



The Friendly Visitor

Grace Lutheran Church

November 22, 2016

Worship Services

8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday through Friday

Contact Us

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Looking to Christ in a Flat Stanley World

The other day while at Karen Acres Elementary School for conferences, I noticed a map in the hallway where a classroom was posting pictures of the travels of Flat Stanley. If you have never encountered Flat Stanley, he is a paper drawing that is colored in and cut out, ready for travel so he can appear in pictures taken during your travels. Those holding him are usually full of emotion, whether joy or anxiety as sometimes Flat Stanley has found his way to being held in a tree or on a tower. Flat Stanley, however, always looks the same and dresses the same. He always has the same expression, the one created by the artist.



What has struck me in the days since is just how much of the world has started to be seen like Flat Stanley. Instead of seeing one another in the fullness of the human experience, many are seeing people as a flat caricature, and one that often is an image created by the viewer. People become an interpretation of a label by the viewer, cut out and colored in, always to appear the same. Some create images of people based on race or the color of their skin, diminishing the realities that are faced. Some create images based on education level and where people live. Lately, more and more are creating images of others based on political beliefs and the people for whom someone may have voted. These images are often generalized caricatures of the extremely vocal extremes, yet it is through that image that all within that label are viewed.

It has become very difficult to live three dimensionally in a Flat Stanley world. People are more than a single label, whatever that label may be. The troublesome reality is that we should know better. This isn't the first time in history that people have resorted to labels and seeing people in a flat way. It has happened time and again through the whole of human existence.

It is precisely such a setting that was chosen as God chose to come near. The world at the time of the birth of Christ had become incredibly divided. Those who were in power would stop at nothing to maintain that power. On the other extreme, there were zealots who were desperate to see a revolution. To those on both extremes, everyone in between was a potential target for either support or opposition. The majority of people were trying to care for one another, and were somewhere in the middle, and likely felt somewhat caught in the middle of an incredibly hostile political environment.

Perhaps more than most years, we could use a good dose of Advent, a time of both remembering the birth of Christ, while looking forward to that time when Christ will return and move us toward the realized kingdom. It is a time when the church steps back and looks to the ways that God is at work in the world making all things new. It is a time that embraces the fact that God did not want to see us in a flat way, but instead became human to know fully the human experience. And with the incarnation, the barriers that existed between God and a fallen humanity suddenly disappeared. If God can fully love and care for a sinner like me, and you, and all of humanity, I think there is hope that we can re-learn to do the same.

Pastor Mike

Happy December Birthday

- 1 - Sarah Williamson
Deanna Weber
Josh Lund
- 2 - Beverly Anderson
Sean Calhoun
Christopher Barks
- 3 - Martha Page
Ami Bradwell
James Jordahl
- 4 - Carter Woodruff
- 5 - Anna Marie Peterson
Duane Ulrick
Darlis Honnold
Aaron Brandsfield
- 7 - Gus Berven
- 8 - Felicia Adams
- 9 - Joy Averill
Rosemary Randolph
Salvador Rodriguez
- 10 - Steve Young
- 11 - Burke Shiffler
Kari Dostalick
- 12 - Evan Justice
- 13 - Dorothy Dulpeepsingh
Sherry Brindley
Bradley Ashton
Thomas Garcia
- 14 - Stacie Holst
Anthony Garcia
- 15 - Mo Grotheer
Norman Iverson
Matt Ziska
- 17 - Tanner Highland
- 18 - Helen Fanning
Paul Weaver
Payton Lawson
Katja Rahjes
Lucas Scholl
- 19 - John Farver
- 20 - Richard Naney
Shirley Shiffler
Nathan Bickel
- 21 - John Rudisill
Chris Janson
- 22 - Donald Moon
Harold Mann
Quinci Chapman
Elizabeth Lewis
- 23 - Nancy Crowfoot
Wayne Curry
Piper Hutton
- 24 - Jon Rutter
Stuart Mitchell
Nicole Nelson
- 25 - Jeffrey Nelson
- 26 - Marlene Bang
- 27 - Barbara Berven
Christina Anderson
- 28 - Ryan Randolph
Sarah Chenoweth
Samantha Schmidt
- 29 - Linda Rundle
Kevin Krause
Robin Randolph

December Birthdays Cont'!

