

# The Friendly Visitor

## Grace Lutheran Church

April 7, 2017

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

Holy Week Schedule *found on Page 2*

**Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday through Friday**

### **Contact Us**

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### **Inside This Issue...**

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- 10.. Garage Sale, Easter Breakfast, 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning and info.

### **It is true...**

The day was January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. It was a Friday, and as such I gathered with some friends who are also church professionals at a local establishment named Buffalo Alice. That group through many incarnations had met on Fridays around the same table for over a decade. We went by the nickname "The Buffalo Synod" and even appeared in The Lutheran magazine. There was even a "Visiting Clergy please check in" sign posted by our table. There were many conversations that had taken place around that table. Some were funny. Some were serious. Sometimes we laughed. Sometimes we grieved. All the while having a safe place to journey with one another.

It was on such an occasion that a friend spoke words that would forever change my life. I told the group that Grace Lutheran Church was soon to vote on extending a Letter of Call, and that if extended I would accept the Call, and his response was "Man, That's great! Grace in Des Moines is the best call in the whole state of Iowa!" I knew Grace was special, but to hear this soon to retire pastor speak that highly of *any* congregation was a surprise, let alone so definitively about a place I was soon to be called to serve. In the years since, I have witnessed his declaration as true.

One area I have witnessed it to be true this past year is through the work of the Grace 2020 Team. We have been gathering since last May, discerning who we are as a community of faith. Our findings are that this is indeed an incredible place. As we talked about what we do best, we learned that our greatest strengths are perhaps the things that we take for granted. We are a place of acceptance and welcome. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, there is a place for you at Grace. Keep it up!

Given the roots of this community of faith, in the Augustana Synod, it is no surprise that Grace is a place that has a healthy relationship with leaders and pastors. It is a community of faith that always looks beyond itself to the needs of the greater church. Even when we received a large bequest, the first check that was written was to the Southeastern Iowa Synod. We continue to see the beauty in working together toward a brighter future in Christ.

Perhaps the greatest witness of the type of thing that makes Grace Lutheran Church the best Call in the state of Iowa, has happened these last few weeks. We gathered in our Annual Meeting in January and had a healthy discussion about the budget. There was an anticipated deficit of over \$26,000. Instead of looking at what cuts needed to be made, the decision was made to keep the budget and simply work together to eliminate the anticipated deficit. As of Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, we have had a response of \$26,880 in one time gifts and increased pledges!! Together, we stepped forward in faith knowing that God is at work here at Grace.

I am completely humbled by this response. To be called to serve here in January of 2011 was an honor and to serve you is truly a privilege. The Holy Spirit is moving in this place and there is a definite sense of anticipation as we look to these next chapters together. Thank you all for your response to the financial need. And even more than that, thank you for not only calling me, but supporting me in my work as your pastor.

Peace,  
Pastor Mike

## Happy April Birthday

- 1 - Easton Ziska
- 2 - Michael Heid  
Rev. Bill Kallestad
- 3 - Ellen Batten  
Dolores Johnson  
Colleen McKinney
- 4 - Darlene Johnson  
Kevin Stinn
- 6 - Bonna Oldson
- 7 - Carolyn Andersen  
Bradley Moon  
John Nelson  
Maya Uehling Lint  
Emily Woodruff
- 8 - Jennie Wonderlin
- 9 - Kelley Bowermaster
- 10 - Brett Brindley  
Matt Hagerty  
Lanette Kennebeck  
Jared Nelson  
Cherie Rissman  
Mark Stumme  
DeVee Trickel
- 11 - Mira Voelker
- 12 - Vanessa Bloomberg  
Alex Davik  
Kyler Medhurst
- 13 - Mary McCann  
Mark Meyer
- 14 - Prudence Campbell  
Denise Friesth
- 15 - Michael Flannery  
Matt Speck  
Erin Warren
- 16 - Ernest Weatherington
- 17 - Alton Calahan  
Cynthia Gronert
- 18 - Mary Donnenwerth  
Justin Fenimore
- 19 - Kerrie Gutmann  
Emma Stammer
- 20 - Kevin French  
Cody Gebauer  
Jenny Rehder
- 24 - Eric Nelson  
Charla Preston
- 25 - Amy Wonderlin
- 26 - Aden Artzer  
Mike Carney  
Howard Kulzer  
Nathan Scholl
- 27 - Cathy Barks  
Bill Jensen  
Gladys Peterson  
Fletcher Reynolds
- 28 - David Gronert  
Abbey Nelson  
Anna Shae
- 29 - Kathy Piltingsrud
- 30 - Alysse Adams



