

**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**Worship with Holy Communion**  
Sundays at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.  
Education Hour and coffee at 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 a.m. (Advent), 5:00 and 11:00 p.m.  
Christmas Day Worship 10:00 a.m.  
New Year's Eve Worship 10:00 a.m.

**Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

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Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
515-276-6873  
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Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

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Land Trip



*Kathy Bowermaster   Jessye Flannery  
Todd Haugen   Brooke Howsare  
Denise Friesth   Ellen Rothweiler  
Pastor Michael Schmidt   Richard Snyder  
Emma Stammer   Michelle Voelker*

## 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 - 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

## December Birthdays Continued

- 26 - Marlene Bang
- 27 - Barbara Berven  
Christina Anderson
- 28 - Ryan Randolph  
Sarah Chenoweth  
Samantha Schmidt
- 29 - Linda Rundle  
Kevin Krause  
Robin Randolph
- 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



## Thank You

I want to thank very much the women that made the quilt for me. I like it very much – and I had many comments on it. So I thank you. Thank you again,  
Yours in God – Arnold Johansen

## Year End Deposit Reminder

We will be preparing our final deposit for the year on Wednesday, December 27. According to the IRS, contributions are deductible in the year made, and must be received or postmarked 2017 for 2017 deduction. Thank you for your understanding!



## Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed on the following dates during this holiday season:

- Tuesday, December 5 noon – 2:30 p.m. for Staff Holiday lunch
- Monday December 25
- Tuesday December 26
- Monday December 1



## Grace 2020 Update - New Sunday Schedule

The schedule for Sunday morning is changing. We are seizing the opportunity to build on a strength of Grace Lutheran Church, the community. This involves a move from two services each Sunday morning to a single service with education for all ages to follow. The building of community is one of our core values coming out of the work of the Grace 2020 Team.

We received a great deal of feedback and the overwhelming majority recommended the same Sunday schedule. We listened.

### New Sunday Morning Schedule beginning January 7<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School (birth to High School)

10:00 Fellowship

10:15 Adult Faith Enrichment opportunities.

The biggest change will be the way that Sunday School begins. **The students/families will be dismissed for Sunday School during the Sending Hymn.** There will be adults who will greet the students in the Gathering Hall and bring them to the classrooms. This will provide structure for the families while minimizing the unstructured or “free time” on Sunday Morning. The 15-20 minute break between worship and education had a way of functioning like recess, making it difficult to resume with Sunday School. We are asking for your patience as we try out this new way to start Sunday School.

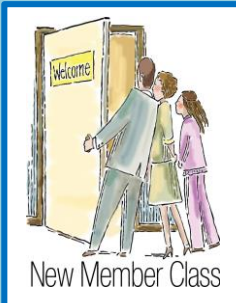
We know that this will be an adjustment for everyone at Grace and we thank you in advance for your patience throughout this transition. More than anything, we look forward to the opportunity to gather with all of you on Sunday mornings for worship, fellowship, and education.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 11:00 a.m.

Lunch will be served prior to the meeting.

**Committee Reports** should be turned into the office by Sunday, January 7.



## New Member Class

Sunday, January 14, during the education hour at 10:15 a.m.

Help yourself to coffee, juice, or a donut after the service, then meet Pastor Mike in the Gathering Hall.

Find out what it means to be a member of Grace. New members will be received in worship at a later date. If you can, let the office know if you plan to attend. Or, call if you have questions! 515-276-6873.

## Finance Report – October Results

Financial results for October YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$353,453, Budget \$330,308
- Other Income – Actual \$23,931, Budget \$23,750
- Expenses – Actual \$367,137, Budget \$385,886
- Net activity – Actual \$10,247, Budget (\$31,828)



Actual net activity was favorable to budget by \$42,075. This was due to increased pledged and unpledged activity and also due to many expense areas under budget. Certain large projects around the church are being funded from Malmin funds, including bathroom remodeling/construction of \$42,055.

The full year budget was a deficit of \$26,300, but actual results should be positive due to the favorable results experienced to date. The one-time gifts given as part of the stewardship appeal will be recognized in the income statement evenly throughout the fiscal year.

