



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Grace Lutheran Church

May 22, 2012

Everyone is invited to
**Summer Worship
Services.**

Sundays

Holy Communion at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship to Follow

Saturdays

Holy Communion at 5:00 p.m.
June 9 until August 25

Contact Us

Pastor Michael Schmidt
pastormike@gracedm.org

Director of Laity Ministries
Stephanie Johnson
stephaniejohnson@g.com

Director of Music Ministries
Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg
jennwohlenhaus@yahoo.com

Director of Ensembles
Sherry Kocek
skocek@msn.com

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

Office Administrator
Jackie Holmes
worship@gracedm.org
276-6873

Office Assistant
Michelle Voelker
rvoelker1@mchsi.com

Receptionist
Diana Johnson
dianal.johnson@mchsi.com

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

When in our music...

As many of you know, I am a musician. When I was in high school, I dreamt of becoming a performer, singing for crowds, writing music, having fans, the "whole enchilada" so to say. This dream continued until the first time I stood before a choir as the conductor. It felt incredibly different, surreal, and empowering.

At first, it was a sort of ego trip, standing in front of a choir and commanding the sound into being. You wave your arms and people sing. It felt as I would have imagined, recalling the scenes from Bugs Bunny with the opera singer at his beckoned call. I felt all powerful.

It wasn't until I began to learn more about conducting that I learned how humbling of a place it really is. To conduct is not to command a sound into being, but rather to draw music out of the choir, to tune into the heart and soul of the singers and to pull out the sound, the art. There is nothing egocentric about it. To conduct is to empty your self in front of the choir or orchestra and become embodied in the living, breathing, spiritual existence of music.

Every move you make, breath you take, glance you give, finger that twitches, affects the tone of the music. In short, you become the music. For a period of time you cease to exist and something far greater is born, something too precious for words, with a lifespan measured in minutes, which when over, neither the silence nor applause can resurrect.

Once you get to know the choir, the voices, the timbre, the very sound itself, there is a different task. I am a self described "moment conductor." Simply put, I believe that in every piece sung by any choir has within it the opportunity for a moment of perfection. Everything else may sound sensational, but there is the chance for a moment of perfection. It may be an alto suspension, a chord progression, a fermata, an entrance, a cut off. The task is to be in tune enough to find the moment, to know the choir enough to hear the possibilities before the realities. Once you hear it in your head, you continue to empty yourself into the music until the sound in your ears matches the dream within, and there is, if only for a moment, perfection. It is not just for you alone because you can see it in the eyes of the choir and hear it in the slight gasp of those listening. The next note comes, the moment passes, but will not be forgotten.

The more I learn about parish ministry, the more the similarities between ministry and conducting become apparent. In much the same way, you do not stand up in front of the congregation, move your hands around, and command worship into being, telling people when to sit, when to stand, when to pray, when to sing, when to leave, and a variety of other worship cues. You do not lead worship, and in the same way you do not lead ministry; it is lived.

After a little over one year here, you are learning more about me, and I am learning more about each of you. I am learning the abilities of this congregation and starting to sense that image of what is possible. We have the potential to partake in some beautiful and valuable ministry in this place. The difference with this is that it does not have to be limited to a moment and exist solely in time. We have the opportunity, now, to see these possibilities become realities, to learn to embrace the moment and then say, "Let's do it again!" Are you ready?

Pastor Mike



June Birthdays

June 1	Danielle Russell
2	Marvin Simonsen
3	Lisa Brown
4	Achmed Johnson Virgil Olson Erica Schwarz Leslie Denton
5	Molly Riordan Natasha Voelker
6	Debbie Curry
8	Samuel Ruiz Elijah Lund
10	Brian Riordan
11	Jacob McCann
12	Lee Johnson
13	James Beeler Michele Turner Stacy Speck
14	MeLissa Lawson Joel Holst Joshua Habick
15	Paul Grodt Sandra Meyer Allison Hofman Peter Mattes Kenneth Schwarz Joseph Gutmann
16	Donald Schroeder Joseph Honsey
17	Eugene Krauss Rita Stackhouse Curt Johansen Matthew Jordahl
18	Vivian Swanson Marilyn Nizzi
19	Diana Johnson Luis Reaza
21	Paul Kallenbach
22	Martha Mitchell
23	Delmar Vernia Terin Stanfley Sharena Appenzeller Megan Riordan
24	Sandra Roehrick
25	Barbara Tussing
27	Vivian Feilmann
28	Norma Black Joann Pierce Cynthia Cooper Amber Trimble
29	Leanne Davis Elizabeth Gronert
30	Steven McCann

Committee Night

As you may have heard, we are returning to a Committee Night schedule. This decision came from the Congregational Council and the Lay Ministry Team. The majority of the Standing Committees listed in the congregational bylaws will meet on the same night each month, the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. These committees include: Property, Stewardship, Social Ministry, Worship and Music, Youth, Education, Evangelism and Finance.

