grace

notes

The newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church



Gear Up 4 Fall at GRACE!

It's August and there's just a few more weeks left before the kids head back to school, summer vacations come to an end, and we begin to gear up for all the fall activities.

But there's still a lot yet to be done! We have yet to complete ALL the various projects, house jobs, trips, and of course, summer fun we have planned to do!

This is certainly true at Grace. Although we're busy gearing up for SONday School, Catechism and Youth ministries, Sunday Evenings@GRACE, and other fall activities, there's still a lot to do THIS month!

WORSHIP

For instance, August worship will start with a wonderful musical trip to Egypt as our Musical Adventure Camp presents a musical about Moses leading the Israelites in the Wilderness. Entitled: "Are We There Yet?," this special music event will be presented at all three worship services on August 4th and 5th.

The following weekend worship (Aug.11/12) will be Pastor Karri's final time with us as she prepares to be the Interim Campus Pastor at Luther College in Decorah,

lowa. There will be a special farewell reception for her on Sunday after the services. It will be a wonderful time of saying: "Goodbye and Godspeed!"

On Aug. 18th and 19th, after each worship service, Grace will host a special worship event as Garrett Ebling who survived the collapse of the 35W Bridge will be signing his new book. COLLAPSED – *A Survivor's Climb from the Wreckage of the 35W Bridge*. Garrett will be sharing some of his story with us during worship. You won't want to miss this special worship opportunity.

On the last weekend (Aug. 25/26) Grace will offer a special blessing for children as they gear up for school. Once again angel pins will be given to those entering kindergarten. It is a special way for us to help some of our little ones prepare for the first day of school. In addition, Grace is starting a new event....BLESSING OF BACKPACKS!!! for all elementary and middle school students. If interested, please check out the Children's Ministry page.

OUTREACH

One of the most effective ways to gear up for fall is exploring our summer worship theme: DO THE ORDINARY: *Meeting God in Everyday Spaces* through outreach opportunities offered this month. For instance, serving at Feed My Starving Children (Aug. 18 – 9 a.m.) is a great way to meet God in the hungry and poor children in the world. Another outreach event is Grace's Day at Habitat for Humanity on Aug. 27. What better way to be the hands and feet of Jesus for the homeless! There's more information about these events in the Grace Notes.

LEADERSHIP

Finally, Grace is thrilled to host the Grace Leadership Summit II (Aug. 23) for anyone who is presently serving or considering serving to gear up for our fall ministries. We believe God is doing something in our church as well as our community. This is a wonderful way to be equipped and share some of our excitement. Check out more information about it on page 7.

It's going to be a busy August as we gear up for the fall! Summer isn't over yet. There's still lots to do. May this be a wonderful time of discovering God's gracious love and grace all around us.



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Pastor Mark's Remarks:



DO THE ORDINARY: Meeting God in Everyday Spaces!

"How many times have you met God this summer?" It's a fair question for all of us as we have focused on our Summer Worship Series entitled: DO THE ORDINARY: Meeting God in Everyday Spaces. Frankly, the sermons have been challenging as we looked through key stories in the Gospel of Mark, in an effort to grow our recognition of God's presence in our fears and desperation, as well as in mission opportunities and working for justice in our world. I sense there is nothing ORDINARY when we speak about meeting God.

I have found it challenging to meet God in everyday space! Don't get me wrong; it's not anything about God. I sense he is all over the place...everywhere I can possibly go. But you see, I think the problem is with me. I have found if I have my mind focused on him, I usually meet him. But when I'm distracted, self-focused or just too busy, I don't sense him as easily as I should. Do you have the same problem?

This kind of focus takes effort, doesn't it? To leave the house with the sense that I am going to meet God in the everyday moments of my life takes focus To answer the and intentionality. phone with the hope I will hear God's speaking to me through a simple conversation or request takes work! To shop at Walmart or Target with the awareness I might meet God in the stranger or the one who is strange is unsettling! And to consider I might meet God in the ordinary needs and activities of my family, when all I want to do is go home and collapse is disconcerting.

When I'm full of God, it seems to be easier. What I mean by this is, when I

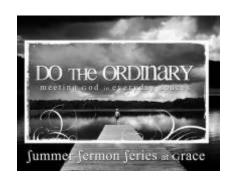
connect with God through prayer, Bible reading, and meditation; when I'm in worship or listening to a wonderful piece of music; when I'm sharing my faith with someone at church or listening to them, I find it much easier to sense God all over the place. When I'm feeling a bit disconnected from God or people at Grace, when I'm busy with things like graduation parties or family reunions, then I have to admit, it's hard to focus and meet God when he shows up.

Summer is a major disconnect time. It's a time when the community of Grace scatters all over the place: cabins, vacations, camping trips, weddings, ball games, and other family activities. It's a time when the regular routine of life is off a bit, and we find it hard to be intentional in our spiritual walk. During the summer we take a break from our normal spiritual formation events. It's a time to relax and let go...and to focus on something when we're trying to relax and let go...is challenging!

Fortunately, God keeps showing up, doesn't he? He keeps meeting us in the everyday places of life. And because he does, I'm encouraged he is faithful, he is patient and he is willing to wait for me. How good is that!

Striving to do the ordinary this summer!

Pastor Mark



Pastor Karri's Remarks:



I'm what they call a Cradle Lutheran. I was born to parents of German and Norwegian heritage. They brought me to the font at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis when I was just 29 days old to have the waters of baptism poured over me.

Sometime during my third year of life, my family moved to Coon Rapids and we started attending a church that was only seven months older than I was. For the next 38 years I called Faith Lutheran home, until I was ordained and accepted my first call as a pastor.

When you come from a background like that, saying "I have been saved by grace through faith" becomes second nature and you can end up failing to appreciate what a profound thing grace really is.

As an interim pastor, I have come to expect that when I go into a church, I am going to learn a lot, and that I will be blessed through the work I will do, whether the congregation is small or large, inner city or rural. But when I came here to Grace I never imagined that I would be additionally blessed by seeing my faith through the eyes of people who aren't *Cradle Lutheran*'s.

