



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church

October 25, 2011

Join Us for Worship

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

Tuesday Adult Bible
Study Classes
8:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
All are welcome to attend.

Contact Us

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**A Stephen Ministry
Congregation**

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

For the saints who from their labors now rest...

Dorothy Hiney
Verona Fenimore
Teresa Petty
LaCorda Kueck
Dwane Richards
Louise Bergman
Dorothy Williamson
Kurt Dinnauer
Duane Bass
Arlene Cunningham
Pauline Olson
Sharon Sindergard
Fern Varme

To say that I have a heavy heart this day would be an understatement. We have heard the bell toll far too often this year. These saints have left an impact on many if not all of us. Remembering these saints brings to mind these words of John Donne, from his "Devotions upon Emergent Occasions":

The church is Catholic, universal, so are all her actions; all that she does belongs to all. When she baptizes a child, that action concerns me; for that child is thereby connected to that body which is my head too, and ingrafted into that body whereof I am a member. And when she buries a man, that action concerns me: all mankind is of one author, and is one volume; when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated; God employs several translators; some pieces are translated by age, some by sickness, some by war, some by justice; but God's hand is in every translation, and his hand shall bind up all our scattered leaves again for that library where every book shall lie open to one another. As therefore the bell that rings to a sermon calls not upon the preacher only, but upon the congregation to come, so this bell calls us all... No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee.

The closing words are heard often, but it is the prior imagery to which I cling. There is something beautiful in viewing life as a chapter to be translated. It calls us all into the action of remembering and retelling of stories. It calls us into the story as well.

We have many chapters to hear within this community of faith. There are many who are homebound, and many others who are limited in ability to leave the home and stay connected. We have many members who have given of themselves for the sake of this community of faith for decades. With the demands of the calling as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church I simply cannot give the attention and care that these members deserve. They deserve so much more than I can give, but together, we can hear these chapters and tell the story!

I pray that you will consider visiting members who are somewhat isolated from the community of faith. Whether you are interested in Eucharistic Ministry, or simply like to talk, I would love to hear from you. As we remember the saints who from their labors rest, let us also remember the many living saints of Grace Lutheran Church.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike



Happy Birthday

Nov. 1 Carlyle Peterson
Zelma Wilson
2 Mike Peterman
3 Tara Royster
4 Bradley Nelson
Gabriella Artzer
5 Sally Thielking
6 Lou Grotheer
Benjamin Gronert
Braden Cooper
7 David Cline
8 Austin Schaller
9 Beverly Petty
11 Gary Scholten
Emily Dungan
Yaritza Marquez
12 Randy Taylor
Zoe Lawson
13 Kurt Bowermaster
Jason Bradwell
Zachary Jensen
14 Larry Buell
Carol Mattes
Kristene Shortell
15 Wilma Frost
Gary Batten
Mark Ridnour
16 Joseph Kennebeck
Emma Mattes
Haley Dostalik
17 Lyle Black
Gloria Moon
18 Richard Hirschauer
Susan Johnson
19 Nick Medhurst
21 Kelley Riordan
22 Zachary Kulzer
23 Ashley Lund
24 Harriett Pearson
Jon Rissman
Nicholas Scholten
Renee Dingman
25 Dorothy Jensen
Douglas Johnson
Kerry Riordan
26 Paul Thielking
Virginia Wangerin
Carol Woodruff
Laura Wangerin
Jessica Rissman
Peter Kiefer
29 Edward Ridnour
Karinne Harmon
Angie Hidalgo
October30 Joshua Cline



Happy Anniversary

Nov. 5 Howard & Rachel Welty
10 Achmed & Joan Johnson
13 Gary & Ellen Batten
14 Arthur & Ruth Berven
20 Gary & Melinda Scholten
22 Marvin & Lorna Johns
26 Todd & Barbara Burley
Frank & Colleen
McKinney
27 Anthony & Tara Royster
28 Vernon & Helen Fanning
Neal & Sandra Meyer

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

September 27, 2011

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

Devotions were given by Pastor Schmidt from Paul's letter to Philippians, "For me to live is Christ."

