



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church

June 28, 2011

Join us for Summer Worship

Sunday Holy Communion
Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. in
the Sanctuary

Saturday Holy Communion
Worship Service at 5:00 p.m. in
the Sanctuary

Summer schedule runs through
Labor Day weekend.

Contact Us

Pastor Michael Schmidt
pastormike@gracedm.org

Director of Laity Ministries
Stephanie Johnson
stephaniejohnson@q.com

Director of Music
worship@gracedm.org

Grace Kids' Care Director
Heather Nelson
heathernelsondc@msn.com

Office Administrator
Jackie Holmes
worship@gracedm.org

Office Assistant
Lori Fry
lori.fry@mchsi.com

Receptionist
Diana Johnson

Latino Communications
Coordinator
Claudia Castillo

Website
www.gracedm.org
276-6873
Fax 276-4048



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Companion Congregation
Msindo Parish
in Tanzania

Time to Go Green!

It should not be a surprise to anyone at this point if I describe myself as a "Liturgical Nerd". To say that I love the changes in church seasons and their colors would be an understatement.

Colors have meaning, not just aesthetically, not just in art class, not just liturgically, contextually, historically or any other "ly". Colors, the very liturgical colors, bring a tangible presence in the life of the church. When you see the blue, no matter what the artwork, you find yourself in the longing for the birth of the Christ child. It is like your subconscious, your very soul, sees the difference and reacts accordingly. You see white or gold and you know something special has happened. The red appears and you know something has changed. Purple draws us into the Lenten paradox of king and cross. These colors paint the story of Christ in liturgy and in life. Green...green...you are less flashy and dramatic, but what you tell us is the lesson that we need to hear.

I walked into worship this morning with green on my mind, not with envy, but rather full of possibilities. I went into that worship service ready to celebrate the green, determined that everyone would leave that service as excited about the green as me. **Green...green...you** are more than an ecologically minded fad to me. You are the very sign of life and call to mission and ministry. You are the color calling us to share the story and to be the church. You and your earth toned friends call us to remember both the earth and each other as we re-member, together, as the body of Christ. How could we stay white, even for a week, with such a calling shouting amidst the chaos of this world? You remind us that while we look to the cross, while we focus on the Word and the Sacraments, we also need to look around the room, at faces and empty pews, and began the time of the church.

Green...green...you call us to grow, not necessarily in numbers for parochial and trend reports, but into community, into you. You call us to be watered by the life giving water, and then to become spigots, sprinklers, faucets and floods of grace into the world around us. You call us to be fed, by water, bread and wine, and then to share with the world around us.

Green...green...your message has consumed me, your calling rejuvenated me. You are the sign of life and growth. You are a reminder of the importance of vocation and vacation. You stand in the face of our culture, reminding us of what is important in our time depraved society. You enter into our lives in a hectic time filled with weddings and VBS, and ask us if we've been fed today.

Green...green...I may not have been able to convince this community of faith of your importance in that hour on Saturday and Sunday, but don't worry, we've got plenty of time.

Pastor Mike

July Birthdays



- July 1** Carl Feilmann
Matthew Johnson
2 Drew Tillotson
3 Marilyn Anderson
Dale Bordt
4 Sawyer Shiffler
7 Rosella Dingman
8 Larry Pearson
Donna Trickle
9 Careigh Ridnour
10 Rich Dewein
11 Kristina Hutton
Rebecca Lewis
12 Melissa Petty
13 Amy Westercamp
14 Matthew Harbaugh
Heather Honnold
Pauline Olson
Eric Selander
Stacy Walters
Bailey Woodruff
15 Hannah Jensen
Kristin Swanson
Rebecca Harmon
Serena Helton
16 Melinda Scholten
17 Einar Christianson
Lucille Krauss
Jayne Mortenson
Christie Rosheim
18 Anders Nelson
Bradley Nelson
20 Lucius Chapman
Krista Nelson
21 Christian Culp
22 Kathryn Schaller
23 Linda Biegger
Pat Bordt
24 Jacob Gibney
25 Justin Andersen
26 Morgan Mortenson
28 Tom Russell
29 Genaro Ruiz
30 Gary Denton



Please Keep in Your Prayers

The family and friends of **Dorothy (Dot) Williamson**, 79, who passed away on June 4 at Ramsey Village. Dorothy was a member of Grace for 14 years and served as Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee and was a member of Martha Circle. Her funeral was held at Grace on June 8. Entombment was at Resthaven Mausoleum, West Des Moines, IA.

With Heartfelt Thanks

Thank you to all Grace members who made contributions in memory of Dorothy Williamson. The money is being used for the Scholarship Fund.

Sarah Williamson

My Dear Grace Family,

Thank you very much for the scholarship to help me attend the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago this fall. It means a great deal to know you are behind me as I start down this path.

God bless,
Ellen Wonderlin

Men in Mission

We will not meet during the month of July.

The annual **I-Cubs game** is scheduled for **August 7th** at 3:05 p.m.

