



The Friendly Visitor

Grace Lutheran Church

December 21, 2016

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

Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 and 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Day Worship 10:00 a.m.

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

Contact Us

3010 52nd Street

Des Moines, Iowa 50310

515-276-6873

www.gracedm.org

Pastor Michael Schmidt

mike@gracedm.org

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Ellen Rothweiler

ellen@gracedm.org

Director of Music Ministries

Emma Stammer

emma@gracedm.org

Organist

Richard Snyder

snydersathome@att.net

Grace Kids' Care Director

Heather Nelson

heathernelsondc@msn.com

276-0943

Church Administrator

Denise Friesth

denise@gracedm.org

Director of Communications

Michelle Voelker

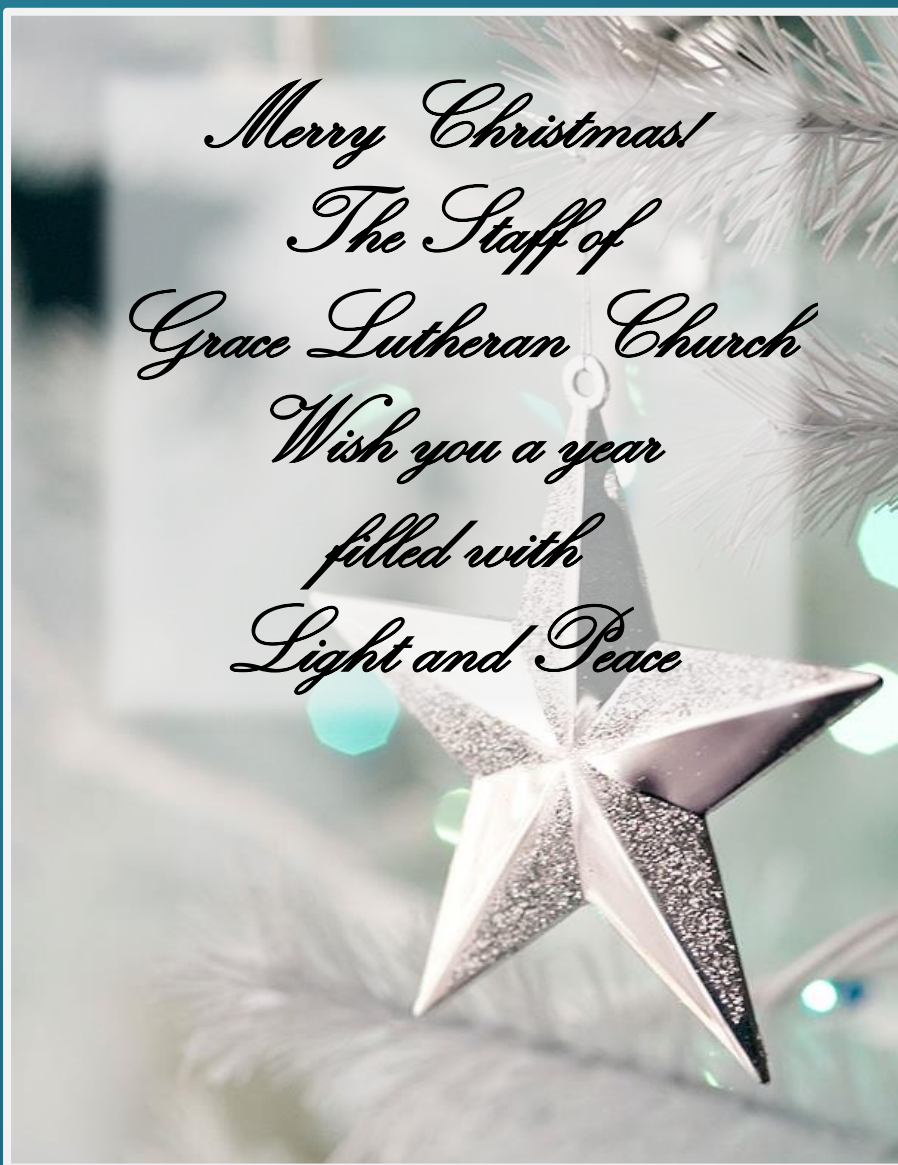
michelle@gracedm.org

Custodian

Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

Inside This Issue...

