

# grace notes

August & September 2019



## Welcome Pastor Joanna

Our family has been blessed over the past two summers to have a robin's nest right outside our kitchen window. We have delighted in watching the mother robin tend her eggs and then eventually her babies as well. But what we really wait for is the day that the babies are finally ready to fly. This year both Jeff (my husband) and Lily (my twelve year old daughter) were patient enough to sit in the kitchen, waiting and watching until that magical moment happened.

I will admit that my transition from my last congregation to Grace feels a little bit like a leap of faith. Leaving the comfort and security of the warm and familiar nest and then flying out into a new adventure, unsure of what is completely ahead of me and yet excited because the world is so much bigger than I ever anticipated. These robins have been a source of meditation to me as they have taken flight. I too will take flight and while the leap might seem scary at first, the reality is I am ready and I believe that God is with me.

I have had the opportunity over the last month to get some glimpses of life at Grace. I have been able to attend a staff meeting and then come up and meet all of you for worship one weekend for a "meet and greet." Thank you all for the warm reception. It has been a delight to meet you and I can't wait to get to know all of you better in the months to come.

Fall is right around the corner. Life in the church gets incredibly busy in the fall as all of the regular activities that took a brief Sabbath over the summer start back up. In order to be ready for fall, I have been working with some of the staff as well as the Children's Ministry Team in order to prepare for what's ahead.

I am excited to announce that we have hired a new Children's Ministry Director. (see page 3) Maria Markman will start at Grace in mid-August. Maria is a highly gifted young woman with a passion for kids. She is innovative and fun. I have known Maria for a long time, since she was a member of my first congregation and I worked with her as a youth. It has been a privilege to watch her grow in her faith and leadership since she entered seminary. I know she will be a tremendous asset to our team.



I am extremely thankful for the collaborative efforts of our team to help us prepare for fall since I have not officially started. I have had the opportunity to learn a little about how our programming has worked on Sunday mornings in the past and appreciated the feedback from the families. This year we are going to make a few changes. First of all we are going to be using a curriculum with our kids that matches up with the narrative lectionary. We want all of our families to have the opportunity to talk together in faith-filled conversations about what they experienced in church on Sunday morning. The second change is that we will have all of our children begin worship with us every week. We will have a weekly children's message in worship and then dismiss our kids to SONday School for the remainder of the worship time. I believe that this will give kids the opportunity to worship and also have enough time to explore the lesson in small groups with their SONday School teachers.

I love having kids in worship and believe it is really important for us to worship together as a family. Not only do kids learn how to worship and experience the rhythm of our liturgy, but we also all benefit from having kids worshipping beside us. It gives us the opportunity to wonder how we are making worship accessible for people of all ages.

This past month of saying goodbye to the people of Shepherd and preparing for this next big step in ministry at Grace has been an important time of transition for me. I feel as if I am perched on the side of the nest looking out at the green lush grass, and the vibrant colors of the flowers and I am ready to take the leap so that I can at last get a closer look at the wonderful world God has made in this new setting at Grace.

Blessings, *Pastor Joanna Mitchell*

## Fall Worship Schedule Change

### Grace Lutheran Church Staff

**Senior Pastor** .....Joanna Mitchell  
Ext. 110.....joannam@graceandover.org

**Visitation Pastor**.....Delwayne Hahn  
Ext. 105 .. delwayneh@graceandover.org

**Dir. of Youth Ministry**.....Kristi Larson  
Ext. 100 .....kristil@graceandover.org

**Coord. of Youth Ministries**.....Tom Baker  
Ext. 123 ..... tomb@graceandover.org

**Dir. of Outreach Ministries**.....Debbie Jorgens  
Ext. 109 ..... debbiej@graceandover.org

**Dir. of Worship & Music**.....Jonathan Orwig  
Ext. 113 .... jonathano@graceandover.org

**Dir. of Children/Family Ministries** ...Maria Markman  
Ext. 112 .....mariam@graceandover.org

**Church Administrator**.....Kate Morpew  
Ext. 102 ..... katem@graceandover.org

**Administrative Assistant**.....Kris Miller  
Ext. 101 ..... krism@graceandover.org

**Bookkeeper**.....Beth Clarstrom  
Ext. 111 ..... bethc@graceandover.org

**Parish Nurse**.....Lori Ackerson  
Ext. 100.parishnurse@graceandover.org

**Custodians**.....Mark Kempenich & Dan Tkachenko  
Ext. 117 .....markk@graceandover.org

**Dir. Of Golden Rule Child Care Center**  
Sandy Schmoll...sandys@graceandover.org 421-1996

*If you would like to contact any of the Vision Board members, please visit [graceandover.org](http://graceandover.org) and click on leaders.*

