
June 2025 In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,

June is here - bringing warm summer days and star-filled nights. There are graduations, weddings, and special occasions on the horizon for many. Maybe you have a trip or two planned. Our summer challenge is to send postcards to church as a way of staying connected and sharing the love of Christ with our church family. Our Sunday School children will be participating as part of their Vacation Bible School this Summer. Let's join them in the fun!

We will be setting up a display where our shared postcards will be visible for all of us to enjoy. It will be fun to see where our summer adventures have taken us. Even if you stay local, there are postcards available to bring in and add to the display.

We have exciting worship planned for this summer. The focus will be on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5. Do you know all of them? Hopefully, you will know them by the end of the summer.

There will be a theme song to learn that includes all nine. We will highlight one Fruit each Sunday. A Psalm that matches the Fruit for that week will be part of our worship. Further, there will be a take home activity that enhances the weekly theme.

Before we get to the 'Fruit,' we have to prepare the garden. First, we need the soil. On June 1, we will celebrate the soil of education with our graduates as the seeds planted take root. We will also hear of planting ourselves in Christ as we grow in faith.

On June 8 is Pentecost, where the apostles spoke the good news of Jesus and everyone could understand in their own language. Our worship will be a celebration of how the seeds of God's word spread around the world. Our music and readings will

reflect its growth as we celebrate music from all seven continents.

June 15 is Holy Trinity Sunday as we bask in the abundance of God in three persons and the blossoming of a weekly psalm added to our worship services.

Starting on June 22 and for the rest of the summer, we will begin to harvest the Fruit of the Spirit as we tend to the garden of our lives and that of our neighbors - one fruit at a time.

God has given us an abundant world in which we take delight. Come on the adventure this summer with your church family as we explore a variety of ways to worship and celebrate the Fruit of the Spirit in worship, fellowship, at home, and on the road.

Remember to send in a postcard or two!

God's blessings be with you,

Pastor Karen

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23a



Announcements

- On the third Wednesday of each month from 2-3 p.m., Cerenity-Marian Park Senior Living offers a Dementia Support Group. Consider attending and finding the support and understanding you need with others who are caregivers and seeing loved ones going through this, All are welcome.
- Graduate recognition Sunday will be on June 1 during worship! If you know of a graduate that you would like to recognize, please let Pastor Karen know. Congratulations on a job well done!!

Congratulations to our 2025 graduates: Joel Nikula - UMD, Anna Runquist – Macalester, Ethan Taylor – Harding High School, Sandy Abernathy's granddaughter Charli Abernathy – North High, St. Paul, and Pastor Vincent Momoh – Luther Seminary, MA. May God bless your future endeavors!

- New Member Sunday was May 18. We welcomed those new to our church family during worship that morning. Please welcome the Kislenger family; John, Vika and Amelia, and the Studiner family; Tom, Stacy and Gabby.
- Memorial Day services will be offered at Union Cemetery on Monday, May 26, at 10 a.m. Pastor Karen will be offering the Invocation as well as the Benediction. Take a moment to remember those who gave their all for our freedom.
- Join us for our annual Outdoor Worship at Lake Phalen, 10 a.m. followed by a picnic lunch on July 6 and August 24. Both are sponsored by our East Side Collaborative. See you at the lake!
- A huge and heartfelt THANK YOU!!!! to Jan Steingas for leading our choirs, bells, and worship as our interim Director of Music Ministries since February. We are so grateful to have such gracious and talented leadership provided by Jan. She has been a wonderful help and blessing to Grace in our time of need. Please join us in thanking her on Sunday, June 1st.
- Our search committee seeking a new Director of Music Ministries has interviewed several candidates and received many applications. We hope to report a final candidate soon. Please keep our efforts and the applicants in your prayers.
- And finally, a big THANK YOU to all who helped, donated and/or purchased any of the offerings at the Spring Rhubarb Festival on May 18th!! It was a great morning of good food, lots of fellowship and a fun 'live' auction not to mention the huge amount of items donated for the bake sale. We managed to gather \$1,115.00 to donate towards our new A/V system!! God has certainly blessed us with a fun and generous church.



JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month for June at Grace is the ELCA Disaster Response Effort. Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide assistance to God's people in need.

LDR collaborates with other response organizations and religious entities in the US and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this organization which reaches out to God's people when they are enduring catastrophic disasters. 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!



