

# Grace Connections

Lutheran Church  
Champaign, Illinois

## Numbering our Days

“So teach us to number our days,” writes the Psalmist in Psalm 90:12, “that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” That was the verse that was rolling around my brain when I sat down to write this newsletter article on the morning of my 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday. It’s not just because I was numbering my years at that moment. I was actually thinking about the fact that this month we begin the long stretch of post-Pentecost Sundays, the long green season that isn’t technically a season. Since the Second Vatican Council of the 1960s, which led to the common lectionary now used by most liturgical churches, this longer green season, together with the shorter green season following Epiphany (January 6) has been called “ordinary time.” You might be familiar with that term, and if you are, you might think it means “the time when nothing special is happening” like the major seasons of Christmas, Lent, or Easter, for instance. But really “ordinary” here is about counting. These are the Sundays we number from the last major festival. The word in this sense is closely related to “ordinal,” as in the numerals we count by: first, second, third, etc. And this is what made me think of Psalm 90, which I somehow have memorized from the Book of Common Prayer version – probably from singing Vaughan Williams’ setting of it.

This is a year of numbering for me. Born in ‘63, I’m now 63 years old. My mother will be 90 this month, the age my father just missed by 3 ½ months two years ago. In August, Helen and I will celebrate 40 years of marriage – a milestone her parents missed by 5 months because Helen’s dad died unexpectedly when our daughter was only 4 months old. And speaking of newborns, we’ve been numbering the days and weeks of our granddaughter’s life since her birth on May 5. She’ll be one month old in just a few days.

You have your own significant events to number in your life – if not the same confluence of years ending in 0. Such numbering can do at least two things for us. It can make us thankful for the years we have been granted thus far. At the same time it can also remind us that our time is finite – that our days are indeed numbered, and therefore precious. But wisdom, I think, comes from recognizing that it is not our numbering but God’s that ultimately matters. And that’s where our numbering should lead us. Numbering is in God’s hands, the God who notices every sparrow that falls and even counts the hairs of our heads.



+ Pastor Repp

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 -

### God Connections

Faith, Worship,  
Music, Study, Prayer

- 3 & 4 -

### Community Connections

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation  
News, Intercessory Prayer

- 5 -

### World Connections

Service, Advocacy,  
Ecumenism, Learning

- 6 -

### June Worship Support Schedule,

Building Use Information,  
Webpage and Zoom Links

- 7 -

### June Calendar

GRACE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

313 S Prospect Ave  
Champaign, IL 61820  
(217) 356 6232

[www.glccu.org](http://www.glccu.org)

Like us on Facebook  
and Instagram!

Subscribe to our YouTube  
Channel



# God Connections

Faith, Worship, Music, Study, Prayer

## First Friday Synod Prayer Group

Where and how is the Spirit moving? One way to find out is to gather together regularly for what Luther calls “The Mutual Conversation and Consolation of the Saints.” ***You are invited into a time of prayer on Zoom from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. on the first Friday of every month.***

We will share what the Holy Spirit has laid on our hearts and then lift up those concerns and hopes to God in prayer. This spiritual practice allows us to see Christ and be Christ for one another as the Holy Spirit builds up our communities of faith across the Central Southern Illinois Synod. Come join us as we share our hopes and concerns with God and one another for the sake of our shared life together. You can sign up for the *First Friday Synod Prayer Group* here: <https://www.csis-elca.org/event/first-friday-prayer-group/>

## Faith Circle is on Break

***Mark your calendars for when we resume on September 15, 2026 at 7:00pm—have a great summer, we can’t wait to gather in the Fall!***

***Faith Circle meets on the third Tuesday evening of each month at 7 pm in the narthex.*** All are welcome. We begin the evening with refreshments (coffee and snacks provided by the hostess) and fellowship. The lesson leader presents the Bible study, beginning around approximately **7:30 pm**.

