



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Worship with Holy Communion
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship & coffee time at 10:00 a.m.
Active Grace Sunday School 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Adult Education Hour 10:15 a.m.

Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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Ready or not...

Do you ever have those moments when you feel a little overwhelmed and not sure what is next? To be completely honest, that sums up where I am at right now. I had a dream last night that was so vivid and real that I cannot stop thinking about it. I was in a sanctuary with my friends James and Ben when suddenly my mom comes through the door. I yell "Momma!" and run over to her, asking Ben and James "Can you see her? Is it real?" They remain focused on what they are doing as if they cannot even hear me. I give my mom the biggest hug and am filled with warmth through my whole body. Then, just as suddenly, she fades away, and I wake up, hugging a pillow. My body goes cold. My heart aches. And, under the cover of darkness while the rest of the household is sleeping, I weep.

I cannot help but think of the many conversations that I had with my mom after my dad died. She spoke about everything being "different." That is the word she used, and it seemed to sum up things quite well. Grief can sneak up on you, and take your breath away, but even when grief is lurking quietly, everything is just, different. It is real work learning a new rhythm, a new pattern. Whether you are ready or not, life goes on.

We all go through changes. Sometimes it is a loss. I look through the congregation and there are so many others who have experiences loss these last months. Grief abounds these days. Sometimes these changes involve relationships, or work, or even the realities of getting older. Through all of it, this truth remains: Change is the only constant.

There are a lot of change happening here at Grace Lutheran Church. For a month now, the Sanctuary, Gathering Hall have been torn apart. The main entryway is now under construction as well. The lower level is torn apart because of flood damage. Things are stored all over our property as that cleanup and repair continues. It is hard to find a sense of peace with so much of the building under construction. Change happens.

We are starting a completely different model of Sunday School this year, called Active Grace. It uses a Service Learning model that will help families dive into faith on a whole new level. We will learn Bible stories and find ways to respond to similar needs in our context. It is very exciting, and a little scary at the same time. Change abounds.

Back to that dream...one thing that I have learned about grief is that if it will trap you if given that chance. You cannot avoid grief. It must be met head on. When grief gets the last word, it will leave you trapped, either in anger, or depression, anxiety, fear, even apathy. It is very dangerous that way. The way through those muddy waters is faith. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of faith as "taking the first step, even when you cannot see the entire staircase." So, whether you are ready or not, you take a step, knowing that God is already there.

Continued on page 2

Happy September Birthday

- 1 - Cindy Peeler
- 2 - Michelle Voelker
Heather Nelson
- 3 - Nylia Bartelt
- 5 - Richard Snyder
Kiley Brandsfield
- 6 - Nely Ruiz
- 7 - Denny Rehder
- 8 - Ethan Meadows
Grace Calhoun
- 9 - Joie Gronert
Carrie Schall
Alex Mulvihill
- 10 - John Schall
- 11 - Ian Galle
- 13 - John Trickel
Rhonda Jensen
Robert Briggs
- 14 - Katelyn Jessen
- 15 - Laural Brown
Richard Voelker
- 17 - Lorna Johns
Stephen Bloomberg
- 18 - Karen Mann
Rev. Michael Schmidt
Sophia Anderson
- 19 - Sonny Hutton
Sarah Helt
- 20 - Frank McKinney
Cindy Wheeler
Michael Vernon
- 21 - Anthony Royster
- 22 - Jeanine Rutter
Aaron Thompson
Finnegan Holst
Kylan Appenzeller
- 23 - Susanne Carney
Angela Ringgenberg
Cory Johansen
- 24 - Michael Meadows
Thomas Rutter
Ella Oberhart
- 25 - Karen Bandy
Ellen Rothweiler
- 26 - Barb Powers
Bruce Mumm
- 27 - Jeanette Best
Jeryl Jansen
Gregory Honnold
Helen Schroeder
William Kallestad
Joshua Curry
- 28 - Ross Peeler
- 29 - LaRue Buihner
Aaron Page
Robbie Rissman

Happy September Anniversary

- 3 - Brent and Val Culp
Todd and Elizabeth Prescott
- 4 - Donald and Gail Peterson
- 5 - Charles and Tammy Denton
Lon and Denise Friesth
- 6 - Aaron and Martha Page
- 13 - Larry and Janice Nordeen
- 17 - Michael and Nicole Vernon
- 24 - Joshua and Sharena Appenzeller
- 27 - Tom and Mary Jo McCleary



Our Sympathies are with

The family of Maxine Fischer
Mother of Janet Habick

The family of Dick Hirshauer

The family of Norene McWilliams
Niece of Ellen Batten



Thank you

A big thank you is extended to those of you who assisted us before, during, and after Mom's visitation and celebration of life service. And we so appreciated having so many of you come and share this time with us. A church home and family was very important to Mom and it was appropriate that her farewell was at Grace.

