

Grace Notes

A monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church

July
2015

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Red White and Blue

Hamburgers and hot dogs
cooked on the grill,
Fireworks in the night
giving us all a thrill.
The country all decked
in red, white, and blue.
Friends all saying
'Happy 4th of July to you'

227 years ago...on July 4th, 1776
This great nation, the United States of America...
Was proudly born...
May we celebrate that precious freedom,
For which our forbears fought so bravely
The freedom that is inherent
In the Stars and Stripes, our revered flag...
Celebrate Freedom...This 4th of July!



News from LSI Lutheran Services of Iowa

God's work. Our hands.

As a social ministry organization of the ELCA, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is so thankful for your partnership in ministry! This month we also want to give special thanks for the many congregations who have made LSI a focus of a “God’s work. Our hands.” project.

Past “God’s work. Our hands.” projects have included donations of tools and handmade totes for dads enrolled in our early childhood programs, plus children’s books, towel bundles, school supplies and backpacks. LSI has also been blessed to receive “noisy” offerings, special offerings

and proceeds from yard work or luncheons. Some Sunday School classes and youth groups have also encouraged youth at LSI's Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers through quilts and letters.

We thank you for your witness of God's love and your service! If you are interested in ministering to those served by LSI and would like to know more about current needs, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at deborah.whitford@LSIowa.org.

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

Helping Makayla See “Anything is Possible”

Things are looking up for 18-year-old Makayla.

“Now is the happiest I’ve been,” she said. “Things are getting better.”

Makayla was 15 years old when she had her son Levi. Makayla hasn’t seen her mom in ten years, and more than a year ago her dad took his own life. Yet somehow Makayla always has a smile on her face.

“People always complain about things, but you’re the only one who can change them,” she said.

And she has changed things – with some help from LSI’s early childhood services.

“A lot of families – especially teen moms – they don’t have parents they can talk to. That’s where we can go in and be very helpful,” said Julie, an LSI family support worker.

“Levi was six months old, and I didn’t know it was okay for babies to still be in diapers at that stage,” Makayla said. “And I was pretty excited that I could give him table food.”

Julie shared child development and parenting information with Makayla, but most importantly, she boosted Makayla’s confidence.

“I tend to see a lot of teen mothers, and this is one I’m super proud of,” Julie said. “She’s always had it in her. Now she’s in an environment where she can grow.”

Makayla is now a high school graduate, has a job and plans to study early childhood education.

She is a woman of hope.

“I like my mindset now,” she said. “I feel like anything is possible.”

Ministry of Literacy



The Summer Literacy Program will run from July 7th through the 30th on Tuesdays and Thursdays (3:30-5:00). We always need volunteers to add to our list even if you can only work once a month and it does not have to be every month. We are very flexible. Contact Deb Holliday (264-1128) if you are interested. We still need items for the backpacks we will be presenting to the children on the last day of the summer program. The sign-up sheet is in the entryway. Thanks again for all your support! You are truly making a difference for these children!

Grace Lutheran Church Council
Actions and Highlights
June 18, 2015

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.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Don Ager	Mike Allenbaugh
Ramona Allenbaugh	Cindy Edgmond
JoAnne Fisher	John Simmons
Kim Thompson	

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Pr. MacManus Jim Edgmond Connor Lawhead

OPENING PRAYER by Don Ager

TREASURER'S REPORT:

As of 6/18, balance in the general fund is \$900. End-of-month expenses are estimated to be in the \$7,000 range, which include but not limited to payroll and payroll taxes, and property maintenance. As of this date, we have borrowed \$6,100 from the Gifts & Memorial account to pay for operating expenses. If general funds are not sufficient to meet month-end expenses, then money from Gifts and Memorial account will be utilized, up to \$3,900, at which point the maximum borrowing limit, set by the Congregation, will be reached. The Congregation must approve any further borrowing from the G&M account.

A GLC-specific "Treasurer Task Force" was held June 10. Those in attendance were Don Ager, Sue Bengtson, Mark Lofgren, Bill Nus, Art Hovick, and Mike Allenbaugh. The topics of discussion were time commitments for Treasurer functions and the lack of congregational members willing to become Treasurer. The main reasons some members refused to be Treasurer were "time commitment and all the meetings." The Treasurer's job is growing, i.e., taxes and payroll tax functions take more time, and the Treasurer has become more involved in the financial function of the church. Therefore, it was recommended by the Task Force that the Treasurer's Report be done the first part of Council meeting, answer any financial questions, and then may be excused from the rest of the Council meeting. Council also discussed creating two different positions: a Bookkeeper who keeps the church books who would not be on Council, and a Treasurer and/or Financial Officer who would be on Council. The Treasurer/Financial Officer would oversee the Bookkeeper. Separating the financial duties between Treasurer/Financial Officer and Bookkeeper would be beneficial as it would be a "continuing audit" of the books and financial status of the church. Development of these two positions is in the planning stages.

