



THE GOOD NEWS OF GRACE

August 2026

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of
Grace Lutheran Church
1408 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555
Volume 10 Issue 6



"In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:11-12)

The Rich Tradition of Internship at Grace

Dear People of Grace;

This month we bid farewell and blessings to Laura Olsen, our intern for 2025-2026. She will be missed! Her humor and even-keeled maturity has served her well during her time with us. In our shared faith, we all learn from one another, and this has also been true for me as I've been a companion during this important year of "figuring stuff out" and putting into practice all her learning and life-experience that brought her to this point in life. The journey continues for Laura, and I am confident that she will be a blessing to the congregation God is preparing for her. For Laura, internship and her final approval are the last steps before being available for a call to Word and Sacrament ministry. We wish her well as we go through the process of sharing goodbyes and memories.

Grace Lutheran has hosted now more than 40 interns. Not many congregations have those bragging rights. Our congregation knows how to receive and support interns, how to give feedback, and has the very special gift of not comparing one intern to another. Our interns always make connections with people of the congregation that typically become lasting relationships. We understand that interns are students who are trying out ideas for ministry, developing their own unique voice in pastoral leadership, and working out the balance of various demands.

Laura has been my eleventh intern (ten here at Grace). I've reflected a bit about this, wondering how the years went by so quickly. I've also reflected on changes in me as supervisor. Here are a few things I would like to share.

- ⇒ Interns bring out different parts of my personality. I find that I become excited about what excites them.
- ⇒ The first several months of an internship year require more energy from me, helping the student to be acclimated to our way of doing things (and sometimes having a coherent reason why). It also takes time to ease out of "school mode", as internship has a much more relational quality to it than the rigors of study, reading and writing for seminary classes. Interns may not have had much experience leading worship or other groups; there are some practical things to learn, about use of voice, for example.
- ⇒ The last several months become more of a partnership, where clear strengths can be highlighted while focusing on areas of growth. Here is where I want to encourage interns to consider how their unique ministry will look as they enter their next ministry site. God forbid there are copies of Pastor James out there in the rest of the Church. Interns should not emulate me; they should seek to illuminate the love and light of Christ from their own creative lens.

Continued on page 2.

THE MISSION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission.

⇒ Generally speaking, I think my style of supervision has shifted from institution to inspiration. Yes, of course we need to talk together about leading meetings, organizing a funeral, reading a budget, managing workflow, but I have found more joy in digging into deeper questions of the Spirit. One question I have asked each intern over the last several years is deceptively simple: “Do you want to be a pastor?” You would be amazed that interns can almost be offended by the question – yet, I see it as a step toward embodying the call, or should I say, being embodied by the call to this ministry. Another question I like to ask: “How has the call to ministry happened for you this last week?” Always, the answer involves an interaction the intern had with a person from the church or community.

As we prepare to send Laura to her next gig, I encourage you to take a moment to add your personal touch to her leaving. Maybe a card, or memento, or a shared memory that can encourage her along her way.

You are probably aware that we did not see internship as part of our 2026-2027 ministry plan. This was a hard decision based on projected offering income. Many of us see internship as part of our congregation’s identity, so we know we do not make this decision lightly. When you see Laura, please be sure you tell her, “Gee, thanks... for breaking our intern program.” She will love that.



Intern Laura leading Generations in Grace.

Blessings to you,

Pastor James Aalgaard

Farewell Brunch for Intern Laura Sunday, August 9

Farewell Brunch for Intern Laura: The Intern Team will host a potluck brunch following worship on Sunday, August 9 to recognize the end of Laura’s internship year. Please bring a breakfast or brunch dish to share, beverages will be provided. A basket will be available for cards and well wishes for Laura.



Intern Laura joined congregation members for their Bible study.



Many members of Grace gathered with these area clergy to celebrate the ordination of our former intern, Lynnette Rose at Lake Chelan Lutheran on June 28th.



Nearly a dozen people of many ages participated in the Pride Festival with Grace’s Drum Circle, thanks to the capable leadership of Marlena La Paz.

FROM THE DESK OF INTERN LAURA

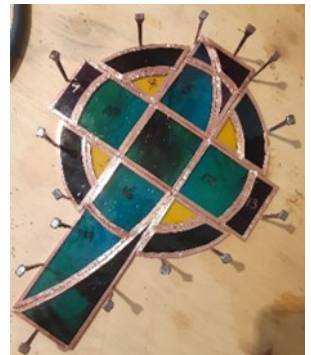
Piece by Piece

Stained glass is woven into the life of Grace Lutheran. Through the artistry of the windows and the gifts of those who continue the tradition, light and color have long been part of how Grace tells the story of Christ.



