



# THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church



Companion Congregation  
Msindo Parish in Tanzania

September 21, 2010

A Stephen  
Ministry Congregation

## Sunday Worship

8:15 a.m.

Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays  
of each month

10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays  
of each month with Spanish Translation  
Tanzanian Service on 5th Sunday

## Coming Events

Sunday, October 3, 5:00 p.m.  
Senior Members' Meeting

Friday, October 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Organ Recital & Hymnfest in Sanctuary

Thursday, October 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Men In Mission at Immanuel  
Methodist Church

Sunday, October 10  
LWR Ingathering

Sunday, October 31  
Reformation Sunday  
Rite of Confirmation, 10:45 a.m.

## Contact Us

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## Stewardship Thought Our Final Act of Stewardship

Previous "Stewardship Thoughts" in this monthly newsletter have focused on stewardship as an important aspect of our Christian faith. We have been reminded that all that we have is God's, entrusted to us for our use during this life. We have also been reminded that we are to be good stewards – or managers – of everything God has placed in our hands, and that we are to use these gifts as God intends. So we are to care for ourselves and our families, we are to share a portion of our resources of time and money for the strengthening of the Church, and we are to be generous in providing for the needs of our neighbors.

But there is one aspect of our financial stewardship that is easily forgotten. You see, most of us invest a significant portion of our money as a hedge against the future. We purchase a home and ultimately pay off the mortgage. We set aside part of our regular income in retirement accounts such as IRAs and 401(k) plans. We build up savings accounts and purchase certificates of deposit.

This is all good! We should be prudent in saving for the years after we retire so that we don't unintentionally become a financial burden to others. But the reality is that many of us will leave behind a substantial estate, money that we did not use during our lives. When John D. Rockefeller died a curious friend is said to have asked Rockefeller's attorney, "How much did he leave behind?" And the attorney replied, "All of it!"

Of course, most of us desire to leave an inheritance to our children, and there is nothing at all wrong with this plan. But, just as we are to be good stewards of our monthly income during our lives, we are called to be good stewards of our estate. This is our final act of stewardship. This accumulated resource should be used not just to benefit those closest to us, but should be used for all the purposes God intended when God entrusted them to us.

So, as a final act of good stewardship, we should carefully plan how our estate will be used. Have you worked with an attorney to write a "Last Will and Testament"? This is the only way to ensure that the money you leave behind will be used in the ways that you intend. And, in this estate plan have you set aside an appropriate share for building up the Church and serving the needs of others? It's a good exercise for all of us to review our estate plan periodically, and to ask ourselves whether our plan reflects our theological understanding of good stewardship.

The Stewardship Committee



## "Take the cookies when they're passed."

On Rally Sunday we talked about spiritual gifts and God's claim on us through baptism. As the Lay Ministry Team was preparing for that day, I was reminded of a story that Pat and Denny Rehder have shared. About 10 years ago, a good friend of theirs was encouraging them to take a trip to Tanzania through the ELCA. This friend was also the speaker at a women's synod event, and as she talked about the importance of taking an opportunity when it offers itself, she said, "Take the cookies when they're passed." Pat and Denny realized through the Spirit that they were being passed a plate of cookies. As a result, they did take that trip to Tanzania, and it led to the establishment of a companion congregation relationship with Msindo and Mararo. About 10 years later, that relationship is still going strong, and each side continues to be enriched by the other.

*"Take the cookies when they're passed."*

We may not all be called to start something as big as a companion congregation relationship across the ocean, and we may not all be called to be Moses and lead a nation out of slavery. But what if we said yes to that one thing that keeps nudging us? Could that be God calling us to something new? What if we let the Spirit guide us down paths untrodden?

*"I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13)*

The gifts that we have aren't given **to** us; rather, they are given **through** us. They are meant to be shared with others. It makes no difference that you may be the greatest painter who ever lived if you never pick up the paintbrush, or if you do pick it up and then keep your masterpiece to yourself. We may not think of the ministries we do as masterpieces, but when those faith-filled responses are given back to God, they can be made to shine for God's kingdom regardless of what we may think of our own efforts.

