

June 26, 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

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## Mourning and Dancing

As some of you know, I tend to use different devotional readings each year, with this year being the use of "Bread for the Journey" by Henri Nouwen. If you are interested in this book, we have it in the Grace Lutheran Church Library. There are a couple of passages upon which I have been reflecting lately. The first is from March 28:

*"[There is] a time for mourning, a time for dancing" (Ecclesiastes 3:4). But mourning and dancing are never fully separated. Their times do not necessarily follow each other. In fact, their times may become one time. Mourning may turn into dancing and dancing into mourning without showing a clear point where one ends and the other starts. Often our grief allows us to choreograph our dance while our dance creates the space for our grief. We lose a beloved friend, and in the midst of our tears we discover an unknown joy. We celebrate a success, and in the midst of the party we feel deep sadness. Mourning and dancing, grief and laughter, sadness and gladness—they belong together as the sad-faced clown and the happy-faced clown, who make us both cry and laugh. Let's trust that the beauty of our lives becomes visible where mourning and dancing touch each other.*

I couldn't help but to think of these words during the luncheon following the Memorial Service for Norman Buihner. The luncheon was home to a great deal of conversation and fellowship. I was able to spend time talking with the children of Norm and of LaRue. In nearly every conversation, as we talked about their loss and how my prayers go with them, the conversation turned to joy as they said their prayers are with Jenie and me and our approaching wedding. Even in the midst of our sorrow, there was room to dance...mourning and dancing. As the day went on, I continued to go back and forth between mourning and dancing. It continued that evening while working on plans for the wedding. Dancing. And in the midst of the dance, I received a phone call from Beverly Russell with the reality that Tom had died. Mourning.

Sometimes, it is hard to know where one ends and the next begins. We move from mourning to dancing and back to mourning, often without warning, and without hesitation. It is part of the life of a community of faith. We gather together in the midst of the joys and sorrows, the mourning and dancing, the life and the death. Yet in the midst of these things we find a profound sense of community.

The days, weeks, months and years to come will be filled with joys and sorrows, mourning and dancing. There is no "easy button". There is no way around this reality. But know that we will walk through it together, and at times, we will dance.

I leave you with the words of Henri Nouwen for March 30. I take great comfort in these words, especially on days like this.

*"Dying is a gradual diminishing and final vanishing over the horizon of life. When we watch a sailboat leaving port and moving toward the horizon, it becomes smaller and smaller until we can no longer see it. But we must trust that someone is standing on a faraway shore seeing that same sailboat become larger and larger until it reaches its new harbor. Death is a painful loss. When we return to our homes after a burial, our hearts are in grief. But when we think about the One standing at the other shore eagerly waiting to welcome our beloved friend into a new home, a smile can break through our tears."*

Pastor Mike

## July Birthdays



- 1 Carl Feilmann  
Matthew Johnson
- 2 Drew Tillotson
- 3 Dale Bordt  
Marilyn Anderson
- 4 Sawyer Shiffler
- 7 Rosella Dingman
- 8 Donna Trickle
- 9 Carleigh Ridnour
- 11 Kristina Hutton  
Rebecca Lewis
- 12 Melissa Petty
- 13 Amy Westercamp
- 14 Stacy Walters  
Matthew Harbaugh  
Eric Selander  
Heather Honnold  
Bailey Woodruff
- 15 Serena Helton  
Rebecca Harmon  
Kristin Swanson  
Hannah Jensen
- 16 Melinda Scholten
- 17 Einar Christianson  
Lucille Krauss  
Jayne Mortenson  
Christie Rosheim
- 18 Bradley Nelson  
Anders Nelson
- 20 Lucius Chapman  
Krista Nelson  
Martha Kaleewoun
- 21 Christian Culp
- 22 Kathryn Schaller
- 23 Pat Bordt  
Linda Biegger
- 24 Jacob Gibney
- 25 Justin Andersen
- 26 Morgan Mortenson
- 27 Jeff Robbins
- 29 Genaro Ruiz
- 30 Gary Denton



