

# GRACE NOTES

OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE 83-10

Dear Friends,

Legacy. What do you want your legacy to be? How do you want to be remembered? What is the impact you are going to make on this world? I have spoken with folks for whom these questions keep them up at night.

Some hope that their legacy will be represented in the family they leave behind. Others believe they will leave a legacy in the fields in which they worked. Often there is talk of legacy in reference to the donations one makes upon their death, impacting the work of non-profits, science advancement, and education. I've also witnessed the legacy one leaves behind in the way a person lives their life. Their character represented in the actions they took. The way they lived their faith.

We celebrate the people in our lives who left something positive in their wake. We mourn the infamous legacies that leave pain and broken relationships behind. I wonder how often we remember the former and ignore the later on All Saints Day.

A venerated saint is someone declared holy and virtuous by church officials. Less formally, a saint is a title given to someone who helped you out. A person who is a patient, kind, and good. Within the Lutheran tradition, a saint isn't defined by their

actions in this world, but by their relationship with Jesus, their identity in God. In the waters of baptism, we all receive the gift of being declared a child of God, redeemed and forgiven. We become a saint, an identity that coexists with being a sinner.

There is freedom in acknowledging our short comings. Not requiring us to maintain a façade of perfection. Instead we can seek forgiveness and healing. In God, we can also find hope; that our mistakes do not define us. That our identity as a child of God, a saint, comes from God and not reliant on our actions. Certainly, as faithful people, we strive to live into that identity.

As we gather this year for All Saints Sunday on November 5, each candle represents a fellow saint and sinner. There is room for both those who have left a positive impact on our lives and those for whom the only positive thing we can name is that they are a child of God. Each flame represents a life and the light they produce is a representation of God's salvation. That is God's legacy.

God's Peace  
Pastor Stephanie



## A CHORUS OF GENEROSITY

Much like a chorus, a congregation works to create something beautiful together. As a community we praise God, serve God, and share the Good News. This is made possible through your generous support of our shared ministry. This year's stewardship appeal will begin on October 19.

We will bring and bless our pledges on Stewardship Sunday, November 9.

More information will be making its way to you in the coming weeks!





# TRUNK OR TREAT!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31 ~ 5PM SET UP

Join us for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat night at Grace on Friday, October 31. We will gather at 5pm to decorate our trunks. Candy & treats will be handed out until they are all gone. If you plan to attend please let Hollie Swain know (563-514-4022 or k75hollie@gmail.com). The past several years we have treated about 200+ children. If the weather is a downpour or snow more than 2" we probably won't gather, but feel free to contact Hollie to be sure.



**Coffee with Pastor Pilar**  
 October 5 | Between Services | PBH  
 Join us for a conversation with Pr. Pilar. Learn about his ministry in the Quad Cities and get a chance to talk about the ongoing mission in Guatemala.

**Coffee with Council**  
 October 12 | Between Services | PBH  
 You are invited to join Grace council members to learn about their latest projects, share your joys and concerns, talk about the year ahead, ask questions, and get to know the folks who represent you.

## Pictures to Remember

October 19  
Between Services

Join us for the second  
installment of  
**Pictures to Remember.**

In the first session, you shared pictures with Joel Lorentzen and Paul Lewellan. The group then talked about how to convert those picture into stories that could be passed on to others.

Even if you could not attend the first session, grab a picture and join us on October 19. Lots of memories; never enough time.

SAVE  
the  
DATE

### IFF (It's Food & Fellowship)!

Our next gathering will be on **Sunday**, **October 26** hosted by the Meier's and the Lorentzen's. We will enjoy a fire pit and a Halloween theme sometime late in the afternoon. Specific details will be coming. So, put it on your calendar and feel free to contact Sally or Ann if you plan to attend.



## Grief Support

**Next Meetings: October 1 & 15**

The Grief Support Group meets the first Wednesday and third Wednesdays, (first Wednesdays only in June, July, and August) 5:30pm in Pat Bell Hall. Please join us! Anyone is welcome at anytime, and please be assured our conversations are kept in confidence.