We collect an offering each month, which will support the ministries of WELCA (Women of the ELCA) as well as selected local and ELCA charities. We use the Bible study materials from *Gather Magazine*, a WELCA publication.

## Adult Sunday School Summer 2026

Ordinary time is when we typically get reading that include Jesus’ parables. So, now is a good time to have a closer look at them in their original context in order to appreciate what they might be saying to us today.

For the next 5 weeks we’ll be using a study series connected to Amy Jill Levine’s provocative (in a good way) book, *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*.

Join us in the Hoffmeister Room at 11:00 after Coffee Hour.



## Thank-You for Your Generosity

The display of paper flowers in the narthex is a beautiful reminder of the special women in our lives, but more important is the impact the purchase of these flowers will make in the lives of people recovering from storms and turmoil.

Through your generosity, 101 blankets will be purchased and distributed through Church World Services.

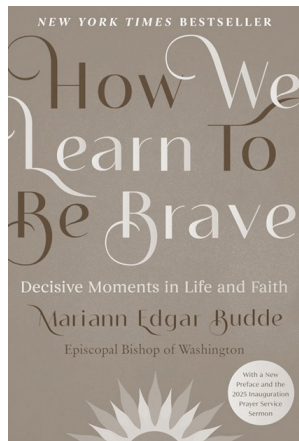
**Thank you,  
The Social Ministry Committee**

# Community Connections

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer

## June 2026 Book Club at Grace

### How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith (2023) by Mariann Edgar Budde



Our summer read will be *How We Learn to Be Brave* by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Mariann E. Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese in Washington, D.C.

Bishop Budde came to national notice after she publicly objected to the use of St. John's Episcopal Church yard for a political photo op in 2020. Then on January 21, 2025, she preached at the inaugural service for the incoming administration, pleading for mercy toward those who are afraid.

This book explores various kinds of decisions that may elicit courageous responses from us. There are chapters on Deciding to Go, Deciding to Stay, Deciding to Start, and Accepting What You Do Not Choose.

We will discuss the book on **Monday, June 29, 2026, at 6:00pm at a new location: the Garden Pavilion at Meadowbrook Park in Urbana** (enter via Race Street south of Clark-Lindsey Village). This shelter has nearby parking, sidewalk access, and restrooms. Feel free to bring a folding chair if you would prefer that to a picnic table. Also, please bring your own sack supper. Beverages and a light dessert will be provided. We hope you will join us!

**Janet Lepp and Eileen Herrstrom**

## Game Night at Grace

Gather with friends and enjoy an evening together! **Every 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month, from 6:00-8:00pm**, a group will meet for Games in the Narthex. The group will gather to enjoy each other's company and engage in card and board games.

**The dates for this month are June 11th & 25th.** If you are interested, please let Jim Fleming know. *Come and join us, and feel free to bring along your favorite game!*



**Check your summer schedule and save these dates!** Pub Theology 2026 will be at Triptych in Savoy. Join GLC friends for a cold beverage and a lively discussion on pertinent topics.

Watson's Chicken Food Truck will be available (other outside food is also welcome). We will be outdoors if the weather is good, indoors if not. We hope to see you there!

*Please contact the Grace Lutheran Church Office at (217) 256-6232 with any questions!*

# Community Connections

Fellowship, Fun, Congregation News, Intercessory Prayer

## Treasurer's Report

April 2026 Monthly Report	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE
INCOME	\$32,200.70	\$88,041.44
EXPENSES	\$27,199.02	\$103,319.57
NET	\$5,001.68	<b>\$(-15,278.13)</b>

**APRIL Income** was much more than expected mainly due to the 1st Quarter Interest of \$8,578. (Monthly budgeted **\$23,375.00**)

**APRIL Expenses** were on track to what was expected. (Monthly budgeted **\$27,200.25**)

**APRIL NET** income was **\$5,001.68**

**Year-to-Date deficit** is **\$(-15,278.13)**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Debbie Peterson, Treasurer**



## Food Pantry Updates

The Grace Food Pantry has been busy!

