

Hilltop Lights

MAKING BELIEVERS, GROWING DISCIPLES, DEVELOPING LEADERS



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

FROM THE PASTOR

Where did the summer go? That's a question that been floating around as I write this mid-August. This summer has seemed to fly by. Here we are at September when we kick off another ministry year. Plans have been made for music ministry and education; worship schedules are planned through Christmas (dare I even mention that); the Soup & Sweets Supper is soon to come; and youth groups will be off and running. It's an exciting time of year and we are ready to roll. All of these ministries help us to live out our mission to make believers, grow disciples, and develop leaders. Know that whoever you, however you come, you are welcome at Grace.

The Personnel Committee continues to work to fill out open music positions. We are planning to have choir, so all who are interested in singing, please come to rehearsals. We have the gifts and talents to have music even in this interim time.

On Rally Day, we are lifting up and supporting Midwest Street Medicine as our "God's Work, Our Hands" emphasis. This group of volunteer medical people walk our community to provide basic healing care to those who are unhoused. We will learn more about the ministry and provide items for basic hygiene kits which they give to those they serve. A big part of Jesus's healing ministry was street healing. Whenever and wherever he encountered someone in need of healing, he acted to provide that. Jesus has healed us all. He is with us when we are ill or recovering from surgery and he has provided the greatest healing that we will know when we join him in heaven. The word salvation is closely tied to the word for healing, and in Christ we know and live with the assurance that we have total healing – body, mind, and spirit. Thanks be to God!

This newsletter is full of activities that are kicking off again this month. Please note which ones God may be calling you to participate in and as we "rally" on September 13, may God's Spirit enliven and empower us in all we do. Have a great September -- blessings!

Pastor Siri

Pastoral Acts in August:

Funeral for Mac Hesser on 8/14 officiated by Pastor Katherine Olson;

Wedding of Heather Kock and Jeannie Butts on 8/29.

Worship in September
Services at 9:00 am both in person and livestreamed on Facebook.

September 6
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Setting 10
As We Forgive

September 13
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Setting 6
From the Heart
Celebrant Choir and Adult Chimes

September 20
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Setting 8
Faithful
3rd Graders Receive Bibles

September 27
18th Sunday after Pentecost
Setting 4
Words & Actions
3-Year Olds Receive Story Bibles

facebook

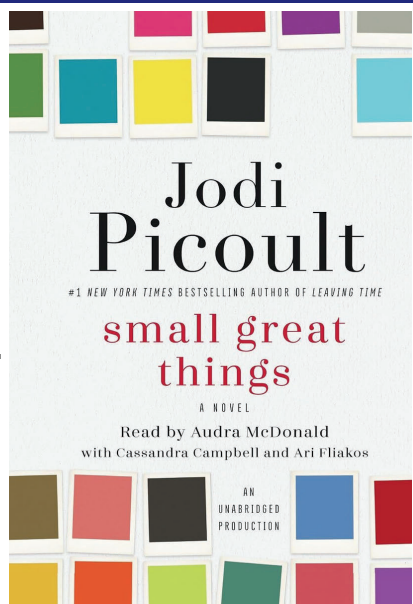
devotions occur on
Tuesdays and Thursdays at
9:00 am and are available
for later viewing on
Facebook.

Upcoming Events and Small Groups

NOVEL IDEA

September 27th @
10:30am in the
meeting room

This group is open to anyone.
Books are available to
checkout in the church
office.
Even if you can't make the
meetings feel free to read
the book!



Let's Bake Sept. 12th 9:00am

This small group is open to anyone interested in baking treats for our Sunday morning coffee hour. This month they will be making treats for our Rally Day celebration!! All necessary supplies and recipes will be provided. Meet in the downstairs kitchen.

GRACE & KIDS

September 16th & 30th
6:15-7:15pm
Meet in the Fellowship Hall

Grace Kids is our K-5th grade youth group
that meets every other Wednesday.



