

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Vol. 37, No. 9

September 2026

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

Greetings:

There is a particular moment every year when I look at the church calendar and think, "Here we go again!" Not in a bad way though. Summer has a way of loosening up the schedules when people travel, families take vacations, and even the church calendar gets a little quieter. Then September arrives, and suddenly everything starts happening again.

Youth Kickoff and Choir Rehearsal both begin Wednesday, September 9. Our All-Church Fall Kickoff is September 13. The Chosen starts back up September 16. Women of Grace and our other regular gatherings are getting back into their rhythms too. And, of course, once September gets here, it won't be long before somebody mentions Advent and Christmas. Before you know it, we'll get to a point where we ask where the rest of the year went.

But there's something I really do enjoy about this time of year. I like seeing the church become busy again. I'm thrilled hearing the building filled with voices on a Wednesday evening. I enjoy watching people who haven't seen each other for a few weeks pick up conversations as though they had never stopped.

It's easy to think of all of these things as "programs" on the church calendar. In those programs is something that continues to be critical to our mission, they're opportunities to be together. Some of the most important things that happen at church probably aren't what we put on a calendar anyway. The conversations in the hallway, a person who stays a few minutes longer after a meeting because they needed to talk, new faces that being welcomed and finding a place here at Grace. As we head into September, I hope you'll find something that draws you in. Maybe it's choir, maybe it's youth activities, a Bible study, The

around a little longer after worship to visit with someone. You don't have to do everything, but I do hope you'll find a place to be part of what we're doing together.



SEPTEMBER

Sept. 9 Youth Kickoff & Choir Rehearsal Begins

Sept. 13 All-Church Kickoff

Sept. 16 - Nov. 4 Season 2 of The Chosen,
Wednesdays

Sept. 20 Women of Grace

Sept. 27 Third Grade Bible Presentation

OCTOBER

Oct. 10 Fall Festival

Oct. 31 Trunk or Treat

NOVEMBER

Nov. 1 All-Church Meeting & Potluck

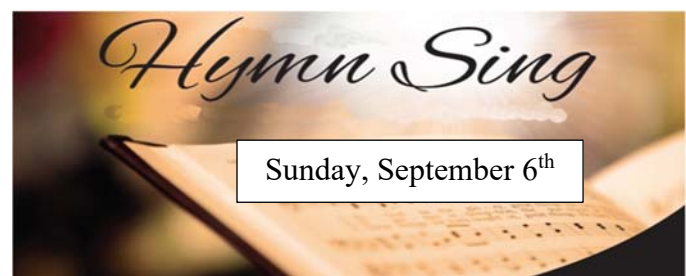
Nov. 8 Women of Grace

DECEMBER

Dec. 5 Women of Grace Advent Tea

Dec. 20 All-Church Christmas Program

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship





PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

Pat [REDACTED] (Fargo Elim)
Don [REDACTED] (Fargo Elim)
Shirley [REDACTED] (Serenity)

PRAYER LIST hospitalized or home

Linda [REDACTED] Larry [REDACTED]
Del [REDACTED] Wally [REDACTED]
Jean [REDACTED]



1—D. Burkhardt
E. Boman
2 – J. Krause
3—J. Fraundorfer
4—S. Finton
6—C. Miller
D. Grow
10 – C. Gedrose
11—A. Weigel
12—M. Gumto
14—P. Anderson
16—C. Gedrose
19—S. Fraundorfer
C. Gedrose
20—P. Newgard
M. Larson
26—L. Beck
27 – N. Herman
30 – A. Ybarra



DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are being made on September 2nd, 16th and 30th for \$10.00 a dozen. To place an order for donuts call the office, 218-233-1857, use the sign-up sheet on the table in the Welcome Center or the website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.

KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Plan now to attend the Fall Kick-off on Sunday, September 13th. The day begins with a worship and communion service at 10:00 am followed by grilling food, fellowship and games.

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group, grades 6th thru 12th will meet on Wednesday, September 9th from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Bring a friend!

