



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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

5201 Urbandale Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
515-276-6873

www.gracedm.org

Pastor Michael Schmidt
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For the saints who from their labors now rest...

Sally Niffenegger
Mo Grotheer
Rosella Dingman
Marv Johns
Anna Marie Peterson
Vivian Swanson
John Gronert
LaRue Buihner

*"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you formed the
earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.' For a
thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or
like a watch in the night."*

Psalm 90:1-4

The sense of loss in the world is ever-present. A lingering pandemic has taken millions of lives worldwide. There has been no easing of other diseases. Mental illness and anxiety have made their presence known. There is a loss of innocence with the youth of today, as the pandemic has brought out the anger and division in our country. Normal, as we knew it, is gone. There is a deep sense of loss in the world, and will be for quite some time.

In such times, it is important to both stay grounded and open yourself up to the many emotions. One of the ways I do this, personally, is through music. There are some songs that I will listen to if I just need a good cry, and there have been experiences these last few years where that was needed. There are other songs that I turn to if I am feeling angry. In times like this, there is one specific song that I lean on: "Somebody's Praying" by Robert Robinson from his album titled *Inspiration*.

I first learned of Robert Robinson from my mother, who saw him perform with Lorie Line. I did not think much of it at the time, but then I watched as he opened for Tonic Sol-Fa. In the years since, his music has helped me through many highs and lows. In those same years, his own life has been filled with more struggle

For the saints, continued on page 3

Happy November Birthday

- 1 - Remington Anderson
Zelma Wilson
- 2 - Mike Peterman
- 4 - Gabriella Artzer
Bradley Nelson
Aubrie Stickrod
- 5 - Sally Thielking
- 6 - Benjamin Gronert
Laura Grotheer
- 8 - Austin Schaller
- 11 - Yaritza Marquez
Gary Scholten
- 12 - Zoe Lawson
- 13 - Kurt Bowermaster
Jasey Bradwell
Zachary Jensen
- 14 - Linda Moravec
- 15 - Gary Batten
Wilma Frost
John Justice
Mark Ridnour
- 16 - Haley Dostalick
Joseph Kennebeck
- 17 - Jeremy Israel
Gloria Moon
Madison Robbins
- 18 - Susan Johnson
- 19 - Nick Medhurst
Greg Ruckdaschel
- 21 - Lilli Kent
Kelley Riordan
- 22 - Zachary Kulzer
- 23 - Ashley Lund
- 24 - Jon Rissman
- 25 - Kerry Riordan
- 26 - Peter Kiefer
Jessica Rissman
Paul Thielking
Laura Wangerin
Virginia Wangerin
Carol Woodruff
- 29 - Angie Hidalgo
Ed Ridnour



Happy November Anniversary

- 2 - Richard and Deanna Snyder
- 5 - Howard and Rachel Welty
- 7 - Paul and Alexson Calahan
- 13 - Gary and Ellen Batten
- 20 - Gary and Melinda Scholten
- 26 - Todd and Barb Burley
Frank and Colleen McKinney
- 28 - Neal and Sandra Meyer

Prayers and Sympathies for:

The family of Johnny Gronert

The family of Vivian Swanson

The family of LaRue Buihner



It's almost time to Fall Back!

Turn your Clocks back one hour
on Saturday November 6 before
bed!

If you're a night owl and want to
make it official, wait until 2 a.m. on
Sunday November 7 to turn it back
to 1 a.m.



Fall Back

Chris Kallenbach runs Boston Marathon!

Paul and Melissa say:
"He did great! A new personal record:
2 hr. 44 min 1 sec. 424th out of 15,374."

Way to go Chris!

For the saints, continued from page 1

than most could even imagine. Through it all, he has stayed grounded, and has helped me do the same.

The song keeps coming back to the refrain: “**Somebody's prayin**, I can feel it. **Somebody's prayin'** for me.” Knowing his story, and hearing him sing these words, is a reminder to me that we are never alone. Even in the darkest of times, when you feel alone, there is someone praying for you. I have listened to this song hundreds of times. It has helped me stay grounded through some of the toughest times in my life. It has also helped me stay grounded in times of joy. It reminds me of the care of others, and highlights the importance of my own prayers.

There is a deep sense of loss in the world. There is also a lot of love in the world. In times like this, we need to stay grounded. No matter what you are facing or feeling, somebody's praying.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike

Sunday School continues in November and December!

Preschool through 5th Grade, meet in Room 102

Sunday School – Preschool through 5th Grade

Sunday School meets in room 102 following worship on the first three Sundays of the month. We will meet on November 7, 14, and 21, and December 5, 12, and 19.

Sunday School uses a rotation model that has the students dive into the story using the Bible, along with art, science, drama, music, digital media, and more.

Our November theme will be **Jonah and the Big Fish**.

Our December theme will be **Advent and Christmas**

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



Sunday School making a music video!

**Adult Education Hour – *Dialogues On: Race* – continues October 31 and into November
Meet in Grace Hall 2**

We continue the 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 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.

