

grace notes

August/September 2020



Surely God is in this Place

By Pastor Joanna Mitchell

When Jacob wakes up after having slept all night using a rock as a pillow, he proclaims these words: "Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it!" (Genesis 28:16). I felt a little like this after our first parking lot worship. I will confess, I was not thrilled about parking lot worship, or even sure how it would go. I also know there were problems with it: people could not see over some of the larger cars, we did not get to have fellowship, the list could go on and on. And yet, there was something beautiful that happened that morning. As the cars streamed in and parked, I heard these words: "It's so good for us to be together again." "It's like coming home." "This is the first time in a long time, that my Sunday felt like Sunday." Parking lot worship might feel a little like sleeping on a rock, compared to a comfy feather pillow and yet God's presence is still with us. I left that Sunday feeling rejuvenated in my faith and thankful for the opportunity to be with those of you who came. God's Spirit, God's love, God's grace is with us in the parking lot.

I find it important to remember that God's first residence was always outside. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob set up altars all over the place in the world, marking places they experienced God's presence. And when King David argues that because he has built a house for himself, he should surely build God a house too, God's response is "I have not lived in a house since the day I brought people up out of Egypt. I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle." God basically says, "I'm okay outside, living among you." (I would argue that clearly, God did not live in Minnesota in the dead of winter, because while I enjoy camping, winter camping is not my thing. Give me a house in the winter!) For now, I am finding delight in worshipping God outside. There is beauty in our gardens. There might even be beauty in our parking lot? There is definitely beauty in all of the people gathered in the parking lot!

The re-open team has been praying and talking about ways for us to connect, recognizing our desire to worship together. We are very grateful for your feedback through our surveys, letting us know how we are meeting your needs, and what other things we can offer that might nourish you in spirit. We continue to take small steps forward and are working to designate plans that will help us to be in church together in a variety of ways.

Our church has always been bigger than a building. It is bigger than our parking lot. It is alive out in the world living in each of you! I am grateful. And yet, the importance of being in church together is not something that is lost on me. From our surveys we learned that that majority of you want to meet in person and about 30% of you are comfortable doing so, only if we are worshipping outside. Some of you are ready to worship inside right now. I want you to know we hear you and understand your desire.

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Staff

Grace Lutheran Church Staff

Senior PastorJoanna Mitchell
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Associate Pastor.....Maria Markman
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Visitation Pastor.....Delwayne Hahn
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Dir. Of Golden Rule Child Care Center
Sandy Schmoll.....sandys@graceandover.org
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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

<i>Chad Hadler (President)</i>	<i>Lori Ackerson</i>
<i>Dave Trapp</i>	<i>Joel Anderson</i>
<i>Carla Renner</i>	<i>Brook Vanderleest</i>
<i>Ann Lange</i>	<i>Mike Russell (Treas.)</i>

Grace Lutheran Church
13655 Round Lake Blvd. NW
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Administration



New Church Administrator

We are excited to welcome to the Grace Staff, **Frances Fernandez**. Frances is a member of Grace Lutheran, an assistant minister at our 8:45 am worship, and a member of our SALT team. Frances has exceptional experience in administration in non-profit and health-care systems. Frances', husband Carlos and daughters Samantha (15) and Stephanie (14) reside in Andover. They also have an adult son, Alek, and daughter-in-law, Sierra, who reside in Florida. We are blessed to have her as a part of the Grace Team.



Maria Markman's Ordination

You're invited to Maria Markman's ordination service into the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Her service will be held August 22, 2020 at 2 PM on Bockman Hall lawn at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul. For map and directions follow this link www.luthersem.edu/campus/map. You are invited to wear the red, the color of the celebration. We will be following pandemic safety protocols: worshipping outdoors, wearing masks and social distancing enforced. Join us for this celebration!

