



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Summer Worship with Holy Communion

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship & coffee time at 10:00 a.m.

July 22 - September Worship will be in Grace Hall
See page 3

Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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Holy Spirit Moments

Sometimes God seems to give you exactly what you need, exactly when you need it. This morning was one such case. The last 36 hours have been a blur and the next 36 don't look any better as my family faces some challenges and decisions for our mother. She is one of the toughest and strongest people that I have ever known, and now her life and quality of life hang in the balance. To say that I have a heavy heart on this day would be a great understatement. I opened the doors to the church headed to the office and my ears were showered with the sounds of a familiar hymn being practiced on our pipe organ. And just like that, I received the very words that I needed to hear:

*Don't ever be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend.*

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

We all face times like this at some point. We will all grieve, whether the loss of someone, or the loss of a relationship or the way someone once was. If given enough time on this planet, we will all be at this point, and with it we will feel that crushing weight of reality and shattered hopes and dreams. But know this: you are never alone.

I have said on multiple occasions that I wish life had an easy button. I have said this enough that I even have an easy button on my desk that was gifted to me. Life really would be a lot easier if we could hit a magic button and all would be well, but we all know that is simply not the case. There is no magic button that I, or any other pastor, has that will magically make your problems go away.

What we do have is a God who chooses to instead walk with you no matter what happens. We have a God who chooses us and walks with us amid our troubles and fears and grief. We have a God who claims the last word, and that word is life. There IS a balm that makes us whole. There IS healing. There IS life. It may not happen on our time line or in this world as we know it, but there is life, and abundant life at that.

I have read before that "more theology is taught in the singing of hymns than in any sermon or Bible study." Today, I was reminded of that truth. This hymn tune preached to me in a time when I needed it. Hymns have a way of sticking with us and bringing us the truth of God's love in our moments of need. Hymns can sing through the darkness. Hymns can shatter the silences, or the break through the sounds of our own doubts and fears. This hymn spoke to me today, and it may be a different one tomorrow or Sunday.

Continued on page 2

Happy July Birthday

- 1 - Carl Feilmann
Michael Nizzi
Matthew Johnson
- 3 - Dale Bordt
Marilyn Anderson
- 4 - Sawyer Shiffler
- 5 - Levi Wilner
- 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 - Lucille Krauss
Jayne Mortenson
Christie Rosheim
- 18 - Bradley Nelson
Anders Nelson
Adam Friesth
Eric Friesth
- 19 - Deanna Snyder
- 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
- 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
- 29 - Jack and Wilma Frost



Our Sympathies are with:

Family of the late Robert Campbell



Thank You!

Thank you for all the kindness and prayers, cards and flowers, during and after my knee surgery. I feel very fortunate to have so many wonderful friends wishing me well.
Mary Freimuth Helt

Thank you so much for the lovely quilts that our very talented ladies made, and the many members who tied the quilts and said prayers for us. Pastor Mike delivered them to us and we were thrilled, surprised and appreciative about this kindness.

Dick and Virginia Naney

Mom was touched by the prayer quilt given to her. She so appreciated the visit from the Ringgenbergs to bring it to her. It is beautiful and each tie is meaningful. She remembers tying prayer knots but never thought she would get one herself.

Thank you!!

Lois Slye and family

Holy Spirit Moments

Continued from Page 1

Whatever it is that you are facing, whether joy or sorrow, excitement or fear, warm or grief, know that God is there with you, walking with you. Know that God loves you and has a plan for you. And...be on the lookout for those Holy Spirit moments, and reminders of God's love.

