



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church

The Staff of Grace Lutheran Church

Senior Pastor: David Cline

La Voz De La Esperanza Pastoral Leaders: Pastors Lorraine and José Luis Avendaño

Interim Visitation Pastor: William Kallestad

Director of Music: Rich Dewein

Director of Laity Ministries: Stephanie Johnson

Grace Kids' Care Director: Heather Nelson



Volume 2, Issue 3

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

February 17, 2009

Coming Events

High School Youth Bake Sale
February 22 during Coffee Hour

Ash Wednesday is February 25

Soup Supper served 5-6pm
Worship Services at 6:30pm each
Wednesday during Lent.

NYG Plant Sale & Garage Sale

Saturday, May 9

Contact Us

www.gracedm.org

Email Addresses

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Jackie Holmes in Church Office:

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Sunday Worship Times

8:15 & 10:45 am

LaVoz de la Esperanza 10:45 am

Music Notes.....

As I write this article, I am listening to a CD of the Augustana Choir. What an outstanding ensemble! I wish to "Thank" all of you that hosted members of the ensemble. I remember when I was in tour choir and how much I enjoyed staying with members of the churches in which we performed. They were as gracious as you are and more than willing to open their homes with outstanding hospitality. Hopefully many of our congregation, and other congregations, took the opportunity to hear this excellent performing ensemble. When I taught at Goose Lake, I didn't take the time to get to "know" the music program at Augie. It was only 50 miles to the campus, but Luther, Wartburg and St. Olaf, were the Lutheran Colleges that people continually mentioned. Many people from the surrounding communities of Goose Lake were graduates of those schools. I think we all missed the boat in not researching this outstanding music program and college. (Did you know that Pastor Don did his undergraduate work there? And that Nicole Nelson is a student there?) Even today, I think we overlook what we have and become complacent about the "things" around us.

Perhaps that is why this church has gone through a re-visioning process. I believe that this church has a great deal to offer to everyone. It's not that we shouldn't "beef" up the things we do, but we need people to become even more involved and serve the church. I know that my entire life has been serving a church, in addition to my regular employment in a school district. Even at an early age, service to the church was important and expected. In those few years that I didn't have a church in which I was actively involved, something was missing. Being in a church was the fulfilling piece of the puzzle. As you know, I have served many denominations and congregations. It really didn't make a difference since it was the serving and using my talents that was necessary. I know that everyone has a talent to share and use. Are you using your talents to the maximum? Think what could be done when we do.

The Youth Choir and Chapel Chimers will take a hiatus during the time of Lent. Due to limited time to meet with all the groups, these two ensembles will not meet until April 15. Other time changes for the ensembles are: Youth Bells will meet from 5:40-6:10 p.m. and Chancel Choir will meet from 5:30-6:20 p.m., both before the Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m. The Grace Bells will begin rehearsal at 7:15 p.m. or immediately following the Wednesday service. Please note these changes of the music program during Lent.

(Continued next page)

During the Wednesday service, we will be using the Holden Evening Prayer for the liturgy. Also we will be using liturgy Setting One in the ELW during both Sunday services during Lent. The Chancel Choir, Grace Bells, Grace Brass and Youth Bells are each actively engaged in preparing extra music for the Lenten and Easter seasons. I believe this church is fortunate to have these excellent musicians that are willing to give of their time and talents to prepare music for worship. I consider myself very lucky to be able to work with these dedicated people and the congregation of Grace.

Please read Marion Nehmer's article concerning Easter flowers. The Worship Committee discussed this change and the options available. We would like to see how this will work for this year. Jane Ridnour and Mindy Scholten are working with Altar Guild for sanctuary enhancement during Easter. We appreciate all their talents and efforts.

It is a pleasure to serve the congregation of Grace Lutheran.

See you in church.

RICH



An Invitation to a World Day of Prayer Service

Church Women United invites Christian women to a celebration of the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 6. This special day is observed in many countries.

This year the service is written by Christian women in Papua, New Guinea. The theme is, "In Christ there are many members, yet one body."

Some years ago Ken and Rosalie Grosch, members of Grace Lutheran Church, served as missionaries there. Later, Karen Ullestad spent a shorter time there as a missionary so we have a connection to this country.

Another plus is that this service is at a nearby church, Urbandale United Church of Christ. I think it will be an enriching spiritual experience, so please come.

Reservations are made to Eileen Rowat at 288-1798.

In Christ,
Joanne Johnson



Blooms for Easter

The joyous good news of Christ's resurrection will be heralded on Easter morning with a profusion of color in the sanctuary. Lilies will be available as well as other blooming plants will fill the sanctuary. You will be able to order a variety of blooming plants. More information and the order forms will follow in the next Friendly Visitor. Let's fill the sanctuary with blooms.

