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# August In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,

The Book of Psalms gives us many images of God and addresses our human journey. There are many favorites among the 150 psalms. Which are your favorites? Here are some well-loved examples: Psalm 23 – The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Psalm 121 – I lift my eyes to the hills, from where is my help to come? Psalm 22 – My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Psalm 13 – How long, O Lord? Psalm 150 – Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Hallelujah! Martin Luther based our Lutheran Hymn A Mighty Fortress on Psalm 46 – God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.

The list could go on and on. I encourage you to read through the Book of Psalms and find the ones you love the best. They speak to us in all seasons of life. When we are filled with joy, fear, sorrow, or loss, the Psalms reassure us that God is with us and holds us in the palm of his hand, lifting us up on eagles' wings, and providing shelter for us as found in Psalm 91.

This August, we will be sharing some of the Psalms in worship and hearing what God's message for us is within them. We will learn to sing a new song in times of trouble, to trust in God's abundant love, and to

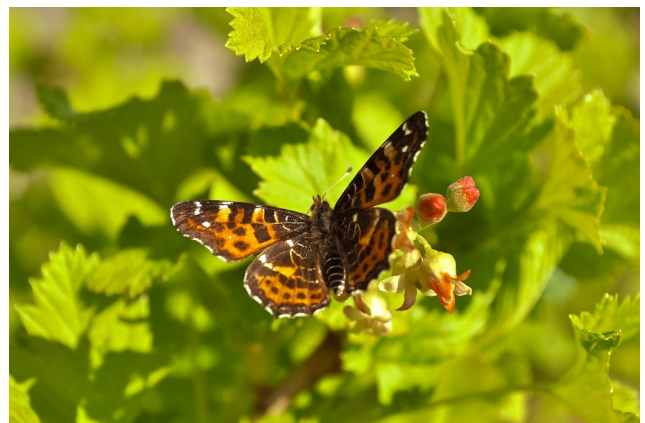
rejoice for all that God has done and will do on our behalf.

From Psalm 1 to 150, in this Old Testament songbook, we find comfort, peace, stillness, and joy. The answers to all of our troubles are there in this treasured book. These are the songs of God's people. The tunes may be long gone, but many of them have been set to music for our modern ears. We sing them in our liturgy, at our church camps, and in our homes. Find one to sing today!

*"May the Lord watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forever more." Psalm 121*

See you in worship!

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.

- Confirmation will begin again in September. Watch for announcements regarding dates and times.
- Sunday School will also start again in September. Watch for info on this as well.

YOU MAY wonder why we don't have dates yet for September beginnings -

This has to do with our LSS project in the lower level. We are working on lease specifics and the coordination of zoning and permits for the renovation they are planning for the Therapeutic Preschool that the St. Paul Area Synod East Side project is funding.

We are scheduling a Special Congregational Meeting for September 17th after worship to discuss this project and also to discuss and vote on the Met Council proposal for the Goldline property sale. Please plan to be here to offer your opinion on both matters.



This campaign is sponsored by the St. Paul Area Synod. You can read more about it in the following pages as it is the Mission of the Month for August at Grace or at the SPAS website. <https://spas-elca.org/planting-hope/>



The Metro Council Gold Line Rapid Transit bus line is an ongoing project to connect Oakdale and Woodbury to the Metro Rapid Transit System. They have acquired land adjacent to I-94 thru Eminent Domain laws. They have taken legal steps to obtain some of the land that Grace owns for a wall and extra lane as well as a water drainage area. We have been in discussions with them for a reasonable compensation for the loss of this land. You can read more about this project on the Metro Transit website.

<https://www.metrotransit.org/gold-line-project>

## From the Intern's Desk - Becky's Blurp

Thank you all for your continued prayer and support on this journey toward ordination! What a gift I've been given in the experiences working with you three amazing parishes, pastoral leaders, teams and members! Thank you for inviting me into your fold, into your loving arms with warm smiles, hugs and advice.



Luther 2023 - Becky Sliva

Our Eastside Collaborative (ESCo) has done great work in relationship building, planning special events and worship services this year! Most recently, in our Eastside Collaborative, Grace hosted a beautiful worship full of learning through honoring indigenous spirituality during Outdoor Worship at Battle Creek Park Pavilion! Thank you to all of the amazing team work to pull off such beautiful worship!

That evening our three churches came together with Gustavus Adolphus to host Vacation Bible School! Our strong Eastside team hosted 31 children, as well as many volunteers from all four congregations! The event ran for four days giving students ample opportunities to learn about Jesus' love through activities, hands-on learning, songs and more. We hosted two family engagement nights. One was a potluck during our first night to introduce families to our program. The second family engagement meal is a free meal hosted at Gustavus Adolphus every

Wednesday at 5pm called OpenTable. This second night showcased the highlights of our week through songs, a short program and even a special appearance by the team from 98.5 KTIS Christian Music Station. We had a great celebration night. On Sunday children were invited to participate by singing a song from VBS camp at their home church. We are so grateful for the work of many hands coming together from each of our churches (Grace, Our Redeemer, Arlington Hills and Gustavus Adolphus)!

