



Grace Newsletter

August 2018

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church

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Qualified to Serve!

Have you ever been asked to serve at church, but then quickly found an excuse or changed the subject? Why do we act that way? Perhaps you felt unqualified or the job wasn't what you really wanted to do. Let's face it, some church tasks are rather lowly and unappealing. Cleaning tables, changing light bulbs, and the list goes on. The question I have for you this month, "How would God's work be accomplished without these roles?"

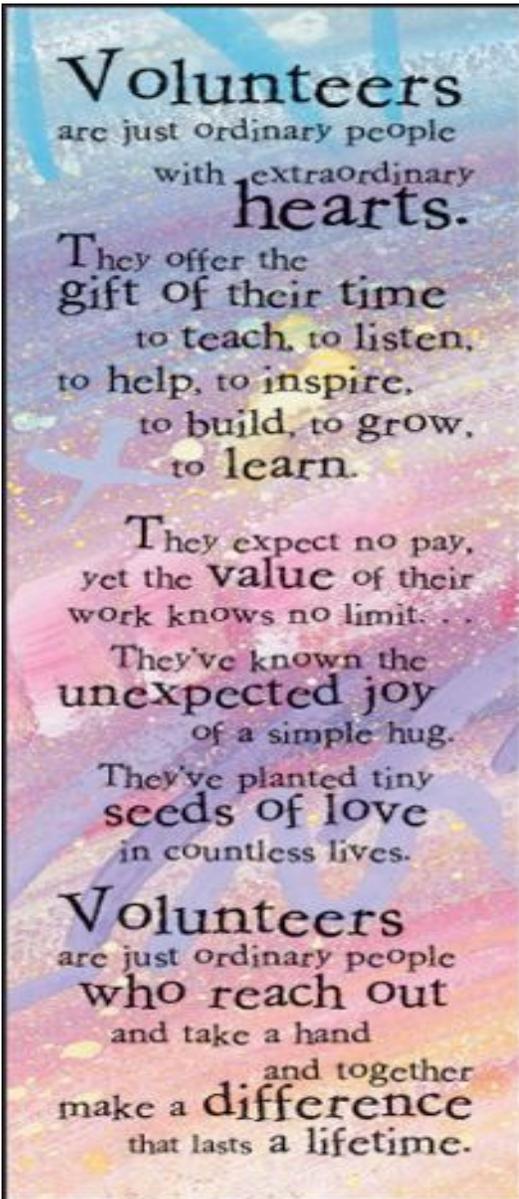
Guess what folks, the early church, about 2000 years ago, faced a certain challenge when certain widows were overlooked in the daily serving of food (Acts 6:1-7). The interesting importance of the 12 disciples staying at their God-given task of teaching God's Word... and they were criticized for not serving food. So, they appointed seven other men to complete the job. What is surprising in this text from Acts 6 is the high standard for those who'd simply be waiting tables. They were to be of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom (v 3). Few churches today have that philosophy. Why? Because it is hard to find workers!!! Everybody is too busy with other things; and, heaven forbid, if you mess up your job at the church, you will hear about it for years!

But the truth is, every Christian should meet the qualifications in Acts 6. We remember that in GOD'S EYES, only work done in humble submission to the Holy Spirit has lasting value (1 Cor. 3: 12-15). In washing the disciples' dirty feet (John 13:5), Jesus left us an example of servanthood ... and no excuses! In whatever way we are called to serve, we need to believe our work is vital to God's Kingdom! Otherwise we might go through life excusing ourselves from obeying HIM. But, if we rely on the Spirit's empowerment, we will see what the early church saw. The GOSPEL WILL SPREAD and the number of disciples will multiply.

There are many opportunities here at Grace to serve the ministry and the mission of the church. Please prayerfully consider how you might help out!

Humbly Serving Christ Jesus, Serving You,

Pastor Rafferty



Volunteers are a very important part of the church. Volunteers help usher during worship service, teach Sunday school, run the audiovisual equipment, help prepare luncheons, serve on Boards and Committees, plant flowers, water plants, assist in the church office and so much more. Without our volunteers, the church would not function well.

You read about the church's need for volunteers in the monthly Newsletter, (This Newsletter is no exception.), and in the weekly News & Notes. You see the great need the church has; but, yet, you are still hesitant to volunteer your time and talent. Why? God wants us to use our talents. *1 Peter 4:10, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

God made us, created us for His purpose. He gave us our talents so that we could do His work. Ephesians 2:10 says, *"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* When you serve and volunteer, know that God has prepared the way!

