



August 4, 2017

Greetings friends,

Last Sunday I did something I haven't done for a long while. I sat in the narthex during the worship service and it was a revelation to me. Nate Warwick did another wonderful job leading the service. Both he and Jerry Spencer get better and better each time they lead the service. With more and fairly frequent opportunities this summer, each has developed their own rhythm and seems able to relax into delivering a Sunday morning message each time they take a turn in the pulpit. We are so proud of them and appreciate their effort and their insights.

But that wasn't my narthex revelation...As I worshiped and participated in the service on Sunday, my perspective was just a little bit different as we sang the hymns. You know, when you're in the pews and busy singing, you might hear the person directly behind you or next to you, but not too many other voices than your own. As I sat in the narthex, I could hear our congregation as a choir and it was AWESOME! The hymns seemed to rise up with heart and deep conviction and joy. Honestly, it brought a tear to my eye it was so moving and glorious.

I always love the ritual of Passing of the Peace of Christ because of the feeling of connectedness it brings. But raising our voices together in a tuneful chorus of joyful praise really expresses our community in an amazing way. The hymns we join together in singing beautifully expresses our mutual abiding faith in God and His son, Jesus Christ. It reminded me again how blessed I feel to be a part of this devoted Grace Church family.

**This week at Grace** – Pastor Fred returns this week as we recognize our Congregational Development Team. We'll celebrate Communion and happily welcome Milianna Carlson as she shares special music. Rod and Sue Bohner and Christine Marti will be our ushers this week. As always, worship begins at 9:15. We invite you to join us!

**The Roland-Story School Supply Drive** is underway. Grace Church has been invited to assemble kits for 16 school children this year. Kits are due back at the church by this Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Our All-Church potluck picnic is this Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>! An email was sent a week or so ago with an electronic sign-up sheet for what you plan to bring. Here is the link again:**

<http://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=UPIK6381&v=3d36302b46>

As a part of our worship service that morning, we'll be recognizing the special efforts the Congregational Development Team put forth on all of our behalf since the fall of 2015! Their dedication and hard work and determination to listen to and represent all our voices in their work has been appreciated and we want to celebrate their completion of the Congregational Study and the Action Plan our committees have already begun to implement. This potluck is part of our celebration.

The potluck is being coordinated by members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and volunteers. We hope you'll come together with us to enjoy delicious food, wonderful conversation and an opportunity to say "thanks" to some special fellow members of Grace.

**If you'd like a copy of the Congregational Study** and the completed Action Plan that will guide our work going forward, please let the office know. The raw data from the surveys we did in the spring is also available upon request. We'd be happy to send you an electronic copy or to print out a hard copy for you.

**We're getting creative in staffing our Sunday school teaching needs.** We have primary teachers for each level (Early childhood-1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>) in place. Safe church policy requires we must have 2 adults in each classroom of children and youth. ***Here is where the "thinking outside the box" comes in.*** YOU are invited to sign up to help with one month of Sundays for the level of your choosing. We need help on all 3 levels in September after that, we only have 9 slots to fill for the three levels combined. Please go to this link to sign up to lend your helping hands: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e45a9a72eabf85-parent>

**Chuck Jewell passed away on Wednesday.** On Sunday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 a visitation will be held at the church. The funeral is set for 11:00 on Monday morning. Chuck was a good and gentle farmer. He lived his life simply and quietly, working his beloved farm and with his wife, Ginny, raising four amazing kids. God bless our memories of Chuck Jewell.

**As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:** the family of Chuck Jewell; Claudia Pauk; Denny Michel; Marjorie Gookin; Pam Hillis; Julie Jacobson; Leota Berg; Vivian Whitmore; Jeanne Hohneke; Ray Hults; George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Jordan Gertsen; Rich Iverson (friend of Kurt Carlson); Cooper Leeman

### **News You Can Use**

**Sunday, August 6–** Communion, Congregational Development Team Recognition

9:15 AM Worship

11:00 AM ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC

3:00-5:00 PM Visitation for Chuck Jewell

**Monday, August 7**

11:00 AM Funeral service

6:30 PM Education

**Tuesday, August 8**

8:30-4:30 DS Gillespie at Grace to conduct Pastoral Annual Interviews with Area pastors

6:00-8:00 PM DS Gillespie-led training for Charge Conference material preparations

**Sunday, August 13**

8:00 AM Trustees

9:15 AM Worship

**Faithfully,  
Cathy**

**FRIDAY GRILL OUTS**

at  
Tom & Stevie's Bistro  
at The Households of Bethany

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**11:00AM - 1:00PM**

**CHICKEN KABOBS,  
SWEET CORN &  
CHEESY HASHBROWNS**

**\$6**

