



Sunday Schedule - summer

9:00 a.m. Worship, in-person and Online
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee

Morning Prayer Tues & Fridays 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

Pastor Michael Schmidt
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Minister for Worship and Music

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Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

Inside This Issue...

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Next Person Up!

When it comes to sports, there is a mindset of active participation. When you are a starter, you know that you need to be ready at the start of the game or match. When you are deeper into the roster, you do not know if or when you may be needed. Everyone needs to be ready. The “next person up” needs to be ready to jump in and take over that role. Injuries happen, as do penalties, trades, moves, etc. Some of these are temporary, while others are more important. If you are going to succeed as a team, you need people who are ready to go. Don't believe me, ask the San Francisco 49ers about their last football game. That game led to a rule change...

This Sunday, June 25th, will be Emma Stammer's last Sunday as Minister for Worship and Music. This departure is difficult, yet I completely understand the move and am excited to see what the future holds for her. She has served here in Worship and Music for nine years, and working with her has been a joy. Honestly, I have been spoiled. Emma has such extensive knowledge of worship, context, liturgy, music, and hymnody. I have completely trusted her in worship planning, and she has had my full support for these years.

In addition to the amazing work with Worship and Music at Grace Lutheran Church, Emma has been vital to me to stay grounded as a church leader. One thing that I appreciated (and took for granted) with Emma and Ellen was their voice. Being part of a younger generation than most of the other staff and Council members brought a much-needed voice to the table. In a time when churches across the country are growing older, they brought an awareness of the ways we need to adapt to reverse that trend and “grow younger.” I can never overstate how important that voice is. Without listening to those who are younger, our future becomes uncertain. This truth appeared clearly in the congregational survey last November. We need to “grow younger” finding ways to better serve young adults and families.

Who will help us to grow younger? With Emma and Ellen no longer on staff, who will be the “Next Person Up.” Could it be you or someone you know? Or a team of people? Who will help be the voice of younger generations at Grace Lutheran Church to help build into the future? Is it you? Someone you know?

I recognize that having people on staff that could offer a younger perspective spoiled me. I could get insights from them and navigate small changes. It is clear now that we need more voices who are willing

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Happy July Birthday

- 1 - Michael Nizzi
- 3 - Dale Bordt
Marilyn Anderson
- 4 - Sawyer Shiffler
- 5 - Levi Wilner
- 8 - Donna Trickel
- 9 - Carleigh Ridnour
Henry Jordahl
- 11 - Rebecca Lewis
- 12 - Melissa Petty
- 13 - Joshua Sherer
- 14 - Amador Medina-Ruiz
Eric Selander
Heather Honnold
Bailey Woodruff
- 15 - Hannah Jensen
- 16 - Tracy Justice
- 17 - Lucille Krauss
Jayne Mortenson
Christie Rosheim
- 18 - Anders Nelson
Adam Friesth
Eric Friesth
- 19 - Deanna Snyder
- 20 - Krista Nelson
Martha Kaleewoun
- 21 - Christian Culp
- 22 - Kathryn Schaller
- 23 - Linda Biegger
- 24 - Declan Holst
- 25 - Justin Anderson
- 26 - Morgan Mortenson
- 27 - Jeff Robbins
- 29 - Genaro Ruiz
- 30 - Gary Denton
- 31 - Emily Stowell



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Prayers and Sympathies

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

The Family of Beth Flannery

The Family of Joy Averill



Happy July Anniversary



- 8 - Ashley and Josh Lund
- 15 - Jenie and Michael Schmidt
Rhonda and Bill Jensen
- 21 - Loree and Tim Nelson
- 22 - Cathy and Dean Watson

New Member Classes with Pastor Mike

If you are interested in becoming a member of Grace, the next new member classes will be held in August, date to be determined. **If you are interested**, contact Pastor Mike Mike@gracedm.org or 515/276-6873

Church Directory Update!

