

# grace notes

The newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

Summer...a time of vacations! Summer...a time to relax! Summer...a time to slow down and enjoy family, friends and the great outdoors.

Yet...summer is also a time to enjoy a different type of connection with God and his people. Traveling in the great outdoors gives many opportunities to see the beauty of God's creation and celebrate his goodness in the warmth and sun of summer! Most of all, summer's slower pace gives us the opportunity to worship together as families and spend the whole day focusing on the goodness of God!

During the months of July and August, our worship services will focus on two unique and different books of the Bible: The Letter of First John and the Book of Ruth. These two books were especially chosen as part of the Narrative Lectionary Summer Focus in order to help us cover all the major books of the Bible in four years.

As part of our summer worship experience, we offer a Sunday morning **Children's Worship Bible Time** during sermons as a way to help our children connect with God on their own level. Each week the children will focus on one of the Ten Commandments.

## Worship Series:

### LIGHT WALKERS – First John

July 12/13	Tangible Love	I John 1:1-4
July 19/20	Active Love	I John 1:5-2:2
July 26/27	Sin Separates and Love Unites	I John 4:1-6
August 2/3	God Loves Us First	I John 4:7-21



August 9/10 **JAILHOUSE ROCK – Special Children's Musical about Paul, Silas and Peter**

### FROM BITTERNESS TO BLESSEDNESS – The Book of Ruth

August 16/17	Community	Ruth 1:1-22
August 23/24	The Tenderness of Compassion	Ruth 2:1-23
August 30/31	Implicit versus Explicit Activity	Ruth 3:1-18

Please join us as you are able! If you can't make it, please take time to connect with us on our website. ([www.graceandover.org](http://www.graceandover.org)) Each week the sermon is available to download and listen! In addition we will continue to offer daily devotions for you to journey with us, no matter where your summer takes you!

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## Pastor Mark's Remarks:



### Thankfulness for Grace Community

It's so easy to take things and people for granted until something happens, and then you realize once more just how blessed you are!

This happened to Jeannie and me when we got the phone call that our daughter Laura had been in a motorcycle accident in Sioux Falls. This terrible event, with all the ups and downs of parents trying to help their child recover from such an ordeal, was also the source of a great out-pouring of concern, support, encouragement, and love from our church. The end result... Jeannie and I realized once again just how blessed we are by the Grace community!

The two-week stay in Sioux Falls as we waited for Laura's surgery to be scheduled seemed long! There wasn't a lot to do between trips to the hospital or the waiting period at the hotel. Let's just say, we became very familiar with the labyrinth of hallways in the Sanford Medical Center and the local Walmart!!

During this time, as well as when we came home, the out-pouring of phone calls, emails, cards, gifts, visits and delicious meals overwhelmed us! Each of these gifts became visible reminders of the heart-felt care our brothers and sisters at Grace have for us! But that's not the only thing we felt... it was the sense that people were praying for us that meant the most to us! We could feel the great strength of our Christian community surrounding us. It was as if the prayers became the invisible gentle arms of Jesus holding us up when we needed it most.

Since we have come back to church, we find the concerns and care have not stopped. Seldom do we walk into the building that someone doesn't ask us about Laura or how we're doing. The continued concern for Laura, and for us, amazes us. What a place of "grace"!

This whole experience has filled us with gratitude for our Christian community. It reminds me of several Bible verses:

- If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. 1 Corinthians 12:26
- Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2
- Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. James 5:13 -15

It seems to me the power and strength of a church is not always obvious during the worship services, nor measured through attendance and offering figures, nor counted in the number of programs and ministries. No, I believe the power and strength of a church is best seen by how people care, support, and love one another. Didn't Jesus say something about this: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another?"

Once again I am filled with a deep gratitude for this place of Grace! Oftentimes, it's easy to take our Christian community for granted. Sometimes, I forget what the Spirit is doing, unseen among us all. But then something like Laura's accident happens and I realize anew what a gift God has given us. And I am literally filled with thanks!

On behalf of Jeannie, Laura and the rest of my family... our heart-felt THANKS to you!

In Him,

Pastor Mark

## Vision Board Reflections



As I reflect upon my first year on the Vision Board, I am filled with excitement, encouragement, and a deep sense of gratitude. I am excited to think about where we've been and where the Holy Spirit will take us in the years to come. I am encouraged by the willingness of the faith-filled people here at Grace to reach out beyond our walls and serve. Most of all I am grateful to God for what He is doing in the hearts of the people of Grace. One certainly doesn't have to look very far to see the amazing work of the Holy Spirit in our church.

