



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church

January 24, 2012

All Are Welcome!

Worship Schedule
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.

Contact Us

Pastor Michael Schmidt
pastormike@gracedm.org

**Director of Laity
Ministries**
Stephanie Johnson
stephaniejohnson@q.com

Music Director
worship@gracedm.org

Grace Kids' Care Director
Heather Nelson
heathernelsondc@msn.com
276-0943

Office Administrator
Jackie Holmes
worship@gracedm.org

Office Assistant
Michelle Voelker
rvoelker1@mchsi.com

Receptionist
Diana Johnson
dianal.johnson@mchsi.com

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

How Far...

There are a couple of movies that seem to be on the television a lot lately: "Seabiscuit" and "Secretariat." Both are movies about racehorses. Both are great movies. Both are great stories. One is about a horse that defied the odds and became a Triple Crown winner, Secretariat. This horse was a majestic spectacle from nearly day one. Seabiscuit was a much different story altogether.

Seabiscuit is one the most celebrated racehorses of all time, but it wasn't always so. In his first two years of racing, Seabiscuit lost, a lot. He was traded time and time again, forced to lose and used as a training horse for larger more able horses.

When Tom Smith first began to train Seabiscuit it was nearly impossible to get an accurate assessment of the horse's ability. This undersized horse had to relearn what it was to be a horse. The first time Seabiscuit was brought to the track to run he ran in an almost zig-zag pattern and the jockey had little control. The horse had been trained to the point it had forgotten what it was born to do, run. The trainer brought the horse out to the countryside and told the jockey to take Seabiscuit for a run. When his jockey, Red Pollard, asked, "How far should I take him?" Tom Smith simply responded, "Til he stops" to which Red says, "Sounds like a pretty good ride." What follows is one of the most poignant scenes in the whole movie as this broken horse runs, fast. By the end of the run, Red exclaims, "You are one amazing animal."

This broken horse, ridden by a broken jockey in the middle of the depression, brought hope to the masses. Thousands and thousands of people listened as this horse began to set track records, winning race after race. The most famous race for Seabiscuit was a match race with War Admiral, a Triple Crown winner, held in 1938, at Pimlico, War Admiral's home course and the site of the Preakness.

On the day of the race, over 40 million people tuned in to hear the race. Businesses closed. It sounds like most everything closed. This small horse with an oversized jockey entered as underdogs, in the shadow of War Admiral, and left heroes, accomplishing the unimaginable...victory!

Sometimes, we forget to be the church, and we have to be retrained. We try so hard to figure out the right "formula" for ministry. Sometimes, as we move forward, we look to be going in a zig-zag pattern with not a lot of forward progress. It isn't due to a lack of effort. It isn't due to a lack of skill. We simply start to think too much. So, as we head into this next year of ministry, after laying out the map for the next year at the Annual Meeting and with the Council Retreat approaching, let us not over-think things. Instead, let us remember what we were born to do, proclaim.

Our goal is not a victory to be won. There isn't even a race for which we train. There is no Congregational Olympics, or a Southeastern Iowa Synod Derby. We shouldn't look to other communities of faith as competition. We shouldn't even look at our own past and numbers as competition. Instead, we are called to proclaim. It is as simple as that. We proclaim, period. In worship. In the world. We proclaim. It is time to look out into the world and remember how to run, how to proclaim. How far? That is for God to decide. Sounds like a pretty good ride!

Pastor Mike

Blessings on Your Birthday

- February 1 Larry Cramer
Sophia Royster
2 Richard Johansen
Kathlina Roat
3 Jolene Wiegmann
William Marberry
4 Matt Farrell
5 Todd Ringgenberg
Andrew Trentmann
6 James Hoffman
Larry Nordeen
Karri Brandsfield
8 Leonard Larsen
9 Virginia Naney
10 LeRoi Beers
Carol Rudisill
Bonnie Swanson
Eric Oberg
11 Kent Weaver
12 Lenora Iverson
Tyler Peeler
13 Timothy Hummel
15 Pat Rehder
Diane Heid
Isaac McCleary
16 Robert Barks
Jane Cantrell
Heather Ashton
17 Gail Peterson
18 Max Palmer
Nicole Vernon
Kristen Marberry
19 Ellen Mumm
20 Frances Engquist
Betty Maycock
Gerald Dockum
Jessica Flannery
Max Ringgenberg
21 Judy Cramer
Neal Meyer
22 George Pierce
Julie Stuckle
Barb Kallestad
24 Sharyn Nelson
Barbara Burley
Jonathan Rudisill
Leigh Harmon
25 Melissa Young
Shane Artzer
26 Gayle Olson
Angela Collins
27 Elayne Palmer
Jerry Westercamp
28 Betty Vance
Dana Johnson

