



THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

Companion Congregation - Msando Parish in Tanzania

Grace Lutheran Church

Everyone is Welcome!



Holy Week Worship

Maunder Thursday

March 28

Holy Communion Service
11:00 a.m.

Luncheon served by
Grace Women to follow

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

Good Friday Services

1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

March 31

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. - 10:00 a.m.

Children's Easter
Activities - 9:30 a.m.

Regular Sunday Worship

8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Holy Communion at Both
Education Hour &
Adult Forum at 9:30 a.m.

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Active Grace

"I sure do wish I was a little less healthy!" Does that sound like you? Me neither. I would venture to guess it is the opposite for most of us. Whether it is spiritual, physical, emotional, financial, social, vocational, intellectual, or simply finding balance, most of us would like to be a little healthier. That is the reasoning behind the start of Active Grace. If this is something many people want to do, why don't we do it together?

The church shouldn't only be involved in the spiritual health of the community of faith. If any of these areas are out of balance, the whole is affected. Paul talked about this, saying "*If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*" (1 Corinthians 12:26). This is just as true for an individual as it is the Body of Christ. If one aspect of your health suffers, the whole suffers with it. We will be planning activities that deal with whole health. We will have events, activities and classes on these aspects of health: spiritual, physical, emotional, financial, social, vocational, intellectual, and balance. These are the aspects of whole health addressed in the Wholeness Wheel of the ELCA.

The Season of Easter is a great time to start. It is a time that we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. It is also a time to think about being born anew, resurrected from our sins and free to live life in Christ, who "*came that we might have life, and have it abundantly.*" (John 10:10). We will strive to live abundantly, together. At the center of the Wholeness Wheel is "In baptism – a new creation in Christ." We are a new creation in Christ, and Easter is a great time to start this journey together.

So, where do we start? Great question! It is going to be difficult and overwhelming if we try to take on everything all at once. Instead, we are going to start off slowly and build momentum. The first Active Grace event will be a walk/run/bike and pray on Saturday, April 20. Those wishing to participate will meet at Gray's Lake at 2:00 p.m. in the picnic area located by the southeast part of Gray's Lake. If possible, wear a blue shirt. This way it will be easier to be "lifted up" by others from Grace while we are active together. We will gather together for a short prayer and reading of a scripture passage. Each person will be given a copy of the short scripture passage and then you can walk, run, bike, skip, hop, jog, scoot...whatever you wish, stopping every 20 minutes or so to re-read the scripture and then continue. This is a form of LectioDivina, a way to pray scripture. Those wishing to gather for reflection afterward can meet together at 3:30 p.m. in the picnic area.

There are a number of activities and classes being planned for future months, so keep your eyes and ears open. I am very excited to embark on this journey with you.

Pastor Mike

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



April	1	Easton Ziska
	2	Rev. William Kallestad Michael Heid
	3	Colleen McKinney Dolores Johnson Ellen Batten
	4	Darlene Johnson Kevin Stinn
	7	Bradley Moon Carolyn Andersen John Nelson Emily Woodruff Maya Uehling Lint
	8	Jennie Wonderlin
	9	Kelley Marks
	10	Matt Hagerty Mark Stumme Cherie Rissman Brett Brindley Jared Nelson Lanette Kennebeck DeVee Trickel
	11	Mira Voelker
	12	Sandra Briggs Alex Davik Kylar Medhurst Vanessa Bloomberg
	13	Alice Nelson Mary McCann Mark Meyer
	14	Prudence Campbell
	15	Matt Speck Erin Warren Michael Flannery
	16	Ernest Weatherington
	17	Cynthia Gronert
	18	Mary Donnenwerth Justin Fenimore
	20	Jennifer Rehder
	22	Robert Jensen Donald Peterson
	24	Eric Nelson Charla Preston
	25	Amy Wonderlin
	26	Howard Kulzer Michael Carney Aden Artzer Nathan Scholl
	27	Gladys Peterson Cathy Barks Bill Jensen
	28	David Gronert Anna Cline Abigale Nelson
	29	Kathy Piltingsrud
	30	Alysse Adams