The book study discussion was over Chapter 3 "Soul" of The Corporate Person. The essence of the Corporate Person's soul is described in 4 words: vision, values, mission, and conscience. A start to developing a corporate conscience would be for the council to begin reflecting on the 5 steps in identifying corporate values.

Eucharistic Teams, music position, visitation support, budget review, communication with Lay Ministry Team were added to the agenda which was adopted with the additions.

The minutes of the August 23, 2011 meetings were approved as printed.

The written staff reports were accepted as printed. Notations were made of the policy manual that the office administrator is developing, and of a chart developed by the daycare director which shows an increase in tuition. The increase still keeps us competitive and having lower tuition than the average daycare in the area.

The finance report was accepted as printed.

Unfinished Business

- Pastor presented the Organizational Structure diagram that Rich Snyder put together following the April council retreat. Lay people will lead committees with support from the staff person who each particular committee relates to. The Council will be the visioning body with the Lay Ministry Team being the body that enacts the vision. The organizational structure being proposed is not operational but relational. The Council's aim is to approve Grace's organization structure by the October council meeting in order to align it with the By-laws.
- Neighborhood canvassing for the purpose of ascertaining the needs of our neighborhood community began September 27 and will continue on September 29 and October 1.
- Eucharist Ministry Teams are in the planning stage.
- A search committee has been appointed for seeking out someone to fill the music position.
- Visitation support has been provided by Stephanie Johnson.
-

New Business

The Lay Ministry Team has been assigned the task of planning for the new picture directory to be completed in the spring.

Committee Reports

- Mary Freimuth-Helt and Rich Snyder conducted an exit interview with Rich Dewein at his request and on behalf of the Personnel Committee. Deana Weber of the Personnel Committee was invited to attend but was not able to.
- Kathy Bowermaster, Pastor Schmidt and Stephanie Johnson met to talk about organizing a Communications Team following the completion of the time and talent sheets that were mailed out with the Stewardship materials.
-

Announcements

- Thanks to the Property Committee for the repaved drives into the parking lot.
- Luther College Choir is looking for people to host choir members during their January tour. The Council approved that Grace members be asked to host choir members.
- The October Council meeting will be held on Thursday, October 27th rather than Tuesday, October 25th.

The Council moved to Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:58 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,
Julie Honsey, Council Secretary

We Remember with Pride

Fern M. Varne, 100 years of age, who passed away on September 30, 2011 at Trinity Center at Luther Park. Fern graduated from Iowa Lutheran Hospital's School of Nursing in 1932 and retired from private duty nursing in 1973. She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church for 55 years and enjoyed working as a volunteer in several different organizations including Lutheran Social Services.

Fern is survived by her family which includes grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Her husband, Leonard C. Varne and daughters, Kay Randolph and Diane Pearce preceded her in death.



LWR Thank You's

The Lutheran World Relief quilters and kit-makers would like to thank Hannah Circle for donating \$150 in memory of:

Sherry Merkwon's grandmother
Beth Flannery's grandmother
Michele Turner's mother-in-law

Dear Lutheran World Relief Committee,

In loving memory of my mother, Mrs. Salome John Samuel (1900-1992) and my mother-in-law Dr.(Mrs.) Mary Monsingh (1898-1979) I love to give a cheque for \$50.00 to LWR. These two loved ones lived according to Micah 6:8. They were great inspiration to many and were a great help to church and the community in cities they lived. They were true witnesses of Christ. Though they are gone, their children carry on their mission. My prayers and wishes are and will be always with all involved in this great project.

With love,
Sister-in-Christ
Dorothy Duleepsingh

Congratulations Are In Order

Congratulations to Doug Johnson, who was recently awarded the 2011 Sue Pitts-Fisher Award at the 31st Annual Conference of the Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa. This award is given to someone who has shown outstanding achievement in leadership and mentorship, and overall a person who thought of families and children before himself.

Grace-Fully Aware - The Gathering Hall

November is a month for gathering family, friends, and the bounty of the fall harvest. The Grace Gathering Hall is a grand space for gathering Grace family, new friends and the sharing of fellowship and service to God.

