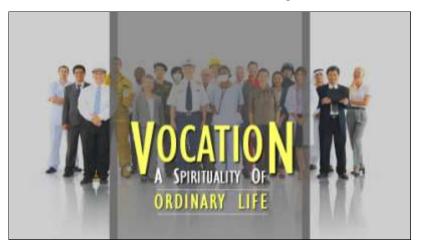
grace

notes

The October 2015 Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Celebrates Vocation

God works in this world through our vocations and calling in our everyday lives



What does VOCATION mean? Is it a career? A job? Or, is it something much, much more? This is the question we are going to answer during the month of October, and we're going to do it in the most unusual and meaningful way.

Each weekend worship service will focus on the call of God through ordinary and everyday types of people who did some incredibly extraordinary things: Moses leading people to freedom, the Israelites receiving God's 10 Commandments, a foreign woman named Ruth, and a young shepherd who became a king.

But less we think God only calls ordinary people to do the amazing, we will also focus on people at Grace in their everyday lives through video testimonies. We will be blessed by a conversation with someone who oversees trees in Minneapolis, a woman who has a daycare in her home, a salesman who travels the world selling medical supplies, and a woman who serves as a community leader. All of them will share how God works through their vocation to serve.

Another important aspect of our Vocation - *A Spirituality of Ordinary Life* will be a celebration of the artistic gifts and abilities God gives so we may express our faith and serve others with joy. We are excited to announce that we will host our first Grace Art Show during October with special art work from local high schools and our members. The art will be scattered throughout our building and so we invite you to explore the gifts God has given us. In addition, members of our church will share their musical gifts in worship.

The climax of our Vocation Month will. first begin during our worship services on Reformation Sunday, as we celebrate our heritage as Lutheran Christians. After each service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for our 1st Annual Octoberfest. Hosted by our Stewardship Team, there will be lots of good food, a special Grace Family Feud Game, great music, and a Silent Auction for the benefit of Sand Creek Little Bit of Grace Fund. This new fund will help meet the financial needs of students. But there's one catch...all the items to be auctioned off must be homemade to reflect the many gifts and talents of our Grace community.

Make plans to join us during October as we celebrate VOCATION: A Spirituality of Ordinary Life.

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What could I possible give for the Octoberfest Silent Auction? I'm not a skilled painter and I certainly can't draw! What kind of item could I make or cook or sew or do that would both celebrate my God-given gifts and skills, and help raise money for the Little Bit of Grace Fund for Sand Creek Elementary School students?

If you find yourself wondering about it all, here are some suggestions of what you might contribute to our silent auction:

- Canned goods grown from my garden
- A CD of musical selections played by you
- A pie or cake made and delivered monthly for a year
- A gourmet meal cooked and served for 4
- A basket full of homemade snacks and a video
- A guilt or blanket
- Knitted caps, scarves and mittens
- Home-made soaps and candles
- Handmade jewelry
- Art projects
- Wood-working items
- Coupons for raking leaves and/or garden projects
- Babysitting coupons
- Housecleaning coupons
- a basket of Christmas cookies
- various craft items
- Coupons for dog or cat sitting
- Homework help
- Help with tax preparations
- Floral arrangement
- Coupon for snow shoveling

Sign up your contribution to our Silent Auction on the blue Opportunities Sheets in the bulletin, or call the church office. A member of the Stewardship Team will contact you for delivery times.

The Hard Choices of Vocation

Pastor Mark's Remarks

It's been interesting watching each of my children decide how they invest their time and energy in the various sports, school organizations, musical groups, and spiritual formation opportunities throughout their high school and college years. Sometimes it's been easy to predict what particular group they are going to join, because their passions and abilities seem to align so well. For instance, I wasn't surprised that Katie was a drum major in her high school band given that she was the first born of four other siblings! Nor was I shocked that Emma, who played piano

and violin from an early age, fed her music passion by joining her high school and college orchestras. It's been the same with Laura, Kurt and Kyle. All three of them have innate skills, abilities, and passions that have led them to invest themselves in certain activities. And I haven't been too surprised by any of their choices.