Working alongside Pastor Mark, Pastor Steve and Ralph, seeing the devotion and passion they each bring to their ministry, hearing about their faith journeys and what being Lutheran means from their perspectives, has given me a new appreciation for my own faith. It has reminded me of the radical nature of Lutheranism and how amazing it is to have a faith where I don't have to live in fear because I am not good enough. How amazing it is to be unconditionally loved and to know that my sins are forgiven. How amazing it is to be able to live life with the joy and hope that grace brings. I am so deeply grateful to them for reminding me of the richness of the Lutheran tradition, and for giving me the gift of seeing my faith through fresh eyes.

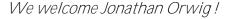
As my time here as your interim pastor comes to an end, I also want to thank the incredible staff for being daily reminders for me of God's goodness, love and compassion. I want to thank the dedicated leadership for their hard work and faithfulness. There is an undercurrent of excitement and hope bubbling up here at Grace. Whatever it is that God is up to here in the heart of Andover, whatever it is that God wants and needs from us, I believe that it is through the commitment and efforts of these leaders that we will be able to discern God's call and answer it.

And finally, I want to thank all the people of Grace Lutheran Church for their spirit of hospitality, their commitment to serve, their willingness to step out in faith... and for giving me a new place to call home.

In Christ's Joy, Pastor Karri

Welcome to Grace!

Grace Calls a New Director of Worship and Music Ministries





September 1st will be the day we welcome Jonathan Orwig to Grace as our new Director of Worship and Music Ministries. After a long search and interview process we feel blessed that Jonathan has agreed to come to Grace. He has a great love for the church and its music. It was clear from the start that his skills and wide experience in both traditional and contemporary music venues would be a great match for Grace.

Jonathan will be working closely with the pastoral staff in planning our worship services. He will direct the Adult Choir and work to develop and equip the various worship and music ministry teams. Jonathan will be responsible for our various musical groups such as the Catechism Band, Brass Ensemble, and Rockin' Kids Club Singers, etc. It is our hope that as he connects with our Grace family, we will see other musical groups form and begin to share their gifts. Finally, he will assist Jenn Hubal – our Contemporary Worship Coordinator and Denise Redman, the Grace Music Academy Administrator in their ministries.

As we welcome Jonathan and Lindsay, please pray for them as they begin the process of selling their home in Madison and make the move to Andover.

Now, here's a little background on Jonathan taken from his website:

The youngest of 4 children, Jonathan was raised in a Christian home surrounded by music – everyone sang, and most played at least one instrument. His early musical interests were piano, violin, and French Horn. Later he would discover the pipe organ (which was to become his favorite instrument) and most recently guitar. His involvement in church music came early in his middle school years when his father (a pastor) convinced him to sing duets in church and eventually play the organ and lead singing. Jonathan went on to study music at Arizona College of the Bible in Phoenix, Arizona, where he was first an organ performance major, then switched to voice, finally ending up as a Composition major, graduating with a double degree in Church Music and Bible. Jonathan has been serving professionally as a church musician since 1990 in various capacities - Organist, Pastor of Worship, Worship/Praise Team Leader, Director of Worship, and other roles (even preaching an occasional sermon!). In his spare time he enjoys tinkering with technology of all kinds, woodworking and fixing up the house, administering a small music publishing cooperative, and researching obscure organ music. Continued on page 6



A Note from the Church Administrator

We have a Vision; now where is God leading us with the vision he has given us? This is one of estions that were addressed in our Leadership Re-

the many questions that were addressed in our Leadership Retreat earlier this year.

One of the outcomes resulted in the formation of a team to research the potential to pursue a Capital Fund Drive to help us reach this Vision. The members of the team include Mike Schaaf, Scott Christensen, Joan Flaaten, Bernard McDowell, Pastor Karri Anderson, and myself.

Why is a Capital Fund Drive necessary? First and foremost, our Capital Fund savings is being depleted by approximately \$2,500 each month due to a shortfall in giving. At this rate, we have approximately 8 to 12 months left before our ability to make timely mortgage payments is impacted. Second, if we are able to eliminate our mortgage, just think about the possibilities we will have to do more Ministry in the heart of Andover! Third, we have several maintenance and renovation projects that need to be completed in our current facility. Finally, through the Focus 20/20 process God has given us a vision to build upon the land at Nightingale which we have held for 10+ years.

With this knowledge and support by Grace Lay and Staff Leadership, the CFD (Capital Fund Drive) team put many hours into reaching out, interviewing, and validating references on several Capital Stewardship companies who could assist us in a Capital Fund Drive. As a result, we made a recommendation to the Vision Board to utilize James D Klote & Associates (JDK&A).

Here are the top reasons why JDK&A was selected above several other companies:

- Full time on-site presence at Grace to minimize impact on the staff and on-going ministries before, during, and after the campaign.
- Proven track record of successful campaigns all very positive references!
- Increase in spiritual formation and sense of stewardship within the congregations JDK&A has served. This was created through the involvement and emersion of the campaign manager in ALL aspects of the life of the church they served.
- Maintains a goal to reach every congregational family during the campaign.
- All congregants are treated equally and respectfully by JDK&A no matter the amount given.

After a lengthy presentation and discussion with the Vision Board, a motion was approved unanimously to bring in James D. Klote under contract for a Feasibility Study at Grace. Approval was given to use funds from a non-restricted, Thrivent Capital Account to cover the cost of the Feasibility Study.

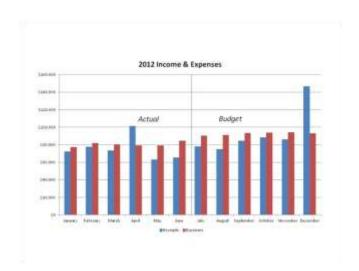
What is a Feasibility Study (Readiness Assessment)? Typically, this study lays the groundwork for a capital campaign. It will include a four week assessment beginning September 10, 2012 and will run until October 7, 2012. The assessment will include informal focus group meetings and personal interviews. It will help us cultivate interest, determine needs, priorities, and gauge congregational support for a Capital Fund Drive. After the feasibility study has been completed, a report will be provided to the Vision Board. Then, next steps for a Capital Fund Drive will be determined.

