

grace notes

The newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church



It's Time for the Beach!

*Grace's Vacation Bible School
Starts on June 11!*

Hey Grace Kids! It's time to get ready to go the beach! Are you ready? Do you have your suntan lotion handy? Will you want a towel and bathing suit? Oh...you can't forget to bring your sunglasses and maybe a beach ball. The Children's Ministry at Grace Lutheran Church is heading for wonderful beaches on our "Adventures on Promise Island"

2012 Vacation Bible School and we want you to come and enjoy all the fun!

It's not too early to think about our trip to Promise Island June 11-15th. Even though it's the first full week after school is out, it's coming up fast. We are working hard now to get things ready: We are preparing Bible lessons, planning crafts, organizing games and cooking up some of the best snacks we've ever served at VBS!

What Will Vacation Bible School Be Like?

Well, each day at Promise Island, kids will start out at a Seaside Celebration with songs and drama. At Lifeguard Lagoon, we'll be looking at some Bible stories about God's promises. Down the beach from there, our kids will create service or craft projects at Project Pointe. Next, they will enjoy snacks and learn more about God's promises at the Coconut Café, and then play great games at Fun Time Falls! And, throughout the day, they'll discover God's promises and His lifesaving love!

At the heart of our 2012 Vacation Bible School are the powerful and unchanging promises of God. Through stories from the Old and New Testament they will learn how God's people were able to trust in God's promises. It is our hope and prayer that each and every student who comes to Promise Island will realize God's promises and love for them too!

How Can I Register my Children or Kids in my Neighborhood?

It's not too late to register for our Adventures on Promise Island VBS! All you have to do is go to www.graceandover.org and download the registration form or stop by the church office or the Welcome Center for more information.

How Can I help?

- Pray for the Lord to bless our VBS Outreach. Pray for health, good weather, and for the Spirit to grow faith in the lives of the students and staff!
- Donate items for our VBS Project – building a playground in Haiti, purchase Haitian Bibles & children's supplies.
- Donate food and craft items – contact the church office.
- Donate financial gifts to help underwrite the cost of our biggest outreach ministry to our community.
- VOLUNTEER! No matter how many days you have available, there's a place for you!

Contents	
Pastor Mark's Remarks	Pg. 1/2
Pastor Karri	Pg. 3
Church Administration	Pg. 4
Upcoming Events	Pg. 5
Ministry Highlights	Pg. 6
Calendar	Pg. 7
Pastor Steve	Pg. 8
Vision Board	Pg. 9
Children's Page	Pg. 10
Thank You	Pg. 11

Staff Contacts (763) 421-6520

Senior Pastor, Mark Hellmann
Ext. 110, markh@graceandover.org

Director of Outreach & Women's Ministries,
Jeannie Hellmann
Ext. 116, jeannieh@graceandover.org

Interim Associate Pastor, Karri Anderson
Ext. 105, karria@graceandover.org

Visitation Pastor, Gene Heglund

Visitation Pastor, Carol Moler
carolm@graceandover.org

Pastor of Spiritual Formation & Youth
Ministries, Steve Thomason
Ext. 100, stevet@graceandover.org

Coordinator of Youth Ministries,
Tom Baker, Ext. 123, tomb@graceandover.org

Director of Infant/Toddler, Kids Club,
Interim Director of SONday School
Monica Allen, Ext. 122,
monicaa@graceandover.org

Director of Vacation Bible School
Kim DeVries, Ext. 112, kimd@graceandover.org

Worship Coordinator & Organist,
Carroll Potter, Ext. 109,
carrollp@graceandover.org

Church Administrator, Ralph Holbrook
Ext. 102, ralphh@graceandover.org

Secretary, Kris Miller
Ext. 101, krism@graceandover.org

Bookkeeper, Bonnie Trembath
Ext. 111, bonniet@graceandover.org

Pastoral/Admin. Assistant, Tyree McDowell,
Ext. 120, tyreem@graceandover.org

Network Administrator, Steve Fischer
stevef@graceandover.org

Custodian's, John Dailey
Mark Kempenich Ext. 117

Grace Music Academy, Denise Redman,
Ext 108, deniser@graceandover.org

Golden Rule Child Care Center
Tami Mielke, 421-1996
tamim@graceandover.org

www.graceandover.org

Everything I Ever Needed to Know, I Learned in Vacation Bible School!