The Lois Slye family

Ready or not... continued from page 1

So, here we are, on the verge of another programmatic year. We may want to ask ourselves whether we are ready. We are not. I look around the building and it looks like I feel inside, in disarray. Things will be different. Things will move forward whether we are ready or not. So, I say we take that step together and see where God is leading us. Ready or not, here we come.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike



Grace Kids Care!

Grace Kids Care had their open house on August 23, and are excited to be welcoming both new and returning friends to their classes! Grace Kids Care is now open from 6:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The earlier start time makes it a little easier for Des Moines Public School teachers to drop off their children in less of a rush.

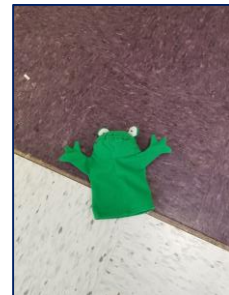
Parents who may be driving older siblings to elementary school for a 7:30 a.m. start time also appreciate the extra time in the morning.



Grace Kids Care families are required to sign in and out daily – during renovation they are currently using the space outside the music room & Cafe. Once the sign-in returns to the Main entryway, you'll be able to see upcoming events and themes posted on the white board.

Some of the August themes included:

- Infant Room: Besides cuddles, naps, learning to sit and crawl and play side by side with their friends, caregivers will soon be tracking developmental progress.
- Tiny Tot (1 year olds): Enjoyed water days playing in the sprinkler and cold popsicles, and celebrated the State Fair with all of GKC.
- Explorer room (age 2): Sensory Table work with water and sand & water days. Themes included Ocean, Fruits and vegetables, and Sweet Treats (which included nutrition information!).
- Discovery (age 3): Enjoyed water days, State Fair Day at GKC, and learned about state fair foods and animals.
- Preschool (ages 4 & 5): Water days, summertime treats, Independence Day Theme included learning activities about our country, the flag, and other 4th of July traditions. Ocean fun and crafts, and a center-wide pajama day. August fun included State Fair, bug, and farm themes! Kindergarten prep included reviewing numbers, letters, and social skills. After spending several weeks in room 101 this summer after the June flooding, the preschool class was able to move back in with a beautiful new purple and white tile floor. Hopefully we will not experience that level of rainfall again any time soon, but if we do, getting the room cleaned up and the class back in a familiar space will be easier.



You'll be seeing more about upcoming Grace Kids Care events and teachers in future newsletters, and we encourage you to make note of their concerts, parties, and graduations when advertised. The kids get so excited to see adult friends (such as Willing Workers, Bev Anderson who reads to them, Staff during chapel) around the building during the day. Familiar faces would be more than welcome at their events.

Moore Elementary, Grace Lutheran Church, and Safe School Walking Routes:

With the new 7:30 a.m. start for elementary schools, the district has been promoting safe walking routes for each elementary. Moore Elementary School has taken the extra step of designating safe drop off spots for parents to meet up, so kids and parents alike can begin to feel comfortable with walking in an age when so many families drive or are bused. Grace & Grace Kids Care staff thinks this is a great idea and agreed to be one of those meet-up points.

Every morning between 7:00 & 7:15, a Moore Staff member or volunteer parents will meet students in our parking lot near the Little Library as parents drop them off. Students will leave on foot for Moore by 7:15 a.m. with the volunteer, and eventually perhaps, on their own.

Thank you for being understanding as these parents navigate new routines and get used to the ins and outs of our parking lot, especially with the current construction in our building.

