



VOICE OF GRACE

Vol. 56 August 2025



Theme for the year 2025-2026

Friend A: "You should sing tenor."

Friend B: "Tenor?"

Friend A: "Yeah. Ten or twenty feet away!" (ha ha)

That's a joke I learned at church one day.

Here's another one. "I sing solo." "So low you can't hear me." (ha ha)

Brothers and sisters, when you come to the Lord's house, please sing! It's okay for your voice to be heard. God commands it. The Lord's house is the very place in which we want everyone singing. Truthfully, singing is not an option. If we have a voice, God expects us to use it in praise to Him, even singing with that voice, no matter how we think it sounds. God commands this. Notice the imperatives in our theme verse for this academic year, Psalm 98:4 "*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.*"

Nowhere in Scripture does it say we need to have musical skills or a perfect pitch to be able to sing to the Lord. Rather in several places accompanying the word "singing" we are told to "*make a joyful noise unto the Lord.*" (Psalms 66:1, 95:1-2, 98:4, 100:1; 1 Chronicles 15:16) What do you think this means?

I think it means God wants us to find such joy and excitement in Him that we cannot contain it. Ephesians 5:18-19 instructs us to "*be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.*" Filled with the Holy Spirit and moved by God's

grace, singing to the Lord naturally flows in and through us. It's not so much about musical talent as it is about our attitude and our gratitude. It comes from our heart before it gets to our voice. And we want our hearts to get to our voice and let God actually hear a joyful sound from each of us.

So what do you think? Will you sing to the Lord? I certainly hope so! A man in my first congregation told me, "*Pastor, the only place I ever sing is in church.*" I'm glad that man sings in church. His voice might not sound melodic to his friends and family, but in the Lord's ear, it is a sweet and beautiful sound, for it comes from a heart redeemed, a heart that's moved to sing praises with other people to our great God. That's a good thing.

Let me return to those words "*make a joyful noise* to the Lord." What do you think this really means? Notice that it says "make a JOYFUL noise" as opposed to just "make a noise." Joy is an expression of our heart and noise gets our body involved. Sometimes these words are translated "shout with joy to the Lord" as in Psalm 100:1. Shouting with joy to the Lord is far different than shouting AT the Lord. Psalm 81:1 combines shout with singing: "*Sing aloud to God our strength; make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob.*" So what do you think?

Join God's people this weekend in worship and let your voice on this matter be heard! with joy! (Right next to me and not ten or twenty feet away.) I want to hear you singing – and the Lord does too! It's for Him!

- Pastor Charles Reich

PRAYER VIGIL

School Ministries August 4, 6:30 PM

Join us the evening of August 4, after Open House, as we pray over all of our school ministries! We will meet in the sanctuary before dispersing to various educational facilities.

Please keep all students, parents, teachers, and school staff in your prayers this night and every night. Together let us MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD!

Heavenly Father, empower our teachers and all school staff to equip their students to sing Your praises. Give our students ears to hear Your word and voices to sing Your praise. Amen.

LCMSFoundation
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Brian and Jeff were watching their grandsons play a video game that included a joystick controller. Out of nowhere, Brian quipped, "I am going to take the joystick into the grave to control all my assets that I have earned throughout my life."

Jeff was quiet for a minute and then replied, "Do you really think you can do that?"

There is no disguising that much of our life's energy is used in the management of physical blessings over which God has placed us as stewards. That effort can easily translate into a sense of ownership and the need to control the things that are "ours". Yet Psalm 24 reminds us, "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters." The real joy of having things comes from knowing to whom they belong and sensing God's hand on them, blessing us and encouraging us to share those blessings - along with the story of the redemptive life of Jesus - with the world.

