



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church

August 23, 2011

Summer Worship

Saturday Service - 5:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary, August 27
No Service on September 3

Sunday Service - 9:00 a.m.
August 28 & September 4
Final Summer Services for Season

Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 11

Sunday services at
8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Holy Communion at Both
Education Hour & Adult Forum
at 9:30 a.m.

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Companion Congregation
Msindo Parish
in Tanzania
Tanzanian Liturgy every
5th Sunday

Michael J. Schmidt, Lead Sherpa

About a year ago, a gentleman made the following comment to me, "Well, as pastor, you are kind of the president and CEO of the congregation, huh?" My immediate response to him, "No way, I am a Sherpa for the Lord!" These words surprised the gentleman, and to be honest, they surprised me too. I had never thought of that image before. It was simply a reaction, and a profoundly accurate one.

The Sherpa are an ethnic group from Tibet, many of whom are living in the most mountainous area in Nepal, high in the Himalayas. The Sherpa are often associated with mountain expeditions, especially in the Himalayan Mountains. Although many Sherpa are doctors, lawyers, teachers and a myriad of other professions, the stereotype is that of a mountaineer and the ability to haul things up a mountain. There are many Sherpa actively working to change the stereotype toward that of a working professional. There is much work to be done before people begin to see the Sherpa as anything other than the stereotype.

I, too, work toward the goal of diminishing a stereotype. It bothers me greatly that people view the pastor as a president or CEO of a congregation, or even worse, that the congregation belongs to a pastor. Very few things get me riled up as much as someone saying, "This is *your* congregation now." Yes, there are many administrative functions in the work we do. Yes, we preach every week and that can be interpreted by some as a position of power. We do a lot, and empty ourselves in the work to the point that it is at times difficult to distinguish between the office and the person. However, I am not your president or CEO. I am not someone elected to lead you. I am someone who has been called to walk with you.

My goal is to move toward the work of the Sherpa...your Lead Sherpa. I view my call here as two parts trail guide, someone you consult before a trek and who will walk with you, and two parts pack mule. It is my call to walk with you and help you carry your burdens. We will encounter many peaks and valleys, highs and lows. It is my task to help guide you through it and help you carry your joys and burdens along the way. You cannot guide someone from the top of the mountain, at least not effectively. Instead, we are going to walk this journey together.

This will mean a number of changes here at Grace Lutheran Church. There may be times that this work is uncomfortable and you would rather be told what to do. But remember, the Sherpa cannot walk for you, but can walk with you. We are looking to take full advantage of the gifts and strong volunteer base we have here at Grace. There are so many strong, courageous and capable people here at Grace. We are reorganizing the committee structure and the way that the Congregational Council and Lay Ministry Team function. We are approaching an exciting time in God's ministry here at 52nd and Urbandale.

I look forward to this programmatic season. I look forward to being a trail guide as we set out in mission together. I look forward to walking with you. And, don't be afraid...I can carry a lot too!



Let's be the Grace!
Pastor Mike, Lead Sherpa

August Birthday

14 Darlene Stuckle

Accidentally omitted from August list

September Birthdays

1 Cindy Peeler

2 Michelle Voelker
Heather Nelson

3 Andy Anderson
Nylya Bartlett

4 John Donnenwerth
Bill Henderson

5 Rich Snyder
Kiley Brandsfield

6 Nely Ruiz

7 Dennis Rehder

8 Ethan Meadows

9 Arthur Berven

Lois Slye

JoAnn Gronert

Carrie Schall

Alex Mulvihill

10 John Schall

12 Duleep Singh

13 John Trickle

Anne Farrell

Rhonda Jensen

14 Katelyn Jessen

15 Laural Brown

Richard Voelker

17 Lorna Johns

18 Karen Mann

Michael Schmidt

19 Sonny Hutton

Sarah Helt

20 Frank McKinney

Cindy Wheeler

Michael Vernon

21 Helen Richards

Chris Lehfeld

Marlin Nielsen

Anthony Royster

22 Jeanine Rutter

Aaron Thompson

23 Susanne Carney

Angela Ringgenberg

Cory Johansen

24 Michael Meadows

Thomas Rutter

Ella Oberhart

25 Karla Tillotson

26 Barb Powers

Bruce Mumm

27 Jeanette Best

Jeryl Janson

Gregory Honnold

Helen Schroeder

Bill Kallestad

Joshua Curry

28 Marvin Malmin

Ross Peeler

29 La Rue Buihner

Aaron Page

Robert Rissman

September Anniversaries

3 Brent & Valerie Culp

4 Donald & Gail Peterson

5 Chuck & Tammy Denton

5 Arnold & Willa Mae
Johansen

6 Donald & Gladys Peterson

12 Lonnie & Diane Jessen

13 Larry & Janice Nordeen

27 Tom & Mary Jo McCleary

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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.

