

The Friendly Visitor

Grace Lutheran Church

September 29, 2015

Worship Services

8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

3010 52nd Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
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Inside This Issue...

- Page 2... Birthdays, Anniversaries
Hunger Hike, Water to Thrive
- Page 3... LWR Fall Drive, Adult & Youth
Learning Opportunities
- Page 4... Finance Report
- Page 5... LSI & Malaria updates
LSI First Circle Friends
- Page 6... Visiting Friends Ministry
October Volunteers
Hunger Summit
- Page 7... Thrivent, Lydia Circle
Garden and Kitchen Cleanup
Online Director
- Page 8... God's Work Our Hands
Photos

Back to Church Day

The habit has been to listen to "Hymn-time with Pastor Ron" while en route, and this last Sunday caught me by surprise. In between two of the "hymns", perfectly timed while I was parking the car, he exclaimed "Today is Back to Church Day!" It is a holiday designed to celebrate people returning to the routine of church attendance after the summer months. The fact that such a holiday exists says a lot about our North American culture.

For some, last Sunday is a return to the pattern of attendance after the summer months, and we welcome that return. I am not admonishing anyone. The announcement simply surprised me. And why would it surprise me? There WAS great energy on September 20th. There was great energy that Sunday at both services. There were great hymns that were sung. The special music by the high school youth was inspiring. The presentation about "Why Detroit?" kept the attention of those gathered, and prompted questions about what this might mean for all of us in the months to come.

The surprise came as I reflected on the prior week-end, and the weeks before that. I cannot help but think about Celebration Sunday. I have rarely been more proud to be a servant of the Lord, called as a pastor. That whole Sunday was amazing. It started as we gathered together in worship, seeing yellow t-shirts spread throughout. It continued as we heard the choir sing for the first time this programmatic year, inspiring our worship through song. In between worship services we saw this splattering of yellow now turn into an ocean as the flurry of activity continued in service of the neighbor. Not a service in worship, but as we celebrated and shared in God's Work with Our Hands. The care bags were put together fast enough that anyone wishing to take part in both activities could "take to the streets" and pick up trash between Grace and Tower Park.

While hauling worship items to Tower Park, this ocean of yellow t-shirts turned into a river that went forth down the street. I witnessed little Henry Jordahl, with the t-shirt down to his ankles and a huge smile on his face, picking up trash for the sake of our neighbor. Later, it was a great witness as groupings of people emerged from the side streets and gathered at Tower Park. What a great cloud of witnesses!

We continued with worship and lunch at Tower Park. This was a great time of worship and fellowship. People stayed. Stories were told. Laughs were shared. It simply felt good. Thank you for an amazing week-end.

In the weeks leading up to Celebration Sunday we were able to contribute more than \$3600 toward the Malaria Campaign, bringing positive change to lives of our brothers and sisters in Africa and beyond. A mere 4 weeks before Celebration Sunday we heard a series of youth share from the experiences at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. We even took part in the "Dance Move of the Day." Now THAT was a sight to see.

Others may have celebrated Back to Church Day, but here at Grace we simply call it Sunday. We are the church, not the building at 52nd and Urbandale. And as the church we do some pretty amazing things, don't we?

Pastor Mike

Happy October Birthday

- 2 - Eric Barks
Robert Campbell
Christine Hines
Steve Johnson
Ivy Lawson
Andy Roat
Ardis Schmelzer
Margaret York
- 3 - 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
Chris Kallenbach
Jeramie Mitchell
- 12 - Benjamin Wonderlin
- 13 - Deanna Hummel
Victoria Janson
David Peterson
Sheryl Sauerma
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
- 19 - Isaac Justice
- 20 - James Oakley
Linda Ross
Dick Sampel
Sean Stickrod
Stuart Turnet
- 21 - Sarah Schroeder
Sage Speck
- 22 - Kathryn Allen
- 23 - Trinity Newman
Ronald Vernia
- 24 - Melissa Kallenbach
- 25 - Joyce Lewis
Tina Meadows
- 26 - Seth Kallestad
- 27 - Douglas Dinnauer
Sarah Grace Voelker
- 28 - Max Sauerma
- 29 - Franklin Peterson
Jessica Russell
Jeanette Ziesman

Happy October Birthday

- 30 - Travis Brown
Pedro Espericueta
Marcia Welty
Jennifer Bloomberg
- 31 - Ashley Artzer
Fay Cline
Tanner Peeler

Happy October Anniversary

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

Thank You!