## Happy April Anniversary

- 7 - Kathy Piltingsrud and Paul Nelson
- 10 - Deanna and Eric Weber
- 12 - Sandra and Barry Briggs
- 21 - Carol and Mark Mattes
- 24 - Andrea and Matthew Harbaugh
- 29 - Curt and Kathy Johansen



## Our Sympathies are with:

The Family of Jeanette Ziesman

The Family of Ardis Olson

The Family of Moe Nielsen



## Holy Week Schedule

### Wednesday, April 12

- No confirmation or worship
- 6:30 p.m. – Grace Brass – stage
- 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir, Grace Bells, Organ – Sanctuary

### Maundy Thursday April 13:

Worship at 1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### Good Friday April 14:

Worship at 1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### Easter Sunday April 16:

- 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Worship
- Easter Breakfast 7:00 - 10:30 a.m. in Grace Hall
- 8:15 Holy Communion Worship
- Children's Activities 9:15 - 10:30
- 10:45 Holy Communion Worship

## Easter Lily Deliveries

We're still looking for a few people to help with delivering Easter Lilies after Easter Day services.

Contact the Office if you can help.  
Thank you!



## Frolic

Frolic is a new group at Grace for children birth to age 3 and their parents to come together, get to know one another and grow in faith. We meet during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:30) downstairs along with the other Sunday School classes.

Frolic is the name of the group because we use Frolic, a developmentally appropriate curriculum that leads children and parents through lessons ranging from traditional Bible stories like Creation to themes around topics like the Five Senses and Sharing.

On any given Sunday you will find us playing, learning, maybe crying, and singing our songs. With a big range of ages and development, just about anything can happen! Some of our favorite activities have been splashing in water while learning about Noah, making a cave to see what it was like for Daniel in the lion's den, and making feelings faces in our mirrors to learn about our emotions. You may also see us walking around the church doing a prayer walk, or exploring the baptismal font in some of our lessons.

If you or someone you know has children from 0 to 3 that would like to join us, we love to make new friends! We even learned about how to be a good friend in a recent lesson, so we may still need some practice. If you have any questions for us please contact Tracy at [tlazella@aol.com](mailto:tlazella@aol.com) or Kara at [kara.jordahl@gmail.com](mailto:kara.jordahl@gmail.com).

SPOT-  
LIGHT  
ON...



## DMARC Donation of the Month – Healthy Canned Items Low Fat, Low Salt, Low Sugar options Please!

### Highlights of the February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Council Meeting Dave Gronert, Council Secretary

