

The Friendly Visitor

Grace Lutheran Church

October 27, 2015

Worship Services

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

Remember to set your clocks back.

Daylight Savings Time ends November 1st.

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For the saints who from their labors now rest...

Carlyle Peterson
Ruth Berven
Helen Ballentine
Robert Sauerman
Elayne Palmer
Alice Nelson
Evelyn Knudsen
Diane Jessen
Dick Sempel

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14: *We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.*

As I reflect on these saints who from their labors now rest, and pray for their families, I am reminded of something that a friend once told me. This friend is a pastor who served near me in Sioux City. Before entering seminary he was a funeral director. One day, while grieving the loss of someone we both knew, he simply said, "There are two kinds of people in the world: those who grieve with hope, and those who do not." These are words that I have often thought about on days like this.

What this pastor was acknowledging through his work as a funeral director and pastor was the same thing spoken of by Paul in the earliest of his recorded letters. These words date back to somewhere between 43-50 C.E. Nearly two millennia later we find the same truth. Some grieve with hope. Some grieve without. We grieve with hope because we do not believe in death without resurrection.

As I shared recently during a funeral, I am reminded of a quote I once heard from someone reflecting on a life that ended much too soon: "we shall laugh again, but we shall never be young again." That is, in some ways, the essence of what Paul is saying in this letter. Even in the midst of grief there is hope. We will laugh again, but it will be an Easter laugh, a laugh that has been scarred by Good Friday, a laugh that knows the realities of death as well as the promise of life in Christ. It will be a laugh that knows that God always has the last word, and that word is life.

We grieve. Yes. But we grieve with hope.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike

Happy November Birthday

- 1 - Remington Anderson
Zelma Wilson
- 2 - Mike Peterman
- 3 - Tara Royster
- 4 - Gabriella Artzer
Bradley Nelson
Aubrie Stickrod
- 5 - Sally Thielking
- 6 - Benjamin Gronert
Lou Grotheer
- 7 - Rev. David Cline
- 8 - Austin Schaller
- 9 - Beverly Petty
- 11 - Emily Dungan
Yaritza Marquez
Gary Scholten
- 12 - Zoe Lawson
Randy Taylor
- 13 - Kurt Bowermaster
Jason Bradwell
Zachary Jensen
- 14 - Larry Buell
Carol Mattes
Linda Moravic
Kristene Shortell
- 15 - Gary Batten
John Justice
Mark Ridnour
- 16 - Haley Dostalick
Joseph Kennebeck
Emma Mattes
- 17 - Lyle Black
Jeremy Israel
Gloria Moon
Madison Robbins
- 18 - Dick Hirschauer
Susan Johnson
- 19 - Nick Medhurst
- 21 - Kelly Riordan
- 22 - Zachary Kulzer
- 23 - Ashley Lund
- 24 - Renee Dingman
Harriet Pearson
Jon Rissman
- 25 - Dorothy Jensen
Rev. Douglas Johnson
Kerry Riordan
- 26 - Peter Kiefer
Jessica Rissman
Paul Thielking
Laura Wangerin
Virginia Wangerin
Carol Woodruff
- 29 - Karinne Harmon
Angie Hidalgo
Ed Ridnour
- 30 - Joshua Cline

Congratulations!

Amy Schmelzer won her 5th Emmy in 2015 for:

Director, Newscast, Live or Recorded Live.

Congratulations Amy!



Happy November Anniversary

- 2 - Deanna and Richard Snyder
- 5 - Rachel and Howard Welty
- 7 - Alexson and Paul Calahan
- 10 - Joan and Larry Johnson
- 13 - Ellen and Gary Batten
- 17 - Hilary Woodhouse Farver and John Farver
- 20 - Melinda and Gary Scholten
- 22 - Lorna and Marvin Johns
- 26 - Barbara and Todd Burley
Colleen and Frank McKinney
- 27 - Tara and Anthony Royster
- 28 - Helen and Vernon Fanning
Sandra and Neal Meyer

Sympathy is extended to:

Lonnie Jessen and his family for the loss of his wife, Diane Jessen.

