

The Friendly Visitor May 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 May newsletter: May 19

Office & Open Building Hours

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

Sunday Worship Schedule

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

Chapters

As many of you know, my older daughter, Allison, is soon to graduate from high school and head off to college. It is an interesting time as we celebrate all of the “lasts” and learn with all the new “firsts.” We are busy preparing for the graduation party. There is a lot going on. In those rare moments when things slow down, it is an absolute joy to talk with Allison and know that she is ready for this next chapter in life.

I am thinking about all of this while listening to the roofing company install a new roof at Grace. This is a different kind of new chapter. It marks the reality that Grace has been around for a long time and will continue for the foreseeable future. This is not a dramatic new chapter, or one filled with glitz and glamour. It is a new chapter that looks much like what came before, only it is better able to weather the storms that come around.

We all go through different chapters in life. Sometimes, there are big changes like going off to college or moving to a new place. These chapters are filled with excitement and possibilities, dreams of what the future will hold. It is an exciting time and draws others into the story, waiting to see what will happen next.

Sometimes, the new chapter is subtle, and hardly noticeable. It may look more like the replacing of the roof. There are changes that happen that make us stronger, healthier, and better able to weather the storms that come. Yet, to others there is no real noticeable change.

I have been thinking about new chapters a lot as I reflect on the work of Grace Lutheran Church. While much of the Christian Church in North America has doubled down on glitzy and glamorous programming, we have gone a different direction in recent years. From the outside (and maybe even on the inside) it does not look like much has changed. Don't let that fool you. Grace has grown in profound ways that make me tear up with pride.

Chapters, continued on page 2

Chapters, continued from page 1

In a time of programming, we have grown in terms of depth. We have placed community ahead of convenience with our schedule of worship, programs, and opportunities. We have supported the growth of the Being New Spirituality Center, which impacts people from around this “celestial orb” through in person and online offerings. We have multiple large recovery communities that feel at home here. We have created a culture that truly affirms a “come as you are” mentality.

When I look at the next chapter at Grace, I am truly humbled and excited. We have so much to offer the world around us, and the community at large is taking notice. We are living into the name “Grace” through our reliance on the grace of God and extending grace to all we encounter. Heading into our 100th year, I am hopeful about what the next 100 will bring.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike



May Birthdays

- 2 Joshua Meadows
- 3 Helen Ringgenberg
- 4 Todd Haugen
- 5 Dylan Rutter
- 6 Karla Swanson
Hannah Honsey
- 12 Charlotte Nielsen
- 13 Sally Preston
- 15 Dmitri Woodruff
Laurie Helton
- 16 Ashley Ocken
- 17 Carol Krause
- 18 Tim Nehmer
Inga Hoifeldt
Kimberly Fenimore
- 19 Megan Jensen
Chuck Denton
Bruce Bergman
- 21 Barb Zimany
Jacob Nordeen
Kenneth Carlson
Mike Hilsabeck
- 23 Jonay Trentmann
- 25 Hal Turner
- 26 John Schwemler
Devin Ashton
- 27 Courtney Brandsfield
Sue Anderson
- 28 Linda Vernia
- 29 Kira Nehmer
Ralf Hoifeldt
Cal Wilner
- 30 Loree Nelson
Torry Henderson
- 31 Lindsey Nelson
Barbara Bergman

May Anniversaries

- 7 Jon and Cherie Rissman
Justin and Carolyn Andersen
- 11 Carter and Carol Woodruff
- 14 Steve and Mary McCann
- 15 Ro and Barb Zimany
- 21 Mike and Tina Meadows
- 22 Wayne and Debbie Curry
- 23 Richard and Michelle Voelker
- 25 Mason and Melissa Berg
Harlan and Jayne Mortenson
- 30 James and Kimberly Fenimore

Prayers and Sympathies

We hold the family and friends of these loved ones in prayer:

Dorothy Selander – mother of Tom Selander.

Jan Grannes



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Greetings in Jesus' Name.

April is another wonderful, fast-moving month full of growth, hope, and meaningful ministry, a time rich with blessings and important celebrations—from Lent and Holy Week to the remembrance of the crucifixion and the joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as it is written, “He is not here; He has risen, just as He said” (Matthew 28:6).

Blessings: I thank God Almighty for those who are generously sharing their resources—both tangible and intangible—to support me on this journey. One Saturday, after returning from home, I found an envelope on my table labeled, “For Vicar.” What was inside was a true blessing, helping to support my travel to and from Burlington. Although the sender is anonymous, God knows you. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your continued support through your prayers and generous gifts.

