

# GRACE NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2024 ISSUE 82-09



Dear Friends,

## God's Story Our Story

Do you have stories that are held in the memories of your family and friends? Stories that are told and retold. In my family there is a story about my Grandpa lighting fireworks in the mailbox or when a group of us drove through a terrible snowstorm on the country roads only for my cousin who delighted in the bumps to laugh while everyone was worried. Often the stories are humorous but there are also stories of endurance and courage. The stories we carry often reveal something about us and our family or friends. It paints a picture of how we see ourselves or what we value. They are snapshots into the world that shapes us.

Likewise, our ancestors of faith collected their stories. They tell of the choices they made, wise and misguided. They reveal their victories, their hopes and their losses. Through poetry, prose and history, they told their story. They described their relationship with one another. Yet more than anything, they remembered through the retelling of stories, God's relationship with God's creation.

Through their struggles, their questions, and their experiences we might just find ourselves. We might discover how God's presence in their lives might be reflected in our own. How God's promises to our ancestors of faith extend to us today. Every Sunday we gather to hear the story of God's enduring love for God's creation and God speaks! Through scripture shared in Bible Studies, devotions and prayers groups God touches our hearts and minds. God encourages us, renews us, transforms us and sends us out into the world.

Yet the story doesn't end with a collection of 66 writings culminating in the book of Revelation. I've always been fascinated by the fact that the Bible was never considered officially closed. In theory, we could add new books that tell of God's faithfulness, grace and forgiveness. This library of God's activity in our world isn't limited to the past. Some have argued that letters like Martin Luther King Jr's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" should be included. It is grounded in our shared biblical stories and sounds like a letter Paul or a prophet would write. It also speaks to how God is presently active in our lives.

God's story is our story. The stories of God's relationship with this world, God's activity in our lives, they are still being written in us. Like the stories we tell among our family and friends, the ones we tell of God also shape us and connect us to one another.

**This year, I invite you to join a review of the Biblical story by following along with a study guide and a book called, *The Story*.** It is written like a narrative in familiar language. We will gather for a Bible Study to discuss the book beginning September 25, tentatively set for the morning. If you'd like to join a group that meets in the evening, perhaps once a month, please let me know. Junior Bible Study will also be following along with a children's version of "The Story."

I hope that in the months ahead we can encounter God in surprising and familiar ways as we share the tale of God love for God's creation. I pray we might feel comfortable enough and confident enough to reveal to one another how God is active in our lives, writing God's story into our own.

God's Peace,  
Pastor Stephanie



Grace Lutheran Church • 1140 E High St • Davenport, IA  
563-322-0769 • office@gracewelcomesyou.org

# Fall Block Party

**Sunday, September 15**

**Outdoor Worship**  
10:30-11:30am

**Party Activities**  
11:30am-1:30pm



**Walking Tacos**

**Snow Cones**

**Bouncy House**

**Music • Games**

**Friends • Fun!**

Help Assemble Compassion Kits  
**Bring a Lawn Chair!**





# Fall Block Party

## Blessing of the Animals

### During Worship on September 29

You are invited to bring your furry and scaly friends for a Blessing of the Animals! You can bring your pets to worship in the sanctuary with you. Please be mindful of their ability to play well with others. You can also bring a photo of your pet or kids may want to bring a stuffed animal. As we remember St. Francis of Assisi (patron saint of animals and the environment) we give thanks for God's creation and our furry companions.

Remy  Annie's pets




Delilah 

**You are invited to join us for our Third Annual Block Party!** This is an important opportunity to meet our neighbors, have a conversation with them, and learn more about their needs and connections to the neighborhood. It's also an opportunity to share a story of your own and invite them to learn a little about Grace Lutheran.

Last year, we had many neighbors stop by for fun games, delicious food, and relationship-building through conversation. In one conversation, a church member and a high school student shared memories and stories as they compared their experiences of being a student at Davenport Central High School twenty years apart from one another. We have much love and joy to share. Let's celebrate this love and joy and show our neighbors our commitment to care for the people who call this neighborhood home!

