

**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
515-276-6873  
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#### Sunday Schedule

**9:00 a.m. Livestream & in-person**

**No reservations needed**

**10:00 a.m. Sunday School K-5**

**10:00 a.m. Adult Ed**

**Weekday morning Prayers 9:30 a.m.**

**Office Hours Mon – Thurs 9:00 a.m. - noon**

**Reach us at 515-276-6873**

#### Cats and Dogs

There is an old saying that speaks of the difference between cats and dogs that goes something like this: Dogs look at you and think, "You bring me food and water, give me a place to sleep, and clean up my messes. You must be God." Cats look at you and think, "You brings me food and water, give me a place to sleep, and clean up my messes. I must be God."

With two cats and a puppy in our family, I have thought about this quote often. The more I observe this, the more I believe it has merit. The cats in the family go about there day and do not wish to be bothered unless they need something. The exception is if someone is ill, hurt, or sad, the cats will not leave your side. Other that acute needs, these two would be quite content keeping us out of their way. This independence and confidence come in handy when you are busy with a lot of things.

It is a very different story with the puppy. He wants to be around you, no matter what you are doing. Taking out the garbage, he wants to be there. Cleaning dishes, he wants to be there. Writing a sermon, he wants to be there. There is a deep desire to be close. It is so clear that the puppy is filled with joy at your presence, and it is seeded in a deep love for you. The tail wags and he cannot help but jump. You are finally there.

Cats, typically, have little desire to be "trained." There are few, if any, cats that will play fetch, or catch. Cats are not likely to follow commands like "sit," "shake," or "come." If you got a cat in the kennel the first night, I can all but guarantee a difficult time getting the same cat in the same kennel the next night.

Dogs will strive to do whatever brings you joy. If you want them to sit, they will sit. You want them to shake hands, they will shake hands. They are wired differently that way. They can be in the middle of digging a hole in the middle of the yard, yet the moment either of my daughters calls out his name, he comes running for the door.

I cannot help but think of my own faith life. Am I a dog or a cat? Do I look to be by God as often as I can? Do I stop doing whatever I am doing when I sense the presence of God? Do I strive to do only that which brings God joy? Do I recognize those around me as the hands and feet of God? Do I make a lot of accidental messes because of my love and excitement? Or do I make a lot of intentional messes because I am upset?

***Continued on page 3***

### Happy October Birthday

- 1 - Katharine Radermacher
- 2 - Margaret York  
Steve Johnson  
Christine Hines  
Andy Roat  
Eric Barks  
Ivy Lawson
- 3 - Howard Welty
- 4 - Ava Lund
- 5 - Paul Nelson
- 6 - Amanda Jensen
- 7 - Ernestina Reaza  
Adam Bergman
- 8 - Nelda Sampel  
Harlan Mortenson
- 9 - Joanne Johnson  
Riley Mortenson  
Jaxsen Traver
- 11 - Christopher Kallenbach  
Emily Harmon  
Daniel Harmon  
Jeramie Mitchell  
Alexander Gutmann  
Fred Hofferber
- 12 - Greg Boeschen  
Benjamin Wonderlin  
Lucas Radermacher
- 13 - Deanna Hummel  
Sheryl Sauerman  
Lt. Col. David Peterson  
Jessica Warren  
Victoria Janson
- 14 - Jane Ridnour  
James Fenimore
- 15 - Chris Lawson  
Eryn Lenhart  
Kyra Lenhart  
Maya Lenhart  
Vincent Meillier
- 16 - Rev. Stephen Sherer  
Kara Jordahl  
Lukus Loehrke
- 17 - Roberto Ruiz
- 18 - Bruce Nelson
- 19 - Isaac Justice
- 20 - Linda Ross  
Patricia Schouten  
Sean Stickrod  
Stuart Turner  
James Briggs
- 21 - Sarah Schroeder  
Sage Speck  
Owen Chenoweth

## OCTOBER



### Happy October Anniversary

- 1 - John and Carrie Schall
- 5 - Donald and Margaret York
- 6 - John and Tracy Justice
- 7 - Jeryl and Chris Janson
- 12 - Burke and Shirley Shiffler  
Louie and Sue Anderson
- 16 - Ricky and Jennifer Huisman
- 17 - Bill and Anna Shea
- 21 - Delmar and Linda Vernia
- 22 - Joel and Stacie Holst
- 23 - Karri and Aaron Brandsfield
- 24 - David and Susan Halblom
- 27 - Hal and Michele Turner
- 28 - Michael and Marilyn Nizzi

