

SPirit of GRACE

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August & September 2025: Back to School Edition From the Desk of The Very Rev'd Joe Pierjok, cmj

In my last article, I reflected on how the Book of Common Prayer defines the mission of the Church: *“to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ”* (BCP, p. 855). This profound statement reminds us that the Church does not exist for itself—it exists for the sake of the world. We are called to participate in God’s reconciling love, healing what is broken and drawing all things into Christ.

But how do we actually carry out that mission?

The Prayer Book continues: *“The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.”* These three movements—worship, proclamation, and compassion—form the heart of our life as the Body of Christ.

We pray and worship.

Worship is not simply a weekly routine—it is where we encounter the living God. In liturgy, we are nourished by Word and Sacrament, shaped by rhythms of praise, confession, and grace. Worship draws us into the life of the Trinity and sends us out renewed to reflect that divine love in the world.

We proclaim the Gospel.

To proclaim the Gospel is to bear witness to the good news of Jesus in all we do. Through Christ, God is redeeming creation, reconciling sinners, and making all things new. We proclaim this Gospel not just from the pulpit, but with every act of kindness, every word of truth, and every choice to love our neighbor.

We promote justice, peace, and love.

God’s mission becomes visible when we care for the poor, stand with the marginalized, seek reconciliation, and insist on the dignity of every human being. Each act of service, no matter how small, participates in God’s work of restoration.

The mission of the Church is not just something we believe—it is something we live. Every time we worship, serve, forgive, or proclaim hope, we are becoming the Church God dreams us to be.

Coffee Hosts

August: Larry & Ruth Hartman

September: Mark Sponaugle & Zelma Watts



Los secretos del reino de los cielos y el misterio de Dios

Dios es un tesoro para los que creemos en Él, pero para los que no creen, Él es piedra de tropiezo, y roca que hace caer, y también lazo y red para ellos. En la primera venida de Jesús, había personas como Tomás que ciegamente dudaban de lo que no vieron con sus propios ojos, y algunas personas seguían dudando hasta justo antes de que Jesús ascendiera al cielo en el monte de los Olivos, estando presentes allí llenos de dudas. Sin embargo, también podemos ver en la Biblia que los discípulos como Pedro, Juan y Santiago, reconocieron la luz de la gloria de Cristo y lo siguieron hasta el final.

La Biblia dice: “Porque a vosotros os es dado saber los misterios del reino de los cielos; mas a ellos no les es dado”, y: “A fin de conocer el misterio de Dios el Padre, y de Cristo”. Si consideramos estas palabras, podemos ver que el misterio del reino de los cielos es dado a los que reconocen a Cristo como el misterio de Dios y lo reciben. Como miembros de la familia celestial, prosigamos en conocer a Dios para descubrir todos los secretos del reino de los cielos y vivir siempre bajo la protección de Dios, permaneciendo en sus promesas.

“Entonces, acercándose los discípulos, le dijeron: ¿Por qué les hablas por parábolas? El respondiendo, les dijo: Porque a vosotros os es dado saber los misterios del reino de los cielos; mas a ellos no les es dado. Porque a cualquiera que tiene, se le dará, y tendrá más; pero al que no tiene, aun lo que tiene le será quitado. Por eso les hablo por parábolas: porque viendo no ven, y oyendo no oyen, ni entienden.” Mt. 13:10-13

Jesús dijo que hay personas a quienes les es dado saber los misterios del reino de los cielos, y aquellos a quienes no les es dado. ¿Por qué Dios, que es justo, da a conocer solo a algunas personas el misterio del reino de los cielos?

No solo existen los hijos de Dios, sino también las fuerzas del mal. Si una serpiente bebe agua, produce veneno, pero si una vaca bebe agua, produce leche. Entonces, la misma cosa puede producir algo bueno o malo según quién lo use. Asimismo, hay aquellos a quienes se les debe dar los misterios del reino de los cielos, y aquellos a quienes no se les debe dar. Es por eso que Dios enseñó todo por parábolas. Ya que los humanos solos no pueden resolver las parábolas, Dios personalmente vino a esta tierra para enseñar lo que quiere decir a través de las parábolas. De esa manera, la Biblia profetiza que muchos pueblos correrán a Sion para aprender el camino de la vida de Dios y seguir ese camino (Is. 2:2-3, Mi. 4:1-22).

