

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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## State of Grace

This last Sunday as we gathered for worship and our Annual Meeting, we spent time looking at the State of the Church. As the people of God at Grace Lutheran Church, we find ourselves trending with most other communities of faith in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This church body has seen a pronounced decline since the early 1990s. There are fewer members and a diminished average attendance. We have seen these same trends.

As I reflect on the worship and Annual Meeting I find myself thinking about the difference between the State of the Church and the State of Grace. As a church we are facing difficulties. The next months and years are vital as we look to paving a different future than the recent past we have known. The State of the Church paints a tough picture.

When I look at the State of Grace, I see something completely different. The grace of God is what the world needs. That which we live week in and week out, that grace that allows us to gather in community, share in the meal together, eat two different half donuts over a cup of coffee or tea, that grace of God made known most fully as we gather together in the name of Christ, that is the very thing that the world needs! Our world continues to be more divided. Yet, the grace of God is there, waiting to be known and shared.

When I look at the world through that lens, I see a different picture. This isn't a picture of a church struggling to stay relevant, or even alive. I see the possibility of a movement that could change the world. I see the possibility of a place where all feel invited to the same table, sharing the same good news of life and forgiveness, indeed grace, because of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. I see a future where we are no longer bound by numbers as the sign of vitality in a community of faith, but instead we see a river of grace bursting forth from headwaters at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Urbandale, flowing out into the world.

It is easy to look at the statistics and feel overwhelmed. I do that sometimes too. When I take a step back and look around, I see God active in the world in so many subtle yet profound ways. I see it in the friendships and relationships that are built here. I see it as we gather in worship together. I see it in the questions that burst forth. I even see it in the conversations and sentiments of frustration voiced during the budget forum. We are so blessed to have so many people who care deeply about God's ministry at Grace Lutheran Church.

God meets us here in this place. As we gathered together in Annual Meeting looking at statistics and financials, with questions about our future, God meets us there.

*Continued page 2*

## 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
- 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-Schmidt
- 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 - Gayle Olson
- 27 - Jerry Westercamp
- 28 - Dana Johnson



## Pastor Mike's message continued from page 1

God meets us in those places of fear and whispers those words of grace..."you are my beloved." Listen to that calm voice of God. Know the State of Grace...the grace of God, is as strong as it has ever been, carrying the church, carrying the whole world, on its shoulders. The future is in God's hands. Let's see how we can join the movement of God's grace and allow a river to spring forth!

Pastor Mike

## 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



## Our Sympathies are with:

The Family of Achmed "Larry" Johnson

The Family of Lolita Huth



## Weather Policy Reminder

Hopefully we are finished with weather related closings for the winter! However, please be aware that weather related policies are currently being reviewed. If in doubt, please put your safety first. Check the local news closing lists, or call ahead before venturing out.

**Grace Kids Care** families and staff will be notified of closings and delays through Kangaroo Time and email.

**The Grace Staff Office** may or may not be open. Individual staff will travel only if it is safe to do so from their respective neighborhoods, and considering their own childcare needs during school closings. Please call ahead if you are unsure.

**Scheduled meetings and events at Grace:** You can choose to hold your meeting if you deem it safe for your attendees to travel. Communicate and we will make sure the building is open. Leaders may choose to cancel due to the safety of their members even if the church has not closed – please be in contact with your group, and make sure your group has updated contact information for you.



**Mary Edwards, Grace Kids Care Director**

Hello,

My name is Mary Edwards and I am the incoming Director for Grace Kids Care. I will be starting this role on January 28th. I am so excited to get to know the kids, parents, and staff at GKC! I know we can work together to ensure we are providing the best learning and growing environment for our kids.



I graduated from the University of Iowa with a BA in elementary education, with emphases in reading and music. Since moving to Des Moines in 2011 I have had a variety of teaching experiences, from teaching elementary music in Des Moines, to working in preschool in Urbandale, to spending a summer with the Polk County Conservation Youth Corps. I have spent the past 3.5 years as a special education/severe and profound associate with the Johnston Community School District. I am excited to use what I've learned in these roles to help GKC continue to grow!

