

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.



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THE PASTOR'S PEN

REV. DR. ALLISON COBB

Hebrews 10:24-25 (Common English Bible)

²⁴ And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. ²⁵ Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.



Dear Members and Friends of Grace,

What a delight to be able to gather together this summer as a community of faith. Summer affords us a special time of being outdoors, celebrating the beauty of creation around us in the green grass and serene lakes, making backyard memories, attending ball games, or simply sitting with a glass of lemonade and taking it all in. At the same time, summer often lends itself to road trips without the threat of a blizzard, we hope, time with loved ones to get away from it all, and lots of outdoor projects. If we aren't mindful, summer can become just as busy and overscheduled as the rest of the year!

This summer, at Grace, we hope you will find many opportunities to continue to be community together but in a more relaxed and casual way. At our recent Synod Assembly, the theme was *Every Congregation Connected*. We focused on our human need to be connected to God and one another as the body of Christ. Bishop Regina Hassanally shared that we are a synod made up of 165 congregations and one of 65 synods that make up the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our Southeastern Minnesota Synod is composed of the following five conferences: Root River, Zumbro River, Minnesota River, Cannon River, and Blue Earth River which we are a part of. Your pastors meet monthly with other pastors in the Blue Earth River Conference to support one another, worship together, and to share ministry ideas with one another.

Our keynote speaker at Synod Assembly was Dr. Matt Bloom, emeritus professor at the University of Notre Dame. His life's work is studying the wellbeing of helping and healing professionals including pastors and helping people flourish in their work. He discovered five key components of wellbeing: daily wellbeing (having more good days than bad days), resilience (our capacity to deal with the ups and downs of life), meaning (clarity about values and beliefs), self-integrity (strength and clarity in our sense of self), and connectedness (our relationships with others). Working on these areas helps to provide longevity both professionally and even personally. Dr. Bloom's research mirrored what you may be reading more about in the news, which is that loneliness is as deadly as heart disease or other major illnesses. Keeping connections with supportive and caring people is vitally important to our wellness.

My hope is that this summer, you will continue to find meaning and value in connecting with the body of Christ here at Grace. From our Sunday 9:30AM worship and Wednesday 6:30PM *Praise at the Park*, to fun fellowship, and community events, your pastors and staff look forward to walking with you as you walk with us too! And if you are away, I encourage you to attend church wherever you travel and share with us a bulletin and what you thought was meaningful. We would love to share this with our Worship Team!

You will also be hearing more about a new photo directory for Grace Lutheran Church. We will be having a professional directory put together and need your help! Cindy Wohlhuter and Joyce Eisenmenger are chairing this team and will share more information with you on how to sign up. In short, you will receive a

free 8x10 family portrait when you have your photo taken and we will use this opportunity to update our church's database with your correct contact information. You can share as much or as little information in the directory as you feel comfortable. New directories help us to learn faces and names, especially as Grace has welcomed many new people in the last year. And for those who choose to, you will have the opportunity to purchase photo cards and other items if you wish.

As we enter into this Summertime of the year, my prayer is for you to feel God's love and comfort embracing you as a warm hug. I encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to check out Grace as you attend something fun in our faith community. Here are a few of the events that we hope you will be a part of this summer!

- Sunday Worship at 9:30AM and Wednesday Praise at the Park at 6:30PM
- Lunch at the Lake: Last Tuesday of the Month | Noon | Gomsrud Park Beach or Shelter if Raining
- Vacation Bible School: June 17-20
- Faith Night at the Ballpark with the Mankato Moondogs: June 30
- Photo Directory Pictures: dates in July and August for photos
- Worship on the Water | Sunday, August 11 | 11AM | Ward Park
- Blessing of the Animals Worship | Wednesday, September 4 | 6:30PM | Sylvania Park
- God's Work. Our Hands Sunday of worship, service, and fellowship: September 8

It is a true joy to gather as the body of Christ with you. See you this summer!

