



**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. – 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday, closed Friday

5201 Urbandale Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
515-276-6873
www.gracedm.org

Pastor Michael Schmidt
mike@gracedm.org

Minister for Youth and Family
Ellen Rothweiler
ellen@gracedm.org

Minister for Worship and Music
Emma Stammer
emma@gracedm.org

Organist
Richard Snyder
rich@gracedm.org

Grace Kids' Care Director
Mary Edwards
mary@gracedm.org

Minister for Administration
Denise Friesth
denise@gracedm.org

Minister for Communications
Michelle Voelker
michelle@gracedm.org

Office Assistant for Worship
Jessye Flannery
Jessica@gracedm.org

Custodian
Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

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Sabbatical FAQ

As preparations continue for the coming sabbatical, many of the same questions come up. So, I will offer answers here.

When are you leaving? The sabbatical will begin following worship on Celebration Sunday, May 19th. There will be a send off as part of that service and a welcome upon return.

When will you return? I will be back in the office on Monday, August 19th and back in worship on August 25th.

Where are you traveling? My family and I will do some traveling and attend several different churches, but it is not practical to do extensive travels or prolonged absences with a young family.

What are you studying? I will be taking a Kairos Course, *Dare to Lead*, in Minneapolis. The curriculum for the course is based on the Brené Brown book with the same title. In addition to this course I am building some skills through a mentorship and a diverse reading list. A little over half of the reading is specific to church work, and the rest deals with workplace culture.

What are the books?

Clip In, Risking Hospitality in Your Church by Jim Ozier and Fiona Haworth

Letters to the Church, by Francis Chan

7 Practices of Effective Ministry, by Andy Stanley

Church Growth Flywheel, by Rich Birch

Change Your Culture, Change Your Game, by Roger Connors and Tom Smith

Smarter Faster, Better, by Charles Duhigg

The Paradox of Generosity, by Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson

What should we be doing during your sabbatical? While I am recharging and gaining skills needed for the next chapters of our journey together, this time of sabbatical is a great opportunity for the community of faith.

Sabbatical, continued on page 5

Happy May Birthday

- 1 - Melinda Stickrod
- 2 - Joshua Meadows
- 3 - Helen Ringgenberg
- 4 - John Roehrick
Todd Haugen
- 5 - Jacqueline Wangerin
Dylan Rutter
- 6 - Karla Swanson
Hannah Honsey
Daniel Dinnauer
- 8 - Regan Nelson
- 9 - Donna Kennebeck
- 10 - Claire Kallestad
- 11 - Jeffrey Rudisill
- 12 - Charlotte Nielsen
- 13 - Sally Preston
- 14 - Frances Best
- 15 - Dmitri Woodruff
Ellen Wonderlin Wilke
John Kennebeck
Laurie Helton
- 16 - Laura Wonderlin Jones
- 17 - Meghan Sherer
Carol Krause
- 18 - Tim Nehmer
Inga Hoifelt
Lori Fry
Kimberly Fenimore
- 19 - Megan Jensen
Chuck Denton
Bruce Bergman
- 21 - Barb Zimany
Kaylee Ringgenberg
Jacob Nordeen
Brenda Mann
Christopher Janson
Kenneth Carlson
- 23 - Jonay Trentmann
Scott Neal
- 24 - Melissa Newman
- 25 - Hal Turner
- 26 - John Schwemler
Shirley Davenport
Devin Ashton
- 27 - Kate Sherer-Eichner
Courthney Brandsfield
Sue Anderson
Alexander Oberhart
Andrew Oberhart
- 28 - Linda Vernia
Rick Fry

May Birthdays continued

- 29 - Annette Taylor
Kira Nehmer
Ralf Hoifelt
Cal Wilner
- 30 - Loree Nelson
Alexandra Marberry
Kiernan Hutton
Torry Henderson
Jonathan Fry
- 31 - Lindsey Nelson
Nathan Brown
Barbara Bergman
Brianna Adams



Happy May Anniversary

- 6 - Mark and Annette Taylor
- 7 - Jon and Cherie Rissman
Justin and Carolyn Anderson
- 9 - Adam and Jessica Christensen
- 11 - Carter and Carol Woodruff
- 14 - Steve and Mary McCann
- 15 - Ro and Barb Zimany
Matt and Amy Ziska
- 18 - Matt and Tammy Hagerty
- 20 - Steve and Melissa Young
- 21 - Mike and Tina Meadows
- 22 - Wayne and Debbie Curry
Mike and Susanne Carney
- 23 - Richard and Michelle Voelker
- 25 - Harlan and Jayne Mortenson
- 26 - Mike and Carla Peterman
- 27 - Todd and Angela Ringgenberg
Bill and Linda Biegger
- 30 - James and Kimberly Fenimore
- 31 - Duane and Linda Ulrick



Our Sympathies are with:
The Family of Lee Johnson



Calling all Graduates!