Please pray for our congregation, staff, and Vision Board as we seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in this process as we reach to meet the Vision we have been given here at Grace.

May the Lord bless you and your families this summer!

In Him, Ralph

Here is a snapshot of our Income and Expenses through the second quarter (June 30th).



Vision Board: Dennis Grabowski



I am new to the Vision Board and attended my first meeting a few weeks ago. In sports lingo you would call me a "rookie." By education and training, I am an engineer. Early in my education, I remember attending a course in psychol-

ogy where the professor took great pride (at least I thought so) in informing us that engineers were not normal. So because I am in my "rookie" season, and I am not normal, I volunteered to write this article figuring that if I make mistakes, I'm covered.

At that first meeting I learned many things, but the one that stands out for me was the term, "Pewsitter." Unfortunately, this is a term that more or less described my behavior prior to coming to Grace... going to church regularly but not doing much more. How could this happen, you might ask? To be honest, I'm not entirely sure myself. I always hoped that God would speak to me from the clouds in a loud booming voice or perhaps an angel or two would appear with a message or at least one might appear in a dream. But it didn't happen.

Many professions require problem solving and decision making skills, and engineering is certainly one of them. So one day, awhile back, I chose to utilize the one where you write Pros on one side of a piece of paper and Cons on the other side. It looked something like this:

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*Helping those in our community without jobs

or housing.

*Help prepare food for hungry children.

*Help at Grace

CONS:

*You have to get Off your seat and

do something.

*You have to get Off your seat and do something.

*You have to get Off the seat!

It was then that one of those "AHA" moments, in Homer Simpson terms, a "DOH" moment, came.... God does know how to talk to an engineer.

After I retired, I took up the game of golf. As an engineer, with a little research, I could write the equations that describe the flight of a golf ball through the air or on the green. I found, however, that when I'm on the golf course, the equations were not exactly what I needed. It was far better to review the literature, listen to the experts, and consult with others that practice the game of golf. The problem was that when I searched the internet for the perfect golf swing, I received 16 million hits. As I thought about this article, it came to me that perhaps there were some equations that would help describe Christianity. When I searched for Christianity on the internet, I found 125 million hits. None that I reviewed contained any equations that resembled those that apply to the flight of a golf ball.

Clearly this was going to be a more daunting task than I anticipated.

When I reviewed some of the literature on the perfect golf swing, it soon became apparent that several principles were common among many of the pages. When swinging the club, it's better to watch the ball on the ground than to look where you think the ball should be going, it's better to smoothly follow through during your swing than to abruptly stop swinging after you hit the ball, and of course, many more. The challenge is putting all of these principles together at the same time during each and every swing... a daunting task for even the professional golfers.

When I reviewed some of the literature on Christianity, I also found that there were principles which weaved a common thread among the many pages. Several applied more or less directly to me: It was probably better that I was a frequent "Pewsitter" than an infrequent one. It was probably better yet that I should get up off the pew and do something. It was probably better that I utilize some of the talents that God has given me to help the less fortunate. It was probably better for me to give more of my financial resources to church and charity. There are, of course, many more principles, but most seemed to revolve around the two most important commands: to love God and to love your neighbor... another daunting task even for the professionals.

May God Bless!

Vision Board Meeting - July



The July 10, 2012 Vision Board was called to order at Dennis Grabowski's home. A motion was passed to accept the June 2012 minutes.

Pastor Mark advised the Board that Jonathan Orwig has accepted the position of Grace's Director of Worship and Music. He will begin on September 1, 2012. Pastor Karri's last day at Grace will be August 12, 2012. The associate pastor position will be eliminated due to hiring Jonathan Orwig and the final approval for certification as a rostered clergy in the ELCA of Pastor Steve. Due to Steve Fischer's resignation notice, a new part-time IT technician is being sought.

Currently, Grace uses the 3-year lectionary of Scripture text. Pastor Mark requested the approval to use the Narrative Lectionary for the next year because the 3-year lectionary "jumps around" so much in various Old Testament and Gospel stories that many are not able to grasp what is being taught. Motion passed.

During our Winter Leadership Retreat, it was determined a Capital Fund Drive needed to go forward. Ralph Holbrook, Scott Christensen and Mike Schaaf, who head the Capital Fund Team, brought information to the Vision Board and requested the approval to bring James D. Klote & Associates under contract for a feasibility study. Motion passed.



Upcoming Events:



WOW Begins September 12th!

Defining "W.O.W."

According to the dictionary,

"WOW" is defined as:

- Exclamation of surprise, wonder or thrill
- An extraordinary success
- Excitement, interest, great pleasure

Here at Grace, we also define "W.O.W." as <u>Women on Wednesday</u>, a women's Bible Study and fellowship group that meets weekly from 9:30 to 11am during the school year. And nearly every week, you will hear shouts of "WOW!"(yes, exclamations of surprise, wonder, thrill) coming from women as we laugh, share, learn and grow together.

All women are invited to W.O.W. as our weekly meetings begin on Wednesday, September 12th.

We will meet in Fellowship Hall as a large group for three weeks, then break into smaller groups of 8 – 10 women for the remainder of the year. There will be a variety of books/ studies to choose from as we form small groups in October. Childcare is provided for a small fee if you have that need. Feel free to come just one time to W.O.W. and try it out . . .

Here are some comments from women involved in W.O.W....

- "It's so encouraging for me to see God at work in other women's lives."
- "The women truly care about each other and help in so many ways, plus the fellowship is fun!" "God is here through his Word and fellowship"
- "W.O.W. is my favorite mid-week renewal."
- "It allows me to discuss and learn God's Word with people I'm comfortable with."
- "I learn more in the group than if I tried to learn on my own."
- "I know I'll leave WOW in a much better frame of mind (more Godly)"

So please join us at W.O.W. 9:30 to 11 am Wed. Sept. 12. Even if you can't join us this first week, please feel free to come on Sept. 19 or 26, or any Wednesday throughout the school year. Without a doubt, you will hear the word "WOW!" exclaimed many times throughout each Wednesday morning.

