



# The Friendly Visitor

## Grace Lutheran Church

January 27, 2015

### Sunday Services

8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Educational Hour 9:30 a.m.

### Wednesday

#### Lenten Worship Services

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Through March 25

6:30 p.m

#### Contact Us

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Todd Haugen 1-515-708-3758

#### Inside This Issue...

Page 2... Birthdays, Anniversaries  
In Remembrance, Memorials

Page 3... LSI, Thrivent news,  
ELCA Life in Service.  
Crockpot Drive

Page 4... Council Minutes, Thank

Page 5... AFET, CTIM, Soup Supper,  
Library News, Thank Yous

Page 6... Hunger & Food Insecurity

Page 7... Lent Disciplines, Thank Yous

### Thank You

As I arrive at the office this morning following our annual meeting yesterday afternoon, I cannot help but be overwhelmed with gratitude. It was a great day. Worship was a joy. Lunch was great. And I left the annual meeting truly "fired up" for what the future holds. It is such a privilege to walk with you as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church.

I am filled with gratitude at the people of God here at Grace. One of the biggest privileges is being able to see the work of the community of faith through a different lens, especially during worship. There are so many people that make such a day happen.

Todd making sure that the building is unlocked and ready for the day. Jon and Chuck arriving early to set up equipment for worship and education. The liturgists arriving to make sure they are ready for worship. The sounds of the choir warming up. Noticing Kathy help someone find the right hymn after a slight misprint in the bulletin. Paul and Doug distributing bread because of a pastor who is still dealing with some health issues. And that only takes us through worship.

Although sidetracked with a myriad of other responsibilities yesterday morning during the education hour, I was very impressed by the snippets I saw of the discussion led by Carla Peterman. There was a short meeting with the congregational council and I cannot begin to say how thankful I am to work with this group. There is a great deal of wisdom and passion within the council. It is a group that is dedicated to seeing God's ministry at Grace Lutheran Church thrive.

I offer a huge word of thanks to everyone who made the lunch a success, from Jackie making sure everything was ordered properly to Todd who set up all the tables and podium, the group of people who set up, served and then cleaned up lunch, and those who took home leftovers. It all went very well.

This community of faith is blessed with some great leadership. The "Kevins" as I sometimes call them, Kevin Drury and Kevin Krause, are such great leaders. As I sat through the annual meeting I found myself more and more grateful at the witness that these two bring through their own areas of expertise. They are both very passionate about God's ministry here, and care deeply for this community of faith. I am grateful to work with both of them.

I am also incredibly grateful for, and humbled by, the extraordinary witness of all of the saints who have gone before us. It was a little overwhelming, reflecting through the names of the saints who from their labors rest. There is so much witness in the way these saints lived their lives. And I am grateful for the gifts that they all gave to Grace Lutheran Church, some in leadership, some in serving on council, some in care for facilities, some in writing cards, some financial, some in quiet ways, some in loud ways, in resilience, in voice, in laughter...it was a privilege to walk with each of them.

Thank you, all of you, for the many ways that you make Christ known to those around you.

In Christ,  
Pastor Mike

## Happy February Birthday

- 1 Larry Cramer  
Sophia Royster
- 2 Dick Johansen  
Katy Roat
- 3 William Marberry  
Jolene Wiegmann
- 4 Matt Farrell
- 5 Todd Ringgenberg  
Andrew Trentmann
- 6 Karri Brandsfield  
James Hoffman  
Larry Nordeen
- 8 Leonard Larsen  
Joshua Shortell
- 9 Adam Christensen  
Virginia Naney
- 10 LeRoi Beers  
Eric Oberg  
Nancy Robbins  
Carol Rudisill  
Bonnie Swanson
- 11 Kent Weaver
- 12 Lenora Iverson  
Tyler Peeler
- 13 Jessica Christensen  
Timothy Hummel
- 15 Diane Heid  
Isaac McCleary
- 16 Heather Ashton  
Robert E. Barks
- 17 Gail Peterson
- 18 Kristen Marberry  
Max Palmer  
Nicole Vernon
- 19 Ellen Mumm
- 20 Gerald Dockum  
Jessica Flannery  
Brianna Huisman  
Max Ringgenberg
- 21 Judy Cramer  
Neal Meyer  
Allison Olson
- 22 Barb Kallestad  
Julie Stuckle
- 23 Barry Briggs  
Jenie Schmidt
- 24 Barbara Burley  
Leigh Harmon  
Sharyn Nelson  
Jonathan Rudisill
- 25 Shane Artzer  
Melissa Young
- 26 Angela Collins  
Gayle Olson
- 27 Elayne Palmer  
Jerry Westercamp
- 28 Dana Johnson

