



The Friendly Visitor

Grace Lutheran Church

May 27, 2015

Summer Worship Services
Sundays
8:15 and 9:45 a.m.

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Des Moines, Iowa 50310
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Summer Reading List

The school year is coming to a close. The programmatic year is nearing completion following a couple of busy weeks of Vacation Bible School. Many people use summer as a time to relax a little more and find ways to recharge. With Allison getting ready for second grade in the fall, we have talked about creating summer reading lists for each of us, Jenie, Allison, and me. It was the consensus of all three of us that instead of me reading solely non-fiction books about church and theology, I need to also include some fiction too.

This made me think of a dear friend and mentor, the Rev. Alan Wicks. One thing that he does each summer is to compile a summer reading list. He would openly admit that he has never completed the entire list. It is more of a prompt to take more time to read as a way to recharge. His rules are simple. The list must include: a book about baseball; a book too big to read in bed; a few good fiction and non-fiction books; a few good books related to theology and church.

I am not Al, so my requirements will be different, and also more of a work in progress. For this first summer I will use the following rules: A book about sports (I am not near the baseball fan that he is); A book about church history; At least two fiction books; At least two non-fiction books (not church specific); A few books related to theology and church.

A book about sports - During the consultation process with Mike Wagner, Kevin Drury and I, along with Mike, talked a fair amount about sports, and used a quite a few sports analogies in describing church mission. Through the course of these discussions, Kevin brought up The System by Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian. The book discusses the "Big Business" of NCAA football.

A book about church history - One of the series on my shelf that I have wanted to read for a long time is The People's History of Christianity. It is a seven volume series that details Christianity from its origins to modern and global Christianity. For the reading list this summer is volume one: Christian Origins.

At least two fiction books - This was perhaps the most difficult category for me since it has been about 15 years since I last did much recreational reading. That is precisely why my family and I deemed this to be an important category. I am more that open to suggestions beyond the initial two books. I plan to read Wise Blood by Flanner O'Connor. It is the story of an anti-religion preacher who finds his himself on a journey toward redemption. The second book is The Silmarillion by J.R.R. Tolkien, and it is a precursor to The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings series.

At least two non-fiction books - This category is a little easier. The top of my list is Good to Great by Jim Collins. This is a book about practices and habits that mark the difference between good companies and great companies. Second on the list is Street Gang by Michael Davis. This book documents the history of Sesame Street. I have read parts of it before and look forward to finishing it.

A few books related to theology and church - Top of the list is Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor. This is a book about how God often speaks to us most clearly in times the world would describe as "darkness." The second is Clip In by Jim Ozier and Fiona Haworth. This is a book about church hospitality and evangelism.

These are the books I will dive into this summer in between work and time with family. Let me know what you are reading.

Pastor Mike

Happy June Birthday

- 1 - Danielle Russell
- 2 - Marvin Simonsen
- 3 - Lisa Brown
- 4 - Leslie Denton
- Larry Johnson
- Virgil Olson
- Erica Schwarz
- 5 - Brescia Berg
- Molly Riordan
- Natasha Voelker
- 6 - Debbie Curry
- 8 - Elijah Lund
- Samuel Ruiz
- 10 - Brian Riordan
- 11 - Jacob McCann
- 12 - Lee Johnson
- 13 - James Beeler
- Stacy Speck
- Michele Turner
- 14 - Joshua Habick
- Joel Holst
- MeLissa Lawson
- 15 - Joseph Gutman
- Allison Hofman
- Peter Mattes
- Sandra Meyer
- Kenneth Schwarz
- 16 - Joseph Honsey
- Donald Schroeder
- 17 - Curt Johansen
- Matthew Jordahl
- Eugene Krauss
- Rita Stackhouse
- 18 - Marilyn Nizzi
- Vivian Swanson
- 19 - Luis Reaza
- 21 - Paul Kallenbach
- Jay Lounsberry
- 22 - Martha Mitchell
- 23 - Sharena Appenzeller
- Megan Riordan
- Terin Stanfley
- Delmar Vernia
- 25 - Barbara Tussing
- 28 - Joann Pierce
- Amber Trimble
- 29 - Leanne Davis
- Elizabeth Gronert
- 30 - Steve McCann



