



{on the corner of Fourth and Main}

grace lutheran church

come . grow . serve



Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic Sunday, June 20, 10 am

Worship will be held at the
Sibley Park Gazebo
(located near the Pavilion)
followed by

a picnic lunch in the Pavilion.

All are welcome!

Optional: Bring a dessert or side dish to share!

*** We encourage you to bring your own chairs**

**Lunch: free-will donations will
be happily received**



The Connections Ministry Season
has ended.

Big Thanks to all of the volunteers and
contributors —We couldn't do it without
you! Connections will be back in the Fall.

Staying Connected

- ◆ **Facebook.** See www.facebook.com/gracemankatoelca at 9:55 a.m. Sundays for the worship service.
- ◆ **YouTube.** Watch the worship service. Find a link on our website homepage.
- ◆ **Television.** On KTV, Public Access Television for the Mankato Area. Consolidated 7 or 507 (HD)/Spectrum 181 on Tues 1 p.m. & Wed. 7:15 p.m.
- ◆ **Radio.** Listen to the worship service at 10 am on KTOE-AM 1420 or ktoe.com.
- ◆ **By Phone.** Sometimes the most simple thing we can do is just pick up the phone and call people to say hello and find out how they are doing. (The Grace Office phone number is 507-345-4248.)
- ◆ **In the Sanctuary.** The sanctuary space is open for worship. All Covid rules will still apply if you are joining us in-person. Masks will need to be worn and physical distancing will need to be observed.



We still have a couple small plots and
a couple stand-up plots if people are
interested.

June 2021
MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

Sunday Worship at 9:55 am

9:55 am in person and on
Facebook

Tuesdays

9:30 am Music with Mr. Ben
1:30 pm Prayer Grp (HR)

Thursdays

7 pm ZOOM Bible Study

June 7-11

Vacation Bible School

June 13-18

Middle & High School Ser-
vice Trip

June 20

Church Picnic at Sibley Park

July 9-14

Adult Boundary Waters Trip

Organ Concert Series

At Grace

12:10-1pm

June 8

Tom Andrews

June 15

Chad Winterfeldt

June 22

David Fienen

WORSHIP BROADCASTS

Radio

KTOE 1420AM on Sunday 10 am

Television

Consolidated 7(507)/Spectrum 181
Tues 1 p.m. & Wed. 7:15 p.m.

COVID Office Hours

M - Th 10 am - 5 p.m.
Friday 10 am - Noon

Office Phone
507.345.4248



From Rev. John Odegard

Friends of Grace,

Things are getting better all the time, and with the warm weather comes the opportunity to see new life thriving all around. In conjunction with this emergence of new life, comes the news that our nation is in a better place concerning the Covid-10 pandemic and restrictions are beginning to loosen. This is great news, and it feels good to know we may be on the path to normalcy again.

In consideration of the new CDC guidelines and those from the MDH, our council has changed our policies moving forward, and they will continue to be revised each month. Effective May 23 through June 27th our policies are as follows:

- We will continue to wear masks during worship, but we will now fully embrace congregational singing. The CDC and MDH both explicitly state that congregational singing is allowed, and while masking guidelines vary, it seems prudent to continue masking as we re-introduce this part of worship and people become more comfortable worshipping together again. We had our largest

attendance this past week, and hope to see that continue. For at least a little while, this seems like an easy way instill confidence in all of our members that the safety and care of our neighbors and most vulnerable members is vital to our identity as Christians. Since CDC guidelines only allow fully vaccinated persons to be unmasked, this also removes the burden of enforcing those rules from church staff during our busiest times.

