



The Friendly Visitor

Grace Lutheran Church

September 30, 2014

Fall Worship Schedule
Sunday Services
8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Educational Hour
9:30 a.m.

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I keep thinking to myself "If only we had kept the usual Friendly Visitor deadlines..." Normally, the newsletter is prepared one week earlier. With five Tuesdays in September, we decided to wait one week in order to firm up the October calendar. I had been working on an article, and it was a good one, too. However, sometimes things happen and it changes everything. For me, one such day was last Thursday, as I was caught off guard by a call from my Mom telling me that Dad was not doing well at all and that the Hospice nurse had said it was time to call in family. Everything changed.

After the "long" drive to Coralville, and the initial bursts of emotion, it turned into a beautiful day. It was a day full of love and grief, laughter and tears. It was a day that summed up our fragile human existence, the joys and sorrows, peaks and valleys of our short time here on earth. It was indeed a beautiful day as we said our "goodbyes" and wished him safe travels until that day when we are all gathered together in the realized kingdom.

By the time the out-of-state siblings arrived we had another reality pressing in on us. We were all loved, and the tangible sign was the boxes and boxes of food and supplies that began pouring in. The refrigerator and freezer were completely filled. The dining room table was full of other foods. Toilet paper and Kleenex abounded. Instead of spending time thinking about other things, like meals or essentials, we were able to simply be family and share in the moments that we had together.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church lived up to that name: Glory be to God. We were all amazed at the level of support this congregation showed us, and continues to show. It is a beautiful thing to witness. For the last several weeks volunteers have been looking after my parents, making sure that they were supported. There has been a whole community of faith showing the love of Christ, while seldom using words. Pastor Rob has been a great comfort, but it is clear that caring is simply part of the culture at Gloria Dei. It is a beautiful thing.

On September 7, I asked the question "What kind of community will we be?" That question takes even deeper meaning for me today. What I saw through the actions of Gloria Dei was not a community waiting for permission from the pastor or the council before embracing people. It was a community that had developed a culture of caring and was ready to respond. No additional committee votes. No council agenda. Just caring ... a lot of caring.

A similar ministry has started here at Grace through the Member Care Team. This new ministry is building up resources and volunteers to be able to respond to our own members in need. Maybe that is something that interests you. If it is, join! Share your gifts! Maybe you feel more comfortable augmenting ministry to our homebound members by visiting and bringing communion. Visiting Friends ministry would love to hear from you!

Maybe your passions are with youth or young families. That ministry has come into focus through the "Refocusing" meetings this spring. The congregation and council have approved resources to be put toward that ministry, but ministry doesn't happen because of one person; it takes a team! What are your gifts and/or passions? How might those be enjoyed by others?

The ministry that happens here is not the ministry of any one person. This is not my church. This is God's church. And that church has a mission to share the love of Christ with the world around us. We are all in mission together! Please consider the ways that you can be a part of that mission, through prayer, through gifts, and through your tithes and offerings. It takes all of us. I am happy to serve alongside all of you.

Pastor Mike

October 2	Eric Barks Robert Campbell Christine Hines Steve Johnson Ivy Mae Lawson Andy Roat Ardis Schmelzer	H A P P Y O C T O B E R B I R T H D A Y
3	Margaret York Barbara Knapp Howard Welty	
4	Ava Lund	
5	Paul Nelson	
6	Amanda Jensen	
7	Adam Bergman Ernestina Reaza	
8	Harlan Mortenson Nelda Sampel	
9	Joanne Johnson Riley Mortenson	
11	Alexander Gutmann Daniel Harmon Emily Harmon Christopher Kallenbach Jeramie Mitchell	
12	Benjamin Wonderlin	
13	Deanna Hummel Victoria Janson David Peterson Sheryl Sauerman Jessica Warren	
14	James Fenimore Jane Ridnour	
15	Chris Lawson Eryn Lenhart Kyra Lenhart Maya Lenhart	
16	Joan Johnson Kara Jordahl Lukus Loehrke Rev. Stephen Sherer	
17	Gary Nelson Roberto Ruiz	
18	Bruce Nelson	
20	James Briggs Dick Sampel Sean Stickrod Stuart Turner	
21	Sarah Schroeder Sage Speck	
23	Trinity Newman Ronald Vernia	
24	Melissa Kallenbach	
25	Joyce Lewis Tina Meadows	
26	Seth Kallestad	
27	Douglas Dinnauer Sarah Voelker	
28	Max Sauerman	
29	Col. Franklin Peterson Jessica Russell Jeanette Ziesman	
30	Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg Travis Brown Pedro Espericueta	
31	Maycia Welty Ashley Artzer Fay Cline Tanner Peeler	

