



**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.

Ash Wednesday

1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. worship.

Lenten Schedule page 2

Office Hours

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday, closed Friday

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Why?

Have you ever wondered why? Of course! We all do at times. It even seems to be a phase in childhood. It brings countless conversations with my daughters. They would go something like this:

"Why does an octopus have eight tentacles?"

"Because if it had seven it would be a septapus."

"Why?" "Because septa means seven."

"Why?" "Because that is the word they used when creating the language."

"Why?" "I don't know."

"Why?" "I have never thought to look it up."

"Why?" "Because it is not the type of thing I think about."

"Why?" "Because I am not as creative as you."

"Why?" (and this goes on for a while....)

We all have "why" questions. It is part of life. So *why then* do we think we should not have questions when it comes to faith? Why did this happen? Why is there suffering? There are so many things that we do not understand. We are called to live by grace through faith, that doesn't answer the many "why" questions. It is completely normal to have such questions, to wrestle with faith. So, if you have such questions, you are in the right place.

This Lent and Easter we are going to be diving into such questions in our time together as we gather in worship. The sermon each Sunday will take up different questions. If you have such questions, this is the place for you. If you know someone with questions on her/his mind, it is the right place for them too. Together we will walk through the murky waters of "why."

March 3 – Why do we worship?

March 6 (Ash Wednesday) – Why go to church?

March 10 – Why pray?

March 17 – Why is suffering in the world?

March 24 – Why do bad things happen?

March 31 – Guest Preacher, Jon Fry

April 7 – Why give?

April 14 – Why hope?

April 18 (Maundy Thursday) – Why serve?

Pastor Mike's front page continued on page 2

Happy March Birthday

- 1 - Kristen Bockenstedt
Rebecca Sonius
- 2 - Donald York
- 3 - Matthew Heid
Renee Mulvihill
Victoria Meillier
- 4 - Kimberley Carballo
- 5 - Dane Christiansen
Brent Culp
Katherine Scholl
- 6 - Pressly Reha
- 7 - La Vonne Mitchell
- 8 - Jack Chenoweth
- 10 - Patty Flannery
Nadine Garcia
- 11 - Tammy Hagerty
- 12 - Rachael Bigg
Andrew Keller
- 13 - Lathrop Preston
Hilary Woodhouse
Kyler Andersen
- 14 - Sally Niffenegger
- 15 - Lydia McCleary
Rachel Highland
Ann Warren
Phoebe Volius
- 17 - Kathy Bowermaster
Beth Flannery
Lisa Friesth
Benjamin Honsey
Melissa Swanson
Tayah Traver
- 18 - Emma Ashton
Joann Jensen
Tom Selander
- 19 - Haley Turner
Diane Westercamp
- 20 - Karen Taylor
- 21 - Angela Allen
Susan Miller
- 22 - Louie Anderson
- 23 - Rick Harmon
- 24 - Beau Brindley
Mary Jo McCleary
- 25 - Laura Gebauer
- 26 - Ryan Nordeen
- 27 - Sierra Carney
Zara Preston
- 28 - Alexson Calahan



March Birthdays continued

- 28 - Charles Reynolds
- 29 - Chadrick Allen
Sharon Schwemler
- 30 - Curtis Chenoweth
Kristin Medhurst
- 31 - Daniel Gutmann
Joan Pritchard
Amy Ziska

Happy March Anniversary

- 15 - Sonny and Kristina Hutton
- 17 - Gus and Kari Berven
- 20 - Edward and Jane Ridnour
- 24 - Randy and Karen Taylor



Our Sympathies are with:

The family of Cindy Wheeler

The Family of LeRoi Beers



Pastor Mike's front page, continued

April 21 (Easter Sunday) – Why change?
April 28 – Why peace?
May 5 – Why follow Christ?
May 12 – Why believe?
May 19 – Why love?



Ash Wednesday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Willing Workers
1:00 p.m. Worship: Ash Wednesday
5:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper - Grace Hall
6:30 p.m. Worship: Ash Wednesday
NO Chancel Choir rehearsal



Wednesday Schedule March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10

9:00 a.m. Willing Workers
5:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper - Grace Hall
6:15 p.m. Hymn Sing, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Worship with Holden Evening Prayer and Lenten Portrayals
7:00 p.m. Confirmation discussion in room 302
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsals, music room. Sing with us for the season and/or Easter!