Church Council Highlights

From the July 24th, 2018 Council Meeting

At the July 24th, 2018 Church Council Meeting:

- **Property Committee:**
 - The Council approved establishment of an ad hoc committee to investigate the recent water damage and look at ways to mitigate damage and prevent future flooding. The committee is to report back to the Council at the October meeting. This committee will also be charged with establishing a “business continuity plan” to provide guidelines for addressing future emergencies (such as flooding, sewer backup, break-ins, etc.) and to identify and notify the proper persons to handle whatever emergency arises.
- **Malmin Committee:**
 - Don Peterson also reported that sketches and drawings of the renovations will be available the end of July or in August.
 - The Renovation Committee is examining paint and carpet samples for the west entry, Gathering Hall, and Sanctuary.
 - We are within \$6,000 of fully funding the organ console update and additions (new rank and zimbelstern).
- **Action Item: It was moved, seconded, and passed** to establish and authorize the appointment of three committees: a Technology Committee, a Personnel Committee, and a Personnel Policy Committee.
- **It was moved, seconded, and passed** to approve the transfer of \$1,400 from the Thrivent Choice Dollars Fund to the First Circle Friends FY 2018 budget.
- **General Discussion Questions:** The Council heard updates presented by members of the 2020 Committee. The updates included the Finance, Worship, Well-being, Outreach, and Education “pillars”.

Respectfully,
Dave Gronert, Council Secretary

Finance Report – July Results

Financial results for July YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$231,509, Budget \$234,146
- Other Income – Actual \$18,199, Budget \$16,625
- Expenses – Actual \$264,832, Budget \$261,346
- Net activity – Actual (\$15,124), Budget (\$10,575)



Actual net activity was below budget. Offerings have been below budget and utilities and property improvements have been above budget are the primary reasons. These results do not include expenditures of the Malmin Funds.

Additionally, Daycare has been operating with positive results and ahead of budget.



Lions Club Pancake Breakfast!
 Saturday, October 6th, 2018
 7 a.m. -11 a.m. in Grace Hall
 Proceeds support our Sight and
 Hearing Foundation!



Grace Annual Community Pet Blessing
October 6, 2018 9 a.m.



You are invited to bring your furry, fuzzy, fishy or feathered friends to Grace's Annual Community Pet Blessing on Saturday, October 6. The service will begin at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome so invite your friends and neighbors to attend. If you prefer you may bring a photo of your pet, one of his toys or other belongings to be blessed. Last year a good time was had by all pets and owners.



State Fair News!

Pictured are Allison Olson Schmidt's first place cookies on display. She entered two cookies in Division 82 Casey's Favorite Creations Junior Division. She entered Oreo White Chocolate Chip in the White Chocolate Chip class and placed Third in the class. She entered her Great Grandmother's recipe for Anise Finger Cookies in the "Any Entry Other Than Named" class and placed First in the class, and also First Overall out of the 40 classes. Office staff are patiently waiting for samples...



Neighborhood Library News: The Franklin Library will be closed for Electrical Upgrades September 12-14. The church library, and the Little Free Library outside are always available for your use!



Organ Fund financial update as of 9/4/2018:

Pledge total: \$25,670.00 (\$20,040.00 pledged gifts already received)

Unpledged gifts received: \$5,073.00

Total Received: \$25,113.00

Funds already dispersed: \$21,989.00

Current Fund Balance: \$3,124.00

If all pledges are paid and no more pledges or unpledged gifts are received, total expected contributions by year-end: **\$30,743.00**



Humpty Dumpty Day!

Saturday, September 8, 2018, 10:00 a.m. Gathering Hall

It's time to put Humpty Dumpty back together again!

Construction is nearing an end, and there is much we will be able to do to get the Sanctuary ready for worship on September 16, and the Gathering Hall ready for coffee and fellowship! **Join us on Saturday, September 8!**

We've had a few questions about items you can bring:

Dust cloths, Wood oil soap, clean buckets & cleaning rags.

Canister vacuums with upholstery attachments for the pew cushions.

(*Psst: Iowa State/Iowa fans. We'll be done long before the 4 p.m. kickoff!)

Fall Youth Ministry
Contact ellen@gracedm.org

Bible Sunday, September 9

At Grace we gift Bibles in Kindergarten, Third and Sixth grades, each one meeting the needs of that age of student. During the 9:00 a.m. service, each student present will come forward with their family to receive their Bible!

- Kindergarten Alton Calahan, Jack Chenoweth, Joviana Reyes, Levi Wilner
- Third Grade Finnegan Holst, Piper Hutton, Zara Preston
- Sixth Grade Catherine Lewis

Active Grace Sunday School –Feeding the 5000!

