

Current

GET PLUGGED IN!



COMMUNITY
- of GRACE -
LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Community of Disciples on a Mission of Grace

DECEMBER 2025-JANUARY 2026

HELLO

A SEASON OF RENEWAL

by Senior Pastor Darrin Vick

I'm grateful to share some exciting news about a season of renewal ahead. In 2026, after 25 years of ministry, I will be taking my first pastoral sabbatical. Even more meaningful, Community of Grace has been awarded the Clergy Renewal Program Grant through the Lilly Foundation, which will generously support this time away for rest, learning, and spiritual refreshment.

The idea of sabbatical is rooted deeply in Scripture and in the historic rhythms of the Church. Just as God called His people to seasons of Sabbath rest (as we have been learning in "Practicing the Way"), the Church has long encouraged pastors to step away periodically for renewal, reflection, and growth. In recent decades, sabbaticals have become a vital practice for sustaining long-term, healthy ministry. They help pastors return with renewed energy and creativity, and they bless congregations by strengthening leadership for the years ahead.

This sabbatical is significant not only because it is my first, but also because it marks an important milestone for Community of Grace: this is the first time a Senior Pastor in our congregation has been granted a sabbatical. I am deeply thankful for the support of our Church Council and the trust you have placed in our shared ministry.

4000 Linden Street
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

gracepeople.church | 651.429.5349
hello@gracepeople.church



A sabbatical is not simply time off. It is an intentional, prayerful season that I believe God will use to bless both me and our church family. In the coming months, we'll share more about what this time will look like and how it will help us continue living out our mission as a Community of Disciples on a Mission of Grace.

By Grace Alone,
Pastor Darrin

SUNDAY 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.

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

CONNECT

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WORSHIP

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.

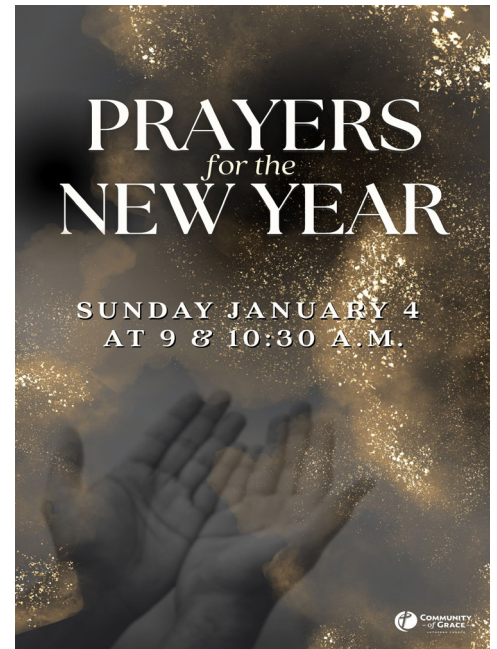
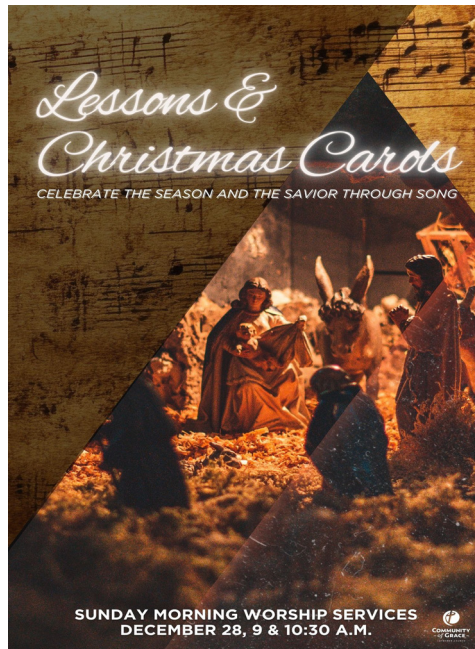


TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23
6-7 P.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us for a time of fun and good cheer. All are encouraged to wear cozy jammies to this joyful celebration of the Christmas story, featuring a readers' theater, caroling, activities and more! We still can use some volunteers to help with our Readers' Theater. If you would like to participate, reach out to Britta Maly.

