

**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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Holy week and Easter Schedule
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- 11... LWR! Spring fundraising drive, Ukraine,  
Refugee resettlement drive results
- 12.. Sunday School, Easter Lilies, Invite  
Insert: Plant Sale Form

#### Sunday Schedule

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

**Holden Evening Prayer**  
**Wednesday April 6, 6:30**

**Morning Prayer Mon, Wed, Fri at 9:30 a.m.**  
@Gracelutherandm

**Office & Open Building Hours**  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday - Thursday

#### Do

Do you ever feel stuck? If you are blessed to live long enough, you have probably encountered that feeling. Sometimes often. It can be because of work, or family. It can be the uncertainty of a lingering pandemic and the feeling of languishing. It can be unhealthy habits or ways of coping. It happens, and there is no shame in it. How we respond is what matters most.

Many times, I have heard someone say, "Fake it 'til you make it." Usually, this has to do with the emotions involved when one feels stuck. If you can just fake it, the feeling may stick. Suppressing, or hiding, emotions will not make them go away or change them. Hiding emotions leaves room for them to begin to manifest in other ways. This can lead to using something else to numb or suppress these feelings, leaving you even worse off than before.

Other times, people suggest self help books. This option sounds logical and is a huge improvement over suppressing emotion. However, it does not often lead to substantive change. From experience, it often leads to a deeper sense of being stuck. It is easy to become angry with yourself when you know what you need to do but are not able to do it.

When Jesus encountered people who were feeling stuck, he did not ask them to "fake it" or give a TED Talk or offer a self-help book. Jesus often responded with a command, "Do." Jesus asked the response to be in the body instead of the heart or head. Father Richard Rohr, an American Franciscan priest, and educator on Contemplative Practices, explains it this way: "We do not think ourselves into new ways of living. We live ourselves into new ways of thinking." When you are stuck, the journey forward starts with action, leaving room for the head and heart to follow.

This will be our focus this Easter Season. Whether you feel stuck, or simply want to enhance your faith journey, there is something we can all learn from leading with actions. This is not the normal Lutheran response to things. We usually prefer task forces, committees, and time to ponder. Jesus calls us to "Do." That may look different each week, and we will explore that together.

When Christ rose from the tomb, allowing us to rise with Him, the ultimate "Do" has already been done.

*Continued on page 3*

### Happy April Birthday

- 2 - Rev. Bill Kallestad
- 3 - Ellen Batten  
Dolores Johnson  
Colleen McKinney
- 6 - Roy Hanson
- 7 - Carolyn Andersen  
Bradley Moon  
Ben Nelson  
Maya Uehling Lint  
Emily Woodruff
- 8 - Jennie Wonderlin
- 9 - Kelley Brown
- 10 - Jared Nelson  
Cherie Rissman  
Mark Stumme  
DeVee Trickle
- 11 - Mira Voelker
- 12 - Alex Davik  
Kyler Medhurst
- 13 - Mary McCann
- 14 - Denise Friesth
- 15 - Michael Flannery  
Matt Speck
- 16 - Ernest Weatherington
- 17 - Alton Calahan  
Cynthia Gronert
- 18 - Justin Fenimore
- 19 - Jill Boeschen  
Emma Stammer
- 20 - Kevin French  
Jenny Rehder
- 24 - Charla Preston
- 25 - Amy Wonderlin
- 26 - Aden Artzer  
Mike Carney  
Howard Kulzer
- 27 - Bill Jensen  
Gladys Peterson  
Fletcher Reynolds  
Cathy Watson
- 28 - David Gronert  
Anna Shea
- 29 - Kathy Piltingsrud
- 30 - Alysse Adams  
Kylie Radermacher

### Happy April Anniversary

- 7 - Kathy Piltingsrud  
and Paul Nelson
- 10 - Deanna and Eric Weber
- 12 - Sandra and Barry Briggs
- 29 - Curt and Kathy Johansen

HAPPY  
Anniversary



**Our Sympathies to the family of  
Larry Oberg**

### Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

This is an overdue thank you for the prayers & cards, etc. for my husband, John Gronert. We were on a 3 year journey battling heart disease and eventually kidney dialysis. John lost his battle October 14, 2021 while in Portland, Oregon for our daughter Elizabeth's wedding.