This is also an opportunity to celebrate everyone connected to Grace, including our youngest children. Everyone is invited to enjoy a meal and a refreshing snow cone, play a few games, and cherish the company of one another. There is no cost for the event, but we will have a free-will donation for the walking tacos. Any money received from these donations will go back into our Outreach and Welcome ministry that allows us to partner with neighboring schools & non-profit organizations.

**Helpers are still needed** - check your email link to sign up or contact the church office to volunteer for one or more of the following:

- We need one more tent/canopy
  - Help move tables/chairs to a staging area Thursday before the event
  - Help with set up on the morning of the event
  - Help serve snow cones 12:30-1:30pm
  - Activity helpers (bowling, corn hole, face painting)
  - Clean up
- 

# GATHER



## Join Our Heart & Voice Choir

**“Sing to the Lord a new song!”** You are invited to join Heart and Voice, Grace’s adult choir, as it returns this fall. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00pm. If you are high school-age or up, this is the group for you! We welcome all voices high or low, loud or soft, trained or untrained. Our mission is ministry in song as we worship together. Come and join us!



## Progressive Dinner

**Saturday, September 21**

The Rock’s and Janssen’s will be hosting an IFF progressive-type dinner in their homes out in Le Claire on September 21, beginning at 5:30pm. Additional information will be provided as the date approaches. So, mark your calendars and **RSVP to Jane Rock by texting or calling 563-340-8022.**

## Men’s Lunch & Conversation

Men’s “Lunch & Conversation” meets every Wednesday at Noon at Vander Veer Park! (Once the weather turns cold, we’ll meet in the narthex at church.) You can bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a local restaurant. Contact Dennis Boehme at [boehmedeaol.com](http://boehmedeaol.com) or 563-320-2661 to be added to the email list.



## Page Turners

**Saturday, September 21, 8:30am**

**The Burning of the World: The Great Chicago Fire and the War for a City’s Soul** by Scott W. Berg

An enrapturing account of the fire’s inexorable march and an eye-opening look at its aftermath, *The Burning of the World* tells the story of one of the most infamous calamities in history and the new Chicago it precipitated—a disaster that still shapes American cities to this day.

**Host:** Janice Gibbs 563-332-6791 **Location:** Happy Joe’s Bettendorf



## Saturday, September 28 | Bend XPO Amphitheater in Moline

**Schedule:** 8:00am Pre-walk activities, 9:00am Opening Ceremony, 9:30am WALK!

Please join friends from Grace and Saint Mark’s at the NAMI Walk. We all know SOMEONE whose family has been affected by mental illness, even if we don’t talk about it. The NAMI walk raises awareness and funds for mental health education. Families need support! We also hope to continue reducing the stigma that still surrounds persons with mental health challenges. If you need a ride to East Moline, or if you have any questions, please contact me. To register to walk and/or donate funds go to: [namiwalks.org.\(Mississippi Valley\)](http://namiwalks.org.(Mississippi Valley)). Blessings to each of you! Questions? Contact Jane Rock 563-340-8022 (call or text) [janesingerrock@gmail.com](mailto:janesingerrock@gmail.com)

## Grief Support

### Sept Meetings: Sept 4 & 18

The Grief Support Group meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month 5:30pm in Pat Bell Hall. Please join us! Anyone is welcome at anytime, and please be assured our conversations are kept in confidence. Questions? Contact: Cindy Lee 563-370-5386.

## Centering Prayer

### Mondays 4:30pm via Zoom (excluding holidays)

In the Christian tradition, Contemplative Prayer is considered to be the pure gift of God. It is the opening of mind and heart--our whole being to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words, and emotions. With grace we open our awareness to God whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than choosing; closer than consciousness itself.

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift.

Cheryl Kritsch is the facilitator. Periodically the group will meet in person in the Grace Church Choir Room providing the ZOOM option, as well. Please contact Cheryl 563-343-0135 with any questions and to verify the location (zoom or in person).

