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My name is David A. Aanonson and I am the interim pastor of Grace Lutheran Church for the next few months. I retired approximately four and a half years ago after thirty-five years of fulltime ministry. I was born and raised around Estherville, Iowa, and graduated from Lincoln Central High School in Gruver, Iowa (It really is on the Iowa highway map.) I grew up on a farm. We were dairy farmers for a good part of that time. My father later both farmed and had a service station in town. So, I spent much time filling cars with gas and washing them. I attended Augsburg College, Minneapolis; Estherville Junior College; and graduated from Dana College, Blair, Nebraska, in 1968 with a B. A. in history and social science. It was at Dana College that I met my wife, Barbara, and we were married in 1969. Barb graduated that year with a B. S. in elementary education. I was in the United States Air Force from 1968 to 1972 as a radio intercept analyst. I was stationed in Amarillo and San Angelo, Texas, Brindisi, Italy, and Anchorage, Alaska. Barb was able to accompany me to both Italy and Alaska. After I was discharged from the Air Force, I attended Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. I served my year of internship at Central Lutheran Church, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. I received a Master of Divinity degree in 1976. Since I was ordained I have served the following congregations: First-Chariton and Christ the Servant-Corydon, Iowa; All Saints-Davenport (of which I was the pastor developer); Mamrelund-Stanton, Iowa; Trinity-Lawrence, Kansas; and Christ the King-Iowa City (from which I retired after twenty years). While we lived in Lawrence I also attended the University of Kansas and earned a Master of Business of Administration. Since retirement I have served as the interim pastor at the following congregations: First-Cedar Rapids, Holy Redeemer-Cedar Rapids, and Faith and Our Savior's-Calamus. Barb and I are parents of three children: Rachel (and husband Eric) of Vinton, Iowa; Erik (and wife Wendy) of Bondurant, Iowa, and Sarah of North Liberty. We are also grandparents of six delightful grandchildren. Barb worked at Grant Wood Area Education Agency for over twenty years and now occasionally substitutes at Iowa City Montessori School (She earlier taught fulltime at Anchorage Montessori School). I look forward to serving as your pastor for the next few months. We will continue to live in Coralville and I will commute to serve you. I do ask for your prayers and

I promise that I will hold you in my prayers each and every day.

In Christ's Name, Pastor David A. Aanonson

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 with changes. Thank you.

Grace Lutheran Church Council
Actions and Highlights – August 20 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
Jim Edgmond	JoAnne Fisher
John Simmons	Shirlee Staley
Kim Thompson	

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Connor Lawhead

OPENING PRAYER by Don Ager – The Prayer of St. Francis

OPENING COMMENTS:

As the elected leaders of one of God’s churches on earth, we should always be mindful that whenever we communicate with one another, we are in God’s presence. It is incumbent upon us to never let one’s emotions rule, so that it departs from the decorum, dignity, and respect we should always display when communicating with others.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE:

The members met with, and were trained by, Pr. Ostrem on August 11th. John Simmons was elected Chair. The members were then installed the following Sunday, August 16th, by Pr. Marvin Mueller. Each member was assigned a section of the multi-page Ministry Site Profile to complete before their next meeting of September 8th. In the bulletins of August 23rd and August 30th, the Call Committee will be asking short and simple questions of the Congregation concerning the next called Pastor. These answers will be used as guidelines for the Call Committee. A 75 word statement about the church also is required from the Call Committee.

MEMBERS: John Simmons, Chair; Phil Chalupa; Ron Gear; Katie Green; Connor Lawhead; and Joanna Wilts.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER: Don Ager, Council President

ALTERNATE: Sam Paul

UPCOMING WEDDINGS AT GRACE:

September 26: Melissa Paulsen and Chad Sanasack

October 17: Ashley Buster and Robert Garrison

TREASURER’S REPORT:

The money for the air-conditioner is in the \$61,000.00 range, which is enough to pay in full. The General Fund still owes the Gifts & Memorial Fund \$8,800, which is required by Congregational action to be repaid on or before January 1, 2016. It is anticipated this will be accomplished using General Fund monies.

TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

(1) Move the \$1,039.05 Organ Fund into the Gifts & Memorials Fund. The origin and purpose of the organ fund is unknown but it is suspected it was started to purchase a new organ. In the last few years, about \$3,000 for organ repair has been made from the General Fund.

Moved;

Seconded; To move the \$1,039.05 in the Organ Fund into the Gifts & Memorial Fund.

Motion carried.

(2) Congregational members have expressed their desires that if money is left over from the air-conditioner fund it be moved to the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF). Initially, the \$30,773.50 gift was placed in the Gifts & Memorial Fund. Since the air-conditioner is to be paid with CIF, then the money needs to be moved.

Moved;

Seconded; To move \$30,773.50 from Gifts & Memorial into the Capital Improvement Fund.

Motion carried.

WEB SITE: www.gracemuscatine.com

In 2013, there were approximately 62,000 hits to the Grace website from world-wide hackers and local interests seeking information. There has been no updates to the site in the last two years until recently when Kristy Cox assisted the current Parish Administrator in updating. The previous update process was complicated and time consuming; sometimes taking one hour to post an update.

The Council appointed web master, Mike Allenbaugh, added an ftp option and now the process is taking less than one minute. The web page is now current with updates and a hit counter has been added indicating daily usage. The hit counters are now recording about 16 hits per day. Keeping the web site updated is an on-going process and will require additional personnel to facilitate its needs. The current web page was written with Adobe Dreamweaver, but that is now obsolete. Better systems are now available and some are even free.

The Council, along with Mike Allenbaugh, are seeking graphic designers, web authors, programmers, and computer technicians to build, program, and maintain a new look for Grace's web site. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact Mike or any Council member.

PROPERTY BOARD:

The exposed copper tubing around the new air-conditioner is vulnerable to theft by "scrapers." Also, there are valves very close to the Happy Time Preschool entrance, which could pose a personal injury. Therefore, the Property Board wants to install a fence around those areas before Happy Time starts preschool. Some of the other work associated with the fence will be undertaken by the Property Board to reduce the overall cost of the fence.

Moved;

Seconded; To allow the Property Board to install a fence around the air-conditioner.

Motion carried.

METTING ADJOURNED 7:55 P.M. (One hour, 25 minutes)

A Prayer for Back to School



Dear God, Thank you for the gift of children. Please watch over our children as they go back to school this year. Keep them safe every day. Help them to remember that you are right there with them in the halls and classrooms. Help them soak up good knowledge and to dismiss any negative or worldly messages they may hear. Help them treat others with kindness and respect, and to guard their hearts with the armor of Your Word. Give them joy and peace as they put their trust in you. Amen

Hospitality Board by Cindy Manriquez

The Hospitality Committee would like to invite anyone in the Congregation to a casual get together at the Light House (old Chart House) at Fairport at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday evening, September 13. Anyone interested is welcome to join us. There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the church. Come one, come all! Hospitality Board.

Property Board by Jim Edgmond



Good news. The air conditioner is fixed. Thanks to all for your patience. Because of problems with how the new unit fits on the site, the property committee has decided to fence the ends of the AC unit to minimize liability hazards and minimize vandalism opportunities. Just a reminder, it's not too late to still contribute to the replacement of the AC unit. We are still a couple of thousand dollars short of our goal. Just write AC on a separate giving envelope or drop the contribution with the church secretary. Thanks. Jim Edgmond, Property Committee Chair

September 13 – 19 is Direct Support Professionals Week

This month Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) celebrates Direct Support Professionals Week during Sept. 13 – 19. This national awareness week recognizes the dedication of direct support professionals and their important role in caring for people in our communities.

At LSI, direct support professionals partner with children and adults with intellectual disabilities to help them pursue meaningful, personal lives through their personal goals. They also provide care for children and youth at our Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers.

