
July 2025 In Touch with Grace



Dear family and 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.

One of our traditions at Grace is to have a summer theme. The theme of worship for this summer will be to study the Fruit of the Spirit. Each week we will look at one of them and reflect on what it means to us and our wellbeing. I will have self-care ideas for you each week to increase your physical and mental health as well as strengthen your resilience, cognitive functioning, and gratitude. These things lead to longevity and greater strengths of mind, body, and spirit.

One of my favorite podcasts recently discussed what makes life meaningful. Strong influences of finding abundant life include being in nature, finding relaxing hobbies, feeling connected within healthy relationships and

belonging to a group. Try to include these in your summer activities. I hope to connect with many of you this summer as we strengthen the bonds between our church family and beyond.

Looking ahead, we will gather on July 6 at Lake Phalen for outdoor worship at 10 a.m. This service will be followed by a picnic and shared once again with our eastside neighbors. This worship service with our neighboring churches is becoming another favorite tradition. However, the best tradition is coming together as God's family, worshipping, singing and praying as one. Enjoy the fruits of summer!

See you in worship!

Pastor Karen



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.
- 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!
- 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.



Come Be a Part of the Worship Team!

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!

JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month at Grace for July is Open Arms. Open Arms of Minnesota is a non-profit organization that prepares and delivers medically tailored meals at no cost to critically ill Minnesotans and their loved ones. Through the support of a loving community of donors and volunteers, they harvest, cook, and deliver meals directly to their clients.

Open Arms operates with a simple notion: people who are sick should not be without food. At Open Arms, they believe food is medicine and there's always room for one more at their table. Open Arms celebrate life and honors dignity. They believe that all people who are ill - no matter their economic status - should have appropriate nutrition. Your support today will make an immediate impact on our critically ill neighbors.

Please prayerfully consider financially supporting this local charity who reach out to our critically-ill neighbors in need with much needed appropriate nutrition. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.



The first Sunday of the month is usually Food Shelf Sunday but in July that falls on our Patriotic Worship in the Park day. Sooooo... we will do July 13th as Food Shelf Sunday.

Summer is always a difficult time especially with families whose children are not getting meals at school during this time. Please remember the food shelves while you are enjoying your summer!



Music Notes -

On July 13th we will be focusing on the subject of **Peace**, one of the gifts of the Spirit. There are several hymns dealing with peace, but one of the most popular ones begins with the words, "When Peace Like a River..." and ends with "It is Well with My Soul". The man who wrote the tune to that hymn was Philip Bliss, born on July 9, 1838. For a man who never heard a piano until he was ten, his tunes have had a lasting impression. In fact, one of the tunes the survivors of the Titanic sang while rowing to safety was his "Pull for the Shore". Unfortunately, he died at the age of 38 in an accident dramatic enough to have a film made of it. He and his wife were heading to Chicago to help with an evangelical meeting. It was the end of December with bad weather on the railroad tracks. The train went off the tracks into a ravine and caught fire. Initially, he got out, but his wife was trapped. He went back in to save her, but was unsuccessful.

Eighty-one years later on the same date, another composer was born, writing something just as memorable but in a totally different genre. The name Earle Hagen is not a household name, but his TV theme song(s) are legendary. Who can forget the happy whistle that starts, "The Andy Griffith Show". That's not only his song but his whistling. He also wrote the theme song to a groundbreaking series starring Bill Cosby and Robert Culp—"I Spy". The theme is reminiscent of John Barry's themes found in the James Bond movies. Both the TV series and the Bond movies have espionage as their main topic. It's hard to tell which composer influenced the other.

Amazingly, there are several other composers born in July who contributed to not only church music but the secular medium. Here are some of them: Thomas Dorsey (7/1) who wrote "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"; Vince Guaraldi (7/17) who wrote Charlie Brown's music; Peter Schickele (7/17) aka P.D.Q. Bach; Allen Mencken (7/22) who wrote a myriad of Disney musicals i.e. Beauty and the Beast, etc. and Adolphe Adam (7/24) who wrote "O Holy Night". It's fun to find how these composers began their lives and their musical encounters, how music became such an important part of their lives, passing on their talents to us.



FROM THE LIBRARY:

Here are some new titles to check out!



The Funny Shape of Faith:

Devotions for the Rest of Us combines cartoons based on biblical texts with reflections and prayers for any day of the year. It includes 158 devotions, each funny and faithful in their own particular way, and arranged in sixteen categories, such as: "The problem with God's Love (Is that It's Also for People You Might Not Like So Much)".

The Winemaker's Wife:

Love and betrayal, forgiveness and redemption combine in a heady tale of the ever present past" (New York Times bestselling author) set amid the champagne vineyards of northern France during the darkest days of World War II. Perfect for fans of Kristin Hannah's The Nightingale and Julia Kelly's The Light Over London.

