

grace notes

May & June 2018

Grace is Gearing Up for Summer!



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

Vision Board Members

Doug Hanson (Pres.)	Deb Stang
Scott Christensen (V.P.)	Alden Riley
Lynn Noren (Secretary)	Johnna Rohmer-Hirt
Chad Hadler	

*My sincere gratitude, to those of you who have taken time from your busy schedules, to support Grace in our mission, to help those who are experiencing temporary homelessness. I am happy to report that one of our most recent families was chosen to receive the first Home for Keeps. The Home for Keeps program refurbishes used mobile homes, and places families in them. After one year they can become the permanent owner of that unit.

The next week we host Family Promise family's is the week of September 30th. As you enjoy your summer activities please keep these less fortunate families in your thoughts and prayers.

~ Alden Riley, Family Promise Coordinator, GLC



*Thank you to all who remembered me with cards, greetings and gifts of food in the wake of my ankle surgery April 2. Although the weather has presented some interesting challenges to mobility in recovery, I am doing amazingly well. The stitches came out and the cast off on April 17 and I am looking forward to **freedom day** on May 15, when I can again put full weight on my left foot. ~ Pastor Delwayne Hahn

PRAYERS TO HEAL

We pray for comfort and healing:

Loren Gritty; Susan Tying; Luke Davich;
Barb & Bill Devries, Sr.;
Linda Breyette; Ryan Mooney; Jerry Wyandt;
Callita Sperlich; Lou Foster; Julie Swedberg;
Sylvia Lindgren; Nate Gfroerer;
Dick & Lu Henning; George Cowman

We keep in our hearts and prayers the families with recent loss of:

Delores Weikle
Joe Fennick
Robin Kohl

From Pastor Bruce

Transition Team Formed!

I wrote in the April Grace Notes, *We'll wait to announce the names of those on the team until we have the full slate of eight members, which should be in the next week or so. We plan to hold our first meeting in the first part of April, just after Easter.* I clearly got that wrong. There's been a delay in filling this slate of team members due to receiving some "no" responses from individuals I'd asked to serve. I was honest with them in the time demands this work will require. And as interested as they may have been in serving, they were honest with me in how this was not a good time for them to serve for personal and family-related reasons. It's all understandable and all good. But since I've said we'll try to make our way through this interim time at a pace that emerges for the congregation, without trying to either artificially speed things up or slow things down, just know this delay wasn't intentional! (And since I said we'll start in the spring and it seems winter has just ended, perhaps we're right on schedule.

The good news is that this team is now in place. The eight members are: Lori Ackerson, Chuck Donaldson, Kevin Gast, Johnna Rohmer-Hirt, Nancy Jenkins, Ann Lange, Sue Melody, and Mike Seide. The team has a good demographic mix of age, gender, recent vs. longtime membership, and worship service normally attended (5:00, 8:00, 9:00, or 10:30). I'll be the 9th member of this team as I work closely with them in my role as pastoral advisor and consultant.

I'm eager to begin our work together. There's lots to explore and consider regarding the current demographics of the surrounding community, the future trajectory of Grace, and the skill set needed for Grace's new pastor. Congregational input will be an important part of the Transition Team's work, so stay tuned. And, as I said last month, please pray for this team and process. I believe it will be an important investment of our time and energy.

~ Pastor Bruce Arnevik, Interim Pastor



Transition

Vision Board Update

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Don't you just love the springtime? Everything feels fresh and new, inspiring us to feel renewed and refreshed. Even with the challenges of our Minnesota winter "hanging on" too long, we feel a strong anticipation of springtime. Our Easter celebration and the resurrection of our Lord, are too, a reminder of God's love and desire for renewal in our daily lives.

At Grace, the transition toward a new Senior Pastor is entering it's spring as well. We are in the process of forming a Transition Team to begin the work of assessing our congregation's strengths and needs, with a focus on the future, and what God has in store for us. It is refreshing to take a renewed look at our congregation as we move toward the call of a Senior Pastor. We will be reaching out to congregation members and providing opportunities to give input during this process. We invite and encourage congregation members to get involved, as your perspectives are important and valuable to determining where God is leading us next. The Transition Team will work with Pastor Bruce to lead our congregation through a time of discerning three questions:

Who are we?
What is God calling us to do?
Who are our neighbors?

We will also examine our heritage, leadership practices and the connections Grace has established outside of our four walls.

Once this renewed assessment is complete, we will be ready to establish a Call Committee to begin the call of a new Senior Pastor for Grace. It is a time of anticipation and excitement as we prayerfully plan for the future.

