



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Livestream & in-person
10:00 a.m. Sunday School K-5
10:00 a.m. Forums

Weekday Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.

Office Hours

9 a.m. – noon
Monday - Thursday

5201 Urbandale Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
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www.gracedm.org

Pastor Michael Schmidt
mike@gracedm.org

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A Good Year

As 2021 ends and we prepare for the start of 2022, I cannot help but reflect on the last 12 months. There was a sense that 2021 would be greatly improved from a difficult 2020. And before that, the belief that 2020 would be better than 2019. This is a cycle that has existed for a very long time, as we strive to have a “Happy” new year. It is difficult to have a happy year, but through the lens of gratitude, it is easy to have a good year.

It would be easy to focus on the difficult parts of the last year. The loss of my brother, Jason, comes to mind, along with the loss of so many saints from Grace Lutheran Church and beyond. Closing Grace Kids Care was an incredible loss. The whole building feels different without all the little ones running around and making noise. Ellen’s departure has left a hole as well as an empty office. A celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord in an empty sanctuary for the second straight year was incredibly difficult. The lingering pandemic and the mental toll is exhausting. An attempted overthrow at the Capital, and the growing political divide is worrisome. The impact of having Covid, both physically and mentally, has been rather draining.

The lens of gratitude helps keep the year in perspective. I was able to celebrate 10 years of ministry here at Grace Lutheran Church. We were able to gather in person for the first time in over a year. It has been an absolute joy to see faces (yes, you can see facial expression through the eyes while one wears a mask correctly). We can imagine a future as a teaching congregation, applying to be an internship site. We can look at opportunities to use the building in new ways. We are continuing to adapt to hybrid ministry opportunities and growing together.

Ordinarily, I would wish you all a “Happy New Year.” Today, I simply hope that we can all have a good year. May we depart 2021 and approach 2022 with a lens of gratitude. Like any other year, there will be highs and lows, peaks and valleys, but we have a God who is faithful, and walks with us through it all. May we never lose sight of that promise.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike

Happy January Birthday

- 1- Elizabeth Dungan
Gumarito Marquez
Mable Moran
Tana Friesth Perry
Adilyne Reyes
- 2 - Penny Hansen
Andrew Allen
Nicholas Jessen
- 3 - Jay Wangerin
Eric Weber
- 4 - Lynn Niemuth
- 6 - Julie Honsey
Tammy Denton
Amy Schmelzer
Paul Calahan
- 8 - Rita Davis
Kathy Roat
Catherine Lewis
- 9 - Rev. Gregory Nelson Davis
Sandra Briggs
Michael Friesth
- 10 - Caden Mendez
- 11 - Kareyna Holmes
- 13 - Jacqueline Villela
- 14 - Tessa Fenimore
- 15 - Laria Preston
Cyrus Stammer
- 16 - Daniel Robbins
- 17 - McKenzie Carney
- 18 - Lon Friesth
Lonnie Jessen
Stephen Kallenbach
Cooper Bigg
- 19 - Arnold Johansen
Becky Selander
- 20 – Jason Fry
Tammi Simet
Samuel Speck
- 21 - Mary Helt
Cheryl Wilner
- 23- Donald Peterson
Alice Kulzer
- 24 - Garry Lenhart
- 26- Patricia Allen
Valerie Culp
Amber Davik
Haley Honnold
- 28- Elaine Westvold
James Kaleewoun
- 29- Norman Trentmann
Cherlyn Lewis
- 30- Elizabeth Prescott
Nayeli Rodriguez
- 31 - Maryena Petty-Lee



Happy January Anniversary

- 4 – Elizabeth and Mark Dungan
9 – Joie and David Gronert

Prayers and Sympathies for

The Family of Cathleen Swanson

The Family of Sheryl Drury,
Mother of Kevin Drury



Roses and Baptism

In January so far we celebrated the birth of two babies to Grace members, and one Baptism!

Roses were placed on the Altar in honor of:

The birth of Dixon James Vander Plaats born December 17th. Parents are Hans and Courtney Vander Plaats.



The birth of Mia Faye Jones in 2021, who also received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on January 9, 2022.

Parents are Jerome Jones Jr. and Brianna Adams. Sponsors are Alysse Dorrian, Patrick Dorrian, Jr., and TaRena Washington.

If you would like a rose placed on the altar in honor of a birth, please let us know. We take your privacy seriously. In addition, the rose is yours to take home after the service, so you may choose the date that works for you.

If you are interested in baptism (at any age!) or joining the church please contact Pastor Mike!