Click [HERE](#) to enter Zoom for Centering Prayer.  
**Meeting ID:** 392 407 7028  
**Passcode:** 2020



## Coffee with Esther

Join Paul Lewellan Sunday mornings beginning Sept 22, for coffee and conversation about the Book of Esther. Meet 9:45-10:15am in PBH. *Reading Esther is recommended, though not required. (It's a really short book.)* Among the topics tackled will be:

- **Religious Faith** (Mordecai) "What does your faith require of you?" Sept 22
- **Religious Hatred** (Haman) "Who do you hate?" Sept 28
- **A Woman's Place** (Esther) "What is a woman's role in politics?" Oct 6

## Bible Study: THE STORY



### Wednesday Mornings beginning September 25 (time TBD)

The Story helps people understand God's Word as it brings the Bible to life, sweeping you up in the story of God's love and his plan for your lives. The book and study guide are available in the church office for a combined cost of \$13. Please let the office know if you'd like to purchase them, and we will set them aside for you. Pr. Stephanie also hopes to have an evening bible study for The Story - please let her know if you'd like to attend an evening class.

## Prayer Wall

**Have you added your prayers to Grace's prayer wall?** *If you haven't, now is the time.* The prayer wall, created by members Elizabeth and Dave Linde at the request of Grace's Spiritual Growth Mission, is modeled after the famous Western Wall - commonly referred to as the Wailing Wall - in Jerusalem.

As is done at the Western Wall, everyone at Grace is invited to add their hand-written prayers on colored paper to the prayer wall in the Narthex near the south windows. It's a way to lift your prayers up to God in a unique and special way.

**Be sure to place your prayers before the September 15, service and block party.** On that day we will gather all the prayers from the wall and give them to God in a special burning ceremony. Submit your prayers now so they can be part of this spiritual communal release.



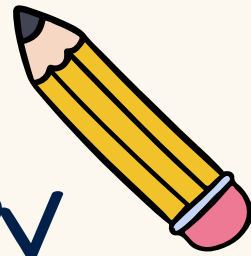
# CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

## JBS Starts September 22!

**Junior Bible Study Resumes  
September 22, at  
both the 8:30am and  
10:30am worship services.**



## School Ministry



Supporting our neighboring schools has been identified by the congregation as an important part of our outreach ministry. For this school year, I will be sharing an **ongoing wish list** for the schools. These items have been identified by the Family Support Liaisons at Madison Elementary, Garfield Elementary, and Sudlow Jr. High. As items are updated by the school, I will update the list every month. As we are all aware, school supplies go beyond notebooks and pencils. If you would like to contribute and share an item from this list, feel free to drop the items off with Pastor Kirsten and she will ensure the donation quickly gets to the school. On behalf of these schools, thank you for your support!

- **Spray deodorant** (kept in the nurse's office, allows for multiple students to use one bottle during the day)
- **Girls & women's underwear & bras**, all sizes
- **Girls & women's black leggings**, all sizes
- **Boys' gym shorts**, all sizes
- **Clarinet reeds** (used in the elementary band program. While there are donated instruments to lend to students, band directors often use their own money for additional items, such as reeds.)

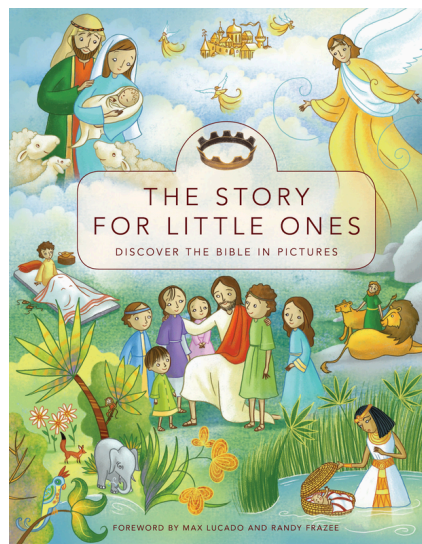
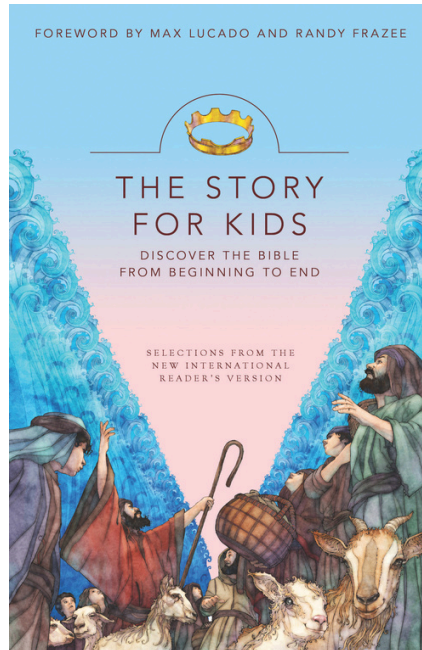
### Introducing "The Story"

