

**Morning and Welcome to Grace!
Announcements for January 4, 2026**

Immediate Prayer Needs

The Johansen family, John, Kendra, and Jennifer, Barb Zimany, Linda Gronert

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 or Vicar Lotegeluaki lotegeluaki@gracedm.org

Happy Birthday!

December 28 – January 3: Samantha Schmidt, Courtney Vander Plaats, Sarah Chenoweth, Linda Rundle, Kevin Krause, Marion Nehmer, Gumarito Marquez, Tana Friesth Perry, Andrew Allen, Nicholas Jessen, Jay Wangerin, Eric Webber

January 4 – 10 Julie Honsey, Tammy Denton, Amy Schmelzer Paul Calahan, Kathy Roat, Catherine Lewis, Sandra Briggs, Michael Friesth, Caden Mendez

Happy Anniversary!

January 4 – 10 Joie and David Gronert



Coffee & Fellowship

Enjoy Coffee, juice, donut holes, and fellowship – this week in Grace Hall immediately following worship. Our monthly Service project will also be today, as we gather together to make Fleece Hats for the Little Free Pantry.

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**



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.

Upcoming Education Topics:

- **Sunday, January 11:** Conversation with Council in Grace Hall. Sunday school will meet in the Sunday School room.
- **Sunday, January 18:** Budget and Finance Forum, and update on the Capital Campaign. Sunday school will meet in the Sunday School room.
- **Sunday, January 25:** Annual Congregational Meeting, followed by a potluck. Grace will provide desserts. We will take signups for both main and side dishes.



Poinsettia Pickup

If you sponsored a Poinsettia for the Sanctuary at Christmas, you may now take them home. Poinsettias not taken home today will be placed in Grace Hall, and composted after a week.



Festival of Trees: Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Gathering Hall so festive during the Christmas season. The Willing workers will be putting the trees away this Thursday prior to an event in the Gathering Hall on Saturday. If you have ornaments on a tree, please retrieve them before Thursday.



Worship Volunteer Needs for January are posted online.

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



Annual Reports: Are 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) 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.



January Little Free Pantry Request:

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



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/)

New Year's Centering Prayer Retreat

January 10, 2026, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Grace Lutheran Church

Join us in welcoming the New Year by setting aside time to reflect on the year past and imagine the year to come. Bring magazines to share for a "vision board," if you like. Time will also be devoted to contemplative practices including Centering Prayer. Sponsored by: Contemplative Outreach of Central Iowa and the Being New Spirituality Center. Cost: \$40 (includes lunch) – to be paid at the door. For a detailed schedule and reservation, look follow the link: <https://www.centeriowa.org/new-years-centering-prayer-retreat> or contact Kathleen Schiltz at kathleengrace55@gmail.com



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