
October In Touch with Grace



Dear friends of Grace,

"To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1.

We are in the changing of the seasons. The acorns have been falling heavily at my house. The hard dropping and plunking on the roof kept us awake many nights. The squirrels are happily preparing for winter by hoarding as many of the acorns as possible. The birds are organizing their flight patterns for the trip south. We are cleaning up our gardens and harvesting the last of the vegetables and fruits of summer. Even in this change, seeds are being planted for new life in the Spring. The splendor of autumn reminds us that in all seasons of life there is beauty. The nights become longer, but in the darkness we get a better glimpse of the stars. Those acorns that are falling will become mighty oaks in due time.

I came across the most beautiful leaf on the sidewalk. It was fairly small and in perfect condition. What was so striking about it was that it looked as beautiful as a stained glass window! There were multiple colors of yellow, gold, red, and green spread across it as if intentionally designed. I picked it up and brought it home. The start of this new season brings

many changes. Leaves change from green to revealing their hidden colors.

When loss and decline seem to be all around us, we can look for the hidden blessings within. This October at Grace brings beauty in many ways. We will have the opportunity to bring new life through our time and talents, to commit to our church in ways that will bring hope and light through our gifts. We will share cross generational education time to build relationships and grow together. We will continue to bless others through the journey we are on in this place and time. We will see the opening of the early learning center and hear the voices of children fill the lower level.

This is the season for life in all its glorious colors as we share the bounty of blessing. We have been blessed to be a blessing. There is much to look forward to this season. Count your blessings as you become aware and notice what God is up to. God never fails to bring the blessings day by day, season by season. Rejoice!

See you at church, Pastor Karen

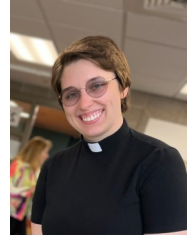


Announcements

- Confirmation classes will be held on October 6, November 10 & 24, December 8 & 22.
- Spaghetti Dinner will be offered by our youth families on Reformation Sunday, October 27, after worship. Tickets will be on sale two weeks prior to support our youth ministries.
- All youth, children, and their families are invited to join in the fall fun at Afton Apple Orchard. We will meet there at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 6. Join us!
- All Saints Day is the first Sunday in November, November 3. We will remember the saints among us and those who have gone on to their heavenly home. Please bring a photo of your loved ones to church that morning and place them around the sanctuary on the ledges on either side. Please label your photos so that all will know who the people are. We will have time during the service to look at the photos, remembering our loved ones in prayer, and we will light votive candles. Special worship music will be shared and we will give thanks for the lives of those who have touched our own.
- Talk Points on October 20th will provide an educational opportunity concerning some of the issues of the day. We will gather in the S. Tower Room following worship. Join us for treats and conversation.



From the Intern's Desk



Dear siblings in Christ,

First off, let me say a heartfelt thank-you to each and every one of you who has welcomed me to your congregation during my first weeks of internship. Your smiles and kind words have meant a lot to both myself and my husband Daniel as we begin our yearlong journey with you this year. To those I haven't yet met, I look forward to our next opportunity to get to know one another!

In the past few weeks, I've gotten to visit all four of the East Side Collaborative (ESCo) churches. I am grateful to be doing my internship at such an interesting and dynamic site as ESCo because each congregation is unique and offers its own array of learning opportunities. I look forward to cooperative ministry with you and pray that we all experience new learning and growth with one another over the next year.

As I think about all the newness of fall - the beginning of the school year, the changing weather, the start of my internship - I am reminded of Isaiah 43:19,

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

Let us rejoice in the newness God brings into the world! May we also have faith that God is with us on every step of our journey, our water of life in the desert.

Grace + peace,

Bethany

OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

October's Mission of the Month at Grace is Youth Link. Youth Link serves young people 16-24 years of age experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the Twin Cities, MN. It is located in downtown Minneapolis.

