

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 mike@gracedm.org

Vicar Adam Barden adam@gracedm.org

Organist

Richard Snyder rich@gracedm.org

Minister for Administration

Denise Friesth denise@gracedm.org

Minister for Communications

Michelle Voelker michelle@gracedm.org

Office Assistant for Worship

Jessye Flannery Jessica@gracedm.org

Custodian

Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

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Fall 2023 Schedule

We're excited to get back into the swing of fall a full schedule. Have a look at what we have planned.

Fall kickoff – God's Work Our Hands, Sunday, September 10. See page 3 for all the details!

Tuesday Bible Study - the book of Romans

Bible study returns on Tuesday, September 12 at 9 a.m. We meet in Grace Hall. The study will be facilitated by Pastor Mike with Vicar Adam present. We will use this dedicated time to study scripture, which helps guide and strengthen our walk with Christ.

Elementary Sunday School

Starting on Sunday, September 17th at 10:15 - after the 9:00 a.m. worship and coffeetime. K-5 students will meet, visit the Little Free Pantry with their canned food offering, and learn fun songs. Next our Sunday School leaders will lead interactive lessons, crafts and more! For questions, contact Deanna Weber.

Middle School and High Sunday School

Sunday School for grades 6-12 will meet in the High School Room upstairs following coffee time after worship. This year we will use a conversation-based curriculum from Augsburg Fortress named "think. believe. do." Contacts are Jenie Schmidt, Carol Woodruff, Jessye Flannery, and Courtney Brandsfield.

Confirmation Classes are being planned and will be resuming later this fall. If you would like to take part in confirmation, please contact the office.

Sunday Morning Adult Education – The study of Galatians

Starting on September 17th, we will meet in Grace Hall at 10:15, after worship and coffeetime. All are welcome to attend; those new to Bible studies, advanced theologians, and everyone in between!

New Member Class The next New Member class will meet on Sunday, September 24. Meet in the Innovation Lab with Pastor Mike after worship and coffeetime.

Happy September Birthday

- 1 Cindy Peeler
- 2 Michelle Voelker Heather Nelson
- 5 Richard SnyderKiley Brandsfield
- 6 Nely Ruiz
- 8 Ethan Meadows
- 9 Joie Gronert Carrie Schall
- 10 -John Schall
- 11- Ian Galle
- 13- John Trickel Rhonda Jensen Robert Briggs
- 14- Katelyn Jessen
- 15- Richard Voelker
- 18- Rev. Michael Schmidt
- 19- Sarah Helt
- 20-Frank McKinney
- 21 Gabe Brown
- 22- Jeanine Rutter Finnegan Holst Kylan Appenzeller
- 23- Susanne Carney Angela Ringgenberg Cory Johansen
- 24- Michael Meadows
 Thomas Rutter
- 25- Karen Bandy
- 26- Barb Powers
 Bruce Mumm
- 27- Gregory Honnold Helen Schroeder William Kallestad Joshua Curry
- 28- Ross Peeler
- 29-Aaron Page Robbie Rissman



Prayers and Sympathies

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

The family of Max Palmer

The family of Kristina Galle daughter of Tim and Becky Selander

The family of Lucille Krauss

The family of Jim Beeler brother of Cherie Rissman

Happy September Anniversary

- 3 Brent and Val CulpTodd and Elizabeth Prescott
- 4 Donald and Gail Peterson
- 5 Charles and Tammy Denton Lon and Denise Friesth
- 6 Aaron and Martha Page
- 13 Larry and Janice Nordeen
- 27 Tom and Mary Jo McCleary



Thank You Notes * See photos from this event on page 11!

Thank you so very much for the Ordination reception at Grace! It was wonderful to worship with you and have the opportunity to preside at Communion. I'm grateful for all the conversations, cards, baked goods, and well wishes. I'm excited to be in this new call serving college students at the University of Illinois, but Grace will always hold a special place in my faith journey. Blessings in your continued ministry!