## Happy February Anniversary

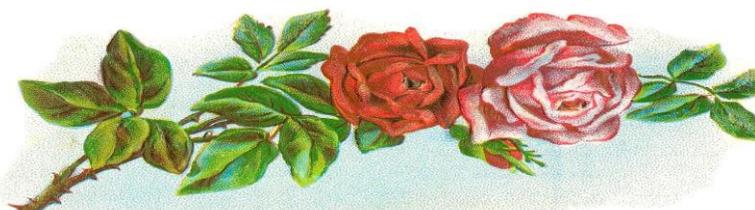
- 14 – Jay and Virginia Wangerin
- 15 – John and Mary Donnenwerth
- 17 – Michael and Deanna Hummel
- 19 – Jim and Linda Rundle
- 20 – Norman and Janet Trentmann
- 22 – Marlin and Charlotte Nielsen
- 24 – Paul and Sally Thielking
- 25 – Harold and Karen Mann



## In Remembrance

We extend our sympathy to the family of Ruth Berven. Ruth, age 92, passed away on January 10, 2015, at the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center. Her funeral service was held at on Wednesday, January 14, at Grace Lutheran Church.

Ruth was born on August 19, 1922, in Des Moines, IA and married her husband of 70 years, Arthur N. Berven, on November 14, 1942. She graduated from North High School in Des Moines and attended Capital City Commercial College, where she met her future husband. An accomplished seamstress and cook, she was employed at the Roosevelt Fabric Shop and also in the Food Department at the Iowa State Fair for many years. She was a lifelong member of Grace Lutheran Church, where she sang in the choir and taught Sunday school.



## Thank You

Our sincere thank you to our Grace friends for your kind expressions of friendship and love to Ruth Berven, especially in the past several months, and also for the sympathy extended to us after her passing. A special thanks to all those who prepared and served the lunch following the service.

God Bless,  
The Berven/York Family

## Memorials

The outdoor tree lighting that our congregation and the Grace neighborhood enjoyed in December was again made possible by Dwane and Helen Richards' memorials.

The beautiful new altar pariments were provided in memory of Vivian Feilmann, Arlene Janson, Alan Janson, and George Pierce.

Lorna Johns  
Memorial Committee



## National Parent Leadership Month

February is National Parent Leadership Month. Through your support, LSI is able to partner with thousands of parents each year who want to be parent leaders and make positive changes in their families. Some parents come to us through our early childhood services and want a little extra support in raising an infant or toddler. Other parents come seeking help for an older child who is in trouble and turn to our therapy services, behavioral health intervention services or our many community programs for help. And some parents become part of our programs through involvement with the Department of Human Services, and we work to help them resolve issues in their home and to ensure the home is a safe place for a child. Your support of LSI as your social ministry helps prevent child abuse and neglect and helps strengthen families all across the state. Thank you for making this work possible!

*LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### **"I want to give my daughter the opportunities I never had."**

Emma is only two years old, but she already knows something as important as the ABCs: learning can be fun!

Amanda and Mike, Emma's parents, are giving their little girl the tools for lifelong success, and they're partnering with LSI to do it. The Waterloo couple found out about LSI while Amanda was pregnant.

