



# 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 4

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

March 17, 2009

## Lenten Schedule

Wednesdays:

Soup Supper served 5-6pm

Worship Services at 6:30pm

## Contact Us

[www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)

### Email Addresses

**Pastor Cline**

[davidcline\\_pc@msn.com](mailto:davidcline_pc@msn.com)

**Pastor William Kallestad**

[billkallestad@yahoo.com](mailto:billkallestad@yahoo.com)

**Pastor Lorraine Avendaño**

[lorraine\\_ha@hotmail.com](mailto:lorraine_ha@hotmail.com)

**Pastor José Luis Avendaño**

[joseluisavendano@msn.com](mailto:joseluisavendano@msn.com)

**Rich Dewein**

[rdewein@msn.com](mailto:rdewein@msn.com)

**Stephanie Johnson**

[stephaniejohnson@q.com](mailto:stephaniejohnson@q.com)

**Heather Nelson**

[heathernelsondc@msn.com](mailto:heathernelsondc@msn.com)

**Jackie Holmes in Church Office:**

[graceluth5@msn.com](mailto:graceluth5@msn.com)

Send newsletter and bulletin articles to [Lori.fry@mchsi.com](mailto:Lori.fry@mchsi.com)

Office Phone 276-6873

Office Fax 276-4048

### Sunday Worship Times

8:15 & 10:45 am

LaVoz de la Esperanza 10:45 am

## Welcome to Pastor Michael Hershberger

As part of the revision process and in response to the economic conditions of our day the council last fall began searching for a Pastor who would become the visitation Pastor of Grace and preach once or twice a month. As we searched Pastor Bill Kallestad agreed to visit those who were hospitalized and shut-in until the end of January. That time was extended until we could find a Pastor who desired to be part of the Grace team.

This position was discussed at the annual meeting and the congregation voted to support this position by providing the needed funding. On Tuesday night, at the recommendation of the Grace personnel committee the council has entered into a one year contract with Pastor Michael Hershberger. Currently Pastor Michael is on leave from call and living in Story City. He is, however, teaching classes at Grandview College.

As part of the duties of being our visitation Pastor he will visit those who are hospitalized and shut-in. In addition he will assist in making initial contacts with those who have visited Grace. These "visitor" contacts may also involve coordinating lay members of the congregation as hospitality visitors. In addition, he will bring the word to the congregation through preaching once or twice a month.

We are very excited that Pastor Michael will be serving with us in the coming year. He brings a deep sense of faith and the presence of God's grace. He values word and sacrament ministry. **On Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Michael will be present at both services and between worship as we meet and greet him.** We encourage you to be present and to welcome him as he serves among us in the coming year. Normally, a congregation would hold a congregational meeting and call a Pastor. Since this position is less than half time, and is a one year contract the council has the authority to enter into a contract with the Pastor and is doing so with the approval of the Bishop.

We see this as another step toward becoming a growing congregation that deeply values word and sacrament ministry and empowerment of the laity.

See you in worship! Pastor Cline

## **Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Introduction to Theology**

Last fall we hosted a web cast adult class on Mark. This spring on Monday nights, beginning March 23 from 7:00-9:00, we have a second opportunity to participate in Luther Seminary's lay school of theology. The class is called, "Crazy talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Introduction to Theology" The professor is Rolf Jacobson who is associate Professor of Old Testament. Here is what he has said regarding the topic:

When people heard that Humor and Theology had started dating each other, they whispered, "It'll never work. The two are just not a good match for each other." When Humor and Theology got engaged...and then married, the skepticism only grew more intense, "Can these two really live together?" But it turns out that Humor and Theology, in fact, are great partners. In the tradition of Martin Luther, who both knew a good joke and a good theological distinction, this course will draw on humor to explore many of the basic concepts of the Christian faith, focusing on what the church has found most important in its central theological concepts. If you want to learn more about the basic theology of the faith in a not-so-stuffy way, this is your opportunity. Simply come to the Grace gathering hall on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00-9:00...it's free!