- 30 - Marion Nehmer
Drake Carney
- 31 - Verda Swanson
Jean Thompson
Tina Bickel
Nicholas Best



Happy December Anniversary

- 1 - Cindy and Ross Peeler
- 3 - Katharine and Matt Radermacher
- 8 - Becky and Tom Selander
- 14 - Gregory and Darlis Honnold
- 26 - Megan and Charles Reynolds
- 27 - Donald and Gloria Moon



Our Sympathies are with:

Col. Franklin Peterson
on the loss of his wife, Bonnie Peterson

Mary Helt,
on the loss of her father, Bill Freimuth



Card Shower - 100th Birthday

Anna Marie Peterson, who was the Organist at Grace for over 50 years will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on December 5, 2016.

If you would like to send her a birthday greeting, you may mail a card to her at her home at:

9706 W. Lodestone Court
Sun City, AZ 85373.

If you would prefer to email her a greeting, her email address is a12516@aol.com.

She has her own blog that can be viewed at www.grammaannsfelting.blogspot.com. This shows her works of art that she is still busy producing.



Office & Grace Kids Care Closed

Thursday Nov 24 & Friday, Nov. 25

Planning Ahead - Year End Deposits

It's November, which for the office, means we're looking at end of year tasks. Our final deposit for the year will be on Wednesday, December 28 as that is the last day the office will be open in 2016. According to the IRS, contributions are deductible in the year made - must be received or postmarked 2016 for 2016 deduction

Spotlight: Marion Nehmer

We use flowers to adorn the altar, giving glory to God with one of His beautiful creations. Flowers add a visual element that refreshes the altar each week and gives us pause to see anew. Sometimes, by making a small change, the viewer also experiences worship anew.



Marion started helping with altar flowers about 10 years ago. Did you know that flowers are provided by the congregation? A calendar is hung in the Gathering Hall for anyone to reserve a Sunday and pay for the flowers. Have you ever noticed the bulletin readings regarding the flowers? They can honor a celebration, memorialize a loved one or commemorate a special event. With help from the congregation, the church budget is reserved for other important items.

Marion has worked with 3 different florists over the past 10 years and has received the most compliments with the current one, Doherty's. The other plants and flowers are also provided by them. They've been great to work with and make her responsibilities easier! If you're at church on Saturday, you may meet Ruth, the delivery person. She makes certain each vase is placed just right.

For several years Marion has also helped with the arrangements for Easter and Christmas, working with Mindy Scholten, Jane Ridnour and most recently Loree Nelson, and in collaboration with Pastor Schmidt. Marion, and those she works with, give a lot of thought to the design and meaning as they feel the enhancements help bring a focus to the service. When asked what she receives from her work, Marion responds, "I enjoy talking with members about their requests for the bulletin. I think what I get out of it most is the renewal felt with the enhancements for special holy days."

Marion hopes that each one has enriched your worship experience and you have found a deeper meaning in the arrangement. This past year, the Easter arrangement was a cross of purple iris supported by white lilies. One of her favorite Easter arrangements was the use of lilies with one red azalea as a reminder of Christ's blood shed for us.





DMARC Donation of the Month –

Pasta, Whole grain and vegetable varieties

Grace Church Council Meeting Minutes – October 25, 2016

Attendance: Brad Lint, Don Peterson, Dave Gronert, Lori Fry, Mary Jo McCleary, Barb Zimany, Eric Weber, Matt Jordahl, Cathy Barks, John Roehrick, Jay Wangerin, Pastor Mike Schmidt.

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM. It was MSP to adopt the agenda as written. Pastor Mike lead a devotion from "The World According to Mr. Rogers."

Discussion: Take-aways from the recent Conversation with Council discussion in Adult Forum

- **Lutheran Reformation/500th Anniversary Observance in 2017-** We will be intentional in publicizing collective Lutheran events during the coming year around this anniversary. This celebration should be held in conjunction with other Lutherans.
- **Communications/Social Media-** Further website work is planned. The E-news is a successful communication tool for those who choose to use email regularly. Announcements that are reported in the E-news generally need to involve a majority of the congregation. Small groups should develop their own communication systems. We need to continue to publicize that The Friendly Visitor can be mailed to people who cannot pick it up or access it electronically. The weekly calendar is hard to access for people who are not coming into the church regularly and who do not have access to the internet. The online church directory is still a work in progress, but can be printed for ease of use. Council would like to invite Michelle to attend a future council meeting to share ideas and dreams around communication issues.
- **Social Welfare/Advocacy-** Work on social issues tends to involve Awareness, Action and Advocacy. Our congregation focuses well on Awareness and Action, but less often on Advocacy. The politicization of social issues makes it challenging to work specifically on advocacy as a whole church. We respect that members may have opposing views about issues. In order not to alienate members, when we present advocacy opportunities we emphasize that they are optional.

