

GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Sunday Schedule

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

Morning Prayer Tues & Fridays at 9:30 a.m.
[@Gracelutherandm](https://www.instagram.com/Gracelutherandm)

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

Friends

Martin Luther once described the work of ordained ministry as “a mere beggar showing other beggars where to find bread.” Sometimes I wonder what changed. There is such gravity into a hierarchy of roles where those ordained are imagined as “set above” instead of “set apart.” Ordination means to be set apart for a purpose. One is not above or below anyone else. We are all members of the same flock.

This has been on my mind all day today. I was invited to lead a Celebration of Life for someone who attended the Three Legacies meetings on Monday evenings. It was truly humbling to be a part of this celebration. Grace Hall was filled with love and compassion, joy and sorrow. This space has become sacred space for those who attend. The love of God and power of fellowship has changed lives in that space.

There is a reason why such meetings are often referred to as a gathering of the “friends of Bob and Bill.” They were the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous. One of the guiding principles is that “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.” Everyone is on the same level. It is not about placing any person higher or lower than another. In other words, “one beggar telling other beggars where to find bread.”

For years, I have thought that the answer to evangelism in the church will not be found in a program coming from within the church. By “evangelism,” I mean the sharing of the good news of the love of God. If we really want to know what evangelism looks like, we should learn from 12 step communities. They not only understand it, they live it. They know that lives are changed through love and compassion.

Today, I was brought to tears by the love in that room. Today, I saw first hand what Jesus had in mind when saying “Love one another.” There is no sense of concern over the longevity of Three Legacies, or what the future will hold, or what the numbers look like compared to last year. There is only love for one another.

Friends, continued on page 2

Check Happy May Birthday

- 2 - Joshua Meadows
- 3 - Helen Ringgenberg
- 4 - Todd Haugen
- 5 - Dylan Rutter
- 6 - Karla Swanson
Hannah Honsey
- 8 - Regan Nelson
- 10 - Claire Kallestad
- 12 - Charlotte Nielsen
- 13 - Sally Preston
- 15 - Dmitri Woodruff
Ellen Wonderlin Wilke
Laurie Helton
- 16 - Laura Wonderlin Jones
- 17 - Carol Krause
- 18 - Tim Nehmer
Inga Hoifeldt
Lori Fry
Kimberly Fenimore
- 19 - Megan Jensen
Chuck Denton
Bruce Bergman
- 21 - Barb Zimany
Kaylee Ringgenberg
Jacob Nordeen
Brenda Mann
Kenneth Carlson
Mike Hilsabeck
- 23 - Jonay Trentmann
- 25 - Hal Turner
- 26 - John Schwemler
Devin Ashton
- 27 - Courtney Brandsfield
Sue Anderson
- 28 - Linda Vernia
Rick Fry
- 29 - Kira Nehmer
Ralf Hoifeldt
Cal Wilner
- 30 - Loree Nelson
Torry Henderson
Jonathan Fry
- 31 - Lindsey Nelson
Barbara Bergman
Brianna Adams

Friends, continued from page 1

Friends, may we learn to be such a community. May we learn to let go of our own expectations, our own sense of hierarchy, our own sense of how ministry should happen, and instead find true community. May we call one another friends, to bear one another's burdens in love, and fill the space with love and compassion.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike

Check Happy May Anniversary

- 7 - Jon and Cherie Rissman
Justin and Carolyn Andersen
- 11 - Carter and Carol Woodruff
- 14 - Steve and Mary McCann
- 15 - Ro and Barb Zimany
- 21 - Mike and Tina Meadows
- 22 - Wayne and Debbie Curry
Mike and Susanne Carney
- 23 - Richard and Michelle Voelker
- 25 - Harlan and Jayne Mortenson
- 26 - Mike and Carla Peterman
- 27 - Todd and Angela Ringgenberg
- 30 - James and Kimberly Fenimore
- 31 - Duane and Linda Ulrick



Pastor Mike's 20th Anniversary in the Ministry

Help us celebrate Pastor Mike's 20th anniversary of his ordination as a pastor this June!

