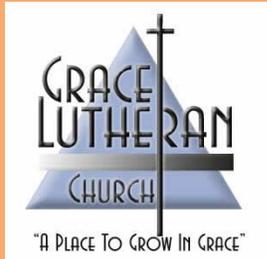


# The Friendly Visitor

## Grace Lutheran Church

October 22, 2013



### Contact Us!

Pastor Michael Schmidt  
[revschmidt@live.com](mailto:revschmidt@live.com)

Director of Laity Ministries  
Stephanie Johnson  
[stephaniejohnson@g.com](mailto:stephaniejohnson@g.com)

Director of Music Ministries  
Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg  
[jennwohlenhaus@yahoo.com](mailto:jennwohlenhaus@yahoo.com)

Director of Ensembles  
Sherry Kocek [skocek@msn.com](mailto:skocek@msn.com)

Grace Kids' Care Director  
Heather Nelson  
[heathernelsondc@msn.com](mailto:heathernelsondc@msn.com)  
276-0943

Office Administrator  
Jacquelyn Holmes  
[graceluth5@msn.com](mailto:graceluth5@msn.com)

Office Assistant  
Michelle Voelker  
[rvoelker1@mchsi.com](mailto:rvoelker1@mchsi.com)

Custodian  
Todd Haugen 515-708-3758

Office 276-6873  
Fax 276-4048  
[www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)

### Inside This Issue...

Page 2...Birthdays, Anniversaries,  
Super Wednesday Schedule  
Page 3...Memorials, Congratulations,  
Financial info  
Page 4...Council Minutes  
Page 5,6,7...News & Coming Events  
Page 8...Grace Garden Harvest

### For the saints who from their labors now rest...

Helen Richards  
Betty Maycock  
The Rev. Delmar Niemuth  
Arlene Janson  
Sandra Roehrick  
Cleone Oberg  
Arthur Berven  
Palma Williams  
Donald Peterson

**Revelation 21:2-4:** *And I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."*

Weeks like this the sting of death is easy to feel. My heart stings for each of these saints listed above, and for others associated with our community of faith, Jill Wineinger, Alan Janson, and so many others. I miss them and am not alone. These saints touched so many lives. A friend recently asked me "How do you do it, do all those funerals? Doesn't it bring you down?" The answer is simple. We do get down, but we do not stay there. Death does not get the last word. Nothing in this world gets the last word. That word is God's to give, and that word is "life." On weeks like this I cling to words like these, a poem by John Donne.

#### Death Be Not Proud

*Death, be not proud, though some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;  
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow  
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.  
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,  
Much pleasure - then, from thee much more must flow;  
And soonest our best men with thee do go,  
Rest of their bones and soul's delivery.  
Thou'rt slave to fate, chance, kings and desperate men,  
And dost with poison, war and sickness dwell;  
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well,  
And better than thy stroke. Why swell'st thou then?  
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,  
And death shall be no more. Death thou shalt die.*

In Christ,  
Pastor Mike

### **Happy Birthday!**

November 1	Carlyle Peterson Zelma Wilson
2	Mike Peterman
3	Tara Royster
4	Bradley W. Nelson Gabriella Artzer Aubrie Stickrod
5	Sally Thielking
6	Lou Grotheer Benjamin Gronert
7	Rev. David Cline
8	Austin Schaller
9	Beverly Petty
11	Gary Scholten Emily Dungan Yaritza Marquez
12	Randy Taylor Zoe Noel Lawson
13	Kurt Bowermaster Jason Bradwell Zachary Jensen
14	Larry Buell Linda Moravec Carol Mattes Kristene Shortell
15	Wilma Frost Gary Batten Mark Ridnour
16	Joseph Kennebeck Haley Dostalick Emma Mattes
17	Lyle Black Gloria Moon Madison Robbins
18	Richard Hirschauer Susan Johnson
19	Nick Medhurst
21	Kelley Riordan
22	Zachary Kulzer
23	Ashley Lund
24	Harriett Pearson Jon Rissman Nicholas Scholten Renee Dingman
25	Dorothy Jensen Rev. Douglas Johnson Kerry Riordan
26	Paul Thielking Virginia Wangerin Carol Woodruff Laura Wangerin Peter Kiefer Jessica Rissman
29	Edward Ridnour Karinne Harmon
30	Angie Hidalgo Joshua Cline

### **Happy Anniversary!**

November 5	Howard & Rachel Welty
7	Paul & Alexson Calahan
10	Achmed & Joan Johnson
13	Gary & Ellen Batten
20	Gary & Melinda Scholten
22	Marvin & Lorna Johns
26	Todd & Barbara Burley Frank & Colleen McKinney
27	Anthony & Tara Royster
28	Vernon & Helen Fanning Neal & Sandra Meyer

