



Order of Worship: September 21st, 2025

Prelude/Postlude (Jacki Kline)

Welcome/Announcements

Candle Lighting

Call to Worship

Song: *"This is a Day of New Beginnings"*
"This is My Song"

Scripture:

Psalm 79:1-9
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
1 Timothy 2:1-8

Unison Prayer

Song: *"Jesus, Name Above All Names"*

Message: *Who to Blame*

Offering/Doxology/Offertory Prayer

Song: *"We Are Called"*

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Song: *"Victory in Jesus"*

Blessing

This Week at Grace

Tuesday:
Bible Study 9am
Bell practice 12pm

Wednesday:
Bible Study 4pm


If you are planning to meet at Grace UMC, you need to call ahead or email the office to reserve space and to get your meeting on the church calendar. To adjust for heating/cooling needs, Pastor Jen needs to know if/when you are meeting.

Office Phone:
218-568-5755

Grace Office Hours
Monday - Wednesday
9 a.m. to noon

Worship
Online--available at
www.graceumcpequotlakes.org

In-Person Worship
Sunday--9am



I URGE YOU, FIRST OF ALL, TO PRAY
FOR ALL PEOPLE. ASK GOD TO HELP
THEM; INTERCEDE ON THEIR BEHALF,
AND GIVE THANKS FOR THEM. PRAY
THIS WAY FOR KINGS AND ALL WHO
ARE IN AUTHORITY SO THAT WE CAN
LIVE PEACEFUL AND QUIET LIVES
MARKED BY GODLINESS AND DIGNITY.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2 NLT

KLOVE

Unison Prayer

Loving and Gracious God,
tender one to all who call upon you
with repentant and believing hearts:
bless us, we pray, with your
presence this day.

Teach all who have gathered to
learn your ways, inspire those who
seek your wisdom, energize those
who are exhausted, comfort those
who grieve and strengthen those
who are weak.

Indeed, O God, fill all our hearts with
your praise and lead us in holiness
and righteousness in this hour and
in the hours to come.

We ask it in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Call to Worship

L: When we are surrounded on every
side, wondering which way is up and
which way is down...

**P: Help us, God, for the glory of your
name.**

L: When we question which way to go
and how to follow God's path for us...

**P: Help us, God, for the glory of your
name.**

L: When we find our rest in God and long
for others to know the sweet peace of
God's embrace...

**P: Help us, God, for the glory of your
name.**

L: Today, as we gather for worship, may
we come ready to listen and discern
God's help that meets us right where we
are.

**ALL: Help us, God, to receive your
help and to extend your help to our
neighbors, all for the glory of your
name.**



Scriptures for next week:

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

Luke 16:19-31

September Mission Giving

Our mission focus for September will be UMCOR, to support the many ways that they come alongside communities when disaster strikes.

If you are giving by check, please note "UMCOR" in the memo please.



Grace UMC 3rd Quarter Financial Report August 2025

REVENUE

August 31, 2025	Annual Budget
General Fund \$102,371	\$165,000
God Faith 00 ***	30,000
Loose Change 2,222	3,000
Rental Fees 00	500
Interest Earned 2,270	3,050
Rummage Sale 7,616	6,000
Total \$114,479	\$207,550

EXPENSES

Adm Council \$20,228	\$28,720
Programs 2,500	6,450
Trustees 29,643	63,400
SPR 65,983	113,041
Total \$118,354	\$211,611

Revenue Over (Under) Expenses (4061)

The Finance Committee met on September 09, 2025. Members are, Bill Tollefson, Litta Sears, Tom Adams, Marsha Mower, Pastor Jen Matthees, Nancy Adams, Lauris Prinsen, Doris Longnecker and Rick Zbitkowski.

Discussion involved the budget and ideas and possible solutions on how to handle the 2025 budget deficit.

Ideas to increase income:

- Run a special campaign to try to increase giving to cover the projected shortfall
- Rent out additional rooms in the church building
- Designate monthly "mission" for the church or a specific item such as utilities
- Make it easier to give on-line for on-line viewers- it is too complicated now
- Eliminate the costly practice of paying for PayPal and replace with an alternative free application, if one is available
- Invite the congregation to give more each month in the last quarter of the year Provide a "stairstep" of giving as a visual aid- assess how much we need vs how many giving units

Ideas to reduce and/or manage expenses:

- Trustees would run a capital campaign in the near future for painting the church and the possibility of other items
- Review/evaluate all staffing possibilities

The Finance Committee invites all members of the congregation to voice ideas and thoughts to members of the committee that could bring about solutions to the financial issue the church is facing.

The 2026 Annual Pledge Drive is scheduled for October and Pastor Jen will do a sermon series on giving.



Recent Committee Meetings and Updates

The Staff Parish Relations Committee met on August 19, 2025. These are the highlights of that meeting.

