



June 23, 2017

Greetings friends,

It's interesting the things we remember and that stick with us through our lives. Sometimes these remembered things are good, sometimes bad. And sometimes they are things that make you go, hmmm.

As a tot (maybe 4 years old) I remember waking up one morning, dressing in my yellow and white striped seersucker sun-suit, and heading right out to play in our sandbox in the early morning sunshine. Why that sticks with me, I have no idea. But I can remember it clearly...dew wet grass on my bare feet, birds singing, and the bright summer sun warming me. It was a beautiful morning. Very much like the ones I've been enjoying lately as I take Trixie out

to do her early morning business.

When I was 11, I remember G'pa E.T. and G'ma Wanda were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary with a huge gathering of the clan for dinner at the Norsemen Buffet in Roland. I remember Dad telling me we were celebrating 40, because Grandma had been ill recently and was concerned they might not get to celebrate 50. In reality, Grandma just loved to gather her family together and cleverly employed any excuse to make it happen. G'pa and G'ma were 'specially blessed as they went on to celebrate over 60 years together.

The memory is significant to me as Mark and I will celebrate 39 years of marriage next week. When G'pa and G'ma hit 40, they seemed ancient...hmm. Mark tells me it's all relative, a matter of perspective. I sure hope he's right and some super-accelerated aging doesn't suddenly befall us in these next 12 months – yikes! It's true, both of us do have some arthritis discomfort and some days our catalog of aches and pains is disheartening, but we're not old, let alone ancient (thankfully, Cora is too young to judge these things). I suspect that when Mark and I are in our late 80's (God willing) and celebrating 70 years of marriage, we'll still protest loudly (with grateful humor and a shaking fist) to anyone who will listen, "We're too young to be old, ya whippersnappers!"

Thirty-nine years. Still so grateful God chose to bring us together to share this life. We're truly blessed.

This week at Grace – With Pastor Fred on vacation this weekend, Nate Warwick will lead the service for us. His message: "Fear! The Choice is Yours" is inspired by Matthew 10:24-39. Chase Blagg will share special music and Riker Blagg will make his debut as liturgist. Kevin and Linda Larson and the Brent and Jodi Larson family are our greeters and ushers this week. As always, worship begins at 9:15. We invite you to join us!

We do want to keep the need for Sunday school and youth fellowship leaders in front of you this summer. Classes begin September 10th and we need about 6 people to fill the positions. You've seen, you know what wonderful children we've been blessed with here at Grace. Please consider being a part of their Christian education experience for this coming school year.

The Story City Carousel is open for the season and the Story City Chamber is searching for volunteers to help keep it running. They were wondering if we have any groups, youth groups, or committees who might be interested in volunteering some time? They only do a 2 hour shift split up throughout operating hours to help keep it a small commitment. Do we have any groups within our church family who would be interested? Please call the Chamber at 515-733-4214, or email them at info@storycitygcc.com.

The Story Theater is proud to present the faith-based film, *The Case for Christ*, the weekend of Friday, Saturday, Sunday, June 23-25. It's rated PG and show times will be each evening at 7 p.m. with special matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 4 p.m.

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:;
Denny Michel; Leota Berg; Vivian Whitmore; Barbara Wheeler; Chuck Jewell; 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, June 25

9:15 AM Worship

Monday, June 26

6:00 PM Finance – *please note change of time*

7:00 PM Church Council

Sunday, July 2

9:15 AM Worship

**Faithfully,
Cathy**