

grace notes

May 2023

I'm away with our 9th grade youth this weekend at Luther Camp in Okoboji, Iowa. The theme for the weekend is "I believe," and the content for the weekend is focused on the Apostle's Creed. We even spent a little time this morning looking at Luther's small catechism and his explanations to the parts of the creed. I whispered to the girls I sat with "when I was in confirmation, we had to memorize the explanations." Yes, I aged myself (back in my day, we had to walk up hill both ways in the snow....(I digress)).

I remember in 10th grade (after I had been Confirmed) attending this same camp with my youth group. I don't remember the theme, but I remember that some of the presentation was different than what my own home church taught. It disturbed me. In some ways it felt exclusive and less grace-filled than what I had been taught. This disruption however wasn't bad. It made me wonder and question. It led to ongoing conversations with my youth director and eventually pastors as I tried to figure out what I do believe.

Throughout the years, I have realized that my own trust in God, my own beliefs are less important than God's belief and faithfulness to me. I wish that I had known this as a young person. I wish that I had recognized that faith was a lifelong process of trusting in the promises of God and most importantly that God doesn't give up on me, or on you, no matter what.

This month we have a lot going on at Grace Lutheran. On May 7th, we will bless our graduating High School Seniors, we will hold a Congregational Meeting and vote on the next leaders on our Vision Board. On May 14th, we will hear about the recent mission trip to Belize, and finally on May 21st, 14 young people will affirm their faith through the Rite of Confirmation, their affirmation of baptism. I hope that you will join us for all these important moments as we listen, grow, serve together and share the various ministries happening at Grace.



As I think about our graduating seniors who will be taking this big step into adulthood, and our catechism students, my prayer is that more than anything they know the unconditional love of God, who each day says, "I created you and I love you." This is what I want our kids to trust in, to know in their hearts and minds and spirits. This is what I want all of you to know, that God created you as you are and loves you completely! I believe that more than anything our beliefs are not shaped by some sort of intellectual adherence to the creeds, but shaped by our experience of love, our experience of acceptance and belonging.

I am so grateful in my own life that when I wrestled in my own faith, I had people who welcomed and affirmed my questions, and who allowed me to be seen, heard and accepted for who I am. They were able to say, through their words and actions that God is faithful to me. This transformed my life and my faith more than anything. It allows me to in fact trust in God, because God's faithfulness will never let me go.

Here is my prayer: *God of love, hold all of us in your arms of love today. When life is hard, allow your presence to be felt and for your peace to surround us. When we are struggling to believe in you and in ourselves, assure us that you are near, holding us, and that your grace is enough. God, in all things let us trust in your never-ending love and allow that promise to transform us and the world around us. Amen.* Pastor Joanna Mitchell

Associate Pastor's Message

Confirmation Sunday



To be honest, I don't remember a lot about the day of my Confirmation. I remember my time of study with Wednesday night programming. At my church growing up, we had meals together. "Cafe Midweek" they called it. Then programming, and at the end our catechism classes, would gather together and sing songs. I remember Confirmation camp, the trip we would take to Taylors Falls to camp in tents for a week with other youth from church. We would read the bible, sing songs, and make music videos. We heard stories from our high school chaperones about the difference faith had in their lives, and wondered about that for us too. We slept under the stars. We also canoed and went to Wild Mountain to swim. These were our only showers that week. I remember the pastors driving from Faribault to worship with us and serve us Communion. And I remember preparing for Confirmation Sunday. We had to meet with one of the pastors for an interview. I was terrified. What if I said the wrong thing? What if they told me I couldn't be Confirmed? What if they told me I didn't belong? Alas, none of that happened. What I did realize however, was that Confirmation, that day when I would affirm my Baptism, that day was a new beginning! It wasn't a continuation of my faith as it was, my parents bringing me to church, my position mainly being a learner. No! It was the start of something new. I was responsible for my own faith. I could choose whether to serve or stay home.

