



# THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

## Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 2, Issue 5

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

April 21, 2009

**Church Web site:**  
[www.gracedsm.org](http://www.gracedsm.org)

**Senior Pastor** - David Cline  
[davidcline\\_pc@msn.com](mailto:davidcline_pc@msn.com)

**La Voz De La Esperanza**  
Pastor Lorraine Avendaño  
[lorraine\\_ha@hotmail.com](mailto:lorraine_ha@hotmail.com)  
and  
Pastor José Luis Avendaño  
[joseluisavendano@msn.com](mailto:joseluisavendano@msn.com)

**Visitation Pastor** – Michael  
Herschberger

**Director of Music** –  
Rich Dewein  
[rdewein@msn.com](mailto:rdewein@msn.com)

**Director of Laity Ministries**  
Stephanie Johnson  
[stephaniejohnson@q.com](mailto:stephaniejohnson@q.com)

**Grace Kids' Care Director**  
Heather Nelson  
[heathernelsondc@msn.com](mailto:heathernelsondc@msn.com)

**Office Administrator:**  
Jackie Holmes  
[graceluth5@msn.com](mailto:graceluth5@msn.com)

**Receptionist** – Diana Johnson

**Publications Editor:** Lori Fry  
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  
at 10:45 am

### GraceWorks...A witness and an invitation

On Easter Sunday many members received the first edition of GraceWorks, an occasional publication of Grace Lutheran Church. In these special editions are stories of God's rich grace at work in the lives of, and through the lives of members of Grace.

The purpose of this publication is to tell a story and to invite others to become part of a community that seeks to serve. On Easter Sunday we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. Each and every day we live that reality and in the community of faith, the Church, we live Easter lives. This Easter life is one of great joy and challenge, and it is to this life that we invite others.

Lately there have been several congregations that have been mailing out postcards inviting others to a particular community of faith without any indication on the mailing that it is for those who currently do not have a community of faith. It seems to me that in the church there is clear difference between marketing and evangelism. Marketing is a way to convey to everyone that something is "better." Evangelism understands that as the Church we are ONE body with many members. Evangelism tells the story of Jesus and in listening to the other assists others to find a community of faith that enables them to be what God has called them to be.

I share this concern because in encouraging you to be evangelists I want to discourage you from following the example exhibited by what you received in the mail. I want to encourage you to invite others, but to also take the time to encourage others. Encourage those who are already part of a community of faith to be active in that particular voice of Christianity. I want to encourage you to be active in voicing your hope, your invitation, that those who have no community of faith might consider visiting Grace or a community of faith near them.

We are called to be evangelists, not marketers. And we are made far richer when we embrace, celebrate, and encourage the variety of gifts that make up this body of Christ called the Church. Perhaps we are called not only to "win souls for Christ," but to consider that there are those who have already been won by Christ himself, and baptized into a specific community of faith. This kind of evangelism takes the time to support others, and other communities of faith as brothers and sisters in faith. Marketing, on the other hand, only has energy for its own way, its own style, and its own brand. *continued on next page...*

Continued from page 1

I feel compelled to write this because the witness of the Church is very important and that witness is that, "we believe in one Holy Catholic Church, and the communion of saints." Anything less than this, and we are all weakened in the witness to the faith.

See you worship!  
Pastor Cline

### Brad Lint Receives ICAN Award

Grace member Brad Lint received the 2009 Political Strategist award from the Iowa Citizen Action Network (ICAN) at a celebratory event March 28. Lint is Executive Director of the Iowa Association for Justice and serves on numerous boards including ICAN and the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa. At Grace, he is a member of the El Puente ministry team. Congratulations!

### Adult Forum – April 26 and May 3

Do you want to help our congregation grow? Do you find yourself scared to death when you hear the words "evangelism" or "witness"? Do you shy away from opportunities to tell others about Jesus? If you answered "yes" to these questions that means you are thoroughly Lutheran. It also means that you'll want to join us in the Adult Forum on April 26 and May 3 for a relaxed and fun discussion led by Pr. Doug Johnson. We'll take the mystery out of the task of evangelism, learn some simple ways that we can each be better prepared for this important ministry of the church, and imagine some ways that Grace Lutheran as a congregation can be an effective witness to the world around us. Please join us – this may be just the thing the Spirit has been nudging you to do!

### Name Tag Sunday

We will have Name Tag Sunday once per month, beginning May 3.



**On May 17 at both services our new Bishop, the Rev. Michael Burk, will be here.** You are encouraged to be present and invite a friend to hear Bishop Burk preach our message on that day.

