

Following Jesus' teachings, Grace seeks to educate, lead, and partner with all people through discipleship to worship, service, and faith celebration.

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023 8:30am

Grace Lutheran Church † Davenport, Iowa

Pastor Stephanie Wood

## Welcome! We are so happy you have joined us!

Please complete an attendance card – located in the pews or at the usher's table.

*You will notice we do not sing parts of the liturgy during Lent but rejoice at its return on Easter.*

### Prelude

*Am I a Soldier of the Cross?.....* arr. Richard Williamson

### Announcements

### Call to Worship

Heart & Voice Choir *Be In This Place*

### Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy. (*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

Holy God,

**C:** we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

**P:** Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave His only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. Amen.

## Opening Hymn

*Great God, Your Love Has Called Us.....ELW 358*

## Greeting

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## Kyrie

**P:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C:** Lord, have mercy.

**P:** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C:** Lord, have mercy.

**P:** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C:** Lord, have mercy.

**P:** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C:** Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

C: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Heart & Voice Choir Anthem

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need.....* American Folk Melody, setting by Howard Helvey

## Children's Message

*Whirl Bible Story "God Chooses a New King" p. 98*

## First Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

*Because we now live in the divine light, which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

A: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 23

A: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C: **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

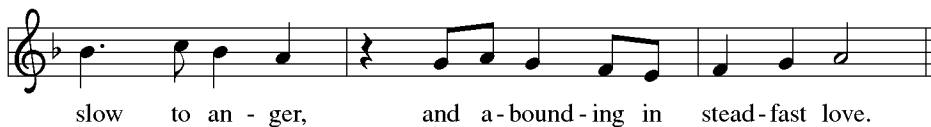
A: You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

C: **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

A: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

## Gospel Narrative: John 9:1-41



P: The Gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

Narrator: As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him,

**All:** Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?

**Jesus:** Neither this man nor his parents sinned. So that God's works might be revealed in him, we must work the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

**Narrator:** When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes.

**Jesus:** Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.

**Narrator:** (Which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,

**Right Side:** Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?

**Left Side:** It is he.

**Narrator:** Others were saying,

**All:** No, but it is someone like him.

**Man:** I am the man!

**All:** Then how were your eyes opened?

**Man:** The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.'

**All:** Where is he?

**Man:** I do not know.

**Narrator:** They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight.

**Man:** He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.

**Right Side:** **This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.**

**Left Side:** **How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?**

**Narrator:** And they were divided.

**All:** **What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.**

**Man:** He is a prophet!

**Narrator:** The people did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them,

**All:** **Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?**

**Parents:** We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.

**Narrator:** His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

**Parents:** He is of age; ask him!

**Narrator:** So, for the second time they called the man who had been blind.

**All:** **Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.**

Man: I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.

All: **What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?**

Man: I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?

All: **You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.**

Man: Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.

All: **You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?**

Narrator: And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said,

Jesus: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

Man: And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.

Jesus: You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.

Man: 'Lord, I believe.'

Narrator: And he worshipped him.

Jesus: I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.

All (as Religious Leaders): **Surely, we are not blind, are we?**

Jesus: If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

## Hymn of the Day

*Lamb of God*.....ELW 336

## Apostles' Creed

P: Let us proclaim our faith in the worlds of the Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.



# Prayers of the People

A: Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

# Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

# Call to Offering

A: It is not the outward appearance or size of the gifts we have to share that matters to God. It is the loving generosity of our hearts that is closest to the heart of God. We are invited to give this day out of the abundance of our lives knowing that no matter the size of the gift that God knows our hearts.

# Offertory Hymn

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*..... ELW 186

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Offertory Prayer

- A: Let us pray. God of good gifts,  
C: receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

- P: The Lord be with you.  
C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.  
C: We lift them to the Lord.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## Lord's Prayer

- C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## Communion Hymn

*Lamb of God*..... ELW p. 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Invitation to Communion

*All are welcome to the table. Please come forward, and you will receive communion in the front of the church. If you prefer juice for communion, it will be clear, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.*

## Prayer After Communion

P: Let us pray. Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

## Blessing

P: God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*.....ELW 335

## Sending

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God!

## Postlude

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus* ..... Clephane/Maker

### Interested in Joining Grace?

Please contact the church office [office@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:office@gracewelcomesyou.org), for information about joining Grace Lutheran Church. All are welcome and we would be overjoyed to have you engaged in the worship, ministries, and congregational life at Grace.

### Do You Receive the Weekly Update?

Every Thursday we email out the Weekly Update with current announcements, links, birthdays, anniversaries, Synod/ELCA updates, and more. If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact Annie in the church office.



