



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church



Companion Congregation
Msindo Parish in Tanzania

April 26, 2011

A Stephen
Ministry Congregation

Sunday Worship

8:15 a.m.

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

9:30 a.m.

Adult Forum, Education Hour

10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion 2nd, 4th & 5th
Sundays of each month

† Spanish translation of Pastor
Mike's sermons provided

† Tanzanian Liturgy every
5th Sunday

Summer Worship

Beginning Sunday, May 29
9:00 a.m.

Beginning Saturday, June 4
5:00 p.m.

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Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

On days like today I wonder if we really mean what we say. I am sitting here in my office on what some are now considering "Maundy Wednesday." Professor Sir Colin Humphreys of Cambridge University wrote a book titled "The Mystery of the Last Supper", which claims to scientifically prove that the Last Supper took place on April 1, 33 AD, and it was a WEDNESDAY! What do we do with this new information? Should we change the calendar? Does the Triduum become the Quaduum? Decisions, decisions...

Again, do we really mean what we say when we proclaim a risen Christ? Every year during the season of Lent, especially during Holy Week, there is an influx of research on the historical Jesus. There are new documentaries talking about the life of Christ, there are new books and articles claiming to know things about Christ with scientific accuracy, and there are newly discovered artifacts that point to the historical Jesus. We spend a lot of time making sure Jesus makes his way into the tomb. It makes me think that we perhaps feel more comfortable with Christ in a box, more specifically, a tomb.

To use the words of Oscar Romaro, the former Arch Bishop of El Salvador, "We do not believe in death without resurrection." Yet, when it comes to Christ, we continue to point to the historical Jesus. Have we forgotten that we have a living Lord? Have we forgotten that the tomb is empty? Why to we continue to go to the tomb on every occasion possible, expecting to find the historical Jesus waiting for us there?

We have a God that is alive and in love with the world in which we live. Seriously, Christ is risen! My prayer for this octave of Easter is that we proclaim a risen Christ. My prayer is that we don't journey with the cultural influences into the depths of speculation and apologetics, trying to prove Christ once walked this earth. My prayer is that we bask in the radiance of Easter morning and a Christ that goes before us to our Galilee...a Christ that walks with us, runs with us, sings with us, dances with us, cries with us, laughs with us...is WITH US!

If we mean what we say, the day of the Last Supper really should not matter. The meal that matters is the presence of Christ, for you, each and every Sunday as we gather together as the Body of Christ and share in the wine and wheat. What a beautiful meal it is!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! (*Your response here*)

Pastor Mike



Sympathy Is Extended

To the Kueck family on the death of LaCorda. LaCorda passed away on March 31 and was a member of Grace for 25 years.

To the Richards family on death of Dwane who passed away on April 6. Dwane was a WW II veteran and founder/owner of Richard's Pharmacy. He was a member of Grace for 57 years.

To the Flannery family on the death of Beth's grandmother, Nettie Thorson, on March 25 in Lake Mills. The family thanks everyone for their thoughtfulness and cards.

To the Henderson family on the death of Marita Duckstad, Torry's sister. Marita passed away on April 11 in Redwood Falls, MN.

The Grace Library

We have a number of wonderful new books in our library.

The Quiltmaker's Gift

by Jeff Brumbeau

This remarkable children's story is a lesson in sharing. Pages are filled with beautiful illustrations.

Fingerprints of God:

The Search for the Science of Spirituality

by Barbara Bradley Hagerty

This book provides fascinating ideas relating brain activity to spiritual experience.

Exodus from Hunger

by David Beckmann

Light on Snow by Anita Shreve

Fortune's Hand by Belva Plain
(Large Print)

The Last Song

by Nicholas Sparks

(Large Print)

For Young Adults

DVD - *When Love is Not Enough*

This historically accurate film is the story of Lois and Bill Wilson. They started movements that have helped millions of people around the world. Their efforts led to the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon. It is an inspiring love story.



Garage Sale, Bake Sale, Plant Sale Pickup Annual and Perennial Plant Sale, Breakfast and Lunch

Saturday, May 14, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Grace Hall and the parking lot

The 8th-12th grade youth and families are hosting this sale to raise money for the 2012 National Youth Gathering. You can contribute by coming to the sale or by donating items.

