

Grace Lutheran Church
2006 60th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140-3893
Wilderness Sunday, September 10, 2023
Second Sunday in Season of Creation
Pastor: Rev. Jonathan W. Barker
Musicians: Gracie & David Underwood, Ian Clyne
Lay reader: Karen Cassiday
Communion assistants: Bert Felland



GATHERING

WELCOME

AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME STATEMENT

- P** Let us affirm our welcome statement.
- C** Grace Lutheran Church commits to live as a community of people seeking reconciliation and wholeness in our life together and in our ongoing outreach to the world. We commit to the work of anti-racism, anti-ableism, liberation, and environmental justice for all of God's beloveds.
- We affirm the sacredness of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. We affirm the sacredness of all those who have experienced exclusion because of race, culture, disability, age, or physical demeanor. We affirm the sacredness of those who wrestle with addiction, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.
- You are absolutely invited to share your gifts as you join us in this lifelong journey. We welcome and embrace all who are seeking God's love and grace. We need each other and our sincere hope is by being in community together we will know the kin-dom of God has come near.

WELCOME SONG —Carolyn Reynolds

- P** Christ, we come into your presence to worship in this sanctuary called Earth.
- C** A planet pulsating with your presence, a presence quivering in the forests, a presence vibrating in the land, a presence pulsating in the wilderness, a presence shimmering in the rivers.
- P** We invite the wilderness to worship with us...
- C** thickets and rugged terrain, deep gorges and mountain ranges.
- P** We invite the hot sands to celebrate life:
- C** to lift their voices to our God at the sound of rain on the dust.
- P** We invite the flora to sing in the sun:
- C** cactus and tumbleweed, brush and bristle.
- P** We join with the fauna of the wilderness in praising God:
- C** lizards and gila monsters, rattlesnakes and hovering hawks.
- P** We invite the spirits of the wilderness to join us in praise:
- C** songs of ancient custodians deep in the rock, spirits of life deep in the sand and the hills.
- P** We celebrate the songs of wilderness.
- C** Sing, wilds, sing!

GATHERING SONG: "Put Not Your Hope in the Nation"

1: *Put not your hope in the nation;
Put not your hope in a king.*

*Trust in the only one who opens eyes
and sets the prisoner free.*

2: *He is the maker of heaven;
He formed the earth and the sea.
Our help will come from the Lord our God,
our gracious king of peace.*

Refrain: *Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the
Lord, O my soul!*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the
Lord, O my soul!*

3: *He is the hope of the hungry;
He is the Lord of the feast.*

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*Our Father's house always opens wide
to welcome refugees.*

4: *The fatherless find a Father;
The widow rests in His strength.
The heart of God is forever home
to all the poor and weak.* Refrain.

Refrain: *Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the
Lord, O my soul!*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the
Lord, O my soul!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

© O Creator of the universe, let our leaders take bold action to protect our common home from the climate emergency. Let each one of their actions be guided by love for neighbor, love for creature, and love for all of your creation. And let me be a mustard seed today. In both small and big action, let what I do today multiply so our common home is protected for all creatures. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Joel 1:8–10,17–20

📖 A reading from Joel.

Dament like a virgin dressed in sackcloth
for the husband of her youth.
The grain offering and the drink offering are

cut off

from the house of the LORD.

The priests mourn,

the ministers of the LORD.

The fields are devastated,

the ground mourns;

for the grain is destroyed,

the wine dries up,

the oil fails. ...

¹⁷The seed shrivels under the clods,

the storehouses are desolate;

the granaries are ruined

because the grain has failed.

How the animals groan!

The herds of cattle wander about

because there is no pasture for them;

even the flocks of sheep are dazed.

To you, O LORD, I cry.

For fire has devoured

the pastures of the wilderness,

and flames have burned

all the trees of the field.

Even the wild animals cry to you

because the watercourses are dried up,

and fire has devoured

the pastures of the wilderness.

📖 The word of the Lord.

© Thanks be to God.

PSALM 18:1–19

¹I love you, O LORD my strength,

O LORD my stronghold, my crag, and my haven;

²**my God, my rock in whom I put my trust,
my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my
refuge.**

³I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be
praised,

and so shall I be saved from my enemies.

⁴**The breakers of death rolled over me,
and the torrents of oblivion made me afraid.**

⁵The cords of Sheol entangled me,
and the snares of death were set for me.

