

The Friendly Visitor March 2026

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.*

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Submission deadline for the April newsletter: March 20

Office & Open Building Hours

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday – Thursday
Or by appointment

Worship Schedule

Wednesday evening: 6:30 p.m.

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Worship: In-person & Online

10:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee

10:15 a.m. Education Hour

Grace Lutheran Church
5201 Urbandale Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310
515-276-6873

gracedm.org

Tell Me Something Good

This is the theme that will guide our time together during the Season of Lent. As I have pondered this theme, I cannot help but think about several conversations that I have had with family members. These conversations have all taken place while gathered for a family funeral and go something like, "We need to find some happier reasons to see each other." The truth is I have heard multiple families share something similar while navigating the loss of a loved one. Families often gather around grief and joy, and sometimes it gets a little out of balance.

These days, it is easy to get out of balance. I look at the state of the world, of this country, right now and I feel overwhelmed. We have allowed a culture that protects billionaires. We have allowed a culture that ignores the pleas of the abused. We have allowed a culture that allows people to be split from families and deported without due process. We have allowed a culture that justifies murder and kidnapping. We have allowed a culture that is seen by much of the world as something to be booed. We have allowed a culture that pits neighbor against neighbors instead of holding the decision-makers accountable. It is easy to get out of balance.

We need to find some happier reasons to see each other. This theme is a reminder that the goodness of God bursts into our fears, our grief, our brokenness. This Good News comes as a surprise. What we find is that it is not about waiting for the happier reasons to gather; it is about leaning into the good that is present. Here. Now. Even in this place.

I do not know all that you are going through. I only know that many hearts are heavy right now. Take heart, siblings in Christ. God meets us here. The goodness of God is all around. When the world feels out of balance, may we find refuge in the presence of God. When we are out of balance, may we find the strength to say, "Tell me something good."

In Christ, Pastor Mike



First Communion Classes

Open to all in 2nd grade or older!
We will meet on Wednesdays, March 11, 18, and 25
5:30 - 6:15 p.m. in room 102



Soup Supper begins at 5 p.m. and ends at 6:15 p.m. Come when you can during that time. *Everyone is welcome.*

Choir will rehearse at 5:30 p.m. in the music room, unless otherwise noted.

Worship will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary with Holden Evening Prayer.

Confirmation will not meet during Lent

SPONSOR AN EASTER LILY

We invite you to purchase an Easter lily to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. The cost is **\$17.00**, 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).



Forms can be found in the sanctuary, in the entryway, and our website. The form lists all the instructions as well as several options for payment.

Order deadline: March 22

Grace Lutheran Church Staff
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Custodian Todd Haugen
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Happy Anniversary

20 Edward and Jane Ridhour

Happy Birthday

- 1 Kristen Bockenstedt
- 2 Sara Hilsabeck
Donald York
- 3 Victoria Meillier
- 5 Brent Culp
- 8 Jack Chenoweth
- 10 Patty (Flannery) Gallup
- 13 Lathrop Preston
Hilary Woodhouse
Kyler Andersen
- 15 Lydia McCleary
Rachel Miller
Phoebe Volious
- 17 Kathy Bowermaster
Lisa Friesth
Benjamin Honsey
- 18 Emma Ashton
Tom Selander
- 19 Haley Turner Bluto
Diane Westercamp
- 21 Angela Allen
- 22 Louie Anderson
- 23 Caroline Vander Plaats
- 24 Mary Jo McCleary
- 27 Sierra Carney
Zara Preston
- 28 Alexson Calahan
- 28 Charles Reynolds
- 29 Lenny Palmer
Sharon Schwemler
- 30 Curtis Chenoweth
Kristin Medhurst



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8, 2026.



Greetings in Jesus' Name.

February is another wonderful month filled with growth, hope, and meaningful ministry opportunities, though it certainly feels like it's flying by. So much has already happened! Even with the fast pace of the year, it's hard to believe that Lent is just around the corner. Through it all, we are reminded that God is still the same, and His Word remains unchanging.

Skills: Quilting Ministry Visit: On January 29, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit the quilting group. Not only did I learn more about the beautiful and meaningful work they do, but I was also able to participate in the quilting process myself. They graciously welcomed me and patiently guided me as I learned. I am deeply grateful for their dedication and the care they put into serving those in need through this ministry.

