

**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

## Sunday Schedule

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

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

@Gracelutherandm

## Office & Open Building Hours

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday - Thursday

5201 Urbandale Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
515-276-6873  
[www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)

**Pastor Michael Schmidt**  
[mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org)

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**Custodian**  
Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

### Inside This Issue...

- 2... Celebrations, Thank You, Visit with Vicar Bunny Stoutes and Pastor Pihl
- 3... Tuesday Bible Study, Household Needs
- 4... Worship, Sunday School, Hymnals
- 5... 2022 Graduates, Grace Car Show
- 6... Grace Fellowship, Fundraiser, Garden Help
- 7... LSI Update, Choir Rehearsals
- 8... Notes from Rich, Plant Sale
- 9... Council Highlights, Finance Report
- 10.. NCAA Fundraiser, Storm Safety
- Insert: Plant Sale Form

## Greatness Watch

“Good is the enemy of great.” That is how Jim Collins begins his book *Good to Great*. I have been thinking a lot about this lately. It is so easy to see examples of “good” as we live out our faith together as Grace Lutheran Church. We are good at a lot of things. Good at welcoming others. Good at giving. Good at worship and music. That may well be our problem. When something is good, it takes a lot of courage to make changes in pursuit of bridging the divide between good and great.

I was recently asked if I thought that Grace Lutheran Church would still be here in five years, or if we would be closed. This is not a new question. I was asked the same question after my very first Council meeting at Grace 11 years ago. I have been asked that question many times over these 11 years. In the past, I simply said, “Yes.” This time, I added, “But if we don’t change, we will be on that trajectory.”

I have witnessed moments of greatness here at Grace. In the same way, I have witnessed moments of not very good at all. Most often, I have encountered good. In the current landscape of Christianity, good is not good enough. We will need to explore ways that we can grow in our faith, in our depth, and, yes, in terms of active membership.

The Staff and Council are taking up this work with the help of a Steering Committee. We will spend the next few months working through a guided study, discerning mission, values, desired results, and a plan. This is a large undertaking, and we ask for your prayers along the way. There will also be opportunities for input and discussion along the way. This journey will not happen overnight, and the Staff, Council, and a Steering Committee are dedicated to seeing the process through.

I believe in Grace Lutheran Church. I have seen moments of greatness, and know that if we channel our energies, we can make a lasting, positive impact in our neighborhood and community. I know we can change lives, and become a people, with a mindset of mission and service.

*Continued on page 3*

### Happy May Birthday

- 2 - Joshua Meadows
- 3 - Helen Ringgenberg
- 4 - John Roehrick  
Todd Haugen
- 5 - Dylan Rutter
- 6 - Karla Swanson  
Hannah Honsey
- 8 - Regan Nelson
- 10 - Claire Kallestad
- 11 - Jeffrey Rudisill
- 12 - Charlotte Nielsen
- 13 - Sally Preston
- 15 - Dmitri Woodruff  
Ellen Wonderlin Wilke  
Laurie Helton
- 16 - Laura Wonderlin Jones
- 17 - Meghan Sherer  
Carol Krause
- 18 - Tim Nehmer  
Inga Hoifelt  
Lori Fry  
Kimberly Fenimore
- 19 - Megan Jensen  
Chuck Denton  
Bruce Bergman
- 21 - Barb Zimany  
Kaylee Ringgenberg  
Jacob Nordeen  
Brenda Mann  
Kenneth Carlson
- 23 - Jonay Trentmann
- 25 - Hal Turner
- 26 - John Schwemler  
Devin Ashton
- 27 - Kate Sherer-Eichner  
Courtney Brandsfield  
Sue Anderson
- 28 - Linda Vernia  
Rick Fry
- 29 - Kira Nehmer  
Ralf Hoifeldt  
Cal Wilner
- 30 - Loree Nelson  
Torry Henderson  
Jonathan Fry
- 31 - Lindsey Nelson  
Barbara Bergman  
Brianna Adams

HAPPY  
Birthday

### Happy May Anniversary

- 7 - Jon and Cherie Rissman  
Justin and Carolyn Andersen
- 11 - Carter and Carol Woodruff
- 14 - Steve and Mary McCann
- 15 - Ro and Barb Zimany
- 20 - Steve and Melissa Young
- 21 - Mike and Tina Meadows
- 22 - Wayne and Debbie Curry  
Mike and Susanne Carney
- 23 - Richard and Michelle Voelker
- 25 - Harlan and Jayne Mortenson
- 26 - Mike and Carla Peterman
- 27 - Todd and Angela Ringgenberg  
Bill and Linda Biegger
- 30 - James and Kimberly Fenimore
- 31 - Duane and Linda Ulrick

HAPPY  
Anniversary  
HAPPY  
Anniversary  
HAPPY  
Anniversary  
HAPPY  
Anniversary

### Thank you

Thank you to the members of the Member Care Team for cards, a food gift card and food. Thank you to so many other people that have sent cards, called or texted as I continue going through cancer treatments. All of your positive thoughts and prayers are appreciated and felt.