For many of us volunteering is not always easy. Finding a place where we can use the talents God gave us can be a challenge, but know that God is with you. Wherever you chose to volunteer, God is there to guide you on your journey. Using your talents to teach, play music, be on a Board or Committee, watering plants, or whatever you chose to do you are blessing your church and fulfilling God's word.

If you are looking for ways to volunteer at church, but are not sure what you would like to do, please feel free to speak with Pastor, call the church office, or speak with any Board Member. They will be happy to assist in any way they can.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It is that time of year again when the Nominating Committee begins to make contact with congregation members to fill vacancies on the boards for 2019. But due to lack of volunteers, we currently do not have a Nominating Committee. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to serve on a Board or Committee. The church runs better and serves our members and community better when Boards and Committees have the required number of members.

Following is a list of Boards and Committees that will need members for 2019:

- Board of Elders 7 Vacancies
- Board of Finance 2 Vacancies

- Board of Trustees 1 Vacancy
- Board of Discipleship 2 Vacancies
- Endowment Committee 1 Vacancies
- Board of Education 1 Vacancy
- Nominating Committee 6 Vacancies
- Council Secretary 1 Vacancy
- President Elect 1 Vacancy

If you have any questions regarding these vacancies or you would like your name added to the 2019 ballot, please call the church office.

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: 8:00 AM Leon Doescher
10:00 AM Jon Betz
Sat., Aug. 4th 4:40 PM Jon Betz

Organist: Diana Baetke

		The Acolytes	A/V Tech.
Aug 5	8AM	Carter Drury	Rich Matzen
Aug 12	8AM	Tobey Griem	Steve Butler
Aug 19	8AM	Emma Grace Hartmann	Rich Matzen
Aug 26	8AM	Abigail Jensen	Rich Matzen

Special Gifts Given Include:

In loving memory of Lee McWilliams \$1,065 has been given to Grace Lutheran Church, \$10 to Grace Camp, \$20 to Grace Preschool, \$10 to the Referral Center, and \$70 to Camp Courageous.

IMPORTANT

Deadline for submitting articles for the September Newsletter is August 15th at 9 a.m.

LWML will no longer be recycling phones, printer cartridges or other items, due to the restrictions that are being imposed on what can and cannot be recycled.

In Memory Of:

Mr. Lee A. McWilliams, 89, of DeWitt, Iowa, died Tuesday evening, June 26, 2018, at Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House, Bettendorf.

Lee Alexander McWilliams was born May 6, 1929, in LeClaire, Iowa, to Louis and Olive (Suiter) McWilliams. He was 1947 graduate of LeClaire High School. On September 5, 1951, he was united in marriage to Myrle L. Olson at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, rural Calamus where he was baptized and confirmed on September 12, 1951. Lee served in the Signal Corp of the United States Army during the Korean War. He was employed for 40 years at J.I. Case Company, Bettendorf and retired in 1987.

He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt. Lee's hobbies were hunting, fishing, traveling, the Iowa Hawkeyes and St. Louis Cardinals.

Surviving are his loving wife of nearly 67 years, Myrle; children, Mark (LuAnn) McWilliams of Anamosa, Steve McWilliams of DeWitt, Lori Wheelen of Debary, Florida, Becky (John) Hansen and Todd (Karen) McWilliams of DeWitt and Debra McWilliams of Helena, Alabama; grandchildren, Andrea (Heath) Anderson, Christine (Dave) Riddell, Regina (Shannon) Brown, Andrew (Melissa Friddle) Bopes, Amanda (Allen) Ketelsen, Rachael (Chris) O'Donnell, Jessica McWilliams, Jacob McWilliams, Taylor (Matthew) Kilian, Abbey (James) Hurning and Matthew McWilliams; great-grandchildren, Nathan and Kaylee Wheelen, Maverick, Noah and Autumn Brown, McLain Ketelsen, Callahan Hurning and Conner, Zach and Kinley Riddell; a brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, Gary and Carol Olson and Vallene Olson; numerous nieces and nephews. Preceding Lee in death were his parents; a granddaughter, Jenni Bopes; brothers, Louis and Joseph; a sister, Olive Knapper and brother-in-law, Dale Olson.

Greeters are needed on Sunday mornings to extend a warm welcome to our members and visitors. If you are available to help with this service, please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Grace Lutheran Preschool is collecting Milk Moola Caps from Kwik-Star milk jugs and juice containers. Milk caps can be left in the container located on the Welcome Center. Thank you for your continued support of Grace Lutheran Preschool.