Happy June Anniversary

- 3 - Larry and Judy Cramer
- Rick and Rebecca Harmon
- 4 - William and Kristen Marberry
- 6 - Rick and Lori Fry
- 7 - Leonard and Delores Larsen
- 8 - Bruce and Barbara Bergman
- 9 - Matthew and Kara Jordahl
- 10 - Kenneth and Barbara DeBolt
- Kevin and Jeanne Drury
- Jon and Jeanine Rutter
- 12 - Conrad and Jean Thompson
- 14 - John and Linda Gronert
- Robert and Rita Stackhouse
- Rick and Emma Stammer
- 16 - Tim and La Vonne Mitchell
- 19 - Dick and Mary Johansen
- Nick and Kristen Medhurst
- 21 - Donald and Grace Schroeder
- 24 - Leonard and Hele Ringgenberg
- 25 - Curtis and Sarah Chenoweth
- Eugene and Lucille Krauss
- 26 - Bill and Torry Henderson
- 27 - Andrew and Allison Hofman
- Jeff and Nancy Robbins
- 28 - Jeffrey and Patricia Anderson



Sympathy is extended to:

Barb Powers for the loss of her sister-in-law Lucile.

Max Palmer and his family for the loss of his wife, Elayne Palmer.



June Open House – Wednesday, June 10th from 4-8 p.m.

Pastor Mike, Jenie, and Allison would like to extend an invitation to once again gather at our home for a time of food and fellowship. We will host the Open house on Wednesday, June 10th from 4-8 p.m. This year we will have assorted appetizers, as well as lemonade and tea. We enjoy having this event each year and look forward to spending time with you that evening.



New Staff emails

Please note that all Grace Staff have new emails! The format is **firstname@gracedm.org**, such as **mike@gracedm.org**

The complete list of emails is on the front of this newsletter and on the Gracedm.org website.

Staff have begun using these emails internally, but we will continue to check our other emails during the transition.

Michelle Voelker will use the gracedm.org email for Grace Communications. All emails regarding any of the Voelker family's personal participation, member or youth related subjects should continue to be sent to the emails you currently have on file for the Voelker family.

Dust off the Welcome Mat!

Cindy Caylor, Grace Kids Care New Kitchen Manager!

If you receive the e-news you'll know she comes with a ready smile and loves to sing while she bakes. Cindy has worked in many kitchen settings, from senior centers and long term care to the restaurant business, so she has jumped right in. Please say hello if you are around during the week!

Ellen Rothweiler Developer of Youth and Family Ministry

We are pleased to announce that Ellen Rothweiler will be joining the staff team at Grace as our new Developer of Youth and Family Ministry. She will start her work with us the first week of June. This is a new position here at Grace and begins with a two year contract as we begin to develop this ministry area together. A lot has changed in youth and family ministry, and we are excited to work with her to explore what such a ministry will look like in 2015 and beyond.

Ellen Rothweiler is a graduate of Grand View University, lifelong Lutheran and long time resident of the Des Moines area. Ellen is passionate about congregational ministry and enjoys interacting with people of all ages, but especially feels called to work with youth in middle school and high school.

Ellen currently is living with her fiancé Michael Moran in Altoona. They enjoy riding their motorcycle and spending time with friends and family. Ellen and Michael are excited to become a part of Grace Lutheran Church!

New in the Church Library

"The Age of Dignity, Preparing for the Elder Boom in a Changing America," by Ai-Jen Poo. "With the growing population of aging, the author describes a compelling plan that will benefit families and workers and their ability to form strong relationships of care."

"Still Alice," by Lisa Genova. A moving and vividly depicted novel of life with early onset Alzheimer's disease.



"100 Things That Make Me Happy," by Amy Schwartz. One hundred everyday things worth celebrating. Readers young and old will get lost in the loving details of each illustration and the warmth of the simple pleasures that surround us all.

Grace Garden is planted!

Carrots, beets, tomatoes, peppers, crookneck summer squash, butternut winter squash, eggplant, sweet potatoes, potatoes, kale, beans, radishes...

Keep your eye on the table in the front hallway: on Sundays there will begin to be small amounts of fresh produce for you to take home to enjoy or share with someone. You may also place any extra harvest you have on this table.

We are looking for a few good harvesters: please contact Michelle Voelker or Carla Peterman

Men's Project Group:

Well, we got off to what I consider a great start. Four Godly men (would have been more but the 5th had a "higher calling") gathered to share a meal, discussion and a devotion and then got to work. We put down mulch in some flower beds, did some lawn trimming, and got a good start on a larger project involving pew maintenance. It was a great time doing what we love - hanging out and fix'in stuff.