⁶**I called upon the LORD in my distress and cried
out to my God for help.**

**From the heavens the LORD heard my voice; my
cry reached God's ears.**

⁷The earth reeled and rocked;

the roots of the mountains shook; they reeled
because of God's anger.

⁸**Smoke rose from the LORD's nostrils and a
consuming fire out of God's mouth;
hot burning coals blazed forth.**

⁹O LORD, you parted the heavens and came down
with a storm cloud under your feet.

¹⁰**You mounted on cherubim and flew;
you swooped on the wings of the wind.**

¹¹You wrapped darkness about yourself;

you made dark waters and thick clouds our pavilion.

12 From the brightness of your presence, through the clouds, burst hailstones and coals of fire.

13 You thundered out of heaven;
O Most High, you uttered your voice.

14 You loosed arrows and scattered them, hurled thunderbolts and routed them.

15 The beds of the seas were uncovered, and the foundations of the world laid bare,
at your roaring, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.


16 You reached down from on high and grasped me; you drew me out of great waters.

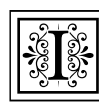
17 You delivered me from my strong enemies and from those who hated me,
for they were too mighty for me.

18 They confronted me in the day of my disaster; but you, LORD, were my support.

19 You brought me out into an open place;
you rescued me because you delighted in me.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:18–27

 A reading from Romans.


 consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-13

P The holy gospel according to Mark.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

n those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

SERMON

SOLO: "The Father Remembers His Love"

CREATION CREED

C **We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things.**

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with all creatures.

We believe every creature joins us in praising God.

We see many suffer with Earth because of human crimes against creation.

creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved.

Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

 The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We believe that God became incarnate as a part of Earth, Jesus Christ, that he lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus Christ fills the whole creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all things.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with every suffering creature, and waits with us for the rebirth of the whole creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation, reconciled, restored, and renewed.

ELW #752. Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.***

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick *especially*:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| • Dawn Bench (Welcome Center volunteer) | • Aggie Hartnell (Bert's mother) | • Andrew Tate |
| • Doug Becker (Marlene's son) | • Christine Hill | • Ron and Linda Wadham |
| • Eric Berge (Paul's brother) | • Sydney & Skyler Houston | • Steve & Heather Waldron |
| • Pat Bernacchi | • Dick Kauffman | • Florence and Jacqueline Walker (Carolyn's sisters) |
| • Jackie Brichacek (Nancy's sister-in-law) | • Rubel Pierce (Randy's father) | • Timothy Walker |
| • Andrew Calvert | • Carolyn Reynold's children Eddie, Santino, and Lytoshia | • Dottie Watts |
| • Holly Cummings | • Martha, Joel, and Jeanette Sanchez | • Chris Webb (Bert's sister) |
| • Eric Dangerfield | • Cynthia Schwartz (Norma's daughter) | • Kristi Weiss |
| • Jan Dugdale | • Jill Swails | • Pam Wisse |
| • Gregory Foster | • Marcia Swanson | Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God, |
| • Judy Gregory | • Joyce Swift | |
| • Shirleen Gulick | | |
| • Cogan Holly Hall | | |

C receive our prayer.

P Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment (*especially...*). In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith (*especially*)....
May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

PEACE

P Peace be with you.

C And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C With all creation, we bless our Creator.

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

P The Creator be with you and all creation.

C And also with you.

P Open your hearts.

C We open them to our Creator.

P Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and Earth.

C It is right to join creation in thanking God.

P It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars, and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth, and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

You chose human beings to be your servants on Earth, to care for our garden home; you suffered when they desecrated the Earth and its waters and lands. Your Spirit is the life impulse in all things, renewing the barren and healing the wounded, groaning in anticipation of a new creation, stirring a new life born of water and the Spirit.

You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die, and rise from the dead—to redeem humankind, to restore creation, and to reconcile all born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living power in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth—land, sea, and air—filling every element and place, filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels, saints and sinners, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea, and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us.

C Holy, holy, holy, God of all life, Earth and sea and sky and all things that exist are full of your presence and glorify your name. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C Amen, amen, amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us.

C Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen.

