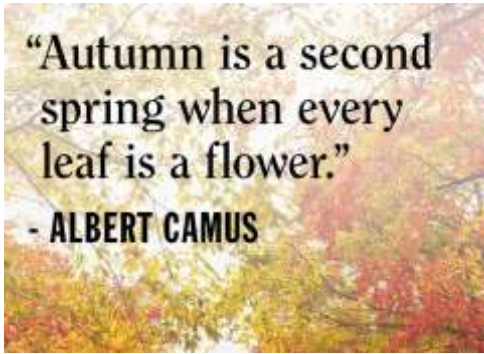




# grace notes

August 2021



“Autumn is a second  
spring when every  
leaf is a flower.”

- ALBERT CAMUS

## *Getting Ready*

My dad likes to say that one of the best parts of a trip is planning it. When you plan a trip or an activity, you get to dream a little bit about what that new experience will be like. Of course, there are all the surprise happenings along the way that make things memorable, but planning and anticipation is something that should not go unnoticed.

I have been feeling that way about fall at Grace Lutheran Church. I am so excited about this fall and in large part, some of the fun is dreaming about what life will be like as we come back together again. There are so many great small group opportunities for people to participate in. I am really, REALLY excited about our Wednesday evening line-up which includes faith formation for people of all ages, along with a brief worship at the end. I am also looking forward to sharing with you all the architectural plans that Kevin Busch and Associates are putting together to help us update our building for the future. I hope that you are excited too!

After a year of very little interaction, and a year of disappointment, it is fun to dream again. It is fun to look at the possibilities that are in front of us, and to start to get ready. Right now we have a whole line up of food trucks and community opportunities on our agenda. Please put them on your calendar.

One of our core values at Grace is Connection. As a community of faith, we are seeking to deepen our connections with God, with one another, and with our community as a whole. These connections happen in a variety of ways, through zoom and online meetings. They also happen when we join together for worship, when we eat together, when we dream together, when we pray together. If you have not been back in church since the pandemic, and have been worshipping at home, I hope that you will reach out, call me and tell me how you are doing. If you have been thinking about coming back to in-person worship, I want to invite you to come on in and give it a try. It's been so wonderful to connect in worship again. Or if after a year of being isolated, you are looking to reengage, I hope that you will try out one of our small groups, or come to one of our many community events. We are missing so many of you at Grace and there are many opportunities in front of us. I do know that whatever is in front of us, and even if my plans get rearranged or disorganized (after the pandemic, who knows anymore) that God is leading us and our church forward. God has helped us find a way, when it seemed uncertain, and I am excited to keep following God, wherever God might lead us. So I hope you will join me in getting ready!

Blessings,  
Pastor Joanna Mitchell



## Building Task Force

### Building Task Force Update

The Building Task Force continues its progress. Recall, the classroom portables have a life span of 2 more years and then they must go. The portables have our only A.D.A. lavatory facilities and they account for roughly 2000 square feet of our classrooms.

In January the Congregation approved the sale of our Nightingale property. It has been sold to a local developer for housing. The income from that sale will be reinvested into our current location.

The Building Task Force has interviewed and discussed architects and from the candidates, have engaged Busch Architects as our partner in determining how we replace the imminent loss of portable space into permanent space within our facility. We are also exploring other needs that are missing, under-sized or in need of freshening.

Many groups have assisted the architects in explaining their needs and wants for their particular ministry. Groups include music, youth, education, day care, staff, maintenance and others. From these conversations, trends emerged that match our missions and give ideas of the space needs to help fulfill goals.

First drafts of ideas translated into floor plans that were presented by Busch last week and are focused on gathering spaces, both large and small. Golden Rule Day Care, an integral mission within the facility forever, and now recognized as a strength, is a mission requiring more space. Education was the tenant group of the portables, and the space lost needs replacement. Storage has been missing and the corners of rooms throughout the building show the results. Those busy corners are consuming working space and lead to unattractive surroundings.

In addition to new or revised space, there are maintenance needs that must be addressed. The parking lot is beyond its service life. Roofs need attention. Once the portables are gone, the area requires reclamation. Lighting, painting, furnishings are other needs.

Reading this I would venture that there is a question of money. I had mentioned the income from the sale of Nightingale will be reinvested in our facility, but to make all these needs whole, additional money will be required. A capital campaign is in its formative stages with the expectation that it's introduction will be in late September- October.

Additionally, by mid-September we hope to have some renderings, floor plans and elevations by the architects that give us a peek as to what can be done at different price points. It is expected this information will start dialogues moving us toward our destination.

All of this is only possible with the Holy Spirit working within each of us; praying and discerning our future on this site.

Charlie Wold



### Finances

\*To better align with accounting practices, dedicated revenues and expenses have been separated from operating revenue and expenses to give a more accurate picture of our financial standing.



