# October 2026 In Touch with Grace






Dear family and friends of Grace,

October is a beautiful reminder that change can be good. October is a Season of Blessing. The leaves begin to turn, the air becomes crisp, and the world around us seems to slow down just a little. Summer gives way to autumn, and we are reminded that every season has its own beauty and purpose. Sometimes life feels like that, too. We go through seasons of joy and seasons of uncertainty, seasons when everything seems to be falling into place and seasons when we wonder what God is doing, but we know that God is present in every season.

The trees don't panic when their leaves begin to fall. They simply let go of what they no longer need and trust the season that is coming. Perhaps there is a lesson for us in that. What might we need to let go of? An old worry? A disappointment? A grudge? The feeling that we have to have everything figured out?

God invites us to trust—not because we know what tomorrow will bring, but because we know who holds tomorrow.

October also reminds us to notice the blessings that are right in front of us: a warm cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate, a conversation with a friend, laughter around the table or beneath the stars at a bonfire, the beauty of creation, and the gift of gathering together as God's people.

As we enter this new month, may we take time to give thanks. May we look for God in the ordinary moments. And may we remember that even when life is changing, God's love remains constant.

So enjoy the leaves, embrace the cooler mornings, and don't worry if you can't remember where you put your favorite sweater last year. It's probably exactly where you left it!

May October bring you peace, gratitude, and a renewed awareness of God's presence.

**"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." — Psalm 118:24**

Blessings to you and yours this October!
Pastor Karen



## Announcements

- An Organ Sonata for the Book of Exodus with Narration will be offered by our fabulous organist, Kathleen, on Oct. 4. Join us for a special worship service!



- Our Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be offered by our youth families on Reformation Sunday, October 25, after worship. Tickets will be on sale the week prior for support for our youth ministries.





- All Saints Day is the first Sunday in November, November 1. We will remember the saints among us and those who have gone on to their heavenly home. Please bring a 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 we will light votive candles in remembrance. Special worship music will be shared and we will give thanks for the lives of those who have touched our own.



## Food Shelf Sunday is October 4th!

**REMINDER - The first Sunday of EVERY month is Food Shelf Sunday. We collect non-perishable food items and cash (basket on table of 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.

## OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

Youth Link is the mission of the month for October at Grace. Youth Link serves young people ages 16-24 experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the Twin Cities. They help youth at all stages of their journey. 1315 youth experience homelessness on any night in Minnesota.

For over 45 years Youth Link has connected young people with a community of resources and support. They provide basic needs such as a hot shower or warm meal, assistance with employment or education goals, accessing physical or mental health resources or finding housing.

Youth Link also staffs two supportive housing complexes with a combined 88 units with on-site managers.

Please prayerfully consider donating to this organization which reaches out in Christian love to the young people in Minnesota struggling to find a better life. 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.

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YOUTHLINK

**Music Notes -**

Musicians during the summertime find free time to attend workshops and conferences. This summer was no exception. The American Guild of Organists held their annual conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The Hymn Society of America and Canada held their conference at Princeton, New Jersey. Even though both were tempting to attend, the Hymn Society had the advantage. It had their material and sessions live streamed, saving a lot of money on travel and accommodations. You could watch everything on your own time.

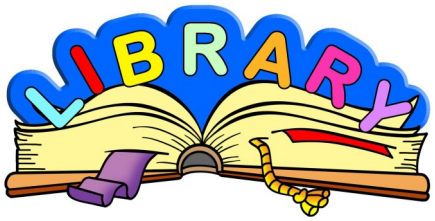
There were two other conferences that I attended online which provided a wealth of information, with lots of resources for further study. They were presented by an organization called the Boulanger Initiative, named after the French organist and composition teacher who guided so many of the 20th century's greatest composers i.e. Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Quincy Jones, etc. One week delved into the world of women composers from medieval times through today. The second week highlighted American women composers. In both cases, the majority of the women composers studied are virtually unknown today. They had been well known during their lifetime, such as Dame Ethel Smyth or composer Carrie Jacobs-Bond who was the first woman composer to sell over one million copies of her song "I Love You Truly", a staple for decades of weddings.

During the month of October, you will be seeing me wear a T-shirt with the names of 8 of the women composers studied this summer. Every week I will have some trivia concerning them in the bulletin. You are invited to come up and ask me about any of them on my T-shirt. Here are the names of the T-shirt 8 so you can start looking up information about them: Clara Schumann, Florence Price, Jessie Montgomery, Cecile Chaminade, Maud Powell, Fanny Mendelssohn, Valerie Coleman and Dame Ethel Smyth. I will also be playing music composed by some of them, though not all wrote for organ.

There's always something new to learn and experience. Enjoy!



## Library News —




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

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



**BOOKS FOR SALE:**

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:

October 3rd - Theo of Golden Allen Levi

## Sunday School

Welcome back families to Sunday School. We are so excited for another year of learning and fun. Congrats to Lexi and Gabby for receiving their 3rd Grade Bibles. All of the kids received a bubble blessing for the coming school year.