*"I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13)*

You might be comfortable in front of a crowd. Maybe you love making new people feel welcome. Perhaps you're a whiz at organizing things. Don't keep it a secret. Shout it from the rooftops! Unwrap that gift and let the world see it. It's too good to keep hidden.

*"Take the cookies when they're passed."*

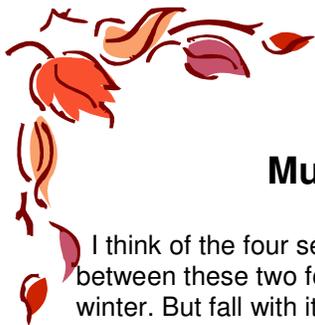
Is someone offering you a plate of cookies? Are you ready to give them a taste?

- Stephanie Johnson



### October Birthdays

October 1	Shirley Walker	11	Emily Harmon	21	Sarah Schroeder
	Paul Thielking		Jeramie Mitchell		Timothy Ruhnke
2	Robert Campbell		Alexander Gutmann		Sage Speck
	Margaret York	12	Ben Wonderlin	23	Julie Anderson
	Steve Johnson		Jacob Merkwana		Ronald Vernia
	Christine Hines	13	Deanna Hummel		Trinity Newman
	Andy Roat		Sheryl Sauerman	24	Steve Roe
	David Barge		David Peterson		Melissa Kallenbach
	Eric Barks		Jessica Warren		Andrew Murra
	Ivy Mae Lawson		Victoria Janson		
3	Janet Yanders	14	Jane Ridnour	25	La Corda Kueck
	Barbara Knapp		James Fenimore		Joyce Lewis
	Maria Monrroy	15	Denise Hotopp		Tina Meadows
	Howard Welty		Chris Lawson		Tracy Buell
4	Roxanne Heller		Eryn Lenhart	26	Seth Kallestad
	Ava Lund		Kyra Lenhart	27	Douglas Dinnauer
5	Paul Nelson		Maya Lenhart		Sarah Voelker
6	Amanda Jensen	16	Joan Johnson	28	Larry Oberg
7	Ernestina Reaza		Kara Jordahl		Max Sauerman
	Adam Bergman		Lukus Loehrke	29	Jeanette Ziesman
8	Nelda Sampel		Margaret Joyce		Col. Franklin Peterson
	Harlan Mortenson	17	Gary Nelson		Jessica Russell
	Dawn Stallman		Roberto Ruiz	30	Marni Vasquez
9	Joanne Johnson	18	Bruce Nelson		Travis Brown
	Riley Mortenson		Christy Joyce		Pedro Espericueta
10	Tom Kern	20	Dick Sampel		Maycia Welty
	Chase Young		Stuart Turner	31	Harriet Chapman
11	Chris Kallenbach		Miranda Richmann		Fay Cline
	Daniel Harmon				Ashley Artzer
					Tanner Peeler



## Music Notes.....

I think of the four seasons we get to experience, fall and spring have to be my favorites. It is a real toss-up between these two for which would be my ultimate choice. I love the new colors in spring after the white and dark of winter. But fall with its riot of rich colors, as trees turn from their summer green to reds, yellows, oranges, and brown, is a wonder in its own way. It is enjoyable to travel on a clear, crisp autumn afternoon and look at the palette of colors painted on a hillside of trees and bushes. What colorful, wonderful handiwork that is given to us.

Most of the music groups have had their first rehearsals and have presented or will shortly offer music for worship. The Youth Choir and Chapel Chimers are just being organized. Both Carol Woodruff and I hope that more of the church youth participate and become even more active in the life of Grace Lutheran Church. We have looked through and ordered many new selections for these ensembles. These groups rehearse on Wednesday evening. The Chapel Chimers are at 5:30 p.m. and Youth Choir at 6:00 p.m. These groups also present music selections at various times during the year. Carol has started rehearsals with the Youth Bells and could use more of our youth that are in grades 6-12. This group also rehearses on Wednesday evening from 6-6:30 p.m. in the Bell Room in Msindo Hall.

On Friday, October 8th, John Behnke, Hand Bell and Organ composer, will present an Organ and Hymnfest recital in the Grace sanctuary beginning at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Behnke will present a wide variety of organ music and hymn arrangements. The congregation will be asked to participate by singing the hymns as Mr. Behnke plays. There will be free-will offering taken at the performance. Following the concert, CD's of Mr. Behnke's music will be for sale.

