



GOOD NEWS

from the grace vine!

Grace Lutheran Church

108 W. SOMO AVENUE
TOMAHAWK, WISCONSIN 54487
715 453-4066

November 2025

Praising God + Serving Others + Building Relationships + Growing Faith

Lutheran World Relief Quilts and School Kits



GLOW (Grace Lutheran on Wednesdays) students helped pack the Lutheran World Relief school kits. The school kits and quilts were blessed in worship on September 28 and dropped off in Wausau for shipping out to people across the world. Thank you to all who helped in any way!

The Wilderness Chicken Soup sale will be occurring this month. We will start taking orders the weekend of Nov. 8th and 9th and again on the 15th and 16th. Soup pick up will be the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd. This will support our 2026 Wilderness Trip out to Glacier National Park.

Memory Tree Ornaments will be available for purchase this month! Memory tree ornaments are to remember our loved ones who have passed, and/or honor those still present in our lives today. Each ornament is a special way to celebrate this memory and keep their spirit close during the holiday season. The Memory Tree will be lit on December 6th and 7th during worship.



Companion Congregation with Lekubu Parish:

Bishop Ann will be meeting with the South African Bishop in December. They will be discussing the future of our companion congregation relationships. This relationship has impacted Grace in the past. We wanted to share a member's story of their trip to Lekubu South Africa so you would hear why this relationship is important. Hopefully, these will encourage you to learn more about our relationship with our sister congregation. There will be more stories shared in future newsletters, so stay tuned!

God Bless,
Luann Kiander

Reflecting on My Experience:

Personal Connection: My trip to South Africa was transformative, allowing me to connect deeply with our new friends and church community and witness their rich culture. One of the moments that stood out to me was sharing meals with the families that hosted me. They welcomed me into their homes, and we helped make meals. I felt a genuine warmth and connection from that experience of making food together. Participating in their songs and dances was another highlight; it was exhilarating to join in their dances and learn the words to their music. These experiences opened my eyes to a world that, while different from America, shared the same human spirit.

Family Impact: The trip had a profound effect on my family as well. The shared stories and photos still spark discussions years after our return. It helped my family see the world through a broader lens, inspiring us to embrace different cultures more openly and travel more often. We've since made a point to learn about global issues and cultures together, deepening our family bonds in the process.

Significance of Relationships: The "companion" relationship between our congregation and the communities in South Africa has been pivotal. I still remember standing in many circles, praying and introducing ourselves, signing and sharing. We were not just guests; we became friends. Participating in community meals and services. The shared worship services were especially moving, as I felt a deep spiritual connection with people whose lives were so different yet so similar to my own.

Encouraging Others: I wholeheartedly support the idea of encouraging more people to experience this unique opportunity. This journey goes beyond tourism; it fosters understanding and companionship across the world with people who share the same faith. By promoting this kind of travel, we can inspire others to step out of their comfort zones and embrace the beauty of our world's diversity, ultimately creating a more empathetic and connected global community.

Best,
Abrina Leonhard

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you know someone who is in need of a warm hug, a prayer or word of encouragement, is sick or needs a shawl for warmth. Please help yourself to a prayer shawl, pocket prayer or a crocheted heart with words of encouragement. A special thank you to all those who lend their talent to the Prayer Shawl Ministry and keep these beautiful items stocked for us.



The 3rd Grade Bible Milestone will take place on Sunday, November 16th. Each third-grader will receive a blessing and be gifted a Spark Bible. Our hope is that all 3rd Graders, with their family, will attend, so that we may place God's Word directly into their hands. Please contact Cassady Grabow-Hohensee for more information.

Pastor's Pondering- November 2025

Jesus was an awesome teller of stories. The Gospels are full of parables that Jesus used to teach people about God's love and forgiveness. These stories helped people connect and understand about God's kingdom with tangible examples people could relate to.

The disciples each had a story of their life and how Jesus called them to be his follower. That's true for us as well. We each have unique lives and come from different backgrounds to belong to our faith community. It is important for us to share our story and perspective with each other, so we recognize where God is at work in the world.

At our Fall Fill Up, we began by sharing our answers to these 2 questions:

~When did you become a member of Grace?

~What made you want to belong to this faith community?

These two questions help us get to know one another and know more about why people are connected to our faith community. We have lifelong members of Grace baptized and confirmed here but we also have people who developed faith later in their life. Each of us has a unique perspective to share about how our faith developed and how we became part of Grace's family of faith. **Would you share your story of faith by answering these two questions? Write your answers on a piece of paper with your name and put it in the box in the Gathering area.** Let us know if you would be willing to share your answers to these 2 questions also. This information can help us understand how people came to belong at Grace and why so we can build on God's foundation of faith.