(Adapted from The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. This version of the Lord's prayer was influenced by Maori theologians)

P Come, for all things are now ready. Come to the table with all your kin and share with all in need: the gift of healing for those in pain, the gift of forgiveness for those in sin, the gift of assurance for those in doubt, and the gift of hope for those in tears.

C May we who share these gifts, share Christ with one another and with all our kin.

COMMUNION

P The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

R7 Amen.

SONG 1: Lord Have Mercy

Chorus: **Lord have mercy**

Lord have mercy Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

1: **Holy Spirit rest upon us**

Lead us in the way of your justice

Holy Spirit rest upon us

Teach us how to serve in our weakness Chorus

2: **Holy Spirit rest upon us**

Teach us how to tend to creation

Holy Spirit rest upon us

Guide us from our path of destruction Chorus

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SONG 2: All Creatures Lament

1: **All creatures of our God and King**

Lift up your voices let them ring

Fill the earth with lamentation

Cry out abuses of our pow'r

*Tell what we lose with every hour
To our greed and depredation
Lord have mercy Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy*

*2: All creatures winging in the air
Cry out the failures of our care
Fill the sky with lamentation
Shout through the clouds of smoke and ash
Choked with the fumes of poison gas
Tell us of our degradation
Lord have mercy Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy*

*3: All creatures hidden in the seas
Lift up your anguished prayers and pleas
Fill the sea with lamentation
Teach us to see your wonders now
Help us to make a holy vow
Here to halt your devastation
Lord have mercy Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy*

*4: All creatures dwelling on the land
Join as we lift each heart and hand
Fill the world with lamentation
Mourn the destruction of our home
Weep with the fear of worse to come
Hear the groans of all creation
Lord have mercy Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy*

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SONG 3: Precious Lord, Take My Hand (ELW
#773)

*1: Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me
stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on
to the light.*

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

*2: When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger
near,
When my life is almost gone.
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*3: When the darkness appears and the night draws
near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

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**SONG 4: Amazing Grace, How Sweet the
Sound** (ELW #779)

*1: Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found.
Was blind, but now I see.*

*2: 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!*

*3: Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*4: The Lord has promised good to me;
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.*

*5: When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.*

SENDING

DISMISSAL BLESSING

P Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind, and your body to heal your wounds and through you to bring healing to Earth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

C We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.

BLESSING

- P** May the God who is above and through all and in all fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth, the pulsing of Christ through Earth and the dream of the Spirit that all will be reconciled, renewed, and restored through Christ our wounded healer.

SEASON OF CREATION PRAYER

- P** Creator of All, from your communion of love life sprung forth like a mighty river and the whole cosmos came into being.
- C** **On this Earth of overflowing love, the Word was made flesh and went forth with the life-giving waters proclaiming peace and justice for all creation.**
- P** You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationship with each creature, but we failed to listen to the cries of the Earth and the cries of the most vulnerable. We broke with the flowing communion of love and sinned against you by not safeguarding the conditions for life.
- C** **We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats, we grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and livelihoods that have been displaced or perished, and we ache at the sight of an economy of death, war and violence that we have inflicted on ourselves and on the Earth.**
Open our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the book of Scripture and the book of creation. Bless us once again with your life-giving waters so that the Creator Spirit may let justice and peace flow in our hearts and overflow into all creation. Open our hearts to receive the living waters of God's justice and peace, and to share it with our suffering brothers and sisters, all creatures around us, and all creation.
Bless us to walk together with all people of good will so that the many streams of the living waters of God's justice and peace may become a mighty river all over the Earth.
- P** In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.
- C** Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Here I Am, Lord* (ELW #574)

1: *"I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"*

Refrain: *Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2: *"I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.*

*I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?"* Refrain

3: *"I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?"* Refrain

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DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace, serving Christ.
- C** **We go in peace, serving Christ and loving the Earth.**

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Opportunities This Week at Grace

