

# Current

GET PLUGGED IN!



**COMMUNITY**  
- of GRACE -  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Community of Disciples on a Mission of Grace*

**OCTOBER 2025**

# HELLO

## PRACTICING THE WAY & GRACE TOGETHER

by Senior Pastor Darrin Vick

Author Matthew Kelly once said, "Most people overestimate what they can do in a day, and underestimate what they can do in a month. We overestimate what we can do in a year, and underestimate what we can accomplish in a decade."

I have witnessed this truism on many occasions in my personal life and ministry. Perhaps it is my personality. I love to dive into new projects and get things started but sometimes my enthusiasm wanes as the early excitement shifts into a long-term grind. It is challenging when you are hoping and expecting immediate results but, instead, progress becomes a slow road with many hills to climb and valleys to endure. Not to mention the unexpected detours that become dead ends requiring you double-back and return to your previous path.

Was that time wasted? Can you make up for it by moving faster? I have asked these questions many times. Whether it was starting a fitness journey, breaking an old habit, learning a new skill, or envisioning a preferred future - the struggle is real, and being short-sighted gets in the way of having a long view.

Two specific things come to mind when I think of our current journey as a congregation. The first is our new focus on spiritual formation through Practicing the Way. Having completed the eight-week course with our staff, I am keenly aware



that eight weeks is just enough time to introduce some spiritual practices - and totally inadequate to make any of them a habit. That was my experience. Maybe it will be different for you. But something as important as following the way of Jesus requires a different perspective on time and progress. We need an outlook of months and years, not days and weeks.

Which brings me to my second point - Grace Together. When we began this campus-wide exploration of strategic alignment for the sake of future ministry and facility expansion, I didn't realize how long it would take. Bringing diverse organizations with unique cultures together into a unified, missional vision is exciting, but it is also difficult (and sometimes tedious) work. I probably overestimated what we could accomplish in a year or two. But I am committed to listening, learning, and discovering what God desires for this campus - five, ten, or even twenty years into the future. It's a long view.

Thanks for your patience and your prayers!

By Grace Alone,

4000 Linden Street  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

gracepeople.church | 651.429.5349  
hello@gracepeople.church

## CONNECT

**DARRIN VICK**

SENIOR PASTOR

darrin@gracepeople.church x7315

**ANGIE WAY**

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

angie@gracepeople.church x7306

**MARY ELLEN STEINKRAUS**

VISITATION PASTOR

maryellen@gracepeople.church x7309

**DAN LUGO**

DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

dan@gracepeople.church x7316

**MELINDA KERN**

STUDENT MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

melinda@gracepeople.church x7302

**ANDREW KELLY**

STUDENT MINISTRIES &

WORSHIP ASSOCIATE

andrew@gracepeople.church x7312

**BRITTA MALY**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

britta@gracepeople.church x7308

**VICTORIA MATHISEN**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSOCIATE

victoria@gracepeople.church x7307

**HANNAH COLLINS**

DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONS

& SERVICE

hannah@gracepeople.church x7303

**MIKE MATHISEN**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF

ADMINISTRATION

mike@gracepeople.church x7314

**MARK HANSON**

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASS'T

ORGANIST / CHOIR DIR.

mark@gracepeople.church x7325

**KEITH NELSON**

CONTRIBUTIONS COORDINATOR

keith@gracepeople.church x7311

**SUE QUINN**

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

sue@gracepeople.church x7310

**PAUL WETTERLING**

FACILITIES MANAGER

paul@gracepeople.church x7301

**SHANE STAMBAUGH**

WORSHIP TECH COORDINATOR

tech@gracepeople.church x7320

# 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 during worship.

Our 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

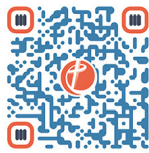
### TRADITIONAL SERVICE

9 a.m. | Sanctuary w/Communion

### STREAM LIVE OR LATER

[gracepeople.live](https://gracepeople.live)

Scan to Find Us  
on the Church  
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

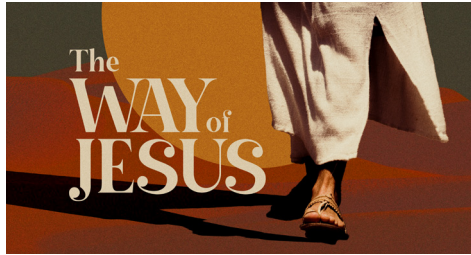
Ecumenical Service of the Word

### 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](mailto: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 reorients 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!

## SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSALS

### WEDNESDAYS

OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

6:30 p.m. | Large Choir Room

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

We sing three Sundays each month and rehearse each Wednesday. Rehearsals are fun and include devotions, rehearsal, and fellowship time with homemade shared treats.

