



November 15, 2018

Greetings friends,

Aren't you glad that the election season is behind us? Uff-da. Whether you came away happy or sad about the results, it sure is nice to not have to listen to political rhetoric and campaign ads round the clock anymore. Whew!

I actually escaped over a month ago when I realized the Hallmark channel had a series of Halloween movies on air. And then the Christmas movies began! I'm not one to rush past Thanksgiving, but boy, those holiday movies came at just the right time for me this year. And, best of all, the network didn't air political ads!

Yes, the movies may be full of overly elaborate holiday decorations - honestly who would have the time and energy to go to such over-the-top lengths? And yes, the featured couple may *always* overcome a silly misunderstanding to ultimately (within the last 10 minutes of the movie) realize true love, but I don't care.

No one calls anyone else nasty names, no one fosters hatred of their opponent and no one lies about either their accomplishments and shortcomings or those of the one who is vying for the same office. No one picks apart and parses every syllable uttered by an opponent. The heroes are kind and generous and the villains are usually just misunderstood souls without any real malice in their hearts; they most often find forgiveness for any of their misdeeds in the end. Generally speaking, most folks are kind and generous to their neighbor. That's a philosophy I support and wish we would return to in the real world.

Hallmark drama is about romantic things like rekindling lost love years after a break-up or perhaps finding love as people work to save a dude ranch/scenic resort/bakery or perhaps recovering one's lost memory. You know, the *important* stuff that won't cause your blood pressure to rise or turn you against your longtime neighbors and friends. The worst that may happen is that you get so inspired by all the Christmas cookie baking and great food endlessly featured, that you go on a mad baking frenzy. Other than a potential sugar coma, what could be bad about that?

**This Week at Grace** – Pastor Jonathan's message this week, "A Giving Journey: Out of Mission" is inspired by 2 Corinthians 9. We will bless our 2019 pledge cards. Our Chancel Choir will sing *Our Grateful Praise* and *Terry Gustason* will serve as *liturgist*. *Greeters this week* are Amber, Jenna and Isabel Hoskins. *Those serving as ushers include Dave & Mary Loupee and Dave & Becky Barclay*. Worship begins at 9:15 with our monthly Brunch at 10:15. Sunday school meets at 10:30 - please join us!

**Pledge Cards for 2019** – We are hoping you can get your pledge cards turned in this week. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November we will bless all of the pledge cards received. Thank you for being generous in your giving plan for 2019.

**You're invited to Brunch this Sunday after worship.** Egg bake with breads/muffins is on the menu and the recipient of our free-will offering for the meal will go to Roland-Story's Angel Tree program.

**Please come and lend a hand on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> (tomorrow), from 4-6 p.m. and Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. – Noon.** Our all-church clean-up days at Grace were delayed a week because of nasty weather. As always, there will be leaves to rake and inside projects to take care of, too. Think about what tasks you'd like to help out with and bring the proper tools to accomplish your goal.

**THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> and MONDAY, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. We'll also be closed the day after Thanksgiving, FRIDAY, NOV. 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Christmas gift request slips for children in need** in the Roland-Story area will be available in the narthex this Sunday. Please pick one up and help to make a child's Christmas a little brighter this year. If shopping for gifts isn't your thing, please be generous in your giving at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Brunch this Sunday – the recipient of our free-will offering will be Roland-Story's Angel Tree Program.

