



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church



Companion Congregation
Msindo Parish in Tanzania

February 15, 2011

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 each month
Spanish Translation available
Tanzanian Liturgy the 5th Sunday
of the month (May, July, Oct)

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Thanks be to God! **Gracias a Dios!** Bwana asifiwe!

The Call Committee completed their tasks
and we thank them heartily for all their work.

Grace Lutheran Church joyfully called
Pastor Michael Schmidt and he accepted.
Pastor Eric Carlson, Assistant to the Bishop, will install
Pastor Schmidt as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church on
March 6, 2011 at both services ---8:15 and 10:45 a.m.;
his first act as installed pastor will be
to serve Holy Communion.

A reception will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. as an
opportunity to meet Pastor Mike and celebrate his
arrival. We hope all members will join us in welcoming
Pastor Mike.

Pastor Mike will officially begin on Tuesday, March 1, in
the office. At 8:30 a.m., he will lead Prayer in the
Upper Room; then at 8:45 a.m., meet and lead the Bible
Study. We are pleased to welcome him and share
talents.

Music Notes.....

I would like to think that the “tease” of warmer temps this weekend and the next week be a true indication that winter is almost over. But having lived in Iowa all of my life, I have to be realistic that there is still plenty of winter left and Mother Nature will share every last bit of it with us. This weekend is the Home and Garden Show at the Events Center and I’m looking forward to seeing new products and getting ideas for our home and yard. To see all of these ideas in one place seems reassuring that spring and summer will be at hand and I’m looking forward to seeing the blossoms from the nearly 200 new flowering bulbs we planted in our yard last fall. It is always good to see the renewal of everything each year.

As we move into March, there are many activities that will help keep us very busy. On March 6 the church will celebrate the installation, at both services, of Pastor Michael Schmidt as the Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. It is an exciting time for Grace. The music groups are working on literature to help celebrate this activity. I am looking forward to the opportunity to work together and share ideas with Pastor Mike as we plan the worship services for the congregation at Grace.

Ash Wednesday Service will be held on March 9 at 6:30 p.m. with the disposition of ashes and Holy Communion being offered. With the beginning of Lent our Wednesday evening schedule will change. The Chapel Chimers and Youth Choir will not meet during this time. Those groups will resume on April 27. The Chancel Choir will have its rehearsals from 5:30-6:15 p.m. and the Grace Bells from about 7:15-8:15 p.m. The Youth Bells will rehearse from 5:40-6:10 p.m. Beginning at 6:15 p.m., a hymn sing will be held prior to the 6:30 p.m. Wednesday service. Again, we will be using the Holden Evening Prayer as the liturgy.

I am planning some additional music events during Lent. Beginning on Wednesday, March 16, and subsequent Wednesdays, from noon to 12:30, I will present an organ recital of a wide range of styles and varieties from the various periods in music history. If there would be some questions concerning the music (I can hopefully answer), the composer, the organ at Grace, etc., that is a plus. Or perhaps people might like to sit in the sanctuary and enjoy the surroundings of Grace. This has been on my “back burner” since I have been at Grace and I finally decided the time was right. As with any new venture, I’m not sure of the total outcome. I am sure that as it moves forward there will be editing and changes made, but I want to try this avenue and see where it might lead.

On, Sunday, March 27, a Service of Meditation will be presented in the sanctuary beginning at 7:00 p.m. This hour-long service will include music from Grace Bells, Grace Brass, and Chancel Choir as well as congregational hymns, readings, scripture and organ music. I have thought about this type of service for a long time. Its roots, for me, came from the numerous presentations by college/university music programs during Advent that include music of the season. I believe there is an equal amount of Lenten music and that we should use it in a comparable service. In visiting with Pastor Mike about this idea, he seemed pleased about this additional worship opportunity for the congregation of Grace.

Please remember to reset your clock on March 12 before you go to bed, as this is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. It doesn’t seem possible that we will “spring” ahead so soon, but this will give everyone some extra outside time in the evening. It will make that 8:15 a.m. service seem a little earlier for a while, but we will adjust.

