

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1120 17th street South, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

Office Phone: (218) 233-1857 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Church E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com

Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Pastor: Taylor Johnson

Pastor's E-mail Address: graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com

Parsonage Phone: (218) 422-6586

Vol. 35 No. 7

July 2025

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

GREETINGS:

20 years ago I went on my first mission trip to St. Louis, MO with nine other youth from my home church. Over the week we had the opportunity to serve at a number of different locations, meet so many lovely people, and I developed a lifelong love for mission trips. Since then I've travelled to 13 different states, another country, on fifteen different trips as a participant or leader. In the coming weeks, Grace Youth will be traveling to Denver, CO for a week of service, friendship, and growth. We will be working with several organizations who serve the community through food distribution, meals, support, and shelter. While there, we will also have some time for fun and connection with nature through hiking and other activities. Updates will be made available on our Facebook page each and every day!

For me, mission trips became a key part of my engagement in church, and even my calling to ministry. I'm grateful that I had opportunities to go on these trips, a big part being that I was at a church who not only offered it, but supported it. Thank you for being a church that offers and supports this opportunity for our students. Your ongoing commitment to the growth and development of young followers of Jesus to transform the world is evident and will continue to be vital as we live into our mission of being the church of the neighborhood. As I recall my own memories of trips I've taken, I want to encourage you to take a moment and consider what formative experiences you've had in your life. Who was there? What did you learn about yourself? What did you learn

about God? Why is it important to you still today? I'd love to hear about them in a note, conversation, or over coffee sometime!

I want to invite you to be in prayer for the participants of this trip. Not only that things would go smoothly, but that they might learn something about themselves, their peers, and those they're serving, and they might learn more about God. I've learned that on these trips there will be eye opening experiences, soul wrenching stories that cause us to question where there is justice, and heartwarming moments that reassure us of God's deep, abiding love for us. These moments won't be forced, but will certainly be available when we're attentive.

Cora
Elliot
Elloise
Emma
Jalynn
Jason
Michael
Oscar
Stephanie
Taylor



Mission Trip

Perhaps you're thinking, "I sure wish there was one more small thing I could do to show love and support for those going on this trip," well you're in luck! We've got several long days of travel since we're driving. If you're willing to make some treats for our road trip, we would greatly appreciate it. Please bring those to the church office by Thursday, July 10th.

Pastor Taylor



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

Pat Walter (Elim)
Don Walter (Pioneer House)
Will Wehrman (Eventide-Fargo)
Shirley Mohr (Serenity)
Luann Larson (River Pointe)

PRAYER LIST at home

Wally Walseth Linda Gibson
Kay Heidrich



July Birthdays

2—C. Ladwig
5—S. Hamm
7—S. Anderson
8—B. Chandler
9—G. Anderson
11—C. Maurer
15—M. Hanna
18—C. Burkhardt
20—J. Enkers
S. Martin
21—S. Fangsrud
24—S. Burkhardt
26—R. Ward
30—G. Hamm



July 3—D. & P. Walter
6—M. & B. Eisen
12—T. & G. Anderson
13—D. & A. Maag
22—T. & K. Johnson
27—J. & J. Eide
R. & P. Murray
28—L. & P. Horner



GAMES AND S'MORES

Join us for a time to connect with old and new friends alike, coming up on Wednesday, July 23rd from 6-7:30 pm. We'll have all the fixings for s'mores, lawn games set up and more. This event will be BYOC (bring your own chair). This event is for everyone, so be sure to invite your friends and family!

OMNIPRESENT

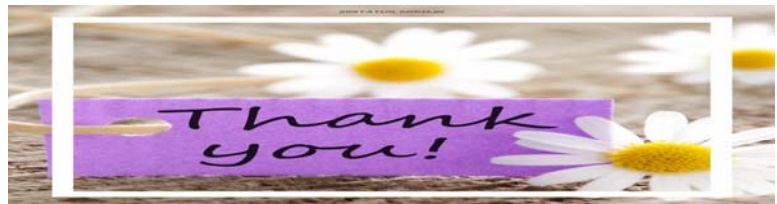
We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with him. He walks everywhere incognito. And the incognito is not always hard to penetrate. The real labor is trying to remember. To attend—in fact to come awake. Still more, to remain awake.—C.S. Lewis

DONUTS



Homemade Buttermilk Donuts will be made on July 2nd, July 16th and July 30th, for \$10.00 a dozen. Please place your orders by using the sign up sheet on the table in the Connection Center, calling the office, 218-233-1857 or on the website:

www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.



A big thank you to the Youth, Women of Grace and the many members for their very generous donations to the building roof repair fund.

