

**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Sunday Schedule

8:45 a.m. Advent Hymn Sing
9:00 a.m. Worship, in-person and Online

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

Office & Open Building Hours
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday - Thursday
Closed November 24, Thanksgiving Day

What Can't Wait

When do you put up the Christmas tree? How about the Christmas lights? When does the Advent calendar begin? November 27th? December 1st? When is it okay to sing Christmas Carols? How early do you tune in to 104.1, or other "Christmas all the time stations?" There are so many questions that surround the Advent Season. Honestly, it can get a little bit stressful sometimes.

Advent is a Season of waiting, as we prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord and the celebration of the Christmas together. There lies the rub. The Church waits in prayer for the Nativity of Our Lord, while the world around bursts out in song and celebration. How do we hold the tension? What does that look like? As a community of faith? As family?

This year, we are diving into the theme "What Can't Wait?" during the Advent Season. The title alone brings about a flurry of thoughts and questions. Even the title holds a level of tension. I once heard the story of a first sermon and afterward the Lead Pastor pulled the young pastor aside to firmly remind, "We do not use contractions in this church!"

The truth is, the Church has been great at saying what we should refrain from doing, especially during Advent. We wait to light another candle each week. We wait with decorations, slowly adding each week. We wait to sing Christmas Carols. We open the Advent calendars one day at a time. Yet, we seldom stop to ask, "What can't wait?"

What would that list look like for you? What are the things for which we should not wait? That is a wonderful question to ponder. I invite you to do just that during this Season of Advent. Think about what you might include in that list. Don't just think it. Share it. Share it with friends, with people at Grace, the staff, etc. It would be wonderful to ponder anew together.

I will start. I find myself pondering two things as the Season approached. The first is hope. Often, it feels like we must wait for the story of the birth of Christ before we really burst into hope. We speak of hope but fall short of really embracing the kind of hope that looks to the God who can make all things new. It is as though there is an unspoken hesitation, believing that if we jump to hope too early it will detract from the flurry of emotions, including hope, that break forth on Christmas Eve. Why? This will be the theme the First Sunday of Advent. Maybe that is why it is on my mind so much.

Continued on page 3

Happy December Birthday

- 1 - Deanna Weber
Josh Lund
- 2 - Beverly Anderson
Christopher Barks
- 3 - Martha Page
Ami Bradwell
James Jordahl
- 4 - Carter Woodruff
- 5 - Duane Ulrick
Darlis Honnold
Aaron Brandsfield
- 8 - Felicia Adams
- 9 - Joy Averill
Salvador Rodriguez
- 11 - Jamie Chamberlain
Burke Shiffler
Kari Dostalík
- 12 - Evan Justice
- 13 - Bradley Ashton
- 14 - Stacie Holst
- 15 - Norman Iverson
Matt Ziska
- 17 - Tanner Highland
- 18 - Helen Fanning
Payton Lawson
Katja Rahjes
- 20 - Shirley Shiffler
- 21 - John Rudisill
- 22 - Elizabeth Lewis
- 23 - Nancy Crowfoot
Wayne Curry
Piper Hutton
- 24 - Jon Rutter
Stuart Mitchell
Nicole Nelson
- 25 - Jeffrey Nelson
- 27 - Barbara Berven
Christina Anderson
- 28 - Sarah Chenoweth
Samantha Schmidt
Courtney Vander Plaats
- 29 - Linda Rundle
Kevin Krause
Robin Randolph
- 30 - Marion Nehmer
Drake Carney
- 31 - Nicholas Best



Happy December Anniversary

- 1 – Cindy and Ross Peeler
- 3 – Katharine and Matt Radermacher
- 8 – Becky and Tom Selander
- 14 – Gregory and Darlis Honnold
- 26 – Megan and Charles Reynolds



Prayers and Sympathies

We hold the families and loved ones of the following people in our hearts and prayers:

Barb Tussing

Bill Biegger

Immogene Beck

Ryan Nordeen,
son of Larry and Janice Nordeen



Advent Hymn Sing

The Advent season is approaching, and this year you are invited to participate in a hymn-sing before worship each of the Sundays! On Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, and 18 at 8:45am there will be an Advent hymn sing taking place in the Sanctuary.

Did you know?