Finances as of June 30, 2020

By Marie Kolar

Thanks be to GOD and to you for giving of your financial resources. Below is a snapshot of our giving and expenses through the end of June 2020. *If you would like a copy of the current financial report, please contact Marie Kolar at mariek@graceandover.org*

Mortgage:

YTD Mortgage Principal paid = \$42,618.47
Remaining Principal = \$532,809.83

YTD Offering and Expenses Comparison as of June 30, 2020



	2020	2019
General Offerings	\$350,180.68	\$331,386.42
Capital Offerings	\$54,959.72	\$46,773.50
Expenses	\$387,534.86	\$401,670.60

Vision Board



Thank You!

By Vickie Meade

I finished my 2nd term on the Vision Board at the end of May, and I want to "Thank" all the Vision

Board members, Pastor Joanna, and the staff for all their hard work and dedication to Grace and the congregation, especially former Presidents, Johnna Hirt and Scott Christianson. It's been an honor to serve with you in this manner. We have experienced many changes over the past few years, and I'm so excited to see what God has in store for us now. I feel strong stirrings of renewal within this place called Grace.

God is definitely at work here, and I keep thinking of the extraordinary power of God. In *Matthew 19:26*, it says that **"Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."**

That is the nature of the Vision Board. We try to discern what God wants us to do and rely on Him to do it through us...All of Us. We are a congregation of many gifts and talents, and God blesses us to be a blessing to others. What kind of world could we have if we all took advantage of the opportunities that God presents us each and every day? I challenge us to open our eyes, our ears, our arms, our minds and most of all our hearts to what God is doing in and through us. I ask that each of you have a conversation with God and ask the question-Lord, what can I do for you today? You might be surprised at the answer.

I'd like to close in prayer. Dear Lord, I lift up the Vision Board members. May they feel your presence in everything they do for Grace Lutheran and in your world. Give them the knowledge, the skill, the patience and the confidence to do your will. Amen. God Bless Grace Lutheran.

*Your sister in Christ,
Vickie Meade*

Welcome New Vision Board Members!



We are very excited to welcome Lori Ackerson, Joel Anderson and Brook Vanderleest to the Vision Board. Chad Hadler is our new Vision Board President. Mike Russell will

continue to serve as our treasurer.

Congregational Meeting



Update from our Special Congregational Meeting on July 12th

By Pastor Joanna Mitchell

Thank you for gathering and joining us for our Special Congregational Meeting. On that Sunday we did two very important things for the life of Grace Lutheran. First, we adopted a new Constitution. This Constitution has been approved by the Synod and follows their guidelines, while also allowing Grace to describe our own practices in electing our Vision Board and various other ways we operate. 106 people voted on the constitution, one person abstained, and 105 people voted in favor. Second, we voted to call Maria Markman to be Associate Pastor of Grace. 105 people voted, one person abstained, and 104 people voted in favor. We are thrilled to have Maria join our staff in her first call to ordained ministry. She will begin her ministry with us in this new role on August 3rd. Both of these votes took place over Zoom and we had a small group of people who gathered and voted in person.

On a personal note, I have known Maria since she was a teenager. It has been such a delight to watch her grow and develop as a person and as a leader in the faith. She is a very gifted person in SO many ways. I am thrilled to have her as a colleague in ministry. I know that God will continue to use Maria to share the Gospel, to reach new people and that Grace will be blessed by her ministry.

Parking Lot Worship

Come and worship with us in Grace Lutheran's parking lot for more information please visit graceandover.org

Parking Lot Worship
9:00 AM



Devotional



Devotional Resources

By David Trapp

I use five devotional resources that I would like to share with you. Only one of the five resources will cost money. The first resource I am speaking of is “Jesus Calling” by Sarah Young, which I received as a gift. This is a wonderful daily devotional book written in the first person of Jesus. We know that Jesus is with us every moment of our life and this scripture based devotional really gives you a comfortable feeling. The devotional reminds me daily to put my trust in Jesus.