### Summer Schedule

Beginning Sunday, May 24, we will have ONE worship service at 9:00 a.m. On May 30, we begin our SATURDAY SERVICE at 5:00 p.m. This schedule is in effect through September 6.

### This is a fun church...

"**This is a fun church, I would like to come back**" said one of the visitors as she left. "It was a great night" said one of the Grace youth. They were talking about the Grace lock-in on Friday March 27. 17 kids from 6th-8th grade joined us for lots of pizza, snacks, games, fellowship, and yes even some sleep. The evening was chaperoned by Jon Rissman, Carol Woodruff, and Harlan Mortenson. Check out the photos at [gracelockin09.shutterfly.com](http://gracelockin09.shutterfly.com)

### LAY MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

Welcome to Kristin Medhurst! She is the newest member of the Lay Ministry Team, and we are excited to have her on board. We have a terrific team of leaders and are looking forward to continuing our ministry together. Welcome Kristin!

As a reminder, the Lay Ministry Team members are:  
Education: Tammy Denton, Kristin Medhurst, Bill Kallestad (through June or as needed)  
Fellowship: Carla Peterman, Verda Swanson  
Mission: Sharon Morse, Denny Rehder  
Worship: Matt Jordahl, Joyce Lewis

Thanks to all!

The May newsletter will be published on May 19. Please turn in your articles by Thursday, May 14. E-mail them to [lori.fry@mchsi.com](mailto:lori.fry@mchsi.com) or bring them to the office. Thank you!!

## THANK YOU!

Many thanks to those of you who were so willing to share your faith with our Grace community through our Lenten devotional series. You added so much to our Lenten journeys, and your witness inspired many. There has been so much appreciation expressed that we would love to continue something like this on a weekly basis for a year. The guidelines would be the same as for Lent: choose a Scripture passage, write a short devotion, and include a short prayer. Anyone can do it, even if you did have the opportunity to do so during Lent. We will need a coordinator for the project, so if you are interested in either writing a devotion or serving as coordinator, please contact Stephanie Johnson. Here are just some things that people had to say about the Lenten devotions:

“Just wanted to share what a great idea this is! I love it! It's a great way to start the morning. I find myself re-reading the devotional throughout the day ... God blessed us with Blackberries for a reason!” - Loree Nelson

“Thanks for providing the daily devotionals during Lent. They are all very meaningful and I appreciated seeing the scripture choices and reading the commentaries by fellow church members.” - Jerry Dockum

“I really enjoyed receiving the devotions by e-mail, and reading how other Grace members have been touched or enriched by God's word. I felt that it added depth to the community of Grace, and made it apparent that anybody can express their faith.” - Elly Peterman

“I very much enjoyed starting my day with these. Kept life in perspective and many times were inspirational to an issue that I was dealing with - I have printed many of them off to reread.” -Kevin Krause



Thank you for all your prayers and nice cards after my hip replacement surgery. I so enjoyed Pastor Cline and Pastor Kallestad's visits. It's great to be able to walk again!

Marilyn Vesey

I want to show my appreciation to all of my wonderful friends at Grace for the beautiful things they have done to make my life better. I know without your prayers it would have been much more difficult. The prayers, calls, cards, flowers and visits during my recuperation from the bone fractures and my recent illness meant so much. Thanks for the visits from Pastor Cline, Pastor Bill, and others. Being remembered by so many is a great joy.

Sincerely,  
Sandy Cunningham

Thank you to Pastor Cline and Pastor Kallestad for their visits during my hospital stay. The many prayers, cards, flowers, visits and phone calls from the Grace family were very much appreciated.

Gloria Moon



### ***Sympathy is extended...***

to the Rutter, Gutmann and Pilon families on the death of Jeanine and Dawn's grandmother, Doris Mitchell (age 93), in Clare, Michigan.

to Joanne Johnson on the death of her sister, Dorothy Vande Berg (age 89) in Orange City, Iowa.

to Sandy Meyer on the death of her mother, Dorothy McIntosh, in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

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### **Grace Women Lutheran World Relief**

Thank you to the congregation for your donations of \$989.00 for the Spring Drive. Thanks, also, for all the helpers who put the kits together, the committee for purchasing the items in the kits, the Sunday School who collected items for Health kits, the quilters who made the 38 beautiful quilts, and to those who helped box them up for shipping to Ankeny and Minneapolis.

## **YOU ARE INVITED!!**

### **Attention: Women of the ELCA**

Clusters #10/11, Women of the ELCA invite you to a morning of fellowship at St. John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines, on May 2. Registration is at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting/program at 9:30 a.m. The program, brought to us by Gayla Russell, will be "How to make a Grace Cake." There will be a freewill offering. Get a car pool going and join us!

