



**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

## **Worship with Holy Communion**

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

*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. – 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday, closed Friday

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## **On the Third Day of Christmas**

The older I get, the more I am fascinated by the North American culture's view of Christmas. It seems to start earlier and earlier every year. Some stores have moved on long before we even celebrate All Hallows' Eve. I have even heard Christmas songs on my birthday a few times (September). Just earlier today I was in a checkout line at the grocery store and an employee was purchasing some goodies. His co-worker's response: "Two? What happened to only one?" to which his response was "It's the holidays!" The co-worker let him know that was two days ago. I felt it my due diligence to let both of them know there are 12 days of Christmas and it doesn't end until January 6<sup>th</sup>. I gained a friend, and the other was less than amused.

Why does our culture move so quickly past Christmas? We start it early enough that you would think that we really liked Christmas. The carols and secular songs fill the radio waves. The whites, reds, and greens, fill our eyes through decorations. We love the anticipation of Christmas. We love having it ahead of us. By Christmas afternoon the tune changes, the holiday programming is off the air, and the leftovers are packed away.

The older I get, the more I become fascinated by our view of Christmas. This isn't because we move on so fast. I am becoming convinced that most don't know what to actually do with Christmas, the Christ Mass. We understand the peripheral things, the gifts, giving, toys, meals, fellowship, and worship. What we don't do well with is the realities that come with it. What do we do with a God who has come near? What do we do with the reality that God truly is able to do anything? What do we do with the reality that the world is forever changed because of this child, and our desire to control things simply led to the cross and the empty tomb? No matter how hard we try, we are not in control. There is something about this that doesn't sit well. In our desire to be in charge, we simply keep it dangling in front of us for a couple months, and then move past it as quickly as it starts.

With the Christ Mass and the realities of a God who has come near, the Church has a lot to offer the world. We stand as a reminder that there is more going on than what we are able to see and hear. Through the eyes of faith we can see God at work in the world around us. Through the life, death, and resurrection of this little child in the manger, we see that life is full of hope. This hope isn't centered in what we are able to do. It is solely because we have a God who is able to do more than we could ask or imagine. The Church, the very Body of Christ, offers a different narrative for all people.

*Continued on page 2*

## Happy January Birthday

- 1- Elizabeth Dungan  
Mable Moran  
Theodore Tussing  
Bob Gweah  
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
- 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 - Daniel Robbins
- 17 - Barbara DeBolt  
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
- 23- Donald Peterson  
Alice Kulzer
- 24 - Garry Lenhart
- 25 - Roy Mann
- 26- Patricia Allen  
Valerie Culp  
Amber Davik  
Haley Honnold

## Pastor Mike's message continued here

This is a message of hope and a future, not just for those who can afford it, or are heard, but a voice speaking to all people: "Peace on Earth, and good will to all whom God favors."

Lean into Christmas. Lean into the reality that God has come near, for you, and for all. Slow down and enjoy the season, all 12 Days! Whether that is with an extra goodie, or simply embracing your inner Elf and singing out loud. The world is filled with possibility, and hope, and joy, and Good News. If we go with the calendar and narrative of the world, Christmas is already over, and nothing changed. Instead, we are just getting started. It is Day three, and the story continues all year round. Merry Christmas!

Pastor Mike

## Happy January Anniversary

- 4 – Elizabeth and Mark Dungan
- 6 – Heather and Eric Nelson
- 9 – Joie and David Gronert



## January Birthdays Continued

- 28- Elaine Westvold  
Charles Smith  
James Kaleewoun
- 29- Norman Trentmann  
Cherlyn Lewis
- 30- Elizabeth Prescott  
Nayeli Rodriguez
- 31 - Maryena Petty-Lee



## 2019 Church Office Hours

The church office will be open  
Monday – Thursday from 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
beginning on January 2.

