

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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October 1, 2026

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM
Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

Greetings:

Pastor Taylor: We're trying something a little different with this newsletter.

A few weeks ago I was talking with Del Larson, our Certified Lay Minister here at Grace (by the way, if you're curious what that means, feel free to find Del on a Sunday morning and ask him!) He was sharing a story of an experience that he had. I asked him if he'd share the story for our newsletter. At first he said he didn't want to talk himself up, to which I reminded him that we all need reminders and encouragement of how God shows up in unique ways, especially when we're out and about, doing what we consider routine and normal.

Del Larson: I just had the most amazing experience of my life time.

I went to the Sanford hospital to visit Clyde, a friend of my cousin's from Aberdeen. As I was walking from the parking lot I saw a young woman sitting on the curb. I asked if she was OK. She said yes but just very sad. I asked if she would like to talk and she stood up, and said yes.

I walked over to her to check and she told me her mother who has Parkinsons, like my mother, fell and had a major brain bleed. She is on a ventilator and struggling. The woman I met said she was just praying for a sign from God to help guide them on what to do. Her dad also died of a brain bleed. I prayed with her and gave her my card and told her to call if her family needed anything.

I went up to see Clyde, but he was sleeping so I thought I would wait awhile for him to awake. Then I got a call from the sister of the woman I met and she asked if I could come to see them before I left. I met both of the sisters and we talked about the situation. It was a difficult time for them. I asked questions about being prepared for this with a healthcare directive, how they planned on offering care, and other topics.

Turns out the other sister was a teacher, like me, and the mother's name is Joann. Joann Oelke was one of two women, along with Levitia Scott, in our church who pushed me towards ministry.

They asked what church I was from and I told them Grace UMC of Moorhead. It also turns out that their family church was Grace UMC in Fergus Falls.

I went in and prayed with the family, asking for comforting hands and peace for all. I reminded them to trust God and leave it in His hands, and not for themselves. I did not hear or see them again, but I did come the next day to drop off a few little Jesus' that I shared with children at church.

Pastor Taylor: I'm so grateful to have heard that story, because it was quite convicting for me. Too often we get caught up in expecting to only encounter God during a worship service or through big and miraculous moments and signs. Del's story reminds us that it's not only in what we do every day, but there are small signals along the way we can use to remember God's faithfulness. I don't think it's by mistake that Jesus used a simple loaf of bread to say, "do this in remembrance of me". While Del's gift is certainly in visitation and offering care through presence and prayer, each of us can use our own unique gifts to show God's goodness to others. Be sure along the way to pay close attention to the small moments of remembrance to reflect, and give thanks for a powerful faithfulness that's bigger than we can imagine.

Pastor Taylor
Del Larson, CLM





PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

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



DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts will be made on October 14th and 28th for \$10.00 a dozen. Please place your orders by using the sign up sheet on the table in the Connection Center or by calling the office, 218-233-1857, or using the website:

PRAYER LIST hospitalized or home

Linda G [REDACTED] Larry P [REDACTED]
 Del L [REDACTED] Wally W [REDACTED]
 Jean M [REDACTED]



05—J. Graning
 07—B. Burkhardt
 11—T. Johnson
 D. Johnson
 12—D. Walter
 16—B. Herman
 17—O. Beck
 22—A. Larson
 27—K. Enkers
 L. Gibson
 P. Quarve
 28—J. Heidrich
 29—L. Jenson



1— J. & B. Krause
 3— E. & A. Ybarra
 5—P. & K. Anderson
 22— O. & J. Alvshere

“Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons – Jim Bishop

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. 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.

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.

ALL CHURCH POTLUCK



Make plans to join us for an all church potluck on Sunday, November 1st after worship. We will share a meal together, hear celebrations and reports from the year, and cast vision for the year ahead, giving thanks for all that God is doing through Grace UMC. Most of the reports shared will be sent for formalization and voting at the Cluster Church Conference meeting on Sunday, November 22nd in Detroit Lakes, MN.

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.

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.



