



GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**Advent 4 & Christmas Program**  
Sunday, December 18, 9 a.m.

**Longest Night Service**  
Wednesday, December 21, 7 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
5 p.m. & 11 p.m.

**Christmas Day Worship**  
10 a.m.

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

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*Merry Christmas  
from the Staff of  
Grace Lutheran Church*

*Kathy Bowermaster  
Jessye Flannery  
Denise Friesth  
Todd Haugen  
Pastor Michael Schmidt  
Richard Snyder  
Emma Stammer  
Vicar Bunny Stoutes  
Michelle Voelker*



### Christmas 2022 Poinsettias

*Given in memory of Lawrence and Malinda Heuton, by Connie Heuton*

*Given to the glory of God, by Michael and Sara Hilsabeck*

*Given in loving memory of our parents, Bob Brandsfield and Barb Mixdorf, by Aaron and Karri Brandsfield*

*Given in honor of our children and all children around the world, by Carol and Carter Woodruff*

*Given in honor of our grandchildren and in memory of our parents, by Kathy and Kurt Bowermaster*

*Given in honor of my family, by Jenny Rehder*

*Given in memory of loved ones, by Cathy and Dean Watson*

*Given to the glory of God, by Ed and Jane Ridnour*

*Given in memory of Steve Young, by Melissa Young*

*Given to the glory of God, by Norman and Lenora Iverson*

*Given in memory of loved ones, by Lynn Niemuth*

*Given in memory of loved ones, by Mike, Jenie, Allison and Samantha*

*Given in honor of family and friends, by Emily Stowell*

*Given to the glory of God and in memory of family and friends, by Carol and Carter Woodruff*

*Given in memory of Betty and Dean Culp, by Brent and Valerie Culp*

*Given in memory of my wife Gayle, by Virgil Olson*

*Given in memory of Vivian Feilmann, wife and mother, by the Feilmann family*

*Given in honor of loved ones, by Lynn Niemuth*

*Given in memory of Bill Biegger, by Linda and family. "God has you in his keeping. We have you in our hearts."*





**Sunday, December 18: worship at 9 a.m.** In-person and Livestreamed at [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)

- 8:45 a.m. for the final Advent Sing of the season
- 9:00 a.m. for Worship, with the Christmas Program, Bells, Choir, and Brass
- 10:00 a.m. for a Dessert Potluck in Grace Hall - there will be many delicious treats to choose from, time to relax and catch up with friends.
- Bishop Amy Current will be with us for the celebrations as well, and you'll have the chance to mingle with her during the Dessert Potluck too!

**Wednesday, December 21 7 p.m.**

**Longest Night Worship Service.** Please join us for a contemplative worship service.

**Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve,  
Pastor Mike presiding**

- 5 p.m. In-person and livestreamed at [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)
- 11 p.m. In-person only

**Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day**

**10 a.m. Worship – in person only**

**No coffee/fellowship this day.**

**Sunday, January 1, 10 a.m. Lessons and Carols Worship.  
Livestreamed and in-person**

Join us for a joyful worship of readings and singing! There will be an opportunity for an abbreviated fellowship in the Gathering Hall after worship.

### **A few more volunteers are needed for Christmas Eve and Lessons and Carols!**

Lectors

Ushers for Christmas Eve - usher as a family and help hand out candles!

Greeters for all services – if you can smile and say hello, you've got this!

Sign up here

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



### **Festival of Trees in the Gathering Hall.**

Staff had fun taking a little time to decorate and laugh, Todd fixed the Star on the Tree while Mike untangled and fixed extra lights. Thank you to the Willing Workers for setting up the trees and fixing the lights on most of the trees! And thank you to everyone else who volunteered to decorate a tree! Look for Goodies under the trees on Christmas Eve!



### **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](mailto: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!**



### **Star Tree update: Thank you for being so generous!**

*Staff want to thank Joie Gronert and Gail Peterson for continuing to make this impactful project work, learning new computer skills to create sign-ups, and shopping for those who wanted to select gifts but were unable to shop.*

### **December & Holiday Office Hours** **The church office will be closed** **between Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, and** **Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Monday, December 19 through  
Thursday, December 22:  
Office open from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

#### **Friday December 23**

Office Closes for the year\*. We will return  
on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

\*Denise will make the year-end deposit  
after December 28<sup>th</sup>, before banks close  
for the holiday. Please note the building  
and office will not be 'open'.

### **Congregational Annual Meeting and Year End Reports**

The Annual Meeting will take place on  
Sunday, January 29, 2023 after worship,  
with Finance meetings the Sunday prior  
on January 22 at 10 a.m. Which means  
Denise needs to have the Annual Report  
printed and ready to mail by January 12.  
Which means...

#### ***We need your year-end reports please!***

We appreciate all that you do! If you have  
a moment to put yours together now, go  
right ahead and send it off and get that off  
your New Year's To-do list! You may send  
your reports to [Denise@gracedm.org](mailto:Denise@gracedm.org).