Nelda Sampel and her family for the loss of her husband, Dick Sampel.

The family of Gigi Beeler (daughter-in-law to Bob Beeler and sister-in-law to Cherie Rissman).



A Welcome Rose in honor of:

Owen Carter Chenoweth, born to Curt and Sarah Chenoweth
October 21, 2015



Requesting Roses and Announcements:

If you have a newborn, you are more than welcome to request a rose for the Altar, and have the information placed in the weekly bulletin.

Simply call the office with your request and information. Requests placed by Wednesday evening will be placed in that week's bulletin, with the rose on the Altar that week. Requests placed after Wednesday will be placed for the following week.

The rose is yours to take home after the services on the day of the announcement.

Thanksgiving service will be on a Sunday evening.

The Thanksgiving service will be on Sunday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

Immanuel Methodist Church will be hosting us, and Glen Echo Christian Church, at 2900 49th Street, Des Moines.

There will be combined vocal and bell choirs from Immanuel Methodist Church, Grace Lutheran Church, and Glen Echo Christian Church.

Thank You!

As Lorna Johns steps down from her position as the Memorials Committee chair, we want to say thank you to her for her dedicated service. She has served in that position for the past five years, and we appreciate the time that she has given. Many thanks, Lorna. We are glad that you were able to serve in that way.

Thank You

Thank You!

Thank you so much for the teacher gift bags! It was so thoughtful and made each one of my staff feel appreciated and prepared for another great year here at Grace Kids Care! I personally loved the notes, I have one in my office that makes me smile every day!

~ Miss Heather

"I love the coupons for coffee and the candy to help kick start my day."

~Miss Jennifer

"Thank you so much for donating supplies for our center! Your support allows us to help our children learn and grow! We appreciate your kindness.

~Miss Julie

Thank You!

I just wanted to send a quick email to thank your church for the wonderful gift bags filled with everyday teaching essentials!! Our staff was so overwhelmed and grateful for the goodies and kind gesture. We really appreciate your help and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Claudia Lorentzen (member of Moore Elementary Teaching Staff)

Adult Learning Opportunities

Adult Learning Education Time
Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Grace Hall I, unless otherwise noted.

November 1st – "Why Christian?"

Presenters: Lori Fry, Cherie Rissman, Carol Woodruff

Every now and then you have the opportunity to be a part of something that challenges you to think, to question, to laugh, and to cry. An opportunity to affirm long held beliefs and think of them in new ways. We had such an opportunity when we attended the "Why Christian?" conference in Minneapolis in September. The conference was the brainchild of Nadia Bolz-Weber and Rachel Held-Evans. In their own words –

"Why, in the wake of centuries of corruption, hypocrisy, crusades, televangelists, and puppet ministries do we continue to follow Jesus?"

Whenever we (Nadia and Rachel) encounter a book, a sermon, a ministry, or a community that reminds us of why we are Christians, we are grateful. We are desperate for real-life, flesh-and-blood stories of how the light continues to shine in the darkness and how the darkness has not, will not, cannot overcome it. We're not interested in 10-step plans for how to grow our churches or a symposium on community organizing. We just want to hear about the Gospel of Jesus and how it continues to disrupt, disorient, and bring life to a troubled world.

We want to want to be Christians."

Join us on Sunday morning, 11/01, at 9:30 am as we share our stories and your stories of "Why Christian?" There will be a follow-up conversation on brain health with Scott Honsey, Rita Stackhouse, Ginny and Jay Wangerin.

Nov 7 - Last chance to register!

