



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

**Live worship online until further notice
See page 8 for how to access**

**Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m.
Weekday morning Prayers 9:30 a.m.**

The building is closed – reach us at 515-276-6873

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

Inside This Issue...

- 2... Celebrations, Sympathies
- 3-6... Spotlight: Grace Kids Care Staff
- 7... Bible Drive, Letter writing, Book study results in actions
- 8... Thanks to Altar Guild, Worship Access, Council September Action Items
- 9... Drive-in Worship on October 4 & 18!
- 10... LWR, Confirmation & VBS work together
- 11... LSI Update, DMARC requests
- 12... Council & Finance Updates
- 13... Recipe, and Pergola Update
- 14... Coloring Page

Ecclesia Sempre Reformanda

Karl Barth paraphrased St. Augustine as he popularized the slogan “Ecclesia Sempre Reformanda” which is translated “The Church must always be reformed.” This slogan may seem simple at first glance, but it has profound depth. This slogan speaks of both the small ways the Church adapts through the ages, while also looking at the way that the Church must be willing to look at the ways that it must change and reform to stay in line with the teachings of Christ.

These days, it feels like everything is reforming. We are now almost 7 months into a pandemic that is not looking to go away any time soon. Schools have reformed the way that education happens. Many of us are now fluent in Zoom, GoTo Meetings, and Teams. We have learned to make minor changes in the way things are done, while leaning into major changes that reform the way that things are done in the workplace and at home, which sometimes is the same location.

The Church is experiencing these changes too. There are small ways that things are changing, with meetings now being largely online and small groups in person and outside. There are also major changes in the way that we enter into corporate worship on Sunday mornings (or whenever one logs in). We have moved from the distribution model of Communion where the congregation supplies the elements, to a model where people bring their own, and the mystery of the Sacrament takes it from there. We have learned more profoundly that God is not isolated to a specific location, but that the places where we commune with God become sacred places, sanctuaries, as we worship gather from near and far.

It just may be that this is the reformation that the Church needed most. For centuries, the Church has suffered from what I often refer to as an “Edifice Complex.” The Church has put incredible emphasis on the building. The metrics on attendance and participation are largely, if not solely, related to those that were in the building. Those who would participate from afar, whether for health or geographic reasons, would not be counted. We track membership. We track attendance. We track giving. We track those who communed. Now, with the inability to track many of these standard metrics, we find ourselves free to simply be Church. What does that look like?

October is the perfect time to dive into that question. We see the leaves changing. We see Autumn taking hold. We look forward to Reformation Sunday, and the celebration of the Truth of Christ which sets us free.

Continued on page 7

Happy October Birthday

- 1 - Katharine Radermacher
- 2 - Margaret York
Steve Johnson
Christine Hines
Andy Roat
Eric Barks
Ivy Lawson
- 3 - Howard Welty
- 4 - Ava Lund
- 5 - Paul Nelson
- 6 - Amanda Jensen
- 7 - Ernestina Reaza
Adam Bergman
- 8 - Nelda Sampel
Harlan Mortenson
- 9 - Joanne Johnson
Riley Mortenson
Jaxsen Traver
- 11 - Christopher Kallenbach
Emily Harmon
Daniel Harmon
Jeramie Mitchell
Alexander Gutmann
Fred Hofferber
- 12 - Greg Boeschen
Benjamin Wonderlin
Lucas Radermacher
- 13 - Deanna Hummel
Sheryl Sauerman
Lt. Col. David Peterson
Jessica Warren
Victoria Janson
- 14 - Jane Ridnour
James Fenimore
- 15 - Chris Lawson
Eryn Lenhart
Kyra Lenhart
Maya Lenhart
Vincent Meillier
- 16 - Rev. Stephen Sherer
Kara Jordahl
Lukus Loehrke
- 17 - Roberto Ruiz
- 18 - Bruce Nelson
- 19 - Isaac Justice
- 20 - Linda Ross
Patricia Schouten
Sean Stickrod
Stuart Turner
James Briggs
- 21 - Sarah Schroeder
Sage Speck
Owen Chenoweth