Mission: Strengthening Our Partnership: On February 10, I spoke with Pastor Manongi of Msindo Parish following our Mission Committee meeting. He is very excited about renewing the relationship between Msindo and Grace Lutheran for the benefit of the whole body of Christ, both in the ELCA and the ELCT. He also asked me to extend his warm greetings to the congregation on behalf of Msindo Parish.

Ministry: Confirmation & Bible Study: Our confirmation class is going well, and Bible study continues to progress steadily. We are currently studying the book of Exodus, a powerful and compelling book that teaches about the law, God's protection, and His rescue of the Israelites from Egypt. One of the key verses that I am still reflecting on is Exodus 6:6:

"I am the LORD, and I will free you out from the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment." This verse speaks profoundly about redemption, freedom from bondage, and God's mighty intervention. Just as God promised to deliver Israel, Christians today find hope in Christ Jesus. Christ delivers us from personal struggles, sin, and oppression. The word "I will redeem you" is especially powerful. Redemption is not only a historical event, but it is also a living reality. We are encouraged to trust in God's ability to transform lives even today.

Transfiguration Sunday Reflection: On Transfiguration Sunday, we remember when Jesus took three of His disciples up a high mountain and was transfigured before them (Matthew 17:1-8). Peter wanted to remain there, but God declared, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him."

What stands out is that they could not stay on the mountain. They had to return to the valley where suffering, rejection, and even the cross awaited. **The Good News** is this: they were not alone. And neither are we. Even when life feels uncertain or frightening, God calls us to listen to Jesus and trust His presence with us in every valley. May God continue to bless and guide us all.

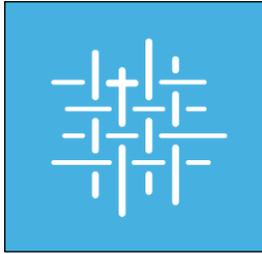
Vicar Lotegeluaki Ole L. Lengai.



March LFP Request: Beans and Rice

We are collecting beans and rice for the Little Free Pantry in March. 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.



Building a Legacy “Preparing for the Next 100 Years” Grace Capital Campaign Update

A hearty “thank you” to everyone who has committed to the “Building a Legacy” capital campaign as Grace approaches its 100th birthday and prepares for the next 100 years. As of mid-February, \$546,000 has been given or pledged to the capital campaign. When coupled with the preexisting balance in the capital campaign account, Grace has reached our \$615,000 goal for the Priority A projects. At the time of this writing, we have \$244,400 in hand. Thirty-six named donors along with two anonymous donors have committed to the campaign.

Approximately 61.5% (\$336,200) should be realized this year and 20.1% (\$110,000) should be realized in the second year (2027). Subsequent years are as follows: third year – 11.4% (\$62,000); fourth year – 0 3.6% (\$19,400); fifth year – 3.4% (\$18,400).

What does this do for Grace? This puts us well on our way to fulfilling the Priority A items of \$615,000. Priority A items are essential projects for safety, structural integrity, and building systems. Some of these items (e.g., new boilers) have already been installed and partially paid for before the beginning of the campaign but were included in the campaign goal. Priority B items of \$85,000 are still essential to be addressed for Grace to effectively fulfill its mission. Priority C, D, and E items of \$43,000 are truly a wish list that would enhance the appearance of the building and interior spaces.

Where do we go from here? A number of items to be aware of:

1. A number of members have indicated a willingness to donate time and talents. This will be especially useful for bathroom renovations and other projects that may need painting, etc. This will lower the initial estimated costs for these types of projects.
2. Please keep Grace in mind if you would like to make an additional pledge or donation now or in the future. The capital campaign committee is extremely pleased with the response to the campaign but there is still work to be done.
3. The church council in conjunction with the property and finance committees will be developing a plan of action to address Grace’s most critical needs first.

Again, thank you again to all that have supported the capital campaign! Your commitment to Grace and its mission is truly appreciated!



College Scholarship Applications due June 1, 2026

Members of Grace Lutheran Church who have been accepted by a Lutheran seminary, college, or university may apply for a grant each year.