## **Grace Women Lutheran World Relief**

It's Spring and time for LWR! Our display tables are up and the kits are being assembled. The committee has made good sale purchases with the money the congregation gave last Fall. The quilters have been busy on Thursdays.

The money we collect this month will determine how many kits we can purchase for the Fall Drive. Envelopes are available at the display tables or you can use the church envelopes in the pew racks (please label them Lutheran World Relief) and put in the offering plate.

50 School Kits, 50 Health kits, 25 Layette's, 8 Sewing Kits, and many quilts will be brought to the altar on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Then they will be boxed and taken to Ankeny, then to Minneapolis, and on to world needs.

## **Church Office Update**

Diana Johnson will be in the office on Tuesdays to greet you and take care of your needs while Jackie takes some quiet time to work on her newly acquired Financial responsibilities.

Lori Fry has been hired as Publications Editor and has already begun. She will be creating the monthly newsletter and the Sunday bulletins. She will be doing most of her work from home so you may e-mail her your articles for the bulletin and monthly newsletter to [Lori.fry@mchsi.com](mailto:Lori.fry@mchsi.com).

**Bulletin articles need to be in by Wednesday each week.**

The newsletter will be sent out the third Tuesday of each month so **newsletter articles need to be in by the Thursday before. Next month's articles are due on April 16.** If you do not have e-mail, you may continue to bring them to the office or mail them to Lori at her home.

Since the newsletter is now being made once a month, we will mail the bulletin to anyone wanting it between newsletters. Please call the church office at 276-6873.

## **First Communion News**

Mark your calendars! First Communion classes will be offered to all interested families on Wednesday, March 25 and Wednesday, April 1 from 5:30-6:15pm, with a special trip to decorate your own chalice on Sunday, March 29 at Whatta Dish (509 Elm St., West Des Moines). Cost for the chalice is \$16.

We believe that children as young as 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are able to express a simple belief in Jesus' presence in the meal. Children younger than that, however, may participate as well, but we leave that up to you as a family. Please see Pastor Cline for any questions or concerns. *Please plan to attend the two classes with your child.*

**Session 1: Wednesday, March 25: 5:30-6:15pm in Grace Hall 2**

**Whatta Dish ceramic studio trip: Sunday, March 29, 1:00-2:30pm**

**Session 2: Wednesday, April 1: 5:30-6:15pm  
First Communion celebration: Maundy Thursday, April 9 evening worship service**

Please call the church office at 276-6873 to let us know if you will be joining us. This will be a joyous occasion for the community of Grace!

## **Minutes of the Special Council Meeting March 11, 2009**

Present: Jeff Farrell, Joyce Lewis, Kristin Medhurst, Denny Rehder, Jon Rissman, Tom Selander, Rich Snyder, Dan Warren and Pastor Cline.

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Warren. The single agenda item was consideration of the recommendation from the Personnel Committee for hiring a visitation pastor.

Jeff Farrell, representing the Personnel Committee, explained the process by which they identified the need, interviewed a candidate and made their decision. Pastor Michael Hershberger was introduced and visited with those present about his background, his ministry and his interest in the position at Grace.

After he was excused, discussion centered on the details - a part-time visitation pastor under a one-year contract as approved earlier in the revisioning process by the congregation and the council. Joyce Lewis moved and Kristen Medhurst seconded a motion to accept the recommendation of the personnel committee and direct that Pastor Hershberger be offered the position. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Adjournment was moved, seconded and approved. Submitted by Denny Rehder, Secretary

### **High School Youth Photo Scavenger Hunt**

There will be a fun activity for you on Sunday, March 29th, at Noon. We will be having lunch and then going on a Photo Scavenger Hunt. We will be leaving the church for the Scavenger Hunt, so we'll need some parents to help drive groups of kids around. If you have any questions, you can contact Lori Fry at 967-0736. Please sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board or e-mail me at [lori.fry@mchsi.com](mailto:lori.fry@mchsi.com)

