

# The Grace Visitor

SEPTEMBER 2024 Edition



Confirmation class will be starting on **Wednesday, September 4 @ 5:30 pm**. We will begin down in the Fellowship Hall and then go up to the library for class. This year, in addition to 7th and 8th graders, we are opening up Confirmation class to any adults who would be interested in learning about our Lutheran beliefs.

Please contact the church office if you wish to attend or have questions @ 515-576-4106.



## GRACE GROUPS—Small group Bible Study

1) Helen Patterson leader: this group meets at church in the upper level library every other Wednesday with the starting date of September 11 @ 6:30 pm in the library.

2) Dave & Ellyn Lemke leaders: this group meets at the Lemke home, 2936 21<sup>st</sup> Ave N, once per month on the second Tuesday of the month beginning date to be determined.

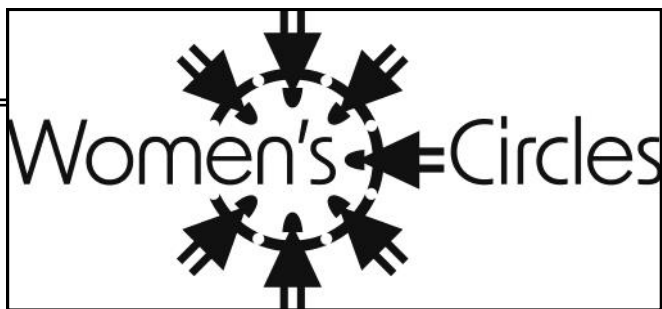
Please consider joining one of these groups. Contact one of the leaders or the church office for more information. New members always welcome.

## Grace Women—Circles begin meeting in September

Mary Circle will meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am in the morning in the Library beginning September 17.

Ruth Circle will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the evening in the Fire-side Room beginning September 24.

Our studies come from the *Gather* magazine. Copies of the lesson are available for you to pick up in the office several weeks ahead of the meeting date. Please consider joining one of these Circle groups for Bible Study and Fellowship. Come by yourself or invite a friend to attend. Try it out and see what it's about. Please contact Trudy Koppen or the church office for more information.



## Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a summer it has been. I appreciate your grace and patience as I navigated through some serious health issues this summer. I am finally on the mend and ready to dive in. **OASIS** will begin on Wednesday, September 11 and we will be planning our fundraisers and church events at this time. I will have a more solidified calendar of events after I meet with **ARISE**.

As always, pray for the church leaders, pray for our kids, and good things will result in the name of the Lord.

Abie Seltz



# FROM THE PASTOR

“For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.” -1Corinthians 13:12

When you learn something really well we say we “know it by heart.” This is a carryover from back in the middle ages when the heart was considered the center of knowledge. Of course, these days we know that memory is in the brain. But I like the idea of the heart holding memory. Scientifically I know that idea doesn’t hold up, but I get tired of Descartes and cartesian philosophy that only focuses on the brain. The whole, “I think, therefore I am” doesn’t fully describe those of us who see themselves as God’s creations. I would argue that if you live your whole life in your head, and forget your heart, you’re missing out on the really good stuff. In Hebrew the word for “to know” is “yada.” There’s a classic Seinfeld episode where they fill in details of stories with “yada, yada, yada.” “I know, I know, I know.” But this does an injustice to this word which means so much more. It’s richer, deeper than just what we know in our heads.

Pastor Kenneth Carder went through a journey of dementia with his wife Linda and wrote a book about it. It’s called Ministry with the Forgotten – Dementia through a Spiritual Lens. In it he asks: “Is God known exclusively or primarily through the intellect, or is God known beyond our neurological activities?” He then writes: “We are created in the image of God. Such an affirmation challenges the notion that we are our brains and declares that human beings are more than their physiological components and capacities.” We are more than our brains.

