GOOD NEWS
FROM THE GRACE VINE

November 2026

Praising God + Serving Others + Building Relationships + Growing Faith



Mini Food Pantry Box:

The mini pantry movement was started by Jessica McClard in May 2016 when she planted the Little Free Pantry Pilot, a wooden box on a post containing food, personal care, and paper items accessible to everyone all the time, no questions asked. She hoped her spin on the Little Free Library concept would pique local awareness of food insecurity while creating a space for neighbors to help meet neighborhood food needs. "We are not an organization, and we are not a nonprofit. We are neighbors. We don't have a lot of time, and our budgets are nearly maxed. But we see our neighbors' daily struggles and feel called to do something in a way that reflects our shared values—compassion, generosity, and trust." Whether a need for food or a need to give, mini pantries help feed neighbors, nourishing neighborhoods.

Last spring our 8th grade confirmation class built the Little Free Food Pantry as a Faith in Action project. They were assisted by parents and Jim Van Norman. We've recently installed the pantry outside of Grace on the side of N 3rd St. We will have non-perishable foods and paper products in the little pantry. We hope this will supply people who have immediate needs for food. Like our table that we had indoors, we ask that you take what you need or give what you can.

Suggested food items that hold up to freezing temperatures: rice, dried beans, lentils, split peas, pasta, noodles (Mac & Cheese), oatmeal pouches, instant mashed potato pouches, boxed stuffing, nuts, seeds, peanut butter if unopened, dry soup mixes.

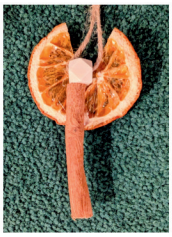
Grace kids Christmas program:

Sunday, December 13th at 9am worship

We hope to see everyone at the Grace Kids Christmas worship. Please reach out to Cassady with questions.

All children and youth are welcome to come practice with us on December 6th to practice for the program.





Memory Tree Lighting will be Dec 5th and 6th during worship. Watch for memory tree orders in the Gathering Area for $5 each. These ornaments are made by the youth to help support youth programs and can be purchased to honor or memorialize someone.



Grace has been a Gold Sponsor at the Kinship Fundraising Banquet for many years. This year's theme was "Spinning Through the Decades" so we had lots of fun representing the past and supporting Kinship.

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Pastor's Pondering November 2026



With the holidays fast approaching, many people will be making travel plans to see family and friends. Traveling at a busy time can be stressful, however, so it's important to plan trips to be more enjoyable. Finding out about the place you are going to and how to get there is important. Arranging travel details is essential, so you can count on your place being reserved.

Recently, a passage in our bible study book "In the Footsteps of the Savior" by Max Lucado caught my attention because it was about traveling in our life journey. Max writes, "Every traveler worth a flight mile knows that the purpose of the plane is to carry us from one place to the next. Do you understand that the purpose of this life is to do the same? You were made for more than airplane peanuts and in-flight entertainment. You were made to go home." (p. 133)

A radical mind shift from society's idea that our lives now are the most important thing! Sometimes we get caught up in thinking that the here and now is the only thing that matters. When we understand that we are traveling through this life to get to our home with God, it helps put things in perspective. The Holy Spirit and our Bible are our travel guides to learn more about God and being in faithful relationships. Our faith community can help us with our travel preparations like a travel agent or flight crew of an airplane. What is important is experiences in our daily lives that bring us closer to God and to our family, friends and others. To learn how to endure difficulties in life by following Jesus. To rely on Jesus to help prioritize what's most important in life and lighten our luggage.

Although we do not know the exact date of our trip home, we can prepare for it with joy and not fear. The apostle Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians reminds us;

"So we are always confident, even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord." (5:6-8)

Have you checked in with God on your flight plans?

Peace,

Pastor Julie

Exploring Christian Engagement in Civic Life

The ELCA's Social Statement **Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All** explores how Christians and congregations can faithfully engage in civic life and promote the well-being of their communities.