MISSION WORK: LONG-RANGE PLANNING:

A. WORSHIP LIFE

The status of broadcasting the contemporary service on YouTube is nearing completion.

B. DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION from the SURVEY

It was suggested that rather than trying to figure out “the interests and backgrounds of our Congregation” FIRST, let’s determine what needs to be done in order for Grace to be here 5-10 or 20 years from now and then “tap” into those interests and backgrounds of the congregants to accomplish those measurable goals.

The Council selected the following five (5) issues they will address in the coming months and develop action plans:

- (1) Being more attractive to young adults
- (2) Having the option of “E-GIVING”
- (3) Create a list of active/inactive members
- (4) Increase outreach programs
- (5) Re-examine worship services

ACTION ITEMS:

- Council accepted and approved the Letter of Mutual Understanding and Agreement from Jazzercise.
- Updating Advertised Worship Times
The sign on the front door has been corrected. The Journal ad will be corrected the week of June 22. Someone knowledgeable about the website needs to correct the worship times.

MINISTRY BOARDS’ REPORTS:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

- Vacation Bible School (VBS) needs more volunteers as “herders” (get the children from one activity to another) and snacks as fresh fruit. Gift cards for the fruit would be better in order to buy the fruit the same day.
- The Youth Director position is still available. If you are interested, contact John Simmons.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE:

- There will be a float in the 4th of July Parade advertising VBS as well as GLC.
- Candy and/or monetary donations for the candy are needed.
- Volunteers to walk in the parade are still needed. If you want to join the fun, contact Cindy Edgmond.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS:

- Zion, New Era, and Shepherd of the Cross will be joining Grace in this community day of service in September. There will be an organizational meeting of the churches' coordinators in July. Grace's coordinators are Ramona Allenbaugh and JoAnne Fisher. If you remember how much fun you had last year, you just may want to do it again! Stay tuned for further details...

HONORING YOUR WISHES PROGRAM:

- Honoring Your Wishes is a Community-Wide Advance Care Planning program. If Grace participates, the cost for training 2-3 members as facilitators would be \$169 per person. Those facilitators would eventually consult with and direct the GLC members for their advance care planning. However, this is not a ministry Grace can afford at this time. If you are interested in this program, it is being offered free-of-charge to all Seniors through Senior Resources of Muscatine.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY BOARD:

- Hospitality is still in need of a chairperson. Contact Mary Hovick, Jon Moravec, Katie Green, Cindy Manriquez, Shirlee Staley, or Daneice Hage if you want to join this FUN group in that capacity.

<p><i>Grace Women News by Mary Hovick & Karen Hessel</i></p>
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An Invitation – All women of Grace are invited to join us on Tuesday, July 14th at Happy Joe's at 9:30. We are going to take this opportunity to have a brief Bible study and connect with each other. We rarely get time just to visit so this will be our morning to catch up on all of the news. Breakfast or drinks can be purchased at Happy Joe's. We hope to see you there!

COFFEE CART SALE – ALL OF THE COFFEE IS ON SALE AND MARKED WITH THE PRICE. AT THIS TIME WE ARE NO LONGER GOING TO SELL THE FREE EXCHANGE COFFEE. IF YOU HAVE A FAVORITE THIS IS THE TIME TO BUY. ENVELOPES FOR THE MONEY ARE ON THE CART. PLEASE TURN THE MONEY INTO THE OFFICE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAST SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT!

Box Tops for Education – Please save Box Top Coupons and/or UPC Codes found throughout your local grocery store. Visit 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.

NO BOARD MEETING IN JULY

Thank You Open House for Katelyn Petts

Katelyn Petts (Larry and Deb Holliday's granddaughter) and her family are so excited to celebrate her miraculous journey with you and want to thank you for all of your support along her way. They will be celebrating with an open house and would like you to join them:

When: Saturday, July 25th, 2015
Where: Grace Lutheran Church Social Hall
Time: 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

KATELYN WANTS TO MEET YOU!



YOUR PRESENCE IS OUR GIFT

THANK YOU OPEN HOUSE
JULY 25TH FROM 2:30-4:30

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2107 CEDAR ST.
MUSCATINE IA 52761



Altar Flower Help/Delivery by Flower Committee



The flower delivery committee is in need of large wide mouth vases suitable for delivering altar flowers to shut-ins. If you have any vases, please leave in the kitchen. We are also looking for someone to deliver flowers to shut-ins. Would only be needed once a month. Thank you. If interested please call Virginia Lippelgoes at 264-1018.

