

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.







THE PASTOR'S PEN

REV. DR. ALLISON COBB

13 You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. 14 All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. -- Galatians 5:13-14

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



Happy Summer! I hope this August newsletter finds you enjoying warm weather, sunshine, and beautiful flowers and plants during this special season of the calendar year. We are beginning our final month of the church's summer schedule with our combined Sunday worship service and Wednesday *Praise at the Park*. Thank you to everyone who has been able to come in for their directory photos and the work of the directory team, led by Cindy Wohlhuter and Joyce Eisenmenger, who are making this new directory possible.

While we may be taking a break from our regular program year, the church has been bustling with a variety of ministries and you are invited to join in the fun! What does canned ravioli, brightly colored yarn, pans of yummy bars, new bath towels, and your furry family members have in common? They are all needed for special ongoing and upcoming ways to live out our faith together at Grace.

With children home from school, our food pantry has been especially busy with guests. We welcome you to consider bringing in easy to eat foods like canned ravioli, microwave mac 'n' cheese, canned chili, granola bars, cereal, applesauce cups, and canned fruit and vegetables for the Grace pantry. Household items like toilet paper, cleaning supplies, feminine hygiene products, and personal care items are also needed.

And for those who enjoy baking, you will find a table in the Gathering Space which has foil 9x13 pans. For our special service on August 11, *Worship by the Water*, we invite you to provide treats for fellowship together at Ward Park. Please take a pan and return it filled with any kind of pre-cut bars, brownies, or treats, and we will share them with our neighbors who come to worship.

For others who prefer to shop instead of bake, the Missions Team is collecting new towels, bars of soap, nail clippers, toothbrushes, and combs for Lutheran World Relief personal care kits. We will assemble these kits together along with other fun projects on Sunday, September 8, for *God's Work*. *Our Hands* Sunday. This will also be the day our bishop, Bishop Regina Hassanally of our Southeastern Minnesota Synod, will be preaching in worship and joining us for this day of service and fellowship. Please invite your friends and neighbors to come!

Another worship and outreach event coming up is our *Blessing of the Animals* worship service on September 4. This will be our final Wednesday park worship this summer and the praise band will lead us in fun animal themed music while your pastors lead you in scripture, prayers, and preaching that acknowledge the blessing God has provided through our furry family members. All friendly critters need to be in a carrier or on a leash and in the past have included dogs, cats, chicks, lizards, goats, guinea pigs, hamsters, and lots of pets who are pictured on cell phones. Everyone will have a chance to come forward for a personal pet blessing! This is a festive and joyful service where all two legged and four legged creatures are welcome.

Thank you to everyone who has made this summer special with your worship attendance on Sunday mornings, trying out *Lunch at the Lake*, coming to vacation Bible school, praising God in the park on Wednesdays, and continuing to serve on various ministry teams. The sharing of your time, presence, financial support, gifts, and skills helps our congregation share the good news of Jesus inside and out of our walls. The Holy Spirit has called us to be part of Grace at this moment in time to bring hope through the power of Christ's healing love. Thank you for putting your faith into action in so many ways!

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Allison

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: August 12 at Lakeview Methodist Home, 10 AM. Then August 14 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!

Worship by the Water: Sunday, August 11 at 11AM in Ward Park. We will also have 9:30AM Worship in the Sanctuary!



Blessing of the Animals! Bring your furry family member to Sylvania Park on Wednesday, September 4, at 6:30PM for an animal-themed worship service. Our praise band will lead us in silly animal songs and all of our scriptures and prayers will focus on God's gift of animals. The service also includes a time of bringing your animal forward to receive a blessing, even if it is from a cell phone picture or in an enclosure. Well-mannered creatures only, please. Small farm critters are welcome too!

BUSINESS OF GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting July 14, 2024

<u>CORE VALUES: Faith, Christ-Centered</u> <u>Community/Connections, Service</u> <u>Our Mission: To boldly live out our faith in</u> <u>Jesus through worship, fellowship, and</u> <u>service to God and our neighbor, here and</u> <u>around the world.</u>

2024 Focus Areas: Constitution, Stewardship, Community Relationships

Members Present: Carolyn Bird, Joice Forster, Kris Boerner, Mark Morris, Ardel Prescott, Jaime Core, Jane Reiman, Pastor Cheryl Indehar, and Pastor Allison Cobb.

<u>Absent:</u> Josh Ensrud, Troy Nemmers, Brandon DeClercq, and Joyce Eisenmenger

Call to Order:

Carolyn Bird called the meeting to order at 10:52 a.m.