Contact: Mark Hanson  
[mark@gracepeople.church](mailto:mark@gracepeople.church)

KNOW  
JESUS,  
TRUST  
JESUS

## PRACTICING THE WAY COURSE FOR WINTER

### STARTS SUNDAY JAN 18

Missing the course? No problem! Next course dates begin Sunday, January 18. Register on Church Center. Interested in leading a 4-week group on a specific practice? Contact Dan Lugo.

[dan@gracepeople.church](mailto:dan@gracepeople.church)



## NEXT CATALYST

SUNDAYS | OCT 12-NOV 2

11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. | LL9

Our four-week Catalyst Discussion Group is an opportunity to grow as a follower of Jesus and learn more about getting connected to Community of Grace. A light lunch and child care are provided.

Contact: Hannah Collins  
[hannah@gracepeople.church](mailto:hannah@gracepeople.church)



## REFORMATION SUNDAY

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 26

9 & 10:30 a.m. Services

Celebrate our Protestant and Lutheran heritage of justification by faith alone, and come to church wearing red!

# 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 drop-ins are always welcome.

**Contact: Britta Maly**  
[britta@gracepeople.church](mailto:britta@gracepeople.church)

## GRACE KIDS SUNDAYS

### SUNDAYS

**OCTOBER 12, 19, & 26**

**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.**

## KIDS IN WORSHIP

**SUNDAY | OCTOBER 5**

**SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 2**

**9 & 10:30 a.m.**

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

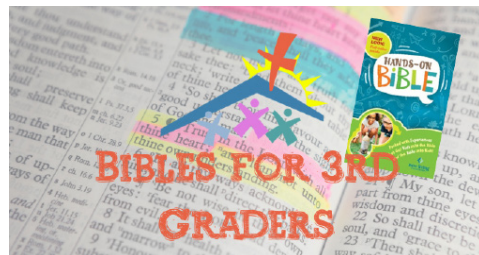
## GRACE KIDS NURSERY

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

Check in is at the north end of the Commons.

We are still looking for additional Nursery Hosts as well as Check-In Security Liaisons. We are trying to have two check-in volunteers scheduled every week when there is Sunday School.

**Contact: Victoria Mathisen**  
[victoria@gracepeople.church](mailto:victoria@gracepeople.church)



## THIRD GRADERS RECEIVE BIBLES

**SUNDAY | OCTOBER 5**

**9 & 10:30 a.m.**

**Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall**

Mark your calendar for this important day. Bibles are handed out at all worship services.

**Registration is now on Church Center.**



**REGISTER ON CHURCH CENTER**



# 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](mailto:melinda@gracepeople.church)  
to inquire about Refuge.



## REFUGE COSTUME CONTEST | OCT 29

**Wear your most fun and original Halloween costume, and win a prize!**

For all students, 6-12th grades

Register on Church Center.



## 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.**

**SEE PEOPLE  
THE WAY  
JESUS SEES  
PEOPLE**



## 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!



## BRNC WORSHIP

**WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 22**

**6-8 p.m. | Northgate Church**

Gather at Northgate Church in Ramsey for an evening of worship, connecting with God and each other, memorable prayer time, games, and food!

**No charge - just come and experience an encounter with the living God!**

# ADULTS

## WOMEN OF GRACE CIRCLE LEADERS' STUDY

**THURSDAY | OCTOBER 16**  
**LESSON 3**

**3 p.m. | Community Room**

We are using the book  
*Encountering Jesus* by Douglas  
Connelly for this year's study.

**Contact: Pastor Angie Way**  
[angie@gracepeople.church](mailto:angie@gracepeople.church)

## ROMEO

**THURSDAY | OCTOBER 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](mailto:curtisschneider@comcast.net)

## JULIET

**MONDAY | OCTOBER 6**

**11:30 a.m. | Key's Cafe, WBL**

All women are welcome to join this  
monthly event. Connect with old  
friends and maybe meet some new.

**Sign up at the Information Desk.**

## PASTOR ANGIE'S BIBLE STUDY

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**

**4 p.m. | CGLC Prayer Chapel**

We will be working through the  
Practicing the Way study. All are  
welcome!

**Contact: Pastor Angie Way**  
[angie@gracepeople.church](mailto:angie@gracepeople.church)

## MISSION OF HOPE FOOD PACKING EVENT

**SATURDAY | OCTOBER 25**

Come and help pack 100,000 meals for Mission of Hope! We still need  
many volunteers to come and help with this all-church event. Sign up  
for a morning (9:15-11:30 a.m.) shift, or afternoon (12:15-2:30 p.m.) shift  
on Signup Genius.

