

 **Grace Lutheran Church**
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 Fairmont, MN 56031
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 **Grace Lutheran Church**
 Fairmont, MN

WAYS OF GRACE

Our Mission: To boldly live out our faith in Jesus through worship, fellowship, and service to God and our neighbor, here and around the world.

August 2023

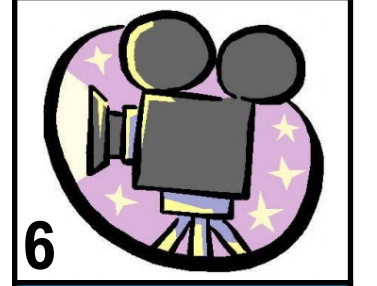


Mark your calendars for:
Worship on the Water
 Sunday, August 13th
 11 AM Wards Park Bay.

Tune your radio to 88.1 FM to listen to the service.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



WORSHIP TECH TRAINING




STEWARDSHIP TEAM



CONFIRMATION & BLAST REGISTRATION

Our Staff:

- Rev. Dr. Allison Cobb** - Senior Pastor cobb@gracelutheranchurch.org
- Rev. Cheryl Indehar** - Associate Interim Pastor indehar@gracelutheranchurch.org
- Jane Reiman** - Finance Director reiman@gracelutheranchurch.org
- Nicole Kolbe** - Office Coordinator office@gracelutheranchurch.org
- Brad Anderson** - Maintenance Emergency contact number: 507- 236-1123
Office: 507- 238- 4418

 Fairmont Grace Lutheran Church - www.gracelutheranchurch.org

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU
 AND KEEP YOU
 THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE
 SHINE ON YOU
 AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU
 THE LORD TURN HIS
 FACE TOWARD YOU
 AND GIVE YOU
PEACE
 NUMBERS 6:24-26



Looking for an easier way to give your offering?
 Please scan the QR code with your smartphone to support the ministry of your choice.



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. --Jesus

Where is your heart these days? Where are you putting your thoughts, actions, motivations, and resources? If someone looked at your life, could they tell what is most important to you?



My heart, and more of my work hours this summer, are being focused on pastoral visits. This is possible with the addition of Pastor Cheryl who started on Palm Sunday as well as our dedicated Youth Team who helped finish out the program year and Vacation Bible School. Your pastoral team has been intentionally allocating our time to getting to know the saints in our midst who most often worship in their homes.

So far, I have met an archeologist turned teacher who has stacks of Smithsonian magazines in her home. I visited a shoes salesman who loves to shell fresh pecans from Georgia and give them away. I sat in a living room full of sunshine with a barber and a homemaker who together have raised a wonderful family on a lake in Fairmont. I have sat at a kitchen table in a beautiful farmhouse with a couple as we talked about their life, its joys, and sorrows. I was also able to sit with welcoming elders, around their common room table, and chat over a hot cup of coffee. These are just a few of the amazing experiences with the saints in our congregation with many more visits to come.

Pastor Cheryl and I have prioritized visiting the shut-in members seen by our visitation team, those in our senior living facilities in Fairmont, the 35 households with members 90 years and older in our congregation, and those in their eighties who are unable to worship outside of their homes. Also in July, we added a monthly worship service at Lakeview Methodist Home, in addition to the monthly services at Goldfinch. At the same time, we have been welcoming young families to Grace through the waters of baptism. From July 19-August 20, we will baptize 9 children and promise as a congregation to raise them in the faith. God is sending Grace new members!

The Holy Spirit is on the move!!!

Which is why certain words of Jesus continue to be top of mind for me. Where we put our resources is where our heart is. And at Grace, we are blessed with youth, families, and elderly to care for as we live out our call as disciples. Jesus preached in the Sermon on the Mount,

(19) Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, (20) but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. (21) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21).

Our treasure includes our financial support, sharing our gifts and skills, and showing up as part of this body of Christ at Grace. Specifically, part of that treasure includes the blessing of approximately 200 kids in BLAST and Confirmation on Wednesday evenings and over 100 households with members 80 years old and older. Without the sharing of our individual resources, we can not do the ministry that is needed not just for our own, but also for children of God in our greater community.

