



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Summer Worship with Holy Communion

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship & coffeetime at 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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*Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.*

These words are powerful, much more than they appear at face value. These are such simple words that are coupled with a simple tune. Neither tune nor text is anything that stands out. Yet when these words are met with the work of the Holy Spirit, amazing things start to happen.

The change to using this hymn started out of necessity. It was simple. We wanted to create space within which the person accompanying the congregational singing would be able to receive communion with those gathered in worship. The solution: pick a simple Taize hymn that the gathered assembly could sing a capella during the start of distribution. ELW #472 was chosen, and the Holy Spirit took it from there.

*Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.*

I very distinctly remember the first Sunday we tried this new approach to distribution. There was a tangible excitement in the holy space of unaccompanied singing. Those seated sat up straight, with some even looking around. The volume of the singing increased. Those gathered were met with the Holy Spirit and filled the space with the sacred sound.

After a few weeks, my two year old daughter began to spontaneously break into that sacred chorus at home. The hymn and the sacred space that it was creating was having an impact on her as well as the rest of the family.

*Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.*

I do not know if you can feel the same from where you are in the sanctuary, but to be actively distributing communion by the chancel while this sacred sound and space comes to be each week is truly a special experience. It is as though the walls disappear and I feel as though we are truly surrounded by all the saints, from all times and places. It feels as though the Ancient One is breathing life into those gathered, empowering them into their own voice, and dreaming a new tomorrow.

This simple hymn has the power to transcend the world in which we live and give us a glimpse of what could be. It has the power to change lives, open hearts, creating space for an encounter with the divine. It speaks the truth of what it is to gather with the Body of Christ, hungry, thirsty, and finding bread and the cup. We are truly blessed.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike

Happy June Birthday

- 1 - Danielle Russell
- 2 - Marvin Simonsen
Viloea Welty
- 3 - Lisa Brown
- 4 - Leslie Denton
Larry Johnson
Virgil Olson
Erica Schwarz
- 5 - Brescia Berg
Molly Riordan
Natasha Voelker
- 6 - Debbie Curry
- 7 - Livia Ocken
- 8 - Elijah Lund
Matt Radermacher
Samuel Ruiz
- 10 - Brian Riordan
Stephanie Shepard
- 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
Zoe Volius
- 16 - Joseph Honsey
Donald Schroeder
- 17 - Curt Johansen
Matthew Jordahl
Eugene Krauss
Rita Stackhouse
- 18 - Arbor Calahan
Marilyn Nizzi
Vivian Swanson
Cecelia Stammer
- 19 - Luis Reaza
- 21 - Paul Kallenbach
Jay Lounsberry
Zayden Appenzeller
- 22 - Martha Mitchell
- 23 - Sharena Appenzeller
Megan Riordan
Terin Stanfley
Delmar Vernia
- 25 - Barbara Tussing

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



Call for Anniversaries!

If you didn't get married at Grace, but would like to be listed, let us know! We added many of you when we started listing anniversaries 2 years ago, but we're always happy for more reasons to celebrate! Send dates to Denise@gracedm.org

Add Beauty to Our Worship Space with Altar Flowers

We're blessed to have members who sponsor the cost of fresh flowers on the altar each Sunday. Thanks to all of you who have donated this year. There are still spots open for this summer; check the flower sign-up chart on the wall in the Gathering Hall. The cost is \$38 and the flowers are yours to take home after Sunday worship.

NEW: Watch your Grace e-newsletter and Sunday announcements for information about online sign-up and payment.

June Birthdays Continued!

- 28 - Joann Pierce
Amber Trimble
Dana Roby
- 29 - Leann Davis
Elizabeth Gronert
- 30 - Steve McCann





ELCA Youth Gathering



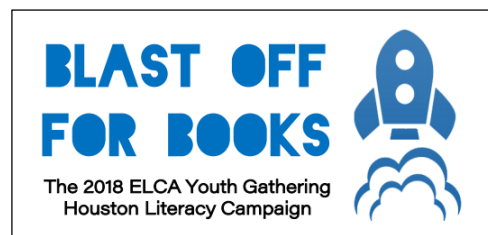
Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. The theme for this Gathering in Houston is “This Changes Everything” based on Ephesians 2:8 “...for by grace you have been saved..”