Attempts to control all the things of life can bring anxiety and fear. Living in full appreciation of God's gracious blessings and placing our trust in Jesus bring us joy and peace. Your Christian estate plan can reflect your joy and celebration of thanksgiving for all those blessings. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Tony Hunt 260-222-1291 or tony.hunt@lfnd.org.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION



AUGUST 13, 2025
6-8PM



TRINITY HALL

REGISTER YOU AND YOUR
7TH AND/OR 8TH GRADER
BY EMAILING MRS. CASEY AT
CBILLMAN@GLWH.ORG

Confirmation Orientation

All incoming 7th and 8th grade students and their parents are invited to our Confirmation Orientation! This year's focus will be on *Luther's Small Catechism*—a foundational guide to the Christian faith. At orientation, we'll walk through expectations, the calendar, and how our church partners with families in raising up young people who know and trust in Jesus. Let's begin this next step in the faith journey together!

2ND GRADE FAMILY BIBLE DAY



AUGUST 16, 2025
9:30-11AM
TRINITY HALL



REGISTER YOU AND YOUR SECOND GRADER
BY EMAILING MRS. CASEY AT CBILLMAN@GLWH.ORG

2nd Grade Family Bible Day

Join us for our Second Grade Family Bible Day—a special time for families to grow in God's Word together! Through interactive learning, games, and creative activities, children and parents will explore Scripture side by side. Whether your family is just starting your faith journey or has been walking with Jesus for years, this day is for you! Come be encouraged, equipped, and united in Christ.

Voice of Grace is
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Shawn Stephenson

Upcoming Discover Grace Classes

Wednesdays in September

If you are interested in membership at Grace Lutheran Church, or if you would like to know more about Lutheran theology, please join us for a series of classes on Wednesday evenings: September 3, September 10, September 17, and September 24 from 6:30 PM – 8 PM. It is a great time to learn and grow with other people who also have questions. A simple meal will be provided each week. For more information, to sign up, or to arrange child care, please contact Michelle Reddick at the church 863.293.8447, or at mreddick@glwh.org.

Grace Bytes is Back!!

Resuming in September

If you are interested in learning about the Bible and Lutheran theology, please join us for Grace Bytes on the second Tuesday of each month starting in the sanctuary for a short time of prayer at 5:30 PM. We will then go to the Mary-Martha room for pizza, learning, and discussion led by Pastor Reich. Bring a friend, your questions, and join us!

September's Topic: **What's Up with Jesus Descending to Hell?**

If you have any questions, please call the church office and speak to Michelle at 863.293.8447, or email mreddick@glwh.org. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Tuesday Prayer Service Schedule

We are making some changes to our Tuesday Evening Prayer Service. Each week will focus on something different.

1st Tuesday - A Service of Healing with Holy Communion (*special prayers for all surgeries and medical procedures that month*)

2nd Tuesday - A brief Prayer Service, praying for all names on our printed prayer list, followed by *Grace Bytes*. (*Resuming in September. See above for more info on Grace Bytes.*)

3rd Tuesday - General Prayer Service with Holy Communion

4th Tuesday - Service of Relationship Healing with Holy Communion (*special prayers for healing in family and social relationships*)



MUSIC NOTES

791 All People That on Earth Do Dwell

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.
- 2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.
- 3 O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.
- 4 For why? The Lord our God is good:
His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood
And shall from age to age endure.
- 5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

Psalm 100 (ESV)

- ¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
²Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
- ³Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- ⁵For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

(doxological stanza added later)

You will notice in this hymn, that the text of Psalm 100 is followed quite closely. This is because of the teaching of John Calvin, who thought that worship should be in a humble spirit. The place of worship was to be simple, without decoration, the prayers and preaching dignified, and the music majestic, in unison, and without instrumental accompaniment. Only those texts that came directly from the Bible (God's own words) were to be sung.

One of Calvin's followers, a Scottish exile named William Kethe, wrote this hymn while in Geneva, Switzerland, as a project related to his main task of translating the Bible into English. We do not know much about Kethe's life other than his approximate death year of 1594. For reference, the King James Version of the Bible was translated in 1611, thus this is the oldest English hymn or psalm in common use today. The final verse was added later to the hymn as a doxology – praising Father, Son, and Holy Ghost – to conclude the hymn.

