



# The Friendly Visitor

## Grace Lutheran Church

July 28, 2015

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

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**10** - I read an article the other day that talked about ministry tools that are in, and others that are out. One of the first things that the article said was out is count-downs. Some churches place countdown clocks on the website or signage that count down to the next worship service in the hopes that it will build anticipation about what is approaching. Taking the lead from Apple with the introduction of new products a while ago, this fad took off...but according to experts it doesn't work anymore. Count-downs are out.

**9** - Part of me laments this. Not that I am tied to count-downs. It is just that I have never used one before and it seems sad to have something be ruled out before I ever had the opportunity to try it as a ministry tool. Who knows? It may really build a sense of anticipation. Yet, it has been declared that it won't work.

**8** - But what if we really do have some fun and interesting things approaching? In the life of the church year, this is the slow time when it feels like little is happening. The announcements are less than normal. The calendar has more open space than normal. Things are slower, but things are happening. Exciting things are being developed!

**7** - Although it seems like little happens in August in the life of a church, it is one of my favorite times of year. This is the time when the foundational things take place. This is when church-nerds all over the world dive head first into the planning of the next programmatic year, making changes as needed so that Christ can be proclaimed.

**6** - Participants of the National Youth Gathering have been officially welcomed in worship. Fresh from the time in Detroit, we are planning opportunities to hear more about their experiences and the many ways that Christ has been made known in their lives.

**5** - Curriculum is arriving. Plans are being made for educational opportunities for all ages. The Minor Prophets are coming to life in preparation for the Tuesday morning Bible Study. The new confirmation materials have arrived. It is exciting to see the things coming together.

**4** - AFET is getting geared up. You may not be able to see it yet, but there are some fun Faith Enrichment opportunities in the works. Some will be on Sunday mornings. Other opportunities will be at other times. But this is true: Get ready. This will be a good year!

**3** - There are emerging ministries. The youth ministry at Grace is starting to find its stride once again. There are events being planned, and more ideas keep flowing forward. In addition to this, there is a young adult ministry in the works. Growing organically from within the community of faith, there is a growing sense of energy. Can you feel it?

**2** - There is just a little over one month to go before this programmatic year unfolds before us. In the month, we will be fed by scripture and the Bread of Life. We will gather in worship and focus on not only what it means to come to be fed, but also what it means to feed others. It will be a time of that we can all bask in the love of Christ. It will also be a time to get geared up for all that will soon take place.

**1** - You. More than anything else, I am excited about you. With the slower schedule comes more time to be in thought and prayer for all of you. It is such an honor to walk with all of you. From Dana and her enthusiastic "Good morning, Pastor!!" to walking to a grave site, and everything in between, it is truly a blessing to be on this journey with you.

**0** - God Loves You! Remember that. Always.

**Pastor Mike**

## Happy August Birthday

- 1 - Amy Neal  
Laura Schwarz  
Cathleen Swanson
- 2 - Kevin Drury  
Deborah Helt
- 3 - Michael Hansen
- 4 - Matthew Trickle
- 5 - Joshua Appenzeller  
Shirley Dyson  
Jolee Feeney  
Kayleigh Medhurst  
Elizabeth Rudisill  
Donald Swanson  
Rev. Roland Zimany
- 6 - Riannon Brown  
Carla Peterman
- 7 - Dale DeBolt  
Laynne Weber
- 8 - Teri Koch
- 9 - Katherine Lenhart  
Ross Lewis
- 10 - Jeffrey Anderson  
Dilynn Chapman  
Delores Larsen
- 11 - Linda Ulrick
- 13 - Maria Jacobo  
Josefina Ruiz
- 14 - Angela Hansen  
Darlene Stuckle  
Rachel Welty
- 15 - Adam Dostalík  
Connie Heuton  
Alex Pilon
- 16 - Cheryl Weatherington
- 17 - Jordan Carter
- 18 - Michael Best  
Beverly Russell
- 19 - Alyssa Weaver
- 20 - Patricia Andersen  
Cooper Mortensen  
Brent Ridnour
- 21 - Tom McCleary
- 22 - Annika Christensen  
Devin Christensen
- 23 - Marvin Johns  
Mark Mattes  
Janice Nordeen
- 24 - Brady Bogue  
John Gronert  
Linda Gronert  
Cris Hidalgo  
Grace Schroeder  
Janet Trentmann
- 25 - Scott Honsey
- 27 - Tim Nelson
- 28 - Brandon Niemuth  
Richard Randolph  
Philip Snyder
- 29 - Susan Halblom  
Todd Prescott
- 30 - Janet Gross  
Janet Habick  
Len Ringgenberg
- 31 - Eleanor Carlson  
Gary Nehmer