Consent Agenda: It was MSP to accept council meeting minutes, staff reports, and financial reports as written.

Old Business:

- Malmin Task Force/Grace 20/20
These groups met together and discussed a blending of goals and ideas from both groups centering around these areas: Education, Worship and Music, Health, and Property

Announcements:

- The next council meeting will be November 22, 2016 at 5:45 for meal, 6:00 for meeting.
- On December 24, we will have two Christmas Eve worship services: at 5:00 PM and 11:00 PM.
- Executive committee will meet on November 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Barks, Secretary

Finance Report – October Results

Financial results for October YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$352,619, Budget \$343,200
- Other Income – Actual \$17,685, Budget \$15,167
- Expenses – Actual \$378,240, Budget \$370,654
- Net activity – Actual (\$7,936), Budget (\$12,288)

Actual net activity is comparable to budget.



The Stewardship Team

would like to thank those that submitted a 2017 Pledge Card for ministry support. Pledge cards are still being accepted in the church office or the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

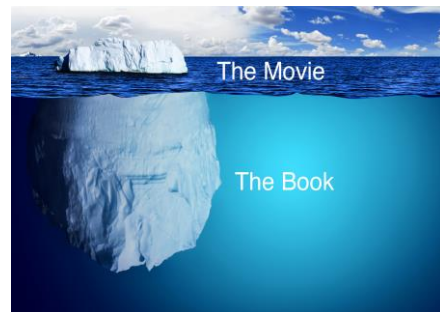
Worship is the movie

In a sermon a few weeks ago, I spoke of how the worship experience is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to understanding God. Worship is the movie; the Bible is the book. It is important to dwell in the Word of God and to meet God there. I referenced the One Year Bible which lays out the entire Bible into daily readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs each day. If followed, not only will you read the whole Bible once, but each of the Psalms twice.

Join me

I am going to do this again this year and invite anyone who wants to participate to join me. You can either purchase a One Year Bible, or we can post the readings each week and you can follow along in your own Bible. We will plan ways for weekly discussion on topics that come up. There is no sign up necessary, just be ready to start on January 1st. I look forward to walking through the Bible with you, and I hope you will consider doing the same.

Pastor Mike



Sign up Today! Grace Fellowship Holiday Catered Dinner

Sunday December 4, 5:00 p.m. All are invited, guests are welcome - bring a friend, neighbor, etc.!

Last chance to sign up! The Sign-up is in the Gathering Hall Sunday Nov 27 in the Gathering Hall. Out of town on the 27th? Call the office by noon on the 28th.

The delicious Catered Dinner is Turkey, Ham Balls, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Dressing, Vegetable, Cranberry Jello Salad, Rolls. Cost is \$10 per person.



Advent season at Grace

This season, the sanctuary will be slowly adorned to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You will see adornments that will begin on the first Sunday in Advent, November 27. We will wait in anticipation, just as Mary did, preparing for the coming of our Lord with word, music and visual elements that take us from darkness into the light of Christ.

We want to remember our home bound members especially during Advent. We will deliver a poinsettia to them earlier in the season than in past years, before Christmas. You can help by ordering one for them at \$10.60 per poinsettia. A volunteer from Grace will deliver it. We will not ask the congregation to purchase poinsettias for the sanctuary as in past years. Other visual elements will be used that will set the mood and tone for Advent and Christmas.



