October 2022

WORDS OF GRACE

Monthly Newsletter

Inside the Issue

THIS MONTH'S PASTOR'S PAGE...

Pastor Brad shares some thoughts on *loving like Jesus loves,* which should be our primary purpose in life! See page 2.

FUN AHEAD -- BUT WE NEED YOU!!!

Plans are underway for our 2nd Trunk or Treat Outreach on Sat. Oct. 29th. But WE NEED YOU! See page 3 to find out how you can get involved.

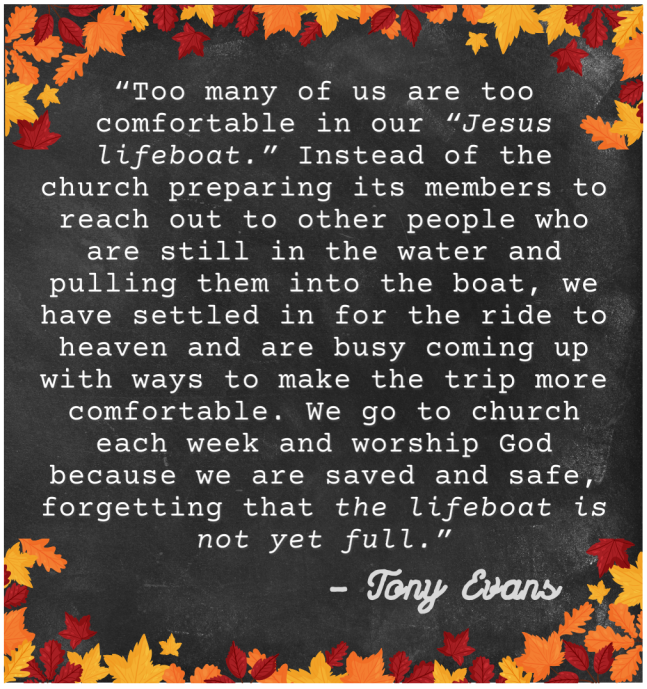
FALL'S AROUND THE CORNER!

Stop by the News & Notes page (pg. 3) to take a glance at all of the great opportunities available as we head into the Fall Program Year. There's something for all ages!

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS...

- Oct 2 Worship with Communion. Lost & Found
- Oct 3 Elders Meeting, 6:30pm
- Oct 5 Volleyball moves to GRACE - 7:30-9:00pm
- Oct 9 Missions guest from LESPWA
- Oct 14-16 Middle School Retreat @ Silver Birch Ranch
- Oct 15 Gideons Event: Conversations @ 9:30am at GRACE
- Oct 17 EFCA Forest Lakes Convention - OFFICE CLOSED
- Oct 17 Elders Fellowship, 6:30pm
  Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm
- Oct 26-29 Prayer Summit (co-ed) at Green Lake
- Oct 29 Trunk or Treat at GRACE - 3:30-5:30pm
- Oct 31 YFC Comedy Cafe @ Fondy High, 6:30-8:45pm

Weekly Staff Meetings are usually Monday mornings @ 8:30am



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that the Elders will have wisdom as they seek God's face and God's direction for us to join in His mission as the Grace Family, and as they look for God's guidance in shepherding His people.
- Pray for the Deacons to have wisdom as they come along side hurting people, and steward the resources with which we have been blessed.
- Pray for the Ministry Leaders to experience God's presence and power as they lead their ministries.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- **8:45am** Sunday Mornings at Grace Church
- **6:30pm** Tuesday Evenings Corporate Prayer at Grace Church
- **6:30am** Wednesdays Men's Prayer - Prayer Room
- **8:00am** Thursday Mornings Men's Coffee Fellowship & Prayer at Grace

PRAYER & ENCOURAGEMENT CONNECTIONS

- Mondays at noon
- Wednesdays at noon
- Fridays at 7:00am

The easiest way to access these Zoom gatherings is to go to the weekly E-blast (email) from the Church Office. The Zoom links are included every week.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD

George was a young man when he entered the services of the SAS, Britain's equivalent of the US Navy Seals. He protected the Crown on foreign fields surrounded by much brutality and violence until his last deployment in Northern Ireland where, on one fateful day whilst leading his men on a routine patrol, they were ambushed and engaged in a firefight. After the smoke cleared, all they found were two unarmed women lying dead on the street. As the captain, George was held accountable for their deaths and was dishonorably discharged. From that time on his life spiraled into disarray until eventually, through some bad choices, his marriage, his relationship with his children, and his employment, were all lost.