#### Jan. 1 to June 30, 2021

Current & Capital Offerings-\$429,361.85  
Expenses—\$423,434.43  
Mortgage Balance \$445,141.48  
Dedicated Offerings—\$15,838.05  
Dedicated Fund Totals -\$43,815.25

#### Jan. 1 to June 30, 2020

Current & Capital Offerings-\$375,058.21  
Expenses—\$376,431.82  
Mortgage Balance \$532,809.73  
Dedicated Offerings-\$6,215.16  
Dedicated Fund Totals-\$38,072.34

## Vision Board

### *There is Joy...*

Today I showed up at church to mow grass. Not particularly joyful, it was hot and I had just finished a long day at the hospital...

I pulled into the parking lot. It's Tuesday and the Farmer's Market is in full swing! Once I found a place to park, I felt a surge of familiarity, something I had been missing...

Church was alive with people!!! People shopping for veggies and flowers, parents picking their kids up from daycare, a blood donation drive in full swing, staff's smiling faces when I walked in the door.

I mowed grass, one of my favorite introverted activities! Once completed I washed my feet and face up in the hose outside (mowing's a dirty job) and headed inside for Vision Board. There we talked about all the exciting stuff on the horizon for Grace, welcoming David Phelps to our Music Ministries permanently, an upcoming digital sign, and potential building renovations. Also we rejoiced in the spectacular success of our first Food Truck event. It was so much fun!! I left excited, shaking off 18 months of everything that a global pandemic has thrown at us.

On the drive home God spoke to me in song as God often does...the refrain from my speakers proclaiming

*"There's joy in the house of the Lord  
Our God is surely in this place  
And we won't be quiet  
We shout out Your praise"*

Joy is most certainly at Grace! I can't wait to see you there soon.

In Joy and thanksgiving for all God gives us,  
*Lori Ackerson*

Song credit: House of the Lord—Phil Wickham

## Music Ministry

### MUSIC AT GRACE

As we move back into in-person worship and music, you are ALL invited to participate. If anyone wants to make music, there will be an opportunity. We have a few opportunities available already and will be creating more soon!



**Grace Choir:** Currently rehearses once a week for 90 minutes (starting at the end of August) and will sing two or three Sundays a month.

**Praise Team:** Rehearses on Saturday afternoons (before the 5pm service), and sings for the 5pm and 10:(30)am services each week.

**Special Music:** We always welcome solos or small ensembles to share music with us as well! If you are interested in sharing your musical gifts in worship through Special Music, contact David Phelps!

We are also looking into expanding the music program to include *instrumental groups*, and get our *children and youth involved*!

If you are interested in any of these, or have questions about the music program at Grace, please contact David Phelps at [davidp@graceandover.org](mailto:davidp@graceandover.org)



### WORSHIP TECH OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in assisting from behind the scenes? We are looking for people to run our **projectors**, **streaming service**, and **sound board** during worship. If your first thought is "I'm not a tech person, it's not for me," you will be surprised how easy it is to learn!

You will be trained by a staff member, and there are detailed instructions if you forget anything!

Contact David Phelps if interested, or if you have any questions [davidp@graceandover.org](mailto:davidp@graceandover.org)



## Ministries



### Dear Women of Grace and beyond,

Every year, God invites the women of Grace and surrounding communities to spend time together in study, prayer, conversation, in laughter and tears, and in loving service to others. In WOW, women can get to know each other beyond the casual acquaintance level. We do that by studying a book of the Bible or more contemporary literature which may invite deeper understanding of our faith and relationship with God and others.

WOW might be for you if:

- You are newly retired and you could use some social time and some stimulating conversation.
- You are a full time mother of young children and you might be blessed by time spent with women of all ages and diverse experiences, women who hold decades of wisdom in the care of children and family. Childcare is even provided!
- You are a quilter and find your Wednesday mornings empty.
- You are working from home now and you suddenly have the option of zooming with a group of women.
- You have a friend or neighbor that you would love to get to know better who might just need that invitation to join a group.
- You find yourself seeking to deepen your understanding of the Bible or to deepen your relationship with your Creator and your sisters in faith.

Wherever you find yourself, you are invited to join **WOMEN ON WEDNESDAYS, (WOW), starting September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am-11:15am** at the church. As groups are formed, according to the level of interest, there may be Zoom groups as well as in person groups. Our calendar year goes along with Anoka Hennepin School District schedule. We hope to see you there. For more information please contact Anne Weikle at [weikle3@msn.com](mailto:weikle3@msn.com)

### Stepping Stone



Gifts of Grace for the Homeless - The collection of \$25 gift cards from Target or Walmart, or filled Target "Gifts of Grace" bags for approximately 80 homeless residents at Stepping Stone. Look for more information about Gifts of Grace in November!



