

**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Des Moines, Iowa 50310
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www.gracedm.org

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Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship, in-person and Online

Ash Wednesday 6:30 March 2
Holden Evening Prayer Wednesdays 6:30

Morning Prayer Mon, Wed, Fri at 9:30 a.m.
[@Gracelutherandm](https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranDM)

Office Hours

9 a.m. – noon Monday - Thursday

March

March is marching toward us, whether we are ready or not. It feels like that one unfortunate round of the game “hide and seek” when you could not find a place to properly hide and you knew your feet were sticking out when you heard the proclamation, “Ready or not, here I come!” March is almost here, and with it comes a healthy dose of reality. If you are looking for a feel-good front-page article, you may wish to stop reading right now.

It is nearly two years ago that Covid-19 popped onto our collective radar. That first Saturday of Spring Break found us celebrating the life of a beloved saint in the morning, suspending in-person worship over lunch, celebrating a beautiful wedding in the afternoon (Happy Anniversary Devin and Emily!) and then learning how to navigate Facebook Live. By Monday, much of the State was closing and there was a sense of synergy as we sought to stay ahead of this virus.

We learned how to through “parades” for birthdays and were reintroduced to the beauty of the outdoors. Nurses, First Responders, and Doctors were lauded as superheroes and there was a continued sense of unity as we did everything, we could do to keep one another safe. If it was not for this novel virus demanding its pound of flesh, it would have felt like a delightful time.

In the months since, we have seen a very different picture. When someone asked me what my biggest lesson from the pandemic is, I was surprised when the immediate response was “I have learned that many people simply do not care about others.” I paused and tried to find a softer way to say it. Instead, it was home to the silence of solidarity with God amid the pain of the world.

Much of the world is declaring the State of Emergency of the pandemic over (note it does not say the pandemic is over, just the State of Emergency). We are finding ourselves in the strong gravitational pull of the old “normal.” In the process, we are leaving behind those who are most vulnerable, those who Christ calls us to serve. It leaves Christians in the tension between the wants of the world, and the calling to serve.

We will gather in observance of Ash Wednesday on March 2nd. This marks the start of Lent and a time to be intentional of the needs for others. When we gather in worship, we will walk through an

March, continued on page 3

Happy March Birthday

- 1 - Kristen Bockenstedt
- 2 - Donald York
- 3 - Victoria Meillier
- 5 - Brent Culp
- 7 - La Vonne Mitchell
- 8 - Jack Chenoweth
- 10 - Patty (Flannery) Gallup
Nadine Garcia
- 12 - Rachael Bigg
- 13 - Lathrop Preston
Hilary Woodhouse
Kyler Andersen
- 15 - Lydia McCleary
Rachel Miller
Phoebe Volious
- 17 - Kathy Bowermaster
Beth Flannery
Lisa Friesth
Benjamin Honsey
Melissa Swanson
Tayah Traver
- 18 - Emma Ashton
Tom Selander
- 19 - Haley Turner Bluto
Diane Westercamp
Cleone Oberg
- 20 - Karen Taylor
- 21 - Angela Allen
- 22 - Louie Anderson
- 23 - Caroline Vander Plaats
- 24 - Mary Jo McCleary
- 26 - Ryan Nordeen
- 27 - Sierra Carney
Zara Preston
- 28 - Alexson Calahan
- 28 - Charles Reynolds
- 29 - Sharon Schwemler
- 30 - Curtis Chenoweth
Kristin Medhurst



Happy March Anniversary

20 – Edward and Jane Ridnour



Ash Wednesday Worship

Worship will take place at 6:30 p.m., in person and on our website and Facebook page.

Imposition of Ashes

We will offer Imposition of Ashes in the Grace Lutheran Church parking lot.

This "Drive Up" Imposition of Ashes will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. The following safety measures will be in place:

- Drive up past the main entrance and Pastor Mike will meet you at your vehicle.
- Wear a mask.
- Pastor Mike will wear a mask.

Lenten Devotional and Holden Evening Prayer Books available for pickup on the table in the entryway.

- Sunday, February 27 until 11:30 a.m.
- Ash Wednesday before or after worship
- Stop by the church Monday - Thursday between 9 a.m. and noon. Just ring the doorbell and we will let you in!
- email or call Michelle to have one mailed to you
michelle@gracedm.org 1515-276-6873 x201

Daily Lenten devotional emails around the 2022 synod theme, *Go Tell the World* will again be available for Lent. [Click here and scroll down to the bottom of the page to sign up.](#)

Dear Member Care & Grace Lutheran,

Thank you Mary Helt for taking the time to send a Valentine Card to me. Thank you to friends for the neat Valentine we received. Thank you so much for thinking of me. We watch church every Sunday on the computer. Thanks for making it so we can watch.

