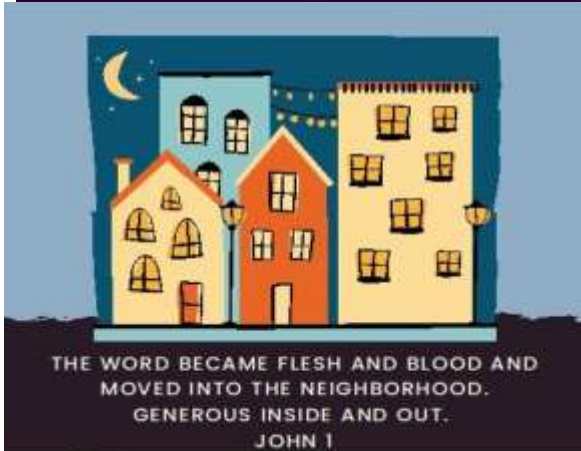


grace notes

April 2022



Transforming Inside and Out: Through Love, Care, Partnership and Generosity

I reread a piece of a journal entry I wrote in early January. I named the questions that this year contained for me. Questions like how would our capital appeal go? What college would my daughter end up selecting? How much longer would I have my mother with me on this earth. These ques-

tions were posed with so many feelings-the unknown seemed overwhelming, and I wondered how I would be transformed in body, mind, and spirit. I wondered who I would be at the conclusion of these events and decisions.

I don't think we can ever imagine or anticipate the tremendous work that God does behind the scenes. These past few months have been filled. Filled with love. Filled with God's Spirit. Filled with compassion. Filled with promise. None of these things are what I imagined this time would be filled with. I had feared, that they would be filled with sorrow, unending work and fear. While there has been sorrow and hard work, and yes, even some fear, that is not what I remember or hold in my heart today. For love has overpowered fear, care has overpowered grief, and partnership from the faithful leaders of Grace has overpowered work. I write this to you today with many emotions, but the most prevalent are abundant gratitude and hope.

Grace Lutheran Church, I have seen God working in and through you over the past three months. It has been such a great privilege to be on the receiving end of your love and care. You are a people who have nourished me with living waters that have quenched my thirst in the moments of my deepest despair, and modeled to me what a life of faith, a life of hope looks like.

The transforming power of the Gospel has never promised us a life without adversity or pain. Instead, Jesus modeled vulnerability, a willingness to be real and tell the truth, a willingness to show up when life is hard, and a willingness to take risk, to trust in God even when it seems absurd.

We have said from day 1 that starting a Generosity Campaign and a building project in a pandemic is absurd. In fact, we held events when COVID numbers were high, and fear abounded in our community, and yet you kept showing up. As gas prices have risen and the stock market fell, commitment cards still came in to Grace, moving me multiple times to tears of gratitude at the generosity I have witnessed. What a privilege it is to be your pastor. What a privilege it is to be loved by this community of faith. What a privilege it is to learn about God with you. You have modeled to me discipleship, generosity, humility and hope, in a time when I desperately needed to experience it.

The last few months have been some of the most transformative times in my 17 years of ministry. I had no idea that God could show up through a building project and a generosity campaign. But God has! Have you felt it too? If you haven't been a part of things, I want to invite you to come-come back into the walls of Grace. Come worship with us. Come to a bible study or small group. Come and learn with me about this God who loves us to the end.

Continued on Page 3

Associate Pastor's Message



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week and Easter

The first church I ever worked at was called Christ Church Lutheran and it is located in the Longfellow Neighborhood in Minneapolis, right across the river from St. Paul. Christ Church is very "high church," meaning liturgy and church tradition were valued high-

