

The Friendly Visitor

June 24, 2014

Sunday Services
8:15 a.m. & 9:45 a.m.

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Confirmation by Storm??

It has been a rough week to be here at Lutheran Lakeside Camp. I am sitting in the Lodge, on a Thursday morning, and am witnessing the youth absolutely exhausted. The events of the week have taken their toll and the attitude seems to have shifted from one of fun and excitement, wondering what fun activity would happen next, to one of simply struggling to stay awake...almost an attitude of perseverance. This is not just the campers. The counselors and staff seem to be struggling to persevere as well.

This week has been one of storms...literal, nasty, tornadoes and lightning, thunder loud enough to shake the cabin, storms. It all started Monday afternoon. The counselors had a sense of responsible alertness as the campers were gathered to safe places until the "all clear" was sounded. At first it seemed fun. In fact, it was an enjoyable experience singing some of the sillier camp songs in the storm shelter. It almost felt as though we were reenacting the occasion of Paul and Silas singing hymns in the prison. There was nothing that would break our spirits! The all clear was sounded. Everyone burst forth into the world, triumphant, and ready for the rest of the day.

It didn't last long. About two hours later the rain started and the radar looked grim. The campers and counselors gathered in the large storm shelter next to the dining hall, and prepared for what might come. The mood matched the lesson for the day, Advent. We waited and it was every bit what the radar indicated. Straight winds blew 4 inches of rain sideways into everything. Most of Spirit Lake lost power. Water was coming in anywhere there was enough space for air. The campers and counselors spent the night slumber party style in the storm shelter. The pastors and other workers stayed in the lodge with a close eye on the radar. Phone calls were exchanged between workers from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Wayne, Nebraska. By the expressions on their faces, we knew it wasn't good. The destruction by the tornadoes near Pilger took out neighbors' and friends' homes. Those saints who from their labors now rest were people that they knew.

Merry Christmas. That was the theme as we emerged from shelter. Trees were down. Branches were everywhere. The town was dark. Camp was dark except for a few portions of the Dining Hall running off of the generator. Merry Christmas. We embraced a new day. We found rest in the Incarnation of Christ, knowing that in Christ all things are made new. Things were looking brighter in the glow of Christmas.

Then came Lent like a lion. Actually, it was a tornado warning near Spencer at 1:30 in the morning. Everyone ran to the storm shelter under the dining hall. The night was spent in the storm shelter, again. The lesson for the day was Lent under the heading "Trials," and indeed it was a day of trials. The campers cheered when it was proclaimed that the All Camp Activity that morning would be sleep. The campers endured the day. They learned of the trials of Christ through the Christ Hike. Christ was crucified and buried. Enter tornado watch. The campers were buried with Christ, in the form of a storm shelter for the THIRD night in a row.

Today, it is Easter. It is a time filled with hope in the resurrection of Christ. Yet we are all cautiously optimistic. It is a new day, but the clouds look dark and rain is not far away. It is truly living the Easter reality. Christ is risen. We are risen with him, but that does not mean that everything will be perfect. Sometimes life happens. Christ is present anyway. Tomorrow we are sent forth in the Spirit with Pentecost. Life is changed. May we all embrace that truth. Life in Christ is a changed life.

Pastor Mike

July Birthdays

July 1	Carl Feilmann Michael Nizzi Matthew Johnson
2	Drew Tillotson
3	Dale Bordt Marilyn Anderson
4	Sawyer Shiffler
7	Rosella Dingman
8	Donna Trickle
9	T. Dean Culp Carleigh Ridnour Henry Jordahl
11	Kristina Hutton Rebecca Lewis
12	Melissa Petty
13	Amy Westercamp Joshua Sherer
14	Stacy Walters Matthew Harbaugh Eric Selander Heather Honnold Bailey Woodruff
15	Serena Helton Rebecca Harmon Hannah Jensen
16	Melinda Scholten
17	Einar Christianson Lucille Krauss Jayne Mortenson Christie Rosheim
18	Bradley Nelson Anders Nelson
19	Deanna Snyder James Dwayne Holmes
20	Lucius Chapman Krista Nelson Martha Kalewoun
21	Christian Culp
22	Kathryn Schaller
23	Pat Bordt Linda Biegger
24	Jacob Gibney Declan Holst
25	Justin Andersen
26	Morgan Mortenson
27	Jeff Robbins
29	Genaro Ruiz
30	Gary Denton

July Anniversaries

July 3	Brian & Cathy Barks
8	Josh & Ashley Lund
9	Douglas & Stephanie Johnson
9	Scott & Amy Neal
14	James Dwayne & Jacquelyn Holmes
15	Bill & Rhonda Jensen
15	Rev. Michael & Jenie Schmidt
17	Joseph & Brescia Berg
20	Justin & Katherine Scholl
21	Tim & Loree Nelson
23	Richard & Virginia Naney
24	Michael & Penny Hansen



Grace Diaper Drive

Thank you for your participation in the Grace Diaper Drive for DMARC Diaper Central. The week of May 25 a total of 1,381 diapers plus wipes were delivered to the DMARC warehouse. In addition to the diapers and wipes, \$130 in donations were also received.