I was so in love with Miss Mitchell, my 1st grade Vacation Bible School Teacher. I was convinced she was an angel sent from heaven. **Sweet, beautiful, kind...** I dreamt the twenty-some

year age difference would not matter and she would willingly wait for me to grow up so we could marry. Miss Mitchell was that wonderful!! Fortunately for me, she **didn't wait and I have been blessed with another angel** – Jeannie.

But to get back to my story, Miss Mitchell was an important part of my introduction to Vacation Bible School. Since then VBS **has always been in my life...first as a student, then as a teacher/administrator, and finally as a pastor. Although there hasn't been another beautiful teacher from heaven to fill "Miss Mitchell's" shoes, there have been many other little angels who have shared in VBS throughout the years.**

I learned so many important things in VBS! My earliest recollections were the daily trips to a tiny Presbyterian church nestled in an inner city neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA. My mother saw Vacation Bible School as an important outreach to tell others about the love of Jesus, especially in places where his voice was not always easily heard. Thus she volunteered as the VBS song leader in this poor struggling church in one of the worst parts of the city. My sister Janis and I were the only two white kids in the sea of black African American children, and although we lived far apart and in two different worlds, at this little **church's VBS, we are all one group of excited children.** The songs, crafts, flannel-board Bible stories, and exciting missionary stories held us all spell bound as they taught us the most important thing in life – God loves us!

Another important thing I learned was the importance of community. Although I lived so far away from the rest of the kids, I was **accepted as one of them. It didn't matter the color of my skin or that I spoke dif-**

ferently. I was part of the VBS family **and when it came to the final night's program, I proudly stood with the rest of the students to proclaim as loudly as I could sing, our message of God's love.** I think this is one of the reasons why I resonate so deeply with our CORE VALUE of connection. I first learned this value at Vacation Bible School.

VBS was fun! I think that's the other important thing I learned about God...it could be fun! Ever since, I have experienced the same joy over and over again. **Learning about God doesn't have to be drudgery.** No, being with a bunch of kids and learning about Bible stories with singing, crafts, drama, and games can be "cool" and make a great impact on a person's life. This is what I notice so many times at the end of VBS. The kids love it. The staff loves it. The parents love it. And so do I.

So as we begin to prepare for this year's Adventures on Promise Island Vacation Bible School, I **can't help but wonder** about the child who will be coming to our VBS for the first time. Will he or she have as positive an experience as I did so many years ago? Will they learn everything they need right now? **How about for later years in their life? I don't know, but that's what I'm praying for!** In the meantime I know that Kim DeVries and the rest of the VBS staff are doing everything they possibly can to **make this year's VBS one of our best.** Please join me in praying that all of the children will learn how much God loves them and that they are a part of His family, no matter what!

In Him,

Pastor Mark



Stewardship :



A word from Pastor Karri:

I'd like a fish sandwich and a large diet coke, I said, "Do you want the filet meal?" a faceless voice asked. "No thanks, I responded, "just the sandwich and the drink." "But if you buy the meal it will cost less AND you'll get an order of fries too," she continued. "But I don't want any fries," I replied. "Well, you don't have to eat them, but if you get the meal it will be cheaper."

It's not easy trying to be a steward in our world is it? Though it seems like such a minor choice, I realized as this conversation unfolded that it was a perfect example of the challenges we face as we try to live a stewardship lifestyle.

I love McDonalds French fries! But I also know they are not a healthy choice for me, which is why I didn't order them in the first place. If I had gone ahead and purchased the "meal deal" I would have been throwing out food I never intended to eat, just to save money. Or the more likely result would be that I would end up eating them.

On the other hand, the state of our economy has made me much more conscious of how quickly the mindless spending of small amounts of change can quickly add up over time.

We are given conflicting messages from society and the media.

- It is good to be a consumer.
- It is good to recycle.

Throughout each day we are faced with making choices about how we steward what God has entrusted to us. So many of those choices seem insignificant to us, but as a global society we are becoming more and more aware of the difference they do make.

I had the privilege of attending a workshop at the seminary recently entitled *The Art of Hosting Conversations That Matter*. There were almost 50 people in attendance who came from a broad range of backgrounds, cultures, professions, and faith traditions. There were pastors and youth workers, a Native American, several who were Jewish, and those from non churched backgrounds. They work in corporate, non-profit, government and religious environments.

