



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Emergency kits, AED locations,
Ladies Night Out, Grace Fellowship,
New Stitching Group forming
- 10.. Thank You!

Worship with Holy Communion

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School Hour and coffee at 10:00 a.m.

Adult Education at 10:15 a.m.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten worship schedule, page 7

Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

A Season of Love

One week from today people from all over the world will take time to remind others of the love they have for them. St. Valentine's day is not only a day for couples to share in the joys of love. It also is home to celebrations at schools, daycares, and other facilities. It is a time when people often share cards and treats, celebrating the joy of relationships with friends and family.

I realize not everyone shares the same sentiment. Just a few years ago I was one of those who called the holiday "Singles Awareness Day." It was a time to commiserate with other singles and look forward to a day when I too had someone special with whom I could celebrate such occasions.

This year we find two religious occasions landing on the same day, St. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. At first glance the two seem to be mutually exclusive. One highlights love and the other highlights our mortality and dependence on God. Yet the more I think about this occasion, the more I find it to be almost perfect. It may not set the tone for a romantic dinner, but it does highlight what Lent is all about, love.

Ash Wednesday is a day when we remember the love that God has for us. It is a love that frees us from the powers of sin and death and unites us with Christ. It is a reminder of the love that God had for each and every one of us, so much so that God was willing to face death so that all might live.

We do not often think about Lent that way, but it is the essence of what the season is all about. It is God's love for the world that leads to our journey to the cross and beyond. It is a love that existed since before the creation story itself. It is a love that sustained people through times of freedom and exile, through abundance and scarcity, through joys and fears. It is a love that was proclaimed in a covenant with Abram before he was even known as Abraham. It is a covenant that is made new through Christ through his life, death, resurrection and ascension.

This Lent we are going to take time to dwell in God's love as we study the covenant on Sunday mornings and hear from different Old Testament characters on Wednesday evenings. We will journey through the Old Testament, witnessing the love of God throughout. These stories are filled with joys and fears, but the constant of God's love runs through it all.

So, whether you view things as St. Valentine's Day or Singles Awareness Day, you will find a home here at Grace this Ash Wednesday. Whether you know the joy of God's love, or feel an outsider, seeking to know more, you will find a home here at Grace this Ash Wednesday. Whether you feel the warm and acceptance of God's love, or judge yourself unfairly, you will find a home here at Grace. This church opens her doors with the welcome of Christ.

In Christ, Pastor Mike

Happy February Birthday

- 1 - Larry Cramer
Sophia Royster
- 2 - Dick Johansen
Kathlina Roat
- 3 - Joplin Hutton
Jennie Elliff
William Marberry
Jolene Wiegmann
- 5 - Todd Ringgenberg
Andrew Trentmann
- 6 - Karri Brandsfield
James Hoffman
Larry Nordeen
- 8 - Leonard Larsen
Joshua Shortell
- 9 - Adam Christensen
Virginia Naney
- 10 - LeRoi Beers
Eric Oberg
Nancy Robbins
Carol Rudisill
Bonnie Swanson
- 11 - Kent Weaver
- 12 - Lenora Iverson
Tyler Peeler
- 13 - Jessica Christensen
Timothy Hummel
- 15 - Diane Heid
Isaac McCleary
- 16 - Heather Ashton
- 17 - Gail Peterson
- 18 - Kristen Marberry
Max Palmer
Nicole Vernon
- 19 - Ellen Mumm
- 20 - Jessica Flannery
Brianna Huisman
Max Ringgenberg
- 21 - Judy Cramer
Neal Meyer
Allison Olson
- 22 - Barb Kallestad
Julie Stuckle
- 23 - Barry Briggs
Jenie Schmidt
- 24 - Barbara Burley
Leigh Harmon
Sharyn Nelson
Jonathan Rudisill
- 25 - Shane Artzer
Melissa Young
- 26 - Angela Collins
Gayle Olson
- 27 - Jerry Westercamp
- 28 - Dana Johnson



Happy February Anniversary

- 14 - Virginia and Jay Wangerin
- 17 - Deanna and Michael Hummel
- 19 - Linda and Jim Rundle
- 20 - Janet and Norman Trentmann
- 24 - Sally and Paul Thielking
- 25 - Karen and Harold Mann



Our Sympathies are with

The family of Dorothy Hawkins,
mother of Rachel Welty



Grace 2020 Update

The last month has been a busy one as we continue our work toward our 2020 Vision. Most of this is in the implementation of some changes, mainly with the Sunday morning schedule and our website.

