



The Friendly Visitor

Grace Lutheran Church

June 28, 2016

Summer Worship Services
8:15 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

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

Contact Us

3010 52nd Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
515-276-6873

Pastor Michael Schmidt
mike@gracedm.org

Developer of Youth and Family Ministry
Ellen Rothweiler
ellen@gracedm.org

Director of Music Ministries
Emma Stammer
emma@gracedm.org

Organist
Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg
jennifer@gracedm.org

Grace Kids' Care Director
Heather Nelson
heathernelsondc@msn.com
276-0943

Church Administrator
Denise Friesth

Director of Communications
Michelle Voelker
michelle@gracedm.org

Custodian
Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

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Momma Said...



There will be days like this. Today may well be one of them, or at least for a while. As we start the week of elementary VBS, that picture sums up the feeling of many. It can feel a little overwhelming, not just for the adults, but for the teenagers, and the children too. As things were about to begin on the first day there were already children holding hands over ears and looking for a quiet place. Some of the adults get a look of panic, and you can almost see the thought bubbles saying "why did I sign up for this?" Truth be told...it is good to feel that way sometimes.

It is good to feel stretched out of your comfort zone, out of your norm. It is good to look around and feel a little overwhelmed sometimes. It happens to all of us. Every one of us. We all get that feeling and start to wonder what is next. What matters is what you do with it. Will it cause you to hide, or will you take a step and see what happens?

In the context of VBS, it happens every year. As people arrive, and the anxiety is in the air, they gather looking much like the staged picture above. By snack time, they children are more relaxed, the teenagers are finding their piece of the puzzle, and even the adults are starting to smile again. By lunch, they teenagers and children are sitting together, joking together, as the adults roam and assist as needed. Most are smiling. All are feeling connected. This continues into the afternoon through service and learning. What started off as fear and anxiety, now turns into friendships and a collective experience.

There will be days like this. Take a step forward, knowing that there will be people here at Grace ready to walk with you. No matter what you are facing, know that you are part of a community, gathered in the name of Christ, and that you do not walk alone.

Peace,
Pastor Mike

Happy July Birthday

- 1 - Carl Fielman
Marilyn Nizzi
Matthew Johnson
- 2 - Drew Tillotson
- 3 - Dale Bordt
Marilyn Anderson
- 4 - Sawyer Shiffler
- 7 - Rosella Dingman
- 8 - Donna Trickle
- 9 - Carleigh Ridnour
Henry Jordahl
- 11 - Kristina Hutton
Rebecca Lewis
- 12 - Melissa Petty
- 13 - Amy Westercamp
Joshua Sherer
- 14 - Stacy Walters
Matthew Harbaugh
Eric Selander
Heather Honnold
Bailey Woodruff
- 15 - Serena Helton
Rebecca Harmon
Hannah Jensen
- 16 - Melinda Scholten
Tracy Justice
Joviana Reyes
- 17 - Einar Christenson
Lucille Krauss
Jayne Mortenson
Christie Rosheim
- 18 - Bradley Nelson
Anders Nelson
- 19 - Deanna Snyder
James Holmes
- 20 - Lucius Chapman
Krista Nelson
Martha Kaleewoun
- 21 - Robyn Reha
Christian Culp
- 22 - Kathryn Schaller
- 23 - Pat Bordt
Linda Biegger
- 24 - Jacob Gibney
Declan Holst
- 25 - Justin Anderson
- 26 - Morgan Mortenson
- 27 - Jeff Robbins
- 29 - Genaro Ruiz
- 30 - Gary Denton



Happy July Anniversary

- 8 - Ashley and Josh Lund
- 9 - Amy and Scott Neal
Stephanie and Douglas Johnson
- 14 - Jacquelyn and James Holmes
- 15 - Jenie and Michael Schmidt
Rhonda and Bill Jensen
- 17 - Brescia and Joseph Berg
- 20 - Katherine and Justin Scholl
- 21 - Loree and Tim Nelson
- 23 - Virginia and Richard Naney
- 24 - Penny and Michael Hansen



Our Sympathies are with:

Immie Beck and her family, for the loss of her husband Bill. Bill passed away June 20, 2016 in Lakeland Florida. Services were June 27, 2016 in Lakeland.

Immie Beck is the sister of Joann Pierce.

Thank You!

Dear Grace Members,
Thank You for the Prayer Quilt. It means a great deal to me!
Lucy Krauss

To Grace Lutheran, Thanks for sending the bulletins and devotional pamphlets.
Marv Simonsen

Thank you for all you do for the women and children at the Young Women's Resource Center! (card with many signatures can be found on the bulletin board across from the office).