### October Birthdays continued

- 23 - Ronald Vernia  
Trinity Newman
- 24 - Melissa Kallenbach
- 25 - Joyce Lewis  
Tina Meadows
- 26 - Seth Kallestad
- 27 - Douglas Dinnauer  
Ilah Ocken  
Wil Voelker
- 28 - Max Sauerman
- 29 - Col. Franklin Peterson  
Jessica Russell
- 30 - Travis Brown  
Pedro Espericueta  
Maycia Welty
- 31 - Monte Wilner  
Ashley Artzer  
Tanner Peeler  
Kellen Johnson



### Prayers and Sympathies for:

The family of Jason Schmidt  
(brother of Pastor Michael Schmidt)

The family of Anna Marie Peterson  
(mother of Don Peterson)



### ***Cats and Dogs, continued from page 1***

Do I keep God at a distance until I need something? Do I only come close if I sense something is wrong? Do I go about my day with little regard for the needs of others? There are times that I fall on that side, living out my faith like a cat. It is far too easy to get caught up in the pace of life and all the distractions. It is easy to get caught up in the “to do list” of life that you lose track of the bigger picture. It is easy to think that you know what is best and the opinions and needs of others are a waste of time.

I watch our puppy run around and I find myself thinking that I should be learning some lessons. I doubt that I am alone in that need. There is something beautiful about the way a dog can simply be, with times it can just sense what you need and fill that space. There is something beautiful about the way a puppy can bring joy to complete strangers walking by.

I have grown close to our cats and our puppy, but it is the latter that is teaching me many lessons these days from patience to unconditional love.

In Christ,  
Pastor Mike

### **Join us for Sunday School**

Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – October 3, 10, 17, and 24 after worship.  
Room 102

This month we will dive into the Word of God through Bible, music, art, and science. Join us as we start with the first story in the Bible, the Creation Story. We will hear the story, learn some songs, create our own animal, do some science experiments and even make our own music video for worship!

Masks will be required, and we are planning for each session to last approximately 30 minutes. Come join us!

### **Adult Education Hour This Fall – *Dialogues On: Race* *Grace Hall***

As part of our Adult Education Hour starting this October, we will be offering a 7-part discussion series concerning issues of racism, racial justice, and the role of the church. Each week will concern a different topic, kicked off by a short 10-minute video, and followed by group discussion on issues presented. As this series is video-based and each week is a unique topic, there is no preparation required and no commitment to attend each session. This is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your understanding of racial issues and interact with others in a safe and open environment.

Topics will include the history of racial constructs in America, the Bible and the role of the church, Black oppression and dehumanization, Native American oppression, intersection of race and gender, racial division within the church, and the future role of the church in fighting racism.

We hope to see you there.  
Carla Peterman, Mike Hilsabeck

## Worship

**Sunday Worship now at 9:00 a.m. (every Sunday)**

**9:00 a.m. Livestream online and in person**

- **On our website:** On the home page, in the "Welcome to Grace" section on the [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org) homepage, you will see a red button "Online Worship". Click on that button to be taken to our permanent Live Player. If you see our logo, know you are in the right place and worship will begin shortly.
- **On Facebook:** Find worship on our Facebook page – type @GraceLutheranDM into your search bar to find the page. The service will not appear as a scheduled live feed. The service will appear as live shortly before 9:00 a.m. as the stream begins. There may be a couple of minutes where you see the logo without sound. If you see that, know that you are in the right place and the service will begin shortly. Thank you for your patience.

**Written materials and Announcements** can be found in the Resources section of the website. Click on the word Resources at the top right of any page of the website and go from there! Or, follow this link <https://gracedm.org/resources/>

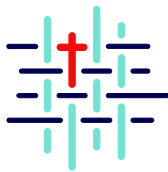
**Missed a worship service?** [Find and watch them here.](#)

Worship videos are usually posted on the website within 24 hours.

The video is usually available on Facebook within a few minutes of the end of worship.

**Sunday Fellowship** We are enjoying Fellowship after worship, but no coffee or donuts as yet.. Feel free to stop by Donut Hut on your way home from worship and support them with your purchase!

**Weekday Prayers** are 9:30 a.m. Monday through Friday on Facebook. If you are not on Facebook, you can still access it by typing @GraceLutheranDM into your browser, or through this link <https://www.facebook.com/Grace-Lutheran-Church-626637384050683/>



**Wanted! Greeters, Ushers, Lectors for Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m.**

If you are interested in serving in this way, sign up here <https://www.volunteersignup.org/3YPK9?classic> or contact Emma, [emma@gracedm.org](mailto:emma@gracedm.org)

Please be prepared to wear a mask while reading during the indoor service. Thank you!

