



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church



Volume 2, Issue 8

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

July 21, 2009

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www.gracedm.org

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Worship Times

Saturday – 5:00 p.m. in Grace
Hall II

Sunday – 9:00 a.m. in Sanctuary

LaVoz de la Esperanza

Sunday - 10:45 am

One of my favorite authors, Douglas John Hall wrote "...the mission of the church is of central importance to Christian faith, so much so that it constitutes the most basic reason why the church must exist. Of course the church needs to have periods of retreat from the world, to recover its own identity through study and prayer, to renew its courage, and so on. But precisely in these times of renewal, the church learns once more that it does not exist for its own sake. A church that lived off to itself and was content to be a comfortable "fellowship" would contradict in the most flagrant way the whole message of the New Testament."

Translation, "we are a sent people, invitational, hospitable and serving."

In July we began a process of conversation with five groups of Grace members. From the clergy who call Grace home to the more mature members, from the middle age and younger members to the Latino members of the congregation. Together we are in a series of discussions centered around mission, invitation and hospitality. These discussions have at their core, the sense that the mission of Jesus matters deeply to us and to the world.

We live in a world where an increasing number of people do not have a church home and in fact where there are increasing numbers of people who do not know there is "Good News for all people." I hope to challenge the members of Grace to be people who are hospitable and invitational. I hope to challenge the people of Grace to tell the story of how God is at work in this place and through this people. I hope to challenge the people of Grace to speak more openly about a Word heard that mattered, about a meal shared that strengthened, about prayers that guided, about a welcome that is clearly seen as embracing all people, about a community of faith that serves the community in very specific ways. I hope to challenge us to clearly state that these stories are not stories about us but they are stories of Jesus who is at work in this world and into this faith, these stories, we have been baptized!

My hope is that very soon we may move the people of Grace to see again the central importance of the Church..."to proclaim the Gospel, to baptize, to make disciples of all people." The beginning of this is to grasp anew that the ministry of Grace is a work of the Spirit, is vital for the world, and therefore it is vitally important for us to be sent ones with an invitation to "come and see" and a hospitality that makes people comfortable enough to "be at home and feel like part of God's family."

You don't have to wait for this challenge to unfold this fall, even now, even tomorrow; there are those you already know who wonder where

Continued from page 1

this world is going and how they will get through next month. That is the door we are called to knock on, with a simple invitation about how we are fed and the hope that can be seen in a place called Grace.

See you in Church! Invite a friend

Pastor Cline

La Voz De La Esperanza

Now what? Is Esperanza still functioning? Is there a need for this ministry now that Hope Lutheran is seeking to do Latino ministry in Des Moines? Now what?

In partnership with the ELCA and with the agreement of the Executive Council at Grace we are in the process of visiting with every member of Esperanza. Yes, we continue to provide a Word and Sacrament ministry on Sunday morning in the Esperanza chapel. In fact the number of Latinos worshipping as part of the Esperanza outreach has significantly grown from the last few months! And yes, you are invited to “come and see.” One of the initial comments from Esperanza members are, “don’t confuse the leaders with the people.” In other words, just because leaders come and go, or just because leaders may have different ideas about how to form a community of faith, does not mean those ideas or feelings are the same as the people! The people of Esperanza value Grace and being part of an existing community. The people of Esperanza are eager to be involved in outreach and desire to be part of this ministry. The people desire vibrant worship and they seek to grow in faith.

In the next two months we will examine these initial comments by speaking to people inside and outside this community of faith. We will be active in inviting others to worship, and to “come and see.” And we will, together, discern if “we” are called to build this shared community of faith. If you have opportunity, attend one of the Esperanza services at 10:45 on Sunday morning. We may not speak the language but proclamation can be seen as well as heard.



Dear Members of Grace,

Thank you for your gift of \$230 to Lutheran Services in Iowa’s Refugee Cooperative Services (RCS). Over 300 refugees were resettled to the Des Moines area in 2008. Your generosity assists these children, families and individuals who are seeking a new and better life.

Sincerely,
Kaye M. Englin
Vice President of Advancement and Church Relations

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your May 29th gift of \$339.62, your Ascension Day offering, to the Emergency Food Pantry. Please know that your generosity is appreciated, both by the individuals and families we serve and also by the staff, partner agencies, and many wonderful volunteers who carry out DMARC’s work.