### Vision Board Members

Johnna Rohmer-Hirt(Pres.) Alden Riley  
Chad Hadler (V.P.) Carla Renner  
Vickie Meade (Secretary) Ann Lange  
Dave Trapp

After several months of discussion among Vision Board and staff members regarding the fall weekend worship schedule, the Vision Board has decided to move to three services similar to our summer schedule, keeping 5:00 Saturday and 10:30 Sunday the same as they've been but combining the 8:00 and 9:00 into one service to be held at 8:45.

We feel it's better stewardship of staff time, volunteers, and other resources to provide three worship services instead of four to accommodate the typical 350-400 total weekend worshippers, given that our sanctuary comfortably seats 375 and it's getting increasingly difficult to find all the volunteers needed to serve at four services. We absolutely want to provide worship options for people, but four options seem increasingly unnecessary.

It has been reported that some who attend 8:00 service have already been wondering when 8:00 and 9:00 will be combined since both are essentially "traditional" in style. Based on our discussions concerning a variety of factors, that appeared to be the most viable option and the 8:45 time makes most sense for worship and SONday School during the program year.



In addition, having larger groups of people in worship is usually more attractive to first-time guests. Worship energy and singing tend to be stronger in a space that's somewhat full. This feels like a better way for our new pastor to begin.

Another positive advantage to a Sunday morning schedule of 8:45 and 10:30 is that it will allow extended fellowship time, occasional adult education forums, or short congregational meetings between services throughout the full year. This could also allow time for people who attend different services to come together, which emerged as a strong common request from our Transition Surveys.

Changing worship times in congregations is always tricky and never perfect for everyone; we completely recognize that. We know this will mean an adjustment for some and ask for your understanding. If you have questions, please feel free to speak to anyone on Vision Board about this decision. Thank you so much for your continued support and commitment to Grace.

~ Johnna Rohmer-Hirt, Vision Board President

## Vision Board Message

## Welcome Maria Markman



Celebrate! Yes. The Grace congregation voted to call our new Senior Pastor, Joanna Mitchell on June 23, 2019. The energy and excitement were palpable in the sanctuary. Of 181 voting congregational members: 179 voted yes, 1 voted no and 1 abstained. What trust you put into this holy process! The Vision Board thanks all who attended this special meeting and especially to the Transition Team and Call Committee. Your work was invaluable.

Now is the time to dream and discern. What does God have in store for Grace? What is God calling us to do in our homes, our schools, our neighborhoods and in our world? What challenges may arise? What changes are ahead of us? With God by our side, we can be strong and courageous to meet these opportunities in growing our faith. It's different for each of us, but we can all be a part of what God's doing in this world. God uses the most unlikely people to do his will. Please keep your hearts and minds open to the Holy Spirit and how it works in and around us.

I'd like to close with this prayer. "Dear God. Thank you for not forsaking us. Thank you for allowing us to begin anew with Pastor Joanna. You allowed us time to remember our past, but now we are excited for our future. Thank you for encouraging us to walk along side our neighbors and be your tools of love and kindness. Bless those who will walk through our doors and across our path ways. May we show your love every day. Amen."

Your sister in Christ – Vickie Meade



*Grace is excited to announce the hiring of Maria Markman for the position of Director of Children & Family Ministries. Maria will begin mid-August. Please continue reading below more about Maria in her own words.*

Grace and peace to you, people of Grace Lutheran Church in Andover,

I am so excited to meet you all as together we embark on this next step in our journeys of faith as I take the position as Grace's Director of Children's Ministry. I grew up in Faribault, MN, and attended Pastor Joanna's first call congregation Our Savior's Lutheran Church. It was at that church, I first heard my call to ministry. After claiming rather boisterously to a childhood pastor, I planned to be an actress on BROADWAY! He chuckled and suggested I would be a pastor.