This year in Junior Bible Study, we will be joining the adults in reading through "The Story". Each week we will hear familiar Bible stories and enjoy the beautiful illustrations. The Story offers us a fresh perspective and an opportunity to engage Bible stories in a new way. The chapters the kids read and hear will be the same chapters the adults read the same week.

How is our story God's story? How do I fit within God's story? These are lifelong questions for us as believers. The Story will offer the kids and teachers an opportunity to ask these questions and ponder the answers with curiosity and imagination. We will intentionally share what we are learning with the congregation through visuals that are displayed in the church. We will also send the kids home with a summary of what was learned and how to continue learning at home.

This year we have a fantastic group of JBS teachers and volunteers. If you would like to learn more about volunteering for JBS, check with Pastor Kirsten. Please thank these individuals for their faith-filled service and time:

- |                   |                 |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| • Chrissy Hartman | • Jane Rock     | • Carol Keller    |
| • Casey Costello  | • Janice Gibbs  | • Roe Edinger     |
| • Lori Haugen     | • Anne Pacha    | • Denise Eads     |
| • Jane Krumwiede  | • Deb Gustafson | • Caroline Haugen |



# CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

## Pray & Play Fall 2024

Thank you for your continued support for Pray & Play! I am thrilled that we can continue this ministry. We are hiring two small group leaders who will be charged with supervising the children, engaging with them in various activities, and keeping them safe.

At this time, I invite you to share a flyer (located in the narthex) with a family who may be interested. I also invite you to consider volunteering.

Even with paid staff, we rely on volunteers to ensure we are following our child safety policy of having two adults with every group of children. If you prefer to remain behind the scenes, we have various cleaning needs, grocery shopping (you will be reimbursed), as well as preparing food for meals and snacks.

I am grateful we can offer this ministry to the community and for your continued prayers and support.

# PRAY & PLAY

Join us for fun when school is out!  
at Grace Lutheran Church | 1140 E High St, Davenport

For kids ages 5-10 | Cost\* \$10 per session

Lunch and snacks provided. Close supervision provided by screened and qualified staff. Space is limited.

\*Scholarships are available upon request - no child will be turned away for financial circumstances. Payment can be made online through a link at the bottom of the online registration form. Checks can also be delivered or mailed to Grace Lutheran Church. Payments for all three months can be made at once, or you can pay for each month separately.



**Activities Include:** Games, Playground Time, Arts & Crafts, Music, Dancing, Bible Stories, Educational Programming, and More!

## FALL 2024 DATES & TIMES

8:30am-4:00pm

September 16 | October 14 | November 7

→ **Registration Required**

Register Online at:  
[bit.ly/PPRegFall24](https://bit.ly/PPRegFall24)

OR Scan the QR Code  
OR request a paper copy from  
your school counselor or email  
[office@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:office@gracewelcomesyou.org)



## Questions?

Please feel free to contact  
Pastor Kirsten Lee at 563-322-0769 or  
[pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org)