## Church Council Highlights From the October 24th, 2017 Council Meeting

At the October 24<sup>th</sup> Church Council Meeting:

- **The Council was informed by the Property Committee that:**
  - Additional tree work and stump removal will be done as soon as the tree company can schedule it in.
  - The new restrooms are completed except for floor treatment and the vinyl base. The committee is awaiting an estimate for this work.
  - Chapel: floor tiles have been laid, walls have been painted, and choir robe storage cabinets are in the room awaiting final positioning.
  - The A/C unit north of Grace Hall is to be moved to new supports above ground on or about October 25<sup>th</sup>. The old slab will be broken up and removed.
  - Plans for improving the drainage between the garden and Grace Hall are being developed.
- **The Council was informed by the Malmin Fund Committee:**
  - The rubber floor tiles for the gym have been ordered.
  - As mentioned above, the locking storage for choir robes have been delivered.
  - Dickinson Interior Consulting (to advise on improvements to the Gathering Hall, kitchen, and classrooms) met with the 2020 Committee, staff, and Mike Wagner of the White Rabbit Group.
  - New digital sign: awaiting input from the City of Des Moines regarding sign ordinance requirements.
- **The Little Free Library/Little Free Pantry:** The library portion is being constructed, with hopes it can be incorporated into a larger structure along with the pantry portion.
- **The Finance Committee** reported that both the church and daycare budgets are currently “in the black”, year-to-date (\$13,299 and \$5,878 respectively).
- **Stewardship Committee** reported they are receiving pledge cards, with around 90 having been returned so far.
- **The Council voted to approve** a move to one worship service on Sundays, commencing in January, 2018, with the time of that service to be determined after staff has had an opportunity to gather input from the congregation and affected programs.

Dave Gronert  
Council Secretary

Well-Being Pillar, Grace 2020. As one of the five pillars identified from the Grace 2020 Task Force, Well-Being will focus on one aspect of our lives each quarter. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter's focus is on spirituality. The Well-Being Pillar hopes the following will enhance our spiritual journeys this Advent season.

#### Advent 2017

***Focus on the small. Be intentional. Breathe. Be aware. Know that God's Presence is everywhere...***

***Only he who gives thanks for little things receives the big things. We prevent God from giving us the great spiritual gifts He has in store for us, because we do not give thanks for daily gifts.***

**-Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

This Advent season we search for God in the small things, and we pray individually each day with intention on one unifying focus. As the collective body of Christ, let's look—and actually see—God in both the cracks of life and in the beauty of life. God is present everywhere. We can see him, touch him, feel him. Then let's pray—individually but together as one. This Advent season, as a group, let's expand our awareness of God's presence in the same small things, and then let's intentionally pray with the same singular focus. This Advent season let's intentionally seek to be aware of God's presence, and let's collectively pray. Let's journey together and see where God leads us to find him. How?

Each day you will receive an email\* with a focus for that day as a way to really see God in all things. The daily focus is to heighten our awareness of God's presence in one small aspect of life. It might be to see God in all things blue. It might be to hear God in each child's voice. It might be to feel God in each cold breath. Then bookend your day with focused prayer. Daily life gets away from us; we can feel out of control. But we can control the start and the end—the bookends of our day. As you begin and end your day, focus your prayers on the task of coming to see God in the small. Then open your hearts to feel the collective prayers of each other because all of us are focusing on the same task and all of us are praying to know God's presence. Feel the power of that collective prayer. Focus on the small but feel the power of the Infinite. Let God frame your Advent journey.

***\*If you would like to participate and don't currently receive church emails contact the office at [michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org). The daily assignment will also be published on our Facebook page – simply search for Grace Lutheran Church and match the logo – that's us! Or, you may pick up a printed copy in the Gathering Hall at Volunteer Central.***

#### **December 10 is the Sunday for a celebration of music in worship at Grace!**

**-8:15 service:** The Chancel Choir presents *Gaudete, Rejoice!*

**-10:45 service:** The Sunday School kids will sing as a part of their Christmas program.

**-4:30pm:** Grace Bells perform their holiday program at **The Des Moines Community Playhouse** before the show.

**December 17 at 9:30am** in Grace Hall, Grace Bells and Grace Brass will present the annual **Bells & Brass** concert. Get your coffee and take a seat for some beautiful music!

*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!*





## Fall Youth Ministry

Contact [Ellen@gracedm.org](mailto:Ellen@gracedm.org) for more information or to volunteer

### Sunday School 0-5<sup>th</sup> grade

We continue to meet with

**Frolic – age 0-3** with their parents in room 104. No need to sign- up, come join us when you are here.

**Ages 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade** begin in room 101 for rotations in music, library, and the classroom.

