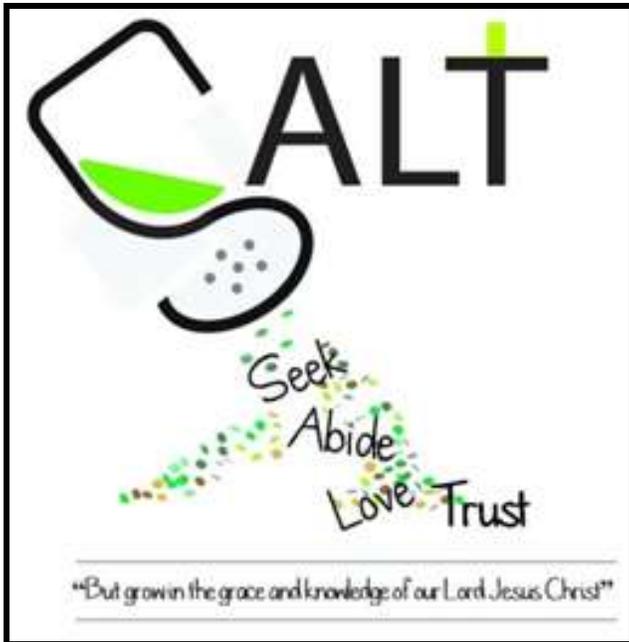


grace notes

October 2017

Try a Little Salt in Your Spiritual Journey! *Adult Spiritual Formation Opportunities Are Starting Up!*



Ever feel like your spiritual journey could use some zest and a bit of pizzazz? Has your faith life become a bit “flat” or boring? If you’ve been wondering whether it’s time to become a bit more intentional in your spiritual journey and season your spiritual life for growth in God, then Grace’s SALT Team has some upcoming opportunities for you!

Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love
Wednesdays beginning Oct. 4 @ 6:30 – 8pm
Do you ever struggle to know how to handle someone who makes a racist remark or tells a denigrating joke about Muslims or other religious groups? Need some help teaching your child to “love your neighbor as yourself” in the midst of increasing racism and prejudice in our world? Ever want some new approaches to the increasing rancor and ill will in the media today? If any of your answers is “YES” then join Scott Lien on Wednesday evenings for this important “seasoning” of God’s love which will transform the way you live. Special Opportunity for Parents of Catechism Students to demonstrate to your son or daughter the importance of spiritual formation!

The Lutheran Course
Sundays, beginning October 1 @ 5 - 7:30 pm
You’ve been Lutheran your whole life and yet, when asked: “What do Lutherans believe?” you’re not sure what to say? Maybe you’re rather new to the “Lutheran” tribe of faith and you’re wondering what makes us different than Baptists, Methodists, or Catholics? Or, you are wondering why people are celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation when a German monk stood up against the mighty powers of the Church. If you’d like to know what makes our Lutheran perspective unique and essential for the world to hear now, come and join Pastor Mark as we rediscover the heart of our Lutheran heritage and faith.

Theology on Tap - The Ridiculous Journey
Thursdays at Pappy’s
beginning October 12 @ 6:30 – 8pm
Does it sometimes feel like your faith seems out of sync with life today? Do you sometimes wonder if it’s worthwhile following Jesus when so many people are leaving the church and becoming the “nones”? Come on over to Pappy’s Café and Tavern and learn from a Middle Eastern homeless man from twenty centuries ago and find out why he still stirs the souls and imagination of so many. Have a beer, watch a thought-provoking video and enjoy the conversation as John Anderson leads you on the journey!!

For Women
Monday Night Women’s Group @ 7pm
Ruth Circle - 2nd Wed/month, 12:30 pm
W.O.W. (Women on Wednesday) 9:30 – 11:15am
MUGS, MUFFINS & MORE - Sat 10/7 9:30 – 11:30am

For Men
BWW Connection - 1st Tuesdays/month @ 6:30 pm
Men’s Gab & Grub - 3rd Sat. at Baker’s Square 8am
Bible Studies on Mon. 6:30am or Sat. @ 8am

Grace Lutheran Church Staff

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

Visitation Pastor.....Delwayne Hahn
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.....**Jeannie Hellmann**
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Custodian.....**Cheri Schaaf**

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

Vision Board Members

Doug Hanson (Pres.)	Deb Stang
Scott Christensen (V.P.)	Alden Riley
Lynn Noren (Secretary)	Johnna Rohmer-Hirt
Deb Shepard	

If you would like to contact any of the Vision Board members, please visit graceandover.org and click on leaders

In Thanks....

