

The 2024 Olympics - What is a Christian to Do?

I did not watch the Opening Ceremony of the 2024 Olympics, but I certainly heard and read all about it. I was not watching when Italian female boxer Angela Carini (whose DNA boasts XX sex chromosomes) abandoned her Olympic bout after taking a punch from the male Algerian boxer Imane Khelif (whose DNA displays XY sex chromosomes), but I certainly heard and read all about that, too. The Olympics are meant to be a unifying event where individuals and cultures celebrate the uniqueness of people from around the world, demonstrate good sportsmanship as they compete fairly with one another, and set aside what divides for the sake of what unifies. These games have seen athletes achieve remarkable feats, they have had great moments of beauty and sportsmanship, but the goal of unifying cultures has been covered up by a thick cloud of division.

For the Christian, the big question that rises to the surface is how to faithfully respond in a Christ-like manner to any circumstance that might present itself in a world that is corrupted by the Fall and full of sinners (including you and me). To be clear, a world corrupted by the Fall and full of sinners is going to present many problems. Romans 1 puts the depth of the Fall about as clearly as possible: *"¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things."*

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²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen."

Given what we know about the world in its fallen state, it should not be a surprise when the world worships the created things rather than the creator. Nonetheless, when we see it firsthand, with our own eyes, it truly is startling. There was much back and forth regarding the opening ceremony, with many different opinions and viewpoints. Was it intentionally mocking the Last Supper? Was it based on the work of Dutch painter Jan van Bijlert, "Feast of the Gods" (a painting that depicts Greek gods in a moment of revelry)? Or could it be possible that the difficulty to decipher was intentional, and the scene was a deliberate mash-up of the two? Those boxing matches where biological males are punching females, is that good right and salutary? NO! Did it happen? It sure did.

What is a Christian to do? If I had a son, daughter, or anyone I knew competing in the Olympics, do you know what I would tell them? I would tell them to speak the truth about Christ. Speak the truth about your fallen nature and your redemption. Speak the truth of God's love that is so great that He can take the vilest heart and turn it toward Him. Much of the conversation regarding the opening ceremony circled around whether it was intentionally offensive or not. If it was intentionally offensive, then it would by nature be hypocritical as well – a vice that is for some reason the worst in the eyes of pagans and secularists.

When we take the bait and get offended, we communicate Christ from a place of weakness instead of strength. The strength of knowing who you are in Jesus is that you can be the subject of offensive mockery and at the same time not be offended. To be offended you must put your self-worth and identity in the hands of human beings. When you have been baptized and are a beloved child of God, it is irresponsible to put your self-worth and identity in the hands of those who worship the created rather than the creator. Your self-worth and your identity is found in who God made you in your baptism. When you know this, yes, you protect your children from secular and pagan celebrations of sin. But at the same time, there is no need to be offended in the face of offensive behavior. Their mocking doesn't count for anything. And being offended by it only serves to restrict your faithful witnessing.

That's why if I knew a Christian Olympian, I would tell them not to speak of the Opening Ceremony. I would tell them to speak of Christ and what He has accomplished for them.

In Christ,

Pastor Russ



"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him and the son of man that you care for him?"

-Psalm 8:1,4

Wow, what a month it has been! God is so good. These last few months have been absolutely surreal, and I find myself often taken aback with all of the things God is doing. I'm reminded of David's words in Psalm 8. What is man that our heavenly Father is mindful of us and that he cares for us? I encourage you to take some time and reflect on how our God knows, tends, and cares for us all.

Thank you to everyone who helped welcome me to Huntsville and for the warm welcome given to all of my family and friends who came for the ordination service. Most of my family has never been to Alabama before, and they were just as surprised as I was when I first visited at the amount of trees here! They had a wonderful time, and they loved getting to see Huntsville and worship with everyone here at Grace. Many of you have told me how special of a day it was to celebrate God's work in his church, and I couldn't agree more. It is such an honor to serve Grace as a pastor. O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

These first several weeks have been very exciting. My very first pastoral act was to help Pastor Russ move his books over to the new office, and since then I've also helped move bookshelves, basketball hoops, and seemingly everything in between. They don't teach us about that at seminary! I had so much fun preaching for my first Sunday; preaching is one of my greatest joys in life. It was an honor to serve in the victory service for Betty Jane Walker. And it's been such a joy to celebrate the Lord's Supper with you. Another surreal moment from these first weeks came during Communion. It's truly amazing to be here. What is man that you are mindful of him?