On Saturday, October 9th, Grace will host a Hand Bell Workshop. Mr. Behnke will lead this day's events in hand bell ringing techniques, rehearsal techniques, and reading sessions of new bell music. We are expecting nearly 100 hand bell ringers from around the state of Iowa. The Grace Bells will present several selections at the end of the day long events. We are looking forward to having many ringers at Grace for the event.

Each of the musical groups at Grace is always ready to welcome new members to each organization. The Grace Brass rehearses between 1st and 2nd services on Sunday morning and again on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. These rehearsals are in the Choir Room in Msindo Hall. This group provides music at various services throughout the year, plus on special services as well as the Bells and Brass Concert in December. Currently the group is comprised of 2 Trumpets, 1 French Horn, 1 Trombone, and 2 Tubas. If you are a brass player, in practice or ready to get back "in shape," there is a spot just waiting for you.

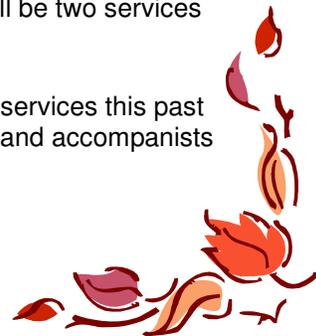
The Chancel Choir meets on Wednesday evening from 7:45-8:45 p.m. All voice parts are welcome. Singing is a life-time skill that often begins with participation in elementary, middle school/jr. high and high school choirs. What better way to continue what you have learned by continuing to share the talent with which you were given.

As I turn my calendar forward, there are dates that should be highlighted. The first is the combined Thanksgiving Service with Immanuel Methodist Church on November 24<sup>th</sup>. This annual event will be held here in the sanctuary at Grace. The Grace Bells and Chancel Choir will join forces with their ensembles for the evening. Pastor Gary Nims will present the sermon. December will again bring us the SWICC Choir on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. We look forward to their annual performance. The Bells and Brass Concert will be Sunday afternoon on December 12<sup>th</sup>, with the Sunday school program during 2<sup>nd</sup> service on December 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be two services on Christmas Eve.

I would like to take the rest of this space to "THANK" all those that helped out with the Saturday services this past summer. We are very fortunate at Grace to have so many able musicians to serve as liturgists and accompanists at this worship service. Your willingness to serve helps to make it easier on all.

See you in church.

RICH



**Welcome to Our  
New Members**

Donald, Bonnie Swanson, and Melissa Swanson joined by transfer.

Terin Rae Stanfley and Justin Andersen joined by baptism.

**Congratulations!**

Becky Selander won two second place ribbons and an honorable mention from her five entries in the Needles & Thread exhibition at the Iowa State Fair.

**Correction**

The Scholarship Fund was established in 1983, not in 1928 as stated in a previous Friendly Visitor.

**Greetings from the  
Hot South!**

Miss Iowa and Grace but "doing OK." May God continue to bless Grace and its dear members.

God's blessings,  
Cathy Swanson

Cathleen Swanson has been a Grace member for 63 years and now lives in Anthem, AZ.

**Honor Flights**

Seven members of Grace, all veterans of World War II, participated in Honor Flights to Washington, DC to visit the World War II Memorial and several other national memorials.

They are

- Paul Grodt,
- Jack Frost
- Dick Johansen
- Gene Krauss
- Vivian Feilmann
- Carl Feilmann
- Einar Christianson

**Paperless Newsletter**

We can email a link to you to view the latest edition of the Friendly Visitor on our website as soon as it is made available. Just email or call the church office to be set up. **Go Green!!**



**Corrine Tiedge**, 85, passed away on Tuesday, September 14 at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, IA. Her funeral was held at Westover Chapel on Friday, September 17. Corrine was a member of Grace for over 50 years.

**Lois Rose**, 95, of Scottish Rite Park, passed away on Sunday, September 19. Her body is being donated to medical science. A memorial service will be held in Overland Park, KS at her daughter's church. Lois was a member of Grace for 26 years.

