



**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

Worship with Holy Communion

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Worship on Page 7

*Fellowship & coffee time at 10:00 a.m.*

*Active Grace Sunday School 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.*

*Adult Education Hour 10:15 a.m.*

Office Hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., 1 p.m. on Fridays

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For by grace you have been saved

Months after the start of Grace Lutheran Church in 1927, the movie *The Jazz Singer* starring Al Jolson premieres in New York City. Although it was not the first “sound film,” and contained very little dialogue, it was the first to achieve box office hit success and led way to “talkies.” Silent films were still produced for years to come, but the film industry was forever changed.

When you look at motion pictures, or television, or even YouTube, it is mind boggling to look at how much has changed since that first “talkie” film. We have such accessibility to images and videos. We can film with our phones, carrying in our pockets more technology than even the computers that first landed someone on the moon, let alone the film industry of the mid to late 1920s. It seems as if everything has changed.

Grace Lutheran Church has been through a lot of changes as well. When first chartered, it was a group of people that were bringing the Good News to the frontier of Des Moines. This was a sparsely developed part of town and was deemed worth the risk and investment. Teachers from Grandview Lutheran Church would ride the trolley to the site on 52<sup>nd</sup> and Urbandale Ave to teach Sunday School to the local children. As the neighborhood grew, so did the ministry here at Grace. It would be years yet before the Parish House was built, and decades before the current sanctuary would first be used.

This community of faith has changed a lot over time. We have journeyed our way through the church year 91 times. We have been through the hope of Advent and joy of Christmas 91 times. We have walked through the healing stories of Epiphany and read in awe as the Lord was transfigured. 91 times we have journeyed together to the cross and found the promise of life on the other side. We have gathered in the mystery of Pentecost and shared in what it is to be the church through the time after Pentecost. Programs have changed. Staff has changed. Membership has changed. Nearly everything has changed since those first days of this ministry.

One thing has not changed: the grace of God. It is by the grace of God that we gathered those first days, and by the grace of God that we have enjoyed these first 91 years as a community of faith. It is this grace that gives us our name. It is this grace that allows us to gather together, a gathering of sinners, amid the modern, broken, and messiness of the world that we live in. God greets us there, with all our shortcomings and offers a simple truth: you are loved.

As the hymn says so well, “T’was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.” People of Grace, I invite you into a journey together.

*Continued on page 2*

## Happy December Birthday

- 1 - Sarah Williamson  
Deanna Weber  
Josh Lund
- 2 - Beverly Anderson  
Christopher Barks
- 3 - Martha Page  
Ami Bradwell  
James Jordahl
- 4 - Carter Woodruff
- 5 - Anna Marie Peterson  
Duane Ulrick  
Darlis Honnold  
Aaron Brandsfield
- 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  
Payton Lawson  
Katja Rahjes  
Lucas Scholl
- 19 - John Farver
- 20 - Shirley Shiffler
- 21 - John Rudisill  
Chris Janson
- 22 - Donald Moon  
Elizabeth Lewis
- 23 - Nancy Crowfoot  
Wayne Curry  
Piper Hutton
- 24 - Jon Rutter  
Stuart Mitchell  
Nicole Nelson
- 25 - Jeffrey Nelson
- 27 - Barbara Berven  
Christina Anderson
- 28 - Ryan Randolph  
Sarah Chenoweth  
Samantha Schmidt

*Continued from page 1*

As Advent begins on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we find ourselves in a new year and a new telling of the story. The Good News hasn't changed, but the world has. In a time of uncertainty and change, we will gather to share in the story of the One whose word does not change, and there, we find grace upon grace.

### Pastor Mike

Advent/Christmas Sermon Series

Dec. 2 – “Finding refuge in the storm”

Dec. 9 – “Navigating rough waters”

Dec. 23 – “When seeing is not enough”

Christmas Eve – “Embracing Grace”

Christmas Day – “Rising above your resume”

## Happy December Anniversary

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



### Our Sympathies are with

The family of Jeff Robbins on the loss of his father, Leon Ebeling

## December Birthdays Continued

- 29 - Linda Rundle  
Kevin Krause  
Robin Randolph
- 30 - Marion Nehmer  
Drake Carney
- 31 - Verda Swanson  
Jean Thompson  
Nicholas Best



### My Family of Grace

Thank you so much for the prayers and cards and calls while I have been recovering from hip replacement surgery. Thank you to Pastor for the visit.