Anniversary Blessings

- February 14 Jay & Virginia Wangerin
15 John & Mary Donnenwerth
17 Michael & Deanna Hummel
19 Jim & Linda Rundle
20 Norman & Janet Trentmann
22 Marlin & Charlotte Nielsen
24 Paul & Sally Thielking
25 Harold & Karen Mann



Finance Report – December Results

Financial results for December YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$471,801, Budget \$475,735
- Other Income – Actual \$18,453, Budget \$18,558
- Expenses – Actual \$473,838, Budget \$494,293
- Net activity – Actual \$16,415, Budget (\$0)

Overall, actual net activity was favorable to budget. While income activity was below budget (pledged offerings were below budget, partially offset by higher unpledged and loose offerings), overall expense activity was below budget to a greater extent. Favorable expense activity was the result of savings that was achieved due to lack of Lead Pastor, Music Director and Latino Communication Coordinator expense for a portion of the year. 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. Please refer to the annual report for further details.

Calling All Liturgists or Future Liturgists

If you are a Liturgist at Grace Lutheran Church or would like to be, please come to one of the training sessions in February. Even if you have been trained before, there will be new information and training in Liturgist responsibilities during Holy Communion.

The training session times are:

Sunday, February 12th following the 10:45 worship service
Thursday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 19th, between worship services.
The training sessions will take place in the sanctuary.

Making the Most of Marriage Workshop

Attention married couples: Help make your marriage be everything it can be! This popular seminar, now used in more than 10,000 churches and organizations, features practical and proven truths laced with Dr. Kevin Leman's humor and fun. Leman, a Christian psychologist and best-selling author, instills guiding scripture for each of the seven inspiring and entertaining video lessons.

Join us February 5 through March 18 during the Education Hour, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., in the Esperanza Cafe. For additional information, contact Cherie Rissman at 270-0278.

Save the Dates!

Vacation Bible School

Reminder: VBS details will soon be available. In the meantime, don't forget to mark your calendars for the following weeks:

June 11-15: preschool VBS (morning only)

June 25-29: K – grade 5 (full day option for children who have completed grades 1-5)

Lutheran Lakeside

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.

Exciting update: Several quilts have come in for the auction.

Winter Weather Policy

Reminder: If the Des Moines schools close due to ice and snow, Grace will also close. The phone tree list will be activated for Tuesday morning Bible Study class. We want everyone to be safe.

Adult Forum

January 29 – Burn Survivor,
Tammy Sealise

February 5 – Beth Flannery will
speak about Mentorship

February 12 – A Storyteller

February 19 – Dwight Dubois,
Grand View University,
will speak on Ministry in
Our Daily Lives

February 26 – Pastor Mike will
speak about Lent

Men in Mission

February 2

Meal starting at 6:30 p.m.

Our speaker will be our own Jay Wangerin. Jay's topic will be "Why we get sick and what our medications are doing to us." Questions will be welcome.

To Members of Grace...

We are members of the Des Moines Host Lion's Club. We are going to hold a book sale to raise money for different charities such as Iowa Kidsight, IRIS, Camp Courageous and the like.

We would like to put out an announcement that we are looking for a lot of good used books to sell.

If you should have any books you would like to donate please contact members

Dave Gronert 279-4974

Don Peterson 224-4514

Len Ringgenberg 255-2395

We can arrange to pick up the books. Thank you



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

December 13, 2011

Present: Kathy Bowermaster, Mary Freimuth-Helt, Kristin Medhurst, John Roehrick, Carla Peterman, Janet Habick Rich Snyder, Kevin Krause, Pastor Schmidt, Julie Honsey, Tom Selander

Absent: Gary Nehmer, Jon Rissman, Joyce Lewis

Devotions were given by Pastor Schmidt over Romans, Chapter 8; nothing can separate us from the love of God because Christ walks with us understanding through everything he has endured for our sin and selfishness. To our weakness he is no stranger. His suffering connects us to him.

Kevin Krause and Tom Selander presented the 2012 proposed budget for Council feedback. There are 22 (2011) pledges outstanding that total \$26,304.00.