A huge thank you to Pastor Mike who captured Johnny's spirit and gave him a terrific send off.

Linda Gronert

### Thank You

*Lydia and Martha Circle wanted to share these lovely notes they received before the holidays.*

Dear Lydia and Martha Circle,

Thank you so much for the kind Thanksgiving/Christmas wishes and the beautiful Advent calendar! It's so nice to be remembered as you have remembered me! Again, many Thanks, and I return your wishes for a blessed holiday season. God's blessings always.

Lynn Niemuth

Thank you so much for the wonderful advent calendar. It was so kind of you! I will place it under my little tree and continue to watch church services online as I am in a wheelchair. Please give my greetings to Pastor Mike. Have a beautiful Christmas!

Have a Blessed Christmas, Karen Maycock-Crooks

Thank you so much! Thank you for the advent calendar. It is very nice to have for the holidays. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all of you.

Love, Don and Bonnie Swanson

Dear members of Lydia-Martha Circle,

I have so much appreciated the cards I have received, especially since moving to Lincoln this past year. It is a joy to be remembered and to recall the past when I was able to be an active member of Grace Lutheran Church. I hope there will be more open times to be at Grace as the Covid '19 illness is less overwhelming. I shall think of you with love and gratitude.

Joanne Johnson



**Do, continued from page 1**

We are promised in Romans that “Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” Many view this “newness of life” to happen only after we die. Christ came that “We might have life and have it more abundantly.” This Easter Season, we will lean into our new life in Christ, starting with the word “Do.”

In Christ,  
Pastor Mike

**Warm Greetings from Dubuque, Iowa!**

My name is Bunny Stoutes, and I am thrilled to be joining you at Grace Lutheran Church as your pastoral intern this summer! The gifts of this congregation are astounding, and I look forward to growing with you as your vicar during our year together for this internship. Thank you for taking the exciting leap to be a congregation that is accompanying me in my educational and spiritual journey while teaching and learning from each other.

I was raised as an Air Force brat, not truly rooted in any one place. Having kids of my own changed that a bit, as we set down roots for 15 years in Conroe, Texas, just a few miles north of Houston. (This was after a forced relocation from Louisiana after Hurricane Rita.) My two daughters are now grown, with my oldest (Brooklyne, 21) who is a pastry chef in Texas and my youngest (Courtney, 20) is serving in South Korea in the United States Army. It is now time for me to explore my dreams and passions.

I'm a bit of a creative person. When I lived in Louisiana, I owned a handcrafted candle, soap, and toiletry shop. Now, I find that my dorm room at Wartburg Theological Seminary is filled with crafting supplies and my favorite hobby is quilting. Bolts of fabric are much easier to transport compared to cases of candle wax! My creativity extends beyond soap and quilts as I also look for ways to be creative during worship and a variety of ministries.

My work in the church began first as the media manager of my local congregation Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Conroe, then the office manager, and finally the director of youth and family ministries over the course of 12 years. During my time in this last position, I felt the call to become a pastor loud and clear. Of course, I tried to ignore it, but when the Holy Spirit comes knocking, you eventually need to answer.

I greatly look forward to being in relationship with every single one of you as the body of Christ as a part of your vibrant ministry to the people of Des Moines and beyond.

Grace and peace, today and always,

Vicar Bunny Stoutes

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. - *Romans 12:13*

## **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](http://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/>

## **Holy Week Worship**

### **Maundy Thursday**

6:30 p.m. worship – Sanctuary and online

### **Good Friday**

6:30 p.m. worship – Sanctuary and online

### **Easter**

Sunrise 6:30 a.m. – Sanctuary

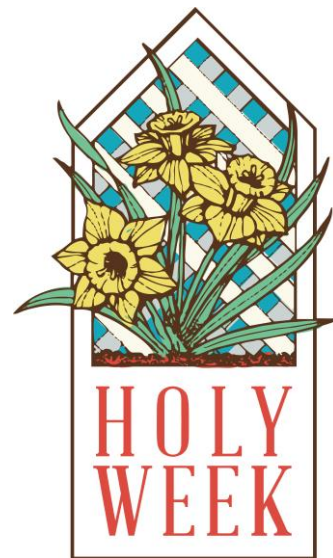
Worship 8:00 a.m. – Sanctuary and online

Fellowship in Gathering Hall 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship, coffee and Easter crafts in Grace Hall – 9:00 a.m.