## Happy August Anniversary

- 1- Martha and Stuart Mitchell
- 4 - Alice and Howard Kulzer  
Melissa and Paul Kallenbach
- 5 - Kristin Kopperud-Stinn and Kevin Stinn
- 7 - Rachael and Ryan Bigg
- 8 - Angela and Kent Weaver
- 11 - Bonnie and Donald Swanson
- 12 - Sharon and Joshua Schwemler
- 13 - Marion and Gary Nehmer
- 14 - Sally Anne and Preston Lathrop  
Inga and Ralf Hoifeldt
- 15 - Melinda and Sean Stickrod  
Melissa and Chris Lawson
- 16 - Carol and John Rudisill  
Gayle and Virgil Olson  
Pat and Dale Bordt
- 19 - Sheryl and Robert Sauerman  
Eleanor and Kenneth Carlson
- 21 - Cheryl and Ernest Weatherington
- 25 - Christie Rosheim and Bruce Mumm  
Julie and Scott Honsey
- 26 - Diane and Jerry Westercamp  
Sharyn and Gary Nelson
- 29 - Lenora and Norm Iverson
- 30 - Kristene and Joshua Shortell
- 31 - Kari and Martin Dostalík  
Kathy and Kurt Bowermaster



## Sympathy is extended to:

The family of Evelyn Knudsen



The daughters and family of Evelyn Knudsen would like to thank the members of Grace and the Congregational Cares Committee for their thoughts, prayers, and support after our mother's passing. We appreciated the food and paper goods that were provided by the Cares Committee as we joined family to remember our Mom. To be enclosed in the circle of caring that this congregation provides has been a great comfort to us. Thank you and God bless.

**Anne Hand, Beth McLean, Carol Woodruff, and Amy Knudsen**  
**Romans 8:38-39**

## Luther Park Auxiliary

### 2015 Ice Cream Social

Sunday August 2, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
Luther Park Community Center  
1555 Hull Avenue, Des Moines

*Free will offering for:*  
Ice Cream \* Brownie Sundaes \* Pie \* Cake  
\* Sugar Free Items \* Coffee \* Iced Tea



## Meeting

Monday August 10, 1:30 p.m.  
Please join us for the presentation of SHIPP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program)  
Refreshments will be served. Drawings for Prizes will be held.



## Gathering Reflections

I could not have asked for a better way to get to know the high school youth of this congregation than this last week at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. Through travel, worship, service and fun I got to see a part of who each student was as an individual and as a part of this community of faith. It was beautiful and wonderful to be a part of this experience with these remarkable young people whom God has given remarkable gifts to do remarkable things in our community. The adults that were along for this adventure were also remarkable, each bringing an important perspective and role to the group. Adults can make or break a trip like this, and Kent, Carol and Michelle made it! Thank you for all you did for these young people this week! There is no doubt in my mind that the youth of the ELCA had a lasting and positive impact on the people of Detroit, and I am proud of the way these people of Grace were a part of that.

Ellen



## Have something to share?

Do you have a collection that you would like to share? Did you know that we have a display cabinet in the Gathering Hall?



