

The Grace Visitor

February 2024 Edition



Ash Wednesday is February 14 and marks the beginning of the season of Lent. We are having midweek services and meals this year. Meals are at 5:30 pm, Worship at 6:30. See the schedule below for all Lenten service dates and times.

Lent is often a time of self-reflection, spiritual discipline, commitment, and community. This Lent we are going to look at a kaleidoscope of stories from the Book of Acts. We'll see the ways the Spirit alters our perspective, transforms our communities, and consistently blazes a trail ahead of us. We'll catch up with the work of the Holy Spirit, finding ourselves... altered. Altered, because the Spirit is alive in, with, and under

our ordinary lives, always calling us forward into transformation, nudging us into wholeness, and beckoning us forth into an alternative way. *Pastor Dan*

Lenten Worship Schedule

February 14 –Ash Wednesday

Altered in Witness (Acts 1:6-11)

February 21

Altered Through God's Creativity (Acts 2:1-13)

February 28

Altered on the Edge of Belonging (Acts 8:26-40)

March 6

Altered Alongside Our Enemies (Acts 9:1-12)

March 13

Altered by Disruption (Acts 10: 1-16, 34-35, 44-47)

March 20

Altered Through Stories We Don't Trust (Acts 12:6-17)

Wednesday Midweek Lenten Services with meals start**February 21 to March 20**

February 14 (Ash Wednesday) — Worship at 6:30 pm
(No meal Ash Wednesday)

Wednesday, February 21

5:30 pm meal—Chili & Cinnamon Rolls (Roger & Vicky Harris)
6:30 pm Worship

Wednesday, February 28

5:30 pm meal—Turkey Noodle Soup (Chuck & Leslie Reetz)
6:30 pm Worship

Wednesday, March 6

5:30 pm meal—Maidrites & Pasta Salad (Fellowship Team)
6:30 pm Worship

Wednesday, March 13

5:30 pm meal—Chicken Casserole & side (Education Team & Youth)
6:30 pm Worship

Wednesday, March 20

5:30 pm meal—Potluck (Congregation)
6:30 pm—Worship

March 24 (Palm Sunday)

Worship at 9:30 am

March 28 (Maundy Thursday)

Worship at 7 pm

March 29 (Good Friday)

Worship at 7 pm

March 31 (Easter Sunday)

Worship 9:30 am
Easter Breakfast—10:30 am by
ARiSE





Surgery, sick, chronic conditions: **Dick Michael, Dick Anderson; Ada Kelley**, great niece of Pat & Judy Reed; **Marlin Snyder**, father of Cindy Snyder; **Teresa Walters**, mother of Laura Walters; **Kris Stein**, daughter of Dee Fenchak; **Bonnie Cramer; Byron Itzen**, son of Linda Itzen; **Claudia Lyons**, Stepmother of Martha Kersbergen, **Delores Black; Rene' (Funk) Newman**, former member & friend of Leslie Reetz.; **Arlene Wold**, sister of Lola Dillon; **Brianna Clarahan; Donna Lachelt**, mother of Laurie Miller, **Marilyn Kiliper; Bill Albers**, cousin of Sue and cousin of Rose Clark; **Steve**, Son of Randy and Linda Birchall, **Cole Theander**, nephew of Mark Gustafson; **Don Sells, Nolan Bennett**, grandson of Marty Bennett; **Rich Weiss**, brother to Crystal Michael; **Jason Stanek**, family friend of Linda Itzen, Corinna & Kevin; **Ryder Schwieger**, son of Kathy Schweiger.

Bereaved: The family of **Gayle Olson**, former member of Grace; The family of **Andrew Foster**, nephew of Mark & Connie Gustafson,

Those in military service: **Brandon LaForce**, son-in-law of Rick & Laurie Wagner, based in Fort Leavenworth, KS. **Zachary Napier**, Army Special Forces, son of Paul & Deb Napier of Salt Lake City, Utah and grandson of Betty Evans. Zachary is now serving in Germany.