Social Ministry Invites You to Help

The Social Ministry Team would like to invite you to partner with us in providing support for those among our community of faith who are experiencing times of personal or family need. The team is compiling a list of volunteers who would be willing to provide meals, and other types of support during these times. The support would be determined by the member in need through consultation with Pastor Schmidt or the Social Ministry Team, and address the specific needs imposed by the situation. If you are willing to be part of this support group by agreeing to be on our list of people to call, contact Joie Gronert at 515-210-2057 or jgronert1@hotmail.com.

Growing Is Stewardship, Growing In Stewardship

Most members of Grace are probably aware of the presence of a garden on the north side of our church, but we may not have all recognized what a beautiful example of stewardship this garden is. A very dedicated group of our members spend huge amounts of time preparing, weeding, planting, weeding, watering, weeding and harvesting our garden. Gardening, like farming in general, is an act of faith, efforts expended in the hope of reaping a harvest. The goal of this garden however is not a monetary profit or personal subsistence but to help others in need.

Occasionally a (cute little bunny) (voracious, destructive pest) (pick one) gets in and eats some things. The majority of the produce will go either to our members who cannot obtain these items on their own, or else to people we don't know and will probably never meet. This is truly an act of selflessness by these garden workers, a true act of stewardship in sharing these gifts from God with others. We can all be very proud of our garden workers.

A small group of Grace members are meeting this summer to discuss the book ***Patrix, The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint*** written by Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber.

It is not too late to join us! We welcome you as we discuss Nadia's journey from a path of self-destruction to an entirely different path overflowing with God's glory.

We meet Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Hall. Below is a schedule of the chapters being discussed.

June 30: chapters 7 and 8

July 7: chapters 9 & 10

July 14: chapters 11 & 12

July 21: chapters 13 & 14

July 28: chapters 15 & 16

Aug. 4: chapters 17, 18 & 19

For further details or questions, please contact

Cherie Rissman 270-0278 (cherierissman@gmail.com)

Finance Report – May Results

Financial results for May YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$183,020, Budget \$187,688
- Other Income – Actual \$7,170, Budget \$6,958
- Expenses – Actual \$197,387, Budget \$194,075
- Net activity – Actual (\$7,197), Budget \$570

Actual net activity was unfavorable to budget. This was primarily due to offerings below budget and expense activity above budget. Overages in utilities and property maintenance were offset by numerous areas under budget due to timing.

Missing Book From the Library

If you have borrowed the memoir titled, "Pastrix" by Nadia Bolz-Weber, please let either Marion Nehmer or Inga Hoifeldt know. It was borrowed without leaving the checkout card. We can avoid purchasing another copy if we are notified who has it. Thank you.

Malaria News

If you were wondering what happened to our contributions to the Anti-Malaria Fund, here is a short version of a long report of changes which have already occurred:

VHTs (Village Health Team members) who bring malaria care to households in Katakwi District, Uganda, shared a striking "State of the Community Report". The Lutheran World Federation-Uganda (LWF) created lasting and positive change.

Before LWF came in:

1. Malaria was rampant.
2. Pregnant mothers, people living with HIV and AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children rarely accessed services from the Health Center.
3. People didn't know what causes malaria or how to prevent and treat it.
4. Few hygiene and sanitation facilities; many cultural myths.
5. Few used malaria and HIV tests.
6. Didn't know Neem trees act as repellants to mosquitoes.
7. VHTs lacked training.

State of the community after LWF introduced the Malaria Programme:

1. LWF trained 11 VHTs to work on prevention, testing, and treatment.
2. Taught proper use of LLINs [long-lasting insecticide-treated nets]
3. Prevented malaria- cleared bush, drained water, planted Neem trees, etc.
4. Most vulnerable easily got services from VHTs and health clinic.
5. LWF made it possible to take services to hard-to-reach villages.
6. "Outreaches" [community events to educate, test and treat malaria] at village level and in Primary Schools, radio talk shows, dramas, etc., by LWF increased awareness of risks and treatment and acquisition of sanitation and hygiene facilities, spread information easily. LWF assisted with bringing Village Savings and Loan Associations to help fight poverty.
7. Cases of malaria reported to the Health Center have gone down sharply.



