



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church



Volume 2, Issue 6

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

May 19, 2009

Church website:

www.gracedsm.org

Senior Pastor - David Cline
davidcline_pc@msn.com

La Voz De La Esperanza

Pastor Lorraine Avendaño
lorraine_ha@hotmail.com

and

Pastor José Luis Avendaño
joseluisavendano@msn.com

Visitation Pastor – Michael
Herschberger

Director of Music –

Rich Dewein

rdewein@msn.com

Director of Laity Ministries

Stephanie Johnson

stephaniejohnson@q.com

Grace Kids' Care Director

Heather Nelson

heathernelsondc@msn.com

Office Administrator:

Jackie Holmes

graceluth5@msn.com

Receptionist – Diana Johnson

Publications Editor:

Lori Fry
Send newsletter and bulletin
articles to lori.fry@mchsi.com

Office Phone 276-6873

Office Fax 276-4048

Worship Times

Saturday – 5:00 p.m. in Grace
Hall II

Sunday – 9:00 a.m. in Sanctuary

La Voz de la Esperanza

Sunday - 10:45 am

Summer worship begins with thanks and celebration...

Our summer worship schedule begins on Memorial weekend with one worship service on May 24th at 9:00 a.m. Memorial Day is not a church festival and yet in the church we routinely give thanks for the gifts of God that come through individuals living out their baptismal lives. The role of the soldier may seem contradictory to the Christian message to some. Yet from Paul to Luther there have been those who see in the lives of soldiers God's presence at work in this world for the sake of those who suffer. We hope you take time to worship on May 24th, to give thanks for those who have lived out their calling at a great cost, to pray for peace, and to pray for those who are called to be peacemakers.

On Saturday, May 30th we begin our Saturday evening worship. Saturday evening services will be held in Grace Hall II each Saturday during the summer from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45. The first Saturday service will be followed by an ice cream social provided by the Grace Council. This is a great time to bring a friend to worship and enjoy some good fellowship following the service. On both Saturday and Sunday of May 30th and 31st we celebrate Pentecost with the reception of new members. We will also give thanks and recognize those who have recently graduated high school as they continue their baptismal journey in new ways. On Pentecost Sunday we encourage congregational members to wear red and again to invite a friend to worship with you.

As we move through the summer months, keep in mind that we have many opportunities to continue to learn and grow in faith. Worship is an important part of our summer re-creation. It is during worship that we receive both word and sacrament. Worship is a weekly reminder of the Grace of God that is with us all our days, and is an opportunity to listen deeply to God's call to us regarding how we serve in our daily lives. Finally, our presence in worship is a witness to those around us that our lives are turned to God. It is a powerful witness to our children and grandchildren. As part of our baptismal vows it is important that our children know that worship does not end when Sunday School does, but that each season holds particular gifts and opportunities.

See you in worship this summer!

Pastor Cline

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.

Adult Choirs Potluck

Grace Bells, Grace Brass and the Chancel Choir are invited to a potluck at the Rehders, on Wednesday, May 27, at 6:00 p.m. Their address is 6301 Colby in Windsor Heights. Please call Pat or Denny at 277-4354 to sign up.



El Puente to Meet June 14

El Puente (a.k.a. the “bridge group”), the ministry team of English- and Spanish-speaking Grace members, will meet Sunday, June 14, at noon in Grace Hall I for a potluck, teambuilding, and planning of future mutual ministry efforts.

The June meeting will be the group’s fifth meeting since forming in December. The goal of El Puente is to foster unity and build relationships between the Spanish-speaking and English-speaking expressions of Grace.

Those participating in El Puente include: Maria Anguiano, Elba Calderon, Pastor Cline, Gene Krauss, Lucy Krauss, Brad Lint, Aurelia Mejicanos, Ann Naffier, Juan Perdomo, Rigo Perdomo, Oscar Porras, Josefina Ruiz, Samuel Ruiz, Maria Saravia, Grace Schroeder, Ellen Wonderlin, Carol Woodruff, and Carter Woodruff.

For more information, contact Ellen Wonderlin, 277-9312, fivewon@aol.com, or Carol Woodruff, 277-0910, cl.woodruff@mchsi.com.

