



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church

July 26, 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**

Final Saturday Evening service for
the summer is August 27.

Final 9:00 a.m. Sunday service for
the summer is September 4.

Fall schedule returns after Labor Day
weekend on September 11 with
Sunday services at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.

Contact Us

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Companion Congregation
Msindo Parish
in Tanzania

A time to rush and a time to chill...

Sometimes I wonder if these words should be added to the Ecclesiastes text. We live in a culture in which people often either rush or are at chill (relaxed), but seldom find the balance. This is something that has been impressed upon me this week while I have enjoyed continuing education in Family Camp at Lutheran Lakeside Camp in Spirit Lake, IA. It has been a week filled with prayer, study and relaxation. With heat indexes near 115, I also spent more time in the swimming pool than I have in the last 10 years combined. It is important to find time to relax and recharge.

This week has been filled with relaxation, but the last time I was at Lutheran Lakeside held the ultimate image of rushing. I was at LLC for Confirmation Camp and made an afternoon trip to Sioux City. On the way down Highway 71, I saw a busy and distracted driver. I know, that is not something that is a surprise, but hear me out. I have seen drivers doing just about everything...eating, sleeping, drinking, shaving, talking, texting, putting on make up, kissing, changing clothes and a myriad of other images. I have seen busy and distracted drivers before This woman was KNITTING while driving at 80 mph!!! It is enough to be going through the world at 80 miles per hour, let alone while knitting!! If you haven't taken the time to finish the knitting project before you leave, well, it isn't going to be done by the time you get there. Sometimes you need to let go.

We live in busy times. There are so many things to get done. Even this summer has been incredibly busy around Grace Lutheran Church. However, we are within a month of the start of a new school year. If that didn't scare you, you may be more on the "chill" side than the rest of us. If it did scare you, well...it might be time to chill; you still have a few weeks to do something about it. We need time to rush AND time to chill.

We are about to start another programmatic year. September will be home to Rally Sunday and the start of the many activities at Grace Lutheran Church. It is my prayer that we find time in the next month to find sabbath, to find rest and prepare for the coming months. We have so many wonderful things happening here and I look forward to the coming programmatic year.

Thank you for being part of God's ministry here at 52nd and Urbandale!!

Pastor Mike

August Birthdays

- 1 Amy Neal
Laura Schwarz
Cathleen Swanson
- 2 Kevin Drury
Deborah Helt
- 3 Michael Hansen
- 4 Matthew Trickel
- 5 Joshua Appenzeller
Kayleigh Medhurst
Elizabeth Rudisill
Donald Swanson
Roland Zimany
- 6 Riannon Brown
Carla Peterman
- 7 Kenneth DeBolt
Layne Weber
- 8 Teri Koch
- 9 Katherine Lenhart
Ross Lewis
- 10 Jeffrey Anderson
Delores Larsen
- 11 Linda Ulrick
- 12 Ruth Ann Allen
Anthony Zingale
- 13 Maria Jacobo
Paul Johnson
Josefina Ruiz
- 14 Angela Hansen
Milton Heiser
Rachel Welty
- 15 Adam Dostalik
Connie Heuton
Alex Pilon
- 16 Cheryl Weatherington
- 17 Jordan Carter
- 18 Michael Best
Beverly Russell
- 19 Ruth Berven
Alyssa Weaver
- 20 Patricia Anderson
Janette Grodt
Cooper Mortenson
Brent Ridnour
Marilyn Vesey
- 21 Tom McCleary
- 23 Marvin Johns
Mark Mattes
Janice Nordeen
- 24 John Gronert
Linda Gronert
Cris Hidalgo
Barry Moon
Grace Schroeder
Janet Trentmann
- 25 Scott Honsey
- 27 Sean Anderson
Tim Nelson
- 28 Brandon Niemuth
Richard Randolph
Philip Snyder
- 29 Susan Halblom
Todd Prescott
Palma Williams
- 30 Janet Gross
Janet Habick
Leonard Ringgenberg
- 31 Eleanor Carlson
Gary Nehmer