In the past year, the positions of worship director, youth director, visitation pastor, and newsletter editor, totaling 85 hours a week, have not been replaced. Council and I believe that we can be more efficient and effective with a second pastor and the help of dedicated teams. This allows the flexibility of two pastors to share the pastoral acts of weddings, baptisms, and funerals to support all disciples throughout their lives. At the same time, building our teams to serve in various ministry functions at Grace will be key.

We are at a critical spiritual juncture as the body of Christ at Grace! Do we put our hearts fully into sharing our treasures and partnering together in ministry? My prayer for our congregation this summer is that we joyfully prepare for the work the Holy Spirit continues to lead us to at Grace. This includes a detailed plan for intentional stewardship and hiring a second pastor. Unlike many congregations who are deciding whether to even have youth programming at all, we are working to invest in youth programming through a Pastor of Youth and Outreach.

With excitement and hope for Grace, I look forward to our upcoming worship and service events in the next few weeks. Now is the time to invite your friends and neighbors! Wednesday worship in the park continues this month. Worship on the Water is August 13. *God's Work. Our Hands* is September 10. What a wonderful place to be the church together!

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Allison

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30am Sunday Worship	31 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	1 9:00am - 3:00pm Common Threads Sewing Bee - Community 1:00pm - 2:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 2:30pm - 3:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting	2 6:30pm - 7:15pm Wednesday Worship	3 8:00am - 5:00pm Missions Team Rummage Sale 9:00am - 10:00am WOTC	4 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	5 8:00am - 2:00pm Missions Team Rummage Sale
6 9:30am Sunday Worship - Baptism	7 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Mary Circle	8 1:00pm - 2:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 2:30pm - 3:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Outreach, CYF, Fellowship Team Meetings	9 10:00am - 10:40am Goldfinch Assisted Living Service 10:45am - 11:15am Goldfinch Memory Care Service 6:30pm - 7:15pm Wednesday Worship	10 10:00am - 11:00am Lakeview Senior Worship 4:00pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre	11 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	12
13 9:30am Sunday Worship	14 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	15 Ways of Grace Submission Deadline 1:00pm - 2:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 2:30pm - 3:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting	16 6:30pm - 7:15pm Wednesday Worship	17	18 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	19
20 9:30am Sunday Worship - Baptism	21 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	22 1:00pm - 2:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 2:30pm - 3:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting	23 6:30pm - 7:15pm Wednesday Worship	24 4:30pm - 7:30pm Aktion Club Theatre	25 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	26
27 9:30am Sunday Worship	28 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	29 1:00pm - 2:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 2:30pm - 3:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting	30 6:30pm - 7:15pm Wednesday Worship	31	1 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	2

THANK YOU!

We had a very exciting, fun filled week "Uncovering Gods Truth" with Ingham Lake Okaboji Bible counselors in June. The Children, Youth and Family Ministry team would like to extend sincere gratitude to all of those who helped serve in any way! From volunteers to snack donations, to the outreach team helping with lunches and water donated by Culligan Water of Fairmont. We couldn't have done it without you!

BLAST Teachers Needed! The Children Youth and Family Ministry Team asks you to prayerfully consider serving as a classroom teacher during our BLAST hour on Wednesday evenings for our youth starting in September. We will be working with Whirl Curriculum, which makes lesson planning very easy and fun for all! Our hope is to make it easy for you and that we have enough volunteers to divide up teaching into seasons. Instead of the full year September - May, sign ups will be available: Fall (Sept, Oct, Nov) Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) or Spring (March, April & May)! More information coming soon! We thank you in advance for your consideration!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

* BLAST Teacher Orientation: TBD (Late August)

* Informational Meeting, Register, Teacher Meet & Greet:

September 6, 2023 in the Sanctuary

BLAST Families @ 6-6:30PM

Confirmation Families @ 6:30 -7 PM

* God's Work our Hands & Ministry Fair:

Sunday September 10, 2023 @ 9:30AM - 12:30PM

* 2nd Grade Bibles & Blessing of the Backpacks~

Service of your choice **September 17, 2023**

Council Letter to the Congregation

Grace Lutheran Church members,

The Grace Lutheran Church Council would like to provide an update on the status of the stained-glass window project and provide some important information about the current financial needs of the church.