In closing, it was a pleasure to work with Pastor Tim for a year. We wish him well in his new interim position. And now I anticipate the new working and planning relationship with Pastor Mike. Welcome to him as he becomes the new Shepherd at Grace.

See you in church.
RICH

“THINK SUMMER!”



Are you ready for some sunnier, warmer days? Things are looking up! We can’t do anything about the weather outside, but we can bring those warm thoughts of summer days indoors. Your friendly Fellowship Team is planning a fun event to chase away the winter doldrums. Mark your calendars for a whole church fellowship evening filled with laughter, good food, friends, and more. If you remember last year’s “Think Summer” event, you’ll definitely want to come back for more. A good time is in store! The theme will be “Spring Break”, and here’s what you need to know:

Date: Sunday, March 6

Time: 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Place: Grace Hall

Dinner will be served!

Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks. Your Fellowship Team members include Valerie Culp, Carolyn Driscoll, Justin Andersen, Terin Stanfley, Pat Rehder, and Carla Peterman. Want to join the team? We’d love to have you!

Sympathy is Extended

During the past month the following members of our Grace family passed away.

Please remember their families and friends in your hearts and prayers.

Velva (Darlene) Malmin

Dorothy I. Hiney

Verona Fenimore

Stewardship Thought – March 2011

A previous "Stewardship Thought" in 2010 focused on your final act of Stewardship. Does your will ensure that the final distribution of your estate properly reflects your intentions and your theological understanding of good stewardship?

We need to be good stewards of our estate. Accumulated resources 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. We should each set aside an appropriate share of our estate for the building up of the Church and serving the needs of others.

To further explore this important aspect of our faith, the Stewardship Committee along with the Endowment Committee will be presenting thoughts at the Adult Forum on March 20. We will use this time to explore final stewardship considerations. We will also use this time to further understand the establishment and functioning of Grace's Endowment fund. We hope you can join us.

Your Stewardship Committee

5th Annual Soup Supper - DMARC Food Pantry

The 5th Annual Food Pantry Soup Supper is Sunday, February 20 at West Des Moines Christian Church, 4501 Mills Civic Pkwy. The supper is from 4:30-7:00 p.m. and will feature chili, chicken noodle and vegan garden vegetable soups. Cost is \$10.00 per person and you will receive a free ceramic bowl, created by a local artist, while supplies last.

Finance Report – January Results

Financial results for January YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$38,658, Budget \$38,726
- Other Income – Actual \$1,381, Budget \$1,421
- Expenses – Actual \$40,111, Budget \$45,120
- Net Loss – Actual (\$71), Budget (\$4,973)

Budgeted loss was due to certain expenses (insurance, outreach) paid on a quarterly basis in January.

Actual loss was less than budgeted due to certain expenses (utilities, offering envelopes) whose activity was budgeted but a bill has yet to be received or accrued.

Thank You's

Dear Auxiliary and Church Members,

Our sincere thanks for all the gifts, contributions, your time and talents, and mostly your continued support to Trinity Center at Luther Park. Staff as well as the residents thank each of you personally for all you have done in 2010. Christmas was fantastic! Families and residents have spoken often of the lovely gifts received by our residents. We all need to feel special from time to time and that is what the Auxiliary members have done for our residents. We are looking forward to our continued relationship with the Auxiliary and wish each of you good health and happiness throughout the year.

Yours very truly,

Denny Bradshaw, Director Activities and Volunteers

Thanks for the beautiful card and the poinsettia plant and the cute cards the children made that Pastor Tim brought me when he came to visit me and give me Communion. Thanks to Grace Lutheran. God bless you all.

Palma C. Williams

Grace Lenten Soup Suppers

Groups are needed to sign up for Lenten Soup Suppers held from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays before the Lenten evening services. The following dates are all ready taken: Ash Wednesday – Martha Circle March 30 – Hannah Circle

Lydia Circle

We will begin our 2011 season by meeting on March 15 at 6:00 p.m. Following a light supper, our program will feature Stephanie Johnson speaking on Interpretative Dance.



Oppor"TUN(E)"ities for You!!!