Thank you, Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on the 50th celebration. It was wonderful. When I helped start the church, I did not know how the church was to become home and how many people would touch our lives. Thank you - *Beverly Tkachenko*



PRAYERS TO CELEBRATE

We celebrate with the newly baptized;
Evelyn Fae Brausen, daughter of Sarah Lundeen
Stella Agnes, daughter of Jeremy & Torri Sauve

PRAYERS TO HEAL

We pray for comfort and healing:
Steve Gfroerer, Bennett Ruud, John Malecha, Heidi Houghtaling, Lee Zimmerhagl, Dominic Rey, Jacob Welle, Nate Gfroerer, Dan Ryan, Robert & Shirley Olson, Curtis Breyette, Douglas Gysbers, Lola Money, Judi Wold, Sylvia Lindgren, Maydelle Fennick, Denise McLain, Larry Sohr, Lu Henning

We keep in our hearts and prayers the families with recent loss of:

Les Barthel
Sarah, mother of Christiana Gandah
Mary Swander

Vision Board Message

Ecclesiastes 3:1 *“There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven... A time to be born and a time to die... A time to plant and a time to uproot... A time to weep and a time to laugh...”*

This passage came to my mind when Pastor Mark and Jeannie announced that they will be retiring in November and moving to North Carolina. After more than 22 years serving in ministry at Grace, this will be the time for our community to show our gratitude and to celebrate their stewardship with us.

The brochure, *“Celebrating 50 Years of Grace”*, illustrates how our congregation was in a much different place in 1995 when Pastor Mark and Jeannie first arrived in Andover. Grace had been through an incredible period of growth in the 30 years since our founding. We had been growing in numbers as a congregation and the building itself had gone through several construction phases. We had reached a point where we needed a change! We needed to grow spiritual roots so that we could *Welcome* the many people coming through our doors, *Encourage* them in their spiritual journey, *Equip* them to serve, and then *Send* them into ministry.

Pastor Mark and Jeannie embraced these concepts in their ministry and, through His Spirit, they helped to grow our congregation. We are a ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover that cares for the physical and spiritual needs of our members, including our local community and those around the world. Pastor Mark and Jeannie helped plant the seeds for many of these ministries, and the people of Grace have made all of this happen with guidance of the Holy Spirit!

Over the past few weeks, I have heard several members say, **“I don’t like change!”** If we had to admit it, none of us do, but change is a natural part of life. Grace is again entering a period of transition and change. It will be an **“in between”** time as we hire an *Interim* Senior Pastor and evaluate who we are and what God is calling us to do. God is calling us to **take that “next step”**, and He will be there to walk alongside us as He has always been.



For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1

What do we do now? The next several weeks with Pastor Mark and Jeannie should be a time of **celebration and a time to say “Thank You!”** for their ministry with our congregation. There will be many opportunities to gratefully celebrate, in addition to our Octoberfest event to recognize the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. During the weekend of November 18th and 19th, we will **“pull out all the stops”** by volunteering to serve at **Feed My Starving Children**. Our greatest **“Thank You”** to Pastor Mark and Jeannie would be to have 500 people pack meals on that weekend! Be sure to bring the whole family, inviting friends and relatives to help pack meals for starving children around the world! Finally, we will cap off the weekend with a special event to thank Pastor Mark and Jeannie.

Now is our time: let us embrace change, celebrate all Grace members and be thankful!

Scott Christensen/VP Grace Vision Board

Pastor Mark's Remarks

A BIG MONTH TO REMEMBER, REJOICE AND RENEW

October is a big REMEMBERING month at Grace! Why? Because at the end of every October we remember the day a German monk nailed 95 debate statements (theses) to the doors of a church. Now, that may not seem all that important, and the event **itself wasn't more than a university professor by the name of Martin Luther, protesting theological abuses in the church of his day.** However, it was what happened later, as his radical ideas and biblical insights found a large and receptive audience in the common people of Germany, that his ideas were put into practice and the church was changed forever.

