

June In Touch with Grace



Holy Trinity Sunday
June 4, 2023



Dear family and friends of Grace,

June brings roses, longer days, stargazing, warm evenings, butterflies, celebrations, and a sense of joy. God created this wonderful world for us to enjoy. God also asked us to care for the earth and all of creation. Our earth is fragile. We are called to do our part. To use an old phrase: reduce, reuse, and recycle. It's not too late to turn back the damage and destruction that the past decades have subjected our world to. There is still hope to restore the world that God imagined.

In worship we will celebrate the gift of water. We will hear various portions of scripture that bring us to the waters of baptism, new life, and our relationship with God. Be ready for some joy-filled surprises as we enter summer with the sweet gift of refreshing water. Imagine all that water does for us. Without water, we could not live. This is truly a gift of life that God has imagined for us.

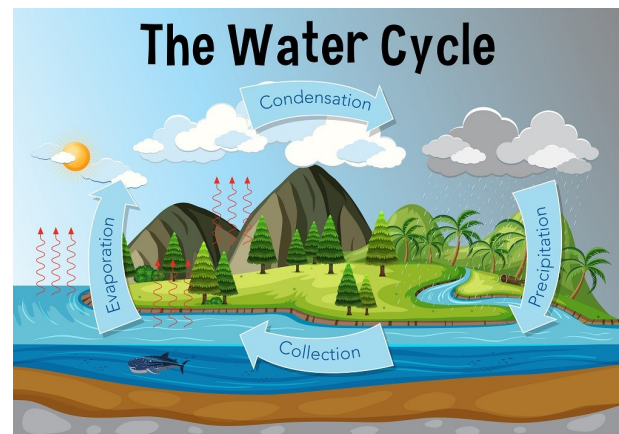
Imagining will be a big part of our church life as we create a vision of what church life will look like as an upper level church. We will be welcoming Families Together into our lower level. We will see a new creation as space is created for providing a healthy environment for young children at risk. We will have an impact on the lives of many toddlers and preschoolers as well as their families as we embrace this change and open our doors to our neighbors in need.

Imagine changing the future trajectory of a pipeline to prison life for some of these youngsters to a new life of hope and promise. Imagination is something that children are gifted with. We adults sometimes allow our logic to get in the way. Imagination is at the epicenter of creating a new world, a new life, a new way of being, and a new sense of living out God's ministry right in our midst.

We believe that God has a purpose for us in this time and place. I am excited to see what the future holds and how we will be changed as we embrace all that God's imagination has in store for our congregation.

Come to the water as we celebrate the gift of life and all that we can imagine God will do!

In Christ,
Pastor Karen



Announcements

Save the Dates for Scandinavia! Travel with our group to Norway and Sweden July 18-29, 2024. Our brochures will be available soon! Pastor Jan Mehlhoff and I are putting together a fantastic trip to explore the land of the midnight sun. We would love to see you join us on another fun-filled and exciting adventure. See Pastor Karen with questions.

- Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, Union Cemetery, 10 a.m. program – Join Pastor Karen and Jan Steingas as they help to lead a memorial service remembering those who have served and praying for our country. We will gather at the Veteran's Memorial near the back east side of the cemetery.
- Welcome to our newest members: Pauline Kinnunen and through baptism, Maxwell Walter. Maxwell is the grandson of David Killeen and son of Beth and Justin Walter. Pauline is the sister of Patty Young and daughter of Irma and Rich Raschke. Welcome to our church family!!!!
- We celebrate with those graduating this year especially Hailey Alleman, Emma Geister, and Holly Nikula. We pray God's richest blessings on your future endeavors!

Congratulations to our Intern Becky Sliva on her graduation from Luther Seminary!!

- Looking ahead: We will host a summer outdoor worship in the parking lot the first Sunday in July to celebrate the 4th. A picnic will follow worship. Bring lawn chairs and enjoy the opportunity to worship outdoors. This service will start at 10 a.m. rather than our usual time so please make a note of that. We will gather in the shade on the west side of the parking lot tree median. We will not be in cars as we gather in chairs pre-COVID style!

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, provided donations, crafts, baked goods, plants, and more! Our first ever Spring Festival was a great success! A special shout out to our Property Committee for their work setting up, supporting during the event, and taking everything down afterwards especially Larry Denson, Jim Dike, Brian Jackson and Chris Wintheiser. Thank you to Linda Denson for creating our fabulous aprons, The Community Connections Committee who provided great food as well as selling baked goods and crafts. Our Missions Committee filled four tables with plants to sell as they sold them, the plants went to good homes. A huge thanks to Amanda Christie, Kim Childs, Tony and Olivia for providing a fun space for children with games and activities. Thanks to those who created beautiful crafts to sell. Thank you, Patty Young, for helping in many areas and selling items again on Sunday morning. Our Music Committee provided great entertainment led by Russ Carlson and Kathleen Hollar. Our Intern, Becky Sliva, offered a great deal of help and support. Thank you to Fire Station #24 for sending a fire truck with Captain Torgeson and two other firefighters for a visit. Thanks, also, to Culver's for donating scoops of their delicious custard and a very nice donation to our fundraiser. In three hours, we raised over \$2000 dollars! This will be sent to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief in their Eastern European locations to support the Ukrainian refugees who have fled their homes into the neighboring countries. Thank you Grace Lutheran members, neighbors, and friends, for attending, supporting, and being a partner in ministry.