Sincerely,
Sarai Schnucker Rice
Executive Director



Sunday, August 9, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Luther Park Apartments Community Center
Freewill Offering
Additional Funds Provided by NE Thrivent Chapter
Everyone is Welcome!!

Lutheran Woman Today 2009-2010 Bible Study Overview

Saturday, August 15, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Krumm Business Center Centrum
Grand View University Campus

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Devotions at 9:00 a.m. At 9:30 a.m., Dr. Sarah Henrich, professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, will present an overview of the 2009-2010 Lutheran Women Today Bible Study, "To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans." All women are invited to attend. Registration is \$30 per person and includes lunch. Deadline for registration is August 5. Register online at www.renewingchurch.org under Workshops and Events, or call 515-263-6008 or email jwhite@grandview.edu.

Grace Men in Mission Afternoon at the Ball Game



Sunday, August 23, at 1:05 p.m.
Tickets cost \$6 per person, normally \$10. Seats are at the top row to allow elevator access and handicap accessibility. Tickets on sale Sunday, July 19th-Sunday, August 9th. Contact Max Palmer at 515-255-3304 or Carter Woodruff at 515-971-7219 if you have questions.

Senior Bible Camp!

Vacation Bible School isn't just for kids anymore! This summer, for the first time, we will be offering a two-day Bible camp for seniors ages 50 and up, and you won't want to miss it. It will be filled with Bible study, music, refreshments, a trip day – and did we mention FUN? It will be held during the week of August 24. The details are still being worked out by the planning team consisting of Joyce Lewis, Marilyn Vesey, Barb Tussing, and

Pastor Cline, so be sure to stay tuned for further details in upcoming bulletin announcements. Don't miss out!

Golf Outing

The 2009 Grace Lutheran Church Best Shot Golf Outing will be held Sunday, September 20, at Woodland Hills Golf Course. Tee off time is 4:00 p.m. It is a fun 9-hole tournament with a meal following.

Block Party!

Make plans to join your fellow neighbors for FUN & GAMES, FOOD & MUSIC and FROLICKING CLOWN(S) 😄

Plans call for this carnival to be held from 5-7:30 p.m. on Sept. 30 at Riley Park and Grace. To find out more as plans unfold, and how you can help, please contact:

- *Denny Rehder about musical entertainment
- *Kristin Medhurst about games
- *Joyce Lewis or Verda Swanson about food
- *Carla Peterman or Matt Jordahl about setting up and taking down
- *Sharon Morse about distributing flyers, being a roving Grace Ambassador at the party, or other outreach ideas

Flatbed Truck, Anyone?

You may have heard that we are hoping to be in the Beaverdale parade this year on September 19. The Lay Ministry Team is looking for people who are interested in planning this fun opportunity to let the neighborhood know we're here. We are also interested in using a flatbed truck if possible. If you or someone that you know has access to one, please contact Stephanie Johnson. Mark the date, and plan to walk with us or cheer us on!

Save the Dates!

Wednesday, September 9 – Confirmation parents meeting at 7:00 pm; details will follow
Sunday, September 13 – Intergenerational Rally Day for start of Sunday School year
Saturday, September 19 – Beaverdale parade
Saturday, September 26 – Confirmation retreat
Wednesday, October 7 – Super Wednesday and confirmation classes start

Music Notes.....



Do you have a season of the year that you like the best? As I walk through my yard, I'm not sure which of the four that I enjoy the most, since each season has something different to offer. But if I was to choose one, **at this time**, it probably would be summer, especially this summer. This year, with the extra amount of rain that we have received, it has helped to make the flowers, gardens, crops, grass, and countryside, explode with vibrant color and lush shades of green. Since we have a lot of varieties of flowers in our garden, I simply enjoy walking through the yard to look at the flowers and plants that are growing. I anxiously await the bloom of the new plantings to see if they truly look like the picture that originally lured me to that plant. This year we purchased 4 newly developed varieties of coneflower. Most everyone would recognize the native Iowa Prairie pinkish-purple one that grows wild in the ditches and pastures. But through hybridization, there now are varieties of pink, yellow, orange, green, and white and new this year, red. It is called Tomato Soup. It is just starting to show some color and I think it will be dazzling. With so many vibrant colors and shapes, isn't remarkable and awesome how each plant is created so that it has its own design and individuality, but when placed together it blends in harmony with each other? Maybe we should all take lessons from these creations.

