November 2026 InTouch with Grace





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 Paul found in 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?

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.

This fall, I am also grateful for the partnerships within our building that reach out in God's love to those we cannot connect with by ourselves. Two years ago, the opening of the LSS Early Learning Center – Eastside has impacted our church life in many ways. How wonderful to use the resources we have to support families and offer a place for young children to thrive and learn.

Many years ago, our partner church had joined our campus and what wonderful ministry they provide to those who speak Spanish – Christians who are able to worship here. This has extended our outreach beyond what Grace could do alone.

Most recently, Scout Troop 217 has connected with Grace. As a Scoutreach organization, children and youth have been impacted by excellent role models and given the chance to become better citizens through the programs offered.

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

- Thank you to everyone who supported our youth ministry by attending and enjoying the annual spaghetti dinner on Reformation Sunday. We had a great time and wonderful food. Thanks to the youth families for providing a great event.

- The first Sunday of November is All Saints Day. We will remember and celebrate the saints that we have known and loved. Please bring photos of your loved ones along with a label so that we know who each person is. We will also light votive candles in remembrance and honor of our loved ones, lifting them to God in prayer.

- The first Sunday of November is also the end of Daylight Savings Time this year! Remember to 'fall back' or you will be <u>really</u> early to church!

- Our Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, November 24th, at St. Pascal's Catholic Church, 1757 Conway St., St. Paul, MN – right down White Bear Ave. from Grace. Combined choirs will rehearse at 6 pm. Desserts served following worship. Let's give thanks together with our neighbors and celebrate the many ways that we have been blessed.

- Advent begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving! We will enter the season with giving thanks, hearing the words of God's promise from Habakkuk, and sharing tasty treats after worship at our Advent Potluck. Welcome to the beginning of the church year as we anticipate the birth of Christ. Bring a dish to share with all or just bring yourself. See you then!

- Our handbells have been shipped to Pennsylvania for repair and refurbishing. We look forward to having them back by Christmas. In the meantime, the handchimes will be used which have a unique sound that resonates beautifully. See if you notice the difference!





Food Shelf Sunday is November 1st!

REMINDER – The first Sunday of EVERY month is Food Shelf Sunday here at Grace. We collect non-perishable food items and cash (the basket on the table at the church entrance by sign-up sheets). These donations go to Merrick Food Shelf which serves our neighbors in need. Thank you.

MERRICK
Community Services
Growing. Stronger. Together.

NOVEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month for November at 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. In 2025, combined support for ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response exceeded $36 million.

Nearly 1 in 20 - 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 arounds 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.



The Mission Committee will be putting up the Giving Tree by November 29. The tree will hold ornaments with description of an article to purchase to share the joy of Christmas with our neighbors in need. This year the gifts are designated for the pre-school and babies in the Early Learning Center run by Lutheran Social Services and housed in the lower level of Grace. Our emphasis will be on underwear, socks, and outdoor clothing - jackets, boots, hats, mittens etc.

Please take 1,2,3 or as many as you would like, purchase the item listed and return unwrapped and place under the tree by December 13. Thank you for celebrating the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ in such a meaningful way always in thankfulness and glory to God.

Music Notes –

Songs of Thanks

Even though we give thanks all year for the things we've been given, our home, our food and clothing, our family, it seems the month of November opens up a greater opportunity to celebrate, voicing our appreciation for all that we have. We wrap everything up in a big bow at the end of the month with food and family, welcoming the month of December and the Christmas festivities, including lots of well loved Christmas carols and tunes. But what about some of our favorite Thanksgiving songs?

Some thankfulness hymns started as folk tunes. *The tune Bunessan (#689)* came from the Isle of Mull, Scotland. Mary MacDonald named it after her birthplace, originally intending it to be a Christmas carol, "Child in the Manger". Franklin Sheppard also did some adapting of a folk tune, this time from England. The tune named *Terra Patris (#824)* sometimes is called *Terra Beata;* we know it as "This is my father's world". The tune *Kremser(#870)* is named after the man who took this Dutch folk tune and made it into "We Gather Together", new set of lyrics by Julia Cory. Eduard Kremser's specialty was folk music, especially German and Austrian folk tunes.