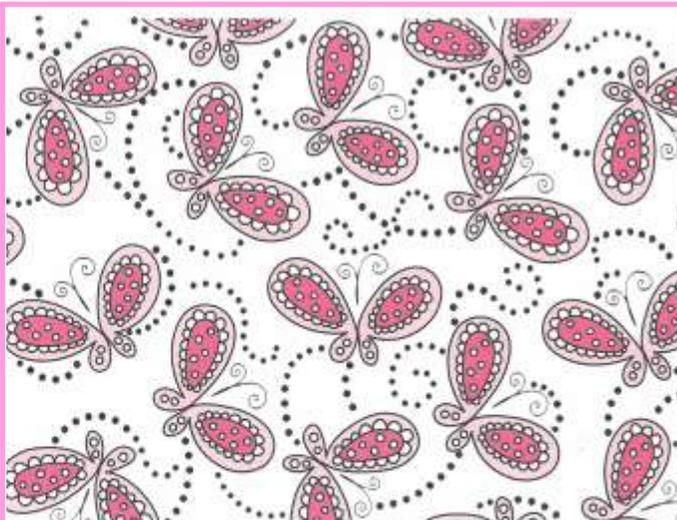
- At all other times, those who are fully vaccinated are welcome in the building without a mask. Per CDC guidelines, we ask that if you are not vaccinated you continue to wear a mask indoors.
- Groups meeting in the building can decide to allow vaccinated members to be unmasked, or may require all to mask as they see fit, but at all times must follow CDC guidelines.

We hope that this small relaxing of some of our policies will help us adjust to changes gracefully, and appreciate everyone's cooperation as we continue to do our best to love one another. As I said before, these policies may relax even further after our next council meeting on June 27th, if conditions allow.

Thank you all for being so helpful in all of these transitions, it is a joy to pastor here and serve God's mission through Grace alongside you.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. John Odegard



To my dear Grace friends
Thank-you for your
cards on our "50th"
wedding anniversary. We
enjoyed reading each card.
Thank-you from Don & Pam
Sandland



**From
Ben Geer
Director of
Spiritual Growth**

Dear Grace Family

I wrote in a recent "Staying Connected" newsletter that I finally feel it is safe to put away the snow shovel. I am always hesitant thinking we are always due for that one last late snowstorm. I just cannot believe that we are ready to turn the corner and everything will become green again. I am certain I am not the only Minnesotan that feels this way. Sure enough, the days get longer the sun gets hotter and out of nowhere it seems summer is here.

Sunday May 23rd we celebrated the start of Pentecost. Pentecost, the longest of the church seasons. It may not have the same appeal as Advent, Lent or Easter but there is something about it. When you cannot quite put your finger on it, it just may be the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit really does present itself this time of year. Acts 2:2 says, "And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting." Like a violent wind or mighty that is used in some translations sure seems to be what this summer seems to coming in like.

I am so excited for what is going on this summer here

at Grace. June 7th we invite once again students to participate in our Summer Vacation Bible School. I cannot wait for the joyous sounds of kids to fill the hallways of Grace and to play games, eat lunch together and help them grow that deeper connection with God (The "Kind of Me")

The following week on June 13th Myself along with another adult leader will accompany 11 youth to Duluth for our Summer 2021 Service Trip. We will spend six days together in fellowship as we serve the community of Duluth and spend time in fellowship. We will all be staying together at First Lutheran Church in Duluth and doing service with The Lincoln Park Children and Family Collaborative. I am excited to see the youth come together with the common goal of service. We will be sure to have a bit of fun this summer as well.

In July 13 of us, adults will be heading up to the Boundary Waters Canoe area for a few days of paddling around, hiking, sleeping and of course cooking out meals in the wilderness of God's great north woods. We will also spend time in devotion as we look at some of the ways we pause and ponder as we portage our way through this crazy life we live.

The Spirit is alive here at Grace. The flame is burning bright.

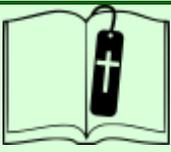
It is going to be a great summer

Peace,

Ben Geer



**2021 Youth Summer Service Trip
North Shore MN
June 13th - 18th**



Thursday's Zoom Bible Study at 7 PM

Zoom Meeting ID: #857 5766 8823 Meeting Passcode: grace

We continue to meet every Thursday evening at 7:00 over zoom for our weekly bible study. We're always looking for more people to join. Most weeks will be led by Ben but other weeks the study will be led by another Grace member. The study is on Daily Faith Practices and the Bible Study material is provided by the ELCA. Each week we will spend some time chatting and sharing some highlights and lowlights from our week as we fellowship. Following that we will spend time diving into a study each week. All the studies can be viewed ahead of time and can be found online at gracemankato.org/adultbiblestudy. We will also have a few weeks of the studies shared in the weekly online newsletter. So you can look ahead to help guide discussion. Each week we will gather over zoom for about an hour. If you need help connecting to Zoom or would like email and text reminders about the study, you can reach out to Ben and he'd be glad to help you out.

