notes race August 2017

Summer...it's a time we always want to last for a long, long, and even longer time. Yet as we now come into August and the final weeks before school, there's just a little more time to relax, slow down and

enjoy the great outdoors.

By the time you get this month's Grace Notes, we will be in the middle of our second summer worship series entitled: "Unity in our Diversity," based on Paul's Letter to the church in Ephesus. In this series, we examine God's plan to unite the many different kinds of people, from many different walks of life, and with many different outlooks and opinion into one great family called the church. What does this look like? How can we have unity in such a diverse world? Do we all have to agree? These are just a few of the questions we will be answering in the first part of August.



The more challenging guestions will come during our third and final Summer Worship Series as we focus on Revelation, easily one of the most controversial and confusing books of the Bible. Filled with talk about angels and seals and lakes of fire and marked beasts and horsemen, we can't help but wonder: "What it's all about? What could it possibly mean for my everyday life?" Come and find out as we look at Revelation: Steadfast...the story of the church during difficult times.

As part of our summer worship experience, we offer a Saturday evening children's huddle for kids to express their own thoughts about the sermon. We also offer a Sunday morning **Children's Worship** Bible Time during sermons in the Fellowship Hall as we continue our Gadgets and Gizmos VBS theme. Kids can expect cool Bible story movies and an activity.

UNITY IN OUR DIVERSITY WORSHIP SERIES

~ The Armor of God August 5/6

August 12/13 ~ The Glory of the One We Love

August 19/20 ~ The One on the Throne August 26/27 ~ The Great Cleansing Power

September 2/3 ~ All Things New

Please join us as you are able! If you can't make it, please take time to connect with us on our website. (Each week the sermon is available to listen to online). In addition, we will continue to offer daily devotions for you to journey with us, no matter where your summer takes you.

Thank Yous

Grace Lutheran Church Staff

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Visitation Pastor......Delwayne Hahn
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Vision Board Members

Doug Hanson (Pres.)
Scott Christensen (V.P.)
Deb Shepard
Deb Stang

Alder
John
Lynn

Alden Riley Johnna Rohmer-Hirt Lynn Noren (Secretary)

If you would like to contact any of the Vision Board members, please visit graceandover.org and click on leaders Dear friends at Grace,

We have now been in our new town home in Columbia, MO for six weeks. Our furniture is in place, the pile of moving boxes in the garage has diminished considerably, we have a Missouri license plate on our car and our Missouri driver's license vouches for the fact that we are officially Missouri residents. The beautiful window hanging and the lovely cross, gifts from Grace, have prominent places on our walls and serve as reminders of our treasured time as part of the Grace family. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for the gifts, but most importantly for the privilege of sharing the good news with you for 17 years - truly topping on the cake of our years of ministry. ~ With love and thanks, Pastor Gene & Margaret Heglund

Grace Lutheran Friends,

Thank you so much for the generous noisy offering gift! My family feels so supported by the community – it really makes us feel special. Thank you!

~ Chris, Isaac & Leah Kaminski

Thank Y ou

Dear Members & Friends at Grace Lutheran Church, This thank you is long overdue, but I just wanted to take a moment to say how grateful our family has been for all of the prayers and support we have received from people at Grace. The Noisy Offering last year and the continued weekly prayers are so appreciated. We are humbled by all of the support. God has truly shown us what wonderful gifts we have in our life, including our prayer community. Thank you again for everything!

~ Love, Julie Swedberg & Family

Summer Adult Volunteer Thank You!

A big, huge, over-the-top THANK YOU to all of our summer volunteers for Summer Stretch, Mission

Trips, and other Youth Ministry events! It's difficult to put into words the impact that your time and caring for our young people makes in their faith formation. This summer you walked along side over 50 Summer Stretch participants and 35 mission trip participants. We truly couldn't do our ministry without you, and you make us look really good.

Thank you!

~ Kristi Larson and Tom Baker

Pastor Mark's Remarks

Did you know?

Every once in a while it's good for me to share some of the "good news" happening at Grace Lutheran Church. There are so many blessings and I want to share some of them with you! For instance:

Did you know that next month, Grace's long-term debt will finally dip below \$800,000? This means that since the start of the Free 2B GRACE campaign in December of 2012, we have reduced our overall indebtedness from \$1,340,000 to under \$800,000!

