



# Grace Notes

A monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church

August  
2015

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**Pastor Mac Farewell:**

To the many grace-filled brothers and sisters in Christ. It is the close of another chapter in the journey of Grace Lutheran Church and God’s movement in and through the faithful disciples of Christ our Lord. This Revised Common Lectionary season the Gospel of focus has been Mark who moves quickly in the narrative of his testimony to the Son of God & Man. Throughout the narrative of Mark’s gospel, it is noted how quickly things change, how one piece of time can seem like a moment and others seem to leave a lasting impression. That might be one take away from Mark. It is all in the hands of the Almighty, whether we humans are comfortable or not with trust and ultimate faith in God our Father.

To the great disciples of GLC. You are the individuals who place the greatest value on spirituality, scripture, & the confessions. These values are what the changing world yearns to hear and see as a witness and testimony to the living presence of a compassionate God. You have been a strength of God’s activity-please never retire from this. The people of God need you as we all turn to the new chapter. We can trust to God who has been there since the beginning. It is our own fears and infidelity of faith that break down our discipleship activity. I encourage you, continue to be strong in faith, witness and service. Continue to grow, trust and believe in God beyond the shadows and the people who are given to their darkness of distrust and suspicion. The shadows and darkness are elements that can distract GLC from seeing the mission God has called GLC to do and to be.

Thanks to members of the council who both appreciated and upheld my desires NOT to make my departure a thing to spend a lot of energy and time on. The church is about the Christ. The scriptures are confessions focus on each member of the priesthood as they are called to be as out baptismal living. GLC has had its history-and will continue to have history. As one retired bishop commented, “there are NO perfect churches, just congregations that learn as they grow spiritually and those that don’t.” While people can make the church about the pastor, it’s not about the pastor, but the church, which is Christ that makes the difference.

The many cards and gifts from members and staff of GLC are GREATLY appreciated by both myself and Laura. I bless and glorify GOD that it is the majority of people in this kingdom of God are truly grace filled, forgiving, merciful and compassionate. Thank you for the opportunity to have served you and know that as a people of God, through the tough times and the joyful times-ALL is in the ultimate control of God. Nothing happens that God is not already aware of and is already ahead of us leading the way. Opportunities are always before the people of faith.

Blessings, Pr. Mac+

**ATTENTION:**

Please remember to provide the office with any name, address, email changes, or other pertinent information, so that we have correct information in our Shepherds Staff Member file system and email system. Call the office at 263-5680 or email us at [glc@machlink.com](mailto:glc@machlink.com) with changes. Thank you.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Grace Lutheran Church Council</b> <b>Actions and Highlights – July 23, 2015</b></p>
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**MISSION:**

**God’s purpose for Grace Lutheran Church is for us to be servant leaders in mission by loving and inspiring all people to experience the transforming grace of a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.**

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<b><u>MEMBERS PRESENT:</u></b>	Mike Allenbaugh	Ramona Allenbaugh	Cindy Edgmond
	Jim Edgmond	JoAnne Fisher	Connor Lawhead
	Pr. MacManus	John Simmons	Kim Thompson
<b>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</b>	Don Ager		

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**OPENING PRAYER** by Pr. MacManus

**JULY ACTION ITEMS:**

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

The Executive Committee interviewed Pr. David Aanonson of Coralville, IA, on Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. He was referred to Grace by the Synod as a possible candidate for Interim Pastor. Pr. Aanonson is of Norwegian descent. Since his retirement 3-4 years ago, he has served at various churches as Interim Pastor and will complete his latest interim ministry July 31<sup>st</sup> at Calamus, IA. In our discussions, he stated he would provide the usual pastoral care and guidance, home and/or hospital visitation as needed, conduct worship, and administer sacraments. He is agreeable to attending the Worship & Music Ministry and Council meetings on a monthly basis. He would serve on a half-time basis, only being in his office at Grace 1-2 days per week. He would prepare his sermons at home, thus limiting his commute time and mileage expense for Grace. His salary expectation is \$3,000 per month with mileage. There would be no pension or health insurance expense required from Grace. After a brief discussion, the recommendation to council was presented:

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

**The Executive Committee recommends that Council extend the call to Pr. David Aanonson to be Interim Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church starting September 1, 2015, at a monthly salary of \$3,000 per month plus mileage.**

Moved:

Seconded; To accept the Executive Committee’s recommendation as noted

Motion carried by Council

The *Letter of Agreement for Interim Ministry* was submitted to the SE IA Synod on July 24<sup>th</sup> for the Bishop’s approval and Pr. Aanonson’s agreement. We should receive a response within 10 days.

