



July 25, 2019

Greetings friends,

You know how when the stars all seem to align, really wonderful things happen all in a cluster and you just know God is smiling on you? I've had that kind of experience this week.

1. It began with a gathering of women who played softball (and basketball, track) together in Roland-Story's first eight years of consolidation. Among this group were gals who had been heroes to me, some who were my teammates and all who were part of a golden era of women's athletics in Iowa. A special bond we all shared was that we were all privileged to be coached by the legendary Bill Hennessy and his equally impressive assistant, Judy (Riese) Teig.

Sadly, Mr. Hennessy passed way several years ago, but Judy was there to join in the fun. The stories shared by each woman brought laughter and a nostalgic look back at wonderful memories of playing ball for Roland-Story in the 1970s.

2. Mark and I are lucky enough to get Cora all to ourselves for 5 glorious days. We love that she now comes with some sort of internal itinerary of things she wants to do. It can be amended, if our ideas seem like more fun than what she had in mind. But often, we get the feeling that it is best to just fall in line with her plans. This morning we were up at 6:00 spray bottle watering the deck plants because she wanted to play on the deck. We're headed to the carousel later today – an approved amendment to her schedule!
3. The next joyful treat was the chance to celebrate a milestone birthday with a lifelong friend. We went out to lunch and, as always, laughed and cried our way through a delicious meal,
4. I'm so excited to have the LYLAS (Love You Like A Sister) come back to sing this Sunday. It isn't always easy to find a time for all of us to get together – we often are missing one or another. So, for us to be to find a mutually available date AND THEN find a couple times to rehearse is a special accomplishment! We're praying our singing and song selection will be a blessing to all who are present to hear it on Sunday morning!

This Week at Grace Pastor Jonathan's message this week, "Following Jesus: Teach Us to Pray" is inspired by Luke 11:1-13. The LYLAS (Christine Marti, Paula Sampson, Julie Skaar, Deb Olson, Suzi [& Brad] Stellmaker, Cathy Hermanson) will be here to sing a fun rendition of "Amazing Grace" as our special music. Erma Schaeffer & Suzy Hess will serve as greeters and Tony, Christine, Connor & Tanner Blue will be our ushers on Sunday with Owen Hubert serving as liturgist. You're invited to come early (8:45) for 'Java with Jesus'. Our worship service begins at 9:15 – and homemade treats will be served in Fellowship Hall following the service - please join us!

The final days for the Roland-Story Back to School Supply Drive are upon us. Please help yourself to the list (found on the easel display in the narthex) you would like to fill. Then, return your package(s) to the narthex area by Tuesday, July 30th. If you would rather donate money, the Angel Tree program plans to add a book to each kit this year.

You're invited to come to church a bit early on summer Sunday mornings for 'Java with Jesus' and your Grace Church family. Beginning at 8:45 each Sunday, plan to bring a thermal cup of your preferred morning beverage and meet in the narthex for a little fellowship before the service begins. On the third Sundays of July and August, the serving G.R.A.C.E. team will host Coffee Fellowship with home-baked goodies following the morning service.

Dates to mark on your calendars:

Wednesday, August 28 – 7:00 Chancel Choir rehearsals begin – come join in the fun!
8:00 Bell Choir rehearsals begin!

September 6 and 7 – All Church Camp Adventure at Little Wall Lake – reservations have been made. Bring your camper or tent and plan to join in the fun! Or if you aren't a camper, please come up for the campfire chats in the evenings.

Sunday, September 8 – Rally Sunday

Monday, October 14 – **2019 Charge Conference** – this date is not yet 'set in stone', but it looks likely. Originally we thought Sunday, Oct. 13, but that is CropWalk Day and we didn't want to take folks from that worthy endeavor. It will be an evening session – exact time is still being considered....

Jonathan has received information from the National Able Network – the organization offers paid job training for unemployed people 55 and over who make around \$15,000 a year. Right now they are looking for a qualifying person to work at Bethany Life Communities. The person would be a companion who would talk to, read to, play games with or take the resident around the community. It would be a 20 hour/week position. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Karen O'Callaghan at (515) 393-4269 or kocallaghan@nationalable.org

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:

Erma Schaeffer and family as they mourn the recent passing of her brother, Rich; Caleb Michel; Karen Keech (Kent's wife); Judy Skaare (Jonathan's sister); George Sellers; Emily Meier; Lois Johnson; Garry Gerjets; Jackie Royer; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family

News You Can Use

Sunday, July 28

8:45 AM Java with Jesus

9:15 AM Worship – LYLAS special music

Sunday, August 4

8:45 AM Java with Jesus

9:15 AM Worship – Baptism of Beverly Tesdall, Milianna Carlson special music

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Tesdall family!

Please "like" our Facebook page, [@storycitygrace](https://www.facebook.com/storycitygrace) and receive regular updates on "what's happening" at Grace Church! Our website, 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**