

**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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 Jesse Hershberger**  
[Jesse@gracedm.org](mailto:Jesse@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**  
Kami Chicas  
[kami@gracedm.org](mailto:kami@gracedm.org)

**Bookkeeper**  
Mike Hilsabeck  
[mike.h@gracedm.org](mailto:mike.h@gracedm.org)

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

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

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

#### Re

I find myself thinking a lot of “re” words these days: reform, rebirth, renacimiento, renew, renaissance, remember, revolve, revolution, reformation, and so on. It is October, which is the time we celebrate the Reformation, and that is well and good. Yet, there is something deeper in the works.

At the Congregational Council meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>, someone remarked, “It feels like we are in the middle of a rebirth at Grace.” I agree. There is something tangible happening here. But I do not know what “re” word best describes it. There is a renewal of interest and volunteerism. There is a growing level of spirituality. There is a feeling of being re-formed as a community in Christ.

My first call was to Our Savior’s and El Renacimiento Lutheran Churches in Sioux City. The “Our Savior’s” name is easily understood. “El Renacimiento” simply means “rebirth.” It was a Spanish-speaking worshipping community whose members were all looking for rebirth in the Midwest. After a couple of years, they asked if Our Savior’s would welcome them as members if they dropped the name “El Renacimiento,” remarking that most English-speaking people could not say it anyway. So, they joined Our Savior’s and went by the Spanish equivalent Nuestro Salvador.

At the time, I thought it was a brilliant move, coming from within. What I have learned in the years since, is that it may have been better to build off of the English equivalent “Rebirth.” That sums up the goal of faith, to be reformed, or transformed, through Christ.

We are in the midst of a “re” movement here at Grace. I do not know where this is leading, and maybe that is the most exciting part. This is not driven by a plan that was developed in some meeting. The Spirit is nudging in ways that we had not imagined before. There is something new and exciting happening, and I pray that you feel it too.

It is a humbling time to be walking with you as pastor and I look forward to seeing where this leads. I also hope to hear from you. If the Spirit seems to be nudging you, or you’ve had something on your mind (especially in connection with Grace), please reach out. I would love to hear from you.

Peace,  
Pastor Mike

### Happy October Birthday

- 1 Zeppelin Brown  
Katharine Radermacher
- 2 Margaret York  
Andy Roat  
Eric Barks  
Ivy Lawson
- 5 Paul Nelson
- 6 Amanda Jensen
- 7 Adam Bergman
- 8 Nelda Sampel  
Harlan Mortenson
- 9 Riley Mortenson  
Jaxsen Traver
- 11 Christopher Kallenbach  
Fred Hofferber
- 12 Greg Boeschen  
Benjamin Wonderlin  
Lucas Radermacher
- 13 Theresa Gerling  
Deanna Hummel  
Lt. Col. David Peterson  
Victoria Janson
- 14 Jane Ridnour  
James Fenimore
- 15 Chris Lawson  
Eryn Lenhart  
Kyra Lenhart  
Maya Lenhart  
Vincent Meillier
- 16 Kara Jordahl
- 17 Roberto Ruiz
- 19 Isaac Justice
- 20 Patricia Schouten  
Stuart Turner  
James Briggs
- 21 Sage Speck  
Owen Chenoweth
- 23 Ronald Vernia
- 24 Melissa Kallenbach
- 25 Joyce Lewis  
Tina Meadows
- 27 Ilah Ocken  
Wilder Voelker
- 29 Jessica Russell – Alsted
- 30 Pedro Espericueta
- 31 Graham Jordahl  
Monte Wilner  
Tanner Peeler



### Happy October Anniversary

- 5 – Donald and Margaret York
- 6 – John and Tracy Justice
- 12 – Burke and Shirley Shiffler  
Louie and Sue Anderson
- 21 – Delmar and Linda Vernia
- 22 – Joel and Stacie Holst
- 23 – Karri and Aaron Brandsfield
- 27 – Hal and Michele Turner
- 28 – Michael and Marilyn Nizzi



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

**Holly Honsey** - wife of Ben, daughter-in-law to Scott and Julie

**Joanne Johnson**

**Brenda Mann**

### Special Congregational Meeting



A Special Congregational meeting has been planned for Sunday, October 27 in the Sanctuary immediately following worship.