Please contact Jeannie Hellmann if you have any questions or concerns, jeannieh@graceandover.org. 763 421-6520 ext. 116.

You're Invited to a

Family Fishing Launch



Where: Lake Mille Lacs -Terry's Boat Harbor

When: Saturday, August 11th from 2pm-6pm. Sign up deadline is Friday, August 3rd

Who: Anyone who wants to learn how to fish, loves to fish, meet new people or just enjoy a day out on the lake.

We will be able to carpool for those unable to drive.

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Just bring drinks and snacks if you like. The rest is all included. There is a limited number of spots available. Fishing licenses' are required for anyone over the age of 16. For more information and reservations, please call Eric Smitsdorff at 763-433-8001 to secure your spot!!

Grace Calls a New Director of Worship and Music Ministries! Continued from page 3.

Jonathan has been married to Lindsay since July of 1999; they have 2 cats and a naughty 17-month-old Golden Retriever. Jonathan comes to Grace after serving nearly 5 years as the Director of Worship and Music at Asbury United Methodist Church in Madison, WI

In an effort to get to know us at Grace, Jonathan wrote a short note to us:

Dear Grace Family,

Lindsay and I wanted to take a moment to tell you how excited we are that God has brought our paths together to serve with the amazing team at Grace. God's hand and guidance have been very clear through this process, and we are humbled by His care for us. We look forward to hearing your stories and building relationships with you as we work together for God's glory. We would ask your prayers for the sale of our house, the many details surrounding our move, and for wisdom as we begin our journey together with you. We are excited to see how the Holy Spirit will lead Grace in the coming weeks, months and years, and feel blessed that we have been called to join you.

See you soon! Jonathan and Lindsay Orwig

Make a BIG impact in this world as you pack meals at Feed My Starving Children



Plan NOW to join us as we pack meals at Feed My Starving Children on the following dates:

Sat. Aug. 18
 Sat. Sept. 29
 9 – 11 am
 9 – 11 am

Then mark your calendars for these special packing events:

Sat. Oct. 13 – Grace is combining our efforts with other local ELCA churches, seeking 350 volunteers.

• Sat. Oct. 13 9 – 11 am; 11:30 – 1:30 pm; 2 – 4 pm

Nov. 16 & 17 – Grace will host a MARATHON PACK-ING EVENT sending 750 volunteers to FMSC!

Fri. Nov. 16
 8 − 9:30 pm

• Sat. Nov. 17 9 – 11 am; 11:30 – 1:30; 2 – 4 pm;

4:30 - 6:30; 7 - 9 pm

Feed My Starving Children is a Christian nonprofit hunger relief organization, founded in 1987. The food mixture was formulated by Minnesota food scientists to address the needs of children suffering from malnourishment. Volunteers package 100% of the food. Then Christian and humanitarian relief organizations partner with FMSC to deliver the food to children in 70 countries around the world.

In 2011, more than 565,000 volunteers joined Feed My Starving Children to package over 133 million meals for children around the world. Each meal costs only 22 cents to produce, yet provides key nutrients a starving child needs to survive and thrive. The meal ingredients include:

- Rice The most widely accepted grain around the world.
- Soy Maximum protein at a low cost.
- 20 Vitamins and Minerals (with vegetarian chicken flavor) Nutrition and flavor.
- □ Dehydrated Vegetables Nutrition and flavor.

Choose the time & dates that you'd like to serve, then register on-line! Here's how:

- 1. Go to website www.fmsc.org
- 2. Click "Register to volunteer"
 - 3. Click "Permanent site" to register on line
 - 4. Click "Join an existing group or family"

5. Under group name, type in "Grace Lutheran"

For the Oct. 13 date, type in "Lutheran Churches" as we are serving with other area churches.

- 1. Choose the date and time that you'd like to volunteer, then click "join"
- 2. Click "confirm"
- 3. You will be prompted to set up an account the first time you register, then it will be easy to reserve or change your volunteer spots on line.

If you do not have access to a computer, please call the church office to register 421-6520.

Thank You for making a BIG impact ... as you feed God's starving children, hungry in body and spirit.



2nd Annual All- Leadership Church Summit

August 23rd, from 6:30-8:00pm!

Everyone who leads a ministry—SONday School Teachers, Gardening Team Leaders, Catechism Leaders, Head Ushers and Small Group Leaders, just to name a few—is invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for teambuilding, vision-casting, and dessert. This is a great opportunity to launch the new year in a leadership culture built upon unity of vision and partnership in ministry.



Habitat for Humanity Working together in God's grace!

Grace volunteers will be serving with Habitat for Humanity on Monday August 27, 2012 in Fridley, MN. We are looking for willing servants to join us from 8:30am to 4:30 pm to lend your

hands and hearts to help build a family's dream. An experienced professional will be on site to help direct us through a day of work, fun, and fellowship - so no experience is necessary.

Grace will also be providing lunch for all the volunteers on Monday, August 27. If you are not able to join us at the build site for the day, please consider serving on this project by donating, preparing, and/or delivering lunch to the build crew.

If you would like more information on joining the build crew or helping with lunch, please contact Steve Daum at 763-331-0703 or stevendaum@gmail.com.



Upcoming Events cont'd:

Living out our name, "Grace" by Serving with Family Promise!



Here is an amazing opportunity to live out our name of 'Grace,' to share God's grace in very tangible ways as we host Family Promise guests the week of Sept. 2 – 9. As a faith community of willing volunteers, Grace will provide lodging, meals, caring hospitality and overnight security for families in our community who are experiencing homelessness.

Family Promise of Anoka County (FPAC) is an interfaith hospitality network, providing temporary shelter, hospitality, and case management for families with dependent children. In collaboration with 18 local congregations and countless volunteers, Family Promise helps families to regain housing, independence and dignity during a time of need.

