

*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.*

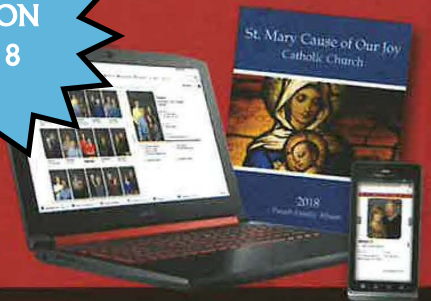
*July 2024*



## CHURCH DIRECTORY TIME!

*Dear Church family,  
It's time for a New Directory!*

MORE ON  
PAGE 8



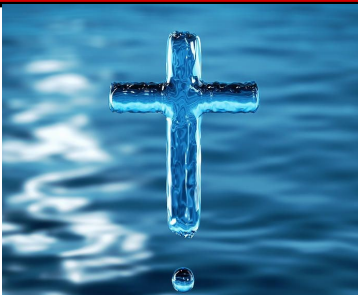
### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Worship by the Water**

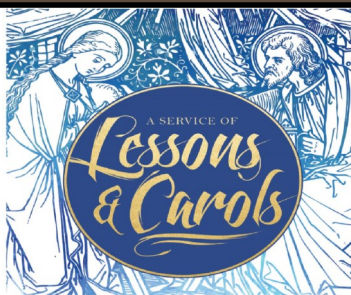
**Summer Lessons & Carols**

**Care Bag Assembly**

**3**



**3**



**8**





## **Kindness and Gentleness**

Kindness and gentleness are two of the fruits of the Holy Spirit and they go together. Kindness by definition is having a good or benevolent nature or disposition. Words that are similar to kindness are humane, tender and compassionate. Gentleness by definition means being amiable, kind, and mild. The opposite of kindness and gentleness is cruel and harsh.



When we are living by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are experiencing kindness and gentleness. Kindness is a disposition towards each other. It is giving another person respect, dignity and consideration of our time and energy. It is giving compassionate towards that person. It is how we treat that other person.

Kindness and gentleness are also about how we treat our selves. What are the comments or thought that we have toward ourselves? Do we say harsh comments about ourselves to ourselves or others? We should be kind and gentle to ourselves as well.

We have a role model in Jesus. He used kindness and gentleness towards others. Jesus did not agree with everyone he met but he still tried to show kindness and gentleness with them. When he did get angry it was over the hardness of their hearts and they wrong done at the temple. We, too, may get angry about wrongs done to us and others. But we can still try to resolve those issues in a kind and gentle manner. One goes farther with honey than vinegar.

As Christians, let us enjoy the fruits of kindness and gentleness as we live out our lives. Many times, we can set the tone of any encounter by our demeanor. Right now, in our culture it can use more kindness and gentleness. Let us be the examples of it.





# 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:** July 8 at Lakeview Methodist Home, 10 AM. Then July 10 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 Worship Team welcomes you to a mid-week boost in God's creation each week this summer. The Praise Band is doing an amazing job on Wednesdays at the park, bringing the love of Jesus through joyful songs. We have also been blessed with a variety of pastors and lay speakers from the community sharing God's Word. If you would like to volunteer to run sound at the park, be a greeter, or assist in worship, please let the office know so you can be added to a volunteer team. This worship service continues to grow, and we welcome all to worship to hear God's grace!

**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 July 24, and August 7. For more information, please contact the church office.



**Summer Lessons and Carols:** Psalm 96 instructs us to "Sing to the Lord a new song!" On Sunday, July 21, we will have our second annual worship service of Summer Lessons and Carols. This beloved Christmas tradition of having a reading then singing a corresponding Christmas carol has been reimagined with old traditional favorites. During this service, we will sing Sweet Hour of Prayer, What A Friend We Have in Jesus, Blessed Assurance, and other beloved songs as well as include a time to come forward to kneel at the altar rail for healing prayer with a pastor or to light a candle and pray. We welcome you to invite a friend as we hear God's Word, commune at Christ's table, sing with joy, and pray together as sisters and brothers in Christ.