In this issue it is time to begin planning for our fall start-up. On August 26, there will be a potluck for Grace Brass, Grace Bells and Chancel Choir at the Dewein house in West Des Moines. It will begin at 6:00 p.m.. I will provide drinks for everyone. We ask that you bring a dish (filled with food) to pass and share. It can be a meat dish, pasta, salad, dessert, etc. I hope that that we will have a large group in attendance. Yvonne and I enjoy having people come to our house. We can pray for good weather so we can be out on the deck.

Rehearsals for some of the ensembles will begin on September 2. Youth Bells, with Carol Woodruff as the director, will rehearse at 6:00 p.m. The Grace Bells will rehearse from 6:30-7:30 and Chancel Choir will have rehearsal from 7:45-8:45. The Chancel Choir will sing for services beginning on September 13. That will give us two rehearsals to have music ready. I know that we will need to replace a couple of people in Grace Bells, so if you are interested in ringing, we welcome you. Chancel Choir is open to anyone who likes to sing. I was very pleased with our progress last year and the variety of music that we presented for worship. Carol also graduated a couple of seniors and would welcome some extra hands to the Youth Bell Choir. Grace Brass will begin rehearsals on September 8. I believe, if my memory serves me correctly, this is the 20-year anniversary of this group. This church is blessed to have the commitment level of the people who like to share their talent and to serve in these ensembles.

I would like to make a "blanket" thank you to all those that have helped with the Saturday evening service for the summer. Again, your talents and commitment is appreciated as you serve the congregation of Grace. Eleven members have provided leadership as liturgists and pianists for the service.

In this edition of the Visitor, there is a form for the "Adopt-A-Bell" fund raiser. It has been a number of years since the bells have been refurbished. This includes replacing worn parts, polishing, and general maintenance. It is important that we maintain our bells as the replacement cost of our five-octave set would be over \$21,000 before shipping and insurance would be added. We are fortunate to have this set and need to be sure that they are kept in good repair. I hope that you will consider helping this fund.

I have been doing a great deal of planning for this next year. I have been listening to lots of new handbell music that will be fun for the ensemble. Besides the music for the various worship services, I have found some interesting arrangements for the Bells and Brass program in December. As there is a wealth of editions, I keep looking on the Choral Public Domain library for music that will enhance the worship service and believe that I have been fairly successful. It is a pleasure to keep planning ahead for the congregation at Grace.

See you in church.

RICH

The Body of Christ in Motion

“Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion for the world is to go about doing good and yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.” - Saint Teresa of Avila

If the above quote sounds familiar, it’s because you recently read it in a weekly devotion written by Cherie Rissman. The quote is a poetic rephrasing of what St. Paul writes about in his letter to the Corinthians: “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. . . . [Y]ou are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Cor. 12: 12, 27). Our eyes, our hands, our feet, our ears are not ours alone but Christ’s instruments. When we allow ourselves to be used in the various ways Christ calls us, it is a beautiful dance that is created.

Back on June 20-21, we celebrated World Refugee Day. That weekend was just one way in which we came together as various members of the same body to serve our brothers and sisters in need. In those two days, \$265 was raised for the refugee program at Lutheran Services in Iowa, and many in-kind donations were brought. Justice is an important concept in the Bible, and World Refugee Day was a way of getting involved. The lives of many refugee families will be touched in ways that we will never know. Because of your generosity, many families have the opportunity to start anew and to experience hope. The body of Christ came together to serve.

Shortly after that, during the week of June 28-July 2, we had our Vacation Bible School program called Camp E.D.G.E. Through that experience, 70 volunteers made it possible for 50 children to *experience and discover God everywhere*. 70 volunteers offered themselves by praying, bringing donations, being involved behind the scenes and in the midst of the action. Because of them, 50 children had a week of fun and of experiencing God’s love for them in a variety of engaging and unique ways. The fun continued each afternoon with special activities including painting tiles, rock climbing, a Living History Farms presentation, and a trip to Saylorville Lake to experience God’s creation. In addition, they delivered their food donations to the Des Moines Area Religious Council and then rounded off the week with a family night of food and sharing. It was a great week! The body of Christ came together to proclaim and to teach.