- **The 2020 Committee** presented planning documents summarizing the work of the 2020 Committee to date, highlighting the overarching theme of “**Growth with a Purpose**” and its five supporting pillars of **worship, education, outreach, well-being, and finance**. The report included goals for each pillar. The next step is to break into small task forces to begin work to identify possible steps to implement these goals.
- A motion was passed to **change Grace Lutheran Church’s street address** from the current 3010 52<sup>nd</sup> Street address to an Urbandale Avenue street address in order to make it easier for people to locate us. It was pointed out that the church actually fronts on Urbandale Avenue.
- **The Malmin Fund Task Force** presented an update. The Task Force is considering dividing the remaining monies into three separate “buckets”; Property and Capital Improvements, Outreach and Mission, and Financial. Also, the Task Force requested that the Council approve expenditure of up to \$25,000 of Malmin monies to fund a program of **marketing and re-branding**. This will include a new graphic identity (web site overhaul and new logo). Proposals will be accepted from three companies specializing in this work and a selection will be made by the Task Force and Staff members. The Council voted to approve the request.
- The Council approved a request by the **Hunger Team** to hold a fundraising event during Lent. “**Pigs with a Purpose**” will be coordinated through the Southeast Iowa Synod Hunger Initiative. Grace Lutheran will be allowed to display a plywood pig for each \$500 raised. The Team’s goal is \$2,500.
- **The Stewardship Committee** reported it is optimistic about the **Special Stewardship Appeal Toward a Balanced 2017 Budget** letter mailed to the members of the Congregation. There will also be Temple Talks to further urge members to respond by completing the forms mailed with the letters and return them to the office by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Note: a copy of the formal minutes is available upon request to any member wanting one.  
Contact the church office at 515-276-6873, or email [denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org)*

### Finance Report – March Results

Financial results for March YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$103,198, Budget \$97,387
- Other Income – Actual \$7,151, Budget \$7,125
- Expenses – Actual \$108,325, Budget \$114,130
- Net activity – Actual \$2,025, Budget (\$9,617)



Actual net activity was favorable to budget by \$11,642. This was due partially to increased pledge activity and also due to the timing of certain expenses. The one-time gifts given as part of the stewardship appeal will be recognized in the income statement evenly throughout the fiscal year.

The results of the Stewardship appeal exceeded expectations! A total of \$28,010 was either given as a one-time gift or given through increased pledging. The goal was to raise enough to eliminate the \$26,300 deficit budget. Thank you to all!

### Grace Men’s Group will meet next on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 in Grace Hall. Join

**us!** We will start with breakfast, then will continue our devotional, and then we move into project work around the church. (We are currently studying Game Plan For Life by Coach Joe Gibbs, which is a video-based devotional study aimed at helping men to be intentional about leading their lives and their families according to God’s game plan.) Recent work included playground repair work for the daycare and other outdoor church repairs and cleanup work. Future projects including painting an office,

## Thank You!

I am very thankful for all the cards, thoughts and prayers from the Grace family during my recent illness. The kindness shown to my family and me has been most appreciated, as is the beautiful prayer quilt. Thank you so much for all your blessings.  
Burke

Thank you to our church family for all the support throughout the past many years of Moe's health issues. We appreciate all the kind words, expressions of sympathy and contributions to a memorial in his name. A special thanks for the beautiful service Pastor Mike honored him with.  
Love from Charlotte and all of our family.

Thank you to Tom Selander for our four extra pig cutouts! The Hunger Team  
Thank you to the willing workers for priming the pigs. Ellen  
Thank you to the Grace Youth and Grace Kids Care for decorating the pigs! The Hunger Team and Ellen

To our friends at Grace Lutheran Church  
Thank you so much for your recent donation of backpacks and jackets. We appreciate your kindness and generosity. The items you donated will most certainly be put to good use.  
Sincerely – the staff and students of Moore Elementary

## Crock Pot Drive Update!

The 10 crock pots you donated in February were so appreciated! We received this update from Shannon at Freedom for Youth in Mitchellville where the current class is being held.

"I wanted to update you on our crockpot class. We are off to a great start! We currently have 8 youth ages 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> grade enrolled in our first ever crockpot class. They are doing amazing. Each week as we begin class, we start off with scripture and prayer. We then have a guest speaker who talks on a topic related to food. Then we prep our crockpot meal to take home. The students are really enjoying making the crockpot meals for their families. Some of them stated that they want to help at home more often and help mom by making dinner. After we prep our meals we get to sample the meal for dinner. As we eat we discuss employment topics. When our class is over we will be hosting a dinner restaurant style where each student will have their own positions they will be applying for. So, after our 6-week class is over our youth will have life skills that they have learned such as cooking, and employment training. Our prayer is that they will continue to strengthen these skills and take them with them into their adult lives and be successful. This class is going to be passed along to the other Freedom for Youth statewide locations and has potential to reach many kids. I would like to personally thank each person who donated a crockpot to help us provide this program at no cost.