ly against contemporary or modern styles of worship. Christ Church tended toward formality. During fellowship time after worship even the kids would drink out of delicate glass juice cups! I learned a lot about worship structure and the seasons of the church, and do and don'ts in accordance with the seasons at Christ. It was also at Christ Church that I fell in love with Holy Week! Holy Week is the week between Passion or Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Holy Week consists of the Triduum or the three days- Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil. Growing up, my family attended church with near perfect attendance and we sat in the row behind the Pastors (how very non-Lutheran of us!). I remember attending at least Good Friday service, but the other services, I have little to no memory of. Probably because of scheduling conflicts --sports and theatre and other programming we were involved in during that time. It wasn't until I began working in a church that I realized how meaningful journeying with Jesus through the events leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection can be! You might be like me, and have little to no understanding of what the services are, or how they fit into your busy schedule. You also might be thinking if these services are as formal as Christ Church, they might not be for me, or for my young kids. The short answer is no. There may not be room in your schedule, but I encourage you to consider making time and consider being involved in the services too. These services, although serious in content, have been designed for all ages to attend. The long answers can be found below in the descriptions of the services offered this year at Grace. We are also looking for families to volunteer at each service to read, sing, serve communion, run tech, and more. If you are available to participate as a leader in worship, reach out to the Grace office!



Blessings, Pastor Maria Markman

Maundy Thursday | April 14th 1:00PM and 7:00PM

This year Maundy Thursday worship will include three parts of Jesus' journey toward the cross, the feast, prayer in the garden and his betrayal and arrest. We will commune at both 1pm and 7pm and we will welcome first communion participants to the table at 7pm.

Good Friday | April 15th 1:00PM and 7:00PM

Jesus' journey toward the cross continues Friday with a service of Word and Song. This will be a service full of special music and congregational singing. It is during Good Friday service where we experience Jesus' suffering and death. At the heart of the service is the passion reading according to John, which celebrates Christ's victory on the cross. Our service will end in silence after a reading of Jesus' burial and a beautiful requiem sung by the choir.

Easter Vigil | Saturday, April 16th 5:00PM

My favorite of the Holy Week services! On the night before Easter, Christians around the world gather to celebrate Christ's passage from death to life! The Vigil is a celebration that starts in the darkness of Good Friday and ends with the feast of Easter! Throughout the service we will be reminded of God's generous provision throughout scripture, ending with the Easter Gospel and Communion. If you have never been to a vigil, this might be the year you come and experience it! Think of reading bedtime stories to your children or sharing stories around a campfire! This is the spirit of the vigil as we move with Jesus from death to resurrection!

Easter Sunday | April 17th 7:00AM, 8:45AM, and 10:30AM

He is risen! He is risen indeed alleluia! Come and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord! Come see signs of new life! Come, hear, taste, see, smell, and feel the love of God and the promise of Christ's defeat over death!

Transforming Inside & Out/Administrator's Corner

Transforming INSIDE + OUT

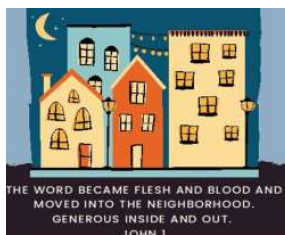
(Continued from page 1)

As of today, we have surpassed our goal of raising \$1.2 million dollars. Official numbers in our database show that we have raised over \$1.5 million dollars and we have received 133 commitment cards! What a gift! We have indeed received grace upon grace.

You might be asking yourself what's next? Great question. First, we celebrate! We celebrate because God has been at work in and through our church. So many people have been praying about this campaign, so let us pray in thanksgiving for what God has done. Second, we invite. Invite others to join in. Yes, we have surpassed our goal, but it is not too late for us to do more with the gifts promised and received, and expand our ministry to care for even more people in our community. Third, we listen. We listen to what you have all said through your commitments, and reflect on the words shared with us about the need for a better kitchen, more storage, and more. Our Building Task Force is meeting along with our Capital Campaign Team tonight to pray, to listen, and to share what we have heard. We will be spending time evaluating how God is inviting us to move forward and sharing this with our Vision Board. We will be gathering information about what future mortgage we might have, and the best way to proceed. Finally, we will come together in prayer and discernment. On May 22nd, we will have our bi-annual meeting in which we will vote on the new vision board members for the next three years, and we will also be presenting plans about how to move forward in our building project. We will be inviting you to consider what is the best next step for the future of Grace. Please mark your calendars and join us on May 22nd at 10am for this important meeting. And please join me as we continue to pray and wonder about what the future holds for Grace and for all of us.