Men in Mission

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



"First Fruits"

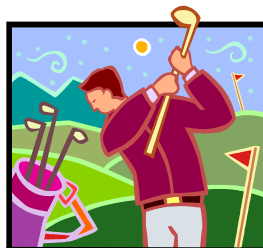
Beginning nearly 1,000 years BC faithful Jews would bring the first fruits of their fields - first crops or first-born livestock - to the temple as their gifts to God, which supported their priestly class. This allowed the priests, scribes, etc. to continue their work of ascertaining the will of God without. Today that wouldn't work so well. Each of us with a garden would bring a bushel of home-grown tomatoes to church in the same week. Jackie would be upset. The office wouldn't smell so nice. Instead, we give our "First Fruits" to God by our firm commitment to our weekly/monthly offering. We give not just out of our "left-overs" (if there are any), but a committed amount, with no doubt in our minds. We know this is our gift to God, totally separate from other more random ways of spending our income. The work of the church is supported and our office staff is happy. Peace and good happy gardening to all!

Finance Report – June Results

Financial results for June YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$239,048, Budget \$238,897
- Other Income – Actual \$8,858, Budget \$10,279
- Expenses – Actual \$235,175, Budget \$247,982
- Net activity – Actual \$12,731, Budget \$1,195

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.



Grace Golf Outing

The 2011 Grace Lutheran Church Best Shot Golf Outing will be held Sunday, September 11th at Woodland Hills Golf Course. Tee off time is 3:30 p.m. It is a *fun* 9-hole tournament with a meal following. Please sign up in the gathering hall. If you are not a golfer, you are welcome to sign up for the meal only. And we want to encourage you to invite guests to join us for the golf and/or meal! If you have any questions, you can see one of the golf outing coordinators, Carol Woodruff or Connie Heuton.



Thank you to all those who made this year's VBS possible by donating snacks or money, driving on field trips, or serving onsite in a variety of ways. We apologize if we have left anyone's name out. It was an amazing week with record enrollment of 116 children and teens. God is good!

Mindy Scholten
Sally Niffenegger
Inga Hoifeldt
Rita Stackhouse
Jonathan Fry
Jason Fry
Lori Fry
Megan Riordan
Molly Riordan
Natasha Voelker
Michelle Voelker
Adam Dostalik
Kari Dostalik
Lois Slye
Shirley Shiffler
Barb Zimany
Jane Ridnour
Valerie Culp
Deanna Weber
Eric Weber
Stacy Speck
Lorna Johns
Sharyn Nelson
Pat Rehder
Denny Rehder
Kate Schaller
Delores Larsen
Leonard Larsen
Cherie Rissman
Tanner Peeler

Katie Farrell
McKenzie Carney
Susanne Carney
Michele Turner
Haley Turner
Mary Jo McCleary
Jessye Flannery
Beth Flannery
Lydia Circle
Shirley Davenport
Richard & Virginia Naney
Verda Swanson
Jim Merkwon
Jackie Holmes
Lynn Niemuth
Carol Krause
Cathy Barks
Lenora Iverson
Ellen Wonderlin
Joanne Johnson
Barb Tussing
Gladys Peterson
Diane Jessen
Becky Selander
Gail Peterson
Yvonne Dewein
Sally Thielking
Julie Honsey
MeLissa Lawson
Joyce Lewis

Nicole Nelson
Carol Woodruff
Tammy Denton
Leslie Denton
Ivy Cochran
Sally Harris
Kristina Hutton
Terin Stanfley
Carolyn and Justin
Anderson
Ardis Schmelzer
Laura Sullivan
Melissa Morris
Nayeli Rodriguez
Nely Rodriguez
Sarah Wueve
Emilie and Matthey Harvey
Jenie Olson
Angela Cox
Kathy Mabe
Stephanie Johnson
Kaylee Barker
Pastor Mike Schmidt
Ariana Martinez



