

Grace Notes

Volume 73, Number 9

September 2021

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



You (yes, you!) are part of God’s work!

You’re invited to discover ways that your gifts and interests can be part of Grace’s ministry! After worship on Sunday, September 12th, come to the Fellowship Hall to see how you and your family can be blessings to the ongoing ministry of this part of God’s world. This event is open to people of all ages to discover meaningful opportunities for service. Come and see!

September 12, 2021

The Pastor's Pen



Pastor Shane Koepke
Lead Pastor
pastorshane@gracealbertlea.org

If Church history teaches us anything, it is that we cannot afford to be a vacillating Church. We minister to a people who are in great need of hearing truth, we dare not make any attempt to soft pedal that glorious truth. -Martin Luther

What Luther is getting at here is this: The church can't let the fear of the truth's consequences get in the way of speaking that truth. What truth about your faith are you afraid to speak out loud for fear it won't be received by those who hear?

Maybe it's your support of poverty related issues in our community. Maybe it's standing up for the Black Lives Matter movement. Is your faith leading you to help your neighbor even though they likely won't change even with your help?

Sometimes, I am told something like this: 'it's no use helping them, they don't want any help.' And I can't argue. People who don't want help won't often change. But, I am convinced that the truth of Jesus that needs to be shared is that he is a persistent and faithful presence. This means that even if people don't change when we first start our journey with them, doesn't mean they are lost. Sometimes, simply knowing someone is out there on our side, rooting us on, is enough to spark the reforming needed in ones life.

It's the same for us, many of us come to worship to not only hear the truth of Jesus, but then to understand it more fully through the friends and family that surround us in worship.

Being the church doesn't mean we get it perfect, but it does mean that we are given a voice and a guide to daily living. To stand up on the side of truth. To try, try again. The church needs to own up to the fact that we have, and continue, messed up

in the past. Our own racism, fear mongering, wealth hoarding, sexism, and other wrongdoings need to be apologized for so that we can move forward in a more Christ-like way. Being a follower of Jesus means that we keep walking forward trusting in the promise of new life in Christ for today and everyday to come.

Peace as you journey- PShane

PASTORAL ACTS FOR AUGUST

FUNERALS

Kathy Diaz
Wanda Hoiseth
Marjorie Dann

BAPTISMS

Danica Whelan
Holden Whelan

LEARN FROM LEAVES

As you're enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy, personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right and so on.

Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God's best for our lives. Embrace fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go! —Janna Firestone

The Associate Pastor's Corner



Pastor Dean Smith
Associate Interim Pastor
pastordean@gracealbertlea.org

In Times of Crisis, Let's Be HOW Jesus Is.

I loved being on the school newspaper staff in Middle School. It was there that I learned how to ask the “5 W’s and an H”—Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How—when researching a story. These are the questions that have fueled our stress since March, 2020 because we just don’t know everything, and there are limits to what we can control.

The question that has been pressing to the front of the line most frequently is When? When will things be “back to normal?” We’ve been riding the waves of world events—pandemically, politically, socially—for a long time. We’d like to know when the ride will stop. We don’t know. It’s hard not knowing how to answer that question.

Many of my thoughts have been focused on “How?” questions.

How will worship be affected by upticks in the virus and its variants? How will we resume education ministries? How will we plan for weddings, funerals, and other important milestones and commemorations? How are we going to be prepared for the “next thing?”

These are all logistical things that can be developed and shifted as we need and are able. There are practical steps we can take as we seek to balance our need for “normal” and our needs for caution.

There is a more important “How?” for us to address as people of faith.

How do we cope with a “business as usual” that is perpetually changing? I know many of us have experienced anxiety, confusion, frustration, and anger. We’ve encountered sadness, grief, and disappointment. Those are all valid. I’ve also witnessed hope,

compassion, empathy, and love as people have displayed great concern for one another. I’ve seen connections and relationships grow...even among strangers. I’ve seen people embrace new ways of interacting with each other and with our world.

There is no “one size fits all” response to a pandemic, but I continue to pray that most of our reactions reflect who we are called to be as people who follow the example of Christ. Jesus experienced everything we do during his time on earth, and he tempered each of his reactions with love for his mission and for the people he came to serve. We would do well to reflect his love in how we regard others who may be weathering these times differently than we are—how we talk to people, how we talk about people, and what we post and share on social media. In all things, I pray that Jesus’s “How” will be our “How.”