Although Calvin wanted only the words of the psalms, Luther saw in the psalms the work of Christ. Because of Christ we can approach His throne and “come into his presence with singing!”

JUST FOR YOU!

FIRST TUESDAY EACH MONTH AT 5:30 PM

Are you scheduled for an upcoming surgery or procedure?
Are you dealing with a diagnosis that has changed your life?
Are you facing treatment decisions that overwhelm you?
Are you living with a chronic condition that is wearing you down?
Or, do you have loved ones who are in need of prayers for healing?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, we have a place for you to take your concerns, anxieties, fears, and confusion. Our Tuesday evening Prayer Services have been redesigned to fit your needs.

Every First Tuesday of the month we offer

prayers especially for physical healings and surgeries; and also prayers for body, mind, and spirit.

Come and feel the calming presence of our Lord Jesus and partake of Holy Communion for the strengthening of your faith.



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry at Grace is an extension of the pastoral offices which brings one-on-one ministry by trained, caring members who extend Christ's healing love to those who are lonely, grieving, ill or experiencing other crises or stresses in life.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- **after** the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- **after** the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- **after** the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- **after** the doctors says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- **after** the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- **after** the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away - and the house suddenly seems empty.
- **after** the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- **after** the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- **after** you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- **after** your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Since 1979, Grace Lutheran Church has trained over 200 Stephen Ministers and they, in turn, have helped over 800 hurting souls. For more information, please contact Sharon Wilson at 863-293-8447.

FAMILIES IN THE PARK



SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
6:00 PM

Contact Cynthia Cochran at colecynthia@hotmail.com



Grace Lutheran Church **Sunshine Club News**



August 7, 10:00 AM...Movie and Brown Bag lunch (Bring your own lunch) Join us in the Mary-Martha Room for the movie, "Hacksaw Ridge"- World War II American Army Medic Desmond T. Doss, serving during the Battle of Okinawa, refuses to kill people and becomes the first man in American history to receive the Medal of Honor without firing a shot. We'll provide drinks and root beer/coke floats.



September 4, 11:30 AM Meet at Olive Garden on Cypress Gardens Road for a great conversation and delicious dining. Plan to bring a friend. Everyone is on their own for lunch. See you there!

One of the most active groups in our church community, Sunshine club focuses on individuals and couples, providing social interaction, support and spiritual growth. Join us the first Thursday of the month for food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

Women's Ministry

After a short summer break from our regular meetings and activities, we are eagerly looking forward to getting into full swing again beginning with a Circle Meeting on September 11. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, usually in the Mary-Martha Room. All ladies of Grace are encouraged to join us for a time of Bible study, wonderful discussion, and fellowship. This is a great way to meet ladies of our congregation, make new friendships, and participate in a variety of fundraising activities whose proceeds support a variety of missions.

Jan Struck and Krista Bernthal traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, in June to attend the National LWML convention. 3700 women gathered to learn more about the missions that LWML currently supports, discuss the business side of the organization, and to vote on the new grants that will be paid out this year - the 2.6 million dollars that was raised from those little mite boxes over the last two years.

Jan has been part of the entertainment for these conventions for many years. However, she has decided to retire from that job after this convention. The LWML gave her a fabulous video tribute during the final meeting. Video clips of her performances plus the video tribute are available to watch on lwml.org.

At our last board meeting in June (before our summer break), plans were made for upcoming activities and opportunities to serve which allow us to continue supporting our mission projects. We are looking forward to these activities and truly enjoy our time working together in His service. Once again, come join us on September 11.

Please review the list of our group's most recent disbursements itemizing how our funds were distributed. None of them would be possible if not for the generosity of our caring and supportive Grace congregation. No matter how many times we say thank you, it never seems to be enough.

