



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

5201 Urbandale Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
515-276-6873
www.gracedm.org

Pastor Michael Schmidt
mike@gracedm.org

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Minister for Worship and Music

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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](https://twitter.com/Gracelutherandm)

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

August

August is a difficult month. It may just be me. I feel it every year. The temps get warmer. The schedule fills up quickly. The budget often looks bleakest. In addition, it is that time of year when I grieve the losses of my mother, father, and brother. Do you have times of year like that? It could be any time of year that just feels different or more difficult for some reason.

One of my favorite singers is Sara Bareilles. She voices such feelings about December in the song of the same name, *"Afternoon has settled long and heavy on my shoulders. The winter's light feels different on my skin. It doesn't strike as far below the surface, so I have to conclude that the shadow won't let it in."*

There can be times of year that are like that. It may be a month, or a week, or even a day that marks the anniversary of an event. There are times when the shadow seems stronger than at other times, when the light and warmth does not quite sink in as far beneath the skin. That is okay. That is life. It is important to know that it is okay to not be okay sometimes.

There is a side to August that feels this way to me every year. However, that is not the only side to August. It is also a time that holds incredible possibility. It is the time of year when we prepare for the new programmatic year. The school year approaches, and with it, new opportunities. There is a sense of excitement as we prepare for "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday and the tangible ways we live out our faith. It becomes a time of dreaming about what the church could be.

In the same song, "December," by Sara Bareilles, the lyrics make the same turn: *"To get yourself a new life, you've got to give the old one away. And I am starting to believe in the power of a name, 'cause it can't be a mistake if I just call it change."* I have thought about this line quite often while in Council and Board meetings. At times, we cling to what once was and hope to recreate it. That is not how change works. Sometimes, you need to let go in order to create space for something new. As the song continues with the refrain, *"Break the chain, can't live in circles again."*

Where we are as a congregation, where we are a denomination, is not a mistake. I do believe we are on the verge of something new. There will always be gravity pulling us back to the way things were. There is also a world of new possibilities and ways to live out our faith. That is good news.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike

Happy August Birthday

- 2 - Kevin Drury
Deborah Helt
- 4 - Matthew Trickle
- 5 - Rev. Ro Zimany
Donald Swanson
Joshua Appenzeller
Jolee Feeney
Kayleigh Medhurst
- 6 - Carla Peterman
Riannon Brown
- 7 - Layne Weber
- 8 - Teri Koch
- 9 - Ross Lewis
Katherine Lenhart
- 11 - Martha Martens
Linda Ulrick
- 12 - Brian Gerling
- 13 - Josefina Ruiz
- 14 - Angela Hansen
- 15 - Connie Heuton
Adam Dostalík
- 16 - Cheryl Weatherington
- 18 - Jeanne Drury
Beverly Russell
Michael Best
- 20 - Patrick Thompson
Brent Ridnour
Cooper Mortenson
- 21 - Tom McCleary
- 23 - Janice Nordeen
- 24 - Grace Schroeder
Janet Trentmann
Linda Gronert
Brady Bogue
Cris Hidalgo
- 25 - Scott Honsey
- 27 - Tim Nelson
- 28 - Philip Snyder
Brandon Niemuth
- 29 - Todd Prescott
- 30 - Leonard Ringgenberg
Janet Habick
- 31 - Eleanor Carlson
Gary Nehmer



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Prayers and Sympathies

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

The family of Wilma Frost

Deb Ubom on the loss of her brother, Michael

Dean Watson, on the loss of his mother, Audrey 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 on August 20. **If you are interested,** contact Pastor Mike Mike@gracedm.org or 515/276-6873

Happy August Anniversary

- 1 - Stuart and Martha Mitchell
- Alex Davik and Heather Woods
- 4 - Paul and Melissa Kallenbach
Howard and Alice Kulzer
- 11 - Donald and Bonnie Jo Swanson
- 12 - John and Sharon Schwemler
- 13 - Gary and Marion Nehmer
- 14 - Lathrop and Sally Preston
Ralf and Inga Hoifeldt
- 19 - Kenneth and Eleanor Carlson
- 21 - Ernest and Cheryl Weatherington
- 25 - Bruce Mumm and Christie Rosheim
Scott and Julie Honsey
- 26 - Jerry and Diane Westercamp
- 29 - Norman and Lenora Iverson
- 31 - Martin and Kari Dostalík
Kurt and Kathy Bowermaster



Do we know your special dates?

If you weren't baptized or married at Grace, we might not have your dates! If you are new to Grace in the past few years, or have added family members, please share with us! Email

Denise@gracedm.org so we can make sure our records are up-to-date. If you want to check, you can go to the link below, open the newsletter for your birthday and/or anniversary month to check. <https://gracedm.org/resources/newsletters/>

Greetings and salutations!