I have new questions I am wondering about today. However, as I wonder about the timeline for the project, and the future of our church, my heart feels full. I know what direction God is leading us; it is a path of love, compassion, and service. I am so excited to be on this journey with you. Thank you for leading me.

Blessings,
Pastor Joanna Mitchell



Administrator's Corner

We are so excited to continue our celebrations from our Transforming Inside & Out campaign! The energy & love are palpable and we look forward to sharing our progress as we make our dreams come true! Pledge statements were sent out and will generate when a change or new pledge is processed. Your pledged contributions will also appear in your statements that will be sent out quarterly. Please review these and let us know if you have any questions. We are so grateful!

On a personal note, Carlos and I would like to thank you for your continued prayers for our family. Samantha went through a "dry run" when we recently received a call that a kidney was available for transplant. Sadly, the kidney failed and we are back on the list, praying. Thank you for your continued love and prayers – we are truly blessed by our Grace family! God's love, Frances



Vision Board



Freedom

Over the years, various pop culture trends have made worldwide impacts, whereas others have garnered barely a passing mention. One of those worldwide trends has been the Disney movie "Frozen" along with its merchandise, marketing, and music. It would be difficult to find anyone within our community that wasn't, at a minimum, aware of the movie, whereas the majority of people could probably recite scenes and songs by heart. If you are the parent of an elementary school child, I'm sure the opening notes of "Let It Go" are all it takes to invoke Idina Menzel's voice in your head for the next few hours. Collectively, we have heard this song on various platforms hundreds of millions of times, but how many of us have actually **listened** to it.

As simple of a statement as this is, we tend to overlook the complex depth of the phrase "**Words have meanings**". When we listen to words and phrases over and over, they tend to be heard, but no longer listened to within our conscious mind. However, our subconscious mind continues to absorb the words, and if those words are meant to change the definition of other words, we subconsciously update our mental dictionary, reflecting the change given us by pop culture. To this end, I propose a slight challenge for my reader – take the next 15 seconds and define the word "**Freedom**".

Interestingly enough, "Freedom" is a hard word to explain without using a negative definition. Many of us can describe perceived antonyms of freedom, such as restraint, captivity, slavery or control, yet how many can describe what "freedom" is? Disney Frozen's Elsa runs into the same issue when she sings: "It's time to see what I can do; To test the limits and break through; No right, no wrong, no rules for me; I'm FREE!" (Did anyone else hear her singing as they read those lines?) Have we collectively been reprogramming our minds to understand that freedom is an absence of moral, social and governmental law? According to Dictionary.com, "a state of society without government or law" is the definition of **Anarchy**!

Who then should we listen to regarding the true definition of "Freedom"? In Psalm 119:45, King David gives us a few clues as to the true meaning of freedom: "*I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.*" King David knew that true freedom was found within the framework of God's Law. James continues the insight when he says, "*But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.*"

Freedom is a state of being in which we humbly submit ourselves to God's perfect Word. Through this submission we are willingly slaves to Christ, whose love for us knows no bounds, and have put our selfish desires to death through the renewal of our minds in Christ Jesus. In all this, we find peace, which is a state of being in which all things are in right relationship with one another, through submission to His good and perfect will. The outcome will be hearts that desire to serve one another.

What we choose to listen to will have a huge impact on who we are as people. If we truly desire peace and freedom, our starting point must be listening to the Word and then heading into the world to be Doers of the Word. James 1:27 "*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*"

Carl Chandler, Vision Board

Devotionals



Life's Surprises

Life can bring you many surprises, both good and bad. God is right there beside you along the way. There are many storms in life, some may be similar to a thunderstorm where you watch and listen. This kind of storm you know will pass by quickly. Others may be similar to a hurricane. Something you know is coming and are able to prepare for, even though you don't know how much damage it will do. You can choose to stay and ride it out or get away to a safer place. Then there is a tornado, that is the part of a

storm that is so unpredictable. That storm can cause a lot of destruction very quickly with little to no warning. A tornado does not have a path, you can't navigate what it will destroy and what will still be standing strong when it is through. Storms are not always the hardest part about our journey, sometimes dealing with the aftermath is. You can choose to stick around and pick up the pieces, or you can walk away and choose to start anew. These storms are teachable lessons, some small and some big. We were always taught to trust God, and love with all of our hearts, pray often, and give grace. Trust that God will navigate you through the storms in your life and bring you to a brighter tomorrow.

