

January 29, 2013

Sunday Services
 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Adult Forum&Educational Hour
 9:30 a.m.

Lenten Communion Services, Wednesdays
February 13 through March 20
 6:30 p.m.

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Inside this Issue Page #

Birthdays, Anniversaries....2
Thank you's.....3
Opportunities.....4
Wonderful New Book.....5
Looking Ahead.....6
Council Minutes.....7

An Annual Meeting Weekend for the Ages...

It was an interesting Annual Meeting weekend to say the least! It wasn't because of any controversial content. Instead, it was memorable for a couple of other reasons. The first reason has to do with the weather. The whole day saw the effects of the "ice storm" that drifted through early yesterday morning. It left a sheet of ice on most everything and made travel difficult. We are glad that people used good common sense as to whether or not it would be safe to travel for worship and the Annual Meeting. Please, continue to use common sense. Unless the weather is very severe, we will have worship, but that does NOT mean you should feel obligated. Please be safe. Weather like that is most certainly memorable.

The other reason that this Annual Meeting weekend sticks out to me is the leadership here at Grace. To accomplish everything that was accomplished yesterday, in spite and because of the weather, there has to be strong leaders. For lack of a better term (and I am borrowing this term from a friend), you all are ROCK STARS! I mean it. I am not talking only about the staff people here at Grace, although the people with whom I work are indeed amazing. I am talking about the Council, the Council President, the leaders, the volunteers...you name it...you all are rock stars. Before I even arrived at church, I was in conversation with Beth Flannery regarding the worship services and the safety of our youth. She then communicated those decisions with our youth, families, and young adults.

As a result of the weather, we adapted the worship services. We moved the Youth Sunday elements to next Sunday, February 3. This will give more of the community of faith the chance to witness the gifts and talents of our youth and young adults. I wholeheartedly appreciate their flexibility, and their willingness. I also appreciate Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg's willingness to work with me to adapt the services on Sunday, since the Youth Sunday elements had changed. She continues to be a joy to work with. I am so glad to have you on our team here at Grace, Jennifer.

Within minutes of arriving at Grace early on Sunday morning, Brian Barks arrived and began work on setup for the service, the Annual Meeting, and putting ice melt on the entryway. Shortly after that, Chuck Denton arrived, followed by the Petermans and others, and the sidewalks and parking lot were all cared for and the building setup was completed. That was no easy task!

Richard Snyder and the Congregational Council, you are awesome! Not only was Rich on the phone early to discuss options for worship and the Annual Meeting, but his leadership continues to be one of diligence and discernment. I am continually impressed with the work of our Congregational Council, and with the new additions to the council, I am sure this year will be just as great.

There are so many people around Grace that do so much. If you are given the opportunity, please let them know how much you appreciate all that they do. Again, you are all rock stars!

Thank you so much for all that you do.

Pastor Mike



Happy February 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 Nancy Robbins Eric Oberg
11	Kent Weaver
12	Lenora Iverson Tyler Peeler
13	Timothy Hummel
15	Patricia 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 Gerald Dockum Jessica Flannery Max Ringgenberg
21	Judy Cramer Neal Meyer Allison Olson
22	Julie Stuckle Barb Kallestad
23	Barry Briggs Jenie Schmidt
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	Dana Johnson



Happy February Anniversary!

February 14	Jay & Virginia Wangerin
15	John & Mary Donnenwerth
17	Michael & Deanna Hummel
22	Marlin & Charlotte Nielsen
24	Paul & Sally Thielking
25	Harold & Karen Mann

Lutheran World Relief

The members of the Lutheran World Relief group would like to thank the congregation for its generous support in 2012. We raised \$1840 this past year. Our church sent 93 quilts, 152 personal care kits, 149 school kits, 14 fabric kits, and 52 baby care kits to the LWR warehouse. **Our 2013 spring drive will run from March 3 to April 14.** We welcome anyone who would like to participate. Contact Cathy Barks for more information at 278-1461.

Men In Mission

The Men In Mission group will meet on **February 7** at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and an informational program given by a representative from Everybody Wins! Iowa, and two volunteers within Grace. Everybody Wins! Iowa is a local volunteer-supported reading improvement organization concentrating on the elementary grades.