The next daily devotion I use is “Christ In Our Home”. Growing up in a Lutheran home my parents would often use this devotional with my family after our evening dinner. “Christ In Our Home” is available from church in limited supply. I have never had difficulty obtaining this devotional. During this time of COVID-19, contact the church office for a copy. Typically it is available at the Welcome Desk. “Christ In Our Home” is a daily devotional written by members of ELCA churches like Grace Lutheran. It is published quarterly in a small booklet and the devotions are based on the “Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings”. These short devotions are applicable to daily life.

The following two devotions are from online resources and are also daily devotions. The first is “God Pause” www.luthersem.edu/godpause/ written by alumni of Luther Seminary based on the “Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings”. These devotions are short and current.

The other online devotional that I like is from Clergy Stuff www.clergystuff.com/daily-devotions. This devotional is based on the “Narrative Lectionary Daily Readings” which is what Grace has used in the past for a basis for the weeks sermon. There are certain times when the Grace staff decides to deviate from the Narrative Lectionary. The link for this devotional will bring you to a calendar and clicking on the appropriate day will bring you to the devotional.

Last, but not least, is our own Grace Daily Devotion brought to you by our very own Grace Staff. You may find these devotions if you follow Grace on Facebook or on our church website www.grace-andover.org. The link for the devotion is found, as a banner on our opening page. Grace has been blessed with gifted writers on staff.

I hope you will be able to make it a habit of using one of the above devotions to start or end your day.

Dave Trapp

Music



Music and Worship in the Time of COVID-19

By Jonathon Orwig

Dear Friends,

As we approach the fall when usually our music ministries are cranking back up, we are surveying and discussing the process and possibility of worshipping in person again, and I’m sure many of you are wondering how it all looks...

I wish I had all the answers – really I do.

But it is a complex and constantly, changing world we live in. Since March, much of my time at work has been spent producing and recording our virtual worship services. It’s not been anything like normal! We are very blessed that long before the COVID-19 era, I had recorded a lot of music from our worship services, and that has allowed us to not have to spend as much time producing that part of worship. It has been a gift and blessing to be able to use that content to “help us through”.

One of the concepts that has pretty solid scientific evidence is that it is not safe to rehearse and sing together during this time in large groups. I’ve read a lot of articles on it, and there isn’t much disagreement.

So, what do we do to still offer ways for our choir, instrumentalists, praise team or soloists to still participate in worship?

Well, we do remote recording, and I “assemble” it after the fact.

So, in the fall I see us offering different options – if we are worshipping together, it’s very likely the only singing will be done by a cantor/leader and maybe the pastors and myself. The cantor might do some special music, or might just lead. We might choose to play special music that’s

Music (Cont.)

been pre-recorded (I send the accompaniment to the choir, soloist or praise team, they send back a recording of their voice part, all of that is “reassembled” later). Initially we’d probably do that as audio-only, since putting together a video with several/many participants gets complex. We’d work towards that for in the future.

Frankly, I’m excited to try this, it could mean there are some of you who either haven’t been able to participate due to schedules or just never considered being part of a choir, praise team or instrumental group and decide to “give it a try”. We might find that in this time it actually allows MORE people to participate!

So, if this sounds like something you might be willing to try, keep your eyes out for an invitation to experiment with us!

As I close, let me tell you how grateful I am for your encouragement, kind words, prayers, and continuing support. We’re all in this together, and it means so much to me (and the rest of our staff and pastors) when you share so kindly with us. Those little notes and messages cheering us on are often the “shot in the arm” we need to make it through the week.

Grace and peace,
Jonathan Orwig, Dir. of Worship and Music



Church Directory Updating

By Kris Miller

It is important during this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic that we are able to communicate with our Grace people electronically and via U.S. mail. Please e-mail

Kris Miller with your preferred e-mail address so it can be entered into our database to insure that you are receiving information in a timely fashion. Also, many of our families have discontinued their land lines. If this is the case for your family or if you prefer being contacted via cell phone, please e-mail your cell phone numbers to Kris Miller. If you have recently moved or anticipate moving in the near future, please contact Kris Miller with your new address. Last, but not least, our database gives us the capability of adding a personal photo or a family photo. Because our church directory is old and outdated, we would love for each of our families to e-mail a personal or family photo to Kris Miller to be put into our database. It doesn’t have to be anything fancy, just a snapshot taken with your cell phone works just fine.

