# **The Friendly Visitor**

# October 2023



#### **Sunday Schedule**

9:00 a.m. Worship, in-person and Online 10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee 10:15 a.m. Education Hour

Morning Prayer Tues & Fridays at 9:30 a.m. @Gracelutherandm

> **Office & Open Building Hours** 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday - Thursday

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

Pastor Michael Schmidt mike@gracedm.org

Vicar Adam Barden adam@gracedm.org

Organist Richard Snyder rich@gracedm.org

Minister for Administration Denise Friesth <u>denise@gracedm.org</u>

Minister for Communications Michelle Voelker <u>michelle@gracedm.org</u>

Office Assistant for Worship Jessye Flannery Jessica@gracedm.org

Custodian Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

#### Inside This Issue...

- 2...Celebrations, Retirement Reception
- 3... Vicar's Note, Choir Rehearsals, Finance Report
- 4... Conversation with Council, Fall Stewardship Campaign
- 5... Notes from Rich, Lydia/Martha
- 6... LSI Updates, Mission Action Fund
- 7... LFP Request, Spiritual Direction, Quilters and the LFP
- 8... Council Meeting Highlights
- 9... Worship links, Altar Flowers
- 10.. Directory Progress, Being New
- 11 & 12 Photos, Golf Outing Winners!

# Mirrors

Have you ever caught an unexpected reflection of yourself and then gone back for a double take? It may be that you looked better than you thought. Or, as is often the case for me, you look a little worse than you thought. Maybe it is the bags under the eyes, or new wrinkles. It may be a beard that is now mostly white. It could be a less than flattering angle and then the feeling of being self-conscious. There is something jarring about seeing yourself when you were not expecting.

There are other times when you are expecting to see your reflection that are just as jarring. For example, have you ever seen yourself in a magnifying mirror. The horror. You suddenly see EVERYTHING. Then the internal dialogue takes over. Do other people see that? How visible is it? Am I really that old...?

This fall, Vicar Adam and I are preaching a series on mirrors. These Gospel texts from Saint Matthew contain parables and instructions. At first glance, many of these seem to be talking about someone else. These stories show us sides of ourselves as well. There are some where we catch an unexpected view of ourselves. With others, we see a magnification of our own sinfulness. In all of them, we see clearly the need for a savior, and they point us toward Christ Jesus.

We invite you to join the journey this fall, whether in person, online, or through printed resources. We invite to look in the metaphorical mirror, to be honest with yourself, and with God, and to see that Christ is with you. As it is with a real mirror, what we see is not always comfortable. That is okay. God meets us in the place of discomfort and walks with us. Next time you catch an unexpected glimpse of yourself, or look in a magnifying mirror, lean into it. It is okay. Know that God loves you. And if you choose to address your own perceived shortcomings, do so from a lens of grace and love instead of shame. Where we see shortcomings, God sees a beloved child.

In Christ, Pastor Mike

# Happy October Birthday

- 1 Zepelin Brown Katharine Radermacher
- 2 -Margaret York Andy Roat Eric Barks
- Ivy Lawson 4 - Ava Lund
- 5 -Paul Nelson
- 6 Amanda Jensen
- 7 Adam Bergman
- 8 -Nelda Sampel
- Harlan Mortenson
- 9 Joanne Johnson Riley Mortenson Jaxsen Traver
- 11 Christopher Kallenbach Fred Hofferber
- 12 Greg Boeschen Benjamin Wonderlin Lucas Radermacher
- 13 Theresa Gerling Deanna Hummel Lt. Col. David Peterson Victoria Janson
- 14 Jane Ridnour James Fenimore
- 15 Chris Lawson Eryn Lenhart Kyra Lenhart Maya Lenhart Vincent Meillier
- 16 Rev. Stephen Sherer Kara Jordahl
- 17 Roberto Ruiz
- 19 Isaac Justice
- 20 -Patricia Schouten Stuart Turner James Briggs
- 21 Sarah Schroeder Sage Speck Owen Chenoweth
- 23 -Ronald Vernia
- 24 Melissa Kallenbach
- 25 Joyce Lewis Tina Meadows
- 26 Seth Kallestad
- 27 -Ilah Ocken Wilder Voelker

# 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
- 27 Hal and Michele Turner
- 28 Michael and Marilyn Nizzi



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

# **October Birthdays continued**

- 29 Col. Franklin Peterson Jessica Russell - Alsted
   30 - Travis Brown
  - Travis Brown Ashley Artzer Monte Wilner Tanner Peeler

# **Reception and Card Party for Denise Friesth**

Denise is retiring so she can spend more time with her 4 grandchildren. Her last day in the office will be October 12th.

