



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

5201 Urbandale Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
515-276-6873
www.gracedm.org

Pastor Michael Schmidt
mike@gracedm.org

Minister for Youth and Family
Ellen Rothweiler
ellen@gracedm.org

Minister for Worship and Music
Emma Stammer
emma@gracedm.org

Organist
Richard Snyder
rich@gracedm.org

Grace Kids' Care Director
Mary Edwards
mary@gracedm.org

Minister for Administration
Denise Friesth
denise@gracedm.org

Minister for Communications
Michelle Voelker
michelle@gracedm.org

Office Assistant for Worship
Jessye Flannery
Jessica@gracedm.org

Custodian
Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

Inside This Issue...

- 2... Celebrations, Annual Meeting, Sermon Series, Endowment Grant Applications
- 3... Spotlight: Grace Events in 2020
- 4... Council, Finance Reports
- 5 ... Capital Campaign request, New in the Library, Evening Quilting sessions with LWR
- 6... Youth Ministry, Lutheran Lakeside Lockin, Cinnamon Roll Sunday
- 7... Calendar, group meetings
- 8... LSI Update, DMARC request
- 9... Adult Education
- 10... Lydia/Martha Circle, Thank Yous
Altar Flowers for 2020

Sundays

Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.

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

Education Hour at 10:30 a.m.

Office Hours

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

Grace 2020 Vision

The year 2020 is upon us and it is a good time to look back on our work these last few years. In 2016, we set forth to cast a vision for Grace Lutheran Church. A Grace 2020 Team was commissioned and began work developing a vision that was unveiled at our congregation's 90th Anniversary celebration on June 11th, 2017. This vision contained a new Mission Statement, Tagline, Values, and Pillars in our work together. We have not attained the goals set out in the Grace 2020 Vision, but we have grown a lot in the years since.

Here are some of the highlights for each Pillar and Value:

- Education – We have adapted to a Service Learning model for education that moves beyond traditional Sunday School into the real world living out of the Bible teachings. We are starting the next phase of this process which will draw more of the congregation into the Service Learning model. In short, this connects Faith and Vocation in a way that guides us to live differently through Christ.
- Outreach – With the adapting a Service Learning model for education, we have an easy point of entry for anyone in the congregation looking to serve neighbor as a way of living differently through Christ. There is still a myriad of opportunities to be involved in Outreach, but the Service Learning model will help others become more active in Faith and Vocation.
- Worship – There have been some changes to worship in the last three years. The largest change involved the move to one service at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. This was designed to highlight the need for Fellowship as one of the core Values of Grace Lutheran Church. The energy in worship has been different, and the fellowship has been enhanced through the worshipping together.
- Finance – There have been some minor changes under the pillar of Finance. The largest change has been the addition of online giving. We are also in the planning stages for a Capital Campaign to address needs in the physical structure of Grace Lutheran Church.

...Continued on page 9

Happy January Birthday

- 1- Elizabeth Dungan
Bob Gweah
Gumarito Marquez
Mable Moran
Theodore Tussing
Tana Friesth Perry
Adilyne Reyes
- 2 - 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 - Rita Davis
Kathy Roat
Catherine Lewis
- 9 - Rev. Gregory Nelson Davis
Sandra Briggs
Michael Friesth
- 10 - Caden Mendez
- 11 - Kareyna Holmes
- 13 - Jacqueline Villela
- 14 - 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- Andrea Harbaugh
- 23- Donald Peterson
Alice Kulzer
- 24 - Garry Lenhart
- 25 - Roy Mann
- 26- Patricia Allen
Valerie Culp
Amber Davik
Haley Honnold

Happy January Anniversary

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



Living with Joy Sermon Series with Pastor Mike

If you are on Facebook, please check our page for two amazing promo videos with Ellen and other staff members. The first has been published, the second will be available on January 2.