In **May**, the pantry reached:

- **May 7:** 99 households, 389 individuals
- **May 14:** 78 households, 275 individuals
- **May 21:** 75 households, 286 individuals
- **May 28:** 84 households, 341 individuals

That's **336** total families and **1291** people in our community that have been served by this ministry during the month of May. To support the work that the Food Pantry does, you can donate online at <https://glccu.org/donate/>.

### • Using GLC Facilities

**Our facilities are available for use by members and by outside groups.** To use the space, please fill out a facilities use request form on the website ([click the link to the form here](#)) and email it to [office@glccu.org](mailto:office@glccu.org). Once the request is approved, it will be added to the calendar, and you can make arrangements to pick up a key if necessary. **For more information please visit the website at <https://glccu.org/facility-use/> or call (217) 356-6232.**

### • Online Resources

Please see your email for the list of webpages and how to access them.

### • Grace Meeting Zoom Link

Please see your email for the Grace Meeting Zoom link.

# World Connections

Service, Advocacy, Ecumenism, Learning



## Click the Image For More Information on Ongoing *LWR* Projects

*Lutheran World Relief* was founded in the United States after World War II. LWR tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to challenges that threaten their livelihood and wellbeing. LWR works with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality, and they do not evangelize.

LWR provides aid in emergencies and helps families restore their lives using decades of experience and partnering with local communities. The mission of LWR is to affirm God's love for all people, working with other Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice, and human suffering.

You may know LWR as the agency that hands out the school and health kits. LWR kits offer a tangible way to offer comfort and support when a natural disaster strikes or war drives families from their homes. These kits are designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster conflict, and more. Whether helping someone to maintain basic hygiene or keep education going during a crisis, LWR kits provide dignity and hope in the direst of situations.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

## *Save-the-Date* Conversation and Connection with Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry

This will be a unique opportunity for you and your congregation to learn more about our new presiding bishop, his leadership and his vision for the ELCA.

**Join us for a special online Fireside Chat!  
Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 12:00pm CST**

Be on the lookout for the registration link in early July.



## God's Love Made Real

God's Love Made Real is shorthand for the ELCA's vision statement and encompasses all the ways our congregations, synods and ministries are helping the world around us know the love of God in Jesus.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

## Worship Support for June 2026

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Marlys Scarbrough	Kathy Bowersox	Helen Repp	Dennis Archer
<b>Reader</b>	Chet Alwes	Dennis Archer	Bob Dorsey	Jeff Fehrenbacher
<b>Deacons</b>	Susan Monte	Van Bowersox	Nancy Marshall	Art Traugott
<b>Greeters</b>	Dave & Carol Larson	Erick & Meg Loven	Bob & Emily Dorsey & Family	Jeff & Tina Fehrenbacher
<b>Ushers</b>	Doug & Karen Krusa	Jeff & Tina Fehrenbacher	Grigorescu & Thackery Families	Bev Kieffer & Mary Jo Erickson
<b>Livestreamer</b>	Dave Brown	Michael Miller	Jim Anderson	Dave Brown
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Leanne & Ray Wichus	Alicia & Bruce Winter	The Dorsey Family	Mary Jo Erickson, Gail Hug and Bev Kieffer
<b>Flowers</b>	Grace Schoedel	Kathy & Van Bowersox	Carolyn Pater	Cindy Saylor
<b>Dedication</b>	Remembering Bill	To the Glory of God	In memory of my father, Arthur Schumacher	To the Glory of God, in loving memory of Paul Saylor

### **Grace Office Schedule:**

The Grace Lutheran Church office is open Monday—Friday from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Exceptions will be announced in our GraceNotes or in the monthly newsletter.

