A logo with a lighthouse and a book

Description automatically generatedJuly 2025 Newsletter

**Grace Lutheran Church  
Jesus’ Lambs of Grace Preschool  
Manitowoc, Wisconsin**

***“HIS Light on the Lakeshore”***

God Bless America!  
Lord God almighty, you reign over all the earth! You are King of Kings, and to you every knee must bow. We thank you for our United States of America. You created our government to be a blessing to your people. We recognize how especially blessed we American Christians are because freedom of religion and freedom of speech are guaranteed to us in our Bill of Rights. Help us to use these freedoms for a blessing, not only for ourselves but also for our fellow citizens. In freedom to worship, let us worship. In freedom of speech, let us build our fellow citizens up, and share the good news of Jesus.  
  
Lord, bless our nation and its government. We ask for leaders who are wise, honest and diligent in their calling, but help us also to be citizens who reflect those same values in our lives. Bless all who work for our government, from its highest offices to the humblest office worker, that our country may enjoy good order and the blessings that you intended government to secure for its citizens. Protect and guide all who put themselves in harm’s way for their fellow citizens, our military, our fire departments, police and others who serve to protect us. Bless those who are nurturing and teaching the next generation of Americans. May our July celebrations reflect our gratitude for the undeserved blessings of prosperity and freedom. Whether we gather as families or citizens, at picnics or parades, may we reflect the joy of living under You in this blessed country!

God bless America!

A person in a suit and tie

Description automatically generatedFrom Pastor Henning’s Desk  
**What I’ve Been Reading:**

**From the Bible –** Gospels: Someone recently mentioned to me the benefit of reading whole chapters of the Gospels at a time. When we hear selected verses Sunday to Sunday, we don’t always realize how they fit into the flow of Jesus’ life and ministry. It has been such a blessing to hear the connections between events and teachings and to watch the progression of the people around Jesus, both his followers and his enemies.

As I near the end of June, I’m also reaching the end of the Gospels, with all the climactic events of Holy Week and the great joy we have in our Savior Jesus. Praise be to God for his gospel message that opens our eyes to see the light of salvation through Christ our Lord! (As a side note for those who care about grammar things: We capitalize Gospel when it refers to a reading from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. The word remains lowercase when we’re simply referring to the general good news about Jesus, not one of the four Gospels. The more you know!)

**For Fun:** As we’ve spent less time in the car together this month, Cait and I are still working our way through *The Reformatory*, a historical novel that takes place in Florida and explores the struggles of racial conflict and injustice while a 12-year-old is locked up in a reformatory boys’ school. We’re under 3 hours of listening time left, and the story is ramping up dramatically! Meanwhile, I completed two church-related books. *This We Believe* answers many questions about what we as WELS Lutherans believe. I also completed the pictorial history book put out for our synod’s 175th anniversary. It’s nice to read a picture book once in a while! After those, I started a personal improvement book called *Inner Excellence.* While it could benefit anyone, I appreciate that this author let’s his Christian faith influence how he coaches and encourages others.

**A Year in Review:**

It’s hard to imagine that later this month Cait and I will have been at Grace for a year already! After spending our first decade together in short little phases moving from place to place, we’re so glad that Grace Lutheran in Manitowoc is our home. All the things we didn’t know when we pulled into the lot last summer to store a piano and bookshelves, all the people we’ve met along the way, the joys and griefs we’ve shared – and still so much ahead of us in the years to come! The Open Forums and Voters’ Meeting helped me to both appreciate the blessing you all are to me and remember the blessing God makes me to you. God be praised for stability and consistency! We pray to our Lord that he allows us to wisely and joyously use our position to advance the gospel in our community and beyond. Here’s to another wonderful year together!

***“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).***

**Changes to our Congregational Newsletter…**

Due to preferences from some of our members, concerns regarding privacy and safety as well as excessive repetition of information, we will no longer be placing the following information into our newsletter:

***Birthday Lists***

***Mowing, Vacuuming and Usher / Greeter Schedules with Names and Phone Numbers***

***Coordinating Council Elected Officials Information with Names and Phone Numbers***

You can find this information in a number of different locations, such as church bulletin boards, church emails, our website, church mailboxes and in our weekly news handouts. You may also feel free to call the church office for any needed information.

We appreciate your understanding regarding these inclusion decisions.



**Highlights of our June Voters’ Meeting**

A devotion entitled “It’s All About Jesus” was shared to open our meeting, reminding all of the focus of our total ministry picture at Grace Lutheran. All we do, we do for Him!

Our 2025 – 2026 budget passed with one change. Our congregation’s mission offering to the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod was raised from the proposed figure of $21,000.00 to the new figure of $24, 400.00.

Our changes and revisions to the church constitution and church bylaws passed with one change. In our Jesus’ Lambs of Grace Board of Education, we changed the wording so that the board is not limited to two members, but to *at least* two members.

Copies of the proposed budget and the constitution and bylaws with proposed revisions and changes were made available to all members of the congregation for a total of two weeks before the voters meeting was held.