### **Middle School Lock-In**

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Grace would like to invite all middle school students to a "Lock-In" at Grace Lutheran Church on Friday March 27. We are going to order in pizza, play some games – maybe even sleep. You are also invited to bring along movies and snacks to share, as well as sleeping bags, pillows, etc. We have a great game planned called "Gargons". It's a game for all ages, is played

in the dark, and is very challenging. Gargons is the most fun with a lot of kids, but we especially need some big, strong, high school type kids to play the part of the Gargons. Please bring along some non Grace kids to join us. Who knows, they might have so much fun they will want to come back! Parents– plan on dropping the kids off at 6:00 PM Friday night and picking them up at 9:00AM Saturday. Please RSVP to Jon Rissman at 270-0278 or [jrissman@gmail.com](mailto:jrissman@gmail.com) by Wednesday, March 25. Thank you!

### **Lutheran Lakeside Quilt Auction**

It's time for the spring quilt auction which supports our Lutheran Lakeside Camp at Okoboji. Go to Augustana Lutheran Church in Sioux City on Saturday, April 18, to see and buy the many quilts donated by many different churches. Please consider making and donating one yourself and sending it to Augustana Church. Forms giving instructions, which must accompany the quilt, are on the Women's Bulletin Board in the hall across from the Library. Your help is needed!

### **... TEAM GRACE RIDES AGAIN**

We have a number of people riding the week of Ragbrai but there is always room for more. If you want to ride a day or two, or the week, please call Dan Warren today and get registered. This is a great way to get to know other Grace members, to see the state, and to do some good. Last year we rode to support the work of the Des Moines area food pantry. This year we are riding to support our work with the people of Msindo in regards to the Heifer project. More details will follow regarding this work. Today, we simply want to invite others to ride as part of Team Grace!

#### **Thank you!**

Thank you for the Amaryllis Bulb Cindy Wheeler brought to me recently. It was appreciated. It will be beautiful.

*Palma Williams*

#### **Prayer Requests**

Vivian Feilmann

## “So how does this lay ministry stuff work anyway?”

Greetings! Now that we have a Lay Ministry Team that is in place, I thought it might be helpful if I filled you in on what has been happening around here, and what this lay ministry stuff really means to us on a practical basis. Yes, we have a good understanding of the importance of lay leaders to the life of the church, and yes, we no doubt see that there is a lot of lay ministry happening in this place already. So if we already have a lot of that going on, what are we doing, then, with this Lay Ministry Team and how does that affect what we do?

I'm glad you asked! How's this for a classic Lutheran answer – 1) having a Lay Ministry Team does not change what we are currently doing, and 2) having a Lay Ministry Team changes everything. What in the world does that mean??

There is good work happening here. Lots of good work by good people. And the Lay Ministry Team is here to encourage and uplift that continued good work. OK, so what's different? What's different is **how** we may be going about that good work. Here's what I mean by that. By now many of you have seen the informational forms that we are asking groups to talk about and fill out. The conversations that come out of these, guided by members of the Lay Ministry Team, have the potential to shape the ministry that we do in new ways by

- taking a *fresh* look at what our purpose is in various groups and how we can make that exciting to others – is there a way, perhaps, that we can enhance what we are doing by adding a new twist that hasn't been there before?
- Being more intentional and even varied about how we communicate what we do in our various groups so that the greater congregation – and even the greater neighborhood of which we are a part in the name of evangelism - might be more involved or at least aware.
- Allowing growth to happen in the *intentional invitation* of new members (therefore energy, ideas, etc.) into our existing groups.

I have also become increasingly excited as I have begun to hear about people with various interests popping up with ideas of things we could do, or resources toward which we can point people who might have related interests. I want to encourage the use of people's talents and gifts in new ways. When people share those new ideas with me, I share them with members of the Lay Ministry Team whose “umbrella” of ministry connects best with the idea. That way, meaningful conversations can begin to take place with more people. Is all of this still a work in progress? Absolutely. Will we be able to address and start all the new ideas that may arise all at once? Probably not. Please be patient, though. The most worthwhile things in life tend to take time to develop. Keep the ideas coming, though, and God's Spirit will move throughout our continual prayerful discernment.

