

Grace Notes

Volume 72, Number 9

September 2020

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Office Hours

Mon, Wed–Fri
8:30 am–5:00 pm
Tue
8:30 am–12:00 pm
507-373-6496

Worship Services

Sunday Morning 9:00 am
Outside or Online
until further notice.

GRACE NOTES

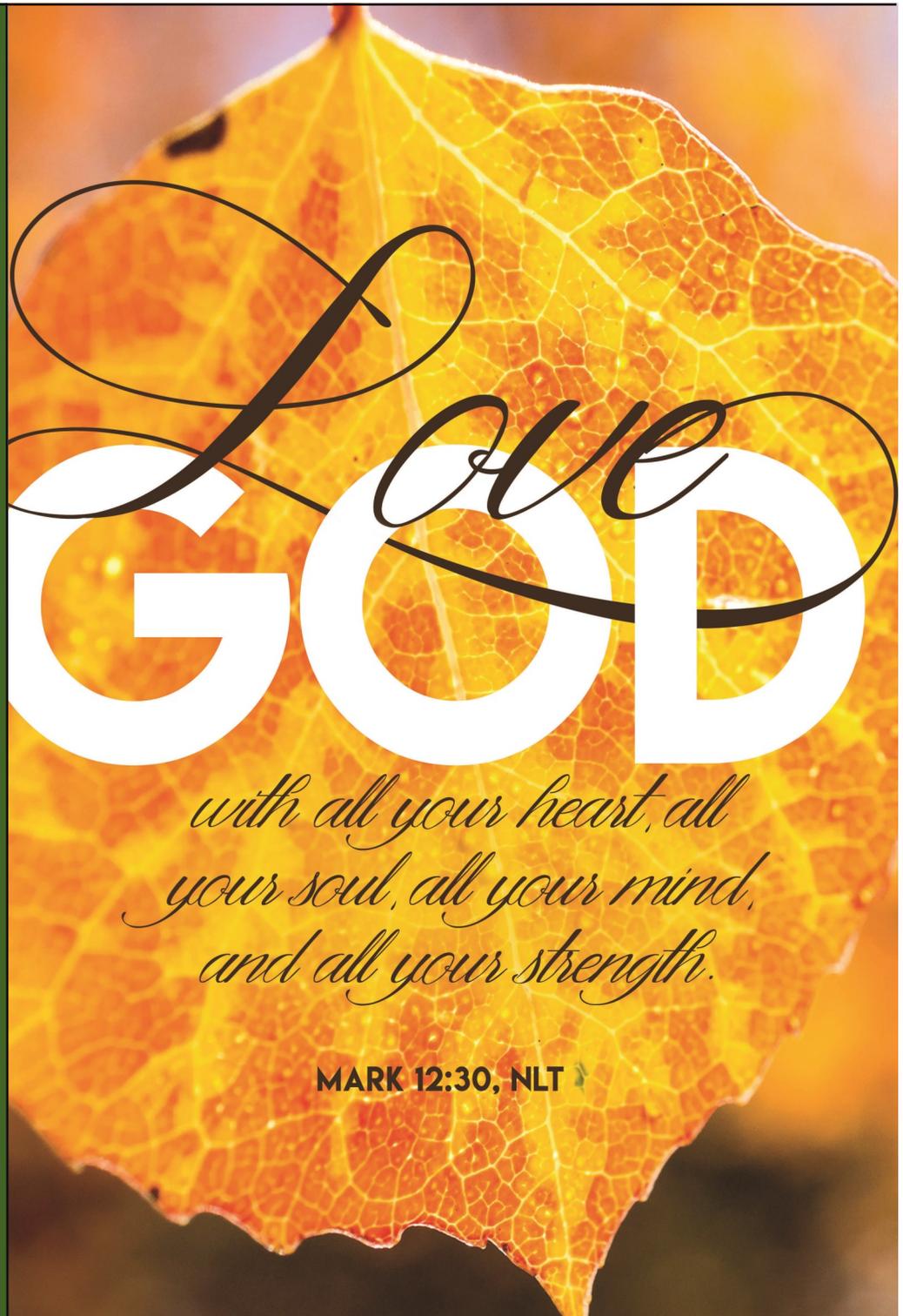
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*Grace Lutheran
Mission Statement:*

*Bringing People
Together and
Becoming Disciples
for Christ!*



The Pastor's Pen



Pastor Shane Koepke
Lead Pastor
pastorshane@gracealbertlea.org

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. -Hebrews 11.1

As my daughter and nephews stood at their grandfather's grave this week, they did so silently, reverently. Just an hour before, they were running around the house, avoiding putting on shoes and trading game secrets on their phones.