# THANK YOU SALLY!

When asked how long I have been teaching Sunday School, I would have to say on and off for 48 years. Don and I began teaching Sunday School when we were first married. We had no kids yet. We taught an inner-city group, and it was an eye opener even back then. What led us into teaching was probably because we were asked by our church and we said yes. We had a heart for kids who needed to learn about God, how they are special gifts. That God has always loved them, even before they were born. I also enjoyed preparing crafts and singing the songs. I have a large set of flannelgraphs that are over 50 years old and has been used many times. One of my memories that sunk my heart was when one of the kids asked who Jesus was. They had never heard of Him. That is tragic to me. Sunday School is the beginning of being in a classroom setting, learning to color, glue, cut paper, socialize with others, and get a treat! Learning about God's love and forgiveness is icing on the cake. -Sally Haugen





**WELCA hosted an ice cream social** on August 2, at the Bettendorf Community Band concert to cover shipping costs for Lutheran World Relief quilts, sewing and personal care kits. Many church members contributed to the success of this event raising \$401.00! Thank you to those who created event publicity, coordinated donations, provided baked goods, helped at the social, displayed the quilts and LWR information, and to congregation members who attended the event!



## Thank You!

Thank you to the following ladies that provided food for the youth at Safer during the month of July and August. They are: *Claire Johansen, Ruth McAndrews, Gloria Lange, Kathy Higgins, Vicki Liebbe, and Hollie Swain*. For many of the youth, this is the only hot meal provided by a church group. They are always appreciative as this may also be their first meal of the day. If you would like more information about this project, please contact Hollie Swain.

## Help With Blessing Bags

The Social Ministry Committee plans to assemble blessing bags again at the Block Party on September 15. **Underwear Because We Care** has donated 100 pairs of Bombas socks to get us started. If you have connections that can help us provide other items (20 or more of each) please contact Paul Lewellan [plewellan@mac.com](mailto:plewellan@mac.com) or Claire Johansen [claire.d.johansen@gmail.com](mailto:claire.d.johansen@gmail.com). Useful items include toothpaste, toothbrushes, lip balm, hand wipes, etc.

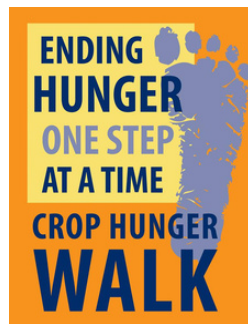
## Food Pantry Weekend

**Food Pantry Collection is Sunday, October 6** Bring your non-perishable food donations in a bag, and leave at the altar before the service. **Ethnic Cooking Supplies:** Go to [imu.uiowa.edu/food/food-pantry/donate/multicultural-food-item-donations-requested](http://imu.uiowa.edu/food/food-pantry/donate/multicultural-food-item-donations-requested) for a detailed list of multicultural food items.



## Lutheran World Relief Kits

Thank you all for your wonderful response! Bags and kits should be returned to the church by September 15.



## Crop Walk 2024

Sunday, October 6 | 1:30pm  
Caxton Building (1701 River Drive, Moline)

Step up and step our for the QC Crop Hunger Walk! Join Laura Toland and others from Grace as we walk across the I-74 bridge and back again.

The hunger, malnutrition, and lack of unclean water for millions of children is everybody's business. God helps us to see the world differently with love and justice. We can help change what others say is impossible by donating to the Church World Services Crop Walk (CWCSW on check memo). 25% of the funds collected stay here locally in the QC. Help provide hungry people their daily bread through your donations and walk of support!

If you are reading this online, click **HERE** to register to walk and/or donate, or contact Laura Toland with any questions or help with registering at [agapesweetie@aol.com](mailto:agapesweetie@aol.com) or 563-343-2557.





## Upcoming Dates

- **September 10 & 11** – Quilting  
9am–Noon each day.
- **October 4**, Friday – 9:00am.  
Quilts will be put on pews for display. We can always use extra help. It only takes about an hour.
- **October 15** – Tuesday, 9:00am  
Quilts will be packed for shipping. We welcome extra hands when packing the quilts. The more who help the quicker we are finished.
- **October 15 & 16** Quilting  
9am–Noon each day. (Note change of date).
- **October 18**, Friday evening time  
(?) Load boxed kits and quilts into trailer.
- **October 19** – Saturday. Colleen, Rod and Matt Levsen have donated the use of their trailer and will transport all kits to Cedar Rapids.

