

GRACE NOTES HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY 2025 ISSUE 83-01

Dear Friends,

*"There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under the heavens."*

~ Ecclesiastes 3:1

As the number on our calendars change from one year to another, we often reflect on the past, the highlights of the past year. The joys and the struggles come to mind before we sing Auld Lang Syne.

These moments of reflection often happen at the start of a new year, a birthday, or during times of transition. When I began to reflect on this past year, I realized this was my 10th Christmas season as a pastor. I also celebrated the last birthday I will have in my thirties.

These points in time can feel like liminal spaces between what was, what is, and what is to come. If you were to journal or chat with a trusted friend, how might you answer the following questions: What do you hope for in the year 2025? What do you desire to remain the same or change?

I know one person who chooses a theme or phrase for each new year. Another decides on a number of

things they want to try throughout the next twelve months. There is so much we plan for and I wonder how are those dreams shaped or strengthened when we invite God to participate in that future? Where was God in the midst of this past year and where do you hope to see God in the days ahead?

As we hear in Ecclesiastes, there is a time for everything. The author offers a litany of opposites: a time to plant and time to uproot, a time to tear and a time to mend. Nothing remains constant forever. Perhaps as we transition from one year to another, we can reflect on what seasons have defined this past year. Interestingly, we might discover that rarely do we live in just one part of the dichotomy listed in Ecclesiastes. We can encounter new life as we experience death. We may find that before something can be mended, it must be first torn. Even mourning can be paired with times of joy and dancing.

There is so much we cannot anticipate, new relationships, opportunities and also loss. However, through it all we can trust that God is with us on the journey. As we enter a new and unknown chapter of our lives, I share with you one of my favorite prayers that could be a

staple for you in this year:

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God's Peace,
Pastor Stephanie

ANNUAL MEETING

January 26 | 10:30am

Join us for the Annual Meeting on January 26, following a joint service at 9:30am. We will be meeting in person. If needed, Zoom will be an option. We will have more information available as we get closer to the date. Annual reports will be distributed via email with printed copies available in the narthex.



ALSO! Join us as we celebrate paying of the mortgage on January 26! Your generosity made it possible. Thank you!

STORIES OF LIFE & FAITH



We often sit next to people on Sundays and some we know well, some we have barely spoken to. Have you ever wondered, what is their story? Connie Lannan is interviewing members of the congregation to learn a bit about who they are and how God is active in their lives. If you know someone who should be interviewed or you would like to tell your story, contact Connie or the Office.

Sherry McCarty

For McCarty, knitting is a ministry

Anyone who knows Sherry McCarty knows she loves to knit and to help people. Since 1997, when she and her family joined Grace, she has been combining both through the church's knitting ministry.

While the ministry was started by others, Sherry is now in charge, along with Chrissy Hartman. In all, the ministry has provided hundreds of knitted prayer shawls, baby hats for newborns and small pocket-size prayer squares — something McCarty initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic — for those who need a take-along reminder that God is with them even in their most difficult times.

For Sherry, knitting is a way not only to spread God's love but also to give back to Grace and its members who were there for her during her own time of need.

The Grace connection started in 1996. Her husband, Mike, was in the hospital's intensive-care unit. While neither Sherry nor her husband were members of Grace at the time, they had friends who were.

"Mike was Catholic. I was Methodist. When Mike ended up in the emergency room, our friends from Grace asked Pastor Pat and Pastor Julie to visit him in the hospital. One

of them was there every day to visit. The pastor from my mom's Methodist church drove up to the Quad-Cities to visit. The Catholic chaplain at the hospital called on him, but no one from the Catholic church came to visit. When Mike was released from the hospital and was feeling stronger, he said he wanted to go to church at Grace. I agreed, so in March of 1997 Mike and I, and our daughter, Katie, joined Grace as a family," she says.

Mike's health continued to worsen as the years progressed — two kidney transplants, dialysis, an ostomy, diverticulitis that ruptured, heart issues and then melanoma. He and Sherry spent more time in hospitals both here and in Madison, Wis., than out, she noted.

Members of Grace were there for them throughout, having fundraisers, providing food, offering moral support and plenty of prayers.

"I am a believer that God will give you what you need. Every time there was a fundraiser, Grace people were involved. A couple from Grace held a fundraiser. The Grace family was very supportive and instrumental in helping us," she says.

At 11:30 p.m. March 10, 2016, a half-hour before his birthday, Mike passed.