I cannot believe that a month has already gone by since I started as your Vicar. It feels like it has been both longer and shorter a time. I have been enjoying getting to know some of the members of Grace and I have also had the pleasure of getting to know the various councils, committees, and groups that help make Grace the wonderful and welcoming place it is. I am still working to put names to faces and I would very much like to get to know you all. If you would like, you can email me at Adam@gracedm.org and we can find some time to meet. Whether that's in my office or at a coffee shop.



As the summer is coming to an end, I can't help but think of the many transitions that will soon take place this time of year. We begin to return from the summer reprieve of family vacations, holidays, summer camps, big events like the state fair, and recreational activities like fishing and golf. Though some of these things can be done in the fall, it seems there winds up being less openings to fit them in amongst school and work. In the hustle and bustle, don't forget to take time for yourselves. Make time for the things that give you joy and life.

One of those things, for me, is playing music. As some of you may have learned, I play guitar and viola. For those wondering what a viola is, it is a string instrument played in orchestras and symphonies. If you were to look at it by itself, you might mistake it for a violin. Put it next to a violin, you would see that it is a little bigger than a violin. The other key difference is the strings. The violin has its strings tuned G, D, A, and E with the G being the lowest toned string and the E being the highest. A viola's strings are tuned C, G, D, and A, with C being the lowest and A as the highest. It shares this string tuning with the cello. If you have any questions about my instruments, please feel free to ask. I'm sure there will be an opportunity while I am with you when I bring out my instruments.

Peace and Blessings
Vicar Adam Barden



Blessing of Backpacks

Sunday, August 20 during worship
Students of all ages, bring your backpacks or bookbags for a blessing. Teachers too!

To our church family,

Thank you for all your love, kindness, prayers, and help the past two years. Your cards, prayers, kind words, and meals were greatly appreciated by our whole family. Beth loved you all very much. Her love and faith lives on in the ministries at Grace.

Thank you,
Jessye, Don, and the Flannery Family

Grace Quilters placed another colorful quilt in the Little Free Pantry at Grace honor of Beth Flannery. July 2023





**Please Join us on Sunday, August 6, after worship
as we celebrate Jon Fry's recent Ordination with us, here at Grace!**

Pastor Jon Fry will join Pastor Mike during worship.
Lori and Rick Fry, Jon's wife Megan, and brother Jason Fry and his family will also be with us!

We'll have Lemonade, coffee, and a wide variety of desserts for you to choose from!

Come and enjoy the celebration and fellowship with us!

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

Grace Golf Outing

Sunday, September 10, 3:00 p.m.

- Tee times starting at 3:03. Arrive 15-30 minutes early
- Woodland Hills Golf Course, 620 NE 66th Ave, Des Moines, Iowa
- 9 hole Best Shot format
- Pay for your golf at the course that day, riding carts recommended to maintain pace of play.
- Food and Beverages available for purchase at the course
- Prizes for the winning team and 4 flag prizes, plan to stay after golf for presentations.

To sign up, contact Dean Watson. Text or call 515-991-0120 or email dpwatson1976@msn.com



Bishops' Ride Against Hunger Update!

Some \$31,000 has been raised as of July 20, 2023!

If each of the 395 ELCA congregations in Iowa gave about \$127, the Bishops would meet their \$50,000 goal for ELCA World Hunger!

Gifts to the Iowa Bishops' Ride Against Hunger will go 100 percent, without any administrative fees, to fight hunger in Iowa, across the country and across the world.

Click the link below to donate online or mail a check to the Northeastern Iowa Synod, 201 20th St. SW, Box 804, Waverly, IA 50677-0804. Please indicate RAGBRAI on the check's memo line and make the check out to: *Northeastern Iowa Synod*.

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YJN9/campaign/C-13PYB>

Notes from Rich

Have you ever attended an artistic performance such as a play, a musical concert, a dance recital, or a vocal concert and wondered what the proper audience responses should be to the performance? Or, have you wondered when the proper times for the audience responses should be? Especially in unfamiliar situations, audience members may feel uneasy about using applause or cheers to show appreciation for the performance, and deciding when to applaud or cheer just adds to the anxiety. This issue of Notes will address the question of appropriate audience responses in the church sanctuary.



When one attends a musical performance, there are conventions and practices that govern audience responses. For instance, in the playbook available at Des Moines Symphony concerts, there are instructions for the audience concerning when to applaud. Clapping is acceptable between musical numbers as they are listed in the program. Applause is not encouraged between sections of longer numbers such as between movements in a symphony or concerto. (These instructions have not always prevented applause between movements however.) These instructions also apply during less professional performances such as high school and college choirs and bands. When attending a school show choir performance, it is acceptable to cheer and applaud at seemingly random points during the singing and dancing. (The applause then tends to drown out the next portion of the performance.) At less formal concerts such as the State Fair grandstand events, it is acceptable to clap in time to the music and cheer during the music. When attending a concert in a church, whether an organ recital, instrumental recital, or vocal concert, the same conventions apply as at the symphony. But what are the expectations during a worship service? This is a difficult question to answer in a single response.