This short meeting will outline proposed updates and changes to the Grace Lutheran Church Constitution and Bylaws. Specifics will be coming soon - the proposed updates will be made available in both digital and paper form. Voting on these proposed updates will happen at the January 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting.

The All-ages service project planned for October 27 will take place after the meeting as scheduled.

### Fall Back!

**Sunday November 3**

We gain an extra hour when we turn the clocks back at 2 a.m.



## Vicar's Voice

Dear Friends of Grace Lutheran Church,

Towards the end of September, Pastor Mike and I attended the fall gathering for the Southeastern Iowa synod of the ELCA, where I was reminded of the synod's theme for the year: "Listen, God is Calling". This theme is accompanied by a verse from Isaiah which reads, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" I was reminded of all of the wonderful things happening at Grace--both long standing traditions and new groups. Even the name of the Being New Spirituality Center reminds us of God's promise to be actively at work in our lives and in our communities.



It isn't always easy to lean into new things, and it can be challenging to see things changing from the way they used to be. I hope that you feel God's presence near you in whatever new things are coming your way and that you are reminded you don't need to have all the answers on your own--the church community is here for you.

In Peace,  
Vicar Jesse



### **Pet Blessing Saturday, October 5, 2024, 10:30 a.m. at Grace**

You are invited to bring your furry, fuzzy, fishy or feathered friends to our Annual Community Pet Blessing on Saturday, October 5.

The service will begin at 10:30 a.m. on the lawn at Grace. Everyone is welcome so invite your friends and neighbors to attend. If you prefer you may bring a photo of your pet, or one of their toys or other belongings to be blessed.

### **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, October 27 after worship and the congregational meeting around 10:15 a.m. The November class will be held on Sunday, November 24 at 10:15 a.m.

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](mailto:Mike@gracedm.org) or 515/276-6873.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fleece Hat Making!**

Please join us for the October All-Ages Mission Opportunity on Sunday, October 27, after worship in Grace Hall. After enjoying our coffee and donuts, we will be making warm fleece hats to be placed in the Little Free Pantry as the weather turns colder. Most of the hats will be pre-sewn and just need some cutting and tying to create a pompom top, but if you'd like to create a hat from start to finish, sewing machines, patterns, and help will be available. Please contact Jill Boeschon or Cathy Watson with any questions, their contact information can be found in the online directory.

## Fall 2024 Straight Talk On Finances

Heading into our Fall Stewardship Campaign, this letter is an update to the Congregation on how we are doing financially, and how this may impact the fall stewardship campaign. This is also the time to reflect upon Grace's mission for the next year and what is needed in terms of time, talent, and resources to fulfill the mission. To that end, the Grace Church Council and the Finance Committee have been closely reviewing Grace's financial position, historical trends, and needs/wants for 2025. Following is some background information to keep in mind as we move forward.

### Background Information:

1. In last year's letter (2023) we discussed a year where Grace faced a significantly larger mid-year deficit (\$58,000) than compared to the previous several years (\$8,000 - \$12,000). Historically, annual finances fall behind budget during the summer months but catch up in November and December. This deficit was giving the Church Council and Finance Committee some concern on what to expect for the full year 2023 financials. Thankfully, giving caught up by the year end and Grace again ended in a solid financial position (loss of \$10,000 vs. budgeted loss of \$12,000).
2. This year (2024), giving has tracked much closer to normal trends. This has been a welcome reprieve from the concerns of last year. We are approximately \$6,000 below budget and this includes unexpected maintenance costs of over \$30,000, which was offset by certain unbudgeted income. The need remains to finish the year strong because of ongoing maintenance needs and the desire to repay the Grace Endowment Loan.