Here are some newer things that are currently happening in the realm of lay ministry:

- Many members, from elementary school age and up, have contributed to our 2009 Grace Lenten Devotional and are greatly enriching our Lenten journeys. I have heard from many of you how much you appreciate people sharing their faith in this way. The names of our writers are too many to mention here, but thanks go out to all of you. Maybe we can even find a way for this kind of sharing to continue.
- Several people have been willing to be a part of the weekly Lenten dramas that are being presented at each midweek service. We hope that these scenes are enhancing your worship experience. Our actors include Pat and Denny Rehder, Katy Roat, Jessica Russell, Carol Krause, Michelle Voelker, Natasha Voelker, Rich Snyder, Doug Johnson, Beth Flannery, Mike Flannery, and Leslie Denton.
- We have 11 members who recently attended the Congregations Together in Mission synod-wide event held in Cedar Rapids and had the opportunity to experience a variety of ministry workshops that we will be sharing with the congregation in various ways. Those who attended include Ro and Barb Zimany, Kathy Bowermaster, Joyce Lewis, Ellen Wonderlin, Sharon Morse, Tammy Denton, Verda Swanson, Norm and Lenora Iverson, and Stephanie Johnson.
- The Library Committee recently held a Library Help Day and had a terrific turnout. Everyone was actively engaged in various tasks, and the help and enthusiasm were greatly appreciated.

- The Women's Board hosted a Valentine's party with Mother Goose as a special guest, and those who attended had a delightful time together listening to stories, making crafts, even having a parade!

This list is certainly not comprehensive because there are far too many exciting expressions of lay ministry to list them all here. Let's continue to celebrate the use of many and varied gifts! They enrich the life of our congregation when they are so generously shared.

Stephanie Johnson

---

### **Des Moines Area Religious Council**

DMARC met for the annual business assembly on February 19, 2009, at Highland Park Christian Church.

The executive director reported that assistance was delivered to the people of the greater Des Moines area in a number of ways including the following:

- \*Childcare subsidies through a partnership with Polk County
- \*Rent and utilities assistance through a partnership with the Salvation Army.
- \*Mentoring for at-risk children through a partnership with the Des Moines Public Schools.
- \*Opportunities for interfaith engagement such as the special prayer service for victims of the terrorist attack in Mumbai, India.
- \*Help for hungry people through nine food pantry sites. Some alarming statistics are that 400 brand new families came to the food pantries in each of the 4 months, October through January. 20% more families were served in December, 2008 compared to December, 2007. The cash of wholesale food rose anywhere from 9% to 52% in less than a year.

There are challenges ahead for DMARC.

The new president is Pastor John Holcombe from Highland Park Christian Church.

Based on the size of our congregation, we are entitled to have several delegates. I encourage Grace members to prayerfully consider the option of becoming a delegate to this very important organization in our community.

Joanne Johnson, Delegate

In February, members of Grace Lutheran Church donated \$971.00 to DMARC programs and the Emergency Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity!

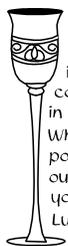
### **Men In Mission**

Men in Mission will meet on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m... The program for the evening will be given by Daniel Timmons. He will be speaking on the "Shining City" Mission Project in Tibet.

### **Thank you!**

Many thanks to Men in Mission for their donation of \$250 to the Grace Scholarship Fund. These men faithfully have donated large amounts of money each year to this project, which helps fund Grace students who attend Lutheran colleges and/or universities.