Thank you, Thank you, Thank you....
*Together we are making a difference through
Thrivent Choice!*

One act of generosity leads to another. And the impact grows. Thanks to members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, that's what we've experienced through the Thrivent Choice program. Many of you directed your designated 2012 Choice Dollars to Grace Lutheran Church. Through your individual recommendation, you have made a difference. Collectively, Thrivent Financial members contributed \$1,545 to help fund the attendance of our young people at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. **Thank You** for your support and generosity!

Sympathy Is Extended

To the Bergman family on the death of Charles Bergman, 66, who passed away on January 11, 2013. Chuck worked as an architect for the Iowa Department of Transportation. He was very involved in children's sports, coaching football and Little League. He is survived by his wife Cathy; four children, Ryan, Colleen, Mike and Amy; brothers Bruce and Kirk; his sister Tricia; and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Cletus and Louise Bergman.



A Page of Love



Double Blessings

Here is some good news!

Tim and Loree Nelsen were blessed with their second grandson, Max Benjamin Nelson, born to Ben (former Grace member) and Lindi on December 10, 2012. Max joined his big brother, Thomas.

The family was blessed again with their third grandson, Cooper Ryan Bigg, born to Grace members Rachael and Ryan Bigg on January 18, 2013.

Congratulations to all!

Thank You Notes

(In alphabetical order by sender's name)

Dear Members of Grace,
Thank you for remembering us with the beautiful poinsettia and the pillows. Our aging backs will make good use of them. Thanks to Pastor Schmidt for his visit. Thanks to Rev. Bill Kallestad for his service at our Wednesday church services.

Helen & Vernon Fanning

Dear Grace Women,
Thank you for the very special Christmas package you sent me. The snowflake pillow, children's cutouts, card and bag were all "very special" to me. God bless you all.

Mrs. Vivian Feilmann

To the Grace Women's Board,
Thank you for the gifts to Church Women United; as with many good causes, our funds are limited so the help is greatly appreciated. Please know that you are all welcome to come to any meeting of CWU---you may want to become a part of it!

In Christ, Joanne Johnson

Thanks to everyone for the gift given to me at Christmas. I appreciated your kindness.

Chris Lehfeld

I want to thank everyone who attended Del's visitation and/or funeral, sent a card, gave a memorial gift, sent a plant, expressed sympathy, gave me a hug, or in any other way gave me and my family comfort after Del's passing. Thank you to the ladies who provided and served the luncheon, it was great. Thank you to Marv Johns for his beautiful music, and a special thank you to Pastor Mike for his comfort and a very meaningful funeral service. Del would've been pleased at his perception of who he was and how little he wanted to talk about himself. Thank you all again!

Lynn Niemuth

Thank you to my friends at Grace for the beautiful Prayer Shawl. It warms my body and my heart. I will use it often.

Thank you, Cleone Oberg

Thank you to Pastor Mike and the congregation for their prayers for my mother, Malena Seymour, this past year and also, for the cards and prayers for our family at the time of her death this past December. Your support has been a great comfort during this time.

Gail Peterson

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,
Thank you for the pillow and poinsettia that you gave me at Christmas. The pillow is so soft. Thank you to Brian Barks for delivering the poinsettia. It brightens up my solarium. Thank you for remembering me at Christmas.

Love, Bonnie Swanson

Dear Friends,
Thank you for the little pillow and the poinsettia which were delivered to me at Christmastime. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. My arm has mended so I am now out and about and no longer confined to the house!

Sincerely, Vivian Swanson

Thanks so much for the beautiful pillow Grace Lutheran sent me at Christmas time. Also thank you to Drake for the nice paper he filled out for me. I will keep it always.

Love from Palma C. Williams

Star Tree Thank You's

I just wanted to thank everyone from Grace Lutheran Church for the generous donation. The kids love shopping, but usually do not have the funds to do that. This will give them that opportunity. Thank you!
Rexford Nelson, Volunteer Specialist, Residential PMIC Lutheran Services in Iowa

Thank you so much to everyone that purchased a Christmas gift for the individuals we support at Mosaic. You truly made someone with an intellectual disability feel loved and cared about this holiday season. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity and thoughtfulness. Blessings to you all.