Stained-glass windows

As you are aware, the Council last year committed to a project to repair and refurbish our stained-glass windows. The cost of this project totaled approximately \$204,000. As it became clear that we would not be able to raise this entire amount through direct donations to the project, the Council and Service Team began to work with Willet Hauser Architectural Glass to determine whether we could complete the project over two years, rather than in just one. Very recently Willet Hauser advised us that the cost of the second year of the project had increased by over 20% due to their increasing costs of materials. This would cost the congregation an extra \$17,000 more than our original quote.

With this information in hand, the Service Team recommended that Council allocate funds from our Trust Account to pay for the project in one year. These funds will come from undesignated memorials, Hyvee and Fareway Receipts, income from the Grace and Growth and MN Foundation funds, as well as our Building Fund.

We are so grateful for the donations made directly to this important project over the last year, and so grateful for the many, who, over the years, have made memorial donations, donations to our Grace and Growth fund and to those who have collected receipts on behalf of Grace. Because of all of you, we have the flexibility to pay for the project this year.

Ongoing Budget Needs

The Council has been working diligently to plan for the staffing needs of Grace for the coming year and beyond. Grace is blessed to offer so many ministries that share the Gospel of Christ to those within our walls, to members who worship from home, and to our neighbors in the Martin County area and beyond.

Almost every church in this country has been challenged by shifting church participation due to the pandemic, but fewer have, like Grace, faced these challenges while also dealing with two extended pastoral vacancies. It is a testament to the strength of this community of faith, and to its members, that Grace has been able to weather these last several years and come through intact, with a congregation eager to share in the Gospel.

We have, however, seen a drop in giving over the past year. As of this month, offering donations at Grace are down approximately 15% from where they were last year. Because most of our budget goes to paying staff salaries, this drop in financial support has caused the Council to put considerable work into determining how to meet the needs of Grace now and in the future, while also being mindful of our financial situation.

Prior to calling Pastor Allison, the Council looked into the feasibility of meeting the needs of Grace with one pastor. After careful and prayerful deliberation, however, and in consultation with Interim Pastor Joe Smith, the Council determined the needs of our congregation require two pastors.

Unlike some congregations, we are blessed to have a large and growing number of youth involved in the ministries of Grace Lutheran Church. On any given Wednesday during the program year, we may have 100 kids learning about Jesus at BLAST and 100 kids in our confirmation program, working toward the affirmation of their baptism. Hiring a Pastor of Youth and Outreach will allow Grace to continue to expand the services we can provide to this next generation of disciples and to grow family participation in the other ministries of our church. This is such an exciting opportunity for our congregation!

At the same time, Grace has approximately 130 families with congregation members who are over 80 years of age. This group has carried the mantle of Christ in our congregation for decades and we recognize the importance of pastoral care for these cherished members of our congregation during this stage of their lives. But this kind of pastoral care, if done right, requires a significant amount of time and attention. Having two pastors is necessary in order to meet this vital need.

These extremely important needs, which must be met, are in addition to the ongoing pastoral needs which require two Ministers of Word and Sacrament, including leading weekly worship, officiating weddings and funerals, and baptizing the newest members of the Body of Christ. With only one pastor, one or more of these ministries will not be able to receive the pastoral attention required.

But this is where the rubber hits the road. We have been advised that the Call Committee completed a successful interview with a potential candidate for our Associate Pastor of Youth and Outreach. But to afford two pastors, long term, we will need to increase our giving. At our current level of financial support, we will likely have a deficit next year of between \$50,000 and \$70,000 with two pastors and current support staff. This is not sustainable long term. If our giving does not increase, we will have to look at serious budget cuts, that will include reduced staffing and significant changes to the way we worship and the ministries we share.

The Council plans on a significant push to promote Stewardship in the coming months which, we believe, will improve our financial outlook. And the stability of being fully staffed with two permanent ordained pastors, who are able to support and grow our ministries, should also increase giving. But while we work on increasing our financial support, it may be necessary, in the short-term, to borrow from our Grace and Growth Fund to meet our budgetary needs.

The Grace and Growth fund was established by the congregation to provide an opportunity to members of Grace Lutheran Church to give a long-term, lasting gift to be used in special outreach mission activities, and to enhance and enrich the worship and facilities of Grace Lutheran Church. Currently, the principal balance of this fund is approximately \$261,000. Any need to borrow more than \$10,000 from this fund to pay for expenses will, by our bylaws, require a congregational vote.

