

grace notes

August 2023

Summer Reflection and Fall Previews



My summer has been a whirlwind (in some of the best ways). Last year, was filled with planning and trying to get by. This summer I have gone overseas, road trips and also had great opportunities at home.

In July, I spent quality time with my dad and my sister on our trip to Norway. I was able to hear stories about my great-grandfather who immigrated from Norway when he was a young man, stories that I had never heard before. It was amazing to read his journal of growing up in Bergen as we walked around the city. I also spent 4 days away with some of our middle school youth at Summer Festival Camp. We worshipped together, talked about the Bible and also did fun things like treasure hunts, messy fights and silent disco parties. It was a blast! I stayed up too late and got up too early. While I was away, Pastor Maria and Will Weikle (our new CYF Director) were away in Montana with our high school youth. Upon our return we all agreed what a fabulous group of young people we have at Grace. They are smart and funny, caring and navigating the complexity of life, while also being open to God. It is a privilege to hear their questions and to also hear how their understanding of God has been influenced by their experience of grace, acceptance, and love. Thanks be to God!

I am excited to see what's next, to continue to grow our relationships with young people and to explore new opportunities. It is fun to have Will on board and to see his enthusiasm for our children and youth. Thank you for all the ways you invest in our young people and make sure that Grace can be a spiritual home for them.

As I am writing this article, we are driving through Wisconsin traveling on our High School Mission Trip. And yet, it feels like fall is just around the corner. When I met with Pastor Maria this week, we turned the page into September and started discussing the details. How is it possible that fall planning is well underway. It is! In fact, in this newsletter you will see that a lot has been planned for fall at Grace. Never mind the building project that we continue to anticipate and hope to have broken ground on.

As much as I enjoy the different pace of summer, I do love fall. I love the energy and the chance to engage. I love the activities starting up and the regular schedule returning. I don't know what your fall looks like. Perhaps this is a transition year for you, perhaps you are a new empty nester or perhaps you have moved, or you have entered retirement. Or perhaps, you are in a busy time of life and don't have time to add anymore to your life. If this is true that's okay.

I hope as you read through this newsletter, you will take a note of what captures your attention. Are you looking for something new like a grief group? Or are you needing support for your kids mental health? Do you want to serve in new ways? Do you want to strengthen your spirituality through prayer? There are so many great opportunities for you at Grace. I am thankful for the leadership of our people and all of the amazing teams that make Grace the vibrant place it is. If you are at all interested in joining a team, please know that all of our teams are open and want to welcome new people. Please talk to me or any one of our leaders to find out more and mark your calendar!

Pastor Joanna Mitchell

Associate Pastor's Message

Listen, grow, SERVE

August 22nd is the anniversary of my ordination! It is hard to believe that I have been a pastor for 3 years! The Easter following my ordination, Pastor Joanna and I met for a retreat to vision for the future of Grace. It was at this retreat we began to develop our mission statement and values. Pastor Joanna had gathered information from the congregation, Vision Board and staff about Grace, and through this lens our mission was born! *Grace Lutheran is a community of faith united by God's love to listen, grow and serve in the name of Jesus, so that all might experience grace.* Each year since then we have used this statement to focus our year together. We started by listening to God, to each other, to our neighbors. The next year we focused on growing, in faith and in connection with each other and our neighbors. This year our focus is SERVE! This is an area Grace excels!

When I think about the word serve, I first think of outreach and all the things we do! Through the many outreach ministries at Grace and even with each other. Grace loves to serve! This year as we continue to serve our own community and the community beyond our walls, it is my hope that we will explore what are our individual gifts! In faith formation this year we will invite you to take a spiritual gifts inventory. This will help you to see where you might be called to serve!

The challenge with the word serve is that it can so easily become just what we do, not who we are. Service can be driven by our ego, to produce, to perform, or to provide for others, making ourselves little gods for the world. This is dangerous. So another way to think about the word serve, is through the example of Jesus. Jesus was a servant leader, humbling himself. Often we see Jesus working not in some lofty place, but he would go to the people he was serving. He even took the job no one wanted and washed his disciples' feet. We also see Jesus taking time to himself for prayer. Another focus of our faith formation at Grace will be on spiritual practices. Spiritual practices like prayer, Bible study, walking, eating are all simple practices, things we do everyday that shape who we are.

Spiritual gifts and spiritual practices, who we are and what we do. Learning about these areas in the context of our faith formation journey will help us be intentional about our service! This won't be the end of hearing about these things! This Fall preview will explore some of what is to come in faith formation and beyond at Grace as we continue to live out our mission to listen, grow, and serve, so that all might experience grace! | Pastor Maria Markman

CELEBRATING ALL OF GOD'S CREATION:
JOIN US FOR A

**PET
BLESSING**

October 4, 2023
5:30 pm- 6:00 pm



Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices



Adult Faith Formation at Grace applied to be in a 2 year learning cohort through the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA on the topic Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices. Grace has been chosen to be a part of this next cohort beginning Fall 2023. We will explore ancient Christian contemplative practices as well as asset based community engagement. A team has been developed for this work, but we will need help! We are excited to share all that we are learning with all of you and apply it to Grace and beyond our walls, engaging with our community! For more information or to get involved email mariam@graceandover.org.

Vision Board Message



New Beginnings

As we start a new year of Vision Board and move closer to fall, I am anticipating the new things to come over the next several months at Grace. It is an exciting time for our church!

