The Friendly Visitor

February 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.

Ash Wednesday Services 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

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

Groundhog Day

I find myself thinking about the Bill Murray movie "Groundhog Day" as we approach this weekend. Groundhog Day is approaching and with it the guesswork of just how much winter we have remaining. Punxsutawney Phil will guide us into a sense of hope that Spring will indeed arrive. And with any luck, some of the political chaos we see in this state will take a break for the rest of the winter. In the movie, however, Bill Murray's character, Phil, is stuck repeating the same day over and over and over again in the hopes of finally getting it right.

Throughout the movie, he discovers things about the town, its residents, the celebrations, his colleagues, and himself. This perpetual loop of events creates the opportunity for him to learn and gain skills while everything else is essentially on hold. This leads to a sense of focus on every detail in order to get everything right. As a fringe benefit he learns how to make ice sculpture, play the piano, and have conversations that he was too busy to have before.

Life isn't like that. We do not have the ability to put things on hold so that we can figure out how to get it right. The life of the church is no different. When there is a mission start, or a brand-new congregation, there is considerable planning that goes into all the details. But even then, as soon as things begin there is a constant state of motion and movement.

In our busyness of keeping all of the ministries going, we often miss a lot of what is happening around us. We cannot move into a perpetual loop in order to fix things and get it right. The congregational survey was laid forward as a tool to help us gain that snapshot of what is happening in people's lives and get a sense for the ways that we can learn and grow, the things we need to improve to get it right. It gave us some data points and a place where we can take time to look and see trends which will help guide the congregation into the next chapters of our collective ministry.

I want to say, "Thank You!" to everyone who filled out a survey. It was humbling, enlightening, affirming, and challenging to read through the responses offered. There are so many things that came up throughout the survey. Here are a few of the trends:

Continued on page 5 ...

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 <u>ellen@gracedm.org</u>

Minister for Worship and Music Emma Stammer <u>emma@gracedm.org</u>

> Organist Richard Snyder rich@gracedm.org

Grace Kids' Care Director Mary Edwards <u>mary@gracedm.org</u>

Minister for Administration Denise Friesth <u>denise@gracedm.org</u>

Minister for Communications Michelle Voelker <u>michelle@gracedm.org</u>

Office Assistant for Worship Jessye Flannery Jessica@gracedm.org

Custodian Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

Inside This Issue...

- 2... Celebrations, Sympathies, Boxtops Newsletter submission guidelines
- 3... Spotlight: NAMI Grace Bells, Lenten Soup Suppers
- 4... Council report, Get a copy of the 2019 Annual Report
- 5 ... Capital Campaign request, Evening Quilting sessions with LWR, The Knitters Tree
- 6... Youth Ministry, Cinnamon Roll Sunday
- 7... Calendar, group meetings
- 8... LSI Update, DMARC request
- 9... Adult Education, New in the Library
- 10... Thank Yous, Martha/Lydia Circle Altar Flowers for 2020

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 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 Jonathan Rudisill
- 25 Shane Artzer Melissa Young
- 27 Jerry Westercamp
- 28 Dana Johnson

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 Beverly Petty

Newsletter submission guidelines

We appreciate everyone who submits articles for the Friendly Visitor! Thank you! A few things to keep in mind:

- The newsletter deadline is almost always between the 20th & 22nd of each month. The December issue published Thanksgiving week and any other different deadline deviations will be published online, in the announcements, and in the newsletter calendar (page 7).
- Use your program's default font whether you are typing in your email program, a Word document, or other document. All submissions will be formatted using Grace's font. If anything needs highlighted, simply italicize it.
- We will select font sizes and other formatting to be consistent through each publication, and we know time is precious, so no need to spend it adding bolding, italics, borders, etc.
- When sending photos or logos, please send them as an email attachment for best quality if at all possible. If you need help sending an email from your phone, stop by the office and we'll help you figure it out! (We LOVE including photos of your events, and we can print them off for the bulletin boards as well!)

2019 Box Tops update!

Since we started in January 2019, over \$65 worth of Box Tops have been donated and divided between Moore and Hillis. This is money that can be used on anything the school needs with no strings attached. Box Tops are slowly changing from being a physical clipping to a digital app. To continue donating, you can download the Box Tops app to scan and submit receipts that include eligible purchases if the product no longer has a physical clipping.



NAMI Greater Des Moines

The local affiliate of NAMI Iowa and NAMI National. NAMI, the acronym for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is a grass roots, self help, education, support and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals, families and the community on mental illness. NAMI welcomes anyone who shares our mission and vision.

NAMI is here for you with: (links work in the online edition of this newsletter. If reading a paper copy, go to <u>https://www.namigdm.org/</u> or call NAMI Greater Des Moines at 515-277-0672 or email: <u>namigdm@gmail.com</u>

Newsletters - click here

Scheduled Education classes- <u>click here</u> Advocacy: Local, State or Federal - <u>click here</u> Workplace Mental Health Education Program <u>click here</u> 2020 Community Education Classes - Winter, Spring <u>click here</u>

Visit their website to learn more about the programs, services, and support groups NAMI has for people whose lives have been affected by serious mental illness. <u>Get Help</u>

Signs of Suicide Intention

Valentine's Day is a time many of us celebrate, but for others this and other holidays can be extra difficult and painful. In reality, people consider suicide daily. Being aware of signs can save a life. And if you yourself are considering suicide, **please** call for non-judgemental help. You are loved, and your life has value and worth. From the NAMI Website, suicide signs to be aware of:

- If a person talks about: being a burden to others, feeling trapped, Experiencing unbearable pain, having no reason to live, killing themselves.
- People who are considering suicide often display one or more of the following moods: Depression, loss of interest, rage, irritability, humiliation, anxiety.
- A change in behavior. Specific things to look out for include: increased use of alcohol or drugs, looking for a way to kill themselves such as searching online for materials or means, acting recklessly, withdrawing from activities, isolating from families and friends, sleeping too much or too little, sleeping too much or too little, visiting or calling people to say goodbye (or posting goodbye on social media), giving away prized possessions, aggression.

Come be a part of Grace Bells for the Lenten season!

Rehearsals will begin Sunday March 1, 8:15-8:45am, and will continue weekly through Easter on April 12. We will play in 9:00 worship on March 22 and again on April 12 at the 8:15 and 10am services. If you are interested but can only play for one of those worship dates, just let Emma know so she can accommodate you in the rehearsal schedule.

If you plan to play, tell Emma – <u>emma@gracedm.org</u> – and she will have a bell or bells waiting for you!

Lenten Soup Suppers!

Lent begins on February 26, Ash Wednesday, and the sign-up has been posted on the hallway bulletin boards. Poll your group or committee to see about providing a meal on one of the Wednesdays. Mealtime is 5:00 – 6:15 p.m., plan to serve 40-50. Ash Wednesday has been spoken for by Marth/Lydia Circle. Thank you!

Church Council Highlights From the December 15th, 2019 Council Meeting

At the December 15th, 2019 Church Council Meeting:

- Staff and Financial Reports:
 - Reports from staff were received and reviewed.
 - Church and Grace Kids Care financial reports were reviewed and discussed. Daycare continues to operate in the black. Although the church budget continues to be at a deficit for the year due to unexpected expenses, that deficit continues to shrink as giving continues to be above budget predictions.
 - The preliminary budget for 2020 was reviewed and discussed. Preliminary Daycare budget was not yet available.

• Stewardship:

• The Council reviewed updated information from the Stewardship Committee. Overall giving has increased! The Committee is still following up on outstanding pledge cards.

• The Council reviewed:

- the Daycare enrollment and budget surplus pursuant to approving a performance bonus per the Director's contract.
- Capital Campaign
 - o The Capital Campaign Committee is in the preliminary stages of planning.
 - The Steering Committee reported that another meeting is scheduled for December 16th to continue work on the list of needs.
 - o Both Committees are planning to report at the Annual Meeting.

• Nominating Committee

• The Nominating Committee reported a full slate of candidates has been filled for the elections to be held at the Annual Meeting. **It was moved, seconded, and passed** to accept the list of nominees.

• Other Business:

- Dean Watson met with our insurance provider and distributed some information about possible ways to reduce our insurance premiums. It was moved, seconded, and passed to put these cost-saving measures into effect as soon as possible.
- **It was announced** that the Education Hour time will be moved to 10:30 AM to eliminate confusion and to provide more time for fellowship after the worship service.
- Next Council meeting will be January 28th, 2020, at 6 PM.

Respectfully,

Dave Gronert, Council Secretary

Grace 2019 Annual Report

If you missed the Annual Meeting, or have misplaced your copy of the Annual Report, we still have printed copies available in the office, and can mail to you. You can also find them online, at the address below. Click on the word Resources in the upper right corner of the webpage, then the Red bubble named Reports. You'll find it right at the top of the list – read online, print, or download. The online version however, does NOT have all of the financial and salary information.



Grace Website https://gracedm.org

Pastor Mike's front page, continued from page 1

- 1. Sunday worship is found to be very valuable
- 2. There is a disconnect in Education in all generations.
- 3. There is a desire to make a clearer connection to Outreach.
- 4. By and large, Grace is doing well.
- 5. There is a need for greater transparency and communication.

In addition to these trends, there was a great deal of information about individual faith journeys, loss of loved ones, and several people speaking of the current political climate impacting faith in a negative way. There were responses that broke my heart to read, whether work schedules getting in the way, or the quiet ways so many suffer. There were so many that feel the divide in the country because of aggressive political ideologies and the loss of relationships because of it. We cannot hit a pause button and enter into a loop within which we can fix everything. Instead, we simply have our work cut out for us. Together, we can make these changes and further our work of guiding people to live differently through Christ.

In Christ, Pastor Mike

The Knitters Tree

What happened to all those hats and mitten on the tree in the Gathering Hall this year?

Each year the Des Moines Knitting Guild – who meets here at Grace the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. – decorates the tree with hand knit items. Some years we have scarves too.

This year the knitters donated over 80 items. We also had some crocheted hats and scarves. A neighbor to Grace brought over a number of knit hats donated at a family event – these were divided between the Little Free Pantry and the Knitters tree.

All of the collected hats & scarves were taken to the following schools for children to have something to keep them warm: Cowles, Perkins, Oakridge, Hillis, and Moore. They so appreciative to have these available for the children.



Two more Wednesday evening quilting sessions remain!

The Lutheran World Relief Quilters have added several Wednesday evening work sessions. The remaining sessions will be on 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 <u>ellen@gracedm.org</u>



The Little Free Pantry is getting a lot of use, emptying out almost every week. Our Confirmation students who brought this idea to us continue to care for this need we have identified in this community by bringing items to stock the pantry each week and moving donated items out there as well. We are proud of the loving and caring way they have made this idea a reality and thankful for the support given from this congregation and our neighbors.

2020 Save the Dates! Cinnamon Roll Sunday 2020 Sunday, February 16, 7:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Plant & Garage Sale Preparatory Meeting Sunday, February 16, 10:45 a.m., Youth room

Feb. 21-22

Locked in with Lakeside Middle School lock-in hosted by Lutheran Lakeside staff at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Ankeny, 7 pm-7 am.

Plant Sale Ordering and selling March



Garage & Plant Sale Saturday, May 9

Cinnamon Roll Sunday

Feb. 16- Cinnamon Roll Sunday fundraiser Youth in grades 6-12 will bake and sell plates of Cinnamon Rolls to raise funds for youth trips, especially the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN June 29-July 3. 2021.

We will need people to:

- come early to bake and frost the rolls
- stay and sell the rolls following worship.

Since we have small but mighty group I am going to call for **all hands on deck** for the duration, **7:30am to 11:30am**. If you need to come later or leave early let me know, otherwise I am going to ask that people be here to help. Thank you! Ellen

Sunday mornings for 6th-12th graders

We continue to meet in the high school youth room each week, coffee, cocoa and treats provided. I hope you will come whenever you are able as we grow in faith and community together.

Peace, Ellen Rothweiler

Active Grace Kids February

We will focus on the joy of serving by meeting some of the needs that pets have.

February 2 was the Pet Project, a congregation-wide service event

February 9 the kids will make some more things for pets; puzzle toys and snuffle blankets. We'll also package Animeals – meals for pets that will be delivered to pets of people who receive Meals on Wheels. We will also hear how God saved the animals from the flood in the story of Noah and the Ark.

February 16 All of these things will be donated to Pet Project of Iowa and the kids will learn more about the story of Noah and the Ark.

February 23 we will celebrate all that we have learned and done for the homebound and for pets.

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

Tuesdays

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Tuesday Bible Study with Pastor Mike, Grace Hall
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. Contact https://lsiowa.org

Grace Fellowship

Meets quarterly for fellowship, dinner and a program. Next meeting: Sunday March 1, 5 p.m. Look for details in the weekly announcements and enews!

Calendar February

- 2 Souper Bowl Sunday Pet Project
- 3 4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 4 6-30 9:00 p.m. Des Moines Knitters Guild, Grace Hall
- 5 5:00 7:00 p.m. LWR Quilting sessions for all, Msindo Classroom
- 6 9:00 11:00 a.m. Quilters, Msindo Classroom 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GH
- 7 1:30 p.m. Iowa Farmers Market Association set-up in Grace Hall & Cafe
- 8 8:30 a.m. noon Men's Work Group Iowa Farmers Market Association Grace Hall & Cafe
- 10 4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 11 6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting
- 1 6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting
- 13 9:00 11:00 a.m. Quilters, Msindo Classroom 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group Gathering Hall
 - 5:00 p.m. GKC Parent Board Meeting Library
- 14 Valentines Day
- 15 9:00 a.m. Altar Guild, offsite
- 16 Cinnamon Roll Sunday 7:30 – 10:30 youth prep/sell Cinnamon rolls 10:30 a.m. Garage & Plant Sale meeting 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Mid – Iowa Cactus and Succulent Society, Cafe
- 17 4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 19 5:00 7:00 p.m. LWR Quilting sessions for all, Msindo Classroom
- 20 9:00 11:00 a.m. Quilters 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. First Circle Friends, GH
- 22 Newsletter deadline for March
- 24 4:30 p.m. AA Groups GH & Café
- 25 Lutheran Day on the Hill 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting, Grace Hall
- 26 Ash Wednesday 1:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service No Choir rehearsal No confirmation
- 27 9:00 11:00 a.m. Quilters, Msindo Classroom 9:30 a.m. Martha/Lydia Circle meets, Grace Hall 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Stitching Group Gathering Hall

29 – Leap Day!



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 lowa 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 lowans 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 lowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at <u>Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org</u> or 563-676-2065.

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 <u>www.LSlowa.org</u> and <u>www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa</u>.

"I Feel Like a Parent Now."

When Harmony learned she was pregnant for the first time, she was excited, but apprehensive. She didn't know what to expect when raising her first child.

Harmony's mother, Lois, helped her enroll in LSI's Early Childhood Services, which provide parenting education and resources to families of young children across lowa.

While she was pregnant, Harmony participated in prenatal programming, which helped her maintain a healthy pregnancy and ensure she had everything she needed when her baby was born.

When her daughter, Aya, arrived in October of 2018, Harmony and Lois began participating in LSI's Parent Education Program, where they now attend regular classes and connect with other families in their community.

And at home, they receive weekly visits from their LSI Parent Educator, Amy. Each week, Amy brings resources for Harmony and age-appropriate toys for Aya. They work together to monitor Aya's development, and Amy is teaching the family what to expect as Aya begins hitting her developmental milestones.

"LSI helps you learn how to raise your baby and how to learn about being a parent," Harmony says. "Before, I felt like I was trying to swim, but I was drowning. I feel like a parent now."

DMARC Donation of the Month February Pineapple!

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

February Adult Education 10:30 a.m.

February 2: Pet Project



Vorth

Adults, Kids, and 6-12th graders gathered in Grace Hall to talk about Noah's Ark and how God loves animals, make pet toys and outside bird feeders which will be donated to <u>Pet Project of the Midwest</u>. There were pets of church members present, along with some ARL Therapy pet teams as well!

February 9: Pastor Panel Pastor Panel

On February 9th we will have a Pastor Panel consisting of Pastor Mike, Pastor Gregory and Pastor Sherer. Come ready with questions for them. If you prefer, you may write your question(s) and simply add to the Pastor Panel Question Box that will be placed in the Gathering Hall through February 9.

February 16: Enriching Your Sunday Morning Worship through Preparation

How might I, as a person in the pew, prepare myself before coming to worship each Sunday? Pastor Davis will present ideas for our consideration.

February 23: Lectio Divina Presentation

We welcome facilitator Tim Goldman, Contemplative Outreach of Central Iowa board member and member of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, as he teaches about Lectio Divina. A meditative practice, Lectio Divina, is a traditional way of cultivating friendship with the Holy Spirit. It is a way of listening to the texts of scripture as if we were in conversation with the

Spirit. We listen with the "ear of the heart." The roots of Lectio Divina go back to St. Ambrose and St. Augustine in the 3rd Century.

Library News

Have you checked out a book in December or maybe early January. It's time to return it. Kindly look among your books and return to the library as soon as possible. Someone else may be waiting to read it too!

Recently Donated

"Miracles and Moments of Grace" by Nancy Kennedy. The author tells the story of 50 doctors and their insight into practicing medicine. Doctors reveal the awe they feel for their patients. These "poignant accounts are infused with tenderness, wonder, and humor."

"Miracles in the ER" by Robert Lesslies, MD. Dramatic and touching stories of life will grace you with hope. True stories that are seemingly miraculous and life changing.

Collection of DVD bible studies from the Adult Faith Enrichment Team. These studies can also be used for personal use. They include DVDs and book guides. These will not be entered in the catalog, however there will be a checkout card for them. You'll find them on the south wall on the far right bookshelf under the label, Leader Guides

Easter The True Easter Story, DVD #430 Final Words From the Cross, DVD #1059 The Easter Experience, DVD #846 includes book guide.

Sustainablility for the Earth

Hope for Creation DVD #994

Christmas and Advent

God Came Near, Insights on AdventDVD #1382

Advent Conspiracy, Can Christmas Still Change the World?, DVD and book guide #821 Sent, Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas, DVD #1259 and book guide Because of Christmas Love is Born and Hope is Here, DVD #1512 and book guide The Purpose of Christmas, DVD #633 and book guide

Jesus' Teachings

Parables. The Good Samartian, The Talents, the Lost Coin. DVD #283

Thank You!



To Lydia/Martha Circle;

Dear Friends,

I shall think of you as you gather on January 23rd. It would be wonderful to be with you; I do give thanks for all the years I could be with dear friends in circle meetings.

Thank you so much for remembering me with lovely Christmas gifts. The poinsettia is still blooming and brightening our apartment.

I also appreciate the lotion, the tree ornament and the large print devotional; I read it every morning and it starts my day aright.

May you continue to share in your life of service, friendship, and compassion at Grace. My love and prayers are with you. In Christ, Joanne Johnson

Bill and Linda Biegger want to thank the member care group for the plant and treats during Bill's recovery, and their calls of concern and care. To Grace members, their love and prayers. We are so blessed to have Grace Lutheran Church as part of our lives.

Many Thanks to Martha and Lydia circle and also the needlers for the lovely gifts. The poinsettia is beautiful and brightens things up. I miss you all, Elaine Westvold

Dear friends at Grace Lutheran,

This is to express my appreciation for the very nice Christmas gifts that were delivered to my apartment from Grace Lutheran Church.

I am enjoying the large beautiful poinsettia plant and the nice assortment of miscellaneous items in the gift bag. The large print edition of the Word in Season will be very helpful through the months of January, February, and March for our New Year 2020! Thank you, Richard E. Johansen

Thank you so much for the lovely poinsettia and gift bag I received before Christmas. I have enjoyed the beautiful plant and the other things delivered to me. Virginia Naney

Dear Grace Family,

Thank you so much for all the love and prayers for Louie these past several months. The meals, cards, visits, and the beautiful quilt have meant so much to both of us. It is such a blessing to have such a caring family of faith that is truly Grace!

Faithfully yours, Sue and Louie Anderson

For the knitters, neighbor Del (and family), and anyone else who added warm items to the knitters tree during the month of December:

Thank you so much for the kind donation of hats & gloves. They are so beautiful! We truly appreciate that here at Moore! Moore Elementary Staff

Lydia/Martha Circle

Will meet on Thursday, February 27, in Grace Hall. Please join us for a coffee and treats, fellowship, and a meeting. Bring a friend! We meet every 4th Thursday of the month for brunch and a program.

Altar Flowers for April - December

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 <u>https://volunteersignup.org/RY4RW</u>. 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 (<u>https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/</u>) or by check or cash to the office. Contact Kathy at <u>kbowerma@hotmail.com</u> or 971-6360 with questions or your special message if desired. Thank you!