If Moses had given an eleventh commandment, “Thou shall not applaud in worship,” there would be clear guidance to answering the question. But he didn’t, and so we are left with multiple options. In some settings, a fervent “Amen” would suffice as an appropriate positive response to a musical number. In some settings, polite and subdued applause is given. And in still others, silence greets the end of a choir anthem or organ selection. Here are my thoughts on this issue which are shared by other organists. Musical offerings during worship are offerings to God that edify and complement the messages conveyed to the worshipers. The music is not a performance that is an end unto itself, but it is an expression by the musician of worship and devotion toward the Almighty, and as such, does not need any affirmations by others.

Then what does one do when one is deeply affected by a musical selection? One possibility is the “Amen,” (so be it) mentioned above at the conclusion of the selection. A second is to wait until worship has been completed and then thank the musician(s) individually for the thrilling music. A third option is to applaud only after the postlude has been completed because technically the service had ended with the dismissal.

To paraphrase TV editorials, “Thoughtful responses to these points are welcome.” There is no single practice when responding to music in a worship service that will satisfy all.

Back to School Month

Saying goodbye to summer and transitioning into a new school year can be a difficult time for many adolescents, especially those with emotional or behavioral disorders. LSI has 27 therapists that provide mental health counseling to individuals of all ages through in-person therapy in over 20 locations across the state and virtual therapy in all 99 counties. In 2022, our Clinical Services team served more than 1,000 clients, totaling 14,000+ therapy sessions for Iowans of all ages.



In addition, our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team wraps care around a child's entire family to empower them with skills like anger management, healthy decision-making and problem-solving. In 2022, the BHIS team served over 250 clients, resulting in more than 3,900 therapy sessions for children and their families.

Through LSI's Trauma Informed Care program at the Juvenile Detention Center in Waterloo, our staff work with the teens by completing trauma assessments on each adolescent and providing a summary to their juvenile court officers. The LSI staff also facilitate both individual and group therapy sessions with the teens to help them deal with their trauma and work through it in a productive way. If you or someone you know could benefit from therapy – even from the comfort of your own home – reach out by calling 888.457.4692 or visiting LSIowa.org/therapy.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children and families in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, 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.

Lutheran Services in Iowa Board of Directors Appoints Dan Dean as Interim President and CEO

Des Moines, Iowa— The Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) Board of Directors recently appointed Dan Dean, Vice President of Capacity and Strategy Development, as Interim President and CEO for the statewide human services agency. The Board also established a search committee and initiated the search for the organization's next leader.

Dan Dean has been at LSI for 27 years and has led the agency's personnel, quality improvement, and compliance programs across the state. He has also been responsible for strategic planning, development, measurement, and oversight of operations at all sites.



"Dan has been a strong and dedicated leader at LSI for many years," said Katie Fergus, Chair of the LSI Board of Directors. "The Board has complete confidence in him and the other members of the Executive Team to lead the organization's operations while we pursue our executive search."

"I look forward to working with the Board of Directors and the LSI team as we work to expand current services and embark on new opportunities to serve the citizens of Iowa best," said Dean.



Lydia/Martha Circle will meet Thursday, August 24th at 9:30 am in Grace Hall. Women of Grace, please consider this your invitation to join us in learning about the "Piper" Organ. The program will be presented by Rich and Deanna Snyder. RSVP Martha Mitchell 515-491-3062



Thank You Grace Car Show

This year the Member Care Team received a donation of \$553 from the Grace Car Show. We would like to express our thanks to the participants, attendees and most especially to Kevin Drury, Carter Woodruff, Aaron Brandsfield, and Tom McCleary for organizing this event. This generous donation will help the MCT in continuing its program to provide assistance to Grace Members in need. The Grace Member Care Team



August Little Free Pantry Request: School Supplies!

It's that time of year when families are preparing to get their children ready for school. We are requesting school supplies for the Little Free Pantry this month.

Some items the students will need include:

- 3-ring 1" white binders
- 3x5" index cards
- Ballpoint pens
- #2 pencils
- Colored pencils
- Folders (solid colors)
- Hand sanitizer
- Hard pencil boxes
- Pencil zipper bags
- Rulers
- Composition notebooks



Place your items in the wagon located at the Gathering Hall entrance or you can order from the Grace Wishlist on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) which will be shipped directly to the church.

You can also set up recurring monthly donations through our secure [GIVE](#) page and our savvy shoppers will buy items for stocking the pantry.