### Challenges Moving Forward:

1. During the ten-year period 2014 – 2024, giving units have decreased 45%; however, average pledging gift increased 82%. During this same timeframe operating revenue/expenses have decreased 10%. Grace has been able to maintain a relatively stable break-even budget primarily due to increased pledging levels by members. Additionally, certain full-time positions were eliminated or converted to part time/intern to be able to fund other operating costs that have increased such as insurance, maintenance and remaining staff expenses.
2. Budgeting depends on having accurate pledged income expectations and has become increasingly difficult in certain expense projections with recent inflation and unplanned maintenance. We have an older facility that has continual maintenance and upkeep needs. Two maintenance items that will need addressing in the next year are water problems in the basement and brick tuckpointing. It is a high priority to eliminate water coming into the building.
3. A capital campaign was planned to begin just before COVID. That sidelined the campaign but the needs remain. Several items have already been addressed in the last few years because of immediate need...updated boilers and air conditioners for the building. These were funded by specific mini capital campaigns. One large item that is on the radar is the need to reroof the building. This could cost up to \$200,000. The property committee is working on a list of needs and the priority of each.
4. A final comment, twenty-two percent (22%) of Grace's income comes from members that are 80 years of age and older. Seventy-five percent (75%) of our income comes from those members 60 and older. We are thankful for their generosity and commitment to Grace Lutheran Church. We need to increase other giving in order to build on their legacy.

### How Are We Moving Ahead:

1. The Grace Church Council has resolved to communicate financial information fully with the congregation...this includes both good and not-so-good news. This is especially important as many needs identified pre-COVID have not gone away.
2. The Grace Church Council has created a Revenue Task Force. It has been tasked with taking stock of

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### **Straight Talk, Continued from page 4**

the church and its assets and determining if there are ways to develop a revenue stream for Grace beyond the traditional congregational offerings. An example of a new revenue stream is the renting of space for the Being New Spirituality Center. Another example is that excess cash reserves have been invested in a secure, higher interest-bearing accounts.

3. The Grace Church Council and the Finance Committee are currently working on the 2025 budget. Our goal is to be very specific with the congregation to let you know exactly what is needed in 2025 to fulfill Grace's mission.

### **Finance Report – August Results**

Financial results for August YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$287,730, Budget \$276,050, Prior Year \$252,183
- Expenses – Actual \$296,071, Budget \$311,950, Prior Year \$309,968
- Net activity – Actual (\$8,341), Budget (\$2,967), Prior Year (\$57,785)



Activity is \$5K 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.

### **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 October, November, and December.

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](mailto:kbowerma@hotmail.com) with any questions. Thank you!

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

Fall is here, and a good bowl of soup would be delicious! Donate cans of soup, beans, or cornbread mixes this month. Monetary donations can also be provided for 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.



**Little Free Pantry Oct Request**

**Cans of Soup,  
Beans, boxes of  
cornbread mix**



## October 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 to ponder the texts in advance – and for those signed up to lector, a chance to practice names of people and places! If you are contemplating being a lector, we encourage you to sign up online, at the clipboard in the Gathering Hall, or by calling the office.

### October 6: Exodus 32:1-14

*At the direction of Aaron, the Israelites turn over their gold to create a new god while Moses is up on the mountain. When God realizes what is going on in Moses's absence, God gets angry and decides to set God's wrath upon them. But Moses reminds God of words that were said earlier, and God changes God's mind.*

### October 13: 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

*God grants Hannah's prayer and she bears a son, Samuel, who will be an important figure in Israel's history. Hannah cannot believe that her request to have a child is granted with the birth of Samuel, so she praises God and thanks God for granting her prayer. Her praise is extravagant, but not at all undeserved.*

### October 20: 2 Samuel 7:1-17

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the Messiah, God's anointed.*

### October 27: 1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43

*Now is the time for the temple to be built, and Solomon shows us how to rightly understand the role of holy places and things in God's way of relating to us. The temple is not a limit on where God can be but a way to aid our trust that God is with us when we struggle to believe.*

## Worship Volunteers



**Greeters:** Be present in the entryway or Gathering 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! Please start with one Sunday per month, leaving opportunity for others who enjoy reading.

