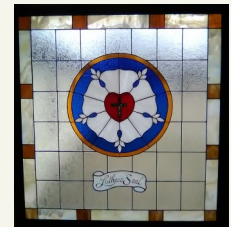




NEWSLETTER

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Grace Lutheran Church

I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRACE VINE

Birthdays

10/01: Jo Hadley
10/03: Victoria
Christian
10/06: Amy Garoutte
10/09: Harold Lampe
10/09: Nolan Black
10/14: Bobby Jones
10/20: James Gordon

Anniversaries

10/19: Alan & Diane
Heisner
10/23: Vaughn &
Pam Bowling



On September 10, 2025, Charlie Kirk was assassinated. Now, a couple weeks later, I want to take a moment to reflect on this event. To be more specific, I want to reflect on how we as Christians respond when an event like this one takes place.

First and foremost, we pray. We pray for his family, namely, the wife and children he leaves behind. We ask that the Lord would comfort them in the midst of their grief and heartache.

We ask that He would provide for their daily needs. We ask that He would bring justice and repentance to the man who perpetrated the attack. We pray that God would use this evil for His good. We pray for our country and leaders. Simply put, we lift *everything* before God.

Second, we reflect on the reality of death and what it means. Death was never God's idea. He desired to keep us from it, but Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit and chose sin and death. So now we live in a world where death – even violent death – occurs on a daily basis. And yet, Jesus Christ defeated death forever when He rose from the dead on that glorious Easter morning! And because Jesus is risen (alleluia!), we as Christians have hope in the midst of death. We know that it is not permanent for us just as it was not permanent for Jesus. Though we may die one day, it will be nothing more than falling asleep in the Lord, resting in and with Him, until that day when He returns. And when He does, He will raise the dead, and we will be with Him, alive, forever. This is our hope as Christians. This also happened to be Charlie's hope.

Third, we share the Gospel. When we see something violent happen it serves to remind us that there are those out there who have no hope. Some see news like this and feel despair, as if there is no one who can save us from this valley of death. For others who do not know Jesus, news like this reminds them that *they* will one day die, and that scares them because they have no hope. In a world that reacts in this way – despairing, hopeless, without Christ – we are called to be lights. You and I can talk about the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those in our household, church, and community so that *everyone* can have the same hope in the face of death that we have. So that *everyone* can know that Jesus died and rose *for them, too*.

All of this is to say, even in the midst of violence and tragedy, it is *still* all about Jesus, who lives and reigns even still today. It is still all about Jesus, who hears our prayers, rescues from sin and death, and gives us His Words so that others may also believe.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Heitshusen



HAPPENINGS AT GRACE

WORK DAY



The Trustees had a work day on September 16th. Pictured above is David Hoaglan and Don Wolf. Also helping, but not pictured, were Bill Michel, Paul Martin and David Lampe.

ANNUAL FISH FRY



The Annual Fish Fry was held on Saturday, Sept. 20th. Because of the rainy weather, the meal was eaten inside. The cooking was done outside. It was a lot of work done by the cooks. Everyone enjoyed the good food and fellowship.

Pastor made the front page of the news-

paper.

Be sure to read the article in the latest edition.

The Aurora Advertiser

Church welcomes new lead pastor

Grace Lutheran Church is welcoming a new lead pastor, Rev. David Hoaglan, who is moving to the church from the St. Louis area. He will be serving the church for the next year.

Homecoming on the horizon

Methodist Manor will have a homecoming celebration on September 20th. The celebration will include a meal, a program, and a dance. The Manor is a retirement community located in Aurora, Illinois.

Methodist Manor to celebrate 100 years

Methodist Manor is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The Manor was founded in 1910 and has since then been a place of care and comfort for many residents.