Grace Church Program Year
September 3rd 2025 – May 20th 2026

Beginning Wednesday September 3rd, Catechism Classes will be offered every Wednesday night following our 6:00 pm Mass unless otherwise noted. This class is going to focus on learning the Catechism of the Episcopal Church which can be found in the Book of Common Prayer in the section titled “An Outline of the Faith”. If you desire to be confirmed, regular Catechesis is the first step towards Confirmation at Grace Episcopal Church. If youth wish to participate for the purpose of confirmation rather than attending youth group for a period that is perfectly acceptable.

Our formation series entitled ‘*Exploring the Way*’ will continue on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Items or materials related to this series will be announced parish wide as necessary.

There will no longer be Sunday School for Elementary aged youth on Sundays at 9:30 am. Instead, we are trying something new as a parish. During the 10:30 am service there will be a Children’s Chapel offering. Youth through grade 5 or homeschool equivalent, will be invited forward to receive a blessing from the clergy after our opening hymn where they will then be sent to Chapel. During Chapel, youth will have the opportunity to participate in an activity centered around the liturgical season or theme of the lectionary. An usher will notify the group in Chapel when it is time for them to return after the peace, before/during parish announcements. If you would be interested in helping with this ministry, or have any questions, please reach out to your clergy.

Wednesday night Youth group will continue as it did in the previous program year with 6:00 pm Mass, dinner, and fellowship. If you are interested in being a volunteer with our Youth Program please reach out to the church and ask for Fr. Collin.

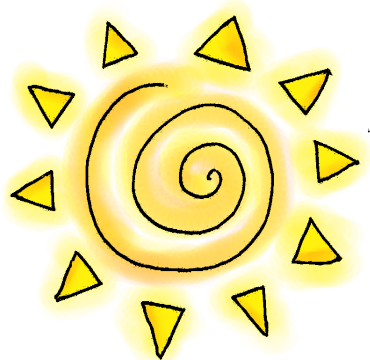
August

Birthdays

02 Zelma Watts, Mark Jones, Elisa White & Carson Stremke
 03 Margaret Wampler
 04 Dennis Sawyer & Daniel Lynch
 06 Joan Archer
 08 Norman Rouse
 10 Beckham Saiz
 11 Lindsey Hettinger
 14 Martin Escobar
 16 Flynn Mountjoy, Syliva Sprenkle & Jason Hettinger
 17 Connor Wilkowski
 18 Dale Looney & Erin Thompson
 19 Samantha Porter
 20 Rhonda Ralston & Cindy Chilton
 21 Doris Sample & Stephanie Lynch
 22 Justin Baucom, Marcia McGuire & Katie Fry
 23 Eric Adams
 27 Tom Flanigan
 31 Knox Dunaway

Anniversaries

08 Brad & Elisa White
 13 Chuck & Becky Edds
 14 Justin & Kelsey Baucom
 19 Scott & Denise Lambert
 20 Harry & Judy Kester
 21 Cris & Kathy Laytham
 23 Bill & Cindy Putnam
 26 Doug & Pam Crandall
 28 Dennis & Kathy Martin



September

Birthdays

03 Kate Lasley & George Laytham
 04 Sharon McClellan, Michael Goolsby, Brad White, Carter & Chase Thompson
 05 Marsha Delaney & Ruth Hartman
 06 Caleb Stiles
 10 Antony Cordova
 11 Stacey Chapman
 12 Ida Ruth Locarni
 13 Mandy Marney, Mike Thompson & Beth McDaniel
 14 Erick Alvarado
 15 Lida McCulloch & Heriberto Alvarado
 16 Carole Pryor & Sally Stuart
 17 Anita Flanigan & Finley Cook
 18 Karen Riley & Larry Hartman
 19 Robin Blair, The Rev'd Collin Larimore, Paige Rhymer & Owen Sawyer
 20 Terry Chilton
 21 Paul Matteo & Debbie Putnam
 22 Genesis Alvarado
 23 Melissa Stremke & Sean Weber
 26 Kirsten Saiz
 27 Gaye Dally, Randy McKee, Chuck Edds & Allie Rhymer
 28 Glenda Eriwn & Ashley Rouse
 29 Van Ellis

Anniversaries

02 Larry & Marcia McGuire; Jason & Ceri Otero
 05 Clif & Emily Kester
 08 John Schaffer & Pam White
 10 Max & Cheryl Hill
 12 Steve & Sherry Erwin
 14 Rodolfo & Diana Manjarrez
 15 Bill & Libby Wilson
 21 Gary & Pam Borland
 29 Justin & Alexis Slates
 30 Michael & Heather Anderson

03-August

Given by Chris and Beth Kang in memory of Wayne and Elaine Ytell, and Hans Ytell;