We are planning to celebrate her with both a card party and in-person reception. The reception will be on Wednesday, October 11, from 6-7 p.m. Please join us!



We invite you to celebrate her and her 7 years on Grace Staff with a card party. You may bring them to the reception, mail to the office, or send them to her home address, found in the online directory.



# Fall Back!

Sunday November 5 we gain an extra hour when we turn the clocks back at 2 a.m.

# Vicar's Update

Grace and Peace to you all! I have officially crossed the three month mark of being with you all here at Grace Lutheran! It feels like it has been both longer and shorter than it actually has been. I feel I am fully situated in the area. I can navigate well around the Merle Hay and Beaverdale neighborhoods as well as Urbandale. I still need to use my phone for navigation on occasion.



When I first started, I mainly shadowed Pastor Mike as I got integrated into

the congregation. I assisted with worship, sat in on my first meetings with the staff and Council, which I still am a part of as well as meeting with the pastor and the internship committee, and began learning the ins and outs of serving the Grace Lutheran community. Since then, I took the lead on organizing God's Work Our Hands Sunday. During the programmatic year, I will be leading the adult education and Tuesday Bible study along with Pastor Mike. I will also be helping with music during Sunday school a couple times a month.

I feel that it is an amazing time to be a part of Grace. We have had a few transitions happen already and more on the horizon. Navigating those changes can be difficult and exiting at the same time. If you would like to have some time to sit down and talk about what is going on in the church, or if you would like to get to know me and learn about what I am doing in the church, about seminary, or about anything, I would love to meet. It could be in my office, at a local café or dinner, or anywhere! I would be happy to answer any questions you have and hear your thoughts, dreams, and ideas about Grace, the Lutheran church, or anything! Please feel free to email me at <u>adam@gracedm.org</u> or stop by my office. I will try my best to have some candy available for those that stop in.

Peace and Blessings! Vicar Adam Barden



# Come Sing With Us!

Our adult choir is resuming rehearsals, and we will be singing on Reformation Sunday as well as a few Sundays in November and December. We would love to have you join us! Rehearsals start October 11 and will be Wednesdays from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. in the downstairs music room (unless otherwise noted) with brief rehearsals Sunday mornings when we sing.

Our goal is to enhance worship with special music and have some fun singing together. Hope to see you there. Kathy Bowermaster (<u>kbowerma@hotmail.com</u> or 515-971-6360).

# Finance Report – Aug Results

Financial results for August YTD are as follows:

- Income Actual \$252,183, Budget \$288,383, Prior Year \$260,624
- Expenses Actual \$309,968, Budget \$298,617, Prior Year \$269,132
- Net activity Actual (\$57,785), Budget (\$10,233), Prior Year (\$8,508)

Activity for the year continues to be <u>significantly</u> below budget by \$48K. Offerings were below budget \$36K and expenses were over budget by \$11K due to needed work on the furnace, doors and roof.

The net activity loss of \$58K is significantly below the prior year loss of \$8K.



## **October 15: Conversation with Council**

We will meet in Grace Hall for a conversation in place of Adult Education at 10:15 on October 15. Bring your coffee and donuts! Youth Education will meet in their classrooms as usual.

## FALL 2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The time is fast approaching to begin considering how we can each give our time, talent, and gifts in service to the Lord and to support Grace's mission in the upcoming year. Please keep your eyes open for communications in the next few weeks regarding this year's stewardship campaign and how we can support Grace's mission in 2024.

# FALL 2023 STRAIGHT TALK ON FINANCES

Heading into our Fall Stewardship Campaign, it is not unusual to wonder how the church is doing financially, and how this may impact the fall stewardship campaign. This is also the time to reflect upon Grace's mission for the next year and what is needed in terms of time, talent, and resources to fulfill the mission. To that end, the Grace Church Council and the Finance Committee have been closely reviewing Graces's financial position, historical trends, and needs/wants for 2024. Following is some background information to keep in mind as we move forward.