During one of the practice sessions I was able to act as a table host and I brought forward the question: "How do we help develop an understanding of what it means to live a stewardship lifestyle?"

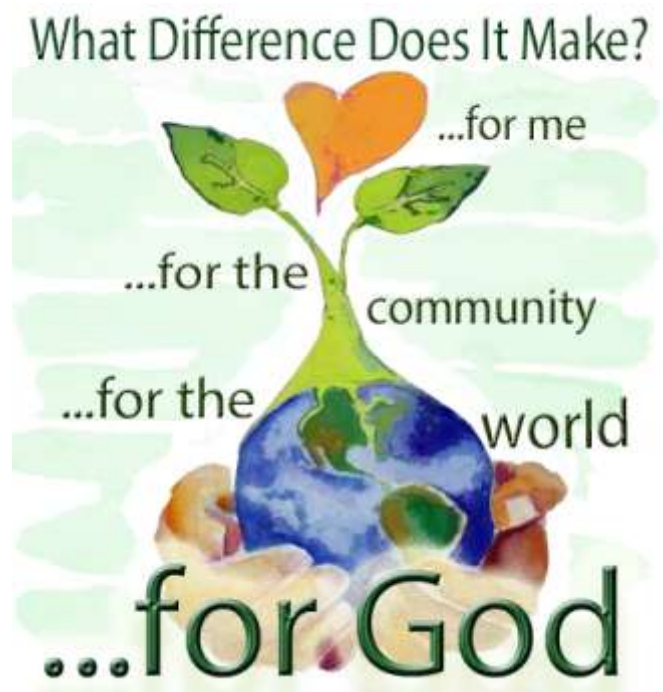
It was astounding to me that regardless of people's backgrounds, jobs, or belief systems, everyone who participated held a deep sense that we are indeed *stewards*.

We have just spent four weeks exploring what difference a life of stewardship can make for us, for our communities, for the world, and for God. As we embrace what it means to live a stewardship lifestyle, there can be times when we feel discouraged or alone. We may ask ourselves, "How can I make any difference?" But we are not alone. We do make a difference! Even if we don't always see it, we can trust that the God of abundance, the God of promise, the God of creation, and the God of love can use all of us to bring healing, wholeness and hope.

May you continue to be in conversation and grow in your life of stewardship and faith!

In Him,

Pastor Karri





A Note from the Church Administrator

Wow! What an incredible blessing we experienced during Holy Week. From Palm Sunday to our Easter Celebration of our Resurrected Lord, we were able to take time to reflect and experience a special week in the life of our church.

We were able to share the Good News with 2,660 people in our community. This includes the 1,400+ who attended on Easter Sunday. Throughout the Lent Season, the faithful stewards in our church gave over \$23,000. Both attendance and giving were well above expectations and have not been at this level since 2000. In addition, the staff prepared: 8 services, varying sermons, 2600+ bulletins, over 100 power point slides, special music, an Easter Egg hunt with 135 children, and much more. We are taking note of wonderful growth and see this as a tremendous sign of encouragement here at Grace.

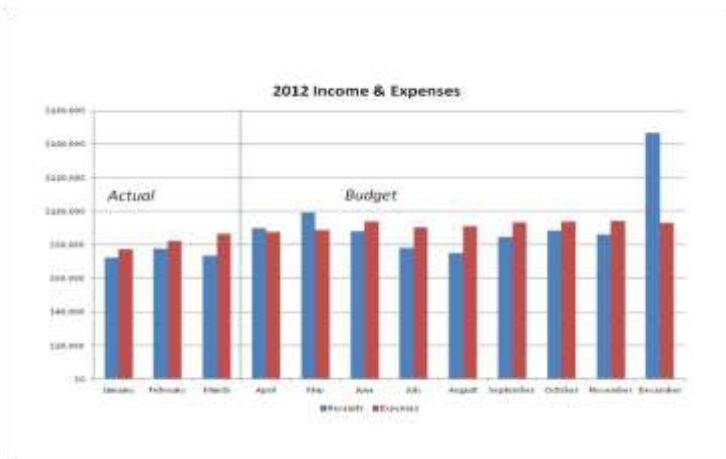
Please take the time to thank the many volunteers who: prepared our facility and grounds for Holy Week; offered their talents through music, art, and readings; served during the services; and much more. It is great to be part of such a strong body of believers.

As we look forward to summer, may God continue to bless us with volunteers and finances to bring us all into a deeper relationship with our Risen Lord.