During a renewal process, as well as any time in our lives, we can always hold steadfast in these words from Hebrews 13:8: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

*Lynn Noren and Johnna Rohmer-Hirt
Vision Board Members*

grace
remember • rejoice • renew

Vision Board Message



“Change.” That’s a word that either inspires or scares us. This word can be used as a **noun** (“the act or instance of making or becoming different”) or a **verb** (“make or become different, take or use another instead of”) I think a big part of how you determine your feelings toward the word is how the change occurs. If YOU choose to change your diet in order to improve your health, “change” is probably positive. On the other hand, if SOMEONE ELSE makes the decision about your job description, the word “change” probably is pretty negative. Imposed change is almost always opposed change.

Grace Lutheran has gone through some changes in the last several years. We have had a turnover in staff. We have lost and gained pastors, ministry directors, and support staff. We have had a change in attendance. We have lost and gained members. We have launched several outreach opportunities (Rakai, Haiti, Stepping Stones, Sand Creek School, Feed My Starving Children, Hope 4 Youth, Eagle’s Nest, DivorceCare, GriefShare, Pastoral Care, Grace Quilters, GRAMPS, Our Savior’s, Family Promise, Family Table, etc.) Some opportunities are still being maintained, while others are not because things have changed. Our congregation has changed and their needs have changed. Depending how these changes have impacted your own life, the changes may be positive or negative.

“Change” is recorded several times in the Bible, both in verses and in accounts. Some include Jesus changing water into wine. Moses was able to change the water of the Red Sea. Disciples changed their lives to follow Jesus. Kings were able to change the behavior of their constituents. Locations were changed. People’s names were changed.

In June as I change my identity from a Vision Board member to not being a Vision Board member, I know there will be changes coming my way. I won’t be a part of the group who helps with decisions of change regarding future pastoral staff. I won’t be involved in the change to the outside of the church building (portables and parking lot.) Nor will I be a part of the group who makes decisions about changes I can’t even imagine.

With the future of Grace in ever changing hands, please be receptive to changes. Some may be to your liking, and some may not. The word of God is unchanging, as is his plan. He will be with us as we experience change at Grace. Be a part of the positive future of our church!

Blessings to you, *Deb Stang, Vision Board Member*



Children's Ministries



Hero Central - VBS 2018

June 11th - 15th, 9:30am - Noon

Hero Memory Verse- Do good! Seek Peace and go after it! Psalm 34:14b

For ages 3 years - 5th Grade (completed)

Registration \$30 per child

(*Early bird Registration \$25 per child, if registered before/by May 11th)

*Register by May 18th to be guaranteed a t-shirt

On Wednesday when you pick up your child from VBS we will have local Hero's here in the parking lot to visit with and talk to.

3rd thru 5th Grade Outings

You may register for one, both, or none. Cost \$25 per outing. Includes transportation (bussing) and event admission. Bring a sack lunch. Please pick up your child at Grace at 4pm.

Tuesday, 12-4pm, Zero Gravity, Mounds View

Thursday, 12-4pm, The Works Museum, Bloomington

Family Worship Sunday

May 6th

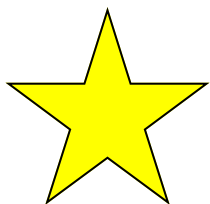
Children will begin in Worship Services with their families and then be dismissed to SONday School.



May 20th

5th Grade Graduation - at 9 & 10:30

**Last day of SONday School
Bring your bikes to be blessed**



Baptism Class

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 a part of everyday life. You may register on line through *GraceLink* or contact Annie Fitzl at annief@graceandover.org or the church office to sign up for the class. Families can schedule baptisms at most Worship Services. Contact the Church office to confirm available dates and times.



Children's Summer Worship Bible Time

While we enjoy the sunny days of summer, it is also an opportunity to worship with the children of Grace. Beginning June 3, children will be in church with their families, come forward for the Children's Message and then they will be dismissed for a Bible lesson in the Fellowship Hall. Children will return to worship before Communion. We need many enthusiastic, willing hearts and hands to help with this adventure. If you can help, please contact Kristin. We will not have Summer Bible Time on Memorial Day Weekend, July 1st or 8th, and Labor Day Weekend

Summer Nursery



Nursery Volunteers

Help is needed in the nursery this summer. Nursery will be offered at all services, 5pm on Saturday, 8:30 and 10am on Sunday. We have a fantastic group of volunteers who have served so faithfully all school year. Please show your appreciation of our

volunteers by signing up for a service. If families could sign up for one worship service, what a blessing that would be! To be a blessing, sign up on the blue sheets, or the sign up sheet outside the Nursery.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4ba9ab2da6f94-summer>

Youth Ministries



Annual Grace Garage Sale

June 7-9 8am-5pm

All proceeds will help Grace youth going to Luther Point Bible Camp and Youth Mission Trips this summer.

You can drop off your gently used items beginning May 7 in Portable 2.