This schedule will begin on June 12. We recognize that a change like this will take some time. We also recognize that not all committees meet during the summer. The goal is to be settled into the schedule by September, so if there are scheduling conflicts with a committee on which you serve, or you do not regularly meet during the summer, please grant yourself flexibility. If a committee will have great difficulty meeting on the second Tuesday of the month starting in September, please talk with Pastor Mike. Thank you in advance for your patience as we begin this transition.

Finance Report – April Results

Financial results for April YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$156,647, Budget \$157,730
- Other Income – Actual \$4,998, Budget \$5,548,
- Expenses – Actual \$153,591, Budget \$165,222
- Net activity – Actual \$8,054, Budget (\$1,943)

Actual net activity was favorable to 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 the Music Director position for a portion of the year.

Stewardship Thought

This month the Stewardship Committee shares a reflection written by Pr. Nancy Larson, ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission.

Recently, I looked up the word stewardship in the online thesaurus and was startled by what it said. The antonyms for stewardship as listed in the online thesaurus are: destruction, neglect, spending, squandering and waste.

It has been said that it is sometimes easier to understand something by first defining what it is not. Wouldn't you agree that these "not" stewardship words are eye opening and thought provoking? What is it that happens (or doesn't happen) when we ignore stewardship? There seems to be clear evidence in families, churches, businesses and nations that failing to address stewardship is destructive, wasteful and neglectful – just like the thesaurus says.

In other words, not paying attention to stewardship is wasteful. To cease to be good stewards is not just lazy, it is destructive! So stewardship is about how we live all of our lives in response to God's love. It's not a dirty word and it's not irrelevant. If anything, it needs a rebirth, and the church needs to lead the way.



May Anniversary

May 26 Mike & Carla Peterman

June Anniversaries

- June 3 Larry & Judy Cramer
Rick & Rebecca Harmon
- 4 William & Kristen Marberry
- 6 Richard & Lori Fry
- 7 Leonard & Delores Larsen
- 8 Bruce & Barbara Bergman
- 9 Matthew & Kara Jordahl
- 10 Kenneth & Barbara DeBolt
Kevin & Jeanne Drury
Jon & Jeanine Rutter
- 12 Conrad & Jean Thompson
- 14 John & Linda Gronert
Robert & Rita Stackhouse
- 16 Tim & LaVonne Mitchell
- 19 Richard & Mary Johansen
Nick & Kristin Medhurst
Rev. Delmar & Lynn
Niemuth
- 21 Donald & Grace Schroeder
- 22 Timothy & Jane Cantrell
- 24 Leonard & Helen
Ringgenberg
- 25 Curtis & Sarah Chenoweth
Eugene & Lucille Krauss
- 26 Bill & Thora Henderson
- 27 Andrew & Allison Hofman
Jeff & Nancy Robbins
- 28 Jeffrey & Patricia Anderson
- 29 Carlyle & Anna Marie
Peterson

Sundae Sunday

A benefit for the Russell family to help defray ongoing medical expenses due to Tom's treatments will be held **Sunday, June 3 following the worship service.** Join us for ice cream sundaes, music and fellowship.

If you are unable to attend and wish to make a donation, just send a check payable to Grace Lutheran Church and write "Russell Benefit" in the memo field.

Additional funding provided by Southwest Polk County of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.



The Holy Trinity By Ben Wonderlin

The Holy Trinity, which is represented by a tree, is made up of three parts. God the Creator, which is shown as the roots of the tree, is our maker and is our firm base of faith that we can rely on, just like the roots of the tree are the firm base of growth. God the Son is God the Creator's son. He came to our earth as a human and made God's love visible in our world. He resembles the trunk of the tree because He made God's love visible, just like the roots of the tree are hidden, but through the trunk we can notice and see the tree. God the Holy Spirit is God's unseeable force that comes inside of us. This resembles the branches of the tree because the Holy Spirit is spread out and is everywhere, like the branches of the tree branch out into different places. All three parts of the Holy Trinity are very important in their own ways, similar to how a tree can't live without the roots, the trunk, or the branches. All three parts may have different roles, but they are all connected and the same.

Members Make a Difference
Please join us . . .



Congratulations!
Congratulations!

Congratulations to all those who are graduating from high school this spring! Our prayers go with them in their new endeavors.