Peace,
Pastor Mike

Marvin Malmin Fund Task Force

Update from the Marvin Malmin Fund Task Force
June, 2018



Since the report we presented at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in January, the Malmin Fund Task Force has been formulating recommendations to the Congregation Council for the funding of additional improvements at Grace. These are summarized as follows:

Digital Sign – The City of Des Moines approved our request for a variance to allow a digital sign to be erected on the south lawn (see part of our sign in production below!). The foundation for this sign will be installed by Chesnut Signs of Des Moines this month and the sign will arrive from Focus Digital Displays, Inc. in Texas about mid-July. This is being funded from the Mission/Marketing/Outreach partition of the Malmin bequest. We look forward to being able to present effective, welcoming digital displays of Worship times, special events, etc.



Interior remodeling of the West Entry, Gathering Hall and Sanctuary - We will be refreshing these areas to continue to provide a welcoming and inviting space. In late July we will begin holding Worship Services in Grace Hall to allow contractors and painters to complete needed updating and improvements in these spaces. New carpet tiles, carpeting, painting, lighting improvements, and some minor construction will be completed in these spaces by early September. This remodeling work is being done under the guidance of Dickinson Interior Consulting of Des Moines. This work is being funded from the Property/Capital Improvements partition of the Malmin bequest.

Organ Improvement and Renovation Program- A fund raising drive has just begun in the hopes of raising money to complete addition of a rank of pipes to our pipe organ and a zimblestern, and renovation of the console. You should have recently received a letter explaining that the Malmin Fund will be matching your contributions on a dollar for dollar basis up to \$35,000 from the Mission/Marketing/Outreach partition of the Malmin Fund.

Improvements in the Conference Room are underway with new, smaller modular tables that will allow adjustable configurations, purchased from the Mission/Marketing/Outreach partition of the Malmin Fund. This space is being improved to allow staff meetings to be more innovative, efficient and effective, as well as for use by other groups.

Additional information regarding these improvements will be presented to the Congregation Council and to the Congregation soon. Ideas for additional projects from the Mission/Marketing/Outreach partition are still being sought.



Thank You

Thank you to Pastor Davis, Pastor Mattes, and Luther Seminary student Sonja Gerstenberger for their pastoral coverage while Pastor Mike was away.

Church Council Highlights From the May 22nd, 2018 Council Meeting

At the May 22nd, 2018 Church Council Meeting:

- **Property Committee:**
 - **The Little Free Library** has been installed and is in use. Pricing and construction of the pantry portion continues.
 - **The A/C unit** north of Grace has been moved and is back in operation.
 - Windows in the 3rd floor Middle School and High School rooms are scheduled to be repaired or replaced.

- **Malmin Committee:**
 - **A comprehensive report** of all projects completed to date using Malmin Fund monies was presented.
 - **A complete list (with pricing)** of the west entry, Gathering Hall, and Sanctuary improvement project has been received by the Malmin Committee and Property Committee.
 - Work on the **foundation for the digital sign** has begun.

- **Action Item:** It was **moved, seconded and passed** to grant permission to initiate a fundraising effort for the purpose of upgrading and maintaining the Schantz Organ in the Sanctuary. Emma Stammer and Rich Snyder will organize the fundraiser. A goal of \$70,000 has been set, utilizing a dollar for dollar match from the Malmin Fund (maximum cost to the Malmin Fund not to exceed \$35,000).

- **Barb Zimany** reported on the recent Synod Meeting in Iowa City.

- **Pastor Mike** announced his intention to take a sabbatical Mid-May to Mid-August of 2019.

Respectfully,
Dave Gronert, Council Secretary

Finance Report – May Results

Financial results for May YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$169,100, Budget \$169,504
- Other Income – Actual \$13,251, Budget \$11,845
- Expenses – Actual \$188,848, Budget \$185,804
- Net activity – Actual (\$6,497), Budget (\$4,455)



Actual net activity was close to budget. Additionally, Daycare has been operating with positive results and comparable to prior year.

Southeastern Iowa Synod Contribution Report for Grace For period 2/1/2108 - 5/31/2018

2018 Mission Support: \$11,666.68
2018 World Hunger (Quarters) \$109.41
2018 Campaign – 2018 Water Project: \$1000.00



The Grace Lutheran Church Member Care Team provides meals, sends cards, makes visits and phone calls, and helps make arrangements for other assistance for people in times of need. In trying times, it's more important than ever to have faith and come together. Grace helps in that process.

