



GOOD NEWS

FROM THE GRACE VINE

September
2026

Praising God + Serving Others + Building Relationships + Growing Faith

Wilderness Trip Highlights

We have all returned from our Wilderness Trip to Glacier National Park with wonderful new memories, deeper connections, and a renewed appreciation for the many ways we can see God at work in our lives. Throughout the trip, we experienced the beauty of God's creation and were reminded of His presence in both the breathtaking scenery and the moments we shared together.

It was a joy to get to know those who joined us, make new connections, strengthen friendships, and create memories that we will cherish. Pastor Julie and the OWLS (Older & Wiser Lutherans) were also able to spend time with our youth, joining them for a hike to St. Mary Falls, Red Bus Tour, Boat Trip, dinner together, and a walk along the lake.

One of the highlights of the trip was the Red Bus Tour along Going-to-the-Sun Road. With our knowledgeable tour guide, we learned more about the history, landscape, and wonders of Glacier National Park while taking in some truly spectacular views.

Throughout the trip, everyone enjoyed a variety of activities, including horseback riding, boat tours, hiking, fishing, and opportunities to observe the incredible scenery and wildlife. Whether gathered together or enjoying the quiet beauty of the mountains, lakes, and trails, we were continually reminded of the majesty of God's creation.

Most of all, this trip gave us many opportunities to slow down, enjoy one another's company, and recognize God's presence all around us. We are grateful for the fellowship, laughter, adventure, and breathtaking wonders He allowed us to experience together. Many good times were shared by all, and we returned home with grateful hearts and memories that will last for years to come.

Marissa Schumacher





One of my favorite trails to explore is the Hiawatha and Bearskin State Park Trail in Tomahawk. There's a scenic spot where it crosses the trestle bridge over the Wisconsin River. I love how you can see the river from above and both sides from the bridge. Although trains no longer go on that route, it was an important connection for exchanging resources between areas.

Perhaps that is what we are called to be as Christians today- bridges connecting people with each other in faith. There are so many things that are dividing us and keeping us apart these days. But if we can reach out and communicate with people, we find that we have more common ground than we thought. Our unity allows us to help bridge those divides so we will have access to so much more of Christ's abundant life.

In order to bridge those gaps between us, it takes time and patience to build that connection. We won't always agree on matters, but we can listen and learn from one another with respect. Speaking the truth in love can help someone else bridge a gap to another perspective. We don't force anyone to believe as we do. Like a bridge that covers the river's divide, our sure foundation is Jesus who covers our divisions. In Christ's name, we have different ways of getting there but our goal is on the same track to love and serve God and neighbor. If we build on our strength in Christ, we can accomplish so much more than working alone. Let's continue to be bridge builders in Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Julie



Thank you for your generous donations towards school supplies for local students! We were able to make 30 sets of middle school supplies. We gave out 25 bags on August 12 and we had 5 bags that we left for Kinship to use throughout the year for students who needed supplies. Special thanks to Pastor Susan and Patti who organized this and Vicky for helping to hand out supplies.

God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday September 13

You're invited to be a part of this nationwide day when we share faith in active ways in the community. This year we will be making "Ride with Kindness" bags for the transportation ministry of TAIV (Tomahawk Area Interfaith Volunteers). If you would like to help donate for this project we are collecting bottled water, sm. kleenex packs, mints, a small notepad & pen. We will have a box in the Gathering Area to collect items. We will put these bags together after the 9 am worship on Sept. 13 (the first weekend after outdoor worship). Join us and share your faith in action!
Pastor Julie

Fall Bible Study: “In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus Through the Holy Land.”

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to walk in the places that Jesus did? If you have, this bible study is for you! This fall, we will be exploring this bible study, “In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus Through the Holy Land.” The author, Pastor Max Lucado shares key teachings from the Gospels and Acts on the people and places that shaped Jesus' life. Filmed entirely in the Holy Land, Max guides you through events that took place in Israel, weaving together lessons from the impact of following Jesus:

- **Capernaum:** following Jesus when you doubt
- **Sea of Galilee:** following Jesus in your storms
- **Mount of Beatitudes:** following Jesus when you worry
- **Temple Steps:** following Jesus...and only Jesus
- **Garden Tomb:** following Jesus when you need hope
- **Caesarea:** following Jesus when you need grace

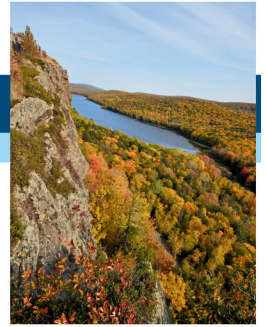
As you see these places where Jesus actually walked and ministered, you will deepen your connection with the King of the universe who became the Savior on the cross (Study Gateway at <https://www.studygateway.com>).