**Questions?** Cindy Lee 563-370-5386.

## Centering Prayer

**Mondays 4:30pm via Zoom (excluding holidays)**

In the Christian tradition, Contemplative Prayer is considered to be the pure gift of God. It is the opening of mind and heart--our whole being to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words, and emotions. With grace we open our awareness to God whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than choosing; closer than consciousness itself.

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift.

Cheryl Kritsch is the facilitator. Periodically the group will meet in person in the Grace Church Choir Room providing the ZOOM option, as well. Please contact Cheryl 563-343-0135 with any questions and to verify the location (zoom or in person).

Click [HERE](#) to enter Zoom for Centering Prayer.  
Meeting ID: 392 407 7028  
Passcode: 2020



**Saturday, October 4**

**Bend XPO Amphitheater**

**8am** Pre-walk Activities

**9am** Opening Ceremony

**9:30-11:30am** Walk!

Please join friends from Grace and Saint Mark's at the NAMI Walk! The NAMI walk raises awareness and funds for mental health education, along with helping to reduce the stigma that still surrounds persons with mental health challenges. The walk takes place at the **Bend XPO Amphitheater** (922 Mississippi Parkway, East Moline). To register to walk and/or donate funds go to: [namiwalks.org/teams/77681](https://namiwalks.org/teams/77681). If you need a ride, or if you have any questions, please contact Jane Rock at [janesingerrock@gmail.com](mailto:janesingerrock@gmail.com) or call/text 563-340-8022.



## Page Turners

**Saturday, October 18, 8:30am**

Come join the Saturday Morning Page Turner's Club! We meet at 8:30am the third Saturday each month at different locations for breakfast, book discussion, and great fellowship. (Haven't read the book? No worries, Join us anyways!) **October Book:** [Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War](#) by Karen Abbott

**Host:** Ruth Naber 563-386-6310 **Location:** TBD

*A Special Invitation from...*

## The Page Turners Book Club

**Saturday, November 15 | 9:00am | Pat Bell Hall**

Mike Walton will be presenting the *Prisoner of War Journals of Ray Walton*. These are the journals from Mike's father's experiences as a POW during World War II. We are looking forward to sharing this story with you and also to honor our veterans. Please join us. If you have any questions, call Carol Keller 563-340-9013.

You can listen to a 2015 documentary special "Men With Broken Wings: The Ray Walton Story, Prisoner Of War," produced by the students, faculty, and staff in the Dept of Communication at St. Ambrose University at this link: [soundcloud.com/kalaradio/2015-veterans-special-honoring-ray-walton](https://soundcloud.com/kalaradio/2015-veterans-special-honoring-ray-walton)

YOU'RE  
INVITED!



**Sunday, October 26  
Between Services**

**You are invited to a celebration  
of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Pastor Stephanie's Ordination!**

Council members & the Personnel Committee will host a reception in her honor on Sunday, October 26, between Services. They will have a basket for cards and notes to help her mark this special occasion in the life of a Minister of Word & Sacrament.



## Council Corner

- A motion passed to authorize Pastor Stephanie Wood and Treasurer Dawn Matthews as authorized signers for financial matters for Grace Lutheran.
- Council approved new Building Use and Child Safety policies.
- October's meeting will discuss strategic planning.
- Members met in executive session to review the pastor's accomplishments in the preceding year.

