



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church

May 24, 2011

Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning Sunday, May 29
9:00 a.m.
Beginning Saturday, June 4
5:00 p.m.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study
Continues until June 21
8:45-10:15 a.m.
Resumes in the Fall

Contact Us

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Companion Congregation
Msindo Parish
in Tanzania

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

With the changes in the weather (finally) and the number of children enjoying the many area playgrounds these days, I can't help but reflect on a certain playground from my childhood.

Looking back, it wasn't that special of a playground, nestled in the middle Clear Lake, IA not far from the lake, a bank, and other assorted errand destinations. We wouldn't even go there very often. The little wood cabin was a little too small for the average Schmidt kid, myself included. I don't remember a swing set or some sort of climbing apparatus. What I do remember is a well used merry-go-round and the strong arms of my father.

We used to climb aboard and hold on for dear life as our Father would push and pull, faster and faster. Even now I can't remove the smile from my face thinking about the NASA like centrifugal force that would first straighten our tired arms and pull the tears of laughter from our faces. As the world around us became a blur, the greens and browns of the trees and grass turning into a kaleidoscope of sorts, void of any distinguishable resemblance of anything real, someone would cry out for mercy, having seen enough, felt enough, and knowing the present reality of a possible unexpected revisit by a long forgotten bowl of cereal. Stop! Stop! The world would slowly come back into focus, only to start spinning again once you stopped moving. Then, after the universe again achieved equilibrium, and we were all relatively certain any prior meal was at bay and not interested in an encore, one of us would shout, "Do it again!" Dad would look over with a rather mischievous look in his eye and sporting something between a smile and a dare on his face and ask, "Are you sure???"

This was an experience that stood outside the grasp of time. It was a sacred moment, something that cannot be explained or reasoned, simply experienced. Each time was slightly different, but equally as exciting, and now...profound. In the middle of something ordinary, came something extraordinary.

I often wonder why it is so different when we gather together for worship. Instead of climbing aboard and saying, "Do it again" we sometimes ask, "Why are we doing *that* again?" We gather in this sacred space, in the very presence of God, yet it seems so ordinary. When we gather in worship and share in the Word and Sacrament, we are part of something far greater than ourselves and our time together. We gather together and share in traditions and rituals, inundated with symbols and symbolism that are so profound that we seldom take the time or energy to encounter.

Worship is something extraordinary. Do it again!

In Christ,

Pastor Mike

Sympathy Is Extended to

Family and friends of Louise Bergman, 92, who passed away on May 12. Louise was a member of Grace for 52 years and taught at Hubbell Elementary for 23 years. She tutored elementary school children, loved to sew, and enjoyed making school bags for LWR.

Art and Ruth Berven's family on the death of their daughter-in-law, Stella Berven. Stella passed away on May 2 in Madison, WI. She worked as an Occupational Therapist. Art recently said in an email "Stella was one of the BEST."

Expressions of Thanks

Thank you to everyone ever connected to our Grace Lutheran Church family, present and past. May God Bless You! No words of mine can truly express the thoughts in my heart. Please accept our sincere "Thank you." To Pastor Mike for helping make Dwane's funeral such a beautiful celebration; the special music; my husband would have been in awe of all the people who came to honor him; all the cards, memorials, kind deeds, visits, and constant prayers for these last six years as we lived so homebound.

We could not physically get to church, but you kept bringing church to us. Through all of you God provided us the strength to keep going. We feel so fortunate to have been members of Grace for 57 years. God must have guided us as young people to open a business in the territory back in 1951, and the "rest of the story" is history (to be continued later). We always said it and we know it for sure, God works in mysterious ways!

Again thank you and God bless you always.

In Love,
Helen Richards & Family

Thank you to my friends at Grace Lutheran Church for the beautiful card and Easter lily I received for Easter. I enjoy it a lot.

God Bless,
Palma C. Williams

A Thought from the Stewardship Committee

GUILT?? It's easy to feel good about the portion of our offerings that go to help people in desperate need around the globe. But - do we feel a little selfish about the amount of money we use for supporting our own church? Think of why we attend Grace Lutheran Church. We are a truly open faith community that worships together, supports one another in joy and sadness, teaches our youth our faith traditions. But the reasons we attend are much more than that. Grace Lutheran Church is a mission church to our own community. We get moral direction and true inspiration from our pastor and staff. When we interact with others outside our church family, we reflect those feelings and attitudes without being consciously aware. The joy and confidence we receive is shared with the rest of our community. So - uncomfortable about the money that goes to supporting our own church? **Absolutely NOT!**

Finance Report – April Results

Financial results for April YTD are as follows:

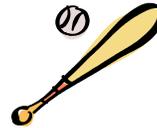
- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$162,401, Budget \$162,302
- Other Income – Actual \$6,485, Budget \$5,686
- Expenses – Actual \$163,323, Budget \$168,431
- Net activity – Actual \$5,563, Budget (\$443)

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 year.