Summer Worship Schedule

Saturday Worship

First Saturday of August

August 4th

4:30 p.m. @ Grace Camp
Welton Chapel

Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. @ Grace Church
Traditional Service

10:00 a.m. @ Grace Camp Outdoor Chapel

Pastor's Personal Update for July August 2018

During my recent visit to Indiana to officiate a wedding for one of my members; and while I was there; I was pleasantly surprised to discover that two Hoosiers; one a pastor friend and one a young lady of only 28, had already sent in the preliminary lab work to the respective hospitals. One had the tests and labs sent to Iowa City and the other sent to Tulsa. So at the time of this writing, we are waiting on pins and needles to see if either one of these folks is a positive actual final match. If so, then we will proceed forward with the transplant itself.... As I had stated last year and the year before; once the transplant is scheduled and confirmed, I will go on disability for 6 to 8 weeks.... This will NOT cost the church anything as I will NOT be receiving my salary.. then depending on my health status and my doctor's recommendations, I plan on returning to full-time church work for a short time period here in Iowa East; and then finally retiring or semi-retiring in Oklahoma with the grandson (Gaige)... (time frame not certain)

Now, what if this plan mentioned above does not come to fruition, and neither one of these donors match up... we will then still be praying for a live matching donor to step forward, but at this time, that does NOT seem like a likely possibility. As I mentioned previously that I am on the deceased donor lists at both Iowa City and Tulsa.. And yes, you can be on multiple lists. With the transplant agency, in Tulsa, the geographic area is larger, but the populace is smaller... so the probability of getting a call from Tulsa to get there for a transplant is more likely than Iowa City; but there is no rhyme or reason to any of this.. and no one knows for sure... if I get the call, and everything matches up, then I will go in for the transplant surgery.... And then the same scenario as listed above will take place....

Within the last few months, I have been in regular contact with the District Presidents in Iowa East and Oklahoma. I have shared this information with them and they understand the variables that are to be considered... They have been working together to see where I might best fit the needs of the LCMS and her mission and ministry... There have been a handful of inquiries from congregations in Oklahoma for a pastor on a part-time basis... and my name has been shared with them... and there have been many meetings with the elders, the voters, and the congregations... All there has been to this point in time is meaningful discussion. Now if I should receive a call to serve in a part-time capacity; and if it appears to be God-pleasing and Holy Spirit led and driven.... Then I would prayerfully look at that "CALL".... And follow the normal LCMS guidelines regarding a time frame for acceptance and a move.... So first I have to receive the "CALL", the paperwork.... If, and that is a big "IF", I would receive a call from one or more of these congregations "say in August"; then I would hope to be officially installed in October or November. I hope that this puts to rest all of the conversation going on behind the scenes.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE KIDNEY SITUATION TAKES PRECEDENCE! THIS IS A VERY COMPLICATED TIME FOR CAROL AND MYSELF AS HER HEALTH AS YOU ALL KNOW IS NOT SUPER EITHER!

And finally don't think that President Saunders or myself will leave you w/o a pastor, and high and dry... The ministry of Grace Lutheran Church will continue to grow and flourish; have you noticed how many new faces and families you have seen over the past few years... as a congregation, looking forward, trust in the plans of your Heavenly Father; look to the spiritual well-being of the entire congregation. Work together as Brothers and Sisters in Christ for that common goal... I know that when I was called in 2010 that there were divisions in the church... regarding who Grace should call in the future... I pray for Christ's Bride the church, that does not happen again.

Please, please visit with me about any or all of these things if you have questions... I would be happy to go to lunch or visit with you. Once more thank you for your support of the ministry that we have at Grace Lutheran Church.

Serving Christ Jesus and HIS Church, Pastor Rafferty

Mark Your Calendar

Grace Camp Pancake Breakfast Dates August 19th



The Lee McWilliams family thanks all who helped us in any way when left us for his heavenly home. Thank you to Pastor Rafferty for his many visits to Lee during his hospitalizations and last months at home and for the beautiful funeral service. Thank you to the organist Diana, Elder - Jon Betz and the ladies of Grace church who served such a lovely luncheon for us. Thank you to Ray Ackerman for his caring concern for our family and to all who sent food, cards, flowers, and memorials.

God's Blessings to All,
Myrle and Family

2018 Endowment Grant Recipients

Board of Youth received \$500 for the National Youth Gathering.

Women's Bible Study received \$500 to be used for TV/DVD player, wall mounts and Bible Studies.

Chancel Care received \$700 for Parament replacements and new plexiglass for the altar.

Cindy Sperry & Michelle Diercks received \$300 to be used for a Women's Retreat.

Board of Education received \$600 for new tables in the Sunday school rooms.

The Glory Bound Choir received \$400 for a blue tooth speaker.

