



# The Friendly Visitor

## Grace Lutheran Church

March 4, 2016

**Sunday Worship Services** 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

**Wednesday Lenten Worship** 6:30 p.m. March 9, 16  
With Lenten Drama series "Faces in a Crowd"

**Maundy Thursday Worship** March 24<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
Refreshments after the 1 p.m. served by Lydia Circle

**Good Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Open Prayer Vigil, Upper room

**Easter Sunday, March 27** 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m., and 10:45 a.m.

**Office Hours 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday through Friday**

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### Time Flies...

As I write this, I think back at what I was doing five years ago today. It was a Friday, and I was going through things in my apartment. Actually, I was going through *everything* in my apartment. The day before the moving company left everything piled up in the spare bedroom, I met up with my brother and his family, and had a lovely first meal with a beautiful young woman named Jenie who later helped me put together a TV stand. Now I was tasked with beginning to make heads or tails out of this room full of boxes. I dug out the items that were to go to the office and met Jon Rissman at church as I unpacked a few items and began to move in here at Grace. It still strikes me that it has been 5 years. Time really does fly when you are having fun.

Jenie and I have now been married for three and a half years, raising Allison together and recently adding Samantha to the family. We have been through a lot in these 5 years, from courtship into marriage, through grief and mourning and other times of celebration. Five years ago I was beginning to imagine what it would be like for them to be part of my life, now I cannot imagine being without them.

I have found the same to be true in my time here at Grace. As I first started here in service as your pastor, I found myself imagining what this might look like. Thus far in ministry I had served smaller churches, urban and rural. There was at most one or two other staff people. I met with the Call Committee and even pondered aloud what such a transition might look like, knowing that I have the skills, but there would be a learning curve involved. The Call Committee took a chance on me, as did the Council and those gathered for the annual meeting in January of 2011. Five years ago, I was trying to imagine what life together might look like, now, much like with my family, I cannot imagine serving anywhere else. This has become home, a home with a bright future.

I ponder the five year mark because in a number of studies that seems to be a threshold in ministry. Depending on the study, the average pastorate is considered anywhere from 3-5 years, meaning that most pastors move on to another call sometime after 3-5 years. Studies also show that the most productive years in a pastorate come after year 5. Yes, you read that correctly; many pastors leave before the productive years start. It takes those first years to build the foundational pieces and the culture so that things can come into fruition.

I feel very strongly that that is the point we are at here at Grace. We have built enough of a relationship that we can dream together about the future and work toward that vision without it being my vision, or yours, or any one person's view of what the future holds. We have begun the recruiting process for the Grace 2020 Vision Team, a group that through Bible Study, and self study, will discern our goals for this ministry between 2017 and 2020.

Today, I simply find myself feeling incredible gratitude for the last five years, and hopefulness for the next five years. Thank you for calling me, believing in me, and walking together as the people of God at Grace Lutheran Church.

Pastor Mike

## Happy March Birthday

- 1 - Mary Johansen  
Kristin Snyder  
Rebecca Sonius
- 2 - Donald York
- 3 - Matthew Heid  
Renee Mulvihill
- 4 - Kimberley Carballo
- 5 - Dane Christensen  
Brent Culp  
Katherine Scholl
- 6 - Pressly Reha
- 7 - La Vonne Mitchell
- 8 - Jack Chenoweth
- 10 - Patty Flannery  
Nadine Garcia
- 11 - Tammy Hagerty
- 12 - Rachael Bigg  
Jacquelyn Holmes  
Andrew Keller
- 13 - Lathrop Preston  
Hilary Woodhouse
- 14 - Sally Niffenegger
- 15 - Lydia McCleary  
Rachel Miller  
Ann Warren
- 17 - Kathy Bowermaster  
Beth Flannery  
Benjamin Honsey  
Melissa Swanson
- 18 - Emma Ashton  
Joann Jensen  
Tom Selander
- 19 - Haley Turner  
Diane Westercamp
- 20 - Karen Taylor
- 21 - Angela Allen  
Janet Kjellberg  
Susan Miller
- 22 - Louie Anderson
- 23 - Rick Harmon
- 24 - Beau Brindley  
Mary Jo McCleary
- 25 - Laura Gebauer
- 26 - Ryan Nordeen
- 27 - Sierra Carney  
Stephanie Johnson  
Zara Preston
- 28 - Alexson Calahan  
Charles Reynolds
- 29 - Chadrick Allen  
Sharon Schwemler
- 30 - Curtis Chenoweth  
Kristin Medhurst
- 31 - Daniel Gutmann  
Joan Pritchard  
Amy Ziska



