September 3/4 ~ Labor Day Weekend!
Last weekend of summer worship times (5:00 PM, 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM)

September 10/11 ~ Rally Weekend!
Fall Worship Times Resume
Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sundays at 8:00 AM
       9:00 AM
       10:30 AM

First day of SONday School
Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sundays at 9:00 & 10:30 AM

God’s Work, Our Hands
Sunday @ 3:00 PM
(see pg. 5 for details)

September 17/18 ~ Carroll Potter’s Retirement Weekend Celebration! Grace is celebrating over 30 years of Carroll’s ministry at Grace with a retirement weekend. It just so happens to be Carroll’s 80th birthday weekend, as well. Happy birthday and many blessings to Carroll!

September 25th @ 10:30 AM ~ Own Your Faith Blessing! A blessing for all Freshman exploring adulthood in faith in preparation for Confirmation next May. Watch for details about the Own Your Faith Retreat October 20th/21st.

Wednesday Youth Programs begin September 14th!
See all the details inside!
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Generosity Can Be Amazing!

Pastor Mark’s Remarks

I have been amazed at the generosity of those who have worked so hard to remodel and update the Golden Rule Day Care bathrooms! It was time. In fact, it was more than time. I’m sure at least twenty-five to thirty years have come and gone since they received the kind of attention they needed to make them attractive to parents shopping for a new daycare. Since our Golden Rule is starting a new Christian Preschool as well as growing the toddler program, we felt it was the right time to remodel and upgrade them!

I approached my two “go-to” guys: Alden Riley and Dennis Grabowski to plan the project. The chief concern was whether we could find enough volunteers to remove the old dated tiles, put the new ones in, install sheet rock, paint, and then reinstall all of toilets, sinks, towel dispensers, partitions, and mirrors back in place. Some said we would never find enough help. But I knew better! I knew the generosity of Grace!

We put out the plea and we were surprised at the large number of volunteers. Dennis got right to work developing and scheduling the project. Emails were sent. Phone calls were made. Tile was ordered. Sheet rock was picked up. Everything was set!

That was several weeks ago, and thanks to all the people who showed up, the bathrooms are complete! And can I say they look wonderful! I am positive they will not only present a modern, up-to-date facility to those looking for a day care, but they will be a wonderful asset for our own children’s ministries of SONday School, Rockin’ Kids Bible Club, and VBS.

None of this would have been possible if it hadn’t been for the generosity of those who gave hours and hours of hard work. Remarkable things can happen when a group of people give their skills, time, and gifts. They are making a difference in all kinds of places…even in a day care bathroom! It’s a great example for all of us to consider as we think about generosity and how God might want us to give.

I want to personally thank Dennis and Alden for heading up this project of generosity! I so appreciate their work as well as the many others who gave generously on behalf of our children.

Always amazed by God’s generous ways among us!

Pastor Mark
STEWARDSHIP. This word often turns people off or makes them feel uncomfortable enough to shut down and shift their focus somewhere else, so bear with me. I promise this won’t be too painful. The Vision Board is currently reading a book “Giving to God” by Mark Allan Powell. By definition, a steward is a person who looks after people or things, those who supervise arrangements or keep order. There are many applications of this. We are to be stewards of our Earth, taking care of the home God has given to us. We need to steward our bodies (I personally am always in a battle with this one!). We are to steward our families (one which I feel utterly lacking in some days) and to steward our marriages. We are even called to steward the Gospel (no pressure there!). But do we actually think about stewarding our resources, our money – stay with me a minute more?

Why do we steward our money? Many think it is to pay the church bills and send kids on mission trips. Now don’t get me wrong, those are very real and important things. Grace cannot send VBS volunteer hours to Connexus to keep the lights on. (The church expenses and income are another topic for another day.) And though my kids aren’t quite old enough to go on a mission trip, yet, I know the very real impact they can have in a young person’s spiritual growth.

