

Grace Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2026



In late August, the Deaconess is planning a special Lunch and Learn where I will discuss the LCMS convention results. In the meantime, I thought I'd just give you some highlights. In absolutely no order.... at all!

The Synod in Convention resolved to:

Reinstate the Commission on Worship: The commission on worship had been dissolved after the adoption of the last hymnal. The commission's purpose is to assist congregations in word and in sacrament ministry. It does so through the official adoption of hymn books, agendas and other worship materials. It encourages best practices and instructing the church on history and the theology of Lutheran worship.

We had several resolutions dealing with how to train pastors, commanding that the primary training of pastors will continue to happen in person and on seminary campuses. This will restrict the seminaries from doing pastoral formation exclusively via online programs.

The age requirement for SMP candidates (Specific Ministry Program) was raised to 40, with exceptions.

It was resolved that pastors and professors removed from the LCMS roles were never to teach, even on a part-time or limited basis, at the Synod's colleges or seminaries.

Only pastors trained at LCMS seminaries can be installed and ordained at LCMS churches.

Only (male) pastors may work under the title Chaplain.

We reaffirmed the pastors right to "exceptions" in addressing closed communion.

cont. on p. 2

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Church
Calendar

Book
Club

Stewardship
Survey

VBS
Review

Education
News

Sowers of
the Kingdom

LWML
District Retreat

The CTCR was a commission established to examine a number of current political and social issues, including racism and the use of artificial intelligence as well as the use of Lay readers. The CTCR was asked to produce a course of study materials for use synod wide concerning the banned practice of Lay readers.

We recognized altar pulpit fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia, reaffirmed the sanctity of life and condemned the use of and destruction of donor Gametes in In-vitro fertilization

We amended the by-laws to allow the Lutheran Church Extension Fund to add services that provide real estate evaluation and re-development services and support the Church transmission administration. (It's an office of real-estate development and holding company)

It was resolved to shrink the number of churches required to make up a circuit. A circuit used to require 10 congregations with 1500 members. Now it only requires six churches and 1500 members.

Perhaps the biggest news of the entire convention was the by-law to amend the constitution to put the presidential election back in the hands of the convention electors. This effort failed. The election of the president of the LCMS will continue to be handled via electronic voting before the convention begins. Every congregation has a say in who the LCMS President will be, along with all called pastors serving in a Parrish.

Committee five passed a resolution to threaten to break fellowship with the American Association of Lutheran churches if they do not honor the bonds of fellowship and resolve matters threatening the unity of doctrine and practice. In short, the AALC has a tendency to hire pastors fired by the LCMS. In other words, if I were to be removed from office, I can't go to work for a partner Church. Along with that, pastors cannot resign LCMS calls and then go work for AALC churches, without an investigation as to the reason for the resignation.

Several resolutions from committee seven, University Education, passed to clarify, recommend and strengthen Lutheran identity in Lutheran colleges.

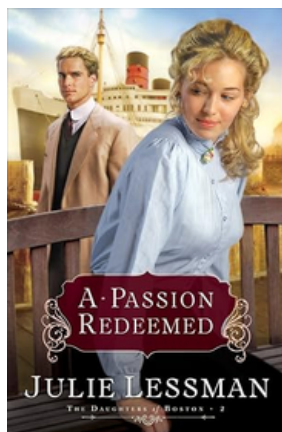
Those were the highlights. I imagine a lot of this make little sense... Which is why we are having a special Lunch and Learn, date to be forthcoming.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. W.' with a stylized flourish.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH PreConfirmation Class, 12:30 CR	27 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	28	29 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH Canasta 1:00 PM in GH	30 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	31 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	1
2 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH PreConfirmation Class, 12:30 CR	3 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	4 Elder's Mtg. 7:00 PM in CR	5 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH	6 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	7 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	8
9 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH PreConfirmation Class, 12:30 CR	10 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	11	12 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH Canasta 1:00 PM in GH	13 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	14 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	15
16 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH PreConfirmation Class, 12:30 CR	17 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	18 Men's Ministry 6:00 PM in GH Book Club 7:30 PM Agave, Sangaree	19 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH	20 Stephen Ministry 10:30 AM in CR Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	21 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	22
23 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH PreConfirmation Class, 12:30 CR	24 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	25	26 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH Canasta 1:00 PM in GH	27 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	28 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	29
30 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH Rally Day! Sinisi Home	31 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	1 Elder's Mtg. 7:00 PM in CR	2 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH	3 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	4 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	5