Order forms for poinsettias for home bound members will be available in the Gathering Hall, the office, and on the links page of the grace website at www.gracedm.org. **Please have money and order forms into the office by Wednesday, December 7. Once the order is placed, late orders cannot be accepted.**

Advent Worship Service and Dessert Fellowship Monday, December 5, 2016

Ladies of Grace Lutheran Church: You are cordially invited to attend **"Advent and Christmas Around the World"**
Windsor Heights Lutheran Church, 1240 66th Street, Windsor Heights

View the beautifully decorated tables and trees in Parish Hall starting at 6:00 Worship service at 7:00 p.m. Candlelit Dessert Fellowship to follow. Reservations are required. Please be our guests for the worship service and the candlelit dessert fellowship following in the Parish Hall. There is no charge to you as our guests. A freewill offering will be collected during worship for Counselling Services at Lutheran Services in Iowa

We bring unwrapped gift items for the residents of Luther Park – information about gifts can be found on the bulletin boards outside Grace Hall.

Deadline for reservations: Monday, November 28.

To make your reservation please contact:

Linda Anderson at 491-9242 or LAndy12450@aol.com or

Shelly Thieman at 223-8876 or S.Reedf@gmail.com

Youth Ministry and Sunday Mornings

Youth 0-5th grade



Sunday School is still collecting clean (washed out) gallon milk jugs for an art project. Can you help? Place your item(s) in the box marked Clean Milk Jugs in the Gathering Hall by Dec. 4. Thank you!

Christmas Program

December 11 10:45 a.m. worship
Plan to be there – the students will be singing several songs during the service.



Advent devotions will be given to each Sunday School Student for family use and reflection.

January Sunday School rotation leaders needed

January lessons include Baby Moses and Wandering in the Wilderness. Rotations are short, readings pre-selected for you!

Please contact Karri Brandsfield and Deanna Weber to be involved. gracesundayschool3010@gmail.com

Music Notes

December 11th is a big day for music in worship at Grace! Join us for:

- ~**An Advent Meditation** with the Chancel Choir during 8:15 worship
- ~**Bells & Brass** in Grace Hall between services beginning at 9:30
- ~**Grace Sunday School sings** as part of their annual Christmas program during 10:45 worship

Psalm 98:4-6

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, With the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn. Shout joyfully before The King, the LORD!



Middle and High School

OWL Back at Grace in December

The Our Whole Lives High School Group has November 27 off. The December meetings will return to the High School Youth Room at Grace Lutheran Church for December 4, December 11, and December 18.

Lunches: December 11 and 18 are still open, please make sure there is a vegetarian option available. If you need the link again, please contact Ellen at ellen@gracedm.org

Meals from the Heartland

On Thursday, November 17, group of twenty Grace Youth, parents, and other adults attended the packing event at the Patty Cownie Center in West Des Moines.

Meals from the Heartland partners with organizations embedded in communities that face hunger on a daily basis. Meals are shipped out nationally and internationally by their distribution partner, CONVOY OF HOPE, to on-the-ground organizations such as *Many Hands for Haiti* and *Blessman Ministries*. The meals often support and supplement other programs such as teaching sustainable agriculture practices, education, healthcare, and more. The meals are also used for disaster relief, providing nutrition and hope in the midst of epidemics and natural disasters that impact entire communities. Locally, they partner with food banks such as the Food Bank of Iowa, the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) food bank network, and dozens of church-affiliated food pantries.

Photos from the event can be found on page 9.

Acolytes – Changes!

If you are in 6th-8th grade and have not served as an acolyte this fall, please sign up now. (check your in-box for a clickable link in a message from Ellen). The following is a new sign-up with the new dates needed for acolytes.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f4baba62da46-v2grace>

Please note, there will only be TWO worship services on Christmas Eve, the 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. services. Both need an additional acolyte. Please consider if you will be in town.

This is an expectation of being in Confirmation and something that been opened up to those in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade if they are comfortable and have an interest. If you are interested in serving as an acolyte and have not received training, let us know! We would be happy to oblige.

Adult Education

Tuesday Adult Bible Study

8:45 a.m., Tuesdays in Grace Hall. Led by Pastor Mike.

Centering Prayer Group

Tuesdays at 10:30 in the Upper Room, led by Julie Honsey.

Sunday Adult Education Hour

Sundays, 9:30, Grace Hall

- **November 27**
Coffee and Conversation
Optional Advent activity/craft for students
- **December 4**
A Study in Matthew with Pastor Mike
- **December 11**
Bells and Brass Concert
- **December 18**
A Study in Matthew with Pastor Mike
- **December 25**
Christmas Day – one service at 10:00 a.m.
no education hour.

Religious Study Group

Wednesdays, led by The Rev. Ro Zimany
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the conference room.