All Tied Up with Lutheran World Relief

The Fall Drive for Lutheran World Relief is coming soon! Watch for ways to get involved.

Sunday School Offering Project

Students can bring these items to class to help those in need: Money, No. 2 pencils, 30 cm plastic rulers, bath-size bars of soap in original wrappers, or toothbrushes in original wrappers.

Displays and Collection of Donations in September and October

You may help by bringing items like those on display, or by donating monetary gifts. Bring your gifts to the displays, or put them in the offering plates at worship or send them to the church office. Checks should be made out to Grace Lutheran Church. Please put LWR on the comment line.

Help put together LWR Kits during the Sunday School/Adult Forum hour on October 2.

Join the LWR committee by contacting Cathy Barks at 278-1461. Help by sewing school bags, quilts, and receiving blankets. Visit www.lwr.org for more information.

Pray for the work of LWR and for the recipients of this important aid throughout the world.

Quilting and Sewing Morning

Saturday, September 17

9:00 a.m. to noon

In Msindo Hall

All are welcome to come and help make Lutheran World Relief quilts. We might have some other LWR sewing to do. Sewers and non-sewers welcome. Men, women, teens and children are welcome to come help. (Children under 12 should be with an adult.) Contact Beth Flannery, 288-5880 or 314-1022, if you have questions or if you have a portable sewing machine that you could bring.



Anniversary Open House

You are invited to an OPEN HOUSE in Grace Hall on Sunday, September 4, 2011, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Please join Pat and Denny Rehder in celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Everyone is welcome.

Married?? Let us know!!

We may well know you are married, but we may not have your anniversary in our records. We are going to begin listing anniversaries in the bulletins and Friendly Visitor. We hope that you will consider sharing the information so that we can share it with you. There is a clipboard in the office, or you can simply call or email the church office. The September Anniversary list printed in this edition is gathered from older information. We apologize if it contains an error and are currently striving to update our computer records. Thank You!



Sympathy Is Extended

To the family and friends of **Arlene J. (Sandy) Cunningham** who passed away on August 5 at the age of 87. Sandy was a member of Grace for 61 years and also a member of Lydia Circle. She worked as a registered nurse. Sandy's funeral was held at Grace on August 8.

To the family and friends of **Pauline D. (Polly) Olson** who passed away on August 18 at the age of 104. Pauline was a member of Grace for 57 years. She is survived by her daughter Barb Powers and preceded in death by her husband, Arthur; her brother, Otto Edgren; and her son-in-law, Bill Powers. Pauline's funeral was held at Grace on August 22.

Congratulations!

Patty Flannery, daughter of Don and Beth Flannery, graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Child, Adult & Family Service. We wish Patty the best in her future endeavors.

State Fair Contestants

Please let us hear from you!

Charlotte Nielsen won a red ribbon for her egg casserole.

Natasha Voelker had her art work displayed in the Cultural Center.

Robyn and Katelyn, daughter and granddaughter of Jackie Holmes, won first place in the Mother-Daughter Look Alike Contest held in Pioneer Hall on the last Sunday of the State Fair.

Grace Is Blessed with New Babies

Josh and Ashley Lund are the proud parents of Elijah Michael, born on June 8, 2011.

Jim and Sherry Merkwon are the proud parents of Grace Adeline, born on August 4, 2011.

Mark Your Calendar Grace Women's Board

Meeting Sunday, September 11, between services.

Men in Mission

Meeting Thursday, September 1, at 6:30 p.m. The speaker will be the Reverend Doug Johnson, President and CEO of Lutheran Services in Iowa.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Special Council and Endowment Meeting
July 14, 2011

Present: Janet Habik, Rich Snyder, Joyce Lewis, Mary Freimuth Helt, MeLissa Lawson, Carla Peterman, John Roehrick, Pastor Schmidt, Julie Honsey, Gary Nehmer, Kathy Bowermaster
Absent: Kristin Medhurst, Jon Rissman
Endowment Committee Guests: Kevin Krause, Tom Selander, Valerie Culp, Marv Johns, Pat Rehder, Karen Taylor

The Council approved the motion: It is moved that the Congregational council authorize the Treasurer of Grace Lutheran Church to enter into an unsecured promissory note with the Grace Lutheran Church Endowment fund in the amount of \$125,000.00 according to the terms and conditions of the promissory note.