The FPAC van transports guests to Grace each evening for dinner and an overnight stay at the church. Then after breakfast, families are returned to the Day Center in Coon Rapids, and from there the children go to school while parents go to work or use the resources at the center to seek employment and housing.

So how can we live out our name of 'Grace'? We can be the hands & feet of Jesus, sharing God's grace, by serving our Family Promise guests in one or more of these ways:

- Cook an evening meal for 16 people
- Be an Evening Host dine with our guests and spend an evening with the FPAC families
- Set up and take down beds (airbeds provided by FPAC).
- Donate food staples, i.e. milk, juice, bread, fruit and snacks.
- Be an Overnight Host from 8:30pm to 7am, (yes, you get to sleep here at church)
- Transport guests in the Family Promise van, either at 7 am or 5pm
- Cook a Hot Breakfast for our guests on Sat. morning, Sept. 8th.
- Donate a gas card (any amount) for transportation costs.

PLEASE join us in living out our name of 'Grace' as you volunteer to serve with Family Promise. Please sign up on the blue opportunity pages during worship or contact Jeannie Hellmann, 763 421-6520, ext. 116, jeannieh@graceandover.org

Family Promise Volunteer Training will be held on Tues. Aug.28 from 6:30-8 pm at Grace. All volunteers serving with Family Promise are asked to attend at least one training event.

Parent University Coming this Fall!



The primary spiritual leader for youth is the parent/guardian. The Youth Ministry of the church is simply a supplement and a place to equip parents/guardians to guide

our youth. This reality has inspired us to experiment with a new dimension to Catechism. We're calling it Parent University. That's right, P.U., because it really stinks when you don't know what's going on!

We invite parents of Catechism students (and any other parents, for that matter) to come together on five Wednesday nights over the next year. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall during the normal Catechism time slot (6:30-8:00) while the small groups are meeting elsewhere. P.U. has three objectives:

1. Inform parents/guardians about the upcoming topics that we will cover in Catechism so that families can have informed conversations about these topics at home. 2. Create a forum to address parenting issues. 3. Allow parents/guardians to connect with each other and hopefully make new friends and find a supportive community. Please RSVP to Pastor Steve if you would like to attend: stevet@graceandover.org.

The dates for P.U. are:

- September 12
- October 10
- November 14
- January 16
- April 3

Don't Miss It!



Baptism Class for Older Children:

If you have a child in 4th grade or above that has not been baptized and would like to learn more about this process, don't miss this great opportunity. A class day and time are currently being decided, for the Fall. Please contact the church office if

you are interested at 763-421-6520. We look forward to sharing this special time with you.



Outreach Opportunities:

There are many serving opportunities to reach out beyond our selves and beyond our church building to share God's grace with others. Look over the list, pray about your involvement, take a step towards serving others. Yes, you may be stretched beyond your comfort zone, but you may also be blessed beyond your dreams . . . as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus, sharing God's grace with people in our local communities as well as around the world.

Faith & Community Partnership with Sand Creek Elementary School

This Faith & Community Partnership is a collaborative effort with Anoka Hennepin School District, to connect schools and faith communities. Our church is connecting with Sand Creek Elementary School to respond to children and families in need, as we seek to share God's grace in tangible ways, such as bike helmets, clothing, quilts, as well as supporting staff and families.

Contact: Pat Walters 763 427-5840

Family Promise

This ministry provides safe lodging, nutritious meals and caring hospitality to local families without homes. Coordinating this ministry with other area churches, Grace will host families several weeks during the year. Volunteers participate in this ministry by cooking food, donating supplies, or serving as a host to families one evening or one overnight.

Contact: Jeannie Hellmann 763 421-6520

Family Table Meal

On the third Sunday of each month, Grace volunteers prepare and serve a complimentary and nutritious evening meal for those in need within our community. Join the excitement of this outreach ministry by cooking meals, donating desserts, serving the food, or greeting our guests.

Contact: Mary Fitz 763 208-9889 - FitzM@ci.fridley.mn.us Michelle Healy $\,$ 763 576-8420

Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers will serve at local home construction site in Fridley on Monday, Aug. 27, helping to provide affordable housing for families in need. No building expertise required, just willing hands and feet. Join the fun and excitement of this productive hands-on ministry!

Contact: Steve Daum 763 270-8002

stevendaum@gmail.com

Grace Quilters

Join the laughter and camaraderie as beautiful quilts are made each Wednesday morning, 9 to noon, at Grace. Quilts are donated to those in need at hospitals and women's shelters. Your time and talent will be a welcomed addition to this vital ministry.

Contact: Jan Galvin 763 421-0668

cricket2005@usfamily.net

May All Be Fed Food Shelf

Grace provides food to the needy in our local community through our May All Be Fed food pantry. Volunteers donate food, stock shelves, pre-bag groceries and provide financial gifts to support this on-going ministry. All ages of volunteers are welcome.

Contact: Chris Pace 763 444-7812

dpace065@aol.com

Operation Christmas Child

Share the love of Christ with a precious child by filling a shoebox with gifts and personal items, then Samaritan's Purse Ministry will deliver these boxes to children in need around the world. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on mission project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas – Jesus Christ! Shoe boxes will be collected in November each year.

Contact: Dawn Perra 763 753-6996

dawnperra@hotmail.com

Our Savior's Shelter

On the first Monday of every month, servants from Grace put their faith into action by preparing and serving a meal at this homeless shelter in Minneapolis. Volunteers are welcomed on a monthly basis or one-time serving opportunity. Please note that many families and small groups enjoy doing this ministry together!

Contact: Anne & Pete Weikle 763 862-8845

weikle3@msn.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you like to knit or crochet? Then please join this ministry as we weave prayers into comforting shawls and lap blankets that will be given to people who are ill or home bound.

This is a great way to share your talent, meet new friends, and reach out to others.

