

CHRISTMAS IN JULY



July 12, 2026
10:00am

Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present, and emerging.

GATHERING

Prelude

Prelude on a Noel

Denis Bédard

Welcome

Opening Hymn *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

#290

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Gloria (Tune "Angels We Have Heard on High")

Glory to our God on high,
Peace on earth to those who cry!
Shepherds hear the joyous strain,
Echoing o'er hill and plain:

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

WORD

Children's Message

The first reading is from Isaiah 52

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy,

for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹ Break forth; shout together for joy,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

The second reading is from Hebrews, chapter 1

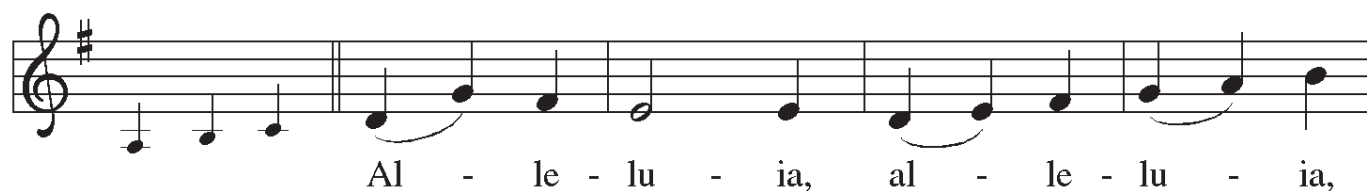
¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.

³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

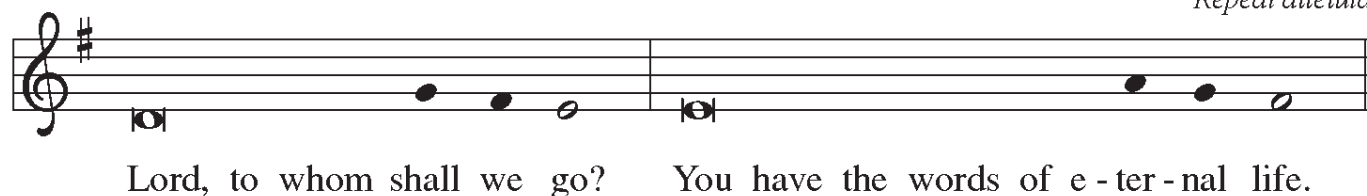
When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation



Repeat alleluia



**The Gospel for today comes from John, chapter 1
Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn Of the Father's Love Begotten (verses 1–3)