**Please Save The Date May 4<sup>th</sup>** for our restaurant style dinner. I would love to invite those who have invested in this class with their donation of crockpots and anyone who is interested in encouraging our youth in this journey.

Flyers and more information will be emailed very soon. If you donated a crock pot and would like to receive information about this meal – please contact the office at Grace.

## Pigs with a Purpose

The painted pigs you see around the church have litter-mates popping up all over the Synod! The SEIS is raising funds to fight hunger now through the Synod Assembly which begins May 18. Each church who committed to raising \$500 received a pig to paint. Grace has committed to raising \$2500, hence the FIVE Pigs! Once we have raised the funds, one of our pigs will also make its way to the Synod Assembly for display.



Four of our pigs were thanks to Tom Selander. The Willing Workers Primed them, and the designs were painted by Grace Youth and Grace Kids Care!

Proceeds will go to supporting the ELCA World Hunger ministries and anti-hunger efforts within the synod.

**Checks may be made out to Grace, and "Pigs with a Purpose" in the memo line. Special envelopes can be found in the pews.**

# Youth Ministry and Sunday Mornings

## First Communion April 30, 2017

The First Communion Class has been meeting with Ellen and Pastor Mike for the past month.

They've created and painted chalices that will be used during their first communion, each family sharing communion together. Marion Nehmer has provided the supplies, expertise, and guidance during this endeavor. Thank you Marion!

On Palm Sunday the class and their families gathered to share a Seder Meal, and sample traditional Seder foods.

First Communion will be on Sunday, April 30, at second service.

There will be a cake reception at 10:15 in the Gathering Hall. Chalices will be placed on the Altar during the service.



## Vacation Bible School!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**2017 Vacation Bible School**  
**EXODUS**

**Preschool week:**  
June 5-9, 9:00 a.m. - noon, ages 3-5  
Participants must need no help to use the bathroom.

**Elementary week:**  
June 26-30, 9:00 a.m. - noon, or 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Ellen Rothweiler, 276-6873  
Adult and teen volunteers needed too!  
Registration Opens Online: May 1, 2017



## Middle and High School

### Confirmation during Lent

The expected time commitment is the same during Lent, 6:30-7:30 pm, but our time will be spent in worship followed by discussion upstairs from 7-7:30 p.m..

### Lutheran Lakeside Confirmation Camp

Sunday, July 16 - Friday, July 21

Camp is an expectation of our Confirmation program and we encourage students to go to camp at least once while they are in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. We have a good group that could go this summer and would be a lot of fun if it worked out for all of you! **Will this year be your year? There is still time to sign up!**

### Plant Sale Orders

Did you miss? Never fear! We always have extra plants for sale at the Garage Sale! Orders and plants will be ready after 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 6.

The orders placed so far net \$600 for the Grace Youth Trips fund!

### The Garage and Plant Sale Help!

Ellen challenges each middle and high school youth to help with two shifts! If you can manage one on the day of the garage sale, even better! The customers really appreciate seeing you there! Bring your friends! We'll order pizza for lunch!

There will be an online sign-up sent to you soon. We can begin setting up on **Tuesday, May 2**, beginning at noon. Shifts available every evening, unpacking and sorting items. We do not price, so set up is EASY!

**On Saturday May 6** the doors open at 8, and there will be a line waiting to get in the building! But we'll be here at 6:45 a.m. unloading and sorting the plant orders. Those who help out get donuts ☺.

We close the doors at 1 p.m. Clean-up usually takes an hour, packing up whatever remains for pick-up.

All funds raised go toward Youth Trips, including this summer's Rooted trip for high schoolers, and the 2018 Youth Gathering Trip to Huston, Texas. All students currently in 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to go.

The Garage Sale is the only fundraiser we do, and it pays most of your expenses while helping the community at the same time!