I've been settling in well. I'm proud to say that all of the boxes have disappeared from my apartment. The office transition has gone well too; stop by sometime to say hi! Nearly all of the art has made it on the walls. I'm open to all sorts of suggestions for activities to do, places to see, and food to eat, so keep those suggestions coming. As I continue learning about life in Huntsville and all of you lovely people here at Grace, please keep introducing yourself to me. It is immensely helpful, and I'm working hard to learn names!

It is such a blessing to be here, and it so exciting to see what God is doing in this place. A professor of mine, Dale Meyer, likes to say, “It’s a great time to be the church!” And he’s absolutely right. What a phenomenal time to be the church. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

-Pastor Andrew



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

August 2024 Edition

It is hard to believe that summer is over and Back to School preparations are underway!



This summer, Grace's Summer Camp had 92 campers who attended for all or part of the summer. They explored a variety of topics, such as Nature Week, Olympics Week, STEAM Week, and Space Week, going on a field trip every week. They had water days and even a foam party. The camp staff worked very hard to make sure that the kids had a great summer!

Saturday, July 27th was a busy day on the Grace campus. Over 20 volunteers donated their time, energy, and sweat to get the school ready for the start of the school year. Books were delivered to classrooms, landscaping was cleaned up, walls, tables, and chairs were cleaned, and a large hole was dug for the new basketball hoop pier in the playground. In addition, Luke Everleth led a crew of scouts for his Eagle Scout project as they added pavers to support the gaga pit door and built new benches for the athletic field. Thank you so much to everyone who helped!

Rocket City SGO – In July, Grace Lutheran School was the site of Rocket City SGO's 2nd annual Back to School Bash. Scholarship families and the public were invited to the Bash, where they received backpacks and school supplies. In addition, RCSGO schools, including Grace, hosted tables with games and activities for the children. Grace is receiving over **\$70,000** in SGO scholarships for our students this year. Thank you to everyone who has donated to Rocket City to help support our students!

Staffing Needs: The school is still looking for someone willing to work in our **aftercare program** from **3:00 PM – 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday**. We are also looking for additional substitutes. Interested individuals can apply through the Grace website or by contacting the school office. Please help to spread the word!

School starts on **Monday, August 5th!** Please pray for this school year – pray for the staff as they serve the Lord sharing the Good News. Pray for the students that they have a good year and are ready to learn and grow. Pray for their families that God will bless them. And pray for the Principal Call Committee as they seek the candidate that God has chosen to come to Grace.

God's Blessings,

Delaine Schiestel

CDC HAPPENINGS

August 2024 Edition

A new school year is here and we are so excited! The CDC is growing and we can't wait to welcome all our new students and their families to our Grace family! We feel like this school year will be our best yet for the CDC and our ministry as a whole!

Over the summer, the CDC staff worked very hard to make every room move happen. We moved our classrooms, offices, and even created a few new spaces. We poured into the CDC children and made sure that the remainder of our school year was truly meaningful to our Grace families. We had lots of fun in the sun and water and many class parties were had. As the summer came to an end, we redecorated and prepared each room and space for this new school year.

Looking ahead: In August, the CDC will be learning and adjusting to a fresh new school year. The teachers will be learning all about their new students and the students will be learning all about their new teachers, friends, and routine. As we learn and adjust, our focus will be on Jesus! We are trusting the Lord to guide our footsteps and open our hearts to each child in our care. Please join us in prayer for blessings over the CDC ministry.

Thanks be to God!

Jessica McGuire

SERVANT EVENT RECAP



High School Youth Servant Event

At the end of June, we took 4 of our high school girls to Camp Linn Haven in North Carolina for a week to serve the community there. We joined together with 8 other churches and 120 youth to make this week possible. During the week, we served by hosting a VBS for a foster care facility with about 70 kids, assisting in projects on 3 different houses for Habitat for Humanity, and providing an activity day for an adult care facility. Thank you for your support of the youth so that we can have the opportunity to serve.

