



# The Friendly Visitor

## Grace Lutheran Church

June 1, 2017

**Sunday Worship Services**  
**Summer Worship at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Coffee at 10:00 a.m.**

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

### **Contact Us**

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

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### **90 Years**

May has felt a little different this year. The programmatic year is winding down. Rehearsals and classes are finished for the year. Things will soon settle into the summer rhythm, a time designed as recharge for some, and a time of excitement and activity for others. Vacation Bible School is on the horizon. Volunteers are actively working. The month has that tension it usually holds. Some things winding down as others are getting started. There is that ebb and flow to congregational life. For me, this year it feels magnified exponentially. 90 times to be exact.

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, we will gather to celebrate 90 years of ministry as Grace Lutheran Church. I find that to be so incredibly humbling. For 90 years people have gathered in this place, under the name of Grace, and enter into God's mission and ministry. There have been more than 90 years worth of Sunday School curricula that have been used. Nearly 90 confirmation classes. Conservatively, over 7,500 times that people have gathered in worship. There have been 1,694 times that God has worked through water and the word through the sacrament of baptism. It is humbling to be a part of such a history.

I sit here thinking about the honor that it is to serve the people of God at Grace Lutheran Church. When I was installed as pastor on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, I joined a succession of truly remarkable people. There are so many memories for many of you tied to each of these names: Lundeen, Anderson, Victorson, Carlson, Enquist, Norgaard, Pihl, Platt, Swanson, Matter, Glaser, Ullestad, Beck, Hougen, Chadwick, Cline, Rothweiler, Johnson, and now, Schmidt. I am humbled to be included in such a list.

There is such a rich history here at Grace. Looking through the history photos in the display in Grace Hall as well as the narratives and displays that Denny Rehder places in the Gathering Hall tell a story of God's grace flowing through so many throughout these years. The buildings have changed. The landscape has changed. The people have changed. But God remains constant, calling people to be a beacon of God's grace in the world around us. What a joy to serve such a mission.

As I think about the history of Grace Lutheran Church, I find myself equally as humbled and excited about the future of this ministry. The Grace 2020 Team has been at work these last several months discerning goals for our next 3 years together. The team has also discerned a new Mission and Vision statement. In addition to that, we have contracted with a local company and have a new logo and website in development. We will be able to unveil the new logo at our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on June 11<sup>th</sup>, and the website is projected to be completed by November.

When I think about what the future holds, I cannot help but be excited. The reason Grace is so special is because of all of you. Any one of us on our own is not very strong. Yet, when each of us is woven together, we become so much stronger. All of the threads and colors, varieties, personalities, all of it, becomes one piece of fabric, bound together, more properly, held together in grace, as Grace.

I look forward to celebrating both our history and our future with you on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

In Christ,  
 Pastor Mike

## Happy June Birthday

- 1 - Danielle Russell
- 2 - Marvin Simonsen  
Vilola Welty
- 3 - Lisa Brown
- 4 - Leslie Denton  
Larry Johnson  
Virgil Olson  
Erica Schwarz
- 5 - Brescia Berg  
Molly Riordan  
Natasha Voelker
- 6 - Debbie Curry
- 8 - Elijah Lund  
Matt Radermacher  
Samuel Ruiz
- 10 - Brian Riordan
- 11 - Jacob McCann
- 12 - Lee Johnson
- 13 - Abby McNichols  
Stacy Speck  
Michelle Turner
- 14 - Joshua Habick  
Joel Holst  
Melissa Lawson
- 15 - Joseph Gutman  
Allison Hofman  
Peter Mattes  
Sandra Meyer  
Kenneth Schwartz
- 16 - Joseph Honsey  
Donald Schroeder
- 17 - Curt Johansen  
Matthew Jordahl  
Eugene Krauss  
Rita Stackhouse
- 18 - Arbor Calahan  
Marilyn Nizzi  
Vivian Swanson
- 19 - Luis Reaza
- 21 - Paul Kallenbach  
Jay Lounsberry  
Zayden Appenzeller
- 22 - Martha Mitchell
- 23 - Sharena Appenzeller  
Megan Riordan  
Terin Rae  
Delmar Vernia
- 25 - Barbara Tussing
- 28 - Joann Pierce  
Amber Trimble
- 29 - Leann Davis  
Elizabeth Gronert
- 30 - Steve McCann