## Meals from the Heartland Service Learning

On Wednesday April 26 from 6-8 pm Grace Confirmation students and mentors along with Confirmation students from five other local Lutheran congregations will assemble 20,000 meals with Meals from the Heartland in our very own Grace Hall! This will be our final Service Learning project for the program year, and we are excited to collaborate with other youth to make such an important difference in the lives of hungry people. In total there will be 80 Lutherans from the Des Moines area working together on this project! What fun!

## Adult Education

### Tuesday Adult Bible Study

8:45 a.m., Tuesdays in Grace Hall. Led by Pastor Mike.

### Centering Prayer Group

Tuesdays at 10:30 in the Upper Room, led by Julie Honsey.

### Sunday Education Hour Presentations

**Sundays, 9:30, Grace Hall**

April 2: Pastor Panel to answer and discuss questions about Lent

April 9: Freed Indeed, a prison ministry

The Southeastern Iowa Synod is planning a new congregation in an unusual place: Anamosa State Penitentiary. A pastor will be called by the Synod to start a congregation among prisoners, based on a model of other prison congregations throughout the country. Carol Fredrich, a member of the Synod's Prison Ministry task force will share plans for this new ministry and the need for prayers and support from individuals and churches. Carol served several Lutheran social ministry organizations, including LSI, prior to her retirement. She has had the joy of worshipping with congregations in both men's and women's prisons.

April 16: Easter - with Easter breakfast and Children's Activities

April 23: Why Christian Video presentation

April 30: Members who attended the Nadia Bolz Weber lecture at Luther College on March 31 will share their experiences and thoughts regarding the lecture

May 7: former Grace member, Bryan Moon, will present on his efforts helping raise money for Tanzanian children's school uniforms

### One Year Bible Discussion

**Sundays 9:45 in the Gathering Hall.**

Are you reading along with the One-Year Bible Plan? Are you just catching up, or joining in? Bring your questions, comments, and discoveries on Sunday mornings, or just listen to the discussion. No need to sign-up, attendance will vary.

The March - April reading plan is posted on our website and at [www.oneyearbibleonline.com](http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com). May June will be available by the end of April

### Religious Study Group

**Wednesdays, led by The Rev. Ro Zimany**

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the conference room.

**April 19** More on Experiencing God

**April 26** Who Wrote the Bible? (How did the Bible develop into its present form?)

## Calendar

Find an updated calendar, rehearsals, and committee meetings on the grace website at [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org), and printed in the entrance hall each week.

### Every Week

#### Sundays

8:15 a.m. - Holy Communion Worship  
9:30 a.m. – Education Hour  
10:45 a.m. - Holy Communion Worship

#### Tuesdays

8:45 – 10:15 a.m. - Bible Study, Grace Hall II (**not April 18**)  
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Centering Prayer Group, Upper room

#### Wednesdays.

9:00 a.m. - Willing Workers  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Confirmation, Religious Discussion Group  
6:30 p.m. – Grace Brass - stage  
6:45 – 7:30 p.m. – Grace Bells (**not April 19**)  
7:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir (**not April 19**)

#### Thursdays

9:00 a.m. - Quilters

### April Dates

**April 8** – 8:30 a.m. – noon: Men's Group & Breakfast

**April 9** – Noon – 2:00 p.m. – First Communion Seder Meal/Chalice Painting

**April 11** –

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. – 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Meeting  
6:30 p.m. – Malmin Group

**April 12** –

6:30 p.m. – Grace Brass – stage  
7:30 – 8:30 – Chancel Choir, Grace Bells, Organ rehearsal Sanctuary

**April 13** – Maundy Thursday Worship 1:00 & 6:30 p.m.

**April 14** –

Good Friday Worship 1:00 & 6:30 p.m.  
Grace Kids Care Closed, Inservice Day

**April 16** – Easter Worship & Activities (schedule, pg. 2)

**April 17** – Office Closed

**April 18** –

No Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. – Hunger Team, conference Room

**April 19** –

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – LSI Leadership Training – GH II