- 2... Birthdays, Anniversaries
Annual Meeting Announcement
Year End Deposits, Office hours
 - 3... Spotlight: Knitters Guild
 - 4... Council Minutes, Finance Report
 - 5... Hunger Notice, Basketball Outing
Bible in a Year, Support Tanzanian Students
 - 6... Youth Ministry, How can YOU be Church for our Youth?
 - 7... Adult Education topics, Calendar
 - 8... Martin Luther Exhibit Bus Trip, LSI
 - 9... Photos of December Events
 - 10.. Martha Circle photos, Thank Yous
- Insert: Bible in a year reading list



Merry Christmas!
The Staff of
Grace Lutheran Church
Wish you a year
filled with
Light and Peace

Todd Haugen Denise Friesth

Heather Nelson Ellen Rothweiler

Pastor Michael Schmidt Richard Snyder

Emma Stammer Michelle Voelker

Happy January Birthday

- 1 - Betty Hirschauer
Elizabeth Dungan
Theodore Tussing
Bob Gweah
Dr. Tana Friesth Perry
- 2 - Penny Hansen
Andrew Allen
Nicholas Jessen
- 3 - Conrad Thompson
Jay Wangerin
Eric Weber
- 4 - Lynn Niemuth
- 6 - Julie Honsey
Tammy Denton
Amy Schmelzer
Paul Calahan
Joseph Mattes
- 7 - Laura Ziesman
- 8 - Kathy Roat
Catherine Lewis
- 9 - Sandra Briggs
Michael Friesth
- 10 - Caden Mendez
- 11 - Kareyna Holmes
- 13 - Jacqueline Villela
- 14 - Lolita Huth
Tessa Fenimore
- 15 - Laria Preston
- 16 - Carmen Buell
Daniel Robbins
- 17 - Barbara DeBolt
Kari Berven
McKenzie Carney
- 18 - Lon Friesth
Lonnie Jessen
Stephen Kallenbach
Cooper Bigg
- 19 - Arnold Johansen
Becky Selander
- 21 - Mary Helt
Cheryl Wilner
- 22 - Marilyn Allie
Andrea Harbaugh
Joseph Berg
- 23 - Donald Peterson
Alice Kulzer
- 24 - Garry Lenhart
- 25 - Roy Mann
- 26 - Patricia Allen
Julia Beekman
Valerie Culp
Amber Davik
Haley Honnold
- 28 - Elaine Westvold
Charles Smith
James Kaleewoun
- 29 - Norman Trentmann
Cherlyn Lewis
- 30 - Elizabeth Prescott
Nayeli Rodriguez
- 31 - Maryena Petty-Lee



Happy January Anniversary

- 4 - Elizabeth and Mark Dungan
- 6 - Heather and Eric Nelson
- 9 - Joie and David Gronert
- 30 - Carmen and Larry Buell



Our Sympathies are with:

The Families of:

Jackie Holmes, beloved former Administrator of Grace Lutheran Church

Marth Stackhouse, mother of Rita Stackhouse



Annual Meeting Sunday, January 22, 2017

Noon, Grace Hall
Lunch will be served

Committee Reports should be turned in to the office by January 7.
Thank you!



Office Hours and Year End Deposits



Year End Deposit Reminder

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.

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/irs-offers-tips-for-year-end-giving-2012> If you would like to know where you stand with your 2016 pledge, call the office at 515-276-6873. Thank you.



The Office will be closed on the following Dates during the Holiday Season:

Friday December 23: closing at 1:00 p.m.
Monday, December 26
Tuesday, December 27
Thursday December 29
Friday December 30

Spotlight on: The Knitters Guild!

SPOT-
LIGHT
ON...

The Des Moines Knitting Guild is a non-profit group that knits for charity. It began 25 years ago and currently meets at Grace Lutheran the first Tues. of every month at 7 p.m. We have a board of 5 people who govern the charity. At our meetings, we usually have a business meeting, along with a portion of the evening learning something new about knitting. We usually end the evening with a little 'show and tell' where we share our projects with the others.

At our last meeting on Dec. 6, we had our annual Christmas party. There we decorated one of the Grace Lutheran Christmas trees with our mittens, hats and scarves, all going to a needy group or individuals. We have two other trees this year that we decorated; at the Urbandale Library, and at St. Theresa's Catholic Church. Those items will also go to people in need. Every year we knit for Blank Children's Hospital, Broad lawns Hospital maternity dept., John Stoddard Cancer Center, and a new one this year is the V.A. Homeless Veterans. We knit baby blankets, infant booties, chemo caps, mittens, scarves, hats, and also a new item is knit prosthetics for breast cancer patients. Annually we knit purple hats for the local hospitals in the fall campaign called 'Click for Babies'. We have two charity coordinators in our group: Kathy Solko and Deana Carfrae. They manage the incoming items, which on the average totals 600. That is a lot of knitting!

