



GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

## 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](http://www.gracedm.org)

**Pastor Michael Schmidt**  
[mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org)

**Vicar Adam Barden**  
[adam@gracedm.org](mailto:adam@gracedm.org)

**Organist**  
Richard Snyder  
[rich@gracedm.org](mailto:rich@gracedm.org)

**Minister for Communications**  
Michelle Voelker  
[michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org)

**Office Assistant for Worship**  
Jessye Flannery  
[Jessica@gracedm.org](mailto:Jessica@gracedm.org)

**Administrative Assistant**

**Bookkeeper**

**Custodian**  
Todd Haugen 1-515-520-4450

## Inside This Issue...

- 2... Celebrations, Sympathies,  
Fall Back, Report reminders
- 3... Vicar's Voice, Thanksgiving for the  
Little Free Pantry
- 4... All things Finance & Stewardship
- 5... Notes from Rich,  
Lydia/Martha Circle
- 6... LSI Update, WELCA invite
- 7... Printed Directories, calendar items
- 8... Council Meeting Highlights
- 9... Worship links, Counters, Altar  
Flowers, Volunteers
- 10.. Photos

## For the saints who from their labors now rest...

*Immogene Beck  
Ryan Nordeen  
Gladys Peterson  
Richard Johansen  
Jeanette Best  
Martha Martens  
Leanne Davis  
Helen Fanning  
Lorna Johns  
Carl Feilmann  
Joann Pierce  
Elaine Westvold  
Joy Averill  
Beth Flannery  
Wilma Frost  
James Beeler  
Lucille Krauss  
Kristina Galle  
Max Palmer  
Zelma Wilson  
Penny Hansen*

*"In deepest night, in darkest days, when harps are hung, no songs we  
raise, when silence must suffice as praise, yet sounding in us  
quietly there is the song of God.*

*When friend was lost, when love deceived, dear Jesus wept, God was  
bereaved; so with us in our grief God grieves, and round about us  
mournfully there are the tears of God.*

*When through the waters winds our path, around us pain, around us  
death: deep calls to deep, a saving breath, and found beside us  
faithfully there is the love of God."*

ELW #699 "In Deepest Night" Text: Susan Palo Cherwien,

As I prepare for All Saints Sunday, I hold all of you in my prayers. This  
has been a very difficult year.

**Continued on page 3**

## Happy November Birthday

- 1 - Remington Anderson
- 2 - Mike Peterman
- 4 - Gabriella Artzer  
Bradley Nelson
- 5 - Sally Thielking
- 6 - Benjamin Gronert  
Laura Grotheer  
Ralph Watson
- 8 - Austin Schaller
- 12 - Zoe Lawson
- 13 - Kurt Bowermaster  
Jasey Bradwell  
Zachary Jensen
- 14 - Linda Moravec
- 15 - Gary Batten  
John Justice  
Mark Ridnour
- 16 - Haley Dostalick
- 17 - Gloria Moon  
Madison Robbins
- 19 - Nick Medhurst  
Greg Ruckdaschel
- 21 - Kelley Riordan
- 22 - Zachary Kulzer
- 23 - Ashley Lund
- 24 - Jon Rissman
- 25 - Kerry Riordan
- 26 - Peter Kiefer  
Jessica Rissman  
Paul Thielking  
Virginia Wangerin  
Carol Woodruff
- 29 - Angie Hidalgo  
Ed Ridnour



## Happy November Anniversary

- 2 – Richard and Deanna Snyder
- 7 – Paul and Alexson Calahan
- 11 – Gabe and Kelley Brown
- 13 – Gary and Ellen Batten
- 26 – Todd and Barb Burley  
Frank and Colleen McKinney

*Anniversary  
Celebration*

## Prayers and Sympathies

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

Walt Gronert –  
Father-in-law of Linda,  
uncle to Dave Gronert

Zelma Wilson

Penny Hansen



## Reports coming due!

**Grace Endowment Reports** are due December 1, 2023

Report requirements can be found in your acceptance letter - the report shall include documentation of the expenditures and completion status of the project.

**Committee Reports for the 2024 Annual Report**

Will be due in early January.



## Fall Back!



Sunday November 5  
we gain an extra hour when we turn the clocks back at 2 a.m.

### ***For the Saints... continued from page 1***

We have endured a lot as a community of faith and continue to bear one another's burdens in love. We grieve collectively while remembering with fondness these saints who from their labors now rest. God grieves with us. We do not grieve without hope. "In the deepest night, in darkest days...quietly there is the song of God." May we find comfort in the love of God.

