



grace notes

October 2023

Being Transformed: Inside and Out

I've been at Grace as the Senior Pastor for 4 years. I'm not sure how that happened. To be clear, time flies when you are having fun or stressed out or living through a pandemic and a building project. 4 years! I served my first church for 8 years and my second church for 6.5 and now Grace for 4 and it feels like I just got started. I like to think I haven't changed that much, but I know that's not true. I recognize that I have changed- a few more grey hairs, more wrinkles, a few more aches and pains (the 40s are just the beginning, I know!) but the changes on the outside truly are minimal, it's the internal changes that I realize most.

I remember my hesitation as a leader in my early days at Grace. I had never been a Senior Pastor, and had managed only one or two employees. Coming into Grace, I was head of staff, overseeing 5 employees right off the bat, while also trying to set the direction for Grace as we moved into the future. The amount I didn't know was enormous, and yet, you all as the people of Grace affirmed me, encouraged me and supported me. You also recognized that while I was the called Senior Pastor, that the church was not about me, but about God, and our faith together. Which is how we have gotten through the last 4 years, by being church together. I have had tremendous leadership teams and individuals who have guided me along the way. The incredible staff that we have at Grace that has gone through its own transformation. I have been blessed by each person I have worked alongside, those who are no longer here at the church and those who have joined our staff more recently. I give thanks for the wisdom of Kris Miller who holds the memory and the heart of Grace in her body, mind, and spirit. Beyond the staff, I have been supported, challenged and encouraged by our Vision Board, and am so grateful for their leadership. God has provided the right President for Grace for every year I have been here, with a variety of gifts and skills that have been such an asset to me and to all of us. And then the various teams from the Personnel Team to the Building Task Force and everyone in between. Grace is comprised of so many gifted and knowledgeable individuals who share freely the gifts that God has given them. In times of uncertainty, I am usually a phone call away from talking to a faithful person who is willing to help however they can. My gratitude overflows.

As I write this list of abundance and provision of human resources, what I recognize is my inner transformation that has taken place. In my early days at Grace, I mistakenly thought leading a church was about me, but it never has been. It has been a lesson in faith, a recognition of the ongoing need for prayer, to listen to both God and to you, God's people, and to trust that God will provide. My inner-transformation has given me a deeper sense of peace, gratitude and awareness of the small ways God is working behind the scenes every day. I am surrounded in love and care by so many.

As I think about my inward transformation, I see this mirrored in our building project, that never seems to start. Just as we have yet to see the actual transformation of our building, I have still seen God at work in this project. I hope that you have felt that transformation as well. I hope that your faith has been awakened and inspired. I hope that you have been able to recognize the inner-connectedness of the way that God works through the church, but also in your own life through others. 4 years! Wow. So much has happened, God has been at work and we are just getting started in our life and faith together. Thank you for walking with me as I have been transformed by God and all of you, and thank you for being willing to be transformed as well.

Blessings,
Pastor Joanna Mitchell



transforming
INSIDE + OUT



Associate Pastor's Message

Let Love Grow

I just saw my best friend as one of the leads in "9 to 5 The Musical" at Hudson's Phipps Theater. It is a musical adaptation of the 1980's movie starring Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda, and Lily Tomlin in which audience members follow Doralee, Violet, Judy and the woman of Consolidated Companies in taking back the office from their sexist boss. They kidnap him and while he is in their capture, the women make changes at the office. Changes that are responsible for a 20% increase in productivity. Spoiler Alert! This gets the boss promoted to Consolidated's international expansion in Brazil and Violet to the first ever female CEO!!! If you ever get the chance to see this musical it will have you howling with laughter! What I didn't expect though was a song in the middle titled "Let Love Grow." The lyrics are as follows:

*Love can grow in the strangest places,
Might find love in strangers' faces.
Waiting just around the corner for all you know.
Love can grow where you least expect it,
take and chance and don't reject it.
Love will grow if one just lets it,
Let love grow.*



This might be a love song of a budding romance in a corny musical, but I think the sentiment is true. Love can grow in the strangest of places. And scripture tells us that we are all created in God's image. Love for sure is found in strangers' faces. A great reminder that not only love, but God is just around the corner, where we least expect, if we are willing to pay attention and to notice.

