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Bulletin Cover Art By: Alicia Janzen & Eve Janzen-Dyck

Sunday, August 17th, 2025

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.” John 15:8-9 (NIV)

Call to Worship

Your Great Name

Greeting & Prayer ~ Psalm 80

*This is Amazing Grace
Refiner’s Fire*

Hearing the Word

Scripture: John 15:1-17

Children’s Prayer Time

Scripture: Isaiah 5:1-7; Hebrews 12:1-2

Sermon: Stephen Roy (MCC)
“Great Expectations”

Responding to the Word

The Summons (WT#521)

Prayer of Confession

Ministry Focus & Prayer of Intercession

Offering

Sent out into the World

Step by Step

Benediction

Passing the Peace

Prelude: Emily Plett

Service Leader: Pastor Michael VandenEnden

Song Leader: Emily Plett

Scripture Reader: Beth Thiessen

TODAY:

9:45 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship Time

10:00 AM ~ Worship Service

*****Children remain in the service*****

Nursery (ages 0-3): Rhoda Penner & Kenna Janzen-Dyck

After the service ~ Library Open & Welcome Back Refreshments

All are invited to join together after the worship service to welcome back the VandenEnden family from their three-month sabbatical.

NEXT SUNDAY:

9:45 AM ~ Coffee Fellowship Time

10:00 AM ~ Worship Service

*****Songs & Story Time for children ages 3-10 during the sermon*****

Nursery (ages 0-3): Suzanne Wilson & John Himes

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

Sermon: Pastor Michael VandenEnden

After the service ~ Library Open

JOINING TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY:

THE FELLOWSHIP SUMMER CHALLENGE!

Arrange your own summer get-together(s) with Grantham attendees you'd like to get to know better! The day and party size are completely up to you. It could be as simple as a coffee or teatime in your home or at a local café! The goal is to look for those within our church family that you aren't as familiar with, to extend hospitality, and grow in fellowship. These can be potluck style, so the workload can be shared. If you'd like assistance in planning your event or getting in touch with potential guests, please contact Emily in the church office.



Thank you to those who have shared pictures of their Fellowship Summer Challenge get togethers! There's still time to send pictures to Emily Fast for the end of season slideshow!

JOINING TOGETHER IN PRAYER:

We want to raise the needs of our community and our world before God (Philippians 4:6). If you have prayer requests, please bring them to a pastor or any member of the Congregational Care Committee.

- Mennonite Central Committee (MCC): Please pray for the implementation of a peace deal signed recently between Rwanda and the DR Congo aimed at ending decades of devastating conflict between the two countries. Pray for MCC staff based in Goma who have been able to return to their homes and for a just and lasting peace within the whole of DR Congo.
- Camp Crossroads: Youth Week, for 15-17 year olds, is the highlight of the summer for many at camp. The speaker this week is Brad Sherk. Pray that the hearts of the youth will be soft toward hearing God's word and that lives will be transformed. Pray for safety for all and for health and energy for the staff.
- Multiply: Please pray for Cory & Masami Giesbrecht, Multiply workers in Japan. Pray for monthly worship cafes and ministry to the homeless in downtown Osaka, for Roses Church, meeting outdoors in an urban park, and for unity of the Japanese MB churches.

(Prayers of last Sunday, August 10th)

- MCC: Kingfisher Lake First Nation, a remote NW Ontario community suffering the recent loss.
- MWC: The churches in DR Congo who continue to share the gospel amid war in the Eastern region.
- Camp Crossroads: Teen Week campers & staff
- Multiply: Chase Lovins, Multiply worker on North Africa & Middle East Team

JOINING TOGETHER IN GRATITUDE:

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee and all those who helped with our after service social times this summer! The strawberry and peach socials are always a highlight through the summer months, and your service in preparing and serving is much appreciated. A BIG thank you to Dave & Judy Wall for providing the peaches on August 3rd, and to our bonus volunteers, MaryAnne & Dan Duerrstein, Ernie Harris, Marilyn Fediuk, Gerry Rosenfeld, Ruth Wiebe, and Elaine & Hank VanSchyndel!

The (Summer) Fellowship Committee: Mart & Virlon Unruh, Eddie & Milay Tweneboa, Ingrid Heidebrecht, Jan Harris, Elly Dyck, Rhoda Penner, Emily Fast.

Thank you to all those who have helped with property projects this past spring & summer! So much work has been done by our wonderful volunteers; the beautiful lighting feature and comfortable seating area in the lower foyer, the refresh of the Pastors' office, the clean out of the youth room, etc. We are so grateful for it all! Thank you to: Jordan Plett, Vic Fast, Ken Heidebrecht, Art Reimer, Virlon Unruh, Deb Reimer, Emily Fast, Carol Isaac, Hank & Elaine VanSchyndel, Nancy Boese, and if we've missed someone, please let the office know! It really does take a community to keep this place going!