Statements of Contribution and Annual Report Mailings

In mid-January we will be mailing both the Annual Report and your 2021 Contribution Statements together in one package. The statements will be in a sealed envelope, inside the larger envelope with the annual report.

You should have the reports in hand prior to the January 23 Budget Forum. The Annual Report will also be placed on the website Resources page, however, since that page is accessible by the public, finance details will be left off.

January Education and Forum schedule

Any changes to the delivery of these meetings (online only vs. in-person or hybrid) due to Omicron will be communicated via email/enews, website news, the online calendar, and Facebook after the Health and Safety meeting on Thursday, January 13. Please note that all meetings will now take place in the Sanctuary instead of Grace Hall.

Sunday Education Sundays January 9, 16, 23

10:00 a.m. in Room 102

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 are required, each session to last approximately 30 minutes. Come join us!

Staffing & Internship Forum. Sunday, January 16

Sanctuary, and online, after Worship

Use the link below to access this meeting

Please note that in previous publications and Council Minutes, this was originally planned as a Budget Forum. Now that we are moving forward as an Internship Site, this session (January 16) will be fully committed to the subject of Staffing at Grace.

Pastor Mike will preside and answer your questions. You will be able to submit questions while online. You may also submit questions in advance.

Finance & Budget Meeting. Sunday, January 23

Sanctuary, and online, after Worship

Use the link below to access this meeting

Kevin Krause will preside. You will be able to submit questions in advance and while online.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday January 30th, in the Sanctuary after worship. This meeting is being planned as hybrid, and will use the link below. If it is moved to online only, further instructions will be sent in advance.

Link to Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83537878516?pwd=bmxUNzZOdmINVG1mNHkwbE5wWitNZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 3787 8516

Passcode: 808954

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 835 3787 8516

Passcode: 808954

Grace 2022 Endowment Applications

Now available on the website <https://gracedm.org/resources/forms-and-applications/>

Applications are due January 31, 2022. Awards will be announced by March 31, 2022. Requests for specific, finite projects are preferred. The Endowment does not fund operational expenses.

Submit proposal with detailed breakdown of project expenses. If the entire request is not granted this will allow for possible partial funding. A final written report is required to be submitted to the Endowment Fund Committee no later than December 1st of the year of the grant. The report shall include documentation of the expenditures and completion status of the project.

Worship, written materials, and other resources.

Sunday Worship now at 9:00 a.m. (every Sunday)
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 You are welcome to use the Gathering Hall for fellowship after worship.

Weekday Prayers are 9:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and 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/>



January Worship Volunteers Sign-up is now available!
Greeters, Ushers, Lectors for Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m.

<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!

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" pull-down, select Events Calendar. Once at the calendar you can click on any day to see event times, room locations, and any other available information.

Receive the weekly E-newsletter

You can also sign up to receive the enews at the same address above – just scroll down the page until you see the Blue Box, enter your email address, and hit the red Submit button. Once you have done that, you will receive the enews every Tuesday, with the occasional weather closing or funeral notice in your inbox.

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 or 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!



Sign up to provide Altar Flowers in 2022!

Currently we are placing one larger bouquet on the altar, instead of two, with a cost of \$25. Sign up at the link provided, and you will be contacted by Kathy Bowermaster. <https://volunteersignup.org/7LBAC> . Alternately, you can contact Kathy by phone at 515-971-6360.

You can choose to send a check to the church, or pay online using the online donation form on our website.

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!

Hope Ministries needs our help.

A few members are interested in helping, but unable to organize anything until late February. (The need is always there!). If you are interested in organizing OR just helping at an assembly/baking event, please contact michelle@gracedm.org and we'll start assembling a group! From Hope Ministries:

Feeding hungry people is a core part of our Hope Ministries' mission, and our food services operation is currently experiencing a severe staffing shortage. ***At this time, we simply do not have the staff we need to meet all our daily meal planning, preparation and serving needs.***

We remain committed to providing free meals to all our residents and Hope Café community meal guests, and ***we need your help!*** Hope Ministries is asking for donations of casseroles:

- 1. Breakfast casseroles** — We need casseroles that serve 100 people. The easiest way to assemble 100 servings is to use ten disposable 9×13 pans (feeds 100 people per meal) which are ready to freeze when needed. We hope to have enough breakfast casseroles to serve our residents and community meal guests hot breakfast four times per week.
- 2. Lunch & Dinner casseroles** —We need casseroles that serve 100 people. Again, the easiest way to assemble 100 servings is to use ten disposable 9×13 pans (feeds 100 people per meal) which are ready to freeze when needed.