### Worship Times and Education

Beginning January 7, there will be one worship service at 9:00 a.m. followed by Education hour at 10:00 a.m. Please see article on page 3 for more information.



### Children's Sermon during worship

The Sunday morning children's sermon will be offered again on December 3 and 24.

### Grace Christmas Program

We will be using [A Very Whirl Christmas](#) from Sparkhouse. Steph Shepard will be directing and is hoping for the following rehearsal schedule:

**Sundays in November**-teach and rehearse the Christmas program music during Sunday morning music time

**Dec. 3**-full Sunday School hour to teach and rehearse the story and script

**Dec. 10**- final rehearsal between services and the program during the 10:45 service.

### Middle School Hangout

Room 301, upstairs across from the Gym with Michelle Voelker and Tammy Denton.

### High School Hangout

Room 302, with Aaron Brandsfield, Eric Weber, and Ellen Rothweiler.

### Cinnamon Roll Sunday!

February 4, 2018! We have a date on the calendar for our 2018 Youth Cinnamon Roll Sunday Fundraiser, Sunday, Feb. 4. This is a fun and easy way for the youth ministry to raise money to support our summer youth trips. The congregation enjoys and supports this fundraiser, it is a tradition that continues to hold meaning and value.

This year we will be raising money for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. However, even if you are a youth not going on this trip, helping with this fundraiser will support future youth trips and is a great way to support youth ministry here at your church.

Watch your email for more signups from Ellen!

### During the season of Advent Grace

Confirmation Students will focus on Service Learning as we meet each week. These projects offer an opportunity for students to live out and explore their faith through serving others and learning about the needs of our local and global community.

Our schedule for this season is as follows-

**Dec. 6- Students will shop for Christmas gifts to be given to three Moore Elementary families.**

Each student will donate \$20 of their own money towards the effort and be given a budget to work within to meet the needs listed by each family. Students will get to see how far a dollar goes and strategize to do the most they can with the money they have. This is a great way to learn about poverty and get creative with generosity.

**Dec. 13- Students will wrap these gifts that will be delivered to Moore the next day.**

We are working with the Moore Principal and SUCCESS worker to meet the needs of three families they have identified. The names of the families are kept confidential and the exchange of gifts is done with and through the school.

**Dec. 20- Students will partner with LWR to make 40 baby care kits and tie fleece blankets.**

This project connects Confirmation students with another vibrant ministry of Grace, LWR. Not only does this increase their awareness of an "in-house" ministry, but also expands their understanding of global needs.

We welcome your prayers as we embark on this exciting season of Advent Service Learning!

Peace,  
Ellen Rothweiler  
Minister for Youth and Family  
Grace Lutheran Church

## Adult Education and Study

### Sundays Adult Education

Grace Hall, 9:30 a.m.

- **December 3**

#### Under Wraps – Advent Video Series

Expectant. Dangerous. Jealous. Faithful. These are the themes used in the Old Testament to describe the layers of God's character, but then Jesus—God under wraps—took on human flesh and came to live among us to reveal to us what God is really like. Under Wraps will help us understand what we can find when we open the true gift of Christmas.

- **December 10**

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- **December 17**

#### No Adult Education

Grace Bells and Grace Brass will present the annual **Bells & Brass** concert. Get your coffee and take a seat for some beautiful music!

- **December 24** Christmas Eve!

### Centering Prayer at Grace

Upper Room, Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Led by Julie Honsey

### One Year Bible Discussion

Sundays 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Hall.

### Tuesday Bible Study

Led by Pastor Mike in Grace Hall

8:45 – 10:15 a.m. The group will not meet

### Religious Discussion Group, Sept 20

Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. conference room.

Led by The Rev. Ro Zimany or Rev. Bill Kallestad

- Dec. 6 - Paul's Life and Thought (Part 2)
- Dec. 13 - Psalm 126; Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28; I Thessalonians 5:16-24
- Dec 20 – No meeting
- December 27 – No meeting

## December Calendar

Find an updated calendar [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org), and printed in the entrance hall each week.

### Every Week (not listed in calendar below)

#### Sundays

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion Worship

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Bible discussion group, Gathering Hall

9:30 a.m. – Adult Education and Sunday School

#### Tuesdays

11:00 a.m. Staff meeting, library

#### Tuesdays

8:45 – 10:15 a.m. Bible Study, Grace Hall

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Centering Prayer Group, Upper room.