Grace Kids Care is hiring two Full Time Teachers! Contact Mary@gracedm.org for information.
Grace Kids Care Center now has a [wishlist on Amazon](#), for people looking for ways to donate. You can order from home and the items will be shipped directly to Grace Kids Care. Here's the link! <http://a.co/8Skpdtf>

SPOT-LIGHT ON...

Grace Lutheran Church Council

Bruce Bergman is a Des Moines native and resident most of his life. He is married to Barb, and they have sons Jon and Adam and 4 grandchildren. He has been a member of Grace Lutheran Church for more than 50 years. Now retired, Bruce practiced law for more than 40 years, and served 15 years as the Des Moines City Attorney. He was first elected to the Church Council in January of 2017.



Aaron Brandsfield has been a member of Grace for more than 13 years. He has been married to Karri for 18 years. They have two daughters. Courtney is 18 and will be attending Grand View University in the fall; Kiley is 14 and attends Woodward-Granger Middle School. He owns two businesses. He has been a financial advisor for over 10 years and he is also an accountant/tax preparer. At Grace he, along with Carter Woodruff and Eric Weber, started the Saturday Men's group, he has served on the audit committee, been an usher and a communion assistant. Also, for the past few years, he has been helping in the high school room.

Susanne Carney: I have been a member of Grace since 1993 with my wonderful husband Mike and we were married there in May. We have been blessed with 3 amazing children – McKenzie, Sierra, and Drake who were all baptized and confirmed at Grace. We enjoy our attending worship at Grace together along with other opportunities. Over the years I have taught Sunday school 20 years or more and spent most of my time at Grace helping with youth programs/opportunities. I'm currently involved with the wellness committee and try to help with services where needed. Our family has so many special memories through the years at Grace and continue to be blessed by its mission, members and opportunities. I'm honored to be a part of the congregation and council.



Tammy Denton: Chuck and I have been members of Grace for 30 years and have a son, Gary (25) and daughter, Leslie (21). I have been involved in several committees, assisted with various events at church, taught Sunday School, and accompanied our teens at the National Youth Gathering in 2009. I am an Analytics and Compliance Officer for U.S. Bank and enjoy cooking, baking, cycling, and spending time with family and friends.

Dave Gronert: My family joined Grace Lutheran back when it consisted of just the original brick building. I was baptized here in 1952, and confirmed here May 21st, 1961, by Pastor Clyde L. Norgaard. Grace has always been my spiritual home. After serving in the Army 1967-1970 and then graduating the University of Iowa, my wife Joie and I returned to Des Moines to raise our family. Our two daughters (Melissa and Cindy) were also baptized and confirmed here at Grace Lutheran. During the 1970's and 1980's I operated an electronics service business, specializing in computer mainframe repair, two-way radio, and broadcast radio engineering. In 1990 I became a certified teacher and taught electronics, engineering, and robotics at Central Campus, retiring in 2010. While times have changed and we don't necessarily do things "the way we used to", the church has NEVER lost sight of its mission to spread the Good News of the Gospel. It is an honor to serve the dedicated staff and congregation of this church as we continue our journey into the future.



Don Peterson has been a member of Grace for nearly 70 years, having first attended from about the age of 3. He has served on a number of committees, served on the Congregation Council for three terms in the 1990's and is will complete another 3 year term in 2020. He is currently the chair of the Property Committee and chair of the Marvin Malmin Fund Task Force. Don is the owner of Peterson Engineers, a structural engineering consulting firm that his late father, Carlyle Peterson founded in 1952. Don married Gail in San Diego in 1971, while serving in the Navy and they have three grown children and seven great-grandchildren. Don enjoys following Cyclone sports and playing golf.

Meet Grace Lutheran Church Council

Sallyanne Preston is the granddaughter of two ELCA pastors and has been a member of Grace Lutheran Church for 22 years. She is in her 19th year of teaching music at the Bondurant-Farrar School District. Her favorite thing to do is to spend time with her family, her husband Lathrop and their three daughters Laria, Charla and Zara. This is her first year as a member of the church council.