Save the Date

**OUR ANNUAL
POLKA SERVICE
WILL BE OCTOBER
18TH!**

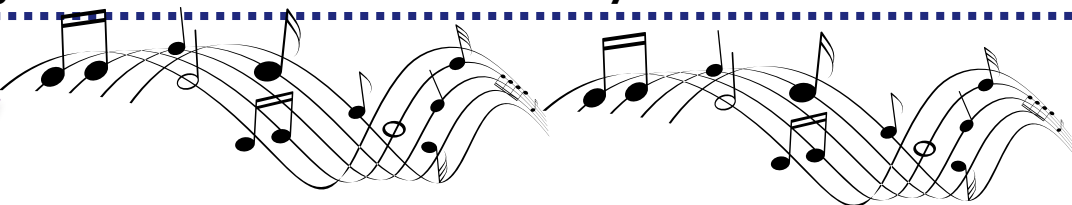


Aging Gracefully

Thursday, September 3. We have a field trip planned to Mother's Healing Garden on the north side of the cemetery at Dell Rapids (300 E. 15th St). Karen Shea was there on a Master Gardeners tour and suggested it for our group. Carol Baum, one of the founders of the garden which contains a labyrinth, will tell us the story of it and its significance. The program will start at 10:00 am. Meet at the church at 9:30 am if you would like to put together a car pool to go. A brochure about this garden is on the information table if you want to know more.



Music Notes!



- Celebrant Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.
- Adult Chimes rehearses Wednesdays at 6:15 pm with Jess Griggs and Christine Verba.
- Youth chimes meets at the beginning of Sunday School with Jess Griggs.
- P3-4th Graders meet for music at the beginning of Sunday school with Lisa Jasmer and Alicia Peterson.

CARING MINISTRIES

Prayer Chain

If you have a request for the email prayer chain, or would like to be a "pray-er" on it contact Sharon Dierks
Phone: 605-759-7009 or
email: dsdierks2@gmail.com.



Grief Support Group

Tuesday, September 8th

at 10:00 am in the meeting room. This is a group for people who have experienced grief of any kind.



There are free blood pressure and blood sugar checks on the first Sunday of the month after worship.

Hospital Visitation Note:



If you are hospitalized and do not receive a visit from Robin Hofkamp or Pastor Siri, it means you did not come up on our visitation list. Please let us know you are in the hospital, and we will be sure to visit. Often if someone goes in through the ER, we do not get notified that you have been admitted.

PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

You are invited to pray with Pastor Siri for a shepherding group of families from the congregation each week.

May God bless:

August 30-September 5: Shepherding District 9, Zone B:

Larry & Laurie Eide; Carla Erickson; Tammi Soutar, Coralee, Quinn; Olivia Mueller; Kelsey & Shasta Weston family

September 6-12: Shepherding District 9, Zone C:

Cheryl Angle; Greg & Karol Koopman, Taylor, Alex; Todd Jacobson; Joan Olson; Roger & Sheri Schumacher

September 13-19: Shepherding District 10, Zone A:

Glenn & Susan Hooyer; Dick & Kathy Lone; Sharon Malwitz; Wendy Moore; Jeff & Siri Sorenson

September 20-26: Shepherding District 10, Zone B:

Joanne & Todd Egge; Curtis Nesson; Alicia & Chris Peterson, Will, Bennett; Roland & Susan Smit

September 28-October 4: Shepherding District 11, Zone A:

Blane & Wendy Bergan, Brooke, Ben; Dianne Erdmann; Chris & Linda Olson; Nate & Brooke Penn, Lily, Kaia; Kay Rose; Joe Sundvold; Lois Sundvold; Alex & Krista Veik

Service & Mission

Grace Lutheran served at Necessities for Neighbors on August 18 at First Lutheran. We served 121 families.

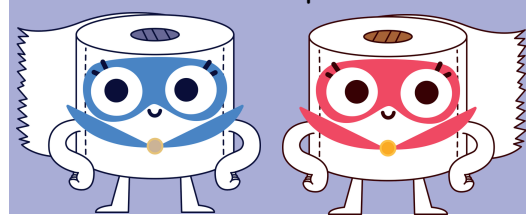


School supplies were delivered to South Dakota Urban Indian Health for their Back to School Bash. Thank you for your donations. They described it as a blessing.



Toilet Paper COLLECTION

We have will begun our annual toilet paper collection! Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate labeled "Toilet Paper" and the church will purchase pallets of toilet paper at a wholesale price.