#295

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

...God of grace,
 hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Peace

MEAL

Offering

Away in a Manger

Austin Lovelace

Offering Prayer

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

 And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

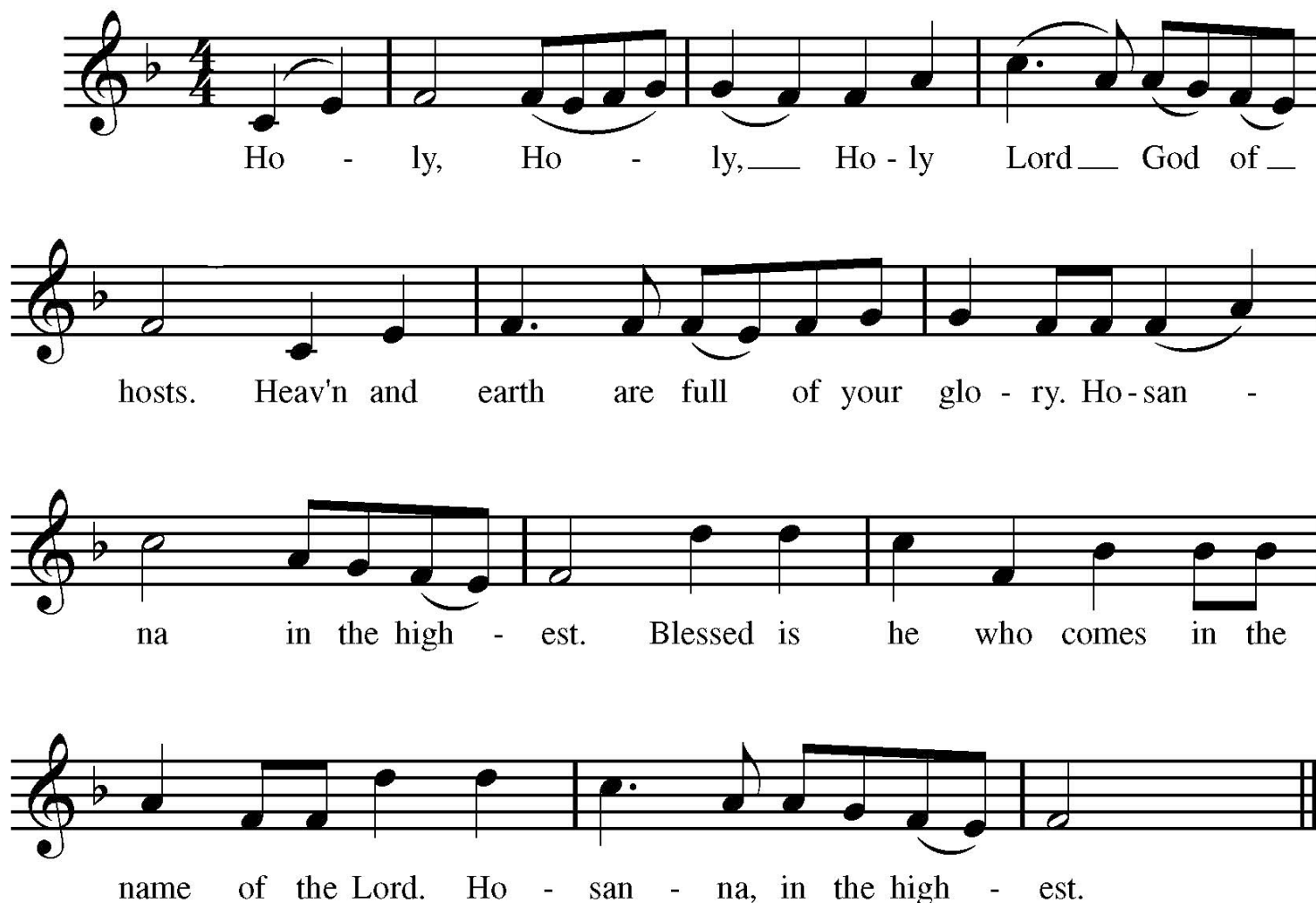
 We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY
Once In Royal David's City



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of
hosts. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