### **NEW Super Wednesday Schedule**

5:00-5:30 p.m.	Youth Choir (vocal choir) in the Choir Room (Grades 3-6)
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Supper served in Grace Hall I
5:30 p.m.	Book Discussion in Library
6:00-6:30 p.m.	Praise Bells Intermediate Bell Choir (handbell choir) in the Bell Room
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 (9 <sup>th</sup> grade & up)
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir in the Choir Room

### **Changes to the Schedule**

- Cherub Choir and Beginner Bell Choir have been cancelled for the remainder of the season.
- Beginning November 20, Youth Choir will be open to grades 3-8.

### **Adult Forum Schedule**

October 27.....	Reformation Hymn Sing
November 3...	Malaria SWAT Team
10..	Kitchen Talk
17..	Lutheran Services in Iowa
24..	"Thanksgiving Fellowship"





### **Congratulations to Amy Schmelzer**

Amy won the Upper Midwest Regional Emmy Award in the category of Director – Newcast, Live or Live-to-Tape. Amy has won an Emmy award for three years in a row for her work at KCCI TV 8 News. The ceremony was held on Saturday, September 28, in Minneapolis. We are very proud of you, Amy.

### **In Loving Memory**

**Palma Christine Williams**, 94, passed away at Altoona Nursing & Rehabilitation Center on October 1, 2013. Palma was born on a farm near Exira and stayed on the farm helping and caring for her parents until the death of her father. In 1963 she and her mother moved to Des Moines and joined Grace Lutheran Church. She remained a member of Grace for 48 years. Palma married Burl Williams in 1973; he passed away three years later. Palma worked in housekeeping and lived on her own until May of 2013 with the help of her long-time care taker and niece, Beatrice Sandquist. Five sisters preceded her in death. Palma’s funeral was held at Grace on October 5 with burial at McDivitt Grove Cemetery.

**Donald “Pete” Peterson**, 83, died from complications of COPD on October 15, 2013. Donald was surrounded by his family at the time of his death. He served in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953 and enjoyed his work in radio and TV and also as a sales representative, retiring from Sears in 2003. Donald married Gladys Sunde in 1953 and together they raised a family of five daughters. He is survived by his wife; daughters Martha (Jim) Ludeking, Sara (Steve) Merkey, Karen Bandy, Deana (Jim) Jacobs and Ann Ruckdashchel; 16 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

### **Des Moines Half Marathon and Marathon Runners**

Congratulations to the people who ran in the Des Moines Half Marathon and the Marathon races on Sunday, October 20. We are so proud of your accomplishment.



**Lutheran World Relief**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

### **LWR Thanks You!**

Wow! We had a great response to our fall drive for Lutheran World Relief. We are sending 217 items, including 101 school kits, 11 fabric (sewing) kits, 50 personal care kits, 30 baby care kits, and 25 quilts. A total of \$760.00 has been received, and more is rolling in. Thanks to all who participated.



## **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™**

### **Double Your Dollars**

Thrivent Financial has a long history of congregational involvement, and our members love to support their congregations – it’s the common choice for members when directing Choice Dollars. So, Thrivent is especially excited to announce the Thrivent Choice Double Direction Church Campaign, now through November 30, 2013.

All Choice Dollars directed to enrolled churches will be **doubled** during this time or until \$15 million has been awarded, **whichever comes first**.

If you are a Thrivent member with Choice Dollars to direct, please take advantage of this “Double Your Dollars” campaign from Thrivent and direct your dollars to Grace Lutheran Church. Our Choice Dollars are being used to support First Circle of Friends and Companion Congregation.

You can make your direction online by using the Thrivent website, [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or by calling the Member Connection Center at 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice.” When prompted again, say “Choice Dollars.” For faster service have your Thrivent member ID or contract number available. If you have questions please contact one of our advocates: *Norm & Lenora Iverson, Ardis Schmelzer, Moe Nielsen, Carter Woodruff and Stephanie Johnson.*

Thank You!!

### **Finance Report – September Results**

Financial results for September YTD are as follows:

- Offerings ..... Actual \$334,154  
Budget \$326,550
- Other Income .. Actual \$11,729  
Budget \$11,763
- Expenses ..... Actual \$334,894  
Budget \$343,789
- Net activity ..... Actual \$11,350  
Budget \$(5,475)

Actual net activity was favorable to budget. Pledged offerings and unpledged activity is above budget – continued thanks! 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 tax for a portion of the year.