The Council approved the motion: It is moved that the Congregational council authorizes the President of Grace Lutheran Church to execute, on behalf of the Congregational council, a memorandum of understanding between the Congregational council and the Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund as to the terms, conditions, intentions and understanding as to one certain Promissory Note dated August 1, 2011 in the amount of \$125,000.00.

Finance Report – July Results

Financial results for July YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$277,696, Budget \$277,137
- Other Income – Actual \$10,147, Budget \$11,575
- Expenses – Actual \$279,555, Budget \$292,352
- Net activity – Actual \$8,288, Budget (\$3,609)

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. These savings were offset by higher building maintenance activity and vacation payout activity for the Music Director.

A Lesson from Turkey

It was a hot, late morning in Izmir, [Smyrna, NT] Turkey. I was seated in the middle of the second seat in the super crowded Talmush [a small van like bus] used by the poorer people. I was sweating as were all of the people around me. We sat so close you could feel the pulse of the Turk next to you.

The bus fare was two small coins. No change was given so I had put the two coins carefully in my side pocket. The bus attendant passed the fare box. I tried in vain to squeeze my hand into my side pocket but there wasn't room.

Out of the corner of my eye I could see the box coming. I felt helpless. All of the people around me were tan skinned and spoke a different language. What should I do? Suddenly, as the fare box came toward me, a hand was thrust over my shoulder. The hand opened and dropped two coins into the box for me. I tried to thank the giver but I could not turn around nor did I know how to say thank you in Turkish.

The Talmush stopped and all were gone, even the generous hand. Who should I thank? My heart said "Thank you God." God pays our fare in life and more.

It is God who gives us all we have. Thank God and the church that teaches us His language of sharing.

A stewardship thought from the Stewardship Committee



Super Wednesday starts September 14!

Mark your calendars for the following schedule and plan to join us:

- 5:00-6:00 p.m. – Supper (Grace Hall 1)
 - 5:30-6:30 p.m. – Book Discussion (adults, Library)
 - 5:30-5:55 p.m. – Chapel Chimers (grades 3-5, Msindo Hall Bell Room)
 - 6:00-6:30 p.m. – Youth Bells (grades 6-12, Msindo Hall Bell Room)
 - 6:00-6:25 p.m. – Youth Choir (grades 1-5, Msindo Hall Choir Room)
 - 6:00-7:00 p.m. – Lectionary Study (Conference Room)
 - 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Grace Bells (adults, Msindo Hall Bell Room)
 - 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Kids' Hour/Pray and Play Hour(grades 1-5/pre-K and K)
 - 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Confirmation Class (grades 6-8, Esperanza Chapel)
 - 7:45-8:45 p.m. – Chancel Choir (high school through adults, Msindo Hall Choir Room)
- For more information about Kids' Hour/Pray and Play,
see Children, Youth, and Families section of newsletter.*

Evening with the Bishop

Join Bishop Michael Burk for an evening of conversation and fellowship. This will be a time of sharing thoughts that go to the heart of what it means to be the people of God in mission together through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Southeastern Iowa Synod.

When: Tuesday, September 20
6:30 – 8:00pm

Where: St. John Lutheran Church
600 6th Ave., Des Moines 50309

Parking information: St. John's lot (north side of building), Principal lot (west side),
and Keck lot (north of church off of Park St.)

For other dates and locations, please visit the synod's website, www.seiasynod.org/evening-with-the-bishop.html.

Food Rescue Efforts in Des Moines

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food..." (Matthew 25:34-35)

Exciting conversations are starting to take place in Des Moines. Leaders of organizations including DMARC, the Food Bank of Iowa, Central Iowa Shelter and Services, and the Coalition in Support of Hungry Children, among others, are coming together to talk about ways to make more food rescue possible in Des Moines so that good food doesn't go to waste. In particular, there is a need to rescue prepared foods that can be brought directly to places that offer meals for the hungry. Are you interested in being a part of the conversation? It is still in the initial stages, but help will eventually be needed with organizing the effort, marketing and fundraising, and gathering a core of volunteers. If you have interest in any of these areas, please contact Stephanie Johnson. Spread the word – let's find a way to feed more of God's hungry children in Des Moines.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

Looking ahead to this fall in the adult education hour, some of the topics will include Tanzania, LWR, a Stewardship Committee series, a hymn sing, the Lutheran Reformation, a talk about World War II, and a variety of Bible studies. This is just a start.... Please join us in Grace Hall each Sunday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. as we fellowship together, learn about topics, and make connections to our faith.