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the staff of Moore Elementary School I would like to thank you for the goodie bags. We appreciate your warm welcome to the neighborhood. It was so nice to read all your kind words as we begin our new school year. We are looking forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,
Beth Sloan, Principal

Hunger Hike

On Sunday, October 11 Confirmation students will be participating in the Des Moines Area Hunger Hike. "The Hunger Hike increases community consciousness and concern about local and world-wide hunger and raises funds to be used by non-profit agencies and programs to help alleviate the problem." On the next several Sundays leading up to the Hunger Hike between worship services the confirmation students will be collecting donations to support this effort. Please look for them in the Gathering Hall to provide your support! The Hike will take place from 1:30 to 5:30 that Sunday afternoon if you care to participate. Please see Ellen Rothweiler or Julie Honsey for more information.



Water to Thrive-

This month the high school youth will have an opportunity to attend this city wide youth event!

- **Who:** AGAPE*, Rachel Kurtz, and poet Joe Davis. You can check out Joe Davis' work on [his website](#).
- **What:** A concert and pre-show event as part of the Rise Up Together Tour in support of the Walk for Water campaign.
 - The **pre-show event** will be a collaborative effort from various congregations that will include a Walk for Water course (like the one in COBO at the Youth Gathering), as well as games, snacks, prizes, etc.
 - Funds collected during the pre-show and concert benefit [ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water](#) campaign.
- **When:** The concert is scheduled for **Saturday, October 17 at 7:00pm, with the pre-show event beginning at 6:00pm.**
- **Where:** Faith Lutheran Church in Clive.

Lutheran World Relief Fall Drive

You'll find envelopes in the pews, a display in the Gathering Hall, and are invited to join us on Sunday Oct. 4 between worship services to assemble kits.

We recognize our congregation as being:

Generous
Responsive
Aware
Caring
Energized



This year our kits and quilts have gone to help:

Gorgia Republic: Personal and Baby Care Kits went to disabled persons and orphans, for the cold winter.
Refugees in Burma received Quilts and Baby Care Kits to provide security and dignity.
Angolan Civil War refugees, returning to their homes from Congo after 27 years, received Baby and Personal Care Kits.
Civil War-displaced Syrians received Personal and Baby Care Kits, Quilts, and School Kits. They also received shelter repair kits, cash for work, and water filtration projects.
Elders, orphans, school kids, and rehab participants in Tanzania received Fabric Kits to help them learn a trade.

Adult Learning Opportunities

Grace Hall, Sundays at 9:30

Oct 4 -- Lutheran World Relief/kit assembly
Oct 11 -- Conversation with Council
Oct 18 -- Brain Health & First Circle Friends
Oct 25 -- "Becoming Lutheran"



Adult Bible Study meets Tuesday mornings from 8:45-10:15 a.m. in Grace Hall II. Pastor Mike leads.

Morning prayer begins at 8:30 in the Upper Room on Tuesdays.



Small Group Study

The AFET (Adult Faith Enrichment Team) is gathering information about members who are interested in a small group study. **Find the orange sign-up/interest forms at Volunteer Central in the Gathering Hall, fill out and place in the box.** The study groups would meet from 4 – 6 weeks at choice of location decided by the group, and a facilitator can be matched to the group if desired. Resources that Grace owns are available, or online resources could be used.



Grace Fellowship – all are welcome!
Sunday, October 4, 5:00 p.m.

Light dinner followed by speaker Sue Woody of the Des Moines Public Library, 1000 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA. Ms. Woody will talk about services offered by the main library -- parking, computers, various books available, etc. She will be available for questions.



Grace Lutheran Men in Mission: Thursday, October 8

We will meet at Immanuel Methodist Church starting at 6:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Rox Laird from the Educational Board of the Des Moines Register speaking on the Future of Journalism.

Youth Learning Opportunities

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Preschool: room 105
K-5 Room 101



Youth Sunday Morning Hangout 9:30 –10:30 a.m. Middle and High School Youth Rooms

There will be food and coffee/hot cocoa, and you will have time to hang out with your church friends and talk about your week.



Confirmation Classes

Wednesday Evenings 6:30 p.m. Room 301



Acolyte Training

All interested 4th and 5th graders Sunday, Oct 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Please plan to attend the training with your children and bring your calendars. We will have a sign up sheet available on that day.

If you are interested, please let Stephanie know. If you are interested, but cannot make the Oct. 18 date, let us know that as well.

Thank you! We look forward to working with your kids! Stephanie Johnson, Director of Laity Ministries

Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting

9-22-15 at 6:00 PM

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

Devotion and Prayer led by Pastor Mike.