April	5	Dick & Nelda Sampel
	7	Paul Nelson & Kathy Piltingsrud
	10	Eric & Deanna Weber
	12	Barry & Sandra Briggs
	21	Rev. Mark & Carol Mattes
	23	Mark & Ellen Wonderlin
	24	Matthew & Andrea Harbaugh
	29	Curt & Kathy Johansen Col. Franklin & Bonnie Peterson

Finance Report – February Results

Financial results for February YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$66,157, Budget \$71,483
- Other Income – Actual \$2,305, Budget \$3,060
- Expenses – Actual \$72,722, Budget \$78,663
- Net activity – Actual (\$4,260), Budget (\$4,120)

Actual net activity was unfavorable to budget. This was due to offerings below 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 property position.

Stewardship Thought

Your final act of Stewardship is being a good steward of your estate. Does your will ensure that the final distribution of your estate properly reflects your intentions and your theological understanding of good stewardship?

We need to be good stewards of our estate. Accumulated resources should be used not just to benefit those closest to us, but should be used for all the purposes God intended when God entrusted them to us. We should each set aside an appropriate share of our estate for the building up of the Church and serving the needs of others.

Grace Lutheran's Endowment Fund is one of many opportunities to fulfill this mission. The Endowment Committee's report this month reflects the ability to serve the needs of others through the distribution of the earnings of this Fund. Contributions to this Fund will increase its ability to serve its mission in the Church, the local community and the worldwide community.

Your Stewardship Committee

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting 2-19-13

Rich opened the meeting with a prayer.

Rich posed two questions for the group:

1. When were you baptized?
2. What are you most proud of since you began your service on council?

Rich then posed a question to the new members of the council to tell us one thing we need to know about you?

Rich called the meeting to order.

Selection of committees for 2013 were chosen as follows:

Personnel Committee – Jay
Finance Committee – Kevin
Social Ministry Committee – Ardis & Sandy
Youth Committee – Kristin
Worship & Music Committee – Karri
Education Committee – Mary & Kristin
Evangelism Committee (invitational & fellowship ministry) – John
Stewardship Committee – Jay & Sandy
Property Committee – Jay & Rich
Lay Ministry Committee – Karla & Stacie

Concluded the meeting with a prayer by Pastor Mike.

Submitted by Karri Brandsfield, Secretary



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

LWR Spring Drive

I have often wondered why the Philippines require so much aid from agencies such as Lutheran World Relief. A recent article on the LWR website answered that question:

“The Philippines is situated in one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world, facing an array of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, flooding, landslides, typhoons, and volcanic eruptions. Each year, the country experiences approximately 20 typhoons that can result in the destruction of homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods.” The most recent one occurred on December 4, 2012 when Typhoon Bopha hit these islands. As of January, 2000 people died or are still missing. There were 217,000 homes destroyed, and 7500 people were still in evacuation shelters.

http://lwr.org/site/c.dmJXKiOYJql6G/b.8475013/k.254/Philippines_Typhoon.htm#

Ah! The light bulb went on above my head. This is why so many LWR personal care kits, school kits, fabric kits, baby care kits, and quilts are sent to this country each year. So the need for this material aid to be replenished also continues year after year. When our congregation makes and sends these gifts, it is a blessing to people affected by these disasters. We are in the midst of our spring collection of donations to create these aid kits. Please pray for the people of the Philippines and for Lutheran World Relief. Donations can be turned in to the offering plate or the church office anytime through April 14. Envelopes for donations are located in the church pews and at the LWR display in the gathering hall. Thank you for your support.