Did you know that Hannah Wachtler, one of Grace's youth, was recently recognized for her outstanding contributions to Three Rivers Park District and given the Park District's Distinguished Volunteer Service Award? She has volunteered for Three Rivers for almost four years, serving a total of 636 hours, with a total of 155 hours last year alone! Congratulations, Hannah! If you'd like to learn more about this, please check out the story at:

http: abcnewspapers.com/2017/04/17/ramsey-teen-a-star-parks-volunteer/.

Did you know that Grace is sending out Nikki Wahl as its second youth adult in the ELCA's YAGM (Young Adult in Global Ministries) program in two years? That's right! As Kurt Hellmann returned from a year of serving in Cambodia, Nikki will leave to serve in Mexico. How exciting that our young adults are taking this ministry of Grace far beyond Andover!

Did you know that 18 year old Grace Coughlin was recently awarded the Alden Riley Service award at Grace for her outstanding serving through the ministries of our church? You can read about this on page 10 in this month's Grace Notes.

Did you know that a Search Committee has been established to find a new Co-Director of Children's Ministries to take the position recently vacated by the departure of Kim DeVries? We give thanks for the SONday School teachers, church leaders, and parents who are willing to help us make this next year's children's ministries the best it can be!

Did you know that we had 235 children (10% increase from last year) enrolled in our 2017 Summer Vacation Bible School? Did you know that

we had over 100 volunteers who made it all possible? We give thanks for the leadership of Kim DeVries and Monica Allen for helping make this year's VBS one of the best!

Did you know that the 50th Anniversary Team has been meeting every two weeks for the last five months so that we can have a great celebration on September 9th and 10th? To find out more about all the events the team has planned, turn to page 4.

Did you know that the Vision Board is forming a Construction Team to begin planning for the repair and replacement of our deteriorating parking lot and portable classrooms? This team will be working throughout the fall to help us plan for possible next steps of stewarding our facilities.

These "Did You Knows" are just a few of the great things happening around Grace these days. As I look over the list, I am reminded once more of the many and various ways God continues to bless us! May he continue his blessings as we strive to be a blessing to others!

In Him, Pastor Mark

Celebrating 50 years of Grace - SAVE THE DATE 9/9 & 9/10



Grace Lutheran Church is turning 50! Doesn't that summon thoughts of those nasty 50th birthday cards which illustrate and exaggerate the perils of age? If you apply the same thought process to the church, you might visualize a building on the verge of falling down or a parking lot filled with huge holes. Oops, our parking lot does have some holes and 50 year old buildings do require maintenance.

Churches are not about buildings; they are about the congregation that uses those buildings. Let's visualize what might have happened to the people in our church over the past 50 years. All have gotten older. Some have gotten gray hair (Pastor Mark for example). Some have lost their hair. Many have raised families and the children of those families have raised families.

As we have gotten older, we need to ask, how have we grown in our faith journey? Perhaps the more important question is... how has the church congregation grown in its faith journey? This was one of the questions the 50^{th} anniversary committee wrestled with... so what did we do? We ignored the question and began planning a lavish and extravagant party with food, entertainment, dancing, and the like.

We're not sure how or when the conversations turned from who will serve food, to how we the church, can serve our community. It was then that the idea of helping the neighborhood surrounding the church with fall clean-up surfaced. As the thought was discussed, we sensed an increase in the excitement level. It was then that we realized that we and the congregation have grown!

By the way, the party is still on Saturday night, following the neighborhood fall clean-up project, "Gifts of Grace." And after we "party" with the neighborhood, join us again on Sunday morning to give thanks with Bishop Ann Svennungsen for all the marvelous grace we have received through our church!

God Bless, Dennis & Dianne Grabowski

SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, September 9th Saturday, September 9th Sunday, September 10th 10:00am to 4:00pm – "Gifts of Grace" Fall Neighborhood Cleanup

5:30pm to 8:30pm - Block Party

8:30am & 10:00am – Worship with Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Vision Board Message

I was playing baseball with my 4 ½ year old grandson Lucas. We were talking about baseball terms as we threw, hit, and caught the ball. He was interested in all of them, especially "pop-fly." Each time he hit one hard, he announced it as a "pop-fly." After one particular ball was hit high and headed for the woods, I said, "Lucas, that was the best pop-fly you have hit all day!" We then realized that the ball got stuck in the top of one tree. He immediately said, "Oma, that wasn't a "pop-fly," that was a "pop-stay!"