Happy October Anniversary

- 1 - John and Carrie Schall
- 5 - Donald and Margaret York
- 6 - John and Tracy Justice
- 7 - Jeryl and Chris Janson
- 12 - Burke and Shirley Shiffler
Louie and Sue Anderson
- 16 - Ricky and Jennifer Huisman
- 17 - Bill and Anna Shea
- 21 - Delmar and Linda Vernia
- 22 - Joel and Stacie Holst
- 23 - Karri and Aaron Brandsfield
- 24 - David and Susan Halblom
- 25 - Brian and Sherry Brindley
Michael and Diane Heid
- 26 - Scot and Rebecca Sonius
- 27 - Hal and Michele Turner
- 28 - Michael and Marilyn Nizzi

*Anniversary
Celebration*

Our sympathies are with the families of:

Richard Nelson (nephew of Lynn Niemuth)

Mike Hansen

Frances Best

IN OUR
THOUGHTS
&
PRAYERS



October Birthdays continued

- 23 - Ronald Vernia
Trinity Newman
- 24 - Melissa Kallenbach
- 25 - Joyce Lewis
Tina Meadows
- 26 - Seth Kallestad
- 27 - Douglas Dinnauer
Ilah Ocken
Sarah Voelker
- 28 - Max Sauerman
- 29 - Col. Franklin Peterson
Jessica Russell
- 30 - Travis Brown
Pedro Espericueta
Maycia Welty
- 31 - Monte Wilner
Ashley Artzer
Tanner Peeler
Kellen Johnson



Meet the Teachers! Grace Kids Care, September 2020



Mary: My name is Mary Edwards and I have been the Director of Grace Kids Care since January 2019. I went to the University of Iowa and have a BA in elementary education with emphases in reading and music – but I really love math and science too! Previously I had experience teaching music at Edmunds Elementary in Des Moines for a year, working with special education students at Timber Ridge in Johnston for 4 years, and 2 years of preschool at Webster in Urbandale. I call myself an “amateur naturalist” and love to spend time outdoors, hiking, bird watching, and collecting little treasures like feathers and bones. I grow native flowers in our yard and raise monarch caterpillars from our milkweed plants every summer. My daughter Adaline is 3 years old and is in the Discovery class. Her best friends are our cats, Izzy and Mosby. Our family is also expecting our

2nd child in early March! (Addie says its name will be “Tiny Addie!” and if it’s a boy we have to sell it to someone else and buy a new one... She might be in for a tough lesson with that one!) My favorite thing about this job is getting to know the kids and watching their personalities and interests grow over time. My favorite kids’ book is *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild*.



Paige: My name is Paige Crowley and I am the Lead Preschool teacher and Assistant Supervisor at Grace Kids Care. I have been with Grace Kids Care for a total of 6 years, but 4 years in my most recent time here. I was the Lead Teacher in the Infant Room for my first 3 years after I returned. I switched Preschool in March of 2019. What lead me to the switch was going through the TEACH Program. I had earned both my Child Development Associate (CDA) and Early Childhood Diploma before I switched to teaching Preschool. This past May, I earned my Associate in Applied Science in Early Childhood Education. I have enjoyed growing with these children and starting to get some of my students from my infant class in preschool this year! Some things that I enjoy doing in my free time are cross stitching and hiking! My fiancé and I spend every weekend in

the warm months traveling somewhere to hike or fish with our two dogs, Copper and Hulk. We also have a cat named Todd. As most of you know, we are expecting a little boy December 29th. He will start at the center in February. I can't say that I have one children's book that is my favorite. I love seeing the kids’ faces light up when we read at our large group every day, and how they interact with every story we read!