Blessings, Steph Chandler

God's Team

A reflection by Stacy Surratt for the Grace 4 Rakai Team and for Grace

I love the Olympic Games! I love watching the different countries, the different sports and the thrill of victory. I am equally proud of the athletes when the American Anthem is played for a Gold Medal. I am truly heartbroken when a fall or misstep happens and there is the agony of defeat. I love how all the athletes come together to form one team for their country. If you are a fan of any sport, you've heard the deafening noise of adoring fans speaking as one team as well. While watching on the couch might give you a better view of the game, it's never as exhilarating or memorable as being live at the event cheering on your team from the stands as one voice



A special energy comes from being part of a shared mission, whether that mission is to win a game or to bring heaven to earth. That's what we do on this ministry team. We are a part of a bigger team that's asking God for permission to reshape our values, our perspective, our lives, and the lives of others in Uganda. When we put God in charge of how we live today, making God our "coach" per se - we join God's team, God's vision.

Now we might seem like a rag-tag bunch of players. But when it comes to this mission, no one is too old or too young. Wherever we've come from and whatever we've done, we all have a place on this team. At times, we are going to get tired and want to give up. Some of us may wake up each morning and think to ourselves... Oh no! It's already Thursday - my week is almost over and I still have so much work to do! Or I don't have enough hours in a day to get it all done! Or we may tell ourselves... Do I really make a difference on this team? The answer is YES! You do make a difference!

The same way a team feeds off the energy of its fans, we can draw strength from one another. When our minds are unified with God anything is possible. As Grace 4 Rakai's mission states "God can do immeasurably more" so much more than we cannot comprehend it. He does this by His Spirit gently and deeply working within us and through us on this team (Ephesians 3:20)! I say it again - we can do IMMEASURABLY MORE with God's help!

In the Bible, Paul reminds the church in Rome of the special power that comes through unity in Christ. "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accordance with Him, that together you may with one voice glorify the God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:5-6)."

So bottom line - God calls us to be on God's team, one team working together for God's glory! When we say yes to God, we are "clothed with His jersey." And everyone --regardless of skin color, age, social status, or past life experience --has a role to play!

Devotional



I Have Been Chosen

Reading from the script at the end of The Chosen episode one/season one where (spoiler alert) Jesus first appears and talks to Mary at one of her lowest points.

Jesus says: "Mary! Mary of Magdala!"

Mary asks: "Who are you? How do you know my name?"

Jesus replies: "Thus says the Lord who created you...and He who formed you: fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

This moving encounter in the first episode comes from Isaiah 43:1-2 (NIV) ¹*But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.*

The words Jesus speaks to Mary ties back to her childhood and is exactly what she needed to hear at that time and place.

I do not recall where I first heard about The Chosen series. But I was intrigued by the idea of a dramatization involving Jesus and how his disciples first encounter him. I was hooked from the start and could not wait for the each new episode to be released. One viewer stated "I feel like I've been reading my Bible in black and white all these years and suddenly it's in COLOR".

I may not have realized it at first, but I believe that I was called by name and "Chosen" to be a part of their marketing team. In conversations with family and friends I would ask – have you watched The Chosen? ...well you should and here is how you can watch it. This led to a discussion with Daron Yates and it clicked that this could and should be shared with the church as a group study. The opportunity to work with Daron (the brains behind the study guide questions) and connect with others was a blessing for me that filled a void. I had been in a spiritual drought brought on by the changes at the church, and the dreaded pandemic keeping us apart. Add to that my shortcoming of not being diligent at studying the bible by myself or without the structure of a group. The Chosen has redeemed my spiritual journey connecting me once again with purpose to dig deeper and share with others. Outside of the group study I have had the pleasure of sharing some quality time with my Mom. We have been watching a new episode each Sunday afternoon and having great conversations. We will have to wait patiently for season three as we only have two weeks left of season two.

