



May 10, 2018

Greetings friends,

Mark and I are spoiled. We know it and we really, really appreciate it.

For the last year, Cora has been old enough to stay with G'pa and G'ma for long weekends. Up until she was about 15 months, we would have to trek over to her house for playtime a couple times a month. That was always lots of fun, but there is something extra delightful about having her visit our home...and having her all to ourselves.

We understand this is a very short season. Before we know it and long before we're ready, Cora will have playdates with friends and dance classes and school and ball games and other things that will necessitate us going to her more often again and shorter visits both ways. Oh, she'll come stay every once in a while, but as her world expands, our roles will naturally diminish.

So Mark and I are "making hay while the sun shines". We're intent on building memories and wringing every drop of joy out of our time with little Cora. Her folks are our accomplices, calling on us when they are

working or are off on an adventure of their own. We're grateful to be able to help them even as we are relishing our special time with their daughter.

There are times we wish we lived just a little bit closer, but really, two-hours is very do-able. If they lived in town, we probably wouldn't get these 3-day interludes of "All Cora All the Time." There would be other benefits for sure, but this exclusive time is wonderful. Mark and I really enjoy being the "Go To" adults when Cora runs into difficulty or discovery (often simultaneously). When her folks are around, we're appreciated, but strictly second-string. That's how it should be, we embrace it and we love watching them interact.

But still, I think most anyone would agree it is a heady privilege to be depended upon and regarded as a "Knower of All Things" for three days every now and then. I can tell you it is waaay more fun than the "Dumber than Rocks" designation we held and despaired of when Max was a high school senior. Thank goodness we've all outgrown that sad stage.

Now he and Kristin spoil us with generous, quality time with our grand-girl and we really, really appreciate it.

This Week at Grace – Pastor Fred is fresh off vacation and ready to take us down the homestretch of our time together. His message this week is inspired by John 15:9-17. Jarod Hart will provide special organ music for our worship experience. *Greeters this week are Ken & Janet (Larson) Schuck and George Sellers. Those serving as ushers include Denny & Gini Michel and Hubert & Raejean Bicklehaupt. George Janvrin will serve as liturgist.* Worship begins at 9:15 and **You are invited to Fellowship Hall following our service** to enjoy a freshly baked cinnamon roll with your beverage. Sunday school classes meet at 10:30. Please join us!

This Sunday is Mother's Day! You're invited to come join us as we celebrate Mom during our Worship hour! Following the service and in honor of Mother's Day, some of our Grace women will be offering a freshly-baked homemade cinnamon roll to enjoy with your coffee – as always, a free-will donation is appreciated. If you enjoy your treat so much you'd like to take some home, they will have rolls in To-Go packages of 2 or 6 that you may purchase! This is a fund-raiser for our Thanksgiving Ingathering school bag project.

On Sunday morning, take a moment to peek into the office suite and check our progress on updating the spaces. We've gone with a fairly bold color for accent wall(s) in each room. Two of the

rooms have no windows, so we wanted to energize the space a bit. Thank you to Trustees Kurt Carlson, David Barclay, Chris Feil (and Kate and Lena) and George Janvrin for their leadership and strong backs. Trustees Loretta Parker and Alex Flaspohler helped paint. Thanks also to volunteers Becky, John (helped move and paint) and Ross Barclay, David Doolittle, Mark and Cathy Hermanson for contributing some strength and sweat equity to the project as well. New flooring will be installed by Peterson's in the next few days. This phase of the project is due to be complete with furniture moved back into the offices sometime during the week of May 13th.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend worship on May 20th. A Farewell Reception honoring Pastor Fred is planned following the service. Pastor Fred will be with us through the month of June.

We have no high school seniors graduating from Grace Church this year, but know we have a few graduating from college. Please let us know in the office so we may recognize them in the *June Visitor!*

Opportunities for lawn mowing are available at Grace Church this summer! A sign-up sheet is on a clipboard in the narthex. The church does have a mower that you may use if you'd rather not haul yours over.

All-Church Spring Clean-Up Days are set for **Friday, May 18 from 4:00-7:00 PM** and **Saturday, May 19 from 9:00-noon**. A list of jobs to tackle will be put together by the Trustees and placed on a clipboard in the narthex.

Loaves and Fishes/Story City Market Matching Program

Loaves and Fishes and Story City Market have begun a matching program. When a case of advertised Best Choice brand product is purchased for Loaves and Fishes, Story City Market will match this donation with another case. Sales must be completed through store management. All case donations will be delivered to the pantry. With questions call Judy Miller at 515.520.1593 or Sue Bohner at 515.290.5905.

All newsletter articles and reports you'd like to have printed in the June *Grace Visitor* are due in the church office by **May 20th**, please.

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:
Marlene Doolittle; Lynn Henricks; Judy Brekke; Chuck Matheason; Denny Michel; Caleb Michel; Lois Johnson; Duane O'Tool; Jackie Royer (Sharla's friend); Norman Patti; Pam Hillis; Cooper Leeman, Taylor family in Africa

News You Can Use

Sunday, May 13

- 9:15 AM Worship – Mother's Day
- 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship – Cinnamon Roll Treat and sale!
- 10:30 AM Sunday school

Monday, May 14

- 5:30 PM SPRC
- 7:00 PM Worship

Sunday, May 20

- 8:15 AM Missions
- 9:15 AM Worship
- 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship – Reception honoring Pastor Fred and his service
- 10:30 AM Sunday school – last day until September!

**Faithfully,
Cathy**