## WELCA News September 2024

On August 2, WELCA sponsored an Ice Cream and Pie Social at the Bettendorf Veterans Memorial Park in conjunction with the Bettendorf Community Band concert. Thank you to Naomi Circle for organizing the social this year. It was a successful evening with good weather, listening to the band play some of their pieces, plus we welcomed the cash donations. Thank you to all the people who provided desserts to sell and volunteered to serve. We are signed up to host again next year!

LWR school bags were made from fabric that was donated to the quilters. Thank you to the people who helped to cut out and sew these bags. All the bags have been picked up by church members and most have been returned full of school supplies. Thank you members of Grace for your thoughtful and generous support.

The last couple months we have been busy completing 120 lap quilts for Milestones to distribute in November to some of the nursing homes and senior citizens they serve. A friend of our quilting group, Joyce Willers, made all of the quilt tops. Thank you so much, Joyce.

## WELCA Circles at Grace

Here at Grace we have three women's circles open to anyone who is interested. As you read about them below, please consider which one works best for you and feel free to contact the person listed. They'll be happy to answer any questions!

### Deborah Circle

meets the third Monday of the month at 6:30pm in members' homes for Bible study from the Gather Magazine. Contact: Claire Johansen – email [claire.d.johansen@gmail.com](mailto:claire.d.johansen@gmail.com) or call 563-271-1311

### Naomi Circle

meets the third Tuesday each month, September through May, at 9:00am at church for Bible study. Contact Marilyn Schreiber – call 563-340-0350 or email [marilyn.schreiber@icloud.com](mailto:marilyn.schreiber@icloud.com)

### Service Day Quilters

meet the second Tuesday & second Wednesday 9:00am–Noon each month. The quilts made are donated to the community and LWR. In recent years we have made LWR school bags. Contact Gloria Lange – email [langejg1@msn.com](mailto:langejg1@msn.com) or call 563-271-1542 or Kathy Miller call 563-676-0914 or email [kathyk1679@aol.com](mailto:kathyk1679@aol.com)



## In House Blood Drive

Thursday, September 19 | 2-6pm

Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Your donation makes a difference!

To book your appointment, contact Mark Jepson at [majepson55@netscape.net](mailto:majepson55@netscape.net) or visit [bloodcenter.org](http://bloodcenter.org).

## Make Reusable Grocery Bags from Our Old Vinyl Banners!

Did you know you can recycle old vinyl banners into so many useful items?? You can transform or “upcycle” old banners into tote bags, backpacks, messenger bags, hip packs, wallets, travel kits, ipad sleeves, laptop cases, zipper pouches and more. Grace has a number of old vinyl signs that could be transformed and upcycled. Visit [instructables.com/Upcycled-Banner-Tote-Bag/](http://instructables.com/Upcycled-Banner-Tote-Bag/) for inspiration or find tutorials on YouTube to walk you through all kinds of projects. Contact the church office for more info.

## Luther Properties

*Did You Know?* Luther Properties is an ELCA founded organization in the QC providing safe and affordable housing for older adults. Through church and personal donations, we also provide fellowship events that enhance our resident’s daily lives, such as therapy dog visits and holiday meals. And YOU can now donate to Luther Properties through Thrivent, using your Thrivent Choice Dollars! To learn more about Luther Properties and our five local residences, go to [lutherproperties.org](http://lutherproperties.org).



## Impact of In-Kind Donations

At LSI, in-kind gifts (non-monetary) are just as impactful as financial donations. Director of Philanthropy, Deb Whitford, was inspired by the song “If I Could Dream” by Elvis Presley. She wondered, “What would I dream about for our clients? What would our clients dream for?”

