

The Friendly Visitor April 2025

Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church and Community



Grace Lutheran Church:

- *A community of faith, centered in worship, held in Grace, strengthened in love, sent forth in mission, in Jesus' name.*
- *Home of the Being New Spirituality Center.*

Pastor Michael Schmidt
Vicar Jesse Hershberger

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Office & Open Building Hours

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday – Thursday
Or by appointment
Closed Monday, April 21

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 - Facebook

Mondays & Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

Search for Grace Lutheran Des Moines

Grace Lutheran Church
5201 Urbandale Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
515-276-6873
www.gracedm.org

The Messy Middle

The middle is messy. I was reminded of this just a couple weeks ago while working on some projects with an older brother. I am toward the middle. To some siblings, I am the older sibling that is seen more like a parent figure. While working with an older sibling, I was very much seen as “little Mikey.” When you are in the middle, there are times that you are pushed and pulled in both directions. In the case of family dynamics, sometimes you lean into the role as an older sibling, yet other times you struggle to be seen as capable. In short, the middle is messy.

The subtitle for the Lenten materials is “Meeting God in the midst of extremes.” This seems so fitting. There are loud voices on the extremes of a variety of issues. These voices get louder and louder. When in the middle, there is a push and pull in varying directions. It is difficult. There is temptation to lean on silence or complacency. The middle may be messy, and it may not be as loud, but that should never mean it does not have a voice. It is important to continue to find ways to claim our voices as individuals and as the Body of Christ.

The month of April (this year) is a time when the messy middle will be pushed and pulled in churches around the world. This is due to the intersection of religion and politics. This month we will face the realities of the voices of opposition who dare to speak truth to those in power. It is a month when the messy middle will be tested.

This journey comes into focus on April 13 as we gather in celebration of Palm Sunday with Jesus riding into Jerusalem in a festive parade while Pontius Pilate enters on a different side of town. We will journey with Jesus as those in authority try to get him to change his witness. Then, the Three Days find us face to face with the furthest of extremes.

Continued on page 2

The Messy Middle, continued from page 1

Maundy Thursday places us with the disciples, oblivious to what the empire is planning to do. Good Friday brings with it the death of Jesus and the time of darkness on earth. There we face the lowest of lows, remembering our role in the death of Jesus. On Easter, we meet at an empty tomb. With grief and joy in our hearts simultaneously, we join in praise. The pendulum swings. By the end of April, we are witnessing the risen Christ on the rRoad to Emmaus.

We live in a world of extremes. Thankfully God meets us where we are through grace, and grace never leaves us where it finds us. May this month be a month of meeting God in the midst of extremes.

Pastor Mike

Sponsor an Easter Lily

We invite you to purchase an Easter lily to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. The cost is \$16.00, and you will be able to pick up your lily after Easter.

You can include a message to honor or remember loved ones if you choose (optional). Find forms at the end of each pew or in the entryway. If reading online, [order online here](#). Fill out all information and follow payment instructions on the form.

Order deadline: Monday, April 7



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**Piano Accompanist and
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Kathy Bowermaster
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Happy April Anniversary

- 7 Kathy Piltingsrud
and Paul Nelson
- 10 Deanna and Eric Weber
- 12 Sandra and Barry Briggs

Happy April Birthday

- 3 Ellen Batten
Dolores Johnson
Colleen McKinney
- 6 Roy Hanson
- 7 Carolyn Andersen
Ben Nelson
Maya Uehling Lint
Emily Woodruff
- 8 Jennie Wonderlin
- 9 Kelley Brown
- 10 Jared Nelson
Cherie Rissman
Mark Stumme
DeVee Trickle
- 11 Mira Voelker
- 12 Kyler Medhurst
- 13 Mary McCann
- 14 Denise Friesth
- 15 Michael Flannery
- 16 Ernest Weatherington
- 17 Alton Calahan
Cynthia Gronert
- 18 Justin Fenimore
- 19 Jill Boeschen
Emma Stammer
- 20 Jenny Rehder
- 24 Charla Preston
- 25 Amy Wonderlin
- 26 Howard Kulzer
- 27 Bill Jensen
Cathy Watson
- 28 David Gronert
- 29 Kathy Piltingsrud
- 30 Kylie Radermacher



Vicar's Voice

Happy April!