# **Background Information:**

 Grace is in very solid financial shape...a financial condition that many other churches would envy.
 Budgeting has become increasingly difficult especially with income projections (pledged and unpledged offerings). This is a trend that COVID has accelerated.

3. Historically, the annual finances fall behind budget during the summer months but catch up, particularly in November and December.

# **Challenges Moving Forward:**

1. This year is the most challenging financially that Grace has seen in the last several. From 2020 – 2023, the year-to-date amount below budget has been in the range of \$8,000-\$12,000. This has typically been made up in November and December. This year, Grace is nearly \$58,000 below budget. This is because both pledged and unpledged offerings are below budget (\$21,039 and \$15,366 respectively) and because of unexpected maintenance costs. We also know that nearly \$20,000 of the pledged offerings will be lost this year because of member deaths. Finally, ELCA data shows that once the U.S. inflation rate rises above 5%, giving to churches begins to fall. Thankfully, the inflation rate is now below 5%.

2. Grace's facilities are more than what is needed for a congregation of our size. Many mainline denominations are facing this challenge as mainline religions are losing members and have historically had/have facilities to support their larger memberships. How can we use our facilities to further our mission yet be good stewards of our resources?

3. Twenty-two percent (22%) of Grace's income comes from members that are 80 years of age and older. Historically, the older members are some of the larger contributors to the church. Losing older members hurts in many ways.

# How Are We Moving Ahead:

1. The Grace church council has resolved to communicate financial information more fully with the congregation...this includes both good and not-so-good news.

2. The Grace church council has created a Revenue Task Force. It has been tasked with taking stock of the church and its assets and determining if there are ways to develop a revenue stream for Grace beyond the traditional congregational offerings.

3. The Grace church council and the Finance committee are currently working on the 2024 budget. Our goal is to be very specific with the congregation to let you know exactly what is needed in 2024 to fulfill Grace's mission.

#### **Notes from Rich**

From the end of June onward, I have been accompanying the worship services at Grace either on piano or pipe organ on alternate Sundays. During informal conversations since then, I have been asked whether I prefer to play the piano or the pipe organ. While this question may appear straight-forward, the answer is not. This issue of Notes from Rich will provide answers regarding my preference in instruments.



There are two characteristics to be considered when deciding on an instrument preference: the effort expended to play the instruments (input) and the sounds that come from them (output). For the piano, the input involves careful control of the thumbs and fingers so that they engage the keys with just the right force, at just the right time, held for just the right length of time, with just the right time spacing between consecutive notes. Not all of the digits will have the same force nor play at the same time. The interactions with the keys may be a sort of caress, a tickle, a poke, or a forceful prodding. The volume of the sound depends on the force used to play the keys. There is almost a visceral connection between the arms and hands of the musician and the piano. The connection between piano and performer can be quite intimate and connected.

In contrast, playing the organ can be thought of as one physical step removed from playing the piano. There is less immediate control of the sound from the organ by the fingers (and feet) of the performer. Once the stops are selected, the volume and timbre of the sound are determined and cannot be changed by the manner in which the keys are played. The keys still must be pressed down in the correct order, held for just the right length of time, and played at the correct speed. But some of the intimacy and connectedness between musician and piano is lost when playing the organ.

Musicians do not play instruments solely for the joy of the tactile connections between artist and performer (inputs). Musicians play instrument for the sounds produced by the instruments (outputs). Both piano and pipe organ are capable of producing sounds from whisper to thunder. Both are capable of leading and accompanying singing whether by soloists, choirs, or congregations. However, the pipe organ can potentially play notes that are both higher and lower in pitch than the piano can. The piano is a percussion instrument whose sound decreases in volume as soon as the notes are sounded, but the pipe organ can sustain notes for an indeterminate amount of time similar to the human voice than the sound from the piano.

Returning to the initial question, "Which instrument do I prefer to play?" The answer is a bit of a hedge, "It depends." I have played the piano since 1953, the organ only since 1983, and so I am more comfortable with the piano. If I must sight-read a piece of music, I prefer doing that on the piano. But, if I am leading worship services, I will choose the pipe organ for its ability to send sound to the four corners of the room and carry the congregational voices along in song.

Lydia/Martha

Lydia/Martha Circle will meet Thursday, October 26, 2013, at 9:30 am. We will be preparing Christmas gifts for the homebound.

Please join us!

