
September In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,

This September, we return to the Books of the Old Testament for our weekly scriptures in worship. We follow a four year pattern called the Narrative Lectionary. This season gives us space to hear some of the Old Testament stories that tell of God's presence in creation and history as a foundation for human encounters with God and the building of our relationship through God's love. These stories lead to the prophets in Advent who foretold the coming of Jesus which we celebrate at Christmas. The birth of Jesus ushers in the New Testament where we find the good news in the four gospels of Jesus' ministry followed by the Epistles or letters to the early church as it becomes established. We find that the gospel has spread far and wide through the disciples who have been filled with the Holy Spirit.

Even to this very day, God's presence in our lives and history still is evident. The good news of Jesus has spread throughout the world. Grace is part of that story. God's presence is with us here in this place. God's Holy Spirit sends us out to bring good news to the places we inhabit. We are called to model Christian love.

Sometimes it is hard to see where God is acting. Life gets tough. Circumstances become difficult. But, if we look for the blessings that God provides, they are still there, just as the stars and moon are always present in the sky hidden behind the bright sun or clouds. God is faithful

and still shows up for each of us day by day. Often, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus bringing that holy love and comfort to someone who needs it.

As we begin a new school year, we have exciting opportunities on the horizon. There will be some bumps along the path this year, but God is with us, leading us, guiding us, and helping us to bring to fruition the gifts and Grace that we have to share as well as receive. That is good news indeed!

See you at church,

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.

- **Sunday School** will resume on September 10th and is scheduled weekly this fall.
- **Confirmation classes** will begin on Sunday, October 1, after worship. Parents and students in 6th - 9th Grades are invited to our first gathering to introduce the year. We will meet in the N. Tower Room. Grab refreshments, say hello to friends, and join Pastor Karen at 10:45 a.m. See you there!
- **Deep Dive All youth Event** for those in 6th grade-12th grades - We will be going to Can Can Wonderland with our area churches on Sunday, September 17, from 1-3 p.m. Deep Dive has transformed into a large youth group monthly outing for our St. Paul ELCA Congregations. If you are interested in going, meet at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church by 12:45 to carpool. Bring money to cover the cost of activities. This will be fun! Looking ahead, we will be doing a haunted hayride of some sort on Wednesday evening, October 11. **Great adventures await!!!**

Worship on September 10th - Seasons of Song!

We are just finishing our summer worship series based on the Psalms. On September 10th we will use a tried and true order of worship. Lessons and Carols is a familiar type of worship service that is often used during Advent and Christmas. But wait! What if we did that in worship in September? Yes, in September, but it will be lessons and songs. On the 10th, our worship service will be based on the seasons of the church year and will include lessons (scripture) and hymns from the seasons. There will be familiar lessons and hymns that may seem a bit out of season at this time of year as we move through the seasons of the church. The choir will return from its summer hiatus and it will be so nice to have them back to share the Good News in song. This could be an interesting Sunday to invite a friend to come to church with you to see what the Director of Music Ministries has planned. See you in church!! - Russ

Farewell and Godspeed to our Intern Becky!!

Becky's intern days have now ended and we will miss her greatly. At our East Side Collaborative worship and picnic on August 20th we said goodbye, good luck and Godspeed to her and there were many hugs and blessings poured out upon her, both during the service and afterwards as we shared a picnic together with the people of Grace, Our Redeemer, Arlington Hills, and Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Churches. It was a lovely day and bittersweet at the same time. We wish her all of God's blessings as she takes a break to do some substitute teaching and do the paperwork involved with getting rostered and ready for ministry in her new calling.

Thank you, Becky, for all your gifts shared with us during your internship!!

PICS FROM 8/20 WORSHIP AND PICNIC



PICS FROM SCHOOL TOOLS DROP-OFF ON 8/15



SEPTEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month for September at Grace is Second Stork. Second Stork provides families in need with essential newborn care items to give their baby a safe and healthy start.

Welcoming a newborn should be a joyous and hopeful time but the reality is that many new parents are financially stretched, anxious, and unprepared to bring their baby home from the hospital. Second Stork can help bridge an approximate two week gap from the time a newborn is discharged from the hospital to when family support or social services become available. Second Stork believes every baby should have a safe and happy beginning! Second Stork is a volunteer run organization. Second Stork is a non-profit established in 2009 to help others in need, to respect the privacy of every family they serve, and to have healthcare professionals and hospital staff distribute only new items that any mother would be proud to use. Thanks to countless volunteers and hospital partners, Second Stork has helped give more than 10,000 babies a safe and healthy start. As this is a new mission at Grace, please see additional information posted on the kiosk in the Good Shepherd Lounge for additional information.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this organization in welcoming the newest of God's children into a better world. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope and mark mission of the month and place in Sunday's offering or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you

Music Notes -

Can you believe that at one point in history you could be thrown in jail for not belonging to the Church of England? Back in the late 1600's in England that was all too common. Isaac Watts, nicknamed the "Father of English hymnody" was born about the time his father was thrown in jail for being a "Dissenter", that is he and his wife were not members of the Anglican church. No wonder our founding fathers put the freedom of religion at the top of the list in the Constitution.

