



# THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

## Grace Lutheran Church



Volume 3, Issue 4

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

July 20, 2010

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

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### Worship Times

Saturdays – 5:00 p.m.  
Esperanza Chapel

Sundays – 9:00 a.m.  
Sanctuary  
(Spanish translation provided on  
July 25, Aug. 1, 15, 29)

Spanish language services  
10:45 on Aug. 8 and 22  
in Esperanza Chapel

### SAYING “THANK YOU” and “PLEASE”

My mother thought these were magic words. “Thank you” when receiving a gift seems to mean more than a barely audible grunt, and “please” is usually better received than “gimme”! I offer both to you in the order above, though most often we were told to say, “please” and “thank you”.

Thank you for your continuing kindness during this time that I get to spend with you. Thank you for your presence in the life of Grace and your prayers for me and this church. Thank you for caring about the future of Grace as well as cherishing its past.

Thank you for letting me go to Bible Camp again (with 5 neat young women who will be confirmed this fall). Thank you for being the people of God in this time and place.

Thank you for your patience with me and with the process of rediscovering yourselves and then calling a new pastor to lead you into God’s future.

That process is picking up speed with this issue of Grace’s newsletter. Inside is a questionnaire that will help the soon-to-be formed Call Committee know more about the present reality of Grace and aid them in their search for one who will be your pastor. In addition to the questionnaire, there will be forms available in both the office and the Gathering Hall for you to nominate someone else, or yourself, to be a part of the seven-member Call Committee which will be formed soon after August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Here’s where the “please” comes in. Please take the time to fill out that questionnaire and return it to the church office or the box in the Gathering Hall. It will be helpful to the Call Committee and assist in the future direction of Grace. AND, please take seriously who you think would be a dedicated and capable member of a Call Committee here at Grace. Nomination cards are available in the church office or the Gathering Hall. Again, you can nominate yourself. If nominating another person, it would be a good idea to speak to them about your plans and discern their interest. These nominations are also due in by Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.

One more “please”. I’d be delighted to listen to you regarding your thoughts, concerns, hopes and dreams for Grace and its ministry on the corner of Urbandale and 52<sup>nd</sup>. Please call the church and Jackie will assist you in finding a time we can spend together.

One more “thank you”. It’s for your patience while I try to be a good husband and friend of some who are far from Des Moines. I don’t go back to Zion in Anoka. They have called a fine new pastor. I will be doing the funeral service of a dear friend in Crosby, MN, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July and taking a brief time with family after that. There is a neighboring pastor on call for emergencies who is available through the church office. And, wherever I go, my cell phone is close at hand.

For you, for Grace, for the gift of its past and God’s promise of a future,  
Thanks be to God.

Pastor Tim Johnson

## Council Notes

On Sunday, July 11, 2010 people interested in plans for the future of the Latino/English Worship Services met. Our primary goal is to create one community to worship and serve God. Beginning this fall, we will not hold two services at 10:45 a.m. each Sunday, but Spanish translation and/or worship will be provided weekly. We agree we have not found perfect solutions, but we are searching for our next steps as one community. We have tried several formats for services and will try others. Please talk to Council members if you have strong positive or negative feelings about a specific style. We already discovered that what one person likes, another finds distracting. We shared ideas, experiences, and hopes. We are looking for ways to serve all members of our congregation. We provide hearing assistance for those with hearing problems, CDs for those who can't attend, translation for those who do not speak enough English, and Communion in the pews or at home for those who need it. Again, our goal is to create one community at Grace with many groups and ways to satisfy the needs of our community, nurture, learn, and live lives of service to our community and the greater community, led by the Holy Spirit.

We are conducting a roll review to find those on our roster who have been inactive for over two years and should be removed.

The next Council action concerns the Call Committee. The Call Process involves mourning the loss of the former pastor and considering the type of pastor needed to lead the congregation in the future. An evaluation (in our case, a survey) is made by the congregation of needs and talents; then, a Ministry Site Profile is filled out to communicate facts and define the church to the congregation and pastors who might be interested in serving. A short informational booklet can be made to illustrate more clearly, with words and pictures, the church history and area. Finally the Call Committee, a balanced, varied group selected from volunteers, is appointed by the Council. They will receive training from the Bishop's office and review the information gathered by the Council from all of the previous actions.