Given by Beth McDaniel in memory of Charles and Eunice Yates, W.E. and Helen McDaniel, Charlene McDaniel, Blaine Montague, Kelly Shaw, Elizabeth Charlton, and Gary Yates

10-August

Given by Bob and Susan Young in memory of Joseph and Harriette Wasser, Harry E. and Vera Young, Allan Zimmerman, Harry E. Young Jr., and Kathy Conrow;

Given by Jack and Jeanie Slates in memory of Jamison L. Slates, Clyde and Dorothy Slates, George and Helen J. Huntley, Matthew Huntley, and John Huntley

17-August

Given by Cindy Rogers in memory of Harry and Sam Rogers, John, Becky, and Johnna Steele, Parker and Helen Rogers

24-August

Given by Debbie Putnam, Tim, Julie, Miles, and Maxwell Putnam, and Andrew Putnam in memory of Harry Putnam, Claude and Margaret Morgan, Bill and Joan Putnam

31-August

Given to the glory of God and with thanksgiving for Grace Church

07-September

Given by the Grace Church Flower Fund in memory of Kirk Bryan, Alexander and Louella Kirk, Fritz and Teresa Korder, Polly Bryan, and Irene Kirk;

Given by Lisa Daughtery in memory of Pat Meadows

14-September

Given by Frank & Donna Lane, Jana & Scott Sawyer, and Sue & Scott Campbell in memory of Nancy Lane Garrison, Joe Garrison, Jerry Lane, Virgil Lane, Norman and Violet Davis, Kenneth and Geraldine Davis, Bill and Dorothy and Richard Alumbaugh, Della and Monte Jordan, Cynthia Branham, Sally Hunter, James Irving and Luverne Hunter, Ray and Alma Ruth Campbell, Rayma Waynick, Lawrence and Vera Wofford, and Clark Thomas

21-September

Given by Mrs. Ida Ruth Locarni and Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Fritsch in memory of Richard Locarni, Robert L. Platt, Ebert and Helen Boylan, Harry A. and Helen Spradling, Harry M. Spradling, Shirley Locarni, Kirby and Tia Shoults, and James R. Spradling

28-September

Given by Patricia McGaughey Greninger in memory of Leonard Greninger, Virginia and Eugene McGaughey, Lacie and Walter Carter, Lillie and Frank McGaughey, David Carter McGaughey, Mary McGaughey Wicks, Margaret and Donald Atwell, Bill and Beverly Turk, Lacie and Amos Caffee, and Michele Wicks

Southern Deanery Picnic

Saturday, August 02, 1:00 pm at St. James Episcopal Church 2645 Southern Hills Blvd., Springfield

Men of Grace Meetings

First & Third Saturdays at 9:00 am
August 02 & 16; September 06 & 20

Youth Back to School Party & Lock-in

Friday, August 08, 5:00 pm -
Saturday, August 09, 11:00 am

Bingo at St. Luke's

Second Saturdays at 2:00 pm
August 09 & September 13
A group of Grace members gather at St. Luke's Nursing Center every 2nd Saturday of the month at 2:00 pm to play bingo with St. Luke's residents. Anyone interested is welcome to join the fun!

Giving Sunday—Haiti Mission

Loose offerings on Sunday, August 10 will go toward our ministry in Haiti. Since 1999, our Haiti ministry supports St. Andrew's Church & School in the southern peninsula of the island. Our partnership helps provide primary education and medical clinics for the students and their families. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry please contact Pam White or Peggy Ralston.

Lunches of Love

Food Packing:

11:00 am-12:00 pm & 3:00 pm-4:00 pm
every Wednesday, through **August 13**

Food Distribution:

3:00 pm-6:00 pm Mondays & Thursdays,
through **August 16**

Caregivers Together

Third Tuesdays at 2:00 pm
August 19 & September 16

Vestry Meetings

Third Tuesdays at 5:30 pm
August 19 & September 16

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 17 at mass: bring your backpack and receive a back-to-school blessing during mass for all students and faculty headed to school this fall.

First Choir Practice of Program Year

Sunday, August 31 at 9:00 am
Meet in choir room!

Church Office Closed:

Monday, September 01 Labor Day Holiday

First Youth Group of Program Year

Wednesday, September 03, after 6pm Mass

St. Martha's Guild

Wednesday, September 10 at 11:00 am—
Cherry's on the Square. All ladies of parish invited.

Men of Grace Breakfast

Sunday, September 14, between morning services, 9:00 am start. Freewill donation to support Men of Grace Ministries.

Episcopad Open House

Sunday, September 14—after 10:30 am service. Take a look at the facility, visit with the leaders and some of the youth.