I discerned my call to ordained ministry for many years. While discerning, I took a detour performing with The Young Americans, a southern California Music Outreach World Touring Company. Then, I attended Concordia University St. Paul where I earned a Bachelor of Arts in English with an emphasis on creative writing. And finally embraced my call for ministry and ended up at Luther Seminary. While attending college and seminary, I worked as Children's Ministry Coordinator at Christ Church Lutheran in Minneapolis. Currently, I am in my fourth and final year at Luther Seminary, returning from a year long Pastoral Internship in sunny southern California. I am happy to return to my home in Minnesota and hopefully I can bring back enough sunshine to avoid another intense Minnesota winter. Regardless of how the weather is, I am so excited to continue to use my passion and skills for ministry, as well as share what I am currently learning in seminary with the community at Grace. When I am not studying or working, I enjoy theater, running, being outdoors and catching up with family and friends, laughing and eating ice cream.

As we join together over the next year, I hope to cultivate a welcoming, safe, and spiritually grounded community of faith for the children and their families at Grace. Faith formation is lifelong, so let's see what God has in store for ALL of us at Grace!

See you soon, Maria Markman

## Final Thoughts from Pastor Bruce



### *So Long...*

In Acts 21, Paul and his companions have completed their time spent with the local church in Tyre. They are gathered on the beach as they pray and say good-bye. Paul and friends then sail on to continue their journey as the local church families return to their homes.

At worship services on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, we shared in a Litany of Farewell as I concluded my interim ministry at Grace. You gathered around me in a human chain as you laid hands on me in a prayer of blessing and sending. And then we had some fun as we sang along with Eric Clapton in his cover of Lowell Fulson's blues classic, "Reconsider Baby": *So long, oh how I hate to see you go. So long, oh how I hate to see you go. And the way that I will miss you, I guess you will never know...* ☺

I'll continue my journey onward to serve another church as interim pastor. You'll continue your journey as you move into a new chapter under the leadership of your new senior pastor, Pastor Joanna Mitchell.

Thank you, Grace, for allowing me to serve as your interim pastor. Thank you for the love and support you've shown me these past 18 months. Thanks to the staff and leaders I've been blessed to work with. Thank you for listening and responding to the questions and challenges I've offered in my role as your interim pastor. I'm thankful for the things we've accomplished and for the ministries we've shared. It's been a privilege to preach, teach, lead worship, visit, commune, baptize, and preside at funerals among you. Thank you for

allowing me to walk with you through your time of transition and grief with the departure of your previous pastors and other staff. You are in a *very* different place now as you're excited to welcome Pastor Joanna Mitchell!

As I said in my final sermon, live out your name: GRACE Lutheran Church. What a wonderful name and what a welcome to the surrounding community as you live it out! Our culture is becoming more secular and often either distrustful of or simply disinterested in church and organized religion. And too many churches do not welcome all as equals and extend authentic grace. In what seems to be our increasingly disconnected, lonely, and often unkind world, your very name is a word of hope for human hurt. I believe many people hunger for divine grace and connection with others based on grace. Grace is the heart of our theology – God's grace freely extended to us in Jesus Christ, and our extending this same grace to each other and all our neighbors. Continue to proclaim and live out this grace! There are many who seek an authentic faith community where grace is evidenced by who is genuinely welcomed and how grace is lived out by serving the neighbor. You do this. Keep it up and grow deeper in it! Seek new ways to extend grace to your neighbors in the surrounding community.

Extend this grace to Pastor Joanna. Allow her to be herself. Be open to new gifts and new directions she may bring you. She has many gifts but not all of them because nobody does. Remember she's human – flawed and imperfect like me and you. Give her time. Allow her to make mistakes. The best leaders always do. To never make mistakes either means you're not human or you never have the courage to risk anything! Extending grace always involves risk. Patiently listen to her as you slowly get to know her...as she does the same with you. Give her the benefit of any doubt. Cut her plenty of slack.

Thank you for your personal words, your hugs and handshakes, and the cards and gifts that made my farewell so meaningful and fun. Saying good-bye isn't the easiest thing to do, especially after a longer interim time. But I look forward to hearing about the good things that will continue to happen at Grace down the road! God bless you all!

~ Pastor Bruce Arnevik, (Former) Interim Senior Pastor

## SALT (*Seek, Love, Abide and Trust*) Adult Education & Prayer Ministry

*“being neighbor – extending grace”*

COMING IN EARLY OCTOBER

### ***“Gray Area Thinking®” Inclusivity – A Special Opportunity with Ellie Krug***

The author of *Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change* (2013), Ellie has presented on diversity and inclusion to governmental entities, court systems, Fortune 100 companies, law firms, nonprofits, and universities - nearly 800 occasions. A hopeless idealist, Ellie has presented inclusivity training across North America.