"It was my first child, and I was nervous," Amanda said. "We had planned for it, but it was still nerve-wracking. I wanted to make sure I was doing everything right."

The family joined LSI's HOPES (Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success), a voluntary program for parents of young children. Andrea, an LSI family support worker, visits the family at home, bringing along a wealth of information, tips and resources for Emma's healthy growth and development.

"Andrea brought me a lot of information on what to expect and what I could prepare for before Emma was born," Amanda said. "Emma loves Andrea."

Amanda's parents are great at finding learning opportunities for Emma in everyday life, from counting stairs to identifying colors. "Amanda and Mike are so goal-oriented," said Andrea. "Every goal they have made they have achieved. It's become second nature to them to make every opportunity a learning opportunity. They are very supportive of each other and really want the best for their child."

For Amanda, it's also about giving Emma the childhood she herself didn't have. "I had a rough childhood," she said. "I want to give Emma the encouragement I never had and the opportunities I never had."

Amanda recommends LSI to other parents who want their children to get a great start in life, too. "It's a great program if you are a first-time parent," she said. "It's very informative."

## Make an impact

### with Thrivent Action Teams

What's your passion? Thrivent Action Teams are a new way for Thrivent members to make a difference in a congregation or within the community. The project should bring people together for a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. An online application needs to be submitted at [www.Thrivent.com/actionteam](http://www.Thrivent.com/actionteam) and once approved, the member will receive an action kit that includes promotional signage, t-shirts, and other resources, including a Community Impact Card with \$250 in seed money to cover costs like promotional, material and rental expenses.

### Living a LIFE in service

Did you know that there are five ELCA-affiliated full-time volunteer programs? These Lutheran Immersion and Formation Experiences (LIFE) seek to give space for people to offer their gifts in service to the world and provide space for robust vocational exploration. The network includes ALT Year, Border Servant Corps, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Urban Servant Corps, and Young Adults in Global Mission. The programs vary in age and education requirements, and altogether, there are more than 225 volunteers who serve annually within the United States and around the world. If you or someone you know might be interested in this type of service, go to <http://elca.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Young-Adult-Ministry/Ministries> to learn more.



### Slow cooker drive

As part of our fight to alleviate hunger in the Des Moines area, we will be having another slow cooker drive here at Grace during Lent. The pots are for nutrition classes that are taught by a specialist at Iowa State Extension in coordination with the Coalition in Support of Hungry Children, and the classes have really taken off since the first one was offered in the fall. More slow cookers are needed so that each participant in upcoming classes can go home with one for his or her family, and we are especially in need of 6-8 quart pots. Please bring donations of new slow cookers between February 22 and March 29 and leave them on the table that will be located in the entrance area heading into the Gathering Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Johnson in the church office. Thanks for your part in the fight to end hunger.



## Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting 1-6-15 at 7:00 PM

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

Meeting was called to order by Kevin.

Devotion – “Theophany, as the Orthodox understanding of Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ.” Prayer led by Pastor Mike.

Agenda was accepted as written.

Minutes from the November 25, 2014 council meeting were accepted as written.

Staff reports and financial reports were accepted as written.

- Emma Stammer is back to work as of 1-5-15.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Pastor and Kevin will talk with Mike Wagner with White Rabbit Group to determine another date to go over the D.E.E.P process and discuss how the process worked for Christmas Eve service.
- Still looking for candidates for the 3 open council member spots.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve Loree Nelson as the Endowment Committee candidate. The motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- The Hunger Working Team is proposing holding 5 presentations during Lent at the 9:30 education hour and would like to try and raise \$1700 during Lent for the Food Pantry.
- Hope for Hungry would like to have Grace designated as the official drop-off site for the Des Moines Metro area for crock pot donations for the Hope for Hunger cooking classes.
  - A motion was made and seconded to approve both the Hunger Working Team’s Food Pantry Fund Raiser and the Crock Pot Drive for the Hope for Hunger Conference during the Lenten season. The motion carried.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Next council meeting will be held January 25<sup>th</sup> immediately following the conclusion of the annual meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karri Brandsfield, Secretary

## **Thank You!**

**Dear Friends,** On behalf of the Des Moines Area religious Council (DMARC), thank you for your generous 1/9/2015 gift of \$746.80. This donation has been allocated as requested.