## July Anniversaries

- 3 Brian and Cathy Barks
- 8 Josh and Ashley Lund
- 9 Rev. Douglas and Stephanie  
Johnson
- 9 Scott and Amy Neal
- 14 James and Jacquelyn Holmes
- 15 Bill and Rhonda Jensen
- 17 Joseph and Brescia Berg
- 20 Justin and Katherine Scholl
- 21 Tim and Loree Nelson
- 23 Richard and Virginia Naney
- 24 Michael and Penny Hansen
- 29 Jack and Wilma Frost

## Calling all singers... now is your chance!

Grace Chancel Choir ( age 12 through adults) will be singing twice this summer! Please join us - no formal musical training is required, just a desire to praise God in song! We are rehearsing and leading worship on July 22. Contact Sherry Kocek (Office: 515-276-6873 or Cell: 309-536-0962, e-mail [skocek@msn.com](mailto:skocek@msn.com)) for more information.

**Rehearsals:** Wednesday, July 18 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and  
Sunday, July 22 at 8:00 a.m.

**Sunday, July 22: Chancel Choir** leading worship at 9:00 a.m.

## Finance Report – May Results

*Financial results for May YTD are as follows:*

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$188,843, Budget \$194,913
- Other Income – Actual \$5,603, Budget \$6,835,
- Expenses – Actual \$190,355, Budget \$202,576
- Net activity – Actual \$4,092, Budget (\$828)

Actual net activity was favorable to budget. Pledged offerings are below budget - the entire YTD variance was a result of much lower activity in the month of May. This negative variance was offset by a favorable expense variance. This variance was 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.



## Are you looking for a rewarding volunteer experience?

Grace Lutheran in partnership with Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) will be hosting a new program called First Circle Friends. First Circle Friends is an enjoyable place for individuals who are experiencing early-stage to mid-stage memory loss to come together for fellowship and stimulating activities while giving respite to caregivers who desire a break. Trained volunteers from Grace will provide all the activities.

First Circle Friends is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer and make a difference. We are looking for individuals who know how to have fun and share their gifts and have anywhere from 6 to 12 hours a month to give of their time. Trained volunteers provide all the activities. First Circle Friends participants enjoy the friendship and support of the dedicated volunteers, and the caregivers are very grateful! First Circle Friends will be held on the first and third Thursday of every month and will begin on October 4.

If you are interested in volunteering or for more information about First Circle Friends, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Johnson at Grace or Kara Ullestad at LSI (515-271-7408 or [kara.ullestad@LSIowa.org](mailto:kara.ullestad@LSIowa.org)). Additionally, if you are interested or know someone who may be interested in participating in this day of fun and fellowship, please contact Kara Ullestad.

## ***New Members***

Welcome to the following new members. We are happy to have you join the Grace family.

**Jeff and Nancy Robbins** and daughter,  
**Madison Nichole**

**Shirley Dyson**

**Barry and Sandra Briggs** and sons,  
**Robert and James**

## ***A New Baby***

Matt and Amy Ziska are the proud parents of a new baby, Easton, born April 1, 2012. Congratulations!

## ***In Loving Memory***

**Linda Palmer, 70**, of Grand Rapids, MN, passed away from pulmonary fibrosis on June 8, 2012. Linda was the sister of Denny (Pat) Rehder.

**Marie Rothweiler**, mother of Rev. Don (Jayme) Rothweiler, passed away on May 31, 2012 from a long struggle with the effects of Alzheimer's disease.

**C.J. Wiersma**, brother-in-law of Joanne Johnson recently passed away.

**Norman Buihner**, 89, passed away on June 16, 2012. Norman was a pilot and spent 23 years in service to his country. He flew B-26's in WWII; received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service during the Korean War, where he flew F-80's; and while stationed in Germany, flew F-86's during the cold war. He is survived by his wife LaRue, four children, seven grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. His funeral was held at Grace on June 20. Burial of his cremains remains will be at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, TX at a future date.