But here, at their grandfather's grave, they stood quiet. They watched as the cemetery caretaker took shovelful after shovelful and placed it on top of their grandfather's urn, into his grave. No adult told them to do it, in fact, we could have missed it with all the people coming up after the service and giving us their condolences. But, I noticed for some reason. Call it the Holy Spirit (that's who I thank). And as I watched, I could see them processing the whole affair. Their grandfather died while they

were at home, and so for them, this was the final act. It was the goodbye they didn't know was coming no matter how many times we prepared them for what the service would look like.

Faith isn't the absence of doubt; it's the assurance of things hoped for. It exists within and without their doubt, their questions and their confusion. These kids, ranging in age from 7-16 stood still for so long because they needed the assurance that this was real. In the next moment, as they placed the last bit of dirt, they needed the assurance of their parents that this wasn't the end. The thing they hope for, that I know I hope for, is that when we can no longer journey with our loved ones in death, Jesus will continue that journey.

That's faith: The assurance of things we cannot fully understand. It's not wishing, or superstition; it's hope rooted in good news that Jesus does not disappoint us even in death.

Do not hold back your grief; but hold true to the assurance that God will not abandon us in our darkness.

Coming...
September
20th!

Watch for more details as they become available.

The Associate Pastor's Corner



Pastor Jennifer Gonsalves,
Associate Pastor
Associatepastor@gracealbertlea.org

I have heard the Gospel described as where God's story meets our story. As we begin learning about God, we learn about God's amazing story and how time and time again God has chosen to love, to save, to give grace. As we explore our faith, we learn to share our own stories and see how God is actively working in our own stories – loving us, being present with us, saving us. Sharing the story of where God's story meets our stories, our children's stories and our neighbor's stories is central to what we do at Grace. One of the ways we do this is through Faith Formation: Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult Forum and Bible studies.

Faith Formation provides a place for children, youth, and adults to explore their faith, ask questions, and learn to share the good news of where God's story meets our story. We at Grace are committed to providing these opportunities this school year.

Sunday School, Confirmation, etc. will look different this year. Faith Formation will probably look different in February from what it looks like in September. We have prepared in-person, hybrid, online and at home options as appropriate that we intend to move between as needed this year. No matter how and how often we meet, we remain committed to helping you all explore, question and grow in faith in safe ways that value our relationships with God, with each other and within families.

Sunday School: To start the programming year, we will offer both a once a month in-person option and we will send home a kit with lessons each week with activities for the kids to complete. Each kit will be centered around a theme for families to discuss and explore together.

Confirmation: We will start in-person, with the youth staying in their small groups with a greater focus on building relationships with each other and asking questions as they explore their faith together.

Stepping Stone Ministry: Pre-K Bibles, 3rd Grade Bibles, 1st Communion for the 6th graders – these classes have been scheduled and you will receive more information soon.

In the midst of all this change, stress and fear over what may happen, I pray that you remember what has not, is not, and will never change: the love of Jesus Christ and the love that we at Grace have for you all.



PASTORAL ACTS FOR AUGUST

BAPTISM

Graham Lee Flatness
Joise Kay Leiste

FUNERAL

Christine K. Jahnke
(daughter of Wayne & Sharon Jahnke)

PASTORAL CARE

To assist Pastor Shane and Pastor Jennifer in providing pastoral care for those hospitalized or homebound, please notify them of pending surgeries, overnight hospital stays, or individuals who would like a call. Hospital personnel do not always notify our church of our members who are in the hospital.