The Gathering Hall was part of the most recent building expansion and renovation in 2000. Some may not know this beautiful area of our building was once an outdoor courtyard. Heavy metal beams were brought in by crane to form the vaulted ceiling and skylights were installed. The old entrance to the church, leading into a lounge area, was replaced by a new entrance leading into a spacious gathering hall. The elevator shaft was built from scratch and serves five different levels of the building. Upon completion, beautiful art, attractive furniture and welcoming kiosks were added.

The Gathering Hall is home to Hannah Circle's monthly Monday night meetings. Here volunteers sign up for church service work or for many different events such as the Grace Golf Outing, Men in Mission's annual Iowa Cubs ballgame or the Senior Members' Christmas Dinner. An informational wall holds a framed picture of the council members and the staff. You can pick up a copy of the Friendly Visitor newsletter, devotionals and prayer booklets, confirmation sermon note sheets, or maybe a Lakeside Camp brochure. A handsome display case showcases collections of our members and is changed every two months. The worship services are broadcast on the flat panel TV, a handy place to view the service if small children are restless. During Advent the Star Tree holds paper stars each with a Christmas gift wish for a resident of LSI or Mosaic. Folks select a star, purchase an unwrapped gift and return it to the Star Tree. During their fall and spring drives LWR displays kit items collected and handmade quilts in the Gathering Hall. And during the summer, it is used for the Sunday Coffee following the service.

As you can see, this large space gets lots of use and is available for rental during times when there are no worship services or monthly events scheduled.

Fees to rent this space are:

Members—no fee for room or deposit, mandatory \$25 custodial fee.

Nonmembers - \$200 refundable deposit, \$100 room fee and \$25-50 custodial fee depending on size of group and activity.

Grace Sponsored Events—No fee for room or deposit, no custodial fee. Examples of Grace sponsored groups are LSI, Mosaic and Cub Scouts.

New Member Classes

Are you interested in becoming a member of Grace Lutheran Church? Do you know anyone interested in becoming a member of Grace Lutheran Church? We have an opportunity for you! On November 13 and every second Sunday of the coming months we will be offering a new member class in the Gathering Hall from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Please let Pastor Mike know if you are interested in attending.

Altar Guild Volunteer Opportunity

The Grace Altar Guild is seeking volunteers for 2012. The Altar Guild consists of eighteen members. Each member serves two months during the year, sharing responsibilities on a three member team. Each member also serves on a special committee during the year: Easter, Thanksgiving or Christmas. If you are interested in sharing your time and talent in preparing the altar for worship, please come to our 9:30 a.m. meeting on Sunday, November 13 to learn more about Altar Guild.

You may also contact Diane Jessen, 270-1599, or Gail Peterson, 224-4514.

Adult Forum Schedule

Nov 6 – "The Old Testament View of the Universe"
Ro Zimany

Nov 13 - Director of DMARC Emergency Food Pantry,
Elisabeth Ballstadt

Nov 20 – "The Importance of Cross Generational Ministry"
Beth Flannery

Nov 27 – Time of Fellowship

Option: Nov 6-Dec11 "Close Encounters of the Jesus Kind: Studies in Luke" Julie Honsey
†Signup sheet in Grace Hall to order correct number of books



Save the Date

November 2, 9, and 16
Book Discussion Group
5:30 p.m. - Library

We will read "12 Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong. Everyone is welcome to join in. Copies of the book are available at the public libraries or from some Grace members. Please call Delores Larsen for more information at 278-1326.

November 13
Altar Guild Meeting
9:30 a.m. - Grace Hall II

We will discuss plans for Advent and Christmas seasons and also make plans for 2012. If you are unable to attend, please contact Diane Jessen or Gail Peterson with any concerns that you may have.

November 13
New Member Class
1:00-2:00 p.m.-Gathering Hall
Held on the second Sunday of each month. All are welcome.

December 4
Senior Members' Christmas Dinner - 5:00 p.m.- Grace Hall
Traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. All ages are welcome to attend. Watch for the sign-up table in the Gathering Hall. Dinner is sponsored by Grace Senior Members. Contact Verda Swanson for information.