If you graduated in summer, last fall, or will be graduating this coming spring, please let us know so we can celebrate you!

Thank you for thoughts, prayers, cards and calls during Ralf's recovery from open heart surgery. Everything is going well. Also, thank you for Ellen's "goody" package. It is all very much appreciated. Inga and Ralf Hoifeldt



Stump the Pastor and Ellen

On Sunday, March 31 Pastor Mike and I (Ellen) hosted a Stump the Pastor lunch and invited youth in grades 6-12 and their parents to ask us “tough” questions of faith and life. We had some very thoughtful questions and some honest discussion. After this lunch, I put the question box back in the library and let everyone know it would stay there to receive more tough questions and that Pastor Mike and I would check it periodically. Within weeks of lunch, there were more questions in there! Tough ones!

As we don’t have another Stump the Pastor lunch planned until the fall I wanted to respond in a timely manner here. I want our youth, and everyone at Grace, to know that church is the place to ask these tough questions. You will be heard and taken seriously and I will answer them to the best of my ability with love and honesty.

Here are two tough questions found in the question box and my response-

Did God create Love?

My belief is that God is Love, and that all of creation flows from Love. Where you see Love in the world, God is there. When you feel Love, that is God. God connects us, just as Love connects us. Love is powerful, Love conquers all, just as God does. If you replace the word Love anywhere you see the word God, it makes a lot of sense. So, to ask if God created Love is an interesting question. If God is Love and God always is then Love was not created but has always been.

If God is all powerful then why (doesn’t) he stop bad things from happening to people?

Man oh man, this is THE question...right? It is so hard for us to wrap our minds around a loving God with unlimited power who won’t intervene on our behalf when bad things happen. If God can fix it, why doesn’t he? This makes me think of the movie Aladdin. There are three wishes that the Genie can’t grant; 1) He won’t kill anyone 2) He won’t make anyone fall in love and 3) He won’t bring anyone back from the dead. What about the Deathly Hollows in Harry Potter? One brother wants power, another to bring back a loved one from the dead, and the other to avoid death. It seems that there are many mythologies that ask this same question and speak to these same human desires and fears. How do I avoid pain? How can God keep me and those I love from suffering?

One thing that I think about when I struggle with this question of bad things happening is how connected we all are, and how suffering often bring others to us. If God kept me from suffering, what impact does that have on those around me? Do others suffer more because I suffer less? In this life and in this world there is sin and sin in its many forms has a ripple of consequences. It is my belief that sin causes suffering. This is not to say that sinners deserve to suffer, for we are all sinners and I don’t believe that suffering is deserved. But, we are all interconnected and our choices have consequences for ourselves and for others, and sometimes these consequences live for ages and ages. So, does God allow suffering as our punishment for sin? No. Suffering is a part of being human, just as sin is a part of being human. We are not perfect. We are broken. We mess up. In all of it, God is there in ways that we cannot possibly understand, no matter how much we may want to. That can be comforting but also frustrating for those of us who seek to understand things. I have no easy answers, and I offer more questions but we are in this together.

Church Council Highlights March 26, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Bergman at 6:04 PM, with the following council members in attendance: Pastor Mike Schmidt, Aaron Brandsfield, Susanne Carney, Tammy Denton, Don Peterson, John Roehrick, Dean Watson, Barb Zimany

Devotions: Pastor Mike led the devotions with a reading from Psalm 63, reflecting on how the love of God is a blessing; regardless of the highs and lows we may experience daily, God has a plan for us.

Property Committee Report:

- Boiler controls were repaired through the property reserve funds.
- Updates for Msindo (basement): The flooring and painting has been completed for the Quilting Room. Additional work is still needed to install the lift and clean up the floor in the “old” kitchen space and replace flooring in the Women’s restroom.

Malmin Fund Report:

The work on organ has been completed. We are waiting for the final bill from Schantz.

Action Item: Don Peterson will provide a fund balance once all invoices have been received.

Finance Report:

- Financial report was reviewed and discussed. The February year-to-date results reflected a net loss due to an increase in property insurance premiums, maintenance on the boiler, increased snow removal costs, and a reduction in income from pledged offerings.
- Daycare financials were favorable. The office staff continue to work with a consultant to evaluate and optimize the Daycare program operations and finances.