### **Grace Lutheran Staff:**

**Pastor**— Chris Repp  
**Office Assistant**—Karen Maher  
**Director of Music**—TBA  
**Organist**—Mike Keeley

### **Grace Council Officers:**

**Council President**—Marlys Scarbrough  
**Council Vice President**—Dale Herrstrom  
**Council Treasurer**—Debbie Peterson  
**Council Secretary**—Kevin Vail

### **Grace Council:**

**Liaison to Finance**  
Dennis Archer

**Liaison to Parish Life**  
Dee Ehler

**Liaison to Social Ministry**  
Tina Fehrenbacher

**Financial Secretary**  
Gail Hug

**Member-at-Large**  
Leanne Wichus

**Alt. Liaison to Social Ministry**  
Alicia Winter

### **Grace Committee Chairs:**

**Worship & Music**—Ruth Anderson & Carolyn Pater

**Finance Committee**—Debbie Peterson

**Parish Life Committee**—Kathy Bowersox

**Property Committee**—Rotating Chairpersons

**Social Ministry Committee**—Lois Wilken

### **Ministry Coordinators:**

**Altar Care**—Ruth Anderson

**Assisting Ministers**—Pastor Chris Repp

**Deacons, Greeters**—Karen Maher

**Flowers**—Gloria Rainer & Shirley Traugott

**Readers**—Carolyn Pater

**Sound Technician, Livestream**—Ruth Anderson

**Ushers**—Dave Larson

**Wedding Coordinator**—Claire Vail

# June 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> •1:00pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting (P)	<b>2</b> •4:30pm Executive Committee Meeting (P) •6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH)	<b>3</b> <i>no events scheduled</i>	<b>4</b> •10:00am Food Pantry (FH)	<b>5</b> <i>no events scheduled</i>	<b>6</b> <i>no events scheduled</i>
<b>7</b> •9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •10:45am Property Committee (CH) •11:00am Adult Sunday School (H) •12:00pm Women's AA (H)	<b>8</b> •10:00am Food for Seniors (FH) •6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting (H)	<b>9</b> •6:00am Food for Seniors (FH) •6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH) •7:00pm Council (H)	<b>10</b> <i>no events scheduled</i>	<b>11</b> •10:00am Food Pantry (FH) •6:00pm Game Night (N)	<b>12</b> <i>no events scheduled</i>	<b>13</b> <i>no events scheduled</i>
<b>14</b> <i>Grace Food Pantry Sunday</i> •9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •11:00am Adult Sunday School (H) •12:00pm Women's AA (H)	<b>15</b> <i>no events scheduled</i>	<b>16</b> •6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH)	<b>17</b> •7:00am Food Pantry Truck Delivery (FH) •10:00am Comrades of Art (N)	<b>18</b> •10:00am Food Pantry (FH) •6:00pm Parish Life Committee (Zoom)	<b>19</b> <i>no events scheduled</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Newsletter Copy Deadline</i>  <i>no events scheduled</i>
<b>21</b> •9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •11:00am Adult Sunday School (H) •12:00pm Women's AA (H)	<b>22</b> •10:00am Food for Seniors (FH)	<b>23</b> •6:00am Food for Seniors (FH) •6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH)	<b>24</b> •6:00pm Pub Theology (Tryptich, Savoy)	<b>25</b> •10:00am Food Pantry (FH) •6:00pm Game Night (N)	<b>26</b> <i>no events scheduled</i>	<b>27</b> <i>no events scheduled</i>
<b>28</b> <i>World Hunger Sunday</i> •9:30am Worship - In Person & Live Stream (S) •11:00am Adult Sunday School (H) •12:00pm Women's AA (H)	<b>29</b> •6:00pm Grace Book Club (Garden Pavilion at Meadowbrook Park, Urbana)	<b>30</b> •6:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics & Dysfunctional Families (CH) •6:30pm Sweet Adelines (FH)	<p>(S) Sanctuary (CL) Choir Loft (N) Narthex (K) Kitchenette (P) Pastor's Office</p> <p>(CH) Chapel (H) Hoffmeister (CR) Class Rooms (N) Nursery (FH) Fellowship Hall</p>			