- Pastor Jonathan Fry

We appreciated the celebration you prepared for Jon's ordination so very much! It was great to worship back home at Grace with all of you. Jon's gift and the wonderful desserts were amazing. I wish we could have talked to each one of you!

Thank you again! Love,

Rick and Lori Fry & family.

God's Work Our Hands

It's that time of year again! September 10 is God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. We will begin with a brief worship service in Grace Hall at 9:00 a.m., followed by our service project. This year, we will be working to develop a personal item pantry for Moore Elementary School. When we reached out to the school, they mentioned an idea to provide household supplies and hygiene products for the community. The pantry itself will be located at the school, however we agreed to allocate space at the church to use as storage that they can restock from as needed. This project is being funded through the Grace Lutheran Church Mission Action Fund.



For the project, we will be splitting into 3 groups. The first group will go shopping for pantry items. This group will be coordinated by Tammy Denton and Kari Dostalik. Those that wish to help with the shopping will be given a list of items to purchase at specific stores. The second group will be assembling the shelves for the storage room. Dean Watson will be the point person for this group. The third group will be putting together first aid kits. This group will be coordinated by Cathy Watson. We will have the materials for the kits ready to be assembled that Sunday. After the project, we will gather for lunch in Grace Hall. Aaron Brandsfield has graciously volunteered to operate the grill for us. Anyone who would like to contribute to the meal can bring a side dish or dessert to share.

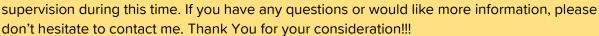
If you have any questions, you can get a hold of me at Adam@gracedm.org or call the office at 515-276-6873

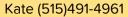
Peace and Blessings, Vicar Adam

Gratis Spiritual Direction offered by Kate Schaller

Spiritual Directors International was formed in the early 1990's and I am currently in my practicum offered by Mind and Spirit (formally known as Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center).

I need a directee, which could be YOU!!! One hour, monthly meetings for 9 months are the requirement . All of these meetings are confidential plus I will be participating in





kamel.Kate.83@gmail.com



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



Grace Lutheran Church "Keep It Cool" Mini Capital Campaign

The Grace Church Council and staff have been crossing our fingers that the air conditioning units that cool the Sanctuary, the Upper Room, and Msindo Hall would make it through this summer. The current units are 20+ years old and have outlived their reliable life. The recent brutal hot and humid weather only accentuated those concerns. To that end, the Grace Church Council and members of the Property Committee have been researching and obtaining bids since last year to replace the (2) 15-Ton units and (1) 5-Ton units that currently are in service. Many thanks to John Trickel and his expertise in this area to allow us to make a good apples-to-apples comparison in bids as well as get the best value possible for this important maintenance item.

In late June, a purchase agreement was made with Bell Brothers for the purchase and installation of the new air conditioning units. The installed price is \$81,600. The Grace Capital Campaign Reserve Account currently stands at about \$62,000. With that in mind, the Grace Church Council has voted to conduct a "mini" capital campaign to raise the remaining balance of \$20,000. Projects of this size and nature have a lead time of 2-3 months and while not all the equipment is ready to be installed, it should be installed yet this fall.

Now the time has come to ask our congregation to help with the funding of the \$20,000 balance of this project. The need is real, and while timing is never "perfect," a pleasant and meaningful worship experience is high on the list of desires for Grace members. You will be receiving in the mail a pledge card that will give members the option of a one-time donation or a pledge to be paid over 3-years. We ask that you prayerfully consider what you can give to this important project.

Together we can make this happen. Thank you and God Bless!

Sincerely,

The Grace Church Council

Notes from Rich

When Emma Stammer recently left the staff at Grace Lutheran, one of her many responsibilities required an immediate reassignment: selecting hymns for worship. The person or persons responsible for selecting the hymns sung during worship services varies from congregation to congregation and from pastor to pastor. This issue of Notes from Rich will describe the current hymn selection process and also review other options which have been employed at Grace in the past.