Vacation Bible School Food Service Project

During VBS this year, the children had a unique opportunity to participate in a large scale service project that provided a wonderful tie-in to the Shake It Up Café cooking theme. A representative from Hope Ministries came to talk to the children about the services they provide for homeless people. That same afternoon, everyone worked together to prepare 500 servings of food to be donated to Hope Ministries for their meal sites. These servings included 200 servings of French toast casserole, 200 servings of pasta casserole and 100 servings of sloppy joes, in addition to some chocolate covered pretzels. Families also contributed to a food drive during the week. The following is the note we received from Hope Ministries:

Dear Beth and VBS Kids,

We at Hope Ministries are absolutely amazed and blessed by the amount of food you made for our Bethel Mission! We have been serving over 130 people everyday for lunch and dinner. Your donation of food was just what was needed and will bless so many hungry and hurting people. Thank you and God bless you.

Mary.

We extend sympathy

To the families of Josefina Ruiz, Marta Jacobo and Maria Jacobo on the death of their father, Paulo Jacobo, in Mexico on July 4, 2011.

To the family of Duane Bass, 86, who passed away at Kavanagh House on July 18, 2011. His funeral was held at Grace on July 22. Duane was a member of Grace for 12 years. Burial was at Wilson Cemetery in Independence, IA.

To the family of Kurt Dinnauer, 65, who passed away at his home on April 4, 2011. Kurt was a member of Grace for 26 years.

Thank You

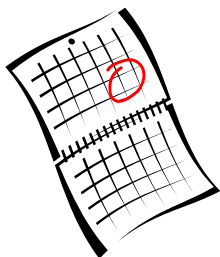
Dear Grace Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for the scholarship money. It will go to great use this fall at my stay at Grand View. I have really enjoyed my high school years here at Grace Lutheran.

Robbie Rissman



Backpack Blessing and College Send-off

During the worship services on Saturday, August 13 and Sunday, August 14 we will be having a backpack blessing and college send-off for all those heading back to school this fall. We invite school age children to bring their backpacks for a blessing, and we will offer a blessing for anyone continuing his or her education as well. Let's get the year off to a good start!



SAVE THE DATES!

SummerFest Puppet Ministry Festival on September 17

SummerFest is a one-day training event for youth and adults who are interested in puppetry and creative ministries. It is run by an organization called One Way Street and offers a variety of workshops, presentations, and resources. This is the first time it is being held in the Des Moines area and will take place at Northridge Baptist Church on 3700 6th Avenue in Des Moines from 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. The early registration fee (by September 2) is \$26 for individuals, or \$20/person for a group of 6 or more. Please let Stephanie Johnson know if you are interested.

Companion Synod Summit on September 24

Registration for the "Companions in Christ": Companion Synod/Diocese Annual Summit is now open. If you have a special interest in our companion congregation relationship with Msindo/Mraro, you are invited to come experience a day filled with valuable information on the Pare Diocese in Tanzania. The event takes place from 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines.

To register, go to www.seiasynod.org and click on the link under the section called "What's New". The event is \$10 per person which includes lunch and program costs. For more information about the summit, contact Carol Fisher at 515-779-9216.

Is Your Teen College-bound?

Is your child heading off to college or the military service? If so, we, as their church family, would like to stay connected by occasionally sending a few small care packages. The plan is to send a few goodies along with notes of encouragement a few times through the school year. Please contact Stephanie (276-6873 or stephaniejohnson@q.com) and provide your child's address.

Drake University/Community Chorus

The Drake University/Community Chorus is open to all interested singers without audition. The ensemble rehearses weekly on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the Harmon Fine Arts Center at Drake. This semester the chorus will rehearse for September 17/18 performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Des Moines Symphony. Rehearsals for those concerts will begin on August 9 and are open to skilled choral singers and/or those who have sung this work previously. If you wish to sing the Beethoven, please contact Dr. Aimee Beckmann-Collier at 271.2841 or aimee.beckmann-collier@drake.edu.

