



May 25, 2017

Greetings friends,

We've had a busy week of extra called-meetings as we push to finish up our 2018 Action Plan with input from our various committees. Our Congregational Development Team has done the lion's share of the work on our behalf and what is left is just fine-tuning our goals for each committee. In most cases, the goals have already been outlined for our consideration; they just need some "tweaking" to put them into the proper form to accurately convey our intentions. Thank you to all who have made or will be making special efforts to come in and lend a special hand over and above your regular commitment to our committee work. Thank you for your patience. As Pastor Fred often says, "Our church is so cool, we rock!" *(Please note the shameless "buttering up" in that previous statement.)*

Seriously, your work is much appreciated and our ultimate goal of giving the District Superintendent and the Conference Board a well-presented statement of who Grace Church is and desires to become will pay dividends as the multi-month search for our new pastor begins in later August. Thank you!

This week at Grace – Our Summer kicks off this Sunday on the Memorial Day weekend when we acknowledge memorial gifts received this year and the special people begin remembered through those gifts. Josiah Soderstrum (Mark and Cathy Hermanson and Kelly Leuschen nephew) is our first special music guest for the summer. He will share the hymn, "Be Thou My Vision". Pastor Fred's message, "The Voice of Love" is inspired by John 17:1-11. Cathy Hermanson will serve as liturgist. As always, worship begins at 9:15. We invite you to join us!

After worship on Sunday, you are invited to visit with Pastor Fred and members of the Congregational Development Team (CDT) about their recently completed Congregational Study. The study includes results from the two recently conducted congregational surveys and an analysis of our congregational systems. The study is an important tool as we develop our Action Plan for 2018. The 22-page document is available to those who would like a copy. This is your opportunity to comment and ask questions and learn more about the work the CDT is doing on our behalf.

From the Missions Committee – We've received an urgent request from our Midwest Mission Distribution Center (under the auspices of UMCOR) for CLEANING BUCKET SUPPLIES. This month MMCD has sent out nearly 4,000 buckets so far to Missouri and Illinois Flood Victims. They are running low on all cleaning bucket supplies with bug spray in especially short supply. At Grace, we are designating the next two Sundays (May 28 and June 4) for collecting money to be sent to help with this need. If you would like to contribute, please place money in the cleaning bucket. If you are writing a check, please make it out to *Grace UMC* and on the memo line write: *Cleaning Bucket supplies*. Any donations would be greatly appreciated!

Our formally organized and hosted after-worship coffee fellowship time will gather on the third Sundays of June (18th), July (16th) and August (20th). If you would like to gather in Fellowship Hall on the other Sundays you are most welcome. We just won't have coffee and snacks prepared for you.

Fire up your ovens! Our annual all-church fund-raisers are this coming Friday, June 2nd. The price list for the Bake Sale is printed on page three of this update. By now, I'm sure you've been contacted about baking pies and helping out at the PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL WITH PORK SANDWICH LINE. Thank you, in advance, for all your effort on behalf of our church! We hope you'll be able to join us to eat at the event on Friday, too! Invite your neighbors, friends and visiting family – we have some amazing cooks and bakers in this church family!

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.

We want to alert you to a fun opportunity next Sunday afternoon. Sylvia Munsen will be leading a sing-along at the carriage house museum. We'll be celebrating songs of WWI at the carriage house museum beginning at 2:30 next Sunday, June 4th. I bet we'll be surprised at the number of songs we will recognize!

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.

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

News You Can Use

Sunday, May 28

9:15 AM Worship – Memorial Sunday

Monday, May 29

OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, May 31

9:00 AM Potato Cake Bake in church kitchen – all are welcome to come help bake potato cakes for our Scandi Days Bake Sale!

Friday, June 2

7:00 AM Church open for receiving pies and bake sale goods

11:00 AM to 2 PM (or until food runs out) Annual Pie and Ice Cream Social with Pork Sandwich Line and Bake Sale

Sunday, June 4

9:15 AM Worship

**Faithfully,
Cathy**

SCANDINAVIAN DAYS BAKE SALE 2017

Scandi Days Bake Sale will be held Friday, June 2 from 11-2 (or sooner if we sell out) We want this year's bake sale to be "bigger, better and beyond" so we need your help. Please bring your wrapped and priced homemade bake goods to the church any time after 7:00 AM Friday. Bake sale is held in Chapel. Price lists for items were included in the May and June newsletter. It goes without saying we can't have a bake sale without homemade items to sell. You have come through for us each year and we are counting on you again. Thank you!!

Angel Food Cake\$6.00 (full sized)
Berliner Kranse	\$3.00/doz. or 25c each
Specialty Bread	\$4.00 (regular size loaf)
Bars	\$5.00/doz. or 50c each
Cookies	\$4.00/doz.
Cupcakes	75c each \$4.00/half doz.
Dinner Rolls	\$4.00/doz.
Fattimand	\$3.00/doz. or 25c each
Fruit Soup	\$7.50/pint
Haglatta.....	\$1.75/pint
Jam/Jelly	\$3.00/1/2 pint
Kavring.....	\$1.50/doz.
Kringla.....	\$4.00/doz.
Krumkaka.....	\$3.00/doz. or 25c each
Lefsa	\$2.00 each
Muffins	\$3.50/half doz.
Potato Cakes	\$4.00/half doz.
Rosettes.....	\$3.00/doz.
Sandbakkles	\$3.00/doz.
Spritz.....	\$3.00/doz. small; \$4.00/doz. large
Sweet Bread	\$3.00/large; \$2.00/medium
Sweet Bread	\$1.50/small; with nuts, add 25c
Sweet Rolls	\$1.00 each for large
Tea Ring	\$9.00 to \$11.00 depending on size

Please remember we'll be calling for pies and volunteers for the Pie and Ice Cream Social, too!