### **"St. Grubby Day"**

Our spring cleaning day is right around the corner on **Sunday, May 3** from 11:45 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Wear comfortable clothing to church that day and plan to join the fun. A light lunch will be provided, and then we'll get to work cleaning out closets and storage areas, sorting, dusting, cleaning windows, etc. Please bring along rags, furniture polish, window cleaner, dusters, buckets, and most of all, a willing heart. Please label anything you want to take back home with you. Many hands make light work, and a variety of ages are welcome. Let's give our building a fresh shine! See Stephanie Johnson for any questions. Hope to see you there!

### **Senior Members**

Sunday, May 3, 5:00 p.m.  
Light supper and program in  
Grace Hall

Featuring – Urbandale Senior Singers

### **Men in Mission**

Men in Mission will meet Thursday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m. The program will be video highlights of a recent lecture given by writer Bill Bryson at Drake University. Bill is a Des Moines native and has written numerous best sellers. Those that attended the lecture in person found his remarks humorous and enjoyable.

### **Intergenerational VBS Kick-off Event**

Join us on **Sunday, May 10** in Grace Hall 1 and 2 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for a fun Vacation Bible School kick-off event for all ages! Regular Sunday School and Adult Forum will be replaced with a variety of VBS-related activities for everyone to enjoy. We encourage you to register for VBS week online (see VBS information in this newsletter), but registration information will also be available on May 10. In addition, you will also have the opportunity to sign up to volunteer in a variety of ways or donate snacks, craft and decorating items. It's an outdoor adventure theme, so donations of things like artificial Christmas trees, greenery, pop-up tents, outdoor folding chairs, oars, ropes, etc. will be greatly welcomed! Plan to come on May 10 to learn more about **Experiencing** and **Discovering God Everywhere!**

*You are invited to the*

### **Ascension Day Service and Brunch**

*On Thursday, May 21, 2009 at  
Grace Lutheran Church*

### **Service at 10:00 a.m.**

*Freewill offering will go to  
DMARC Emergency Food Pantry*

**Brunch** (by reservation only) at 11:00 a.m.

*No charge to visitors*

*For reservations, call 288-6974 or 255-2510*

*Deadline is Monday, May 18 at 4:00 p.m.*

### **Open House**

Please join us in celebrating Jonathan Fry's Graduation at his Open House on Saturday, May 16, from 4-7:00 p.m. at our home in Bondurant. Our address is 701 Brick St. SE. Please call us at 967-0736 if you need directions.



## Do You Need Help?

Men in Mission will help members of Grace, both women and men, with yard, garage, and basement cleaning. If you need any work done, please advise the church office. Your requests will be reviewed each Wednesday morning.

## LOST & FOUND

Have you been missing anything lately? In the church office, in our Lost & Found box we have the following items: photos, ear muffs, gloves, winter hats, head band, 4 pairs of glasses (some in cases), handicapped parking permit, numerous earrings, and a Lutheran Handbook. Please stop by the office and claim your items. Items not claimed will be donated to charity.

## ENTRY AND GATHERING HALL REFRESHMENT

While looking at visual enhancements for the Sanctuary and Gathering Hall for Easter, there appeared a need for some general refreshment of the church entries and Gathering Hall. The thought was to create a welcoming focal area by the column, to allow comfortable seating for more than one group conversation and to provide organized information areas.

Some new things you will discover are:

- **A beautifully repotted plant arrangement** that our garden club will nurture. The metal planters are a gift from memorials.
- **An inclusive arrangement of furniture** that fosters fellowship of multiple small groups at any one time. (Please notice that there are two additional side chairs by the information table and two by the display case if you need to pull more seating into one of the upholstered arrangements.)
- **An easy to locate table and wall area for routine communications.**
  - Flower Chart
  - Friendly Visitor
  - Confirmation sermon notes
  - Financial statements
  - Sign-up sheets
  - Seasonal materials

- **Wall space for rolling display cabinets** to be stored during the week then pulled out for attention on Sundays.
  - Visitor Center
  - Display Center #1
    - Name Tags on designated Sundays
    - Other uses on remaining weeks
  - Display Center #2
    - Christmas Star Tree
    - Plant sales and other event sign-ups
    - LWR display
    - Seasonal materials display

(If your display has a related poster, it can be easily attached to the metal frame above the cabinet.)