What does it mean for us to be the church? What does it mean for us to be mission-minded? At a recent continuing education event, the presenter talked about the difference between *going* to church and *being* the church. World Refugee Day and Vacation Bible School were two ways in which we sought to *be* the church. Both of those events were important, and yet only the beginning of the Spirit’s work. Did you know, for example, that 17 out of 34 Vacation Bible School families this year were not member families of Grace? What will we do with that opportunity? What will we do with the others that come before us?

Although we can never hope to meet all the needs in the world, we should always be on the lookout for any opportunities that Christ places before us. We are a *sent* people – sent to serve, sent to teach, sent to proclaim, sent to love, sent to extend the arms of Christ to all. Being mission-minded means that we always look beyond ourselves, beyond the walls that are both physical and non-physical. Our mission doesn’t always end when an event ends. The Spirit’s work continues beyond the time when the lights are turned off and the building is closed for the day. Let us boldly step forward in faith and with a mission-minded lens, and let us continue to be Christ’s body in motion.

“Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

Stephanie Johnson





Welcome to Grace!

We recently received new members into our Grace family as we were getting ready to spring into the summer. They are Josh, Ashley, and Ava Lund; and Amy Morris and Matt Ziska. Pastor Mike Herschberger and his family will soon be joining us as well.

Welcome to all of you! We're excited to welcome you into our family. Here's a little bit of information about the Lund family to help us get to know them better.

“Hi. We are Josh, Ashley, and Ava Lund. We are very excited to be members of Grace Lutheran Church. We will be celebrating three years of marriage in July and last October we were blessed with the birth of our daughter, Ava. We moved back to Des Moines at the end of September. Josh works for a local printing company, and Ashley will be starting back to work in long-term care. In our spare time, we enjoy watching sports, playing games, and spending time with our daughter. We are looking forward to meeting people in the congregation and getting involved in the church.”

Interested in Sailing?

If you have just completed grades 6 through 12 and have ever wanted to learn to sail, it's your lucky day! Lutheran Lakeside Camp is having a special Sailing Camp on August 2–7, where you can learn to sail anything from a Sunfish or Hobie Cat to the one and only Glass Elevator! One of our church's recent high school graduates, Jonathan Fry, will be assisting with this camp and he would love to see you up at Lutheran Lakeside Camp!

If you're interested, hurry and get your registration form from the camp Web site at www.lutheranlakeside.com, or call the camp at 712-336-2109.





Would you swap a \$10 bill for a \$5 bill? That may not sound like an even trade, but what if it was for World Hunger? Might you do it then?

The Southeastern Iowa Synod has recently made \$50 grants available to congregations. The idea behind the grant is to use it as seed money in order to raise more money for world hunger. Grace Lutheran Church is among those participating in this challenge. Here's how it will work:

Ten people in the congregation will be given a \$5 bill. Each of those ten people will approach someone else to ask if that new person would be willing to swap the \$5 for \$10. If you are that new person (Person B) and would like to take part in the fundraising, you would then give the first person (Person A) \$10, and in exchange, you would take the \$5. Person A will bring that \$10 to the office, and you, with the \$5 that you now have in hand, will approach someone else to ask them if they'd be willing to do the same thing. As the money is collected, it is to be brought to the office.

The idea is to continue this process over the next few weeks, with the original \$5 bills continually being passed from person to person. In the end, the original \$50 will be returned to the office. That seed money, as well as the money that will have been raised, will all be returned to the Southeastern Iowa Synod office. It will be presented to a group of pastors who are going on a nationwide tour, called "Tour de Revs", to raise this money.

The last day for this effort will be **Sunday, August 9**. By that day, if you are holding onto a \$5 bill or someone else's donation, please return it to the office so that we can send in the money. **Please note:** If you are not comfortable with donating as much as \$10 when someone asks you but would still like to participate, any amount of money that you would like to give will help toward the cause. Every dollar is helpful. Let's see what we can raise!



