

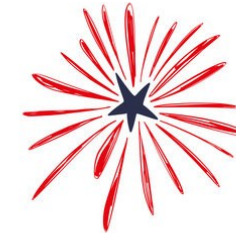
 **Grace Lutheran Church**
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 **Grace Lutheran Church**
 Fairmont, MN

July, 2023

WAYS OF GRACE



Celebrating Freedom In Christ!



Contact the Staff : 507- 238- 4418

Rev. Dr. Allison Cobb - Senior Pastor cobb@gracelutheranchurch.org

Rev. Cheryl Indehar - Associate Interim Pastor

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Nicole Kolbe - Office Coordinator office@gracelutheranchurch.org

Brad Anderson- Maintenance Emergency contact number: 507- 236-112

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.



Please visit our Facebook page (Fairmont Grace Lutheran Church) or website (www.gracelutheranchurch.org) for more Grace information.

The Ways of Grace is the monthly newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church for members, visitors and friends of Grace. Please send questions or information to: office@gracelutheranchurch.org

3 Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love

7 Missions Rummage & Bake Sale

10 Ingham Okoboji VBS Pictures





“Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3

During the course of our lives, we have all experienced some type of conflict. Conflict happens in life and to everyone. Conflicts happen in churches too. What is important is when conflict arises, it is dealt with in a healthy way. Not dealing with the conflict, avoidance

doesn't make it go away and is not healthy. Dealing with a conflict in unhealthy ways can be worse than the conflict itself.

To have some guidance in how to handle conflicts within the church, the Church Council adopted a covenantal agreement called Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love. It is biblically based and developed by the Mennonite Church. Jesus provided a way to deal with conflicts between two parties in Matthew. He knew that we humans do get into disputes that need to be settled. He wanted a way for us to deal with a problem in a healthy productive manner. In the book of Acts, the early church had issues that needed to be addressed. The leaders met, discussed and worked things out.

The document, Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love, provides the necessary guidance for how to handle conflicts in a healthy way within the church. It sets a standard of behavior and actions that we as Christians are to follow. Jesus gave a commandment to his disciples and us. That commandment is that we should love one another. That others will know we are Jesus' disciples because of the love we show one another. We, as Christians, are called to still love one another even when we are in a disagreement. We are to work for a solution, to figure it out together, and then live together with the solution.

This covenantal agreement has helped tremendously in two churches where I served in SEMN Synod where there was disagreement. It made people feel safe that they could speak and their views would be heard. Also, unhealthy behaviors stopped. Lastly, that a solution was found so the conflict was resolved. Having this agreement won't stop disagreements, but it gives the church a healthy way to deal with them. Please take time to read the covenant agreement that the Council has passed. If you have any questions about it, feel free to ask Council members or the pastors.



Grace Calendar of Events—July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:30am Sunday Worship	26 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	27 1:00pm - 2:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 2:30pm - 3:30pm Weekly Prayer Meeting -- Zoom	28 6:30pm - 7:15pm Wednesday Worship	29	30 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	1
2 9:30am Sunday Worship	3 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Mary Circle	4 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	5 6:30pm - 7:15pm Wednesday Worship in the Park	6	7 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	8
9 9:30am Sunday Worship	10 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	11 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	12 10:00am - 10:40am Goldfinch Assisted Living Service 10:45am - 11:15am Goldfinch Memory Care Service 6:30pm - 7:15pm Wednesday Worship in the Park	13 4:00pm - 6:00pm Aktion Club Theatre	14 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	15 Ways of Grace Submission Deadline
16 9:30am Sunday Worship	17 9:00am - 10:00am Staff Meeting	18 1:00pm - 2:30pm Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Worship Service Aired 2:30pm - 3:00pm Weekly Prayer Meeting	19 6:30pm - 7:15pm Wednesday Worship in the Park	20	21 1:00pm Worship Service Aired	22
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2023 Grace Lutheran Church VBS



Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love

"Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph.4:3), as both individual members and the body of Christ, we pledge that we shall:

In Thought

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Accept conflict | 1. Acknowledge together that conflict is a normal part of our life in the church. <i>Romans 14:1-8, 10-12, 17-19; 15:1-7</i> |
| Affirm hope | 2. Affirm that as God walks with us in conflict, we can work through to growth. <i>Ephesians 4:15-16</i> |
| Commit to prayer | 3. Admit our needs and commit ourselves to pray for a mutually satisfactory solution (no prayers for my success or the other to change but to find a joint way). <i>James 5:16</i> |

In Action

- | | |
|--|--|
| Go to the other...
...in the spirit of humility | 4. Go directly to those with whom we disagree; avoid behind-the-back criticism. * <i>Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-20</i> |
| Be quick to listen | 5. Go in gentleness, patience and humility. Place the problem between us at neither doorstep and own our part in the conflict instead of pointing out the others'. <i>Galatians 6:1-5</i> |
| Be slow to judge | 6. Listen carefully, summarize and check out what is heard before responding. Seek as much to understand as to be understood. <i>James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13</i> |
| Be willing to negotiate | 7. Suspend judgments, avoid labeling, end name calling, discard threats and act in a nondefensive, nonreactive way. <i>Romans 2:1-4; Galatians 5:22-26</i> |
| | 8. Work through the disagreements constructively. <i>Acts 15; Philippians 2:1-11</i> |
- Identify issues, interests, and needs of both (rather than take positions).
 - Generate a variety of options for meeting both parties' needs (rather than defending one's own way).
 - Evaluate options by how they meet the needs and satisfy the interests of all sides (not one side's values).
 - Collaborate in working out a joint solution (so both sides gain, both grow and win).
 - Cooperate with the emerging agreement (accept the possible, not demand your ideal).
 - Reward each other for each step forward, toward agreement (celebrate mutuality).

In Life

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Be steadfast in love | 9. Be firm in our commitment to seek a mutual solution; be stubborn in holding to our common foundation in Christ; be steadfast in love. <i>Colossians 3:12-15</i> |
| Be open to mediation | 10. Be open to accept skilled help. If we cannot reach agreement among ourselves, we will use those with gifts and training in mediation in the larger church. <i>Philippians 4:1-3</i> |
| Trust the community | 11. We will trust the community and if we cannot reach agreement or experience reconciliation, we will turn the decision over to others in the congregation or from the broader church. <i>Acts 15</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In one-to-one or small group disputes, this may mean allowing others to arbitrate. • In congregational, conference district or denominational disputes, this may mean allowing others to arbitrate or implementing constitutional decision-making processes, insuring that they are done in the spirit of these guidelines, and abiding by whatever decision is made. |
| Be the body of Christ | 12. Believe in and rely on the solidarity of the Body of Christ and its commitment to peace and justice, rather than resort to the courts of law. <i>1 Corinthians 6:1-6</i> |



WORSHIP



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.**

Goldfinch Senior Living services are the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10AM at Assisted Living and 10:45AM at Memory Care. All are welcome to

worship with the residents! And beginning in July, we will be adding a worship service on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 10AM, at Lakeview Methodist home. Please come and worship with our friends!

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

BUSINESS OF GRACE CONTINUED...



Christian Education Director Position:
 The council decided to wait until after Service Teams' next meeting. As that team will be finalizing the plan to move forward with this position.

B. Church Covenant

Pastor Cheryl presented the council team with an example of a covenant for the council team to review. The council plans to vote on the covenant during their meeting in July.

IX. Pastor Reports

Pastor Cheryl: She stated she has felt welcomed by the congregation both inside and outside of church.

Pastor Allison: She stated that the Wednesdays schedule will stay the same but with a few tweaks: Open Door Meals will be 4:45-6:30 p.m. This is a change from the 6:15 p.m. end time. B.L.A.S.T will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday Worship Service will start at 6:30 p.m. Confirmation will be from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and be held in the Fellowship Hall

This schedule was created to both capitalize on the number of kids attending church school, to attempt to make it easier for children and their families to worship together, and provide structure in the confirmation program.

X. Upcoming Dates

- Mon. May 1st at 5:30 p.m. Worship Team Mtg.
- Sun. May 7th at 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church/Fairmont Parks
- Tues. May 9th at 5:30 p.m. Service Team Mtg.
- Tues. May 9th at 6:30 p.m. Outreach/ CYF/ Fellowship Team Mtgs.
- Sun. May 21st at 11:45 a.m. Church Council Mtg.