WOMEN OF GRACE

All Women of Grace are invited to a meeting on Sunday, September 20th at 11:00 am in the Lounge. Agenda items are Fall Festival planning, and Advent Tea program. Call Phyllis M, 701-361-2745 or Jean G., 701-367-3587 with questions.

FALL FESTIVAL UPDATE

To make our Silent Auction a huge success this year various themed baskets, with your help, will be made. The themes can be Game Night, Movie Night, Sports, Cooking/Kitchen, Beauty and DIY Crafts. If you can contribute to help create these baskets, please drop items off at the library by September 20th. If you would like to create your own basket or have a donation that would even be better. We are also looking for Gift Cards to be auctioned off. If your place of business, or if you know a company that is willing to donate a gift card, please get the cards to Sandy S., Jean W., Nancy H. or Pastor Taylor by Sept 27th.

Also looking for help setting up tables for the event after Church on Sunday October 4th. Would love to have a few gentlemen to help. Many hands will make the job go so much easier.



2—T. & P. Newgard
16—T. & D. Grow
27—D. & C. Borgen

WORSHIP AT GRACE

10:00 A.M.

Worship services at Grace are streamed on Facebook and on the web site: graceumcmoorhead.org
Offering may be mailed to Grace UMC, 1120 17th Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560
Online giving available through Givelify.com and search Grace United Methodist Church or use the QR code to make your one time or recurring gifts.



FORGIVEN NOT FLAWLESS

Del Larson, CLM

I'm not sure how many people use the Upper Room Devotions from the table in the narthex each month, or how many have their own devotional books or ways they connect with God. Throughout my life, I've had many different experiences that have brought me closer to God. While I think and pray to God during the day, my quiet time usually happens around 9:30. I have different books that offer daily messages to calm me and inspire me. I remember the book, which is still available on Amazon, "*Little Visits With God*." It's a beautiful collection of stories for children that share Christ's love for family. My mother read it to my little sister and me when we were young, and we read it over and over for years.

After my father passed away, my mother guided us in our relationship with Jesus. We prayed every night, and whenever we had a question or concern, she would pray with us. She wore her faith on her sleeve during the day. She felt like she failed Christ because she didn't speak up. She raised four lively children, and three of them have been raising their voices ever since.

On August 10th, I read the Upper Room devotion titled "Forgiven Not Flawless." The scripture reading was from Romans 7:14-25. Verses 24-25 said, "*Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*" The author was worried that he was failing because of his struggles with sin. One minute he would read a Bible verse and the next, he would judge someone else unfairly. He also shared how Simon Peter was rebuked by Christ and called a stumbling block. I know that I have been a stumbling block as well, way too often. We all fall short of the glory of God. However, like the disciples did, we too must get back up and do more to build our faith and our church.

Back in the early 2000s, I was really struggling with my daughter, and I poured my heart out to God, begging for help and guidance. Things kept getting worse until I felt like giving up on Him and got angry. If He wasn't going to answer my prayers, I didn't have any more time for Him. I left the church and walked away. After a few months of turning my back on Christ and the church, my wonderful wife asked me to come to church to hear the choir do the Easter Cantata. I agreed, but I came late and sat in the back. I left before the

benediction, but before I could get out the door, retired pastor Jim Jameson stopped me and asked if he could talk to me. He told me about his struggles with his son and God. He shared with me how we need to be patient and understanding, that God's love and plan will come out ahead, but it happens on God's time. Sometimes we have to let go and let God do His thing. I was in tears, and thankful God hadn't given up on me. I had failed to trust God and what He had planned. It did work out better than I could have ever imagined. Yes, my daughter and I still disagree occasionally, but now I let God handle it, and I'm much happier.

We live in a sinful world, but we still have the choice of what kind of person we want to be. I was fortunate that my mom was my guardian angel, as well as many other adults who guided me along my life path. Unfortunately, when my dad died, my older brother, who was in high school, didn't get the support I did from adults. He struggled his entire life, was an alcoholic, and died at age 49.