On page 1178 of the index in the ELW hymnal, there are listed Advent hymn suggestions that do *not* fall under the thematic Advent pages on 239 through 267! On the index pages that follow there are all sorts of other suggestions for other themes as well. This is because there are very few hymns that can be placed solely into one category. So many of the hymn texts encompass many themes, sometimes it is difficult to decide how to categorize them. For example: #264 Prepare the Royal Highway falls under the Advent category in the ELW because the text fits with the lectionary scripture generally read on the second Sunday of Advent. However, reading through the words you'll find that it is also a perfect hymn to sing on Palm Sunday! This is far from the only example.

During our hymn-sings coming up we will explore some of the hymns that are in the Advent section of our hymnal - and some that are not, but that still match thematically with the season. There are so many lovely hymns in the ELW book appropriate for the season, and it is disappointing when we can't get to all of them during worship itself - so this is your chance to get to sing your favorites and even learn some new ones! We hope to see you there!

Final Contributions for 2022

Final Contributions should arrive at the church office no later than Wednesday, December 28 to be counted toward 2022.

What Can't Wait, continued from page 1

The other is Christmas Carols. Before I was married, I used to wait until Christmas Eve to put up my tree and promptly remove it on January 6th, Epiphany. I have softened quite a bit. This is a tension that I hold. The more that the world dives into "around the clock Christmas music," the greater the pull to share in Christmas Carols earlier. This is NOT because of a desire to join the ways of the world. I have come to believe that if the only Christmas music people hear in the weeks leading up to the Nativity of Our Lord are the secular songs, the world misses out on the richness of our Christmas Carols. We also miss out on a great opportunity to share the good news. Is our waiting worth it? For whose benefit do we wait? Our own? Our adherence to tradition?

I know some of you are little uncomfortable seeing such things written by a pastor. Others of you may be thankful to read these words. This is what makes the question "What can't wait?" so powerful. I humbly ask you to lean into this theme with us this Season of Advent, as we journey together to Bethlehem. What can't wait?

In Christ,
Pastor Mike

Greetings, Friends!

Guess what! It's almost Christmas! It is thrilling to witness the Christmas traditions here at Grace, with a few new ones sprinkled in as well! It's exciting to be in a new town for Christmas, so I must ask, what neighborhoods do I need to drive through to see the best Christmas lights? What are the must-do things in Des Moines during the holiday season?



Thanks to those who have responded to my last newsletter article, asking what you wanted to see. A common theme of the questions is regarding my time here and what comes next. I'm happy to share that with you! (Also, please send me ideas for upcoming newsletters!)

- I will serve with you until May 31st of 2023.
- Move back to live in the castle at Wartburg Seminary, get a summer job, and complete my essays in preparation for my last interview as a candidate for ministry.
- I'll turn in my 20-25 page essay September 1st.
- Fall semester begins
- In October, my professors will have a conference and decide if they believe I am ready for call. Hopefully, at that meeting they will come up with my "approval language."
- The approval language document will be sent to the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod candidacy committee in November.
- My final interview with the synod will take place in December of 2023.
- Spring semester begins
- If, and that's a big ol' "IF," all goes smoothly, I will complete my RMP in January. (Rostered Ministry Profile – sort of like LinkedIn for pastors. But instead of short little quips of a resume and a social network, it's page after page of short essays that try to show a congregation that we know what we're doing. Those who have served on call committees are very familiar with the RMP's, as they read dozens and dozens of these when discerning who to interview)
- In February 2024, I'll start interviewing for my first call as a pastor.
- The goal is to graduate in May of 2024 and have a call waiting for my arrival!

A gentle warning to the community of Beaverdale: if you see a burgundy Nissan with Texas plates and there is snow or ice on the road, stay far, far, far away. Also, don't laugh too hard when I'm driving slow. I lie. You can laugh. I would laugh. Let's just say that the learning curve of winter driving has been an adventure.

Greetings, Continued on page 4

Greetings, continued from page 3

As we move deeper into the season of Advent, I'm excited to see how we will wonder together – what things can't wait? What people can't wait? What truly demands our attention, work, and preparation? This Advent at Grace, we invite our friends, family, and neighbors to contemplate together, "What Can't Wait."

Peace, today and always!
Vicar Bunny Stoutes

New Member Classes with Pastor Mike

Scheduled classes will be on hiatus during December & January, but if you are interested in becoming a member of Grace during these months, please contact Pastor Mike Mike@gracedm.org or 515/276-6873.

