

# Grace Notes

Volume 73, Number 10

October 2021

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday, October 10, 2021

# The Pastor's Pen



Pastor Shane Koepke  
*Lead Pastor*  
pastorshane@gracealbertlea.org

Grace! A free and undeserved gift from God. That's what I was taught about the meaning of the word grace. A free and undeserved gift from God.

I like it. I go back to it time and time again as I think about this congregation and the life of service we have provided, and continue to provide, the people of Albert Lea.

As we celebrate the privilege of being a congregation for 75 years we want to celebrate. BUT! With COVID back on the rise and vaccination rates low in our county, we will be doing a modified, yet still exciting, celebration.

- We will have former pastors and sons and daughters of our congregation coming to preach and lead worship throughout the fall.
- Pastor Shane and Steve Schulz a woodworker and member of Grace have created a Christmas tree ornament you can purchase for your

tree (or others trees) for \$10. All money raised will help to purchase a new outdoor nativity scene for the church yard.

- October 10<sup>th</sup>@ 9am We will have a celebration worship with Bishop Regina Hassanally. Also included will be a special hymn for the day written by Julie Godtland Keran.
- If COVID allows, we will have a celebration reception on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Coffee and cake and fellowship!

Grace has been blessed with saints of the past as well as disciples for the future. We are glad that you are part of the journey we take together. Please come to worship, participate online, or purchase an ornament to share in this special time!

## PASTORAL ACTS FOR SEPTEMBER

### FUNERALS

Orvis Rake  
Solveig Peterson  
Irene Johnson



## Grace's 75th Anniversary Commemorative Ornament

In honor of our 75 years of being a church rooted in Jesus, serving others, and celebrating faith we are proud to commemorate the time with a Christmas ornament. This ornament was designed and created by Steve Schulz a carpenter and member of Grace. For a \$10 donation, you can bring an ornament home to put on your tree or give away as a gift. We hope to sell at least 200 ornaments to raise money for a new outdoor nativity for the front yard of the church.

## The Associate Pastor's Corner



Pastor Dean Smith  
*Associate Interim Pastor*  
pastordean@gracealbertlea.org

A Season of Lament is a Season of Faith

Visiting my family, full-house swim meets, travel baseball games, sending our kids to friends' houses, having friends over, vacation, casual dining in restaurants, Twins games at Target Field... These were a few of the highlights from this summer—a summer that was closer to feeling like “normal.” But, as new realities set in this fall, the words of Wisdom in Lamentations seem a better fit:

“For these things I weep;  
my eyes flow with tears;  
for a comforter is far from me,  
one to revive my courage;  
my children are desolate,  
for the enemy has prevailed.” (Lamentations 1:16)

Covid exhaustion becoming more of a “thing” than ever. We're tired, and we're crawling into yet another round of a global pandemic in which we are, once again, watching Covid numbers escalate, seeing more encouragements about masking and distancing, and trying to navigate difficult conversations about vaccines, policies, and whether the freedom of the individual is more valuable than the well-being of the community.

It's hard.

We need to acknowledge that it's hard. That's what a lament is. To lament is to express grief or sorrow. It's a part of faithful living.

We trust God to know the burdens of God's people. We trust that God will not abandon us even when we lament, mourn, grieve, and even shake our fists at God in anger and confusion.

We trust that Christ joined us in the suffering of this world, and we trust that God fully understands our

moments of desperation and frustration. We trust that the savior who said, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” knows what it's like for comfort to feel very far away. Trusting that God remains in relationship with us even when we are in seasons of disbelief and struggling is a part of faithful living.

There's a reason that there's a book of Lamentations in the Bible—a book committed to the feelings of doubt and loss. We can acknowledge our feelings of what isn't and what won't be.

However, we don't have to live there forever.

Our faith reminds us that every season will give way to another in time. That's not toxic positivity...it's faith that a season of joy will one day replace this season of lament.

Our faith reminds us that God is always at work through hardship, sickness, and despair.

Our faith reminds us that death gives way to resurrection and in resurrection there is hope for new life.

We are in a season of undetermined length. We don't know when the next season will take shape.

However, we do know that our God remains with us just as God has always been. We know that Christ lives in a future that is uncertain in our minds. It was Jesus who said, “Behold, I am with you to the very end of the age.” We know that this season of lament will give way—in time—to a new season.