Grace United Methodist

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	2	3 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
4 10:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	5	6 7:00 pm AA	7 3:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group 8:15 pm NA— Lounge	8 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	9	10 8:00 am Country Store & Fall Festival Opens 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
11 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	12	13 7:00 pm AA	14 6:00 am Donut Making 3:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 pm The Chosen 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm NO Youth Group 8:15 pm NA-Lounge	15 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	16	17 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
18 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	19 6:30 pm Leadership Team	20 7:00 pm AA	21 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	22 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am The Connection 7:00 pm NA— Connection Center	23	24 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA
25 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Children's Sunday School	26	27 7:00 pm AA	28 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	29	30	31 11:00 am Dharma Recovery— NA 12:00 pm Never Alone-NA 3:00 pm Trick or Treat

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Oct 1	am: 102; pm: 107:1-32	2 Kng 19:1-20	1 Cor 9:16-27	Matt 8:1-17
Oct 2	am: 107:33-43, 108; pm: 33	2 Kng 19:21-36	1 Cor 10:1-13	Matt 8:18-27
Oct 3	am: 118; pm: 145	2 Kng 20:1-21	Acts 12:1-17	Luke 7:11-17
Oct 4	am: 106:1-18; pm: 106:19-48	2 Kng 21:1-18	1 Cor 10:14-11:1	Matt 8:28-34
Oct 5	am: 121, 122, 123; pm: 124- 126	2 Kng 22:1-13	1 Cor 11:2, 17-22	Matt 9:1-8
Oct 6	am: 119:145-176; pm: 128-130	2 Kng 22:14-23:3	1 Cor 11:23-34	Matt 9:9-17
Oct 7	am: 131, 132, 133; pm: 134, 135	2 Kng 23:4-25	1 Cor 12:1-11	Matt 9:18-26
Oct 8	am: 140, 142; pm: 141, 143	2 Kng 23:36-24:17	1 Cor 12:12-26	Mett 9:27-34
Oct 9	am: 137, 144; pm: 104	Jer 35:1-19	1 Cor 12:27-13:3	Matt 9:35-10:4
Oct 10	am: 146, 147; pm: 111, 112, 113	Jer 36:1-10	Acts 14:8-18	Luke 7:36-50
Oct 11	am: 1, 2, 3; pm: 4, 7	Jer 36:11-26	1 Cor 13:1-13	Matt 10:5-15
Oct 12	am: 5, 6; pm: 10, 11	Jer 36:27-37:2	1 Cor 14:1-12	Matt 10:16-23
Oct 13	am: 119:1-24; pm: 12, 13, 14	Jer 37:3-21	1 Cor 14:13-25	Matt 10:24-33
Oct 14	am: 18:1-20; pm: 18:21-50	Jer 38:1-13	1 Cor 14:26-33a 37-40	Matt 10:34-42
Oct 15	am: 16, 17; pm: 22	Jer 38:14-28	1 Cor 15:1-11	Matt 11:1-6
Oct 16	am: 20, 21; pm: 110, 116, 117	2 Kng 25:8-12, 22-26	1 Cor 15:12-29	Matt 11:7-15
Oct 17	am: 148, 149, 150; pm: 114, 115	Jer 29:1, 4-14	Acts 16:6-15	Luke 10:1-12, 17-20
Oct 18	am: 25; pm: 9, 15	Jer 44:1-14	1 Cor 15:30-41	Matt 11:16-24
Oct 19	am: 26, 28; pm: 36, 39	Lam 1:1-12	1 Cor 15:41-50	Matt 11:25-30
Oct 20	am: 38; pm: 119:25-48	Lam 2:8-15	1 Cor 15:51-58	Matt 12:1-14
Oct 21	am: 37:1-18; pm: 37:19-42	Ezra 1:1-11	1 Cor 16:1-9	Matt 12:15-21
Oct 22	am: 31; pm: 35	Ezra 3:1-13	1 Cor 16:10-24	Matt 12:22-32
Oct 23	am: 30, 32; pm: 42, 43	Ezra 4:7, 11-24	Philemon 1-25	Matt 12:33-42
Oct 24	am: 63, 98; pm: 103	Hag 1:1-2:9	Acts 18:24-19:7	Luke 10:25-37
Oct 25	am: 41, 52; pm: 44	Zech 1:7-17	Rev 1:4-20	Matt 12:43-50
Oct 26	am: 45; pm: 47, 48	Ezra 5:1-17	Rev 4:1-11	Matt 13:1-9
Oct 27	am: 119:49-72; pm: 49, 53	Ezra 6:1-22	Rev 5:1-10	Matt 13:10-17
Oct 28	am: 50, 59, 60; pm: 66, 67	Neh 1:1-11	Rev 5:11-6:11, 19:1-10	Matt 13:18-23
Oct 29	am: 40, 54; pm: 51	Neh 2:1-20	Rev 6:12-7:4	Matt 13:24-30
Oct 30	am: 55; pm: 138, 139	Neh 4:1-23	Rev 7:4-17	Matt 13:31-35
Oct 31	am: 24, 29; pm: 8, 84	Neh 5:1-19	Acts 20:7012	Luke 12:22-31