Isaac Watts' family attended a church where only psalms were sung. He found them rather boring, sung rather listlessly. After much complaining, his father finally said, "Well then, young man, why don't you give us something better to sing?". And he did. For two years, Watts wrote a new hymn every Sunday. In the course of his life, he wrote about 600 hymns, not the tunes, mind you, but the words. He took all 150 psalms as they appear in the Bible and paraphrased them, making them more relevant to the New Testament message. He published them in a hymnal entitled *Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament* (the word "imitated" should be thought of as meaning "interpreted").

Watts' hymns brought as much religious controversy as some issues facing various denominations today. In 1789 a minister rode horseback all the way from Kentucky to Philadelphia where the Presbyterian Church was having their churchwide meeting. He rode all that way to protest the singing of Watts' hymns in place of the psalms straight from the Bible. Another man felt his hymns were "flights of fancy".

There are ten of Watts' hymns that appear in our hymnal, six of which are psalm paraphrases. They are the following: Joy to the World (ps.98), Jesus Shall Reign (ps.72), O God Our Help in Ages Past (ps.90), Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways (ps.119), My Shepherd, You Supply My Need (ps.23) and Give to our God Immortal Praise (ps. 136). These have become some of the top favorite hymns of all time. Sometimes good material just has to endure controversy in order to prove its' worth.

FROM THE LIBRARY:

Thank you to Nancy Shaffer for these additions to the library at Grace.

FICTION

<u>The Consequences of Fear</u>	Jacqueline Winspear
<u>How to Raise an Elephant</u> (The New No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency)	Alexander McCall Smith
<u>News of the World</u>	Paulette Jules
<u>The Secret Keeper</u>	Kate Morton
<u>The Paris Spy</u>	Susan Ella MacNeal
<u>The Queen's Accomplice</u>	Susan Ella MacNeal
<u>A Common Life: The Wedding Story</u>	Jan Karon
<u>Fauna and Family</u>	Gerald Durrell
<u>Silent Night</u>	Mary Higgins Clark
<u>A Few of the Girls</u>	Maeve Binchy
<u>Miss Julia Happily Ever After</u>	Ann B. Ross
<u>Thunderstruck</u>	Erik Larson
<u>The Tattooist of Auschwitz</u>	Heather Morris
<u>The Orphan's Tale</u>	Pam Jenoff

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



Grace Book Club -

Future reads discussion schedule -

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!

As summer is coming to an end, we are getting ready for the kids to come back to Sunday School. We have so many exciting things planned for the coming year.

The first day of Sunday School will be September 10th following the service. For those able to attend worship that day we will have a blessing for the kids going back to school.

We are planning for Sunday School to be weekly this year.

We have two 3rd graders that will also receive their own bible this year, and will start to learn about how the Bible is put together.

How many books of the bible can you name? What is your favorite bible story?



The Congregation of Grace Lutheran Church has once again stood up and supported students in Sierra Leone. It is amazing that a small Congregation like Grace has remained committed to reaching out in Christian love to these children who without this financial help would be unable to attend school. We are pleased to report that \$5,765.00 was donated and that will send 82 children to the classroom this fall. On behalf of the children who will receive an education and a pathway to a better life, their families, their country and the Mission Committee, please accept our heartfelt thanks. YOU make a difference.



President's Thoughts -

As I write this, the weather people are predicting more 90+ degree days coming up so it is a bit hard to think about fall and school starting along with many other programs here at church as well as at home. As usual, the new school and program year brings many changes. This year for Grace proves to be one with many decisions to be made and changes to get ready for. It is also going to be a year of promise for beginning new missions and renewing our old favorites.

We begin in September with the restart of Sunday School and Confirmation classes. XYZ's will meet and plan their year. Coffee and Conversation will continue on Wednesdays at 10. Quilting will start up again for the year. Men's Bible Study will continue on Saturday mornings twice a month online. We are planning for some Talk Points gatherings after worship. Please plan to take part in these activities as your interest dictates. There are many committees that could use some help with jobs if you are able, as well.

New challenges this fall include the Goldline project contract with construction to begin in April of 2024. Also, the lease agreement with LSS for the Therapeutic Preschool on the lower level needs to be finalized and approved by the congregation. They are hoping to begin remodeling in January if all goes well and open in the fall of 2024. We need your input on this project as well. This will change the way we do church as we will not have access to the lower level for any programs. We will need your input on changes to the upper level that need to happen to find places for all of our meetings and storage, etc. This may involve small changes to the Sanctuary space as well. It is important to not compromise our ability to worship effectively while we find a way to best utilize our space. We need to have as much input to do this as possible. Please think about any input you feel strongly about contributing.

With all of that being said, I am feeling very excited and optimistic about the future here at Grace. Yes, contributions are down. Yes, attendance in person is down some. But our missions are strong –Sierra Leone scholarships are up, School Tools participation is great, etc. We have great fellowship and study groups available for those who choose. Our online presence is strong. Our involvement with the Preschool extends our mission on the East Side. God is working hard to keep us relevant these days! How can you help to keep us relevant? Get involved in what interests you or suggest a new way to be God's hands in the community!