## Altar Flowers

**Dates available to sponsor**

**October 10, 24, 31**

**November**

**December**

Sign up here: <https://volunteersignup.org/8EKBK>



### Prayer List Requests

Prayer, and praying for one another is an important part of the life of a community of faith. Anyone may ask to be on the prayer list, and we will honor that request. If you or a family member would like to be included in the prayer list, email [michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org) or [mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org) and you will be added at the next printing. Names can be added to the spoken prayers on Sunday if a message is sent to Pastor Mike after printing but prior to Sunday.

At Grace, we also respect the privacy and confidence of our members. Many of us know someone who may need prayers, yet those names have not been published in the announcements. Some have asked for private prayers: some simply do not want their names published, some are not yet ready to share, and some are simply private people. We will continue to pray and care for them in our hearts. You are more than welcome to let people know that if they wish to be placed on the written list, they (or a family member) simply need to let us know.

If you would like to share your prayer needs privately with the Pastor only, email Pastor Mike [mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org).



### October Church Decluttering

It has been so great to see groups in the building lately! However between the close of the day care and other realities of ministry in a pandemic, we have some spaces to declutter, and others to clean. Please join us on one of the following dates. Sign up in the Gathering Hall or email [emma@gracedm.org](mailto:emma@gracedm.org)

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup>: 6:30p-8:30p
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>: 9a-11a
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>: 6:30p-8:30p
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>: 10a - noon
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>: 2p-4p



Your group will be informed of the space you will be working in prior to arrival, if you have provided an email. Assignments may change if a space needs more attention than anticipated. The task will be simple - items will be sorted into "Keep, Donate, or Pitch", and we will have space designated for each. Some items will be marked in advance.

### Happening Weekly at Grace

- **Centering Prayer Group** Tuesdays, online 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Please contact Julie Honsey [honsey.julie@gmail.com](mailto:honsey.julie@gmail.com) for details.
- **Chancel Choir Rehearsals** Wednesdays in Grace Hall from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.  
Please contact [emma@gracedm.org](mailto:emma@gracedm.org) with questions
- **Willing Workers** Thursdays at 9 a.m. Enjoy fellowship, work on small projects through the building. Bring your tools!
- **LWR/Quilters** Thursdays 9 - 11 a.m. Room 101 101 - contact Cathy Watson or Kathy Piltingsrud

**Des Moines Knitters Guild** will meet in Grace Hall  
Tuesday, October 5, 6:15 – 8:00 p.m.

**Mid Iowa Cactus and Succulent Society** will meet in the Café  
Sunday, October 17, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.



## Thank You

Thank you for all the cards, thoughts and prayers at the loss of my brother, Jason. It has been a difficult road, but it is a blessing to know that we never travel such roads alone.

Pastor Mike



## Lutheran World Relief Kit Blessing

In Worship on Sunday, October 10!

## 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Des Moines Area Hunger Hike: A hike to alleviate hunger locally and globally Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Walk in the fight against food insecurity

This year, Des Moines Hunger Hike is hosting a hybrid hike with two ways to participate:

- A modified hike downtown on the Riverwalk. (Parking is free on Sundays). We will hear from guest speakers (via video) about their missions to alleviate hunger both locally and globally, then together will walk approximately 3 miles starting and ending at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, downtown Des Moines.
- Host your own walk and share your Hike on social media using the hashtag #DSMHungerHike

As cautionary measures the Hunger Hike has decided to forgo:

- In-person speakers, we will provide videos from our speakers online
- Passed food and drink, please bring your own water
- The World Food Prize Hall of Laureates will not be open, so bathrooms will not be available.

Donate online through [desmoineshungerhike.org/donate](https://desmoineshungerhike.org/donate) or send a check to  
Des Moines Area Hunger Hike  
PO Box 489  
Des Moines, IA 50302

## DMARC Requested Donations: Cash

DMARC is able to purchase more per dollar in bulk than we can in person, and is both easier and safer for many at this time. Checks may be mailed to the address below, and food donations may be dropped off at the DMARC Food Pantry Network Warehouse, located at 1435 Mulberry Street in downtown Des Moines. <https://www.dmarcunited.org/donate/food/>

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



### **Leaving a Legacy**

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) has responded to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service for more than 150 years. We have created a legacy of lifting up and empowering thousands of our Iowa neighbors, thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

Through LSI, Iowans also have the opportunity to leave a legacy of their own. When you include LSI in your will or estate planning, you are making a lasting impact for years to come. By including LSI in your will or living trust, you are ensuring that we can continue our mission and ministry well into the future.

