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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

- **March 23** Coffee with the Disciples
 - **March 26** Midweek Lenten Worship
 - **March 27** National Faith + Climate Forum
 - **March 30** Coffee with the Disciples
 - **April 2** Midweek Lenten Worship
 - **April 6** Coffee with the Disciples
 - **April 9** Midweek Lenten Worship
 - **April 11** Safer Sack Lunch Orders Due
 - **April 13** Palm Sunday; Coffee with the Disciples
- **April 14** Pray & Play
 - **April 17** Maundy Thursday
 - **April 18** Good Friday
 - **April 20** Easter Sunday
 - **April 24** Safer Sack Luncheon in PBH
 - **April 27** Holy Humor Sunday Joint Worship
 - **April 28-May 12** Pastor Stephanie Vacation
 - **May 15** ImpactLife Blood Drive at Grace
 - **May 17** Synod Assembly



Coffee with the Disciples

Adult Education Sundays | 9:45am

Led by Paul Lewellan: Through the use of scripture, biographical information, and creative questioning, the class will get to know these complicated men.

TODAY March 23
James and John (The Sons of Zebedee)
Get to know these complicated men
What did Jesus mean when he called them "The Sons of Thunder"?
Next Sunday March 30 Matthew and Simon the Zealot (Unlikely Disciples)


Social Ministry Lenten Collections




This Lenten season, the Grace Social Ministry Mission will be collecting items needed for families working with Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). Items needed include: diapers (all sizes) and cleaning supplies (sponges, PineSol, bath cleaner, dish detergent, SOS Pads, Clorox/Lyson wipes, etc.). Boxes will be placed in the narthex to place your donations now through Easter. Many thanks for your support and compassion for these families!

LENTEN WORSHIP


Wednesdays 7:00pm | March 12-April 9





March 26 God created a world to provide for our needs with abundant nourishment. God wants everyone to have the food they need to thrive. God calls us to share our bread with those who hunger. In God's kingdom, there is enough for everyone.

Nourish your soul; there is enough love, grace, and hope for all.




Safer Sack Lunches

The Safer Foundation will be doing the Safer Sack Lunches on Thursday, April 24. This will be our 12th year of participation! Lunches are \$9 and include a meat/cheese croissant sandwich; chips; fruit; & dessert. **Orders are due to Hollie Swain by April 11.** Your cash or check (made out either to Hollie or Safer Foundation) will be needed prior to April 24. Hollie will pick up the lunches and bring them to Grace. If you plan to join us for lunch (or have any questions), contact Hollie at k75hollie@gmail.com or 563-514-4022.




Hollie Swain is looking to get a group together at Circa 21 for the Broadway musical "Come From Away". Dates available are September 24; October 1, 8, 15. Cost will depend on how many sign-up. These are Wednesday dates for the matinee and the theatre opens at 11:45am. We can also plan a car pool from Grace. If you are interested in attending, please contact Hollie Swain 563-514-4022 or k75hollie@gmail.com.



VBS Day Camp! June 23-27

For ages 4 thru grade 6 | 8am-4pm each day
Where: Trinity Lutheran Church (18137 Criswell St. Bett)
Cost: \$40 before April 15 (\$50 after April 15)
Grace is partnering with Trinity and St. James for a week-long day camp. 8am-4pm each day, staff from Camp Ewalu will lead the kids in our own local camp experience with crafts, games, music, and more! Register online at [bit.ly/GraceVBS2025](#) or scan this QR Code. Financial assistance is available and your request is confidential. Registration closes June 1. Contact Pr. Kirsten at pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org for more info.



National Faith + Climate Forum

March 27, 2025 10am-4pm
@ St Paul Lutheran Church
(2136 N Brady St, Davenport)

Register online at [nationalfaithandclimateforum.org](#)
List St. Paul Lutheran as your desired location or register to listen on your personal devices.

Greeting Cards

Janice has graciously managed our donated greeting cards, and she has found that both Clarissa Cook House and Luther Properties want cards for their residents to use. So feel free to bring your donations and place them in her mailbox, and she'll deliver them.