This is the journey our 9th graders at Grace have been on this year. They have spent a year intentionally asking questions of their faith and how they practice their faith through a year of self discovery, learning, and mentorship called Own Your Faith. They have gone on retreat with one another. Some have served as volunteers baking communion bread, teaching Sunday School, helping with Children's Ministry events. Some will attend trips with our high school youth this summer. Each is making the decision to continue their faith journey. Not as it was when they were children, but now as adults, hearing for themselves the call to follow the ways of Jesus, to continue to ask questions of their life and faith and seek God, knowing their Baptismal promises still ring true: no matter who we become, or what we do, or how we live, God loves, forgives and hopes for us an abundantly love filled life.

Our Confirmands might have some of the same worries I had in preparing for their interviews and the commitments they will make on Confirmation Sunday about their faith: Will I say something wrong? What if I am told I do not belong? Let us as a congregation full of grace, surround them with that love and grace as they grow in faith and continue their journey of faith and we continue ours right alongside them! Pastor Maria Markman



Please pray for our students affirming their Baptism through the Rite of Confirmation at Grace Sunday May, 21st:

From the beginning, Gracious God, you have encouraged our growth in faith and understanding of your will. Continue to inspire these students and all of us that our hearts may draw closer still to you. May we all be reminded of the baptism that claimed us as your children and your light that shines through us. Amen.

Jonah Engebretson
Danica Lenz
Molly Mayer
Ophelia Norman
Hunter Hawkinson

Jordan Blankenship
Allie Mathews
Joseph Mattson
Julia Gerdes
Collin McCarty

Jaeden Haggerty
Will Ingelin
Lucian Wuorenma

Vision Board

Where Are The Men Of God?

In the summer of 1998, as I was being dropped off at summer camp, little did I know that an event was about to take place that would shape the remainder of my life. It was in that week that I met a boy who would become my lifelong friend. God had a plan for two teenage boys to become friends and in turn influence each other's lives for His glory over the following decades.



As young men are prone to do, we grappled with what it meant to be a man, sharpened each other, held each other to a higher standard, and ultimately shaped each other's lives in unchangeable ways. We watched as our friends chose unwise paths, kicked each other when one of us tried to follow, and helped bear each other's burdens when we paid the price for our sins. The world was continually screaming at us what it meant to be a man, and I would be lying if I said we were immune to the siren's call.

You see, the world has a warped view of what it means to be a man. This view isn't something that Satan or man, in his fallen state, created on their own, yet rather a set of standards that has been perverted from God's original design. God laid out qualities for manliness and our sinful nature has changed them to bring us "glory", and ultimately destruction. God's standard calls for men to fight for righteousness, we fight to show our own strength. God's standard calls us to pursue His Kingdom, we build our chiefdoms. God's standard calls for us to have faith in Him, we put our faith in anything that brings us a moment of good feelings. We have completely lost sight of what God wants from us as men.

When are we going to become active parts of the Church? We work to build our bank accounts and compete with the visual competition of wealth in our neighborhoods, yet ignore the pleas of our families for a father, provider, protector and husband. When are we going to take a leadership role as heads of our families? When are we going to pursue God's peace that puts everything in right relation?

When are the men of God going to come together, take a knee before the Throne of Grace, and rise-up to seek His Kingdom within our realms of influence?

How then are we to live? Paul gives advice to Timothy in 1Timothy 6:11-12 *"¹¹But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith."* We need to begin by seeking scriptural truth. It is time to dig deep into our individual study of God's Word with prayer and supplication. Doing the right thing is impossible if we have no knowledge. With knowledge comes the responsibility to act upon it. When our actions reflect God's righteousness, change begins within our communities. Finally, we are not called to be silent doormats, but rather to speak scriptural truth with meekness. (If you think "meek" means "weak", you may have just found something to study.)

God's plan for men brings Him glory and in turn, us enjoyment. This is what we were created for. It's time to start living into our Creator's purpose.

Carl Chandler
Vision Board

Members of Vision Board provide a monthly reflection in Grace Notes sharing updates or their thoughts on faith. We give thanks for their leadership and perspectives.