Oct/Nov Newsletter Submissions Due

Friday, September 19 by 9:00 am

Combined Sunday Morning Service

10:00 am Sunday, September 21—
morning (8:00 am and 10:30 am) services will combine on this day at 10:00 am for a Stewardship focused worship service. Your attendance is highly appreciated and kindly requested.

Newsletter Folding Party

Tuesday, September 23 at 2:00 pm

Parish Prayer List

St. Luke's:

Tom Huntley
Frank Lane
Paula Windham

Oak Pointe:

Lida McCulloch

Moberly:

Eric Adams

College View:

Roger & Sherrie
Stinnett

OKC:

Kay Graham

Good Shepherd:

Edith Walters

Foxberry Terrace:

Connie Moss

Parishioners:

Mary Beimdiek
Susie Bewick
Tom Flanigan
Marilyn Kelley
Keri Kirby
Jenny Mansfield
Bill Putnam
Amanda Smith
Steve Wampler
Tracy Wilkowski
Vincent Wilkowski
Bill Wilson

Current Requests:

Emily Bracht
Steve Cobine
Connie Curry
Bill Frances
Madalyn Gibb
Dick Godsey
Barry Meares
Don Michael
Lauren Petticrew
Kevin Provins
Anne Randall
Mike S.
Doug Studyvin
Malvern Tuggle
Donna Underwood
Clay
Hadley

Military & First Responders:

Christian Cook
Knox Dunaway
Will Flanigan
Gary Kalinosky
Tanner Marney
Logan McGinnis
Chris Orr
Anastasia Painter
Dmytro Repytski
Steven Sample
Justin Slates
Nic Smith
Ian Stinnett
Chase Taylor

Diocesan Prayer Cycle:

Bishop Amy's Visitations

03-August: St. Peter & All
Saints, Kansas City

10-August: St. Alban's,
Bolivar

17-August: St. Thomas a
Beckett, Cassville

24-August: Christ Church,
Lexington

31-August: Diocese of
Oklahoma (No visitation)

07-September: St. John's,
Springfield

14-September: Diocese of the
Rio Grande (No Visitation)

21-September: St. Anne's,
Lee's Summit

28-September: Diocese of
Texas (No Visitation)

All Sundays we pray for:

St. Nicholas Noel; St.
Andrew's Maracabee Haiti;
Jory Mertens our Seminarian;
Bishop Amy Meaux

Vestry Members

Class of 2026: Jeanie Slates (*Sr. Warden*), Andy Lynch, Elaine

Wurst (*Clerk*), Mike Robertson

Class of 2027: Ben Blair (*Jr. Warden*), Chuck Edds, Gloria

Gubser, Alyssa Hess

Class of 2028: Clifton Kester,

Jennifer Rhymer, Amanda

Smith, Michelle Theerman

136th Diocesan

Convention Delegates

Julie Anderson

Gloria Gubser

Debby Orr

Spencer Orr

Jennifer Rhymer

Zelma Watts

Elisa White

Alternates: Leo Baird, Mark

Jones, Andy Lynch, Leigh

Salzer & Sally Stuart

Gift Shop Hours

Thurs. 12:00 pm—5:00 pm

Sunday Mornings, & via
appointment

Newsletter Mailing List

If you would like to opt-out of receiving a paper newsletter, please let us know by calling the church office or emailing admin@gracecarthage.com

Any known changes to the Ministers of Worship section update with the e-Newsletter shared Monday Mornings in the *This Week at Grace* email.

Special Thank You's

...To Alyssa Hess & the VBS Volunteer Team for a spectacularly successful VBS 2025!

...To Youth volunteers for hosting delightful Game Nights with dinner this summer!

...To Lunches of Love Program Coordinators & Volunteers- for all your efforts with feeding children in our community this summer!

Grace Carthage Youth hosting a Back-to-School Party & Lock-in!

Youth in Elementary School through High School, and their families are invited to join us for a Back-to-School Party in the parking lot starting at 5:00 pm on Friday, August 08.

The Youth are hosting a carnival for the younger kids, there will be hotdogs, popcorn, and lots of carnival fun! There will be plenty of activities for everyone to participate in, all free of charge! (We do ask that families planning to come also register so we know how much food is needed.) Please note that if it rains or the heat index is too high, we will move inside to the Parish Hall.

Then, at 7:00 pm, the youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for the Lock-in! We have games and activities planned for them, including a movie and compline in the garden! The following morning, we will have breakfast and a nerf war, before parent pick up at 11:00 am in the coffee area.

We hope to see you there!