- If you are interested in serving on the Call Committee or would like to nominate someone, please fill out a form found in the Gathering Hall.
- If you are interested in working on the Ministry Site Profile (wordsmiths) or the informational booklet (scrapbookers), please let Mary Freimuth Helt (255-6433, mlfhelt@aol.com) know or give your name to Jackie.

Please consider filling out a survey letting your thoughts be known. Obtain a survey in the Gathering Hall or look at the website or Friendly Visitor. We want your responses. We want to understand fully what our congregation thinks and feels to call the right person.

### Tentative Timeline

<b>July 15, 2010</b>	Friendly Visitor, surveys and Call Committee nominations forms ready to go.
<b>July 18, 2010</b>	Forms completed
<b>August 8, 2010</b>	Deadline for all forms, completed by congregation, to be turned into the drop box in the Gathering Hall
<b>August 24, 2010</b>	Drafts or plans due of other forms
<b>August 29, 2010</b>	Announcement of Call Committee
<b>September, 2010</b>	Training and planning of Call Committee. Completion of all forms for Call Process, including Ministry Site Profile, Informational Booklet, and review of surveys and information gathered about us.
<b>October, 2010</b>	Communication of names from the ELCA and synod office. Interviews may take place or be scheduled.
<b>November, 2010</b>	Interviews continue. Call may be extended.
<b>January or February</b>	Call accepted. (We hope.)

Thank you, Pastor Johnson, for all your help, guidance, nurturing, and leadership during this difficult transition time. Your knowledge, preaching and teaching, kindness, and pastoral shepherding have been invaluable.

Mary Freimuth Helt, President of Grace Congregational Council

# Transitional Questionnaire

Age:

Sex: M or F (*circle one*)

Years a member of Grace:

Positions held/volunteering done/group participation:

Self description: very active / active / somewhat active / occasionally active / rarely active (*circle one*)

How would you briefly describe Grace to someone who had never been here?

Briefly share a favorite memory regarding Grace:

What is the most important thing Grace does?

What is Grace good at as a church?

What isn't Grace good at as a church?

How faithful is Grace at following Jesus? strongly faithful / sort of / not very (*circle one*)

The council is doing a great job / good job / OK / not so good (*circle one*)

*(continued on next page)*

If I could tell the council one thing, it would be:

If I could tell the interim pastor one thing it would be:

Name one primary thing Grace needs:

What needs changing at Grace?

What must not change at Grace?

If I could tell the call committee one thing it would be:

List three gifts/abilities/qualities that are essential for you in a new pastor:

Suggestions for Grace's future:

1. Rank the following in importance / priority for Grace in your opinion (1 is highest)
  - a. \_\_\_ Lutheran Worship
  - b. \_\_\_ Music Program
  - c. \_\_\_ Sunday School and Children's Education
  - d. \_\_\_ Fellowship Activities
  - e. \_\_\_ Multicultural Ministry
  - f. \_\_\_ Outreach to the Community
  - g. \_\_\_ Benevolence (\$ support for the wider church)
2. Rank the following in importance / priority for a new pastor at Grace in your opinion (1 is highest):
  - a. \_\_\_ Lutheran theology / worship / sermon
  - b. \_\_\_ Bilingual
  - c. \_\_\_ Experience (at least second call)
  - d. \_\_\_ Children's education experience
  - e. \_\_\_ Youth work experience
  - f. \_\_\_ Other
3. Answer the following by :1) Strongly Agree; 2) Agree; 3) Neither Agree nor Disagree; 4) Disagree; 5) Strongly Disagree:
  - a. \_\_\_ Grace is faithful
  - b. \_\_\_ Grace meets my needs and my family's needs for worship
  - c. \_\_\_ Grace meets my needs and my family's needs for social outreach ministry
  - d. \_\_\_ I have friends at Grace
  - e. \_\_\_ I am proud to tell people outside of Grace about our church
  - r. \_\_\_ My Bible education needs are met through Grace programs
4. Grace excels at worship experience. Regularly / Often / Sometimes / Rarely (*circle one*)

**Please return this questionnaire to the church by August 8, 2010.**

Dear Friends,

It is a peaceful evening here on St. Joseph Island. The lake is so calm and beautiful!