Blessings,

Pastor Julie

I'll start by sharing my answers to those 2 questions;

~When did you become a member of Grace?

I became a member of Grace when I was called to be Grace's Lead Pastor 4 years ago.

~What made you want to belong to this faith community?

I was raised Catholic but switched to the ELCA because I believe in an open table at communion and women being ordained. I wanted to belong to Grace because we include all people in worship and communion. I also value the way Grace is actively connecting and serving people outside our church building.

Grace Lutheran Church Fall Fill-Up Notes

October 8, 2025

Approximately 40 people were in attendance. Council President Steve Heikkinen welcomed everyone and led us in prayer. We shared a delicious meal before moving downstairs to the sanctuary.

Following the meal, we gathered in the sanctuary with our bibles. Pastor Julie explained the concept of *Story Matters: Each congregation has multiple stories. Each community in which we live has multiple stories. Each individual within our communities and congregations has multiple stories. We also have God's story in Scripture. When we are able to take all our various stories and center them in and interpret them through our biblical story, God often enters our lives and the lives of our congregations and communities in most surprising ways.

We were divided into seven groups. Each group had two bible passages to discuss. The questions to contemplate: How is each story like or unlike our congregational story? Does this story identify Grace, challenge Grace, or both? In what ways might this story capture the imagination of the community?

We came back together as one big group. A representative of each group spoke about the bible story that most identified Grace. A few common themes that were expressed include: Grace is welcoming, giving, serving, accepting, trusting.

As a congregation, the challenge is: how we continue to be welcoming, giving, serving? There is always more to do. The next steps: Pastor Julie expressed the desire to get into our bibles more. To help us in our daily lives and grow our faith. Also, in the spring, do a timeline of Grace's development over time and how the church has evolved. Have stories from the congregation-their memories of what they have participated in. Also, to have ongoing conversations about how we share our faith story: ACT group, social media, community forums, newsletter, in the screen before church. Pastor Julie stated that when we share our stories it inspires people to tell their story, and we find insights about what the Bible tells us. Pastor Julie ended the evening with a prayer for the participants.

Respectfully submitted by Barb Zastrow

*Story Matters: Naming, Claiming and Living Our Biblical Identity from elca.org

Grace's Gift Catalog

As special projects at Grace are identified that are not in our current budget, they may be added to Grace's Gift Catalog. Items remain in the Gift Catalog until sufficient funds are received to purchase the items.

The Phase 1 project for Lights/Ceiling Tile in the upstairs hallway has been completed (and it's awesome!) The next phase is for the \$3,200 needed to upgrade the ceiling outside the Youth Room. If you wish to contribute to this project, simply indicate the Project Name 'Ceiling Tile' on your contribution. All contributions given in memory of someone are recorded in the Memorial Book in the Gathering Space. We have been blessed that many projects, like our new projection screens, have been quickly funded in the recent past by the generosity of many. If you have any questions about Grace's Gift Catalog, please contact Sherry Clements.



News From The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran's)

We had enjoyable trips to Waupaca and Timm's Hill the past two months.

On November 13 at 1 PM we will enjoy a photo presentation by the Elliott's about their trip to Alaska.

There are no plans for December. We will tentatively have a presentation by an audiologist to explain how our hearing changes as we get older.

There are about 20 OWLS who are considering the trip out to Glacier next summer. Planning is just getting underway, so if you are interested let us know.

Mark Your Calendars! The Christmas Program will take place on December 14th at 9am worship. Grace kids along with older youth will be singing and reading the story of God's greatest gift. Please join us on this day. All are invited!

Christmas with Friends Meal: One of our important ministries of Tomahawk faith communities is to provide a meal and fellowship to people on the holidays. St. Mary's coordinates Thanksgiving, and Grace coordinates Christmas Day. We have many willing people to help but we need a Coordinator to lead this ministry. Shirley Derleth has lead this event and she will work with you on what needs to be done. Contact Pastor Julie to follow up.



Prayers of Sympathy:

Our prayers and sympathy go to the family of Stanley Torkelson. May they be comforted with the hope of eternal life.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers Will Be Needed For A Week In November

Signup sheets will be located in the Gathering Area. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Halverson at 715-453-4684.