We will be having a Biscuit Breakfast Bar after church on Sunday, June 9th with biscuits and gravy, cheesy potatoes, and fruit. Please send or bring cards (no gifts) to church on the 9th and join the celebration!

Greg Boeschen, Grace Council President



May Plant Sale Fundraiser May 6th - 13

Shop at Goodes Greenhouse between May 6th - 13th, and with every coupon presented, Grace will receive 10% back for the Youth program. (Coupon must be present for Grace to receive credit - either in paper or on your mobile device). Fliers can be found in the entryway, hallway near Grace Hall, and [on our website](#). Share with your neighbors and co-workers!



Vicar's Voice

Friends of Grace Lutheran, peace be with you!

It is hard to believe that it is already May. I can still remember feeling a mix of nervousness and excitement as I walked into the church on my first day as Vicar on June 15th of last year. It feels like it has been an eternity since that day and yet, at the same time, it feels like it was only yesterday. I remember feeling nervous, but excited to see what the year had in store. Now that year is over and I know that in a short while, my time as Vicar at Grace Lutheran Church will end.



It is with a heavy heart that I say good-bye to you all. While I have been at Grace, I have been a witness to the many ways the Holy Spirit has been at work in this faith community through your dedication to welcoming others and serving the local community. I have had the pleasure of getting to walk with you as Vicar throughout this year while learning the joys and challenges of pastoral ministry. While I have been with you, I have never ceased to feel encouraged, supported, and loved by this community. Thank you all for making Grace a welcoming and safe environment where I could learn, grow, and make mistakes along the way. I want to especially thank the members of the Church Council, the Internship Committee, the Staff, and Pastor Mike for working with me as I explore my call to ministry and see firsthand the many moving parts and intricacies of being a leader in the church.

Though I am sad to leave, I am excited for what the coming year and beyond has in store. I will be attending my final year of classes at Wartburg Seminary with the anticipation of ordination and my first call as a pastor. I also am looking forward to spending more time with my fiancé, Britany, as we prepare to get married this coming December!

I ask for your continued prayers as I enter the final year of my seminary journey. Please know that you will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers along with the many lessons I have learned from this community. You will always hold a special place in my heart.

I hope and pray that I get to see where the Spirit leads you in the years to come!
Peace and Blessings to you all!
Vicar Adam

\$195B+ owed nationwide in medical debt for over 100 million U.S. adults.

The Mission Action Fund (MAF) Team is partnering with UNDUE Medical Debt to relieve lowans of the burden of medical debt. Our goal is to lead the way on a campaign with other ELCA congregations in the Southeastern Iowa Synod. UNDUE Medical Debt has access to \$16 million of medical debt within the state of Iowa. The Mission Action Fund has already allocated \$10,000 for this campaign and is prepared to match up to \$12,000. This alone will relieve \$1,000,000 worth of debt within Iowa. We are hoping to relieve \$2,000,000 by the end of May.



How can I help?

Every \$10, along with the match, will relieve another \$2,000 worth of medical debt. Please consider contributing and challenging others to do so as well. Donations can be made directly to the campaign at [Medical Debt Relief - Iowa - UNDUE Medical Debt](https://medicaldebtrelief-iowa.org) through May 31st. Or you may send your donation to Grace – where we have already collected an additional \$2,000. You may send a check, or use the secure online giving portal on our website <https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>. Please write checks to Grace Lutheran Church and include “Medical Debt Relief” in the memo field.

Together, we can make a lasting impact for lowans struggling with medical debt.

Please consider contributing. Donations can be made online, mailed to the church office, or placed with worship offerings. Please write checks to Grace Lutheran Church and include “Medical Debt Relief” in the memo field. Together, we can make a lasting impact for lowans struggling with medical debt.