John: My name is John and I have been the cook at Grace Kids Care for a year now! I graduated from high school in St. Louis in 2009 and went to Iowa Western Community College, Iowa Central Community College, and then finally Ellsworth all to play football and cook. My hobbies are playing football (I currently play for the Des Moines Blaze semi-pro team), cooking (hope to have my own food truck someday) and collecting and putting together model figures. I love spending time with my wife Shaniece and my two sons Johnathan (almost 5) and Rhoman (5 months). My favorite kids’ book has to be Eric Carle’s *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* Because it’s fun and easy to read to your children and easy for them to read along with you!



Brenda: My name is Brenda Reyes. I am 22 years old and I have worked here at Grace for more than 5 years. I am the Lead Teacher in the Discovery room, with 3-year-olds. I started off as an afternoon staff and have worked in most rooms here at Grace Kids Care. I graduated in 2016 from Urbandale High School. I have one pet cat named Kikiesi, and I plan to have more pets in the future. Some hobbies of mine are drawing and going bike riding with my siblings. My favorite children's book is *The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and The Big Hungry Bear*.



Katie: My name is Katie Courter and I am the assistant teacher in the Discovery room. I have worked her for one year. I have 33 years of childcare experience – I have been a director, an assistant director, and have done just about every job that a center has! I have been married 27 years and have 2 grown kids, Kris & Olivia. I also have a dog named Minni and a cat named Pete. I love to go shopping and spend time with my family. I also love reality TV. My favorite kids' book is *Is Your Mama a Llama?*



Kathy: Hi, my name is Katherine (Kathy) Paucar, and I am the new Explorers Lead Teacher, with 2-year-olds. I am 21 years old and I went to Urbandale High School. I worked at Grace Kids Care for about a year in the Explorers room, but I left last fall because I was expecting and was due soon. I have a son named Sebastian. He's about to turn one year old next month! I like traveling with my family. I love working with kids because I like seeing them learn new things as they grow, and I love playing with them and making sure they are having fun. My favorite kids' book would have to be *No, David!* I am so excited to be back in the 2-year-old room and meet all of you soon!



Sydnee: My name is Sydnee Lowery and I am the Lead Teacher in the Tiny Tots room (1-year-olds). I have 4 years' experience in childcare working in centers with kids aged infants to 2 years old. In high school I did peer classes helping kids with special needs and best buddies. I was in charge of vacation bible school for elementary kids at my church, and also helped with my church youth group. I live with my baby daughter, Cataleya, who is almost 8 months old now! I love to write and be outside in my free time. I love working at Grace because I get to see the kids grow and learn all sorts of new things! I enjoy talking to the parents about their days and just being silly with the kids. My favorite kids' book is *A Bad Case of Stripes*.



Ashlyn: My name is Ashlyn Kellar and I am the new Tiny Tots assistant teacher! I have worked with kids for 4 years as an assistant teacher at different daycares. Most recently I worked at DSM First until they closed last fall, and then worked at Boulevard until they closed due to COVID. I loved to volunteer at the animal shelter and the VA hospital before COVID, and love hanging out with friends and family. I'm very close to my parents and younger brother. I like working with kids because I love molding young minds, and in return they have helped me break out of my shell. My favorite kids' book has always been *Good Night Moon*, even when I was a child.



Dani: My name is Danielle Fedeler and I am the Infant Room Lead Teacher. I have worked here for one year. I grew up in a small, agricultural town in Northeast Iowa. We lived on a beef and crop farm where my dad and grandpa farmed the lands. I am the third oldest of six children. At age twelve, I started my first babysitting job. From there, I babysat the next 8 summers. Once I turned sixteen, I started working at my local daycare and continued working throughout college. I attended the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls and majored in Social Work, minored in Mental Health, and achieved my Child Welfare Certificate. After college, I wanted a change of scenery and found myself in Des Moines working at Grace Kids Care. I hope to use my degree soon by either finding a job within the foster care system or school system.