I sin every day. Whether it be my thoughts, words, or deeds, I am a sinner and always will be. However, I am working each day, through devotions, the Bible, books I read, and definitely prayer, to become a Christian that is acceptable in God's eyes. I am thankful that God is so forgiving, and for Christ to lay down His life so that I might live. I'll listen to His guidance, **because** He is so generous.

Share your faith with your children and grandchildren so they understand how much God has meant to you and how much He can mean to theirs. As Christmas gets closer, let's put aside the toys—there are so many! Instead, consider getting Christian books for kids. My favorite author is Max Lucado, and he has lots of great religious children's books. Reading is so important for a child's development, and reading stories about Christ's love is especially important for their life.



Grace United Methodist

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:00 am Donut Making 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	3 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	4	5 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
6 10:00 am Worship Hymn Sing w/Communion	7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	8 7:00 pm AA	9 3:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	10 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	11	12 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
13 KICK OFF 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 11:00 am Grilling, Games & Fellowship	14 6:30 pm Leadership Team	15 7:00 pm AA	16 6:00 am Donut Making 3:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm The Chosen 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group 8:15 pm NA-Lounge	17 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	18	19 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
20 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School 11:00 am Women of Grace - Lounge	21	22 7:00 pm AA	23 3:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm The Chosen 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	24 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	25	25 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
27 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	28	29 7:00 pm AA	30 6:00 am Donut Making 3:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm The Chosen 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group 8:15 pm NA— Lounge			

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Sept 1	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Job 12:1, 13:3-17, 21-27	Acts 12:1-17	John 8:33-47
Sept 2	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Job 12:1, 14:1-22	Acts 12:18-25	John 8:47-59
Sept 3	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Job 16:16-22, 17:1, 13-16	Acts 13:1-12	John 9:1-17
Sept 4	am: 31, pm: 35	Job 19:1-7, 14-27	Acts 13:13-25	John 9:18-41
Sept 5	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Job 22:1-4, 21 23:1-7	Acts 13:26-43	John 10:1-18
Sept 6	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Job 25:1-6, 27:1-6	Rev 14:1-7, 13	Matt 5:13-20
Sept 7	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Job 32:1-10, 19, 33:1, 19-28	Acts 13:44-52	John 10:19-30
Sept 8	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Job 29:1-20	Acts 14:1-18	John 10:31-42
Sept 9	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Job 29:1, 30:1-2, 16-31	Acts 14:19-28	John 11:1-16
Sept 10	am: 50, 59, 60, pm: 66, 67	Job 29:1, 31:1-23	Acts 15:1-11	John 11:17-29
Sept 11	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Job 29:1, 31:24-40	Acts 15:12-21	John 11:30-44
Sept 12	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Job 38:1-17	Acts 15:22-35	John 11:45-54
Sept 13	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Job 38:1, 18-41	Rev 18:1-8	Matt 5:21-26
Sept 14	am: 56, 57, 58, pm: 64, 65	Job 40:1-24	Acts 15:36-16:5	John 11:55-12:8
Sept 15	am: 61, 62, pm: 68	Job 40:1, 41:1-11	Acts 16:6-15	John 12:9-19
Sept 16	am: 72, pm: 119:73-96	Job 42:1-17	Acts 16:16-24	John 12:20-26
Sept 17	am: 70, 71, pm: 74	Job 28:1-28	Acts 16:25-40	John 12:27-36a
Sept 18	am: 69, pm: 73	Est 1:1-4, 10-19	Acts 17:1-15	John 12:36b-43
Sept 19	am: 75, 76, pm: 23, 27	Est 2:5-8, 15-23	Acts 17:16-34	John 12:44-50
Sept 20	am: 93, 96, pm: 34	Est 3:1-4:3	Jam 1:19-27	Matt 6:1-6, 16-18
Sept 21	am: 80, pm: 77, 19	Est 4:4-17	Acts 18:1-11	Luke 1:1-4, 3:1-14
Sept 22	am: 78:1-39, pm: 78:40-72	Est 5:1-14	Acts 18:12-28	Luke 3:15-22
Sept 23	am: 119:97-120, pm: 81, 82	Est 6:1-14	Acts 19:1-10	Luke 4:1-13
Sept 24	am: 83, pm: 85, 86	Est 7:1-10	Acts 19:11-20	Luke 4:14-30
Sept 25	am: 88, pm: 91, 92	Est 8:1-8, 15-17	Acts 19:21-41	Luke 4:31-37
Sept 26	am: 87, 90, pm: 136	Hos 1:1-2:1	Acts 20:1-16	Luke 4:38-44
Sept 27	am: 66, 67, pm: 19, 46	Hos 2:2-14	Jam 3:1-13	Matt 13:44-52
Sept 28	am: 89:1-18, pm: 89:19-52	Hos 2:14-23	Acts 20:17-38	Luke 5:1-11
Sep 29	am: 97, 99, 100, pm: 94, 95	Hos 4:1-10	Acts 21:1-14	Luke 5:12-26
Sep 30	am: 101, 109, pm: 119:121-144	Hos 4:11-19	Acts 21:15-26	Luke 5:27-39