Musings



Deacon Robert Tewes,
Director of Worship and Music
music@gracealbertlea.org

The state-mandated closure of public gatherings, including houses of worship, came about suddenly last spring. We were in the middle of our annual Lenten pilgrimage in mid-March, when we abruptly ceased to gather on Sunday mornings in our customary manner for worship, due to the COVID-19 developments within our nation and state. Music ministry was instantly affected as well, as we ceased our weekly gatherings and waited for the go-ahead that all was well to “pick up where we had left off.”

That period of waiting has continued throughout the Spring and Summer months. Now we find ourselves in the late Summer/early Fall when thoughts of returning to our normal patterns of Fall program resumption enter our minds

That is certainly the case with me. For years now, I have spent the Summer months dreaming about the musical diet for the upcoming season. Dreaming about the forthcoming sounds of Christmas and Easter—to be sure—but also about the music of Fall and Advent, the music of Lent and Spring.

Don't get me wrong. I still dream about choosing the perfect pieces for each of these special times. I still peruse new compositions that have been added to the repertoire. I even continue to compose original music, often with the intent of using such pieces on specific occasions. But life with COVID-19 is different.

So now, since several months have gone by, you may be asking: Can we safely reconvene now? Has enough time gone by to resume like we did before?

In a word...no..not yet, not yet like we used to do it. Minnesota Department of Health officials, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials, music scientists and college professors throughout the world have been studying and creating safe practices for the rehearsal and performance of music over the Summer months. Several consistent conclusions have been determined and are deemed best practices at this time. Singing is one of the most dangerous forms of music making in the era of COVID-19. Singing should be done only when proper ventilation is assured. Mask wearing is an effective means to limit the amount of aerosols that linger in the air after singing takes place. Small groups of participants are better than large groups of singers. Sufficient air ventilation is a

mandatory consideration, as well as observing generous distancing between participants. Meeting outdoors is preferable to meeting indoors. The duration of a rehearsal should not exceed one half hour. Corporate singing by congregations is strongly discouraged at this time.



Heeding these guidelines, Sherry Seberson and I, in consultation with other staff members and the Pandemic team, have been busy thinking of ways that in a “hybrid” manner we will be able to safely start the Music Ministry this Fall—even while it will look different for the time being, until concerns of virus transmission and infection cease to be on the forefront of our safe practices radar, it will keep music alive in our community. This is an important goal!

What does this hybrid model look like for Grace's Music Ministry?

Our **youth choirs** will convene for outdoor music instruction, as in years past, on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30-5:00 p.m. as long as seasonal

Musings Cont.

weather holds. Sherry will meet with the youngest choristers, those who are beginning K-2 this Fall. I will rehearse the upper elementary choristers, those in grades 3-5. Our first rehearsal will take place on Wednesday, September 16th. All will be required to wear masks just like the requirements for those who attend school. It protects the wearer and those around them from the potential transmission or infection by virus. We will determine what these ensembles will look like as the weather changes and outdoor gatherings are no longer possible.

Our **Adult Bell Choir, Bells of Praise**, will change rehearsal nights to Tuesdays this year. In order to maintain state mandates of six-foot distancing, we will rehearse indoors, in the Fellowship Hall from 6-6:30 p.m. where we can set up distanced tables to uphold these mandates. There is good air ventilation in this space, particularly when we make use of ceiling fans and wear masks.

The **Adult Choir** will gather for an orientation rehearsal on Wednesday, September 16th, outdoors, in the Prayer Garden at 6:30 p.m. At this gathering we will catch up with each other's lives, do some singing (with masks of course and with generous distance between each other) and we will do some brainstorming about how we would like to proceed throughout the coming year.

Additionally, look for a new ensemble for our Middle School/High School-aged youth, which will give these youth an opportunity to gather occasionally and learn to express their musical-selves through a variety of percussion instruments we have recently purchased for use in our musical community. More information on this will be shared in the near future.

Participation in musical ensembles fills a variety of important roles in the lives of humans: It creates community; It gives those who participate a further opportunity to Praise God outside of formal worship; It re-enforces and teaches lifelong musical

concepts; It gives people an opportunity to share their talents with others.

While some of these universal goals have to be diminished a bit in this era of immense caution and care, we as staff members, recognize the importance of nurturing the musical souls of each of the participants who have been created by God to make music in the context of our Grace community. We are keenly aware of the intrusion this period of loss has caused in the lives of so many of our regular participants.