In Him,

Ralph Holbrook

Here is a snapshot of our Income and Expenses through the first quarter (March 31st).



Adult Mission Trip to Haiti

Excitement is building as 16 adults from Grace are praying and preparing to travel to Haiti on a mission trip this summer. While in Haiti, our main goal is to listen and learn, letting God stretch our hearts and minds. We also plan to build a school playground in Luly, construct ten garden plots near Port-au-Prince, create crafts with children, and serve Feed My Starving Children meals at a local school.

We will be partnering with World Wide Village, a non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to transform impoverished communities by providing Christian education, nutrition and micro-enterprise opportunities for children and families.

Lori & Greg Ackerson are leading this mission journey. The rest of the team includes Joel Anderson, Lily Tunby, Jackie Glockner, Joel Leger, Daron Yates, Mike Schaaf, Stacy Surratt, Carol & Jason Hoopman, Candy & Ralph Holbrook, Anne & Scott DeFoe and Jeannie Hellmann.

We are asking for the love and support of our Grace family in these specific ways. . .

Prayer Support - Please pray with us - and for us - on this adventure! We ask for your prayers for safe travels, **healthy experiences, and God's Spirit to guide, inspire and use us!** Our team Bible verse – our inspiration and goal is from Romans 12:10-13:

“Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically.

Be glad for all God is planning for you.

Be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful.

When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out.”

Financial support –As individual participants, each of us have saved and/or raised our own funds for the travel expenses and World Wide Village expenses. And now, from our Grace family, we are open to receiving financial support to pay for needed supplies to build the garden plots and school playground. Also, we will purchase Bibles while in Haiti (\$10 each) to distribute to local ministers and residents. You may support this mission trip through future Noisy Offerings or make a designated donation to Grace, and specify it for Adult Mission Trip.

We genuinely appreciate your prayers and support for this mission trip to Haiti. If you would like more information please contact Greg and Lori Ackerson at 763-390-7890, or visit <http://www.worldwidevillage.org>.

Upcoming Events:



You're Invited to CONNECT

with Grace on Sunday, May
6th at 5:00pm at our next
CONNECT CLASS!

If you are new to Grace and would like to learn more about our church and our faith community, we invite you to join us for dinner and fellowship with other new comers on Sunday night, May 6th at 5:00pm. We'd love to have you join us. Sign up on the blue sheets in worship or call the church office at 763-421-6520 to participate.



Calling all Beach Bums!

Grab your flip flops and sun glasses; we're going to the islands for some VBS fun! Amid the swaying palm trees, exotic wildlife, and welcoming sunshine, we are going to be experiencing the powerful and, unchanging promises of God!

There are many opportunities this year to use your gifts and talents, so put on some sunscreen and grab a VBS role (you're beach chair awaits you)! Sign up on the yellow opportunity sheets in the bulletins, or contact Kim DeVries at 421-6520#112 or visit our website at www.graceandover.org.

- VBS Training Dates: May 30th and 31st, 6:30-8:00pm (need only attend one). If you would like a VBS volunteer t-shirt we will need \$5.00 by May 31st.



Annual Congregational Meeting!

We will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting on Saturday and Sunday, May 19th & 20th after each of the Worship services. We will be voting on acceptance of New Vision Board nominees during this time. A copy of the Annual Report will be available for download from our website, www.graceandover.org, by Sunday, May 13th.



Family Promise: Building Community, Strengthening Lives; May 13-20, 2012

Grace will host Family Promise at our church the week of May 13-20. Grace volunteers will provide warm hospitality and safe shelter for families in Anoka County who have found themselves without a place to stay.

How can you help? Here's a list of various volunteer opportunities:

- Prepare an evening meal for 16 people
- Serve the meal and clean up the kitchen (5 - 7:30 pm)
- Provide overnight security at the church (8:30pm - 7 am). Yes, you'll get to sleep at church
- Be an Evening Host - chat with guests, play games, help with homework, etc. (5 - 9 pm)
- Set up and take down beds
- Donate food supplies for Host Week, such as milk, juice, bread, fruit and snacks.
- Transport guests in the FPAC van (at 7 am or at 5 pm)

What Is It? Family Promise of Anoka County (FPAC) is a network of 16 congregations who provide temporary housing to families without homes. Guests are housed at each host congregation for one week on a rotating basis, moving to a new location in the network each week until they are able to become self-sufficient.