Check out Kathy Bowermaster's collection of drummers in there right now, and feel free to sign up for a couple of months on the sheet by the cabinet. You can pick up the key from the office when it's time for you to set up your display. Can't wait to see it!

## Just where DID Uncle George hide his suitcase?

Come watch the Grace Players locate the luggage in "The Money in Uncle George's Suitcase" on Saturday, August 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary!



We will be taking photos for the photo wall on celebration Sunday, Sept. 13 at Tower Park.

*(There will be additional indoor photo shoot opportunities: dates to be announced later).*

- You can keep your current photo or update your photo.
- Not on the Photo wall? This is your chance! Bring along some props that show who you are or what your favorite hobbies are. Check out the photo wall in the hallway to see what other members have done. (We also accept completely normal, prop free photos).
- You can always bring in a copy of a favorite family photo, or even a photo on your favorite vacation! Let us get to know you.

## Finance Report – June Results

Financial results for June YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$220,008, Budget \$225,750
- Other Income – Actual \$9,436, Budget \$9,542
- Expenses – Actual \$223,939, Budget \$250,217
- Net activity – Actual \$5,505, Budget (\$14,925)

Actual net activity was favorable to budget due to offsetting variances. Significant savings is being realized from the payoff of the bank debt. Additionally, there was certain savings from the vacant Youth and Family position. These savings were offset by overages in maintenance (Elevator and AC repairs) and office equipment activity.

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.

## **Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting 6-23-15 at 7:00 PM**

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

Devotion and Prayer led by Pastor Mike.

Minutes from May meeting were accepted as written.

Staff reports were accepted as written.

Pastor report – Ellen is settling in nicely to her office and with the staff.

Finance reports were accepted as written. Grace received a \$10,000 gift which was reflected in the financial reports.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- No old business

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discussed committee night direction.
  - A motion was made and seconded to dispense of the current committee night format. The motion carried
- Discussed future staff structure.
  - A motion was made and seconded to explore and discover elder ministry and the impact on staffing. The motion carried.
- Discussed office technology – Desktop/Laptop updates
  - Pastor Mike will put together a proposal with pricing and e-mail it out to the council for discussion.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Next council meeting will be a retreat on July 19, 2015 from noon to 3:00. There will be no August council meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karri Brandsfield, Secretary

## **The Council Corner**

Hello everyone! This is the first edition of the Council Corner which is intended to be a quarterly feature that keeps you up on what is happening with Grace Lutheran Church and its congregational council. Our hope is that over time you will find that the council involves itself with many issues and items that are not only interesting, but impact our church life at Grace.

For the past few months, the church council has been involved in discussions regarding how we get M&M's (church members as well as future members) with "modern and messy lives" to get more deeply involved with Grace. M&M's value their family and social time, want to be involved in activities that are meaningful and not necessarily ongoing into perpetuity, and above all, value flexibility in their lives. Because of this, the council has adopted the following measures....

1. The formal committee night structure has been abandoned. It will be up to the committees as to when and how often they meet. Some committees will still meet formally each month while others will meet as the calendar and activities demand.
2. In order to enhance communication between church staff and committees, a church staff member will now work directly with each committee. The staff members will attend the committee meetings as needed. This should enhance internal communication and coordination as the church staff meets weekly.
3. The congregational council will continue to meet monthly (except in July and August when we have a board retreat) but will now meet at 6:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month rather than 7:00 p.m. We will share in a meal to enhance the social aspects of being on council and the earlier start time will allow council members to get home to their families earlier in the evening.
4. The congregational council is adapting a consent agenda for their council meetings. In the past, we have spent too much time focusing on what has happened in the past and deprived ourselves of talking more about the future. A consent agenda will allow the council more time to discuss and plan for the future.

One of our disappointments of the past year is that we did not have a full slate of candidates to vote on for the church council openings at the annual meeting. We now have ten church council members where we usually have twelve. As a church council, we're open to your ideas on how you think more members would be interested in church council. We hope that these steps will be the first steps in making serving on church council a more meaningful and fulfilling experience. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving on council, please let us know.