## Happy June Anniversary

- 3 - Larry and Judy Cramer, Rick and Becky Harmon
- 4 - William and Kristen Marberry
- 6 - Rick and Lori Fry
- 7 - Leonard and Delores Larsen
- 8 - Bruce and Barbara Bergman
- 9 - Matthew and Kara Jordahl
- 10 - Kenneth and Barbara DeBolt, Kevin and Jeanne Drury,  
Jon and Jeanine Rutter
- 12 - Conrad and Jean Thompson
- 14 - John and Linda Gronert, Robert and Rita Stackhouse  
Rick and Emma Stammer
- 16 - Tim and La Vonne Mitchell
- 19 - Nick and Kristin Medhurst
- 21 - Donald and Grace Schroeder
- 24 - Leonard and Helen Ringgenberg
- 25 - Curtis and Sarah Chenoweth, Eugene and Lucille Krauss
- 27 - Andrew and Allison Hofman, Jeff and Nancy Robbins
- 28 - Jeffrey and Patricia Anderson



## Our Sympathies are with:

The Family of Mary Johansen  
The Family of Ardis Schmelzer



## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



9:00 a.m. worship  
10:00 a.m. program  
11:15 a.m. meal

We are looking forward to a wonderful day, including Paul Oman, a Grace 2020 update, and several past leaders of Grace Lutheran Church in attendance.

The last day to RSVP for the meal is June 1, however no RSVP needed for worship or the program. Please join us! RSVP at [denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org) or 515-276-6873.

## Please welcome our newest members!

Dean Watson, Stephanie Shepherd, Ella Oberhart, Alexander Oberhart, Andrew Oberhart became members of Grace on Celebration Sunday, May 21, 2017.

## Grace celebrates high school graduate Megan Riordan

Megan will be graduating from Hoover High School on May 27th and will be attending Iowa State University in the fall. She will be majoring in Event Management with a minor in Entrepreneurial Studies and a minor in Women's Studies. In the future she plans on owning her own event planning business and would love to do some activism work for the feminist movement fighting for equal rights for women.

## Prayer Quilt Ministry

The ladies who create and lovingly sew the quilts mounted and displayed in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings would rather remain in the background with little fanfare. Helen Ringgenberg, Gail Peterson, and Carol Krause met with Pastor Mike about prayer shawls that members of Grace used to make. Together they decided on prayer quilts and that the quilts would be distributed to those who are on the prayer list and for whom we pray each Sunday. Names are added to the prayer list for many reasons, many who receive a prayer quilt will recover and have this comforting reminder of care and prayers for years to come.



This quilt group loves quilting and enjoys being able to make something that will bring comfort to others. They enjoy looking for new quilt patterns for this size quilt and love to shop for new materials in different colors. They are “fussy” about the quilt size – it is the perfect size for a lap, not too large or heavy, and easy to move. They love hearing about recipients using their quilts, and want to emphasize that these quilts, and all materials (purchased new for this ministry) are completely washable and dryable, so please don't worry about getting them dirty! Use, wash, and use again – possibly nice and warm straight from the dryer.

Once materials are purchased, they are washed and ironed, then matched up. You can see Carol and Helen matching fabrics in the photos below, when they were enjoying how beautifully some of the colors and patterns worked together. Material may be cut and sewn as a group, or by one person, but they are finished with at least two members present. Some quilts are created before needs are known, but each member says prayers for comfort, healing, and well-being during each step in the creation of the quilt. Once finished, a personalized label is added, and the quilt is set up in the Sanctuary. Members of the congregation are invited to tie a knot and say a prayer for the named recipient during the service. The quilts are then usually delivered to the intended by Pastor Mike. Volunteers are always welcome, for any step of the process, and for any amount of time.

Funds for the purchase of quilt materials the first year came from an endowment and their own donations. Freewill offerings from the last two Easter Prayer Breakfasts are now directed toward this ministry. The quilters want to thank you for your donations – this past Easter a total of \$577.08 was received, and will be used for future prayer quilt supplies.



Tying knots and saying prayers on a recent Sunday.



A recent quilt set up in the Sanctuary. Members are invited to say a prayer as they tie a knot before, during, or after the service.



## Highlights of the April 25, 2017 Council Meeting Dave Gronert, Council Secretary

**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)**

The meeting was called to order by President John Roehrick at 6:07 PM, with the following members present: Jay Wangerin, Bruce Bergman, John Roehrick, Dave Gronert, Pastor Mike Schmidt, Don Peterson, Lori Fry, Barb Zimany, Cheryl Weatherington, and Brad Lint. Staff members present were Emma Stammer and Rich Snyder.