## **Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting 9-24-13 at 7:00 PM**

Present: Rich Snyder, Karri Brandsfield, Stacie Holst, Mary Helt, Pastor Mike, Ardis Schmelzer, Kristin Medhurst and Carla Peterman

Meeting was called to order with a prayer by Pastor Mike

Agenda was accepted as written

Minutes from the August meeting were accepted as written

Written reports were accepted as written

- It was mentioned in the lay ministry report with the recent storm keeping the disaster/emergency response plan on the agenda. It was mentioned that maybe Grace could be helpful to the surrounding community in some shape or form should another storm/disaster occur.
- Pastor Mike brought up concerns about average worship attendance. He will be bringing some suggestions/ideas to our next council meeting about staffing and technology to make Grace more member & visitor friendly.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Emergency Business Continuity Plan will continue to be an on-going discussion.

Pastor Mike will be sending out e-mails to the pictorial committee in the next couple of weeks to figure what their next plan of action will be.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Council has approved a motion to allow the Confirmation kids to raise money for the Hunger Hike on October 13, 2013 between services on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup>.

We need the current council to come up with a list of council nominees by November. We are needing to come up with 4 new council members this year to replace the three current members that will be going off plus the 1 open spot that was not filled last year.

We need to get budgets from the current committees by October so we can start working on the budget for next year.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

No new announcements for the month

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held October 22nd.

Respectfully submitted,

Karri Brandsfield, Secretary

### **Altar Guild Meeting**

The Altar Guild will be meeting at **9:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 10**, in Grace Hall 2. We will be discussing plans for the remainder of the year as well as signups for 2014.

The Altar Guild is in need of additional members for 2014. If you are interested in learning more about the Altar Guild, we invite you to attend the meeting. If you have questions please contact Sue Anderson, 279-2690 or Gail Peterson, 224-4514.



**Combat Hunger** is a community-wide food and fund drive, sponsored by the Food Bank of Iowa, providing lowans in need with food during the harsh winter months and increasing awareness of Iowa's critical hunger problem. Today, 1 in 8 lowans are food insecure, meaning they lack the resources to live an adequate and healthy lifestyle. Even more alarming, 1 in 5 Iowa children does not have enough to eat. You can help by donating to Grace's food drive from October 27 – November 17, 2013.

There will be a "Combat Hunger" display in the Gathering Hall beginning October 27<sup>th</sup>. If you wonder what to donate or what is most needed, a list of the 20 most needed items will be listed on the display. **Please drop off your donations anytime between October 27<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup>.** On November 20<sup>th</sup> the Confirmation kids will be packaging the food for delivery to the Food Bank of Iowa.



### **Hospitality Ministry Opportunity at First Circle Friends**

Do you enjoy serving meals with others? Do you have 2-4 hours a month to give? Please consider helping with lunch preparations and serving on First Circle Friends days at Grace. This is a program that serves people with early- to mid-stage memory loss through two days of stimulating activities each month. We are currently seeking volunteers to help with lunch on the first and/or third Thursdays of the month from about 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. No need to plan the meals – that is done by other First Circle volunteers. You need only come to prepare (minimal), set up, serve, and clean up. Interested? Contact Stephanie Johnson at 276-6873 or [stephaniejohnson@q.com](mailto:stephaniejohnson@q.com).

### **Stewardship Thought**

On behalf of the Church Council, the Stewardship Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you for growing together and taking a stewardship journey with us over the past year. Our understanding is critical that all we have is God's and stewardship is an opportunity to be generous with these gifts. Experiencing an abundant life includes being a good steward and faithfully responding with your commitment. Your sharing of God's gifts, both financially and through time & talents, provides the support to our Church's mission here at Grace and in the world.

For all of you that have responded throughout the year with countless hours of time and sharing of your talents, we thank you.

For those who have completed their intent card for 2014 for sharing of finances, we also thank you. If you have not yet completed your intent card, we ask that you give it prayerful consideration and turn into the office as soon as possible. Additional cards are available at the church office.

### **Take the Bite Out of Malaria**

In the month of November, our congregation will focus on malaria, the disease that zaps the economic strength of poverty-ridden countries in Africa, kills a child every minute, keeps families in a cycle of poverty, and is almost entirely preventable. The Grace Malaria Task Force plans to lead educational offerings, provide worship opportunities, and emphasize fundraising November 3-24.

Take the opportunity on each of those Sundays to try out a mosquito bed net, watch informational videos, play Malaria Jeopardy, and prayerfully consider a meaningful donation to the ELCA Malaria Campaign Fund.