E-mail photos to krism@graceandover.org

Associate Pastor



What is Normal?

By Maria Markman

People of Grace,

July 12th, 2020, I was anxiously awaiting news about our future together at Grace. I had just spent the weekend with my cousin and her girlfriend and by the time Sunday rolled around, they knew what I was waiting for. Waiting to hear if I had received the votes required to be called as Grace Lutheran Church’s new Associate Pastor of Faith Formation. My position as Director of Children’s Ministry began as just that, but quickly and quietly morphed into a nine month interview and visioning process of what we could do together in the name of Christ! And as I anxiously awaited that phone call about “the vote,” I wondered if all of you had been interviewing me all that time too, visioning, dreaming, and praying about what we could do if we had more time together. As luck would have it, I was in the other room when my phone rang, with Chad Hadler on the other end calling with some news, he left a message requesting I return his call. This message immediately sent me into a tailspin. I tried to dissect the timbre and tone of his voice, anything that would tell me the outcome he was calling to share. I had no idea! There was only one thing left to do, return his call. As soon as he answered, I knew he had called with good news to share! There was no hiding his excitement, or mine, in that phone call. The phone call that shared that I had received the call as Associate Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Andover! And just as I was sure of the good news Chad was calling to share, I was affirmed in my call to continue to share Good News! Not just the news to family and friends, who were also anxiously awaiting this news, but the News I am called to share as a minister of Word and Sacrament affirmed in the ordi-

Assoc. Pastor (Cont.)

nation vows I will soon take (August 22nd at 2:00pm on Bockman Hall lawn at Luther Seminary in St. Paul) and made manifest through the teaching of Scripture, creeds, and confessions, in the faithful use of the means of Grace, and through the opportunity to share God's gifts of grace and forgiveness through the sacraments.

I am so grateful to the community of Grace for extending this call to me! I am so excited to begin this work. I have been preparing for since my very own baptism (if you are curious about the story, please ask, I would love to share it with you!). And now during the rest of my time off, as I settle into the idea of my new normal, I reflect on the idea of normalcy. It seems so normal that I am here at this point in my life, starting the career of my dreams, the ministry to which I am called; and yet there is nothing normal about this job. It seems so normal that at almost 30 years old, I would be moving from my parent's home and into a home of my own. And after spending four months in and out of quarantine and stay at home orders, my move seems anything but normal too! And so I think about what God would say about normal. What is normal? And a quick concordance search proves the Bible says very little about normal, in fact, the Bible is way more concerned with antonyms of normal than synonyms. God has a lot to say about transformation, about growth, about reformation, than keeping with the status quo or living a normal life. Recently, I came across a quote by activist and poet Sonya Renee Taylor, she says, "We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate, and lack. We should not long return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment. One that fits all of humanity." So as we move into this new chapter together, let us be challenged to do the things we have been called to do in new and transformed ways. In some ways, we will have to because our pandemic circumstances require it, starting in a new position or hiring a new associate pastor re-

quires it too! We will experience many challenges together and hopefully we won't fall back on normal to answer those challenges, hopefully we will look toward our fully present, ever loving, transformational God to be our guide!

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect" Romans 12:2.

Thanks for inviting the challenge!