It was moved, seconded, and passed for Kevin Drury to host a car show at Grace where the participant entry fee paid by the car owners will go to the Member Care fund. Kevin will coordinate around the church calendar.

Sabbatical - Pastor Mike discussed the progress of his sabbatical plans for this summer, 5/20 - 8/19.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint Rick Stammer to the Finance Committee. Rick will abstain from all salary conversations.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to change the property insurance plan to lower the premiums presented by Dean Watson.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM

Finance Report – March Results



Financial results for March YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$108,125, Budget \$98,050
- Other Income – Actual \$7,358, Budget \$7,125
- Expenses – Actual \$124,461, Budget \$108,612
- Net activity – Actual (\$8,979), Budget (\$3,437)

Actual net activity was unfavorable to budget by \$5,541. Pledged offerings were below budget in February primarily due to the weather, this shortfall was completely recovered in March. Additionally, expenses were above budget due to boiler repairs, flooring repairs, higher insurance and snow removal costs.

Sabbatical, continued from page 1

Here are some ways that we can grow together:

- Pray for the entire community of faith.
- Support the staff and Pastor Davis.
- Sometimes we do things because it is automatic. It is what we have always done. Be willing to ask yourself “why?” There will be a different pace and energy around Grace Lutheran Church. This is a great opportunity to look at everything that happens and ask yourself questions such as: Why do we engage in this ministry? Why is this important to me?
- Stay open to the Holy Spirit and the ways that we are all guided during these weeks.

It means so much to be supported in this sabbatical. Thank you so much for the well wishes. I love it here and am excited to see where the Spirit leads us.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike

THANK YOU for all the help at the Prayer Quilt Breakfast. It was a huge success. Thank you to the following: IHOP at 6301 Douglas donated pancake batter, butter, and syrup. Hiland dairy donated juice & milk. Price chopper at 4343 Merle hay road - sausage, eggs, & fruit.

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



Requests for Donations!

Vacation Bible School organizers are looking for boxes in a variety of sizes from shoe box size to larger boxes that might be used to simulate a homeless shelter. Please drop them off in the entryway under the table (labelled) or ask at the office. Thank you!

Pet Food and Supplies

The collection bin looks full, but those are all the toys you made last weekend! We are still looking to collect pet food and pet supplies now through May 12th (Mother's Day)! This would include food and treats for dogs, cats, birds, and small animals such as gerbils and rabbits.

The Evangelism Committee is once again planning a Grace outreach booth at the Beaverdale Farmer's market! The booth will be open Tuesdays, June 4 - Sept 10, from 4:30 - 7:00 pm. They would appreciate receiving fabric scraps, smooth rocks for painting projects. Additional volunteers are welcome. Contact Nancy Crowfoot, or the office for more information.



Graduates!

Send us your announcements, bios, and photos so we can celebrate you on Celebration Sunday, May 19! We're proud of you - let us share your successes with the congregation.

New Member Class

Sunday, May 5, 10:30 a.m. in the Innovation Lab.

If you are interested in learning more about what it means to be a member of Grace, join Pastor Mike in the Innovation Lab on Sunday, May 5, at 10:30. Contact the office at 515-276-6873 if you have questions.

Spring Youth Ministry
Contact ellen@gracedm.org

2019 Grace Lutheran Vacation Bible School- note the change in weeks!
Register online by Friday, May 27.

Preschool (Ages 3-5 and potty trained)
Monday, June 3-Thursday, June 6, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
FREE

Elementary (Just finished Kindergarten-Fifth Grade)
VBS Kickoff- Sunday, June 9, 5:00-6:30 pm (for the whole family)
Monday, June 10-Wednesday, June 13, 8:30 am- 4:00 pm
COST-\$30/child for the three full days, mornings only are FREE
(aftercare available until 5:30pm- \$10/child for all three days)



Our theme this year is “Who Is My Neighbor?”

“ ‘Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor?’... ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise’ ”
(Luke 10:36-37) from the parable of the Good Samaritan

To be a neighbor is to be in relationship with the people God places in our midst, to both serve and be served by them. In “Who Is My Neighbor?” participants will explore what this means-- for them and for their community – by learning about neighbors in six parts of the globe.



Youth Garage Sale! Saturday, May 4, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Drop off and set-up are happening now in Grace Hall!