Meet Vicar Jesse Hershberger!

I was born and raised in Madison, WI and attended college at Valparaiso University in Indiana. I graduated in 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts in English, Spanish, and Political Science. I was baptized and confirmed in the United Methodist Church but became a member of an ELCA congregation in college and have been Lutheran ever since. I began to sense a call to ministry in college through my participation in worship with the Lutheran Diaconal Association, an independent, multi-Lutheran organization. Currently, I am an endorsed candidate for ordination in Word and Sacrament in the ELCA through the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. I am thrilled to be

moving back to the Midwest after three years on the East Coast and even more excited to be joining your community at Grace Lutheran Church. In my free time, I am an avid reader and I love to spend time outside. I look forward to meeting you all!

Jesse will be with us in worship on June 23, and will start the week of June 24, 2024.

Congratulations to Kayleigh Medhurst for winning the Annual NCAA Fundraiser pool!

With 33 entries and additional donations, the total funds collected for 2024 is \$200, and all will go to **Project Heal**, Kayleigh's chosen charity. To learn more about Project Heal, explore their website at <https://www.theprojectheal.org/>

Project HEAL's vision is to create a world where everyone with an eating disorder has the opportunities & resources they need to heal.



Of the 30 million people in the United States who are diagnosed with an eating disorder, less than 20% ever receive treatment. In the United States alone, there are 30 million Americans suffering with an eating disorder, and that only includes those who receive a formal diagnosis. Despite this prevalence, less than 20% of people with eating disorders ever receive treatment. The other 24 million cannot access the care they need due to insurmountable financial and insurance barriers, in addition to pervasive systemic oppression and bias. These barriers have serious consequences: eating disorders are the second most fatal mental illness (after opioid use disorder), with one person dying as a direct result of an eating disorder every 52 minutes.

Project HEAL provides free, impartial, culturally-competent, and compassionate 1-hour phone assessments to anyone in the U.S. who believes they (or their child) might have an eating disorder. They will receive comprehensive 8+ page document with diagnosis, treatment recommendations, and referrals.

- They also help with:
- Insurance Navigation
- Treatment Placement
- One-time Cash Assistance Grants
- Meal Support Program

We encourage everyone to check out Project HEAL's website to learn more about the difficulties in accessing treatment, and what options are available. You'll be equipped to share with others should you ever have the need.

Lydia/Martha Circle

Lydia/Martha Circle meets on the 4th Thursday of each month (taking January and February off). Come to Grace Hall at 9:30 a.m. for fellowship and treats.

In April the group assembled the May Day "Love Bug" treats you see **below** for Calvin Community residents. Our next Lydia/Martha Circle meeting is Thursday, May 23rd at 9:30 in Grace Hall. Marilyn will be giving a brief update in regard to this year's flowers for the entryway gardens.



Love Bug treat bags



One of the beautifully decorated and welcoming tables for the Circle.

A Spring Devotional

God's Work, Our Hands: A Spring Devotional
Spring is a time of awakening, renewal, and vibrant life. As we witness the transformation around us, from barren branches to bursting blooms, we're reminded of God's continuous creative power.

The season also invites us to consider our role in God's work. Just as the changing seasons reflect God's handiwork, our hands are instruments to continue that work in the world. We are called to be co-creators, using our gifts and talents to cultivate good, spread kindness, and build a more beautiful world.

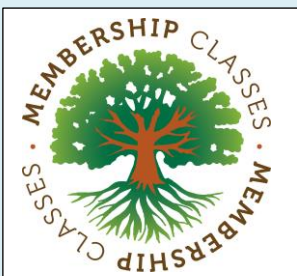
Here are some ways we can extend our hands this spring:

- * Be a steward of God's creation. Plant a garden, pick up litter, or simply appreciate the beauty of nature.
 - * Help those in need. Volunteer your time or resources to support local charities or food banks.
 - * Offer encouragement and support to others. A kind word or helping hand can make a big difference.
- As we embrace the spirit of spring, let us also embrace the opportunity to be vessels of God's work. May our hands be instruments of love, hope, and renewal.