**Meals on Wheels – Nov. 19 Henricks; Nov. 20 Sampson; Nov 21 McVicker. Thank you all for your service!**

**FYI - Bethany Life will be offering a support group opportunity for caregivers of those suffering with dementia or Alzheimer's. The group begins meeting on November 27<sup>th</sup> from 4-5:30 pm in the Bethany Manor Chapel.**

***Living Faithfully: The United Methodist Church and Human Sexuality*** is a little book that, in just four short chapters—leads us through a discussion of the issues at the core of our church's current struggle. What is the conflict about? What do people on either "side" have to say? In February a special general conference will receive—and perhaps act on—a report from *The Commission on A Way Forward*. This commission was tasked with finding a way for the United Methodist Church to continue its ministry while our people remained in connection with one another. I feel it is my responsibility to lead the congregation into some kind of understanding of the issues involved. We will be discussing this book in the adult Sunday school class beginning January 13. I would also like to make another time available: perhaps Sunday evenings, Tuesday evenings, or Wednesday before choir practice. Please indicate your preference on the attendance pad. The office is purchasing a number of books to get us started.

Many of us may not know what this is all about. Some of us may already have strong opinions (and this discussion is not meant to change anyone's mind). Quite a few of us have been affected either within our families or extended circle of friends. Let's take some time to talk. --Jonathan

**We're looking for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade-aged students through adults to serve as a liturgist during worship services in 2019.** If this is something you'd like to try, please make a note in the attendance pad or stop by the office or call to let us know. Cathy provides a copy of the bulletin and a list of the announcements a few days early each week so you can read through it ahead of time. She will also coach you through your first time, if you'd like, Depending on how many want to take advantage of this opportunity, we'll ask you to take a turn every one to three months. This is just another, fairly simple way to get involved at Grace Church; we hope lots of folks will give it a try!

**The inspiring, faith-based film, *Indivisible*, will be presented Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Nov. 16, 17, 18, at the Story Theater in Story City IA. Show times are evenings at 7 p.m., with special matinees Saturday and Sunday at 4:30 p.m. Admission is only \$4 and it's rated PG.**

**The Story City Kiwanis have place a decorated box in the narthex** and invite you to help fill it with hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for Roland-Story Elementary and Middle School children in need. The box will be here until December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:**  
The Denny Michel and Julie Jacobson families; Helen Caruth as she mourns the loss of her brother; Sara Dappen; Velda Frette; George Sellers; Pat Skowronski; Sally Donald (Judy A's sister); Joan Cooney; Lois Johnson; Garry Gerjets; Carly Hilson & Rob Brunerelli (friends of Donyel); Jackie Royer (Sharla's friend); Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa

**A *Celebration of Life*** in memory of Julie Jacobson will be held on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> in our Grace Church Fellowship Hall from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**A memorial service for Denny Michel** is planned for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup> here at Grace. Visitation will also be here from 4:00-7:00 on Friday evening, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please note the changes in time.

## **News You Can Use**

### **Friday, November 16**

OFFICE CLOSED

4:00 – 6:00 PM Fall Clean-up day at Grace

### **Saturday, November 17**

9:00 AM – Noon Fall Clean-up day at Grace

### **Sunday, November 18 – Stewardship Sunday**

9:15 AM Worship – Choir sings

10:15 AM Brunch – Egg bake – proceeds to Angel Tree

10:30 AM Sunday school

### **Monday, November 19**

OFFICE CLOSED

### **Wednesday, November 21**

7:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service at Immanuel – Pastor Jonathan preaching

### **Thursday, November 22**

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

### **Friday, November 23**

OFFICE CLOSED

### **Sunday, November 25**

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Church decorating

10:30 AM Sunday school

## **Immanuel Lutheran Church – Story City**

Christmas Luncheon & Bake Sale

**Saturday, December 1**

**11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Serving a variety of soups

Rice Pudding and Scandinavian goodies

Hot chocolate bar with homemade marshmallows

Bake sale-featuring Scandinavian baked goods

\$10 for lunch, dessert, drink

\$5 for desserts/drink only

Enjoy our shops and attend the Story City Tour of Homes.

Please “like” our Facebook page, [@storycitygrace](#) and receive regular updates on “what’s happening” at Grace Church! Our website, [www.grace-umc.com](http://www.grace-umc.com) is full of information and pictures about the life and activities of our Grace Church family. Please check it out!

**Faithfully, Cathy**