

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Staying Connected This Summer

As summer approaches, many of us welcome a change of pace—school lets out, family vacations begin, and our daily routines shift. The warmth and light of the season invite us into moments of rest, renewal, and recreation. But even as the rhythm of life changes, our calling to remain rooted in Christ and connected to one another stays the same.

John 15, Jesus reminds us, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” This abiding connection with Christ is not bound by season or schedule—it is a relationship that sustains us through all times of life. And as part of the Church, we are also called to remain connected to one another. “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another” (Hebrews 10:24–25).

Staying connected over the summer doesn't have to look exactly like it does during the rest of the year. There are many ways to stay connected with Grace this summer. We invite you to join us for the opportunities below:

- Weekly worship at 10am on Sunday in-person and online
- Food Distribution every second Monday of the month.
- Food and Fellowship- Pulled Pork Dinner on Wednesday, June 18th from 6-7:30.
- United Methodist Area Youth gathering on June 30th (more information to come).
- S'mores and More- Fun and games out on the lawn Wednesday, July 23 from 6-7:30.
- "Grace Me Out to the Ballgame" August (Date TBD)

Summer is also a great time to reflect on your spiritual journey. Ask yourself: What is God inviting me into during this season? Where can I serve, grow, or simply rest in God's presence? As Psalm 1:3 says, those who delight in the Lord “are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.” May this be a season of fruitfulness, no matter what your summer schedule looks like. Whether you're here every Sunday or joining from a distance, know that you are a beloved part of our church family. We give thanks for you and look forward to walking this summer journey together in faith.

With grace and peace,
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 hospitalized or home

Linda Gibson Larry Possehl
Del Larson Wally Walseth
Kay Heindrich



June Birthdays

1—C. Lindner
5—M. Forderer
9—D. Welsh
10—A. Konan
12—T. Anderson
14—R. Maag
15—A. Gumto
16—B. Christopherson
T. Newgard
E. Burkhardt
18—R. Burkhardt
20—L. Maag
21—L. Collins



June Anniversaries

1—C. & D. Burkhardt
3—M. & A. Gumto
4—S. & L. Gedrose
7—C. & P. Welsh
13—B. & S. Martin
26—D. & L. Larson
27—J. & D. Bellon



DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are being made on June 4th and 18th 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.

THE NUMBERS

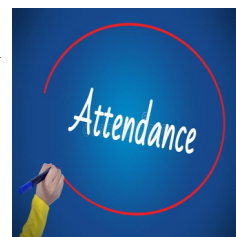
Average Worship Attendance for May

Online: 43
In-Person: 94 (81 Adults, 13 Kids)
Total: 137

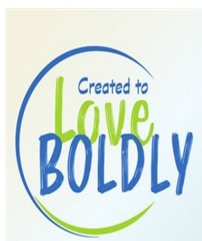
YTD

Online: 53
In-person: 90 (75 Adults, 15 Kids)
Total: 143

Grace Ministries YTD Expenses: \$81,054
Grace Ministries YTD Income: \$77,838
Grace Ministries YTD Over/Under: \$-3,216



ANNUAL CONFERENCE



We invite you to be in prayer for the Minnesota Annual Conference gathering that is occurring June 11-13 in St. Cloud, MN. Pastor Taylor and B. Fangsrud will be attending as our churches delegates. Annual Conference is a time for clergy and laity from across Minnesota to gather for a time of worship, learning, and discernment in how we live together in ministry as United Methodist. Legislation being voted on includes several constitutional amendments following General Conference in 2024, a change in the clergy retirement plan, Church insurance concerns and more. For more information, visit <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/annualconference>.



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.

YOU ARE A SEED PLANTED FOR GREATNESS

Del Larson, CLM

Burying something is usually meant to be in forever darkness. Whether it be garbage, dead fish, or burying a loved one after they die, they are in their final resting place, never to be removed or recovered. **Planting** is much different! First, you were a seed placed in your mother's womb by the grace of God. You were destined, as God had a plan for you, before your parents and others ever saw you. Yes, you have a destiny. You were designed for something great. A purpose that we might not understand until we are older. Yet, some might not live to adulthood, maybe disabled, or mentally impaired. How can those be destined for greatness. We don't know God's plans, nor can we judge what is greatness. Everyone will have an impact on someone else somehow, some way, whoever they are!



Most often, we can't see what greatness might be, because we see greatness as winning a medal, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, or a hefty reward. Maybe a class president, or president of a corporation. Shouldn't greatness be recognized by our character? Shouldn't greatness be judged by what you give to the world more than by what you have? Shouldn't we be recognized by how we treat others? The very first commandment says that we are to love God with all our heart AND love thy neighbor like ourselves. Jesus also said, *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me."* Matt. 25:40 We don't need to bury ourselves because we see ourselves as an "ordinary Joe." Each of us was a planted seed waiting to burst into the light. The ever enriching light of Christ, growing in faith and trusting God and His plan for greatness in our lives. We probably weren't a young athletic star, or rocked the theaters with our voices. We might start out at the bottom of the totem pole when we enter the working world, but greatness could be just down the road. Perhaps greatness is in the person we marry, or in our offspring. For

some it could be in retirement with volunteerism (like church), or becoming a respected hobbyist.

