

August 27, 2013

**Join Us for Fall Fun...
Everyone is Welcome!**

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and New members
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**2013-14
Super Wednesday Schedule**

- 5:00-5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir (vocal choir)
in Chapel on lower level (Preschool-Grade 2)
- 5:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Choir (vocal choir)
in the Choir Room (Grades 2-6)
- 5:00-6:00 p.m. Supper served in Grace Hall I
- 5:30 p.m. Book Discussion in Library
- 5:30-6:00 p.m. Chapel Chimers (hand bell choir)
in the Bell Room (Grades 3-5)
- 6:00-6:30 p.m. Intermediate Ringers Choir (hand bell choir)
in the Bell Room(Grades 6-12)
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Kids' Hour in Gym and Room 101
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Lectionary Study in the Conference Room
- 6:00-7:30 p.m. High School Hangout Time - gym
- 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion Worship Service
in the Sanctuary
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Confirmation worship in Sanctuary and then
classroom study
- 6:30 p.m. Brass Practice in Chapel on lower level
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Grace Bells
in the Bell Room (9th grade & up)
- 7:30 p.m. Men of Grace Music Team
in the Choir Room beginning Sept. 4

**Special Note: No worship service on Wednesday, September 4.
We will kick off the Fall Schedule on Celebration Sunday.**

September 1 Cindy Peeler
 2 Michelle Voelker
 Heather Nelson
 3 Nylya Bartelt
 4 John Donnenwerth
 Bill Henderson
 5 Richard Snyder
 Kiley Brandsfield
 6 Nely Ruiz
 7 Dennis Rehder
 8 Ethan Meadows
 Grace Calhoun
 9 Lois Slye
 JoAnn Gronert
 Carrie Schall
 Alex Mulvihill
 10 John Schall
 12 Duleep Singh
 13 John Trickle
 Anne Farrell
 Rhonda Jensen
 Robert Briggs
 14 Katelyn Jessen
 15 Laural Brown
 Richard Voelker
 17 Lorna Johns
 Stephen Bloomberg
 18 Karen Mann
 Rev. Michael Schmidt
 Sophia Anderson
 19 Sonny Hutton
 Sarah Helt
 20 Frank McKinney
 Cindy Wheeler
 Michael Vernon
 21 Chris Lehfeld
 Marlin Nielsen
 Anthony Royster
 22 Jeanine Rutter
 Aaron Thompson
 Finnegan Holst
 23 Susanne Carney
 Angela Ringgenberg
 Cory Johansen
 24 Michael Meadows
 Thomas Rutter
 Ella Oberhart
 25 Karla Tillotson
 26 Barb Powers
 Bruce Mumm
 27 Jeanette Best
 Jeryl Janson
 Gregory Honnold
 Helen Schroeder
 William Kallestad
 Joshua Curry
 28 Marvin Malmin
 Ross Peeler
 29 LaRue Buihner
 Aaron Page
 Robert Rissman

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SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

September 3 Brent & Valerie Culp
 Todd & Elizabeth Prescott
 4 Donald & Gail Peterson
 5 Charles & Tammy Denton
 Arnold & Willa Mae Johansen
 6 Aaron & Martha Page
 Donald & Gladys Peterson
 12 Lonnie & Diane Jessen
 13 Larry & Janice Nordeen
 17 Michael & Nicole Vernon
 24 Joshua & Sharena Appenzeller
 27 Tom & Mary Jo McCleary

Excitement is building!

The Lemonade Stand...

The ice cream truck that visited Grace Kids' Care...



The first day of school for many...

There's something fresh in the air...

Could it be the start of Fall Programming at Grace?



Congratulations to Adam Dostalick!
Adam was awarded third place in the Senior Division Championship Round of the Bill Riley Talent Search at the 2013 Iowa State Fair!

From Duty to Delight

Do you dare to participate? Be careful before you answer because this could change your life!

You are invited to a six-week Bible study that will show you how to become the person you have always wanted to be – and discover that this is the person God wants you to be. It will show you the pathway to living the abundant life you have always wanted to live – and discover that this is the life God intends for you. In short, it will help you understand that living the Christian life of discipleship is the best way to have a life filled with joy. You will discover that being a faithful follower of Jesus is not a burden to bear because it is your duty, but a delight and a privilege!