This could mean helping an adult with autism live on her own or helping a child who was abused begin to heal. We thank you for your faithful support of LSI – you create so many new possibilities for children, families and adults!

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.

Celebrating Life with Jamalia

Jamalia is excited for the weekend. She’s been saving her money for a special event: a Friday night at the movies, complete with popcorn.

Her LSI staff is excited, too—because that’s who they are. They cheer people on in all parts of their lives, celebrating every accomplishment and every opportunity for joy.

Jamalia is 29, and she has autism. She and her roommate, with help from LSI’s services for people with disabilities, have lived together for more than ten years. Their apartment is a cozy place with a bright yellow kitchen table, an exercise bike, puzzles and favorite movies.

LSI’s 24-7 supported community living services help Jamalia with her goals, make sure she is safe and ensure she never has to be alone.

Over the years, Jamalia has built a great daily routine. Her calendar is packed with activities ranging from Special Olympics to horseback riding to exercising on her bike.

“On days when I’m not here, I’m always thinking about what Jamalia and her roommate are doing,” said Haley, an LSI staff who has known Jamalia for a long time. “I enjoy being here. It’s rewarding to see someone grow and learn and succeed.”

Jamalia speaks with few words, and those who know her well say she uses something else instead to express herself: her wonderful smile.

And for LSI, celebrating life with Jamalia is definitely something to smile about!

Loaves & Fishes



Grace will be serving the Loaves and Fishes meal on October 17th at the MCSA Building, 312 Iowa Avenue (lower level). We are in need of monetary donations to buy the supplies for our meatloaf dinner. We also need homemade cookies or bars and volunteers to help with the following:

9:00 a.m. meal preparation

11:30-1:00 serving

1:00 - clean up

Please contact Vicki & Carlin Lawhead if you would like to help or donate. Call 263-8012 or email clawhead@machlink.com

Grace Women News by Mary Hovick & Karen Hessel

An Invitation – All women of Grace are invited to join us on Tuesday September 8th. We will meet at Church in the lounge to begin our new Bible study series. This month our lesson and discussion is on the theme that time is in God's hands. A Life redeemed by God moves at the speed of redemption: day by day, moment by moment. The goal is for the women gathered to gain a sense of biblical time and the gifts of God's grace that unfold over time. **Please join us in this time of fellowship and sharing. People share as they are comfortable in doing so. You are invited to just come and listen or join in the discussion. All are welcome!**

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.

FOOD PANTRY – His Work Our Hands - Sunday, September 13th Grace will join other ELCA Congregations in a community day of service by collecting food for the Food Pantry. There will be four collection sites: Hy Vee (both doors), Wal-Mart (Market side door) and Dollar General. ***To aid in this effort the Food Pantry cart will be in the entry from August 30th through September 13th.*** Non perishable items plus monetary donations are always welcome. The Food Pantry cannot accept packages that have been opened or are expired. Jesus is clear in his call to put our faith into action by taking care of his children. Let us answer his call.

GLC Summer Literacy Program

Pictured: 1st and 2nd graders receiving their filled backpacks on the final day of the Summer Reading Program



GLC Literacy Fall program will begin on September 8. The program will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school in our Social Hall. This is the 3rd school year for this ministry. We are proud of our success stories and volunteers that make up our program.

We need your help!!! We are looking for additional volunteers and snack donations each week. If you can volunteer each week or just once a month, we welcome you to join us!! Please see the bulletin board across from the Judy's office to sign up for snacks. Contact Deb Holliday (264-1128) or Karen Hessel (263-6970) to volunteer or to inquire about our program needs.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR 2015 FUND-RAISERS:

Hy-Vee Shop-N-Share Fund-raiser is October 5, 6 & 7. By shopping at Hy-Vee on these days, with one of the fund-raiser slips, Hy-Vee will donate a portion of your grocery and/or gas purchases! (Slips will be available in October Grace Notes and at Grace in late September). In addition to purchasing your usual weekly groceries or gas, gift card purchases on these dates will also benefit our fund-raiser.

