

GRACE NOTES

NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE 83-11

Dear Friends,

When I was in High School, I sang in one of the school choirs. One year we joined two other high schools and the Omaha Symphony in singing Handel's Messiah. Over one hundred teens crowded onto risers singing for over two hours.

Two songs have stuck with me. A foreboding song, Dies Irae by Mozart was included in the selections that night. The lyrics describe the Last Judgement with the dead rising and the book of deeds being opened. The music conjures feelings of terror and panic as God's judgement and

wrath confront the listeners.

[\(Listen Here\)](#)

In contrast, the Hallelujah Chorus captured a sense of triumph, praise, and celebration. The cascading lyrics of "He shall reign for ever and ever" created a bubbling feeling of joy. A never-ending promise realized. This composition attempts to capture the victory of Jesus over death.

[\(Listen Here\)](#)

Both songs convey emotion and invite you to not only imagine the story they are telling but help you experience it. To accomplish this, one must rely on the conductor, musicians, and an angsty group of teenagers singing in a chorus.

You may have noticed, I don't chant or sing the Kyrie. In part, it's stage fright. I become so anxious my voice cracks, I somehow manage to get lost, or sing off tune. I am not a soloist. Yet I enjoyed singing in a choir. I could lean on the person next to me; they helped me feel more confident in what we were singing. Together, the chorus became a wall of sound as we sang the final "Hallelujah." My singular voice became one with the voices around me.

Much like a chorus, a congregation works to create something beautiful



together. As a community we praise God, serve God and share the Good News. Individually, we each bring our own unique gifts and talents that enhance the collective.

Over the past year:

- We created a memorable VBS Day Camp with two other churches, collectively, serving 60 children.
- We grew in faith through study of God's story in Bible Studies and in Spiritual Growth opportunities.
- We served our neighbor through the Milk Ministry, Brick House, our school partnerships, and so much more.

In the words of the Psalmist, we *make a joyful noise and serve God with gladness* (100:1). Your generosity adds to the generosity of the person sitting next to you; collectively enabling us to be stronger in our ministry together. Like that final "Hallelujah," we are an undeniable force together.

God's Peace
Pastor Stephanie

Thanks Giving Worship

Sunday, November 23
5:30pm @ Grace

Join us at Grace as we worship together with St. Mark members for a service of thanksgiving with music, readings, scripture, reflections, and prayers.

GIVE THANKS



A CHORUS OF GENEROSITY

Much like a chorus, a congregation works to create something beautiful together. As a community we praise God, serve God and share the Good News.

The goal of **A Chorus of Generosity Stewardship Appeal for 2026** is to increase our gifts and offerings by **\$31,980 or \$615 a week.**

Please pray for a generous response to this Stewardship Appeal. Consider increasing your giving as the Spirit leads you. Be ready to share your commitment on **Stewardship Sunday, November 9.**

You can bring your statements of intent to church, mail them in, or enter your pledge into our online form. Then we will celebrate on November 16 with a Give Thanks Brunch and by singing our favorite hymns and songs.

Give Thanks Brunch

Sunday, November 16 | Between Services

To celebrate our faithful and generous giving, we are sharing a brunch with the congregation. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy one another's company. This will be a potluck brunch with a sign-up available on Breeze. God's gifts to us are plentiful! Let's share celebrate with one another!



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Thank You So Much!

From Hollie Swain ~ Thank you all so much for your pet food and supply donations and a special thank you to Parish Life for coordinating the collection.

Here is what we were able

to give to **Rescued:**

Cat food 85.8 lbs

Dog food 136.2 lbs

1 Towel; 1 Lead; 6 pkgs Chews

2 Tennis Balls, 1 Hydrant Toy

\$25 donation

thank you!

For your thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity - Thank You!

Ordination is a unique anniversary, one that most may not know about or understand. I so appreciate you all taking the time to celebrate with me. I never would have guessed where this journey would have led me 10 years ago or that the town I drove by from seminary to Omaha would one day be my home. It is my honor and privilege to be a pastor. It is my pleasure to serve God with you all.