See photos of our September get-together on page 11

At LSI, we celebrate all the ways professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful connections in their communities. LSI's Host Homes program is an innovative way Direct Support Professionals serve adults with disabilities.



Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private tamily nome with a carefully selected Host Homes Provider who provides 24/7 support for the client.

"Working directly with my clients to help them complete goals and work around obstacles is my favorite part of my job," said Erica Hill Murray, a Host Homes Provider at LSI. "I enjoy showing them that there are people in their lives who care about them, are proud of them, and proud to help them."

Erica has helped many clients in the five years she has provided care at LSI, but one client, in particular, has made great strides under her care.

"I worked with a client who wanted to find a job or volunteer position, but she had two obstacles in her way: she had trouble using a computer, and she wasn't confident in her ability to speak in an interview," said Erica. "I offered to look for positions on the computer with her and to call potential employers to explain what she was looking for. After working with her, we found her a volunteer position for a couple of days a week, and she was delighted."

"She thanked me for helping her and said that she was happy that, for once, someone understood her drive to want to work," said Erica. "I like to make a difference – even if it is small. Helping others, no matter at what level, is impactful. I love working at LSI, and I believe my position as a Host Homes Provider has been my favorite position in life."

Stories like these are possible through our many community partners and generous donors. If you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI Host Homes, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the Iove 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.

# **Mission Action Fund**

The Mission Action Fund allows Grace Members to respond quickly to acute needs in the immediate neighborhood and community, and beyond. It is meant to be used in Instances where a Grace Member is involved in service to others in a community or service activity, or when a need exists outside of the Grace Community – such as the recent Personal Care Project for Moore Elementary on God's Work Our Hands Sunday.



Application information can be found on our website. Once an application is received, the Quick Response Team will make a decision within a matter of days.

For application details, see our website https://gracedm.org/resources/mission-action-fund/

## **October Little Free Pantry Request of the Month:**

As the weather starts to get cooler, we start thinking about comfort food. A warm hearty meal does the body good. Foods commonly eaten throughout different cultures are included in our requested items for this month: rice, beans (cans and dried), lentils, broth, cans of soup, and grains (e.g. barley, oats, couscous, quinoa).

Items can be placed in the wagon located at the Gathering Hall entrance or you can order from the Grace Wish List on <u>Amazon.com</u>, which will be shipped directly to the church.

You can also donate through our secure <u>GIVE</u> page, and this will fund items purchased for stocking the pantry. Thank you for your donations.

You can learn more about food and culture from various countries at this link: <u>Cultural Food Guides</u> (gleanersnutritionhub.org)

## **Gratis Spiritual Direction offered by Kate Schaller**

Spiritual Directors International was formed in the early 1990's and I am currently in my practicum offered by Mind and Spirit (formally known as Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center).

I need a directee, which could be YOU!!! One hour, monthly meetings for 9 months are the requirement . All of these meetings are confidential plus I will be participating in supervision during this time. If you have any questions or

would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank You for your consideration!!!

Kate (515)491-4961 kamel.Kate.83@gmail.com

#### Another beautiful quilt for the Little Free Pantry!

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, the Thursday Quilters placed another quilt in the Little Free Pantry in memory of Beth Flannery. They meet Thursday mornings in one of the quilt rooms, working together to turn mostly donated fabrics into beautiful, functions quilts for Lutheran World Relief and others. You don't need to be a great seamstress to help make a difference, but if you look at these photos I think you'll be able to see that you will be welcomed and enjoy your time in the quilting room.





Spiritual Direction Opportunity

# 2023 Congregational Council Members

Term ends 2024: Aaron Brandsfield, Tom McCleary, Linda Moravec, Dean Watson Term ends 2025: Carter Woodruff, Mike Hilsabeck, Kevin Drury, Jenny Rehder Term Ends 2026 Valerie Culp, Greg Boeschen

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES September 26 6:00 P.M. in Grace Hall