GROW - BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

August 2024 Edition



Bible Studies Topics – August 2024

Sunday Morning Children and Youth

- Infant—Pre-K (Church Nursery) – Creation and Covenant
- K—4th (Genesis Room) – Creation and Covenant
- 5th and 6th Grade (School Library) – Bible Characters: Jesus
- Confirmation (Room 106) – Sacraments
- High School (Youth Room) – Culture Conversations

Sunday Morning Communities

- Quarter Life Questers (Room 107) - Topical Studies
- Figuring It Out (Room 203) – Topical Studies
- Balancing Act (School Band Room) – Mere Christianity
- Tug of War (Room 204) – Digitized: Spiritual Implications of Technology
- Discovering Together (Room 209) – Fruit of the Holy Spirit

Sunday Morning Bible Studies

- In Search of the Apostles (Cafeteria)
- Is Genesis History? (Spanish/Math Room)
- Bible for Non-Native English Speakers (Room 113) – Proverbs

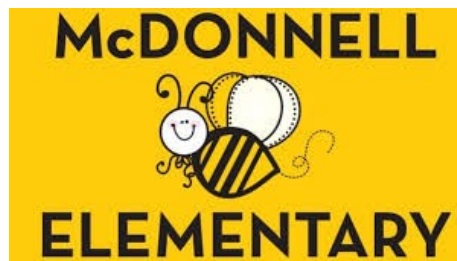
Bible Studies During the Week

- Digging Deeper (Wednesday at 6:30 PM in the Assembly Room) – End Times
- Women’s Bible Study (Monday at 1:00 PM in the Church Library) – Justification and Sanctification by Good News Magazine
- Women’s Bible Study (Tuesday at 9:30 AM in the Church Library) – Our Hope and Future by Donna Snow
- Men’s Bible Study (2nd Saturday at 7:30 AM in the School Cafeteria) – Guardrails by Andy Stanley
- Ladies of Grace Circles (3rd Tuesday at 9:30 AM in the Church Library and Choir Room) - Topic Varies

OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

August 2024 Edition

WORSHIP | GROW | ENGAGE is our discipleship focus. Disciple making is a process that needs ongoing attention. Jesus commands us to make disciples. We are EACH to be disciple-makers. Are you keeping your eyes and ears open to opportunities to build connections with someone in your neighborhood/community and be ready to share your faith story? Share your story of what Jesus has done and continues to do for you! Feel free to invite them to worship with you on Sunday!



Grace Gatherings Recap

Thank you for your support in donating school supplies and other items for McDonnell Elementary last month. On Wednesday, three carloads of bags/boxes were delivered to the school, and they were very appreciative. Look for information on our next gathering later in the fall!



OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

August 2024 Edition



LOCAL MISSION ENGAGE CONNECTIONS

Grace Lutheran has developed a relationship with **McDonnell Elementary School** (4010 Binderton Place, Huntsville, AL 35805). We have been advocates for the school and open to responding to needs as they are shared with us. We are still stocking their Little Library with children's books. The library has been moved nearer to the school building as it was knocked down twice recently. **We have a need for children's books, activity books, and basic school supplies.** You can support this project by contributing gently used children's books or providing such items as commercially wrapped individual snacks (examples: Cheez-It crackers, Lance sandwich crackers, Rice Krispy or granola bars). Books and school supplies along with food supplies may be placed in the chest in the church narthex. Thanks for your generous support as you respond in the love of Jesus.



First Stop encounters the homeless where they are, connects them to critical services and support, and empowers them toward independent sustainable living. So far this year, the First Stop team has successfully assisted 53 individuals from homelessness to independent, sustainable living. These are 53 people who are no longer living on the street but are sleeping in the safety and comfort of their own homes.

First Stop relies on volunteer support to provide hot meals twice a day at the temporary facility location – 2820 Governors Drive.

Volunteer Tips for providing meals:

- Meals should serve 80-100 people. Prepare food for 80 people! **3-4 servers** are needed to serve the meal.
- Provide food that is already prepared and only needs to be heated. No cooking, please.
- We serve Breakfast and Lunch, Monday through Friday. Breakfast meals are to delivered to **First Stop** by 7:45 AM and lunch meals by no later than 11:15 AM.
- Breakfast is served from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM.
- Lunch is served from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

For more information, **contact Karen Davidson!**



OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

August 2024 Edition

ACTS Ministry



ACTS (Actively Caring, Tenderly Serving) Ministry has been redefined. We have a new email address which is **ACTS@gracelutheran-hsv.org** that can be used to volunteer to support **ACTS** activities or to request specific help/support. Please respond to let us know how you desire to participate and help this ministry on an occasional basis.