At this time, we are looking for donations for January and February. ***This is a wonderful opportunity for small groups, church groups, coworkers or families to work together to help us feed our hungry neighbors!***

We can even provide recipes if that's helpful, though you're welcome to use your own, too. Check out our recipes already calculated to serve large quantities [here](#).

If you can help out, a) THANK YOU and b) please fill out our [online form](#) to let us know what you'll be providing (breakfast casseroles, lunch or dinner casseroles, or both) and what week you will be delivering them. Casseroles can be delivered to our Bethel Mission/Hope Cafe at 1310 6th Avenue in Des Moines.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Leslie Green, our volunteer coordinator, at (515) 265-7272 or shoot her an email at lgreen@hopeiowa.org.

Thank you so much!

Thank You!

Thank you so much to the member care team, ladies circles, staff and members for all the mailings and Christmas cheer.

Virgil Olson



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you, members of Grace Lutheran Church, for all remembrances during the Christmas season of 2021.

I have greatly appreciated cards, phone calls, and other remembrances, Grace Member Care Committee, Members of Lydia-Martha Circle, and all cards, phone calls, and acts of love and kindness during this Christmas season of 2021.

I miss Grace Lutheran Church so much and uphold you all in prayer and thanksgiving. I appreciate receiving the Large Print version of Christ in Our Home, I have received the January through March devotional. I will be happy to read the daily devotions.

I am happy to be near family in Lincoln, Nebr. but miss the church and Grace members in Des Moines. May God bless you all in 2022.

Joanne Johnson



Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

Individuals struggling without access to critical healthcare and family support services. Human service providers overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants striving to build new lives in the U.S.

These are all issues faced by Iowans. Help us ensure their voices are heard at the Iowa State Capitol. Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) will be advocating for our community members who are so often overlooked in our society. You can join us in this important work. Visit LSIowa.org/advocacy and sign up for our Advocacy Alerts. Learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices. Save the date for March 10, 2022, and join us for Lutheran Day on the Hill, a day of advocacy and education at the Iowa State Capitol. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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 LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Entrepreneurship, Food, and Welcoming

In 2006, Ali and her family traveled from Kenya and resettled in the U.S. They found themselves in an unfamiliar place: Iowa. But today, they still call Iowa home, thanks to the community they built and the support they received while resettling in the U.S. LSI Refugee and Immigrant Services helped the family become comfortable and confident living in their new community.

"They taught us to shop, register for school – all the basic needs. Even winter shopping for the Iowa weather," Ali says. "They taught us how to get by. It was nice to help us get settled in."

After some time in Iowa, Ali and her husband, Salah, decided they wanted to open a restaurant as successful as the one they had in Kenya. They soon realized how challenging this would be – the biggest obstacle being the financial burden of opening a restaurant in the Des Moines area. After 15 years of never giving up on their goals, they were able to open Gursha Ethiopian Grill.

Opening during a pandemic, when other restaurants in the industry struggled to remain open, has come with its share of obstacles. But thanks to community support, the restaurant is a popular destination in the area.

Ali dreams of one day franchising to other locations. With their continuously growing clientele and delicious food, this goal is not far away.

LSI Resettlement needs

On December 14, LSI had the honor of welcoming the first families from Afghanistan that LSI is helping to resettle in Iowa. Resettlement takes a community, and we are deeply grateful to you for supporting this work.

Our communities are stronger and more vibrant when we embrace humanity and uphold the dignity of those seeking asylum among us. LSI has a long legacy of welcoming refugees, resettling displaced persons after World War II in 1947. Since then, LSI's services have expanded to include a broad array of post-resettlement services.

We need your help. Learn more about financial gifts, in-kind donation needs, and volunteer options [here](#).



Finance Report December/2021

The Annual Report with the 2021 year-end budget and financial report will be mailed to you in mid-January 2022. As such there is no December Financial Report/Budget Summary this month.



Pledge Amounts 2022

We are in a new calendar year and we are grateful for all of the financial support that you provide to your congregation.

If you are one of us that pledged but didn't record the amount of the 2022 pledge for your reference at home, please contact Denise at Denise@gracedm.org for confirmation on your pledged amount. Thanks, again, for your faithfulness.