Our church directory and photo wall are due for a refresh! We will be asking for updates in August and will provide opportunities for getting family pictures taken at church if you do not have a current photo. We will also be providing information on how to use the online church directory from your computer or phone. If you would like to help with reaching out for updates or with taking pictures, contact Greg Boeschen (gboeschen@gmail.com.)

Fellow Members of Grace Lutheran Church

Many, many thanks to all of you who sent cards, made phone calls or came in person (Thanks again Pastor Mike!) upon the death of my son, Brad. Brad had been ill for some time and family pretty much knew the eventual outcome. However, it came sooner than expected and left us all a bit stunned. I still have moments when I can hardly believe it, but regularly thank God for His mercy in taking him home when he did, relieving him of the pain.

Thank you again!
Lynn Neimuth

Next Person Up, continued from page 1

to speak up, be heard, and help navigate this community of faith into the future. If this has you curious if this might be you, please reach out to me. If it brings someone to mind, ask them. Or let me know and I will ask them. May we work together to build a brighter future.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike

Dear friends,

As I step down from my staff role at Grace this week after 9 years, I think back on all the memories we have made during our time together. I am proud of the accomplishments our community of faith has achieved over the years. I am proud to have been a part of both worship and education at Grace, a choir that has developed into a true worship leader, and a church staff that has done wonderful things together. My daughter grew up at Grace Kids Care, and both my children were baptized in the beautiful sanctuary. My family and I will continue to cherish the relationships we've formed with the people of Grace. Our lives have gone through some changes this past year and so I've made the tough decision to resign in part so that I will no longer have as many weekend commitments. My kids are growing up, and that only happens once in a lifetime – I don't want to miss a minute! However we are not discontinuing our membership, so this is not a goodbye-forever just a so-long-for-now. I wish Grace Lutheran Church the best of the best in the future, and you will all remain in my heart and in my prayers.

With love and sincere gratitude,
Emma Stammer

Greetings and Salutations!

Grace and peace to you all! This is my first newsletter as Vicar of Grace Lutheran Church! I can hardly believe I am finally here! I am so excited to be on this year long journey with you all! Thank you for the warm welcome I have received from you so far. It has been wonderful getting to meet you. I want to give a special thank you to those who have helped to furnish and supply my house. It is much appreciated! As I continue to learn about the Grace Lutheran Community, I would also like to learn more about the Des Moines area. Please feel free to let me know about some of your favorite places to eat and explore. Things like the fair, concerts, museums, and annual events.

I am excited to serve the community of Grace as I explore and grow in my call to pastoral ministry by working with Pastor Mike, the church staff, council, and the congregation. If you have any questions or would like to chat, please feel free to stop by the office. I intend on having some treats on hand for anyone who comes by. You can also send me an email at Adam@gracedm.org. I would love to set up a time to meet and talk, or even enjoy a meal together. I am excited to see what the year has in store for us!

Peace and Blessings!
Vicar Adam Barden



2023 Grace Car Show

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone that participated and helped with the Grace Car Show. First of all to the car show participants...we had everything from an electric toy car (thanks, Samantha!) to a really nice teardrop trailer to two electric vehicles (Rivian and Mustang Mach E) to Corvettes and a Surrey Style side-by-side bicycle for two. To Michelle and Denise in the office for their support. To Carter Woodruff, Tom McCleary, and Aaron Brandsfield for food preparation and manning the grill. It was a great team effort! Through the generosity of car show exhibitors and attendees, \$553 was raised for Grace Member Care!



Annual Grace Golf Outing needs YOU!

We would love to continue this annual event this August.

We need someone to choose a date, plan and make contacts. The office will help you promote the event. If you like golfing, or like organizing, please contact the office staff at 515-276-6873, or Carter Woodruff!