We now have five coordinators in place to support the ACTS Ministry via Grace Lutheran:

- **Pam Lowe** (Hospitality - Meal trains, potlucks, etc.)
- **Mairlyn Johnson** (Cards - Those ill or recovering/birthdays, etc.)
- **Donna Behnken** (Visits/Calls - Friendly calls, friendly visits)
- **Bill Duncan** (Transportation - Pickups and appointments)
- **Rusty Graves** (House/Yard Work - Technology help, lawn, repairs)

If you know of someone who can benefit, or if you have a particular need for yourself, let us know the need by calling the church office. Call and ask for extension **347** to leave your message. If calling after hours, please select option 7 and you can leave a voicemail.

Volunteer Support:

- Sending cards to homebound and those on our care list.
- Checking in by phone with individuals on our care list.
- Visiting those in need, primarily our homebound.
- Providing meals - Case by case, but normally for an illness or coping with a health condition.
- Errand/driving support - Pick up a prescription or groceries, take someone to a medical appointment.
- Helping someone with a technology equipment issue.
- Miscellaneous - Mowing a yard, shrubbery care, cleaning up a kitchen, or whatever a family member might need.

Help Request:

- I would appreciate a friendly visit.
- I have a need for meals.
- I need help with someone to pick up items (i.e. groceries or prescription).
- I need help to get to a medical appointment.
- I need help with upkeep of my lawn/shrubbery.
- I need help with technology use and equipment.
- I need help with a repair in my home (list): _____

It is our intent to share needs as they arise with the ACTS Ministry volunteers. You choose which activity you want to respond to and help!

Please join us in prayer as together we seek to care to serve one another sharing the love of Jesus!

CONNECT CARD – You are encouraged to invite a friend, neighbor, or work colleague to visit our church's website at www.gracelutheran-hsv.org and complete a **CONNECT CARD**. The link is located on the lower part of the homepage. Persons completing the **CONNECT CARD** are added to our MailChimp list and receive the weekly e-mail from Pastor Russ with a link to our livestream worship service.

Serving Persons Via Facebook: Visit the **Grace Lutheran Ministries — Church & School** page on Facebook. Go to the page and “**LIKE**” the page (in the top section at the bottom left side of the cover page — not below the posted comment). Liking the Grace Lutheran page helps us to get information to your Facebook account!

CONNECTION GROUPS

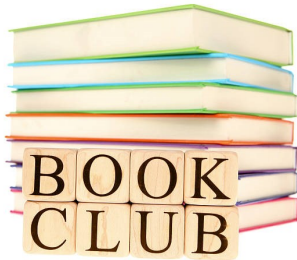
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ARE YOU CONNECTED?

Connection Groups (formerly called interest groups) are a means of “building bridges” to connect with others (unchurched or dechurched) in your neighborhood or our community. It’s about building a group around a similar interest (hobby, craft, fun activity, sport, or just about anything else under the sun). The goal is to help connect persons to Christ, the church, and the community. Dream the possibilities and then explore the opportunity to set up a group that meets at least on a bi-weekly basis. Of course, you can choose to take breaks in the schedule as needed for holidays/summer vacation, etc. Grace Lutheran’s vision is to grow in being passionate servants. Organizing or leading a connection group is a means of being a passionate servant. Have you ever thought that you can be instrumental in connecting others around interests as a means of serving God?

Want to start your own group? Contact Kathryn Bradshaw or the church office. Not in a group? We encourage you to join one of our existing groups.

Here is a listing of the current Connection Groups (Continued on next page)



The Christian Book Club meets in the Genesis Room at 10:00 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, August 14th**, and we will be discussing *The Boys in the Boat* (Nine Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics) by Daniel James Brown. Our next read is *Mildred Budge in Embankment* by Daphne Simpkins. If interested in attending, contact Karen Crout or the Church Office with any questions.

*Can't come to the Book Club? Books from our reading selections are also available in the church library. When you enter the library, go to the bookcase on the opposite wall (to the left of the window). You will find the books on the bottom two shelves. There is a sign indicating that these are Book Club books. **Feel free to take any of the books!***

The Sew 'n Sews meet on Mondays from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM in the Genesis Room. ***Please note the remainder of our summer schedule: August 5 & 19. Our weekly meetings will resume on September 9.***

We plan to make lap-sized quilts and pillowcases for a local nursing home facility, fleece quilts and hats for the homeless, and knitted hats for the cancer center.