- THEA BAKER 1
- KINSLEY HUSE 2
- JOHN OHRTMAN 2
- DON SELLS 2
- BROOKE KAMMERER 3
- KAY QUILLEN 3
- MARTHA KERSBERGEN 5
- WAYNE PFANNKUCH 6
- ANITA LINDQUIST 7
- GRACE MCCOLLUM 8
- BETTY EVANS 9
- MEMPHIS DONAHE 11
- RANDY BIRCHALL 14
- CALEB HUSE 17
- DAVID TAYLOR 17
- VINCE VINSON 17
- ELLYN LEMKE 18
- ALLISON JORDISON 20
- PAT REED 20
- MARY OHRTMAN 21
- JEAN DEXTER 22
- JAY KAMMERER 23
- ELIZABETH BAKER 24
- MATTHEW MCCOLLEY 24
- KENDRA FRIESTH 27
- KAYLYNNE GILLILAND 26
- KIERSTEN MYERS 26
- ELINOR RUTZ 26

Please notify the church at 576-4106 if you or a family member are in the hospital. After regular office hours or on the weekend, please call Pastor Dan's cell phone (515-227-1929) if it is urgent that he knows.



- DICK and CRYSTAL MICHAEL 13
- TIM and ILENE OLSON 14
- NORMA and DAN SHARP 16

DECEMBER FINANCIAL NOTE	
Offerings:	\$ 25,724
Expenses:	\$ 17,716
Difference:	\$ 8,008
Year to Date 12-31-2022	
Offerings:	\$ 225,070
Expenses:	\$ 240,710
Difference:	\$ -15,640

Statistical Reports	
Current weekly	
Offering & Attendance	
December 10	
Attendance	85
Offering Receipts	\$ 4,510
December 17	
Attendance	138
Offering Receipts	\$ 3,228
December 24 9:30 am	
Attendance	61
Offering Receipts	\$ 4655
December 24 6:30 pm	
Attendance	125
Offering Receipts	\$ 2150
December 31	
Attendance	53
Offering Receipts	\$ 6,971

Live your life like road construction.
 Never stop working on yourself,
 no matter how inconvenient
 it is for everyone else.



"Jesus Movement" by Audio Adrenaline
*Have you ever been so inclined, Yeah, is it on your mind
The thought we're the Lord's lone protege
Well I thought we were the only hope Yeah, the world's safety rope
Americana has come, come to save the day
Imagine my surprise To realize
Everywhere I go I can see I'm not the only one Moving to Jesus*

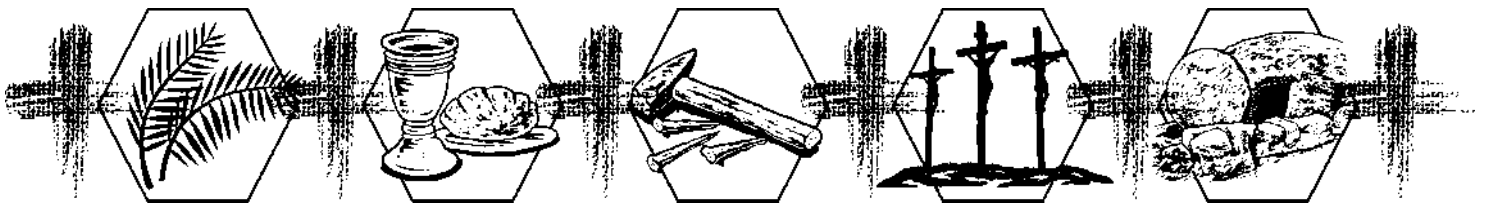
Several years ago I played this song at a presentation for our congregation after a mission trip to Juarez, Mexico. I played it, because I think people assumed we were bringing Jesus to these poor impoverished Mexican people. What we found is that Jesus was already very active in that community. In fact, it seemed like the Holy Spirit was more active there than it was in our affluent American church. Spiritually speaking, it seemed they had much more to offer us than we had to offer them.

Lent is a time of opening ourselves up to the possibility of being altered by God. We often focus on change coming from within, but more often than not it is something outside of ourselves that changes us. It is, as Martin Luther puts it in his explanation of the 3rd Article of the Apostle's Creed: "I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in the Lord Jesus or come to him." The Holy Spirit is the source of that change. And the Holy Spirit is far beyond our control. In fact, often we find ourselves catching up to where the Holy Spirit is already at work rather than somehow initiating something new.