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Council discussed the July 26<sup>th</sup> Congregational meeting crafting two motions that would be presented to the voting members in attendance:

**1<sup>st</sup> Motion to Congregation regarding A/C**

*Congregation will NOT borrow money to update the A/C for Grace Lutheran. Grace Lutheran will use cash on hand. Whereas a parish member bequeathed \$30,773.50 to the church. This gift was made with no restrictions and therefore is undesignated. By combining this gift with existing funds from Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) and Gifts & Memorial, the church will replace the A/C unit without borrowing outside funds. This still leaves \$4,000.00 for the congregation to continue to give to the CIF to complete the cost of the A/C replacement.*

***Council recommends this motion.***

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Motion to Congregation regarding A/C**

*The church council is authorized to borrow up to \$40,000.00 for 2 years at 4.25%, using church assets as collateral.*

A Report to the Congregation will be issued after the July 26<sup>th</sup> Congregational meeting.

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**MINISTRY BOARDS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A. WORSHIP LIFE**

The YouTube media project requires a mobile phone to begin implementation and the video will be limited to 15 minutes.

Letters were mailed to lectors, ushers, and communion assistants about serving on a monthly basis rather than weekly. Results of that survey will be available after August 9<sup>th</sup>.

**B. MINISTRY ACTIVITY REPORT:**

Council accepted the requests for membership transfers of Bob & Marlene Johnson to Trinity Tipton and Gary and Laura MacManus to King of kings Luther Church in Shelby Township, MI.

Council was informed that Chaplain Vicki Peterson of Lutheran Living will be leaving her ministry to obtain her Ph.D. Pr. Shelley Nelson of New Era will be retiring in 2016, and Pr. Hendichs of Shepherd of the Cross is leaving the area effective August 16, 2015.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

The next special session of Council will be Wednesday, August 5, to appoint the Call Committee.

**Supply Pastors for August:**

August 2nd: Marvin Mueller of Solon, IA  
August 9th: Wendell Debner of Marion, IA  
August 16<sup>th</sup>: Marvin Mueller of Solon  
August 23rd & 30<sup>th</sup>: Wendell Debner of Marion

<p style="text-align:center"><b>REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION</b> <b>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - JULY 26, 2015</b></p>
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Fifty-seven voting members of Grace Lutheran Church attended the meeting to determine a method to pay for replacement of the air conditioning.

Jim Edgmond, Property Board Chair, spoke on the status of the current air-conditioning system. The present compressor is non-functioning and can be replaced at a cost of \$20,000 +/-, but the life span of another compressor is approximately seven years. After that timeframe, these same issues would have to be re-addressed: Repair or Replace. The present A/C system is probably 20-40 years old. An entirely new system would be in the \$57,000 range with a life expectancy of the same. This will be a high-efficiency unit and will save in energy costs for Grace. Digital controls will also be installed effectively controlling temperatures both night and day.

**QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION:**

- Would the new system also have the new Freon/coolant? Yes
- Will manufacturer's warranty come with the new system? Yes
- How soon could it be installed? Probably 7-10 days depending if there are no issues removing and/or installing a new system. The unit we need to purchase is in stock with our supplier.
- Will the new system be "zone cooling"? No. The whole building will be cooled at the same time, not room-by-room.
- The question was asked about the heating system. It is healthy, but old and functioning.

**FINANCIALS:**

Current air-conditioner fund is \$22,720 plus one pledge of \$100/month and the current G&M fund is \$61,061.

**COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION TO CONGREGATION:**

*Congregation will NOT borrow money to update the A/C for Grace Lutheran. Grace Lutheran will use cash on hand. Whereas a parish member bequeathed \$30,773.50 to the church. This gift was made with no restrictions and therefore is undesignated. By combining this gift with existing funds from Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) and Gifts & Memorial, the church will replace the A/C unit without borrowing outside funds. This still leaves \$4,000.00 for the congregation to continue to give to the CIF to complete the cost of the A/C replacement.*

Moved;

Seconded: To adopt motion as stated above

Motion carried by voice vote

Another motion was made to send a letter to all Congregational members informing them that there is still a need for continued support of the Capital Improvement Fund to offset the balance needed to pay for the A/C.

Moved;

Seconded: To inform the Congregation via written correspondence that funds are still needed for the A/C and provide a separate envelope for the additional contribution over-and-above normal tithing.

Motion carried by voice vote.

The question was asked if more than \$4,000 is raised to offset the expense, what will be done with the balance. As with any installation, hidden problems and costs can incur and could be used for those unforeseen expenses. However, if there are any additional funds left over, it will be left up to the Council to decide how to disperse these funds.

Additional discussions included the usage of G&M funds for general fund purposes. This issue was not addressed at length as it did not pertain to the subject matter of this meeting.

**TREASURER COMMENTS:**

We have received donations specifically designated for the A/C totally \$53,493.50, leaving a shortfall of \$4,000 to pay for the A/C. Currently, we “owe” the G&M fund \$8,800 that was borrowed to offset general fund expenses. It is anticipated this will be paid back by January 1, 2016, per congregational directive at the January 2015 annual meeting. Our cash flow will soon be in the positive range to allow us to replenish the G&M fund. After replacement of the A/C the Capital Improvement Fund will have a \$15,000 +/- balance and the G&M Fund will have a \$30,000 +/- balance.

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 11 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
JoAnne Fisher, Council Secretary



August 2015, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Back to School Month

School is right around the corner! As children and teens adjust to a new classroom routine, the transition can often bring to light behavioral issues that may stem from a mental health diagnosis, such as ADHD, anxiety, depression or oppositional defiant disorder.

Did you know Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) partners with schools across the state to provide mental health services right in their schools? This makes it easier to collaborate with educators and reduce the transportation barrier that sometimes makes it hard for families to attend appointments. We are grateful for opportunities to provide therapy for uninsured and underinsured children who otherwise might not get the help they need.

We thank you for your support of LSI’s mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at [www.LSIiowa.org](http://www.LSIiowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

Making a “Day and Night” Difference for Ethan

Kim was at her wit's end. Her son Ethan, who had been bullied, was fighting with other youth at his middle school. Her daughter Dejah was also struggling with her parents' divorce.

"I didn't know what to do," Kim said. "I'd tried everything."

Ethan's school eventually referred Kim to LSI's Brief Intensive Services. And that's when everything changed.

"It was day and night with the kids," she said. "At first they weren't doing so great, but after awhile it was a complete turnaround."

LSI's Brief Intensive Services does just what its name describes – an LSI caseworker partners with a family for short time, meeting as often as needed, to help children and teens who are struggling with school, a crisis or behaviors. The unique community program, available in the Muscatine and Davenport areas, is made free to families by local funders and supports those who may not qualify for traditional services.

Ethan warmed up quickly to his LSI caseworker Ryan during weekly meetings. He started building skills like learning how to calmly handle frustration and how to make and keep friendships.

"I was nervous about people coming to our home and how Ethan would react," Kim said. "But I thought if someone came where he's comfortable, he might open up."

LSI helped the family learn to communicate again. Today Ethan is getting all A's and B's in school. His school suspensions are a thing of the past, and he's made some new friends.

"Things are more stable," Kim said. "We can talk and cope rather than yelling and screaming. LSI helped us understand each other better."



### Ice Cream Social by Cindy Edgmond

The GLC ice cream social is scheduled for Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Again this year there will do a Name Your Sundae Contest with a prize going to the winner. So mark your calendar and join the fun and games, and also enjoy some ice cream. Don't forget, Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:00 p.m.

### Grace Women News by Mary Hovick and Karen Hessel

**An Invitation** – For those who have signed up to go to Kalona we will meet at church and **on Tuesday, August 11th at 10:00**. At 11:00 we will meet with our tour guide who will give us a brief history of Kalona. We will then drive to the farm house where we will eat at 12:00. We are excited about the adventure and the chance to visit and learn about the Amish.