In the meantime, “let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” (Galatians 6: 9-10)



## Musings



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

Anniversaries are an exciting time. We are given a chance to reminisce about a time much different than the one in which we live today. We get to glimpse at the youthfulness of a system, when it was fresh and new and full of possibility. We have occasions to have conversations with those of an earlier generation of our current system. We learn that it wasn't always easy and without worry then either. In fact, we learn—quite often—that that earlier time wasn't all that different from our own. Yet, in spite of obstacles, those generations persevered, remaining faithful, and carrying Grace from infancy to the place it is today.

Such is the occasion we are given this Fall as we take time to give thanks for the roots of our congregation, now seventy-five years of age. And in this reflection we are given a chance to see and hear leaders from Grace's past. We are reminded of our

calling, in the present, to continue in faithful directions that an even distant future may someday be achieved.

Confident that God is still blessing this congregation, we look forward to an exciting future where even more of the founders' dreams will reach fruition, and new opportunities for exciting new ministries will develop within our congregation. Enjoy this anniversary. Be proud of the legacy we have inherited. Work hard to maintain faithfulness in a world that is ever changing.

I wrote a poem a few years ago which encompasses these ideals. I share the middle stanza with you here:

You are the God these walls adore,  
The God our parents knew;  
Still fill our songs and bless our lives  
That we, and those to come, may sing of you.

Happy Birthday Grace!  
Deacon Robert Tewes

## TRUNK OR TREAT

A colorful illustration of a car trunk decorated for a 'Trunk or Treat' event. The trunk is blue and has various items like candy, streamers, and a small house-like structure on top. The words 'TRUNK OR TREAT' are written in a stylized, gothic font across the top of the illustration.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 pm we will be teaming up with other churches in the Albert Lea Area to host a community Trunk or Treat Event. This will take place at Central Park. Different people decorate their car trunks and hand out candy to the youth who come to Trick or Treat. Everyone is invited to come in costumes to see some of the cool trunks and of course - get some candy!

For this event, we are looking for some people to host their trunk and hand out to candy to those who stop by in costume! Each trunk can be decorated to whatever theme they would like (for example: you can create your trunk to be a mouth of a monster or you could design it a Noah's Ark theme – you can be creative!) Each car will be responsible for handing out candy and decorating. If you are interested in hosting a trunk, please sign up and fill out a form in the Narthex starting in October

**Unable to host a trunk but what to help out?** We are also looking for some people to donate candy – this will be handed out by the youth and to anyone participating that runs out of candy. You can drop off this candy in the Narthex! Thank you in Advance!

# Grace Children, Youth and Family Ministry



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

Happy October everybody! For those who don't know, I have just started my second semester of seminary at Wartburg Theological Seminary! Although I still reside here in Albert Lea, I complete my classes online with other students. A group of us video call into the classroom, and get to experience class from our own homes. This semester I am taking New Testament Greek, Jesus Christ in Plural Worlds and Foundations of Lutheran Worship. I am also taking a Clinical Pastoral Education Course and completing my hours here in town!

In the transition of going back to school and moving to part-time, I am so thankful for all of your support. Thank you!

## Upcoming Events Schedule

*(schedule is subject to change):*

- Wednesdays:** Chew n Chat & Confirmation
- Oct 3:** Faith Exploration, Youth Gathering Meeting, Youth Group
  - Oct 10:** 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Youth Group
  - Oct 17:** Faith Exploration, Youth Group, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Worship Planning
  - Oct 20:** No Chew n Chat or Confirmation
  - Oct 24:** No Youth Group
  - Oct 30:** 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Breakfast, Trunk or Treat
  - Oct 31:** Confirmation Sunday, No Youth Group

**Faith Exploration:** People of all ages are welcome to join other families for Faith Exploration! This is an interactive time of learning for families of faith. Following worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, families (of all shapes and sizes) are invited to the Fellowship Hall for scripture, conversation, crafts, prayer, and, fun!

**High School Youth Group:** 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join other high schoolers on Sunday afternoons for a time of checking in with one another, devotion and community building. We will gather 3:00 – 4:30pm in the Youth Room. More information will be shared to high schoolers soon! Text Ashley for more information at (651-280-9502).

## 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering

It's time to start planning for the 2022 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN! REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3RD. This is open to all in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. If you are interested in attending the event, please contact Ashley. Information packets can be found outside her office. The first official Youth Gathering Meeting is Sunday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30am.