**Communion assistants** – 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/group. 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're still unsure or would like more details, please reach out** to Vicar Jesse, or Pastor Mike – they'll be happy to answer your questions. Find the signup at the link below. We also have a paper copy available in the gathering Hall. <https://volunteersignup.org/3TKR7?classic>

### October needs

- October 6: Greeter
- October 13: Communion Assistant
- October 20: Greeter, Lector, Communion Assistant, Coffee/Donut Server
- October 27: Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee/Donut Server

## The Practice of the Presence of God

Brother Lawrence, a 16<sup>th</sup> century Carmelite monk, learned the secret of daily, moment by moment fellowship with God. A book, called *The Practice of the Presence of God*, is a collection of his writings, letters and conversations. From Brother Lawrence:

“God does not require a great deal of us; all God asks is a little remembrance from time to time, a little worship...We can make our heart a prayer room into which we can retire from time to time to converse with God gently, humbly and lovingly.”



We trust in God's presence with us at all times and we only have to be attentive to that presence, even in our busiest of days. In the midst of whatever is swirling around us, we can simply pause momentarily, draw ourselves fully into the now and whisper a quiet 'I am here' and notice God's presence.

Below are some ideas of times we can connect with God:

- Whether inside or outside, really look at the trees and envision their tremendous root systems that interconnect and communicate for their mutual good and feel gratitude for the Creator.
- Listen in silence as you walk or exercise. What sounds do you hear?
- Upon waking in the morning or even during the night, take five or more intentionally slow and deep breaths with awareness that you are breathing in Love and sending out Peace to the world with each exhale. Let it relax you into God's embrace.
- Before getting out of bed in the morning, smile and say "thank you" to the Creator, who will be with you all day.
- Invite Mary (we all have her) to join Martha (we all have her too) while doing household chores, blessing the very ordinary parts of your life.
  - When doing the dishes, feeling your hands in the warm water
  - When making the bed, praying for those who will sleep in it
  - When folding laundry, grateful for clean clothes
  - When vacuuming
- When blessing your meal, pause to ponder all it took to get that food on your plate...from the hands that prepared it back...to the grocery store workers, to those who transported or processed and packaged the food, to the farmers, and back to the Earth and the One who created it all.
- Approach Eucharist with a sense of humility in the face of mystery, remembering the words of St Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." After receiving communion, you may want to pause at the altar rail, or touch your heart, or make the sign of the cross, or just take a conscious breath... in recognition of the grace in which we live and move and have our being.
- Smile with God when a favorite hymn or song runs through your mind.
- Give God a spiritual hug when you see a beautiful sunset.
- Bring yourself to the present moment, think of God and feel the Holy Spirit who is with you when you:
  - Are standing in the shower feeling warm water flow over you

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### *Practice, continued from page 7*

- Hear the singing of a bird
  - Happen to look up and see the sky, the moon
  - Before you make a call or compose a text, invite the Spirit into the conversation.
  - Before you make a call or compose a text, invite the Spirit into the conversation.
  - While you are driving
  - When you are sitting at a stop light
- 
- Set an alarm periodically throughout the day to remind you that God is with you, by your side all of the time.
  
  - Take time to sit quietly with God each day and listen.

Remember each day “God is with us now, and here, and always. We don’t have to get God, to earn God. We have God already and always will.” *The Monastic Heart*, Joan Chittister

When you take time to notice God’s presence, you will start noticing God within you. “There is a voice within you that no one, not even you, has ever heard. Give yourself the opportunity of silence and begin to develop your listening in order to hear, deep within yourself, the music of your own spirit.” *Anam Cara*, John O’Donohue

### **Being New Spirituality Center**

We believe that contemplative insight and practice are key to the transformation of our spirits, touching that deep place of heart and of being that lives in each of us. We are a resource for Central Iowa, creating events to which all are welcome, as well as opening space for offerings that others bring.