Vision Board Nominees



Hi, my name is **Jan Anderson**. My family and I first started attending Grace in 1988 when we moved to Andover from Crystal. Our daughter Jodi was eight years old at the time, and we quickly began participating in the Sunday School program where I played the piano for 10 years. We soon found Grace to be our spiritual home because there were many programs for the youth, including Saints Choir and spiritual dance possibilities. The youth even worked on a musical called "Living On the Edge," and we took it on the road in five states. I even drove one of the vans.

Currently, my husband and I have been married 44 years, and have become involved with the mission opportunities Grace offers, from supporting two children in Rakai, Uganda, to working with HOPE 4 Youth in Anoka. Indeed, one of the things that so attracted us to Grace was its heart for missions. To me, a church should have a servant heart, and Grace fits the bill. I have also been part of the Pastoral Care team and for the past four years have served as one of the team leaders for the WOW program. It's been my privilege to have been on the Call Committee when we invited Pastor Joanna to be a part of our team. I have been excited to also be a part of the Grace Ensemble that shares its musical gifts on occasion. You'll hear me as the tuba, but it's really the keyboard talking.

After retiring from teaching 33 years in Anoka-Hennepin, St. Louis Park, and Fairmont, I have joined three book clubs because the exchange of ideas is crucial to keeping the mind alert. We have endeavored to make the clubs reflect different cultures in order to get a broader perspective. Envisioning a broader perspective is also what I would like to work on by becoming a member of the Vision Board. As we launch our Transforming In and Out program, may we reach beyond our walls to the community in order to reflect diversity, making the fabric of our congregation even stronger. My sincere thanks to the current board for their outstanding work.

James Edward Bell Jr. I have been a member of Grace Lutheran Church since 2022, attending since 2019. I've been married to my wife, Victoria, since August 21, 2021. We have one 3-month-old son, also named James. We live in Elk River, where we like to star gaze with our two dogs. I am a Principal Software Engineer for Samsung, working within the SmartThings division focused on Information Security, Privacy, and Platform Architecture. I also run my own leadership coaching and technical product management consulting company. I believe our church is at an inflection point. We're past the long months of COVID, and our building project is about to get underway. I believe my unique history of activism and community building within my professional life translates well into the challenges we will encounter over the next three years. As we look to navigate more complicated financial and organizational landscapes as we renovate our church and look to grow our community. I bring a unique perspective being from Texas initially, and I believe this helps me reach out to new people not already a part of our church.



Ross Chambers. I have been attending Grace since 2003. I am married to Sue Frischmon since 2001. I have four children, Emma (23), Jack (21), Matthew (19) and Molly (16). I graduated from UMD in 1996 with a Business degree. Since that time, I have been working with my wife and family building a Manufacturing company. I am currently the Plant and Sales Manager. I have hosted Family Promise, regular scripture reader, communion server, and Men's connection group on Tuesday nights. I feel I have developed knowledge, skill and talents that would be beneficial to the Vision Board and the future of Grace Lutheran. I would have a positive and beneficial impact in any of the specific Vision Board committees.

Vision Board Nominees



Hi, my name is **Deb Corey**. I have been a member at Grace since moving to Andover in 1983. I have been married to my husband, Kevin, for 40 years, and we have two married children; Gretchen and Shawn Irvin; Ben and Cristi Corey. We are blessed with twin grandchildren, Lily and Eli Irvin. I am currently retired from a rewarding career at Ameriprise, a financial services company. I served there as an accountant and a technology project manager. I have enjoyed serving at Grace in many ways, some leading, some participating. These include: Sunday School teacher, Offering counter, Church Directory, Family Table, Bible studies, Worship services as a choir member, scripture reader, and communion server. I would like to serve on Grace's Vision Board because I love the people of this church and feel called at this time to assist as we move forward with God's work in this community and beyond.