Home visit: This month, I also had the privilege of visiting several church congregants in their homes, which gave me a meaningful opportunity to connect with members who attend services online—not only to get to know them better, but also to introduce myself personally. In addition, I was able to visit a member who had been admitted to the hospital, providing another important opportunity to learn from and walk alongside those experiencing health challenges; as Scripture reminds us, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles” (2 Corinthians 1:3–4).

Mission: Strengthening Our Partnership: This month, we held several meetings with the Msindo committee and will continue gathering as we seek better ways to communicate and support one another across both churches. The committee is working diligently to encourage mutual care and to strengthen our relationship as one body of Christ. As part of this ministry, there will be a Mission Moment focusing on Msindo Parish on April 19, 2026, highlighting this shared work and our ongoing commitment to unity and partnership.

Ministry: Confirmation & Bible Study: The Bible study continues to progress steadily as we explore the book of Exodus—a powerful account of God’s law, His protection, and His rescue of the Israelites from Egypt. Meanwhile, the confirmation class has resumed after a break, and we are now learning about the Reformation; the students appear refreshed and engaged as they return with renewed energy and interest.

Graduation: I am joyfully announcing that I will be graduating from Wartburg Theological Seminary on May 17, 2026. The ceremony will begin at 3:00 PM at St. Joseph the Worker in Dubuque. This milestone marks a deeply meaningful moment in my life, and I would be truly honored to have you join me in celebrating this special occasion. Your presence would make the day even more memorable.

As Scripture reminds us, “Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established” (Proverbs 16:3). I hope to celebrate this day with you.

Vicar Lotegeluaki Ole L. Lengai.



May LFP Request

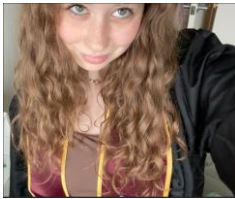
We are collecting individual snack items for the Little Free Pantry in May: applesauce & pudding cups, granola bars, fruit & grain bars, and protein/nut bars. The [Grace LFP Amazon Wish List](#) is also available to have items shipped to the church. Donations can also be made online through the [GIVE](#) page or send a check payable to Grace Lutheran Church with "Little Free Pantry" in the memo.



2026 Graduates!

Allison Olson

Allison is graduating from Urbandale High School in May where she participated in choirs, show choir, dance team, National Honor Society, silver cord, and has earned an academic letter every semester. She enjoys her job working at Adventuretime with elementary age students. In the fall, Allison will be attending Luther College in Decorah, Iowa where she plans to major in elementary education.



Laria Preston

Laria is Graduating from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities with a Bachelor of Science in Developmental Psychology. She will continue her education through additional courses through UCSB, complete a child life internship, and is working towards her ultimate goal of becoming a certified child life specialist. Go Gophers!



Allison Olson's 2026 Grad Party!



You are Invited!

Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m. — 1 p.m.

3505 Urbandale Avenue, Urbandale, Iowa, 50322

May Education

Sunday, May 3: Elementary Students will meet in the Sunday School Room at 10:15 a.m., while Pastor Mike and Vicar Lotegeluaki participate in a conversation with you about their faith journeys. Bring your questions!

Tuesday, May 5: No morning Bible Study due to the First Call Pastor's Retreat.

Sunday, May 10: Mother's Day - No continuing education.

Sunday, May 17: Celebration Sunday immediately Following Worship. **We have much to celebrate!**

- All we've accomplished since September 2025, bible studies, celebrations, successful stewardship and capitol campaigns, a new roof, many amazing service projects...
- Our graduates!
- The (almost) 99th Anniversary of the founding of Grace Lutheran Church!

Celebrating with Cinnamon Rolls! We will have our usual donuts, juice, and coffee, PLUS fresh baked Cinnamon Rolls and bacon or sausage! Come and enjoy!

Learn about Grace's past and plans for our 100th Anniversary!

We are beginning to formulate plans for our 100th Celebration in 2027, and will share some of the ideas we've had, and ask for your opinions and suggestions. We have recently been gifted some historical information, and thought we would share some of those items with you as well.

TeamGrace May

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, Isaiah 56: 1

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right.

New Testament, Luke 10:25-37.

The story of the Good Samaritan — after a man was robbed and beaten by robbers, ostensibly “good” men ignored the injured one in the ditch, while the one who truly “cared for his neighbor” was a Samaritan, an outsider who did not believe in Jesus.