We'll use the Property Committee's maintenance inventory list as a guide for what to do next. However, if you've noticed things around the church you'd like to tackle, please bring those as well.

We decided to meet again on the 2nd Saturday of each month. So join us as we "whittle away at God's list for our church and our lives", Saturday June 13th at 9:00am.

God Bless,
Eric (515-210-6960) and Aaron (515-681-6239)

National Youth Gathering Meeting Five

Sunday June 7, 5 – 7 p.m.
Stacy Speck will be providing the food!

In addition to the lesson, we'll talk about:

- what to pack for the Indiana Dunes and Detroit
- what time we'll leave on July 13
- when we'll receive our tees and backpacks
- what to do for fun when we reach Detroit before the Gathering begins!

We'll also get to spend some time with Ellen Rothweiler, who will be travelling with us!

Garage Sale Success!

The Plant Sale, Bake Sale, and Garage Sale combined netted over \$4,300 in profit for the Middle/High School and National Youth Gathering Fund! Thank you for all of your donations, purchases, and plant sale orders. We couldn't do this without you.

A HUGE thanks to all the youth and parents who volunteered their time, showing up after work to sort, early Saturday morning to unload and sort plants, and stayed after to put Grace Hall back in order.

Take me out to the ballgame...

Men in Mission Cubs Game

Sunday June 28, 1:08 game time.
Watch for sign-ups in the gathering Hall!



Bread for the World Gathering of Letters

During Lent this year, members of the Grace Lutheran Community of Faith gave beyond their planned tithes and offerings and provided meals to those who are hungry in the Des Moines area. The goal of 2015 meals was far exceeded. But hunger is not limited to the time before Easter or the area of Central Iowa; it is a fact of life for 49 million Americans.

One approach to minimizing the long term effects of inadequate nutrition on those who are most at risk is supplemental meals to children. The bulk of this assistance is provided by programs funded through the federal government. Current authorization for funding for this assistance will end September 30, 2015 at the end of the fiscal year unless new legislation is passed authorizing continuing support.

Bread for the World, a nonprofit organization led by a Lutheran pastor advocating for people who are hungry, is focusing its annual Offering of Letters on domestic hunger this year. The Offering of Letters is a coordinated effort that seeks citizen volunteers who agree to write to their congressional representatives (House and Senate) and ask them to support legislation authorizing continued funding of the current child nutrition programs.

For those who wish to participate in advocating for hungry children within the United States, on May 31 (Trinity Sunday) the Grace Hunger Work Group will provide packets containing stamped envelopes, suggested points of emphasis to be addressed in the letters, and local (state) addresses of the elected representatives. Those interested in advocating for hungry children by writing to their representative and senators are encouraged to take advantage of the packets and write a letter expressing their personal support to continue funding food programs directed to hungry children.



Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting

4-28-15 at 7:00 PM

Present: Pastor Mike, Kevin Drury, Don Peterson, Cathy Barks, Eric Weber, Brad Lint, Sandy Briggs, Barb Zimany and Karri Brandsfield

Prayer led by Pastor Mike.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussed the search committee's recommendation to hire Ellen Rothweiler for the Youth and Family position.
 - A motion was made and seconded to extend the job offer to Ellen Rothweiler for the Youth and Family position. The motion carried.
- Ellen Wonderlin led the council in a DEEP discovery process regarding council roles and effectiveness. A follow-up meeting will be held May 5, 2015 at 6:00 PM at church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Reminder that Sunday, May 10th during 9:30 education hour, members of the council will be present for a question/answer session.
- Celebration Sunday is May 17th with one service scheduled for 9:00 AM with an ice cream social to follow. Kevin will send out an e-mail looking for volunteers from council to help serve the ice cream.
- Summer church service hours will start on May 24, 2015 with services at 8:15 AM and 9:45 AM.
- Next council meeting will be held May 26, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Finance Report – April Results

Financial results for April YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$146,833, Budget \$153,167
- Other Income – Actual \$5,878, Budget \$6,583
- Expenses – Actual \$151,701, Budget \$167,672
- Net activity – Actual (\$1,009), Budget (\$7,922)

Actual net activity was favorable to budget due to offsetting variances. Overages in maintenance (Elevator repairs) were offset by savings from the vacant Youth and Family position and other staffing areas.