MEN IN MISSION

Men In Mission will meet Thursday, June 4 at 6:00 p.m. E. J. Giovannetti, Polk County Supervisor, will update us on what is happening in the county. This should be a very interesting program. Come, join us.

SE IA Synod Women’s Organization Convention

At the Clarion Inn, Amana Colonies
Saturday, June 27

8:00 a.m. Registration (cost is \$60)

3:30 p.m. is the ending time

Theme: River of Life

See Verda Swanson for registration forms



Needed: Lectors for July and August. Please let Diana Johnson know if you are interested, or sign up in the Lector Book in the Gathering Hall. You may call her Tuesdays at church, 276-6873. Thank you.

Need a piano?

Does anybody want a piano or know someone who does? The one in Sunday School room #102 is not being used and we would love to find a home for it. If you are interested, please see Stephanie Johnson before June 20. Otherwise, it will be brought to a spring cleaning drop-off site in Des Moines on that day.





Sympathy is extended to the family of Chris Lehfeld on the death of her brother-in-law, Mark Vander Ploeg, of Pella, Iowa.

Prayers:

Mary Kate and her family



Thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls, and special treats (like cookies) during my 6 months of recuperation. *Vivian Feilmann*

I am enjoying the beautiful Easter lily left at my door at Easter time. I appreciated it so much. Thanks a lot. God bless you all at Grace Lutheran Church.
Palma C. Williams

I want to thank the pastors and members of Grace Lutheran Church for all the prayers, cards, and visits, and we extend our love. *La Rue and Norm Buihner*

Thank you so much for the use of your space for our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The room worked out great and everybody had a nice time. We are truly grateful for being able to use your church to hold our event and we appreciate your kindness and flexibility for letting us do so.

Thanks again,
Jillian Kelsey & Dawn Elliott
Lutheran Services in Iowa

Thank you for your April gifts totaling \$1626.25 and 77 food items. As requested your cash gift was distributed to the Emergency Food Pantry, a network of nine partner food sites for which DMARC provides free and nutritious food...

Thank you so much for all your support!
Sarai Schnucker Rice
Executive Director
Des Moines Area Religious Council

Many thanks

A great big thank you goes out to all those who took part in our recent St. Grubby Day at church on May 3. We had a successful day cleaning, re-organizing, and clearing out items that have collected over time. Thanks to Doug Johnson for grilling hot dogs, to Janet Trentmann for providing treats, and to all the many hands that made the work easier. Lay ministry is always a team effort, and your work is appreciated. Well done everyone.

May 9th Sales a Success!

We would like to thank all of you for supporting our youth at our Plant Sale/Garage Sale/Bake Sale/Lunch on Saturday, May 9th. It was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without you who donated items, purchased items, and/or volunteered your time! Our youth are truly blessed to have such a caring church family

Do you need a ride?

If you are in need of a ride to the doctor, hospital, dentist, cancer treatment, etc., Men in Mission would be glad to help. Please call Roy Mann at 276-3672.

Save the date...

Plans for a block party are underway by the Lay Ministry Team. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 30 from 5-8 pm and stay tuned for further details in upcoming newsletters. Come and join the fun!

Newsletter Deadline

The June *Friendly Visitor* will be published on June 16. Please turn in your articles by Thursday, June 11. E-mail them to lori.fry@mchsi.com, mail them to her home or bring them to the office. Thank you!!



IN LOVING MEMORY

As we remember our loved ones on Memorial Day, we also acknowledge with appreciation the following memorials to Grace that have not been previously recognized. Please take a moment to look at the listing of the many memorials to Grace over the years.

MEMORIAL

Grace Endowment Fund
Gathering Hall Plant Project
Library Books
Advent Cantata
Kitchen Equipment
Maple Tree, West Entrance
Baptism and Pentecost Banners

IN MEMORY OF

Eugene Buchanan, Pearle Bowsby, Joni Buchanan
Beverly Stoops, Ellen Stites
Charles Carter
Stanley Johnson
Margaret Freed
Clifford Swanson
Alice Christianson

All memorials are recorded in the Book of Memories in the wall case at the entrance to the Gathering Hall.