We started out the year making stepping stones. These stones have been added to the lower garden and will be a symbol of the spiritual foundations these kids are making here at Grace. They are taking their first steps in their faith journey. This garden has been a bright spot and resting place for many years. The bench was painted by the Sunday school not too many years ago. I ask you to take a walk down the path and see what beauty there is and marvel at God's creation. There are so many gardens around the property that have been tended to and maintained and we are so thankful to everyone that has contributed throughout the years.



Bubble blessing!



Gabby & Lexi received Bibles



Stepping stones in garden



SS kids with stepping stones




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)

We have an exciting program planned for the XYZ's and anyone else who would like to join us! Tom Studiner, a member of Grace and an Oakdale Paramedic, will be our featured speaker at the October 8th gathering.

Some of the things he will address are:

What is the difference between an EMT and a Paramedic?

What made him decide to take this path?

What excites him about this job?

What is an average shift like and is it anything like we see on TV?

He might have some funny stories to share as well.

Tom is also going to educate us on the use of the new defibrillator we have in the Narthex. Important information for all of us!




So join us on Thursday, October 8th at 1:30 pm in the Tower room. As always, good fellowship and treats!

# 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!

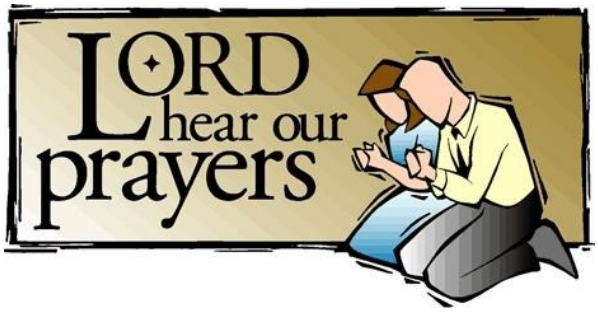


**Quilt Days–** We are again back at work on quilts in October. We meet on the 2nd Saturday in October. Please plan to join us in the So. Tower room on October 10th to keep our hands busy for a good cause!
Lutheran World Relief distributes quilts & many kinds of kits throughout the world as well as in 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, Sandy Abernathy, Randy Proulx, Josie Meyer, Phyllis Armstrong, Paul Hesterberg, Butch Nelson, the family and friends of Peter Wickert, Paul Vierling, Arline Satrom, Bev Henderson, Richard Hanson, 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-2026

| | August Actual | YTD Actual | YTD Budget |
|---|---|---|---|
| General Fund | $ 54,492.39 | $ 273,679.99 | $209,300.00 |
| Expenses | $ 21,611.62 | $ 217,861.82 | $221,313.12 |
| Deficit/Overage | $ 32,880.77 | $ 55,818.17 | -$12,013.12 |




3 Kim Childs
4 John Klein
5 Tom Studiner
6 Kathleen Hollar
7 Logan Trulen
14 Sandra Growth
17 Adan Revier
18 Lydia Rose
19 Joel Nikula
Karin Nikula
22 Holly Nikula
Taylor Schoonover
24 Linda Gorton
26 Christopher Williams
27 Joseph Wintheiser
Megan Wintheiser
29 Lauren Alleman
31 Tami Westphall



# Worship Leaders for October 2026 -

| Date | Liturgist or | Communion Asst. | Acolyte | Lay Reader |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Barb Holton | ____ | Cami Alleman | Sue Atneosen |
| 11 | Kris Mohwinkel | ____ | Kim Childs | Peg Mathison |
| 18 | ? | ? | Amanda Christie | ? |
| 25 | _____ | Sue Atneosen | ? | ? |

| Date | Ushers | Greeters |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | Larry Atneosen | Lana & Carl Alleman |
| 11 | ? | ? |
| 18 | Lydia & Violet Rose | Larry & Sue Atneosen |
| 25 | ? | ? |

| Date | Money Counters - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams) |
|---|---|
| 4 | Kate Pray team |
| 11 | Lana Alleman team |
| 18 | Amanda Christie team |
| 25 | 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 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

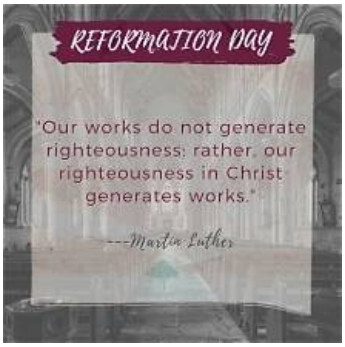
**Liturgist** – Confirmed members, arrive by 9:15, robe for most services, assist with leading the service, help serve Communion

**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.

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




Reformation Sunday is October 25th this year - Our Annual Spaghetti Dinner is after worship the same day!!

**Phone: 651-774-9617**
**www.gracelutheranstpaul.org**
**gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com**

**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
Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