How Does It Work? Grace will provide lodging, meals and caring hospitality five different weeks this year. The FPAC van transports guests to Grace each evening for dinner and an overnight stay at the church. After breakfast, families are returned to the Day Center in Coon Rapids. From there the children can go to school, and parents can go to work, or use the resources at the center to seek employment and future housing.

Volunteer Training will be held from 6:30-8pm Monday, May 7 for all volunteers who would like to be involved in this ministry.

Outreach Ministry Highlights:



Vacation Bible School
June 11th—15th
9:30– Noon
Ages 3 years thru
5th Grade

Our theme this year is: *Adventures on Promise Island*, where God's promises never change!

Each day at Promise Island, kids will participate in the excitement of Seaside Celebration, experience Bible stories about God's promises at Lifeguard Lagoon, create service or craft projects at Project Pointe, enjoy snacks and learn more about God's promises at the Coconut Café, and play great games at Fun Time Falls! And through it all, they'll discover God's promises and His lifesaving love!

Amid the swaying palm trees, exotic wildlife, and welcoming sunshine, new friends at Promise Island—Kamalei, Hunter, and Madi—will help kids experience the powerful, unchanging promises of God. They'll see Him at work in the lives of Old and New Testament Bible people and realize that God's promises are for us too! Kids will discover that God promises *to be with us, to care about us, to give us what we need, to save us, and to answer us!*

So put on some sunscreen and head to the Islands with us where we will learn that God's promises never change...but your life definitely will!

Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center in the Narthex, or you may register online at www.graceandover.org. If you have any questions, please contact: Kim DeVries, Director of VBS at 763-421-6520 Ext. 112.

Register By May 31st
To Be Guaranteed
A T-Shirt!

Opportunities:

Worship Servants

@ Grace



If you are a Graceful Servant who serves during our worship services each week, your Monthly Servant Schedule for May, has been sent to

the e-mail address we have on file, here at Grace. You may also now access the Servant Schedule by going to the Grace website: www.graceandover.org and clicking on the Volunteer tab on the left. At the bottom of them menu you will see "Servant Schedule". From there, you can access all of the Servant Schedules by worship time.

This document will be placed on the website at the end of each month for the upcoming month, and will be arranged by service times. If you are unable to access the website, a hard copy will be available for you to pick up at the Welcome Center in the narthex.

Please contact Tyree McDowell tyreem@graceandover.org with any changes or updates.

Thank you for truly being the hands and feet of Jesus at Grace, and serving our congregation each week. You are a blessing to us all.

Faith & Community Partnership



Grace is beginning to build a special relationship with Sand Creek Elementary School, through the Faith & Community Partnership program in Anoka-Hennepin Schools. We hope to raise awareness of community issues and mobilize people to meet the basic needs of students. After the initial meeting with the school personnel at Sand Creek, we already feel blessed to have this opportunity to share our time, talents and gifts with local school children. Some possible outreach opportunities include: volunteer to read with students in the school, coordinate fun activities during recess time, donate bicycle helmets in the spring and winter boots in fall, host a staff appreciation lunch, help in the school gardens, and the list goes on.

We are forming a ministry team to listen and learn the school's needs, then coordinate Grace volunteers to help meet those needs. If you are interested in serving on this ministry team to meet quarterly with Sand Creek School, please contact Jeannie Hellmann. Also if you're interested in volunteering in the elementary school on a weekly, monthly or even a one-time basis, please let Jeannie know that too!