I am thinking of the wonderful folks at Grace Lutheran and want to thank you for the cards and messages I received while I was in the hospital and in my son's apartment convalescing. Each message was so special and comforting.

It is so good to feel better! Thank you for your love and prayers!

Sincerely,  
Bev Anderson

### **Help Needed – Lutheran World Relief**

The Lutheran World Relief Committee needs help! We need people who would like to shop for items for the kits we purchase with the money contributed. We purchase items when they are on sale a couple times a year. Please contact Pat Bordt for more information.

### ***Take a peek...***

... into the display cabinet in the Gathering Hall. Our daycare children are proudly sharing some crafts they have made. Stop, look, and wonder at what small hands can do!

### ***Volunteer Central***

Have you had a chance to check out our relatively new Volunteer Central lately? It can be found outside Esperanza chapel on Saturdays and in the Gathering Hall on Sundays and will hopefully become a convenient location for people to go in order to sign up for various volunteering needs and activities. Recently the Habitat for Humanity sign-up sheets were located there, and we currently have a binder of sign-up sheets for various worship related needs – Ushers, Lectors, Communion Assistants, Coffee Servers, Altar Guild, Sound System. Interested in serving in one or more of these ways? Sign up at Volunteer Central! Not sure what those pieces are all about? Feel free to contact the appropriate coordinators whose names and phone numbers can be found in the inside cover. Or ask someone who already does it. We're glad to share what we do!

### ***New Fellowship Committee Information!***

Did you enjoy the zany fun of Pink Summer earlier this year? Did you have a good time at the block party last fall? Would you like to be a part of planning events like these (or others) during the year?

If you are a "people person", then this might be the group for you! We are looking for people to plan 2-4 fellowship events over the course of the year, and the events can be as simple or as creative as the committee would like to dream up. Interested? Give Stephanie Johnson a call at 276-6873.

### ***Hear ye, Hear ye..... maybe this is for you!!***



We are looking for a few more volunteers to operate sound and video recordings during church. Brian Barks is willing to provide you with training. He will give you an overview of the system and will be your guide on

Sunday mornings until you feel comfortable to run on your own. If you are interested, please let Brian know the next time you are in church.



**Do you want to receive your Friendly Visitor sooner, save paper and church money? Have a Friendly Visitor**

**notification sent to your e-mail inbox each month!** Please sign up in the Gathering Hall or call the church office, if you'd like to stop your paper copy from coming to your mailbox, and begin receiving an e-mail notification each month instead. This e-mail would be sent to you as soon as the new issue of the newsletter is on the Grace website, beginning with the next newsletter. It will include the Grace web link, [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org). Once you log on, it will take you to the homepage where you can simply click on the link to the current Friendly Visitor. From there, you may read it or, if you prefer, print it out. This is also an easy way to send Grace news to your family, friends or neighbors. Your e-mail address will be used for our office database only. If you have any questions, please call Lori Fry (967-0736) or Jackie (276-6873) in the church office.

## Our Chance to Grow Spiritually

Last month, the “Stewardship Thought” referred to good stewards as people who manage what the owner gives them to accomplish the owner’s purposes.

The Bible and the church teach that as God created everything, all things belong to God. God has entrusted us with all we have: our intelligence, our abilities, opportunities, and financial resources.

God is the owner. We are the managers. We are accountable to God for the way we use His gifts. He expects a good return. We need to think carefully about the way we use His resources and the returns they bring.

Stewardship is, therefore, an opportunity for us to please the Lord and to grow spiritually as we do so. The problem is that we can confuse who owns the things we manage. If we do not believe that God is the creator and thereby the owner, we will be tempted to keep all we can, and do with it what we like.