In the classic book The Little Prince, there is a poignant moment when fox is saying goodbye to the little prince, and as he leaves he says, "And now here's my secret, a very simple secret: It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye." So, I am arguing that there is a difference between “knowing by heart” and “memorizing.”

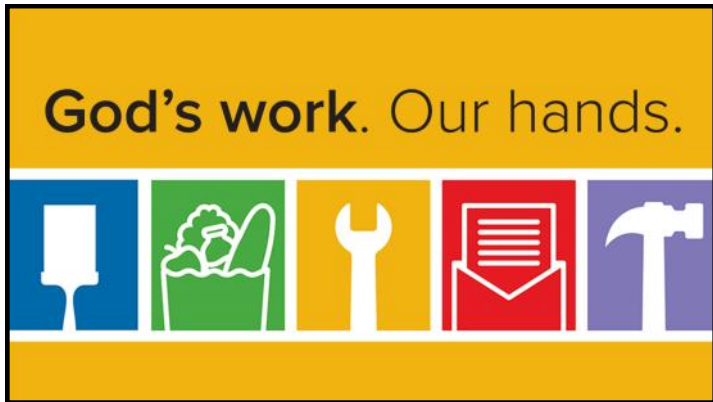
Let’s take the well-known Christmas story as an example. It’s a story we may very well have memorized. Or at least, it’s a story we know by heart. When we are kids we like imagining the animals and the shepherds and the manger and the wonder. We really like getting presents. When we get older the characters take on new meaning as does the heart of the story – the fact that God is with us - Presence rather than presents. It’s love coming down to us beyond our thinking, beyond our wildest imaginations. After all, how did the Christmas story end? Well, it never really ends of course. But how does the story that we read at Christmas often end? “Mary pondered all these things... in her heart”. I like the idea of the heart holding memory because the heart also seems to be the center of love. And in the words of James Taylor: “Ain’t no doubt in no one’s mind that love’s the finest thing around.” There are scientists who argue that love is just a construct of our brains, but I think they’re wrong. I believe that where love and memory connect, that’s our heart. Richard Rohr writes: “Every virtue is an expression of love. No virtue is really a virtue unless it is permeated, or informed, by love.” So, as a new school year begins, I encourage you to learn new things by heart. But even more importantly, I hope you understand in your heart that you are known by our loving God.

God loves you and so do I, *Pastor Dan*





**Sunday, September 29, is set for new member Sunday**  
If you would like more information and/or are interested in becoming a member of Grace, please contact the office, Pastor Dan at 515-227-1929 or Marlys Taylor, Outreach Ministry Team Council Liaison.



On Sunday, Sept. 10, congregations of the ELCA will join together for our 10th annual day of service. "God's work. Our hands." Sunday began in 2013 in connection with the ELCA's 25th anniversary and continues to be a day to celebrate who we are — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

### **It's time to ship our Lutheran World Relief Quilts & Kits**

School kits, personal care kits, baby kits, and quilts will be completed by the Grace Willing Workers and will be loaded on the LWR truck @ Good Shephard on Saturday, September 21, 2024. These items are given to help children and the less fortunate around the world who have so little.

**THANK YOU**

A giant **THANK YOU** to all who donated to the guys at the Half-Way House this past month. The needs of these men don't stop as more guys are entering society all the time. If they can have something clean and that fits well, they can go to an interview for a job with more confidence. So please keep adding to our basket in the Narthex. By helping them you are helping do what Jesus asks to do - helps others in need! New or Gently used clothing, toiletry items, towels and washcloths along with lightweight coats or sweatshirts are always needed. Blessings to you all. Connie Gustafson

### **Lutheran World Relief School Bags**

Thank you for your generous donations of school supplies. We have received the requested number of supplies needed for each school bag to be filled this year. Information on "God's Work, Our Hands" day to fill the school bags will be coming in the near future.

Thank you for sharing in this important ministry.  
WELCA Willing Workers

**Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement**

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

**2024 Grace Women of the WELCA** Yearbooks are available Please help yourself to one found in the tray on the shelf above the coat rack.