**Youth 'Trunk or Treat' Trunk:** Looking at having a group of 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders decorate the Church Van and hand out candy at our Trunk or Treat Event! All decorations and candy will be provided. We will gather October 30<sup>th</sup> and one time ahead of time to create our trunk. See details on page 4 about the Trunk or Treat Event.

**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.

# Parish Nurse Notes



Lori Tuchtenhagen,  
Parish Nurse  
parishnurse@gracealbertlea.org

Greetings Grace Lutheran Family

We watch our children and youth return to their school schedules and activities this Fall with hopes and dreams for their futures.

Each year during the month of October which is designated as a month to remind us of the importance of developing healthy communities and lifestyles free of substance abuse.

Alcohol is the number one drug of choice among our nation's youth: Yet the seriousness of this issue does not register with the policy makers. Every day, on average, 11,318 American youth (12 to 20 years of age) try alcohol for the first time. According to a national survey, nearly one third of all high school students reported hazardous drinking (5+ drinks in

one setting) during the 30 days preceding the survey. Children who are drinking alcohol by 7th grade are more likely to report academic problems, substance use, and delinquent behavior in both middle school and high school. More than 1,700 + college students in the U.S. are killed each year because of alcohol related injuries.

Researchers estimate that alcohol use is implicated in one to two thirds of sexual assault and acquaintance or date rape cases among teens and college students. Teenagers whose parents talk to them regularly about the dangers of drugs and alcohol are 42% less likely to use drugs and alcohol than those whose parents don't.

Why not take the time to talk with your children, especially your teenager this week.

May God Bless,  
Lori Tuchtenhagen  
Parish Nurse



## CREATION CARE CORNER

It's a beautiful time to enjoy the fall colors and cooler weather by taking a walk in your neighborhood or visiting a state park. Four Minnesota state parks are within an hour's drive of Albert Lea--Myre-Big Island, Lake Louise, Nerstrand Big Woods, and Sakatah Lake. Unplug from devices, connect with nature and recharge your spiritual batteries.

"Wilderness to the people of America is a spiritual necessity, an antidote to the high pressure of modern life, a means of regaining serenity and equilibrium." -Sigurd Olson, "We Need Wilderness, *National Parks Magazine*, Jan-March 1946 (From *Spirit of the North: the Quotable Sigurd F. Olson*, edited by David Backes, 2004)

"Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy."  
Psalm 96:12



Photo by [www.forestwander.com](http://www.forestwander.com); source: Wikimedia Commons

# Church Council Minutes

September 13, 2021, 6:30 pm

## 1. Call to Order and Roll

The meeting was called to order by President Tims at 6:30 pm.

## 2. Opening Devotion

Malana Thompson led the council with a reflection about grief and God's comfort.

## 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 Dahl to approve the agenda for the meeting. The motion was approved.

## 5. Financial Report

Drommerhausen provided an overview of financial report. August was a good month, income is increasing, more online givers than ever before. Patty Tewes reported the PPE loan process in completed with the total amount forgiven. Motion by Drommerhausen and second by Munyer to move the remaining funds from the capital campaign to the building fund which will zero out the capital campaign. The motion was approved. Discussion about having a "Gifting Policy" to guide estate gifts for larger amounts of money. Pastor Shane will look for a sample policy to review. Plans for the remainder of the capital campaign money to be used to purchase stainless steel table. Motion by Palmer and second by Sorenson to accept the financial report as submitted.

The motion was approved.

## 6. Approval of Minutes

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

## 7. Reports

### • Lead Pastor Report: Pastor Koepke

More funerals lately due to some people having delayed services before, feeling more comfortable now. Covid restrictions differ by churches in town, Grace relies on Covid team to provide guidance. Discussion about current policies with council expressing general acceptance. Confirmation will be at the 10/31/21 service, both 9 and 11:00 am so people can be more spread apart, will clean between services.

### • Interim Associate Pastor Report: Pastor Dean

Working Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays now. Confirmation starts on Wednesday night at 6:30. Family style education beginning Sunday.

### • Deacon's Report and Technology: Deacon Bob Tewes

Music ministry had kick off with pizza party for youth and adults. This Wednesday rehearsals begin. Will sing with masks and have fans for ventilation. Got a new sound board that is the cat's meow!