Jason Fry is graduating from Bondurant-Farrar High School. He will be going to Central College in Pella to study Physical Therapy and/or Education. He will also be playing baseball for Central. During high school, Jason played baseball, football, basketball and ran track. He was also involved in band for several years.

Elizabeth (Liz) Gronert is the daughter of Linda & John Gronert. She will graduate from Urbandale High School where she participated in Band, Track, Ultimate Frisbee, Special Olympics and Yearbook. Liz's plans for the future are to attend the University of Iowa majoring in Anthropology/Archeology.

Joseph Gutmann is graduating from Roosevelt High School. He will be attending Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, IL in the fall and plans to play football. While he is currently undecided on a major, he is interested in digital film making, graphic design and education and plans to coach one day.

Katelyn Jessen, the daughter of Lonnie and Diane Jessen, is graduating from Hoover High School and will attend the University of Northern Iowa this fall to study accounting and business.

Kelley Riordan will be attending Iowa State University to major in Elementary Education.

Katy Roat, daughter of Andy and Kathy Roat, will be graduating from Roosevelt High School and Central Academy this spring. She will be attending Auburn University and plans to double-major in public relations and business with a double-minor in communications and Spanish. While Alabama will present quite a culture change, Katy is looking forward to the friendly people, unbeatable school spirit, and most importantly, warm weather! We ask for prayers as she begins this new adventure.

Amy Wonderlin is graduating from Roosevelt High School. She plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa in the fall and study art with the dream of being a children's book author and illustrator one day. Recently she was commissioned to create a piece of art given as an award for a local National Philanthropy Day recipient.

Congratulations also to **Angie Hidalgo**, **Vilmita Rosales**, and **Jaqueline Villela**

Southwest Polk County Chapter

Activity: Thrivent Event at Blank Park Zoo
Date: June 24, 2012
Time: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Place: Blank Park Zoo
7401 SW 9th Street, Des Moines
Contact: Elaine Klinefelter
515-287-5544 ext. 218

Save the date for an evening with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans at the Blank Park Zoo. Admission and dinner are free! Come interact with the animals, ride the train and meet new people. You will be required to RSVP your family and guests, so watch for more information to come.



Please share your musical talents with us this summer!

Dates are still available in July and August. The Summer Music Sign-up is in the Gathering Hall. Please contact Jennifer with any questions. jennwohlenhaus@yahoo.com or at 712-249-4031.



Photo wall pictures

Haven't had a chance to have your picture taken for Grace's photo wall yet? You're in luck! Bring your family on **Sunday, June 24**, and we'll be taking more pictures **after the 9:00 a.m. worship service**. Remember – we want to capture who you are, so feel free to wear or bring something that will help communicate that. Most of all, just have fun with it! See you then!

Adult Forum Meeting

There will be an Adult Forum meeting **Sunday, June 10th** after the service at **10:00 a.m.** We are looking at the fall schedule for Adult Forum. Please prayerfully consider joining us at the meeting or call Carol Mattes at 745-1642.

The Adult Forum Committee
Carol Mattes, Pat Rehder and Penny Hansen



Summer Coffee Servers Needed

We are in dire need of new coffee servers for the summer schedule. It is a minimal time commitment and all necessary supplies are either at the church or delivered. Instructions and sign-up sheets are in Grace Hall. This is a great way to converse with the Grace family. Coffee hour will be cancelled the weeks when no servers are signed up.



Dive into VBS!



The summer season is almost here, and it's time to start making those summer plans. Don't forget to get your VBS forms in – we're going to have a swimmingly great time this year! Here's what you need to know:

Dates: June 11-15 – Ages 3-5, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. daily (potty training required)
June 25-29 – Grades K-5, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily, with aftercare available until 5:30 p.m.

Volunteer training:

All those who are serving as Week 1 preschool teachers and assistants, and Week 2 station leaders, assistants, and dive guides need to attend one of the training nights. All others are, of course, welcome, too. On those nights, we will learn details about the weeks, how everything will flow, and begin to create the team that we will be during the weeks of VBS. For those who cannot make it, a training manual will be provided.



Tuesday, June 5 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Week 1 volunteers may leave at 7:00 p.m.)
OR

Tuesday, June 19 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities:

Want to help but not sure how? There are a variety of ways in which you can be a part of this ministry. By **donating snacks and other supplies**, you make it possible for our dollars to go further and to reach more children and families.

By becoming a **classroom or station assistant, or a dive guide** who stays with a group and leads those children to various stations, you will have the opportunity to work directly with the children and share the good news of our Christian faith in really fun ways.

By helping out with **registration and sign-out**, you enable those administrative tasks to be done smoothly and with child safety in mind.