New member classes will resume in February after worship on the last Sunday of each month through May. They can be help in-person or by Zoom – please R.S.V.P. by calling the office!



Greeters, Ushers, Lectors for Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m. Coffee and Donut service volunteers

Sign up at: <https://www.volunteersignup.org/3YPK9?classic>
or contact Emma, emma@gracedm.org

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/>

Notes from Rich

While preparing for the church service on November 6, I noticed that the music for two of the three congregational hymns (“For All the Saints” and “Come Down, O Love Divine”) were composed by Ralph Vaughn Williams. This was a small surprise since I had read that Vaughn Williams was an agnostic. However, music is music, and the compositional skills of musicians need not be limited by their belief systems. From this realization, I decided that the topic for the November issue of Notes would be a brief survey of composers of music in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal.



The source index of the ELW lists approximately 530 composers and lyricists. There are approximately 650 titles in the ELW, and this leads to the conclusion that some contributed multiple lyrics or tunes. A majority of the composers have only one or two titles in the ELW, but a few have as many as 20. In some cases the sources are not known but are listed generically as Southern Harmony, Latin Hymn, Folk Melody, etc.

An often heard criticism of liturgical hymnody is that it was written by old, dead, white, northern European composers. (The same could be said of the music that is generally performed by the Des Moines Symphony and other classical ensembles.) But that statement is an over simplification because many of the composers whose music appears in the ELW are very much alive or at least lived during the twentieth century. Here are some contemporary contributors to the ELW.

1. Marty Haugen, b. 1950, has 20 titles in the ELW including both liturgy and hymns such as “Gather Us In.”
2. Ray Makeever, b. 1943, has two titles in the ELW including “Bread of Life, Our Host, and Meal.”
3. Carl Schalk, b. 1929, has nine titles in the ELW including “Now.”
4. Mark Sedio, b. 1954, composed five titles in the ELW including “Jesus on the Mountain Peak.”
5. Ralph Vaughn Williams, d.1958, wrote 11 titles appearing in the ELW.
6. John Ylvisaker, d. 2017, composed three titles in the ELW including “Borning Cry.”

Some tunes are so old that their composer’s name has been lost. This music generally is described as folk, ballad, or plainsong indicating that the tunes were passed along from one generation to another most likely as part of an oral tradition. Within the ELW we find the following categories.

1. African American Spiritual, 14 hymns.
2. English ballads and folk tunes, 13 entries.
3. Finnish folk tune, six entries.
4. German hymn or melody, nine hymns.
5. Latin hymn, most likely passed along from the early Roman Catholic Church, 12 entries.
6. Southern Harmony, ten hymns including “Amazing Grace.”

Some tunes were written by often recognized classical composers although not all were initially intended for worship, but rather they were “borrowed” because the tune was recognizable and fit the sentence structure and rhythm of a poem.

1. J. S. Bach, eight tunes were arranged by him such as “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded.”
2. L. Beethoven, one tune included from him, “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” from his Ninth Symphony
3. G. Handel, one tune, “Thine Is the Glory,” taken from his oratorio, “Judas Maccabeus.”
4. F. Haydn, one tune called “Austria” is included.

Notes from Rich, continued on page 6

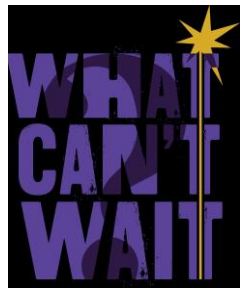
Notes from Rich, continued from page 5

5. G. Holst, three tunes are included.
6. F. Mendelssohn, one tune, a Christmas carol, is in the ELW.

The final grouping is composers who are not so well known but their compositions are.

5. W. Bradbury, four tunes are included, "Just as I Am" and "Jesus Loves Me."
6. J. Crüger has ten compositions included such as "Now Thank We All Our God."
7. J. Dykes, has four hymns including, "Holy, Holy, Holy."
8. L. Mason, has four hymn tunes including, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee."

The identities of composer and lyrics can be found at the lower left hand corner of the musical score in the hymnal.



Advent, as we wait and wonder

Advent is a season of waiting, but is idle waiting what God wants of us? In preparation for the coming Messiah, we wonder together—what things can't wait? What demands our immediate attention? What requires our work and preparation? What is it that God can't wait for? Is it our praise, reconciliation, and proclamation? Is it the end of suffering, isolation, and fear? This Advent, we invite you to join us in imagining, prioritizing, and preparing. As we wait, what can't?