## Happy March Anniversary

- 5 – Gus and Kari Berven
- 15 – Sonny and Kristina Hutton
- 20 – Edward and Jane Ridnour
- 24 – Randy and Karen Taylor
- 29 – Cody and Laura Gebauer



## Rose for Joplin Jaedyn Hutton

born to Kristina and Sonny Hutton, big brother Kiernan, and big sister Piper February 3, 2016.



## Our Sympathy

To the family of Stephen Sample, Nelda Sample's son.

## Thank Yous

Dear Grace Members,  
Thank you so much for hosting the open house on Feb. 20 in honor of my retirement. It was a truly elegant and memorable affair! Special thanks to the wonderful women of Grace who worked their magic in the kitchen, with the serving, and with the decorations. I was also deeply moved by the number of folks from the congregation who took time out from their weekend to stop by, and by the well chosen cards.

It has truly been a delight and a privilege for Stephanie and me to serve with you in this congregation for the past eight years. You have nourished our faith and filled our lives with warmth and love. Thank you for that and, especially for your stalwart support of LSI. You are fantastic partners in this important ministry to our neediest neighbors!

***In Christ, Doug Johnson***

Thank you for the Women of Grace Christmas gifts. Also thanks to the Iversons for delivering the poinsettia and candy. We so enjoyed their company.

***Mary and John Donnenwerth***

The Ladies Group did a fantastic job for Robert (Bob) Ziesman's luncheon. Many thanks for all the work provided.

***Sincerely, Jeanette Ziesman***

The Hunger Working Team would like to thank the members of Grace for their support in helping to raise more than \$3,000.00 to provide thirsty people with nourishing life giving water. The generous spirit of Christ is at work in our community. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

***Members of the Hunger Working Team***

Thank you for all the notes, cards and calls. They were wonderful and your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.

***Joann Jensen***

Just a note to say thank you for your prayers and concerns for me. A special thanks to Connie Heuton for her visit and delicious potato soup. I did not know about your organization but am pleased you have taken on this task. It is a wonderful service to the members of Grace Lutheran. Take care and God Bless.

***In Christ, Bob Barks***

## NCAA Bracket Fundraiser

March Madness is approaching! Selection happens on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. So, do you feel lucky? Local and regional charities hope so! We will hold the church pool again this year. There will be a \$5 entry fee and the winner will choose which charity will receive the pool monies. Last year, Adam Christiansen won and was able to give the \$315 pool to Variety Iowa. So far we have given away a total of \$1065 due to this annual charity!

To enter simply fill out a bracket and turn it in to the church office between Sunday, March 13 and 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 17 with the \$5 entry fee. You should also note your chosen charity when you turn in the bracket. Brackets will be available in the church office or you can print your own. Please either include cash, or make the check payable to Grace Lutheran Church with NCAA in the memo field. You could also scan your bracket and send it to [mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org)

With no clear favorite to win this year, we will use an updated scoring system with added points for the Final Four to keep things exciting. Then the round of 64 teams will be worth 1 point each with bonus points for upsets (difference between seeds). Round of 32 will be worth 2 points, round of 16 will be worth 4 points each. The following rounds will be worth 8 points, 15 points, and then 20 points for the correct Champion.

