
October 2025 In Touch with Grace



Dear family and friends of Grace,
"To everything there is a season and a time
for every purpose under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1.

We are in the changing of the seasons. The acorns have been falling heavily at my house. The hard dropping and plunking on the roof kept us awake many nights. The squirrels are happily preparing for winter by hoarding as many of the acorns as possible. The birds are organizing their flight patterns for the trip south. We are cleaning up our gardens and harvesting the last of the vegetables and fruits of summer. Even in this change, seeds are being planted for new life in the Spring.

The splendor of autumn reminds us that in all seasons of life there is beauty. The nights become longer, but in the darkness we get a better glimpse of the stars. Those acorns that are falling will become mighty oaks in due time. I came across the most beautiful leaf on the sidewalk. It was fairly small and in perfect condition. What was so striking about it was that it looked as beautiful as a stained glass window! There were multiple colors of yellow, gold, red, and green spread across it as if intentionally designed.

This little leaf reminded me of the beautiful stained glass windows at Grace. Long ago, church members had to vote to spend the extra money to import them from Germany. Those of us in this current generation are so glad that they took on the extra debt to bless us and all who enter the sanctuary. In our current times, the Grace family also has pressing decisions to make. The care of the

building and grounds fall on the shoulders of those who are now the congregation. Just as those of past generations, there are prayers, wringing of hands, deep discussions, and trust that God will guide us through.

Changing seasons hold hidden beauty if we look for it. God has a blessing in each of every moment when we are aware of this holy presence. Through Grace, generations have been blessed, children are cared for in the early learning center. Our partner church has a home to worship. The sun still rises and sets each and every day and the stars shine brightly even when there are clouds that hide them. With faith, we move forward one step at a time. Who else will God bless through Grace? Hopefully, you are one of those blessed. We are blessed to be a blessing.

See you at church,
Pastor Karen



Announcements

- Growing through Loss will be offered for five weeks beginning on Tuesday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m. This Fall Series is hosted at Hazel Park Congregational Church, 1831 Minnehaha Ave. E., in St. Paul, Mn. 55119. Our East Metro Grief Coalition offered a series this past spring and was well received. There are many kinds of grief beyond the death of a loved one. Maybe you are struggling with other types of loss or wish to learn more in order to help others in your life. The speakers are interesting, engaging, warm, and helpful. Come and learn more! See the poster and handouts at church for more information. See Pastor Karen with any questions.
- Calling all Chili Chefs!! We are planning a Chili Cook-off for October 12th after worship. Please pull out your best Chili recipes and let us know if you will be cooking or tasting. It will be free to cook and \$10 to taste and judge. Plan to join us!!
- Congratulations to Luke and Gavynn upon their first communion on October 5th. This is also World Communion Day when the worldwide church celebrates the gift of bread and wine offered to us as spiritual food through the body and blood of Christ. May God continue to bless Gavynn and Luke as they grow in faith!
- **New date!** Our annual youth sponsored **Spaghetti Dinner** will be moved into November this year. Come and celebrate with all the saints on **Sunday, November 2**, after worship. We will have the same delicious menu and gather with the saints present and in the church eternal. Tickets will be sold the weeks before and the day of. It won't be the same without you, so come and celebrate with us!
- **All Saints Day is November 2**. We will remember the saints among us and those who have gone on to their heavenly home. Please bring a labelled photo of your loved ones to church that morning and place them around the sanctuary on the ledges on either side. Please label your photos so that all will know who the people are. We will have time during the service to look at the photos, remembering our loved ones in prayer, and light votive candles. Special worship music will be shared and we will give thanks for the lives of those who have touched our own.
- We will have a visit from Martin Luther on Reformation Sunday, October 26. This Sunday is the day that we commemorate the founding of the Lutheran Church and the work of the Holy Spirit within all churches. If you would like, wear red which symbolizes the color of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Lutheran Church.
- Thank you to our youth families for the donation that made possible a large screen in our S. Tower Room. Meetings, movie days, education, and more will be possible in new and exciting ways. This project was made possible through the vision of our One Level Church Team that will enhance our life together and update our technology for the 21st century. Check it out!
- **'Trunk or Treat'** will be held in partnership with our East Side Early Learning Center on **Thursday, October 23, from 4-5:30 p.m.** in the church parking lot. We are looking for volunteers to participate by bringing your vehicles to help form a trick or treat route around our trunks. Please feel free to decorate your trunk and wear a costume. Candy will be provided. Nothing scary, no weapons, only family friendly fun! Look for more details to follow.

OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month for October is Youth Link. Youth Link serves young people 16-24 years of age experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the Twin Cities, MN. It is located in downtown Minneapolis.

Youth Link has 45 years of experience connecting young people with a community of resources and support. Whether it is basic needs, like a hot shower or a warm meal, assistance with employment or education goals, accessing mental and physical health resources, or finding supportive housing, Youth Link helps young people at all stages of their journey.

Through their Youth Opportunity Center, Youth Link collaborates with values-aligned community partners to provide resources to young people - all in one location to break down time and transportation barriers. Youth Link also staffs 2 supportive housing complexes with a combined 88 units.

Youth Link's vision is a community in which all youth, without regard to their living situation, have an equal opportunity to pursue their goals and dreams and an equal likelihood of achieving them.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this worthwhile organization which reaches out to our young people in the area during some of their most difficult and frightening times and offers help and hope for a better tomorrow. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the church offering or mail to the church office. Thank you.



RESULTS OF GRACE'S BLOOD DRIVE:

Thirty two pints of blood were received from our Blood Drive last Monday here at Grace, despite 12 people being rejected for various reasons.

Just think...that amount will help **96 people!**

We want to thank ALL who helped make this Drive a success. You were needed and appreciated!



The first Sunday of each month is Food Collection Sunday. October 5th this month

Music Notes -

Did you know that a lot of our favorite hymns only use 5 notes? It may not look like that because of the harmonies appearing underneath the melodies, but it's true. The melodies not only use a major or minor scale but a scale using only 5 note names—it's called a pentatonic scale. You could play the whole hymn tune using only the black notes on the piano. The first selection the choir sang this season was a pentatonic hymn called "How Firm a Foundation, hymn #796. One that everyone has sung since childhood uses only 5 notes- "Jesus Loves Me" uses the 5 notes, plus a duplicate on top. Another hymn we've known since childhood is an African American spiritual called "This Little Light of Mine", arranged in our hymnal by Charles Boyer from Winter Park, Florida (Yay!). Many of our Christmas programs end with a joyous African American spiritual—"Go Tell It On The Mountain". And we cannot forget one of our favorite hymns—"Amazing Grace".

If you look at the bottom of the hymn page, you might see the tune accredited to "Southern Harmony" or "The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia". Many of the hymns found in those 2 hymn collections use the pentatonic scale. "Southern Harmony" was published by W. Walker in 1835; "The Sacred Harp from Philadelphia", published in 1844, is only one of several groupings of **shaped notes** hymnals (that's a topic for another time). There are shaped note singing groups throughout the U.S. including in the Twin Cities. One meets every 2nd Sunday at St. Sahag's Armenian Church on Howell St. in St. Paul. No singing proficiency required; drop-ins welcome.

What does the word pentatonic mean? It comes from two Greek words: *pente*, meaning five, i.e. Pentagon, and *tonic*, meaning tone. What makes it special is the skip after the 2nd or 3rd note. For example, 12456 or 12356.

Of course the pentatonic scale is not limited to being used in hymns. It's found in songs around the world. It's still being used today. If you are a certain age, you can remember a 1960's quartet, *The Temptations*, who introduced us to the song, "My Girl". In the movies we saw a singer/dancer, Gene Kelly, who sang while dancing and splashing in the rain, a lively tune called, "Singing in the Rain".