The changes on Sunday morning have had a positive impact with building community and gaining energy. There is far more of a sense of community as we all gather together. The change in format with the Prayers of the People has been well received; Pastor Mike received several positive comments regarding the change.

The change with Sunday School departing during the Sending Hymn has also gone very well for the youth and parents. The change means less time for teachers to prepare. If you see someone involved in education, say "Thank You!"

The other major update is the launch of our new website, designed by Happy Medium. The website offers smooth navigation through a variety of platforms from a computer to a smartphone. The website also adds the ability to give to Grace Lutheran Church electronically. This can range from a one-time gift, to a recurring payment.

The work continues. We will be focusing a lot of time and energy on the Education Pillar in the next couple of months. Stay tuned for updates!



Worship



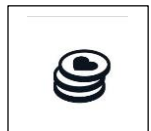
Education



Outreach



Well Being



Finance



Music in Worship

As we at Grace have come together to shift to a one-service format on Sunday mornings, a conundrum presented itself: *How do we combine our two very different worship services into a single service without sacrificing any of the important elements of either one?*

To highlight the differences in format, this is what each of our two services formerly looked like:

8:15

- Organ-led, with hymns suited to the instrument
- ELW worship and music settings 1, 2, 4, and 8 on a rotation
- Worship leaders wear their respective traditional robes or vestments
- Spoken response during the prayers of the people
- Complete communion liturgy

10:45

- Piano-led, with hymns suited to the instrument
- ELW worship and music settings 6, 8, and *eclectic (*derived from different sources within the ELW) on a rotation
- Worship leaders in less formal attire
- Sung response during the prayers of the people
- Slightly condensed communion liturgy

As you can see, each service had its own distinct “vibe.” So how do we blend those styles without damaging the vibe? Discussion commenced amongst the Grace 2020 Task Force and staff members, and their brain-storming yielded several points – it is important to not completely do away with either worship style, since each one has its appeal to the individual members of the community of faith; the two worship styles are too unique to blend successfully into one; experiencing a variety of worship settings and hymns is a wonderful way to grow in our faith, and is also an excellent tool for outreach.

The consensus: the solution is to alternate worship styles each Sunday. For example, the first Sunday worship service in the new year was organ-led, the second was piano-led, the third organ-led again, etc. In this way, each type of worship experience will be preserved in its entirety while still providing variety over all.

Each week, the front of your bulletin will denote the worship style of the day and which liturgical setting will be used.

For those interested, here are the page numbers in the ELW hymnal where the different worship settings can be found:

Setting 1 - pg. 94

Setting 2 – pg. 116

Setting 4 – pg. 147

Setting 6 – pg. 165

Setting 8 – pg. 184

Eclectic Setting – #157, #167, #174, #195

Spotlight, Music in Worship, continued on page 5

Church Council Highlights

From the December 19th, 2017 Council Meeting

At the December 19th Church Council Meeting:

- **The Council was informed by the Property Committee that:**
 - Little Free Library/Little Free Pantry—the library portion has been constructed and will be incorporated into a structure that will house it and the pantry.
 - The number of handicap parking stalls in the east row will be increased primarily for Sunday Worship but also for other large gatherings. Canvas covers will be used to allow non-handicap parking on most other days.
 - The committee will be discussing accessibility issues with regard to the stairs down to Msindo Hall. With installation of a lift estimated at nearly \$20,000, other options are being considered.
 - Possible endowment grants for 2018 are being discussed.
- **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 in February, 2018.
 - Organ renovation/expansion is on the agenda for the next meeting.
 - Happy Medium is working to complete the contract for the new website.
 - The Council voted to repay the Endowment Committee \$100,000 using monies from the Finance portion of the Malmin funds.
- **Finance:** The Council voted to present the 2018 proposed budgets (Church and Grace Kids Care) to the congregation at the Congregational Annual Meeting, January 28th, 2018
- **Stewardship Committee:** Jay Wangerin reported that the Stewardship Committee continues to attempt to collect pledge cards. He estimates an additional \$6,300 has been generated by the follow-up campaign.
- **Announcements:** A new coffee and tea machine has been installed in the Gathering Hall for use before and after Sunday Service.