Submitted by Cathy Barks, LWR Committee

Endowment Fund Report

The purpose of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is to promote faithful Christian stewardship by providing a congregational plan to receive grants, gifts or bequest of money to be used to enhance the total program and mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church beyond that supported through regular giving and apart from the general operation of the congregation. The Endowment Fund Committee acts as custodian of the Fund.

The Endowment Committee approved the following distributions of 2012 income:

Awards to Grace Lutheran Church:

- \$500.00 for support of the youth program to provide meals to Hope Ministries
- \$360.00 for support of program to provide group meals to Amanda the Panda
- \$965.00 for support of First Circle of Friends

Other Awards:

- \$2,762.94 to Lutheran Lakeside Camp for flooring and improvement in Nurse's cabin
- \$1,162.44 to Lutheran Lakeside Camp for door replacement in lodge
- \$2,244.00 to Mosaic for therapeutic technology

A total of \$7,994.38 was awarded. Requests for grants totaled \$19,372.38.

Since inception, the Endowment fund has awarded a total of **\$255,568.79** to **129** projects.



Preventing Child Abuse and

Neglect... Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." – Matthew 19:13-15 Truly, the kingdom of heaven belongs to little children. Unfortunately, children across Iowa are suffering from abuse. In 2011, 11,747 children in Iowa were abused through physical abuse, sexual abuse or through the denial of critical care, such as providing adequate food, shelter or clothing. Over 50% of these victims were under the age of six.

The abuse of even one child is too many. Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) works to prevent child abuse and neglect through parent education, intervention and support and helps children of abuse heal and find hope. Through early childhood and family services LSI helps stop abuse before it starts, and our Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers empower children of abuse so that they may resolve their past and look forward to a bright future. The support of our partner congregations allows LSI to maintain these important programs for the children of Iowa. Thank you for being an important partner in our mission of service to all. For more information on ways LSI provides hope to Iowa's most vulnerable populations, visit www.LSIowa.org.

Next Newsletter Deadline

The monthly newsletter for April will have a deadline for articles on **April 19** and be ready for distribution on **April 23**.

Grace Scholarships

Grace Lutheran Church has scholarship monies available to assist members of our congregation with college tuition. We will help students who have been accepted by a Lutheran seminary, college or university for the 2013-2014 term. Scholarships shall consist of a grant of up to \$500 per recipient per year and will be paid directly to the seminary, college, or university, along with appropriate notification of the grant. The schools usually provide matching funds.

To be considered, new applicants should

1. Fill out an application form (available in the church office).
2. Submit a one-page essay describing how your church involvement and beliefs have influenced your development and career aspirations, including any specific educational goals.
3. Include a letter of request to the Scholarship Committee.

All forms should be submitted by **Sunday, June 2, 2013**.

All eligible students from high school seniors through graduate student status are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should be members in good standing for at least one year prior to the request for assistance.



April 6th Spring Gathering Clusters 10/11, Women of the ELCA

All women are invited to attend at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Indianola. The program, "Being God's Hands" will be presented by Pastor Carrie La Plante. Join us for inspiration and fellowship. Registration is from 9-9:30 a.m. Our Love Gift offering will be presented to Helping Hands Ministry in Indianola. There's also our regular offering for the Synod. For more information, call Jane White at 515-256-6437.

You're Invited...
To an afternoon of piano performed by
Adam Dostalík
Sunday, April 7th • 2:00 p.m.
Temple for Performing Arts •
Grand Hall, 4th Floor
10th & Locust Street • Des Moines, Iowa



Program

Prelude & Fugue 15 from The Well Tempered Clavier II -
J.S. Bach
Sonata No. 5 in G Major K. 283 - Mozart
Prelude in C Sharp Minor Op. 3 No. 2 - Rachmaninoff
Berceuse Op. 57-Chopin
Etude in C Sharp Minor-Chopin
Danzas Argentinas - Ginestera

Team Grace Rides Again!