Now that Jeannie and I are in the last of the "Hellmann college years" as we look forward to three graduations in May, I have found it fascinating to watch my children choose their college majors, summer jobs, internships, and finally, their careers. There is certainly a lot of variety! Katie works in residential

life at a college in New York. Emma teaches elementary music in Philadelphia, and in an inner city afterschool program. Laura is finishing her degree in deaf education in South Dakota. Kurt is finding his passion in statistics, coming back from a summer internship in Nevada that studied the effect of global warming on Chinook salmon. Kyle, the history major has a passion for the outdoors, and wants to find a way to work outside and perhaps, in environmental legislation.

As I have observed my children's career choices, I reflect back on a conversation I once had with my father about why he chose to be an industrial engineer. He explained his choice as: "That's what most everyone was doing. It was a way to make good money!" I guess his answer explains why he never seemed too excited about his job, even though he advanced to the very top management position of the steel forgings plant he worked at his entire life. A career choice guided by money or peer pressure doesn't seem to me a great way to decide a career. Instead, I wonder if there is more to it. My children have helped me observe another aspect to it, and it's called vocation.

According to the dictionary, vocation comes from the Latin *vocare*, to call, and means the work a person is called to by God. It's what Martin Luther used to describe the various stations or callings a person has in their lives. Vocation means a lot more than job or career, but includes the calling to be fathers and mothers, married people, servants and maids, Lords and subjects, students, pastors and soldiers, and other types and levels of work which serve others and God. To illustrate this idea, Luther once imagined the tools of a manual laborer such as a needle, a

beer barrel, a scale or yardstick speaking out loud to the worker, saying: "All these (tools) continually crying out to you: 'Friend, use me in your relations with your neighbor just as you would want your neighbor to use his property in his relations with you." In other words, in Luther's eyes, everyone is called to use their work at home, work, or in the community as a way to serve God, as he cares for his children and works in our world. When people do this, they have realized their vocation.

I see this idea of vocation in the ways my kids have chosen their careers. Underlying their choices, I sense is their desire to make a difference in the

world: in the lives of college students far from home, those living in poverty in the inner city, the handicapped who can't hear, and in the ways people care for the environment. Yes, they want financial security and a good career, but more than that, they feel a call to serve God and others by what they do. It's called vocation and I am thankful that Jeannie and I, with a lot of help from God and this community, have somehow conveyed this important truth to them.

As we study Vocation during the month of October, may we grow deeper in our understanding of our vocation. May we rediscover the joy of serving beyond ourselves with the gifts and abilities God has given us. And may we rise to the challenge that in "whatever we do, in word or deed, to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:17)

In Him,

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Pastor Mark



Excitement about Spiritual Formation

Pastor Steve

I am very excited about what God is going to cultivate in us this fall through three specific adult formation opportunities. The first opportunity is another semester of our ever popular Sunday Evenings @ Grace. This is a chance to gather for dinner as a large group in the Fellowship Hall and then break out into specific classes throughout the building. This semester we are offering five courses. See the list below for details. You can register online!

The second opportunity really excites me because it reflects the benefit of hiring a full-time youth director to allow me to focus more on adult formation. I will offer an adult class on Wednesday nights, starting on October 21 and ending on December 9th during the regular children and youth program time (6:30-8:00). I will offer the same course I'm offering for Sunday Evenings @ Grace, so if you can't

make it then, or would like to take a different course, catch mine on Wednesday nights. You can also register for this online.

The third opportunity is the Ruth Circle on the second Wednesday of every month from 12:30-2:00pm. This lovely group of ladies has invited me to lead the Bible Study each month. If you've never participated in the Ruth Circle, come and join us. We have great treats, too!

I am so thankful for the amazing leaders that have stepped up this fall to help us cultivate the soil of hearts to make room for God's promise to grow. Please make room for one of these classes in your schedule.

Excited!