I invite all age groups at Grace to please consider participation in one or more of these ensembles this year. Perhaps you can help transport someone to a rehearsal if you are unable to attend yourself. Most importantly, please pray for us as leaders and participants as we seek safe and creative ways to keep songs in our hearts, sounds in our ears, and lives that overflow with gratitude for the graciousness of our loving God, even in unique ways we have never tried before.

May you always have a song in your heart,
Deacon Robert Tewes



Grace Children, Youth and Family Ministry



Ashley Kuhlman,
Youth Director
youth@gracealbertlea.org
1-651-280-9502

The church building has been a little too quiet these last few months, so I'm excited for our Fall programming to begin shortly! August has been a month of waiting for guidelines, school announcements and numbers as we anticipated planning for our Fall programming. We have been working hard to ensure the safety of our youth, volunteers, and staff in this planning process. We have made some plans for starting our Fall programming these upcoming weeks but know that we will be adjusting to meet the needs of our families and children throughout the year. Families can sign their children up for Sunday School, Confirmation, Bible classes and First Communion classes online at www.gracealbertlea.org/cyf.

Our **Sunday School** program (4 year old – 6th grade) will take place at home with an optional in-person fellowship time in September and October. Families will be able to pick up their monthly kits on September 13th and October 4th from the church, and they will be available for pick up all month. September 13th and October 4th will also include an in-person Sunday School 9:45am – 10:30pm outdoors.

Our **Confirmation** program (7th and 8th grade) will take place on Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:00pm with a focus on the Bible this year. Youth will remain in their small groups (6-7 people) the entire time with pastors and volunteers leading different stations for each small group. 9th grade Confirmation will be taking place on Sunday mornings. Families have been e-mailed individually with more information.

High School Youth Group High Schoolers and families will be contacted individually with upcoming High School Events this Fall.

Pre-K Bible Class 4 year old's will receive their Bibles during worship on September 20th and a class on how to use their Bibles will be offered for families at 9:45am.

3rd Grade Bible Class youth will receive their Bibles during worship on September 27th and a class on how to use their Bibles will be offered for families at 9:45am.

6th Grade Communion Class: Mark your calendars for October 11th for a Communion class for our youth that missed it in the spring. More information will be sent home to families.

Chew n Chat will take place outside near the Prayer Garden before Confirmation each Sunday and Wednesday. Some activities and games will be available for youth use. Grace Lutheran will not be serving a meal, but youth are invited to bring a meal from home to eat and have fellowship with others. Food will not be permitted in the building, but youth will be able to bring drinks to Confirmation.

Upcoming Events Schedule

(schedule is subject to change):

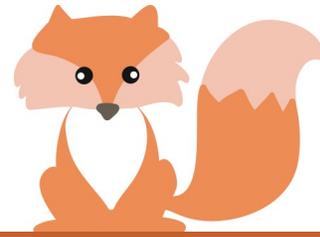
- Sept 2:** Confirmation Parent Meeting (via Zoom)
- Sept 9:** First Night of 7/8 Confirmation
- Sept 13:** Sunday School Kits Ready & In-Person Sunday School, First Day of 9th Confirmation
- Sept 20:** Pre-K Bible Blessing & Class
- Sept 27:** 3rd Grade Bible Blessing & Class
- Oct 4:** Sunday School Kits Ready & In-Person Sunday School
- Oct 11:** 6th Grade First Communion Class
- Oct 25:** Confirmation Sunday

Continued on page 7

Grace Children, Youth and Family Ministry Cont.