Lay Ministry Team News

The Lay Ministry Team now has mailboxes outside the conference room. Whenever you have something to share or pass along to one of the teams (education, fellowship, mission, worship) you are encouraged to do so. Remember that the Communication Team has a mailbox as well. The more ways we can find to share information, the more effective our mutual ministry will be. Let's keep the news flowing!

Stephanie Johnson also has a mail slot on the reception desk in the office. Feel free to use that as well if you don't catch her on Sundays or Wednesdays. The next meeting of the Lay Ministry Team will be on Tuesday, February 24 from 7-9 pm. Team members may be visiting a group near you soon.

Adult Education Committee

We have been encouraging and inviting members to join a newly formed Adult Education Committee. The group will initially focus on planning the Adult Forums. Over the past couple of weeks, Bill Kallestad and Tammy Denton of the Education Laity Team have been gathering input and feedback on format and future topics for the Adult Forums.

First of all, thank you to everyone who provided input and suggestions. This will help set a foundation for this committee. So far, the members include: Pat Rehder, Kristin Medhurst, Michele Turner, Carol Mattes, Kathy Roat, Aaron Page, and Delores Larsen.

We would like to have one to three more members join this group. We anticipate this larger group would probably only need to meet three to four times throughout the year. If you are interested or have questions, contact Tammy at 267-0301 or Bill at 277-3832. A meeting will be scheduled during the month of March to get everyone together on the committee to start planning.



Sympathy is Extended

To the Downard and Cooper families in the death of Theodore Downard. Teddy passed away on January 27 at Mercy Hospice in Johnston. He is survived by his wife, Alemeta, three children, and six grandchildren.

To the Ringgenberg family in the death of Helen's sister, Eleanor Schaudt. Eleanor passed away on February 10 in Marshalltown, IA. Her funeral was held on Friday, February 13.

Please keep these families in your prayers.

Lenten Devotional

The 2009 Lenten Devotional is currently in the process of being assembled and will start to go out to interested people via daily email on Ash Wednesday, February 25 and will continue throughout the 40 days of Lent. A limited number of hard copies will also be available on Sundays. Thanks to all who have expressed a willingness to make a submission. If you haven't yet sent yours in to Stephanie Johnson, please do so **by February 26** so that it can be completed in time. There are still a few openings for writers, so please let Stephanie know if you're interested.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Hall for those who would like to receive the devotional by email. Join us in this daily discipline for Lent.

A little side note – did you know that the 40 days of Lent do not include the Sundays during the season? Sundays are considered to be "little Easters". Look for your email devotion on all days but Sundays, and on Sundays, come to be fed at worship.

Intergenerational Sunday School Event

Mark your calendars for a fun-filled Easter morning at Grace! The date of our next intergenerational activity will be Easter morning, April 12 from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Many fun, new, and very engaging activities are being planned for that day. Come and go as you please or stay for the whole hour. Trust us – a good time will be had by all! Stay tuned next month as more of the mystery is revealed . . . ☺

2009 Thrivent Matching Funds

Thrivent Financial is offering \$1,250 in matching funds for qualifying fundraising activities or hands-on service activities. If your committee would like to be considered for receipt of matching funds, please call Diane Heid at 254-0379 for information regarding how to qualify.

Senior Members to Meet

The Senior Members group will meet on Sunday, March 1 at 5:00 p.m. We will play the game called "Whoopee" and anyone who would like to play is invited to come join us. The menu will feature beef burgers with cookies for dessert.

High School Youth Bake Sale February 22 during the Coffee Hour in Grace Hall (Freewill Offering)

Along with many delicious baked goods, we will have several potted Amaryllis plants (with buds) for you to purchase with a freewill offering. Proceeds will go toward the trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 20-27. Our high school youth will also be leading the Adult Forum on February 22 to talk about the upcoming Gathering and to answer any questions you might have.

Library Help Day a Success

Thank you to everyone who came to the Saturday Library Help Day. It was a busy two hours and so much was accomplished. It was wonderful to have helping hands with all the many needs. There are new book covers on the children's books so now all have covers. The books were mended and placed in their correct place. Missing library cards and date due slips have been replaced. Titles were checked for any that might be missing. Thank you to everyone who was able to come. We had much interest by the helpers to continue as needed. If you were not able to come and would like to be included in future library tasks, please call Bev Anderson at 270-1539 or Marion Nehmer at 331-9048.