Looking back at that season of drought, I am comforted that God said "I will be with you" and that he did not allow me to be swept away from him.

So have you watched The Chosen yet? I believe you know a guy who can help you out.

Shalom-Mike Schaaf

Jan. 1 to Feb. 28, 2022

Current & Capital Offerings \$140,944.66
Other Income \$4,112.76
Expenses \$139,948.21
Building Project Offerings \$54,539.00
Dedicated Offerings \$6,725.92
Dedicated Funds in Balance Sheet \$78,938.23



Jan. 1 to Feb. 28, 2021

Current & Capital Offerings \$157,284.72
Other Income \$16,432.90
Expenses \$165,791.13
Building Project Offerings \$0.00
Dedicated Offerings \$12,205.64
Dedicated Funds in Balance Sheet \$94,960.80

Ministries



Graceful Seniors

Graceful Seniors is a group of mostly retired folks who meet the second Tuesday of each month (April 12th) in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and a Bible study (8:30-10:00 am). In April,

join us for a special presentation with Kay King an adult community educator for NAMI Minnesota (the National Alliance on Mental Illness of MN). Her presentation is titled "Gray Matters: Understanding Depression in Older Adults." More information on Kay and her presentation in the article below. This is a wonderful presentation for you to invite friends and caregivers, or even your adult children to attend with you.

Gray Matters: Understanding Depression in Older Adults



Feelings of sadness, loneliness and grief are normal. However, when this sadness is intense, is felt for a long period of time, interferes with our ability to get along with others or to carry out the activities of everyday life.....then it could be depression. Join NAMI Minnesota to talk about risk factors, warning signs, stigma, treatment, recovery and resources for depression in older adults. Suicide prevention resources will also be discussed. Depression is not a normal part of aging.

Kay King is the Older Adults Program Coordinator and an adult community educator for NAMI Minnesota (the National Alliance on Mental Illness of MN). Each year she teaches about 4,000 families, professionals, community members and people living with mental illness about good mental health, suicide prevention and mental illness. She is a former executive director of a retirement community with independent and assisted living. Kay is a family member and has worked for NAMI Minnesota for 13 years.



Attention All Grace Guys! You are invited to attend Arise With the Guys at Grace Church in Eden Prairie on April 23 at 9:00am. Guest speakers are Ben Roethlisberger and Tony Dungy, two athletes and men of strong faith. Cost is \$10 but if you attend the free breakfast at 7:00am, tickets are free. Carpooling from Grace is available. For more information, see the events page of our website or contact Daron Yates for more info.



Guest Speaker:
Nancy Howe
April 25th at
6:30pm

Parents of middle school through young adult children, save the date for Monday, April 25th at 6:30pm! Guest speaker, Nancy Howe, will be joining us from NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) to talk about early warning signs of mental illness in young people. Did you know that mental illness typically starts to present itself in late adolescents and early adulthood? But what is a warning sign, and what is just....being a teenager? Come learn what to look for in your child (and their friends!) as they grow and mature. All are welcome, so invite your child's grandparents, coaches, and anyone else that interacts with young people on a regular basis.



Women's Retreat Team
is back for another
Women's Half Day Retreat

Grow in Gratitude

What: Breakfast, fellowship & painting a spring pot for planting!
When: Saturday, May 21st 9-Noon
Where: Grace Fellowship Hall
Cost: \$25

Register and pay in Realm today!

Ministries



Grace Gallery

A couple of months ago, I was having a terrible night sleeping. While I lay awake trying to will myself back to sleep an idea came to me! We need art in our hallways. We have talented artists at Grace. We need to showcase their art, but how?!

I have always known that churches throughout time have had art as a way to learn and grow in faith. Poetry, painting, drawing, sculpture, any medium really can help the creator tease out their thoughts and ideas about God and humanity. They can ask big questions through their art and come to new understandings. In the same way art can ask big questions of its viewer and help its viewer to become aware of a new perspective and help them to learn and grow.