Call Committee Update:

Cindy Wohlhuter, of the call committee, informed the council that an associate pastor candidate has accepted a call to be Grace Lutheran Church's candidate of choice. A congregational vote will take place on Sunday, August 4th immediately following the 9:30 church service. Notices of the vote will be given to the congregation shortly. The council thanks the call committee for all their hard work.

Devotional: Carolyn led the devotional based on Jeremiah 12:11. God is at work on His children's behalves at all times. His timing is perfect.

<u>Gathering Prayer:</u> Council members shared prayer requests, with Pastor Cheryl concluding with a prayer to address these requests.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The June 9, 2024 minutes were approved on June 9, 2024 via email.

Financial Report

Jane Reiman, finance director, gave the council an update on the finances of the church. Giving was 15% higher than last year's giving at this same time. A motion was made by Mark to approve the financial report. Seconded by Ardel . Motion carried.

Team Reports

<u>CYF</u>: Vacation Bible School was a huge success, with about 100 students participating. The team has contacted Ingham/Okoboji Bible camp to secure a date for a VBS group next year for the same week in June. Rebecca Kelley has volunteered to lead a youth mission trip for the summer of 2025 in Appalachia. Grace must have 10 people register for this trip to be a go.

Announcements will be sent out shortly to all students in 7th-12th grades. The CYF team has also been busy preparing for the 2024-25 BLAST year.

Worship: The team has been planning Worship on the Water on August 11, 2024.

Outreach: The Outreach team is working on a back-up plan in case an Open Door coordinator is not found by September. They are also asking for bars to be made for the Worship by the Water service. The team is looking for volunteers for Meals on Wheels for the first two weeks in September. A Sign-Up Genius will be used.

Personnel: The Personnel Team continues to search for an Open Door Coordinator. It was suggested to contact Minnesota Work Force to list the opening. Pastor Allison will work with Sandy Griese, Personnel Team chair, to make this contact.

<u>Service and Stewardship Teams</u>: The Service and Stewardship Teams will meet on July 16th and will send their minutes via email.

Old Business

The dates of youth programming for 2024-25 have been set and are on the church calendar.

New Business

Pastor Allison informed the council that the worship committee would like to have the summer schedule, with one 9:30 service, to begin the week before Memorial Day weekend in 2025. This will also be Grace is Amazing Day. A motion was made by Joice to do so. Seconded by Mark. Motion passed.

A discussion took place on giving a reminder to all volunteers the week they are to serve. Pastor Allison will look into having phone calls being made as reminders.

Pastor Report

Pastor Allison and Pastor Cheryl sent written reports on the work they have accomplished the past month. The council is very pleased with how they go above and beyond to meet the needs of the Grace congregation.

Upcoming Dates

Monday, August 5th at 5:30 p.m. CYF Team Meeting Tuesday, August 6th at 5:30 p.m. Outreach/ Fellowship Team meeting Tuesday, August 13th at 5:30 p.m. Service Team Meeting Tuesday, August 13th at 6:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting Sunday, August 18th at 10:45 a.m. Church Council Meeting in the Laurel Lounge

Mark will lead devotions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully Submitted by Joice Forster, Secretary

Approval of Secretary's Report

The July 14, 2024 minutes were approved on July 15, 2024. Motion by Kris. Second by Carolyn. Motion carried.

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Congregational Meeting, August 4, 10:30AM at Grace Lutheran Church to vote on calling our Associate Pastor of Youth and Outreach. Please plan to attend directly following our 9:30AM worship service. Thank you!

MEMORIALS:

Jack Thorsensen Memorial

Sherwood & Carol Sagedahl Robert & Deb Bonk **Otto Rodney Palmquist** Marian Holland Elroy & Sandy Nuss Harlan & Larainne Gorath

Undesignated Undesignated Undesignated Building Stained Glass **People Helping** People

Wanda Freitag Memorial

Janice Lemon

Undesignated

YTD YTD Annual Income Expense Income Expense Budget 29.534 219.104 214.027 507.915 24.829

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR JUNE

TIME TOGETHER



Monthly Men's Breakfast:

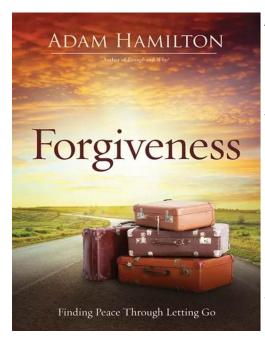
Men of all ages are invited to a monthly breakfast at The Ranch restaurant on the first Monday of the month. Come for a devotion, fellowship, and good breakfast food. *When: Monday August 5 at 7:00AM Where: The Ranch Restaurant* Why: Because Jesus says that when a few are gathered in his name, he's there too!