The ESCo continues to do great things this August by hosting National Night Out at Our Redeemer on Tuesday, August 1. There will be games, food and activities for all ages. Grab a lawn chair and listen to some live music! Mark your calendar for this great community event being presented by the EastSide Collaborative (ESCo)! National Night Out (NNO) will be held at Our Redeemer on August 1, 5-7 PM. NNO is an annual opportunity to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement promoting a true sense of community by creating a more caring place to live and work. Not only will you be able to visit with local police and fire responders, but also enjoy music by Amy & Adams. There will be free food (hot dogs, root beer floats, popcorn, snow cones), games (cake walk, sidewalk chalk art, basketball, volleyball), and a good opportunity to make some new connections. We are looking for volunteers from each of the churches to make this a successful, fun event. Please sign up via email to Sally at [office@orlcmn.org](mailto:office@orlcmn.org)

We all will come together to celebrate our final summer shared worship at Phalen Lake Park at 10am on Sunday, August 20th! Join us for worship and a picnic! More details to come.

## AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH

August's Mission of the Month at Grace is St. Paul Area Synod's "Planting Hope Campaign".

Planting Hope is a 3 year campaign offering the opportunity for the 110 congregations of the synod to contribute to the collective involvement of 120,000 Lutherans in 4 activity areas.

1. Invite neighbors into life in Christ
2. Renew the Congregations of the synod
3. Raise up the next generation of leaders
4. Invest in a transformative project on the Eastside of St. Paul with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. The project will be Families Together therapeutic preschool housed at Grace. The new investment will provide critically important services to children and families facing economic disparities and challenging situations. It is scheduled to open in the fall of 2024.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this initiative to reach out in Christian love to many who are in need of Christ's love in their lives and to plan for the continued leadership needed in our churches to bring Christ's love, healing, promise and hope to so many who are searching for meaning and fulfillment in their lives. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you,

### Music Notes -

The Hymn Society of the United States and Canada met for their annual conference this year On July 16 through the 19th in Montreal Canada at Mc Gill University. Their theme was "Land, Language and Liberation". Just as we on July 16th recognized the indigenous nations that occupied the land where we now live, the Society thanked the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations on which McGill University now stands. For 4 days they held seminars concerning hymns from all aspects i.e. writing, singing, promoting. In the evening were hymn festivals. The first evening July 16<sup>th</sup> featured hymns from every corner of the earth, the title being "Christ's Love moves the World to reconciliation and Unity". July 17<sup>th</sup> highlighted Native American hymns composed by Jonathan Maracle. Acknowledging that in Canada not only English is spoken but also French, the 3<sup>rd</sup> festival was "A Celebration of French Language Song". In fact, all texts were written in English and French; hymns on the first night included English as well as French, German and Spanish lyrics. The final hymnfest was quite a celebration: "How Great Thou Art: A Festival of Praise". When you get an assembly of church musicians together, the sound can be deafening.

The Hymn Society's mission statement sums it up for all who create and lead church music: We believe that the holy act of singing together shapes faith, heals brokenness, transforms lives and renews peace". Amen to that!



## FROM THE LIBRARY:

### New Books this month, Several Genres

Books are inserted in proper area, alphabetically by author surname.

#### FICTION

<u>The Forsaken</u>	Ace Atkins
<u>Run Rose Run</u>	Dolly Parton, James Patterson
<u>Dream Town</u>	David Baldacci
<u>Reckoning</u>	Catherine Coulter
<u>Crash and Burnt</u>	Lisa Gardner
<u>Lightning Rod</u>	Brad Meltzer
<u>Valentine Candy Murder</u>	Leslie Meier
<u>Irish Parade Murder</u>	Leslie Meier
<u>Christmas Cupcake Murder</u>	Leslie Meier
<u>Coconut Layer Cake Murder</u>	Joanne Fluke
<u>Triple Chocolate Cheesecake Murder</u>	Joanne Fluke

#### SPIRITUAL

<u>Unbinding the Gospel</u>	Martha Grace Reese
<u>The Legacy of Luther</u>	R.C. Sprout, Stephen J. Nichols

#### CHURCH HISTORY

100 Years, The Story of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

#### CHILDREN

100 Snowmen Jan Arena  
Top shelf on rack near Sanctuary doors

#### MUSIC

Prairie Home Companion Folk Songbook Garrison Keillor

Again, thank you to everyone for gifts to the library, in books and financial donations.