Happy Anniversary

October 1	John & Carrie Schall
5	Donald & Margaret York
7	Chris & Jeryl Janson
12	Louie & Sue Anderson Burke & Shirley Shiffler
16	Ricky & Jennifer Huisman
17	Michael Newell & Barbara Knapp
21	Delmar & Linda Vernia
22	Joel & Stacie Holst
24	David & Susan Halblom
25	Brian & Sherry Brindley Michael & Diane Heid
26	Scot & Rebecca Sonius
27	Hal & Michele Turner
28	Michael & Marilyn Nizzi
31	Lee & Dolores Johnson

Sympathy is Extended to:

The family of Jon and Cherie Rissman on the death of Jon's father, Lawrence. Lawrence Woodrow Rissman passed away on September 13, 2014. His funeral was held on September 16, 2014 at Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church.

The family of Max and Elayne Palmer on the death of their daughter, Gwen. Gwen Jennifer Palmer, age 59, passed away on September 16, 2014 at her home in Des Moines. Her funeral was held on September 20, 2014 at Zion Lutheran Church in Gowrie.

The family of Pastor Mike and Jenie Schmidt on the death of Pastor's father, Robert Lee (Bob) Schmidt. Robert, age 69, passed away on September 19, 2014 at his home in Coralville. **More information is listed below.**

A **memorial fund** will be set up at Grace Lutheran Church in honor of Pastor Mike's father, **Robert Lee Schmidt**. All contributions will be pooled together by October 5th and one check will be given to Pastor Mike for one of the Schmidt Family's designated charities: Cancer Care of Iowa City, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, or Iowa City Hospice. Please make your memorial check payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

Those wishing to attend the visitation or funeral in Iowa City are asked to call the office to let us know if you have extra seats for riders or if you are in need of a ride.

Visitation: October 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Gay and Ciha Funeral and Cremation Service in Iowa City. Also one hour prior to the services at the church.

Funeral: October 11 at 11 a.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Iowa City.



Congratulations to the Confirmands!

On **Reformation Sunday, October 26**, we will celebrate with our ninth graders as they make public affirmation of their baptism at the **10:45 a.m.** worship service.

Congratulations go out to **Devin Ashton, Courtney Brandsfield, Haley Dostalík, Matt Farrell, Nadine Garcia, Payton Lawson, Emma Mattes, Isaac McCleary, Danielle Russell, and Sawyer Shiffler.**

An informal reception with cookies and cider will be held for them in the Gathering Hall immediately following the 10:45 service. We invite you to visit and celebrate with them during this time.

Stewardship Thought

Being a good steward can be a difficult journey. With the many demands on our time and resources, prioritization and allocation can be an overwhelming process.

During this time of year, the Stewardship Committee places an extra emphasis on providing opportunities to help you in this journey.

In late September and continuing into October, we will be sharing four video presentations (one per week after the services) of interviews with members of our Congregation. In these videos, our members share their stewardship journey — its importance in their lives, how they have grown and their advice to others.

We hope you will stay for these short presentations; they will also be available online for those who wish to view interviews they have missed or wish to view again.

Your Stewardship Committee

Welcome to our new Acolyte Coordinator

We welcome **Stacy Speck** into her new role as Acolyte Coordinator. She will be overseeing the schedule and sign-ups in the coming year. Welcome aboard, Stacy! And many thanks go out to **Kari Dostalík**, who served in that role for the past several years. We appreciate your faithful service.



Training for new Communion Assistants

We invite all new servers who are interested in helping with Communion to a training session on **Sunday, October 12**. Come at the time that is most convenient for you: **9:30 a.m. or 10:15 a.m.** We will meet at the back of the sanctuary. If you cannot be here on that day but would like to learn more, please contact [Stephanie Johnson](#). Consider serving in this role. It's a very meaningful way to connect with your Grace family.

You Are Invited to Attend



Campfire With Lakeside

Saturday, October 4

Walnut Woods State Park

8951 SW 52nd Ave.

West Des Moines

5 -7 p.m.

One of the most favorite times at camp is the evening campfire. It is the time when friends gather to have fun by singing familiar songs, telling silly stories, sharing serious stories, supporting one another and worshipping. We hope you can join us as we bring the campfire to you. Camp staff will give you an update of the exciting things that have happened this last year and plans for the future.