**Ruth Circle** will meet Tuesday Sept. 24 at 6:30 in the Fireside room. **Mary Circle** will meet Tuesday Sept. 17th at 10:00 In the Fireside room. The fall study will be:

“Receiving Grace a study of Ephesians” by the Rev. Heidi Haverkamp. Session 1, Is Grace real? All of you, feel free to join either circle to join in fellowship and Bible study.

**The Dorcas Cluster Fall Retreat** will be held at the Twin Lakes Bible Camp Wednesday September 11, 2024. Come join us for Bible study, worship, program, communion, fellowship, coffee, lunch and goodies. You will be inspired! The cost is \$25. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board. We will carpool from Grace Wednesday morning. Let Trudy know if you will be carpooling.

**Willing Workers** meet Mondays at 8:00AM to put quilts together. There are many tasks, including cutting squares, layout/design quilt tops, and tying quilts. Some of these tasks can be done at home. Come join us. Many hands make many quilts.



**Knit & Purl** will be meeting on the 1st and 4th Tuesday of each month. We meet at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We've had a summer break and now are back at it to get busier on prayer shawls and baby blankets. We welcome anyone that would like to learn how to knit or crochet; or just brush up on your skills. We have a great fellowship time and it always feels good to be creating something that will bring joy and comfort to others. Connie Gustafson

Melodibells Handbell practice will resume on Monday, September 9 @ 5:30 pm.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye Everyone!  
Sing and be merry, have some fun!  
9-4 is the date  
Starting at 7, so don't be late!  
If for some reason  
you don't understand,  
I'll say it more plainly,  
so you'll comprehend:  
Rehearsals for choir start this fall  
On September 4th, see y'all!

**NEEDED!!!**

Quilters are in need of new or slightly used flat sheets for quilt backs. All sizes, colors and patterns are accepted with bright colors greatly appreciated to complete the already beautiful quilts.  
Thank you from the Grace Lutheran Quilters

IN OUR  
THOUGHTS  
&  
PRAYERS



**Surgery, sick, chronic conditions: Dick Michael; Dick Anderson; Kris Stein**, daughter of Dee Fenchak; **Bonnie Cramer; Byron Itzen**, son of Linda Itzen; **Delores Black; Rene' (Funk) Newman**, former member & friend of Leslie Reetz; **Arlene Wold**, sister of Lola Dillon; **Donna Lachelt; Cole Theander**, nephew of Mark Gustafson; **Rich Weiss**, brother to Crystal Michael; **Ryder Schwieger**, son of Kathy Schweiger; **Brad**, son-in-law of Mark & Connie Gustafson; **Melinda Witzke**, friend of Laurie Wagner; **Christina Schoon**, friend of Dick & Crystal Michael; **Richard**, Friend of Regina Fletcher; **Jan Link; Judy Reed; June Michalski**, Mark Gustafson's niece; **Roy Chase; Doreen Ogden**, niece of Helen Patterson; **Michael Schroeder**, son of Troy and Lisa Schroeder; **Cheryl Fleming; Connie Gustafson; Mark Gustafson; Emily Kokemuller**, daughter of Kevin Lingner; **Liz Brown; Judy Duffield; Andrea Stromberg**, friend of Corinna Clarahan and Kevin Lingner.

**Those in military service: Brandon LaForce**, son-in-law of Rick & Laurie Wagner, based in Fort Leavenworth, KS. **Zachary Napier**, Army Special Forces, son of Paul & Deb Napier of Salt Lake City, Utah and grandson of Betty Evans. Zachary is now serving in Germany, **Ed Bochtler**, son of Roberta Bochtler, Ed is being deployed in Baghdad.