NEW this year: Mothers Day Hanging Plants

Purchase \$22 Gift Certificates between services Sunday, May 1 or Sunday, May 8 (Mother's Day). Your mother can redeem her certificate for a hanging plant of her choice on Saturday May 14, at the Plant Sale. Several varieties of hanging plants will be available.

Anyone can donate to the Garage Sale

Please bring donations to Grace Hall II beginning at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 10 through 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 13. Books, tools, small furniture, toys, clothes, housewares, etc. must be **clean and in good condition**. (Please, no golf clubs, golf carts, air purifiers or humidifiers, as Goodwill won't accept these.)

Questions: Lori Fry 967-0736 or lori.fry@mchsi.com

Do You Like To Bake?

We need baked goods to sell during our annual garage sale on Saturday, May 14th. Please bring cookies, bars, brownies, pies, breads, or bags of snacks to the church kitchen any time on Friday, May 13th or by 7:45 a.m. on Saturday, May 14th. Please put 6 – 12 cookies or bars per plate (wrapped in plastic wrap or in clear bag) so they will be ready to go. Please label the food item. We will price the items. If you have any questions, contact Cherie Rissman at 270-0278 or Susanne Carney at 255-8073. Thank you!

Perennial Plants

Perennial donations may be made Saturday morning, between 7 and 8 a.m. Please donate potted plants and provide the following information: name of plant, sun or shade requirement, and flower color. Questions: Michelle Voelker 279-9283.



Stewardship Thought for May

Hey - where's my Big Gold Plaque / Name in Lights / Public Recognition???

When we give our time and monetary gifts to most other organizations, we normally expect to be honored or recognized in some physical way - from a listing as a "Level III Sponsor" to having a stadium named after us, depending on the size of the gift and the institution involved.

When we give to our church, our gifts are between us and God, the source and true owner of all that we have. Our joy in giving is not only from supporting our individual place of worship, in large measure we enjoy knowing that a portion of our offering helps support the good and important work of the ELCA in Iowa and around the world. Disaster Relief comes immediately to mind (unfortunately) in this time of multiple crises here and around the world. World hunger relief is also a major priority. The ELCA supports projects that address social and economic issues, leadership development in our colleges and seminaries, and denouncing injustice at the times and places needed. Our ELCA also supports companion congregations and institutions in more than 90 countries around the world. All help to spread God's word and do God's work.

Talk about feeling happy to be able to help - beats a gold plaque every time!

The Stewardship Committee

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1 Margaret Olson
Melinda Stickrod
2 Lillian Prickett
Joshua Meadows
3 Helen Ringgenberg
4 John Roehrick
5 Vernon Fanning
Michael Newell
Jacqueline Wangerin
Dylan Rutter
6 Ardis Olson
Karla Swanson
James Merkwan
Daniel Dinnauer
Hannah Honsey
8 Regan Nelson
9 Dorothy Williamson
Donna Kennebeck
10 Claire Kallestad
11 Jeffrey Farrell
Jeffrey Rudisill
12 Charlotte Nielsen
13 Sally Preston
14 Frances Best
15 Laurie Helton
Ellen Wonderlin
John Kennebeck
Dmitri Woodruff
Katherine Bickel
16 Laura Wonderlin
17 Carol Krause
18 Inga Hoifeldt
Kimberly Fenimore
Lori Fry
Tim Nehmer
19 Dorothy Iverson
Bruce Bergman
Charles Denton
Megan Jensen
Ciarra Delgado
21 Kenneth Carlson
Barbara Zimany
Brenda Mann
Jacob Nordeen
Christopher Janson
Kaylee Ringgenberg
23 Ruth Peck
Jonay Trentmann
Scott Neal
24 Melissa Newman
Angela Chapman
25 Hal Turner
26 Shirley Davenport
Devin Ashton
27 Susan Anderson
Courtney Brandsfield
Alexander Oberhart
Andrew Oberhart
28 Louise Bergman
Willa Mae Johansen
Linda Vernia
Richard Fry
29 Ralf Hoifeldt
Annette Taylor
Kira Nehmer
30 Thora (Torry) Henderson
Loree Nelson
Jonathan Fry
Kiernan Hutton
31 Barbara Bergman
Lindsey Nelson
Brianna Adams
Nathan Brown

Finance Report – March Results

Financial results for March YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$118,474, Budget \$122,241
- Other Income – Actual \$5,316, Budget \$4,264
- Expenses – Actual \$117,037, Budget \$125,061
- Net activity – Actual \$1,437, Budget (\$2,820)

Actual activity was favorable to budget due to certain expenses whose activity was budgeted but the actual expense has yet to occur. Additionally, certain savings was achieved due to lack of Lead Pastor expense for a portion of the quarter.