The Bible study is titled “From Duty to Delight”. It is presented by Dr. Mark Allen Powell – a powerful and engaging speaker – in a series of video presentations. **The Bible study will begin on Sunday, September 15, and conclude on Sunday, October 20.** We encourage you to attend all six, but the sessions are presented in a way that will enable you to find great value in each one. The sessions will be in Grace Hall.

Do you dare to participate? We hope so. Because you will discover that following Jesus is not just a duty – it’s a delight! It’s Good News! And your life will be changed.

The Stewardship Committee

Finance Report – July Results

Financial results for July YTD are as follows: Pledged Offerings – Actual \$251,491, Budget \$255,817

- Other Income – Actual \$8,906, Budget \$9,039
- Expenses – Actual \$264,314, Budget \$271,272
- Net activity – Actual \$(3,916), Budget \$(6,416)

Actual net activity was favorable to budget. While pledged offerings are below budget, this was offset by unpledged offerings and expense savings. 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 for a portion of the year.

Welcome New Members

Joining the Grace family by transfer of membership:

**Deanna Pullen
Rev. Stephen M. Sherer
Joshua Sherer
Kate Sherer-Eichner
Meghan Sherer**

Thank You

Thank you for all the prayers and concerns during the time of Barb’s surgery.

Barb Burley and Frances Best

I want to thank my friends of Grace for their prayers and cards on the death of my brother. They were much appreciated.

Lois Slye

Fall Emphasis on Lutheran World Relief

The fall drive for Lutheran World Relief will be from September 22 to October 6! Here are some ways to get involved:

Pray for the work of LWR and for the recipients of this important aid throughout the world. Visit lwr.org for more information.

Sunday School offering project: students can bring these items to class to help those in need: Money, or 4 ounce bars of soap and toothbrushes, both in original wrappers.

Make a donation: Bring items like those on display, or donate monetary gifts. Bring your gifts to the displays, put them in the offering plates at worship or send them to the church office. Special envelopes will be in the pews. Checks should be made out to Grace Lutheran Church. Please put LWR on the comment line.

Make LWR kits: during the Wednesday night Kid’s Hour on Sept. 11, from 6-7 PM.

Make quilts on Thursday mornings.

Join the LWR committee: All members are welcome. Contact Cathy Barks at 278-1461. Help at any of these events and do the shopping throughout the year. We will box up all kits and quilts after the 10:45 AM service on Sunday, October 6. Help deliver the boxes to Ankeny on October 19.

Congratulations to our Grace RAGBRAI Riders!



Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting
7-23-13 at 7:00 PM

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

Meeting was called to order with a prayer by Pastor Mike

Agenda was accepted as written

Minutes from the June meeting were accepted as written

Written reports were accepted as written

Pastor Report

- Celebration Sunday will be on September 8th at Tower Park @ 50th and Hickman and we will be offering bus rides from the church to the park from 9-1 since parking is limited.
- Pastor mentioned that he has had a larger number of pastoral needs as of late with several funerals, etc.
- Talked about the new custodian and that he's been picking things up quickly and is doing a good job.
- Pastor mentioned that he will be having surgery in August and will be laid up for about 2-3 weeks.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Emergency Business Continuity Plan has been tabled until August

It was discussed about doing another church pictorial directory in the fall. Lifetouch was mentioned as a possible option. Pastor will get together with the committee and report back to us on what they decide.

NEW BUSINESS:

No actions as this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sandy gave us an update on how the pet event went on July 13th at the church. She said it went very well and was very well received by the community. They will probably do this event again in the future.

Worship and music committee has approved the use of a new narrative lectionary that will start September 8th. We will try this lectionary for 1 year and see how it goes.

Youth ministry update – Kelley Marks met with about 10 youth from Grace on July 11th. She is planning a goofy golf outing and is working on finding a date that works for most everyone.

Revisioning update: Working on growing in depth and getting to know each other better within our congregation. Work on making a strong and energizing community of faith so people become comfortable talking about their faith with others.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held August 27th.

Respectfully submitted,
Karri Brandsfield, Secretary

Men in Mission

Men in Mission will meet at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, September 5. The speaker will be Peggy Whorton of the Iowa Department on Aging Resources.