### Grace4Rakai

The Grace4Rakai Ministry Team is excited to be highlighting the weekend of November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at Grace Lutheran Church to lift up our friends and colleagues at ACT (African Children Today) who live in Rakai, Uganda. Many of us in this congregation sponsor children there and we want to continue to provide updates and critical support for ACT's outreach efforts. During this Fall weekend at Grace, we will provide you with updates on our sponsor children and the ACT Junior School; have an opportunity to purchase items made by the Hope Again Women from Rakai and learn more about what amazing and exciting things are happening there. We will provide updates on the Medical Clinic, Amazing Grace Bakery, the Milling Operation and updates on the progress of the new High School being built. We will also highlight the scholarship fund that the Grace4Rakai Ministry Team has established to provide financial support as needed for children sponsored by the Grace community. Even though the global COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted our friends in Rakai, we want to celebrate the generosity that the Grace community has provided over this past year. We look forward to seeing you this weekend and celebrating what God and this Ministry team are doing in Rakai.

## Ministries



### Grace's Partnership with Sand Creek Elementary

Below are ways Grace serves Sand Creek Elementary and ways you can get involved! Mark your calendars with these upcoming dates:

- School Supplies will be collected and delivered to Sand Creek the first week of school Sept 8-10. Posting of the school needs and collecting the school supply donations will be the weekends of August 21-22, August 28-29, and Sept 4-5.
- Warm Mittens/Gloves and Hats donations will be collected during the months of October/November.
- Holiday Food Baskets for Sand Creek:
  - Thanksgiving 2021 - Delivery will be on Nov 23 - We will be asking for 10-14 lb. frozen turkey donations during the two weeks prior to this date.
  - Christmas 2021 - Delivery will be on Dec 22 - We may be asking for Simek's frozen lasagna donations during the two weeks prior to this date.
  - Easter 2022 - Delivery will be on April 14 - We may ask for \$25 gift cards from Cub or Walmart two weeks prior to this date.
- Christmas Adopt-A-Family - Sign up to Adopt Sand Creek families will be prior to black Friday shopping on Nov 26, and collection of gifts or gift cards will be Dec 11-12 and Dec 18-19 for delivery to Sand Creek on Dec 22.
- Throughout the school year we also take specific healthy snack donations for children in need. For more information contact Ann Lange (ann.lange@comcast.net).



### Our Mission

"Empowering families experiencing housing insecurity to build a foundation of lasting independence."

With the onset of the Covid pandemic, Family Promise began housing families in an extended stay hotel. We will continue this practice until we can move them to a static site some time next summer. During this transition period we will still need the support of Grace Lutheran Church and all of our church partners to provide hospitality needs for these families.

Grace Lutheran will provide hospitality for the families two more times this year. The weeks of September 26<sup>th</sup> and November 28<sup>th</sup>. Watch for a list of needed items and other opportunities to serve in upcoming Grace at a Glance weekly updates. For more information contact Alden Riley.

I close with this excerpt from Claas Ehler's Blog:

### Housing Is Justice

This year's Family Promise Innovation Summit featured a recurrent theme—**a country where a child's housing status does not define their future**. In his keynote speech, Family Promise CEO Claas Ehlers said, "If there were justice in housing, every child would have a home because an equitable society where everyone has power would not allow our current system to perpetuate and profit from family homelessness, regardless of ethnicity."

Poverty alone does not explain homelessness. Black, Indigenous and LGBTQ people are overrepresented among the homeless population. In our own area, people from minority backgrounds may be as much as four times more likely than White people to experience homelessness. This disproportionality is, in large part, a product of historical practices in the housing market—redlining, exclusionary zoning, predatory lending and other building blocks of structural racism.

## Small Groups



### Adult Education Small Group Offerings

Sign up for Small Groups on Realm now. Registration will include specific times, dates, and purchase options for each offering. If you have any questions contact Pastor Maria Markman.



### OK @ Play (Old Kids) going to Headflyer Brewing

**Tuesday, August 10, 6:00-8:30pm.** Join us for fellowship, food and some good beer (or soda if you prefer). Cost is \$12 per person which includes one beer or soda of your choice, sloppy joes, beans, chips, pickles and some yummy desserts. Sign up via Sign Up Genius. Link is available on the Grace website as well as the weekly Grace At A Glance. For any questions please contact Ann Lange at [ann.lange@comcast.net](mailto:ann.lange@comcast.net)



### Woman's Retreat

Please join the Women's Retreat Ministry team for two amazing events this

fall. The first event is a half-day live retreat at Grace Lutheran Church on **Saturday Oct 2, 2021 from 9am to noon.** This event will be filled with fun and fellowship and a little creativity. We invite ALL Grace women and their friends to come. At this fun event, you will meet and get to know more women at our church, laugh a lot, have some snacks and do a little craft painting project. We hope to see you at our event on Saturday Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> – registration will be required so we can make sure we have everything planned for you! Be on the look out to register on Realm soon.