The Grace Bells is in need of an additional ringer to begin immediately. During the course of the year, two of our current members needed to step down. So, we need additional pairs of hands for this group. Rehearsals are from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights and from 7:15-8:15 p.m. during Lent. Since Pastor Tim left, we are down ONE BASS in the Chancel Choir. If you have been trying to decide about (re)joining the choir, here is the opporTUNE moment. Rehearsals are from 7:45-8:45 p.m. and from 5:30-6:15 p.m. during Lent. Out of the shower and into the choir!!!



March Birthdays

- 1 Mary Johansen
Rebecca Sonius
Kristen Snyder
- 2 Donald York
- 3 Delmar Niemuth
Renee Mulvihill
Matthew Heid
- 4 Kimberly Carballo
Sarah Merkwon
- 5 Brent Culp
Katherine Scholl
- 7 La Vonne Mitchell
- 10 Patty Flannery
Nadine Garcia
- 11 Tammy Hagerty
- 12 Jacquelyn Holmes
Andrew Keller
Rachael Bigg
- 13 Lathrop Preston
- 14 Sally Niffenegger
Barbara Nelson
- 15 Bill Jensen
Evelyn Knudsen
Ann Warren
Lydia McCleary
- 17 Kathy Bowermaster
Beth Flannery
Melissa Swanson
Benjamin Honsey
- 18 Joann Jensen
Thomas Selander
Robert Sauerman
Emma Ashton
- 19 Cleone Oberg
Diane Westercamp
Haley Turner
- 20 Karen Taylor
- 21 Janet Kjellberg
Susan Miller
Angela Allen
- 22 Louis Anderson
- 23 Rick Harmon
- 24 Mary Jo McCleary
Beau Brindley
- 25 Arlene Janson
- 26 Ryan Nordeen
- 27 Stephanie Johnson
Sierra Carney
Zara Preston
- 29 Sharon Schwemler
Elly Peterman
- 30 Kristin Medhurst
Curt Chenoweth
- 31 Daniel Gutmann
Amy Ziska

Youth Garage Sale/Plant Sale/Bake Sale/Concessions Saturday, May 14, 2011

Think Spring! It's Flower Order Time!!!

The pots on our decks are full of snow, but it is time to think warm thoughts and plan how wonderful they will look when it warms up. The Annual Plant Sale pre-orders will be taken during March. Orders are due by Sunday, March 27, and plant delivery will be May 14. Order forms will be available at the church or will be available to download from the website in March.

Garage sale donations will be taken May 10-13, but it's never too early to start thinking about what you would like to donate this year. **We take items that are clean and in good condition**, such as, books, tools, small furniture, toys, clothes, housewares, etc. Leftovers are taken to Goodwill and Salvation Army, so we cannot accept golf clubs, golf carts, air purifiers or humidifiers. They will not accept these items.

All proceeds from the sales will go toward the cost of the 2012 National Youth Gathering Trip to New Orleans and a high school summer trip. Thank you so much for your support of our youth!

Nursery Attendant

Staffing in the Nursery on Sundays was discontinued when no children used it for several months. Parents want to be able to concentrate on what the pastor is saying and cannot do so with an active little child. If we have families who would use it now, we would be glad to staff the Nursery again. Recently, two families inquired about using the Nursery supervisors during worship services. If we hear from another family or two who would **definitely** use the Nursery, we will find supervisors again. You still can care for a child and hear the services by the video screen in the Gathering Hall or you can go into the Nursery.



Don't forget CTIM (Called Together in Mission)

Deep Roots: Christian Worship in Our Local Places

Date: Saturday, March 12

Time: 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Place: First Lutheran Church, 1000 3rd Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Registration: \$25 includes lunch (fee covered by Lay Ministry Team)

Join other members of the synod for this annual resource event for congregations. This year CTIM welcomes the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Stewart, the Gordon A. Braatz Assistant Professor of Worship and Dean of the Chapel at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC). Dr. Stewart's keynote address will be followed by a Bible study he is preparing based on Psalm 104. Attendees will have the opportunity to attend workshops on subjects ranging from expressing one's faith through the arts to youth and family ministry to Middle East peace to geothermal energy.