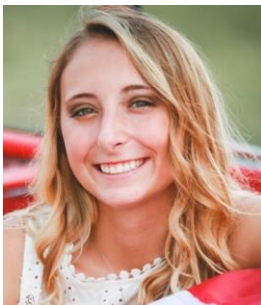
During my free time, I love taking walks, reading, being active with sports, and baking! When I'm back home, I love going on UTV rides, hiking, and hanging out with friends and family. We have many family pets between my siblings and I, but I personally have a black cat named Raven. She is a long haired cat with a little white on her tummy. She loves to play, chase the laser, and cuddle! Growing up, I had one favorite book that I was given for my birthday by my grandma and grandpa; *Tangelbird* by Bernard Lodge. Every time my grandparents came over, I made them read it to me. They were the best at reading stories!



Summer: My name is Summer Willis, and I am an Infant teacher but have been subbing in Tiny Tots and Explorers recently! I have worked here for one year. I have a high school diploma and 2 years of experience in childcare. My hobbies are basketball, gaming, and traveling. I have a big family with 3 brothers, 2 sisters, and 4 dogs. My favorite kids' book is *In a Dark Dark Room* by Alvin Schwartz.



Aki: My name is Aki Watson and am an infant room teacher. I have worked here since fall 2019. I finished college to be a cosmetologist, but later I found my calling in childcare. I have 3 years of childcare experience with toddlers and infants. I enjoy sketching and gaming during my free time at home. I have a spoiled kitty named Neeko and an old spoiled cat named Sammy. I have 2 younger brothers and an older sister that I play games with. My favorite childhood books are *Love You Forever* and *The Kissing Hand*!



Ashlee: My name is Ashlee Gill. I graduated from Johnston High School in 2018 and have worked at GKC since last fall. I had experience at two other centers before coming to Grace Kids Care. I am currently part-time but will be full-time again in October! I am also a Johnston cheer coach, and during the warm months I am the manager at Van Dee's Ice Cream Shoppe. I love to babysit and spend time with my niece, and I am due with my first child, Houston, on February 21! My favorite kids' book is *Where The Wild Things Are*.



Lisa: My name is Lisa Heeren! I've worked in the daycare setting for about 2 and a half years now and am currently going to Grand View for an elementary education degree! I work as a morning greeter and afternoon staff with the Tiny Tots & Explorers. I am the 3rd of 4 kids, I have 2 sisters and a brother, and we have 2 cats. My favorite kids' book is *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*!



Leah: My name is Leah Gardner and I have worked in the baby room and as the greeter at GKC. I am currently a junior at Urbandale High School, where I've taken child development class. My favorite hobby is singing. I have 3 cats: Mr. B, Zoom, and Geo. My favorite kids' books are the *Berenstain Bears* series.



Pastor Mike: My name is Michael Schmidt and I am the pastor at Grace Lutheran Church. I have a BA in Music from Iowa State University, a Master of Divinity (to be ordained) from Luther Seminary, and a Master of Sacred Music from Luther Seminary. I have been pastor at Grace Lutheran Church since 2011, and previously was pastor at Our Savior's/Nuestro Salvador Lutheran Church in Sioux City from 2004-2009, and Interim Pastor at Christ and St. Peter Lutheran Churches in LeMars and Brunsville in 2010. My hobbies are music, reading, and recently, woodworking. I am married to Jenie, and we have two daughters, Allison (12 years old) and Samantha (4 years old), two cats, Prince Oreo & Pepper, two Beta fish, Spicy & Little Timmy, and two hermit crabs, Hermit and Hermit. Growing up my favorite children's book was *Where the Wild Things Are*. Currently, I am a big fan of *All God's Critters*.



Ellen: My name is Ellen Rothweiler, also known as Mable's Mama, and I am the minister for youth and family here at Grace Lutheran Church. I have a BA in Religion with minors in Psychology and Philosophy from Grand View University. I have 12 years' experience in Youth and Family Ministry in ELCA Lutheran congregations in central Iowa. My hobbies are bike riding, cooking, & reading. I live with my husband Michael, daughter Mable (2 years old), dog Clark, cat Ginger and our grown niece Alyssa. My favorite kids' book is *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie.