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Allison

Memorials:

Ken Reiman Memorial

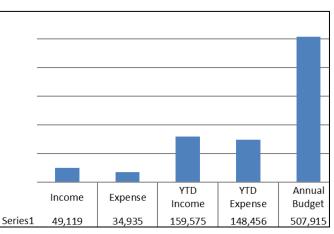
Randy Redington	Open Door			
Marian Holland	Building			
Ross & Cindy Wohhluter	People Helping People			
David & Becky Johnson	People Helping People			
Harry & Chery Brumbaugh	People Helping People			
Julian Baumgarten	Undesignated			
Carolyn Bird	Undesignated			
Bonita Johanneck	Undesignated			
Michael & Linda Katzenme	eyer Undesignated			
Kenneth Wolter	Undesignated			
Elroy & Sandra Nuss	Stained Glass Windows			
Marlin & Kay Wrucke	Building			

Jolene & Joe RosolBuildingMaynard & Audrey JohnsonBuilding

Velma Roalson Memorial

Carol Nasby

Missions



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR APRIL



BUSINESS OF GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting May 19, 2024 CORE VALUES: Faith, Christ-Centered Community/Connections, Service 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.

2024 Focus Areas: Constitution, Stewardship, Community Relationships

<u>Members Present:</u> Troy Nemmers, Joice Forster, Ardel Prescott, Brandon DeClercq, Kris Boerner, Jaime Core, Mark Morris, Joyce

Eisenmenger, Jane Reiman, and Pastor Allison Cobb.

Carolyn Bird and Josh Ensrud attended via Zoom.

Absent: Pastor Cheryl Indehar

Call to Order:

Troy Nemmers called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

Devotional: Brandon led the devotional on how the Holy Spirit is our advocate in times when we don't know what do to or say.

Gathering Prayer: Council members shared prayer requests, with Pastor Allison concluding with a prayer to address these requests.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The April 14, 2024 minutes were approved on April 16, 2024 via email.

Financial Report

Jane Reiman, finance director, gave the council an update on the finances of the

church. Giving was 19% higher than last year's giving at this same time. Easter attendance was up from last year, however giving was down A motion was made by Mark. Seconded by Joyce. Motion carried.

Team Reports

The CYF, Outreach and Fellowship, and Stewardship Committees were received and reviewed by the Council. The Council is very appreciative of all the dedicated members that serve on these committees. More congregational members are needed to help in these areas.

<u>Service</u>: The Service team approved the removal of 3 Ash trees on the south side of the building at a cost of \$5,000 dollars by Montana Tree Service. \$3,000 will be donated back to the church. Improving lighting in the chapel and lounge was discussed and will be researched. The team is also looking into various upkeeps on the cooling system and the wall behind the altar area.

Old Business

The Council spent a considerable time comparing the current Grace Lutheran Church Constitution and bylaws and the ELCA model constitution. At the June meeting, the council will meet with Pastor Kristy Mitchell from the ELCA Southeast Synod to guide them through the process of updating Grace Lutheran Church constitution and bylaws, as it has not been done since 2012. In July, the council will have a work session to begin the revision process. This is a long process and needs a congregational vote before any changes can be made.

New Business

The Council discussed a Pastoral Emergency Protocol which outlines the way for members to contact a pastor during non-work hours in the case of an emergency. A motion was made by Ardel to have a Pastoral Emergency Protocol. Second by Brandon. Motion carried. This will be shared with the congregation in the near future.

The dates for 2024-2025 Christian Education youth programming were discussed. The CYF team will discuss this topic at their June

meeting.

Pastor Report

Pastor Allison and Pastor Cheryl sent written reports on the work they have accomplished the past month. Pastor Allison informed the Council that Bishop Regina Hassanally of the ELCA Southeast Minnesota Synod will be here to preach on God's Work Our Hand's Sunday in September. The Council continues to be appreciative of the work they are doing here at Grace.

Upcoming Dates

Monday, June 3rd at 5:30 p.m. Worship and CYF Team Meetings Tuesday, June 4th at 5:30 p.m. Outreach/ Fellowship Team meeting Tuesday, June 11th at 5:30 p.m. Service **Team Meeting** Tuesday, June 11^h at 6:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting Sunday, June 9th at 10:30 a.m. Church Council Meeting in the Laurel Lounge Joice will lead devotions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Joice Forster, Secretary

Approval of Secretary's Report

O

The May 19, 2024 council minutes were reviewed and approved via email on May 19, 2024. Motion by Brandon. Seconded by Josh to approve. Motion carried.