John Roehrick has been a member of Grace for two score and twelve years. He is an attorney in private practice and served on the Church council over several terms throughout his membership. He has taught several classes in both youth and adult education as well as confirmation classes over the years.



Dean Watson: I grew up in Urbandale and graduated from Urbandale High in 1972. I worked for HyVee Inc. for 35 years, retiring as a store director. My family includes three sons, and five grandkids, three boys and two girls. Cathy (Barks) and I were married in July 2017. I enjoy sports, am a Yankee fan, love to play golf and read. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Grace Lutheran Church.

Cheryl Weatherington

Albert City, Iowa is my hometown where my family attended Our Savior's Lutheran church. I attended Iowa Lutheran School of Nursing & married Ernie who has been a Grace member since 1939. We have 3 children, Mark, Matt & Nicki who all live out of state. In 2015 I retired after a Nursing career of 40 years. I have been a member of Grace Lutheran Church since 1965 & taught Sunday Church School 2 years, served on altar guild 1 year and church council 3 years. Currently I volunteer with First Circle Friends, Visiting Friends of Grace, and am finishing my first term on Council. Email: mnmweather@msn.com



Carter Woodruff

I was born and raised in Wellington Alabama. I attended Luther College in Decorah Iowa from 1980-1984, where I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and African American Studies. I met my wife, Carol at Luther in 1980. Carol and I were married at Grace Lutheran Church on May 15, 1985. I became a member shortly after our marriage. We have been members for 33 years. We have three children, Dmitri, Emily and Bailey who were all baptized as members of Grace. I have served on many committees throughout the years; Council, stewardship, re-visioning and have served as a high school Sunday school teacher. Last year I served as an OWL (our whole lives) facilitator with Ellen Rothweiler. Currently, I serve as a counter, usher and am involved in mens group. I have been employed at Des Moines Water Works for 27 years and have serve as the Supervisor of Operators for the past 5 of those years. I hold a Grade IV Water Treatment Operator License from the State of Iowa Department of Natural Resources. I received a certificate in labor and work life from the Kennedy Law School trade union program at Harvard University in 2005. Additionally, I served as Secretary/Treasurer for AFSCME council 61 from 2001-2005. I am proud to serve the members of Grace Lutheran Church.

Barbara Zimany

I have been a member of Grace for 13 years. I am a member of altar guild, and help with Lutheran World Relief. This is my sixth year on council.



Finance Report – January Results

Financial results for January YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$31,098, Budget \$32,950
- Other Income – Actual \$2,599, Budget \$2,375
- Expenses – Actual \$41,664, Budget \$39,231
- Net activity – Actual (\$7,966), Budget (\$3,996)
-

Actual net activity was unfavorable to budget primarily due to higher insurance and snow removal costs.



Join Grace Bells!

During the Lenten season, March 6-April 21, the handbell choir will meet weekly to rehearse and play once or twice in worship – on Easter Sunday for sure! If you are interested, please contact Emma at emma@gracedm.org. Rehearsal schedule will be adapted to players' availability, likely on Sunday mornings before worship. If you have never played handbells before but want to join the fun, never fear! Emma will meet with you briefly one-on-one to nail down the basics. See you in March!

LWR Spring Focus

Your Lutheran World Relief team is gearing up for Spring events in March and April. We plan to have quilting days during Lent for anyone who would like to help make very popular and essential quilt gifts for people in need around the world. You can be a cutter, layout designer, sewer, ironing or tying specialist, or quilt binder! An educational display and fundraising drive will run from March 24 to April 14. On April 14, Palm Sunday, there will be a multigenerational Active Grace event with many prayer activities. Kit and quilting can be meditative activities in which we can pray for God's work among people in need. We plan to make 200 Personal Care Kits during that event, and will have quilts to tie. Please join us in making a difference to our global neighbors.

Contributions can be directed toward the LWR project by placing a donation in the offering plate, sending one to the church office, or donating online through the church website--please put LWR on the comment line. For more information, please contact a team member: Barb Zimany, Beth Flannery, Cathy Watson, Gail Peterson, Helen Ringgenberg, Jessye Flannery, Kathy Piltingsrud, Lori Fry, Mary Jo McCleary.