Many years later, alone and in a foreign land, and with much failure burdening his now 70 years of life, George was walking along a street when he heard an unfamiliar voice. He stopped to see who was speaking but found nobody. He continued walking, but the voice persisted. "Go inside, I have something to tell you." George stopped, sat on the fence post, and looked toward the building that the voice directed him to enter. The sign in the front clearly identified it as a church building. George never had much use for religion, but on that day, he did what the voice insisted and went inside. There George surrendered his tired, shameful, and empty life to the cross and to Jesus, the Savior, crucified for his sin. And there, amongst the church body, George found acceptance and a family he had once lost....

Frank was another young man living an unremarkable yet comfortable life. He was deeply conflicted within himself though and, in an attempt to find peace, left home and moved across country, settling amongst a community of like-minded people, all equally deeply conflicted and yet unyielding in their sin towards their Creator. Some years later, and with many of his friends dying from a little known and incurable disease, Frank remembered a couple from his youth who he knew could help him in what was amounting to his last days. So, he phoned them and said, "I have been told I have 6 months to live, please would you come?" And that older couple, full of Jesus and unashamed in their stand for the Gospel and God's righteousness, packed up their belongings and moved into that community to be with Frank, taking care of him for the last months of his life. Why did Frank call that couple who, out of everyone he knew, were so obviously opposed to his lifestyle, and ask them to care for him while he died? My best guess would be that he saw Jesus alive in them.

Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, writes *"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple."* (3:16-17)

That was written to a church who was struggling with divisions regarding personal preferences, which had forgotten its primary purpose in the world. That purpose, best illustrated through the two real-life examples I wrote above, is summed up in Jesus's words recorded by John in John 17, particularly verses 9-11 and finally in verse 26, *"I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."*

Grace Church, let us love God and one another that the world may know we are Jesus's disciples.

NEWS & NOTES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH 3:30-5:30PM @GRACE

It's that time of year! Plans are underway for our 2nd Trunk or Treat event here at Grace. We have a great opportunity to provide *a safe, fun, family-friendly event* to reach the kids in our neighborhood *with the Love of Chris*t during Fond du Lac's "Trick or Treating" hours on Saturday, October 29th from 3:30-5:30 pm. Last year we were able to serve over 150 kids and their families!!

We are looking for folks to come and decorate their car trunks or tailgates in creative themes, pass out treats, lead a game or activity, provide or serve snacks and beverages, and just engage with families in a safe environment. We will be sharing age-appropriate materials about Jesus as well, with an invitation to join us here at Grace for worship and children's programming. In order to do this, we need at least 8 vehicles with decorated trunks, and lots of other volunteers! We have a binder full of ideas for decorating your trunk/tailgate. Let your creative side loose, the possibilities are endless!

Sign up to volunteer, host a trunk or bring donations at the Connection Center (or the office during the week). Contact Rachel at the office with any questions (920) 922-7211 or *cmc@gracechurchfdl.net.*
Deadline for Trunk sign ups is Sunday, October 9th. Donation deadline is Sunday, October 16th. *Come see how you can participate, even if you can't be present that afternoon.* PLEASE DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO DECIDE!! WE NEED YOU!!

Are you interested in learning more about sharing your faith? Join us here at Grace for ***"Conversations - A Simple Approach to sharing the Gospel".*** This FREE workshop will be on Saturday, October 15th from 9:30am-12:00pm at Grace Church. This time of learning is open to both students & adults and is provided by Gideons International. No cost, all materials will be provided.
Register online at www.gracechurchfdl.org/registration
The deadline to register is Thursday, October 13th. Contact the Grace Office with any questions: (920) 922-7211 or *office@gracechurchfdl.net*

YOU'RE INVITED! GET INVOLVED & JOIN A LIFE GROUP

Our LIFE Groups are intended to connect a small group of people for the purpose of friendship, fellowship, and following God together. The relationships formed in these groups can provide care and support, as well as opportunities to serve others, deepen our faith, and live out God's calling on our lives. Groups may be intergenerational, or made up of individuals of a similar age, or who share like interests.

LIFE GROUPS
Growing in faith & life together

To learn more contact Pastor Brad (rutherford@gracechurchfdl.net) or one of the other Elders!

