

Everyone is Welcome!

Sunday Worship

May 5 & 12
Holy Communion 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Education Hour &
Adult Forum at 9:30 a.m.

May 19
Celebration Sunday
Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
One service only today
Ministry Fair beginning at 10:00
Lunch of "Fair Type Foods"
beginning at 10:30

May 26
Summer Schedule begins
Holy Communion at 9:00

New This Summer!

**Wednesday Evening
Holy Communion 6:30 p.m.**

There will not be a Saturday service this summer; instead there will be a Wednesday evening service. We will continue to hold Wednesday evening services all year.

Contact Us!

Pastor Michael Schmidt
revschmidt@live.com

Director of Laity Ministries
Stephanie Johnson
stephaniejohnson@q.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
Jacquelyn Holmes graceluth5@msn.com
276-6873

Office Assistant
Michelle Voelker rvoelker1@mchsi.com



Home



I've heard it said that love turns a house into a home. I've also heard it said that home is where the heart is or, home is where you make it. To say I have thought about "home" a lot lately would be an understatement. Jenie, Allison and I moved into a new home a couple of weeks ago. It is even starting to feel more like "home" every day. It is exciting to think about what the weeks, months and years ahead will bring.

While getting situated into this new home, I have been thinking a lot about my childhood home in Forest City, especially the days that we moved everything out as our parents moved to Williamsburg, before now living in Coralville. We had all known about this move for a while, but it took an incredible emotional toll on the family. It was a time to reminisce and share stories, a time to cry and a time to work. Much to my surprise, it wasn't the house that was hardest for us to say goodbye to, but rather a piano.

Before you begin to imagine a beautiful, perhaps baby grand or cabinet grand, a Steinway or Yamaha, STOP! It is not like that. If you could see this piano, you would wonder what all the fuss is about. It is an old, beat-up, well used, out of tune Wurlitzer. In fact, it is so out of tune that it has two G2's (There is a loose peg so G2 and the A2 sound the same). The wood around the pedals has been kicked so many times it looks as though it is a snare drum. Yet, when it came time to finish the move, it was the piano that got us crying and we couldn't walk away. It hardly works, but we couldn't walk away.

We couldn't walk away. None of us felt we had the resources to haul the piano nor the space to keep it. This cherished piano, one that was used to facilitate countless rehearsals, to write scores of songs and accompanied many an evening of pool and singing was soon to be garbage and destroyed. My brothers insisted that I have the piano, so with tears in our eyes, Jason, Corey, Andy, Darin and I vowed to haul that piano out of the basement and into my brother's garage until I was in a house and could take the piano and restore it. Well...that time is now (or at least this summer). I am really excited to see that old Wurlitzer brought back to life. It has been a long time, but there will be many more evenings of singing, and scores of songs to be written. That old Wurlitzer has a lot of music left in it.

I can't help but think about this ministry at 52nd and Urbandale. In many ways we have been down the same journey as that ol' Wurlitzer. Many of you either watched or participated as this church went through periods of growth and made a huge impact on this community. You also watched or participated as things in ministry happened, A2's went out of tune, and the wood got kicked. At times, things may look like a shadow of what once was. But that is not the end of the story; it is simply another beginning.

I am so impressed with this church and its friends and members. I look back at the last couple of years and am amazed at the things that God has done in this place. Your love for God's work in this place has made the difference. In the same way that love turns a house into a home, you have turned this church into congregation, a community of faith, a home.