A big thank you also to S. Simmons and L. Possehl for the lawn mowing, weeding and trimming in making and keeping the church yard beautiful.

WORSHIP AT GRACE

10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICES are livestreamed on Facebook and on the website: graceumcmoorhead.org

Offerings may be mailed to Grace UMC, 1120 17th Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560

Online giving available through Givelify! Go to graceumcmoorhead.org/give and click the button to make your one time or recurring gift.

LET'S START DREAMING LIKE THEY DID IN 1775

Del Larson, CLM

The other day someone mentioned to me that it's already the Fourth of July coming up. Where does the summer go? It's that time of year again as it's my family's turn to plan our annual Kohler-Larson family reunion. It's time to celebrate America's birthday. I saw a post on Facebook the other day that said we needed to act like Americans especially this Fourth of July. With all that's happening within our country and the world right now, it's time we take a step back to see how our world is changing and what we as Christians can do to share our love of Christ?

Our country was founded on Christian principles. We are one nation under God, indivisible, but yet we are so divided, and becoming more divided each year. Our founding fathers wanted to make George Washington king of our new country. George changed that plan by not accepting that role, but encouraged having a leader elected by the people, and not by blood of a king. Many other countries have followed that same path, going from a Monarchy to a Democracy, over the past two and a half centuries.

What has happened to God in our country? Prayer once opened most gatherings. There were more churches than saloons. According to the Library of Congress, 75-80 percent of the people in the early 1800s attended church.

Church was the center of the community. Festivals, community picnics, bake sales for projects were very popular, and included more than just Sunday services. With the sales of televisions on the rise in the early 1960s, the Vietnam War that divided us as a nation, and psychotic drugs coming on the scene, church attendance dropped dramatically.

Christianity is the fastest declining of all religions. Today, only about 35 percent claim to be Christian, but less than 20 percent attend church regularly. Churches are adapting and changing

to bring more people into the sanctuary. I believe, we need to do everything we can to support our church youth and youth programming as they are our future. Many of our older members were a part of the Grace Youth group. I remember when our kids were in youth group, there was a meal each Wednesday night. Schools had no activities after 6:00PM. Many great experiences were held. I positively agree that our church is on the right track, but the obstacles for all ages are bigger and more complex now than 20 years ago. Our youth will be going on a mission trip to Colorado this summer. That brings back those trips of long ago. What can we do as a church to bring in more families, and especially young people?



I remember a boy about 10 years ago, who wanted to be "A Man of Grace." He wanted to do things that he saw the Men of Grace doing, like working on the facility, serving, and reading. Pastor Roger invited him to read scripture, men worked with him and his family to clean outside, he helped with projects until his parents divorced and left the church. Now we have youth helping with the offering. Another writes a wonderful youth message in the newsletter. Unfortunately, it seems our working together on church projects seems to have withered some because of Covid.

We need to celebrate youth, share in their dreams and support the goals of what both the adults and especially the youth want to see to make this church continue to prosper. Give the youth opportunities so that we not only keep building Grace Church, but build God's loving children that will eventually become not only members, but leaders of our church or another. We need people to recognize and support our youth and let them know we care about them. Have you personally recognized any of the youth by talking or writing to them? Imagine our youth of today sitting in our church 20 years from now with their families telling the wonderful message of Grace Church. What are your dreams for Grace?

Grace United Methodist

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm AA	2 6:00 am Donut Making	3	4 HOLIDAY Office Closed	5
6 10:00 am Worship w/Communion	7	8 7:00 pm AA	9	10	11	12 Youth Leave for Denver Mission Trip
13 10:00 am Worship	14 YOUTH	15 7:00 pm AA MISSION	16 6:00 am Donut Making TRIP	17	18	19 #
20 10:00 am Worship	21 6:30 pm Leadership Team	22 7:00 pm AA	23 6:00 pm Games and S'mores	24	25	26
27 10:00 am Worship	28	29 7:00 pm AA	30 6:00 am Donut Making	31		