- 1. Call to order Meeting called to order at 6:01 P.M. following a tasty dinner provided by Carter.
- 2. Devotions Julie Honsey *The God Who is Here* book. Create a contemplative community. Following the temple talk, nine individuals expressed interest in participating in this process.
- 3. Adoption of Agenda Greg moved to adopt the agenda with the addition, Dean seconded, motion approved.
- 4. Approval of Minutes from 8/22/2023 council meeting Approved by unanimous consent.
- 5. "Ideas that will get you fired" Have an all congregation "town hall" luncheon to discuss topics that have been bubbling up from various voices in the congregation. Be creative on how to facilitate the conversations.
- 6. Staff Reports ACS training for new administrator and staff.
- Finance Report Finance Committee meeting summary. Deficit ~\$60K for the year. Update on Mini-Campaign contributions \$19K already in the bank with additional pledges received and ongoing. Total ask was for ~\$20K.
  - a. Revenue Task Force meeting Still in discussions with LSI and possibly NAMI. Also possibility of obtaining grants.
- 8. New Business
  - a. Exit interview with Denise. Has been the administrator for 7 years. Is retiring to take care of grandchildren and to spend time with family. Suggested we do more temple talks to keep the congregation informed about the goings on in the church.
  - b. Church Leasing for Spiritual Directors offices plus renting retreat space. Will look at the logistics and current rooms available and the rental possibilities. Internet/WiFi should be satisfactory.
  - c. Stewardship Update will explain more clearly what we need and why; where do the expenses/costs go to for the church.
  - d. Minister for Administration duties (added) Split the current position into two; have 1 office person (9am-1pm M-Th) that manages the regular duties, phone, scheduling, managing facilities. Have a second person manage the finances only (~16 hrs).
- 9. Old Business
  - a. Recruiting new council members update Tom McCleary and Linda Moravec plan to continue for a second council term. Dean and Aaron are going off and will ask some potential candidates. Also, suggestion to have the outgoing council president attend a few months into the new term to provide support.
  - b. Staff Support Committee/Personnel Committee
    - i. Pastoral visits discussion
    - ii. Review for Pastor Mike schedule for end of the year.
  - c. Music Director Update no one hired yet but Kathy Bowermaster is starting choir rehearsals to prepare special music for Reformation Sunday.
  - d. Constitution Team Update will send out final draft to council with highlights to review before the next meeting.
  - e. Bylaws Team Update team has met and is reviewing the updates, especially related to committees.
  - f. Insurance Update American Church Group insurance suggests having rental agreements for renters and the renters should provide their own liability insurance.
- 10. Adjournment Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:21 P.M.





If you are interested in becoming a member of Grace, the next new member classes will be held on Sundays October 29, and November 26. If you are interested, contact Pastor Mike <u>Mike@gracedm.org</u> or 515/276-6873.

# Sponsor Altar Flowers for Fall – only a few dates remain for 2023!

Please follow the link below to choose your date and sign up, or contact the office to make certain your preferred Sunday hasn't been spoken for. <u>https://volunteersignup.org/JC349</u>

We invite you to sponsor a bouquet of flowers for the altar. You can include a special message in the bulletin, and the flowers are yours to take home after the worship service on Sunday. The cost is \$25 and you can pay through Grace's online giving site (<u>https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/</u>) or by check or cash to the office. Please put your first AND last name(s) in the first name field and type a special message (optional) in the last name field (in memory of ... in honor of). Contact Kathy at <u>kbowerma@hotmail.com</u> or 971-6360 with questions. Thank you!

#### Upcoming Worship Volunteer Needs

## Greeters, Lectors, Communion Servers, Fellowship Coffee & Donut Servers

**If you have questions about volunteering, reach out** to the office, Vicar Adam, or Pastor Mike – they'll be happy to answer your questions. You can click this link to sign up: <u>Online Worship Volunteer</u> <u>Signup</u> or contact the office at 515-276-6873.

#### Worship schedule and Important links

Sundays we worship in-person at 9 a.m. Fellowship and coffeetime in the Gathering Hall at 10 a.m. Education Hour at 10:15 a.m.

K-5 in the Sunday School Room 6-12 upstairs in the Youth Room Adults in Grace Hall.

# You can also find us online:

- On our website livestream page every Sunday at 9.
  - From the home page at <u>www.gracedm.org</u>,
  - o scroll to the "Welcome to Grace" section,
  - click on the red "Online Worship" button. If you see a player with our logo, know you are in the right place and worship will begin shortly.
- **Facebook:** Worship is uploaded to Facebook on Sunday after worship. Find us on Facebook @GraceLutherandm
- Watch archived worship services (uploaded after 24 hours) on the <u>Resources/Worship Videos</u> page.

Worship materials are always posted on our website prior to worship. Find those and other communications at the following links.