Beth Flannery

Dear Member Care

Thank you so much for the nice Easter card that you sent us. Hope everyone had a nice Easter. The snow was not a nice thing to have. Hopefully Spring will be here soon. Take care and stay safe.

Love, Don & Bonnie Swanson

Dear Lydia and Martha Circle

Thank you for the beautiful Easter card. It was so nice that you thought of us. It was a quiet Easter here. Hope everyone had a great day. Take care and stay safe,

Love, Don & Bonnie Swanson

### Visits:

#### Sunday, May 1 we welcome Vicar Bunny Stoutes!

Join us in Grace Hall after worship and say hello! We'll have an informal meet & greet with coffee, juice, and donuts available for the occasion!

#### Monday, May 16 or Tuesday, May 17 we welcome Pastor Ernie Pihl, who served as pastor here at Grace from 1962 – 1970.

He is currently living in Washington state but is visiting all his former parishes. He will visit Grace, meet the staff and hopes to visit with anyone who might remember him from his time here. Please contact Michelle or Denise if you would be available to meet Pastor Pihl with us!

### **Greatness Watch, continued from page 1**

There was an image on social media recently that highlighted the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning. The image used tacos. On one side, it showed all the ingredients to make a taco and showed the title “Taco Watch.” This was to show that all the necessary ingredients were present. On the other side was a fully prepared taco with the title “Taco Warning.” Having the ingredients does not mean that it will happen, only that it could happen if everything comes together in the right way.

Siblings in Christ, I declare that Grace Lutheran Church is in a “Greatness Watch.” We have all the ingredients needed to make a great impact in Jesus’ name. I ask for your prayers, support, and participation as we explore our future together.

In Christ,  
Pastor Mike

### **Tuesday Bible Study**

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study will return for four sessions on May 3, 10, 17, and 24. The Bible Study will be from 9:15-10:30 a.m. These four sessions will focus on Paul’s letter to the Romans. The topics/questions discussed will be:

- May 3, Saved by Grace...Isn’t That Too Good to Be True? (Romans 5:1-11)
- May 10, If What I Do Doesn’t Save Me, Does It Matter How I Live? (Romans 6:1-23)
- May 17, How Can I Keep from Singing? (Romans 10:1-24)
- May 24, What Does God Want from Us? (Romans 12:1-21)



### **Help Us Prepare for Vicar Bunny**

We are pleased to be partnered with Wartburg Seminary as an Internship Site and look forward to welcoming Vicar Bunny Stoutes to Grace Lutheran Church. We have entered a lease with a rental property and need to provide furnishings. If you have any items listed below that you would be interested in donating for our internship housing, please contact the church office.

We are looking for the following items:

- Bed and frame (preferably full size)
- Bed sheets
- Nightstand Dresser
- Sofa/couch
- End-tables
- Lamps
- Bookshelves (2 or 3)
- Curtains or blinds for privacy
- Vacuum
- TV stand
- Desk
- Pots and Pans
- Plates and Silverware



## **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/>



Contact Pastor Mike if you are interested in becoming a member of Grace!  
[Mike@gracedm.org](mailto:Mike@gracedm.org) or 515/276-6873



### **Join us for Sunday School – The theme for May will be Fruit of the Spirit**

Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Room 102

May 1, 8, and 15

On May 22 we will have an all church service project about kindness!



### **We're so happy to have hymnals back in the pews!**

To save paper, we will stop printing hymns in the bulletins beginning Memorial weekend. We will continue to include the words for each hymn in the powerpoint, that you can see both during in person worship and on the livestream video. If you do not attend in person or watch online and need a hymnal at home, please contact Michelle or Denise.

### **Worship Volunteer Signup**

**Greeters, Ushers, Lectors and now Communion Servers! Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m.**

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



### **Congratulations to our graduates!**

We'll recognize our graduates during worship on Sunday, May 22, and will have a small reception after worship!