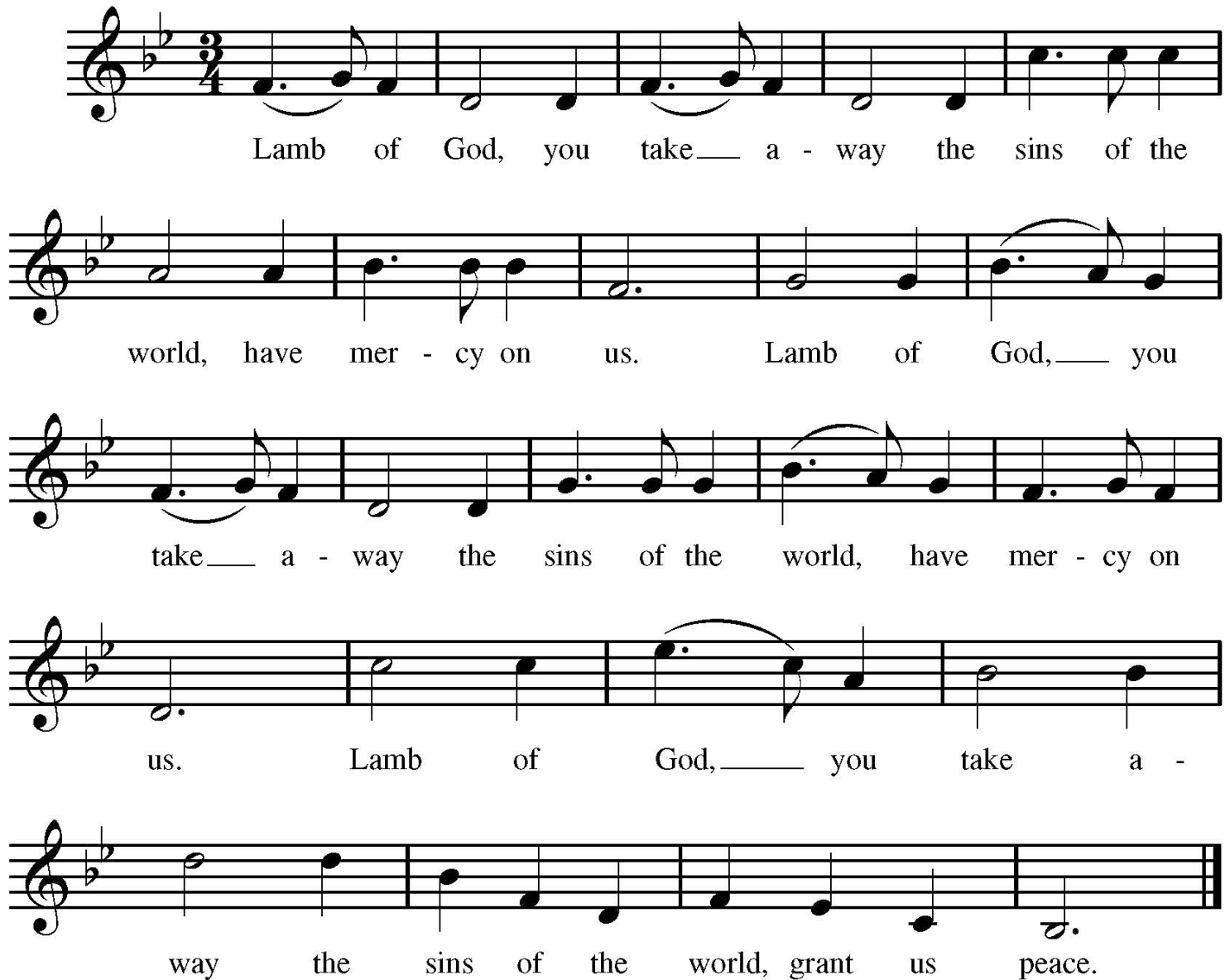
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Communion

Our communion bread is gluten free and the communion cups with clear liquid have grape juice instead of wine.

LAMB OF GOD

Silent Night



Lamb of God, you take___ a - way the sins of the
world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,___ you
take___ a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God,_____ you take a -
way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Prayer After Communion

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn Joy to the World

#267

Dismissal

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Robert J. Powell

Portions of service from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS103714

Licensing Permission

All music Reprinted/Streamed with permission under One License # A-724795

Copyright

Holy and Lamb of God from Christmas Carol Mass music ©2012 Kevin Weed. Used with permission.

Away in a Manger, setting by Austin C. Lovelace, ©1986 Concordia Publishing House

Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Reader: Randy Adams

Assisting Minister: Paul Lokken

Organist: Elaine Mann

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (12th)

Christmas in July

Coffee Hour – 9:30am

Worship – 10am

MONDAY

Summer Camp – 6am

TUESDAY

Summer Camp – 6am

Grace Pacers – 9:30am

Prayer Group – 11am

WEDNESDAY

Summer Camp – 6am

Crafters – 9am

Text Study – 12noon

Clearwater Ringers – 5:30pm

AA meeting – 7pm

THURSDAY

Summer Camp – 6am

FRIDAY

Summer Camp – 6am

SUNDAY (19th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am

Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Grace Lutheran Foundation, Brighter than Sunshine, Grace Rising Wellness, ECWiT, Theater Guild



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

2026-7-12

A
N
N
O
U
N
C
E
M
E
N
T
S

Blessing Box

Summer is finally here and we still need food and other supplies for our Blessing Box. Our Blessing Box is open all year and we would like to keep it stocked especially in the summer months when many of us are away on vacation. Here are some of the items we need:

- cereal
- crackers
- soap
- packaged soup
- packaged noodles
- toothpaste
- tuna pouches
- packaged potatoes
- granola bars
- peanut butter

Since we are in the warmer months, we are able to collect any canned goods or liquid items.