### • Commission & Committee Report Highlights

No items

## 8. Old Business

**Constitution** - no actions

*Continued on page 8*

# Church Council Minutes

- **75<sup>th</sup> Celebration: October 10, 2021**  
Steve Schultz designed a wooden star ornament with Grace logo, will be for sale at the end of the month with proceeds going towards the purchase of a new outdoor nativity scene. Approximately four former pastors have agreed to come speak at Grace as well as the Bishop. Still many openings between now and the end of the year for former pastors and members who became pastors to come speak.
- **Update on Kitchen cleaning** - Kitchen was cleaned very thoroughly after the construction wrapped up and it looks great.
- **Painting schedule** – President Tims passed around a suggested schedule of priority.

## 9. New/Other Business

- **Child Protection Policy – no actions Council Installation**  
Installation of council members will be at the September 12<sup>th</sup> worship service.
- **Other items** – General discussion

## 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 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Laura McKibben  
Grace Lutheran Church Council Secretary

## “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday

On Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> everyone was invited after worship to discover ways that their gifts and interests can be part of Grace’s ministry! Many came to see how they and their family could be blessings to the ongoing ministry of this part of God’s world. This event was open to people of all ages to discover meaningful opportunities for service. If you missed it and would like to more information, please give the office a call at 507-373-6496.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>9:00a Worship Service</b> In person and online (Pastor Janet White) 10:05a Faith Exploration 11:00a Youth Gathering Meeting 3:00p Youth Group	<b>4</b> 1:30p SAIL 5:15p Mary Circle 6:00p Hardanger Group	<b>5</b> 10:00a Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:30a Staff Meeting 3:30p Aging Mastery Workshop	<b>6</b> 9:00a Sewing Day 4:00p Missions Team 4:30p Cherub & Chancel Choirs <b>5:30p Worship Service</b> 6:30p Bells of Praise 6:30p Confirmation 7:30p Adult Choir	<b>7</b> 8:00a Early Bible Study 1:30p SAIL	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 Grace's 75th Anniversary!</b> <b>9:00a Worship Service</b> In person and online (Bishop Regina Hassanally) 75th Anniversary Party following worship	<b>11</b> 1:30p SAIL 6:00p Hardanger Group 6:00p Ministry Teams 6:30p Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 10:00a Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:30a Staff Meeting 3:30p Aging Mastery Workshop	<b>13</b> 4:30p Cherub & Chancel Choirs <b>5:30p Worship Service</b> 6:30p Bells of Praise 6:30p Confirmation 7:30p Adult Choir	<b>14</b> 8:00a Early Bible Study 1:30p SAIL	<b>15 Newsletter Deadline</b> 	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>9:00a Worship Service</b> In person and online (Pastor Steven Egland) 10:05a Faith Exploration 3:00p Youth Group 6:00p Stole Making	<b>18</b> 1:30p SAIL 6:00p Hardanger Group	<b>19</b> 10:00a Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:30a Staff Meeting 3:30p Aging Mastery Workshop 6:30p New Member Class	<b>20</b> 9:00a Sewing Day 2:00p Grace Seniors 4:30p Cherub & Chancel Choirs <b>5:30p Worship Service</b> 6:30p Bells of Praise 6:30p NO Confirmation 7:30p Adult Choir	<b>21 MEA</b> 8:00a Early Bible Study 1:30p SAIL	<b>22 MEA</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>9:00a Worship Service</b> In person and online (Pastor Joel Xavier) <b>3:00p</b> NO Youth Group	<b>25</b> 1:30p SAIL 6:00p Hardanger Group	<b>26</b> 9:30a Lois Circle 10:00a Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:30a Staff Meeting 3:30p Aging Mastery Workshop 5:00p P.E.O.	<b>27</b> 9:15a Marth Circle 4:30p Cherub & Chancel Choirs <b>5:30p Worship Service</b> 6:30p Bells of Praise 6:30p Confirmation 7:30p Adult Choir	<b>28</b> 8:00a Early Bible Study 1:30p SAIL	<b>29</b> 10:00a Grace Notes Mail Prep for Mailing	<b>30</b> 9:00a 9th Grade Breakfast 4:00p <b>Trunk or Treat (Central Park)</b>
<b>31</b> <b>9:00a Reformation Worship Service</b> In person and online (Pastor Shane Koepke) <b>11:00a Confirmation Worship Service</b> In person and online (Pastor Dean Smith) <b>3:00p</b> NO Youth Group						