Men In Mission

Thursday, May 5, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a delicious dinner and a visual presentation about the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. In addition a DVD titled *Chosen* will be shown. In the winter of 1950, at the height of America's "Forgotten War", 15,000 U.S. Soldiers and Marines found themselves surrounded by an overwhelming force of Communist Chinese soldiers in the mountains of North Korea. This is their story of how they fought their way to freedom through 78 miles of unforgiving, mountainous terrain and ultimately saved the lives of 98,000 civilian refugees.



Des Moines Area Religious Council Annual Spring Assembly

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

There was a good attendance at the assembly. Over all, the programs and finances of DMARC are strong. Thanks to both churches and individuals the giving contributions are encouraging.

One of the needs brought up is for a new warehouse for the food received for distribution to the food pantries. One of the pieces of good news regarding the food supply is the increase in fresh produce. From January-November 2009 - 5,193 pounds of fresh produce were given out and in January- November 2010 this increased to 134,672 pounds.

DMARC has launched a new event to further understanding among people of all faiths, the David Bear Memorial Interfaith Lecture Series. The first address will be on Thursday, May 5 at Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

We also saw a visual presentation of *The Learning Museum of Religious Tolerance*. A number of years ago arson destroyed All Saints Roman Catholic Church in Stuart, IA. The burned church was restored and became this museum with displays and information on eight top world religions. It should be interesting to visit this museum not so far from Des Moines.

Two congregations have been added to the Council: All Saints Catholic Church and Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community.

Joanne Johnson, Delegate



Most Needed Items

Diapers and wipes	Infant/baby formula	Fresh bread
Fruit, canned	UHT milk	Fresh produce
Peanut butter	Personal products	100% Juice
Crackers	Vegetables, canned	Beans
Brown paper sacks	Meat, canned	Pasta
	Spaghetti sauce, canned	Hot & Cold cereal
	Cash gifts to support wholesale food purchases	

Digital Picture Frame

A few years ago the Companion Congregation Committee purchased, through the Endowment Fund, a digital picture frame to display pictures of church activities. If you have a series of pictures to display, PLEASE SHARE. The frame is stored in the office at this time. The frame's size and portability makes it perfect for displaying pictures in the Gathering Hall or other areas inside the church. Contact the office to schedule use.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

March 22, 2011

Present: Mary Friemuth Helt, Pastor Schmidt, Julie Honsey, John Roehrick, Gary Nehmer, Joyce Lewis, Rich Snyder, Jon Rissman, MeLissa Lawson, Kathy Bowermaster

Devotions given by Pastor Schmidt were based on Hebrews 3: 1-6, the assigned reading from the daily lectionary. The printed agenda was adopted with an addition under New Business to appoint Synod delegates. The minutes from the February 22, 2011 meeting were approved as printed.

The written reports were adopted as printed. Highlights being:

- Pastor Schmidt and Jackie Holmes both mentioned and commended the hard work of the Willing Workers in refreshing the office spaces. Thanks to them for all they do.
- Pastor's report was accepted as written and with verbal highlights.
- The motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit was approved.
- Unfinished Business
- The motion to increase staff salaries by 3% retroactive January 1, 2011 was approved.
- The Stewardship Committee will be meeting every month and supplied the Council with a timetable. They will be planning and presenting the Southeastern Iowa Synod Stewardship Resources event, "God's Work. Our Hands."
- The Day Care is investigating the whereabouts of their constitution and by-laws in an attempt to delineate between the duties and responsibilities of the Day Care and those of Grace.
- The Companion Church Committee will be leaving May 3rd for two weeks in Tanzania. They will be commissioned at the worship services on Sunday, May 1 when the Tanzanian worship setting will be used in addition to the 5th Sunday in May.
- There will be an appeal for monies for the Scholarship Fund for Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Lakeside.
- New Business
- A Council retreat to discuss boundaries and delineation of duties between staff, council and committees was scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 7:00 P.M.
- Pastor Schmidt presented a "Covenant of Conduct for Clear and Open Communication" for Council members to reflect on. It will be adapted and adopted at a future Council meeting.
- The Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly is scheduled for May 20-21. Pastor Schmidt will attend as well as two lay delegates.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Honsey, Council Secretary

(These minutes have not yet been approved by the Council.)