Save the Date

Grace Fellowship (formerly Senior Members) invites you to the **October 6 meeting at 5:00 p.m.** We'll have sandwiches, cookies and coffee, a table game and music. Midnight Madness (a quartet from West Des Moines) will sing for us. This should be a great evening - we'll see you there! Contact Verda Swanson 276-6625 or Barb Tussing 278-2039.

Grace Bike Group

The **Grace Bike Group** meets every **Saturday at 9 a.m.** to ride downtown to the Farmers' Market. It is a ride totaling approximately 7 miles one way. If you are interested, contact Brian Barks at bebarks@aol.com The group currently has sixteen riders.



THE GOAL!

Great news! The Malaria Swat Team set a fundraising goal of \$5,000 for the ELCA Malaria Campaign, and.... as of August 15, Grace has raised \$3,897.08! That leaves only \$1,102.92 needed to meet the goal. We can definitely do this. So.... the Swat Team is issuing a challenge to the congregation to truly to rise to the occasion. In addition to the ongoing pop can drive, the second Sunday offering quarters, and a Super Wednesday meal on September 18, we will be doing a four-week campaign in November, and a final push during Lent of 2014. Our challenge to you is..... LET'S SMASH THE GOAL!! Let's reach higher than we may have imagined and dream to end this disease once and for all. Work toward a malaria vaccine is already underway. See the following excerpt from the ELCA's blog. And continue to pray for the work of the campaign and for the Spirit to continue to move us to generosity in giving. LET'S SMASH THE GOAL!!

"[According to a recent report in] Science magazine: **a new kind of malaria vaccine is showing unprecedented results in an initial lab study.** Fifty-seven volunteers participated in the study. Subject groups received varying numbers of doses of the new vaccine, with a control group remaining unvaccinated. Subjects receiving five doses of the vaccine were 100% protected from the malaria parasite – an unprecedented result in the history of malaria research. A goal of the World Health Organization is to produce a malaria vaccine with 80% efficiency by the year 2025. This study represents the first time a sufficiently high level of protection has been demonstrated.... [and the] technique is similar to that used in the oral polio vaccine, which has brought polio to the brink of global eradication ... Experts are cautiously optimistic about the promise of the new vaccine. ... Even amidst ... challenges [of several limiting factors], this new vaccine brings undeniable hope for the eventual elimination of malaria." Jessica Nipp Hacker, Coordinator, ELCA Malaria Campaign. To read more, go to www.elca.org/malaria.



Get Your "Just Desserts!"

Mark your calendar! A fun-loving cast of Grace members is hard at work preparing a mystery play to be presented in Grace Hall on **Saturday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m.** You won't want to miss this hilarious "whodunit" called *Just Desserts*. It's simply *to die for!* Come for a fun evening of fellowship to kick off Celebration Sunday weekend, and stay for the dessert reception afterward. A sign-up sheet for bringing desserts is in the Gathering Hall. See you there!

Kids' Hour Is Starting

Calling all kids in grades 1-5 -- Join us on Wednesday nights from 6-7 p.m. for fun in the gym followed by a variety of Bible themed stories and activities in Room 101. We always have a great time and look forward to having your children join us. We will be starting on **September 11.** We're looking forward to a great year!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend Campfire with Lakeside Benefit Cookout!

Lutheran Lakeside Camp is holding a cookout complete with campfire, singing your favorite songs, games, s'mores of course, and fun for the whole family. A freewill offering is asked for the cookout and a Silent Auction is available for you to bid on. There are some unique items in the auction including neon signs, standees, memorabilia from Lutheran Lakeside, and much more. The event will be held at the Park Lodge at Walnut Woods State Park, 8951 SW 52nd Ave., West Des Moines, **September 28 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** Come support your camp and relive great camp memories.

An Evening with the Bishop

Join Bishop Michael L. Burk for a time of conversation and fellowship on **Tuesday, September 17, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. James Lutheran Church in Johnston.** Listen to his thoughts and hopes for ministry, and share your own stories of life and ministry together in Christ. The theme for the evening flows out of our synod assembly, "When Hungry Hearts Find Bread."