Sunday School: Updating...

With one eye on Grace’s mission statement, one eye on the Strategic Plan announced a couple of years ago, and one eye on our ongoing Covid situation, an exciting plan for Sunday mornings is emerging for Grace’s families.

Welcome to Faith Explorations! This is an interactive time of learning for families of faith. Following worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, families are invited to the Fellowship Hall for scripture, conversation, crafts, prayer, and, fun!

The plan is to stay in family groups for the sake of our community’s health and in anticipation of important faith conversations between kids, parents, grandparents, and friends.

Faith Explorations begins on Sunday, September 19 following worship! You’re invited!

Please contact Pastor Dean (pastordean@gracealbertlea.org) with questions.

Musings



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

The Fall kickoff for Grace's Music Ministry is upon us!

If you are a returning participant, a new interested member, or have a friend or family member who has voiced interest in singing or playing their instrument in worship, now is your chance to come check out the ensembles and fun people that make up Grace's music ministry!

Having taken a greatly modified form last year, due to pandemic restrictions, our music ministry intends to launch this Fall in a more recognizable form. Sherry and I would love to tell you about it in person and give you the opportunity to meet fellow musicians in the process.

So please, come to one of the pre-season socials (based on your age group) as listed below:

Youth Choir Orientation (Grades K-5) on Wednesday, September 8th at 5 p.m.

Adult Music Ministry (Highschool-aged and up) on Wednesday, September 8th at 6:30.

Join us for a provided pizza dinner and a chance to socialize. We will discuss plans for the season, share Christian fellowship, and enjoy some outdoor fresh air in the prayer garden.

Regular weekly rehearsals will begin the following Wednesday, September 15th:

Cherub Choir (Grades K-2) – Wednesdays from 4:30 – 5:15 p.m.

Chancel Choir (Grades 3-5) – Wednesdays from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Bells of Praise Handbell Choir (Highschool-aged and up) – Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Adult Choir (Highschool-aged and up) – Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

We hope to see both new and returning faces as we get ready to start an exciting year of music making together.

We hope to see you on the 8th!

MUSIC PIZZA PARTY!

Thinking about joining choir? Already in choir?
Join us for pizza and some fun!

Youth Choir (Grades K-5)

on Wednesday, September 8th at 5 p.m.

Adult Music Ministry (Highschool-aged and up)

on Wednesday, September 8th at 6:30 pm

**Meet
in the
Prayer
Garden**

Grace Children, Youth and Family Ministry



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

We have had a busy summer at Grace and now it's already time to jump back into regular programming for the school year! Our **Faith Exploration** program (for ALL AGES) will take place on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, starting on September 19th. Meet in Fellowship Hall following worship. Our **Confirmation** program will be meeting on Wednesday nights 6:30 – 8:00pm and this year we will be focusing on the small catechism and being a Christian. We will also be restarting our **High School Youth Group!** Anybody who is 9th – 12th grade is welcome to join us for games, devotions, food and fellowship time with one another starting in October.

Contact Pastor Dean for more information about Faith Exploration or Confirmation. Contact Ashley for details about High School programming.

Upcoming Events Schedule

(schedule is subject to change):

Sept 1: Confirmation Parent Meetings

Sept 8: First Night of Chew n Chat
and 7/8 Confirmation

Sept 12: Volunteer Fair

Sept 15: Youth Gathering Info Meeting

Sept 19: Faith Exploration Starts and
Youth Gathering Info Meeting

Sept 25: Youth Service Day

Sept 26: Pre-K and 3rd Grade Bibles

Oct 3: Youth Gathering Deadline

Oct 31: Confirmation Sunday

Pre-K Bible 4 year old's will receive their Bibles during worship on September 26th during worship

3rd Grade Bible Class youth will receive their Bibles during worship on September 26th and a class on how to use their Bibles will be offered for families following worship.

Current 7th – 8th Grade Confirmation Meeting: On September 1st we will be having a 7th – 8th Grade Parent/Student Meeting at 6:30pm and a 9th Grade Parent/Student Meeting at 7:30pm to talk about the upcoming school year. Please contact Pastor Dean for more information.

