

**Morning and Welcome to Grace!
Announcements for December 15, 2024**

Immediate Prayer Needs

Norm Iverson, Dee Johnson

Ongoing Prayer Needs

Ellen Batten, Amy Batten, Sandy Briggs, Charlotte Lenhart, Brad Lint, Livia Ocken, Barb Powers, Vera Richardson - sister of Patty Allen, Ed Ridnour, Dana Roby, Tony - son of Linda Rundle, Marlene Schossow - mother of Beverly Russell, Karen Taylor, Deb Ubom

Praying for one another is an important part of the life of a community of faith. *Share your prayer needs or update your personal contact information with us by using the white Prayer Cards in your pew. Place the folded card in the offering plate as you leave today, or in the locked office mailbox. These cards will be placed in a private envelope for the pastor to go through on Monday mornings. You may also choose to simply call 515-276-6873, or email Pastor Mike mike@gracedm.org or Vicar Jesse jesse@gracedm.org.*

Happy Birthday! Norman Iverson, Payton Lawson, Ember Brown, Shirley Shiffler, Chris Janson

Flowers on the altar are given by Melissa Young: Happy heavenly birthday to Steve Young.

Communion – All communion wafers are gluten free. Find directions for communion in the bulletin margins.



Office Hours: The office will be closed Monday afternoon, beginning at 11:30 a.m. for our Staff Lunch.



Fellowship, Coffee, and COOKIES! Holiday Dessert Potluck – Today after worship
We hope you are in the mood to taste all of the delicious treats waiting in Grace Hall!



Holiday Worship Volunteer Needs:

Clipboards in the Gathering Hall list all our current needs for December 22, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Lessons and Carols December 29. Sign up there, or online at the link: [Online Worship Volunteer Signup](#)



Christmas Star Tree Update – Delivery deadline today.

Place the gifts and cards by the tree, or bring them to the office. Joie Gronert and Gail Peterson will collect them. If you're just remembering that you left yours at home, just give Joie Gronert a call (515-210-2057 call or text). Thank you to everyone who was able to shop this year!



Holiday Decorating and Learning Opportunity!

Do you love decorating for Christmas? Do you know what Chrismons are and their meanings? Did you ever wonder what the Altar Guild does? The Altar Guild would like to invite you to join us on Saturday, December 21, at 10:00 a.m., to help decorate the large Christmas tree in the sanctuary and arrange our poinsettias. This is an opportunity to decorate, learn more about Chrismons and the Altar Guild, and enjoy some fellowship with us. Treats and coffee/juice will be available. We hope you will consider joining us! (HINT: The Altar Guild is not a secret society! 😊)

If you have any questions, please talk to an Altar Guild member - Sue Anderson, Jill Boeschen, Kathy Bowermaster, Gail Peterson, Jenny Rehder, Jane Ridnour, Amy Schmelzer, Rita Stackhouse, or Carol Woodruff.



Little Free Pantry Drive

During the month of December, we are having a funding drive for our Little Free Pantry. We are asking for additional contributions during this holiday season to build up our funds for the Little Free Pantry. You can also provide donations online through the [GIVE](https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/) page (<https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>) or by check payable to Grace Lutheran Church designated for "Little Free Pantry". Read more on page 4 of the December Friendly Visitor, found on our website and in the entryway.



December Little Free Pantry Request of the Month

This month, we will collect personal items for the Little Free Pantry that can tolerate the colder temps: soap, diapers, feminine products, deodorant, and toothpaste. You can also provide donations online through the [GIVE](#) page or check payable to Grace Lutheran Church with "Little Free Pantry" in the memo. There is also an [Amazon Grace Wish List](#) available where items will be shipped directly to the church. Thank you for your donations.



Longest Night Worship

6:30 p.m., December 21, Immanuel United Methodist Church, 2900 49th Street, Des Moines

This year, the Contemplative Outreach of Central Iowa is teaming with Immanuel United Methodist Church, Taizé service on Saturday evening, December 21st. This service will share the beautiful songs and prayers of Taizé to move with hope into the darkness of the Winter Solstice. Readings during worship will feature writings of or about St. John of the Cross and the Dark Night of the Soul. We lean into the darkness of this night for healing, grace and transformation.

During the day prior to the Taizé service, there will be 7 shared periods of prayer with Psalms of lament on the Winter Solstice. If this is something that interests you, read more at www.CenterIowa.org, or see the flyer on the bulletin boards.



The Festival of Trees has been set up in the Gathering Hall. If you would like to decorate one of the trees, choose one that has not been claimed, get together with friends, family, or a committee, and decorate!

Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 22: 9 a.m. Worship, 10 a.m. Coffeetime

Tuesday, December 24:

- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
- 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 25: 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 29: 9 a.m. Annual Lessons and Carols Worship, 10 a.m. Coffeetime



The Next New Member Class will be held on Sunday, January 5 after worship. Meet Pastor Mike in the office!

PLEASE NOTE: Kami Chicas is no longer on Staff. Please reach out to other staff for scheduling of rooms, or for assistance with other projects and information. Thank you!



Important Dates!

Last Day for 2024 contributions: Monday, December 30

All contributions received after this will be counted toward 2025. This includes mailed items that arrive late. Please plan ahead, keeping in mind the heavy use of the postal system during the holidays.

Committee Reports Due: Tuesday, January 7

Our goal is always to assemble, format, print and mail the annual report in time for the Budget and Finance Forum on Sunday January 22. Please email your reports to Michelle@gracedm.org

Budget and Finance Forum: Sunday, January 18, 2025

Meet in Grace Hall at 10:15 a.m., after worship and fellowship.

Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 24, 2025

The meeting will take place in Grace Hall after worship. Coffee and donuts will be available in Grace Hall for the meeting.



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