In Christ,

Pastor Maria Markman

Children's Ministries

 *Grace kids!*



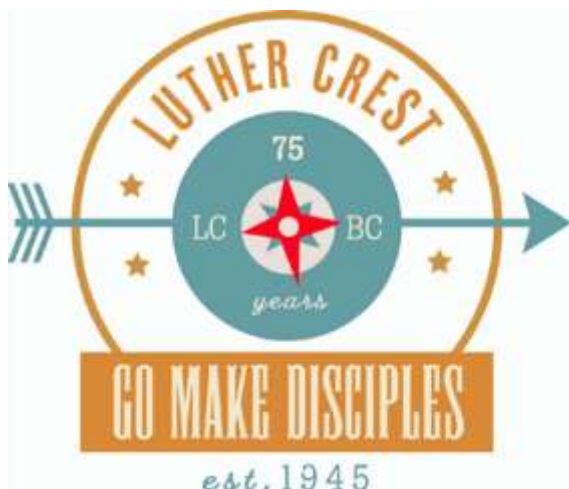
Children's Ministry Needs

By Maria Markman

If you are interested in volunteering with Children's Ministry in any way please contact Pastor Maria Markman mariam@graceandover.org

- SONday School and Kids Night Out Volunteers
Sunday morning or Wednesday evening commitments
 - Adults or High School Students Teachers (solo or team teach)
 - Adults or High School Students Concierge (help connect kids with their teachers, hall monitor, etc.)
 - Middle School classroom assistants
- Help Prep Lessons and supplies. Preparation dates and times: after 10:30 worship in the fellowship hall
 - August 30
 - October 11
 - November 1

Children's Ministries



New Update: Summer Evening Bible Camp

By Maria Markman

We are excited to announce our partnership with Luther Crest Bible Camp, who will be helping us, with our NEW free **Summer Evening Bible Camp** (formally known as Vacation Bible School). Because the program this summer will look different than in years past, we wanted to change the name to reflect the new camp. Our theme is still **Go! Make Disciples!** We will study Matthew 28:19-20, which we will lean into this great commission given by Jesus to his disciples even if "going" looks a little different right now.

This new **Summer Evening Bible Camp** is for kids ages 5 years old thru 5th grade. This year the camp will be held **2 WAYS** - virtually with supplies for crafts and games available for pick up at church. BUT for those kids and families that want to attend LIVE - we have that option now too! **Starting Monday evening from 6 pm-8 pm August 10th thru Thursday August 13th**, we are planning to meet in the front lawn of church - move into the sanctuary for a brief welcome and introduction to our theme, then enjoy all the camp activities under tents in the front lawn of the church. We will do a bible lesson, make crafts, sing songs, play games, and eat a prepackaged snack. Masks will be required to be worn when we are inside and we will have

hand sanitizer and safety measures in place for safe learning. Because we want to stay safe, **WE ARE LIMITING THIS CAMP TO 40 KIDS!** That means **you must register to be able to attend.** These spots will go **FAST** so **SIGN UP TODAY!** It is very important for you to register so we can plan accordingly.



Family Event: Bike Ride at Bunker Hills Regional Park

By Maria Markman

Mark your calendars for the Grace Lutheran Children's Ministry Family Bike Ride

August 15, 2020 1:00-3:00PM at Bunker Hills Regional Park.

There are two entrances to Bunker Hills Regional Park. We will not be at the Bunker Beach entrance, but rather the entrance farther down Bunker Lake Blvd. The entrance we will be at, you do not have to pay to enter. If you are required to pay, you are at the wrong entrance and will not be able to find us! Your whole family is invited to attend. Come when you can, stay while you can, leave when you must. We will observe proper social distancing protocols.



Continuing VIRTUAL Wednesday and Sunday Family Devotions

By Maria Markman

We realize due to the COVID-19 pandemic this is still a challenging time for families. We hope that these resources are a source of hope for you and a way your family can grow and strengthen in faith and relationship with one another!