October

# Grace Prays

## Prayers of Healing

**Kayla Citsay**  
(Daughter of Renee Citsay)  
**Elinor Stotts**  
**Bill & Gwen Groskurth**  
**SýDontay Williams**  
(Grandson of Cheri Wehrenberg)  
**Greg Henderson**  
**Pat Johnson**  
**Mary Lou Jacobson**  
**Gwen Baas**  
**Sue Ranney**  
**Arlene Levine**  
**Roger Bjorklund**

## Prayers for those Grieving

Family and friends of **Arlyne Newgard**  
Family and friends of **Irene Johnson**  
Family and friends of **Solveig Peterson**

## Prayers of Joy

Faith Exploration!  
**Jina and newborn daughter, Kaylee**  
(daughter and granddaughter of Jeff & Carol Olson)

*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.

## October

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

1. Bruce Schuhmacher, Brad, Emily, Hilary
2. Steve & Jodi Schulz, Ben, Maggie, Elle
3. Phil & Jenny Scott, Brock, Brynlea
4. Bill & Pat Searles
5. Julie Seavey, Ben, Jenna
6. Chuck & Sherry Seberson
7. LaVerne Seberson
8. Norman & Barbara Seberson
9. Randy & Tami Senholtz, Anthony
10. Mark Severson, Luke
11. Mike and Cynthia Severson
12. Lester & Diane Shaunce
13. Howard & Doris Sigurdson
14. Norris & Beulah Sigurdson
15. Terry & Shirlee Sigurdson
16. Shelly Sipple
17. David & Sally Skrlin
18. Dave & Jane Smith
19. Greg & Marsha Smith
20. Sue Smith, Amanda
21. Pastor Peter & Sandy Soli
22. Virginia Sorenson
23. Hazel Spiering
24. Alice Spilde
25. Blake & Lynn Stadheim
26. Betty Stahl
27. Terry & Julie Stahl
28. Matt & Sarah Stay, Lucy, Samuel
29. Randy & Lynn Stay
30. Julie Sternhagen
31. Nicole Steven, Justice, Katelyn, Liley



# October

## Caring and Sharing

Kathleen & Randy Appel  
Laura McKibben & Bob Ball  
Paula & Dale Buendorf  
Julie & Mike Dandrea  
Fern Drescher  
Heather & Todd Earl  
Jennifer & Jeshua Erickson  
Wynnette Flores  
Janet & Dexter Henschel  
Linda & Don Holst  
Janece & Max Jeffrey  
Vicki & Mike Larson  
Faye & Richard Madson  
Tonya & Paul Matson  
Kelli & Andy Nelson  
Sharon & Arnold Pasche  
Shirley Pearson  
Pamela and Michael Pleiss  
Jenn & Jim Quiram  
Kim & Dustin Rafdal  
Amy & Kelvin Rehnelt  
Heidi & Preston Robeck  
Renaë & Neil Sather  
Annette Schmitz  
Hazel Spiering  
Renee Thorson  
Lori & Randy Tuchtenhagen  
Diane VanGuilder  
LaJean & Jim Westeng

## 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.

## FOR LOVE OF ANIMALS

St. Francis of Assisi, known for his affection for animals, is honored on October 4. Some congregations observe this day by blessing pets, remembering that God pronounced animals — along with all creation — good. God saved not only Noah's family but animals of all kinds from the Flood. And despite Jonah's protests, God had compassion on Nineveh — "and [its] many animals" (Jonah 4:11). How intriguing that the prophet adds this point!

Care for all living creatures is clearly part of the divine character. Animals don't do anything to earn God's favor except be themselves. From this, we can learn that God pours out love unconditionally. As Psalm 36:6 (CEV) declares, "All people and animals are under your care."