Pastor Steve



Sunday Evenings@GRACE | Fall 2015 **spiritual growth**

7 weeks • Oct. 11 - Nov. 22 • Dinner 5pm - 6pm • Classes 6pm - 7pm • Childcare available

The Seven Habits of Effective Disciples - Pastor Mark

Spiritual health and growth is just like physical health and growth. It requires commitment and discipline in order to see real change. This course will introduce you to the essential habits that are tools to cultivate your life—worship, Bible study, prayer, vital relationships, giving, serving, and sharing my faith—so that God's love and grace and flourish in and through you.

Beginnings: The Books of Moses - Pastor Steve

Jesus is the center of our Christian identity. Yet, what we often forget is that Jesus entered the world in the Jewish culture of first-century Palestine and all of the symbols used to describe him were drawn from the Jewish faith and scripture. In other words, if you want to understand Jesus you have to know Moses and the story of the Exodus. This course will introduce you to the story of the Bible by looking at Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. It will also provide context for our Christian faith and demonstrate how God has always worked through Law and Gospel.

S.H.A.P.E. - Greg Ackerson

Have you discovered the unique purpose God has for your life? This small group study is designed specifically to take you to that next level of purpose—to reveal how God has designed you, and help see how that fits the intention for which you were created. In these six lessons, Erik Rees unpacks for you the five elements of God's blueprints for creating you. Each session includes tools that help bring clarity to your future goals and show you how to have the most fulfilling life possible—a life lived for God's purposes, by God's design.

DivorceCare - Deb Stang

DivorceCare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Don't go through separation or divorce alone. During the first 30–40 minutes of the meeting, the group watches a video seminar featuring top experts on divorce and recovery subjects. After viewing the video, the group participants spend time as a support group, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in the lives of group members.

iMarriage (for couples in the 1st decade of marriage)—Kristina and Brock Hill and Tara and Andy Moses

Standing at the altar, we all had a picture of what our marriage would look like. The problem is this picture of marriage results in expectations that we unload on our spouse. The weight of these expectations can rob your marriage of love and joy. As a spouse you never feel like you measure up and you never feel like you are good enough. So what are you to do with your expectations? You can't deny them, because most expectations started out as God-given desires. In this series, Andy Stanley explains that you must learn to transform your expectations and look to God if you are to experience marriage as it was designed.

Sharing Beyond Our Walls of Grace

Sponsor a Child in Uganda ... Share God's Grace . . . continue our outreach to Rakai, Uganda!

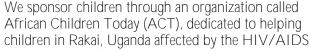
Will you prayerfully consider sponsoring a child in Rakai, Uganda - knowing that your generosity will change a life... FOREVER!

First a little background... As you may remember, our church has reached out to the people in Rakai, Uganda over the past several years in many ways by:

- funding the Bakery Project this year
- building two water containments in 2012
- supporting the Nutritional Farming Initiative in 2014
- Hosting Richard and Johnson from Uganda last November, and listening to their touching stories

And now we have another opportunity to share God's grace by sponsoring children

in Rakai. There are currently 25 children in Rakai being sponsored by members of Grace, and there is a desperate need for an additional seven very special children to gain sponsors. Those of us already involved in sponsorship are truly blessed by the direct communication, photographs and letters that we share across the ocean with children in Africa.



epidemic. With your monthly investment of only \$30, you will offer a hope-filled future for a child to receive education, nutrition and health care.

African Children Today is a nonprofit organization based in Minnesota, that sends 100% of all tax-deductible donations directly to support the children in Uganda through the ministry of Rakai Orphans Development Initiative (RODI). You may remember that the leaders of RODI, Richard and Johnson, spoke at our church last fall and touched our hearts with their real stories and tender plea for help.

Want to **share God's grace** in a very tangible and heart-felt way? There is an

urgent need to find sponsors for 7 children. The children's photos and information is posted on the bulletin board at Grace so please prayerfully consider sponsoring a child in Rakai, Uganda through the African Children Today ministry!

For more information, please contact Stacy Surratt stacysurratt@yahoo.com (317) 506-6362 or Scott Christensen scottc@nuaire.com (612) 247-3599.