**Council Notes**

**Announcing the Call Committee**

According to the constitution of our church, the Call Committee is to be composed of six people. The Call Committee was carefully selected by the Congregation Council. We had a very difficult choice. We tried to find people of different groups, ages, interests, experiences, and types. Because of the complexity of recent history, budget considerations, and changes, we added a position of Council Liaison to provide information.

The questionnaires will be used to guide the writing of the expectations for our new pastor. In addition, we would like to give you another opportunity to speak. If you would like to address the Call Committee, there will be a meeting or two where all who are interested will be given a maximum time of three minutes to speak, probably in October. The Committee will complete forms for the synod and receive information from the Bishop's office on possible candidates. They will interview and make recommendations.

**Call Committee:** Kelley Bowermaster, Jeff Farrell, Jonathan Fry, Norm Iverson, Joanne Johnson, Jay Wangerin, Council Liaison-Rich Snyder

**Budget Timeline**

- September – Send out stewardship packet by September 27  
Committees develop their budgets
- October – Stewardship Drive  
Pledges due Commitment Sunday, October 24
- November – All committee budgets due November 1  
Overall budget developed given pledge activity

**Fellowship Group**

A new all church **Fellowship Team** has formed with the objective of planning two to four **FUN** events each year for the entire congregation. If you'd like to help us plan some **FUN**, contact Carla Peterman or Stephanie Johnson. Or, join us at our next meeting Sept 27 at 6:30 pm.



**Lutheran World Relief Fall Drive**

Last spring the call came from LWR that there was a need for health kits and quilts for Haiti. You responded to that need by contributing \$680.00 to our Spring Drive. This month our kits will be ready to bring to Ankeny and then sent on with the quilts made this winter by our ladies. We have purchased 185 health kits along with the help of the Sunday school children. These kits and quilts will be on display September 26 and October 3rd and 10th.

The committee will be at the display on those Sundays to take your contributions for items to be purchased for the next drive. Checks can be made out to Grace Women LWR or money can be put in the envelopes in the pews and marked Grace Lutheran LWR and put in the offering plate. Whenever there is a need LWR will respond. Right now there are six countries waiting for Health Kits as reported in Lutheran World Relief mailings.



Mark your calendar NOW  
ALL Church  
Fellowship Event  
October 31 6:30 – 8:00 pm  
**Halloween Party**  
Activities for ALL ages  
including  
games and costume contest

### Adult Forum Topics for September – October

#### **Sept.26 – Big Brothers**

Lindsay Campbell will be presenting a video and information on this mentoring program.

#### **Oct. 3 – Grace Kids Care**

Heather Nelson, member of Grace and director of Grace Kids Care, will be talking to us and informing us about this ministry.

#### **Oct. 10 – Stewardship**

Leonard Larsen will present Part 1 of a Bible based talk on Stewardship.

#### **Oct. 17 – Stewardship**

Doug Johnson will present Part 2.

#### **Oct. 24 – Option 1: Reformation theme**

Pastor Tim Johnson will teach us about Reformation.

##### **Option 2:**

##### **1 John Bible study**

Cherie Rissman and Stephanie Johnson will lead this study of how our relationship with Jesus defines who we are and how we express our faith in response to God's love.

#### **Oct. 31 – Option 1: Sing-a-long**

Rich Dewein will lead us in a Martin Luther Sing-a-Long (songs that Martin Luther wrote) for this special day!!

##### **Option 2:**

**1 John Bible study** (continued)

### Men In Mission

**Men In Mission will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, October 14 at Immanuel Methodist Church, 2900 49th Street.** Grace furnishes the program and we are pleased the Dostalick family will delight everyone with music and information about Marfan Syndrome. We hope to have a great Grace representation at this meeting.

### Senior Members' Meeting

The fall meeting will be held on October 3 at 5:00 p.m. in Grace Hall I. We will begin with a light meal and move to our program, *Brain Aerobics*, presented by Lori Nagel. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Super Wednesday Kids' Hour and Pray and Play

These fun children's programs are underway again! We began on September 15, but if you haven't already signed up your children, there's still time. Over the first several weeks, we're experiencing the Genesis story of Joseph and his brothers in a variety of hands-on ways. A sign-up sheet can be found on the Children, Youth, and Families bulletin board across from the library. Join us for the weekly fun!