We are located in the lower level of Grace Lutheran Church, 5201 Urbandale Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310. Use the north door off the parking lot marked ‘Grace Hall’ and follow the signs. Contact any of us if you have questions or would like to offer something through the Center.

Cathy Watson, Julie Honsey, Deb Richards, Joan Fumetti, Cindy Mackey and Jesse Hershberger, Vicar

**SoulCollage®** is offered on the **first and third Mondays each month at 6:30 p.m.** The fee is \$15.00 to cover supplies and materials. Please contact Deb Richards for more information ([yobel49@yahoo.com](mailto:yobel49@yahoo.com)).

#### **Reiki Group Workshops**

Group Healing Sessions, **6:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month.** Contact Julie Good at [juliegood03@yahoo.com](mailto:juliegood03@yahoo.com) or 515-306-4864; registration is required.

**Drop-In Sessions on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10:00 a.m.** During these informal gatherings we will watch and discuss a video, a presentation, or whatever seems relevant.

#### **Book Studies**

**Thursday Evenings, October 3-24 at 6:30 p.m. *Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites Us into the Sacred*** by Victoria Loorz. Contact Joan Fumetti for details. We will cover the first 23 pages on 10/3.

**Wednesday afternoons 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., October 23 – December 11. A Spirituali-tea offering *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully*** by Joan Chittister. Contact Jo Kay Boyle at [jjkboyle@gmail.com](mailto:jjkboyle@gmail.com) for more details or to reserve your spot.

#### **Yoga: Tuesdays, beginning October 22, 6:00-7:30 p.m. With Linda Garcia**

A gentle, traditional Hatha yoga followed by Yoga Nidra meditation. Each 1.5 hour class will be \$15.00, paid only when you attend a class. Please text Linda at 515-371-6296 if you are interested in attending.



## September 2024 – 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](mailto:philanthropy@LSIowa.org).

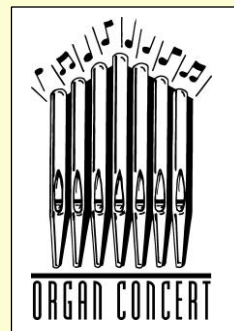
For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*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](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

## American Guild of Organists, Central Iowa Chapter

### The French Collection

Guest recital featuring Dr. John Sherer Tuesday, October 15, 2024; 7:00 p.m.  
Central Presbyterian church 3829 Grand Ave, Des Moines  
Free admission - refreshments at intermission.  
See poster on Bulletin board for the program.



### Organ Concert to benefit NW Iowa Flood Relief

Friday Oct 18, 7:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1001 Pleasant St., Des Moines  
Featuring Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music and Organist St. John the Divine, New York City  
Organist, New York Philharmonic  
Minimum donation \$20, payable at the door.

