



Sunday Schedule

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

Morning Prayer Tues & Fridays at 9:30 a.m.
@Gracelutherandm

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

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Pastor Michael Schmidt
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Inside This Issue...

- 2... Celebrations, Altar Flowers, Sympathy
- 3... Vicars Voice, Lutheran World Relief All Ages Service Project
- 4... God's Work Our Hands Garage Sale and Community Meal
- 5... September Worship: Texts, Volunteers
- 6... LSI Update, Little Free Pantry Request
- 7... Contemplative Corner, Being New Drop-in Sessions, Fall New Member Classes
- 8... Choir, Annual Golf Tournament, Martha/Lydia Circle
- 9... Pastor Bunny's Installation info & invite
- 10-11 Council Highlights, Finance Update
- 12... Access Worship Online, Mission Action

Fall 2024 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 Garage Sale and Community Meal, Sunday, September 8. See page 4 for all the details!

Tuesday Bible Study - the book of Genesis

Bible study returns on Tuesday, September 10 at 9 a.m. We meet in Grace Hall. The study will be facilitated by Pastor Mike with Vicar Jesse present. We will use this dedicated time to study scripture, which helps guide and strengthen our walk with Christ.

Thursday Bible Study - the book of Genesis

We've added an evening group on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m, beginning September 12 in room 102.

Elementary Sunday School

Starting on Sunday, September 15th 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 together. Our Sunday School leaders will lead interactive lessons, crafts, teach songs, and more! Some activities will be done as a group, some will be done in breakout sections by age. Leaders will be Deanna Weber, Courtney Brandsfield, Cody, Jenie Schmidt, and Vicar Jesse. Contact Deanna Weber with questions.

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.

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

Sunday Morning Adult Education –

Starting on September 15th, we will meet in Grace Hall at 10:15, after worship and coffeetime. All are welcome to attend!

New Member Class The next opportunity is Sunday, September 29. Meet Pastor Mike in the office at 10:15 a.m.



- 1 - Cindy Peeler
- 2 - Michelle Voelker
Heather Burgett
- 5 - Richard Snyder
Kiley 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
- 24- Michael Meadows
Thomas Rutter
- 25- Karen Bandy
- 26- Barb Powers
Bruce Mumm
- 27- Gregory Honnold
Joshua Curry
- 28- Ross Peeler
- 29- Aaron Page
Robbie Rissman

To the members of Grace Lutheran Church.

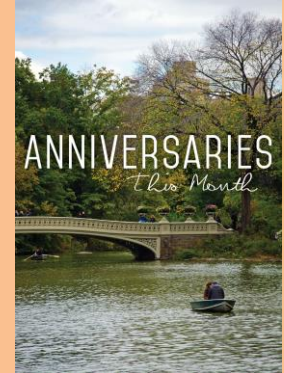
Thank you for the beautiful bouquet of flowers we received for our 70th wedding anniversary. Also thank you for love and prayers. We miss you all, but age has slowed us down.

Inga and Ralf.



Happy September Anniversary

- 3 – Brent and Val Culp
Todd 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
- 28 – Lenny Palmer and Pam Hellman



We hold the family of Reverend William Kallestad in our hearts and prayers.

Fall 2024 Altar Flowers

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. There are open Sundays remaining in September (1), October (3), November (4), and December (2).

Sign up at <https://volunteersignup.org/8X7MC>

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 fill in your first AND last names 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 with any questions. Thank you!

Vicars Voice

Friends,

Whether or not you or someone in your family is heading back to school this month, September to me always carries with it an air of transition and change. One of my favorite Bible verses seems especially appropriate this time of year: "Behold, I am doing a new thing, now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19). It's a time to step back and think about the new things God is doing in your life and community. Sometimes these new things come with obvious fanfare: a new school, a new job, a new relationship. Other times, they are smaller and may not be so obvious. I encourage you to take a step back this month and look for the ways God is moving in your life in ways you may not have expected. This is also a great time of year to think about getting involved with a group at Grace or trying a new spiritual practice. Whether you are looking for Bible study, prayer groups, mission and service opportunities, or just a chance to connect with others there is something for everyone.



Whatever this season of life looks like for you, I pray that you feel the nearness of God's love in all of it.

Peace & Blessings,
Vicar Jesse

All Ages Service Project

During the Programmatic year, Adults and Children of all ages set aside their respective studies and classes to spend one Sunday working together on a service project. This is *usually* on the last Sunday of each month, September – November, January – May. Watch the church calendar and announcements for upcoming projects and dates.