Currently we have 61 members, 5 of who are members of Grace: Nancy Crowfoot, Martha Page, Mary Helt, Carol Krause, and Barb Zimany. We plan to do some fun activities to celebrate the 25 years that the Guild has been in operation. Would you like to join us? You do not need to be an expert knitter. We welcome any level of knitting skill. It's a very friendly group who really love to promote the craft of knitting and give to others at the same time. There is a business card attached that gives more information. Happy knitting!

-Winnie Rye [the DMKG newsletter editor]



Please note that those attending Grace at Christmas can take a hat, gloves or scarf if needed, and your donations to the tree are also welcomed. The items on the tree will be donated to Moore School.

Email: DSMKnitting@gmail.com
Webpage: www.desmoinesknittingguild.com
FaceBook: Des-Moines-Knitting-Guild
Ravelry: <http://www.ravelry.com/groups/des-moines-knitting-guild>



The knitters guild is glad to welcome anyone, from those just learning to cast on, starting their first project, to those more experienced.

In addition to the Christmas party, we have a picnic, a weekend retreat where we knit and often have a speaker show us something new, as well as knit at the sheep barn during the Iowa State Fair!

DMARC Donation of the Month

Hot Cereal: Oatmeal, Farina, Malt O'Meal...

Grace Church Council Meeting Minutes –

Attending: Barb Zimany, Dave Gronert, Brad Lint, John Roehrick, Pastor Mike Schmidt, Don Peterson, Mary Jo McCleary, Eric Weber, Cathy Barks. Staff attending: Michelle Voelker

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Brad Lint. It was MSP to adopt the agenda. Devotions were lead by Pastor Mike.

Discussion:

- **Communication Thought and Dialogue:** A dialogue was held with Michelle Voelker about communications at Grace. She gave an extensive update on how information is received and dispersed, the process of creation and sharing of our publications, post cards and letters, the use of social media in marketing and information sharing, new uses of photography, and the updating of our website. She shared wishes and wants for the future. Members are asked to check in on Facebook. We are reaching 4000 people per month with Facebook. We are looking at using live video of worship on our website. The council is very appreciative of her efforts and ideas.
- **Pastoral Concern for our Community:** Pastor Mike shared his concern with the unhealthy nature of dialogue between people with strongly differing opinions in our society, locally and at large. As a church, we are called to guide society in reconciliation. Our community needs to find healthy ways to communicate to avoid breeding hate. A motion was MSP to support Pastor Mike's initiatives for pastoral care in his efforts to address community social concerns and fears, if any.
- **Marketing ideas for Grace:** new ideas were briefly introduced. Discussion and decisions were tabled for the next meeting.
- **Budget for 2017:** a preliminary budget was reviewed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Consent agenda: A correction was made to the October council minutes, and then it was MSP to adopt minutes and reports.

Old Business: Updates were received on the work of the Malmin Fund committee and the Grace 20/20 team.

Upcoming Council Elections: There are four current council members whose terms expire in January, and there is one additional open council position to fill. Interested persons should contact Brad Lint or Pastor Mike.

Announcements: The next council meeting will be on December 20, 2016 at 5:45 PM for the meal, and 6:00 PM for the meeting. Dave Gronert will arrange for the meal.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Barks, Secretary

Finance Report – November Results

Financial results for November YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$388,067, Budget \$378,250
- Other Income – Actual \$18,152, Budget \$16,683
- Expenses – Actual \$417,932, Budget \$402,452
- Net activity – Actual (\$11,713), Budget (\$7,519)



Actual net activity is unfavorable to budget and is expected to remain unfavorable for year-end results. Year-end results are expected to be a loss in the range of \$5,000 to \$10,000. Additionally, activity for 2017 is expected to be a loss of \$25,000 primarily due to declining pledge levels and higher expenses. Finally, Day Care is also expected to end the year in a loss position.

Please consider attending the budget forum and annual meeting in January for additional details and full discussion.