DMARC FOOD PANTRY NETWORK **Serving Record Number of Families**

The Des Moines Area Religious Council food pantry warehouse is being filled and emptied to the walls about twice each week, as the Council strives to meet growing needs for short-term food assistance in Polk County.

Even as record numbers of lowans are receiving public food benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), DMARC is finding it a challenge to keep its Food Pantry Network warehouse stocked with enough food. Each week, about 20,000 purchased and donated food items arrive at the warehouse and are repackaged and transported to 12 metro-area pantries to provide over 26,000 meals for about 1,800 people.

Each year, DMARC provides short-term food assistance for about 30,000 people, including nearly 15,000 who are children or youth under the age of 25 years. Food requests in 2011 are on pace to be the highest ever, with 7% more people asking for help.

"With poverty and unemployment rates at levels not seen in decades, DMARC's reserves are being severely taxed," said DMARC executive director, Sarai Rice. "We have placed record-high food orders with our wholesale distributors in recent weeks and, with winter approaching, we need an influx of cash donations to continue to meet the unparalleled demand on our community's emergency food system," she continued. While in-kind food donations are always welcome and appreciated, cash donations help the DMARC food pantry stretch limited resources even further. "Each one dollar donation helps us purchase 2-6 times as much food on the wholesale market or through the Food Bank as can be bought at retail cost," said Brendan Comito, DMARC president, "so cash gifts make it possible for us to provide food for more people in need."

Stewardship Thought

On behalf of the Congregational Council, the Stewardship Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking this stewardship journey with us over these past months. Our understanding is critical that all we have is God's and stewardship is an opportunity to be generous with these gifts. Your sharing of God's gifts, both financially and through time & talents, provides the support to our Church's mission here at Grace and in the world. If you have completed your pledge card and time and talent sheet, we thank you. If not, we ask that you complete these and turn them in to the office as soon as possible.

Endowment Fund Application Forms Now Available

Application forms for projects to be funded from 2011 Endowment income are available from Jackie in the church office. Projects may be for the benefit of Grace Lutheran Church or for other projects that meet Endowment guidelines. Deadline for submitting applications is January 31, 2012. Funds for approved projects will be awarded by March 31, 2012.

Finance Report – September Results

Financial results for September YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$349,031, Budget \$353,762
- Other Income – Actual \$12,948, Budget \$14,293
- Expenses – Actual \$367,358, Budget \$372,108
- Net activity – Actual \$(5,380), Budget (\$4,052)

Actual net activity was unfavorable to budget. This was due to offerings (primarily unpledged) below budget offset by overall expense activity below budget. Favorable expense activity is the result of certain expense activity that was budgeted but the actual expense has yet to occur. Additionally, savings was achieved due to lack of Lead Pastor and Music Director expense for a portion of the year and lower Latino Communication Coordinator activity. These savings were offset by higher building maintenance activity including the concrete repairs of the parking lot and a major unexpected repair on the mechanical systems of the church.

Fall News for Grace Kids Care

We are enjoying a great fall season, if you look around the center the halls and walls are filled with fun fall craft projects and the children are definitely having a blast playing outdoors in the fall weather and beautiful crunchy leaves!

Staff

We are very proud of our new classrooms and the transition for the one year olds is coming along successfully.

We currently employ 17 staff members both full and part time.

Our teachers are looking forward to our "Trick or Trunk" event...we all come in our pajamas! ☺ It is a great time to converse with the parents when there is no rush.

We have an excellent teaching staff and are very positive this will continue to be an inspiring year.

Children

Again this year, we have invited Life Touch Photography to come take our "school pictures"

October 28th is our annual "Trick or Trunk" event where the families enjoy getting together here and trick or treating outside where the teachers have decorated the trunks of their cars.

Of course the Discovery and Preschool classes are looking forward to their field trips to the Pumpkin Patch!

What would October be without our fun classroom Halloween parties!

Currently we have 51 children enrolled
We are busy and love it!

Good News!