Britta@gracepeople.church

Dec-Jan '25-'26



JANUARY 2026 SERMON SERIES



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

DECEMBER 7, 14 & 21

JANUARY 11, 18 & 25

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**



3rd-6th graders are invited to join us for a winter retreat at Big Sandy Camp! Cost per camper is \$175. Registration opens December 4th for both campers and adult leader applicants!

WHATEVER.

Philippians 4:8

Avalanche Camp 2026

Junior - Grades 3-6

January 30 - February 1



KIDS IN WORSHIP

SUNDAYS | DEC 28 JAN 4

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.

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



DECEMBER 23, 6 P.M.

We still can use some volunteers to help with our Jammie Jam! If you would like to help, reach out to Britta Maly.

Britta@gracepeople.church

DECEMBER & JANUARY HYMNS OF THE MONTH

"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" and "This Is My Father's World."



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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 | DEC 7-21 & JAN 11-25

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

Refuge Rise & Shine is a super awesome Student Ministry gathering on Sunday mornings between 10 and 10:30 a.m. Each week we will have breakfast treats (like donuts, cereal station, bagels, etc.) and time for a short activity. **We will not be meeting December 28 and January 4.**

No RSVP is required, just stop in.



DECEMBER 31, 9 P.M. TO JANUARY 1, 7 A.M.

Hey 9-12th grade, you're off for break, so invite all of your friends and come join us for an entire night of non-stop fun! You'll have the time of your life staying up late, eating food, playing games and more! Cost is \$25 per person. Sign-up is available online.

HS SUMMER CAMP IN JUNE

JUNE 14-19, 2026

We're partnering with BRNC for a week of camp this summer! This will be an unforgettable week that you won't want to miss! For 9-12th grade students, **registration is limited, so sign up now to secure your spot!**



REFUGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY DEC 17 | 6 P.M.

It's the most wonderful time of the year! We have the ultimate Christmas celebration planned for students in 6-12th grade. So invite all of your friends, and **bring a Christmas treat to share (please no nuts)**. Students can also dress up as their favorite Christmas character or Christmas item to compete for a prize. This Christmas Fun Night will be during Refuge.

REFUGE PIZZA & GAME NIGHT

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7

Join us from 6-8 p.m. for a fun night of Refuge with games, making pizza and hearing testimonies from camp. Bring your favorite board game(s) and some of your favorite pizza toppings. We will play together, as well as have a chance to make and eat our own pizzas! As with all of our events, friends are welcome, and there is no sign-up for this event - just show up!



ADULTS

WOMEN OF GRACE CIRCLE LEADERS' STUDY

THURSDAY | JANUARY 15
LESSON 5

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.

Contact: Curt Schneider
curtisschneider@comcast.net

JULIET

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH
MONTH | 11:30 A.M.

December 1
Olive Garden, 1749 Beam Ave
Maplewood

January 5
The Black Sea, 1581 Cty Rd E
White Bear Lake

All women are welcome to join this
monthly event.

PASTOR ANGIE'S BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS
DECEMBER 3, 10, & 17

4 p.m. | CGLC Prayer Chapel

Sunday Sermon-based discussion.
After Christmas, we will reconvene
January 14. All are welcome!

Contact: Pastor Angie Way
angie@gracepeople.church



MINISTRY FUNDING UPDATE

Results as of 10/31/2025

YTD RECEIPTS: \$1,168,429

Receipts are lower than our plan by \$286,071.

YTD EXPENSES: \$1,428,223

We are currently \$25,444 below plan.

NUMBERS THROUGH OCTOBER 31

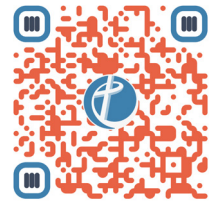
CGLC giving is down \$11,842 in 2025, compared to
2024 - and is well below our YTD Ministry Funding
Plan (MFP) of \$1,454,500. We continue to manage
our expenses, and are expecting to end the year
just under our MFP expense budget. **Our receipts**

are currently \$259,794 less than our actual YTD

expenses. Through Sunday, 11/23/25, we are

projecting that we need \$425,000 in giving by the end of this year to fully
fund our ministry here at CGLC. Please consider giving an additional year-
end gift to help us finish strong, positioning us well for our 2026 ministry
year. Thank you in advance, and God bless you!