Children's Ministry



What's new in Children's Ministry at Grace

By Maria Markman

We find ourselves once again in transition at Grace as we welcome Pastor Maria Markman into a new role as Associate Pastor of Faith Formation. Together we are living, learning, growing and experiencing GRACE! Children's ministry at Grace is quite possibly at the heart of this transition. Things already look different, because living through a pandemic requires us to do things a little differently. In addition to pandemic adjustments, Grace has decided not to hire for the position of Children's Ministry Director. Although this is the case, our Children's Ministry Team and volunteers with Pastor Maria's leadership will continue to accentuate our commitment to the families of Grace and faith formation. We will continue to work together to provide meaningful faith practices and programs for your children and families. With COVID-19 still a reality, all our plans for Fall 2020 are tentative and subject to change as pandemic protocols change. Thank you for your patience and attention while we navigate this time together gracefully. So what will this look like? What's new?

Children's Ministry Emails

Most important at this time might be, how are you staying connected? How are you getting your Grace information? As details of events, activities, and worship change weekly, if not daily, make sure you are staying connected. If you are not receiving Children's Ministry emails (SONday School and devotional content as well as information on events and activities) and would like to receive them, please email Marlam@graceandover.org and we will add you to our email list.

SONday School

As soon as it is safe to do so, we will return to weekly SONday School during worship on Sunday mornings at 8:45 and 10:30. Children will begin in worship with their families before being dismissed to their classrooms after the children's message.

We will continue to use the "Bloom!" in faith curriculum. This curriculum is designed by an ELCA pastor to follow the narrative lectionary. This ensures families, whether in church or at SONday School, are learning the same lessons. We know that faith grows when it is nurtured at home, because families will have common language about these stories of our faith, we hope you will be able to talk about your faith together at home.

Kids Night Out

Like with SONday School, as soon as it is safe to do so, we will return to Wednesday night kids and family programming. Each Wednesday evening starting as early as September 23rd (Pandemic protocols permitting) we will begin the night with Family Pizza. Come enjoy some pizza for \$1.50 a slice, and fellowship with other Grace families. Then Catechism students (6-8 graders) will be released to their programming at 6:30 pm while children kindergarten through 5th grade will stay in the fellowship hall for their own faith formation programming. All levels will be released at 7:45 PM. In line with Pastor Maria's call to Grace as Associate Pastor of Faith Formation (for all ages at Grace), we are experimenting with ways to include family learning opportunities, service projects, intergenerational events, and more. Keep your eyes open for Children's Ministry Emails, Weekly Grace at a Glance Emails, or Facebook for more information.

Important Dates

September 12/13: Rally Weekend (Register your family for Fall programming)

September 19/20: God's Work, Our Hands, look for ways your family can serve!

September 20: Sunday School Starts

September 23: KNO starts

October 4: Oktoberfest

October 14: NO KNO

October:18 NO SONday School

October 28 Trunk or Treat (5:30PM)

Youth Ministry



Youth Ministries Updates

By Kristi Larson

Greetings Grace Lutheran, particularly youth and families. There are a lot of unknowns right now regarding the fall and the world we will be in. Students may be in school, sports and activities, or we may be sheltering in place at some point. Much like our summer schedule, we want to be cautious and safe, but also want to find ways for youth and families to connect. We need to be flexible enough to move activities online or into smaller groups as well.

A few things we do know: Catechism and Youth Ministry in some form, will happen this year. We also know that this will look differently from the past. Catechism in particular will look different. In order to keep our "large groups" small we will no longer meet in a group with all 3 grades. Instead, students will meet with just their grade and move into small groups from there. We also will have an online option for students to stream the lesson and then meet in their small group virtually and/or do a lesson from home with an adult.

Families with students in 6th - 12th grade: you will be receiving more information regarding registration and schedules in the next few weeks. Please be on the lookout for it in your email.

Ninth grade Own Your Faith students, parents and mentors will have a blessing at the meeting scheduled for September 27th. Please continue to keep this date open. We hope to do an in person blessing and a virtual meeting on that date. The nature of Own Your Faith and the mentor program is very flexible and should translate well this year regardless of COVID-19. Be on the lookout for more information in August.

