



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church

February 28, 2012

Holy Week Worship

**Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion Service**
11:00 a.m.

Luncheon served by
Grace Women will follow

**Holy Communion Service
First Communion**
6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Service
7:00 p.m.

**Open Prayer Vigil
Saturday in Upper Room**
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday
Holy Communion Services**
6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m.
and 10:45 a.m.
**Men In Mission Easter
Breakfast served**
7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Children's Easter activities
at 9:30 a.m.

Everyone is Welcome!

**Regular Sunday
Worship**
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.
(March 13 is final class for
season at 6:00 p.m.)

Contact Us

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More than a Motto

"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car." I bet that got your attention; it certainly got mine. I saw this quote posted on a friend's wall on Facebook last night. It is a quote that grabbed my attention, and has been the subject of my pondering in the hours since. I didn't "like" it, nor do I like it.

In doing a little research, I discovered that it is not anonymous, but rather attributed to William Ashley "Billy" Sunday. If you aren't familiar with Billy Sunday, maybe you should be. He was a major league baseball player who became a famous circuit preacher in the early 1900s. Billy was born near Ames, Iowa and began his preaching career in Garner, Iowa. He would use his baseball career as the publicity to get people to revivals, but even used things like hiring a circus giant as an usher in order to draw a crowd. Later, his ministry grew into a phenomenon. His message of moral pietism went national and grew quite a following. Years after his death in 1935, glimpses of his message appear as anonymous in homes and on phones through social media. What a world.

His theology is alive and well in the world, and this recent "E-card" has certainly captured his theology and the way that many view the season of Lent. When we first hear the quote, we are perhaps a little bit shocked. It can quickly go from being shocked toward anger or self-righteousness. Either we think, "How dare he?" or "That's right! Preach it!" Either way, we head down a path that leads to despair. However, this is the path that we tend to take a lot during Lent. It often becomes a time when we either resent the piety of others or look with favor upon our own. In short, many try to live this quote. Many try to look beyond simply going to church and instead point toward either personal discipline or mission and outreach. That is all good, but I still don't like it.

Is it true that being in church does not make you a Christian? Yes. Is it true that standing in a garage does not make you a car? Yes. So, what is my problem with all of this? Does observing Lent make you a Christian? No. Does giving something up make you a Christian? No. Truth be told, there is nothing that you can do to make yourself a Christian, and to think otherwise is an illusion. What makes us a Christian is Christ. Period. End of story. There are many ways to respond to this gift, but nothing that we do makes us any more or less of a Christian. We are claimed by God through Christ.

This creates a problem. It isn't as catchy of a quote. The first line of a certain book caught my attention: "It's not about you." But the rest of the book seemed to point to the opposite. Maybe that is the problem; we try to reduce things to a catchphrase or a motto. We want some simple pithy saying that is memorable. In order to do so, we have to reduce our theology to a motto. So, maybe we need to embrace that it simply isn't going to happen. Maybe we have to embrace that this Good News isn't meant to be cliché. It is both incredibly simple "GOD LOVES YOU" and profound "We are saved by grace through faith." It is something simple enough to grab attention, yet profound enough that a lifetime of study still does not even come close to fully understanding the mysteries of faith.

This is some of the motivation behind the Midweek sermon series "Ministry in Mark: More than a Motto." We are going to look at texts in Mark that either do not appear in the lectionary, or that do not appear often. We are going to look at those texts as a foundation for looking past catchphrases, mottos and initial impressions and push us into a more profound a deeper understanding of God and ministry.

So, whether you are sitting in the pews, standing in a garage, or a myriad of other activities, may you know that you are claimed by God through Christ. You are loved. You are beloved. And if you find yourself doubting that you need to ponder three words, count back one hundred and seventy four words starting "here." If you know it already, you know you are going to count the words anyway. Yep, you're welcome.

Pastor Mike

Happy Birthday to You!