We are so close to finalizing the plans and financial requirements for our building project. I know everyone is anxious for us to "break ground" and truly start the physical work that has been long awaited. So many individuals have put in many, many hours on the building project, and I sincerely thank them for their time and efforts. It

has not been an easy hill to climb, but we will soon see the fruits of everyone's labor begin to take shape in our sanctuary, halls, day care and bathrooms.

We look forward to a new time of children, youth and family ministry with Will Weikle at the helm, shaping our programming and leading our children, youth and families into a new season of learning. I hope everyone joins me in welcoming Will in his new role and encourages and supports him as he moves forward. Our season of waiting on these items is coming to an end, and we will soon be celebrating new beginnings, if we aren't already. As Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

I am also excited to celebrate Rally Sunday with everyone! Vision Board will again be serving breakfast that morning. I look forward to participating in God's Work Our Hands this year and serving along side some of you. I am also very excited for our next mission trip to Belize in February. I hope many of you will join us, as it will be an amazing journey full of connection!

Humbly Yours, Anna Welle, Vision Board President

Highlights from Grace Vision Board-June/July

- Elected new congregational Vision Board officers - Anna Welle, President; Chrissy Gast, Vice President; Holly Dodds, Secretary
- Reviewed and approved the long-awaited revised construction plan from Building Task Force
- Authorized mortgage application process to begin
- Supported continued work in moving Grace savings and checking accounts for better stewardship of our financial resources
- Continued work toward combined financial reporting for Grace and Seeds of Grace
- Approved Adult Faith Formation team's involvement in the synod Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices initiative
- Received updates regarding on-going ministries, personnel transitions and daily operations



FINANCIALS

Income	YTD Actual (as of 6/30/23)	2023 Budget YTD
Grace Contributions	\$371,665	\$396,600
Transforming Receipts	\$182,770	\$250,000
Capital Receipts	\$46,253	\$57,500
Grace Registrations Income	\$17,904	\$29,177
Grace Other Income	\$32,309	\$40,827
Seeds of Grace Tuition Income	\$337,467	\$337,400
Total Income	\$988,367	\$1,111,503
Expenses		
Operational Ministry Expenses	\$757,055	\$834,378
Capital Expenses	\$203,642	\$280,250
Total Expenses (Includes Seeds of Grace Expenses)	\$960,696	\$1,114,628
Operating Margin	\$27,671	\$ (3,125)

Thank You!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ

This is Maria from Ukraine. She wanted to thank you for the 1347 meals you funded through your recent donation to Feed My Starving Children. They are making a profound impact on the lives of individuals living in crisis!

"I received this package a long time ago when I lived in the far east in Ukraine where the first war started, when the Russians come. I just decided to keep it, hold onto it, because it reminds me I know people made an effort to ship it all across the ocean, ship it to the Ukraine, and deliver it to me. When I see it, I'm always grateful for that. Please thank people who packed, who shipped it to me because it seems like it came directly from God"



This woman hung on to that empty bag for **10 years as a reminder of hope and God's provision** to her through you. When our Partner Mission Eurasia brought a truck full of FMSC food to feed her and other refugees *again* in 2022, this time, she broke down in tears and thanked God!

Please help us spread the word about FMSC's mission! Share these 3 easy ways. Pray, Pack, and Provide

Thank you. Until all are Fed

Tracie Peterson

Development Representative
Feed My Starving Children | fmsc.org



A Message From The Weikle's

*Thank
you*

There are no words. We don't know what to say. We are trying to put into words that which is beyond our language. Words of deep sorrow and words of deep gratitude always sound inadequate. For the past few weeks people have come before me with "I don't know what to say." And yet they did know what to feel. Again, only an attempt at putting words to the depth of feeling. Shock. Loss. Inner physical pain, especially around the heart and chest. Clearly shared feelings. Now, as we move through the aftershocks of Matthew's passing, we read the cards, we recall the kindnesses and generosity, we have no words to express our deep gratitude. The Family of Grace stepped into our loss and has truly shared it. We acknowledge the work, the efforts of so many people, the pastors, the musicians, the amazing kitchen team, the church staff, those who set up the church building to receive and welcome those who were mourning with us, the ushers and sound people, and for anyone we are missing, we thank you. For the outpouring of love and comfort in the form of cards, food and hospitality for our family, and memorials for Matthew, we thank you. The day of the funeral had a profound feeling of flowing, palpable love. The source of that love is Jesus, God, and Holy Spirit. So we also acknowledge and give thanks to the Triune God who called into being the Family of Grace. Thank you.

Some people have asked where memorials are to be directed. We have decided on 3 places that seem to echo Matthew's gifts. Haven for Heroes is a veteran support organization in Anoka. Matthew worked there for a summer. Not only did he learn work skills, but he also learned to walk alongside people who were going through a time of healing and recovery. The second is Center for Leadership and Engagement, an organization dedicated to helping people in Minneapolis who long for welcome, safety, and belonging. Finally, we will give a portion designated to the Children, Youth and Family Ministry here at Grace. The children's programming that Matthew received laid the groundwork for a loving, generous, and bold life. We pray that children will continue to be blessed. Thank you, The Weikle's

Grace Lutheran's Fall Preview



Stepping Stone Emergency Housing

Throughout the year, the Grace team picks up and delivers food every Friday from the Andover Pizza Ranch and delivers it to Stepping Stone.