HOPE. HEALING. RENEWAL.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR MERRICK

Feeding Our Neighbors - During the Month of June, the mission committee will sponsor a special collection of non-perishable food items to be donated to Merrick Community Center. Cash donations will also gratefully be accepted. The number of visits is on the rise and children will not be receiving free breakfast and lunch for the summer so the need is great.

Any donations are appreciated but here are the top five appropriate items that the community needs. Most of these items Merrick cannot order from the food banks that are the backbone of the food shelf network, therefore any of these items would be greatly appreciated by the diverse community which we serve.

- Cooking oils and vinegars such as canola oil, olive oil, sesame oil, rice vinegar
- Spices - dried chilies of all varieties, cumin, coriander, garlic, ginger, turmeric, thyme, curry, cloves, nutmeg, sage and any other.
- Cooking sauces - Tamari or generic soy sauce, fish sauce, Tamarind paste, fermented bean pastes, chili pastes, coconut milk, oyster sauce, or any broth and sauce.
- Proteins - Almond butter, cashew butter, spam, tuna, canned chicken, smoked salmon, sardines or any other shelf stable proteins.
- Grains - Jasmine rice, basmati rice, apple bran sweet rice, artisan egg noodles, rice noodles, soba noodles, fours or any other grains.

**There will be a display table in the Good Shepherd Lounge.
Your participation will be greatly appreciated!**

Music Notes -

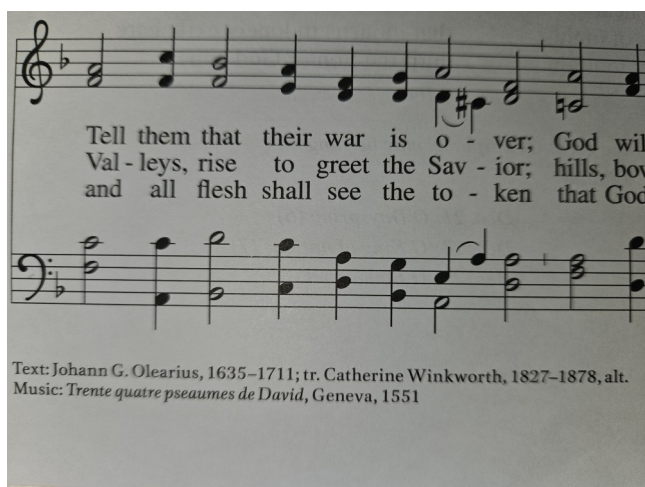
Did you take a foreign language in high school? It probably was French or Spanish, possibly German or Latin. It broadened your perspective of the English language, seeing where words originated and how grammar differs from one culture to another. It also showed what a challenge it is to take one word in one language and need a bunch to accommodate another. For example, in English the word skyscraper literally translates to cloud scratcher in German (Wolkenkratzer).

Many of our favorite hymns that form the foundation of Lutheran hymnody were written in German, nineteen of those in our hymnal being translated into English by one woman -Catherine Winkworth. An English woman, born in 1827 and dying suddenly of heart failure at the age of 50, took on that task. We have 19 of her translations in our hymnal; she actually translated almost 400. She also wrote several books concerning hymn composers.

What is just as interesting is her involvement with English social issues. You've probably read a book or two by the English author Charles Dickens. Perhaps you've seen a movie, musical or play such as *A Christmas Carol* or *Oliver (Twist)*? They bring to light the class system England had during the mid-1800's. Catherine Winkworth not only spent time translating German hymns, but fighting for human rights and acceptable living conditions. Do you recall in *Mary Poppins* the mother was going to a protest demonstration concerning women's rights? Winkworth was also very active in that movement, not only promoting equality but more education opportunities for women.

The next time we sing one of your favorite hymns, look at the bottom left side where they mention the person(s) who wrote the tune and the text. It may also mention a Britisher by the name of Catherine Winkworth who helped bring the text to light.

Just one of Ms. Winkworth's hymns from our hymnal (#256) ↓



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Music: Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551

Come Be a Part of the Worship Team! Part 3

Here are descriptions for each opportunity to join the Worship Team.

