



GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

Advent 4 Live Online and In person  
Sunday, December 19: 9 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship  
4 p.m. Live Online  
4, 6, & 8 p.m. in person

Christmas Day Worship  
cancelled for 2021

Sunday, December 26 Synod-wide Worship  
Pre-recorded link

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#### Inside This Issue...

- 2... Poinsettias, Sanctuary at Christmas
- 3... Updated Worship Schedule, Volunteers needed.
- 4... Year End Dates to know, Annual Meeting & Reports Thank Yous
- 5... Congregational Meeting, Accessing Worship, Mitten Tree
- 6... Cinnamon Roll Sunday, Nativities

*Merry Christmas  
from the Staff of  
Grace Lutheran Church*

*Kathy Bowermaster*

*Jessye Flannery*

*Todd Haugen*

*Denise Friesth*

*Pastor Michael Schmidt*

*Richard Snyder*

*Emma Stammer*

*Michelle Voelker*





***Thank you to everyone who has sponsored  
poinsettias for the Christmas altar.***

*Your messages will be printed in the Christmas Eve insert.*

*Louie and Sue Anderson, Kathy Bowermaster,  
The Brandsfield Family, Valerie and Brent Culp,  
Kevin and Jeanne Drury, Carl Feilmann, Mary Freimuth Helt,  
Connie Heuton, Norman and Lenora Iverson,  
the Jessen Family, Linda Moravec, Charlotte Nielsen,  
Lynn Niemuth, Virgil Olson, Don and Gail Peterson,  
Jenny Rehder, Jane and Ed Ridnour,  
Dean and Cathy Watson, Deanna, Eric and Laynne Weber,  
Carol and Carter Woodruff.*



### **NEW updated Worship Schedule**

**Sunday December 19: worship at 9 a.m.** In-person and Livestreamed (Livestream info on page 2)

**Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve,**

**Pastor Mike presiding**

*We will have overflow seating available in the Gathering Hall if needed. Both the Sanctuary and Gathering Hall will be wiped down between services. Masks required.*

- 4 p.m. Livestreamed and In-person
- 6 p.m. In-person only (volunteers needed)
- 8 p.m. In-person only (volunteers needed)

The 4 p.m. livestream recording will be available on the website later in the evening for you to watch at your convenience.

**Christmas Day, December 25 - No worship**

**Synod-wide worship, Sunday, December 26. Pre-recorded only**

The Office of the Bishop is providing a pre-recorded worship service for Sunday, Dec. 26th

The worship will NOT show on our website liveplayer. Instead, the link to the video will be posted in our website news section, the website calendar, and the Worship Videos page in our Resources section. The bulletin insert and Sermon will be available on the Bulletin page of the Resources section of our website for you to print or read online as you prefer. We are planning to mail a copy for those who have requested them.

**Sunday, January 2, 9 a.m. Lessons and Carols Worship. Livestreamed and in-person**

Join us for a joyful worship of readings and singing!

### **Volunteers needed for Christmas Eve and Lessons and Carols!**

Lectors for the 8 p.m. Christmas Eve and Jan 2.

Ushers for Christmas Eve - usher as a family and help hand out candles!

Greeters for all services – if you can smile and say hello, you've got this!

Sign up here

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







Thank you to everyone who sent in photos of their Nativities, Advent Wreaths and trees! And a big Thank you to Amy Schmelzer for putting together the video. Read the story behind two of our members nativity sets on page 6, and be sure to check out the Advent Video in the Gathering Hall!



#### **Star Tree update: Thank you for being so generous!**

All of the Star Tree gifts were selected (as usual with Grace!), and will make so many people happy!

*Staff want to thank Joie Gronert and Gail Peterson for continuing to make this impactful project work, learning new computer skills to create sign-ups, and shopping for those who wanted to select gifts but were unable to shop.*

#### **December & Holiday Office Hours**

Staff are taking unused vacation time to spend with family over the next few weeks so we can start the new year rested and healthy!

**Monday, December 20:** 10:45 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Tuesday December 21:** 9 a.m. – noon

**Wednesday, December 22:** 9 a.m. – noon

#### **Thursday December 23**

Office Closes for the year\*. We will return on Monday, January 2

#### **\*Thursday December 30:**

**The office will be open from 1 – 3 p.m.**

Denise will be in the office to receive and process any year end contributions and deposits for 2021

#### **Year End Contributions!**

Denise will be in the office on Thursday December 30 from 1-3 p.m. Any deposits received after this date will be deposited in 2022, so if mailing, make sure to mail early!