The 7th and final Hope for the Hungry conference will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7 at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates in downtown Des Moines from 9:00am-3:00pm. Conferees will learn about current hunger issues, current work to alleviate hunger, and volunteering to alleviate hunger. Registration forms are in the Gathering Hall. The cost is \$45

Nov 8 – The Gospel of Luke – Pastor Mike

Nov 15 – The Gospel of Luke – Pastor Mike

Nov 22 – The Gospel of Luke – Pastor Mike

Nov 29 - Advent Celebration. Detailed information can be found on page 7, in the Youth Ministry update



Upcoming Meetings and Fun!

Ladies Night Out –

Thursday, November 5th, 6 p.m.

Applebees at Merle Hay, for dinner and conversation.
All women of Grace are welcome!



Altar Guild 2016 Planning Meeting – Sunday, November 8 at 9:30 am, Grace Hall 2

Anyone interested in more information on what Altar Guild does or is interested in joining our team is invited to attend this meeting.

Grace Men's Group -

Saturday, November 14 9 a.m. – 12 noon

We will continue work on the audio visual system in Grace Hall. Please join us for breakfast, fellowship and an opportunity to do God's work with our hands for Grace.

Lydia Circle Meeting –

Tuesday, November 17, 6 p.m. – Grace Hall 1

Ladies Night Out Christmas Party –

Thursday, December 3, 6 p.m. – Gathering Hall

Bring an appetizer or dessert, and yourself ready for fun and laughter! There will be a blind gift exchange for anyone who wants to participate – the spending limit is \$20. Please bring something you would like to receive yourself. We will draw numbers to determine who chooses a gift first. For more information please contact Donna Trickel, 515/778-7251.



Grace Fellowship Catered Christmas Dinner Sunday December 6, 5 p.m. – Grace Hall 1

Joni Bell at Great Caterers of Iowa has planned a mouthwatering menu of Turkey, Ham Balls, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable, Cranberry Jello Salad, and Rolls. Dessert and Program (45 RPM – a Barbershop Quartet) are also on the agenda. SEE YOU THERE!

Newsletter Deadlines

There will be a lot to share in the up-coming season, so we're printing the newsletter a little earlier these months, prior to each holiday. Don't miss the deadlines!

- November deadline is Wednesday November 18
- December deadline is Wednesday December 16

Altar Guild service opportunities for 2016!



If you have ever thought about serving through this kind of ministry, now is the time. We are very low on volunteers and this creates more work for those that are currently serving. We would love to see this part of our ministry here at Grace grow.

The duties include preparing the worship space with the appropriate banners, paraments, vessels, linens and elements used in the liturgy. The time commitment is typically an hour or less per week, in addition to attending one of the worship services. We typically each serve two months out of the year and assist with one holiday. There can be some additional duties based on weddings, funerals and any other special worship needs, but fulfilling those needs can be more flexible with an abundant group of volunteers.

This is not limited to women! Please consider working as a team: husband/wife, parent/child. We will accept volunteers for one or two months of service, or even on a trial basis if needed.

If time is what is keeping you from volunteering in this capacity, please consider signing up to help only on the Sundays that you normally attend worship. The duties on Sunday include setting up for communion and cleaning up the worship space after the service.

Please contact Sue Anderson (279-2690) or Gail Peterson (224-4514) with your questions or commitment. We would love some feedback on how we can make volunteering for Altar Guild more convenient for the time you have available to serve. You are also welcome to join us for our 2016 planning meeting on November 8 at 9:30 am in Grace Hall 2.

“When we offer ourselves to serve at the altar, we offer ourselves to God as a living prayer.”
Fran McKinney

Finance Report – September Results

Financial results for September YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$312,826, Budget \$334,625
- Other Income – Actual \$14,045, Budget \$14,312
- Expenses – Actual \$368,027 Budget \$375,532
- Net activity – Actual (\$41,156), Budget (\$26,959)

Actual net activity was unfavorable to budget due to several variances. Pledged offerings are below budget primarily for the month of July and September. Unpledged offerings have been below budget the entire year. Significant savings is being realized from the payoff of the bank debt (\$32K). Additionally, there were 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.