Notes from Rich

I have found over the years that a frustrating aspect of attending pipe organ concerts or recitals is that often there is nothing to observe. In contrast at a symphony orchestra concert, one can watch and follow the musicians or the conductor as they make music or lead the ensemble. When attending a soloist recital, one can watch the individual musician and the accompanist. But often, without the help of video cameras, one cannot see the organist's hands or feet, and nothing involving the pipes ever moves. In fact, the organist is sometimes completely hidden from view, tucked away in the balcony. This leads to the question: If there is nothing happening, how is the music generated? In the orchestra, the moving bow vibrates the strings on the violin and the cello. The vibrating reed of the oboe and clarinet produce the sound as the fingers move coving and uncovering the holes in the instrument. The vibrating lips produce tones from a trumpet and tuba as the fingers move the valves. So, what moves in the pipe organ? The problem with this question is that the assumption that "nothing is moving" is itself incorrect. The answer is that the moving component of organ music is the air, and as we know, air is invisible. This issue of Notes from Rich will describe the invisible physical happenings involved in producing musical sounds from pipes.



Sound is the sensory perception within the brain due to the effects of air vibrations on the mechanical portions of the ear which in turn are converted into nerve impulses. A musical note is the perception of a unique and limited combination of air vibrations. There are three steps necessary to create a musical tone in the pipe organ. First, random vibrations are created by forcing air to flow through a narrow slit at the base (mouth) of the organ pipe. These vibrations can be thought of as white noise, meaning that there is no perceptible pitch or tone, just background noise. Second, from this white noise, one tone is isolated based on the length of the pipe. Third, most of the other tones in the white noise are rejected by the pipe and die away, but the selected tone is reinforced as would happen in an echo chamber. This is called resonance. A few other tones, softer than the main one, are also isolated by the pipe. These alternate tones are one, two, three, etc. octaves above the main tone and are called overtones. The three steps occur within a fraction of a second when the valve below the pipe is opened, but not instantaneously. Longer, wider pipes require more time to establish resonance than short, narrow pipes. Similarly, when air stops flowing, larger pipes will continue to sound briefly while short pipes will cease sounding almost immediately. (This brief continuation of sound does not include that in a large room or auditorium with sound-reflecting surfaces, the sound will continue to be reflected off the walls, ceiling, and floor and be heard sometimes for an additional four to five seconds. This echoing is called reverberation.)

None of these physical activities that occur each time air flows through an organ pipe can be seen, but contemplating it might give one something to consider the next time the organist is playing and you want to see something happening.



God's work. Our hands.

As a social ministry organization of the ELCA, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is so thankful for your partnership in ministry. Through your support, a first-time mom is able to receive the education and resources she needs to build futures full of hope, a person with a disability is reaching their goals and becoming more independent each day, and an immigrant is learning English through our Community Based English Language Learning (CBELL) program led by compassionate teachers.



This month, we would like to give a special thank you to those of you who have made LSI a focus on your congregation's "God's work. Our hands." project. On a planned day in September, each congregation is encouraged to reach outside of the church and do good deeds in the community by participating in a project for "God's work. Our hands." This is a perfect opportunity to combine community projects with a special project for nonprofits like LSI, whether it's raising money or contributing in-kind gifts.

We thank you for your generous support in this important work! If you are interested in supporting the Iowa children and families served by LSI or would like to get involved in a "God's work. Our hands." project with LSI, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI senior director of philanthropy and church relations, at 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 and facebook.com/LSI.Iowa.

Thank you!

To all the Saints at Grace Lutheran Church –
Thank you so much for your help providing cookies at our recent "imagine" synod revival. We are so grateful!

Peace be with you – Amber Jackson-Elwer
Southeastern Iowa Synod

An excerpt from a letter sent by the ALS Association after the March Madness Fundraiser:

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,
Your gift is strengthening the ALS Association's fight against ALS! Thanks to your generous contribution of \$125.00 we can further support people living with ALS and their families by ensuring access to high quality care services in every stage of the disease, while also fueling groundbreaking advocacy and research efforts.