When I said that I couldn't leave Grace without learning stained glass, the Intern Team took me at my word and connected me with Cathy Sweeney and Rose Applegate. Cathy patiently taught me the craft—choosing glass, cutting, foiling, soldering, and finishing. Rose offered encouragement, perspective, and the kind of support that reminds you that every craft needs both teachers and cheerleaders. Linda Sinnett became an accidental color consultant when she was in the garden and came to check on why the shed door was open. She helped make the final selections – not so accidental, she's great with color!

As I worked, I realized the process was becoming a parable. Individual pieces were spread across the table. Some bright, some subtle. Cuts were made according to the design. Some pieces fit together immediately, while others needed a little reshaping before they fell into place. It took patience to see how they belonged together, and only when the work was held up to the light did the whole design finally come into view. That's what this year has felt like.



Advent and Christmas taught me to wait with hope. Lent taught me the long journey of embodiment, and the Easter Vigil taught me to tell God's story with imagination and wonder. Baptisms and funerals reminded me that a pastor is privileged to stand with God's people at life's beginnings and endings, always proclaiming Christ's promise of new life. Bible studies, team meetings, Kids' Talks, sermons, worship, shared meals, laughter, and everyday conversations each became another piece in the picture. No single moment made me into a pastor. Together, they have shaped the pastor I am becoming.



The Celtic cross design is a nod to part of my family's heritage, but I have come to appreciate something else about the shape. The circle both embraces and radiates from the cross. We are formed together, centered in Christ, each of us becoming part of something greater than we could ever be on our own – gathered into one in Christ, spilling out into the world to share the story. Thank you, Grace Lutheran, for the honor of letting me become one more piece of the story God is telling among you.

May the Master Artist continue the patient work that began long before I arrived and will continue long after I've gone—holding you together, shaping you with grace, and letting the light of Christ shine through you for the sake of the world.

Blessings and peace,
Intern Laura

Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 6

We will return to our Fall schedule on **Sunday, September 6**, with worship at **10:30 a.m.** Please join us!

Endowment Team News

The Endowment Fund has grown steadily this year, and we are pleased to be able to offer distributions totaling about \$40,000! Watch for applications to be available beginning the week of Aug 9. This fund disburses earnings only on an annual basis if there are enough to disburse. Project requests have ranged the full spectrum from (non-operating budget) needs within our own church & community to synodical & churchwide, as well as world-wide. Be thinking of how best to use this precious gift from God to promote giving & ministering to others while carrying out our mission.

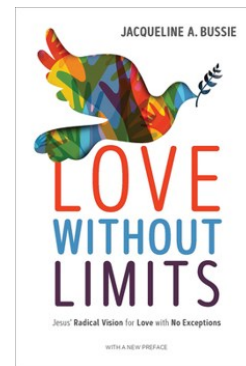


Ladies' Salad Potluck

The women of Miriam Circle invite all of the women of Grace to a salad potluck in the church Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m., Tuesday, August 18. No program is planned, just good food and pleasant company. Please bring a salad to share. Beverages, bread, and dessert will be provided.

Fall Book Study

Starting on September 9 after our T@G (Together at Grace) meal we will have a chance to engage in a book study of "Love Without Limits" by Jacqueline Bussie. In this book she shares her experience of an inclusive love for all people. It is a love without exceptions. The book study, led by retired Pastor Patton Boyle, will meet in the library. Donation for the book is \$15. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex - please let us know if you would like the church to order a copy of the book for you.



Monthly Evening Prayer

Monday, August 10, at 6:30 p.m.
Celebration Lutheran Church



Our next monthly service of prayer, meditation, song and readings will be Monday, August 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Celebration Lutheran Church (801 8th St NE, East Wenatchee). The service is based on the worship format that was developed in Taizé, France. Taizé music is known for its easy-to-learn refrains and layered harmonies. It is often accompanied with guitar, flute, piano, or other acoustic instruments. Time for quiet reflection and prayer will be offered. This prayer service will not include Holy Communion.