I have mentioned before, we are starting a two-year learning commitment through the Minneapolis Area Synod called Faith Practice and Neighboring Practices. I am excited to share that we have a team to engage in this work: Mike Schaaf, Anne Weikle, Nancy Jenkins, Kylie Sands, Tyler Gustafson and I. Our learning opportunities are monthly and we begin officially in October. We are installing the team in worship October 1st. And will have already completed a prayer walk through our neighborhood with the Vision Board in preparation for our work. I cannot wait to share all that we will be doing and learning with all of you. An additional bonus to doing this work through the Synod office is that we have 6 spots for each learning session. If one on our team can't make it, we can invite someone else to sit in their place and come along for the learning and the journey. At our first retreat, Chrissy Gast will be joining us from the Vision Board. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please contact me and I will add you to our bench!

Lastly, and to tie it back to that silly love song from an even sillier musical. Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices has already taught me that the church has often incorrectly expected to bring God to unchurched people. Some of the pains in our country were initiated by good Christian people bringing God to the stranger. What if God is already at work in the stranger when we arrive? How might we learn from our neighbors and from strangers? How do we engage in our neighborhood expecting to find God already at work and think of ourselves as just joining in what God is already doing? Whether you are on our team or joining in the learning we will do along the way, it is my prayer that together we will let love grow!

Pastor Maria Markman



Vision Board Message

Generosity and Volunteering

What do you think of when you hear about generosity? For about the last year, there has been a Generosity Moment in the church service. This has sometimes been information about our Transforming Inside and Out Campaign. Several members have talked about tithing. Other times, the many wonderful ministries of Grace and their impact in our community have been shown. Through all of these facets, it has been informative, but also an opportunity for soul searching and spiritual growth.

For many, the first thought about generosity may be money. And of course, monetary gifts are vital to the ongoing operations of the church. But one of the areas of generosity I would like to highlight is volunteering. As is said in the prayer after the Generosity Moment, "we give our gifts of time, money and talent". Time and talent is also vital to the church! And perhaps even more vital is the growth serving can produce in ourselves.



Many opportunities are available to grow our faith through volunteering. Out in the community, there are partnerships that need volunteers to pack food, help build houses, serve meals and much more. If you have any questions, or would like to learn more, please talk to any Vision Board Member. Another great resource going forward will be Scott Christensen, who will be the Outreach Ministry Coordinator. We would be happy to discuss the many wonderful organizations Grace works with and get you in touch with project leaders as well as discuss the incredible impact Grace has in our local and global community through these partnerships and missions.

There are also numerous opportunities for service within the church. Would you like to participate in the church services? Perhaps you'd enjoy helping to serve communion, usher or even run the sound board or projection. And of course, there is a joyous noise being made, so perhaps you'd enjoy singing with the choir, or singing or playing an instrument with the praise team. A weekly commitment is not needed, come join as you're able. Or perhaps you would enjoy working with our youth in Sunday School, Catechism or various trips. You can also make a difference by lending your time and talent to mowing, planting and the maintenance needs of the church.

We are blessed as a church, and as a community by the time and talents of many. Likely, you have already helped in some way, and would like to explore doing more. Or perhaps you aren't sure of how to take that first step. Again, the commitments can be as small or large as you'd like. Please feel free to talk to the Pastors or any Vision Board Member. We can provide information, assurance, perhaps even a friendly push in the right direction. Together, we can serve and grow.