Calendar

Sunday, March 23

8:30am Healing Worship & Livestream
9:30am Coffee with the Disciples
10:30am Healing Worship

Monday, March 24

10:30am Staff Meeting
4:30pm Centering Prayer
7:00pm Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 25

10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH

Wednesday, March 26

11:00am THE STORY Bible Study - PBH
12:00pm Men's Lunch Group - Narthex
6:00pm Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm **Midweek Lenten Worship**

Thursday, March 27

9:00am LSI in Fellowship Hall to 2pm
6:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Friday, March 28

Saturday, March 29

Sunday, March 30

8:30am Traditional Worship & Livestream
9:30am Coffee with the Disciples
10:30am Contemporary Worship

Monday, March 31

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

Grace Lutheran Church

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ADMIN STAFF

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treasurer@gracewelcomesyou.org

Vey Rodriguez, Worship Tech & Praise Band Leader

worshiptech@gracewelcomesyou.org

On-Going Ministries



Grief Support Group

Next Meeting: April 2 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.



Service Day Quilters

Next Meeting Dates: April 8-9 Anyone can join to help at church or at home. The quilts & projects made are donated to the community and LWR. Contact Gloria Lange 563-271-1542 or langeig1@msn.com or Kathy Miller 563-676-0914 or kathyk1679@aol.com.



Page Turners Book Group

Next Meeting: April 12 We meet at 8:30am the third Saturday each month at different locations for breakfast, book discussion, and great fellowship (reading the book is not required). **April Book:** *Britt Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman
Host: Sally Haugen 563-514-9335 **Location:** TBD



Naomi Circle

Next Gathering: April 15 Naomi Circle meets the third Tuesday each month, September through May, at 9:00am at church for Bible study. Contact Marilyn Schreiber 563-340-0350 or marilyn.schreiber@icloud.com.



THE STORY Bible Study

Weekly - Wednesdays at 11am

Monthly - First Thursdays, 7pm

THE STORY helps people understand God's Word and powerfully engages with Bible reading like never before. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us at anytime during the series. Pr. Stephanie can answer your questions.



Men's Lunch

Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon at Grace. Bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a restaurant. Contact Dennis Boehme at boehmed@aol.com or 563-320-2661 to be added to the email list.



Centering Prayer

Mondays 4:30pm via Zoom In the Christian tradition, Contemplative Prayer is considered to be the pure gift of God - an the opening of mind and heart. Cheryl Kritsch 563-343-0135 facilitates the group which meets via Zoom every Monday (except holidays) at 4:30pm (link emailed in the Weekly Update).

Scan this QR Code
for the Current
Weekly Update Email



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA is a congregation
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Easter Lily Order

**Order deadline is
Monday, March 31**

\$15 per Lily Plant

Name _____

How Many Plants? _____

In memory of:

In honor of:

Payment can be made by:

- placing a check made out to Grace Lutheran Church (memo: Easter Flowers) in the Sunday offering plate
- mailing payment to the church office
- placing payment in Annie's mailbox
- paying online at: **bit.ly/GraceGivingOnline** (note Easter Flowers)

Your plant(s) may be taken home
anytime after Easter Worship.

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

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025 8:30am

Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa
Pastor Stephanie Wood † Pastor Kirsten Lee

Welcome! We are so happy you have joined us!
Congregational response in bold.

Prelude

Ave VerumMozart

Announcements

Call to Worship

Heart & Voice Choir *If You Stand Tall*

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.** Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. (*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God’s house forever. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

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

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

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.**

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Eternal God, **your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Heart & Voice Choir Anthem

Seek Ye the Lord Benjamin Harlan

*Seek ye the Lord while He is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way.
Let the evil man forsake his thoughts.
Let him turn to the Lord, and receive mercy,
be freely pardoned.
Seek ye the Lord while He is near.*

Children's Message

First Reading | Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

Hear, everyone who thirsts;
 come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
 and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
 call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you,
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**Therefore, I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