- Coffee, Tea, Water and Juice will be available in Grace Hall.
- Activities will be geared toward children but will also be fun for adults too.

Worship 10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary



## **Worship Volunteers needed for Holy week**

**Greeters, Ushers, Lectors for Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m.**

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

## Meet your 2022 Congregational Council

### Carter Woodruff

Carter graduated from Luther College in 1984 with a major in Political Science and a minor in African and African American Studies. Carter met Carol Knudsen at Luther in 1980. Carol and Carter were married in 1985 at Grace Lutheran church where they have been members since. Carter attended Harvard in the winter/spring of 2005. Carter received a certificate in labor and work life from Harvard. During that time, Carter was serving as Secretary/Treasurer for AFSCME Council 61 where he was the first African American to hold state-wide office for the union. Work life includes Political activist, Union activist, laboratory technician, water treatment operator and supervisor. The last eight years was as Supervisor of Operators. Carter supervised a staff of 20. Carter was the only African American supervisor in Des Moines Water Works history. Carter retired from DMWW in January 2021. Carter served on Church council from 2018 to 2021 when he retired to take a year off.



### Mike Hilsabeck

My wife Sara and I have been members of Grace Lutheran since 2018. We live in Urbandale and we have a daughter who lives in Johnston with her husband and 5 year old son (who we love to babysit). I am retired from a 30 year career as an IT Project Manager. In addition to church activities, I devote time volunteering for Iowa Lutheran Hospital, specifically the Powell Chemical Dependency Center - leading aftercare support groups.

**Kevin Drury** has been a member of Grace since 1995. He has previously served on Grace Church Council, led the 2000 Building Project, and served on the Grace 2020 Visioning Task Force. He owns Hedlin Ag Enterprises, an executive search firm serving ag companies and associations. He and his wife, Jeanne, live in Ankeny, IA.



### Jenny Rehder

I was born at Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines and was baptized and confirmed at Grace. My parents, Pat and Denny, were long time members of Grace and my sister, Kathy Bowermaster, has been a member since before I was born. I am a Quality Assurance Specialist and Auditor for Eurofins, which is a testing laboratory south of the airport. I enjoy spending time with my family (we live within 0.2 miles of each other) and love playing with my great niece and nephew! I am a long time cat person and my cat of 18 years Pinkie has traveled with me to my current house via Georgia and Omaha. I am a self-professed nerd for Star Trek and the X-Files. I am excited to be back at my home church after being active at Holy Cross Lutheran in Athens GA and St Thomas Lutheran in Omaha NE and honored to be part of the church council and secretary.

### Nancy Crowfoot:

Nancy grew up and was confirmed here at Grace Lutheran Church. Nancy spent her career working in media, including working as a director and producer at Iowa Public TV. When she retired, she returned to Grace and enjoyed the Wednesday Night Programming. She has been involved with the following groups at Grace: Centering Prayer, Communion Server, Greeters, Craft Tent at the Beaverdale Farmers' Market, Quilting and Lydia/Martha Circle.



**Bruce Bergman** is a Des Moines native and resident most of his life. He is married to Barb, and they have sons Jon and Adam and 4 grandchildren. He has been a member of Grace Lutheran Church for more than 50 years. Now retired, Bruce practiced law for more than 40 years, and served 15 years as the Des Moines City Attorney. He was first elected to the Church Council in January of 2017, and reelected in 2020.



