



Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship, in-person and Online
10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee
10:15 a.m. Education Hour

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

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Organist

Richard Snyder

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Minister for Communications

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Jessye Flannery

Jessica@gracedm.org

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Kami Chicas

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Bookkeeper

Mike Hilsabeck

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Custodian

Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

Inside This Issue...

- 2... Celebrations, Sympathies, Holiday Hours
- 3... Vicar's Voice, Meet the new Staff!
- 4 Finance, LFP Request & Grant update
- 5... Star Tree, ELCA Good Gifts
- 6... LSI Update, Lydia/Martha Circle
- 7... Important Dates, Council highlights
- 8... Grace Endowment, Worship Links
- 9... Poinsettia Orders, Lutheran Lakeside

Those Who Dream

What will the future hold? When you think about that question, does it bring fear? Hope? Joy? Peace? It is human nature to spend time looking at the past. Why are things not as it was before? That is a common mindset within the Church universal. We look back and wonder why things are not as they were before. We long for what we have known.

When we look to the past, the best hope we have is to recreate glimpses of it. Our Advent theme this year is "Those Who Dream." This journey will guide us through the Seasons of Advent and Christmas. In a time when we are not sure what the future will hold, this theme challenges us to approach with hope, peace, joy, and love, knowing that we are not alone, that God is with us.

We can approach the future with fear. But why? That says more about us than it does of God. The faithfulness of God is more than enough. Our faith is in God's faithfulness to God's promise of love and life. In the story of Adam and Eve, God responded by making them clothes and going with them out into the world. Whether that story, or of Abram and Sarai, or of countless others, God has challenged people to dream, and then has gone with them, come what may.

Friends, it is time for us to dream. It is time for us to find the courage and strength to look into the future with hope, joy, peace, and love. We don't know what the future holds. Yet, we are certain that God goes with us, come what may. May we dare to dream, and as we do, may we dream big.

Honestly, I would love to hear your dreams for the future, what you believe is possible. I would love to hear from you, no matter how simple or far-fetched you believe your dream to be. Please share thoughts or dreams with me. I welcome them. That is how hope begins, with a willingness to imagine a future. I look forward to seeing where this journey leads us.

Peace,
Pastor Mike

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 - Salvador Rodriguez
- 11 - Jamie Chamberlain
Burke Shiffler
Kari Dostalik
- 12 - Evan Justice
- 13 - Bradley Ashton
- 14 - Stacie Holst
- 15 - Norman Iverson
- 17 - Tanner Highland
- 18 - Payton Lawson
Katja Rahjes
Ember Brown
- 20 - Shirley Shiffler
- 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 - Samantha Schmidt
Courtney Vander Plaats
Sarah Chenoweth
- 29 - Linda Rundle
Kevin Krause
- 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:

John Roehrick

Dale Bordt

Marilyn Anderson



Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed for Thanksgiving:

Thursday, November 23

Friday November 24



The office will be closed for Christmas/New Years:

December 22 through January 1*.

We will return on Tuesday January 2.

*Staff may be in the office one day each during that time to complete work, at a time that works with their individual vacations and family & holiday schedule.

If you have arranged to use the facility during that time, the building will be unlocked at the appropriate time. Or you may arrange to check out a key.

Final Contributions for 2023

Final Contributions should be mailed to arrive at the church office no later than Wednesday, December 27. Staff will be one day during that week to make a final deposit for 2023.

You may also place final contributions in the offering plate during worship on Sunday, December 31. Thank you!

Vicar's Voice

With the holiday season just around the corner, I can't help but remember some of the traditions I had growing up around the holidays. Every Christmas Eve, we would go to worship in the afternoon. For supper, my mother would make a cheese and wild rice soup with mushrooms and bacon. That would always be one of the highlights of the day. After supper, my brother and I would open our gifts. There wasn't a specific pattern to it. We would all open our presents together. On Christmas Day, we would rush to the living room to see what Santa brought us while we were asleep.



We all have fond memories of the traditions that we had in our childhood around Christmas season whether it's to do with food presents with travel, they bring out that sense of nostalgia. As time is gone on many of those traditions are ones we no longer practice. Times change. Though we may no longer do the traditions that we used to, that does not mean that they are completely gone. Sometimes circumstances allow us to bring back some of them in different in new ways. Once we were the ones to open presents, now we are the ones to watch our children open our presents with excitement. We also get the opportunity to add new traditions in recent years. My family has unraveled a saran wrap ball for prizes. What are the traditions you were brought up with? What are some new ones that you practice now that you didn't before? We would love to hear about them! Blessings on you all this holiday season!