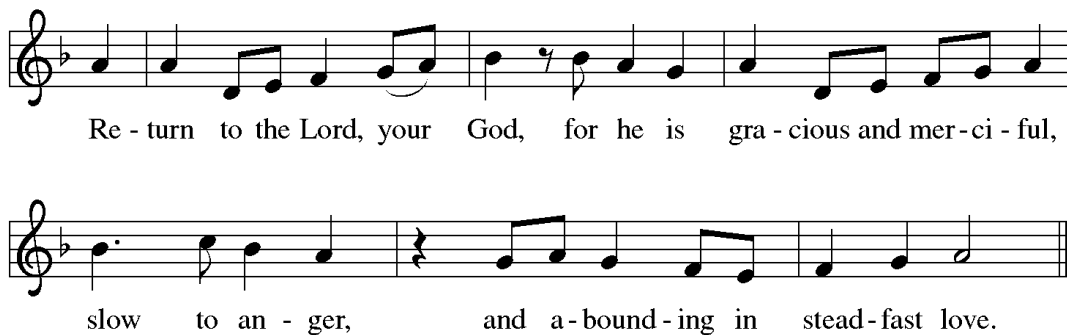
**when I remember you upon my bed
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

Gospel Acclamation

Return to the Lord..... ELW p. 151



Holy Gospel | Luke 13:1-9

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. Jesus asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So, he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still, I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross..... ELW 803

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
 on which the prince of glory died,
 my richest gain I count but loss
 and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
 save in the death of Christ, my God;
 all the vain things that charm me most,
 I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
 sorrow and love flow mingled down.
 Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
 or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Apostles' Creed

Let us proclaim our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

Let us pray. Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Call to Offering

Let us express our gratitude for the blessings we have received and embrace the joy of giving and sharing by offering our gifts to support God's work.

Offering 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
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Holy God,
receive these humble gifts and bless those who give with steady daily provision. Help us steward these gifts wisely and multiply our resources to do good work in faith. Amen.

Anointing with Oil for Healing and Wholeness

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

Loving God... **Your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all. Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain. Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair.**

Siblings in Christ, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

Compassionate God... **The strength of those who suffer, bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical, or spiritual distress.**

All-knowing God... **Source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom, and compassion to all who provide medical care.**

Loving God... **Our creator and redeemer, give gentleness and courage to family members, friends, and caregivers of those who suffer.**

God of great and abundant mercy... **With your presence sustain all for whom we pray. Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope, and strengthen their trust in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

Go now into the world brimming with love for God and others. May you share the bread of life, offering not only what sustains the body but what nourishes the soul. Live your lives serving in the way of Jesus, extending compassion to the weary, hope to the despairing, and bread to the hungry. As you go, may the love of God enfold you, the peace of Christ guide you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me ELW 623

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
 let me hide myself in thee;
 let the water and the blood,
 from thy riven side which flowed,
 be of sin the double cure;
 cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

- 2 Not the labors of my hands
 can fulfill thy law's demands;
 could my zeal no respite know,
 could my tears forever flow,
 all for sin could not atone;
 thou must save, and thou alone.

- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
 simply to thy cross I cling.
 Naked, come to thee for dress;
 helpless, look to thee for grace;
 foul, I to the fountain fly;
 wash me, Savior, or I die.

- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
 when mine eyelids close in death,
 when I soar to worlds unknown,
 see thee on thy judgment throne,
 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
 let me hide myself in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778

Sending

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Jesus Christ, our Blessed Savior Harmonized, David Johnson



Junior Bible Study | JBS is on Spring Break - Join us again next Sunday!

Each week we will hear familiar Bible stories and enjoy the beautiful illustrations from THE STORY for Kids and Little Ones. *We meet after the children's message at both Sunday services.*

Interested in Joining Grace? Please contact the church office office@gracewelcomesyou.org, for information about joining Grace Lutheran Church. We would be overjoyed to have you engaged in the worship, ministries, and congregational life at Grace.

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.

Sparkhouse Magazines Children's Sparkhouse Magazines are available in the Narthex. We encourage families to take home a copy and enjoy the pictures and stories about ways we live as children of God.

Serving in Worship

Director of Outreach & Youth Minister	Pastor Kirsten Lee
Assisting Minister	Deb Gustafson
Healing Assistants	Deb Gustafson, Janice Gibbs, Chuck Lehman, Colleen Levsen
Acolyte & Crucifer	Matt Levsen
Greeters	Dave & Elizabeth Linde
Ushers	Rod Levsen Sr, Rod Levsen Jr
Jr Bible Study	No JBS - Spring Break - Join us again next week!
Sound System	Chuck Lehman
Prayers	Sally Meier
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	Karen Jewel, Chrissy Hartman

Grace Lutheran Church

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YouTube: Grace Lutheran Davenport

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