Stewarding our money, “Giving, as an act of worship, takes us beyond duty to delight….The essence of faith is worship and essence of worship is sacrifice - giving of ourselves in devotion to God.” In the best light, we give to God because we love God, because we want to, because we trust and have faith that God will provide. And I will be honest, as someone with a strong sense of “control” and planning, this can be a VERY hard earned trust. But I can say without hesitation, giving back to God what is God’s, can draw you so close to our Beloved Creator, even when done with baby steps.

Stewarding our money is a spiritual journey unlike no other. Hopefully it is a journey that we never leave.

Jessie Crooks, Vision Board Secretary
Excerpts taken from “Giving to God” by Mark Allan Powell

The Grace Lutheran Vision Board met on Tuesday, August 16th, 2016 at 6:30 at the home of Pastor Mark Hellmann. All board members were present, except Deb Shepard. The group enjoyed a delicious dinner and conversation.

The agenda for the meeting was the following:

- The Vision Board continued the study of Giving to God: The Bible’s Good News about Living a Generous Life, by Mark Allan Powell. The discussion focused on the second chapter entitled: an Expression of Faith
- Kate Morphew joined the group to discuss her new role as Grace’s Church Administrator. She is working alongside Beth Clarstrom, the new bookkeeper. The two make a strong team and the board is excited to see what they will be able to accomplish together as they tackle the new church software.
- Pastor Steve Thomason joined the meeting to discuss his plans for Adult Faith Formation this year. The board is excited for his ideas and plans for the year.
- Other items:
  - Upcoming Take a Step Stewardship Campaign that will conclude with Oktoberfest
  - The Vision Board supported the Silent Auction beneficiary as Stepping Stone Emergency Shelter.
  - God’s Work. Our Hands Sunday will be September 11th from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
  - The church staff members are developing goals and objectives to Pastor Mark as the first step to form the 2017 Budget.
  - Discussion about the upcoming S.W.O.T. Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threat) for Grace.

The meeting ended in a time of prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Crooks, Vision Board Secretary

Vision Board Members

- Greg Ackerson (President)
- Doug Hanson (V. President)
- Jessie Crooks (Secretary)
- Deb Stang
- Scott Christensen
- Deb Shepard
- Pastor Mark Hellmann

If you would like to contact any of the Vision Board members, please visit graceandover.org and click on Leaders.
Faith Connections
New Opportunities for Spiritual Growth!

What’s the Big Idea: Sermon Discussion Groups
This fall, we will publish a simple sermon guide each week called *What’s the Big Idea?* It will be found in the worship bulletin and provide:

- A space to take sermon notes
- A brief background on the text
- Group discussion questions

We believe that the Word of God is a community event. Pastor Mark and I spend time each week studying the scripture and presenting a sermon. This is good, but it is a passive monologue. We encourage each of you to study the text before the sermon, actively listen by taking notes, and, most importantly, connect with some friends to discuss the practical implications of the text during the coming week.

Some ways you can connect:

- Go out for dinner or lunch with a group of friends right after the service and talk through the questions.
- Form a small group that meets once a week for a meal to discuss the questions.
- Use the questions to lead a family discussion around dinner once a week.
- Join the What’s Big Idea Group online at the Grace Learning Center (www.gracelearning.org/course/big-idea).

No matter what option you choose, I encourage you to at least join the online group. I commit to placing resources each week to help you dig deeper into the text and grow in your relationship with God and each other. Please contact Pastor Steve if you would like the resources to form a small group.

Wednesday Nights are Family Nights!

There are BIG CHANGES coming to Wednesday nights this fall. There is something for EVERYONE, all year long.

**Catechism** 6:30 PM, will be in the Worship Center. Which means: more space, bigger worship, and giant opportunities to connect and learn in different ways. Contact Kristi Larson to be part of the worship and tech team on Wednesdays.

**Family Dinner** starts at 5:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We had a successful experiment with family dinner last year, but we had to eat in the Narthex. This year we get to spread out and use the Fellowship Hall as the dining room.

**Adult Faith Formation** (high school age and up) will connect and learn in the Fellowship Hall. October 5 – November 16. Look at the Book: How to Study the Bible on Your Own. The Fellowship Hall will serve as a “Parent Lounge” on the nights when adult classes are not being held. Hang out and connect with other parents all year. The adult space opens at 6:30.