From the Intern's Desk - JUNE Newsletter 2023 Becky's Blurb

I've graduated with my Master of Divinity AND I still get to work with you through August! Thank you for all your prayers, supportive words and guidance on this journey! I'm so fortunate to work with you Eastsiders!



During these upcoming months, I'll be working to organize our Eastside Collaborative VBS at the host site of Gustavus Adolphus. **Vacation Bible School is going to be OUT OF THIS WORLD** with the Outer Space Galaxy theme 'Stellar'. **July 16-19** Ages 3 - 5th grade can join us at Stellar VBS! We are working together to put on a GREAT community event that will launch us on an adventure that's light years of faith-building fun! [Click here](#) for VBS Registration for ages 3 through 5th grade

VBS Volunteers still needed:

- Actors for daily skits
- Greeters to welcoming parents and students
- Desk Registration help
- Rotation Leaders: Bible storytelling, Snack, Craft/Science, Games, Video Station
- Preschool Leaders and Assistants
- Small Group Leaders - taking youth from station to station
- Decoration Team for each of the spaces

VBS Volunteer Training will be offered on June 25th and July 9th near the lunch hour. [Click here](#) to sign-up to volunteer for Vacation Bible School!

Eastside Collaborative Upcoming Events:

- Outdoor Worship Battle Creek Park July 16th hosted by Grace Lutheran!
- VBS July 16-19th at Gustavus Adolphus for ages 3 through 5th grade.
- Unite the Night hosted at Our Redeemer August 2 from 5 to 7:30 with music, games, free food! Phalen Lake Outdoor Worship August 20 hosted by Arlington Hills!

PRAYER MINISTRY

Our prayer teams now have an updated email address! Feel free to use that email address to request prayer. Indicate if the prayer is for the pastor's eyes only, for the pastor and the prayer team OR for pastor, prayer team AND the congregation. Blessings to you and yours!



JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month for June at Grace Lutheran Church is ELCA Disaster Response. ELCA Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the U.S. and around the world.

Some of the projects domestically include flooding, hurricanes, severe storms, tornadoes, and wildfires. Internationally current projects include the Eastern Europe crisis, Horn of Africa drought, Middle East Crisis, South Sudan Relief and Protecting Migrants.

ELCA Disaster Response realizes that every disaster is local. Because of this, they believe every response needs to be rooted in the community. They work to accompany that community from immediate relief through long term recovery. By collaborating with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the U.S. and around the world it enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. ELCA Disaster Response is a welcome partner because they respect the perspectives and strengths of others.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this organization which represents the Lutheran Church and reaches out to those in need. The United States and the world have had an incredible number of natural disasters in recent months. You can help to make a difference. 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 church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.

Music Notes -

Sometimes it takes a while for things to grow. We know that because we live in a state where we wait impatiently for Spring to come so we can begin our planting. And then we wait for the first sprouts to shoot through the moist dirt. And all that takes a lot of patience.

It took over ten years for Bart Millard to write his song "I Can Only Imagine". Russ sang that song on Music Sunday, May 21st during communion. Bart Millard's Dad died of cancer when he was only nineteen. Many people commented to him that his dad was now in a better place. He kept thinking about what they said, writing down "I Can Only Imagine" as his response—just that phrase and nothing more.

Ten years later, Bart had formed a band named *MercyMe*. They were working on recording an album which later was titled "*Almost There*". He found an old workbook with lots of scribbled notes, including the phrase "I Can Only Imagine". Ten minutes later he had written his now famous song, but it took ten years for it to mature and grow.

A few weeks ago, The Hymn Society held a panel discussion on what should hymn composers write next. They threw out the question and I'm passing it on to you: What topic should hymn composers tackle next? We brought up such topics as the environment, poverty, homelessness, mental health issues and violence, but is there anything else that you can think of that I can pass along to them? Let me know what you think. FYI: One of our favorite hymn composers was on that panel—Marty Haugen.

XYZ's This group is on a summer hiatus until September, but be thinking about things we might want to do next year! We will meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month again, which is September 14th to decide on our meetings for the 2023-24 season. Of course, refreshments will be served! See ya in the fall!

FROM THE LIBRARY:

Many thanks to Library Patrons, Readers, Donors, & Buyers.