The chorus will restart on September 20, in preparation for a November 20 concert with Drake's other choral ensembles. Singers interested in participating in this concert may do so by attending the first rehearsal on Tuesday, September 20. For further information, contact Dr. Aimee Beckmann-Collier.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Minutes, June 28, 2011



Present: Mary Helt, Kristin Medhurst, John Roehrick, Julie Honsey, Kathy Bowermaster, Rich Snyder, Pastor Schmidt,
Gary Nehmer, Jon Rissman, MeLissa Lawson, Carla Peterman
Absent: Janet Habick, Joyce Lewis
Guest: Kevin Krause

Kevin Krause presented a report from the Finance Committee, "Proposed Loan of Funds between Grace Endowment and Grace Lutheran Church". He outlined where we are in terms of church debt and what assets the Endowment Fund has. He talked about how we can creatively use those assets to pay down on our debt. His report proposed 3 options for paying down the debt using loans from Endowment assets. The Council will study the options and meet in a joint session with the Endowment Committee before any decisions are made. July 14 has been tentatively set as the date for the joint meeting. Verses from Psalm 119 was the scripture text Pastor chose for devotions.

The agenda was adopted as printed.

The minutes from the May 24, 2011 meeting were approved as printed.

The staff reports were accepted as printed with the exception that the Thursday worship service presented in the Worship and Music Report has not been approved by the Council. Pastor presented a verbal report for the month of June.

The Finance Report was accepted as printed subject to audit.

Unfinished Business

Rich Snyder presented a report and study that he made regarding building security and the need for security cameras. A subcommittee which includes someone to represent the daycare was appointed to develop a proposal.

Reports

- New members for the Personnel Team need to be recruited.
- The Communications Team has renewed our Yellow Pages advertising. There are plans for recruiting new team members and implementing new initiatives.
- The Fellowship Team will continue on with their initial directive to plan 4 social events for the year.
- The Social Ministry Team has met and will begin meeting the second Tuesday of each month.

New Business

- Pastor presented a proposal to begin a Thursday evening service. The Council approved that we introduce a Thursday evening service into our worship schedule. The service will run from 6:30-7:15 P.M. and will begin on a date to-be-decided by Pastor and in collaboration with musicians and other worship leadership persons.
- Pastor Schmidt presented TEEM Ministry which is a program of the ELCA for seminary students to get on-site experience while studying and training for ministry as a part-time employee of the congregation.
- A council retreat was planned to study the organizational structure of Grace and to identify our gaps and needs in ministry. The date has been set for the August 21, 10:00-3:00.

It was approved that the Council move into executive session.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Honsey

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

Grace Lutheran Church Council Retreat
April 14, 2011

Present: Mary Freimuth Helt, Jon Rissman, Carla Peterman, Rich Snyder, Janet Habick, Stephanie Johnson, John Roehrick, Julie Honsey, Joyce Lewis, Garry Nehmer, Kathy Bowermaster, Pastor Schmidt, Kristin Medhurst

Opening Prayer-Pastor Schmidt

The purpose of the meeting is to review the functioning of the organization and the decisions making process at Grace and align it with the Constitution and by-law and set up an organizational chart to delineate duties and decision making. The current organizational chart is not very functional nor is there a solid understanding of who can make decisions outside of the pastor and the Council. The aim for the Council is to be responsible for setting vision and policy and establish a budget rather than micromanage all the groups.

Groups

- Money Group-Finance, Memorial, and Scholarship Committees should be grouped together (Financial Secretary, Finance Committee and Administrator-Jackie)
- Paid Staff/People Group-Staff support, personnel and property (Under Council in collaboration with head of staff)
- Basic Ministry Group-Social Ministry, Invitational, Youth, Education, Stewardship and Social Ministry (Under umbrella of Lay Ministry Team)
- Misc.-Scholarship and Audit (Scholarship may need to have a by-law change to include other things than higher education)

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

Summer News for Grace Kids Care

We have been very busy this summer, and it is flying by very quickly! Fun summer crafts and themes, water play days to keep us cool and teachers taking much deserved vacations while we still have college students to sub for the summer.