National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, and LSI is a proud partner of Iowa KidsNet, the statewide collaboration of agencies that helps Iowans become foster or adoptive parents for children in Iowa's foster care system.

Nationally, there are over 101,000 youth waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. We know there are no unwanted children, only unfound families! To learn how you or someone you know can make a difference, visit www.IowaKidsNet.com.

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.

Keeping Up With Brookie

Brookie loves to talk, and she makes friends everywhere she goes. It's quite likely she would be delighted to be your friend, too. But you'll have to keep up with her first.

Brookie has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. She lives at Harmony Place, a Muscatine house specially designed for "medically fragile" individuals. The home, built in 2008 by the Muscatine Welfare Association through public and private funding, has 24-7 staffing provided by LSI.

The house is innovative, with a track system that makes it easy for its five residents to move from one room to another. And all five of their wheelchairs easily fit together in the Harmony Place bus. It gives Brookie a home base from which she can go anywhere. And she is always on the go.

"I try to do as much as I can," she said. "I work at Wal-Mart, I do sled hockey, I play softball in Davenport. I go to concerts."

There's also bowling league, swimming, singing group, regular trips to see friends and family and fun times at Camp Courageous in Monticello. Plus, she spends a few days in Ames every year chasing down the competition in the Special Olympics wheelchair races. (She won gold in the 100m this year!)

"Since I've been here, I've come a long way," said Brookie. "I'm more independent now. I'm able to do a lot more. I see a friend whenever it fits in the schedule. I see my family whenever I want. LSI makes really good accommodations." Some group homes have limits on how many vehicle miles a resident can use each month. Harmony Place does not. Instead, it places special importance on community integration and spending time with loved ones. LSI also helps support her in her goals, such as cooking, exercise and community involvement.

"Many parents cannot provide caregiving," said Lisa, an LSI staff. "Sometimes their home is not equipped or they are older. Harmony Place helps improve quality of life for people."

And for Brookie, that life is lived to the very fullest. Catch her if you can.

Grace Abounds for the Work of LWR!

Our very own Lutheran World Relief Cheerleaders are sending out a big cheer to thank YOU, the members of Grace.

You have once again proved to be Generous, Responsive, Aware, Caring, & Energized! This fall we raised a record \$1621 for Lutheran World Relief. Over 850 pounds of kits and quilts were sent to the warehouse in October for emergency response to our neighbors in need around the world. Go Grace! Go Lutheran World Relief! Yay!



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

Check out the Certificate of Appreciation and letter we received from the campaign for being among the top 50 congregational supporters! They are on the office announcements bulletin board.

Many thanks again to all of you for your generosity toward those so desperately in need – you exceeded the goal not once but twice - and to the Swat Team for their leadership. Read the following excerpt from the 9/30/15 campaign blog by Ashley Debilzen to see the difference that God's work through everyone's hands has made:

On Sept. 17, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that malaria deaths have dropped by 60 percent since 2000. This translates into 6.2 million lives saved over the past 15 years. Over that same time, the death rate among children under 5, who have historically made up more than two-thirds of all malaria deaths, fell by 65 percent. The sizeable drop in the death rate among children means an estimated 5.9 million children's lives have been saved. Furthermore, since 2000, the rate of new malaria cases has dropped by 37 percent.

The report "Achieving the malaria MDG target" maintains that the U.N.'s goal to "have halted and begun to reverse the incidence" of malaria by 2015 has been met "convincingly." Since being named as a goal, funding for malaria treatment and interventions has increased twentyfold, to \$2.7 billion per year. Along with providing support for other forms of intervention, the increased funding has been used to distribute insecticide treated mosquito nets. The use of treated nets is credited with preventing 68 percent of malaria cases since 2000. Increased funding also has helped expand the work of malaria programs that have distributed more than 1 billion mosquito nets in sub-Saharan Africa in the past 15 years alone.