Items Needed for Neighborhood Safety Workshop

The Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods initiative, a collaborative effort of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Habitat for Humanity, and other community partners will host a neighborhood safety workshop Saturday, June 13, in the King Irving and Mondamin Presidential neighborhoods. The following home safety items are needed to give away as prizes and incentives:

- Bug repellent
- Carbon monoxide detectors
- Dead bolts
- Disaster kits
- First aid kits
- Flash lights
- Motion lights
- Smoke detectors
- Sunblock
- Weather radios

Contributions will be accepted until **Wednesday, June 10**. Contact: Robin Hamel
Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods Project Manager, 1620 Pleasant St., Suite 233, Des Moines, 280-1674,
rhamel@dmneighborhoodresources.org.

Refugee Cooperative Services Launches “Beds for Weary Heads”

Refugee Cooperative Services (RCS), an organization of Lutheran Services in Iowa and Catholic Charities, is raising funds to buy new beds for refugee families settling in Iowa. Through an arrangement with a local mattress company, RCS will be able to buy twin beds – mattress, box spring, and frame – at a reduced rate.

The goal for the “Beds for Weary Heads” drive is to buy 200 beds at \$100 per bed by **June 15**. To contribute, send your check made payable to Lutheran Services in Iowa and write Refugee Emergency Bed Fund in the memo line. Mail to Refugee Cooperative Services, 3116 University Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311. Contact Michelle Raymer, 271-7364, if you have questions.

Weekly Devotions

God’s Blessings to You!

Remember the daily devotions that went out during the season of Lent? We now have a coordinator to take on the project of weekly devotions throughout the whole year! Kristin Medhurst has recently accepted this role and is ready to start taking submissions. Thanks, Kristin, and thanks to those of you who have already expressed a willingness to write a devotion. If we have enough people signed up ahead of time, we hope to get this started by June 3, but since that’s coming up soon, and as this is your first time hearing of this, we will have to work fast! Here’s some information that you need to know:

Anybody can do this! If you did not have an opportunity to write one during Lent, now is your opportunity! The devotions will be sent by e-mail each Wednesday and will also be available in paper form on Sundays for those who do not have e-mail. The guidelines are simple: choose a Scripture passage and write a short reflection as well as a short prayer. Like during Lent, the reflection could be a sharing of your thoughts and a passage’s meaning to you, but it could also be an opportunity to share part of your faith story as well, and we encourage you to do that. Descriptions of the seasons of the church year are available in the Gathering Hall and are meant to serve as a guideline to get your creative and spiritual juices flowing. Please try to keep the length of your reflection to a half page or less and understand that we may edit as needed.

We will need at least 52 people to cover each week from Pentecost 2009 to Pentecost 2010, unless we do another 40 devotions during Lent, in which case, we would need more. That can be decided at a later date.

A sign-up sheet to write a devotion, as well as the descriptions of the church seasons, can be found in the Gathering Hall. ***Devotions will be due a few weeks ahead of time, so please take note of the due date when you sign up.*** Also, if you were on the Lenten e-mail list, you will automatically be included in the weekly list unless you express otherwise. If you were not on the Lenten list but would like to add your name and e-mail to receive the new devotions, please sign up in the Gathering Hall or e-mail Kristin Medhurst.

Please contact Kristin Medhurst with any questions or to submit your devotion. She can be contacted at 987-7521 or medhurstk@msn.com.



Congratulations to Graduating High School Seniors!

A recognition day for graduating high school seniors will be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 31 at the 9 am service with a reception to follow. We would love to celebrate this joyous occasion with you! If you are a graduating senior, please RSVP to Stephanie Johnson **by Monday, May 25** so that we can plan accordingly.

We would also like to include a bulletin insert about graduates on that day. Please submit a paragraph including some information about yourself, the school from which you are graduating, and your plans for the coming year or years to Stephanie Johnson at stephaniejohnson@q.com or leave a hard copy in her mail slot or on the office reception desk **by Wednesday, May 27**. We will of course include the information about you even if you cannot be there.

Hope to see you on May 31! Congratulations!



VBS Camp E.D.G.E.