MAY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Blended Worship & SONday School 9:30 AM Children's Ministry Volunteer Reception 10:20 AM Contemporary Worship & SONday School 2:00 PM Youth Band Practice 3:00 PM Sr. High Youth 5:00 PM Sunday Evenings @ Grace	30 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	1	2 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM WOW 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 1:00 PM All Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Ruth Circle 6:30 PM Catechism 6:30 PM Rockin' Kids Bible Club 6:45 PM Adult Choir	3 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	4 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Johnson/White Rehearsal	5 7:30 AM Men's Ministries 9:00 AM Baptism Class 2:30 PM Johnson/White Wedding 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School
6 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Blended Worship & SONday School 10:20 AM Contemporary Worship & SONday School 2:00 PM Youth Band Practice 3:00 PM Sr. High Youth 5:00 PM CONNECT Class 7:00 PM Kroeger Piano Recital	7 6:30 PM Family Promise Volunteer Training 6:30 PM Pastoral Care Meeting 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	8 6:30 PM Vision Board	9 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM WOW 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 PM Catechism 6:45 PM Adult Choir	10 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Small Group Leaders Meeting 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	11 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal	12 New Members Weekend 7:30 AM Men's Ministries 10:00 AM Celiac Support Group 2:30 PM Novotny/Inderlee Wedding 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School 6:00 PM Ranft Baptism Reception
13 New Members Weekend 7:00 AM Family Promise 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Blended Worship & SONday School 10:20 AM Contemporary Worship & SONday School 2:00 PM Youth Band Practice 3:00 PM Sr. High Youth 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Family Promise	14 7:00 AM Family Promise 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Family Promise 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	15 7:00 AM Family Promise 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Family Promise	16 7:00 AM Family Promise 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM WOW 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Family Promise 6:45 PM Adult Choir	17 7:00 AM Family Promise 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Family Promise 6:30 PM Yoga Devotions 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	18 7:00 AM Family Promise 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Family Promise	19 7:00 AM Family Promise 7:30 AM Men's Ministries 5:00 PM Family Promise 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School 5:30 PM Family Promise 6:30 PM Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner 7:30 PM Rehearsal
20 5th Grade Graduation Baptism Sunday 7:00 AM Family Promise 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Blended Worship & SONday School 10:20 AM Contemporary Worship & SONday School 2:00 PM Confirmation 4:00 PM Confirmation 5:30 PM Family Promise 5:30 PM Family Table	21 7:00 PM Women's Small Group	22	23 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM WOW 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 6:45 PM Adult Choir	24 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	25 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	26 7:30 AM Men's Ministries 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School
27 8:30 AM Blended Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship	28 Memorial Day! OFFICE CLOSED!	29	30 9:00 AM Quilters 10:00 AM Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 PM VBS Volunteer Training Meeting 6:45 PM Adult Choir	31 6:30 PM VBS Volunteer Training Meeting 7:00 PM Worship Team Practice	1 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:30 PM Theiste/Roering Rehearsal	2 7:30 AM Men's Ministries 2:30 PM Theiste/Roering Wedding 5:00 PM Worship & SONday School



Youth Happenings:



Summer Youth Mission Teams News

This summer we have two teams of youth that are going out into the world to serve. In June, we have a team of middle and high school girls who will be serving with YouthWorks in Milwaukee. In July, we have a group of our high school girls who will be representing our church at the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Please check out the upcoming opportunities that are available for you to support and encourage our youth as they grow in their faith and serve this summer.



Green Valley Greenhouse Orders: Arrive on May 10th

Green Valley orders will be in the narthex for you to pick up beginning Thursday evening, May 10th. Please pick them up by the end of worship on Sunday, May 13th. Thanks so much for supporting our mission teams!



Nails for Jesus and Four P's Support Opportunities



Coming in May, our Milwaukee students will again be offering nails for \$5 to support their trip. Along with the nails, our New Orleans students will be offering their Pink Provision & Prayer Program so that our congregation can partner with them as they work to raise money to serve in Louisiana this summer. Both teams will also be sending out sponsorship letters to help raise support for their mission. If you would like to sponsor a specific student, please contact Tom Baker at tomb@graceandover.org or call 763-421-6520.



As you begin your spring cleaning, don't forget to put aside some items for the Grace Garage Sale to be held June 21-23. This year's sale will benefit our Milwaukee and New Orleans Mission Teams and the children and youth who are going to Luther Dell Bible Camp in July.

Beginning Monday, May 21st, we will be accepting clothing and household items at the church and we will store them in Portable #1. Items can be dropped off during normal weekday business hours and we will post specific weekend drop off times in the bulletins.

Please make sure all items are clean and in good condition. We would appreciate NOT receiving any of the following items as they are hard to sell and are expensive to dispose of:

No computers, monitors, printers, TV's, appliances, electronics, mattresses, or exercise equipment. All furniture donations must be in good condition and must be "approved for sale" before you leave it at the church. You may contact Tom Baker at tomb@graceandover.org concerning questions on items and for pick up of bulky items after June 1st.



Sign Up Now!

Our 4th -12th grade youth will be going to Luther Dell Bible Camp from July 8th through July 13th!