You will see staff working flexible hours outside of this schedule to complete their individual tasks and workload, especially tasks requiring more concentration, or when meeting with our generous volunteers. If you require their time, please make an appointment during office hours. This change will help us to be more available to focus on you Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

## Holiday Office Hours

- Monday, December 31 – church office closed
- Tuesday, January 1, 2019 – Church office and Grace Kids Care closed

## Service Learning

Through the exploratory efforts of the 2020 task force this past year and a growing awareness of those who serve with children's education here at Grace, it was plain to see that the faith formation the needs of families have changed. As we seek to offer transformative faith experiences here at Grace and hope to lead people to live differently in Christ, we wondered what that might look like in our ministry with children, youth and families. One thing we noticed is that children are often more fluent in the language of service than they are in the language of faith. Since loving our neighbor is one of the two greatest commandments, we wondered if there might be an opportunity here. What might it look like to use that language of service to form faith. So, in response to this wondering, we started an adventure this fall with Active Grace Service Learning Sunday School.



But wait, "What is Service Learning?" you may ask-

"Service learning" is an intentional four-step process that can add deeper meaning and value to service and mission experiences. By contrast, "volunteering" and "community service" are often seen as one-time events, with little preparation on the part of participants and little (if any) debriefing and follow up. Through the process of Preparation, Action, Reflection, and Celebration, service learning emphasizes service as more than projects and trips, but an on-going process of service and learning, a spiritual practice and way of life.

This is a new and different approach to learning here at Grace, with service being the thing that drives discovery. As we work through the four steps of service learning we also choose a bible story to connect our exploration with scripture, carrying this Word into the world as we encounter opportunities to serve others.

Our first unit this fall was on Food Insecurity, and here is how we worked through the four steps with this topic-

### Preparation-

Bible Study: we used the story from the Gospel of John of Jesus Feeding 5,000 as our scriptural lens. Guest Speakers; Sarah from DMARC spoke to us all the work they do and the best ways we can support them in these efforts.

Michelle Voelker from Grace Garden Group taught us about how to prepare healthy foods in different and delicious ways

We talked about need and abundance. We talked about the kind of hunger when we don't have enough of the right kinds of food. We talked about the ripple of need when there is a loss of job or illness.

### Action

Weekly Challenges at home; collect items for the food pantry, learn more about where we get our groceries, try new recipes

Planned ways to respond to this need in our daily lives

### Reflection

Discussed what we had learned on Sunday and throughout the week through weekly challenges and discussion at home

How to share what we have learned with the congregation?

### Celebration

Feeding 5,000 Fair!

Overall, we are pleased with how this first unit went!

Alexson Calahan had this to say about the experience of her family and children; Arbor and Alton:

*Continued on the next page*

**Spotlight, continued from page 3**

*I really loved the format of Active Grace's food insecurity unit. The kids were excited to go each week and really felt like they were a part of something bigger. Discussing generosity and food insecurity and helping others was much easier because they now understood the concept thanks to this format. I hope you all continue to offer units like this; I know our kids talked more about this unit outside of church than they did when we had the more traditional Sunday School last year.*

Feedback from members without children in this area of ministry was mixed. Many were excited to see the kids doing things, happy that we were talking about hunger. Others wondered, "what's next?"

What is next is another eight week unit on a chosen area of need. Beginning Sunday, January 6 and running up until Lent, we will engage the four steps of service learning on the topic of Friendship, using the story of Four Friends (Luke 5:17-26) as our connection to scripture. We will explore the qualities of a good friend, talk about compassion, hear from Grace Visiting Friends about the ministry they do, and connect with and get to know our homebound members better.

One way that we hope to get the congregation involved in this unit is through friendship conversations. Have you ever heard the series StoryCorps on NPR? This series has been on the air for 15 years, sharing conversations between people and promoting the value of listening. We are hoping to follow this example here at Grace and hear from you about your friendships. Your conversations will be recorded and shared with Active Grace children and the congregation as an example of how ordinary and extraordinary friendship can be in the body of Christ. We hope you will participate! Look for more details on how you can get involved in the coming weeks.

We are excited to continue this adventure in Service Learning, eager to learn and serve others. We ask for your prayers and that you join us in this endeavor!

Peace be with you,

Ellen Rothweiler  
Minister for Youth and Family  
Grace Lutheran Church



**Endowment Applications**

2019 endowment applications can be found in the office or on the forms and applications page at [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org). Projects may be for the benefit of Grace Lutheran Church or for other projects that meet Endowment Guidelines. Details can be found on the form itself. The Deadline for submitting applications is January 31, 2019. Approved Funds will be awarded by March 31, 2019.