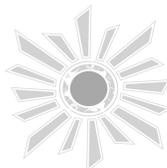
VBS is right around the corner from June 28-July 2! Don't forget to register! This year we are encouraging people to register online at <http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/GraceLutheranDMVBS/ce/>. It's a very simple process and only takes a couple of minutes. If you do not have access to a computer, paper registration forms are available on the youth bulletin board.

We are still in need of various items to help make the week a success. If you are willing to donate snack or decoration items, please see Stephanie Johnson or stop by the VBS table that will be set up for your convenience after worship on Sundays and some Saturdays as well. Snack items vary, and decoration items include things like artificial Christmas trees, pop-up tents, camping equipment, oars, etc. Please stop by the VBS table for more ideas or to find out how you can help. Donated decoration items will be returned to you.

There are also lots of fun ways for all ages to be directly involved in Camp E.D.G.E. Program areas include the Bible storytelling station, opening and closing assemblies - including a puppeteer (no experience required), Bible characters, preschool, and camp counselors (people who bring groups of children to various stations). Other opportunities include drivers for field trip days, extra afternoon and snack help, and before and after care. Consider serving in this unique ministry of the church, and you'll have lots of stories to share!

If you or a group you are involved in at Grace would like to sponsor a child, there is an opportunity to help in this way as well. The possibilities are endless!

Stop by the VBS table and we'll be glad to answer any questions that you have. You can also find information on our church Web site www.gracedm.org. See you at Camp E.D.G.E.!

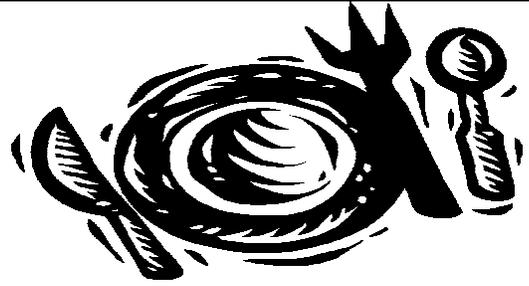


A Full Plate

Featuring ideas to help us live out our mission theme –

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

May 2009



Fair Trade Products Help Farmers Support Their Families

The Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Coffee Project, a partnership between LWR and Equal Exchange, helps small-scale coffee farmers around the world, including in Tanzania, earn more money to support their families.

By working together and pooling their resources to form a cooperative, farmers can sell their coffee directly to international buyers without relying on middlemen. Through fair trade, farmers receive a price that covers their production costs and guarantees them a living wage for their labors. The effort helps them build a better future for themselves and their communities.

Fair trade coffees and teas are available for purchase at cost at the south entrance to Grace Hall. To learn more, visit www.lwr.org/fairtrade or contact Denny Rehder, 277-4354.

Lutherans Work to Reduce Hunger

In 2008,

- ELCA members gave \$21 million to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and helped support vital hunger-fighting programs in over 50 countries,
- ELCA World Hunger awarded 329 domestic hunger grants for anti-hunger ministries in the U.S.,
- ELCA Advocacy efforts helped increase children's access to health care, funding to create affordable housing, and funding for the Food Stamp Program. Advocacy efforts also helped secure \$48 billion to fight AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.

Source: *Lifelines*, a publication of the ELCA's World Hunger division, Spring 2009

Simple Strategies to Fight Food Waste

According to a recent *World Ark* article, as much as 50% of our food supply is wasted “from field to fork” due to inefficiencies in production and

distribution. The article suggests individuals can reduce waste by

- Planning meals so leftovers can be transformed into the next night's meal,
- Buying in bulk only if the food is unlikely to go bad over time,
- Making less than you think you'll need, not more,
- Cleaning out the fridge and cupboards regularly to avoid buying more than you need.

Source: *World Ark*, a publication of Heifer International, March/April 2009

DMARC Food Pantry Lists Most-Needed Items

In addition to financial contributions, which are used to buy food at wholesale, the DMARC Food Pantry especially needs the following items:

- Canned fruit
- Canned meals (chili, stew, Chef Boyardee, etc.)
- Canned soups
- Canned vegetables and beans
- Cereal
- Diapers
- Fruit and vegetable juices
- Infant formula and baby food
- Instant potatoes
- Macaroni and cheese dinner
- Macaroni and spaghetti
- Peanut butter
- Rice
- Saltines
- Spaghetti sauce
- Tuna

Place any food items for the DMARC Food Pantry in the basket in the west entrance area to the church.