Our second Women's Retreat Ministry team event is our over-night weekend winter retreat at **Luther Point Bible Camp on Friday February 18-Sunday February 20, 2022.** This will be our 5<sup>th</sup> year for this amazing retreat and we hope you can join us. We have everything planned and provided for you except your over-night bag – The team will provide all your meals, daily devotion sessions, lots of free time, snacks and wonderful women fellowship that you can only get at a Women's Retreat. Our goal for this retreat is to grow in relationship with one another and God; provide tangible spiritual take-aways to apply to your daily life and have LOTS OF FUN AND LAUGHTER. This Women's Retreat is also a safe and encouraging environment where EVERYONE is invited to come. Space is limited so registration will be required for this event- be on the look out to register on Realm soon. More details on cost and car-pooling will be included as well. Can't wait to see all you Fabulous Women this Fall!

### Grace

### Quilters



Create, sew, tie, and fellowship together. If this sounds like something you've been longing to learn or do, join the Grace Quilters. We can teach you the how and you can sew at home or at the church as we do have 3 sewing machines waiting to tempt you and your creativity. The group makes quilts for many charities and families in need. Grace Quilters meet on **Monday mornings from 9 AM to Noon.** Join the fun and fellowship! If you want individual instruction, call Low Jackson at 763-762-6151 and she will arrange it with you. All skill levels are encouraged to join us and bring a friend or two, too, the more the merrier!



### Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle is a group of mostly retired women who **meet the first Monday of each month** following quilters (12 PM) Bring your lunch and join Pastor Maria and others as we engage the Gather magazine monthly Bible Study. We will begin September 13 (September 6 is Labor Day). Pastor Maria Markman will have extra copies of the study for those who don't have a subscription or who would like to try it out.



## Small Groups



### 8 Weeks of Evening

#### Centering Prayer

Be Still and Know that I am  
God. Psalm 46:10

Many of us have hectic and hurried lives. Sometimes the cares of life can feel extremely heavy. One way of releasing the burdens and better recognizing our priorities is to be intentional about spending time with our Creator in silent prayer. Centering Prayer is a prayer practice where one chooses to quiet the mind and simply be in the presence of God. If you have been curious to learn more about Centering Prayer or might benefit from support in your practice, please consider joining us this fall. We are planning to meet in person in the worship center at **7:30-8:30pm on Thursday evenings from September 23rd to November 11th**. Please contact Anne Weikle at [weikle3@msn.com](mailto:weikle3@msn.com) with questions or to indicate you will be joining us. You may also call the church office. While it is not necessary to sign up, it would be helpful to know about how many people are coming. This will be a time for beginners as well as people who have been practicing for a long time. Feel free to attend as many sessions as fit your schedule and join us even if you are not able to make it to each one.



### Graceful Seniors

Graceful Seniors is a group of mostly retired folks who meet the **second Tuesday of each month** at 8:30am in the Fel-

lowship Hall for breakfast and a brief study time. In the fall, we will be continuing our Story Study. We will be discussing other topics like funeral and legacy planning, as well as grief as our time together continues. For more information please contact Pastor Maria Markman

### Qigong

#### Practice Group

**Begins September 8**  
**Meets every other**  
**Wednesday at 10 am,**  
**for up to 90 minutes**  
**Grace Classrooms**  
**105/107**



SPRING FOREST  
QIGONG

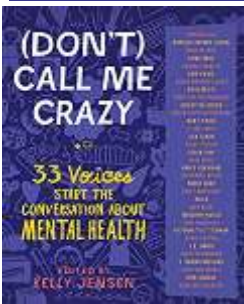
Are you ready to improve your well being by learning practical ways to keep you and your loved ones healthier – longer? Well... the Qigong Practice Group at Grace Lutheran Church may be just the opportunity you are looking for. A small group has been practicing Qigong (chee-gong) over the summer and has found it to be a fun and insightful way to cultivate and maintain personal health and wellbeing.

Each session includes focused, gentle movements (yet very powerful), sitting meditations and practical information on how to maintain your health and that of your friends or family. Clothing is casual. There is no cost, and you do not have to be a church member to attend.

Qigong is one of the fundamental components of Traditional Chinese Medicine, as practiced by the Chinese since ancient times. Many find Qigong practice as a helpful aide to our Western medicine pharmaceuticals and surgical procedures.

