

**Morning and Welcome to Grace!**  
**Announcements for December 28, 2025**

**Immediate Prayer Needs**

The Johansen family, John, Kendra, and Jennifer, Barb Zimany, Linda Gronert  
The Family of Ernest Dostalík – brother of Marty Dostalík. The Family of Barb Powers.

**Ongoing Prayer Needs**

Amy Batten, Ellen Batten, Sandy Briggs, Ken Carlson, Lonnie Jessen, Brad Lint, Joyce Lewis, Darrel Mixdorf – father of Karri Brandsfield, Shyral Nelsen – Deanna Weber's Mother, Livia Ocken, 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.** Cards left in the offering plate 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](mailto:mike@gracedm.org) or Vicar Lotegeluaki [lotegeluaki@gracedm.org](mailto:lotegeluaki@gracedm.org)*

**Happy Birthday:** Chris Jansen, Elizabeth Lewis, Nancy Crowfoot, Wayne Curry, Piper Hutton, Jon Rutter, Stuart Mitchell, Nicole Nelson, Barbara Berven

**Happy Anniversary:** Megan and Charles Reynolds



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

Education Hour will return on Sunday, January 4, with a service project in Grace Hall. Together we will make Fleece Hats for the Little Free Pantry.

Bible Study will return on Tuesday, January 6 at 9 a.m., and Thursday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m.  
Confirmation Class will return on Wednesday, January 7 at 6:45 p.m.



**Worship Volunteer Needs for January are posted online.**

Sign up using the clipboard found in the Gathering Hall, 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](#).



**Church Office Schedule**

- **Tuesday, December 30:** Open, last day for 2024 contributions
- **Wednesday December 31 — Sunday, January 4:** Closed
- **Monday, January 5:** We return to our normal office hours of Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Final contribution date for 2025: Tuesday, December 30, noon**

As we get close to year-end, we encourage members to be sure they are current with their pledge commitment. If you are unsure of your status, please contact the church office. The Final deposit for 2025 will be made on Tuesday, December 30. Anything received after the 30th will count toward 2026. Thank you!

**Annual Reports:** Will be due in the office on January 7, 2026. Our intention is to have the Annual Report ready to you by the Budget Forum on January 18, but we can only do that if we have all your reports in. Thank you!





## TeamGRACE

A little over a year ago, Amy Batten, Kelley Brown, Jessica Flannery, Mary Helt, Isaac McCleary, Jenny Rehder, and Amy Schmelzer met to shepherd the process of Grace becoming a Reconciled in Christ congregation with the common goal for everyone to know they are welcome at Grace. Last week TeamGRACE presented a welcome statement for consideration in advance of the annual congregational meeting in January 2026. You can find this statement printed in the December Friendly Visitor (found online at [www.gracedm.org/Resources](http://www.gracedm.org/Resources)) and in the Christmas-January newsletter found online and in the entryway of the church. Please read through it if you haven't yet, and reach out to the committee if you have any questions or comments. You are also welcome to share those anonymously.



### December Little Free Pantry Request:

We are collecting personal hygiene items for the Little Free Pantry in December. As the weather gets colder, we need items that won't freeze overnight. The [Grace LFP Amazon Wish List](#) is also available to have items shipped to the church. Donations can also be made online through the [GIVE](#) page or send a check payable to Grace Lutheran Church with "Little Free Pantry" in the memo. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



### January LFP Request

We are collecting cereal and individual oatmeal packets for the Little Free Pantry in January.



### Exploring Grace With Pastor Mike, January 4 after worship

A warm invitation to learn about our community, faith, and life together. **Exploring Grace** is an opportunity for you to get answers about us and find out about what being a part of Grace might look like for you. Enjoy coffee and a donut hole after worship; then at 10:15 a.m., meet in the office on the main floor: just up the stairs and to the left from the main entry. If this date doesn't work for you, there will be another opportunity in February. Or, just call the office to make an appointment at a time that works for you! **Pastor Mike at 515-276-6873 or [Mike@gracedm.org](mailto:Mike@gracedm.org)**



### Grace Endowment Fund Applications are Open

Endowment grants are awarded each year to groups both inside and outside of Grace. A certain percentage of the funds given each year must be awarded to community groups outside of the Grace community, so please share and promote this opportunity widely. Requests for specific, finite projects are preferred. The Endowment does not fund operational expenses. Applications are due January 31, 2026. Additional details and examples of projects can be found on our [website https://gracedm.org/support-of-others/grace-endowment-fund/](https://gracedm.org/support-of-others/grace-endowment-fund/)



Grace Lutheran Church  
5201 Urbandale Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
**Pastor Michael Schmidt**  
515-276-6873  
[mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org) [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)