So, before we move forward with considering any prospective call for an Associate Pastor, we need congregational support that we could borrow from the fund, if necessary, to pay our bills. Our hope is that our Stewardship efforts will close the gap in our funding. But, in the event we still have a small deficit, we need to know whether the congregation is supportive of temporarily borrowing from the Grace and Growth Fund to support the ministries of our church.

On July 16th, after worship, the Council hosted an informational meeting to discuss these issues with the congregation. We were very thankful for the many in attendance, and the thoughtful questions that were asked and comments that were made. Based upon the information we received at this meeting, the Council will continue its efforts to work on a staffing model that fits our needs as a congregation, while also planning a robust Stewardship campaign.

In the meantime, as a Council, we ask that you prayerfully consider whether your family can increase its financial support of Grace, to sustain the important ministries of our church for this year and beyond.

We also ask that you consider setting up weekly giving through our QR code or your bank's online bill pay. This will allow funds to come in if you cannot make it to church that week and level out our financial support throughout the year. Right now, a significant portion of our donations come in during November and December, which makes it difficult to budget for the following year.

We trust that we may act boldly because the Holy Spirit is working at Grace. As Pastor Cheryl recently reminded our Council, we know that God is not "broke" and will provide for our church.

Thank you all for your continued investment in the ministries of Grace Lutheran Church. God's Peace be with you all as you prayerfully consider Grace's needs. As your elected Council, we are so grateful to be working with you as disciples of God to spread the Good News!

In Christ,

The Grace Lutheran Church Council

A Note from the Team!

Hello Grace Family,

As we take a moment to reflect on the last few months, we realized how blessed our team is! Our Grace families are a very special part of this ministry and we appreciate YOU! This spring and summer has been filled with fun, planning, serving and most of all learning! Our team is learning so much and exciting things are happening. God most certainly is present here and doing great work within our ministry!

It has been a past tradition at Grace that students entering 2nd grade, receive their very own Bible to explore, learn and live by Gods word. We want to invite 2nd graders, along with anyone whom may not have received their Bible in the past, to join us at a service of your choice Sunday September 17.

Lastly, we are now moving forward to prepare for programs starting up again in the fall! Information regarding BLAST, Confirmation and other youth events will be coming soon. Please stay connected via our website, email, Facebook page "Fairmont Grace Lutheran Church", Ministry Minutes and Ways of Grace. Thank you for your patience as we navigate all of this together!

Gods Blessings,

Your Children, Youth & Family Ministry Team: Joice Forster, Kristin Miller, Mindy Steuber, Jaime Core, Ben Jordan, Michele Traetow, Josh Ensrud and Carisa Andersen

P.S. We are always looking for new members to join our team. If you feel a calling to serve our youth here at Grace Lutheran, we would be grateful to have you join us!



B.L.A.S.T. and Confirmation Fall Registration forms are ready and available to fill out online! Visit www.gracelutheranchurch.org, follow the link

B.L.A.S.T. and Confirmation Registration 2023/2024 - Registration Due Date: 8/6/23 (google.com)



or scan the QR code to register.

Please consider donating the following supplies needed for BLAST this year: Pencils, glue sticks, Crayola markers, an electric pencil sharpener, and a step stool. Please leave donations in in the Youth Ed office on the lower level. Thank you!



Pastor Cheryl Indehar presented the Martin County Humane Society with the VBS donations raised by fifty vacation bible study children last month. During VBS, Karen, from the humane society brought Fanta, a four- month old puppy, to visit the children and explain what the humane society does. The kids were able to pet and visit with Fanta. The counselors from Okoboji that led the VBS, challenged the children to raise \$125.00. If they did, the counselors were willing to get "pied" in the face. Well, the children raised \$301.00 for the humane society! So, the counselors, along with Nicole the church secretary and Pastor Cheryl, all got "pied"! The other



God's Work. Our Hands! Mark your calendars for a morning of worship, service, and fellowship on Sunday September 10 at :30AM. We will be worshipping at 9:30AM with guest preacher Pastor Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry. At 10:30, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall to assemble health kits for Lutheran World Relief as well as a few local projects. A picnic lunch will be served at 1:30AM. Come for a special time of loving God and our neighbors here in Fairmont and around the world!