Seven high school youth and three adults from Grace Lutheran church will participate in this exciting event June 26-July 1. For many years Grace Lutheran Church has sent a group to the Gathering, often led by parent volunteers. The benefits of this journey most certainly outweigh the considerable cost, approximately \$1200/person. Through fundraising we have been able cover most of the cost for students to attend The Gathering, sometimes asking families to pay as little as \$150. When you purchase a cinnamon roll, donate an item to the garage sale or order plants you are helping students to experience this exciting event.

Some 2015 Detroit Gathering statistics-

More than 1,000,000 diapers donate	4,000 warm hats made
1,425 backpacks filled and distributed	99 picnic tables built
1,500 communion assistants for worship	3,200 vacant lots cleared
2,033 mural boards created to beautify Detroit	26 dumpsters filled
Over \$800,000 collected for ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water	

As you can see, the impact of this experience runs both ways. Students make a difference, and leave changed. Already our group has tithed 10% of the money raised by the Garage and Plant sale to The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Houston Literacy Campaign “Blast Off for Books”.



We thank you for your ongoing support and investment of time and money in Grace Youth Ministry and we ask for your prayers for all The 30, 171 Gathering participants, but especially those being sent from Grace.

Garage Sale Update!

Thank you so much for all of your donations, help, and plant orders!

As usual we had a line waiting out the door before the sale opened, and we sold most of our extra plants. The few extra plates of cinnamon rolls went home with a few lucky families on Sunday morning too! This left us with a total profit of about \$3288.22. As mentioned above, 10% of that - \$328.82 - will be tithed to the Gathering Literacy Campaign.

We have reserved Saturday, May 4 for next year's sale, so mark your calendars! We're looking at shortening the drop off, set-up week, which should make it easier for volunteering. If you are interested in helping with the plant sale (paper work, spreadsheet work in March and the first week of April), please contact Suzanne Carney or Michelle Voelker.

Church Council Highlights
From the April 24th, 2018 Council Meeting

At the April 24th, 2018 Church Council Meeting:

- **Property Committee:**

- The Little Free Library has been built and is ready to be installed. The Property Committee will secure a quote for the construction of the pantry portion.
- A grant in the amount of \$2,200 was secured from the Endowment Committee to be used to replace the windows in the third floor Middle School and High School Rooms.

- **Malmin Committee:**

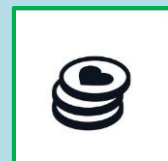
- **Action Item:** It was moved, seconded, and passed to authorize the Renovation Committee and the Malmin Fund Committee to spend up to \$110,000 from the Property/Capital Needs partition of the Malmin Fund for improvements to the West Entry, Gathering Hall, and Sanctuary. Watch for drawings, pictures, and product samples of these exciting improvements!
 - **Action Item:** It was moved, seconded, and passed that \$1,600 be allotted from the Mission/Marketing partition of the Malmin Fund to purchase six new tables for the Conference Room. The new tables can be arranged in several configurations to accommodate the needs of the various groups meeting there.
- **Action Item:** It was moved, seconded and passed to grant the Confirmation students permission to hold a fundraiser (*"Bucket for Clean Water—The Water, the Witness"*). The fundraiser is supported by the SE Iowa Synod. The Blue Bucket is to be placed in the Sanctuary for people to make donations May 3rd and May 10th. Money raised will be joined with contributions from other congregations and used to support clean water projects in the USA and abroad.

Respectfully,
Dave Gronert
Council Secretary

Finance Report – April Results

Financial results for April YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$140,597, Budget \$137,183
- Other Income – Actual \$9,747, Budget \$9,500
- Expenses – Actual \$153,140, Budget \$151,533
- Net activity – Actual (\$2,796), Budget (\$4,850)



Actual net activity was close to budget. Additionally, Daycare has been operating with positive results and ahead of budget all year.