I love when words are invented with the perfect meaning.

This brings me to a word I just invented: "inreach." "Inreach" is the opposite of "outreach." I will give you a few examples. At Grace we have several "outreach" ministries, some of which are: Faith and Community Partnership with Sand Creek School, Feed My Starving Children, Family Promise, Family Table, Our Saviors Shelter, Grace Quilters, Prayer Shawl, Grace2Haiti, Grace4Rakai, Habitat for Humanity, Our Abandoned Children in Haiti, Hope4Youth, Hospitality, and May All Be Fed Food Shelf. We REACH OUT of the building to help others.

"Inreach" at Grace involves those people who REACH withIN our church; they work "behind the scenes" to make Grace strong. I would like to recognize and thank those people you may not see each week.

- ⇒ Office the volunteers who copy, count, staple, collate, enter data, etc.
- ⇒ Lawn Care-the 12 families of volunteers who mow the lawn
- \Rightarrow Garden Group-the 3 people who plant, weed, and clean the front gardens
- ⇒ Bread Bakers-the 6 people who bake our communion bread
- ⇒ Counters-the 8 teams of people who count the weekly offering
- ⇒ Liturgical Arts-the 5 people who create the display on the altar
- ⇒ Altar Guild-the 10 people who set up and clean up communion
- ⇒ G.R.A.M.P.S.- the 6-10 people who regularly work on the upkeep and maintenance of the building and portables

Thank you to all of you who "pop-stay"...those who pop into church and stay until the jobs are done. You are appreciated!

By Deb Stang, Vision Board Member

Vision Board Minutes



The Grace Vision Board met on July 11, 2017 at the home of Deb Stang at 6:30 p.m. A wonderful meal and good fellowship was enjoyed. The board then moved on to discuss the business of the church.

Pastor Mark updated us on the upcoming Grace Prayer Gatherings that the Spiritual Formation Team is launching. The monthly gatherings will be a great way to uphold our church, its leadership and staff, as well as members who are facing illness and difficulties in their lives.

We discussed the preparations for the 50th Anniversary Celebration this fall. We are excited about the plans that are being developed and the great work of the planning team.

The board was updated on the interviewing process for the Co-Director of Children's Ministries. We hope to have the position filled in August, several board members will participate in the second interviews for this position.

We continue to discuss plans for the parking lot and portables, starting with the organization of a Portable and Parking Lot Committee.

We gave praise that Grace has reached an important milestone, reducing the mortgage to under \$800,000! The significant lowering of debt was the outcome of the Free 2B campaign over the past five years.

We closed the meeting with a time of prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Noren, Secretary

Outreach Ministries

"GRAB 2"

An OUTREACH Opportunity this August

Please join our all-church effort this August as we share God's Grace by providing support for two specific needs in this world – one local and one global.

Beginning August 12 & 13, when you walk through the narthex, you'll have a chance to "GRAB 2" from the chalk board – that is 1 envelope and 1 sticky note (hence the idea of 'Grab 2')

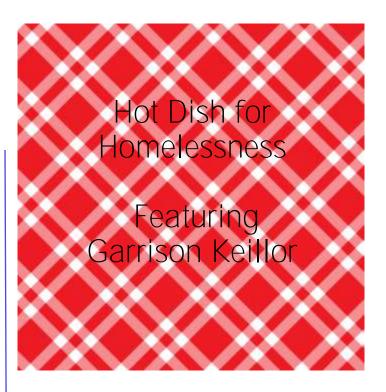
Grab a sticky note to provide school supplies for students at SAND CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL in Coon Rapids, as part of our Faith & Community Partnership through the Anoka-Hennepin School district. You simply take a sticky note, then purchase that specific item and return it to the church lobby by Sunday, September 3. Your generosity will truly bless local students in need of school supplies.

Grab a numbered envelope to financially support OUR ABANDONED CHILDREN in Haiti. More support, supplies and labor are needed to complete this home for 10 precious children that our church is supporting in Williamson, Haiti. Yes, our mission teams to Haiti this summer have begun the construction efforts! Envelopes will be numbered from 1 to 100, and as you grab a numbered envelope, we ask that you donate that dollar amount - But please know that any & all donations will be welcomed!