Looking for adults to help with Children, Youth & Family Ministries. We are unable to do our programming without our volunteers!! We are looking for some adults who are interested in:

- **Sunday School Monthly Leaders:** Looking for 3-4 adults to serve as leaders to our elementary aged students for our monthly In-Person Sunday School. Contact Pastor Jennifer for more information.
- **Confirmation Subs:** Looking for a few adults that are unable to commit to being a Small Group Leader, but would be open to being called to sub a Confirmation Small Group when needed. Contact Ashley for more information.
- **Confirmation Rotation Leaders:** Looking for 1-2 adults each Wednesday to serve as Rotation Leaders for our 7th – 8th Graders. You will lead a station, based on that day's theme, for some of the Confirmation Small Groups. You can sign up once or for multiple days! Contact Ashley for more information.
- **Sunday School Kit Helpers:** Looking for adults or older youth to help put together the Sunday School Kits each month. Contact Pastor Jennifer for more information.
- **Confirmation Masks & Stoles:** Looking for multiple people to help with cutting out materials for Confirmation stoles or that would be able to make face masks (with our logo) for our 9th graders. Contact Ashley Kuhlman for more information.



CREATION CARE CORNER

"Suppose you borrowed a car from God. Would you want to return it with cigarette butts in the ashtray, dents in the bumper, and an empty gas tank? Like the car, the earth is on loan to us."

-Nancy Sleeth, Relevant Magazine, February 2020

What kind of shape do we want God's Creation to be in when we pass it to the generations that follow us? What moral example are we setting with our behavior and choices? Will people know we are Christians by our care for God's Creation?

Our dominant cultural ideology is consumption, and capitalism utilizes every psychological tool to override individuals giving too much thought to the social and environmental impacts of what we buy.

Thus, it must be a daily conscious practice to consider God's Creation first in the face of relentless advertising, social pressure to buy more stuff than what we need, and our own desires and impulses.

Each day is a new day to make intentional choices which care for and glorify God's Creation.

"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it." Psalm 24:1



Beaver Swamp Trail,
Umpqua National Forest, Oregon
Source: Wikimedia Commons

Parish Nurse Notes



Lori Tuchtenhagen,
Parish Nurse
parishnurse@gracealbertlea.org

Dear Friends of Grace Lutheran, September is upon us and we all have apprehensions and concerns with what school will look like for our young people. As we continue to live with COVID virus around us, we must remain on constant alert to continue with social distancing, good hand washing, and use of facial coverings as mandated. While watching facebook worship services and having attended a couple outdoor worship services, I am just thrilled to see the responsibility all are taking in presenting with their masks and social distancing as suggested in order to worship at this time.

Stress and anxiety continue to be a big part of our lives with the uncertainty around us.

Stress affects us as individuals and as a family. There are positive things we can do to improve our ability to cope with stressors.

- First, we can place Jesus as the head of our family - ("...we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ") Ephesians 4:15.
- Second, we can pray for the Lord's guidance for our family and to pray for one another. Psalms 32:6, James 5:13
- Third, we can trust that our family can handle the pressures of life with the help of God. If we feel totally helpless, then we can't mobilize the resources we need to tackle our problems. Often workable solutions are within our grasp!
- Fourth, we can develop a realistic plan for resolving our problems, and stick with it. It is important to include everyone who will be affected by this plan.
- Fifth, we can seek outside help when we need it. Seeking social support and other outside

help is a sign of family strength, because it means we are committed to conquering our problems.

May we continue to pray for our world, our leaders and for each other.

Peace be with you,
Lori Tuchtenhagen, Parish Nurse

OUTDOOR

WORSHIP

Information & Guidelines

Some things to consider
as you come to outdoor worship:

You must bring your own lawn chair. If you prefer to stay in your car, our worship service will be broadcast on FM 89.3.

You must sit six feet apart in family groups. Masks at this time are **HIGHLY** encouraged at a minimum, mandatory at a maximum, depending on cases in Freeborn County at that time.

Communion (please bring your own wine/juice and bread), music, preaching and fellowship will be very present. We are so excited to be able to offer these worships services. Please come if you are healthy. If you are unwell or at-risk, please continue to watch our worship provided on our Facebook page.

Church Council Minutes

August 11, 2020, 6:30 p.m. (ZOOM meeting)

1. Call to Order and Roll
2. Opening: Corrine: Poem Worst Day Ever...
Philippians 4:6-9

Pastor Jennifer shared from Joshua chapter 1 verse 9: When dealing with transitions, the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. We go with God!

3. Open Forum – No items
4. Approval of Today's Agenda – Action

5. Approval of Minutes
It was Moved, Seconded, approved (MSA) by Dave Drommerhausen and Dennis Hamborg to approve the July Council Minutes.