**Rockin Kid’s Bible Club** 6:30 PM, does not change. It continues to meet in the Nap Room.

**Grace Choir Rehearsal** 7:00 PM, will meet in Portable 1. All of these changes and opportunity to expand are made possible by the gracious offering of the choir to relocate. Thank you Grace Choir! Contact Doreen Hutchins to join the choir.

Please pray for these transitions and all the technical logistics involved.

Pastor Steve
Family Promise, October 2-9
Sharing God’s Grace in our Community

Grace will host Family Promise guests at our church the week of Oct. 2 – 9, providing warm hospitality and safe shelter for families in Anoka County who are experiencing homelessness.

Will you please join us in this hands-on ministry of sharing God’s grace in our local community? YOU will make a difference! YOU will strengthen lives and build community in very tangible ways - through cooking a meal, driving the van, sleeping overnight for security, or chatting with guests!

Family Promise in Anoka County (FPAC) is a network of area 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 and independent once again.

Please join us as we share God’s grace with our Family Promise guests Oct. 2 – 9.

Here’s a list of various volunteer opportunities:

- **EVENING HOST** – dine & chat with guests, play games with children, etc. (5 – 9 pm one evening)
- **OVERNIGHT HOST** - Provide night security at church (8:30pm–7am one night) You get to sleep!
- **CHEF** - Prepare an evening meal for 16 people, one evening
- **SERVER** - Serve dinner and clean up the kitchen (5 – 7:30 pm one evening)
- **DRIVER** - Drive the van to transport guests (at 6:30 am or at 4:30 pm)
- **PREP WORK** - Set up and take down beds on Sunday mornings
- **DONATE** - purchase and donate food supplies or gas cards for our Host Week

Thank you for considering the ways you may serve God and His people in this Family Promise ministry! For more information, please contact Jeannie Hellmann.

Family Promise in Anoka County

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday, Sept. 11
An opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Our church will be one of nearly 10,000 ELCA congregations participating in “God’s work. Our hands.” Across the country, thousands of ELCA members will engage in service work to make a positive change in their communities, to build and deepen relationships and to share God’s love.

So please join us for “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday, Sept. 11. We’ll meet in Fellowship Hall at 3 pm for details and directions, then go out in teams to serve in our neighborhoods, then return to church for a light supper, ending at 6 pm.

This day of service will also mark the 15-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. “The world can be a dangerous place. But there are some who, when disaster strikes, run toward the danger. These are first responders, firefighters, police and EMTs, who live out their baptismal vocation in service to their communities in times of intense need. They do God’s work with their hands,” said ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton.

What projects will we do on Sept. 11?
* Pick up trash along Bunker Lake Blvd and Hanson Blvd.
* Visit shut-ins from our congregation
* Serve dinner at Alexandria House (Emergency Shelter for domestic violence victims)
* Do projects at Stepping Stones (Adult Emergency Shelter in Anoka)
* Write encouraging notes for Sand Creek Staff (Our Faith & Community Partners)

What should we bring?
1. Bug spray & sun screen
2. Your ‘grace-filled’ hearts & hands!
3. Your family & friends

All volunteers are welcome to join the teamwork and enjoy the fellowship on “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday, Sept. 11, from 3 – 6 pm. For more information, please contact Jeannie Hellmann.
I can trust God no matter what. I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

In September, our focus will be on the story of Joseph in Genesis, the theme of Trust, and Proverbs 3:5. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. Kids will go home each week with a 4 day devotional called God Time. This will be a great tool to bring God into their week. Kids can practice using their Bibles and explore other stories from the Bible exploring the theme of Trust. Kids can do this alone or it would make a great family activity.

Our 3 year olds – 1st grades will use “First Look” curriculum. It is based on one of three simple, but powerful truths: God Made Me, Jesus Wants To Be My Friend Forever.

In September, our theme is “DIVE IN”! We will learn “I can trust God” and hear the stories of Noah, Jonah and Naaman. Our theme verse is Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart”. Watch your email each week for “Small Talk”. This will be a great way for you and your child to connect together what they are learning in SONday School, and how to bring that into your everyday family life.