**Dear Grace Congregation,**

Thank you so so much for all the prayers and support as I am going through this time. I love the prayer quilt I received very much and every knot means a lot. I can't express how thankful I am to have all the support around me that I do. I hope you are all doing well, I've enjoyed growing up in a congregation like I did and being part of the church. I hope to be returning home soon and getting to see everyone at church again. Thank you for all the prayers and support. With love, Kayleigh M

Confirmation Prayer & Service – “The Water and The Witness”

Thank you for helping the Confirmation students as they collected funds to support water projects across the country and the world. Their goal was to raise \$500, and in two Sundays Grace contributed double that for a total of \$1000! Pastor Mike brought that to the Synod Assembly in May. This money combined with funds raised at other SEIA Synod congregations will “change lives”. Learn more at <http://seiasynod.org/buckets/>

An excerpt from the thank you letter from the charity winner of the NCAA Fundraiser Pool

Read the entire letter on the office bulletin board.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the communities around the world that partner with Engineers Without Borders USA and our dedicated volunteers, I sincerely appreciate your donation of \$145.00 on 5/16/2018. Your gift will immediately be put to work implementing life-changing engineering projects that empower communities to sustainably meet their basic needs. EWB-USA's community-driven development projects improve the lives of millions. Some of our recent accomplishments include:

- 116 solar-powered streetlights enhance security and create a sustainable energy source for 15,000 residents of the Beldangi Refugee Camp in Nepal.
- 35 repaired handpumps in rural, drought-stricken Ethiopia are bringing clean water to more than 100,000 people.

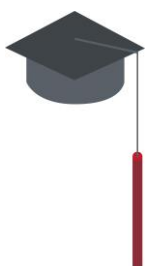
To learn more about how your donation to EWB-USA builds lasting change, we invite you to read our annual report: <http://ewb-usa.org/our-story/financials>

Sincerely, Catherine A. Leslie, P.E.

**Elementary Vacation Bible School and the Giving Tree!**

Thank you to all who chose tags off the tree!

If you chose a yellow tag off the VBS Tree, please bring those items to the office by Friday, June 15!



The family of Emma Mattes, graduate of North High School, invites members of Grace Lutheran Church to a reception at our home on Sunday, June 3rd, 2- 6 pm
3410 Urbandale Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50310

We recognize that there are too many people at Grace Lutheran that have been a big part of Emma's life to use personal invitations- We look forward to seeing you at Emma's celebration!!!

Mark and Carol Mattes

Summer Youth Ministry
Contact ellen@gracedm.org

**Summer youth activities-
June 4-8 Preschool VBS**

June 18-22 Elementary VBS

Registration Deadline: Monday, June 4, 2018 or earlier if spaces fill.

Late registrations, payments and walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

- A \$50 registration fee is required for those registering for the all-day program (8:30-4:00).
- There is no fee for those attending the morning only (8:30-12:00).
- Aftercare (4:00-5:30) is provided for \$10/child for the entire week

June 26- July 1 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston

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

Prayers for all those who are participating in these summer ministries!

Exciting things this Fall!

Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) class offered Sunday afternoons in October, November and December for grades 9-12.

Service Learning model implemented for students and families Preschool-12th grade.

This will be a new theme based approach to how we learn about and practice faith with the goal being discipleship and living differently in Christ. The theme for this Fall is Food Security. More information to come!

Thank you!

2018 Sunday School Volunteers:

Karri Brandsfield-PreK-5th Grade
Aaron Brandsfield-High School
Deanna Weber-PreK-5th Grade
Eric Weber-High School
Tracy Justice-Frolic
John Justice-Frolic
Kara Jordahl-Frolic
Carol Woodruff
Julie Honey
Emma Stammer
Sandy Briggs
Stacie Holst
Cassie Meillier
Linda Moravec
Ashley Lund
Marion Nehmer
Bev Anderson
Kayleigh Medhurst
Beth Flannery
Joyce Lewis
Michelle Voelker-Middle School
Tammy Denton-Middle School
Steph Shepard-Christmas Program

**VBS Volunteer Training
Sunday, June 10, 6:00 p.m.
In Grace Hall with Pizza!**



Thank You!