Bake Sale Auction held for the benefit of
Lutheran Lakeside Camp.

Please RSVP by calling 712-336-2109

Thank you and hope to see you there!



Women Up!

2014

Women's Retreat at Lutheran Lakeside Camp

Calling all women for Women Up! Lutheran Lakeside Camp is hosting another women's retreat this year: **October 17-18 from 5:30 p.m. on Friday to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.**

What to expect? Quiet time to spend with God, quiet time to spend with each other, and quiet time to act. Come for a weekend of worship, Bible study, relaxation and learning. Gain new insights. Meet new friends. Pre-requisite reading: *Cold Tangerines* by Shauna Niequist.

Registration cost is \$40.00 per person. For more information, contact Marcy, Registrar, at marcy@lutheranlakeside.com or 712-336-2109. Deadline for registration is October 5.



Lutheran Lakeside Camp

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting 8-26-14 at 7:00 PM

Present: Kevin Drury, Pastor Mike, Don Peterson, Cathy Barks, Mary Helt, Sandy Briggs, Kristin Medhurst, Ardis Schmelzer, Stacie Holst, Jay Wangerin and Karri Brandsfield

Meeting was called to order by Kevin.

Opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer led by Pastor Mike

Agenda was accepted as written.

Minutes from the July 22, 2014 council meeting were accepted as written.

Staff reports and financial reports were accepted as written.

OLD BUSINESS:

- We discussed the Neighborhood Demographics Handout. A few things that were mentioned from this handout were that the preferred method of contact is by mail, the type of service, faith receptivity fairly high; above the average percentage of Lutheran faith preference in neighborhood.
- Update on the Swahili speaking group. Pastor Mike will be calling them to discuss the details and find out exactly what they will need.
- Discussed the re-focusing with Mike Wagner. There will be a three step meeting/workshop that will ideally be completed within 4 to 6 weeks.
- Workshop #1 will be a discovery to find out "Who are we at Grace?" Workshop #2 Who is God calling us to serve? Workshop #3 What do we know and believe about who God is calling us to serve? How do we serve them in the best possible way? If we decide that this process is not being beneficial, we can terminate the process at any time.
 - A motion was made and seconded to move forward with this process. The motion carried.
 - Kevin will check with Mike on his availability for Sunday afternoons and send out an e-mail with some potential dates.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussed moving the council meeting from September 23, 2014 to September 30, 2014 at 7:00 due to there being a meeting with the bishop at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Ankeny from 6-8 PM. This is open for anyone from Grace to attend. There will be nominations for things within the Synod as well at this meeting.
- Our new director of music ministry, Emma, is working out great. She seems to fit in well and is very excited about working at Grace.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Planning a series of 4 videos on feelings toward stewardship. These will be played before, in between and after service for people to watch.

Property: They are planning to meet at 6:00 on the next committee night and take a tour of outside and make notes of things that need to be done and then after opening at 7:00 they will tour the inside of the building and take notes of things needing to be done there. They would like to try and work with the committees on their individual needs in regards to property.

Youth: Working on planning a back to school/National Youth Gathering event for the high school kids.

Education: Changing the Sunday school curriculum to be more like Bible school with a lesson and stations for the kids to participate in.

Social Ministry: Still gathering cat food/litter donations and have 144 lbs. so far. Working on member care and pictorial directory which is coming along.

Evangelism: Nothing at this time

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held September 30, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karri Brandsfield, Secretary

Lutheran Malaria Program in Tanzania

by Jessica Nipp Hacker

Dorcas, a five-year-old girl at Ngaruma Lutheran Parish in Tanzania, plays the starring role as a malaria-carrying mosquito. Dorcas uses a marker as the mosquito's proboscis. The skit, a part of the Lutheran malaria program, is intended to educate the church and the community about malaria prevention methods, symptoms and how to seek treatment.



Dorcas the Mosquito easily bites the unprotected children, who are infected with the malaria parasite. She tries multiple times to get to the children under the net, but since they are under the protection of a long-lasting insecticide treated net, she is unable to reach them. Dorcas and her class are not only teaching their congregation how to prevent malaria, but reinforcing the ideas for themselves as well.

2014 Hunger Hike

Over the last 22 years, the Des Moines Hunger Hike, sponsored by Church World Service, has collected over \$900,000, which has been given to local and international organizations for food purposes. Over 96% of each year's funds are allocated to a wide variety of service agencies for food purposes, with less than 4% of funds going for administrative costs.