It all happened on October 31, 1517, exactly 500 years ago. And we remember the start of the Protestant Reformation that reshaped and rebuilt the church on the principle that salvation is a free gift from God that comes by faith, and NOT by spiritual achievements or something we have to earn. It was a radical idea that broke the power of the powerful church, and birthed the movement that would later become the Lutheran Church.

For me personally, remembering Martin Luther and the Reformation is a big deal. My personal faith story has many similarities to Luther, as he moved from a **more "earn-your-way-to-God" to a grace-filled approach that says: "God loves you just the way you are, and not the way you should be."** Unlike many at Grace, I was not always a Lutheran. A large portion of my faith life was in a conservative church that emphasized a type of "holy" living as the earmark of a

right faith. Dancing, drinking alcohol, playing cards, going to movies, and any other kind of sinful practices were strictly forbidden. Keeping rules was the way to evaluate whether or not a person was good enough for God to love.

I tried to follow the rules...oh, did I try! However, I could NOT keep all the rules! For a perfectionist, "rule-loving" kind of guy like me, this created a real faith crisis. As a result, I felt that God would never accept me, and I was about ready to quit trying and give up my faith.

However, God's grace is good! It comes at the most unexpected moments, like during a lecture in my college historical theology course, when the professor explained how Luther experienced grace. At that moment, I finally began to grasp God's gift of grace... his free, unmerited love and forgiveness, visible in the life and death of Jesus Christ. And, for the first time in my life, I understood that I would never be good enough, and that's why God sent Jesus to die for me! It was like a thunderbolt from heaven came down into my heart. I was a changed person!

This is what we celebrate during the month of **October...God's wonderful and free grace in Jesus! We celebrate that we don't have to earn our way to God! We don't have to make excuses! We can admit who we are! We are forgiven, and we forgive others as lavishly as we have been forgiven.** We remember that **it's all about God's love and goodness! So, let's REMEMBER – I know I will!**

In Him, Pastor Mark

grace
remember • rejoice • renew

Octoberfest



GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRESENTS

OCTOBER
29
2017

9:00am-1:00pm
GREAT FOOD
ROOT BEER GARDEN

SILENT AUCTION FOR THE
SHERIDAN PROJECT

MUSICAL
ENTERTAINMENT
AND MORE...
FELLOWSHIP HALL
After Worship Services

OCTOBERFEST

grace
remember • rejoice • renew

What could I possibly give for the Octoberfest Silent Auction? What kind of item could I make or cook or sew or do to celebrate my God-given gifts and skills, and help raise money for The Sheridan Project at Sand Creek Elementary School?

If you find yourself wondering about it all, here are some suggestions of what you might contribute:

- Canned goods grown from the garden
- CD of musical selections played by you
- Pie/cake made & delivered monthly for a year
- Gourmet meal cooked and served for 4
- Basket full of homemade snacks and a video
- Quilt or blanket
- Knitted caps, scarves and mittens
- Home-made soaps and candles
- Handmade jewelry

- Art projects
- Wood-working items
- Coupons for raking leaves and/or garden projects
- Babysitting coupons
- Housecleaning coupons
- a basket of Christmas cookies
- various craft items
- Coupons for dog or cat sitting
- Homework help
- Help with tax preparations
- Floral arrangement
- Coupon to shovel

Sign up your contribution to our Silent Auction on the blue *Opportunities* Sheets in the bulletin, or call the church office. A member of the Stewardship Team will contact you for delivery times.

Children's Ministries



THE HEART OF SONDAY SCHOOL

SONday School and home working together to guide kids in their faith journey. Together, we can help kids know Jesus, their best friend!

SONday School needs a few more helping hands, **please consider....**

- We are looking for 2 more Teachers at 9am. Our curriculum is designed to make it easy for you. All the materials you need to teach your lesson are provided.
- **Do you like teaching, but don't want to make a big commitment?** Please consider being a Substitute Teacher at 10:30am. Substitute Teachers are great blessings to our teaching staff!
- Fun Food Team – This team helps make our wacky snacks for SONday School. We only do snacks once a month.
- Youth Drama Team – youth who will help with tech and leading our SONday School worship in Drama. With our new curriculum, youth who volunteer will have to spend time preparing for their lessons and commit to some additional training times.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

October 14th, 9am-12pm

Pastor Mark and Kristin Lowe teach students in 3rd grade and up about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are then invited to receive their First Communion during worship on October 14th at the 5:00pm service, or October 15th at the 9 or 10:30 service. Bring a Bible, a parent, and a smile! Register through Gracelink or at graceandover.org.