Contact: Mike Mathisen mike@gracepeople.church



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.
Pick up an Advent Devotional at the
Information Desk in the Commons.

Practicing
the Way of Jesus

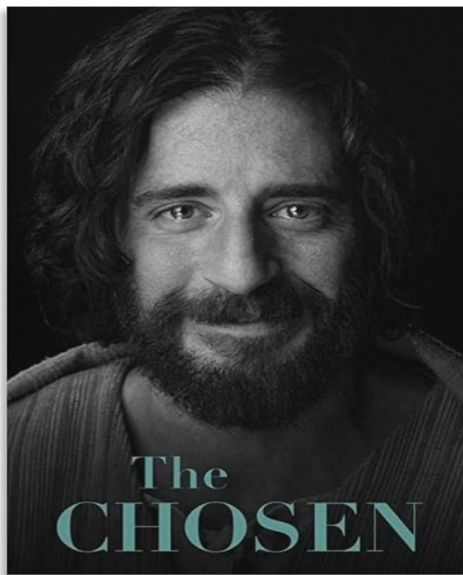
PRACTICING THE WAY

STARTS SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Join the Practicing the Way Course,
an eight-week video curriculum
designed to introduce followers
of Jesus to spiritual practices that
help us to know, trust, imitate, and
speak Jesus. New groups begin
January 18 on various days and
times. Register on Church Center.

gracepeople.church

ADULTS



FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 | 6 P.M.
CGLC FELLOWSHIP HALL
SEASON 1, EPISODES 5 & 6

Come and join us for these powerful two episodes of Season 1. Movie snacks will be provided!



SPIRITUAL RETREAT

SATURDAY | JANUARY 31
9 A.M.-NOON | CGLC COMMONS

CGLC member Chris LePoutre will lead a Spiritual Retreat, centering on Jesus' words in the Gospel of John, chapter 1: "Come and See."

Light snacks will be provided. Sign up at the Information Desk or on Church Center.

Contact: Chris LePoutre
lepoutre.chris@gmail.com



GROWING IN THE WAY OF JESUS: READING AND PRAYING SCRIPTURE

SATURDAY | JANUARY 17, 9 A.M.-NOON | CGLC COMMONS

The CGLC Faith Mentoring Team will hold a workshop in the Commons and Fireside Room to help you keep growing in the practices of Jesus. Please join us for a deep dive into Scripture through inductive Bible study strategies, memorizing verses, and turning verses into prayers. You can sign up online on Church Center or on the sign-up sheet at the Information Desk. Let's all keep growing and learning to be an Apprentice of Jesus!

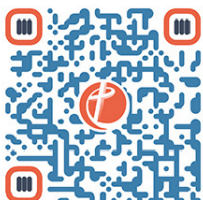


ANNUAL GIFT DRIVE

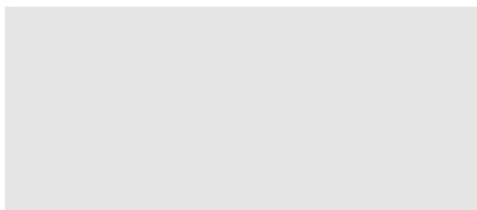
Every year, Project Home sets up a Dignity Shop so that parents can shop for their kids' Christmas presents. Donations are needed to 'stock the shelves' with gifts for kids ages 0-18. (Don't forget the teenagers!) Presents should be between \$15-\$20. Please donate high-quality items you would give your own family members! Donations will be taken between Sunday, November 30th and Sunday, December 21, when we will load the Project Home bus up with gifts. Please leave your donations by the Serve Wall in the commons. Last year, Project Home was blown away by the love pouring out from this congregation. Let's show love again this year as we imitate Jesus together!

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

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



Scan to find us
on the Church
Center App!



A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES
ON A MISSION OF GRACE

REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 1
11:45 A.M.
FELLOWSHIP
HALL**

Community of Grace
Lutheran Church



**ANNUAL
MEETING**



ADVENT 2025

**SUNDAYS
NOVEMBER 30
DECEMBER 7
DECEMBER 14
DECEMBER 21**