

**Morning and Welcome to Grace!
Announcements for December 22, 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! Elizabeth Lewis, Nancy Crowfoot, Wayne Curry, Piper Hutton, Jon Rutter, Stuart Mitchell, Nicole Nelson, Barbara Berven, Christina Anderson, Samantha Schmidt, Courtney Vander Plaats, Sarah Chenoweth

Happy Anniversary! Megan and Charles Reynolds

Poinsettias on the Altar are sponsored by members in honor and memory of loved ones – see pages 10 and 11 of your bulletin.

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



Fellowship, Coffee, and Donut Holes in the Gathering Hall right after following worship.

Education Hour will return on Sunday, January 5 when we will all gather in Grace Hall to make fleece hats for the Little Free Pantry. The next New Member Class will also be held on Sunday, January 5 after worship. Grab a donut after worship and meet Pastor Mike in the office!



Holiday Worship Volunteer Needs:

There is a clipboard in the Gathering Hall listing all our current openings for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Lessons and Carols December 29. Sign up there, or go to gracedm.org, and click on the word “Volunteer” in the upper right corner of your screen. If reading this online just click here! [Online Worship Volunteer Signup](#).



Christmas Worship Schedule

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



End of Year things:

Office Hours: There will be no office hours for the next two weeks, except on Monday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., and Thursday, January 2. We will resume normal hours on Monday, January 6.

Monday, December 30 will be the last opportunity for 2024 contributions:

All contributions received after this will be counted toward 2025. This includes mailed items that arrive late. You may also use the online giving site on our website www.gracedm.org. Click on the word “Give” at the upper right corner of the page. Or go direct to <https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>. Then scroll down, click on the red “Donate” button, and follow the instructions from there.

Tuesday, January 7: Committee Reports for the Annual Report are Due

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



2025 Altar Flowers

The 2025 altar flower signup sheet is now online: <https://volunteersignup.org/ADMHD>

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. 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 put your first AND last name(s) 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 questions or to sign up if you are not online. Thank you!

Being New Spiritual Center January and Inauguration Day Offerings

“A Moment in Time: Reflecting and Dreaming”

Saturday, January 4, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Grace (Hybrid Event). Join us as we pause for a Moment in Time of Reflecting and Dreaming. This special New Year’s Silent Saturday invites you to reflect on the past year... listen for a “word” for the new year... create an intention for 2025... or just BE in the presence of God. *Please register at centeriowa.org \$40 in person includes lunch from In the Bag. Zoom: \$15 Make checks payable to COCI, and send to: Tim Goldman, Chapter Coordinator 709 22nd Street West Des Moines, IA 50265*

Inauguration Day Meditation

Join us for centering prayer/silent meditation at 10:00 on Monday, January 20. We will gather in Grace Hall as well as online. Contact Julie Honsey (honsey.julie@gmail.com) if you would like the Zoom link. Co-sponsored by Being New and COCI.



Annual Budget and Congregational Meetings

Budget and Finance Forum: Sunday, January 19, 2025

Meet in Grace Hall at 10:15 a.m., after worship and fellowship. Copies of the Budget will be available at this meeting.

Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 26, 2025

The meeting will take place in Grace Hall after worship. We will be voting on the amendments to the Grace Lutheran Church Constitution and Bylaws. The proposed changes are highlighted on a bulletin board across from the office. We also have a few copies of the entire document and the proposed changes in the office if you would prefer to flip through that.

Coffee and donuts will be available in Grace Hall for the meeting and we will have a potluck lunch after.



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](https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/) 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.



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