Greeters - all ages, arrive by 9:10, greet people at the lower level before the service

Ushers - all ages, arrive by 9:10, hand out bulletins, gather offering, help direct Communion, tidy Sanctuary after worship

Acolyte - all ages (with adult assistance if younger than 5th grade), arrive by 9:15, robe for festival services, light candles before the service, assist with communion during service, extinguish candles at end of service,

Lay Reader - all ages, arrive by 9:15, read the scripture lesson during worship

Liturgist - Confirmed members, arrive by 9:15, robe for most services, assist with leading the service, help serve Communion

Communion Assistant - Confirmed members, arrive by 9:20, robe for festival services, assist serving communion during service

Money Counter - Confirmed member, count offering money after the service

Chancel Care Assistant - all ages (with adult supervision if younger than 5th grade), after the service, assist in tidying up the altar area, putting away communion ware.

Sunday Fellowship Treats Provider - all ages (with adult participation), set up treats before the service, including making coffee, serve treats during Fellowship following the service, clean up after Fellowship time.

There will be specific instruction given for each position.

Accommodations can be made for all abilities. Examples: Lay Readers can read from the floor, or the pew instead of the lectern. Communion Assistants can sit or stand behind a tray on a table while "saying the words" to serve communion. Ushers may sit while handing out bulletins.

Sign up sheets can be found on the island in the Narthex, the music sign up is on the Kiosk and the fellowship sign-up is in the South Tower room. Please prayerfully consider how you can serve, and SIGN UP! We need you!



FROM THE LIBRARY:

No new suggestions this month, but please browse on your own. There is a very large fiction section in our library, as well as some non-fiction, lots of spiritual guides and Bibles, a cooking section, a self-help section and some CD's and Video's of interest.

There is also a children's section near the doors to the Sanctuary for our younger members.

Our Little Library outside is in the process of being relocated for easier access and is getting a make-over but will be back up and available near the sidewalk in front very soon!

Grace Book Club -

Here are the latest titles chosen -

For discussion on:

June 5 Demon Copperhead Barbara Kingsolver

No July meeting

August 7 Remarkably Bright Creatures Shelby Van Pelt

Sunday School

The school year has come to an end and so has Sunday School. We have had so much fun this year following the story of Moses and the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, to our Christmas program showing how they are following Jesus, to singing on Confirmation Sunday declaring they are a child of God.

I am so proud of our youth this year and can't wait to see what more they have to show us. This summer we are going to do VBS (Virtual Bible School) with the theme of Live It Out! How to live and love like Jesus each day. Part of that will be sending postcards to each other and staying connected as we do our summer adventures.

Wishing everyone a safe and fun summer!

As always, if anyone is wanting to help out with Sunday School in any way please contact Amanda Christie.



Sunday School singing on Confirmation Sunday

Last day of Sunday School pics - May 18th



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Although school is still in session in Sierra Leone, we must begin to prepare for the 2025-2026 school year so that children will be able to continue to receive an education and an opportunity for a better life for themselves, their families, their communities, their country and ultimately the world.

Beginning June 1 through August 4, the Mission Committee will be accepting sponsorships of students who without your support will be unable to attend school. For \$75.00 per student you can change a life. This is possible ONLY because of our unique relationship with SLAI (Sierra Leone Aid Initiative).

Please fill out the sponsorship form at the bottom of this page and submit with your check to the church office. It can be put in Sunday's offering or mailed to the office.

Please note DONATIONS OF ANY AMOUNT are accepted and appreciated. Any questions please call Sue Atneosen 651-774-9114 or Carolyn Hesterberg 651-702-1194.

I (We) would like to sponsor _____ students in Sierra Leone for 2025-2026 school year.
Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$ _____ (\$75.00 per student)

NAME _____

Envelope # _____

OR

I (We) would like to make a donation to students in Sierra Leone for 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$ _____ (Any amount accepted and greatly appreciated)

Name _____ Envelope # _____

Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

Internal, Local and Global

If you would consider serving treats on a Sunday morning, we would appreciate your help. Please take a look at the sign-up schedule in the South Tower room and see if there is a date that works for you to help out! If you would be willing to bring treats but would prefer to not serve, please speak with Linda Sackreiter and we can arrange that as well.

Thanks for your help!!