Ideas or information to share? Email fivewon@aol.com, call 277-9312, or drop in the Communications box.

Resources for Those Facing Hard Times

Are you struggling with unemployment or underemployment? Is someone you know facing financial challenges caused by the current economic downturn? Do you need someone to talk to about the stresses you face? Then consider tapping into these resources.

At Grace

To...	Call...
Get help with resumes and practice interviewing skills	Janet Trentmann, 276-3383, jhtrentmann@aol.com
Connect to community resources to help make ends meet	Kara Jordahl, 664-8606
Speak confidentially to someone about your struggles and stresses	A Stephens Minister through Howard Kulzer, 280-7991, hkulzer@mchsi.com , or Pastor Cline, 276-6873, davidcline_pc@msn.com
Participate in a support group at Grace with others in a similar situation or offer your ideas about how the Grace congregation can support those who are struggling or in need	Stephanie Johnson, 276-6873, stephaniejohnson@q.com , or Ellen Wonderlin, 277-9312, fivewon@aol.com . (A group will form if enough people express interest.)

In the larger community

To...	Call...
Participate in a career support group at another Lutheran congregation	Lutheran Church of Hope, 222-1520. Its Hope@Work Career Support Ministry meets Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m., Lutheran Church of Hope, Room 130, 925 Jordan Creek Parkway, West Des Moines. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 276-1700. Its New Beginnings Career Support Group meets Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Resource Room, 8301 Aurora Ave., Urbandale.
Network with other recently unemployed professionals	Net2Work, 286-4950. Meets every other Monday, 10 a.m.-noon through the summer at the Des Moines Botanical and Environmental Center. Sponsored by the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Iowa Workforce Development, and Right Management.
Get emergency rent and utilities assistance	The Salvation Army, 282-3422
Locate the food pantry serving your neighborhood	DMARC, 277-6969. or visit www.dmreligious.org/asp/services/help.aspx
Acquire work-appropriate clothing (for women entering, returning or active in the workplace)	Cristina at the Working Women's Wardrobe located at the Young Women's Resource Center, 705 E. 2 nd , Des Moines, 244-4901, cheth@ywrc.org . Clothing is free. The initiative is a partnership between the center and Plymouth Congregational Church.
Find other community services such as housing, transportation, employment, financial assistance, health care, mental health care and counseling, or to get information and referrals for substance abuse treatment, elderly services, crisis intervention, and more	2-1-1 Serves Polk, Dallas and Warren counties. Confidential assistance is available 24-7. <i>En Español.</i>

Music Notes.....

It just doesn't seem possible that we are almost into the "summer vacation" mode. Schools will be out, Bible School will soon start, all sorts of activities will be planned, and people will take time off. The Brass, Bells and Chancel Choir will be on summer hiatus beginning the second Sunday of June. It has been a rewarding year for all the music groups at Grace. I have been pleased with their commitment, willingness, and their presentations to enhance the services for the worshipping congregation. It takes a lot of time and effort by these group members to prepare the wide variety of music for worship. A great deal of planning is done to make sure that all parts of the worship service fit together. I appreciate the congregational response to the various musical numbers that are added to the worship service. We are so fortunate to have these dedicated musicians that willingly give of their time and talent to give added enhancement to the worship at Grace. For me, I treasure the time I have to stand before each ensemble, youth through adult, and work with them to make music. I have directed many church ensembles during my career as a "music" instructor. None of them have had more talent and or total commitment as the groups here at Grace. It is truly a pleasure for me to be the director of these ensembles. I look forward to our resuming the rehearsals in the fall. Have a good restful summer and come back refreshed. I certainly hope that everyone would take the advantage of being a member of one of the groups at Grace.