The Qigong Practice Group at Grace is led by Randy Sparer, trained as an energy healer in Spring Forest Qigong. He has practiced qigong for nearly 20 years and has worked in the pharmaceutical and medical devices fields. If interested, please call or text Randy at 612-812-2392. Our group would like for you to join us!

## Small Groups



**"(Don't) Call Me Crazy"**  
Mondays from  
6:30 to 8pm

"Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice, and belonging is having that voice be heard." During our discussion, we will celebrate the diversity of backgrounds, stories, and mental illnesses that this book explores as well as the stories being brought by participants. We aim to be inclusive in our language and our perspectives. We will create a brave space for people to learn more about themselves and help end the stigma that surrounds those living with mental illness. In working towards these goals together we will continue to foster conversations about mental illness, mental health, and the people whose stories are being told. Bekah Hirt and Nancy Jenkins from our Mental Health Team will be leading this small group. We will meet in person at Grace from 6:30 to 7:45 pm for 6 Monday nights. Copies of this book may be purchased online at Barnes and Noble, eBay or Amazon. E-versions are also available for purchase and a few versions may be borrowed from the church office.

### Conversations on Race and Culture



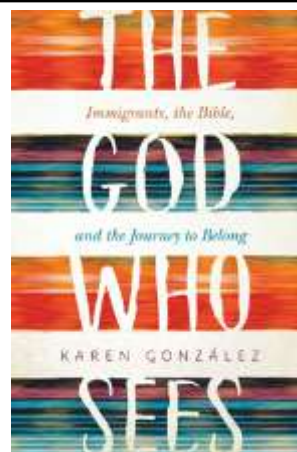
Returning after a brief summer pause, our conversations on culture and race will continue with conversations in September and October. Our society is deeply divided in many ways. Learning about others' experiences increases our compassion and understanding. These conversations are based in our belief that all are created in the image of God and are bearers of God's creative and redeeming love. If you have topics you are interested in learning more about or if you would like to lead a conversation, please contact Pastor Maria Markman.

- **Hispanic Heritage- September 23, 2021 6:30-8 PM Fellowship Hall**
- **Indigenous People- October 5, 2021 6:30-8 PM Fellowship Hall**



**The Chosen Season**  
One Watch party and  
Bible Study group -  
Sundays 6-8PM

Join Daron Yates, Mike Schaaf and others in watching and following along with the official companion study to Season 1 of *The Chosen*, the groundbreaking television series about the life of Jesus. *What Does It Mean to be Chosen?* parallels each episode, connecting you to the Bible in a brand-new way. As a group, each week (9-weeks), you will watch an episode, study, and share a meal together. Discounted books are available for participants at Grace, however if you do not need a discounted study book we ask that you purchase your own online. Contact Pastor Maria Markman with any questions.



**"The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the journey to belong"**  
Thursdays  
6:30-8PM

A book and Bible Study co-lead by Pastor Maria Markman and Bekah Hirt. With the help of God, we pray our eyes will be opened to the needs of immigrants in our own community as together we study the Bible following the path of the book, *The God Who Sees* by Karen González. In *The God Who Sees*, immigration advocate Karen González recounts her family's migration from Guatemala to Los Angeles and the suburbs of south Florida. Here, too, is the sweeping epic of immigrants and refugees in Scripture -intrepid hears of the faith cross borders and seek refuge... Find the power of Jesus, a refugee Savior who calls us to become citizens in a country not of this world.



## Youth Ministry



### Adult Leaders Needed for Middle School and High School!

Are you wanting to add some energy in your life? Do you enjoy silly (and serious) conversations with young people? Did you grow up with an important adult in your life that helped shape who you are as a person, and now want to pay it forward? We are looking for adults that are interested in making a difference in the lives of our youth in a variety of ways. We need Catechism small group leaders, one on one mentors for our 9th grade students, people to serve pizza on Wednesdays, adult leaders for events and even people to help with some of the administration work for Youth Ministry. If you are interested in getting to know some of the coolest young people you will ever meet, please contact Kristi Larson at KristiL@graceandover.org.



### Catechism Informational Meeting

**Wednesday, September 8th, 6:30 – 7:30 pm**

For 6th grade students, new Catechism students and parents! Join us to get an overview of the program, meet Kristi, ask questions, and connect with other families. Contact Kristi Larson with any questions. (7th and 8th grade students new to Catechism are also asked to attend.) Not sure if Catechism is for you? Join us to hear more about who we are, what we do and why Catechism will be a great addition to your week! For parents interested in being a Catechism small group leader, there is training following the meeting at 7:30pm.