Dear Friends at Grace,
We are deeply touched with the gift of a prayer quilt. It is just beautiful and we appreciate the love and care that went into making it. We also treasure the prayers of so many who tied knots and for the various other acts of kindness shown to us during this journey. You have demonstrated what it means to be part of a family and we are grateful for you.
Mark and Ellen Wonderlin

Thank you so much to you, your youth & the chaperones who worked so hard during Love Like Jesus to wash our vans! It's such a tremendous help to our staff & the people we serve love having extra clean rides around town. Thanks for always being an enthusiastic partner in our mission!

with Gratitude, Brittney Ledford

Meet our new Administrator Denise Friesth

Hello. My name is Denise Friesth and I am looking forward to joining the staff at Grace Lutheran Church in early July. I'll start this introduction by answering an often-asked-question: "How do you pronounce your last name?" Well, it is pronounced, "Free-est" (Two syllables and a silent "h")

My husband, Lon, and I both grew up in the Lutheran church – I was a member of Saint James Lutheran Church in Allison, IA, and Lon grew up in Coal Valley, IL, and attended First Lutheran Church in Rock Island. We met while working at Iowa Lutheran Hospital and got married at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Ankeny. Our connections with Lutherans are deep: my family, his family and our careers.

I think I was called to church work since my younger days. I can remember playing "church" on the steps at home – using the SBH (red hymnal that preceded the green LBW!).

I grew up on a farm near Allison, IA, and attended school in the Allison-Bristow Community. After two years at Wartburg College, I transferred to the University of Iowa. I combined my science coursework and my degree in accounting when I worked in the finance office at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines following my graduation from the University of Iowa.

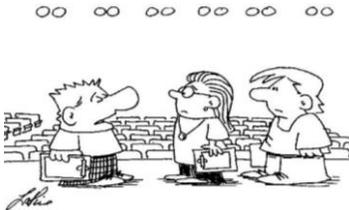
I resigned from my position at Iowa Lutheran Hospital when our first child was born and was blessed to stay home to raise our five children. In 1998, I started a part-time position at Saint James Lutheran Church in Johnston where I have worked until just recently.

Our family includes our five children: Tana, married to James Perry, Michael, Lisa, and our twin sons, Adam and Eric.

I am looking forward to getting to know the Grace Lutheran Church family.

Peace!

Grace Players in Rehearsal!



Need some Summer fun? You won't want to miss this year's Grace Players production! It will be a play in six short acts called "Hurry Up and Wait," involving those among us who are time-challenged and hate the phrase "patience is a virtue"... Please put August 27th on your calendars, it promises to be an evening of laughs!

Social Ministry Information Update Request

Have you ever had a question about an activity at Grace? Have you wanted to participate but did not know who to contact?

The Social Ministry Committee is in the process of updating information for the various committees, groups and teams at Grace. We will be emailing the contact person (according to the current available information) for each committee/group/team requesting updated information. If you are contacted it would be appreciated if you would take a few minutes to provide the requested information and return by email to the Social Ministry committee.

Our goal is to provide Grace members with current information regarding each committee/group/team at Grace. This will also include outside groups using our facility.

Visiting Any Other Churches This Summer? If so, the Grace 2020 Team needs your help.

The Grace 2020 Team is gathering information about practices in other congregations regarding the physical space, hospitality and worship. One of the ways they hope to gather more information is by hearing from Grace members who have visited another congregation. If your travels, or family, or other reasons bring you to another congregation, we ask that you take some notes and share from the experience. There are "Worship Visitation" forms available at Volunteer Central in the Gathering Hall, or on the Grace Lutheran Website, www.gracedm.org.

It is easy. Attend somewhere, and then turn in your feedback to the church office, along with a bulletin if that is available. Please help the Grace 2020 Team gather information.



Photo Wall Updates in Progress!

Over the last several months, many of you have had your photo taken for the online directory at members.instantchurchdirectory.com

We are planning to use the same photos to update the photos on the photo wall during the next two months and need a few things from you:

1. If you have a vacation or holiday or special photo you want us to use instead of the directory photos, please drop it by the office with your names. Note: If you have provided us with a new personal photo in the last few months, we won't replace that unless you ask.
2. Tell us a little about yourself: hobbies, travel, sports, etc. Just fill out a green form (found in the Gathering Hall, the office, or on the photo wall bulletin board) and drop it by Michelle's desk.
3. What? Haven't had your photo taken? New and not on the Photo wall? Drop off a photo to the office, or contact Michelle@gracedm.org and we'll get something set up!