Join national speaker, transgender writer and “human inclusionist” Ellen “Ellie” Krug as she conducts her highly valued human inclusivity training: *Gray Area Thinking®*. This training will provide an easy-to-understand toolset on how to be more welcoming of anyone who is “Other” in our society. **Ellie will be at Grace, Sunday, Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 p.m.** SALT will follow up this terrific *Gray Area Thinking®* with a faith-based panel and discussion on a second week, Sunday, Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 p.m.

Watch for more information on the new SALT web page: [graceandover.org/Ministries/Adult Ministries/SALT](http://graceandover.org/Ministries/Adult%20Ministries/SALT)

### ***Ragamuffin***

#### ***Book/Study/Video/Discussion***

A six week study, Mondays, beginning Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:45 p.m., at Davanni’s meeting room. Based on the book, *The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out*. This study journeys into the wide open arms of a loving God --- a discovery of and into **grace**, to more fully grasp, as Christian author Brennan Manning states: “...my deepest awareness of myself is that I am deeply loved by Jesus Christ and I have done nothing to earn it or deserve it”, and move further on in grace from there.

Manning is not without humor toward confronting righteous attitudes that may stifle the work of grace: “The story goes that a public sinner was excommunicated and forbidden entry to the church. He took his woes to God. ‘They won’t let me in, Lord, because I am a sinner.’ ‘What are you complaining about?’ said God. ‘They won’t let Me in either.’” Register via GraceLink (early Sept), consider taking time!



## **Prayer Labyrinth August 21 ~ 10-11:30am**

“Love Made Visible” All Are Invited to Walk the “Birth Dance Labyrinth” at the home of Leoma and Randy Sparer, 13522 Gladiola St. NW in Andover, Sponsored by the Grace S.A L.T. Team



[Register on Gracelink\\*](#) \* Registering with Gracelink is essential for these events, for if no one signs up for a particular date it will be cancelled. It will also be cancelled in case of rain. Call Leoma at 763-757-1773 with questions or to schedule a private time in August.

For each of these events, Leoma will lead the group with a devotion and explanation of what the labyrinth is and then allow participants to walk at their own pace. Each experience in the labyrinth is unique to the individual for the Holy Spirit meets you where you are so you can receive what you need in the moment.

In the labyrinth you can let yourself slow down, be present in the moment and listen for God’s guidance. Stresses, worries, emotions and hurts of the past can be released. You may enjoy inviting Jesus to walk with you. You can think of it as a walking meditation or prayer.

This lakeside spiral prayer path has been newly renovated to provide you a sacred space in a peaceful backyard among tall oaks. You are invited to come to seek peace, solace, answers to deep questions, inner communion with God or simply to enjoy the quietude in this living garden path and outside sanctuary surrounded by flowers and ferns.

## Children's Ministries

### SONday School Open House on Rally Day, September 8<sup>th</sup>

#### What do I do on Rally Day?

- Register your child for SONday School if you have not already done so. (To register beforehand, please complete the registration on Gracelink OR fill out a paper form available at the Welcome Center.)
- Worship with your children for the first part of the service. Children will be dismissed after the Children's Message and will go to the Fellowship Hall, where they will be introduced to their teachers and meet their classmates. They will return to worship before Communion.
- Following the worship service, you can go to your child's classroom and meet their teacher. We'll also have fun activities and snacks to enjoy!

**SONday School Leader Training is planned for  
Wed. Aug 21 at 6:30 and Sunday, August 25 at  
11am**



### Baptism Class

**Sunday, September 15 at 1:30 pm**

Baptism is an important step in the life of a family and their congregation. We will discuss how God is at work in baptism during the Baptism Class at Grace. We will also share insights to help you as you raise your child to know and love God by creating experiences and keeping God in the center of your everyday life. Register online through GraceLink, contact Kris Miller at [krism@graceandover.org](mailto:krism@graceandover.org) or call the church office to sign up.

Baptisms may be scheduled during most services. Contact Kris Miller at 763-421-6520 to confirm availability.



### Kindergarten Angel Pins &

### Blessing of the Backpacks

**September 7 & 8**

**At all worship services**

Kindergarteners will be presented a little angel pin to remind them that God will be with them as they travel to school and go through their days.

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.