We will meet Mondays at 11:00 am for 6 weeks, Sept. 21- Oct. 26* in the Grace sanctuary. We will have time to watch a video and discuss bible passages about the life of Christ and about living our faith today. **Sign up on the list in the Gathering Area.** There is a book and bible study guide which you can purchase through Grace if you wish, but you do not need them to be a part. If you'd like to order a book or study guide, please note that on the sign up. Money needs to be received by the office before Sept. 8 if you want to purchase a book or study guide. A book will be \$13.74 and the study guide is \$11 each. Make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

**If you cannot make that time due to work or other commitments, please communicate with Pastor Julie and we will investigate if there's enough interest for another group to meet on a different day or time.*

OPPORTUNITY to Help!

Do you like to talk to people? Can you follow a timeline? Would you like to help raise funds for the church? The Cookie Walk event is looking for you. This event was started in 1982, and it invites the Tomahawk community to visit our church in December for cookies, lefse, and crafts. Prior to the day of the event, ads are placed announcing the date/time and the congregation is invited to help in whatever way they can, such as baking Christmas cookies, making lefse (from potatoes), creating handmade crafts, volunteering their time on event day, or helping with clean up. Over the years, the proceeds have been used to purchase the round tables and black chairs as well as the ceiling tiles and fans in Fellowship Hall, the furniture in the Gathering Area and Anna Fredrickson lounge, batting and other supplies for the quilters, supplies for Blessings for Babies, the plexiglass for the Confirmation pictures, and more. If you are interested or want more details let Pastor Julie or the office ladies know. Please pray about this opportunity to help our church in a leadership role. Thank you!



OWLS FALL NEWS

To begin our fall adventures we will be heading to Stevens Point. First up on September 17 is a trip to the Stevens Point Sculpture Park, which is a 20-acre outdoor art venue featuring rotating contemporary sculptures. It is set along an easy

wooded quarter mile crushed-granite walking trail. We will head to the Hilltop Pub & Grub for lunch and follow that up with a tour of the Stevens Point Brewery.

On October 5 we will try to catch some fall color in Porcupine Mountains State Park. We will start at the Lake of the Clouds, a scenic 133-acre lake between two ridges. From the parking area there is a paved walkway and boardwalk that leads to an overlook with a breathtaking view. We will have our lunch (bring your own) at one of the picnic areas along Lake Superior. Then we will head to the Presque Isle River Waterfalls at the far western edge of the park. There we will find old growth forests, a suspension bridge and views of three major waterfalls along the Presque Isle River as it flows into Lake Superior. After exploring this beautiful area we will start our way home, stopping somewhere in Minocqua for our dinner.

On November 12 we will take a break from our travels and enjoy a potluck lunch at the church. Bring your favorite game to play after lunch. Please join us we would love to include you.

We will celebrate the holidays with an evening at the Grand Theater to see Deep in the Heart of Christmas, a performance by The Texas Tenors. Join us to celebrate the season with beloved Christmas classics in this festive and meaningful concert. Tickets are \$56 and we need to know you plan to attend by October 18 so we can order the tickets.

January 14 will be a planning meeting for the beginning of 2027.

ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Our annual Altar Guild meeting will be held Wednesday, September 30th, beginning at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. This is the time to learn what is new, or ask questions, plus enjoy a time of fellowship with yummy treats.

What is Altar Guild you ask? Every month, a different set of members prepare communion in readiness for each service. So becoming a member means a commitment for one month, and, because there are two people on for each month, you and that person work out a schedule of who can work each weekend. We have approximately 20 members, so a couple of people have more than one month. The more members that we have, the easier it is for all. So please come to our meeting on the 30th of September to learn more and, if this interests you, please join!

Please feel free to contact me, Corrine "Corky" Burcalow at 715-612-7117 if you have questions.

We are Christians serving the Lord and showing His love by our actions.

In Loving Memory



Our Prayers and Sympathy go out to the family of John M. Henning. John passed away Tuesday, July 14, 2026. A private family gathering is planned.

Join us after 9:00 am service on Sept. 20 for a short fun Trivia contest upstairs near Fellowship Hall. Questions will be related to the Confirmation pictures. We will draw a winner for Fair Trade items. See you there.

Youth Programs:

Grace Kid's:

Looking ahead... Grace Kids will begin on Sept. 13th, along with our 3-year-olds Entering Grace Kids Milestone. We look forward to seeing all the children and youth back enjoying Grace Kids and Milestone together, after a summer break away. Be on the lookout for emails about upcoming Milestones and a Grace Kids schedule. Please contact Cassady Grabow-Hohensee for more information, or to volunteer within these Ministries.