## Holy Week and Easter Schedule



This cup  
is the new  
covenant  
in my blood.  
Which is  
poured  
out for  
you.  
Luke 22:20

### Maundy Thursday Services

11:00 a.m. with Stripping of the Altar  
6:30 p.m. with First Communion and Stripping of the Altar

### Good Friday

7:00 p.m. - Service of Darkness

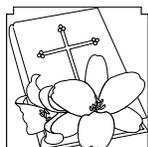
### Prayer Vigil

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Saturday  
In Upper Room



### Easter Services

6:30 a.m. - Sunrise Service  
8:15 a.m. - Holy Communion  
10:45 - Holy Communion  
10:45 - Esperanza Holy Communion



## Easter Flowers

This Easter, spring blooming plants along with the traditional and much loved symbol of the resurrection, Easter lilies, will adorn the sanctuary. The spring floral awakening will remind us of new life at the cross and the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter morning. You have an opportunity to help fill the sanctuary with blossoming plants and lilies. Orders must be submitted by the last Sunday in March, March 29. Place them in the offering plate or send them to the office. No orders can be accepted after March 29. You may indicate on the order form to deliver it to a homebound member or you will be able to pick it up after the 10:45 Easter service. If you order the spring blooming plant (not the lily) you will not be able to order a specific type of plant and selection after the 10:45 service will be first come, first serve. If you order a lily, there will be a lily for you. Thank you in advance for helping to make this successful and joyous. There is an order form in this Friendly Visitor as well as the bulletin.

## Maundy Thursday Luncheon

There will be a luncheon following the Maundy Thursday service on April 9. You are encouraged to sign up if you would like to attend. There will be a sign up sheet in the Gathering Hall.



## Family Easter Celebration

Children and families please join us Easter Sunday, April 12, in the Sunday school rooms downstairs from 9:30-10:30am for a special Easter celebration. You may join us any time during that hour. Instead of regular Sunday school classes we will have stations in the rooms. Gather your family and join us in games, crafts, snacks and an Easter egg scavenger hunt! Don't miss out on this fun family celebration!

## Music Notes.....

I'm ready for spring. Now that we have had a hint of warmer temperatures, I have to resist the urge to get into the yard and work on flower beds. I am excited about seeing the green shoots of plants and the budding of the trees as we begin the "new cycle" of life. I look into magazines to see what the new plants are for this year and how they might fit into the flower beds. I am already on the look-out for several plants that would be interesting to add. As we look forward to the new life of spring and the cycle to restart, may we prepare ourselves for the new life that Easter provides. It is an exciting time in the life of the church.

There have been a few changes to the mid-week Lenten services for this year. The most noticeable has been the small vignettes presented by members of the congregation. These short plays each are based upon scriptures. It has been a pleasure to see and hear our members to take active participation in this service. Also, the daily devotionals have been excellent as they help us through the Lenten journey. Thank you to Stephanie for organizing these.

The Worship Committee met the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. Discussion mostly revolved around the Saturday evening service held during the summer. The Saturday services will begin May 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and will be held in Grace Hall II. I am beginning to put together the schedule for liturgists and accompanists for these services. We are especially in need of people willing to play guitar on Saturday nights. We use Setting Eight and do use electric piano and guitar to accompany the singing and liturgy. If you are able to provide this service as accompanist or guitarist, please contact me at the church or by e-mail. ([rdewein@msn.com](mailto:rdewein@msn.com)) Additional items of discussion included the purchase of two new banners for the sanctuary. These will be purchased with memorial funds. I wish to encourage the purchase of flowers, besides Easter lilies, to enhance the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Easter lilies are still available, but the purchase of other flowers to place in the sanctuary is an exciting idea. In looking at the Flower Chart, there are still a number of openings for Altar Flowers during the year. Please look at the chart, and if you can provide flowers for an open Sunday, it would be appreciated. The Worship Committee is always willing to listen and discuss comments from the worshipping congregation.

Pastor Cline, Stephanie and I have been working on planning the various services for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Each of these services has been given a lot of thought with the hope to make them even more meaningful to the worshipping people. I have been very pleased with the response of the choirs to the music selected for this season. There is always a great deal of planning to make the services fit together.

I have been pleased with how quickly the congregation has become comfortable with Liturgy Setting One. We will continue using this setting through May, with the exception of Easter Sunday, when we will return to Setting Two for that day.