December 14th , 2021 Church Council Highlights

The Council met via zoom application at 6:08 PM. Council members attending were Bruce Bergman, Aaron Brandsfield, Susanne Carney, Valerie Culp, Alex Davik, Dave Gronert, Tom McCleary, 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 was informed** that the church received a check from the City of Des Moines, paying in full the claim for sewer backup damage to Msindo Hall.
- **Staff concerns still awaiting action:** the move toward gender-neutral/family friendly bathrooms across from the library.
- **Financial Report:** The church is on pace to break even for the year pending good Christmas and end-of-year offerings.
- **Budget and Stewardship:** Kevin Krause reported that the stewardship drive is winding down, with overall good response. There are still outstanding pledge cards which hopefully will be turned in soon.
- **2022 Budget:** On behalf of the Finance Committee, Kevin presented the proposed budget for FY 2022. **It was moved, seconded, and passed** to accept this proposed budget and to present it to the Congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to begin the application process for Grace Lutheran Church to become an intern site.

The Nominating Committee report: The Council provided additional names to the Nominating Committee to be contacted as prospective Council candidates.

Pastor Mike announced the altered schedule for Christmas services: December 24th services will be at 4 PM, 6 PM, and 8 PM, with the 4 PM service being streamed. There will be NO SERVICE on December 25th. December 26th will feature an online service from the Synod.

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 January 18th, 2022.

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.

Ableism: Discrimination of and social prejudice against people with disabilities and/or people who are perceived to be disabled, based on the belief that “typical” abilities are superior. Ableism defines people by their disabilities (real or perceived) and categorizes them as inferior to the non-disabled.

Most people don't use disabled-only parking or seats unless they need them, and don't ask others why they need them - “What's wrong with you?”. They don't use words like retarded, dumb, spastic, abnormal, or crazy to describe someone. They don't see disability in others as a ‘bad’ thing, or a person's most important identifying trait.

But day to day, ableism - often unintentional - is quieter but ever-present, slowly wearing down capable, hard-working people who just happen to be physically or mentally different from others. The damage compounds for those who are disabled *and* from a marginalized population. Learn to be an ally:

- Don't say “you don't *look/sound* disabled” as if that is a compliment.
- Don't minimize another's struggle for your comfort. Give people space to talk about it.
- Don't assume that a physical disability is a product of laziness or lack of care for health.
- Don't say “Wow, you are SO inspirational!” for doing typical things such as having a job, career, family, owning a home while disabled. This devalues a person's hard work and other abilities. Instead, celebrate how hard they work, study, plan, etc. `
- Disabled people can speak for themselves: Always speak directly to the person rather than the caregiver.

Continued on page 10

Star Tree Thank You!

Look at the smiles you put on the faces of some of my favorite people in the world. They had a wonderful holiday and were over the moon with the gifts and love you all shared.

Thank you for making it all happen- we are so blessed by you and the congregation! Stay warm and healthy- Happy New Year!

Katie Flippen, Public Relations Specialist, Mosaic



Thrivent Action Teams

Two recent service projects at Grace Lutheran Church were supported by Thrivent Action Team grants.

The first project was Snack Bags for Our Little Free Pantry here at Grace assembled by the Sunday School students.

- Sunday School students invited the congregation to donate snacks and Thrivent Action Team funds were used to purchase additional snacks.
- 200+ snack bags were created, consisting of 5-7 snack/drink items per bag. Bags were decorated in a Christmas theme & were placed in groups of 6-10 at a time into the Little Free Pantry during the weeks of Advent and Christmas.

The second project was Winter Apparel for Moore Elementary just down the street from Grace.

- Moore Elementary is grateful for the apparel donated by the Merle Hay Neighborhood Association, but there was still a need for more coats for the older elementary students.
- Thrivent Action Team funds were used to purchase 7 coats (photo below) and a few pairs of extra mittens.

Thank you to everyone that assisted with the above projects and extra thanks to those that continue to help stock our Little Free Pantry. It certainly is a simple, but very caring ministry of Grace and the neighborhood. It helps meet the need for food and the need to give.

If you have questions about Thrivent Action Team grants or Thrivent, in general, please contact Lon Friesth at 515-276-1527 x225 or Lon.Friesth@Thrivent.com



News from Msindo!

Pastor Ombeni wants everyone to know that he is retiring December 30, 2022, and is inviting anyone and everyone who is interested to come celebrate with them! For more information, please contact Mary Helt.

Ableism, continued from page 9

- Don't compare chronic/long term disabilities to a temporary/short term illness or injury you healed from.
- Understand that a chronic illness or major change in ability creates a great amount of grief. You wouldn't suggest someone "just get over/accept it" when a loved one dies, don't do it here either.
- Don't suggest that people with disabilities are 'working the system.' Disabled people often have to fight to prove they are disabled and often need to keep proving it to keep any benefits and help they receive.
- Understand that physical disabilities often cause anxiety and depression, compounding difficulties.

These are just a few pitfalls to look for. You can look up lists of ableist words to avoid, and other articles to learn more about how to be an ally.

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.