Connections and News Around the Church

Connect Class

Are you new to Grace or looking to connect on a deeper level? If you are, join us for a delicious dinner, delightful conversion, and time to learn about the church and the ministry areas we serve on October 4th from 5:00-7:30. Please let us know if you are planning on coming by calling the church office or e-mailing katem@graceandover.org. I would also be happy to answer any questions you have about the Connect Class.

Servant Training/Overview

We will have refresher training for all the servants who volunteer during worship on Thursday October 22 at 6:30. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and then break into small groups by areas of service. If you have questions, please call the church office or email katem@graceandover.org.

CULTIVATE... living out our theme at

Grace!

Please join us for the Grace Garden Clean up Day Sat. Oct. 24 from 9 am to noon! Join the fun and fellowship as we trim, tend and CULTIVATE the soil during this fall clean up of our beautiful church grounds.

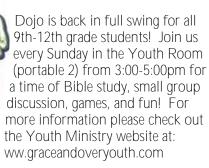
Thanks!

To my Grace Family: Thank you for the thoughts and prayers, cards, phone calls and support I received while dealing with Shingles. It was very much appreciated! *Twila Hansen*

Congratulations

Gunnar Knutson, Grandson of Phil & Flossie Knutson, was crowned Sophomore Homecoming King at the Homecoming ceremonies at Andover High School on Tuesday, September 22, 2015. Gunnar plans to be an active participant of the Grace Youth Group this fall and was confirmed at Grace in May of this year. Congratulations, Gunnar!

Youth News



For any information on DOJO (Senior High Youth Group),

Catechism (Middle School), or any other Middle or High school Ministries please contact our youth director, Kristi

Larson. KristiL@graceandover.org or 763.421.6520 ext. 100 or check out our website

Kristi Larson, our new Director of Youth and Family Ministries wants to get to know YOU! She has been spending the summer and fall getting her feet wet and meeting a lot of people at Grace Lutheran. And now she wants to get to know YOU! If you are a student, parent, volunteer, or anyone else in the congregation Kristi would love to meet you for a cup of coffee sometime! Call or email Kristi so you can set something up. KristiL@graceandover.org or 763.421.6520 ext. 100

Wednesday Night is Family Pizza Nite at Grace!!

Every Wednesday Night - 5:45-6:30pm - The Narthex@Grace!

All are welcome to participate in Family Pizza night! Catechism students and leaders, choir members, Rockin' Kid's Club students and leaders, and of course families! All are welcome!

Pizza \$1.25/slice and salad -- \$1 for salad only

We are in need of volunteers to help set up, serve, and collect money for Family Pizza! Please contact Kristi Larson if you are willing to help!

Love of Grace Bazaar

The "Love of Grace Bazaar" will be held 9 am – 3 pm on Saturday, Nov. 14. Plan now to bring your friends to enjoy the creative crafts, holiday shopping and festive food at our "Love of Grace Bazaar."

Vendors Welcomed:

If you would like to be a vendor of homemade/ handmade crafts at this holiday bazaar, or if you know of someone interested in being a vendor, please contact Penny Walters waltersa890@aol.com 763 422-0021.

Creative Crafts:

We welcome your handmade crafts, art and home baked treats to be displayed and sold in the Grace Emporium Room during the bazaar. Please contact Jan Galvin cricket2005@usfamily.net 763 421-0668

Volunteers Encouraged:

Yes, we will be blessed by YOU volunteering to serve in the kitchen, donate food, bake pies, etc. Sign-up on the blue opportunity pages during worship or contact Jeannie Hellmann jeannieh@graceandover.org

Share the Blessings:

The proceeds of the Love of Grace Bazaar will support "a little bit of grace" fund at Sand Creek School, established by our church to assist students and families in need within our local community.

THANKS for joining us as we strive to share more of God's incredible, amazing, unending grace at the "Love of Grace Bazaar" this year!

The Bazaar Ministry Team (not Bizarre@ team)

Penny Walters, Renee Miller, Karen Roche, Ann Lange, Jamie Zupon, Mary Jo Trapp, Karen Fisher and Jeannie Hellmann

Women's Opportunities



All ladies are invited to MUGS, MUFFINS &

MORE, a women's fellowship event on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9:30 – 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. This will be a casual, relaxing time for ladies to sip a morning beverage from a MUG, to simply savor a tasty MUFFIN, and to thoroughly enjoy MORE time and space to grow in faith and friendships here at Grace.