Come and join us! Contact Harriett Kicklighter or the church office for more information.



CONNECTION GROUPS (PAGE 2)

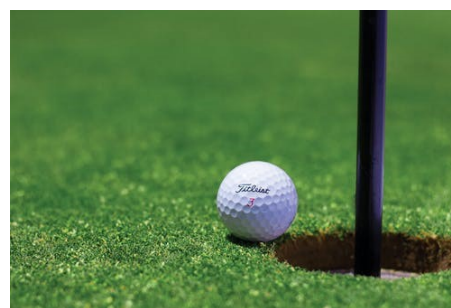
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A Bridge Group meets once a month on the 4th Thursday except in November and December (meeting instead on the 3rd Thursday). This is party bridge – just for fun and friendship. If interested, contact Mary Jane Reumann or the church office for more information.

Friday Afternoon Golf is organized by Dennis Sierk and Phil Nelson. Time and place: The par 3 course at Hampton Cove every Friday afternoon. For more information, contact Dennis or Phil. Please note the following rules:

1. No score keeping.
2. If you don't like your shot, take another one.
3. If you don't like your lie, move it.
4. Refreshments in the clubhouse, afterward.



LADIES OF GRACE CIRCLES (LOG)

Meet monthly for Fellowship & Bible Study,
For more information:

CHARITY - Pam Lowe

FAITH - Betsy Scott

HOPE - Karen Crout

PEACE - Pam Stieglitz

SAINTS ALIVE

August 2024 Edition

Saints Alive is an adult organization within Grace Lutheran Ministries. The group is open to Grace Lutheran members and their friends. The organization hosts two activities each month on the first and third Wednesdays. These activities are designed for fellowship, education, and lunch. Some of the activities involve nearby travel using the church/school bus or by cars. Other activities are held at the church involving speakers on various topics. Descriptions of the activities are placed in the Sunday bulletin, and sign-up sheets are posted in the church narthex. All who have an interest in the various activities are encouraged to join us. Sign-up is needed by the Sunday prior to the activity.

The fall plans for Saints Alive are underway. The group has plans for presentations here in Huntsville and on the road.



On **August 7th** the group will be going to Decatur to visit the 1905 fully restored **Decatur Union Depot**. The depot was Alabama Main Street's 2015-2016 Historical Preservation Project of the Year for Public Buildings. There are many original artifacts, and for the rail fan this is a "Double Hot Spot" for train watching. See a model train layout plus numerous rare model trains. They have a small theater room with railroad videos. It is free to the public. Lunch will be in Decatur at **609 Social Restaurant**. The church bus will leave Grace at **8:45 AM**. We will stop at the Cracker Barrel in Madison for those who will get on the bus there. Sign up for the trip in the narthex by **August 4th**.

On **August 21st** the Saints Alive will visit the new **Huntsville City Hall**. The new building has a lot of artwork on display which will be the highlight of the trip. That trip will be on August 21st. The tour begins at **10:00 AM**. The bus will leave Grace at **9:40 AM**. Following the tour the group will eat lunch at **Walton's Southern Table**. Watch the narthex for the sign-up sheet on August 11th.



On **September 4th**, the group will tour **Alabama A&M University's Agricultural Research Station** in Hazel Green. More information will be coming in the weeks ahead.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

August 2024 Edition



Vertically Challenged

By Merle Trich

I recently found myself standing in the grocery store with the last item on my list located on the top shelf, just out of my reach. In my attempt to use my pencil to extend my reach, I pushed the item further away. It must have looked quite amusing to the others around me as I then attempted to boost myself on the back of the cart. Okay...I need this item, so as a last resort, I have to ask for help. As I survey my surroundings for someone to help me, I see others as short as me, probably admiring my efforts. Finally, a tall young man rounds the corner! Should I ask him or wait for him to see my struggle, hoping he will offer help? I put my pride aside and hesitantly asked for his assistance, and he quickly reached the item and gave it to me. I thanked him profusely as I made fun of my challenges reaching items in the grocery store. It's almost like they don't want short people to buy certain items!