**Yours in Christ,**

**Kevin Drury**



**Back to School Month**

School is right around the corner! As children and teens adjust to a new classroom routine, the transition can often bring to light behavioral issues that may stem from a mental health diagnosis, such as ADHD, anxiety, depression or oppositional defiant disorder.

Did you know Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) partners with schools across the state to provide mental health services right in their schools? This makes it easier to collaborate with educators and reduce the transportation barrier that sometimes makes it hard for families to attend appointments. We are grateful for opportunities to provide therapy for uninsured and underinsured children who otherwise might not get the help they need.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

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](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

**Making a "Day and Night" Difference for Ethan**

Kim was at her wit's end. Her son Ethan, who had been bullied, was fighting with other youth at his middle school. Her daughter Dejah was also struggling with her parents' divorce. "I didn't know what to do," Kim said. "I'd tried everything."

Ethan's school eventually referred Kim to LSI's Brief Intensive Services. And that's when everything changed. "It was day and night with the kids," she said. "At first they weren't doing so great, but after a while it was a complete turnaround."

LSI's Brief Intensive Services does just what its name describes – an LSI caseworker partners with a family for short time, meeting as often as needed, to help children and teens who are struggling with school, a crisis or behaviors.

The unique community program, available in the Muscatine and Davenport areas, is made free to families by local funders and supports those who may not qualify for traditional services.

Ethan warmed up quickly to his LSI caseworker Ryan during weekly meetings. He started building skills like learning how to calmly handle frustration and how to make and keep friendships.

"I was nervous about people coming to our home and how Ethan would react," Kim said. "But I thought if someone came where he's comfortable, he might open up." LSI helped the family learn to communicate again. Today Ethan is getting all A's and B's in school. His school suspensions are a thing of the past, and he's made some new friends. "Things are more stable," Kim said. "We can talk and cope rather than yelling and screaming. LSI helped us understand each other better."



**ELCA Malaria Campaign**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

**A Success Story**  
**- The Lutheran malaria program in Tanzania"**  
**Allison Beebe**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) has a strong presence!

Thirteen percent of Tanzania's population belongs to the church, and the ELCT seeks to share a holistic gospel message by serving church members and others through spiritual, social, economic and environmental programs. Many of their programs focus on health education and health care. The Usa River Lutheran Parish is part of the Meru Diocese of the ELCT; the Child Survival Program, which is supported by the ELCA Malaria Campaign, works with mothers of small children, of extreme poverty.



*Photo: Mkunde and her daughter, Noel, with the mosquito net in their home. Courtesy of LWR.*

Forty mothers are working together through the Child Survival Program, learning about malaria, their own health and that of their young children, how to earn money through small business ventures, and how to save income to afford health-related items such as clinic visits and mosquito nets. Mkunde Thomas and her one-year-old daughter, Noel, are one of the many success stories of the Child Survival Program. Mkunde and Noel have remained malaria-free!



## Vacation Bible School 2015

Vacation Bible School weeks were a blast this summer! We had **37 three to five year olds** join us for preschool week, and **61 kindergarten through fifth graders** for elementary week. Altogether, that made **74 families** who were a part of the program. That doesn't even include the children who attended the evening program at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, with whom we have been partnering and who hosted their own week for the first time this year. About a dozen children took part at St. Andrew's. Thanks to our **55 teen and adult volunteers**, our Lutheran Lakeside staff, and our **22 snack donors** (not including donors from St. Andrew's), it was an amazing and Spirit-filled summer. Here's what some of our families had to say about their children's experience:

*I immediately heard about the professional story teller. You're right, Olivia was mesmerized! She loved it. I also heard about the house building and people she met during that activity. Meanwhile, Vanessa and Sienna are still singing "Five loaves and two fish and Jesus fed the people."*

**Ha! Love it!  
Rainey**

Thank you for the email updates! I also just wanted to tell you that Ava and Isiah are having a blast at VBS and the afternoon activities. That is all they talk about from the time I pick them up until they go to bed! Isiah even missed a play date today and he said "I don't even care mom because I am having so much fun at bible school." And my middle child who came to VBS two weeks ago cried when I told him he can't go back to bible school until next summer! Thank you again for opening your doors to Isiah, Jordan and others who do not attend your church.