Contact: Jean Griffin 612 816-6684

jean_gri@msn.com



August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:30 AM Blended Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship	30 Music Adventure Camp 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Music Academy 4:15 PM Music Academy 7:00 PM Grace Music Academy	31 Music Adventure Camp 10:00 AM Golden Rule Yoga	1 Music Adventure Camp 1:00 PM All Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Music Academy 6:30 PM Summer Dojo	2 Music Adventure Camp 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions	3	4 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM Musical Adventure Camp Rehearsal 5:00 PM Music Adventure Camp Presentation 5:00 PM Worship
5 Family Worship Sunday Musical Adventure Camp Presentation 8:30 AM Blended Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship	6 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Music Academy 4:15 PM Music Academy 7:00 PM Grace Music Academy	7 10:00 AM Golden Rule Yoga Class 10:00 AM Music Academy 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive 2:30 PM Farmers Market 2:30 PM Music Academy 4:45 PM Music Academy 5:30 PM Music Academy	8 10:00 AM Leader- ship Team Meet- ing 6:00 PM Music Academy 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Summer Dojo	9 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Adult Ministry Leader- ship Huddle	10	11 10:00 AM Celiac Support Group 12:00 PM Family Fishing Adventure on Lake Mille Lacs 12:00 PM Tingelstad Family Party 5:00 PM Worship
12 Pastor Karri's last Sunday 8:30 AM Blended Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship	13 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Music Academy 4:15 PM Music Academy 7:00 PM Grace Music Academy	14 6:00 AM Primary Presidential Election 10:00 AM Golden Rule Yoga Class 10:00 AM Music Academy 2:30 PM Farmers Market 2:30 PM Music Academy 4:45 PM Music Academy 5:30 PM Music Academy 6:30 PM Vision Board	15 10:00 AM Leader- ship Team Meet- ing 6:00 PM Music Academy 6:30 PM Summer Dojo	16 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions	17	18 Ebling Book Signing 9:00 AM Feed My Starving Children 5:00 PM Worship
19 Baptism Sunday Ebling Book Signing 8:30 AM Blended Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 5:30 PM Family Table	20 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Music Academy 4:15 PM Music Academy 7:00 PM Grace Music Academy	21 10:00 AM Golden Rule Yoga Class 10:00 AM Music Academy 2:30 PM Farmers Market 2:30 PM Music Academy 4:45 PM Music Academy 5:30 PM Music Academy	22 9:00 AM Property Team Meeting 10:00 AM Leader-ship Team Meet-ing 6:00 PM Music Academy 6:30 PM "Own Your Faith" Mentor Training 6:30 PM Summer Dojo	23 6:30 PM Leader- ship Summit 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions	24	25 Angel Pins Blessing of the Back- packs 5:00 PM Worship
26 Angel Pins Blessing of the Back- packs 8:30 AM Blended Wor- ship 10:00 AM Contempo- rary Worship	27 Habitat for Humanity 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Music Academy 4:15 PM Music Academy 7:00 PM Grace Music Academy	28 10:00 AM Andover Ramsey Mom's Club 10:00 AM Golden Rule Yoga Class 10:00 AM Music Academy 2:30 PM Farmers Market 2:30 PM Music Academy 4:45 PM Music Academy 5:30 PM Music Academy 6:30 PM Family Promise Training Meeting	29 10:00 AM Leader-ship Team Meeting 6:00 PM Music Academy 6:30 PM Cate-chism Leadership Training 6:30 PM Summer Dojo 6:45 PM Adult Choir Practice	30 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions	31	1 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 5:00 PM Worship

Youth Happenings:





Tom Baker and I have been working hard to plan next year. As I write this article, Tom is in New Orleans with a group of high school students at the ELCA Na-

tional Youth Gathering. It is hard to believe

that we are finishing our second full year of youth ministry at Grace. These two years have been very rewarding and I feel like we are beginning to gain some traction. Here are some highlights for the coming year.

High School Ministries Leadership Gets a Facelift!

We are expanding our high school leadership team this year. We're calling it SaLT (Servant and Leadership Team). SaLT will be divided into four teams that each



focus on a different value and purpose in our ministry. The Connect Team will plan the social events and the fun connection games at our weekly Dojo on Sunday afternoons. The Grow Team will consist of our tribe (small group) leaders. The Equip Team will be a team of students who work with me to teach the weekly lessons. The Serve Team will plan the service events that help our students be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. If you want to serve on any of these teams, please contact me at stevet@graceandover.org.

Our Focus this Year!



The Dojo (our weekly high school meeting) and Own Your Faith are converging this year as we launch a new project. We are going to spend the year helping each student create a personal "How Do We Fit?" profile. We are going to look first at how God has uniquely created each one of us by exploring personality types, spiritual gifts, and our own family sto-

ries. Then we will explore the faith that God is forming in each of us as we creatively interact with the three parts of the Apostle's Creed. The three sections are: 1. How do I fit in God's creation? 2. My Journey with Jesus. 3. How the Spirit connects me to the church and the world. At the end of this year each student will have a creative presentation that is completely unique and captures who God is forming them to be. I can't wait to get started.

Middle School Ministry

Catechism is the heart of our Middle School Ministry. Our curriculum is on a three-year rotation. This year we will focus on the Apostle's Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Students are formed into small groups with an adult leader and a high school junior leader.



Own Your Faith Mentor Training

OYF Mentors will receive essential training for a successful OYF year dur-

ing a one-time training session on August 22. 6:30-8:00 in the Nap Room.

Catechism Small Group Leader Training

New and returning catechism small group leaders meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, August 29, 6:30-8:00 for essential beginning-of-the-year training. If you are interested in leading of group of incoming sixth grade students, please contact us.

OYF Kick-Off Sunday

We are going to start off the OYF year in a new way this year. On the weekend of September 22/23, OYF students will choose the worship service in which they want to participate and we will have a blessing ceremony for the students and their parents/guardians as a part of the regular service. Then, that afternoon from 3pm-5pm there will be a very important Kick-Off event for OYF students and parents/guardians. Mark this day on your calendar!