March 1	Mary Johansen Kristen Snyder Rebecca Sonius
2	Donald York
3	Matthew Heid Delmar Niemuth Renee Mulvihill
4	Kimberly Carballo Sarah Merkwan
5	Brent Culp Katherine Scholl
6	Pressly Reha
7	La Vonne Mitchell
10	Patty Flannery Nadine Garcia
11	Tammy Hagerty
12	Rachael Bigg Jacquelyn Holmes Andrew Keller
13	Lathrop Preston
14	Barbara Nelson Sally Niffenegger
15	Bill Jensen Evelyn Knudsen Lydia McCleary Ann Warren
17	Kathy Bowermaster Beth Flannery Benjamin Honsey Melissa Swanson
18	Emma Ashton Joann Jensen Robert Sauerman Thomas Selander
19	Cleone Oberg Haley Turner Diane Westercamp
20	Karen Taylor
21	Angela Allen Janet Kjellberg Susan Miller
22	Louie Anderson
23	Rick Harmon
24	Beau Brindley Mary Jo McCleary
25	Arlene Janson
26	Ryan Nordeen
27	Sierra Carney Stephanie Johnson Zara Preston
29	Sharon Schwemler
30	Curtis Chenoweth Kristin Medhurst
31	Daniel Gutmann Amy Ziska

Happy Anniversary to You!

March 5	Gus & Kari Berven
7	Paul & Diana Johnson
15	Sonny & Kristina Hutton
18	Jeffrey & Anne Farrell
20	Edward & Jane Ridnour
24	Randy & Karen Taylor

Pastor Mike's Midweek Series during Lent Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 29
Mark 2:1-12 "That Was Easy"

Wednesday, March 7
Mark 2:13-17 "We'll Leave the Light on for Ya"

Wednesday, March 14
Mark 2:23-3:6 "Just Do It"

Wednesday, March 21
Mark 8:1-9 "Keeps Going and Going and Going"

Wed, March 28
Mark 8:22-26 "A Little Dab'll Do Ya"

Finance Report – January Results

Financial results for January YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$42,816, Budget \$37,683
- Other Income – Actual \$1,226, Budget \$1,487
- Expenses – Actual \$40,187, Budget \$44,198
- Net activity – Actual \$3,855, Budget (\$5,028)

Actual net activity was favorable to budget. This was due to offerings above budget due to individuals paying their annual pledge in full. 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 the Music Director position in January.

Stewardship letter for March 2012 (with apologies to Property Committee)

We tend to think of stewardship mostly in financial terms, but your time and your talents are a huge contribution to the church. Being an active member on a committee is a great way to meet some people you may not yet know, and to strengthen friendships with those you do. Some committees may sound mundane, like Property (but - large financial decisions have to be made there) and some can get pretty wild - think Youth! There are nine standing committees and a number of special committees, so wherever your interests or talents lie, they can be utilized and you can be energized. With Faith comes Action. Being involved is really active Stewardship!
Your Stewardship Committee

Passion for Changing Lives...National Social Work Month is a time to celebrate social workers and the services they provide to children, families and individuals. The men and women in this field of work are unsung heroes in our society. They bring hope to people in their darkest times and help make our communities better places to live: one person, one child and one family at a time. Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is proud to have so many dedicated workers who bring life changing services to people in need. Without the dedication, passion and commitment of its social workers, LSI could not carry out its mission of responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. Your valued partnership in support and prayer is what ensures LSI and its devoted employees can continue to help change lives for the better. For more information on LSI, visit www.LSIiowa.org. Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Men in Mission

Thursday, March 8th
at Grace starting at 6:00 p.m.

Joint meeting with Immanuel Methodist Church Men

The speaker will be their own Bob Wells who will speak on his experiences in the Korean War.

Thank You's

The family of George Pierce - Joann, Craig, Kurt, Kevin, Carla and their families - want to thank everyone for their cards and prayers; to the people who helped at the memorial service, to the ladies who prepared the food and served the lunch and to Pastor Mike for his visits and comforting words at the time of George's death.

Thank you to the Quilters for their generous donation of fleece for the Confirmation Service Project. We were able to make 14 fleece tie blankets for Youth Emergency Services and Shelter with the material you gave us.

The Confirmation Youth

Dear members of Grace Lutheran, Thank you for your very kind and generous donation to St. Paul Lutheran in Martensdale following our devastating church fire. We are humbled by the outpouring of prayers and support from the faith community as we discern our future plans. God's continued blessings to you.

Kim Davis
Council President

Thank you for the prayers and telephone calls during my recent illness.