Vicar Adam

Meet our new staff members!



Mike Hilsabeck

I have been a member of Grace Lutheran for 5 years (but who's counting... well I guess am, being the bookkeeper now). I'm originally from Fort Dodge and have lived in Iowa most of my life. My wife Sara and I live in Urbandale, about 5 minutes from the church (very handy). We have a daughter who lives in Johnston with her husband and 6-year-old son who we love babysitting. I am retired from a 30-year career as an IT Project Manager. For the past two years I have been honored to serve on the Grace Congregational Council. In addition to church activities, I volunteer for Iowa Lutheran Hospital, specifically the Powell Chemical Dependency Center.



Kami Chicas

Hello, my name is Kami Chicas and I am the new Administrative Assistant here at Grace. I have worked as an Administrative Assistant for many years in many different types of organizations (Law Firm, Child Care Center, Synagogue, Homeless Shelter). I enjoy the variety of tasks of an Administrative Assistant, keeps things interesting.

I work part-time afternoons at Family Promise of Greater Des Moines. It is a shelter that accommodates both parents and children and usually houses 1-3 families at a time.

I have 5 children, ranging in age from 23 to 9. The three youngest children are still at home. We also have 4 dogs and a cat.

Some of my favorite things are gel pens, journaling, Mexican food and the colors yellow, orange and green.

Please stop in the office if you have a chance and say Hi.

Finance Report – October Results



Financial results for October YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$317,503, Budget \$359,192, Prior Year \$352,424
- Expenses – Actual \$368,450, Budget \$375,783, Prior Year \$347,208
- Net activity – Actual (\$50,947), Budget (\$16,592), Prior Year \$5,216

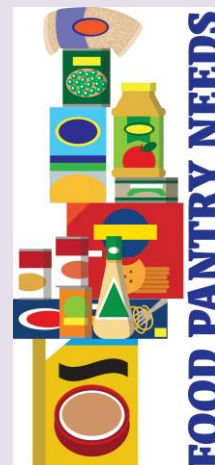
Activity for the year continues to be significantly below budget by \$34K. Offerings were below budget \$42K and expenses were below budget due to Endowment note interest elimination and staffing vacancies. The net activity loss of \$51K is significantly below the prior year income of \$5K.

December Little Free Pantry Request

December is the last month of the current HyVee Perks deals. Donations of any of the following items would be great to build up our backstock over the colder months.

- 12 pk Ramen noodles
- HyVee boxed pasta
- Knorr boxed pasta or Rice side dishes

You can also order items from the Grace Wish List on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), which will be shipped directly to the church, or you can donate through our secure [GIVE](#) page to build up our fund used to purchase items to stock the pantry. Thank you for your donations.



Grace Little Free Backstock Project receives Grant

The Immanuel Vision Foundation has approved a grant to help supply the Grace Little Free Pantry Backstock Project. The total amount of the grant is \$7,400.

This is the second year we have received funds for this project from the Immanuel Vision Project – we received \$6,000 in 2022.

Last year Vicar Bunny, and now Grace members Kari Dostalick and Tammy Denton use the funds through the year to purchase bulk items on sale to supplement items donated by the congregation and neighborhood. They are also responsible for submitting the Grant request and project updates to the Foundation. Thank you Kari and Tammy for your work on this!

How can YOU help the LFP?

With the rising cost of food and record numbers of people utilizing local food banks, every donation counts. Every box of cereal, fresh produce from a summer garden can help one person or family get through the day without having to choose between rent and food, or medical expenses and food. Hygiene items are expensive, but can make a difference for children at school who might be bullied for poor hygiene, or for an adult being presentable and feeling confident at a job or interview.

- Donate items requested each month.
- Donate money so that our volunteers can continue purchase items in bulk, making the most of sales.
- Help stock the pantry! Volunteers fill the pantry each morning or afternoon, each taking one shift a week. Contact Tammy or Kari for details!

Grace's Star Tree

Choose a gift to make someone's Christmas special—an adult from Mosaic's local group homes or a child from LSI's Early Development Program. Mosaic stars list suggested gifts from which you may select. Each gift should be worth approximately \$25. LSI asks for \$25 Walmart gift cards. Gifts should be returned, unwrapped, with the star, by Sunday, December 11th.