FAMILY PROMISE OF HOPE AFFILIATE UPDATE:

Our Non-Profit Incorporation status has been received and we have finally gotten our 501(3)(c) tax number from the Internal Revenue Department. This allows us to move forward in getting our Affiliate up and running.

Our next Family Promise Board meeting will be on Thurs., Aug. 16, 2018, at 6:00 pm at Grace Lutheran church in meeting room one. We are currently looking for 2-3 more persons who have a passion for our Family Promise mission of providing hospitality for area homeless families and helping them get back into their own homes.

Workgroups are being formed as we strive to get started. They include Host Church recruiting, Donation Software Investigation, Bookkeeping Software Investigation, Grant-writing, and Marketing.

Recruitment of Host churches as well as buddy churches continue. Currently, we have 4-5 solid committed sites. We need a minimum of 10-13 before we can begin serving homeless families. So this is the area we can use extra prayers, support, and help.

Galatians 6:9 says "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Matthew 17:20 says "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

SO WE PRESS ON WITH PERSEVERANCE AND FAITH IN OUR AWESOME GOD!!!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

2018 Fall Collection Drive

School Kits

Give a child the opportunity to go to school!

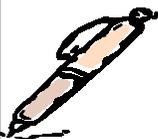
Why school supplies? To the children who receive **School Kits**, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free; but, in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford.

And, when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on child development.

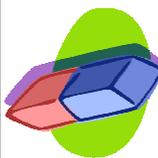


Supplies needed for each School Kit:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½" (no loose-leaf paper can be accepted)
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2 ½" eraser



All items must be new and unused. Please remove any packaging before you donate. Donations may be left on the stage in Grace Hall or at the display table in the church foyer when available.



Thank you for your support!

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Grace Lutheran Church

POP CAN TABS—Did you know you can save your beverage cans and donate them to the Youth Group here at Grace? But what about the tabs on the top of the can? We collect those also. The tabs are donated to Camp Courageous. So, the next time you finish that refreshment, 'pop' off the tab, save and bring both the can and the tab to church.

Looking for cards? There is a variety of sympathy, thinking of you, get well, birthday cards and much more available for purchase downstairs next to Grace Hall. Please take a moment to see the wide assortment of cards and napkins displayed.

NYG2019 Meetings

Our first informational meeting about the 2019 National Youth Gathering will be held on **Sunday, August 26th @ 3:00 pm** at the G*Y*M Building at Grace Camp. The second meeting will be held on **September 9th @ 12:00 pm** in Grace Hall. This event is open to youth in 8th - 12th grades for the 2018-2019 school year. To be eligible to attend the gathering each youth and at least one parent **MUST** attend one of these meetings. Please feel free to contact DCE, Mark Sperry with any questions.

Back-2-School Blast

Attention all incoming 6th-12th graders. Make plans now to join us on Sunday, August 26th for our annual Back-2-School Blast. There will be food, fun, games, and prizes! We hope to see you there as we get ready to kick off a new school year. To we make sure to have enough food, please sign-up on the bulletin board outside of Mr. Sperry's office if you're planning to attend.

Introduction to the Bible

If you have a student who is entering 3rd grade this fall, please stop by the office to pick-up your Introduction to the Bible packet. Bibles will be presented to the children during either service on Sunday, September 23rd. Please contact Mark Sperry with any questions.

Confirmation Classes

Grace offers a three-year program for student in 6th, 7th & 8th grades. If you have a student in one of these grades, please contact the church office to let us know they will be attending classes beginning this September. A letter with more information will be sent out in early August. Confirmation Orientation will take place on Wednesday, August 29th @ 6:00 pm here at Grace Church.

Rally Day ~ Welcome back to Sunday School!

Sunday, September 9th the new Sunday school program year begins, and we want YOU to join us. All children aged 3 through 12th grade are welcome. Come and meet new friends or reconnect with the ones you haven't seen all summer! On Rally Day, all classes (youth & adult) are asked to join us for the opening in the Sanctuary beginning at 9:15 am.

Sunday School Registration

Again this year we are asking everyone who will be attending Sunday School to register through the church website www.gracedewitt.org. This registration process is quick and easy and needs to be done on a yearly basis to keep all information accurate.

GRACE LUTHERAN MISSION STATEMENT

In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church is to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our church, communities and world.

Are you interested in volunteering at church, but aren't sure what you want to do? Ask yourself a few simple questions:

- Do you enjoy spending time with children?"
- Do you have a free hour on Sunday?
- Would you enjoy teaching the word of God to children?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions you should volunteer to be a Sunday school teacher or helper.