Return all school supplies and financial donations to the bookshelf area in church lobby by Sunday, September 3. Make your individual checks out to Grace, then we'll send just one large check to this ministry in Haiti.

This is a creative opportunity for all of us to truly make an impact in this world - especially in the lives of children! So we invite everyone to "GRAB 2" this August (1 envelope and 1 sticky note) and watch how wonderfully God's GRACE will be shared around the world – both locally and globally.

Contact Jeannie Hellmann for further information.



Family Promise in Anoka County will host its first Hot Dish for Homelessness fundraiser on Thursday, September 21, at Lord of Life Church in Ramsey. The event will feature a church basement potluck theme with a catered meal including some traditional Minnesota potluck favorites. The evening will end with entertainment from Anoka's own Garrison Keillor. Tickets are \$50 and will go on sale through the Family Promise website on August 1st. Visit www.familypromiseanoka.org for more details and to purchase tickets.



Building Community, Strengthening Lives.



Women's Ministries

Ladies, please join us as we go **'Around-Town'** exploring & eating, chatting & connecting, enjoying & embracing the fun & fellowship!

Tues., Aug. 15 Lunch Adventure in Minneapolis 11 am – 3 pm

Meet at church at 11 am, we will car pool to Betty

Danger's Country Club.

This unique restaurant includes a putt putt golf course and ferris wheel (for extra fee, it's optional). Located

at 2501 Marshall St. Minneapolis NE

For more information, please contact Deb Stang <u>debodelIstang@gmail.com</u> 763 427-3252. Please register online or on opportunity page during worship.



A Variety of WOMEN'S MINISTRY Opportunities available this fall . . .

Monday Night Women's Group

This weekly gathering of women offers a safe place to discover God's truth and then live out these lessons in real life. This Bible study group will meet 7 – 8:30pm each Monday evening in Room 101 at Grace, beginning September 11.

vomen's ministries

Ruth Circle

All women are welcome to join this meaningful monthly Bible study, held from 12:30 – 2pm at Grace on second Wednesday of each month, beginning September 13. Come and discover God's word to be inspiring and encouraging for all seasons of life.

W.O.W. (Women on Wednesday)

This is a gathering of ordinary women to learn more about our "extra-ordinary" God. We share life and laughter around a variety of bible studies, as we grow in faith and friendships together. W.O.W. meets from 9:30 - 11:15am each Wednesday, beginning September 13, with childcare available for a small fee.

Mugs, Muffins & More

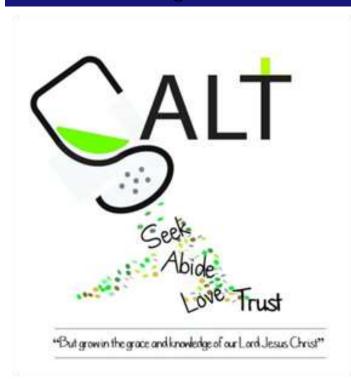
Plan to attend this light-hearted women's fellowship event, 9:30 – 11:30am Saturday, October 7. Special guest speaker, Pati Kachel, will share a "Patchwork Quilt of Heartwarming Stories." You bring a favorite MUG - we'll bake the MUFFINS – and together we'll enjoy MORE fun & fellowship!

Women's Retreat 2018

Embrace a unique "get-away-from-it-all" experience to recharge and refresh your spirit! Reserve the dates January 26-28, 2018 for this two-night retreat at Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, Wisconsin. Enjoy the conversations and connections with other women of Grace, and also with our gracious God!

For more information about women's opportunities at Grace, please contact Jeannie Hellmann, Director of Women's Ministry & Outreach Ministry. jeannieh@graceandover.org 763 421-6520, ext. 109

What is Going On at Grace



The SALT MINISTRY WELCOMES YOU TO THE

SILENT PRAYER GATHERING

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 22 7-8 PM

This will be a time to silently pray for the sufferings & struggles of our family, friends, the church, our country, the world and ourselves.

A time for reflection and for giving thanks.
A time to gather in silent community for intercession, contemplation and centering prayer.

As the Psalmist says,

"Be still and know that I am God".

The prayer gathering is open to everyone, members and non-members, all are welcomed.

