



**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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**Worship with Holy Communion**  
New Year's Eve Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.  
Education Hour and coffee at 10:00 a.m.

**Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

## Happy New Year!

When I look at 2017 through the lens of Grace Lutheran Church, I simply do not want the year to end. It has been an amazing year! We entered last January with a projected budget deficit of \$26,300. My anxiety was quite high heading into 2017. There were a lot of uncertainties, yet such incredible potential within this community of faith. We passed the budget with the faith that we could achieve the goal of a balanced budget. As of right now, we are anticipating a \$15,000 **surplus** for the year. That was achieved by both increased giving and being frugal with expenses. It was an amazing year financially and is a testimony to the strength of Grace Lutheran Church. You all deserve a huge "Thank You!" for the ways that we were able to minister together this last year.

We also gathered and celebrated 90 years of ministry as Grace Lutheran Church. That was both an honor and a humbling experience. It was truly a blessing to be in the presence of several prior leaders at Grace as well as Bishop Michael Burk. The worship service was a treat. The meal was amazing. The fellowship fed my soul. And the opportunity to share with the Grace 2020 Team in casting our 2020 Vision left me inspired.

As we look to 2018 we see the work of this vision continue. The Grace 2020 Team is working with different Task Forces in each Pillar or Worship, Education, Outreach, Finance, and Well Being. This year will see this group go through a concentrated time in each pillar to look at ways to improve the ministry we do together at Grace. This work has already led to some exciting changes coming up in January in worship and our website.

The Sunday schedule will change this year, effective January 7<sup>th</sup>, to include worship at 9:00 a.m., Sunday School and Fellowship at 10:00 a.m., and Adult Faith Enrichment at 10:15. We are excited about this change. It will change the energy of our worship as well as strengthen our sense of community. We are blessed with a sanctuary that can accommodate such a change and look forward to the ways this will impact our faith moving forward.

The new website is nearly ready for launch, with a projected launch date of January 15<sup>th</sup>. The website has been designed through the work of a local company, Happy Medium. We are the first congregation with which they have partnered which has helped us see our ministry through fresh eyes.

*Front page, continued on page 2*

## Happy January Birthday

- 1 - Elizabeth Dungan  
Theodore Tussing  
Bob Gweah  
Dr. Tana Friesth Perry
- 2 - Gumarito Marquez  
Adilyne Reyes  
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
- 20 - Jason Fry  
Samuel Speck
- 21 - Mary Helt  
Cheryl Wilner
- 22 - Marilyn Allie  
Andrea Harbaugh  
Joseph Berg
- 23 - Donald Peterson  
Alice Kulzer
- 24 - Garry Lenhart
- 25 - Roy Mann

## January Birthdays Continued

- 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



*Front page, continued from page 1*

The new website is designed for ease of navigation across platforms as well as ease in adaptability for future needs. The website also contains the link for **online giving**. You can set up a one-time gift, or recurring payment through the website. There will also be a “text to give” option available for those who would prefer. The new site looks great and we look forward to sharing this look at Grace with the world.

We are also in the preliminary design stages of a Grace Lutheran Church mobile app that will be available in the app store. This will create an easy opportunity to take Grace with you wherever you go. We are excited about this opportunity to further diminish the divide between what happens Sunday morning and the rest of our lives.

There are exciting things happening and it is shaping up to be a great year. Let's get started!

Pastor Mike

## Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed  
Monday December 1



## Grace 2020 Update - New Sunday Schedule

If you have been busy with Advent and Christmas preparations and haven't yet seen the news, 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

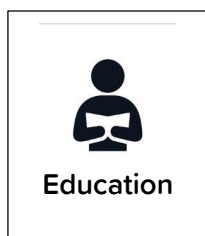
10:00 a.m. Sunday School (birth to High School)

10:00 Fellowship

10:15 Adult Faith Enrichment opportunities.

## Grace 2020 Pillar events and icon key

You will begin to see the following icons associated with events that are associated with various Grace 2020 pillar goals and events, as on page 5 of this newsletter. Many of our events may have multiple icons, as sometimes goals overlap.

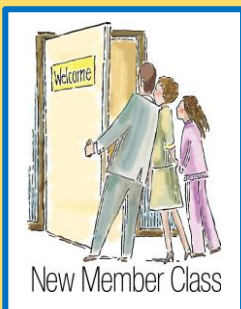


## Annual Congregational Meeting

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

Lunch will be served at noon, following the meeting.