ROCKIN' KIDS BIBLE CLUB

Wednesdays 6:30 – 8 p.m.

For Kids Age 4 – Grade 5

This year, our RKBC kids will be explorers as we begin our Bible Quest. As we journey through the year, we will learn about choices that Bible Heroes and Heroine's made, and that we can make good choices, too. In the next few weeks, we will meet Captain Jedidiah Jones and learn about his adventures.



Trunk-or-Treat

Wednesday, October 25th 5:30-6:30

Children will Trick-or-Treat from parked car to parked car in the safety of the church parking lot. People are encouraged to participate both by bringing their cars and passing out candy, and by just showing up to trick or treat. Cars should plan to arrive by 5pm to get set up. Family Pizza will begin at 5:30, for \$1.50 you can purchase 1 slice of pizza, salad and a drink. You can eat before or after you trick-or treat. Bring your family and friends.



Grades 3-5 ~ November 3rd at 8 pm

Our night will include games, Bible time, snack, a movie, sleep, and so much more! Yes, we will sleep! Kids must be able to stay all night. Breakfast will be provided in the morning. Kids must be picked up by 8 am. Kids should bring: modest pajama's with sleeves, sleeping bags, pillows, their Bible and friends. Kids should leave home: all electronics, including phones. Kids may bring friends. If kids bring 2 or more friends, a parent must plan on chaperoning. The Lock-In is \$5 per person. Register on graceandover.org

Youth Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRIES

No Catechism/RKBC October 18th
Due to MEA weekend!

There are TONS of new and exciting things happening in High School Ministry this year! Head over to www.graceandover.org to check it out!

DOUGHNUTS W/ KRISTI & TOM

Need a little extra spring in your step on Sunday mornings? Kristi and Tom host doughnuts in their office EVERY SUNDAY from 9:50-10:30am! Stop on by for a treat!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

9th-12th grade students!

Come and hang out with your friends, eat snacks, play games, and have a great discussion about God and your faith! High School Youth Group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7:00pm-8:30pm! No need to sign up – just stop on by portable 2. Fun and games begin at 7PM and the discussion starts at 7:30pm. Upcoming gathering times: 10/3; 10/17; 11/7; 11/21; 12/5; 12/19

BIBLE STUDY SMALL GROUP

for Juniors and Seniors!

Are you wanting to connect with your fellow upper classmen? Join your 11th and 12th grade peers at Caribou coffee across the street from church the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7PM! (Oct. 10; Nov. 14) This group meets to connect with one another and to discuss life as a junior or senior, how God is at work in our future, faith, and the Bible. Bring your questions about God and faith!

OWN YOUR FAITH

Our 9th grade students are well on their way in the OYF Program this year! Please hold them in prayer on October 19/20th as they embark on the OYF Retreat at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria.

Upcoming Events for High School Youth

- **Minneapolis Adventure and Lunch at Annie's** Parlor, October 1st 11:45am-4:00pm.

Want to eat lunch at a cool burger and milk shake parlor down by the University (Annie's Parlor in Dinkytown) and then explore Minneapolis all while racing your friends in a scavenger hunt? Me too! "Urban Fun Day" starts after the 10:30 service (11:45 or so) and we will return to church around 4:00. The scavenger hunt is free – but please bring enough money for lunch. For more information or to register go to www.graceandover.org

- Second Harvest Heartland Service Day & Rolled Ice Cream, November 4; 11:45am - 4:30pm

Kick off November right by spending a few hours volunteering at Second Harvest Heartland – one of the largest food distribution centers in Minnesota! Volunteers repackage bulk foods such as pasta, cereal, potatoes, rice into family size packages, sort food from food drives and donations, or label canned goods. These items go to our nearly 1,000 partner agencies, including food shelves and feeding programs that serve our hungry neighbors. After – head over for a tasty treat of rolled ice cream! For more information or to register go to www.graceandover.org.