## SAVE THE DATE:

Worship by the Water – Sunday, August 11 | 11AM | Ward Park!

# BUSINESS OF GRACE



## Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting June 9, 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

**Members Present:** Carolyn Bird, Troy Nemmers, Joice Forster, Brandon DeClercq, Kris Boerner, Mark Morris, Joyce Eisenmenger, Jane Reiman, Pastor Cheryl Indehar, and Pastor Allison Cobb.

**Absent:** Ardel Prescott, Jaime Core, Josh Ensrud

**Call to Order:**  
Carolyn Bird called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

**Devotional:** Joice led the devotional on the importance of looking for ways and celebrating the Holy Spirit moving through the church.

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

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**  
The May 19, 2024 minutes were approved on May 19, 2024 via email.

**Financial Report**  
Jane Reiman, finance director, gave the council an update on the finances of the church. Giving was 16% higher than last year's giving at this same time. \$4,100 has been given thus far in the \$5 challenge campaign. The campaign continues through August with the goal of \$10,000 being raised. A motion was made by

Mark to approve the financial report. Seconded by Joyce. Motion carried.

### **Team Reports**

The CYF and Outreach and Fellowship teams' minutes were received and reviewed by the Council. The CYF team was busy organizing Vacation Bible School to be held June 17-20<sup>th</sup>. Thus far, 75 students have registered. Also, the team was rejoicing in more members joining the CYF team. The Outreach and Fellowship team was planning food and meals for various summer activities at Grace. The Personnel Team will be meeting with Kathy Roalson to discuss details of the Open Door Coordinator position. They will then be seeking applicants for this position as Kathy has resigned. Service and Stewardship Teams will meet next week and will send out minutes to council members.

### **Old Business**

The Council met via Zoom with Pastor Kristi Mitchell from the ELCA Southeastern Minnesota Synod to guide them through the process of updating Grace Lutheran Church constitution and bylaws, as it has not been done since 2012. Pastor Kristi gave much valuable information and insight into this process and the timelines that need to be met. The council agreed this will take a considerable amount of time and plan to have it ready for approval by the congregation at the January 2026 annual meeting. Troy volunteered to merge the Grace Lutheran constitution and the ELCA Model Constitution. The constitution sub-committee of Carolyn, Kris, Josh, Pastor Allison, and Pastor Cheryl will be working on looking at the constitution in more depth once the merge has been completed. The full council will have a work session in August to prepare a time-line task chart and work on updating the Constitution.

### **New Business**

The Council discussed the webinar that they viewed entitled "Burden Or Blessing to Use Your Property", which discussed ways the church



building can be used to produce income. The Stewardship Team will be exploring this idea more at upcoming meetings.

Fairmont Opera House has asked Grace to house their baby grand piano for a while during the time the Opera House is out of commission and seeking funds for construction remodeling costs. The Mankato Symphony may be performing once again at Grace on March 16, 2025 and will need a baby grand piano. Grace may utilize the piano while it is here. Troy moved to allow the baby grand piano to be housed at Grace. Mark seconded it. Motion carried.

A discussion took place concerning Brad Anderson, our custodian, getting his boilers license. Brad is willing to go through the process. Troy moved to pay up to 2 tests, as well as travel expenses and meals, for Brad to do so. Brandon seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor Report**

Pastor Allison and Pastor Cheryl sent written reports on the work they have accomplished the past month. The Council appreciates all the work they are doing here at Grace.

**Upcoming Dates**

Monday, July 1st at 5:30 p.m. Worship and CYF Team Meeting  
Tuesday, July 2nd at 5:30 p.m. Outreach/ Fellowship Team meeting  
Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Service Team Meeting  
Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting  
Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m. Church Council Meeting in the Laurel Lounge

**Carolyn will lead devotions.**

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m. with the Lord’s Prayer.  
Respectfully Submitted by Joice Forster,  
Secretary

**Approval of Secretary’s Report**

The June 9, 2024 council minutes were reviewed and approved via email on June 9, 2024. Motion by Brandon. Seconded by Kris to approve. Motion carried.