Lunch at the Lake on Tuesday, August 27:

Come join your pastors for Lunch at the Lake! Let's take advantage of the wonderful warm 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.



Adult Education Returns Next Month!

Grab your coffee and donut holes and head to the Lounge for casual conversation and faith formation. On September 22, we will begin this program year with a financial update from Co-President Troy Nemmers and Stewardship Chair Mark Morris. Then on October 6, we will start a series entitled Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go by Rev. Adam Hamilton. This year, we will also explore the miracles of Jesus, Christmas gifts that never break, the call and life of the Apostle Paul, the challenging teachings of Jesus, and a final series on things we think the Bible says but it really doesn't. Hope you will come and invite a friend! Want to Learn to Knit or Crochet? Have you ever wanted something to keep your hands busy and serve a wonderful purpose at the same time? If so, learning how to knit or crochet might be a fun project for you! Our dedicated Prayer Shawl Team would like to teach a new group of folks their amazing talent this Fall. The Prayer Shawl Team makes prayer squares, baby baptism prayer shawls, and regular prayer shawls as part of our care ministries of Grace. Women and men, adults, and children are welcome to learn. If you are interested,



please email Pastor Allison, cobb@gracelutheranchurch.org, and she will add your name to the list. We will look to find a date and time this Fall for this special learning event.



Interested in Serving At Grace? Whether you are new to Grace or have been a part of this worshipping community for years, it can be difficult to join a new ministry and start serving as a volunteer. The pastors and staff at Grace want to make this process simple by encouraging you to sign-up on the bulletin board above the Care Table in the Gathering Space. Nicole will contact you and connect you to the ministry team leader for more information. Additionally, the yellow Grace Welcome brochures have each ministry's contact information, and you

may email that team member directly. We hope to bring awareness of all the wonderful ways to share our gifts of time and talents for God's ministry here at Grace. If you have any questions, please visit with one of the pastors.

Bars by the Water: We need your help making bars for our Worship by the Water service! In the Gathering Space, you will find a table that has disposable pans. Please pick up a pan and bring it to worship, filled with your favorite bars to share on August 11 at 11am in Ward Park! Please be sure all bars are pre-cut for easy serving. Thank you in advance for your time and effort in making our worship special!





God's Work. Our Hands!

Mark your calendars for a morning of worship, service, and fellowship on Sunday September 8. We will be worshiping at 9:30AM with our bishop, Bishop Regina Hassanally of our Southeastern Minnesota Synod, preaching in worship and joining us for this day of service and fellowship. 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 noon. 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.







Thank you, Kathy!

Grace Lutheran Church has been blessed by Kathy Roalson's hospitality and good food for the past three years. Kathy is retiring from her meal coordinator position, and we thank her for all of the ways she made everyone feel so welcome at our Wednesday night Open Door Meals. We pray for you in your new adventures to come!

Help Wanted: Grace Lutheran Church is hiring for our Open Door Meal Coordinator position. For more information, please visit the Grace website or stop by the office. This is a paid position which runs August through May. Please share this with anyone gifted in food and hospitality who would like part time work. Thank you!





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, automatic light switches for the bathrooms, lawn supplies, care bags, new trees for the front lawn, confirmation supplies, 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. 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!





Needed Food Pantry Items:

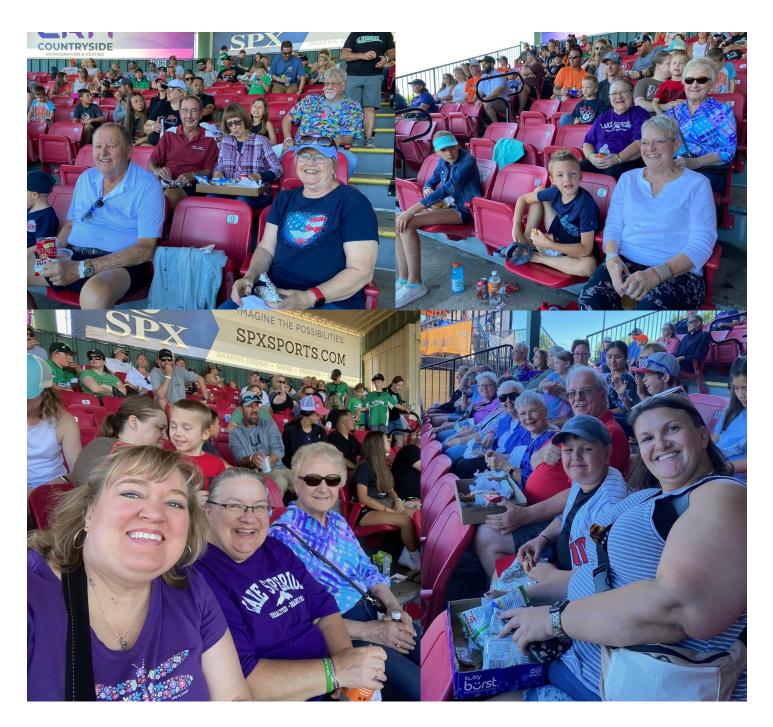
As you shop for your groceries, please consider adding the following for the Grace Food Pantry:

Cereal, microwavable meals, ramen, canned meat or chili, mac & cheese



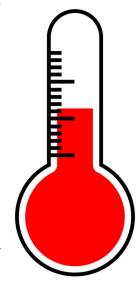
Faith Night at the Mankato Moon Dogs!

Thank you to the 30 people who purchased tickets for this year's fellowship night at the ballpark. It was beautiful weather, the kids had fun taking pictures with the mascot Kato, many hot dogs and goodies were consumed, and good conversation was had. We hope you can join in the fun next year!



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

We've reached the final month of our challenge and we are halfway to our goal! 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. 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! Please continue your prayers and thoughtful consideration of how you can impact Grace Lutheran church and fulfil this Offering Challenge! (\$4,946 collected as of July 22)

- 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.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

The Children, Youth and Family Ministry team would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all of those who helped make our VBS - Day Camp an amazing week! We are grateful to each and every one of you, **THANK YOU!**



Save the dates

- August 20th BLAST Teacher Orientation
 September 11th Back to Fall Night for BLAST & Confirmation Families
- September 18th BLAST & Confirmation begin
- September 29th Blessing of the Backpacks
 2nd Grade Bible Presentation
- October 27th Reformation Confirmation Sunday
- Watch for more detailed information to come!



Youth Mission Trip

We are excited to share that prayers have been answered! A Youth Mission trip to the Appalachian region is coming! Students entering 7th grade through 12th are able to attend July 18 - July 26, 2025. Planning has just begun - watch for more detailed information to come!

B.L.A.S.T. and Confirmation Fall Registration forms are ready and available to fill out! Visit www.gracelutheranchurch.org, go to Ministries, then Children Youth & Family. Click "2024/2025 BLAST Registration Form"<u>Children Youth & Family | Grace Lutheran (gracelutheranchurch.org)</u>



WORDS FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, August 4 - Pentecost 11

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

Sunday, August 11 - Pentecost 12

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: 1 Kings 19:4-8 Second Reading: Ephesians 4:25—5:2 Gospel: John 6:35, 41-51

Sunday, August 18 - Pentecost 13

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share. First Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6 Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20 Gospel: John 6:51-58

Sunday, August 25 - Pentecost 14

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20 Gospel: John 6:56-69

Sunday, September 1 - Pentecost 15

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Second Reading: James 1:17-27 Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9:30am Summer	9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	12:00pm Lunch at the Lake	Church Directory Photos 6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	Directory Photos 9:00am -	Church	Church Directory Photos— 10am - 3pm ARC Meeting
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30am Summer Worship Service- Baptism 10:30AM - Congregational Meeting	9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Mary Circle 5:30pm CYF Team Meeting 5:30pm Worship Team Meeting	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	6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania - Baptism	4:00pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre 6:00pm - 8:00pm Boyscouts	1:00pm Worship Service Aired	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30am Summer Worship Service 11:00am Worship by the Water		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 Service Team Meeting 6:30pm Stewardship Team Meeting	10:00am Goldfinch Memory Care Worship 10:30am Goldfinch Assist- ed Living Worship 6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania	Ways of Grace Submission Deadline 9:00am Women of the Cloth Sewing	1:00pm Worship Service Aired	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30am Summer Worship Service 10:45am Church Council Meeting	9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting		5:00pm - 7:00pm BLAST Teacher Orientation	1:00pm Ways of	1:00pm Worship Service Aired	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30am Summer Worship Service	9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	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	6:30pm Praise in the Park - Sylvania		1:00pm Worship Service Aired	

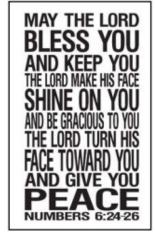




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Fairmont Grace Lutheran Church - www.gracelutheranchurch.org



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