News from the Church Council

The Council has commissioned the reorganization of the committee structure at Grace with Council members being assigned to invite people to serve. We have prayed for our God of love to pour out His unifying Spirit upon us in order to awaken our gifts so we can faithfully build up the Body of Christ. When invited know that you were asked because you demonstrate through your works a spiritual gift from God and were specifically chosen because that gift shines out in what you do. When invited to serve, prayerfully consider answering the call to the work of Christ's ministry here at Grace.

ELCA Members Donate \$750,000 for Japan Earthquake Response

As of March 25, ELCA Disaster Response has received gifts totaling more than \$750,000 for Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami relief. Those who give to shared mission support and ELCA World Hunger are already helping to fund the ongoing work in Japan and the deployment of mission personnel through ELCA Global Mission.

Grace Lutheran Church raised \$2,245 for the ELCA Disaster Response.

New Member Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of Grace Lutheran Church? Do you know anyone interested in becoming a member of Grace Lutheran Church? We have an opportunity for you! On May 15, at 1 p.m., we will be offering a new member class in the Gathering Hall. Please let Pastor Mike know if you are interested in attending.

ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering

Do you have an interest in mission and in enhancing our connections with local and global Christians? The ELCA "Glocal" Mission Gathering may be for you. It is a day and a half gathering that focuses on gaining practical skills for mission through a variety of workshops that include social action, radical hospitality, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Music and Mission, and more. The cost is \$35/person and would be covered by the Lay Ministry Team's budget for lay leadership development. Please see Stephanie Johnson if you are interested. The variety of dates and locations include:

July 22-23 – Decorah, IA

July 29-30 – La Crosse, WI

September 30 – October 1 – Wichita, KS

For more information, go to www.elca.org/glocal.

Is God calling *you*?

Blessed are.....

Grace's building is one that is used by many different groups and people, and we give thanks for the variety of ministries that take place here. As we all share the space, let's remember...

Blessed are those who turn off the lights after they leave a room, for the earth is glad.

Blessed are those who leave rooms in good order, for to them others are thankful.

Blessed are those who do not "raid" the church refrigerator, for because of them others get their cake and eat it, too.

Blessed are those who do not open locked doors and leave them standing open, for they remember the importance of another person's goods.

Blessed are you who find a mess and pick it up, for because of you others inherit a good room.

Blessed are you who volunteer to help in any way needed, for through you children learn to be servants.

Blessed are you who make raspberry pie for the staff... (just kidding!)



Lutheran Lakeside Camp Scholarship Fund at Grace

Confirmation camp is one of the many summer ministries of Lutheran Lakeside Camp, and each year we have several students who attend as part of our confirmation program. This

year the cost of confirmation camp is \$395. If you would like to contribute to Grace's scholarship fund so that financial hardship is not a barrier for any family, please write your check for any amount to *Grace Lutheran Church*, write "Lakeside Camp scholarship fund" in the memo portion, and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office. For more information about the camp, feel free to explore their website at www.lutheranlakeside.com. Thanks for your help!

Lydia Circle

Next meeting is May 17th. at 6:00 p.m.

Ascension Day Brunch

Plans are underway for the annual Ascension Day Service and Brunch on June 2nd. Watch for our signup sheets in the Gathering Hall on May 22 and May 29 for those wishing to attend. The fees will remain \$5.00 for Grace members and a free will offering for their guests from area churches.

Children and Families



Congratulations to All First Communion Students!

On Maundy Thursday, April 21, we celebrated with 11 children who had the joy of experiencing their First Communion. After taking part in two classes and painting their own chalices, they joined their families at the communion rail and shared Christ's body and blood. May God's grace envelop them throughout their lives, and may it nourish and encourage them in their faith development. Congratulations to Emma Ashton, Drake Carney, Quinci Chapman, Ivy Lawson, Eryn Lenhart, Kyra Lenhart, Maya Lenhart, Maya Uehling Lint, Kayleigh Medhurst, Trinity Newman, and Sam Speck.