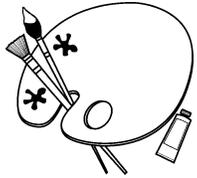
Reluctance to accept that God owns everything indicates a need to grow spiritually. Even when we accept God’s ownership, it will be a struggle to limit our wants so as to be generous in what God wants. We receive help in our struggle by praying that God would give us more generous spirits. Generosity is not our doing but is a gift of God’s spirit.

The struggle to free ourselves from selfishness is a spiritual battle worth fighting. Praying to be generous is a prayer worth praying. Will you join us in prayer for our growth in generosity? The cross you received after church, and hopefully are carrying, is a reminder to pray for growth as a steward.

It is a mark of a good steward to be generous, particularly to those who can never repay us or even give us thanks. Generosity pleases God, it comes from His very nature. To allow us to be generous, the Congregation plans and conducts a yearly stewardship pledge drive. It is an opportunity. We will write more of this in future “Stewardship Thoughts”.

For now, pray that God will lead each of us to be better stewards of what we have received.

The Stewardship Committee



### **Thank you, Mural Painters!**

Hopefully everyone has noticed the brightly colored murals decorating our Sunday school hallways. Noah and his crusade of animals are happily marching downstairs in our elementary hallway. Noah and his animals can't wait to escort our young students to their classrooms this fall.

Large images of athletic, musical and adventurous teens welcome our middle school and high school youth as they climb the stairs to their rooms. Guiding scripture is painted near each colorful figure as an ongoing reminder to our teens to rejoice and celebrate daily in God's love.

The mural project was funded by the Endowment Committee this spring and completed in May. A local artist, Doug Applegate, drew the images and our youthful members (in age and spirit) helped paint.

Thank you to the following people who joined in the painting:

Haley, Adam and Kari Dostalick  
Leslie, Tammy and Chuck Denton  
Katie and Anne Farrell  
McKenzie, Sierra and Susanne Carney  
Natasha Voelker  
Robbie, Jessie, Jon and Cherie Rissman  
Stephanie Johnson  
Marion Nehmer  
Jackie Holmes

### **Luther Park Auxiliary Ice Cream Social**

Sunday, August 8,  
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Luther Park Apartments Community Center

Free will offering



# **A VBS THANK YOU!!!**

Vacation Bible School was a blast this year! From daily puppet scripts to crazy songs to rotating stations to enrichment activities to dropping eggs out of windows (don't worry – we didn't leave a mess!), it was an amazing week filled with God's Word and the wonder of his love. Altogether, there were over 100 children and teen and adult helpers who took part in the week, and all have their own stories to share. It was a meaningful experience to share the week with children and volunteers from Bread of Life church, and it was powerful to see a rainbow of colors whenever we looked out over the sea of faces.

At the risk of leaving someone out, here's the list of incredible scholarship and supply donors, hands-on volunteers, and behind the scenes helpers. None of what happened that week would have been possible without them. A heartfelt thanks goes out to all.

*Lydia Circle  
Dee and Michael Hummel  
Julie Anderson  
Norm and Lenora Iverson  
Delores and Leonard Larsen  
Gary and Mindy Scholten  
Paul and Melissa Kallenbach  
Ken and Eleanor Carlson  
Don and Gloria Moon  
Marilyn Nizzi  
Harlan Mortenson  
Lois Slye  
Charlotte and Moe Nielsen  
Mary and Dick Johannsen  
Barb Tussing  
Joanne Johnson  
Susanne Carney  
Lori Fry  
Diane Jessen  
Jane Ridnour  
Terin Stanley  
Michelle and Rich Voelker  
Stephanie Johnson  
Mary Harden  
Ilisha Carter  
Dezare  
Glenda  
Porsha  
Karen and Randy Taylor  
Emily Dungan  
Joyce Lewis  
Liz Gronert  
Riley Mortenson  
Adam Dostalík  
DeVee Trickel  
Sarah Weuve  
Nely Ruiz  
Cooper Mortenson*

