
November 2025 In Touch with Grace



Daylight Savings ends on the 2nd of November!

Set your clocks back 1 hour on Saturday the 1st so you get an extra hour in the morning!

Dear family and friends of Grace,
"I thank God every time I think of you." This is a phrase we see often in the epistles of the New Testament. In that short sentence, a world of meaning comes through. Who is it that you might think of and thank God - every single time? It takes a pretty special person to fit that description. It is a quote I often use in our November issue. There is so much to be grateful for.

Our church family is a group filled with people that I am thankful for. I am also thankful for the building and grounds that God has given to us to use for ministry both within and beyond our walls for the betterment of one another including those we have not yet met. Our location and neighborhood are something to be thankful for. Not everyone has such a beautiful a dwelling place as our congregation does. I am grateful for how our congregation steps up to serve, to sign up for volunteer opportunities, and to offer connections to our neighborhood. Last night, we hosted a very well attended Spooky Event. I am thankful for all the volunteers who helped as well as the leadership and vision of Amanda who created the idea.

This fall, I am also grateful for the opening of our Eastside Early Childhood Learning Center - Eastside one year ago. The school has grown and now has an infant room. Families are being cared for from the youngest ages to the parents themselves. Our Trunk or Treat experience with the center is a wonderful chance to connect as

we meet our neighbors through another fun event.

We have answered God's call and still continue to move forward in faith with confidence that God is leading us. We may think that the future is uncertain, but God is already there preparing the way and asking us to trust that even in uncertainty there is something to be grateful for. We have the opportunity to share what we have been given for the betterment of the communities in which we live and work and play and serve. God will provide what we need and give us a purpose to change the world for the better. We only need to trust, listen, and follow where God will lead. The future is full of surprises that with God all things are possible. For that we can be thankful!

See you in worship,
Pastor Karen



Announcements

- **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.
- **Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by our youth** will be served on the first Sunday of November, Nov. 2, after worship. Join us for a delicious meal and a good cause. Our youth are selling tickets for \$10 per person, \$5 for children, and free for those under five.
- **Daylight Saving Time ends on Nov. 2.** Please remember to ‘fall back’ and adjust your clocks accordingly. If not, you might be really early to worship! At least you will have your choice of seats!
- **Our Veterans will be acknowledged** in worship on Sunday, Nov. 9. Thank you for your service!
- **Election Day is Nov. 4** For those of you who have the chance to vote, please remember to exercise this privilege and civic duty.
- **Thanksgiving Worship** will be held on Tuesday, November 25, at 7 pm We will gather at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church to celebrate and give thanks to God with combined choirs rehearsing at 6 pm. Refreshments will follow. Join us!
- **Sunday, Nov. 30, is the first Sunday in Advent.** We will celebrate the coming of the Messiah with a special Holden Worship Service during our 9:30 a.m. worship service followed by our annual Advent Event. See you there!



ANNUAL MEETING PART I will take place on November 16th following the worship service at 10:45 am.

This is the meeting where we elect officers and congregational committee members and approve the budget for 2026.

Please plan to stay and be part of this important work!

NOVEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month for Grace is ELCA World Hunger. Every year, your gifts make it possible for ELCA World Hunger to respond strategically and help people living with hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries around the world and the U.S.

Nearly 1 in 10 - 733 million - in our world are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond supporting sustainable solutions that get to the root causes of hunger and poverty.

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving with lavish and bountiful dinner celebrations, please take a moment to examine how you would like to share with those less fortunate and reach out in Christian love to our neighbors in need across the street and around the world. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the church offering or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.



ELCA World Hunger

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The first Sunday of each month is Food Collection Sunday. November 2nd this month



The Giving Tree - a Christmas tradition at Grace - will be up in the Good Shepherd Lounge on November 30th. The tree will be adorned with ornaments with a gift item written on each one, please feel free to take 1,2, or as many as you would like, purchase the item and return unwrapped under the tree by Sunday, December 14th. Watch for more information as December nears!

Music Notes -

At the end of November America celebrates the great feast of Thanksgiving, a time to thank the Lord for the fruits grown and all good gifts imparted to us. Thanksgiving not only brings out a chance to celebrate good food and friends, but also gives a chance to demonstrate how artists show America. Magazines are not in circulation as much now as they were 50 years ago. One of the most popular magazines was *The Saturday Evening Post*. The cover illustrator was a

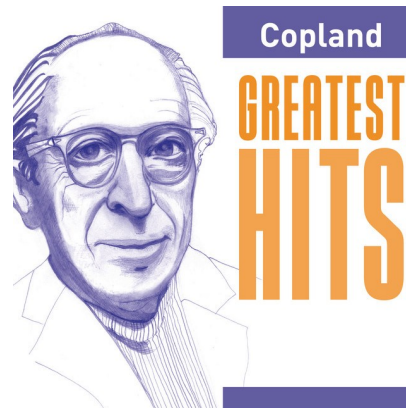
painter by the name of Norman Rockwell, who painted pictures capturing the everyday life of Americans.

