

Morning and Welcome to Grace!
Announcements for September 14, 2025

Immediate Prayer Needs

Jennetta Irwin – Jason Irwin's Grandmother
The family of Carrie Schall – daughter of Rita Stackhouse

Ongoing Prayer Needs

Amy Batten, Ellen Batten, Sandy Briggs, Ken Carlson, Lonnie Jessen, Delores Johnson, Brad Lint, Joyce Lewis, Darrel Mixdorf – father of Karri Brandsfield, Shyril Nelsen – Deanna Weber's Mother, Livia Ocken, Barb Powers, Ed Ridnour, Tony - son of Linda Rundle, 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*

Happy Birthday: Katelyn Jessen, Richard Voelker, Rev. Michael Schmidt, Sarah Helt, Frank McKinney, Vicar Lotegeluaki Lengai

Happy Anniversary: Larry and Janice Nordeen

Flowers on the altar glorify God and are given by Aaron and Karri Brandsfield to honor the start of another great program year at Grace.

Celebrate with us! This morning we celebrate the Holy Baptism of Marie Catherine Berg. Parents are Mason and Melissa Berg. Sponsors are Sam and Emma Rogers.



Enjoy Coffee, juice, donut holes, and fellowship in the Gathering Hall immediately following worship.



Fall Education begins this morning!

Sunday School:

Begins on September 14 at 10:15 a.m. K-5 students will meet in the Sunday School room, across from the elevator and just up the stairs from the Gathering Hall.

Adult Education - middle and high school are welcome and encouraged to participate too! Starting on September 14, we will meet in Grace Hall at 10:15, after worship and coffeetime.

- **Today, September 14: Connie Ryan, Executive Director of Interfaith Alliance, will be our guest. Come ready to hear more about Reconciling in Christ and the process.**
 - September 21: Who is Jesus — Really? 1 John 1:1-22
 - September 28: Congregation Service Project: Make Kits for LWR
- Join us after worship on 9/28 to put together school kits, baby care kits, and to tie some quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We'll work together in Grace Hall to make these essential gifts for our global and US neighbors who have experienced disasters, war, displacement, or deepest poverty. Look for a more detailed insert tucked into today's Announcements.



TeamGRACE invites you to Grace Hall after worship today. Let's give Connie Ryan a warm welcome. Bring your questions about the Reconciling in Christ Process and what that means/does for Grace members. The anonymous comment and question cards are still available in the pews if you prefer those, and will be for several weeks yet, in case you think of something else you want us to know or ask after today's discussion.

Thank you for all of the survey responses. If you just haven't have time yet – we still value and want to hear your thoughts and opinions. Printed copies will remain in the entryway for a few weeks, or contact Michelle@gracedm.org in the office so we can forward you a link.



Bible Study: Exodus

Led by Pastor Mike and Vicar Lotegeluaki. Any and everyone is welcome – friends, neighbors, members, drop-ins. We offer two options:

- Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. Meet in Grace Hall.
- Thursday evenings in Room 102 on the lower level.



Adult Choir Rehearsals rehearses on Wednesdays

We meet at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs music room. Whether you're new to choir, a returning singer or someone who hasn't sung in choir for a while but would like to come back, you are welcome! Choir sings about once a month (more during the Advent/Christmas season) and we enjoy low-key rehearsals and lots of fellowship.

For more information, contact Kathy Bowermaster at kathybowermaster17@gmail.com or 515-971-6360.



Preparation for Worship in the Upper Room

Sundays, 8:15 – 8:40 a.m.

Each Sunday before the worship service, you are invited to gather with our small group in the Upper Room for Preparation for Worship: a brief time of silent prayer followed by a reflective reading and discussion of one of the day's hymns. The gathering aims to ready hearts to enter worship as a loving, attentive presence, holding the worship service and congregation in prayer. All are welcome. Go to the back of the Gathering Hall near the entrance to the Sanctuary, and take the stairs (or elevator) upstairs.



Pet Blessing

Saturday, October 4, 2025, 10 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church, on the lawn

You are invited to bring your furry, fuzzy, fishy or feathered friends to our Annual Community Pet Blessing on Saturday, October 4.

The service will begin at 10:00 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.



Christmas Worship Question

It seems early to be talking about Christmas, however we value your input, and want to give you time to comment without rushing the conversation.

in the past few years, the late Christmas Eve service has been very sparsely attended. Moving the time from 11 p.m. to 10 p.m. to 9 p.m. over recent years has not made an impact and attendance remains small – often limited to the families of those who are serving. We tried offering several early evening options as well, thinking perhaps we would have several fully attended early services. The results were a fully attended 4 p.m. service and a sparsely attended 6 p.m. service. Christmas Eve worship just isn't the same when there are only a few people singing the hymns, especially if the attendees are only staff, Altar Guild members, musicians, and the Tech Crew.

Staff are considering the following, and here is where we would like to hear from you:

One Christmas Eve Service at 5 p.m.

One Christmas Day Service at 10 a.m.

Please reach out to the office with your comments during the week, or send an email to Pastor Mike mike@gracedm.org.



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