During Lent we will be looking at some stories in the book of Acts and how the message of Jesus altered many people. Interaction with the Spirit and fellow followers surprised, inspired and altered all those involved and continues to do so with us today. The word "altered" is used intentionally because it sounds like "altared." This is a time to approach the "altar" as we go through this season of reflection, prayer, self-denial and generosity.

As we worship together my prayer is that you will be inspired (notice the word "spirit" - in-spired). We will be using my friend Richard Bruxvoort Colligan's Lenten liturgy called "Hidden with Christ." As you think about ways you plan on focusing more on God this Lent it is my hope that part of your discipline includes reading through the book of Acts with your eyes open to the ways God created and altered the early church and what that might mean for us. As usual, we will have a light meal before worship and that time of eating together is such a wonderful time to be a community of Christ.

God loves you and so do I, *Pastor Dan*



GUIDELINES FOR GRACE ACTIVITIES IN INCLEMENT WEATHER

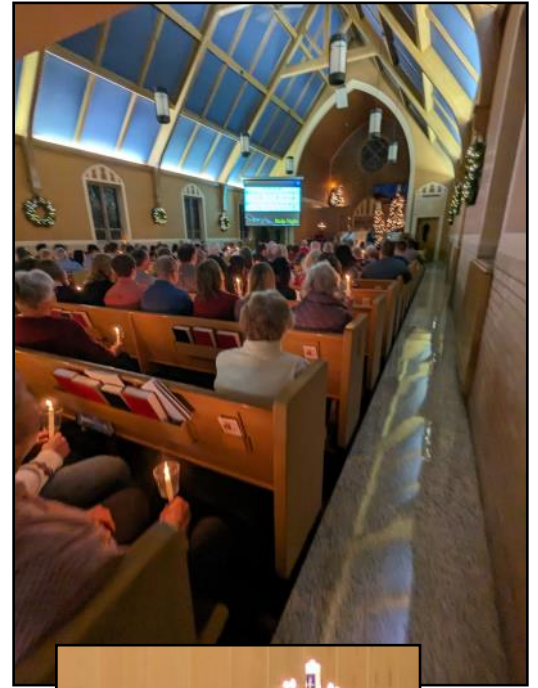
In case of threatening weather, especially if National Weather Service has issued a warning:

1. The Congregation Council President will consult with Pastor Dan and available Executive Team to determine with them whether to hold a scheduled worship service;
2. Watch TV (channels WHO 13 & KCCI 8) and listen to local radio stations (KWMT & WOI radio) for information about cancellations.
3. Attend worship or other activity only if you can do so safely.
4. If school is cancelled due to bad weather, Confirmation and Youth Group are also cancelled that evening.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Pictures of the Choir, Bell Choir & Special Music!



Lost and Found

A pink Thermos—in the Office.

A Ladies Leather Jacket, Wilson Leathers. It's hanging on the coat rack by the walker.

Child's Coat—hanging on the coat rack by the walker

Black Carhart Stocking Cap—In the Office.

Cell Phone—Left the night of caroling in the Fireside Room—claim in the office

One Black Earring—on the bulletin board in the Narthex

Please claim if any of these belong to you or you know who they belong to. Thank you!



Christmas Decoration “take down” crew. Thank you to the many people who stayed after church Sunday, January 7 to take down and put away the Christmas decorations. Many people made short work of this task!



For God so loVed the world
thAt He gave His
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIeves
iN Him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)



Council: Kevin Lingner, Leslie Reetz, Roger Harris and Marty Bennett

Foundation: Pam Halvorson and Joan Meyer

Representatives to Synod Assembly:

Adults — Wayne & Irene Pfannkuch

Nominating Committee: Jim Blocker, Judy Duffield, Randy Birchall, Laurie Miller, Kris Stender and Nancy Schmidt

ANNUAL MEETING
ELECTION
RESULTS

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY led by



Pastor Dan, meets each Wednesday at 9 am. We meet in the Fireside Room. Join us for fellowship & God's Word. All men are welcome to attend.



Preparing for Easter



Women of the ELCA
Purpose Statement:

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

2024 Grace Women of the WELCA Yearbooks will be available soon. They will be available in the tray on the shelf above the coat rack.

The "Friendship Salad Luncheon" will be Feb. 21st at 12:00 PM in the Fireside room. A wonderful potluck with a Valentine theme. Plan to attend and bring a friend! The luncheon will be followed with the WELCA Annual meeting.