## 2022 Council Bios continued

**Valerie Culp** has been a member of Grace Lutheran Church since September 1989 upon marriage to Brent Culp. Throughout the 32 years, Valerie has been involved in many different aspects of Grace. She has served on council in the 90's and again, presently. She has served on various committees and boards within Grace and taught Sunday school for several different ages for several years. In the last years before the pandemic she helped lead First Circle of Friends.

At the present time, Valerie resides in Polk City with her husband, Brent and dog, Attie. Their son, Christian resides in Ankeny, too.

### **Alex Davik**

I spent the first 18 years of my life in the Chicago suburbs, but I truly grew up in Des Moines after moving here in 1985. I have been a member of Grace Lutheran Church since 1998. I actually joined the choir before I was officially a member. During my membership, I have also been a Liturgist, Lector, Counter, and I have served on the Grace Congregational Council. I was elected Vice President of the council 2 years ago and was recently honored (and humbled) to take the office of President. I recently (August 1, 2020) got married to my wife Heather. She is rarely seen with me at Grace as she wears many hats at her long time church home, Bethany Reformed Church. Together, our lives are enriched by our faith.



### **Aaron Brandsfield**

I have been a member of Grace for over 15 years. I have served on a few different committees and am currently serving my second term on council. I helped form the Saturday Men's Group and have helped with high school hangout after Sunday service. I have been married to my wife, Karri, for over 20 years and we have two daughters, Courtney and Kiley. I have owned my own accounting and financial planning business for over 20 years and I couldn't do that without the help of my wife, Karri. In my free time I like to spend time with my family and friends, and go camping or hanging around a campfire.

### **Tom McCleary**

I have been a member at Grace for 25 plus years. I have served on Church Council and various other committees and projects. Currently, I am a member of the Adult Faith Enrichment Team which coordinates the Adult Education hour, usher and count Sunday offering. I am employed as a Data Warehouse Analyst with the state of Iowa. My wife Mary Jo and I were married at Grace. We have two children, son Isaac and daughter Lydia, both are students at Iowa State.



### **Linda Moravec**

Linda has been attending Grace for more than ten years and a member since 2012. Linda has been a Sunday School and Vacation Bible School volunteer for many years – at Grace and at previous congregations. Here at Grace she also sings in the choir and is a member of Lydia/Martha Circle. For hobbies, Linda enjoys fishing and camping, especially with her grandson. And she enjoys billiards!

### **Dean Watson**

Member of Grace church for 4 years  
Retired from Hy-Vee Inc. after 34 years  
Have served on council for 2 years  
Have been on property committee and overseeing our insurance  
Married to Cathy





### **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

According to the most recent Iowa Department of Human Services data, 10,539 Iowa children were subject to abuse or neglect. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs or dangerous substance, and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health care.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2021, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 11,000 of these in-home visits to families.

LSI Family Centered Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center serves many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto: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](http://LSIowa.org) and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://Facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### **Creating Bright Futures**

When Makenzey found out she was pregnant, she felt nervous and overwhelmed at the thought of being a first-time mom. She didn't know what to expect, but she wanted to create the best life for her child. While she was pregnant, Makenzey enrolled in a local service that provides free housing to expecting moms. Through the organization, she learned about LSI Early Childhood Services. With support and guidance from her LSI Parent Educator, Hannah, Makenzey prepared for a healthy birth and transition into motherhood.

"Being a new mom was really scary for me. I had no idea what I was doing," Makenzey says. "I needed to learn the basics."

Since Makenzey welcomed her daughter, Maleigha, she has since found a job she loves and saved enough money to find a home for her new family. Through it all, Hannah provided check-ins with Makenzey, introducing her to important resources, educational materials, and age-appropriate toys and activities to ensure Maleigha hit all her developmental milestones.

"Especially when you're a first-time mom, you'll have a lot of questions. I don't have a ton of support right now, but Hannah helped me and answered every question I had about being a mom," Makenzey says. "LSI has been a really helpful service."



### **Choir Rehearsals resume!**

Where: Grace Hall

When: 7 p.m. Wednesdays during Lent (after Holden Worship) 6:30 p.m. when there is no Holden worship

Who: You!