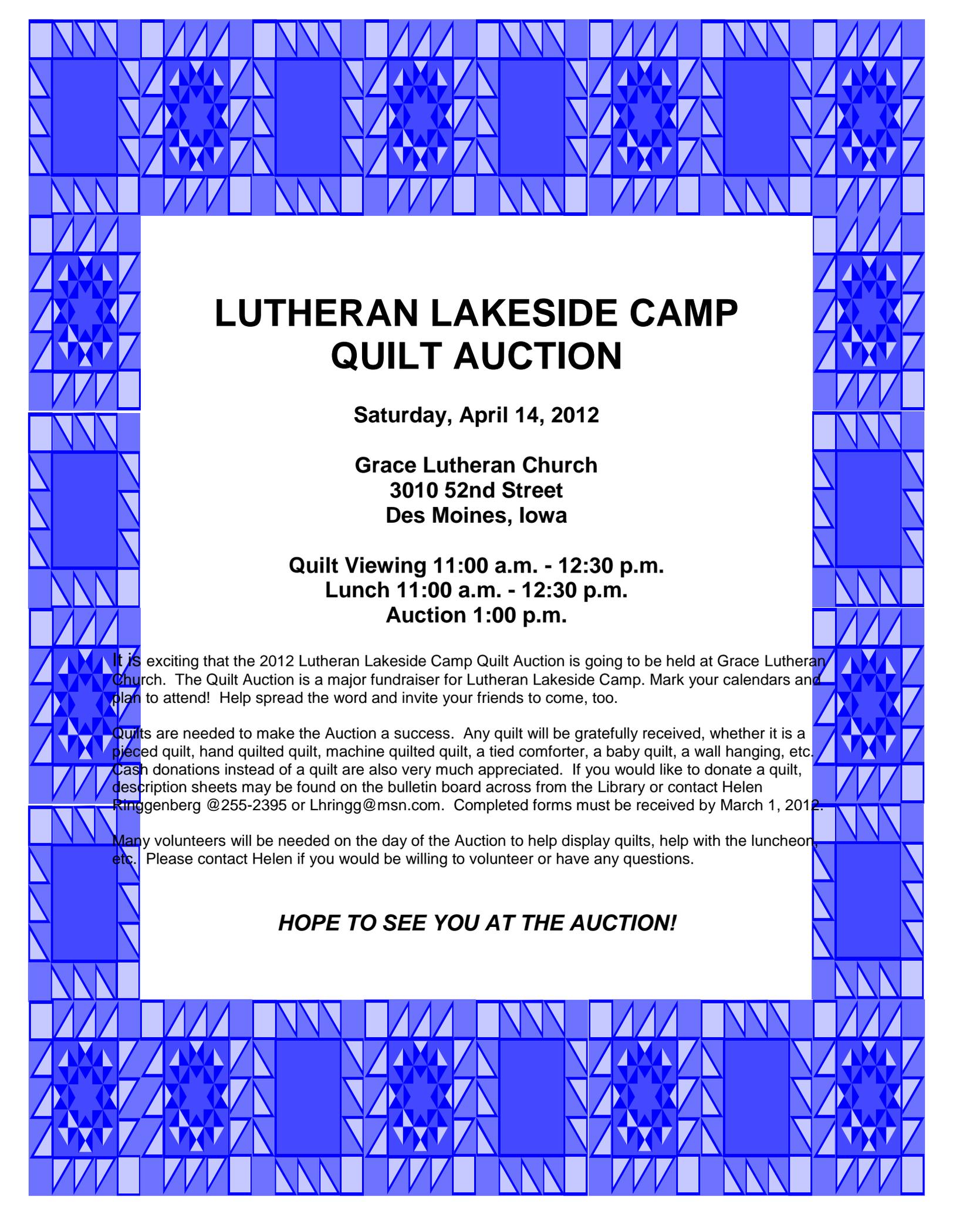
Our first Parent Board meeting of the new school year was held 10/4/11 and we welcomed a few new members. The first task given to the members was to turn in a short bio so the other parents will become more familiar with them, the second task will take some time, as we are working on updating our Grace Kids Care brochure. The Parent Board members will submit promotional statements to add to the brochure to give a real personal touch to it.