Each Month, DMARC services provide short-term food, shelter, and child care assistance for more than 12,000 vulnerable lowans who are struggling to meet those basic needs. More than half of all program participants are senior citizens, children, and youth.

We are very grateful for your support and commitment and the generosity of a caring community that remains essential to this work.

Sarai Schnucker Rice, Executive Director

**Dear Friends,** Thank you so much for your donation of \$50.00 to Furry Friends Refuge. Your donation means so much to us as we continue to care for and rescue the growing number of homeless pets. We could not do this without the kindness of people like you!

Many Thanks, Michelle  
[www.furryfriendsrefuge.org](http://www.furryfriendsrefuge.org)

## New name, new process for adult learning opportunities

The team working to offer faith learning opportunities for adults has a new name. It's called the Adult Faith Enrichment Team (AFET). It aims to provide creative, engaging large and small group forums, discussions and other events on Sundays and during the week and to assist other groups in doing the same.

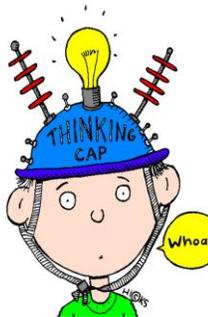
To help those planning an adult-oriented faith enrichment opportunity, the team created an easy-to-use one-page form.

This form captures detail needed for a smooth-running event – from scheduling to room set-up to promotion.

The form is available from any AFET member, in the church office, and online at [graced.org](http://graced.org). Please complete and return the form to the AFET mailbox by the pop machine **at least four weeks** before your event. Once received, a team member will contact you.

**Note:** this form is for adult educational events only. To reserve space at Grace for any other use, contact the church office directly.

Questions? Contact an AFET member: Tom McCleary, Cherrie Rissman, Ellen Wonderlin, Carol Woodruff, or Stephanie Johnson (staff liaison).



## Called Together in Mission (CTIM)

Called Together in Mission is an annual event sponsored by the Southeastern Iowa Synod. It is a day long conference that brings inspiring speakers and informative workshops together for a day of renewal and connection for attendees. This year CTIM will be on Saturday, March 14 at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, and the theme is "People of the Spirit." Keynote speaker Dr. Troy Troftgruben, assistant professor at Wartburg Theological Seminary, will speak about what it means to be people of the Spirit – ignited and empowered people reclaiming Pentecost. Registration is \$20, and you may register at [www.seiasynod.org/ctim](http://www.seiasynod.org/ctim) by March 9. A list of workshops can be found at Volunteer Central. If you are planning to go, please contact Stephanie

## Lenten Soup Suppers

Soup Suppers will begin on Wednesday February 18. Martha Circle will be serving on February 18, Hannah Circle February 25.

You will find the sign-up form for the remaining dates on the kitchen bulletin board. Please add the name of your group and the type of soup.

## Readings in the Library

On display in the library is a collection of books by author, Henri Nowen. The library currently has several books by the author including, The Aging; the Fulfillment of Life, The Wounded Healer, The Inner Voice of Love, and Bread for the Journey. His impact on Christian spirituality has been compared to C. S. Lewis and Thomas Merton. You'll find the display of his books on the desk inside the library door.

Our newest books are shelved together on the tall book case. Come in and see what's new!



## Thank You!

A very belated thank you for the prayers, cards and visits while I was in the Urbandale Care Center last fall. I certainly appreciated your attention. Thanks, too, to Grace Women for the colorful soft lap robe at Christmas Time.  
God's Blessings, Verda Swanson

Thank you from me to Cherie Rissman and the congregation for putting in the time to send a box of goodies for finals week. I really appreciated getting a package from my Grace family as I started studying for finals.