Lutheran World Relief Health



Kit Donations Needed!

For God's Work. Our Hands Sunday, we will be assembling kits and need the following items. Please drop off new items, still in original packaging, in the Gathering Space. Our goal is to assemble 100 kits to be shipped to people in need around the world. Last year, the kits made by churches in Minnesota were given to people in Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru, and Sierra Leone. If you have a Thrivent Grant that you would like to donate for this project, please see Pastor Allison.

ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging

ONE sturdy wide-tooth comb

ONE metal nail clippers

NOTE: Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name OR any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage

Want to Fund a Grounds and Landscaping Project at Grace???

(Project estimates are subject to change)



Bathroom light switches with auto turnoff/shut off:	\$1,050
Lawn and sidewalk supplies:	\$1,200
Fellowship Hall paint and supplies:	\$1,500
River rock for landscaping / pea rock for playground:	\$1,500

For more project information, please contact the office or see our maintenance worker, Brad. Thank you!

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

June 25th, 2023

Present: Pete Odgren, Joice Foster, Ilene Reiter, Patti Mathews, Joshua Ensrud, Carolyn Bird, Ardell Prescott, Jane Reiman, Pastor Allison Cobb, Pastor Cheryl Indehar, Troy Nemmers

III. Call to Order: Pete Odgren called the meeting to order at 10:45 am.

IV. The Devotional was given today by Joshua Ensrud.

Financial Report: Jane Reiman gave the June 2023 Financial Report. She reported May giving was at 14% down from last May 2022. The council discussed staffing positions at length as the budget may not allow for two pastors for the next fiscal year. The council did decide that Grace Lutheran Church is a two pastor church. The duties and responsibilities of the church cannot be completed by only one pastor without sacrificing some of the services Grace Lutheran Church provides. The church council will be finalizing a letter to the congregation detailing the financial outlook of the church and the need for increased stewardship by the congregation. A temple talk will accompany the letter. Date to be determined by the church council. A motion to approve the May 21st, 2023 Financial Report was made by Joshua Ensrud. Carolyn Bird seconded the motion. The Financial Report was approved by the rest of the council members.

Team Reports

CYF: VBS was successful. The CYF team is continuing to plan for BLAST.

Worship: Worship in the park will start June 7th and end August 31st, 2023.

Outreach: Grand Dee's will be at the next Wed. worship in the park. Free snack for the first 50 people attending the service.

Service: No new business was discussed.

Fellowship: No new business was discussed.

Personnel: The Tech position remains open.

VII. Old Business

Technical Personnel Position: The Personnel Team is continuing to look for a tech person. However, Blake Potthoff has volunteered his time to simplify the technology and train volunteers on how to run the equipment. He also is planning the tech setup for Fall confirmation class.

Stained Glass Window Project: Pete Odgren discussed at length with the service time about how to move forward with the Stained Glass Window Project.

At the May council meeting, the church council decided to move forward with a 2 year plan to complete the West and North wall windows. However, it was learned that there would be a \$20,000 increase in cost if we completed the project over a two year period. Therefore, it was decided, in order to save on the additional cost, that the church council go back to completing the project in one year as originally planned. In order to pay for the remaining cost of the window project, the church council will use money from several different sources in the church finances: \$25,955 from the Undesignated Memorials fund, \$14,017.84 from Rebates/Refunds/Credits fund, \$13,000 from the Endowment-MN Foundation fund, \$18,317.80 from the Grace and Growth-Capital Equipment fund, and \$7,279.64 from the Grace and Growth-worship fund.

Fundraising Projects: The council discussed how to generate fundraising for the People Helping People Fundraising Project. One idea was to have the jug available during the service for the children to place their offering in.

Christian Education Director Position: At the present time, there is no money to pay for a Christian Education Director Position. The duties of this position will continue to be carried out by the members of the CYF team.

VIII. New Business

A. Financial Outlook: Refer to the **Financial Report** on page one.

B. July Retreat: The July retreat is scheduled for July 16th from 10:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. The church council will complete the church mission statement at that time.

C. Fall Programing: Nothing was discussed at this time regarding this topic.

IX. Pastor Reports

Pastor Cheryl: Pastor Cheryl stated she has been focusing on Pastoral Care.

