

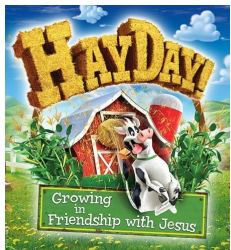
Providence Valley & Grace Notes

July and August 2022

Grace Lutheran & Providence Valley Lutheran Newsletter

Great Grace Cookout!

The Great Grace Cookout is planned for July 6th beginning at 6PM! This is our "All Board Meeting" night welcoming the newest members who have agreed and been elected to serve. We will be serving hamburgers, hotdogs, & drinks. Please bring a salad/side/or dessert to share. All congregational members are welcome to join us for dinner!



2022 Vacation Bible School "Hay Day"

Grace Lutheran & Providence Valley Lutheran along with other community members had a great time at the 2022

Vacation Bible School.

Thanks for sponsoring this great ministry that shares the love of Jesus to our young!

This years theme was "Growing in Friendship with Jesus". It was held Sunday, June 5th through the 8th with 60 kids in attendance.



Summer worship schedule

Midweek Communion:
Tuesdays at Grace 2pm
July 5th & August 9th

Providence and Grace Worship

Dates to Remember:

No worship on Sunday, July 3rd

Joint worship Services:

Sunday, July 10th at Providence

Sunday, July 17th at Grace

Wednesday, July 20th - 6:30 at Grace

Sunday, July 24th at Providence

Wednesday, July 27th - 6:30 at Grace

Sunday, July 31st at Grace

Wednesday, August 3rd - 6:30 at Grace

Sunday, August 7th at Providence
Wednesday, August 10th - 6:30 at Grace

Sunday, August 14th at Grace

Sunday, Aug 21st at Providence

Sunday, Aug 28th at Grace

Sunday, Sept 4th at Grace

Service Sunday: Sept 11th

Online & Radio Broadcast
Available



Luther Seminary Graduation

Congratulations Intern Pastor Austin!



We are proud of this year's intern, Intern Pastor Austin, on the completion of his Master of Divinity Degree from Luther Seminary!

We give thanks daily for the work God has called us to do in partnering with interns as they complete their degree work and internship requirements. And you, at Grace and Providence are a vital part of this work!! Your prayers, your commitment to our shared mission to educate Christian leaders, and your faithfulness make this all possible. Thank you and congratulations, Austin!



Dear God- We are grateful that you have given us a land to live in. Bless this land with the labor of all its people. Give us the love of learning and wisdom to know how to live well. In a world often divided by hate, fill us with love and compassion for all our neighbors. Amen.



In our prayers...

Grace Lutheran Church:

Kristi Peterson Tomas, Jack Lewis, Jim Heath, Rick Odden, Tony Munsterman, Jeff Moe, Wylie Wiebe, Randy Tensen, Ann Lee Knutson, Gregg Tucholke, Jim Anderson, Tom Beals, Deb Lewis, Ken Club, Jack Flayton, Monica Kennedy, Lauren Thoen, Mike Thompson, Julie Miron, Joey Anderson-Urness

Sympathies to the Family of
Laura Keller, Ann Hegg, & Mike Westby

Providence Valley Lutheran Church:

Doug Breberg, Arlys Buer, Evelyn Lundgren, Madalyn & Wilton Gustafson, Lucille Williams, Bob Pehrson, Deb Trapp



FROM THE PASTOR:

“Cooking with Grace”



Last Monday our “Cooking with Grace” was another great success and it gave me opportunity to think about Jesus declaring himself as the “bread of life.” I think Jesus is leading us into the truth that a meal is much more than just ... a meal. I mean, the food is usually very good at church when we gather for meals. Meals are much more than just the food. It’s all that other stuff that makes meals, church potlucks, wedding receptions, and birthday parties good and memorable for those who go. And that is the way it is, when we share meals with others.

Three times in the gospels, Jesus begins a sentence with “The Son of Man came...” The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10) The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for man (Mark 10:45) The Son of Man came eating and drinking (Luke 7:34) In all these statements, Jesus is referring to himself, to his own mission. Jesus – the Son of Man – came to seek and to save the lost, he came to serve and give his life, and he came eating and drinking. The first two tell us why Jesus came, but the last one tells us how he came. Take a moment and visualize something with me. If you could have one living person over for dinner, who would it be? Who would you want to sit around the table with for a long, enjoyable meal? Can you picture that person in your mind? Good. Hold on to that. Now, think who you would never want to eat with. Who do you not want around your table? With both people in mind, here is God’s word” “Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:29-31) With