You can drop off any donations outside the church office or at the Friendship Door. You are also always welcome to put any donations directly into the Blessing Box at any time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Help the Crafters

The Grace Crafters are looking for some metal spice tins for their projects. They do not need the newer plastic ones. If you have any of the older metals tins lying around your kitchen unused, please consider donating them to the Crafters. You can drop them off at the office during the week, or give them to one of the ushers at worship and they will put them in the office. Thank you.



Join our regular community walks around the neighborhood.

Grace Pacers

Tuesdays 9:30am / Starting June 16th
Meet in Chapel on 2nd floor off Sanctuary
(Rain day Thursday same week)

Duration: 30 minutes (approx.)

Pace: At your own pace

Age: All are welcome

Intensity: Low to moderate (no steep hills or stairs) with a variety of routes

What to bring: Comfortable walking shoes and your water bottle

Need a ride to join: Let us know!

Let's walk this road together!

Grace Walking Group

As our first response to the areas of interest expressed in the survey we took several weeks ago, weekly walks by the informal group we will call “Grace Pacers” will begin this Tuesday morning at 9:30am, weather permitting. This is a time to get to know each other better and to tend the bodies God has given us. The information is below. Thanks to Barb Piper for thinking through the details for us.

Let's Gather

The next “let’s gather” event will be attending the Eau Claire Municipal Band Concert on Monday, July 27th at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend this free concert. Bring your own beverage and finger snacks to share (optional). Hope to see you there!

The ECMB Summer Concert Series presents concerts throughout June and July.

Concerts are presented in the historic Donald “Sarge” Boyd Bandshell in beautiful Owen Park. Performances will happen on Mondays from 7:30-8:30pm. ECMB is the oldest community musical organization in the city and has been entertaining thousands of patrons since its inception. Now in its second century, the band continues to provide high-quality, free entertainment for audiences of all ages. The band is under the direction of Mr. Bob Baldwin. Andrew Reid, our office manager, plays percussion in the band.

GRACE LUTHERAN let's gather

Join Us!

Eau Claire Municipal Band Concert
Monday, July 27 at 7:30 p.m.
Owen Park Bandshell
501 1st Ave, EC

Free concert
Bring your own beverage!
Optional: Bring finger snacks to share with others
Andrew Reid, our office manager is a member

WECARE Backpack Program For ECASD Kids Collection

We will be collecting NEW Elementary school age backpacks at Grace now through August 2nd. Labeled area to place in the Narthex. Lets help a few students start off the school year with a NEW backpack!

Mission Outreach Ministry

WECARE

EAU CLAIRE

OUR
7th
YEAR

WE provide the
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

YOU provide the
BACKPACKS

TOGETHER
we provide the
LOVE OF JESUS!

BRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BACKPACKS TO ANY
PARTICIPATING CHURCH BY
AUG. 1ST

Scan here to
donate funds
to help purchase
school supplies



Distribution Event
at Phoenix Park
Aug. 17

www.wecareeauclaire.com



Molly Wilson Performance

Our own Molly Wilson will join three professional actors in the play Front Room's debut. The show will be at the Pablo; tickets are about \$30. Front Room is a play focusing on Sandra, a theatre professor, and her mother, Abby, who lives a life clinging to her myriad possessions. Proud, stubborn, and needy, Abby demands constant attention

from her daughter. When Sandra casts a young man, Tyler (a veteran of the war in Afghanistan), she is drawn to his gentle charm. Sandra fights her mother's stubborn hoarding even as she struggles to protect her from the avalanche of household possessions. All the while, Abby seeks to sabotage Sandra's chance to find companionship and comfort. An accidental encounter threatens Sandra's evolving romance - leading to a wrenching decision about Abby's chaotic living environment - her Front Room. (Pastor is planning on attending opening night.)

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

PO Box 965, Eau Claire, WI 54702

202 W Grand Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703

Email: info@grace-church.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: pastorphil@grace-church.org



Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org/our-ministry> Bulletins may also be found on the same page.

Recordings of worship services are broadcast Sundays 10:30am on WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Past services are posted at "Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin" YouTube page — <http://grace-church.org/our-ministry>

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace-church.org or by calling the office at 715-832-9713