Youth Link has 45 years of experience connecting young people with a community of resources and support. Whether it is basic needs, like a hot shower or a warm meal, assistance with employment or education goals, accessing mental and physical health resources, or finding supportive housing, Youth Link helps young people at all stages of their journey.

Through their Youth Opportunity Center, Youth Link collaborates with values-aligned community partners to provide resources to young people - all in one location to break down time and transportation barriers. Youth Link also staffs 2 supportive housing complexes with a combined 88 units.

Youth Link's vision is a community in which all youth, without regard to their living situation, have an equal opportunity to pursue their goals and dreams and an equal likelihood of achieving them.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this worthwhile organization which reaches out to our young people in the area during some of their most difficult and frightening times and offers help and hope for a better tomorrow. Please use your blue multi-purpose envelope, mark mission of the month and place in the church offering or mail to the church office. Thank you.

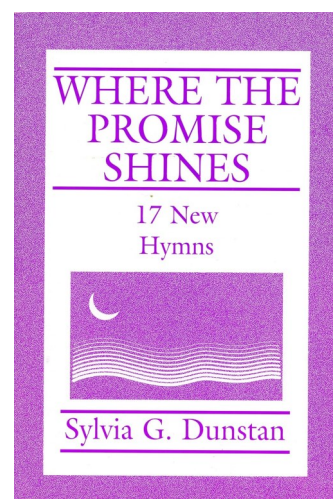
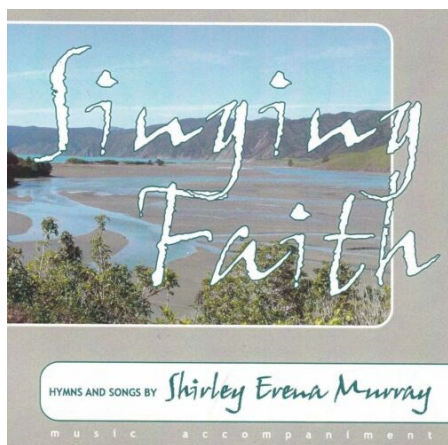
Music Notes -

There are so many hymns in our hymnbook that we've not had a chance to experience. Recently we sang a new one, #739 "Touch the Earth Lightly", words by a New Zealander, Shirley Erena Murray. She wrote it in 1991. We tend to forget, except for reminders from North Korea, ending testing of nuclear devices happened rather recently. At one time, France did quite a bit of testing in the Pacific Islands. She defined her usage of the word "use" in the 1st verse in an email to Paul Westermeyer's daughter Rebecca as not being in the form of abusing, but instead as positively using the creations given us. Murray has two other hymns within our hymnal: #397, "Loving Spirit" and #466, "In the Singing". All three are accessible and meaningful to readers of all ages. Unfortunately, Shirley Erena Murray passed away in 2020, leaving a wealth of hymns for us to enjoy.

Another woman hymn writer, American, the writer of #768, "Lead Me, Guide Me", was affectionately known as "Miss Gospel Music". Doris Akers was a frequent singer with the Gaither Family. She also wrote "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place". She died in 1995 after finding out she had spinal cancer less than a year earlier. She lived in Edina and is buried at Lakewood Cemetery. She wrote over 500 hymns besides the two already mentioned.

Staying on the same continent, Sylvia Dunstan, a Canadian, wrote over 40 hymns in her short span of life. One of those hymns we sang on September 29th, #326 "Bless Now, O God, the Journey". Another we have sung several times during communion has been #461, "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly". She died in 1993 at age 38, just 4 months after learning she had liver cancer.

Many of the hymns we sing, even though continuing to hold meaningful messages today, were written a long time ago. But there are so many other hymn writers who continue to add meaningful messages for us to absorb. These are only 3 of them who, even though now on a different journey, have left their own meaningful messages, part of themselves for us to experience.