Grace Garden Harvest Time

The harvest is starting to come in, and we've donated over **70 pounds** of food so far. The tomatoes are looking yummy, and the beans along the back fence are really producing. There are some delicious yellow/orange cherry tomatoes in one of the raised beds just outside the garden: taste one and see! We are already looking forward to next year with ideas to make the area even more attractive and watering easier, so stay tuned! In the meantime, we thank Joie Gronert, Julie Honsey, the Carneys, and Mary Jo McCleary who have all spent time watering this past month. (and especially Joie with her weed-containing cardboard donations.)

2013 Governor's Volunteer Award

We are excited to announce that Grace received this award for outstanding commitment and service at a recognition ceremony on June 27. Thank you to our faithful volunteers for their time and dedication to this valuable program for those experiencing memory loss. Check out the article about the program on the women's board bulletin board and the award certificate on the office bulletin board. Hats off to our faithful volunteers! For more information on the program, go to the links section at www.gracedm.org.



Valerie Culp, Julie Honsey, and Ardis Schmelzer receive the award on behalf of all First Circle Friends volunteers at Grace.

Check out these testimonials about the program and our volunteers:

"I don't know how to thank you all enough. The volunteers are my friends; the other participants are my dear friends. My life would not be the same without these wonderful people." **Joe N., First Circle Friends Participant**

"He had a great time! He's planning on coming back. He said he was waited on like a king! He loved visiting with everyone and thought the train guy was interesting and had a great voice. He didn't complain about the chicken salad sandwich, which I can never get him to eat at home!" **Barb D, First Circle Friends Caregiver**

My name is **Cannady Fritzjunker** and I am the **Service Coordinator at Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) for the First Circle Friends (FCF) program**. I have been a social worker for more than 20 years and I have to say I am most proud of what is happening here at Grace.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to the congregation for supporting and welcoming this new ministry. We know it isn't always easy to take a risk on something that has not been done before, but you have embraced this program. We have been impressed with the kindness of all who walk through the halls of Grace. I am inspired and rejuvenated every time I spend the day with the volunteers and the participants at a FCF site day. The volunteers have such passion and enthusiasm for the work they are doing and the participants and care partners truly feel cared for and are appreciative of FCF. Without volunteers this program would not exist and I feel blessed to get to spend time here, at Grace. Whenever talking to a family about this program I can truly say that the quality of care is exceptional and that is very important to people who are leaving their loved one with strangers for a day. I am fortunate that I get to hear, on a regular basis, an abundance of thank you's. So I just wanted to say THANK YOU, Grace Lutheran Church!

If you have any questions about the program, please call me at 515-271-7408 or email me at Cannady.fritzjunker@LSIowa.org

Lunch assistance needed

Do you have one to one and a half hours to give on the first or third Thursday of each month, or occasionally, to help with lunch set-up and serving? Meals are provided by Sherry Madison, our daycare cook, so the assistance is mainly a matter of getting the supplies ready and helping with the serving and clean up, although we do sometimes serve our own simple meals. Interested? Contact Stephanie Johnson at 276-6873 or stephaniejohnson@q.com.

Volunteer to provide food, supplies and more

We have a current list of individuals who have offered to provide food for the First Circle Friends group, but we can use more. We will contact you approximately 10 days before a session in which we are asking for your contribution. If that date isn't good for you, no worries; we'll try you another time. Depending on the theme of the day, we may ask for a specific food item, or we may leave it up to you.

We also have a list of those who have offered to contribute supplies or have a hobby to discuss with the group; but, again, we can use more. If you would like to be on that list, let us know, and someone from our team will be contacting you for more information when we have a need for your help. If you have an interest in any or all of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Connie Heuton at heutoncl@aol.com or 515-229-2035.

New This Year - Seasons of Song

Men of Grace Music Team – ages 14 to adult, rehearsals Sept. 4-Oct

Chancel Choir – All men & women, ages 14-adult, rehearsals Oct. 23-Dec

Festival Choir – Special cantata with Immanuel Methodist, all men & women, ages 14-adult, rehearsals Jan. 12-March

Women of Grace Music Team - ages 14 to adult, rehearsals Jan. 8-Feb

Chancel Choir - Leading worship during Lent and Easter Sunday, all men & women, ages 14-adult, rehearsals begins March 12

Crossroads – Contemporary worship team of singers, guitarists, bass players and drummers, rehearsals April 23-May

Each ensemble will rehearse and lead worship for approximately 6-8 weeks during the programmatic year, beginning with the new music ensemble, Men of Grace. This will give members, friends and people in the surrounding community a change to sing with us for as many “seasons” as you like...one season or more. Join us! Please watch the E-News, bulletin and coming newsletters for any updates to rehearsal schedules.