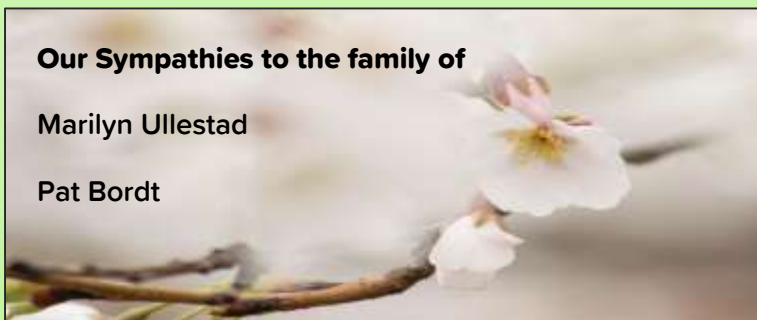
Take care,

Love, Bonnie Swanson

Our Sympathies to the family of

Marilyn Ullestad

Pat Bordt



March, continued from page 1

through an invitation to Lent, a confession of sins, and the imposition of ashes. We are reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. All of us are the same that way. We are dust into which God has brought forth life. All that we have is a gift. Our breath. Our body. Everything.

We can look at March as though it owes us something after the last couple of years that we have endured. That seems to be the way our culture views this present time. Or we can look at it as gift. God has granted this dust breath and life. How can we use that gift to build up others?

March is marching toward us, but how we encounter it is up to us.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike

Health & Safety Committee Update

Beginning Sunday, February 27, we will gather in worship in person and online. I want to thank you for your patience these last weeks as we bore one another's burdens in love. This has not been an easy journey. As in person worship resumes, we ask for your help "holding the doors open." We are taking necessary precautions by requiring masks, sitting every other row, and using prepackaged communion. We need you to do your part:

- If you are able, but not yet vaccinated, please consider it.
- Practice masking and physical distancing, especially in crowds.
- If you do not feel well, or have been exposed to Covid, gather for worship online.

Things to look for in March!

Sunday School returns - Preschool through 5th Grade

Sunday School meets in room 102 following worship on the first three Sundays of the month. We will meet on March 6, 13 & 20

Lutheran Lakeside Speaker in Worship March 27, available for questions & discussions after worship.

Lutheran World Relief Kit Blessing on Palm Sunday

Lutheran Services in Iowa, Virtual Lutheran Day on the Hill

Thursday, March 10, 2022, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

[Registration is now open for Lutheran Day on the Hill.](#)

Join Lutherans across Iowa from the comfort of your computer or phone screen on Thursday, March 10 for a morning of inspiration and advocacy training. This free online event, sponsored by LSI and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA, is open to anyone who wants to learn more about citizen advocacy and important issues that matter to Iowans. From LSI:

We are thrilled to welcome Giovana Oaxaca as the keynote speaker for 2022 Lutheran Day on the Hill. Giovana is the Program Director for Migration Policy for the ELCA, and she will discuss important issues impacting immigration and refugee policy, including recent Afghan resettlement efforts in the U.S. We'll also learn about the mechanics of advocacy — how to advocate online, via video chat, or in person with your legislators.

All participants have the opportunity to join a virtual break-out session to dig deeper into one of LSI's 2022 policy priorities:

- *Increasing access and equity in Iowa's mental health system*
- *Investing in Iowa's human services workforce*
- *Supporting services that empower immigrants and refugees*

Registration will be open through March 9th.

Worship, written materials, and other resources.

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

Livestream online will continue to be available on our webpage and Facebook:

- **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/>



Worship Volunteers Sign-up

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!

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.



Are we in-person, hybrid, online only this week?

Stay up to date with calendar changes and planned or rescheduled events!

The Website Calendar is also printable! (We find it works best when using Chrome instead of other browsers)

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 to see all items for any given day. Click on any day to see event times, room locations, and other information, if available.

Receive late-breaking updates with the weekly E-newsletter

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.