Consent agenda reports from previous month were accepted and seconded as written.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Conversation with council during education hour on October 11, 2015 was discussed. A good number of council members will be present for this conversation. Kevin captured several topics to address at this meeting.
- Pastor gave council an update on the new sound system for the sanctuary. We are waiting on a custom wall bracket that is being made for Grace and installation should be sometime in mid-October.
- Pastor received three bids for the video equipment for the sanctuary. We will discuss these in further detail next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The financial situation of Grace Kids Care was discussed. They are currently showing \$10,000 in the red.
 - A motion was made and seconded to identify an outside consultant to evaluate the daycare. The motion carried
- The ELCA's Social Statement on Human Sexuality was reviewed. We will continue this subject in October with further discussion on specific texts from the bible.
- The updated Grace Room Rental Policy was discussed. Kevin will send out a copy of the updated Wedding Policy booklet for us to review and vote upon at our next meeting.
- Pastor mentioned that the quilters would like to change to a different work space. It is becoming more difficult for some people to manage the steps and the space can get quite cool during the winter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next council meeting will be Tuesday, October 27, 2015 @ 6:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Karri Brandsfield, Secretary

Finance Report – Aug Results

Financial results for August YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$283,919, Budget \$298,333
- Other Income – Actual \$12,241, Budget \$12,500
- Expenses – Actual \$330,868, Budget \$333,662
- Net activity – Actual (\$34,708), Budget (\$22,828)

Actual net activity was unfavorable to budget due to several variances. Pledged offerings are below budget primarily for the month of July. Unpledged offerings have been below budget the entire year. Significant savings is being realized from the payoff of the bank debt (\$26K). Additionally, there was certain savings from the vacant Youth and Family position. These savings were offset by overages in maintenance (Elevator, AC repairs and painting of the custodian house), new office construction, office furniture and equipment purchases.

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. Finally, a final distribution of an additional \$11,407 was received in the month of August.





Warming Hearts with God’s Love and a Good Pair of Mittens

Far too often, there are children who arrive at LSI’s Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers with almost nothing in their possession. And for children or youth who have been in the foster care system, it’s not uncommon for them to arrive with everything they own in a single garbage bag.

We give thanks for Iowa congregations because you faithfully respond to these needs, year after year! As winter approaches, LSI relies on your loving support to meet the demand for hats, coats, gloves and mittens for children and youth at Beloit and Bremwood. And if you’ve ever been a child, had a child or known a child, then you also know it doesn’t hurt to have a few extra pairs around!

Your church has likely received or will soon be receiving a letter inviting you to participate in LSI’s coats and mittens appeal. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at deborah.whitford@LSIowa.org.

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.

A Fresh Start for Sophia

Sophia is funny, creative, brave and smart. But in junior high, she heard none of those words from her peers. Instead, when she was 12, a classmate said to her, “Why are you still alive? I wish you were dead.”

That’s when she started cutting herself.

“Other kids at school threatened me on a daily basis, and the teachers didn’t do anything to stop it,” said Sophia, now 18. “I didn’t want to walk home by myself after a while.”

Things fell apart for Sophia during seventh grade. Her grades slipped and she started acting out. A rocky home life didn’t help matters. Sophia spent the next five years in and out of treatment centers, shelter care and foster care, and eventually she was placed at LSI’s Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly.

“I didn’t have a lot of family support, so Bremwood became my family,” she said. “They built up my self-esteem as much as they could when I didn’t have any.”

“Before Bremwood, I didn’t care about wanting to be successful or happy or stable,” she added. “I would self-harm multiple times a day with anything I could find. I’m doing better with it, but it’s still a struggle sometimes.”

Sophia completed treatment at Bremwood, and she is now attending community college with plans to eventually study social work and business. LSI staff are so proud of Sophia – she was named “Student of the Year” at her GED graduation ceremony this past spring!



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



The ELCA Malaria Campaign did it! Thanks to the work of the Spirit and the generosity of many donors, the goal of \$15 million was reached by mid September 2015. Here at

Grace, your Malaria Swat Team presented the congregation with the challenge of becoming a part of “the 3% solution,” and you rose to the occasion. The ELCA was making its final push toward the last 3% of the goal when we were contacted to join in that effort once again. Our goal here at Grace was 10% of what we raised the first time - \$1160. The amount that came in was more than triple that - **\$3723** as of Sept. 15. Thank you for being such generous stewards. Our goal had been to help with reaching the \$15 million. Instead, we, no doubt along with many other generous congregations, helped them to move above and beyond it. Thanks be to God.