The Youth Choir and Chapel Chimers will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, April 15. Carol Woodruff and I will plan on these two ensembles providing music for worship on Sunday, May 10. These groups have been on hiatus during Lent, but will resume after Easter. We hope that even more of our youth will take advantage of these two ensembles.

On May 17, our new bishop will be providing the sermon and be an active part of our worship service. We look forward to having him in our congregation.

Again, I want to thank all those that helped with the choir from Augustana College. I am still hearing positive comments about the students and their music presentation.

There are a number of opportunities for our youth to attend various Music Camps in the summer. I would like to encourage our youth, grades 5-12, to attend a camp. I will put brochures about these camps on the bulletin board outside the office as they become available.

I keep finding new music that I have been using for preludes, offertories, and postludes. This is all on websites that are public domain. I hope these selections have added to your worship. It is a pleasure to serve the people of Grace.

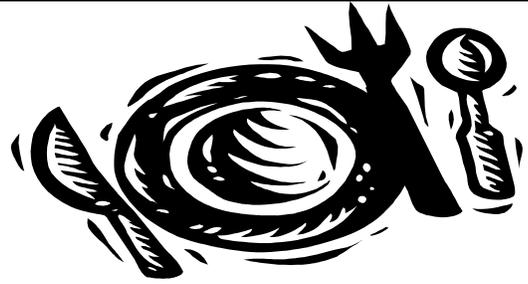
See you in church.  
Rich



---

## A Full Plate

*Featuring ideas to help us live out our mission theme –  
"Come to be fed; leave to feed others."*



---

### New Urbandale Food Pantry Meets Local Needs

The Urbandale Food Pantry at 7611 Douglas, Suite 31, opened in October 2008 to help struggling individuals and families in Urbandale and Windsor Heights obtain the food and personal care items they need. It is funded through monetary pledges of area churches, the cities of Urbandale and Windsor Heights, and citizens and community organizations. It receives food items through the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Emergency Food Pantry.

According to coordinator Eileen Boggess, the pantry served 404 individuals from 132 families in February. Those using the food pantry include single older women, people with disabilities, fathers who are contractors, painters or construction workers who can't find work and need food for their families, immigrant families, wives of soldiers serving in Iraq, and others who recently lost their jobs and don't know how to secure food stamps.

If you live in Windsor Heights or Urbandale and need assistance, you are eligible to use the pantry:

- **Visit the pantry during normal hours** – Monday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Bring documentation that confirms your residency (i.e. a billing statement) and an ID for each household member to be served.
- **You will receive a supply of prepackaged, nutritionally-balanced meals** and personal care products.
- **You can use the pantry once each month.**

To help the Urbandale Food Pantry:

- **Continue supporting the DMARC Food Pantry** by including a monetary donation with your regular offering to Grace. Simply designate "Food Pantry" on a blank line

on your offering envelope. Contributions to DMARC help the Urbandale pantry and other distribution sites.

- Make a monetary donation directly to the Urbandale Food Pantry to help them buy food at discounted rates through the Food Bank of Iowa.
- Donate unused, unopened personal care products, including 8 oz. bottles of shampoo/conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toilet paper, sanitary napkins and diapers.
- Volunteer by filling food orders and more.

For more information, call (515) 251-6688 or visit [www.urbandalecaringcorps.org](http://www.urbandalecaringcorps.org).

### Hope Ministries Needs Help to Serve Meals

Hope Ministries plans to serve and deliver more than 1,500 warm meals to low-income, homeless and home-bound residents in greater Des Moines on Easter Sunday, April 12. More than 100 volunteers are needed that day to help serve a free meal from noon-2 p.m. at Hope Café, connected to Hope Ministries Bethel Mission at 1310 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Des Moines, and to deliver in-home meals to the elderly, shut-ins and others in need.

The Easter meal program is part of Hope Ministries' Table of Grace for homeless and hungry people in Des Moines and central Iowa. Community meals are offered free without regard to race, color, creed or religion. Over 10,000 meals are served each month – between 300 and 400 meals per day.