Love to all of you! Linda Rundle

### Pipe Organ Update

We are excited to announce that the updated console has been installed and ready for use on Christ the King Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>! It will be so good to hear the pipes again. This will conclude this portion of the organ renovation and expansion. We also look forward to having the oboe stop and zimbels added. These updates should happen early next year. We are currently \$2,830 away from full funding this project.



In addition to gifts directly to the Organ Renovation/Update Fund, we will be hosting an art auction from December 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> featuring paintings and art by the late Kay Barks. This is a great way to both give AND receive through the process. There is more information on that auction on pages 10-11.

### Other 2018 Special Offerings

As we enter a season of giving, the Finance Committee wanted to highlight all the projects Grace Members have generously helped with over the past year. Thank you!

E.L.C.A. Good Gifts	\$190 (bring the December 2017 total to over \$1,280)
Skillet Drive	\$485
NCAA Bracket Fundraiser:	\$185 to Engineers without Borders
Water and Witness project	\$1,000
World Vision Small Business	\$489
Vacation Bible School	\$305 Casseroles
Organ Expansion at Grace	\$31,974 (\$25,970 pledged + \$6,004 unpledged)
D.M.A.R.C. Food Pantry	\$351 Active Grace Bake Sale
	\$2,594 Year-to-date member donations
Active Grace Casseroles/Kits	\$595
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38,128</b>

### Altoona Girl Scout Troop 296 to open free community food pantry

ALTOONA – Altoona residents in need of a healthy meal will have one more resource as Girl Scout Troop 296 officially opened its food pantry at a grand opening ceremony Nov. 18 at 4 p.m. at the Altoona Public Library. Similar to a Little Free Library, the food pantry will be a small box outside the library building with food available at any time to those in need.

"We're planning on keeping it stocked by donation, with part of our cookie sales and fundraisers throughout the year," said troop leader Heidi O'Brien. "Each Scout in our troop will be assigned a month to watch over the pantry to ensure it is stocked and looking good." The Scouts have been shopping and budgeting to stock the pantry. The troop served light refreshments at the ceremony and also collected monetary donations for continuing to stock the food pantry.

For this service project, the troop received a \$200 grant from Grace Lutheran Church. The Altoona troop includes Daisies in first grade up to Junior Scouts in fifth grade.

"This project is important to me because I care about people. People who don't have food can go get it. And then they'll have food for their family," said Brownie Reagan Wallace, age 9. "It's important to give back."

Scouts designed the pantry, selected its location, went to the Altoona city council and local Girl Scout council for approval. For Abby Edwards, an 8-year-old Brownie, it was easy to pinpoint her favorite part of the project. "Knowing that it would help other people," she said.

For Jadyn O'Brien, a 10-year-old junior, "I liked coming up with the design and making it come true. I want to help other people."

"It is important to give other people stuff they need so they can have a better life," said 9-year-old Junior Ella Dilks.

"These projects help not only us as a troop but others that need it," said Logan Brown, a 10-year-old Junior. "I feel good helping others."

## Church Council Highlights

### At the September 25th, 2018 Church Council Meeting:

- **Property Committee:**
  - The Council heard a preliminary report from the “Msindo Committee.”
  - Work is being finalized on the renovation of the west entry, Gathering Hall, and Sanctuary.
- **Malmin Committee:**
  - We are within \$3,000 of fully funding the organ console update and additions (new rank and zimbelstern).
- The Council heard from Pastor Mike concerning his desire for a sabbatical leave.
- **Action Item: It was moved, seconded, and passed** to that Pastor Mike’s sabbatical leave be approved (May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019)
- **Action Item: It was moved, seconded, and passed** that pastoral services be continued during the period of Pastor Mike’s sabbatical and during emergency situations.
- **Dean Watson was elected:** to fill the Council seat vacated by Connie Heuton.
- **General Discussion Questions:** The Council discussed the preliminary report from the “Msindo Committee” and also discussed anticipated increased staff needs during the time of Pastor Mike’s sabbatical.