Dear God,

As spring awakens the earth with new life, we marvel at your incredible creation. We see Your hand in the blooming flowers, the chirping birds, and the warmth of the sun.

Inspire us to be instruments of your love in the world. Grant us the willingness to use our hands to do good, to plant seeds of hope, and to cultivate compassion. Guide us as we work to create a more beautiful and just world, reflecting the beauty of your springtime renewal. Amen.



Summer New Member Classes with Pastor Mike

If you are interested in becoming a member of Grace, the next new member class will be held on Sunday, May 26. If that date doesn't work, there will be another on Sunday, June 30

If you are interested, call the office to R.S.V.P, or find Pastor Mike after worship on the dates noted! If you would like to schedule a different time, please contact Pastor Mike Mike@gracedm.org or 515/276-6873.

May 2024 – Give a Gift to LSI: Support Mothers across Iowa

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12. Did you know LSI brings hope and healing to mothers in each of our service lines? Here are just a few examples:



The Child Care Business Development program in our Immigrant and Refugee Community Services prepares women, often mothers, to run an in-home childcare business. This small business opportunity allows them to provide for their family and ensure their children receive culturally appropriate care.

Many mothers benefit from our Foster Care and Adoption services, whether they be mothers who are blessed with a child through adoption or foster mothers who provide love and guidance to children from all paths of life.

Early Childhood Services prepares mothers-to-be for birth and raising a child. Additionally, home visitation programs help ensure a strong support system for young parents across the state.

These are just three examples of how LSI serves mothers in Iowa. This Mother's Day, we encourage you to give a gift in honor of your mother or motherly figure to ensure mothers around the state receive the care and support they deserve.

Donate online at lsiowa.org/donate or send a check to Lutheran Services in Iowa, PO Box 848, Waverly, IA 50677-0848.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's 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.

May Little Free Pantry Request of the Month:



Food Donations

We are looking to stock our pantry with snacks and ready-to-eat food options, such as granola bars, trail mix, fruit cups, canned food with pull tab tops.

You can also order items from the Grace Wish List on Amazon.com, which will be shipped directly to the church, or you can donate through our secure [GIVE](#) page

where these funds will be used to purchase items to stock the pantry.

Your donations are greatly appreciated. I talked with a gentleman recently who was grateful to have the option to pick up a few food items and a book to read.



Worship Volunteers

Each week we are looking for a greeter, lector, communion assistant, and someone to start the coffee and set out the donuts, cups and napkins.

<https://volunteersignup.org/3TKR7?classic>

Contemplative Corner

One of the fruits of the Being New group is this “Contemplative Corner” where each month one of our team will write about an aspect of a ‘contemplative’ approach to faith. So it seems timely to write about what we even mean by that term!



While we hope these offerings will give you something to ponder (to contemplate in the ordinary sense of the word), we actually mean something quite different. A contemplative approach to faith seeks not just to think about God, but to open ourselves to an experience of Presence, a gut sense of the Divine Reality in which we live and move and have our being. As contemplative Christians we seek to be open to the presence of the Risen Christ with us and in our midst when we gather.

In *He Is Risen*, Trappist monk Thomas Merton wrote, “True encounter with Christ liberates something in us, a power we did not know we had, a hope, a capacity for life, a resilience, an ability to bounce back when we thought we were completely defeated, a capacity to grow and change, a power of creative transformation.” (<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/a-true-encounter/>)

We see this transformation in the disciples. Most of them don’t really ‘get’ Jesus when he is with them in his earthly form, and after his crucifixion they hide in fear. But in our Easter Season readings they meet Christ in his resurrection body and something shifts in them in a profound way. Jesus breathes on them; they receive his Spirit, and fear loses its grip. A power is released in them that they didn’t know they had.

