



Looking Ahead

- **April 2** Midweek Lenten Worship
- **April 6** Food Pantry Sunday; 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 21** Easter Holiday Office Closed
- **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
- **May 26** Memorial Day - Office Closed
- **May 30** Hope at the Brickhouse Dinner
- **June 23-27** VBS Day Camp at Trinity, PV



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 30 Matthew and Simon the Zealot (The Unlikely Disciples)

Get to know these complicated men What did it mean to be called a zealot?
Next Sunday April 6 Thomas and Judas Iscariot

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!

ALSO - Next Sunday is Food Pantry Sunday! Last month we had 105 items donated - Can we top that this month? Let's make this our best year yet! See page five of the April newsletter for suggestions and ideas.

Calling All Instrumentalists

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

Sunday, April 13 at 1:00 pm
Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 pm
Saturday, April 19 at 9:00 am

Easter Orchestra is open to all Grace instrumentalists, 8th grade 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 563-796-0773 or 309-292-0281 so that she can have a part ready for you!**

LENTEN WORSHIP

Wednesdays 7:00pm | March 12-April 9



April 2 Parables about meals teach us humility and hospitality and are expressions of embodied faith, deeply rooted in our experience of God's love and grace. They also teach us that humility and hospitality are two sides of the same coin. Without humility, hospitality can become self-serving; without hospitality, humility can turn into self-deprecation. **Nourish your soul; there is enough love, grace, and hope for all.**



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.



Pray & Play Helpers

Our wonderful helpers at Pray & Play are vital to the program's success. You can volunteer for as little or as long a time as you'd like, and helpers are needed both on-site with the kids or behind the scenes (like preparing snacks/lunch, wiping tables, clean up, etc.). Pr. Kirsten can answer any questions.

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. Lunches will be delivered to Grace. If you plan to join us for lunch (or have any questions), contact Hollie at 563-514-4022 or k75hollie@gmail.com.

Greeting Cards

Janice has graciously managed greeting card donations, 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 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

Tuesday, April 1

10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH
1:30pm Personnel Committee Mtg
5:00pm Property Committee Mtg
7:00pm Worship & Music Mtg

Wednesday, April 2

11:00am THE STORY Bible Study - PBH
12:00pm Men's Lunch Group - Narthex
5:30pm Grief Support Group
6:00pm Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm Midweek Lenten Worship

Thursday, April 3

6:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal
7:00pm THE STORY Bible Study - PBH

Friday, April 4

Saturday, April 5

Sunday, April 6

Food Pantry Sunday

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

Monday, April 7

10:30am Staff Meeting
4:30pm Centering Prayer
6:00pm CYF Meeting

Grace Lutheran Church

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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 langejg1@msn.com or Kathy Miller 563-676-0914 or kathyk1679@aol.com.



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.



Page Turners Book Group

Next Meeting: April 19 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:** Vibrant Coffee (3230 Ridge Point, Bettendorf)



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

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 30, 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

What Wondrous Love Is This?arranged by Albin Whitworth

Announcements

Call to Worship

Heart & Voice Choir *Be Reconciled to God*

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 Is a Rock in a Weary Land ELW 333

Refrain

Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a shelter in a time of storm.

- 1 No one can do like Jesus,
not a mumbling word he said;
he went walking down to Lazarus' grave,
and he raised him from the dead. *Refrain*
- 2 When Jesus was on earth,
the flesh was very weak;
he took a towel and girded himself
and he washed his disciples' feet. *Refrain*
- 3 Yonder comes my Savior,
him whom I love so well;
he has the palm of victory
and the keys of death and hell. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

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. God of compassion,

you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

Is There Room for a Sinner Pepper Choplin

Is there room in Your house for a sinner, Lord?

Is there room for a sinner like me?

For this world is full of temptation and sin.

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Do you hear the praying of a sinner, Lord?

Do you hear a sinner like me?

When I'm on my knees, I ask you, please,

Dear Lord, have mercy on me."

*Come ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore.
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love and power.*

*Hear the thanks from a sinner who's forgiven, Lord.
Hear the thanks from a sinner set free.
'Cause you healed my sin and took me in,
and now there's room for me.
There's room in your house for me!*

Children's Message

First Reading | 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long. **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore, all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them. **You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye. **Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding, who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.**"

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. **Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

Gospel Acclamation*

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



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel | Luke 15:1-3, 11^b-32

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So, he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So, he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been

working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling..... ELW 608

- 1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

- 2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

- 3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

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. Bread of life and source of all good things,
receive these gifts and offerings in your generous hands. May they serve your church and our community, expanding the message of your love and grace to all who hunger and thirst. 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

My Faith Looks Up to Thee ELW 759

- 1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!
- 2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.
- 4 When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

Sending

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

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Diapason Movement..... George Green



Junior Bible Study | Today: The Birth of a King

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 Paul Lewellan
Acolyte & Crucifer..... NEEDED
Greeters Sue & Jim Cruchelow
Ushers..... Deb & Mike Kirby
Jr Bible Study..... Pr. Kirsten, Deb Gustafson
Sound System Russ Finkler
Prayers Chrissy 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 Higgins, Ann Lorentzen

Grace Lutheran Church

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