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Jul 1	am: 131, 132, 133, pm: 134, 135	1 Sam 13:5-18	Acts 8:26-40	Luke 23:13-25
Jul 2	am: 140, 142. pm: 141, 143	1 Sam 13:19-14:15	Acts 9:1-9	Luke 23:26-31
Jul 3	am: 137, 144, pm: 104	1 Sam 14:16-30	Acts 9:10-19a	Luke 23:32-43
Jul 4	am: 146, 147, pm: 111, 112, 113	1 Sam 14:36-45	Rom 5:1-11	Matt 22:1-14
Jul 5	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	1 Sam 15:1-3, 7-23	Acts 9:19b-31	Luke 23:44-56
Jul 6	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	1 Sam 15:24-35	Acts 9:32-43	Luke 23:56-24:11
Jul 7	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	1 Sam 16:1-13	Acts 10:1-6	Luke 24:12-35
Jul 8	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	1 Sam 16:14-17:11	Acts 10:17-33	Luke 24:36-53
Jul 9	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	1 Sam 17:17-30	Acts 10:34-48	Mark 1:1-13
Jul 10	am: 20, 21, pm: 110, 116, 117	1 Sam 17:31-49	Acts 11:1-18	Mark 1:14-28
Jul 11	am: 148, 149, 150, pm: 114, 115	1 Sam 17:50-18:4	Rom 10:4-17	Matt 23:29-39
Jul 12	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	1 Sam 18:5-16 27b-30	Acts 11:19-30	Mark 1:29-45
Jul 13	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	1 Sam 19:1-18	Acts 12:1-17	Mark 2:1-12
Jul 14	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	1 Sam 20:1-23	Acts 12:18-25	Mark 2:13-22
Jul 15	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	1 Sam 20:24-42	Acts 13:1-12	Mark 2:23-3:6
Jul 16	am: 31, pm: 35	1 Sam 21:1-15	Acts 13:13-25	Mark 3:7-19a
Jul 17	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	1 Sam 22:1-23	Acts 13:26-43	Mark 3:19b-35
Jul 18	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	1 Sam 23:7-18	Rom 11:33-12:2	Matt 24:14-30
Jul 19	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	1 Sam 24:1-22	Acts 13:44-52	Mark 4:1-20
Jul 20	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	1 Sam 25:1-22	Acts 14:1-18	Mark 4:21-34
Jul 21	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	1 Sam 25:23-44	Acts 14:19-28	Mark 4:35-41
Jul 22	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 66, 67	1 Sam 28:3-20	Acts 15:1-11	Mark 5:1-20
Jul 23	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	1 Sam 31:1-13	Acts 15:12-21	Mark 5:21-43
Jul 24	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	2 Sam 1:1-16	Acts 15:22-35	Mark 6:1-13
Jul 25	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	2 Sam 1:17-27	Rom 12:9-21	Matt 25:31-46
Jul 26	am: 56, 57, 58 ,pm: 64, 65	2 Sam 2:1-11	Acts 15:36-16:5	Mark 6:14-29
Jul 27	am: 61, 62, pm: 68	2 Sam 3:6-21	Acts 16:6-15	Mark 6:30-46
Jul 28	am: 72, pm: 119:73-96	2 Sam 3:22-39	Acts 16:16-24	Mark 6:47-56
Jul 29	am: 70, 71, , pm: 74	2 Sam 4:1-12	Acts 16:25-40	Mark 7:1-23
Jul 30	am: 69, pm: 73	2 Sam 5:1-12	Acts 17:1-15	Mark 7:24-37
Jul 31	am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27	2 Sam 5:22-6:11	Acts 17:16-34	Mark 8:1-10

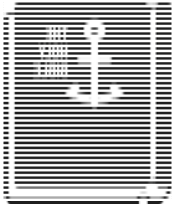


“GRACE” ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

We’re headed to the ball park!
Grace will be at the RedHawks
game on Thursday, August 14th.

Tickets will be \$10.00 a person, and
are available to members of Grace, friends, fami-
ly, neighbors, or anyone you want to invite. A
sign up sheet is available at the Connection Cen-
ter, with sign ups and money due by
August 3rd. We’ll see you there!

STAY ANCHORED



Hold fast to the Bible as the [main] an-
chor of your liberties; write its precepts
on your hearts and practice them in
your lives. To the influence of this book
we are indebted for all the progress
made in true civilization, and to this we must
look as our guide in the future.

—Ulysses S. Grant

LESSONS FROM A FARMER

Summer often reminds pastor Walter Wangerin
Jr. of his father-in-law, a farmer. Farmers, he
writes, remember “that we belong to the earth,
and the earth belongs to God.” Recalling his fa-
ther-in-law working the fields, he states, “Surely
I don’t suppose that we shall live by the horse
again, but I plead that we live on this earth with
reverence.”

Because God gave people “dominion” over crea-
tion (see Genesis 1:28), we are “God’s emblem
within the universe, God’s signature upon the
work he had accomplished,” Wangerin writes.
“We were placed here to serve God by serving
the earth and so to be served by it.”

Who demonstrates that better than a farmer nur-
turing soil and seeds to yield abundant harvest?
“By his reverential stance,” Wangerin concludes,
“the farmer calls again for honor to God and
kindness to creation, that we dress and till and
keep it rightly.”

—based on *Measuring the Days*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Grace United Methodist Church
1120 17th Street South
Moorhead, MN 56560