Luther Dell... It's more than just a drive down a five mile dirt road; more than a lake and a campfire or a carpet ball table. It's a place to be a kid and be with friends. It's a place to open your eyes and look for Jesus all around you. It's a place to be washed over with wonder, when you take a break from sprinting around the game fields and slow down long enough to catch a glimpse of God within your heart. Luther Dell is located 7 miles west of Remer, MN on South Big Boy Lake. The cost is \$370.00 plus \$20 for round-trip school bus transportation. A \$125.00 deposit is due with your registration and a second payment of \$100 will be due on June 3rd. We will be fundraising at the Grace Garage Sale (June 21- 23) to help pay for part of the costs. There are also scholarships available from the camp, so please don't let the cost deter you! For more information or questions, please contact Tom Baker at tomb@graceandover.org.



The Vision Board:



Spring arrived early this year, which was a welcome sight for many of us. Summer will follow close behind. There is a flurry of activity at Grace. The spring installment of Sunday Evenings at Grace. I hope everyone has enjoyed them as much as I have. I participated in Pastor Steve's sessions over the past months and experienced new insight into the power and grace of our Lord. If you haven't experienced Sunday Evenings at Grace, I challenge you to check it out next fall. It's a fabulous opportunity to explore your faith with your friends at Grace.

Summer is also a time when Grace experiences a down turn in attendance and with that, offerings. One way to make it easier on both you and Grace is to participate in the Simply Giving program which provides automatic withdrawal processing of your offering on a regular basis. If you are interested contact the church office.

I hope everyone has a grace filled summer!

Yours in Christ,
Van Mohlis



Best Wishes Lila!

Please join us in congratulating Lila Woodruff on her retirement. Her last day on staff was Wednesday April 11th. Lila has been a tremendous asset here at Grace. She has spent much time using her gifts as a custodian and on Altar Guild. Lila is excited to spend time with her granddaughter and even more time relaxing up north. Please take a moment to thank Lila for all her ministry efforts here at Grace, you will surely be missed.

Congratulations to the following children for receiving their 1st Communion during the weekend of April 14/15.

Britta Ahlstrand
Cole Andrzczyzak
Kyan Andrzczyzak
Samantha Bangert
Ryan Behnke-Nead
Joseph Coughlin
David Eide
Anthony Esboldt
Bradley Johnson
Elayna Lohse
Eleanore Lohse
Julia Lysne
Connor McGowan
Shaylee Ordner
Blair Richards
Cameron Richards
Christian Sapp
Joshua Yeager



MOBILE ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE!

Grace Lutheran Church now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give at anytime from your smart phone.

Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader! If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Trembath in the church office or email bonniet@graceandover.org.



You are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you."

3 John 1:5

Children Ministry:



SONday School is almost done! We have had a great year learning about God's Word and making new friends. May is our final month and each weekend is a celebration.

May 5 & 6 – Family Worship Weekend. Children will begin in worship this weekend and be dismissed at the Children's Message. The children at 9 and 10:20 will sing John 3:16 in worship.

May 13 – Everyone has Large Group – This will be our last Birthday Recognition, so if you have a summer birthday, we missed your Birthday, or of course, a May Birthday, we will recognize you. Children may bring a coin for each year! We will also recognize our teachers and helpers who have been on our Bible Journey this year.

May 20 – Last weekend of SONday School/5th Grade Graduation. This is our last Sunday. Children will stay with their class all morning for a special time with their teachers. For our 5th graders, we will have a Graduation Ceremony for you in worship. This is a large milestone in their lives that we want to recognize and celebrate as you move from SONday School to Catechism. 5th Graders will begin in their classrooms as they normally would. All 5th Grade children from SONday School and Rockin' Kids Bible Club are invited to be a part of this moment in worship.



Birthday Offerings - The offerings that we collect each month, go to Feed My Starving Children. We have collected \$54.97 since September or 293 meals. Please help your child remember to bring their offering. Remember a quarter is more than enough for one meal. Let's add those quarters up and see how many meals we can provide by May! We will do our final Birthday Recognition for all children on May 13 in our Large Group for all children.



Rockin' Kids Bible Club

We have been learning the Books of the Old Testament! Congratulations to Beth DeFoe, Isabelle Hoopman, Kaylynn Raper, Micah Allen, Ava McDowell, and Olivia Surratt for going from Genesis to Malachi!