When: Party: Friday, August 8h, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm & Lock-in: Friday, August 08 at 7:00 pm to Saturday, August 09, at 11:00 am

Who: Party: Youth in grades K-12 & their families & Lock-in: Youth in grades 6-12 (and youth mentors!)

Where: Grace Episcopal Church, 820 Howard, Carthage, MO

What to bring: Wear comfy clothes; dark colors are best for Sardines. Also, it will be August and hot, so a change of clothes is recommended, something to sleep on (sleeping bag, pillow, air mattresses, cots, etc.), a pillow & blanket (it can get cold in the Parish Hall at night), toothbrush, etc.

phones are allowed, but we ask that they be put away during activities so everyone can spend time in fellowship. We ask that gaming devices, tablets, and computers be left at home.

Feel free to contact Madi Kyger [email youth@gracecarthage.com or text 417.388.2349] with questions. We hope to see you there!

Register via the QR Code below:



First Youth Group of Program Year

Wednesday, September 03, after 6:00 pm Mass; dinner provided.

Episcopad Open House

Sunday, September 14th, Come visit the Youth in the Episcopad after the 10:30 service. Take a look at the facility, meet the leaders and some of the youth, learn about what we do and how you can help or volunteer! Light refreshments will be available.

Want to help with the youth, but not sure how your talents can be used? Email Madi at youth@gracecarthage.com. The Youth gladly accept donations! We have an Amazon Wishlist (scan QR Code below), we will also gladly accept gift card donations for Lowe's so we can paint the Episcopad this year!





Tell Out My Soul:

Walking in Faith Together

“Tell Out My Soul” * isn’t just a theme—it’s an invitation to notice the good things in our lives, give thanks, and share our stories with joy. When we live out this theme together—through scripture, sharing, and service—stewardship comes alive and connects us all.

Why “Tell Out My Soul”?

This theme is inspired by Mary’s song in the Bible (the Magnificat), where she celebrates God’s love and blessings. It’s a reminder for us to see God’s goodness, share our faith, and encourage one another. This year’s readings are all about transformation, generosity, and sharing our faith—just like Mary did.

Staying Inspired on Your Stewardship Journey

Let’s be honest—walking this path isn’t always easy. Here are a few suggestions to keep your heart in it:

- **Remember your “why”:** Everything we have is a gift. Stewardship is just saying “thank you” to God.
- **Build habits:** Make prayer and gratitude part of your daily routine.
- **Lean on each other:** We’re in this together. Encouragement goes a long way.
- **Celebrate wins:** Big or small, every step forward is worth celebrating.
- **Stay rooted in faith:** Let scripture and our Episcopal tradition inspire you.
- **Serve with joy:** Generosity is a chance to show God’s love.

Check in with yourself: Revisit your goals to keep them fresh and meaningful.

Let’s keep moving forward together—ready to “tell out our souls,” lift each other up, and grow in generosity and gratitude.

**Theme developed by TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) and the Episcopal Church.*

Blessings,

Beth Kang

Stewardship Committee Chair

Ministers of Worship—August

Fri., August 01

10:00 am

Reader: Zelma Watts

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., August 02

9:00 am

Sacristan: Debby Orr

5:00 pm

Reader & Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Sacristan: Debby Orr

Sun., August 03

8:00 am

Reader & Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

Prayers: Mark Sponaugle

10:30 am

OT: Barbara Mountjoy

NT & Chalice: Elaine Wurst

Prayers & Chalice: Andy Lynch

Cross: Owen Hess

Torches: Brooklyn Rhymer & Allie Rhymer

Server: ~~Connor Wilkowski~~ Alana Harris

Acolyte Mentor: ~~Elisa White~~ Elaine Wurst

Sacristan: Jennifer Rhymer

AV: Jennifer & Paige Rhymer

Ushers: Larry & Ruth Hartman

Flower Delivery: Gloria Gubser & Peggy Ralston

Wed., August 06

6:00 pm

Reader & Chalice: AJ Rhymer

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri., August 08

10:00 am

Reader: Carole Pryor

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., August 09

9:00 am

Sacristan: Jennifer Rhymer

5:00 pm

Reader: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

Sun., August 10

8:00 am

Reader: Jay Thompson

Prayers:

Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

10:30 am

OT: Chuck Edds

NT & Chalice: Nic Smith

Prayers & Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Cross: Sammy Hess

Torches: Peyton Lynch & Carson Stremke

Server: Brooklyn Rhymer

Acolyte Mentor: Jennifer Rhymer

Sacristan: Debby Orr

AV: Elisa White & Alana Harris

Ushers: Steve Erwin & Max Hill

Flower Delivery: Zelma Watts & Julie Anderson

Wed., August 13

6:00 pm

Reader: Ashley Rouse

Chalice: Jory Mertens

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Ministers of Worship—August

Fri., August 15

10:00 am

Reader: Leigh Salyer

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., August 16

9:00 am

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

5:00 pm

Reader & Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

Sun., August 17

8:00 am

Reader & Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

Prayers: Mark Sponaugle

10:30 am

OT & Chalice: Ruth Hartman

NT: Marcia McGuire

Prayers & Chalice: Larry Hartman

Cross: Sammy Hess

Torches: Lincoln & Barrett Cook

Server: Alana Harris-Connor Wilkowski

Acolyte Mentor: Elisa White

Sacristan: Jennifer Rhymer

AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Ushers: Chris & Spencer Orr

Flower Delivery: Cathy Thompson

Wed., August 20

6:00 pm

Reader & Chalice: Jon Haffner

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri., August 22

10:00 am

Reader: Carole Pryor

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., August 23

9:00 am

Sacristan: Debby Orr

5:00 pm

Reader: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Debby Orr

Sun., August 24

8:00 am

Reader: Jay Thompson

Prayers:

Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

10:30 am

OT: Kathy Laytham

NT: Michelle Theerman

Prayers & Chalice: Andy Lynch

Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Cross: Peyton Lynch

Torches: Walker Lasley & Carson Stremke

Server: Trenton Lynch

Acolyte Mentor: Elaine Wurst

Sacristan: Debby Orr

AV: Mike Robertson & Brooklyn Rhymer

Ushers: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Jeanne Goolsby

Wed., August 27

6:00 pm

Reader: Regina Newport

Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Ministers of Worship—August & September

Fri., August 29

10:00 am

Reader: Leigh Salyer-Zelma Watts

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., August 30

9:00 am

Sacristan: All Clean

5:00 pm

Reader: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

Sun., August 31

8:00 am

Reader & Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

Prayers: Mark Sponaugle

10:30 am

OT: Chuck Edds

NT: Marcia McGuire

Prayers & Chalice: Larry Hartman

Chalice: Nic Smith

Cross: Larry Hartman

Torches: Ruth Hartman & Elaine Wurst

Server: Alana Harris

Sacristan: Jennifer Rhymer

AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Ushers: Austin & Jennifer Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Jeanne Goolsby

Wed., September 03

6:00 pm

Reader & Chalice: AJ Rhymer

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri., September 05

10:00 am

Reader: Zelma Watts

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., September 06

9:00 am

Sacristan: Beth McDaniel

5:00 pm

Reader & Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Sacristan: Beth McDaniel

Sun., September 07

8:00 am

Reader: Ashley Rouse

Prayers & Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

10:30 am

OT: Barbara Mountjoy

NT & Chalice: Elaine Wurst

Prayers & Chalice: Mark Sponaugle

Cross: Owen Hess

Torches: Brooklyn Rhymer & Allie Rhymer

Server: Connor Wilkowski

Acolyte Mentor: Elisa White

Sacristan: Beth McDaniel

AV: Jennifer & Paige Rhymer

Ushers: Zach Hess & Dennis Sawyer

Flower Delivery: Gloria Gubser & Peggy Ralston

Wed., September 10

6:00 pm

Reader & Chalice: Jory Mertens

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Ministers of Worship—September

Fri., September 12

10:00 am

Reader: Carole Pryor

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., September 13

9:00 am

Sacristan: Elisa White

5:00 pm

Reader: Marcia McGuire

Sacristan: Elisa White

Sun., September 14

8:00 am

Reader: Jay Thompson

Prayers:

Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

10:30 am

OT: Chuck Edds

NT & Chalice: Nic Smith

Prayers & Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Cross: Sammy Hess

Torches: Peyton Lynch & Carson Stremke

Server: Brooklyn Rhymer

Acolyte Mentor: Jennifer Rhymer

Sacristan: Elisa White

AV: Elisa White & Alana Harris

Ushers: Steve Erwin & Max Hill

Flower Delivery: Zelma Watts & Julie Anderson

Wed., September 17

6:00 pm

Reader & Chalice: Jon Haffner

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri., September 19

10:00 am

Reader: Leigh Salyer

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., September 20

9:00 am

Sacristan: All Clean

5:00 pm

Reader & Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Sacristan: Becky Edds

Sun., September 21

10:00 am Combined Morning Service

OT & Chalice: Ruth Hartman

NT: Regina Newport

Prayers & Chalice: Larry Hartman

Cross: Sammy Hess

Torches: Lincoln & Barrett Cook

Server: Alana Harris

Acolyte Mentor: Elisa White

Sacristan: Becky Edds

AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Ushers: Chris & Spencer Orr