Last month, I had the privilege of attending Lutheran Day on the Hill in support of Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). Over 400 people gathered to advocate for sustainable models for food access, support for Iowa's mental health systems, and services that support our refugee and immigrant populations. It was a hope-filled day together in community. We had a wonderful contingent from Grace in attendance, and along with the opportunities for advocacy I appreciated the conversations that were had among those gathered. It can be challenging to talk about the way that our faith calls us to act in the world, especially in the political sphere. Still, we know that because we are transformed through the love and grace of God, that same love and grace flows out of us in how we love our neighbors and those in our communities who need support.

All of us are called to live out our faith in different ways by using our different gifts to serve God and our neighbors. We don't need to worry about getting it "right" all the time, but can lean into opportunities to learn, serve and grow together. This month, I encourage you to be on the lookout for new ways to serve and advocate for your neighbors.

In Christ,
Vicar Jesse



Familiar faces on-site
and in the paper



400+ participants gathered at Capitol Hill Lutheran in the morning for worship, training, and lunch.



At the Capitol

Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 12, 8 a.m. – noon

We have tasks for everyone, both inside and out!

The big task of the day will be to finish taking apart the old playset, but also included are a number of tasks to help spruce up before Holy Week and Easter. We've listed just a few here. Brian has two task boards posted in the Gathering Hall with all of the tasks written on Post-it notes. That Saturday you can go straight to the task board, no matter what time you arrive. When you choose a task, take the Post-it with you, so we'll know what has been done, and what remains.

- Cleaning up the grounds after winter: raking, edging along sidewalks, trimming bushes, cleaning out window wells, cleaning up around the AC condensers and along the fence.
- Cleaning out the kitchen refrigerator and freezer and checking that all appliances are in good working condition; cleaning counters and drawers.
- Cleaning windows inside and out.
- Cleaning entryway and Gathering Hall doors
- Wiping and polishing wood doors
- Dusting and cleaning up library
- Stacking floor mats in the gym



April Little Free Pantry Request of the Month:

We are collecting **beans and rice products** this month for the Little Free Pantry. You can also provide donations online through the [GIVE](#) page or provide a check payable to Grace Lutheran Church with "Little Free Pantry" in the memo.

There is also a [Grace LFP Amazon Wish List](#) available where items will be shipped directly to the church.

Thank you for your donations.



Reconciling in Christ

In the following months, TEAMGrace members will be sharing what drew them to the work of guiding Grace through the Reconciling in Christ process. This month's essay is from team member Mary Helt.

My Call to Mission

When I was young, I thought queer was a mean thing to call people who were different or weaker. I went to church and didn't understand name-calling. I never knew a person of color until I was 15. I never was friends with a disabled person until college. The anger in black activists who spoke at Drake University shocked me; I had never heard such language.

The world outside my family was different and I had always thought everyone wanted to be like us. Nope, there were lots of surprises and variations.

As a teacher, I learned about people, cultures, families, and society. Recently, I experienced closer relationships with LGBTQ+ people, often folks I had known and admired for years before they came out. They were mostly the same as before—if they were smart, fun, honest, friendly, jerky, unpleasant, selfish, etc., they were the same after being more authentic selves. I guess it was just who they were created to be.

There are things I will never know or understand about creation and God, and that is all right—spiritual exploration, Bible Study, prayer, faith, and faithful people taught me many lessons, the most important being to accept God's creations with kindness, grace, and love. Like Jesus.

