



September 1, 2017

Greetings friends,

As we're gearing up for another school year, I once again find myself in awe of the generosity of folks here at Grace. People step up, some folks over and over again to help keep us all going. Here are a few that caught my attention recently.

Patsy and Mike Jensen – very little happens at Grace without one or both of these generous souls having a hand in it. They give and give and give of their time and talents. Patsy recently agreed to take on chairing the Lambs of Grace Prayer Shawl Ministry in addition to her work with UMW, the funeral committee, the quilters, and coffee fellowship. In addition, you'll often find her working behind the scenes in support of whatever else we have going. And Mike is the same way! He's faithfully served on the Trustees and other committees several times over the years and is here for every funeral, for every coffee fellowship hour, for anytime

someone needs help with the elevator, or outdoor projects, or indoor projects or... Mike & Patsy - the epitome of loving Christian service.

Gloria Sampson is another of our extraordinary volunteers at Grace. She taught Sunday school for years and years, is chair of our Missions committee and recently agreed to be chair of UMW in 2018. She is an avid knitter and has kept that ministry going this summer both in doing lots of knitting herself, but also in encouraging others and even teaching me how to knit! She is part of both the Finance and Council as part of her responsibilities as committee chair(s) and makes an impact wherever she serves. She is a dynamo.

Gini Michel has a full plate. As Sunday school superintendent and Education Chair, she works overtime in providing the best support imaginable for our teachers and students. She diligently researches and orders materials, cleans classroom supply areas, and tries hard to make things as simple as possible for others. She faithfully serves with Sharla and Cheryl on the Brunch Sundays through the year and rarely says "no" if asked to help in other areas. She is a member of the worship committee and chairs a G.R.A.C.E. Team. With Denny receiving chemo and Caleb struggling with hip issues, her days are long, often stressful and always busy, but still, she makes time to do her part (and more) at her church. She makes a difference, always.

Erma Schaeffer – oh my goodness, what would we do without Erma? She is a tireless worker for Grace, going above and beyond as a matter of course in all of her service. She leads music for Sunday school kids, WRITES the Christmas programs, leads the children's bell choir, serves on the music committee, is current co-chair of UMW, knits for Lambs of Grace, chairs the Quilters, chairs a G.R.A.C.E. team, serves on the Worship committee, assists with Sunday school...whew! And through it all, she laughs and smiles and seems to enjoy every minute she spends working at the church. She gives her all for the church family she loves so much.

The list of special folks at Grace just keeps on going. The folks I mentioned today and previously are just a few of the many who always seem to say "yes" when asked for help or to serve. We are so very blessed by the faithful service and devotion of the members of our Grace Church family.

This week at Grace – Pastor Fred's message this week addresses his interpretation of Matthew 16:21-28. Dwain Watts will share his gift for music. Tori Fournier is our liturgist this week with Suzy Hess, Ashley, Raelyn and Sawyer Miller serving as greeters and Christine Semler-Blue & Tony Blue, Eric Dowe, Erma Schaeffer and Judy Brekke acting as ushers. We will celebrate Communion this Sunday. As always, worship begins at 9:15. We invite you to join us!

RALLY SUNDAY is next Sunday, September 10th. It will be good to get going again with Sunday school, , Confirmation and Coffee Fellowship, During our worship service next week we'll bless our teachers for the work they will do with our students, give a Bible to our third grader, and welcome back *A Touch of Grace Bells* as we begin the new academic year!

What if you could help change the world? Here is a wonderful opportunity!



Meals from the Heartland is coming up again on September 30th in Story City. Sponsored by the Roland-Story Ministerial Association, this is the 3rd year for the event. This year, they hope to *Pack the Truck* with **60,000** meals and hope to raise **\$20,000** (just 20 cents per meal) to fund it. Please consider donating and/or signing up to help package meals on:

Saturday, September 30, 2017
Story City Recreation Center (812 Elm Ave.)

We'll have sign-up sheets in the narthex or you can sign up online at:
www.tinyurl.com/2017SCHungerFight

If you have an announcement, prayer request, or something else to share with the congregation via our This Week at Grace (TWAG) or Sunday bulletin, contact the church office by noon on Wednesday. We'd love to share it with others!

We've added a few new names to our prayer concerns this week. As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer: Julie Jacobson; Sharon Matson; Dan Webster; Denny Michel; Parker Witthuhn; Sawyer Miller; Helen Gates; Norman Patti; Claudia Pauk; Marjorie Gookin; Pam Hillis; Leota Berg; Vivian Whitmore; Jeanne Hohneke; Ray Hults; George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Jordan Gertsen; Cooper Leeman

Cards for Julie - We have a basket set out in the narthex to receive special gifts for our friend, Julie who is battling a very pervasive cancer and could use some help. Gas cards, restaurant cards, retail cards, checks or cash, we hope you'll give generously in her time of special need.

News You Can Use

Sunday, September 3

9:15 AM Worship - Communion

Monday, September 4

OFFICE CLOSED

6:30 PM Education

Wednesday, September 6

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

8:00 PM Bell Choir

Sunday, September 10 – RALLY SUNDAY

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM Sunday school and Confirmation

Faithfully,
Cathy