**Melissa**

*My grandson can't get enough of the songs. You have been doing a song "Come see Jesus at the well." Today we were playing in his little pool and he started singing, "Come see Jesus at the pool!"*

**Leyria**

Thank you so much for all your hard work. These sorts of things don't just "happen". You've put together a wonderful week for both the preschoolers and the "older kids". I really appreciate it.

I grew up going to Bible School and after I was too old to attend, I volunteered to help. So it really means a lot to me that my boys got to attend too. This was the first church (out of three) that the boys have attended, in their short lives, that had Vacation Bible school that they could attend and that's because you have the afterhours time, and because it starts at 8:00, Barry is able to take them in the morning.

I love that my boys can learn to have fun with the church and Bible teachings and music outside of Sunday School and church services. This foundation that we are building with them through Christ will be with them the rest of their lives. So no matter what circumstances befall us, no matter what turmoil the world has in store, they know they are never alone. They have faith in Christ to hold onto and his strength, grace, and protection will see them through ANYTHING.

**Sandy**

*I wanted you to know that both Elizabeth and Catherine were anxious to tell me the stories Maureen shared with them. Catherine didn't surprise me but Elizabeth was so happy! And when she got out of the car, I told her I would pick her up at 7:30 tomorrow and she said "OK!" Thanks for all you do.*

**Joyce**

### **Many thanks to all of our VBS volunteers and snack donors who made the program possible:**

Gail Peterson  
Connie Heuton  
Barb Zimany  
Rita Stackhouse  
Amy Schmelzer  
Ardis Schmelzer  
Jan Gross  
Tammy Denton  
Kari Dostalík  
Dick and Mary Johansen  
Gladys Peterson  
Lynn Niemuth  
Carol Woodruff  
Lenora Iverson  
Joanne Johnson  
Lois Slye

Deanna Weber  
Marilyn Nizzi  
Kathleen Uehling  
Loree Nelson  
Heather Ashton  
Carol Mattes  
Emma Mattes  
Leslie Denton  
Beth Flannery  
Jan Grannes  
Joie Gronert  
Haley Dostalík  
Adam Dostalík  
Mary Freimuth Helt  
Megan Riordan  
Isaac McCleary

Laria Preston  
Lindsey Nelson  
Emma Haunsperger  
Emma Stammer  
Leyria Walters  
Joyce Lewis  
Kristin Medhurst  
Kayleigh Medhurst  
Kyler Medhurst  
Linda Ross  
June Halberstadt  
Julie Honsey  
MeLissa Lawson  
Payton Lawson  
Zoe Lawson  
Ben Wonderlin

Sage Speck  
Sam Speck  
Sarah Voelker  
Christopher Jamtgaard  
Samantha Jamtgaard  
Jenie Schmidt  
Ellen Rothweiler  
Yaritza Marquez  
Susanne Carney  
Sierra Carney  
McKenzie Carney  
Claire Hetherington  
Grace Levich  
Emma Peterson  
Nancy Johnson  
Donna Trickel

Delores Larsen  
Jane Ridnour  
Bobby Briggs  
Denny Rehder  
Karen and Randy  
Taylor

**Thank  
You**

*A snapshot view of VBS....thanks to our photographers June Halberstadt (St. Andrew's) and Denny Rehder*



## Moonlight Stroll for Marfan and Related Disorders Friday July 24, 2015



Members of Grace Lutheran church braved the heat and humidity to honor/support Haley Dostalík and Natasha & Sarah Voelker at the Moonlight Stroll for Marfan & Related Disorders, held July 24<sup>th</sup> at Copper Creek Lake in Pleasant Hill, Iowa. Following a moonlit stroll around the lake (complete with blinking hearts), participants enjoyed some refreshments and good conversation. Several members even won door prizes! On behalf of the Dostalík and Voelker families, a heartfelt "thank you" for all of your support!