The minutes from the November 22, 2011 meeting were approved as printed.

The Companion Congregation Committee would like Council approval to bring the Msindo pastor to Des Moines in August. Pastor Kinkoro has received a new call so the Msindo congregation is in the process of calling a new pastor. The committee will need to raise funds to pay for their trip and buy Bibles for the Msindo Sunday school.

Pastor updated us on the candidates for the Director of Music position and the two options that are currently being discussed.

Mary listed the people whom she has contacted about serving on the Council.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Honsey, Council Secretary



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Special Council Meeting

December 18, 2011

Present: Kathy Bowermaster, Kristin Medhurst, John Roehrick, Carla Peterman, Janet Habick, Kevin Krause, Pastor Schmidt, Rich Snyder, Joyce Lewis, Jon Rissman, Gary Nehmer

Absent: Mary Freimuth-Helt, Julie Honsey

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Order of Business

- The Council approved the Director of Music Ministry Search Team's recommendation to hire Steve Berg as the Director of Music Ministry at the salary and hour range approved by the Council at the December 13 Council Meeting and listed in the proposed 2012 budget.
- The Council approved the slate of candidates for the 2012 Council with the election being held at the January 2012 Congregation Council Meeting. The slate of candidates includes Jim Merkwan, Ardis Schmelzer and Jay Wangerin, as well as any nominations taken from the floor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Julie Honsey, Council Secretary
Recorded by Kathy Bowermaster

Sympathy is extended to the following families

Neal and Sandy Meyer on the death of Neal's father, Merle, of Maynard, IA.

Marilyn Anderson on the death of her brother on January 5.

Marv and Ann Swanson on the death of Donald Swanson on January 12 in Kansas City, MO.

Thank You Notes

Thank you Grace Lutheran for the gift at Christmas time. The daily devotion book, daisy in pot, the poinsettia, and the beautiful bookmark. I thank Pastor for coming to visit me.

Palma Williams

Thank you so much for the wonderfully made prayer shawl which I received before Christmas and the beautiful poinsettia brought to me after Christmas. I appreciate the time and effort that went into the making of prayer shawl and the time taken to deliver both gifts to me. *Del Niemuth*

Norm and I would like to thank you for the prayers of the church and for the nice prayer shawl made by the women of the church. God bless you all.

Sincerely, LaRue Buihner

I love the shawl you gave me. What a surprise and how pretty. Christmas surprises are the best! May Christmas bring you joy and blessings.

Thank you, Chris Lehfeld

**Gracefully Aware –
The Esperanza Cafe**

This bright, cheerful new meeting space is located on our lower level. Thanks to a Grace Endowment Grant and the hard work of several Grace members, this space is warm and cozy. The area features fresh paint, new lighting, cafe style tables and chairs, and attractive wall art. The area seats a group of approximately 28 people.

Fees to rent this space :

Members – No fee or deposit, mandatory \$25 custodian fee

Nonmembers - \$200 refundable deposit, \$50.00 room fee and \$25-50 custodial fee.

Grace Sponsored Events –No fee for room or deposit.

**Fly With Us!
HOLDEN VILLAGE 2012**

Fly with **Lutheran Lakeside Camp** to Holden Village in the Washington Cascade Mountains. **August 18-28, 2012.** On the return we spend a full day touring Seattle. Join pilgrims where Christ is the center of daily life. Each day is framed by matins, and community vespers. Christian fellowship is in abundance. Bell and vocal choirs, Bible study, crafts, hiking, fishing, pottery and weaving. Contact: Ranger Z at 712-336-2109 or z@lutheranlakeside.com Request a brochure or go online to www.lutheranlakeside.com (travel ministries)

SANTA FE

Fly with **Lutheran Lakeside Camp** from Des Moines to Albuquerque, New Mexico **September 10-17, 2012.** A time of personal reflection, prayer, meditation, reading, peace and fellowship. Take a pilgrimage to the Spanish missions where the Gospel has been preached for 400 years. **Pastor Mike Schmidt, Grace Lutheran in Des Moines, is our chaplain, Bible study and worship leader.** Enjoy lectures and tours by local scholars and view stunning religious and contemporary art. Contact: Ranger Z at 712-336-2109 or z@lutheranlakeside.com. Request a brochure or online to www.lutheranlakeside.com (travel ministries)

New Books in Our Church Library

I See God by Denny Rehder

This lovely book is a collection of responses from our congregation telling how or where they see God. The writings were collected in 2011 and are well worth reading. Thanks to those who contributed and to Denny for compiling them.