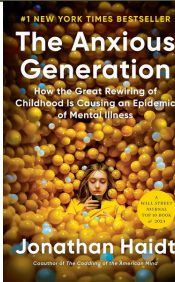
## Block Party 2025 Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a very fun and successful Block Party! During this event, seeds of faith and invitation were planted:

- We welcomed several neighbors who learned about Grace and the ministry we provide here.
- Several families inquired about our children's ministry and worship style.
- Visitors connected with members; relationships were developed and strengthened
- \$297 collected from Walking Tacos donations that will be used for local outreach ministry projects
- \$261 collected from flower and produce donations that will be given to **Tapestry Farms**
- Joy of worshipping outdoors



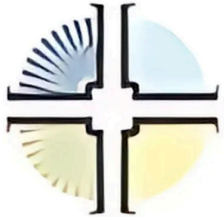




## Book Study: The Anxious Generation

Tuesdays, 7:00pm | Led by Pastor Kirsten

The Anxious Generation studies the epidemic of teen mental illness, including why children need play and independent exploration to mature into thriving adults. Anyone is welcome at anytime - this study is open to the community, so please invite your friends and family! Pastor Kirsten can answer any questions.



## Story of Paul Bible Study

Thursdays, 11:00am | Led by Pastor Stephanie

Discover how Paul went from someone who persecuted Christians to being one of the most significant early church leaders. Please contact the office at [office@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:office@gracewelcomesyou.org) or 563-322-0769 if you are interested. There is a participant book with only a few pages of reading for each session. You can purchase the book at Grace for \$15.



Women  
of the  
**EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA**

## Naomi Circle

Next Gathering: **October 14\***

*\*Note Date Change - we will be helping the quilters pack up the quilts for Lutheran World Relief*

Naomi circle meets the third Tuesday each month, September through May, at 9:00am at church for Bible study. This year we will be studying the Parables, Please join us! Contact Joyce Marinaccio at [gsgopher50@gmail.com](mailto:gsgopher50@gmail.com) or 563-343-3404.

## Service Day Quilters

The quilters meet the second Tuesday & second Wednesday 9am-Noon each month. The quilts made are donated to the community and Lutheran World Relief. In recent years we have made LWR school bags. Contact Gloria Lange 563-271-1542 or [langejg1@msn.com](mailto:langejg1@msn.com) or Kathy Miller [kathyk1679@aol.com](mailto:kathyk1679@aol.com) or 563-676-0914.



## Men's Lunch & Conversation

Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon at Vanderveer Park (when the weather turns colder, we'll meet at church). You can bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a local restaurant. Questions? Contact Dennis Boehme at 563-320-2661 or [boehmed@aol.com](mailto:boehmed@aol.com).



## Habitat for Humanity 2025

Saturday, November 1 | 9am-Noon or Noon-3pm

Help with framing, drywall, siding, and much more for families who dream of owning a home. No prior building experience needed. Register to attend at [bit.ly/HabitatWorkDay](https://bit.ly/HabitatWorkDay) or talk with Pastor Kirsten.



**Junior Bible Study** is offered for children after the children's sermon during worship at both services. We will return from our time together before communion begins. Once again, we will use The Story as our guide for our learning. We will read the stories of Abraham, Moses, and Joseph. We will learn alongside these characters to trust in God, listen to God, and practice forgiveness. We would love for your children or grandchildren to join us!

## Children's Ministry September 2025

This September welcomed 13 children for Pray and Play and 10 children for an end-of-summer Kids' Party. For Pray and Play this school year, we are focusing on compassion and the many ways we receive and share compassion. Through games, learning about monarch butterflies, and the Bible story of Ruth and Naomi, we learned that we can share compassion with our friends.

We continue to welcome families who have never been to Grace Lutheran. Some families have a faith home, and for others, this is their only exposure to church and learning about God. These photos tell the story of how they learn that God's Story of creation, love, and forgiveness is always and forever their story.

We continue to rely on volunteers. As the demand for children's ministry grows, we need a greater network of adults to help us ensure their time is well supervised. Whether it is a few hours at Pray and Play or at a children's party, your gift of time will be well appreciated.