Book Club



Graced with physical beauty, though shallow of heart, Charity O'Connor is a woman who knows what she wants. She sets her sights on the cantankerous

Mitch Dennehy, editor at the Irish Times, who has unwittingly stolen her heart. And although the sparks are there, Mitch refuses to fan the coals of a potential relationship with his ex-fiancée's sister. But Charity has a plan to turn up the heat and she always gets what she wants--one way or another. Is

revenge so sweet after all? Or will

Charity get burned?

Full of intense passion, betrayal, and forgiveness, *A Passion Redeemed* will delight Lessman's fans and draw new ones.

Meeting on Tuesday, August 18th
@ 7:00 PM at Agave, Sangaree

Mark Your Calendar:

Fall Yard Sale Oct. 1-3

Set up will be Sunday, September 27 - 30.

Clothes sorting for the Yard Sale will be Thursday and Friday, August 27-28 from 9:00AM-2:00PM. Lunch provided.

POC: Shirley Marquardt

School supplies are on sale!

For the next few weeks Social Ministry will be collecting school supplies to pack in our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. All school supplies will be greatly appreciated but we are especially in need of the following:

children's scissors
glue sticks
colored pencils
red ink pens

We will share our extra supplies with a local charity, Closet of Hope.

Thank you for all your help!

Sue Hearn, Social Ministries



Greetings to all members and friends of Grace Lutheran Church. I want to thank you for the wonderful surprise party on June 7th in celebration of my tenth anniversary as Music Director at Grace. It was an awesome surprise, including delicious food, gifts, cards, flowers, balloons, and music-themed decorations! Thanks again for such a fun party! I appreciate so much your expression of Christian love, and pray God's blessings in all of your lives.

Patty Barnes, Music Director

Grace Lutheran Church Stewardship Survey

The Board of Stewardship is conducting an anonymous survey to better understand the ministries, charities, organizations, and causes supported by members of our congregation during the past 12 months.

We are doing this to help show the generosity within Grace and to better understand the many ways our members support Christ's work, serve their neighbors, and strengthen organizations in our community and beyond. The results may also help us share encouraging examples of congregational generosity and identify ministries or causes members may want to learn more about.

The survey asks for the organizations supported and approximate giving amounts, but it does not collect names or email addresses. We will combine the responses and share the overall results with the congregation.

Please complete the survey once, either online by scanning the QR code or by using a paper copy available in the narthex. The deadline is August 16th.



Questions may be directed to Paul Ott at stewardship@gracesummerville.org.

Rally Day!

Rally Day will be held on Sunday, August 30th at Kyle and Christina Sinisi's house, 108 Kingfisher Court, Goose Creek. All Sunday school students and their families are welcome to attend! Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Meat will be provided. Also, please bring lawn chairs and a swimsuit and towel (if you want to swim). We can't wait to kick off another great school year with our church families! If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Ott.

Church Picnic

Please mark your calendars! The Grace Church Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th after the third service. The event will take place at Pine Trace Park, 303 Chandler Creek Rd., Summerville (near the Sires Elementary School). Stay tuned for more details! POC: Kathy Dinges



We had a great time at Tropical Trek VBS last month! Over the course of the week, we had 22 child participants from our congregation and community, 10 Grace youth group helpers, and several adult volunteers all united in learning how Jesus seeks and saves us. We explored 5 Bible narratives in lessons, crafts, games, snacks, and more, and heard that there is no circumstance or place where Jesus can't find us with his love, presence, and forgiveness. Thank you to all the children, parents, helpers, and donators for your support of this program. Our kids love VBS and look forward to it every year.