We hope you will consider joining us for this time of bible study and fellowship. All are Welcome whether you have joined us in the past or not.

We hope to see you soon! -Ben Geer

Upcoming Studies

June 3rd.

Life in the Spirit
Romans 8:12-17

June 10th.

Don't Lose Heart!
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

June 17th

No Zoom Bible Study this week.
Ben on Service trip in Duluth with the Youth



2021 Vacation Bible School - June 7th – 11th

We are planning an in-person Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer. We will be holding here at Grace the week after schools get out the week of June 9th. The theme for the week is "King of Me." We will explore some of the characters from the Old Testament and how God is bigger than some of the obstacles that were put in their way and how God is the kind of all those things. When we feel alone God is with us. This week will be full of fun worship, crafts and activities as well. **This will be fully run by Grace so we will be looking for volunteers to help during the week.** If you have time available or an older child at home that you want to get out of the house to help please let Ben know (DSG@gracemankato.org) and he'd love to have some help. He will take help during the days with programing, food, childcare before and after or even planning the VBS if you are feel very adventurous.

All kids are welcomed to attend. They do not have to be a member of Grace

Children ages Kindergarten - 6th Grade are invited.

Programing will run from 8:30 - 3:00 Monday - Thursday and 8:30 - noon on Friday. Early drop off and late pick up will be available for families that need it.

Meals will be provided Monday - Thursday

Suggested Donation of \$35 to cover cost of food and craft supplies

CONGRATULATIONS 2021 GRADUATES

Sunday, May 23 Grace celebrated Senior Sunday during worship. The High School graduating class of 2021 received a quilt made by our Grace quilters and some received the Grace Lutheran Church Servanthood Award.



Emily Spieker, William Gronewald, Wyatt Block, Brandon McLean, Anna Bauer, Julia Domas



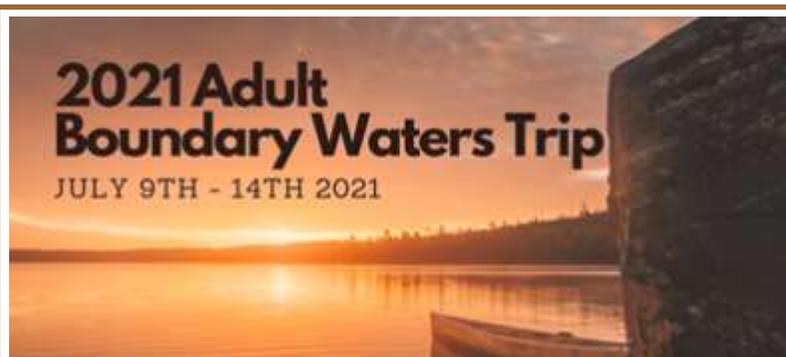


BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO OUR June BIRTHDAY PEOPLE!