**This is an ongoing gathering that will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.



Love of Grace Bazaar Mark you Calendar! November 11th 9am-3pm

Shop handmade crafts. Savor homemade foods



Farmers Market

The Farmer's Market will be in the Grace parking lot Tuesdays through the month of October. Hours are 2:00pm-6:00pm during the growing season. Come out and support our local farmers by purchasing their very fresh vegetables and products.



Baptism Workshop

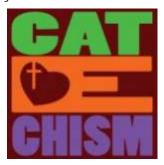
Saturday, September 16 at 9 am

Baptism is an important step in the life of a family. During the workshop, we learn how God is at work in baptism. Baptism is welcoming your child into the family of faith. We will also share insights to help you as you raise your child to know and love God by creating habits, traditions, and making God apart of your everyday life.

Upcoming Baptism Sundays are Sunday, September 17 and October 22. The next baptism class will be November 4 at 9 am. Please contact Monica Allen or sign up through Gracelink.

Children's & Youth Ministries

Catechism Small Group Leaders Needed!
Do you like hanging out with cool young people? Are you interested in understanding your own faith more? Do you like being goofy and having a lot of fun – but also being a positive role model in student's lives? Be a Catechism small group leader! Leaders meet every Wednesday with Catechism students from 6:30-8pm They join them for the large group learning and then spend that last 40 minutes guiding them through a discussion or a lesson. Leaders are given teaching material so prep time is minimal. Contact Kristi Larson with questions on how you can support our youth at Grace!



Catechism ~Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm begins September 13 in the Worship Center. A big part of our Middle School ministry is Catechism. During this weekly event, 6th thru 8th graders meet for worship, large group teaching, and small group connection. It's a lot of fun, too!!

Catechism Parent/Student Informational Meeting

(for all 6th grade and new student families)
September 6 @ 6:30 - 8pm
Parents and students in 6th Grade and NEW 7th or
8th graders, join us on this evening to get oriented to
Catechism. You'll be able to meet the staff, ask all
your questions, and connect to other families. Contact
Kristi Larson with any questions.

Own Your Faith Blessing/Informational Meeting September 24th @ 10:30am

A blessing for all Freshman exploring adulthood in faith in preparation for Confirmation next May. Further details regarding the Own Your Faith Retreat at Luther Crest in Alexandria on October 19th & 20th will be coming your way in August!

Nursery Help Needed

Serving in the nursery is an opportunity to play, giggle, and do a little dancing as you care for the littlest ones at Grace. Come make a difference in the lives of our Grace families! To be a blessing, sign up on the opportunity sheets or contact Monica Allen.

Kindergarten Pins & Blessing of the Backpacks

We will celebrate children going off to school during each of the services during Rally Day Weekend, September 9 & 10.

- Kindergarteners will be presented with a little angel pin to remind them that God will be with them as they go to school.
- ≪ K-12 students should bring their backpacks with them to Worship for a special blessing. We as a congregation want to support and encourage our children as they start a new school year.



SONday School ~ We have wonderful experiences waiting for you in Children's Ministry this fall. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9am and 10:30am where kids age 3 - grade 5 celebrate and dig into God's Word. SONday School begins on September 10!

Rockin' Kids Bible Club for kids age 4 – grade 5 on Wednesday nights, 6:30-8pm. At RKBC, we praise God through music and worship, actively experience the Bible Story, and who can forget Malt night? RKBC begins on September 13!

Many willing hearts and hands are needed to provide vibrant ministry. Here's how you can help: SONday School: teachers, helpers, greeters, and drama team.

Rockin' Kids Bible Club: small group leaders, malt night chefs, craft leader, games leader, and Bible discovery leaders. Contact Monica Allen or sign up on the Opportunity Sheets in August.



Alden Riley Award



Grace Coughlin Our newest Riley Award recipient is 18 year old Grace Coughlin. She has been attending Grace Lutheran for 15 years, was confirmed here. She was recognized this past spring as a graduate from Pact Charter School. As her name suggests, our award winning Grace exemplifies God's grace, "associated with mercy, love, compassion, and patience as the source of help and with deliverance from distress."

