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# September 2026 In Touch with Grace



Dear Family and Friends of Grace,  
Our summer series allowed us a chance to 'consider the birds of the air' as found in scripture. Each week gave us the opportunity to learn and experience God's providence in new ways. Every morning, the birds greet the new day with song. They don't know what the day will bring, but they sing anyway. The creatures of the night trust that in the darkness there is still hope. From the sparrow, the mother hen, the eagle, the dove, the raven, the owl, and the hummingbird, each one revealed something of God's care, wisdom, and promise. There is no need for worry, for our creator gives us strength for each new day.

As summer slowly gives way to autumn, we are reminded that change is a natural part of God's creation. The long, warm days of summer begin to shorten, the air turns crisp, and the leaves prepare for their beautiful transformation.

Autumn invites us to pause and give thanks—for the blessings of summer, for the beauty that surrounds us, and for the promise that God is with us in every season of life. Just as the trees let go of their leaves,

perhaps this is also a good time for us to let go of worries, disappointments, or things we no longer need to carry.

May this new season bring renewed faith, grateful hearts, and opportunities to gather together as a church family. Whatever season we are entering, God walks with us through it all.

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

See you at church,  
Pastor Karen



## Announcements

- Minnesota State Fair parking will continue in September, the 1st - 6th. This year, the parking lot is being staffed by our Scout Troop. The parking lot will be open just for church members on Sunday mornings until 1 p.m.

(Do you have a few hours to help staff the parking lot with the scout troop? Jim Dike is looking for a few to help during the day hours the week of August 30. Contact Jim for more information and to volunteer. Thanks! )

- Christmas in summer? Easter in autumn? Join us for worship on Sunday, September 6 as we go on a journey through the seasons of the church year. From Advent to Pentecost, God journeys with us. Come and see!
  - **Save the Date—** On Sunday September 20th, Renee Storbakken's niece, Teri, will be with us to talk about her experience in Sierra Leone as part of Mercy Ships. She was also part of the school building renovation supported by Renee and SLCM. It should be a very interesting presentation!
  - Rally Day is on Sunday, September 13! Our church ministries and programs will begin our regular schedules. Consider joining a group, committee, choir, or handbells. Sign up for refreshments. Help with worship. There is always somewhere for each one to help. It takes all of us to create a place to share God's love and bring it into the world. Perhaps you could find one new thing to try this year.
  - Welcome to our new Director of Music Ministries! Natalie Robuck is an accomplished musician and director. She is also an elementary school music educator. Natalie brings a great deal of experience with choirs and handbells. As a graduate of St. Olaf College with a degree in music education and vocal music, Natalie will bring her many gifts to the music ministry here at Grace. Introduce yourself, join the choir or handbells, and welcome Natalie to our staff. We are looking forward to getting acquainted.
- 1st Rehearsals will begin on September 9th - 5:30 pm Bells, 7 pm Sanctuary Choir!**
- Sabe Dunlap, who served as our Director of Music this past year, has resigned. We have been blessed by her gifts and pray for her next steps as she continues to pursue her music career. Here is a portion of her letter "I am so grateful to the community and the incredible musicians from Grace that I've gotten to work with over the past year. I value all the experiences I have gotten to have with you all...It has been a sincere pleasure working with you all! Thank you for warmly welcoming me into the community this past year, and I wish you all the best in the years to come. Sincerely, Sabe Dunlap"

**Food Shelf Sunday is September 6th!**

**Blood Drive at Grace on Monday, August 31st, 1-6pm!**



American Red Cross

## SEPTEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the month for September at Grace is Houses for Haiti. Houses for Haiti is a non-profit organization dedicated to building houses for homeless families living on the streets of Cite Solei, the poorest slum in the Western Hemisphere. With no jobs, education or public assistance, many families have no hope of ever living in a concrete dwelling. H for H believes that every person deserves to live in a safe environment free from disease and filth that is always present on the streets of Haiti.

The organization was founded in April 2008 by two sisters from Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church. With the assistance of Pastor Leone Doriens who is in Cite Solei, they select one or two families each year to receive houses. They have built 45 houses to date.