- **Coat racks safely out of the flow of traffic and “gathering activities.”**
  - Nametag table nearby
- **Use of the brick wall space and wall hanging system.**
  - Church event advertising – if you don’t need a display cabinet
    - Valentine party
    - Quilt auction
    - Golf outing
    - Senior Member, Men in Mission, Youth, Women’s Circle events
  - Lay ministry team photos
  - Special or seasonal display
- **A de-cluttered west entry** offering our daycare a table and bulletin board dedicated to their sign-in and communication needs along with Beaverdale Neighborhood Association news.
- **South entry** with the bench area now available for use.



**CAMP E.D.G.E. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**

Mark your calendars and join the fun! You won't want to miss out on this year's VBS program. It's filled with adventure, excitement, and plenty of surprises as we **Experience** and **Discover God Everywhere!** Grab your gear, come on – LET'S GO! Here is updated information and important details regarding the week:

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

**Time:** Sunday, 9am-noon, followed by VBS picnic

Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-4:00pm

*Before and after care available from 8:00-9:00am and 4:00-5:30pm Mon.-Thurs.*

**Ages:** 3 years through children who have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade (*Please note: The preschool and kindergarten program will be available on Sunday, and then on Monday through Thursday from 9:00am-12:00pm.*

*Afternoon activities are available for children who completed Grades 1-5.)*

**Family Night:** Thursday, July 2 from 5:30-6:30pm

**Registration Information:** We encourage you to register your children, and even yourself as a volunteer, online at <http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/GraceLutheranDMVBS/ce/>

Hard copies of registration forms are also available if needed.

**Suggested Donation:** \$25/child, \$50/family with 2 or more children

Checks can be made payable to "Grace Lutheran Church," with "VBS Registration" in the memo field. Prior to June 28, payments can be placed in Stephanie Johnson's mail slot in the office or mailed to the church, or you may pay at the door June 28.

For more information about the VBS program, please go to our church Web site [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org) where you will find a link to Cokesbury's VBS site, [www.cokesburyvbs.com](http://www.cokesburyvbs.com). Questions? Contact Stephanie Johnson at 515-276-6873.



**Please place this form in the offering plate or return to the church office.  
Thank you for helping!!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

I can help **before** VBS. I can:

\_\_\_ Pray for VBS

\_\_\_ Distribute publicity

\_\_\_ Help with preregistration

\_\_\_ Create decorations

\_\_\_ Coordinate publicity

\_\_\_ Make costumes

\_\_\_ Provide supplies

\_\_\_ Prepare craft packets

\_\_\_ Paint backdrops

\_\_\_ Make phone calls

\_\_\_ Gather donations

\_\_\_ Help with kickoff event

I can help **during** VBS. I can:

\_\_\_ Help with child care

\_\_\_ Take photos

\_\_\_ Pray for the children

\_\_\_ Be a registrar

\_\_\_ Greet participants

\_\_\_ Set up rooms each day

\_\_\_ Provide transportation

\_\_\_ Provide snacks for leaders

I would like to help **after** VBS. I can:

\_\_\_ Send follow-up postcards

\_\_\_ Send thank-you cards

\_\_\_ Take down decorations

\_\_\_ Return donated items

## Music Notes.....

Energizing! To me, that is one way to describe the services of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter along with the Wednesday services during Lent. As I worked with the music we selected to use to enhance the worship services, I was really energized. I had used many of those songs with my high school choirs, church choirs and community choirs, but for me, they each took on a new character and meaning. I enjoyed all of the music, but there were some “standout” moments. On such moment was the Grace Bell number the week before Palm Sunday. The amount of emotion that was felt in that piece as it depicted the Palm Sunday entrance through Resurrection was unbelievable. Another was Paul Kallenbach’s solo on Palm Sunday, as he told in song the life of Jesus. Good Friday’s anthem of “Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs” helped to set the entrance of the cross followed by black banners. And, of course, Easter Sunday and directing the bells, brass, timpani, choir and congregation in the playing and singing of the opening hymn, “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” was inspirational. For me, music is an integral part of worship. It can help to create various moods for a worshipping congregation. It was a pleasure to plan with Pastor Cline each service and to see the transformation to Easter Sunday. I wish to “THANK” all those that were connected in anyway to the music and services for all your efforts and your commitment to Grace.

I need to remind the youth and their parents that Youth Choir, Chapel Chimers and Youth Bells have resumed rehearsals now that the Wednesday night Lenten services are finished. Chapel Chimers rehearsal is at 5:30 p.m., with Youth Choir and Youth Bells at 6:00 p.m. The Chapel Chimers and Youth Choir are scheduled to provide the anthem at both services on Sunday, May 10, which is Mother’s Day. Then they will be finished for the spring and will resume again in the fall. The fifth graders in the Chimers will transition into the Youth Bells, but Andy Anderson and Adam Dostalík will be “graduating” from the Youth Choir. Perhaps there will be enough interest to begin a choir for the middle school students in the fall.