On September 29, at 10:15, we will be making school kits and baby care kits and tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief! Join us in Grace Hall after worship that Sunday for some inspiring hands-on fun. If you can work with others to pack a bag with supplies, tie a knot, or operate a safety pin, you have the necessary skills.

LWR delivers these gifts around the world to people who are experiencing the devastating effects of war, displacement, hunger, and deepest poverty.

We will be accepting donations to make future kits for LWR from September 29-October 13. You can send donations to the church office, use online giving or place them in the offering plate. Please make donations out to Grace Lutheran Church and put LWR on the comment line.





GARAGE SALE TO BENEFIT LFI

Sunday, September 8 | 8:00 to 11:00 am

Freewill Donation | All proceeds go toward the Grace Little Free Pantry

DONATE

Drop off donations at Grace Hall Friday, September 6 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
or Saturday, September 7 from 8:00 to 11:00 am.

Items not accepted: children's car seats, Christmas trees, console TV's, mattresses, strollers, highchairs, play pens, used window blinds, humidifiers, major appliances & air conditioners.



VOLUNTEER

Sort and set-up donations; greet, checkout or assist shoppers; assist with clean-up; or help with lunch following garage sale. Sign-up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49A5A62BA1FF2-50973096-grace>



ENJOY

Community Meal and Live Band | Parking Lot 11:30 am

Food and Water provided free of charge
Hamburgers, Brats, Chips, Cookies. Pop will be available at the Pop Machine inside.

Bring chairs and picnic blankets!
Rain Date: Sunday, September 15.

September in Worship

Each month we will be sharing upcoming texts, as well as all volunteer shifts still open at time of publication. We want to give everyone a chance ponder the texts in advance – and for those signed up to lector, and change to practice names of people and places! If you are contemplating being a lector, and you spy a relatively easy passage on a day when there is an opening, we encourage you to sign up online, or call the office to see if the opening is still available.

September 15: Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8

This is the second creation story in which Adam and Eve are created and given one explicit instruction. It is also where the serpent uses its ability to twist words, and in the process introduces sin.

September 22: Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

September 29: Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

Though Joseph was Jacob's favorite son, his jealous brothers sold him into slavery. After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.



Worship Volunteers

Each week we are looking for:

Greeters: stand in the entryway or just inside Grace Hall, smile, and welcome people!

Lectors: Read the week's readings and Psalm from the Ambo. If you have issues with stairs we can work around that too – just ask! We do ask that you don't sign up for a full months of lecturing at once.

Communion assistants – usually one, however sometimes two are needed, and for special services and holidays more. Serve the wine or grape juice during communion. You may sit with your family before and after communion.

Coffee and Donut Servers; One or two people or a family. Arrive before worship to start a pot of coffee in the Gathering Hall Kitchenette where you will find directions. Retrieve the box of donut holes from the kitchen. Start a carafe of decaf coffee brewing. After Communion head to the kitchenette, start a pot of hot water for tea, and set out the coffee, juice (found in the kitchenette fridge), cups, tea bags, donuts/tongs, and napkins. Socialize, refill any items if needed, clean up after any education offerings you would like to attend.

If you'd like to volunteer, but would like more information about what each job entails, please reach out to Vicar Jesse, or Pastor Mike – they'll be happy to answer your questions. Find the signup here: <https://volunteersignup.org/3TKR7?classic>

September needs

- September 1: Greeter, Communion Server
- September 22: Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee/Donut Server
- September 29, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee/Donut Server

Impact of In-Kind Donations

At LSI, in-kind gifts (non-monetary) are just as impactful as financial donations. Director of Philanthropy, Deb Whitford, was inspired by the song “If I Could Dream” by Elvis Presley. She wondered, “What would I dream about for our clients? What would our clients dream for?”



A Story by Deb Whitford:

When is a yardage not just pieces of fabric? In the hands of someone learning to sew, fabric becomes a blank canvas of possibilities. A nearly empty closet containing the few items a refugee could fit in their suitcase when traveling to the US turns into a place of pride when filled with hand-sewn clothes made from that fabric. If I could dream...I dream of curtains for bare windows and cloth to cover worn tables. I dream of the magic of small pieces of fabric fitting into beautiful patterns in quilts to brighten homes and become treasured wraps providing comfort and warmth. These dreams are becoming a reality thanks to the generosity of an LSI donor.