It's interesting to find where some of our favorite hymns first appeared and who wrote them. Were they first sung in America or elsewhere? How old are they and how did they come to be written? On October 12th we will be singing some of our favorites and find out some answers to the questions; who, why and when. Enjoy!

What's your favorite hymn?

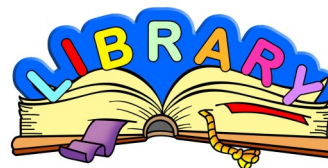
Plan to be here on October 12th when we have scheduled a favorite hymn sing Sunday!



FROM THE LIBRARY:

The library now has a puzzle-lending collection!

Check it out!!



NEW BOOKS FOR THE FALL!

For the Adults:

Slow Cooker Tonight - Jumpstart your Fall menu planning with a book filled with easy meals!!

Sensible Shoes - A story about the Spiritual Journey: Sharon Garlough Brown tells the moving story of four strangers as they embark together on a journey of spiritual formation: Hannah, a pastor who doesn't realize how exhausted she is, Meg, a widow and recent empty-nester who is haunted by her past. Mara, a woman who has experienced a lifetime of rejection and is now trying to navigate a difficult marriage, and Charissa, a hard-working graduate student who wants to get things right.

You are invited to join these four women as they reluctantly arrive at a retreat center and find themselves drawn out of their separate stories of isolation and struggle and into a collective journey of spiritual practice, mutual support and personal revelation.

The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hill - Sam Hill always saw the world through different eyes. Born with red pupils, he was called Devil Boy or Sam Hill by his classmates; "God's will" is what his mother called his ocular albinism. Her words were of little comfort, but Sam persevered, buoyed by his mother's devout faith, his father's practical wisdom, and his two other misfit friends. Sam believed it was God who sent Ernie Cantwell, the only African American kid in his class, to be the friend he so desperately needed. And that it was God's idea for Mickie Kennedy to storm into Our Lady of Mercy like a tornado, uprooting every rule Sam had been taught about boys and girls. Forty years later, Sam, a small-town eye doctor, is no longer certain anything was by design — especially not the tragedy that caused him to turn his back on his friends, his hometown, and the life he'd always known. Running from the pain, eyes closed, served little purpose. Now, as he looks back on his life, Sam embarks on a journey that will take him halfway around the world. This time, his eyes are wide open — Bringing into clear view what changed him, defined him, and made him so afraid, until he can finally see what truly matters.—

For the Kiddos:

A Family Is - In this touching tale, a young girl learns an important lesson: families can look different but are bound by a universal language - love. Regardless of how many parents or what they look like, it's love that makes a family real.

A Broken Crayon - This is a beautifully written and heartfelt children's book that speaks to readers of all ages. Inspired by the powerful lyrics of the song by Go Fish, this touching story follows the journey of a little crayon that falls and breaks - believing its worth is lost - until an artist sees its beauty and uses it to create something extraordinary.

Grace Book Club -

Here are the latest titles chosen -
For discussion on:



October 2	<u>The Lion Women of Tehran</u>	Marjan Kamali
November 6	<u>The Sandcastle Girls</u>	Chris Bohjalian
December 4	<u>The Nurse's Secret</u>	Amanda Skenandore
January 1	<u>The Great Gatsby</u>	F. Scott Fitzgerald
February 5	<u>My Friends</u>	Fredrik Backman

Sunday School -

Sunday School has kicked off the year with diving into the Hero and Heroines of the Bible. We are looking at how we can learn about these heroes from so long ago and take their special skills, actions and faith and apply them to our daily lives. Not all heroes wear capes, have super strength or can fly. Our super powers are our unique talents to serve others and being kind to everyone in our community.

What are your super powers and how are you using them to be heroes in your life?



**Pics from 9/14 children's
time in worship → →**

"Superhero Day!"