Staff

Wow! What a TEAM! We have a great staff that really stepped it up and helped our DHS visit be successful! These ladies have been hard at work, planning, and preparing lesson plans and making goals for each child in their care! They have attended required trainings and currently I have 3 teachers renewing their CDA credentials. Also have another teacher getting closer to achieving her Associates in Early Childhood Education.

We will be looking for high school or college students to fill the afternoon teaching spots open in August.

Children

While our numbers were a bit lower this summer with kids off on summer break or vacation, we will be hitting a record high in numbers "51" this fall and "54" by winter!

We have several families expecting and adding to our center. It is wonderful to watch our children grow here at grace but also very exciting when a family grows and continues to support our center!

We say a sad goodbye to our children going off to kindergarten this fall but are confident they are more than ready!

Good News!

We had our annual Inspection from The Dept of Human Services. We received an excellent score! Our consultant was very pleased to see our new carpet in the baby room and had several positive comments on the teachers, classrooms and the curriculum of the center.

We will be required to have a phone in our 2-year-old room, and we have been approved by DHS and the Fire Marshal to open another classroom if needed.

June 2012 we will celebrate our 10th year of providing quality childcare!

Great things are happening here at Grace Kids!

**We appreciate your continuous support and prayers,
as this IS a wonderful mission of Grace!**



Grace Kids Care Center * 3010 52nd St Des Moines, IA 50310 * 276-0943

**Heather Nelson, Director
heathernelsondc@msn.com**

Back to School

Education is an important part of every child's life, and here in Iowa we pride ourselves on the quality education we provide. However, as the new school year approaches, Lutheran Services in Iowa reminds you there are still many children who do not excel in the classroom and those who never graduate from our high schools. Often times these children come from homes where poverty, abuse, neglect and other situations cause an unstable and sometimes unsafe environment.

LSI's services such as our early childhood programs, family-centered services and residential treatment for children work to create positive environments and build stable permanency for infants, young children and teens across the state. By giving children and families the tools they need to succeed, LSI can plant the seeds of success that grow into bright futures through education. For information on Lutheran Services in Iowa, visit www.LSIowa.org. Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

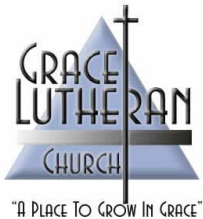
Young parents building a strong foundation

It's stressful enough to be a college student. You're away from home, juggling tests and papers and possibly even a part-time job. But what if you're also a first-time parent?

When Natasha, an ISU elementary education major, and Riley, an ISU engineering student, first learned they were going to be parents, having support was a major concern. "Both our families are several hours away," Natasha said. "We're kind of an island." Luckily, People Place helped fill the gap. As they prepared for the arrival of their daughter Grace, born last November in Ames, People Place staff directed them toward community resources and helped them prepare for what to expect with a new baby. "I'd be a wreck without them," Natasha said. "With our families away from us, I was scared about becoming a mom. We've been so welcomed. They're like family away from my family for me."

The couple now attends a parent support group on Monday nights at People Place. Though hesitant at first, they now rely regularly on the group for friendship, support, advice, parenting tips and stress relief. And as full-time students, the evening meal is great, too, Natasha joked. "I think we're more confident now in what we're doing as parents," Natasha said. Riley said it's been especially important to have a local resource for questions and concerns.

That's the heart of the People Place philosophy – a simple belief that all parents share similar needs and concerns and can thrive with support in their day-to-day lives. As Grace grows and takes her first steps, Natasha and Riley look forward to celebrating that growth with People Place. "We've definitely made friends," Natasha said. "I want to keep coming back. It's a fun kind of learning." Read more stories and see video at www.LSIowa.org.



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