Sincerely, Everyone at Mosaic

Laura Holtman, Resource Development Manager

Trinity Center at Luther Park

Dear Auxiliary and Church Members,
Our sincere thanks for all the gifts, contributions, your time and talents, and mostly your continued support to Trinity Center at Luther Park. Staff as well as the residents thank each of you personally for all you have done in 2012.

Thanks to all for making Christmas a very special time for the residents. Families and residents have spoken often of the lovely gifts received by our residents. We all need to feel special from time to time and that is what the Auxiliary members have done for our residents. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
Denny Bradshaw, Director Activities and Volunteers



Next Newsletter Deadline

Please note that the February newsletter deadline is Monday, **February 18**, and all submissions go to Jackie Holmes at graceluth5@msn.com. The newsletter will be ready for distribution on **February 21**.

Special plans are in the works for an Easter edition of the Friendly Visitor in mid-March as well as the monthly March newsletter targeted for distribution on March 26.

Our new methods of getting the news out give us the flexibility for an occasional extra edition which we will all enjoy.

Altar Guild Has Service Opportunities Available for 2013

If you have ever thought about serving through this kind of ministry, now is the time. The duties include preparing the worship space with the appropriate banners, paraments, vessels, linens and elements used in the liturgy. The time commitment is typically an hour per week, in addition to attending one of the worship services.

This is not limited to women! Please consider working as a team: husband/wife, parent/child. We will accept volunteers for one or two months of service, or even on a trial basis if needed.

Please contact Sue Anderson (279-2690) or Gail Peterson (224-4514) with your questions or commitment.

"When we offer ourselves to serve at the altar, we offer ourselves to God as a living prayer." - Fran McKinney

Interested in Worship Leadership?

Would you enjoy helping to lead worship? Do you like to sing but can't commit to weekly choir rehearsals? Have you considered becoming a liturgist? The liturgist's role includes chanting the Kyrie, reading the prayers, and assisting with Communion. It's a fun way of being engaged in the worship experience and gives you the opportunity to take a more active role in the worship life of this community. Training is provided. Interested, or have questions? See Pastor Mike. We would love to welcome you into that role.

Lenten Soup Suppers

We have two openings left for groups to prepare and serve soup supper during Lent. **March 6 and March 13**. Please sign up on the kitchen's bulletin board.

Thank you, Valerie Culp

Volunteer With Lutheran Disaster Response

Looking for something to do this summer? Why not spend it making a difference in the lives of people who have survived a national disaster? Thanks to the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutherans have become well known in the disaster response community as the experts in long-term disaster recovery. Visit www.ldr.org/volunteer to see a map of volunteer needs.

Winter Weather Policy

With winter weather in full swing, please take note that when Des Moines Public Schools dismiss early or are closed, **all daytime and evening activities at church are cancelled.**

Youth Education Committee

The function of the Youth Education Committee is to nurture children's faith in God and assist parents in being the first ministers to their children. The Committee, replacing the Sunday School Superintendent model, was formed in the summer of 2010 to set direction and policies for Sunday school. The committee meets on a monthly basis or as needed. To assist the committee there is a Sunday School Support Team and Vacation Bible School Team. The Sunday School Support Team is in the Sunday School Office on Sunday mornings to support the classroom teachers. The VBS team plans and leads VBS.

During the last year, the committee has led or assisted with the following:

- Organizing and recruiting the Sunday School Staff
- Selecting new classroom material for Sunday school
- Vacation Bible School Pre-school Week
- Vacation Bible School Elementary Week
- Service project- Packed 200 sack lunches for Hope Ministries
- Christmas program
- Congregational Christmas Potluck
- Youth Service
- Advent Family Devotions
- Easter Sunday Children's Activities
- Valentines for members on the homebound list

Do you enjoy working with children? Would you be interested in assisting with any of the above activities? Do you have new ideas or experiences that you would like to share? Then the Youth Education Committee members would like to talk with you. Feel free to contact any of the committee members:

Beth Flannery, Kara Kulzer, Tammy Denton, Kristin Medhurst, Leslie Denton, Jennifer Husiman, Mary Freimuth Helt



Bread Donations Collector Needed

Volunteer will work with a partner to collect bread donations from the Johnston Hy-Vee. Collection includes loading donations at the store and transporting them to the Refugee Connection Center at 3200 University by 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday. LSI will distribute the food donations to elderly refugee clients. This is an ideal opportunity for friends, co-workers or others who want to volunteer together! For more information, call Nicholas Wuertz at 271-7443 or go to <http://app.volunteer2.com/Public/Organization/87089a49-2705-4fe4-a0db-d1fcb31d498/Activity/5ccbccfa-d99c-4970-918b-65e24192b507>.