When I became a grandmother, I was thrilled—and still am. My granddaughters each have different issues needing to be addressed in different ways. We work together, care for one another, and support when needed. I never expected a granddaughter to be gay; she is still beautiful, kind, loving, good, and wise. She is, and always has been, a wonderful person. We accept, offer grace without judgment; it seems unlikely God would abandon these precious creations. We are all saints and sinners; Jesus showed us how to accept and love.

One of my granddaughters' best friends came out as trans during middle school. It took me time to remember pronouns and alter my thinking, but the friends accepted the change immediately, without judgment. They live their beliefs (as I try to do), by respecting and accepting. Be kind, seek justice, and walk humbly. Love God, love your neighbor as yourself, show hospitality, judge not. And the greatest of these is love. The "spirit" requires acceptance without judgment—I don't know if that is truly possible, but we can welcome others as Jesus did.

It is a great relief to realize all I need to do is grant others their own conscience, to not judge, and to accept others as God made them with the same love and grace given to me—it is my call and mission.

Mary Freimuth Helt

Easter Sunday Prayer Breakfast

All are welcome!

Easter Morning, April 20
Serving from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

There will be a basket for free-will offering.

Proceeds from the breakfast help support the Grace Lutheran Church Member Care Ministry, which provides meals and other forms of support for families during times of stress or need..



Menu: Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage or Bacon, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Tea and Coffee

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Worship
April 13, 9 a.m.



Maundy Thursday, April 17
6:30 p.m. worship – Sanctuary and online

Good Friday, April 18
Seven Sacred Pauses – See description at right.
6:30 p.m. worship – Sanctuary and online

Easter, April 20
Sunrise worship 6:30 a.m. – Sanctuary
7 a.m. – 10 a.m. – Easter Breakfast, Grace Hall
Worship 8:15 a.m. – Sanctuary and online
Worship 10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary only *

The 8:15 worship will be live on our website www.gracedm.org. This service will be recorded and uploaded to our Facebook page and available to watch at any time later in the day. The 10 a.m. worship will **only be livestreamed/recorded if there is an issue with the early service.*

Easter Breakfast Help

Help is needed for the breakfast to be successful - As you solidify your Easter Day plans, let us know how you are able to help: Grace Office 515-276-6873, or Ross Peeler at 515-314-6830.

- Saturday morning around 9 a.m.: Cracking eggs, cutting fruit, setting and decorating tables.
- Sunday early morning cooking,
- Sunday 7-10 a.m. cooking, serving in the kitchen, bussing tables.
- Sunday 10 – 10:30 a.m. cleanup.

Seven Sacred Pauses

Good Friday, April 18
Being New Spirituality Center
Lower level of Grace Lutheran Church

We will share in 20-minute meditation pauses during the day at the hours of **8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., noon, 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.**

Come at the times that work for you or come for all. Enter through the door marked "Grace Hall" at the north end of the parking lot and follow the directional signs.

Endowment Fund Report

The purpose of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is to promote faithful Christian stewardship by providing a congregational plan to receive grants, gifts, or bequest of money to be used to enhance the total program and mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church beyond that supported through regular giving and apart from the general operation of the congregation. The Endowment Fund Committee acts as custodian of the Fund.

The Endowment Committee approved the following distributions of 2024 income:

- \$6,841 to **Grace Lutheran Church** for a labyrinth project kit to be installed in the west end of the former Grace daycare playground
- \$2,000 to **Grace Lutheran Church** for concrete work for a meditation garden space to be installed in the east end of the former Grace daycare playground
- \$932 to **Grace Lutheran Church** for eight 72" x 30" tables for room 102
- \$3,673 to **Lutheran Lakeside Camp** for 24 banquet tables and a heated buffet
- \$1,500 to **Lutheran Services in Iowa** for compost for 23 community gardens as part of its Global Greens program
- \$2,558 to **Valley Disaster Relief** for three additional chainsaws to support its mission of assisting families who cannot afford tree services in the Des Moines metro

A total of \$17,504 was awarded. Requests for grants totaled \$33,504.