As I drive on Bunker Lake Blvd past the church, I see building materials and I am reminded of the vast generosity of the people at Grace who have contributed, and continue to contribute to our Free 2B Grace Fund. It is because of this generosity that we have been able to make some much needed repairs to our building, including a new roof as well as repairs to the brick siding. As I write this, much of the roofing is finished except for a few areas where additional repairs are needed. We have also consistently made an extra mortgage payment each month in an effort to reduce our debt so that we are well-positioned to focus on mission opportunities. Praise God!

On the weekend of May 3rd and 4th, we celebrated the many community and international outreach ministries here at Grace. In each of the services, we heard from several people in our congregation involved in the ministries of Family Promise, Feed My Starving Children, the quilting ministry, the prayer shawl ministry, and our Haiti teams. The amazing stories of transformation shared by those who presented that weekend are inspiring and a testament to the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. In the book of John, chapter 13 verse 14, after Jesus washed his disciples' feet, he told them, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." Jesus taught his disciples that following Him meant serving others. We are doing that! We are serving those struggling in our community and abroad by simply making ourselves available to help and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead the way. Praise God!

On May 18, we confirmed 41 members of our youth. We celebrate how the Holy Spirit has stirred up in each of these young people a desire to be confirmed and take this important next step in their faith journey. Praise God!

We spent nine months out of this past year seeking God's guidance through our Holy Conversations discussions around a challenging and sensitive topic, and we did it with the utmost grace and respect. How wonderful that we are a church that can have differing views on a topic and yet remain respectful and polite. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. Praise God!

At our May Annual Meeting we said good-bye to three of our Vision Board members, whose terms were up: Mary Jo Andrusko, Pat Walters & Lori Ackerson, and welcomed three

new members, Greg Ackerson, Jessie Crooks & Bernard McDowell. Please join us in praying for those leaving the Vision Board and for those who are just beginning to serve on the Vision Board. Please also join us in saying thanks to Lori Ackerson, Pat Walters, and Mary Jo Andrusko for their selfless gift of service for the past three years.

As you can see, we have plenty of reasons to celebrate. Thanks be to God for His unwavering grace and love for us and for continuing to equip us to do His work!

Blessings,  
Tari Yates

## Youth Ministry this Summer!



### Middle School and High School students!

Join us every **Wednesday night, 6:30-8:00 in the Youth Room for the Summer Dojo**. Connect with your friends and with God all summer as we play games, worship, study the Bible, pray, and eat together.

### Invite your friends!

### College Age Bible Study on Tuesday Nights

If you are between the ages of 18-25 and would like to meet new people and engage in thought provoking conversation about God, the Bible, and life, then join us at Pastor Steve's house on Tuesday nights all summer long. 6:00-8:00, dinner included. For directions, contact Pastor Steve: [stevet@graceandover.org](mailto:stevet@graceandover.org) or text to: 763-227-7936.

### Pray for Both of Our Youth Mission Trips

One group of students went to Puerto Rico June 21-28. The second group goes the Thunder Bay, Ontario on July 19-26. Pray for their safety and ministry.

Visit the youth website for all the details:  
[www.graceandoveryouth.com](http://www.graceandoveryouth.com)

Or follow us on Twitter @GLCAnderYouth



**Thank you, God, for SENDING us!**

From the many testimonies given in worship on May 3 and 4, we caught a glimpse of God using each of us as His instruments, both locally and globally, to be a ‘ministry of grace in the heart of Andover... and beyond!’ Thank you God, for teaching us . . . and thank you God, for sending us!

And thank you, people of Grace, for the countless ways (truly, countless ways) that you are serving in outreach ministries . . .

- From the 100 dutiful volunteers who serve locally with Family Promise to rebuild a foundation of hope for families experiencing homelessness --- to the 23 courageous people who travelled to Haiti to build homes as well as relationships --- to those who helped with Habitat in June. .
- From the boisterous food packers at Feed My Starving Children --- to the quiet, sincere servants at funeral lunches at Grace . . .
- From the 1700 pounds of food donated to local food shelves during Lent --- to the \$1700 sent to Uganda for Nutritional farming initiatives . . .
- From the devoted knitters and sewers in Prayer Shawl and Grace Quilters ministry --- to the dedicated cooks and servers with Family Table Meal and Our Savior’s Shelter ministries . . .
- From the newly formed Hope 4 Youth team of volunteers to the dependable servants with May All Be Fed Food Shelf.
- From the crazy Catechism nights of rolling bandages for Global Health Ministries --- to the faithful volunteers who help at Sand Creek School through our Faith & Community Partnership.