It is good to be back! Pastors Mike and Tabitha, along with our boys, would like to express our deep gratitude for all the prayer and support we received from you, our church family, while we were away on sabbatical. It has been a time of rest, spiritual renewal, and seeing God's Spirit at work in many places over these past few months. We are thankful for this gift of time so that we could find rest in God and reconnect with family.

Tabitha is also particularly thankful for all the notes and messages of care and concern following my recent health diagnosis. Your prayers have been felt!

Finally, we want to say a special thank you to Emily Fast, Nancy Boese, and Art Riemer for sprucing up our office while we were away! What a nice surprise to come back to. We are truly grateful.

We look forward to reconnecting with all of you as we shift back into ministry here at Grantham!

With Love, Pastors Tabitha and Michael, Job, Titus, and Felix

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, September 7th ~ KFC Potluck

We want to enjoy the end of summer and get ready for the fall by having a meal together in the gym! Here's what you need to know:

Cost: \$5/person (2 pieces of chicken), children 5 and under eat free! Families pay a maximum of \$20. ***Please sign up in the foyer by Aug. 31st.***

What to Bring: Fried chicken is delicious, but we would love if you could contribute a salad or dessert (as you are able).

What to do: Please help by bringing your salad or dessert to the kitchen before the worship service. If you are available to help with set up or clean up, please talk to Emily Fast.

We hope our first potluck of the year will be finger lickin' good!



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 27 | 7:00pm

Join us for a fun evening of trivia to support our Youth Room Refresh Project!

More details to come—mark your calendars and get your team ready!

Notes:

JOINING TOGETHER IN MISSION:

MCC School Kit Fundraiser

Each school kit contains essential supplies like notebooks and pencils that can help families in times of crisis.



***** Kit Assembly - September 14 *****

Notebooks and pencils are treasures for families who struggle to access or afford school supplies. MCC school kits are often requested after disasters as they help bring a sense of normalcy to children whose families have been forced to flee their homes.

**Fall Goal:
\$5,000**

Last year, MCC shipped 52,481 school kits to communities in Burundi, Chad, Malawi, South Sudan, Ukraine, the U.S. and Zambia.



To donate, please write “MCC Kits” on your offering envelope or in the message section of an e-transfer.

To date, we have received \$470 of our \$5,000 goal!

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS:

Yard Sale Fundraiser! August 23rd 9:00 to 3:00 in the Grace MC parking lot!

The Grace Peace Group (GPG) is partnering with the Niagara Palestine Coalition (NPC) to put on a yard sale to raise funds for local Palestinian/Gazan families who are supporting relatives currently suffering in Gaza, or caught in refugee limbo in Egypt, and who hope to join their relatives in Canada.

We're looking for housewares, linens, clothing (children's or men's or women's), books, toys, garden supplies. *And home-baked goodies!* Bring to Grace Mennonite Church parking lot (677 Niagara Street, St. Catharines) around 9am on Saturday, August 23. Or you can donate directly online at:

<https://niagarapalestinecoalition.ca/donate/>

Book the date—**Aug. 23rd**—and plan to drop in and say hi, and maybe buy some Palestinian and Mennonite treats!

Jesus Network Project Update:

A long-term safe house and first (Canadian) home for refugees

When the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in August 2021, the Jesus Network and the Afghan Church, with the support of many generous donors, began the process of sponsoring many Christian Afghan refugee families to Canada.

Before the crisis, the Afghan Church was on track to sponsor 3 families; after the crisis, they are now on track to sponsor 75 families.

Housing is a major challenge when refugee families arrive. When a refugee family arrives, we have to secure safe and stable housing for them with only days notice, so the idea of purchasing a house was born! Thanks to many generous donors, **Thornccliffe House is a reality, but we need your help!**

1) Give towards mortgage: we have a 25 year mortgage at \$500,000

2) Buy new household items: We have set up an Amazon wish list and any items purchased from the list will be delivered to the house:

https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/3DGY7FTTJM1WK?ref_=wl_share

3) Help with maintenance/reno projects: **www.RefugeeSafeHouse.com**

Staff Information:

Office Manager & Ministry Assist.: *Emily Fast*, office@granthamchurch.ca

Worship Coordinator: *Ruth Wiebe*, ruth@granthamchurch.ca

Senior's Care Coordinator: *Marg Fast*, marg@granthamchurch.ca

Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator: *Taya Himes*, taya@granthamchurch.ca

Co-Lead Pastor: *Tabitha VandenEnden*, tabitha@granthamchurch.ca

Co-Lead Pastor: *Michael VandenEnden*, michael@granthamchurch.ca

Custodians: *Ken & Ingrid Heidebrecht*, custodian@granthamchurch.ca

Caretaker: *Carol Isaac*

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs; 9:30am-1:30pm

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