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

*Please note that the church office will be closed  
most of the week between Christmas and New  
Years, so please send them early, or call ahead to  
make an appointment when Denise will be in the  
office.*



You may also:

- Use the online giving site on our website  
[www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org) Click on the word "Give" at the  
upper right corner of the page. Or go direct to  
<https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/> Then scroll  
down, click on the red "Donate" button, and follow  
the instructions from there.
- Drop items off in person by December 22, or  
when you are in the building for Christmas  
worship. To make an appointment contact please  
contact Denise at [denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org) or leave  
a message at 515-276-6873 extension 200.
- If you intend to mail your contribution, get it in the  
mail as soon as possible – definitely no later than  
December 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Placing non-USPS items, especially those without  
stamps, in the mailbox is illegal.

**Fellowship & Coffee** hour will return to the Gathering  
Hall on January 8 at 10:00 a.m.

**Education Hour** will return January 8 at 10:15 for both  
youth and Adults. the Adult study will continue with  
Matthew "You of Little Faith"



**The 2023 altar flower signup sheet is online: <https://volunteersignup.org/JC349>**

We invite you to sponsor a bouquet of flowers for the altar. You can include a special message in the bulletin, and the flowers are yours to take home after the worship service on Sunday. The cost is \$25 and you can pay through Grace's online giving site (<https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>) or by check or cash to the 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. Thank you!

**Little Free Pantry News**

If you are shopping for the LFP during the holidays, think about purchasing ready to eat foods, special holiday treats, breakfast and snack foods for students home on break, hats, mittens, and hand warmers., and hygiene items Donate at our online giving site at [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)

**Safety:** We have had warm days, but cold nights can cause glass items to freeze and shatter and cans to burst.

**Accessing Worship in person or online**

**Sunday Worship in-person and livestreamed every week at 9:00 a.m. January 8, 2023 & beyond**

- **On our website:** On the home page, in the "Welcome to Grace" section on the [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org) homepage, click on the red "Online Worship" button.
- **Find us on Facebook @GraceLutherandm:** The service will appear as live shortly before 9:00 a.m. If you see our logo, you are in the right place!
- Worship is recorded and archived on our website. Please allow us 24 hours to the recording.
- **Worship materials are posted prior to worship on our [website worship page](#)**
- **Find weekly announcements, past newsletters, and more on our website [Resources](#) pages!**

**Weekday Prayers** on Tuesdays and Fridays with Pastor Mike or Vicar Bunny 9:30 a.m. on Facebook. Simply type **@GraceLutherandm** into your browser or search engine to find us even if you don't have a Facebook account.

The local knitters guild (including some Grace members) donated hats and mittens for the tree in the entryway. These items are available for those who need, and will be donated at the end of the season.





### **Project Clean Out & Clean Up**

We are starting a two-phase project to continue (and complete) the task of cleaning out the classrooms to make room in our building for new opportunities and partnerships.

Phase 1: **Clean Out!** On January 10 & 11, we will gather all the stuff in the building that needs to be rehomed. On January 12 & 13, we will set all the stuff on tables, making it easy for people to see what is available. On January 14 from 8am-12pm, we'll host a "Giveaway Day" in Grace Hall, inviting our neighbors to take what they need. Questions? Email [Bunny@GraceDM.org](mailto:Bunny@GraceDM.org), and she or the two team leads, Kristin and Kari, will respond.

Signup in the Gathering Hall or online here to Clean Out:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA8AD23ABF85-clean>

Phase 2: **Clean Up!** Starting January 13 we will prep, prime, and paint the rooms downstairs. The signup for this phase will be coming soon! We have invited a few people who know how to paint to lead small crews according to their availability. Are you a good painter and would like to partner with a small crew to paint a room? Email Bunny right away, she can't wait to hear from you!

### **All Church Service Project for January**

In January, we will focus on welcoming our newest neighbors: the many refugees who are currently settling in the Des Moines area. We will partner with Lutheran Services of Iowa to supply in-kind donations so that these people can make comfortable new homes.

A collection of household items will occur throughout January, culminating in a celebration on Sunday, Jan. 29th at our annual congregational meeting. Please bring donations to the Gathering Hall anytime during the month. If you would like someone to shop for you, make a donation to Grace and designate that it's for the LSI Refugee Project.

#### **Here is a list of urgently needed items (new items only):**

Twin sheet sets for adults, King comforters for adults, Rice cookers, Shower rods, Adult winter coats, Laundry detergent, Dish soap, Large frying pans, Large pots  
Gift cards to local stores (Walmart, Target, Hy-Vee, Aldi, etc.)

#### **Other needed items (new items only):**

Tea kettles, Alarm clock with batteries, Pillows, Bath towels, hand towels, washcloths, Shower curtain with rings and liner, Bath mats, Small wastebaskets, Kitchen trash cans, Soccer balls, Scissors, Throw blankets

**Thank you!**



#### **Grace Youth Giving!**

In November and December the Youth adopted, donated, shopped, and wrapped gifts for three families at Moore Elementary. This past week, Grace Staff delivered those gifts. Here is Vicar Bunny with Moore staff!  
Thank you to all who participated!