



**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 Nov 21

Weekday Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.

Office Closed Thanksgiving week

Normal 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

mike@gracedm.org

Minister for Worship and Music

Emma Stammer

emma@gracedm.org

Organist

Richard Snyder

rich@gracedm.org

Minister for Administration

Denise Friesth

denise@gracedm.org

Minister for Communications

Michelle Voelker

michelle@gracedm.org

Office Assistant for Worship

Jessye Flannery

Jessica@gracedm.org

Custodian

Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

Inside This Issue...

2... Celebrations, office hours

3... Poinsettias, Advent Wreath Lighting,
Service Opportunity Donations

4... Worship access, volunteers,
2021 endowment report deadline

5... Star Tree, Trinity Center giving

6... Worship Calendar, Festival of Trees,

7... LSI Update

8... Council and Finance Reports

9... Love your neighbor, Sunday School

10.. Advent Readings, Photos

My Heart Shall Sing

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Refrain from "Canticle of the Turning"

Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat

I am reminded of a story from the fall of the Berlin Wall. Thirty two years ago last month, the Berlin Wall fell. The popular explanation is that the United States won the arms race that bankrupted communism. There is another aspect of the story- the power of song. A new version of Mary's song was sung. "My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn." In the city of Leipzig, St. Nicholas Church hosted prayer and hymn singing on Monday evenings. On September 4, 1989, the crowd was too big for the church, and the service was moved to a city square. On October 2, East German leader, Eric Honecker, issued a "shoot to kill" order for crowd control. Soldiers and police refused to fire on the crowd. The next week, the crowd numbered 70,000, the next week 120,000, the next week 320,000. The gathering of prayer and song spread to Berlin and on November 9, 1989, the wall came down. Soon after, the East German government and the Soviet Union fell. "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones." That's the power of song.

There is power in song. There is even more power when it is the heart that sings. The song of Mary, the Magnificat, will be our focus during Advent this year. The song does not point to Mary. Instead, it points to the work of Christ. We are called to join the song, using our voices, hands, and feet to make sure that no one is left out.

We spent the last couple of months focused on the teachings of Christ. As we prepare for Christmas through the season of Advent, the work of Christ will be our guide. Please join us for worship (in person and online) at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays as we journey through the Magnificat together. We will also gather in worship at 6:30 p.m. on the first three Wednesdays in December, December 1, 8, and 15, and share in Holden Evening Prayer. We invite you into the Advent Season, and into the Song of Mary.

In Christ, Pastor Mike

Happy December Birthday

- 1 - Sarah Williamson
Deanna Weber
Josh Lund
- 2 - Beverly Anderson
Christopher Barks
- 3 - Martha Page
Ami Bradwell
James Jordahl
- 4 - Carter Woodruff
- 5 - Duane Ulrick
Darlis Honnold
Aaron Brandsfield
- 8 - Felicia Adams
- 9 - Joy Averill
Rosemary Randolph
Salvador Rodriguez
- 10 - Steve Young
- 11 - Jamie Chamberlain
Burke Shiffler
Kari Dostalík
- 12 - Evan Justice
- 13 - Bradley Ashton
- 14 - Stacie Holst
Anthony Garcia
- 15 - Norman Iverson
Matt Ziska
- 17 - Tanner Highland
- 18 - Helen Fanning
Payton Lawson
Katja Rahjes
Lucas Scholl
- 20 - Shirley Shiffler
- 21 - John Rudisill
- 22 - Elizabeth Lewis
- 23 - Nancy Crowfoot
Wayne Curry
Piper Hutton
- 24 - Jon Rutter
Stuart Mitchell
Nicole Nelson
- 25 - Jeffrey Nelson
- 27 - Barbara Berven
Christina Anderson
- 28 - Ryan Randolph
Sarah Chenoweth
Samantha Schmidt
Courtney Vander Plaats
- 29 - Linda Rundle
Kevin Krause
Robin Randolph
- 30 - Marion Nehmer
Drake Carney
- 31 - Jean Thompson
Nicholas Best



Happy December Anniversary

- 1 – Cindy and Ross Peeler
- 3 – Katharine and Matt Radermacher
- 8 – Becky and Tom Selander
- 14 – Gregory and Darlis Honnold
- 26 – Megan and Charles Reynolds

Thank You

On behalf of the family of Anna Marie Peterson we want to thank the congregation for their prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy on her recent death. As Grace organist for over 50 years, the Grace family was an important part of Anna Marie's life.