- Christmas Gifts of Grace-This may be gift cards and/or a tote bin for Christmas gift giving for the Stepping Stone residents from the list they provide. We will communicate the list of items as soon as it is provided to us. Most likely mid-November and collect gift donations to be delivered to Stepping Stone around Dec. 15th.



2024 Belize Mission Trip

Interested in going to Belize on the next mission trip? Need more information before deciding? Come to an informational meeting regarding the next mission trip to Belize on Tuesday, August 15th from 7-8pm in Room 105/107. Tentative dates for the trip are set for February 6-13th, 2024. If you would like more information prior to the meeting, please contact Greg or Lori Ackerson or Anna Welle. You can also check out boldhope.org for additional information on Belize.

Funeral Team

This compassionate ministry provides a lunch or bars/cookies and beverages to bereaved families and their friends. Volunteers bake, set up, prepare, serve and clean up allowing grieving families a time of fellowship with supportive family and friends. Most funerals need 20-30 people to provide this loving service. This does not include those who bake or purchase bars and cookies. To help out or for more information contact-Low Jackson, Nancy Jenkins, or Ann Lange.



Love of Grace Bazaar

If the building project allows us to have this event this year, it is scheduled for the second Saturday of November, Nov 11, 2023 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. This event is open to vendors within our congregation and outside in our community, all are invited to register. We accept registrations from all vendors, providing homemade items, on a first come basis.

- We are currently in the process of recruiting 2 more people who are willing to be part of the bazaar team. We will be communicating the information to our vendors as soon as we know the building project plans. If we do have it this year, we will be asking our Grace people to sign up for donations of food and supplies for the bazaar breakfast and lunch we serve. We will also need man power to move furniture, set up tables, chairs, etc. in the late afternoon/evenings of Thursday and Friday Nov 9th-10th. Vendors begin their set up on Fri. Nov 10th from 7:00-8:30pm or Sat. morning prior to the event. Sat. afternoon after the bazaar, we will need help to take down and get everything set back up in the sanctuary, narthex and classrooms for Sunday morning.



Come To The Table (Altar Guild)

This ministry team sets up for communion prior to the service and cleans up following each of the church services. We are eco friendly, so this does involve washing communion cups in the dishwasher, and hand washing communion trays, chalices, etc. We are in need for more people, so please consider this opportunity by calling the Church Office.

Fall Ministries Preview



OK@Play

This is a group for active middle aged to seniors. The OK stands for Old Kids, but we invite all to join our events, no matter what your age! We meet when events are scheduled throughout the year within the church or outside, during the day or evening, week days or weekends. The potential next events coming up on the docket are:

- The Draw Summer Concert Series each week on Thursday in Ramsey till August 17th.
- Willy & Johnnie's-Sept. 6th at 4pm Willy McCoy's & 5:30pm-Tillery's

WOW Reunion

This year's WOW Reunion (for past, present, and future members) will be held at the Andover Pizza Ranch on Wednesday, August 30th from 11:30am-1:30pm. Come alone or bring a friend. It will be great time to connect with women associated with WOW! No need to RSVP, just come! (Remember, if you qualify, Pizza Ranch offers a great senior discount!)



2023-2024 WOW

An Invitation to check us out!

Women On Wednesday (WOW) is gearing up to begin its 26th year this fall on **Wednesday, September 20th at 9:30am** in the Fellowship Hall. Please note this is one week later than it has been in previous years. All women are welcome and we have child care available. We have 5 choices of book studies. In the past few years, two groups met on Zoom and three groups met in person. We all meet in person the first 2 weeks when we choose our books and form groups. WOW follows the Anoka Hennepin School Calendar. WOW has been a wonderful way for women to connect in very meaningful ways. It provides opportunity to explore your faith and beliefs, study the Bible together, ask questions, grow in your prayer life, contribute to the community through service projects, and most of all, have some fun. Please feel free to invite a sister, friend, or neighbor. Many of the women in WOW do not attend Grace but have found a circle of community through their time together in WOW. Questions can be directed to Deb Corey, Mary Welle, or Anne Weikle.



Faith and Community Partnership With Sand Creek Elementary

- Sand Creek Monthly Meetings and Sharing Grace Food Bags - We meet the first Thursday at 3:00pm for our meeting and then packing our monthly Sharing Grace Food Bags during the school year.
- School Supplies are collected mid-July to September 4th and delivered to Sand Creek September 9th. Communications of the school needs and collecting the school supply donations will be ongoing during this timeframe. Donations should be brought to the Narthex.
- Donations for warm mittens/gloves, hats, and possibly emergency clothing needs for student's accidents will be held during the months of October/November and delivered to Sand Creek as we accumulate enough for delivery and their needs.
- Christmas Adopt-A-Family-This event goes into the blue signup sheets mid-November, prior to black Friday shopping on Nov. 24th, for the Grace "Adopters" to sign up for the families. The collection of the gifts and/or gift cards will be in December for delivery to Sand Creek on Dec. 22nd.
- Holiday Food Box Packing-These are approximate packing dates according to the holiday dates. We usually pack from 8-9am.
- Thanksgiving Baskets - Packing and delivery on Nov. 21st in the morning to S.C. We will be asking for 10-14lb. frozen turkey donations during the two weeks prior Nov. 5th & 12th.
- Christmas Baskets - Packing and delivery on Dec. 22nd in the morning to SC. We may be asking for Simek's frozen lasagna donations during the two weeks prior Dec. 11th & 18th.
- Spring Break/No school - March 11-19, 2024-Packing and delivery on March 8th in the morning to S.C. We usually get Thrivent Action Dollars to pay for this event.
- Easter March 31, 2024 - No packing needed, we give gift cards to be delivered March 21st to S.C. We may ask for \$25 gift cards from Cub or Walmart two weeks prior to this date March 18th & 25th.
- Throughout the school year we also take specific healthy snack donations for children in need. For any questions please contact the Church Office.

