

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026 † 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

Fugue in D Minor.....Pachelbel

Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin to God. (*Silence for reflection.*) Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn*

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word..... ELW 520

- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.
- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded

till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.

3 Radiance of God's glory bright,
Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light;
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you.

4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
all your gospel's consolation
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; Gesangbuch, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

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. Beloved and sovereign God, **through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message

Scripture Reading | Acts 16:6-15

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel* | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So, it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Sermon

Song*

On Earth as in Heaven

Prayers of the People*

Let us pray. Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

As we offer our gifts, we mirror the generosity of God, share our hopes for a more promising future, and actively love our neighbors. Let us give with joy, trusting that our gifts will be magnified by God's extraordinary power.

(You may place your offering in the offering plates by the door as you exit the sanctuary or by scanning the QR code on the back of the bulletin to give online.)

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. God of grace, **you have blessed us with our bodies, our minds, our hearts, our communities, and the resources of this earth. Lead us and guide us to use these gifts in accordance with your will, for the sake of the one who is with us to the end, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

*(You are invited to come forward to receive a blessing and anointing.
As you come forward you may kneel or stand in the front pew.
After you have been blessed and anointed, you may return to your seat.)*

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*

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

Closing Song*

Hold Us Together

Sending*

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God!

Interested in Joining Grace?

Please contact the church office 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'd like to be added to our email list, please contact Annie in the church office.

Online Giving

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



Serving in Worship

Preaching & Presiding	Pastor Stephanie Wood
Director of Outreach & Youth Ministry	Pastor Kirsten Lee
Assisting Minister	Ruth McAndrews
Healing Assistants	Ruth McAndrews, Chuck Lehman, Carol Keller, Colleen Levens
Acolyte	Debbie Alejo
Greeters	Gene & Gail Carber
Ushers	Adolfo Alejo, Mark Jepson
Sound System	Russ Finkler
Slides	Anne Pacha

Prayers Sundays & Seasons
Altar Guild Mike Keller
Heart & Voice Choir Director Sally Meier
Organist Susan Senn
Pianist Kathi Parrish
Worship Tech & Praise Band Leader Vey Rodriguez
Coffee Hour Kathy Shriver



Join us after worship!

GRACE TALKS

We listened to 43 members over nine weeks! In that time, we invited 61 people to chat; some weren't available and a few declined. The listeners and listenees greatly appreciated the time to connect and get to know one another.

Join us after worship, for a conversation with the synod, exploring the major topics that arose in our listening sessions.

To read more about the Listening Campaign scan the QR Code → or go to bit.ly/July2026GN



10:40am

Synod
Conversation

12:00pm

Catered Lunch
from Skinny's
Barbecue



Southeastern Iowa
— SYNOD —
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Grace Lutheran Church

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YouTube: Grace Lutheran Davenport

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Large Print Bulletins by request - please ask an usher

Bonfire Church | July 29, 6-8pm

Devil's Glen Park (1101 Devils Glen Rd, Bettendorf)

Grace members in their second quarter of life (20s, 30s, 40s) are invited to join other members from local Quad Cities ELCA churches for a bonfire. We will have snacks and great conversation. Feel free to bring a friend! Questions? Pr. Stephanie pastorstephanie@gracewelcomesyou.org or 563-322-0769

Hope at the Brick House

Friday, July 31 | 5:15pm Arrive | 5:30pm Serve | 6:30pm Clean Up

Sign up in the narthex to help with Dinner Service! We usually serve 20-30 adults and children. If you have any questions please contact Karen Jewel at 563-323-0322 kcjewel21@gmail.com.

Pie, Ice Cream, & Great Music!



Friday, July 31 | 7:30pm

Join our Grace WELCA for pie & ice cream and enjoy the Bettendorf Community Band at **Veterans Memorial Park** (1645 ~ 23rd Street, Bettendorf). Come have a good time and support both WELCA and the Bettendorf Community Band.

Men's Vocal Ensemble

Rehearsal Wed, July 29, 7pm | Sing Anthem Sun, August 2, 8:30am

A men's vocal ensemble will sing an anthem on Sunday, August 2 at 8:30 worship. The music will be a familiar tune to which parts can be sung. If you'd like to join us, please contact Russ Finkler (russfinkler@gmail.com or 563-726-8891).