Pentecost comes and that Spirit is poured out far and wide, and here’s the deal...we can get in on that too. The Holy Spirit is still pouring out trinitarian life, encountering us wherever we are and doing a new thing within us. Sometimes, like for Paul on the Damascus road, that encounter comes like a bolt of lightening that can’t be ignored. But more often it comes as it did to John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, who found his ‘heart strangely warmed’.

This happens, not at our bidding, but by the gift of grace. What we *can* do is pay attention. Not poo-poo the notion that the Spirit is showing up in our life and giving us a nudge, a wake up call. We can suspend judgment and see where that leads us. And we can fold spiritual practices into our daily life, letting go of what no longer serves, making space for the Spirit, making ready. We’ll know we are on the right track when we find ourselves growing in the fruit of the Spirit...love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Education Schedule for May

K-5 Sunday School Students meet in the Sunday School room by the elevators.
6-12 Grade Sunday School meets in the High School Room upstairs by the gym.
Adult Education meets in Grace Hall:

May 5 – Q&A Session with Pastor Mike & Vicar Adam – bring any questions you have about theology and the Bible

May 12 – Mothers Day, - we will enjoy donuts and a time of fellowship

May 19 – Potluck Celebrating Vicar Adam



Save the Date! June 26, 2024, evening

Grace Annual Car Show

Rain Date Friday, June 28

Details to come – invite your friends and neighbors - and their cars!





Celebration Sunday Potluck!

On May 19th, we'll have a potluck meal for our Celebration Sunday. Together, we'll celebrate the various ministries here at Grace and all the people who contribute. We will honor and bless Vicar Adam as he moves forward to his last phase of pastoral education.

Your help is needed for the potluck! There is a paper sign up in the hallway across from the office for you to let us know what dishes you plan to bring, or you can email office staff – emails below. **Dessert will be provided, so we are asking for Main dishes & Side dishes/salads.**

Can you help coordinate the potluck and volunteers, set up, serve drinks, or clean up? Please email kami@gracedm.org or michelle@gracedm.org to help.



2024 Graduates!

Congratulations! Let us celebrate you! Are you graduating this year? Let us know, send a photo and a bio no later than Tuesday, May 14. Tell us about what you've been doing, your achievements, what your current continuing education or career plans are. We'll celebrate you during worship on May 19 & 26 and we'll share your information with the congregation!



Kari and Grace
Lutheran Crew,
Thank you so much
for the \$ to help us
send more kids to
summer camp this
year... the kids have
been talking about
camp since the first
day of school :)
♥ Alison

Des Moines Refugee Support is a small, local organization that does big things, with just one dedicated staff person and many amazing volunteers.

While their endowment fund request was for help in sending kids to camp, there are many ways in which volunteers can help.

From their Facebook page:

"DMRS identifies and bridges gaps for refugee families as they establish their new lives in Iowa."

from their Facebook page, which you can follow to learn more: at <https://www.facebook.com/DSMRefugeeSupport>

Dear Grace Lutheran Church:

Thank you so much for your gift to UBFM in the amount of \$1,998.00, dated February 26, 2024. We so appreciate your continuing support of our organization.

Your donation will enable us to make and deliver **1,998 burritos** to the homeless and food insufficient that we serve in and around the Des Moines downtown metro area! In addition to your monetary donation, thank you, also, for your contribution of sleeping bags, tents and radios!

You are making it possible for us to deliver "Radical hospitality! One burrito at a time!"

Sincerely,

Robby Collier
CEO & Chief Burrito Slinger

Thank you for your support of UBFM
+ the homeless of Des Moines! we were
able to get 24 tents + 16 sleeping
bags + 16 radios so far.

God Bless



First Communion Class of 2024 with Pastor Mike.



Easter breakfast update!