I am **Dave Jenkins**. Nancy and I have been attending Grace for approximately 6 years. I have been married to my better half, Nancy, for over 27 years. We met in Kansas City and moved home to Minnesota in 2000. We have 3 grown daughters and a son-in-law. I graduated from the University of Iowa. I was a math teacher out of college in Omaha, NE and Brisbane, Australia. After six years I changed to insurance claims where I have been ever since. For over 25 years I have handled automobile claims both locally and nationally. I have volunteered over the years at Grace as an Usher, a part of the garden ministry (weed puller), and sound board operator. Currently I am a Catechism leader, Empty Nester, and member of the mowing group. This winter I was a part of the listening team for the CYF position, participant on the mission trip to Belize, OYF mentor, and chaperone to Lake Okoboji. This summer I am a chaperone for the mission trip to ASP with the high school kids. My interest being on the Vision Board stems from my belief in serving, community, and Grace Lutheran Church. Volunteering has always been part of my life. I enjoy helping others become the best they can be. I want to use my gifts and talents that God gave me to make the world a better place. Community is important so we can help others, learn from others, and make life more rewarding. Grace Lutheran is a vibrant community with an exciting future. I want to help Grace continue to be a shining light in Andover and around the world.



Hello everyone! My name is **Kylie Sand** and I have been attending Grace since I was in the 2nd grade! I grew up in Andover with a fantastic family that includes my mom, dad, and younger brother Isaac, who is 20 years old. We also have a Yorkie puppy named Daisy. Last year I graduated from Bemidji State University with a degree in Elementary Education. This year, I began my teaching journey as an intervention (reading/math) teacher in the Anoka-Hennepin School District. I am also working towards my masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction through Saint Mary's University. I have enjoyed serving and participating at Grace in many ways throughout the years. One of the biggest ways I serve at Grace is through the Seeds of Grace Preschool. I began teaching at the preschool in 2018 and have loved serving alongside the Seeds of Grace staff as well as alongside the church staff to make it a great environment for the kids and the rest of the community. Other ways that I have served at Grace include: communion server, catechism leader, and attending Bible studies. I would like to serve on Grace's Vision Board because I have a passion for the Grace community, especially youth and children ministry. I want to provide a voice and guidance for a rebuilding of the youth, children, and family program as well as how to better incorporate Seeds of Grace into the church to make the community even stronger!

Vision Board Nominees



Hi, my name is Hayley Seide and I have been coming to Grace since 2015. I've been married to my husband Mike for 14 years. We have 2 kids that go to Crooked Lake Elementary - Jacoby is in 5th grade and Kiley is in 4th grade. I am a certified Athletic Trainer and currently work with an orthopedic surgeon where I am able to help patients with the care of their injuries, surgeries and overall health and wellness. Before this, I worked at a high school taking care of the student athletes, developing the Athletic Training program and mentoring many student athletes in an internship program. At Grace, I serve on the Children's Ministry Team and help with events such as Trunk or Treat and Egg-stravaganza. I also serve on the Stepping Stones team, Haiti Missions, listening team for the CYF ministry and many other serving opportunities as they arise. I would like to serve on Grace's Vision Board because this church community made Andover a home to my family and I. I look at this as an opportunity to serve the church and God during this time of transition with the building project and the children, youth and family ministry program.



May 7, 2023

Grace's Celebration Sunday

Grace will be celebrating Graduating Seniors, Wonderful Volunteers, and Amazing Music Ministry. Grace will be welcoming new Vision Board Members who will be elected at The Annual Meeting at 9:45am.

Grace Building Task Force, April 2023 Update



The Building Task Force was enthusiastic and hopeful as we understood our plans for Grace's reconstruction had been released to bidders. We had spent many days and hours reviewing and modifying plans, conversing about our budget, and reaffirming what our mission to the congregation should embody.

Late February, bids were received by our Construction Manager (CM) and there appeared a significant disconnect between our budget and the pricing supplied by responding bidders to the CM. The Task Force was devastated.

Meetings were held to identify where the bidding had derailed. Upon closer review, the mitigation of the differences was up to the Task Force to tackle. From spreadsheet comparisons and conversations, the decision that would possibly yield the most improvement was through the collaborative effort made possible by working with a design/build mechanical contractor. We would leave the original mechanical design behind. Additionally, rather than committing to build all in 2023, a more modest effort will progress this year.