This is the reason behind our new art gallery at Grace. The Grace Gallery is located down the education hallway. It is a place for art from experienced artists and inexperienced artists. We are beginning to compile art now. The art showcased in our gallery will represent many different themes and the art will change throughout the year. We have decided to hang it using a wire and hanging clips. This limits how art is displayed but also allows for a variety of shapes and sizes of art pieces. It also allows us to exchange art installations with ease! There are a couple of pieces already on display with their descriptions and artists' names. We are hoping to add to the gallery as more art comes in. If you have a piece of art you would like to display at Grace, please contact Pastor Maria Markman (mariam@graceandover.org).



Grace Friends – I never imagined that my mom would die unexpectedly during our Transforming Inside & Out campaign and yet it is in some ways fitting. My mom and dad were very generous, not just financially but with their love! After my mom's passing, I have experienced YOUR GENEROSITY in new ways! Thank you for your concern, gentleness, prayers, cards, hugs, knowing smiles, and shared tears! Thank you for extending grace upon grace and love upon love.
Your friend, Nancy Jenkins



W.O.W. Reunion for Past and Present Members!

We would love to connect/reconnect with you at Pizza Ranch in Andover on Wednesday, May 4th at 11:30 am.

If you are available for great food and even better conversation, please let Deb Stang know by April 27th at 763-427-3252 or debodellstang@gmail.com (She will be in contact with Pizza Ranch on the number of seats we will need to reserve!)



Creating a Stable Future for Families Experiencing Housing Insecurity

3/14/2022 by Allyson Goettsch

Homelessness is messy. Homelessness is complex. Homelessness is traumatic. Homelessness is a loss.

In 2021, we had the opportunity to apply for a grant to start a Prevention program. Prevention is the furthest upstream of the many services within the Family Promise service continuum. It is proactive and creative at its core. Prevention aims to keep a family stable in their own housing and avoid becoming homeless. Preventing a family from becoming homeless often involves relatively small amounts of money applied strategically.

When families call for intake, they go over a very simple application. If they meet criteria, the Prevention program can provide funds to help with rent, utilities, food, car repairs, etc. It is that financial assistance that bridges the gap in other types of financial assistance and can keep families from coming into a shelter. Families must commit to three months of case management and money management. Funds are typically paid directly to a landlord or utility company or wherever they are needed. Funds are not given directly to the family, but are used on their behalf to ensure the desired outcome is achieved.

Children's Ministry



EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Palm Sunday, April 10th
8:45/10:30 AM Worship

Children's Easter Program in Worship
9:45-10:20AM-BINGO in the Fellowship Hall

11:45am-1:00PM-EGGSTRAVAGANZA

ALL are welcome! Come and worship;
stay for Easter fun, food and fellowship!
No need to sign up, just join us!



First Communion Class

Wednesday April 6th

5:00-7:00PM

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 April 14th (Maundy Thursday Worship) at 7:00pm. Sign up on Realm today!



Children's Ministry Schedule

Sunday, April 3th | Sunday School (8:45/10:30am)

Wednesday, April 6th | Lenten Wed. Night: 5:45-6:30pm Food; 6:30-7:30pm Education; 7:30-8pm Worship. 1st Communion Class (5-7pm)

Sunday, April 10th | **(NO Sunday School)** Palm Sunday Children's Program in worship; Eggstravaganza between and after worship.

Wednesday, April 13th | **(NO Wed. Night Programming)** Holy Week

Thursday, April 14th | Maundy Thursday Worship 1pm & 7pm

Friday, April 15th | Good Friday Worship 1pm & 7pm

Saturday, April 16th | Easter Vigil Worship 5pm

Sunday, April 17th | **(NO Sunday School)** Easter Worship 7:00, 8:45, and 10:30am

Wednesday, April 20th | No Wed. Night Worship; Small Groups for Catechism

Sunday, April 24th | Sunday School (8:45/10:30am)

Wednesday, April 27th | Wednesday Night Programming: 5:45-6:30pm Pizza, 6:30-7:30pm Education, 7:30-8:00pm Worship

Sunday, May 1st | Sunday School (8:45/10:30am)

Wednesday, May 4th | Wednesday Night Programming: 5:45-6:30pm Pizza, 6:30-7:30pm Education, 7:30-8:00pm Worship

Sunday, May 8th | **Last Day of Sunday School** (8:45/10:30am)

Important Dates

April 6th-1st Communion class 5-7pm, April 14th 1st Communion Celebration at Maundy Thursday worship 7pm (Sign up on Realm).