**JULY FINANCIAL NOTE      Year to Date July 31, 2024**

Offerings:	\$ 19,281	Offerings:	\$ 126,378
Expenses:	\$ 23,245	Expenses:	\$ 139,132
Difference:	\$ (3,964)	Difference:	\$ (12,754)

**Statistical Reports**

**Current Offering & Attendance**

**July 7**

Attendance	61
Offering Receipts	\$ 5,409

**July 14**

Attendance	66
Offering Receipts	\$ 5,525

**July 21**

Attendance	74
Offering Receipts	\$ 3,394

**July 28**

Attendance	62
Offering Receipts	\$ 3,521



September  
BIRTHDAYS

DOLORES GREGERSON	2	LANDON MOELLER	14
MARSHA STORBAKKEN	2	AL MILLER	15
ARIA ULM	2	BRADEN KAMMERER	16
ANN CHASE	3	KYLAN DENCKLAU	17
ROBERTA BOCHTLER	5	NORMA SHARP	18
DELORES BLACK	5	NIC HUSE	21
HERBERT DEAL	6	LINDA HUSE	22
LIZ BROWN	8	Axel CAIN,	22
KRISTEN DEAL	10	ROSE CLARK	25
JENNIFER OSHEIM-OWEN	10	PEYTON NELSON	26
CURT HALVORSON	11	CAIOLEN GRADY	27
JULIA FLETCHER	13	TRUDY KOPPEN	29
BRAYDEN HUSE	13	JUDY REED	30
MARTY BENNETT	14		

**BRAD and AMANDA LEMKE** 1  
**JOE EISEN and LINDSEY WAGGONER-EISEN** 24

Below is the address to visit or send cards to Mark Gustafson:

Crestview Nursing Home  
Mark Gustafson  
2401 Des Moines St.  
Webster City, IA 50595

**Grace Lutheran Church  
Congregation Council Minutes  
August 20, 2024**

**1. Call to Order** Council President, Judy Stilwell, called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Present: Marty Bennett, Janet Carlon, Pastor Dan Kahl, Dave Lemke, Kevin Lingner, Rod Poppinga, Leslie Reetz, Marlys Taylor, Katie Waynar Absent: Roger Harris

**2. Open Forum** No one was present for this.

**3. Opening devotions** Pastor Dan read an excerpt from a book by Walter Brueggemann.

**4. Review Agenda** Marlys Taylor moved to approve the agenda, Marty Bennett 2<sup>nd</sup>, accepted.

**5. Review minutes of July 16, 2024 Council Meeting** Dave Lemke moved to approve the minutes as presented, Leslie Reetz 2<sup>nd</sup>, accepted.

**6. Celebrations:**

- a. Vacation Bible School was held at St. Olaf in July.
- b. Meals on Wheels delivery schedule has been filled for the year.
- c. WELCA summer Bible study was held July 18.
- d. Knit and Purl has begun again on 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 2pm.
- e. Tailgate party for Rick Springfield concert was enjoyed July 26.

**7. Monthly Reports Review:**

- a. Pastor's Report – Leslie Reetz moved to approve the report, Kevin Lingner 2<sup>nd</sup>, accepted.
- b. Financial Reports – Rod Poppinga moved to approve the reports, Katie Waynar 2<sup>nd</sup>, accepted.
- c. Ministry Team Reports – Marty Bennett moved to approve the reports, Kevin Lingner 2<sup>nd</sup>, accepted.

**8. Old/Ongoing Business:**

- a. Fort Dodge Fiber Update – Fiber is in, new telephones are installed in all the same places. An additional phone is in the upstairs education office. Special thanks to Pastor Dan and Kevin Lingner for running all the new cable!
- b. computer – A new computer was purchased for education. Funds will be requested from Foundation to cover this cost.
- c. Foundation joint meeting with council will be on September 10 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.
- d. Wednesday Night Discussion/Rally Sunday – Oasis will start on September 11, 5:30 – 7pm. Confirmation will begin Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 5:30pm.