SORRY WE'RE CLOSED

The Grace Office will be closed on Monday, October 17th so the staff & Elders can attend the EFCA Forest Lakes District Convention. Thank you for your understanding!

Hey Middle Schoolers! The Fall Retreat at Silver Birch Ranch is fast approaching. OCT. 14-16 will be here before you know it. The registration deadline is Sunday, Oct. 2nd. Payment & medical/permission slip are Sunday, Oct. 2nd. Please contact Pastor Brad with any questions rutherford@gracechurchfdl.net

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING BAPTIZED?

There is an upcoming opportunity on Sunday, October 23rd. Please contact Pastor Brad *(rutherford@gracechurchfdl.net)* or Pastor Grant *(baumgart@gracechurchfdl.net)* for more information!

LIFE CHAIN, SPONSORED BY WI RIGHT-TO-LIFE WILL TAKE PLACE ***SUNDAY, OCT. 2 FROM 2:00-3:00PM*** AT THE CORNER OF JOHNSON ST. AND PETERS AVE. SIGNS WILL BE PROVIDED. COME OUT AND SUPPORT THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE, FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH!

BUMP SET SPIKE

Teens & Adults, you're invited to join us weekly for Volleyball & Fellowship at Grace in the Fellowship Hall! Wednesday nights at Grace from 7:30-9:00pm (PLEASE NOTE the adjusted start time!)
No need to sign up, just show up!

Fall Prayer Summit Oct. 26-29, 2022
Green Lake Conf. Center

When we gather and listen to the heart of the Father, allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us - we find great truths from the word of God making an impact in our lives. We will have time alone and the freedom to not be rushed in a schedule. You are warmly invited to come taste and see that the Lord is good. This gathering is for men and women of all walks of life! Young people are welcome as well (sorry no small children and no childcare available)

Arrive by 6:00 pm on Wednesday, October 26th, check in to get your room key in the lobby of Roger Williams Inn before the 7:00 pm start time of our first Prayer & Praise Time.

All meals are taken care of starting with breakfast on Thursday we depart around noon on Saturday the 29th. Please Bring: Comfortable clothing, gear for hiking/outdoors if you like, bible & journal, personal necessities

Registration: The price includes: 3 nights, 7 meals in the dining hall (buffet) and a small conference fee. **Limited spaces are available.** Register online by visiting: **www.we-pray.org.** Single occupancy: $400.00 Double occupancy: $248.00 per person Married couple discount: $484.00 The deadline to register is Wednesday, October 12th

For questions or special requests please Call Sue Perkins @ 920-277-9525 or Paul Franzmeier @ 920-472-9570

AWANA SCHEDULE

Oct. 2 - Sunglasses Night
Oct. 9 - Bring a Friend Night (**double points!**)
Oct. 16 - Sports Night
Oct. 23 - Pastor Appreciation Night
Oct. 30 - Crazy Hair/Hat Night

Women of Grace Monthly Reflection

Fall - A Season of Fruitfulness

Submitted by Robin Fuhrman

Oh, how I would love to hear your stories as we go through our Garden journey together… what God has planted, the joy and gladness found, and the things you have learned through hard work, pain, sorrow, and ***Tenacity…***

> *"the quality or fact of being able to grip something firmly; steadfastness, application; the quality or fact of being very determined; resolution, patience; the quality or fact of continuing to exist; persistence, staying power"*

Through the years of seasons, God is teaching me to appreciate the process, rather than focus on the desired outcome.

It is in the process that we experience Him in very real and personal ways as we Grow into Fruitfulness.

In our journey so far, we have seen that **Fruitfulness** depends on:

- ***The right soil*** - the Garden is a chosen place
- ***Softening rain*** - the water of the Word scripture, voice of Holy Spirit
- ***Cultivation*** - the Sword of the Spirit, God's Word… His Rototiller and weeding Knife
- ***Sunshine*** - the Light of the World, ***JESUS***
- ***Sustaining Rain*** - the Living Water, ***JESUS***
- ***Changing Seasons*** - **God's Perfect Time**

I have noticed that our garden looks and does best in times of drought. Why? Because we are more *attentive*…attentive to all that the garden needs, especially watering. Left to itself, the garden would not survive, let alone bear fruit.