**Register Now**

For SONday School, Kids Night  
Out, Catechism & Own Your Faith

## Youth Ministries



### **Catechism (6th - 8th Grade) Wednesdays beginning September 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8 pm**

Do you miss seeing your friends and small group leader every week this summer? Catechism meets each Wednesday, in accordance with Anoka Hennepin SD11 calendar, from 6:30-8:00 and ALL 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome! Bring a friend and check out the website at [www.graceandover.org](http://www.graceandover.org) for more info! *(family pizza begins the same night as well at 6pm).*

6<sup>th</sup> grade students and those new to catechism this year please see below for details on the parent/student meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup>!

### **Parent/6<sup>th</sup> grade Student Catechism Informational Meeting September 4<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8 pm**

Join us to get an overview of the program, meet the staff, ask questions, and connect with other families. Contact Kristi Larson with any questions. (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students new to Catechism are also asked to attend.) Please note there is no Catechism on September 11 due to small group leader training.

### **Catechism Small Group Leaders Needed!**

#### **Training ~ Sept. 11th 6:30-8pm**

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 – 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. Training night is September 11 at 7pm. Not interested in being a leader but you want to help in other ways on Wednesday night? Contact Kristi at [KristiL@graceandover.org](mailto:KristiL@graceandover.org)



### **Own Your Faith Blessing/ Informational Meeting September 22nd @ 10:30 am**

Own Your Faith is a ministry for students to explore adulthood in faith, how they understand God and what it means to confirm their faith. A blessing for all Freshman beginning their final steps towards Confirmation in the spring. A meeting and lunch for students, parents, and mentors will follow the 10:30 worship service/blessing (meeting will start around 11:45am). Further details regarding the Own Your Faith Retreat at Luther Crest in Alexandria on October 18th/19th will be coming your way in the coming .

### September Catechism Schedule:

9/4 - 6<sup>th</sup> grade and new student meeting

9/11 – Small Group Leader Training – no Catechism

9/18 – Catechism Kick off for all 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students

9/25 – Catechism

## Ministry News

### Sand Creek School Supply Collection

Hey, y'all! It's that time again for shopping for school supplies for Sand Creek Elementary! Beginning the weekend of August 10-11, the list of supplies needed for this year will be on post-it notes displayed in the narthex. Grab one or more as you wish, and after purchasing the item(s), bring them to church and put them on the narthex shelves. All items need to be returned by Labor Day weekend, August 31-September 1.



This year we will also have the options for you to choose a \$25 gift card or simply give a monetary donation (cash or check\*) that will be used toward Sheridan Story Food Packs, given each Friday throughout the school year to children who would otherwise go hungry over the weekend. Sand Creek and their students have been VERY thankful in the past for all the generous donations from Grace, and we are excited to fulfill their needs once again this year!

\*If writing a check, please make it payable to Grace Lutheran Church and be sure to write "Sand Creek" in the memo line.



**God's work.**  
**Our hands.**

### God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

**SAVE THE DATE!** "God's Work, Our Hands" is a day set apart by ELCA congregations all across the country to celebrate who we are: one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. This year Grace will be celebrating on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> with service activities *for all ages* after both worship services! Watch for more information to come. If you're interested in exploring ways that Grace can share the love of Christ in this community and beyond on "God's Work, Our Hands" Day, please contact Debbie Jorgens, Director of Outreach Ministries – [debbiej@graceandover.org](mailto:debbiej@graceandover.org).



### Love of Grace Bazaar

The "Love of Grace Bazaar" will be held at our church on Saturday, November 9, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

If you or someone you know is interested in selling homemade/hand crafted items at the Bazaar, please send an email to [loveofgracebazaar@yahoo.com](mailto:loveofgracebazaar@yahoo.com) or contact the church office for an application.

The money that we raise is used to buy children's Bibles for our Grace kids, to help support *Robin's Nest* (a program which teaches women in Haiti how to sew), and also to support *The Sheridan Story* program at Sand Creek Elementary School. (*The Sheridan Story* provides food for children in need to take home each Friday so they will not go hungry over the weekend.)

Watch the blue sheets in October to sign up to donate items and volunteer your time. We hope you will also support the Bazaar by stopping in on November 9<sup>th</sup> to shop and enjoy lunch!



### May All Be Fed Food Shelf

Our food pantry is in need of the following items: crackers (saltine & snack), cookies/snacks, and pasta sauce. Drop off in the narthex or the church office. \*\*Please, no expired items or glass containers. Thanks!