# Gifts of Love

## ALTAR GUILD

### In Memory Of:

**Solveig Peterson** given by Jane Madson

## BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAMS

### In Memory Of:

**Melvin Stoa** (Hazel Spiering's father) given by Mary Tufte

**Marjorie Dann** given by Mildred Jensen

**Solveig Peterson** given by Ona Meyer, LuVerne Godtland

### Gifts Given By:

Dale & Dorothy Baldwin, Central Freeborn Lutheran Church

## BALL SCHOLARSHIP

### In Memory Of:

**Solveig Peterson** given by Bob Ball & Laura McKibben

## BATHROOM RENOVATION/BOILER/BUILDING/ ROOF/FURNACE FUND

### In Memory Of:

**Marjorie Dann** given by Carlyn Tufte, Rex & Lois Stotts

**Solveig Peterson** given by Rex & Lois Stotts

**Julie Jaspersen** given by Kent Jaspersen

### Gifts Given By:

Ron & Pat Holtan, David & Jeanne Lundak, Carroll & Mavis Hanson

## FOOD SHELF

### In memory of:

**Solveig Peterson** given by Sandy Fredrickson

**Karen Moe** given by Ross & Shelly Peterson

### Gift Given By:

Carroll & Mavis Hanson

## LIBRARY FUND

### In memory of:

**Myrtle & Clarence Christenson** (parents) given by Delores Nasby

## LOVE OFFERING

### In memory of:

**Marjorie Dann** given by Kenn & Gerri Breamer

**Solveig Peterson** given by Richard & Darlene Jordahl

**Audrey Evans Groe** given by Jorun Groe Meierding

### Gift Given By:

Mike Hoiseth

## MARTIN LUTHER FUND

### In Memory Of:

**Marjorie Dann** given by Wayne & Sharon Jahnke, Virginia Sorenson

**Melvin Stoa** (Hazel Spiering's father) given by Jim & Judy Munyer

**Solveig Peterson** given by Hazel Spiering, Bill & Jane Buege, Virginia Sorenson, Dex & Jan Henschel

**Wanda Hoiseth** given by Virginia Sorenson

### Gift Given By:

Dale & Dorothy Baldwin

## MEMORIAL FUND

### In Memory Of:

**Carolyn Schmitz** given by Jean Bergo

**Marjorie Dann** given by Jane Madson

**Solveig Peterson** given by Jennifer & Jeffrey Roell, Kean & Jane Corkery, Dale & Dorothy Baldwin, Kraig & Doris Smeby, Frank & Monica Kubesh, Wayne & Mary Johnson, Mick & Becky Hanson, David & Paulette Paulson, Pamela Olivero, James & Lonnie Parker, Charles & Shari VanWey, Daniel & Joyce Purdy, Wanda Dorman, Dr. E.K. & Dipika Karan, Mike and Karen Hendrickson, Janis Korus, Deann Loge

**Orvis Rake** given by Curt & Jill Clarambeau, Steve & Chris Vogt

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### In Honor Of:

**Grandson, SyDontay** given by Cheri Wehrenberg

## PRAYER GARDEN

### In Memory Of:

**Julie Jaspersen** given by Kent Jaspersen

**Son, Lenny Hultgren** given by Delores Nasby

**Solveig Peterson** given by Richard & Darlene Jordahl

### Gifts Given By:

Joe & Debbie Attig, Carroll & Mavis Hanson

## PRAYER SHAWL

### In Memory Of:

**Margorie Dann** given by Paul & Lorraine Nagel

**Vern Nasby** given by Delores Nasby

## QUILTING

### In Memory Of:

**Margorie Dann** given by Sandy Fredrickson

Continued on page 13.

# Grace Meetings and Activities

## WELCA

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – WELCA – During the September 9, 2021 meeting a discussion was held about the future of WELCA at Grace. It was decided to continue as an organization but with a few changes. There will be 3 meetings/year, one of which will be decorating the Fireside room for Christmas in late November. The other meetings will be determined by the WELCA board. The President will discuss with Pastor Shane ideas of how to get more women involved and what the process is when new members join Grace Church. Caring and Sharing will continue with need for co-chairs for the months. At this time Caring and Sharing co-chairs are in charge of calling for working for funerals. There have been only a couple of funerals and they have been catered and because of the COVID regulations, no cakes are brought in. If you are interested in co-chairing a month, please contact Melody Munden, 507-377-1381.

Future plans do include reinstating the Salad Luncheon as soon as COVID regulations/safety issues are lifted. So keep your salad recipes handy and be ready to volunteer. There will also be a ThankOffering collected in November, watch the bulletin for more details. Quilting group is meeting, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

WELCA is an organization of ALL women of Grace – not just the retired, we need everyone's help to keep the organization vital. Please watch for information in the bulletin for volunteer possibilities – most are a one time/year event. The current officers will not be running for office for the new year, 2022. The positions that are open are President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you are interested in being on the Board, please contact Jane Smith, 715-347-4036.