Another opportunity for service and fellowship at Grace is our quilting group that meets every Thursday morning. Many different tasks need doing and sewing skills are not a must. Please consider visiting the group to see for yourself as to what is involved.

Please always check the weekly Blue Pages and monthly VOG for all our Women's Ministry activities and the various ways we all can do our part in accomplishing our Lord's work.

Grace Lutheran Women's Ministry Disbursements for 2024-2025

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

School Scholarship	\$500.00
Church Discretionary Fund	\$500.00
Church Paper Items	\$250.00

COMMUNITY

Trail Life Boys	\$250.00
American Heritage Girls	\$250.00
Haley Center	\$500.00
Life Choice Pregnancy Center	\$500.00
One More Child	\$500.00

SEMINARY STUDENTS

Mark Esser	\$1,000.00
Noah Menke	\$1,000.00
Josh Armstrong	\$1,000.00

GLOBAL MISSIONS

POBLO Bible Translations	\$500.00
Lutheran Heritage	<u>\$500.00</u>
	\$7,250.00

Treasurer's Report for the Twelve Months Ending June 30, 2025

	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance
<u>Church</u>				
Income	\$ 99,816.65	\$ 1,581,949.98	\$ 1,647,600.00	\$ (65,650.02)
Expenses	\$ 99,288.42	\$ 1,368,355.01	\$ 1,552,596.00	\$ (184,240.99)
Total Church	\$ 528.23	\$ 213,594.97	\$ 95,004.00	\$ 118,590.97
<u>School</u>				
Income	\$ 63,995.39	\$ 3,939,691.28	\$ 4,000,278.00	\$ (60,586.72)
Expenses	\$ 300,210.30	\$ 4,032,590.02	\$ 3,995,975.00	\$ 36,615.02
Net	\$ (236,214.91)	\$ (92,898.74)	\$ 4,303.00	\$ (97,201.74)
Designated (In/Out Accounts)	\$ 19,204.47	\$ (828.89)		
Total School	\$ (255,419.38)	\$ (92,069.85)		

Investment Assets

Church Investments - Restricted	\$ 11,647.10
Church Endowment Fund	\$ 1,008,026.66
School Endowment Fund	\$ 698,396.69
Bernthal Endowment Scholarship Fund	\$ 146,432.43
All Other Scholarships/Investments	\$ 23,762.24



Parish Statistics

Baptisms

*Rex Ray Alford 6/15/25
Sabah Khan 7/1/25*

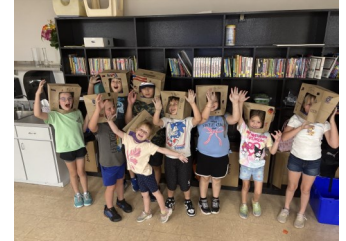
Deaths

*Jim Myers 6/6/25
David Riddle 7/6/25
Clay Allen 7/7/25
Arlene Malotky 7/10/25
Lana Jo Goldsboro 7/12/25*

Grace Lutheran School Pre-School 2's-8th Grade News

Phone: 863-293-9744

SCHOOL WEBSITE: school.glwh.org



What time is it? One of the most important things to learn is the time of day. We look at the clock, and we learn when it's time for school to start, a meeting to begin, to be at work, etc. During the summer, our schedules may be different and times become more flexible.

Moses and God's people had traveled together through the desert for almost forty years. They were about to go into the land that God promised them. It was time to review God's plan for them. God wanted to remind them of the times He had been with them and how they were to use their time in the new place. There was time to explore, time to build houses, time to defend their new land, time to work and play. For six days they could do all of these but on the seventh, God wanted them to give that time to Him. That day was dedicated to worship God.