XI. Adjournment

The Council team adjourned with the Lord's prayer at 2:00 p.m.

XII. Approval of Secretary's Report

Kris moved. Seconded by Ilene. Motion Passed via email on May 10, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted, Josh Ensrud

Memorials:

Arnie Swenson Memorial

Elaine Swenson	Undesignated Memorial
Lois Swenson	Undesignated Memorial
JoAnn Swenson	Undesignated Memorial
Patricia Jones	Undesignated Memorial
Russell & Joan Luedtke	Undesignated Memorial
Eric & Jill Swan	Undesignated Memorial
Jennelle Cunning	Undesignated Memorial
Harry & Chery Brumbaugh	Stained Glass Windows

Ryan Lunn Memorial

Harry & Chery Brumbaugh	Stained Glass Windows
Enos & Charlotte Breitbarth	Stained Glass Windows
Carol Nasby	Undesignated Memorial
Pam Beck	Undesignated Memorial
Sandra Lunn	Stained Glass Windows
Janet Nielsen	Stained Glass Windows

Ladonna Levik Memorial

Janet Nielsen	Stained Glass Windows
Marian Holland	Stained Glass Windows

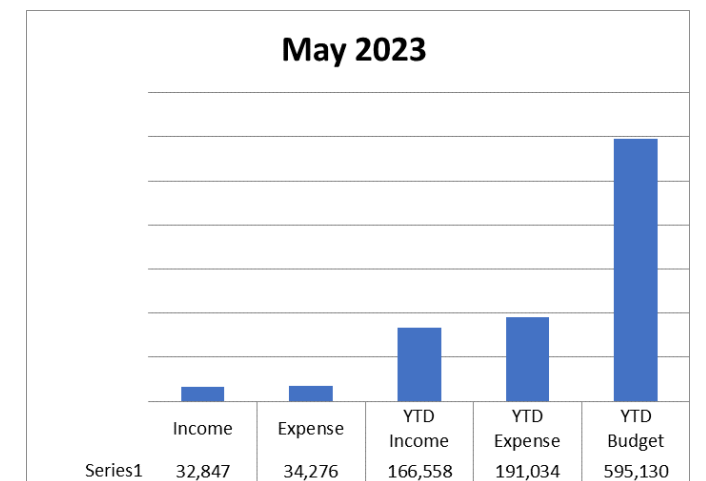
Marcia Levenson Memorial

Patricia Jones	Undesignated Memorial
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Lou Thorstenson Memorial

Jennelle Cunning	Undesignated Memorial
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FINANCIAL SNA PSHOT FOR MAY



Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes - April 16th, 2023

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

II. Not Present: Troy Nemmers

III. Call to Order: Pete Odgren called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

IV. The Devotional was given today by Ilene Reiter.

V. Financial Report: Jane Reiman gave the March 2023 Financial Report. She reported March giving was at \$29,500, down 43% from March 2022. The council discussed that the staffing model may need to change to reflect the reduction in giving. A motion to approve the April 16th, 2023 Financial Report was made by Carolyn Bird Ardell seconded the motion. The Financial Report was approved by the rest of the council members.

Team Reports

CYF: Last day of B.L.A.S.T. is May 10th, 2023. VBS will be held Mon. June 12th-Thurs. June 15th with the Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp at Grace Lutheran Church from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The council discussed student participants bringing a sack lunch with them each day they are at VBS. The church will provide a backup lunch for students who do not bring lunch. Lodging still needs to be set up for camp leadership.

Graduation Recognition is Sun. April 30th at 10:45 a.m.

The summer mission trip is July 15th-July 22nd, 2023. A female chaperone still needs to be found to go on the trip. The chaperones will be driving the van to the scheduled destinations throughout the trip.

With an opening in the Church education position, duties will be divided amongst the CYF committee lay members. Council discussed changing the CYF position from 30 hrs. to 15 hrs. This is due to the current financial figures. The council said they will create a more formal duty and schedule outline to be implemented in the Fall.