Ash Trees at Grace

This summer our beautiful ash trees along Tilden street will be coming down, courtesy of the Emerald Ash Borer. The tree at the southwest corner of the property, near the entrance to the parking lot, has already been removed by the City of Fairmont because it was in the boulevard. The other 3 ash trees are Grace's responsibility to take down, and to replace. While these 3 trees are leafing out and appear on the surface to be OK, a close look shows that there are significant areas with dead branches, and increasing signs of stress and infestation. It is hard to say goodbye to the giant trees that dutifully shaded our church picnics, VBS crafts, confirmation small

groups and games of Red Rover, but we will be planting a mixed variety of new trees along Tilden as soon as possible. We invite everyone to contribute to the purchase of the replacement trees. If you feel moved to donate, just note that the funds are for the trees. Thank you!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sundays:9:30AM Worship (May 22 - September)Tuesdays:2:00PM Fairmont Cable TV Channel 12
(pre-recorded)Wednesdays:6:30PM Praise in Sylvania Park
(May 22 - September 4)Fridays:1:00PM Fairmont Cable TV Channel 12
(pre-recorded)

*Sunday services will be streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and our webpage.

Senior Living Worship Services this month: June 10 at Lakeview Methodist Home, 10 AM and June 12 at Goldfinch, 10 AM in Memory

Care and 10:30 AM in Assisted Living. Please come and worship with our friends and members of Grace!

Praise in the Park Each Wednesday! The Praise Band will lead the community in worship each week at Sylvania Park band shell for a half an hour praise service. A different pastor or lay leader from our community churches will share God's Word as we worship together in the sunshine! And, if there is rain, we will meet at the park's shelter house. Invite a friend and come for a mid-week boost!

Baptisms in the Park! At our mid-week Praise in the Park services this summer, Pastor Allison and Pastor Cheryl will preside one week a month so that families who would like a summer outdoor baptism can choose one of the following evenings: Wednesdays May 29, June 5, July 24, and August 7. We had a wonderful summer baptism last year and would like to give other families the opportunity to have a baptism in a casual outdoor setting. For more information, please contact the church office.

Summer Worship Sundays: A reminder that we moved to one summer worship service on Sunday May 26 at 9:30AM. The Worship Team is working with our wonderful musicians to provide two traditional and two contemporary services a month. We hope you will attend and have an opportunity to worship with others who may normally worship in a different service than you do during the school year. It is a joy to get a chance to all worship together!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The Church Council has partnered with the Stewardship Committee to issue a challenge to the members of Grace. Beginning in April we challenged the families of Grace to add \$5 per week to their offering. Special envelopes have been made for this challenge and are available in the gathering space. This challenge will run for five months from April-August. If 100 families participate with an additional \$5/week in their offering, Grace Lutheran will see an extra \$10,000 in the general fund giving!

In the first few months of 2024, we have seen our giving near our budgeted amounts and are very grateful. However, in 2024 we also saw increases in several of our normal operating expenses. This challenge will provide needed additional revenue to continue to offer all the services that you as Grace members utilize and expect on a weekly basis. Thank you for your prayers and thoughtful consideration of how you can impact Grace Lutheran church and fulfil this Offering Challenge. *Go Team Grace!* \$3,701 Collected as of May 28, 2024.