Pastor Mike



May 1 Melinda Stickrod
2 Lillian Prickett
 Joshua Meadows
3 Helen Ringgenberg
4 John Roehrick
5 Vernon Fanning
 Michael Newell
 Jacqueline Wangerin
 Dylan Rutter
6 Ardis Olson
 Karla Swanson
 James Merkwan
 Daniel Dinnauer
 Hannah Honsey
8 Regan Nelson
9 Donna Kennebeck
10 Claire Kallestad
11 Jeffrey Farrell
 Jeffrey Rudisill
12 Charlotte Nielsen
13 Sally Preston
14 Frances Best
15 Laurie Helton
 Ellen Wonderlin
 John Kennebeck
 Dmitri Woodruff
 Katherine Bickel
16 Laura Wonderlin
17 Carol Krause
18 Inga Hoifeldt
 Kimberly Fenimore
 Lori Fry
 Tim Nehmer
19 Bruce Bergman
 Charles Denton
 Megan Jensen
21 Kenneth Carlson
 Barbara Zimany
 Brenda Mann
 Jacob Nordeen
 Christopher Janson
 Kaylee Ringgenberg
23 Jonay Trentmann
 Scott Neal
24 Melissa Newman
 Angela Chapman
25 Hal Turner
26 Shirley Davenport
 Devin Ashton
27 Sue Anderson
 Courtney Brandsfield
 Alexander Oberhart
 Andrew Oberhart
28 Willa Mae Johansen
 Linda Vernia
 Richard Fry
29 Ralf Hoifeldt
 Annette Taylor
 Kira Nehmer
30 Thora Henderson
 Loree Nelson
 Jonathan Fry
 Kiernan Hutton
31 Barbara Bergman
 Lindsey Nelson
 Brianna Adams
 Nathan Brown

**M
A
Y

H
A
P
P
Y

B
I
R
T
H
D
A
Y
S**



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 02 Michael & Tina Meadows
06 Mark & Annette Taylor
07 Justin and Carolyn Andersen
 Jon & Cherie Rissman
11 Carter & Carol Woodruff
14 Richard & Betty Hirschauer
 Steve & Mary McCann
 Drew & Karla Tillotson
15 Matt & Amy Ziska
18 Matt & Tammy Hagerty
22 Michael & Susanne Carney
 Wayne & Debbie Curry
23 Bill & Joann Jensen
 Richard & Michelle Voelker
25 Lyle & Norma Black
 Robert & Prudence Campbell
 Harlan & Jayne Mortenson
 Robert & Jeanette Ziesman
26 Mike & Carla Peterman
27 William & Linda Biegger
 Todd & Angela Ringgenberg
30 James & Kimberly Fenimore
31 Duane & Linda Ulrick



**What: Grace Men in Mission
Afternoon at the Ball Park**

When: Sunday June 9, 2013 at 1:05 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 per person

**Seats are in reserved grandstand at the top to
allow elevator access and handicap
accessibility.**

**Tickets are on sale Sunday, May 12 through
Sunday, May 26.**

**Questions: Contact Carter Woodruff at 971-
7219 or Max Palmer at 255-3304**



Men in Mission

Our next Men In Mission meeting is Thursday May 2. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner. Our speaker for the evening will be Chris Coleman, At Large City Councilman for Des Moines.
 Call Leonard Ringgenberg at 255-2395 for reservations.



**The official name of this choir is SFEL
(Striving For Eternal Life)**

www.sfelchoir.com

The SFEL Choir visited Grace on Sunday, April 21, singing an anthem during the 10:45 a.m. worship service and presenting a concert afterward with a light luncheon sponsored by the Companion Congregation Committee. The music was enjoyed by all in attendance. Choir members are Burundian refugees who came to the U.S. from Tanzania five years ago. Their home country, Burundi, is located in Central Africa. They speak Kirundi, Swahili, some speak French and all have learned English since arriving in the U.S. The group sang in refugee camps and studied a Christian Bible. Their music is religious, not the typical choir we think of in America, as they add an African flair with dance routines. SFEL has continued their love of music in Des Moines where the group has now produced CDs and two DVDs.

You Are Invited

***To the Ascension Day Service
and Brunch, Thursday, May 9.***

***The service will be at 10:00 a.m.
and the brunch will follow.***

***Reservations for \$5 are
needed by 4:00 Monday, May 6.***

***Reservations will be taken
Sunday mornings in the
Gathering Hall on
April 28 and May 5.***

You may invite a friend.

Verda Swanson & Jan Gross

Hold the Date

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!
Call Verda Swanson at 276-6625 for information.

We Are His Hands in the World

April 28 is Grace's day to use our **hands** to work "hands over fists" on God's loving actions. The Social Ministry Committee is "reaching out" for everyone to find ways to "knuckle" down and perform some "gesture" of kindness. The "point" of this isn't to give to get, to be kind just to "draw" attention to yourself, or to "thumb" your nose at others. Nor will we "palm off" our work to others. This is a "joint" effort to "nail" down a variety of ways to be kind, help others "feel" special, and "handle" tasks that help others.