As stated in the previous paragraph, Emma, as Minister for Worship and Music, selected the hymns that have been sung on Sunday mornings, subject to review and approval by Pastor Schmidt. Her selection process was based on her understanding of the appointed scripture texts for a given Sunday or feast day, the suggestions contained in published resource materials, the location of the hymn in the order for worship, and the broad themes identified by Pastor Schmidt and the Vicar. Her selections were distributed to those who needed to know generally a month in advance. Now that Emma has left, the process will be handled by a group of four: the Pastor, the Vicar, Richard Snyder (organist), and Sally Preston (congregational member and trained musician and educator). This group will use similar published materials and references as Emma used when selecting the hymns. Hymns will be selected for up to a dozen Sundays at one time so that musicians will have time to prepare.

In the past, alternate processes had been used at Grace. For instance, when Grace was served by two pastors, the hymns were selected by whichever pastor was delivering the message that week. In some cases, that information was not available to the organist until the Tuesday before Sunday, and in other cases, it was not available until the Thursday. This pattern of selection and notification left a short time for the organist to prepare. At other times in the past and with different clergy, hymns were selected at least a month or more in advance which allowed musicians time to learn new or unfamiliar materials.

When a substitute or guest minister is scheduled to lead or participate in worship on a Sunday morning, that person will often be invited to select the middle hymn (hymn of the day) so that the words of the hymn will complement or amplify the message within the sermon. Alternatively, the visiting minister might select all three of the hymns.

Traditionally, the responsibility of hymn selection had rested with the clergy at Grace. For the past eight years, Emma Stammer provided a valuable service to Grace through her selections of hymns for the worship services, a task that was solely hers. Now that she has departed, that responsibility has been assumed by three members of staff and one congregational member.



Lydia/Martha Circle will meet Thursday, September 28th at 9:30 am in Grace Hall.

We will be learning about the "OK Crew at the Fair" to be presented by Mary Freimuth Helt.

Women of Grace, please consider this your invitation!

Leave a Legacy Gift

LSI has responded to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service for over 150 years. During this time, we've created a legacy of lifting up and empowering thousands of our lowa neighbors, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.



You can celebrate your lifetime through a legacy gift, to ensure LSI can continue to provide lifesaving services for those in need. Many of our faithful donors want their gifts to continue after their lifetime, and have elected to leave a legacy through LSI's foundation or the ELCA foundation.

Planned gifts to LSI help to create a firm foundation for our ministry and contribute more than \$400,000 each year.

Thanks to the generous compassion of individual donors, congregations such as yours, and our ministry partners at the three synods of the ELCA, we can be confident LSI will be here to meet the changing needs of lowers for years to come.

You Can Make a Lasting Impact

A longtime supporter of LSI turned an appreciated real estate asset into a charitable remainder unitrust agreement with the ELCA foundation. Because of this agreement, they will receive income from the trust for the remainder of their two lives, and subsequently to their two adult children for a twenty-year term. According to the actuarial tables, this gift will finally terminate in about forty years, leaving a very strong and greatly appreciated impact on LSI's future.

Another LSI donor elected to share their investment by directing a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA directly to LSI. The donor used this contribution to match new or increased gifts during the annual matching gift campaign.

We ask you to consider how you can make a lasting impact and leave a legacy. To learn more about planned giving opportunities, go to LSlowa.org/leave-a-legacy/ or contact Deb Whitford, LSl senior director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSlowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the Iove 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.lowa.

The 2023 Youth Core Leadership Team is excited to share the plans for the 2023 ELCA Youth Leadership Summit! This year, the Summit will take place November 2nd-5th at the Churchwide Office in Chicago, IL.