Thank you to everyone who was able to return their pledge cards! The Finance Committee is beginning to plan for 2022!

If you are still working to determine your own budget, we will still accept pledge cards when you feel comfortable doing so.

Holiday Closures

The office will be closed the week of Thanksgiving and the week between Christmas and New Years.

Staff will be taking vacation or working very reduced hours during these weeks while focusing on spending time with family.

Pastor Mike will be available in case of emergencies. Simply call the church at 515-276-6873 and follow the voice mail directions to leave a message and your contact information on the emergency line. Pastor Mike will receive the message and respond.

Non-emergency messages can be left on our respective voicemails and we will get back to you on Monday, November 29!

Planning to use the Kitchen Oven?

Please call the office at least several days in advance so we can get it turned on and ready for you!

With two large ovens and all those burners lit and warm 24 hours a day and very little use this past 6 months, it just made sense to have it turned off, but can be turned back on for you without fuss if we have advance notice!



Sponsor a Poinsettia – Deadline December 5th

We will be decorating the sanctuary and altar area with poinsettias again this year. We invite you to sponsor a poinsettia to celebrate the Christmas season and (if you wish) honor or remember loved ones. Poinsettias are \$15 each and you are welcome to take yours home after worship on January 2. Here's the online order form:

<https://volunteersignup.org/AJ8A7>

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Please fill out your first AND last name in the "First Name" space, and indicate whether your poinsettia is given in honor or memory of special individuals or people (or any other message) in the "Last Name" space. Please order by December 5. You may pay using Grace's online giving site (<https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>), mail a check to church, or make arrangements to drop off check/cash when the church office is open. Thank you!

Paper forms will also be available on Sunday mornings. Please provide any special message you'd like us to print in the bulletin. Questions? Contact Kathy Bowermaster at 515-971-6360 or kbowerma@hotmail.com. Thank you!

As Advent gets closer, we are asking for your help in lighting the

wreath! Being unable to attend worship in person doesn't mean you have to be isolated or that your contribution is less valuable. Help us strengthen our connection with you during the Advent season by submitting a video of yourself or your household lighting the candles on your wreath at home. The video will then be played during the wreath-lighting portion of worship services. There is no limit to the number of videos we can accept! Please send videos by Tuesday of each week so Amy has time to edit. If you want more information, please contact Pastor Mike or Emma.



If you would like to participate, **you can find all of the readings on page 10** so you can get started at your convenience! Each week's readings will also be posted in the prior week's announcements and enews for your convenience.



November 28th Service Opportunity

All are invited to decorate and fill treat bags to put in the Little Free Pantry and use for other ministries over the following weeks. We will meet at 10:00 on Sunday, November 28th in Grace Hall. You may bring donations of prepackaged individual snacks and essentials to the collection bin in the Gathering Hall by the 28th.

Suggestions include: crackers, pretzels, nuts, dried fruit, jerky, breakfast bars, hot cocoa mix, juice boxes or pouches, seasonal sweets, small Kleenex packs, lip balm.

Join in on the fun and create a nice gift for our neighbors!

Worship

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

Wednesday Evening Holden Prayer December 1, 8, and 15 6:30 – 7:00 p.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 sign up is 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!

Grace Endowment 2021 Grant Reports due December 1!

The report should include documentation of the expenditures and completion status of the project. Funds that have not been expended should be returned to the Endowment Fund by December 1st unless extenuating circumstances would require that the deadline be extended, for which approval by the Endowment Fund is required.