***NO electronics/TV's/computers/monitors/exercise equipment.** *No drop off on Memorial Day

Large items will need to be approved by Tom Baker

prior to drop off. tomb@graceandover.org

763-421-6520

High School Graduation Recognition Brunch

June 3rd at 9am

Graduates and their families are invited to brunch in celebration of you! Please RSVP to Kristi at kristil@graceandover.org



Current 5th - 8th graders

Participate this summer in a dynamic ministry that stretches your faith and your friendships here at church!

Every Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm (June 21st - August 9th, 2018)

Mornings are spent participating in service projects and learning how we can serve God and our neighbor. Afternoons we do a fun recreational activity and a Bible Study!



Global Health Ministries



VERTICAL ENDEAVORS



second harvest HEARTLAND

For more information and to register go to: www.graceandover.org

Ministry Opportunities

OK@PLAY

(Old Kids at Play)

Hey, Hey, Hey! We survived April's blizzard and we are now ready to warm up with some laughter and fun.

May event: BYOM on Friday, May 11th.

BYOM (Bring Your Own Mug) is a progressive dinner that will involve 2 houses and the church. Grab your favorite mug and bring it to church at 6 pm to begin our night of appetizers, an informal dinner, and dessert. (Your mug is essential for all 3 "stops.")

Please RSVP to Ann Lange (ann.lange@comcast.net) or let the church office know you will be joining us. We need a count of participants to make sure we have plenty of food!

June's event: Meet us at the Grace Garage Sale at 1 pm on Thursday, June 8th. We will shop for bargains before moving over to the Dairy Queen for a treat. No need to RSVP, just bring your own money to purchase treasures and your treat.

Join us for one or both events!



Men's Opportunities

BWW Connection - 1st Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm
Men's Gab & Grub - 3rd Sat. at Baker's Square 8am
Bible Studies on Mon. 6:30am or Sat. 8am

Women's Opportunities

W.O.W - Wednesdays at 9:30am
Bible Study on Mondays at 6:30pm
Ruth Circle - 2nd Wednesdays at 12:30pm
Quilters - Wednesdays at 9:00am
Grace Quilters 2 - Last Mondays at 6:30pm

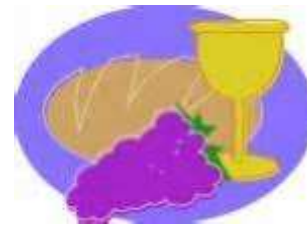
Congratulations!

Own Your Faith Confirmands

Confirmation rehearsal and dinner is May 19th.

Confirmation Sunday is May 20th, 2pm

Sara Ackerson, Kylan Andrzczyzak, Luke Bastian,
Ryan Behnke-Nead, Emily Braasch, Joseph Coughlin,
Carissa Davidson, Emma Edling, Anthony Esboldt,
Yini Gandah, Isabelle Hoopman, Parker Kamman,
Sophie Knutson, Cody Krohnberg, Rachel Lenz,
Eleanore Lohse, Julia Lysne, Jillyan Ness,
Nathaniel Perrier, Aaron Ramseier, Bennett Ruud,
Tucker Schmoll, Bjorn Sheils, Madilynn Stenseth,
Nicholas Stenseth, Elizabeth Wess,
Alexcis Wuorenma



Welcome to the Lord's Table

28 children were blessed by making their First Communion this school year.

Jackson Anderson, Miera Bobbe, Evelyn Brausen,
Andrew Evans, Luke Ferguson, Austin Fischer, Julia
Gerdes, Jonas Haugh, Tabitha Kamman, Vaughn
Kamman, Austin Kerns, Tyler Kosek, Lily Krebsbach,
Alexander Krebsbach, Henry Lien, Halle Loney,
Joseph Mattson, Wyatt Myers, Quinn Nauman, Abigail
Plumbo, Wynter Roinestad, Emmalee Salzwedel,
Hannah Schulz, Emily Stromberg, Noel Vue, Grace
Weingart, Logan Wheeler, Lucian Wuorenma.



2018 High School Graduates

Megan Blase, Megan Brandner, Emma Chambers,
Catie Dahlberg, Brandon Deitz, Alexis Farber,
Brandon Froelich, Abby Haubner, Lauren Hedlund,
Catherine Hentges, Allison Jenkins, Katie Johnson,
Makenzie Kallina, Matthew Kemp, Rilee Kiefert,
Gunnar Knutson, Emma Krom, Bryana Leverentz,
Maxwell Lohse, Jessica Lysne, Ryan Nelson,
Carl Newcomer, Emily Norbeck, Corinne Olson,
Amanda Patterson, Logan Rademacher,
Cooper Ripley, Mackenzie Seim, Matthew Wess,
Jacob Zzulka

Lists of known graduates from our database. We apologize if we missed anyone.

Church Life App



Do you have the church directory at your fingertips? Have you ever wanted to mail someone a card we prayed for at church and did not know how to find her/his address?