Pastor Allison: Pastor Allison discussed a variety of church projects coming up, as well as, the Ministry Fair, and additional help for Brad Anderson. She also discussed at length about future fundraising for the church. She purchased the book: "A Spirituality of Fundraising" for all church council members and assigned us to read pg. 1-30 for the next church council meeting. Each chapter afterward will be discussed during each church council meeting moving forward.

- X. Upcoming Dates
Tues. July 11th at 6:30 p.m.
CFY / Outreach / Fellowship Team Mtg.
- Tues. July 11th at 5:30 p.m.
Service Team Mtg.
- Tues. July 16th from 10:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Church Council Retreat in the Laurel Lounge

XI. Adjournment
The Council team adjourned with the Lord's prayer at 1:00 p.m.

XII. Approval of Secretary's Report

Approval to the June Secretary's report was made on:

Respectfully Submitted, Josh Ensrud

What We Value at Grace Lutheran! The Grace Lutheran Church Council met in February for our annual retreat, and during that time, articulated the core values of our congregation: Faith, Christ-centered Community, and Service. On Sunday, July 16, the Council met again to develop the congregation's Mission and Vision statements. After much prayer and discussion, the following statements will be used to guide the ministries of Grace Lutheran moving forward. Our ministry teams will be focusing their work to align with these statements in order to share the love of Jesus and grow in our faith within and outside the walls of our congregation.

Core Values:

- + Faith
- + Christ-centered Community
- + Service

Mission Statement: To boldly live out our faith in Jesus through worship, fellowship, and service to God and our neighbor, here and around the world.

Vision Statement: Guided by prayer and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds, to be fed and forgiven as we meet Jesus at the table, and to participate together in making Jesus known to all.

Memorials:

Arnie Swenson Memorial

Joan Engquist Undesignated Memorial
Eric & Sheryl Leill
Carol Ryan Lewis
Dottie Woodruff

Michael & Cynthia Olauson Building

Daniel & Mary Kehrberg Stained Glass Windows
Arvin & Jonne Soma

LaDonna Levik Memorial

Patrica Jones Stained Glass Windows

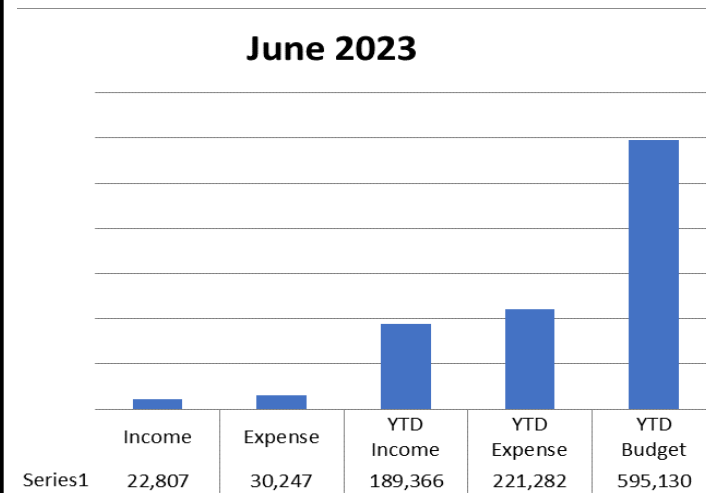
Ryan Lunn Memorial

James & Kathy Harley Undesignated

Dune Garbers Memorial

Ardel Prescott Stained Glass Windows

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR JUNE



Grace Missions Team Rummage & Bake Sale

The Rummage Sale will be held on Friday August 4: 8AM-5PM & Sat and August 5: 8AM-12PM at Grace Lutheran Church.

Bake Sale: Baked goods are needed! Please bring bake sale items to the Fellowship Hall kitchen on Aug. 3rd or the morning of Aug. 4th.

Rummage Sale: Missions will be receiving items on: July 29th - 30th: 9AM - 12PM & July 31st - Aug 2nd: 9AM - 5PM. **Please use the door that goes directly into the Fellowship Hall and bring your items to the basement stage.**

Items Needed: Dishes, knick-knacks, furniture, appliances, tools, household items, books, games, puzzles, toys, lawn and garden, crafts, linens, fabric, small appliances, small home furnishings, household items, jewelry, Christmas or holiday items, pictures or home decor.