Youth Ministry is very important in our congregation and helping kids explore and understand their spirituality and relationship with God is vital as they grow. Youth education may look very different this year and it may change a few times as we go along. Please continue to pray for parents and youth, as we embark on the 2020-2021 program year. If you are interested in helping with youth ministry either virtually or in person, please reach out to Kristi Larson at KristiL@graceandover.org.

Sand Creek Ministry



Attention: Grace Folks!

By Ann Lange

As the Faith and Community Partner to Sand Creek Elementary, we do plan to have our usual Sand Creek School Supplies drive. However, until we know more on how schools will be opening, stay tuned for information and details on how we do this in future Grace at a Glance communications.



Sand Creek Elementary Thank You Video

By Ann Lange

As many of you know, Grace Lutheran Church supports the students and staff of Sand Creek Elementary School throughout the year in a variety of ways. These include providing food, school supplies, Christmas gifts and food baskets for families in need, as well as offering notes of encouragement to teachers and staff. They – and the students and families of Sand Creek are extremely grateful for everything that Grace does for them. You might remember seeing a very touching video at the end of the 2018-19 school year in which the teachers and staff expressed their heartfelt "THANKS" to the people of Grace. Well, they've done it again this year – another wonderful video (featuring the staff from their own homes) expressing their deep gratitude to our community of faith. Please take a few minutes to watch this video on Grace's website at graceandover.org. It's truly heartwarming to hear directly from those impacted by our gifts to Sand Creek. Thanks to all of you who have supported Sand Creek in tangible gifts and through your financial contributions. You are making a difference!

Outreach Ministries



Grace4Rakai Update

By Scott Christensen

Many of you have been asking how the people in Rakai, Uganda have been doing during this global pandemic. Uganda has had only 1,000+ confirmed cases and relatively few deaths. The borders to neighboring countries are

closed, and Rakai remains in lock down. Schools and markets are closed and people are confined to their homes. Hunger remains a **HUGE** concern and people have died from malaria and health issues due to the fact that there is no access to medical care.

Through the generous donations of so many, African Children Today (ACT) has been able to provide food boxes to more than 3,000 families in Rakai during the pandemic. Food boxes contain rice, beans and maize flour (which is milled at the new mill in Rakai), and each box feeds a family of 8 for an entire month! Many lives have been saved during this pandemic through the generous support of Grace members who have funded food boxes. Never underestimate what your dollars - and God's Spirit - can do!

Although schools remain closed, teachers continue to be paid their salaries. Teachers have been doing their best to support students with school packets delivered to their homes. ACT believes that when students are able to return to school, it will be important that they be placed with the same teachers they had before the pandemic.

Despite challenging circumstances, construction has begun on a new ACT High School that will be located right next to the ACT Junior School. (Thankfully, the Ugandan government is allowing outdoor construction projects like this to proceed.) The new high school will serve children ages 12 to 18 and will offer classes in the sciences, mathematics, and other subjects to prepare young people for teacher's colleges, careers and other vocations. The workers are living on site and are provided much needed income during

this difficult time for their families. ACT dreams that the school may be able to open with a few classes in 2021.

The most critical need in Rakai remains access to food. If you are interested in making a financial contribution toward food boxes for families in need, please make your check (in any amount) payable to ACT, write "COVID FOOD" in the subject line, and send it to: African Children Today, P.O. Box 390123, Edina, MN 55439

THANK YOU for your generous support of the vulnerable women and children in Rakai!



NOISY OFFERINGS

By Debbie Jorgens

All Noisy Offerings received throughout the month of August will be given to the ACBC Food Shelf in Anoka. While donations of food are appreciated, financial contributions are especially important right now because this allows ACBC to be more strategic in what they purchase. We've also learned that ACBC has an outreach program which currently delivers groceries on a monthly basis to approximately 70 low-income people. The cost is roughly \$25.00 per person (for food, delivery, and administrative costs). The need is great, as in addition to those who are currently being served by this program, there are another 30 people on a waiting list.