You may return gifts/cards to the church on Sundays – place your gift beneath the Star Tree in the Gathering Hall—place gift cards in the secure mail slot at the church office. You can drop gifts/cards off at church during office hours—call ahead to arrange. Gift cards can be mailed to the church or dropped off in the mailbox outside church—postage must be included even if you drop it off.

You may also deliver gifts/cards to Joie Gronert (515-210-2057 phone or text), or Gail Peterson (515-224-4514 phone calls only).

30 stars were placed on the Tree for Sunday and only 7 remained by the end of coffeetime! A few are listed on Signup Genius. Some swapping between the 2 options may occur as we get closer to the deadline.

If you want US to purchase a gift card or a specific gift, you may pay using Grace's online giving site (<https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>), mail a check to church, or make arrangements to drop off check/cash when the church office is open.

If you want to select a gift from Signup Genius, here is what you need to do.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AABAA2EA7F5C43-grace>

Happy shopping!



ELCA Good Gifts Catalog

Gifts that make a difference.

Animals (goats, chickens, sheep, and more) which can feed families while helping them launch a self-sustaining business.

Clean and safe water access, irrigation, sanitary latrines

School fees and uniforms so girls can attend school.

Nutritional meals for children.

Fruit tree seedlings, seeds and gardening tools, community vegetable gardens.

Find the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog online at elca.org/goodgifts .

Merry Christmas from LSI!

At LSI, we recognize that the holiday season can be a challenging time for many, especially for the populations we serve throughout the year.



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 immigrants and refugees working to become U.S. citizens, with little community support or help along the way. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, fearing they will never have a forever home.

In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season.

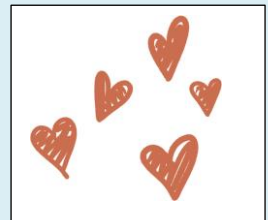
As we reflect on the past year, we thank you — our generous supporters and community partners — for stepping up to give and help the people LSI is privileged to serve. We are grateful for your contribution in bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these essential services. LSI wishes you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact 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's 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.

Mission Action Fund

The Mission Action Fund allows Grace Members to respond quickly to acute needs in the immediate neighborhood and community, and beyond. It is meant to be used in instances where a Grace Member is involved in service to others in a community or service activity, or when a need exists outside of the Grace Community — such as the recent Sunday service project making Fleece Hats for the Little Free Pantry.



Application information can be found on our website. Once an application is received, the Quick Response Team will make a decision within a matter of days. For application details, see our website <https://gracedm.org/resources/mission-action-fund/>



Lydia/Martha Circle will meet December 7th for our final meeting of 2023 at 9:30 am in Grace Hall. Will be talking about our favorite Christmas memories.

We will pick up again in the spring on March 28, 2024

Dates to know!

Worship:

- Advent Sundays December 3, 10, 17, 24 – 9 a.m.
- Longest Night Worship: December 20 – 6:30 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Worship December 24 – 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.
- Christmas Day Worship December 25 – 10 a.m.
- New Years Eve Worship December 31 – 10 a.m.
 - Lessons and Carols



Office Closed

Friday December 23 – Monday, January 1, 2024

We will be open on the 27th OR 28th for year end deposits depending on the new Bookkeepers schedule.

Final year-end Deposit: Sunday, December 31.

Friendly Visitor Deadlines 2023

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: Deadline Wednesday December 13
- January – no newsletter as we prepare for Annual Meeting
- February 2024: Deadline Monday, January 22

2024 Dates

Committee Reports for the Annual Meeting due Monday January 8

Education Hour Offerings

January 7- All-Ages Service Project during Education hour.

January 14 – Deacon Jodi Scheuman will be with us in worship, and will lead a forum on all things synod!

Annual Finance /Budget Forum

Sunday, January 21 after worship

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 28 after worship

Council Highlights:

As the December newsletter is traditionally published prior to the November council meeting, any highlights will be included in the December newsletter, or included in the Annual Report available late January. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out, the council will be happy to answer your questions!

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 Endowment Fund Grants – Apply Today!

The Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is currently accepting applications for grants to be awarded in March 2024.

Established in 1992, the purpose of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is to promote faithful Christian stewardship by providing a congregational plan to receive grants, gifts, or bequests of money to be used to enhance the total program and mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church beyond that supported through regular giving and apart from the general operation of the congregation. No portion of the income generated by the Fund may be used for the annual operating budget of the congregation.

