
July In Touch with Grace



Dear friends of Grace,

Summer is a time for traditions –favorite family trips, eating favorite foods, attending fairs and festivals. It is also a time for new adventures –going into the deep end of the water, visiting a place that is unfamiliar, and trying a new activity.

This summer, we are returning to a favorite tradition. On the first Sunday of July, July 2nd, we will have worship one half-hour later than usual –at 10:00 a.m. –and meet outside in the parking lot for our annual outdoor patriotic worship service. We will follow the service with a picnic. It will be great to enjoy the shade of the trees on the west side of the parking lot, hear inspirational quotes for this year's theme of America the Beautiful, and savor a lunch of picnic foods.

The theme of the worship service will thank God for the beauty of the land where we live as well as offering prayers for the world. We will sing favorite songs, hear quotes from diverse naturalists, and ponder the wonder of our country and creation.

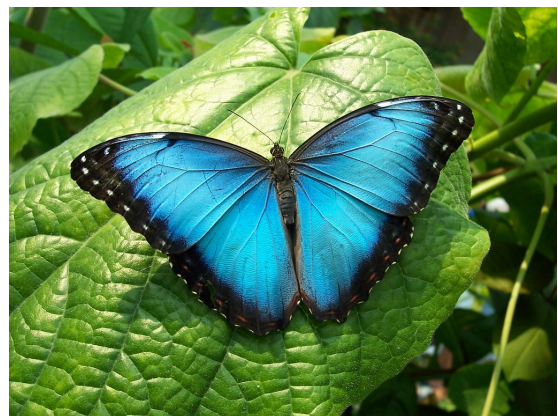
Summer weather is so beautiful that we continue to celebrate God's creation by worshipping in a beautiful space such as our church property. And who can resist a good summer picnic? Please bring

lawn chairs and hats or umbrellas for extra shade protection. Who knew that this 9th year of our annual outdoor worship would become a new tradition at Grace?

Looking ahead, we will be outdoors on July 16 at Battle Creek Regional Park under the pavilion again! We will focus on Native American culture while incorporating familiar and well - loved hymns. This service will be followed by a picnic and shared with our eastside neighbors in attendance. This worship service with our neighboring churches is becoming another favorite tradition, but the best tradition is coming together as God's family, singing and praying as one, and enjoying the fruits of summer.

See you in worship!

Pastor Karen



Announcements

– **Thanks to Arlington Hills Lutheran Church**, we now have two Timpani and a wooden xylophone! Our music ministry leaders look forward to sharing their sounds in worship soon!

Sunday, July 2nd - We will host a summer outdoor worship in the parking lot 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!

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.

Most of our committees as well as the Council will be taking the month of July off from meetings, but feel free to contact the office or any Council member with any concerns or questions. Also, you can always call the office. 651-774-9617.

From the Intern's Desk -

Thank you all for your continued prayer and support as (my family and) I journey toward ordination!

During these upcoming months, I'll be working to organize our Eastside Collaborative VBS at the host site of Gustavus Adolphus.

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!

Phalen Lake Outdoor Worship August 20 hosted by Arlington Hills!

PRAYER Ministry has a new shape at each of your churches! Check with your leadership team for a new email and confidential link for sending prayer requests ☐

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REQUESTS

We invite you to be an integral part of children's ministry this summer! 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. Sign up here:

REGISTER STUDENTS: <https://forms.gle/p2RkuvtUMPjg2Vkv7>

VBS Volunteers still needed:

- Actors for daily skits
- Greeters to welcoming parents and students
- Desk Registration help
- Rotation Leaders: Games, Movie Rotation Station, Snack Co-lead,
- 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 at Gustavus Adolphus!

Click here to sign-up to volunteer for Vacation Bible School! **VOLUNTEER SIGN UP**
<https://forms.gle/zhTgRWJ7FA25g8DG7>

Additional Ways to Support VBS

Pray

Donate volunteer break room snacks

Donate

- White cardstock
- Pretzel sticks
- Mini marshmallows
- Coffee filters
- Clear glue
- Glitter and glitter stars
- apples
- Cheese balls
- peach gummy rings
- clementines,
- cheese it crackers
- Fruit snacks
- milky way min. candy bars
- clear/blue glue, glitter, star confetti,
- markers, coffee filters,
- 1 pkg cardstock, 2 pkg printing paper,
- food coloring,
- shaving cream,
- black construction paper
- sanitizer
- Nametags



Luther 2023 - Becky Sliva

JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the month for July at Grace is the American Red Cross - Ukraine refugees. The AMR has contributed millions to the global Red Cross network to help alleviate suffering. This support allows teams on the ground to provide lifesaving aid - like food, shelter, water, medical care and mental health support to the millions displaced within Ukraine and throughout neighboring countries.

Since the conflict intensified, the Red Cross network has leveraged its local and international resources to help those in need. As people crave a semblance of normalcy, the Red Cross is there to provide comfort and care.

The Global Response in Ukraine is 3 fold -

1. Deliver emergency aid including food, bedding, water and hygiene items,
2. Provide medical care and
3. Help refugees connect with missing loved ones.