Mary Circle will meet Wednesday February 21st at 9:30. Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday February 27th, at 6:30. Our Gather Magazine Bible study will be "Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith" by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. February will be "Creatures: Our siblings in praise and trust. All ladies are invited to attend either Circle for Bible study and fellowship.

Willing Workers meet Mondays at 8:30AM to put quilts together. There are many tasks, including cutting squares, layout/design quilt tops, and tying quilts. Some of these tasks can be done at home. Come join us. Many hands make many quilts.



War is costly. Peace is priceless



Knit & Purl meet twice a month - the first and fourth Tuesday at 2 pm in the Fireside Room - weather permitting! This is a great time of year to get those needles busy - gloomy outside - so get busy indoors! If you have always wanted to knit - now is the time - or maybe you used to knit so feeling rusty - we can help with that. Bring a friend and join the fellowship and make prayer shawls and baby blankets. Please consider joining us and our fellowship. Connie Gustafson

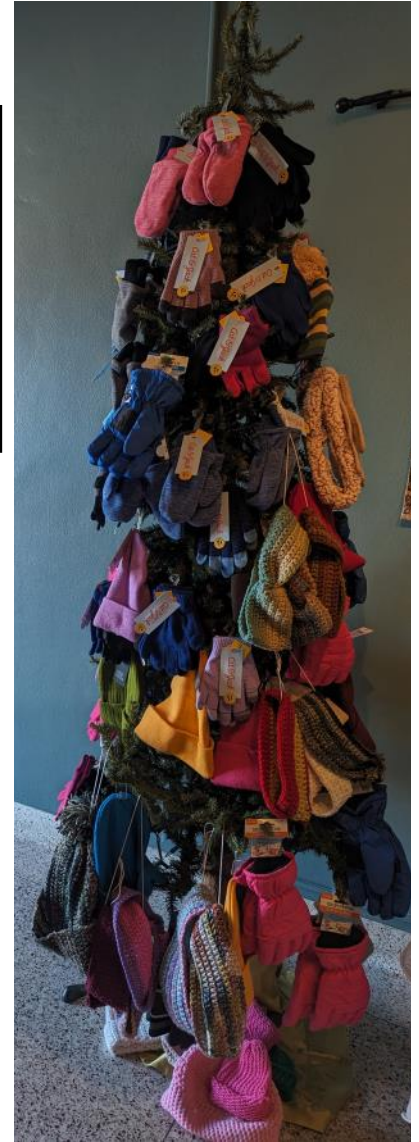
BINGO

15	28	37	51	73
6	17	32	45	61
9	15	★	60	70
12	26	44	52	66
7	22	34	48	72

The annual "Bingo Bash" will be held on February 4 at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Snacks and cocoa will be provided by the Fellowship Ministry Team and of course.... PRIZES GALORE!!!

Mitten Tree

Thank you to everyone who donated to the mitten tree. Many hats, mittens, gloves and scarves were delivered to UDMO by Wayne and Irene Pfannkuch in January. Thank you again for your generosity!



Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday, February 11. This is a national movement across the nation working together to fight hunger and poverty in their communities.

Every dollar raised puts fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables on the plates of children, women and men in this country, who need it most. All proceeds from Grace will go to ELCA World Hunger. Envelopes will be placed at the back of the church for your contribution.

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."



YOU  **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Thank you to the many, many volunteers who give of their time and talents at Grace. We have volunteers who are here several times a week, monthly, yearly, on special occasions, and as needed. There are truly too many to mention by name. You are greatly appreciated and needed more than you know. We at Grace are truly blessed.

THRIVENT REMINDER

Anyone who has insurance, annuities, investments, or other products through Thrivent may have Thrivent Choice Dollars available for donation to your favorite charity. All Choice dollars earned in 2023 must be donated before the end of March, 2024. Grace Lutheran is one of the non-profits that can benefit from your donation. In 2023, Grace Lutheran received over \$800 from Thrivent through the generosity of Thrivent clients.

Please consider logging on to your Thrivent account and donating your dollars to Grace Lutheran or the charity of your choice. If you have questions or need help logging onto your Thrivent account, please call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and say Thrivent Choice.