Pray & Play  
Releasing Butterflies



Kids Party S'mores



Kids Party Bible Time



Pray & Play Chapel Time & Songs

Jesus  
loves  
you



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Office Hours</b> Mon-Thur 8:30am-3pm Fridays 8:30am-Noon			1 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 6pm Conf at St. James 7pm Choir Rehearsal	2 10am Prayer Group 11am Paul Bible Study	3	4 <b>NAMI Walk</b> 1pm Praise Band Practice
5 <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> <b>Quilt Display</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee w/ Pr. Pilar 10:30am Contemp. Worship	6 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	7 <b>Polling Location</b> 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Mtg 5:00pm Property Mtg 7pm The Anxious Gen	8 12pm Men's Lunch Group 7pm Choir Rehearsal	9 11am Paul Bible Study	10	11 1pm Praise Band Practice
12 <b>Quilt Display</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee w/ Council 10:30am Contemp. Worship	13 <b>Pray &amp; Play</b> 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	14 9am Quilters & Naomi Circle 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg 2:30pm Outreach Mtg 6pm CYF Mtg 7pm Worship Mtg 7pm The Anxious Gen	15 9am Quilters 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 6pm Conf at St. James 7pm Choir Rehearsal	16 11am Paul Bible Study	17	18 8:30am Page Turners 10:30am LWR Ingathering 1pm Praise Band Practice
19 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Pictures to Remember 10:30am Contemp. Worship	20 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 6pm Sweet Arts Club	21 10am Pastor's Text Study 7pm The Anxious Gen	22 12pm Men's Lunch Group 7pm Choir Rehearsal	23 11am Paul Bible Study	24 <b>11am Council Reports Due</b>	25 1pm Praise Band Practice
26 <b>Reformation Sunday</b> 8:30am Healing Worship 9:30am Special Reception 10:30am Contemp. Worship <b>IFF Gathering - Afternoon</b>	27 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Council Meeting	28 10am Pastor's Text Study 7pm The Anxious Gen	29 12pm Men's Lunch Group 6pm Conf at St. James 7pm Choir Rehearsal	30 11am Paul Bible Study	31 <b>5pm Trunk or Treat!</b> 	

Dear Grace Church ~  
 We so appreciate the use of the church for Rod's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It was nice to have it where we felt truly at home with the warmth of our church family.  
 ~Sincerely, Colleen Levensen

Thank You

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who donated food to make tacos for the August 30, meal at **Hope at the Brickhouse**. Ruth and John McAndrews, Kathy Higgins, Hollie Swain, Mike Keller, Casey Allbee, Jane and

Ken Krumwiede, and Nancy Boehme. Thank you for your generosity of time to buy, prepare, deliver, and serve the food. We will not be serving on Oct 31, so **our next Brickhouse dinner will be Jan 30.**

2 Devon DeMarr  
 Deb Kirby  
 Pat Riedesel  
 3 Makayla Campbell  
 5 Brad Lange  
 Dixie Wince  
 7 Curtis Meier  
 8 Connie Lannan  
 11 Gretchen Kelker  
 Henry Kelly  
 Cindy Savely  
 12 Bridget Kelker  
 Charlotte Rock  
 15 Kathy Shriver  
 17 Melinda Miller  
 18 Cyndi Prachar  
 Ken Wellnitz  
 23 Cole Bayles  
 24 Carol Keller  
 John Rock  
 25 Camryn Sagers  
 Marty Sagers  
 26 Charlie Rock  
 27 Alex Noack  
 30 John Campbell



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

## ADMIN STAFF

**Pastor Stephanie Wood**

[pastorstephanie@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:pastorstephanie@gracewelcomesyou.org)

**Pastor Kirsten Lee**

**Director of Outreach & Youth Ministries**

[pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org)

**Annie Nau, Office Administrator**

[office@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:office@gracewelcomesyou.org)

**Jason Halkias, Custodian**

[custodian@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:custodian@gracewelcomesyou.org)

**Dawn Matthews, Treasurer**

[treasurer@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:treasurer@gracewelcomesyou.org)

**Vey Rodriguez, Worship Tech**

[worshiptech@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:worshiptech@gracewelcomesyou.org)