## Ministry News



A benefit to support Family Promise in Anoka County

Featuring Comedian and Storyteller

**Bob Stromberg**

Co-author and an original star of the megahit theatrical comedy, Triple Espresso (A Highly Caffeinated Comedy!)

**Thursday, September 19**

Lord of Life Lutheran Church • 14501 Nowthen Blvd. NW, Ramsey, MN



### HOST WEEK

### September 29-October 5

Grace hosts Family Promise guests providing safe shelter and warm hospitality to the homeless. Will you please join us in this hands-on ministry of sharing God's grace in our local community? You will strengthen lives and build community in very tangible ways – through cooking a meal, driving the van, sleeping overnight for security, or chatting with guests!

For more information, please contact Alden Riley, the Family Promise Ministry Team Leader, at [aldenandjudy@comcast.net](mailto:aldenandjudy@comcast.net) or at 763 412-9489



**Farmer's Market**  
**Tuesdays thru October 29**  
**2:00-6:00pm**

Come out and support our local farmer's by purchasing their fresh produce, plants and of course the always popular kettle corn.



### 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

### 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



### W.O.W. (Women on Wednesday)

Women of all ages are invited to be W.O.Wed by God love through the study of God's word and the community of women. Childcare is provided for a minimal fee. W.O.W. begins on Wednesday, September 11 at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. W.O.W. meets every Wednesday during the program year.

## Thank You



Thank you to everyone for your thoughts, prayers, food, words of comfort, cards, flowers, and memorials. Thank you to Pastor Hahn and Diane Phillips for visiting and giving communion to George. A special thanks to Pastors Arnevik and Hahn and others

who participated in George's Celebration of Life service and to the workers in the kitchen for the wonderful lunch. It was all very much appreciated. God Bless you all. ~Sharon Cowman & family

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The Just 1 More Step race committee would like to extend a thank you for your assistance and support. This year was our 5<sup>th</sup> annual race and we raised \$5,400. Over the 5 years the race has raised a total over \$40,000 to Support World Wide Village and their tireless endeavors to reduce poverty in Haiti.



The Grace Lutheran congregation has been invaluable in reaching this wonderful achievement. We've had 100's of Grace members volunteer on race day, run or walk in the event, support it with financial donations, and send out many prayers.

We've also been extremely fortunate to have so many people willing to be a part of the race planning committee, throughout the 5 years. It takes over 5 months of planning for such an event. Committee members have spent countless hours of volunteering their time, gifts and talents to make the events successful. Whether they helped for one year or many, each made an impact. A very special thanks goes out to Stacy Lenz, Travis Lenz, Anna Welle, Steve Martin, Greg Ackerson, Lori Ackerson, Chrissy Peterson, Anne Defoe, Nancy Arnold, Dani Estuesta, Reed Ward, Steph Chandler, Stacy Surratt, Tara Moses, Doug Hanson, Amy Leger, Joel Leger, Grace Leger, Neil Hawkinson and Taisa Diedrich.

Many of our race committee members are 'retiring' from race planning, so 2019 was our last Just 1 More Step event. With one door closing we know one will open. We await, with open hearts, to see what God has in store for us next, to support our Haiti ministry.

Thank you and God Bless! ~ Angie Hanson



Due to your generous donations we were able provide medical treatment for Gislene Theus, one of the kids we support in Our Abandoned Children Ministry in Haiti. Thanks to referrals of Americans serving in Haiti we found the Adventist Hospital in Carrefour, Haiti.

The initial diagnosis was thought to be Osteosarcoma (bone cancer). However, after further testing it was discovered that this was NOT the case, instead it was determined that Gislene had Osteomyelitis (an infection in the bone). Thanks be to God! On April 11 Gislene had surgery to clean out the infection and no amputation was needed! The surgeon was happy with how the surgery went and the condition of her humerus (the bone that was infected). She received IV antibiotics and was in the hospital for 7 days, then oral antibiotics were given for 3 weeks post-surgery. While the Grace2Haiti team was there, they were able to change her surgical dressings, helping it heal the rest of the way. There is no guarantee we are completely out of the woods but at this time it is looking very good.

Of the \$3,800 raised through your generous donations, \$700 remains for any follow ups that may be needed for Gislene. If no additional costs are incurred, the money will be set aside for care that the other Abandoned Children may need in the future. You can see in the photos attached Gislene is recovering nicely! The team is so grateful for you and for your support, we couldn't have done any of this without you!