Registration booklets are available in the Gathering Hall, on the table outside Grace Hall 1, and through a link on our website, www.gracedm.org. We encourage members of Grace to attend! The **registration deadline is February 28**, and the \$25 fee will be reimbursed out of the Lay Ministry Team's budget to support lay leadership development. Please send your registrations to the address in the booklet, and give a copy of your registration form to Stephanie Johnson so that we can reimburse you. Let's carpool again this year!

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

January 25, 2011

Present: Joyce Lewis, John Rissman, Rich Snyder, Pastor Johnson, MeLissa Lawson, Kristin Medhurst, Carla Peterman, Gary Nehmer, Kathy Bowermaster, Julie Honsey

Devotions were given by Pastor Johnson

The agenda was adopted as printed and disseminated on email.

The minutes from December 28, 2010 meeting were approved as disseminated on email and printed in the Friendly Visitor.

Staff reports were accepted as printed.

Monthly financial report was accepted as printed and subject to audit.

Old Business

- Annual Meeting - proposed change in number of people serving on the Scholarship Committee will be presented at the Annual Meeting and voted on at a later to-be-scheduled congregational meeting.
- Council Retreat - The retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 19, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The agenda will include: MeLissa Lawson will present high points of and lead a discussion on a workshop she and Beth Flannery recently attended *Youth Children and Family Ministry Extravaganza*. MeLissa will highlight some of the things they learned that address ministry needs at Grace; a review of the 2010 Congregational Survey; a book study centered on fostering the Christian Community using the book Life Together, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer; and a discussion of staffing needs. The expected outcome of the retreat is to ascertain some of the gaps that are hindering us at Grace from doing the ministry of Jesus Christ to our full potential.
- Personnel Committee - Written evaluations are complete. -Staff Job Descriptions have been completed by staff members outlining what they do in the context of their job. The staff would like to meet with the Personnel Committee in order to talk about expectations the Council and congregation have regarding their particular positions.-The Property Committee would like input into the custodian's job description.
- The Gathering Hall roof repairs have been completed and hopefully the leaking will be no more.

Old Business

- The contact person to support and communicate with Pastor Schmidt regarding moving and other needs to make his transition to Grace as-smooth-as-possible will be Kelley Bowermaster. Her appointment was based on her relationship with Pastor Schmidt from her position on the Call Committee.
- The Council and Lay Ministry Team will be serving the February 9th Super Wednesday Supper. The menu is yet-to-be-decided.

The Lord's Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Julie Honsey, Council Secretary

Exciting News

For those who attended the Annual Congregational Meeting, it is no surprise to announce the Call Committee completed their task and selected a new pastor, Reverend Michael Schmidt. The Congregation voted unanimously to Call Pastor Schmidt: born in Iowa, member of a large family from Forest City, an avid football player until a high school injury, musician, singer, (and many more attributes and roles we will be learning about in the next six months.) He has informally agreed to come to Grace as our pastor. (Formalities are in process to make it official.) He is currently serving an interim position in Neola until coming here. Pastor Schmidt is somewhat younger than recent pastors, but he has experience and is eager to come to Grace. He has two degrees in music (from Iowa State), as well as seminary. I hope our Hawkeye fans will give him a chance to be heard ...

Pastor Doug Johnson has kindly agreed to preach on February 20 and 27.



Children and Families

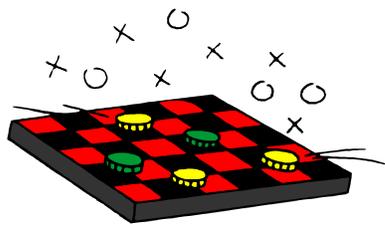
How does a pizza relate to God and Families?

If you're a 4th or 5th grader, read on! Beginning **Wednesday, March 2 to April 13 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.** (with no class on 3/16), Stephanie Johnson will be teaching a new 6-week God and Family program for any boy or girl wishing to: 1) understand the importance of family and God's role in a healthy family, 2) earn a Lutheran Religious Emblem for Girl Scouts or Cub Scout Webelos. This six-week program uses the metaphor of pizza to help kids understand God's plan for strengthening families. The pizza theme is meant to give students a concrete, "hands-on" model on which to build their understanding of God's love for their families. They will make a pizza as they study how families can grow together in God's love. **All youth in grades 4 and 5 are welcome to attend; this is NOT just for those involved in scouting!**

Parents--you are also welcome and encouraged to enroll! The God and Family Adult Mentor Program provides an opportunity for you to be an active learning participant alongside your child. You would have lessons and projects to complete in the Mentor Workbook just like your child, and then both you and your child would work on the student curriculum together. The mentor program is designed to provide the adult with additional opportunities to model his or her Christian faith and to help a young child talk about his or her belief in God.