Just as Norman Rockwell painted scenes of American life, Aaron Copland composed the musical sounds that create the singular imagery of America. Other composers captured musical spirit of their native lands i.e. Edvard Grieg (Norway), Ralph Vaughn Williams (England) and Bela Bartok (Hungary). But Copland's music sounds uniquely American. On November 2nd, All Saints Day, the choir sings Copland's *At the River*, his arrangement of hymn #423, written by Robert Lowry a century earlier. It's part of a 5 piece song cycle written in 1952, a second set that followed a 4 piece grouping written for baritone soloist, commissioned by the English composer Benjamin Britten to represent American musical genres called "Old American Songs". That grouping included Copland's arrangement of the hymn "Tis a Gift to be Simple". He also made that Shaker hymn the basis for Martha Graham's ballet *Appalachian Spring*. Amazingly, he was one of 141 artists who were on the McCarthy list of Communist influencers. In fact, his *Lincoln Portrait* was removed from the presidential concert given at President Eisenhower's inauguration, even though his music so highly represented the American sound.

Aaron Copland was born November 14, 1900 and died of Alzheimer's on December 2, 1990.

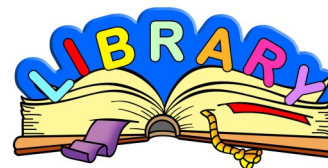
Another composer, born in November, and whose tunes we hear every July 4th nicknamed "The American March King" a.k.a. John Philip Sousa, was born on November 6, 1854. Some fun facts: He wrote 130 marches, including one for the University of Minnesota. There was even a movie, loosely based on his life, called "Stars and Stripes Forever". Did you know in the early 1900's you could join the Army as young as 13 as an apprentice? That's what Sousa did, playing violin in the Army band.

So whether we're celebrating November with the changing colors all around us, or thanking God for having food on the table, surrounded by family and friends, or cherishing the artistic gifts shared with us by such creative souls as Norman Rockwell, Aaron Copland or John Philip Sousa, we have so much to be thankful for, even more so in stressful times.



FROM THE LIBRARY:

Here's the latest from our libraries!



BOOKS FOR SALE:

The "Books for Sale" basket has gotten a refresh!

Due to some recent donations of brand new or like new books, we have a great selection in our basket! Feel free to browse and if you find one you just need to have, all donations are welcome!

NEW FEATURED TITLES:

A Step of Faith by Richard Paul Evans - After the death of his beloved wife, after the loss of his advertising business to his once-trusted partner, after bankruptcy forced him from his home, Alan Christoffersen is a broken man. Leaving everything he knows, he sets out on an extraordinary cross-country journey; with only the pack on his back, he is walking from Seattle to Key West - the end of the map.

Along the way, Alan begins to heal, meeting people who teach him lessons about love, sacrifice, and forgiveness. But in St. Louis, Alan faces another life-changing crisis, and now the Journey is in jeopardy.

The Boys In The Boat by Daniel James Brown - It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys' own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, Brown has created an unforgettable portrait of an era.

Pillsbury Annual Recipes - With the cooler weather approaching, treat yourself to a new recipe!

LITTLE LIBRARY:

The little library at Grace is back! Thank you to Jim Dike for fixing it up and giving it a fresh coat of paint its looking great back in front of Grace!

Thank you!



Grace Book Club -

Here are the latest titles chosen -
For discussion on:

November 6	<u>The Sandcastle Girls</u>
December 4	<u>The Nurse's Secret</u>
January 1	<u>The Great Gatsby</u>
February 5	<u>My Friends</u>

Chris Bohjalian
Amanda Skenandore
F. Scott Fitzgerald
Fredrik Backman

Sunday School

As the Sunday School kids continue learning about the heroes and heroines of the Old Testament, we had a special guest join our lesson. King Solomon shared with us his wisdom and plans for making the first temple in Jerusalem.

Gavyn and Luke received their First Communion on October 5th. The entire Sunday School made unleavened bread that we used as our communion bread for that service. Each kid had a task in making the bread and it was made with soooo much love!

Our new family area in the Narthex contains artwork from each kid and how they can use one of their super powers every day to love others.



XYZ's - will meet on Thursday, November 13 at 1:30 pm in the South Tower room. We will be assembling Christmas gift bags which will be given to each of the 25 students attending LSS Learning Center in the lower level of Grace. Thanks to a generous donation from Thrivent, items will be purchased and ready to go - no need to bring anything additional unless you would like to add to the holiday for the children. As always, treats, fellowship and good conversation will follow. XYZ's (eXtra Years of Zest) is normally 55+ members, but EVERYONE is welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

Also, our December Holiday luncheon at Lake Elmo Inn is coming soon. We will meet at the Inn at 11 am for a fun gathering and great food! The sign up and menu selection will be out soon as we need to have a count and menu choices by the November 19. Mark you calendar now!



