



GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

Worship with Holy Communion  
Sunday, December 16: 9 a.m.  
Sunday, December 23: 9 a.m.

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

Christmas Day Worship  
10 a.m.

Sunday, December 30, Lessons and Carols 9 a.m.

5201 Urbandale Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
515-276-6873  
[www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)

Pastor Michael Schmidt  
[mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org)

Minister for Youth and Family  
Ellen Rothweiler  
[ellen@gracedm.org](mailto:ellen@gracedm.org)

Minister for Worship and Music  
Emma Stammer  
[emma@gracedm.org](mailto:emma@gracedm.org)

Organist  
Richard Snyder  
[rich@gracedm.org](mailto:rich@gracedm.org)

Grace Kids' Care Director

Minister for Administration  
Denise Friesth  
[denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org)

Minister for Communications  
Michelle Voelker  
[michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org)

Office Assistant for Worship  
Jessye Flannery  
[Jessica@gracedm.org](mailto:Jessica@gracedm.org)

Custodian  
Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

#### Inside This Issue...

- 2... December Calendar & Schedule  
Festival of Trees & Christmas Eve  
Annual Congregational Meeting
- 3... Christmas Spotlight: Our updated  
Organ
- 4... Art Show and Silent Auction  
Year End Dates to know  
2019 Offering Envelopes  
Weekly Schedule beginning Jan 6

## *Merry Christmas from the Staff of Grace Lutheran Church!*

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



**Adult Education 10:15– 11:00 a.m.  
in Grace Hall**

**December 16**

**A Remarkable Gift In An Unremarkable Package. Christmas Bible Study.** Join us for a remarkable and memorable Christmas Bible Study. Max Lucado, Pastor and author, 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!

**December 23 & 30<sup>th</sup>**

No Adult Education.

Instead, join us for coffee, tea, juice, donuts and fellowship in the Gathering Hall

**Active Grace Sunday School**

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**Ages 5-5<sup>th</sup> grade** in Grace Hall II

**Ages 3-4** in Grace Hall II, for opening and closing, rm 104, between.

- December 16 – Topic: Christmas
- December 23 - No Sunday School
- December 30 - No Sunday School

**Grace Kids Care Christmas Program**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary/Gathering Hall  
Program at 7 p.m.

All are invited!

**2018 Calendar December 15-31**

The January Friendly Visitor with all of the New Year and 2019 happenings will arrive in your inboxes on January 1. The full December Friendly Visitor is still available on the website [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org) and in the church.

15 – 9:30 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting, offsite

16 – 9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School, Coffee

10:15 Adult Education

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.

19 – Staff Christmas Lunch.

Office closes at 11:30 a.m.

20 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends,  
Grace Hall

23 – 9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Kay Barks Art Show Silent Auction Ends

**24 – Christmas Eve**

GKC Center and office closed

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion Worship

7:00 p.m. AA Groups

11:00 p.m. Holy Communion Worship

**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

**January 1** – GKC and Church Office Closed



**Festival of Trees**

When you are in the building, please enjoy our Festival of Trees in the Gathering Hall – sit back and relax, wander to see how Grace Kids Care, the Library, Cradle Roll, Music Ministry, and other groups have decorated their trees.

**On Christmas Eve**, there will be treats and fruit on the tables and under the trees. This has been funded by our Women's groups with Kevin Drury delighting in purchasing and setting out the treats. You are invited to take a paper sack to fill and take home for you or a friend or family member.

**Sunday January 27, 2019**

**The Annual Congregational Meeting**

The meeting will begin after worship, followed by a catered lunch.

**The Finance & Budget Meeting** will be held Sunday, January 20 at 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. in Grace Hall during the Education Hours

### What's new with the organ?

We are all happy to have the organ back in place after the renovations. But if you have spoken with Rich Snyder in the past few weeks, you have more than likely seen him grinning as he speaks animatedly about the changes and updates to the organ and all of the new possibilities. In an email to Pastor Mike he said, "Regarding the organ, I am sort of like a kid with a new toy." So we asked him if he could write up all of the changes to share with you.



### Changes as of December 2018

The organ console was recently updated and modified by the Darrow Organ Company of Anawa, Iowa... Here is a summary of the changes, modifications, and new features that were made.

**The console** appears to be taller since it was returned to the sanctuary because it now sits on a platform that adds about six inches of height. The platform has casters that will allow the entire unit of platform and console can be moved. This change was made to allow more flexible staging of the west end of the nave and the chancel areas and is changes to the removable altar rails and portable ambo.

**The internal capture system** of the console was replaced. The original mechanical capture system allowed an organist to preselect combinations of stops (sounds) and then switch to these preset combinations by pressing a single piston (numbered buttons below the manuals and above the pedals). There were five pistons dedicated to changing any and all stops, and generally these were dedicated to changing the organ sound during the liturgy and hymns. The old mechanical system was replaced with a digital system. The new system has fifteen pistons that control the entire set of stops instead of five. In addition, the digital system allows multiple organists to save their preferred combinations independently of each other and protects those choices by separate passwords. Finally, each organist has 100 memory levels so that each level has fifteen pistons available to preset stop combinations. This means that, in theory, the organ has gone from five possible presets to a maximum of 1,500 preset combinations. To the listener, this change means that there will be many more potential combinations of sounds that can be programmed ahead of time and then easily selected at the discretion of the organist.

**The electronic communication** between the console and the wind chests, where the valves control air to individual pipes, was previously transmitted by a multitude of thin wires housed in a few large cables. These individual wires have been replaced by a single cable through which flow all of the commands from the organist's fingers and feet to the valves under the pipes. This single cable eases the task of moving the console to a different location and eliminates the problems posed if one or more of the thin wires were broken.

**The new digital system also allows for transposition of the written music** into a different key. Previously transposition could only be accomplished by the organist mentally changing a hymn into a different key as the music was played or by finding the hymn in the different key in a different hymnal. This means that if there were a hymn that appears in the hymnal where the tune is too high or too low, the organist can now change to a different key that will allow the hymn to be sung more easily by the congregation.

**New LED lamps** that provide lighting to the manuals (keyboards) and pedal board are brighter than the incandescent and fluorescent lamps previously.



*Continued on page 4*



### ***Organ Spotlight continued from page 3***

The modification of the console has allowed for the addition of a new stop (resultant) that uses a combination of two pipes of an existing rank of pipes to be played simultaneously by pressing one pedal. The sound that is heard from this combination is an octave lower than the natural pitch of one of the pipes. The listener will hear this as a lower bass note in the music.



Although not part of the changes to the console itself, the remodeling of the chancel area has resulted in better transfer of sound from the organ chambers to the sanctuary. By replacing the previous dense speaker grill cloth with open wooden grill work (the triangular slatted pieces) on the east facing walls of the organ chambers, and by replacing the speaker cloth with an open weave fabric on the north- and south-facing walls of the chambers facing the chancel, the volume of the organ that is heard in the sanctuary has been increased. The high notes should be heard as brighter, and the low notes as deeper.



**The Year-end deposit** will be made. All contributions arriving at the office after this date will be counted in 2019.

**Current Pledge Statement** If you would like an updated statement of your 2018 giving/pledge standing, please contact Denise Friesth at 276-6873 or via email @ [denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org)

**January 6 Year End Reports** due to the office.

**2019 Offering Envelopes** should be arriving in your mailboxes soon. They will look a little different, but have several advantages: They'll be mailed to you quarterly, so if you change addresses updates can be made mid-year. If, like some of us you happen to misplace them for a few weeks, you know more are coming. They should be easier to separate from the package. However they cannot be mailed. If you are someone who prefers to mail your contributions rather than drop them off, please call the office, we'll be happy to send you envelopes.  
515-276-6873

### **Weekly Offerings Resume January 6, 2019**

#### **Sundays**

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship  
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship  
10:00-11:00 a.m. Active Grace Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Adult Education, Grace Hall I  
11:00 a.m. "Women in the Word" Bible Study, Library. Led by Carol Mattes

#### **Mondays**

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel, Sanctuary

#### **Tuesdays**

8:45 – 10:15 a.m. Bible Study, led by Pastor Mike  
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Centering Prayer in the Upper room, led by Julie Honsey

#### **Wednesdays**

9:00 a.m. Willing Workers work & coffee time  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room

We also have a Brass Group and Bell Choir. If interested, contact [Emma@gracedm.org](mailto:Emma@gracedm.org)

### **Kay Barks Art Show:**

We have all been enjoying the beautiful art in the Gathering Hall.

The Gallery Nights have concluded, however the Art will be available for sale by silent auction until December 23.

The show is open anytime the church is open. 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.