Fall Ministries Preview



Habitat For Humanity Build

We are excited to announce that once again we have the opportunity to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity as a group! Join us on September 14th for a Grace volunteer event. No construction experience required. They take volunteers as young as 16, if accompanied by a parent or guardian. We can have up to 12 volunteers. The build site will be in Golden Valley and our build shift is from 8:30am-3:30pm. Since 1988, Twin Cities Habitat has helped more than 1,500 families buy an affordable home. Contact Angie Hanson at 612-508-6540 or aj.peacock@yahoo.com, if you have questions or are interested in volunteering.

HOPE 4 Youth



Over the past 10 years, Grace has partnered with HOPE 4 Youth, a non-profit organization in Anoka County, which helps young people ages 16-24 find pathways out of homelessness.

Needs vary widely since 22% of HOPE's clients are also young parents who can use infant supplies, toys, and books, which was the focus of last year's donation drive, as well as this year's God's Work, Our Hands Day on September 10th. Donations can be brought to the church narthex beginning September 1st and ending September 17th. Other items such as hygiene products, headphones, gas cards, etc. will be put in birthday bags on September 17th. A year ago, a committee from Grace started providing a hot meal at the Center on the fourth Tuesday of each month. If any are interested in joining our group or starting your own meal group, please contact Jan Anderson at 763-712-7415.



Girl's Night Out

Girl's Night Out is an informal gathering of women from Grace. It's a fun opportunity to meet new friends and get to know each other a little better.

We meet at a local restaurant at 6:00pm on the first Tuesday of each month for good food and lively conversation. All women of Grace are invited. We simply ask that you sign up on Grace Realm so that we have an idea of how many ladies are planning to attend each month. This helps us let the restaurant know approximately how many of us to expect. But even if you don't sign up, please feel to join us—and bring a friend! Locations are subject to change—details will be announced. We'd love to hear your suggestions for good places to go! Contact Gayle Pacholl for more information.



Building Project Update

We would love to have pages and pictures to show what has happened for our building project, but unfortunately, we don't. And yet, a lot of work is going on. Behind the scenes Vision Board has been working through signing documents and applying for a mortgage. We have been waiting for the final plans to be set and for permits to be pulled. In the meantime, we are grateful for your generosity, patience and for your faithfulness. We are so thankful for Tracie Russell, for her hard work and attention to details in filling out all the paperwork. We still believe we can break ground this fall and anticipate a start date soon!

Social Justice Connection

Join us on the 3rd Sunday of each month starting Sept. 17th to gather in conversation to drive change toward greater equity and diversity. We will meet from 6-8pm and gather in conversational fellowship as we explore articles and films, guided reflections, and intentional discussions. We will explore the intersectionality of race, culture, identities, and monitor our own personal and professional growth. Our meetings will emphasize wholeness, wellness and just relationships for everyone involved. I hope you will consider joining this amazing opportunity as part of your commitment to community engagement and our commitment to diversity and inclusion at Grace. *Amber has participated in similar sessions for the last 3 years. "Growing through community conversations has been transformational. I look forward to each session, as it is a big part of my self-care." These sessions have been so impactful that she wanted to expand to the voices of the Grace/Andover community.* Interested in learning more or have questions? Contact Amber.ringwelski@gmail.com 612-270-7334



Fall Ministries Preview

Woman's Retreat



The Women's Retreat Ministry team wants you to **plan ahead** for an amazing, fun-filled event that is happening in February 2024. This event is our over-night weekend **Women's Winter Retreat at Luther Point Bible Camp on Friday February 23 thru Sunday February 25, 2024**. This will be our 7th year for this incredible retreat and we hope you can join us. 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, and **RELAX**.

We have everything planned and provided for you except your overnight bag – all your meals are provided, daily devotion sessions, carpooling, lots of free time, field trips to local creamery/winery, outdoor hiking (if you so choose), snacks, service project/craft time 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 in the Fall. More details on cost, packing list and car-pooling will be included as well. Can't wait to see all you fabulous women at our retreat in February 2024!

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Do you like to crochet or knit? If you do, would you like to be a part of our group?

We furnish the yarn. You can work at your own speed at home. Once a month we get together for lunch at various restaurants, the third Wednesday of the month at 12:30pm. You bring what you made and pick out yarn for your next project.

We collect the shawls and lap robes to take to Mercy Hospital, cancer centers, and senior centers. So far this year we have given out 49 shawls and lap robes. If you would like to join or need more information please call Bev Jovanovich at 763-427-4122.



Mental Health Ministry

Do you have a passion for mental health? Are you interested in checking out or joining Grace's Mental Health Team? We are an inclusive and diverse group that desires to reduce the stigma of mental illness and show compassion to those who have mental illness or love someone diagnosed with a mental illness. Our ministry is focused on education, awareness and conversation. If you are interested in learning more about our Mental Health Team at Grace, please contact Nancy Jenkins at dnnenkins@comcast.net or 763-354-9764.

New Member Class



Are you interested in joining Grace Lutheran and learning more about our church and the various ways you can grow in faith and serve others? If so, please mark your calendars for our new member classes offered this fall on October 15th and 22nd from 12:30-1:30pm. We look forward to connecting with you.



