



## Kick-Off Sunday September 12, 2021

The excitement begins at 9:00 a.m. on **Kick-Off Sunday** for the start of a new church school year!

Teachers and Helpers:

Early Elementary:

*Chris Schantzen and Carol Bell*

Middle School:

*Kathy Rosendahl and Mary Rennells*

Confirmation:

*Pastor Rachel, Rena Dornfeld and David Rosendahl*

Adult Class:

*Rotated Leaders*



After church on **Sunday, September 12**, a lunch of sub sandwiches will be served to the congregation and guests. Invite friends and family to join us on kick-off Sunday!



John 20:21

"Again, Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

## Confirmation

This year we have **SIX** young people who will be going through our Confirmation Class. They are:

*Savannah Bell*

*Laura Holm*

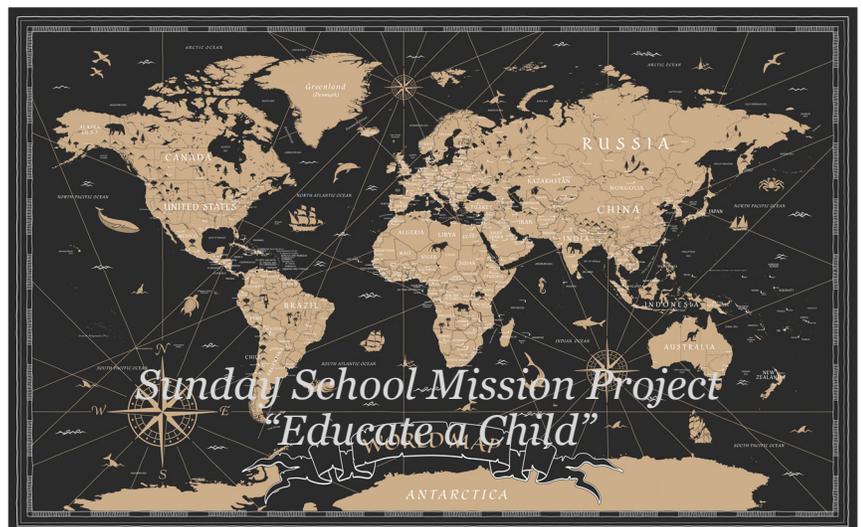
*Abby Johanson*

*Ava Roessler*

*Ella Schantzen*

*McKay Schultz*

In future monthly newsletters one confirmand will be spotlighted each month to introduce these fine young people to our church family!



The Mission Project for the 2021-2022 Church School Year will be "**Educate a Child**" from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Offering for this comes from the first Sunday of the month and birthday money given by the children and adults in church school. We will report the total amount given at the end of the school year.

## *Pastor's Page*

God's will can be a tricky thing  
the thought of it disorients the brain.  
Because if God is good, why is there rain?

Rain that floods like  
wars  
and fires,  
like this pandemic  
and the flood of liars.  
If God's will is good  
how can there be so much bad?  
If God's will is joyous  
why is the world still so sad?

I don't know the answer  
no one can for sure.  
But I wonder, if in our asking,  
our intentions are pure?  
Do we want to know God's will  
to follow truly?  
Or do we want to poke holes  
exploiting capacity for cruelty?

Do you not know O' mortal  
the will of God is timeless.  
It's simply to seek justice  
and love kindness.  
To live in humility  
to the best of our ability  
and love one another  
as sisters and brothers  
blood of blood and bone of bone.  
It's all out there,  
plain as day.  
God's will hasn't changed  
it was always this way.

We ought not to conflate God's will  
with cruel questions of theodicy  
or make it impossible  
by wrapping it in orthodox polity.

Just be the helper  
in times of tragedy.  
Just  
love in the face of apathy.  
Resist  
the travesty of amnesty  
for those whose blasphemy  
creates calamity  
through division and oppression.  
This was never the intention  
for the faith that became religion  
and organization  
that became derision.

If we do what we know  
seeking justice, showing grace, being kind  
I think that we will find  
the state of the world  
is dependent on our state of mind.





## Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Now is a great time to start thinking about filling your shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child! The stores are FULL of back-to-school supplies and these are perfect fillers for your box!



The Church Office is open new hours:

Tuesday through Friday  
9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hours will be adjusted as required to accommodate events happening at the church where it is essential the office is open.

As always, please call if you need office assistance or to schedule an appointment with the pastor.

## Anchored VBS Review

Our VBS on Sunday afternoon, August 29, was full of learning fun and friends! Ten children/helpers joined in: *Savannah Bell, Brycen, Brady and Brielle Hansen, Cole and Matthew MacAskill*, Matthew's friend *Aaron Frisk, Andrew, William and Ella Schantzen*.

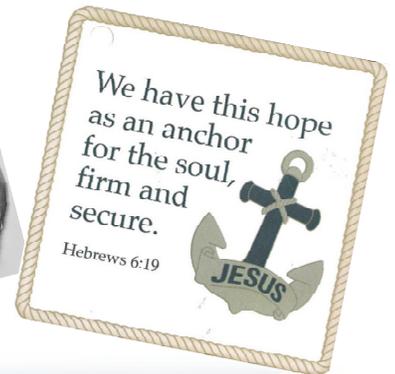
Pastor Rachel planned and led VBS with an interactive story from Acts 27 where Paul and 276 passengers on the ship were shipwrecked and escaped safely to land. They trusted in God. We learned two songs: "Never Let Go of Me" and "God is For Me", and played outside games.

Next we watched an experiment where David Rosendahl showed us how filtering dirty water can make it clean! Children gave their offering of \$132 for the Clean Water Initiative through the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

The Mission Committee of GPC gave an additional \$250 of their church mission funds, enabling us to reach a total of \$382!! That will be used to help more than one community that desperately needs clean water.

At craft time the children used fabric markers to decorate their cloth bags.

Finally at the closing everyone said, "Trust in God because He is faithful." To remember this Truth, each person received an anchor with a verse attached from Hebrews 6:19.



Thank you to all the teachers, helpers, and ladies who organized and served the lunch for VBS!



# COVID-19

Hello Grace Church Family,

As we continue to wade through the uncharted waters of this pandemic, we want to continue to update you on our protocols. So far, we have followed all the state and local guidelines concerning masking, distancing, and sanitizing. We will continue to do so in the following months or however long it takes for this Pandemic to fully recede.

Whatever your feelings are on masking and however tired we all are of this pandemic, we must all consider the consequences of our actions. We do have children under the age of safe vaccination who attend church. We also have folks in our congregation who are not vaccinated or have family members who are not vaccinated. It is for these people that we choose to follow what the state and local governments suggest as cases in our area increase.

We will continue to live-stream all our services on Facebook and YouTube for the convenience of those who cannot come to church or choose not to at this time. We urge our congregants to stay home if they are not feeling well. We will also continue to email, call, and send out letters concerning our protocols as necessary.

Grace and Peace to you and yours,  
Pastor Rachel

### **Birthdays**

<i>Matthew MacAskill</i>	<i>September 5</i>
<i>Helen Philipps</i>	<i>September 6</i>
<i>Eleanor Schantzen</i>	<i>September 10</i>
<i>Lilyann Engstler</i>	<i>September 18</i>
<i>Kaylee Mrkvicka</i>	<i>September 27</i>

### **Anniversaries**

<i>Todd &amp; Carol Bell</i>	<i>September 6</i>
<i>Keith &amp; Tammy Smith</i>	<i>September 15</i>

## **News from Session**

Session held its regular meeting in person on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, and approved the following items:

- \* Flexible hours for the Office Administrator.
- \* Ratified an email vote to lease a copy machine to replace the one currently in the office.
- \* We will continue to follow the state recommendations and regulations for dealing with the COVID situation. Masks are recommended if you are not vaccinated.
- \* To have 25% of the proceeds from the September 25 Chicken-Q go to the Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center.
- \* To have \$250 from the Special Mission Fund go to the VBS mission offering for a water project through the PCUSA giving catalog.
- \* David Rosendahl will represent the Deacons on the Nominating Committee
- \* Session will hold an all-day retreat on September 11, 2021.

Pam Lica, Clerk



The Peace and Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discard division, and embrace God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.

The Presbyterian Peace and Global Witness Offering will be taken on **Sunday, October 3**. The Mission Committee is asking you to give generously so we can match the offering up to \$500.00.

## It's Happening in Our Community



### Goodview Farmers' Market

Each Thursday through Mid-October @ 3:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Seasonal fresh produce, beef and pork products, flowers, fresh baked goods, crochet items, kitchen towels, aprons, wool items, lawn ornaments, jewelry, and more. The Market is held at the Elks Lodge Parking Lot, 4540 Service Drive Road.

### Dine Out Downtown

Every Friday until September 24 @ 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

3rd Street will be shut down between Center Street and Walnut Street to allow for expanded outdoor eating and drinks, as well as activities and events! Stop by each week and enjoy our lovely downtown atmosphere with some food and drinks, live music, fun activities and events, and great retail shopping!



### Big Muddy Brew and Que

September 4 - September 5

The Que is back! This year's festivities will be better than ever! Featuring live music, great food, a grilling competition, beer & wine tasting, kids activities, and so much more! Stop by Levee Park over Labor Day Weekend for a weekend full of awesomeness.

### Live Music: John Paulson Jazz Quartet w/ Swing Inc.

September 4 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Whalen's at Westfield, 1460 West 5th Street

Winona, MN 55987 United States

Swing, Inc ... "The Best Little Big Band in Town" ... brings you music from the Swing Era and beyond! From jazz standards to Latin favorites and beyond, Swing, Inc. means great music for listening and dancing.



### Boats and Bluegrass Festival

September 23 - September 25

A family friendly music and camping festival on the shores of the Mississippi River at the Prairie Island campground. Enjoy a weekend of reconnecting, relaxing and a little recreation.



For more information about all of the events happening in our community check out <https://visitwinona.com>

Because we are  
unconditionally loved by  
God, we are called to do the  
same in thought, word, and  
deed with our family,  
community, and world.

**Mission**

*Thank God!*

GRACE  
HAPPENS  
+

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**Office Hours**

9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Tuesday - Friday

**Sunday Morning**

**Sunday School**

9:00 am

**Sunday Worship**

10:30 am

**Fellowship Time**

11:30 am

**Minister**

Rev. Rachel Rosendahl

**Office Administrator**

Cheri Looman

**Accompanist**

Guest Accompanists

**Treasurer**

Jennifer MacAskill

**Church School Director**

Kathy Rosendahl

**Newsletter Editor**

Lori Fort-Hoerig

[lorigpcnewsletter@charter.net](mailto:lorigpcnewsletter@charter.net)

**Session Elders**

Kjersti Anderson

Ron Dietrich

Rena Dornfeld

Nancy Dornfeld

Pam Lica

Jennifer MacAskill

Chris Schantzen

**Board of Deacons**

2021: Ann Lubinski, Kathy Rosendahl

2022: Candi Kohner, David Rosendahl

2023: O. J. Jacobson, Jeanette Karjala