To volunteer or learn more, call (515) 265-7272, [info@hopeiowa.org](mailto:info@hopeiowa.org), or visit [www.hopeiowa.org](http://www.hopeiowa.org). **Ideas or information to share?** Email [fivewon@aol.com](mailto:fivewon@aol.com), call 277-9312, or drop in the Communications box.

## “St. Grubby Day”

What in the world, you may ask, is “St. Grubby Day”? Why, it’s Grace Lutheran Church’s version of spring cleaning, of course! With the garage sale taking place on May 9 and the bishop coming for a visit later in the month, there’s no time like the present to spruce up our space.

So grab your old clothes, your rags, and spray bottles and join us for an afternoon of spring cleaning on **Sunday, May 3 from 11:45am-2:00pm**. On that day, we will gather for a hot dog lunch that will be provided and then dig into the fun. The more the merrier, so plan to join us for a day of cleaning out closets, tidying up spaces, polishing pews, adding sparkle and shine.

If a group that you are involved in has a natural connection to a particular area of the church (for example, Altar Guild, Sunday School, Esperanza, etc.), you are invited to begin looking through your areas to identify things that may have accumulated in your storage areas over time but are no longer needed or used. If you mark those items as “spring cleaning” they will be taken care of on May 3 and either donated to the garage sale if usable or discarded. Items in areas that are not specifically used by particular groups will be sorted through by the spring cleaners. Questions about anything? Please see Stephanie Johnson.

Roll up your sleeves and stay tuned for more details! In the meantime, keep an eye out for some freshening up touches in the Gathering Hall....

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Welcome to this year’s Vacation Bible School adventure program, **Camp E.D.G.E!** At Camp E.D.G.E., we will be **E**xperiencing and **D**iscovering **G**od **E**verywhere! Crazy and zany characters like the adventurer Xtreme Jean will teach us what cool and exciting adventures like rock climbing, caving, and riding a zip line (to name a few) have to do with God and our *extreme* faith. Our daily adventure will begin at Base Camp at 9:00am, and each day our travels will take us to Exploration Ridge, the Extreme Bible Trek, the Art Apex, and the Rec Plex. So grab your gear, come on – LET’S GO! This is one adventure you and your friends will *not* want to miss!

Here are your travel details:

**Dates:** Sunday, June 28 – Thursday, July 2

**Time:** Sunday still to be finalized, Monday through Thursday 9:00am – 4:00pm with before and after care offered from 8:00-9:00am and 4:00-5:30pm

**Ages:** Preschool through grade 5 (*Please note: The preschool program will be available on Sunday, and then on Monday through Thursday from 9:00am-noon.*)

Please also plan on attending a special **Family Night** on Thursday evening, July 2. Special afternoon activities will be planned each day!

Registration information will soon be available, and the suggested donation will be kept as low as possible. We will keep you informed about this once the VBS Planning Team, whose members are MeLissa Lawson, Kristin Medhurst, Beth Flannery, and Stephanie Johnson, meets on March 31.

Adult and youth helpers will be needed to make **Camp E.D.G.E.** a success in a variety of ways. Please consider helping out during this fun week of ministry. You won’t want to miss out on the adventure!

Please see Stephanie Johnson with any questions. Stay tuned for registration info!

The following is a summary of Grace's financial position (excluding Grace Kids Care Center) for the year ended February 28, 2009:

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offerings	\$ 78,221.22	\$ 89,456.00	\$(11,234.78)
Other Income	<u>\$ 14,751.87</u>	<u>\$ 14,048.00</u>	<u>\$ 703.87</u>
Total Income	\$ 92,973.09	\$103,504.00	\$(10,530.91)
Expenses	<u>\$100,279.36</u>	<u>\$112,321.74</u>	<u>\$(12,042.38)</u>
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ <u>(7,306.27)</u>	\$ <u>(8,817.74)</u>	\$ <u>1,511.47</u>

Actual offerings are under budget by \$11,235 for the first two months of the budget year. Grace expenses are under budget by \$12,042, which offsets the income shortage. It will be important to keep pledges and offerings as current as possible to enable Grace to continue to meet obligations on a timely basis.