Thank you for continuing to contribute your Noisy Offerings! You are making a tangible difference in the lives of people in need!

Outreach Ministries



SUPPLY DRIVE FOR HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

By Debbie Jorgens
Happening now
through Friday,
August 21st!

Since opening their doors to help the people of south Minneapolis in the aftermath of George Floyd's death, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has seen a very consistent need for specific items. Among them are **diapers,* baby wipes, and bar soap/body wash**. Our goal is to collect **50 of each** of these items by Friday, August 21. It may seem like a lofty goal, but if anyone can accomplish it, the people of Grace can!

You can drop off your donations at Grace - on the table just inside the doors - and we'll get them to Holy Trinity. And *please donate only the items listed here*. Thank you!!

* While diapers of all sizes are appreciated, there's a particular need for size 6 and pull-up's.



God's Work, Our Hands

By Debbie Jorgens

We may not know what it looks like yet, but one thing we *do* know: God's call is always to love and serve our neighbors! With that in mind, Grace will celebrate "God's Work, Our Hands" on Sunday, September 20th! We're in need of people to help plan this event, which we anticipate will be primarily outdoors, although we believe we can have limited indoor activities geared to very small groups.

If you're willing to help with this event - whether it's being on the planning team and/or volunteering to help lead activities - please contact Debbie Jorgens via email (debbiej@graceandover.org) or phone (763-370-9902). Thank you for considering this opportunity!

Front Page (Cont.)

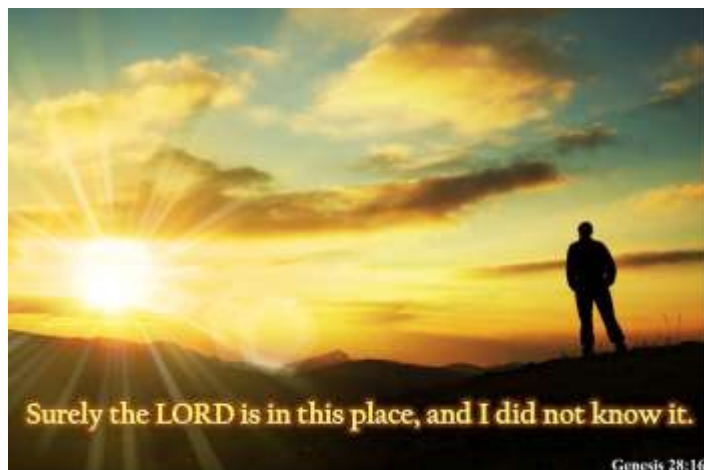
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Our plan moving forward for worship is this: We will continue parking lot worship, with the addition of our lawn chairs, going forward every Sunday at 9am in August. On August 1st, added Saturday evening worship outside on the lawn. If there is bad weather, we will move Saturday night worship inside for those who wish to come in with us. We will experiment with Saturday night worship on August 1st, and 8th. On August 22nd, we will **not** be having Saturday evening worship, because Maria Markman will be getting ordained (2 pm at Luther Seminary), but you are invited! On August 30th we will be adding an indoor worship service. As of now, we don't know if we will be offering an indoor **and** outdoor worship service, but we want to move indoors before September so that we can figure out how to do it well with all of the new parameters, while many of you are still in summer mode.

When we move indoors, we will be exposing ourselves to more risks. We cannot eliminate the risks that are present because of COVID-19, but we will do our best to mitigate the risks by limiting the number of people in our worship space, sitting physically distant from each other, and wearing masks. I know many of you are praying for us as we move forward. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your support. Thank you for being people of grace, not only in name, but in action.

There is no question in my mind that surely God is in this place and in all of you!

Pastor Joanna Mitchell



Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.

Genesis 28:16



Grace Lutheran Church

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

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TRUST IN THE LORD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
AND DO NOT LEAN ON
YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING.

Proverbs 3:5