No matter your height, we all face situations where solutions seem out of reach. At times, our pride gets in the way of asking for help. God wants us to come to him and ask for help in our difficult times. He will provide for us! His provision will be in his time and through his people. Our "tall" God is there when we are reaching for a solution or comfort. NOTHING is out of the reach of our God, our "helper and protector."

When things in life are just out of our reach and we struggle to "look up," God is there to help our vertically challenged faith. Through His people, he will provide. It was humbling for me to have to ask for help in the grocery store, and in life's struggles, it can be even more difficult to admit we need help. In 2 Corinthians 12:9 we are reminded, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Lord, give me the wisdom to know when I need help, and the humility to ask and accept it when it's offered. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Stephen Ministers are available to help. A Stephen Minister will be "present" to reflect and listen as you seek God's grace and strength in your life. If you feel such a need, or you have any questions about Stephen Ministry at Grace, please contact Judy Zecher or Pastor Russ, to discuss your questions or desire to be assigned a Stephen Minister.

May God strengthen our Stephen Ministers as they serve and pray for members of our congregation and the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 2024 Edition

Grow Gala

Want to learn more about our upcoming Grow Opportunities? On **August 4th**, during the Sunday School time, we will host a Grow Gala, where you can visit with the leaders and experience a taste of the different studies. Fellowship and food will be plentiful! Come learn about our Weekly Bible Studies, Sunday Morning Bible Studies, Sunday Morning Communities, and Small Groups. Then on the following **Sunday, August 11th**, we will kick off our Fall Bible Studies. Click [here](#) to see a listing of the many opportunities to grow in your faith!



Confirmation Information Meeting

Parents and students in 7th and 8th grade are invited to attend the beginning of the year informational meeting for Confirmation **August 4th at 9:30 AM** in the **3rd grade classroom**, during the first rotation of the Grow Gala. We will provide an overview of the Confirmation program and walk through what is expected for each of our students. Confirmation classes begin next **Sunday, August 11th**.

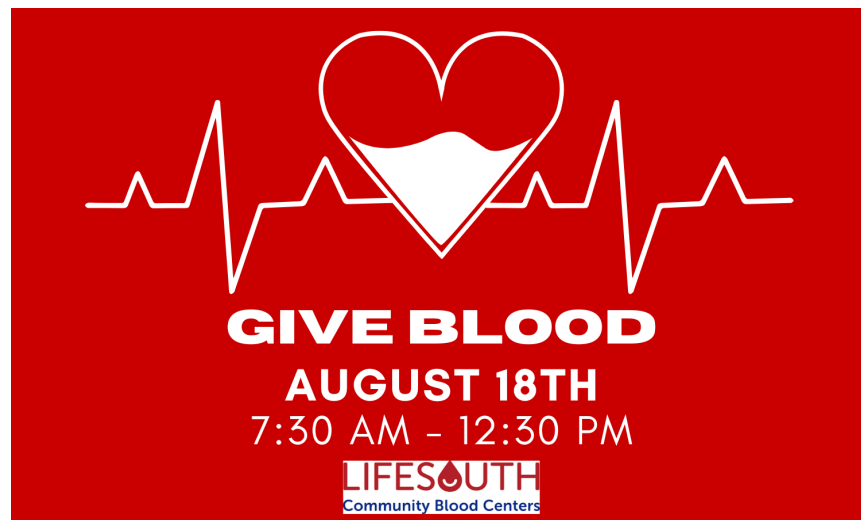


Prayers for the Upcoming School Year

On Monday we will begin a new school year at Grace Lutheran School, and those in the local public districts began their year on Thursday. Join us as we pray for all teachers, that they may have success in their instruction of the minds and hearts of all those in their classroom, and for the students to grow in their knowledge and love for learning. Please also pray for our Grace students and their families, that they may be blessed by the Christian education they receive here, and that the Gospel message may take root in their lives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 2024 Edition



Upcoming Blood Drive

Grace Lutheran hosts the LifeSouth Bloodmobile several times a year, and often has a great turnout to support the hospitals in our local community. Our next blood drive will be **Sunday, August 18th** from **7:30 AM - 12:30 PM**. All donors will receive a \$20 E-Gift Card. Sign up [here](#) or by visiting the Grace Lutheran website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 2024 Edition



National Youth Gathering Information Meeting

Every three years, the LCMS Youth join together for the National Youth Gathering. Next summer, we will head to New Orleans on **July 19-23**. In preparation for this event, we need to start planning now. We will hold an information meeting **Sunday, August 18th at 6:00 PM** in the Youth Room. We will go over many of the details of the trip and how the Youth Gathering works, including dates, costs, hotels, travel info, and fundraising. All youth currently in grades 8 - 12 are welcome to attend. The registration deadline will be **October 15th**.