#### Wednesdays

9:00 a.m. Willing Workers

Music rehearsals, continuing ed, confirmation.

#### Thursdays

9:00 a.m. Quilters, Msindo Hall

### December Dates

1 – 7:30 p.m. SWICC Concert, Sanctuary

2 – 9:00 a.m. – noon, Advent Centering Prayer Retreat.

3 – 5:00 p.m. Grace Fellowship Holiday Dinner

5 – 12:00 – 2:30 p.m. Office closed for Staff Holiday party.

7 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GHI & II  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation Service Learning

9 – 8:30 a.m. – noon, Men's Work Group

10 – 2:00 p.m. M-I Cactus Succulent Society, Café

4:30 p.m. Grace Bells – at Des Moines Playhouse  
6:00 p.m. Ladies Night Out Dinner – see page 9

12 – 6:30 p.m. Executive Team Meeting

13 – 11:00 a.m. GKC Program Rehearsal – Sanctuary  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation Service Learning

14 – 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Martha/Lydia Circles Brunch and Gift Assembly

11:00 a.m. GKC Program Rehearsal – Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. GKC Christmas Program – Sanctuary

and GH

16 – Altar Guild meeting offsite

19 – 7:00 p.m. Hunger Team, Conf. room.

21 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GHI & II

22 – Day Care Closed

24 – Christmas Eve

Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve service at 5:00 and 11:00 p.m.

25 - Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 a.m. Office closed

26 – Office Closed

27 - Last day for Grace to accept 2017 Contributions.

29 – Private Event, wedding rehearsal

30 - Private event, wedding



## 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 to 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 parents who feel hopeless, with little to no resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of the foster care system, who 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 loneliness. 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](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### A Voice for Change

Morgan struggled with anger management before coming to LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly. When she was in stressful situations, she tried to escape her emotions by running away. But she can remember the exact moment she knew she wanted to make a change.

"One day at Bremwood, another resident lashed out at a staff. I was just sitting there thinking this is not the life I want to live," Morgan says. "This is not me. This is not who I want to be." She worked hard to practice her coping skills and soon graduated out of Bremwood. But Morgan wanted to do more to give back and help others.

Morgan, now 19, is going to college for Agricultural Business. She recently took her first international trip to Haiti to study local farming, and she's already saving money to take a similar trip to Brazil next year.

Morgan turned to LSI once again – but this time, not for herself. Instead, to help others in need: youth just like her who need support, a listening ear and words of encouragement. LSI and Woodhaven Shelter had been there for Morgan during some of her darkest times. Now, she wants to be there for those who need it.

She is now employed as a Youth Associate in LSI's Woodhaven Shelter! When a new resident comes through the doors, Morgan is there to show them that no matter the odds, they can make a better life for themselves. She is there to help other youth find their path to hope, healing and wholeness.



**Lydia and Martha Circles**

December 14 9:30 – 11:30 for a combined holiday brunch and gift assembly.

**Ladies Night Out**

The annual LNO Christmas Party will take place this year at Valerie Culp's house on Sunday 12/10 at 6 p.m. A game/gift exchange will take place with a wrapped gift around \$20 (this is NOT a white elephant gift, this is one you would like to receive). The game/gift exchange is a favorite event every year so please join us! This is a potluck so bring a dish to share and come hungry!

Please RSVP to Val by Friday, December 8th [valerieculp@mchsi.com](mailto:valerieculp@mchsi.com) or 515-965-5972.

For more information about the group, please contact the Connie Heuton by email at [heutoncl@aol.com](mailto:heutoncl@aol.com) or call the church office at 515-276-6873

**The Men's Work Group**

invites you to join them Saturday, December 9 for a morning of breakfast, fellowship, devotional study, and work around the church. Come hungry and bring your tools!

They meet every second Saturday of the month, - beginning in the kitchen, of course - from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Occasionally they meet for some goofy fun offsite too.

**Grace Confirmation Mentor Presentations**

As a part of our Grace Confirmation Ministry our eighth grade confirmation students spend a year with a mentor. Part of the process of getting to know their mentor better is to do an interview with them asking questions of faith and life. Our two eighth grade students, Drake Carney and Ivy Lawson, have put together presentations about their mentors, Bev Anderson and Julie Honsey. These presentations will be on display Sunday mornings on the Gathering Hall television for the season of Advent. Please take a moment to stop and see what these students have to say about their amazing mentors!