Ellen Batten

**Plan to Attend
Easter Sunday Pancake
Breakfast
Grace Lutheran Church
Grace Hall
7:00 to 10:00 a.m.**



Free will donation
Sponsored by Men in Mission
A portion of the proceeds will
go to Lutheran Lakeside
Camp.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Council Minutes, January 17, 2012

Present: Mary Freimuth-Helt, Kathy Bowermaster, Rich Snyder, John Roehrick. Carla Peterman, Jon Rissman, Joyce Lewis, Julie Honsey, Pastor Schmidt, Gary Nehmer

Absent: Janet Habick, Kristin Medhurst

The devotions were given by Pastor Schmidt.

Book Study: The Corporate Person, Chapter 4.

The agenda was adopted as printed.

The staff reports were reviewed with the following notations: The Finance Committee is making plans to upgrade the computer used for finances. The security camera is now in place, as well as a new phone system.

The December 2011 Financial Report was reviewed and accepted.

Then final budget for 2012 was approved as printed in the January 2012 Annual Report to be adopted by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Business

- Highlights from Council meetings will be printed in the Friendly Visitor with annotated minutes being made available.

- The upcoming Council retreat was discussed with plans for including the Lay Ministry Team as well as the staff. The retreat date was set for Saturday, February 18, 2012, 9:00-2:00. Rich Snyder and Carla Peterman will plan the part that includes the Lay Ministry Team while Kathy Bowermaster and Mary Freimuth-Helt will plan the lunch.

- The Communications Team sent out Easter postcards in 2011 to new people in the neighborhood but due to the Team not being formally established at this time, postcards will not be sent in 2012.

- The Personnel Committee and the Worship and Music Committee will review the expectations of the Director of Music Ministry to ensure that the position has the same expectations from all groups.

Committee Reports

- The Social Ministry Team is working on writing an Endowment Grant for first aid kits and an AED as well as CPR training for up to 15 people.

Unfinished Business

- The planning for the Eucharistic Ministry will begin soon.

- The Council approved that \$4,000 from the 2011 surplus of \$16,000 be given to Synod benevolence.

- The Council approved that should funding be available the Council will explore the possibility of hiring a part-time employee for youth and young adult ministry.

Thanks were made to Jon Rissman and Joyce Lewis for their years of service on the Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Honsey, Council Secretary

Meet Our New Director of Music Ministries

Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg is the principal oboist of the Des Moines Symphony. She performs frequently with many ensembles in the Des Moines/Central Iowa area such as the Polaris Wind Quintet, the Vocal Arts Ensemble and the Des Moines Choral Society.

In addition to performing, Ms. Wohlenhaus Bloomberg teaches oboe, bassoon and music theory/aural skills at Drake University and oboe and bassoon at Grinnell College. She maintains a small private studio of double reed students from the Des Moines and central Iowa area.

For the past 11 years, she served as organist for the Ankeny United Church of Christ. Her keyboard study includes organ with Dr. Carl Staplin and piano with Chiu-Ling Lin and George Katz.

Jennifer will play her first service at Grace on March 18. She and her family live close to Grace in the Beavertdale neighborhood. We look forward to welcoming her in person.

Senior Members' Meeting

Sunday, March 4

5:00 p.m.

We're playing WHOOPEE!

A light supper will be served.

All are welcome to attend.

In Loving Memory

George W. Pierce died on January 30, 2012. George served his country in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953 in Korea and worked as a tool & die maker before retirement. He loved fishing and hunting and being a part of nature. George was a member of Grace for 54 years. He is survived by his wife, Joann, his children, and grandchildren.

Marilyn Ann Lueth Vesey, 80, passed away February 13, 2012. Marilyn was a member of Grace for six years. She chaired the Senior Members group and was a member of Martha Circle. She enjoyed playing cards and participating in many activities at the Urbandale Senior Center. Marilyn is survived by her children, 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Ruth E. Lanning-Peck, 95, died on February 20, 2012. Ruth was a member of Grace for 30 years and a member of Lydia Circle. Before retirement, she had worked as a nurse for more than 40 years. She is survived by her sons, five grandsons and six great grandchildren.

Harold Wallace passed away on January 27, 2012 in Rochester, MN after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife Lois, son Mark and four grandchildren. His daughter Marcia preceded him in death in 2009. Harold had been a member of Grace for many years prior to their moving to Rochester.

Robert Flannery, uncle of Don (Beth) Flannery passed away recently in Oxford, IA.

Beverly Nash, sister of Don (Gloria) Moon passed away on February 19 at the age of 77 at Mercy Medical Center.