Items that will NOT be accepted are TVs, electronics, clothing, shoes, luggage without wheels, or encyclopedias.

Volunteers are needed to help in this fun-filled fundraiser to sort, price, set up, sell, & pack up all items. Please sign up on the sign-up sheets in the gathering area, or feel free to come join us the day of if you haven't had a chance to sign up. All help is welcome!



Meal Ministry Team Needs You! Are you willing to deliver a meal to someone who just lost a loved one, is battling an illness, or had a new baby? The idea is two meals a week for three weeks as needed. Anyone who can participate will pick a date to bring the meal. This meal can be homemade or purchased such as chicken and sides from the deli or restaurant. If interested, please email the chair of our Meal Ministry Team, Nancy Backer at nurse_nancyb@hotmail.com. Often the five minutes of visiting and checking on the recipient means more than the food, but the food is great too! For more information, please see Pastor Allison.

People Helping People: This Summer, the Grace Mission Team challenges you to: FILL THE JUG! June through August there will be a Culligan water jug by the Food Pantry in the Gathering Area, to collect your loose change and bills. The funds will be sent to families in need, who have immediate daily needs of basic living.



Care Callers Team Needs You! Did you know that Grace Lutheran has over 100 households with people 80 years old and older??? Many come to church and others stay connected through our at home worship and newsletters. Yet we would love to keep the connection with their faith community personal. We would like to form a team of twelve volunteers who will call 10-12 households a month. They will visit, take down any prayer requests to pass along to the pastors, and make sure they know they continue to be a valued part of the body of Christ here at Grace. We hope you will prayerfully consider being part of this important team! To get involved, please contact the office.



Giving Our Offering at Grace: Hello Grace Friends! **Thank you so much for your continued support of the ministries at Grace through your offering.** Weekly offering helps to fund the many programs that share the good news of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond. For many, carrying cash or check books is a thing of the past and our wallet is now our phones. To the left, there is a QR code, which you can scan by using the camera on your smartphone. You will see these QR codes in our publications moving forward as a convenient way to give in an instant. We hope this way to give makes it fast and easy for you in today's busy lives!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

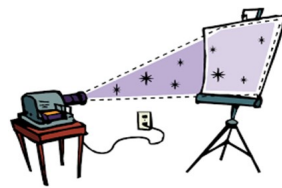


ATTENTION! Stewardship Team Needs You!

Are you passionate about the ministries of Grace and want to share that excitement with others? If so, please consider being a part of the new Stewardship Team. This group will work to invite people to give their time, talents, and treasures to support where the Holy Spirit is leading our congregation. Troy Nemmers, our Council Treasurer, will chair this committee which will meet at 6:30pm on the second Tuesday of the month, Committee Night. For more information or to join this team, please email Pastor Allison at cobb@gracelutheranchurch.org or give the church office a call. Thank you for prayerfully considering being part of this important ministry!

Want Slides at Worship?

We would love to provide slides for the worship service but need volunteers to run them.



Did you know that it takes one volunteer to run sound, another to run the camera to stream worship, and another to run slides? Streamed worship is recorded and played on local TV which is a major outreach of Grace Lutheran for our shut-ins. We know that slides are very important to our contemporary service. If you would like to be trained to run the slides, please contact the office. We would like to start slides as soon as we can! Thanks!

Our Outreach Team is looking for a chair person plus one extra volunteer. Patti Mathews is our church council representative along with Carolyn Bird. Our Outreach Team is working with Heaven's



Table gathering food items from Grace and delivering them, and also helping with the ? People Helping People? program, making care bags for community members that need our help. We have also talked about maybe hosting a Progressive Dinner, but we need you to be able to do all these fun activities. Please give prayerful consideration to join us! If interested, call the church office or sign up on the board in the church entry.



Common Threads meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 9:00AM in the Laurel Lounge. Come for fellowship, sewing, and creative fun!

Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Meeting:

All are welcome to join the weekly ecumenical Bible study at Grace which meets on Tuesdays at 1PM in room 302 (the room the elevator opens up to on the top floor). The group is just beginning a study on the book of Acts. This is a casual and informal gathering, welcoming your thoughts and perspective, as the group together discerns how God is speaking through these words of life today. The discussion concludes at 2:30 for a time of prayer together. A prayer liturgy is read each week and every name on our prayer list is lifted up. Come for a time of faith formation and fellowship! For more information, please contact: Elayne Baumgart at baumgartelayne@gmail.com.