Carol Mattes and Pat Rehder, Adult Education Committee

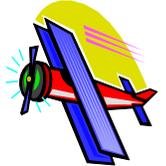
Volunteer Central

Volunteer Central is located on a rolling table in the Gathering Hall and is designed to be a central location for items related to volunteer opportunities. A binder with filled out time and talent sheets, as well as the worship volunteer sign-up book, are found there regularly. It is an area that is meant to be well used, so we encourage you to visit the center. It is also used for special volunteer items that come up throughout the year.

The worship volunteer book includes weekly sign-up areas for lectors, Communion assistants, and coffee hour servers. We invite you to consider serving in this way. Please note that we now have sign-up spaces for 4 Communion assistants weekly instead of only 2. This is so that two people can serve the wine and two can serve the grape juice at the designated services. Please see Pastor Mike for any worship related questions. See you at Volunteer Central!

Display Case

Do you remember the days of Show and Tell in kindergarten and elementary school? The display case in the Gathering Hall is our own version of that! Have you checked it out lately? It is located by the north wall and houses regular displays of people's collections or artwork. Over the past months we have enjoyed collections of pottery, woodworking, trains, clowns, crèche sets, daycare crafts, embroidery, raccoons, and currently, Dick Naney's planes and helicopters. Check it out! Do you have anything that you'd like to share? There is now a sign-up sheet hanging on the wall near the case. We encourage anyone to sign up for a two-month period. Don't be shy – we'd love to get to know you in this way! Please feel free to sign up under available months, include your name and type of display, and contact Stephanie Johnson to arrange for the key and a set-up date. The display case is a fun way to share our interests and talents with each other. What would you like to share?



Children, Youth and Families

Kids' Hour/Pray and Play

It will soon be time for Super Wednesday Kids' Hour and Pray and Play to start again! This is a fun hour from 6:30-7:30 p.m. that includes active gym time as well as a variety of fun, hands-on learning activities about bible stories. We would love for your children to join us!

Kids' Hour is for children in grades 1-5, and Pray and Play is for ages 4-5. Both groups spend time in the gym each week from 6:30-6:45 p.m. and then move down to their classrooms. This year, the Kids' Hour classroom time will take place in room 101, and Pray and Play will be in room 104. For the safety of your children, we ask that parents come down to the classroom at dismissal time to pick up your children. We hope that your children will be able to join us. And if you are a teen or adult and would like to help in this children's ministry area, we would love to have you! Please see Stephanie Johnson. See you beginning September 14!

Coming soon to a classroom near you.....

Many thanks go out to all those who have been involved with putting a fresh coat of paint on some Sunday school classroom walls! This has been in preparation for the new murals which will be sketched by the same artist who painted the Noah's ark scene downstairs and the variety of characters going up the stairs to the gym. We are excited that each classroom will now have an image or mural as well. Want to be involved in the painting? It's an easy paint-by-number system. If you haven't already done so, please contact Cherie Rissman at 270-0278. Keep your eyes open for some great new images...

College Corner

College Fair and Workshops

The Lutheran Educational Conference of North America is offering workshops on college and career planning and financial aid, as well as opportunities to meet with representatives from individual colleges. The Des Moines event will take place on **Tuesday, September 13**. For more information, please visit www.lutherancolleges.org/events.

Seeking College Addresses

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.

**Remember to include your child's new email address so we can send them notification as soon as the most current Friendly Visitor newsletter appears on the website. This will keep them "in the know" and in contact with Grace while they are away.



Backpack Buddies - Color me Full!

Stuff a needy child's backpack with weekend food as an alternate gift for someone who already has too much "stuff." Honor family members, friends, your child's teacher, or colleagues at work with a gift that fills backpacks with food for hungry children. Your donation to Backpack Buddies can be a thoughtful gift for birthdays, anniversaries, the holidays, or to thank someone, perhaps a teacher at year-end. See the donation form.

Backpack Buddies is a Food Bank of Iowa program to feed hungry children from low-income families on weekends and school breaks when they do not have access to federal free and reduced-priced meal programs. When these students leave school on Friday or before a break, they take backpacks filled with healthy, child-friendly meals and snacks. The contents of the backpacks vary each week, but contain a variety of items such as pop-top meals or soup, 100% juice, single-serve cereals, fruit cups, peanut butter and shelf-stable 2% milk. To learn more, or to donate online, visit foodbankiowa.org and click on "Backpack Buddies" in the yellow strip; then click on the text below "Backpack Food Drive" on the left side of the page.

BACKPACK BUDDIES DONATION FORM

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

(Food Bank of Iowa will send you a tax receipt for your records.)

