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# NOTATIONS

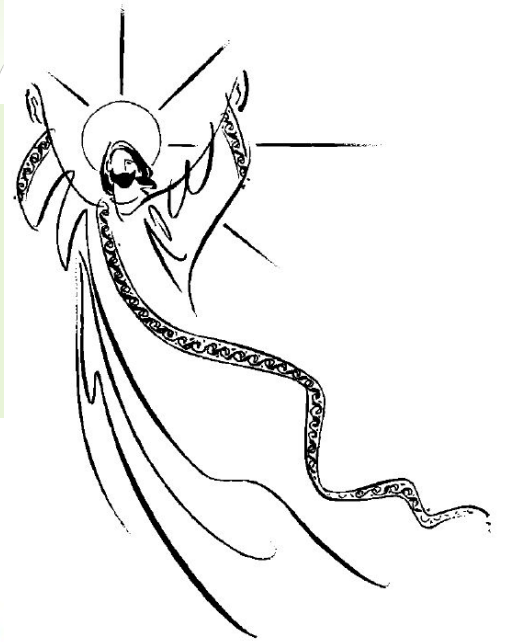
COMING TOGETHER TO LEARN, LIVE, AND SHARE THE TRUTH OF CHRIST

## SUMMER SCHEDULE

May 19 will mark our last Family Bible Hour for this school year, and we will take a break for the summer months. Service time at Grace will move up to 9:30 a.m., beginning May 26. We pray you all have a Christ-filled summer! If you are traveling, ask Pastor for the churches in the area you will be, and take advantage of the blessing of worshipping with our brothers and sisters in new locales!



HIOSANNNA



Hail the day that sees him  
rise

To his throne above the  
skies!

Christ, the Lamb for  
sinners giv'n,  
Reascends his native  
heav'n.

There the glorious  
triumph waits:

Lift your heads, eternal  
gates.

He has conquered death  
and sin:

Take the King of glory in!

CW175

**May**  
St. Paul's Greeters - Grace Ushers

- Gene & Sharon Bartelt      Jeremy Sturm, Dan Prazuch
- Joy Taylor                      Jacob Neumann, Mike Blaubach
- DuWayne Zamzow            Duane Blaubach, Keith Christian
- Mark & Joline Bartelt        Mike Fasse, Darrell Neumann



Thank you to our Sunday School teachers who have served so faithfully all year! Angie Hahn and Alyse Neumann diligently share God's Word with Jesus' lambs every Sunday. Thank you also to Michaela Levich for her help with music, and to Katie Sturm for assistance each week. You are all a blessing to us!

**Grace Lutheran Church celebrates her 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year!**

A pictorial directory is being planned: do you have a good quality camera, or know someone who does? Please let us know! Volunteers are needed to assist with scheduling our families for the photography sessions. Please speak with one of our committee members and lend a hand! We will celebrate on Sunday, October 13, with a joint Bible class at 9:00 a.m., and a joint service at 10:30 a.m., followed by a dinner. Pastor Roger Neumann will preach and conduct a Bible class focusing on Ukraine and Beyond. We hope to see you all there!

Committee: Corey Neumann, Melissa Neumann, Michaela Levich

**140 Years of Grace on Grace**



Grace  
St. Paul's

**FINANCIAL UPDATES**

March Income:	\$11,818.54
March Disbursements:	\$ 9,421.74
YTD Mission Offering:	\$ 1,455.00
2024 Mission Goal:	\$ 6,000.00
Percent of Mission Goal:	24.53%
Parsonage Garage:	\$ 6,515.00
Garage Goal:	\$ 20,000.00
Christian Ed Fund:	\$ 6,318.32
NLHS:	\$ 220.00

March Income:	\$10,931.05
March Disbursements:	\$ 6,113.89
YTD NLHS Offerings:	\$ 900.00
2024 NLHS Commitment:	\$ 5,000.00
NLHS Debt Reduction:	\$ 1,899.00
YTD Mission Offerings:	\$ 990.00
2024 Mission Goal:	\$ 4,500.00
Good Samaritan Fund:	\$ 840.00



**Save the Date!**

Vacation Bible School will be held  
**July 22-26,**  
**9:00-11:30 am**  
at the Berlin Center.



*Then they will hand you over to be persecuted, and they will put you to death. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. Matthew 24:9*

Dear members and friends of Grace and St. Paul's,

It is amazing how the events of Easter, Christ's Ascension, and Pentecost changed Jesus' disciples. They had been timid, disgruntled, frightened followers, but now they had a risen Savior, and the Holy Spirit emboldened them to do amazing things. At Christ's command they went out into the world and proclaimed his saving gospel, traveled far, endured great hardships, and most of them were put to death as martyrs for Christ.

The New Testament proclaims much of their activity and some of their deaths. While not always totally reliable, historical writings of that time and church tradition also relate numerous reports about their work and how they were sent from this earth to their eternal home in heaven. Following is a brief sampling.

James the Elder died at the command of Herod Agrippa I in Jerusalem in 44 AD. His death is recorded for us in Scripture: *At about that time, King Herod laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church, in order to mistreat them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. Acts 12:1-2*

Philip died in Turkey, after laboring in the provinces of Phrygia and Galatia. He is thought to have angered the proconsul because his preaching had converted the official's wife. He was scourged, then crucified, then run through with a spear to hasten his death in 54 AD.

Matthew and Andrew both died in 60 AD. Matthew worked from Iran to Ethiopia, with varying accounts that he died by crucifixion and/or beheading in Ethiopia. Andrew worked in western Greece, and tradition tells that he was bound to an X-shaped cross from which he preached until his death.

Peter is believed to have been crucified upside down in Rome around 64 AD. We read of many of his activities in the book of Acts. We also know much about the Apostle Paul from Acts. Paul is thought to have been beheaded following imprisonment in Rome, somewhere between 64 and 67 AD during the rule of Nero.

Jude (Thaddeus) traveled through Arabia, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Persia. Accounts vary as to his form of death (being shot through with arrows, or crucifixion), but it is thought he was martyred in Beirut in 65 AD.

Thomas met his end in India, where his preaching enraged pagan priests. He was shot with arrows, and finally run through with a spear in 72 AD. Simon the Zealot, it is thought, traveled as far as Britain, where he perished in 74 AD. Most accounts state that he was sawn in half.

James the Lesser likely died in Egypt by stoning and a beating with a club. Bartholomew (Nathaniel) brought the Word to India, possibly leaving them a text of Matthew's gospel. He is said to have been flayed alive and beheaded while preaching in Armenia.

John is believed to be the only apostle to die of natural causes at an advanced age in Ephesus. We know he did not escape persecution, though, as he wrote the book of Revelation while enduring exile on the island of Patmos.

The Holy Spirit fills our hearts, and the risen Savior emboldens our lives. We certainly pray that if called upon to do so, we would not shrink back, but willingly and bravely face death for our confession of our Savior and the preaching of his saving gospel. We also treasure our privilege of living in God's grace and serving him each day.

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Willitz

Draw us to thee, for then shall we walk in thy steps forever  
And hasten on where thou art gone to be with thee, dear Savior.

Draw us to thee, Lord, lovingly; let us depart with gladness  
That we may be forever free from sorrow, grief, and sadness.

Draw us to thee; oh, grant that we may walk the road to heaven!  
Direct our way lest we should stray and from thy paths be driven.

Draw us to thee that also we thy heav'nly bliss inherit  
And ever dwell where sin and hell no more can vex our spirit.

Draw us to thee unceasingly; into thy kingdom take us.

Let us fore'er thy glory share; thy saints and joint heirs make us.

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