Digging Deeper

What does the New Testament say will happen in the End Times? While we often go to Revelation, we will begin with what Jesus tells us in the Gospels. After getting a clearer picture, we will then jump into Revelation to learn about the awe-inspiring person of Jesus, God's sovereignty in the world, and the glory that will await us in the future. Join Jen Roettjer on Wednesday evenings, beginning on **August 21st, from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM** in the Assembly Room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 2024 Edition



Upcoming Discovering Grace Class

Are you thinking about membership at Grace Lutheran or seeking to grow in your discipleship of Jesus? Discovering Grace is a class that is designed for those wanting to learn more about our Church, School, and CDC, and learn more about our discipleship process – WORSHIP | GROW | ENGAGE. The next class will meet **Saturday, August 24th** from **9:00 AM - 12:00 PM** and on **Sunday, August 25th** during the Sunday School/Bible Class hour from **9:30 AM - 10:30 AM**. Register [here](#) or on the Grace Lutheran website.



Church Directory Pictures

Has your family grown since the last time we took pictures? Did you miss out on taking pictures for the church directory? Would you like to retake your picture? On **Sunday, August 25th**, we will be taking pictures from **9:00 AM - 10:45 AM** in the gym. Stop by any time for your family and individual photos. Don't forget to smile!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 2024 Edition



Upcoming Women's Retreat

What does it look like to be gentle, yet remaining strong, in a culture that seems to be consumed with harshness? Jen Roettjer will lead the women in a Bible study looking at the lives of four women in the Bible who had the choice to act with gentleness in a difficult situation. Spread throughout the day, we will also take time to enjoy several relaxation activities. Join us on **Saturday, September 7th** at **The Vision on Bailey Cove**.

Check-in begins at **8:30 AM** with a light breakfast bar. The retreat will run from **9:00 AM** until **2:30 PM**. Cost is **\$20** and includes lunch. Chair massages will be available for an additional \$10, must be signed up for in advance, and are on a first come, first served basis. Register by **September 1st** [here](#) or on the church website.



GraceLand Capital Campaign Update

Thank you to all who have been supporting the GraceLand Capital Campaign since it began in April. During July we collected approximately **\$17,000.00**, which brings the total collected for the campaign through the end of July to almost **\$170,000.00**! The more of the principal of our loan that we pay down during this period puts us in a better position to begin executing the stages of the Master Plan, which the committee will be working on in the months ahead. You can give online or by check with GraceLand Capital Campaign or GCCin the memo line.

Grace Lutheran Church & School

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Fax: 256-881-0563
E-mail: secretary@gracelutheran-hsv.org

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Sundays

8:00 AM

Blended Worship

1st & 2nd Sundays of the Month

Traditional Worship

3rd & 4th Sundays of the Month

10:45 AM

Contemporary Worship

Every Sunday

Communion

8:00 AM 1st & 3rd Sunday

10:45 AM 2nd & 4th Sunday

Check Us Out Online!

www.gracelutheran-hsv.org

STAFF & LAY LEADERSHIP

STAFF

Pastor.....Pastor Russ Gipson
Associate Pastor.....Pastor Andrew Frerichs
Principal Delaine Schiestel
CDC Director Jessica McGuire
Director of Christian Education Jen Roettjer
Business Manager..... Laura Muelling
Properties Manager..... Jack Hengel
Event & Facility Coordinator..... Pam Lowe
Office Manager Kristin Haycock
Receptionist.....Laura Ohme

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Vice ChairBrian Steeve
Financial/Secretary Nancy Kiser
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Member at Large June Kalange
Member at LargeTony Luchner
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Mike Banzhoff	im Hartmann
Dick Bradshaw	Jordan Haycock
Kyle Britton	Scott Jagger
Craig Camealy	Kevin Pedersen
Jason Cuny	Dexter McClure
Mike Ellis	Tom Naatz

Grace 
LUTHERAN