Hunger Notice

How would you answer the question, "What are the four basic and essential requirements for life?" Water, air, shelter, and food would be a reasonable list in answer to that question. Have you ever wanted to make a contribution to providing one of these essentials for life? There is a working group within the Grace Lutheran community of faith that works to address the shortage of food within the Des Moines metropolitan area. The Hunger Group meets periodically, approximately once per month, to consider what can be done to address the shortage of nutritious food. If you have a passion for service and want to make concrete contributions to reducing hunger within the community, consider joining the Hunger Group. If you have questions, contact Julie Honsey, Rich Snyder, Rick Stammer, Joie Gronert, or Michelle Voelker, or you may call the church office (276-6873) to find out the date and time for the next Hunger Group meeting. Come, join, and make a difference.



Join Pastor Mike – and read the Bible in a year!

Pastor Mike is going to go through the One Year Bible again this year, and you are invited to join in the fun. The One Year Bible is a trademarked edition of the Bible that divides the entire Bible into daily readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs.

To join in you can read in your own Bible following the texts in the insert, or online at OneYearBible.com, or you can purchase the One Year Bible at a bookstore. There is no sign up needed, just start reading on January 1st. As the year goes, we will make plans for discussion on topics that come up. Come, join the fun!

Pastor Mike

Faith and Family Fun Night Iowa Energy Basketball Game Sunday, March 5, 3 P.M.

Grace has a block of seats reserved.

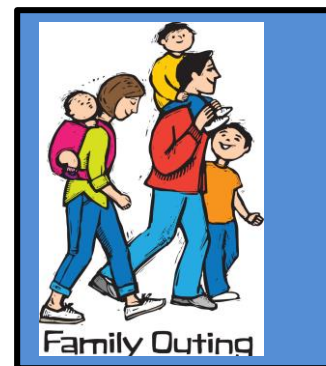
Tickets are \$10.71 and include the game, a food voucher, and a post-game concert.

Tickets MUST be ordered in advance.

There is an easy link for ordering online, <http://Groupmatics.Events/GLCMarch5> which will automatically place you in our block of seats. Or, you can call the number on the poster (Madeline Pavlik at 515-564-8559) to place your order and avoid online fees

Friends and family are welcome and encouraged!

Find more information on the Youth and Families Bulletin Board.



Help Support the Vulnerable Children of Msindo, Tanzania!

I'm looking for 50 friends to help sponsor the 50 children identified as the most vulnerable in their community. With your support, each student will receive a school uniform and a pair of shoes (required of public school children in Tanzania but too expensive for many families to afford), as well as enrollment in Empower Tanzania's Most Vulnerable Children's Club where each week they receive supplemental tutoring, basic life skills training, and two nutritious meals. Being a part of this program springboards these children onto secondary school and out of the cycle of poverty they were born into.

A full year of sponsorship costs just \$150 per child — that's less than \$3 per child per Saturday! Your contribution would not only mean the world to me personally, but would change the trajectory of a child in rural Tanzania.

Thank you, Bryan Moon

Please donate online at <http://bit.ly/2hUI83>, or on the Empower Tanzania website (www.empowertz.org).

Youth Ministry and Sunday Mornings

Youth 0-5th grade

January Rotation Leaders Needed

The Sunday-School team is looking for volunteers to teach rotations in January. K-5th graders will be learning about Baby Moses and Wandering in the Wilderness through Drama, Art and a Computer rotation. If you are interested, please contact Karri or Deanna by email at: Gracesundayschool3010@gmail.com

Grace Youth Ministry How can YOU be the Church for the youth of our congregation?

Many of us have heard it said that the Church is the people, not the building. This is the reality of youth ministry today. In order to be the church for the youth in our congregation, it often takes us out of the building to where they are in their lives and activities. Like many of us, the lives of youth and their families are very busy with academics, sports, clubs, dance, drama, music lessons and groups, etc. These things bring them great joy and they are passionate about their identities as a part of these groups which often demand a lot of time and energy from them. They spend whole weekends at competitions or tournaments, even into Sundays. This leaves them in need of rest and time with family before the next week's activities begins. When I see students in our church building I often hear them say that they are tired from the week's activity, but this confession is shared with a smile of pride on their faces.

In response to what I am hearing and observing, I am inviting the youth and families of Grace to share those activity schedules with the members of Grace Lutheran Church so that we, your church, may meet you there and be an uplifting and supportive presence in the midst of these things that can often be consuming. In January I will provide a bulletin board where these schedules can be posted. I invite Grace members to stop and take a look at all the things that Grace Youth are involved in and, if you feel so moved I would invite you to pray for these students and/or attend one of these activities to show that church is where the people are, not just within the walls of our building. Christ is with us in all that we do, so let us be that light of Christ in the midst of the joy and fatigue that comes with the busyness of the lives of Grace Youth and their families.