Dave Gronert
Council Secretary

Finance Report - Year End Results

The Church had an excellent year for financial activity. Overall, a surplus of \$29,830 was incurred as compared to a \$26,300 deficit budget projection. This incredible turnaround was primarily a result of a very successful second stewardship campaign in the spring. **A big thank you to the congregation for this effort!!** The surplus was also generated to many expenses areas under budget and use of Malmin monies for large property projects. Budgeted activity for 2018 reflects a \$10,000 deficit operation. This is due to lower pledge income with expense remaining constant.



Please stop by the office to obtain an annual report that includes a more detailed narrative and complete financial results.

The 2017 Annual Report is now on the Grace Website at www.gracedm.org, in the Report section under Resources. Look to the upper right of any page on the Grace website and click on the word "Resources".

Spotlight, worship Music, continued from page 3

Every 5th Sunday we do a Tanzanian setting to honor our companion congregation. These liturgical components can be found in the bulletin only.

Wow, that's a lot of information to digest! To simplify and leave you with a more concise thought, each person who worships at Grace is valued and deserving of a fulfilling journey in faith. Much thought and care has gone into tailoring the worship experience to fit your spiritual needs, and the hope is to send each individual out into the world renewed in spirit and enabled to joyfully spread the love of Christ to all. We are truly centered in worship, held in Grace, and sent forth in mission in Jesus' name.



Well-Being Committee

1st quarter of 2018

Our focus for the first quarter of 2018 is financial well-being. Tax time is coming up, but we're talking about more than just taxes. We're talking about getting our overall financial well-being in order.

1. Adult Forums.
Jan. 7, the Well-Being Task Force did a presentation at the Adult Forum on Happiness and Wealth. We explored our views on the connection between the two, and how money fits together with our beliefs as Christians. The group was provided with a resource for continued study on this issue, a book called "The Happiness Hypothesis."
Feb 10 – Loree Nelson will talk about Advanced Directives/ Living Wills/ Durable Power of Attorneys. Forms were available for you to complete - if you missed this and are interested, please contact the office. This is not a difficult thing to put into place, and it's one of the greatest blessings you can do for your loved ones should the need ever arise. This isn't a fun topic but an absolutely essential one.
March 18 – Our last Adult Forum presentation will occur. Watch for details!
2. Community experts will available as resources for financial issues.
During the first quarter of 2018, financial experts will be available in the Gathering Hall to answer your questions. They will be available before the 9:00 service. Come at 8:30, grab a cup of coffee and get your questions answered. Often we want to take steps toward our financial well-being, but we just don't know who to contact. Our goal is to provide Grace members with contacts to Christian business folks to help accomplish our financial well-being goals.
Feb. 25 – Chris Long, an attorney with the Bradshaw Law Firm, will be here to answer your questions on wills, estate planning, etc. She has practiced in this area for many years. Chris is a member of St. Theresa's, where she attends with her family.
March 11 – Ben Nelson of Pivot Wealth will be here to answer your questions on financial investing, retirement planning, etc. Ben owns Pivot Wealth with his partner, Chris Uglum. Ben grew up at Grace. He is currently a member of Plymouth, where he attends with his family.
Date to be announced - steps to build, maintain, or repair credit. This information will be applicable to all, but especially important for those just starting out on their credit journey.
3. Toss in your pennies (and dimes and nickels) during the noisy offering to make a big change in the world! We will be gathering a collection to fund loans for small businesses overseas. Find out more during church on Sunday, February Toss in your loose change and see how it adds up to make a difference in the world. Kids' pennies are also welcome!

Spring Youth Ministry

Contact ellen@gracedm.org or mike@gracedm.org

Sunday School 0-5th 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 4-5th grade begin in room 101 for rotations in music, library, and the classroom.

First Communion: Watch for information and schedules this Spring. If interested, please contact the office.

Middle School Hangout

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

We play games, laugh, and talk about life on tired mornings (Jenga and Apples to Apples are favorites), draw on the bulletin board and enjoy hot chocolate and treats from the snack cabinet. We also discuss different topics related to middle schoolers. A recent example topic is selective hearing. There are times each of us has trouble paying attention, no matter who is talking to us: a teacher, parent, friend, or God. Samuel thought it was Eli calling him before he finally listened. The students were very thoughtful when answering the questions “If God called your name tonight, what do you think he’d want to say to you?” If you could ask God three questions and he would give you the answers, what would your three questions be?” and “How can you really know if God is speaking to you?”