**Grace's 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. Select a star from the Star Tree in the Gathering Hall. It will be up until December 17<sup>th</sup>. **Gifts should be returned, unwrapped, to Grace by Sunday, December 17.** Please limit gift purchases to about \$20 to \$25. Items may be placed under the tree or taken to the office. If you are bringing a gift card, please deliver it to the office. The drop box is available after office hours. **Please attach the star.**

Mosaic is a faith-based organization serving adults with intellectual disabilities. They are passionate about opportunities and partnerships that create meaningful lives.

LSI's Early Childhood Program provides supportive services to at-risk single mothers from the prenatal period until the child starts kindergarten. LSI family support workers regularly visits homes to teach parenting skills and to ensure the proper development of the children. Questions? Contact Joie Gronert at 279-4974 or Denise Friesth at 276-6873.

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**2018 Flower Chart**

The 2018 Flower chart is now hung in the Gathering Hall for signups. The cost is \$38. You will be contacted prior to your week to discuss how you want the flowers listed in the bulletin. Flowers are yours to take home after the Sunday Service.

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**Lutheran World Relief update from Cathy Watson.**

LWR kits this fall: \$1300!

Thank you! The money you donated will make a difference in the lives of many.

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**Grace Lutheran Church Library** is pleased to have several new books ready to be checked out!

**Fiction:** Jan Karon "To Be Where You Are"

**Young Adult Fiction:** Danika Cooley "When Lightning Struck!" The story of Martin Luther

**Non Fiction:** Martin Luther "Martin Luther's Table Talks" Reformation  
"The Complete Idiot's Guide to Geocaching"

**DMARC Donation of the Month:**

Thanksgiving Dinner! Pasta!

**DMARC Giving:** Thank You! Your faithful support is so very important and critical to the success of our mission so thank you for partnering with us because *no one should ever go hungry*. Through September 2017, Grace has given \$3,672.01 to DMARC, along with a long list of in-kind donations such as food items, diapers, formula, personal care items, and produce.

**The Music of Advent!**

Each of the following concerts are free, and are accepting freewill donations.

**Friday, December 1, 2017, 7:30 p.m.**

Holiday Carols in Concert

**Southwestern Community College Chamber Singers**

Present works by Mendelssohn, Rutter, McGlynn, Mattson, Bach

Grace Lutheran Church, 5201 Urbandale Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50310

**Saturday, December 2, 2017, 7:30 p.m.**

Julefest 2017 - a little Advent Music

Grand View Choir and Wind Ensemble

St. John's Lutheran Church, 600 6th Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa

Reserve your seat at [www.grandview.edu/julefest-2017](http://www.grandview.edu/julefest-2017)

**Sunday, December 3, 2017 1 p.m. Talk, 2 p.m. Concert**

Celebrate and Sing Handel's Messiah

with the Des Moines Community Orchestra

Jaemi Loeb as Guest Conductor and You, the audience, as chorus

Grace United Methodist Church, 3700 Cottage Grove, Des Moines, Iowa

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

Julefest 2017 - a little Advent Music

Grand View Choir & Wind Ensemble

Luther Memorial Church, 1201 Grandview Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa

**Trinity Center at Luther Park Christmas Wish List**

Our thanks and best wishes for the holidays for you and your family. We sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness and continued support through the years. We are again collecting unwrapped gift items for the residents of Luther Park – information about gifts can be found on the bulletin boards outside Grace Hall. The items should be delivered to Trinity Center by December 15. A list of suggested items can be found on the bulletin board across from the Grace office, or you may call Michelle for ideas at (515) 276-6873. If you have questions about Trinity Center, the gifts, or where to take them, please contact Shea Bartz, Director of Activities and Volunteers at 515-262-5639.

**Experience the Holy Land**

10 –Day Biblical Tour of Israel, with optional Jordan Extension

Travel Dates March 4-13, 2019

Hosted by Rev. Tim and Kim Phillips, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Register online: [RegisterNow.ittworld.com](http://RegisterNow.ittworld.com) Tour Code: Phillips19

There is a brochure on the Office Bulletin Board, or you may contact Gloria Dei Lutheran Church for more information. P: 515-276-1700, C: 515-360-2470 email: [Tim.Phillips@gdlc.church](mailto:Tim.Phillips@gdlc.church)  
Early Bird Saving with initial deposit if payment received by 2/5/8