**Finance Report** – Come to the January Budget Review, and watch for access to the Annual Report on the Grace website in January for the most up-to-date information.

The Budget meeting will be held on Sunday, January 20 in Grace Hall during the Adult Education hour from 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.





### Grace Kids Care – Good Luck, Brooke

Brooke Howsare has concluded her work with Grace Kids' Care as the Director. She accepted a position in the Human Resources field, which is what she studied in college. Her last day at Grace Kids' Care was December 14<sup>th</sup>. We wish her the best of luck on this next chapter.

*There will be an open house, hosted by GKC Parent Board on Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm in Grace Hall to show appreciation for her time with us.*



### Grace Kids Care – Hiring Full-time Director

Grace Kids' Care, a daycare and preschool ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, is looking for a Director. This is a full-time position. We are a welcoming community of faith located in the beautiful Merle Hay and Beaverdale Neighborhoods, in Des Moines, IA. Duties and responsibilities are to: manage the operation of Grace Kids Care, maintain accurate records, train and supervise teachers and staff, monitor students and teachers for progress, maintain vacation and sick leave calendars for teachers and staff.

#### Qualifications include:

- Experience with childcare
- Excellent oral, written, and computer based communication skills
- Pass a background check.
- Knowledge and ability in social media preferred.
- Managerial experience preferred
- Degree in Early Childhood or related field preferred

To apply by sending a CV/resume list of references, or for more information, please contact:

Pastor Michael Schmidt  
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5201 Urbandale Ave.  
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515-276-6873  
[www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)



### Music Notes from Emma

**If you would like to join any of the following groups, even for a one time performance, contact [Emma@gracedm.org](mailto:Emma@gracedm.org). Or, just show up and practice with us once to see where you fit in – we promise you will be welcomed with open arms! Watch for published rehearsal dates – or contact Emma to be added to group emails.**

**Grace Bells** - we will begin meeting in February or March for Easter. Watch the announcements, e-news, and website for dates. Rehearsals are usually a combination of Wednesday evenings at 6:15 and Sunday mornings before worship.

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

**Other Instruments:** Do you play flute, oboe, violin who would be willing and able to play with the choir for a special piece now and then?

**Voice:** are you interested in offering a Voluntary during worship?

**Chancel Choir:** rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the music room, lower level. Enter at the Grace Hall door at the North end of the parking lot. Go straight down the stairs, and you will see the music room right in front of you!



### **Active Grace**

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 Recap**

Thank you for your participation with December Service Learning - shopping and wrapping was a success, and the participants from Mosaic enjoyed our evening of Bingo.  
This following Thank You from the family you shopped for is posted on the Youth Bulletin Board:

*"Dear Grace Lutheran Church Youth,  
Thank you for making our Christmas  
brighter. Thank you so very much for your  
selfless generosity in my families time of  
need. I am humbled and forever grateful.  
God Bless All"*



### **Mentors and Eighth Graders**

You should have received your Spring 2019 schedule just before Christmas. Your task in January is to find a time to worship with a different Faith Community.

### **Grace Youth Fundraising Meeting**

It may sound strange at this time of year to talk and think about May, but we are! We are looking ahead at scheduling the Spring Youth Garage and Plant Sale and want to gather families to discuss some things as we select a date and begin plans. Also, we have done a Cinnamon Roll Sunday in February so it would be good to get people on board for that as well.

Not only would it be good to talk out some details for the fundraisers we have done and are planning to do, but I think it would be good to talk about why we fundraise. Do we still have the need to do this? Are families still invested in these things? Do our youth have the time to offer? Is the congregation still supportive of our efforts? It can be easy to take these things for granted, but as we cycle in new families I think it would be good to ask these questions and really listen to the answers.

If you haven't already, please participate in this [Doodle Poll](#) to indicate your preferred meeting date and time.