*Verda Swanson  
Max and Elayne Palmer  
Jay and Ginny Wangerin  
Tom and MaryJo McCleary  
Bob Barks  
Chuck and Tammy Denton  
Bill and Torry Henderson  
Aaron and Martha Page  
Julie Honsey  
Kathleen Uehling  
Lynn Niemuth  
Gail Peterson  
Len and Helen Ringgenberg  
LaRue Buihner  
Connie Heuton  
Pat Bordt  
Becky Selander  
Stacy Speck  
Anne Farrell  
Jim and Linda Rundle  
Justin Anderson  
MeLissa Lawson  
Debra Carter  
Mary Lawson  
Isaaca Carter  
Charmisha  
Corey Dewitt  
Hannah Honsey  
Dodie Jabour  
Barbara Robinson  
Rich Snyder  
Katie Farrell  
Leslie Denton  
Tori Baker  
Katelyn Jessen  
McKenzie Carney  
Nayeli Rodriguez  
Mary Helt*

*Medhurst family  
Ro and Barb Zimany  
Karla Tillotson  
Pastor Tim and Susan Johnson  
Martin and Kari Dostalík  
Don and Gladys Peterson  
Dot Williamson  
Dick and Virginia Naney  
Sally Thielking  
Pat and Denny Rehder  
Kate Schaller  
Rosella Dingman  
Cherie Rissman  
Valerie Culp  
Cathy Barks  
Tammy Hagerty  
Deanna Weber  
Michele Turner  
Carol Woodruff  
Carolyn Driscoll  
Shirley Shiffler  
Beth Flannery  
Felisha Johnson  
Ikeisha Carter  
Chutaia  
Tanekia  
Nadine  
Carol Mattes  
Chase Janson  
Paul Grodt  
Natasha Voelker  
Jim Merkwán  
Morgan Mortenson  
Mike Flannery  
Davis Van de Steeg  
Kaylee Barker  
Jessica Rissman*



# August Birthdays

## August

**1** Cathleen Swanson  
 Jack Olson  
 Laura Schwarz  
**2** Kevin Drury  
 Deborah Helt  
**3** Michael Hansen  
**4** Duane Bass  
 Matthew Trickle  
 Ryan Kretschmer  
**5** Roland Zimany  
 Ralph Helt  
 Elizabeth Rudisill  
 Joshua Appenzeller  
 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

**11** 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 Dostalick  
**16** Cheryl Weatherington  
**17** Jeffrey Rethmeier  
 Jordan Carter  
**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

**20** 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  
 Cris Hidalgo  
**25** Scott Honsey  
 Todd Singergard  
**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

## BUDGET REPORT

Below is a summary of the income and expense of Grace Lutheran Church for the past month and Year to Date.

Pledged offerings are in line with budget, would expect to be above budget due to pledges received after budget prepared.

We had a favorable variance to budget year to date, however this was primarily due to expenses that were budgeted for which the actual expense has yet to occur.

Any favorable variance has been committed to restore the \$23,149 benevolence reduction that was made to balance the 2010 budget.

	One Month Ended June 30, 2010			Year to Date June 30, 2010		
	Actual	Budget	Favorable (Unfavorable)	Actual	Budget	Favorable (Unfavorable)
Offerings	34,756.31	37,958.00	(3,201.69)	226,952.60	229,195.00	(2,242.40)
Other Income	2,875.80	1,107.33	1,768.47	20,761.07	12,970.57	7,790.50
Total Income	37,632.11	39,065.33	(1,433.22)	247,713.67	242,165.57	5,548.10
Expenses	38,342.48	35,784.65	(2,557.83)	223,135.17	232,842.57	9,707.40
Net Income (Loss)	(710.37)	3,280.68	(3,991.05)	24,578.50	9,323.00	15,255.50

## Music Notes.....

I turned my calendar the other day to see what was scheduled and finally realized that August was nearly upon us. Things have been busy at church, even though it is summer and often things are little more relaxed. I do know that I have been looking ahead and planning for the start up of the ensembles at Grace. It seems that it was just a couple of weeks ago that we were finishing up May and the groups being in worship services. I have been looking through and listening to many new arrangements for Grace Bells. From July 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>, I will be at the Iowa Choral Directors Convention and will read through many new pieces of choral music as well as those that have been "tired and true." I have appreciated all those that have provided special music throughout the summer for the various worship services. It is great that we have so many people who are willing to volunteer their time for the Saturday evening service. We have many people with a great deal of talent and it wonderful that they are willing to share that talent with those that worship at Grace.

On Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a POTLUCK meal for the Grace Bells, Chancel Choir and Grace Brass to be held at the Dewein residence in West Des Moines. The Deweins will provide plates, glasses, plastic ware, and refreshments. We ask that everyone bring a meat dish, salad, or dessert to pass for the meal. This worked well last year and hopefully will work again this year. If you need directions to our house, let me know and I will have a map for you. The Youth Bells, Grace Bells and Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> with Youth Bells at 6:00 p.m., Grace Bells at 6:30 p.m. and Chancel Choir at 7:45 p.m. The Chancel Choir will sing at the services on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The Youth Choir and Chapel Chimers will begin later in September. I am always looking for additional people who like to sing and want to ring bells. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry of the church, please plan on coming to the potluck or to the first rehearsal in September. The Grace Bells, Youth Bells, and Chancel Choir all rehearse on Wednesday evenings.

On Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, the Worship Committee met for their bi-monthly meeting. The agenda included discussion concerning the worship services at Grace and centered on the combining of the congregations of Esperanza and Grace. Several people have been currently meeting and working through the transition of the joining of these two groups. Recently the worship service was combined with translation provided. We will be doing this again on July 25<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>. The month of August we will be working to totally combine these two congregations by the first of September. The committee also discussed the current worship services at Grace. This group constantly visits various aspects of the service and tries to make them meaningful to the entire congregation. Currently we have one service on Saturday and one on Sunday. We are to return to two services on Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup>.

I have mentioned this before, but will remind the congregation that there will be an organ recital on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Grace sanctuary. John Behnke, from Milwaukee, WI, will be the guest organist for this recital. Mr. Behnke is a composer and arranger of organ music as well as composer and arranger of bell music. Mr. Behnke will also be the clinician for a Hand Bell clinic to be held in Grace Hall I & II on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to having Mr. Behnke here. Also featured on the concert will be the Grace Bells as they join with Mr. Behnke on one of his arrangements for bells and organ and congregation. Please mark your calendar for this date.

Stephanie wanted to remind everyone of the performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" that will be at The Playhouse from July 16<sup>th</sup>-August 8<sup>th</sup>. For a discount on your tickets, use the coupon code "GREEN" when you order. Yvonne and I remember seeing it at The Playhouse many years ago and what a delightful performance it was.

In closing, it was so nice to see so many congregation members at the wedding of Sarah and Tyler. We were so pleased to have so many people be a part of this celebration.

See you in church.  
Rich

## Show Love for the Little Ones

Everyone expects July to start off with a celebration that includes grilling, fireworks, family, and sparklers. However, it is important not to get swept away and forget what is most important. July is National Make a Difference to Children Month. The aim of Make a Difference to Children Month is to recognize the positive changes adults can make in a child's life.

Make a Difference to Children Month is celebrated annually to simply give children something to be happy about. Although we cannot always provide immediate solutions to take children's pain away, we can give them something to smile about with small contributions that show them that we deeply care for them.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) understands the impact adults have on children and witnesses it daily. By providing love and support to children who come from homes where poverty, abuse and neglect or other unimaginable tragedies exist we can give them something to smile about. LSI's services such as our early childhood programs, family-centered services and residential treatment for children work to create positive environments where smiles and laughter are part of every day life. Try for yourself: commit to do one special thing with a child in July— make some kind of positive difference for that child. You too can understand the joy it brings to make a child's day.

For parenting tips from LSI's professional staff, visit [www.lsitips.com](http://www.lsitips.com)

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**3010 52<sup>nd</sup> Street**  
**Des Moines, IA 50310-1798**  
515-276-6873  
Fax 515-276-4048  
e-mail: [worship@gracedm.org](mailto:worship@gracedm.org)

Return Service Requested

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Des Moines, IA  
Permit No. 36