First Circle Friends learning opportunities

We invite you to two upcoming learning opportunities about the First Circle Friends program that we offer at Grace. Both are open to whomever would like to attend, but we do ask for an RSVP for the second one so that we can plan accordingly.

Sunday, October 18: Education hour presentation on brain health from 9:30-10:30am

Tuesday, October 27: A glimpse into the First Circle Friends program from 10:30am-12:00pm – Join us for a sampling of a day’s activities and a luncheon. The event is open to the general public, potential volunteers, and caregivers of those with early- to mid-stage memory loss. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Stephanie Johnson at stephanie@gracedm.org or 276-6873.

The following quote is from Pastor Paul Holmer of a Clinton, IA congregation which also hosts the program:

“Many people with memory loss become increasingly restricted to their homes and may have little contact with other people. First Circle Friends is an opportunity to get out and do a variety of things in a social setting. Also, the demands of caring for a loved one can be so draining that the health and well-being of the caregiver may be affected. Five hours may not seem very long, but it can give everyone involved time to become renewed and reenergized for a better quality of life. I am deeply grateful to our volunteers who make the sessions an enjoyable time for all. By pairing participants one-on-one with a volunteer, people gain new friends, and the circle of friendship expands as the group does things together. A caring circle of friends is formed.”

Grace Visiting Friends Ministry

In response to God's calling, which I eagerly chose to accept, visiting the homebound has been a privilege.

Through the ministry of Visiting Friends of Grace, I have sacrificed only a small amount of time to listen and encourage with kindness, share DVDs of Sunday services, and deliver the Lord's Supper to homebound members of our church family. I feel as though I am representative of the larger Church, bringing the Church to the homebound individual.

I have enjoyed hearing stories of life experiences as well as details about family history resulting in a conclusion that we share many "common threads."

I feel truly blessed to have been called to the ministry of Visiting Friends of Grace.

Martha Mitchell

I was sick and you visited me.
Matthew 25:36



Visiting Friends of Grace Meeting

Are you interested in the ministry of reaching out and visiting our home bound members? If so, please join us for an orientation meeting of Visiting Friends of Grace, We will meet on Thursday, October 8, 6:30 p.m., in the Conference Room. If you have any questions, please contact Cherie Rissman at cherierissman@gmail.com or 270-0278.

The Iowa Hunger Summit

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015

This annual event – free and open to the public - is held from 9:00am-3:30pm during the World Food Prize's week of events at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown, and it kicks off the Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium, also known as the "Borlaug Dialogue." The Iowa Hunger Summit gathers several hundred leaders from across Iowa representing community organizations, business and industry, state and local government, social agencies, churches and religious communities, schools and universities, and other groups that lead or participate in projects to confront hunger. Topics include health and global change, the state of hunger in Iowa, building hunger networks, and more. For more information, go to www.worldfoodprize.org. Registration is possible online or by contacting Stephen Lauer at 515-245-3730.



Hope for the Hungry conference

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015

The 7th and final Hope for the Hungry conference, sponsored by the Coalition in Support of Hungry Children, will be held at the **World Food Prize Hall of Laureates in downtown Des Moines** from 9:00am-3:00 p.m. The theme is *Hope for the Hungry: 2010-2015 and Beyond*, and conferees will learn about current hunger issues, current work to alleviate hunger, and volunteering minutes or hours to alleviate hunger. The conference leader will be Debra Landwehr Engle, co-author of [Hunger in the Heartland: A Resource Guide for Alleviating Hunger in Your Community No Matter Where You Live](#) (used by Grace's Hunger Working Team during an education series in spring 2015). The keynote address on current hunger issues will be presented by Matthew Russell, Resilient Agricultural Coordinator, Agricultural Law Center, Drake University. Five panel discussions will round out the day.

Registration forms are at the Social Ministry station in the Gathering Hall, and more information can be found at www.hopeforthehungry.blogspot.com. The cost is \$40 if postmarked by Oct. 23 and \$45 after that date.