There are many places in the Bible where it is clear Jesus’ messages are to love and care for all of humanity and creation.



BUILDING A LEGACY **“Preparing for the Next 100 Years”** **Grace Capital Campaign Update**

Even though the Building a Legacy capital campaign officially ended on January 18, Grace members continue to keep Grace in their charitable giving plans. Since the last update in mid-February (\$545,000 pledged), additional pledges have been received. Our new total is \$636,067 pledged with \$298,766 in hand. Forty named donors along with two anonymous donors have committed to the campaign.

This additional pledging enables Grace to address the Priority A and B items over the next three years. These items totaled \$700,000 at the beginning of the campaign with some of these items (new boilers) partially paid for before the beginning of the campaign but yet included in the campaign goal. Priority C, D, and E (\$43,000) items remain that would greatly enhance the appearance of the building and interior spaces.

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 and tremendously grateful for the response to the campaign but there is still work to be done.

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

Companion Congregation -- Introduction

Historically, we were the first congregation to be paired with a Tanzanian Lutheran church in the Pare Diocese.

Bishop Hougen (our former pastor) wanted to extend companionship between congregations, especially since Tanzanian churches are growing so fast and we are decreasing in the US--we could learn about Lutherans in different cultures and places and grow in love in understanding.

Companionship is friendship, not financial support of one group to another. Sometimes, we extend a helping hand, but we invested in each other. Our companionship diminished because the pandemic reduced communication and activities, world politics created issues, and the creators of the companionship really did become caring friends and over time, they got older, moved away, or died. It is always sad to lose friends and hard to move on.

The Lutheran Church is growing in Africa. When we first communicated, Msindo had a beautiful church and was helping to build a second church in Mararo. Now, Mararo's church is completed, and another church is being built in Paradiso; one pastor serves the three-point parish with an evangelist assisting.

Our Vicar Lotegeluaki was excited to hear of our Companionship and wanted to help re-start it while he was here. He has done a wonderful job of updating us and doing the hard communication work. Although all Tanzanians receive classes in English in Primary School and Secondary School and it is a national language with Swahili, not all children are able to attend school and many can read a little English, but have not had opportunities to speak. Sometimes, communication is easy and sometimes very difficult.

Things change: it has been twenty years since we began; every trip we took we saw progress and changes (just as we have change here); people, society, economy, and politics all change. We are looking forward to becoming reacquainted.

Companion Congregation -- Recent events

Most of the original leaders are not in office or have moved or died. We need to have memory of our history, but not depend on it for the norm or pattern for the future.

Our first action as a new committee was to recognize the past leadership of Pastor Ombeni, who died recently. It is common to be buried on family land. He requested burial at the church and his family asked us to honor our relationship and his work to help pay for his memorial tomb. It is beautiful and elegant.

The Msindo Church had a small office behind the church, but they have built a bigger office to serve their needs.

Pastor Ombeni's Family.





First Call Pastor's Retreat

Grace Lutheran and the Being New Spirituality Center are delighted to be hosting a retreat for ELCA pastors who are in their first call. The gathering will run from Sunday evening, May 3 through late morning on Tuesday, May 5. Thank you to all who are able to volunteer to help with hospitality and lunch service!

Plant Sale — Spring Fundraiser for Grace Lutheran Youth

We are once again teaming up with Goode Greenhouses! Pick up a flier in the entryway or print one from [our website](#), and present it when making a purchase at Goode Greenhouses between May 4 & 10, 2026. 10% of pre-tax purchases will be donated to Grace Youth.

Form must be presented at time of purchase.



Grace Vegetable Garden wants your help! We will be planting on Saturday, May 9, at 9 a.m.!

We will have plants, seeds, a map of what goes where, and some larger tools. Bring your own gloves, hand trowels, and knee-pads or seats. We could also use a little help in organizing/inventory of the takeaway containers left over from last summer.

We will tour the garden and discuss the plans for the season, which includes a few beds designated as "U-pick" - this allows visitors to the Little Free Pantry to choose what produce they need, and helps cut down on the harvesting required of volunteers in the garden.

Summer Volunteers be taking one day a week, which makes planting, watering, and harvesting easier, and allows much more flexibility for vacations and weather. Currently covered are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

We are also looking for those who ONLY want to help harvest one day a week - filling small containers to place in the Little Free Pantry. This would be a tremendous help, making fresh produce available to the Little Free Pantry throughout the week on a regular basis, cutting down on harvesting for volunteers, and allowing more time for volunteers to water and weed. Of course, if you also want to help water and replant through the summer, we will happily hand you the hose! If you cannot attend, but would like more information, please email michelle@gracedm.org.