Applicants should submit the application found in the Resources section of our website (see link below), along with a one page essay as described in the application form.

Scholarships shall consist of a grant of up to \$500.00 per recipient per year and will be paid directly to the seminary, college, or university, along with appropriate notification of the grant. Grants shall be distributed in July or August preceding the fall semester.

<https://gracedm.org/content/uploads/2018/04/Scholarship-Application.pdf>

TeamGRACE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we all have stories that give meaning to our lives and decisions. If you have a story you would like to share, please let us know. We, in the Team, have shared how our experiences led us to our understandings and beliefs.

Several members of Grace requested Bible verses to support acceptance of LGBTQ+. We will be sharing information from Biblical scholars throughout 2026.

Old Testament: Genesis 19:5

(Abram went to Sodom and brother Lot was his host, when a crowd from the town yelled at Lot), “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we may know them.” (As visitors and aliens, Abram’s party was threatened by the locals with violence and theft; Lot offered women to take the men’s places, but they wanted to abuse and humiliate the foreign men; **lack of hospitality and threats to visitors** are the real reasons for the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. God’s expectation of hospitality to others — even strangers — was/is a major principle.)

Genesis 19:11

And they struck with blindness the men who were at the door of the house, both small and great, so they were unable to find the door. (Unable to find good men who offered **hospitality and respect**, God protected Abram and destroyed the town. It had nothing to do with same-gender relationships, but violence and abuse.)

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 13:1, 13

1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; **but the greatest of these is love.**

Over and over, the Bible talks of showing hospitality, treating others as you would be treated, not being afraid.

The New Student Bible states, “In comparison with laws from other countries at that time, the Old Testament made a considerable advance.” Reasons given: in Hebrew culture, people were more important than property, slaves were treated as human beings; there was expectation of equal justice before the law (even foreigners) and punishment fit crimes; sex, attitudes, and immorality mattered; the poor and weak were protected. Leviticus lays out clear consequences for disobeying the laws. Discussion exists about a departure from the local cultures and the translation from the Greek: a man who misuses his power to abuse one of lesser power is a clear violation of Hebrew Law, since the Bible states man’s role is to protect people, including children, women, slaves, and foreigners. Jesus brought another giant leap with “living in the spirit of the law”, not just confined to words, but making Grace a defining attitude of a forgiving God (to be emulated by humanity). Other cultures often assumed the powerful would abuse the powerless.

Note that Sunday morning education hour is currently covering a series of readings related to these topics: exploring what these texts really say vs. what popular summaries and paraphrasing suggest. Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:15 to explore this further. Bring your questions!

February 28: We held a discussion on the Genesis texts listed in the above article.

March 1: We will be reviewing and discussing several Old Testament texts

March 8: We will focus on New Testament texts.



Education and Service Projects for All Ages

Elementary Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.:

K-5 students meet in the Sunday School room, across from the elevator just up the stairs from the Gathering Hall. Thank you to volunteers Rich Snyder, Val Culp, Courtney Brandsfield, Deanna Weber, and Jenie Schmidt.

Monthly Service Projects: Our next project will be for Lutheran World Relief on March 29, Palm Sunday. See page 8 for more information.

Adult Education: Middle and high school are welcome and encouraged to participate too!

We meet in Grace Hall at 10:15, after worship and coffeetime.

- **March 1:** We will examine and discuss Old Testament readings that are often referenced in arguments for/against support of LGBTQIA+ communities and relationships.
- **March 8:** We will examine New Testament readings that are often referenced in arguments for/against support of LGBTQIA+ communities and relationships.
- **March 15, 22:** We will continue with our study of First and Second Corinthians.

Confirmation Classes: We will not meet during Lent and will resume on April 15.

First Communion Classes: We will meet on Wednesdays March 11, 18, and 25 from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. in room 102.

Weekday Bible Study: The Ten Commandments

Led by Pastor Mike and Vicar Lotegeluaki. Anyone and everyone is welcome — friends, neighbors, members, drop-ins. You do not have to be there at every meeting to be welcome and find meaning. We offer two options:

- Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. Meet in Grace Hall.
- Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in Room 102 on the lower level.