Each week dives into themes of hope, peace, joy, and love in new and unique ways. Advent worship highlights scripture, music, poetry, and imagery, together as a Christ-centric community. A small memento will be sent home each week as a reminder of God's promise to each of us.

Daily devotional booklets and an Advent countdown calendar are available in the church entryway. Pick one up today or call the office to have a set mailed to your home.



Christmas Poinsettias for the Sanctuary!

Purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of loved ones to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas! The cost is \$15.00, and you will be able to pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas season.

Please order by December 5, using the online signup - find directions at the top of the page <https://volunteersignup.org/MB9DL>. You may pay using Grace's online giving site (<https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>), mail a check to church, or drop off check/cash in the secure church office mail slot (inside). Thank you!

No Shave November

This annual month-long event is designed to bring awareness to cancer and men's health. The history of No Shave November goes back to 2004, where a group of men in Australia raised money for charity by growing their beards and educating the people about colon cancer. Growing a beard cannot be done by cancer patients due to their undergoing treatments.

If you have been participating, we will take the "after" group after picture after worship on November 27th. If you are participating but cannot attend worship, or were not able to be here for the "before" photo, please send before and/or after pictures to michelle@gracedm.org. We will compile the pictures and share with the congregation.





***“The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.” — John 1:5***

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Because of your generosity LSI has continued to offer hope and healing to lowans of all ages. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI we see veterans getting help, children overcoming fear, moms and dads parenting with renewed joy and confidence, new neighbors from foreign lands becoming established and active in their communities, the pride of independence for those experiencing challenges in everyday life. We know parents who feel hopeless, with few resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family.

The spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, allows us to stand together and celebrate this Christmas season.

LSI's annual matching gift campaign gives opportunities to double new and increased gifts through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit LSIowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

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

Thank you!

As 2022 comes to an end, we reflect back on all those whose lives have been impacted by your gifts.

From Iowa's newest citizens, those you've helped to feel at home in a new country: "Thank you"; from the young first-time mom who has learned how to care for her newborn: "Thank you"; from the teenager who needed some redirection and support: "Thank you".

From the veterans needing help readjusting from trauma they endured: "Thank you"; from the person who was able to receive the kind of mental health therapy they needed: "Thank you".

From the person with disabilities who is able to live as independently as possible with our help: "Thank you"; from the parents who are learning new processes to provide healthy, safe environments for their children: "Thank you"; from the foster parents who are providing care when needed, "Thank you".

From those kids in residential whose lives have come to a turning point with new skills to use going forward: "Thank you!"

And from all of us at LSI that you have encouraged and supported: "Thank you!"

Little Free Pantry

Our Little Free Pantry is continuing to make a positive impact for the people in our neighborhood! Thousands of pounds of products have been picked up! Those who have had conversations with the people picking up food have found grateful hearts in a time of great need. Our volunteer base for filling the pantry is strong, though the quantity of products on the shelf is quite low at the moment.

And here's the fantastic news: We received a grant to help sustain the pantry! The Immanuel Vision Foundation of Omaha awarded us with a grant for just over \$6,000 to purchase food and supplies for the pantry! The funds should be to us by the end of December. We have also received two \$500 donations from our own Lydia/Martha Circle! We are grateful for their ministries and their help as we work together to fight hunger. Members of the congregation are also setting up reoccurring donations through our online giving platform to ensure we have funds to maintain products. I can't thank you enough!



Your help is still greatly needed to keep this project running smoothly.

Here are our current needs:

- 2 people/teams to come in weekly to fill the pantry
- 1 person to find and apply for grants
- 1 person to work with Bunny to order products
- Bring in winter-safe products like cereal, dry beans, rice, etc.
- Monetary donations to purchase products in bulk (these can be mailed in or online at www.GraceDM.org/give)

Here's an example of what one of the \$500 donations was used for:

196 twin packs of granola bars	100 pouches of tuna
150 packs of grits	260 packs of oatmeal
36 boxes of stuffing	72 boxes of macaroni and cheese
128 bags of microwave popcorn	36 boxes of Rice-a-Roni
300 bags of fruit snacks	

This is epic! Being able to purchase products in bulk lets us home in on needed items for the season and to fill in gaps as needed. This is it y'all. Rubber is meeting the road as we look outwards to serve our community. This is just the beginning!