Pastor Mike led us in devotions with a passage from Bread for the Journey.

**It was moved, seconded, and passed** to adopt the agenda with the following additions: 1. under Malmin Fund Report a request for funds for choir musicians, and 2. under New Business a discussion of sabbaticals for Pastor Mike and staff members.

**It was moved, seconded, and passed** to approve the minutes of the March 28th, 2017 meeting as written.

### Action Items:

- 2020 Committee Report: Pastor Mike reported that the committee has broken into subcommittees to explore ideas and add substance to the goals outlined in the five pillars. Also, the first drafts of the new logo are due April 26<sup>th</sup>. No action taken.
- Emma Stammer requested funds from the Malmin monies to hire singers to sing with the choir and act as section leaders. These section leaders will add a fuller, richer sound to the existing choir, provide soloists for larger works (such as Handel's *Messiah*), and encourage growth in the existing choir members. The singers would be hired and supervised by Emma. **It was moved, seconded and passed** to provide funds from the Malmin monies to hire these vocalists. They will be fully funded from Malmin monies the first year, then half funded by the Malmin monies the second year, with the remaining half of the funding coming from the general fund. Total expenditure from Malmin will be \$16,200.
- Don Peterson requested funds from the Malmin monies to fund five property improvements identified by the Property Committee. **It was moved, seconded and passed** to authorize the Property Committee to utilize funds from the Malmin monies not to exceed \$120,000 to expend for the following property improvements, with notice given to the Council prior to commencement of work:
  1. Replace Gathering Hall carpet
  2. Replace Sanctuary carpet
  3. Install a rubber floor in the gym
  4. Replace or repair the dishwasher room floor
  5. Remodel the downstairs bathrooms

### Informational Agenda Items:

- Finance Committee: no report.
- Personnel Committee-KGC handbook and policy manual: rolled over to the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting.
- Thrivent Dollars: the Council discussed Thrivent Dollars and First Circle Friends (FCF) funding. Thrivent Dollars are held in a separate reserve fund. First Circle Friends is currently funded by Thrivent Dollars. Discussion centered on whether to continue this or to fund FCF as a line item in the budget. Discussion will continue at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting after more information is gathered. No action.
- Synod delegate: Lori Fry was designated as a delegate to the Synod Convention, May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Lending Libraries/Food Post update: Denise has checked with the insurance company and determined they have no objection to these libraries and lending posts. She will get their consent in written form. The Hunger Team will be handling the food items for the post. No action.
- New Business: Pastor Mike indicated he would like to take a sabbatical in 2019, from mid-May to mid-August. He reported that the Lilly Foundation contributes grants for funding sabbaticals. Discussion followed concerning sabbaticals for the other program staff member(s) as well. Pastor Mike recommended that we appoint a committee to look into funding and other considerations of the Grace Lutheran Church sabbatical program. No action.
- Ninetieth Anniversary: no report.

Adjourned at 7:24 PM

Respectfully,  
David F. Gronert  
Council Secretary

## Finance Report – April Results

Financial results for April YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$151,154, Budget \$136,233
- Other Income – Actual \$9,707, Budget \$9,500
- Expenses – Actual \$147,144, Budget \$156,337
- Net activity – Actual \$13,717, Budget (\$10,603)



Actual net activity was favorable to budget by \$24,320. 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.

## PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS PROGRESSING:

Through the generous bequest of Marvin Malmin, and with grants from our Endowment Committee, a number of property improvements are underway.

With Endowment grants, new carpet tiles have been installed in the Conference Room and Work Room, and are being laid this week in the Library. Also in the works are changes to the Chapel that will allow that space to be used as rehearsal space for the Chancel Choir and Bell Choirs.

Malmin funds are currently being used to create two new restrooms near the Chapel and a new adjacent storage room/ work room that will be devoted specifically to Grace Kids' Care.

Other property improvement projects are also being planned that will be funded from the Malmin Bequest. Look for more information on these in the near future.



The books being into Grace Hall during the library carpeting.  
Thank you Willing Workers!  
Stop by to see how nice the library looks with the new carpet!



Thank you, dear friends at Grace Lutheran Church for the prayers, the prayer quilt and for the love, concern and friendship. We appreciate it all and are looking forward to celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 27.

With caring thoughts,  
Bill and Linda Biegger



### Easter Sunday Prayer Breakfast

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped at the Easter Breakfast. I was great fun to work with everyone and we appreciate every ones efforts. The breakfast was a great success.