Contemplative Prayer

There is a contemplative prayer group now meeting on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. in the library. This prayer time focuses on shared silence combined with a short scripture reading, prayer, other reading, or an occasional song that aids the group in contemplative practice. For those who would like to speak, there will usually be an opportunity to share our experience. Bring your prayerful heart and a willingness to notice the Spirit's presence in community.

Upcoming Game Nights:

August 21
September 18

Congregational Game Night

3RD FRIDAY MONTHLY

6:00-8:30 PM

All are invited to play board games, card games, dice games, dominoes, etc.

GLC Congregational Game Night is held in the Fellowship Hall.

- ♣ Bring your favorite game or use one of ours.
- ♠ Bring your family and friends.
- ♣ Bring a snack to share.

Beverages are provided.

Young, old, and in between, **EVERYONE** is invited to an evening of fun and fellowship.



Craft Night Friday, August 28 7:00 p.m.

Craft Night is back on! Let's get together the last Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. to work on our projects together! Bring snacks to share if you want to, and we'll have a good time together.

SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM



Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 8,300 congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands." on Sept. 13. Across the country, thousands of members will work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us as we do God's work with our hands! Contact us for more information:

Grace Lutheran Church
Wenatchee, WA
School Supply Drive



Join the Social Concerns Team and the youth of our congregation as we support Washington Elementary with a School Supply Drive. We will collect items through September 13 - you can put your donations in the bin in the narthex. Washington Elementary asked us to focus on the following items:

- ◆ Composition & Spiral Notebooks—wide-ruled
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Headphones—wired only, no earbuds



Dipes and Wipes

The Social Concerns Team is holding a Diaper Drive through August 17th. The Diapers and Wipes that we collect will be going to Chelan Douglas Community Action Council and Serve Wenatchee. You can leave the diapers in the tub in the narthex.

Join a Music Group

A month, a season, a year, a lifetime.
You'll be glad you did...

Occasional Choir Forms August 23



Adults and children of all ages and voice parts are welcome to form an "Occasional Choir" on Sunday, August 23. A brief rehearsal begins at 9:00 in the Rehearsal Room that morning to prepare an accessible offering for worship. Come one, come all!

Deacon Ruth Serves Wider Church

In July, Deacon Ruth received the honor of a nomination and subsequent election to serve The Hymn Society of the United States and Canada for a three-year term as its Executive Committee's member-at-large. For details on the Society's work, visit www.thehymnsociety.org.

Group Music Rehearsals Resume Next Month

We are grateful for Grace's musicians. Members faithfully lead us as we worship, teach us new ways to pray, and inspire us to follow Christ. Choir members learn about scripture and theology as well as music as they prepare meaningful anthems. They also develop new friendships, supporting one another in and out of the rehearsal setting. Each of our ensembles eagerly welcomes new and returning participants. Training is available. Please contact Deacon Ruth for further details.

Voices of Grace (teens/adults) meets in the balcony on Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9pm and leads in worship weekly.

Bells of Grace (teens/adults) meets in the Rehearsal Room on Wednesday evenings, 6:15-7:15pm and leads in worship monthly.

Growing in Grace (children) meets occasionally before/after worship on Sunday mornings and leads in worship with vocal/instrumental offerings periodically (schedule varies).

Drum Circle (all ages) meets twice a month (schedule varies), playing in worship/community venues occasionally.

Ukulele Group (all ages) meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 5:00-6:00pm and plays in worship/community venues occasionally.

Recorder Ensemble (teens/adults) meets occasionally on Thursday afternoons (4:00-5:00pm) and plays in worship occasionally.

Brass Ensemble (teens/adults) plays for festival worship services (schedule varies).

Rehearsals resume after Labor Day.

Young People Learn about Grace's Pipe Organ

Piano students of WVMTA (Wenatchee Valley Music Teachers' Association) instructor Michelle Plews gathered at Grace early in July to learn more about the Baroque era and J. S. Bach. Included in the day's activities was time with Deacon Ruth, who introduced them to our pipe organ.



Students get a close-up view of the console.



Dn. Ruth shares details about the instrument.



Several brave students took the opportunity to play a favorite piece.

A Note from Our 2025-26 Olson Organ Scholar



To the Organ Scholarship Committee,
I am so grateful for the opportunity
to have learned to play the pipe organ
under the instruction of Deacon Ruth Anderson.
This experience has been very valuable,
learning to play the pipe organ has
expanded my passions for both music and
organ. The support of the community to
fund this scholarship is truly a blessing.
Thank you!
Sincerely, Joanna Talbot

Graceful Garden



The Graceful Garden is doing well again this year. Produce has been a bit slower to develop this year, but hopefully there will soon be tomatoes to share with the congregation on Sundays. Kale, squash, and herbs have been taken to the pantry each week in July. The zinnias are blooming abundantly and many of the rented boxes are adding to the overall beauty of our garden.