In Christ,  
Pastor Mike

### **Vicar's voice**

It is amazing what sort of memories and emotions are conjured up by the slightest stimulation of the senses. The smell of fresh pine might remind you of putting up the Christmas tree to decorate. The taste of the pumpkin pie you baked using your parent's recipe may take you back to Thanksgiving dinner as a child. In Psalm 100, the writer says to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord". I began to wonder the sounds that elicit joy in my life and the memories they bring. The sound of crunching autumn leaves beneath my feet. The singing of my favorite song on the car radio. The laughter of friends and family around the table. What noises bring joy in your life? What memories do they conjure in your mind? As we enter into this time of the year filled with holidays, there will be many sounds, tastes, smells, and sights that will remind you of the joys of days gone by and people who are no longer with us. I believe that we can hold those times and people in our hearts while still experiencing the joys each new day brings.



Loving God, We lift a joyful noise to you in thanksgiving for all the joy and memories we have. Be with us in the hustle and bustle the later part of the year brings as well as in the happiness and joy we experience as we celebrate the seasons. Amen

### **November Little Free Pantry Request of the Month:**

Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him. 2 Corinthians 2:14

This month, we ask you to consider donating food items for a Thanksgiving meal: stuffing, potato mixes, cranberry sauce, corn, green beans, yams, pumpkin, corn bread, or macaroni and cheese. Let's fill the wagon, located at the Gathering Hall entrance.

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.

We are grateful for your donations



## Finance Report – Sept Results



Financial results for September YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$286,104, Budget \$273,750, Prior Year \$298,562
- Expenses – Actual \$335,735, Budget \$334,775, Prior Year \$301,206
- Net activity – Actual (\$49,631), Budget (\$10,987), Prior Year (\$2,644)

Activity for the year continues to be significantly below budget by \$38K. Offerings were below budget \$38K and expenses were comparable to budget. During the month, the Endowment Committee reduced the interest rate on their loan to the church to zero percent, retroactively to the beginning of the year, which reversed \$8K of expense. The net activity loss of \$49K is significantly below the prior year loss of \$3K.



### Update

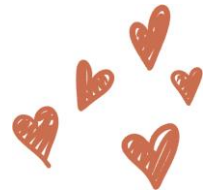
Pledge cards have been arriving at the office – thank you! We thank you for your continued support of our mission here at Grace!

If you have not yet received your pledge packet, please let the office know and we can get you another. Extra blank forms have also been made available in Grace Hall. Once you complete your pledge card you can return it by mail in the enclosed envelope. You can also bring it when you come to Grace for worship - simply place it in the offering plate as you come in, or in the secure office drop box.

We are requesting Pledges be returned to the office by Wednesday, November 8, or be placed in the offering plate on Sunday, November 12.

## 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 Personal Care Project for Moore Elementary on God's Work Our Hands Sunday.



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/>

## Grace Endowment Fund

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 bequest 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.

Applications are due January 31, 2024. Requests for specific, finite projects are preferred. The Endowment does not fund operational expenses. Additional details can be found on our website <https://gracedm.org/resources/forms-and-applications/> Please share with outside groups.

## Notes from Rich

Since February 2022, I have been writing an article for the monthly church newsletter at the suggestion of the church professional staff. These articles have addressed three general topics: pipe organs (with an emphasis on the Grace Lutheran Schantz instrument), prelude and postlude music selections, and hymns. The topics for these articles were drawn from staff suggestions, questions from congregational members, and from subjects I have found interesting or commonly misunderstood. Alas, there is a finite limit to the number of topics, and this will be the last article. The subject to be addressed this time: Why sing when we worship? (Beside the oldest reason, "We've always done it that way.")



First of all, I believe we sing in worship for practical reasons. In large rooms, the human voice carries better and is more easily understood when the words are sung rather than spoken. Singing requires more energy and effort from the lungs, and as a result, louder and more distinct sounds are produced. I believe this reason is why clergy traditionally sing the liturgy. Their voices carry better and are more accurately understood. Second, singing generally requires a slower pace of delivery than spoken words, and this improves perception and understanding. Third, when hymns are sung, the innate tempo and rhythm of the music guides the worshipers toward forming their words together. This unity of delivery is in contrast to oral readings where worshipers read at various paces.

There is also a spiritual benefit to singing compared to oral delivery of words. A portion of the spiritual comes from the added engagement of the physical body in producing song. Singing comes deep from within. Just as cheering and yelling at a sports event increases emotions, singing elicits feelings of conviction and connection. A second portion of the spiritual comes from the music itself. Most of us can think of lyrics that have a much more dramatic effect when sung to a tune than when only spoken. The music adds to and edifies the words which increases their effect and impact.