A Story by Deb Whitford:

When is a yardage not just pieces of fabric? In the hands of someone learning to sew, fabric becomes a blank canvas of possibilities. A nearly empty closet containing the few items a refugee could fit in their suitcase when traveling to the US turns into a place of pride when filled with hand-sewn clothes made from that fabric. If I could dream...I dream of curtains for bare windows and cloth to cover worn tables. I dream of the magic of small pieces of fabric fitting into beautiful patterns in quilts to brighten homes and become treasured wraps providing comfort and warmth. These dreams are becoming a reality thanks to the generosity of an LSI donor.

Connie Hansen from Audubon, Iowa, is no stranger to fabric and sewing. Connie has enjoyed sewing for much of her lifetime. In her younger years, she shared her passion for sewing, serving as a 4-H leader in Melville Township, sewing clothes for herself and daughter. Through the years, her love and passion for quilting has grown friendships with others who love the craft. Connie dreamed of keeping her newest neighbors warm with her remaining fabric and donated the yards to LSI. This fabric will be used by our newly resettled immigrant and refugee families to create quilts and clothing, helping them feel more comfortable in their new homes. We hear about dreams every day at LSI from our direct service providers, team members, and clients. Thanks to your generosity, these dreams can become reality.

Help our clients’ dreams become reality by donating in-kind gifts to LSI. To learn more, contact [philanthropy@LSIowa.org](mailto:philanthropy@LSIowa.org).

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY                                | SATURDAY  |
|--|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>1</b><br>Food Pantry Sunday<br>9:30am Joint Worship   | <b>2</b><br>Office Closed for<br>Labor Day  | <b>3</b><br>10am Pastor's Text Study<br>1:30pm Personnel Meeting<br>2:30pm Stewardship Mtg<br>5pm Property Meeting                                     | <b>4</b><br>12pm Men's Lunch Group<br>5:30pm Grief Support Grp<br>7pm Choir Rehearsal                         | <b>5</b><br>11:30pm Prayer Group<br>7pm Praise Band Rehearsal              | <b>6</b>                              | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b><br>8:30am Traditional Worship<br>10:30am Contemp. Worship   | <b>9</b><br>10:30am Staff Meeting<br>4:30pm Centering Prayer  | <b>10</b><br>9am Quilters<br>10am Pastor's Text Study<br>1:30pm Outreach & Welcome<br>1:30pm Social Ministry<br>6pm CYF Meeting<br>7pm Worship & Music | <b>11</b><br>9am Quilters<br>12pm Men's Lunch Group<br>7pm Choir Rehearsal                                    | <b>12</b><br>10am Stewardship Mtg<br>7pm Praise Band Rehearsal             | <b>13</b>                             | <b>14</b><br>Walk to End Alzheimers                               |
| <b>15</b><br>10:30am Outdoor Worship<br>11:30am Block Party!<br> | <b>16</b><br>Pray & Play<br>10:30am Staff Meeting<br>4:30pm Centering Prayer<br>5:00pm Sweet Arts Club<br>6:30pm Deborah Circle | <b>17</b><br>9am Naomi Circle<br>10am Pastor's Text Study  | <b>18</b><br>12pm Men's Lunch Group<br>5:30pm Grief Support Grp<br>7pm Choir Rehearsal                        | <b>19</b><br>2pm ImpactLife Blood Drive<br>7pm Praise Band Rehearsal       | <b>20</b><br>11am Council Reports Due | <b>21</b><br>8:30am Page Turners<br>5:30pm IFF Progressive Dinner |
| <b>22</b><br>Jr Bible Study Starts<br>8:30am Healing Worship<br>9:30am Adult Education<br>10:30am Healing Worship                                | <b>23</b><br>10:30am Staff Meeting<br>4:30pm Centering Prayer<br>7:00pm Council Meeting   | <b>24</b><br>10am Pastor's Text Study  | <b>25</b><br>8:30am LSI in PBH<br>9am Bible Study: The Story<br>12pm Men's Lunch Group<br>7pm Choir Rehearsal | <b>26</b><br>7pm Praise Band Rehearsal                                     | <b>27</b>                             | <b>28</b><br>NAMI Walk  |
| <b>29</b><br>Blessing of the Animals<br>8:30am Traditional Worship<br>9:30am Adult Education<br>10:30am Contemp. Worship                         | <b>30</b><br>10:30am Staff Meeting<br>4:30pm Centering Prayer   |  |   | <b>Office Hours</b><br>8:30am-3:00pm Monday-Thursday<br>8:30am-Noon Friday |                                       |   |