Peace,
Ellen Rothweiler
Minister for Youth and Families



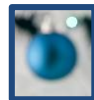
Middle and High School

OWL Continues

Our final month of meetings will be at St. John's Lutheran Church in January - January 8, 15 and 22. Noon – 2 p.m.

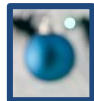
Confirmation

The month of service learning is almost over;



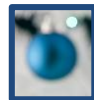
Encore Thrift Store, Merle Hay Road

We swept, cleaned and dusted shelves, packed food, paired donated shoes and sorted clothes. ENCORE is a part of Hope Ministries - they collect and sell donations with proceeds going back into Hope Ministries mission of serving the homeless people of our city.



Shopping on a budget

The confirmation class adopted 4 families from Moore Elementary this year. Each student was given \$25 to shop for the items on their assigned family member's wish list. Lessons were found in wants vs. needs, budgeting, bargain shopping, working together. Gifts were purchased entirely with money brought by participating students, parents, and mentors, and other donors in the church.



Quilting at Grace

Two hours spent in Msindo Hall with the Thursday morning quilters learning about Lutheran Services of Iowa, LSI, and Grace's Prayer Quilt Ministry. Students learned to tie quilts (and tied four during the evening, while the quilters typically tie one, perhaps two quilts a week when they are not cutting or sewing). Some students learned to thread a needle, others chose fabric, and others ironed. Many pieced quilt squares, using the sewing machines to sew blocks into rows and rows into squares that will be added to quilts sent all over the world.

Students stretched and taped quilt backs to a table, tied layers together, and pinned binding edges. They also thought about whether a white fabric would be better for filler or a quilt back/top when the quilt might be used as a tent or a market booth.



Wrap Party

The gifts purchased earlier in the month were wrapped, tied with ribbons, or placed in pretty bags. The packages were delivered to Moore School, where the Principal will deliver to the families in need. The Party finished with snacks and a movie.

Classes will resume Jan 4 at the normal time of 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Adult Education

Tuesday Adult Bible Study

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

December 27

No meeting

January 3

There will be no Bible Study. Instead, Mark Mattes will present on Martin Luther and the Reformation prior to the Grace Bus trip to Minnesota. All are welcome.

Centering Prayer Group

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

December 27

No Meeting

Sunday Education Hour Presentations

Sundays, 9:30, Grace Hall

December 25 & January 1

No meeting

January 8

Intergenerational - Why Christian?

January 15

Budget & Finance Meeting

January 22

Fellowship

January 29

Snuggle Up With a Good Book - Library Committee

Religious Study Group

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

January 4

God as Intermittent (Not Continuous): A Proposal

January 11

Paul's Three Views of Christ

January 18

No meeting

January 25

No meeting

Calendar

December 21 - First day of Winter

9:00 a.m. - Willing Workers

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

- Confirmation Class, Grace Hall - Service Learning, wrapping gifts for Moore School Families
- Grace 2020

NO Grace Bells, Grace Brass, or Chancel Choir until 2017

December 23, Friday

Office closes at 1 p.m. Grace Kids Care Closed

December 24, Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. Holy Communion Worship

December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship, No Education Hour

December 26 - Office and Grace Kids Care Closed

December 27 - Office closed

December 28 - Office Open, Last day to make contributions for 2016.

December 29 & 30 - Office Closed

January 1, 2017

10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols

January 4

Confirmation Classes, Grace Bells, Chancel Choir rehearsals resume

January 5 –

- **10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends**
- **6:00 p.m. - Men in Mission** We will be having a planning session for Men in Mission. Please plan on attending.

January 7

- Day Trip to Martin Luther Exhibit
- Annual Committee Reports due

January 8 – Grace Brass Rehearsals resume

January 14 – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Men's Group Breakfast and church projects

January 16 – Office Closed

January 19 - 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends

January 21 – 9:30 a.m. Altar Guild coffee and meeting offsite

January 22, noon: Annual Congregational Meeting, Grace Hall

January 25 – Friendly Visitor Submission Deadline

March 4 – Hope for the Hungry Conference, Grace Hall

April 30 – First Communion

May 5 - Grace Youth Annual Garage, Plant, and Bake Sale

8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Sunday, June 11, 2017- Grace Lutheran Church 90th Anniversary Celebration



Day Trip with Grace Saturday January 7, 2017
Last Chance to see the

Martin Luther: Art and Reformation Exhibit **at the Minneapolis Institute of Art before it leaves the country January 15.**

18 members are currently signed up for the January 7 charter bus trip to the Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation Exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. There is still room for YOU!