During the school year, we will learn many things about Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading, etc. We will also focus on God's Word and what it means to us as His children. "1 John 3:1a "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

Welcome back to another exciting year. A year filled with time to explore, time to learn, time to play, and time to praise God. What a great year it will be filled with many opportunities to grow together! I am excited that you are a part of the Grace Lutheran family; and we, as a staff, look forward to another great year. We thank you for your support and prayers as we educate God's children throughout the year.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

August

- 1: Meet the Teacher Visits
- 1: Uniform Sales 8:00AM - 7:00PM
- 2: Uniform Sales 8:00AM - 5:00PM
- 3: Uniform Sales 8:00AM - 4:00PM
- 4: Uniform Sales 8:00AM - 6:00PM
- Open House 3:00PM - 6:00PM
- New Parent Orientation Meeting 5:15PM
- Middle School Family Meeting 6:00PM
- 5: Uniform Sales 8:00AM - 12:00PM
- 6: First Day of School
- 13: Youth Group 6:30 - 8:00PM
- 20: Uniform Sales 7:30AM - 4:00PM
- 21: Fall Picture Day
- 27: Youth Group 6:00 - 8:00PM
- 29: Early Release Day
- K - 5 N.U.T. Day

September

- 1: Labor Day
- No School/No Lion's Den
- 3: Uniform Sales 7:30AM - 4:00PM
- 5: Midterm of 1st Quarter
- 8 - 12: MAP Testing (Grades K - 3)
- 10: Youth Group 6:30 - 8:00PM
- 12 - 19: Food Drive Supporting The Mission
- 15 - 19: MAP Testing (Grades 4 - 8)
- 17: Uniform Sales 7:30AM - 4:00PM
- P.A.C.E. Coffee Talk 8:15 - 9:00AM
- 19: Early Release Day
- 22: K - 5 N.U.T. Day
- 24- 26: No School FL/GA Educator's Conference
- Lion's Den Open
- 30: K - 5 \$2 N.U.T. Day
- Donuts with Dad (Hosted by P.A.C.E.) 7:30 - 8:10AM

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF GLS: The mission of Grace Lutheran School is to provide its students and their families with a strong spiritual and academic foundation so that they know and understand God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ and are also able to live lives appropriate to their positions in their families, churches, community, and country.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10 AM Bible Study - MM 5 PM Worship Svc 6 PM Families in the Park - Lakeland Tigers Game	2
3 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Installation & Dedication of Faculty & Staff	4 3 PM School Open House 5:15 PM New Parent Orientation 6 PM Middle School Parent Meeting 6:30 PM Prayer Vigil 7 PM Elder Meeting	5 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 12 PM God's Guys 5:30 PM Prayer Service of Healing 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	6 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 7:30 AM Staff Devos 1 PM WM Board Mtg.	7 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 11 AM Sunshine Club 6 PM AHG & TL	8 10 AM Bible Study - MM	9 5 PM Worship Svc
10 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship	11 7:30 AM Staff Devos 9 AM Circuit Pastors Meeting 6 PM School Board	12 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Prayer Svc 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	13 6 PM Confirmation Orientation - TH	14 9:30 AM LWR Quilters Serving at The Mission	15 10 AM Bible Study - MM	16 9:30 AM 2nd Grade Family Bible Day 5 PM Worship Svc
17 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 AM Confirmation 10:45 AM Worship	18 7:30 AM Staff Devos	19 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 12 PM God's Guys 5:30 PM Prayer Svc 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	20 6 PM Stephen Ministry	21 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 6 PM AHG & TL 6 PM Trinity Bells 7:15 PM Grace Chorale	22 10 AM Bible Study - MM	23 5 PM Worship Svc
24 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 AM Confirmation 10:45 AM Worship	25 7:30 AM Staff Devos 5:30 Business Mgmt. 6:30 BOD Meeting	26 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Prayer Svc - Relationship Healing 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	27 6:30 PM MS Youth	28 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 1 PM Adult Game Day 6 PM Trinity Bells 7:15 PM Grace Chorale	29 10 AM Bible Study - MM	30 5 PM Worship Svc
31 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 AM Confirmation 10:45 AM Worship						



VOICE OF GRACE

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