Exploring Grace With Pastor Mike

A warm invitation to learn about our community, faith, and life together.

Welcome! **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.



March 2 after worship

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. **Questions? Contact the office at 515-276-6873 or by emailing** Pastor Mike at Mike@gracedm.org. If this date doesn't work for you, there will be an additional opportunity on April 26. Or, just call the office to make an appointment at a time that works for you!



Chancel Choir will meet to rehearse at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays during Lent, beginning on March 4.

Lent and Easter Details

Wednesday evening worship will be Holden Evening Prayer.

Dates: March 4, 11, 18, 25

Lenten Devotionals with the theme of Tell Me Something Good are available in the Gathering Hall and at the back of the sanctuary.

Holy Week Schedule:

- Maundy Thursday Worship, April 2. 6:30 p.m., in-person and online
- Seven Sacred Pauses, Good Friday, April 3. All day, Being New Spirituality Center. Find details on page 10.
- Good Friday Worship: 6:30 p.m., in-person and online
- Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship: 6:30 a.m.
- Easter Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m., in-person and online
- Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast: 7–8:45 a.m.— freewill offerings accepted



Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast



Easter morning April 5, 2026, we'll be serving breakfast between the two worship services, from 7 to 8:45 a.m. It's a lovely way to start the day without rushing, enjoying a nice breakfast with family and friends before church. Proceeds from the breakfast help support Grace Lutheran Church Member Care Ministry.



Help is needed for the breakfast to be success, and all members of Grace are welcome and encouraged to participate. Opportunities include setup and/or food prep on Saturday, cooking early on Easter Sunday, serving from the kitchen window, clearing tables and resetting place settings, running the dishwasher, and cleanup after worship.

Our typical menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage or bacon, fruit, milk, juice, tea, and coffee. Ross Peeler has already secured the pancake batter and griddle, and has made contacts about milk and juice cartons.

For more information or if you would be willing to help before, during, or after the breakfast, please contact the office at 515-276-6873. We'll put out a sign-up closer to the date.

Worship Volunteer Needs

We have some amazing volunteers, but we'd love to increase our volunteer pool!

Greeter: Stand by the doors, smile, say "Good Morning" or "Welcome!" Hold the door if needed.

Lector: Are you comfortable reading in front of people? Bulletins are published in advance so you have time to practice if you like.

Poetry Reader (during Lent): Perfect for someone who is confident reading but prefers not to be in front of everyone. You also get to see your material in advance but will read from the back of the church.

Communion Assistant: Enter the Chancel from the "hidden side door", receive the bread and wine from Pastor before assisting with the wine or juice. Say, "The Blood of Christ, shed for you" as you pour.

Coffee/Donut Setup: All the directions and supplies are in the little kitchenette in the Gathering Hall.



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](#).



Men's Basketball NCAA Fundraiser 2026

The Annual NCAA Basketball Tournament is back!

We will be following the Men's Bracket for our fundraiser this year.

Selection happens on Sunday, March 15. Are you feeling lucky? Local and regional charities hope so! We will hold the church pool again this year. There will be a \$5 entry fee, and the winner will choose which charity will receive the pool monies. If you do not want to fill out a bracket and would like to contribute to the pool, that is OK too! Last year, Todd Haugen won and was able to give the \$155 pool to Arthritis Foundation. So far, we have given away more than \$2,000 through this annual charity!

To enter, simply fill out a bracket and turn it in to the church office between Sunday, March 15, and 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, with the \$5 entry fee. You should also note your chosen charity when you turn in the bracket. Brackets will be available in the church office or you can print your own. Please either include cash or make the check payable to Grace Lutheran Church with NCAA in the memo field. You could also scan your bracket and send it to mike@gracedm.org.

With no clear favorite to win this year, we will again use a scoring system with added points for the First Round upsets to keep things exciting. The "First Four" games will not be included. Those who correctly predict a First Four team winning in the First Round will get the point no matter which wins in the First Four. The round of 64 teams will be worth 1 point each with bonus points for upsets (difference between seeds). Round of 32 will be worth 2 points, round of 16 will be worth 4 points each. The following rounds will be worth 8 points, 12 points, and then 20 points for the correct Champion.