Do you have interest in joining this group? The team currently includes Mary Helt, Jane Ridnour, Gail Peterson, Joie Gronert, and Connie Heuton. We take turns, one month at a time, being the "point person" when Denise or Pastor Mike or one of our group hears of a need. That doesn't mean you're responsible to do everything that month; it just means you are responsible to either do whatever it is or find another team member who is available to do so. We meet about 2-3 times a year but do communicate regularly via email.

Please contact Connie Heuton at 515-229-2035 or heutoncl@aol.com if you want to ask any additional questions and/or would like to volunteer to join us.



Organ update

On Sunday, June 20, our organist Rich Snyder gave a temple talk about upcoming enhancements being made to our lovely Schantz organ. The work to be done is as follows:

- The addition of a rank of pipes for an Oboe stop
- The addition of a Zimbelstern
- Updates to the mechanics and inner workings of the organ console

For those curious, here are some audiovisual examples of both the oboe stop sound and the Zimbelstern:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM4WWd6OWPg&t=23s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYhJ6HrcNxY>

The cost of all aspects of this project is estimated to be \$70,000. A generous commitment of dollar for dollar matching has been made by those on the committee to distribute funds from the Marvin Malmin bequest, therefore we are hoping to raise \$35,000 from member pledges. A letter has been mailed to you with further details and included a pledge card. Pledges can be made via this card, either mailed or placed in the offering plate, and via online giving. Simply click on the "Give" tab on the website, www.gracedm.org, and mark your dollar amount as Other/Organ fund. Any questions may be directed to Emma Stammer at emma@gracedm.org, Rich Snyder at rich@gracedm.org, or through the church office at 515-276-6873.

Thank you very much for prayerfully considering donating to this worthy and lasting project.



Organ Update as of 6-28-18:

Pledged (Including non-pledged donations) = \$18,050
Of that amount, we have received \$5,050 (27%).



Crafts with Grace at the Beavertdale Farmer's Market

The Evangelism Committee hosted a Craft Tent at the Beavertdale Farmer's Market in the Children's area last year and continue this summer on Tuesday evenings, from 4:30 to 7:00. If you are interested in assisting, contributing crafts or ideas, please call Mary Freimuth Helt at 515-255-6433 or Nancy Crowfoot at. Our purpose is to present Grace Lutheran Church to the neighborhood as a friendly, helpful, nurturing, Christian place. We are having lots of fun, besides---join us! Come see your neighbors.

Summer Youth Ministry
Contact ellen@gracedm.org

Vacation Bible School

Thank you to the Evangelism Committee members who worked with the Vacation Bible School folks to assist serving and cleaning up with the Family Night activities. I really don't know what we would have done without you!!! How very wonderful to have two committees working together!!

VBS is an important evangelism tool and the Evan. Com. showed their support with their time and effort.

Thanks to the congregation for financially supporting this ministry among our neighborhood, preschool, and congregational children. Clearly, this is an important neighborhood ministry as we see some of our young friends year after year; we served over fifty children and teen helpers working on service projects! Additional adults supported the extended ministry of trips together and practicing our Christian way of being as we learn, grow, and live peacefully.

This year we taught Parables of Jesus. What is a parable and how does it apply to us? Frankly, we who were teaching, were all very pleased with the depth of our young friends' thoughts and understanding of The Good Samaritan, The Widow's Mite, The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin, The House on the Rock, and The Sower.

We really had a good group of kids and enjoyed them enormously; however, we were exhausted at the end of the week!

