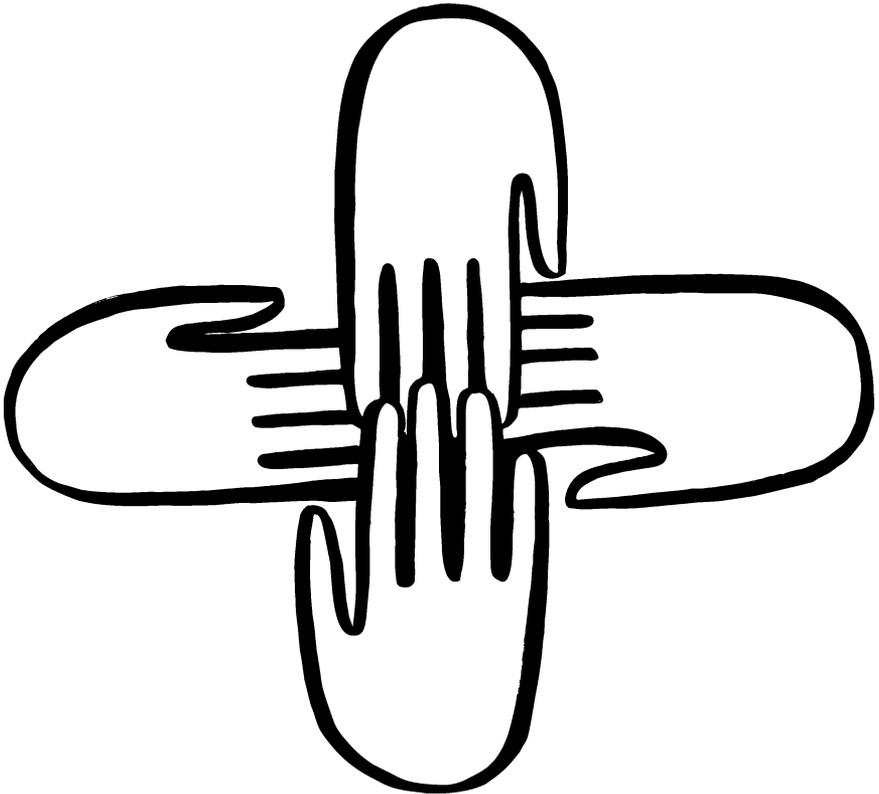


Grace Lutheran Church

3010 52nd St. Des Moines, Iowa 50310



The Fifth Sunday of Easter/Celebration Sunday

May 18, 2013

9:00 a.m.

The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to bring the good news of God's saving grace, through Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection to all to be free to be the people of God.

Welcome to Worship at Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

***Welcome!** Please sign the Attendance Registrations sheets which are found in each pew. Visitors, please also sign the guest book at the Welcome Center, and please join us for coffee and education hour activities between services.*

***Large print bulletins** are available from the ushers.*

***A nursery is available** if your children become restless during the service. Heather Nelson or another daycare staff member will be the attendant each Sunday morning. If there is no one in the nursery, check in the daycare office. The service is also broadcast in the in the Gathering Hall.*

***Communion** – We welcome all people to the Lord’s table to receive Holy Communion. Children ages 3 and above are welcome at the parents’ discretion, after meeting for instruction with the pastor. Children not instructed are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are not able to come forward to take communion, please notify an usher before the service. Then try to sit by the aisle and the pastor will commune you in your pew.*

***When by intinction:** Receive the host (wafer), then dip the host into the chalice (cup) to receive wine (red) or grape juice (clear); depart by the side aisle. Gluten free wafers and a separate glass chalice are available by request on the pulpit side (left when facing altar).*

***When by pouring chalice:** Receive a cup. Receive and eat the bread. Proceed to the wine or grape juice. Communion bread is gluten free.*

***Stephen Ministry** is a one-to-one care giving ministry for those experiencing personal problems such as grieving or crisis situations. If you would like to be connected to a Stephen Minister, please contact the office for assistance.*

Welcome to Worship at Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Prelude

“Hail Thee, Festival Day” by Valerie W. Stephenson
Grace Bells

(Please prepare for worship through quiet reflection and meditation)

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: Although we strive for goodness, we often fall short. We fail to seek understanding of your ways. Forgive what we have thought, done, and said, and what we have failed to do or say. Cleanse our hearts, make us resilient to shame, and accept us for who we are.

Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn

“Rise, Shine, You People!”

#665

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

C: Your servant, Paul, brought many to faith by the power of his words. Help us to speak your truth so that others may know you through us, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please be seated

Special Music

"The Butterfly Song"
Youth Choir & Sunday School

by Brian Howard

The Blessing of Graduates

The Reading: Acts 17:16-31

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new. ²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him — though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we

ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Amen”

arr. Jester Hairston

Chancel Choir. The congregation is invited to join in.

Sermon

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

“Faith of Our Fathers”

#813

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.**

Please be seated

Special Music

“When Morning Gilds the Sky” arr. by Karen Roth
Children’s Bells

Please stand as you are able

Prayers of Intercession

L: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: With knowledge of your never-ending goodness, we pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

All: God of love, have mercy on us. Pour out your Spirit upon us. Center us in worship. Hold us in grace. Strengthen us in love. Send us forth in mission. In Jesus’ holy name. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

C: And also with you!

Please be seated

Announcements

Recognition of Ministry

The Offering

Offertory “Change Ring Prelude on Divinum Mysterium”

by Fred Gramann

Grace Bells and Praise Bells

Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.



Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melodic line. The lyrics are printed below each staff, aligned with the notes.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melodic line. The lyrics are printed below each staff, aligned with the notes.

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 we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim our Lord's death until he comes.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Invitation to Communion

P: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come to the table prepared before you. Taste God's goodness and mercy.

Please be seated

Communion Song



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution Hymns: 638, 661, 803, 522

Please stand as you are able

Prayer after Communion

P: Loving God, by your Spirit we are born anew, and you nourish us like newborns with this holy food, by which we grow into salvation. Give us grace to live as your risen daughters and sons, shining in the world with your marvelous light, until you gather all creation to the heavenly table where Christ reigns in glory forever.

C: Amen

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn

“How Firm a Foundation”

#796

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Grand Choeur Dialogue”

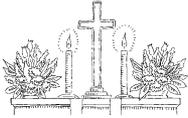
by Eugene Gigout,
arr. By Gary Olson

Grace Brass



Good Morning and Welcome to Grace!

In our prayers: LeRoi Beers, Lyle Black, Drake Carney, Dolores Johnson, Lucy Krauss, Robert Schmidt (Pastor Mike’s father), Brian Vance, the family of Linda Eads (Lonnie Jessen’s sister) and the others we name before you...



Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Shirley and Burke Shiffler and in celebration of Inga and Ralf Hoifeldts' birthdays.

Quarters placed in the offering plate this and every third Sunday are for the Food Pantry.

A Stephen Minister is available in the upper room between services for people who need a listening ear, encouragement and prayer support.



Happy Birthday to: Inga Hoifeldt, Kimberly Fenimore, Lori Fry, Tim Nehmer, Bruce Bergman, Charles Denton, Megan Jensen, Kenneth Carlson, Barbara Zimany, Brenda Mann, Jacob Nordeen, Christopher Janson, Kaylee Ringgenberg, Jonay Trentmann, Scott Neal, Melissa Newman, Amgela Chapman



Happy Anniversary to: Matt and Tammy Hagerty, Steve and Melissa Young, Michael and Tina Meadows, Michael and Susanne Carney, Wayne and Debbie Curry, Bill and Joann Jensen, Richard and Michelle Voelker

Education Opportunities.

Sunday School classes and **Adult Forum** will resume in September.

May 18: Ice Cream Social following the one service at 9:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study meets Tuesday mornings from 8:45–10:15a.m. in Grace Hall II. May 27 will be the final meeting for the summer.

Summer Worship Schedule:

May 18: Celebration Sunday

One service at 9:00 a.m.

May 25 – August 31: Summer services

Services in the Sanctuary at 8:15 and 9:45 a.m.

No Wednesday or Saturday services

September 7: Celebration Sunday

8:15 service in the Sanctuary

10:45 service outdoors followed by a picnic.

Summer worship volunteers: The sign-up pages for June through August are now in the worship volunteer book at Volunteer Central. The easy link to the electronic sign-up page can also be found in the enews. Thanks ahead of time for your help serving as lectors, Communion assistants, and coffee servers.

For your convenience, the current and updated calendar can be found in the entry hall and the hallway just outside of Grace Hall near the Fair Trade coffee display.