## Upcoming Adult Faith Enrichment Opportunities

### March 6:

**Option A:** Emergency preparedness presentation and AED training, Grace Hall 1

*Have you ever thought about how we would respond if we had a tornado threat on a Sunday morning? Or what the office staff would do if a bomb threat phone call were to come in? How about first aid kits – do we even have any? If so, where in the world are they?? And how do you use that AED anyway? (Wait – we have an AED?) Grace's Emergency Preparedness Task Force has been working on developing an emergency action plan to address situations just like these and others. On March 6 during the 9:30 adult faith enrichment hour, the task force will be offering a presentation to inform the congregation about newly developed resources that we have and where you can find them in an emergency. Part of the time will also be devoted to a Friends and Family AED/Basic Life Support training, for which hands on practice is encouraged but not required. Please join us on March 6 for this important conversation.*

**Option B:** Continued from Feb. 28: Small group book discussion on Hidden in Christ by James Bryan Smith, in cafe

### March 13 and 20:

**Option A:** Organ presentation and demonstration by Rich Snyder in the sanctuary

**Have you ever wondered why the organ in the sanctuary:**

- Has so many pipes?
- Is played at one location but sounds come from other locations?
- Has so many buttons on the console?
- Has two keyboards (manuals)?

**Have you ever wanted to know:**

- How the pipes make sounds?
- How are the pipes tuned?
- What materials are used to make the pipes?
- The history of the Grace organ or the organ builder (Schantz)?
- How many pipes are in the organ?
- Why some of the organ is hidden?
- What the feet have to do with making music?

**Have you ever wanted to ask an organist:**

- How do you play a hymn?
- How do you plan what to play for a Sunday morning service?
- How is the organ different from a piano or from a keyboard?

*All of these questions and more will be answered during the Adult Faith Enrichment hour on March 13 and 20. Come to the sanctuary by 9:30, bring your coffee, juice, donuts, and questions. Hear the organ speak for itself.*

**Option B:** Small group book discussion continued in cafe

**March 27:** no adult faith enrichment hour due to the Easter breakfast

**Wednesday March 30:** Religious Discussion Group led by The Rev. Roland Zimany Resumes at 6:30 in the Conference room. The topic will be: "The Church of the Holy Roman Empire"

## Youth Opportunities

Grace Youth fundraising and trip meeting- Sunday, March 20, 12:00-1:30 pm **Please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 20 following second service from 12:00-1:30.** We will have a light lunch and then information about the garage and plant sales and summer trip opportunities will be shared. **Youth grades 6-12 and their parents are encouraged to attend this informational meeting!**

**June 16-19 Love Like Jesus service learning event will take place at Grand View University for high school youth.** Students will stay on campus in dorms and have access to Grand View faculty and other facilities. They will spend a day learning and a day serving with other worship and fellowship opportunities thrown in the mix. The cost for this event is \$150 which includes housing, meals and all activities for the duration of the event.

**Confirmation Camp for middle school students will be the week of July 17-22 at Lutheran Lakeside.** This is something that all confirmation students are strongly encouraged to attend at least once during their three years of confirmation, so if you have not done so please mark this week on your calendars. If you have been and would like to return that is also an option. It is a fun week! Cost for a week of camp is \$435.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities and find the cost to be burdensome, please let Ellen know at [ellen@gracedm.org](mailto:ellen@gracedm.org). Financial assistance is available.

Council President, Kevin Drury, called the meeting to order.

Pastor Schmidt led the assembly in an opening prayer and devotion and then turned the meeting back over to the President. The meeting agenda was adopted as printed.

Membership changes, baptism and attendance statistics were reviewed.

A moment of silent prayer was said in memory for members of Grace who had passed away in 2015.

Minutes from the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting were approved as written.

## **Staff Reports:**

Council President gave his 2015 report. Reported that the council has been very deliberate about any uses of the Malmin funds. The funds have allowed us to do directly or indirectly the following.

1. Give a First Fruits gift to the synod of \$70,000
2. Pay off the external mortgage loans of approximately \$170,000 to First American Bank
3. The interest saved by paying off the external mortgage allowed Grace to move forward and hire Ellen Rothweiler and upgrade the church office to accommodate her and the youth ministry
4. Address some significant expected and unexpected maintenance items in the church
5. Provide new carpet and paint in Grace Hall and the hallway outside of Grace Hall.
6. Allow for the installation of a video system in the sanctuary. Memorial gifts provided for the installation of the upgraded sound system in the sanctuary and Grace Hall to make a significant improvement in the worship experience.

Things to look forward to...