On May 17, the Bishop of the SE Iowa Synod will be worshipping with us at Grace. The Grace Brass, Grace Bells, and Chancel Choir are all working on special music for that Sunday. We hope that many of you will use this opportunity to greet the new Bishop. This will also be our last Sunday of two services. Beginning on May 24, Memorial Day weekend, we will start with one Sunday service beginning at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 30, will begin our first Saturday service at 5:00 p.m. and will be held in Grace Hall II. We will use either Liturgy Setting One or Two for the Sunday service, and Setting Eight for the Saturday service.

**CALLING ALL GUITARIST AND PIANISTS!** There is a need of musicians to help with the Saturday service. I would like to have a schedule finalized by the next newsletter of those that will be helping with the Saturday service. If you are willing to play the piano or guitar for this service, please contact Rich at the church office.

The Des Moines Choral Society will be presenting their Spring Concert at the Basilica of St. John’s on Saturday April 25 at 7:30 p.m. The concert is a combination of “old” and “new” as they will be performing Mozart’s *Requiem* and a newly composed *Requiem* by Mack Wilburg. Mr. Wilburg is the director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and this will be the Iowa Premiere of this work. You can contact Jane Rider about tickets or go to the website: [www.dmchoral.org](http://www.dmchoral.org)

That old adage of “time flies when you’re having fun” is very true for me. It’s hard to believe that I have been the music director at Grace for two full years. It has been a pleasure to serve in this capacity to a congregation that appreciates and enjoys the offerings of music by the choirs, brass, bells, soloists, and the organ/piano. Being able to work with, and for, such a caring and appreciative congregation makes this “job” a pleasure. Your energetic congregational singing is inspiring to an organist.

See you in church.  
RICH



## **Council Minutes March 24, 2009**

Meeting called to order by President Dan Warren. Present were Jeff Farrell, Joyce Lewis, Kristin Medhurst, MeLissa Lawson, Carla Peterman, Mary Helt, Tom Selander, Rich Snyder, Dan Warren, Denny Rehder and Pastor Cline.

The agenda was adopted with additions. Pastor Cline lead devotions, staff reports were accepted and the minutes from both the January 31 meeting and the March 11 special meeting were approved.

The Finance Committee reports from February 10 and March 10 were approved with additional action taken on the following:

1 - Council approved moving \$6,900.70 from Operating Fund Equity to the Property/Equipment Reserve to bring that balance back to \$10,000.

2 - Council approved moving \$2,000 from Operating Fund Equity to the National Youth Gathering Reserve.

3 - Council accepted the Executive Committee decision to approve establishment of a reserve account for the Gardening with Grace group.

4 - Council tabled a request to collapse the Heifer/Parsonage Reserve into the Msindo Quarters account until action is requested by the Companion Congregation Committee.

After some discussion, the Council approved a regular meeting schedule for the remainder of 2009. Meetings will be held on the 4th Tuesday of May, June, August, October and November.

We had three resignations from the Council last year because of moving, job demands and personal needs. So, with three regular terms expiring we added six instead of the usual three new council members. Terms of service needed to be set. MeLissa had already accepted an appointment for the last year of a regular term. We needed two two-year terms and three three-year terms. It was decided to draw them from a hat. The results were approved awarding three-year terms to Jon Rissman, Joyce, Kristin and Mary. Two-year terms went to Carla and Rich.

Kristin was appointed as the Council representative for education on the Lay Ministry Team.

Minutes from the first meeting of the Lay Ministry Team were distributed, and the Team's actions and plans were discussed including a mission fair to kick-off the fall season this year.

Council approved a fellowship opportunity for Sunday, March 29 for the congregation to meet our new visitation pastor, Michael Hershberger, and to thank our interim visitation pastor, William Kallestad. A \$100 restaurant gift certificate was approved as a thank you gift for Pastor Kallestad.

Council agreed to provide an ice cream social for those attending the first Saturday evening service, May 30. Cost would be met with personal funds from Council members.

Dan Warren and Mary Helt were named delegates to the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, June 12-13.

The Executive Committee was authorized to evaluate and act upon a request to use Grace Hall for a graduation reception by a member of Christ Community Church.

The Executive Committee also was authorized to work with Grace Kids Care to develop a funding model as they move toward implementation of the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The program requires reusable (non-breakable) dishes and utensils which the day care does not have. Disposable dishes are currently in use.