Church Congregational Council Meeting – June 5, 2016

Present: Brad Lint, President; Eric Weber, Vice President; Mary Jo McCleary; Don Peterson; John Roehrick; Jay Wangerin; and Pastor Michael Schmidt.

The council meeting was called to order at 9:55 AM by Brad Lint, President and presiding officer.

Brad advised that the main item of business for this meeting was consideration of/action on the Church Administrator Search Committee's recommendation, which was previously communicated to the executive council in a June 3 email from Pastor Schmidt. Pastor Schmidt fielded questions about the recommendation from council members, whereupon the council took action as follows:

Motion by Jay Wangerin, seconded by _____, to hire Denise Friesth, pursuant to the Church Administrator Search Committee's recommendation and in accordance with the \$40,500 annual compensation package mutually agreed upon by Pastor Schmidt and Ms. Friesth. Discussion ensued thereupon, whereupon the motion passed unanimously.

Brad asked whether there was any further business to be brought before the council. Hearing of none he called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, whereupon the council took action as follows:

Motion by Jay Wangerin, seconded by Eric Weber, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Finance Report – May Results

Financial results for May YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$179,550, Budget \$175,450
- Other Income – Actual \$6,031, Budget \$7,583
- Expenses – Actual \$193,895, Budget \$191,019
- Net activity – Actual (\$8,314), Budget (\$7,985)

Actual net activity is very comparable to budget.





God's work. Our hands.

As a social ministry organization of the ELCA, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is so thankful for your partnership in ministry! We give special thanks for the many congregations making LSI the focus of their "God's work. Our hands." projects.

Past "God's work. Our hands." projects have included donations of tools for dads enrolled in our early childhood programs, plus children's books, towel bundles, school supplies and backpacks. LSI has also been blessed to receive "noisy" offerings, special offerings and proceeds from yard work or luncheons. Some Sunday School classes and youth groups have also encouraged youth at LSI's Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers through quilts and letters.

We thank you for your witness of God's love and your service! If you are interested in ministering to those served by LSI and would like to know more about current needs, 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

Finding Help and Hope

Bernie's daughter-in-law walked into her house and set her new baby on the living room sofa. She told Bernie the baby was "a mistake" and that she couldn't parent him. She never returned. At age 50, Bernie became a mom to her 2-month-old grandson, Bryce. Bernie's son—the baby's biological father—had medical and mental health issues that left him unable to care for the child.

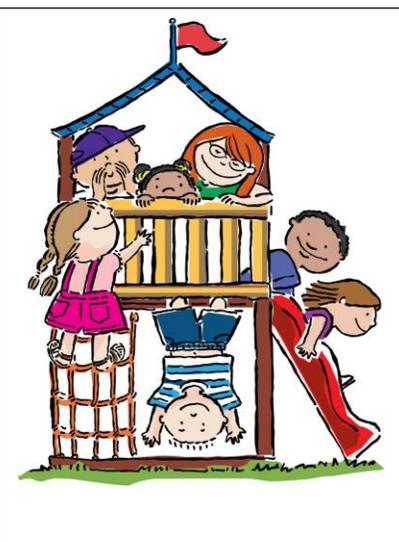
When Bryce was young, he was diagnosed with ADHD, ODD (Oppositional Defiant Disorder), fetal drug and alcohol syndrome, mental retardation, and partial bipolar disorder. As he grew older, Bryce began to develop anger issues. Bernie knew he was struggling, so she reached out to LSI.

Soon, Bryce began receiving regular home visits from a Behavioral Health Intervention Services worker, who coached Bryce on anger management. Bryce also began seeing an LSI therapist.

Today, Bryce is 15 years old. He attends special education classes, and is doing wonderfully. When he is upset, he reaches out to his LSI therapist for help. Bryce still struggles with anger, but Bernie and his LSI support team work together to meet Bryce where he is.

"I want to thank each and every one of our workers from LSI," Bernie says. "They are doing marvelous work with him."

And thanks to LSI donors, Bryce receives the help, hope, and support he needs.



Grace Kids Care Garage Sale & Fundraiser!

Grace Kids Care is having a fundraising garage sale on July 16. Just like the Grace Youth sale, there will be a variety of items, stop by and shop!