In September we will resume our regular meetings and Bible study.

**Box Tops for Education** – **Please** save Box Top Coupons and/or UPC Codes found throughout your local grocery store. Visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for a current list of participating products. Clipped coupons can be placed in the "Box Tops for Education" folder on the bulletin board across the hall from Pastor's office. The money earned by this project will be sent to Bethphage School in Axtell, Nebraska for children and adults with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

BOARD MEETING AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup> 9:30

## Affirmation Class by John Simmons

Affirmation will be starting at the end of August. With both Pastor Mac and Pastor Jody leaving this summer we are in need of individuals to step up to teach some of the classes this Fall and probably in the Spring as well. We are combining Grace, Zion, SOTC, and New Era this year and we should have approximately 16 children. Even if you can only offer to do 1 class this fall that would be great help. My understanding is that Pastor Steve will not be available for the fall since he teaches a 9<sup>th</sup> grade class during that time frame.

Please contact John at [simjas10@machlink.com](mailto:simjas10@machlink.com) or call 263-7624. Once I get the schedule put together I will talk to those that volunteer about when is good for them. Thank you in advance.

## GLC Ministry of Literacy by Deb Holliday

The summer literacy program was a great success. We had 12 children enrolled. Parents attended the last class as the children read poetry and Judy informed parents on ways to read with children at home. Children were thrilled when presented with backpacks filled with required school supplies. **(THANKS YOU FOR ALL THE DONATIONS!)** The “graduating” 2<sup>nd</sup> graders received balloons as a special farewell. We will really miss them!

We are gearing up for the fall session which begins Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. We are always in need of volunteers and snacks. Thank you all for your support! Deb Holliday (264-1128) and Karen Hessel (263-6970).

## Vacation Bible School Thank You by John Simmons

Camp Discovery, VBS 2015 was held July 12-16, from 6:00-8:00 pm. This year was a success! We had 30 children most nights with 22-25 volunteers. All involved enjoyed the lessons. Monday night had to be canceled due to excessive heat, threat of storms, and a non-working air conditioner. The Mission Project for offerings was the Summer Lunch program as led by the United Way. \$156.10 was given during the week and was sent to the United Way. Many, many people gave time, money, and talents to make this program a success. We really appreciate all of the effort given by the people of Grace Lutheran Church! A list of all who contributed and/or participated is set below this note. (If we have missed you, we are sorry. Thank you). The children colored 50 cards for U of Iowa Hospital patience.





The Christian Board of Education and the VBS Committee: Pastor MacManus, Clifford and Elaine Barrett, Bengtson family, Jeannette Billingsley, Phil and Mary Chalupa, Jim and Cindy Edgmond, Erber family, JoAnne Fisher (Ken), Don Kelly, Karen Hessel, Deb Holliday, Katie and Kylie Green, Jones family, Traci Lippelgoes, Shannon Lewis, Julia Moravec, Lisa Paul, Rhonda Shank, Simmons family, Tina and Logan Skipton, Isabella Terry, Tibe VanderLinden, and Carrie Zorich.

## Grace Lutheran Church 4<sup>th</sup> of July Float by Cindy Edgmond

The church's 4<sup>th</sup> of July float won the Mayor's Prize, which is the top honor, for parade entries. For that honor the church will be awarded a trophy and a \$25.00 cash prize. Our trophy is on display in the church entryway.



Thanks to the Erber family for providing the trailer, Jim and Cindy Edgmond for the canoe and tent, Brutus the bear was provided by Don Ager, Alice Simmons painted the Grace Lutheran Church banner for the truck, and Jordyn and Jasmine Bengtson for helping put the stars on the truck.

Walking in the parade representing the church were Ken and JoAnne Fisher, Brenda, Kevin, and Nolan Erber, Lynn and Don Kelly, Ramona Allenbaugh, Sue, Jordyn, and Jasmine Bengtson, Bob Romza, Alice Simmons, Traci Lippelgoes, and Jim and Cindy Edgmond.