Jon Fry

Thank you to the ladies of the church for the beautiful gift and the church for the poinsettia. You made my day!  
LeROI Beers

What a wonderful surprise: Our thanks to all the women of Grace for the beautiful throws and the Bible. The throws will keep us warm and cozy. God bless you all.  
Jack and Mary Donnenwerth

The Poinsettia is beautiful. Thank you for brightening my Christmas season.

Chris Lehfeld

Grace Lutheran Church  
and Women of Grace Lutheran Church  
Thank you for the fleece throw. It is the right size to put around your shoulders or across your lap. Thank you for the poinsettia. It is very pretty. Thank you also to Char Nielsen for delivering both to me. Thank you for thinking of me.  
Love, Bonnie Swanson



## Winter Weather Policy

**If winter weather strikes our area, please take note: when the Des Moines Public Schools dismiss early or are closed, all daytime and evening activities at Grace are cancelled. Please stay home and stay safe.**

## ***Hunger and Food Insecurity***

### ***- Stewardship Issues?***

Rich Snyder recently gave a Temple Talk introducing the congregation to a new emphasis in Grace's ministry. A team composed of Grace Lutheran members has been studying and learning about issues related to hunger and the prevalence of food insecurity in the world, in Iowa and here in Des Moines. This team will be providing us numerous opportunities to learn more about these issues in the coming weeks as well as opportunities to respond.

Is this emphasis on hunger an appropriate concern of the church? If people aren't secure in knowing they will have enough to eat, should this be of special concern to Christians? The answer to both questions is a resounding "Yes!" In fact, these issues are **stewardship** issues for Christians.

Our understanding is that everything belongs to God, and what we have has been entrusted to us by God. We are to be thankful to God for what has been given to us, and we are accountable to God for how we use what we have received. God expects us to be wise stewards of these gifts, using them to take care of our needs and the needs of our family. God also expects us to be generous stewards who share a fair portion of what we have with others who don't have enough.

Food is one of God's good gifts. We are to enjoy this gift of food to nourish and sustain ourselves and our families. And we are to be wise stewards of the gift of food. So when we learn that more than 20% of the food purchased by Americans each year ends up being thrown away as waste that's a stewardship issue! God is not pleased.

It is equally concerning to God when we don't share enough with our neighbors who daily worry about how they will provide the next meal for their children. The simple truth is that God has provided an abundance of food from the earth, and yet many are hungry each night. The problem is not the scarcity of food. It is the uneven distribution of food.

Now let's be honest. If we don't waste a scrap of food this week that doesn't automatically mean that a hungry person will have more to eat. It's just not that simple. But as Christian disciples (stewards) we are motivated to learn more about the problem of hunger, think together about effective strategies for helping, and work together to make a difference. Let's support the efforts of the Hunger Working Team by learning and growing and sharing together. Because together we can make a difference!

Doug Johnson  
On behalf of the Stewardship Committee

## ***Lenten Hunger Series***

Grace is dedicating the six weeks of Lent as a time for our community of faith to align with hungry people and Jesus who said that when you feed the hungry, you are feeding him as well, "Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Prayers and litanies in worship will be devoted to asking the Holy Spirit to help us work on behalf of hungry people. Sunday forums will be dedicated to providing education on hunger issues and will include a guest speaker, and showing of the video *Hunger In the Heartland* with guided discussions from the accompanying book led by Hunger Working Team members. Devotions on teachings from scripture on God's commands to care for the hungry will be published. In the tradition of Martin Luther, we will be hosting "Table Talk" for 10 minutes during the soup supper. Money will be raised for the local Food Pantry.

Our goal is to provide 2,015 meals to the Food Pantry through our fund raiser. Contributions should be directed to Grace Lutheran Church Lenten Hunger Appeal. Offering envelopes will be available in the pews and at the Social Ministry Station beginning Ash Wednesday. You may include your contribution with your regular offering designating Hunger Appeal on the memo line.