Drake is planning on studying Theatre and Dance at Charleston starting Fall 2022. He's also planning to continue his study of the Japanese language throughout his time there. For the past year, Drake has been active in Roosevelt's Bridges 2 Harmony Gospel Choir and Revelation Varsity Show Choir, and was an IHSSA (Iowa High School Speech Association) All-State Qualifier for Group Musical Theatre Category. Drake has also been involved in Theatre at Roosevelt for the past few years, this year playing Jonas in "The Laramie Project" and most recently Eddie in "Mamma Mia!" After graduation, Drake will be performing with the Roosevelt Jazz Choir alongside several top music universities at Carnegie Hall.



Hello everyone! Over the past 4 years I have been working towards a B.S. in Genetics and a minor in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, and I have finally graduated from Iowa State University! During my time in college I have been involved in research, and now I want to pursue biomedical research in the future. I have accepted an offer from Baylor College of Medicine Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in the Genetics and Genomics department and will be pursuing a PhD! This means I will be moving to Houston, Texas for at least the next 5 years to learn more about genetics, improve my research skills, and develop my own research project. While this is a big change, I am really excited to see what the future brings!



Ivy will be graduating from Roosevelt High school. During her years at Roosevelt she was a member of the rugby team which won two state championships and was the runner-up her other two years. She participated in the agriscience program through Central Campus. It was in this program that she developed a love for plants and found the horticulture program at Iowa State University which she will begin in the fall.

### **2022 Grace Car Show**

Mark Your Calendars! The first one was a smashing success so let's do it again! The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Grace Car Show will be held on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> with a rain date of Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. More details to come as we get closer to June!





**May 2-May 8**

**Buy your bedding plants, vegetables, hanging baskets, trees, and more at Goode Greenhouses!**

10% of your purchase will help fund the Grace Youth for possible service work travel, and travel to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in NOLA!

**Details:**

- [Get the Flyer Here](#). Print extra's for friends, neighbors and co-workers!
- Shop any time Monday May 2nd Through Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>
- Present the flyer to the cashier, and Grace will receive 10% of your purchases!

**Grace Fellowship returns!**

Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>, we will meet in Grace Hall at 5:30 p.m. for games and a light sandwich supper.

Bring your favorite game to share, all ages welcome.



**Grace Garden Helpers wanted!**

Our group is growing, with 2 new gardeners this year, and more are always welcome! Planting has already begun, and will continue as the weather allows for each plants needs.

Early summer mostly requires vigilant watering, some weeding, and some harvesting. We typically work in rotation of one person per week as the work is generally light, meaning each person takes a week about once a month depending on their schedule, but occasionally we meet to work together.

July, August and September require continued watering and much more harvesting with delivery to the food pantry. This year we are looking at pairing up so one person will water, another harvest/deliver, working approximately one week and off for two.

Contact Carla Peterman, Julie Honsey, Marion Nehmer, or Michelle Voelker if you would like to help! You can also email [michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org) directly.

Harvests are taken to any of several food pantries in the Metro area, depending on the day of harvest, what is open, and which direction the gardener travels in. Some pantries receive a lot of fresh donations from their communities, so we do try to deliver to those that receive fewer fresh options.

Some of the harvests are also shared with the Little Free Pantry as well.

Boxes and containers wanted! Donations can be placed in the shed, or under the table in the entryway on Sunday mornings.

- Large flat boxes are perfect for gathering tomatoes.
- Shipping boxes of all kinds can be used for produce.
- Paper shopping bags can be used for greens, beans, etc.
- Clear and clean berry and takeout clamshells with attached lids can be used for small amounts of vegetables (snap peas, beans, etc.) for the Little Free Pantry.





## Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children.

We see moms turning to LSI Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills and behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood Services, we see first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes and support groups. In 2021, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to nearly 500 families of young children. We are so inspired to hear their stories and see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many Iowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor a mother in your life this year, please consider making a gift in her name to 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).*

## Education for Every Parent

As a parent educator for LSI, Lindsay spent every day visiting families in their homes and teaching parents how to meet their child's developmental needs and help them thrive.

When she left LSI and welcomed her new son, Patrick, into the world, Lindsay wanted some extra support for her family. And she knew just where to turn.

LSI Early Childhood Services provide evidence-based curriculum that builds on each family's individual strengths and ensures they have the education and resources they need to achieve their personal goals and keep kids on track with their developmental milestones.

Each week, Lindsay was able to meet with her LSI parent educator, Amy, and get a fresh perspective on the best ways to help her son succeed. Together, they worked on setting nutrition goals for Patrick, and Lindsay is now getting ready to help her son learn to walk and talk.