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!

NEW COLLECTION OPPORTUNITY:

Sandy Abernathy has brought another way to serve the homeless by collecting plastic bags to be crocheted into weatherproof mats for people living on the streets to use for sleeping. She will pick up any donated bags and give to a lady where she lives who makes these for donation to Joseph's Coats & Higher Ground in St. Paul and Union Gospel Mission & the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis. The mats are 3 feet wide by 6 feet long and some have a carrying strap as well. It takes 800 bags to make a mat so all donations are very much appreciated! Drop off any bags in the collection area of the library! Thanks.

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!!

NEW COLLECTION OPPORTUNITY!!!

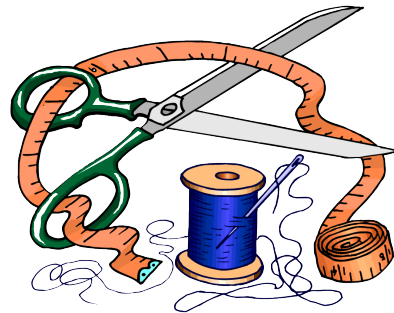
What do you do with all those plastic bags you get at stores these days? You can recycle, but why not upcycle. Sandy Abernathy has a friend that uses plastic bags to crochet mats for the homeless to use. It takes 800 bags to make one mat. The mats are given to locations helpful to the homeless population. If you would like to donate bags for this purpose, bring to church and leave in the library area. Sandy will pick them up and deliver to the person who is doing the crocheting! Thanks for your donations as always!

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)

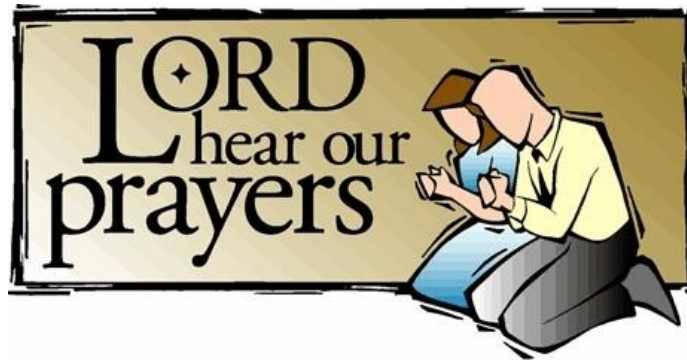
Other on-going collections at Grace - used eye glasses and cancelled stamps. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf. Also, Sandy Abernathy will take any American Flags that need to be disposed of properly. These can be left in the collection area in the library. (We are not currently saving soup can labels) Thank you for all donations!

Quilt Days— It's time to start quilting again!! Our meeting day for November is the 8th. 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 Patty Young, Paul Hesterberg, Phyllis Armstrong, Bev Henderson, Carol Anderson, Butch Nelson, and all those we name in our hearts.

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

Patty Young is now in rehab care recovering from a stroke.

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>September Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund & Rents	\$ 31,992.32	\$ 242,549.03	\$185,457.53
Expenses	\$ <u>22,806.29</u>	\$ <u>211,527.82</u>	\$ <u>265,089.94</u>
Deficit/Overage	\$ 9,186.03	\$ 31,021.21	-\$79,632.41



NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

2 Jeff Oberlander

5 Jared Dike

Peter Wickert

8 Barb Hegge

Kelly Humphrey

9 Linda Sackreiter

10 Carol Matson

Raymond Parsons

12 Cynthia Martinson

Everly Wood

13 Alexis Petersen

14 Judy Nelson

15 Inez Albrecht

16 Emma Geister

19 Kairo Stewart

20 Mary Ettl

22 Erin Wintheiser

23 Byron Meyer

26 Grady Westling

27 Carly Kinney

29 Erick Major



Worship Leaders for November 2025 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u> or	<u>Communion Asst.</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
2	Jan Steingas	-	Olivia Childs	Betty Castle
9	Connie Smeby	-	Kim Childs	Peg Mathison
16	Barb Holtan	-		Christopher Jurewitsch
23	Jeff Oberlander	-		Peg Mathison
30				Barb Holtan

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
2	Lydia & Violet Rose	John Luckfield
9	Roger Mathison, Linda Sackreiter	Dick Gunderson
16	Jeff Oberlander team	Larry & Sue Atneosen
23		Lydia & Violet Rose
30		Ed & Barb Holtan

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)
2	Kate Pray team
9	Lana Alleman team
16	Amanda Christie team
23	Monique McClure-Hegge team
30	Kate Pray 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!

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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