Your generosity in honor of Connie Heuton shows your unwavering support for those impacted by ALS. Thank you for your impactful contribution towards our goal of making ALS a livable disease. Thank you for being an integral part of our ALS Community. Your commitment to those living with ALS and their families is invaluable.

Sincerely,
The ALS Association

Lydia/Martha Circle invites you to join them!

They will meet again on Thursday, July 27 @ 9:30 a.m. in Grace Hall.

for a brief business meeting, refreshments.
All women of Grace are welcome to join us!

75 years of Quilt and Kit Making at Grace!

Our quilters & LWR team have been recognized for their ongoing work and contributions in a lovely article in the summer issue of the Lutheran World Relief Faith in Action newsletter!

We've posted a copy on the bulletin board outside the office for you!

Celebrate Jon Fry's Ordination with us, here at Grace!

Pastor Jon Fry will be in worship with us on Sunday, August 6. Lori and Rick Fry also plan to be in attendance that day. We invite you to come celebrate with them and us!

We're also looking for someone to help organize an after-worship celebration. If this sounds like something you'd love to do, please contact the office staff let us know!
515-276-6873

Photos of Jon Fry during his ordination on June 4, 2023, and with Pastor Mike.



Quilt in honor of Beth Flannery

This is the beautiful quilt placed in the Little Free Pantry a few weeks ago in honor and memory of our wonderful friend, quilter, and kit maker, Beth Flannery. She was a long time member of our Lutheran World Relief group. Beth is the one who made the suggestion of putting a quilt in the pantry. We plan on continuing this great idea in her honor.

We will miss her dedication, talents, laughter, and, most of all, her friendship.



2023 Congregational Council Members

Term ends 2024: Aaron Brandsfield, Tom McCleary, Linda Moravec, Dean Watson

Term ends 2025: Carter Woodruff, Mike Hilsabeck, Kevin Drury, Jenny Rehder

Term Ends 2026 Valerie Culp, Greg Boeschen

Highlights from the Council Retreat June 24

Call to Order – 8:07 AM

Devotions - Carter

Adoption of Agenda – Approval by unanimous consent.

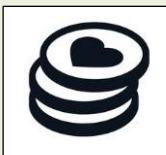
Approve minutes from May meeting – Approval by unanimous consent.

AC Unit-discussion/decision? – Reviewed final bid, Dean moved, Greg seconded, motion approved to proceed with new estimate from Bell Bros. for the replacement of the existing 5-ton unit. Mini-capital campaign to raise funds for the AC.

1. Music Program Discussion – Ensembles, Volunteer coordination, worship music.
 - a. Volunteer coordination (greeter, communion assistant, lectors, etc.) might shift to staff personnel.
 - b. Carter is organizing the usher team.
 - c. Choir/Bell director and pianist positions will be advertised in various ways.
2. Constitution and Bylaws – identify small group to review updates in Bylaws. Updates to the constitution requires two congregation meetings to pass.
 - a. Bylaws Team: Kevin, Val, Linda, Pastor Mike
 - b. Constitution: Dean, Jenny, Carter
3. The 5 Questions- Carol Woodruff facilitated 9-11. Mike shared the summary from the team.
 - a. Utilize the updates to By-Laws to assist the vision to reach younger families/individuals and a more diverse community in all decision-making plans.
 - b. How do we utilize all existing congregation members to help move plans forward?
 - c. How do we effectively communicate to the congregation?
 - d. Communication plan, financial plan, change control plan, risk management plan.
 - e. The 5Q team will do a final review following the retreat and share the final summary.
 - f. First step communication to the congregation planned.
 - g. “Be the best small community church Grace can be.”
4. Organized a financial revenue task force with Kevin, Aaron, Mike, and maybe Rick Stammer.
5. Endowment repayment – originally included in the 2020 Mini capital campaign. Priority lists of capital expenditures were reviewed. Organize a team to review the lists, do a walk around the campus, and prioritize the actions. Will also add in the endowment repayment.
6. Reconciling in Christ – Pastor will contact some potentials for the lead person to organize the core team.