This ends my series of articles, not so much because I have tired of writing them, but because I have written what I felt needed to be written in response to questions and issues placed before me. If additional ideas or issues should be raised in the future, I would be willing to address them.

Lydia/Martha  
Circle



Lydia/Martha Circle will meet December 7<sup>th</sup> 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

Photo: One of Marilyn Nizzi's beautiful table displays.



## National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children and teens. This month at LSI, we celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption and raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children needing a safe, healthy home.



Iowa foster families, like the Smiths\*, raise the bar by opening their loving households to children and teens in need of a place to call home.

At LSI, we understand the importance of keeping youth in their communities to help maintain connections and stability during times of transition. So, when our staff received a referral for a teenage girl needing foster care placement, they looked inward toward the community.

At the time, homes in the area were either full or not open to accepting teenage placements. Coincidentally, the Smiths were present at a meeting the same night the referral came in. When they heard about Rebecca's\* situation, they immediately knew who the child was and wanted to help in any way they could.

The Smiths were already over their licensing capacity, having been granted a variance to accept a sibling group. To be able to bring Rebecca into their home, they would need to be given another variance, which was almost unheard of.

"It was by chance, or the grace of God, that the Smiths were able to accept another child, and give Rebecca a stable placement with a family in her community," said Dawn Luetje, LSI Director of Resource Family Licensing and Support, working in conjunction with Four Oaks Family Connections.

Thanks to the combined support of the Smiths, LSI staff, and the community, Rebecca was placed in the foster home, where she could maintain her daily activities with the teachers, coaches, and friends she was comfortable with. Rebecca continues to thrive in a stable, loving foster home environment and a caring community.

Stories like these are possible through our many community partners and generous donors. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit [LSIowa.org/Foster](http://LSIowa.org/Foster), or contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).

***\*Names have been changed to protect client privacy.***

### **Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Fall Gathering**

**November 4, 2023, 9 a.m. Registration**

**4380 Wakonda Dr., Norwalk, IA**

**The Women of New Life Lutheran Church and the Cluster 10-11 WELCA Board are hosting.**

All Women are invited to attend a time of learning, discussion, food, and camaraderie! Bring friends and family!

Offerings will go to the Norwalk Food Pantry and the work of the Board.

In-kind donations of cereal and toilet paper will also be received.

### Church Directory - Printed copies are ready!

Copies are available in the Gathering Hall. If you would like a printed copy mailed to you, please contact the office and we'll get those sent out.

**Next Step:** We will be working to get the Photo wall updated with all the new photos! Out of the 222 families in the directory, 118 have photos. Of those 188 only 27 shared interests and hobbies.

It is not necessary for you to submit those, we will just put your name and photos up on the wall. However, if you would like us to include them, just email [michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org) in the next week or two! It's a fun way to get to know members of Grace!

### The Online app always has the most up-to-date info!

The app will update every time you open it, so you will always have the most accurate contact information.

Access the Online Member Directory at any time using the following link: <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> You'll be asked to enter your email address and password, or will be prompted to set up an account and password. Once you log in you will be able to add or update your contact information and photo.



### 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.



#### Office Closed

Friday December 23 – Monday, January 1, 2024

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

**Final year-end Deposit:** Sunday, December 31.

#### Annual Meeting

Tentative date: Sunday, January 28 after worship

#### 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!

- December/Advent: Deadline Friday, November 17
- Christmas mini issue: Deadline Wednesday December 13
- January – no newsletter as we prepare for Annual Meeting
- February 2024: Deadline Monday, January 22