News from Lutheran Lakeside Camp

Two retreats are coming up at Lutheran Lakeside Camp in Spirit Lake in April and May. On April 24-25, you can go learn about creating a "Space for God – Co-creating the Sacred with God." It is a journey of faith to include such mediums as creative writing, painting, sculpting, quilting, cooking, and photography.

On May 20-22, you are invited to "Come and See," when you will learn about the practices of spiritual discipline including meditation, lectio divina, pilgrimage, labyrinth, and solitude and silence. The Gospel of John will be used as the spiritual guide.

More information about both retreats is available on the bulletin board outside of Grace Hall I, or by calling the camp at 712-336-2109.

Vacation Bible School

Spring may not be here yet, but believe it or not, plans for the summer are already underway! This year Vacation Bible School will run from **Sunday, June 28 through Thursday, July 2** with a special Family Night held in the evening of July 2. Mark your calendars for a week you won't want to miss.

The schedule is still to be determined but will be set by early March. Stay tuned for more details regarding registration and program. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Stephanie Johnson at 276-6873 or stephaniejohnson@q.com. There is something for everybody. See you at VBS!

Sunday School Service Project

We encourage our Sunday school children to donate items for our spring service project. Beginning March 8th through March 22nd we will be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief health kits. Below are items the children may bring to Sunday school.

- Hand towels
- Wash clothes
- Bath size bars of soap
- Finger nail clippers
- Toothbrushes
- Band-aids (all the same size)



March Birthdays



March 1	Mary Johansen		Andrew Keller	20	Karen Taylor
	Rachel Ferin		Rachael Nelson	21	Janet Kjellberg
	Rebecca Sonius	13	Lathrop Preston		Susan Miller
	Kristen Snyder	14	Sally Niffenegger		Angela Allen
2	Donald York		Barbara Nelson	22	Jerilyn Martin
	Kimberly Vance		James Johnson		Louis Anderson
	Wade Book		Melissa Ford	23	Rick Harmon
	Robert Gannon	15	Bill Jensen		Carolyn Diaz
	Greg Hefner		Evelyn Knudsen	24	Scott Taylor
3	Delmar Niemuth		Steven Schaller		Mary Jo
	Gary Yanders		Ann Warren		McCleary
	Jim Vanderhill		Lydia McCleary		Beau Brindley
	Renee Mulvihill	17	Paulette Clemens	25	Arlene Janson
	Matthew Heid		Kathy		Debra Parker
4	Deanna Johnson		Bowermaster		Mike Wohlford
5	Brent Culp		Beth Flannery	26	Ryan Nordeen
	Katherine Scholl		Aaron Oberhart	27	Kimberly Bruns
7	Janet Gift		Benjamin Honsey		Stephanie
	La Vonne	18	Joann Jensen		Johnson
	Mitchell		Thomas Selander		Sierra Carney
	Robert Cramer		Robert Sauerman	29	Sharon
9	Andrew Goff		Emma Ashton		Schwemler
	Pablito Ramos	19	Lois Rose		Elly Peterman
10	Patty Flannery		Cleone Oberg	30	Kristin Medhurst
	Nadine Garcia		William Malloy		Curt Chenoweth
11	Tammy Hagerty		Diane		Alton Ladd
12	Jacquelyn		Westercamp	31	Daniel Gutmann
	Holmes		Kerri Bever		
	Sarah Zdenek		Haley Turner		

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes January 31, 2009

Present:

Dan Warren, Mary Helt, Jon Rissman, Tom Selander, MeLissa Lawson, Rich Snyder, Joyce Lewis, Kristin Medhurst, Pastor Cline, Stephanie Johnson, Rich Dwein

Pastor Cline called the meeting to order

Pastor Cline led us in Devotions

Introduction of new Council Members

Staff Introductions

Team building exercise led by Stephanie Johnson

Discussion led by Pastor Cline

How a Council Works

Definition of the different Committees and Structure

What to expect being a council member

Election of Officers

A motion was made to appoint Dan Warren as President of the Council (*MSP)

A motion was made to appoint Mary Helt as Vice President of the Council (*MSP)

A motion was made to appoint Denny Rehder as Secretary of the Council (*MSP)

A motion was made to appoint Tom Selandar as Treasurer (*MSP)

Budget Guidelines and Procedures Approved

As a way to encourage ministry and mission and to provide accountability in regards to the use of the budget the council has decided that staff members in consultation with the appropriate team, when possible, will have the authority to move unspent funds from one ministry line in the budget to another in the same ministry area. (For example, using unspent funds allocated for adult music in order to purchase additional items for youth music.) The intent is to have staff members make such action after discussions with all lay people involved. Budgeted ministry areas such as worship, education, youth, etc. cannot be exceeded without action by the church council as defined in the constitution. (*MSP)

Announcements

The lay ministry team will meet Feb 24th

The council will meet March 24th

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted, Dan Warren

*MSP – Moved, Seconded, Passed

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Church Council.