The I-Cubs will host Oklahoma.

Tickets go on sale after worship services July 2 & 3, July 9 & 10, and July 16 & 17.

Tickets are available for pickup on following worship services
on July 30 & 31 and August 6 & 7.

Contacts for game tickets are: Max Palmer, 255-3304, Carter Woodruff, 277-0910

Stewardship Thought

If there is something important that I must remember to do regularly I have to make a habit of it so that I don't forget it. I take a medication to control my cholesterol. It is to be taken faithfully each evening at bedtime, so I keep the pills in the cupboard right next to the coffee because I ALWAYS set the coffee pot up on a timer for the next day just before going to bed. Then I see the pills and remember to take my medicine.

Because being a good steward of the money God has entrusted to me is very important I also must make giving a habit. So I share this little verse with you as a reminder:

May I, YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPE, have a word with you?

"I am an envelope set aside for a high spiritual purpose.

I want to be used so I can build your church ministries.

I want to go with you to church every time you worship.

**I don't want to be a victim of carelessness or
lack of concern for Christ's mission.**

**If you use me regularly, you will be influencing our community for good
and going into all the world every day to glorify Jesus.**

**Please make me your priority and fill me first
before you spend for anything else."**

(Permission given by Rev. Waldo Werning to use the above)

Please join us in adopting a habit of good stewardship!

The Stewardship Committee



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Minutes
May 24, 2011

Present: Mary FreimuthHelt, Jon Rissman, Joyce Lewis, Julie Honsey, Gary Nehmer, Carla Peterman, Kristin Medhurst, Rich Snyder, John Roehrick

Devotions were given by Julie Honsey.

The agenda was approved with additions.

The minutes from April 26, 2011 were approved as printed.

The staff and property reports were accepted as written with some verbal highlights including our attendance was up slightly in April and on Easter Sunday, and Day Care needs (cribs, cots, mulch and playground fence). A discussion ensued as to whether or not the Council need approve spending for general maintenance when the Day Care has money in their account. It was approved that the Day Care Director be allowed to make budgetary decisions without council approval with a caveat that the Council be informed.

The finance report was accepted subject to audit.

Unfinished Business

- The Companion Congregation Committee has recently returned from Tanzania. Msindo now has 61 cattle from the initial herd of 4 bulls and 20 cows.
- Rich Snyder spoke to Jackie Holmes and Heather Nelson about what their needs are in the church office and Day Care in regard to security cameras. He also spoke to two police officers in the congregation for advice on what types of cameras we need to monitor access to the church and ascertain liability in the parking lot.
- We have consistently have had children in the nursery during the 10:45 worship and two occasions there were 5 children to be watched.
- Scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 have been granted to four students; Tyler Peeler, Jessica Flannery, Robbie Rissman, Ellen Hanusa Wonderlin.

It was approved that the Council move to Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Honsey, Council Secretary

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



Finance Report – May Results

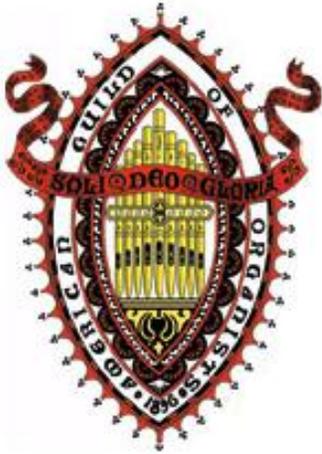
Financial results for May YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$205,466, Budget \$200,628
- Other Income – Actual \$7,688, Budget \$6,982
- Expenses – Actual \$201,312, Budget \$209,461
- Net activity – Actual \$11,842, Budget (\$1,851)

Actual activity was favorable to budget due to certain prepayment of pledges and 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 and lower Latino Communication Coordinator activity.

Music Notes.....

The summer is moving forward as we make plans for the Program Year to start in September. I like to have things planned well enough in advance, so if a problem does arise, I know that I have some options to make it work. When I was teaching, everything, or at least an outline, was on paper before the year started. I had gone to conventions, music reading clinics, workshops, etc. and read through hundreds of sample copies of music, looking for the right selection for the choir that was going to be standing before me. Each spring, copies of musicals were perused to find the one that would hopefully fit the students that would be a part of the cast in the fall. Concert dates and rehearsals were placed on the school calendar so the students knew what to expect. In many ways, the same things happen here at church. Already, dates for special services, extra performances, weekly events, etc., have been placed on the calendar. Many plans have been formulated and will be expanded upon as the summer progresses.