If you have coins in your malaria bank, bring them and put them in the Malaria Offering Jar on Sundays. Make as joyful a noise to the Lord as you can by jingling your quarters into the offering plate on November 10. Pick up a Malaria Campaign envelope from the pews to make a meaningful donation. Purchase a crocheted net scrubby in the Gathering Hall to help scrub out malaria. Donate your pop cans and bottles to the can drive.



### **Together, we will smash, and then exceed our congregational goal of \$5,000!**

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Malaria Task Force members:

Brad Lint  
Carol Woodruff  
Melissa Kallenbach  
Mary Freimuth Helt  
Stephanie Johnson  
Gail Peterson  
Cathy Barks

Thanks for your support!



**Looking for good-quality furniture donations for High School Room**

**Needs**

1 or 2 sofas or loveseats

Contact Eric Weber if you have questions,  
515-210-6960



**Grace Holiday  
Worship Services, Concerts  
and Group Events  
to Look Forward to...**

**Mark your calendar and watch for details on these events in the Friendly Visitor, the weekly bulletins and the weekly E-News.**

**November 27**

**7 p.m.**

Combined Thanksgiving Worship Service with Immanuel Methodist Church, held this year at Immanuel.

**December 1**

**5 p.m.**

Grace Fellowship (formerly Senior Members) Annual Christmas Dinner and Program. Reservations required & there is a charge for the dinner.

**December 6**

**7:30 p.m.**

Southwestern Community College Chamber Singers Holiday Concert at Grace

**December 8**

**6 p.m.** Bells, Brass and Chancel Choir Christmas Concert with dessert bar to follow.

**December 12**

**9:30 a.m.**

Grace Women's Martha Circle Christmas Party & combined Nov/Dec meeting

**6:30-9 p.m.** Embroidery Guild Holiday Party

**December 15**

**10:45 a.m. Worship Service**

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

**December 17**

**7 p.m.**

Grace Kids' Care Christmas Program

**Christmas Holy Communion Worship Services**

**5, 7 and 11:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve

**10 a.m.** Christmas Day

**2014 Endowment Fund Applications**

The Endowment Fund has monies available for certain capital projects and other non-operational needs. The applications are available in the Church office and are due January 31, 2014. Please contact Kevin Krause with any questions you have on the application process.

**Grace Fellowship Holiday Dinner  
December 1 at 5 p.m.**

Sign up between services November 10, 17, and 24. The fee of \$10.00 will cover a delicious dinner of turkey, ham balls, all the trimmings, and a mystery dessert provided by the committee. **Plus** a program of music featuring our own Adam Dostalick and his dad! Plan to come and enjoy.

**Bible Study Groups are Meeting**

**Tuesdays:** The *Good and Beautiful God* Book group is meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays through **November 5** in the Café area. Contact Julie Honsey at [jhlreader@aol.com](mailto:jhlreader@aol.com)

**Sundays:** The *Good and Beautiful God* Book group will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays starting **October 27** with our last session being Sunday, **December 8** in the Café area.

Contact Cherie Rissman at [cherierissman@gmail.com](mailto:cherierissman@gmail.com)

**Help Needed to Make Quilts**

Our Thursday morning quilters are in need of helpers. They make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and other worthwhile causes. No extraordinary skills are needed, just come with a sense of humor and prepare to have fun. We meet on Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. all year long. If you can't make it on a regular basis, just come when you are able. Please call Kathy Piltingsrud at 279-1934 for more information.



**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Hope for the Hungry  
Feed \* Empower \* Advocate  
Alleviate Childhood Hunger by 2015 in the  
Greater Des Moines Area**

Are you interested in local efforts to address hunger in the Des Moines area? This engaging annual conference includes a keynote speaker and a variety of breakout sessions. Choose the interest area of your choice and attend the related breakout sessions. For more information, go to [www.hopeforthehungry.blogspot.com](http://www.hopeforthehungry.blogspot.com).

**November 16, 2013, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran Church**

Sponsored by the Coalition in Support of Hungry Children  
Registration Fee: Early/\$15.00, Late/\$30.00

The Social Ministry team will pay the early registration fee for up to 4 people interested in attending the Hope for the Hungry Conference. The deadline for the early registration fee is November 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Julie Honsey at [jhlreader@aol.com](mailto:jhlreader@aol.com) or 282-8817.



**Grace Kids' Care participated in National Fire Prevention Week October 6-12.**

Teachers made a cut-out fire truck from a cardboard box and the kids had a great time walking it around the church. The Des Moines Fire Department presented a Fire Education Program and the kids got an up-close look at a real fire truck complete with a brief blast from the siren! The kids made red fire hats and proudly wore them for the firemen ... a fun and educational experience.