Thank you, Crystal Michael
Thrivent Congregation Advocate

LOVE Charity suffereth long;
and is kind;
charity envieth not;
charity vaunteth not itself,
is not puffed up....
1 Corinthians 13:4



Pictured to the left is a photo from the Friendship Luncheon on December 8.

Below is a photo of the Christmas Carolers on December 20.



A note from the MobilePack Community that Pastor Wayne Pfannkuch is a major part of:

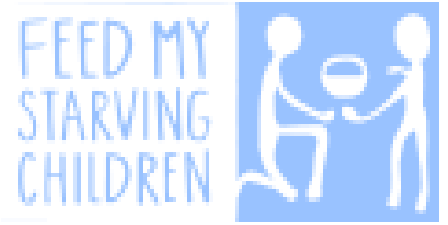
Dear MobilePack Friends,

Here is a final update on the Fort Dodge Mobile Pack that was held on December 2, 2023, at Community Christian School. Thanks to your leadership efforts and the efforts of many others, we packed 108,864 meals, enough to feed 298 children for one year. Most of the food we packed went to Romania, and we don't yet know where the rest will go. We had roughly 500 volunteers and we raised \$35,251 which was just under our goal of \$36,000. This enables us to pay for the cost of the food that we packed (\$32,000) and give the surplus money to four local ministries: Beacon of Hope, The Lord's Cupboard, Lotus Community Project, and Salvation Army. They will each receive \$812.78. We raise money for local ministries to go along with the worldwide impact of FMSC to provide an additional reason for local people to get involved and give. We distribute all the money that we raise each year and don't carry any of it over to the next year.

The people who packed came from many churches, businesses, organizations, and families. This was truly a community event! We believe that we are not only providing food for children and local friends, but we are carrying on Jesus' work of compassion as well. "And the King will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for Me.'" (Matthew 25:40)

Thank you for everything you did to make this year's Fort Dodge MobilePack a success! We look forward to working with you again on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024!! Save the date and follow Fort Dodge MobilePack on Facebook if you aren't already!!!

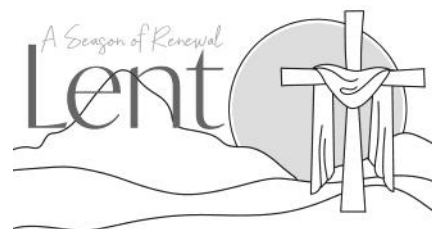
Dave & Mary Bowser



Congregation Council Meeting January 16, 2024

1. **Call to Order** Council President, Judy Stilwell, called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.
Present: Marty Bennett, Jim Blocker, Janet Carlon, Roger Harris, Linda Itzen; office administrator/financial secretary, Pastor Dan Kahl, Dave Lemke, Wayne Pfannkuch, Rod Poppinga, Marlys Taylor, Katie Waynar, **Absent:** None
2. **Open Forum** No one else was present.
3. **Opening devotions** Pastor Dan opened with “What Makes Us Strong?” from Called by God to Serve with discussion following.
4. **Review Agenda** Katie Waynar moved to accept the agenda as written, Marty Bennett 2nd, accepted.
5. **Review minutes of December 19, 2023 Council Meeting** Dave Lemke moved to accept the minutes as written, Wayne Pfannkuch 2nd, accepted.
6. **Celebrations:**
 - a. Longest Night service was held Dec. 20.
 - b. Caroling on the evening of Dec. 20 was well attended.
 - c. Offerings are generous and appreciated.
 - d. Christmas services were well attended.
 - e. Many people helped take down and put away Christmas decorations.
7. **Monthly Reports Review:**
 - a. Pastor's Report -Roger Harris moved to accept Pastor's report, Wayne Pfannkuch 2nd, accepted.
 - b. Financial Reports – Marty Bennett moved to accept the financial reports, Katie Waynar 2nd, accepted.
 - c. Ministry Team Reports – Marlys Taylor moved to accept the team reports, Marty Bennett 2nd, accepted.
8. **Old/Ongoing Business:**
 - a. Sharing High School Youth events with St. Olaf
 - b. Facebook – still having good results since the privacy setting was changed.
 - c. Website
9. **New Business:**
 - a. Review Annual Report – Discussion was held and questions were asked to clarify information in the report.
10. **FYI:**
 - a. Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 21, 2024. We will have a finger-food brunch potluck in the Fellowship Hall following the church service with the meeting starting at 11am.
 - b. Building request for April 6, 2024 recital.
 - c. Annual Council Retreat, Saturday, January 27 from 9am to 12 noon, in Fireside Room at Grace.
 - d. February 4, Bingo Bash at Grace at 2pm.
 - e. February 14. Ash Wednesday evening service. All Lenten and Holy Week services will be held at 6:30pm.
11. **Adjournment** At 7:20pm Rod Poppinga moved to adjourn, Wayne Pfannkuch 2nd, accepted. Lord's Prayer was prayed in unison.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Carlon, Congregation Council Secretary