Since inception, the Endowment fund has awarded a total of **\$517,517** to **210** projects.



Altar Flowers

The opportunity to sponsor Altar Flowers returns in May after the Easter lilies have been taken down. Find the 2025 altar flower signup sheet 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 kathybowermaster17@gmail.com with questions or to sign up if you are not online. Thank you!



May Plant Sale Fundraiser for Grace Youth Mark your calendars for May 5 – 11.

Shop at Goode Greenhouses between May 5 and 11 (Mother's Day), and with every coupon presented, Grace will receive 10% back for the youth program. Coupon fliers will be placed in the entryway in late April and mailed with the May Friendly Visitor. Pick up extras to share with friends and neighbors! You **MUST** present the flier for Grace to receive credit.



Lydia/Martha Circle

Lydia/Martha Circle will meet Thursday, April 24, at 9:30 in Grace Hall. We will be putting together May baskets for one of our neighborhood care facilities.

Please feel free to join in!



NCAA Final Four

With the Final Four set, we have clarity on potential winners of the tournament pool for charity. So far, \$155 has been raised in this fundraiser. The potential winners include:

- Todd Haugen (Arthritis Foundation) if the final is between U Conn and South Carolina.
- Jill Boeschen (Dorothy's House) if Texas wins
- Madeline Boorman, a friend of Allison Olson's (Animal Rescue League) if UCLA wins,
- Greg Boeschen (Lutheran Services in Iowa) if South Carolina beats UCLA
- Dave Gronert (Dorothy's House) if U Conn beats Texas.



Celebrate Vicar Jesse

Things to look forward to!

Dessert Buffet, Sunday, May 18 after worship: Let's celebrate Vicar Jesse with our favorite desserts! (*Until then, we'll try to forget that it will be her last day at Grace, sniff sniff*). We'll have coffee, juice, and water, so start planning what you'd like to share!



Grace Garage Sale, Saturday, June 7, 8 a.m. – noon (Donation drop-off on Friday, June 6)

All proceeds will go toward supporting the Grace Little Free Pantry. Further details and volunteer opportunities will be announced as we get closer to the event. In the meantime, start gathering items for the sale when you're reorganizing or deep cleaning your home over the next few months. We appreciate your support!



Grace Annual Car Show, June 18, evening

Details to come: Invite your friends and neighbors — and their cars — to a friendly low-key evening of talking about our favorite vehicles and eating hot dogs. Some of the vehicles showcased in the past: muscle cars, tiny cars, electric vehicles, teardrop camper, motorized tricycle, hoverboard, and a kiddie car!

Sunday Text Summaries

If you are someone who likes to ponder the texts in advance, or if you are signed up to lector in the coming month, we've provided a short summary of each week's readings as well as the specific verses. If you are contemplating being a lector, we encourage you to sign up online, on the clipboard in the Gathering Hall, or by calling the office.

Sunday, April 6, Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus greets Jesus)

The crowds grumble at Jesus' self-invitation to stay with Zacchaeus, and their righteous indignation isn't without cause. As a tax collector, Zacchaeus has extorted money and acted in collusion with the empire, using his position to oppress his own people. It is important to call out oppression, and yet, Jesus offers mercy. That mercy then begets more mercy as Zacchaeus, unprompted, offers to return what he took, and then some.

Palm Sunday, April 13, Luke 19:29-40 (Jesus enters Jerusalem)

Jesus doesn't instigate his own parade. Instead, just his quiet presence alone inspires the multitude to shout out and praise God. When the religious leaders try to silence the crowd, Jesus tells them that the noise level isn't the point—even the stones would cry out if they were silent. It takes wisdom to know when our voice is needed and when it's just noise.