September 16 – November 4 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Registration <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tb4unMl1Uz-b5yOB8ivly4E4dKcKKj-XYCYTrEgX10BY/edit?usp=sharing>

Both age groups will begin and end in Grace Hall 2. Parents, please plan to attend the first day. There is information regarding weekly challenges and questions that will be helpful for you to know.

- **Ages 5-5th grade, with middle & high school leaders (Parents, please attend this first day)**
For eight weeks this fall we will learn more about what it means to be **food secure/insecure** in this area by working through the four steps of the service learning process. We will engage this issue through bible stories, guest speakers, and hands on lessons and opportunities to serve with various organizations and groups, including food pantries and shelters.
- **Ages 3-4 (Parents, please attend this first day)**
Children ages 3 and 4 will meet with the rest of the *Active Grace* group for opening and closing each week, but go to their own classroom, room 104, to learn more about Jesus Feeding 5,000 with stories, fun rotations and engage in meaningful age appropriate service opportunities related to this issue.

Confirmation Orientations - parents too!
Wednesday September 12, Grace Hall

8th Grade Confirmation & Mentor meeting - 5:30 p.m.
6th & 7th Grade Confirmation Orientation 6:30 p.m.
October 6 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Retreat, offsite



High School & Gathering Participants

Adult Education 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Please come support our Youth Gathering Attendees as they share their Houston experiences with us. The gathering theme was "This Changes Everything," based on Ephesians 2:8, "By Grace you have been saved..."

College Students and Parents of College Students!

Treats, surprises, messages from family, friends and supporters: packages from home are appreciated by new and seasoned college students! Help us update our lists for the College Care Packages by sending names and updated addresses to Denise@gracedm.org.

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
10:00-11:00 a.m. Active Grace Sunday School in Grace Hall II (see page 6 for information)
10:15 a.m. Adult Education, Grace Hall I (see page 9 for additional information)

Tuesdays

8:45 – 10:15 a.m. Bible Study, Grace Hall with Pastor Mike
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
6:15 – 7:00 p.m. Grace Bells, Music Room
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room

Men's Work Group, Saturday, September 8

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

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, September 15 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 September 18 at 6:00 p.m. in Grace Hall – Join us for supper and a program. We meet every third Tuesday evening.

Grace Stitchers/Needlework Group

Next meeting, Thursday, September 13 & 27
We meet every 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in Grace Hall
Contacts: Helen Ringgenberg or Carol Krause

Grace Fellowship

Sunday, October 7, 5:00 p.m.
Light Luncheon and Program
Committee will arrive 3:30 p.m. on October 7

September Calendar

3 – Labor Day, GKC & Church office closed
4 – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Des Moines Knitters Guild
6 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GHI & II
8 - 8:30 a.m. – noon Men's Work Group – Breakfast, Fellowship, and Church Projects
10:00 A.M. Sanctuary & Gathering Hall
Clean-up: Humpty Dumpty Day!
9 – Bible Sunday!
8:30 a.m. Grace Players rehearsal, sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Active Grace Training, Youth Room
10:15 a.m. – noon Load the Loft, Music Room
10 – Girl Scouts, room 301
11 - 4:45 p.m. GKC Staff Meeting, GHI
12 - 5:30 p.m. 8th grade Confirmation/mentor orientation, Grace Hall
6:30 p.m. 6th & 7th grade Confirmation orientation
13 - 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group, Grace Hall
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. GKC Parent Board, Library
15 - 9:30 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting, offsite
16 – Active Grace Sunday School and Adult Education begin!
18 - 6:00 p.m. Lydia Circle – GH I & Kitchen
20 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GHI & II
25 – 6:00 p.m. Church Council
26 – 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. LSI – Grace Hall II
27 - 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group, Gathering Hall
29 – Private Event – GH

October 6

7:00 a.m. – noon Lions Pancake Breakfast, GH
8:00 – 11:00 a.m. Grace Pet Blessing, outside
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Retreat, offsite

October 7

Grace Fellowship, 5:00 p.m.

October 20

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Des Moines Knitting Guild – GH

October 27

Contemplative Prayer Retreat (see page 9)

Publication Deadlines

October Friendly Visitor: September 23

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!