It can be hard to take sometimes, but everything that happens in our lives is an opportunity for us to learn and grow as we depend on the faithful hands of our gardener. For God truly does comfort the waste places, brightening our place of drought, making that wilderness a garden, that desert like the Garden of the Lord, a place of delight and fruitfulness.

Fall is an exciting time for the Gardener… A time of joy, gladness, and celebration over the work of His hands!! **And Water continues to be VITAL in Fall.** It causes the ripening fruit to grow larger, sweeter, juicier… **Remember, because Jesus, the Living Water,** is the source of a fruitful life, we must not focus on producing fruit, but on growing in our relationship with Him…listening to what He has to say to us.

Read John Chapter 15:1-11. Jesus is the ***true vine...*** He is real, genuine, one who cannot lie!
So, listening to what He says is vital!! ***"Abide in*** *Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me."* John 15:4

Abide *- remain, dwell, wait for*
In - denotes *a fixed position in place* (continuing to be present, held or kept) *in time* (to stay, linger, anticipate with pleasure) *or state of being* (to remain as one, not to become another or different)

"Abide in" is a relation to, a connection of, a resting in… And the <u>place</u> of expression in our abiding? **Meditation of Scripture, Prayer, Worship, Fellowship**

By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples. As the Father has Loved Me, so I have Loved you. Abide in My Love. John 15:8-9

<u>Our state of being</u> -A disciple -is more than a *student or learner*... one who becomes not just like his teacher, but one with…We in Him... He in us!! **<u>Our condition</u>** - *As one who is Loved* - As the father loves Jesus, Jesus loves us!! It is a willful choice, not a feeling. It is choosing to find joy in another... expressing compassion. "Abide in my love." It is a feast of benevolent Love, which is shown, not by doing what the one loved desires, but what the one who Loves deems as needed by the one loved... "For God so Loved the world" ***Only God has such Unselfish Love.***

It is no wonder this is first on the list! *"But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control…"* Galatians 5:22

Whoa!! No wonder we cannot produce fruit on our own!! Just as the life-giving sap flows through the vine to its branches, so Holy Spirit flows in our hearts as we abide in Christ. He is our source, and His supply has no end! And as we surrender our lives to His transforming power, He will cause us to bear more and greater fruit…fruit that brings life to others. For fruit has no purpose unless it is used. And unused fruit will rot, becoming wormy. So, we can be sure that when each fruit is produced, God will bring someone in need of that very fruit. Is kindness ripe for picking in your life? One who is harsh needs to taste and see that God is good, as His mercy is expressed through you. ***Oh Lord, empower us by Your Spirit that we may prove to be your disciples!!***

Blessed is the man who believes in, trusts in, and relies on the Lord, and whose hope and confidence the Lord is. He will be like a tree planted by the water, that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes, its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. Jeremiah 17:7-8

The Body of Christ is good soil! It is a bank alongside the river (Jesus). And each of us is like that tree, spreading our roots in the direction of the life-giving water.

Consider fruit trees... Most need other fruit trees to produce fruit. The bees carry pollen from blossom to blossom - back and forth from tree to tree, making it possible for the blossom to set, and delicious fruit to form.

We are like those fruit trees. Planted together, here in good soil, the wind of Holy Spirit blows through us carrying the sweet nectar of Jesus being formed in your life and brings it to one another, to set and grow that delicious Fruit of the Spirit... Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Faithfulness, and Self-control.

Our Women of Purpose and Life Groups are like an apple orchard. With apples, it doesn't have to be the same variety of tree planted together. But the exact fruit each tree is to produce is formed from the nectar of the other trees. We come together in a fertile place, each a different variety, with different backgrounds, sometimes bearing a different fruit of the Spirit. And that sweet presence of Jesus in us causes the fruit needed in each other to be formed.

Read John 15:12-17 *" …These things I command you, so that you will Love one another."* God will never ask you to do anything that He expects you to do without Him. Rather, He invites you to Abide, Dwell, Tabernacle in Him, joining Him in what He is doing… doing *in you and in the lives of those around you.* Wherever He has planted you, He has also placed the river to nourish you.

Opportunities to SERVE

There are many ministries here at Grace that are looking for volunteers. As a body with a variety of talents & gifts we all have different roles to fill in order for the body to function as it should. ***Where might God be calling you to plug in and get involved?***

This page holds just a tiny portion of the opportunities that are available to you. Whether it's Kids ministry, Youth group, Life Groups, Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, the list goes on and on... Don't miss the opportunities before you to serve our Grace Family, and more importantly our Great God!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Our Worship Technology team is looking to add more members!