YOUTH TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

For 7th - 12th graders

We have 2 AMAZING travel opportunities this summer for our 7th – 12th grade students! There is information on the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston Texas and on our Quad Cities Mission trip online at www.graceandover.org!

Outreach Ministries

GRACE QUILTERS “2”

All are welcome to join the FUN and camaraderie as we tie knots and make quilts with Grace Quilters “2” ministry on the last Monday of the month.

As you may know, we currently have the ever-faithful Grace Quilters who meet each Wednesday morning at church. And now, we will offer another quilting opportunity – entitled **Grace Quilters “2”** – meeting on the last Monday evening of month. Literally, no experience is necessary – all are welcome to join these joyful times of tying knots and growing in friendship. Please note that experienced seamstresses and quilters are always welcome too!

Our friend from Feed My Starving Children, Ann Hill, will hand deliver these quilts to Uganda. Our Grace mission team who travelled to Uganda last October took over 40 Grace quilts to our ministry partners there, African Children Today. So we know these quilts will truly bless young children in Rakai, Uganda - **what a wonderful and tangible way to share God’s grace around the world!**

Hope to see you at Grace Quilters “2”

Time: 6:30 – 9 pm
 Date: Mondays – Oct. 30, Nov. 27
 Place: Room 105/107 at Grace
 RSVP: Please RSVP to Jan Margotto
 margotto@msn.com, 763 434-4617



THE “LOVE OF GRACE” BAZAAR

Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 am – 3 pm.

This is more than a craft fair . . . more than a holiday bazaar – **it’s an opportunity to share God’s grace with our local community as we welcome vendors and visitors into our building. THANKS for joining us as we share more of God’s incredible, amazing, unending grace at the “Love of Grace” Bazaar!**



“GET YOUR HAIR NET ON”

We’ll all be wearing hairnets as we pack meals together at Feed My Starving Children on November 17 and 18. This is our annual marathon serving event at FMSC so plan to join us Friday night, Saturday – or **BOTH!** This will also be a “Get your Hair Net On” celebration as we bid farewell to Pastor Mark & Jeannie as they retire. So please join hundreds of Grace volunteers (hopefully 500) at Feed My Starving Children on Nov. 17 and 18. Yes, we may feel bonded by wearing hairnets together, but more importantly, we will be united in serving God – and together we will truly make a difference in this world, especially in the life of a starving child! Join our Grace family and **friends at FSMC and “get your hairnet on”**

Friday, Nov. 17	6 – 7:30 pm
	8 – 9:30 pm
Saturday, Nov. 18	9 – 11 am
	11:30 am – 1:30 pm
	2 – 4 pm
	7 – 9 pm

Register on line at www.fmsc.org, sign up on blue opportunity pages, or call the church office 763 421-6520. Children are welcome to join this event, but must be 5 years or older per FMSC age requirements. FMSC warehouse is located at 401 S. 93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids.

FLU SHOT CLINIC

October 7th 9am-12pm

Our Parish Nurses, Lori Ackerson & Lily Tunby, along with **Walgreen’s Pharmacy** will be at Grace administering flu shots. Most insurance plans are accepted, but you should check with your insurance provider if a co-pay will apply.

CONNECT CLASS

October 8 8:30-10am

Interested in becoming a member or learning more about Grace? Join us in this time to ask questions, hear about the history of Grace and connect with other new people. A light breakfast will be served and childcare will be provided. 763-421-6520

Women's & Men's Ministries



MUGS, MUFFINS & MORE

Saturday, Oct. 7
9:30 – 11:30 am

in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a favorite MUG, we'll

bake the MUFFINS, and together we'll enjoy MORE fun!

The guest speaker will be Pati Kachel, who will share a "A Patchwork Quilt of Heartwarming Stories." She creatively sews together a comforting quilt of short stories about people whose inspiring lives have added color and craziness to her own life.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Recharge and refresh your spirit! Reserve the dates January 26 -28, 2018 for this two-night retreat at Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, Wisconsin. Enjoy the conversations and connections with other women and also with our gracious God!