Todd: My name is Todd and I am the custodian for Grace Kids Care and Grace Lutheran Church. I love working at Grace because the people are all very nice and the volunteers are good. The energy seems good most of the time in this building! My sister Kari lives in Urbandale with her family, my mom and dad live in Decorah, IA. My biggest hobby is that I'm a runner. I'm mainly a college sports fan, particularly the University of Iowa. I like to listen to '80s and '90s rock music. I try to inspire others. I try never to take life too seriously.

Letter writing and a Bible drive!

Once you have read the bios for our GKC staff (found on pages 3 -6), please take a moment to write one or more a letter of thanks for the work they have done these past months and very day. These letters can be addressed to the teacher but mailed to Grace in care of Mary Edwards.

Also the week of October 11 we are having Bible drive to raise money to purchase age appropriate Bibles for each child in the center. We take seriously the responsibility to place Holy scriptures in the hands of children, and we wish to extend that to the children who are cared for at Grace Kids Care. Each Bible costs approximately \$8. TO support this effort send funds to Grace with GKC Bibles in the memo line.

Ellen Rothweiler
Minister for Youth and Family

Pastor Mike's front page article continued from page 1

We look to the slogan "Ecclesia Sempre Reformanda" and what that means for us in 2020, this odd and crazy year.

What are the ideas that you have? What are the changes that you hope stick around? What are the reforms that you would like to see? I do not have the answers, but I do believe these are the right questions to ask. That said, I firmly believe that we are in a time of discernment in the Church and how best to be Church in the world. Please feel free to call, text, or email me. My number is in the directory (I do not wish to give it out publicly in this format) and my email is mike@gracedm.org Please reach out.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike

Results and plans from the summer book study group:

Since July a group of Grace members has been meeting via Zoom most weeks to discuss chapters from the book "Dear Church: A Love Letter to America's Whitest Denomination" by Lenny Duncan. Our discussions have brought us to a greater awareness of the issue of race in our Church and our role as white people in this system that perpetuates racism. We have come to three points of action in the weeks and months to come:

1. Our electronic sign will include "Black Live Matter" in the regular rotation and include a passage of scripture that references the call that Christians have in this movement, beginning with Luke 15.
2. This group will be entering into Anti-Racism training virtually so that we can be better equipped to lead this conversation on with the congregation whenever we are able to gather in person.
3. We are going to look within our own church to find symbols of white supremacy and remove or replace them with more balanced representations of Christ and the people of God.

We seek to listen, learn and respond.

If you have questions you are encouraged to reach out to Pastor Mike (mike@gracedm.org) or Ellen (ellen@gracedm.org) and be a part off the discussion.

Altar Guild, serving together during the Pandemic

The Altar Guild (a group of about 10 to 12) prepares the altar space for worship each Sunday. Two volunteers sign up each month to put up banners and paraments according to the seasons of the church year, fill the candles with oil, set out communion supplies, and various other tasks. Smaller groups of people set up for funerals and weddings and arrange for altar flowers and special seasonal decorations. We meet monthly for fellowship and to discuss any upcoming worship needs.

But ... that's during a normal year! We missed the usual flurry of activity around Palm Sunday and Easter, as well as coming to church together on weekends to set up, serve and clean up for Sunday worship. One person still comes in on Saturday to set up for worship, but of course not much is needed. This summer we used flowers from member/Grace gardens to decorate the altar.

We enjoy each other's company, and we been able stay connected with socially distanced meetings at parks and backyard patios. But we miss all of you!

Congregational Council Meeting, September 22 – Actions Taken

- Accepted Minutes from the August 25th meeting
- Accepted Staff and Finance Reports
- Recommends maintaining the same budget for 2021
- Nominating Committee will comprise of Carter Woodruff and Tammy Denton
- Scheduled a meeting on September 29 to discuss Personnel Policy
- Adjourned

Accessing Online Worship

We will continue to adapt worship to best be a place where we become centered in our faith.

Written materials and Announcements can be found in the Resources section of the website, as well as a new archive of video links to recent worship videos! Click on the word Resources at the top right of any page of the website and go from there! Or, follow this link <https://gracedm.org/resources/> For those who are not using social media, computers, or smart phones, please call the office and we will happily mail you a copy of the worship materials to use at home.