While God's people are called to do justice and love kindness (Micah 6:8) it is not always clear what that means in any particular situation. Our church teaches that God also provides human reason as a gift to be used for seeking justice and social harmony. Christians believe that this God calls people of faith to take responsibility for the good of all through civic participation. The ELCA affirms that civic service is a valued and dignified way to carry out God's calling.

Join East Central Synod of Wisconsin leaders – Bishop Anne Edison-Albright and Vice President Nancy Schanke for a six-session study series exploring the social statement. Sessions will be offered in the morning and evening using the Zoom link. A reminder with the Zoom link and session details will be sent to participants each week. Contact Dixie Erickson if interested, 715-453-4283 we will be meeting 10:30 - noon at church, but you can also do this on your own at home. Session dates are each Tuesday: November 3,10,17,24, & December 1st & 8th.

Attention Committees and Groups! It's never too early to prepare your reports for the Annual Meeting January 24, 2026. Please send your completed Annual Meeting report to the office on or before the deadline: November 23, 2026. Annual Report Format: 1. What did we accomplish this year? 2. What remains to be done? 3. What did we learn? 4. What are next year's goals? Emailed reports will be especially appreciated! Email: address:gracetomahawkoffice@gmail.com

NOVEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING: THE MIDDLE SCHOOL HATCHET HUB

HELP STOCK THE HATCHET HUB!

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A STRONGER, HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR KIDS TO THRIVE ACADEMICALLY AND SOCIALLY

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Every student deserves to enter the classroom focused, confident, and ready to learn. However, basic necessities like a warm coat, a full lunch box, or simple hygiene products are out of reach for many children in our community. To ensure no student falls through the cracks, we are proud to introduce the Hatchet Hub—a new K–12 initiative dedicated to providing essential food, clothing, school supplies, and personal care items directly to local students in need.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- **Product Donations:** Non-perishable food items, new clothing, essential school supplies, and unopened personal care items.
  *See each building's needs list for specific items.
- **Monetary Contributions:** Financial gifts allow us to purchase high-demand items, bridge inventory gaps, and adapt quickly to specific student emergencies throughout the school year.
- **Gift Cards:** Cards to local grocery stores, gas cards, or general retailers help us purchase fresh items or specialized sizing on demand. Additionally, gift certificates for services like haircuts help boost youth confidence, support school readiness, and foster a sense of belonging.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

- **FOOD (Non-perishable)**
  - Granola/protein bars
  - Crackers
  - Fruit cups
  - Applesauce pouches
  - Ramen
  - Microwave mac and cheese
  - Fruit snacks
  - Juice boxes
  - Water bottles
- **CLOTHING - sizes mainly 10-12 & 12-14, some need for 7-8, 14-16, XS, S, M, L, XL (New/gently used)**
  - Plain t-shirts
  - Sweatshirts/hoodies
  - Sweatpants/leggings
  - Athletic shorts
  - Underwear (New)
  - Socks (New)
  - Tomahawk Hatchet gear
  - Winter hats (New)
  - Winter gloves
- **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS (Unopened)**
  - Deodorant
  - Pads/tampons
  - Shampoo
  - Conditioner
  - Body wash
  - Hair ties
  - Hair brushes
  - Chapstick
  - Lotion
  - Small toiletry bags
- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**
  - Pencils
  - Notebooks
  - Backpacks
- **GIFT CARDS**
  - Gas gift cards
  - Grocery gift cards
  - Haircut certificates
- **MONETARY DONATIONS**



APPLICATION FOR ENDOWMENT FUND SCHOLARSHIP

The Endowment Fund Committee of Grace Lutheran Church is inviting applications for college scholarships. The deadline for applying is December 31, 2026 with funds to be awarded by end of April, 2027. Applications are available at Grace Lutheran Church, Tomahawk, Wisconsin or on their website gracelutherantomahawk.com. and must be returned to the church prior to the deadline date. Applicants will be accepted only from members of Grace Lutheran Church, Tomahawk. Applicants must have at least a 2.0/C cumulative grade point average to be considered. Please include a copy of your most recent transcript when applying.

Preference may be given to first time applicants.

ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS

The Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Committee is inviting applications for mission development and outreach ministries. The deadline for applying is December 31, 2026 with funds to be awarded in April, 2027. Applications are available at Grace Lutheran Church office, Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

Mission Development (home or foreign) – Financial support to individuals or organizations involved with the extension of the Church in foreign countries or within the United States, such as new mission congregations or support to missionaries in countries outside the United States.

Outreach Ministries – This includes support for creating, enhancing or supporting spiritual growth or caring ministries reaching out to groups of people in need in our congregation, our community, our nation, or elsewhere in the world.

04 OWLS (Older & Wiser Lutherans) Fall News

We enjoyed our trip to the Porcupine Mountains State Park on October 5. We were able to enjoy the beautiful colors at Lake of the Clouds, and along Southern Boundary Road as well as the trip to and from the park. We also enjoyed the Presque Isle River waterfalls (in spite of the long staircases) and getting down along the Lake Superior shore on a picture perfect fall day.
November 12 we will enjoy a potluck at the church at noon. Bring your favorite game to play after lunch. Please join us for good food and fellowship.
December 8 we will enjoy a Christmas performance of the Texas Tenors at the Grand Theater. The show title is Deep in the Heart of Christmas and includes beloved Christmas classics.
There will be a planning meeting on January 14 to develop plans for 2027. Bring your best ideas for the new year. Always know everyone is welcome.







In Loving Memory

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY go out to the family of Nancy Bronsted who died on October 5, 2026. May Nancy's family be comforted in the hope of eternal life.

Discipleship Jubilee Continues

Thank you to all who participated in the Discipleship Jubilee in October. It is a renewal of our call to be disciples of Jesus through active faith in ministry. To help us remember this call, please take a wooden heart from the basket in the Gathering area.
Each week we focused on a part of Grace's mission = Praising God + Serving Others + Building Relationships + Growing Faith. We asked each person to prayerfully consider where they could be active in each of these mission areas through ministry sheets. If you happened to miss a week, you can find the ministry sheets in the Gathering area. Please fill one out and return it to the office by Nov. 1. If you haven't already, please add your strip of cloth to our discipleship weaving by Nov. 1 as well. A beautiful way to show our unity in Christ.
We will then be sharing the information with leaders of ministry who will contact you in specific areas of ministry. If it is a new ministry we will help you explore the ministry to learn more about it. As we will be transitioning with a new Pastor at Grace next year, it will be essential that we have a solid foundation of discipleship in active faith to build on.

Calendar Highlights

05

Red Cross Blood Drive: November 17 11:30-Join us for the Tomahawk Blood Drive at Grace Lutheran Church on Tuesday, November 17th from 11:30am to 5:30pm. Sign up on-line: www.redcrossblood.org or call 1 800 RED CROSS (1 800 733-2767).



Salvation Army Bell Ringers needed: Signup sheets are will be located in the Gathering Area. Bell ringers will be needed November 20, 21 & 23, 24, 25 at Trigs. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Halverson at 715-453-4684.



Cookie Walk, Lefse, and Craft Sale

Cookie Walk, Lefse, and Craft Sale will be held on Saturday, December 12 here at Grace. Event hours start with Crafts at 8:30 and Cookie Walk at 9:00 am. Details and sign-up sheets will be posted in the Gathering area soon. Please save the date and start planning how *YOU* might be able to help in this churchwide event. Thank you!

Christmas with Friends - A holiday tradition at Grace



One

It's the loneliness number – and the loneliest experience for those who have no family at Christmas. Or, maybe we have family, but we have lost our tradition of family, gathering to celebrate Jesus' birth, and a holiday meal.

This is why we at Grace offer a place of gathering and welcome on Christmas day. We are here for those without family, those missing connection, those looking for Jesus – his love, his hope.

Christmas with Friends, a ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, is a place to gather, AND a place to love and serve others. Whether you would like to volunteer, can contribute financially, or cover our efforts with prayer, we need you – as part of Grace, to engage in what it takes to make Christmas with Friends possible. Please watch for announcements in the weeks to come for opportunities to make this year's meal and fellowship the best it can be for our community.