**And together we say . . . Thank you, God, for SENDING us!**

With love and thankfulness for each of you,  
Jeannie Hellmann

*(FYI – the Lenten Noisy Offerings of \$1700 was sent to support Nutritional Farming Initiative in Rakai, Uganda... and here is a grateful email we received. When we get photos & future updates, we will share them with you also. Thanks again to the Grace family for your generosity! Jeannie Hellmann)*

**To the People of Grace Lutheran Church –**

Praise God! I hope spring has finally arrived in Minnesota. It was a long winter season and so you should enjoy spring. I wish spring can also extend for long time, like winter did!

Please know that we received the funds for the Nutritional Farming Project. We will begin the process of selecting the households to be involved and educating the farmers as we get ready for the next planting season.

We send our HUGE THANK YOU to the Grace Lutheran Church community. We will keep you updated. May God bless every body!

Kind regards,

Richard Richie Mutaawe  
Administrative/Sponsorship Director  
Rakai Orphans Development Initiative (RODI)



**THANK YOU** to all the people of Grace for your generosity during our **Lenten Outreach projects** of nourishing God’s people, both locally and globally.

- **Locally** - Over 1700 pounds of food were collected! We donated food to ACBC Food Shelf, restocked our ‘May All Be Fed’ food shelf at Grace, and delivered Easter food baskets to Sand Creek Elementary School.
- **Globally** - Over \$1,700 from Noisy Offerings during Lent will help farmers gather seeds, tools and education through Nutritional Farming Initiatives in Uganda, Africa, through RODI (Rakai Orphans Development Initiative).

Your gifts and donations are true expressions of God’s grace in this world!

**THANK YOU** all for being “a ministry of grace in the heart of Andover...and beyond!”

**Check Out our Online  
Calendar of Events at  
[www.graceandover.org](http://www.graceandover.org)**





## SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES to share God's grace

Summer is a time for vacation – and we hope you truly enjoy your vacation times of relaxing and reconnecting with family and friends this summer. But most of us aren't on vacation the entire summer, so here's some ways that we may continue to be a 'ministry of grace in the heart of Andover,' even in the midst of these vacation months. Won't you consider one of these serving opportunities?!

FMSC	Pack meals at Feed My Starving Children on Thursday July 31, from 12 - 2pm and/or from 6-7:30 pm
FAMILY TABLE	Help cook & serve a dinner on Sunday: July 20 or Aug.17
OUR SAVIOR'S	Prepare & serve dinner on Monday: July 7, Aug. 4, or Sept. 1
QUILTERS	Join the fun every Wednesday morning from 9 am to noon at Grace
PRAYER SHAWL	Knit or crochet lap blankets for ill or home-bound people

For more information, please contact Jeannie Hellmann [jeannieh@graceandover.org](mailto:jeannieh@graceandover.org), 421-6520, ext 122

## The Grace Property Team is looking for "a few good men".

The Grace Property Team is a group of men from Grace who get together once a month on a Thursday morning to do some much needed light maintenance inside the church and out on the church grounds. The list varies every month.

No specific skills are necessary to be a part of this very vital Ministry Team, just a willing heart and a desire to help maintain this building that God made possible for us. They generally have a sweet treat and a cup of coffee or two as well.

If this is something that you are willing to be a part of, please contact the church office at 763-421-6520 or email Alden Riley at [aldenandjudy@comcast.net](mailto:aldenandjudy@comcast.net) or Kris Miller at [krism@graceandover.org](mailto:krism@graceandover.org) for more details, or sign up on the blue opportunity sheets inserted in the weekly bulletins.

Thanks so much. "Many hands make light work".

## Men's Ministry Golfing Event!!!



July 11th at the Ponds Golf Course in St. Francis!!

Mark your calendars for our next Men's Ministry event. Here are the details:

- We have 10 consecutive tee times at The Ponds in St. Francis on Friday, July 11. Tee times begin at 1:06 PM, every 7-8 minutes, with the last tee time at 2:27PM.
- We will play as a 4-man scramble, meaning we take the best shot of the 4 players. The winning team will not actually receive anything of value, but will earn some valuable bragging rights.
- Total cost to play is \$50.00. This includes 18 holes, cart, tax, and a way to raise some money for a ministry at Grace! If we can fill all 40 spots, we could earn \$500 through this fun event.
- The Ponds has a clubhouse where we can gather for lunch prior to playing, or afterwards to discuss our great golf shots

If you're interested, please sign up on a blue Opportunities Sheet in the bulletins, call the church office (763-421-6520) or email Mike SchAAF.



## Hearts at Home Conference for Moms!

Want to understand what makes your child tick?

Need a little "Mom" inspiration?

Just need to get away?

Then plan to attend the 'LOVE YOUR LIFE' Hearts at Home Conference in Rochester, MN Nov. 7/8, 2014.

This Hearts at Home conference offers Christian support and inspiration for moms of all ages and in all seasons of mothering.