1. Planning what Grace should look like in 2020
2. Grace's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in June 2017
3. Director of Senior Ministry
4. Property committee report to determine what we can do to maintain and upgrade the church to provide a positive first impression to visitors and provide functional and attractive facilities to members.

Discussion of the Congregational Council Resolution regarding same sex marriage. It is ultimately the pastor's discretion if he or she wishes to perform any type of marriage.

Pastor reported that it has been a good year. We have had several new members join Grace and an increase in baptisms as well. Our cradle roll has grown considerably.

The Director of Laity Ministries, Director of Music Ministry, Director of Grace Kids Care and Developer of Youth and Family Ministry reports were reviewed with no additional questions or comments. A motion was made and seconded to accept the staff reports as written. The motion carried.

Election of council members. Kevin thanked the outgoing council members, Karri Brandsfield, Sandy Briggs, Stacie Holst and Kevin Drury. The following members are running for the 2 spots that are open from the 2014 year with a two year term: Lori Fry and Mary Jo McCleary. The following members are running for the 4 open spots for a three year term leaving 1 open spot to be filled: David Gronert, John Roehrick and Matt Jordahl. A motion to cease nominations was accepted and seconded. The motion carried.

Election of endowment committee members. Kevin thanked the outgoing endowment committee members, Karen Taylor and Barb Powers. Aaron Paige and Stacie Holst have agreed to be the Endowment Committee candidates. A motion to cease nominations was accepted and seconded. The motion carried.

## **Committee Reports:**

Committee reports from the Altar Guild, Companion Committee, Cradle Roll, Endowment Committee, Grace Fellowship, Garden Committee, Grace Library, Grace Women's Board, Lutheran World Relief Team, Memorial Fund Committee, Property Committee, Social Ministry Committee, Stewardship Committee and VBS report from Youth Ed Committee were reviewed with no additional questions or comments. A request was made to have a committee report in the annual meeting reports package for 2017 from the Columbarium Committee. A motion was made and seconded to accept the committee reports as written. The motion carried.

Kevin Krause presented a balanced budget for 2016. We ended 2015 with a deficit of \$30,843 versus the budgeted deficit of \$28,250 due to new position for Director of Youth and Family being hired on a full time basis midway through the year, pledged offerings were below budget, unpledged offerings were below budget, office administrator split into two part-time positions to allow for the addition of a Communications Coordinator, purchase of additional office furniture, computers, office construction, painting of custodian house, new carpet in Grace Hall and elevator repairs. Debt service is below budget due to early retirement of outside debt by Malmin funds. Memorial monies were used for the new sound system. The budgeted activity for 2016 reflects breakeven operations including pledge activity down, Director of Laity Ministry only budgeted for partial year, Director of Youth and Family position reflects a full year, debt service reflects interest only on the Endowment debt, professional leadership positions include salary, employer taxes, pension and medical insurance. A total of \$711,407 was received from the Malmin estate. These monies were recorded in a separate reserve fund. Use of these monies included \$70,000 to the SE Synod, \$160,000 to outside debt and \$26,218 for the sound and media system upgrades.

**Continued on page 5**



## March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we're grateful for our many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving their communities!

Maybe you've never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you've had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves in overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability and many other situations.

Thank you to all of Iowa's social workers, especially those at LSI. We're proud of you.

*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).*

## A Stable Home for Angela

When she was little, Angela was placed in Iowa's foster care system and was later adopted.

"I always wanted to have more children," said her adoptive mom Brenda. "We had done respite for Angela, and when she needed an adoptive home, she came to live with us. She fit in with us and knew us. It was an easy transition."

It was made even easier since Angela had Peggy by her side. Peggy is a social worker for Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) behavioral health intervention services (BHIS) and helps children with a mental health diagnosis learn skills such as coping, anger management or healthy decision-making.

Over the years, Peggy has been there for Angela during times when she needed help building some new skills.

"Peggy helped me learn how to calm myself," Angela said. "I learned how to use running to do that, and I like to read. I cope better now. I know when I'm angry or upset."

Seeing young people like Angela thrive is what Peggy loves best.