Throughout all the health challenges and financial difficulties that resulted, McCarty said her "faith was strengthened" through the love and kindness of the Grace family. "God does bring you to the other side. It might not be how you want it to be. I didn't want to lose Mike, but that wasn't my decision," she says.

Even though she was the primary caregiver to her husband, Sherry found time to knit, be on the church council for four years and even help with Sunday School.

"It's a small way of me paying it forward," she says. "I hope those who helped us through know how their thoughts and prayers were so appreciated. I hope the congregation knows how appreciated they were at the time and how much they still are."



GATHER & SERVE

Social Ministry Christmas Tree



The Grace Social Ministry Team is collecting hats and gloves (all sizes) for our local elementary schools thru January 5.

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!



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

Service Day Quilters meet the second Tuesday & second Wednesday 9am-Noon each month. The quilts made are donated to the community and LWR. In recent years we have made LWR school bags. Contact Gloria Lange langejg1@msn.com or 563-271-1542 or Kathy Miller 563-676-0914 or kathyk1679@aol.com

Deborah Circle meets the third Monday of the month at 6:30pm in members' homes for Bible study from the Gather Magazine. Claire has moved, so watch for info about a new contact person.

Seeking the Sacred

Finding Holy Ground Near and Far

Saturday, January 11 | 9am-Noon

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

What is it about the crossroads of travel and spirituality that calls us? Do we have to travel far or even travel at all to discover sacred sites and gain insight from them? And how can these experiences enhance our spiritual journeys?

Join us at "Seeking the sacred: Finding holy ground near and far," a free retreat featuring Lori Erickson, an Iowa City-based author of several books that highlight the intersection of travel and spirituality.



This event is free and refreshments will be served.

Register online at bit.ly/SeekingSacred, scan the QR code, or call 563-322-0769



Food Pantry Weekend

Food Pantry Collection is Sunday, January 5 Bring your non-perishable food donations in a bag, and leave at the altar before the service.

Ethnic Cooking Supplies: Go to imu.uiowa.edu/food/food-pantry/donate/multicultural-food-item-donations-requested for a detailed list of commonly requested multicultural food items.



Page Turners

Saturday, January 18, 8:30am

New Years Resolution - Read More Books!

Come join the Saturday Morning Page Turner's Club. We meet at 8:30am the third Saturday each month at different locations for breakfast, book discussion, and great fellowship. Join us Saturday January 18, 8:30am at the Bettendorf Happy Joes and discuss a book that is about Iowa: **Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World** by Vicki Myron Dewey, an abandoned kitten from the heartland, transforms a sleepy library, inspires a classic American town, and captures the hearts of animal lovers everywhere. **Host:** Janice Gibbs 563-332-6791 **Location:** Happy Joe's (2430 Spruce Hills Dr, Bettendorf)

GATHER & SERVE

Grief Support

Next Meeting: January 15

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? Cindy Lee 563-370-5386.

Centering Prayer

Mondays 4:30pm via Zoom (excluding holidays)

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. With grace we open our awareness to God whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than choosing; closer than consciousness itself.

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift.

Cheryl Kritsch is the facilitator. Periodically the group will meet in person in the Grace Church Choir Room providing the ZOOM option, as well. Please contact Cheryl 563-343-0135 with any questions and to verify the location (zoom or in person).

Click [HERE](#) to enter Zoom for Centering Prayer.

Meeting ID: 392 407 7028

Passcode: 2020

It's Food & Fellowship!

IFF will have its annual brunch on Sunday, February 2, at the home of Kathy Shriver with Dennis & Nancy Boehme co-hosting. You are welcome to join us at 11:30am for mimosas with the brunch following around noon. Details are to come. If you have never attended IFF or it has been a while, please join us and enjoy not only a great meal but great company. Please RSVP to Kathy 563-650-1952 or Nancy 563-320-6203.



Hope at the Brickhouse



Our next dinner service at Hope at the Brickhouse is Friday January 31. We arrive at 5:15pm, serve at 5:30pm, done by 6:30pm. Please look for the sign-up board in the Narthex to indicate what you can provide for the meal or if you are available to help serve. We will need three volunteers to prepare an entree that serves 12 (breakfast casserole) as well as a vegetable, fruit, dessert and half-gallon of milk.

If you have any questions please contact Karen Jewel at 563-323-0322 or kcjewel21@gmail.com.

Bible Study: THE STORY



Mornings (weekly) - Resumes Wednesday, January 8, 11am

Evenings (monthly) - Resumes Thursday, February 6, 7pm

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

Men's Lunch & Conversation

Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon, and now that the weather has turned colder, we meet in the narthex at church. You can bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a local restaurant. Contact Dennis Boehme at boehmed@aol.com or 563-320-2661 to be added to the email list.