We just wrapped up our T-shirt and Sweatshirt sales, but we welcome anyone that is interested in purchasing a Grace Kids Care shirt! Prices are reasonable! Help show pride in our center and do a little extra advertising...contact Heather at the daycare office ☺

**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

A decorative border with a repeating blue quilt pattern, featuring geometric shapes like squares and triangles in various shades of blue, surrounding the central text.

LUTHERAN LAKESIDE CAMP QUILT AUCTION

Saturday, April 14, 2012

**Grace Lutheran Church
3010 52nd Street
Des Moines, Iowa**

Quilt Viewing 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Lunch 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Auction 1:00 p.m.

It is exciting that the 2012 Lutheran Lakeside Camp Quilt Auction is going to be held at Grace Lutheran Church. The Quilt Auction is a major fundraiser for Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! Help spread the word and invite your friends to come, too.

Quilts are needed to make the Auction a success. Any quilt will be gratefully received, whether it is a pieced quilt, hand quilted quilt, machine quilted quilt, a tied comforter, a baby quilt, a wall hanging, etc. Cash donations instead of a quilt are also very much appreciated. If you would like to donate a quilt, description sheets may be found on the bulletin board across from the Library or contact Helen Ringgenberg @255-2395 or Lhringg@msn.com. Completed forms must be received by March 1, 2012.

Many volunteers will be needed on the day of the Auction to help display quilts, help with the luncheon, etc. Please contact Helen if you would be willing to volunteer or have any questions.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION!

College Thank You's

Just wanted to say hello and thanks to everyone that sent the care package. If you could pass along my gratitude that would be appreciated. It was nice to see all the warm wishes from everyone back home.

- Jonathan Fry

Dear Grace Members,

Thank you so much for the care package. I got it at the start of a very busy week so it was much appreciated. School is going well and between classes and activities I am staying very busy. Thanks again for the package. It made me smile.

Love in Christ, Jessye Flannery

NEWS FROM YOUR YOUTH EDUCATION TEAM.....

Current news



Parent /Child Sunday School Sessions

The Youth Education Team is sponsoring parent/child sessions during Sunday school time. The first two sessions that have been held went really well. They were with the kindergarten- first grade class and the second-third grade class. Pastor Schmidt and Beth Flannery led the classes. The Spark Family Magazine was used to guide discussion and each child was given an issue to take home for more family discussions of Bible stories at home.

There will be more sessions that will be following the Together in Faith curriculum. Through Bible stories, games, themed activities and parent-child conversations families are connected around the basics of faith.

Upcoming sessions

On November 6, the kindergarten- first grade group will talk about the Lord's Prayer. On November 13 and January 8, the second- third grade group will do lessons titled "Not Fair." After the holidays more sessions will be scheduled for other classes.



Lutheran World Relief Thank You

Thank you for all of the donations of toothbrushes, soap, pencils and rulers. These items, along with others, have gone into health and school kits. On October 15 all of the finished kits and quilts were delivered to Resurrection Lutheran Church in Ankeny where they were loaded onto a truck headed to St Paul, Minnesota, to the LWR Warehouse. From there they will be distributed somewhere in the world where they are needed.



Super Wednesday Kids' Hour and Pray and Play

Midweek children's programming began with the start of Super Wednesday and has been filled with high energy and exuberant learners ever since. Each week students in grades 1-5 are engaged in a variety of activities such as science, creative drama, games, and cooking. They started off the year learning about the plagues of Egypt and recently started a unit on the crossing of the Red Sea. We will be culminating these units with a sampling of foods eaten at a traditional Jewish Passover meal called the Seder, an

annual meal which calls to mind the events of the exodus. Our pre-K and kindergarten children have been hearing a variety of stories, making crafts, and playing games as well. Ask your children what they're learning every week!

Coming up



Food Drive

The confirmation youth are heading up a food drive for Combat Hunger again this year. All Sunday school children and teens can bring non perishable food items to Sunday School. Watch for notes with dates. The confirmation classes will pack all donated food and deliver it.



Christmas Program:

The children's program will be presented on Sunday, December 18 during the 10:45 a.m. worship service. This year's program is titled "Greetings from the Heart." Classes and music groups will begin practicing in November during the Sunday school opening and music rehearsal times. There will be an extra rehearsal on Saturday, December 17 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please talk to Stephanie Johnson or Beth Flannery if you are interested in helping with practices, props, costumes..... no experience necessary!!!