Graceful Seniors

Join us the 2nd Tuesday of every month, a group of mostly retired folks for a Bible Study and Fellowship. 8:30-9:00am Donuts and Coffee. 9:00-10:00am Bible Study. Come and join the fun! If you would like to join Graceful Seniors please call the Church Office.



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

**Starting September 13, 2023
6:00-6:55pm; Room 105/107**

Have you been looking for a way to strengthen your faith? Have you wanted to read the Bible but didn't know where to start? Come join us on Wednesday evenings Bible study led by Pastor Joanna or Pastor Maria. We will be exploring the preaching text and working our way through the Bible. Starting in January we will move into the Gospel of Mark. No experience necessary. Questions about the Bible welcomed. We hope you will come, listen, learn, and explore the Bible with us!

Fall Ministries Preview

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS Outreach Ministry Event SUNDAY SEPT. 17th

Calling all hands! And feet, voices, and whatever you can offer! Grace will once again be celebrating our annual God's Work Our Hands Outreach Ministry event on Sunday September 17th!

We will begin with **ONE Worship Service on Sept. 17th at 9:00am.** At the end of worship at 10am, we will take a group photo in the Sanctuary and then split up to do many ministry outreach projects in the local community and here at Grace.

We need YOUR participation in this event! The event last year included yard clean up for some of our homebound seniors, projects at Stepping Stones and Sand Creek Elementary, music for seniors at Homestead, and meal prep for vulnerable families at Lord of Life, and more!

Here at Grace there were many indoor projects for young and old, including quilt tying, rolling bandages and hospice kits that are shipped overseas, and notes of encouragement for various groups outside of Grace. We will even be doing a community art project for the Sanctuary. There is truly something for everyone to participate in!

Mark your calendars for Sunday September 17th and look for future sign up opportunities. After our service projects we will gather back at Grace for a meal of celebration and fellowship!

If you can not stay for the entire event, feel free to participate for as long as you can. If you have an idea of a service project that may be needed please contact Scott Christensen at 612-247-3599 or send an e-mail to scottc8970@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at God's Work Our Hands on Sunday September 17th!



GRACE 4 RAKAI

GRACE 4 RAKAI UPDATE

While many of us have been enjoying the summer with trips to the cabin and vacations, the children over in Rakai have been studying hard in school! The current school year started in February and the children are already in their second term.

The Grace sponsored children at the ACT Junior and High School are all doing very well. There were 20+ seventh graders that passed their national exams late last year and advanced to High School where they entered the 8th grade. There were 12 students in 11th grade that took their national exams and advanced to grades 12 and 13 where they will prep for university. Some are also in construction management programs or preparing to become teachers.

The children are truly grateful for all the love and support they receive from their sponsors. If you are a sponsor and haven't written to your sponsored child in a while now would be a great time! For those that may be interested in sponsorship please reach out to Scott Christensen at 612-247-3599 or scottc8970@gmail.com

The Grace 4 Rakai Ministry team will be hosting an event in November to lift up the many ministries we support through ACT in Rakai Uganda. Please look for further updates this fall!

Grounds Ministry

Grounds Ministry team engages in small landscaping projects, rock bed maintenance, tree and stump removal, tree maintenance, grape vine maintenance and planting small patches of grass. pruning, blight marking and monitoring, feeding, watering, pest monitoring and removal, and mulching. This ministry has work sessions as needed. The work is often done in concert with the Garden Ministry team. A pruning work session is usually scheduled in late February/March. A rock bed clean-up and preening work session is usually scheduled after the snow is gone. Grounds Ministry team will be removing and storing the rocks from the labyrinth, which will be undertaken this fall. For more information contact Joe Jackson – Cell: 507-216-2919 or JoeJacksonMN@aol.com



Fall Ministries Preview



Free Mental Health Connect

"Navigator" Services

Did you know that Grace is a member of Mental Health Connect (MHC) which is a faith-based collaborative that provides help to individuals seeking access to mental health treatment and other services. By calling, emailing or texting the Mental Health Connect Navigator service, you can access free, customized, and confidential help. As you may know, living with mental health concerns can be tough and finding help can be even tougher. MHC's Navigators are a resource for individuals needing help with:

- Accessing therapy or counseling services
- Sorting out the insurance system for mental health treatment
- Trying to determine how best to support a loved one living with mental illness

Mental Health Connect Navigators will help you make find mental health care and other support. MHC's Navigator service is free, individualized, and confidential. Their Navigators help remove barriers and complexity so that you can gain access to the right providers and resources for your unique situation. To contact a MHC Navigator, please visit their website: mhconnect.org or email navigator@mnconnect.org. You may also call or text 612-642-1220 Monday through Friday between 9am and 4:30pm.

If you or another person is facing a mental health emergency, please call 988, which is the 24/7 national mental health and suicide emergency hotline. You may also call 800-273-8255 for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Centering Prayer

All are invited to practice Centering Prayer each Thursday at 9:00am in the worship center at Grace. Centering Prayer is a form of Christian contemplative prayer and while it is simple, it can open the inner life to transformative changes. No experience with Centering Prayer required. In the words of Keith Kristich: "Contemplative prayer & meditation are about; cultivating a spirit of not clinging but letting go; building the muscle of release and surrender; embodying the attitude of willingness and non-resistance". Questions can be directed to Nancy Jenkins or Anne Weikle.