The Tech Team is responsible for running the audio, video, & computer on Sunday mornings during the worship service. Participating in this ministry is a great way to serve the Grace Family ***"behind the scenes"***. No prior experience required! All necessary training will be provided.

The door is open. Help make a difference in the lives of the kids in our community!

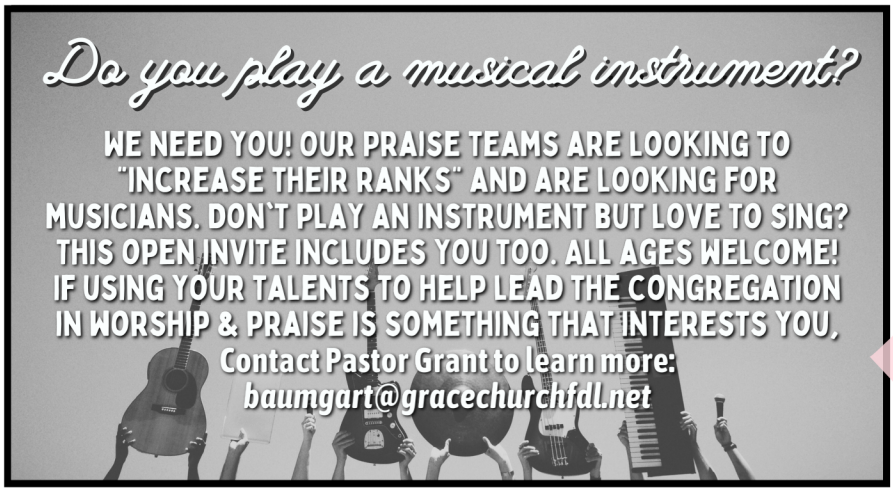
Research shows that the common factor in determining a child's future success is if they have stable, committed, healthy relationships with adults in their lives. For Kids Hope USA students, one of those relationships gets to be with their mentor. Through proven church-school partnerships, mentors stand alongside parents, teachers, principals and counselors to ensure kids that they are valued and loved. Through the power of relationship, kids build resilience and a brighter future.

In order to continue our Kids Hope program we need a new director. COULD THAT BE YOU? Contact Beth Rutherford (rutherfordgang@gmail.com) or the Grace Office (920) 922-7211 for more information.

Is God calling you to connect with, lead, or host a *Life Group?*

The purpose of LIFE Groups are to connect a small group of people for the purpose of friendship, fellowship, and following God together. The relationships formed in these groups can provide care and support, as well as opportunities to serve others, deepen our faith, and live out God's calling on our lives. Contact Pastor Brad *(rutherford@gracechurchfdl.net)* or one of the Elders for more info!

Do you play a musical instrument?



WE NEED YOU! OUR PRAISE TEAMS ARE LOOKING TO "INCREASE THEIR RANKS" AND ARE LOOKING FOR MUSICIANS. DON'T PLAY AN INSTRUMENT BUT LOVE TO SING? THIS OPEN INVITE INCLUDES YOU TOO. ALL AGES WELCOME! IF USING YOUR TALENTS TO HELP LEAD THE CONGREGATION IN WORSHIP & PRAISE IS SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU, Contact Pastor Grant to learn more: *baumgart@gracechurchfdl.net*

Hey You!

Yes, we're talking to you! Do you enjoy the Coffee Fellowship Time on Sunday mornings after worship? Does serving people or baking tasty treats bring you life? Then the Coffee Fellowship team may be the perfect fit for you! Whether it's setting up and serving, or baking and bringing yummy snacks to share there's a role for you. We hope to add more people to the monthly/quarterly schedule. If this interests you contact Pastor Grant *baumgart@gracechurchfdl.net*

The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

"Seventy times seven..."

Peter came to Jesus and asked Him … ***"Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me?" Jesus answered … "Not seven times … but seventy times seven!"***

If my math is correct, that's four hundred and ninety times!! (490) *That is a lot of times* to accept forgiveness from someone. I think the point Jesus was making is that God's forgiveness with us is endless. I know God doesn't keep count, because I am sure I have used up more times than my 490!