Beginning the first of June, work will progress on the complete redo of the Sanctuary and modernization of the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. By complete redo of the Sanctuary, the efforts shall include additional improvements to enhance sound by covering the existing block walls and introducing sound enhancing panels. New speakers will also be added to allow those sitting in the back of the room to experience qualities similar to those sitting in the front row. Lighting will be improved too. From additional windows on the Bunker Lake Blvd wall to new ceiling and wall fixtures all accompanied by a new brighter paint scheme.

The Narthex will have the main exterior door replaced, ceiling light fixtures to match those in the Sanctuary, and brighter paint. The Fellowship Hall will have new lighting and refreshed paint as well.

If the effort of design/build for the mechanical systems eliminates the disconnect of budget to bids, further efforts may begin later in the Summer. If the pricing gap persists after those mechanical revisions, additional time may be necessary to address closing the differences. Such efforts would then extend the other proposed changes such as bathrooms, entry, daycare, kitchen, etc. into a second phase to begin in the Spring of 2024.

We are committed to replacing the portables, as mandated by the City of Andover, with quality bathrooms and more usable spaces for all church functions. However, it will require patience and prayer to experience the completion.

Belize Mission Trip



Grace Mission Team Traveled to Belize

In March, twelve members from Grace traveled to Belize for a weeklong mission trip. The trip was led by Anna Welle and Greg and Lori Ackerson, and coordinated through the organization called, "Bold Hope". We were joined by 13 people from across the United States as well as two local organizers. The team traveled daily to the work site in Georgetown to accomplish the following:

- Worked with local community members to replace an unsafe roof from a local health clinic
- Added a cement porch to the front of the clinic
- Taught elementary aged students at the local school
- Serve as VBS volunteers
- Oversaw "sports day" as part of VBS
- Fixed some crucial plumbing issues at the school
- Painted the interior and exterior of the bathroom building at the school
- Visited shut ins and others to talk and pray with them
- Provided nursing care to area residents
- Cultivate a vegetable garden for use by the school

Since returning, many at Grace have asked about the trip. For those who have been to Haiti, one of the major benefits of Belize is that they speak English, so no translators were needed. Our common language allowed us to more easily converse and build relationships. The team recently met to discuss future Grace mission trips to Belize and all were in favor. Please watch for future announcements and information about our next mission trip to Belize in February 2024. If you are interested in learning more about participating in a mission trip to Belize, please contact Anna Welle, Greg or Lori Ackerson.



Ministries

Ruth Circle 12:30-2pm

From Nymph to Dragonfly

During the past few 80 degree days, I have seen dragonflies darting in my backyard. A symbol of mental and emotional maturity and understanding of the deeper meaning of life all around the world. This insect transforms from a nymph to an iridescent flyer for a fraction of its life. This is Ruth Circle for me, especially, in our current study of the Ten Commandments in the Women of the ELCA's magazine, "Gather."

Having memorized the Ten Commandments and their meanings from Luther's small catechism during pre-confirmation to looking at them with new eyes through our first Monday of the month study with Pastor Maria. We are going beyond the surface and looking into the deeper implications of the Ten for us today.

Just as the iridescence of a dragonfly changes with the angle of its flight, so does our growth in faith as we study together each month and change from nymph to dragonfly. Embodying love, hope and grace as we continue to "fly about" and mature while sharing and caring for others every day. -Low Jackson, Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle is a group of mostly retired women who meet the first Monday of each month (5/1, 6/5, 7/10) following Quilters 1 (12-12:30pm lunch, 12:30-2:00pm study). Our study together follows the monthly ELCA Gather Magazine Bible Study. Please contact the church office or Low Jackson to participate.



May All Be Fed Food Shelf

Did you know that Grace has a *small emergency food shelf* (May All Be Fed Food Shelf)? We provide three bags of non-perishable food items to anyone in need. Grace's food shelf has been extremely busy this year. We are always in need of donations. We will accept any nonperishable items that are not expired or homemade. Most commonly needed items are soup, cereal, vegetables, pasta, rice and potatoes.