Food & Supply Delivery for Families Still in Afghanistan

Eric Weber

As some of you already know, I have been actively supporting four Afghan families, two in Kabul and two in Mazar-e-Sharif. These are the families of men who I had the honor of working with as a member of my battalion's Commanders Emergency Response Team (CERP) and acquaintances from the local bazaar, where some were shop owners. (If you are curious about what a CERP team did in Afghanistan, look up "MAAWS-A USFOR-A", that will help explain.) They have all been working towards their Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) for some time, but because of various issues with the visa process, none have gotten all the way through the process. Then came the tumultuous coalition force withdrawal in August. I became much more involved at this point, communicating via secure texting apps like Signal and Viber, uploading their family's information and documents to several Non Governmental Organization (NGO) websites in hopes they could be evacuated due to their status as SIV eligible applicants. Unfortunately, this didn't happen for any of these four families. As you have heard in the news, the economy has failed there, most businesses and some government agencies have closed their doors or drastically reduced their output. Few people who had jobs prior to August still have jobs today, and finding a job is very difficult. Women and girls who gained many rights over the past twenty years now have few. And the hardest part to bare is that the Taliban are intent on seeking out those people who worked for or alongside US and other coalition countries to intimidate, extort, capture and kill them. Unfortunately, I hear these stories often and three of my families have left for Pakistan for safety and for the hopes of faster processing of their SIV applications.

Winters are particularly difficult in Afghanistan because most of the homes are not equipped to keep out the cold. With this and the value of the Afghan currency dropping sharply (when I was there, I remember about 20 Afghani to one US dollar; it's now about 100 Afghani to one USD), families struggle to feed their families. This is where we can help. There are lots of international food assistance programs out there, like World Food Program, that are doing great things in Afghanistan right now. I have found one smaller one called Heart of an Ace (the charitable wing of Aces & Eights) who has set up a network of delivery drivers in Afghanistan. With a donation, Heart of an Ace allows you to chose to send a food and supply package directly to a family that you specify. With the help of others, I have sent multiple food and supply packages in this method and with each one, within 1-3 days, I receive a delivery photo as a sort of receipt for the donation. This is important in a county that struggles with corruption. I have included Heart of an Aces website and also the breakdown of the packages with their price and included items. Food and supply packages can even be customized if there is something that the family particularly needs or items that they don't need as much.

If you would be interested in helping, let me first say Thank You for your kindness. Then, I can say there are two ways to donate:

- 1) You can use the link in the website to donate via PayPal (my preferred method) or simply with a credit card. If you choose to donate directly like this, you can donate any amount you choose and it will help fund deliveries of food that other people have requested (I see these unfunded requests in the chatroom often).
- 2) If you want to help in a more specific way, you can pledge a donation of either \$125 or \$225 with me and we can send a food package to one of the families I'm currently helping through the winter. I will then link your donation with a specific family in need by giving instructions to the Heart of an Ace organization through a chat group I belong to (on the Signal app, known as a very secure channel). Simply call me or text me at 515-210-6960 and tell me which food/supply package you want to pledge (*see information on page 6 of this newsletter for details*) and I will then contact you when the next need arises.

I can also answer any questions you have about the families, I love to share about this! Thank you in advance for any support you can give. These are great people going through a terribly difficult time.

<https://www.heartofanace.org>

Supply Package options and photos from Eric Weber

Regular Help Package

Sustains 1-3 people for 1 month, or larger group for shorter

Cost: US\$125 (including delivery)¹

Item	Description	Size	Quantity
1	Flour	50.00 kg	1 pack
2	Cooking Oil	5.00 L	1 bottle
3	Rice (High Quality)	10.00 kg	1 pack
4	Sugar	3.50 kg	
5	Green Tea	1.00 kg	
6	Afghani Beans	3.50 kg	
7	Macaroni		4 packs
8	Spaghetti		4 packs
9	Plump Rice	7.00 kg	
10	Mung Bean	1.00 kg	
11	Salt		1 large pack of 7 packets

Complete Help Package

Sustains 1 family for 1 month

Cost: US\$225 (including delivery)¹

Item	Description	Size	Quantity
1	Flour	50.00 kg	1 pack
2	Cooking Oil	5.00 L	1 bottle
3	Rice (High Quality)	10.00 kg	1 pack
4	Sugar	3.50 kg	
5	Green Tea	1.00 kg	
6	Afghani Beans	3.50 kg	
7	Macaroni		4 packs
8	Spaghetti		4 packs
9	Plump Rice	7.00 kg	
10	Mung Bean	1.00 kg	
11	Salt		1 large pack of 7 packets
12	Dish Soap (Liquid)		2 bottles
13	Fruity Jam		6 bottles
14	Peas	5.00 kg	
15	Tomato Paste		2 bottles
16	Cream		6 packs
17	Hair Shampoo		2 bottles
18	Clothing Detergent Powder	3.00 kg	2 packets
19	Potatoes	14.00 kg	
20	Onions	7.00 kg	
21	Firewood (for heat)	150.00 kg	
22	Charcoal (for cooking)	35.00 kg	1 large pack
23	Women & Family Hygiene Products		

¹ Roughly 12% of your donation helps us pay our Afghan NGO logistics partners who provide procurement, warehousing, and delivery. We value transparency, so a full cost breakdown is available upon request.