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.

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

- Martin Luther

LEADERSHIP



Change in Leadership For Women of Grace and Donut Team as of January 1, 2027. We are grateful for the incredible ministry of Women

of Grace and the Donut Team, and all they do to equip disciples, support the work of Grace United Methodist, and care for the congregation. That good work in the world and our church has been guided by incredible leadership over the years. P. Murray and J. Graning will be stepping down from their positions of co-chairs of Women of Grace, and L. Burkhardt will be stepping down from her position as the Donut Team Leader. We will do all we can to celebrate their leadership and ministry over the next few months, including finding people to step up and carry on the good work they've led. If you are interested or have questions about any of these positions, please reach out to any of these ladies or contact the church office to get connected. On behalf of Grace, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

TRICK OR TREAT AT GRACE



It's back and better than ever! We decided to move our Halloween event inside, but the heart of it remains the same: offer a space for people to enjoy the festivities of

the day, and connect with Grace in a unique way. Trick or Treating at Grace will take place on Saturday, October 31st from 3-4:30pm. Consider a theme for handing out candy, come, participate, and guide people through the line, and offer hospitality. If you are able to grab an extra bag of candy to help make sure we have enough, there will be a donation bin at the church.



TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Grace UMC Leadership Team met the evening of Monday, September 14, 2026. The team's goal is to plan and implement ministry opportunities that align with our vision, and steward the resources of the church. Here are some of the highlights from the meeting:

- **Leadership Structure:** Our new SPRC and Trustees teams have been created and we are grateful for all who will begin serving January 1, 2027. These changes are part of our ongoing effort to clarify leadership responsibilities, strengthen how we serve Grace, and aligning ourselves within our denominational guidelines.
- **Finances:** The August financial report was approved, and our new savings account for designated projects has been opened and funded. The Leadership Team continues to monitor our finances and endowment as we plan for the future.
- **Roof Fundraising:** We continue to discern creative ways to raise additional funds for our roof project. We are grateful for the generosity that has already been shown toward this project and are exploring ways to continue inviting both current and former members of Grace to be part of it.
- **Office Equipment:** A new copier has been approved for the church office.
- **Sunday School & Youth:** Sunday School is off to a good start, with new and returning children attending Sunday School and several high school students helping with the younger kids. Youth Group is also

underway with a great group of leaders and students.

- **Christmas Eve:** We will be adding a 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service in the Connection Center this year, in addition to our 5:00 p.m. service.
- **Building Updates:** The Sunday School room changes are nearly complete, and the choir has settled into its new space. We are also looking at options for chairs and other furnishings for the choir room.

LOTUS RECOVERY GALA FUNDRAISER



Grace is grateful to support Lotus through having space for Recovery Engaged Communities (REC), hosting special events, and offering space for those in recovery for meetings (we currently have five different meetings

happening throughout the week)! Another way we can support Lotus is attending their annual gala fundraiser, on Friday, October 23 from 6-10pm. This year, the theme is Beyond the Veil with a masquerade ball! There will be an auction, games, dinner, and a program, which Pastor Taylor will be speaking on the community panel. Single tickets are available online, and if you're interested in putting a group together to attend contact Pastor Taylor by email or phone.

THE PROGRESSION

Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you'll love him. And the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you'll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.

— Ned Erickson