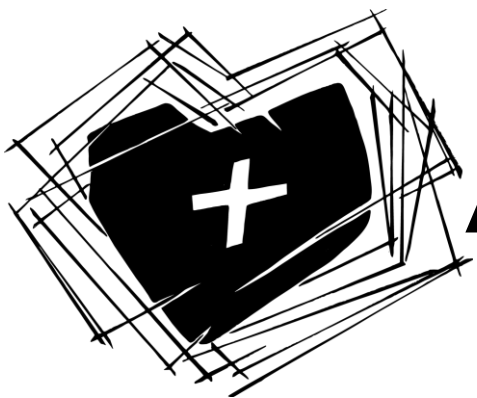


Following Jesus' teachings, Grace seeks to educate, lead, and partner with all people through discipleship to worship, service, and faith celebration.



15th Sunday After Pentecost

September 1, 2024 9:30am

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.

*Please stand as you are able. **Congregational response in bold.**

Prelude

Fantasy on "When Morning Gilds the Skies" arr. Dan Edwards

Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.** Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin. (*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn*

Oh, Sing to the Lord ELW 822

- 1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
- 2 For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
- 3 So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets,
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
- 4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
- 5 For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia! For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia! Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Spanish and English
Spanish and English text © Gerhard Cartford, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Greeting*

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

Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray. O God our strength, **without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message

First Reading | James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose, he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore, rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

Gospel Reading* | **Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So, the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

"For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of the Day*

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Prayers of the People*

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace* *(Please be seated after sharing the peace.)*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Call to Offering *(The offering plates will be passed along the pews.)*

James 1 reminds us that "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above." May we receive all the gifts from God with gladness, share the gifts with hospitality and compassion, and celebrate the kingdom of God's abundance with boldness.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, **source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*

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.

Invitation to Communion

Everyone is welcome to the table. As you are able, please come forward to receive communion at 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*

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing*

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Song*

All the People Say Amen

Sending*

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Interested in Joining Grace?

Please contact the church office 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.

Sparkhouse Magazines

Children's Sparkhouse Magazines are available in the Narthex. We encourage children and families to take home a copy and enjoy the pictures and stories about ways we live as children of God. We currently deliver these to our LIFT families. If you have grandchildren or friends of your family that would enjoy a copy of this magazine, please feel free to pick one up.

Do You Receive the Weekly Update Email?

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.

Serving in Worship

Director of Outreach & Youth Minister	Pastor Kirsten Lee
Assisting Minister	Ruth McAndrews
Communion Assistants	Ruth McAndrews, Jim Neumann, Ruthann Neumann, Jane Rock
Communion Bread	Sue Janssen
Acolyte	Kathy Shriver
Greeters	Jackie Cain, Kathy Higgins
Ushers	Mike & Deb Kirby
Sound System	Dan Haugen
Prayers	Chryss Hartman
Altar Guild	Mike Keller
Heart & Voice Choir Director	Sally Meier
Organist	Susan Senn
Pianist	Kathi Parrish
Worship Tech & Praise Band Leader	Vey Rodriguez
Coffee/Cookies/Snacks	Kathy Miller, Kathy Shriver

Grace Lutheran Church

1140 East High Street, Davenport, IA 52803
563-322-0769 | office@gracewelcomesyou.org

YouTube: Grace Lutheran Davenport

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/GraceWelcomesYou

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Grace Lutheran Church
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Fall Block Party

Sunday, September 15

Outdoor Worship

10:30-11:30am

Party Activities

11:30am-1:30pm



Walking Tacos

Snow Cones

Bouncy House

Music • Games

Friends • Fun!



Help Assemble
Compassion Kits
Bring a Lawn Chair!



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 1

9:30am Joint Worship

Monday, September 2

Office Closed for Labor Day
No Centering Prayer

Tuesday, September 3

10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH
1:30pm Personnel Committee Mtg
5:00pm Property Committee Mtg

Wednesday, September 4

12:00pm Men's Lunch @ VanderVeer
5:30pm Grief Support Group - PBH
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 5

11:30am Prayer Group
7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Friday, September 6

Saturday, September 7

Sunday, September 8

8:30am Traditional Worship/Livestream
10:30am Contemporary Worship

Monday, September 9

10:30am Staff Meeting
4:30pm Centering Prayer

Tuesday, September 10

9:00am Quilters
10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH
1:30pm Outreach & Welcome Mtg
1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg
6:00pm CYF Meeting
7:00pm Worship & Music Mtg

Wednesday, September 11

9:00am Quilters
12:00pm Men's Lunch @ VanderVeer
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 12

10:00am Stewardship Mtg
7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Friday, September 13

Saturday, September 14

You Can Watch Us Online and Follow us on Facebook!

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

Your offerings support and nurture ministries at Grace along with support for local and global organizations. Online giving is available at bit.ly/GraceGivingOnline.