At 2:00 p.m., plan to meet back at the church in Grace Hall. Once we "clap" our eyes on enough kindness-givers, you should plan to share your experiences with the "wrist" of us. "Digit" think you could make a difference? You can!

A Stewardship Thought

Good Stewardship is learned. It does not come naturally. Stewardship comes alive and becomes meaningful through practice.

While sitting at my desk looking at the February report on Finances at Grace, some stewardship thoughts came to me. The report shows offerings at Grace though February 2013 were \$5,326 less than what we as a congregation had agreed to give. In addition income from those not pledging and other sources was \$755 less than budgeted. I had these thoughts.

Good stewardship comes from our conscious awareness of what we have received. If we believe God has been good to us and will continue to do so, we are grateful for what we have. We are motivated by gratitude to share with others. We are motivated by gratitude to fulfill our pledge and do some extra.

Are we feeling grateful? If so we feel blessed and share generously what we have with others. We are not born grateful beings. We have to learn it. We need to practice it. Learning to be generous is a spiritual growth process. It is a choice we make - not just a spontaneous event.

Learning and teaching how to be grateful will bring blessings to you. It helps us grow spiritually. It will also make our treasurer smile! Let's try it!

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting 3-19-13 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pastor Schmidt, Rich Snyder, John Roehrick, Jay Wangerin, Mary Helt, Carla Peterman, Sandy Briggs, Karri Brandsfield, Stacie Holst, Kevin Drury

Opened the meeting with a prayer by Pastor Mike.

Meeting was called to order.

Agendas were approved.

Minutes from the January meeting were approved as printed.

Written reports, including the financials, were accepted as submitted. Pastor Mike provided a verbal reported; he mentioned that he is pleased with mid-week attendance. He also mentioned the summer health series and how the feedback from the posting in the newsletter has been very positive.

OLD BUSINESS:

Computer is in and running for the heating and air conditioning units

NEW BUSINESS:

Ellen Wonderlin presented findings from their Youth and Young ministry investigation.

- What do youth/young adults want and how can we meet those needs?
- Start with a vision, build the support, and end by adding staff.
- Discussed how to proceed and move forward with these findings.
- Council will help with the vision & Lay ministry team will help search for youth/young adults to participate in this group.

Grace has been asked to participate in a project called "Transforming Congregational Ministry" to help us create a vision for Grace. This is an 18-month commitment. We will recruit 4-6 members from Grace to participate in this vision. Rich Snyder, Carla Peterman and Pastor Schmidt will head the recruiting effort.

We discussed emergency and business continuity plan. Rich decided to table this topic until next month when we will hopefully know more details on this topic.

We discussed Grace participating in a national ELCA survey. A motion was made and passed by the council to allow the names and contact information of the congregation to be sent to the ELCA national office for the purpose of conducting this survey. Pastor Mike will mention the survey in the bulletin or the Friendly Visitor.

Update on custodian search. They are still continuing the interview process. If no valid prospects come about, we will place an ad on DesMoineshelpwanted.com.

Update on Synod Assembly May 31st & June 1st. Sandy Briggs has volunteered to go. We still have one more spot available if we know anyone that is interested in attending.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Celebration Sunday will be May 19th. Rich would like us to discuss at our committee meetings having a presence on Celebration Sunday to let members know what it is that we do. We are to report back at the next council meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held April 23rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Karri Brandsfield, Secretary