Retreat ended ~3P.M. with the Lord’s Prayer

Breakfast and Lunch were provided by Jenny Rehder and Dean Watson.



Finance Report – May Results

Financial results for May YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$153,083, Budget \$182,171, Prior Year \$173,503
- Expenses – Actual \$200,824, Budget \$188,392, Prior Year \$167,613
- Net activity – Actual (\$47,742), Budget (\$6,221), Prior Year \$5,890

Activity for the year continues to be significantly below budget by \$41K. Offerings were below budget \$29K and expenses were over budget by \$12K due to needed work on the furnace and roof. The net activity loss of \$47K is significantly below the prior year surplus of \$6K.

Bishops riding across Iowa to raise \$50k to fight hunger

The three ELCA bishops in Iowa, have decided to ride RAGBRAI, July 22-29. They will be riding in the 50th Annual RAGBRAI, riding 50+ miles together each day, celebrating and highlighting 50+ anti-hunger ministries in our three synods, and raising \$50K for ELCA World Hunger.

Celebrate being Iowa ELCA Lutherans with teamwork and fellowship across our state. They are peddling for a cause, so join them in raising money to fight hunger here in Iowa and throughout the world.

Learn all about it and make a donation at the website, 100% of your donation goes directly to hunger without any administrative fees! seiasynod.org/ragbrai

Photos from the Synod Revival: Imagine

The Revival took place on May 20 at Grand View University Des Moines.

This one-day event was a joyful fun gathering for all ages full of inspiration, worship, and prayer. Presented by the Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA.

Photo credit: Rich Snyder



Worship Volunteers Needed for July!

Each week we need a Greeter, Usher, Lector, Communion Server, and someone for Fellowship Coffee service. **Thank you!**

Sign up at the link: <https://volunteersignup.org/3TKR7?classic>

Contact Vicar Adam, or Pastor Mike to volunteer at 515-276-6873 or email michelle@gracedm.org

This link is always available live on our website menu. If using your phone, look for the word Volunteer in the pull down menu. If on a laptop or desktop, look for the word Volunteer in the upper right hand corner of your screen.

There is also a signup sheet for coffee service available in the Gathering Hall if you prefer to sign up that way.

Church Office Summer Hours

Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Staff are often working in or out of the office outside of these hours - if you need to meet with us, please call, we will be happy to schedule a time! If you find the building is locked during normal working hours, please call the office and we will let you in or schedule a time to meet! We lock the door for security reasons when only 1 person is present – that happens when due to staff taking vacation or sick time, Admin running business errands, or meeting with members offsite.

Worship schedule and Important links

Sundays in Summer: we worship in-person at 9 a.m., with coffeetime and fellowship in the Gathering Hall after worship.

You can also find us online:

- **On our website** [livestream page](#) **every Sunday at 9.**
 - From the home page at www.gracedm.org,
 - scroll to the "Welcome to Grace" section,
 - click on the red "Online Worship" button. If you see a player with our logo, know you are in the right place and worship will begin shortly.
- **Facebook:** Worship is uploaded to Facebook on Sunday after worship. Find us on Facebook @GraceLutherandm
- **Watch archived** worship services (uploaded after 24 hours) on the [Resources/Worship Videos page](#).

Worship materials are always posted on our website prior to worship. Find those and other communications at the following links.

Worship Volunteer Signup <https://gracedm.org/volunteer/>

Weekly Announcements <https://gracedm.org/resources/seasonal-announcements/>

Weekly Bulletins <https://gracedm.org/resources/bulletins/>

Online Giving <https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>

Monthly Newsletters <https://gracedm.org/resources/newsletters/>



Green Thumb!

Marilyn Nizzi does such wonderful work maintaining the flowers at the entrances and street view. Michael Nizzi often accompanies and assists Marilyn. Thank you both!