April 9th-Sat. Dress Rehearsal for the Easter Pageant 9:30-11:30 am

April 10th-Palm Sunday Children's Program in both worship services (call time 8:15am); Bingo in between services 9:45-10:20am; Eggstravaganza (Egg Hunt and celebration with lunch) after worships **INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US THIS WEEKEND.**

May 8th-Last day of Sunday School

VBS- June 12th kick off Sun.; 6/13-16 VBS, 6/17th 4th and 5th grade event day, 6/19 VBS Sunday (kids sing in church and special sermon). More details coming soon!



Youth Ministry



Senior Recognition Sunday

High School Seniors and their families are invited to join us for worship and a blessing on Sunday, May 1st during both services (families can choose which service to worship in) and a reception in between. Save the date and be on the look out for a mailed invitation!

Middle School Montana Trip



We still have room for our current 7th and 8th grade students to join us in Montana at Christikon from July 8th–16th! Kids will spend their week mostly on-site (sleeping in a cabin) where they will belong to a “family group” with seven other campers and a counselor. They will spend time hiking, doing service projects, Bible study, and other activities. Kids will also get to spend a night camping out away from the main site. They will meet kids from other places, enjoy some free time, eat great food, and play games. Check out the youth website at www.graceandover.org to register and for more information!



Early Warning Signs of Mental Illness in Youth and Young Adults

Mon., April 25th 6:30–8pm

Join us as we welcome Nancy Howe from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) who will present “Early Warning Signs of Mental Illness in Youth and Young Adults” on Monday, April 25th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Learning goals include:

- Learning the warning signs of mental illness in youth
- Understanding mental illness and the impact on youth
- Learning coping strategies
- Hearing about the suicide warning signs and resources

Please note some material might be sensitive/triggering for some audiences. This class is great for parents, teachers, coaches, and anyone else that interacts with youth and young adults. All are welcome!



Luther Point Bible Camp

July 17th–22nd

Current 3rd – 8th Graders! Are you ready to go to CAMP this summer?! Spend a week at Luther Point Bible Camp where campers learn more about God through worship, Bible studies, games, swimming in the lake, meeting new friends, and hanging out with cool counselors. Participants will experience an Out-post adventure (we will be sleeping in our regular cabins), service project, low-ropes course, and more! Check out the Grace Lutheran Youth Website for more information!



Cooking with Kristi!

Tuesday, April 4th

All high school students are invited to join us on Tuesday, April 4th for our final Cooking with Kristi of the academic year! Come at 6:00pm as we cook something together and then eat dinner! Bring \$5 and a friend!

Youth Ministry

Summer Stretch Is Back!

Are you a current 5th-8th grader and worried you will be bored this summer? Worry no more! Participate this summer in a dynamic ministry that stretches your faith and your friendships at Grace Lutheran Church! **Summer Stretch runs every Thursday (June 23rd – August 4th) from 9:00am – 5:00pm.** Participants will be dropped off and picked up at church.

In the mornings we begin with a devotion or quick Bible Study surrounding our theme: *Our Story, God's Story*. We then load the bus and spend the rest of the morning doing fun service projects around the Twin Cities (Feed My Starving Children, Global Health Ministries, and helping the environment etc.) The afternoons are spent doing a fun recreational activity (Examples: Urban Air, Bunker Beach Water Park, roller skating, Grand Slam, ice skating, an Escape Room, and more!) On August 4th we will spend the entire day at Valleyfair!

At Summer Stretch, students will learn about loving God and our neighbor through service. We will spend part of the time in the morning in Bible Study. Students not only spend time serving our world, but will also learn about key social justice issues facing our city, state, and world, such as clean water, global health issues, global and local hunger, and the environment.

