

Current

GET PLUGGED IN!



COMMUNITY
- of GRACE -
LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Community of Disciples on a Mission of Grace

NOVEMBER 2025

HELLO

WHERE IS OUR HOPE FOUND?

by Senior Pastor Darrin Vick

I try to stay off social media these days because I find so little of it to be edifying. But every once in a while I come across a quote that catches my eye and shifts my perspective. This is a recent example of just such a quote:

"The times are bad! The times are troublesome!" This is what humans say. But we are our times. Let us live well and our times will be good. Such as we are, such are our times." - Saint Augustine

Saint Augustine of Hippo lived his life in the shadow of a dying empire - The Roman Empire. It would have been easy to fall into despair as was the case for many of Augustine's contemporaries. For all its faults, the Roman Empire had provided a sense of security and stability for centuries. To witness its demise would have been demoralizing even to the most optimistic of people.

But Augustine didn't place his hope in Caesar or his empire, even though he benefitted from the protection it provided. No matter how bad and troublesome the times appeared, Augustine refused to succumb to hopelessness, nor did he try to distance himself from the reality of pain and suffering that he witnessed. Rather, he saw himself as part of an eternal Kingdom - The City of God. In this Kingdom, power comes through suffering, and victory comes through the cross of Jesus Christ.



You can probably guess where I am going with all of this. So much of what we read, hear, and see today is focused on the spectacle of bad and troublesome times in order to seduce us into believing that all hope is lost or, worse yet, into believing that the heroes and villains in this human drama are easily identifiable (if only everyone saw things as clearly as you do).

The only hero in our story is Jesus, and the only time we have is now! We are not victims of history, we are makers of history. We are our times! So let us live well and our times will be good. What does that mean?

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." - Micah 6:8

Beloved, Jesus knows you, loves you, and sees you. And he promises to see you through these troubled times as you humbly follow him.

By Grace Alone,

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WORSHIP

TWO STYLES

On Sundays, we share the same message in different styles of worship. Our Contemporary services are band-led and feature familiar worship music you might hear on the radio. Our Traditional Service features a liturgical style of worship music, including organ-led hymns and choirs.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

CONTEMPORARY SERVICES

9 & 10:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall
Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays.

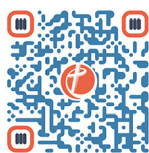
TRADITIONAL SERVICE

9 a.m. | Sanctuary w/Communion

STREAM LIVE OR LATER

gracepeople.live

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Center App!



SENIOR SERVICES

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

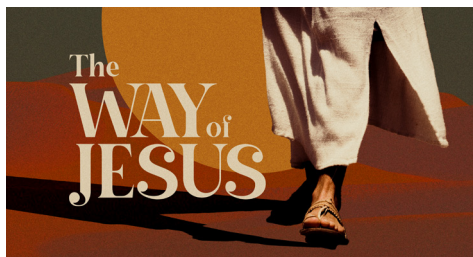
1:30 p.m. Cerenity

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.



THE WAY OF JESUS

OUR FALL SERMON SERIES

Please join us on Sunday mornings for our continuing sermon series, "The Way of Jesus."

This pivotal series will reorient us as apprentices to Jesus, guiding us to deeply know, trust, imitate, and speak Jesus.

We believe these teachings, focused on Scripture and drawing on concepts from Practicing the Way materials, will empower us to see, love, serve, and teach people the way Jesus did.

We are praying that the Holy Spirit continues to grow a community of disciples on a mission of grace!



ADVENT 2025

BEGINS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30

Our Advent focus this season is "Make Room" - we want to make room in our hearts, our minds, at our tables, and in our routines. When we make room for God, Jesus comes and fills that space with Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2

**WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO
HAVE PASSED INTO ETERNITY
THIS PAST YEAR:**

November -

David Erickson
Earl Erickson

December -

Vermayne (Bert) Bertram
Jeannette Pratt
Glade Amey

February -

Kenneth Johnson
Drew Wahlstrom

March -

Don (Donnie) Peterson
Barb Johnson
Charlotte Jensen

April -

Richard Johnson

May -

Margaret Rollie
John Klava
Marlys Burris
Harlan Balken
Brian Jay Johnson

June -

Rosella Smith

July -

Mike Schultz
Harvey Erickson

August -

Merle & Leila Sellman
Betty Kieffer

September -

Annette Johnson
Carol Cramer

October -

Marylew Lindell
Bob Benson
Sally Bandt

KIDS

GRACE KIDS

Grace Kids 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 guests are always welcome.