Annual Plant Sale

Pre orders will be taken from

Sunday, March 1 - Monday, March 30

Order forms will be available before and after services in the Gathering Hall, in the office all of March and in the March Friendly Visitor.

All pre orders need to be paid when placing your order.
Plant Sale Pick-up will be Saturday, May 9

All the proceeds from the Plant Sale will be used toward the costs of the 2009 National Youth Gathering Trip to New Orleans, July 20 - 27. 22 high school youth and 5 adult chaperones are registered.

Start Saving items to donate to the Spring Garage Sale!!!

Garage sale will be Saturday, May 9 (Mother's Day Weekend)

To finish raising funds for the National Youth Gathering there will be a Garage Sale on the same day as the plant sale.

Household items, tools, books, toys, clothes, craft supplies, furniture, etc. will be accepted.

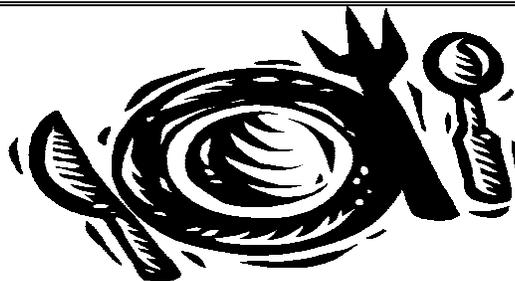
Drop offs will be on Tuesday, May 5 - Friday, May 8

Thank You for all your support of the High School Youth!!!!

A Full Plate

Featuring ideas to help us live out this year's mission theme –

"Come to be fed; leave to feed others."



Come...and Feed Others

You can help feed hungry people in our community and support the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Emergency Food Pantry by:

- **Including a monetary donation** with your regular offering. Simply designate "Food Pantry" on a blank line on your offering envelope. Your donation will then appear on your Grace statement.
- **Saving your quarters** and placing them in the offering plate on Food Pantry Sunday, the third Sunday of each month.
- **Buying and placing non-perishable food items** in the grocery cart in the Gathering Hall at any time or at the altar during worship in Esperanza Chapel the first Sunday of each month.

Sack Saturday Opportunities to Feed the Hungry

Looking for a way to get more involved in meeting the community's hunger needs? Each month DMARC seeks volunteers to participate in Sack Saturdays. Participants are asked to commit two hours to greeting shoppers at local grocery stores and encouraging either their purchase of sacks of food items costing \$5, individual items of food (such as peanut butter, cereal, pasta, soups) or cash. The food items collected are used to supply local food pantries in the Des Moines area. Money collected is used to purchase additional food items.

To sign up or learn more: Cindy Morton, DMARC Red Barrel Coordinator, 277-6969 or 238-4593.

DMARC Food Panty Needs Paper Grocery Bags

DMARC's nine food pantries need paper bags in good condition. The pantries reuse paper sacks for packing food items to be given out to shoe in need. Large quantities of these paper sacks are consumed in the process, and the need is

ongoing. Purchasing paper sacks is not possible due to cost. Therefore, recycling paper sacks is DMARC's only option. If you have extra paper sacks, drop them off at DMARC, 3816 36th Street, Suite #202, Des Moines, or at any of the nine pantry locations.

Learn more about the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry at www.dmreligious.org.

Need a Way to Stretch Your Food Dollars?

- **Angel Food Ministries** is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing grocery relief and financial support to communities throughout the U. S. Nine sites currently serve residents in the greater Des Moines metro. The closest site to Grace is St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 3424 Forest Ave.

Angel Food is available in a quantity that can fit into a medium-sized box at \$30 per unit. Generally, one unit of food assists in feeding a family of four for about one week or a single senior citizen for almost a month.

Anyone qualifies for the program. There are no applications or income guidelines. For more information, visit www.angelfoodministries.com.

- **SHARE Iowa** is a community service and food program that offers tasty, nutritious grocery packages at half the retail cost in exchange for two hours of volunteer service in our community. Volunteer service means sharing time and talents with others without being paid. Ideas include: helping a neighbor, visiting a shut-in, church activities or activities with other local civic organizations, scouts, etc. There are at least four SHARE Iowa sites in the Des Moines area. Call 1-800-344-1107 or visit www.shareiowa.org for more information.