Ellen Rothweiler  
Minister for Youth and Family

### **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 pages 3, 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** (resuming on January 8, 2019)

9:00 – 10:30 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  
*Resuming January 9:*  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, rm 301  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room

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

##### **Men's Work Group, Saturday, January 12**

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, January 19, 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 – January date change**

LSI Respite Program for those in early stages of memory loss. Meeting at Grace on the SECOND and FOURTH Thursdays in January. Contact <https://lsiowa.org>

**February Newsletter submissions:** January 21

### **Calendar**

12/31 – Church Office Closed  
3:00 p.m. T.O.P.S. room 103  
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Cafe

#### **January**

1 – Church Office and GKC Closed  
4 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Brooke's Open House, Grace Hall  
7 – 10:00 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel – Sanctuary  
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Girl Scouts room 301  
8 – 6:00 p.m. Executive Meeting  
6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Des Moines Knitters Guild  
10 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GH I & II  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. GKC Parent Board – Innovation Lab  
12 – 8:30 a.m. – noon Men's Work Group – Breakfast, Fellowship, and Church Projects  
1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Private Event  
13 – 10:30 a.m. New Member Class with Pastor Mike, Gathering Hall  
3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Food Pantry Volunteers – Compassion Training – GH  
14 – 10:00 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel – Sanctuary  
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café  
15 – 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting  
20 – 10:15 a.m. Budget Meeting, Grace Hall I  
3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Food Pantry Volunteers – Compassion Training – GH  
21 – Church Office Closed  
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Girl Scouts room 301  
24 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GH I & II  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group  
27 – 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation, followed by a meal  
3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Food Pantry Volunteers – Compassion Training – GH  
28 – 10:00 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel – Sanctuary  
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café

#### **February**

1 – 1:00 p.m. Iowa Farmer's Market Association – set up  
2 – 1:00 p.m. Iowa Farmer's Market Association Workshop



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

Families struggling without access to mental healthcare. Human services providers overworked and underpaid. Former refugees striving to build new lives. These are all issues faced by Iowans. Join us to make sure they are heard at the Iowa State Capitol.

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 Tuesday, February 19. 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 [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).*

### **Building a New Home**

After spending almost 20 years in a refugee camp in Nepal, Narayan and Chandra are grateful for the life they have built for their family with support from LSI's Refugee Community Services. After marrying in the camp, Narayan and Chandra resettled to Des Moines in 2009. Everything was new. Everything was different. Their child, Aaman, was a newborn, and they found themselves overwhelmed with medical bills. Chandra desperately wanted to pursue her medical career. At the time, it seemed impossible.

But LSI helped Chandra enroll in college classes. Narayan started volunteering at LSI as an interpreter. Later, he became a full-time case manager with LSI, where he continues to lift up former refugees by connecting them to resources, educational activities, and supporting them as they pursue citizenship.

"LSI supported me and allowed me to provide for my family. It helped us establish ourselves in Iowa," he says.

Chandra now works as a lab assistant in an Iowa pediatric clinic. Narayan and Chandra have become homeowners and feel confident, independent, and established in their new community.

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

#### **January**

Hot Cereals: Oatmeal, Grits, Cream of Wheat, Malt O Meal.

Culturally Appropriate Foods: White Corn Meal.

Or check out the list of most needed items <https://www.dmarcunited.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Most-Needed-Items.pdf>





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

January 6: Time for Fellowship

January 13: Presentation on Frontotemporal Degeneration.

Have You Ever Heard Of Frontotemporal Degeneration? If Not, Join Us To Find Out  
Please join us as we welcome Deborah Dolan, a former geriatric care manager, share details about Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD), which is known as the most common cause of dementia of those under 60. Deborah's experience with FTD became very personal as her husband, Todd, was diagnosed with FTD at the age of 59. After his 11 year journey with FTD and his subsequent death in 2017, Deborah's mission has been to build awareness about this disease. Deborah now dedicates time as a volunteer for The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration and the Alzheimer's Association. Deborah will provide an overview of FTD disorders; outline the need for specialized approaches to treatment and care of those diagnosed with an FTD disorder; and share resources for professionals, families and persons diagnosed.

January 20: Budget Meeting

Hear from the Finance Committee, review the budget, bring your questions!