We have received written and verbal comments that parents and children appreciate our VBS and think it is the best! They thank us for the many opportunities we include. We always try to include multi-age activities, music, arts and crafts, science (God's amazing world for our exploring older children,) snacks, Bible stories and opportunities to discuss in some depth, service projects, and games and activities. We also include field trips which have included bowling, Flix movie theater, Neal Smith Prairie Center, experience with an artist instructing, the Union Park rocket slide and historical Carousel. We have gone to visit different places in the past to learn about Des Moines and practice our Christian principles being together as a group.

Mary Helt

**Elementary VBS attendees collected 142 items of food for the Food Pantry during their week!
Thank you to Norm Iverson for delivering them to DMARC for us!**

ELCA Gathering in Houston is here!

Safe travels to Emma Ashton, Bobby Briggs, Drake Carney, Lydia McCleary, Mary Jo McCleary, Laria Preston, Sam Speck, Eric Weber, Cal Wilner, Cheryl Wilner.

Photos of the travelers are being shared on our Facebook page in all their color-coded teeshirt glory! Otherwise, look for updates in the July or August newsletter. In addition to what is listen below, there will be shared meals, evening gatherings and worship, exchanges and friendships made with students and congregations from all over the world. *Please keep them in your prayers as they experience this lifechanging event!*

Tuesday, June 26 Afternoon flight from the DSM airport to Houston

Wednesday, June 27 Free time in Houston, followed by 7:30 p.m. - Mass Gathering

Thursday, June 28 - Interactive Learning Day

Friday, June 29 - Synod Day

Saturday, June 30 - Service Day

Sunday, July 1 9:30-11:30 a.m. - Closing worship. Check out and fly home - 8:26 p.m. - landing in Des Moines

Every Week (not listed in calendar at right)

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship

July 22 through September, worship will be in Grace Hall

10:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship in the Gathering Hall

Tuesdays

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Centering Prayer in the Upper room, Led by Julie Honsey

11:30 a.m. Staff meeting, library/Conference room/innovation lab

Wednesdays

9:00 a.m. Willing Workers

Thursdays

9:00 a.m. Quilters, Msindo Hall

Men's Work Group

We meet on the second Saturday of each month, 8:30 a.m. – noon.

Next Meeting, Saturday, July 14

Our day starts with breakfast and ends with a sense of fulfillment. Through devotions, fellowship and work around the church, our group explores the significance of what it means to be men of God. We welcome you to join us.

Altar Guild Meeting, meal, and fellowship:

Saturday, July 21, 9:30 a.m.

Offsite for coffee, meeting, and fellowship.

Location to be determined. For information about the meeting or Altar Guild, contact

anderson.sue.a@gmail.com

Lydia Circle meets Tuesday July 17 at 6:00 p.m. in Grace Hall – Join us for supper and a program
We meet every third Tuesday evening.

Grace Stitches/Needlework Group

Next meeting, Thursday, July 12 & 26

We meet every 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Gathering Hall (new location!)

Come for any amount of time between those hours. Bring any and all personal stitching and a lunch if you wish. Questions? Contact Helen Ringgenberg or Carol Krause

July Calendar

1 – E.L.C.A Youth Gathering

2 – 10 a.m. Education Task Force

3 – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Des Moines Knitters Guild, Gathering Hall

4 - **The Office will be closed Wednesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.**



5 – First Circle Friends cancelled

7 - Noon – 4:00 p.m. Private Event, Sanctuary, Gathering Hall, Grace Hall

11 - 3:30 p.m. GKC Staff Meeting, GHI

12 - 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitches Group, Gathering Hall

14 – 8:30 a.m. – noon Men's Work Group – Breakfast, Fellowship, and Church Projects

17 - 6:00 p.m. Lydia Circle – GH I & Kitchen

19 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, (New Date) GHI & II

20 – 4:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal

21 – Wedding, Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting, offsite

22 – Worship in Grace Hall begins

23 – Organ Pipes removed for construction

26 - 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitches Group, Gathering Hall

August

2 - 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, (New Date) GHI & II

Publication Deadlines

August Friendly Visitor: July 20

Tuesday e-news: Every Monday morning. Photos of your groups' events are always welcome!