## Notes from Rich

The topic last month in “Notes from Rich” was the postlude. The topic this month will address two related questions, “Why are there so many pipes in the organ?” or, “How many pipes are there?” The second question is the more easily answered one. A pipe organ is composed of groups of pipes; each group is called a rank. The name comes from the physical presentation of the pipes; they are usually arranged in single or double rows from tallest to shortest as though they were marching.



Multiple groupings of pipes are arranged in parallel with each other, so each different parallel grouping is called a rank (think of rank and file formations). The Schantz organ at Grace has 25 ranks of pipes which total 1,486 individual pipes. This is a moderate number of pipes; some organs have multiple thousands of pipes.

Answering the first question requires an understanding of the function of the individual pipe in the organ. In biology, a group of tissues in one location that function differently is called an organ (think heart or liver), so a musical instrument which produces a variety of sounds from multiple and different components is called an organ. The pipe is the fundamental unit of the pipe organ. Each pipe produces a sound by directing a flow of air through a slit near the bottom of the pipe resulting in vibrations of the air. The length of the pipe selects one fundamental vibration (pitch) and amplifies it. The speed of the airflow governs the volume of the sound. The characteristics of the sound, i.e. the timbre, are governed by the shape and physical composition of the pipe. Each pipe produces one pitch at a set volume with a singular predetermined timbre.

The two manuals (keyboards) on the Schantz organ each have 61 keys (a piano has 88). The pedal board (played with the feet) has 32 pedals. If only one manual plus the pedal board were used, a minimum of 93 pipes would be required. An organ with only one manual rank and one pedal rank would work, but there would be no variety in the volume of the sounds. For each gradation in the volume of the sound, an additional rank would be required. In addition, just as a marching band has a variety of timbres from its component instruments, e.g. brass, reed, or woodwind instruments, a similar variety of sounds is desirable from a pipe organ. For each change in the timbre, another rank is required.

Finally, the pipes in the organ are grouped into divisions (military terminology again). In general, the pipes producing the louder sounds are grouped in the great division, and they are played using the lower manual. The softer pipes and those with a larger variety of timbres are grouped in the swell division and are played with the upper manual. The mixing of the various sounds from the pipes by the organist is called registering the instrument, and it is the way great sounds are generated from such a swell instrument.

## Finance Report –February Results

Financial results for February YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$60,862, Budget \$71,083
- Expenses – Actual \$67,017, Budget \$68,317
- Net activity – Actual (\$6,155), Budget \$2,767



Actual net activity was below of budget. After a strong start, February pledged offerings were below budget impacting the net results.



## **Grace Lutheran Church Congregational Council Minutes**

MARCH 15, 2022 6:00 P.M. in person in Grace Hall

Attendees: Pastor Mike Schmidt, Carter Woodruff, Linda Moravec, Valerie Culp, Dean Watson, Aaron Brandsfield, Nancy Crowfoot, Alex Davik, Mike Hilsabeck, Tom McCleary, Jenny Rehder, Kevin Drury, Bruce Bergman

Absent: None

Call to order – Alex called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

Devotions – Pastor Mike – Book of Job Chapter 42

Adoption of Agenda – Bruce moved, Carter second, motion approved.

Approval of Minutes from Feb 15 meeting – Dean moved, Aaron second, motion approved.

Staff Reports – received prior to the meeting for review. Remember to send your updated bio and photo to Michelle by March 21 for the newsletter. Be sure to sign the Ameritrade documents in the office.

- a. Reviewed Feb financial report. Unfavorable balance as of Feb 28 with pledged offerings down. Initial deposits for March were positive. No worries at this point.

### **Old Business**

- a. 5 Most Important Questions - A draft of the survey questions were prepared and shared by Mike H. Decided to gather a small task force to start addressing the questions.
- b. Revisit the group that was formed for the Lean Initiative with the ELCA. Pastor will contact the previous team. Tom will participate from council. Jenny will be available to meet with the task force and gather information to present to council.