**MEMORIALS:**

**Marlin Bents Memorial**

Janice Lemond Undesignated

**Bob Miles Memorial**

Jennelle Cunning Missions

**Velma Roalson Memorial**

Pat Jones Missions  
Carol & Chris Nasby Undesignated

**Pastor Jack Thorstensen Memorial**

Sandy Ettesvold Undesignated  
Roger & Carol Voss Undesignated  
Arvin & Joanne Soma Building  
Linda Shaw Stained Glass Windows

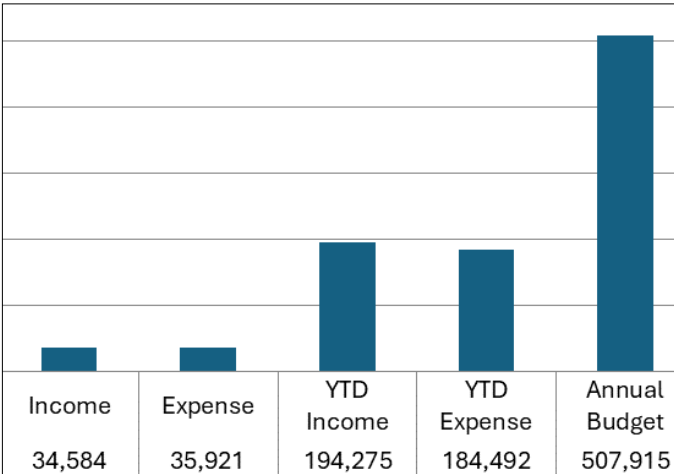
**Marcia Cherland Memorial**

Arvin & Joanne Soma VBS  
Carol & Chris Nasby Undesignated

**Angela Steward Memorial**

Harlan & Larainne People Helping People  
Gorath

**FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR MAY**







# CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY



## *Thank you VBS Helpers and CYF Team!*

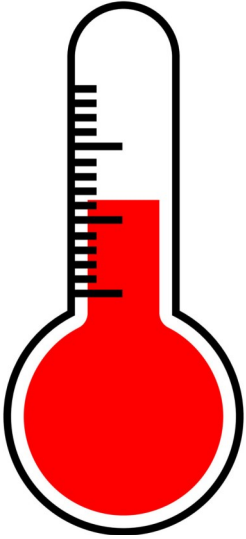
A huge "Thank You!" to our Children, Youth, and Family Team for putting on an amazing Vacation Bible School. 88 kids were in attendance as well as 20 plus instructors, teachers, and volunteers. We can not thank everyone enough from our volunteers who cooked the camp counselors' meals, confirmation students who shepherded the kids, those who hosted the counselors, those who donated snacks, and so many others. The kids exceeded their goal of \$175 for this week and raised over \$400 for the Martin County Humane Society! It is a blessing to share in God's ministry together!







# STEWARDSHIP CORNER



We are challenging 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 donations! We are now halfway to our goal! Please continue your prayers and thoughtful consideration of how you can impact Grace Lutheran church and fulfil this Offering Challenge!***



- 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.



# TIME TOGETHER



**Care Bag Assembly Needs You!** Come for Summer Lessons and Carols Worship on Sunday, July 21, and as you leave, walk through the Chapel to assemble a Care Bag. 50 bags will only take a few minutes with lots of hands. All items will be laid out, so you just have to pick up items to add to the bag as you walk through, cinch up the bag, and place it on the shelf in the hallway. Total Time: 2 minutes. Doing God's Work: Priceless.

**Lunch at the Lake on Tuesday, July 30!** Come join your pastors for *Lunch at the Lake!* Let's take advantage of the wonderful weather and 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.



**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 July 1 & August 5 at 7:00AM**

**Where: The Ranch Restaurant**

**Why: Because Jesus says that when a few are gathered in his name, he's there too!**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Photo Directory:** This month 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](http://www.ucdir.com), click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter mn437 (Case Sensitive) in the Church Code field and enter photos 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.