Charis Ministries Board Representative

We are looking for someone to represent Grace Lutheran on the Charis Ministries Board which oversees both Food to You and Necessities for Neighbors. Each congregation that participates in and supports these ministries has representation. The board currently meets on a Wednesday morning once a month. If you are interested you can talk to Pastor Siri, or Karen Shea or Fred Henry who have been recent representatives.



Bible Study Meeting Times

September 17th

Martha Bible Study @ 9:30am

Hannah Bible Study @ 2:00pm

Both groups meet in the Fellowship Hall

Session I: Encountering God in the wilderness

Scripture: Genesis 16:1-16; 21:8-21

Hagar, an enslaved woman pushed to the margins, encounters God in the wilderness. When she believes all hope is lost, God sees her, hears her and reshapes her story. Her witness reminds us that God meets us in deserted places with vision and promise. This session invites participants to consider who is marginalized in our world today and to reflect on how God sees both them and us in our own wilderness experiences.

Save the Date

Soup and Sweets Supper
Sunday, Oct. 4th
4-7 PM

There will be a free will offering. Sign up sheets will be available in September. We will need lots of soups, sweets, and volunteers. The proceeds this year will go to Furniture Mission, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Youth and the WOG.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a remarkable organization dedicated to building beds for children in the community who have never had a bed of their own.



THRIFTING WITH GRACE!



DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL OCT. 1ST



Drop items off in Room 8 downstairs

- Now collecting household items, decor, vintage or antique items, jewelry, holiday items, books, games, music such as records, CD's or even cassettes, TOYS, crafting items, purses, bags, etc.
- This year we will accept VINTAGE clothing! Early Y2K and older! If you're wondering if we're interested- send a picture to Tammi at 605-321-1662.
- If you've got any electronics or small furniture that you would like to donate - please talk to Tammi Soutar or Tanya Jacobson first, we will need to make sure we've got room and the electrical items are safe.
- Please leave the regular (non-vintage) clothes & shoes for regular donation to The Mission or other community donation center and we cannot accept car seats/strollers etc.... At this time we are also not ready to add baked or canned goods back to the sale.



RALLY DAY FESTIVITIES!

September 13th

God's Work Our Hands Project

We are thrilled to announce our support for Midwest Street Medicine this year!

During August we will be collecting **travel size hygiene** products to assemble hygiene kits on Rally Day.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| • Shampoo | • Lotion | • Comb |
| • Conditioner | • Toothpaste | • Deoderant |
| • Bodywash or Small bars of soap | • Toothbrush | |



DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR VIBRANT GRACE LUTHERAN APPAREL!

Schedule of Events

9:00am: Worship
10:15am: Sunday School & Bible Family Feud!!
11:00am: Lunch
11:30am: Bouncy House/Lawn Games/Fellowship

FREE Lunch Provided by our Worship Committee

Pulled Chicken Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, & Chips.



Dessert Provided by Let's Bake

Assorted Cupcakes



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

A Note From Our Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry:

As we enter the school year, my biggest prayer for our youth comes from 1 Timothy 4:12, where Paul reminds Timothy to “let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” I pray that our teenagers know how deeply God loves them and that they understand God has a purpose for their lives.

God does not use age as a measure of who can live out the gospel. This calling is for everyone—including teenagers! These words are painted on the wall of our youth room, and I pray they serve as a visual reminder to our teens that they are valued, loved, and called to be an example of Christ wherever they go.

Blessings,
Thomas



YOUTH EVENTS

YOUTH GROUP PARENT MEETING

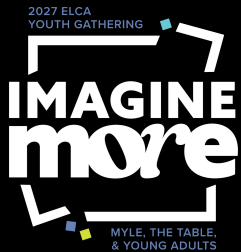
Middle and high school parents are invited to a youth group information meeting on Wednesday, September 9, from 6-7pm.

Come learn more about youth group guidelines, events, teaching topics, and more! This is a great opportunity to ask questions and connect with other parents.



YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF

Get ready! Youth group will resume on Wednesday, September 16! Middle schoolers will meet from 6–7:15pm, followed by high schoolers from 7:30–8:45pm. To kick off the new year, we'll have games, pizza, and plenty of time to reconnect together!



YOUTH GATHERING INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Parents and youth in 8th grade and above are invited to an information meeting about the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering on Tuesday, September 29, from 7-8pm. We'll cover Registration, deadlines, cost, and fundraising opportunities. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Youth Gathering and ask questions.