This year RAGBRAI comes right through Des Moines and Team Grace would like to be part of it. Young or old, experienced or not, this will be a great opportunity for some fellowship and exercise. Ride all week or just a few days, lets put together a BIG team. Even if you don't ride a bike, drivers are an important piece of the team. Registration deadline is **April 1** so don't delay. If you are interested contact Jon Rissman, 205-8930.

We Were Saddened to Hear

Robert D. Beck, 58, passed away on March 11 in Florida. Rev. Beck served as Pastor at Grace from 1983-1990. He also served at churches in Denver, CO; New Mexico; Muscatine and Grimes, IA. In 1998 he left the ministry and worked in long-term care and hospice. His funeral was held in Ft. Pierce, FL with internment at a later date. Please keep his family and his friends here at Grace in your prayers.

Hold the Date for Grace Fellowship

Grace Fellowship will be celebrating Iowa at the next meeting, **May 5, at 5:00 p.m.** Rob Dillard will be here to tell us about Iowa Public Radio. Plan to join us for a simple supper and great fellowship! For information, please call Verda Swanson, 276-6625.



Plant Sale Pick up, Annual and Perennial Plant Sale
Saturday, May 11, 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Grace Hall and the parking lot

The High School youth and families are hosting this sale to raise money for the High School trip fund and 2015 National Youth Gathering. You can contribute by coming to the sale or by donating items.

Anyone can donate:

Garage Sale items: Books, tools, small furniture, toys, clothes, housewares, etc....**clean and in good condition.** (please, no golf clubs, golf carts, air purifiers or humidifiers, as Goodwill won't accept these.) Please bring donations to Grace Hall II between 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 7 and 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 10. Questions: Ross Peeler, 314-6830 or email rosspeeler@aol.com.

Baked items for Bake Sale: Please bring items to Grace Hall by 8 p.m. on Fri., May 10 or by 7:30 a.m. on Sat., May 11. Questions: Susanne Carney, 707-5159.

Perennial Plants: Perennial donations may be made Saturday morning, between 7 and 8 a.m. Please donate potted plants and provide the following information: Name of plant, sun or shade requirement, and flower color. Questions: Michelle Voelker, 402-8571



Congratulations

Curt and Sarah Chenoweth are the proud new parents of a baby boy, Jack Ryen. Jack was born on March 8. He weighed 7 lbs 10 oz. and was 21" long. Very proud grandma is Connie Heuton!

Luther Park Auxiliary
Spring Luncheon and Bake Sale

Saturday, April 13 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Luther Park Apartments Community Center Sandwiches, salads, cookies, bars and coffee will be served. There is a free will offering and supplemental funds will be provided by Two Rivers Thrivent Chapter.

"Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God."



First Circle Friends

"I just love coming here so much."

"I look forward to this from the end of one day until the next one."

Those are the kinds of things that we hear from the participants in First Circle Friends on a regular basis. This program for those experiencing early- to mid-stage memory loss is off to such a fun and engaging start! It's a day of food, fellowship, and fun, and it is a social model where the focus is on laughter and friendship. If you know someone who could benefit from this program, or you would like to learn more, please contact LSI's coordinator, Cannady Fritzjunker, at 271-7408. The program takes place the first and third Thursdays of every month here at Grace. During the **Adult Forum on April 7**, we will be sharing more information and giving you a first-hand look at a day in the life of First Circle Friends. You won't want to miss the fun morning!

Spring is here, and soon the soil will be warming up!

Please join us for a **Hunger Forum on April 14**. We'll have some fun, learn a little, and then we'll have more fun planting containers to grow for Food Pantry clients. Did you know that WIC and Food Assistance funds can be used to purchase plants and seeds? Many people don't. By supplying plants to the Food Pantry, clients have the chance to try their hand at growing without risking precious assistance dollars, while gaining confidence in their food growing abilities.

Sunday School classes to start seeds!