Or, maybe you found a few things you wish you'd brought to the youth sale? Now's your chance to move it out and help Grace Kids Care at the same time!

Money raised will be used for

- playground mulch
- playground equipment
- other Grace Kids Care needs.

Spread the news and come shop!
Saturday, July 16 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Grace Hall

On the Calendar!

Fourth of July – the office will be closed in observance of the holiday.

Centering Prayer Group – Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. through the summer. The group meets in the Upper Room and is led by Julie Honsey.

Knitters Guild – Tuesday, July 5 – GH I

Grace 2020 Team – Wednesday, July 6, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Men's Group – Saturday, July 9 at 9:00 a.m. in Grace Hall. We'll meet at 9am for breakfast and devotion, followed by various projects around the building. Join us!

Grace Kids Care Garage Sale – Saturday July 16 8:a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Altar Guild Meeting – Saturday, July 16 9:30 a.m. Location to be announced. For more information on Altar Guild, or to join them for an hour of relaxation at a coffee shop, contact Sue Anderson at Anderson.Sue.A@principal.com.

Lydia Circle – Tuesday, July 19, 6:00 p.m. – Grace Hall I

Ladies Night Out – Wednesday July 20 5:15 p.m. Meet at the Blank Park Zoo for Zoo Brew!

Enjoy the animals, band, food from Hy-Vee and the Safari Grill, drinks (soda, wine, and beer). Drinks are cash only.

This event is open to all women of Grace (bring a friend!), the Zoo welcomes all guests over 21 for this event.

RSVP to Donna Tickle at 515-778-7251. Gates open at 5:30, we'll meet at 5:15 so we can all go in together. Can't make it until later? Text Donna when you arrive and we'll let you know where in the zoo you can find us!

Embroidery Guild – Thursday, July 21, 6:45 – 9:00 p.m. – Grace Hall I

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Information and first aid kits are now available in various parts of the building, including the office area, Gathering Hall, kitchen, café, and gym area. In addition, by the AED that is located outside the office, there is a Sharps container for the disposal of needles.

We encourage you to look through the materials because **familiarity with them before an emergency actually occurs** will make you more equipped to handle a situation in the heat of the moment. Storm Safety procedures are outlines below.

If you have questions about any of the materials, feel free to talk to a member of the task force: Chuck Denton, Ardis Schmelzer, Jay Wangerin, Mary Weaverling, Eric Weber

Youth Ministry Update:

Here are some things that Grace Youth are up to this summer!



Love Like Jesus- Three Grace High School Youth attended this Southeastern Iowa Synod service leadership event at Grand View University June 16-19 and had a wonderful time! We spent a day learning about our vocation as Christians called to love and serve our neighbors. We also spent a day serving the clients of MOSAIC by washing the vehicles that provide transportation for them each day and playing Bingo! In between there were opportunities to make new friends, worship together and of course have fun!



Confirmation Camp- Two confirmation students will be going to Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Lakeside July 17-22. This will be a time to grow in faith and enjoy all the wonders of camp!

Grace Youth State Fair Outing- All Grace youth grades 6 -12 are invited to spend a day of fun at the Iowa State Fair on Thursday, August 11! We will begin our time there with a fair photo scavenger hunt with an option to end the evening at the Grandstand for the Newsboys concert!

**Iowa State Fair
Let's Go!**

Ticket cost (does not include cost of food):\$20 for fair and concert- RSVP by July 11

\$5 for the fair only- RSVP by July 31

Please contact Ellen, Developer of Youth and Family Ministry at ellen@gracedm.org, if you wish to attend, and as always...friends are welcome!



VBS participants have been collecting items for DMARC. The preschoolers collected 193 items during their week – watch the website and facebook for updates on how many items the elementary kids collect!

VBS participants also made 88 casseroles for the Hope Ministries Hope Café.

Photos from Love Like Jesus

Ellen Rothweiler, Emma Mattes, Isaac McCleary, Lydia McCleary



Photos from Vacation Bible School

(there will be more from Denny and Sage next month!)

Hand prints from Preschool VBS, A Zacchaeus Tree craft, Bobbie, Sarah, and Haley, the Craft Station volunteers Bobby, Sarah and Haley - and a fish craft "swimming" past Haley!



Denny and Sage, Beth and a bunny at Growing for Good Farms, one of the groups during Bible Story rotation



Mira, Bobby and Eryn with their science station playdough, cuties in chef's hats making casseroles for Hope Café, snack.



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