Worship will broadcast live at 9:00 a.m. through Facebook and our website.

Worship will broadcast live on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. on Facebook Live and there will also be links for Facebook Live and another streaming platform on the website. These links are currently being posted in the "Recent News" section on the www.gracedm.org homepage.

Live Stream Player.

In early October we expect to have a new way to watch Live Services. A button on the Homepage will link to a video player on our website. This player will show a countdown until the next livestream worship, or it will show the current worship in progress!

Weekday Morning Prayer on Facebook Pastor Mike will go live weekday mornings at 9:30 a.m. If you are not on Facebook, you can still access the videos at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/626637384050683/>

Sunday Morning Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour begins at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings OR at 10:30 a.m. while All Church VBS is happening! Links can be found in the Thursday afternoon e-news and in the file section of the Abiding Grace Facebook group.

DRIVE IN SERVICE

Drive-In Worship Service

Sunday, October 4th & October 18 at 9:00 a.m.

We so enjoyed the Drive-in Worship in September (see photos below!), we've scheduled two more, for Sunday, October 4th and Sunday, October 18!

Come join us in worship in the parking lot! We will still livestream the same service on Facebook and the website.

What you need to know:

- The space is limited to 49 cars. Please reserve your space with Ellen, either by email, ellen@gracedm.org, or by phone. If there is no answer, please leave a voicemail.
- Those attending the Drive-In service will need to remain in cars, with windows rolled up.
- The service will broadcast over an FM transmitter to your car stereo, over 95.7 FM.
- You will need access to worship materials, either printed or on a device. These can be found in the Resources section at www.gracedm.org if you are not signed up for the emails.
- The building/restrooms will remain closed.
- As always, prepare something to eat and drink whether you are in your car or at home as we will share in Holy Communion.

See you there!

Thank you for the positive comments about the first worship – they were appreciated!



Working together:

Lutheran World Relief, Confirmation, and All Church VBS

In late September group of adults and teens came together to assemble 200 care kits for Lutheran World Relief. The event was carefully planned for safety and spacing by LWR, Ellen, and the VBS crew, along with the Grace Health and Safety Task Force.

These kits will be shipped to Minneapolis where they will be held in a warehouse until they are needed in a time of crisis. The fund drive to support LWR continues, so we invite you to donate through Grace or directly through lwr.org

In addition to photos, we have a Thank you and an update about our previous kits that we thought destroyed in the Beirut explosions:

My name is Cari Armstrong, and I work at Lutheran World Relief. I wanted to reach out today to thank you for your generous pledge of 200 personal care kits during our Season of Hope earlier this year. We know that this has been a crazy year for everyone, so whether or not you were able to follow through with the plans you may have made for those kits, we still want to thank you for your pledge and your intention. Your support means so much to us and to many people around the world who are experiencing poverty and hunger. Again, thank you so much for your generosity! Grace + peace, *Carilyn Armstrong*

Lutheran World Relief - Containers Found Intact

Some good news from Beirut: Three 40-foot shipping containers filled with thousands of mission quilts and school, personal and baby care kits, which reported as destroyed in the August 4 explosions at the port of Beirut, Lebanon, have been found intact.

It took several weeks for Lutheran World Relief's partner to gain access to the port area where the containers were stored. While some of our partners shipping containers were heavily damaged, it appears that the three containers containing the quilts and kits were stored behind a concrete block building, a spot that protected them from the blast. The quilts and kits have been transferred to a warehouse, from where they will be distributed to refugees living in Lebanon, principally from Syria and the Palestinian territories.