For years, Lindsay was able to educate and empower Iowa families through LSI Early Childhood Services. Now, she gets to experience the programming from the other side, and it's given her a new outlook on how valuable the education and resources are to parents of young children.

"I want to thank everyone who has supported LSI," Lindsay says. "This programming is for everyone. Just having the opportunity for in-home visiting is awesome. I want to thank everybody for donating because I love this program."



## Choir will continue rehearsing through May 18!

Where: Grace Hall

When: 6:30 p.m.

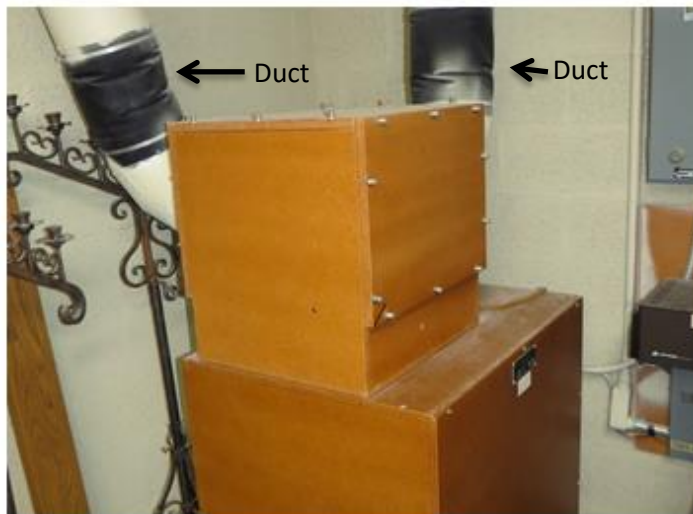
Who: You!

## Notes from Rich

Building on the topic of the March “Notes” article concerning the organ pipes, this month the question, “Where is the organ?” will be addressed. The answer to this interrogatory may seem obvious at first, but multiple answers are possible since the complete organ does not reside in one location. A pipe organ has three necessary components: 1) a source of air (wind) to blow through the pipes and make musical sounds; 2) a method to control which pipes sound; and 3) sets of pipes (ranks). Depending on the design of an individual organ, these three components may be close together or far apart.



Designating the location of all the pipes in the Schantz organ is a multiple choice question whose answer is “All of the above.” There are pipes that can be seen on the right and left hand sides of the chancel sitting about eight to ten feet above the floor. These are termed exposed pipes. There are more pipes in a room (pipe chamber) on the right side of the chancel also about ten feet above the floor and directly above the steps going to Msindo Hall (basement). These pipes are enclosed (hidden). The chamber has two openings covered by grill cloth that permits the music to escape the chamber toward the congregation and into the chancel. A similar chamber across the chancel from the north chamber, fitted with grill cloth coverings, is the fourth location of the pipes. This chamber is fitted with a series of vertical shades which pivot on vertical axes and can be opened and closed. When closed, the volume from the chamber is diminished; when open, the volume is increased. Determining which groups of pipes (ranks) and which pitches will sound is controlled by the console which sits at the front right corner of the nave (in front of the musician’s alcove). When the roller top is open, the console appears to have two keyboards (manuals) similar to those on a piano, harpsichord, accordion, or clavichord although the number of keys varies. An additional set of controls played with the feet sits directly below the manuals called the pedal board.



### BLOWER

Located on the old stage in Msindo Hall  
Requires 220 VAC current controlled by a switch on the console

A blower, much like a furnace fan, powered by three-phase 220V A/C current, rests on the basement floor under the chancel. The wind output from the blower is guided through two metal ducts which deliver the air to the north and south pipe chambers.

Thus, the answer to “Where is the organ?” is a composite of multiple answers, i.e. pipes, console, blower, and chambers located in various settings both open and hidden.

## 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*



## Grace Lutheran Church Congregational Council Highlights

April 19, 2022 6:00 P.M. in person in Grace Hall

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

Absent: Kevin Drury, Valerie Culp

Call to order – Alex called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

Devotions – Pastor Mike – Mark 1:35-38

Adoption of Agenda – Bruce moved, Dean seconded, agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes from March 15 meeting – Dean moved, Carter seconded, minutes approved.

Staff Reports – received prior to the meeting for review.

- a. Reviewed March financial report. No major concerns.