**April 20** –

10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – First Circle Friends – GH  
6:45 – 9:00 p.m. Embroidery Guild – GH II  
7:00 p.m. – Grace Kids Care Spring Program – Sanctuary

**April 23** – Noon – 1:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Team Meeting

**April 25** – 6:00 p.m. - Church Council Meeting

**April 26** – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Confirmation Meals from the Heartland Packaging GH I & II

**April 27** – 9:30 a.m. – Martha Circle – GH I

**April 30** – First Communion. See page 6

**May 2, noon** – you may begin to drop off garage sale items

**May 6** - Grace Youth Annual Garage, Plant, and Bake Sale  
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**May 25** - Ascension Day Service. Fellowship and dessert following the service.

**Sunday, June 11, 2017**- Grace Lutheran Church 90<sup>th</sup>

## Meals from the Heartland Spring Break, 2017

In 2 hours this past March, 20 participants from Grace had a blast, measuring, pouring, chatting, and competing! We were the last shift of 54 shifts that week. We each had a specific job, but a few of us swapped so we could try a few —soy, vitamins, rice, weighing, sealing, packing the boxes with the same mixture that we sampled during the Lenten Soup Suppers. Yes, plural soup suppers – we ate the rice/soy mix early in Lent, then Julie Honsey used extra packets mixed with chicken, vegetables and broth for chicken soup a few weeks later!

Some of the things we learned were that Meals from the Heartland prioritizes, and has never turned down a request from Iowa Food Pantries. In some countries, where perhaps an orphanage receives Meals from the Heartland meals, there might be a person whose job it is simply to open the packages for preparation for the meal. The cardboard shipping boxes are also well used: as pads between the ground/floor and bedding, as dressers, and stacked as cabinets. \$10 funds 50 meals.

Meals from the Heartland schedules shifts each week – you can join a team or put one together, just give them a call! Confirmation students will be participating here at Grace in late April – check out the Youth page 6 to read more!



### National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, more than 8,200 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2015. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety and stability services, and mental and behavioral health treatment.

LSI's Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents support and resources to build a healthy, stable home environment for their children. In 2016, our Early Childhood programs served more than 1,000 families with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers!

LSI's Family, Safety, Risk and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's residential programs at Beloit and Bremwood serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. Thank you!

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### Finding Her Confidence

Melissa didn't know what to do. Her oldest daughter, Brianna, struggled with anger issues and Melissa felt she was losing control at home. She wanted to have a loving relationship with her daughter, and she was afraid of becoming the "stern parent."

She turned to LSI's Mental Health and Behavioral Health Intervention Services for help three years ago

The services provide regular home visits and family meetings for Melissa and Brianna. Each week, Brianna's LSI team collaborates with her to find the coping skills she needs to thrive.

"We're trying positive reinforcement, we're practicing exercises like taking a pillow and screaming into it," Melissa says. "Instead of just yelling and screaming, we're finding an outlet for that anger."

Brianna is also learning to express herself through her favorite hobby: drawing. Melissa says her daughter is a visual learner, so the family is using art to help Brianna cope with her anger. Brianna loves her drawing exercises so much that she now wants to become an artist when she grows up.

Every step of the way, Melissa says she has felt empowered and supported by her LSI team.

"You get the positive support. As parents, you hear that you're doing a good job. You get that pat on the back when you're feeling defeated," she says. "Without these programs, our family would still be struggling. LSI gives you the tools you need."

## Endowment Fund Report

The purpose of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is to promote faithful Christian stewardship by providing a congregational plan to receive grants, gifts or bequest of money to be used to enhance the total program and mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church beyond that supported through regular giving and apart from the general operation of the congregation. The Endowment Fund Committee acts as custodian of the Fund.