Mark Your Calendars!
**The Sixth Annual DMARC Soup
Supper and Pottery Sale**
April 1, 2012
4:30-7:00 p.m.

West Des Moines Christian Church,
4501 Mills Civic Parkway

Free will donation for supper

Prices as marked for handcrafted pottery sale. Take home a free one-of-a-kind ceramic bowl while supplies last. Proceeds to benefit the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

Grace-Fully Aware – The Library A Very Special Story

The original church building, the Parish House, housed the Lundeen Chapel, and the first library was located at the back of the chapel. Joanne Johnson brought books out of the mostly unused library to the narthex for members to check out. She felt the books should be used and enjoyed.

Later on when remodeling took place and the library/lounge opened just outside the current sanctuary, she ordered books for the library from funds allocated by the LCW. The books were shelved there for check-out, meetings were held there, and story hours for children were given on Wednesday evenings. The Statement of Purpose was adopted in October of 1989.

The next location for the library was Room 202 (ca. 1994). Book shelves were built by Carl Janson and Wally Anderson. The shelves were later moved to the location of the present library. An office for the Associate in Ministry had been added to the room and the library shared space with a Sunday school class during part of this time.

Finally, on November 16, 2001, the library moved to its present location. Shelves and books were moved, and lounge chairs, a rug and the coffee table were purchased. A computer was installed for use of the librarians and is only programmed for library work.

The current Grace Library has more than 2,000 books under the following classifications: children's books, young adult books, adult books (fiction and non-fiction), biographies, reference books, large-print books (limited collection), magazines, books in Spanish (limited collection), DVDs and CDs. Books and other materials can be checked out for one month, DVDs for one week. Directions for checkout are on the desk – please put your name and phone number on the checkout card. Books are chosen by the Library Committee with the help of church staff and suggestions of church members. The Book Discussion Club started in approximately 1990 and continues to meet in the library on Wednesday evenings. Story hours are held in the library on Sunday mornings for the Sunday school children and on Thursday mornings for Grace Kid's Care children.

Librarians through the years: Joanne Johnson, Joy Averill, Pat Rehder, Charlene Lakin, Lindi Roe, Marion Nehmer, Inga Hoifeldt and Bev Anderson

Some committee members through the years: Rich Snyder, Don Moon, Mildred Halterman, Eleanor Carlson, Linda Gronert, Linda Biegger, Dave Gronert, Louise Bergman, Janet Gift, Shirley Shiffler, Niva Knutson, and Wes Young

Fees to rent this space:

Members – No fee or deposit

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

Grace-sponsored events – No fee for room or deposit

The librarians ask that no food or drink items be brought into the library by any group.

New Books in the Church Library

Bread, Bread, Bread - by Ann Morris

From sliced bread to tortillas to baguettes, wherever there are people, someone is eating bread. Come explore the world of bread in this book full of dazzling photographs and see how people eat--and live--the world over.

A Life Like Mine -in Association with UNICEF

All over the world children are leading their lives in completely different and fascinating ways. Faced with many challenges, they all have one thing in common--a passion for life. The book looks at what life is like for children of different countries and how easily each child can fulfill his or her hopes and ambitions no matter how little or far their human rights are infringed.

Spark Story Bible - stories retold by Patti Thisted Arthur

The 150 stories of the Old and New Testament are retold with interesting and informative words and imaginative art. Children will grow in faith as they imagine, talk about, wonder, and explore God's word.

Henry's Freedom Box - by Ellen Levine

Henry "Box" Brown was one of the most famous runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad. The author was inspired by an account of his incredible courage. He risked everything for what he knew was right. In 1849, with the strength and conviction of the best kind of hero, Henry made a harrowing journey of 350 miles from Richmond, Virginia to Philadelphia in 27 hours nailed in a wooden crate!

Kiki's Hats - by Warren Hanson

This brightly illustrated children's book tells of an older lady named Kiki who loved to knit. She knits hats and gives them away. She sets a cheerful example for all of us showing that we can make a positive difference in this world--a difference that can last a lifetime and beyond. It is fictional but there is a real Kiki leading many other people to be generous as well.