Grant Peterson	06/01	Hailie Joerg	06/12	Konnie Pierson	06/24
Teresa Kvitek	06/02	Sharon Lind	06/12	Kathleen Varva	06/25
Kinzey Anderson	06/03	Bill Anderson	06/13	Colton Baka	06/26
Amanda Rollins	06/04	Bruce Freeberg	06/14	Daniel Wolf	06/26
Charlotte Pugh	06/04	Lynette LeDuc	06/18	Dianne Osborne	06/26
Jennifer Westberg	06/04	Karen Neubert	06/20	Viola Pierson	06/26
Kelly Smetana	06/04	Sharon Goettl	06/20	Delphine Hoogenraad	06/27
Michael Johnson	06/04	Colton Mann	06/21	Rebecca Clausen	06/27
Guy Schultz	06/05	Doris Peterson	06/21	Jordan Elias	06/28
Raymond Worden	06/06	Evan Mann	06/21	Gene Horning	06/29
Michael Sjostrom	06/07	Gene Wagner	06/21	Deb Long	06/29
Nicole Griensewic	06/07	Lowell Reedstrom	06/21	Betsy Geer	07/01
Rita Trauger	06/07	Mackenzie Jewison	06/21	Randall Wempen	07/01
Earl Gildemeister	06/08	Jeffrey Stauffer	06/23	Carson Stock	07/02
Linsey Wolf	06/08	Madison Joerg	06/23	Barbara Tyson	07/03
Nathan Silva	06/09	Nicole Flowers	06/23	Susan Buzick	07/03
Brian Flowers	06/11	Shelly Nelson	06/23		

Scheduled in July



We will spend four days and three nights in the BWCA. We will be entering in through entry point 64, which is on East Bearskin Lake. During the trip, there will be time for fellowship, hiking, exploring, fishing, checking out waterfalls, and much, much more fun and excitement.



Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

is now located near the heat register as you walk into the narthex we need to ask the question: **Is anybody here trained in CPR & AED?** Please Let Joan in the church office know. (345-4248)



Caregiver Support Groups

Caregiving can be challenging and isolating. Gain insights and encouragement from other caregivers by joining a Caregiver Support Group facilitated by VINE Faith in Action staff. Call Joyce at (507) 386-5583.

FROM THE FAIR TRADE CART...

(located downstairs just outside of the narthex)

Coffee - Tea - Chocolate - Olive Oil - Spices

Fair Trade Chairperson: Audrey von Holt

All fair trade/organic coffee: \$7 a bag

Sister's Blend Ground Coffee &

Toffee Caramel flavored coffee are back!!



Individual Coffee packets

(makes 10-12 cups) : 60¢ each

All tea: \$3

Large Chocolate Bars : \$2.50 each

Grace Lutheran Church Women GLCW Board Meeting

The board meets the first Monday each month at 10 am. Next meeting date: September 6

GLCW Unit Meetings:

All Grace Church women are invited to join a unit.

It is a time for: Bible study, a short business meeting, and warm fellowship.

No meetings in June, July, or August.

Communion Available

You can now bring communion home with you.

Pre-consecrated elements are available at the church. You can stop in to pick it up and bring home to have during service on Sunday morning.

If you can't make it in let us know and we can bring it to you and drop off during the week. If you'd like, you can make your own communion bread at home. Check out the link below for a great recipe. <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/09/reader-recipe-communion-bread/>



Financial Monthly Summary

2021	Ministry Operating Budget		Mortgage*	
	Month	YTD	Payment	Balance
Jan	6,839.00	6,839.00	693.24	395,587.26
Feb	54,942.00	61,781.00	695.73	394,891.53
Mar	(37.00)	61,744.00	857.22	394,034.31
Apr	(11,292.00)	50,452.00	702.53	393,331.78
May				
Jun				

* **Note:** The mortgage payments are being paid out of the Building Renovation Fund.



Our Address is:
Grace Lutheran Church
110 N 4th St.
Mankato, MN 56001

Office Email addresses:

Rev. John Odegard...pastor@gracemankato.org
 Ben Geer.....dsg@gracemankato.org
 Rich Krause.....parish@gracemankato.org
 Joan Hertel.....office@gracemankato.org



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Mankato, MN 56001

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Permit No. 136

Address service requested:



Through God's Abundant Love, We Live and Work to Serve Others



We are a community of faith...

- Gathering in God's Love
- Celebrating God's Presence through Life Events
- Caring for God's People
- Deeply Rooted
- Valuing Life-long Learning

gracemankato.org

 [Grace Lutheran Church ELCA](#)

 pinterest.com/gracemankato

***Articles for Next Newsletter are Due
Wednesday, June 23***