Sunday Announcements: Thursday mornings.

Facebook and website news: any day of the week – just give us a few days lead if possible!



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! Thanks to you, we're able to provide education for young parents and empowerment to some of Iowa's most vulnerable children and families. This month, we would like to give special thanks for those of you who have made LSI a focus of your congregation's "God's work. Our hands." project.

This project began in 2013, the 25th anniversary of the ELCA, as a day dedicated to doing service work alongside neighbors in communities across the country. On a chosen day in September, each congregation is encouraged to participate in a project for "God's work. Our hands." This is a perfect opportunity to do special projects and/or to raise money as a church body for a nonprofit like LSI.

We thank you for your witness of God's love and your service! If you are interested in supporting the Iowa children and families served by LSI and would like to know more about our current needs, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

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 and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Striving Towards Her Highest Peak

Eight-year-old Kendale felt nervous and scared.

For years, she had struggled with lying, manipulating, and acting out violently toward her peers.

Her family turned to residential treatment facilities across Iowa for help. But nothing worked. Kendale showed no signs of progress.

Her last hope was LSI's Beloit Residential Treatment Center in Ames, and she was anxious and didn't know anybody.

But as each day passed, Kendale began feeling more comfortable and open to LSI staff, especially Ashley, a Youth Associate at Beloit.

Ashley and the LSI team have been working with Kendale on communicating and building positive relationships, as well as developing healthy decision-making and anger management skills.

Kendale has a caring support system at Beloit. She has developed a routine and is surrounded by a passionate LSI team that makes her feel confident and empowered.

"It's beautiful to see Kendale blossom. She is a lovely little lady with an incredible imagination and a big heart," Ashley says. "I'm so proud of how far she has come and the joy she exudes every day."



An Invitation from the Well-Being Task Force

The world is changing and evolving in ways no one can anticipate. Governments, businesses and institutions are strategizing and planning ways to prosper in the midst of this exponentially changing and capricious era. Churches as well are striving to anticipate what to do in order to thrive.

The community of faith at Grace is striving to do all that we can do to be the Church, members of the Body of Christ, in this unpredictable world, loving and caring, serving as God's hands. We pray and ponder about what we are to *do* as partners with God in doing His work.

We pray and ponder about what to *do* to evangelize in an era of decreased church attendance and membership. We pray and ponder about what to *do* to minister to families whose busy schedules conflict with worship and youth activities. We pray and ponder about what to *do* to engage members in participating in the life of our community of faith. We pray and ponder about how to program. What committees, task forces or groups are befitting ministries for those who follow Jesus?

Could it be that God is calling us to trust that He is making things new while inviting us to turn our attention with intention to *being* the Church, the Body of Christ in the world? (But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33)

The members of the Well-Being Task Force believe that being the Body of Christ in this unpredictable rapidly changing seemingly discordant time is a summons for us to trust that God who loves beyond our ability to comprehend has a plan of salvation. To participate in this plan, we believe, means for us to trust faithfully following in the way of Jesus, confident that God's will and plan are highest and best, while we grow our hearts in love, patiently waiting in hope for God to reveal his plan. (...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2: 12-13)

To faithfully follow Jesus in his way it is necessary to open our heart with the intention of allowing the Holy Spirit to speak into our heart to guide us along the way. (Philippians 2: 12-13) For the last several years, members of our community of faith have attended the Why Christian Conference with their experience being hearts opened to *be* more loving. Members of our community have completed spiritual formation programs with their experience being hearts opened to *be* more loving. Members of our community have attended retreats with their experience being hearts opened to *be* more loving. Members of our community have done work to discover their spiritual gifts with their experience being hearts opened to *be* more loving. Members of our community have begun to practice contemplative prayer with their experience being hearts opened to *be* more loving.