In addition to distributing the quilts and kits, Lutheran World Relief is also working to address immense shelter needs in the wake of the explosion, helping poorer families to repair and return to their homes. For more information or to donate: <https://lwr.org/beirut>



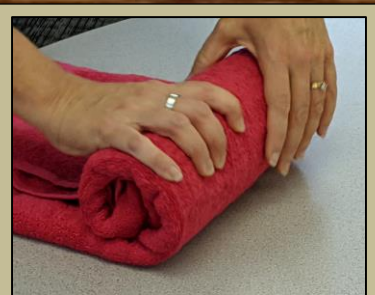
Four generations of the Flannery family tie a LWR quilt together.



Allison and Samantha have been busy tying LWR quilts at home.



Barb Zimany masked up during kit making.



A tightly rolled kit with washcloth, comb, soap, toothbrush, & nail clippers all inside a new towel.



Warming Hearts with God's Love and a Good Pair of Mittens

Far too often, children arrive at LSI's Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers with very little in their possession.

We give thanks for Iowa congregations who faithfully respond to these needs, year after year! As winter approaches, LSI relies on your loving support to meet the demands for winter apparel for children at Beloit and Bremwood. Youth in residential treatment have little control over their lives, so it's important for us to give them the opportunity, when possible, to choose their new coat or mittens. Because of this, we ask that you please not donate articles of clothing. With your generous financial donation, many children will have the simple joy of choosing their new coat, knowing that they are loved and cherished.

If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

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.

A Path to Healing

When 14-year-old Bri first came to LSI's Beloit Residential Treatment Center in Ames, she was struggling with aggression, frequently ran away, and had a hard time focusing in school. And as she was trying to heal from years of trauma, Bri's beloved grandpa suddenly passed away. She felt stuck and nothing was getting better, no matter what she tried. But her Beloit team was there to cheer her on.

The LSI team at Beloit provides 24-7 mental health treatment for Iowa children who have often experienced years of trauma, abuse, or neglect. Staff members are there to encourage children on their path to hope and healing, and they were there to lift up Bri when she decided to make a positive change in her life. Bri began actively participating in individual and group therapy sessions provided at Beloit, and she made it a point to encourage her peers on campus every day. Her Beloit team helped her to feel more comfortable opening up about her grief, and staff members were there to remind her of all the progress she had made to help her stay focused on the positives.

After months of hard work, Bri found a loving foster family and was able to leave Beloit's programming. And while she felt uncertain and anxious about leaving, she knew she was ready to move forward.

Bri continues to keep in touch with the team at Beloit, providing details on her new life, school, and her new room at home. Bri's anxiety about the unknown has diminished, she feels confident communicating her emotions, and she has hope for the future.

DMARC Requested Donations: Cash

DMARC is able to purchase more per dollar in bulk than we can in person, and is both easier and safer for many at this time. Checks may be mailed to the address below, and food donations may be dropped off at the DMARC Food Pantry Network Warehouse, located at 1435 Mulberry Street in downtown Des Moines.

Council Highlights

At the August, 2020 Church Council Meeting:

The Council met utilizing the Zoom teleconferencing application.

The Council received and discussed the financial report. Church revenues and expenses show a loss for July 2020 of about \$10,000 and a YTD loss of about \$8,500.

Grace Kids Care numbers for July 2020 show a profit for July of about \$2,000 but a YTD loss of about \$24,000.

Property Committee reported that the concrete work for the Little Free Pantry, Little Free Library, and pergola should begin August 24th. Also, the lawn mower was taken in for repair, and a new refrigerator was purchased for the custodian's house.

The new Grace Hall A/C unit has been installed and is functioning correctly.

Fire Panel Replacement: the Council moved, seconded, and passed to accept the quote from Johnson Controls to install the new panel and annunciator, program the panel, and provide the necessary 120 volt supply. Amount of the bid is \$8,160.56.

The Health and Safety Task Force Is working on updating the Limited Facility Use Procedure Manual. The Task Force gave approval for two upcoming events, (1.) a drive-in worship service to be held September 13th in the church parking lot, and (2.) a packing event for Lutheran World Relief.

Personnel Policy/Employee Handbook: discussion of the draft continued. The Council voted its approval of several sections, with minor changes. Additional sections will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Council briefly discussed the logistics of the Annual Congregational Meeting, including applicable bylaws, difficulties holding discussion, and voting. Council members will discuss this further at the September 22nd meeting.

