



CANDLES & CAROLS

Sunday, December 14 | 6:30pm

You are invited to an evening of reading and song. The beautiful service of Candles and Carols is a lovely evening of anthems, hymns, scripture and prayers that are sure to uplift your spirit as you travel through the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Come relax and enjoy, as we reflect upon and treasure God's holy gift of Jesus.

Fair Trade - Excellent Christmas Gifts!



We have olive oil, chocolate bars, hot cocoa mix, coffee, tea, and more available for purchase in the narthex (and during the week in the office). By purchasing Fair Trade products you are promoting honest and fair business practices that empower both farmers and consumers.



Grace Lutheran Church + Davenport, IA

JUNIOR BIBLE STUDY

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!

Sunday, December 21 | 9:30am Joint Worship

Join us for a Christmas Cookie Party following the service!
Please let Pr. Kirsten know if you can donate cookies.

Looking Ahead

- **December 14** Candles & Carols 6:30pm
- **December 20** **Blue Christmas @ Redeemer**
- **December 21** **Joint Worship Kids Program**
- **December 24** **Christmas Eve Worship 5:00pm and 7:00pm**; Office closes @ Noon
- **December 25-26** Church Office Closed
- **December 28 9:30am** Joint Worship Christmas Hymn Sing
- **January 1-2** Church Office Closed
- **January 5** Annual Reports Due
- **January 15** ImpactLife Blood Drive
- **January 25** Joint Worship & Annual Meeting

Blue Christmas

A Service of Prayer for
the Winter Solstice

at Redeemer Lutheran Church
1107 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf

Saturday, Dec 20 | 7pm

This reflective gathering offers a supportive space for quiet reflection, solace, and a gentle reminder of comfort and hope during the Advent season.

CHRISTMAS at Grace

CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC 24 | 5:00PM

A family-friendly service with simple carols and celebration of the Nativity story.

CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC 24 | 7:00PM

A traditional candlelight service with special choral and instrumental music.

CHRISTMAS HYMN SING, DEC 28 | 9:30am

Joint worship with all-request Christmas Hymns.



Social Ministry Mitten Tree




The Grace Social Ministry Team is collecting hats and gloves (all sizes) for our local elementary schools.

These items can be new or very gently used, should be unwrapped, and can be placed on or under the tree in the narthex. Thank you for helping with this important ministry!



Sunday, December 14

Fair Trade Items Available for Purchase

8:30am Traditional Worship & Livestream
9:30am Coffee hour
10:30am Contemporary Worship
6:30pm Candles & Carols 

Monday, December 15

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

Tuesday, December 16

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

Wednesday, December 17

12:00pm Men's Lunch Group - Narthex
5:30pm Grief Support Group - PBH
6:00pm Spiritual Growth Mtg
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 18

Friday, December 19

11:00am Council/Committee Reports Due

Saturday, December 20

8:30am Page Turners
1:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal
7:00pm Blue Christmas @ Redeemer 

Sunday, December 21

Fair Trade Items Available for Purchase

9:30am Joint Worship - Kids Program
10:30am Christmas Party - PBH

Monday, December 22

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

Tuesday, December 23

10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH

Wednesday, December 24

12:00pm Church Offices Closed at Noon
5:00pm Family Christmas Eve
7:00pm Candlelight Service 

Thursday, December 25

Church Office Closed

Help with Watering Poinsettias

Please let the office know if you would like to help keep the poinsettias watered.

End-of-Year Giving

All year-end offerings (including Required Minimum Distributions) need to be **received in the office by Monday, December 30**, in order to be deposited on December 31, and counted for 2025. Thank you for your continued support of our missions!

Annual Reports Due January 5

Annual Reports are due to the office **no later than Monday, January 5**, to have time to prepare for distribution on January 11 (two weeks before the annual meeting). They can be sent anytime before and up to January 5, in any format convenient for you, as they will be reformatted for consistency (and to save on paper, we just need a brief summary of your group's activities). Please email the office with any questions.