Thank you and God's blessings to you!  
~The Abandoned Children's Ministry Group

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The Grace4Rakai Ministry Team is thankful to the Grace congregation who supported Jascent, a 9<sup>th</sup> grade young woman over in Rakai who required emergency surgery to remove a mass in her breast. Jascent is sponsored by Lavonne Lee-Bean, and she dreams of becoming a teacher. She is better now, back in school, and is thankful for the love and support she received from Grace!

## Finances as of July 31

YTD Noisy Offering = \$7,184.72

YTD Benevolence paid = \$ 32,626.82

YTD Principal Mortgage Paid = \$47,969.32

Remaining Principal = \$610,339.15

## YTD Comparison

	2019	2018
<b>General Offerings</b>	\$391,530.74	\$380,823.18
<b>Other Receipts</b>	<u>\$47,850.45</u>	<u>\$58,846.92</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	\$439,381.19	\$439,670.10
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$467,438.16</u>	<u>\$463,458.68</u>
	(\$28,056.97)	(\$23,788.58)

*if you would like a copy of the current financial report, please contact Kate or Beth*

In October of 2018, Grace had a successful Stewardship drive. 66 commitment cards were turned, and we increased the budget for 2019 accordingly. I am happy to share that the congregation is fulfilling that commitment. People continue to give joyfully during transition and continue to support the various ministries of Grace.

**If you are wondering where your giving is for the year, please log in to GraceLink. Find Giving on the tool bar. Then select My Giving History.**



Scan the QR Code  
for a direct link  
to Giving Online

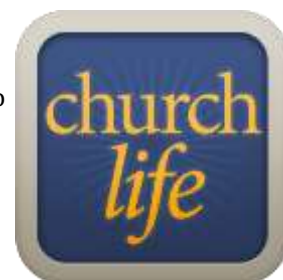
If you have questions about how to give on-line, how to make a onetime gift from an IRA or any other questions about your giving, please contact Kate Morphew or Beth Clarstrom.

## It is time for us to start thinking about 2020

We will begin putting together our 2020 budget soon. Please be thinking about your ministry teams and what funds they may need in 2020. This is your opportunity to have some input. If you have ideas and requests for the 2020 budget, please pass them along to Kate at [katem@graceandover.org](mailto:katem@graceandover.org), drop them off in the church office or talk with your staff in charge of the Ministry Area.



**Like Grace on Facebook  
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Download the Churchlife App to stay connected to Grace congregation members. Use your Gracelink credentials when signing on.



GraceLink

## PRAYERS

### We keep in our prayers the newly baptized:

Scarlett Rose Kasten, Nichole Lee Samolczyk  
Joseph Ray Morphew, Grace Elizabeth Morphew  
Sophia Eileen Schmoll

### We keep in our prayers those in need of healing:

Pastor Delwayne Hahn, Susan Tying, Jacob Welle, Colleen Wernimont, Joan Ege, Sheldon Puska, Verlyn Wenndt, Mike Boie, Chuck Hofstead, Pat Borner, Joel Carlson, Ed Jones & Linda Anderson, Brian Trude, Patricia & Homer Nelson, Ryan Nelson, Toni Riley, Steve Hoff, Scott Plourde, Kathy Lovik, Judi Wold, Kent Swedberg, Nadine Lovik, Kathy Blohm, Linda Christiansen, Lauren Fechner, Bob Roettger, Sue Barker, Lynda Leonard, Kiley Berry, Marissa Brunsting, Van Bakko, Sylvia Lindgren, Eric Oullette, Julie Swedberg, Pat Roettger, June & Loren Gritti, Dick & Lu Henning, Clint Trousil, Sylvia Lindgren, Evelyn Brausen, Bill Sr. & Barb DeVries, Gary Hoenigschmidt, Arden & Shirley Kirkendall, Pam Weigel, Pat Scheuer, John Druley, Kim Burnham, Nancy Coughlin,

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

George Cowman, Walter White  
Bob Hutchison, Mary Taillefer  
Bob Gorka



# 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](http://www.graceandover.org)

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## New Worship Times

**Beginning Rally Weekend**

**September 7/8**

Saturdays ~ 5pm Worship

Sundays ~ 8:45am Worship

Sundays ~ 10:30am Worship

SONday School at 8:45am & 10:30am