FROM THE LIBRARY:

We work on an honor system in our library. Take a book, read it, return it OR Purchase a book from the basket for \$.25 and it belongs to you.

NEW FICTION

<u>The Women</u>	Kristin Hannah
<u>The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store</u>	James McBride
<u>The Overlook</u>	Michael Connelly
<u>Cause of Death</u>	Patricia Cornwell
<u>In Five Years</u>	Rebecca Serle
<u>The Lies That Bind</u>	Emily Griffin

FICTION - Authors surname beginning with D. These are on shelves, center rows in alphabetical order

<u>Tall Grass</u>	Sandra Dalles
<u>The Courts of the Sun</u>	Brian D'Amato
<u>The Magnolia Palace</u>	Viola Davis
<u>To Serve Them All My Days</u>	R. F. Delderfield
<u>Twelfth Card</u>	Jeffrey Deaver
<u>The Cutter's Widow</u>	Mary DesJarlais
<u>High Tide</u>	Jude Deveraux
<u>The Red Tent</u>	Anita Diamant
<u>Apple Tree Yard</u>	Louise Doughty
<u>The Quest of the Silver Fleece</u>	W. E. B. Dubois
<u>The Man in the Iron Mask</u>	Alexander Dumas
<u>Storm Clouds Rolling In 1860-1861</u>	Ginny Dye

COOKING

Professional Personal

Private Chef Ass'n



Grace Book Club -

The Book Club will take a break from meeting during the summer months but here are the titles chosen for the fall:

For discussion on:

October 3rd - A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

November 7th - Trust by Hernan Diaz

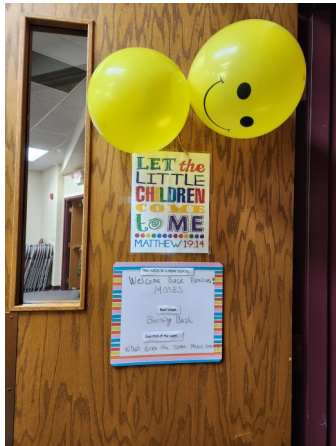
Sunday School

The Grace Sunday School has officially started, and we are so excited for another year of learning and growing in our faith together. This year we will follow the events in the book of Exodus.

As a new feature in the weekly Grace at a Glance, there will be a question related to the story the Sunday School kids will be learning about. Get your thinking caps on and test your Bible knowledge this year along with the kids.

Upcoming Dates: Youth, children and families outing to the Afton Apple Orchard on October 6th at 1pm. Everyone is welcome.

As always, if anyone is wanting to help out with Sunday School in any way please contact Amanda Christie.



XYZ's will meet at church on October 10th at 12:30 pm to have some snacks and carpool to Fort Snelling for an afternoon of the early history of this area when this was a working military fort at the convergence of the rivers. In case of inclement weather, we will have a 'game day' in the tower room at Grace. Bring your best walking shoes and join us for this outing!



President's Thoughts

As we begin a new program year at Grace, we start talking about Stewardship, Budgets for 2025, and the future of life in our church community. I realize that many of you have been hearing this every year for most of your adult life. It doesn't mean that it isn't important to look at an annual assessment of the status of these important topics in the world we live in and for the care of our spiritual life as well. We have found over the years that when the words 'budget' and 'stewardship' are mentioned in our midst, everyone gets nervous and defensive about their financial information. However, these topics are not only about money!

We, in the faith community, know that these ideas are also connected to other parts of our lives, too. We all need to be aware of our stewardship and budgeting of our time and how we use the talents God has given us. It shouldn't make us nervous or defensive to do an annual assessment of these areas: time, talent and finances. Having a plan for the use of all of the gifts God has made available to us is a good practical and spiritual exercise. To review and know that we are making the best use of our gifts should be a satisfying activity and either set us on a better path for the coming new year or reaffirm the path that we are already on.