Houses for Haiti's goal is to raise enough money each year to build one or two houses. The organization is comprised of volunteers and over 96% of funds goes to purchasing supplies and pay local contractors to build the houses (which helps to put money back into the local economy). Up until recently teams have made trips to Haiti to paint the homes and do some finishing work but future trips have been postponed due to kidnappings, murders, robbery and protest.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this organization and help to change the lives and give hope to some of God's poorest children living on the streets of Haiti. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the offering plate or mail to the church officed. Checks should be made payable to Grace. Thank you.



### WOW!!! The Congregation of Grace is AMAZING

The Congregation of Grace and friends of Grace responded overwhelmingly to support students in Sierra Leone. Through the generosity of the people of Grace and others we received **\$7,692.63** in sponsorships for students in Sierra Leone. That means 102+ students will be going to school this upcoming year who without our support would be unable to attend. What an amazing gift and show of support..

**To God be the Glory**



## Music Notes -

We have so many wonderful organists in the Twin Cities; each of them not only excellent performers but also improvisers. Along with the extraordinary Twin Cities organists are the instruments on which they perform. They also have their individual capabilities, which can influence how these organists play. Over time many of them were remodeled to the specks designed by a knowledgeable music committee headed by the head organist. When you hear and see these organs in action, you wonder how each one of them became so unique. Have pipe organs always had unique sounds?

Pedals didn't start appearing on organs in Germany until the 1400's. Each organ was designed by an individual builder, so no two organs were the same. In fact, in the south of Germany, the majority of organs had only one keyboard, sometimes not even pedals. That was the way they also appeared in Italy. Therefore, the majority of solo organ music written on them were either in the forms of toccatas, chaconnes or passacaglias. One of the composers, who came from Nuremberg in the south of Germany, was Johann Pachelbel. His "Canon in D" is typical of the pieces written for the organs built there. Improvisations were created off the repeated pedal patterns.

In contrast, the organs built in the northern part of Germany had full pedalboards and a lot more sounds (stops) to choose from. Since the organs in the south only had one keyboard, they didn't need a large variety of sounds. The northern organs had at least two keyboards and with a full pedalboard, provided a large enough instrument to create more challenging pieces. These organs provided more outlets to improvise on the German chorales. Bach claimed this area home.

By the 1800's organ builders were experimenting with all sizes and shapes of pedalboards. A quick note about the early French organs: none of the ones that were built in the 1600-1700's currently exist. They were destroyed during the French Revolution. But in the 1800's, the French made up for lost time. In France, wind chambers were invented, making possible even bigger organ pieces. These pieces were labeled symphonies after orchestral works because of their diversity and grandeur of sounds.

Because of so much differentiation between organs throughout the world, some form of specks was needed. In 1933 the American Guild of Organists (AGO), along with a similar group in the UK, came to the rescue. They created guidelines for the organ builders to follow, outlining how wide pedal boards should be, how many notes it should have and that it should radiate out. They also provided guidelines for the keyboards as well. They limited the keyboard (manual) to have 61 notes, from 2Cs below middle C to 3 Cs above; 29  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches from pedalboard to lowest keyboard; and even having a slight angle between keyboards to accommodate reaching the keys.

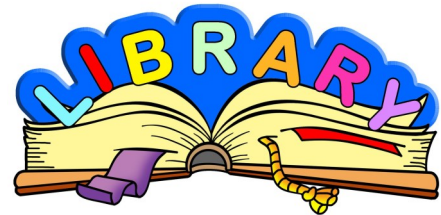
About the same time a different type organ came along -the electronic organ. In the late 1920's an organ using vacuum tubes was invented in Canada by F. Morse Robb, followed by Coupleux-Givelet invented organs with electronic audio oscillators. But what we grew up with, in churches, at home and on the radio was the Hammond organ, using tone-wheels. The pedalboards were flat and between 13 (home models) to 32 notes, most commonly 25. Transistors took over vacuum tubes in 1959, followed by sound sampling in 1971. That is the standard on all electronic organs such as our Rodgers. The variations of sound samplings make the various brands such as Rodgers or Allen unique. Plus, ours has a synthesizer attached to incorporate even more sounds, as well as the possibility of adding organ pipes at a later date.

Organs have come a long way in the last 600 years. And so has the music being created on them. Tune into or attend an event at the myriad of churches as well as performing spaces such as the Phipps in Hudson to enjoy the wonderful sounds they

introduce. You can stream the Sunday morning services from all over the world as well as take in events close by. Northrop Auditorium at the University of Minnesota streams organ concerts as well as silent movies with organ accompaniments. Enjoy!