April will find us once again starting seeds in Msindo Kitchen for the Grace Giving Garden. This year, most of our seeds will come from the local coalition of Faith and School Gardens who banded together to order local and share saved seeds. Due to two generous donations the day of the seed order meeting, ALL seed/plant orders were no charge this year! You can keep up on the progress of a few of the Faith Gardens at growthefood.org.

A little bit of your time?

This year Grace will be growing the basics again: lettuces, carrots, herbs, beans, winter squash, sweet potatoes, bell peppers, chili peppers, cucumbers, and zucchini. We are looking at obtaining a large hay bale to choke out weeds, slow moisture loss from the soil, and provide a less muddy place to walk when working in the garden. If you or your family could donate an hour of your time one day a month this summer, our garden can easily survive another hot dry year. Simply set up a hose and sprinkler, turn on the spigot, and settle in the shade with a good book, go for a walk around the neighborhood, or visit Riley Park. We are also looking for donations of several irrigation or soaker hoses to minimize water waste and to avoid encouraging the weeds!

This is OUR garden. YOUR garden.

Everyone is welcome even if you think you are a bad influence on plants! You benefit, the Food Pantry clients benefit, Grace members benefit. **Anyone** can harvest and take food home to add to a fresh summer salad, or to donate to a neighbor/friend in need. We can make a difference, and we can have fun making a difference, but we need your help.

Michelle Voelker, Shirley Shiffler, and Julie Honsey



Hunger in Des Moines

Did you know that 11% of all Iowans are living in poverty? In Polk County the poverty rate is 12%, and 70% of children in the Des Moines schools meet the qualifications for free lunches.

"Feed my sheep..."

Back in November there was an annual Hope for the Hungry Conference held in Des Moines, and out of that conference came 7 goals that task forces are working on in order to alleviate childhood hunger by 2015. Come to the **Adult Forum on April 21** to hear more about these goals and the life changing difference that they will make.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."



ELCA Malaria Campaign
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Celebrate World Malaria Day at Grace on April 28

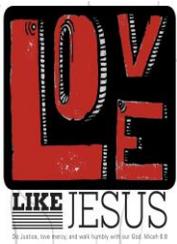
“In Mozambique, a Lutheran congregation took action against malaria. With the support of the ELCA Malaria Campaign and our companion church’s malaria project, 34 leaders from seven area churches gathered to learn how to help neighbors prevent and treat malaria. For two days, the leaders learned together about how the disease is transmitted, how to prevent infection, and how and when to seek treatment. And most importantly they learned how to pass on this vital information to educate others. At the end of the two-day training, they all took what they learned into action. Mosquito nets were not only distributed – but education on how to use the nets also took place. Maria Jose was delighted to receive a net that day from the Rev. Eduardo Sinalo. In the less than two years since the ELCA Malaria Campaign joined the global movement to fight malaria, the number of deaths from this disease has been reduced. Working with local congregations, global companions, ecumenical partners and trained leaders we achieve more together than we ever could alone. And your generosity is the spark that makes it happen.” (taken from the Spring 2013 Edition of ELCA Malaria Campaign News)

ELCA members have committed to raising \$15 million by 2015. To date, ELCA congregations have raised \$6.5 million to help bring an end to malaria-related deaths. So far the NE Ohio synod has reached their synod fundraising goal of \$250,000; NE Iowa has raised nearly \$300,000; SE Iowa has raised \$135,000 with money still coming in.

What will Grace’s role be....?

On April 28 we will be celebrating World Malaria Day at Grace through worship and the education hour. Come learn more about the campaign and begin to prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to respond.

With God all things are possible. Let’s work together to end this disease.



Service Leadership Event for Youth

The Southeastern Iowa Synod and Grand View University are sponsoring a service leadership event for **high school youth June 20-23** in Des Moines. **Love Like Jesus** will engage both youth who have completed 8th-12th grade at the end of this school year, and adult advisors. Highlights include choosing up to three sessions that provide integrated hands-on learning in art, music, drama, recreation, sports, theology, and more; and serving alongside local congregations, agencies and institutions to make a difference in the greater Des Moines community.