Martha/Lydia Circle

The Circle held their final 2022 meeting in November, and will now break for the winter. Their meetings will resume in March. Watch the bulletin board and website calendar for reminders.

Staff wanted to give thanks and share the amazing work this group is quietly doing,:

\$500 - gift earlier this fall to Grace Little Free Pantry

\$250 - gift to Merle Hay Neighborhood Association for "Keep the Kids Warm" campaign (winter wear)

\$500 – additional gift to Grace Little Free Pantry!

Thank you for all you do.

Notice of Annual Meeting & Budget Forum Dates

The Annual Budget and Finance Forum will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2023

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023. A churchwide potluck meal to follow the meeting has been proposed.

Finance Report – October Results

Financial results for October YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$352,424, Budget \$360,017
- Expenses – Actual \$347,208, Budget \$357,567
- Net activity – Actual \$5,216, Budget \$2,450



Actual net activity was above budget by \$2,766. After many months of offerings being behind budget, October was a very strong month – thank you! Pledged offerings are still below budget, however this variance is offset by several expense categories that are below budget.

Council Highlights – October

Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:10 P.M. following dinner.

Devotions – Pastor Mike – The Bread for the Journey

Adoption of Agenda – Bruce moved, Carter seconded, motion passed.

Approval of Minutes from Oct 18 meeting – Carter moved, Mike seconded, motion passed.

Staff Reports – Kevin moved, Carter seconded, approved.

- a. Reports were not sent out with the agenda so Jenny will confirm correct email addresses and make sure the reports get sent out each month.
- b. Financial report is very good for this month, \$5200 in the black total. Application for continuing as a teaching site in due in mid-December.
- c. Little Free Pantry shelving – cost came out of food budget, not Thrivent funds. Requesting monetary donations. Thrivent Choice balance is just under \$9600. Bruce motioned to use Thrivent Choice money to pay for the shelving. Tom seconded, motion passed. Request has been sent out for money to help fill the back storage room.

Old Business

- a. Reconciling in Christ (Reconciling Works) – reviewed information from the last meeting. Kevin moved to enter into the dialogue around Reconciling in Christ. Carter seconded. Kevin moved to delay his motion until the next meeting. Clearer description and definition of the journey will be developed prior to the next meeting and the goal is to vote on continuing the discernment and education process at that time.
- b. Updates: AC and Lights – Working on bids for the AC. Paperwork for sanctuary lights is in the works. 8-week delivery time after the order is placed for installation.
- c. Update on Survey – Received 26 responses so far, all ages. Survey was sent back out in the email blast. Request to have it sent as a standalone email to the newsletter list.
- d. Update on Mini-Campaign – no update.
- e. Edits to the Mission Action Fund documents – Removed the word “acute” and added “internationally”. Kevin moved, Bruce seconded. Motion passed.
 - i. The money is deposited ready to be put to use. Two congregational members have been nominated; Don Schouten and Kristen Medhurst. Jenny moved, Mike seconded to approve the two congregational members. Motion passed. Still need one council member to join the committee.

New Business

- a. Set Date for Annual Meeting – January 29, 2023 Bruce moved, Mike seconded, motion passed.
- b. Nominations committee (need 3) - Bruce, Nancy, Alex, and Val go off. Bruce has completed 2 terms so is not eligible.

Questions/General Discussion – none.

Adjournment – Dean adjourned the meeting at 7:28 P.M.

November 27 All Church Service Project

Join us on Sunday, November 27 in Grace Hall at 10:00 am for a service project. We will be preparing and delivering gifts for our beloved Grace members who are in care, or are needing to remain at home. All the supplies will be provided. Here's how you can help:

- Create a special handcraft
- Write some Christmas cards
- Pack the gifts and cards into bags
- Sign up to deliver one or more gift bags to our members

Fellowship, Coffee and Donuts in Advent

As we set up and enjoy the Festival of Trees this Advent season, we will enjoy our coffee and donuts up in Grace Hall (where you will also find some of the trees!). A few of the standing tables will also be moved to Grace Hall so you will have a choice to enjoy your coffee while seated or standing.