Sympathy is extended to Frances Engquist and family upon the death of her husband, Don. He passed away on Thursday, July 2, at their home in Iowa City. Don was a member of Grace Lutheran Church for 56 years and during those years he was involved in many activities including Men in Mission and the Ushers. Don volunteered at the DMARC Food Pantry and was a driver for cancer patients.

Military Veterans and/or Family

If you can use a wheelchair, an electric scooter, a walker, crutches, or a cane, as a member of the military these are yours to use at no charge. Call Roy Mann at 276-3672.

The logo for Grace Kids Care Center features a large, colorful border made of hands holding each other. The hands are in various colors (red, yellow, green, blue, purple) and are arranged in a circle around the text. The text is centered within the border.

Grace Kids Care Center

Providing quality care in a Christian environment for children
Ages 6 weeks-5yrs.

Open Monday -Friday
7a.m.-6p.m.

Full time daycare with a preschool program included for children 2-5yrs.

For more information call
276-0943

The following is a summary of Grace's year-to-date financial position (excluding Grace Kids Care Center) at May 31, 2009:

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offerings	\$205,748.52	\$216,400.00	\$(10,651.48)
Other Income	\$ 35,420.44	\$ 35,224.75	\$ 195.69
Total Income	\$241,168.96	\$251,624.75	\$(10,455.79)
Expenses	\$240,640.09	\$264,770.46	\$(24,130.37)
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ <u>(528.87)</u>	\$ <u>(13,145.71)</u>	\$ <u>13,674.58</u>

Actual pledged offerings are under budget by \$12,263.50. Expenses continue to be monitored closely and remain under budget which offsets the shortage in income.

It will be important to keep pledges current, as we approach the summer months, when offerings have a tendency to decrease.

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

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Daycare Income	\$114,952.35	\$117,527.00	\$(2,574.65)
Daycare Expenses	\$116,680.73	\$113,913.98	\$ 2,766.75
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ <u>(1,728.38)</u>	\$ <u>3,613.02</u>	\$ <u>(5,341.40)</u>



**Council Meeting Minutes
Grace Lutheran Church
June 23, 2009**

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

Following devotions by Pastor Cline, the agenda was adopted, minutes of the May 26th meeting were approved, staff reports were accepted as was the report from the Finance Committee.

Jeff Farrell of the Personnel Committee offered an update on the forms needed to fully implement our Child Abuse Policy. By consensus the Council directed the Personnel Committee to be responsible for any needed background checks of individuals working with our youth.

Pastor Cline offered an update on the status of La Voz de Esperanza after the departure of the Avendanos. It was agreed that, contingent on continued funding from the Synod and ELCA, we continue providing a Spanish language service through the summer. Then, with input from El Puente (our bridge group made up of Grace and Esperanza members), a decision would be made for the fall.

A request from the Lay Ministry Team to conduct fund-raising for a World Hunger appeal was approved. A request from Rich Dewein on behalf of the Grace Bells to conduct an "Adopt a Bell" fund-raiser for refurbishing our bells was approved.

Pastor Cline raised the issue of funds to support the Drake Ministry. This has been relatively inactive since we were reduced to a single pastor. It was decided to offer a lay group of interested people the opportunity to run it for a year. If it doesn't seem to be viable, the funds would be returned to Campus Ministry.

Pastor Cline announced that, as a part of the Synod-wide "Crossing Borders" program, Grace would host one of the Tanzanian pastors next fall for three Tuesday morning Bible Studies and for Reformation Sunday.

After approving a motion for adjournment, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Denny Rehder, secretary

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Church Council

Dear friends in Christ:

There seems to be no warning. We were enjoying an unusually long spring, and now, summer seems to be on us with a vengeance. I sincerely hope that we are not facing a month of over 90 degree days as we have just endured. Driving through the countryside on a recent trip to the hospital in Columbia, I noted that the moisture from the many sometimes violent storms and the bright sun have created the sauna bath conditions under which hay and corn plants seem to be doing quite well. Farmers cutting and raking and baling hay has always seemed to me as a particular sign of God's abundance...maybe three cuttings this year? Who can tell?