## SAVE THE DATE

- **September 14** Walk to End Alzheimer's
- **September 15** Block Party!
- **September 16** Pray & Play
- **September 19** Blood Drive
- **September 21** IFF Progressive Dinner
- **September 22** JBS Begins
- **September 22** Adult Ed Begins
- **September 25** Bible Study: The Story Begins
- **September 28** NAMI Walk
- **September 29** Blessing of the Animals
- **October 6** Crop Hunger Walk
- **October 13** LWR Quilt Blessing

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1</b> Cindy Lee<br>Kevin Miller               | <b>18</b> Colleen Levsen                |
| <b>3</b> Lori Haugen<br>Mark Janssen             | <b>19</b> Bud Johnson<br>Fidel Martinez |
| <b>4</b> Caitlin McCullough<br>Marilyn Schreiber | <b>20</b> Rod Levsen, Sr                |
| <b>5</b> Gail McRill                             | <b>21</b> Ariana Alvarez                |
| <b>6</b> Luanne Taylor                           | <b>22</b> Shirley Wellnitz              |
| <b>10</b> Patty Dominacki<br>Abby Rock           | <b>23</b> Sally Haugen                  |
| <b>13</b> Jordan Bayles<br>Jake Bayles           | <b>25</b> Ken Krumwiede                 |
| <b>15</b> Rhonda Gillespie                       | <b>26</b> Mark Jepson                   |
| <b>16</b> Kathy Eberlein                         | <b>27</b> Sally Meier                   |
|  | <b>28</b> Sheila Jones                  |
|  | <b>29</b> Dennis Link                   |



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

## STAFF

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**Vey Rodriguez, Worship Tech**

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## MUSICIANS

**Sally Meier** - Adult Choir Director

**Kathi Parrish** - Accompanist

**Susan Senn** - Organist

**Vey Rodriguez** - Praise Band Leader

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Deb Kirby** President

**Cindy Lee** Vice President

**Paul Lewellan** Secretary

**Claudia Wood** Treasurer

**Jim Bayles**

**Jackie Cain**

**Janice Gibbs**

**Deb Gustafson**

**Laura Toland**

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in America

## Council Corner

Well, it's hard to believe it was just a year-ago when we were the host site for 400 Youth Works kids, hosted new classes such as Tai Chi, and kicking off our first "Pray and Play Program." My how time flies as we continue to celebrate our successes and perform God's work!

### Here is our August Council update:

**Safety & Security Initiatives** - cameras have been installed downstairs and locks have been added to the stairwell doors. Members are adhering to our locked-door attendance policies. Please remember on Sunday, you can still enter the downstairs area via the elevator. Soon we will be applying for our church security grant with the State of Iowa, FEMA program to further enhance safety and security measures at Grace. (Of note: This process generally takes two years to implement after grant approval.)

**Block Party** - we are looking forward to hosting our annual parking lot block party on September 15. New this year - SNOW CONES!

**Council Goal setting retreat follow-up...**we held a break out session to continue to discern future goals for Grace and the people we serve. More work to be done...

### People of Grace-

- Please welcome a new associate member to Grace, **Joyce Marinaccio**. Joyce usually attends our 8:30am worship services. Please make a point to say hello to Joyce and welcome her.
- Also, please welcome **Gail McRill** back to our staff! Gail's role will be serving as a Small Group Leader for our Fall Pray & Play program. Gail recently retired as music teacher and is looking forward to working with the littles again.
- We've not been able to hire a custodian in a dual role that also required outdoor lawn and winter snow removal, so council agreed to outsource the lawn & snow removal. **Cody Schmidt** will be attending to our lawn and snow removal needs. We are continuing to interview for a two day a week part-time custodian.

*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth the work of his hands. -A Psalm of David*

God's Blessings to you and yours, **Deb Kirby** Council President