Pastor Mike, Jenie and Allison



Haley Dostalík and Sarah Voelker



(Back Row: Left to right) Pastor Mike Schmidt, Jenie Schmidt, Cathy Barks, Lori Fry, Haley & Kari Dostalík, Sarah Voelker. (Front Row) Allison Olson, Tammy Denton, Mary Jo McCleary, Mira Voelker, Marty Dostalík



## Have a Heart walk/fun run Saturday July 25, 2015

Grace Lutheran's own Todd Haugen was the overall male winner of the Have Heart 10K Fun Run on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Todd ran the race in honor of his niece, Haley Dostalík, who has Marfan syndrome. Proceeds from the event will support the



Todd- First Place in the 10K!



Todd right out in front after the start!

Sarah Voelker, Haley Dostalík, Haley's friend  
running the face painting and games



# The Friendly Visitor

## Grace Lutheran Church



### "The 3% Solution"

What's "the 3% solution", you ask? Your Malaria Swat Team at Grace is glad that you asked! It has to do with the very exciting news that the ELCA Malaria Campaign has reached all but the last 3% of its goal of reaching \$15 million by the end of 2015. That amounts to only \$500,000. Your Swat Team has some very exciting news to share about Grace's overall part in the campaign....but you're going to have to come to worship on August 23 to find out what it is. And it will be something worth celebrating indeed.

Until then, please prayerfully consider this: We have been asked by the campaign to see if we can make one final push toward reaching the \$15 million goal. Through the work of the Spirit, we made amazing strides in smashing our original goal at Grace back in 2013-2014. Now is an opportunity to go even further. Between now and August 23, please prayerfully consider playing one more part in this mission to wipe out malaria, and look for more information to come in the coming weeks. Be a part of "the 3% solution." Let's wipe out malaria for good.

Go to [www.elca.org/malaria](http://www.elca.org/malaria) for more information, check out another success story on page 5, and stay tuned in the coming weeks at Grace. Thanks ahead of time from your Swat Team: Cathy Barks, Mary Freimuth Helt, Stephanie Johnson, Melissa Kallenbach, Brad Lint, Gail Peterson, and Carol Woodruff.

### Your Extra Items Needed for LWR

Lutheran World Relief wants your extra new toothbrushes, nail clippers, bar soap (4 oz.), pencils, pens, and 70 page spiral notebooks to make school kits and personal care kits this fall. Bring your extra items to the box in the gathering hall by Labor Day. Our LWR drive will start in September. Thanks!

### Grace Vegetable Garden update!



Have you been enjoying the harvest from the garden recently? Make sure to check out the bounty in the entrance hall every Sunday.

Harvest this past week included a little bit of everything -- Tomatoes, kale, broccoli, summer squash, onions, potatoes, eggplant, sweet peppers, green peppers. The weeks prior included carrots and beets – the beets have gotten rave reviews! The beets, broccoli, and onions are just about done, but we should have more of the rest in the next few weeks!

Several people also brought in cucumbers, summer squash, and a bunch of green beans. If you have extra in your garden, or belong to a CSA and have extra produce you just can't use, bring it to Grace on Sunday morning! Someone else would love to take it home.

What happens with the remaining produce? Some of the Grace Kids Care families help themselves on Monday morning, and the rest is picked up and taken to one of the food pantries.

Coming soon are eggplant, sweet red peppers, potatoes, tomatoes, and carrots and beets have been reseeded for a second crop.

The sunflower is blooming, and our "friends" the bunnies have not been seen recently!