Story of Paul Bible Study

December Hiatus There is a participant book with only a few pages of reading for each session. Pr. Stephanie can answer any questions. *Classes will resume in January.*

Grief Support Group

Next Meeting: Dec 17 Grief Support Group meets the first and third Wednesdays month 5:30pm in Pat Bell Hall. Anyone is welcome at anytime, and please be assured our conversations are kept in confidence. Questions? Cindy Lee 563-370-5386.

Page Turners Book Group

Next Meeting: December 20 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). **December Book:** *Little Pink House: A True Story of Defiance and Courage* by Jeff Benedict **Host:** Gloria Lange 563-271-1542
Location: The Brothers Restaurant (1718 ~ 2nd Ave, Rapids City, IL)

Service Day Quilters

Next Meeting Dates: January 13 & 14 | 9am-Noon

Anyone can join to help at church or at home. Questions? Gloria Lange 563-271-1542
langejg1@msn.com or Kathy Miller kathyk1679@aol.com 563-676-0914.

Naomi Circle

Next Meeting: January 20, 9am Naomi Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month Sept-May for refreshments, fellowship, devotions, and bible study. All are welcome to join us! Questions? Joyce Marinaccio 563-343-3404 or gsgopher50@gmail.com.

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).

Men's Lunch Group

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

Scan for
the current
Weekly
Update email





CHRISTMAS AT GRACE

2025

Grace Lutheran Church | 1140 E High St | Davenport, IA

ADVENT WORSHIP

December 7, 14 | 8:30am* & 10:30am

CANDLES & CAROLS

December 14 | 6:30pm*

BLUE CHRISTMAS

December 20 | 7:00pm

@ Redeemer Lutheran Church
1107 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

December 21 | 9:30am*

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24 | 5:00pm & 7:00pm*

CHRISTMAS HYMN-SING

December 28 | 9:30am*

*These services will be Live streamed at our YouTube channel: Grace Lutheran Davenport

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

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 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

*Mary, Did You Know?*Lowry, Greene, arr. Dan Coates

Announcements

Call to Worship

Heart & Voice Choir *Stir in Our Hearts an Advent Song*

*Stir in our hearts an Advent song, a melody for which we long.
With harmony that makes us whole and rhythm moving in our soul.
Open now our minds to sway out from darkness into day.
Teach us in the narrow way. Stir us in your word we pray.*

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us**

**from self-reliance and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among
us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.
† You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the
Savior. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn ELW 242

- 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
 for angels herald its dawning.
 Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
 behold! the Child of our longing.
 Come as a baby weak and poor,
 to bring all hearts together,
 he opens wide the heav'nly door
 and lives now inside us forever.
- 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
 Emmanuel comes a-singing,
 his humble song is quiet and near,
 yet fills the earth with its ringing;
 music to heal the broken soul
 and hymns of lovingkindness,
 the thunder of his anthems roll
 to shatter all hatred and blindness.
- 3 In darkest night his coming shall be,
 when all the world is despairing,
 as morning light so quiet and free,
 so warm and gentle and caring.
 Then shall the mute break forth in song,
 the lame shall leap in wonder,
 the weak be raised above the strong,
 and weapons be broken asunder.
- 4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
 though dark the winter and cheerless,

the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.**

Advent Candle Lighting

During these weeks of waiting and expecting, where people live in fear of the unknown, **We pray for peace.**

Where people are confused about your will for their lives or for the world,
We pray for clarity.

Most of all, when the world longs for you,
**We pray you help us respond with
glad tidings of comfort and joy.**

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior. **Amen.**

Your light shines in the midst of the darkness. With the lighting of this candle may you illuminate our hope in the midst of our fear. *(The third candle is lit.)*

Advent Hymn

Wait for the Lord ELW 262



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and Music ©1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

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Children's Message

Hymn of Praise

Glory be to God on High (Tune: Angels We Have Heard on High) Words: David Eck © 2011



Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed



joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -



- - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, **and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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

O Come, O Come, Immanuel Natalie Sleeth, arr. by Jane Marshall

*O come, O come, Immanuel.
Come now to earth and with thy people dwell.
The world awaits from heaven a holy sign,
O come and show to us the light divine.*