LSS Early Learning Center could use our help with a few things. Kids often come to school with clothes and shoes but no undies or socks and often don't have appropriate winter gloves or have lost them. We are hoping to be of help with those things. They have asked specifically for underwear, gloves and socks in sizes for the under 5 years crowd. We now have a bin available for those items. Thank you in advance!



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

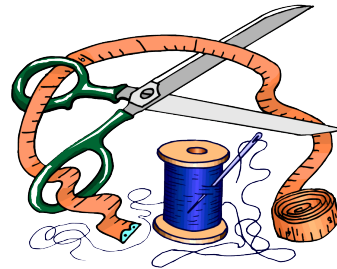
Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 or 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz)

We delivered 36 quilts to the LWR warehouse again this year after gifting a quilt to each Confirmant. We continue to put together baby kits as well.

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!

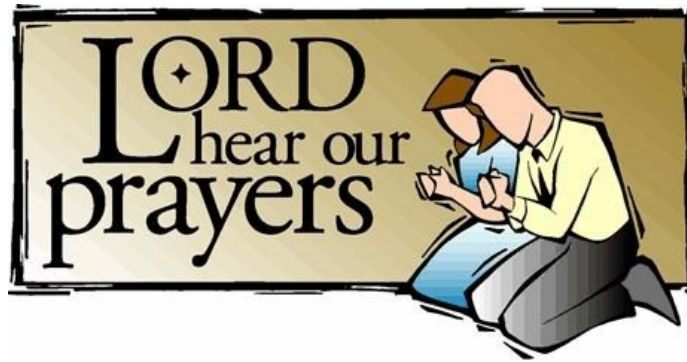


Quilt Days– It's time to start quilting again!! Our meeting day for October is the 11th. We meet in the South Tower room from 10-12 to tie quilt sandwiches. Everyone is welcome to stop by and help or if you'd rather sew quilt tops for us, that would be wonderful. Talk to Linda Sackreiter in the office or Barb Kinney regarding size requirements for tops. Thank you to all who support this mission for Lutheran World Relief. No experience needed. We can teach.



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 Paul Hesterberg, Phyllis Armstrong, Bev Henderson, Carol Anderson, Butch Nelson, the friends and family of Cathy Erickson, and all those we name in our hearts.

Both Pastor Paul and Phyllis Armstrong are recovering, but both have much recovery ahead of them.

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>August Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund & Rents	\$ 42,532.63	\$ 210,556.71	\$164,873.36
Expenses	<u>\$ 21,159.29</u>	<u>\$ 188,721.53</u>	<u>\$235,663.28</u>
Deficit/Overage	\$ 21,373.34	\$ 21,835.18	-\$70,789.92



1 Lynn Jackson
 3 Kimberly Childs
 4 John Klein
 5 Tom Studiner
 6 Kathleen Hollar
 7 Logan Trulen
 15 Sandra Groth
 16 Dan Goebel
 17 Adam Review
 18 Lydia Rose
 19 Joel Nikula
 Karin Nikula
 22 Holly Nikula
 Taylor Schoonover

24 Linda Gorton
 26 Chris Williams
 27 Joseph Wintheiser
 Megan Wintheiser
 29 Lauren Alleman
 31 Steven Sabo
 Tami Westphall



Worship Leaders for October 2025 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	or	<u>Communion Asst.</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
5					
12	Barb Holtan			Kim Childs	Sue Atneosen
19	Peter Zitzewitz				Peter Zitzewitz
26	Jeff Oberlander				Jeff Oberlander

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
5	Brian Jackson, Patti Young	Peter & Nancy Zitzewitz
12	Jeff Oberlander team	Sue Atneosen
19		Lydia Rose
26		

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
5	Kate Pray team
12	Lana Alleman team
19	Amanda Christie team
26	Monique McClure-Hegge team



Please see sign-up sheets for Sunday jobs in the Narthex, and the Sunday Fellowship sign-up in the S. Tower Rm.

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.

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

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



Reformation Sunday, October 26

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:

Sabe Dunlap - Director of

Music Ministries

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