This is our High School event to kick off the new year with lots of fun. This year

the Amazing Race will have teams of High School Students running around downtown Minneapolis hunting for clues, solving puzzles, and racing to be the victor. Form your teams, wear your colors, and race for the coveted golden shoe award! OK, so maybe it's not that coveted, but it really is a lot of fun and a great way to include new students into our High School Ministry. Invite your friends. September 29, 10am – 5pm. Check out photos from last year on our facebook page HSM@Grace

Service to Others:

Be a part of the 'WELCOME to GRACE' Team!

First impressions are lasting! When someone walks into the doors of our church, what will their first impression be?

We seek to welcome and encourage all who enter our doors, leaving a 'grace-filled' first impression (and lasting impression too.) So to that end, we invite you to be a part of the 'WELCOME to GRACE' team, serving as a Greeter at the Front doors, as the Welcome Center Host/Hostess, or as a CONNECTOR.

The 'Welcome To Grace' team includes:

- Friendly Greeters at the front door before each worship service, extending a warm greeting and an outstretched hand of welcome, serving at one worship service, once a month
- Cheerful Welcome Center Hosts /Hostesses, welcoming visitors and answering questions, serving at Welcome Center before & after one worship service, once a month.
- CONNECTORS attend the CONNECT class, meeting people who are joining our church community, then reach out to this new member/family to help them connect to other people and ministries at Grace.

Please prayerfully consider joining the 'WELCOME to GRACE' team and leaving a "grace-filled" impression on people's lives! Then please contact Jeannie Hellmann, at 763-421-6520, ext. 116 or send your email to jeannieh@graceandover.org. All questions are welcomed, and all volunteers are welcomed too!



Red Cross Blood Drive - August 7th Fellowship Hall at Grace!

Grace Lutheran Church will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, August 7th from 1:30-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. All blood types are needed NOW and there are special needs for Oneg, Opos, Aneg & Bneg blood. All presenting donors are eligible to win a \$5000 gift card from Gift certificates.com.

Please bring a valid photo ID or Donor Card. To make an appointment in advance, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org online.



The need is constant.

The gratification is instant.

Give Blood!



Graceful "Servant" Opportunities!

Did you know that it takes approximately 75 volunteers each weekend in order for us to hold our worship services here at Grace?

Did you know that "church shoppers" and those new to the area, typically look for their new church home during the months of August and September?

At Grace, we have lots of amazing opportunities to serve those who come through our doors, simply by helping prepare for worship through ushering, greeting, setting up for communion, greeting at the Welcome Center, reading prayers or Scripture or even volunteering in the office. If you like to meet new people and enjoy being part of a team...this is a great opportunity to share your gifts and talents and serve your community of faith at the same time.

Be on the lookout for servant opportunities in the bulletin and on the blue sheets, or contact Tyree McDowell in the church office at 763-421-6520 ext. 120 or via email at tyreem@graceandover.org. The gift of your time will be a great blessing to us here at Grace.

Children Ministry:

Kindergarten Pins & K- 12 Blessing of the Backpacks



On August 25th/26th we will celebrate children going off to school during each of the services!

- Kindergarteners will be presented with a little angel pin to remind them that God will be with them as they go to school.
- K-12 students should bring
 their backpacks with them to
 Worship for a special blessing.
 We as a congregation want to
 support and encourage our
 children as they start a new school year.



September Baptism Workshop

Baptism is an important step in the life of a family.

A Baptism Workshop will be offered for parents who would like to have their child baptized at Grace, on Saturday, September 15 at 9:00am. During the workshop, you will have an opportunity to explore what Baptism means for you and your child, as your family takes this step in your faith journey. We will share with you, insights on raising a child who

We will share with you, insights on raising a child who knows and loves God. The next Baptism Workshop will be November 10 at 9 a.m. Please contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org or the church office to sign up for the workshop.

Rockin' Kids Bible Club

Beginning, Wednesday, September 12th, kids age 3 yrs – Grade 5 are invited to join us as we learn about the Prophets this fall. We



will explore what we learn through storytelling, music, games, crafts, and the Bible. Returning this year is the ever popular Malt Night. We will also be learning music to share in worship each month. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center.

Rockin' Kid's Bible Club cannot happen without great volunteers. We ask that you prayerfully consider sharing your time with these awesome kids. Each week, we need Small Group Leaders who will take the children through the night, get to know them, and lead them each week in our Unpack It time. We have Activity Leaders which include Crafts, Games, or Bible Discovery; leaders come in once a month to guide the groups through the night's activity.

Both adults and Sr. High youth are encouraged to volunteer. Adults and kids can register today. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center or contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org or 763-421-6520 #122.

Nursery! Sunday mornings are FUN in the nursery! Vol-



unteers get great rewards like giggles, laughter, and hugs! Come make a difference in the lives and families of the youngest ones at Grace Lutheran. Adults and Youth are needed to serve at the Sat-

urday 5 p.m., Sunday, 8, 9, and 10:30 a.m. services. Please sign up now to be included in the September-December schedule. Please contact Monica Allen if you are able to be a part of this great team! monicaa@graceandover.org or 763-421-6520 #122.

Rally Day!

Kick off to an exciting new SONday School year starts on Rally Weekend September 8/9! Children will begin in worship with their families, and then be excused to their assigned room with their SONday School Teachers!



SONday School!

At Grace, we believe in engaging the whole child—heart, soul, mind and strength. SONday School this year will have a fresh, creative, fun energy that will encourage children and families to nurture life-long relationships with Jesus Christ.

We offer SONday School on Saturday at 5 pm and Sundays at 9.

We offer SONday School on Saturday at 5 pm and Sundays at 9 and 10:20 am.

Saturday Evening children will have this experience:

- Children will begin in worship with their families every week. They will stay until the Noisy Offering, being a part of the musical worship experience.
- They will then be dismissed to the Nap Room for class, all ages together.
- Children, Grade 3-5 will return to worship after the Bible story so they can participate in communion and the remainder of worship with their families.
- Younger children will remain in class to further explore the Bible Themes and will be picked up in the Nap Room.