The Confirmation students from Grace have participated for the last five years — raising over \$2,000. This year's hike is scheduled for Sunday, October 12. The Confirmation students will be collecting money between services and following the 10:45 a.m. service on October 5 and 12. The formal hike is a distance of 3.2 miles and begins at 1:30 p.m. at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates. Consider helping our Confirmation students raise money for the hungry by contributing, as well as helping them raise awareness in the community by joining them in marching.

We will gather in the parking lot at Grace at 12:45 p.m. and carpool to the Hall of Laureates. Please join us in raising money for hungry people and awareness of their need.

News from the Companion Congregation Committee

We sent \$1,000.00 for education of the Msindo and Mararo Communities. The scholarship money is to be distributed by their Companion Committee as they see the need — this can be elementary, secondary, college, or other educational benefits within the communities. We require that they send to us photographs and names of the recipients.

Karen Taylor



Congratulations!

To Amy Schmelzer
Winner of the
2014 Upper Midwest
Emmy Award for
Director – Newscast
KCCI Channel 8
6:00 p.m. News
We are so proud of you!

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the cards, visits, prayers and thoughts of us while Leonard was recuperating from hip surgery.
Leonard & Delores Larsen

Thanks so much for all the prayers and cards, gifts and visits. They were all greatly appreciated.
Jack & Mary Donnenwerth

To the Grace Lutheran Family,
We would like to thank you for another year of allowing us to have our meetings at your church. We really enjoy the room and all of the hospitality that you show to us. We also are looking forward to another year of working together to create our mitten tree. It's an important part of our guild mission. Please accept the enclosed donation as a token of our thankfulness.

Thank you again,
Kelly M. Bronsink, Treasurer
Des Moines Knitting Guild



**THE WORLD
FOOD PRIZE**

Iowa Hunger Summit

**October 14, 2014 at the Downtown Marriott
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

This event, which is part of the World Food Prize activities, is free and open to the public. But registration is required. The goals of the event are to:

- Celebrate the many efforts of Iowans toward ensuring adequate food for all
- Encourage Iowans to continue and expand these efforts
- Increase statewide awareness of hunger, poverty, and related issues

Go to www.worldfoodprize.org and click on *EVENTS*. Then go to Iowa Hunger Summit. You can also click on *get involved* to share what you plan to do this year to help feed the world and fight hunger.

Grace Fellowship Meeting

**October 5 at 5:00 p.m.
in Grace Hall**

Come hear the Grace BRASS Band before and after the program. A light meal will be followed by our speaker.



Reverend Kristin Pike is a Presbyterian minister and the Director of Development and Communication for The Salvation Army in Des Moines. She has worked in churches and nonprofits since 1997 as an administrator and a pastor. Here's a chance to learn more about this important social service agency. We hope you will attend.

Finance Report – August Results

Financial results for Aug YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$285,213, Budget \$295,350
- Other Income – Actual \$11,232, Budget \$10,733
- Expenses – Actual \$306,917, Budget \$315,253
- Net activity – Actual (\$10,473), Budget (\$9,170)

Actual net activity was favorable for the month but still unfavorable YTD compared to budget. This was primarily due to offerings (both pledged and unpledged) below budget.

While expenses are comparable to budget, large overages in utilities and property maintenance were offset by numerous areas under budget due to timing.

**The 2014 Hope for the Hungry Event
will be held at
Plymouth Congregational United
Church of Christ
Waveland Hall, 4126 Ingersoll Ave. Des Moines
Saturday, November 8, 2014
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

This event will be facilitated by Debra Landwehr Engle, author of *Grace from the Garden; Changing the World One Garden at a Time*.

Sessions will cover hunger and nutrition, food and land rescue, and community activities with discussion focused on tangible steps we each can take towards alleviating hunger.

Registration information is on the Social Ministry bulletin board, or contact Stephanie.



Grace Garden Needs Your Help!