We couldn't do it without you!

Deaconess Karen Suter

A Love Poem to Meals on Wheels!

by V. Taylor-Durst

June 2026

You bring structure
to my life!
You bring light
to my strife!

Everyday, in some way.
I live to hear you call
that you are coming after all!

It means I must get up!
I must get dressed
That I am to receive...
a Guest!

Someone who cares
Someone is there
Someone who loves...
...enough to share

Their time and
their gas with me.
I get up to open
the door with glee!

You bring joy to my life!
When you are not there
I feel like
nobody cares!

No one will know
if I am dead...
or just sleeping
in my bed!

You bring meaning
everyday!
You bring purpose
in every way!

You bring smiles
upon your face.
You represent
God's good Grace!

You mean so very
much to me!
You bring more...
than a meal, you see!

Reprinted with permission from the author, V. Kay Moore-Dust, in appreciation of the faithful volunteers and staff of Meals on Wheels, whose ministry nourishes both body and spirit.

Submitted by: Susan Star

Education NEWS

Submitted by: Lindsay Ott

We would like to remind the congregation about our wonderful church library, which includes an excellent collection of biblical and Lutheran reference materials, Christian fiction, and books for babies and toddlers. You don't need to sign out a book (or books) when you go to borrow it, but please place it in the Return Basket when you bring it back. Doing this rather than returning it directly to the shelves will allow the Christian Education Board to ensure each book is properly re-shelved and ready for the next reader. If you have a book (or books) that you would like to donate, please place them in the Donation Basket so that they can be reviewed first and then added to the library in the appropriate location. Thank you for helping us care for our church library!

We would also like to invite the congregation to stop by and browse our pamphlet carousels located in both the church narthex and in Grace Hall. They offer a wide variety of pamphlets on many Christian topics, providing biblical encouragement, answers to common questions, and helpful resources for all ages and stages of life. Whether you are looking for guidance, wanting to learn more about your faith, or seeking something to share with a friend, we encourage you to check out all of the great information. We will be adding some more brochures in the upcoming weeks!





Sowers of the Kingdom August Mission Trip will include 46 short-term missionaries traveling to the Samana Peninsula (D.R.) to share the Gospel at our medical clinic sites, VBS program, baseball ministry, home visits and construction project sites. Thanks be to God for providing the many hands and feet that will carry His word and do good works in His name throughout the week of August 10 - 14, including several members of Grace. We also give thanks for those who have supported this mission team through prayer, generous donations and taking time to help prepare hundreds of crafts for our VBS program. Children attending Sowers VBS will hear the story of five children who win a surprise trip during which they receive wonderful gifts that come from the hand of God. We will read stories from the bible that tell of the gifts of joy, forgiveness, hope and salvation found in Jesus and spend time playing games and doing craft projects to reinforce each lesson.

Submitted by: Erika Gray



*This year's VBS in the Dominican Republic will include free Spanish resources for our participants. If you would like to donate to help with the purchase of Concordia Publishing House "A Simple Explanation of Christianity" in Spanish and other VBS resources, please scan the QR code. See Erika Gray for any questions or further details.



Carolinas LWML District Retreat

Theme:

Ephesians 6
The Full Armor of God

Metrolina Zone invites you to the 2026 LWML Retreat. The Dean will be Pastor Jeffery Ware of All Saints Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC.

August 14-16, 2026

Camp Linn Haven, Linville, NC 28646

Come to Retreat to relax, renew and rejoice.
Come to sing, to give thanks, to listen, to
learn and to worship our Mighty God.

- *Camp Fire*
- *Free Time*
- *LWML Store*
- *Wonderful Meals*

*Information and Registration in the
May 2026 CCC Newsletter.*



August 2

Tabulators Jen Miller
Ed & Shiley Marquardt

Elders

8:00: Jon M. (L), John K.
9:30: Kyle S. (L), Ben H.
11:00: Paul O. (L), Josh G.