Also thanks to all who donated candy for the walkers to distribute to the kids (young and old) along the parade route. Alice Simmons, her son Brad, and others at the weekly coffee hour, created little tags to attach to some of the candy to advertise the churches Vacation Bible School. I hope I have not missed anyone, but a big thanks to all who contributed, walked, decorated the float, and helped in any way.





## GET READY TO SERVE!



On Sunday, Sept 13, 2015, ELCA Congregations will be putting their faith into action by serving their communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people.

Once again, Grace, New Era, Shepherd of the Cross, and Zion Lutheran churches will be joining hands in a community day of service on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 4:30 p.m.

This year we will be collecting for the Muscatine Food Pantry.

- The four collection sites will be Hy-Vee (both doors); Wal-Mart (Market side door) and Dollar General.
- Volunteer times are 1 ½ hours in length
- Handout shopping list cards will be supplied which are to be given to incoming shoppers
- Cardboard boxes for collecting donated items, a table, and a canopy will be supplied for the volunteers at each location site
- Please provide your own lawn chair and wear your GLC T-shirt!

Implementation of this community service project needs your help, so sign-up today at <http://doodle.com/7739gdym8mh4vhi8>.

Last year, 18 volunteers from Grace participated.  
Contact Ramona Allenbaugh or JoAnne Fisher for questions.

## Anniversaries and Birthdays

Please save the next page to use for your prayer list. Pray for each person on their birthday and anniversary. By the end of the year, you would have prayed for everyone in the congregation. **If we have missed a birthday or anniversary or if corrections need to be made, please call the church office at 263-5680. Thank you.**

### August Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary

John & Alice Simmons	08/03	Doug & Tibe Vamder Linden	08/16
Sam & Lisa Paul	08/03	Robert & Judy Schaapveld	08/17
Gabe & Natalie McDonald	08/04	Tom & Susan Langan	08/19
Glen & Ila Barrington	08/06	Jeff & Sally Miller	08/20
Allen & Heather Cole	08/06	Jay & Amy Griffey	08/22
Steve & Cindy Rusch	08/07	Darrell & Karen Olderog	08/24
Martin & Julie Buster	08/08	Eric & Sarah Olswold	08/24
John & Kara Goodwin	08/08	John & Rosalyn Brase	08/27
Chris & Becky Metcalf	08/15	Robert & Marlene Johnson	08/31

### August Birthdays

Emily Clemens	08/01	Jean Hoeksema	08/12	Tina Skipton	08/24
Bennett Luedtke	08/01	Cassandra Pemeticky	08/13	Michael Wilts	08/24
Dale Schlutz	08/01	Christian Staack	08/15	Ivy Bachman	08/25
Eric Schlutz	08/01	Alec Harter	08/16	Nolan Haney	08/25
Marilyn Hultquist	08/02	Jeff Olderog	08/16	Alice Olswold	08/25
Beth Lemkau	08/02	Chad Allen	08/17	Arlene Melson	08/26
Cael Moss	08/02	Mike Allenbaugh	08/18	Brendan Smith	08/26
Braedyn Drake	08/04	Alec Johnson IV	08/18	Jack Smith	08/26
Al Bengtson	08/05	Linda Hinman	08/19	Rosalyn Brase	08/28



Breanna Green	08/05	Andie Costas	08/20	Cindy Edgmond	08/28
Vicki Lawhead	08/05	Karen Gardner	08/20	Michael Manriquez	08/28
Charles Lewis	08/06	Rhonda Shank	08/20	Teri Schmoldt	08/28
Paul Wilts	08/06	John Sparks	08/20	Alexander Busch	08/29
Ryan Bell	08/07	Samantha Schmelzer	08/21	Hannah Kissell	08/29
Claire Cannon	08/07	Kolton Boyer	08/22	Sidney Rudolph	08/29
Jeremy Ingalls	08/08	LeOrra Fahy	08/22	LeRoy Brookhart	08/30
Mike Maxwell	08/09	Mavrik Lippelgoes	08/22	Dennis Ellefson	08/30
Jackson Moeller	08/11	Alexandria Munday	08/23	Susan Freers	08/30
Taylor Woods	08/11	Gavin Lippelgoes	08/24	Cody Kauffman	08/31

**Updates for the Church Calendar can be found at [gracemuscatine.com](http://gracemuscatine.com). Thank you.**