Ascension Day

**Ascension Day Service is on Thursday, June 2nd at 10:00 a.m.
followed by Brunch at 11:00 a.m.**

Lydia Circle will be taking reservations for the Ascension Day Service and Brunch on Sunday, May 29 before and after both services. Reservation deadline is Monday, May 30th. There is a \$5.00 fee for Grace members and a free will offering for their guests from area churches. Contacts are Mary Freimuth Helt at 255-6433 or Jan Gross 288-6974.



Men in Mission

2011 Iowa Cubs Baseball Game

The annual I-Cubs game is scheduled for August 7th at 3:05 p.m. Tickets will go on sale around the end of June. We look forward to spending the afternoon together.

Contacts for game tickets are:

Max Palmer, 255-3304
Carter Woodruff, 277-0910

Enjoy Lunch with Pastor Mike

Join Pastor Mike for lunch at Carlos O' Kelly's (4371 Merle Hay Rd.) on Sundays at noon. Pastors eat free every Sunday, and with a bulletin, anyone gets 10 percent off of their bill. 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 good food and great fellowship! The signup sheet is on Pastor Mike's office door and there are still some openings.





GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Minutes
April 26, 2011

Present: Rich Snyder, John Roehrick, Mary Freimuth Helt, Joyce Lewis, Julie Honsey, Kathy Bowermaster, Pastor Schmidt, Gary Nehmer, Janet Habick, Kristin Medhurst

The meeting opened with devotions given by Pastor Schmidt from the third chapter of Colossians calling us to bear with one another and clothe ourselves in love.

Agenda was adopted as printed and with two additions.

The minutes from March 22, 2011 were approved as printed.

The written reports as well as the financial report were accepted as printed. Pastor presented a few highlights from his first month at Grace. Kathy Bowermaster presented a brief overview of the Communication Team's work which included the development of our website, brochures and other projects. She asked the Council to consider initiatives they would like the Communications Team to be working on and discussed her plan to recruit new members.

Unfinished Business

- A cluster grid showing the organizational structure of Grace as laid out by the Council at the April 14th retreat and which is in compliance with the constitution and by-laws was presented with the discussion over the structure continuing and the grid being refined. Approval is pending based on further refining. The monies to be paid to Heather Nelson for providing nursery coverage during Sunday worship will come from the Worship and Music Committee budget.
- The Personnel Committee will provide the Council with the job descriptions that were developed for each staff position at Grace.
- The Property Committee presented a written report that updated their recent projects and a plan to use the monies that was allotted to the committee from the Corrine Reed estate funds. Thank you to the Property Committee for all their hard work.
- The Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly will be held May 20 and 21 in Coralville. The delegates from Grace will be Pastor Schmidt and Julie Honsey with another lay person constitutionally eligible to attend.

New Business

- The Council will begin a discussion on the book The Corporate Person by Harold Everson. A portion of time from each monthly meeting will be allotted for the discussions. It has been suggested that a First Aid kit and heart defibrillator be positioned in the Gathering Hall. Joyce Lewis will investigate.
- The Council approved that Grace host the 2012 Lutheran Lakeside Quilt Auction in conjunction with other area congregations in serving the meal.
- Men in Mission donated approximately \$300.00 to the Lutheran Lakeside Scholarship Fund with an additional \$200.00 being designated for maintenance supplies needed while Grace volunteers are at the camp doing their annual spring cleaning and repair.
- It was approved that the Council move to executive session.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Honsey, Council Secretary

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

Council News

Grace developed a policy of collecting funds for Lutheran Lakeside Camp scholarships for our students who want a camp experience. Since Confirmation Camp is an expectation connected with Confirmation, we need a fund to support those students for whom camp expenses are a financial hardship.

During coffee time on May 29 we will be collecting money to provide for our own students, as we have in the past. Please consider a small contribution to the Lakeside Camp Scholarship Fund. Thank you to Men in Mission for getting us started. We can always depend on your generosity and dedication! Please direct money to our camp fund by making your check out to Grace Lutheran Church and indicate "Camp Scholarship" on the memo line. Deposit into the offering plate or mail to the church office.