Let us celebrate the ministry of Karri Brandsfield and Deanna Weber. For four years they have served as Sunday School Directors, planning lessons and recruiting volunteers. As we transition into a new model for Sunday School this Fall, we celebrate the dedication these two ladies have given Grace Sunday School ministry these past years. All our Grace Sunday School students and families thank you! We are grateful!

Every Week (not listed in calendar at right)

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship
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

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, June 9

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, June 16th – 10:00 – 1908 Draught
House, 8789 Northpark Dr. Johnston, Iowa
50131.

Join us on the patio for fresh squeezed orange
or grapefruit juice!

To RSVP Contact anderson.sue.a@gmail.com
(not necessary, but it helps when calling for a
table).

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

Grace Stitchers Group

We meet every 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each
month from 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in Grace Hall
Next meeting, Thursday, June 28

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

June Calendar

4 – 9:00 –a.m. – noon Preschool Vacation Bible
School

5 – 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Primary Election,
Gathering Hall

9:00 –a.m. – noon Preschool VBS

6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Des Moines Knitters Guild,
Gathering Hall

6 - 9:00 –a.m. – noon Preschool VBS

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

7 - 9:00 –a.m. – noon Preschool VBS

8 - 9:00 –a.m. – noon Preschool VBS

9 – 8:30 a.m. – noon Men's Work Group –
Breakfast, Fellowship, and Church Projects

10 – 2:00 p.m. GKC Preschool Graduation,
Sanctuary/GH

6:00 p.m. VBS Volunteer Training

14 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends,
(New Date) GHI & II

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitchers Group, GH I

16 – 10:00 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting, offsite

Noon - 6:00 p.m. Private event, GH, Kitchen

18 – 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Elementary VBS

19 – 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Elementary VBS

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

20 – 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Elementary VBS

21 – 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Elementary VBS

22 – 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Elementary VBS

26 –E.L.C.A Youth Gathering Travel Day

6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

27 –E.L.C.A Youth Gathering

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. LSI, GH II

28 –E.L.C.A Youth Gathering

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends,

(New Date) GHI & II

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitchers Group, GH I

29 –E.L.C.A Youth Gathering

30 –E.L.C.A Youth Gathering

July

1 – E.L.C.A Youth Gathering

5 – First Circle Friends cancelled



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



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.

Many of the boys and young men that LSI serves in our Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers have never had a positive male role model in their lives.

But our caring volunteers are there to help guide them.

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.

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 LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

On the Road to Success

As everyone was preparing for the Christmas season last year, Ali was eager to finally give his family a gift he'd been dreaming of: a second car.

After Ali came to the U.S. as a refugee from Somalia in 2014, he dedicated his time to finding a job and building a better life for his family. But he and his wife struggled to keep up with both of their busy jobs and caring for their four children with one vehicle.

"It was a very stressful time for my family, especially when emergencies happened or schedules changed," Ali says.

Ali decided to make it his goal to set aside money for a second car. He used LSI's Refugee Community Services Individual Development Accounts (IDA) program to save the money he needed.

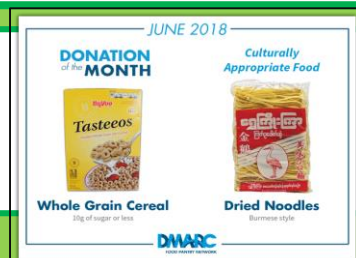
Through the program, Ali has received guidance through basic financial literacy classes and one-on-one coaching to prepare him for the new car-buying experience.

Now, Ali and his family are thriving. They have reliable transportation, and Ali feels confident knowing his family's needs will be met every day.