Next scheduled Council meeting will be September 22nd, via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Gronert
Council Secretary

Finance Report – August Results

Financial results for August YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$263,410, Budget \$277,967
- Other Income – Actual \$14,747, Budget \$19,500
- Expenses – Actual \$286,557, Budget \$302,633
- Net activity – Actual \$(8,399), Budget (\$5,167)



Actual net activity was unfavorable to budget primarily due a decline in offerings. Pledged and unpledged offering are both below budget. Continued giving during these uncertain times is appreciated. Maintenance and utility activity was under budget due to lack of occupancy. Contributions to the Capital Campaign (\$58,325) and related HVAC replacement (\$40,000) are not included in the above results. Remaining outstanding Campaign commitments will cover the total HVAC replacement cost of \$59,320.

We're sharing more recipes received for the New Grace Lutheran Cookbook!

Keep emailing them to Emma at emma@gracedm.org, OR mail to the church at 5201 Urbandale Ave, Des Moines 50310.

Zucchini Casserole

Alice Kulzer

Layer the following ingredients in a casserole dish:

1 medium unpeeled zucchini, sliced thinly

1 medium onion, chopped

1 cup cooked brown rice

2-4 chopped fresh tomatoes

1 medium green pepper, chopped

Parmesan cheese sprinkled over other ingredients.

Slice of cheese (we like cheddar) to cover other ingredients

Bacon slices (cut up) on top

Comments: I add some favorite spices too. ie: garlic salt, basil leaves, Italian Seasoning.

Amounts in the layers may be varied depending on you casserole size and your harvested vegetables.

Bake in a 350 degree oven ½ hour covered and ½ hour uncovered. Or, you may cover and microwave for 20-30 minutes until bacon is done and cheese is melted.

This is my favorite recipe from the garden produce. I love it because you don't have to be exact on the amounts. And it always makes me thankful for the gift of wonderful food God provides us.

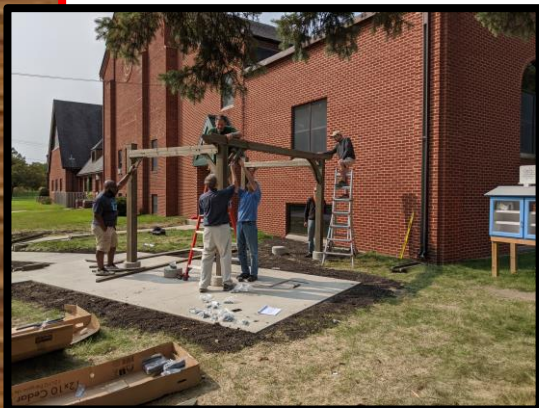
The Pergola is finished!

It's been a long time coming with careful planning, permissions, frozen ground shortly after getting permission, shut downs, cleaning up storm damage – you get the picture.

In late August the new sidewalks and pad for the pergola were poured, and on two Saturdays in the middle of September Don Peterson, Eric Weber, Paul Nelson, Rich Snyder, Carter Woodruff, and Chuck Denton constructed the pergola, assembled and attached the bench, adjusted the height of the front railing, and moved the Little Free Pantry to its final home.

The pergola is set back on the pad so that anyone accessing the pantry from either side can stand on solid ground. Between the accessible sidewalks and lower height of the pantry, it is now fully accessible. Grass and/or walkable plants will be replanted under the benches and around the concrete pad. This will be a lovely shaded place for book reading, a neighborhood hangout, a place for small groups to meet.

A huge thank you to everyone who championed this project through all stages: The confirmation students, Ellen Rothweiler for leading, inspiring and guiding those students, Pastor Mike for his passionate communications with the City, the local neighborhood associations for supporting this endeavor, and the congregation, committees, and neighborhood who have all been stocking this for those in need!



VERY GOOD

PLEASANT

IT I H n

KINDRED

live together

in

WALK