This is a great, easy, 1 stop fundraising event for our youth: In addition to the once or twice a year cinnamon roll Sunday, the Plant Sale and Garage Sale has provided enough help for our youth and their leaders to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering every 3 years, other outings and retreats they have attended. The next Youth Gathering will be in Minnesota, 2021.

Donation drop-off

- Wednesday, May 1 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 2 from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Friday 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

We would appreciate your help in sorting your items, if possible. Tables will be marked and we ask that you place them at the appropriate table. Helpers will be during the times listed above if you need help unloading.

Sorting Help Needed! Friday, May 3 any time 9 to 5 pm

In addition to sorting any items you bring, if you enjoy organizing we welcome your help sorting other people's donations on Friday, May 3 before 5pm.

V.I.P. night, Friday, May 3, 6:30-7:30 pm

Tickets are still available; \$25/person \$40/family 2 + (contact ellen@gracedm.org)

- Sneak peek at garage sale items
 - Visit with youth
 - Good food!!



Every Week (not listed in calendar at right)

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship, Gathering Hall
10:00-11:00 a.m. Active Grace Sunday School
in Grace Hall II
*May 5 & 12 Topic "Love Is..." will be the
final meetings until Fall 2019*
10:15 a.m. Adult Education or Fellowship,
Grace Hall I (see page 9 for topics and
presenters)

Tuesdays

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Grace Hall with
Pastor Mike – through May 14. The group
will recess for the summer
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Centering Prayer in the
Upper room, led by Julie Honsey
11:00 a.m. Staff meeting, Innovation lab

Wednesdays

9:00 a.m. Willing Workers work & coffee time
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation, room 301 –
through May 15

Other Grace Groups!

Men's Work Group, Saturday, May 11

We meet on the second Saturday of each
month, 8:30 a.m. – noon. We welcome you to
join us.

Altar Guild Meeting, meal, and fellowship: Saturday, May 18, 9:30 a.m.

Offsite for coffee, meeting, fellowship. Please
join us! Contact anderson.sue.a@gmail.com

Grace Stitching & Needlework Group

We meet every 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each
month in Grace Hall. Contacts: Helen
Ringgenberg or Carol Krause

First Circle Friends – Note date changes

LSI Respite Program for those in early stages
of memory loss. Meeting at Grace on the
SECOND and FOURTH Thursdays in May.
Contact <https://lsiowa.org>

February Newsletter submissions: May 22

May Calendar

1 – 6:00 p.m. Garage Sale Set-up
2 – Garage Sale Set-up
3 – Garage Sale Set-up and VIP night
4 – Garage and Plant Sale 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
5 – Art Show
10:30 a.m. New Member Class
3:30 p.m. Grace Fellowship Set-up
5:00 p.m. Grace Fellowship Sandwich Supper
6 – Grace Kids Care Teacher Appreciation Week
10:00 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel –
Upper Room
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Girl Scouts room 301
8 – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. GKC Teacher Appreciation
Lunch
9 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GH
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group, GHII
10 – SEIS Assembly Offsite
11 – SEIS Assembly Offsite
8:30 a.m. – noon Men's Work Group
12 – Mother's Day
13 – 10:00 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel –
Upper Room
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
11 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group, GHII
7:00 p.m. Evangelism Team Meeting
18 – 9:30 a.m. Altar Guild meeting – off site
19 – Celebration Sunday
Volunteer Recognition
High School Graduate Recognition
Beginning of Pastor Mike's Sabbatical
10:00 a.m. Fellowship with Cake!
2:00 p.m. Mid-Iowa Cactus and Succulent
Society, Cafe
20 – 10:00 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel –
Upper Room
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Girl Scouts room 301
22 - **May Newsletter submissions due**
23 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends,
GH I & II
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group, GHII
27 – Church Office Closed
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
28 – 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting, Grace Hall
30 – 9:30 a.m. Martha/Lydia Circle – Grace Hall

June 1 – noon – 6 p.m. Private Event, GH & Kitchen



Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see thousands of Iowa moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children.

We see moms turning to LSI's Mental Health or Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills and behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood Services, we see first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes and support groups. In 2018, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to 1,158 parents of young children. We are so inspired to hear their stories and see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many Iowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor your mother this year, please consider giving a gift in her name at LSIowa.org.

Thank you for standing alongside Iowa families.

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](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

It's Worth Every Second

Nova and Brian always knew they wanted to become foster parents.

With their two oldest daughters growing up and entering high school, they decided to take the leap and open up their home to more children in need. Over the course of four years, they have successfully fostered 16 children and adopted four into their forever family.