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. Pastor Mike offers this opportunity through the year, and we will resume in the fall. **However, that doesn't mean you must wait until September! If you are interested in learning more about Grace and how you fit in, please contact the office at 515-276-6873, or email Pastor Mike Mike@gracedm.org.** We welcome you!

Mark your calendars for these big events!



Grace Lutheran Church will be 100 years next June!

We have set the date of the celebration for Sunday, May 23, 2027

Grace Annual Garage Sale, Saturday, August 1, 2026

Set-up 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.

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.

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 set-up: 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](#).



Altar Flowers

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. You can sign up online at the link <https://volunteersignup.org/7RXMJ?classic> or contact Kathy Bowermaster or the office.

If signing up online, 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!

Labyrinth as a Contemplative Practice **by Pam Hellman Palmer**



The labyrinth is an ancient walking meditation — a quiet path that invites us to slow down, become present, and listen deeply. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has one path in and one path out. As we walk, the journey itself becomes a practice of letting go, listening, and returning.

The ADA accessible labyrinth at Grace Lutheran is a place of welcome for anyone—young and old alike—seeking stillness, healing, or prayer. Whether you come from a faith tradition, a recovery journey, or simply a longing for quiet, the path invites you to slow down and listen for the sacred in your life.

Why Walk the Labyrinth

Walking the labyrinth can be a metaphor for life — a journey of letting go, discovering inner peace, and opening ourselves to spiritual transformation. The slow movement of the walk calms the mind and soothes the heart, offering space for reflection and renewal.

For some, the walk stirs creativity or evokes a sense of wholeness. For others, it becomes a source of healing and hope in times of sorrow. Whatever your experience, the labyrinth invites you to bring your hopes, dreams, and personal history into this sacred journey.

Three Movements of the Labyrinth Walk

1. Walking Toward the Center — Releasing

As you walk toward the center, you release the details of daily life. The rhythm of walking helps quiet the mind and open the heart.

2. At the Center — Receiving

The center is a place of stillness and presence. Remain as long as you wish and receive whatever insight, peace, or inspiration may arise.

3. Returning — Integration

As you walk out, carry what you have received back into daily life, leaving the labyrinth renewed and grounded.

Suggestions for Walking the Labyrinth

There is no right or wrong way to walk a labyrinth. Whether serious or playful, prayerful or meditative, your walk can reflect your intentions and needs.

Helpful guidelines:

- Quiet your mind and notice you're breathing before entering
- Walk at the pace that feels natural for your body
- Pass others gently if needed
- Remember that those entering and exiting share the same path
- Be considerate of others walking the labyrinth

Other Ways to Walk the Labyrinth

You may wish to bring a particular intention or practice:

- Walk with a spiritual companion — a loved one, ancestor, or guide
- Repeat a prayer, scripture passage, or mantra
- Release a burden and symbolically leave it in the center
- Express gratitude for the blessings of life
- Reflect on your life journey
- Journal afterward to capture insights

Labyrinth, continued on page 10

Labyrinth, continued from page 9

Try a Finger Labyrinth Practice

For those unable to walk the labyrinth in person—whether due to time, weather or physical constraints—a finger labyrinth offers a similar contemplative experience using the same 3 movements. There are printed copies of finger labyrinths available in the entryway. Feel free to take one or more!

Did You Know?

- World Labyrinth Day is celebrated each year on the first Saturday in May to “Walk as One at 1”.
- There are thousands of labyrinths all over the world. Check out <https://labyrinthlocator.org> to find and explore labyrinths not only in the Des Moines metro area but as you travel!
-

Material adapted from the Peace and Spirituality Center, a ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace (CSJP). We gratefully acknowledge the permission they granted.

Offerings from Contemplative Outreach of Central Iowa

First Fridays 9-11 a.m., May 1 in Grace Hall

Centering Prayer is a prayer of intention, rather than a prayer of attention."

This long-standing teaching of Thomas Keating suggests that in Centering Prayer, intention is *really where it's at*. Join us on May 1 when we will unpack this important teaching and discover the nuances hidden in this fine distinction between attention and intention. Attention is not absent in Centering prayer, but it is not the main focus. There is much to be learned and shared in this conversation, and hopefully you'll be a part of it. Paul Witmer will facilitate this session. Contact Kathy Reardon with questions at 515 - 776 - 0439.