### Own Your Faith Blessing

**September 12th at  
8:45am & 10:30am worship**

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. The blessing for all 9th grade students on September 12th will begin their final steps towards Confirmation in the spring. The blessing will take place during worship both the 8:45 and 10:30 service. (Families can choose which service to participate.) Please note the date change from previous communication. Further details regarding the student/mentor/parent meeting and the Own Your Faith Fall Retreat on October 21st/22nd will be coming your way in August!



### Catechism is BACK in person and full of new surprises!

Catechism kick-off is September 15th for all 6 – 8th grade students from 6:30–8:00pm. Kick off night is an evening to connect with others, see your friends again and have a lot of FUN. This fall we are partnering with adult ministries and children's ministry to explore "What God is Like." Catechism large group begins at 6:30pm every Wednesday. After our small group time we will move into multi-generation worship from 7:30-8:00pm and families are encouraged to join us. Check out the Catechism Website for more information and to register.

### Catechism

### Catechism Class

**(6th– 8th Grade)**

**Wednesdays begin-  
ning Sept. 18th 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 6:30-8:00pm and ALL 6-8th 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) 6th grade students and those new to catechism this year please see the details on the parent/student meeting on September 4th!



### Family Pizza

After a long year away, Family Pizza returns on September 22nd! Say goodbye to cooking and dishes on Wednesdays and join us for pizza, salad and time to connect with others at Grace every Wednesday from 6:00-6:30pm. Pizza and salad are sold for a small cost – but the connection is priceless!

### September Youth Ministry Schedule:

- 9/8**-6th Grade & New Student/Parent Mtg @ 6:30pm & Catechism Leader Training @ 7:30– 8:30pm
- 9/15**-Catechism Kick-off for all 6th-8th grade students @6:30 – 8pm (NO FAMILY PIZZA)
- 9/22**-Family Pizza @ 6-6:30pm, Catechism & Worship @6:30-8pm, High School Youth Group begins! (Worship at 7:30pm and hang out time to follow)
- 9/29**-Family Pizza @6-6:30pm, Catechism and worship @ 6:30–8pm, High School Youth Group

## Children's Ministry

### Nursery Information



*(Children from Birth to 3.5 years)*

It is so important to us at Grace that children and their families are welcome in worship. When children and youth are involved in worship, together as a community, we nurture a sense of life-long discipleship and energize the whole congregation. Children are always welcomed in church, in the fullness of who they are giggling, fidgeting, sleeping, and wondering. But we also recognize that having children in worship can be difficult on families and as a result we are committed to offering **Nursery Room Care** for those who might need it. We just began rolling out a new program when COVID-19 shut our doors. We would like to reintroduce this new program where trained High School Volunteers staff the nursery at both the 8:45am and 10:30am services on Sundays. This allows our parents to be in worship and our High School youth to earn money toward their summer mission trips. Nursery staffing will begin September 12th. For more information about Nursery staffing or to volunteer contact [kristil@graceandover.org](mailto:kristil@graceandover.org)



*Be a Sunday School  
or  
Wednesday Volunteer*  
*Sign up today on Realm*

We hope this year to have multiple classrooms open to our children, splitting them into grade level classrooms. In order to do this we need 16 volunteers on Sunday. Volunteers can be any age 7th grade and above. We would like a minimum of two teachers per classroom. Volunteers must be in high school to teach by themselves. Middle School aged volunteers will function as helpers in our classrooms. Volunteers will need to be at our volunteer training September 8th at 6:30 PM or contact Pastor Maria Markman to schedule another time. Sign up to be a volunteer on Realm. You may also sign up to volunteer with our children on Wednesday nights!



### Sunday School

*(Children ages 3.5- grade 5)*

*Begins September 19th*

*Register today on Realm!*

Children are a vital part of our congregation. Each week children are invited to begin in worship (8:45am or 10:30am) and are dismissed to their Sunday School classrooms after the children's message. It is important to us at Grace that our Sunday school curriculum uses the same readings as used in worship, because although we know faith formation happens at church, faith formation really begins in the home, when families gather to talk about who God is and what God is doing in their lives. This year our curriculum is from Spirit and Truth Publishing, which not only uses the same readings we read in church, also focuses on teaching our kids the amazing story of God's love found in scripture. Contact Pastor Maria Markman with any questions.