Congratulations!

New members Pastor Michael Schmidt and Diane Hawn joined our Grace family on May 1st.

Wedding - Carolyn Driscoll and Justin Andersen were married at Grace on May 7th.

Baptisms - Charlotte and Moe Nielsen witnessed three baptisms - two great-grandsons and a grandson-in-law at Grace on Easter Sunday.

Graduate - Ann Naffier graduated from Drake University Law School with highest honors and a grade point average of nearly 4.0 on May 13, 2011. Her specialization is immigration law, a field in which she has had twenty years of hands-on working experience.

Memorial Funds

Thank you to the family of Kay Barks for a portion of her memorial funds used to participate in the purchase of the aerial lift. The lift will make changing ceiling light bulbs and high interior maintenance work much safer for members of our Property Committee.

All Are Welcome

DeVee Trickel is graduating from Waukee High School. Please join us in celebration Friday, May 27 from 5-8 p.m. at our house at 15716 Walnut Meadows Dr., Grimes, 3 miles north of Hickman off 156th St. Would love to see you, no gifts please!
The Trickel Family

College Scholarship Awards

The following received \$500 scholarships for the 2011-2012 school year:

Jessye Flannery

Gustavus Adolphus College
2nd year

Tyler Peeler

Grand View University, 2nd year

Robbie Rissman

Grand View University, 1st year

Ellen Wonderlin

Lutheran School of Theology
at Chicago, 1st year

Music Notes.....

As the program year winds down this month of May, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who continue to help with worship and music. It takes many people working as a unit in order to bring it all together and make it meaningful for the worshipping congregation. We are really blessed to have so many youth through adults actively involved at Grace. Each ensemble - Chancel Choir, Grace Bells, Grace Brass, Chapel Chimers, Youth Choir and Youth Bells - adds a great deal to the worship services in which they participate. We are also fortunate to have those that are willing to participate as liturgist and present special music during worship. That extra leadership is reassuring as each worship and music service is planned. As the ensembles take a break during the summer, I hope that others will contemplate becoming a part of this integral portion of worship. We are always ready to add new members to these organizations. When the announcement is made for those rehearsal starts in the fall, make it a point become even more active in the life of Grace Lutheran and participate.

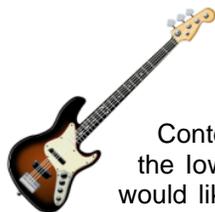
For the program year winding down, it seemed that May was just as busy, if not busier than usual, with all the music activities and rehearsals, plus special worship services. The Tanzanian service on May 1 was one such service. The addition of Grace Bells and Chancel Choir on individual numbers helped to bring a more celebratory atmosphere, as we gave a group "send off" to those going to Tanzania and our companion congregation there. It was exciting to have our Youth Bells, Youth Choir, and Chapel Chimers take an active leadership role in worship on May 15. The Grace Bells and Grace Brass combined their efforts on May 22 as the program year ends. All of the services do take careful planning as we prepare each week. On May 25 the choirs will hold their end-of-the-year potluck at Denny and Pat Rehder's. It will begin at 6:00 p.m.

On May 29, we will begin our summer Sunday schedule of one service at 9:00 a.m. On June 4, Saturday evening services will begin with worship starting at 5:00 p.m. The Saturday services are scheduled through August 27. We will return to two services on Sunday, September 11, Rally Sunday.

I have been working on the schedule for liturgists and Saturday accompanists for the summer, and it is nearly complete. I am hoping there are number of people that would be willing to offer their talents for special music on Sundays during the summer hiatus of the various ensembles of Grace. If you have a solo, or if there is any ensemble that could be offered for worship, please contact me at the church either by phone or e-mail so it can be scheduled. I know there is great amount of talent in this congregation and hope that those talents would be offered for all to hear.

I also have been working on the planning for the next program year. I will have the opportunity to attend the AGO Region VI Organ Festival/Convention here in Des Moines from June 20-23. It is an exciting time to have this convention held here as it will feature many of the fine organs of Des Moines and surrounding area churches. Other music workshops and conventions are scheduled for July.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve the people at Grace. See you in church.
RICH



Casting Crowns Concert

Contemporary Christian Artists Casting Crowns and Sanctus Real will be at the Iowa State Fair Grandstand, on Thursday, August 11, at 8:00 p.m. If you would like to go with a group from Grace Lutheran, please call Lori Fry **before June 15**, at 967-0736 or email at lori.fry@mchsi.com. Tickets are \$35.00.
Men, women and families are welcome!