New Speaker System in the Sanctuary

On Friday, October 16th, work was completed on a new speaker system for the sanctuary. The new system makes it much easier to hear, as well as adds clarity to music, positively impacting the worship life of this community of faith now and for generations to come. Come and check it out!

We will have a formal dedication of the new system on All Saints' Sunday, November 1, 2015 at both services. The funding for this project came through Memorial funds in memory of the following saints:

Brian Barks
Kay Barks
Art Berven
Ruth Berven

Marvin Malmin
Margaret Olson
Beckett and Layla Rudisill

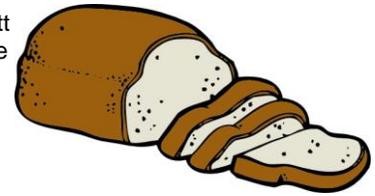


Advent Devotions

We will be doing daily email devotions throughout the season of Advent again and will soon be looking for writers. A Scripture passage will be assigned to each day, and the devotions are intended to be 150-200 words in length, in addition to a short prayer. Look for a sign-up sheet by early November. Submissions for the first week of Advent will be needed by November 22. The following submissions may be sent in later if more time is needed.

Iowa Hunger Summit

This event was held during the World Food Prize's week of events at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown and it kicked off the Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium on Oct. 13. Joie Gronert and Stephanie Johnson attended. This gathering of several hundred leaders from across Iowa is an eye opening, often startling, and always inspirational time of hearing speakers and participating in breakout sessions. For example, did you know that...



- it takes 3 billion gallons of water per day to support 6 billion people? Did you also know that that is the equivalent of what's used to water the world's golf courses?
- by 2050 we will need to produce 100% more food?
- every 6th cup of water in the world is dirty?
- diarrhea related to unsanitary water has killed more children than all the people killed in WW II?
- 2200 children die every day because of illnesses related to unclean water? That's like 7 jumbo jets crashing every day. Imagine the news attention that would grab, and yet most of us are not even aware. It's staggering.
- 12.6% of Iowans (or 19.3% of children in Iowa) are food insecure (not sure where their next meal is coming from)?
- the cost of living for a married couple with one child is \$36,150, and with two children is \$48,706? The comparable gross incomes needed to cover those expenses are \$42,185 (\$21.09/hour) and \$57,247 (\$28.62/hour) respectively. These figures represent a no frills budget that includes things like child care, clothing, household, food, health care, rent, utilities, and transportation. It does not include things like surprise expenses, savings, school costs, debt repayment, medical expenses, or entertainment.
- 17% of all households in Iowa live below a break even income? That's 1 in 6.
- the median wage in Iowa is \$15.57? That means that half of the people make more than that and half make less. Compare that wage to the cost of living laid out above. It's simply not enough.
- \$150 billion in medical costs annually are related to hunger and malnutrition?

The numbers are mind boggling. And there are faces behind each one. Want to know what the presidential candidates have to say about hunger issues? Go to www.circleofprotection.us.

Want to make a difference in the fight against hunger? Consider attending the Vote to End Hunger rally in Des Moines on Nov. 8. See the information below. Make your voice heard.

Vote to End Hunger Rally

You are invited to participate in the "Vote to End Hunger" ecumenical rally at 2pm on Sunday, Nov. 8 at Grand View University in Des Moines. The event is sponsored by Bread for the World and the Iowa Catholic Conference. The purpose of the rally is to make hunger a priority issue in the presidential campaign. Speakers will include Bishop Richard Pates of the Catholic Diocese of Des Moines and the Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World, which is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Elected officials and candidates are invited. Supporters of the event include the Northeast and Southeast Synods of the ELCA. To sign up for the free event go to www.votetoendhungeriowa.eventbrite.com.