There being no announcements, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted March 25 by Denny Rehder, Secretary

**The following is a summary of Grace's financial position (excluding Grace Kids Care Center) for the year ended March 31, 2009:**

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offerings	\$125,826.95	\$133,488.00	\$ (7,661.05)
Other Income	<u>\$ 22,231.39</u>	<u>\$ 20,538.75</u>	<u>\$ 1,692.64</u>
Total Income	\$148,058.34	\$154,026.75	\$ (5,968.41)
Expenses	<u>\$148,115.75</u>	<u>\$162,616.57</u>	<u>\$(14,500.82)</u>
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ <u>(57.41)</u>	\$ <u>(8,589.82)</u>	\$ <u>8,532.41</u>

Actual offerings are under budget by \$7,019.95 for the first three months of the budget year. Grace expenses are under budget by \$14,500.82, which offsets the income shortage.

Grace Kid's Care Center's financial position as of March 31, 2009 is as follows:

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Daycare Income	\$67,689.65	\$70,908.00	\$(3,218.35)
Daycare Expenses	<u>\$69,964.21</u>	<u>\$67,630.71</u>	<u>\$ 2,333.50</u>
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ <u>(2,274.56)</u>	\$ <u>3,277.29</u>	\$ <u>(5,551.85)</u>

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**ENDOWMENT FUND**

The Grace Endowment Fund was established in August 1992 with \$1,000 voted by the Church Council. Over the next five years the growth of the fund allowed for the first distribution of income in 1997. Through 2008, a total of \$177,943.40 had been distributed to projects that have not only been of benefit to Grace, La Voz de la Esperanza, and Msindo Parish in Tanzania, our companion congregation, but have reached out to provide funding for projects within the Des Moines community, the state of Iowa, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Jerusalem, El Salvador and Mali, West Africa.

The Endowment Committee met on March 1, 2009 and voted to distribute \$19,900 to the following projects:

1. \$930 to the Grace Lutheran Church Property Committee for use by the Grace Garden Club for landscaping.
2. \$1,500 to Grace Lutheran Church to provide educational financial assistance for two members of the congregation for seminary study. Each student will receive \$750 for the 2009 fall semester.
3. \$2,500 to the Grace Lutheran Communications Committee for a bilingual brochure about Grace Lutheran Church. The monies will be used for graphic design and printing.
4. \$5,250 to Lutheran Services in Iowa to purchase bus tokens for bus training by refugees and transportation for participants in Project English.
5. \$1,000 to the National Marfan Foundation Heart of Iowa Chapter for youth with Marfan syndrome to attend the National Conference in Rochester, Minnesota in August 2009.
6. \$2,500 to Lutheran Lakeside Camp in Spirit Lake, Iowa for replacing 20-year-old mattresses.
7. \$2,500 to Des Moines Mosaic for a stand-up lift for their 38<sup>th</sup> Street Group Home.
8. \$3,810 to Freedom for Youth Ministries in Des Moines to construct a basketball court at their Freedom Center Campus at ML King Pkwy and Hickman Road.

To date \$197,843.40 has been distributed through the ministry of the Endowment Fund. Continued support of the Grace Endowment Fund through gifts and bequests will secure the growth of the fund and this outreach ministry of Grace Lutheran Church.

Endowment Committee Members: Dale Bordt, Chairman; Kevin Krause, Financial Secretary; Gail Peterson, Secretary; Evelyn Knudsen; Barb Powers; Pastor Cline.

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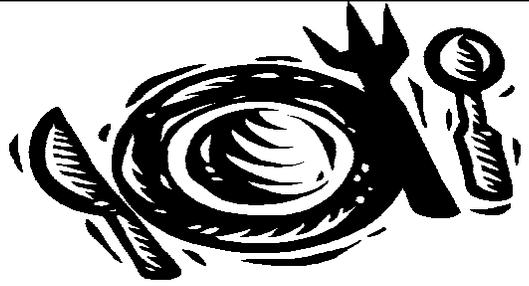
## A Full Plate

Featuring ideas to help us live out our mission theme –

*“Come to be fed; leave to feed others.”*

April 2009

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### **WE CAN: Multi-church Effort Aims for 29,000 Food Items**

WE Can, a multi-church effort started by the Polk City United Methodist Church, aims to collect 29,000 food items by **Sunday, April 26.**

Churches of any denomination collecting 1,000 or more items by that date can bring them to a rally and celebratory event at Capital Square in downtown Des Moines between 1 and 5 p.m. Food will then be sorted and delivered to the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry, homeless ministries in the Des Moines area, and other places.