IMPORTANT SONday School INFORMATION
SONday School begins on Rally Day, September 11
1. Register your child for SONday School. This can be done on-line through Gracelink or by going to the Children’s Ministry Page and clicking the SONday School link. OR
2. Registration forms are also at the Welcome Center and will be available Rally Day Weekend.
3. All children will begin in worship and will be dismissed after the Children’s Message. We will gather the children in the Fellowship Hall, introduce them to their teachers, and send them to their classes.
4. You will pick your children up in their classroom after SONday School. We will have signs posted with each class location.

In SONday School, we believe in engaging the whole child—heart, soul, mind, and strength. This fall, we are excited to use a new curriculum by Orange. Orange is a strategy for guiding our families. When we combine Red, which is the love of family, with Yellow which is the light of the church, we create Orange which combines the strength of each. Orange teaches children who God is. When home and church work together, we are much more effective in helping children know they are loved by God, called by God, and saved by God. Parents, Orange provides so many great tools to help you have faith building moments with your kids in your everyday activities.

Monthly Newsletter – Each month, we send home a newsletter in SONday School that includes information on what’s happening in Children’s Ministry on one side, and on the other side – Parent Cue which gives you highlights of what our month’s unit will look like.

Facebook – “Like” Grace Lutheran’s Children’s Ministry on Facebook and we will have information during the week for you to help reinforce what your kids learned that week in SONday School.

Parent Cue App – Download the Parent Cue App for an abundance of ideas of things you can do with your children connected to the month’s unit, including songs, videos, and wonderful parent resources. This is HUGE! Download it today!

Grades 2-5 will use “252 Basics” curriculum. It is based on one of three basic, but powerful truths modeled by Jesus in Luke 2:52: I need to make the wise choice.
SONday School needs many helping hands
please prayerfully consider helping:

WE NEED TEACHERS. 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.
Substitute Teachers are great a blessing to
our teaching staff and we would like a big list
for our teachers!

YOUTH HELPERS are a blessing to the teachers of
our younger children. If you had fun helping at
VBS, please consider being a Youth Helper.

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 worships 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.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder
them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*
Matthew 19:14

Rockin’ Kids Bible Club
Wednesdays 6:30 – 8 p.m.
For Age 3 – Grade 5
RKBC kicks-off Sept. 14 - Come
dressed in your cowboy/cowgirl
duds for the kick-off party.
This year, our RKBC kids will be
cowboys and cowgirls as we head to
the Wrangler Round Up! We will travel with Moses in the
fall and go to the Promise Land. In January, we will travel
with Paul as we hear about his adventures as he told the
world the Good News about Jesus!

Would you like to be a part of the RKBC team?
To make this a great year for kids we need:
SMALL GROUP LEADERS who come
each week to be with the kids.
GAMES LEADER who comes once a month
to lead games.
BIBLE DISCOVERY LEADER who comes
to help kids learn about the Bible.
PIANIST who comes each week at 7:10-7:50
to accompany our choir time and will also
accompany us when we sing in church.

Bible Presentation - October 1/2
For 3 year olds, 2nd and 3rd graders
On Saturday October 1st at the 5:00 Service, and Sunday
October 2nd (at the 9 & 10:30 Services), we will be
presenting Bibles to our 3 year olds and 2nd & 3rd Grade
Children! We are including 2nd Graders this year because
we will be hands on in our Bibles during class and our 2nd
Graders will need their own Bibles.
At Baptism, we make the promise to give our children a
Bible. Come celebrate your child's faith journey as we give
you a Bible to place in the hands of your child. 3 Year
OIds will receive the Spark Story Bible and Grade 2 and 3
will receive a Spark Bible. Celebrate the Word and share
God's story with your child!

Nursery Help is Needed
Nursery is offered at all worship services. We have a
fantastic group of volunteers who have served so faithfully.
Please show your appreciation of our volunteers, by
signing up to help. If families could sign up for one
worship service, what a blessing that would be! Contact
Kim Devries or sign up on the blue sheet to help.

