

Current

GET PLUGGED IN!



COMMUNITY
- of GRACE -
LUTHERAN CHURCH

gracepeople.church

To Be and Make Disciples

DECEMBER 2024-JANUARY 2025

HELLO

ALL IN GOD'S TIME

By Senior Pastor Darrin Vick

Dear Friends in Christ,

Something truly beautiful has emerged in this season of listening, learning, and discerning our future as a congregation along with our ministry partners, and that's this: we are better together than we are alone.

In fact, this simple realization has led to some wonderful missional alignment and some profound changes to our partnership.

Just this past month, the school board of Magnuson Christian School unanimously voted to change the school's name to **Community of Grace Christian School**.

For those of you who might not be aware of our history, Magnuson Christian School was started by our congregation 20 years ago through the vision of Pastor Steve Mahan.

That vision spurred our church to dedicate time, staff, space, and financial resources to provide excellent, Christ-centered education to any child who wanted it.

Today, a vibrant school filled with faithful staff and teachers pours out love and grace on over 120 students from across the Twin Cities. Yet many people don't know the deep connection and commitment between the school and our congregation. That is why, through



many prayer-filled conversations among leaders from both organizations, we felt led by the Holy Spirit to "lean in" to each other for the sake of mutual mission and ministry in our community.

The name change is just the beginning. We are convinced that the Holy Spirit is calling us further into partnership through what we are calling the "Grace Together Project." I believe the work we are doing now to bring greater alignment among our ministry partners will position us for greater missional impact in our community.

What will that impact look like, and how will it reshape our campus? We don't know yet. But we are listening to Jesus and to you as we move forward. I am grateful for your ongoing prayers and your feedback. Keep it coming!

By Grace Alone (and Together),

The Deadline for the February/March Edition of the Current is January 10.

BUILDING CLOSED	NOVEMBER 28 & 29	DECEMBER 25 after service & 26	JANUARY 1
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WORSHIP

TWO STYLES

Whoever you are, whatever your story, you are welcome here.

We invite you to slow down, breathe deeply, and open your heart to God. Contemporary Services are modern, informal, and band-led. Our Traditional Services include time-honored hymns and rich liturgical texts.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

CONTEMPORARY SERVICES

9 & 10:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall
(Communion on 1st Sunday each month)

TRADITIONAL SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

9 a.m. | Sanctuary

STREAM LIVE OR LATER

gracepeople.live

SENIOR SERVICES AROUND TOWN

FIRST WEDNESDAYS:

10 a.m. White Pine
Ecumenical Service of the Word

THIRD WEDNESDAYS:

2 p.m. Boulders
Communion Service

FOURTH THURSDAYS:

10 a.m. Waters of White Bear Lake
Ecumenical Service of the Word

1:30 p.m. Cerenity

Ecumenical Service of the Word

TWO SUNDAYS PER QUARTER:

4 p.m. Waverly Gardens
Ecumenical Service of the Word

If you know someone who would like a visit from our care team, please contact Pastor Mary Ellen Steinkraus at maryellen@gracepeople.church.



ADVENT SERIES

BEGINS SUNDAY | DECEMBER 1

See how the Holy Spirit is at work in the waiting and fulfillment of God's promises.

CGLC PROGRAM: THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 15

9 & 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary
(Both Services Livestreamed)

Featuring musical ensembles, children, and maybe a dinosaur. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors!

JAMMIE JAM

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 22

9 & 10:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall
(10:30 a.m. Livestreamed)

Everyone is invited to this annual family-friendly, pajama-donning Christmas service. It's a fantastic opportunity for kids to invite their friends to see how worship can be fun.

LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 22

9 a.m. | Sanctuary (Livestreamed)

Come hear and sing of the God who comes to us! This service includes Holy Communion.

CHRISTMAS EVE TUESDAY | DECEMBER 24

Even people who don't regularly attend church enjoy coming to a candlelight service on Christmas Eve. So, invite your friends and neighbors to one of the options below. LED candles are provided for little ones.

2 p.m. | Fellowship Hall
Contemporary Worship
(Livestreamed)

2 p.m. | Sanctuary
Traditional Worship

4 p.m. | Fellowship Hall
Contemporary Worship

4 p.m. | Sanctuary
Traditional Worship
(Livestreamed)

9 p.m. | Sanctuary
Traditional Worship

All services offer Holy Communion. Nursery is available at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 25

10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary
(No livestream or nursery)

PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Each Sunday, you have the opportunity to receive prayer from trained prayer ministers in the Prayer Chapel.

On the second Sunday of each month, prayer ministers will come to you. Please indicate your desire by staying seated after worship.

KIDS



GRACE KIDS

Grace Kids Sunday School is a dedicated time for kids in Preschool through 5th grade to learn about Jesus and grow in their faith while building relationships with friends and leaders in our CGLC family.

We incorporate various large and small group activities for kids to get to know Jesus, His word, and each other on a deeper level.

CGLC offers Sunday School during our 9 a.m. services in September through May. **Grace Kids Sundays** are the main event and drop-ins are always welcome.