6. Budget Update: Dave Drommerhausen
The church's financials were reviewed by Dave. Giving has been off since June but expenditures are tracking in line or better than budgeted for this point in the church year.

7. Reports

- Lead Pastor Report: Pastor Koepke – No report (Family funeral)
- Associate Pastor Report: Pastor Gonsalves
 - ♦ There were 57 Vacation Bible School kits delivered to kids at home. The program was very well received. Grace appreciates the financial support given from the Foundation.
 - ♦ There will be two private baptisms performed in the Prayer Garden in August.
 - ♦ Jennifer and Ashley have put together a plan for Fall programming to be presented to Pastor Shane and the COVID team. They antici-

pate that Confirmation will resume in September.

- ♦ Confirmation will be at a separate service on Reformation Sunday, October 25th.
- ♦ There will also be a celebration of First Communion during the regular service that Sunday for those who missed it at Easter.
- ♦ On August 23, there will be a Blessing of the Brains and Backpacks.
- Deacon's Report and Technology Update: Deacon Bob Tewes
 - ♦ Vacation was completed.
 - ♦ Technology continues to work effectively except for some sound issues with the outdoor service.
 - ♦ New computer programs have been purchased to offer the church more options and features for managing its virtual audio and visual needs. Some do have annual fees and maintenance fees.
 - ♦ Bob is working with Sherry Seberson to explore music programming at the church. There are still concerns that group and congregational singing is a risk factor in spreading the virus.
- Commission & Committee Report Highlights
 - ♦ Lead – Backpack Program: The program is expecting increased costs due to inflation in food prices. Salem Lutheran Church has left the program and additional churches are being sought to join. There is a local nonprofit organization that may be joining. The budget for the project looks good at this point in time and grant funds have helped as well.

Continued on page 10

Church Council Minutes Continued

There is a need for storage, but Grace can help to a certain point.

8. Old Business

- 75th Celebration: October 10, 2021 (Committee: Pastor Shane, Jim Munyer, Marsha Smith)- On hold
- Capital Campaign: Gary Schindler
 - ◆ Financial Update – A total of \$1,132 in donations was collected in July. The total funds collected for the campaign is \$1,074,347. There is \$151,665 cash-on-hand.
 - ◆ Update on Restroom Remodel – Bids have been reviewed for electrical work and general contracting. Two additional bids were sought and are pending. Foundation support is being sought to help support the higher than expected costs. A motion was made by Dave Drommerhausen and Julie Groeneweg to table a decision on accepting bids

until more information is collected and reviewed. Motion was approved unanimously.

9. New/Other Business

- Sunday's Outdoor Services – Outdoor services will continue through August and September.
 - Reopening plan/team information (Plans for Sunday School/Confirmation) – See Pastor Jennifer's Report and the Sunday Outdoor Services above.
 - Any other business – No additional items.
10. Prayer Intercessions – Deacon Tewes led the Council in prayer.
11. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Schindler
Grace Lutheran Church Council Secretary

Worship together In Person!

Join us outdoors on the front lawn (weather permitting)
Sunday mornings at 9:00 am or watch the
***Livestream on [facebook.com/GraceAlbertLea](https://www.facebook.com/GraceAlbertLea)**

*This worship will be saved so you can watch it later, too!
Previous worship services can be found on our website at [gracealbertlea.org](https://www.gracealbertlea.org)

Mid-week worship is available Wednesday evenings
on Facebook and on our website.

See "Information & Guidelines" on page 8

Gifts of Love

BOILER/BUILDING/ROOF/FURNACE FUND

Gift Given By:

Carroll & Mavis Hanson, Roger Johnson

BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAMS

In Memory Of:

Gary Beese given by Mary Beese

Judy Myers, sister of Jean Bergo given by Barbara Tullberg

Dr. Ted Myers given by LuVerne Godtland

Dennis Kahl, father of Janelle Koepke given by LuVerne Godtland, Jim & Judy Munyer

Christine Jahnke (Hagen), daughter of Wayne & Sharon Jahnke given by Jim & Judy Munyer