Chew n Chat Due to COVID-19, we will continue to not serve food on Wednesday Nights. We invite youth to show up to Confirmation early to hang out in the Youth Room and Fellowship Hall with others. We will have a space for youth to eat if they bring dinner from home.

Youth Service Day: 7th – 12th graders are welcome to help on September 25th from 9:00am – 12:30pm at the Salvation Army Thrift Store, then get some ice cream afterwards! This is a free event. Sign up with Ashley before September 22nd – there is limited space available.

College & Young Adults Information: We are collecting addresses and updates on our young adults in our congregation! We will be sending letters and care packages to our young adults who are in college or who graduated high school recently. Please send Ashley their school year addresses.



Backpack Sunday: During worship on September 12th we will be recognizing all of those who have returned to school this year (students, teachers, administration, support staff, etc.). We invite anyone that is back in school this fall to bring a backpack to worship this day for a blessing... **regardless of your age!**

Parish Nurse Notes



Lori Tuchtenhagen,
Parish Nurse
parishnurse@gracealbertlea.org

The month of September will bring the opportunity to participate in 'Gods work our hands' on Sunday Sept. 12.

The world is hungry for goodness and recognizes it when it sees it and has an incredible response to the good. There is something in all of us that causes hunger as we witness the good others do in their community and we applaud them. We may long to be a little like them and this may be our chance to find a way to bring good to our church and the community.

Volunteers are always needed within a church to assist in making the various ministries work. If you choose to be a volunteer, you won't be alone. Neither wealth nor poverty is an obstacle to being a

good volunteer. Kindness and generosity of spirit are all that matters. Do you think you are too busy to help? Take one step at a time. Try to make helping a part of your daily routine. Take your kids along. Use your talents. Let God use you to bring His love, goodness, and care to others by being involved in being a volunteer.

Only in God does life have meaning and true pleasure. Without him nothing satisfies, but with him we find satisfaction and enjoyment. True pleasure comes only when we acknowledge and respect God.

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

12-I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. 13-That everyone may eat and drink and find satisfaction in all his toil --this is the gift of God.

May God Bless you,
Lori Tuchtenhagen, Parish Nurse



It's time to start planning for the 2022 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. To accommodate busy schedules, there will be two informational meetings on September 12th at 8:00pm and September 15th at 11:30am. **Those who have completed 9th – 12th grade in the 2021-2022 school year will be eligible to attend this gathering.** If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, please contact Ashley about more information. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3RD.

Church Council Minutes

August 9, 2021, 6:30 pm

1. Call to Order and Roll

The meeting was called to order by President Tims at 6:32 pm.

2. Opening Devotion: Pastor Shane

Pastor Shane led the council with a reflection from "On the Brink of Everything." Council members participated in an ice breaker about why we serve in church leadership roles.

3. Open Forum

Opportunity for visitors to address the Council. The Council's intent for this open forum is to provide a time of listening. Each person addressing the Council is asked to be respectful of others wishing also to address the council. Council reserves the right to manage the time allotted for this time of listening.

No items.

4. Approval of Today's Agenda

Motion by Drommerhausen and second by Vogt to approve the agenda for the meeting. The motion was approved.

5. Financial Report

Drommerhausen provided an overview of financial report. There was \$1,700 left from the capital campaign after the final bill was paid. Discussion of potential uses including professional cleaning of the kitchen. Motion by Palmer and second by Meyer to accept the financial report as submitted. The motion was approved.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Drommerhausen and second by Munyer to accept the minutes of the July meeting. The motion was approved.

7. Reports

- **Lead Pastor Report: Pastor Koepke**

Pastor Shane has facilitated two baptisms, and one funeral last week and one next week. He was on vacation last week and expressed appreciation for those who covered for him. A \$15,000 grant was received for the Food for Backpack program

- **Interim Associate Pastor Report: Pastor Dean**

Pastor Dean was on vacation last week, and he is starting school full time later this month. He has been working with mission teams and local agencies to design one time service opportunities. These will be presented at the 9-12-21 service event after church. He encouraged all council members to attend and to invite others. He is working on fall education program which will be called "Faith Explorations" and will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays family style – encouraging people to attend as a family to foster intergenerational connections.