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

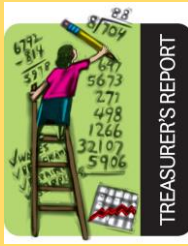


## New Member Class

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 Budget Meeting

January 21

10:15 a.m. in Grace Hall during the Adult Education Hour.

## Church Council Highlights

From the November 28th, 2017 Council Meeting

**At the November 28th Church Council Meeting:**

- **The Council was informed by the Property Committee that:**
  - The new restrooms are completed and ready for use.
  - Rubber floor tiles have been installed in the gym and lines will be painted as soon as the committee can find a way to get this done economically.
  - The choir rehearsal space in the old Chapel is now in use.
  - The A/C unit north of Grace Hall has been moved to new above ground supports.
  - Plans for improving drainage between the garden and the north wall of Grace Hall are being developed.
- **The Council was informed by the Malmin Fund Committee:**
  - Mindi Dickinson of Dickinson Interior Consulting continues to work with the committee concerning upgrades in the Sanctuary, Gathering Hall, west entrance, and kitchen.
  - Digital Sign—The application for a zoning variance from the City of Des Moines is being prepared. The appeal will be heard at the next meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
  - Finance Partition is still holding **\$100,000** of the Malmin monies.
- **The Council was informed:** that the new time for Sunday Worship (starting January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018) will be 9 AM, followed by Sunday School at 10 AM and Adult Education at 10:15.
- **The Finance Committee** projects a budget deficit for 2018 based on stewardship drive results. The committee and Council are considering options.
- **Stewardship Committee** continues to attempt to collect pledge cards from those giving units who have not returned them yet.
- **The Council voted to approve** requests from Social Ministry to hold a “Souper Bowl Sunday” food drive to benefit Hope Ministries and to participate in the ELCA Good Gifts program.

Dave Gronert  
Council Secretary

### **The Well-Being Pillar Task Force:**



For 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2018, the Well-Being Task Force will be focusing on **financial well-being**. Is your 2018 budget in line? Is your will updated? Is your “living will” updated in case a medical situation arises? Is your retirement planning on track (yes, even if you are a long way from retirement)? Do you wish your teens knew more about how to use a debit card or what a credit score is? We want to help get your financial house in order.

Each month during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2018, an expert will be on hand before the 9:00 service. Each expert will be available to answer your questions and/or to plug you into community resources.

Come share a cup of coffee before church and get your questions answered, starting at 8:30, in the narthex. Watch for specifics coming up. Let's meet our New Year's goals and get our financial health in order.

### **Advent 2017 Journey Recap**

**Here are all the ways we looked for God this past Advent season:**

- The light of another's eyes.
- In the fond remembrance of a loved one who has moved on from this world.
- In the reflection of light on the windowpane.
- In the remembering of a fading dream upon awakening.
- In the moment of peace seeing a bird in flight.
- In the movement of bough branches being blown in the wind.
- In the rays of light filtering through the branches of trees.
- In the clouds that drift across the sky. In the joy that comes from seeing a friend's name on correspondence.
- In the recognition of another's wisdom.
- In the anticipation of a meal.
- In the scent of the soap in the shower.
- In the relief of crawling into and out of a comfortable bed.
- In the delight of hearing someone you love say your name.
- In gratitude for your feet and the way they take you places.
- In gratitude for the community of faith at Grace.
- Every time you touch something soft.
- In each chuckle you hear.
- Each time you hear a door open.
- Every time you hear running water.
- Each time you push “send” or make a call today.
- Every time you hear the word “no.”



## Spring Youth Ministry

Contact [mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org) for more information or to volunteer while Ellen is out on leave.

### 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. Students will be dismissed to their classes near the end of worship during the sending hymn.



### 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. All are welcome to help!

### All things Confirmation

#### Confirmation classes resume

Wednesday, January 10, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School room, rm 301

**Wednesday, Jan. 10:** Gathering Getting Ready meeting, 6:30 pm in High School Youth Room (Mary Jo McCleary)

**Wednesday, Jan. 31:** Confirmation Service Learning for Grades 6-8 and mentors, 6-8 pm in Msindo Hall with Quilting Group (Beth Flannery & Helen Ringgenberg)

**Sunday, Feb. 4:** Cinnamon Roll Sunday (Ross Peeler) The volunteer sign-up link was emailed to youth and parents in December, and will be found on the website and facebook in early January.