You may also:



- Use the online giving site on our website [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org) Click on the word “Give” at the upper right corner of the page. Or go direct to <https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/> Then scroll down, click on the red “Donate” button, and follow the instructions from there.
- Arrange a time to drop something off in person, please contact Denise at [denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org) or leave a message at 515-276-6873 extension 200.
- Place your offering in the Secure Office Communications mail slot just outside the office on any day the building is open for worship.
- Placing non-USPS items, especially those without stamps, in the mailbox is illegal

#### **Congregational Annual Meeting and Year End Reports**

**The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 30, 2022, with Finance meetings the two Sunday's prior. Which means Denise needs to have the Annual Report printed and ready to mail by January 11. Which means...**

***We need your year-end reports please!*** We know that if you have to submit a report you are already giving of your time, energy and talents, and we appreciate all that you do! If you have a moment to put yours together now, go right ahead and send it off and get that off your New Year's To-do list! You may send your reports to [Denise@gracedm.org](mailto:Denise@gracedm.org).



**The Finance & Budget Meeting** will be held twice, on Sundays January 16 & 23 at 10:15 after worship. The same information will be presented at both meetings– come to one or both! This meeting may be held in person, online, or a hybrid option. Information will be announced in January.

**The Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10:15 after worship. At this time we anticipate that this meeting will be held in person. A final decision will be made closer to the date, with the input of our Health and Safety Committee.

### **Little Free Pantry News**

Chuck Denton has installed a garbage can on the side of the pantry so those who are hungry have a place to put their trash. It has a lid, won't collect water, and can easily be emptied. If you are shopping for the LFP during the holidays, think about purchasing ready to eat foods, special holiday treats, breakfast and snack foods for students home on break, hats, mittens, and hand warmers.

**Safety:** We have had warm days, but cold nights can cause glass items to freeze and shatter.

### **Accessing Worship in person or online**

We are currently open for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Please wear a mask to protect our medically vulnerable members.

### **Sunday Worship in-person and livestreamed every week at 9:00 a.m.**

- **On our website:** On the home page, in the "Welcome to Grace" section on the [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org) homepage, click on the red "Online Worship" button.
- **Find us on Facebook @GraceLutherandm:** The service will appear as live shortly before 9:00 a.m. If you see our logo, you are in the right place!
- Worship is recorded and archived on our website. Please allow us 24 hours to the recording.
- **Worship materials are posted on our [website worship page](#) by Thursday of each week.**
- **Find weekly announcements, past newsletters, and more on our website [Resources](#) pages!**

**Weekday Prayers** with Pastor Mike 9:30 a.m. on Facebook. Simply type **@GraceLutherandm** into your browser or search engine to find us even if you don't have a Facebook account.



The Knitters Group knits mittens and hats to be given away after the holidays. This year they have set up trees in several locations, including Grace.

## Cinnamon Roll Sunday



**Date:** Sunday, January 30, 2022

**Time:** 10:00 to 11:30 AM

**Place:** Grace Lutheran Church Gathering Hall for in person pick-up  
OR  
Grace Lutheran Church Parking Lot for drive by pick-up orders

**Cost:** Free Will Donation  
(Proceeds to go towards the 2022 National Youth Gathering)

**What:** Warm Fresh Baked plate of 4 cinnamon rolls covered with saran wrap

To ensure we have plenty of cinnamon rolls ordered we will be taking pre-orders this year. If you wish to place an order please RSVP to [gracesundayschool3010@gmail.com](mailto:gracesundayschool3010@gmail.com) or [karri@brandsfield.com](mailto:karri@brandsfield.com) by Sunday, January 16, 2022. Please indicate on your order whether you will be picking up in person or driving by.

## Thank You for your continued support!



The story behind this nativity scene is that the building was constructed in the 1950's by a neighbor and good friend of my family growing up in Elmhurst, Illinois. The figures were hand painted by my wife, Jane, during our first year in Davis, California. There is an angel on the roof, her name is Gloria.  
Rich Snyder



This is a puzzle I made for Melissa and Cindy about 40 years ago. Grandkids play with it now.  
Dave and Joie Gronert

6

See the video in the gathering Hall to see this set up!