- Carolyn Bird and Troy Nemmers, Council Co-Presidents

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

- Prayer Shawls & Squares: Shawls and Squares knitted and prayed over as items of comfort. These are available for you to gift to someone in their time of need.
- Prayer Group: Meets every Tuesday to lift up in prayer, friends, families, & loved ones on our Prayer List.
- Care Callers: Volunteers who reach out via phone or card monthly to connect with members at home.
- Visitation Team: Visit homebound members monthly, who would like communion and some conversation.
- **Open Door Meals:** Volunteers help cook and serve meals every Wednesday evening during the school year.
- Meal Ministry Team: Deliver meals to those who are struggling, injured, recovering from surgery or treatment, or added a new family member!
- **Funeral Meal Servers:** Help to provide hospitality while serving meals during Funerals at Grace.
- ✤ Food Pantry: Located in our Gathering Area, our Food Pantry is available for all in need to use.
- ✤ Care Bags: This team assembles bags with essential items provided for visitors in need.
- People Helping People: A team who responds to requests submitted from people in need of financial assistance or resources, food assistance, and resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Breakfast on Monday: Men of all ages are invited to a monthly breakfast at The Ranch restaurant on the first Monday of the month. Come for a devotion, fellowship, and good breakfast food. *When: Monday June 3 at 7:00AM Where: The Ranch Restaurant* Why: Because Jesus says that when a few are gathered in his name, he's there too!





Lunch at the Lake on Tuesday, June 25! Come join your pastors for *Lunch at the Lake!* Let's take advantage of the wonderful weather and our beautiful lakes. On the last Tuesday of the month, from April to September, bring your lunch and a lawn chair to the beach at Gomsrud Park. If there is rain, we will meet in the shelter house at the picnic table. We will meet at noon for fellowship with a brief devotion and prayer at 12:15pm. Come on your lunch hour and stay for as little or long as you can. This is a fun, casual, and informal way to stay connected as the body of Christ at Grace! For more information, please see one of the pastors.

Faith Night at the Mankato Moon Dogs! We will be offering another trip to the Mankato Moon Dogs on Sunday, June 30!!! Please purchase your tickets in the office as soon as possible. We have 7 reserved seats left and if we need more, we will do our best to purchase additional ones before they sell out. The cost is \$10 which includes your assigned seat and a hot dog meal. Checks can be made to Grace Lutheran Church with Moondogs in the memo. We will meet in the Grace parking lot that day at 3:45pm and carpool to the game. Hope to see you at the ballpark!





New Offering Envelopes: You will be receiving new offering envelopes in the mail. If you do not want them or if you would like them but aren't currently receiving them, please let the office know. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED ...



Crochet, Anyone? Crochet patterns have now been added to our prayer shawl kits!!! These kits contain yarn, instructions, and labels for both crochet and knitted prayer shawls. Kits can be picked up from the shelves across the office and finished shawls returned in the same bag. As you crochet or knit a shawl, please pray for whomever will receive this gift of God's love, comfort, and peace. Anyone in the congregation may take a prayer shawl to give away and are found by our Care Table. Thank you for sharing your talents with those who need extra care. For more information, please stop by the office or see one of the pastors.

Photo Directory: This summer we will be taking photos for a new Church Directory July 9-13 and July 31 - August 3! Online Scheduling is Available! To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter <u>mn437</u> (Case Sensitive) in the Church Code field and enter <u>photos</u> in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The



online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. Please call Cindy Wohlhuter at 507-236-4403 with any questions. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.

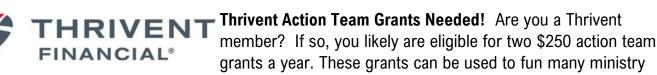


Office Volunteers Needed: We are looking to "staff" the office with volunteers for a two hour time period Monday through Thursday. We have no volunteers for Monday and we need back ups for Tuesday - Thursday. Hours are flexible! During that time, volunteers would greet guests and answer phones. This will allow our office administrator, Nicole Kolbe, to have two hours of uninterrupted time each day for working on the church newsletter, Ways of Grace, two weekly bulletins, and the ministry minutes. Volunteers can knit, read, or spend their time in an activity

of their choosing while covering the phones. Please contact the office if you would like to volunteer and we will get a monthly \schedule set up. Thank you!

God's Grace is Amazing Day Thank You! Thank you to everyone who make this special day of worship and service so special. From Cindy Wohlhuter's and Nancy Backer's organizational creativity, to the rakers and spray painters, writers, bakers, and artists, we shared God's love in our community. Be sure to save the date for our next congregational worship and service event, *God's Work. Our Hands Sunday*, on September 9!





projects here at Grace. This summer, we could use grants for the following ministries: Vacation Bible School, the photo directory, God's Work. Our Hands health kits, paint for the outdoor cross and handrails, automatic light switches for the bathrooms, lawn supplies, care bags, and so much more. Please speak to one of the pastors and they can help you in requesting a grant. Thank you!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY



DETAILS:

GLC is once again teaming up with Ingham Lake Okoboji for VBS at Grace! Children 4 years old through those entering 6th grade will learn how to

CULTIVATE LIFE, JOHN 15:5!