- **Deacon's Report and Technology: Deacon Bob Tewes**

Deacon Bob was on vacation last week and is now working on music program startup for September, with an awareness of Covid restrictions and recommendations.

- **Commission & Committee Report Highlights**

No items

8. Old Business

- **Capital Campaign/Bathroom remodeling: Update**

The remodeling project is complete and the final bill has been received/paid.

Continued on page 8

Church Council Minutes

- **Constitution**
Revisions are back from the synod and being reviewed by Pastor Shane.
 - **75th Celebration: October 10, 2021 (PShane, Jim Munyer, Marsha Smith)**
The committee met two weeks ago, a hymn is being written in honor of the event, charter member stories are coming in, and there will be a reception after the Bishop speaks. Discussed the idea of a Christmas ornament being made for sale to commemorate the anniversary.
- 9. New/Other Business**
- **Child Protection Policy**
The insurance company sent a sample policy, which is being reviewed by staff and will be presented to the council.
- **Council Installation**
Installation of council members will be at the September 12th worship service.
 - **Other items**
Technology issues, thanks to Pastor Dean's wife and daughter for their music offering.
- 10. Prayer Intercessions**
Pastor Shane entertained prayer requests and led the council in final prayers.
- 11. Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned by President Tims at 7:32 pm.
- Respectfully submitted, Laura McKibben
Grace Lutheran Church Council Secretary



TEXT YOUR DONATION

Simply text your seasonal gift amount to 833-939-1383 and then follow the instruction on your phone to complete your donation.

More information can be found on our website at <https://gracealbertlea.org/discipleship/giving/>

PROMISES ON HAND

Audrey Penn's book *The Kissing Hand* features a young raccoon who's nervous about the first day of school. Mom consoles him by kissing his palm, signifying her presence with him. The youngster can simply put his hand to his face any time he needs a kiss from her. If that isn't tear-jerking enough, as the raccoon scampers to school, he returns to kiss Mom's hand so she'll have a Kissing Hand too.

That story reminds me of Matthew 28:20, when Jesus promises to be with us always, and of Psalm 23:4, which says, "I will fear no evil; for thou art with me" (KJV). God gives us a Kissing Hand through baptism, sealing us forever with the Holy Spirit and the mark of the cross of Christ.

Just as the raccoons cherish their kissing hands, may we cherish the promise of our Father's eternal presence. Thanks be to God, whose "goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life" (Psalm 23:6).

PLEASE NOTE: DATES, TIMES AND EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

For updates, please check our website, Facebook, or call the church office.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1>September</h1>			1 9:00a Sewing Day 6:30p 7th-8th Confirmation Parent Meeting 7:30p 9th Grade Confirmation Parent Meetings	2 8:00a Early Bible Study 8:30a Hawthorne School Kindness Retreat 1:30p SAIL	3	4
5 9:00a Worship Service In person and Online	6 Labor Day Building and Office Closed	7 10:00a Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:30a Staff Meeting 7:00p Foundation Meeting	8 5:00p Cherub & Chancel Choirs Gathering 6:30p Bells of Praise & Adult Choir Gathering	9 8:00a Early Bible Study 1:30p SAIL 6:30p WELCA Meeting	10	11
12 God's Work. Our Hands 9:00a Worship Service In person and Online Blessing of the Backpacks 10:00a Volunteer Fair	13 1:30p SAIL 6:00p Hardanger Group 6:00p Ministry Teams 6:30p Council Meeting 6:30p Mary Circle	14 10:00a Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:30a Staff Meeting	15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00a Sewing Day 4:30p Cherub & Chancel Choirs 5:30p Worship Service 6:30p Bells of Praise 6:30p Confirmation 7:30p Adult Choir 8:00p Youth Gathering Info	16 8:00a Early Bible Study 1:30p SAIL	17	18
19 9:00a Worship Service In person and Online 10:05a Faith Exploration 11:30a Youth Gathering Info Meeting	20 1:30p SAIL 6:00p Hardanger Group	21 10:00a Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:30a Staff Meeting	22 9:15a Marth Circle 2:00p Grace Seniors 4:30p Cherub & Chancel Choirs 5:30p Worship Service 6:30p Bells of Praise 6:30p Confirmation 7:30p Adult Choir	23 8:00a Early Bible Study 1:30p SAIL	24 10:00a Grace Notes Mail Prep for Mailing	25
26 9:00a Worship Service In person and Online Pre-K and 3rd graders receive Bibles 10:00a 3rd Grade Bible Class	27 1:30p SAIL 6:00p Hardanger Group	28 9:30a Lois Circle 10:00a Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:30a Staff Meeting 5:00p PEO	29 4:30p Cherub & Chancel Choirs 5:30p Worship Service 6:30p Bells of Praise 6:30p Confirmation 7:30p Adult Choir	30 8:00a Early Bible Study 1:30p SAIL		