Respectfully,

Dave Gronert, Council Secretary (From minutes taken by President Roehrick)

### At the October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Church Council Meeting:

- **Property Committee:**
  - The Men’s Saturday Group filled a sink hole in the southeast area well.
  - Final details are being done on the renovation project.
  - The Committee is looking into buying more furniture for the Gathering Hall.
- **Malmin Committee:**
  - The Committee is anticipating final invoices from Mindi Dickinson for the renovation project.
- **“Msindo Committee”:**
  - The Council discussed the recommendations from the “Msindo Committee” concerning repairs necessitated by the flooding last summer. Property Committee will discuss it further at their next meeting.
- **Stewardship Committee:**
  - The Stewardship Drive is in progress. Several pledge cards still have not been returned. If you haven’t returned yours yet the Council urges you to do so soon so that work on the 2019 budget can proceed.
- **Action Item: It was moved, seconded, and passed** to approve an auction of several pieces of artwork by Kaye Barks. The pieces will be selected by Cathy Watson from the family’s collection and donated to the church for the auction.
- **Announcements:** The Council was advised by President Roehrick that budget preparation will begin at the November Council meeting.
- **General Discussion Questions:**
  - The Council discussed possible ways to fund benefits for the staff of Grace Kids Care Center. Suggestions included a small tuition hike.
  - The Council discussed the possibility of holding some sort of recital or dedication concert to celebrate the upgrade and renovation of the Schantz pipe organ.

Respectfully,

Dave Gronert, Council Secretary



### Grace Kids Care

Grace Kids Care is gearing up for a great Holiday season. We will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving. We are very thankful for our Grace Kids and Grace Lutheran Church family! The kids have also mentioned they are thankful for family, toys, and snow! As we head into December our Christmas Program will be December 18<sup>th</sup>. We will also have an ugly sweater day on December 21<sup>st</sup>. We are excited to learn more about the upcoming holidays.

### Finance Report – October Results

Financial results for October YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$331,679, Budget \$331,108
- Other Income – Actual \$25,557, Budget \$23,750
- Expenses – Actual \$371,362, Budget \$371,208
- Net activity – Actual (\$14,126), Budget (\$16,350)



Actual net activity was above budget by \$2,224. Offerings are below budget and unpledged activity has been above budget. Utilities and property improvements have been above budget and these overages have been offset by many smaller budget underages. These results do not include expenditures of the Malmin Funds.

While actual results are now above budget, a reminder that the annual budget reflected a \$10,000 deficit and it is hoped that additional positive results will help end the year at breakeven or better.

Additionally, Daycare has been operating with strong positive results and ahead of budget. Their results have far exceeded the prior four years.



### Music Notes from Emma

During each Sunday School hour from now until December 9, the kids will be learning some Advent songs to sing in worship on the 9<sup>th</sup>! **Parents, if your child is participating, please plan to have them at the church at 8:30am on December 9<sup>th</sup>.** Join us in worship to hear our Active Grace youth do their part to prepare for the birth of Christ!

November 25, Christ the King Sunday, will be a service that takes us through each season of the church year. There will be eight scripture readings, Thank you to all who responded to lector requests

Mark your calendars now! **Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** you will hear the handbell and brass ensembles play in worship! Grace Bells and Grace Brass will play during the regular 9 a.m. service, there will be no bells and brass recital offered during education hour as in past years. The musicians are looking forward to starting off the Advent season with you on a festive note!

**Grace Bells and Grace Brass** have developed a more flexible rehearsal schedule this Fall:

**Bells** – Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> is at 6:30 p.m., and Dec. 2 is rehearse at 8:40 a.m.

Play for worship on Dec. 2.

**Brass** – Next rehearsal times decided as they go.

Contact [emma@gracedm.org](mailto:emma@gracedm.org) with questions or for more information.

**Chancel Choir** will present their annual musical Christmas in worship on **Sunday, December 16** during the regular 9 a.m. worship time.

**Greeters!** Please note that you have been added to the Volunteer sign-up webpage at [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org). Sign up for your weekend ahead of time, all in one place!