- **November 23** No meeting
- **November 30**
The Gospel According to St. John
- **December 7**
The Doctrine of the Trinity
- **December 14**
Is. 7:10-16; Mt. 1:18-25; Rom. 1:1-7
The group will resume on January 4, 2017.

Darkness into Light

An Advent and Christmas Sermon Series

11-27: Looking for the Light
12-4: Sensing the Light
12-11: Sounds of Advent and Christmas
12-18: Waiting for the Light
12-24: Seeing the Light
12-25: Knowing the Light

Christmas Worship with Holy Communion

Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m. – One service only

Save the Date!

November 22

8:45 a.m. – Bible Study – Grace Hall II

6:00 p.m. Lydia Circle, Grace Hall I



November 23

9:00 a.m. – Willing Workers

No Confirmation

No Music Rehearsals

No Religious Discussion Group

November 24 & 25

Office and Grace Kids Care closed

November 27

Sunday School Recess

Wednesdays November 30, December 7, 14, 21

9:00 a.m. – Willing Workers

6:30 p.m. – Confirmation Class, room 301

6:30 p.m. – Religious Study,

6:30 p.m. – Grass Brass, Stage

6:45 p.m. – Grace Bells

7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir

Thursdays December 1, 15

9:00 a.m. – Quilters, Msindo Hall

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – First Circle Friends, Grace Hall I & II

Thursday December 8

9:00 a.m. – Quilters, Msindo Hall

11:00 a.m. – Martha Circle Brunch, Grace Hall I

Sunday, December 4

5:00 p.m. – Grace Fellowship Holiday Dinner, Grace Hall I

Tuesday, December 6

6:30 – 9:00 p.m. – Knitters Guild, Grace Hall I

Saturday, December 10

9:00 a.m. – Men's Group. Breakfast, devotion, and church projects

December 11

9:30 a.m. – Bells and Brass Concert, Grace Hall

10:45 a.m. – Christmas Program, during worship

5:30 p.m. Ladies Night Out – Christmas Party

Mark your calendars for our December Christmas Party! Our usual gift exchange of a new wrapped gift valued at around \$20 plus an item to share to eat. Open to all Women of Grace. RSVP Donna 778-7251.

December 14

Submission deadline for Advent Friendly Visitor, printed December 21

December 20

7:00 p.m. Hunger Team, Conference Room

December 23

Grace Kids Care Closed

Grace Lutheran Church 90th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, June 11, 2017

The Star Tree

Choose a star and make someone's Christmas special – an adult from Mosaic's local group homes or a child from LSI's Early Development Program.

Please select a star from the Star Tree in the Gathering Hall. It will be up the weekend after Thanksgiving. Items should be returned, unwrapped, to Grace by Sunday December 18. Please limit toys and gifts purchase to about \$25. Mosaic is a faith-based organization serving adults with intellectual disabilities.

LSI's Early Childhood Program provides supportive services to at risk single mothers from the prenatal period until age five when the child starts kindergarten. An LSI family support worker visits regularly in the home to teach parenting skills and to ensure the proper development of the child. Contact Joie Gronert at 279 - 4974 or Denise Friesth at 276 - 6873.



Festival of Trees

Grace's festival of trees is happening again this year and anyone who would like to adopt and decorate a tree for the season is welcome to do so. The corridor of trees will be set up by November 30, in the Gathering Hall. Please notify Michelle or Denise in the office if you or your group would like to reserve a tree. Trees will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.



Merry Christmas from LSI

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." – John 1:5
As Christmas approaches, we give thanks for you! Every day, as a ministry partner of LSI, you help bring the light of Christ to others.

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know adults with disabilities who have no caring family presence in their lives. We know families in Des Moines who spent 20 years living in refugee camps and are finally regaining some hope for the future. We know teens who are aging out of the foster care system and fear they will never belong to anyone or have a family to love them.

LSI's work is Christmas work, shining love, compassion and light in places of darkness, despair, abuse, neglect, addiction and crisis. We could not do this important work without you, and we are so grateful.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A New Kind of Family

For Kristie, respite caregiving through LSI's Services for People with Disabilities is more than just a job. It's a time for her to be with family.

Kristie has helped to take care of Trevor since she began working with LSI. Trevor stays one night with her family most weekends and during many weeknights, he spends time and eats dinner with Kristie's family.