### Old Business

- a. 5 Most Important Questions - A task force was formed including members from the Lean Initiative (Jessica Flannery, Alexson Calahan, Emily Stowell), plus Tom and Alex from council and the first meeting is May 1 at 5 P.M. A draft of the first set of survey questions was prepared and shared with the executive council.
- b. Reallocation of duties within Property Committee.
  - i. Task force met on April 9. Multi-heads for managing the entire property broken into different areas such as Roof, Grounds, Todd's House, Mechanical, Electrical, etc. These heads can contact Denise as a focal person.
  - ii. Have Willing Workers and Men's Group already meeting and doing some of this work. Also, have a property rep on Council (right now it is Carter).
  - iii. Upcoming ideas; take a survey of the property, how can we utilize the facility more thoroughly (gym, Grace hall, etc.), have an open house.
  - iv. Get back together and refine the ideas and task list, and organize the sub teams.
- c. Grace Golf Outing – Alex talked to Connie H. and she is willing to help plan this event.

### New Business

- a. Women in the church – need to continue to improve inclusivity across all groups to prevent perceived slights.
- b. Improving communications on daily operations – beyond the monthly staff reports. Volunteerism as a whole needs to be re-energized including training. Share feedback with council as questions or issues arise.
- c. Internship Committee – in the process of organizing the internship committee.
- d. Internship financial commitments – budget worksheet developed, original budget increased. Budget should be OK.
- e. Internship housing – Motion by Bruce to approve a lease agreement with Davik Properties LLC, for the (*redacted for privacy*) St. property for a period of 12 months not to exceed \$750/month with the lease in a form approved by the finance committee. Carter seconded, motion approved. Updated lease agreement will be shared with the council.

Reconciling in Christ – discussion tabled until next meeting.

Questions/General Discussion – None

Adjournment – Alex moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 P.M.

Next meeting – May 17, 2022 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Rehder, Congregational Council Secretary

## Finance Report – March Results

Financial results for March YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$93,719, Budget \$106,575
- Expenses – Actual \$97,795, Budget \$101,200
- Net activity – Actual (\$4,076), Budget \$5,375

Actual net activity was below of budget by \$9,451. After a strong start, February and March pledged offerings were below budget impacting the net results.



## **NCAA Basketball Fundraiser (and future changes)**

Congratulations to Brenda Mann, who is the winner of this year's NCAA Basketball Fundraiser. This year the donations included an anonymous matching donation, so the total donation to the Urbandale Food Pantry is \$290. What a great gift!

Because of experiences this year, we will make some changes to next year's fundraiser.

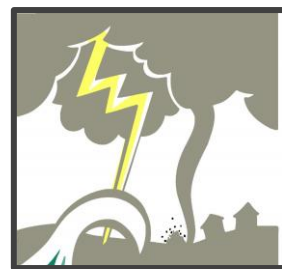
- There will be opportunity to donate to the "pool" of donations, even if you do not wish to fill out a bracket.
- There will be brackets for both the Women's and Men's Basketball NCAA Tournaments.
- There will be two winners, with two charities receiving a donation.

Thank you to all who participated, and we look forward to an even larger fundraiser next year!

*It's storm season in Iowa, and now that we're back in the building, we thought it was time for a safety refresher, so please review! Safety Manuals for many situations are also available in the Gathering Hall by the kitchen phone, outside the office, Grace Hall Kitchen, outside of the gym, and outside of the Choir room.*

### **General Severe Storm Safety**

- Stay indoors when severe storms develop and keep away from windows.
- DO NOT USE TELEPHONES OR USE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES during electrical storms.
- Stay away from electrical fixtures or outlets if water is leaking around these areas. Report the situation immediately.
- Listen to local radio station for specific information and instructions.



### **Tornado**

- Head for cover in the areas marked on the map.
- Stay away from windows.
- Stay towards the supporting walls and get down on your knees with hands protecting your head and neck.
- If available, tables and chairs can also be used as shelter. Do not take time to specially set them up.
- Do not move from your safe location until the danger has completely passed.
- If damage is severe, or persons are injured, call 911. Do not move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
- Establish area for anyone injured if possible so that everyone is in an accessible and centralized location when help arrives.
- If you smell gas, turn off main gas valve. Do not turn on any appliances, switches, or electrical devices such as phones that could ignite the gas.

If there is a service in the sanctuary, Ushers should:

- Quickly notify the pastor to read the evacuation instructions to the congregation. The instructions are available in the sacristy.
- Organize ushers to perform evacuation of the sanctuary using closest exits.
- Do a quick "sweep" of the sanctuary before heading downstairs.

***Attendees should listen to directions before they start moving. Then help anyone who might need assistance as you move toward safety.***