**Grace Kids Care  
is Hiring Afternoon  
Associates and Substitutes**

**Come join the Grace Kids Care team  
and work with children ages infant  
through preschool in a warm and  
caring environment.**

**Contact Heather at  
[heathernelsondc@msn.com](mailto:heathernelsondc@msn.com) or  
276-0943 for more information**

**Join the Conversation**

Please join with others in your area for a conversation about our future together in the Southeastern Iowa Synod. The purpose of these conversations is to share ideas and hopes about being the church together in this corner of the ELCA. Your participation will benefit the leaders of this synod, the participants in your group, and hopefully, all the people whose lives are touched by the ministries of the Southeastern Iowa Synod. Each conversation will last no longer than 1 hour. Local conversations that will take place include the following:

**Thursday, November 14**

St. James Lutheran Church  
Johnston, IA  
11:30 a.m.

**Sunday, November 17**

Conference 10 and 11 Assembly  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Des Moines, IA  
3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 19**

St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
Urbandale, IA  
7:00 p.m.

**\*\*\*\*\* Grace Volunteers Go Online! \*\*\*\*\***

OK, so we've had an online presence for some time now, but we will soon be trying something new with our volunteer sign-up process for Communion assistants, lectors, and coffee servers. We are hoping it will be a quick and easy process which will allow you to sign up from the convenience of your home, computer, or phone. In short, if you currently have email, you will soon have the opportunity to sign up for the above mentioned ministries simply by clicking on a link, seeing available openings, and submitting some basic information. Stay tuned for information about the process if that hasn't already gone out by the time of this newsletter.

Don't fear, though – we are aware that not everyone has email or computer access, so we will still be continuing the sign-up book in the Gathering Hall and will coordinate those sign-ups with the online site.

Please be patient as we unroll this new process since we are likely to encounter glitches along the way. We will do our best to make this process go as smoothly as possible.



### ***Harvest Time in the Grace Garden***

**242 pounds**

**Tomatoes, onions, sweet potatoes, radishes, beans, green peppers,  
hot peppers, cabbages, zucchini, cucumbers, lettuce, oregano.**

**242 pounds!** That is what Grace Garden donated to the Food Pantry this year. It might not sound like much, but 2 pounds of sweet potatoes can serve 4 as a side dish, packed with Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Calcium, and fiber. One tomato (providing vitamin E, Thiamin, Niacin, Vitamin B6, Folate, Magnesium, Phosphorus and Copper, as well as smaller amounts of fiber and other vitamins) paired with a can of tuna from the Food Pantry makes a very healthy and filling meal. Four large tomatoes with an onion and 2 cans of chicken or vegetable broth can make tomato soup for a family of 6. One tomato, one pepper, one onion (roughly one pound in weight) with a little cilantro or basil makes salsa for a summery treat many on food assistance can't afford.

242 pounds does not sound like much, but it means we provided produce to at least 100 families that may not have had access to fresh food. Produce is an most expensive item -- out of reach for most families that need assistance, so every piece of produce counts, adding excitement and a different flavor to simple, inexpensive items.

We certainly had hopes of higher yields, but the early wet spring and hot summer slowed the plants and made it difficult for struggling plants to flower and fruit as they struggled just to survive. Many faith and school gardens are sharing the same story this year. The cardboard, though unsightly, helped immensely in keeping our plants moist – as well as limiting weeds. Next year we would like to try mulch in the form of leaves. If you mulch and bag your leaves, bring your bags to us and set them inside the garden gate. If you use the cheaper non-city bags or even plastic bags, you save money in disposal, our garden plants will thrive, and the garden won't look quite as messy. Fall garden cleanup will be easier, and the remaining mulch will improve our soil, as it can be tilled in each spring.

We also have plans for a watering system which will allow us to spend more time weeding and harvesting and less time watering. We plan to add more herbs to the boxes, and rich leafy greens such as kale and Swiss Chard that can be harvested all summer long without replanting. Our test plot of sweet potatoes was a success, so we hope to plant more next year. We are also planning to add some wildflowers along the fence for both beauty and practical uses. Wildflowers will attract natural pollinators like moths and butterflies, increasing our yield over time, and they will help choke out weeds at the fence line.

We have 4 eggplant plants that are just now really thriving. We would like to pot these for you to take home and care for inside through the winter. You can keep the fruit, or donate it, no strings. We just want to see the plants we babied produce! Contact the office.

A HUGE "Thank You" to Joie Gronert and Julie Honsey for their tireless work this summer and fall, especially Joie. Between you and me, I think she's racked up more Active Grace miles than anyone, out there in the garden this summer!

*Michelle Voelker, RD, reporting*