We are getting ready to put the garden to bed and we need your help:

- 1. Cleaning up the garden: Saturday, October 18 at 10 a.m.** We'll be pulling out plants, cleaning and stacking plant cages, emptying the rain barrel, and more. **Silver Cord Volunteer hours available.** What better opportunity than helping a garden that feeds the hungry? There may even be produce to pick and deliver as we clean up.
- 2. Roto-tilling after garden cleanup, any time before the ground freezes.** Do you have a tiller? We'd love to get the garden turned over and ready for spring planting. If we have several people with tillers, we can plan a day when everyone works together, or you can work whenever convenient for you. We will be ordering another two tons of compost to spread either before or after tilling. **Please contact the office or Michelle at 515-402-8571 if you can help.**

Thank you for enjoying our bounty every week and for sharing yours. The produce we put out each week has been enjoyed by Grace members, Grace Kids Care families, and members of the AA group, as well as other groups who walk through Grace. We have made weekly deliveries (often twice-weekly) to the various food pantries. At some, the only produce they might see are a case of bananas or Bell peppers getting too ripe for sale. The produce we provide is much appreciated and the fresh food we are sharing provides nutrition to those in need – or those who don't have a garden of their own. Thank you for your support.

Thank You to the Endowment Committee

We have enjoyed the watering system – the few times we have needed to water this year. Knowing we have a reliable, easy way to keep the garden healthy was lovely, and we look forward to using it more in the coming years. Thank you to Jay Wangerin for all your help with the watering system.

The Grace Garden Committee: Joie Gronert, Julie Honsey, Marion Nehmer, Carla Peterman, Rich Snyder, Michelle Voelker

First Circle Friends

First Circle Friends is a program for those experiencing early to mid-stage memory loss, and we have been hosting it at Grace since February 2013. It is held on the first and third Thursdays of each month. A program day consists of five hours of cognitive and social stimulation through a one-on-one volunteer to maximize participation, friendship and support to many who live in more isolation now. There is an initial assessment of both the participant and the caregiver, as well as training, continuing education and mentoring of the volunteers. In addition, the caregiver's level of stress, burden, support, and resources are regularly re-assessed.

Please make referrals to First Circle Friends by having the caregiver call Cannady Fritzjunker at 515-271-7408 to learn more and to reserve a spot. You can also visit the website: www.lsiowa.org/FCF

Criteria for participants

1. Early to mid-stage dementia: Alzheimer's or other forms of memory loss/dementia
2. Ambulatory, with minimum assistance (can walk into bathroom stall on own)
3. Continent, able to toilet themselves (able to change incontinence products or clothing on own)
4. Does not need volunteers to administer or remind of any medications during the session (no medications in pockets / no self-administration)
5. No aggressive or inappropriate behavior
6. Caregiver needs the break
7. Ability to stay the duration of the day (no drop-ins)



Sharing God's Love and Care Through a Quilt

Do you have a favorite quilt? Maybe it's one a family member made, or one you lovingly made for someone else. Many of LSI's clients have a favorite quilt, made by people like you! LSI is blessed to have many congregations and friends who share in our social ministry by stitching love into the hearts of children, families and adults across Iowa. Your quilts travel all over the state to be delivered to babies and young children, to youth at our Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers and to homes where the warm comfort of a quilt is desperately needed by a family.

Thank you for sharing God's love and care through these special gifts! If you or someone you know would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Deb Whitford at LSI for more information. *LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).*

"When he saw the quilts, he ran around like a kid in a candy store."

We asked LSI staff to share what quilts made by churches and friends of LSI have meant to children and families. Here are some of their stories:

"At Bremwood, we had a young man who was so excited to pick out his quilt that he talked about it for a week beforehand! When he went to look at the quilts, he ran around like a kid in a candy store. After some searching, he picked out an army print blanket, and he called his father to talk about it later that night. Another young woman was leaving Bremwood, and while she was excited to go home, she was also sad to leave her friends and staff. She said the blanket she picked out would make sure she never forgot these important people in her life. She snuggled up to her blanket right away and showed it off to all her friends."

Your quilts are also delivered to families in our early childhood programs:

"We have a family with three young children that received quilts. They were so grateful as they only had pads on the floor to sleep on and the quilts made the kids much more comfortable. Another family with a new baby said their quilt was their favorite blanket for tummy time. Another mom who received a quilt placed it in her baby's crib right away, saying the maker of the quilt must have given a lot of thought to it. She called it a 'kind and meaningful gift.'"

And, sometimes a quilt or a blanket helps hold a family together: "All ages love them! They are great for sitting together or watching movies together, and we like fostering family activities. Quilts and blankets help promote family relationships and families gathering together." What a difference you make! Thank you for helping so many people feel safe, warm and loved. See more stories, past and present, at LSI's anniversary website www.LSIowa.org/150.