Children Ministry cont'd:

Sunday morning children will have this experience:

- First Sunday of the month, is Family Worship Weekend. Children begin in worship with their families and will be dismissed following the Children's Sermon. Children will then go directly to their classrooms for a small group experience with their teachers.
- The second & fifth Sunday's, children will have a Large Group/Small Group experience which means, they will begin in their classrooms for a hands-on activity to introduce the day's theme and welcome. They will then go to Large Group. Age 3 – Kindergarten will meet in Nap Room and Grades 1-5 will meet in the Fellowship Hall for music, story, and more appropriate and engaging activities for each age group.
- Children will return to their classroom for follow up activities and will always be picked up in their classroom.

SONday School Volunteers Needed!

At Grace we want to partner with you in raising, parenting and teaching your children about

Jesus Christ. Please prayerfully consider God's leading you to join us in *His* awesome adventure this year in Children's Ministry. Being such a special part of this ministry will not only change the life of a child, but can revolutionize you and your family's life also! Please contact Kim DeVries or Monica Allen if you are interested, or if you need more information, Sign up on the yellow opportunities sheets in the Worship bulletins!

Children's Ministry Training

All volunteers in Children's Ministry this fall are required to attend a Training Event. In order to build a cohesive team and to explore, experience, and implement our curriculum and new formats, this is a must!



SONday School Teacher Training: We have two opportunities, you need to choose <u>one</u>. This is not a meeting for youth helpers.

- Wednesday, September 5 at 6:30-8 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Rockin' Kids Bible Club:

- Wednesday, September 12 at 5:45 p.m.
 Nursery Meeting All Youth and adults:
 - Tuesday, September 25 at 6:30-7 p.m.

Youth Volunteer Training for all Nursery, Rockin' Kids Bible Club, Faith Explorers, and SONday School

• Tuesday September 25 at 7-8 p.m.

This is mandatory for all youth who want to be involved in Children's Ministry.

Golden Rule Childcare:

Golden Rule is excited to announce that we will begin Phase 1 of our playground renovation on August 1st. Phase 1 will include a new sand area, gardens and an interactive water area with bubbling rocks. We will also be adding a new climbing structure with a climbing wall, slide and an attached tire swing. There will also be a natural wood balance beam and stepping stones added to the climbing area. Phase 2, which will include a music and movement area, an art area, butterfly gardens, a gathering space for story time and a large grassy area for running, will be completed in early spring 2013.

We would like to thank the members of Grace for contributing to the Noisy Offering in June. We appreciate your support!

Please come and visit us at our Open House on Wednesday, August 8th from 6 – 8pm. It will be a great opportunity to come and see our new nature based playground. We will also be having a Noah's Ark bounce house and obstacle course. Our preschool program will be starting on Tuesday, September 5th (the day after Labor Day). At this time our Toddler Program is full, but we do have openings in our preschool room.

Our summer has been very busy. We have seen the Northstar K9 Search and Rescue Team, had a field trip to Pump It Up and Adventure Park, and participated in some "Mad Science" experiments. At the end of July we had a petting zoo and pony rides for all of the children. Then in August, we will be going to the Bunker Park Stables for a hayride.

If you would like a delicious glass of cold lemonade while exploring the Farmers Market, stop by and see us at our Lemonade Stand. We want to thank John Tillery for letting us share his space. The funds from our lemonade stand will go towards Phase 2 of our playground.

We hope that everyone is having a blessed and fun filled summer, and we look forward to meeting more Grace families at our upcoming Open House!

Tami Mielke, Director Golden Rule Child Care



Thank You Grace:



Wow! What an amazing week on *Promise Island!!* 300 kids and 150 volunteers joined together to learn about God's Lifesaving Promises! Amid the swaying palm trees, exotic wildlife, and welcoming sunshine, kids experienced the powerful, unchanging promises of God. Through

amazing Bible lessons, crafts, games, funny (but teachable) skits, and even snacks; we all realized that God's promises are for everyone one of us! Thank you to everyone who made this amazing week possible.

God's promises never change...but our lives definitely did!



Dear Grace Family,

We wish to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers and words of encouragement for our grandson, Logan. Special thanks to the quilting ladies for the baseball quilt. Logan's surgeries were again successful, his casts are off and he is already walking with the aid of a walker. He will continue his recovery at home.

God bless you all, Kent & Karen Swedberg

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

To say that the fundraiser for the Blake Children went well would be a complete understatement!!!

Please accept my gratitude and sincere thanks for everything that you, Grace Lutheran Church, and so very many of the members of the Church contributed to our effort!!!

We raised a total of \$3,179.91...That is just a little less than \$900.00 more than ANY Brat Stand fundraising event at our location has EVER raised in all of the 15+ years of it's existence!!!!! INCREDIBLE!!! Additionally, Coca Cola, Old Dutch, Pan 'O Gold Bread, Kemp's and CUB Foods donated all of the supplies, which means that ALL of the proceeds went to the Blake Family Trust. (Their generous donations added nearly \$600.00 to what we were able to give to the family!!!). I hope you will pass this information (along with my thanks) on to the Members of Grace Lutheran Church!!! Also, please let them know that we intend to make this an annual event for at least the next several years!!!

Thank You, and Blessings!!!!! Brian, CUB Foods Coordinator To: Grace Lutheran Church:

Thank you so much for all of your prayers these last few weeks. God is Good!

Connie Callen

Dear Family of Grace,

We would like to thank everyone at Grace for the last 2 year's as we have decided to move closer to our family. This church and the people that compose it are beyond wonderful and it is going to be hard to imagine life without Grace. From Sunday Nights at Grace to the DOJO and the Choir, we will miss it all more than words can explain. Thank you again to everyone that made an impact on our lives in the last couple of years.

Cody & Whitney Christie

A HUGE thank you to our amazing Garden & Mowing Teams, here at Grace. They have worked through out the summer months to keep the lawns and Garden's of Grace something that we can all be proud of and appreciate each day. Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication to beautifying our grounds.





Grace Lutheran Church

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