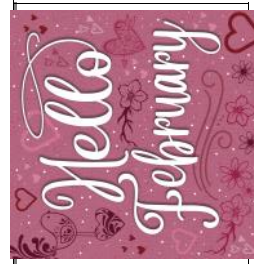


FEBRUARY 2024



Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

<p>4 9:30 am Worship with Baptism 10:30 am Sunday School 10:40 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Coffee 2 pm Bingo Bash</p>	<p>January 29</p> <p>Pastor Dan out of the Office January 29 to February 2.</p> <p>5 8:30 am Willing Workers 9:15 am Money counters 5:30 pm Bells 7:30 pm FDCS</p>	<p>January 30</p> <p>6 10:30 am Text Study 2 pm Knit & Purl 6:30 pm Ministry Teams</p>	<p>January 31</p> <p>7 9 am Men's Bible Study 4 pm ARiSE 6 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Helens Grace Gr 7 pm Choir</p>	<p>1 1 pm WELCA 6-9 pm Reflections 7 pm AI Ateen</p>	<p>2 OFFICE CLOSED 10-11:30 Caregivers 4-7 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>11 9:30 am Worship-Souper Bowl Sunday 10:30 am Sunday School 10:40 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Coffee</p>	<p>12 8:30 Willing Wkrs 9:15 Money counters 5:30 pm Bells 6:30 pm 500 Club 7:30 pm FDCS</p>	<p>13 10:30 am Text Study 7 pm Lemke Grace Gr</p>	<p>14 Ash Wednesday 9 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm Worship 7:45 pm Choir</p>	<p>15 5:30 pm Executive 6-9 pm Reflections 7 pm AI Ateen</p>	<p>16 OFFICE CLOSED 10-11:30 Caregivers 4-6 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:40 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Coffee Youth Mission Trip</p>	<p>19 President's Day 8:30 am Willing Workers 5:30 pm Bells 7:30 pm FDCS</p>	<p>20 9:15 am Money counters 10:30 am Text Study 5:30 pm Foundation 6:30 pm Council</p>	<p>21 9 am Men's Bible Study 9:30 Mary Circle, Library 5:30 Lenten meal 6:30 Worship 7:15 pm Choir</p>	<p>22 9:30 am Visitor Crew 6-9 pm Reflections 7 pm AI Ateen FDCS Practice</p>	<p>23 OFFICE CLOSED 10-11:30 Caregivers</p>	<p>24 FDCS Practice</p>
<p>25 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:40 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Coffee 3 pm FDCS Concert</p>	<p>26 8:30 am Will Workers, Tie Day 9:15 am Money counters 5:30 pm Bells 7:30 FDCS</p>	<p>27 10:30 am Text Study 2 pm Knit & Purl 3-5 pm Head Start in Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm Ruth Circle</p>	<p>28 9 am Men's Bible Study 5:30 pm Lenten meal 6:30 pm Worship 7 :15 pm Choir</p>	<p>29 6-9 pm Reflections 7 pm AI Ateen</p>	<p>23 OFFICE CLOSED 10-11:30 Caregivers</p>	<p>24 FDCS Practice</p>



Grace Lutheran Church
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Web Site: www.graceELCA.com

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Return Service Requested

THE VISITOR

Grace Staff

Pastor Dan Kahl
dckahl@hotmail.com

Linda Itzen

Office Administrator
gracefd@frontiernet.net

Roberta Bochtler

Organist/Choir Director

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship
9:30 am

Sunday School
10:30 am

Adult Forum
10:40 am

Coffee Fellowship
10:30 am

Find us on Facebook



KNOW GOD'S GRACE—SHARE GOD'S LOVE