Baptism Workshop
Saturday, September 10 at 9 am
Baptism is an important step in the life of a family. During
the workshop, we learn how God is at work in baptism.
Baptism is welcoming your child into the family of faith.
We will also share insights to help you as you raise your
child to know and love God by creating habits, traditions,
and making God a part of your every day life.

Baptism Sundays are generally the third Sunday of each
month during 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM worship. Please call
the church office for Saturday evening availability. The
next baptism class will be November 5 at 9 am. Contact
Monica Allen or the church office to sign up for the
workshop.

You may register on-line through GraceLink or by going to
the Rockin’ Kids Bible Club page on the website, we will
also have forms at the Welcome Center. If you have any
questions, please contact Monica Allen.
Catechism

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 PM
Begins September 14
in the Worship Center.

A big part of our Middle School ministry is Catechism. This weekly event, 6th thru 8th graders meet for worship, large group teaching, and small group connection. It’s a lot of fun, too!!

Catechism Parent/Student Informational
(for all 6th grade and new student families)
September 7 @ 6:30 - 8:00 PM
Parents and students in 6th Grade and new 7th or 8th graders, join us on this evening to get oriented to Catechism. You’ll be able to meet the staff, ask all your questions, and connect to other families. Contact Kristi Larson with any questions.

DOJO
High School Ministry - Sundays 3:00 - 5:00 PM
Our high school students meet weekly in the Youth Room (portable 2).

Own Your Faith Blessing
September 25th @ 10:30 AM
A blessing for all Freshman exploring adulthood in faith in preparation for Confirmation next year. Further details regarding the Own Your Faith Retreat at Luther Crest in Alexandria on October 20th/21st will be coming your way.

Registration for Catechism, Own Your Faith and Dojo can be done on-line through Gracelink or by going to the Youth Ministry Page and clicking the link. OR Registration forms are also at the Welcome Center. Contact Kristi Larson with any questions.

Reflections at Camp
by Kristi Larson

Grace and peace from God, our Father... and greetings from CAMP!

As I sit here writing this, the sun is shining down on the lake and I am relaxing under the shade of a tree. The occasional leaf flutter’s down from the tree above me, as if taunting me with the reminder that fall is not too far off. I can hear the light din of campers playing a game in the background and I can smell dinner cooking off in the distance. Ah, summer camp.

Tonight our campers will once again hear cool older counselors talk about how God has changed their lives and sing songs of praise at the top of their lungs. At camp, kids watch skits, play games, meet new friends, swim, throw counselors in the lake, sleep in tents, forget to shower, eat too much sugar, read the Bible, and grow closer to other Christians and grow closer to God. It is easy to see God at camp: in creation, in camper’s voices, in the love given by counselors, and in the massive amount of fun that is happening around camp. May God Bless summer camp and all it has to offer.

It’s hard to believe that the summer is almost over! And what a summer it has been so far! Kids and Youth this summer have participated in the annual garage sale, VBS, summer stretch, mission trips, camp, musical camp, summer DOJO, and more. To see photos of these adventures and more, be sure to “like” the Grace Lutheran Youth Facebook page! And please continue to pray as we head into the remainder of summer where there is even more to come!

On behalf of Tom Baker, the pastoral staff, the youth and myself, we give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make summer stretch, camp, mission trips, and other youth activities happen this summer. Parents, grandparents, adult leaders, drivers, and those of you who contributed by sending money, and most importantly, by sending prayers: THANK YOU. This summer is one that many kids at Grace will not soon forget.

Now if you will excuse me, the camp bell just rang for dinner! Rumor has it we are having tacos, and I definitely don’t want to miss that!
Finances at a Glance

Good News! Challenging News! We celebrate and give thanks for the continual generosity experienced in our weekly offerings. It is amazing how God works in our lives in so many ways so that we can give from their hearts!

What is the Good News and Challenging News? We’re ahead with Capital and behind in the Free 2B Grace funds. What does this mean? It means that a significant number of us do not give regularly and at the same time of the year to support these two fund which support our mortgage, debt retirement, and final remodeling projects. The good news is that we are paying our mortgage as well as paying down our debt. We hope in a few months for it to be below $900,000.