 Worship Volunteer Signup https://gracedm.org/volunteer/

 Weekly Announcements
 https://gracedm.org/resources/seasonal-announcements/

 Weekly Bulletins
 https://gracedm.org/resources/bulletins/

 Online Giving
 https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/

 Monthly Newsletters
 https://gracedm.org/resources/newsletters/

# **Progress on the Church Directory Update**

Many of you have been updating your own information, which is wonderful! Thank you! Staff and groups such as member care use the app often when reaching out, so we appreciate your helping us with this update. The app also lists staff and council, making it easier for you to contact us.

We are still working on updating the directory with the photos we took and the forms you sent in, but we've heard from several of you wondering if there is a hard deadline to submit photos. There is not – we understand sometimes it is just difficult to get everyone in one spot at the same time.

While we DO intend to print hardcopies soon for those who don't use home computers or smartphones, know that you can update your photo OR your information at any time. Or, you can call the office and we can update the information for you.

# **Nest Steps:**

- 1. When printed copies are available, Pastor Mike or Vicar Adam will announce it in worship. We will be able to mail to those who request.
- 2. We will start working on the photo wall soon.
  - a. If you uploaded your own photo, they don't download very well for printing, so Greg Boeschen may be contacting you to get a 4x6 for the wall.
  - b. If you did NOT list hobbies or interests on your update form -or you updated your own entry online, the Photo Wall will only list your name. So please share your hobbies and interests!
- 3. We will do smaller updates every year at the Annual Congregational Meetings.

Be assured that your contact information in the online directory is only visible to members of Grace. It requires an email address and password to access. Find the link and directions at <a href="https://gracedm.org/resources/">https://gracedm.org/resources/</a> Look for the red bubble that says "Member Online Directory Access"

#### **Being New**

Grace Lutheran Church has completed its church initiative, which aimed to envision how to grow the community into the future. The results, along with the surveys completed by members of the congregation, have been presented to the Council. Together, they have decided to form a group that will continue the work of envisioning what it means to be made new as followers of Jesus Christ at Grace Lutheran Church.

Individuals who feel called by the Spirit are invited to join the group. Initially, there will be a stage of discernment, which will involve weekly meetings. During these meetings, the group will pray together and read the book "The God Who Is Here: A Contemplative Guide to Transforming Your Relationship with God and the Church" by Peter Traben Haas. Discernment is a process that takes time, as the Spirit moves in ways that do not align with hasty problem-solving or fixing. The stage of discernment is expected to be completed by the end of Lent. The congregation will be asked to be with the group in prayer, praying daily for the group to be guided by the Holy Spirit. The group's aim is to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ by intentionally seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit in prayer, worship, spiritual practices, and service with the intention of guiding the worshipping community into the same process established by the aim. The next stage is to implement the Spirit's prompts identified during the discernment process. These prompts will be used to enhance worship and provide opportunities for learning and developing spiritual practices, for the purpose of deepening individual relationships with Jesus Christ, empowering us to do compassionate service.

Take some time to pray and consider whether the Spirit is calling you to be part of this group. *If you feel called, please let me know of your intention by October 1st.* Our plan is to start meeting in mid-October. Contact Julie Honsey at honsey.julie@gmail.com





Grace Hall ready for the Lydia & Martha Circle September Meeting Photos: Martha Mitchell



All ready for Sunday School to begin! September 17. Photo: Eric Weber



# **Grace Annual Golf Outing results!**

The winning team of the September 10 9-hole Best Shot Tournament was Galle & Galle and Selander & Selander!

# **Congratulations!**

We are trying to find out who won in 2011 – if you know, please contact the office or Tom or Becky Selander!



God's Work Our Hands Shopping Groups checking their purchases for Moore's Personal Hygiene Pantry





Assembling shelves for the pantry storage room in Msindo Hall



\*GWOH Photo credits Michelle Voelker, Adam Barden, Tammy Denton, Cathy & Dean Watson



Unpacking & shelf stocking in Msindo



Packing 100 Home first aid kits



Kit packing crew!



Shelving Assembly crew



Grilling for the shared lunch in Grace Hall





Tammy in the partially stocked storeroom. Those in charge of the personal pantry at Moore Elementary have access to this room to keep the pantry stocked as needed. Tammy Denton and Kari Dostalik will keep the storeroom stocked as needed. The Storeroom is funded by a Mission Action Fund Grant.