Registration opens April 1st! If you register with your \$100 deposit by May 1st you will receive the early bird special rate! The early bird rate is \$250 and includes 6 weeks of service/recreation PLUS an additional day at Valleyfair on Thursday, Aug. 4th. Transportation to events, admission to all service and recreational activities, guest speakers, admission to Valleyfair, snacks, and a tee shirt are included in the fee. After May 1st the rate increases to \$300. *Families can EARN BACK \$50 by volunteering.* See the Grace website for details on this program. Summer Stretch is limited to 50 students who are currently in 5th-8th grade, so register TODAY so you don't miss out on the fun!

For more information on pricing, frequently asked questions, or to register, check out the Grace Lutheran website www.graceandover.org and click on Summer Fun! Or contact Kristi Larson at KristiL@graceandover.org or 651.230.6057



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

Time & Talent Generosity

Grace is starting a new page in Grace Notes and on the web page, called Time & Talent Generosity. On this page Grace will list all the ways you can donate your time and/or talents all on one page!



What is Altar Guild?

Altar Guild is just fancy words for setting up, resetting and cleaning up on Communion Sundays. It only takes about 30-40 minutes and is a wonderful way to help with Worship behind the scenes. You will be trained on how to set up and clean up the special service elements. Families and adults are welcome (there must be someone over 21 years old dispensing the wine) to join this essential and sacred element of worship. Please contact the Church office.

Technical Assistants

Technical Assistants are needed at each Worship service. It is a way to help during worship behind the scenes and in a vital role! If you can turn on a computer, you can be a technical assistant. Training will be provided. Please contact the Church office.



Vacation Bible School Helpers



We are looking for a variety of volunteers for this year's VBS! VBS will run June 13th-17th. The schedule is:

June 12th-Kick Off Sunday
June 13-16th

- 9-11:30am- Preschool and Kindergarten
- 1-4pm-1st through 5th Graders*

June 17th-4th and 5th Grade Event Day

June 19th-VBS Sunday (kids sing in church and special sermon)

*There will be opportunities for 1-5th graders to be with us all day and pre and post care available for a limited number of students. Please contact Pastor Maria Markman for more information.



Communion Servers

Communion Servers are needed for all Worship times. It is a simple, yet powerful way to be involved during Worship and takes only 10 minutes! What a fulfilling and quick way to help out at Grace. Training will be provided. Please contact the Church office.

Ushers

Worship Ushers are needed each and every Sunday! Ushers help with greeting people, helping people get what they need for worship, control traffic flow during communion and other times, make sure that the welcome table is clean and tidy, and that coffee is available for Sunday Fellowship. All you need to do is come a bit early to worship and stay a bit later. Training will be provided. Please contact the Church office.



Nursery

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Worship Nursery Helpers

Do you like playing with little children (infant to three years old)? Volunteer in the nursery during worship on Sunday! Adult volunteers must be high school students or adults. Middle School students are welcome to help with an adult volunteer. Interested? Reach out to Kristi at kristil@graceandover.org.

Special Events

Easter Season Events

Palm Sunday & Children's Easter Program

Sun. April 10th-8:45am & 10:30am

Eggstravaganza

Sun. April 10th-11:30am

(There will be Bingo in between worships)



Fernandez Family Fundraiser



Sunday May 1, 12:00-3:00pm

Grace Lutheran Church

13655 Round Lake Blvd. NW

Andover, MN 55304

www.graceandover.org

**Sign up on Realm or call the Church Office at
763-421-6520**

Join us in raising funds to benefit the Fernandez Family as
17 year old Samantha awaits a kidney transplant.

\$20 per person entry fee (includes meal)

\$5.00/person food for spectators

Bouncy House for kids

Silent Auction



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Grace Lutheran Church

Lent & Easter Worship Times

Palm Sunday (4/10) Worship 8:45am & 10:30am

Maundy Thursday (4/14) Worship 1pm & 7pm

Good Friday (4/15) Worship 1pm & 7pm

Easter Vigil Saturday (4/16) Worship 5pm

Easter Sunday (4/17) Worship

7am, 8:45am & 10:30am

All Are Welcome!