## Grace Book Club -

### 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. Sunday School will begin again in September! Watch for more information on when and where.

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 have donated 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 have donated 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.

## **Last Day to Donate is August 6!**

### **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!

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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 July and August we are collecting school supplies for the Interfaith Action annual "School Tools" drive. There are supply lists on the gray bin in the Good Shepherd Lounge but anything needed for school is welcome. We will be delivering these on August 15th so please bring to church by Sunday, August 13th. Thank you again for your generosity!!

These backpacks, etc. go to schools in St. Paul for the children of low income families who may not have enough funds to supply their children with all of the needed supplies every year. It certainly helps to have the right supplies to learn in the best way possible. Many of these kids have enough roadblocks to learning. Maybe we can remove just a few for them.

### 2023 Collections:

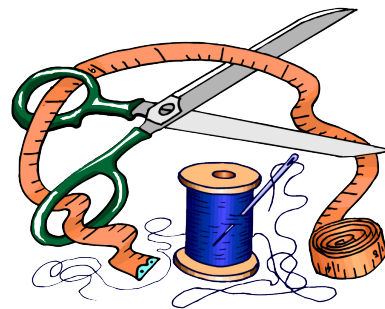
**Quilts, baby care kits** (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 and 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz) We have delivered a total of 59 quilts and 16 baby layette kits to LWR this year and will start working in September on the next delivery.

**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!

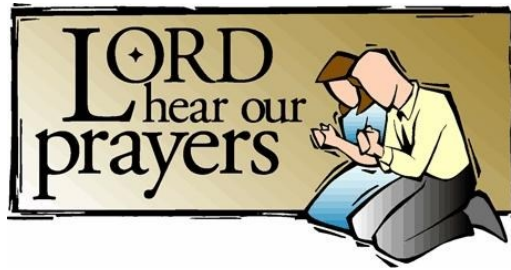
Kris Mohwinkel delivered our finished quilts and baby kits the end of June. We gave 3 quilts to the Confirmants this spring and delivered 23 to LWR along with 10 baby layettes to the warehouse in South St. Paul!!



**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 Debra Duke, Jeanne Soban, (Marlene Hockbein's sister), Carol Anderson, Butch Nelson, Roger McClure, the family of Kenneth Goebel 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](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-2023**

	<u>June Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$18,124.44	\$127,670.86	\$133,533.87
Expenses	\$23,822.75	\$ 165,010.16	\$149,369.05
Deficit/Overage	- \$ 5,698.31	-\$37,339.30	-\$15,835.18

It seems appropriate at this point in the year to assess our financial position. We are running a deficit on the budget which we expected. It is actually lower than anticipated, however.

That being said, a breakdown of expenses reveals that 86% of outgoing funds are for fixed expenses; salaries, mortgage, insurance and utilities. These are things we have very little control over.

We do have around \$300,000 in gifted funds so we are solvent. We also have rental income from our 2 church partners and are in discussions with LSS regarding their lease and rental payments.

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving! We never take that for granted. God is blessing us as always! We are never alone in this mission.

Linda Sackreiter, Congregation President



## To Those Born in August!

- 3 Jonathan Williams
- 5 Linda Denson  
Cathy Geister  
Ashley Meyer  
Evan Taylor
- 6 Jackson Geister  
Gerry Lindquist  
Warren Loiler
- 8 Liz Gonzalez
- 10 Raiha Storbakken
- 11 Jeff Gorton  
Lynn Kolars
- 14 Avery Trulen
- 16 Randy Nikula
- 17 Robert Golder
- 18 Theodore Rose
- 24 Betty Castle
- 26 Valerie Hultgren
- 27 Tayveanna Parsons
- 29 Sylvia Dyrhaug  
Jennifer Voss



## Worship Leaders for August 2023 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
6	Connie Smeby	Childs family	Keith Smeby
13	Jeff Oberlander	Alexis Petersen	Linda Baer
20	Outdoor worship at Phalen Park hosted by Arlington Hills LC		
27	Peter Zitzewitz	Reed family	Bob Golder

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
2	Team H - Youth, Karin Nikula, Bob Golder
9	Team A - Norm Walby, Ron House, Chris Williams, Ron Swenson
20	Outdoor Worship - hosted by Arlington Hills - (Team B could offer to help AH)
27	Team C - Brian Jackson, Lydia Rose, Violet Rose

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
6	Amanda Christie team
13	Monique McClure-Hegge team
20	Kate Pray team
27	Amanda Christie team



### 2023 VBS at Gustavus Adolphus was a hit!



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[gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com](mailto: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—Sanctuary Choir &  
Bells of Grace

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