**Ages:** Pray and Play is for *ages* 4-5 (preschool)  
Kids' Hour is for *grades* 1-5

**Time:** 6:30-7:30pm each Super Wednesday

**Location:** Meet at stairs by pop machine at 6:30 p.m. for gym activities

End in classroom 101 (Pray and Play) or 102 (Kids' Hour)

*Parents, please pick up your children from their classrooms at 7:30 p.m. and remember to sign them out.*

Weekly activities are led by Kelley Bowermaster (ages 4-5), Beth Flannery and Stephanie Johnson (grades 1-5). Helpers are welcome! Contact Stephanie Johnson if you would like to lend a hand.

### Advent Devotions

It may seem early for thinking about Advent, but believe it or not, now is the time to start planning for that upcoming season. In the past, Grace has had writers submit daily devotions during Lent and weekly devotions during a different time of year. Many of us would like to try daily Advent devotions to help us prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. Our daily devotions will carry us from that date through December 25. Each date will have a lesson assigned to it, and volunteer writers may sign up for one or more dates. The sign-up sheet for these dates can be found at volunteer Central in the Gathering Hall. If you would like to be on the email list to receive these devotions, you will find a sign-up sheet for that at Volunteer Central as well.

Please email your submissions or provide a hard copy to Stephanie Johnson by November 21 if possible, and please limit the length of your devotion to 150-200 words.

Thanks in advance for your willingness to be a part of this expression of faith! May the Spirit touch us in the writing and in the reflecting.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Council Meeting

August 24, 2010

**Guests:** Don Peterson and Jeff Farrell

**Present:** Mary Helt, Pastor Johnson, MeLissa Lawson, Dan Warner, Kristen Medhurst, Deanna Weber, Kathy Bowermaster, Rich Snyder, Joyce Lewis, Carla Peterman, Julie Honsey, Gary Nehmer

Mary Helt opened the meeting with a reading from Ephesians.

Don Peterson and Jeff Farrell spoke about the Revisioning process that took place 2 years ago by offering a brief summary.

Minutes of the June 22, 2010 and the July 13, 2010 Council meetings were approved.

**Written Reports** (accepted as printed)

- Pastor Johnson
- Stephanie Johnson
- Rich Dewein
- Jackie Holmes
- Grace Kids
- Endowment Committee

MeLissa Lawson presented business concerns on behalf of Heather Nelson and Grace Kids Care.

**Old Business**

Kathy Bowermaster and Julie Honsey presented progress being made toward implementing the Latino Ministry Plan. They will meet in the next two weeks to finalize plans to hire a coordinator.

**New Business**

Julie Honsey proposed that the Confirmation students be allowed to raise funds from the congregation for the Hunger Hike which has been designated as the Confirmation October Service Project. The proposal was approved.

**Call Process**

The Council reviewed the Call Committee nominations and began the process of selecting a Call Committee. After a week of prayer and consideration, the Council will meet on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. to make a final decision. The Constitution states that the Call Committee consists of 6 voting members. The Grace Call Committee will also include Rich Snyder as the Council liaison.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Honsey, Council Secretary

Note: These minutes have not yet been approved by the council.

## Thank You

Dear Grace Family,

I want everyone to know how much I appreciate all the cards, flowers, visits and phone calls during my 3 months in the hospital and rehab care center.

All of your thoughts and prayers are a great source of comfort and encouragement during this difficult time.

I'm very happy to be back in my own house as I continue to recover with home care, and hope to be able to participate in church activities again soon.

Thanks so much Pastor Tim and all of the Grace Family for keeping in touch.

God Bless you all,  
Verda Swanson

## Super Wednesday Schedule

- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Meal served in Grace Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Book Discussion in Library
- 5:30-5:55 p.m. Chapel Chimers (Grades 3-5) Bell Room
- 6:00-6:30 p.m. Youth Bells (Grades 6-12) Bell Room
- 6:00-6:25 p.m. Youth Choir (Grades 1-5) Choir Room
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Lectionary Study in Conference Room
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Grace Bells (High school-Adult) Bell Room
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Kids' Pray & Play Hour (Ages 4&5) Gym, Room 101
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Kids' Hour (Grades 1-5) Gym, Room 102
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Confirmation Classes in Chapel
- 7:45-8:45 p.m. Chancel Choir - Choir Room