Grace Prays

Prayers of Healing

Greg Henderson
Pat Johnson
Mary Lou Jacobson
Greg Witham
Gwen Baas
Sue Ranney
Anna Nottleson
(Granddaughter of Judy Menssen)
Arlene Levine
Roger Bjorklund
Judy Menssen
Solveig Peterson
Truman Thron
Julie Olson
(Sister of Jeanne Schindler)

Prayers for those Grieving

Family and friends of **Marjorie Dann**
Family and friends of **Wanda Hoiseth**
Family and friends of **Melvin Stoa**
(Father of Hazel Spiering)

Prayers of Joy

The beginning of the fall programming.
To all returning to school this year.

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.



Pastoral Care

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

SEPTEMBER

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

1. Gail Rasmussen
2. Lynn Rasmussen
3. Mark & Lynnette Rasmussen
4. Robert Rasmussen, Morgan, Lilly
5. Kelvin & Amy Rehnelt, Sydney, Rachel
6. Lisa Rippentrop, Fallon
7. Preston & Heidi Robeck
Jacy, Brennan
8. Carol Roberts
9. Dick & Vonda Rocklin
10. Orrion & Barb Roisen
11. Adele Rosnow, Alden, Adele
12. John & Beth Ruud, Brian, Adam
13. Faith Ryan
14. Michael & Deborah Ryan
15. Donna Rye
16. David & Nicole Rysavy,
Brody Schumacher, Logan Schumacher
17. Bill Sager
18. Daniel Sailor
19. Beverly Sainsbury
20. Jason & Dayna Saltou,
Mercedes, Lexus
21. Chad & Erica Samp,
Markey, Scarlett
22. Tara Sanden
23. Tierra Sanden, Jade Sisouvanh
24. Barb Sanderson
25. Mark & Karen Sanderson, Sara, Amy
26. Jo Sandler
27. Neil & Renae Sather
28. Hans & Elizabeth Schafer, Adelaide
29. Gary & Jeanne Schindler
30. Joyce Schreiber



September

Caring and Sharing

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

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES for Adults at Grace

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

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible 10:00-11:00 am *(In person)*

This study for women offers fellowship and great discussion.

Thursday Morning Bible Study 7:00-8:00 am *(In person)*

Consider joining this group where there is an opportunity for good discussion and good fellowship.

Grace WELCA Women's Circles

Mary Circle (Meets 1st Monday, 6:30 pm)

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

Martha Circle (Meets 4th Wednesday, 9:00 am)

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

POWER IN WEAKNESS

In the late 1970s, Henry Smith was struggling to find work after finishing his education. He also lived with a degenerative disease that caused him to become legally blind. But one day he heard a pastor explain that Jesus became poor so we might become rich through him. This idea inspired Smith to craft a song of thanks for God's gift of Jesus. Though Smith wrote more than 300 songs, only this one became widely known (sometimes labeled "author unknown" or misattributed, but finally rightfully credited to him).

"Give thanks with a grateful heart," the song begins exuberantly. One of its most poignant lines urges, "Let the weak say, I am strong ... because of what the Lord has done for us." Across two millennia, Smith's words and faith echo the apostle Paul: "[The Lord] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me" (2 Corinthians 12:9, NRSV).