The Youth Leadership Summit empowers and inspires young people within their congregations, communities, and synods to embrace their calling and become influential leaders beyond their current context. This year's theme, "Called on The Way" focuses on exploring the unique journeys that individuals take in response to their calling and how these journeys shape their leadership abilities. Comforting his disciples, Jesus declares, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6). Throughout the Summit we will be exploring narratives of people being called throughout the scriptures learning alongside our many ELCA advocacy partners. To learn more and apply to represent the Southeastern lowa Synod, follow this link.

College Care Packages – from Denise Friesth

It's fall and that means off to college for some of our youth.

I have identified nineteen Grace Members that are enrolled in college this fall. (Twelve different colleges and universities!) Many are here in lowa, but also a few are enrolled in other states. (Minnesota, Texas, and South Carolina.) I have applied for and received a Thrivent Action Team grant to help cover the cost of a simple care package for each of the students. Who doesn't like receiving snail mail — especially a package, right? We want to remind the students in a tangible way that their church cares about them.

On Sundays, September 3, 10 and 17, I will have cardstock – one for each student - on a table in the Gathering Hall. Take a moment on one of those Sundays to sign the cards and write a short note to the students. The cards will be included in the care packages that we will mail the week of September 18.

Thank you, Kristin Medhurst, for your help with this caring ministry.

The students identified are as follows:

- 1. Emma Ashton Ellsworth Community College
- 2. Kiley Brandsfield Grand View University
- 3. Jamie Briggs Des Moines Area Community College
- 4. Drake Carney College of Charleston
- 5. Haley Dostalik Baylor College of Medicine
- 6. Ivy Lawson Iowa State University
- 7. Zoe Lawson Iowa State University
- 8. Eryn Lenhart Central College
- 9. Kyra Lenhart Wartburg College
- 10. Maya Lenhart University of Northern Iowa
- 11. Lydia McCleary Iowa State University
- 12. Kayleigh Medhurst University of Iowa
- 13. Kyler Medhurst Concordia College
- 14. Laria Preston Des Moines Area Community College
- 15. Megan Riordan
- 16. Sawyer Shiffler University of Iowa
- 17. Maya Lint Drake University
- 18. Mira Voelker Iowa State University
- 19. Cal Wilner Central College

September Little Free Pantry Request of the Month:

This month, we are requesting spices and items that could be used together to make a simple and easy meal. You could also share a recipe that uses cost-effective ingredients we could place in the pantry.

You can buy individual or a group of shelf-stable ingredients to make a meal. (No glass containers.) A few examples:

- pizza kit pizza dough mix, pizza sauce, pepperoni or spam, oregano or basil
- taco kit taco shells or flour tortillas, salsa, Spanish rice, taco seasoning or cumin
- tuna noodle kit tuna, cream of mushroom soup, noodles or pasta
- pasta meal kit pasta, kidney beans, tomato soup, canned diced tomatoes, garlic powder, and oregano

Items can be placed in the wagon located at the Gathering Hall entrance or you can order from the Grace Wish List on Amazon.com, which will be shipped directly to the church.

You can also donate through our secure <u>GIVE</u> page, and this will fund items purchased for stocking the pantry. Thank you for your donations.

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 - August 22, 2023

- 1. Call to order Meeting called to order at 6:04 P.M. following a tasty dinner provided by Kevin.
- 2. Devotions Aaron Jesus invited everyone to sit at his table.
- 3. Adoption of Agenda Jenny moved to adopt the agenda with the additions, Greg seconded, motion approved.
- 4. Approval of Minutes from 7-25-2023 council meeting Approved by unanimous consent.
- 5. "Ideas that will get you fired" right sizing the use of the building with the mission we hope to create.
- 6. Staff Reports no comments.
- 7. Finance Report Finance Committee meeting results. Deficit ~\$60K for the year.
 - a. Revenue Task Force meeting Have met twice. Available rooms in the building have been inventoried. Obtaining info on market value of the custodian's house as well as leasing prospects for areas in the church building. Several inquiries have been made and will be followed up on. Investigating grant possibilities.