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

Grace Lutheran Church Congregational Council Minutes – July 25, 2023

1. Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:13 P.M.
2. Devotions – Vicar Adam – All callings are equal in God's eyes.
3. Adoption of Agenda – Aaron moved to adopt the agenda with the additional items of the revenue task force and photo directory. Greg seconded, motion approved.
4. Approval of Minutes from the council retreat June 24 – Approved by unanimous consent.
5. Staff Reports – no items to discuss.
6. Finance Report – Finance Committee meeting results. Budget is farther behind that usual (\$52K in the negative). A large portion of that is from those who have passed away in 2023. Need to double down on stewardship campaign in the fall. Probably need to be more detailed in communication with congregation so they are well aware of the financial situation. The council needs to have more dedicated discussions on financial issues with finance committee input.
7. Revenue Task Force meeting – Meeting was held and the group came up with several possibilities to discuss further. Next meeting Aug 8 at 5pm.
8. New Business
 - a. Freezer Repair Estimate – will approve by email once confirmed it is fixed.
 - b. Parking Lot Striping Estimate – hold off on the parking lot painting for now due to budgetary concerns.
 - c. Recruiting new council members – start asking around for interested parties.
 - d. There will be an August meeting on the 22nd at 6:00 P.M.
9. Old Business (based on retreat actions)
 - a. Reconciling in Christ – Pastor will contact some potential leaders for the core team.
 - b. A/C Funding (mini campaign) – new units have been ordered; reserve funds are available for down payment. Will organize the mini campaign to raise the rest of the cost.
 - c. Bylaws update Team: Kevin (lead), Val, Linda, Pastor Mike, Tom
 - d. Constitution update team: Dean (lead), Jenny, Carter
 - e. The 5Q team will do a final review and “close” out meeting on Aug 2. First step communication out to congregation will describe 5Q summary with focus on growing younger and more diverse. Pastor will ask for assistance in drafting the communication.
 - f. Photo Directory – Greg has met with Michelle and Denise and they are working on a form for people to fill out. Photo sessions will be over 3 weekends in August. Goal to have final photo directory (wall and print copy) ready by Oct. 1
10. Adjournment – Carter adjourned the meeting at 7:44 P.M.



Finance Report – June Results

Financial results for June YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$186,691, Budget \$217,575, Prior Year \$202,231
- Expenses – Actual \$238,938, Budget \$223,000, Prior Year \$198,131
- Net activity – Actual (\$52,246), Budget (\$5,425), Prior Year \$4,100

Activity for the year continues to be significantly below budget by \$47K. Offerings were below budget \$31K and expenses were over budget by \$16K due to needed work on the furnace and roof.

The net activity loss of \$52K is significantly below the prior year surplus of \$4K.

Staff Retreat

The office will be closed on Tuesday, August 29 for a staff retreat & Fall planning.

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.

Fall Programming Dates!

Watch for details in the September newsletter!

- Gods Work Our Hands: September 10
- Tuesday Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, September 12.
 - Watch for signups for weekly coffee & treats
- Sunday School & Confirmation: Families will be contacted!



Upcoming Worship Volunteer Needs

Greeters, Lectors, Communion Servers, Fellowship Coffee & Donut Servers

***Note:** Worship 3 will be Service of the Word, and no Communion Assistants is needed that week.

***Note:** Ushers have been removed from the signup list: Thank you to Carter for rebuilding the Usher team! If you are interested in helping to Usher, please contact Carter Woodruff.

If you have questions about volunteering, reach out to the office, Vicar Adam, or Pastor Mike – they'll be happy to answer your questions. You can click this link to sign up: [Online Worship Volunteer Signup](#) or contact the office at 515-276-6873.

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/>

Church Directory Update 2023

What:

Our member directory and Photo Wall are in need of a refresh! Help us by updating your contact information and providing a recent 4x6 photo.

Who:

We would love to get updates from all of Grace's members! Be assured that your contact information in the online directory is only visible to members of Grace. It requires an email address and password to access.

When:

We will be taking photos after church on 8/13, 8/20, and 8/27. There will also be a table with information about the online directory and how to use it from your computer or phone. Our goal is to have updated information by the end of August so we can get the wall and directory updated by October.

How:

Fill out the form below and return it by any of the following options:

- Put in the drop box slot outside the church office
- Mail it back to church (5201 Urbandale Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310)
- Email it to directory@gracedm.org

Be sure to include a recent 4x6 photo of your household, or get a new one taken at church in August, where you can also fill out an update form.

Questions:

Reach out to Greg Boesch, or send an email to directory@gracedm.org

First Name(s):	
Last Name(s):	
Children Names:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
Family Phone:	
Family Email:	
Person 1 Phone:	
Person 1 Email:	
Person 2 Phone:	
Person 2 email:	
Interests, Activities:	