Sunday, September 10		Pastor Barker at church	
Grandparents' Day	9:30 am	Worship service	sanctuary/Facebook
	7:00 pm	NA	library
Monday, September 11		Pastor Barker at office	
Patriots Day	8:00 am	Prayer group	library
	8:00 a.m.-noon	Pantry volunteers	
Tuesday, September 12		Pastor Barker & Paul in office	
	9:00 am - noon	Pantry volunteers	lower level
	4:00-5:30 pm	Welcome Center food pantry	parking lot; courtyard entrance
Wednesday, September 13		Paul in office 9:00-2:00	
Thursday, September 14		Paul in office 9:00-2:00	
Holy Cross	8:30-9:15 am	Grace Welcome Center breakfast	Rainbow Room
	2:00-5:00 pm	Infant Moses diaper ministry	nursery
Friday, September 15		Paul in office 9:00-2:00	
	8:30-9:15 am	Welcome Center breakfast	Rainbow Room
Saturday, September 16		Pastor Barker at church	
Rosh Hashanah			
Sunday, September 17		Pastor Barker at church	
Citizenship Day	9:30 am	Worship service	sanctuary/Facebook
	11:00 am	Church council meeting	library/Zoom
	7:00 pm	NA	library

Learn New Worship Songs Before Worship: Gracie will be teaching new worship songs every Sunday morning at 9:20 a.m. Please join her each Sunday morning to hear extra music and also learn the new songs.

Consider a Move: Please consider moving up to the first eight pews on each side of the sanctuary—this would make the acoustics of our congregational singing much stronger. When we are gathered in the courtyard it sounds like everyone is singing--that's because there is no space between us—we could recreate this in our sanctuary if we sat in the front pews. We won't make you move but ask that you prayerfully consider doing this.

We're preparing a printed membership directory this month. Please check the preliminary print-out in the narthex for any errors and omissions. Thank you!

Following is the email that is set up for the Grace Craft Fair:
Gracekenoshacraftfair@gmail.com

Pastor Barker is at Grace Saturday through Tuesday. Then, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, he is home taking care of Zeiah on the days Rae works. As has been the case in the

past on non-office days, Pastor Barker will be available for pastoral emergencies—although now an infant will be joining him.

Our Facebook page has moved: In order better to facilitate staff and council contributors to our page, we are now at GraceLutheranKenosha on Facebook. That's the one with the mustard sprout icon instead of the pre-mural photo of the church building. Please update your bookmarks and followings.

September 3 offerings/receipts:

General	\$ 800.00
From friends:	
General.....	\$ 100.00
Diapers or food.....	\$ 200.00
Grace Welcome Center	\$ 100.00
In memory of Timothy Pfaff.....	\$ 20.00
Holy Assembly building use.....	\$ 500.00
<u>Minus transaction fee.....</u>	<u>\$ (4.70)</u>
Total	\$ 1,715.30

Weekly budget: \$2,671.70

Sister Krisan has let us know that she will step down as our Treasurer in 2024. She is willing to help train up the next Treasurer this fall before she steps down. Please let Pastor or somebody else on Council know if you are interested in being our church Treasurer.

Attendance September 3: ≥ 25

Grace Welcome Center is accepting résumés for the position of Fund Developer. Responsibilities include applying for grants, managing fund-raisers, thanking donors, and maintaining the Welcome Center's social media. Full job descriptions are available from the church office, or on line at <https://gracekenosha.com/2023/08/10/fund-developer-position/>

Community Prayer Vigil: Please join the Racine Interfaith Coalition at the 3500 block of Victory Avenue, Racine, this Sunday at 6:00 p.m. for a prayer vigil to resanctify the ground at the site of a shooting. Our hearts and prayers are with the families of those affected; may they find peace and comfort.

Members of the Kihei Lutheran Church in Maui are collecting and distributing relief supplies to help those impacted by the wildfires in Lahaina, Maui with financial assistance from Lutheran Disaster Response. So far donations have included hygiene items, slippahs (flip-flop slippers), clothing, food, and prayer shawls.

Ron Rucker, pastor of Kihei Lutheran, said there are significant supplies already stockpiled on the island, and money and supplies are still coming from Lutherans around the United States through Lutheran Disaster Response. A portion of our monetary giving right here at Spirit Alive! goes to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Rucker and Dave Nagler, bishop of the Pacifica Synod, toured the area recently. "The devastation is more than the loss of lives, homes and businesses," Nagler said. "It is an emotional and spiritual wound in the heart of this community. Yet, you can see God already working in and through the hearts and hands of this community to knit this island back together. We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of aloha from people around the country who have reached out and contributed to the recovery efforts."

This is just one of the examples of the ways in which the Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources

and maximum impact of response. When a gift is designated to a specific disaster, 100% of the gift goes towards helping survivors and communities.