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Davenport, IA 52803  
563-322-0769

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# Grace Lutheran Church

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[office@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:office@gracewelcomesyou.org)

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, March 19

8:30am Worship & Livestream  
9:30am Adult Education  
10:30am Worship

### Monday, March 20

10:30am Staff Meeting  
4:00pm Centering Prayer viz Zoom  
6:00pm Sweet Arts Club  
6:30pm Deborah Circle

### Tuesday, March 21

9:00am Naomi Circle  
10:00am Pastor's Text Study (offsite)  
11:45am Member Text Study  
3:00pm Outreach & Welcome Mtg

### Wednesday, March 22

**April Newsletter Items Due**  
10:00am Searcher's Bible Study\*  
5:45pm BYOD & Lent Activities  
6:00pm Choir Rehearsal  
7:00pm Lenten Worship

### Thursday, March 23

6:30pm Lenten Bible Study\*

### Friday, March 24

**11:00am Council Reports Due**

### Saturday, March 25

### Sunday, March 26

8:30am Healing Worship & Livestream  
9:30am Adult Education  
10:30am Healing Worship

\*These events and programs are at (or hosted by) St. Mark Lutheran Church  
2363 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Davenport, 52802  
563-322-5318 [lwilley@stmarkcares.org](mailto:lwilley@stmarkcares.org)

## You Can Watch Us Online and Follow us on Facebook!

YouTube: [Grace Lutheran Davenport](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqWz8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8) Facebook: [facebook.com/GraceWelcomesYou](https://www.facebook.com/GraceWelcomesYou)

Your offerings support and grow ministries at Grace along with support for local and global organizations. Online giving is available at [bit.ly/GraceGivingOnline](https://bit.ly/GraceGivingOnline).

## Looking Ahead

- **March 22** BYOD & Activities 5:45pm; Lenten Worship 7pm
- **March 29** BYOD & Activities 5:45pm; Lenten Worship 7pm
- **April 2** Palm Sunday
- **April 6** Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm
- **April 7** Good Friday Worship 7pm
- **April 9** Easter Sunday
- **April 10** Office Closed
- **April 16** IFF Cornhole Tournament
- **April 23** First Communion Class & Luncheon
- **April 30** Celebration of First Communion
- **June 11** Garden Party - Save the Date!

Scan for our digital  
Weekly Update



## Easter Flower Orders

We are now taking Easter Flower Orders. In addition to Lilies, you may also order pots with tulips, daffodils, or hyacinth. The order deadline is March 29. Online ordering is available at [bit.ly/23GraceEasterFlowers](https://bit.ly/23GraceEasterFlowers). **Cost:** \$11 per Lily, \$10 per Bulb Flowers.

**Special Note:** Pastor Stephanie and Annie are both allergic to lilies, so we are hoping for a variety of flowers, including some lilies (a few are okay), for a colorful display on Easter.

## Life & Legacy Questionnaire

There are a series of questions and decisions to be made for loved ones and ourselves as we age. The Endowment Committee would like to host a series of conversations to address topics of interest. Please take a moment to complete the questionnaire to help us narrow in on what speakers we should invite. (Printed copies of the questionnaire are available in the narthex.) Go to [bit.ly/GraceLifeLegacy](https://bit.ly/GraceLifeLegacy) to complete the questionnaire online.

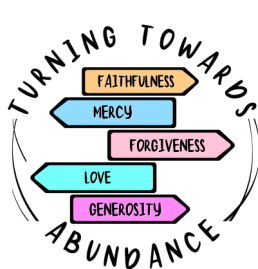
## Calling All Instrumentalists

Once again, Grace instrumentalists will come together to enhance our Easter worship service. We will have three rehearsals:

**Sunday, April 2, 1pm    Wednesday, April 5, 7pm    Saturday, April 8, 9am**

Easter Orchestra is open to all Grace instrumentalists, grade 8 and up. Come and be a part of our worship as we praise our risen Lord in a unique and exciting way! Contact Sally Meier at 796-0773 or (309)292-0281 so that I can have a part ready for you!

## Eat, Learn, Worship - Wednesday Nights



**Join us on Wednesdays during Lent from 5:45-7:30!** Together we (adults and kids) can eat, learn, and worship together. **EAT & LEARN - 5:45pm Lenten Bring Your Own Dinner (BYOD)** Join us before worship at 5:45pm on Wednesday nights. You can bring your own dinner whether it be fast food, leftovers, or a sandwich. Then as you eat, Adults can join us for our book study on, **Half Truths** by Adam Hamilton while Kids can eat and do an activity with Pastor Kirsten. Then join us for **WORSHIP at 7:00pm** as we hear poems, scripture, and reflect on God's abundance through different means of prayer.