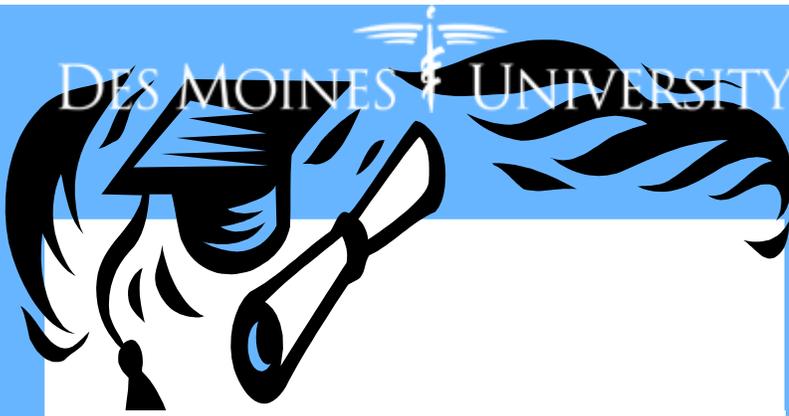
Finance Report – March Results

Financial results for March YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$115,289, Budget \$114,350
- Other Income – Actual \$4,714, Budget \$4,255
- Expenses – Actual \$111,370, Budget \$115,881
- Net activity – Actual \$8,633, Budget \$2,725

Actual net activity was favorable to budget. This was due to unpledged offerings above 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.

DES MOINES UNIVERSITY



Dear Grace Lutheran Church,
I wanted to thank you for your support and encouragement over the years. On May 25th, I'm graduating from Des Moines University and will be going to a Family Medicine residency in Augusta, Georgia come June. I could not have done this without you!

I consider everyone at Grace part of my family and would like to invite you to help me celebrate my graduation from Medical School! The graduation ceremony is 10am on Saturday, May 25th at Hy-Vee Hall in the Iowa Events Center. I will also be having an Open House Sunday, May 26th from 2:00–5:00 p.m. at my house in the Quad Cities:

5440 7th Avenue,
Moline, IL 61265

I understand most of you will not be able to make the drive to the Quad Cities, but I would love to see a caravan of Grace members at my party! If you have questions, you can call me at 309-757-0787 or e-mail Nicole.K.Nelson@dmu.edu.

Thanks again for being there as I've made my journey to becoming a physician!
Nicole Nelson



FIRST CIRCLE FRIENDS

Are you looking for a rewarding volunteer experience?

First Circle Friends, a program for participants experiencing early to midstage memory loss, is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer and make a difference. We are looking for volunteers 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 on the first and third Thursdays of the month. First Circle Friends participants enjoy the friendship and support of the dedicated volunteers, and the caregivers are very grateful! If you are interested in exploring this volunteering possibility, please contact Stephanie Johnson at stephaniejohanson@q.com or 276-6873. Training is provided.

If you know someone who might benefit from the program as a participant, contact Cannady Fritziunker at LSI, 515-271-7408 or Cannady.fritziunker@LSIowa.org

NCAA Basketball - All for Love!

In case you are wondering... I didn't make my picks for the NCAA Basketball Tournament by the colors of the uniforms! I can't say that has never been my strategy in the past, but this year I put a little more thought into it.

With Louisville being named the #1 seed in the tournament, being married to a "Louie", and the championship game scheduled to be played on my late father-in-law's (also named Lou) birthday...I had picked my champion. The rest, I have to admit, was several upsets and a little luck!

I have participated in this kind of pool over the last several years, but it became much more meaningful when given the chance to pick a charity for the potential winnings. That was also easy!

Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa, formerly known as Public Health Nursing, has provided a variety of supportive services to meet the health and social service needs of our community since 1908. Ranging from prenatal to elderly care, their services are widespread to benefit all ages. Nursing services include home visits, family support, parent education, transportation, flu immunizations, and much more.

My mother, JoAnn Young, worked as a public health nurse for over 30 years. The early years of her career were spent doing home visits, but she later helped develop a program that would provide school nurses to the parochial schools in Des Moines. She supervised a team of nurses that shared their time between several schools, with much of her own time spent at Dowling, St Pius, Holy Trinity, St Augustine's, and Des Moines Christian School. This allowed her to have a rewarding career that she loved, with a work schedule that benefited the love for her family.

The current staff of VNS of Iowa is comprised of nurses, social workers, case managers and outreach workers. Interpreters are available in 21 different languages and dialects to work with the expanding refugee and immigrant population residing in Iowa. True to the tradition of VNS of Iowa, the agency continues to work with all clients including those who do not have the ability to pay for services.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in something fun that could benefit something good!