PRAY, GATHER, & GROW

*in
loving
memory*

Members and friends at Grace—

Many of you have been keeping our son-in-law, Peter, in your prayers as he battled a very aggressive cancer over the last year and a half. We thank you for your care and concern.

*His journey is now over.
He died early December 26.
His memorial service will be held on January 14.*

We would like to share a prayer that will be used at this memorial:

"Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. "

*May peace be with you—
Elizabeth and Dave Linde,
our daughter, Stephanie Linde,
and their children, Leo and Saskia*

Puzzle Exchange & Afternoon Fun

Greetings all! These first few months of the year can be a bit dreary. To help pass the time, we invite you to participate in a puzzle exchange! **You can bring your puzzles starting Sunday, Jan 15 thru Feb 4** and placing them on a table outside the Sanctuary for others to pick up and take home. We will also gather for on Tuesday, Feb 4 at 1:30pm for a brief devotion and to puzzle together. Please bring your favorite snack to share.

In-House Blood Drive

Thursday, January 16 | 2-6pm

Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. You can make a difference! **To book your appt, visit bloodcenter.org or contact Mark Jepson at majepson55@netscape.net.**

Thank You from Madison Elementary



Remembering you is one of the special joys of this beautiful season.

Happy Thanksgiving

*Thank you,
Madison Elementary*

Dear Grace Lutheran,

Thank you for the leggings for the students at Madison Elementary. I was very excited to see the larger toddler girl sizes.

*Thank you again,
Lynn Smith
School Nurse-Madison*

*I PRAY ~~you~~
FAMILY
IS ALWAYS
SAFE AND HAPPY
HEALTHY
LOVE
WILL OW
AMEN
♡*

← From Our Outdoor Prayer Box

We had a great crowd at the Luther Properties Christmas Hymn Sing! ↓



CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

Join us for Junior Bible Studies!

Both the 8:30am and 10:30am worship services

We meet after the children's message at both Sunday services.

This year in JBS, we are reading through **THE STORY for Kids** and **The STORY for Little Ones**. Each week we will

hear familiar Bible stories and enjoy the beautiful illustrations. UPCOMING CLASS THEMES:

January 5 Epiphany

January 12 Baptism

January 19 From Shepherd to King

January 26 The King Who Had it All



Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!



Grown ups get a break!

Children's

WINTER PARTY!

Join us @ Grace to celebrate God's love this new year

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

11:30AM-2:00PM

FOR AGES 3 YEARS AND UP
LUNCH INCLUDED!

Register online at bit.ly/KidsJan12Party

Scan the QR Code or call 563-322-0769



Pray & Play - Spring 2025

Pray & Play resumes for the Spring Semester on Feb 3, Mar 3, and Apr 14.

We'd love to have you share this information with families that would

benefit - they can register online at bit.ly/PPRegSP25 or contact Pr.

Kirsten at 563-322-0769 to request further details or a paper application.

For those reading online, click [HERE](#) for a current flyer that you are

welcome to share. Printed copies will be available in the narthex.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="background-color: #4a2c5a; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Office Hours 8:30am-3:00pm Monday-Thursday 8:30am-Noon Friday </div>			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 7pm Praise Band Rehearsal	3 Annual Reports Due	4
5 Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	6 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	7 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Meeting 5pm Property Meeting	8 11am THE STORY Bible Stu 12pm Men's Lunch Group 7pm Choir Rehearsal	9 12pm Prayer Group 7pm Praise Band Rehearsal	10	11 9am Seeking the Sacred Retreat
12 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship 11:30pm Kids Winter Party 	13 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	14 9am Quilters 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Social Ministry 1:30pm Outreach & Welcome 7pm Worship & Music	15 9am Quilters 11am THE STORY Bible Stu 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 7pm Choir Rehearsal	16 2pm ImpactLife Blood Drive 7pm Praise Band Rehearsal	17 11am Council Reports Due	18 8:30am Page Turners
19 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	20 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 5:00pm Sweet Arts Club 6:30pm Deborah Circle 7:00pm Council Meeting	21 9am Naomi Circle 10am Pastor's Text Study	22 11am THE STORY Bible Stu 12pm Men's Lunch Group 7pm Choir Rehearsal	23 7pm Praise Band Rehearsal	24	25
26 9:30am Joint Worship 10:30am Annual Meeting 	27 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	28 10am Pastor's Text Study	29 11am THE STORY Bible Stu 12pm Men's Lunch Group 7pm Choir Rehearsal	30 7pm Praise Band Rehearsal	31 5:15pm Hope at the Brickhouse Dinner	