## MUSIC STAFF

**Sally Meier - Adult Choir Director**

**Kathi Parrish - Accompanist**

**Susan Senn - Organist**

**Vey Rodriguez - Praise Band Leader**

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Paul Lewellan President**

**Deb Gustafson Vice-President**

**Janice Gibbs Secretary**

**Dawn Matthews Treasurer**

**Jackie Cain**

**Lori Haugen**

**Laura Toland**


**Gail Walton**

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Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

## Outdoor October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
St. Olaf defines Vocation as "Life on purpose for the common good." This October, we invite you to nourish your vocation of well-being through purposeful time outside, giving yourself space to pause, reconnect with your roots and purpose, and reset for the journey at hand. If you feel so called, we invite you to share what you do by posting with #OutdoorOctober, or sending photos and anecdotes to <a href="mailto:nourishing-vocation@stolaf.edu">nourishing-vocation@stolaf.edu</a> .			1 Go for a walk and vary your pace.	2 Consider the sky.	3 Look for evidence of animal's homes.	4 Pick up trash in your environment.
5 Listen to the sounds around you.	6 Try a breathing exercise outside.	7 Perform an object study: hold something and engage with all 5 senses.	8 Walk with a friend or take a walking meeting.	9 Consider the trees.	10 Go outside at different times. What animals are there?	11 Notice natural and human-made boundaries.
12 Listen to birds.	13 Do a labyrinth. <small>You can use <a href="http://www.labyrinthlabyrinth.com">www.labyrinthlabyrinth.com</a> to find one near you, or go to <a href="http://worldlabyrinthday.org/resources/finest-labyrinths-to-find-one-to-trace-while-sitting-outside">worldlabyrinthday.org/resources/finest-labyrinths-to-find-one-to-trace-while-sitting-outside</a>.</small>	14 Make sounds using things outside, like crunching leaves.	15 Go for a night walk.	16 Consider the animals.	17 Go for a walk with a furry friend.	18 Take a walk in an urban area.
19 Collect a soundscape on paper or digitally.	20 Choose one color and focus on spotting things of that color on a walk.	21 Hug trees.	22 Walk in a familiar area and notice new things.	23 Consider the plants.	24 Look for animal tracks.	25 Brainstorm ways to help your community.
26 Pick a song that reminds you of the weather and listen to it outside.	27 On a walk: see 5 things touch 4 things hear 3 things smell 2 things taste 1 thing	28 Close your eyes and feel the elements.	29 Take a gratitude walk.	30 Consider the soil.	31 Notice how animals are preparing for winter.	

**St. Olaf College invites you to participate in "Outdoor October"** Each day we encourage you to get outdoors, breathe in the autumn air, and enjoy God's creation. Share your adventures by posting on social media with #OutdoorOctober, or sending photos, videos, and anecdotes to [nourishing-vocation@stolaf.edu](mailto:nourishing-vocation@stolaf.edu). Reading online? Click [HERE](#) for a full-size copy of the calendar.

## Food Pantry Weekend



**Our next Food Pantry Collection is Sunday, October 4**

Bring your non-perishable food donations in a bag, and leave at the altar before the service. **Let's make this our best year yet!** Go to [localfoodbank.org/what-do-food-banks-need-but-dont-ask-for/](http://localfoodbank.org/what-do-food-banks-need-but-dont-ask-for/) for info about if you need ideas.

**Donations Needed:** nonperishables - especially canned fruits and vegetables, canned & dry beans, canned meats, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, breakfast items (cereal, oatmeal, etc.)

**Always Appreciated:** peanut butter, jelly/jam, canned chili, boxed potatoes, protein bars, whole grain bread, fresh fruits & vegetables (donated directly to the pantry), items for baking (flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, etc.)

**Consider:** simple spices (salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, etc.), neutral cooking oils, vinegars, powdered milk, powdered eggs, wooden spoons, hand-held can openers, aluminum foil pans, cake mixes for special occasions