Advent 2026: Pause, Prepare, Ponder



In our church year, the season of Advent on November 28 & 29. Advent is a season of marking the time waiting for Jesus' birth. As John the Baptist called the people to repent and prepare for the kingdom of heaven coming near, we too are called to pause, prepare and ponder in our daily lives. In pausing from our constant busyness of our daily lives, we take time for prayerful reflecting. To prepare, we follow John the Baptist's call to wake up, to rise to action, to prepare the way of the Lord and to join in God's continued creative work in the world. In pondering, we marvel at the creator of the universe who was born as a baby and who will come again ushering in a new heaven and a new earth where pain, sorrow, injustice, warfare and death itself are no more. Make room in your schedule to join us in worship in person or online to pause, prepare and ponder this inspirational time.

06

Church Council Updates

October 13, 2026 Council Meeting Highlights

Where Have We Seen God At Work?

- All the quilts draped over the backs of the pews that were blessed and sent to LWR.
- Wonderful responses from Discipleship forms, especially for greeters.
- Great discussions with GLOW & Confirmation students
- The council voted to direct the Nominating Committee to plan for nine Church Council members instead of eleven.
- $25,000.00 from Restricted Funds will go into a new C.D. to earn more interest.
- Dixie, Pete, & Steve met with Pastor Nate Gauerke, Associate to the Bishop- Director for Transition. A few suggestions he gave us to prepare for Pastor Julie's retirement are: Explain to the congregation the call process and what steps are being taken, also meet with a transition coach to help us through this process.

MEET THE COUNCIL: STEVE HEIKKINEN



My name is Steven Heikkinen, and I've been a lifelong member of Grace. My wife is Carey who plays piano and sings at Grace. I have two children, three stepchildren and seven grandchildren. I enjoy family time with them and our dog Marshal. I also enjoy traveling with my wife and tending to vegetables in our greenhouse. I'm currently the President of the Church Council and I've served on the Church Council in the past. I enjoy serving at Grace whether it be the Church Council, different committees or church activities because of the fellowship with different members of the congregation and the relationships built out of that fellowship. My favorite bible verse is 1 Corinthians 13:4-7" Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." Jesus teaches us that love is the ultimate commandment, and I think we need more love in the world today.

SEPTEMBER 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

	Receipts	Spending	Difference
Monthly Receipts vs. Spending	25,209	31,041	(5,832)
Year to Date Receipts vs. Spending	244,848	277,329	(32,481)
Mortgage Loan Balance			89,910
Special Offering - Greater Galilee			716

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
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Worship Service Times

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am

Staff (715 area codes)
Lead Pastor.....Rev. Julie Sinkula, 453-4066 or (cell) 216-7652, pastorjuliebarger@gmail.com,
Lay Ministers.....Wendy Black, 360-4977, wkblack@yahoo.com and Mark Gaedtke, 612-2000, gaedmark@charter.net
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, 453-4066 cassady.grabow19@gmail
Director of Confirmation.....Renee Loka, 453-4066, rlloka@hotmail.com
Dir. of Youth & Young Adults.....Cassady Grabow-Hohensee, 453-4066 cassady.grabow19@gmail
Secretary.....Barb Zastrow & Mary G. Jones 453-4066, gracetomahawkoffice@gmail.com
Treasurer..Cheri Perrault , gracetreasurertomahawk@gmail, 453-4066
Wedding Coordinator.....Barb Zastrow
Custodian.....Barb Zastrow /Debi Tinker, 453-4066
Kitchen Coordination.....Patti Gaedtke, 453-4066

2025-2026 Council Members

Pres.—Steve Heikkinen.....966-0160
V. Pres.—Pete Wurl.....966-3381
Secretary—Dixie Erickson.....453-4283
Gail Wilson.....453-5787
Sherry Clements.....453-5615
Steve Garrison.....414-828-2925
Zoie Mohr.....612-1057
Mary Hoglund.....612-5639
Bob Wallis.....966-1053
Rick Eskola.....493-2309
Elise Gibeault.....

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