Contact: Britta Maly
britta@gracepeople.church

GRACE KIDS NURSERY

Nursery is available for infants through three year olds during the 9 a.m. service all year and during the 10:30 a.m. service during the school year when there is no Sunday School.

Please check in at the north end of the Commons.

Contact: Victoria Mathisen
victoria@gracepeople.church

GRACE KIDS IN WORSHIP

**DECEMBER 1, 15, 22, & 29
FEBRUARY 2**

9 & 10:30 a.m.

Grace Kids are usually in Worship on First Sundays throughout the year. There are exceptions, so keep an eye out for changes.



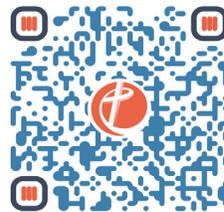
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 15

9 & 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

Participants should be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall starting at **8:30 a.m. and no later than 8:55 (or between 10:10-10:25 for the second service).**

Scan code to RSVP for the service(s) your participants will be performing at.



PROGRAM REHEARSAL

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 14

9:15 a.m. | Sanctuary

Our goal is to dismiss kids from the rehearsal no later than 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS IN WORSHIP

**DECEMBER 8
JANUARY 5, 12, 19, & 26**

9 a.m. | Sundays

Children grades **one through five** will join us for the first part of worship before they are released to their Grace Kids Sunday School teachers.

Children in **preschool and kindergarten** go directly to their classrooms before services begin.



JAMMIE JAM IS BACK!

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 22

**9 & 10:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall
(Livestreamed at 10:30 a.m.)**

The storybook for this year's Jammie Jam is *The Wise Men Who Found Christmas* by Raymond Arroyo. Worship elements focus on how the Magi brought gifts to the Son of God, but Jesus was an even greater gift to them.

HYPE NIGHT!

FRIDAY | JANUARY 31

5:30 p.m. | CGLC

This night of food, fun, and games is for Grace Kids and Magnuson Christian School students in 3rd-5th grade. Scan the code on this page to sign up on Church Center. The cost is \$5 per student. Due to event popularity, no walk-ins are accepted.

STUDENTS

REFUGE & CONFIRMATION

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH MAY

6–8 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Refuge is the umbrella for activities for students in grades 6–12. It is a safe place for teens to connect and learn how to apply biblical principles to their lives. Students gather for worship, learning, and building community, then break into smaller groups for discussion, prayer, and fun.

Confirmation is a faith formation pathway within Refuge. When you choose to be confirmed, you demonstrate that you are a follower of Christ and want to publicly proclaim your love and faith in him!

Contact the Student Ministries team for information: Melinda Kern or Andrew Kelly.
melinda@gracepeople.church
andrew@gracepeople.church



HS WINTER LOCK-IN

DECEMBER 27-28

9 p.m.–7 a.m. | CGLC

Invite all of your friends and join us for an entire night of non-stop fun! You'll have the time of your life staying up late, eating food, and playing games!

Cost is \$20 per person.



REFUGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 18
6–8 p.m.

Dress up as your favorite Christmas character (or item) for the ultimate Christmas celebration! Invite all of your friends and bring a Christmas treat to share (please no nuts).

Best-dressed will win a prize.



SNOW TUBING

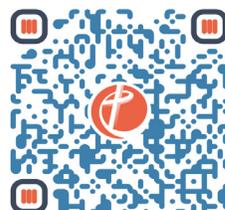
WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 5

Green Acres | Lake Elmo

We're going snow tubing at Green Acres for the Big Night! This event is for all students in 6th–12th grades.

The cost is \$18 per person. Please sign up online by January 30.

Scan to Find Registrations on Church Center!



2025 SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 22-27

We're partnering with BRNC for an unforgettable week you won't want to miss. For current 9–12 grade students.

Registration is limited, sign up now to secure your spot!

REFUGE RISE & SHINE

SUNDAYS | 10 AM

10 a.m. | Large Choir Room

This is an awesome Student Ministry gathering on Sunday mornings for thirty minutes. Each week we will have breakfast treats and prayer.

We will NOT meet December 29 or January 5.



PIZZA & GAME NIGHT

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 8

6–8 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Bring your favorite board games and some of your favorite pizza toppings. We will make and eat our own pizza, then vote on which games to play. Bring friends!

No sign-up required.

ADULTS



ADVENT DEVOTIONS INTEREST MEETING

NOVEMBER 24

10 a.m. | Fireside Room

Your life is full. As much as you want to pray, when do you find the time?

This Advent, join Chris Lepoutre and others in a prayer experiment using the Pray As You Go app. Each day features a 10-minute guided prayer. Then once a week, reflect with others on what you've prayed and heard.

Questions? Please contact Chris directly at lepoutre.chris@gmail.com.



GIFT DRIVE

DECEMBER 1-15

We are collecting gifts for Project Home's Dignity Shop in St. Paul. Help us bless our unhomed neighbors by donating an **UNWRAPPED** gift (\$15-\$25) for youth 0-18. Leave gifts under the Christmas Tree in the CGLC Commons. **Please no toy weapons.** Gift Cards are welcomed.