The registration fee is \$125 per person. One adult per 6 youth is needed. For more information, go to www.seiasynod.org/lovelikejesus.

Learn CPR in the comfort of your home

We now have one adult kit and one infant kit with inflatable manikins available for check out in the library. We would love to have everyone check them out.

There is also information in the kits about using our new AED located outside the church office. Help save lives and learn this skill.

If you have questions while using the kit, please feel free to call:
Alice Kulzer at 280-7991
Mary Weaverling at 255-4151



**Calling all kids and volunteers! Welcome to Vacation Bible School 2013!
Check out the fun we'll be having this summer:**

June 10-14

Preschool week for 3-5 year olds will take place from 9:00 a.m.- noon each day, with a special family presentation on June 14 from 11:30 a.m.-noon.



The theme for the week is *Everywhere Fun Fair: Where God's World Comes Together*. At this exciting, child friendly global fair, your child will experience God's love, meet neighbors from the Bible, and explore the everyday life of neighbors from Japan, Zimbabwe, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Mexico. In interactive and energizing ways, we will learn how to love and serve God and be a neighbor to the world. Join us for our journey around God's world! *Please note: spaces are limited, and children must be potty trained with no bathroom assistance needed. The registration deadline is June 3.*

June 24-28

Elementary week for those completing grades K-5 will take place from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., with an optional pick-up time at noon. Afternoon activities will include field trips on one or more days. Aftercare is also available from 4:00-5:30 p.m.. A special family presentation will take place on June 27 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.



The theme for the week is *Taking Root*. Through fun, exciting, and interactive ways, your child will learn about the exciting work of serving our neighbors as we share God's love with the world. What would a world without hunger look like? Using bible stories, children's literature, art projects, science activities, skits, music, and more, we will grow in our eagerness to love God, grow in faith, and practice our faith in the world by working against hunger and poverty. Together let's imagine how we can change the world! *Please note: spaces are limited. The registration deadline is June 17.*

Registration forms for children will be available in the Gathering Hall or at www.gracedm.org starting in April.

To volunteer, pick up a form in the Gathering Hall or look for a link to an easy online sign-up process in a coming e-news. For volunteers, please note that health forms will be needed for all teens as well. Check out the VBS display in April to get an overview of the volunteer opportunities available! They range from preschool and elementary teaching and assisting, to registration help, to snack preparations and donations, to aftercare, and more! We would love to have you join us.



Thrivent® Builds



Thrivent Builds with Greater Des Moines Habitat
needs your help!

Are you ready to build?

Thrivent Financial is continuing its partnership with Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity. Work on this year's home at 2208 Garfield will begin on May 1 and conclude in early August.

We need your help! You can assist in this worthy cause in any of these ways:

- 1) **Sign up as a volunteer** to help in the construction process; go to gdmhabitat.org and click on Thrivent Builds. Note: You don't need to be a skilled worker to volunteer as there are several needs.
- 2) **Be a "site host"** for the first hour of the work day to welcome volunteers and ensure all are appropriately registered.
- 3) **Prepare and deliver lunches** to the workers at the job site - thus enabling them to stay at the site and devote more time to the build.
- 4) **Help us provide the necessary funds** that we need to complete the house. While Thrivent contributes **matching funds** for the majority of the costs, **we are still in need of personal and/or church donations to ensure completion.**

Remember, Habitat is not a "hand-out" program; instead it provides deserving, working families with an opportunity to own a home. And they must first qualify for this opportunity and be willing to provide labor on the house as well as take courses in home ownership, finances, etc.

Any questions you have can be referred to the Two Rivers Chapter Thrivent Builds Specialists, listed below.

Ken, [979-1032](tel:515-979-1032); Roger, [249-1274](tel:515-249-1274); Keith, [402-6586](tel:515-402-6586); and Mike [250-1023](tel:515-250-1023)