FALL FESTIVAL 2026



Our annual Fall Festival is Saturday, October 10th from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. There are so many ways for you to get involved, and this is a great opportunity for us to reach out to our community and connect with our neighbors! Here

are some ways you can get involved:

Events will include:

- **Donuts and coffee** served from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Donuts will also be available for purchase in 1/2 or 1 dozen bags.
- **Craft Sale:** Please make sure your Craft Items are priced. We will accept them anytime the week of October 5th. Set up will be from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm on Friday, October. 9th
- **Bake Sale:** Please bring your bake sale items to the church on Friday, October 9th between 4:30pm and 6:30 pm if possible. They can be brought on Saturday morning if you can't get them there Friday evening. We will price them for you.
- **Silent Auction:** Bring items the week of October 5th from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Place items in the Grace library. If you need another time, contact Silent Auction Coordinator, Diana S, 701-866-6884.
- **Rummage Sale:** (Country Store). You can donate useable items to be sold. Items can be dropped off in the Sunday School room #9, "Rummage Sale." No clothing, vases or used baby equipment (Strollers, cribs, highchairs and car seats).
- **Chili lunch** will be available from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm for a donation.

The best way everyone can get involved is by showing up. Grab a friend or relative and come enjoy!

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Connection Center if you would like to help. Any questions, call Sandy S., 701-367-5660, Jean W., 701-361-4711 or Nancy H., 763-258-4967.



TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our Leadership Team met in August and has been busy getting ready for a new season at Grace. Here are a few highlights:

- We are continuing to work toward repairs on the church roof and are developing several fundraising opportunities. This is going to be a big project that requires all hands on deck, so to speak. More information can be found in the roof section of this newsletter.
- We have purchased a new grill for church events, and a new large TV has been installed in the Connection Center. We're continuing to make improvements to our building and find ways to make our space more useful for ministry and fellowship.
- We are considering adding a later Christmas Eve worship service this year. We'll be asking for your input over the next few weeks as we determine what times would work best for our congregation.
- Thank You! A lot of work happens behind the scenes to keep Grace moving forward. Thank you to everyone who volunteers, serves on teams, helps with projects, teaches, cooks, cleans, gives, and simply shows up. All of those things make a difference!



ROOF UPDATE

Over the last several months we've been at work finalizing bids for repairs to our roof. As many of you know, the Narthex area has experienced quite a bit of leaking over the last several springs. Without getting into too many crazy details, it's not something that can be easily fixed, but needs to be addressed for the long term care of our facility. Here are some key pieces to know:

Who's doing the project? The Leadership Team has sought bids for multiple companies. Ultimately we decided to go with Dalsin for their pricing and for their previous work on the roof over the Connection Center. We will also need a company to come and lift the HVAC equipment on top of the roof, and we've chosen Accel Mechanical to manage that. Part of this project will require siding finishing, and we've chosen Xpert Xteriors, who we've worked with in the past at the parsonage.