The Lutheran World Relief Spring Drive will take place concurrently with the Lenten Hunger Appeal. The LWR Drive is scheduled for March 15-29. We will be collecting donations to make kits and quilts that will be sent to hungry people around the world. Offering envelopes will be available in the pews. Mark your memo line LWR Spring Drive.

### **Adult Forum Schedule**

**February 22**-Video and discussion "Hunger and Nutrition" and "The Face of Hunger"

**March 1**-Video and discussion "ABC's of Alleviating Hunger"

**March 8**-Guest Speaker Rev. Russ Melby, recently retired Iowa Director of Church World Services will present the ELCA's 2015 World Hunger Appeal and how it relates to Lutheran World Relief's work

**March 15**-Lutheran World Relief kit packing

**March 22**-Video and discussion "Rescuing Food and Land"

**March 29**-Video and discussion "Bringing It Altogether"



## Lent Disciplines

Are you pondering establishing a discipline for Lent? Is it not something you've ever done? The Hunger Working Team and Lutheran World Relief Committee would like to invite you to join with them in establishing Lenten disciplines dedicated to hunger. To make it easy for you we have compiled a list of things you might consider doing.

- Fast one meal per week to be in solidarity with hungry people.
- Become a member of Bread For the World.
- Write a letter to legislators appealing for aid for the hungry.
- Research hunger facts and what is being done to end world hunger. Information can be obtained at [iowahungerdirectory.org](http://iowahungerdirectory.org).
- Read David Beckmann's book Exodus From Hunger.
- Join Grace's Hunger Working Team or Lutheran World Relief Committee.
- Contribute to the Lenten Food Pantry collection at Grace.
- Contribute to the Lutheran World Relief Spring Drive.
- Purchase Food Pantry bags each time you go to the grocery store.
- Commit to helping in Grace's Faith Garden.
- Take food to Central Iowa Services and Shelter.
- Get involved with food-insecure programs at your local school.
- Help package Lutheran World Relief kits on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Pray for hunger relief locally and globally.

## Newsletter and Bulletin Deadlines

*Please note that the deadline for both will now fall on Wednesdays. Printing, assembly and mailing will remain unchanged.*

The deadline for the February newsletter will be Wednesday February 18.

The deadline for each Sunday's bulletin announcement is due the Wednesday prior.

Please send all submissions to Michelle at [rvoelker1@mchsi.com](mailto:rvoelker1@mchsi.com) You may also leave them in Michelle's mailbox in the office. Submissions sent to [graceluth5@msn.com](mailto:graceluth5@msn.com) will be forwarded to Michelle.

## Thank You!

We thank the Women of Grace Lutheran Church for our Christmas gifts. They keep us so nice and warm. We love our Poinsettia plant. The plant looks so nice on our table. Thank you for thinking of us.

Arnold and Willa Mae Johnson

To the Women of Grace Lutheran Church, I am delighted with the throw given me. I love it. Thank you more than I can say.

Chris Lehfeld

Dear Ladies of Grace Lutheran,  
Thank you very much for the warm comfortable lap robe you sent me. I've used it several times already and it feels real good.

Thanks again, Leanne Davis

## Thank You!

Thank you so much to the ladies of the church that were instrumental in making the lovely plaid lap robes. With the awful weather we have had it sure comes in handy.  
Thanks again, Cindy Wheeler

Thanks for the prayers and support during my knee-replacement surgery and recovery.  
Thanks for all the prayers at the death of Gaylen Thurston and Rogene Hernandez, Ellen's brother and Gary's sister.  
Ellen and Gary Batten

To the Women of Grace Lutheran Church  
Thank you so much for your thoughtful gift of the lap warmer you gave me – it is cozy, warm, and feels wonderful on cold evenings. I miss seeing you and send best wishes to all.

LaRue Buihner

# **The Friendly Visitor**

## **Grace Lutheran Church**