Direct Support Professionals Week

Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is a role that is both demanding and meaningful. During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which these professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives.

One way LSI empowers Iowans is through our Services for People with Disabilities. From 24-hour support to occasional respite care, the LSI team lifts up Iowans with disabilities as they find the confidence and independence they need to thrive in their communities.

We thank you for your faithful support of LSI – you create so many new life-changing possibilities for children, adults, and families! If you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, 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.

Finding His Independence

Logan and his mother, Michaela, didn't know where to turn.

Since Logan was 5 years old, he had moved in and out of hospitals and residential treatment centers across Iowa. For 13 years, Michaela tried to find the right approach to address his behavioral needs. But nothing was working.

That's when the family learned about LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. Now 18, Logan is living independently in an apartment supervised 24/7 by his compassionate LSI team.

Logan is now active in his community and developing healthy relationships with his friends. He graduated early from his high school and has become active at the gym and in a local bowling league – where his high score for a game is 210.

Every step of the way, Michaela knows Logan's LSI team will keep her informed about her son's care and growth.

"At LSI, they treat him like an individual and they know each person needs different care," Michaela says. "It's good knowing that I have constant communication with his team, and I know somebody is saying, 'we hear you'."

DMARC Donation requests for September:

Rice: Brown, Arborio, Wild rice

Culturally appropriate options: Jasmine Rice, brown or white in large bags





Adult Education, Sundays, 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.

Grace Hall Grab your donut and coffee, juice, or tea, then join us!

- Sept. 16: ELCA Nation Youth Gathering Presentation
Join us to hear our youth share about their Houston trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering. The gathering theme was "This Changes Everything," based on Ephesians 2:8, "By Grace you have been saved..." Come hear how the Gathering impacted our students.
- Sept. 23: LWR Kit Packing
We need your help! Join us as we gather together to pack Lutheran World Relief school kits. Last year, Lutheran World Relief distributed more than 14,000 school kits to children in Honduras. Let's do our part to keep the kits coming!
- Sept. 30: Urbandale Food Pantry Presents
Eileen Boggess, from the Urbandale Pantry, will be visiting to share with us the startling information about food insecurity.



Fire Lane:

A reminder to all: Please don't leave your car unattended in the fire lane. Even if you are just running in, pull into a spot in the lot. Your errand may be quick but if you are delayed for any reason, your car could be in the way of an ambulance or other emergency vehicle. Per the fire department, the fire lane should be kept clear at all times. If you need to load or unload, move your items quickly into the building, move your car into a spot, then move them items through the building as needed.



Kitchen Towels: For those using towels in the kitchen on the weekends after daycare has cleaned up: please hang dish towels in the dishroom or on the dish rack to dry. Daycare does laundry through the week, and the bin is a handy place to keep used towels out of the way after use. However, our building is used by many groups. Leaving wet towels in the bin over the weekend leads to unpleasant odors in a very short time. Thank you!

Spiritual Practices Retreat at Grace

Transformation is nothing less than a life that manifests the very life of God.

-Galatians 2: 20

"...faith largely became believing things to be true or false (intellectual assent) instead of giving people concrete practices so they could themselves know how to open up (faith), hold on (hope), and allow an infilling from another source (love)."

-FR. Richard Rohr

Life is the classroom from which to practice. All the practices introduced are meant to bear fruit in the laboratory of life. Learning to practice being present to God in the moment of now is to live a transformed life. The world needs transformed people living and practicing in life. If you've felt the desire to experience the love of God in your very being, this is your invitation to begin the journey of living a transformed life in the present moment, the only place in which to feel God's love.

Practices: Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina, Visio Lectio, Sacred Chanting, Spiritual Journaling, Art.

Hosted by: Grace Lutheran Church Well-Being Task Force

Date: Saturday, October 27, 2018 9:00 a.m.-noon (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)

Cost: \$30.00 per person (paid at registration)

Reservations due by October 21 to Julie Honsey, honsey.julie@gmail.com 282-8817, Michelle Voelker, michelle@gracedm.org 276-6873

New Sanctuary Paint!



New Sanctuary Carpet!



A bright choir loft...



Gathering Hall coat storage



Heavy, solid doors making way for lighter, see-through glass doors



Beautiful decorative Organ opening covers