SAVE THE DATE

- **January 5** Junior Bible Study resumes
- **January 8** THE STORY morning Bible study resumes
- **January 11** Seeking the Sacred Retreat
- **January 12** Kids Winter Party
- **January 16** ImpactLife Blood Drive
- **January 26** Joint Worship 9:30am & Annual Meeting
- **January 31** Dinner Service at Hope at the Brickhouse
- **February 2** IFF Brunch & Mimosas
- **February 4** Puzzle Gathering
- **February 6** THE STORY evening Bible study resumes
- **March 5** Ash Wednesday
- **March 12** Midweek Lenten Worship Begins
- **March 19** Midweek Lenten Worship

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Karee Patterson | 17 Derry Spotten |
| 2 Sally Flesch | 18 Susan Senn |
| Janet Lopez | 19 Emily DaRosa |
| 3 Rachel Kelker | 21 Karen Jewel |
| Jonny Swarm | 22 Jane Krumwiede |
| 5 Kathy Bargmann | 24 Kathy Barber |
| Tom Castro | Dax Kanwischer |
| Bob Peterson | Adallyn Ralfs |
| 6 Kathy Miller | 25 Rich Barber |
| Sarah Peterson | Suzanne Johnson |
| 10 Mary Rossmiller | 27 Casey Allbee |
| 11 Michael Dohrmann | Matt Montford |
| 12 Jim Neumann | 31 Laura Toland |
| 13 Aubree Harmon | |
| Brooks Rock | |
| 15 Berniece Asplund | |
| 16 Louise Link | |



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

ADMINISTRATION

STAFF

Pastor Stephanie Wood

pastorstephanie@gracewelcomesyou.org

Pastor Kirsten Lee

Director of Outreach & Youth Ministries

pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org

Annie Nau, Office Administrator

office@gracewelcomesyou.org

Jason Halkias, Custodian

custodian@gracewelcomesyou.org

Claudia Wood, Treasurer

treasurer@gracewelcomesyou.org

Vey Rodriguez, Worship Tech

worshiptech@gracewelcomesyou.org

MUSICIANS

Sally Meier - Adult Choir Director

Kathi Parrish - Accompanist

Susan Senn - Organist

Vey Rodriguez - Praise Band Leader

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Deb Kirby President

Cindy Lee Vice President

Paul Lewellan Secretary

Claudia Wood Treasurer

Jim Bayles

Jackie Cain

Janice Gibbs

Deb Gustafson

Laura Toland

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Council Corner

Emmanuel - God with us!

Council shares the following November and December activity:

Stewardship

Thank you to Grace members for helping us meet our commitment of giving challenge! We have exceeded our campaign pledge goal and have met the \$24,000 challenge gift pledged by a few generous donors to pay off Grace's mortgage at year-end! A celebration is forthcoming!

Endowment

The Endowment Committee have been reviewing the financial effectiveness of Grace's Endowment. They have shared a draft of a "Reserve Policy" to restructure Grace's Endowment and move partial funds to the Quad Cities Community Foundation with the intention of increasing the funds financial gains and usage. The next step is to revise Grace's Constitution language and present changes to our Iowa's ELCA Southeastern Iowa Synod for review and approval prior to re-presenting to Council and taking it to a vote with the Congregation.

Security Grant Application Status

Council approved a formal "Procurement Policy" as part of the application process for our Federal Security Grant funds with the State of Iowa.

2025 Nominations for Council and Committees

Russ Finkler, Chair of the Nominations Committee met with Council on the status of filling important vacancies. The committee has developed a Nominations Committee description and outlined the process and responsibilities for individuals who are nominated. Council members completing their tenure in January will be Jim Bayles, Cindy Lee, and Deb Kirby.

Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming annual meeting date at 10:30am after a joint worship service at 9:30am on Sunday, January 26. Participants will be able to attend via Zoom as well. Council has approved the 2025 presented budget in December, but a majority vote of the congregation will be needed to pass it along with the slate of Council members. Annual meeting packets will be e-mailed to households shortly. Printed copies will be available at church and at the meeting.

May God continue to show us the way - God's Blessings to you and yours,

Debrah Kirby

Council President



Annual Reports

Annual Reports are due to the office no later than **Friday, January 3**, Please email office@gracewelcomesyou.org with any questions.