To register for this opportunity or to find out more about it, contact Stephanie Johnson in the church office, or call Kristin Medhurst at 987-7521 by **February 28, 2011**. **To order your curriculum materials (about \$4).**

Contact Cokesbury (515/278-1631) and request a copy of the student and/or adult mentor book of *God and Family* by P.R.A.Y. publishing.



Family Fun Game Night

Saturday, March 26 from 6:00-8:00pm

Come join us for an evening of fun and games with elementary kids and their families! Several games will be available to play, but feel free to bring your family's favorite games as well. There will not be a meal served, but snacks and drinks will be provided. All are welcome! Please also let us know if you have a Wii game system that we can share that night. Thanks! This is brought to you by the Grace Family Fun Team – bringing families together! Grace Family Fun Team – MeLissa Lawson, Michelle Voelker, Stacy Speck, Stephanie Johnson



First Communion News: Classes and Camp!

First Communion classes will be taking place in April for all children who wish to begin receiving Holy Communion. We believe that children as young as second grade are able to express a simple belief in Jesus' presence in the meal. This age, however, is just a guideline. Children younger than that may participate as well, but we leave that up to you as a family. We ask that at least one parent attend the sessions with your child.

There will also be a special trip to the *Whatta' Dish* ceramic studio in Valley Junction, 509 Elm St., WDM so that children can decorate their own First Communion chalices. If the date below does not work with your schedule, you may call the studio at 279-4916 to set up an individual time. A week is needed for the firing and preparation of the chalices. The cost is \$17/person.

Class and trip dates are as follows:

Session 1: Wednesday, April 6: 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Esperanza Chapel

Whatta' Dish trip: Sunday, April 10, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Session 2: Wednesday, April 13: 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Esperanza Chapel

First Communion celebration: Maundy Thursday, April 21 evening worship service

Please call the church office at 276-6873 to let us know if you will be joining us this year. We hope to see you!

Optional Holy Communion Camp at Grace:

Saturday, April 2 from 9:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

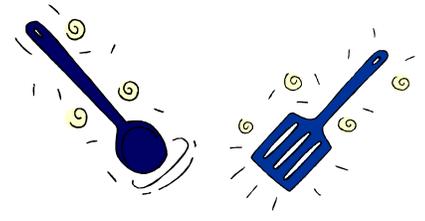
"Hey Jesus! What's for Supper?" is the name of an exciting hands-on experience designed for children who have gone through First Communion classes in recent years or who will be doing that this year. Join us as well as children from other Lutheran congregations as we dive into this unique opportunity led by staff from Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Children will participate in an engaging, hands-on experience designed to give them a sense of the relationship between God's people of Israel, Moses and Pharaoh, the Exodus, and the Seder/Passover meal with Christ. The cost is \$35/child, and the **registration deadline is March 27**. It is designed to supplement, not replace, the First Communion classes described above.

Please bring a sack lunch. To register, contact Lutheran Lakeside Camp at 1-712-336-2109. Flyers are available on the bulletin board across from the library. Parents are welcome to attend at no additional cost. See Stephanie Johnson for questions.



VBS Theme Announced!

Get ready to shake things up at the
***Shake It Up Café: Where Kids Carry Out
God's Recipe!***



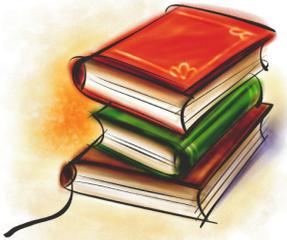
The Bible gives us the recipe for living in response to God's love, and Jesus calls us to "shake up" our lives and become his followers. Join us for this week of fun and multi-sensory learning as we mix the fun and excitement of the kitchen with the relevance of God's Word in our lives. Your children will hear about biblical festivals that reveal *ingredients* for living and will link the Old and New Testaments to their lives today. By the end of the week, we'll all be challenged to *carryout* God's life-changing message of love to the world. Join us at the *Shake It up Café* as special guests Scraps the Raccoon and Chef Basil lead the way for each daily Bible Special!