Sue Anderson

(Winner of the 2013 Grace NCAA Bracket Pool)



Grace Giving Garden

It might still be cold out but the seedlings started by the second grade and middle school Sunday school classes are all snug in their trays down in Msindo kitchen. Soon we hope to be transplanting those into larger containers, and would love your class to help – along with any of you who aren't teaching Sunday school.

Given the weather, we will definitely be planting well after Iowa's usual frost-free date of May 16. We're thinking of Wednesday evening 'workdays' and possibly another day during the week – please let us know if you want to help and what day of the week works for you! **Bonus:** Any garden work will count toward your **Active Grace** miles!

We are looking for help with the garden through the summer. Could you give 3-6 hours during the summer? If you sign up for one day a month in June, July, and August or September, we can keep the garden well watered, and you get to see the bounty at the end of the summer. We'll tell you what you need to know - it really is easy. Look for the large green poster board in the Gathering Hall or Grace Hall during coffee time and sign your name to a few dates on the calendar.

EVERYONE is welcome to stop in the garden at any time. Pull a few weeds, water, take home a tomato or cucumber or some herbs, or the fixin's for a lovely summer salad on a hot day. Most of the produce will end up at the food pantry, but it is there for YOU too. Grace Garden will have some fun activities during the Celebration Sunday Fair, so please stop by! If you like getting your hands dirty, we will also be transplanting the pepper and tomato seedlings into larger pots for the Food Pantry. It's easy, we'll show you how.

The Grace Giving Garden Committee:
Amy, Ardis, Julie, Joie, Marion, Michelle, Shirley

We will be meeting Sunday, May 5, at 9:30 a.m. if anyone would like to join us.



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

World Malaria Day is coming up on April 25. On the following Sunday, April 28, we will be honoring World Malaria Day here at Grace. During worship, we will take time to learn more about malaria and to pray for those who struggle with it daily, and during the education hour, children, youth and adults will have the opportunity to engage in deeper learning about life with malaria and what the ELCA is doing in order to win the war. You will also learn more from Grace's SWAT Team about the educational and giving opportunities that will take place in the coming year so that, together with the ELCA and by the work of the Spirit, we can work to eradicate malaria by 2015.

What can you do in the meantime? Check out the ELCA's campaign site at www.elca.org/malaria Sign up to receive regular updates from the blog (can be found on the homepage of the campaign website) ... Pray. Pray for the people for whom malaria is a daily reality and constant threat, and pray for the health workers who are doing God's work in many different countries. Here's a taste of the difference that is already being made (taken from a recent post on the blog):

"One of the keys to the success of the Lutheran Malaria Program in the Dimalata, Northwest Zambia area is the huge amount of collaboration between the malaria program, the congregations, the community and the government in that area. Every key stakeholder is involved in the project. ... Headman Kanema of Mununji village in Dimalata said... 'Before the program began, most of the people were not aware that malaria is a killer disease—especially for pregnant women. They weren't aware that malaria can cause her to be unable to deliver a live baby. But now they are aware of the dangers that malaria poses to babies and pregnant women. They learned this during our awareness and sensitization activities.'"



Preschool week: June 10-14, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Elementary week: June 24-28, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Aftercare available until 5:30 p.m.

Summer is right around the corner! We hope that you can join us for VBS this year. Registration forms are now available in the Gathering Hall or at www.gracedm.org. Please remember that we need both the registration form and the health form filled out.

We also love our volunteers! There is a very easy sign-up process. Simply go to <http://volunteersignup.org/83LCQ> for preschool week or <http://volunteersignup.org/CMQYJ> for elementary week, and you will be taken to a page that lists the variety of options available. Click on "sign up" next to the area where you would like to serve, and fill out some very basic contact information. Please note that teens will still need an updated health form, but no separate registration process is needed with this online system. Having it is a huge help to us as we keep track of volunteers. Paper copies of the volunteer forms are available in the Gathering Hall for those who do not have computer access.

Thanks ahead of time for your help during those weeks! Feel free to contact Stephanie Johnson at 276-6873 or stephaniejohnson@q.com for any questions. See you in June!

Training Date for Volunteers: Tuesday, June 4 or Tuesday, June 18 from 6-8 p.m.