If you would like more information on how you can include LSI in your estate planning, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit [LSIowa.org/church-relations](http://LSIowa.org/church-relations) or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

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

### **One Backpack and a Simple Act of Kindness**

The start of fall classes can be difficult for any child – especially as youth of all ages adjust back to “normal” following a year of virtual classes and Zoom meetings. But for kids who have experienced trauma, back-to-school season can bring additional stress: anxiety about meeting new people; worry that their family may not have enough grocery money for lunch every day; insecurity if they come to school without some of the fun supplies other kids have.

Thanks to donations of backpacks, crayons and pencils, glue, and more, LSI is ensuring Iowa youth have access to the school supplies they need to succeed. And because of this, kids are empowered with the ability to choose their own supplies that show off their own styles and personalities so they can feel confident as they return to classes.

After having a tough day, Marisol was feeling sad and was told she and her guardian would be stopping by the LSI office for some school supplies. She wasn't in the mood for a visit but after arriving at the office, she found a bright spot in her day: her LSI worker was there to help her pick out a new backpack of her own. She was delighted after finding her favorite, and eagerly walked around the office to choose more back-to-school items she could place in her backpack.

Thanks to these contributions, Marisol's day was turned around by a simple act of kindness and a new backpack.

### **You are Invited! Join us for a closer look at LSI through our new webinar series!**

The second Thursday of each month, 12:30 – 1 p.m.

Meet representatives from LSI leadership, be introduced to dedicated members of our program staff, learn fun LSI trivia, and hear heartwarming stories of impact that represent the life changing work LSI does every day. And, of course, we'll set aside time for your questions and comments.

Visit [www.LSIowa.org/closerlook](http://www.LSIowa.org/closerlook) to register, learn more about our upcoming events, and view recordings of past events.

## Finance Report – August Results

Financial results for August YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$258,819, Budget \$269,833
- Other Income – Actual \$12,059, Budget \$15,367
- Expenses – Actual \$282,644, Budget \$302,583
- Net activity – Actual (\$11,766), Budget (\$17,383)



Actual net activity was favorable to budget. While offerings continue to kertain salary and utility expenses have offset this variance to a greater extent to achieve the overall favorable results.

## Congregational Council Highlights from the meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Grace Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Roehrick at 5:35 p.m. Those in attendance were Pastor Mike, John Roehrick, Dean Watson, Tom McCleary, Nancy Crowfoot, Aaron Brandsfield, Linda Moravec, Emma Stammer, Michelle Voelker, Denise Friesth.

- Pastor Mike led devotions with a reading about discipleship.
- This led directly to the council's discussion with staff about The Five Most Important Questions You Will Ever Ask About Your Organization. Specifically, we addressed our mission, and how we see Grace following Jesus in Discipleship. We highlighted the values and 5 pillars from the Grace 2020 team documents. We discussed volunteer opportunities that are not necessarily in our own backyard. We recognized the need for engagement from a larger portion of our current membership. We resolved to move on to chapter 3 of the Five Questions book for the next meeting.
- The financial reports were discussed only briefly. While we are still below break even for the year, each month has been above budget and we are continuing to chip away at the deficit for the year.
- PPP funds will not be added to the income statement. They will be held in reserve and considered for capital improvements. Specific allocations will be discussed when we have quotes on HVAC replacements.
- Pastor Mike informed us that we are no longer in the running for the Lead Initiative, but he is still interested in engagement from the Lead Initiative group.
- Discussion and voting on the GKC wrap up was tabled until next time due to poor attendance at this month's meeting.
- No claim has been filed with the city regarding damage to Msindo Hall. We need to map out our sewage system to determine whether our stopgap measure from 2018 failed or that the backup came from another route.
- New Business
  - It was suggested that the budget for next year includes \$30,000 for 6 months' salary for a second Pastor.
  - It was suggested that we conduct another congregational survey to determine what the congregation wants to see from the church. This will also give us an opportunity to clean up our membership rolls.
- Pastor Mike announced our Christmas Service schedule. Christmas Eve will be at 4:00, 6:00 and 8:00 with no late service. Christmas day will be at 10:00, and Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> will be at 9:00 as usual. Lessons and Carols will on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Pastor Mike also informed the Council that we need to approve an insurance plan to offer him. He will be declining it for now, but may need it later depending on changes to the DMPS insurance offering. If we call a second Pastor before October of 2022, this insurance plan would be offered.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting will be October 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. in person and will include members of Grace staff again.



## Love your Neighbor: Growing in understanding

*This column is place for facts and resources about racial disparities, definitions of terms, and information about current events. We invite you to use this as a starting point to examine your own biases, expand your knowledge, do research, and for discussion.*

### Orange Shirts

Have you noticed people wearing Orange Shirts on Social Media?