### **Active Grace**

There has been some buzz about what the next few weeks will look like for families on Sunday mornings. Sunday School will continue to incorporate the Service Learning process and will be called Active Grace to reflect that intent. We will continue to gather in Grace Hall II from 10 -11 am. We will be learning about a different topic/story each week using different rotations to explore

Here are some things we will be learning more about-

- November 18-The Lord's Prayer
- November 25- The Church Year (Cross+Generational)
- December 2 & 9- Advent
- December 16- Christmas
- December 23 & 30-No Active Grace Sunday School

As always, we hope that what is discussed and learned on Sunday will be carried into the week and we will offer tools to help families do so. There will be some sort of student-led service learning project that we will work on during the season of Advent that begins on Sunday, December 2.

Emma Stammer our Minister for Worship and Music will still be leading music with the kids each week.

**On Sunday, December 9 during worship the kids will be singing** some songs that they will be learning between now and then.

On Sunday, January 6 we will begin a new eight week Active Grace Service Learning unit on the topic of **Friendship** using the story of the Four Friends (Luke 5: 17-26) as our Bible focus. We are excited about this new and different topic and exploring what it means to be a good friend and how we can share the love and joy of friendship with the world. We will be looking for some stories of friendship from our Grace members, so be looking for more information on this in the weeks to come.

Peace be with you as you strive to live differently in Christ!  
Ellen Rothweiler, Minister for Youth and Family

### **Confirmation Service Learning**

This fall sixth and seventh grade confirmation students have met each Wednesday evening to learn more about The Old Testament and Lutheran History and Catechism. As we move into the season of Advent, confirmation students and mentors will focus more on Service Learning. The first three Wednesdays in December from 6-8 pm students will learn about a need and have an opportunity to empathize with those who live with that need from day to day. The hope is that this kind of learning will help kids to connect their faith with the opportunities they have to love others each and every day.

Here are our Service Learning opportunities-

December 5- Shop for Moore Elementary families (learn the cost of goods and how to get the most for your money)

December 12- BINGO with Mosaic (interact with children of God who have physical and intellectual disabilities)

December 19- Wrap gifts for Moore Elementary families (caring can be fun!)

Advent Service Learning is one of my favorite parts of Grace Confirmation ministry. It is fun, and different and holds great meaning for all those who are involved. Pray for us as we serve others this Advent season.

Peace, Ellen

### **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  
10:00-11:00 a.m. Active Grace Sunday School in Grace Hall II (see page 6 for information)  
10:15 a.m. Adult Education, Grace Hall I (see page 9 for topics and presenters)  
11:00 a.m. "Women in the Word" Bible Study, Library. Led by Carol Mattes

#### **Mondays**

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. GKC Chapel, Sanctuary

#### **Tuesdays**

8:45 – 10:15 a.m. Bible Study, Grace Hall with Pastor Mike  
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Centering Prayer in the Upper room, led by Julie Honsey  
11:30 a.m. Staff meeting, Conference room/Innovation lab

#### **Wednesdays**

9:00 a.m. Willing Workers work & coffee time  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Nov 28  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation Dec 5,12,19  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room Nov 28, Dec 5 & 9 only

#### **Other Grace Groups!**

##### **Men's Work Group, Saturday, December 8**

We meet on the second Saturday of each month, 8:30 a.m. – noon. We welcome you to join us.

##### **Altar Guild Meeting, meal, and fellowship:**

**Saturday, December 15 9:30 a.m.**

Offsite for coffee, meeting, fellowship. Please join us! Contact [anderson.sue.a@gmail.com](mailto:anderson.sue.a@gmail.com)

##### **Grace Stitching & Needlework Group**

We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month in Grace Hall Contacts: Helen Ringgenberg or Carol Krause

##### **First Circle Friends**

LSI Respite Program for those in early stages of memory loss. Meets at Grace on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month. Contact <https://lsiowa.org>