2026 TEAM & COMMITTEE LEADERS

Arts:	Marshall Thomas
Building & Grounds:	Dave Coe, Tom Gausman
Endowment:	Karen Zanol
Faith Formation:	<i>Open</i>
Fellowship:	<i>Open</i>
Graceful Garden:	Linda Sinnett
Pastoral Support:	Julie Banken
Staff Support:	<i>Open</i>
Social Concerns:	Kay Fisher, Mike Sweeney, Bob Bartlett
Stream Team:	Marlena La Paz
Worship:	Kathy Gavin
Youth & Community:	<i>Open</i>
Memorial Garden:	Ernie Bentsen

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Suellen Harris
Vice President:	Tom Gausman
Treasurer:	Dennis Burgett
Secretary:	Jody Marquardt
Members-at-Large:	Tory Schmidt Kristen Thorstenson Paula Salter Tami Woolsey

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Don Ball	8/1	Landyn Rookard	8/12	Robin Waller	8/21
Andria Hwang	8/1	Keith Garness	8/13	Miles Thompson	8/24
Mark Kulaas	8/3	Meghan Johnson	8/15	Aubree Hill	8/25
Lisa Foster	8/4	Howard Morris	8/16	Zachary Banken	8/26
Kathy Otheim	8/4	Liam Schmidt	8/17	Bill Gale	8/26
Brian Vertrees	8/5	Beth Florea	8/18	Cheryl Salter	8/26
Hannah Smallbeck	8/6	John McQuaig	8/18	Joyce Owens	8/28
Scott Buehn	8/8	Beth Buehn	8/19	Eli Henson	8/29
Milly Damish	8/12	Ron Fleisher	8/20	Gregg Romey	8/29
Logan Florea	8/12				

PRAYERS OF GRACE

- ◆ *Connie Brubaker (Hilary Polivka's mom)* - Connie has been diagnosed with a tumor in her head. Prayers for Connie and her family as they seek ways to promote healing.
- ◆ *Kitty Besel (DJ Valdez's mom)* - Kitty recently had a heart attack. Prayers for health and healing.
- ◆ *For Rick Schiefelbein and his family* as they mourn the death of Rick's wife Marilyn Schiefelbein.
- ◆ *For the Mike and Tammy Kintner family* as they mourn the death of Mike's mother, Mary Kintner.
- ◆ *Louise Temple-Rosebrook (Kristi Lee's mom)* - Louise had patella surgery on July 22. Prayers for healing.
- ◆ *Oscar (Kristen Thorstenson's father)* - Prayers for healing as he goes through treatment for anemia. Also, prayers for his wife who had surgery for a fractured hip and is experiencing multiple medical complications post-surgery.
- ◆ *For the Evenhus family* as they mourn the death of Alice Evenhus.
- ◆ *Dan Hutchison* - Dan has started a new medical treatment. Prayers for comfort for Dan and for a successful course of treatment. Also, emotional support for Joe Trowbridge as he navigates this time for Dan.
- ◆ *David Thomas (Marshall Thomas' brother)* - prayers for healing as he faces serious health issues.
- ◆ *Paul Arndt* - pulmonary fibrosis, which is untreatable.

To submit a prayer, please call (509-663-2189) or email our [church office](#) or [Pastor Aalgaard](#). Please share with us details that are pertinent to the request. If you are asking us to pray for a person other than yourself, please seek that person's permission. Prayer requests are published for four weeks. You are welcome to resubmit your request if you would like it to remain on the list longer. Updates are welcome, also. We will do our best to help your request have a balance of privacy protection and sharing information. The ministry staff at Grace reserves the right to edit requests.

August Worship Assistants

	Greeters	Assisting Minister	Lector	Altar Guild	Tech	Communion Assistant
8/2	John Hergert		Joyce Owens	Rose Applegate	Asher Campbell	
8/9	Jan & Milt Herman	Kristen Thorstenson	Kate Gregg	JuLee Fiebelkorn	Dane Schmidt	
8/16	Vinny & Mark Lee		Dee Ann Gregg		Marlena La Paz	
8/23	Dennis & Lisa Burgett		Suellen Harris		Adam Dunbar	
8/30			Kate Gregg	Denise Miller	Erik Olson	

Seeking Worship Helpers

Volunteer helpers make our worship run smoothly. We would love to expand our volunteer pool. [Here is a link to a "google sheet"](#) where you can put your name on an open slot. If you are having a hard time navigating the google sheet, please call (509-663-2189) or email our [church office](#) or [Pastor Aalgaard](#) and we can help.