Ruth Circle

The first Monday of each month (except for July 4 or Labor Day when it is the 2nd Monday) from 12:30pm to 2pm **all year long** a group of women gather around a table at Grace to engage in bible study from Gather, Women of the ELCA magazine, with Pastor Maria. Ruth Circle meets in room 105/107 for fellowship, dessert and study. If you wish, come join some of the women at noon with your bag lunch before the study begins. Come check us out and the magazine has some great articles, too! Questions/Inquiries—Low Jackson, 763-762-6151



Grace Quilters

Looking to help others? There are many opportunities to assist in making quilts for our neighbors, near and far, and you do **not** have to be a member of Grace Lutheran Church. We welcome all in our serving and fellowship. Please share this with your friends and neighbors.

- Create quilt tops – We have fabric to choose from and cutting tools
- We can loan you one of two sewing machines to create quilt tops at home or church.
- Donate cotton or flannel fabric
- Donate clean, gently used cotton sheets or yardage for quilt backs
- Hand baste and tie quilts on Monday mornings 9am – Noon. (We take a break for fellowship, too.)

We'd enjoy teaching anyone who'd like to learn how to make quilts for homeless veterans and their families, Anoka foster care, Hope 4 Youth, Teen Moms at Anoka Hennepin School District, homeless people in Anoka county, community members in need and so many others. The need is great. Will you be part of Christ's love wrap? Questions/interest? Contact Low Jackson, 763-762-6151

Spring Forest Qigong Group



Spring Forest Qigong practice group led by Randy Sparer meets at Grace the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month at 2:30pm. Through gentle, yet powerful healing movements and meditations, you will learn how to heal yourself. Questions, contact Randy Sparer 612-812-2392.

Fall Ministries Preview



Family Table

Family Table is an outreach program sponsored by several churches in the area including Grace. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, we are privileged to prepare a variety of delicious meals for our guests, many of whom have been affected by the rising costs in food and gas and truly appreciate the meals we provide. So far this year we have served nearly 500 meals! Once again we have been able to offer onsite dining in addition to the drive thru and folks are taking advantage of the opportunity to share a meal and conversation with friends. That also gives us a chance to visit with our guests and get to know them. I personally find that is the best part of Family Table! If you are looking for a fun way to volunteer and great people to work with, please check out the Sign-up Genius link. The calendar is posted thru December 2023 so you can do some planning. Positions fill quickly sometimes, so sign up as soon as you can! Whether you are able to volunteer on site or contribute cash or food, we need you! You are such an important part of our outreach programs and you can make a huge difference in someone's life! Also, if you know of someone who could benefit from our program, please let them know! If you have any questions, you can contact Lynda Wilde at lrwilde@comcast.net or call/text 612.418.6444.

Grace Quilters 2



Our primary mission is to make colorful quilts for the dormitory beds of our precious kids in Rakai. Over the past several years we have sent 345 light-weight quilts. Although Rakai is near the equator, it is on a high plain, so it is not tropical and can get chilly at night.

Our group meets once a month, usually on the morning of the second Friday. We have a lot of fun tying quilts, and all are welcome to come, including kids. No experience is needed, and we provide all necessary tools. Some people work at home sewing tops or doing other preparation for tying. Please consider joining this useful and fun ministry. We would also appreciate donations of cotton fabric and sheets. Contact: Jan Margotto margotto@msn.com /763-434-4617

Family Promise



Since 2010, Family Promise has provided temporary shelter and case management for over 250 families in partnership with Grace Lutheran Church and other local faith communities. This spring, Family Promise began transitioning into a new trauma-informed way to shelter and serve families experiencing homelessness with the opening of the first phase of the Family Promise Campus. Faith community partners and volunteers continue to be essential partners in our work, although their contributions may look different.

Building micro-apartments is the next phase of campus development. This fosters independence and avoids potential stigma for families and children. "Our hope is that, when a young child looks back at their family's time in our program, they won't even realize they were in a shelter," says Executive Director David Frei.

We hope Grace Lutheran Church will continue to share our Family Promise Campus vision and help us raise the \$260,000 total goal by the end of the year. These funds are dedicated to renovate our new spaces to serve families and children experiencing homelessness and building plans for phase two.

Garden Ministry



Garden Ministry meets on Wednesdays from May-September and depending on the temperature either at 6:30pm or 7:00am, yes AM! A pruning work session is usually scheduled in late February/March and a preening work session is usually scheduled after the snow is gone. Garden Ministry tasks are planting, dead-heading, weeding, applying preen, spraying weeds, dividing plants, pruning, mulching, edging maintenance, trapping vermin, and sprinkler maintenance. Also, for the next couple years, our church's building plans will result in the displacement of many of our current flower beds and many of our shrubs. The perennial flowers and some smaller shrubs will need to be transplanted in another location and then transplanted back by our church after construction is complete. For more information please contact Joe Jackson-Cell: 507-216-2919 or JoeJacksonMN@aol.com.

Youth Ministry Preview

Adult Leaders Needed for Middle School & High School



We have an awesome group of young people in our community, and we have a fun year planned. We need YOU to make these ideas possible! One way that you can make a difference in the lives of our youth is becoming a Catechism leader. This is only a 1-year commitment, and we are hoping to have teams of 3 leaders per group. We are also looking for one on one mentors for our 9th grade students going through Own Your Faith. Being an adult leader for an event is another great way you can get a taste of the Youth Ministry here at Grace. Adult leaders must attend training August 27th (2:00-2:00pm) or August 30th (6:00-8:00pm). Please reach out to Will Weikle at WillW@graceandover.org.