January 27: Annual Meeting



**New Member Class** If you are interested in learning more about what it means to be a member of Grace, join Pastor Mike in the Gathering Hall on Sunday, January 13, at 10:30. If you are interested, contact the office at 515-276-6873. Or just show up!

**If these dates don't work for you, pencil in one of these dates:**

Sunday, March 3 at 10:30 a.m. or Sunday, May 5 at 10:30 a.m.



### **Concert at Grace in February!**

Don't miss the the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra and the Gustavus Jazz Ensemble perform at Grace! They will present a concert here as a part of their regional tour on **Saturday, February 9 at 2:30pm**. More details to come!



### **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 January 17 meeting: All Church Dinner with Sandy Host, Iowa Rural Schools. Please contact David Beard (515-419-1191, dbeard48@gmail.com) a few days ahead of your attendance to assure we have sufficient meal items.



### **Women of Grace-**

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. The group does not meet in January or February. They will meet again on Thursday, March 28, at 9:30 a.m. All women of Grace are always welcome to join.



### **Altar Flower Sign-up**

Thanks to all who sponsored weekly altar flowers, Easter lilies and poinsettias in 2018. The sign-up chart for 2019 will be posted on the bulletin board across from the office soon.

The cost will remain at \$38, and you are invited to take your flowers home after worship. We'll also have an online sign-up site available in 2019. And regardless of how you sign up, you can pay using whatever way is most convenient for you – online giving site, check or cash.



## 2019 Budget

These last 91 years of ministry at Grace Lutheran Church have all happened because of the continuum of saints that picked up the baton and ran with it. It all started as an outreach post on the outskirts of Des Moines and has boldly proclaimed the Good News of Christ Jesus in a variety of ways ever since. In order to keep these ministries going, we need the support of time, talents, and treasures. As we prepare our budget for 2019, we are currently around \$30,000 short of the fully funding the work we feel called to do. Please consider either a one-time gift, a pledge, or an increased pledge for 2019. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

## New in the Library

The Next Person You Meet in Heaven  
by Mitch Albom

A sequel to The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus  
by Nabeel Qureshi

A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity

It's Your World, by Chelsea Clinton  
In addition to informing and inspiring readers, this book encourages everyone to get going with lots of suggestions and ideas for action.

Invisible Thread Christmas Story  
by Laura Schroff & Alex Tresniowski  
The unlikely tale of a young woman working in the city and a young boy in desperate need of friendship and guidance. They discover the magic of Christmas and how one small random act of kindness can truly change a life.

Brown Girl Dreaming  
by Jacqueline Woodson  
The author tells the story of her life – a book full of poems that cry out to be learned by heart.

Little David's Brave Day  
by Crystal Bowman  
A fictional easy reader for children

The Twelve Days of Christmas in Iowa  
by Sue F. Cornelison  
A very colorful children's book which adults will enjoy too.

Look for these and other wonderful books in the church library.



## Thank You!

Thank you to Lydia & Martha Circle for the bag of goodies & Poinsettia which is beautiful. I have been a member of Grace for over 60 years and it is very nice to be remembered. Thank you. Frances Best

We want to thank you for the beautiful Poinsettia and other nice treats we received from the church. Merry Christmas to all! Leanne Davis & LaRue Buihner

Dear Grace Lutheran Family,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia and bag of gifts. So nice that you thought of me. Also Thank you for bringing them to me and sitting and talking a bit. Take Care. Merry Christmas! Bonnie Swanson

Dear Members of Grace,  
Thank you so much for the lovely poinsettia and bag of goodies. I appreciate everyone at Grace for the warmth and care you have given me. Martha Martens

Grace Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for the poinsettia and other gift items. Looking forward to the ministry starting this Thursday here at Calvin. Holiday Blessings to all. Marv Simonsen

Grace Lutheran Church  
Thank you so much for the beautiful Poinsettia Plant. I enjoyed the little things the children made. They were so cute. Also for the hand cream, the Lutheran calendar, and the Christ in our Home. Also thanks to Cheryl Weatherington for coming to give me communion. She is so sweet. I really appreciate all you do for me. Thanks again. Rosella Dingman