To register for VBS and BLAST, please visit our website at the link below and return your completed form to Grace Lutheran Church, Monday - Thursday 9am - 3pm or via email: office@gracelutheranchurch.org

<u>Fun days:</u> Monday: Silly Socks Tuesday: Hat Day Wednesday: Wacky Hair Thursday: Western Day Daily Reminders:

- Wear tennis shoes
- Wear sunscreen if needed
- Bring a refillable water bottle

Youth Trip Coordinator Volunteer Needed

CYF is looking for a lead volunteer to plan future youth trips for students! Some duties would include coordinating details of location and lodging, finding volunteer chaperones, assist with fundraising events for donations, and work with the CYF Team and Pastors on trip details and itinerary. Please contact the office if interested!



WORDS FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, June 2 - Lectionary 9

Deuteronomy makes clear that sabbath-keeping is meant for the welfare of all. God delivered the Israelites out of slavery, so they should observe this freedom with a day of rest. No one should work seven days a week; even slaves and foreigners should be able to rest. Yet human beings can turn even the most liberating religious practice into a life-destroying rule. Jesus does not reject sabbath-keeping, but defends its original life-enhancing meaning. Our worship and our religious way of life are to lead to restoration: the hungry being fed and the sick being healed.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 5:12-15 Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12 Gospel: Mark 2:23—3:6

Sunday, June 9 - Lectionary 10

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

First Reading: Genesis 3:8-15 Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1 Gospel: Mark 3:20-35

Sunday, June 16 - Lectionary 11

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17 Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

Sunday, June 23 - Lectionary 12

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

First Reading: Job 38:1-11 Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, June 30 - Lectionary 13

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

First Reading: Lamentations 3:22-33 Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Gospel: Mark 5:21-43





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:30am Summer Worship Service 12:00pm - 4:00pm Graduation Party	9:00am - 10:00am Staff	9:00am - 11:00am Sew- ing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	Wedding Prep	1:00pm Worship Service Aired 1PM Funeral at Lakeview 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	4:00pm Wedding
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30am Summer Worship Service	9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Mary Circle 5:30pm CYF Team Meeting	9:00am - 3:00pm Com- mon Threads Sewing 9:00am - 11:00am Sew- ing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 5:30pm Outreach/ Fellowship Team Meet- ings	6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	9:00am - 10:00am Sarah's Circle 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing	1:00pm Worship Service Aired	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30am Summer Worship Service 10:45am Church Council Meeting	9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Lakeview Senior Worship 7:00pm Worship Team Meeting	Meeting	9:00am Common Threads 10:00am Goldfinch Memory Care Worship 10:30am Goldfinch Assisted Living Worship 6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	4:00pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre 6:00pm - 8:00pm Boyscouts	1:00pm Worship Service Aired	Ways of Grace Submission Deadline
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30am Summer Wor- ship Service	8am - 12pm Vacation Bible School 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	8am - 12pm Vacation Bible School	8am - 12pm Vacation Bible School 6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	8am - 12pm Vacation Bible School	1:00pm Worship Service Aired	8:00am - 2:00pm Baby Shower
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30am Summer Wor- ship Service	9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting		6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	4:30pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre	1:00pm Worship Service Aired	
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30am Summer Worship Service	9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Mary Circle 5:30pm CYF Team Meeting 5:30pm Worship Team Meeting	mon Threads Sewing 9:00am - 11:00am Sew-	6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	9:00am - 10:00am Sarah's Circle	1:00pm Worship Service Aired	

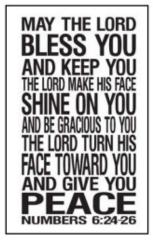




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<u>Our Staff :</u>

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Fairmont Grace Lutheran Church - www.gracelutheranchurch.org



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