Own Your Faith

Mark your calendars for **Own Your Faith** Orientation on September 6th at 7:00pm

in the Fellowship Hall. A bonfire outside church will be directly afterwards, which will include the 10th, 11th, and 12th graders as well, so the youth are invited to stick around afterwards!

9th Graders and Guardians, we hope you can join us for an overview and orientation for your final year of Catechism at Grace Lutheran Church. After 3 years of small groups and events at Grace on Wednesday nights, our 9th graders' final year of Catechism is to work one-on-one with a mentor, as well as become familiar with our high school programming. These one-on-one conversations happen once a month, and all materials are provided by the church. A change to the OYF program this year is that one month per trimester, we will gather as a whole group instead of one-on-one for fellowship, connection, and discussion.

OYF Blessing: Please join us at the 8:45am or 10:30am worship on Sunday, Sept. 10th for the Own Your Faith blessing with the congregation.

Save the Date: September 29th - October 1st

Another very fun (and required) part of Own Your Faith are the retreats! For our fall retreat, we will join the Catechism group to the "Encounter Youth Retreat" at Camp Wapo Lutheran Bible Camp. Please see the Catechism section for more information!



Catechism

6th Grade Families: on Sept. 6th

at 6:00pm we will have Catechism orientation. 7th and 8th graders who are new to the Catechism program are also asked to join. You will receive an overview of the program, meet Will, ask questions, and connect with other families. 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!

6th - 8th graders: Catechism will officially kick off on Sept. 13th from 6:00-8:00pm.



Large group, small group, and worship will run from 6pm-8pm. Worship is a part of the Catechism program. We encourage parents/guardians and siblings to join us for Wednesday night worship, which

begins at 7pm.

6th - 9th graders!

Save the Date: September 29th - October 1st

Grace Youth are going to Camp Wapo Lutheran Bible Camp this fall for an "Encounter Youth Retreat" where we will explore how wide, long, high and deep is the love of Christ for us. Camp costs are \$145 plus travel. We have 30 spots reserved. Sign up while you can! We will depart after school on Friday and return Sunday evening. We will also be looking for adult volunteers to drive and participate. Please consider if you might go to this faith-filled event.

Contact Will Weikle at WillW@graceandover.org for more details. Please register your child on Realm so that we can plan for this upcoming year.



Youth & Children Ministry

High School

Ministry at Grace
9th - 12 Grace

High School Ministry

There is lots of fun stuff happening with high school ministry at Grace this year! Please join us for a bonfire with snacks, drinks, games, and conversation on **September 6th at 8:00pm** for our first event of the school year! We will be right out front at the church! Bring your friends.

We will also have Youth Group every Wednesday evening following worship - starting at 7:45pm. Our time together will be filled with simply hanging out, snacks, games, and devotionals. It will be very laid back, and will be finished no later than 8:45pm.

Our church will also be collaborating with other churches in our area on special events every couple of months! These events have not yet been set, so join me at Youth Group on Wednesday nights to stay in the loop. For more information or questions, please contact Will Weikle at WillW@graceandover.org.

Nursery Information

(Birth to 3.5 years)

It is so important to us at Grace that children and their families are welcome in worship. We embrace the fullness of who our youngest congregation members are in their giggling, fidgeting, sleeping and wondering. But we also recognize that having young children in worship can be difficult on families, and so we are committed to offering Nursery Room Care for those who might need it. There will be trained high schoolers staffing 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 10th.

High Schoolers - If you are interested in joining in on the Nursery rotation, please reach out to Will Weikle at WillW@graceandover.org.



Kids Choir The Treble Makers



We are rebranding our Children's choir this year! We will now be using the fitting name of the "Treble Makers." Instead of rehearsing on Wednesday evenings, we will now be rehearsing between worship services from **9:50-10:20am on Sundays**. Our first rehearsal will be on 9/24. Parents and guardians are invited to join us, enjoy a coffee in the narthex, or take a little break!

We will have lots of fun at Treble Makers. During our 30-minute rehearsal, we sing just-for-fun songs, learn songs to share with the congregation, and play lots of games. We will do a song in church services 5 times throughout the program year (including the Christmas Program). Sign up is free and is open in Realm or scan the QR code. Please contact Will Weikle or David Phelps if you want assistance signing up or have any other questions.



Kids Night Out

Kids Night Out- Wednesday night faith programming for elementary age students. We will learn about the Bible and faith while playing games, making crafts and having fun. Kids Night Out starts September 13th 6:00-7:00pm. Families are welcome and encouraged to stay for worship on Wednesday night too 7:00-7:45pm! See you soon! Register on Realm or by scanning THIS QR code!



Family Pizza Night

Join us for pizza, salad, and connection every Wednesday evening, before programming! Pizza is served from 5:30 - 6:00pm for \$2 per slice. The first day is September 13th. Hope to see you there!



Childrens Ministry Preview



Sunday School

The children in our midst are not "the future of our church" as many people like to say, but a very real part of our congregation *right now*. 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. This year, our curriculum follows the Lectionary, so the messages will be the same in Worship as in Sunday School! The focus is teaching our kids the amazing story of God's love found in scripture. First day of Sunday School is Sept. 24th.