We will be doing that work this fall for the church and would ask that you do the same for the betterment of all of us. We are not asking for you to give anything you don't feel you are able to give after review, but we are wishing to help you along your faith journey in discerning where you are on that journey and how your personal stewardship is connected to that of your church community.

Please remember that even though the mortgage has been paid off, we own an aging building. Even with the monies from the Gold Line, we need to be good stewards in keeping the church and the congregation healthy.

Blessings to you,

Linda Sackreiter, Congregation President

FOOD SHELF SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 6th!!!

The PROPERTY COMMITTEE is planning our Fall Cleanup Day for Saturday, October 12th, 10am - 2pm. Please plan to come and help!



Community Connections - ongoing projects!!

Internal, Local and Global

If you would consider serving treats on a Sunday morning, we would appreciate your help. Please take a look at the sign-up schedule in the South Tower room and see if there is a date that works for you to help out! If you would be willing to bring treats but would prefer to not serve, please speak with Linda Sackreiter and we can arrange that as well.

Thanks for your help!!

2024 Collections

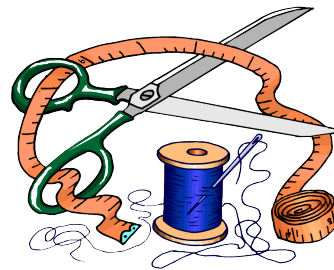
Quilts, baby care kits (Note: soap size accepted for baby care kits is 3.5 or 4 oz gentle soap; soap in each kit has to total 8 or 9 oz)

We will deliver several baby care kits to the LWR warehouse with the quilts before fall.

Other on-going collections at Grace - used eye glasses and cancelled stamps. Please find the small collection baskets on the library shelf. Also, Sandy Abernathy will take any American Flags that need to be disposed of properly. These can be left in the collection area in the library. (We are not currently saving soup can labels) Thank you for all donations!

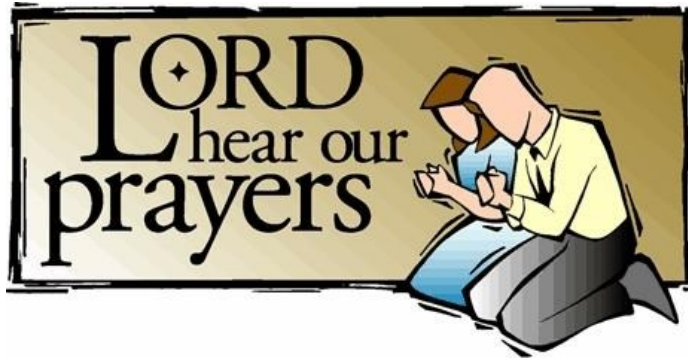


Quilt Days— We will be meeting again in October on the 2nd Saturday (12th) and the 4th Saturday (26th) All are welcome to join us. No skills necessary, we will teach. Most months we meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in the Tower rooms. Come join us in this month for some good conversation and to put those hands to use for a wonderful cause. Lutheran World Relief distributes donated quilts all over the world including in the US.



Miles of Pennies The large collection jar in the library is always accepting donations toward giving to the LSS fund for helping homeless Youth in St. Paul. Our goal is \$250.00 for 2024. Let's exceed that again in 2024! We are getting close. Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your generous donations of coins and paper are appreciated.





We lift our prayers to God in times of thanksgiving and times of need, in times of joy and times of sorrow. This month we especially pray for Judy Adam, Sue Brown, Bev Henderson, Carol Anderson, Butch Nelson, April Premo (niece of Judy Nelson), the family and friends of Debra Duke, and all those we name in our hearts.

How to donate other than in the offering plate:

There is always snail mail. The office is open to receive the mail and our bookkeeper will count what comes in each week and deposit it in the bank. Our address: 1730 Old Hudson Road, St. Paul, 55106.

To donate electronically: You can schedule a transfer of funds with your own bank if they have bill pay available and it will come automatically on the date you choose. Otherwise, you can go to our website (www.gracelutheranstpaul.org) and click on the GIVE page.