**Sunday, Feb. 11:** Confest @ Holy Trinity in Ankeny, 1-6 pm, Grades 6-8 and mentors (Pastor Mike)

**Wednesday, Feb. 21:** Gathering Getting Ready meeting, 5:30-6:30 pm in middle school youth room (Mary Jo McCleary)

Thanks for all the ways you will love and take care of my peeps while I am away!

Ellen Rothweiler  
Minister for Youth and Family

*Pictured below are all the gifts purchased and wrapped for 3 families adopted by this year's Confirmation class.*



### Every Week (not listed in calendar at right)

#### **Sundays**

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship in the Gathering Hall

10:00 a.m. – Adult Education and Sunday School  
Sunday school classes will be dismissed near the end of the worship service. You will still be able to give Pastor Mike a high five! Be patient with us as we all get used to the new schedule together.

10:15 a.m. Adult Education in Grace Hall – bring your coffee and donuts.

- January 7, Well-being Presentation
- January 14 Martin Luther King's Ministry Video & Discussion, led by Carol Woodruff
- January 21, Budget Review/Council Panel
- January 28 No AFET – Congregation Meeting at 11:00 a.m., followed by a lunch.

#### **Tuesdays**

8:45 – 10:15 a.m. Bible Study, Grace Hall  
Led by Pastor Mike

8:45 – 10:15 a.m. The group will resume meeting on January 9

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Centering Prayer Group will also resume on January 9 in the Upper room, Led by Julie Honsey

11:00 a.m. Staff meeting, library

#### **Wednesdays**

9:00 a.m. Willing Workers

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Classes (see Youth news, page 6)

6:45 – 7:30 p.m. Grace Bells, Music Room

7:30 -8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room

Religious Discussion Group has disbanded and will not continue meeting

#### **Thursdays**

9:00 a.m. Quilters, Msindo Hall

### **January Calendar**

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

1 – New Year's Day, office Closed

2 – 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Knitters Guild

3 – Music rehearsals resume

4 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m First Circle Friends, GHI & II

6 - 3:00 p.m. Funeral – Rebecca Hoffman

9 – Bible study and centering prayer groups resume meeting

6:30 p.m. – Executive Team Meeting

10 – 6:30 p.m. Gathering "Getting Ready" meeting – HS room

6:30 GKC Parent Board – Library

12 – 6:30 p.m. Executive Team Meeting

13 – 8:30 a.m. – noon Men's Work Group – Breakfast, Fellowship, and Church Projects  
Noon – private event – Grace Hall

15 – Office Close, MLK

16 – 7:00 p.m. Hunger Team, conference room

18 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m First Circle Friends, GHI & II

20 – Altar Guild meeting, offsite for coffee

21 – 10:15 a.m. Finance and Budget review, Grace Hall

22 – 4:00 p.m. VBS Planning Meeting – conference room

23 – 6:00 p.m. Church Council meeting

28 – 11:00 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting, followed by lunch at noon.

31 - Endowment Fund Requests due  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation Service Learning – Msindo Hall (6-8<sup>th</sup> grades and mentors)



### **Raising our Voice for Iowa Children and Families – Lutheran Day on the Hill**

Families living in poverty. Iowa children in need of a forever family. 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 Thursday, February 8. Visit [www.LSIowa.org/advocacy](http://www.LSIowa.org/advocacy) next month for event details, online registration, and an online toolkit for your congregation. 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. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).

*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).*

### **Friendly Competition**

When the time came to take their U.S. Citizenship Exam, Bhakti and Chhali felt overwhelmed. Originally from Bhutan, the couple moved to Des Moines from a refugee camp in Nepal. Since then, they have been busy improving their English and settling into their new home. They both worked seven days a week and struggled to find time to study for their exam.

LSI's Refugee Community Services were there to help. LSI provides English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and Bhakti and Chhali studied hard in class to prepare for the writing and reading component of their exam. They supported and competed with each other, pushing themselves to succeed.

Their work paid off, and Bhakti and Chhali recently passed their exam and are now U.S. Citizens.

"We appreciate the help our LSI volunteers gave us on the Citizenship Exam," Bhakti says. "They are so committed to seeing us meet our goals."

Thank you for empowering your Iowa neighbors. We couldn't do this important work without you!