Grace's Star Tree

Choose a gift to make someone's Christmas special—an adult from Mosaic's local group homes or a child from LSI's Early Development Program.

You can find the Star Tree in the Gathering Hall on Sundays – take a star, purchase a gift, and return it, unwrapped, with the star, by Tuesday, December 14. Each gift should be worth \$25.

Half of the Stars have been placed on the Star Tree at Grace, half on an electronic sign up for those who find that more convenient. You can find the list at the link below. Choose one of the options listed, and click on the link to sign up, and return the gift, unwrapped with name of the recipient attached. Each gift should be worth \$25.

You may return the gifts to the church on Sunday – place your bag beneath the Star Tree or place gift cards in the secure mail slot at the church office. You may also mail (if gift cards) or drop gifts off to Joie Gronert (515 279-4974 Phone or text), or Gail Peterson (515-224-4514 Phone calls only).

Please do not place mail in the mail box outside of the church without proper postage.

If you would like someone to do the shopping for you, contact Joie or Gail after you sign up. you may pay using Grace's online giving site (<https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>), mail a check to church, or make arrangements to drop off check/cash when the church office is open.

Happy shopping!



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)
Crayons
Coloring Books for Adults
Large Print word find books
Fiction books for all ages
Fidget items
Sensory items/blankets
Necklaces, jewelry, beaded jewelry
Beads
iTunes gift cards
Mp3/ipod players (can be used)
Headphones
Art Supplies
Games
Stuffed animals
Stationery
Memory Games
Magazine Subscriptions

Socks/Gripper Socks
Small Lap Blankets
Packaged Snacks, Candy, Cans of pop
Packaged Cookies, crackers, chips
Tooth brushes, toothpaste
Hair picks
Combs
Nail Polish
Hand Lotion
Body lotion (for men and women)
Body wash (for men and women)
Non-aerosol deodorant (men and women)
Hair Ties
Electric shavers
Cologne
Perfume

***We sincerely appreciate your
thoughtfulness and continued support!***

Advent and Christmas Worship Times

Advent Worship, 9:00 a.m. Sundays begins

Sunday, November 28, and continues on December 5, 12, and 19
In-person and livestreamed.

Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. December 1, 8, and 15
In person and livestreamed.

Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, December 24 at 4:00, 6:00, and 8:00 p.m.

All three worship services will be in person.

The current plan is to livestream the 4 p.m. worship, which will remain viewable on Facebook and added to our website.

Christmas Day Worship

Saturday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.
In person worship only.

Sunday, December 26, 9:00 a.m.

In person and livestreamed.

Lessons and Carols Worship

Sunday, January 2, 9:00 a.m.
In person and livestreamed.

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!

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



Merry Christmas from LSI!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! This year has been another difficult time for all of us, and we are grateful for the Iowans who have stepped up just for the sake of giving and helping the people LSI is privileged to serve. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our neighbors who are so often overlooked in our society. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org. 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. Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

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.

Never Alone

Two years ago, Kayla knew it was time for a change in her life. She had struggled with substance use for years. When she was pregnant with her youngest son, Rafe, she was determined to build a brighter future for him. She entered treatment to become sober and create a healthy home for her baby.

While in treatment, Kayla enrolled in the HOPES program through LSI Early Childhood Services, which provides in-home parenting education and guidance for parents of young children. Kellie, Kayla's LSI worker, met with her every week to ensure she had all the resources and support she needed to raise Rafe in her home. They kept track of all his important developmental milestones, sharing smiles and laughs along the way. Whether it was supplying diapers or being a listening ear, Kellie was always there for Kayla.

Kayla is now two years sober, has a job as a chef, and feels empowered and confident that she has everything she needs to help her family thrive.

"I just feel overwhelmed and overjoyed. I never thought I could do all this, so I'm proud of myself," she says. "There are people at LSI that care about you. They are there to support you and they are willing to help."