November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Reformation Weekend 9:00am Worship Service	27 10:30am The Chosen Bible Study Season 5 3:30pm Blessings For Babies Diaper Bank 5:00pm Knitters Group 5:00pm Men's Bible Study	28 8:00am PPP Guys 9:00am Quilters	29 9:00am Four Rivers Quilters 3:30pm GLOW 6:30pm Confirmation	30	31 8:00am Office hours	1 All Saints Worship 9:00am AA/Alanon 1:00pm Grace Cares Visitation Ministry Orientation 5:00pm Worship/Communion Sanctuary
2 All Saints Worship Daylight Savings Time Fall Back an Hour 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Pastor Kathy Tulman's Retirement Fellowship	3 10:30am The Chosen Bible Study Season 5 4:00pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm Knitters Group 5:00pm Men's Bible Study	4 8:00am PPP Guys 9:00am Quilters	5 3:30pm GLOW 6:30pm Confirmation	6 PJ - Boundries Training All Day	7 8:00am Office hours	8 9:00am AA/Alanon 5:00pm Worship/Communion Sanctuary
9 8:45am Grace Kids 9:00am Worship Service	10 3:30pm Blessings For Babies Diaper Bank 4:15pm A2A Meeting 5:00pm Knitters Group 5:00pm Men's Bible Study	11 8:00am PPP Guys 9:00am P. Julie Conference Meeting Wausau 9:00am Quilters 11:30am Joyful Noise Luncheon at Tomahawk Family Restaurant 6:00pm Contemporary	12 9:00am Four Rivers Quilters 3:30pm GLOW 6:30pm Confirmation	13 1:00pm OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) Elliot's photo presentation of Alaska trip	14 8:00am Office hours	15 9:00am AA/Alanon 5:00pm Worship/Communion Sanctuary
16 9:00am Worship Service-Contemporary Choir & Third Grade Bible Milestone	17 Newsletter deadline PJ - Mission Retreat 11/17-11/19 5:00pm Knitters Group 5:00pm Men's Bible Study	18 8:00am PPP Guys 9:00am Quilters 10:30am Red Cross Blood Drive	19 9:30am Prayer Shawl Meeting 3:30pm GLOW 6:30pm Confirmation	20	21 8:00am Office hours 9:15am Worship at Riverview 10:30am Worship at Tomahawk Health 1:00pm Worship at Milestone	22 9:00am AA/Alanon 5:00pm Worship/Communion Sanctuary
23 9:00am Worship Service	24 3:30pm Blessings For Babies Diaper Bank 5:00pm Knitters Group 5:00pm Men's Bible Study 5:30pm 4-H Club	25 8:00am PPP Guys 9:00am Quilters	26 9:00am Four Rivers Quilters 3:30pm No GLOW: Thanksgiving Break 6:30pm No Confirmation: Thanksgiving	27 Thanksgiving Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29 Advent 1 9:00am AA/Alanon 5:00pm Worship/Communion Sanctuary
30 Advent 1 9:00am Worship Service	1 4:00pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm Knitters Group 5:00pm Men's Bible Study	2 8:00am PPP Guys 9:00am Quilters	3 3:30pm GLOW 6:30pm Confirmation	4	5 8:00am Office hours	6 9:00am AA/Alanon 5:00pm Worship/Communion Sanctuary

November Birthdays

Wren Mohr
Matthew Gerber
Beau Stromberg
Maggee Renn
Dale Wanta
Kerri Svacina
Samuel Bourassa
Grant Loka
Kathleen Metzner
Zachary Michael
Deborah Schultz
Jody Decker
Finnian Colburn

Mary Frickenstein
Heidi Greil
Deanne Day
Tracy Krueger
Shad Harper
John Walbeck
Heather Engel
Joan Hilgendorf
Florian Ringwelski
Nicole Azarian
Nicholas Baacke
Jack Sonnentag
Tony Clements
Karen Kahle

Aaron Wanta
Jacqueline Wick
Jeffery Niewinski
Sarah Dvorak
Jackson McMahon
Jack Derleth
Haley Liebelt
Donna Stone
Chris Witulski
Autumn Frederick
William Jones
Grace Witulski
Brittney Zettel
Chad Herman

Piper Schmit
Irene Strauss
Kathryn Derleth
Mark Gaedtke
Charlee Lund
Sandy Wick
Tom Newell
Edythe Mielke
Vicki Severson
Tami Olson
Raen Pleau
Paul Bohnert
Karen Suske
Austin Bellile

Sherry Clements
Kelly Eastwood
Rachel Elliott
Betty Frank
Malachi Scheffler
Emily Bourassa
Halle Derleth
Sharon Gustafson
Don Paulson
Joshua Wick
Landyn Michael
Daniel Schuller

Meet the Council

Name: Jen Beaumier

Member of Grace since: 1999

Why did you agree to serve on Council? I had been asked previously, and hadn't felt ready to do so. I don't know that I was ready when I did agree to serve, but I thought it was important to "take my turn" and serve in a new and challenging way.