God and Family Scout Recognition Day

The God and Family scout badge is a 6-week program for any 4th or 5th grade child wishing to understand the importance of family and God's role in a healthy family and to earn a Lutheran Religious Emblem for Girl Scouts or Webelos. Recently two youth from Grace, along with three other young boys, participated in this program at Grace. On Sunday, May 1, we will be honoring their achievement at the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Congratulations to Kyler Medhurst, Ben Wonderlin, Matthew Dirksen, Cole Bott, and Davis Kuhlers! We applaud you and your families for your dedication and commitment.



Congratulations to Graduating High School Seniors!

Graduation time is here again! This is an exciting time of year for all those experiencing this important milestone in their young lives. On Sunday, May 22, we will be honoring Grace's graduating high school seniors at both services and at an informal cake reception in Grace Hall at 9:15 a.m. If you are the proud family of a graduating senior in your home, please contact Stephanie Johnson **by Monday, May 16**, to RSVP for that day. High school seniors – please send Stephanie a 3-5 sentence paragraph about current school and future plans so that we can include that in the bulletin and next newsletter. You can send it to the church or email it to stephaniejohnson@q.com. God's blessings to you!



Child Safety Training

What is a child safe policy and what are the benefits of it? How do we develop or revise one that makes sense in our setting? Angie Larson, Associate in Ministry and Youth and Family Ministry professional, will lead a synod sponsored retreat for youth and children's ministry workers on Saturday, June 4, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. here at Grace. Congregations can then meet with their own teams from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. if desired. The cost is \$10/person (lunch and program materials). To register,

visit www.seiasynod.org and click on the Child Safe Policy Retreat link under "What's New". For more information, please contact Pastor Eric Carlson at Carlson@seiasynod.org or at 515-263-5541, or see Stephanie Johnson.



Calling VBS Volunteers!

Wanted: Chefs with a specialty of serving up the Word of God to children!

Would you like to spend a whole week at Shake It Up Café teaching the secret ingredients for being a follower of God? At Shake It Up Café we will celebrate biblical festivals through dramas, crafts, games, science activities, music, and hours of fun!

Sign up for a Vacation Bible School leadership role and join us in the excitement at Shake It Up Café: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe. There are a wide range of opportunities for a variety of interests and time availability. Volunteers can be 6th grade and up. Check out the VBS display in the Gathering Hall. Volunteer sign-up sheets are attached to the registration packets, available separately, and also on the website. Please return them to Stephanie Johnson's mailbox by her office.

Dates: Monday, June 27 – Friday, July 1

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – ages 3 to grade 5

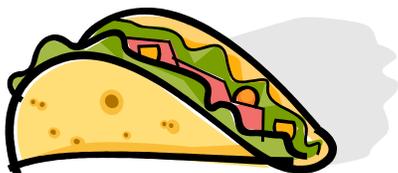
12:00 - 4:00 p.m. – grades 1-5

4:00 - 5:30 p.m. – aftercare for grades 1-5

Cost: FREE

Volunteer Training Night: Tuesday, June 21 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Questions? See your VBS Planning Team – Beth Flannery, Julie Honsey, Stephanie Johnson, MeLissa Lawson, Kristin Medhurst, and Jim Merkwon. And don't forget to register your children by Monday, June 20!



Get to Know Pastor Mike!

Starting on May 22nd, Pastor Mike will gather with people of Grace Lutheran Church at Carlos O' Kelly's (4371 Merle Hay Rd.) for lunch every Sunday at noon. There will be a sign up sheet outside his door. Why Carlos O'Kelly's? They like church people! Pastors eat free every Sunday, and with a bulletin, anyone gets 10 percent off of their bill. So, Carlos O'Kelly's has agreed to reserve an area for 6-10 people each Sunday for people from Grace Lutheran Church to get to know Pastor Mike. This will be a time of informal conversation shared over a meal. It should be a time of good food and great fellowship!

Music Notes.....

April has been a super busy month for worship and music as the services were thoughtfully designed and the music selections carefully rehearsed for Lent. I was pleased with the response to the Meditation/Healing Service that was held at the end of March. The Chancel Choir, Grace Bells and Grace Brass all provided music for the attendees to aid them in their meditation during this season of Lent. Pastor Mike led the congregation in scripture and reflection, plus anointed, with oil, those that chose to come forward. In addition there were candles at the kneeling rail for those that wish to offer additional prayers. In my conversation with Pastor Mike, it is my belief that we will offer a similar service sometime in the fall.