- We won't be trying to squish coffee service, tables, AND people in between the trees!
- We will keep distracting sound away from those rehearsing for the Christmas Program in the Sanctuary after worship.
- There will be trees in Grace Hall this year, and you will still be able to wander back down to sit by the trees and enjoy a quieter conversation in the Gathering Hall if you wish.



Festival of Trees

It's time to sign up to decorate a tree! Our amazing Willing Workers brought them all out of storage last week, and set them temporarily in the Gathering Hall. Next week they will be spread out in the Gathering Hall and Grace Hall.

Staff will decorate one in the Gathering Hall as usual, and the rest are up for grabs! To decorate a tree, please email michelle@gracedm.org and let us know your preference for a smaller or larger tree.

If, at the end of the holiday season, you find yourself planning to upgrade, downgrade your trees, please contact the office and consider donating your tree to Grace.

Sunday, December 18

8:45 a.m. Advent Hymn Sing - Sanctuary

9:00 a.m. Worship with Christmas program Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!, Brass, Choir, and other musical offerings

10:00 a.m. Dessert Potluck in Grace Hall, mingle with Bishop Amy Current

Cookie/Candy/Dessert "potluck"

Let us know what you intend to bring, and how much so we know what to expect.

A couple dozen of your favorite cookie or candy, or your favorite holiday dessert!

We have volunteers to help coordinate, serve and plate, but if your items arrive plated that makes things easier and safer for everyone.

Email Denise@Gracedm.org with the number and name of what you intend to bring - or sign up on the bulletin board across from the office! This is NOT intended to induce stress! Please share if it works for you. If not, please come and enjoy!



Middle & High School Activities

On Sunday November 20 we were able to shop for our three families we have adopted for Christmas. Thank you!!

We have changed the date for our movie/wrapping party to hopefully have as many there as possible.

Meals from the Heartland, wrapping, and movie will all be on December 3.

Meals will be from 9:30 to 11:30. Then we will go back to church to eat pizza, wrap presents, and watch a movie together in the Youth Rooms. If you would like to bring a snack to share, please do.



Check out the Timeline

in the hallway on your way to Grace Hall –

the confirmation students worked on this during recent meetings and now it's your turn! Can you place the events (written on Post-it's) in their proper place on the time line?

Grace's Star Tree

Choose a gift to make someone's Christmas Special.

An adult from Mosaic's local group homes or from LSI's Early Development Program. Choose one of the options below, and click on the link to sign up. Or, stop by Grace to choose one of the Stars on the tree.

Gifts remaining online at time of printing:

9 gifts and 15 Wal Mart Gift Cards to choose from - [sign up here:](#)

On the Star Tree in the Gathering Hall: 7 ornaments with gift choices remain

Please return all gifts by December 11, *unwrapped and with the ornament* or a name label. Gifts should be placed under the tree on Sundays or brought to the office. Gift cards should be brought to the office or placed in the secure office mailbox.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4a-abaa2ea7f5c43-grace>



Advent & Christmas Worship & Office Schedule



November 27, December 4, December 11

8:45 a.m. Advent Hymn Sing

9 a.m. Worship in person and online

10 a.m. Christmas program Rehearsal, Coffee & Fellowship, & Adult Ed with Pastor Mike and Vicar Bunny



December 18

8:45 a.m. Advent Hymn Sing

9 a.m. Worship & Christmas Program in person and online

10 a.m. Fellowship & Dessert Potluck in Grace Hall with Bishop Current



December 21, Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service

December 23, Friday: Office Closed



December 24, Saturday, Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Worship, in person and online

11 p.m. Worship, in person only



December 25, Sunday

10 a.m. Worship in person only

December 26-28:

Office closed

December 29:

Final 2022 Deposit made

December 30:

Office Closed



January 1: New Years Day

10 a.m. Worship followed by coffee & fellowship in the Gathering Hall



January 2, Monday: Office Closed

January 8, Sunday:

9 a.m. Lessons and Carols Worship

10 a.m. Adult and Youth Education hour resumes.

Grace Celebrations Bulletin Board!

Please help us celebrate and recognize positive moments and accomplishments in the next month as they happen!

We will be setting up a bulletin board in the hallway with post-its for you to share.

Thank you to those who filled out the Get-to-know-you Questionnaires. We enjoyed reading them!

Friendly Visitor Deadlines

Please note the next few months have earlier deadlines so we can get you all the Advent and Christmas news in advance!

- Christmas mini issue:
Monday December 12
- January 2023: Monday, January 2