It seems to me at times like ours we seriously doubt God's abundance. We fear not only economic problems in our country and world and our own pocketbooks, but there is such diffuse fear of unnamed threats "out there". Church people are definitely not immune. There was a news special on how even "megachurches" have had to pull back on ministries, cut staff, and make other future plans. One evangelical Christian who works in church real estate and investments who was interviewed indicated his frustration with a pastor who, presented with all the best data and projections by faithful believers who are specialists decided, nonetheless, not to listen to these naysayers and to charge ahead with plans anyway. Some church doors have closed; one is doing some creative funding by locating in an abandoned shopping mall and renting out the rest of the space as income property.

This story tells me again that sometimes we misinterpret God's gift of abundance. Some believers seem to be saying that God will endorse whatever acquisitive desires you have if you are "right" with him and obedient. This is a God of wealth...a God of success...not the God of Israel. Such an image of God is bound to fail.

The abundance of God that I see is sort of like that hay field. It is a wealth of sweetness, goodness, and blessing that grows of itself. We do nothing to create it. We must however, claim this gift. It is the encouragement and love of God that upholds us so that we can endure and live through the worst of what we might experience. It is the encouragement and love that enables us to go and do what we can to be a source of strength and healing to others. That is the abundance God gives. Even in the

midst of disaster and want, people who trust in God in this way will see themselves as rich indeed. They will bless themselves and others.

Pastor Don

Oberammergau
Passion Play and
Cities of
Martin Luther
Heritage Tour of Germany
June, 2010
with Pastor Don Rothweiler

Itinerary: 8 Days; extensions are possible

Depart: Sunday, June 13

Arrive: Monday, June 14 Munich

Tuesday, June 15: Passion Play in

Oberammergau

Overnight in the Bavarian village of

Graswang

Wednesday, June 16: Rothenburg and the Romantic Road

Thursday, June 17: Eisenach and the Wartburg Castle; Luther and J.S. Bach sites

Friday, June 18: Erfurt: Luther's University Town and the Augustinian monastery where he became a monk

Saturday, June 19: Leipzig; home of J. S. Bach and the East German freedom movement

Sunday, June 20: Wittenberg; Luther's home town and site of his greatest work; worship in St. Mary church where he preached.

Monday, June 21: Return home; Munich

Indicate your interest in a full brochure with costs by contacting Pastor at (573) 348-5948 or e-mail at: donrothweiler@yahoo.com

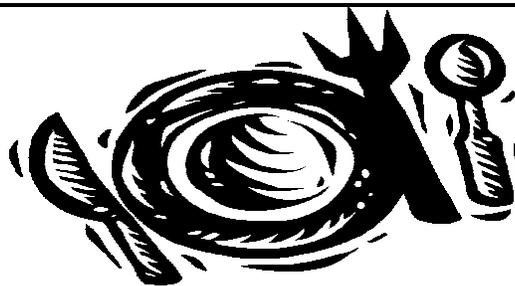


A Full Plate

Featuring ideas to help us live out our mission theme –

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

July 2009



Middle-Schoolers Dine with Sudanese Children

Last month, a dozen Grace middle-school youth and their friends trekked to Capitol Hill Lutheran Church on the city's east side to help with the church's Summer Bible Buddies program. The program takes place each Wednesday evening in the summer for neighborhood children and includes supper, worship and Sunday school-like classes.

The youth served up plates full of lasagna, green beans, and garlic toast, handed out ice cream sandwiches, and visited with the children. Most of the elementary-age children live across the street from the church and are Sudanese.

Jennie Wonderlin, incoming 8th grader, said, "It's good the kids have a place to go because they were outside throwing rocks at each other when we got there. They were so happy to see us, and they followed us everywhere. My friends and I would like to go back."

Following dinner, the youth played mini-golf and made ice cream sundaes. The event was organized by seventh grade students and their parents.

Seth Kallestad Inspires Effort to Collect Funds for Water

Earlier this year, Seth Kallestad and his classmates at Des Moines' Hubbell Elementary School embarked on a quest to learn all about water, including how it's essential to life and not available to everyone equally.

Seth remembered Msindo Parish in Tanzania and how some have access to water that flows from the top of the mountain while others do not. And, he recalled those living on the dry side of the mountain cannot raise any dairy cows available through the heifer project supported by Grace.