"It's my brand of social work to support people over the years and watch them grow," she said. "Angela has done the hard work of staying strong throughout her losses, letting others get closer to her and focusing on what is good in her life. She has vast potential! She has had caring people all along the way, and Brenda was just the angel she needed to adopt her. What a beautiful thing for me to be a part of."



## Thrivent Choice Dollars

One act of generosity leads to another. And the impact grows, YOU are making a difference. Many of you directed your designated 2015 Choice Dollars to **Grace Lutheran Church**. Through your individual recommendations, you have made a difference. Collectively, Thrivent Financial members contributed \$1805 to help fund First Circle Friends and helped with the expense of supplies and equipment to create and implement an Emergency Preparedness Plan for Grace church.

**Your 2015 Choice Dollars will expire on March 31st**, unless directed by you before that date. Don't let this opportunity to make a difference at Grace slide by you. Please consider Grace as you direct your 2015 Choice Dollars.

To direct your dollars you can go online to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 1-800-847-4836 and state "Thrivent Choice". Thank You!!

## Annual Meeting Minutes Continued from pg 5

Considering establishing a scholarship fund for use toward tuition to Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Any unused funds would be rolled over to the next year. A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget for 2016 as written. The motion carried.

Update on Emergency Preparedness Taskforce. They looked at other churches and the daycare procedures. Putting up maps of the church and exit routes, ordered 4 first aid kits, going to be getting sharps containers for the bathrooms, place 1<sup>st</sup> Aid flip charts in strategic places, make a directory of Grace members with medical training, make list of emergency numbers to be posted by the phones, procedure list for bomb or shooter threats and offer staff and congregational training on the AED Defibrillator machine.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Karri Brandsfield, Secretary

## Finance Report – January Results

Financial results for January YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$41,494, Budget \$34,050
- Other Income – Actual \$768, Budget \$1,517
- Expenses – Actual \$40,154, Budget \$42,338
- Net activity – Actual \$2,108, Budget (\$6,771)

Actual net activity was above budget primarily due to pledged offerings. Certain full year pledges were received and acknowledged in late 2015 but recognized for financial purposes in 2016.

## LWR Baskets of Promise Drive

It's almost Spring, and that means working together for the sake of others through Lutheran World Relief! We will be collecting donations from March 6th through March 20th to make personal care kits, baby care kits, quilts, and tied fleece blankets. Please visit the display in the Gathering Hall during these weeks, and plan to assemble kits on Lutheran World Relief Sunday, April 3rd during Sunday School.



## Member Care

Jesus invited his followers to ask for what they needed. His invitation is recorded in several settings in the gospels. Asking can be a hard thing to do. We prefer not to be vulnerable. We prefer to live from the stance of it is better to give than receive. But there comes a time in everyone's life when they are the one in need.

**When the time comes that you are one who needs,** please remember that this community of faith believes that we are God's hands in the world for the benefit of caring for those who need. Grace has a group of people waiting and wanting to care for you. Our Member Care Team provides supplies and transportation assistance for people in time of need. Accept the invitation that Jesus gave to ask by calling the church office. The office will notify a team member who will contact you about how the team can act as God's hands for you in your time of need. All you need do is ask.

## Centering Prayer Group

The Centering Prayer Group will begin meeting on Tuesday, April 5th from 10:30-11:30 in the Upper Room. The Wisdom Jesus by Cynthia Bourgeault will be the resource to guide the discussions on the Centering Prayer practice. If you are interested in being part of the group contact Julie Honsey at 282-8817 or [honsey.julie@gmail.com](mailto:honsey.julie@gmail.com).

## The Grace Garden Committee has Begun planning!

We will till and plant potatoes, beets, carrots and radishes: **Wednesday, April 6.** Weather permitting, we will plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants; peppers; sweet potatoes, wax beans, bush beans, green beans, snow peas, onion sets, cantaloupe, winter squash, summer squash, cucumbers and red potatoes **Thursday May 12 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday May 19.** You are invited to join us!

We will be putting out a table on Sundays again, and encourage others to contribute and exchange, but our priority this year will be in providing for the food pantries. We are planning to make changes to our compost, add some structures for plants to climb, and work with First Circle Friends in some of our early planting.