Men in Mission Iowa Cubs Ballgame

Sunday, July 13th, 1:05 p.m.

Iowa Cubs vs Oklahoma City

Ticket sales at Grace

June 29 and July 6

Cost is \$6.00 each

3 & under free

Convenient elevator access to upper level
block of seats



July Is Purposeful Parenting Month

Parenting is one of the hardest jobs a person can ever have. At LSI, we help connect parents with tools, resources and support for success. In our early childhood services, we can even begin supporting parents before their baby is born!

LSI works with parents of all situations—teen parents, foster and adoptive parents, parents working to have their children return home from foster care, parents who are worried about a child in trouble and so many others. In Polk County, LSI even has a special parenting program for parents who are incarcerated and wouldn't otherwise have access to parenting education.

Many of LSI's parenting programs are voluntary. Parents are there because they want to learn. Sometimes they didn't have positive parent role models themselves and want to have a better relationship with their own children. Your caring support of LSI helps so many parents and children build a positive future! LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.



Luther Park Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 3rd, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Brownies & Ice Cream/Fudge Sundaes

Pie & Ice Cream as well as sugar free items.

Free will offering.

**Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting
5-27-14 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Kevin Drury, Pastor Mike, Don Peterson, Eric Weber, Cathy Barks, Mary Helt, Sandy Briggs and Karri Brandsfield

Meeting was called to order by Kevin

Opened the meeting with a devotion – “Breath of God Within Us” and prayer led by Pastor Mike

Agenda was accepted as written

Minutes from the April 29, 2014 meeting were accepted as written

Staff reports and financial reports were accepted as written

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review “Less is Best” handout. Had a discussion about digging deeper into our current committees at Grace to feed energy into them and not just be perpetual in nature. Also had some discussion about what might be missing at Grace. Evangelism was one topic that was brought up.
- Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2014 @ 11:00 AM with lunch provided with free will offering.
 - We will refocus on key findings.
 - Want to promote fellowship within all age groups at Grace.
 - The four major focus areas of focus: worship, fellowship, communication/education & outreach
 - Discussed setting up committee goals for 1 & 3 years and sharing those with the council.
 - Use Grace’s 90th Anniversary in 2017 to promote fellowship here at Grace.
 - Discussed doing more focused based questionnaires.
 - Would like to see prayer included in the four areas of focus.
 - We need to make sure that our actions are intentional.
 - Have a mission theme for all committees to work towards.
 - Would like to see some sort of goal/outcome decided by September 7, 2014 for the start of the programmatic year.
 - Pastor Mike will prepare a handout for the June 8th meeting.
- No new update on the Burmese Community of Faith at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nothing new at this time.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Companion Committee will keep trying for visas. Would like to start the education piece up again. Education Committee working on VBS and confirmation. Property Committee elected a new property chair and are in the process of getting bids for new curbs and gutters. Social Committee had the ice cream social on May 18th and are currently working on the Diaper Drive. Also are working on the church directory but are receiving quit a few questions. Youth Committee is still trying to put together an animal shelter project for June. Evangelism Committee is growing and is up to 7 people now. They are going to meet on Thursday nights instead of Tuesday. They are working on a book study and are starting a prayer journal. Finance Committee is discussing long term planning. Discussed doing a full audit of the books since the last was done in 2008. Pastor will work on getting together with the people who showed interest in helping with the “God’s Work, Our Hands” this month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No new announcements for the month

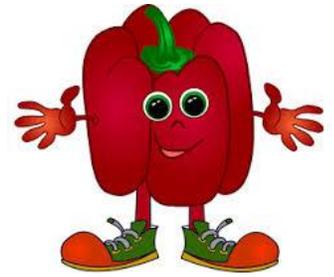
Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. with the Lord’s Prayer. The next meeting will be held June 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karri Brandsfield, Secretary

Extra Bounty for Members of Grace and Grace Kids' Parents and Staff



*As our garden continues to grow
We'll have veggies aplenty to show
Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers to share
For you to embellish recipes with flair.*



*Fresh vegetables are great to eat.
The health benefits can't be beat.
Grace Kids help plant and watch the progress.
They'll know how things grow and won't have to guess.*

*If your garden at home has more than you can eat
Contributions to our veggie stand would be really neat.
The more we share the better we'll be
God will bless us all, don't you agree?*

Written by Joie Gronert