Women's Vocal Ensemble

Rehearsal Wed, Aug 19, 7pm | Sing Sun, August 23, 8:30am

Calling all Women! Please join us for our annual Women's Ensemble. We will be singing "This Little Light of Mine" and it will be fun! Please bring any and all of your friends. All women are welcome. See you then! Questions? Call or text Jane Rock (563) 340-8022

Food Pantry Collection Next Sunday

Our next food pantry collection is Sunday, August 2. With grocery prices soaring the need is greater than ever! Donation ideas are in the Grace Notes newsletter. Bring your non-perishable donations on Sunday and set them before the altar.

Looking Ahead

- **July 26 Joint Worship at 9:30am**
- **July 26 Grace Talks (after worship followed by a catered lunch)**
- **July 29** Bonfire Church
- **July 31** Dinner Hope at the Brickhouse
- **July 31** WELCA Pie & Ice Cream
- **August 2** Food Pantry Sunday
- **August 9** SummerJBS
- **August 9 Jazz Worship Joint Service**
- **September 6** Joint Worship 9:30am
- **September 7** Office Closed Labor Day
- **September 20** Fall Block Party
- **September 27** Pet Blessing
- **September 27-29** Theological Conf

Save the Date!

Sunday, August 9
9:30am Joint Worship

Join us on Sunday, August 9, for our annual Jazz Worship Joint Service at 9:30am with the Manny Lopez Big Band.



Sunday, July 26

9:30am **Joint Worship**

10:40am **Grace Talks Synod Conversation**

12:00pm **Skinny's BBQ Catered Lunch**



Monday, July 27

10:30am Staff Meeting

4:30pm Centering Prayer - Zoom

7:00pm Council Meeting - PBH

Tuesday, July 28

10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH

Wednesday, July 29

12:00pm Men's Lunch Group @ Vanderveer

7:00pm Men's Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

Thursday, July 30

Friday, July 31

5:15pm Hope at the Brickhouse Dinner

7:30pm WELCA Pie & Ice Cream Concert

Saturday, August 1

1:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Sunday, August 2

Food Pantry Sunday

8:30am Traditional Worship & Livestream

9:30am Coffee Hour

10:30am Contemporary Worship

Monday, August 3

10:30am Staff Meeting

4:30pm Centering Prayer - Zoom

Tuesday, August 4

10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH

1:30pm Personnel Committee - PBH

5:00pm Property Committee - Narthex

6:00pm CYF Meeting - PBH

Wednesday, August 5

12:00pm Men's Lunch Group @ Vanderveer

5:30pm Grief Support Group - PBH



LWR School Kits, Fabric Kits, & Personal Care Kits

School supplies will soon be on sale! For our annual Lutheran World Relief Kit drive, empty school bags will be in the narthex with a school supply list inside. Additionally, there are also lists of items needed to complete Personal Care Kits and Fabric Kits (separate from the school bags). All kits should be returned to Grace by September 13.

Grief Support Group

Next Meeting: August 5 Grief Support Group meets the first Wednesday of the month in June, July, & August 5:30pm in Pat Bell Hall (first & third Wednesday September-May). Anyone is welcome anytime, and please be assured our conversations are kept in confidence. Questions? Cindy Lee 563-370-5386

Service Day Quilters

Next Meeting Dates: August 11 & 12 | 9am-Noon

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

Page Turners Book Group

Next Meeting: August 15 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). **August Book:** *Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone* by Mark Zwonitzer **Host:** Sally Haugen 563-514-9335 **Location:** TBD

Sign Up to Host Coffee Hour

You can make/serve coffee (and heat up water for tea), bring treats, or bring healthy snacks, or even all three if you wish. Anyone is welcome to help out - and we can show you how the coffee pots work, where the supplies are kept, etc. Contact the church office if you'd like some pointers. (*Clipboard in narthex - sign ups through November are available*)

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 noon Wednesdays at VanderVeer Park. Bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a restaurant. In case of inclement weather, we'll meet at church. Contact Dennis Boehme boehmed@aol.com or 563-320-2661 if you have questions about the meeting location.

Naomi Circle

Next Meeting: Tues, Sept 15, 9:30-11am

Naomi Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month September thru May for refreshments, fellowship, devotions, and bible study. All are welcome to join us! Contact: Nancy Boehme 563-320-6203

Scan for
Weekly
Update
Email



Special Project Grants

 The Grace Church Council has established a Special Projects Fund with revenue from Grace's Endowment, and **we're looking to YOU for ideas and to lead projects** that foster innovation and creativity in ministry and further the on-going mission of Grace. Proposals may be submitted by staff, church council, committees, on-going or adhoc groups, or individual Grace members. No grant may exceed \$2500 in a calendar year. Application forms are available at church or can be emailed to you. Questions? Contact: Paul Lewellan, plewellan@mac.com