Youth Ministry Update

Sunday Morning Fellowship-

Middle and High School youth have gathered for food and fellowship in the youth rooms during the education hour for several Sundays. A Keurig was purchased for their use, and this has been a hit! **If you would like to support youth ministry by donating K-cups we would welcome that!** Hot Chocolate is an especially popular beverage.



High School Service Learning- Amanda The Panda

High School students and families will have an opportunity to give thanks by serving others through the Amanda the Panda organization on **Sunday, November 29 from 2:30 to 5:30**. Amanda the Panda is an organization that supports families that are grieving the loss of a loved one. Our task will be to deliver Cheerboxes containing gifts to these families. For more information on Amanda the Panda go to amandathepanda.org. If you would like to participate please contact Ellen Rothweiler at ellen@gracedm.org

Advent Celebration

On Sunday, November 29 we invite you to observe and celebrate the beginning of the Advent season with fun and meaningful activities in Grace Hall for all God's children. Make a tasty treat, an ornament, an Advent calendar or all of the above! We hope you will take this opportunity to mark this season of light with your church family. If you have questions, contact Developer of Youth & Family Ministries Ellen Rothweiler, ellen@gracedm.org.



Christmas List for Trinity Center at Luther Park

Your support is requested in making a difference in the lives of Trinity Center residents this winter and all year long. The following is a suggested list of potential gift items for the residents – any items received over and above what is needed for Christmas will be used throughout the year for resident birthdays and Bingo prizes.

If you have any questions please contact Theresa Glaser, Director of Activities and Volunteers, at 262-5639, ext. 144. Our special thanks and best wishes for the holidays for you and your family. We sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness and continued support.

Baby Dolls (soft and new), Card Games, Brain Games, Solitaire Games, Games, Large print Crossword and Word Find puzzles, DVD movies, iPods, Magazine subscriptions (please call prior to ordering to avoid duplication).

Kleenex – regular size boxes, Toothbrushes, Hair Picks, Combs, Brushes, Chapstick, Nail Polish – light colors, Hand or Body lotion, Non-aerosol deodorant (for men and women), Cologne and/or perfume.

Cans of caffeine-free pop, cookies (packaged), snack crackers, Candy (diabetic, candy bars, etc.)

Non-skid shoe-type slippers for men & women (large sizes, no open back), flannel pajamas (men & women), Tee shirts (LG-XT), Men's long sleeve shirts, Ladies camis/undershirts (LG-XL), socks, gripper socks, dusters and robes (LG-XL), House dresses (LG-XL), Fleece Jackets, Sweaters, regular socks (light colored), wallets, fleece shawls, thermal underwear, cuddle duds, fleece wrist warmer or arm protectors.

Writing Paper, envelopes, stamps, plastic flower vases, jewelry (necklace, bracelet, earrings, clip/pierced), walker pouches, merry walker pouches, wheelchair pouches, small disposable containers (Glad Type), frame tray puzzles.

Ro Zimany Publishes Book

Dr. Roland Zimany has published a 255-page book of sermons entitled *Sermons with Insight*, with an appendix, "Who wrote the Bible?," which is a talk he gave here and twice at CTIM.

"There are excellent sermons in this collection. Many that need to be heard and read time and again," according to Marc Jolley, Director of Mercer University Press.

William H. Willimon of Duke Divinity School said, "Roland Zimany is a theologically well-formed, biblically adept, gifted communicator of the Christian faith. The sermons and lectures in this book are not only substantial but also engaging. How refreshing it is to be encountered by a preacher who loves a congregation enough to tell them the truth about God in all its richness and demanding depth!"

The book is available in paperback, in e-book form, and in our library.

The Friendly Visitor Grace Lutheran Church

**Pet Blessing, Grace Lutheran Church
Saturday October 3, 2015**



Pastor Mike gives the Blessing



Gail with goodie bags



Sandy and Bobby



New Friends



Cathy Barks at a water/treat station along the walk



All pets were welcome! (along with their humans)



Pastor Mike in action