Vacation Bible School Update by John and Alice Simmons



Thank you to all who are volunteering to work at the VBS this summer! Camp Discovery is the theme and will be held July 12-16 from 6:00-8:00 pm each evening. Please sign up your children/grandchildren, etc. soon. Children can be signed up on paper in the main hallway or online at: <http://bit.ly.1HHv3am>. We have preschool this time! Pre-registration ends on July 7th. We have limited materials for crafts and snacks. We still need 4-5 more herders to escort children around to the various sites each night. There will be a VBS Volunteer meeting after church on June 28th in the chapel/lounge. Volunteers are encouraged to work on their sites now (YAY!). Please walk around and see. All are welcome to help set up decorations and to be part of VBS. Let us know what you would like to do. There is also a request list in the main hallway for items needs to borrow/donate for VBS. Please stop by. VBS Registration Form is below. Thank you, John and Alice Simmons 263-7624, bunnie200@machlink.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Child's Name: _____ (One form for each child)

Grade Completed: _____ Birthday: _____ Age: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alternation Phone: _____

Food Allergies: (List) _____

Medical Concerns: (Explain) _____

Family Doctor: _____ Doctor's Phone: _____

Siblings attending VBS (names and ages) _____

Church Affiliation: _____ Church Membership of: _____

People who may pick up the child: _____

Attendance:

VBS leaders have permission to photograph/film the minor(s) designated above in any manner or form for any lawful purpose associated with this VBS program.

Parent's Signature: _____

Anniversaries & 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.**



July Anniversaries

Mike & Tracy McGinnis	7/01	Justin & Christy Stevenson	7/12
Mike & Christine Maxwell	7/10	Jacob & Cortnie McCleary	7/24
Jeff & Nancy Sorenson	7/10	Eric & Tammy Walsh	7/29
Jim & Jeanette Billingsley	7/11	Paul & Joanna Wilts	7/29
Tom & Janie Fahy	7/11		



July Birthdays

Robert Johnson	7/01	Alexandra Houseman	7/09	Connie Hanes	7/22
Gracelynn Lofgren	7/01	Deanna Maxson	7/09	Jay Griffey	7/23
Bryan Paulsen	7/01	Carol Wagner	7/09	Ron Lemkau	7/23
Kally Boyer	7/02	Jean Schmelzer	7/10	Kaitlyn McGinnis	7/23
Tina Franklin	7/02	Paul Wedel	7/10	Rick Gardner	7/24
Alana Harter	7/02	Jacob Woods	7/11	Lisa Leech	7/24
Wannabelle Mosier	7/02	Alicia Carlson	7/13	Roger McConnaha	7/24
Austin Young	7/02	Joshua Havemann	7/13	Kevin Anderson	7/25
Douglas Chalupa	7/03	Sara Steimel	7/13	Kevin Fields	7/25
Harry Fett	7/03	Dale Wilder	7/13	Randy Hermann	7/25
Jane Gear	7/03	Lisa Rene McClure	7/14	Kara Goodwin	7/26
Corbin McClure	7/03	Nicole Lane	7/15	Phillip Laursen	7/26
Alice Simmons	7/03	Alison Olswold	7/16	Brad Simmons	7/27
Carrie Froelich	7/04	Madison Young	7/16	Connor Lawhead	7/28
Christopher Metcalf	7/04	Diane Doering	7/17	Nathan Lobrecht	7/28
Craig Theobald	7/04	Sam Paul	7/18	Matthew McClure	7/28
Sheila Busch	7/05	Robert Eagle	7/19	Christy Stevenson	7/28
Phillip Hunter	7/05	Nathan Schmitt	7/19	Andrew Pohl	7/29
Chris Kottman	7/05	Anita Lange	7/20	Nancy Cromer	7/30
Nolan Schmelzer	7/05	Pastor MacManus	7/20	Lindsey Herlein	7/30
Owen Sievers	7/05	Carissa Metcalf	7/20	Randy Lippelgoes	7/30
Cory Bachman	7/06	Patricia Sander	7/20	Sharon McCleary	7/30
Rosie Zorich	7/07	Elias Schroeder	7/20	Mary Morgan	7/30
Vinton Cromer	7/08	Ryne Wagner	7/20	Judith Nealson	7/30
Rick Drake	7/08	Barbara Hansen	7/21	Stephanie Olson	7/30
		Richard Christiansen	7/22	Ashley Hosteller	7/31



Grace will have an entry in the Parade to promote Grace and VBS. Help by

- Donating Candy
- Making Signs for float
- Walking in parade@5 pm

Please bring candy by July 3rd - collection box in entryway.

Contact Cindy Edmond to get involved
260-5756

ATTENTION:

Please remember to provide the office with any address or email changes so that we have correct information in our email system and our Shepherds Staff Member file system. Call the office 263-5680 or email us at glc@machlink.com with any changes you may have. Thank you.

Updates for the Church Calendar can be found at gracemuscatine.com. Thank you.