whom would you most like to share a meal? With whom would you never eat? So, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. Why was Levi there? Because he was collecting taxes. No one ever really enjoyed paying taxes in any time of history, but the tax collectors of Jesus’ day were particularly despised. Jesus sees Levi sitting in his tax booth and says, “Follow me”. Levi got up, left everything, and followed him. To be loved, to be called by Jesus changed everything for Levi. Levi, in his joy of knowing Jesus, wants all his friends to meet him too. So Levi held a grand banquet for Jesus at his house and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. Levi’s response to this new life has found is to throw a party for Jesus. He invites all his friends so that they can know him. Levi’s friends are like him – tax collectors and others like it – people who would never be invited for dinner by one of God’s people. But, Jesus does. Jesus, the “Bread of Life” eats with them. They share a meal – a sign of love, respect, affection, and welcome. They eat together – a sign that they belong together. There was always grace around Jesus’ table – grace at the table and grace in who was sitting around the table. May it be the same for us as we eat and drink together.



John 6:35

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

-Pastor Kendall

Church Records

Funerals

May our Heavenly Lord keep in tender love the lives which we hold in blessed memory and comfort their family and friends in their grief.

Clarice J. Olson
May 17th, 2022

Gaylen O. Krugerud
May 25th, 2022

Ann Marie (Thoen) Hegg
June 14th, 2022

Weddings

I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.

Jeremiah 32:39

Jesse Nelson & Lindee Olson
April 30th, 2022

Zachary Gritmacher & Kelsey Imes
May 14th, 2022

Ashley Willis and Matt Ludvigson
June 4th, 2022

Zachary Stelter & Sarah Buysee
July 23rd, 2022

Ryan Swenson & Justine Flattum
August 5th, 2022

Baptisms

Through the sacrament of Holy Baptism, we welcome into the Lord’s family these children of God and receive them as fellow members of the body of Christ and heirs with us to all the benefits of God’s kingdom.

Adley Quinn Sandven
May 8, 2022

Skyler Lola Knutson
May 22, 2022

Beckham Jerome Blascyk
June 12, 2022

A note from our Missionary

Warm greetings. As the ELCA commemorates its 35th anniversary this year I am reflecting on the adoption by the Global Mission unit at that time of the "accompaniment model" for mission defined as: "Walking together in solidarity, that practices interdependence and mutuality. In this walk, gifts, resources and experiences are shared with mutual advice and admonition to deepen and expand our work within God's mission." The five values of Mutuality, Inclusivity, Vulnerability, Sustainability and Empowerment are integral to this "spirituality of the road," to borrow a phrase from the late missiologist David Bosch. Like the women in Mark 16:6-7, we are on the road and God is going ahead of us. God promises to meet us in a place of God's choosing, not ours. Not knowing where we are going can be uncomfortable. Fortunately, God has given us companions for these open-ended journeys. This past month, as ELCA regional representative in Southern Africa, I was privileged to make a visit to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa's Cape Orange Diocese led by Bishop MZ Manong. I was invited to be a presenter at a Christian Educators' training workshop held in Kimberley by the Cape Circuit. It was the first time in two years the Sunday School teachers were able to gather in person. The active participation and lively singing by the group reflected joy and commitment. The ELCA has been supporting the Diakonia AIDS Ministry (DAM) program at the Diocesan centre for a number of years. The program continues to provide after-school activities, mentoring and tutoring for over 300 orphans and vulnerable children from the community, as well as psycho-social support for people living with HIV& AIDS. Thank you for your prayers, support and your accompaniment in God's mission locally and globally. Yours faithfully, Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson

Rev. Knutson will be visiting us August 7th!!

Financial Report

Grace Lutheran Church: April/May 2022

April Income: \$40,016

April Expense: \$37,192

May Income: \$27,184

May Expense: \$39,745

	2022 As of 5/31/2022	2021 Comparison (same period):
Year To Date Income:	\$158,912	\$163,887
Year To Date Expenses	\$174,566	\$159,052



In Memory of

Chris Femrite

Memorial Fund: \$50

Radio Fund: \$20

In Memory of

Clarice Olson

Memorial Fund: \$51,720

Radio Fund: \$50

Capital Improvement: \$115

In Memory of

Gaylen Krugerud

Memorial Fund: \$320

Cemetery Fund: \$240



Grace Companions

Grace Companions is a new ministry that will begin this fall. This ministry will focus on serving the needs of our homebound/shut-in members, either long term or for a short period of time. If you become a *Grace Companion*, you would be assigned a member to visit weekly. These visits would look different for every individual. Maybe you play cards, have coffee and talk, do devotions together, work on a puzzle, go out for a meal, whatever the member would enjoy. Also, any additional needs of the member will be brought forward to the church staff to address. In addition, the member would be added to our home communion schedule.