The Mystery of Time by John Chadwick

Our former Pastor John Chadwick wrote this beautiful book and took the pictures. His photographic skill is evident in the photos on almost every page. His glimpses of yesterday reveal the importance of today.

Armando and the Blue Tarp School

by Edith Hope Fine and Judith Pinkerton Josephson

This story is fiction, but based in fact. The story is based on the work of teacher and humanitarian David Lynch who went to Mexico over the summer of 1980 to teach children living in the Tijuana city dump. His first school was a blue tarp spread on a patch of bare ground. He spent 27 years of teaching there and an anonymous donor gave money to build a school enabling the residents to build their own school. Through the vision and persistence of David Lynch, thousands of young children and their families have been touched by hope. The book is a testament to the pursuit of dreams and the power of one person to make a difference in the lives of others.

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

276-0943

Heather Nelson, Director heathernelsondc@msn.com



Sign Up to Have Your Photos Taken for the New Photo Wall!

Do you know the person who is sitting at the opposite end of your pew? Does a particular person's face look familiar but you're not sure of the name? **You're in luck!** The Lay Ministry Team, in coordination with Council's vision of wanting to help the members of Grace get to know each other better, is encouraging your participation in a photo project that will culminate in a photo wall along the library corridor.

What you need to know:



This is a Grace project. Photographers will be from Lay Ministry and Grace – familiar faces. No order forms, no pressure. Just fun!



When? February 5, February 12 between services (in Grace Hall II), and Easter Morning (location TBD).



Kids attend Sunday school? You get first dibs on times between 9:15-9:45 a.m. and 10:30-10:45 a.m.



Casual, Formal, Goofy, Serious? You can be as dressed up or as casual as you like. But keep this fun challenge in mind:

To help us get to know each other better, think of clothing or props that may help to communicate your interests as individuals or as a family. Are you a techie who loves to work electronics? Or someone with a flair for woodworking? Do you play an instrument? Does your family love to go camping? What says "you" or "the _____ family" more than anything? We'd love to know. Include extended family, too.



Have your own photo you'd like to use? Maybe from a recent vacation, trip to the beach, family camping or picnic outing? You can use that instead of having your picture taken if you prefer. Just send it to Jackie Holmes at graceluth5@msn.com, or bring in the actual photo so that we can get it scanned. Please include everyone's name, and briefly describe a family interest or hobby so that we can include that when we post the photo.

Look for sign-ups in the Gathering Hall. Walk-ins are welcome, but you might have to wait a few minutes until those who have signed up during that time slot have completed their photos. Start looking for your props and bring out your best smiles! See you on the other side of the camera!

Educational opportunities...

For Adults....

"Volunteer Pursuit: Fun, Engaging and Effective"

Do you work with volunteers in your ministry? Or are you interested in engaging new volunteers in ministries with which you are involved? If so, the "Volunteer Pursuit" workshop may be of interest to you. On **Saturday, March 10** from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Altoona, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is sponsoring a unique training event to help communities expand their volunteer base. The morning will be led by Mark Holdt of Mountain Sage Consulting, an expert in volunteer engagement, and is free of charge. If you are interested in attending, or you know someone who is, please see Stephanie Johnson.

"Faith: a heart-felt hour or a way of life?"

On Tuesday, May 8 and Wednesday, May 9, the Center for Renewal at Grand View University is once again holding a Congregational Leadership Series to which all are welcome. The seminar will empower congregational leaders to equip their members in putting faith to work in everyday life, and participants will practice thinking and talking about all of life in ways that are explicitly shaped by faith, including the spheres of politics, economics, leisure, and the arts. The \$125 congregational fee, or \$20 per person if fewer than six participants from the congregation, will be covered by the Lay Ministry Team's budget for lay leadership development. More information is posted on the office bulletin board outside Grace Hall I or by going to www.renewingchurch.org. Please contact Stephanie Johnson if you are interested.

... and Children

Calling all Cub Scouts and Brownie Scouts! Earn your religious emblem badge for the God and Me program! It is the first in the P.R.A.Y. series (*Programs of Religious Activities with Youth*) and is a 5-week program for children in grades 1-3. It will be offered at Grace from February 29 – April 4 (not including spring break week) on Wednesday evenings from 5:15-6:15 p.m. A light sandwich meal will be provided each week. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Kristin Medhurst at 987-7521 or medhurstk@msn.com **by February 15**. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children, so we hope to see you there, too.