To date, the Grace Endowment Fund has awarded a total of **\$368,318** to **198 projects**. The Endowment Fund committee, comprised of five Grace members, acts as custodian of the fund.

At least 10% of the total income each year must be allocated to community, charitable or church at large needs which are outside of Grace Lutheran Church. Past funded projects include facility improvements at Lutheran Lakeside Camp; Lutheran Services in Iowa initiatives; reusable water filters for at-risk children; backpacks full of useful items for young, low-income, first-time mothers; and more.

No more than 55% of the total distribution may be allocated for capital improvement items at Grace Lutheran Church each year. Past Grace Lutheran funded projects have included landscaping around the Little Free Pantry/Library; improvements to the deck and garden sheds; a walking path to the Little Free Pantry; and more.

Help us spread the word! Reach out to non-profit organizations you are aligned with and encourage them to apply. **Applications are due January 31, 2024**, with grants awarded no later than March 31, 2024.

Applications can be found at <https://gracedm.org/resources/forms-and-applications/>

Worship schedule and Important links

Sundays we worship in-person at 9 a.m.

Fellowship and coffeetime in the Gathering Hall at 10 a.m.

Education Hour at 10:15 a.m.

K-5 in the Sunday School Room

6-12 upstairs in the Youth Room

Adults in Grace Hall.

You can also find us online:

- **On our website** [livestream page](https://gracedm.org) **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](https://gracedm.org/resources/worship-videos).

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

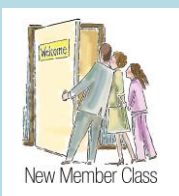
Worship Volunteer Signup <https://gracedm.org/volunteer/>

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/>



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 November 26 and January 7. If you are interested, contact Pastor Mike Mike@gracedm.org or 515/276-6873.

Worship Volunteer Needs signup through New Years!

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

If you'd like to volunteer, but are unsure what each job entails, please 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.

Sponsor A Poinsettia - Order deadline: December 7

We invite you to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of loved ones to decorate the sanctuary for the 2023 Christmas season. The cost is **\$15.00**, and you will be able to pick up your poinsettia after Christmas. You may pay using Grace's online giving site, mail a check to church, or drop payment off at the church office (mail slot by the office door).

Forms are available in the pews, and online on our website, or cut out the form on the next page. Please return this form to the church office (mail slot by the office door), mail it in or drop it in the offering plate.

Even easier? You can fill out the online order form here: <https://volunteersignup.org/7QJFA>

Lutheran Lakeside is hiring for Summer 2024!!

Make a difference with your summer – work at Camp!www

Do I have to be Lutheran? No – we provide you with an ELCA Lutheran curriculum and training to present the daily message and theme.

What Hours do I work? Breakfast is 8 a.m., closing campfire at 8 p.m. During the day will be a few hours of personal time, playing and leading activities & adventures, and staying overnight in the cabin.

Where do I live at camp? You'll live in a staff cabin all summer. If you have cabin group, you'll move into that space on Sundays, otherwise you stay in the staff cabin. Staff cabins are rustic with electricity, half baths, and real beds. You will have access to the staff lounge 24/7 with AC, WIFI, and a full kitchen.

- Kitchen Assistant: age 18+ \$375 weekly. Work under Lead Chef baking, cooking, prepping, cleaning, supervising staff.
- Media Intern: Age 18+ \$325 weekly. Take pictures, manage social media, put together promotional videos, and help around camp.
- Cabin Leader: Age 18+ \$350 weekly. Cabin leaders are role models, making a real difference in campers lives. Lead a cabin of 6-10 campers, ages 5-18.
- Day Camp Leaders: Age 14+ \$300 weekly. Day Camp is Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Support Staff: Age 16+ \$325 weekly. Assist counselors with cabin activities, worship, games, meals, and tackle behind the scene needs.

View full job descriptions and learn more about Lutheran Lakeside at www.lutheranlakeside.com

SPONSOR A POINSETTIA

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Please return this form to the church office (mail slot by the office door), mail it in or drop it in the offering plate. Or you can fill out the online order form here: <https://volunteersignup.org/7QJFA>

Order deadline: Thursday, December 7

Your name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Please fill this out exactly the way you'd like it printed in the bulletin insert:

Given by: _____

In memory of: (optional)

OR

In honor of: (optional)

You may pay using Grace's online giving site, mail a check to church, or drop payment off at the church office (mail slot by the office door).

Order deadline: December 7

Thank you!