We are very fortunate every year to have a great group of Sunday School teachers and we can't have Sunday School without them. Every year we could use extra teachers,

whether they are full-time teachers, sub-teachers or team teachers, they are all important. Please look into your hearts and consider helping out our Sunday School Team this year.

If you would like more information on how you can help with Sunday School, please contact Mark Sperry at



August Birthdays



2 nd	Richard Matzen		Christopher Marlowe	24 th	Jon Billhorn
	Colin Albrecht		Paxtyn Hoepner		Gunnar Mork
3 rd	Bradley Anderson	14 th	Scott Havener		Wade Niemann
	Rick Olson		Julie Krukow	25 th	Gary Trafford
	Andrea Suhr		Harlan Meyer		Barbara Wold
	Gavin Krukow		Tait Stevens		Roger Crosthwaite
5 th	Mitzie Blanchard	15 th	Alexander Butler		Meyer Soenksen
6 th	Sherry Lange-Hanif		Alexa Walther	26 th	Jeffery Gravert
7 th	Zachary Eden		Nathaniel Johnson		Michelle Tobey
	David Jensen	16 th	Alex Zeimet	28 th	Isabelle Hawkins
	Laura Busch		Cindy Hall		Michael Steward
	Konner Littleton		James Kuehl		Barb Reed
	Wyatt Nebel		Shoni Hoffmann		Robert Paasch
8 th	Alivia Burzlaff		Colleen McDevitt		Briah Reuss
	McGwire Eden		James Gruntorad	29 th	Kaitlyn VanLaere
9 th	Loren Jasper	17 th	Nancy Haney		Joel Sanger
	Jeremy Kuehl	18 th	Julia Lieferman		Madeline Wright
	Richard Polansky	19 th	Laurie Birt		Emma Pillers
	Agnes Roseland	20 th	Lena Hines	30 th	Jennifer Walker
	Penny McGimpsey	21 st	Deborah Daniels		Hudson Krukow
10 th	Isaac DeHaven		Margaret Hartmann	31 st	James Harroun
	Kody Schutterle		Kyle Ackerman		
11 th	Frederick A. Thiede	22 nd	Mark Steward		
	Alyssa Eden		Jessica Hansen		
	Kelly Thumann		Emily Drury		
12 th	LaVoy Krukow	23 rd	Fred Behr		
	Brody Onken		Tom Alger		
	Amelia Rickertsen				
13 th	Michael Hall				

Anniversaries

2 nd	Edwin & Jennifer Vance	14 th	Tory & Paula Ketelsen
3 rd	Ronnie & Sandra Peters	17 th	Raymond & Irene Myers
4 th	Richard & Lavonne Martin		Chad & Dawn Knapper
5 th	Aaron & Amy Meyers	21 st	Troy & Michelle Diercks
6 th	Rodney & Mary Keeney	22 nd	Cody & Andrea Mork
9 th	Cameron & Jennifer McCormick	23 rd	Paul & Christine Greve
10 th	Chuck & Kay Goddard	27 th	Gary & Wanda Trafford
11 th	David & Kathy Mangan	28 th	Steve & Traci Butler
	Drew & Melissa Nolin	29 th	Tony & Kayla Martens
	Dick & Lucy Broadfoot	30 th	Jeremy & Cassie Goddard
12 th	Dean & Diane Bousset	31 st	Troy & Karen Eden
			Tom & Mary Alger

AUGUST 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 10:00 AM Praise Worship/Communion @ Grace Camp 3:00 PM Summer Camp Counselor Orientation	30 Grace Summer Camp #35 - "Victory"	31 Grace Summer Camp #35 - "Victory"	1 Grace Summer Camp #35 - "Victory"	2 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting	3	4 4:30 PM Welton Chapel Worship
5 "Mites" Sunday 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 10:00 AM Praise Worship/Communion @ Grace Camp	6 1:00 PM 500 Card Club 6:00 PM Council Meeting	7	8	9 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting	10	11
12 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:00 AM Praise Worship @ Grace Camp	13 6:30 PM Board of Discipleship Meeting	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting 6:00 PM Family Promise Meeting	17	18
19 8:00 AM Grace Camp Pancake Breakfast 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 10:00 AM Praise Worship/Communion @ Grace Camp	20 1:00 PM 500 Card Club 7:00 PM Youth Board Meeting	21 3:30 PM West Wing Communion 6:30 PM Camp Board Meeting	22	23 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting	24	25
26 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:00 AM Praise Worship @ Grace Camp 3:00 PM NYG2019 Meeting 4:00 PM Back-2-School Blast	27 6:30 PM Board of Christian Education	28	29 6:00 PM Confirmation Orientation Meeting	30 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting	31	1