Please take a moment and reflect on what it must be like to live in the Ukraine during these terrifying unprovoked bombings of your homes, schools, and cities. The American Red Cross is helping to make a difference and you can aid their effort. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the church offering or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Music Notes -

Ever since the Covid pandemic began in 2019, causing the world to seek shelter indoors, the strong awareness of mental health issues has plagued the news media and everyday life. Social media has brought issues on depression and bipolar disorders to the forefront. But mental health concerns have always been with us; they had different names and different remedies. One such creative person who suffered from acute depression was the composer Robert Schumann. He began having attacks as early as age 23 when he had a melancholic depressive attack, which now we would call suffering from a bipolar disorder. It also didn't help that he was being given mercury as a medicinal remedy, quite commonly done in the 1800's. In fact, some people say that was the cause of Beethoven's deafness.

Schumann was on track to become a great concert pianist until he suffered a devastating injury to his right hand. From then on, he put all his creative energy into composing, as well as writing musical articles in *New Journal for Music*, a magazine he co-founded. When he was 30, he married the love of his life, Clara, who already was a major concert pianist throughout Europe. She kept concertizing in between having 8 children and dealing with her husband's mental challenges. Schumann's musical fame grew, but while his musical reputation grew, his mental health worsened. When he was 44 he threw himself off a bridge into the Rhein River. He would have drowned if not for nearby fishermen. He checked himself into a mental asylum where he died 2 years later from pneumonia. Trivia: We have a well-known hymn based on one of Robert Schumann's tunes---#676; Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak. The tune is loosely based on Schumann's piano piece *Nachtstucke*, Opus 23, No. 4.

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

NONFICTION

The Tiger Woods Way

D-Day, June 6, 1944

Undaunted Courage

The Heart of a Woman

Let's Roll

Our Sacred Honor

Not On Our Watch

Living History

Death by Black Hole

Whistlestop

Out of Africa

Wide Welcome

The Only Plane in the Sky

A Brief History of Time

Unbroken

John Andrisane

Stephen Ambrose

Stephen Ambrose

Maya Angelou

Lisa Beamer

William Bennett

Don Cheadle, John Pendergast

Hilary Rodham Clinton

Neil DeGrasse Tyson

John Dickerson

Isak Dineson

Jessica Duckworth

Garrett M. Graff

Stephen Hawking

Laura Hillenbrand

NONFICTION

6th shelf

No Ordinary Time

A Life on the Road

Stones Into Schools

Three Cups of Tea

Killing Patton

Unbroken Chain

The Omnivores Dilemma

In Harm's Way

The Pianist

Minnesota Mysteries

Ann Bancroft on Top of the World

The Miracle of St. Anthony

First Lady from Plains

Ice Bound

American Caesar: Douglas MacArthur William Manchester

Second Suns

The Pearl

My Beloved World

The End of Your Life Book Club

Doris Kearns Goodwin

Charles Kuralt

Greg Mortenson

Greg Mortenson

Bill O'Reilly

Henry Oertelt

Michael Pollan

Doug Stanton

Wladislaw Szpilman

Ben Welter

Dorothy Wenzel

Adrian Wojnarowski

Rosalyn Carter

Dr. Jeri Nielsen

David Oliver Relin

Douglas Smith

Judge Sonia Sotomayor

Bill Schwalbe

Grace Book Club - No meeting in July

Future reads discussion schedule -

August 3rd	<u>Chasing Fireflies</u>	Charles Martin
Sept. 7	<u>Becoming Duchess Goldblatt</u>	Anonymous
Oct. 5	<u>The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett</u>	Anne Lyons
Nov. 2	<u>The Sentence</u>	Louise Erdrich
Dec. 7	<u>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</u>	Maya Angelou
Jan. 4. 2024	<u>Pontoon</u>	Garrison Keillor
Feb. 1	<u>The Lost Girls of Willow Brook</u>	Marie Weisman
Mar. 7	<u>The Silver Ladies of Penny Lane</u>	Dee MacDonald

Sunday School Update!

Summer is here and we hope that all of our families are enjoying the weather and all the joys of God's creation. This past Sunday School year we planted seeds of faith, and they grew some very beautiful flowers, but it doesn't stop here.

In honor of all this growth our kids wanted to give back and have decided to take some of their Sunday School offerings given this year and donate to help others grow. We will donate internationally to the ELCA Good Gifts program where they will plant fruit trees in communities that will give them food, shelter, and help with erosion of the land. Locally we are donating to the Minnesota DNR Future Forest Fund, that will plant and protect seedlings to replenish our forests. These are small gifts that will continue to grow and benefit generations to come. Once all the construction around the church grounds are complete, we hope to plant a new tree at Grace, and watch it grow.

"Faith as small as a mustard seed, can move mountains, and nothing will be impossible for you" - Matthew 17:20



Fruit-tree seedling

Special varieties of fruit trees are known to thrive in the driest of conditions. **These low-maintenance trees** are an investment in the community that can span generations, protecting the soil from erosion and providing nutritious fruit to children and adults alike.