For more information about women's opportunities at Grace, please contact Jeannie Hellmann, jeannieh@graceandover.org 763-421-6520, ext. 109

WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITIES

Monday Night Women's Group @ 7pm
Ruth Circle - 2nd Wed/month, 12:30 pm
W.O.W. (Women on Wednesday) 9:30 – 11:15am

MEN'S OPPORTUNITIES

BWW Connection - 1st Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm
Men's Gab & Grub - 3rd Sat. at Baker's Square 8am
Bible Studies on Mon. 6:30am or Sat. @ 8am

MEN'S &
Women's
MINISTRY

Little Free Library

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH GETS A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

We want to thank Finn Sheils for bringing a Little Free Library to Grace as part of his Confirmation Project!

What is a Little Free Library?

Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange. They come in many shapes and sizes, but the most common version is like Grace's new library - a small wooden box of books. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share.

Little Free Library book exchanges have a unique, personal touch. There is an understanding that real people are sharing their favorite books with their community; Little Free Libraries have been called "mini-town squares. And, Little Free Libraries have become so popular that as of November 2016, there were over 50,000 registered Little Free Library book exchanges in all 50 U.S. states and over 70 countries around the world.

How does Grace's Little Free Library work?

Anyone may contribute or take books. The more the merrier! If your child takes a book (or two) from a Library, he or she does not need to return that exact book. However, in order to keep the Little Library full of good choices for the whole church and surrounding neighborhood, the next time you swing by the Library bring a few books to share. Little Library book exchanges function on the honor system; everyone contributes to ensure there are always quality books inside. This way, we all win!

A Little about Finn Sheils

Finn and his family have been a part of Grace for a considerable time. He is 16 years old and a sophomore at Legacy Christian School. He was confirmed last May and as part of his faith project, he decided to give a Little Free Library to our church for our children as well as the students at Golden Rule Daycare.

Thanks so much Finn for providing such a wonderful gift of Grace to us all!

50th Anniversary Recap - Remember, Rejoice, Renew

Grace Lutheran Church begins its 51st **year...** Have you ever waited and waited for something **grand and then after it's over felt a sense of loss or emptiness?** That is how we are feeling the day following our weekend of service and celebration **of 50 years. For those that helped, "Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!" For those that attended,** we hope you had a grand time. For those that missed the event, here is what you missed:

On Saturday, about 40 members of Grace went out into the immediate neighborhood and helped our neighbors with fall cleanup projects, as well as cleaning two local parks. Following the 5:00 service, the party began. Music was provided by the Vintage Grapes Band which played many songs from the era when the church was first formed (the 60's). **Businesses in the neighborhood provided incentives for us to use their products and services,** and as we do, we should mention that we heard **about them through Grace's 50th celebration.** Children found much to do with bouncy houses, face painting, a police car to investigate, a fire truck to climb into, etc. Dinner was served all evening providing nourishment for all of us. All in all, we had a great time with perfect weather!

On Sunday we reflected on the theme: Remember, Rejoice and Renew. Video messages of former pastors and employees were played and congratulations from Bishop Ann Svennungsen were heard. Pastor Mark reflected on his apprehension working for a church named Grace because it would carry expectations of the congregation serving others. He then went on to describe the many ministries that do serve our community and beyond, and realized that Grace is the name we do want for our church. Following the service, the congregation enjoyed refreshments and connected with one another.

We can't help but give God the glory for the church we have become in the past 50 years and are energized by the thought of where He might take us 50 years from now. What will the future hold? What we do know is that Grace Lutheran Church **will continue to be "A Ministry of Grace in the Heart of Andover."**