"I'm very thankful for LSI and this opportunity," Ali says. "It is really good of them to offer this program, and it has made a great impact for my family."

DMARC Food Pantry Network

June Requested Donation of the Month:
Whole Grain Cereal, 10 g sugar or less
Dried Noodles, Burmese style

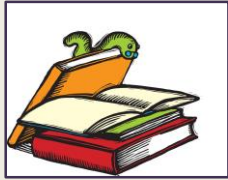




Lutheran World Relief

We received \$688 in donations and sent 9 quilts, 3 fleece blankets, 200 personal care kits, 8 fabric kits, and 60 baby care kits to the LWR warehouse. We also received loads of free quality baby clothes from the Take 2 Consignment sale. Plans are under way to make more kits in the fall.

Thank you,
Cathy Watson



Library News!

The author, Max Lucado, has been chosen for the first summer reading book displays. His writings include children's books as well as adult. You'll find fiction and nonfiction to choose from. Stop in the library for summer reading ideas. We'll continue to update our book displays throughout the summer so come into the library and find a great book to check out!



Visiting Choir!

On June 3 we again welcome the Muscatine Youth Choir in worship at Grace! The Youth Choir is a group of 13 kids, ages 6th-12th grade, directed by Ric and Cynthia Smith. While based in Muscatine, IA, the choir travels frequently, both locally and internationally. They have partnered with the *Shropshire Music Foundation* to spread peace through music in the country of Kosovo, and are also currently partnered with *Serve Haiti*, where they train music teachers, help with the medical clinic, and run Summer music camps in Grand-Bois. The Muscatine Youth Choir has been going strong for almost 20 years – their mission: to make a joyful noise!

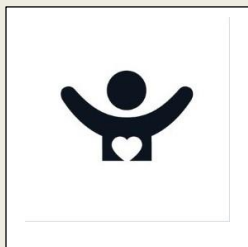


Dear GLC Members,

As many of you may know, Grace Kids Care is a daycare center that is a part of the Grace Lutheran Church. Our center cares for children ages 6 weeks old to 5 years. We are currently conducting a search and interviewing for the open position of Kitchen Manager.

We are reaching out to the Grace Lutheran congregation in hopes of finding some volunteers that would be willing to help prepare our daily lunches and snacks.

If you are interested in helping Grace Kids with these kitchen duties there is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Brooke Howsare at 515-419-6474 or by email at brooke@gracedm.org.

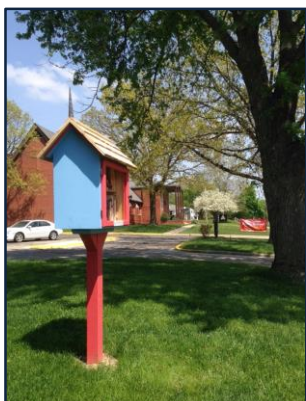


Grace 2020 Well-being Committee

Third Quarter Focus: Emotional and Mental Well-being

Starting in July, we will provide information regarding community resources for various issues to promote emotional/mental well-being. This information will be provided in the Sunday insert, on the website and on Facebook. It will also be emailed once per week for 10 weeks.

Second Quarter wrap-up: Our 39 days of Physical emails are winding up – we added one last day as we wanted to send you off with a litany that you can use every day to continue with the intentions you personally set during the previous 39 days. Printed copies are available in the Gathering Hall if you would like to use them again, or share with someone else.



Grace Little Library Open for Business!

Our new Little Library, beautifully painted to match our new logo, is already well-stocked by the Evangelism committee. There are titles for adults and for small children, but not many for elementary/middle school. If you have any books that fit that category, bring a few with you next time you stop by. If they don't fit, bring them to the office (for now). Most Little Free Libraries manage themselves quite well, so we don't want to overload the office or library with too many books, but we do want to start out with a good mix.

The willing workers were busy checking gutters, cleaning the lot and pruning trees last week in the heat!



Our beautiful entrance: Thank you to Michael and Marilyn Nizzi for all their work every week!