Looking Ahead

- **September 2 Office Closed for Labor Day**
- **September 14** Walk to End Alzheimer's
- **September 15 Neighborhood Block Party!**
- **September 16** Pray & Play
- **September 19** ImpactLife Blood Drive
- **September 21** IFF Progressive Dinner
- **September 22** JBS & Adult Education Start
- **September 28** NAMI Walk
- **September 29** Blessing of the Animals
- **October 6** Crop Hunger Walk
- **October 13** LWR Quilt Blessing
- **October 14** Pray & Play

Scan for our digital
Weekly Update



Join Our Heart & Voice Choir

"Sing to the Lord a new song!" You are invited to join Heart and Voice, Grace's adult choir, as it returns this fall. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00pm. If you are high school-age or up, this is the group for you! We welcome all voices high or low, loud or soft, trained or untrained. Our mission is ministry in song as we worship together. Come and join us!

Neighborhood Block Party! | September 15



Volunteers Needed

It's time to get ready for our Neighborhood Block Party! We will have a joint outdoor worship service at 10:30am followed by food, games, and fun. Check your emails for a link to sign up to help (or let the office know what you'd like to help with) - **Here's what's still needed:**

- We need a couple more tents/canopies
- Help move tables/chairs to a staging area Thursday before the event
- Help with set up on the morning of the event
- Food preparation and service
- Activity helpers
- Clean up

LWR Kits | Return by September 15

Thank you all for your wonderful response! Bags and kits should be returned to the church by September 15.

IFF Progressive Dinner | September 21

The Rock's and Janssen's will be hosting an IFF progressive-type dinner in their homes out in Le Claire on September 21, beginning at 5:30pm. Additional information will be provided as the date approaches. So, mark your calendars and **RSVP to Jane Rock by texting or calling 563-340-8022.**



Are You a Thrivent Member?

Did you know you can apply for Thrivent grants for Grace events? Please talk to Pr. Kirsten about how you can apply - she is happy to walk you through the process!

Grace Lutheran Church

1140 E High St | Davenport IA 52803
563-322-0769

www.gracewelcomesyou.org
office@gracewelcomesyou.org

ADMIN STAFF

Pastor Stephanie Wood

pastorstephanie@gracewelcomesyou.org

Pastor Kirsten Lee

Director of Outreach & Youth Ministry

pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org

Annie Nau, Office Administrator

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Custodial Requests

custodian@gracewelcomesyou.org

Claudia Wood, Treasurer

treasurer@gracewelcomesyou.org

Vey Rodriguez, Worship Tech & Praise Band Leader

worshiptech@gracewelcomesyou.org

COUNCIL

Deb Kirby

President

Personnel Committee Chairperson

Cindy Lee

Vice President

Outreach & Welcome Committee

Memorial Committee

Grief Support Group Coordinator

Paul Lewellan

Secretary
Social Ministry

Claudia Wood

Treasurer
Finance Committee

Jim Bayles

Property Committee

Jackie Cain

Outreach & Welcome Ministry

Janice Gibbs

Children, Youth, & Family

Deb Gustafson

Finance Committee

Laura Toland

Worship & Music Ministry

Adult Education | Begins September 22



Coffee with Esther. Join Paul Lewellan for coffee and conversation about the Book of Esther. Meet in PBH from 9:45-10:15. Among the topics tackled will be:

- **September 22** Religious Faith (Mordecai) "What does your faith require of you?"
- **September 22** Religious Hatred (Haman) "Who do you hate?"
- **October 6** A Woman's Place (Esther) "What is a woman's role in politics?"

Reading Esther is recommended, though not required. (It's a really short book.)

Junior Bible Study | Begins September 22

At both worship services, following the children's sermon, kids will have 20 minutes to join the fun and talk about Bible stories in their own space set apart from the worship service. Join us for laughter and learning. See Pastor Kirsten if you would like to volunteer or have questions.

Help With Blessing Bags

The Social Ministry Committee plans to assemble blessing bags again at the Block Party on September 15. If you have connections that can help us provide other items (20+ of each) please contact Paul Lewellan plewellan@mac.com or Claire Johansen claire.d.johansen@gmail.com. Useful items include toothpaste, toothbrushes, lip balm, hand wipes, etc.

Pray & Play Registration for Fall 2024

Registration forms are available for our Fall 2024 Pray & Play. For kids ages 5-10, we offer a full day of activities during Davenport Schools in-service days (Sept 16, Oct 14, and Nov 7). To register online go to bit.ly/PPRegFall24, and please share this information with any families you may know. Please let the office know if you would prefer a paper copy of the registration form.

Men's Lunch | Noon Wednesdays

Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon at Vander Veer Park! You can bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a local restaurant. Contact Dennis Boehme at 563-320-2661 or boehmed@aol.com to be added to the email list.

Grief Support Group | September 4

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

Centering Prayer | Mondays 4:30pm

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.

Online Giving

Supporting the ministry and missions at Grace is easy with e-giving. Scan this QR Code or go to bit.ly/GraceGivingOnline to donate one time or to set up recurring gifts. We appreciate and thank you for your generosity!