Connie Hansen from Audubon, Iowa, is no stranger to fabric and sewing. Connie has enjoyed sewing for much of her lifetime. In her younger years, she shared her passion for sewing, serving as a 4-H leader in Melville Township, sewing clothes for herself and daughter. Through the years, her love and passion for quilting has grown friendships with others who love the craft. Connie dreamed of keeping her newest neighbors warm with her remaining fabric and donated the yards to LSI. This fabric will be used by our newly resettled immigrant and refugee families to create quilts and clothing, helping them feel more comfortable in their new homes. We hear about dreams every day at LSI from our direct service providers, team members, and clients. Thanks to your generosity, these dreams can become reality.

Help our clients' dreams become reality by donating in-kind gifts to LSI. To learn more, contact philanthropy@LSIowa.org.

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.

September Little Free Pantry Request of the Month:

This month, we will collect canned vegetables, tomatoes, and pasta sauce. Or you may give to the Little Free Pantry through the [GIVE](#) page where funds will be used to purchase items to stock the pantry.

There is an [Amazon Grace Wish List](#) available if you prefer to shop this way. Items will be shipped directly to the church.

Thank you for your donations.



Handling Thoughts

When we are spending time in silence, intentionally being open to God who dwells within our hearts, thoughts will arise and distract us. These might be in the form of feelings, memories, imagination, visualization, plans, dreams or some type of perception of our senses. Sometimes we will encounter lots of them. What do we do now?



Father Thomas Keating tells us these are normal, inevitable experiences during contemplation, and we don't need to chide ourselves for not being able to stop them from occurring. Indeed, they might be brought to our attention by the Holy Spirit as something we can learn to let go of both in our prayer time and in daily life. He advises keeping a friendly attitude to them, rather than becoming upset by them. We can gently let them go and return to our awareness of the presence and action of God within.

Father Carl Arico of Contemplative Outreach teaches us that practicing letting go of thoughts during centering prayer affects our actions in daily life. Our thoughts lead to desires and desires lead to action, so changing our thoughts is the one thing we can contribute toward a change in how we act in life. We consent to the Holy Spirit who makes this change within us. We "Let go and Let God!"

If you would like to hear more from these wise teachers, click these video links:

Father Keating: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fg3f9J4siY>

Father Carl Arico: <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/2020/06/19/difficulty-with-centering-prayer/>

Being New Spirituality Center Drop In Sessions

Join us for Drop In Sessions at the Being New Spirituality Center at Grace on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. The first drop in date is September 18, and will be a discussion about: Six Things You Never Thought of As "Spiritual". All are welcome!

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, September 29. Another class will be offered on Sunday, October 27.

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



Pet Blessing, Saturday, October 5

Watch the website and announcement for time and details!



Adult Choir Rehearsals Begin

The Grace Chancel Choir will start fall rehearsals on September 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs music room. Whether you're new to choir, a returning singer or someone who hasn't sung in choir for a while but would like to come back, you are welcome!

Choir sings about once a month (more during the Advent/Christmas season) and we enjoy low-key rehearsals and lots of fellowship.

For more information, contact Kathy Bowermaster at kbowerma@hotmail.com or 515-971-6360.



Grace Lutheran Church Annual Golf Tournament

September 29th at 3 p.m. at Woodland Hills golf course.

Sign up at church – there are signups on the bulletin board, in the Gathering Hall, and in the office. Or contact Dean Watson directly at 515-991-0120. Sign up as a team, or as an individual. Deadline is Sunday September 22.



Lydia/Martha Circle met in August, and assembled gift bags for Moore Elementary teachers.

We will meet again on Thursday, September 26th at 9:30 am. We will be boxing/wrapping our Christmas projects for the Christmas gift bags.

Please bring an item for the Little Free Food Pantry.

Willing Workers

Willing Workers meet on Thursday mornings to do odd (and not so odd) jobs around the church. They also socialize, laugh, take breaks, and sometimes enjoy coffee or a treat. If this sounds like an interest to you, meet in the entryway at 9 a.m. any Thursday.

CLERGY, FRIENDS,
FAMILY, & NEIGHBORS,

Join us for a Service of
Holy Communion
with the
Installation
of
Pastor Bunny Dillard
to serve

Our Savior's Lutheran Church in the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
of Cedar Rapids, Iowa

September 22, 2024, 10am
3634 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

RSVP (337)368-2781 or
PastorBunnyDillard@gmail.com

The Color of the Day is Green



On Sunday, August 25, 2024
Norman and Lenora Iverson
Celebrated their 70th Anniversary at Grace with family and friends.
Photo credit: family and friends of the Iversons