Finance Report –October Results

Financial results for October YTD are as follows:

- Pledged Offerings – Actual \$322,397, Budget \$336,017
- Other Income – Actual \$12,273, Budget \$19,083
- Expenses – Actual \$350,103, Budget \$379,992
- Net activity – Actual (\$15,433), Budget (\$24,892)



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.

November 16th, 2021 Church Council Highlights:

The Council met via zoom application at 6:04 PM. Council members attending were Bruce Bergman, Aaron Brandsfield, Susanne Carney, Valerie Culp, Alex Davik, Dave Gronert, Tom McCleary, Linda Moravec, Sally Preston, John Roehrick, Pastor Mike, and Dean Watson. Kevin Krause also attended the meeting

The Council received and reviewed the financial and staff reports.

- **The Council discussed** awarding bonuses to some staff members to compensate for the extraordinary amount of extra work they put in due to the pandemic and the processing of the PPP loan applications.
- **It was moved, seconded, and passed** to authorize the payment of these bonuses, funds coming from PPP monies.

Property Committee Report:

- Boiler system: air was bled out and water added to the boiler loop. The noise level in Grace Hall is drastically reduced! The Saturday workers will be checking for any leaks in the system. Many thanks to them and to **Eric Weber** for their work on this problem!
- The claim against the City of Des Moines for the recent sewer backup in Msindo Hall has been approved and paid!

Budget and Stewardship:

Kevin Krause reported that the stewardship drive is well underway, and response has been good. Several giving units have increased their pledges. There are still several yet to be turned in. Kevin reported that work is being done on the budget for next year. Kevin reported that lack of use of the church by outside groups has reduced the income for this fiscal year, and it is hoped that these groups will once again utilize our space once the pandemic numbers allow it.

The council continued discussion of the possibility of adding a second minister. The Council will decide at the December meeting whether to start the process of calling an intern or a second rostered pastor. Much depends on the results of the Stewardship drive.

The Nominating Committee report: The Committee reported that one person has consented to have her name placed in nomination for the Church Council election. The Committee will continue to seek other nominations.

Annual Meeting: The Council designated **January 30, 2022** as the date for the Annual Meeting, with budget forums to be held **January 16th and January 23rd, 2022**. The format (in-person or virtual) to be determined as Covid allows. Perhaps it will be a combination of the two formats.

Next scheduled Council meeting will be December 14, 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.

It's the time of holidays, for us Lutherans: Christ the King, Advent, Christmas.

Others will be celebrating different holidays, a very few are listed below. Take some time to reflect on your own celebrations and traditions, then take some time learn about what others celebrate, the significance of the holiday, how it started, and how it is celebrated. You might also consider looking at the ways other cultures in our city celebrate the same holidays as you.

- Hanukkah - Evening of November 28, 2021 through Evening of December 6, 2021
- Bodhi Day - December 8
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception - December 8 (Catholic)
- Day of Reconciliation (South Africa) - December 16
- Yalda Night -December 20, Yalda Day – December 21
- Kwanzaa - Evening of December 26, 2021 - January 1, 2021

Sunday School continues in November and December!

Preschool through 5th Grade, meet in Room 102

The November theme is **Jonah and the Big Fish**.

We will meet again on November 21, and invite all to participate in the November Service Project on November 28 - find details on page 3.

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

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

Newsletter Deadlines

December 13 (Monday) for the Christmas Issue

January 2 or the January 2022 Issue – this issue is estimated to be published by Friday, January 7

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.

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!

Weekly Readings for Advent Wreath Lighting Videos

First Week of Advent, November 28

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.



Second Week of Advent, December 5

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,
let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

Third Week of Advent, December 12

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,
let us travel on God's holy way
and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

Fourth Week of Advent, December 19

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,
let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

A note and photo from Aaron Brandsfield:

Eric Weber and I had the extreme pleasure of spending the day with Dick yesterday for Veteran's Day. He was a wonderful host. We laughed, told stories, had lunch together. Dick is a wonderful person and it was my honor to spend the day with him and Eric. Happy Veteran's Day Dick and Eric.