8. New Business

- a. Do another Temple Talk and communication with congregation regarding financial status. Have an open meeting for the congregation with the council and finance committee to discuss financial situation and 2024 mission budget. Schedule for October 15 to coincide with stewardship initiation.
- b. Staff Support Committee/Personnel Committee will be reviewed along with Constitution and Bylaws committees input. Possibility to have the executive congregational council lead the Personnel Committee.
- c. Insurance Update question of adding renters to facility. Liability insurance additions for each renter, shouldn't exceed \$50 per renter, covers liability. Dean will check on this with the insurance company.
- d. Home school Co-Op rental space from Monday 9am-2pm. Pastor will obtain more information but council was positive about the prospect.
- e. A/C Timeline (funds request) put "ask" information in newsletter and send out cards and letters to members.

9. Old Business

- a. Goodwin Tucker invoice paid for via email approval.
- b. Recruiting new council members nomination committee (added) Tom McCleary and Linda Moravec plan to continue for a second council term. Dean and Aaron are going off and will ask some potential candidates.
- c. Music Director Jenny moved to approve a stipend of \$2000 to hire a volunteer to direct the choir for the programmatic year. Greg seconded, motion approved. Will come with a motion for leading the bells at the next meeting.
- d. Constitution update team: Dean (lead), Jenny, Carter and Bylaws update Team: Kevin (lead), Val, Linda, Pastor Mike, Tom. First meetings held 8/22 and 8/23 respectively.
- 10. Adjournment Carter adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Finance Report – July Results

Financial results for July YTD are as follows:

- Income Actual \$219,140, Budget \$252,979, Prior Year \$231,759
- Expenses Actual \$280,015, Budget \$264,258, Prior Year \$234,463
- Net activity Actual (\$60,875), Budget (\$11,279), Prior Year (\$2,703)



Activity for the year continues to be <u>significantly</u> below budget by \$50K. Offerings were below budget \$34K and expenses were over budget by \$16K due to needed work on the furnace, doors and roof. The net activity loss of \$61K is significantly below the prior year loss of \$3K.

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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 Sundays September 24, October 29, and November 26. If you are interested, contact Pastor Mike Mike@gracedm.org or 515/276-6873.

Sponsor Altar Flowers for Fall – only a few dates remain for 2023!

Please follow the link below to choose your date and sign up, or contact the office to make certain your preferred Sunday hasn't been spoken for. 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 or 971-6360 with questions. Thank you!

Upcoming Worship Volunteer Needs Greeters, Lectors, Communion Servers, Fellowship Coffee & Donut Servers

*Note: No Communion Assistants will be needed for worship on Sept. 10

*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: <u>Online Worship Volunteer Signup</u> 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.
 - o From the home page at www.gracedm.org,
 - o scroll to the "Welcome to Grace" section,
 - o 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 <u>Resources/Worship Videos</u> 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/

Progress on the Church Directory Update 2023

Thank you to everyone who has submitted updated contact information and photos so far! We have updated the contact information for 75+ members and photos for 45+!

You can still 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. Find the link and directions at https://gracedm.org/resources/ Look for the red bubble that says "Member Online Directory Access"

When:

We hope to offer one last day of photos on September 17 – we're still looking for someone to take photos after worship. Our goal is to have printed directories available for those who want them by the beginning of October, and to have the photo wall in the hallway updated by the end of 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)
- Enter your responses into an Email and send to directory@gracedm.org

Be sure to include a recent 4x6 photo of your household, and watch for announcements about September 17 photos.

Questions:

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

Photos from the reception for Pastor Jon Fry August 6, 2023









Below, The Saturday Men's Group and other volunteers have been busy adding a pathway on the North side of Grace. The pathway makes it easier for the Little Free Pantry Crew to stock the pantry!



On August 24, Rich and Deanna Snyder provided a program on the "Piper Organ" for Grace Women during the Lydia/Martha Circle meeting.