DELORES OST SCHOLARSHIP

Gift Given By:

Milton Ost

FOOD SHELF

In Memory Of:

Barb Cichosz given by Mary Beese

LIBRARY FUND

In Memory Of:

Mel Nelson given by Sandy Fredrickson

Christine Jahnke (Hagen), daughter of Wayne & Sharon Jahnke given by Virginia Sorenson

LOVE OFFERING

In Memory Of:

Jason Attig given by Dell & June Claussen

Gift Given By:

Tom & Susan Westland, Ed & Julie Groeneweg, Mary Pirsig, LaVerne Seberson

MARTIN LUTHER FUND

In Memory Of:

Dennis Kahl, father of Janelle Koepke given by Virginia Sorenson

Christine Jahnke (Hagen), daughter of Wayne & Sharon Jahnke given by Dexter & Janet Henschel

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of:

Milburn Nelson given by Dennis & Nancy Cramblit

PRAYER GARDEN

In Memory Of:

Cliff Engebretson given by Sandy Fredrickson

Julie Jasperson given by Kent Jasperson

Mark Sonnek given by Lester Perschbacher

YOUTH FUND

In Memory Of:

Milburn Nelson given by Bill & Sue Barber

Ed Mikulich given by Bill & Sue Barber

Dennis Kahl, father of Janelle Koepke given by Bill & Sue Barber

PLEASE NOTE that any additional "Gifts of Love" recorded by the church office after August 24, 2020 will appear in the next issue. If you have given a gift and your name has not been recorded, please call the church office so the correction can be made. Thank you.



Grace Prays

Prayers of Healing

Dave & Elaine Long
Bruce & Diane Olson
Deb Attig
Dex Henschel
Irmi Kleih
Carolyn Schmitz
Norma Demmer
Richard Anderson
Richard Dahlen
Dick Haug
Arlene Hobbiebrunken
Milt Ost

Prayers for those Grieving

The family and friends of **Christine Jahnke (Hagen)**,
(daughter of Wayne & Sharon Jahnke)
The family and friends of **Dennis Kahl**,
(father of Janelle Koepke)

Prayers of Joy

Ona Meyer's 91st Birthday on August 22.
For Hazel Spiering's recovery
For Richard & Betty Anderson's
50th Wedding Anniversary on September 5, 2020

Prayers for those in Transition

Students beginning a new year.
Schools welcoming their students back,
whether it is online, in-person or a hybrid.
Judy Menssen leaving Albert Lea
and moving closer to family.

If you know anyone needing prayers of our congregation, please let us know so we can include them on our list. Requests for the Prayer Chain can be arranged by calling the church office.

September

(The list below is to remind us to pray for our Grace family members on the following dates.)

1. John & Tracey Ball, Cody, Ian, Trevor, Haley
2. Steve Ball
3. Ardis Bang
4. Bill & Sue Barber
5. Lowell & Ruth Barr, Euphrosyne
6. Robert Bartz
7. Mary Beese
8. Louise Berg
9. Robert & Marion Bergemann
10. Gary & Marlene Bergeson
11. Jean B ergo
12. Jerry Bizjak
13. Rachelle Bizjak, Raelin, Lauren, Lindsey
14. Roger & LaJean Bjorklund
15. Phil & Pat Blake
16. Mike & Brandy Boettcher, Brayden, Kailey
17. Jeff & Natalie Bowman
18. Dustin Boyer, Dagen, Liliana
19. Nancy Boyer, Brooke
20. Steve & JoAnn Bracker
21. Brandon & Erin Brackey, Declan
22. Renae Brackey
23. Nancy Brandt
24. Lorraine Branstad
25. Kenneth & Geraldine Breamer
26. Travis & Norena Brekke, Charley, Pacey
27. Nick & Jessica Bremer, Ava, Asher
28. Carolyn Breuer
29. Sharon Brua
30. Jeremy & Michelle Brue, Jazmin, Jadin

Grace

GOD'S SURPRISES

Don't assume that God will always work in your life the way he always has. A sunset is proof that God colors outside the lines. He has no status quo. Even the laws of nature are his to interrupt. As many times as you've prayed before, today may be the day when God sends the answer so swiftly — so divinely — that you're windburned. —Beth Moore

WHEN GOD CROSSES OUR PATHS

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions." Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God "sending us people with claims and petitions." Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, "thinking of you" cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).