Grace Congregational Council Agenda Meeting July 30 6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order. Dinner provided by Kevin.
2. Introductions
3. Endowment Committee Representatives – Loan Repayment Discussion with Kevin and Kari. Will continue the discussion at the next council meeting due to absent council members.
4. Adoption of Agenda - Jenny moved, Tom seconded, agenda approved.
5. Devotions – The God Who is Here, Chapter 4
6. Approval of Minutes - Kevin moved, Tom seconded, minutes approved.
7. Staff Reports – Reconciling in Christ team is coming together; facilitators have started training. Hope to fill out the team and start meeting in September.
8. Finance Report – reviewed financial report. Will put giving statements out for pick up to increase awareness of some lagging pledged offerings. Charitable trust gift of \$22,400 through Thrivent will be sent to Grace for unrestricted use and placed in Memorials.
9. Unfinished Business
 - a. Concrete flooring work update – final section is waiting for the water issues to be resolved.
 - b. Status of water issues - will have a basement repair company look at both drain/pipeline issues and sump pump.
 - c. Masonry Repairs – contacted some companies to come out and inspect the facility and roof and get estimates for repairs.
 - d. Communication of sex offender accountability policy and disclosure letter. Feedback received so far has been positive. Have two accountability partners on board, looking for one more.
 - e. Constitution & Bylaws Final Review – reviewed the final version of the Constitution with the Bylaws included. Will vote on the final draft at the August council meeting, then resubmit to the Synod. Plan to ratify during the Annual Meeting in January 2025.
 - f. Appraisal of church property update – reviewed some information but will not pursue obtaining an official appraisal.
10. New Business
 - a. Golf Outing – Dean Watson offered to organize the event, details to follow.
 - b. Sept 8 God's Work, Our Hands Event – Mission Action Fund team is proposing an event promoting community building. Host a community-wide garage sale and meal. Freewill donations will go to the Little Free Pantry. More information to come.
 - c. Old playground plan – Spirituality Center and Being New Team would like to convert the old playground area into a prayer labyrinth/garden. Old playground equipment in good condition will be put into the garage sale.
11. Adjournment

Finance Report – July Results

Financial results for July YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$251,255, Budget \$242,063, Prior Year \$219,140
- Expenses – Actual \$270,503, Budget \$247,583, Prior Year \$280,015
- Net activity – Actual (\$19,248), Budget (\$5,521), Prior Year (\$60,875)



Activity is \$14K behind budget, but much better than last year. There was \$32K of unbudgeted roof repair work that was recently completed. Excluding this one time expense, activity would be ahead of budget.

Grace Congregational Council Meeting August 27 6:00 P.M.

12. Call to order. Dinner provided by Brian.
13. Adoption of Agenda - Carter moved, Jenny seconded, agenda approved.
14. Endowment Committee Representatives – Loan Repayment Discussion – Endowment Committee will review options and share with council.
15. Approval of Minutes - Kevin moved, Tom seconded, minutes approved.
16. “Ideas that will get you fired:” None.
17. Staff Reports – No issues.
18. Finance Report – Finances are favorable to budget even with the roofing costs.
19. Unfinished Business
 - a. Concrete flooring work completed.
 - b. Status of water issues, including gutters over entrance. Wood roofing providing estimate for gutter guards. Waiting on getting estimates to dig out and replace the “T” intersection in lines.
 - c. Masonry repairs – waiting on estimates.
 - d. Constitution & Bylaws - Vote on the final draft. Jenny moved; Tom seconded. Motion approved. Final draft will be submitted to Synod for approval.
 - e. Golf Outing – Scheduled for Sept. 29 at Woodland Hills.
 - f. GWOH – Looking for volunteers for all times. Sign up with the office!
 - g. Old playground plan – Spirituality Center and Being New Team are determining budget and investigating grants to help fund redevelopment of old playground.
 - h. Accountability Partners – 4 volunteer accountability partners have been identified.
20. New Business
 - a. Discussion on revising rental fees and possibility of getting new renters. Kevin moved to revise the rent down from \$400 to \$250 for Spirituality Center offices starting September 1. Tom seconded. Motion approved.
 - b. Document Archive Project – there are many boxes of new books in the storage room that are available for donation. Once the room is cleared out, the archive can be set up.
 - c. Finance Committee will start preparing for the Stewardship kick-off and will review budget needs.
21. 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

Year-to-date giving statements

Statements (January 1 – July 31, 2024) that were not picked up in person in have been mailed, and should arrive soon. If you do not receive yours, please let office staff know so we can have another copy sent.

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:

8:30 a.m. Preparation for Worship in the Upper Room, open to all

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 will return on Sunday, September 15 for youth and adults

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](#)