## Slow cookers bring joy to families



Look at the smiles on the faces of two joyful mothers with their free slow cookers! They recently graduated from the "Buy Eat Live Healthy" (BELH) program through Iowa State Extension. The lady standing between them is Maria Regalado, their instructor. All four of the BELH instructors, Maria, Star Scott, Raquel Juarez, and Cassie Cramer, had BELH parents graduate this month. They want to extend their thanks to the Grace Lutheran hunger committee and Thrivent Financial for enabling them to provide these wonderful appliances to some dedicated mothers who are struggling on low incomes. Education is one step toward improving habits, but receiving tools like this allows participants to really practice what they have learned.



## Easter lily deliveries to homebound members

A sign up sheet for delivering Easter lilies to our homebound members can be found in the Gathering Hall by March 6. Please consider reaching out to those who cannot attend worship by delivering a lily during the week after Easter.

The Easter Lily Order Form is included in this newsletter. The Lilies are \$12.75 each. Order forms will be available in the church office and the bulletins. The deadline for ordering is Wednesday, March 9. Payment and the order form needs to be received by the office no later than this date to assure your request gets ordered.



## Collections or art displays, anyone?

Do you remember Nancy Crowfoot's original oar art that we recently had displayed in the Gathering Hall during the water campaign? Or the manger scenes that Kathy Bowermaster had in the display cabinet over Christmas? Soon we will be enjoying Carol Woodruff's collection of crosses and eggs as we approach Easter. Are there others of you who have things to share, either as smaller collections that would fit inside the display cabinet, or larger pieces that could be hung in the Gathering Hall like a gallery? We would love to know! Please contact Michelle in the church office ([michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org) or 276-6873) if you have something in mind. See you in the gallery!



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

Dear readers,

When the ELCA Malaria Campaign was launched to the whole church in 2011, 2015 was a distant, far-off year and difficult to imagine. \$15 million was a goal that seemed just as far away. It's hard to believe that 2016 is here, and that we have successfully reached the other side of both of those goals. Now, 2015 is a memory and \$15 million is a milestone that we celebrated months ago!

It all seemed to pass by quickly, but we know that in between the campaign's start and the campaign's end was a lot of hard work by a lot of dedicated people. There were many things that we enjoyed about working on the ELCA Malaria Campaign, but seeing the creative, meaningful response of ELCA congregations ranks high on the list. Watching the support from the ELCA grow and the number of malaria deaths fall has been an amazing thing to witness. And we know that ELCA Lutherans were not the only ones working hard against the scourge of malaria. Across the ocean, our Lutheran companions in Africa were implementing prevention, education, treatment and sustainable livelihoods programs because of the direct support of the ELCA.

Your support is bringing about lasting change. Friends, thanks to you and millions of other activists around the globe, [malaria is on its way out!](#) Deaths rates today are 60% lower than they were at the turn of this century. The Millennium Development Goal around malaria has been met "convincingly." Lutheran programs alone have brought hope and health to more than 2 million lives. The tables have turned!

But of course, the story is not over. Until malaria is a distant memory, we will continue to work with our companions in Africa and in other malaria-prone areas to rid communities of the scourge and uplift households and families. Through the good work of [ELCA World Hunger](#), our sisters and brothers at home and abroad will continue to address malaria, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases of poverty, as well as issues of gender justice, water, human rights and hunger. If you haven't already begun, we urge you to consider [supporting ELCA World Hunger](#) and the life-changing work it does in more than 60 countries.

Thank you for working for health and wholeness for all of God's children. Thank you for naming suffering as contrary to God's will and working to correct injustice. Thank you for joining us and our companions as we work together to make malaria history! It has been a joy to work with you. We have the best volunteers in the ELCA, and your creativity, passion and prayerful support never cease to amaze us. Thanks for making this campaign something truly life-giving for our church, companions and partners.