Please note! The google sheet is a single document that can be changed (and added to) by anyone who has the link. You are very welcome to add your name to a slot that's empty, but please do not remove others' names or otherwise change the form.

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, August 2 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9 12th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:10-28

Sunday, August 23 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

ANNA & MIRIAM CIRCLES

Anna Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 18, at 10:00 a.m. at Grace. If you have questions, feel free to contact [Linda Sinnett](#) or [Faye DeJong](#).

Miriam Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 18, at 6:15 p.m. at Grace for a salad potluck.

Friendship Bridge Art Group

**August 6, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Foothills Community Center**

Everyone is welcome.

Do you like to write?

Do you enjoy sharing your art or creating it?

We create and share art and poetry in greeting cards.

Friendship Bridge links seniors and residents in care facilities



David Belcher, Founder

If you have any questions or ideas

Contact [David](#)



Helping People. Changing Lives.

LITERACY PROGRAM



WHAT YOU WILL DO:

- Tutor students one-on-one or in a small group
- Lead a conversational class

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Commit 3 hours per week for 4-month sessions
- No teaching experience is necessary
- No language other than English is necessary

WHAT WE WILL OFFER:

- Online and face-to-face new tutor training
- On going support

For further information please contact:

Liz Drath
1700 N. Wenatchee Ave. Wenatchee, WA 98801
lizz@cdcac.org
509-662-6156 Ext. 248

Vacation Bible School **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

August 10 - 13
9:00am - 12:00pm
Grace Lutheran
Church
Contact your
Leadership for
more information.



Use the QR Code or visit
FirstUMchurch.org for the link

AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Stehekin Trip with Intern Laura
2 9:30 Worship 6:30 p.m. Young Adults	3 6:30 p.m. Intern Team	4 7:00 p.m. Wenatchee Circle of Men	5 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study	6 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 1:30 p.m. Contemplative Prayer 6:30 p.m. Book Club	7	8
9 9:30 Worship 10:45 a.m. Farewell Potluck Brunch for Intern Laura (Following Worship) 3:00 p.m. VBS Training and Set up	10 9:00 - 12:00 VBS 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer at Celebration Lutheran	11 9:00 - 12:00 VBS 1:30 Girl Scouts 3:30 p.m. B & G Team 6:00 p.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m. Wenatchee Circle of Men	12 9:00 - 12:00 VBS 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study	13 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 9:00 - 12:00 VBS 11:00 a.m. BeFriends 1:30 p.m. Contemplative Prayer 5:30 p.m. BBT Board 5:30 p.m. VBS Potluck at First UMC 6:30 p.m. Book Club	14	15
16 9:30 Worship 6:30 p.m. Young Adults	17	18 10:00 a.m. Anna Circle 5:00 p.m. Social Concerns 6:15 p.m. Miriam circle Salad Potluck 7:00 p.m. WCM	19 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study	20 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 1:30 p.m. Contemplative Prayer 5:15 p.m. Worship Team 6:30 p.m. Book Club	21 6:00 p.m. Game Night	22
23 9:30 Worship	24 4:00 p.m. Habitat for Humanity	25 7:00 p.m. Wenatchee Circle of Men	26 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study	27 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 1:30 p.m. Contemplative Prayer 5:00 p.m. Graceful Garden 6:30 p.m. Book Club	28 6:00 p.m. Craft Night	29 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Voices of Grace Retreat @ Celebration Lutheran 4:00 p.m. WVMTA Concert
30 9:30 Worship	31					

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
1408 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555
(509) 663-2189

Return Service Requested

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor James Aalgaard pastor@glcwen.org	Pastor
Deacon Ruth Anderson deacon@glcwen.org	Director of Music Ministries
Laura Olsen intern@glcwen.org	Pastoral Intern
Jen Pearson -Gale office@glcwen.org	Office Administrator
Ann Martinson-Bartlett	Office Assistant

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CONTACT

(509) 663-2189
office@glcwen.org

WEBSITE

www.glcwen.org