What do you love about Grace? The people! Grace Lutheran Church welcomed me and my family as soon as we walked in the door. I am so appreciative of the way the people of Grace supported our kids as they grew up in the church, from Sunday School to GLOW to Confirmation and the Wilderness Trip, and on into their adulthood! I am also proud of the work Grace (and the ELCA) does in our community, and beyond.



September 17, 2025 Council Meeting Highlights for Newsletter

Full Council meeting minutes can be found in the binder in the gathering space.

Where Have We Seen God at Work?

At the last Outdoor Worship of the year; The number of people from Grace who participated in God's Work, Our Hands to help with the new Kinship space; New grandchildren and grandniece

Council Agenda Highlights

The special offering for August for the Tomahawk and Nokomis food pantries took in \$2,357.94.

Fall Fill-up will be held on October 8.

The Council approved a new Lay Ministry position, to provide preaching support to the Lead Pastor, and to assist in the Visitation ministry.

Discussions for the 2026 budget will begin soon.

October 14, 2025 Council Meeting Highlights for Newsletter

Full Council meeting minutes can be found in the binder in the gathering space.

Where Have We Seen God at Work?

Stan Torkelson's memorial service; Many people offered to help when a Council member had car trouble; In the fall colors; At the Fall Fill-up, in the small group conversations

Council Agenda Highlights

The special offering for September for the Salvation Army Backpack Program took in \$1,220.60.

The Building Utilization Committee has been hard at work cleaning the church and removing items that are no longer needed.

The Treasurer position will be posted externally as no applications have been received.

SEPTEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

	Receipts	Spending	Difference
Monthly Receipts vs. Spending	\$22,001	\$29,290	\$ (7,289)
Year-to-date Receipts vs. Spending	\$251,694	\$275,093	\$ (23,399)
Mortgage Loan Balance as of September 2025			\$ 188,350.66
September Special Offering: Salvation Army Backpack Program			\$1220.60
Other Donations: Food Pantries			

November Special Offering HAVEN: Merrill Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse Support Household Abuse Victims Emergency Network (HAVEN). Haven, Inc. is a non-profit organization serving people who have been impacted by interpersonal abuse and violence, including domestic and dating abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, sexual abuse and assault, and human trafficking. They provide a 24-hour phone line, advocacy, peer counseling, information and referrals, temporary shelter when needed, support groups, and prevention education.

AA/ALANON MEETINGS

Grace Lutheran

- AA and Alanon: Saturday. 9:00 am

Grace Community House

- AA: Sunday 10:10 am
- AA: Friday 7:30 pm (open)
- AA: Wednesday 12:10 pm

St. Paul's (12 E. Wisconsin Ave.)

- AA and Alanon: Monday 7:00 pm

If you have a problem with alcohol or if someone you know suffers from the disease, AA (for the alcoholic) or Alanon (for family or friend of alcoholic) could be your lifeline. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of both these groups. If you would like to speak with someone personally, the church office, 453-4066, or Pastor can put you in touch with an AA or Alanon member.

All communications will be confidential

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John 1:2
I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you.

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Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am

Lead Pastor.....Rev. Julie Sinkula

pastorjuliebarger@gmail.com

453-4066 or (cell) 216-7652

Pastor Emeritus.....Rev. Gerald Check,
453-4066

Pastor Emerita.....Rev. Susan Christian, 224-3476,
pstrxn63@gmail.com; Rev. Kathy Tulman,
ktulman2020@gmail.com, 579-6780

Dir. of Children's Ministries.....Cassady Grabow
-Hohensee

Dir. of Youth & Young Adults.....Cassady Grabow
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Director of Confirmation.....Renee Loka
453-4066, rlloka@hotmail.com

Secretary.....Barb Zastrow & Mary G. Jones
453-4066, gracetomahawkoffice@gmail.com

Treasurer.....Shirley Derleth
453-4066, treasurersjd@gmail.com

Wedding Coordinator.....Barb Zastrow

Custodian..... Barb Zastrow /Debi Tinker
453-4066

Pres.—Steve Heikkinen.....966-0160

V. Pres.—Pete Wurl.....966-3381

Secretary—Jen Beaumier.....966-2682

Gail Wilson.....453-5787

Sherry Clements.....453-5615

Steve Garrison.....414-828-2925

Zoie Mohr.....

Dixie Erickson.....453-4283

Bob Wallis.....966-1053

Beau Stromberg.....

Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8:00am to 1:00pm

Wednesday 8:00am-3:00pm