So Seth boned up on the subject by reading books in the church's library. With help from Jane Ridnour, member of the Companion Congregation

Committee, he shared what he learned with his class. His class then chose to study the subject through the eyes of the Msindo village – and raise money to help.

The effort netted \$178.24, which was given to Grace to support a future water project there.

VBS Kids Send Boat Full of Food to DMARC

Children attending last month's vacation Bible school filled a large inflatable raft with non-perishable food items. Then a group of children and adult volunteers delivered them in person to the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry.

Urbandale Food Pantry Seeks Fresh Produce

The Urbandale Food Pantry needs help to provide fresh, nutritious produce to its clients this summer. If you have surplus fruits and vegetables from your garden, you can donate them to the food pantry.

Donations will be accepted during the pantry's normal operating hours – 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The pantry is located at 7611 Douglas Ave., Suite 31. Call 251-6688 if you are unable to deliver your produce during these hours.

Food Bank of Iowa Needs Help

The Food Bank of Iowa needs help to sort and box food items weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The organization is looking for groups of 10-15 people who are age 16 or older and able to lift 25 pounds. Call Amber Diehm Heuer, 564-0330, ext. 218, to schedule an appointment.

Ideas or information to share? Email

fivewon@aol.com, call 277-9312, or drop in the Communications box.

DMARC ANNOUNCEMENTS

DMARC at the I-Cubs

All summer long at Sunday home Iowa Cubs games, fans can bring three canned food items to donate in exchange for a free general admission ticket. For \$3.00 more, tickets can be updated to Reserve Grandstand Seating. **The dates of the games are July 19, August 23, August 30 and September 6.**

Sack Saturday Opportunities

Are you looking for a way to get more involved in the community? Each month the Des Moines Area Religious Council seeks volunteers to participate in Sack Saturdays. Participants are asked to commit two hours to greeting shoppers at local grocery stores and encouraging either their purchase of sacks of food items costing \$5.00, individual items of food (such as peanut butter, cereal, pasta, soups) or cash. The food items collected are used to supply local food pantries in the Des Moines area. Money collected is used to purchase additional food items. This is an ideal opportunity for church, business or civic groups to work together to help meet a need in our community.

To sign up for a Sack Saturday, contact Cindy Morton at 277-6969 or 238-4593.

FREE STORE NEEDS

The Free Store helps CFI Domestic Violence Services clients. This year through May they have had 109 requests, including 164 children who have received 151,000 lbs of furniture worth \$165,000. They have a need for strong people who can pick up furniture on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and help move furniture for clients on Saturday mornings.

For more information or to schedule a pickup call 225-2020 x4 or www.thefreestore.org.

August 3-7

CHILDREN'S FINE ARTS CAMP

Discover God's Story through the Arts! The Children's Fine Arts Camp will be held August 3-7, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at St. Mark Lutheran in West Des Moines. Children will be treated to learning about a variety of musical instruments and prepare for a finale musical, David and Goliath. The musical will be held on Sunday, August 8 at the 8:30 worship service. The camp is open to the public; there is a small registration fee. The camp is for students who are K-6th grade. Contact Mark Babcock at mark@stmarkwdm.org for more information.

August 4

CONCERT AT FORT DES MOINES MUSEUM: FLYING PIG FIDDLE AND BANJO

The Fort Des Moines Museum is hosting a summer concert series. All shows are free and open to the public and begin at 6:00 p.m. Call 282-8060 or visit www.fortdesmoines.org for more information.

August 6-7

BACK-TO-SCHOOL GIVEAWAY

CROSS Ministries is planning for the 17th Annual Back-to-School Giveaway to be held on August 6 and 7 at Cottage Grove Ave. Presbyterian Church. Last year they were able to assist more than 800 children from low- and no-income families with the supplies they needed to begin school. With the challenges of the current economy, the demand could be even greater this year. They would appreciate any help you might be able to give. Because of the need to package the supplies for various grade levels prior to the giveaway, they are asking for the donations to be made by Friday, July 31.