## GRACE SENIORS

Grace Seniors will meet on Wednesday October 20th at 2:00 PM in the Fireside Room.

Our program will be "Seventy-five Years of Blessings". We will spend time reflecting on vintage pictures from Grace's beginnings through the present day. Come and celebrate and share. Coffee fellowship will follow.

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.

## 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.



## Gifts of Love Continued

### YOUTH MINISTRY

In memory of:

**Twin Grandson's** given by Delores Nasby

**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

Last Spring, Italy was one of the first countries hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Hospitals filled up and Italy recorded the highest death toll in the world. Lutheran World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response have been helping by providing extra health care personnel and protective equipment where needed along with other critical supplies. Your dollars are at work! Thank you for supporting ELCA World Hunger.



**NO FAIR TRADE COFFEE**  
Until further notice



Remember your coins for Sunday's Noisy Offering!

Shane Koepke  
**Lead Pastor**

[pastorshane@gracealbertlea.org](mailto:pastorshane@gracealbertlea.org)

Dean Smith  
**Associate**

**Interim Pastor**

[pastordean@gracealbertlea.org](mailto: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](http://www.gracealbertlea.org)  
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## GENEROSITY AT GRACE

**AUGUST**  
2021

Average  
**ATTENDANCE**  
Online was:  
410 per worship  
In person was:  
106 per worship

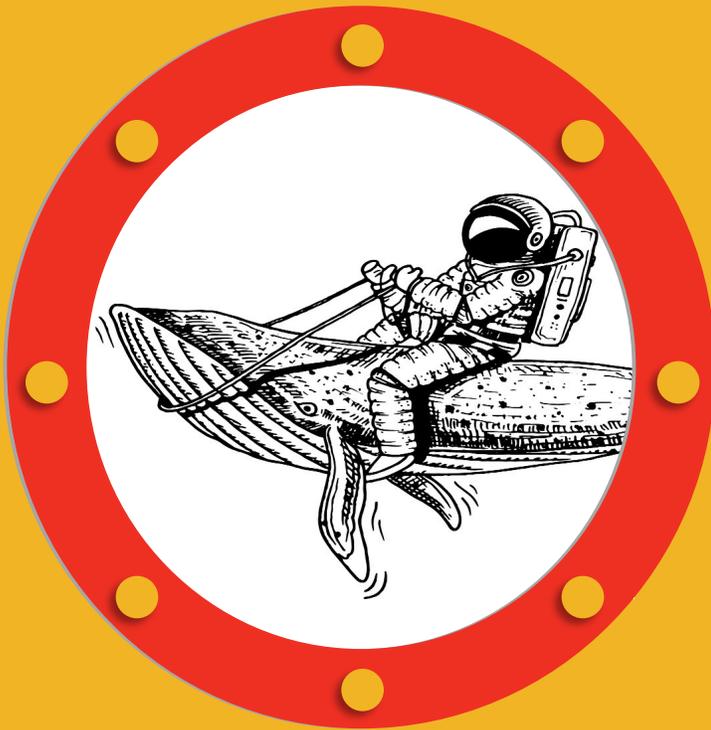
**GIVING**  
\$40,476.00

**EXPENSES**  
-\$47,469.00

**YEAR TO DATE**  
**GIVING vs**  
**EXPENSES**  
\$80,930.11

*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.*



This is **not** your  
grandparents'  
Sunday School.

(But you can invite  
your grandparents and  
Your parents and your  
neighbors and your  
friends...)

## Faith Explorations

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

Join us,  
**October 3rd & 17th**  
following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

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

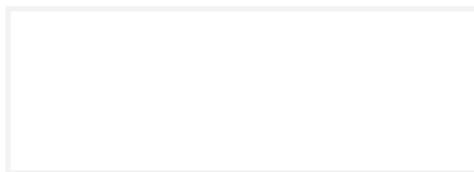
Grace Lutheran Church  
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## Worship Service Schedule



Sunday Worship Service at 9:00 am  
Online and in person

Wednesday Evening Worship at 5:30 pm  
Online and in person

Reformation Sunday, October 31 - 9:00 am  
Confirmation Sunday, October 31 - 11:00 am

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