Ministry Opportunities

Pray and Play teacher

Many thanks go out to Kelley Bowermaster for making the Super Wednesday Pray and Play hour possible since it began in 2010. We will miss you on Wednesday nights, Kelley!

We are currently looking for a new Pray and Play teacher for pre-K/kindergarten children. The program runs from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, begins with gym time that is shared with grades 1-5, and ends in a Sunday school classroom. Several planning resources are available, and we'll be happy to train you. If you enjoy working with young children and would like to learn more, please see Stephanie Johnson.

Communion Assistant Scheduler

Thanks to Delores Larsen for her faithful work in scheduling weekly Communion assistants. We appreciate her years of service. She will be continuing this role through December and then will be passing on the torch. If you have a particular interest in worship, have organizational skills, and enjoy connecting with people, please consider this area of ministry and contact Stephanie Johnson for more information.



Advent Devotions

Now that November is almost upon us, Advent is also on the horizon. This year we are once again inviting people to write short devotions to be sent out by email daily. If you enjoy sharing your faith through the written word, please consider signing up for one or more dates. The sign-up sheet will be available at Volunteer Central beginning October 30, and we encourage you to take home the available handout of Advent themes to guide you in your writing.

Choose one of the assigned readings from the daily lectionary (found on the sign-up sheet), send your devotion of 150-200 words to Stephanie Johnson via email (stephaniejohanson@q.com) or hard copy by November 20, and include the bible passage you have chosen. We will do our best to include your devotion as written, but we reserve the right to edit as needed to be usable within the format of a daily devotion and we would then send you a revised copy for your approval prior to publication.

If you are currently on the church's email list, there is no need to sign up to receive the devotions. You will receive them automatically. If you are not on the church's list, please send your email address to Stephanie. The devotions will be available in hard copy and on the website as well. May God bless the writing and the reading.

“DO WHAT WE CAN DO”

That statement was the theme of a recent email newsletter I received from Church Volunteer Central Daily, written by the editor, Sue Brage. Those five small words contain some food for thought and bring a helpful perspective on ministry. Listen to what each of those words says to us:

Do – Love is an action. God calls us to respond to the grace poured out upon us in the waters of baptism and in God's continued work in our lives. God calls, and we take a step in the direction in which the Spirit leads. We don't need to know the ending of that path. We are just called to take one step ... and then one more...

what – Discerning God's will takes time and prayer. What is the nudge that we sense? When we do discern it, we must trust that God will provide what is needed to accomplish it. It may not be the resources to end world poverty, but perhaps to feed those who live in our own corner of the world. What is our call?

we – We were created to be in community. When we are baptized, we are baptized into a community of faith. We live out our baptisms in a community of faith, and we do ministry as a community. The church is not made up of solo artists.... it is a body.

can – What are the gifts and talents we have been given? What are the things we can do together? God has equipped us for ministry. We respond by doing what we can, and inviting others who can as well.

do – In the end, God remains the primary actor. God freely gives, we respond to that grace, and God continues to create and make new. How will we use the gifts and talents we have been given? But more importantly, what will God do with them once we put them to use?

Several years ago I attended worship where the bulletin listed the various staff of the church and the volunteers in that particular worship service. But under the heading “Ministers”, where one would expect to find the pastors' names, was listed instead “the people of this congregation.” And so I wonder.... As the ministers of Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines, IA, how will we be ministers of *grace* in the coming year?

- Stephanie Johnson



Super Wednesdays

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)

5:30-5:50 p.m. – Chapel Chimers (grades 3-5, Msindo Hall Bell Room)

5:55-6:30 p.m. – Youth Bells (grades 6-12, Msindo Hall Bell Room)

5:55-6:25 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)

6:30-7:30 Peer Ministry through Nov. 16

7:45-8:45 p.m. – Chancel Choir (high school through adults, Msindo Hall Choir Room)

† Wednesday, November 23 - Thanksgiving Service at Immanuel Methodist at 7:00 p.m.†
No Super Wednesday activities or rehearsals