Perhaps not – depending on the news and social media accounts you follow. I wasn't aware of what this was, and after a little searching, discovered that September 30 was the first official National Day of Reconciliation in Canada. The bill recognizing the day of recognition (not a holiday) was fast-tracked just this past summer after additional unmarked graves were uncovered at the sites of former residential school sites. Orange Shirt Day, however, was first established 2013 in recognition of one of the many shocking indignities Indigenous children faced when taken to residential schools. As a small child, Phyllis Jack Webstad, a Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) author and First Nations Residential School Survivor, wore a new orange shirt purchased by her grandmother. It was taken away from her at the school and she never saw it again.

This experience is not uncommon in accounts of survivors from schools all across the United States and Canada. Children were given very little time to pack their things and say goodbye to families. Traditional clothing was taken, in more modern times clothing made with loving care by a mother or grandmother was taken and never seen again. Braids and long hair, symbols of spirit worn by both boys and girls, were cut off without ceremony. Siblings were separated. Children were beaten for speaking their first language. Parents were not allowed off their reservation to go visit their children, and rarely informed when children died of tuberculosis or other diseases.

Reading these accounts is difficult. Even more when you consider that children were still being taken from their families in the 1970's. In 1973, 60,000 First Nations children were enrolled in boarding schools in the US. The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 allowed schools to be created on reservations, and in 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act was passed, finally allowing Native American parents the right to refuse to send their child to a boarding school. The last boarding school in Canada closed in 1986, while in 2007 seven off-reservation boarding schools still functioned in the US. This is recent history.

More difficult is the way these schools changed the lives and traditions of First Nations peoples. A few are:

- Languages were lost, along with traditions, stories, family histories, spirituality.
- Community, family ties and ways of parenting were lost which affected later generations.
- The ability to fit back into their culture after schooling finished was lost – sent back with a different language, habits, ideas, and even religions, these now grown students were supposed to help assimilate others, and in many cases were ostracized.

There is much we can do learn, and support First Nations Peoples, and the principles are the same as for supporting Black, Asian, Latinx, and all other cultures. Start with educating yourself. There are those from other cultures who **are** willing to educate us, but it is not their job. Reliving that trauma is exhausting, when ultimately they just want to live safe, happy, productive lives and enjoy the same privileges and opportunities we do.

- Search Wikipedia for First Nations Boarding Schools or other topics as a good starting place.
- Read books written by First Nations people, Black people, anyone who has the lived experience. There **are** books by white authors, but shouldn't people of color who choose to share their cultural knowledge benefit?
- Listen without judgement – it is very hard to believe that the things they describe and experience are real, because most of us have not experienced such difficulties or discrimination. Yet we believe the difficulties and hardships our own grandparents faced. If we believe one we should believe the other.
- Learn about the land you live on, as well as places you travel. Who lived here first? What was their life like? Where do their tribes live now?

### **Small Groups are welcome to meet at Grace**

Things to know:

- Masks are required in all public spaces.
- In order to meet, you simply need to reserve the space.
- The main spaces available are Grace Hall and the Gathering Hall. Other spaces may be considered upon request.
- If everyone is vaccinated and the entire group is comfortable, masks may be removed while gathered, but would need be worn when leaving the space.

### **Grace Guest Wifi**

We have recently changed the Guest Wifi Password.  
The Password can be found on the bulletin board outside the office.



### **Fall Gathering Women of the ELCA**

The Women of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Martensdale and  
the Cluster 10-11 WELCA Board invites you to come together in sisterhood!

Saturday, October 23, 2021  
Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.  
615 Iowa Ave, Martensdale, Iowa

It's been a while since we have gathered together to learn, share, pray, sing, and laugh. Let's give it a try again on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Martensdale. Wear your mask. We'll social distance as much as possible. The drive into Warren County can be very scenic this time of year so it should be a fun morning all around. Get a carload of your friends and come on down!!

We'll open with devotions, move on to a speaker (Kim Downs), and then a business meeting. We're usually done by 11:30 a.m.

A Love Offering of paper towels, toilet paper, and Kleenex will go to the Food Pantry in New Virginia. Regular offerings will go toward the work of the Cluster Board.



**Have you checked/updated your online church directory?  
Make sure members and staff can reach you!**

[members.instantchurchdirectory.com](https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com)

Only members who have given us their email address have access to the directory. If you would like to be added, please contact [denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org)

If you do not use computers and would like a printed version of an updated directory, please let the office staff know and we can print one for you.