Donation Drive for Lutheran World Relief, February 18 – March 29

On March 29, Palm Sunday, we will have both a kit and quilt blessing and an All Ages service project to benefit Lutheran World Relief. We will have the blessing during worship and then make personal care kits, baby care kits and tie quilts during education hour to send around the world to people in need.



We will be accepting donations during Lent to support kit and quilt making through March 29. Yellow donation envelopes can be found at the back of the sanctuary near the entrance, or you may use our secure online giving portal at <https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace/>. Join us as we continue to minister to our neighbors in the US and around the world. who are experiencing disasters, deep poverty, hunger, conflict, and displacement.



Save the Date! Grace Annual Garage Sale Saturday, August 1, 2026

Setup and donation drop-off will take place on Friday July 31. Save your stuff for us! All proceeds support the Grace Little Free Pantry. Times, and volunteer needs will be announced at a later date.

Shop local. Eat global.

LSI's Global Greens Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a win-win for your health and our community. Through a weekly seasonal subscription, you'll receive naturally grown vegetables raised by former refugees in Central Iowa. This program connects refugees who were farmers in their home countries to land, infrastructure, and the business coaching they need to start their own farm businesses.

The CSA sign-up will **open on March 4**. The first pick-up date will be on **May 26**.

To sign up to receive a share, please contact Mark at Mark.Bequeaith@Iowa.org or call **515.608.3599**.



Holding the Kingdom Post, Julie Honsey

The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed, nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or "There it is!" For, in fact, the kingdom of God is within you and among you. Luke 17: 21

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

Throughout scripture, Jesus and Paul taught that the inner state of a person has real formative power in the world, an inner structural integrity that can actually hold and transmit the Kingdom of God. The Gospels are remarkably consistent on this point. Jesus keeps pointing beneath behavior to the inner structure of the human person—heart, attention, and intention. He taught that the heart organizes the whole person, much like a magnetic field.

A magnetic field is invisible. It does not coerce, argue, or persuade. It works effortlessly through presence, by meeting what is happening, within and around it, *as it is*, rather than reacting automatically or habitually. Like a compass, it is capable of alignment. In this sense, a person intent on embodying the "Fruit of the Spirit" functions less like an instructor issuing commands and more like a compass with a field of influence, oriented toward what is good and true.

Acting as a moral compass, such people help others align with their own hearts. The state of their being, their personhood, is not so much sentimental as it is structural. They help others find their way not by pressure or persuasion, but by steadiness. This was true of Jesus himself, whose authority flowed not from force but from a life deeply formed by love, patience, and truth.

The attention of those who embody the Fruit of the Spirit is relatively unified. They do not emit unresolved emotional charges, so their responses are measured and life-giving rather than reactive. Like Jesus, their presence outweighs their compulsion to act.

Embodiment of the Fruit of the Spirit wards off reactive emotional states such as judgment, fear, and hatred, which are highly conditioned, compulsive, and destabilizing states. Living from this coherent inner state is an intentional participation in the life of God. It creates a stable interior orientation that allows the inner states of others to settle as well.

In a time when fear, outrage, and division spread quickly, such steadiness is not optional. It is a spiritual task. When we intentionally practice presence, we manifest patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control, interrupting the habitual cycles of reactivity that damage relationships and communities.

Holding this kind of post is not an escape from the world; it is faithful engagement with it. Jesus does not call us away from the struggles of our time, but into a patient, conscious labor of formation, becoming people whose lives quietly point toward God. By embodying the Fruit of the Spirit in our own being, we help steady the field of influence, holding the Kingdom Post.

This is the urgent work before us.

This is how the Kingdom comes—within us and among us.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12

...work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2: 12b-13

To Care without Carrying: Tending to Our Collective Sorrows

Sunday March 15, 2026: 1–4 p.m. Grace Hall 2

A Community Grief Tending Ritual:

We desire to be able to care and be connected without shutting down. In a world where hearts are growing heavier under the weight of the sorrows of collective experience we warmly invite you to a community gathering to grieve. Here we can be with the hurt, anxiety, fear, outrage, numbness and heartbreak we may be feeling. We are not here to fix or solve anything. We come together to help each other remember how to hold grief in one hand, joy in the other, and expand our being large and steady enough to hold both.