Contact: Britta Maly
britta@gracepeople.church

GRACE KIDS SUNDAYS

SUNDAYS

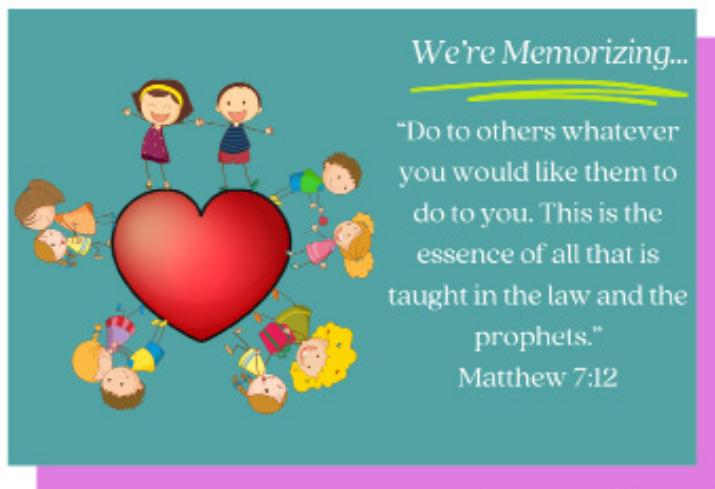
NOVEMBER 9, 16, 23; DEC 7

9 a.m. | Begins in Worship

Check-in first at the north end of the Commons. **Then, children in preschool and kindergarten** go directly to their classrooms before services start. **Children grades one through five** join us for the first part of worship before they are released to their Grace Kids Sunday School teachers.

Registration is open on Church Center for Sunday School & Nursery for the 2025-26 season.

**REGISTER
ON
CHURCH
CENTER**



We're Memorizing...

"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets."
Matthew 7:12

November Verse of the Month



HYMN OF THE MONTH

Kids are learning one hymn a month in Sunday School. The hymn of the month for November is verse one of "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty."

GRACE KIDS NURSERY

Nursery is available for infants through three-year-olds during 9 & 10:30 a.m. worship services through the year.

Check in is at the north end of the Commons.

We are still looking for additional Nursery Hosts for both 9 and 10:30 service times.

Contact: Victoria Mathisen
victoria@gracepeople.church

KIDS IN WORSHIP

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 2
SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 30

9 & 10:30 a.m.

Grace Kids are in Worship on the first Sundays of the month throughout the school year.

Due to Thanksgiving, we are off November 30. Sunday School IS in session December 7, even though it's a first Sunday.



TUESDAY | DECEMBER 23

6 p.m.

If you are interested in helping plan the Jammie Jam this year, we'd love to hear from you! Also, if you want to be a part of facilitating this annual exciting event, please let us know.

Contact: Britta Maly
britta@gracepeople.church

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.

Confirmation is a faith formation pathway within Refuge and Student Ministries at Community of Grace. Confirming one's faith is an important and personal decision. When someone chooses to be confirmed they want to demonstrate they are a follower of, and publicly proclaim their love and faith in, Jesus!

Students can begin the two-year confirmation process in 9th grade. The process will help them develop a relationship with Jesus, participate in church community, and explore questions or doubts they have had about being a Christian. Learn more and register on Church Center.

Contact Student Ministries
Director Melinda Kern at
melinda@gracepeople.church
to inquire about Refuge.



REFUGE RISE & SHINE

SUNDAYS | OCT 5, 12, 19, & 26

10-10:30 a.m. | Large Choir Room

Students in 6-12th grade gather on Sunday mornings each week to have breakfast treats and enjoy a short activity.

No RSVP is required, just stop in.



COME SING IN THE CHOIR!

SUNDAYS | TRADITIONAL 9 A.M.

Mark Hanson has opened up the choir for any Refuge students who want to sing! Just come Sunday morning at 8:20 to rehearse! Music will be available in the choir room on Wednesday nights, so stop by after Refuge and pick up a copy.

Contact: Mark Hanson
mark@gracepeople.church



WEDNESDAY | NOV 26

WORSHIP AT 6:30 P.M.

Sanctuary

Come for worship, and help lead the service if you're interested! Let Andrew know.

Stay after for a time of pie with everyone in the Church Commons.

The all-church Diaper Drive ends that evening too, so stay and help pack the White Bear Area Foodshelf truck before going home!