### **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 Boesch

### **Grace Lutheran Church Congregational Council Minutes**

**October 24 6:00 P.M. in Grace Hall**

1. Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:04 P.M. following a tasty dinner provided by Tom.
2. Devotions – Jenny Rehder – A Year with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “The Peacemakers”
3. Adoption of Agenda – Aaron moved to adopt the agenda with the additions, Greg seconded, motion approved.
4. Approval of Minutes from 9/26/2023 council meeting – Approved by unanimous consent.
5. “Ideas that will get you fired” – What if we had 7 or 9 council members? Will discuss further when updating Constitution and Bylaws. Likely adjust council member numbers for 2025 term.
6. Staff Reports – no questions.
7. Finance Report – Deficit ~\$50K for the year. Expenses have leveled out.
  - a. Revenue Task Force meeting – Meeting with LSI on Oct 25.
  - b. Stewardship update – stewardship pledge letters sent out based on proposed budget for 2024 of \$415K (<\$30K from 2023). Temple talk on Sunday about Stewardship by Kevin and Carter. Commitment Sunday on Nov 12. Going to ask for more volunteers for counters.
8. New Business
  - a. Loan Plan with Endowment Committee – agreement to suspend the interest payment for 2023 and Endowment Committee will revisit the proposal in early 2024.
  - b. Absent/leaving member follow-up – Currently being done by Pastor. Have council members help do follow-up calls. Also encourage congregation to check on their “pew buddies”.
  - c. Training the new office positions. Contacted Denise for assistance.
  - d. Pick date for annual meeting (added) – Jan 21, 2024 budget forum, annual meeting Jan 28, 2024. Greg moved that the annual meeting be January 28, 2024. Dean seconded, motion approved.
9. Old Business
  - a. Recruiting new council members update – Have two nominees confirmed. Tom and Val will continue for a second term.
  - b. Staff Support Committee/Personnel Committee
    - i. Open Positions – have several applicants for the 2 positions and interviews are scheduled this week. Pastor will email the council with comments/recommendations on applicants.
    - ii. Review for Pastor Mike – will schedule once Pastor has time to complete a self-assessment.
  - c. Constitution Team Update – sent out draft to council with highlights to review.
  - d. Bylaws Team Update – team will meet again to summarize updates that need to be made. Then bylaws and constitution teams will meet to finalize the documents.
  - e. Online directory update (added) – updated with new photos and contact information. Can download the new app. Have “groups” capability in directory; so far have council and tech crew groups set up. Will have a print version available soon.
10. Adjournment – Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:16 P.M.



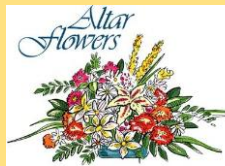


### New Member Classes with Pastor Mike

If you are interested in becoming a member of Grace, the next new member classes will be held on Sunday November 26. If you are interested, contact Pastor Mike [Mike@gracedm.org](mailto:Mike@gracedm.org) or 515/276-6873.

### Counters Wanted!

Duties: 15-20 minutes after worship on Sunday mornings 1- 2 Sundays a month, schedule is flexible.. You'll be paired with a trained member. Contact Carter Woodruff, Tom McCleary, or the office for more information.



### Sponsor Altar Flowers for December 10 & Dec 17

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>

Watch for Poinsettia Information coming out late November or early December!

### Worship Volunteer Needs

**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.

### 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](#) every Sunday at 9.
  - From the home page at [www.gracedm.org](http://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/) <https://gracedm.org/volunteer/>

[Weekly Announcements](https://gracedm.org/resources/seasonal-announcements/) <https://gracedm.org/resources/seasonal-announcements/>

[Weekly Bulletins](https://gracedm.org/resources/bulletins/) <https://gracedm.org/resources/bulletins/>

[Online Giving](https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/) <https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>

[Monthly Newsletters](https://gracedm.org/resources/newsletters/) <https://gracedm.org/resources/newsletters/>

## 2nd Annual Fleece Hat Making Update!

We finished 105 fleece hats from child to adult sizes which will be placed into the Little Free Pantry in the coming weeks. Thanks to all who helped cut, tie, measure, label and even sew!! We also made around 80 treat sacks to go in the pantry with fun and practical seasonal items.



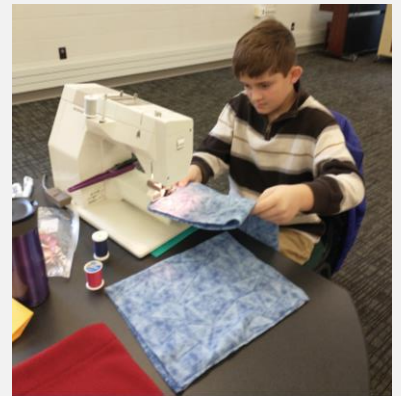
Fleece hats sewn and ready for tassels!



Carol & Susanne working together – one gathers the fringe, one ties! Jill did say this was the perfect project to do with a friend!



Jill giving Vicar Adam a sewing tutorial.



Levi making more fleece hats to tie.



Cutting tassels, measuring yarn to tie the top of the hat into a pompom.



Decorated treat bags filled with Hot Hands hand warmers, candy, granola bar and other treats.



Finished Hats and Treats!

## Pastor Appreciation Day

Sunday October 8 we celebrated Pastor Mike with cake and door decorations! Thank you for all you do Pastor Mike!

Making the decorations and Thanks Yous  
- In the Sunday School room