Forest facts

Our Minnesota State Forests aren't just beautiful to look at, they play a critical role in our way of life. For example:

- One acre of trees, which is about the size of a football field, produces enough oxygen each year for 18 people.
- Each year, an acre of trees can remove roughly the same amount of carbon emitted by two cars.
- On a hot day, a tree in full leaf can give off 900 gallons (7,500 pounds) of water vapor into the air, which is equivalent to cooling as much air as six room-size air conditioners.

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

The month of July is a quiet one for this committee, but we continue to disperse the 'Jack Packs' that were packed during a couple of packing events earlier in the year. We continue to seek out appropriate places to distribute them.

We know it is uncomfortable for many to give these to the homeless they may see while out and about by themselves so we are trying to identify organizations which have contact and can more easily hand these out. Thank you for all your help!

We will be collecting School supplies again this July and into August for the Interfaith Action Group. There is an insert with a supply list and more info. about this School Tools Drive in this newsletter and also in July bulletins and weekly 'Grace at a Glance' electronic notice.

2023 Collections:

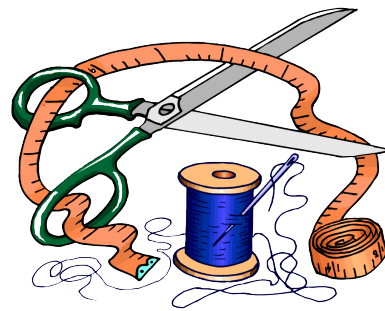
Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 and 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz) In January we delivered 36 quilts to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul and are already working toward the next delivery.

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



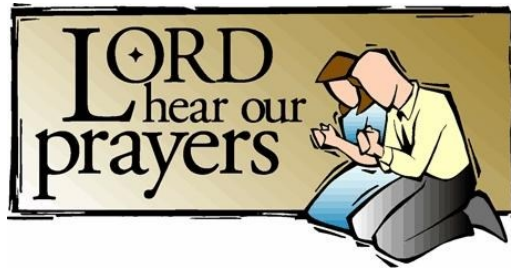
Quilt Days— We are taking a break for the summer We will schedule to begin again in September! Thanks to all who have helped and donated to our kits and quilts!

Kris Mohwinkel delivered our finished quilts and baby kits the end of June. We gave 3 quilts to the Confirmants this spring and delivered 23 to LWR along with 10 baby layettes to the warehouse in South St. Paul!!



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, Roger McClure, 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>May Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$16,913.24	\$109,546.42	\$112,294.82
Expenses	\$24,907.51	\$ 141,187.41	\$124,490.42
Deficit/Overage	- \$ 7,994.27	-\$31,640.99	-\$12,195.60

Thoughts from the President -

This month I am taking a breather like most of the committees. Most of the current projects are ongoing and can wait until next month for comment when we know more. Please enjoy your summer and hopefully we'll see you in worship either outdoors or in the Sanctuary!

Even though I am taking a break, I am still available for questions, suggestions, or comments!

Summer blessings to you - Linda Sackreiter, Congregational President



To Those Born in July!

1 Amelia Christie
Beverly Henderson
Gavynn Smeby
4 Renae Storbakken
5 Kari Aaneson
6 Camryn Alleman
7 Johann Hollar
Randy Proulx
8 Shannon Antonson
Tracy Jackson
9 Lois Erkkila
Altiana Ray-Taylor
Cory Wood
11 Brian Adam
13 Helen Bradley
Jennifer Smeby
14 Joe Martinez
Kris Mohwinkel
15 Chris Jurewitsch
Josie Meyer
Aria Wood
16 Roger Allmendinger
Gloria Soleim
Cary Wood

18 Simon Killeen
Violet Rose
Carol Sandberg
19 Braydon Olson
23 Shawn Gracik
Nancy Shaffer
24 Evelyn Engh
Isha Ismail
25 Muriel Demko
26 Richard Moe
27 Teresa Sandberg-Long
30 Lana Alleman
Katherine Pray
31 Thomas Manthey



Worship Leaders for July 2023 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
2	Outdoor worship & picnic/ Pastor Karen, Becky Sliva, Pastoral Intern		
9	Jan Steingas	Alexis Petersen	Bob Golder
16	Outdoor worship at Battle Creek/ Pastor Karen + others		
23	Roger Allmendinger	Reed family	Roger Allmendinger
30	Russ Carlson	Alleman family	Barb Holtan

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
2	Team C - Brian Jackson, Lydia Rose, Violet Rose
9	Team D - Norm Walby, Randy Nikula, Josh Williams, Jonathan Williams
16	Team E - Jeff Oberlander, Dave Oberlander, Anne Oberlander
23	Team F - Peter Hultgren, Linda Denson, Larry Denson
30	Team G - Brian Jackson, Patty Young, Chris Wintheiser, Kris Wintheiser

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
2	Monique McClure-Hegge team
9	Kate Pray team
16	Amanda Christie team
23	Monique McClure-Hegge team
30	Kate Pray team



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

Celebrate Creation with us
on July 16th at Battle
Creek Park Pavilion at
10 AM!!



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