Maundy Thursday, Luke 22:1-27 (Last Supper)

In his final hours, Jesus redefines power through acts of humility, including sharing a final meal with his closest friends and those who will soon betray him. After breaking bread, the disciples argue about who is the greatest, but Jesus tells them that the greatest must be the least and the leader must be the servant, turning their hierarchy on its head. According to Jesus, humility is powerful, and real power is shown through humility.

Good Friday, Luke 23:32-49 (Jesus dies alongside a penitent thief)

As Jesus dies on the cross, one thief resists him and the other accepts him as Messiah. Jesus resists the empire but accepts his fate. We also are called to resist systems of power and oppression, and yet we ultimately have to accept that Jesus dies — and one day we will too. We have to discern what to accept as given and what to resist, what is "God's will" and what is the result of our own unquestioned systems.

Easter Sunday, Luke 24:1-12 (The women grieve and Peter runs to the tomb)

Grief is a healthy response to Jesus' death and a valid way to enter worship on Easter morning. And yet, the women at the empty tomb are given hope amidst their mourning. The other disciples don't believe the women's message; but Peter, living in the in-between of grief and hope, runs to the tomb to see for himself. Grieving doesn't have to make us hopeless. Hope can compel us to take action when we are deep in grief.

Sunday, April 17 Luke 24:13-35

Following the death of Jesus, two of his disciples who do not know of his resurrection travel to Emmaus wondering "now what?" Jesus reveals himself to them and opens their eyes and hearts to the truth of what might be next.

Sunday Education Hour for all ages: 10:15 a.m.

- **Adults and Middle/High School students** meet in Grace Hall and are currently studying the Book of Acts.
- **Elementary students.** Meet in the Sunday School room across from the elevator on the office level.

On Palm Sunday, April 13, LSI will be with us during worship, and will be presenting to adults in Grace Hall after worship. Bring your questions and hear about recent updates and changes at LSI.

April 27: All-Ages Service Project: Flood Buckets!



New Member Classes With Pastor Mike

Are you thinking about becoming a member of Grace? Do you have questions you'd like to ask first?

Welcome! A New Member Class with Pastor Mike is where you can start getting answers about us and about what being a member of Grace means, even if you're just visiting.

The next opportunity will be on Sunday, April 27, at 10:15 a.m. Meet in the Office on the main floor —just up the stairs from the main entry and then to the left.

You don't need to RSVP, but you can by contacting the office at 515-279-9283 or by emailing Pastor Mike at Mike@gracedm.org. You are also more than welcome to contact Pastor Mike to set up a time to meet during the week if the 27th doesn't work for you.

Monthly Service Projects

Once a month (September – April) the congregation meets in Grace Hall for a service project. In March we tied quilts and packed baby and personal care kits for World Lutheran Relief. These items will be shipped to all over the world and the U.S. to help communities in the midst of a catastrophe.

We will be accepting donations to support kit and quilt making until April 13. There will be a LWR kit and quilt blessing on April 13 in worship. Join us as we continue to minister to our neighbors in the U.S. and around the world who are experiencing disasters, deep poverty, hunger, conflict, and displacement.

On April 27 we will be meet to pack flood cleanup buckets — these will be stored and allow us to help immediately when the next weather emergency hits.



Bible Study: There will be NO Bible study on Tuesday, April 22

Bible Study is open to everyone, not just to members or someone who has been attending Grace for a long time. We welcome everyone. Bring a friend along if you're feeling shy!

We offer two meeting times: Tuesdays in Grace Hall at 9 a.m., and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in room 102 downstairs. We are currently working our way through Genesis.

Bulletins, Announcements, and Sermons are all online!

For those of you who look for Grace worship materials online, we've now moved everything onto the Bulletins Resource Page. Go to the website www.gracedm.org:

- Find the word [Resources](#) – on a laptop or desktop screen it is in the upper right-hand corner. If on your phone, click the 3 lines in the upper right corner, then find Resources, Give, and Volunteer at the bottom of the drop-down menu that appears.
- Once on the Resources page, look for the red bubble that says Bulletins, Announcements, Sermons. Click to open that page.
- Once you have the [Bulletins](#) page open, locate the date of the worship you are looking for. You can now open any of the bulleted links related to that date. You may read these online, download to your device, or print as you wish.