**December Friendly Visitor:** December 15

### **November - December Calendar**

22,23 – Thanksgiving, Church office closed  
Grace Kids Care Closed  
27 – 3:30 – 6:30p.m. Workshop: Young Children  
Priority One Board – Innovation Lab  
6:00 p.m. Council Meeting  
28 - 6:30 p.m. Grace Bells, Music Room  
30 – 2:45 p.m. SWCC arrives  
7:30 p.m. SWCC Chamber Concert  
**Dec 2** – 8:40 a.m. Bells Rehearse, Sanctuary  
5:00 p.m. Grace Fellowship Christmas – see article below  
3 – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Girl Scouts room 301  
4 – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Des Moines Knitters Guild  
6 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GHI & II 1 – 10:00  
8 – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Central Iowa Contemplative Outreach Advent Program  
8:30 a.m. – noon Men's Work Group – Breakfast, Fellowship, and Church Projects  
4:00 – 8:00 p.m. GKC Parent Night Out, GH, Gym, Activity Room  
9 – 11:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Swahili Group GH, Café  
Ladies Night Out Christmas Party see pg 12  
11 – Exec. Meeting  
13 – 9:30 a.m. Martha & Lydia Circle Christmas  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group, Grace Hall II  
5:30 – 7:30 GKC Parent Board – off site  
15– 9:30 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting, offsite  
17 – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Girl Scouts room 301  
18 – 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. GKC Christmas Program, Sanctuary, GH Program at 7:00 p.m.  
20 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GHI & II 1 – 10:00  
24 – **Christmas Eve –**  
**GKC Center and office closed**  
**5:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. Holy Communion Worship**  
7:00 AA Groups  
25 – **Christmas Day –**  
**GKC Center and office closed**  
**10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship**  
26 – Church Office Closed  
27 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group, Grace Hall II  
31 – Church Office Closed  
31 – GKC and Church Office Closed

### **Grace Fellowship Catered Christmas Party Sunday, December 2, 5:00 p.m.**

Open to all members of Grace. Dinner catered by Price Chopper, \$10/person. Program: Gospel and Christmas Hymns by Douglas Karl of New Hope Church. Final chance to buy tickets is Sunday Nov. 25!



### **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 have a family to love them.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our most vulnerable neighbors. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).

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).*

### **Giving Back to Her Community**

Two years ago, Sarah felt helpless. She struggled with her mental health, there was tension between family members at home, and she couldn't find support or resources that worked with her family's busy schedule.

Sarah connected with LSI's Early Childhood Services, and through a local program she received flexible in-home parenting education to help her family thrive. Her LSI parent educator worked with her to learn about money management, healthy communication, and skills for parenting her two young children.

Now Sarah feels confident raising her family. She has found a support system and is ready to give back to her community and help other young mothers in need. Whenever she can, she tells other moms about LSI and helps refer them for services.

Because she felt empowered by LSI's Early Childhood Services, Sarah is creating a ripple effect across her community. She is passionate about lifting up and strengthening other families in need of the hope and healing she received.

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

#### **November: Thanksgiving dinner!**

Frozen Turkeys (12 – 15 pounds), potatoes and sweet potatoes, green beans, carrots, onions, mixed and other vegetables, pumpkin, squash (whole or canned), applesauce, apples, cranberries

December: Canned Pears in water or Juice, or Canned Puffball Mushrooms in brine



**Adult Education, Sundays, 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**

Sunday, November 25 is the last Sunday of the church year. To celebrate we will focus on the seasons of the church year, hearing and learning more about each one and how each season connects and flows into the others. Worship will be a kind of lessons and carols through the church year. Following worship during the education hour members of all ages will gather together in Grace Hall for some fun activities and discussion about the seasons of the church. Join us and get church-nerdy!

**A Remarkable Gift In An Unremarkable Package. Christmas Bible Study**

Join us for a remarkable and memorable Christmas Bible Study. Well known Pastor and author, Max Lucado will take us on a journey that explores how Christ entered the world for us and because of this, we no longer have marks on our record, only grace! We have the promise that God is always near us, always for us, always with us - and that we have a friend and Savior in heaven. Long after the guests have left, the carolers have gone home, and the lights have come down, these promises endure! Don't miss experiencing this study as a faith community. This video Bible study will take place in Grace Hall 1 on Dec. 2nd, 9th, and the 16th.

**Ladies Night Out – Open to all women of Grace**

The annual LNO Christmas Party will take place this year at Valerie Culp's house on Sunday 12/9 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! (let Val know what you are bringing so we don't end up with 5 types of meatballs again!

Please RSVP to Val by Friday, December 7th [valerieculp@mchsi.com](mailto:valerieculp@mchsi.com) or 515-965-5972.

**All Men of Grace Lutheran Church**

Immanuel United Methodist Church Men's Club (2900 49<sup>th</sup> Street) invites you to join them in their Men's Club December Christmas Party (and other events listed in the November 2018 Friendly Visitor).