Ushers

8:00: Greg Sheldon
9:30:
11:00: Claire Ott, Jodell Jenkins

Altar Guild Nancy C.

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Lucy Ott

Reader 11:00: Jane Mary Gay

August 9

Tabulators Sherri Marquardt
Bill & Kathy Dinges

Elders

8:00: Sammy P. (L), Jon M.
9:30: Aaron J. (L), Steve H.
11:00: George J. (L), Brian B.

Ushers

8:00: Rich Wilson
9:30:
11:00: Ed & Shirley Marquardt

Altar Guild Kathy Dinges

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Claire Limehouse

Reader 11:00: Paul Ott

August 16

Tabulators Sherri M.
Kyle & Christina S.

Elders

8:00: Sammy P.(L), Aaron J.
9:30: Steve H. (L), George J.
11:00: Jon M. (L), Ben H.

Ushers

8:00: Ken Blekicki
9:30:
11:00: Grant & Christine B.

Altar Guild Susan S.

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Ezekiel Brindis

Reader 11:00: Sherri M.

August 23

Tabulators Jen Miller
Jim & Nancy Clowney

Elders

8:00: John K. (L), Sammy P.
9:30: Josh G. (L), Steve H.
11:00: Ben H. (L), Paul O.

Ushers

8:00: Greg Sheldon
9:30:
11:00: Cori H., Leon M.

Altar Guild Nancy B.

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Jordan G.

Reader 11:00: Ben H.

August 30

Tabulators Jen Miller
Tom & Louise Sage

Elders

8:00: Jon M. (L), Brian B.
9:30: John K. (L), Aaron J.
11:00: Josh G. (L), Kyle S.

Ushers

8:00: Rich Wilson
9:30:
11:00: Shirley M., Marta S.

Altar Guild Carol S.

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Caleb Brindis

Reader 11:00: Paul O.

Grace Lutheran Church
Treasurer Report
6/30/26

Balance Brought Forward January 1, 2026		\$79,533.55
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RECEIPTS for JUNE

General Operating	\$33,931.59	
Designated Funds	\$3,247.62	
Endowment Fund	\$0.00	
		\$37,179.21

RECEIPTS for JANUARY - MAY

General Operating	\$209,078.86	
Designated Funds	\$59,613.03	
Endowment Fund	\$0.00	
		\$268,691.89

TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$305,871.10
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EXPENSES for JUNE

General Operating	\$34,529.29	
Designated Funds	\$46,072.28	
Endowment Fund	\$0.00	
		\$80,601.57

EXPENSES for JANUARY - MAY

General Operating	\$187,371.44	
Designated Funds	\$58,441.13	
Endowment Fund	\$0.00	
		\$245,812.57

TOTAL EXPENSES		\$326,414.14
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CHECKBOOK Balance May31, 2026	\$68,190.94	
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Estimated \$9,495.15 needed per week. Estimated needs for June \$37,980.60. We received \$29,761.59

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS2026-2027

Rev. W. Richard WillseaPastor

Karen SuterDeaconess

John KinneyExecutive Director

Kyle SinisiAsst. Executive Director

Sammy PeekTreasurer

Lindsay OttDirector, Board of Christian Education

Grant BarsuhnDirector, Board of Church Properties

Steve Hoffman Director, Board of Elders

Jodell JenkinsDirector, Board of Evangelism

Kathy DingesDirector, Board of Parish Fellowship

Kevin Henry.....Director, Board of Public Relations

Susan StarDirector, Board of Social Ministry

Paul OttDirector, Board of Stewardship

Cori HardingDirector, Board of Youth

Phillip GrahamDirector, Board of Columbarium

Sherri MarquardtFinancial Secretary

Carol SkinnerChair, Altar Guild

Shirley MarquardtWomen of Grace (LWML)

Ellen PearsonAdministrator/

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TBDWebmaster, Grace Website

Patricia BarnesOrganist/Choir Director

Merna AhlemeyerJunior Choir Director