Thank you Very Much  
Len Ringgenberg and Ross Peeler

## Pigs with a Purpose

Each of our beautiful painted pigs had a message, such as: "34,000,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition - a deadly condition if not treated." "More than 60% of the world's hungry are women and girls." and "Nearly 800,000,000 people in the world are hungry. As those who follow Jesus, we are called to respond. As a church, the ELCA "rolls up our sleeves and gets to work."



You did just that - rolled up your sleeves and donated a total of \$2,657 so others can get to work helping the hungry, both across the world and right here in Iowa. Thank you

# Youth Ministry and Summer!

## Preschool VBS week is about to begin! June 5-9 9:00 a.m. - noon

We're looking forward to a lot of fun with the 3-5 year olds from Grace, Grace Kids Care, and the neighborhoods.

Watch for updates of our activities on our Facebook page! Search for Grace Lutheran Church – if it doesn't have the word "Church" it is the wrong page!

Elementary VBS week is

### Elementary week:

June 26-30, 9:00 a.m. - noon, or 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Registration closes June 12, 2017

Contact: Ellen Rothweiler, 276-6873

*Adult and teen volunteers needed too!*

Forms are found in the office and on the website at [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)



## Recognition of Volunteers

Thank you to all who gave their time to plan, organize, teach, and clean up. All your efforts are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

### Age 0 to Grade 5

Karri Brandsfield, Deanna Weber, Sandy Briggs, Alice Kulzer, Susanne Carney, Stacie Holst, Cassie Meillier, Jamie Traver, Barb Powers, Bev Anderson, Marion Neimer, McLissa Lawson, Beth Flannery, Kara Jordahl, Tracy Justice, Ashley Lund, Mary Heldt, Carol Woodruff, Emma Stammer, Kathleen Uehling

### Middle and High School

Tammy Denton, Shirley Shiffler, Eric Weber, Aaron Brandsfield, Larry Nordeen, Valerie Culp, Mary Jo McCleary, Pastor Greg Davis

## Middle and High School

### Confirmation Classes

Thank you – we'll see you in the fall!

Watch for emails from Ellen!

### 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!**

## The Garage and Plant Sale Update

Between the Plant and Garage sale, over \$3,000 was raised. Proceeds from this and past years' garage sales will be used for students travelling this summer with the Rooted Trip, and in 2018 to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston.

Speaking of Houston...

## ELCA Youth Gathering 2018 This Changes Everything

A group of interested students and parents met in May to discuss the 2018 ELCA Gathering. The focus will be on the Gathering as a Faith event with 30,000 other high school youth, and a focus on the verse Ephesians 2:8. There will still be service-learning events as needed by Houston agencies, but it will not be the focus.

The gathering is open to students who have just finished 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades, you will be finished with 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades in summer 2018. The dates are June 27-July 1, 2018. There will be additional days for travel depending on whether the group buses, drives, or flies. Grace plans to be registered by October. Each participant will pay a \$350 registration fee, and attend planning/learning sessions with the group. Watch for more information from Ellen in the Fall!



## Rooted – a Partner Synod Journey!

We've been talking about Rooted for a while, and we're just about a week away now! Four Grace youth will be travelling to Nevada and Arizona to spend a week with 200 other Lutheran Youth from the Southeastern Iowa and Grand Canyon Synods. They will be learning about homelessness, human trafficking, migration and immigration, and doing service projects in the Kaibab National Forest. We'll post some of our own updates when our participants have the chance (or after they return), in the meantime, you can follow the group's activities at the following locations:

Facebook - 2017 Rooted Trip  
Instagram - @rooted 2017

Twitter - @Rooted2017  
Official hashtag: #berooted2017

## Adult Education & Study

### Scholarships

**Forms due June 11, 2017**

Grace Lutheran Church has scholarship monies available to assist members of our congregation with college tuition. We will help students who have been accepted by a Lutheran seminary, college or university for the 2016-2017 term. Applicants should be members in good standing for at least one year prior to the request for assistance.



Scholarships shall consist of a grant of up to \$500 per recipient per year and will be paid directly to the seminary, college or university, along with appropriate notification of the grant. The schools often provide matching funds.

To be considered, new applicants should:

1. Fill out an application form (available in the church office).
2. Submit a one-page essay describing how your church involvement and beliefs have influenced your development and career aspirations, including any specific educational goals
3. Include a letter of request to the Scholarship Committee.