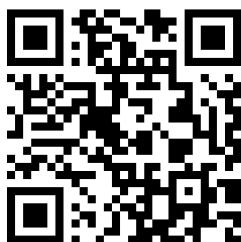
HEY, YOUTH GROUP PARENTS AND PARTICIPANTS!

We have a new, simple way to stay up to date on Youth Group events! Just scan the QR code below to access one convenient page with links to all of our communication platforms, including the church website, Facebook page, calendar, and more!

Instead of keeping track of multiple QR codes, everything you need is now gathered in one easy-to-access place.

Reach out to Thomas with any questions.

**SCAN
ME!**



EVENT HIGHLIGHT: LAKE DAY AT ARCHER'S CABIN



13 youth attended a Lake Day get-together at the Archer's cabin in July. Everyone had a great time swimming, tubing, paddleboarding, and enjoying other fun activities together. Huge thank-you to the Archers for hosting and the parents who provided food for the event.

YOUNG ADULTS



Sioux Falls has officially been recognized as a local Gather site! This exciting accomplishment provides access to mentors, ministry resources, and funding to help support young adult ministry events.

I will continue collaborating with two church staff members—one from Augustana Lutheran Church and one from Peace Lutheran Church—along with Gather to plan events, build connections, and create opportunities for young adults in the Sioux Falls area.

There is also a Gather Sioux Falls Instagram page where young adults can find information about upcoming events.

JOIN OUR GROUP CHAT!



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!

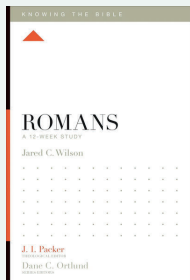


CONFIRMATION AND MILESTONE CLASSES

- **6th-10th Grade** Families have received confirmation information and schedules in the mail. Pastor Siri will meet with students and parents on Rally Day at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall to review the classes and answer any questions.
- **3rd Graders** receive their Bibles in worship on Sunday, September 20th. Pastor Siri will hold a class for students and parents during Sunday school that day, so students can begin to learn to use their Bibles. The class is at 10:30 am and will meet in the meeting room across from the offices.
- **3-year-old** students receive their story Bibles on Sunday, September 27th.
- **4-year-old** students receive their prayer pillows on Sunday, October 4th.
- **10th Graders** meet Wednesday, 9/23 @ 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall to make their confirmation stoles.



Adult Bible Study



Don't miss it, you have a chance to share in the study of the Book of Romans. The New Interpreter's Study Bible states, "The epistle to the Romans is the most commanding exposition of the gospel of salvation by grace through faith ever written.."

Throughout two millenia of history, Romans has repeatedly proved to be a catalyst for reform and renewal of Christian faith and life.

The adult Bible study class will be having a 12 week study on the Book of Romans and you are invited. The class will begin on Sunday, September 20th at 10:15am in the Gathering Place. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Woody.



Each month Grace Lutheran receives multiple thank you notes from the organizations that we support through our tithes and offerings.



A BIG THANK YOU to everyone that played in our Grace Golf Event and also to everyone who contributed prizes for our drawing. This is our kickoff to our annual Toilet Paper Drive. We had a perfect day for golf and had a record number of our youth join us, which was awesome!

-The Golf Committee

To My Grace Family,

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone for the numerous prayers and cards following the loss of my sister. Your support has meant a great deal to me.

♥♥♥♥♥ — Kaye Henle ♥♥♥♥♥

Dear Members of Grace,

Thank you for your cards and expressions of concern following my recent accident.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness and look forward to returning to church services and the family of Grace.