## Grace Congregational Council Meeting September 24 6:00 P.M.

1. Call to order at 6:11 P.M. Dinner provided by Brian.
2. Adoption of Agenda - Carter moved, Jenny seconded, agenda approved.
3. Devotions from book, Chapters 5 and 6
4. Approval of Minutes - Kevin moved, Carter seconded, minutes approved.
5. "Ideas that will get you fired:" None
6. Staff Reports – no major issues.
7. Finance Report – Finances are looking ok, \$11K deficient due to roofing repairs.
8. Unfinished Business
  - a. Endowment loan proposal was reviewed.
    - i. Kevin moved that debt pay down is not considered an operating expense. Greg seconded. Discussion. Amended motion is that any distribution made by the Grace Lutheran Endowment fund for debt reduction is not considered an operating expense. Greg seconded the new motion. Motion approved.
    - ii. Pastor and Mike H will review options for locating the additional funds to add to the funds from Endowment Committee to reduce the loan amount. Will communicate via email.
  - b. Status of water issues, including gutters over entrance. Have received some bids and waiting on a couple more.
  - c. Masonry repairs – One estimate in hand for \$30-42K depending on options. Waiting on additional quotes.
  - d. Constitution & Bylaws - Sent to Synod for approval. Tom moved that the council call a special congregational meeting for 10/27 regarding the Constitution and Bylaws update. Jenny seconded. Motion approved. Constitution/Bylaws will be sent out to congregation for review prior to the special meeting.
  - e. God's Work Our Hands Garage Sale – Great volunteer turnout! Raised over \$1700 for the Little Free Pantry. The meal wasn't well attended, perhaps the timing was an issue. Look at trying a traditional Saturday.
  - f. Old playground plan – need to remove the playground set that is currently out there.
  - g. Document Archive Project status – shred bins have been dropped off.
  - h. Stewardship Update – Mid-Oct pledge packets go out. Oct 27 Temple Talk. Nov 10 Commitment Sunday. Draft 2025 budget in discussion.
9. New Business
  - a. RIC update – first meeting was held Sep 17. Reviewing the workbook and using online resources.
  - b. 2025 Health Plan option for Pastor – Greg moved to offer Pastor the Gold Plus Plan for 2025. Carter seconded. Motion approved.
  - c. Maintenance plan and budget and role of Property group – need to get a group together to deep dive into the maintenance needs for the church over the next several years. Develop long term goals for major maintenance issues/repairs including capital campaign proposals.
10. Adjournment

## 2024 Congregational Council Members

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

Term Ends 2026: Valerie Culp, Greg Boesch

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

### Exec Team:

President: Greg Boesch      Vice President: Tom McCleary

Secretary: Jenny Rehder      At-Large Member: Kevin Drury



### Lydia/Martha Circle

We met in September to assemble and pack our contribution to the Annual Christmas bags. Watch for your opportunity to help with these gifts during November's All-Ages Service Project.

We will meet again on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Please bring a canned food item for the Little Free Pantry.

### Puzzle Exchange!

Do you enjoy working on puzzles? Are puzzle boxes threatening to take over your closets? Do you miss swapping puzzles with Pastor Bunny? Now you can share and swap puzzles in the Grace Library!

We currently have one shelf of puzzles available for you to borrow, but hope we will soon have enough to fill a library cart or an entire bookshelf! Jill Boeschen is so excited, she has volunteered to make a sign for the area.

#### How does it work?

Bring in puzzles you have finished with - or have tired of - and leave them on the shelf. Choose a new one to borrow, no need to sign it out. Go home and enjoy!

Don't have a puzzle to donate yet? Take one from the shelf. Take it home and enjoy putting it together. Now you have one to swap!



### 2025 Gardening Help Wanted! Friends, Neighbors, Visitors to Grace:

We are looking for volunteers to make a one or two week commitment to harvesting in the Grace Garden next summer. Do you know someone who likes getting their hands dirty and helping others? Send them our way!

We want to continue placing fresh produce in the Little Free Pantry, where it is so appreciated. We also deliver to nearby Food Pantries. Reach out to [Michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:Michelle@gracedm.org)

### Thank You!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with the garage sale and meal! The garage sale raised nearly \$1,700 for the Little Free Pantry - enough to fill the pantry for two months! This wouldn't have been possible without the help and support of you, our wonderful volunteers! It was so wonderful to see the Grace congregation come together to support this ministry. We cannot thank you enough. Grace Lutheran is truly a special



### Little Free Pantry Fundraiser

Samantha held her own fundraiser for the Little Free Pantry and Blessing Bags for people in need. She sold bracelets, lemonade, and cookies from a table in the yard, raising \$120 and used \$60 for the Little Free Pantry and \$60 for Blessing Bags.

## 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](mailto: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. Worship in the Sanctuary. Also livestreamed, see below for access.

10:00 a.m. Coffeetime and fellowship in the Gathering Hall, with Donut Hut donuts.

10:15 a.m. Education Hour 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](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](#)

[Weekly Announcements](#)

[Weekly Bulletins](#)

[Online Giving](#)

[Monthly Newsletters](#)