Please contact David Beard (515-419-1191, [dbeard48@gmail.com](mailto:dbeard48@gmail.com)) a few days ahead of your attendance to assure we have sufficient meal items.



**Women of Grace**--you are all invited to attend the Lydia-Martha Circle Christmas meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 9:30 am.

Recently, the women of Lydia and Martha Circles voted to join and to meet together on the Thursday morning meeting times of Martha Circle. Lydia Circle chose to meet during the day and increase our fellowship opportunities by joining Martha Circle.

All women of Grace are always welcome to join. If you are interested in an evening group, you are welcome to join Ladies Night Out.  
Happy Holidays from Grace Women!!

**The Festival of Trees**

Willing Workers and Staff will arrange trees in the Gathering Hall the last few days of November, you will be able to start decorating by Sunday, December 2. If you would like to reserve a tree, please email [michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org) and whether you would prefer a small or large tree.

### December Art Show:

An Art Show of Kay Barks' paintings will be presented in the Gathering Hall from December 2-30, 2018 at Grace Lutheran Church, 5201 Urbandale Avenue, Des Moines, IA. Pieces include a graphic print, acrylic and oil paintings, and mixed media. Art will be available for sale by silent auction from Dec 2-23. There will be some gallery nights scheduled for members and the public to view the exhibit. Winning bidders will be notified on Dec 23, and items will be available for pick up beginning on Dec 30. Proceeds will go toward the updating and improvement of the pipe organ at Grace.

**Artist Bio:** Kay (Kathryn Evans) Barks was born in Sisseton, SD in 1927, the daughter of a Lutheran minister and a home economics teacher. She was a tomboy, who loved sports and competition. Significant influences in her childhood were the widespread poverty and dust storms of the Great Depression, growing up in a Native American community, being a Lutheran preacher's kid, and coming of age during World War II and Korean War, while her older brothers were serving in the Navy.

She completed high school in Bemidji, MN in 1945, then attended Concordia Teacher's College in Moorhead, MN and Bemidji State College, earning Bachelors degrees in Biological Science and Physical Education. Living in Northern states afforded her opportunities to ski, water ski, ice skate and sail. She played tennis with the men's team in college since there were no teams for women.

Kay's first career was teaching physical education and counseling students at East High School in Sioux City, IA. Her first art class was a summer school elective in graphic arts at the University of Wisconsin in 1953. Her professor tried to get her to stay on to earn an art degree, but she continued on her original path to complete a Master's degree in Counseling and Guidance. She dated Bob Barks while they were both at the University of Wisconsin. They married after graduation in 1954, then moved to Des Moines. They joined Grace Lutheran Church and began to raise a family of two sons, Brian and Bradley. At Grace, Kay was a member of several committees and groups. She also was active in politics and volunteered at the YWCA, providing counseling and leading career seminars for women.

Art education continued at the Des Moines Art Center, beginning in 1954, when Kay took classes in drawing, oil, acrylic, and watercolor painting. Later, she studied sculpture and silversmithing. She was instructed by wonderful mentors such as Jules Kirschenbaum (sculpture) and Jean Sample (silver jewelry). Painting subjects ranged from people to structures, land or waterscapes to abstract ideas. Kay was open-minded about what mediums to use. She produced sculpture in metals, foam rubber, plexiglass, fiberglass, clay, plastic resins and wood. She saw art as line and color and said that "there is nothing finer than God's palette of color and line." At times, her art was influenced by her faith, and at others it was simply what she saw and appreciated around her. She let others decide what the meanings were.



*The northern climate represented here in "Ice Houses"*



Blue Harbor, one of several Harbor and Shoreline paintings to be included in the show. Other paintings in this group include an image of Japan, one from Maine.



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When she began entering art shows in 1967, she really enjoyed the competition. After receiving several honors for her "out from the wall" (3D) paintings and sculpture in 1970, she began exhibiting art at the multi-state and regional levels. Her work has been shown at the DM Art Center, the Brunnier Gallery at ISU, The Percival Gallery in Des Moines, the Joslyn Gallery in Omaha and the Nelson Gallery in Kansas City. For some years, she had paintings at the Des Moines Art Center Rental Gallery which were rented by the month to offices and homes. Some were purchased outright. In 1972, health problems arose that limited her ability to create larger works, so Kay began to handcraft silver jewelry as a new form of sculpture. She continued to exhibit works in galleries for several years.