After minimal expenses for fruit and eggs, \$670 was raised for the Member Care Team! Thank you to everyone who was present! The room was so full we needed to add more tables, and there were only a handful of pancakes left! Thank you everyone!



The April All-ages service project: Providing for Pets was a huge success!

92 pupsicles were delivered to the ARL. We made 8 tied fleece pet blankets/beds and over 40 dog and cat toys. Approximately 190 lbs of dog food and 120 lbs of cat food were packaged for the pet pantries at ARL and The Pet Project Midwest. Both organizations were very appreciative of all the donations. Thank you to all who donated and helped on Sunday, April 28th!



Grace Lutheran Church Congregational Council Minutes March 26 6:00 P.M.

11. Call to order following dinner provided by Tom.
12. Devotions – Jenny – Mark 14:1
13. Adoption of Agenda – Jenny moved, Mike seconded, agenda approved.
14. Approval of Minutes – Stuart moved, Carter seconded, minutes approved.
15. “Ideas that will get you fired.” Suggestion to meet with the endowment committee and discuss loan forgiveness proposal. Will review the Constitution and Bylaws with respect to the endowment committee guidelines.
16. Staff Reports
17. Finance Report – Positive balance coming out of February. Revenue Task Force waiting on more information from LSI.
18. Unfinished Business
 - a. “Being New” Update – April 21 education hour will be used to review opportunities to participate in these practices. Council will review the book “The God Who is Here” and discuss during devotion time (~10 mins.)
 - i. Additional references:
 1. Nadia Bolz-Weber’s blog on Substack, [The Corners](#)
 2. [The Daily Meditations of Richard Rohr](#), founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation.
 3. [Center for Action and Contemplation](#)
 - b. Reconciling in Christ Update – forming the core team now and they will do some online training.
 - c. Website Update – working with Happy Medium to get updates made starting after Easter. Focus on obsolete/incorrect items first.
 - d. Columbarium Review Update – Jenny will review current documents and other materials related to the columbarium with Mike and Pastor after Easter.
19. New Business
 - a. Mission Action Team – Brian will represent the council on the team.
 - b. Lutheran World Relief shipment gathering at Grace in October. Carter moved to approve the request to become the October site for Central IA LWR Ingatherings starting this year. Stuart seconded; motion approved.
 - c. Roofing Estimates – Estimate for current roof repairs \$25-32K. Carter made a motion that we move forward with the repairs for an estimated cost of \$25-32K, source of funds TBD after consulting with finance. Stuart seconded; motion approved. Mike will contact Andrea at Wood Roofing tomorrow.
 - d. Pastoral Care – Pastor will be added to the Member Care team’s regular visitation schedule. Information will be put into the announcements and newsletter, along with updating the website to include the various avenues for reaching out.
 - e. Intern for next year – Grace was assigned an intern for the next year starting in mid-June. Will already have a degree so this year will fulfill the candidacy requirement prior to her ordination. Has experience with Reconciling in Christ.
20. Adjournment

2024 Congregational Council Members

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

Term Ends 2026: Valerie Culp, Greg Boeschen

Term Ends 2027: Tom McCleary, Linda Moravec, Brian Gerling, Stuart Mitchell

Exec Team:

President: Greg Boeschen Vice President: Tom McCleary

Secretary: Jenny Rehder At-Large Member: Kevin Drury

Grace Congregational Council Meeting April 23 6:00 P.M.