The November sign up is now available here

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/3YPK9?classic> or contact Emma, emma@gracedm.org

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



Altar Flowers

Dates available to sponsor

November

December

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

Decluttering

Thank you to all who have helped with the Decluttering project so far. There is great improvement throughout the building, and a sense of energy about possibilities in the future. There is more work to do, but we are off to a great start. Thank you!

We are decluttering because...

Parts of the building were switching from programming to storage.

We want to explore ministry opportunities in the community.

We want to be welcoming.

We want the building to be used.

We are not simply getting rid of stuff because we are looking to downsize ministry. We are preparing spaces to be used in ways that make an impact in our community. Having rooms filled with material things has gotten in the way of pursuing new opportunities.

What are some possible examples of “New Ministry Opportunities?”

Expanded food pantry

Temporary homeless housing, or in the event of a fire.

Before or afterschool care.

Expanded respite care

Partnership opportunities with agencies such as LSI

Other community needs



Grace Bells will ring again soon in worship!

We would love to have you join us – reading music NOT required, and Emma can give you a brief lesson one-on-one before rehearsal if this is your first time ringing. We will play on **Sunday, Nov. 21 at 9am, with rehearsals the Tuesday evenings of the 9th and 16th.** If you plan to ring, please let Emma know ahead of time and your bells will be waiting for you. emma@gracedm.org. We hope to see you there!

October Mission Update!

Your LWR team thanks you for your participation and contributions to the Lutheran World Relief kit and quilt ministry this fall here at Grace. We were able to send 38 quilts, 201 personal care kits, 203 school kits and 30 baby care kits to LWR to help people around the world. We are also grateful for donations totaling \$580. It was fun to work with you building kits, making quilts and blessing them together. We are sharing some photos from our quilt block design event on October 24th. Twenty people participated. Now we have lots of creative blocks to sew into quilts! You are very appreciated.



Advent and Christmas Plan Teaser!

Holden Evening Wednesdays in December?

Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00, 6:00, and 8:00 p.m.? All that and more will be spelled out in the mid November newsletter, and confirmed in the pre-Christmas newsletter in late December.

Staying up-to-date with calendar changes and event planning

You can also stay up to date on the website Calendar, which is also printable!

Go to the website <https://gracedm.org/> and scroll down to see the next three events. Or, at the top of the page, click on the “News and Events” pulldown, select Events Calendar. Once at the calendar you can click on any day to see event times, room locations, and any other available information.

You may also click on the words “printable option” to print a listing of the current months Calendar. We find you’ll get the best results using the Chrome Browser.

Festival of Trees 2021

In order to provide comfortable (and distanced) overflow adjacent to the Sanctuary for Christmas worship, the Gathering Hall will be decorated, but more simply this year. There will be a few trees and decorations including the Star Tree. We look forward to the return of the full Festival of Trees in 2022!

Virtual Festival of Trees: Gathering Hall Advent Slide Show

We are dreaming of a slide show that includes your Nativity Sets, Advent Wreaths, and Trees. Ideally these would not have people or identifying names, addresses, etc. There will be no deadline – send a photo in to staff as you get set up and the slide show will grow through the season! Look for more specific information in the pre-Thanksgiving newsletter!

Newsletter Deadlines

November 15 (Monday) for the Advent issue

December 13 (Monday) for the Christmas Issue

End of Year Deposits

Due on Thursday December 30.

If you would like to know your current standing, please contact Denise@gracedm.org or leave her a message at 515-276-6873



Grace Stewardship! Pledge cards due by November 11

Pledge packets were mailed on Wednesday, October 27.

Please return your pledge card to the office by November 11.

Extra packets available in the office or contact denise@gracedm.org

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.



National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children and teens. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, healthy home.

In 30 counties across western Iowa, LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment.

But more work needs to be done. According to the most recent federal data, more than 100,000 children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 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 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 and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Giving Back to Their Community

Amber and Donald had always felt called to provide foster care. But any time they would consider taking the leap and starting the process, the thought of “what if?” would leave them feeling stuck. Now, Amber can’t imagine life without the children her family has cared for over the years.

Amber and Donald became licensed to provide foster care and adopt children almost seven years ago. Since then, they have provided foster care for 17 Iowa children and adopted six. Amber says one of her favorite parts of the experience is seeing her adult children bond with each child who enters their home.

“It’s crazy to see our 25-year-old so bonded with our two-year-old. We don’t label the kids as ‘adoptive’ or ‘biological’, they’re just all our kids,” Amber says. “That bond is just as huge whether it’s biological or not.”

As Iowa continues to see a need for more foster and adoptive families, Amber says becoming licensed is one way Iowans can give back to their community.

“God gives us all gifts, and parenting and helping in the community seemed to be what He put in our hearts,” Amber says. “If you haven’t found a place to help in your community, consider foster care and adoption,” she says. “It could be exactly what your purpose is.”

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 to register, learn more about our upcoming events, and view recordings of past events.