You see, God doesn't keep track. God's Word tells us that when we fervently seek His forgiveness, He separates us from our guilt and He remembers our sins no more. This does not mean we can sin and not be held accountable. Sinful habits are hard to break, but that is exactly what God expects of us. ***If sinning separated us from God permanently, then you and I would live without hope.***

Sin isn't good for us, especially those habitual sins that plague us. We can not have both our sin and our God, because God is too good to be around sin. People who think they can have both are only deceiving themselves, and they will never be truly free until the bonds of sin broken. Let's share God's good news … *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9

Let me share a beautiful song called "Forgiven Again", by Ernie Haase & Signature Sound. It is a beautiful song that tells us about God's love and forgiveness. Hope you'll take time to listen to it. (Use the link below, or search it on YouTube.)

Lord, thank You that You forgive me when I fail and that Your love for me is never lost because of my sins and failures.

"Forgiven Again": *https://youtu.be/1shTv5IKQHg*

"If you could see what I once was … if you could go with me. Back to where I started from, I know that you would see. A miracle of love that put me in its sweet embrace, and made me what I am today … just an old sinner saved by grace." "A Sinner Saved By Grace"

The song continues … "I'm just a sinner, saved by grace. When I stood condemned to death … He took my place. Now I live and breathe in freedom with each breath of life I take … Loved and forgiven … back with the living … I'm just a sinner saved by grace."

A sinner saved by grace … that's what I am. How about you? The grace that saved me and the grace that saved you is something that none of use can earn, it is a gift God gives His children when we seek Him. The Bible says … *"For by grace we have been saved through faith. This is not our own doing … it is the gift of God."* John 3:16 (MSG)

Let me share this from a recent article I read… "The grace of God is so simple, yet so profound that it beyond the greatest minds to understand it. It stands in opposition to the ideas that many people have about earning our way, about people getting what they deserve, about fairness, and about the independence of the human being." The best single definition of grace is this… We get **G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense.

Let me direct this to someone who is struggling with their past, someone who seems totally lost and unforgiven... God is waiting and He's ready to give you a fresh new start. The record of the sins of your past will be wiped clean and our Almighty Creator will make your life new again, without the record of sin or blemish. There is no better moment than now to get down on your knees and say… "Lord, I seek Your forgiveness and I ask You to intercede in my life and make it new. I ask Jesus, who died for my sins on Calvary's cross to come live in my heart and soul. Fill me with Your saving grace." If you said this prayer, tell a Christian friend and ask them to help you grow in your Christian walk, and keep Jesus in your mind at all times, for as the Bible says… *"... and He will direct your path."*

Lord, I lift up that person who invited you into their life today and I pray that You will fill them with Your grace, and that You will bring someone into their life who will help them to stay faithful.

"A Sinner Saved by Grace" by the Gaither Vocal Band *https://youtu.be/snjd291QmiE*

Your Anchor will hold … in spite of your storms!

GRACE
Evangelical Free Church
163 18th Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
office@gracechurchfdl.net
www.gracechurchfdl.org

CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:

Sunday mornings at 8:45am
Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm
Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:30am.

All meet at Grace Church building

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ*

Lead Pastor - *Brad Rutherford*
cell: 313-0456 email: rutherford@gracechurchfdl.net

Associate Pastor - *Grant Baumgart*
cell: 948-6373 email: baumgart@gracechurchfdl.net

Administrative Assistant - *Carol Blain*
phone: 922-7211 email: office@gracechurchfdl.net

Communications/Media Coordinator - *Rachel Titel*
email: cmc@gracechurchfdl.net

Custodian - *Mark Jopling*
phone: 922-7211 cell: (920) 979-3944

Custodial Assistant - *Jen Koenigs*

Elder on Call: Friday, Saturday & Sunday
(920) 948-9262

Offering & Attendance

8/7/2022	$7.579	140
8/14/2022	$5,234	153
8/21/2022	$9,258	134
8/28/2022	$10,937	158

August Weekly Ave: $9,863.80 146

Weekly average needed to meet budget $9,576.67

Year to Date Givings $82,727
Year to Date Expenses $77,658

Totals reflect August month-end totals

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the November *Words of Grace* to the church office by **October 15th.**
You can contact the office at *(920) 922-7211 or office@gracechurchfdl.net*

Office Hours are:
Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm
Friday 8:00am-11:30am