*O come, O come Immanuel,
As age to age the prophets did foretell;
Redeemer, come to save us one and all.
Be born again in Bethlehem's manger stall.*

*For thy coming we prepare, Wisdom from on high.
Gracious Spirit, Lord most fair; now to us draw nigh.*

*O come, O come Immanuel,
And free thy children, Israel.
Be now our hope, our comfort from above,
And bless us all with everlasting love.*

First Reading | Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and

shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading | Luke 1:46^b-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

**You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,**

casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Gospel Acclamation

Refrain from *Angels We Have Heard on High* ELW 289



Gospel Reading | Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What,

then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

All Earth is Hopeful..... ELW 266

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth restores hope
and courage to children of this earth.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray. In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation. God of hope, **receive our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

Peace

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

Call to Offering

There is a profound happiness in sharing what we possess, no matter the quantity, whether great or small, a part of it belongs to God. What God seeks is not a place of offerings, but a hand that reaches out bringing joy and delight with your gift.

Offering Hymn

Your Blessings Are Immeasurable.....setting by David Eck
To the tune of "On Jordan's Bank the Baptists Cry"

Your bless - ings are im - mea - sura-ble. Our homes are warm, our
praise you, God, for love, for life, for sav - ing us___ from
bel - lies full. We of - fer now our - selves to you. God,
dark - est night. Now send us forth so we may tell the
use good us an of - y way you choose. We
good news of E - man - u - el.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Nourishing God, **you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. 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.

Communion Hymn

What Feast of Love (verse 3) ELW 487

3 What wine of love is offered here,

what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939; Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, OSB. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland OR 97213. All rights reserved.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Blessing

May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Fling Wide the Door ELW 259

- 1 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;
 the King of glory comes in state;
 the Lord of lords and King of kings,
 the Savior of the world who brings
 his great salvation to the earth.
 So raise a shout of holy mirth
 and praise our God and Lord,
 Creator, Spirit, Word.
- 2 He is the rock of our belief,
 the heart of mercy's gentle self.

His kingly crown is holiness;
his scepter is his loveliness;
he brings our sorrows to an end.
Now gladly praise our king and friend,
and worship him with song
for saving us from wrong.

3 Oh, happy towns and blessed lands
that live by their true king's commands.
And blessed be the hearts he rules,
the humble places where he dwells.
He is the rightful Son of bliss
who fills our lives and makes us his,
creator of the world,
our only strength for good.

4 Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;
our hearts are open wide in trust.
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,
upon our sorrows shine your face,
and let your Holy Spirit guide
our journey in your grace so wide.
We praise your holy name,
from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943; Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship,
admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Sending

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Postlude on "Antioch" arr. Gerald Peterson



Junior Bible Study | Today: Christmas Program Practice Junior Bible Study is offered for children after the children's sermon during worship at both services. We will return from our time together before communion begins. Once again, we will use The Story as our guide for our learning. We will learn the familiar Bible Stories through these books, felt board, games, and crafts. We hope your children can join us!

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.

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

Presiding & Preaching Today	Pastor Stephanie Wood
Director of Outreach & Youth Minister	Pastor Kirsten Lee
Assisting Minister	Deb Gustafson
Communion Assistants	Deb Gustafson, Gloria Lange, Colleen Levsen, Rod Levsen Sr
Communion Bread	Gloria Lange
Acolyte & Crucifer	Matt Levsen
Greeters	Sue & Jim Cruchelow
Ushers	Mike Kirby, Mark Jepson
Sound System	Russ Finkler
Prayers	Sundays & Seasons
Jr Bible Study	Pastor Kirsten, Denise Eads
Altar Guild	Gloria Lange
Heart & Voice Choir Director	Sally Meier
Organist	Susan Senn
Pianist	Kathi Parrish
Worship Tech & Praise Band Leader	Vey Rodriguez
Coffee/Cookies/Snacks	Kathy Shriver, Ann Lorentzen

Grace Lutheran Church

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YouTube: Grace Lutheran Davenport

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