### Centering Prayer Group

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

### Sunday Education Hour

Will resume in the fall at 9:30 a.m. Through the summer, please enjoy coffee, donuts, and fellowship in the Gathering Hall as you leave worship.

### One Year Bible Discussion

**Sundays** 10:30 a.m. 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.

Each month's reading plans are available on the Grace website at [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org), on the links page.

### Tuesday Adult Bible Study

On hiatus for the summer

### Religious Study Group

On hiatus until September 20, 2017

## 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 (not listed in calendar below)**

#### **Sundays**

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship  
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship  
10:30 a.m. Bible discussion group - Library

#### **Mondays**

10:00 a.m. Staff meeting, conference room

#### **Tuesdays**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Centering Prayer Group, Upper room

#### **Wednesdays.**

9:00 a.m. Willing Workers  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Grace Players Rehearsal, Grace Hall

#### **Thursdays**

9:00 a.m. Quilters, Msindo Hall

### **June Dates**

- 1 First Circle Friends 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. GH I & II  
Finance Task Force Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- 2 Moving books back into the library 9:30 a.m.
- 4 Holy Communion Worship 9:00 a.m.  
Coffee and fellowship in the Gathering Hall 10:00 a.m.  
Rooted Retreat – noon – 2:00 p.m., High school room  
Preschool Graduation, 2:00 p.m. Sanctuary, Grace Hall

#### **5- 9 Preschool VBS 9:00 a.m. – noon**

- 6 Knitters Guild – 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Grace Hall
- 7 Special Choir Rehearsal – 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Preparations for Grace Lutheran Church 90<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Celebration  
Men's Group Breakfast and church projects
- 11 **Grace Lutheran Church 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
**Rooted – HS partner synod journey begins**  
**Holy Communion Worship 9:00 a.m., with guest**  
**Paul Oman, painter**  
**90<sup>th</sup> anniversary program 10:00 a.m., Grace Hall**  
**Meal 11:15 a.m. – Grace Hall**
- 12 Rooted – HS partner synod journey
- 13 Rooted – HS partner synod journey  
Executive Team Meeting 6:30
- 14 Rooted – HS partner synod journey
- 15 Rooted – HS partner synod journey  
First Circle Friends 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. GH I & II
- 16 Rooted – HS partner synod journey
- 17 Rooted – HS partner synod journey  
Altar Guild Meeting 9:30 a.m. offsite for coffee
- 18 Rooted – HS partner synod journey
- 26 – 30 **Elementary VBS 9:00 a.m. – noon, and noon – 4:00 (optional)**
- 27 Church Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.



## DMARC Donation of the Month: Canned Seafood.

### Fresh Produce Donations: Did you know?

The DMARC warehouse and food pantries accept and appreciate your produce donations.

At many pantries, people can stop by daily to choose fresh donated produce, and it doesn't count against their monthly allotment. However, fresh donations may take 24 hours to get from the warehouse to the pantry sites. Depending on what each pantry receives locally, there may not be enough cool or cold storage available for all that has been donated. While produce can sit out at room temperature for some time, here are a few guidelines to consider when donating from your garden:

- Always harvest your produce before peak ripeness. This way produce will be perfect when it arrives at the pantry, not before.
- Properly clean and package your garden produce when it makes sense to do so. It saves the warehouse and pantry staff time.
- Be sure you yourself would eat the food you are donating, blemishes and ugly produce are ok, produce that is ripe past usefulness is not.



### Happy Father's Day!

At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we strive to build up and empower Iowa kids and families. For us, Father's Day is a time to celebrate all the fathers and male role models we see every day.

In our Early Childhood fatherhood program, young men are learning to become dads. They're becoming confident and active in their child's life, and they are creating loving, bright futures for their families.

Many of the boys and young men that LSI serves in our residential programs have never had a positive male role model in their lives. But our volunteer mentors are there to help guide them.

At a gathering of mentors and mentees, a few of these children introduced their mentors to each other. When a boy from Beloit spoke, you could hear the quiet pride in his voice.

"This is Josh," he said simply. "And he's the mentor I've always wanted."

You are making all of this possible through your support of LSI. Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

*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).*

### Breaking Barriers

After years of living in fear, surrounded by violence in his home country of Burundi, Firmin wanted to create a better life for the family he and his wife, Emma, dreamed of.

They fled to Tanzania, where they lived in a refugee camp for 13 years. While there, Firmin worked as a principal in the camp's school and he and Emma welcomed two baby boys, Dan and Joshua. But when the Tanzanian government closed the camp, he and his family were sent to live in the U.S. as refugees. When he arrived in the U.S., Firmin came to LSI's Refugee Community Services to attend English classes and become familiar with his new home.