Children, youth, and family

Blessing Bowl Workshop

On Saturday, January 21, 18 families gathered to make blessing bowls as part of a Sunday school activity. Blessing bowls are used in each classroom and families were invited to come together and make a set for home use. Msindo Hall was full of energy as each family was given some fresh soft clay to create their family bowl. They decorated the bowls with phrases and images and made individual blessing stones out of clay representing 10 blessings ranging from mountain highs and valley lows to remembrances. The blessing bowls foster prayer and conversation emphasizing our blessings on Earth, how we bless others and how God blesses us. As a family, a stone is chosen to talk about something that happened during the day, to pray about that event and to talk about it as a family. The stone is placed in the blessing bowl as each family member takes their turn choosing a stone and offering prayers. Another opportunity for the congregation to make a blessing bowl and stones will be offered at a later date. Bowls were fired by local artist and St. John's Lutheran Church member Deb Anderson. Her generosity helped keep our costs low. Many thanks also to Melissa Lawson, Stephanie Johnson, Beth Flannery, Mindy Scholten and Marion Nehmer for taking the time to organize the workshop, help during the event and complete all the finishing work for the bowls and stones.



First Communion Classes!

First Communion classes will be taking place in March for all children who wish to begin receiving Holy Communion. We ask that at least one parent or guardian attends the sessions with your child. Please contact Stephanie Johnson by March 11 to let us know if your child will be participating. We hope to see you! Information is as follows:

Classes: Wednesday, March 14, 5:15-6:15 p.m. in room 101
Wednesday, March 28, 5:15-6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary
(Children and parents or guardians attend both classes.)

Optional Whatta Dish ceramic studio trip: Sunday, March 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
509 Elm St., West Des Moines (in Valley Junction)

Children paint their own chalices to use on Maundy Thursday. Call 279-4916 to arrange an alternate date.
The cost is \$17/chalice and scholarships are available.

Optional Holy Communion Camp day: Saturday, March 31, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Grace
Children will actively participate in this experiential workshop led by Lutheran Lakeside camp staff and other volunteers.
The cost is \$35/child and payable to Lutheran Lakeside Camp on the day of the event.
Parents who attend are free, but all participants are asked to bring a sack lunch.
Register with Stephanie by March 25.

First Communion celebration: April 5 Maundy Thursday worship service, 6:30 p.m.

You are Invited

The Drake Choir and Chamber Choir,

conducted by Aimee Beckmann-Collier, will kick off their regional tour with a home concert on Tuesday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m. in Sheslow Auditorium on the Drake campus.

The performance will feature music by Brahms, Bruckner, Palestrina, Gabrieli, and Whitacre as well as folksongs and works by contemporary American and Mongolian composers. There is no admission charge for the concert.





VBS Registration – Operation Overboard!

Welcome to the 2012 theme of Vacation Bible School! Divers will *dare to go deep with God* as they meet Old and New Testament people of deep faith. So grab your diving gear and get ready for a deep sea adventure at Grace this summer! Look for registration and volunteer information in the Gathering Hall starting in March. In the meantime, keep this information in mind:

**Week 1: June 11-15 for preschool divers ages 3-5 (potty training required)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Week 2: June 25-29 for divers who completed grades K-5
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (aftercare available from 4-5:30 p.m.)**

For more information or to volunteer, check out the display or contact Stephanie Johnson or any member of your VBS Planning Team: Beth Flannery, Julie Honsey, MeLissa Lawson, Kristin Medhurst, Jim Merkwan, Ardis Schmelzer, Michelle Voelker.

Note: Ability to swim is not required. ☺



Volunteer Opportunities



Spring Cleaning at Grace

Roll up your sleeves and grab your cleaning supplies! Grace is having a spring cleaning day on **Saturday, March 10 from 9:00 a.m.-noon**. We'll have a list of to-do items on that day, and youth through adults are welcome to jump in. Many hands make light work, so come one, come all!

Seeking Volunteer Drivers

We have recently received some requests from homebound members who would like to come to worship services. If you would be willing to serve in this way, we would pass along to you contact information for the members making the request for a ride and would leave it up to you to coordinate a schedule, times, etc. You wouldn't necessarily be making a weekly commitment but could arrange pick-ups at your availability.

A sign-up sheet is available at Volunteer Central in the Gathering Hall. Please include your name, contact information, and service preference. Thank you for your ministry!



High School Youth Gathering in Iowa City

On April 14-15, high school youth from all over the synod will be coming together for an annual event at the Clarion Hotel in Iowa City. The weekend will include large group activities, small group discussions, workshops, youth worker training, time to nurture congregational relationships, and creative and meaningful worship. Guest speaker and musician Nate Houge will be leading part of the event as well. Registration cost and information is on the synod's website at www.seiasynod.org.

