

**Morning and Welcome to Grace!  
Announcements for January 12, 2024**

**Immediate Prayer Needs**

Lonnie Jessen, Dee Johnson  
The family of Mike Kamentz – partner of Kate Schaller  
The family of Norm Iverson  
The family of Vera Richardson - sister of Patty Allen

**Ongoing Prayer Needs**

Ellen Batten, Amy Batten, Sandy Briggs, Brad Lint, Livia Ocken, Barb Powers, Ed Ridnour, Dana Roby,  
Tony - son of Linda Rundle, 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. You may also choose to simply call 515-276-6873, or email Pastor Mike [mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org) or Vicar Jesse [jesse@gracedm.org](mailto:jesse@gracedm.org).*

**Happy Birthday:** Jacqueline Villela, Tessa Fenimore, Laria Preston, Cyrus Stammer, Daniel Robbins, McKenzie Carney, Carli Stee, Lon Friesth, Lonnie Jessen, Stephen Kallenbach, Cooper Bigg

**Poinsettias on the Altar** are given by Carter and Carol Woodruff to the glory of God and in thankfulness for a new year.

**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.



**Grace Lutheran Church Logo Pens are back!**

**Introduce others to Grace and the work we do in the community, share kindness and a smile, and see what happens!**

When you are in the building, stop by the Gathering Hall to pick up a handful of our lovely logo pens. Then hand them out to friends and neighbors, or leave at a grocery checkout lane. With smooth black ink, printed with our logo and our website address, they are perfect for handing to a stranger looking for a pen, or to leave behind for someone else to pick up.

**We ALSO have Grace Logo Bags** –If you were out of town over Christmas, you might not be aware we had bags for everyone! They are red and black, with the Grace Logo on the front pocket for files or notes, and two pen holders. (one member has been seen putting knitting in the main bag, crochet hooks in the front pocket, and scissors in the pen pockets!). We will have these available at the Finance and Budget meeting and the Annual Meeting.



**2024 annual giving statements** will be available for pickup in the Gathering Hall on the remaining Sundays in January. We will mail those remaining at the end of the month.



**Education Hour**

**Today, Sunday January 12: Contemplative Practices and Labyrinth Walking**

Being New and COCI (Contemplative Outreach of Central Iowa) warmly invite you to walk the labyrinth set up in Grace Hall. This will be available from 10 a.m. until noon.



Labyrinth walking is an ancient practice used by many faiths for centering, contemplation, and prayer. Entering the serpentine path of a labyrinth, you stroll while quieting your mind and focusing on a spiritual question or prayer, walking first toward the center and then out again. There is no right or wrong way to do this. Often walkers set an intention, sometimes with the sense of letting go of what it is time to shed on the walk in, opening oneself to inspiration or guidance in the center, and then emerging back into life, renewed, refreshed, ready to live into the next unfolding steps of life. An excellent way indeed to start a new year.



### **Bible Study has resumed, open to everyone!**

We are currently in the 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Genesis. We offer two options: Tuesdays in Grace Hall at 9 a.m., and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in room 102 downstairs.



**Choir Rehearsals** Choir will resume on Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Music room.



### **Christmas Eve Worship Times?**

We want to know what you prefer for worship times on Christmas Eve. Do you prefer afternoon, after dinner, what specific time? Don't care? If you have any opinion, please call or email the office with your answer. 515-276-6873, or email [michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org).



### **Worship Volunteer Needs:**

Each week we are need of a Greeter, Lector, Communion Assistant, and Coffee/Donut Server. Sign up using the clipboard found on a Gathering Hall table, or go to [gracedm.org](http://gracedm.org), and click on the word "Volunteer" in the upper right corner of your screen, then follow directions on the page. If reading this online just click here! [Online Worship Volunteer Signup.](#)



### **Being New Spiritual Center 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](mailto: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. We will have a potluck lunch after.

### **Update your information!**

- **Addresses & Phone Numbers:** We want to make sure we can reach you! If you have moved or changed emails or phone numbers, please help us update our information! If you are listed in the online directory, you can go in and update your information. However, staff are also happy to update this (and our internal office systems) for you.
- **Birthday/Anniversary List:** We publish birthdays and anniversary celebrations in our monthly newsletter as well as the weekly e-newsletter and announcements. If you would like to be included, please let Michelle know. Likewise, if you've added a new family member, changed names, or just want to be taken OFF the list, please let us know that as well. Thank you!
- **Photos: For the directory and/or photo wall.** We will have a backdrop available at the Budget Forum on January 19, and at the Annual Meeting on January 26. We will update your photo for you! OR you can send a photo directly to [michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org). ***If you are willing to help take photos with your phone, especially on January 26, please contact the office.***



### **January Little Free Pantry Request of the Month**

This month, we will collect breakfast food for the Little Free Pantry: cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter, and pancake/muffin mixes. You can also provide donations online through the [GIVE](#) page or check payable to Grace Lutheran Church with "Little Free Pantry" in the memo. Thank you for your donations.



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