The Endowment Committee approved the following distributions of 2016 income:

Awards to Grace Lutheran Church:

- \$760 for Little Free Grace library
- \$590 for Expansion of photo wall directory
- \$1,000 for Scholarship Fund for Msindo and Mararo
- \$2,110 for Carpet replacement in conference room and work room
- \$3,225 for Carpet replacement in Grace library
- \$4,000 for Ceiling and sound proofing in Grace Chapel

Other Awards:

- \$2,500 for Curriculum for refugee ESL classes with Lutheran Services in Iowa

A total of \$14,185 was awarded. Requests for grants totaled \$18,685.

Since inception, the Endowment fund has awarded a total of **\$305,250** to **160** projects.

Thank you,  
The Endowment Committee  
Loree Nelson, Stacie Holst, Aaron Page, John Justice,  
Mark Stumme

## Library News



### Book Adoptions

You may now "adopt" a book in the church library!

Members who want to "adopt" a book can take a yellow suggestion card from the library with the title and cost of the book, and make a monetary donation to the library account. Follow directions found in the library, or place donations in the locked office mail slot.

### There are two more books available for your reading pleasure:

The Shack---  
A Christian Novel by William P. Young

The World's Religions---By Huston Smith  
This book explores the essential elements and teachings of the world's predominant faiths.



### NCAA Charity Fundraiser Winner!

Congratulations to our 2017 winner, Sage Speck. The Youth Emergency Shelter and Services will be the recipient of the \$185 and Sage gets the bragging rights for the year.

Rich Voelker held the lead until the last weekend, but finished behind Sage and Norm Iverson. Tied for 4<sup>th</sup> place were Allison Schmidt and Chuck Denton. Thank you to all who participated. Be sure to check out the Bulletin Board, and the list of all the charities our members believe in!

## Fellowship Opportunities!

### Martha Circle April 27 9:30 a.m. – GH I

Michelle Voelker will be speaking to us about the Grace Vegetable Garden.

### April 30 Ladies Night Out 3:00 p.m.

Painting with Marcy from 515WineWithDesign.com  
Smokey D's. Food and drinks available to order.

There are a number of women from Grace already committed, but if you were on the fence, we've chosen the Canvas you see here. (Colors can be altered to suit your preferences). The more the merrier, please join us! Next step is for each of you to go to the website to register and pay for the event. Please do so as soon as possible, but also be aware there are no refunds if you have to cancel. The latest you can register is 5 days before the event. Call the office and we'll send you the registration link by email if you want to register.



### Grace Fellowship

May 7, 5:00 PM. Light Luncheon and Program. Program to be announced. All are welcome! Please join us!

# The Friendly Visitor

Grace Lutheran Church  
3010 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

## Grace Youth Annual Garage Sale Plant Sale Pick up, Annual and Perennial Plant Sale

Saturday, May 6, 2017  
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Grace Hall and the parking lot

The Middle and High School youth and families are hosting this sale to raise money for Youth Trips, including the Youth Gathering in 2018.

ANYONE can contribute by coming to the sale or by donating items. Clean out your closets, basements, attics and garages! **Garage Sale Items:** Books, tools, small furniture, toys, clothes, housewares, athletic gear, technology, CD's, DVD's, etc.....clean and in good condition. (please, no golf carts, air purifiers or humidifiers, or used undergarments).

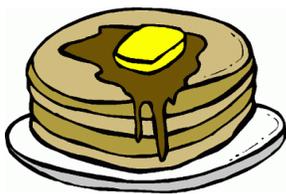
**Please bring donations to Grace Hall II beginning at noon Tuesday, May 2 – 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 5.**

Everyone benefits: You get a cleaner, less cluttered space. The Youth working the sale earn money toward their service learning trips. Those shopping benefit – as the sale is freewill offering, people pay what they can afford.

## Sunday, June 11, 2017 90th Anniversary Celebration !

9 a.m. worship  
10 a.m. program  
11 a.m. meal

If you are interested in assisting with the planning please contact Denise at church, 515-276-6873 or [denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org) .



## Grace Lutheran Church Easter Sunday Prayer Breakfast



Menu  
Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Tea and Coffee  
Easter Morning April 16, 2017  
Serving from 7:00 to 10:30 a.m.

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

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)