



Grace Notes P.S.
 Week of Dec 10 – Dec 17, 2017
"God's Work – Our Hands"

Office Hours:
 Monday - Thursday. Mornings:
 9:00 a.m. – Noon
 Monday-Thursday. Afternoons:
 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Office Phone:
 563-263-5680

Sharing the *Love*
 Spreading the **WORD** of God
 Serving the *Children*

Weekly Events & Class Listings

Updates can be found on calendar @ gracemuscatine.com

Sunday, December 10

<i>Abundant Life Worship</i>	8:15 a.m.	Sanctuary
<i>Grace Christmas Program</i>	9:45 a.m.	Sanctuary
<i>Amazing Grace Worship</i>	10:45 a.m.	Sanctuary
<i>GLY</i>	3:30 p.m.	YOT Room

Monday, December 11

<i>Ministry of Literacy Board Meeting</i>	4:15 p.m.	Lounge/Chapel
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Tuesday, December 12

<i>WELCA Christmas Party</i>	9:30 a.m.	Betty Hoffman's
<i>Boy Scouts</i>	6:45 p.m.	Social Hall
<i>Worship & Music Board Meeting</i>	7:00 p.m.	Lounge/Chapel

Wednesday, December 13

<i>Executive Committee Meeting</i>	3:00 p.m.	Lounge/Chapel
<i>Staff Meeting</i>	4:00 p.m.	Lounge/Chapel
<i>Bell Choir Practice</i>	5:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
<i>FINK-Service Night</i>	6:00 p.m.	TBD
<i>Choir Practice</i>	6:30 p.m.	Sanctuary

Sunday, December 17

<i>Abundant Life Worship</i>	8:15 a.m.	Sanctuary
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	9:15 a.m.	Social Hall
<i>Christian Education for Children & Youth</i>	9:30 a.m.	Class Rooms
<i>Christian Education for Adults</i>	9:45 a.m.	Lounge/Chapel
<i>Amazing Grace Worship</i>	10:45 a.m.	Sanctuary
<i>GLY</i>	3:30 p.m.	YOT Room

Prayer Concerns: Donald Clark Jr., Richard Halstead, Susan Rubley, Jon Moravec, Stacie Maxwell, Shirlee Staley, family of Katie Becker, and family and friends of Dave Whitlow.

Altar Flowers: Altar flowers this Sunday are from Phil and Mary Chalupa in memory of their daughter, Maribeth Haller.

Witness for Peace: In the midst of the holiday season, we invite you to come and consider how peace and the common good might be a reality for all people. During December, many faith traditions celebrate various holidays centering on the coming "light." How might we be called to be light for all the world to see? How might we be called to prepare? Join us for prayer and conversation at the Discovery Park Environmental Center on Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 pm. All people - regardless of background, race, or religion - are welcome. Come as you are.

Mitten Tree: Our mitten tree is now up in the entryway. Let's make it a colorful display of those items needed to help keep our neighbors warm. In January the mittens are delivered to local agencies that work with families. Thank you.

Christmas Poinsettias: Again this year we will be doing the Poinsettias for our Christmas Eve Service. If you wish to purchase a poinsettia to be placed around the Altar on Christmas Eve in memory or honor of a family member or friend, please sign-up on the sheet which is posted in the hallway. Then you need to order the flower and pay for them at the Hy-Vee Floral Department. Hy-Vee will deliver the flowers for the Christmas Eve services. The deadline for ordering the flowers is December 15.

Literacy Program: We are having a book sale February 2nd and 3rd. Please watch for more details in the January newsletter.

Financial Secretary Position: Grace is looking for a Financial Secretary to start in January. This Council-appointed position is responsible for maintaining the bank accounts, general ledger, payroll, tax filings and paying bills as authorized, as well as assisting the Treasurer with preparing the proposed annual budget, all of which can be completed on a flexible schedule. Because the Financial Secretary reports directly to the Treasurer and is not a member of Council, the position does not require presence at meetings on a regular basis. The current Financial Secretary will assist in the training of the replacement. A more defined list of specific duties and responsibilities is available in the document racks. If you are interested or have questions, please prayerfully consider the position, and be in contact with any member of the Executive Committee: Don Ager, Pr. Dan, JoAnne Fisher, Sam Paul, or Jim Stein. God has a way of working with the willing, despite our lack of skills and experience.