Most needed items include cans and packages that a meal can be built around: rice and black or red beans, stew and pasta, peanut butter and cereal.

Why 29,000? In 2008 WorldVision reported that 29,000 children die every day of hunger and other preventable causes. For more information, contact Polk City United Methodist Church, 984-6274.

**Largest Des Moines Food Panty Serves Many**  
St. Mary's Family Center at 1815 Hubbell Ave., a program of Catholic Charities, is one of DMARC's food pantries and the largest food pantry in Des Moines. According to program manager Susie Paloma, St. Mary's:

- Serves **600-800 families** a month (food boxes only)
- Serves **200-300 families** a day (bread, perishables, clothing)
- Has over **1,500 babies** registered for diapers, and
- Takes **75-100 calls** a week about financial assistance.

According to Paloma, "Every day, I see more and more new people walking through the door, hear more and more stories about job losses, hear more and more stories about the employed not being able to make ends meet, and hear more

and more people expressing fears about losing what little they have left. And what we hear at St. Mary's is not unique to us..."

For information on making a donation or hosting a diaper drive, call 262-7290. For volunteer information, call 237-5045.

### **ELCA Resources Address Climate Change's Impact on World Hunger**

In 2009, the ELCA's World Hunger division is focusing on raising awareness of the ways in which global climate change impacts those who are hungry. Resources for congregations include:

- **“Taking Root: Hunger Causes, Hunger Hopes,”** a new biblically-based curriculum to educate children, youth and adults on the root causes of and solutions to global hunger and poverty.
- **Climate Change and Hunger Toolkit** including an interactive exercise that draws out the implications of climate change on the world's most vulnerable.

Visit [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger) to learn more. See also the May 2008 edition of *Lutheran World Information* for stories on how climate change is impacting Lutherans around the globe at [www.lutheranworld.org/Essentials/LWF-Publications.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/Essentials/LWF-Publications.html).

### **Lydia Circle Brings Life to Mission Theme**

Earlier this year, Grace's Lydia Circle structured its meeting around the church's mission theme.

"Come to be fed"...was a delicious light supper;"...leave to feed others" was the offering of \$150 to Hope Ministries for its Easter dinner that fed hundreds of hungry people and \$150 toward a scholarship for a Grace youth to attend Lutheran Lakeside. Contact Pat Rehder, 277-4354, to learn more.

**Ideas or information to share?** Email [fivewon@aol.com](mailto:fivewon@aol.com), call 277-9312, or drop in the Communications box.

## Area Lutherans needed for community-building effort

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has teamed with Habitat for Humanity International to invest one million dollars in a collaborative effort called **Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods**. The program aims to improve neighborhoods so that the people who live and work there can enjoy a better life, increased safety and access to greater recreational, educational, health care, financial literacy and housing opportunities. In Des Moines, the program focuses on the city's northside King Irving and Mondamin Presidential neighborhoods.

Now Des Moines-area Lutherans, as congregations or as individuals, and other community groups are invited to participate in this program and work alongside King Irving/Mondamin Presidential neighborhood residents as they implement an action plan developed last year by a coalition of resident and community organizations.

Upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities include:

### **Block Clean-Up Days**

- **Saturday, May 9, and Saturday, June 6, 8 a.m.-noon**, starting at Edna Griffin Park at 13<sup>th</sup> & College. Work entails raking, trimming, planting/gardening, painting, general clean-up and minor repair and landscape projects. Clean-up days will also occur in August and October.

### **Neighborhood Safety Workshop**

- **Saturday, June 13**. Designed to teach residents how to stay safe in their homes. Safety items are needed to give away as prizes and incentives. Individuals who have expertise in such things as fire prevention, tree and brush trimming, installation of dead bolts and motion lights, and more are needed to teach workshop sessions.

### **Community Gardens**

- Congregation-based groups are needed to work alongside residents on an ongoing basis to establish and maintain community gardens at four neighborhood sites. Three of the four sites have been selected: Edna Griffin Park at 13<sup>th</sup> & College, the pocket park at 18<sup>th</sup> & Gillette, and King Academy at 19<sup>th</sup> & Forest.

### **Youth Mentoring**

- Need adults interested in mentoring and tutoring youth in grades 5-12 as well as "adult achievers" in various careers who are willing to share their story to inspire and motivate youth.

To learn more or volunteer, contact Robin Hamel, Des Moines Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods Project Manager, 280-1674, or visit <http://www.thriventbuilds.com/neighborhoods/desmoines.html>

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## NEW BOOKS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

### For the Tough Times by Max Lucado

An inspirational book searching for some answers to current problems, and along the way requesting God's peace and understanding.