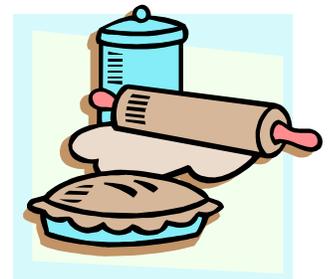
Come be a part of it! Register by March 29.



Pies Wanted for the Quilt Auction!

If you like to make pies, please consider making one (or more) for the Lutheran Lakeside Quilt Auction that is being hosted at Grace on April 14. Any flavor!!

Pies will be sold by the slice during the lunch or whole at the end of the auction. Please contact Beth Flannery if you would like to donate a pie or two at 314-1022 or bdfannery@yahoo.com.





Your support is so important!

Thank you for everything that you do as a member congregation of the Des Moines Area Religious Council to help the people of Greater Des Moines. As a result of your prayers and your financial support:

- More people have enough to eat.
- More people have access to healthy food.
- More people are able to stay in their homes because of help with rent and utilities.
- More people have access to quality childcare.
- More people have opportunities to reflect with each other on the importance and value of faith.

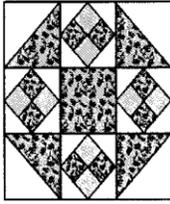
**2011 DMARC Congregational Statement of Giving Update
January through December 2011 for Grace Lutheran Church**

Minimum level of participation is \$1.50 per adult member per year. Reported adult membership: 599
Adult member assessment per year: \$898.50

1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total received	Balance
\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$425.00	\$1,625.00	\$0

Emergency Food Pantry - Direct Service Contributions

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
Cash for food purchases	\$1,898.50	\$1,645.70	\$1,211.49	\$1,146.60
Food items & lbs of produce	348	87	189.8	306
Cash for diapers		\$0	\$0	
Individual diapers		28	96	
Cash for baby formula			\$0	
Baby formula items			5	
Cash for personal care items		\$0		\$0
Personal care items		3		1



Lutheran Lakeside Quilt Auction Match Offered

Do you remember a time when you snuggled under a warm homemade blanket and remembered the gift of being warmly loved? Sometimes there is no better gift in the world than the comfort of a blanket or quilt from someone who loves you! This gift of love is at the center of Lutheran Lakeside's quilt auction. The quilts are stitched with love from quilters all over Iowa. No doubt prayers are sewn into the quilts' very seams. Then they are sent to camp, where others offer gifts of love by buying them at the quilt auction and supporting the loving ministry of the camp and each camper and staff member who is cared for there. After the auction many of the quilts are donated back to the camp and they are given to the camp staff at their installation service at the beginning of the summer. No doubt, each staff member will have moments when they will need to know that they are loved and prayed for. Their quilt is a reminder that prayers and love are sent for them from every corner of the state through their very large church family you could see the quilts of some of the staff who have worked at Lutheran Lakeside for a few years, you would see how much these quilts mean to them. Their quilts have tattered edges, because these quilts travel everywhere with them. They are a treasured gift of love!

Spring is coming and with it comes Lutheran Lakeside's annual quilt auction. This year it takes place on April 14 at Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines. Since Lutheran Lakeside's constituency is spread throughout the entire state, it is difficult for some to attend because of distance alone. This year we have a congregation who would like to challenge people at the quilt auction with a \$3 for \$1 match. Faith Lutheran Church, Odebolt will match your bid — for every \$3 raised, they will match it with \$1 up to \$7,000. We need your help to meet this match!

Pastor Carla Johnsen, St John in Dunlap and Bethesda in Moorhead, suggested a way for more people to become involved in the auction by sending bids to Lutheran Lakeside so a staff person could bid for them. This is how it would work. A group of people could pool their resources and bid on a quilt. The minimum bid would be \$300. Camp staff will bid for you. We will take a photo of your quilt to send to you and the quilt would be returned to the camp to grace the bed of a summer counselor. It is a great way to show support for the counselor and a great way to support this very important fundraiser for the camp.

We need your help if we want to take full advantage of the gift Faith Lutheran in Odebolt is offering. Your gift will make this possible. Simply designate on your check that it is a bid on a quilt then send your gift to the camp. *Thank you!*