### **New Business**

- a. Future meetings at 6:30? Not an issue now, continue meetings at 6pm.
- b. Reallocation of duties within Property Committee. Don Peterson is retiring from the committee. Form a task force to work with property committee to determine what is a sustainable organization to manage areas such as campus, maintenance, mechanical, and future projects, etc. Carter and Kevin will initiate a meeting with the various sub groups.
- c. June 12<sup>th</sup> Pastor will be away participating in the celebration of one of his former church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Substitute Pastor has been scheduled. Kevin moved that June 12 will not count as a vacation day, Aaron seconded, motion approved.
- d. Grace Golf Outing – Alex will reach out to Connie H. to discuss planning for this event.

### **Questions/General Discussion**

- a. Proposal to hold the Grace Car Show. Kevin will lead planning for this event.
- b. Hope to hear about the internship by the end of March. [Post Meeting Note: Pastor shared that an intern has been placed with Grace Lutheran and he forwarded information.]

Adjournment – Alex moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 P.M.

Next meeting – April 19, 2022 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Rehder

Congregational Council Secretary

## **Youth Fundraising & Plant Sale!**

Please see the insert for Fundraising with Goode Greenhouses. Shop at Goodes between May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup>, present the flyer to the cashier, and Grace will receive 10% of your purchases!

*While we would have loved to continue our longstanding plant sale with Central Iowa Floral, they found it too difficult to manage in-town fundraisers after moving away from their Des Moines location.*

### March Madness Fundraiser Final Four update!

With March Madness down to the Final Four, we are down to our Final Three. It is down to Jill Boeschen, Brenda Mann, and Rich Voelker, playing for Dorothy's House, the Urbandale Food Pantry, and Engineers without Borders. If Duke wins or is beaten in the final by Villanova, Rich Voelker wins. Rich would also win if the Final is between North Carolina and Villanova. If Kansas wins, Brenda Mann wins. If North Carolina wins over Kansas, Jill Boeschen wins. Let's hear it for our Final Three!



### ***We invite you to check out the many organizations and charities championed by Grace***

**members:** Food Bank of Iowa, Arthritis Foundation, Heart of an Ace, Engineers without Borders, GLC Little Free Pantry, Blank Children's Hospital, Urbandale Food Pantry, Des Moines Lions Foundation, The Supply Hive Des Moines, Lutheran World Relief - Ukraine, Dorothy's House, Ronald McDonald House of Central Iowa, Marfan Foundation, On with Life, Lutheran Services in Iowa, Every Step Care and Support.

### Endowment Fund Report

The purpose of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is to promote faithful Christian stewardship by providing a congregational plan to receive grants, gifts or bequest of money to be used to enhance the total program and mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church beyond that supported through regular giving and apart from the general operation of the congregation. The Endowment Fund Committee acts as custodian of the Fund.

The Endowment Committee approved the following distributions of 2021 income:

Awards to Grace Lutheran Church:

- \$5,000 for property and landscape improvements between the deck at the Sexton (custodian) house and the northwest (Grace Hall) entrance
- \$380 for technology shelving and a flatbed cart

Other Awards:

- \$2,500 to Nutrition 4 Young Children for Baby Shower supplies
- \$2,500 to Lutheran Services in Iowa for Global Green equipment

A total of \$10,380 was awarded. Requests for grants totaled \$10,380.

Since inception, the Endowment fund has awarded a total of **\$359,963** to **195** projects.

### **Grace continues to be generous in so many ways! Giving Reports from other entities, 2021**

#### Donation Report from DMARC, Cash Giving for 2021 :

\$4,222.50

515 pounds of produce from our garden\*

(\*additional produce taken to pantries around the metro was not weighed)