### A Cup of Comfort by James Stuart Bell and Carol McLean Wilde

A devotional book of daily inspiration for women, with a feature story for each month and biblical passages as well as accounts of women's real-life encounters with God.

### Happy Easter by Lisa Hughes

Inspiring quotes, poems and stories to celebrate the season. This is a collection of little-known facts, interesting traditions, and unique legends surrounding this most blessed season. It even includes recipes!

### My Happy Easter Morning by Dandi Mackall

A clever board book in the shape of a basket which can be carried along. This book for young children has fun shapes, spring colors, and gentle rhyme about the true meaning of Easter.



**Garage Sale, Bake Sale,  
Plant Sale Pick up, Annual and Perennial  
Plant Sale, Breakfast and Lunch**

Saturday, May 9  
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Grace Hall and the parking lot

The High School youth and families are hosting this sale to raise money for the National Youth Gathering and summer trips.

You can contribute by coming to the sale or by donating items.

**Anyone can donate:**

**Garage Sale Items:** Books, tools, furniture, exercise equipment, toys, clothes, housewares, etc.....in good shape. Please bring donations to Grace from Tuesday, 5/5 – Friday, 5/8. Questions: Lori Fry 967-0736 or [lori.fry@mchsi.com](mailto:lori.fry@mchsi.com)

**Baked Items for Bake Sale:** Please bring items to Grace Hall by 8 pm on Friday, 5/8 or by 7:30 am on 5/9. Questions can be directed to Lori Fry, also.

**Perennial Plants:** Perennial donations may be made Saturday morning, preferably between 7 and 8 a.m. Please donate potted plants and provide the following information: Name of plant, sun or shade requirement, and flower color. Questions: Carla Peterman 278-6679 or [mcp79@hotmail.com](mailto:mcp79@hotmail.com)





# May Birthdays

May 1 Margaret Olson  
 2 Lillian Prickett  
 Joshua Meadows  
 3 Helen Ringgenberg  
 Alexa Losee  
 4 John Roehrick  
 5 Vernon Fanning  
 Michael Newell  
 Jacqueline Wangerin  
 Dylan Rutter  
 6 Ardis Olson  
 Karla Ramon  
 Scott Richmann  
 James Merkwan  
 Daniel Dinnauer  
 Hannah Honsey  
 7 Anne Portman (Peterman)  
 9 Dorothy Williamson  
 Donna Kennebeck  
 Brian Vance  
 Aaron McCann  
 10 Maria Mercado  
 Claire Kallestad  
 11 Jeffrey Farrell  
 Jeffrey Rudisill  
 12 Charlotte Nielsen  
 13 Mike Hefner  
 Tammy Dolan  
 Jill Olson  
 Sally Preston  
 Cody Olson  
 14 Frances Best  
 Lindsay Gannon  
 Jackson Donels  
 15 Laurie Helton  
 Ellen Wonderlin  
 John Kennebeck  
 Dmitri Woodruff  
 Katherine Bickel  
 16 Pastor Don Rothweiler  
 Laura Wonderlin  
 17 Carol Krause  
 18 Inga Hoifeldt  
 Kimberly Fenimore  
 Karen Cyopik  
 Lori Fry  
 Tim Nehmer

May 19 Dorothy Iverson  
 Bruce Bergman  
 Jennifer Todd  
 Charles Denton  
 Howard Thompson  
 Megan Jensen  
 Ciarra Delgado  
 21 Kenneth Carlson  
 Barbara Zimany  
 Brenda Mann  
 Jacob Nordeen  
 Christopher Janson  
 Kaylee Ringgenberg  
 23 Ruth Peck  
 Jonay Trentmann  
 24 Melissa Newman  
 Angela Chapman  
 25 Hal Turner  
 Wendy Losee  
 26 Shirley Davenport  
 Devin Ashton  
 27 Clifford Claycomb  
 Susan Anderson  
 Colin Frommelt  
 Courtney Brandsfield  
 Alexander Oberhart  
 Andrew Oberhart  
 28 Louise Bergman  
 Willa Mae Johansen  
 Rosalie Arneson  
 Linda Vernia  
 Richard Fry  
 Shane Suchting  
 Xena Reyes  
 29 Ralf Hoifeldt  
 Judy Martinson  
 Annette Taylor  
 Kira Nehmer  
 30 Thora (Torry) Henderson  
 Loree Nelson  
 Jonathan Fry  
 Mitchell Johnson  
 Kiernan Hutton  
 31 Barbara Bergman  
 Lindsey Nelson  
 Brianna Adams  
 Nathan Brown