This site is secure for financial transactions through Vanco which is the Simply Giving program. At the GIVE page you can go through the steps as directed and give whatever amount you wish to several different categories (general, other, etc.) This works best on the Firefox or Edge browsers. This does get to us electronically in a very timely manner. If you are comfortable using the QR, it will take you directly to the GIVE page on the website. **Please call the office if you have any questions.** Thank you.

Give QR



Financial Snapshot for GLC-2023

	<u>August Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual*</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
General Fund	\$ 18,281.17	\$ 138,200.98	\$157,560.00
Expenses	\$ 25,372.78	\$ 185,879.97	\$194,929.84
Deficit/Overage	<u>-\$ 7,091.61</u>	<u>-\$47,678.99</u>	<u>-\$37,369.84</u>

* Does not include \$296,000.00 rec'd in June from the Met Council.



1 Lynn Jackson
3 Kimberly Childs
4 John Klein
6 Kathleen Hollar
7 Logan Trulen
14 Angela Abernathy
15 Sandra Growth
16 Dan Goebel
17 Adam Revier
18 Lydia Rose
19 David Miller
 Joel Nikula
 Karin Nikula
22 Holly Nikula
24 Linda Gorton
26 Chris Williams

27 Joseph Wintheiser
 Megan Wintheiser
29 Lauren Alleman
 Sharon Jack
31 Steven Sabo
 Tami Westphall



Worship Leaders for October 2024 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>
6	Jeff Oberlander	Alexis Petersen	Linda Sackreiter
13	Russ Carlson	Kaliska Reed	Carol Golder
20	Peter Zitzewitz	Tony Childs	Keith Smeby
27	Monique McClure-Hegge	Cami Alleman	Sig Johnson

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers (the families of the acolytes are also helping out)</u>
6	Brian Jackson, Patty Young
13	Norm Walby, Jonathan Williams
20	Brian Petersen, Rachel Petersen
27	Ron House, Ron Swenson

<u>Date</u>	<u>Money Counters - (we could use some additional volunteers on our counting teams)</u>
6	Monique McClure-Hegge team
13	Kate Pray team
20	Amanda Christie team
27	Monique McClure-Hegge team



Construction and Traffic updates!

Lower level is finished and the new Learning Center is set to be open for students in September. The Gold Line is progressing which affects our parking lot with construction and also the traffic pattern in the area. Since the east entrance to the lot has been drastically narrowed, consider using the other driveway (to the west of the church) to enter. When the project is complete we will make alterations as necessary to the east entrance.

Several detours are currently in place:

- The White Bear Ave. bridge over 94 is closed as are the exit and entrance on the north side of 94.
- Old Hudson Road between McKnight and Ruth is now closed. Detours for access to Sun Ray and other local businesses are posted.
- The road repair in front of the church has been completed so it is open to traffic and parking.

All of this means a lot of traffic disruption around the church. Sundays should not be bad, but please bring your patience. Conway and 3rd Street should be good alternatives from the East or exit on 61 and come back east on 3rd St. If you come from the west, exit on 61 and come east on 3rd St.

We are hoping for this part of the project to be completed this fall!

Grace Lutheran Church
1730 Old Hudson Road
Saint Paul, MN 55106



REFORMATION
Sunday

October 27th

Phone: 651-774-9617

FAX: 651-774-0006

www.gracelutheranstpaul.org
gracelutheranstpaul@gmail.com

Pastor:

Rev. Karen Williams

Intern:

Bethany Ketchem

Temporary Custodial Staff:

Jimmy Vansell

Office Staff:

Linda Sackreiter

Music Staff:

Russ Carlson—Director of Music
Ministries

Kathleen Hollar—Organist

Jan Steingas—Triple G's

Russ Carlson—Bells of Grace

Connie Smeby—Joyous Juniors