Grace Girl's Night Out



We will meet on May 2nd at 6pm at Acapulco in Andover. The monthly Grace Girl's Night Out is held on the first Tuesday of the month. Future locations TBD and communicated through Grace at a Glance.

No RSVP needed-just come! All women are invited to attend! Hope to see you all there. Thanks Gayle Pacholl for setting this event up! If you have any questions - please email Gayle at pacholls@comcast.net



January 1-March 31, 2023

Current & Capital Offerings \$193,356.16
Other Income \$610.06
Expenses \$224,453.51
Building Project Offerings \$103,668.11
Dedicated Offerings \$9,088.38
Dedicated Funds in Balance Sheet \$95,729.85

January 1-March 31, 2022

Current & Capital Offerings \$221,932.70
Other Income \$841.90
Expenses \$209,346.84
Building Project Offerings \$127,194.97
Dedicated Offerings \$12,445.85
Dedicated Funds in Balance Sheet \$74,117.61

Ministries



Graceful Seniors

Join us May 9th, a group of mostly retired folks for a Bible Study and Fellowship. 8:30-9:00 Donuts and Coffee. 9:00-10:00 Bible Study

This session we will review Revelation and decide what we would like to study next. Contact the church office if you would like to join us!



Family Table

Family Table is an outreach program sponsored by several churches in the area including Grace. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, Grace is privileged to prepare a variety of meals for our guests. Many of our guests have been affected by the rising costs in food and gas, and truly appreciate the meals we provide. Others are looking for opportunities to share a meal, conversation with friends, and get to know Grace. If you are looking for a fun way to volunteer, please check out the *Sign-up Genius* link in Grace At A Glance or Grace's website. The calendar is posted thru July 2023, so you can do some planning. Come help us help others! Whether you are able to volunteer on site or contribute cash or food, we need you! If you have any questions, you can contact Lynda Wilde at lrwilde@comcast.net or call/text 612.418.6444.

Summer Worship



**Summer Worship Schedule:
Beginning Memorial Day
Weekend (May 28th)**

**Sunday 8:30am Traditional,
Sunday 10:00am Contemporary
No Wednesday Evening Worship**

Our Wednesday evening worship was offered this last summer as an option for cabin goers and an evening opportunity. However, due to very low attendance and our upcoming building project (especially sanctuary renovations), we have decided to break from Wednesday worship for the summer from Memorial Day until after Labor Day. We plan to resume Wednesday evening worship in the fall. If you have any questions about this decision, please reach out to Pastor Joanna or members of Vision Board.

Thank you!

Our entire family want to say "THANK YOU" to the Grace Funeral Team and all of those at Grace who sent prayers, cards, hugs, and condolences to our family after the death of our son/brother, Mike Burckhard. We were blessed by all the love and support.



Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Isabel Burckhard, Marie & David Kolar, and the entire Burckhard Family.



Children's Ministry

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School this year is just like sending our kids to camp! We will be partnering with Lord of Life in Ramsey! This change allows Grace to continue outstanding programming for our children while also navigating a building project, and while we search our next Child, Youth, and Family Director. If you're children are interested in attending and for more information, sign up through Lord of Life (QR code below). If you are interested in volunteering, please email Pastor Maria ASAP (mariam@graceandover.org). Joining Lord of Life and Grace together means we will still need many volunteers and donations to make the week a success. As we get closer to June be on the lookout in the blue sheets for items to donate!

In addition to Vacation Bible School Programming in the morning, in the afternoon the older children have the opportunity for more learning! Elaine at Lord of Life just informed me that one of these events will be a trip to the University of Minnesota Bell Planetarium! Your kids will not want to miss this!