Firmin and Emma have spent the last 10 years raising their family in Des Moines, and Firmin is finding ways to give back and support more Iowa kids and families. During the school year, Firmin can be found in the halls and classrooms of public schools across the Des Moines district. He is one of several bilingual outreach community workers in the schools, translating for families who speak Swahili, Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, Kinyamulenge, and French.

In his free time, Firmin works as a direct support caregiver in the Des Moines area, and he spends his weekends as a pastor at a local church. He loves that he can help ease the congregation's daily stresses and lingering trauma through prayer and worship. Dan and Joshua are now in high school and Firmin and Emma have welcomed two daughters, Grace and Selah, in Iowa.



## Evangelism Committee Friendly Visitor Notice

### Little Free (Grace) Library – Take a Book. Return a Book.

Have you seen the brightly colored small house-like cabinets sitting on posts along the sidewalks in front of homes? These are Little Free Libraries (LFL), and their purpose is similar to any library. Books in the LFL may be borrowed on the honor system by readers in the neighborhood who read and then return them. Neighborhood readers can also leave their own gently read books to share with others in the neighborhood. The Evangelism Committee has been granted funds by the Grace Endowment to establish a LFL near the sidewalk along Urbandale Avenue as a way to engage the members of the community. The Library Committee has agreed to manage the collection of books in the LFL. All that is needed now is a craftsman who is eager, willing, and able to construct the LFL using the funds from the Endowment grant. There are three possible approaches to the construction of the LFL. One: purchase precut materials, assemble, decorate, and install the structure. Two: cut, assemble, decorate, and install the structure based on available plans. Three: design the unit, cut, assemble, decorate, and install it. Ideas, available precut designs, and plans can be viewed through basic Internet searches. Those interested in helping bring this dream to fruition are asked to contact Richard Snyder (278-0341 or [snydersathome@att.net](mailto:snydersathome@att.net)) within the next ten days.



### Photo Wall Update

We have merged all the new photo wall images alphabetically with the original grouping, and have begun rotating which photos are on display. If your photo is temporarily missing, we have them tucked away safe and sound. It's a great time to look and see who hasn't been on the wall for a while!

By the end of the year we will have additional photo mounts and a new wall addition. This will allow us to have all the photos out at once, with room to grow! If you are a woodworker who is interested in assisting with this project, please contact the office.

If you have not had your photo taken, let the office know and we'll arrange for you to have it taken, or you can submit your own photo, along with the names you want listed, and any hobbies or interests you want to share with members. Let us get to know you!

## Volunteers Needed

We have discussed becoming a greater presence in the Beaverdale area: one suggestion was to be part of some of the activities such as the Beaverdale Farmer's Market and the Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade.

The Evangelism Committee suggested just being evident in the community might be a positive way to serve the community and attract members.

We need a group interested in designing a float (perhaps). Ideas include a flatbed truck with musicians, people to toss/hand out candy or goodies, marchers and or bikers – let your imagination soar! We want to hear your suggestions.

May through September on Tuesday evenings, we need some crafters to introduce children (or adult) crafts in a church sponsored booth at the Beaverdale Farmers Market.

Please contact the office if these ideas intrigues you or sparks your imagination!

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## We Need YOU! Companion Congregation Committee

We need members who do and don't want to venture to Tanzania. We need people who are interested in the following areas: water, electricity, technology, educations, scholarships and schools, dairy cattle, development of dairy (milk and cheese), health and hospital services, possible business development. You don't have to be an expert- just interested.

Next year (2018), we may make a visit to the African bush – have you ever thought of visiting mountains, savannahs, plains, volcanic craters, lakes, villages and cities of Africa?

We are talking also of lions, elephants, hippos, wildebeasts, zebras, warthogs, monkeys, baboons, giraffes living wild in the game parks of Africa.

Think about it!

Please let the office know if you have an interest in anything listed here.



# The Friendly Visitor

Grace Lutheran Church

3010 52<sup>nd</sup> Street

Des Moines, Iowa 50310

## Grace Men's Group

**Please join us when we meet next: June 10 at 8:30 in Grace Hall.**

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.

## Altar Flowers

Openings are still available to provide altar flowers in July, September, October, November, and December.

Flowers are \$38 and are yours to take home after the last service of the day.



Altar Flowers



Doves in the Sanctuary Easter morning.



Grace Garden is beginning to grow!