



The Reach

October 2025

Dear Friends ~

God's love is enough! That's one of the core themes of this year's Fall Stewardship Campaign, **The Impossible Promise of Enough**. Note how the "im" is struck through? That's deliberate. Too often, we believe it's impossible that there is enough money, enough energy, or enough people to accomplish what we dream. God can make it possible!

"God's promises are at the core of the witness of Scripture, but often we live in a liminal space, in between the anticipation of what might be possible and the full inheritance of God's goodness. During our Fall Stewardship drive, we will revisit the wilderness narrative of the Old Testament, and explore the impossible promises of a God who upends our expectations. This ancient story is the cornerstone of the Hebrew Scriptures and yet speaks in fresh ways to our contemporary lives, calling us to live in trust of God's goodness even when the world operates under scarcity, competition, might-makes-right, and a seemingly endless grind toward perfection. It all feels so overwhelming! The liberation of the Hebrew people from an oppressive economic system will become a contemporary call to freedom in our choices, patterns, habits, and practices of faith, so we too come to remember, that on the other side of the promise, there is always, always enough!"

We have a soft launch of the Fall Stewardship Campaign on Sunday, October 5. The following five Sundays unpack this notion of God's extraordinary love:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Week One (10/12): | The Impossible Promise of Provision |
| Week Two (10/19): | The Impossible Promise of Resources |
| Week Three (10/26): | The Impossible Promise of Rest |
| Week Four (11/02): | The Impossible Promise of Enough |
| Week Five (11/09): | The Impossible Promise of Liberation |

Giving Packets get distributed in church on Sundays, 10/12 and 10/19, with the remainders sent to members not in attendance. We dedicate all pledges received by then on Sunday, November 9. We will celebrate your participation!

YOUR STEWARDSHIP TEAM: Linda Henderson, Blaine Westberg, Carl Gaulke, Pastor Andrew

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Andrew G. Church
ruztyhalo@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Susan Colbeth
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Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries:

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Ministry Staff & Congregational Support:

Fay Westberg
fay@spiritofgracerf.org

Senior Choir Director:

Al Madison

Gospbells Director:

Dean Loney

Organist:

Cami Madison
Elissa Ribbens

Information, Technology, and Media Coordinator:

Ash Patterson

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ALL SAINTS DAY - NOVEMBER 2nd

If you have a friend or loved one you want us to commemorate on All Saints Day, please let us know. You can send Susan an email at office@spiritofgracerf.org or call us at 715-425-6233.

MEET OUR NEW CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Spirit of Grace has hired Trid Branum as our Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Coordinator. Sunday School for Children 4 yrs - 5th grade has already begun and Wednesday night programming will launch soon.

Trid lives locally and is a student at University of Wisconsin River Falls, studying art and psychology. He was confirmed at Spirit of Grace Church in Spring 2024 and was an active participant in our youth program. Trid looks forward to joining our staff!

A special thank you to Linda Henderson for helping with the transition.

Questions? Contact Pastor Andrew or a member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee.



SPIRIT of GRACE

Reaching Out in Love Since 1857

OFFICE: 715.425.6233

WEBSITE: spiritofgracerf.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am-5:00 pm

E-MAIL: office@spiritofgracerf.org

Please check the calendar on our website (www.spiritofgracerf.org) for further information.

Clicking on an event will bring up details regarding that event.



Thanks to the following individuals for all they have done for our faith community:

To Euge Isherwood for leading the Saturday Breakfast in September and to DeeAnn Rambo, Dean Loney, Al Madison, Jonah Thompson, Belle Peterson, Deborah Smith, Cami Madison, and Laura Carlson for helping.

To Al Madison for all the wonderful music he provided for worship. To the Spirit of Grace Summer Choir, Les Webster, Roger Wiff, Al Madison, Dean Loney, Keagan Kuhl, Gospbells, and Belle Peterson for sharing their talent of music with us. To Cami Madison and Elissa Ribbens for their gift of playing the piano and organ..

To Marlys Bradford for preparing the communion elements, and to Karen Leichtle, Blaine Westberg, and Les Webster for serving communion in September.

To Laura Ida, Kurt Leichtle, and Janet Ellinger for being Worship Leaders in September.

To Marlys Bradford, Gary Eloranta, Clark Fredrickson, Dallas Dosedall, Lynn Nelson, Virgil Nylander, and Steve Nelson for ushering in September.

To Blaine Westberg, Dallas Dosedall, Susan Colbeth and Dean & Darlene Arneson being greeters.

To Shelby Tylicki, Fay Westberg, Janet Dosedall, and Mary Baumgartner for being at the Welcome Desk in September.

To Siri Smith, Jeanne & Ron Zirbel, Ed & Georgia Goodman, and Jane & Dan Webb for serving Fellowship treats on Sunday after worship service in September.

To Dean Loney, Mikayla Kuhl, and Euge Isherwood for doing Sound Board during worship. To Chris Thompson and Brian Kuhl for doing Video Tech during worship.

To Andy & Rose Rudesill, Carl & Brenda Gaulke, and Lynn & Patti Nelson, for being hospitality hosts.

To Fay Westberg, Laura Carlson, and Barb Rasmussen for the beautiful flowers on the altar.

If we missed somebody in our thanks, please let us know. We want to thank everyone!



ALL-CHURCH WORK DAY

Saturday, October 18

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us at our Fall Church Work Day. We will be doing garden work and outdoor cleaning. . We need many hands to get the job done and beautify the outdoors. Even if you help for a couple of hours, that it's most appreciated.

Sign up in the Gathering Area of the church or call the church office at 715.425.6233 so that we know who to expect. Looking forward to serving alongside one another!

Thank You

A special thank you to all who gave money to our Noisy Can in August for Susan's Food Pantry. We collected around \$2,285

I am so fortunate to have so many people who donate money, food, and volunteer to work at the food pantry. I couldn't do it without all of your support and help. Thank you for the outpouring love you shown for my food pantry.

Blessings to all of you as we do this very important community ministry.

~ Susan

STEWARDSHIP

Campaign

The Finance and Stewardship Campaign Committees have already been working diligently on the details of the 2026 church budget and stewardship campaign. As we individually and collectively think about the church's financial health and our contributions as stewards of God's good gifts, we are invited again to participate in the miracle of our common life together where the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed, the disheartened are given hope, and the marginalized are welcomed home.

John Wesley said, "Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can." This season in the church year gives us the opportunity to focus on the last of these three Wesleyan directives — and to live into our giving potential.

Your presence is welcomed and needed as we launch our campaign on Sunday, October 5. Join us for a celebratory meal on Sunday, October 19 when we worship in Fellowship Hall downstairs and enjoy a brunch together. **Then, please mark your calendars for November 9 — Dedication Sunday — when we will turn in our pledge cards and Gift & Talent Inventories!**

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 5



Holy Communion joins us in Christian unity. This sacrament invites us to focus on the holiness of communion with God and one another. On World Communion Sunday- United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This universal and inclusive connection is the foundation of the special offering for World Communion Sunday.

- Your donations support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals and transforming communities. Your generosity continues to provide scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development. The needs exceed what we can fund and your gifts can further growth and success.
- Fifty percent of the offering provides scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries.
- Thirty-five percent supports racial and ethnic scholarships for students pursuing ordained ministry (deacon or elder) and includes a mentoring program.
- Fifteen percent funds Ethnic-In-Service Training Grant for leadership development, recruitment, training, and retention of ethnic United Methodist persons in leadership positions in every level of the church and its ministry.

**OCTOER NOISY CAN OFFERING:
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
AND
LOS AMIGOS PROGRAM**

The Noisy Can for the remainder of October will be directed to Bread for the World. As we enjoy the bounty of harvests, meanwhile one in ten people around the world goes to bed hungry. One in four children under age 5 is severely malnourished. It does not have to be that way- every voice and donation helps!

October's Noisy Can donations are going to help the Ending Hunger Now (EHN) team partner with the Los Amigos Program (LAP) to fight food insecurity in our local communities. We have the same mission at heart: to treat every family with compassion and dignity as we help provide food assistance. The Los Amigos Program is a humanitarian effort to provide culturally appropriate food to our vulnerable families in the area. Their core value is "No family that requests food will be denied." These families deal with severe limitations to accessing agencies for help, such as language barriers, limited transportation, long work hours, etc. The St. Croix Valley Food Bank in Hudson purchases food for monthly food boxes for these 130 families in 4 Western WI counties at the low cost of \$30/month funded entirely by donations from LAP. Ending Hunger Now is providing additional culturally appropriate food to these families when additional food is needed in between these monthly distributions. **100% of the Noisy Can donations will provide culturally appropriate food via the Food Bank or EHN.** Please note that this Los Amigos Program at our church is not in competition with Susan's Food Pantry, which does a wonderful job of providing food to persons who can get to church during the pantry's hours. LAP is providing culturally appropriate food for our local vulnerable families who have difficulty getting to church during these hours. If you would like additional information, please contact Janet Ellinger, Robin Murray, Laura Ida, Sue Christopher, DeeAnn Rambo, Emily Keating, Christine Muenich, Becky Kleager, Deborah Smith, Linda Henderson, Dawn Ramstad, Christine Engel, or Susan Colbeth. Thank you for your Noisy Can generosity!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The UWF will meet **Tuesday, October 14 at 1:00 pm** in the Conference Room.

This meeting is open to all UWF members.
Come join us and learn more about

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SOUP SALE



November 2



You can look forward to our soup sale on Sunday, November 2nd! These delicious soups will be available "to go" in pint or quart size jars. Pre-orders are encouraged (see clipboard in gathering area), but there will be extras available. All proceeds go to mission work.

If you would like to make a soup to donate to this sale, please contact Karen Leichtle (715-425-8541) or Ellen Lotze (715-425-9639).



Celebrate October Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bob Fischer - Oct. 2 | Janet Ellinger - Oct. 19 |
| Clark Fredrickson - Oct. 5 | Neil Engel - Oct. 20 |
| Keagan Kuhl - Oct. 5 | Steve Nelson - Oct. 23 |
| Romelle Kelly - Oct. 7 | Peg Fischer - Oct. 2 |
| Bea Hennessey - Oct. 8 | Miles Varo - Oct. 24 |
| Elijah Arneson - Oct. 11 | Karen Leichtle - Oct. 29 |
| Wade Albert - Oct. 12 | Carrie Loney - Oct. 30 |
| Dean Loney - Oct. 12 | Zaylan Cassellius - Oct. 31 |
| Ellen Lotze - Oct. 17 | Kerrin Frey - Oct. 31 |
| Barb de Souza - Oct. 18 | Virginia Van - Oct. 31 |

If we missed your birthday, we apologize and invite you to call the church office and let us know your birth date.

REFRESH, BEQUEST AND SPIFF-UP

There are a number of capital improvement initiatives underway at Spirit of Grace, and people have asked for some help understanding “who’s doing what when and where.” Here’s the short version, laid out in chronological order:

- The **Refresh Team** has been steering use of the \$78K in funding received last August through Refresh giving campaign. Taking direction from and reporting directly to the Board of Trustees, those funds were committed to three things:
 - The replacement of the Walnut Street exterior door, the first project to have been completed (approximately \$12K);
 - A remodel of two bathrooms on the main floor, recently finished and looking fabulous (approximately \$59K);
 - The Gathering Area was one of the original areas slated for refreshing, but with the much larger project of remodeling the Gathering Area *and* Sanctuary being proposed for Spirit of Grace, remaining Refresh funds will supplement expenses related to those efforts.
- The **Bequest Committee** is charged with caretaking the generous gift that Spirit of Grace received from the Loren Albert estate (>\$900K). The committee manages all estate gifts (for example, the Jeanete Jensen gift of \$5000). Expenses related to the proposed remodel of the Gathering Area and Sanctuary will be managed by the Bequest Committee. The committee will help underwrite new projects too, as described below.
- **Spiff-Up** is one of the initiatives generated by the excitement that the Loren Albert gifts created. Initial plans and budget estimates are coming together for “spiffing up” spaces such as the youth rooms, library, and nursery. A variety of church members are offering their input and providing guidance. Initial oversight for these projects will come from the Bequest Committee and then handed off to the Board of Trustees as appropriate. Future requests can be directed to the Bequest Committee. Forms are available for that purpose; and members are encouraged to submit ideas, including those that are not necessarily capital improvements.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:

Refresh Team: Andrew Church, Euge Isherwood, Brian Kuhl, John Ramstad, Kristin Thompson

Bequest Committee: Phyllis Albert, Linda Henderson, Robin Murray, Kristin Thompson;
consultants: Pastor, Treasurer

*Save
the
Date*

November 16, 2025

Community Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by Spirit of Grace Church



Spirit of Grace is planning to hold a Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 16.

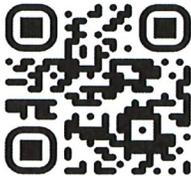
The church will provide the turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls and beverages.

We will need lots of help roasting turkeys, making mashed potatoes and gravy, setting up, serving, and cleaning up.
Sign-up sheets for those jobs will be available in a few weeks.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE
ACTUAL VS BUDGET
GENERAL FUND**

	Actual		Budget
	<u>August 2025</u>		<u>August 2025</u>
Income	\$ 18,063		26,493
Expenses	\$ <u>26,147</u>		\$ <u>30,312</u>
Net Income	\$ (8,084) =====		\$ (3,819) =====
	Actual		Budget
	Year to date		Year to date
	<u>Jan. - July 2025</u>		<u>Jan. - July 2025</u>
Income	\$ 208,597		\$ 211,944
Expenses	\$ <u>198,802</u>		\$ <u>242,496</u>
Net Income	\$ 9,795 \$ =====		(30,552) =====

Spirit of Grace now has the ability to receive online donations via credit card. or bank account. Scan the QR code and be directed to a secure giving window. Thank you.



**TABLE OF
ABUNDANCE**

It is that time of year again when people are enjoying the bounty of their harvest! If you have an abundance of ANYTHING from your garden, or your neighbor has given you one too many zucchinis, please bring it to share. Our Table of Abundance will be located in the Gathering Area. Please share and partake as you need and/or are able.



**SATURDAY COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST**

We will serve our Community Breakfast on October 11. We need a lot more volunteers to help! We need people to cook, set up, welcome, serve, clean up and support. If you can help, please sign up on the clipboard in the Gathering Area on the fellowship table. If you haven't done it before, it is a great way for you to get to know community members and other church members. Many hands make light work!



**SMALL FARMERS,
BIG CHANGE**

Support small farmers around the world by purchasing Equal Exchange Fair Trade Products. Our cart is in the Gathering Area. These products are great for gift giving. If anyone wants other items such as coffee, tea, cocoa or chocolate bars, you can email Christine Muenich at bnmcam13@yahoo.com or text her at 715-307-8547.

*Spirit of Grace
127 S. 2nd St.
River Falls, WI 54022*

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2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm			1 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Spirit of Grace Choir Practice	2	3	4
5 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN SOFT LAUNCH 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	6	7 11:00 pm Lion	8 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm SPRC 7:00 pm Spirit of Grace Choir Practice	9 10:00 am Stewardship Team 11:00 am Ministry Team 6:00 pm PEO Chapter T	10	11 8:00 - 10:00 am Saturday Breakfast 
12 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	13 7:00 Yoga	14 1:00 pm United Women In Faith 5:00 pm Memorial Com. 6:00 pm Trustees	15 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Spirit of Grace Choir Practice	16	17	18 8:00 am - 12:00 pm All-Church Work Day
19 9:30 am Worship Sunday School 10:45 am Stewardship Campaign Brunch	20	21 6:00 pm Finance Com. 7:00 pm Church Council	22 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Spirit of Grace Choir Practice	23 6:00 pm PFLAG	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Leader/ Reader Training	27 7:00 Yoga 6:00 pm Journey House Board Meeting	28	29 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Spirit of Grace Choir Practice	30	31 Carpet Cleaning	

Worship Schedule October 2025

	10/05/2025	10/12/2025	10/19/2024	10/26//2025
Front Door Greeter	Marlys Bradford	Dallas Dosdall	Emily Keating Anna Keating	Dean & Darlene Arneson
Worship Leader	Kurt Leichtle	Robin Murray	Kurt Leichtle Ruthie Keathing (Scripture Reader)	Robin Murray
Ushers	Dallas Dosdall Lynn Nelson	Steve Nelson Blaine Westberg	Lynn Nelson Dallas Dosdall	Mark Freeborn Virgil Nylander
Communion Preparation	Prep: Karen Leichtle Servers Karen Leichtle Lynn Nelson Marlys Bradford			
Pastor	Pastor Andrew G. Church	Pastor Andrew G. Church	Pastor Andrew G. Church	Pastor Andrew G. Church
Fellowship	Sue & Steve Nelson	Julie & Les Webster	Stewardship Campaign Brunch	Jenny & Bill Califf
Sound Board Tech	Jonah Thompson	Chris Thompson	David Keating	David Rusterholz
Video Tech	Chris Thompson	Brian Kuhl	Jakson Califf	Euge Isherwood
Hospitality Hosts	Kurt & Karen Leichtle	Euge Isherwood	Lynn & Patti Nelson	Carl Gaulke
Welcome Desk	Janet Dosdall		Fay Westberg	Julie Freeborn