GLOW:

Save the dates for GLOW!

Grace Lutheran On Wednesday is for 5th grade through 7th graders and is on Wednesdays after school from 3:30-5. We focus on Grace's mission statement, with emphasis on Bible study and serving others.

Entering GLOW Milestone will be Sept 2nd, and First day of GLOW will be Sept. 9th. Watch for more information in your emails soon. If you haven't attended before and would like to enroll, contact Cassady Grabow-Hohensee

Confirmation:

Confirmation for 8th and 9th graders is quickly approaching. Watch your e-mail for information about Confirmation. Important dates to note:

-September 2nd - Entering Confirmation Milestone for all incoming 8th graders (6:00-7:45 pm).

-September 9th - First night of Confirmation (6:30-8:00 pm)

If you don't receive information, but would like to enroll, contact Renee Loka at rlloka@hotmail.com or call or text 715-224-2198.

Do you love to sing?

Please consider joining the community choir as they prepare for this year's Advent Concert to be presented on Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 p.m.

The choir's first meeting is Wednesday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary church.

After that, practices are on Mondays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

If you contact Jan Huseby, the director, at 715-499-0327 prior to rehearsal, she will have a music folder prepared for you when you arrive.

Your soul will be filled with the spirit of the season!

Lay School of Ministry Registration Now Open!

Deepen your faith, grow in your understanding of Scripture, and discover new ways to serve. The East Central Synod of Wisconsin's Lay School of Ministry offers engaging courses in theology, Scripture, Lutheran identity, worship, church history, spirituality, and practical ministry. No previous theological education is required. Registration is due September 4, 2026, and class sizes are limited.

 [Learn more and register: layschool.ecsw.org](https://layschool.ecsw.org)

Upcoming Events - See Grace's website for a full calendar of events!

August 13, 2026 Council Meeting Highlights

Where we've seen God at work:

1. The generous donations of school supplies from the church and community to the Kinship backpack program.
2. The work the Lay Ministers, Wendy Black and Mark Gaedtke are doing with Grace Cares.

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

- 1) Building Fund monthly offerings have been less than the monthly payment.
- 2) Church mortgage is now below the \$100,000 mark.
- 3) Patti Gaedtke was hired for the Kitchen Coordinator position.
- 4) After Covid, many committees were defunct & Council is working on revamping Grace's committees; our goal is to reactivate and boost activity. Informational temple talks on the different committees will be given in October. Having a strong foundation is one part of preparing our congregation upon Pastor Julie's retirement.
- 5) We are in the beginning stage of discussion on a QR code for giving money; many people that attend the Outdoor Worship Service have mentioned this to Pastor, because they don't carry cash.

JULY 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

	Receipts	Spending	Difference
Monthly Receipts vs. Spending	39,834	27,913	11,921
Year to Date Receipts vs. Spending	203,919	215,720	(11,802)
Mortgage Loan Balance			98,155
Special Offering - School Supplies/Lutheran World Relief			516

Building Fund Update

When the new addition to our church was constructed we had a mortgage of \$1,279,773. Through the support of the congregation to the Building Fund over the years the balance on the mortgage has been reduced to just over \$105,000 as of June 1 of this year. The concern of the council is that contributions to the Building Fund have been steadily declining over the past couple of years. Our current Mortgage payment is \$4,015.96 per month and last month just over \$3,100 was contributed to the fund. The balance in the Building Fund is down to \$5,800 and declining by \$1000 per month on average. As many in the congregation may not be aware of this issue we want to bring it to the attention of everyone and respectfully ask for those who are able to add a contribution to the building fund to your current giving to support the ministries of Grace.

Thank you.

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING - GREATER GALILEE

Our special offering for this month goes to ministry at Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Milwaukee. We have been in an ecumenical relationship with Greater Galilee since 1999. We have been able to share faith across our American Baptist and Evangelical Lutheran faiths with life-giving relationships between our members. We currently have a bible study online that meets monthly, and all are welcome to join.

Your generous donations can help fund the important outreach of Greater Galilee's for people in need in their area. Some services are a weekly food bank, clothing drives, and many services offered in their Greater Life Community Center. To learn more, visit the Community section of their website at greatergalileemke.org Help make a difference today!

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

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.....

Contact Us!

108 W. Somo Ave.

Tomahawk, WI 54487

Phone: (715) 453-4066

gracetomahawkoffice@gmail.com

www.gracelutherantomahawk.org

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