#### Southeastern Iowa Synod Feb 1, 2021 – Jan 31, 2022:

\$35,012.50



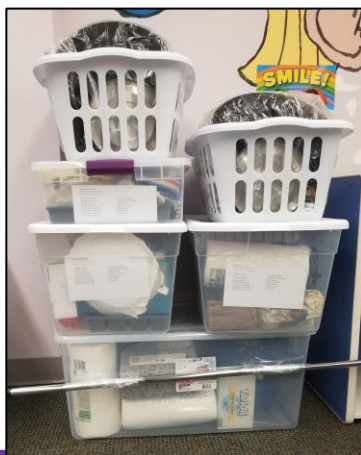
## Supporting Lutheran World Relief

The following communication from Lutheran World Relief demonstrates why we spend quality time and resources to support this organization. The work they do is timely and essential. This Spring, we are holding a fundraising drive to continue our LWR quilt and kit ministry. While we build personal care kits, baby care kits and quilts, we are also requesting donations to purchase necessary supplies. If you want to contribute, please do so online, or send a check made out to Grace, putting LWR on the comment line. Thank you for your generosity! We also encourage you to donate directly to LWR at [lwr.org](http://lwr.org) and to pray for the people coordinating and receiving this aid:

**The needs of our neighbors in Ukraine and the number of refugees are growing every hour.** Here are some important updates from... colleagues directly on the ground assisting refugees this week:

- Your love is providing **emergency cash support** to Ukrainian refugees in southwestern Poland. This effort is in coordination with several partners, including Lutheran World Federation.
- Thanks to the dedication of Lutheran quilters and kit-makers, **8,000 care kits and 7,400 quilts are being shipped and distributed** to our neighbors directly impacted by this crisis.
- We are coordinating with local organizations to **move essential supplies into Ukraine, including medical supplies.**
- And your **generosity is at work helping our friends at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Poland welcome refugees.**

In January we requested items for Refugee Resettlement and Welcome to Iowa Kits and you delivered! We were able to assemble 18 Welcoming kits with household items, including Meal Service and Meal Prep Kits. In addition, we were able to contribute another 18 boxes of 'in kind' items, such as dishes, kitchen and bath items that will be combined with other donations to make additional kits. Here are a few of the kits, packed and ready to go, along with one of the quilts.



## Thank you Merle Hay Neighborhood Association!

As part of their Spring Food Drive, the MHNA collected money to share between DMARC Food Pantry, The Food Bank of Iowa, and the Little Free Pantries at Immanuel Methodist Church, Reach Church, and our own at Grace Lutheran Church!

Kathy Battles with the Merle Hay Neighborhood Association stopped by and gave us a check for \$151 to be used for items for the Little Free Pantry. Thank you, MHNA!!





## You are invited!

Pastor Ernie Pihl, who served as pastor here at Grace from 1962 – 1970, is visiting all his former parishes, including Grace.

He is currently living in Washington (state) but plans to be in Des Moines the afternoon of May 16 and the full day of May 17. We don't know his exact schedule yet, but he would like to come see Grace, meet the staff and visit with anyone that is available. Let us know if you would like to be involved in welcoming and catching up with Pastor Pihl!



## Calling all Graduates!

It's a little early, but we know how busy Spring gets when you are a senior! We would love to celebrate your success and future plans! Send a bio and a photo to [michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org) and let us know what comes next!

## Join us for Sunday School

Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in Room 102, usually the first 3 Sunday's of the Month – in April we won't meet on Easter (April 17) but there will be Easter Activities at 9 a.m. between services in Grace Hall.

April's Theme: Palm Sunday/Easter

May's Theme: Fruit of the Spirit

Check out some of the fun we've had so far in 2022!



## We invite you to sponsor an Easter lily for the altar this year.

You can include a special message in the bulletin, and the flowers are yours to take home after the Easter worship service. The cost is \$15 and you can pay through Grace's online giving site (<https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>) or by check or cash to the office. Follow the link below. Kathy also plans to have paper copies with envelopes at the church on Sunday – once filled out, you can drop it in the secure drop box outside the church office.



Please put your first AND last name(s) in the first name field and type a special message (optional) in the last name field (in memory of ... in honor of). Contact Kathy at [kbowerma@hotmail.com](mailto:kbowerma@hotmail.com) or 971-6360 with questions, or call/email the church office. Thank you! <https://volunteersignup.org/8CAH3>