Additionally, not included in the above results are a \$700,000 estate gift and the use of these monies - \$70,000 (10%) Synod Benevolence and \$160,000 for payoff of bank debt.

World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day is held annually on June 20 to honor the resilience of millions of people around the world who are forcibly displaced. Through your help, LSI provides extended support services in the Des Moines area for people of refugee status who have been resettled to Iowa. These families and individuals bring with them unique talents and dreams, including skills in a field well known to us in Iowa—agriculture! Many people of refugee status grew up in agricultural communities in their home countries and desire to become farmers once again. LSI's Global Greens program helps reconnect people with the land and empowers market farmers to sell their local, sustainably grown food. Join us at LSI's Global Greens Farmers' Market on Saturdays, May through October, at LSI's Des Moines campus (3200 University Ave). For details, visit www.LSIowa.org/globalgreens.

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.

Ya Di's Dream

Ya Di has a selfless dream: he hopes that by changing his life he can change the lives of others.

He arrived in Des Moines with his parents and siblings one year ago as a refugee from Burma (Myanmar), a country where ethnic minorities have faced violence and persecution from the military government.

"When I came to the U.S., I had never been in a city," he said. "In Burma, we lived in a village with mountains. In my mind I thought if I go to a big city, my life will be changed, or I will get more opportunities."

Ya Di immediately wanted to go to high school when he arrived in Iowa, but he was too old. He instead began pursuing his education through other opportunities, including work readiness classes with LSI's Refugee Community Services.

Through the five-week class at LSI, Ya Di learned about filling out job applications, interviewing and even the importance of a firm handshake. By meeting other students, he also started to feel more at home in his new community.

After graduating from LSI's class, Ya Di received and accepted a job offer. He now works full-time, and he also takes English as a Second Language (ESL) and welding classes at Des Moines Area Community College.

"If I get a GED, I can continue to get more education and go to college," he said. "It's the first happy goal for me, the first step for me."

He said he hopes to someday share education with others in his home country.

"My dream is to be a teacher. I will continue my education to get a diploma and also care for my family."



"We do not get discouraged" -- The Lutheran malaria program in Burundi" Allison Beebe



My name is Supesi Ntimpirangeza.

I come from Mwiruzi village. My job is to visit community members. We take what we learn to the community in the village and the local districts. We have to know any woman who is pregnant. We have to know all the village children under five who often contract malaria.

I like my job because some people did not know about malaria and we teach them about malaria symptoms. Cases of malaria have been reduced. People now go to the health clinic instead of relying on traditional medicine.

In Caniga village, a woman's child was seriously sick--she thought it wasn't malaria. When I talked to her, I advised her to go to the clinic. The child was diagnosed with malaria. Now, he has fully recovered.

I work with both men and women. Men, women, young men and women all come to listen. From the time we received LWF training, we've seen a reduction in cases of malaria. I would like to ask that LWF continues to provide more training so that everyone can have the opportunity to learn. People used to die in large numbers. Now, people hurry to the health clinic, and very few people die of malaria.

[My fellow animators and I] do not get discouraged. We were chosen to be volunteer animators in Mwiruzi because they saw our dynamism and diligence. We will continue this way. My hope for the future is that we could continue to teach the community, since we are already trained.

The Friendly Visitor

Grace Lutheran Church

You Are Invited
To The
Grace Kids Care
2015
Preschool Graduation Ceremony



Sunday, June 7th
3:00pm

In The Grace Lutheran Sanctuary
Reception to follow in Grace Hall

Please bring your child to the preschool room by 2:40pm

Scholarship from Grace Lutheran Church – Forms due June 7

Grace Lutheran Church has scholarship monies available to assist members of our congregation with college tuition.

We will help students who have been accepted by a Lutheran seminary, college or university for the 2015-2016 term.

Scholarships shall consist of a grant of up to \$500 per recipient per year and will be paid directly to the seminary, college or university, along with appropriate notification of the grant. The schools usually provide matching funds.

To be considered, new applicants should

1. Fill out an application form (available in the church office).
2. Submit a one-page essay describing how your church involvement and beliefs have influenced your development and career aspirations, including any specific educational goals.
3. Include a letter of request to the Scholarship Committee.

All forms should be submitted by Sunday, June 7, 2015. All eligible students from high school seniors through graduate student status are encouraged to apply. Applicants should be members in good standing for at least one year prior to the request for assistance.