2011 Youth Spring Fundraiser a Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Garage Sale/Plant Sale/Bake Sale/Breakfast & Lunch a very successful fundraiser for the 8th through 12th graders. We appreciated all the donations you made to the Garage Sale and the Bake Sale. Thank you for all the plant orders and for coming and supporting us on Sale Day. All the proceeds will go towards the 2012 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.



2011 High School Senior Biographies

Congratulations to all those who are graduating from high school this spring! Our prayers go with them in their new endeavors.

Robbie Rissman is a graduate of Johnston High School. He is the son of Jon and Cherie Rissman. Robbie is interested in video production and enjoyed being a film technician for the varsity football team during his senior year. He currently works at Four Corners Feed in Johnston. He plans to attend Grand View University this fall for video production.

DeVee Trickle will be graduating Waukee High School on 5/28. She will be attending DMACC for 1 to 2 years and is hoping to transfer to ISU, Kansas City Art Institute or Colorado State University. Her goal and focus is on an art degree. She is interested in the fine arts of drawing and ceramics but also in the art of tattooing.

Gary Denton is graduating from Valley High School in West Des Moines. He is undecided on his course of study so he will attend DMACC in the fall starting out with an Associates of Arts degree and continue to explore his future plans.

Kenneth Schwarz is graduating from Valley High School in West Des Moines. He will be attending Drake University with plans to major in radio broadcasting producing. He also recently received his Eagle Scout badge for building a labyrinth at Heartland Presbyterian Church.

Peter Mark Mattes, baptized child of God, was confirmed at Grace Lutheran and will graduate from Future Pathways/East High School this fall 2011. Peter will then start college at Grand View University in the spring of 2012. Currently Peter's interests are writing, psychology, and history.

Ethan Meadows will graduate from Urbandale High School and has decided to attend DMACC for one or two years before transferring to the University of Northern Iowa. He will be working towards an English degree in the hopes of becoming a high school English teacher.

Megan Jensen is graduating from Johnston High School and will be attending Grand View University in the fall. She is planning on majoring in Nursing and playing soccer.

Christopher ("Chase") Janson is graduating from Urbandale High School and plans on attending the University of Iowa next fall. He will be joining AFROTC and majoring in Computer Science. Eventually he would like to fly for either the military or commercial aircraft.

Joshua Curry is 18 years old and graduating from Hoover High School. He currently has two part time jobs at Farrell's and Apex Athletics. He plans to remain in Iowa and go to DMACC in the fall to study Auto Mechanics and Electricity.

Mike Flannery is graduating from Roosevelt High School and plans to study aerospace engineering and communications at Iowa State University. While in high school Mike has been active in Speech and Debate, Mock Trial, Band, National Honor Society and Newspaper. He has also enjoyed volunteering at church and helping MeLissa Lawson lead the science station at Vacation Bible School for the past couple of years.

Genaro Ruiz is graduating from Herbert Hoover High School. While a student there, he played soccer for all four years. His future plans include attending Iowa State University and studying Civil Engineering.

Brianna Adams

Calling all college grads!



If you are celebrating a college or graduate school graduation, we would love to know! Please send your name and a 3-5 sentence paragraph (up to about 200 – 250 words) about your studies and any future plans to Stephanie Johnson at stephaniejohnson@q.com by June 22 so that we can publish your information in the next newsletter. God's blessings!

Where Do You See God?

We have started a project that will display the many ways we see God in the world. This project started in worship on May 22nd and will continue through the summer. We invite you to write down a place or a way that you have seen God in the world, whether in nature or in the witness of a person being Christ to another. There is a gift box in the Gathering Hall in which to place what you have written. If photography is more your style, take a picture! You may give the photos to either Stephanie Johnson or Pastor Mike.

June Birthdays

- 1 Danielle Russell
- 2 Marvin Simonsen
- 3 Lisa Brown
- 4 Leslie Denton
Achmed Johnson
Virgil Olson
- 5 Erica Schwarz
Molly Riordan
Nataasha Voelker
- 6 Debbie Curry
- 8 Samuel Ruiz
- 10 Brian Riordan
- 11 Jacob McCann
- 12 Lee Johnson
- 13 James Beeler
Stacy Speck
Michele Turner
- 14 Joshua Habick
MeLissa Lawson
- 15 Paul Grodt
Joseph Gutmann
Allison Hofman
Peter Mattes
Sandra Meyer
Kenneth Schwarz
- 16 Joseph Honsey
Donald Schroeder
- 17 Curt Johansen
Matthew Jordahl
Eugene Krauss
Rita Stackhouse
- 18 Marilyn Nizzi
Vivian Swanson
- 19 Diana Johnson
Luis Reaza
- 21 Paul Kallenbach
- 22 Martha Mitchell
- 23 Sharena Curry
Megan Riordan
Terin Stanfley
Delmar Vernia
- 24 Sandra Roehrick
- 25 Barbara Tussing
- 26 Fern Farme
- 27 Vivian Feilmann
- 28 Norma Black
Cynthia Cooper
Joann Pierce
- 29 Leanne Davis
Elizabeth Gronert
- 30 Steve McCann