1. Call to order at 6:06 P.M. Dinner provided by Carter.
2. Devotions – The God who is Here, Intro and Chapter 1
3. Adoption of Agenda – Carter moved, Jenny seconded, agenda approved.
4. Approval of Minutes – Carter moved, Brian seconded, minutes approved.
5. “Ideas that will get you fired:”
6. Staff Reports
7. Finance Report
 - a. YTD ahead of budget. Finances looking good for the 1st quarter.
 - b. Revenue Task Force to look at putting reserves into interest bearing accounts such as CDs. RTF will investigate and bring some proposals to the next council meeting. Will also contact Edward Jones to discuss options.
8. Unfinished Business
 - a. Review Endowment rules (Bylaws Section 8) – request to have a representative from Endowment come to council to discuss the loan parameters and options. [Post-meeting note: Pastor sent out the endowment committee documents.]
 - b. Status of roof repairs – leak in gathering hall closet repaired. Waiting on remaining repairs to be completed.
 - c. Meetings with LSI – not good timing yet for discussing rental space with LSI.
9. New Business
 - a. Use of space from Spiritual Direction Group
 - i. Kami researching updating Rental/Facility Use agreements.
 - ii. The room next to tech room on the lower level is already rented as Spiritual Direction office at a fee of \$400 a month.
 - iii. Need to add information to the insurance policy.
 - b. Estimate received to add colored flaked coating to bare floors in rented areas (lower level). Jenny moved to approve the concrete work to be done to the floors on the lower level (rented areas) using a combination of memorial and capital improvement funds (roughly 50/50%). Stuart seconded. Approved.
 - c. Will investigate getting an appraisal of church property to compare to insured/replacement cost.
 - d. Fence repair – Kevin moved that the fallen panels and extra posts be removed, and the space cleaned up. Stuart seconded. Approved.
 - e. Elevator status – Elevator company came and inspected and replaced some of the buttons and fixed the door alarm.
 - f. Amp in sanctuary failed on 4/14 and a backup system was installed until a new amp is purchased. Obtaining bids and will approve the cost via email to the council.
 - g. Send updated council pictures and profiles to Kami for bulletin board.
 - h. New intern Jessie Hershberger is moving to Des Moines 6/18, will be in worship 6/23, and officially starts 6/24.
10. Adjournment



Finance Report – March Results

Financial results for March YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$104,332, Budget \$106,113, Prior year \$84,367
- Expenses – Actual \$99,584, Budget \$105,550, Prior year \$121,800
- Net activity – Actual \$4,478, Budget \$563 Prior year (\$37,432)

Activity was \$3,915 ahead of budget. Activity is much better than the previous year.

Mission Action Fund

The Fund will also Accept Donations.

Fund Goal: The goal of the Mission Action Fund is to be able to respond quickly to needs in the immediate neighborhood and beyond (statewide, nationally, and internationally), and not to be used for the Congregational Budget. This fund is ideally meant to be used in instances where a Grace member is involved in direct or indirect service to others by being engaged in a community or service activity, OR in instances where a need exists outside of the Grace community. The intent here is to get Grace members actively involved in Grace's mission and to live a life differently through Christ.



Eligibility for Funds:

- Local service organizations. Grace members may or may not be directly active in the organization. Organizations that serve the Merle Hay neighborhood would be ideal but not restricted to this geography.
- Service organizations (statewide, nationally or internationally) that service/help others in times of need or crisis.

Process to Apply: Copy the following questions into an email, along with your answers and send to mike@gracedm.org. An application needs to be approved by a majority of the Quick Response Team to be funded. The Mission Action Fund Quick Response team consists of Aaron Brandsfield, Kristin Medhurst, Don Schouten, and Pastor Mike.

Grace Member Applicant Name, Member Mailing Address, Cell Phone or best way to contact you, Date of request, Funds Requested, Date Funds are Needed, Name of Organization: (if applicable), Project Name, Brief Description of Project or Need

Worship, online access, written materials, and other resources.

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. in-person worship - also livestreamed

10:00 a.m. coffeetime and fellowship in the Gathering Hall

10:15 a.m. Education Hour, Options for Grades K-5 in the Sunday School room, Grades 6-12 in the youth room, and 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,
 - 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](#)

[Weekly Announcements](#)

[Weekly Bulletins](#)

[Online Giving](#)

[Monthly Newsletters](#)