If you would like this information at your fingertips, create a GraceLink log in and down load the Church Life app. The log in for Church Life and GraceLink are the same. This app allows members of our community to connect with one another. You will find an online church directory, the ability to register for events, the groups you belong too, and you can even give your offerings. Take time to connect today.

*This information is only available to people who are involved in our Grace community.



Text to Opt In

Things happen. We know all too well, being in Minnesota, the weather has a mind of its own. To keep you in the know when things happen, opt in to receive texts from gracelink. Follow the link below and view the instructions on the right side of the page. grace-andover.org/get-connected/what-is-gracelink/

Finances at a Glance

OFFERINGS	2017	2018
	\$176,178.74	\$159,418.08
EXPENSES	2017	2018
	\$238,914.78	\$195,009.44
<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>(\$31,904.17)</i>	<i>(\$11,831.37)</i>

Finances as of March 31

YTD Noisy Offering = \$3,088.53

YTD Mortgage paid = \$26,538.00

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



2017 Free 2B Tithe

voting results are as follows:

Hope4Youth	\$3,610.78
Family Promise	\$3,240.45
Grace2Haiti	\$2,870.11
<u>Grace4Rakai</u>	<u>\$2,623.22</u>
Total	\$12,344.57

4th Annual Race

Date: Saturday May 19th, 2018

Location: Bunker Hills Park, Pavilion #3

Time: Packet pick-up starts at 8:00am

10k run starts at 9:15am

5k run starts at 9:30am

5k walk starts at 9:45am

Register at Just1MoreStep.org

This year we are holding our first raffle for the race!

We have some awesome items for our first raffle! Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Just1MoreStep), to see some of the raffle items before the race!



What is Just 1 More Step?

A FUN 10K run, 5K run/walk and a kids run! Filled with live entertainment and a beautiful wooded course with rolling hills. The 5K and 10K are chip timed to ensure runners will receive accurate race times.

All proceeds from the event go to a non-profit providing services in Haiti, World Wide Village. So far in our first three races, we have raised over \$30,000 that has been used to improve lives of people in Haiti. With the help of race proceeds World Wide Village has built a medical clinic, dug wells to provide clean water to a village, set up agriculture programs and began work on a technical school. Proceeds from this year's race will go to purchase solar panels to provide electricity to past and future projects.

Grace Lutheran Church is proud to partner with World Wide Village to direct this race. This years race proceeds will go to Haiti, City on a Hill project. Our partnership with World Wide Village enables us to ensure funds raised are truly going to equip and support Haitian communities. World Wide Village is a Christian non-profit organization working primarily in Williamson and Luly, Haiti since 2006.

Farmers Market

The Farmer's Market will be back at Grace again this spring/summer. They will open in the Grace parking lot beginning Tuesday, May 1 and continue through the month of October. Hours are 2:00pm-6:00pm every Tuesday during the growing season, May through October. Come out and support our local farmers by purchasing their very fresh vegetables and products.



Blessing of the Bikes

Sunday, June 3rd, at the conclusion of the 10:30am service on Grace parking lot. All are welcome to bring their bike, trike, motorcycle or scooter to be blessed for a safe riding season of travel and recreation.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, May 22nd, Noon to 5pm at Grace. The Red Cross is in **desperate need** for blood. Mark your calendars to give blood and save a life. To make an appointment to give blood go to www.redcross.org or call 1-800-REDCROSS



Goings On



Sunday Fellowship Time

We are looking for Ministry Teams or groups willing to host a Fellowship Time following worship on Sundays over the summer. This includes serving drinks and treats following each service from Memorial Day - Labor Day, excluding the first Sunday of each month (those dates are already spoken for). Contact grace@graceandover.org to signup to help.



Silent Prayer Gathering

7-7:30pm
May 15th & June 19th

The prayer gathering is open to everyone,
ALL ARE WELCOME!

A time to silently pray for the sufferings and 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"*.

A Fundraiser to Benefit Family Promise in Anoka County

Out of the Box Breakfast

Thursday, May 10th, 2018

7:30 – 8:30AM (Check-in begins at 7:00 AM)

Tournament Players Club Twin Cities
Minnesota Room

11444 Tournament Players Pkwy, Blaine

Featured Speaker Dani Tietjen



Using "Out of the Box" strategies for working with families experiencing homelessness.

Pre-Register by May 7th

Have questions about Out Of The Box Breakfast 2018? Contact Family Promise of Anoka County. Familypromiseanoka.org





Grace Lutheran Church

13655 Round Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304

(763) 421-6520

A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!

www.graceandover.org

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U.S. POSTAGE

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Address Service Requested

Summer Worship Times begin May 27th

Saturday - 5pm Contemporary

Sunday - 8:30am Traditional/Blended

Sunday - 10:00am Blended/Contemporary

Nursery and *Children's Bible Time is offered at all services

***no Bible Time on Memorial Day Weekend**