GOD AND ME



Make a Bowl and Support the DMARC Food Pantry

RGD Dahlquist Ceramic Studio is hosting Open Studio day, Saturday, February 4th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to make clay bowls for the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Soup Supper. This is the third annual bowl-making day. The Soup Supper is a communitywide effort to raise funds for the food pantry. Each year artists donate bowls and RGD Dahlquist is partnering with DMARC to help make more bowls.

All tools and supplies are provided, but your hands are needed to make the bowls. Once completed, the bowls will be available at the soup supper, April 1, at West Des Moines Christian Church.

The ceramic studio is located at 316 SW 5th St. in Des Moines. Parking is available on the street or three blocks north in the Science Center Parking Garage. Questions? Call Marion Nehmer at 306-3647.

The Importance of Positive Parenting

Parents: role models, healers, supporters, teachers and leaders. February has been named National Parent Leadership Month. It is an opportunity to publicly recognize and honor parents for their leadership roles in their homes and communities. LSI recognizes the critical importance of parent leadership. Through LSI's early childhood and family services we help strengthen families, prevent child abuse and neglect, and build strong communities. Your support of LSI allows us to continue to support families across Iowa, and is key to bringing a source of hope and creating wholeness for families in your community.

For more information on LSI, visit www.LSIowa.org.

Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

"Be the best parent you can for your kids"



A Message from Star Trek

Is anybody out there a Star Trek fan? If so, then maybe the following words, regularly narrated by William Shatner at the beginning of almost every episode, ring familiar and may already be going through your head before you even read the words:

"Space: the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise. Its five-year mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before."

For those of you who watched the episodes, those words may have stirred in you a sense of adventure and anticipation for what the show would hold. Who knew what strange new things the travelers would find, or what obstacles and discoveries awaited them?

In our present day reality – in the "real world" – we may not encounter other worlds and other planets, but we do venture forth in ministry. In the past few years at Grace, we've seen new groups and committees arise while at the same time continuing on with ministries to which we've been committed for years. We've seen leadership changes as new people stepped forward to serve and others moved on to new areas. As we continue to serve and witness in the coming year, maybe the mission of the starship Enterprise can be recaptured in a new way for us, as I've heard suggested in a past workshop:

"The mission field: an open frontier. These are the voyages of the congregation of Grace. Its Gospel mission: to explore and evangelize new communities and worlds, to seek out new life with the Gospel, to boldly go where Grace has not gone before."

One month of this new year is already behind us, and the coming months lie before us, open and unwritten. To what new voyages is the Spirit calling us? What current ones may change or make room for others? Whom will we be called to serve? No matter where Grace's path leads, may the words that Jesus spoke to his disciples just before ascending into heaven speak to us as well:

"[Y]ou will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in [Des Moines, in all of the Southeastern Iowa Synod], and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

- Stephanie Johnson

Thank You

Thank you for your donation of gift cards. We really appreciate you thinking of us for your donation.

Thank you for your giving hearts, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI clients received gift cards from our Christmas Star Tree.)

The Companion Church Committee of Grace would like to share with the congregation the good news of a vision mission being planned to the Pare Diocese, and make you aware of the opportunities offered. You can be a part of the plans for our future together. Bishop Burk and Pastor Carlson welcome those who desire to deepen our relationship.



The Southeastern Iowa Synod has been in a companion relationship with the Pare Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania since 1988. This Companion relationship exists for the purpose of strengthening one another for life and mission within the body of Christ. As we seek to accomplish this purpose and deepen the relationship with our sisters and brothers in the Pare Diocese, a Vision Trip to the diocese is planned for June 2012. Join Bishop Michael Burk and Pastor Eric Carlson on this exciting journey. Spaces are limited!

Thank you

for all you've done in 2011...

You provided food to about **1,000 children** and youth every week.



Thank you for giving food, childcare assistance, and rent and utilities assistance to people who need it.

You helped open

8

SNAP food assistance application stations.

You made a difference.

You helped provide food for up to

30,000

meals per week

through the 12-site

DMARC Food Pantry Network.

Thanks for promoting **interfaith understanding.**

Not only did you provide food to people who requested it, you provided healthy food, including

300,000

pounds of **fresh produce.**

You volunteered **30,000** hours of service.

You made Greater Des Moines

better.