Dan Johnson – Vision Board





Gratitude & Finances

Dear Grace Family-

Thank you all so much for your prayers, cards, notes of encouragement, flowers, memorials and love shown to our family during my Moms' recent illness and death. It has been a difficult time of sadness for us. Your sincere messages of sympathy during our time of loss were a comfort knowing that so many people were thinking about us. We are grateful and blessed by the loving sense of community shown to us by our Grace Family.



Doug & Kris Miller and Family of Sonja Hawn

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:40 NIV

A special thanks is given to members and friends at Grace Lutheran Church for your support through thoughts and prayers following the death of my brother Willis. -Shirley Christenson

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'
Matthew 25:40

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

A heart felt THANK YOU to the Project Team Leaders and especially EVERYONE who participated in our annual God's Work Our Hands Outreach Ministry event on Sunday, Sept. 17th! Whether you were tying quilts, rolling bandages, spreading mulch in the Seeds of Grace playground, pulling weeds at Sand Creek Elementary, getting your car washed by the Scouts, singing for shut-ins, or rolling up your sleeves and working on a yard project, you were acting as the Hands and Feet of Christ this past Sunday! THANK YOU for your generous gift of time and energy. I so enjoyed seeing the smiles of many on Sunday!

For those of you who could join us for the celebration meal in Fellowship Hall, the meal provided by our Family Table Team was amazing and so delicious. We delivered a great meal to 70+ Family Table visitors and many more GWOH participants. The entire Grace community thanks you for your participation and looks forward to seeing you again next year!

Blessings,
Scott Christensen
Outreach Ministry Team Leader



Income

Grace Contributions
Transforming Receipts
Capital Receipts
Grace Registration Income
Grace Other Income
Seeds of Grace Tuition Income

Total Income

Expenses

Operational Ministry Expenses
Capital Expenses

Total Expenses (includes Seeds of Grace expenses)

Operating Margin

YTD thru 8/31/2023

\$ 480,681
\$ 247,854
\$ 59,815
\$ 19,844
\$ 67,592
\$ 435,483
\$ 1,311,268

Budget

\$ 523,160
\$ 333,333
\$ 76,667
\$ 31,838
\$ 73,733
\$ 439,700
\$ 1,478,432

\$ 1,012,355
\$ 270,901
\$ 1,283,256
\$ 28,012

\$ 1,120,391
\$ 375,517
\$ 1,495,909
\$ (17,477)



Ministry News

You are invited to an OK@Play
Autumn Bonfire

Potluck – “Trick or Treat” Trail –
Outdoor Movie – Conversation


 

When: Thursday, October 26, 2023
Time: Any time after 6:00 PM
Where: Joel & Becky Anderson's
16622 Sycamore St NW, Andover 55304
(Becky) 612-723-3415 or (Joel) 612-723-9120

Please bring a pot luck item to share ...
Hot and Cold beverages provided along with S'mores!
We will be collecting items for our Grace food shelf, please donate -- Thanks!





Threads of Hope Counseling

**REVIVE YOUR
RELATIONSHIP**
4- WEEK COUPLES WORKSHOP

DATE: MONDAY'S 10/9/23, 10/16/23, 10/23/23, 10/30/23
TIME: 7-8PM

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
13655 ROUND LAKE BLVD NW, ANDOVER, MN 55304

This workshop is based on the principles in the Gottman approach. It is designed to give couples some simple tools to break through and resolve conflict when they feel stuck and generate greater understanding of each other.

For more information/register, please contact:
Julie Muehlbach: julie.muehlbach@gmail.com



“Gray Area Thinking” by Ellie Krug

On Sunday, November 5th from 6 to 8 pm, Ellie Krug will be leading a free training session at St. Francis United Methodist Church. Some of you may remember that Ellie led similar training at Grace in November of 2019. Ellie has presented her human inclusivity training, “Gray Area Thinking®” on over 1000 occasions across North America. You are invited to join national speaker, transgender writer and “human inclusionist” Ellie Krug as she conducts her highly valued human inclusivity training: “Gray Area Thinking®”. This training will provide an easy-to-understand tool kit on how to be more welcoming of anyone who is “Other” in our society. Please contact Nancy Jenkins (763.354.9764)/dnjenkins@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Empty Nesters /Parents of Independent Children