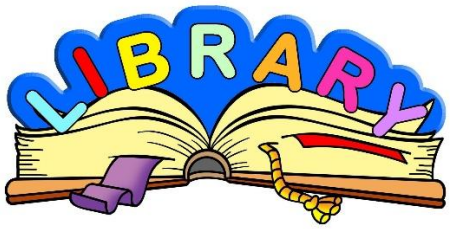
Some of the oldest thanksgiving songs came from King David, the Psalms, beginning with Psalm 100 –v. Give thanks to Him and praise His name. Psalm 111 begins "I will thank the Lord with all my heart" as does Psalm 92 "It is good to give thanks to the Lord". Psalm 95 says "Let us come to him with thanksgiving". Those are just a few of the psalms highlighting thankfulness that King David contributed.

So even though times are restricting on many levels, there is always something to be thankful for. Check out how some others have expressed their thankfulness in words and music i.e. #693 Come Ye Thankful People, Come; #840 Now Thank We All Our God. We can celebrate all month, leading up to that grand day at the end of November.

The Community Connections Committee is again collecting toys and gifts for the Merrick Community Services Holiday Share event on Saturday, December 19th. This is for our Eastside neighbors. There is a gray bin in the Good Shepherd Lounge for donations or any monetary gifts can be placed in the offering. The deadline for giving is December 13th, as they need to be at Merrick on the 14th. THANK YOU for any and all donations!!

There is a suggested list for teenagers on the table in the lounge as they can be hard to buy for.





Library News --

The 'Little Library' in front of the church on Old Hudson Road has been filled with duplicate books from the main library. Take a look!!

Also, the new book basket has some newer donations and there are some newer books to highlight on the table, as well!



Books For Sale:

There are always some books that are duplicate donations which are in the basket for you to take. If you find one that you want to keep, all donations are welcome!

Come on by and browse!!

Grace Book Club –This group meets virtually. If you would like to join check with the office.

For discussion on:

November 5 – The Murder of Roger Ackroyd Agatha Christie

December 3 – Dutch House Ann Patchett

January 7 – The Road to Tender Hearts Annie Hartnett

Sunday School

Sunday School is continuing through the book of Genesis. It's amazing how many stories are in the book of Genesis and yet we are only touching on some of them. We discussed Jacob deceiving his father, and we did an activity where we had one person blindfolded and then covered our arms in fuzzy fabric to see if they could decide who they were. I also participated and was fooled by my own children a few times. I have always read this story and thought that Isaac would be able to tell them apart. Do you think you would be tricked by your children?

We are already looking forward to the Christmas program, and preparing for this annual tradition. Save the date, December 13th, and we will shine a light on the birth of Jesus in a way you have never seen before!



Youth News –

On October 25th the Annual Spaghetti Dinner was held and served by the Youth families. As usual, it was delicious and a good day of food and fellowship. Thanks to all who cooked, served, and came to eat and support the Youth! Everyone was so busy serving and eating that we didn't manage to get any pictures, but it was a good day!



Boy Scout Troop 217 News

The Boy Scout Troop we are now sponsoring has some things planned for the next couple of months and we wanted to make sure everyone was aware of what they are up to --

They meet on Mondays in the Tower Rooms and include both Cub and Boy Scouts. They also have girls in their troop. Currently they are working on a fall fundraiser selling Popcorn! They will be at church before and after worship on Sunday, November 8th , so that you can get in on the fun, too. Remember to greet them and get your popcorn!!

They also participated in the Trunk or Treat event that LSS (the preschool on the lower level) set up on Wednesday, October 21st. Fun was had by all!!

They are also working on Pinewood Derby cars and will be doing that event in the Tower Rooms on Saturday, December 12th, 10 AM to 5 PM.

So they are very busy and appreciate our willingness to sponsor them!!

XYZ's – (eXtra Years of Zest) November 19th 1:30 pm

We will meet on Thursday, November 19th (please note the change of date) in the Tower Room at Grace. We will be assembling Christmas gift bags for the pre-school students of the LSS Early Learning Center housed in the lower level at Grace. We will also enjoy the informative talk that was scheduled for last month but had to be rescheduled. Tom Studiner, a member of Grace and an Oakdale Paramedic. He will show us how to use an AED like the one we have in the Narthex and tell us about his job and maybe even share some stories from his years on the job. As always, refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome!





Community Connections – ongoing projects!!

Internal, Local and Global

<u>If you would consider serving treats</u> 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 not to serve, please speak with Linda Sackreiter and we can arrange that as well.