The Well-Being Task Force is inviting you to pray and ponder about what it means to *be* the Church rather than anticipate what to *do* to be the Church. To help and encourage individuals to explore what *being* the Church means, we have started a Lay Christian Education Fund with seed money from members of our community who believe that the well-being of the Church lies in the hearts of the people growing in love and relationship with God and His creation. The Lay Christian Education Fund is being set up for the purpose of our community of faith supporting one another in growing our hearts in love by providing funds and extending an invitation to go beyond our doors as pilgrims on a journey to the heart.

The Well-Being Task Force will regularly post news of upcoming events that we will provide funding from the Lay Christian Education Fund to attend. We invite you to search out events that interest you as well. We are in the process of setting up guidelines and considering ways to grow the fund. We invite you to pray and ponder about attending events. We invite you to pray and ponder about contributing to the fund. We ask that you would pray and ponder with us about what it means to *be* the Church in this uncertain rapidly changing time. We invite you "to will and to work" with us as we strive to follow in the way of Jesus opening and growing our hearts in love.



DMARC Donations for July: Fresh Vegetables!

Whether from your garden or grocery store, please consider that items often sit out all day. If they are less than fresh to begin with, they will not be lovely by the end of the day. Onions, potatoes, carrots, zucchini, squash, kohlrabi, kale, beets, sweet potatoes, sweet corn, broccoli, cabbage, tomatoes, bell peppers, Brussel sprouts, peas. Culturally appropriate requests: Families struggling can feel comforted by having the ingredients to make familiar foods. Consider donating the following if you see them at farmers markets or your local grocery. Bitter melon & leaves, chayote, opo squash, pumpkin leaves, taro, bamboo, lemon grass, bok choy, kobocho, ginger root, cucumbers, green beans.



Grace Garden has been producing like crazy! It's been a great year so far despite the weather. Radishes, Swiss Chard, snap peas, turnips, onions, beets, and now the yellow squash and beans are taking off. Note that the snap peas in this photo fill a large salad and a berry clamshell! If you have any salad or berry containers, or even small clean shipping boxes, please bring them to the garden table on Sunday. We will use them!



This year's **Stamp Out Hunger** food collection and sorting effort was a tremendous success **THANKS TO YOU!** Nearly 500 volunteers checked, sorted, and boxed up the 63,402lbs food collected by our area Postal Workers. There were so many congregations represented that week that we can't name them all! These many helping hands made it possible to get the food out to those in need ASAP. To see other photos and learn more about the effort visit our [Stamp Out Hunger blog post](https://www.dmarcunited.org/2018/05/stamp-out-hunger-2018-was-a-huge-success/). <https://www.dmarcunited.org/2018/05/stamp-out-hunger-2018-was-a-huge-success/>



Domestic Hunger Grant Applications

ELCA World Hunger is pleased to announce the 2019 Domestic Hunger Grant application will open soon! Beginning in June, you will be able to learn more about the grants and how to apply by visiting this link <http://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants> . Applications are available now through August 13.



Grace 2020 Well-Being Task Force Third Quarter Theme: Mental and Emotional Health.

Thousands of things go right for you every day beginning the moment you wake up. You are breathing, the air is a mix of gases that is just right for your body's needs. You see, walk and talk while your heart circulates blood throughout your body. God provides the earth as a habitat that sustains you in life. You are blessed with relationships and communities to support you. It seems that God wants people to thrive.

To be in partnership with God in helping us thrive the Well-Being Task Force will be posting weekly emails that prompt you to reflect on questions about what it means to thrive from an emotional or mental standpoint.

Each week in the Sunday announcements, enews, and Facebook, we will send out a question to bring to your awareness particular issues having to do with thriving emotionally and mentally. Included in the email will be a short list of resources that address the question along with a prayer.

In writing the prayers, the Well-Being Task Force, will once again focus on trust, trust that God who loves us enough to provide all that we need to thrive also has the desire to bless us beyond anything we can imagine. We need only open our hearts, trusting that God's will is to grace us with His blessings. (But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33)