The next Empty Nester event will be Monday, October 23rd at Bootleggers Saloon & Eatery in Nowthen. Recently we have met at several locations south of church and this time we're heading north of Grace! We have reserved the back room at Bootleggers starting at 6pm, but feel free to arrive later as needed. Their address is: 19735 Iguana St NW, Nowthen, 55330. If you need any encouragement to attend, Bootleggers features a *Made from Scratch* menu. If you have any questions, please reach out to Nancy Jenkins or Julie Erickson. We hope to see you there!



Ministry News



Graceful Seniors

All seniors are invited to join us for fellowship and Bible Study. This Fall we are studying the book of Genesis. October's gathering will be on:

Tuesday, October 10th.

8:30-9:00am Donuts and Coffee

9:00-10:00am Pastor Maria led Bible Study

Come and join the fun! If you would like to join Graceful Seniors please call the Church Office.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on October 2nd at 12:30-2:00pm. Ruth Circle is a group of mostly retired women who meet the first Monday of each month following quilters (12-12:30pm lunch & 12:30-2:00pm study) Our study together follows the monthly ELCA Gather Magazine Bible Study. This month Ruth Circle will be using the Sept./Oct. Gather, pg. 18, "Holy Places". Please contact the Church Office or Low Jackson to participate.



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

PET BLESSING



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



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!



Mental Health Connect

As a congregation we support Mental Health Connect through our faith community membership, but membership dues do not cover the cost of the ministry they provide. Please join in this October as they IGNITE their 'Who ya gonna call' Fundraiser. @mhconnect on social media. Mental Health Connect is one to watch! Consider donating today at mhconnect.org/donate



Ministry News



Grief Support Group

For help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. Please join the bi-monthly Grief Support Group.

When:

1st and 3rd Thursdays 6-8pm
November 2nd, 2023 -May 2nd 2024

Where:

November-January at Grace Lutheran Church in Andover
February-May at Our Saviour's in East Bethel

Reach out if you will need childcare to
joannam@graceandover.org

Green Ribbon Is Back!

Do you have a child who struggles with mental health? Are you feeling isolated as a parent and in need of support? Come join Green Ribbon group. A group of supportive and confidential parents supporting other parents raising their children. Our next meeting will be in Pastor Maria's office at 6:00pm on October 11th. Grab a slice of pizza (\$2.00), join us for support and stay for worship at 7:00pm!



Fundraiser
Night for
Youth
Ministry @

CAFE ZUPAS

Tuesday, October 17th
4-8pm



Circle Of Grace



Circle of Grace is a ministry team that strives to enhance our care and connections with one another. We currently have two smaller teams; one that brings Communion and provides visitation to our sick and shut in members, and the other team sends cards/notes to anyone in need of encouragement, assists with occasional transportation to medical appointments and respite care, assists with bringing meals to families. We are exploring a grief component to our team. If you are willing to help share God's grace in tangible ways, please call the Church Office for more information.