In Christ,  
Allison Beebe and Jessica Nipp Hacker  
by Ashley Debilzen on January 29, 2016

## Come help Meals from the Heartland reach their 1 MILLION MEALS Spring Break Goal!

**Joie Gronert has signed up for 2 teams of 10 for Wednesday, March 16 from 2:15 to 4:15. If you want to be part of a Grace team call Joie at 279-4974 or email at [jgronert1@hotmail.com](mailto:jgronert1@hotmail.com). The spring break packing events will be held at the Patty Cownie Center, 357 Lincoln Street, West Des Moines. More details later. If another time works better or you have a group that wants to sign up separately, there are fun theme days listed below. It's easy to sign up online.**

Bring your **friends**, your **kids**, your **daycare** (kids 5 and over welcome!), your **basketball-track-cheerleading-football-rugby team**, your **coworkers** or perfect strangers and make your own **exciting Spring Break** right here in West Des Moines! There will be **challenges** for each team or table, music, a chance to meet new people and do something **great for your community** and those in need around the world!

Our **Spring Break Event runs March 14-18** and every day is a different theme:

- **Monday – Beach Party!** So you didn't get to South Padre this year...you can still wear your Hawaiian shirts and cargo shorts! (no flip-flops or swimsuits; oh, and shirts are required)
- **Tuesday – Super Hero Day!** Dress like your favorite Super Hero –Superman, Thor, Batman – because you know packing meals saves lives!
- **Wednesday – Crazy Sock Day!** Wear your wildest, craziest socks, shoes or clothes (no feathers, please) and wear your "crazy" on your sleeve – Literally!
- **Thursday – St. Patrick's Day!** Ready for a little wearin' o' the green? Head-to-toe, show your St. Patty's spirit!
- **Friday – School Pride!** Wear your favorite college or high school t-shirt, sweatshirt or jersey. Feel free to put on your school "war" paint and share your pride! There will be challenges between teams/tables and what school doesn't want bragging rights?

Earn **Silver Cord hours** from your high school, fulfill **service requirements** for your fraternity or sorority, **break up the monotony** and boredom for your kids – and teach them the **fulfillment** that comes with **volunteering!**

Remember – by **packaging** and helping us **reach our 1 million meal goal**, you become **part of saving lives** around the world – and what could be a better way to spend your **Spring Break?!**

# The Friendly Visitor

## Grace Lutheran Church

### Grace Lutheran Church Easter Sunday Prayer Breakfast



Menu: Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Tea and Coffee  
Easter Morning March 27, 2016  
Serving from 7:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Proceeds from the Breakfast will help support the  
Grace Lutheran Church Prayer Quilt Fund

Help is needed for the breakfast to be successful. All members of Grace (men, women and youth) are encouraged to participate. For more information or if you would be willing to help before, during or after the breakfast, please contact Len Ringgenberg at 255-2395 or [Lhringg@msn.com](mailto:Lhringg@msn.com)



Sierra, Aaron, Courtney, Emma, and Carol at Winter Jam 2016.

### The Annual Youth Plant Sale is

**here!** You can find the green order form in this newsletter, at [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org) on the links page, and the office. Please return paid orders to the church office no later than Easter Day, March 27. Pickups will be at Grace, April 30, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### Event Calendar

#### Ladies Night Out March 6

Meet in the Gathering Hall after second service. The group will decide on a place to have lunch together. All women of Grace are invited!

**Grace Fellowship:** Sunday March 6, 5:00 PM. Light Luncheon and Program by the director of the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum.

#### Martha Circle Change of Date:

Martha Circle will reconvene on March 31st at 9:30 am in Grace Hall 2. Please note the date change from March 24th to March 31st.

**Men in Mission** will meet March 10th starting at 6:00 PM. This will be our joint meeting with Immanuel Methodist Church men. Speaker will be their own Allison Steuteran, an attorney from Brick Gentry Law firm who will discuss Estate Planning. Plan on being there and bring a friend!

**The Men's Group** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month in Grace Hall from 9:00am -12. Our next meeting is Saturday March 12. We will be completing miscellaneous tasks around the church. Please join us for breakfast and fellowship while we "Do God's work with our hands, for Grace".

### Lenten Schedule

#### Wednesday Evenings

5:00 p.m. Soup Supper

6:30 Worship

7:00 p.m. (or when worship ends)

Grace Bells

Grace Brass

Confirmation Class

#### Maundy Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

1:00 p.m. Worship, with refreshments afterward

6:30 p.m. Worship

#### Good Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

1:00 p.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Worship