The Little Library on Old Hudson Road is used sporadically, but it is used.

Books in the Main Library are alphabetized by author surname. Columns begin on the left:

1 & 2 are on the left as you face the library,

columns 3-6 face the Sanctuary,

columns 7 & 8 are on the right facing the interstate.

The books listed this month are from the 4th column, 5th shelf

NEW FICTION

<u>Free Fire</u>	C.J. Box
<u>The Boys From Biloxi</u>	John Grisham
<u>Hour Game</u>	David Baldacci
<u>Small Great Things</u>	Jodi Piccoult
<u>The Vanishing Half</u>	Brit Bennett
<u>Shelter</u>	Jung Yun
<u>Rogue Lawyer</u>	John Grisham
<u>We Begin at the End</u>	Chris Whitaker

BOOK CLUB READS

<u>Beneath a Scarlett Sky</u>	Mark Sullivan
<u>Finding Me</u>	Viola Davis
<u>Amy Snow</u>	Tracy Rees
<u>Small Sacrifices</u>	Ann Rule
<u>The Roof Walker</u>	Susan Power
<u>The Forgotten Bookshop of Paris</u>	Daisy Wood

BIBLE RELATED

<u>New Testament Theology</u>	Douglas
<u>I Samuel</u>	David Tsumura
<u>Understanding the Old Testament</u>	
<u>Reclaiming the Bible for a Non-religious World</u>	Spong
<u>International Study Bible</u>	New Standard Version
<u>Master Builders Bible for Men</u>	
<u>Everyday Life in Bible Times</u>	National Geographic
<u>Christian Apologetics</u>	Doug Power
<u>The Life of Christ</u>	John Walvord
<u>I, II Peter, Jude</u>	
<u>New Testament Theology</u>	Leon Morris
<u>The New Testament in the Language of Today</u>	American Translation
<u>Understanding the New Testament</u>	Howard Clark Kes
<u>The New Testament in 4 version:</u>	
<u>King James</u>	
<u>Revised</u>	
<u>Phillips Modern</u>	
<u>New English</u>	

Grace Book Club - June 1st

Finding Me

Viola Davis

Sunday School Update!

The year has flown by. We started the year by planting a seed of faith in God's garden. Each week the kids added a little more to their seeds and wow have they grown.



Helping with baptism

May 21, 2023



We had a special visit to the balcony to listen to Kathleen show the kids all the great sounds our organ can make. The kids loved hearing a dog bark and the sounds of a storm while trying to find where the sounds were coming from.

To finish off the year we talked about the Holy Spirit coming to us and staying with us each day to guide us with the fruits of the spirit. We look forward to the fall when we can come together again to learn more about God's love, and continue to grow in our faith. Thank you for an amazing year.

There will be Vacation Bible School with the Eastside Collaborative Churches at Gustavus Adolphus on July 16th-19th. There is also a VBS at Holy Cross Lutheran in Oakdale on July 31st -August 3rd. Contact Amanda Christie if you have any questions. Have a fun and safe summer.

VBS -

We are excited to share that the East Side Collaborative is doing a joint VBS this summer. Mark your calendars, and more details to come soon. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help please let Amanda Christie or Intern Becky Sliva know.

WHO: kids from our ESCo and neighborhoods, ages 3 (potty-trained) through 5th grade

Where/Host: Gustavus Adolphus

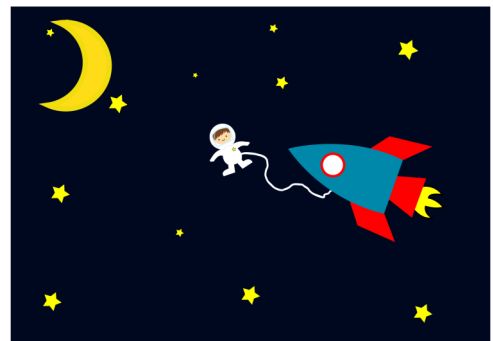
When: July 16-19th.

July 16th Evening with Family Meal (potluck) w/ VBS 6-8pm

July 17-19 mornings 9am-12pm

**Mark your calendars now! July will be here
before you know it!!**

Be ready to take off with us to SPACE!



Education is the Key - Sponsor students in Sierra Leone

For over 20 years, Grace has partnered with SLAI (Sierra Leone Aid Initiative) to offer education opportunities to children in Sierra Leone who, without our support, would not be able to attend school. Without you they will be trapped in a life of poverty and hopelessness. Education is an investment in their future and the world's. Together we are making a difference.

For ONLY \$70.00 per student you may sponsor a child in Sierra Leone for the entire school year. You will be providing hope for a brighter future and a better life for the students, their families, their country and the world. Your donation provides tuition, books, uniforms and some school lunches.