CYF Ministry News

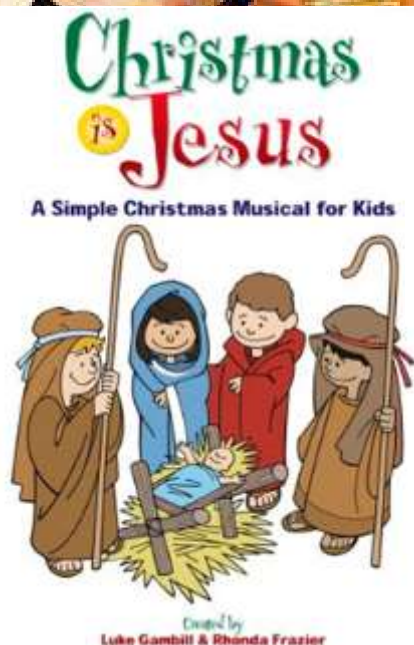
Child, Youth & Family Ministry Calendar

Date:	Event:	Time:
10/1	Sunday School Treblemakers Youth at Wapo	8:45/ 10:30 am 9:50-10:20 am ALL DAY
10/4	Pet Blessing	5:30-6:00 pm
10/4	Family Pizza: Everyone!	5:30 pm
	Wednesday Night Programing	6:00 pm
	Kids Night Out Elementary Age	
	Catechism 6 th – 8 th grade	
	Wednesday Worship	7:00 pm
10/8	Youth Group: 9 th – 12 th grade	7:45 pm
	Sunday School	8:45 / 10:30 am
	Treblemakers	9:40-10:20 am
	Youth and Parent Summer Trip Informational Meeting	12:00 pm
10/11	Family Pizza: Everyone!	5:30 pm
	Youth and Parent Summer Trip Informational Meeting	
	Wednesday night programming	6:00pm
	Kids Night Out Elementary Age	
	Catechism 6 th – 8 th grade	
	Parent/ Small Group Leader Connection Event	
	Green Ribbon Parents	
10/15	Wednesday Worship	7:00 pm
	Youth Group: 9 th – 12 th grade	7:45 pm
10/15	Sunday School Treblemakers	8:45/ 10:30 am 9:50-10:20 am
10/17	Café Zupas Fundraiser: Everyone!	4-8:00 pm
10/18	Family Pizza: Everyone!	5:30 pm
	No Programming MEA Break	6:00 pm
	Wednesday Night Worship	7:00 pm
	Youth Group: 9 th – 12 th grade	7:45 pm
10/22	No Sunday School MEA BREAK	8:45 / 10:30 am
10/25	TRUNK OR TREAT	5:30-6:00 pm
	Wednesday Worship	7:00 pm
	Youth Group: 9 th – 12 th grade	7:45 pm
10/29	Sunday School Treblemakers 1st Christmas Program Rehearsal	8:45/ 10:30 am 9:50-10:20 am 11:30 am-12:00 pm





CYF Ministry News



Register
on Realm
Today!

Children's Christmas Program

Rehearsals for actors will be
on Sunday Mornings:

9:50-10:20am Music Rehearsal

11:30am-12:45pm Skit and Song Rehearsal

Sun., Oct. 29th 11:30am-12pm-Info. and script
hand out

Sun., Nov. 5th 11:30am-12:15pm-All Narrators

Sun., Nov. 12th 11:30am-12:15pm-Scenes 1, 3, 5

Sun., Nov. 19th 11:30am-12:15pm-Scenes 2, 4

(No rehearsal Sunday Nov. 26

Thanksgiving break)

Sun., Dec. 3rd 11:30am-12:15pm-All narrators

Sun., Dec. 10th 11:30am-12:15pm-Full Rehearsal

Sat., Dec. 16th-Dress Rehearsal 10am-12pm

Sun. Dec. 17th-Performance 8:45am & 10:30am
(arrive at Grace 8:15am)



**parent & small group leader
Connection EVENT**

Catechism Parent and Small Group Leader Connection Event!
Please Register on Realm or with QR code

October 11th, 2023 5:30-8 PM
Fellowship Hall

5:30-6:00 Youth Summer Trip and Fundraising meeting while enjoying Family Pizza \$2.00/slice
6:00-7:00 Snacks and Desserts, fellowship, and connection
7:00-8:00 Worship



**Youth Summer Trips and Fundraising
Informational Meeting**

Sunday, October 8th 12:00 pm
Wednesday, October 11th 5:30 pm

**SUMMER
2024**





Grace Lutheran Church

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www.grace-andover.org

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Come and Worship!
Sundays at 8:45am & 10:30am
Wednesdays at 7:00pm
All Are Welcome Here!