Adult Ed: For the month of December the Adult Education Class is titled “And, Now We Wait.” We are celebrating the season of Advent...the season of anticipation and waiting. As we begin a new church year, we will explore what it means to wait, for us as individuals and together as a community of faith. In this class we will explore scripture passages on waiting and discuss current events in the world and in our lives and how we wait in hope as people who follow Jesus for God’s coming reign of peace. Join Pastor Dan in the lounge on December 3 and December 17 at 9:45 a.m.

Blue Christmas Service: On Thursday, December 21, the longest night of the year, we will have a Christmas Service that recognizes the holiday season is not the most joyous time of year for everyone due to loss of loved ones or other significant events in their lives. You are welcome to join us for a time to acknowledge the difficult parts of the holiday season, for a time of healing and to remember the hope that comes from the light that shines in the darkness. The service will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve & New Year’s Eve Service Times: December 24, Christmas Eve Worship Services are as follows: (one service only) – 9:00 a.m. Abundant Life Worship; 5:30 p.m. Christmas Lesson & Carols (no communion). December 31, New Year’s Eve Worship Services are as follows: 8:15 a.m. Abundant Life Worship & 10:45 a.m. Amazing Grace Worship.

Request for Flower Vases: We are in need of large mouth vases suitable for the delivery of altar flowers. If you have any vases you would like to donate to the church, please leave them in the kitchen. Thank you.

Current General Fund Position:

Attendance for Sunday, December 3	<u>117</u>
General Fund Actual Income to date Versus Expenses	<u>\$4,782.24</u>
<u>Funds received in 2017 toward 2018 Driveway Project:</u>	<u>\$5,049.05</u>
<u>Ministry Support to Date in Year 2017</u>	
<u>Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach</u>	<u>\$575.00</u>
<u>Lutheran World Relief</u>	<u>\$425.00</u>
<u>Domestic Disaster Relief</u>	<u>\$3,059.24</u>
<u>World Hunger</u>	<u>\$215.00</u>
<u>Lutheran Services in Iowa</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
<u>Muscatine Food Pantry</u>	<u>\$290.00</u>
<u>Crop Walk</u>	<u>\$918.10</u>
<u>ELCA Synod Support</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
<u>2017 External Ministry Support to Date</u>	<u>\$8,982.34</u>

All account balances are posted on the bulletin board in the Hallway.

Electronic giving capability is now in place on www.gracemuscatine.com. Mike Allenbaugh, Financial Secretary.

	Dec 10 8:15 a.m.	Dec 10 10:45 a.m.	Dec 17 8:15 a.m.	Dec 17 10:45 a.m.	Dec 24 9:00 a.m.	Dec 24 5:30 p.m.
Assisting Minister/Worship Leader	WL-Don Kelly	AM-Paula Lofgren	WL-Carlin Lawhead	AM-Linda Hinman	WL-JoAnne Fisher	Leader - Al Bengtson
Ushers	JoAnne Fisher, Carlin & Vicki Lawhead, Mary Hovick	Connie Fuller, Ron & Daneice Hage, Ruthann Hoffman	Mike & Cindy Manriquez, Allen & Judy Pameticky	Keith & Marilyn Hultquist, Jim & Tammy Stein	Phil Chalupa, Marvin Krieger, Jerry Lange, Jeff White	Sue, Jasmine, & Jordyn Bengtson, Kylie Green
Lector	Don Kelly	Paula Lofgren	Carlin Lawhead	Linda Hinman	JoAnne Fisher	Al Bengtson
Communion Assistant/Acolyte	Linda Hinman, Griffen Jones	Jim Stein	Carol Dieckman, Abby Kemper	Traci Lippelgoes, Kylie Green	Sue Bengtson, Anna Sparks	No Communion
Hospitality	Carol Dieckman	Al Bengtson	Vicki Lawhead	Mary Chalupa	Dave Freers	Pam Houseman
Greeter	Katie Green	Sue Bengtson	Beth Lemkau	Phil Chalupa	Sue Freers	Ben Houseman
Coffee Hour	No Coffee Hour		John & Cindy Sparks		No Coffee Hour	