Videos currently remain available on a separate page in the Resources section: [Worship Videos](#).

Sermons and worship videos are posted approximately 24 hours after each worship. We tend to only keep between three and six months' worth of worship material and video links on our pages.

Praying in Color (Doodling Prayer) by Pam Palmer



Was enhancing your prayer life one of your New Year's resolutions? If it was, how is it going? Possibly about as well as getting more exercise or eating healthy? Perhaps you tried to make time for scheduled prayer so it would become a habit. You really wanted to develop and nourish your personal relationship with God (and still do!), but the thought of sitting quietly gives you anxiety. Maybe you have difficulty coming up with words and don't want to just recite rote prayers you learned as a child. You may be a kinesthetic or active learner and would rather DO prayer than THINK prayer.

Have no fear! The beauty of prayer is there's no "right" or "wrong" way to do it. God already knows what you're thinking or want to say, even if no words escape your mouth. He knows your mind may wander to "What am I going to make for dinner?" or "How do I deal with that difficult coworker?"

Visual prayer is active, playful—NO skill is required—other than a desire to pray and an openness to God's presence with you! It's a creative way to pray for **ALL** ages. Wait, what? I can doodle and color....and that's prayer? YES!

Grab some paper and something to doodle with—pens, markers, crayons or pencils, whatever you have on hand. No need to go out and buy anything fancy. Find a comfortable place to sit, whether at a local coffee shop, with a clipboard somewhere in nature, or at your kitchen table with music playing in the background.

Start by writing "God" on the paper. Add marks or shapes, focusing on Him. Continue as you feel drawn (pun intended!)—add color, words of gratitude or lament, names of people or things on your mind, a line of Scripture. Don't overanalyze each mark or doodle. Focus on spending time with God. As you're drawing, release everything into God's care. You may want to start with 3-5 minutes, but try to work up to 15-20 minutes. Go longer if you feel called to. When you decide your drawing time is over, acknowledge God's presence with you with a nod of gratitude.

If you're still feeling a bit stuck, take advantage of preprinted templates available on the table inside the main entryway. There are doodled prayer templates for any season as well as special templates for Lent/Holy Week. The Being New Spirituality Center will also be hosting Seven Sacred Pauses on Good Friday, April 18. Prayer in Color will be included as one of the many offerings.

That's it! Celebrate a new way to pray this spring and add some color to your prayer time! For more information and additional resources, please see www.prayingincolor.com.

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, whether we are part of a faith tradition or not. We are a resource for Central Iowa, creating events to which all are welcome as well as opening space for offerings that others bring.

There is no fee for the offerings that come from the center. Donations to cover our expenses are thus received with special gratitude! There is a basket in the Center. Checks may be made out to Grace Lutheran Church with Being New in the memo line. You may also donate online through the church's website. Follow this link and choose Being New from the drop-down menu: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/2854737

The Center is located in the lower level of Grace Lutheran Church.

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL Meeting, February 25, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

In attendance: Pastor Mike Schmidt, Greg Boesch, Mike Hilsabeck, Pam Palmer, Brian Gerling, Linda Moravec, Stuart Mitchell, Emma Stammer

- Call to order at 6:03pm
- Adoption of agenda - Motion made and approved
- Devotions by Pastor Mike - "Hidden Greatness"
- Approval of previous meeting's minutes - motion made and accepted
- "Ideas that will get you fired": Do we have too many committees?
- Staff Reports - Motion made and all reports approved
- Finance Report - Motion made and approved
- Meal and Devotions signups
 - For March meeting: Linda meal, Greg devotions