Children's Summer

Musical Adventure Camp
July 30-August 5; 9am-12:30



Kids and Youth in who are entering Grade 2-9 in the fall are invited to be a part of Are We There Yet? The Story of Moses and the Exodus. This exciting musical tells the story of God's people, the Israelites as they endure slavery in Egypt, experience the 10 plagues, see God part the Red Sea, and learn to live with freedom in the Wilderness. Children will learn the music, drama, and prepare sets and props during our weeklong adventure.

Camp dates include:

- Auditions: Wed. June 20 – A sign up sheet will be available during VBS. Children registering after June 20 will not be guaranteed a speaking part, but can sing in the chorus.
- Pre-Camp Rehearsals: Tues. July 10, and Tues. July 17 at 10-11 a.m.
- Music Camp Hours – M-F – 9-12:30 p.m.
- Field Trip to Seussical on Wed. or Thurs. of Camp
- Dress Rehearsal – Sat. Aug. 4 – 9:30-11:15 a.m.
- Worship – Aug 4 & 5 - 5 pm Saturday Worship and 8:30 and 10 am Sunday Worship Services.

Volunteers are needed to make this a great Children's Ministry! We will need someone to sew our stoles and headbands for our costumes. Please contact Monica Allen to learn more about how you can help! monicaa@graceandover.org.

May Baptism Workshop

May 5th at 9:00am

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 here at Grace, on Saturday, May 5 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 knows and loves God. The next Baptism Workshop after May will be July 14 at 9 a.m. Please contact Monica Allen at monicaa@graceandover.org or call the church office at 763-421-6520 to sign up for the workshop.



Thank You Grace:

Noisy Offering helped Wheaton College students install water system to homes in Seales, Honduras.

Grace Lutheran Church-

Thank you for partnering with us on our Honduras Project. **Your church's generosity and commitment to missions** helped to install a water system to all the homes in the village of Seales. I saw firsthand, the gratitude the village women expressed for the gift of water. This meant that their children would no longer have to miss school to fetch water from the river. While in Honduras, we learned what it means to show hospitality and to exhibit the joy of the Lord. Thank you for helping us to make this water system possible for the people of Seales.

God's continued Blessings on your Ministry!
Angela



Dear Grace Friends-

Our sincere thanks for your kind thoughts, words and prayers for our family during my mother's illness and passing.

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a funeral spray, if so we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say. Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, We thank you so much, whatever the part.

Ron & Sandy Clarstrom
The family of Gloria Carlson



Thank you to all who helped with the lovely luncheon after the service.

Sincerely,
The Family of Paul Mertens



Thank you! Thank you!
Funeral Luncheon Team!

A very special thank you to our Grace Funeral Luncheon Team. We so appreciate all you do to minister to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. It means so much to these families who are grieving to be able to sit, relax and have time to fellowship with their guests. Thank you all so much for giving of your time in such a loving and caring way. Thanks also to Jan Quick and Jan Galvin for doing the coordinating and purchasing. You are truly the "hands and feet" of God!

Hello Grace Lutheran Church,

All of us at the ACBC Food Shelf, would like to thank you for your generous contribution of \$601.93 and 751 pounds of food. Your gifts arrived during our March FoodShare Campaign and will qualify for a percentage of matching dollars from FoodShare. During the month of March we served 812 families and couldn't have met this need without the help of churches like yours. Thank you for being a partner in an effort to end hunger.



The food shelf ministry would like to thank a "pair of angels" for cleaning out and arranging the goods in the Food Shelf closet. It looks amazing and was a great blessing.



Please take a moment to thank our fantastic teams of youth and adult volunteers for the nursery, SONday School, Rockin' Kids Bible Club, Faith Explorers, and this summer's VBS TEAM. They share their time, energy, and love with the children each week. They are the heart of everything we do with children at Grace. So we encourage you to take a moment and thank a volunteer. We are so very blessed to work with these dedicated teams. Sincerely, Kim DeVries and Monica Allen

Grace Lutheran Church

13655 Round Lake Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANOKA, MN 55303
PERMIT NO. 118

Address Service Requested

*A Ministry of Grace
in the Heart of Andover!*
www.graceandover.org



You're Invited to CONNECT with Grace on
Sunday, May 6th at 5:00pm at our next
CONNECT CLASS & Dinner!

If you are new to Grace and would like to learn more about our church and our faith community, we invite you to join us for dinner and fellowship with other new comers on Sunday night, May 6th at 5:00pm. We'd love to have you join us. Please call the church office at 763-421-6520 if you'd like to attend.