Sprucing up our spaces

Calling all painters! Plans are underway for some fresh coats of paint in various spaces of our building. If you would love to grab a paintbrush or roller and join us for the sprucing up projects, please let us know! We would love to include you as we work to freshen up the following areas.

Sunday School Classrooms: Last year the Sunday school received an Endowment Grant to have a artist paint murals on the downstairs hallway and on the walls leading up to the gym. This year the project will expand into the classrooms to make those more child and student friendly as well. Currently we are looking for painters to apply a general coat of fresh paint on an appointed wall of each Sunday school classroom. Once that is complete, the new images will be drawn on that wall. As the summer unfolds, look for opportunities to help us paint the images as well. In the meantime, if you are available in early to mid June for some general painting, please contact Cherie Rissman at 270-0278 or Stephanie Johnson at 276-6873.

Esperanza Café: The Lay Ministry Team also received a grant to spruce up the Esperanza Café to make it a more user friendly and welcoming space for informal gatherings, classes, or meetings. In addition to redesigning the space itself and bringing in some new furniture, we will be painting the walls. The area will have a whole new and inviting look! Want to help? Contact Julie Honsey at 282-8817



Summer Coffee Servers

Do you enjoy providing hospitality to others? Would you like to be a friendly face for someone? Then you might be a person who would find meaning in helping to serve coffee on Sunday mornings. Please consider serving in this way and look for the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Hall beginning Sunday, May 29. Coffee servers are needed for the summer months. Whole families can do this together! It's a great way to get to know other people.

To find out more information about what's involved in this ministry, please contact Karen Taylor at 278-1788. Are you already involved? Invite a friend to serve with you and share the joy!



2011 ELCA Video Contest

Big news! The ELCA is announcing a new video contest for ELCA members and congregations. The goal is to answer this question: **What does it mean to live Lutheran?**

Do you have flair with a video camera? Are you driven by creativity? Do you tend to see things from a fresh perspective? You might want to consider entering the contest and sharing your faith story with the church. How do you live Lutheran in today's world? Share your response!

More details and tips to help you get started can be found at www.livinglutheran.com/contest. Congregations could win a \$3,000 ministry grant, and individuals could win a \$1,500 cash prize. There are also prizes for the most popular congregation and individual video entries. In addition, a selection of videos will be shown at the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly this August for thousands to see.

Entries will be accepted from **May 17 to June 30**. You can also vote for your favorite videos beginning **May 17 until July 15**. So what does it mean to live Lutheran? How do you live Lutheran in today's world? Grab your camera and let's know how you see it! **God's work.... Our hands.... Ever unfolding....**

Congratulations

to the
**Grace Kids Care
Class of 2011**



**Payton, Miss Amber, London, Charla, Sean,
Ike, Hayden, Haley, Owen, Miss Bobbie, Grant
Sonja & Brianna**

Good luck in kindergarten!

We know you are ready and you will have a great time!

We are proud of you!

Miss Heather

&

Staff at Grace Kids

Vacation Bible School

Don't forget to register for the Shake It Up Café! We would love to have your children join us! Registration forms and details can be found at the VBS display in the Gathering Hall, and volunteer information is available as well. We love our volunteers, and there is a wide variety of opportunities ranging from one day, multi-day, partial day, or whole week commitments. Want to make a difference in the life of a child this summer? Want to be a part of their growth in faith? Join us, and be transformed in the process.

Remember – it takes place June 27 – July 1 and is for children ages 3-grade 5. The time is 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (3-5 year old program from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. only) with aftercare available from 4:00-5:30 p.m. The cost? FREE!
Grab a few flyers and invite your friends!

For questions or more information about the program or about volunteering, please contact anyone on your VBS Planning Team: Beth Flannery, Julie Honsey, Stephanie Johnson, MeLissa Lawson, Kristin Medhurst, or Jim Merkwon.