Donations will be accepted June 1 - August 6. This will allow us time to transfer funds and get the children enrolled for school beginning in the fall of 2023. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Sue Atneosen 651-774-9114 or Carolyn Hesterberg 651-702-1194. Please fill out the form below and return with your check in the amount of \$70.00 per student and put in the offering or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Donations in ANY amount are accepted and appreciated.

On behalf of the students in Sierra Leone and their families, please accept our heartfelt thanks!

I (We) would like to sponsor ____ student(s) in Sierra Leone for the school year 2023-2024. Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$ _____ (\$70.00 per student). Checks should be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

I(We) would like to make a partial donation to support students in Sierra Leone in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Envelope Number _____

Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

Internal, Local and Global

During the month of June we are continuing to work on the 'Jack Pack' bags. We had a couple of packing events in April and a packing/pick up time at the Rhubarb Festival so some are ready to pick up and take with you if you would like. There is also a list of suggested items to bring in on the table in the Good Shepherd Lounge and any donations can be left under the table as you bring them in. We will continue to pack more bags as donations come in. We would also welcome financial donations as we would like to also offer bus passes and/or coupon books to some fast food places. Thanks for your help with this project started by the youth and resurrected by Norm Baer to help out our Vets as well.

2023 Collections:

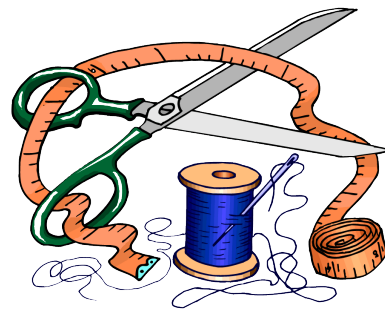
Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 and 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz) In January we delivered 36 quilts to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul and are already working toward the next delivery.

Other on-going collections at Grace - used eye glasses and cancelled stamps. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf. Also, Sandy Abernathy will take any American Flags that need to be disposed of properly. These can be left in the collection area in the library. Thank you for all donations!



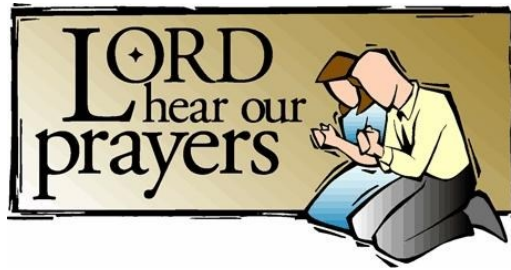
Quilt Days— June 3rd 10 am, Tower rooms. Come and join our faithful energetic quilters. Come to work, to chat, to laugh, to enjoy being God's hands for the morning! Bring a friend. A good time, well spent.

We are taking a break for the summer after this 1 June meeting to finish up and pack up our delivery to the LWR warehouse. We will schedule to begin again in September! Thanks to all who have helped and donated to our kits and quilts!



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 2023. Our "noisy offering" totaled \$133 a few months ago so we are well on our way! Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your generous donations of pennies and coins are appreciated. *Let's exceed our goal this year!*





We lift our prayers to God in times of thanksgiving and times of need, in times of joy and times of sorrow. This month we especially pray for Jeanne Soban, (Marlene Hockbein's sister), Carol Anderson, Butch Nelson, the family and friends of Phyllis Acker, and 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 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-2023

	<u>April Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$19,859.02	\$92,733.18	\$90,504.23
Expenses	\$28,525.38	\$116,279.90	\$99,891.38
Deficit/Overage	- \$ 8,666.36	-\$23,546.72	-\$9,387.15



To Those Born in June!

5 Monique McClure-Hegge
6 Kyle Hegge
9 Peter Gudmunson
Florence Tjornhom
12 Brianna Parsons
13 Phyllis Armstrong
14 Peggy Sonksen
16 Shirley Walby

23 Anna Roux
Emma Roux
24 Addison Roux
26 Elna Livingston
Robert Soleim
27 Anna Hollar
29 Drake Jackson
Keith Smeby



Worship Leaders for June 2023 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
4	Char House	Alexis Petersen	Josie Meyer
11	Barb Holtan	Reed Family	Sig Johnson
18	Roger Allmendinger	Alleman Family	Linda Sackreiter
25	Monique McClure-Hegge	Childs Family	Carolyn Hesterberg

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
4	Team G - Brian Jackson, Patty Young, Chris Wintheiser, Kristen Wintheiser
11	Team H - Youth, Holly Nikula, Karin Nikula, Bob Golder
18	Team A - Norm Walby, Ron House, Chris Williams, Roger McClure
25	Team B - Norm Walby, Rick Major, Julie Major

<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



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



Phone: 651-774-9617

FAX: 651-774-0006

www.gracelutheranstpaul.org
gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com

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

Russ Carlson—Bells of Grace

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

June