Coming Home - A Recovery Café Des Moines Series

A 7-week meditation series for recovery, healing, and presence.

Most of us in recovery learned to leave our bodies, our breath, and the present moment long before we knew we were doing it. This series is about coming back. Over seven weeks, we practice — gently, gradually, and together — the simple skill of being where we already are. No prior experience is needed. Each session offers a brief teaching, a guided meditation, and time to reflect with others on the path. Details on this offering of radical hospitality and community healing [here](#).

Prayer for Peace

Monday, May 18 | 10:00-11:00 a.m. | [Zoom](#) only

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

Following a 20 minute sit in Centering Prayer or other silent meditation we will watch and discuss a video strengthening our compassionate presence in action.

All are welcome. Bring your prayers, your grief, your hope, your wisdom. This is a collaboration of Being New and COCI.

Group Reiki

Reiki is a Japanese, non-invasive energy healing technique for stress reduction and relaxation that promotes overall well-being. Julie Good will be offering a group session on **Monday, May 11 at 6:00pm in Room 108**, across from the Center.

Space is limited. Contact [Julie Good](#) or 515-306-4864 if you plan to attend.

MINUTES – Grace Congregational Council – April 28, 2026

Meeting came to order April 28th, 2026, at 6:03pm

Members present – Chuck Denton, Carol Woodruff, Pam Palmer, Linda Moravec, Tom McCleary, Pastor Mike Schmidt, Mike Hilsabeck, Vicar Lotegeluaki, Jessye Flannery

Meal – Carol

Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda – Chuck moved, Pam seconded, agenda adopted

Devotions – Carol

Approval of previous meeting's minutes – Carol moved, Pam seconded, minutes approved

“Ideas that will get you fired” –

Review/Approval of Staff Reports – Jessye moved, Tom seconded, reports approved

Review/Approval of Finance report – Carol moved, Chuck seconded, report approved

Capital Campaign Update – Current pledges are \$636,067. Current available funds are \$316,994. The Roofing project has started, hoping to complete next week.

Council Action Prior to Meeting

The council was asked by Tom M to vote on the following: *Approve the 4/14 updated Excel Mechanical proposal for the HVAC mini split project. The revised proposal increases the number of new units from 2 to 3. Increasing the cost from \$34,734 to \$48,728.*

- Motion was approved by the council via email vote on 4/23.

Unfinished Business

Church 100th Anniversary Update – May 22-23, 2027. Discussed ideas and options for organizing the events, as well as how we might start to build momentum for the anniversary.

Update on Church Finance Audit – Larry Nordeen has completed a 2-day audit of 2025 financial records. We will be meeting with Larry next week to review his findings.

Recovery Café Facility-Use Update – Recovery Café has brought in 3 contractors to review the Msindo Hall facility and provide possibilities for remodeling. Recovery Café has asked for our help in organizing and reviewing these bids. Also, for someone to act as liaison to the contracting firms when the work begins. Eric Weber has offered to help review bids. Possibly others from the former property committee could help review as well. We will also reach out to John Trickel for help with reviewing proposals.

New Business

Re-zoning of Prayer Garden Area – update from Pastor Mike. The initial planning & zoning review has completed with no community objection. Next, the request will go to the city council. No date has been set yet.

GreenState Safe Deposit Box Contents – update from Mike H. We have now scanned the documents pulled from the old safe deposit box. We decided to store the original documents onsite.

GreenState program for scanning and remote deposits of accounts receivable checks – update. We have received the scanner and have begun doing remote check deposits. Mike H (bookkeeper) is currently revising our documented processes for performing bank deposits, focused on maintaining accounting best practices.

Minutes, continued on page 12

Minutes, continued from page 11

Staff Support Committee – discussed how the committee might operate. We need to identify committee members. More discussion to follow.

Upcoming Internship Options – update. Shared initial discussions with the Synod. There is a possibility for a Deacon intern in addition to Vicar. More information to come.

Adjournment – Pam moved, Linda seconded, motion carried. The council adjourned at 7:15pm

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, May 26th. Meal – Linda, Devotions – Tom

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

Finance Report – March Results

Financial results for March YTD are as follows:

- Income – Actual \$103,481, Budget \$102,200, Prior year \$97,288
- Expenses – Actual \$110,150, Budget \$109,300, Prior year \$109,638
- Net activity – Actual (\$6,669), Budget (\$7,100) Prior year (\$12,350)



Activity was \$431 above budget. Strong pledged offering during the month made up for the deficit position from the prior month.

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.