My hobbies include spending as much time as possible outdoors, reading, and playing with my daughter Addie, who is currently in the Tiny Tot room at GKC. I have also spent many volunteer hours at my church and with Camp Heart Connection, a summer camp for pediatric oncology patients and their siblings. I have always had a passion for working with children and I am thrilled to continue my career with Grace Kids Care!

These are just a few details about me. I can't wait to get to know you and your children on an individual basis. I have a very open communication style, so please feel comfortable reaching out to me with any questions or concerns about Grace Kids Care or your child's needs!

I can't wait to meet you!  
Mary



**Register for Lutheran Day on the Hill, Tuesday, February 19**

Children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and families facing hunger and poverty don't have high-paid lobbyists to deliver their message. They only have you. You are the most powerful lobbyist for your community, and your voice is important. Elected officials want to hear from you because it helps them understand how public policy affects people in your local area.

**If you plan to attend, we encourage you to contact your legislator in advance and set up a specific meeting time to better your chances of being able to speak with him or her.**

- 9:00 – 11:15 a.m. Registration, Advocacy training, break-out sessions, and keynote address by Mikka McCracken, Director, Planning and Engagement, ELCA World Hunger
  - 11:45 a.m. – Direct advocacy with legislators
- Register and find links to detailed schedules and your legislators at the LSI Advocate web page. <https://lsiowa.org/get-involved/advocate/>

## **Minutes of the Congregational Council Meeting Grace Lutheran Church, December 18, 2018**

**The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bruce Bergman at 5:12 PM**, with the following council members in attendance: Bruce Bergman, Don Peterson, Barb Zimany, Pastor Schmidt, Tammy Denton, Sally Preston, Cheryl Weatherington, Carter Woodruff, Aaron Brandsfield, and Dean Watson. Kevin Krause was also present to discuss budget planning for 2019.

Don Peterson volunteered to serve as acting secretary in Dave Gronert's absence.

Pastor Mike led us in devotions with some thoughts from his Bible study that morning. Condensed thoughts: "Keep with the Faith", "Finish the Race", "It's YOUR turn", "These people went before", "Others are cheering you on now".

**It was moved, seconded, and passed** to adopt the agenda.

**It was moved, seconded, and passed** to accept the minutes of the November 27, 2018 meeting as corrected, with the correction being the date of the Annual meeting, which will be January 27, 2019.

### **Property Committee Report:**

- Renovation work has been completed in the West Entry, Gathering Hall and Sanctuary.
- Continued work is needed in Msindo. Wall repairs were completed by Trinity Construction and the rooms are ready for painting.
- The lift that was generously donated by Aaron Brandsfield's mother has been moved to the church and will be stored in Msindo Hall until a platform is constructed and it can be installed adjacent to the new platform.

### **Malmin Fund Report:**

- Invoices that have been received from Mindi Dickinson totaled approximately \$6,400 more than the \$110,000 approved by the Council for the renovation work. The latest invoice was being held, pending a decision as to what account the additional funds would be charged. After a short discussion, there was a motion to increase the original approved amount to be paid from the Malmin Fund from \$110,000 to \$118.00. This motion passed.

### **Presentation by Kevin Krause for the Finance Committee regarding 2019 budget.**

- Expected budget shortfall for 2018 was discussed, as well as to whether the Council would present a budget at the annual meeting that would call for a balanced budget or budget shortfall for 2019. After considerable discussion, the Council decided to hold a special Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 8 2019 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of hearing the report of the Finance Committee regarding year-end figures for 2018 and their recommendations for the 2019 budget. Discussion will ensue, after which a proposed budget will be adopted by Council for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The Grace Operating Budget and the Budget for Grace Kids Care for 2019 will be the sole subject of this special meeting of the Council.

### **Nominating Committee Report on nominees for 2019 Congregation Council membership:**

Dave Gronert, Sally Preston and John Rhoerick have all graciously agreed to run for an additional three year term. Another nominee will be sought to fill the other position.

### **General Questions/New Business:**

Dean Watson asked about how recently we have had a review of our insurance policies and what we have considered in the way of additional funding for our Property Reserve account. This will be referred to the Finance and Property Committees for consideration and appropriate action.

### **Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM**

- **Next Council Meeting: Special Meeting on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. No meal.**
- **Date and time of the next regular council meeting will be determined by the new Council following the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Don Peterson  
Acting Council Secretary for 12/18/2018 meeting**



### Endowment Applications

Funds for approved applications will be awarded by March 31, 2019.



### Annual Report

The 2018 Annual Report can be found on the Grace webpage at [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org), Resources section, under Reports. Printed copies with financial information are available in the office or upon request. Call 515-276-6873 to receive a copy.

### Emergency Preparedness Reminder

In 2016, Grace's Emergency Preparedness Task Force created an emergency action plan for a variety of emergency situations. We encourage you to look through the materials because **familiarity with them before an emergency actually occurs** will make you more equipped to handle a situation in the heat of the moment.



There is an AED located outside the Grace Staff Office, along with a Sharps container for the disposal of needles.

Information and first aid kits are available in various parts of the building, including:

- Just outside the Grace staff office
- In the Gathering Hall behind the kitchenette
- In the kitchen
- Msindo café just outside the Music room
- The gym hallway area, across from the Youth rooms.

The resources in these areas include:

- First aid kit and booklet
- General first aid guidelines and reminders
- Map with exits and tornado safe rooms marked
- Church name, address, phone number
- Emergency phone numbers
- Bomb threat phone checklist
- Incident report forms
- Procedures for dangerous/intoxicated adult, missing/abducted child, active shooter, robbery, fire, severe weather/natural disaster, gas odor/leak

### Soup Suppers!

Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday on March 6, 2019, so it's time to begin thinking about Soup Suppers!

Wednesday worship in Lent will be at 6:30, with soup suppers running from 5-6:15 p.m.

We're looking for groups to sign up (or work together) to provide a soup supper for the following dates:

March 6, 13, 20, 27

April 3 and 10

Call the office, or look for signup on the bulletin board in early February. Thank you!

Soup  
Supper



**Spring Youth Ministry**  
Contact [ellen@gracedm.org](mailto:ellen@gracedm.org)

Over this past weekend I attended the ELCA Extravaganza Children Youth and Family continuing education conference. This a time of renewal and a chance to connect with others who work with the children and youth of our church. We all bring our worries, cares and concerns hoping to hear a word of hope and truth from a speaker, preacher or peer. We find community in the shared burdens and joys of what it means to serve in this ministry of faith formation.

One common theme that is heard from most faith communities is lower numbers and busy families. There were a lot of ideas and suggestions on how to adapt to this reality. Some we have tried here at Grace and have been successful, such as implementing a mentor program with our eighth grade students. Others, like posting a youth event calendar where Grace members can see, pray for and attend the things our youth are involved in when they are away from this place, we tried and were not successful. But even the ways in which we define success in youth and family ministry are changing. Is success measured in numbers or transformation? How many opportunities are offered, or the depth of connection and conversation reached when youth and adults gather.

Quantity vs quality.

Quantity is easier to measure, but quality does the work of transformation.

Grace Lutheran Church has the vision of guiding people to live differently through Christ. This means doing the work of transformation by offering quality faith experiences. This can be a tricky business because there is no one size fits all solution, what is meaningful for one may not be for another. That means we offer variety, are adaptive and above all listen. Listen to the spoken and unspoken desires and concerns of our young people.

You know that saying “it takes a village to raise a child”? We are that village. It takes all of us to make young people feel welcome and connected to this faith community so that they are comfortable enough to take a risk and be vulnerable. Vulnerability is when growth happens. Growth is the Holy Spirit at work in us and that is what I pray our youth and families will come to expect as a part of their experience at Grace.

Ellen Rothweiler  
Minister for Youth and Family

A big thank you to those of you who were able to attend our fundraising meeting here at Grace. We had a great conversation and decisions were made. All funds collected go toward Youth trips, including the 2021 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. A recap and dates:

February 10	Cinnamon Roll Sunday
March	Plant Sale forms available
May 2 and 3	Garage sale donations and sorting (Grace Hall I and II): Donations will now be accepted on Thursday and Friday prior to the sale. The congregation will be asked to help sort the items they bring if they are physically able.
May 4	Garage and Plant Sale

**Active Grace**

Our eight week Active Grace Service Learning unit on the topic of **Friendship** continues, 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 about exploring what it means to be a good friend and how we can share the love and joy of friendship with the world.

**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**

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  
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, February 9  
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, February 16, 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. Meeting at Grace on the first and third Thursdays in January. Contact <https://lsiowa.org>

**February Calendar**

- 1 – 1:00 p.m. Iowa Farmer's Market Association – set up, GH & Cafe
- 2 – 1:00 p.m. Iowa Farmer's Market Association Workshop, GH & Cafe
- 3 – Hope Ministries Souper Bowl collection ends
- 4 – 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
- 7 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GH I & II
- 9 – 8:30 a.m. – noon Men's Work Group – Breakfast, Fellowship, and Church Projects  
Morning: kitchen – prep for lunch  
2:30 p.m. Gustavus Symphony Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble, Sanctuary, Gathering Hall, Grace Hall  
Evening – cinnamon roll prep
- 10 – Cinnamon Roll Sunday



- 11 – 10:00 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel – Sanctuary  
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 12 – 6:00 p.m. Executive Meeting
- 14 - 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group, GHII
- 17 – 2:00 p.m. Mid-Iowa Cactus and Succulent Society, Cafe
- 18 – 4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Girl Scouts room 301
- 19 – Lutheran Day on the Hill
- 21 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GH I & II  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. GKC Parent Board, Innovation Lab
- 25 – 10:00 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel – Sanctuary  
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 26 – 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting, Grace Hall
- 27 - 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group, GHII

**March Newsletter submissions:** February 20



## 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. You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto: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](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### Helping Kids Thrive

When Kari, a little girl they knew through church, was in need of a foster home, Stacie and Blake decided to step up.

The couple became licensed as foster and adoptive parents, and Stacie says it's been a rewarding experience ever since. With LSI Foster Care and Adoption in their corner, ready to provide support, guidance, or even just a listening ear, Stacie and Blake lift up children in their community through foster care.

After caring for Kari as foster parents, the opportunity came to adopt her. Now 10, Kari is an amazing big sister. The family has fostered and adopted a son, 3-year-old Silas, and they recently welcomed their biological son, 1-year-old Jett, into the family.

Stacie and Blake continue to foster children in need of a safe and supportive home, and Stacie says they hope to adopt again in the future.

"When you become a foster or adoptive parent, yes, you're helping children. But at the same time, you learn about yourself and you learn more about the world around you," Stacie says. "Foster care is an experience that is indescribable and life-changing."

### DMARC Donation of the Month

#### February

**Healthy Canned foods:** beans, fruits, vegetables especially those low in salt, sugar, or fat.

**Culturally appropriate options:** Jackfruit, and banana blossoms.





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

- February 3: Fellowship Time
- February 10: Rob Bell Video and Discussion. We all get angry at times. In fact, even Jesus got angry. How we express that anger and what we do with that anger is important. Join us as we watch a video by Rob Bell, a well known author, speaker and former pastor. He will help us better understand our anger and how we can channel it into something that is constructive.
- February 17: Member Care Presentation. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the many ways our Member Care team helps with the many needs of our members.
- February 24: Thrivent Presentation (Lon Friesth and R.J. Rademacher)  
Details to be published in future enews and Sunday announcements.



**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, March 3, at 10:30. Contact the office at 515-276-6873 to let us know you'll be there. Or just show up! There will be one more class offered this spring, **on** Sunday, May 5 at 10:30 a.m.



### **Gustavus Jazz and Orchestra Performances at Grace**

The Gustavus Symphony Orchestra and the Gustavus Jazz Ensemble are performing at Grace Lutheran Church on Saturday, February 9th at 2:30 p.m. This concert is part of their Midwest tour, beginning in South Dakota and traveling through Colorado, Nebraska, and Iowa. Admission is free; no ticket required. A freewill donation will be taken during the performance.