**Tom Russell**, 47, passed away on June 20, 2012. Tom was a member of Grace Lutheran for sixteen years. He worked as a foreman for Jensen Building Ltd. and in all of his experience pouring concrete he remained a perfectionist. Tom was very involved in his daughters' activities, from participating in Girl Scout events to helping with dance recitals. He proudly cared for his collection of firearms and loved the outdoors, camping and the Iowa State Fair. Tom will be remembered for his kind heart and willingness to help others. He is survived by his wife of 17 years, Beverly, two daughters, Danielle and Jessica, his parents, and siblings. Tom's funeral was held at Grace on June 26 with burial following at the Pine Hill Cemetery.

## ***Thank You***

Thank you to the ladies who served the funeral luncheon after Norm's memorial service and all the ladies who brought salads and cakes.

LaRue Buihner



## ***Ways We Reach Out to the Community and the World***

**DMARC Food Pantry**  
**Hunger Hike**  
**Combat Hunger**  
**Backpack Buddies**  
**Luther Park Auxiliary**  
**Lutheran Lakeside Camp**  
**Lutheran Lakeside Camp Quilt Auction**  
**Lutheran World Relief**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**Fair Trade Coffee**  
**Companion Congregation**  
**Food Rescue**  
**Community Garden**  
**Eucharistic Ministry**  
**Thrivent Advocate**  
**Meals for the Heartland**

Join us in reaching out and caring for others as we are commissioned by Jesus to do. If you are interested in serving on an ad hoc committee for any of the above activities contact Julie Honsey (282-8817) [jlhreader@aol.com](mailto:jlhreader@aol.com).

### **Contact:**

- DMARC Food Pantry-Lois Slye (276-3546)
- Hunger Hike-Julie Honsey (282-8817)  
[jlhreader@aol.com](mailto:jlhreader@aol.com)
- Combat Hunger-Julie Honsey (282-8817)  
[jlhreader@aol.com](mailto:jlhreader@aol.com)
- Backpack Buddies-Stephanie Johnson (276-6873)  
[stephaniejohnson@q.com](mailto:stephaniejohnson@q.com)
- Luther Park Auxiliary-Barb Tussing (278-2039)
- Quilt Auction-Carol Krause (255-5547)
- Lutheran World Relief-Cathy Barks (278-1461)  
[Cathybarks@aol.com](mailto:Cathybarks@aol.com)
- Fair Trade Coffee-Denny-Rehder (277-4354)  
[rehder.denny@gmail.com](mailto:rehder.denny@gmail.com)
- Companion Congregation-Jane Ridnour  
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- Eucharistic Ministry-Julie Honsey (282-8817)  
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- Vacation Bible School-Stephanie Johnson (276-6873)  
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- Food Rescue-Stephanie Johnson (276-6873)  
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- Thrivent Advocate-Ardis Schmelzer (988-1343)  
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- Meals for the Heartland-Ardis Schmelzer (988-1343)  
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**Grace Lutheran Church Congregation Council Meeting**  
**May 22, 2012**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Present: Julie Honsey, Kathy Bowermaster, Jim Merkwan, Ardis Schmelzer, Pastor Mike, John Roehrick, Jay Wangerin, Mary Freimuth Helt.

Absent: Rich Snyder, Gary Nehmer, Kristin Medhurst, Carla Peterman

The book study on "Beyond Maintenance to Mission" was postponed because several members were absent.

Vice president Mary Freimuth Helt called the meeting to order in Rich Snyder's absence. Minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and approved. Written and verbal staff reports were approved, with a note that the Director of Music Ministries will be providing reports for future meetings. The Financial Reports were reviewed and approved.

Pastor Mike noted in his verbal report that the Celebration Sunday May 20, involving bells, brass and choir and recognizing individual service, was well received. The worship committee may consider holding just one service on that Sunday so everyone in the congregation can worship and celebrate together.