What to expect: We will tend to our collective grief through guided practices of community song circle, writing exercises, chanting, prayer, sharing of poetry, gentle body movement, breathing, and grounding exercises. There is no right or wrong way to grieve. This interactive experience invites you to participate as you are able in whichever way is suitable for you.

****For Additional Information and to RSVP, email hannahwhetston@gmail.com****

Prayer for Peace (Hybrid)

Monday, March 16, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Being New Center

Contemplation is not withdrawal from action, but the source of it. —Thomas Merton

Following a 20-minute sit of Centering Prayer or other silent meditation, we will watch and discuss a video relevant to what is happening in this world of dire need.

All are welcome. Bring your prayers, your grief, your hope, your wisdom. This hybrid event, with [Zoom](#) available, is a collaboration of Being New and COCI.

Seven Sacred Pauses

**Good Friday, April 3, at Being New Spirituality Center
Lower level of Grace Lutheran Church**

We will share in 20-minute silent prayer pauses at **8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., noon, 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 6:00 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.

In-person or on [Zoom](#). Contact [Julie Honsey](#) for more information.

Recovery Café & Circle

Fridays at noon and **starting March 10 at 6:30 pm** in the Center.

Recovery Circle is for anyone navigating challenges like addiction, depression, life transitions—or simply seeking a healthier lifestyle or deeper sense of purpose. The circle offers a safe space to share without judgment, set goals, celebrate steps of progress and move forward.

Email Patrick.Dahlen@recoverycafe.org or call 515-608-0913.

Instant Soup Mix Service Project



Service Project Sunday! We made 100 cups of Instant Soup Mix on Sunday, February 15!

We had three assembly lines going, each making a different variety of soup. Each were sealed and labelled, with a ziplock of oyster crackers and a spoon attached. They will be placed in the Little Free Pantry along with the other items placed daily. Just by adding hot water and waiting a few minutes, a nourishing meal will be ready to warm a hungry soul. One of the recipes is included below.



Instant Potato Bacon soup mix

2 1/2 cups instant mashed potatoes
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
1 1/2 cups dry milk powder
2 tablespoons Real Bacon Bits
2 tablespoons chicken bouillon powder
1 tablespoon dried parsley
1 tablespoon dried chives
1/4 teaspoon onion powder
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
1/8 teaspoon turmeric

Stir ingredients together and store in a jar.

To use: Stir together equal amounts of mix and boiling water in a cup or bowl. Cover and let rest 5-8 minutes. Stir again and enjoy!

Finance Report – January 2026 Results

Financial results for January YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$26,107, Budget \$34,133, Prior year \$29,022
- Expenses – Actual \$45,177, Budget \$42,000, Prior year \$39,130
- Net activity – Actual (\$19,071), Budget (\$7,867), Prior year (\$10,108)



After a strong finish in 2025, activity for January was behind budget due to lower pledged offering activity. The committee appreciates the congregation interest in the financial status of the church by attending the recent budget forum and annual meeting.

At printing time, the council has just met. Meeting highlights will be printed in the next newsletter. Minutes can always be requested by reaching out to the office or council members.

Your 2026 Grace Lutheran Church Council:

Exec. Team: Tom McCleary – President, Carol Woodruff – Vice President, Mike Hilsabeck – Secretary
Brian Gerling – Member at Large

Linda Moravec, Pam Hellman Palmer, Chuck Denton, Jessica Flannery



Pam P., Tom M., and Joan F. were the lucky ones who each found a baby in their piece of the King Cakes!

Photos from our Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras party, celebrating Grace Lutheran Church completing steps to become part of the RIC network.



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 here: [Worship Videos](#). Sermons and Worship videos are posted approximately 24 hours after each worship. We tend to only keep six months' worth of worship material and video links on our pages.

Other helpful links:

[Altar Flower Signup](https://volunteersignup.org/7RXMJ) — <https://volunteersignup.org/7RXMJ> 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.

[Online Giving](https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace) — Use our secure site at <https://gracedm.org/give-to-grace> and decide where you want to donate: the general church budget, the Little Free Pantry, the Mission Action Fund, youth, etc. Make a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift.