



GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

Advent 4 Live Online  
Sunday, December 20: 9 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship  
5 p.m. Live Online

Silent Night Sing  
8 p.m. Live Online

Christmas Day Worship  
Pre-recorded Online

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*Merry Christmas  
from the Staff of  
Grace Lutheran Church*

*Kathy Bowermaster  
Jessye Flannery  
Todd Haugen  
Mary Edwards  
Denise Friesth  
Ellen Rothweiler  
Pastor Michael Schmidt  
Richard Snyder  
Emma Stammer  
Michelle Voelker*



***Poinsettias purchased for the Advent/Christmas season to honor or remember loved ones.***

*Louie, Sue and Christina Anderson (In memory of our parents: Bob and JoAnn Young, Lou and Sue Anderson, and Jill Wineinger)*

*Kristen, Tony and Anthony Bockenstedt (In memory of Jane Snyder)*

*Valerie and Brent Culp (In memory of our parents: Betty and Dean Culp, Mary Vasey and John Barkley)*

*Anne Hand (In memory of Dick, Evelyn and Paul Knudsen)*

*Connie Heuton (In memory of Lawrence, Malinda and Larry Heuton)*

*Mike and Sara Hilsabeck*

*Len and Helen Ringgenberg (In honor of our children and grandchildren and in memory of Len's parents, Helen's parents and our grandson Alex)*

*Mike, Jenie, Allison and Samantha Schmidt (In memory of loved ones)*

*Carter and Carol Woodruff (In honor of Dmitri, Emily and Bailey and children around the world)*

*Carol Woodruff (In honor of Altar Guild)*

***Thank you to Jon and Cherie Rissman for helping to sponsor poinsettias for the altar.***



## Accessing Worship in the Season of Christmas

Christmas Eve Music: Rich Snyder and Emma Stammer will be playing Carols beginning at 4:30 p.m. - livestreaming will start then!

Christmas Eve - We will livestream both the Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. service and the Singing of Silent Night in the Parking Lot at 8:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. These services will be found on our website [www.gracedm.org/live](http://www.gracedm.org/live) and our Facebook page.

Singing of Silent Night – Grace Parking Lot, 8:00 p.m. We'll be distanced appropriately with masks. Candles will be provided and lit as Pastor Mike reads John 1 and shares a prayer. We will then sing Silent Night together.

*Find the printed words at right. The Christmas Eve bulletin posted on the website will have the prayer and reading.*

You may also choose to remain in your car and listen over the radio at FM 107.9.

### Christmas Day December 25, 2020

This brief worship service will be pre-recorded and will post on our [website](#) and [Grace Facebook page](#) on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Please note that it will not be labeled as live on Facebook, so you can watch it at any time Christmas Day. It will not play on or post to our live website player, but you can find it on our Resources page <https://gracedm.org/resources/> by clicking on the Recent Worship Videos bubble.*

Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> – The Southeastern Iowa Synod Office of the Bishop is putting together a pre-recorded worship service for use throughout the synod. This will feature a sermon by the newly installed Bishop Amy Current. This will not appear as “live,” but will post on our [website](#) and [Grace Facebook page](#) the morning of December 27<sup>th</sup> as listed in italics above.

### Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Lessons and Carols, Second Sunday after Christmas Worship will be pre-recorded and available on our [website](#) and [Grace Facebook page](#) on Sunday morning January 3 as in the italicized section above.

Livestream of Sunday worship will resume at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. This service will be found on our website [www.gracedm.org/live](http://www.gracedm.org/live) and our Facebook page.

## Hymn of Light:

### “Silent Night, Holy Night!” #281

- 1 Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.





### Thank you for all the wonderful holiday gifts!

We appreciate the connection and generosity of your congregation. I am excited to see everyone in their beautiful new jammies and playing their fun new games!

'Tis the season for joy. Thank you for being a bright spot in our corner of the world!

Katie Flippen, Public Relations Specialist, Mosaic



### Christmas Joy! This year's Star Tree was wildly successful.

With your help, we were able to provide gifts for 24 Mosaic people--cozy pajamas and blankets, bird feeders, games and puzzles, coffee and accessories, craft items, sweat clothes, nail polish and lotions. For LSI our goal was to provide 30 \$25 Walmart gift cards. Your generosity allowed us to buy 39 gift cards!!! Thanks SO MUCH for your participation. Know that this will bring Christmas joy to 63 people--something to celebrate!

**Staff want to add a huge thank you to Joie Gronert and Gail Peterson for making this impactful project work with all of the 2020 complications.**

### Year-end office hours

Staff are taking some unused vacation the next few weeks so we can start the new year afresh! When we ARE working, we are in the office at staggered times through the day and evening, so you \*may\* get lucky just stopping by, but between the holidays and the fact that we are each splitting our time between working the office and home, ***please call ahead or email, and we will arrange to meet you.*** We don't want you to waste your time, so please reach out!

#### December 21-23

Working from home and office

**December 24 & 25:** Office closed

**December 28-29:** Office closed but leave a message!

**December 30:** Denise will be working on the year end deposits

**December 31:** Office closed, finalizing year end items as needed.

**January 1:** Office Closed

### Year End Contributions!



All contributions arriving by 3 p.m. on December 30 will be counted toward your 2020 contribution. Any pledges or checks arriving after this time will be deposited in 2021.

To make sure your contributions arrive on time, we suggest:

- Bring your check directly to the church (call ahead to meet someone).
- Place it directly in our mailbox as we will still be checking mail. (Put a stamp on it so we stay on the good side of the Post Office!)
- Use the Online Giving option on our website at <https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>

**Current Pledge Statement** If you would like an update of your 2020 giving/pledge standing, please leave a message ASAP for Denise Friesth at 276-6873 or via email @ [denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org)

**Year End Reports** due to the office as soon as possible! Thank you as we work to prepare the Annual report earlier than usual, so we can mail it out for a virtual meeting.

**The Finance & Budget Meeting** will be held Sunday, January 17 online after worship

**The Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday January 24, 2020 after worship.

We are still working on ways to make sure everyone has a chance to get their questions answered and offer input and will be communicating that to you closer to the date.





### Bell Choir

Carl Peterman, Kathy Bowermaster, Jenie and Alison Schmidt, Jill Boesch, Carol Woodruff, and Michelle Voelker (behind the camera) enjoyed meeting for three distanced rehearsals in the Sanctuary. Thank you to: Minister of Music Emma Stammer for directing us, Amy Schmelzer for recording for the Christmas Eve and Lessons and Carols worship services, and Jill for making Christmas themed masks for us to wear!



Grace Kids Care Tree greets us as we enter the building every day!



Close-up of the GKC Christmas Tree



Above: Snowflake Crafts at GKC!  
Below: All dressed up to celebrate!



Lutheran World Relief Basket ornament by Kathy Piltingsrud



LWR woven Basket ornament by Kathy Piltingsrud





**Quilters & LWR Tree!**



**Stockings hung on the wall with care  
For all the wonderful GKC staff**



**Ornaments made from  
spent spools by Helen  
Ringgenberg**



**Festive lights lead the way into the Gathering Hall**



**Woven ornaments & Birds made by  
Helen R. and Kathy P.**



**View of the Staff tree (featured in  
Pastor Mike's recent Morning prayers)  
from the entryway.**

## Holiday Recipes!

Thank you for continuing to share as we build our recipe file for our future new Grace Lutheran Recipe Book. Send them all to [emma@gracedm.org](mailto:emma@gracedm.org), post on Abiding Grace (our private Facebook Group – contact [Michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:Michelle@gracedm.org) to access), or send to the church via snail mail. Here are the latest submissions. See past newsletters and announcements on the website, or check you inboxes for past enews with other recipes we've shared, such as Cranberry Sauce, a Cranberry coffee cake, Kringla, snack mixes, a Cranberry apple pie, and more!

### No Bake Snowballs

**Michelle Voelker**

This cookie is a favorite memory from Rich's elementary school lunches in Ames. We tried for years to find a recipe that measured up to the memory, and had given it up as a lost cause until we tried this recipe from Hy-Vee that is apparently spot on! I've made sure to make a few copies of the recipe just to make sure we don't lose it! **Yield:** 55-65 cookies. (I never manage more than 55!)

- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 3  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup confectioners sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup Flake coconut, unsweetened
- 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup quick oats
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup semi-sweet chocolate chips, chopped small, or use mini chips.
- Extra confectioners sugar for rolling

1. In a large bowl, beat butter until smooth. Gradually add Confectioners sugar until smooth and light. Add vanilla and mix well.
2. Add coconut, mix well. Add the oats in parts, mixing well. Finally, add in the chocolate and mix well.
3. Using a little less than a Tablespoon to measure, roll the dough into balls, and roll in confectioners sugar.
4. Place in a sealed container and refrigerate for 4-24 hours before serving. These will be fine at room temperature for a few days, store the rest in the fridge or freezer.

**Notes:** If you taste it right after mixing, it is very sweet. Give it a good 24 hours to let the coconut and oats soften, the sweetness diminishes and the flavors meld beautifully. You should also be able to decrease the confectioners sugar by  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup and increase the oats by  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> cup.

### Christmas Egg Dish

**Voelker family**

Rich's sister Vicki served this every Christmas morning for the family brunch. Now we have it Christmas morning, New Years morning, Easter. It is easy (and best!) to prepare it the night before, then pop in the oven for a delicious easy holiday breakfast. Perfect when everyone needs a break from the sweets from their stockings. This recipe is easy to double. These days we make 1 regular recipe, and one vegetarian.

- 1# Milk Pork Sausage (If vegetarian, simply leave out, or use onion and vegetables of your choice)
- 6 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 2 slices bread, cubed
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, grated

1. Brown meat and drain, or sauté vegetables
  2. Beat eggs and add remaining ingredients.
  3. Place in a baking dish, cover, and refrigerate overnight.
  4. 1 hour before baking, remove dish from refrigerator and uncover. Preheat oven to 350 F.
  5. Bake for 1 hour, let set for 5 minutes before cutting and serving.
- Leftovers can be refrigerated for a day and reheated.





**We Believe That...** Our street sign at Grace has just finished a series of We Believe that Black Lives Matter statements, paired with a scripture reference that supports that statement. The next series I “We Believe Love is Love”. The sign, as of December 20, 2020, currently states, “We believe Love is love” with the text is John 1. We invite you to read and study along with us. Please contact the office if you have any questions or wish to discuss the reading with Pastor Mike.

### **Discontinuing your recurring PushPay payments:**

Once our account with Pushpay has been closed On 12.31.2020, all Recurring Schedules will be automatically stopped. If you would like to delete their personal account with Pushpay, you need to contact their Care team to request that, however, the Grace Financial Team and the Push Pay Team advises that users don't close their accounts because once closed, you will no longer have access previous giving history.



Contact the PushPayCare team at 425-202-8470 Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Pacific Time, or [Care@pushpay.com](mailto:Care@pushpay.com)

### **Electronic Giving Changes Details**

Our church has offered an option for electronic giving through Push Pay for the last three years. For a number of reasons, many of which are financial in nature, we are ending our contract with Push Pay at the end of 2020 and have set-up an account with Tithe.ly.

Tithe.ly has no monthly fees for basic services compared to the \$200/month fee that Push Pay charged. Transaction Fees are similar. They range from 1% +.30 per transaction to 3.5% + .30 per successful transaction. The 1% is for ACH payments and the 2.9% or 3.5% are for Credit Cards. The 1% + .30 for ACH is the lowest of the fees.

Tithe.ly was created for churches and is one of the preferred vendors for our Southeastern Iowa Synod and the E.L.C.A. It is the platform that is used by the Synod Office.

Your church is grateful for your electronic giving. Having the option to give electronically has certainly been helpful during this pandemic!

### **So how do you start using Tithe.ly?**

1. If you go to our church website, [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org), and click on the GIVE link at top right, it will take you to a donation page with Tithe.ly. You will see a large blue bar at the top and Grace Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA. The fields include: Give amount, Fund options, a box to check if you want your gift to be recurring and how often, First name, Last name, Email address, Card or Bank, and a box to check if you want to cover the transaction fees.
2. Another option is to reach the Donation Section with the following direct link: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2854737>

Please let me know how I can help you with this transition!

I look forward to assisting you. You may reach me at [Denise@GraceDM.org](mailto:Denise@GraceDM.org) or call my cell phone 515-669-7242.

### **Tithe.ly Giving Transaction Fees**

**You pay \$0 setup and \$0 per month to use Tithe.ly giving.** The Tithe.ly per-transaction fees apply any time a payment (eg. donation or gift) is processed on the Tithe.ly platform via a credit card, debit card or ACH/Bank (US Only).

- 2.9% + 0.30 per successful charge - VISA, MasterCard, Maestro, Discover, JCB, Union Pay, Diners
- 3.5% + 0.30 per successful charge - American Express
- 1% + 0.30 per successful charge - ACH/Bank Transfer