The Water Dancer:

This is a surrealist story set in the pre-Civil War South, concerning a superhuman protagonist named Hiram Walker who possesses a photographic memory, but who cannot remember his mother. He learns he has a special ability known as "conduction", with which he is able to transport people - including himself - over long distances. Conduction is powered by his memories and storytelling, and can fold the earth like fabric, allowing travel across large areas via waterways.

Summer Reads for Grace Youth!

Blueberry Muffin Murders:

The annual winter Carnival in Lake Eden, Minnesota, and Hannah Swensen is set to cook up a storm at her popular bakery, The Cookie Jar. So she is less than impressed when the honour of creating the official Winter Carnival cake goes to famous lifestyle guru Connie Mac..

When America's 'Cooking Sweetheart' rolls into town, Hannah discovers Connie is bossy, bad-tempered, and downright domineering. Things finally boil over when Hannah arrives at The Cookie Jar to find the Winter Carnival cake burnt to a crisp - with Connie Mac lying dead in her pantry, stuck down while eating one of Hannah's famous blueberry muffins. Can Minnesota's favourite baking sleuth find the person responsible before others meet the same sticky end?

Thanks for all the donations!

Grace Book Club -

Here are the latest titles chosen -
For discussion on:

No July meeting
August 7 Remarkably Bright Creatures Shelby Van Pelt

Sunday School - VBS

Virtual Bible School (VBS) will be our families sending postcards to each other so we can stay connected this summer as we all go off on different adventures.

God is with us everyday whether we are at church or relaxing at our cabins. We can share God's love wherever we are by living our lives as Jesus has taught us. Love, serve, pray, trust, teach, forgive, and accept our neighbors are all ways we can live like Jesus.

Hope everyone is having a great summer.



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)

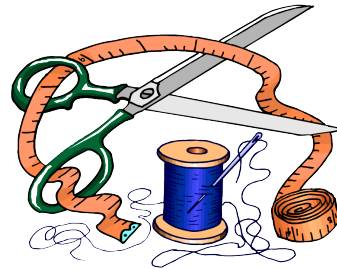
We will be delivering quilts and kits to the LWR warehouse again this year after gifting a quilt to each Confirmand.

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!



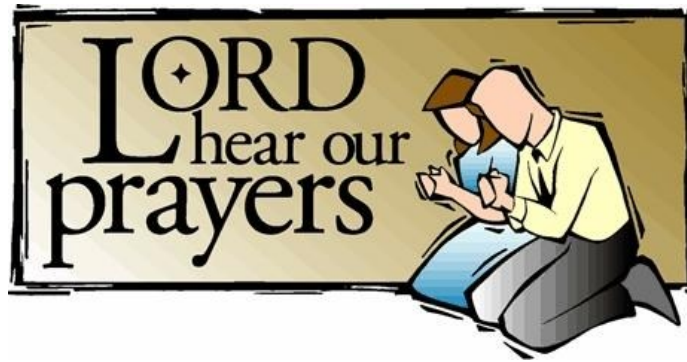
Quilt Days– We will be delivering quilts and baby care kits to the warehouse in South St. Paul this spring. In addition to the 4 quilts we made for this year's confirmands we made 34 quilts to be taken to LWR as well as 12 baby care kits. Lutheran World Relief distributes donated quilts all over the 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 Phyllis Armstrong, 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>May Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund & Rents	\$ 43,783.75	\$ 93,347.15	\$103,120.85
Expenses	\$ <u>26,060.80</u>	\$ <u>121,128.47</u>	\$ <u>147,133.30</u>
Deficit/Overage	\$ 17,722.95	-\$ 27,781.32	-\$44,012.45



- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Amelia Christie | 18 | Simon Killeen |
| | Bev Hendersen | | Violet Rose |
| | Gavynn Smeby | 23 | Nancy Shaffer |
| 4 | Renae Storbakken | 24 | Evelyn Engh |
| 5 | Kari Aaneson | 26 | Richard Moe |
| 6 | Camryn Alleman | 30 | Lana Alleman |
| 7 | Johan Hollar | | Kate Pray |
| | Randy Proulx | 31 | Thomas Manthey |
| 8 | Tracy Jackson | | |
| 9 | Lois Erkkila | | |
| | Altiana Ray-Taylor | | |
| 11 | Brian Adam | | |
| 13 | Jennifer Smeby | | |
| 14 | Kris Mohwinkel | | |
| 15 | Christopher Jurewitsch | | |
| | Josie Meyer | | |
| 16 | Gloria Soleim | | |



Worship Leaders for July 2025 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Communion Asst.</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
6	Worship in the Park	--	--	--
13	Linda Sackreiter	--	Kim Childs	Sue Atneosen
20	Peter Zitzewitz	--	?	Chris Jurewitsch
27	Monique McClure-Hegge	--	?	Betty Castle

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
6	--	--
13	Larry Atneosen team	?
20	?	?
27	?	?

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

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.



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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