When you come to a Hearts at Home conference, the time is for YOU (not for the kids, but they will benefit too J)! You'll feel refreshed by the laughter, the uplifting music and the honest sharing of many moms! During the conference weekend, you'll attend workshops that encourage you in whatever season of motherhood you're in. You'll hear speakers who have knowledge to help you through the long days. You'll meet other moms who will encourage you in this ministry of being "mom." And you'll pick up resources that give you insight and inspiration for the years ahead.

Details and registration information available at [www.HeartsatHome.org](http://www.HeartsatHome.org), or please contact Jeannie Hellmann, [jeannieh@graceandover.org](mailto:jeannieh@graceandover.org) 763 421-6520, ext. 122

# Children's Ministry this Summer!



- Nursery
- SONday School
- Rockin' Kids Bible Club
- Volunteers

Thank you to all the amazing adults and youth who served in Children's Ministry this year. You make a huge difference in the lives of families here at Grace Lutheran Church. Your commitment to share God's Word and God's Love with the children is planting seeds that will last a lifetime!



## July Baptism Workshop

Baptism is an important step in the life of a family. A Baptism Workshop will be offered on Saturday, July 12, at 9 a.m. for parents who would like to have their child baptized here at Grace. 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 will be offered in September. Please contact Monica Allen at [monicaa@graceandover.org](mailto:monicaa@graceandover.org) or the church office to sign up for the workshop.



## SONday School Birthday Chicks

This year, our offering total for Birthdays is **\$140!** This is enough to buy 7 flocks of chicks through Heifer International. A flock is between 10 – 50 chicks. Did you know a good hen can lay 200 eggs a year? Our gift through

Heifer International will "provide eggs and protein for nourishment, boost income through sales of extra eggs and offspring, and ensure security for generations through passing on the gift.

## Nursery

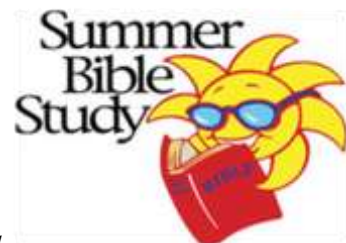
We now have pagers in the Nursery. When you bring your child to the nursery, you will receive a pager that will allow our nursery staff to contact you if your child should need you for comfort or a diaper change. When in worship, your pager will lightly vibrate and you will know it is time to check in on your child. We hope this will make your morning in worship and your child's experience in the nursery, a pleasant one.



**SUMMER NURSERY** will be offered at all worship services. Our summer nursery is staffed by signing up week by week. Signup sheets are in the nursery or outside the Fellowship Hall. This is a great way to get service hours for our youth, and families often enjoy serving together. Please contact Monica Allen: [monicaa@graceandover.org](mailto:monicaa@graceandover.org); or Kim DeVries: [kimd@graceandover.org](mailto:kimd@graceandover.org).

## Children's Summer Worship Bible Time

While we enjoy the sunny days of summer, it is also an opportunity to worship with the children of Grace. For the Sunday morning services at 8:30 and 10 a.m., we offer a *Special Summer Bible Time*. Children will be in church with their families, come forward for the Children's Message with the pastors, and then they will be dismissed for a lesson in the Fellowship Hall. Children will return to worship after the Sermon. We will explore the 10 Commandments this summer.



We need many enthusiastic, willing hearts and hands to help with this adventure. Materials and ideas will be provided to help you prepare for the 15 minutes with the children. A signup sheet is outside the Fellowship Hall. See Monica Allen, [monicaa@graceandover.org](mailto:monicaa@graceandover.org) or Kim DeVries [kimd@graceandover.org](mailto:kimd@graceandover.org) if you have questions.

## Summer Musical Camp - Monday, August 4 – Sunday, August 10



Our Summer 2014 musical is **Jailhouse Rock!** Our musical will be set at Camp Koinonia when a sudden storm threatens to take the fun out of camp. Kids are stuck in the Mess Hall where they learn about the experiences of Paul, Silas and Peter and the power of praise and prayer.

Kids entering Grade 3 in the fall, and older are invited to be a part of this great week! Musical camp is a 7 day Adventure. We will practice every weekday from 9-12:30 p.m., have dress rehearsal on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> and share our musical in 3 worship services, Saturday, August, 9 at 5 p.m. and Sunday August 10 at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. The cost to participate is \$50 per child with a \$90 family max. Registration fees include, book, CD, t-shirt, and field trip. Registration form is available on-line. Please contact Monica Allen with any questions. [monicaa@graceandover.org](mailto:monicaa@graceandover.org). Registrations received after July 13, will need to

include an additional fee of \$20 to cover the cost of special ordering materials.



# Grace Lutheran Church

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## **Summer Worship Times:**

Saturday 5:00pm | Sunday 8:30am(traditional) & 10:00am(contemporary)