High School Hangout

Room 302, with Aaron Brandsfield, Eric Weber, and Ellen Rothweiler. This group has been enjoying snacks and conversation, watching movies on you-tube followed by discussion.

All things Confirmation

Confirmation Wednesday Schedule, rm 301

- February 7, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- February 14, Ash Wednesday: In worship only
- February 21 - March 21 worship 6:30 discussion 7:00 – 7:30
- March 28 – no worship or discussion

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)

March Plant Sale order collecting!

We’ll need help handing out order forms and collecting payments before and after worship during March. Michelle is also looking for a plant sale co-chair.

The Annual Youth Garage and Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 5th We’ll be scheduling a meeting about organization, but please put this on your calendar. We’ll need help all week, beginning with the set-up of Grace Hall on Tuesday, May 1 at noon, to unpacking and sorting donated items through the week (no pricing, yay!), from sorting plant orders early Saturday morning, helping throughout the sale, and cleaning up at 1 p.m.

Cinnamon Roll Sunday Results Thank you for all who signed up to bake and serve! Approximately \$500 was raised! Nice work everyone! Money from youth events go toward sending youth to events such as last year’s Synod Trip to Arizona, and this year’s ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston.



Left: Confirmation Students planned, sewed, and tied quilts during January Service learning.

Right: Customers on Cinnamon Roll Sunday. *More photos of each event can be found on Facebook.*



Every Week (not listed in calendar at right)

Sundays

- 8:00 a.m. Grace Bells Feb 18 – March 22
- 8:30 a.m. Feb 25 Well-Being Financial presentation, Gathering Hall: Chris Long, an attorney with the Bradshaw Law Firm, will be here to answer your questions on wills, estate planning, etc.
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship in the Gathering Hall
- 10:00 a.m. – Sunday School – see page 6
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Education in Grace Hall – bring your coffee and donuts.
- Feb. 11: Pet Event
 - Feb. 18: Nooma Video featuring Pastor Rob Bell. Pastor Rob addresses the topic of suffering and why bad things happen to good people. He provokes us to think that maybe, like Job, not having all the answers releases us to see that maybe there's more going on than we realize. This video presentation will provoke interesting conversations and discussions.
 - Feb. 25: Centering Prayer presentation by Julie Honsey
 - March 4: The Hunger Team Presents.

Tuesdays

- 8:45 – 10:15 a.m. Bible Study, Grace Hall
Led by Pastor Mike
- 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Centering Prayer in the Upper room, Led by Julie Honsey
- 11:30 a.m. Staff meeting, library



Wednesdays

- 9:00 a.m. Willing Workers
Confirmation Lent schedule page 6
- 5:00 p.m. Soup Supper, Grace Hall, Kitchen
- 6:15 p.m. Hymn Sing, Sanctuary (2/21- 3/21)
- 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer service with Lenten Portrayal (2/21-3/21)
- 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. Grace Bells, Music Room
Feb 7 & March 28 only
- 7:30 -8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room
Feb 7 & March 28 only

Thursdays

- 9:00 a.m. Quilters, Msindo Hall
- 6:30 – 7:30 Grace Choir Jan 15 – March 22

February Calendar

Find an updated calendar www.gracedm.org

- 1 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m First Circle Friends, GHI & II
- 3 – Farmers Market Association meeting
- 4 – Cinnamon Roll Sunday
- 6 – 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Des Moines Knitters Guild
- 7 - 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. GKC Staff Meeting – GH 1
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. GKC Director Support Meeting, Library
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. GKC Parent Board, Library
- 8 – Lutheran Day on the Hill
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Grace Stitching group
4:00 p.m. VBS Planning – conf. room
- 9 – office closed at 1:00 p.m.
- 10 - 8:30 a.m. – noon Men's Work Group – Breakfast, Fellowship, and Church Projects
- 11 – Pet Event
11:00 – Education Task Force, conf. room
1:00 – 6:00 p.m. ConFEST, Holy Trinity Lutheran in Ankeny
- 14 – **Ash Wednesday**
1:00 p.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Worship
- 15– 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m First Circle Friends, GHI & II
6:30 Grace Choir, music room
- 17 – 9:30 a.m. Altar Guild, offsite for coffee
- 20 – 7:00 p.m. Hunger Team, conf. room
- 21 - 5:00 p.m. Soup Supper ??
5:30 p.m. Gathering Getting Ready meeting, HS room
6:15 p.m. Hymn Sing, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Worship
7:00 p.m. Confirmation discussion, rm 301
- 22 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Grace Stitching group
5:30 p.m. Ladies Night Out Game Night, Cathy Watsons.
- 27 – 6:00 p.m. Church Council meeting
- 28 –5:00 p.m. Soup Supper
6:15 p.m. Hymn Sing, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Worship
7:00 p.m. Confirmation discussion, rm 301
- March
- 1 - 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m First Circle Friends, GHI & II
- 3 – Annual Feed Greater Des Moines Event, GH I, II, Kitchen
- 4 – Grace Fellowship 5:00 p.m., GHI.
- 6 – Special Election Polling Place – Gathering Hall
6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Knitters Guild



Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, families, and adults!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who learn to trade self-harm for self-worth, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. 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.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

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.

Healing through Harmony

Jaden doesn't have many memories of his father.

When Jaden was 5 years old, his father unexpectedly passed away. Now 14, Jaden has grown up without that loving connection. Through his grief, his connection to his mother became strained, and he struggled to manage his anger at home.

After being placed in LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly, Jaden connected with LSI's Spiritual Life program. The voluntary program connects youth with faith-based art, music, and film. It serves as a safe space for children to open up about their emotions and get the support they need to thrive.

"Jaden is one of the few kids who would actively set up lunch appointments with me," says Pastor Dennis Bauer, who leads the program. "He's really benefitted from being able to talk during the day."

Having access to a support network and a trusting relationship with Pastor Dennis has helped Jaden feel empowered to make a positive change during his time at Bremwood. Jaden is finding his faith through music, and he's learning how to talk about his trauma and become a role model for other Iowa youth.

Jaden has now been adopted into a loving family. As he finishes up his treatment at Bremwood, his family visits frequently and worships with him, and Jaden is enjoying being a new big brother.

Dear Lydia Circle Members,

Thanks to your generous donation of \$100.00 to LSI, we can continue to provide critical mental health services, education for parents, support for Iowans with disabilities, and so much more. You are making a difference for many of your neighbors. Thank you for providing hope and healing to so many Iowa Families. With Gratitude, Jason Lee, Vice President of Philanthropy and Church Relations

see the full letter on the bulletin board



Lenten Soup Suppers in danger of cancellation

There will be a soup supper on the first three Wednesdays. If no one has signed up for the remaining Wednesdays, those Suppers will be cancelled.

The sign-up is on the office Bulletin Board. Families, groups, or individuals are all welcome to sign up to provide a soup supper. Soup suppers are served from 5 to 6:15 p.m. You are welcome to premake the soups and bring it in, order out, or make your own right in the kitchen.



Ladies Night Out Game Night

Feb 22 5:30 at Cathy Watson's house. 5638 NW 5th Court in Des Moines. Snacks and some games will be provided. BYOB. If you have a favorite game you would like to play or bring, let Cathy know. RSVP is 490-7407.



New Stitching Group forming!

Do you love stitching? Bring it over! Meet in Grace Hall on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Come for an hour or come for the entire session. Bring any and all personal stitching. Working on learning a new skill? There will probably be someone around who can help you get started. Questions? Contact Helen Ringgenberg or Carol Krause.



Feed Greater Des Moines Annual Conference.

Saturday, March 3, right here at Grace! See bulletin board for informational poster, or visit www.FEEDDSM.ORG for program and Registration. Keynote speaker Nick Kuhn from Justice League of Food will speak on The Foundry Project, while keynote Toby O'Berry of Iowa Homeless Youth Shelters will present on the Rooftop Garden Project.



Grace Fellowship March Event!

Sunday, March 4 5:00 p.m. Come for a light supper, fellowship, and fun program. IPTV's Mary Bracken will provide the March program.



Bring Your Pet to Church Day, Yes. REALLY. Sit. Stay! Gooooood.

Do you have a pet that would like to supervise our efforts in making of pet toys and meals for the Pet Project of Midwest? Perhaps they'd like to be product testers?

Any and all dogs (on leashes), cats and small pets, that have a mobile home (transportable container) and are well behaved in a place with other pets and lots of people, are welcome.

God loves the animals as much as we do, he made them first so that besides God Himself, Adam and Eve would have some companions. Our pets bring us joy and are part of our families. We love our pets and are going to help people in need with their pets' needs.