"He gets to come over and go to sporting events, or go camping, or go to family functions with us," Kristie says. "He likes to interact with my own children, who are about the same age."

The whole family has developed a relationship with Trevor, and even extended family members consider him as "one of the kids." "Respite care has been a great outlet for me and my kids, and it's a growing opportunity for all of us. I've developed a relationship with Trevor's family. It gives them a break, and my kids can learn and grow," Kristie says. "This gives me an opportunity to work with kids and still be able to do things with my own family. It doesn't interfere with my life. It adds to it."



Julie and Scott Honsey, with the help of Mike and Carla Peterman and Marion Nehmer, removed all of the remaining plants, stakes, and plant fencing during late October and early November. On Nov. 12, with the help of the Men's Group, they tilled, and spread 7 cubic yards of beautiful compost.



Grace Men's Group meets the second Sunday of each month for breakfast, a devotion, and various tasks around the church. On Nov 12, they assisted the gardening group in spreading compost, re-installed the many plastic "snow-guards" that have come off the metal roof, completed a drywall repair and door-stop installation, and some maintenance on the carpet shampooer.



Meals from the Heartland



Youth members joined in the effort



A quick pose, then back to work!



Meals bag packing assembly line

The Friendly Visitor

Grace Lutheran Church

3010 52nd Street

Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Aging Resources of Central Iowa

Holiday Meals on Wheels

This program provides older adults with a hot, delicious meal on Christmas Day at no cost. The meals are delivered by volunteers.

Individuals must be 60 years or older, homebound, and a resident of Polk County. Sign-up deadline for Christmas Day is: Friday Dec. 9

To sign up or ask questions, please call Kate Rittman at (515) 633-9518. Flyers are on

Holiday Concerts

See Music Bulletin board for details.

Friday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.

Southwestern Community College Chamber Singers at Grace Lutheran Church

Saturday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.

Grandview Choir & Wind Ensemble, Julefest 2016 at Luther Memorial Church

Saturday Dec 3, 3:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 4, 3:00 p.m.

Night Divine, Christmas with Wartburg
Wartburg College, Waverly
Neumann Auditorium

Order tickets 319-352-8691 (M-F 10 a.m.–12 p.m.) or www.Wartburg.edu/Christmas

Travel back to the time of Martin Luther

Oct 30 2016 – Jan 15, 2017
Minneapolis Institute of Art

A new and unique exhibition will make just one stop in the US at the Minneapolis Museum of Art, and includes several works from the Thrivent Collection of Religious Art that spans 9 centuries.

Thrivent Members can get discounted tickets, an exclusive lecture, and tour discounts if booked in advance. If you are interested in a Group Tour, please contact the office, and we will put you in touch with other interested members. Additional information found on the bulletin boards.

Who do I contact in the Office?

Who does what? With so many staffing changes this past year, your contacts for different information have also changed frequently. There are many things that either Denise or Michelle will be glad to help you with, and if we can't we'll certainly make sure you and your information get to the correct person. But if we can save you an extra step and a few minutes, here's the official story.

Michelle, Director of Communications

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Contact: michelle@gracedm.org 515-276-6873 ext. 201

Send Michelle information: local events, church events, information that needs to be published and communicated through the weekly bulletin announcements, e-news, bulletin board, Facebook, website, and newsletter.

We are happy to publish team, committee, circle and other events for others who may be interested in attending or joining your group, but chairs should also make sure to communicate directly within their own group as not everyone receives or reads each publication.

For instance: the e-news reaches just those members and friends who use email and who have signed up to receive the e-news, or those who look at our Facebook page.

Denise, Church Administrator

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Contact denise@gracedm.org or 515-276-6873 ext. 200.

Denise handles the rest, including:

- adding your groups' event to the calendar, changing a date/time/room, communicate setup needs.
- schedule an event for you or an outside group
- communicating with vendors, repairmen, members
- answering questions about pledges, your committee's current budget/finance standing
- accept your expense vouchers and receipts
- change of address/phone
- updating and adding photos and contact information to the photo directory.

Recycling at Grace

The small dumpster in the parking lot is for recycling, the larger for garbage! In the kitchen you will find a large round grey bin for recycling - please rinse well or wash if necessary any food cans, bottles, etc. that you place in this bin. Cardboard and other recyclable materials may also be placed directly in the small dumpster. Thank you!