**Kathleen Hollar** will again be walking on September 19th for the Walk to End Alzheimers. It takes place in downtown Minneapolis. Join her or contribute to the Alzheimers Association in her name through their website. She is walking to help friends and their families who are suffering from this devastating ailment. Perhaps you, too, have friends or family traveling that road. More info on the walk will be forthcoming. Thank you!

## **FROM THE LIBRARY:**



### **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!

## **Grace Book Club -**

For discussion on:

September 3rd - The Correspondent Virginia Evans

October 3rd - Theo of Golden Allen Levi

**The Property Management Committee** is still looking for additional members. They meet once/month, typically on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, at 6 pm.

Our hope is to provide a safe, healthy, and pleasing place to worship for all so we are responsible for the upkeep of our building and grounds. In addition, tasks related to the maintenance/upkeep of our 60+ year old building.

Due primarily to the passage of time, many of our long-term committee members are no longer able to attend meetings or help with duties as they have in the past. It is with that in mind that we pursue recruiting new help on the committee.

Please contact Jim Dike (651-529-0264) for more info. Thanks!

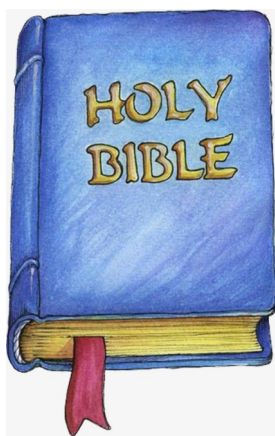
## Sunday School

Sunday School starts again on Rally Day September 13th. As usual we will meet weekly following the service in the north tower room. This year we are starting at the beginning with creation and making our way through Genesis.

We will have two students receiving their 3rd Grade Bibles on Rally Day. This has been a long standing tradition at Grace. They will also receive bookmarks they can ask their family and friends to share their favorite bible verse or story. If you would like to write your own to share, blank bookmarks will be available in the narthex.

Summer is coming to an end and that brings up many emotions. We are so excited to gather with our friends again and learn more about God's love for us.

*In the beginning...*



Bible presentation to two 3rd graders on September 13th!

Come, join the Rally Day fun!!

Join us for Coffee and  
Conversation



## COFFEE and CONVERSATION!!

The “Coffee & Conversation” group continues to meet in the Church’s Tower Room every Wednesday from 10 am - 12 Noon. We continue to offer an open invitation to church members, guests and visitors of any age!

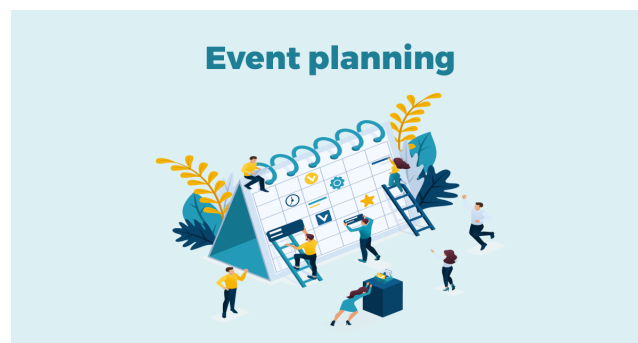
We have grown to 10-12 regular attendees and another 6-8 occasional drop-ins but there is plenty of room for more! We have never run out of coffee (or conversation). There are also usually breakfast/brunch snacks donated by the group – NO ONE GOES AWAY HUNGRY.

Come late.. Leave early. Whatever works for you. Your presence will be welcome whenever you are here!

## XYZ's - (eXtra Years of Zest)

It is time once again to bring the group together to plan another season of fun and interesting things to do and see. We will meet on Thursday, September 10th at 1:30 pm in the Tower room to plan our events for the 26-27 season. Put on your thinking caps and come up with places you'd like to visit around town or things you'd like to do or things you'd like to learn about. Also, any service projects you'd like the group to consider. There will be treats to help fuel our discussion as well. Join us and throw your thoughts into the ring!!

See ya there!





# 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!!

### 2026 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. She will also take any plastic bags for a neighbor doing mats for the homeless in town. (We are not currently saving soup can labels) Thank you for all donations!