For me, a greatness example is my aunt Lucille, who still lives. She rescued me from drowning when I was five years old. I was trying to climb into a boat that my brother was taking out, from the backside, and was dragged out into the deep water. My aunt was the only one that saw me and pulled me out. I spent the following days in the cabin, too frightened to be near the water. If I had not survived, what would have happened to the people I have touched over the years since that near tragedy? Would Luann, with her years of Muscular Dystrophy, have a husband that cares for her as I do? Our children would not be.

My students' lives may have changed. I would not be writing these articles, preaching, or connecting with people in need if I had drowned. You see, for me, I look at God's plan and how he has guided me to be the person He designed. God is working with you also to accomplish greatness. We need to give credit to God for what we accomplish.

Many strange things have happened in my life, that were unique and special. I lost my teaching job in the early 80's, but had another successful job as a hardware store manager in South Dakota, before the school year ended. Two and a half years later, I was back teaching in Moorhead. I was a wiser and better teacher. To me that is pretty great. I give God all the credit for what has happened in my life. My final reward will be when I enter Heaven.

How about you? What has God done in your life that has helped you be a better person? Where has He lead you that you didn't expect? What experiences have you had that have inspired you to be greater? Yes, you have worked hard for what you have received, but seriously think of how God has had a hand in those times, helping you be a better person.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR JUNE 18TH'S PULLED
PORK DINNER**

Grace United Methodist

June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion	2	3 7:00 pm AA	4 6:00 am Donut Making	5 9:00 am Bulletin	6	7 Private Event
8 10:00 am Worship	9 5:00 pm Food Distribution Vacation	10 7:00 pm AA Bible	11 School	12 9:00 am Bulletin at Good Shepherd	13	14
15 Father's Day 10:00 am Worship	16 6:30 pm Leadership Team	17 7:00 pm AA	18 6:00 am Donut Making 6:00 pm Pulled Pork Dinner	19 Holiday 9:00 am Bulletin	20	21
22 10:00 am Worship	23 Vacation	24 7:00 pm AA Bible	25 School	26 9:00 am Bulletin Dilworth	27 Lutheran	28
29 10:00 am Worship	30 UM Area Youth Gathering					

GRACE LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- We heard from representatives of the Lotus Center, a harm reduction and addiction Recovery organization, on opportunities to support their mission and how it might fit into our mission of being the church of the neighborhood. Solid Ground, a transitional housing program, has opened just a few blocks away from the church building. As the Leadership Team, we will do our best to provide resources and education to the congregation about the vital services offered to our local neighborhood.
- Wedding policies have been updated for an upcoming wedding at Grace! We are currently looking for folks interested in being wedding coordinators for the church. It would entail assisting in some planning, and being present for rehearsal and the ceremony. Some honorarium is included. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Taylor.
- A new speaker system has been approved to be installed in the Narthex and the Nursery to provide sound from the worship service to those spaces.
- While we have made up some shortfall financially, we are coming up on summer, which has typically seen a decrease in giving. Staff and leadership will continue to keep spending to a minimum and find ways cut expenses where possible. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of Grace Ministries!

OFFUTT SCHOLARSHIP



Applications for the 2025 Offutt Scholarship are now available. These scholarships are available to members of Grace UMC and their families for post-secondary education for the coming academic year. Applications are due in the office by August 1, 2025. If you have any questions about the Scholarships or about the Grace UMC Endowment, please contact Paul Anderson.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATES

E. Beck

Hello, Grace UMC!

The month of May was mainly focused on the Grace Youth Rummage Sale. As many of you know, we were reselling donated clothes and toys to help raise money for the church's roof project. We had baked goods and crafts available as well. The first two Youth Group meets consisted of going around town collecting donations from people, making signs, and organizing the donations. The sale itself, which was pay-as-you're-able, was held on Saturday, May 10. The Youth helped run the sale from 9 to 12 and made \$1,800. There were also five \$1,000 matches, resulting in a grand total of \$6,800! This was all put towards paying for the work done on our roof. Anything we didn't sell was donated to the New Life Center Thrift Store in Fargo.

Also, congratulations to two of our youth- J. Miller and O. Beck- who were confirmed on May 4th! Keep these youth in mind as they begin a new chapter of their faith journey.

Our last Youth Group for the year was on the 14th, and the youth celebrated with an evening at Sunset Lanes! This was a very fun way to wrap up the year, however, Grace Youth will still have plenty to do over the summer. Our biggest summer event is our Denver Mission Trip, happening July 12th to 18th. Other opportunities throughout the summer include getting involved with other local youth groups. Wednesday night Youth Group get togethers are finished for the year, but the Youth will remain involved until next year! Until then, you likely won't hear much from us. Thank you all for the kindness and support