As one member of the Committee has been on for a very long time, Pastor Jen is working with Nominations to fill that term for the start of 2026.

A message from the Food Shelf thanking Ann Hutchings for her kindness to their patrons was shared. Her thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

In Pastor Jen's report:

She shared that our Lakes Area Food Shelf is working to possibly open a Food Shelf location in Brainerd as a great many users are now coming to Pequot Lakes from that area.

Mondays are definitely a full class day for Pastor Jen's new educational program.

A long discussion was held regarding a required educational project for Pastor Jen's class program that must benefit our church. Over the past several years, SPR has recognized the need to develop and refine job descriptions that would provide for an administrative assistant/social media position as well as the tech assistant so desperately needed, while continuing the Congregational Care Assistant role. Pastor Jen will work with her Advisor to see if our Church's need in this area would be an acceptable project. SPR will keep the congregation updated as things progress.

A 2026 preliminary budget discussion was held, as this needs to be completed in the coming weeks. We are waiting to receive required Pastor compensation information from the Conference before submitting our budget to the Finance Committee.

If you have thoughts for the Staff Parish Committee, please feel free to contact me at church or via e-mail: nancy@adamsfamily.us
Nancy Adams, Chair Staff Parish

Click here ([Echo](#)) to read the latest Faith column in the Pine and Lakes Echo Journal contributed by Pastor Jen.

I am so very grateful for the messages of support and the thoughtful gifts as I celebrated the completion of my studies. Thanks for the kind words and the presence of so many that stayed for lunch after the service. A special shout out to the crew who put the lunch together too! I am blessed to serve with you all at Grace UMC!
--Pastor Jen





It seems too soon to say good-bye, but some of our snowbirds are headed south already or very soon! It has to be tough to leave when we are actually experiencing such a beautiful Fall! We would love to be able to stay in contact with you while you are away. Please let the office know when you are leaving so we can change your contact information for the season.

Vae Kaiser passed away on September 2. There will be a service at the Hackensack UCC on September 22 at 11:00 a.m. Their daughters Linda and Kristie were with Vae and Harley when she passed. Please hold her family in prayer at this time.

*Rest
in
Peace*



Community Outreach and sharing our space!

In the coming weeks, we will be opening some of our classrooms to be used by Pequot Lakes Community Education, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. During these times we will close the Ed wing doors so that they will not be disturbed.

The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 9am until noon. Ring the doorbell and we will come to open the south door!

--Church office phone: 218-568-5755

-- Church office (for all general inquiries and administrative/clerical duties)

graceumcpequotlakes@gmail.com

- Pastor Jen Matthees – jenmatt20@gmail.com

-- Ann Hutchings-Congregational Care Assistant- graceumccare@gmail.com



Communication Reminder.....

The church office email (graceumcpequotlakes@gmail.com) should be used to inform the office about ALL events, meetings, or use of the building you would like to schedule so they can be added to the master calendar. This enables us to avoid scheduling conflicts and make sure the areas of the building are cooled/heated as needed.

The official church calendar is maintained by volunteers.

Our Congregational Care Assistant, Ann Hutchings, is in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from **9:00-noon**. Her role is to follow-up with our church family, through telephone calls, notes and email, as well as greet and welcome those who visit our church and assist with any needs they might have. Ann's email (graceumccare@gmail.com) should be used for "congregational care" needs only.

If you have something that should be added to this newsletter from your group or mission, please speak with Pastor Jen or email the details to her at jenmatt20@gmail.com. The E-Grace is generally completed by noon on Thursdays, so articles need to be received by Thursday 10am.

If you wish to connect with me directly and it is not an emergency, please know that I will respond as needed during regular office hours. I am generally in the church on Tuesday (830-1130) and Thursday (10-3) call the office to be sure, as my weeks vary. You may find me here at other times too! I check my emails frequently throughout the day, and this is the best way to contact me. **Friday is my day off** as needs allow, and **Monday is a full school day**.

Pastor Jen.

Did you know the church calendar is available on our website (graceumcpequotlakes.org)? There is a tab near the top, right side you can click to see the



Important note

If you are mailing something to the church, ***you must use our P.O. Box for the address.*** We do not receive mail at the church, and if you use the physical church address it will get returned and could delay your notices to us or offerings.

**P.O. Box 276
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472**

Visit our website

On our website you can find links to past services, a spot to watch this week's service, an online link to giving, and much more!
www.graceumcpequotlakes.org

Grace United Methodist Church

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Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

Phone: 218-568-5755

Email: graceumcpequotlakes@gmail.com

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(use P.O. box for mailing)



**The United Methodist Church forms disciples
of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy
Spirit, **love boldly**, **serve joyfully**, and
lead courageously in local communities
and worldwide connections.**



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