## Altar Flowers

### 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.

### 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.

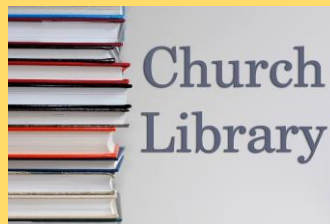
### Coffee hour in the Gathering Hall and the new plumbed coffee system!

Coffee hour will now be in the Gathering Hall after worship, and coffee and hot tea will now be easily available at any time for meetings or gatherings

Our coffee hour volunteers - and groups that hold meetings - will be excited about our new plumbed coffee machine and thermos-style coffee pots. Set in the hide-away sink area in the Gathering Hall, this simple, easy to use coffee machine makes brewing coffee a breeze.

Always on\*, just add a coffee filter, place an open pot under the filter, and press "Brew Start". Once closed, the silver handle on the thermos style pot is used as a pump so there is no need to pick up the pot to pour.

\*For instant access to hot water for tea, and no waiting for coffee, please do not turn the on/off switch to off. There is no burner to worry about.



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

### Children's Books

Babette Cole

"The Bible Beasties" – Old Testament

Stephen J. Nichols

"Reformation ABC" – Christian Living

Folliot S. Pierpoint

"For the Beauty of the Earth" – Music  
Words to the hymn and music

Isaac Bashevis Singer

"Why Noah Chose the Dove" – People in the bible

Agostini Trani

"The Life of Martin Luther" (a pop-up book)  
Christian Living

### Non-fiction

Rick E. Miller

"Raiders of the Lost Church" – Christianity

Julia K. Aageson

"One Hope" – Reformation

Kathryn A Kleinhhaus

"Together by Grace" – Reformation

"The complete Idiots Guide to Geocaching -  
Geocaching



### **DMARC Donation of the Month:**

Hot Cereal: Oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, Grits. Flavored, whole grain, instant... Whole grain is always best but everyone has a favorite. You may bring your offerings to local food pantries, or to the church. The basket in the entryway is taken by various members and delivered to DMARC. The warehouse is then able to see which food pantry needs which products and distributes those effectively as needed. Cash donations allow the warehouse to purchase in bulk those items that they are short on.

Keep in mind that Quarters placed in the offering plate every first Sunday are for Hunger – which is sent to and distributed by the Southeastern Iowa Synod Hunger programs.

Quarters placed in the offering plate every third Sunday of the month are for the Food Pantry and sent to DMARC. December cash donations to DMARC from Grace were \$287.78, with a 2017 total (Jan 1 – Dec. 11) of \$4,665.31.

### **Thank you!**

I want to thank the Grace women for their part in making the quilt and the Grace family for the prayers and love that became a part of the quilt. I appreciate your thinking of me in this way.

Don Moon

Thank you to Grace friends for the Christmas bag of gifts and the beautiful poinsettia. Your thoughtfulness was a lovely addition to the Holiday Season.

Don Moon

Love to all members of Grace Lutheran Church. Leanne and I thank you for being so thoughtful, what a wonderful surprise! We come back to our apartment and found the gifts from the church. We thank you for the beautiful poinsettia and the thoughtful gifts from many groups at Grace. The painting on the trays are beautiful. We appreciate the large print Word of the Season. Thanks to the Sunday School for the decorated sticks – we hung them on our tree. To the circles who contributed, we thank you. We miss seeing you all. Merry Christmas, Blessings to you

Sincerely, LaRue Buihner and Leanne

Dear Members of Grace

Thank you so much for the gifts and beautiful poinsettia. It really brightens up Pats room.

Pat and Dale Bordt

Thank you so very much for adopting our family. You have made my boys Christmas come true. God Bless you and have a wonderful holiday.

Thank you, Vicki, Sarah, Tanner, Lorenzo

Friends at Grace, Thank you so much for the gift from you, the beautiful poinsettia, and to Char Nielsen for taking time to deliver and sit and talk with me. Thanks for everything,

Love Bonnie Swanson

I received your nice card with a light to my heart. I miss church and Lydia Circle very much. I think about you all often.

God's Blessings to you all, Mary Donnenwerth

Thank you all so much for all your loving attention!

Shirley Dyson

Dear Grace, Thank you so much for the lovely poinsettia plant, calendar and other goodies. I also enjoyed visiting with Barb.

Martha Martens

Lydia Circle, What a nice surprise to come home and find your bag of gifts and poinsettia plant. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. I enjoy the devotional booklet. Christmas Blessings to all,

Marvin Simonsen

### **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)