### First Communion Class

*Wednesday,  
September 15, 2021  
6:30-8:00PM*

Children of all ages are welcome to the Lord's Table. Historically at Grace, children in third grade have been invited to receive first communion instruction. However, if you believe your child is ready, we welcome them to participate in first communion instruction. In the same way if your child is older than third grade, but they haven't yet received communion instruction, they are invited to attend as well. Parents and children are required to attend this class together. Following our first communion class, children will receive their first communion in worship on October 3rd at either worship service. October 3rd is a very special day where the church celebrates World Communion Day, a day that celebrates Christian unity around the world! Contact Pastor Maria Markman with any questions at [mariam@graceandover.org](mailto:mariam@graceandover.org)

## Children's Ministry

### School Schedule 2021-22

Tues., Sept. 7th	Children's Ministry Team Mtg 6:30pm
Wed., Sept. 8th	Leader Training 6:30pm
Sunday, September 12th	Rally Sunday- Kindergarten Angel Pins in Worship; Nursery is available during worship; Join us after church for a mission fair, bounce house (weather permitting) and fun!
Sun., Sept. 19th	Sunday School Begins (8:45/10:30am)
Wed., Sept. 15th	First Communion Class 6:30-8:00pm
Wednesday, September 22nd	Wednesday Nights at Grace- Family Pizza at 5:30-6:30pm Catechism 6:30-7:25pm Adult Study 6:30-7:25pm Children's Programming 6:30-7:25pm 7:30pm All congregation worship
Sunday, September 26th	God's Work Our Hands Service Day following worship 9:30-10:30am and 11:30-1:00pm Sunday School (8:45/10:30am)
Wed, Sept. 29th	Wednesday Nights at Grace-5:30-8pm
Sunday, October 3rd	Sunday School (8:45/10:30) First Communion Celebration in worship for those who attended instruction on September 15th. New Member Class 11:45am
Wed., Oct. 6th	Wednesday Nights at Grace-5:30-8pm
Sun., Oct. 10th	Sunday School (8:45/10:30am)
Tues., Oct. 12th	Children's Ministry Team Mtg 6:30pm
Wed., Oct. 13th	Wednesday Nights at Grace-5:30-8pm
Sunday, October 17th	Mental Health Weekend Sunday School (8:45/10:30am)
Wed., Oct. 20th	No Wednesday Programming MEA
Sun., Oct. 24th	No Sunday School MEA
Wed., Oct. 27th	Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
Sun., Oct. 31st	Oktoberfest/Sunday School (8:45/10:30)



### Trunk or Treat

**When:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021

**Who:** You and anyone you want to invite, all are welcome!

**Where:** Trunks will line our parking lot beginning at 4:30pm. Treaters and their families are welcome to arrive for the fun beginning at 5:30pm.

If you would like to participate as a decorated vehicle or by donating please, register on Realm (Registration will open October 1, 2021).



### Seeds of Grace/Golden Rule

#### Day Care Needs You

Check out the new name of the day care center here at Grace: Seeds of Grace/Golden Rule Day Care Center. Did you know that Grace has housed a day care center for over 50 years? It is a top-notch affordable day care center in the heart of Andover. Did you know that the day care center is supported by a **Board of Directors**? The board is responsible for many activities related to the functioning and support of the day care, and currently meets quarterly. There are 6 members on the board, along with the Senior Pastor. Two of the members have reached their term limits and the board is in need of 2 new people. Do you have a passion for children? Do you know the workings of a board of directors or have a desire to learn and help guide our daycare into the future? If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Pastor Joanna or Sandy Schmoll.

As I write this, I cannot help but be overwhelmed with great appreciation and love for this daycare because I also attended daycare at Grace many years ago! I have remained a member of Grace and am honored to serve on the board of directors but my term is up. I am excited about the future of Seeds of Grace/Golden Rule and for the children that will pass through its doors and be filled with the love of Jesus. Thank you, Teresa Hedlund



## Events



### Adult Education Speaker Event

**Grace Lutheran Fellowship Hall  
Tuesday, October 5th, 6:30p.m.**

Speaker: Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs, Director of Community Engagement and Racial Justice for Minnesota Council of Churches, Founder of Healing Minnesota Stories and Parish Associate at Church of All Nations Presbyterian Church.

Healing Minnesota Stories exists in part to create dialogue, understanding and healing between Native and non-Native peoples in the Twin Cities area. The aim of this event is to create greater awareness and understanding of the Dakota people, the original people of this area, who too often are invisible in their homeland.



### Dakota Sacred

#### Sites Tour

**Saturday October 16,  
2021, 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

**Meet at Church of St. Peter,**

**1405 Sibley Memorial Highway, St. Paul 55120  
Led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs**

From the Healing Minnesota Stories website, of which this tour is a part: "The tours offer an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through story-telling and experiencing the sites in silence/meditation/reflection."

Participants drive on their own (no carpooling planned) to where the tour begins in the Church of St. Peter parking lot and then we can carpool from there as desired to 3 other sites: Fort Snelling State Park, the Dakota Internment Camp (after the U.S. – Dakota War) site and Pilot Knob Hill, a traditional burial ground.

There is no charge for the tour, but a donation of \$45 to \$75 is suggested. We (at Grace) are asking for \$25 per person which we will collect as everyone arrives; the remainder will be covered by other funds. Of course, donations over the \$25 are welcome, and none at all is required by the MNCC. Give what you are able as with all free-will donations.