In 1987, she and Bob started playing golf in a serious way. She competed for years around Iowa, usually coming in first. Bob was always her best fan and supporter. When she was creating art, he was helping her build it, or mount it, or display it. When she was beating him at tennis or golf, he was cheering her on. They were always together and happy about it. A visit to their home was like visiting a gallery.

Several years before her death in 2009, Kay's health took another turn with a syndrome called multiple system atrophy. She began losing large motor functions, then small motor functions. More and more of her favorite activities gradually went by the wayside. Eventually, she was unable to work in silver. Yet she still had creative ideas in her mind that she wanted to express. In 2006, she became inspired by the watercolor art created by her granddaughter, Susan. She once again tried new techniques and created a series of paintings and collages that Bob matted and framed.



### **Holiday Carols in Concert**

The Southwestern Community College Chamber Singers will once again join us for a holiday concert. Conducted by Ryan Howe, they will perform works by Shaw, Hogan, Rachmaninoff, Mattson, and Bach. Join us in the Sanctuary here at Grace at 7:30 p.m. on November 30.





### **Len Ringgenberg Receives Award**

At the November 1st noon meeting of the Des Moines Host Lions Club at the Cub Club, Len Ringgenberg received the prestigious "International Leadership Award" from Past International Directors Gary Fry and Judy Hankom. Presentation of this award to deserving Lions Club members throughout the world is authorized by the Lions Clubs International President. Of over 1.4 million Lions Club Members, only 1,600 members received this award worldwide this year.

Len received this award for his many years of devoted service as the District Iowa KidSight Chairman, and for service to his church and community in other areas of volunteerism. He has been actively involved in overseeing and participating in eye screenings at preschools and day care centers in the Central Iowa since the program started over 16 years ago.



### **90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

Please join the Grotheer family in celebrating the 90th birthday of Mo Grotheer at an open house on Saturday, December 15th from 1-2:30 p.m. at Walnut Ridge in the Walnut Club Room. Mo and Lou have long enjoyed attending Grace with their daughter, Carla Peterman and her family and now reside at Walnut Ridge. Refreshments provided. No gifts, please. Hope to see you there!



### **Thank You for Sponsoring the Altar Flowers**

Thanks to everyone who signed up to sponsor altar flowers this year. All the slots are filled for 2018. We just want to remind you that if you haven't paid for your flowers, the cost is \$38 and you can pay using Grace's online giving site (<https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>) or drop off cash/check in the church office. We very much appreciate your contributions. The 2019 sign-ups will be available in December, and we'll offer the option of online sign-up and payment. If you have questions, please contact Kathy Bowermaster at [kbowerma@hotmail.com](mailto:kbowerma@hotmail.com) or 971-6360. Thanks!



**The Star Tree** Choose a star and make someone's Christmas special – an adult from one of Mosaic's local group homes or a child from LSI's Early Development Program. Please select a star from the Star Tree in the Gathering Hall. It will be up the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Items should be returned, unwrapped, to Grace by Sunday December 16. Please limit the cost for gifts to about \$25. If several items are listed, you may choose the one or ones to fit the money amount. Mosaic is a faith-based organization serving adults with intellectual disabilities. LSI's Early Childhood Program provides supportive services to at risk single mothers from the prenatal period until age five when the child starts kindergarten. An LSI family support worker visits regularly in the home to teach parenting skills and to ensure the proper development of the child.

If as we approach December 16<sup>th</sup>, you are unable to shop for your star gift, let us know so we can. If you have your gift and are unable to deliver it to church by the 16<sup>th</sup>, please also let us know so we don't duplicate.

If you have questions, contact Joie Gronert at 279 - 4974 or Denise Friesth at 276 - 6873. Have fun shopping!



### **Thank you Grace!**

This fall we raised \$770 during our fundraising drive for Lutheran World Relief, and sent out 10 quilts and blankets, 31 Baby Care kits, 4 Fabric Kits and 237 School Kits! Thanks to everyone who donated time, money or talent to this worthy cause. Because of you, some very distressed people will feel some relief. We'll be back in the spring with Personal Care kits to make. Get ready! --from your LWR team