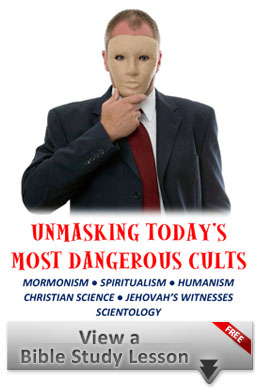
A lengthy discussion was held (with no vote) concerning the possibility of Christian Family Solutions using the Grace Lutheran campus as a counseling center. More information concerning this proposal will be shared with the congregation over the next few weeks.

Shorter discussions were held (with no votes) concerning our current and future Staff Minister position, our church website, the Member Ministry Coordinator position and the situation with our church organ.

For more information concerning our meeting, and for more details concerning what transpired please feel free to contact any of our Coordinating Council members.

A hand holding a phone

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Grace Lutheran Bible Class

Do you know someone involved in a cult?  A cult is a group that has teachings and beliefs that go against Scripture, usually led by a charismatic individual, whose followers accept their teachings without checking them against the Bible.  Examples include Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Mormonism, Scientology, and Humanism.  Even if you don't know someone involved in any of these groups, as a faithful witness to Jesus, you probably should know how to refute their false teachings.

Starting July 22nd, and running for seven weeks, Grace will conduct a Bible study series titled ***"Unmasking Today's Most Dangerous Cults."*** Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30, Wednesday afternoons at 1:15, and Sundays after worship.  Please come and learn how you can defend the truths of the Bible against these dangerous organizations.

**Grace Lutheran Bible Study  
Begins July 22nd**

Vacation Bible School  
August 4th – 8th  
Ages 3 Years – 6th Grade

*Join Us For A Fun-Filled Week Learning About Our Awesome God!*

**Vbspro.events/p/grace-truenorth**

A red and white logo

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**SYNOD CONVENTION THIS SUMMER**

The 68th Biennial Convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod will be held July 21–24, 2025, at Martin Luther College (MLC), New Ulm, Minn. About 400 voting delegates from around the country will attend the convention.

The theme of the 2025 synod convention is “Christ through us.” This theme highlights both God’s blessings to the synod as it celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2025 as well as God’s continued work through WELS in years to come. A new strategic plan that establishes synodical, congregational, and individual objectives and strategies will be introduced at the convention.

The synod in convention is the legislative body of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). It establishes, reviews, and amends the policies and the direction of WELS as we pursue our mission.  
The purpose of the synod convention is

* to meet as a delegate synod to carry out the responsibilities of the legislative body of WELS,
* to celebrate God’s blessings on our ministry in the past,
* to nurture our faith, and
* to set in motion an agreed-upon plan of ministry for the future.

May the Lord bless our synod in convention and be with them in all they discuss and decide! All for HIS glory!



CHANGE FOR LIFE

*God’s Greatest Gift*

Grace is participating in the *Change for Life* program to support the ministry of *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers.* Look for the Change for Life display on the wood banquet table in the fellowship hall through July 31st. If you have any questions, contact Ann Hornes 684-1241.

****Our summer camp program began on June 2nd with twenty-two campers. This Monday – Thursday all day camp gives our campers the chance to hear – every day – about the love of their Lord Jesus and also gives helps them to learn, grow and to have fun in the sun!

On June 12th the campers enjoyed the ½ car wash event. Many cars came dirty and left clean! We appreciate those who showed up for the wash and we thank all for the generous donations.

**Jesus’ Lambs of Grace**

We are thankful that our staff (back in May) have the chance to complete their CPR / AED and First Aid training!

We look forward to some visits this summer. Mrs. Jill Plocher will be talking to the campers about what it’s like to serve Jesus at the East Fork Mission in Arizona. Mrs. Sue Fink will be coming in to share her self-care children’s book with the children. Welcome visitors!

Director Debbi Heiderich and staff member Misty Barthel completed a class entitled *“Build it Strong: Child Care Business Foundations.”* It is a blessing to know that our preschool stresses the importance of continuing education.

May God bless our Jesus’ Lambs summer camp and preschool with His love, and may the work done by our Jesus’ Lambs staff be a blessing!

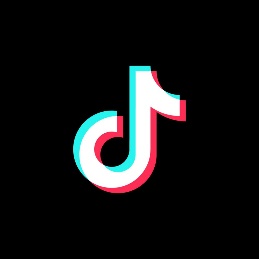
**Grace Lutheran Newsletter Question of the Month**

*Could Social Media Applications Be Used for Congregational Outreach?*

The Chairman of our congregation, Steve Janke, would like to pursue that question, and he would like to do so by forming a team of volunteers to explore avenues of outreach using social media.

If you consider yourself somewhat “savvy” in the world of social media and would like to be a part of the Social Media Exploration for Outreach team, please contact our chairman and let him know. He’ll be setting up a meeting date very soon.

A logo of a camera

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Chairman Janke’s contact information can be found in the church directory or can be secured with a call to the church office.

This brings the newsletter to a close, but the news will continue! Keep yourself up to date with all things Grace Lutheran by:

* Listening to the after-worship service announcements, and
* Reading the onscreen announcements found on the monitors in church, and
* Checking your church mailbox for weekly announcement sheets, and
* Reading the weekly “Church News” emails sent from our church office, and
* Calling the church office with your questions.

 It is our desire to keep our entire church family in the know. May God bless our efforts to do so, and may God bless all of you!