Announcements

The women of Martha Circle invite you to join them for the **Ascension Day** worship and brunch on Thursday, May 29th. Worship is at 10:00 am with brunch by reservation only following. Offerings will go to the DMARC food pantry. Brunch is \$5 for Grace members and free for visitors. There will be an opportunity to make your reservations for brunch before and after services on Sunday May 18th, as well as during the ice cream social. We hope to see you there!

Grace Diaper Drive

The Grace Diaper Drive continues through Sunday, May 25. Diapers and wipes may be placed in the box in the Gathering Hall.



VBS volunteer news: Remember to mark your calendars for one of two training nights - June 3 or 17 from 6-8:15pm. Please note that training is required for preschool teachers and assistants, and elementary week station leaders, assistants, and small group guides. We're looking forward to working with everyone! Anyone interested in volunteering is invited to check out the sign-up list in the Gathering Hall to see where the needs are. We especially need June 23-27 small group guides and an aftercare adult.

VBS snacks: Thanks to all who have signed up to donate so far! The preschool snack list is full already. Check out the elementary list if you would like to donate.



Is someone in your family graduating from college this spring? We would like to recognize his or her accomplishment in the next newsletter, so please send a short announcement (3-5 sentences, about 60 words) to stephaniejohnson@q.com by

May 22. You are also welcome to include a digital picture. Congratulations to the graduates!

End of Year Music Potluck

Plan ahead to attend on May 21st at 6:00 p.m. Meal served at 6:30 p.m. The potluck will be held at Denny Rehder's home. Everyone involved in the music program at Grace is invited. Signups will be out in May.

Welcome to Grace!

Pastor – Rev. Michael Schmidt

Director of Laity Ministries - Stephanie Johnson

Director of Music Ministries - Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg

Grace Kids Care Director - Heather Nelson

Office Administrator - Jacquelyn Holmes

Office Assistant - Michelle Voelker

Custodian – Todd Haugen

Ushers – Carol Krause, Jerry Westercamp, Mike Peterman, Kevin Drury, Jay Wangerin, Mike Carney

Liturgist – Kristina Hutton

Lector – Ro Zimany

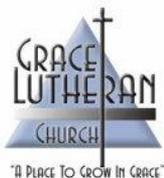
Communion servers – Carol Woodruff, Karen Taylor, Loree Nelson, Tim Nelson

Acolytes – Sawyer Shiffler, Robert Briggs, Hannah Jensen

Altar Guild – Alice Kulzer, Gail Peterson

Counters – Tom McCleary and Jeff Farrell

Coffee – Social Ministry



Grace Lutheran Church

3010 52nd St. Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Pastor Michael Schmidt

515-276-6873

worship@gracedm.org

www.gracedm.org

May 18, 2014
Acts 17:16-31

Key Verses: “For as I went through the city... I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands.” Acts 17:23-25a

Time: 49-52 CE

Background: Athens was an important hub of culture, where art, architecture, religion, and philosophy could be celebrated and debated. Public debates were common, and crowds were often drawn toward lively debates where new ideas and thoughts were presented. It was into this atmosphere that Paul spoke about God, the creator of the universe. Hearers would have been more familiar with the concept of smaller gods for more specific things (god of war, god of love). The idea of a singular God of all things would have been foreign. Paul took the opportunity to quote familiar poets and a familiar “unknown god” to grasp their attention and point them toward God, creator, and father of the risen Christ.

Community: Where do we hold our most important debates? Who does the talking? Who listens? What is debated? How can you become involved in the debates that are most important to you?

At Home: Do one thing this week to become more familiar with whatever is unknown to you about God. Read the Bible, talk to a friend, pray, meditate, or find some other way to explore your spirituality.

Read This Week:

Monday, May 19, *Paul in Corinth*, Acts 18:1-17

Tuesday, May 20, *Paul in Ephesus*, Acts 19:1-10

Wednesday, May 21, *Paul Arrested in the Temple*, Acts 21:27-36

Thursday, May 22, *Paul Defends Himself*, Acts 21:37-22:5

Friday, May 23, *The Plot to Kill Paul*, Acts 23:12-22

Saturday, May 24, *Paul Preaches in Rome*, Acts 28:23-30

Next Week: Sunday, May 25, *Partnership in the Gospel*, Philippians 1:1-18a