Discussion

- Final Constitution Version
 - Waiting for Synod approval
- Staff Support Committee formation
 - Definition read from constitution
 - Council to appoint members (2), next step is reaching out to potential members.
- Boiler Repair
 - Report from Brian
 - Next steps: Choosing contractor and approaching Finance for funding discussion.
- Masonry repair: motion made and vote approved to move forward Monday, March 3 with Century Brick
- Property Insurance Review
 - Discussion of '25-'26 Insurance Review provided by Lightwell Insurance Advisors, decision tabled pending clarification by rep
- Grace Hall Lighting quote
 - Motion made to accept bid, vote approved
- Discussion on quote to upgrade Grace Hall AV systems
- Discussion about handling large memorials/bequests
 - Mike H, Pam, and Linda will meet to discuss further.
- Capital Campaign
 - Pastor Mike and Brian will meet to discuss further
- Property Manager Job Description
 - Brian, Pastor Mike, Vicar on hiring team
 - Wording in description changed from "\$17/hr" to "wage negotiable"
 - Next steps: Posting job, interviewing candidates
- Raising awareness about the recent political attacks on Lutheran charities and the possible future ramifications for the Church.
- Adjournment at 7:51pm
- Next Meeting – March 25, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

Summary of council action Feb. 25

- Vote to approve moving forward with masonry repair
- Vote to accept quote for Grace Hall Lighting improvements

Your 2025 Grace Lutheran Church Council:

Valerie Culp, Mike Hilsabeck, Linda Moravec, Stuart Mitchell, Pam Hellman-Palmer

Exec. Team

Greg Boesch – President, Tom McCleary - Vice President, Emma Stammer - Secretary
Brian Gerling - Member at Large

Worship Volunteer Needs:

Each week we are need of a Greeter, Lector, Communion Assistant, and Coffee/Donut Server. During Lent we will need additional help on Ash Wednesday, Lenten Wednesday Evening Worship, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

Not certain you know what to do? Call the office during the week – we'd be happy to answer your questions so you can decide where you feel most comfortable.

Sign up using the clipboard found on a Gathering Hall table, or go to 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](#).

Not looking for such a visible role? Altar Guild and Tech Crew are also happy to share what they do each week.

Grace Garden Help Needed!

We are getting ready to start planning how to proceed with the church garden this year! We want to continue sharing with local food pantries and the Little Free Pantry, but we need more help.

We are looking for one-week commitments in caring for the gardening during the growing season. Please share this volunteer opportunity with friends, neighbors, and community groups. Julie Honsey and Michelle Voelker are planning the garden, will help plant in spring, help with the final harvest/cleanup in fall, and guide all volunteers, as well as take one week during the summer to care for the garden. We just need help with the rest. Thank you! Michelle: michelle@gracedm.org

Finance Report – February Results

Financial results for February YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$58,055, Budget \$69,458, Prior year \$69,162
- Expenses – Actual \$80,384, Budget \$75,100, Prior year \$70,580
- Net activity – Actual (\$22,329), Budget (\$5,642), Prior year (\$1,418)



Activity was \$16,687 below budget. This was primarily due to lower pledged offering than budgeted. During the year significant expense has occurred for repairs of the boiler. Additional expense is expected.

Website Calendar and More!

Weekly e-news: Sent every Tuesday with weekly updates, activity reminders, occasional community news. By signing up you will also receive other occasional emails, such as funeral notices and special requests. Sign up on our website home page www.gracedm.org — just scroll down until you see "Get the Good News," enter your email, and click enter.

Website calendar: also at gracedm.org — see times, meeting rooms for upcoming events, holiday worship times, or whether a room you want to reserve is available. Click on the News and Events drop-down menu at www.gracedm.org

Newsletter Birthday and Anniversary Lists:

Do you want to see your name in the weekly announcements or the monthly newsletter? Call the office to let us know, and check that we have the correct dates on file.