In John 13:34 Jesus says, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have love you, you also should love one another." Jesus calls us to live out this commandment in our lives. One way we can do that is to care for those who are no longer able to participate in events outside of their homes. Becoming a *Grace Companion* will give you the opportunity to truly love those who are in special need. I look forward to the beginning of this ministry and the blessings it will bring to so many in our community, both those on the receiving end and giving side of this ministry. If you are interested in becoming a *Grace Companion* or know someone who would benefit from this ministry, please contact Emily in the church office. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for more information about this exciting new ministry.

God's Peace,

Emily Stelter - Director of Membership Care

Circle Meetings

Lydia Circle

Monday, July 25th, 9:30am

August 22nd, 9:30am:

Place: Grace Hall

Ruth Circle

Monday, July 25th, 7:00pm

August 22nd, 7:00pm

Place: Grace Hall

Grace Lutheran Elections

Being a church family has to be one of the best blessings we possess. Together we share our selves and our stories, our joys and our sorrows, our hopes and our fears, right from the beginning of life all the way to death. Our journey finds its only meaning — in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Our shared work together between members of the church and staff is so important. No calling is any greater or more important than another. We work together, side-by-side, to further the mission and ministry of Christ. Once again, your Nominating Committee has done an excellent job of prayerfully discerning members who are gifted to lead as new board members and officers of these congregations. We are so thankful for their great work. The names of those elected at our last congregational meeting are listed below and we thank them for their willingness to serve. Please seek them out and join me in thanking and welcoming them to ministry in our church home.

How will the mystery and wonder of God's love be carried out in you?

These members of Grace Lutheran have been elected to church leadership positions effective July 1st, 2022 Congratulations

President: Tim Borstad

V. President: Stacy Stratmoen

Secretary: Sandy Smaagaard

Treasurer: Jon Wager

Lay Ministry: Ryan Stotesbery, Ann Borstad,

Maggie Madsen, Diane Schoephoerster,

Jeremy Wilcox

Christian Education: Amber Tuff, McKenzie Lee,

Chelsie Ludvigson, Kayla Viessman,

Leah Prestholdt

Evangelism: Janet Johnson, Val Olson, Cali Anderson

Parish Fellowship: Mary Gritmacher, Vicki Grow, Kathy DeLong

Young People Work: Blake Pederson, Julie Brent, Sarah Christopher

Church Property: Brian Hersom, Peter Lee

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has a charitable grant program and benefit of membership called Thrivent ChoiceSM. Thrivent members are allowed to direct dollars to Grace Lutheran Church.

We are grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. Thank you for choosing Grace Lutheran Church as your charitable fund choice!



If you find that Sunday morning worship is difficult for you, try coming for communion and fellowship at our mid-week communion in Grace Hall. We gather for Holy Worship in Grace Hall with hymns, prayers, communion and a meditation by Pastor Kendall or Austin. Coffee and fellowship follow the service.

Grace Hall Communion :

- ♦ July 5—2:00 pm
- ♦ August 9 —2:00 pm
- ♦ Sept 6—2:00 pm



VBS RECAP



Summer is here! Luckily we were able to have Vacation Bible School before the high rise in temperature. This year our VBS theme was HayDay Growing In Friendship With Jesus. We had 57 kids who had a great time thanks to all the hard work from our Christian Ed Board (Danielle Stotesbery Lindsay Ourada, Stacie Larson, Danielle Wager, Larisa Stratmoen, Amber Tuff, Chelsie Bothun and Tammy Kruse) and Volunteers (Lindsay Ourada, Danielle Stotesbery, Kayla Viessman, Bethany Wager, Karin Falness, Carmen Willsey, Kaylee Brent, Stacie Larson, Amber Tuff, Serena Brown, Leah Presholdt, Heidi Prestholdt, Jarrett Wager, Jordan Wager, Justin Wager, Pastor Kendall, Intern Pastor Austin, Chelsea Ludvigson, Danielle Wager, Mckenzie Lee, Breanna Long, Carly Wager and Madison Lee.) Thank you!

Inter Pastor Austin chose Heifer International for our VBS charity this year and the kids raised \$380.00! We had supper, music, crafts, games, and story stations each night and finished with a terrific program! After the program, everyone enjoyed ice cream sandwiches while the Pre-school and Kindergarteners tossed “cow pies” (water balloons) at Farmer Sam for being

the group who raised the most money for Heifer International. It was a fun week!

Parents, here are a couple early dates to mark on your calendar:

Sunday, September 18th will be Rally Sunday! Kicking off our Sunday School year with games and treats in the courtyard.

Sunday, September 25th 3 year olds will be receiving their Bible during our worship service.