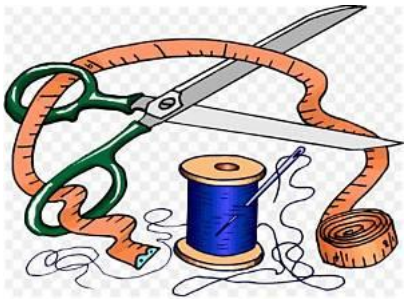
Thanks for your help!!

2026 Collections

Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 or 4 oz. gentle soap; each kit requires 8 or 9 oz.)
Other on-going collections at Grace – used eye glasses, cancelled stamps and plastic bags. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf and a large baskets on the floor in the library for the plastic bags for mats. Sandy Abernathy will also take any American flags that need proper disposal. You can also leave these in the large collection basket. Thank you for all donations!

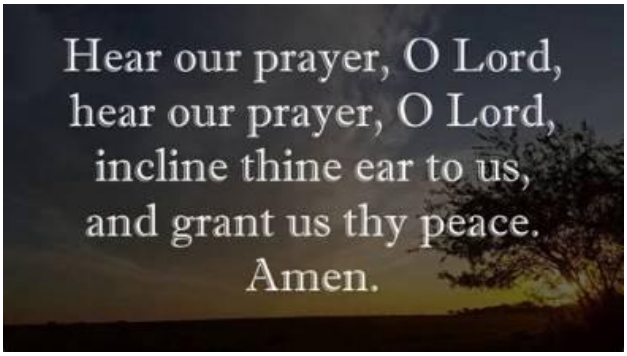


Quilt Days – We will again be working on quilts in November. We meet on the 2nd Saturday which is the 14th this month. Please plan to join us in the So. Tower room from 10-12 to keep our hands busy for a good cause!
Lutheran World Relief distributes quilts and many kinds of kits throughout the world 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 for 2026 is $250.00.
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 minted, 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, Sandy Abernathy, Randy Proulx, Josie Meyer, Phyllis Armstrong, Paul Hesterberg, the family and friends of Butch Nelson and Bev Henderson, 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, MN, 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 (gracelutheranstpaul.fyi) and click on the GIVE page.

This site is secure for financial transactions through Vanco which is the Simply Giving program through the ELCA. At the GIVE page you can go through steps as directed and give whatever amount you wish to several different categories (general, mission, other). This works best on 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

	September Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund	$ 17,119.18	$199,062.53	$182,062.53
Expenses	$18,706.76	$236,568.58	$248,977.26
Investments	-$15,459.70	$75,767.85	$53,399.97
Income less Expense	-$17,047.28	$38,770.89	-$13,514.76



2 Jeff Oberlander
5 Jared Dike
8 Barb Hegge
Kelly Humphrey
9 Linda Sackreiter
Steve Trulen
10 Carol Matson
12 Cynthia Martinson
Alexis Petersen
14 Judy Nelson
15 Inez Albrecht
16 Emma Geister
19 Kairo Stewart
20 Mary Ettl
26 Grady Westling
27 Carley Kinney
29 Erick Major



Worship Leaders for November 2026-

Date	Liturgist or	Communion Asst.	Acolyte	Lay Reader
1				Karin Nikula
8	---------	Kim Childs	Olivia Childs	Peg Mathison
15	Kris Mohwinkel	----		Kris Mohwinkel
22				
29		no communion		

Date	Ushers	Greeters
1		Dick Gunderson
8	Kim Childs, Luke & Amanda Christie	Nita Hanson & Amelia Childs
15		
22		
29		

Date	Money Counter (we can always use additional volunteers on these teams)
1	Kate Pray team
8	Lana Alleman team
15	Lana Alleman team
22	Baumer-Mathison team
29	Kate Pray team

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

Come Be a Part of the Worship Team!

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

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

Ushers – all ages, arrive by 9:10am, hand out bulletins, gather offering, help direct Communion, tidy Sanctuary and collect pew sign in logs after worship.

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

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

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

Communion Asst. – Confirmed members, arrive by 9:20am, robe for festival services, assist serving Communion during worship when there is no liturgist

Money Counter – Confirmed member, count offering money after the service.

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

Grace Lutheran Church
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Saint Paul, MN 55106



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www.gracelutheranstpaul.fyi

Pastor:
Rev. Karen Williams

Custodial Staff:
Linda Denson

Office Staff:
Linda Sackreiter

Music Staff:
Natalie Robuck, Director of Music Ministries
Kathleen Hollar, Organist
Jan Steingas, Triple G's Director
Connie Smeby, Joyous Juniors and Sunday School