How much will it cost? For the roof pitching and finishing, mechanical maintenance, residing, electrical, and other finishing costs, this project will cost us \$100,000.

When is it happening? The project is schedule to take place in late fall of this year.

How are we paying for it? This project is in addition to our operating expenses, so we will need to fundraise. We have applied for available grants, and we will continue to look for more as well. There will be a few ways you can get involved in helping "fund-raise the roof"

1. Individual gifts- As members are able, we're asking people to consider a special gift towards this project. Grace has been an important place in so many lives, and we want to do what we can to upkeep our

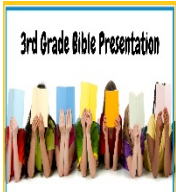
facility and care for the gifts God has given us. You can use our Givelify site and select the "Grace UMC Roof Project" envelope, or give using cash or check, making sure to designate it for the roof project. Once you've given your gift, you're welcome to put a shingle on the poster outside the Connection Center with your name on it. Our hope is to fill up this poster to show everyone getting involved, no matter what size gift!

2. Asking others/outside donations- In the age of social media, we can share our story far beyond our congregation. There are so many tools we can use to spread the word that we need help, to family and friends, members who have moved away, and other members of our communities. Members are encouraged to use the printed shingles and our Givelify link to share with others what we're trying to do. The key with this is to make it personal. The people in your life will connect with you more than just a church asking for money. Your voice and your experience matter with this!

3. Special events- Grace Leadership will continue to explore additional ways to fundraise through things like serving at the Fargo Dome, sales, and other opportunities in our community.

We have been diligently working on this project for quite some time, and appreciate your support and continued prayers as we've moved through this process. Please prayerfully consider how you can help contribute and participate in funding this important work!





THIRD GRADE BIBLE

We are excited to continue the tradition of gifting Bibles to our third grade students on Sunday, September 27 during worship. If

you have a third grader, or a student who never received a Bible from Grace, please let Pastor Taylor know by September 13th. Grandparents, relatives, friends, and neighbors are encouraged to join us for worship during that special presentation!

LABOR DAY REFLECTIONS

Labor Day brings to mind picnics, cookouts and family gatherings. Falling on the first Monday in September, it marks the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. But the holiday was created in 1882 to honor the social and economic contributions of American workers.

In a strong economy, it's easy to take for granted the ability to work and be paid well. But times have changed during the past few years, with many people still struggling with unemployment and underemployment.

During our holiday celebrations this year, let's give thanks for the jobs we have, pray for those who aren't as fortunate and offer words of encouragement or help to someone who needs it.



THE CHOSEN



Join us as we watch season 2 of The Chosen. This powerful show provides a thoughtful look at the events in the gospels and how people reacted and responded to Jesus. There is no admission

charge, and dinner will be served every night.

SING TO THE LORD!

The hymn "Earth and All Stars," based on Psalm 148, invites all creation to praise the Lord. Some people love Pastor Herbert Brokering's all-encompassing lyrics; others appreciate calling earth, stars, plant life and weather to sing to the Lord but find it far-fetched to urge engines, steel and hammers to do so.

The song's fifth verse and part of the sixth make it especially popular for school-year kickoffs:

Classrooms and labs,
loud boiling test tubes,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band, loud cheering people,
Sing to the Lord a new song! ...
Knowledge and truth,
loud sounding wisdom,
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Whether or not you find the hymn poetic, it reminds us that God gives us the ability to learn. Factual knowledge and critical thinking need not impair faith but can strengthen it.

COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Dad,

School is really great. I'm making lot\$ of friend\$ and \$tudying very hard. With all my \$tuff, I \$imply can't think of anything I need. \$o if you'd like, you can ju\$t \$end me a card, a\$ I'd love to hear from you. Love, Your \$on

Reply:

I kNOW that astroNOmy, ecoNOmics and oceaNOgraphy are eNOugh to keep even an hoNOr student busy. Do NOt forget that the pursuit of kNOWledge is a NOble task, and you can never study eNOugh. Dad.