This event will require advance registration on the Grace website. For more information, search Healing Minnesota Stories/Minnesota Council of Churches (mnchurches.org). For questions concerning the tour you can contact Leoma Sparer, [Leoma55@msn.com](mailto:Leoma55@msn.com) or 612-310-2967. More details for the day of the tour will be forwarded to those who register.

### Dr. Henry Emmons Speaking on Resilience Sunday, October 17th at 3 pm



Grace Lutheran Church and three other congregations are partnering together to bring Dr. Henry Emmons to Grace! Dr. Emmons will be speaking on the topic of Restoring Resilience at 3 pm on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Emmons is a sought-after presenter and author of 4 books, including "The Chemistry of Joy" and "The Chemistry of Calm". A founding board member of the International Network for Integrative Mental Health, Dr. Emmons has developed programs on mindfulness and professional self-care for the University of Minnesota's Center for Spirituality and Healing, and on resilience for the Penny George Institute for Health and Healing at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. Dr. Emmons is an integrative psychiatrist who weaves together mind-body and natural therapies, mindfulness teachings, and other holistic approaches to mental health problems like depression and anxiety. We believe the topic of resiliency is not only helpful to those who suffer from mental illness, but all of us! Because of his important message, we want as many people to hear Dr. Emmons' presentation. Please join us and invite your friends and neighbors!



### Love of Grace Bazaar

Please join us as a vendor, volunteer, or as a shopper for the Love of Grace Bazaar. This event is always the second Saturday of November; this year it is on Nov 13, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Bazaar is open to vendors within our congregation and outside in our community, all are invited to register. We accept registrations from all vendors on a first come basis. We also need help with donations of food and supplies for the bazaar breakfast and lunch served throughout the event. We will also need man power to move furniture, set up tables, etc. in the evenings of Nov. 11th and 12th and for take down/set up for church on Nov 13th. For questions regarding the Bazaar email Ann Lange ([ann.lange@comcast.net](mailto:ann.lange@comcast.net)).

## Events

### Food and Friendship Food Truck Event

**August 11, 2021 from 6pm-8pm**

Join us for food and friendship and fun! Activities for the evening will include yard games (bring some from home to share), bouncy house, 9 square in the air, and more!

Food Trucks that will be in attendance are  
**Mansetti's and Rustic Chef!**



### Family Dinner & Movie

**Aug. 13, 2021 6-8pm**

Enjoy a fun family night with us! We will be having dinner, followed by a movie in the sanctuary! Families are invited to attend together. Come in your PJs and bring blankets and pillows. If you are not signed up on REALM (our database) please email Kris Miller to register at [krism@graceandover.org](mailto:krism@graceandover.org)

### 20th Anniversary of 9/11

**September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the attacks on the United States. We invite you to join us for a special worship service on Saturday evening at 5pm. Our liturgy, prayers, and music will be a time of reflection and remembrance.



### Rally Sunday is

**Sept. 12, 2021**

Join our fall kick off where we celebrate coming back together as a community of faith. A ministry fair will showcase the outreach teams and events that are happening, eat at the food trucks, play games, bouncy house and kids activities, register for small group classes, Sunday School, Catechism and more. We hope that you will join us for this important connection event. Worship at 8:45am and 10:30am. We will have food trucks from **Rustic Chef, Yummy Tummy and YOUiverse Foodie Waffles.**

### What is God like?

**Wednesday evenings beginning September 22<sup>nd</sup> to Christmas.**

Have you ever wondered what God is really like? There are so many stories in the Bible about God being a king, or a warrior, or our savior. We know that God is a trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but what does that look like and how might we experience that. This year on Wed. evenings, we are offering opportunities for people of all ages to explore this question: "What is God like" using the new children's book by Rachel Held Evans. From 6:30-7:30pm children, catechism students and adults will meet to have age-appropriate learning. We will end our time together with worship from 7:30-8pm. Register on realm today!



### God's Work. Our Hands.

On **September 26<sup>th</sup>** join us for a special Sunday where part of our worship is to serve the community around us. Show God's love by extending your hands in care.



On **October 30<sup>th</sup>** come and celebrate the Reformation and Oktoberfest with Grace. Enjoy music and dancing, games, and activities. We will even have a BINGO tent to add to the fun and Food Trucks! Join us on Sat., Oct. 30th following 5pm worship from 6-8pm.

### All Saint's

### Luminary Event

**Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm**



Drive through the parking lot at Grace Lutheran while remembering loved ones who have gone before us. You will have a chance to decorate a luminary in weeks prior. Music, meditation, and candles will guide your drive through the luminaries.





## *Grace Lutheran Church*

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**2021**  
*Fall Preview*