-Sharon Pederson





SEPTEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am FB live Devotion 6:30pm Committee Meetings 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen 7:30pm Council Meeting	2 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:15pm Adult Chimes 7:00pm Celebrant Choir	3 9:00am FB live Devotion 9:30am Aging Gracefully	4	5
6 9:00am Worship	7 Labor Day	8 9:00am FB live Devotion 10:00am Grief Support 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	9 6:00pm Youth Group Parent Meeting 6:15pm Adult Chimes 7:00pm Celebrant Choir	10 9:00am FB live Devotion	11 Patriot Day	12 9:00am 4H 9:00am Let's Bake
13 Adult Chimes play Bread Break Sunday Celebrant Choir Sings 9:00am Worship-RALLY DAY!! 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:30am 5-12 graders confirmation meeting 3:00pm Girl Scouts	14	15 9:00am FB live Devotion 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	16 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm MS Youth Group 6:15pm Adult Chimes 6:15pm Grace Kids 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:30pm HS Youth Group	17 9:00am FB live Devotion 9:30am Martha Bible Study 2:00pm Hannah Bible Study	18	19
20 9:00am Worship-3rd Grade Bible Milestone 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:30am 3rd grade students and parent meeting	21	22 First Day of Autumn 9:00am FB live Devotion 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	23 6:00pm MS Youth Group 6:15pm Adult Chimes 6:30pm 10th Grade Confirmation work meeting 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:30pm HS Youth Group	24 9:00am FB live Devotion	25	26
27 9:00am Worship-3 yr. old Story Bible Milestone 10:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:30am Novel Idea	28	29 9:00am FB live Devotion 7:00pm ELCA Youth Gathering meeting 7:00pm Hilltop Al-Anon & Alateen	30 6:00pm MS Youth Group 6:15pm Adult Chimes 6:15pm Grace Kids 7:00pm Celebrant Choir 7:30pm HS Youth Group	1	2	3

SEPTEMBER Birthdays



9/1 Kathy Johnson
9/1 Ruby Schmitt
9/3 Jodi Penn
9/4 Jim Thorson
9/6 Wes Hofkamp
9/6 Becky Smith
9/7 Erik Spencer
9/8 Janean Bayer
9/8 Keith Nipp

9/9 Kay Schoppers
9/10 Ryker Heaton
9/10 Izzy Spencer
9/11 Barb Daily
9/13 Emily Brandenburg
9/14 Krista Rohrbach
9/14 Kevin Rovang
9/15 Connor Griggs
9/17 Clancy Lippert
9/18 Logan Eckhoff
9/18 Emelia Haase
9/18 Don Schmitt
9/18 Jazlyn White
9/19 Jim Tatge
9/19 Kayla Weidenaar

9/21 Gloria Kindopp
9/21 Gwin Spencer
9/21 Jean Tiede
9/22 Calen Wagner
9/24 Matthew Geistfeld
9/24 Emmitt Warren
9/25 Kaia Penn
9/25 Brian Ree
9/26 Tammy Gohl
9/26 Olivia Mueller
9/27 Michelle Brandenburg
9/27 Kay Lee
9/28 Emil Kroeger
9/28 Terry Watters
9/29 Lori Ree



Vine is a partnership of 17 ELCA congregations in the Sioux Falls area, united around one purpose—helping people find their way to faith, community, and ministry. Whether you're looking for a Bible study, a support group, a new interest, or an upcoming event in your area, Vine connects you to opportunities across our network of congregations. There's something here for every age and every stage of life.



Grace Lutheran Church
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**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT #427**

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Thomas Kenison
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Dave Stoterau & Tanya Jacobson,
Custodians

Lisa Jasmer
Faith & Family Ministries

Executive Board
Darrell Griggs, President

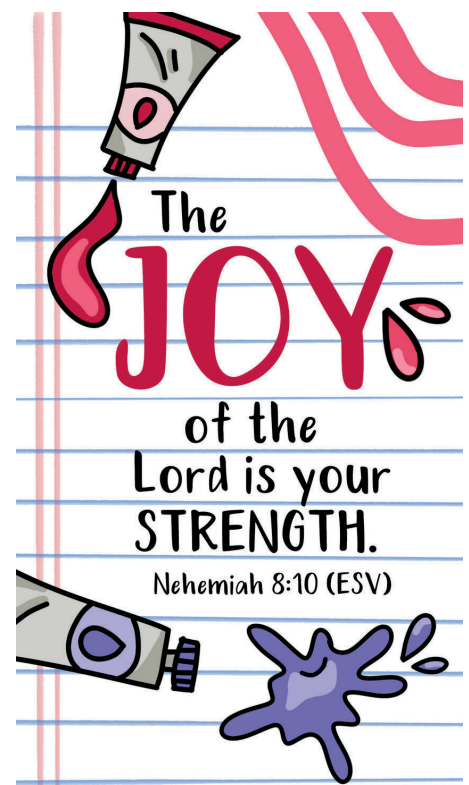
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