### New Books in the Church Library...



#### **The Translator** by Daoud Hari

This book is a suspenseful, harrowing, and deeply moving memoir of how one person has made a difference in the world. It is an on-the-ground account of one of the biggest stories of our time, the brutal genocide under way in Darfur.

#### **UN Christian—What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity and Why it Matters** by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons

The authors and more than two dozen leading voices within Christianity, unpack major criticisms leveled against Christians. Understand why those negative images exist and how you can best represent Jesus to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

#### **Baptism, A User's Guide** by Martin E. Marty

This moving picture book for children and adults captures the courage of a little girl standing alone in the face of racism. The purchase of this book was inspired by one of our young readers telling the story of Ruby Bridges.

#### **The Shack** by Wm. Paul Young

In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, The Shack wrestles with the timeless question, where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain? This work of fiction is a story of how God comes to find us in the midst of our sorrows.



EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!!



# Grace Kids Newsletter

## Baby Room News

We sadly say goodbye to Elah, their family is moving back to their home town. We will also be saying good luck to Cameron, as he moves on to join the Tiny Tots. They will both be missed!

We have been busy reading books, and identifying objects on the pages. Another favorite is singing our ABC's and working on our primary colors.  
Jolene, Michelle & Christina

## Preschool News

As we wind down our actual school year in the preschool room, notice we have rearranged our class room and are focusing on our skill sets to get ready for Kindergarten. Some of our friends are beginning to read and all of us are doing great on lengthening our attention spans.

While we are hard at work we are also enjoying our outside time and our learning activities :)  
\*\*Reminder: we will be going outside more often; don't forget our boots or change of shoes, and extra clothes.

Kristina & Crissy

### From the desk of Heather

Please remember to check calendar:  
There are some Special days this month!

If your child will have any schedule changes for "Spring Break" please sign the sheet outside of your child's classroom

\*\* A reminder letter was sent out for all parents regarding our payment policy, I need to wear my director hat and get the administrative side of our center in tip top shape. I appreciate your cooperation and as always if you have questions feel free to E-mail, call or find Jolene or myself.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/19 Cameron

### Thank You!!

Thank you to those of you who volunteer & send us treasures for our art projects!!!!

## Explorer News

This month we have been concentrating mainly on getting along with our friends and sharing. We have also been working on respecting our toys & books and putting toys away when we are finished playing with them. Sometimes we know it looks like we are just playing & getting messy, but with every activity we are learning.

Potty training is going sooo well!!

We have enjoyed the nicer weather by going for walks & racing out in the yard.

Molly & Jessica

## Tiny Tot News

At circle time the Tiny Tots take turns choosing a song, and they are all singing the ABC's while washing their hands. The older ones are focusing more on tracing, which is an important step in pre-writing. Everyone loves story time, and there are a few books we read so often some of the children almost have them memorized!

We're going outside more, and getting pretty dirty, so don't forget our boots or change of shoes, and extra clothes.

Fran, Martha & Julie



## 2009 Easter Flowers

This Easter, the joyous good news of Christ's resurrection will be heralded with flowering plants as well as lilies. You can help fill the sanctuary with blooms by placing your order for either a lily or a flowering plant with spring color. (Choice in variety/color when ordering a flowering plant with spring color is not available. If you order a flowering plant with spring color and want to pick it up after 2<sup>nd</sup> service, selection will be first come, first serve). **Please note the earlier deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 29. The florist is able to accommodate our request, but only if ordered earlier than usual.**

Please make my order

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

(Quantity) \_\_\_\_\_ Lily \$12.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Flowering plant \$18.00 each (choice not available, but will **not** be a lily)

Deliver my plant(s) to a home bound member. (X for yes)

.....  
IMPORTANT: THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: Check  Cash

Amount of payment \_\_\_\_\_ Check number \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check to Grace Lutheran Church.

Payment must accompany the order. Place order in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

Please pick up your plant following the 10:45 Easter service.

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS SUNDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>.**