Shake It Up Café is for children ages 3 through those currently in 5th grade, but lest you think that VBS camp is just for kids – fear not! There are plenty of opportunities for older youth and adults to be involved. YOUR help is needed for a safe and adventurous journey. Stop by the VBS display in the Gathering Hall in March to learn more. Registration information will be available by then as well, but in the meantime, here's what you need to know:

Dates: Monday, June 27 – Friday, July 1
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Morning program with an afternoon option)
Ages: 3 year-olds through those currently in 5th grade
Please note: The 3-5 year-old program will only be available from 9:00 a.m.-noon.

Please stay tuned for further details regarding registration, schedule specifics, special activities, etc. Your VBS Planning Team includes Beth Flannery, MeLissa Lawson, Kristin Medhurst, Julie Honsey, Jim Merkwan, and Stephanie Johnson. See any of them with questions. Invite your friends and let's *shake things up* this summer!

New Books in the Church Library



"If the World Were a Village" by David Smith

This children's book tells us who we are, where we live, how fast we are growing, what languages we speak, what religions we practice and more. It is beautifully illustrated and will help get kids thinking and asking questions.

"Bonhoeffer, Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy" by Eric Metaxas

Bonhoeffer's story is told with passion and sophistication. The author describes Bonhoeffer as an orthodox Christian who, at a grave historical moment, rejected what he called "cheap grace" – belief without bold and sacrificial action.

"Borning Cry" by John Ylvisaker (Hymns, Anthems and Biblical Songs)

It is a collection of nine hundred hymns and songs with something for everyone and every occasion with a dozen distinct styles of music. It contains one hundred original Ylvisaker compositions.

"Little Things Make Big Differences" by Rev. John and Monique Nunes

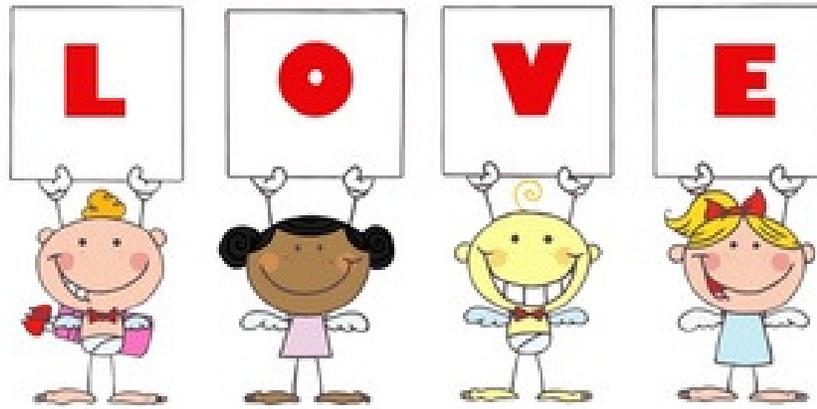
This colorful children's book takes place in a village in Tanzania. The main character develops malaria from a mosquito bite. Her parents are able to carry her many miles to a doctor who administers medication. They learn that mosquito nets do a great deal to prevent the spread of this disease. As the young girl tells her story, she shares things that kids in the U.S. can do to help keep kids in Africa healthy.

"The Color of the Night" by Gerhard E. Frost

This new release of Gerhard E. Frost's classic includes 86 short reflections inspired by the Biblical Job. This thoughtful book is ideal for personal devotion and group study, especially during the season of Lent.

"In the Company of Others" by Jan Karon

This novel, a Father Tim novel, is set against the music of Irish song and storytelling. It reminds us of our desperate need to be heard and the reconciliation that comes with confession. Jan Karon calls it her personal favorite.



~Love is in the air at Grace Kids Care~
We are thankful for ALL of our little Valentines!
Grace Kids Care
276-0943