One of the ways to help my planning, or confusion, was being able to attend the American Guild of Organists Convention held here in Des Moines. I feel totally saturated, soaked, and filled to overflowing by the events presented at this convention. There were many interesting sessions geared to offer suggestions on alternative registrations, improvisational techniques, preludes/postludes for the church year, demonstrations on various styles and designs of organs, pastor/musician relationships-working as a team, choral music with organ/instrumental accompaniment, and choral reading sessions. The concerts presented by leading organists throughout the United States were awe-inspiring. The opening night hymn festival, held at Plymouth Congregational, was presented to a standing room only audience. A 125-voice choir, a 5-octave handbell choir, a 24-voice youth choir plus a brass ensemble sent chills throughout the congregation as we joined in worship and song. Arrangements and improvisations by Dr. Aaron David Miller, organist, were fantastic. Organ concerts were also presented to sanctuary filled audiences at the Cathedral of St. Paul Episcopal, Central Presbyterian and the final concert at the Basilica of St. John. This concert included Carl Gravender, organist at Plymouth Congregational, playing organ compositions by Des Moines composers, plus The Des Moines Choral Arts Society Chorus accompanied by Des Moines orchestra members and the Basilica organ in a performance of *The German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms. It was a tremendous performance befitting the

ending of an outstanding convention. Each day, a worship service at one of three churches, Faith Lutheran (T), First Christian (W), or St. John's Lutheran (Th), was held, where preludes/postludes, liturgy, song and word, were offered for the convention members to begin their day. While most of the convention was centered in Des Moines, Wednesday was a day to travel to Pella to do an "organ crawl" and to hear the Theater Organ at the Pella Opera House where lunch was provided. It was fun to watch a Charlie Chaplin silent movie with organ accompaniment. How talented those organists were to fit the music with the scene. Some of the organists also took the opportunity to travel to Grinnell and see the Aeolian-Skinner organ at Grinnell College. It was a fantastic event held here in Des Moines. The response by the public to the free concerts was overwhelming and much larger than what was anticipated. Thank you for your support. I have posted programs from the various performances to which I attended.

I will be attending another convention presented by the Iowa Choral Directors to be held in Mason City at the end of July. It also will be filled with music sessions, concerts and a worship service. This year, Michael Burkhardt will present worship planning sessions on worship and its music. It should be an exciting time.

Thank you to all who are helping by serving as accompanists and liturgists for the Saturday and Sunday services. There are several people that have offered solos during worship. If you wish to also be an active part of worship, please contact Rich at the church. It is a pleasure to serve the people at Grace.

See you in church.

RICH



Driveway Repairs



We will be doing some driveway repair work this summer. The west side (exit) will be closed Tuesday, July 5 – Saturday, July 9, to make repairs to the driveway and approach. All traffic, in and out, will need to use the east side during this time. The following week we will switch all traffic over to the west side so we can make repairs to the east side. The work on the east side will be done Tuesday, July 12 – Saturday, July 16. These dates are all subject to change do to weather, but it is our intent not to interfere with Saturday night or Sunday morning services.

Jon Rissman
Property Committee



2011 College Graduates

Congratulations to the following Grace members who have recently graduated from college! We wish you God's blessings in all your future endeavors.

Laura Wonderlin graduated from the University of Iowa on [May 14](#). She did a double major in Journalism and Mass Communications; and International Studies with an emphasis on Middle Eastern and Muslim World Studies. No post-grad plans yet.

Christopher Kallenbach graduated from Iowa State with degrees in Anthropology and Religious Studies.

Matthew Trickel will be graduating from Iowa State University in August. His major is Integrated Studio Art. He is hoping to get into the filming industry and do what has become his niche - digital art, a new genre of art which is emerging and which involves "painting" on the computer.

Anders Nelson just graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He will be going on to work in VA and will no longer be in IA by the time this is published. He would like to thank everyone from Grace for all their support they have provided throughout his life.



Food Rescue Efforts in Des Moines

Do you have an interest in feeding the hungry? At a recent synod assembly, a resolution to work toward ending childhood hunger by 2015 was passed. If you would like to be part of the solution and learn more about possibly expanding the current food rescue system in Des Moines, please consider attending a meeting with the Coalition in Support of Hungry Children and a few other agencies and interested people in Des Moines. Food rescue has to do with unused food that would normally get thrown away. The food is literally "rescued" from stores and restaurants and brought to agencies that distribute food to the hungry. Expanding the current system in Des Moines would mean that we could meet a much larger need.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 13 at 3:30 p.m. at Gateway Market in Sherman Hill. If you would like to attend, or are interested but not available on that day, please contact Stephanie Johnson. Let's join forces to feed God's children in Des Moines.

God's work..... our hands.



Many thanks go out to those of you who gave scholarships to our Lutheran Lakeside Camp fund. Because of your generosity, children who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to go were able to take part in the unique faith experience that camp provides. Thank you for sharing your gift with others. It is greatly appreciated.

Please join us for
the annual
United Methodist Women
Salad Luncheon



Hosted by:
The women of
Immanuel United Methodist Church
2900- 49th Street
Des Moines



Thursday, July 21, 2011 11:30 a.m.
RSVP: 277-1100
(Church office—Betty)

Please join us for a time of
food and fellowship
with our neighborhood churches



Grace Lutheran Church
3010 52nd St.
Des Moines, IA 50310

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