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

**Thrivent Action Team Grants Needed!** Are you a Thrivent member? If so, you likely are eligible for two \$250 action team grants a year. These grants can be used to fund many ministry projects here at Grace. This summer, we could use grants for the following ministries: The photo directory, God's Work. Our Hands health kits, updating lights in the Lounge and Chapel, 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!

**Ash Trees at Grace:** This summer our beautiful ash trees along Tilden street will be coming down, courtesy of the Emerald Ash Borer. 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. If you would like to support the fund for new trees, please make a note on your check. Thank you!







# God's Grace is Amazing Day!







# WORDS FOR WORSHIP



## **Sunday, July 7 - Lectionary 14**

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the “between”: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:1-5

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Gospel: Mark 6:1-13

## **Sunday, July 14 - Lectionary 15**

When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.

First Reading: Amos 7:7-15

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel: Mark 6:14-29

## **Sunday, July 21 - Lectionary 16**

Mark's gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

Gospel: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

## **Sunday, July 28 - Lectionary 17**

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

Gospel: John 6:1-21

## **Sunday, August 4 - Lectionary 18**

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15


Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

Gospel: John 6:24-35





# July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9:30am Summer Worship Service 3:45pm Faith Night at the Ballpark - Meet at Grace	<b>1</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Mary Circle 5:30pm CYF Team Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:00am - 3:00pm Common Threads Sewing 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 5:30pm Outreach/Fellowship Team Meetings	<b>3</b> 9:00am - 2:00pm American Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	<b>4</b> <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY - OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Sarah's Circle 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing 	<b>5</b> 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30am Summer Worship Service	<b>8</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting <b>10:00am Lakeview Senior Worship</b>	<b>9</b> 2-8:36pm Church Directory Photos 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 5:30pm Service Team Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship Team Meeting	<b>10</b> 2-8pm Church Directory Photos 10:00am Goldfinch Memory Care Worship 10:30am Goldfinch Assisted Living Worship 6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	<b>11</b> 2-8:36pm Church Directory Photos 4:00pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre 6:00pm - 8:00pm Boy scouts	<b>12</b> 2-8:36pm Church Directory Photos 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	<b>13</b> 10am-4pm Church Directory Photos
<b>14</b> 9:30am Summer Worship Service 10:45am Church Council Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>Ways of Grace Submission Deadline</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:00am - 3:00pm Common Threads Sewing 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	<b>18</b> 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing	<b>19</b> 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	<b>20</b> 8:00am - 4:00pm Baby Shower
<b>21</b> 9:30am Baptism 9:30am Summer Worship Service	<b>22</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>23</b> 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	<b>25</b> 4:30pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre	<b>26</b> 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30am Summer Worship Service	<b>29</b> 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> 9:00am - 3:00pm Common Threads Sewing 9:00am - 11:00am Sewing Circle 12:00pm Lunch at the Lake 1:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired	<b>31</b> 2-8:36pm Church Directory Photos 6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	<b>1</b> 2-8:36pm Church Directory Photos 9:00am - 10:00am Sarah's Circle 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing	<b>2</b> 2-8:36pm Church Directory Photos 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	<b>3</b> 10am-4pm Church Directory Photos



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**300 S Grant St**  
**Fairmont, MN 56031**

**Address Service Requested**



Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Fairmont, Minnesota 56031  
PERMIT NO. 147

### **Our Staff :**

**Rev. Dr. Allison Cobb** - Senior Pastor [cobb@gracelutheranchurch.org](mailto:cobb@gracelutheranchurch.org)

**Rev. Cheryl Indehar** - Interim Associate Pastor [indehar@gracelutheranchurch.org](mailto:indehar@gracelutheranchurch.org)

**Nicole Kolbe** - Office Administrator [office@gracelutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@gracelutheranchurch.org)

**Jane Reiman** - Finance Director [reiman@gracelutheranchurch.org](mailto:reiman@gracelutheranchurch.org)

**Brad Anderson**- Maintenance Emergency contact number: 507- 236-1123  
Office: 507- 238- 4418



Fairmont Grace Lutheran Church - [www.gracelutheranchurch.org](http://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.

**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**