Lutheran Social Services project, Sierra Leone scholarships, engaging online presence, funding internships. General programming and partnerships (would need specific ideas)

Thank you, church committees, for sharing lists of needs for the congregation. These will be shared with the Special Gifts and Memorials Committee.

Linda Baer

**Collaborative Worship** in the Park at Phalen Regional Park on August 21st was a great time to be together to worship, eat, and spend time with our partner congregations on the East Side! Arlington Hill, Gustavus Adolphus, Hope, Grace, & Our Redeemer. We also gathered many toys, games and books for the Alley Shoppe August Toy Drive!

Here are a few pictures from that morning!



# 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!

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



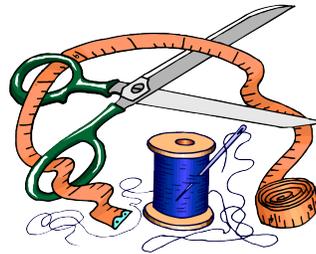
### Mission 2022 Lutheran World Relief Collections:

*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 picking up again on September 24th at 10 am. We usually meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. We will be doing photos for the new directory on September 10th so have cancelled that day. 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. So far we have collected \$165. 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, the family and friends of Barbara Greaves, 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](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>July Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$17,707.82	\$173,501.61	\$169,341.62
Expenses	\$22,962.77	\$196,222.86	\$211,736.63
Deficit/Overage	- \$ 5,254.95	-\$22,721.25	-\$42,395.01



- 1 Adeline Marquart
- 2 Richard Doree
- 3 Dave Oberlander
- 4 Chuck Kolars
- 5 Jim Dike  
Connie Smeby  
Elijah Taylor
- 7 Linda Baer  
Mark Pearson
- 8 Brad Hegge  
Elliott Heintz
- 9 Phyllis Hunter  
Samuel Wintheiser
- 11 Christine Olson  
Irma Raschke
- 12 Jim Geister
- 13 Norm Walby
- 14 Dorothy Mohwinkel  
Wayne Motz, Jr.
- 15 Phyllis Acker
- 16 Cathy Erickson

- 17 Barb Holtan
- 21 Deion Rose
- 24 Julie Ohs
- 27 Hailey Alleman  
Sherri Gudmunson  
Ed Shaffer



# Worship Leaders for September 2022 - We will be back in the Sanctuary since the AC has been repaired!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Preaching</u>
4	Russ Carlson	Hymn Sing
11	Monique McClure-Hegge	Rev. Emily Rova-Heggener
18	Barb Holtan	Rev. Emily Rova-Heggener
25	Peter Zitzewitz	Rev. Roger Allmendinger

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
4	Team H - Karen Nikula, Bob Golder, Youth
11	Team A - Norm Walby, Ron House, Larry Carlson, Ron Swenson, Roger McClure
18	Team B - Rick Major, Julie Major, Norm Walby?
25	Team C - Brian Jackson, Thomas Rose, Jonathan Rose, Lydia Rose, Violet Rose

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
4	Amanda Christie team
11	Monique McClure-Hegge team
18	Kate Pray team
25	Amanda Christie team



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**Pastor:**

Rev. Karen Williams

**Custodial Staff:**

Larry and Linda Denson

**Office Staff:**

Linda Sackreiter

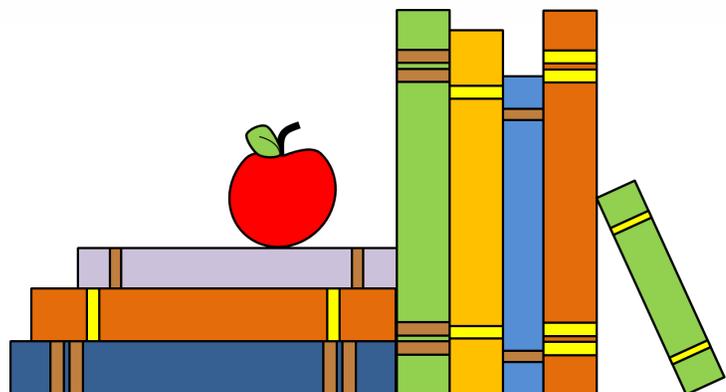
**Music Staff:**

Russ Carlson—Director of Music Ministries

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors



Back To School

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