Sunday, September 25th will be Youth And Parent (YAP) Orientation following our worship service.

Thank you! Have a great summer!

Courtney Bergeson

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



We had our first ever Ruby's Pantry distribution in Dawson MN and it was a success!! The food distribution site is off of 1st street out by the football/baseball fields in Dawson – there will be signs directing you. Visit and like our Facebook page Ruby's pantry - Dawson MN. If you are interested in volunteering we are always welcoming people to help. There are links on our Facebook page or you can email dawsonrubyspantry@gmail.com if you wish to volunteer. We are beyond grateful for the volunteers at our first distribution.

We are looking forward to our upcoming distribution dates on:

July 13th 5-6:30; August 3rd 5-6:30; September 7th 5-6:30.

Ruby's
PANTRY

Our goal is to help families stretch their monthly food budget and help to alleviate some of the financial stress. We welcome anyone. Our host church is Grace Lutheran Church in Dawson MN. We are thankful that this opportunity is available to our area. We hope to spread the love of Jesus through food and friendship. We want to show our community and the surrounding area that we care and we understand the financial strains that many are feeling. Please note that you are able to get more than one share of food when you come to Ruby's Pantry. You can purchase a share for someone even if they are not with you. There is no limit to the amount of shares you can purchase. “Each day is a beautiful gift. A miracle in the making. A chance for new beginnings, and to change things around. Let's be grateful for today.”



Thank you for your faithful response to our ministries at Grace and Providence. Please accept our gratitude for your gifts in 2022 and commitment of support for the rest of summer. We ask that you include our ministry in your prayers. With faith and dedication we can enable great things to happen in the ministry that God has called us. Your generous response will help to fund a year of strong ministry in our community and world.

"Yet, those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary". Isaiah 40:31

"Jesus presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. Acts 1: 3-4.

These 2 messages to "wait on the Lord" inform us that the wait is always worth it!

The power of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:8 resulted in bold witnesses. In verse 11 of Acts 1 the men of Galilee are asked, "Why do you stand looking into the sky?"

The time of waiting is over; there is work to be done. There is something great ahead and I don't want to miss it!

In the context of our churches summer is an opportunity to catch up on our plans for ministry, our vision and our special needs.

Due to busy summer schedules, please be reminded that the work of our churches continues throughout the summer.

Our prayer and hope is that each member will help us to meet our plans for ministry, our vision and our special needs as congregations.

Grace and Providence Valley Lutheran Churches have options to give online! On our websites, gracedawson.org or pvlchruch.org, simply click on the "Give Online" tab at the top of the homepage. Or even easier, download our offering app on your phone! Simply search for "VancoMobile" in your App Store and set up your account! And Grace Lutheran now has TEXT OFFERING! Simply text your offering amount to 800-675-7430! or scan the QR Code to the right to give electronically.

SUMMER



Your offerings can also be mailed to:

Grace Lutheran Church – PO Box 549 - Dawson, Mn 56232
or
Providence Valley Lutheran Church - C/O 2722 100th Street
- Dawson, MN 56232

Thank you for your continued support and for your generosity to the mission of our congregations!!

Grace Lutheran Church

716 8th Street
PO Box 549
Dawson, MN 56232
(320) 769-4394
gracelut@farmerstel.net
www.gracedawson.org

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAWSON, MN
PERMIT NO. 71

Providence Valley Lutheran Church

2495 120th Street
Dawson, MN 56232
(320) 769-2234
pvlchurch@yahoo.com
www.pvlchurch.org



Our Church Staff

Pastors: Kendall L. Stelter

Austin Krohnke, Intern

Membership Care Director:

Emily Stelter

Youth Director:

Courtney Bergeson and Lindsay Ourada

Organist/Pianist:

Chris Lehne (Grace); Beth Borstad (Providence Valley)

Financial Secretary:

Karen Collins

Office Manager: Heidi Prestholdt (Grace); Lindsay Ourada

Karen Bengtson (Providence Valley)

Church Custodian: Keith Nelson (Grace); Phyllis Lund (PVL)

Grace Lutheran Leadership

Tim Borstad, *President*

Stacy Stratmoen, *Vice President*

Sandy Smaagaard, *Secretary*

Jon Wager, *Treasurer*

Grace Lutheran Board Directors

Christian Education

Danielle Stotesbery

Church Property

Peter Lee

Evangelism

Serena Brown

Lay Ministry

Ryan Stotesbery

Parish Fellowship

Vickie Grow

Stewardship

Steve Tufto

Youth

Providence Valley Leadership

Harvey Swenson, *President*

Karen Bengtson, *Secretary*

Melanie Peterson

Bruce Lund

Josh Beninga

Kris Bach

Doug Breberg