Sherry Kocek, Director of Ensembles

Helpful Scheduling Reminder

Grace is a busy place, especially on Sunday mornings. With several groups and Bible studies that take place, please remember to contact the office before scheduling your activity, class, or meeting for Sundays or during the week. This keeps us informed with what is going on and also enables us to determine an available space for you. We may be aware of things occurring that might conflict with your activity. Please contact Jackie Holmes at 276-6873 or graceluth5@msn.com. Thank you for your help with this important communication piece.

Worship Volunteers Are Welcome

Have you considered becoming a worship volunteer? There are a variety of ways in which you can serve – Lectors, Communion Assistants, Liturgists, and Sound Board. There is a sign-up book at Volunteer Central in the Gathering Hall, and training is provided. We are also looking for a new coordinator for Communion Assistants and Lectors. Questions about any of these service opportunities? Contact Stephanie Johnson at stephaniejohnson@q.com, and she can point you toward the right person. Thanks for your ministry!

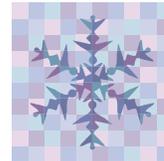
Monthly Volunteer Schedule Now a Dinosaur

We will no longer publish the Volunteer Schedule in the monthly *Friendly Visitor*. Communication advances enable folks to change scheduled dates so fast, it is impossible to publish on a monthly basis and be accurate.

Heads of volunteer groups such as Ushers, Counters, Liturgists, Lectors, Communion Assistants, Acolytes and Sunday Coffee Servers need to let their volunteers know when they will serve. When changes are made to the schedule, please let Michelle Voelker voelker1@mchsi.com know for the weekly bulletins. We will still maintain the Volunteer Signup book at Volunteer Central in the Gathering Hall.

Cherubs at Grace!

Hey Moms and Dads..... Calling all 3-year-olds/preschoolers to second grade singers. Cherub Choir at Grace is starting Wednesday, September 11th at 5:00 p.m. We will learn rhythm, melody and especially songs about Jesus. We will sing once a month at church. If you are in Sunday School or a student of Grace Kids' Care, bring a friend and come out and sing with us. Contact Sherry Kocek, Director of Ensembles at Grace for more information: skocek@msn.com or 309-536-0962 (cell).



Thank you from Sandy Hook Elementary School in CT:

Last December after the tragedy at Sandy Hook, the school invited anyone interested to send snowflakes to decorate their new space and to remind each child of their uniqueness. Our **Super Wednesday Kids' Hour** gang sent a bunch, and we recently received the following note from the school. It is posted on the bulletin board by the library.

“Thank you for your heartfelt, generous, and thoughtful contribution to Snowflakes for Sandy Hook. Because of your efforts and many others, we received snowflakes of all shapes, sizes and forms from schools, PTAs, community centers, and families across the country and around the world. Sandy Hook students, staff and families have been the recipient of a blizzard of love and support in the form of snowflakes, and we could not be more thankful! Our community has taken great comfort in the global outpouring of support from wonderful people like you. We will always treasure our blizzard of love. Thank you for your kindness.”

Sandy Hook Elementary School PTA

Celebration Sunday

September 8, 2013

Circle **Sept. 8** on your calendar, mark **10 a.m.** as the time service starts in Tower Park, and start preparing for fun!

The details

- **Worship on September 8 will be at 10 a.m. (not 9 a.m.) at Tower Park on Hickman Road and 50th street in Des Moines.**
- **A shuttle bus will run continuously between Grace and the park from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. since parking is limited at the location.**
- **Burgers, brats, and beverages will be provided**
- **The rest of the meal will be potluck. No signups needed, simply bring your favorite dishes/salads/desserts. Yes, your dish may ride with you on the shuttle; so can your chairs.**
- **Chairs? *Some* chairs will be brought over to the park from the church, and there are a few picnic tables, but not many. If you can, bring your own lawn chairs and/or blankets.**
- **What to do after the worship and food?**
 - **Share in some friendly banter.**
 - **Bring your favorite lawn games to share.**
 - **Clowns, balloons, and face painting!**
 - **Marshmallow Golf!**
 - **Visit the playground.**