2025 Collections

Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 or 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz)

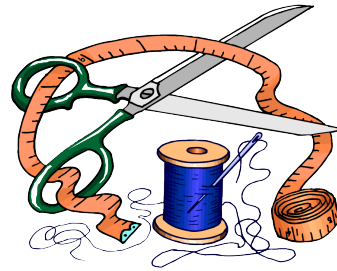
We will be delivering quilts and kits to the LWR warehouse again this spring after gifting a quilt to each Confirmand.

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. (We are not currently saving soup can labels) Thank you for all donations!



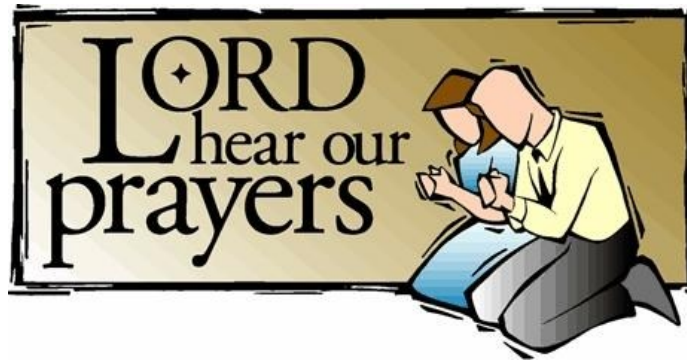
Quilt Days– We will be delivering quilts and baby care kits to the warehouse in South St. Paul this spring. In addition to the 4 quilts we made for this year's confirmands we made 34 quilts to be taken to LWR as well as 12 baby care kits. Lutheran World Relief distributes donated quilts all over the world including in the US.

We will take a break for summer and resume meeting again in September! Think about joining us in the fall!



Miles of Pennies The large collection jar in the library is always accepting donations toward giving to the LSS fund for helping homeless Youth in St. Paul. We are well on our way to our goal of \$250. Let's exceed that again in 2025! Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your generous donations of coins and paper money are appreciated.





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 Tootie Henningsen, Rich Raschke, Bev Henderson, Carol Anderson, Butch Nelson, April Premo (niece of Judy Nelson), and all those we name in our hearts.

How to donate other than in the 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, other, 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 & Rents	\$ 14,261.67	\$ 65,452.40	\$82,536.68
Expenses	<u>\$21,461.40</u>	<u>\$ 93,679.38</u>	<u>\$117,706.64</u>
Deficit/Overage	- \$ 7,,199.73	-\$ 28,226.98	-\$35,169.96



June Birthdays



1 Justeen Schmidt
3 Nathan Trulen
4 Sieta Chesson
5 Monique McClure-Hegge
6 Kyle Hegge
9 Florence Tjornhom
12 Brianna Parsons
13 Phyllis Armstrong
16 Shirley Walby
Josh Williams
23 Anna Roux
Emme Roux
24 Addison Roux

26 Robert Soleim
27 Anna Hollar
Brayden Johnson
29 Drake Jackson
Keith Smeby
30 Carolyn Hesterberg



Worship Leaders for June 2025 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Communion Asst.</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
1	Pete Zitzewitz	--		Karin Nikula
8	Jan Steingas	--	Tony Childs	Linda Sackreiter
15	--	Sue Atneosen	Olivia Childs	Kim Childs
22	Barb Holtan	--		Sig Johnson
29				Jeff Gorton

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
1	Karin Nikula team	Dave & Phyllis Hunter
8	Alleman family	Kim Childs & Nita Hanson
15		Larry & Sue Atneosen
22	Alleman family	
29	Brian Jackson/Patti Young	

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
1	Monique McClure-Hegge team
8	Amanda Christie team
15	Kate Pray team
22	Lana Alleman team
29	Monique McClure-Hegge team

We could use some additional usher volunteers - Please contact Brian Jackson if you are interested in helping out. 612-323-5673

Please see sign-up sheets for summer Sunday jobs in the Narthex, the special music sign-up is on the kiosk in the Good Shepherd Lounge and the Sunday Fellowship sign-up is in the S. Tower Rm.



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



Graduate Recognition
Sunday, June 1st!

Phone: 651-774-9617

FAX: 651-774-0006

www.gracelutheranstpaul.fyi

gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com

Pastor:

Rev. Karen Williams

Custodial Staff:

Linda Denson

Office Staff:

Linda Sackreiter

Music Staff:

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Sanctuary Choir

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