Worship:

Worship in the park will start June 7th and end August 31st, 2023. Grace Lutheran Church has partnered with other churches in the community to provide worship services. The council discussed improving communication with marketing this worship service.

Outreach:

Patti Mathews is encouraging Outreach to get involved in promoting Worship in the park with various ways of advertising. She is trying to schedule various food trucks to be at the worship services as well to help draw in more people. O Scoops will charge \$400 for 100 small servings of ice cream.

Service:

Jane Reiman stated that the current Insurance company will be increasing their insurance premium 43% as they are getting away from insuring churches. Jane and the service team are currently in the process of getting 2 quotes. They have received one already. The premium is close to what the church is already paying. Plus, there will be additional items that will be insured under the 1st quote. The Service team is waiting on the second quote before making their final decision.

E. Fellowship: Same as Outreach

Personnel: Looking for a volunteer to fill an open position on the Personnel committee.

VII. Old Business

Technical Personnel Position: Will be reopening the position. The council discussed various ideas to make the position less complicated: using new user friendly software to tape and post services online, etc.

B. Stained Glass Window Project: Moving forward with a 2 year plan to complete the West and North wall windows. The council decided it will not use money from the trust account, but will use additional money from other sources within the financials as they would like that money saved for any emergency projects that come up during the fiscal year.

C. Fundraising Projects: A culligan jug will be positioned in the church for the congregation to donate coins in for the project "People Helping People". An announcement will be placed in the next worship service bulletin for another project "God's Grace is Amazing Day". Core Values: The council discussed and decided to schedule a separate meeting in July to create a core values mission statement. The reason the council chose to schedule a separate meeting for this topic was so they could dedicate the time needed to complete this task.

VIII. New Business

Blessing of the Animals

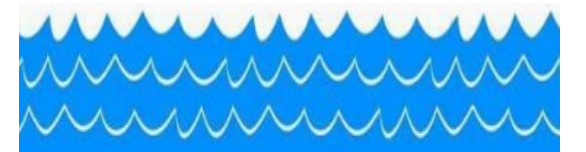
On May 31st we had our Blessing of the Animals service on the Grace Lutheran Church lawn. Pastor Allison Cobb blessed and thanked God for 8 chicks, 4 dogs, 1 cat, 1 bearded dragon, and 4 pictures of pets who were at home. Thank you to all who came!



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.****



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 11:30AM. 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 200 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.



WORSHIP

WORDS FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, July 2, 2023 - Lectionary 13

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

Sunday, July 9 2023 - Lectionary 14

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday, July 16, 2023 - Lectionary 15

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 23, 2023 - Lectionary 16

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 30, 2023 - Lectionary 17

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



ANNOUNCEMENTS...



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, on Sign-Up Genius, or feel free to come join us the day of if you haven't had a chance to sign up. All help is welcome!

Care Callers Ministry Come be part of the Care Callers at Grace!!! What is it? It is ministry to reach out to those who are 80 years and older who are unable to make it to church on Sunday. Currently, there are over 120 households that are needed to be reached. Who will do this ministry? Anyone who has a heart for ministry to our senior members. Where is the ministry done? The ministry can be done at your home. When is the ministry done? It can be done at your convenience. It would be wonderful to connect once a month with an individual or individuals. Why do this ministry? For those who are reached they will be connected to Grace that is part of the Body of Christ. For those calling, it is the joy of serving the Lord and bringing that joy to others. Jesus calls us to reach out to love his fellow disciples. Others will know we are Jesus' disciples by the love we show one another. That love can come from a caring, loving phone call. There will be a meeting on Sunday July 30, 2023 at 10:45 am in the Lounge to find out more about this wonderful ministry opportunity. If you have any questions before the meeting, ask Pastor Allison or Pastor Cheryl.

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.

Pennies 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.

People Helping People: When the staff receives a guest in need of something more than basic essentials, we share this with a small team of people who can disseminate our People Helping People funds. Requests can be for help with rent, getting a new tire, a bus ticket, or other items above and beyond food. If you would like to be a part of this small group who handles these requests via email, please let the church office know. And, if you would like to donate to this ministry fund, please add People Helping People to the memo line of your check.