March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we are grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!

Maybe you have never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you have had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves by overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

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.

Helping Kids Thrive

Janey was transitioning from elementary school to junior high, and she was experiencing anxiety about the big jump. She was worried about meeting new kids and new teachers, and she would have panic attacks whenever her mom would wake her up for school. Last year, when kids across the state were already feeling added stress and pressure, she missed weeks of school at a time.

Her family knew she needed extra encouragement and a shoulder to lean on. They found it through LSI Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS), which provide in-home programming for Iowa children and teens with severe emotional or behavioral disorders. Through the programming, families can practice developing skills like healthy communication, anger management, and problem solving.

Through LSI's BHIS programming, Janey was able to build coping skills to help her calm down and avoid overthinking worst-case scenarios about her school day. With her LSI worker, she practiced relationship skill-building – how to build friendships and stay away from others who could make school time hard.

After working on these skills multiple times each week, Janey was able to succeed in her classes. She went from failing several classes due to missing school to recently receiving a certificate showing she was on the honor roll.

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.

This month, we are asking you to take some time to learn about the people served by the organizations Grace has been helping this past month. LSI helps many different people, but we have a golden opportunity to learn about Afghan refugees from Eric Weber. Also, consider the people Hope Ministries serves, and how nice it must be to be able to show up for a hot meal, no questions asked. Are there times in your life that you lived on the edge, or paycheck to paycheck? What safety net did you have in place that these people might not have? How might one emergency have placed you at risk of being hungry or homeless?

The Supply Library

LSI asked for mostly new items, however, if you have essential household goods that are slightly used, clean and in good condition, consider taking them to The Supply Library at 13th and College at the community gardens – this resources is open and available 24/7.

**Grace Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 30th, 2022
Held via Zoom Teleconferencing Application**

After a quorum was established, the meeting was called to order by Congregational Council President John Roehrick at 10:04 AM. Some brief guidance was given concerning how to participate in a remote meeting.

Devotions: Pastor Mike Schmidt led the assembly in devotions.

Attention was directed to the Opening Liturgy and the message from Bishop Eaton.

Rich Snyder was appointed Parliamentarian.

The agenda was adopted by absence of objection with the addition of one item: discussion and vote whether to approve Grace Lutheran Church as an intern site.

President Roehrick directed the attendees to review the statistical information presented on pages 2 and 3 of the meeting handbook.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting as printed.

Reports:

President's and Pastor's Reports: President Roehrick directed the participants to review the Congregational Council President's report and the Pastor's report. Both reports noted the difficulties faced this past year. Both also commended the Congregation for continued spiritual and financial support during the ongoing pandemic. Staff and the technicians who kept us "on the air" also received recognition and thanks. There were no questions, and the reports were approved as written by unanimous consent.

Staff Reports: The participants were directed to review the Staff reports. There were no questions, and the reports were approved as written by unanimous consent.

Committee Reports: The participants were directed to review the various committee reports. There were no questions, and the reports were approved as written by unanimous consent.

Discussion and vote to approve Grace Lutheran Church as an intern site: Pastor Mike explained the process of applying and setting up the church as an intern site. After discussion and some questions, it was moved and seconded to approve Grace Lutheran Church as an intern site. The motion was approved by absence of objection.

Elections:

Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly: Jessica Flannery volunteered and was approved to be one of two voting members for the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly. The Congregational Council will appoint the second member.

Congregational Council: The following members were elected by absence of objection to 3-year terms on the Congregational Council: Kevin Drury, Mike Hilsabeck, Jenny Rehder, and Carter Woodruff.

Endowment Committee: Kristin Medhurst and Eric Weber were elected by absence of objection to serve as members of the Endowment Committee.

Balance Sheets, Income Statements, and Budget Adoption: Kevin Krause presented and explained the balance sheets and income statements and also directed attention to the Finance Committee Report on page 21 of the meeting handbook. The financial condition is good, due in part to PPP money, some large personal donations, and the generous response of the members of the Congregation to the Stewardship Campaign.

