



April 21, 2017

Good morning friends,

Thank you to all of you who have extended sympathies to me and my family after my brother-in-law, Bruce Leuschen's death last weekend. We knew it was coming soon, but, of course, it is still always a shock when it does. I'm sorry most of you didn't have the opportunity to know Bruce when he was fully healthy. He was a God-fearing, hard-working, fun-loving dynamo and a lot of fun to be around. Up until last April, Bruce worked as a large animal veterinarian; his last job was as head vet at an Oklahoma dairy with 12,000 cows! His vocation was his avocation; in one respect, one could say he never worked a day in his life. Such was his joy in his calling. Bruce was so proud to help out with folding bulletins and pew maintenance each week at our church last fall though this January. He treated the weekly chore as his new job, taking the responsibility very seriously and always characteristically conscientious about coming on time and doing the task well. Bruce was grateful and happy to be productive and still have an avenue to serve others.

These last few years have been heartbreaking for our family as dual diseases, Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD) AND Lou Gehrig's (ALS) tried to rob Bruce of all that he was. We don't know what causes either of these diseases and there is no cure for either of them. With his death, we might be tempted to believe Bruce was defeated. But I believe, in this terrible battle he so bravely fought, Bruce was victorious. He never stopped praising Jesus and working to secure other souls for his Lord and Savior. He read and studied scripture and posted passages on Facebook daily. His dearly Loved Ones received several scriptures and a prayer to ponder each day, reminding us to trust God with all our problems, our dreams and our desires. He continued to rejoice in God's creation as he exclaimed with delight at the antics of squirrels, birds and rabbits he watched frolic outside his window. Bruce did lose his ability to verbally articulate anything, but still, he communicated his love. He never stopped being able to recognize family and friends and he greeted his beloved visitors with bright eyes, a big smile and his jaunty thumbs up signal even up to his final few hours with us. We'll miss Bruce until, by God's Grace; we join him in heaven one day.

This week at Grace – This Sunday Pastor Fred's message, *Locked Doors* is inspired by John 20:19-31. Luccas Hart will treat us to some special music and Claudia Pauk will serve as our liturgist. Worship begins at 9:15 – please join us!

Our 3rd Sunday Brunch for April is this Sunday! G.R.A.C.E. Team A will be our hosts this month with free-will donation money directed to the PET project. Egg casserole is on the menu. Please note this will be our last brunch before their summer hiatus. The brunch will resume again in September.

ALL CHURCH WORK DAYS

4:00-6:00 pm Friday, April 28

9:00-Noon Saturday, April 29

Please bring appropriate tools for the chores you choose to work on – inside or outside.

Claudia Pauk and Cathy Hermanson are looking for special music for our Summer Sunday Worship services. If you would like to share a song or know of someone who would like to share music this summer, please let Claudia or Cathy know!

Do you have kids who would be interested in attending Bible Camp this summer? Brochures are available on the north Narthex hall table. The Church Council recently voted to pay 50% of camp tuition for local Grace students going to a UMC camp. 25% will be paid if attending another church camp.

Graduation is coming up next month – please let us know if you have a graduate – high school, trade school, college, advanced degree so that we may recognize them on our **Baccalaureate Sunday, May 21st**.

Youth Group Leaders Needed

We are looking for two dynamic youth group leaders for the 2017-2018 school year. We have had eleven youth participating this year and expect a few more to join in next year. It's pretty cool that some youth have been coming to Youth Group that we aren't seeing at other times. Youth Group can certainly evolve from what we started this year. Bring your vision and energy to this very important ministry! Youth Group is led by a Youth Council, so there will be a few organizational meetings for that group. Currently, Youth Group meets one Wednesday each month and one leader would serve on the Christian Education committee as well.

We need two-deep leadership for all youth activities at Grace United Methodist Church. If you have a passion to work with our youth, then recruit your spouse or a friend and make it a time of fun and fellowship! Contact Shelley Hart (515-291-8332) with questions or to volunteer.

Sunday school teachers for 2017-18 - Please prayerfully consider teaching one of our Sunday school classes next school year. We are looking to fill positions in the following sections:

Early Childhood – 1st Grade

2nd – 4th Grade

5th-7th Grades

High School

Please contact Education Chair Gini Michel by phone (733-4123), by email (gem47@mediacombb.net), or catch her personally after our worship service if you'd like to take a turn teaching our young ones.

Thank you to all of you who have sent well-wishes, cards, flowers and especially, sent up prayers for our mother, Jeanne Hohneke. She continues to work to recover from her strokes – still at Mary Greeley Medical Center. We're all hopeful she'll be able to return to her home soon!

Family of Jeanne Hohneke

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer: Sue and Julie Jacobson and family; Kelly Leuschen and family; Jeanne Hohneke; Ray Hults; George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Jordan Gertsen; Rich Iverson (friend of Kurt Carlson); Patty Geer; Trace Matson; Carolyn Bostwick; Cooper Leeman

News You Can Use

Sunday, April 23

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM 3rd Sunday Brunch (P.E.T. project)

10:30 AM Sunday school

10:30 AM Communications meeting

Monday, April 24

5:30 PM Trustees

7:00 PM Church Council

Wednesday, April 26

7:00 PM Choir

8:00 PM Bell Choir

Sunday, April 30 – Confirmation Sunday

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Reception for Confirmands

10:30 AM Sunday school

**Faithfully,
Cathy**