The Fifth Annual Iowa-Tanzania Summit In conjunction with the World Food Prize

Faculty from a variety of organizations will share experiences and exchange ideas on development work being done in Tanzania during a lively afternoon of programs and networking. This year's topics will include agriculture, healthcare, and education, as well as rich insights from Tanzanians working to develop their country. An opportunity for introductions and further discussion follows the presentations. The Iowa-Tanzania Summit is an affiliated program of the [World Food Prize](#) and occurs a day prior to the conference. **The Iowa-Tanzania Summit is free and open to the public. Join us!**

When: Tuesday, October 13th | 1:30 Program | 4:30 Reception

Where: Des Moines Marriott Downtown | Salon D – 2nd Floor



A Tanzanian visitor with Empower Tanzania will be our Guest at worship services on October 4th

October Volunteers

Ushers 8:15

Bruce Bergman, Dave Gronert, Len Ringgenberg

10:45

Jay Wangerin, Aaron Brandsfield, The Jessens

Altar Guild

Connie Heuton and Jane Ridnour

Lectors and Communion Assistants

Volunteer sign-up for lectors and communion assistants can be found by clicking the Volunteer Schedule link on the front page of the Grace website at www.gracedm.org or by typing the following link into your browser:

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/BAKWD>

MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thrivent Two Rivers Chapter

Please join us for the 2015 Annual Chapter meeting.

You will enjoy a delicious dessert buffet and learn about ACTION Teams from Annie Brandt.

Date: Sunday October 4, 2015

Time: 2:00 PM Doors open at 1:45 PM

Where: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Family Life Center, 8301 Aurora Ave, Urbandale, IA
Please note time and place change from past meetings. No R.S.V.P. needed.

Music Groups practice Wednesday evenings– Join us at any time!

Bells and Brass meet at 6:30 p.m. Brass also practices Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Chancel Choir meets at 7:30 p.m.



Lydia Circle

Will meet October 20 before going on hiatus until spring.

We are planning on working on gifts for the homebound.

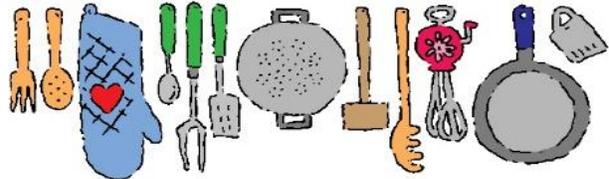
Lydia Circle meetings typically involve devotions, a light supper, a program (Ellen Rothweiler will be speaking in October), followed by projects and a business meeting. Join us!

God's Work Our Hands

The work continues, large and small.

We need to clean our kitchen:

Saturday, November 7, 2015 9-12 am
Grace Women's Board



Bring your favorite cleaning supplies or use ours. We enjoy your presence for whatever amount of time and work you can do. This is an important mission, contributing to the work of our church.



Grace Garden Cleanup!

Sunday afternoon, October 11, at 12:30

We are hoping for many hands! We will cleanup as much as we can in the afternoon. We may also dig up any remaining sweet potatoes. Later in the month we will be adding another layer of compost to the soil.

Go online to access our member list

As we begin to plan for a printable church directory, you can help us prepare by checking and updating your information (addresses, phone numbers or email addresses) online.

If we have your email address, go to members.instantchurchdirectory.com where you'll be asked to enter your email address and create a password for your own personal access. Then you can review the information we have for you and your family. You may also find a picture which is probably outdated. To update pictures or information, contact Denny Rehder rehder.denny@gmail.com. If you don't have an email address on file with the office, you'll have to decide if you want us to have it. If you don't use email, contact the office for a printed member list or pick one up in the Gathering Hall at the Social Ministry kiosk.

The Friendly Visitor Grace Lutheran Church



Kara Jordahl, her grandmother, and Haley Dostalick place Kleenex, magnetic board erasers, pocket hand warmers (for teachers on cold recess duty), chocolates, pencils, sanitizer, and more in the teacher goodie bags.



Adam Dostalick, Stephanie Johnson, Rachel Claman (ELCA Photographer), Lynn Niemuth, Sarah Voelker, Allison Olson.



Kiley and Layne writing welcome notes for the goodie



Joyce Lewis, Melissa Kallenbach and Kari Dostalick filling goodie bags.



Henry was hands on with both kits and cleanup crews.



A rainbow of goodie bags for Moore Elementary and Grace Kids Care teachers.



The Lund Family cleaning up the neighborhood on the way to Tower Park.



Jenie Schmidt and Stephanie and more goodie bags!

Celebration Sunday Outdoor Service and Picnic

A beautiful Sunday worship, potluck with lots of brownies, fellowship, balloon animals and face painting! Here, Ellen leads the Children's Sermon, and Stephanie has her face painted!



Bill Kallestad, Jay Wangerin, Denny Rehder discuss walking routes to Tower Park for the neighborhood clean-up.