Gifts of Love

ALTAR GUILD

In Memory Of:

Dorothy Schoonover given by Gary & Karen Ohlmann, Paul & Lorraine Nagel

Carolyn Schmitz given by Charles & Sherry Sebersen

BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAMS

In Memory Of:

Melvin Stoa (Hazel Spiering's father) given by Robert & Muriel Hoeg, Ona Meyer, Mary Tufte

Jonathan Bosma given by Robert & Muriel Hoeg

Gifts Given By:

John & Kathy Knutson, Bev Evans, Dale & Dorothy Baldwin, Faith Ryan, St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation on behalf of Roland & Kay L. Hanson Foundation, St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation on behalf of The Van Erkel Family Fund

BALL SCHOLARSHIP

In Memory Of:

Lisa Cochlin given by Bob Ball & Laura McKibben

BATHROOM RENOVATION/BOILER/BUILDING/ROOF/FURNACE FUND

In Memory Of:

Kathy Diaz given by Mildred Jensen, Kent Jaspersen

Melvin Stoa given by Sandy Fredrickson, Judy Christenson

Gift Given By:

Carrol & Mavis Hanson

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In Memory Of:

Kathy Diaz given by Bill & Jane Buege, Vince & Corrine Tims

Melvin Stoa given by Vince & Corrine Tims, Mick & Becky Hanson, Bill & Jane Buege

CHRISTMAS HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED

Gift Given By:

John & Kathy Knutson

DON GROSS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Gift Given By:

Kent Jaspersen

FOOD SHELF

Gift Given By:

Dale & Dorothy Baldwin, Carroll & Mavis Hanson, John & Kathy Knutson

HAWTHORNE SCHOOL WINTER CLOTHES

Gift Given By:

John & Kathy Knutson

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of:

Dorothy Schoonover given by Sandy Fredrickson

LOVE OFFERING

In memory of:

Melvin Stoa given by Judy Hall

Gift Given By:

Richard & Darlene Jordahl

MARTIN LUTHER FUND

In Memory Of:

Kathy Diaz given by Sandy Fredrickson, Dorothy & Dale Baldwin

Melvin Stoa (Hazel Spiering's father) given by Dorothy & Dale Baldwin, Dorothy Michaelis

Dorothy Schoonover given by Rick & Virginia Loberg

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of:

Melvin Stoa (Hazel Spiering's father) given by Bernice Moreau, David & Sally Skrin

Dorothy Schoonover given by Rex & Lois Stotts, Mike & Karen Hendrickson

PRAYER GARDEN

In Memory Of:

Julie Jaspersen given by Kent Jaspersen

Kathy Diaz given by David & Carol Paschka, Lester Perschbacher, Judy Christenson, Viola Matson

Jonathan Bosma given by Lester Perschbacher

Marian Gooden given by Lester Perschbacher

Melvin Stoa (Hazel Spiering's father) given by Lester Perschbacher

Gift Given By:

Richard & Darlene Jordahl

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Grace Meetings and Activities



FOOD FOR BACKPACKS

THANK YOU to everyone who generously supports the Food For Backpacks Program. We continue to provide weekend food packets to Albert Lea K-7 food insecure students. In addition, we have added the Area Learning Center this year. Grace supports the students at our across the street neighbor, Hawthorne Elementary. The support of the Albert Lea community and the 7 church congregations involved makes it possible to provide over 400 students with weekend food. We always welcome volunteers to pick up/deliver and your donations make it possible for us to sustain this much needed program for another year. Blessings abound.

WOMEN OF GRACE

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – **WELCA** - What is the future of WELCA at Grace? This will be the main discussion during our September 9, 2021 meeting. All women who are members of Grace Lutheran Church are members of WELCA and are invited to attend. Please join us **September 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm**. Please call Jane Smith, 715-346-4036 if you have any questions.

QUILTERS

The quilting group needs flat sheets that are either new or gently used and clean for the backs of the quilts they make. If you have any to donate, please drop them off at the office. Thank you.

MARY CIRCLE:

Just for the month of September, the Mary Circle will be meeting **Monday, September 13th at 6:30 pm in the Chapel** due to Labor Day landing on their regular first Monday of the month and Council changing their meeting night to the second Monday of the month.

GRACE SENIORS

Grace Seniors returns in September! The format of monthly guest speakers and coffee fellowship returns on Wednesday September 22nd at 2:00 PM in the Fireside Room.

Our first speaker is Milt Ost speaking on his third book "TUMBLEWEEDS REMEMBERED", which shares the life and service of the fifth-generation of the Oster family, Pastor Ed and his wife, Denise, as they weave their footprints across five continents and return to their loved ones in Bergen, Minnesota. The book will be for sale and Milt will sign copies.