Grace has served Grace Lutheran in a multitude of ways. Some of these include watching our wee ones in the nursery, teaching God's Word as a regular Sonday School teacher, and with exuberance as a VBS leader. (In fact we had to pull her out of a running game with her VBS kids to tell her she had been chosen to receive the Riley Award!) Her supervisors at Grace talk of her leadership skills, her patience, her excitement, her willingness to learn more, and her sincere passion for kids. Grace has also been a responsible member of the Family Table team, helping feed families from our community.

As a Pact high school student, she attended both University of Northwestern-St. Paul and Bethel University. This fall she will attend Bethel as an already accomplished sophomore. We congratulate Grace on this award and are grateful for all the gifts she has shared with Grace.

YAGM Youth Support

The ELCA - YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission) is a transformative, year-long journey in international service. Young adults offer themselves in service and are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. They share in the journeys of churches and organizations in one of nine countries around the world.

YAGM is an invitation to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, providing critical support to ministries and projects in communities of need. It also invites volunteers into a journey of self-reflection, providing space to consider their sense of identity, God's work in the world, and their place within it all.

Kurt Hellmann is returning from his YAGM mission work in Cambodia in the coming weeks. We are excited for him to be home and can not wait to hear about what God has presented into Kurt's life. You can experience with Kurt, life in Cambodia on his blog, keepingwithkurt.wordpress.com

We have been given the opportunity to support another Grace member, Nikki Wahl, with her mission work, this time to Mexico.

Nikki grew up at Grace and has been a member since 2001. She is leaving for Mexico on August 14th and will be gone for eleven months, working mainly with adults with disabilities, both physical and mental. Nikki will be accompanying these adults through their daily activities of academic classes, community work and life skills education.

Thank you for supporting ministry through ELCA -YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission) with noisy offerings.



Finances at a Glance

As of Week 28

OFFERINGS	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Operational	\$376,833.24	\$347,084.17	\$356,236.74	\$340,149.49	\$356,771.44	\$382,326.87
Capital	\$49,845.00	\$47,022.00	\$44,669.50	\$39,265.00	\$47,208.66	\$40,082.75
Other (Holiday)	\$26,633.84	\$18,448.12	\$14,709.29	\$13,218.72	\$16,158.48	\$ 17,038.88
Free 2B Grace	\$0.00	\$ 91,042.00	\$113,107.00	\$99,810.50	\$85,306.16	\$ 73,411.00
Total:	\$453,312.08	\$503,596.29	\$528,722.53	\$492,443.71	\$505,444.74	\$512,859.50

YTD Noisy Offerings collected & dispersed =\$15,621.26

YTD Benevolence dispersed = \$29,899.86

YTD General Operating expenses = \$496,805.64 (as of 3rd week on July)

YTD Mortgage paid = \$76,922.00

Consider electronic giving on GraceLink. It's a convenient way to give consistently throughout the year. Check out the website for more information. If you have any questions, contact Kate Morphew or Beth Clarstrom.



2018 Ministry Budgeting

It is summer, and with that comes budgeting for 2018. If you are part of a ministry team at Grace, be thinking about what you want to accomplish in your ministry area in 2018, and how the church can support your ministry. This is a very important part of the process as we put together the 2018 church budget. If you have questions, please talk to your staff contact, or call the church office and speak with Kate.



MY OFFERING Grace Lutheran Church

S_____Operational Investments

\$_____Capital Investments

_____Free 2B Grace Campaign

Have you ever wondered what all those different lines are for on your giving envelope or options to give online. Here is the short of it:

Current Offering – Pays for the ministries of Grace, salaries, bills and regular operating expenses.

Capital Fund – the Mortgage and other Capital Expenses like a new back-up server.

Free 2B – Is a 5-year Capital Campaign we are wrapping up in late 2017 early 2018 that has helped pay down the mortgage and was for specific building repairs.

^{*} if you would like a copy of the current month-end report, please contact Kate Morphew or Beth Clarstrom.



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Register Now

Registration opens August 1st for fall programming

SONday School - September 10 thru May 20, 5pm, 9am & 10:30am (age 3 to grade 5)

Rockin' Kids Club - September 13 thru April 25th, 6:30-8pm (age 4 to grade 5)

Catechism - September 13 thru May 2, 6:30-8pm (6th, 7th & 8th grade)

Own Your Faith - preparing for Confirmation (9th grade)

Go to GraceLink. or graceandover.org for more information.

*Fall Worship Schedule begins September 17th