One change we are making in Sunday School this year is we are asking parents/guardians to get involved! Developing faith stems from meaningful conversation, and it is our hope that by having an adult join in Sunday School, there will be more opportunities for these conversations about who God is and what God is doing in their lives. When you register your child, you will be asked to sign up to help out for 2 weeks during the year. A background check is included. We hope adult leaders can join us for training August 27th (12-2 pm) or August 30th (6-8 pm). Contact Will Weikle at WillW@graceandover.org with any questions. Register on Realm or by scanning THIS QR code!



REGISTER YOUR TRUNK ON
REALM; PRIZE FOR BEST!



SAVE THE DATE

TRUNK OR TREAT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH
6-7PM

SCHEDULE

5:00-5:45 SET-UP
5:45-7:00 TRUNK OR TREAT,
FOOD TRUCKS, & INDOOR
GAMES
7:00-7:45 WORSHIP

FOOD TRUCKS: RUSTIC CHEF AND TURKEY KING
NO NEED TO REGISTER TO ATTEND EVERYONE IS
WELCOME!

Join us for WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT GRACE

Begins September 13th

5:30-6:00 FAMILY PIZZA (\$2.00 SLICE)

6:00-7:00 EDUCATION HOUR:

Faith Formation for every age
Catechism, Kids Night Out, Adult Bible Study

7:00-7:45 WORSHIP

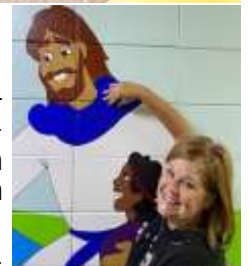
7:45-8:45 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Seeds Of Grace

Seeds Of Grace Welcomes New Director!

As I wind down my time here at Seeds of Grace, I am excited to announce that Christine Klersy, our Lead Infant Teacher will be the new Director of Seeds of Grace. Christine has many years of experience in the childcare field, and I know she will be an asset to Seeds of Grace. She is very excited about this opportunity, and if you get a chance stop by her office and congratulate her!

My time here at Seeds of Grace will end at the end of August. I want to thank everyone for all the love and support you have shown me the last five years. This has been the best job I have ever had! I have made so many friends here and I will miss everyone very much! Here's to new beginnings! *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*-Lamentations 3:22-23 Sandy Schmoll



Music and Worship Ministry

We are gearing up for another exciting year of making music and worshipping together!



Do you like to sing, but don't want to sing alone? The Grace Choir starts up again on *Tuesday, August 29th*. We are shifting our rehearsal time to 7:15-8:30pm on Tuesday's during the year. While we would love to fill the choir loft every week, it is *NOT a year-long commitment*. Come and sing when you can! We love to make music and grow connections with anyone who wants to sing! We will also have short-term special events again this year (Advent Cantata with Lord of Life, and our Good Friday service).

Do your children like to sing? Our Children's Choir is returning! We are changing things up a bit this year. Instead of rehearsing on Wednesday evenings, we will now be rehearsing *between services from 9:50-10:20am on Sundays*. Our first rehearsal will be on *Sunday, September 24th*. We will have lots of fun in Children's Choir! During our 30-minute rehearsal, we do just-for-fun songs, songs to share with the congregation, and games! We will do a song in church services five times throughout the program year (including the Christmas Program). Sign up is free and is open in Realm!



Do you like to play in an instrumental ensemble? Any age is welcome, but the instrumentalists should have had at least one year with their instrument. All instruments are welcome. Participants can play and/or rehearse when available and don't have to participate in all performances. The bottom line is to play your instrument and have fun doing so! During the 2023/2024 school year, the plan is to play for Rally Day (Sep. 10), Reformation (Oct. 29), Christmas Eve (Sunday), Christmas Day (Monday), Easter (Mar. 31), and Pentecost (May 19). The ensemble rehearses weekly between Sunday services in the lefthand side of Portable 2 typically 4 or 5 weeks before participating in worship

Do you like to sing (or play) contemporary music? Then the Grace Praise Team is the place for you. Beginning *Tuesday, August 29th*, we will gather from 6-7pm *each week* to learn the music for the next week. All musicians are welcome to join us! Not just singers (and not just guitar/bass/drums either... Trumpet, Violin, Flute, Saxophone, etc..) everyone is welcome! Join us when you can! You might just want to come back the next week.



Do you have musical talents you would like to share that might not fit in those groups? We want to hear you! God has blessed us all with unique gifts and talents, and what better place to share those gifts and talents than with the Grace community. Special music during worship services is a great way to enhance the worship experience. As has been said, anyone and everyone is welcome and encouraged to share.

Do you want to volunteer, but don't like being in front of the church? We have the perfect spot! Volunteers are always needed to help with the technological parts of Sunday morning (and Wednesday evening) worship. Running our presentation slides, managing the livestream cameras, running the soundboard. It's easy to learn, and you are providing a great service to not only the worship leaders, but everyone in attendance and worshipping with us online. Training for all aspects is offered, and continual support as well.



If you have any questions or to get involved contact David Phelps at dphelps@graceandover.org



Grace Lutheran Church

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Grace Lutheran Church
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**Fall Worship Hours
Begin Sept. 10th**

8:45am-Traditional
10:30am-Contemporary



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Grace Lutheran Church
...experience grace

RALLY SUNDAY

Sunday, Sept. 10th
After 8:45am & 10:30am Worships

Fellowship
Games
Pancakes
Ministry Fair
Music



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



**SUNDAY
SEPT. 17TH**

**9AM-WORSHIP
10AM-PROJECTS
1PM-LUNCH**