This is the 5th Annual Pet Project Event at Grace. At this multigenerational event, February 11th from 10 - 11 in Grace Halls 1 and 2, we'll be making simple pet toys and putting together pet meals for Meals On Wheels recipients who have pets.

There will be games and fun for all. Please bring visiting pets to Grace Hall for the event. Pets need to stay in carriers while you attend church services. People will be in Grace Hall during the service, so nobody will be lonely.

If you would like to bring a donation on the 11th, any and all pet supplies are needed, for all species, particularly dogs, cats, birds, and small animals like gerbils and rabbits. Thank you for all you do. See you February 11th <http://www.thepetprojectmidwest.org/>



Do you know where to find a First Aid Kit, AED, or Blood Pressure Cuff?



The Blood Pressure Cuff can be found in the Gathering Hall closet by the kitchenette. Nice and close to the Sanctuary.

The AED is located just outside the office door, near the library.

First Aid Kits are located in the kitchen, Gathering Hall (by the phone in kitchenette), gym level (by the fire extinguisher), café area (by the phone outside of Café and Bell/Choir Room), and outside the office under the AED.

Thank you!

Grace Friends, Thank you so much to those of you who sent a card, made a phone call, took time out of your busy day to pick things up or drop things off, or kept me in your prayers during my ongoing recovery from a fall before Christmas! You are all a Godsend! Blessings to you all! Lynn Niemuth

Thank you for all the nice gifts - my skin is also grateful for the moisturizing cream! Thank you for the beautiful Poinsettia. Mary Donnenwerth

To our friends at Grace Lutheran, Thank you so much for adopting so many Mosaic wish lists at Christmas and for the generous gifts you gave to ensure everyone had something under the tree. Your continued partnership in our mission has blessed so many lives, and we're grateful for how you embrace those we serve. With many thanks, Your friends at Mosaic

Grace Lutheran Church, Thanks so much for the beautiful Poinsettia plant. Also, the lovely gifts for which I am enjoying. It means a lot to be remembered. God Bless, Rosella Dingman

To my friends at Grace Church, I want to say thank you for the beautiful poinsettia and the other gifts you gave me. They were very much appreciated. As many of you already know, I have moved to Marion to be near my daughter. I will miss my church family and Grace. Keep in touch, Love, Lois

Dear Grace Lutheran Knitters -

Thank you so very much for your kind donation of mitten for Moore. What perfect timing, as many of our little friends were in need. They will surely be put to good use! Thanks again for thinking of us, Sincerely Heather Jacobus and the Moore Elementary Staff and Students

Thank you for giving the beautiful poinsettia and other useful gifts at Christmas Time! Helen Fanning

Dear Grace Lutheran Church friends, It does not seem so long ago that I delivered plants and gifts to the homebound or those who were in care facilities. And now I am a recipient of your caring acts and I know how important is such love. All telephone calls, cards, and visits are such gifts so I thank you all so very much. The poinsettia is still cheerfully blooming and the painted glass tray is on display so I am daily reminded of your love. With deep gratitude, Joanne Johnson

To Martha Circle and all the volunteers, thank you for the holiday plant and all the goodies. It was a happy surprise! Fran Best

Dear Grace Members, Thank you for the beautiful Poinsettia and goodies – It's truly a gift of love you give.

Ted Tussing and Barb

Thank you for the beautiful Poinsettia plant, and the useful Christmas gift bag. They were greatly appreciated, and it was thoughtful to be remembered by my church. Dick Naney

To our friends at Grace Lutheran: Frank and I want to thank all people on the Women's Board, Lydia Circle, and all groups from Grace that sent us such thoughtful gifts at Christmas time. The Poinsettia is truly beautiful, Every time I give it a drink, I am reminded of your thoughtfulness. We want to especially thank Bill Kallestad for driving out in the country near Cumming, IA to visit with us and deliver all gifts. It was dark and not an easy task. We really appreciate his effort.

Happy New Year to all. Walter (Frank) and Colleen McKinney

My holidays were with family gatherings and therefore a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This is written to thank Grace Lutheran Church (my church family) for the very pretty Poinsettia plant plus the handpainted tray and the gifts from the Member Care Committee, Women's Board, Lydia and Martha Circles, Sunday School Children, and Grace members. All are gifts from a loving family and very much appreciated! Sincerely, Richard E. (Dick) Johansen