**Quilt Days**— We will again be back at work on quilts in September. We will begin meeting again on the 2nd Saturday in September. Please plan to join us in the So. Tower room on Sept. 12th to keep our hands busy for a good cause!

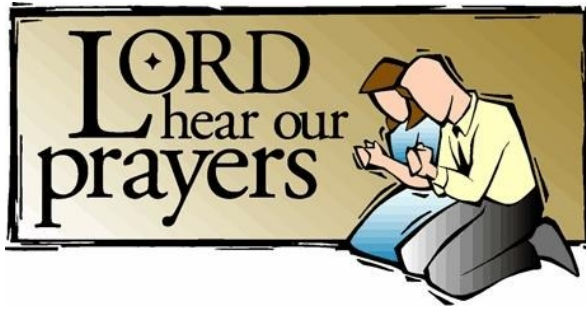
Lutheran World Relief distributes quilts & many kinds of kits throughout the world as well as in the U.S.



**Miles of Coins** The large collection jar in the library is always accepting donations toward giving to the LSS fund for helping homeless Youth in St. Paul. Our goal is \$250.00 for 2026. Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your generous donations of coins and paper money are appreciated. (Since pennies are no longer being made we've changed our fund name to 'coins' instead of 'pennies').







**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 Norm & Shirley Walby, Cindy Wood, Randy Proulx, Josie Meyer, Phyllis Armstrong, Paul Hesterberg, Butch Nelson, the family and friends of Jake Kemen, 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](http://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-2026**

|                 | <u>July Actual</u>   | <u>YTD Actual</u>   | <u>YTD Budget</u>   |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund    | \$ 14,131.29         | \$ 219,187.60       | \$183,137.50        |
| Expenses        | \$ 31,991.61         | \$ 196,250.20       | \$193,648.98        |
| Deficit/Overage | <u>-\$ 17,860.32</u> | <u>\$ 22,937.40</u> | <u>-\$10,511.48</u> |



|    |                    |    |                |
|----|--------------------|----|----------------|
| 1  | Adeline Marquart   | 20 | Peggy Mathison |
| 2  | Gabrielle Martinez | 21 | Deion Rose     |
|    | Richard Doree      |    | Jessica Voss   |
|    | Richard Virock     | 22 | Nathan Buck    |
| 3  | Dave Oberlander    | 25 | Richard Sabo   |
| 4  | Chuck Kolars       | 27 | Hailey Alleman |
|    | Matt Trulen        |    |                |
| 5  | Adalynn Oberlander |    |                |
|    | Jim Dike           |    |                |
|    | Connie Smeby       |    |                |
|    | Elijah Taylor      |    |                |
| 6  | Marcus Colvin      |    |                |
| 7  | Linda Baer         |    |                |
| 8  | Brad Hegge         |    |                |
| 9  | Phyllis Hunter     |    |                |
| 11 | Grant Mohwinkel    |    |                |
|    | Christine Olson    |    |                |
| 12 | Jim Geister        |    |                |
| 13 | Sandy Abernathy    |    |                |
|    | Norm Walby         |    |                |
| 17 | Barb Holtan        |    |                |
|    | John Killeen       |    |                |



# Worship Leaders for September 2026 -

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Liturgist</u> | or | <u>Communion Asst.</u> | <u>Acolyte</u> | <u>Lay Reader</u> |
|-------------|------------------|----|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 6           | Kris Mohwinkel   |    | ---                    |                | Kris Mohwinkel    |
| 13          |                  |    |                        | Kim Childs     | Peg Mathison      |
| 20          | Pete Zitzewitz   |    | ---                    | Tony Childs    | Jeff Oberlander   |
| 27          | Jeff Oberlander  |    | ---                    | Olivia Childs  | Connie Smeby      |

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Ushers</u>                             | <u>Greeters</u>               |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6           |                                           | Larry & Sue Atneosen          |
| 13          |                                           |                               |
| 20          | Oberlander team                           |                               |
| 27          | Kim & Tony Childs, Luke & Amanda Christie | Nita Hanson & Amelia Christie |

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Money Counters</u> - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams) |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6           | Kate Pray team                                                                          |
| 13          | Lana Alleman team                                                                       |
| 20          | Amanda Christie team                                                                    |
| 27          | Baumer-Mathison 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade), after the service, assist in tidying up the altar area, putting away communion ware.

Grace Lutheran Church  
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[gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com](mailto: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

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