By **helping with snack or Family Night**, you make those times of refreshment and fellowship a fun part of VBS.

By lending a hand in **aftercare**, you enable working families to send their children despite busy schedules and long days.

By being a **field trip driver**, you make a fun enrichment activity possible.

By **taking pictures**, you capture some of the many special moments that create VBS.

By **praying** for the children, families, and volunteers, you provide the support of a community of faith and the reminder of why we do what we do.

Want to be a part of the joy? Pick up a volunteer form at Volunteer Central, or check out the sign-up forms. Once you have a chance to experience this ministry, you'll be glad you did.



Set up dates:

If you would like to help us set up and decorate for the program, we would love to have you join us. On June 8 at 9:30 a.m. we will set up for preschool week, and on June 22 at 9:30 a.m. we will set up for the following week. Please contact Stephanie Johnson, or if you forget – just come!

Questions? See any member of your VBS Planning Team: Beth Flannery, Julie Honsey, Stephanie Johnson, Kristin Medhurst, Jim Merkwan, Ardis Schmelzer, Michelle Voelker.



Minutes
Grace Lutheran Church Congregation Council
April 24, 2012

Present: Kathy Bowermaster, Rich Snyder, Pastor Mike, Julie Honsey, Gary Nehmer, John Roehrick, Mary Helt, Jay Wangerin, Kristin Medhurst, Jim Merkwan, Carla Peterman, Ardis Schmelzer.

Guests: Kevin Krause, Finance Committee; Kara Ullestad from Lutheran Services in Iowa.

Kevin Krause presented an outline of the first of two proposed campaigns to pay down the debt. This August there would be a campaign soliciting one-time contributions for 2012. A letter would be sent out, Adult Forum and temple talks conducted to explain the campaign. A small team will be organized to work out the details: Kevin, Gary, and maybe some interested representatives from the congregation. Kevin will take ideas back to Finance and to the subcommittee and bring a more detailed plan to the May council meeting.

Pastor Mike introduced Kara Ullestad and they gave a brief explanation of the First Circle Friends Program. The mission is to provide social and cognitive stimulation for those who are experiencing early-stage to mid-stage memory loss, and give respite to their caregivers. Grace has been approached as a pilot site for this program. Volunteers from our congregation and possibly others would be matched with participants who would attend programming twice a month at Grace. Training would be provided. Participants would pay a fee for the services. Our kitchen would be used to prepare snacks/lunch. The council agreed to discuss the proposal during the evening's meeting.

Pastor Mike led the book discussion on "Beyond Maintenance to Mission."

Meeting was called to order. Minutes from the March meeting were approved. Staff and financial reports were presented in written form. Reports were accepted as presented.

Old Business

Property Committee report: They are continuing to evaluate our property maintenance needs, including getting bids on a lawn service and snow removal. Bids range from \$2,000-\$5,000 annually. The Finance committee would need to determine where the funds would come from.

Appointed positions: There are still openings for two voting members to attend the Synod Assembly in Rock Island, Illinois, June 1-2. The Pastor will make an announcement asking for volunteers.

Committee meeting night: It was moved, seconded and passed that "committee night" will begin June 12. All standing committees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month, with a group opening.

Scholarship Committee: They have three applicants for scholarships and have the funds to handle these requests.

New Business

Social ministry Committee announced that an ice cream social fundraiser will be held June 3 for the Russell family.

The First Circle Friends proposal was discussed and it was agreed that the idea needs more study. Would there be any conflicts with the daycare in terms of building use? What are the room set-up requirements? Are there congregation members that could be approached to give some input and advice? We need to make sure that we have the volunteer base before taking on this project. Lay Ministry could help recruit a planning committee.

Ardis Schmelzer gave a brief report on Thrivent Choice funds. Qualifying members of Thrivent can direct matching funds to our congregation or other Lutheran organizations. The council approved an awareness campaign to let people know that these funds are available and how to take advantage of them. It was suggested that the Endowment or Stewardship Committees weigh in on the possible use for these non-gift, non-budgeted dollars.

New business:

The summer worship schedule will go into effect the last Sunday in May, with one service at 9 a.m. The Saturday night services will begin June 9.

An ad hoc committee is forming to look at the possibility of hiring a part time youth director. Their first meeting will be May 6.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Bowermaster
Secretary

A Note from the Senior Members' Group

A big thanks to Grace Brass (Paul, Tom, Bob, Kate, and Jason – Kent couldn't come) for performing a variety of band music for us Sunday, May 6. About fifty people enjoyed the program with biographical sketches of the composers and numbers which featured the trombone, which is Jason's instrument.