KNOW
JESUS

TRUST
JESUS

IMITATE
JESUS

SPEAK
JESUS

ADULTS

WOMEN OF GRACE CIRCLE LEADERS' STUDY

THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 20
LESSON 4

3 p.m. | Community Room

We are using the book *Encountering Jesus* by Douglas Connelly for this year's study. Note: we will not meet in December.

Contact: Pastor Angie Way
angie@gracepeople.church

ROMEO

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 4

9 a.m. | Perkins on County Rd E

Retired Old Men Eating Out meets every first Thursday of the month. We are not meeting in November, and encouraging attendees to come to the Veteran's luncheon on November 6.

Contact: Curt Schneider
curtisschneider@comcast.net

JULIET

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 3

11:30 a.m. | Oliver's in Shoreview

All women are welcome to join this monthly event.

PASTOR ANGIE'S BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS
NOVEMBER 5, 12, & 19

4 p.m. | CGLC Prayer Chapel

We will be working through the Practicing the Way study. Then we'll break for Thanksgiving Eve, and reconvene December 3. All are welcome!

Contact: Pastor Angie Way
angie@gracepeople.church



WEDNESDAYS | DURING ADVENT

Join the Pickup Choir for the Advent Season! We're always looking for additional members who love music and desire to serve the Lord in our Traditional Worship services.

We will sing all four Sundays during Advent. Rehearsals are weekly each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

Contact: Mark Hanson
mark@gracepeople.church



SATURDAY | DECEMBER 6

Ladies, make sure to mark your calendars, get your ticket, and attend this delightful annual holiday event!

Gather around lovely tables set with fine china, and delicious goodies brought by our table hosts.

This year's selection of Christmas music will be the Glad Tidings Choir, of which Pastor Angie is a member!

Contact: Glenda Schuneman
glendaschuneman@gmail.com



MINISTRY FUNDING UPDATE

Results as of 9/30/2025

YTD RECEIPTS: \$1,077,994

Receipts are lower than our plan by \$231,056.

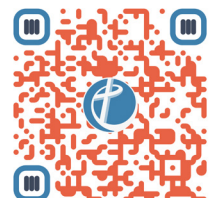
YTD EXPENSES: \$1,283,173

We are currently \$25,127 below plan.

NUMBERS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30

CGCLC giving is down \$6,200 in 2025, compared to 2024 - and is well below our YTD Ministry Funding Plan (MFP) of \$1,309,050. We continue to manage our expenses, and are expecting to end the year just under our MFP expense budget. **Our receipts are currently \$205,179 less than our actual YTD expenses.** Please consider an additional gift to help us finish the year, fully funding our ministry here at CGCLC. Thank you for all of your ongoing support!

Contact: Mike Mathisen mike@gracepeople.church



gracepeople.church

ADULTS



VIA DE CRISTO ELTRAEYA

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 4
COMMUNITY ROOM/COMMONS

If you've been to a Via de Cristo weekend, you're welcome to join in this reunion celebration. Bring a dessert to share. We will end the evening with Communion. Contact Harold Dojan for more information.

Contact: Harold Dojan
htrgear@yahoo.com



CGCS COLOR RUN

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 1
CGLC PARKING LOT

Our K-8 partner school hosts this annual fundraiser to pay for buses that shuttle students each week over to St. Andrew's for Phy Ed classes. The morning includes food, music, and games. Want to volunteer?

Contact: Grace PTO
gracepto@graceschoolwbl.org

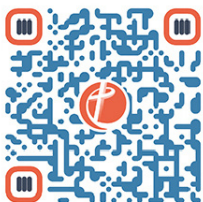


ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

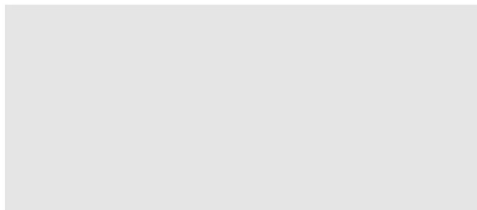
Advent begins Sunday, November 30. Pick up an Advent Devotional at the Front Desk Sunday, November 23, or when you're at church for the Thanksgiving Eve service.

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gracepeople.church
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livestream at: gracepeople.live



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COMMUNITY
— of GRACE —
LUTHERAN CHURCH

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES
ON A MISSION OF GRACE

REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS



THANKSGIVING EVE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26
6:30 P.M.

ADVENT 2025
SUNDAYS
NOVEMBER 30
DECEMBER 7
DECEMBER 14
DECEMBER 21