**9. New Business:**

- a. Personnel – 7:04pm moved to closed session. 7:29 returned to open session.
- b. Elevator concerns – Doors are still slamming randomly. Quarterly maintenance will be done. Perhaps another company will be contacted for maintenance. Property Team will be looking into this.
- c. New Member Sunday – New Member Sunday will be Sunday, September 29. Pastor will call potential members and will invite them to join on this date.

**10. FYI:**

- a. God's Work Our Hands is September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Service in the Park August 25 at 9:30am at Kennedy Park.
- c. Men's Bible Study starting August 21.

**11. Adjournment** At 7:55pm Janet Carlon moved to adjourn, Marlys Taylor 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved. Lord's Prayer was prayed together.

# September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee	2 <b>Labor Day</b>	3 9:00 am Money Counters 10:30 am Text Study 2:00 pm Knit & Purl 6:30 pm Ministry Teams	4 9:00 am Mens Bible Study 5:30-7 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir 7 pm AA Big Book Discovery	5 1:00 pm WELCA 6 pm Reflections 7 pm AI-Ateen	6 10-11:30 am Caregivers 4-7 pm Girl Scouts	7
<b>Kevin Gone</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>				<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
8 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee	9 8:30 am Willing Workers 9:00 am Money Counters 5:30 pm Melodibells 6:30 pm 500 Club 7:00 pm FDCS	10 10:30 am Text Study 5:30-7:30 pm Joint Foundation/Council Meeting	11 9:00 am Mens Bible Study 5:30-7 pm OASIS 5:30-7 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Helens Grace Group 7:00 pm Choir 7 pm AA Big Book Discovery 8:30 am - 3:30 pm Twin Lakes Fall Retreat	12 5:30 pm Executive 6 pm Reflections 7 pm AI-Ateen	13 10-11:30 am Caregivers	14
15 9:30 am Worship/Blessing of Quilts, etc. 10:30 am Coffee	16 8:30 am Willing Workers 9:00 am Money Counters 5:30 pm Melodibells 7:00 pm FDCS	17 10:00 am Mary Circle 10:30 am Text Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	18 9:00 am Mens Bible Study 5:30-7 pm OASIS 5:30-7 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir 7 pm AA Big Book Discovery	19 6 pm Reflections 7 pm AI-Ateen	20 10-11:30 am Caregivers 4-7 pm Girl Scouts	21
22 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee	23 8:30 am Willing Workers 9:00 am Money Counters 5:30 pm Melodibells 7:00 pm FDCS	24 10:30 am Text Study 1-3 pm Early Headstart Social 2:00 pm Knit & Purl 6:30 pm Ruth Circle	25 9:00 am Mens Bible Study 5:30-7 pm OASIS 5:30-7 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Helens Grace Group 7:00 pm Choir 7 pm AA Big Book Discovery	26 9:30 am Visitor Crew 6 pm Reflections 7 pm AI-Ateen	27 10-11:30 am Caregivers	28
29 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee	30 8:30 am Willing Workers /Tie Day 9:00 am Money Counters 5:30 pm Melodibells 7:00 pm FDCS				<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	

Grace Lutheran Church  
211 S 9th St  
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(515) 576-4106  
Web Site: [www.graceELCA.com](http://www.graceELCA.com)

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# THE VISITOR

## Grace Staff

**Pastor Dan Kahl**  
[dckahl@hotmail.com](mailto:dckahl@hotmail.com)

**Roberta Bochtler**  
Organist—Choir Director

**Kevin Lingner**  
Office Administrator  
[gracefd@frontiernet.net](mailto:gracefd@frontiernet.net)

**Abie Seltz**  
Teen/Youth Coordinator  
[abers1113@yahoo.com](mailto:abers1113@yahoo.com)

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship  
9:30 am

Coffee Fellowship  
10:30 am

Find us on Facebook



**KNOW GOD'S GRACE—SHARE GOD'S LOVE**