Text plus tune equals a treasury of our church's music...

The Worship & Music Committee recently purchased the *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and we encourage you to visit the library and check it out. The *Hymnal Companion* provides a fascinating look at the poets and composers behind our rich Lutheran hymnody. It was written by Paul Westermeyer, noted musician and theologian who directs the Master of Sacred Music program at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, and it's one of several resources published to supplement the new hymnal. In his introduction, Westermeyer says of the *ELW*, "Like all good hymnals and like the church itself, this worship book represents a remarkable variety and diversity, not only of styles, but from the ephemeral and experimental to the durable and well-worn."

The *Companion* covers hymns 239 to 893; it does not include psalms or service music. It's important to note that technically, the "hymn" is the text and the "tune" is the music. The *Hymnal Companion* delves into the history and background of both parts. For example, on Epiphany we sang hymns 301 and 306. "Bright and Glorious is the Sky" was probably an old favorite of many; "Come, Beloved of the Maker" was somewhat unfamiliar. In the *Hymnal Companion*, we find out that both hymns have Iowa ties!

"Bright and Glorious..." is Danish to the core. The text was written by Nikolai Grundtvig, the most important Danish hymn writer of the 19th century, and translated by Jens Christian Aaberg, a native of Denmark who studied at Grand View College, right here in Des Moines, in the early years of the 20th century. The tune for this hymn was written by a Norwegian who lived in Denmark. Is it any wonder it's a favorite from our Scandinavian roots?

Contrast that with "Come, Beloved of the Maker," with text by Susan Palo Cherwien and tune by David Cherwien, commissioned in 2001. Although this hymn was unfamiliar, it was interesting and intriguing. We'll have to try it again sometime! David Cherwien is highly regarded in church music circles for his work as an organist, cantor, conductor and composer. He serves at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. His wife is a noted hymn writer. But wait – I learned from the *Hymnal Companion* that he was born in Iowa. Who knew?

This book "review" has gotten way too long – but I know you'll love this book! In addition to the hymnody, you'll find a really interesting chronology of publications related to Lutheran worship and hymnody, from Martin Luther's "Order of Mass" published in 1523 to the *LBW*, *With One Voice*, and our current hymnal, published in 2006. Plus extensive back-of-book resources like a glossary, bibliography, and several indexes. Thanks to the Memorial Committee for approving our purchase of this book – it will be a wonderful addition to our library.

Kathy Bowermaster

First Circle Friends Is Starting

First Circle Friends is a new partnership between Grace and LSI, and we are excited to announce that this unique program will be starting on **Thursday, February 7**. 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. Participants and volunteers will meet on every first and third Thursday throughout the year, and trained volunteers from Grace will provide all the activities.

Do you have a loved one who may benefit from the program? Contact Cannady Fritzjunker at LSI at 271-7408. Interested in volunteering? Contact Stephanie Johnson at Grace. We're looking forward to starting this new ministry!





CPR Offered

Would you know what to do if a loved one or friend had a heart attack? Come and learn Friends and Family CPR anytime on **February 17, 2013**, from 12:00-12:45 p.m. in Grace Hall. A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Hall. There are a limited number of mannequins, so sign up soon. Also learn how to use our new Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Hope to see you there!



Telecare: A Free Service for Those Who Live Alone

Do you live alone or know someone who does? Iowa Lutheran Hospital provides a free service called Telecare, through which participants have daily telephone contact with someone who cares. Each day, including weekends and holidays, a volunteer from the hospital is available between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. If you fail to call in, a volunteer will call you. And if you don't answer, a neighbor or other contact person will be called and asked to check on you. Any individual in the greater Des Moines area can join Telecare, but spaces are limited. For more information, pick up a brochure and application at church, or call 263-5227 and an application will be sent to you.