You bring a favorite MUG... We'll bake the MUFFINS. ... & together we'll enjoy MORE fun & fellowship! So bring your mug (and a friend if you'd like) to MUGS, MUFFINS & MORE on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 9:30am.



The **RECONNECT Women's Retreat** will be Sat. Nov. 7 at Bunker Hills Activity Center in Andover, from 9 am to 4 pm. Tickets are only \$20, with continental breakfast and lunch included. Please purchase your tickets at Welcome Center or church office. For more information, contact Jeannie Hellmann 763 421-6520, ext. 122 jeannieh@graceandover.org



Rockin' Kids Bible Club



The mission begins! This year, we are Agents of God as we investigate God's Word and live it out in our life (daily missions) We have a special event each week that could be Malt Night, Craft, Games or Bible Discovery!

Part of RKBC is worshipping God! Each week, we spend part of our time in choir preparing songs that we can share in Worship. We will be singing in Worship on November 8 and December 6 at the end of the 9 am. and the beginning of the 10:30 am Sunday Services.

It is never too late to be a part of the RKBC Mission! Parents may register kids on-line or at RKBC any time! Check out our Chief videos on Grace Lutheran Children's Ministry Facebook page to stay connect and keep the mission alive in your home each week!

Important Upcoming Dates

- First Communion Class on Saturday, October 10 for students in 3rd grade and up. Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pastor Mark and Kim DeVries will help prepare students to receive First Communion on either October 10th or 11th. Call the church office today!
- Grade 3-5 Lock-in on November 6 7 from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., kids in Grades 3-5 are invited to a Lock-In. The evening will include games, crafts, snack, devotion, movie, and tons of fun! Kids may bring a board game, sleeping bag, pillow, and comfy clothes for sleeping. Please do not bring mp3 players, I-pods, or cell phones. Children must be able to stay the night. This is a great opportunity to bring friends! Help is needed for Overnight Chaperones, Evening Helpers, and Breakfast Chefs. If you child brings more than 2

friends, you will need to be an Overnight Chaperone. Cost of the evening is \$5 per child. If you sign up on Facebook you can pay at the door. Please contact Kim DeVries or Monica Allen if you have any questions.

What's New in SONday School

We are so excited to have the Kids back in SONday School! Their smiling faces and enthusiasm is contagious! We also are so excited to have 50 plus volunteers who teach, greet, help, substitute, provide drama, and make delicious food! Their commitment and joy at working with the children of Grace inspires us all.

Kids in Grades 3-5 can bring their Bibles each week as we open up the Bible to study our lesson!



Birthday Offerings

During each large group session we will recognize the months' birthdays. Children are encouraged to bring a coin for each year to put in the Birthday Bank. Kids will be recognized, receive a sticker, a birthday pencil, and get their name put on the "Birthday Door" (Kim and Monica's office door).

This offering will go towards buying flocks of chicks donated to Heifer International. Watch our chicks add up! Summer Birthdays will be recognized in April and May.

***Did you know: Eggs can be considered brain food Studies show that Choline, a nutrient found in eggs, contributes to healthy brain function and reduces birth defects.

A Word From Vision Board

Let's see... change diapers? Check. Microwave leftovers for lunch? Check. Get two kids to bed before midnight? Check.

Motherhood, as glamorous and exciting as it is, it's sometimes hard to see how my daily life is a vocation, or calling. Sometimes, obligation feels like a better fit?!

In Martin Luther's Doctrine of Vocation, he reminds us that it is in ordinary life that we are placed and thus where God is calling us. He uses our everyday, mundane tasks to

accomplish His works. It is through means of human vocation, that God bestows His earthly gifts.

In Romans 12, Paul explains: "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life -

your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing

what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him" (*The Message*, Rom. 12:1).