**Old business:**

Mary and Rich are still talking to people who may be interested in filling the open council position. Jim Merkwan announced that he has accepted a new teaching position in Sioux City and their family will be moving this summer. His council seat will be vacant as well.

Delegates are still being sought for the Synod Assembly. Mary Helt volunteered to attend. Stephanie Johnson, who usually attends as a spouse, is willing to change her status to a voting member. The Synod Assembly is the first weekend in June. It was suggested that we appoint two voting members during the January annual meeting so we aren't struggling to find volunteers at the last minute.

Discussion was held about the concept of a single committee night, which was approved at the April council meeting. Questions have been raised about which groups and committees should meet that night (second Tuesday of each month). The following committees are not necessarily expected to meet on a regular monthly schedule: Personnel, Mutual Ministry, Adult Education, Stewardship. During the summer, some groups will not be meeting and that's acceptable. The new schedule will be finalized in the fall.

Comments were made about the need for an overall education committee that would address not only the Adult Forums, but other adult learning opportunities such as Bible

studies. Some input and direction may be provided in notes from the cottage meetings.

No one from Finance Committee was in attendance to report on the debt reduction campaigns.

First Circle Friends: A representative from Lutheran Services in Iowa made a presentation at the April council meeting. LSI needs a response from our congregation right away in order to develop the program for implementation twice a month, beginning this fall. The council discussed setup, food preparation, and potential conflicts with the daycare use of the room. The biggest concern was volunteer recruitment. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve Grace's participation in this pilot project. Lay Ministry has offered to take the lead on volunteer recruitment and will work with LSI on training.

**New business:**

A written report from Kristin indicated that a small group had met to discuss the need for, and potential duties of, a position to serve youth ministry. They are getting input from various age groups, and contacting youth pastors and leaders of other congregations for ideas. It won't be possible to develop a position description and have hiring done by the fall. They are looking for someone to coordinate this committee/project.

The Willing Workers requested permission to remove the "praying hands" wood carving from the north garden area. It is rotting and has become a safety hazard. Council authorized the removal of the sculpture.

Property Committee is still researching options for future building and grounds maintenance.

Ardis Schmelzer reported that several more Thrivent For Lutherans members have directed their voluntary contributions to nonprofit organizations, including Grace Lutheran. A bulletin board has been developed for news about Thrivent.

Julie Honsey reported that a group of health professionals is working on proper placement of the defibrillators and will coordinate CPR training. We have several members who are certified to teach CPR.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Bowermaster, Secretary



## Grace Kids Care Needs your Help

**It is that time of year again, to replenish the mulch in the playground.**

**We will have 3 truckloads of mulch delivered.**

**We are looking for volunteers to help us wheel the mulch inside the fence and spread it around.**

**Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.**

**If you are able to help, please contact the daycare at 276-0943 or e-mail Heather at [heathernelsondc@msn.com](mailto:heathernelsondc@msn.com)**

**If you have a wheel barrel, shovel or rake it would be helpful to bring along.**

**We appreciate your help!!!**





## ***Purposeful Parenting***

July is Purposeful Parenting Month, a great time to remember the effort, commitment and love it takes to be a positive parent and role model for a child. Children look to their parents for guidance, care and love and it is important to recognize the role purposeful parenting plays in the development of a child's mental, social, emotional and physical self.

Lutheran Services in Iowa recognizes that sometimes parents need assistance in getting ready to become a parent for the first time or when struggling to work through difficult family situations. LSI's early childhood and family centered services promote positive parenting through education, counseling, family meetings and support. Through these services, LSI builds on strengths to enhance the emotional, psychological and physical well being of both parents and children, preventing child abuse and neglect and helping to keep families together.

With knowledgeable and loving parents in a safe environment, children can go on to reach their greatest potential and pass these skills on to their children creating generations of positive parenting. For information on Lutheran Services in Iowa, visit [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org), or "like" us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).