



September 29, 2017

Greetings friends,

Mark and I enjoyed such a nice getaway trip. Some folks don't appreciate driving long distances on vacations, but we like it. It's fun to see landscapes change as you get farther from home. And, even though I am not a farmer's daughter, I'm an Iowan and I do notice crops. With the recent hullabaloo regarding cotton plants at Hobby Lobby, I was hyper alert to fields of ripe cotton. We didn't happen to see any being harvested, but to the untrained eye, the cotton certainly *looked* ready.

If you're lucky like we are, one traveling companion may have navigating skills that don't quite come up to snuff according to the other traveler's reckoning. Yes, we do use Google Maps, but there is some resistance to having the sound turned on. This allows for some not inconsiderable frustration when one vacationer shares more information than the other is able to absorb when traversing busy city thoroughfares. This may possibly result in a couple of missed turns and an opportunity to see new vistas not anticipated in the planning stages of the trip. This also allows for longer periods of intra-vehicular silence while internal temperatures are regulated, thoughts are gathered and alternate pathways are explored. Potentially, it can result in an entertaining story – though that comes after the fact, NOT so much as it is being lived. ;-)

Such adventures cause me to wonder if God has bruises on His head from all the times he must surely smack his forehead as he observes all the wrong turns his beloved children make as we travel through life. He's given us a "map", but still we do, on occasion, stray from his path. So thankful for God's patience and the grace He grants each of us on our journey.

When it comes down to it, our detours are all part of a learning process, right? And they are also a wonderful opportunity for enrichment, growth and character-building.

At least that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

This week at Grace –Pastor Fred's message this week is inspired by Matthew 21:23-32. The Chancel Choir is singing "We Come as Guests Invited" in observance of World Communion Sunday. Claudia Pauk is our liturgist this week with Chuck & Ruby Matheason and Mark & Cora Hermanson serving as greeters. Jim & Shelley Hassebrock, Terry Gustason and Cathy Hermanson will be acting as ushers. We will celebrate Communion. As always, worship begins at 9:15. We invite you to join us!

JINGLES FOR JULIE - During the month of October, you are invited to save your pocket change for our friend, Julie Jacobson. Please pick up a small kit including a calendar and small paper sack on a table in the narthex. The calendar is self-explanatory and takes just a bit of time each day. Simply follow the plan day-by-day, depositing your pocket change in the attached paper bag. When the calendar is completed, please bring your bag of change to the church and place it in the large brown bag also located on the table in the narthex. Our goal is to have all our smaller bags back before **Harvest Home Sunday, November 12th** so we may present your gifts to Julie at that worship service.

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: Gloria Sampson; 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

News You Can Use

Sunday, October 1

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

Monday, October 2

6:30 PM Education

Wednesday, October 4

7:00 PM Choir
8:00 PM Bells

Thursday, October 5

SPRC to St. Paul for workshop

Sunday, October 8

8:00 AM Trustees
9:15 AM Worship – Nate leads
10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
10:30 AM Sunday school

**Faithfully,
Cathy**