Vacation Bible School



June 12-15, 2023

@ Lord of Life
14501 Nowthen Blvd NW, Ramsey, MN



Scan the QR code to Register

Teaming up for a joint VBS
experience: Lord of Life and Grace
Lutheran Churches



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

If you are interested in volunteering for VBS this year please contact Pastor Maria **ASAP**. We need adult leaders for each age group. This position will shepherd kids from their different learning adventures throughout the day. Your main objective will be building relationships with the kids in your group. **We will also need youth volunteers to help with games and crafts.** Time commitment for volunteers June 12-15th ranges from 8:30am-12:15pm and 11:45am-3:30pm. Actual VBS times are 9am-12pm and 12-3pm extra time is added for preparation and clean up. Lord of Life may also want help preparing their church for the week and add extra days to help set up and clean up. If you would be interested in this work please also reach out to Pastor Maria. Volunteers are also invited to join Sunday June 18th for a special VBS worship at Lord of Life, Pastor Maria will be preaching!

Please Pray for Grace's 2023 High School Graduates:



Kyla Abrahamson
Annika Ahlstrand
Jason Blankenship
Samuel Brasgalla
Gracie Brausen
Katie Evans
Addy Farber
Samantha Fernandez
Jesse Fritz

Alex Froslee
Victor Haag
Reya Hadsall
Maiya Haggerty
Camron Hamling
Danika Hanson
Chloe Hoffmann
Tate Johnson
Raeanna Jones

Ben Kopetzki
Christina Lewis
Dash Lewis
Olivia Lien
Carly Lindquist
Samarah Love
Anna Mathews
Natalie Mattson
Aidan McCarty

Anna Slavik
Noah Stromberg
Olivia Surratt
Maya Vanderleest
Lucas Wheeler
Nathan Wilkerson

**This list is based on our current records. We apologize if we missed anyone.*

Youth Ministry



Youth Fundraisers Green Valley Greenhouse Gift Cards

Green Valley Gift Cards are on Sale in the Narthex on Sunday Mornings until May 14th. Proceeds go to support our youth on their trips to:



High School

Sunday Mornings

We will continue to meet Sunday mornings after each service at 10:00am and/or 11:45am in the Youth Room for conversation and games with some friendly competition for a weekly prize and of course, yummy donuts!



Green Ribbon Group First Monday of the Month 6:30-8:30 pm

Green Ribbon Group meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm. This group is for parents/guardians of children who are growing up with mental health ups and downs, atypical identity, and other hard issues. This group is a confidential, non-judgmental, safe space to talk about struggles others may not understand. Child care is provided.

SENT TOGETHER



SUMMER STRETCH 2023

Summer Stretch is a dynamic summer ministry for middle school students who have completed 4th-8th grade! Summer Stretch runs every Thursday (June 22nd – August 3rd - from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.) Participants will need to be dropped off and picked up from Grace Lutheran Church. Each Thursday. The cost (which includes travel, entrance fees, service project fees, guest speakers, snacks, and a tee-shirt) is \$300 (**discount extended through May 15th**) Sign up on Realm today! We are offering two different registration options: a full summer and a 3 week option.

High School Volunteers for Summer Stretch are Needed!



Summer Stretch is a fun summer activity to participate in even if the service work doesn't seem fun. I've been doing summer stretch since I was in middle school when my mom would bring me along with her as a chaperone for when my brother was in middle school. I am a junior leader now. I want to be a junior leader now because I want to help kids have fun with this too. -Bennett Behnke Nead.

\$90 for the whole summer or \$20 a day. For more details and to register to be a High School Junior leader for summer stretch register on Realm.



Summer Stretch

Middle School Youth Join us Thursdays this Summer for Summer Stretch

h

June 22 Rise & Average Joe's Archery

c

June 29 Minneapolis Sculpture Garden-Springbrook Nature Center

t

July 6 Second Harvest Heartland and Cheap Skate

e

July 13 Feed My Starving Children
&
Grand Slam

r

July 20 Global Health Ministries & Urban Air

July 27 Cleaning @ Hope 4 Youth & Bunker Beach

SUMMER

t

2023

August 3-VALLEYFAIR

Cost: \$300 (discount extended through May 15th) Sign up on Realm today!

Other options available: full summer option, the three-week only option.
Check out more details on how to register and High School Opportunities in this issue of Grace Notes.



Grace Lutheran Church

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www.graceandover.org

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Joy

comes in the morning
psalm 30:5



Grace Lutheran Church
...experience grace