God Bless, Dianne & Dennis Grabowski

THANKS to SO MANY volunteers within our Grace family who helped make our 50th Anniversary Celebration such a JOY-filled event! And what a meaningful and memorable weekend celebration it was! From putting on work gloves Sat. morning to worshipping with the Bishop on Sunday – from dancing in the parking lot Saturday evening to singing our hearts out during worship. From the summer snowball fight to dining on donuts during Sunday fellowship time! What joy to **REMEMBER our past, to REJOICE in God's grace today, and to ask God to RENEW our spirits for the future!** Our sincerest thanks to very faithful servants, Becky & Joel Anderson, for leading the 50th Anniversary Ministry Team. Special thanks to Jamie Zupon for organizing the Gifts of Grace outreach projects Saturday morning. What a **wonderful way to share God's grace in our local neighborhood** as 40 volunteers completed landscape work in nearby yards and parks. Extra thanks to Dianne and Dennis Grabowski for taking the lead with communications. - and many thanks to John Peterson for gathering photographs, **information and videos. Wasn't it grand to hear** from former staff members and to read the inspiring brochure about the first 50 years of Grace Lutheran?! Endless thanks to Debie Brink for coordinating the Block Party. Creative thanks to Gayle Pacholl and Carla Renner for the amazing decorations. More thanks to Don Krook for helping in ALL areas with a joyful and willing spirit. The list goes on (seriously) – thanks to Michele for organizing games, thanks to the trumpeters Joe and Dave, thanks to emcee Mike, thanks to Mark and the Vintage Grapes band, thanks to the kitchen **team of Renee, Gail, Ann, Karen, Carol ... (see, seriously) the list goes on!**

So we continue to celebrate God's GRACE! We give thanks for the wonderful weather on our **celebration weekend, we're grateful for the great** community participation at the Block Party, and we simply cannot thank all the Grace volunteers enough for your endless energy and faithful serving!

And together, we praise God for this opportunity to once again share His goodness and His GRACE!

Pastor Mark and Jeannie

Finances at a Glance

As of Week 37

OFFERINGS	2012	2013	2014	2015		2016	2017
Operational	\$482,173.94	\$457,818.64	\$460,405.32	\$445,153.01		\$447,383.62	\$492,680.95
Capital	\$68,133.00	\$61,386.00	\$57,403.00	\$51,107.00		\$58,201.16	\$52,910.75
Other (Holiday)	\$26,633.84	\$18,448.12	\$14,709.29	\$13,218.72		\$16,158.48	\$ 17,038.88
Free 2B Grace	\$0.00	\$ 120,700.00	\$135,565.00	\$127,052.00		\$100,203.16	\$ 92,786.00
Total:	\$576,940.78	\$658,352.76	\$668,082.61	\$636,530.73		\$621,946.42	\$655,416.58

YTD Noisy Offerings collected & dispersed = \$20,402.10
 YTD Benevolence dispersed = \$38,346.06
 YTD General Operating expenses = \$639,760.30 (as of September 25)
 YTD Mortgage paid = \$106,614.00



* if you would like a copy of the current month-end report, please contact Kate Morpew or Beth Clarstrom.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Amazon will donate 0.05 % of the purchase price on eligible items to a charity of your choosing? You can choose Grace Lutheran Church to be the recipient of those funds. So far this year, thanks to the support of Amazon Smile users, we have received \$137.02. Please consider using Amazon Smile when shopping on Amazon. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> then choose from one of the amazing charities (Grace Lutheran Church being one of them) to support. The Amazon Smile prices are the same, and you will still have access to Amazon Prime if you are a Prime member.



GET TO KNOW GRACE STAFF

TOM BAKER
 Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Do you have a furry friend? If so how many and what kind? *We have 2 dogs and three cats at our house (which is 3 cats too many!)*



What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? *I am a music collector, and I like to attend musicals and the orchestra.*

One thing you cannot live without? *music*

What is your favorite place to be? *on a youth mission trip*

Do you enjoy playing a sport or watching them if so what? *I enjoy downhill skiing, participating and watching*

Where did you grow up? *In a suburb of Washington DC*



Grace Lutheran Church

13655 Round Lake Blvd NW, Andover, MN 55304

(763) 421-6520

A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!

www.graceandover.org

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PERMIT No. 118

Address Service Requested

October Highlights

Sunday, October 1 -	The Lutheran Course begins
Tuesday, October 3 -	High School Youth Group
Wednesday, October 4 -	Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love begins
Saturday, October 7 -	Flu Shot Clinic
Saturday, October 7 -	Mugs, Muffins & More
Sunday, October 8 -	Connect New Members Class
Thursday, October 12 -	Theology on Tap: The Ridiculous Journey begins
Saturday, October 14 -	First Communion Class
Tuesday, October 17 -	High School Youth Group
Tuesday, October 17 -	SALT Prayer Gathering
Wednesday, October 18 -	(MEA) No Catechism/Rockin' Kids Bible Club
Wednesday, October 25 -	Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 29 -	Octoberfest / Silent Auction
Monday, October 30 -	Grace Quilters "2"