Thrivent Grants Needed!

Are you a Thrivent Financial member? If so, did you know that you get two \$250 grants a year which can be used for ministry projects? If so, the office is collecting names and email addresses of Thrivent members so we can email the list if we have a need for a grant. Some ministries where grants have been used in the past are as seed money for buying food for an outreach event, a deposit on a mission trip, yarn for prayer shawls, candy for the glow parade attached to our worship times, etc. The staff has many ideas for ministries, and we know you do too! If you have ideas on how to use your grants, please let us know! While grant applications only take just a few minutes to do online, we would be happy to do them with you in the church office. Please let the office know if you would like to be added to the list. Thank you!

Open door meals	God's Grace is Amazing Day	Glows Parade Candy and Supplies
Pizza with the pastor	Vacation Bible School	Advent cards for our neighbors
Homebound communion supplies	Confirmation party	Octoberfest picnic
Buildings and Grounds Project	Prayer Shawl Yarn	Confirmation fellowship event
Confirmation service project	Worship in the Park Advertising	Fill the Altar Food Drive
Lenten book study	Worship in the Park Outreach	Thanksgiving fellowship event
Valentine treats for shut ins	Confirmation supplies	Shut-in Christmas Gifts
Palm Sunday Brunch	BLAST supplies	Sock Tree
Care Bags	God's Work Our Hands Sunday Service	Christmas Eve Cocoa and Carols
First communion class	Worship on the Water	Confirmation Caroling at Senior Residences
Baccalaureate gifts	Confirmation retreat	

Worship Tech Training for FREE OPERA HOUSE TICKETS!



On August 6, at 10:30AM, Blake Potthoff will be here to train people to run the sound, click slides, and stream worship. Blake has generously offered to give two tickets to the Fairmont Opera House to each person who comes and trains. Grace is in desperate need of volunteers so that those worshipping at home can continue to do so each week. For more information, please call the office at 507-238-4418. Thank you!





SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Tuesdays:** 2:00PM Fairmont Cable TV Channel 12 (pre-recorded)
- Wednesdays:** 6:30PM Wednesday Worship in the Park
- Fridays:** 1:00PM Fairmont Cable TV Channel 12 (pre-recorded)
- Sundays:** 9:30AM

***Communion** is offered each Sunday and Wednesday.
 ***All services will be streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and our webpage.**

At Goldfinch Senior Living Worship Services are the 2nd Wednesday of the month. 10AM at Assisted Living and 10:45AM, with Communion, at Memory Care. All are welcome to worship with the residents! Beginning in July, we will be adding a worship service on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 10AM, at Lakeview Methodist home, with communion. Please come and worship with our friends & members of Grace!



Worship in the Park all Summer! This year, our Wednesday worship in the park will truly be community worship. Led by our praise band, Grace has invited our ministry partners to share God's Word with us this summer. Come and hear how God is at work in our daily lives through a message given by both local pastors and community members. Sing praise songs led by our amazing worship band. Invite your friends and come worship the Lord in God's creation at Sylvania Park.

Wednesday
COMMUNITY WORSHIP
at the Park
**SYLVANIA PARK BANDSHELL,
 FAIRMONT**
 (RAIN SITE GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH)
EVERY WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM
 (JUNE 7 - AUGUST 30)
 HOSTED BY
 GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, FAIRMONT
All Are Welcome

- LIVE WORSHIP BAND WITH SHORT, MEANINGFUL AND RELATABLE MESSAGES FROM AREA PASTORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- FREE ICE CREAM FROM O'SCOOPS ON JUNE 14 AND JULY 26

FIND US AT: GRACELUTHERANCHURCH.ORG

WORDS FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, August 6, 2023 Lectionary 18

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5
 Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5
 Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 13, 2023 - Lectionary 19

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18
 Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15
 Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 20, 2023 - Lectionary 20

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
 Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
 Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Sunday, August 27, 2023 - Lectionary 21

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6
 Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8
 Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, September 3, 2023 - Lectionary 22

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21
 Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21
 Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Volunteers from our church helped to assemble and mail out the Ways of Grace for the first time in May. Thank you for all your help, Ladies!