Flower Delivery: Cathy Thompson

Wed., September 24

6:00 pm

Reader: Regina Newport

Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Ministers of Worship—September

Fri., September 26

10:00 am

Reader: Carole Pryor

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat., September 27

9:00 am

Sacristan: Connie Leek

5:00 pm

Reader: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Connie Leek

Sun., September 28

8:00 am

Reader: Jay Thompson

Prayers:

Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

10:30 am

OT: Leigh Salyer

NT: Michelle Theerman

Prayers & Chalice: Andy Lynch

Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Cross: Peyton Lynch

Torches: Walker Lasley & Carson Stremke

Server: Trenton Lynch

Acolyte Mentor: Elaine Wurst

Sacristan: Connie Leek

AV: Mike Robertson & Brooklyn Rhymer

Ushers: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Jeanne Goolsby

Wed., October 01

6:00 pm

Pet Blessing

Notes:

[illegible]

The Vestry met on June 17.

Items of note included a discussion about the Episcopad and the need to keep it maintained. Several items within the house (e.g., cabinets, countertops, wiring) are aging and need to be updated to prevent deterioration. The formation of a building and grounds committee was proposed, which would include the Episcopad. Further conversation will take place regarding the creation of the committee.

Fr. Collin is gathering information on solar panels and will present at a later date. No plans are in motion at this time; it is an option that is being explored.

The Stewardship Committee is planning a kick-off for Sunday, September 21. There will be one service on that morning at 10 a.m., followed by a cook-out. Parishioners are encouraged to consider prayerfully what they will be able to pledge in the coming year.

The Vestry voted to accept a quote from ABE Painting to paint the apse in the sanctuary; the painting will be done in July. The decision was made to purchase a new basketball goal; Zach Hess and Ben Blair will get it installed.

Lunches of Love is ready to begin its second year of operation; food donations have been identified and communications to the public are organized.

Under new business, a deanery grant was approved to buy new hymnals for St. Luke's. They are in a PDF format and the Vestry approved a request for \$300 to have them printed, with the money coming from the Phelps Outreach Fund. That fund will also be used to provide \$400 to purchase new library furnishings.

Michelle Theerman is looking into having a booth at PrideFest in Joplin, in September. Grace parishioners will be invited to help.

In financial news, pledge income is down. As expected, we are down about \$15,000 ytd. We are operating more efficiently than in years past; postage, phone bill, and communications expenses are all down in comparison to last year as new cost savings are identified.

The Vestry held a working session in July to begin discussion on the 2026 budget.

Update on 2025 budget:

At the end of June, the total YTD income was \$229,980.56 which includes pledge, non-pledge, bequests, and special offerings with total YTD expenses being \$278,363.14 resulting in a deficit of \$48,382.58. At the end of June, we had budgeted for a deficit of \$66,862.00. At this time, the church remains slightly ahead of budget.

Daily Readings in August & September 2025

August

01: 2 Samuel 5:1-12 | Acts 17:1-15 | Mark 7:24-37
02: 2 Samuel 5:22-6:11 | Acts 17:16-34 | Mark 8:1-10

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

03: Hosea 11:1-11 | Colossians 3:1-11 | Luke 12:13-21
04: 2 Samuel 7:1-17 | Acts 18:1-11 | Mark 8:11-21
05: 2 Samuel 7:18-29 | Acts 18:12-28 | Mark 8:22-33
06: Exodus 34:29-35 | 2 Peter 1:13-21 | Luke 9:28-36
07: 2 Samuel 11:1-27 | Acts 19:11-20 | Mark 9:2-13
08: 2 Samuel 12:1-14 | Acts 19:21-41 | Mark 9:14-29
09: 2 Samuel 12:15-31 | Acts 20:1-16 | Mark 9:30-41

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10: Isaiah 1:1,10-20 | Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16 | Luke 12:32-40
11: 2 Samuel 13:23-39 | Acts 20:17-38 | Mark 9:42-50
12: 2 Samuel 14:1-20 | Acts 21:1-14 | Mark 10:1-16
13: 2 Samuel 14:21-33 | Acts 21:15-26 | Mark 10:17-31
14: 2 Samuel 15:1-18 | Acts 21:27-36 | Mark 10:32-45
15: Isaiah 61:10-11 | Galatians 4:4-7 | Luke 1:46-55
16: 2 Samuel 16:1-23 | Acts 22:17-29 | Mark 11:1-11

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

17: Isaiah 5:1-7 | Hebrews 11:29-12:2 | Luke 12:49-56
18: 2 Samuel 17:24-18:8 | Acts 22:30-23:11 | Mark 11:12-26
19: 2 Samuel 18:9-18 | Acts 23:12-24 | Mark 11:27-12:12
20: 2 Samuel 18:19-33 | Acts 23:23-35 | Mark 12:13-27
21: 2 Samuel 19:1-23 | Acts 24:1-23 | Mark 12:28-34
22: 2 Samuel 19:24-43 | Acts 24:24-25:12 | Mark 12:35-44
23: 2 Samuel 23:1-7, 13-17 | Acts 25:13-27 | Mark 13:1-13

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

24: Jeremiah 1:4-10 | Hebrews 12:18-29 | Luke 13:10-17
25: Deuteronomy 18:15-18 | 1 Corinthians 4:9-15 | Luke 22:24-30
26: 1 Kings 1:38-2:4 | Acts 26:24-27:8 | Mark 13:28-37
27: 1 Kings 3:1-15 | Acts 27:9-26 | Mark 14:1-11
28: 1 Kings 3:16-28 | Acts 27:27-44 | Mark 14:12-26
29: 1 Kings 5:1-6:1,7 | Acts 28:1-16 | Mark 14:27-42
30: 1 Kings 7:51-8:21 | Acts 28:17-31 | Mark 14:43-52

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

31: Jeremiah 2:4-13 | Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16 | Luke 14:1,7-14

September

01: 2 Chron. 6:32-7:7 | James 2:1-13 | Mark 14:53-65
02: 1 Kings 8:65-9:9 | James 2:14-26 | Mark 14:66-72
03: 1 Kings 9:24-10:13 | James 3:1-12 | Mark 15:1-11
04: 1 Kings 11:1-13 | James 3:13-4:12 | Mark 15:12-21
05: 1 Kings 11:26-43 | James 4:13-5:6 | Mark 15:22-32
06: 1 Kings 12:1-20 | James 5:7-12,19-20 | Mark 15:33-39

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

07: Jeremiah 18:1-11 | Philemon 1:1-21 | Luke 14:25-33
08: 1 Kings 13:1-10 | Philippians 1:1-11 | Mark 15:40-47
09: 1 Kings 16:23-34 | Philippians 1:12-30 | Mark 16:1-8[9-20]
10: 1 Kings 17:1-24 | Philippians 2:1-11 | Matt. 2:1-12
11: 1 Kings 18:1-19 | Philippians 2:12-30 | Matt. 2:13-23
12: 1 Kings 18:20-40 | Philippians 3:1-16 | Matt. 3:1-12
13: 1 Kings 18:41-19:8 | Philippians 3:17-4:7 | Matt. 3:13-17

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

14: Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28 | 1 Timothy 1:12-17 | Luke 15:1-10
15: Philippians 2:5-11 or Galatians 6:14-18 | Psalm 98 or Psalm 98:1-4
16: 1 Kings 21:17-29 | 1 Cor. 1:20-31 | Matt. 4:12-17
17: 1 Kings 22:1-28 | 1 Cor. 2:1-13 | Matt. 4:18-25
18: 1 Kings 22:29-45 | 1 Cor. 2:14-3:15 | Matt. 5:1-10
19: 2 Kings 1:2-17 | 1 Cor. 3:16-23 | Matt. 5:11-16
20: 2 Kings 2:1-18 | 1 Cor. 4:1-7 | Matt. 5:17-20

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

21: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 | 1 Timothy 2:1-7 | Luke 16:1-13
22: Proverbs 3:1-6 | 2 Timothy 3:14-17 | Matthew 9:9-13
23: 2 Kings 5:19-27 | 1 Cor. 5:1-8 | Matt. 5:27-37
24: 2 Kings 6:1-23 | 1 Cor. 5:9-6:8 | Matt. 5:38-48
25: 2 Kings 9:1-16 | 1 Cor. 6:12-20 | Matt. 6:1-6,16-18
26: 2 Kings 9:17-37 | 1 Cor. 7:1-9 | Matt. 6:7-15
27: 2 Kings 11:1-20a | 1 Cor. 7:10-24 | Matt. 6:19-24

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

28: Jeremiah 32:1-3a,6-15 | 1 Timothy 6:6-19 | Luke 16:19-31
29: Genesis 28:10-17 | Revelation 12:7-12 | John 1:47-51
30: 2 Chron. 29:1-3,30:1[2-9]10-27 | 1 Cor. 7:32-40 | Matt. 7:1-12