At that meeting, a vote was taken to choose a different name which would be more inclusive of different age groups and Grace fellowship.

Watch for announcements about the Sunday, October 7, meeting.

Barb Tussing and Verda Swanson

Sympathy Is Extended

To the family and friends of Larry Pearson. Larry, 78, died Friday, May 18, at Hospice Kavanagh House in Des Moines. His funeral was held at Grace Lutheran Church on Monday, May 21. Burial was at Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery.



Larry and Harriett have been members of Grace Lutheran Church for 48 years. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and had a love for rebuilding antique cars. He is survived by his wife, Harriett, his children, eleven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. – Galatians 6:10

A Family of Believers

Each of us is born into our worldly families, however we are part of a much larger family – a family of believers. Every day, thousands of people in our family of believers struggle. Families struggle to find work, battle addiction, become victims of abuse and neglect. During National Family Month, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) reminds you that our Christ-centered family is bringing hope to families across Iowa.

Through the support of congregations like yours, LSI is part of building stronger, loving families. LSI understands that all families experience crises, and our programs help families work through these times and use the experiences to learn and grow. Through education and crisis management, our employees bring healing to Iowa families in need. The help of congregations like yours plays a pivotal role in the success of these family-centered programs. As a member of the family of believers, you allow us to do good. For more information on ways LSI provides hope to Iowa's most vulnerable populations, visit www.LSIowa.org.

Housekeeping at Grace

Last month's Friendly Visitor introduced the idea of EACH of us picking an area of the church to which we would like to give a little extra housekeeping or cleaning attention. Why? Because our facility is large and the cleaning hands are few. (For details please see the April Friendly Visitor.)

The 3 simple steps for getting started are:

1. Look around and notice the dirt and clutter.
2. Pick an area that is important to you - big or small.
3. Begin keeping it clean and tidy - at the convenience of your own schedule.

Have you found a spot that you are interested in? Great! To encourage others, please make note of your decision, on the sign up sheets that are posted along the brick wall in the Gathering Hall.

Begin your care as soon as you are able. Thank you. Together we can make a difference!

Thank you

To Grace Lutheran and Don & Gladys Peterson for the Easter lily that Don and Gladys delivered to our house. It brightens up the room. Thank you for thinking of me.

Bonnie Swanson

Notes from the Garden

Thank you to everyone who will help us plant on May 27th, and another HUGE thank you to the Willing Workers for such a wonderful job on the garden fence! Please watch the bulletin for garden work days when we are all out there together, or sign at Volunteer Central up to tend the garden for one week this summer. We're just looking for someone to do a little extra weeding and watering during hot weeks, harvest whatever is ready to set out before the service for Grace members to trade, and take the remainder to the Food Pantry to be weighed and donated. Don't like pulling weeds? Neither do we. Just clip them off with a scissors! Contact Michelle Voelker at 279-9283 or Shirley Shiffler at 707-0803 if you have questions or are wondering what needs doing most each week!

Also needed: Coffee grounds for the compost bins, and newspapers, cardboard and UNTREATED grass clippings for mulch. The cardboard and newspaper will cut down on weeds and keep rainfall from evaporating too quickly.





NEW BOOKS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY



Bread for the Journey - A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith

by Henri Nouwen

The author hopes that those who read this book will discover many connections between their journey and his own and find new encouragement to live their lives with trust, with hope and especially with an always deeper love. He shares personal moments, teaching moments, sacramental moments, moments of delight and surprise for anyone who cares to commune with him.

The Love Dare - A Year of Devotions for Couples

by Stephen and Alex Kendrick

The book is a one year devotional designed to challenge husbands and wives to understand and practice unconditional love. It contains devotional readings, prayers, and questions to get you thinking strategically about your relationship.

My Utmost for His Highest

by Oswald Chambers, edited by James Reimann

The author was not widely known but was much appreciated as a teacher of rare insight and expression. He died at the age of forty-three and his widow compiled his spoken words into thirty published books, many of which have become Christian classics. This book is a compilation of daily readings.

A Procession of Angels--True Stories of God's Messengers

edited by Evelyn Bence

This book tells the story of the heavenly beings who are with us on our daily journeys, ducking in and out of our lives, leaving traces of their presence and evidence of their love. They are truly messengers from God who reassure us that we never walk alone.

Comfort from Beyond – Real Life Experiences of Hope in the Face of Loss

edited by Evelyn Bence

This is a resource for encouragement and solace. These wonderfully uplifting and deeply personal stories are woven together by the Psalms. The stories will quench any thirst for hope and inspiration.

Look for new books in the library on the book shelves on the west wall as you enter from the hall near the office.