So while pulling fruit loops out of my hair, and wiping runny noses sometimes feels like less than holy work, it is where God is working in my life.

What gifts are being given through your everyday, ordinary life?

His blessings,

BreAnn Haugrud

Vision Board Notes

The Grace Lutheran Vision Board met on Tuesday, September 8th, 2015 at the home of BreAnn Haugrud. All Vision Board Members were present including Neil Hawkinson, who is filling Bernard McDowell's vacant position. A delicious meal with fresh garden tomatoes was enjoyed and all had good conversation. A good amount of the time was spent in conversation and connection as we welcomed Neil to the board.

Motherhood, as glamorous and

exciting as it is, it's sometimes

hard to see how my daily life is a

vocation, or calling. Sometimes,

obligation feels like a better fit?!

After dinner the first item on the agenda concerned the long time board members sharing tips and ideas with Neil on how to be successful on Vision Board. The board agreed that it is blessed to have Neil aboard. He will bring much to the table.

The group then explored further, the differences between two words: *missional* and *mission*, and we might unpack these two words as Grace moves more toward being a missional church. The board will study two books over the course of the this year, "The Neighborhood Church" by Robert G. Moss and "The Agile Church" by Dwight J. Zscheile.

The group also discussed Rally Sunday, Golden Rule Child Care, and summer catch up.

The meeting ended in a time of prayer.

Respectfully,

Jessie Crooks

Vision Board Secretary

Vision Board Members

Tari Yates (President)
Greg Ackerson (Vice President)
Jessie Crooks (Secretary)
Doug Hanson

Neil Hawkinson Deb Stang BreAnn Haugrud Pastor Mark Hellmann

If you would like to contact any of the Vision Board members, please visit the Grace website and click on Leaders.



500 VOLUNTEERS...that's GRACE! (that's us!)

Can Grace muster up 500 volunteers to help feed hungry children?

Every November we culminate our month-long serving emphasis with a marathon serving event at Feed My Starving Children. The question for us is whether we can find 500+ volunteers to pack over 100,000 meals for the hungry children around the world.

How are we going to do this? We'll do it by asking you to enlist as many friends, relatives, and neighbors to join us at six different packing sessions over two days in the middle of November. But 500 volunteers? Yes, 500! The good news is that we've done it before and we believe we can do it again!

You'll be hearing more about this, but reserve the date now and begin to extend the invitation to join us for The 500 Challenge!

MARATHON Packing Event this November at FMSC: Join the Grace Team of 500 volunteers!

Fri. Nov. 20 6 - 7:30 pm and 8 - 9:3 pm

Sat. Nov. 21 9 – 11 am; 11:30 am – 1:30 pm; 2 – 4

pm; 7 - 9 pm

In case you need some practice you can join the join the Grace team of 85 people to pack meals in October on Friday. October 9 from 6 – 7:30 pm. UNITE our efforts to BLESS children:

TRULY - YOU will make a difference in this world by packing meals for children who are literally starving! Come and join the teamwork (and FUN) with other Grace volunteers at Feed My Starving Children, as together we share God's grace in this very tangible way . . . through food!

REGISTER on blue opportunity page in worship, call church office, or register on line at www.fmsc.org

- 1. Click "Volunteer Registration"
- 2. Click "Pack at Permanent site"
- 3. Click "Join a Group"
- 4. Under group name, type "Grace Lutheran" ... and under Location type "Coon Rapids, MN"
- 5. Choose the shift/date that you'd like to volunteer, then click "join"
- 6. Click "confirm"

Then you will be prompted to set up an account the first time you register, after that it will be easy for you to reserve or change your volunteer spots on line. FMSC warehouse is located at 401 S. 93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids.

Please arrive 10 minutes before your shift begins and please wear close-toed shoes.

For more information, please call the church office.



GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRESENTS

OCTOBER 25 2015

9:00am-1:00pm

GREAT FOOD ROOT BEER GARDEN

SILENT AUCTION FOR SANDCREEK GRACE FUND

GRACE FAMILY FEUD

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE...

FELLOWSHIP HALL After Worship Services



VOCATION N

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