## Adult Education - March 2023

**Wednesdays 5:45pm | Sundays Between Services**

Adults are welcome to meet on Sunday between services or on Wednesday night as we discuss the book by Adam Hamilton, **Half Truths**. All are welcome to join the discussion whether you've had the chance to read the book or not. Together we will unpack the simple phrases that sound Christian; like something you might find in the Bible. You can buy the book in many stores, including Amazon through this link: [amzn.to/3xX1ku0](https://amzn.to/3xX1ku0)

(over →)

# ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**Pastor Stephanie Wood**

[pastorstephanie@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:pastorstephanie@gracewelcomesyou.org)

**Pastor Kirsten Lee**

**Director of Outreach & Youth Ministry**

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**Jake Bayles, Custodian**

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**Claudia Wood, Treasurer**

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**Andrew Savely, Worship Tech**

[worshiptech@gracewelcomesyou.org](mailto:worshiptech@gracewelcomesyou.org)

# COUNCIL

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Outreach & Welcome Ministry

Memorial Committee

Grief Support Group Coordinator

**Jim Bayles**

Property

**Laura Toland**

Worship & Music Ministry



## IFF Cornhole Tournament

**Save the Date for IFF Sunday, April 16 at 2pm!**

**Event** A Cornhole (Bags) Tournament with snacks and plenty of time for conversation.

**Location** Details soon (hopefully at a park), and a rain backup location

**Hosts** RSVP to Marilyn Schreiber 563-340-0350 or 563-359-1072 or Dennis & Nancy Boehme 563-388-7847

## 2023 Social Ministry Lenten Collection

**Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI)**

LSI's goal is to build happy, healthy families. They empower children and parents through education, mental and behavioral healthcare, in-home support and training, and innovative collaborations with community partners. For more information about LSI go to [lsiowa.org](http://lsiowa.org). **We are collecting the following items for LSI:** Items to benefit their Early Childhood families and new moms - diapers, wipes, deodorant, pad, tampons, baby bathing items, breast milk bags, Dreft laundry soap, diaper ointments, toiletries. Donations may be brought anytime during Lent and left in the narthex.

## Hope at the Brick House - March 31

**Our first meal at Hope at the Brick House for 2023 will be served Friday, March 31.**

**Thanks to all who have signed up to help!** We need just one or two more people to help serve, if possible - see the sign-up in the narthex. Any questions, please contact Karen Jewel 563-323-0322 or [kcjewel21@gmail.com](mailto:kjewel21@gmail.com).

## Grief Support Group - April 5

The Grace Grief Support Group meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month 5:30pm in Pat Bell Hall. Masks are optional. Please join us! Anyone is welcome at anytime, and please be assured our conversations will be kept in confidence. Questions? Contact Cindy Lee 563-370-5386.

## Centering Prayer Mondays 4:30pm via Zoom

In the Christian tradition, Contemplative Prayer is considered to be the pure gift of God. It is the opening of mind and heart--our whole being to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words, and emotions. Cheryl Kritsch facilitates the group which meets via Zoom every Monday (except holidays) at 4:30pm (link emailed in the Weekly Update). Please contact Cheryl with any questions at 563-343-0135.



## New Driver Visor Clips

Grace's Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Team wants to recognize our youth when they meet new milestones in their lives. One of the milestones is getting their driver's permit or driver's license. Contact the church office for a visor clip to honor this milestone.

## M.A.D. Camp "Heroes of the Faith"

*Any kids able to read a script & comfortable onstage are welcome.*

**July 24-28 | 9am-3pm | Bring a Lunch | Snacks & Drinks Provided**

Experience the St. Mark "Museum Experience" which includes exhibits featuring the adventures of some of our favorite biblical heroes. We will see stories that will take ordinary people on a journey where they become extraordinary heroes. Registration forms will be available in the narthex or contact Kate Carstens at 563-271-8634 to register.

## Searcher's Bible Study

Our bible study meets weekly at St. Mark in the Conference Room/Library on Wednesdays at 10:00am. All are welcome to attend and jump in at anytime.

## St. Mark Food Pantry

Our food pantry is open Tuesday - Thursday, 10:00am to 2:00pm. Volunteer positions are always open for various duties. For more information on volunteering, please call Rick Flynn at 563-370-1939.