ROMEO

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 5
THURSDAY | JANUARY 2

9 a.m. | Perkins on County Rd E

Retired Old Men Eating Out meets every first Thursday of the month.

Contact: Curt Schneider
curtisschneider@comcast.net

JULIET

MONDAY | DECEMBER 2

11:30 a.m. | Carbone's Pizza on 96

MONDAY | JANUARY 6

11:30 a.m. | Applebee's on 96

All women are welcome to join this monthly event. Connect with old friends and maybe meet some new. Sign up at the Information Desk.

Contact: Pastor Angie Way
angie@gracepeople.church

BAKE SALE

SUNDAYS | DECEMBER 8 & 15

8:30 A.M.-Noon | Commons

Support our ministry partner Magnuson Christian School while filling your cooking jar.

This year you can preorder. Scan now!



LOOKING AHEAD

Watch for an encore presentation of Unlocking the Bible as our Faith Mentor leadership team drills deeper into knowing how to get the most out of your Bible.

CHRISTMAS TEA

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 7

11:30 a.m. | CGLC Commons

This beloved event is sold out. Please contact Glenda directly at glendaschuneman@gmail.com with any questions regarding your existing registration.

MCS: YOU GOTTA EAT!

MONDAY | DECEMBER 9

4-8 p.m. | Chipotle on White Bear Ave.

Support Magnuson Christian School (MCS) by planning dinner time around their fundraiser. **Use code RZGGLDJ when ordering online or pick up a flier from the Information Desk.**

MCS PROGRAM: COME & SEE

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 10

6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Our partners at MCS plan a memorable evening of celebrating the Christ Child. All are welcome.

PRAYERS FOR 2025

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 29

9 a.m. | Traditional

10:30 a.m. | Contemporary

This day is dedicated to praying for our congregation and world.

WOMEN OF GRACE LEADERS' STUDY

THURSDAY | JANUARY 16

3 p.m. | Community Room

There is no December Study.

Contact: Pastor Angie Way
angie@gracepeople.church

ADULTS



MINISTRY FUNDING UPDATE

Results as of 10/31/2024

YTD RECEIPTS: \$1,180,271

Receipts are lower than our plan by \$220,313.

YTD EXPENSES: \$1,376,336

YTD expenses are \$23,547 below plan.

NUMBERS THROUGH OCTOBER 31

CGLC giving is flat when comparing YTD 2024 to the same period in 2023. Through October we are \$196,065 short of funding our Ministry Funding Plan (MFP) of \$1,400,583. We continue to manage our expenses and are currently \$23,547 below our YTD MFP expenses of \$1,399,883. **We are currently projecting a need of \$487,000 in additional receipts by 12/31 to fully fund our 2024 ministry.**

Contact: Mike Mathisen mike@gracepeople.church



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

In November, we welcomed eight New Members to CGLC!

Diane & John Bryant
Robert & Rose Cykala
Nancy Dahl
Jeff Eschenbach
Mike Manos
Alyssa Roemeling

ANNUAL MEETING FUNDRAISING LUNCH

SUNDAY | JANUARY 26

11 a.m.-Noon | CGLC Commons

Refuge Student Ministries will serve a lunch to benefit their summer camp. Grab some food after church services before you join us for the Annual Meeting! **Freewill Donation.**

Contact: Melinda Kern
melinda@gracepeople.church

CGLC ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY | JANUARY 26
11:45 A.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Mark your calendars for this very important meeting of our congregation.

CGLC members, please sign in as you prepare to vote so we can establish a quorum before entering the meeting. Come early to have lunch, prepared by our Refuge Students!

Contact: Mike Mathisen
mike@gracepeople.church

DIAPER DELIVERY DAY

MONDAY | DECEMBER 2

11 a.m.-1 p.m. | WBL Food Shelf

Help us unload the truck and stock shelves at the Food Shelf.

Contact: Hannah Collins
hannah@gracepeople.church

3 WAYS TO HELP PROJECT HOME

- Adopt a Family to provide winter outerwear
- Volunteer as an elf to help parents pick out gifts at the Dignity Shop
- Volunteer to assist children in a craft project while parents are shopping

Contact: Donna Franklin
dfranklin@interfaithaction.org

FARE FOR ALL

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 6

FRIDAY | JANUARY 10

1-3 p.m. | CGLC Commons

Stretch your grocery dollars right here on the CGLC campus. FFA is able to offer groceries at a discount. **No income restrictions.**

PICKUP CHOIR

ALL SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

9 a.m. | Sanctuary

Rehearsals: 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and/or 9 a.m. on Saturdays.

Come join us if you're available! We'd love to have you sing!

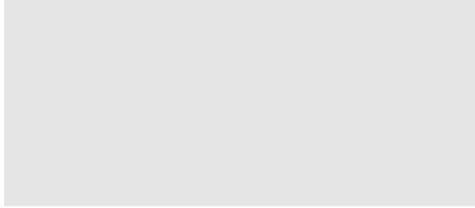
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(651) 429-5349

gracepeople.church
hello@gracepeople.church
livestream at: gracepeople.live



Scan to find
registrations on
Church Center!



TO BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