Finance Report – September Results

Financial results for September YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$291,354, Budget \$302,925
- Other Income – Actual \$12,141, Budget \$17,225
- Expenses – Actual \$313,093, Budget \$339,387
- Net activity – Actual (\$9,599), Budget (\$19,237)



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

Congregational Council October 2021 Meeting Highlights Grace Lutheran Church

October Church Council Highlights:

(October 10th) It was moved, seconded, and passed by e-mail vote to allocate Grace Kids Care PPP funds to address the immediate HVAC needs ahead of winter.

(October 10th) It was moved, seconded, and passed by e-mail vote to accept the proposal from Dayton Heating and air conditioning LLC to provide and install seven furnaces to address our immediate HVAC needs.

(October 15th) It was moved, seconded, and passed by e-mail vote that Grace Lutheran will contract with Portico (health insurance provider) to provide the Silver+ plan to its Rostered leaders.

The Council met in person in Grace Hall October 19th. Council members attending were Bruce Bergman, Aaron Brandsfield, Susanne Carney, Alex Davik, Dave Gronert, Tom McCleary, Linda Moravec, Pastor Mike, and Dean Watson. Staff members attending were Denise Friesth, Rich Snyder, Emma Stammer, and Michelle Volker.

After devotions, the Council continued discussion of the book ***The Five Most Important Questions You Will Ever Ask About Your Organization***, by Peter F. Drucker.

The Council received and reviewed the financial and staff reports.

Grace Kids Care:

- It was moved, seconded, and passed to allocate the remaining Grace Kids Care PPP funds to be used toward the greatest capital needs of the church.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Grace Kids Care program be permanently closed.
- It was moved, seconded, and passed that remaining Daycare property will be sorted into items that can be sold, items that can be donated, and items to be discarded and disposed of accordingly.

Property Committee Report:

- See activity above regarding HVAC.
- A claim against the City of Des Moines is being processed regarding damage from the recent sewer backup in Msindo Hall.

The council continued discussion of the possibility of adding a second minister.

The Council appointed John Roehrick, Dave Gronert, Sally Preston, and Susanne Carney to form a nominating committee to locate members interested in serving on the Church Council.

Next scheduled Council meeting will be November 16th, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Gronert
Council Secretary

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.

Cultures aren't costumes

Halloween and Thanksgiving are just around the corner, and while most people already have their costumes in place, it's a good time to think about next year. While not all people are offended by a racially or ethnically based costume, some people are. In addition, to many indigenous people in the US, Thanksgiving is not the happy celebration many of us feel it is. Being empathetic humans means we do not ignore harm when it is present. Learning to appreciate cultures vs. appropriating them takes time, humility and openness. Check out:

- So You Wanna Talk about Race by Ijeoma Oluo (Grace members studied this book over the summer)
- The Conscious Kid website and Instagram account
- Visit the website of Tiffany Jewel or read her book "This book is anti-racist"

(some wording and resources from Little_kotos_closet on Instagram)

Christmas Wish List for Trinity Center at Luther Park

Please deliver new, unwrapped items to Trinity Center by December 1, 2021.

Questions? Please direct them to Jessica Walton, Director of Activities, at 515-261-6394.

Baby Dolls (soft, new)	Socks/Gripper Socks
Crayons	Small Lap Blankets
Coloring Books for Adults	Packaged Snacks, Candy, Cans of pop
Large Print word find books	Packaged Cookies, crackers, chips
Fiction books for all ages	Tooth brushes, toothpaste
Fidget items	Hair picks
Sensory items/blankets	Combs
Necklaces, jewelry, beaded jewelry	Nail Polish
Beads	Hand Lotion
iTunes gift cards	Body lotion (for men and women)
Mp3/ipod players (can be used)	Body wash (for men and women)
Headphones	Non-aerosol deodorant (men and women)
Art Supplies	Hair Ties
Games	Electric shavers
Stuffed animals	Cologne
Stationery	Perfume
Memory Games	<i>We sincerely appreciate your</i>
Magazine Subscriptions	<i>thoughtfulness and continued support!</i>

Hidden Grace Volunteers

Grace members have always stepped up to take care of things they see need doing, and we appreciate each and every one of you! Unfortunately, because some of you are so good at what you do, don't seek out recognition, and have taken care of some tasks for years, we're not always aware of who is doing them. Sometimes this causes us to step on toes and hurt feelings by doing things we see need doing, not knowing that someone was about to come in the next day or week to do that very thing.

It's even more important to us now, when we're starting to ease back into 'normal' and during the decluttering stage. We want to honor your service and contribution, even if it needs to be quietly, just known among staff. So please, let the office know:

- what tasks you've done around the building – personally or as a committee
- whether it is something you plan to continue/resume or would like to hand off

Former Grace Kids Care families enjoyed a Trick or Trunk reunion in the lot and playground at Grace last week!

Photo credit: Emma Stammer



Photos sent from our friends in Msindo: Teachers and leaders, Rev. John Mshana and his wife, the masks we sent from Grace, and the congregation in church.

