



September 20, 2017

Greetings friends,

FYI - Mark and I are taking off early tomorrow morning for our trip to Florida. I will be out of the office tomorrow and Friday and Monday and Tuesday. Barring emergencies, Pastor Fred will be in the office all those mornings, except for Friday. Gini Michel has agreed to have the office open on Friday morning.

A few weeks ago we blessed our teaching staff for the coming year and I wanted to continue to acknowledge some of the wonderful people we get to worship with each week at Grace.

Beckey Witthuhn is a busy working mother who prioritizes her church and its needs. She has been involved with the Sunday school program for years and helps with the children's choir, too. With four kids (three of them out of the house, now) she could plead exhaustion and just stay home, but nope! Instead, she is a faithful member of the choir and joined the bell choir three years ago – even though she didn't read music! She does now! Beckey works hard in everything she takes on and we're blessed to have her drive and energy at Grace.

Christine Semler-Blue is a medical professional and a mother who sets priorities and makes time. She too has taught Sunday school for years and is involved with children's choir and the chancel choir. She is a smart, fierce advocate for our kid's Christian education and walks the talk. Chrissy has served on several committees over the years, is a member of the Congregational Development Team and always, always treats people with courtesy and a genuine smile. Chrissy is a devoted church volunteer and her efforts make a difference.

Sharla Mander – what a shining example of service with grace and love! This is a mother who gives and gives and gives of her time and talents to the Grace Church family. She is a faithful member of UMW, served on the Congregational Development team, assists with the Confirmation class, cooks and serves monthly brunches Sept-April and readily volunteers to help with even more when a need arises. Though faced with some heart-breaking challenges through the years, Sharla always responds with a smile and a can-do spirit that inspires many of us. We appreciate her wonderful gift for giving in love.

Andrea Jensen again, we are so fortunate to have a busy, young working mother make time for the children of her church family. Andrea works in Ankeny, is working on her Master's Degree, and lives in Jewell, but she always makes special efforts to get involved at Grace. She regularly helps out with Coffee Fellowship and has been a part of the teaching team at Grace for a couple years now. It can't be easy to balance it all, but Andrea does a fine job and we feel blessed that she makes time for her church family.

Jody Larson with three busy young ones at home and a full-time job at Iowa State, Jody is an organizational whiz! Even with a full schedule, she sets aside time to work with Erma and the children's bell choir. The kids love to be a part of this special ministry because bells are fun and being part of the choir makes them feel important and that they too have a role in our Grace Church family. We're thankful Jody chooses to help make that opportunity available for some of the youngest members at Grace!

Are you seeing a pattern in the membership of Grace Church? It takes all of us, each contributing our special talents and resources to make this church go. Are you like me and in awe of what each of us brings to our family through the Grace of God? Well, buckle up, because we have many, many more folks to celebrate in the coming months!

This week at Grace –Pastor Fred’s message this week is inspired by Romans 14:1-12. The Children’s Choir will be sharing a song this week at worship, Claudia Pauk is our liturgist this week with Bill & Susan Mardock and members of the Warwick family serving as greeters. The Warwick family will also be acting as ushers. Our Mission Moment will focus on the Meals on Wheels program. Team A will be assisting with the Sunday Brunch immediately following the worship service. Sausage Gravy and Biscuits are on the menu and proceeds from the free-will offering meal will go toward our Thanksgiving Ingathering project. As always, worship begins at 9:15. We invite you to join us!

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.)

You can sign up online at:

www.tinyurl.com/2017SCHungerFight

The Missions Committee is looking for volunteers to help serve at the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry on Saturday morning, October 21st. Please contact either Sue Bohner or Judy Miller if you can lend a hand! Also needed: Sue and Judy have graciously volunteered to serve as co-chairs on behalf of Grace Church as we lead the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in 2018. Now they are looking for two people to volunteer to serve as Secretary and Treasurer for next year.

The UMW has set up a fun opportunity for all to get involved with putting together 100 health/hygiene kits for UMCOR and the Thanksgiving Ingathering. See the display on an easel in the narthex and select (take with you) a Post-it note describing the items you agree to supply as a donation to the project. Please check out the clever display and choose to participate!

The month of October is the time to sign up for Meals on Wheels and to choose the route and day(s) you choose to help. Please be generous with your time to help us. As in the past, there will be no meals delivered on Thanksgiving or the Friday after. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex. As you sign up for your volunteer days, don’t forget to pick up a “Volunteer Tips and Reminders” sheet also. This sheet should answer any questions you might have. If you still have questions, ask or call Claudia Pauk.

On Thursday, October 12th our District Superintendent, Harlan Gillespie will be at Grace to meet with our Congregational Development Team to hear about their two-year process just completed and to answer some their questions. **Then, beginning at 7:30**, the congregation is invited to a CHARGE CONFERENCE to *vote on approving the ministerial candidacy of one of our own members* (someone is ready to begin training to become a pastor)! Following that, D.S. Gillespie will be available to answer any congregational questions concerning the Pastoral Appointment process.

The Worship Committee is pleased to invite you to a Soup Supper on Sunday evening, OCTOBER 15th beginning at 5:00 p.m. Brian McNamara will provide our evening’s entertainment with stories of his Model T Alaskan Adventure from this past summer. You don’t have to bring a thing other than yourselves and curiosity about Brian’s special trip! Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

St Petri Lutheran Church in Story City will be hosting their 28th Annual Turkey Supper on Saturday, October 21st from 5-7. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. The supper is served family style and includes roast turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy, sweet corn, coleslaw, cranberry relish, dinner roll and homemade pie. St. Petri is handicap accessible by entering the north door on the parking lot. Carry outs are also available at the north door. Please join us that evening at 804 Grand Ave.

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer: Denny Michel; Sharene Lykins; Ron & Darlys Orth; Julie Jacobson; Sharon Matson; Parker Witthuhn; Helen Gates; Norman Patti; Claudia Pauk; Marjorie Gookin; Pam Hillis; Jeanne Hohneke; Ray Hults; George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Jordan Gertsen; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa mission

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 24

9:15 AM Worship – Baptism of Reagan Flaspohler
10:15 AM Brunch (Thanksgiving Ingathering focus)
10:30 AM Sunday school and Confirmation

Monday, September 25

5:30 PM Finance
7:00 PM Council

Wednesday, September 27

6:30 PM Leadership Dev't
7:00 PM Chancel Choir
8:00 PM Bell Choir

Sunday, October 1

8:00 AM Communications
9:15 AM Worship
10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM Sunday school

**Faithfully,
Cathy**