Where do we stand now that we’ve passed the half-way point of the year? We are considerably behind in our giving, in comparison to our expenses... about $60,000 behind. The good news is that all the bills are paid. The challenging news is that in order to do this, we have drained a lot of our savings. It is our intention to replenish them during the upcoming fall and winter months of higher attendance and larger offerings. (We have to do this each year due to the fact that the summer months of low attendance result in less giving.) However, we are significantly behind in comparison to other years. This means several things:

- We are carefully monitoring expenditures. So far, our staff has done a wonderful job of carefully stewardship of our resources.
- We are looking hard at the budget to delay or cut certain expenditures.
- We are planning “Take A Step to Give” Stewardship Campaign in October to help us all examine whether or not God is calling us to take a step of giving.
- We continue to encourage people to sign up to give through our online GraceLink whether they are in church or not. Believe it or not…online giving makes a huge difference! If you’re interested in learning more, please call the church office!

But the reality is this: in our 2016 Operational Budget we significantly increased our staffing needs. At the time, we felt God was calling us to grow the spiritual opportunities for adults and youth. It was easy then to vote to pass the budget. Now the hard work has begun...

Pray for our staff, leadership and the “Take a Step to Give” Team as we face the challenge and spiritual growth the Lord desires to bring.

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

2 Corinthians 8:7
Two Seminars about the Aging Process Offered

Two seminars will be offered this fall at Grace, providing an opportunity to dialogue about critical questions that arise during the aging process. Watching a parent age is deeply personal. In fact, getting older ourselves isn’t always the easiest experience. The emotions of the process can overwhelm even the strongest individual. So both of these seminars will provide valuable information and encouragement to begin family conversations so we are better prepared for the future. You and your family and friends are invited to attend one, or both, of these free seminars this fall at Grace.

**Family Aging Education**
**Tuesday, Sept. 27 6:30 – 8 pm**
As my parents’ age, what could we do today to prepare for their safety & security in the future? We are concerned about Dad’s financial future, but how do we begin that conversation? How do I suggest to Mom that she may be safer in Assisted Living? How can we address legal questions now, rather than later, so it doesn’t tear our family apart?

The Family Aging Education Seminar will offer resources for families to help guide conversations surrounding the concerns that arise with the aging-process - issues such as housing, safety, personal care, financial and legal issues. Steve Griffiths, Director of Impact Services in Anoka County, will present this seminar in hopes of bridging the gap between adult children and parents who may be hesitant to dialogue about the aging process. You won’t gain all the answers at this seminar, but you will gain ideas about how to begin the conversations – with your parents and with your children! This seminar is free to the public, and there will be a time for questions throughout the evening.

**Wills, Trusts, & Estate Planning:**
**Everything You Need to Know**
**Tuesday, Oct. 11, 6:30 – 8 pm**
When I pass away, what happens to my assets? Who makes financial decisions for me if I am incapacitated? How are medical decisions made if I can no longer communicate with my doctors? How do I keep my cabin in the family?

If you are looking for the answers to any of these questions, this seminar is for you. The seminar will cover the topics of wills, trusts, health care directives, powers of attorney, probate, and estate taxes, just to name a few. The seminar is taught by Steve Helseth, a licensed attorney in Anoka, practicing in the areas of estate planning and probate. Steve presents the seminar in a way that people can understand and addresses issues that people care about. Join us for this free seminar and invite a friend or family member who may also benefit from learning about these important topics. There will also be time for questions from the audience.

**A Realife Vet Honored**
Florence Knutson presented a handmade lap quilt to Dick LaFleur in appreciation for his service to his country in WWII and for being such a good Realife neighbor in our Co-op. Dick has donated his talents in keeping Florence’s sewing machine in tip top shape over the years whenever she requests his help. Florence is also part of a quilting group at Grace Lutheran Church in Andover that has been making quilts for Veterans homes, Shriners Hospital, Alexander House and other non-profit organizations.
**Women’s Ministries**

**W.O.W. (Women on Wednesday)**
Women of all ages come and have your cup filled with God’s Love as we study God’s word and encourage one another! Childcare provided for a minimal fee.
W.O.W. begins Sept. 14, 9:30 to 11:15 am and continues each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.