The Wednesday Lenten services were well attended. Kathy Bowermaster did excellent work as the weekly liturgist on the Holden Evening Prayer. I am always so pleased to hear this congregation sing as it is outstanding in its singing. The Chancel Choir, Grace Bells, Grace Brass and Youth Bells each presented numbers for worship during Lent. There is such a wide variety of music available for this season and it is good that these ensembles can offer selections to enhance the worship of our congregation.

The Palm Sunday service set the tone for a very meaningful Holy Week. The Chancel Choir presented two selections of great contrast to help depict the beginning excitement of the day of Jesus entering Jerusalem and ending with the realization of impending outcome. While many things are in place, planning worship services with Pastor Mike has been easy. A bit of "tweaking" was done to help make them more meaningful for the congregation. The services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday helped further enhance the meaning of Easter, with a glorious service on Easter Sunday, as the Grace Brass and Chancel Choir helped bring additional excitement to the music used for worship.

A series of "mini organ recitals" were held for 30 minutes, beginning at noon, on each Wednesday during Lent. A different composer or style of music was featured each week. Each recital was designed to feature the Schantz pipe organ and give listeners the opportunity to hear the organ in a wide variety of literature. Grace is very lucky to have an instrument of this caliber and those that were on the committee are to be commended for their diligent work to see that Grace has this quality instrument. It has been a pleasure to research, rehearse, and present organ music during this period. I have been evaluating this endeavor and look forward to future venues of this nature.

The month of May will begin the winding down of the current program year as I have been planning and scheduling the various groups. The Chancel Choir and Grace Bells will both be at the services on May 1. This is a special day as there will be a sending service for those that will be leaving for Tanzania on the 3rd of May. We will also be using the Tanzanian service at both services. Carol Woodruff and I plan that the Youth Bells, Youth Choir and Chapel Chimers will offer selections on May 15. On May 29, we will begin our summer schedule of one service at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning and that will last through Labor Day, September 4. The 5:00 p.m. Saturday worship will begin on June 4. The Worship Committee will meet on May 16 at 5:45 p.m. On May 25 the Chancel Choir, Grace Brass, and Grace Bells will have their End-of-Year Potluck at Denny and Pat Rehder's beginning at 6:00 p.m.

I am constantly amazed at the talent of our music groups here at Grace. They give so willingly and freely of themselves to help enhance the worship services for the congregation. While there weren't as many people at the Meditation/Healing Service as I would have hoped, one music member said to me that "we also do this (music) for ourselves." How truthful a statement.

See you in church.
RICH





Lutheran World Relief All Congregational Follow-up

Wow, what a wonderful event on April 10. Thank you to everyone that helped to plan the worship service, the all church service event, and afternoon quilting. Melonie Gibbons and Rev. Daniel Ruth brought the message of Lutheran World Relief from the National Office.



The members of Grace did the local work--- God's work, Our hands. We packed 51 quilts, 100 Health Kits, 50 School Kits, 27 Layettes, 17 Sewing Kits and several pieces of fabric for sewing. Thank you, **Beth Flannery**, for all of your work and thank you, **Pat Bordt**, for all of your years of faithful service as the LWR Chair. Welcome to **Julie Honsey**, the new chair of the LWR Committee! Thank you for your willingness to take on this important ministry. Blessings to you in your leadership.

In this and the next few newsletters we will be sharing "the stories" of the people that have been on the kit committee and making quilts. By sharing these stories they hope that you will be inspired to do for others, possibly through Lutheran World Relief.

Dorothy Singh— When Dorothy and her husband, Duleep, joined Grace in 1993 there was not a committee for LWR kits. She knew that most of the churches in Des Moines were not involved with LWR kits like the small town churches were. After attending the Synodical Conference in Cedar Rapids with Mazelle Carlsen, they decided to start a kit committee at Grace. Dorothy said, "I am involved with LWR because it helps people in the US and around the world. Growing up in India my mother was involved with a similar type organization of the Methodist Church. It makes me happy that I have encouraged people like Kathy Barks, Louise Bergman and others to do good things."