We have a congregational meeting scheduled for September 17th after worship to discuss some of these items. Please join us and share your input.

Fall Blessings to you, Linda Sackreiter - Congregational President



Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

Internal, Local and Global

Our School Tools collection was a huge success thanks to all of our generous donors here at Grace!! We delivered a trunk-full of supplies to the drop-off location on Tuesday, August 15th. There will be many happy students come fall when these supplies are delivered.

The schools in St. Paul that receive these gifts are very grateful for the help in getting their students ready for this next school year. It can be very daunting to put together all the supplies needed for a year of learning these days and many of these families have more than 1 child in school.

Thank you again for your generosity!!



2023 Collections:

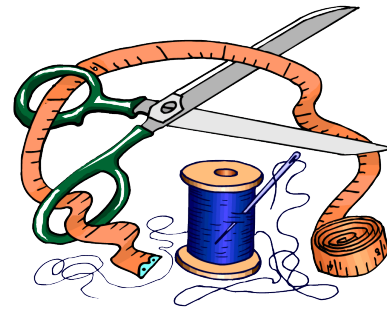
Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 and 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz) We have delivered a total of 59 quilts and 16 baby layette kits to LWR this year and will start working in September on the next delivery.

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— Now that September is here we will be getting back to our twice monthly work days to put together quilts for LWR. We will start up again on Saturday, Sept 23, from 10-12. All are welcome to join us. No skills necessary, we will teach.

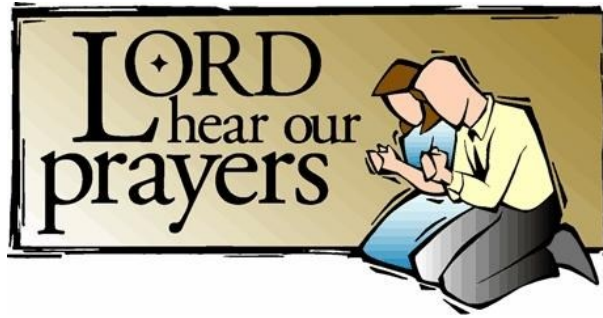
Most months we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in the Tower rooms. Come join us for some conversation and to put those hands to use for a wonderful cause.



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 2023. Our "noisy offering" totaled \$133 a few months ago and an additional \$12.88 has come in since. 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 Gen Wrobel, Jeanne Soban, (Marlene Hockbein's sister), Carol Anderson, Butch Nelson, Roger McClure, the family and friends of Curt Lindquist, and all 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>July Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$18,588.70	\$146,259.56	\$155,000.55
Expenses	\$27,011.78	\$ 192,021.94	\$173,790.70
Deficit/Overage	- \$ 8,423.08	-\$45,762.38	-\$18,790.15



To Those Born in September!

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Adeline Marquart
Gabrielle Martinez | 16 | Cathy Erickson |
| 2 | Richard Doree
Rhianna Peterson
Richard Virock | 17 | Barb Holtan
John Killeen |
| 3 | Dave Oberlander | 19 | LeeAnn Buck |
| 4 | Chuck Kolars
Matthew Trulen | 20 | Amy (Steingas) Runge |
| 5 | James Dike
Connie Smeby
Elijah Taylor | 21 | Deion Rose
Jessica Voss |
| 6 | Marcus Colvin | 22 | Nathaniel Buck |
| 7 | Linda Baer
Mark Pearson | 23 | Kalisa Sayles |
| 8 | Bradley Hegge
Elliot Heintz | 24 | Julie Ohs |
| 9 | Phyllis Hunter
Samuel Wintheiser | 25 | Richard Sabo |
| 11 | Grand Mohwinkel
Christine Olson
Irma Raschke | 27 | Hailey Alleman
Sherri Gudmunson
Ned Shaffer |
| 12 | Jim Geister | 28 | Hannah Heimkes |
| 13 | Sandy Abernathy
Norm Walby | 29 | Ella Nagel
Kristen Scherer |
| 14 | Dorothy Mohwinkel
Wayne Motz | 30 | Becky Blackorbay |



Worship Leaders for September 2023 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
3	Patty Young	Cami Alleman	none needed
10	Russ Carlson/Char House	Tony Childs	none needed
17	Barb Holtan	Alexis Petersen	Josie Meyer
24	Preaching - Becky Sliva Presiding - Rev. Roger Allmendinger	Sig Johnson	Kaliska Reed

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
3	Team D - Norm Walby, Randy Nikula, Josh Williams, Jonathan Williams
10	Team E - Jeff Oberlander, Anne Oberlander, Dave Oberlander
17	Team F - Peter Hultgren, Linda Denson, Larry Denson
24	Team G - Brian Jackson, Patty Young, Chris Wintheiser, Kris Wintheiser

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)</u>
3	Monique McClure-Hegge team
10	Kate Pray team
17	Amanda Christie team
24	Monique McClure-Hegge team



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

September 10, 2023!!!



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