Spring Art Show and Silent Auction

Ready for Spring? Need some color in your life?

Come see the Spring Art Show at Grace, featuring the work of Kay Barks.

When: Easter Sunday, April 21st through May 19th

Where: Gathering Hall



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 a 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 March 20, 27. Find the sign-up at the bulletin board, or call the office and we'll add your name to the list. Thank you!

Soup
Supper



Spring Youth Ministry
Contact ellen@gracedm.org

Youth Ministry During Lent-

The world we live in is full of uncertainty and while we can somewhat tolerate it in other parts of our life, uncertainty in our faith can be uncomfortable and even scary. In these times of questioning and doubt, the church is a good place to be. As youth wrestle with their faith in Confirmation and carry it into high school and everything that brings, the church needs to be a safe place open to hearing and honoring these questions.

Each Wednesday in Lent following worship youth and adult leaders will gather upstairs to check-in with each other and hear the joys and concerns we each bring with us. This is a time when we grow in community and friendship, offering a space where youth feel safe and loved.

On Sunday, March 31 from 11:00 -12:30 Pastor Mike and I are hosting a “Stump the Pastor” lunch. We are inviting youth in grades 6-12 and their families to come for lunch and bring their faith questions for open and honest discussion. Questions can be submitted anonymously in a question box that can be found in the library during the month of March, or e-mailed to me (ellen@gracedm.org) or Pastor Mike (mike@gracedm.org).

We welcome your prayers for the youth and families of Grace during this season of Lent.

Peace.

Ellen Rothweiler
Minister for Youth and Family

Active Grace -This is a time to celebrate the gift of friendship!

To mark the end of Active Grace Sunday School's eight week unit on friendship, there will be a fair in Grace Hall from 10-11 am this Sunday, March 3. BRING A FRIEND! (Are you new to Grace? This is a great time to stop by and check us out!)

- There will be lots to do, including-
- Assembling care kits for our friends who are homebound or in college
- Funny photo booth
- Prayer station
- Make friendship bracelets
- Grace library open house

So, bring your friend to worship then invite them to join you for our Friendship fair!
Active Grace will begin a Prayer Unit of Sunday, March 10. They will NOT meet on March 17 due to Spring Break.

Cinnamon Roll Thank You and March Plant Sale!

Almost \$700 was raised on Cinnamon Roll Sunday – thank you to all who helped from set-up to clean-up!

Plant Sale forms are now available – please pick up a few extra and share with family, neighbors, teachers, and friends! Orders and payment are due on Sunday, March 24. Orders will be available for pickup on Saturday, May 4 from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Every Week (not listed in calendar at right)

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship, 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

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, Innovation lab

Wednesdays beginning March 13

9:00 a.m. Willing Workers work & coffee time
5:00- 6:15 p.m. Soup Supper
6:15 p.m. Hymn Sing, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer with Lenten
Portrayals*
7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, rm 302
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room

***Lenten Portrayals:** A journey through the Old
Testament. Join us in Lent for Wednesday
Evening Holden Worship and Portrayals

March 13 – Eve
March 20 – Noah
March 27 – Deborah
April 3 – Delilah
April 10 – Hannah

Thursdays

6:30 p.m. Bible Study on James with Pastor
Mike
The book of James was written to encourage
Christians across the world to face up to the
challenge of faith. As we learn from James, we
seek to understand and obey the law of love
and to get to know Jesus himself. As that
happens, so the practice of humility, the love
and the prayer, the wisdom and the true speech
on which he has been insisting will become part
of our lives. When: Thursday evenings at 6:30
p.m. from March 7th through April 11th in Grace
Hall.

March Calendar

3 – Active Grace Friendship Fair, Grace Hall
4 – 10:00 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel –
Upper Room
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Girl Scouts room 301
5 – 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Local Election,
Gathering Hall
11:00 a.m. Office closes. Staff inservice offsite
6 – Ash Wednesday
1:00 p.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Soup Supper – all are invited
6:30 p.m. Worship
7 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GH
6:30 p.m. Bible Study on James Begins, GH
9 – Ellen and Youth Lakeside Retreat
8:30 a.m. – noon Men's Work Group –
Breakfast, Fellowship, and Church Projects
10 – Ellen and Youth Lakeside Retreat
Spring Ahead – move clocks one hour ahead
10:30 a.m. New Member Class, Innovation Lab
11 – 10:00 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel –
Upper Room
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
12 – 4:00 p.m. VBS meeting
6:00 p.m. Executive Meeting
14 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group, GHII
6:30 p.m. Bible Study on James, GH
15 – GKC Closed, Staff Inservice
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
21 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends,
GH I & II
6:30 p.m. Bible Study on James, GH

March Newsletter submissions due

25 – 10:00 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel –
Upper Room
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
26 – 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. GKC Teacher Conferences
Grace Hall
6:00 p.m. Council Meeting, Grace Hall
28 – 9:30 a.m. Martha/Lydia Circle – Grace Hall
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. GKC Teacher Conferences
Grace Hall
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group, GHII
31 – 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. "Stump Pastor and
Ellen" event with Youth. See page 6



Sunday, March 10 Spring Ahead!

We're moving the clocks forward an hour with hopes of SPRING!! Worship will remain at 9 a.m. If
you forget to change your clocks and come an hour late, we'll still be here at 10 with donuts,



March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we're grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our community!

Maybe you've never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you've had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves in overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Finding a Support System

Aubreigh knew something needed to change.

She was struggling with substance use and alcohol. She couldn't find a way to take care of her mental health. She was unable to provide a safe home for her son, who needed to move in with his dad. When she finally took a step in the right direction and found a home, all her belongings were stolen.

Through LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services, Aubreigh connected with her worker, Kelsy. Together, the duo is working on budgeting Aubreigh's money, finding a good job, and building a safe home environment for her son.

"I was in a bad situation, and I'm really thankful for LSI," she says. "Without them, who knows where I'd be."

Aubreigh now meets with Kelsy once a week and feels like she is finally on the right path after plenty of hard work. She is working with her son and his father to build a healthy co-parenting relationship, and she knows Kelsy will always be in her corner, ready to cheer her on.

"Kelsy has been an awesome resource. She helps if we have issues co-parenting, and we do a lot better now as a family," Aubreigh says. "If I have any problems, Kelsy is there."

DMARC Donation of the Month

March

Healthy Canned foods: Peanut Butter – No added sugar or salt preferred

Culturally appropriate options: Shelled Peanuts, raw and unsalted



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

March 3: Active Grace Friendship Fair. Fun for the entire community. Please see page 6 for more information

March 10: Fellowship Time

March 17, March 24, March 31, April 7: Compassion Series with Julie Honsey.

After two years of consultation with medical personnel, therapists, social workers and others in compassion-related professions, Servite Sisters Joyce Rupp and Margaret Stratman created the *Institute of Compassionate Presence* in 2008. They developed a workshop, *Boundless Compassion*, which they have presented nationally and internationally since 2009. The areas of focus for the workshop are: Compassion as a Way of Life, Compassion for Self, Compassion and Suffering, Compassion and Marginalization, and Compassion for Creation.

In 2018 they held 3 workshops across the country in which they provided facilitator training for people who had completed the 4-day *Boundless Compassion* workshop. In July of 2018 Julie Honsey completed the 6-day facilitator training at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Nebraska.

Julie has been working with two other facilitators leading workshops for Food Pantry volunteers on Compassion as a Way of Life, and Compassion and Marginalization. She will be presenting Compassion as a Way of Life, Compassion for Self, Compassion and Suffering, and Compassion and Marginalization.

March 17: Compassion as a Way of Life

The goal is that attendees would gain an understanding of the fundamental aspects of compassion and be inspired to live compassionately. *"We are always beginners in the art of compassion. Over and over you are asked to meet change, loss, injustice, and over and over you are asked to find the strength to open when you are most inclined to shut down."* –Christina Feldman

March 24: Compassion for Self

The goal is that attendees would recognize how one's attitude and approach to self affects the ability to be a compassionate presence with and for others. *"In your relationship to your pain and sorrow, you cultivate the patience, forgiveness, and understanding that inform your relationship with all pain and sorrow. It would be naïve to believe that profound compassion could be found to meet the great sorrow in life if you do not hold yourself in the same light."* –Christina Feldman

March 31: Compassion and Suffering

The goal is that attendees would recognize how personal beliefs about suffering significantly influence the motivation and practice of compassion. *"...I saw a river over which every soul must pass to reach the kingdom of heaven, and the name of that river was suffering...and I saw the boat which carries souls across the river, and the name of that boat was love."* –St. John of the Cross

April 7: Compassion and Marginalization

The goal is that attendees would recognize the sources and dynamics of marginalization and deepen their compassion for those who suffer near and far. *"One of the most powerful experiences in a life of compassion is the expansion of our hearts into a world-embracing space of healing from which no one is excluded."* –Henri Nouwen, Donald McNeill and Douglas Morrison



New Member Class Note: the date has changed since the last issue of this publication.

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 10, at 10:30. Contact the office at 515-276-6873 to let us now 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.

Meals from the Heartland

Joie Gronert has signed up for 2 teams of 10 for Thursday, April 4th from 6PM to 8PM. If you want to be part of a Grace team call or text Joie at 515-210-2057 or email at jgronert1@hotmail.com. The packing event will be held at the Patty Cownie Center, 357 Lincoln Street, West Des Moines, which is just south of the railroad tracks by Valley Junction. Please leave your jewelry at home.

Meals from the Heartland partners with organizations embedded in communities that face hunger on a daily basis. Meals are shipped out nationally and internationally by their distribution partner, CONVOY OF HOPE, to on-the-ground organizations such as *Many Hands for Haiti* and *Blessman Ministries*. The meals often support and supplement other programs such as teaching sustainable agriculture practices, education, healthcare, and more. The meals are also used for disaster relief, providing nutrition and hope in the midst of epidemics and natural disasters that impact entire communities. Locally, they partner with food banks such as the Food Bank of Iowa, the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) food bank network, and dozens of church-affiliated food pantries. In 2015 alone, more than one million meals were distributed across the state of Iowa.

Let's join together to lend a hand!!!

Maundy Thursday Worship, April 18**Good Friday Worship, April 19**

1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. both days

Easter Sunday, April 21

Worship at 6:30, 8:15, 10:00 a.m.

Breakfast from 7 – 10:30 a.m. – freewill offering.

Children's Activities from 9:15 -10:30 a.m.

NCAA Bracket Fundraiser March Madness is approaching!

Selection happens on Sunday, March 17th. So, do you feel lucky? Local and regional charities hope so! We will hold the church pool again this year. There will be a \$5 entry fee and the winner will choose which charity will receive the pool monies. Last year, Rich Voelker won and was able to give the \$145 pool to Engineers Without Borders. So far we have given away a total of over \$1600 with this annual charity!

To enter simply fill out a bracket and turn it in to the church office between Sunday, March 17 and 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 21 with the \$5 entry fee. You should also note your chosen charity when you turn in the bracket. Brackets will be available in the church office or you can print your own. Please either include cash, or make the check payable to Grace Lutheran Church with NCAA in the memo field. You could also scan your bracket and send it to mike@gracedm.org

With no clear favorite to win this year, we will again use a scoring system with added points for the Final Four to keep things exciting. The "First Four" games will not be included. Those correctly predicting that a First Four team wins in the round of 64, even if the wrong First Four team, will receive the point. Then the round of 64 teams will be worth 1 point each with bonus points for upsets (difference between seeds). Round of 32 will be worth 2 points, round of 16 will be worth 4 points each. The following rounds will be worth 6 points, 10 points, and then 15 points for the correct Champion.

**Sign up to provide a lily for the altar this Easter**

We have an online signup sheet available NOW for early-bird orders:

<https://volunteersignup.org/KLW3T>.

Lilies are \$15 each, and you are welcome to take yours home after Easter worship services. You can pay online using Grace's online giving site (go to gracedm.org and click Give in the upper right corner:

<https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>) or drop off your cash or check in the office or offering plate.

ORDER AND PAYMENT DUE APRIL 1. Contact Kathy Bowermaster for more information:

kbowerma@hotmail.com or 515-971-6360. Thank you!