GRACE LUTHERAN PRAYER CHAIN

Would you like a prayer for yourself or others? Call the church office (507-373-6496) with your name and phone number and someone from the Prayer Chain will contact you for further information. Prayers are kept confidential among prayer chain members.



GIVE+Church

Supporting our Fall ministries and mission is only a click away. We offer convenient online giving, so you never have to worry about leaving your cash or checkbook at home. You can make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts – a great option for members who are busy with Fall schedules. Get started by visiting our online donation page at www.gracealbertlea.org.



September

Caring and Sharing

Co-Chairpersons Needed

Donna & Victor Avery
Lorraine Branstad
Amy & Jay Cichosz
Kate & Wes Dahl
Shauna Dakken
Patricia Ehlert
Gloria Ell
Pamela & Richard Hanson
Renee & Ryan Haugsdal
Carol & Ronald Johnson
Diann & Don King
Carol Kubat
Judy Ann Moen
Kelli & David Nelson
Shane O'Byrne
Pat & Bruce Palmer
Mary Peterson
Nancy & Terry Peterson
Marsha & Greg Smith
Karen & Mark Sanderson
Carolyn Schmitz
Diane & Craig Schultz
Shelly Sipple
Carol & Judean Thompson
Nicole & Cole Thompson
Gerry & Jerry Vogt
Maxine Wacholz
Karen Wangen
Sharon & Joel Westcott
Marian Ziebell

OUR THANKS to Melody Munden for serving as chairwoman for August Caring and Sharing and to all who volunteered to help and/or provide food. Your help was appreciated.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES for Adults at Grace

We invite you to join any of our regular Bible study groups at Grace Lutheran.

Sunday Morning Adult Forum September — May

Come join us at 10:05 am Sunday mornings.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tuesday mornings, 10:00-11:00 am
(Fireside Room)

This study for women offers
singing, and great

Thursday

Open discussion where there is an
opportunity for discussion and good fel-
lowship with good coffee and treats!

Grace WELCA Women's Circles

Mary Circle (meeting 1st Monday, 5:15 pm)

Lois Circle (meeting 4th Tuesday, 9:30 am)

Martha Circle (meeting 4th Wednesday, 9:30 am)

New members are always welcome! Call the church office, 373-6496, for more information.





QUARTERS FOR WORLD HUNGER

Every weekday morning, 120 elementary school children fill the dining hall at the Help the Children Association School to eat a warm breakfast. While each child has a different story, the children have one thing in common – they all come from an area of extreme poverty in and around the ancient Incan capital city of Cusco, Peru. The school began 31 years ago to meet the basic needs of the children in Cusco. The school, with support from ELCA World Hunger has been able to change the lives of many “little important persons” and their families for more than a decade. Through your gifts, the children of this city receive a primary education, meals, snacks, and training in trade skills that they can use to support themselves and their families in the future. Thank you!



The Caring & Sharing **still needs co-chairs** for the months of **September and November**. Please contact the church office if interested. Please consider being a co-chair for one of the months listed above.



Remember your coins for Sunday's outdoor Noisy offering!



NO FAIR TRADE COFFEE
Until further notice

GENEROSITY AT GRACE



Thanks for your attendance either live or In-Person as we continue to be the church apart and together.

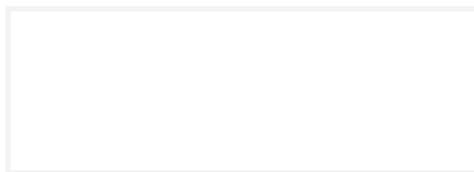
The Finance Ministry Team and Church Council appreciate your generous support. Your faithful Stewardship is essential for us to continue to support our ministries at Grace Lutheran.

Grace Lutheran Church
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Albert Lea, MN 56007

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Email: office@gracealbertlea.org



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Outdoor



Worship

We are continuing our **worship** services
outdoors on the front lawn of the church.

See pages 8 & 10 for more information and guidelines.