The chartered bus will pick us up at Grace at 7:15 a.m. and return us to Grace around 9:15 p.m. Your cost will be the cost of the exhibit ticket - \$16 (lower than previously quoted) - plus meals as we stop through the day.

If you would like to join us, please call the office or sign up at the bulletin board when next at Grace. There will also be a preview presentation on Martin Luther and the Reformation, January 3, 2017 8:45 - 10:15 a.m..

The Exhibit features hundreds of objects from noted German art collections, Martin Luther's actual childhood homes, and recent archeological digs. Its final day in the US will be January 15, 2017.

Find more information at the Institute <http://new.artsmia.org/luther/>



Giving Voice for Iowa Children and Families – Lutheran Day on the Hill

Families living in poverty. Iowa children who go hungry. Former refugees building new lives.

These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that!

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Tuesday, February 21. Visit www.LSIowa.org/advocacy next month for event details, online registration and an online toolkit for your congregation, including how to participate in this year's congregational letter-writing campaign.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators.

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 Harmony

Zach has always had a love of the outdoors. In his free time, he can usually be found in his back yard, mowing the lawn or making sure his snow blower is working properly before the first snow. But when Zach began working with his hourly support staff, Shane, he found a new love: music.

Shane is an hourly support staff with LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. Each week, the duo works together to help Zach stay active in the community, practice his coping skills, and achieve his personal goals. Music therapy has become a major part of their time together.

"We play guitar quite a bit," Shane says. "I think music therapy is very important. It just helps calm the soul down."

During each session, Shane teaches Zach a few new chords or strumming patterns that Zach can practice on his own.

"I know when I've had a long, bad day at work, I get kind of angry rather quickly," Zach says. "If I can, I go to my room and grab my guitar and start strumming some chords. I'm not much of a singer, but I've started putting some words with some of the jamming out I do."

Seeing Zach's new appreciation for guitar is just one way Shane is constantly inspired to come to work. "A lot of motivation for hourly work is you only have a short amount of time with the individual, and it has to change their life," he says. "When we can use our time to utilize music like Zach has, it can be a great coping skill, and it's working for him."



Confirmation sorting Food at Encore, Hope Ministries Shop on Merle Hay Road



Sweeping at Encore. Others removed items from shelves, dusted the shelf, then replaced everything neatly. Some students searched racks for empty hangers to reuse.



Packing Food at Encore

December Fun at Grace!



Decorating one of the Trees in the Gathering Hall. Ellen adds the angel on top!



Ladies Night Out Christmas Party - half the group.



Ladies Night Out Christmas Party – the other half!



Confirmation Quilting during Service Learning

The Friendly Visitor

**Grace Lutheran Church
3010 52nd Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50310**



Martha Circle enjoyed packing gift bags for members who currently cannot make it to church. Gifts came from Martha and Lydia Circles, the Embroidery Group, the Sunday School children, and Grace Women's Board. Poinsettias were given by members of Grace.



Bev Anderson played piano for the Hymn Sing



Thank You!

Grace Lutheran Church

Thanks so much for the beautiful poinsettia and the lovely gifts. That was very nice to remember me. I miss being at church every Sunday.

God Bless, Love, Rosella Dingman

We thank our friends at Grace Lutheran Church for the recent delivery of a beautiful poinsettia plant. It will be a meaningful part of our celebration of the birth of Christ!

Sincerely, Mary and Dick Johansen

Grace Lutheran Church

Thank you for the poinsettia, devotional books and other goodies. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Christmas Blessings, Marvin Simonsen

Thank you to all the thoughtful people of Grace Lutheran who are represented in the delivery we received from you. Thank you to the children that remembered us with the lovely Christmas cards. God's blessing to you for caring. Leanne is healing. Thanks for the prayers. We miss you. Merry Christmas & much happiness in the New Year.

LaRue Buihner

Leanne Davis

Dear Grace Lutheran Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia. Thank you also for the Christmas decorations. It was so nice to be remembered. Thank you to Lois Slye for delivering everything. Merry Christmas to all.

Love, Bonnie Swanson