Donation Categories:

Friend: \$ 34.00 - 1 child for 1 school quarter.

Good Friend: \$ 68.00 - 1 child for 2 school quarters.

Good Buddy: \$102.00 - 1 child for 3 school quarters.

Best Buddy: \$136.00 - 1 child for an entire year.

Other amount - Your donation in any amount is always appreciated!

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

_____ My employer has a matching gift program; my employer's form is enclosed.

_____ My employer has a matching gift program; I'll mail my employer's form.

This is a gift in honor of _____

(Food Bank of Iowa will notify the honoree of your gift by sending a letter of acknowledgment to the honoree's address below.)

Please send acknowledgment to

Street Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

**PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: FOOD BANK OF IOWA
MAIL TO: 2220 East 17th Street, Des Moines, IA 50316**



Relationships That Make a Difference

Relationships occur throughout our lives. We go through life building them with family, friends, ourselves and of course, with God. These relationships shape us, give us happiness, provide us with support and so much more.

At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we build healthy relationships with our clients to help them in their times of need. LSI staff work closely with children, families and individuals to build on strengths, identify struggles and ultimately find success. Across our services, whether we are meeting with people in their homes, on our residential treatment campuses or in the community, LSI works to develop skills that last a lifetime, and sometimes relationships that do too.

LSI is blessed to have a strong relationship with the church. It is a relationship that involves you, your congregation and the people LSI serves. It is a relationship built on our shared, Christ-centered mission that leads us to respond to His love through acts of service to all.

A Lifetime Relationship Brings Joy, Builds Strength

From fourth grade to high school, Hannah Fulton has always had a special sidekick looking out for her.

“When Hannah was born, she had severe problems with her brain and spinal cord,” said Ken Clark, LSI nurse. “Her brain herniated to the base of her skull, so they placed a shunt to drain the spinal cord. She’s had numerous surgeries on her spine and lost part of her swallow reflex, so she can have difficulty swallowing or breathing on her own.”

Ken is Hannah’s full-time nurse, at her side 44 hours a week for the last seven years.

“Hannah was 10 years old when I started with her, and we’ve helped her go from being very weak to growing into a 17-year-old,” said Ken.

Ken has attended school with Hannah each day since the fourth grade, serving as both nurse and educational assistant when she is in class. He also helps her in the community, going to swimming or therapy appointments.

Hannah has braved serious adversity, but she also has plenty of success to celebrate. Now stable and out of hospitals for several years, she can concentrate on being a high school sophomore. She loves fingernail polish, jokes and her friends and family. Movies and shopping are big favorites, as is her golden retriever Harry.

After seven years with the Fultons, Ken is like family. When Hannah was maid of honor in her sister’s wedding last summer, Ken was invited, too, as the man of honor. Those kind of meaningful relationships are why he loves nursing, he said.

“It tugs at my heartstrings like no other,” he said. “It’s more proof that this is the most rewarding work I can do. It means the world to me, and my goal is someday to work myself out of a job here.”

Read more stories and see video at www.LSIowa.org.



INTERFAITH ALLIANCE
OF IOWA
PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM

Interfaith Service for 10th Anniversary of September 11

A Greater Des Moines Interfaith Service commemorating the 10th Anniversary of September 11 will be held Sunday, **September 11 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Sheslow Auditorium, Drake University at 25th and University in Des Moines. All are welcome to attend. The theme of the service is "Common Ground" and the

service will highlight a contribution from each faith community. The collaborative partners include the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, Des Moines Area Religious Council, the Des Moines Ecumenical Peace Committee and the American Friends Service Committee as well as faith leaders from Islamic, Christian, Jewish, Unitarian Universalist, Sikh, Buddhist, and other faith communities.

If you have questions or would like to find out how your community of faith can help, please contact the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa at 515-279-8715 or by email at connie@interfaithallianceiowa.org. Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, P.O. Box 41086, Des Moines, IA 50311, (515) 279-8715 info@interfaithallianceiowa.org or www.interfaithallianceiowa.org



Iowa Interfaith Power & Light Presents

"Faith in a Changing Climate"

Date: Thursday, September 1, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. (Registration begins at 9:15 a.m.)

Location: West Des Moines Christian Church, 4501 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines, IA 50265

Registration Cost: \$35

Registration includes continental breakfast, lunch, and an Environmental Toolkit for each participant. **Please note that the registration deadline is next Thursday, August 25th.** Plus! The first 100 registrants will receive a copy of Sally Bingham's book "Love God, Heal Earth" To register visit <http://iowaipl.org/calendar.html>