It was fun to put together and plan the service when Bishop Burk was here. Thank you to the Grace Bells, Grace Brass and Chancel Choir for your willingness to be at both services. It was truly awesome!!! The Youth Choir and Chapel Chimers did an excellent job at providing music for the services on Mothers Day. It is wonderful to have the youth of the church take an active role during worship. Thank you to the parents for your support of the music activities here at Grace. Thank you to Bev Anderson for her constant help and accompanying of the Youth Choir. We will miss her when we start in the fall, but will be glad when she returns.

I have been working on the summer music schedule for Sunday worship. I have started to fill in some of the dates, but openings are available to those that would like to provide music during church in the months of June, July and August. If you are willing to provide music, please contact Rich at the church office or by e-mail, rdewein@msn.com. We are still in need of guitarists for the Saturday evening service, which begins May 30th at 5:00 p.m.. Again, contact Rich by phone or e-mail if you are able to provide help for this service.

Kent Weaver was recently recognized by the Iowa Motion Picture Association that he had received the *Award of Achievement* for his original score for the film "An Ideal Life." This film was shot in the Boone area. Congratulations to Kent on this accomplishment.

There is still time for students who wish to sign up for the music camp at Luther College. This camp is excellent. It is a good way to practice your musical skills and make many new friends. Be sure to check the bulletin board outside the main office.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve this congregation. I enjoy the freedom to provide a wide gamut of musical selections to enhance the worship service. This congregation is excellent in its singing and openness to new and varied ideas.

See you in church.
RICH



EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!!

Grace Kids Newsletter



Baby Room News

The babies & "big kids" have had a great time on their wagon rides with Miss Christina as well as large motor time in the gym with Miss Michelle!

Talk about growing, new things are happening in this class every day! Crawling, first steps, pulling up on things, and trying new foods! We all enjoy when the teachers sing with us and play those silly games that make us giggle!

Welcome back Miss Patty!! She is here for the summer! We plan to have a great summer full of more milestones in the baby room!

Preschool News

WOW! What we have learned and accomplished over the past school year. As the school year comes to a close we would like to thank all of you for your support and help throughout the year!

Big Thanks to Miss Bev for many fun story times!
Big Thanks to Pat Rehder for our new music time!
Big Thanks to Parent volunteers for field trips and extra thoughtfulness throughout the year!

We are looking forward to more fun learning experiences this summer.

7 of our friends are well prepared and ready to move on to kindergarten this fall! We wish them well!

From the desk of Heather **THANK YOU!**

We had a wonderful appreciation lunch & got to relax with 15 minute chair massages.

We do have preschool openings for the fall of 2009 pass the word.

We love to fill the center with children who are ready for a wonderful pre-k education!

Thank you



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Haley 5/23

Ayden 5/27

Theo 5/28

Kiernan 5/30

Miss Lindsey 5/31



Tiny Tot News

Seems like the theme of this newsletter is growth and accomplishments!

The 2 year old room is no different!
We have had a blast learning new things everyday!

This group is talking so well, singing songs they have learned, memorizing stories told many, many, many times! Recognizing colors and shapes, and of course being creative when doing an art project or playing with friends.

We plan to continue to have great fun this summer!

Explorer News

This year has flown by, but I guess that's what happens when 11, 2 & 3 year olds keep us busy every day!

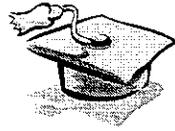
We are so proud of their accomplishments!

Most of our friends know how to write their names, recognized letters and numbers; have been potty trained or at least have worked very hard on it.

We have watched them grow in so many ways and all the while we have loved being creative, messy and having loads of fun with our friends.

We have 5 friends who will be moving up to the preschool class this summer and fall!

You're Invited



Graduation Ceremonies for The Preschool Class of 2009

Date: Sunday, June 7th

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Grace Kids Care Center
In Grace Hall

A short reception will follow

New Books in the Church Library

The Mitford Bedside Companion – by Jan Karon

A treasury of favorite Mitford scenes, author reflections on the bestselling series, jokes, prayers, trivia, casts of characters, and lots of person essays by the author.

God Must Really Love Colors – by Rondi DeBoer

A delightful book for children, with brilliant illustrations of some of God's creations in our world.

A Hat for Ivan – by Max Lucado

This lovely tale and its vivid illustrations wonderfully capture the truth that everyone was made by God for a special purpose. It was written for children and those who love them.