The Gustavus Symphony Orchestra and Gustavus Jazz Ensemble have a rich history of touring and performing together, both domestically and internationally. Each ensemble will perform its own repertoire, but also combine to form a studio orchestra, creating a unique musical experience for the audience. Musical selections range from classic jazz and orchestral works to newer pieces by current composers. Previously, the groups have traveled to the British Isles, the People's Republic of China, South Africa, and Greece and Macedonia. Their next tour is to Singapore and Malaysia in January of 2020.

Located in Saint Peter, Minnesota, Gustavus Adolphus College is a private, coeducational, liberal arts college affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. More than one-third of all Gustavus students participate in the music program, with three choirs, two wind orchestras, two symphony orchestras, two jazz ensembles, and numerous chamber ensembles that total over 30 musical ensembles on campus.



### **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. The March 5 meeting is Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Please contact David Beard (515-419-1191, dbeard48@gmail.com) a few days ahead of your attendance to assure we have sufficient meal items.



### **The Men's Work Group**

invites you to join them Saturday, February 9 for a morning of breakfast, fellowship, devotional study, and work around the church. Come hungry and bring your tools! They meet every second Saturday of the month, - beginning in the kitchen, of course - from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

### **NEW! Library time for Active Grace students**

The Grace library is packed full of wonderful books for our youth. We value its use and think taking the children into the library each month is a rewarding opportunity to take home and read Christian literature. Books in the library are selected for their support of Christian teaching.

Some housekeeping about the library. Books are checked out for one month. Please be sure to write first and last names on the check-out card as well as a phone number (remember check out cards?! The library still uses them so please take time to complete them.)

Active Grace will next visit the library on February 24. During the last 10 minutes of Active Grace, the children will be brought into the library and given time to look through books and make a selection. Adults will be available to show children around the library and help them make selections. Parents will pick children up in the library (across from the office on the second floor). They will be able to check out more than one book if parents help them. Otherwise, we'll keep it to one.

There will be reminders to pick up children in the library on February 24 in the E News and also prior to the March and April Visits. If your child checked out a book in January, this is a good day to return it if you haven't already.

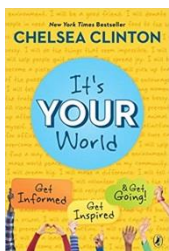


Recent books added to our library for kids:

“Brown Girl Dreaming” by Jacqueline Woodson



“An Invisible Thread Christmas Story”



It's Your World: Get Informed, Get Inspired and Get Going” by Chelsea Clinton

### **Thank You!**

My thanks to Grace for the poinsettia plant and gifts. The beautiful plant brightened my days and reminded me of our many church friends.  
Don Moon

Thank you so much for remembering me this Christmas. I enjoyed the pleasant visit with my callers. I was happy to receive the beautiful poinsettia and the gifts that were included in the package. Most of all I was very happy to be at Grace for the wonderful warm and inspiring Christmas Eve Service and the lovely Christmas tree wonderland.  
In Christ, Joanne Johnson

Dear Friends at Grace, This is an added note of thanks to you; I am so appreciative of receiving the Large Print Devotionals which I read daily. I am enjoying my beautiful poinsettias and my special quilt with the prayers you offered for my health and healing as you tied the knots on it. May God continue to bless and guide you. You are my beloved community in Christ.  
Joanne Johnson

Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettias and lovely bag with so many nice useful things. I appreciate being remembered.  
Virginia Naney

This is written to express my sincere appreciation for the very nice gift assortment that I received from Grace Lutheran Church. I am currently enjoying the beautiful poinsettia plant. The daily devotions will serve throughout the year. Sunday school children made enjoyable holiday ornaments. Thank you to the Member Care Committee, the Ladies Circles, and any others who contributed to this project!  
Richard E. Johansen

On behalf of Contemplative Outreach of Central Iowa, I'd like to extend heartfelt thanks to Grace Lutheran for allowing us to enjoy the space at the church for our silent advent retreat morning on Saturday 8 December. We appreciate your hospitality! Warm seasons greetings,  
Cheri Grauer, Co-coordinator  
Contemplative Outreach of Central Iowa