- January 5 – Living with Joy while I'm Looking for a Sign
- January 12 – Living with Joy when I Can't Catch a Break
- January 19 – Living with Joy when I Need a Chance
- January 26 – Living with Joy when Life Changes
- February 2 – Living with Joy by Helping Others
- February 9 – Living with Joy by Letting Your Light Shine

Important Congregational Dates to know!

Committee Reports should be turned into the office no later than Thursday, January 9.

Budget Forum

Sunday, January 19 after worship, Grace Hall

Annual Congregational Meeting

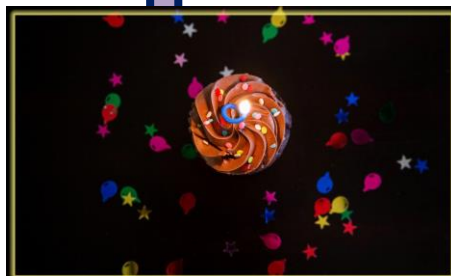
Sunday, January 26 after worship.
Lunch will be served following the meeting.

Grace 2020 Endowment Applications

Now available on the website

<https://gracedm.org/resources/forms-and-applications/>

Applications are due January 31, 2020. Awards will be announced by March 31, 2020. Requests for specific, finite projects are preferred. The Endowment does not fund operational expenses. Submit proposal with detailed breakdown of project expenses. If the entire request is not granted this will allow for possible partial funding. 2. A final written report is



January Birthdays Continued

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



Grace in 2020!

There are so many wonderful things that happen at Grace every month, it's easy to miss things that haven't pertained to you before! Check out the list below and make a note in your calendar! If you are involved with an event that should be on the calendar, please contact the office to let us know so we can keep the schedule clear for you.

Year Round: Chancel choir sings in worship many Sundays, Grace Bells plays in worship for special occasions, Grace Brass plays at special worship occasions, opportunity for special music to accompany choir or during worship, New Member Classes, weddings and baptisms, funerals and funeral luncheons, stocking the Little Free Pantry & Little Free Library, Grace Library available for reading or borrowing of books, Quilting for LSI, Prayer Quilts, Bible Study, Centering prayer, Active Grace, Confirmation and Service Learning, Lutheran World Relief, Ladies Night Out, Martha/Lydia Circle, Stitching and Knitting groups gather. Watering and planting the entrance flower beds, Visiting Friends and Member Care visit with members needing assistance. Gardening for the food pantries (in summer), Willing Workers, Altar Guild, Saturday Men's Group, Finance, Property, Library, and Evangelism Teams meet.

January: Annual Congregational Meeting, Endowment Grants due, Quilting with Lutheran World Relief

February: Ash Wednesday, Holden Evening Prayer Worship Wednesdays during Lent, Cinnamon Roll Sunday, Annual Pet Event

March: Holden Evening Prayer Worship Wednesdays during Lent, Grace Fellowship meets, Endowment Grant Awards Announced, Plant Sale Orders collected

April: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday worship, Good Friday worship, Easter, Easter morning breakfast and Prayer Quilt fundraiser. First Communion

May: Celebration Sunday, Youth Plant and Garage Sale, Graduate Recognition, Ascension of our Lord service

June: Scholarship Applications Due, Grace Car Show, Grace Fellowship meets, Vacation Bible school, Beaverdale Farmer's Market crafts booth

July: Vacation Bible School, Confirmation Camp, Beaverdale Farmer's Market crafts booth

August: Backpack Blessing, Beaverdale Farmer's Market crafts booth

September: Celebration Sunday, Active Grace and Confirmation classes resume, Choir, Bells, and Brass rehearsals resume, Grace Fellowship meets

October: Affirmation of Baptism, ELCA 2021 group begins preparation

November: All Saints, Advent

December: Grace Fellowship Christmas Dinner, Packing of gifts for Homebound. Group holiday celebrations & meals, Choir and Bells in worship. Star Tree, ELCA Good Gifts Tree, Festival of Trees. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship. Lessons and Carols Worship.

Church Council Highlights
From the November 26th, 2019 Church Council Meeting:

- **Staff and Financial Reports:**
 - Emma reported progress on the memorial wall, worship during Active Grace, and practice sessions for the December 1st Fellowship Event.
 - Michelle reported problems with the electronic sign (since repaired), website updates, and favorable publicity in the Beaverdale Living article.
 - Ellen reported on the Active Grace program and the success of the Hurricane Dorian fundraiser.
 - Denise is looking into ways to reduce banking costs. The utility bill for October was lower than expected! There were some additional boiler problems.
 - Church and Grace Kids Care financial reports were reviewed and discussed. A preliminary budget for 2020 was reviewed, with some additions suggested by Council.
- **Stewardship:**
 - The Council reviewed updated information from the Stewardship Committee. Overall giving has increased! The Committee is following up on outstanding pledge cards.
- **Capital Campaign**
 - The Capital Campaign Committee is still in the preliminary stages of planning.
 - The Steering Committee lists of needs and wants are being prioritized and estimates are being solicited where applicable.
- **Nominating Committee**
 - The Nominating Committee is beginning to make calls. Consider serving your congregation if asked.
- **Little free Pantry/Pergola Project**
 - Don Peterson and Pastor Mike were able to convince the City to overturn their denial of permit, allowing us to move forward with the project as planned!! Hooray!
- **Surveys:** Several surveys have been returned. Data analysis will begin in mid-December.
- **Next Council meeting** will be Sunday, December 15th, 2019, at 10 AM.

Respectfully,
Dave Gronert, Council Secretary

Finance Report – November Results

Financial results for November YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$384,726, Budget \$366,980
- Other Income – Actual \$29,990, Budget \$27,125
- Expenses – Actual \$433,027, Budget \$400,929
- Net activity – Actual (\$18,312), Budget (\$6,824)



Actual net activity was unfavorable to budget by \$11,488. Pledged offerings and unpledged offerings were both above budget. Expenses were significantly above budget due to boiler repairs, flooring repairs, HVAC replacement, higher insurance and snow removal costs. It is likely that the year will end with overall deficit activity.



New in the Library just in time for your New Years' reading. You will find these and other recently added books on our New Books Display in the library.

If you have a book that is due, please return it promptly so others can enjoy it, too!

The Human Condition by Thomas Keating. A recently donated book offers reflections on contemplative prayer and life. Written by a former abbot of the Trappist monastery, Keating helped found Contemplative Outreach to encourage contemplative prayer.

The Naked Now, by Richard Rohr. Author, Rohr, draws from the Gospels to show you what it means to be spiritually awake.

Only Little Prayer You Need, by Debra Landwehr Engle. Author Landweher Engle teaches the reader a prayer and explains how to use it to find peace filled living.

How Happiness Happens, by Max Lucado. Lucado writes about finding joy in a world of disappointments.

Message of the Psalms, by Walter Brueggeman is a great companion to the Psalms. Author Brueggeman brings the messages of the Psalms into today's perspective bringing new meaning to the Psalms. Pastor Mike often mentions Brueggeman's writings during Tuesday Morning Bible Study.

Praying the Psalms, by Walter Brueggeman.

Letters to the Church, by Francis Chan. Author Chan challenges Christians to ask, "What does God want for His Church? When Jesus returns, will He find us caring for His Bride—even more than for our own lives?"

Finding Chika, by Mitch Albom. A beautifully written account of how the Albom's met and adopted an orphan child who lost her family in the devastating earthquake in Haiti. The Albom's operate an orphanage in Haiti and came to know Chika. Her adoption changed their lives.

Recently donated Christmas children's books

Do You See What I See, by Sandi Gore Evans

Wishing You Blessings From A - Z, by Sandi Gore Evans

Advent Story Book, by Antonie Schneider

Wednesday evening quilting sessions planned!

The Lutheran World Relief Quilters have added four Wednesday evening work sessions every other week in January and February. These sessions will be on 1/8, 1/22, 2/5 and 2/19, from 5:00-7:00, in the quilt room in Msindo Hall. Weekly Thursday morning quilting sessions will continue from 9:00 to 11:00. We invite you to join us in making quilts for global disaster relief!



Members of Grace Lutheran Church

In 2020, there will be a Capitol Campaign to address the physical needs of the church.

As members of the Steering Committee for this campaign, we have been reviewing the facility and have come up with a list of needs, but you can help make it complete.

We would like to reach out to everyone in the congregation to let us know of any property maintenance concerns you may have that needs to have attention around our church. We have a beautiful church and we want to maintain this facility and keep it beautiful.

Please contact any of the committee members on items of concern.

A brief list of what we are looking at are: roofing, windows, areaways, sidewalks, doors, restrooms, floors, electrical and mechanical systems.

Committee members are:
Len Ringgenberg – Chair,
Kevin Krause,
Mike Schmidt,
Dick Johansen,
Emma Stammer.

Youth Ministry – Active Grace

Contact ellen@gracedm.org



Active Grace will resume our Sunday morning schedule on Sunday, January 12 at 10:30 am. In the month of January we will learn more about why we are called to serve.

January 12 and 19- All are invited to join in planning a Service Learning event for the congregation to do together following the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26.

January 12- Children will meet in Grace Hall II to learn more about the bible story of the Beatitudes.

Sunday mornings for 6th-12th graders Beginning January 5

Beginning in January there will be an opportunity for youth in 6-12 grade to learn and fellowship after 9 am worship during the education hour on Sunday mornings. We will connect with what is being learned in Active Grace but dive deeper into the themes and issues, exploring the faith questions that come up for this group of kids. This will include some learning about issues and topics, some bible study and some service.

We will meet in the high school youth room each week, coffee, cocoa and treats provided. On January 5 we will gather to talk more about what these youth might want to learn more about. We will continue to be a part of the Active Grace large group events that will happen periodically. The goal is not to create a separate education time for teens but to help them connect to these Active Grace themes at a deeper more age appropriate level.

I hope you will come whenever you are able. I am looking forward to spending time with this group and growing in faith and community together.

Peace,
Ellen Rothweiler



2020 Save the Dates!

Information will be shared later, but please save these dates on your calendar for our youth fundraisers!

Cinnamon Roll Sunday 2020

Sunday, February 16

Plant Sale Orders

March

Garage & Plant Sale

Saturday, May 2

Locked in with Lakeside

February 21-22, 2020

7 p.m. – 7 a.m.

6th – 8th grade students

\$20 if registered by Feb 7

\$30 after Feb 7

Hosted at Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church
517 SW Des Moines Street

Lutheran Lakeside Camp
712-336-2109
paige@lutheranlakeside.com



Pastor Mike and Joyce Lewis delivered the Christmas Gifts purchased by Grace confirmation students for families at Moore Elementary before the holidays.

Every Week (not all included at right)

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship, Gathering Hall
10:30 a.m. Active Grace and Education
resumes in January

Tuesdays

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Tuesday Bible Study with
Pastor Mike, Grace Hall (*not 12/31*)
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Centering Prayer in the
Upper room, led by Julie Honsey
11:00 a.m. Staff meeting, Innovation lab

Wednesdays

9:00 a.m. Willing Workers work & coffee time
9:45 a.m. Grace Kids Care Chapel
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation, room 301
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal, music room

Thursdays

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Quilters
Msindo Quilting Room.

Other Grace Groups!

Men's Work Group

We meet on the second Saturday of each month, 8:30 a.m. – noon. We will begin with breakfast in the kitchen, a devotion, followed by various projects around the church.

Altar Guild Meeting, meal, and fellowship:

Third Saturday of each month, offsite for coffee and breakfast. Contact anderson.sue.a@gmail.com to be included on emails.

Grace Stitching & Needlework Group

Meets every 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Gathering Hall. Contact Helen Ringgenberg, Carol Krause

First Circle Friends

LSI Respite Program for those in early stages of memory loss. Typically meeting at Grace on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.

January dates will be the 2nd & 4th

Thursdays. Contact <https://lsiowa.org>

Grace Fellowship

Meets quarterly for fellowship, dinner and a program. Next meeting Sunday March 1

Calendar

December 31 – Church Office Closed

January

- 1 – Church Office Closed
Grace Kids Care Closed
- 2 – 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Quilters
- 5 – Christmas 2, baptism
10:30 a.m. 6-12th grade youth in Youth Room
- 6 – Epiphany of our Lord
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 7 – 6-30 – 9:00 p.m. Des Moines Knitters Guild,
Grace Hall
- 8 – Reports due for Congregational Report
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GH
5:00 p.m. GKC Parent Board Meeting – Library
5:00 – 7:00 p.m. LWR Quilting, Msindo Hall
- 11 – 8:30 a.m. – noon Men's Work Group
Noon – 5:00 p.m. Private event, Grace Hall
- 12 – Baptism of our Lord
10:30 Active Grace Planning (see pg 6)
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Mid – Iowa Cactus and
Succulent Society, Cafe
- 13 – 4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 14 – 6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting
- 16 – 4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 19 – Epiphany 2
10:30 Active Grace
10:30 Budget Forum, Grace Hall
- 20 – Office Closed (GKC open)
4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 21 – Newsletter deadline for February**
- 22 – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. LWR Quilting, Msindo Hall
- 23 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GH
- 25 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Private Event, Grace Hall
- 26 – Epiphany 3
10:30 Annual Meeting, Active Grace Service
Learning event after meeting,
Catered lunch after meeting
- 27 – 4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 28 – 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting, Grace Hall

Grace Website <https://gracedm.org>

Announcements, Bulletins, Events Calendar, and more.

Out of town travelling, icy weather, bad cold? You can still keep up with the calendar, announcements and even download a copy of the weeks' bulletin! Just look for the menu item "News + Events" or the word Resources at the upper right hand corner of the site: click on that to see all of your choices- including a way to read the newsletter online!



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 25. Visit 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. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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 Her Community

Originally from Eritrea, Kiros, her husband, and her young son were forced to flee their country and live in an Ethiopian refugee camp for almost two years.

When the opportunity came to resettle in Iowa, Kiros and her husband were excited to put down roots and call Iowa home. They settled in the Des Moines community and knew this was it; this was where they wanted to create a new life in the U.S.

Since then, they have raised four more children and set their sights on receiving citizenship in the country that helped them heal and rebuild.

Kiros enrolled in LSI's English and citizenship classes and worked hard to study for her U.S. Citizenship Exam. Every week, she met with instructors from LSI's Refugee and Immigrant Services to prepare for her interview with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

When the time came, she passed her exam with flying colors. She recently attended her U.S. citizenship ceremony, then went home to prepare for her daughter's fifth birthday party.

Kiros has poured her time and energy into building a life where her family has the same opportunities as every other family in their 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>

December Adult Education 10:30 a.m.



January 5: A time of Fellowship. Join us in the Gathering Hall - right outside the Sanctuary – after worship, for Donut Hut donuts (as we support a local business), coffee, tea, juice, conversation and catching up.

January 12: To be announced

January 19: Budget Forum, Grace Hall
Join us as we walk through the budget, ask questions.

January 26: Annual Congregational Meeting, Grace Hall
A catered lunch will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Grace 2020 Vision, continued from front page

- Finance – There have been some minor changes under the pillar of Finance. The largest change has been the addition of online giving. We are also in the planning stages for a Capital Campaign to address needs in the physical structure of Grace Lutheran Church.
- Prayer – We have seen an increase in the Prayer through the addition of a Centering Prayer Group that meets on Tuesday mornings and the addition of Centering Prayer to worship. There is a more active use of the Prayer List, highlighting immediate and ongoing needs. The Prayer Quilt Ministry has continued to grow in these last three years.
- Discipleship – The growth in Discipleship is captured in the changes with Education and Outreach. There is an intentional move toward being active in faith, or as we call it, Active Grace.
- Fellowship – The change in worship times has increased the overall Fellowship at Grace considerably. This has also made for a difficult transition to Education on Sunday mornings because of the gift of this fellowship time. To adjust for this we are moving to a set 10:30 time for the Education Hour so that there is a built in, guilt free, time for Fellowship each Sunday.
- Acceptance – This continues to be a value that we live out at Grace Lutheran Church. No matter who you are, or from where you have come, if your journey finds you here you will receive Grace. I continue to be proud of the acceptance shown in this community of faith.

There is still work to do, but I am very proud of the growth that we have made as a community of faith. It is a pleasure to serve as your pastor.

Peace,
Pastor Mike



The Festival of Trees

The trees will be taken down on Wednesday, January 8 by our amazing Willing Workers. We would love if your tree remains decorated through Sunday, January 5, however we please ask that you pack away your ornaments by Tuesday evening, January 7.

Thank you for sharing your time, holiday spirit and ornaments with us!



Lydia-Martha Circle

Lydia/Martha Circle will meet
Lydia/Martha Circle will meet
on Thursday, January 23rd
at 9:30 a.m. Please join us!

In December we met for our annual holiday brunch and meeting, enjoyed music, and packed bags for our current homebound members.



Pastor Mike was able to meet Moore Elementary Principal Beth Sloan in December to deliver the Prayer quilt. The quilt was made by our quilters, and finished during worship as members tied knots while saying a prayer for her continued recovery.

Thank you for the generous Christmas gifts. The plant is beautiful, and other gifts so practical and useful. Nice to be remembered. I appreciate your mailings too.

Blessings, Marvin Simonsen

Thank you for all the wonderful surprises in the gift bag of goodies and the beautiful Poinsettia!

Frances Best

Thank you so much for the lovely Christmas gifts. The Poinsettia was beautiful, and the calendar is my favorite. I enjoyed the gift from the children of the little reindeer. The candy was great as was the body lotion and Kleenex. Once again, thank you for remembering me. P.S. Also the book of Christ in our Home.

God Bless, Rosella Dingman

Dear Stitching Group, Thank you so much for the neat ornament. Also thank you for the beautiful card. It was so nice that you thought of me. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.

Love, Bonnie Swanson

Dear Grace Lutheran, Thank you for the beautiful Poinsettia. It brightens up our dining room table. Thank you for all of the needed gifts in the bag. Thank you also to Mr. & Mrs. Norman Iverson for taking the time to deliver these items. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Love, Bonnie Swanson

Dear Friends, Leonard and I want to thank you for the lovely Christmas tree ornaments you made for us. They make us smile every time we look at them. Again, Thank you for remembering us.

Delores and Leonard Larsen

Dear Stitching Group, Thank you so much for the little snowman you stitched for me. I hung it up and will enjoy it during the holidays. It is so nice to be remembered by my church. I wish you a happy holiday season and good health in 2020.

God Bless, Rosella Dingman

Dear Stitchers, Many Thanks for the lovely card and sweet stitched ornament! You really brightened my holiday season! I loved to cross stitch and quilt, now I shake too much! May you all have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

Karen Crooks, xoxoxo

Altar Flowers for 2020

We invite you to help beautify our worship space by sponsoring the flowers on the altar. A Poster will be available in January. For now, you can sign up online at <https://volunteersignup.org/RY4RW>. The flowers are yours to take home after church, and you can also submit an optional special message (in memory of or in honor of). The cost is \$38 and you can pay through Grace's online giving site (<https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>) or by check or cash to the office. Contact Kathy at kbowerma@hotmail.com or 971-6360 with questions or your special message if desired. Thank you!