Boonie's Fund-raiser night is Monday, October 12 from 5 p.m. to close. Enjoy food and drinks at Boonie's Restaurant, 214 Iowa Avenue and 20% of your bill will be donated to our program! Buy a gift certificate to use later and it is also considered a purchase/donation. Invite your family and friends to join us!

Congregational Life News by Cindy Edgmond

Several people from our board said they missed seeing the following in the May Grace Notes; we thought it was worth repeating.

TRY-A-TITHE SUNDAY – Stewardship focus

As part of a year round stewardship program, this is an idea that came from the Rediscover Macedonia materials from the ELCA. Most of us know that a tithe is 10%, and that is what is referred to in the Bible in many different places as to what we should give. Many verses have an agricultural perspective, talking about giving of crops, which of course is not how we give today. But one of those really hits to the point of our faith, trusting the Lord by tithing:

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts: see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing of blessings.” Malachi 3:10

So this is an invitation to take one week during the month of May, and if you aren't already, tithe for one week. Hopefully this will be an easy thing to do as most of us know on any given week how much money we earned or received, or have to give. And giving this amount for one week hopefully doesn't cause the fear that pledging that amount for a whole year might: it is only human to fear not having enough money. “Try it, you'll like it!”

Oktoberfest Potluck –Sunday, October 18 following 2nd service

Brats and hot dogs will be served, bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share.

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 13th 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.**

September Anniversaries



Jake & Jessica Franklin	9/1	Barry & Dawn Pence	9/19
Andrew & Cassandra Pohl	9/1	Peter & Ruth Allinger	9/22
Lonnie & Lynn Sulzberger	9/2	Al & Sue Bengtson	9/23
Richard & Janell Johnson	9/3	Ron & Margaret Stych	9/24
Milo & Peggy Paulsen	9/7	Chuck & Karen Gardner	9/25
Keith & Marilyn Hultquist	9/10	Jerry & Stacy Mathias	9/30
Craig & Jane Theobald	9/11	Adam & Melissa Schmidt	9/30
Eric & Christina Pohl	9/14		

September Birthdays

Danielle Chase	9/1	Barbara Schmelzer	9/10	Peyton Stein	9/18
Kallie Kemper	9/2	Ava Stein	9/10	Jacob Cook	9/21
Jeana Lippelgoes	9/3	Timothy Christensen	9/11	Cynthia Alexander	9/22
Gary McCullough	9/3	Janice Fear	9/11	Peter Allinger	9/22
Desiree Schmitt	9/3	Judy Pameticky	9/12	Darrin Kemper	9/22
Kendra Boston	9/4	Judy Hocke	9/13	Deborah Holliday	9/25
Steve Rusch	9/4	Richard Oppelt III	9/13	Tyson Mathis	9/26
Chad Vander Linden	9/4	Mary Chalupa	9/14	Monika Boyer	9/27
Norma Whitmore	9/4	Lisa Roeth	9/14	Randyl Meyer-LaMaack	9/27



Arik Long	9/7	Tiphonie Cannon	9/15	Andie Townsend	9/27
Benjamin Becker	9/8	Jacob Gabriel	9/15	Anthony Manriquez	9/28
Jackson Gabriel	9/9	Ken Fisher	9/16	Lisa Paul	9/28
Roger Lande	9/9	Connie Fuller	9/16	Sherry Seright	9/28
Shannon Lewis	9/9	Cynthia Kauffman	9/16	Lauren Smith	9/28
Jaidyn Miller	9/9	Austin Paul	9/16	Lester Arnold	9/29
Mallary Pedersen-Schell	9/9	Kelly Gardner	9/17	Danielle Cook	9/29
Connie Fett	9/10	Whitney Kauffman	9/17	Clinton Finley	9/29
Cindy Rusch	9/10	Shawna Moss	9/17		

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