Thank you!

Several thank you's are due! First, a word of thanks goes out to Diana Johnson for all of her past service in scheduling lectors and liturgists. We appreciate your time and dedication to this ministry, Diana. At the same time, we welcome Michelle Voelker into this role. Thanks ahead of time for your service in this area. If anyone out there is interested in becoming a lector or liturgist, let Michelle know!

Another word of thanks goes out to the Willing Workers and the Property Committee in this time of custodial transition. There is much work involved in taking care of this place and its various areas of need, and we greatly appreciate your extra time. Thank you for all of your help! It does not go unrecognized.

Save the dates!

As your family may be starting to look toward summer escapes, keep the following VBS dates in mind. It'll be here sooner than you think! Look for more information to come....

<p>Preschool week: June 10-14, 2013 9:00 a.m.-noon Ages 3-5</p> <p>Elementary week: June 24-28, 2013 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., with after care offered until 5:30 p.m. Grades K-5 (completed)</p>
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Lenten Devotions

This year we are trying our hand at daily Lenten devotions again. Do you enjoy writing? Please consider submitting a 150-200 word devotion. More information and a sign-up sheet are available at Volunteer Central in the Gathering Hall. Lent begins on Wednesday, February 13. May we be blessed in the reading and the writing.

Got pictures?

Has your group recently had an event? If you have photos of your social or ministry event you are welcome to share them on the photo wall bulletin board. Just let Stephanie know when you would like to add them. Consider including names, dates, and details of the event.

Got displays?

Do you have a display that you would like to share? We would love to enjoy it in the display cabinet in the Gathering Hall. Past displays have been as varied as train sets, Snoopy figurines, pottery, clowns, embroidery, vintage cameras, and camels. Sign up on the chart that is hanging on the wall near the cabinet. And check out the Nativity sets that are in there now courtesy of Pat Rehder!

Grace Lutheran Church Congregation Council Meeting
January 22, 2013
7 p.m.

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

Pastor Mike opened the meeting with prayer. The agenda was approved with one correction and one addition. Minutes of the December meeting were approved as emailed to the council.

Written reports were accepted. Pastor Mike noted that the statistical report showed a decline in church attendance for most months of 2012. In Stephanie's report, she reminded the council that our annual partnership fee to LSI for the First Circle Friends program will need to be included in the 2013 budget. The team is also applying for an Endowment grant to assist with some startup expenses. In Jackie's report, she asked for direction on whether to close our bulk mail account at the post office. Under New Business, the council recommended retaining the account for future communication initiatives.

Old Business

- 2013 Budget: No questions or changes were brought up on the 2013 budget. It will be presented to the congregation on January 27. The Finance Committee is working closely with the daycare to achieve a balanced budget in 2013.
- Custodial Services/Property Committee: Four good candidates have emerged for the position, and formal interviews will be held this week. If a top candidate is identified, the council may need to hold a special meeting in the next week or two to approve the hire.
- Candidates for Congregation Council: The Council voted to recommend three candidates for the five open positions. Those candidates are Kevin Drury, Karri Brandsfield, and Sandy Briggs. Nominations will be taken from the floor as well. The Council voted to recommend candidates Barbara Powers and Karen Taylor for the two open positions on the Endowment Committee.
- New computer system for HVAC is on its way.

New Business

- Council retreat: The group has found this to be valuable, and will try to schedule a retreat in early February with the new council members.
- Thrivent Choice funds: The group discussed how best to distribute the monthly funds received from Thrivent. The Council voted to designate those funds first to pay for our obligation to LSI/First Circle Friends, and then to support the Companion Congregation Committee.
- Standing committee requests requiring council action: none.
- The council recommended retaining our bulk mail account with the USPS.

Announcements

- Standing committee reports: none. Youth Visioning committee: Pastor Mike suggested that a representative from the group be invited to the council retreat to report on their activities and discuss next steps with the Council.
- The Council will have a short meeting immediately after the Annual Meeting to elect officers and schedule a retreat.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Bowermaster, Secretary