Kevin presented the proposed budget for 2022 as recommended by the Congregational Council. It was moved and seconded to approve the 2022 budget as presented. The motion carried by voice vote and the 2022 budget stands approved and adopted.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was approved without objection. Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
David F. Gronert, Council Secretary

Notes from Rich

Beginning this month and continuing until potential topics have been exhausted, I am going to contribute recurring articles for the monthly newsletter under the general theme of music. The subjects of the individual articles will be from one of three broad categories: 1) the pipe organ; 2) hymns and liturgy; and 3) organ voluntaries. The purpose of these articles will be to educate, enlighten, and stimulate discussions; broaden backgrounds in hymnody and liturgy; and elicit questions and engagement from congregation members. Feedback, questions, alternate points of view, and suggestions for future article subjects may be sent to: rich@gracedm.org.



The series will begin with a short and compact response to the question, “What is the purpose of the postlude?” The postlude is a musical selection following the conclusion of the worship service, and thus it is not part of the worship service. It immediately follows the dismissal which itself follows the concluding hymn. Some regard the postlude as a noisy interference with conversations between congregational members. Some organists consider the postlude as an opportunity to play a selection that demonstrates the capabilities of the organ that are not heard during the worship service, while some organists consider the postlude an opportunity to demonstrate their skills. In some churches, the congregation is invited to remain in the sanctuary and respectfully listen to the postlude. They want to hear what the organist has to “say” through the music.

The music chosen for the postlude should meet a few general requirements. First, since the postlude follows the sending hymn and the verbal dismissal, the music should be bright and upbeat to help the members feel excited to go into the world with the good news. Second, whenever possible, the postlude should reflect the themes within the just-completed worship. For example, the postlude for January 30 was a fantasia on “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” reflecting the theme of the hymn following the sermon, “Arise, Your Light Has Come.” The hymn following the sermon is called the “Hymn of the Day,” and it usually reflects some theme within the sermon.

As with all general requirements, there are exceptions. For instance, on Good Friday and Maundy Thursday, the solemnity of these worship services dictate a somber postlude, or possibly none at all, as the worshippers leave in silence with the expectation and hope of the Easter service that follows in a few days.

Finally, since the postlude is not within the worship service, there are times when the organist might use the postlude to send a message not specifically in the themes of the service, to celebrate a person, or to mark an occasion. In February, the postlude on February 13 and 27 will be “Lift Every Voice and Sing” in recognition of Black History Month and the struggles of our siblings of color. The hymn, which is in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal (#841), is recognized by many as the Black National Anthem.

Finance Report – January Results

Financial results for January YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$33,227, Budget \$35,592
- Expenses – Actual \$35,582, Budget \$37,233
- Net activity – Actual (\$2,355), Budget (\$1,642)



Actual net activity was within \$1,000 of budget. A good month to start the year. The committee appreciates the congregation interest in the financial status of the church by attending the recent budget forum and annual meeting.

DMARC Requested Donations: <https://www.dmarcunited.org/donate/food/>

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, and food donations may be dropped off at the DMARC Food Pantry Network Warehouse, located at 1435 Mulberry Street in downtown Des Moines.

Feeding the Hungry at Hope Café photos

Thank you to all who have donated casseroles and money for supplies to make casseroles, and thank you to Cathy Barks for all of your organizing. This was the scene in the kitchen on Monday – the church smelled wonderful!



March Madness is BACK, and so is our NCAA Bracket Fundraiser.

Selection happens on Sunday, March 13th. So, do you feel lucky? Local and regional charities hope so! We will hold the church pool again this year. There will be a \$5 entry fee and the winner will choose which charity will receive the pool monies. Last year, Chuck Denton won and was able to give the \$105 pool to the Food Bank of Iowa. So far, we have given away a total of over \$1900 with this annual charity!



To enter simply fill out a bracket and send it to the church office (5201 Urbandale Ave. Des Moines, IA 50310) between Sunday, March 13th and 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 17th with the \$5 entry fee. Brackets postmarked before Thursday, March 18 will be counted. You should also note your chosen charity when you turn in the bracket. Please either include cash, or make the check payable to Grace Lutheran Church with NCAA in the memo field. You could also scan your bracket and send it to mike@gracedm.org

With no clear favorite to win this year, we will again use a scoring system with added points for the Final Four to keep things exciting. The “First Four” games will not be included. Those correctly predicting that a First Four team wins in the round of 64, even if the wrong First Four team, will receive the points. Then the round of 64 teams will be worth 1 point each with bonus points for upsets (difference between seeds). Round of 32 will be worth 2 points, round of 16 will be worth 4 points each. The following rounds will be worth 6 points, 10 points, and then 15 points for the correct Champion.