Leader slots are also available from 8-8:30 a.m. if you can come and  
help set up tables and packing items.



**COMMUNITY  
DIAPER  
DRIVE**

Begins Sunday  
October 26

Donate Through Thanksgiving Eve!



## MINISTRY FUNDING UPDATE

*Results as of 8/31/2025*

**YTD RECEIPTS: \$935,629**

Receipts are lower than our plan by \$227,971.

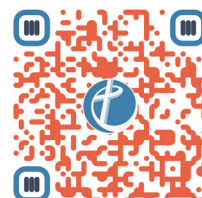
**YTD EXPENSES: \$1,143,395**

We are currently \$19,538 below plan.

### NUMBERS THROUGH AUGUST 31

CGLC giving is down \$38,045 in 2025, compared to 2024 - and is well  
below our YTD Ministry Funding Plan (MFP) of \$1,163,600. We continue  
to manage our expenses, and are currently \$19,538 below our YTD MFP  
expense plan. We are expecting to end the year just  
under our MFP expense budget. Please consider an  
additional gift to help us finish the year, fully funding  
our ministry here at CGLC. Thank you for all of your  
ongoing support!

**Contact: Mike Mathisen**  
[mike@gracepeople.church](mailto:mike@gracepeople.church)





## A COMMUNITY *of* DISCIPLES ON A

# *Mission of Grace*

COMMUNITY OF GRACE MINISTRIES EMBRACES THE UNDENIABLE TRUTH THAT GOD LOVES AND VALUES ALL PEOPLE - NO EXCEPTIONS. THIS TRUTH IS MANIFESTED CLEARLY IN THE PERSON OF JESUS, WHO MODELED UNCONDITIONAL, BOUNDLESS LOVE. THERE ARE NO OUTSIDERS TO JESUS' LOVE, NO US VERSUS THEM, ONLY PEOPLE GOD SEEKS TO INVITE INTO HIS FAMILY.

THIS IS GRACE!

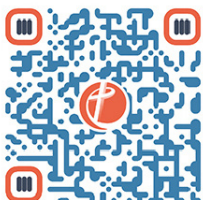
CONVICTED BY THIS HOLY PURPOSE AND EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE ARE ALIGNED TO FOUR CORE VALUE STATEMENTS THAT DRIVE OUR ACTIONS AND DECISIONS AND FOUR FORMATIONAL VALUES THAT HELP US BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS.

THIS IS OUR HOLY CALLING: TO FOLLOW JESUS AS A COMMUNITY OF HIS GRACE, AND TO HELP OTHERS KNOW JESUS THROUGH US.

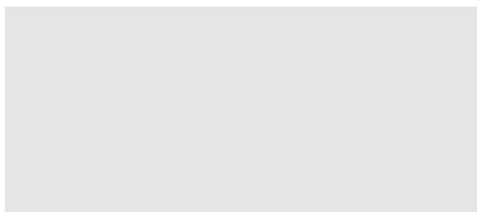


4000 Linden Street  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
(651) 429-5349

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



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A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES  
ON A MISSION OF GRACE

## LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

### **CGCS COLOR RUN | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 10 A.M. | CGLC PARKING LOT**

Our *Grace Together* 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. Need more info? Email [gracepto@graceschoolwbl.org](mailto:gracepto@graceschoolwbl.org) for more information.

### **VIA DE CHRISTO ELTRAEYA | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 | 6:30 P.M. | CGLC COMMONS**

If you've been to a Via De Christo weekend, you're welcome to this reunion celebration. Bring a dessert to share. We will end the evening with receiving Communion together. Contact Harold Dojan for more information at [htrgear@yahoo.com](mailto:htrgear@yahoo.com).

### **VETERAN'S LUNCHEON EVENT | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 | 11 A.M.-2 P.M.**

This annual event honors those in our CGLC congregation who have served our country! Along with recognizing our veterans, enjoy a delicious lunch catered by our own Kathy Schneider.

### **SPIRITUAL RETREAT MORNING | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 9 A.M.-NOON**

Come join CGLC church member Chris LePoutre as she leads this retreat time with teaching, time alone with the Lord, and time to share what the Lord shows us. Please sign up if possible to let us know you're coming.

### **MEN'S RETREAT | FRIDAY-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21-23 | CAMP VICTORY, ZUMBRO FALLS, MN**

Deepen your faith and rejuvenate your spirit at this retreat! Guest speaker Pastor Terry Kearns will lead us in identifying God's presence in your spiritual story, so that you can learn to recognize him every day. Register on Church Center.