For every \$12.50 you donate, one child living in poverty in our community can receive a backpack filled with grade-appropriate school supplies.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

We are asking for your help! It has been several years since the 5-Octave set of handbells have been refurbished. I contacted Marlow Cowan of Ankeny who is one of the few people in the United States that does handbell repair. Marlowe has done several small jobs for us when we have needed repairs that I am not able to accomplish and he has done an excellent job! Over the years, parts (springs, bushings, washers, etc.) have a tendency to wear out and need to be replaced. In my contact with Marlow, he gave me a cost of \$4075 plus tax for the 5-Octave set. I have been able to budget over half of that amount. We could refurbish the middle 3-Octaves of the set at a cost of \$2900 plus tax. While this would be okay, it would be best to do the entire set at one time.

I proposed an **Adopt-A-Bell Campaign** to the Church Council and they agreed that this could take place. A Charitable Contribution of \$50 could be made to the church with the stipulation that it is to be used to refurbish the bells. We hope that we can raise between \$1500/\$2000 to allow making all of the necessary repairs.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of the Bell Choirs. They are an active part of the worship service here at Grace and to enhance the worship of our congregation.

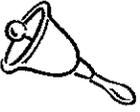
If you wish to contribute to this venture, please use the bottom portion of this flyer. Please fill out the information needed, and return it to the office with your contribution. We wish to "Thank You" in advance for your generous contribution.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount enclosed _____

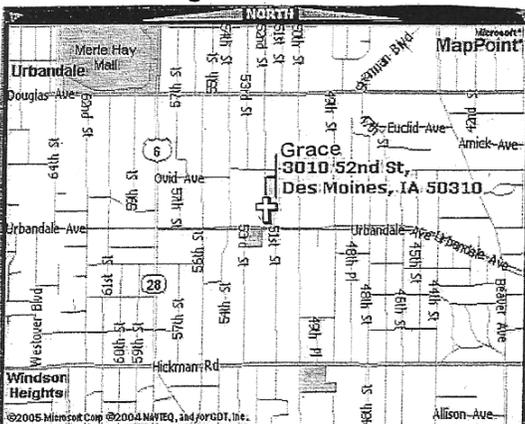
Thank You!



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email: graceluth5@msn.com
Web: www.gracedm.org

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A Place to Grow in Grace

August Birthdays



1 Cathleen Swanson
Jack Olson
Laura Schwarz
2 Kevin Drury
Deborah Helt
3 Michael Hansen
4 Duane Bass
Matthew Trickel
Ryan Kretschmer
5 Roland Zimany
Ralph Helt
Elizabeth Rudisill
Kayleigh Medhurst
6 Carla Peterman
Lee Gannon
Amy Young
7 Kenneth DeBolt
Christina Buell
Layne Weber
8 Teri Koch
9 Ross Lewis
Katherine Lenhart
Olga Rethmeier
David Hefner
10 Delores Larsen
Barbara Guyer
Jeffrey Anderson
11 Linda Ulrick
Lisa Richmann
David Bondura
12 Ruth Ann Allen
Anthony Zingale
13 Paul Johnson
Maria Jacobo
Josefina Ruiz
Heidi Hotopp
Carsen Cox
14 Darlene Stuckle
Angela Hansen
Kerry Witten
Rachel Welty
15 Dorothy Hiney
Connie Heuton
Duane Johnson
Alesha Downard
J. (Alex) Pilon
Adam Dostalík

16 Cheryl Weatherington
17 Jeffrey Rethmeier
18 Jim Taylor
Beverly Russell
Michael Best
19 Ruth Berven
Keith Eaton
Alyssa Weaver
20 Marilyn Vesey
Janette Grodt
Pablo Ramos
Patricia Anderson
Brent Ridnour
Cooper Mortenson
21 Tom McCleary
Nathaniel Heller
22 Bill Reyes
23 Marvin Johns
Janice Nordeen
Mark Mattes
24 Grace Schroeder
Janet Trentmann
John Gronert
Linda Gronert
Barry Moon
Sarah Carlson
25 Scott Honsey
Todd Sindergard
26 Heather Podlich
27 Tim Nelson
Sean Anderson
28 Richard Randolph
Jim Englehart
Philip Snyder
Brandon Niemuth
Jayden Steffy
29 Palma Williams
Susan Halblom
Todd Prescott
30 Janet Gross
Leonard Ringgenberg
Janet Habick
31 Eleanor Carlson
Gary Nehmer