Grace Seniors is coordinated by Gary and Jeanne Schindler. Contact them to suggest speakers.

SAIL

SAIL meets in person, in the Fellowship Hall, Monday's and Thursday's at 1:30 pm. COVID guidelines will be followed.

Gifts of Love Continued

PRAYER SHAWL

In Memory Of:

Lucille Gripenot given by Sandy Fredrickson

WORLD HUNGER

In Memory of:

Melvin Stoa (Hazel Spiering's father) given by Truman & Barb Thron, Joe & Marge LaFrance, Duane & Norna Plank

YOUTH MINISTRY

In memory of:

Kathy Diaz given by Bernice Moreau

PLEASE NOTE that any additional "Gifts of Love" recorded by the church office after September 19, 2021 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.



QUARTERS FOR WORLD HUNGER

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is a city with high rates of poverty and water with a high lead content. He-phatha Lutheran Church, with the support of ELCA World Hunger, is providing lead-free kits with water filters, tape and mops. As the kits are shared, they explain that the tape can cover lead paint that is chipping, and the mops clean up dust from the paint so that children and adults do not inhale it. The church also helps adults learn about the dangers of lead which can cause serious health problems that are especially dangerous to children and pregnant women. This is just one of many ELCA World Hunger projects your quarters help to fund. THANK YOU!



NO FAIR TRADE COFFEE
Until further notice



Remember your coins for Sunday's Noisy offering!

Shane Koepke
Lead Pastor

pastorshane@gracealbertlea.org

Dean Smith
Associate

Interim Pastor

pastordean@gracealbertlea.org

Office Hours

9:00 am—5:00 pm
Monday—Friday
507-373-6496

Worship Services

Sunday Worship
9:00 am in person and online

GRACE NOTES

is published monthly by
Grace Lutheran Church
918 Garfield Avenue
Albert Lea, MN 56007

www.gracealbertlea.org
[www.facebook.com/
GraceAlbertLea](https://www.facebook.com/GraceAlbertLea)

GENEROSITY AT GRACE

JULY
2021

Average **ATTENDANCE**

Online was:
356 per worship
In person was:
103 per worship

GIVING

\$29,057.30

EXPENSES

-\$46,975.78

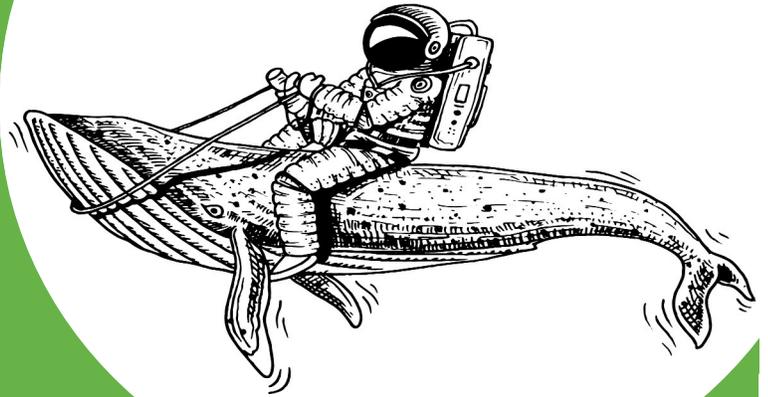
YEAR TO DATE

**GIVING vs
EXPENSES**
\$87,923.11

Thanks for your attendance In Person or Online 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.*

Faith Explorations



Come and explore...life, the universe, and everything through the lens of faith!

Faith Explorations is a family-based ministry focused on scripture, faith, and your family.

This is not your grandparents' Sunday School. (But you can invite your grandparents and Your parents and your neighbors and your friends...)

Sunday, September 19

following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

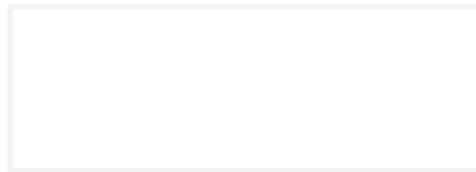
It continues on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month!

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Albert Lea, MN 56007

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Email: office@gracealbertlea.org

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Jesus loves



Worship Service Schedule

**Sunday Worship
at 9:00 am
in person
and online.**

**Join your Grace family
each week in worship,
study and fellowship!**