Through LSI Foster Care and Adoption, the couple has wrapped their arms around sibling groups in need of a home where they can stay together, and the family is also a Cherokee Nation foster home, keeping children connected to their culture and heritage.

Nova encourages more Iowa families to consider foster care, as every child deserves and needs a safe space, regardless of how long that child may stay in your home.

"Foster care in Iowa is such a needed thing, and it's important to extend grace to parents of children in foster care and give them a chance to grow and heal," she says. "There aren't a whole lot of accolades for foster parenting, but it's worth it. It's worth the heartache, and it's worth the love and the smiles you see from these kids."

DMARC April Donation Request

Beans: Dried or Canned.

Culturally Appropriate options: Fava or Mung beans



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

May 5: in Grace Hall

Vision for Youth Ministry from Youth Programming

Ellen Rothweiler, Minister for Youth and Family, will lead discussion on the vision for youth ministry here at Grace.

May 12: in the Gathering Hall

Mother's Day: a time of Fellowship

May 19: in the Gathering Hall

Celebration Sunday a time of Fellowship and Celebration



Planning an Event?

If you are considering a topic for Fall Adult Education, or if you are using a space at Grace, please fill out the Adult Faith Enrichment Opportunity Form, found in the office, or on the website resources page (under Forms and Applications).

<https://gracedm.org/content/uploads/2018/01/Adult-Faith-Enrichment-Opportunity-form.pdf>

This form helps us understand and coordinate all of your needs: room set-up, technology needs, the audience for the event, and in what manner it should be communicated.

In Living Color Art Show & Silent Auction

Grace has an opportunity to share in the wonder of color and how it impacts faith in an art show featuring long-time member, the late Kay Barks. The art show will began during Holy Week with some of her pieces from the church's collection that are appropriate for contemplation:



On Easter Sunday, the show expanded to include a large display of colorful art that is available for viewing through May 19th. These pieces will be offered for purchase by silent auction. The show will be open to the public, so please invite your friends by for a viewing. Proceeds will be directed toward church programs and needs.



"I see trees of green, red roses too, I see them bloom for me and you, and I think to myself what a wonderful world" crooned Louis Armstrong. He sang this touching song so many times with his huge smile and kind eyes into our lives, through times of strife and times of peace, teaching us that it matters how we look at things. *"The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky, are also on the faces of people going by..."* reminded us that God's prism of color involves everyone.

Grace's Thrivent Action Team project— June 2nd

Lon Friesth applied for a Thrivent Action Team grant for Grace's Member Care Team. We received a gift card for \$250 and 25 "Live Generously" T-shirts. On June 2nd we will have 45 plants to deliver to all who are on our homebound and prayer lists to let them know we are thinking of them. This is a great add-on to the Member Team's usual offerings of rides, food, greetings, cards, visits, etc.

We invite you to become part of Grace's Action Team by joining with us to deliver flowers and joy. You'll be able to have a Thrivent "Live Generously" T-shirt to proclaim Grace's team spirit of caring. You'll be able to pick up your flower(s) and T-shirt after the service on June 2nd!

May Day Fun

Denise Friesth applied for Thrivent Funds for May Day Basket Supplies and Live Generously T-shirts.

Grace Kids Care Staff and Grace Staff received a T-shirt, and along with visitors to the office, were invited to make May Baskets for themselves and a friend/neighbor, and to help themselves to donuts, fresh fruit and coffee/tea.

Staff had fun making extra baskets which were then delivered to neighborhood homes by Denise and Ellen



You are invited to attend
the Senior Percussion Recital of

Sarah G. Voelker

Wednesday, May 22, 2019 7:00 p.m.

The Band Room of
Theodore Roosevelt High School
4419 Center Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Zachary Kulzer

Howard and Alice Kulzer's son, Zachary, has produced a video "Getting a job at a Research Intensive Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUI)"

The purpose is to help recruit science graduate students and post-doctoral students to small colleges (PUI). Zachary was recruited to help a group of scholars with a grant. He worked with them to create questions, interviewed, recorded, and edited the video presentation that would assist post graduate students in finding positions at PUI's and also help them plot a plan for their first year on the job.

The following link will take you to the published story about Zach's experience, and there will be a link there to the finished video.

<http://rescorp.org/news/2019/01/what-it-took-to-produce-concise-video-on-beginning-and-building-a-pui-career>

On April 4, a Group from Grace got together to pack meals with **Meals from the Heartland!**