**Monday Night Women’s Group**
Fellowship group and Bible study, meets Mondays starting Sept. 12, 7 – 8:30 pm at Grace

**Ruth Circle Bible Study**
meets with Pastor Steve on the second Wednesday of each month, 12:30 – 2 pm at Grace

**Mugs & Muffins & More**

**Women’s Fellowship Event**
Saturday, October 1st, 9:30 – 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall
You bring a favorite MUG, we’ll bake the MUFFINS and together we’ll enjoy MORE fun & fellowship! This is a casual, relaxing time for ladies to sip a morning beverage from a MUG, to simply savor a tasty MUFFIN, and to thoroughly enjoy MORE time and space to grow in faith and friendships here at Grace.

**Women’s Winter Retreat Jan. 27-29, 2017**
Yes, a real ‘get-away-from-it-all’ retreat so your spirit may be recharged and refreshed! Mark your calendars for this two-night women’s retreat at Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, Wisconsin.

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**Thank You**

♦ Thank you all so much for all the thoughts, cards and prayers you have sent to us after the tragic death of our grandson, Mason. They have all given comfort to us. Please continue to keep us, our son & his family in your prayers. It means so much to us to know that we have a strong & faithful church family praying for us.

Love and peace always ~ Garry & Polly Hanson

♦ I offer my most sincere Thank You to the fine people of Grace Lutheran Church! I wasn’t sure how to write you or how I’d be able to accept your gift. I’ve lived a very easy and privileged life up to now. Never facing much adversity nor ever being hurt. Even as I write you now, my injury is of little consequence. One thing I have learned is how giving people are. Whether it is friends or strangers, people have been so kind. I feel so grateful and yet a little embarrassed. I tried to maintain this tougher personality and it has been good for me to be humbled. I guess that’s sort of what I’m writing about – though this experience with your help, and others I’ve learned not to be so narrow minded and to be more open. I’m much more positive and I’m starting to believe in people. Thank you for your gift of a Noisy Offering after I was injured. ~ Joel Noren

♦ Thank you for your recent contribution to Family Promise of Anoka County. It is only through your generous, continued support that we are able to help our neighbors in Anoka County who are temporarily experiencing homelessness.

♦ Thank you so very much for your kind monetary donation from your Noisy Offering. Your love and support allows us to provide a home, hope and healing for our Veteran’s. May God Bless Grace ~ The Eagle’s Healing Nest

♦ While I know that “it takes a village” is a phrase we all hear often, I can’t think of a better way to describe HOPE 4 Youth and the amazing people, like you, that keep our doors open for the 30-40 homeless youth we see each day. Thank you for your generous donation of $422.29 for HOPE 4 Youth on 7/11/16 on behalf of the Ruth Circle and VBS donations. ~ Lisa Jacobson, Executive Director, HOPE 4 Youth

Men’s Ministry Fantasy Football League
“Are you ready for some football?” The draft is on Tuesday, September 6th. Last season, the Men’s Ministry at Grace had 14 participants in a fantasy football league and raised $280. We would love more teams this season! To participate, contact Nic Brunsting by September 4th. ndbrunsting@gmail.com

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For more information about these women’s events at Grace Lutheran Church, please contact Jeannie Hellmann
Grace Lutheran Church
13655 Round Lake Blvd NW. Andover, MN 55304
A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!
www.graceandover.org

Address Service Requested

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Begins Rally Weekend
September 10 & 11
Saturday ~ 5:00 PM
Sunday ~ 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

NEW MEMBERS CONNECT CLASS
September 25th at 8:30 AM
Interested in becoming a member of Grace?
Want to learn more about the ministry areas we serve?
Want to meet others who are new to Grace?
Join us for a light breakfast and fellowship!

“GRAB 2”
All-church effort to support 2 needs in our community.
1-Envelope - provide safe housing for homeless youth
1-Sticky Note - provide school supplies for Sand Creek
Find all “GRAB 2” needs on the chalkboards in the Narthex. Bring donations and school supplies back to Grace by September 4th.
See the weekend bulletins for more details.