Pastor Stephanie

Grief Support

Next Meetings: Nov 5 & 19

The Grief Support Group meets the first Wednesday and third Wednesdays, (first Wednesdays only in June, July, and August) 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



Page Turners

Sat, Nov 15, 8:30am

November Special Event!

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.

(Haven't read the book? No worries, Join us anyways!)



POW Journals of Ray Walton

Saturday, November 15
9:00am in Pat Bell Hall

The Grace Page Turners group invites you to a special presentation: Mike Walton will be presenting the *Prisoner of War Journals of Ray Walton* from Mike's father's experiences as a POW during World War II. Please join us. If you have any questions, call Carol Keller 563-340-9013. There are couple of copies of the journals in the church office to check out.

Worship Volunteers Needed

Would you like to help with worship? We have a variety of duties that support worship here at Grace, some very easy, some with a bit more responsibility, all important to the worship experience - let the office know if you have any questions or if you'd like to be added to the list for any of the following positions:

- **Acolyte** light/extinguish candles (8:30am)
- **Crucifer** carry in/carry out the Cross (8:30am)
- **Ushers** hand out bulletins, count attendance, be available for anyone needing assistance during the service (both services), pass offering plates (8:30 only)
- **Greeters** greet worshippers as they arrive (both services)
- **Assisting Ministers** assist the pastor with portions of the service. Your reading parts are sent to you ahead of time (both services)
- **Communion Assistant** serve wine or collect cups (both services)
- **Communion Bread** make communion bread, recipe provided
- **Sound System** run the sound system and monitor it during worship
- **Make Coffee** keep the coffee flowing on Sunday mornings between services
- **Bring Treats or Healthy Snacks** supply our coffee hour treats & healthy snacks between services
- **Write Prayers** write prayer petitions used during the Prayers of the People - Pr Stephanie & Pr Kirsten would be glad to assist you in learning how these are created.



country and around the world. Check the WELCA bulletin board to see where the quilts and kits are sent.

- ✓ This year we sent 67 quilts, 22 personal care kits, 94 school kits, and 5 fabric kits.
- ✓ We had a variety of extra school kit items left over from previous years. Ruth McAndrews obtained a Thrivent Gift Card which was used to purchase additional school supplies to make up 20 completed school kits. Additionally, with the Thrivent card we were able to put together 22 personal care kits.
- ✓ On September 16, Naomi Circle packed the school and personal care kits before meeting for their Bible study.
- ✓ Members involved in making the quilts and school bags were Janice Gibbs, Roe Edinger, Kathy Higgins, Sheila Jones, Carol Keller, Gloria Lange, Colleen Levsen, Vicki Liebe, Kathy Miller, Kathi Parrish, Luanne Taylor, Gloria Underwood, Gail Walton, and Joyce Willers.
- ✓ On October 14, we packed the quilts and taped closed the boxes of personal care and fabric kits with help from our fast-working crew of Gene & Gail Carber, Joyce Marinaccio, Kathy Miller, Janice Gibbs, Kathy Higgins, Jane Krumwiede, Sue Janssen, Vicki Liebe, Marilyn Schrieber, Colleen Levsen, Gloria Underwood, Kathi Parrish, Sandy Holzen, and Jim & Gloria Lange.



Council Corner

- Prior to the meeting council members assembled 20 Green Bags with groceries for elementary students who struggle with food insecurity.
- Joint worship services were approved for December 28 and January 25 at 9:30.
- Council approved the installation of a wheelchair accessible door opener.
- The position of Snow Shoveler was approved and Liam Garcia (who lives in the neighborhood) was hired.
- Pr. Dave Daubert presented a proposal for doing strategic planning. No action was taken.

- ✓ On October 17, several members; Matt Levsen, Colleen Levsen, Rod Levsen, Joyce Marinaccio, Jim Lange, and Gloria Lange, loaded the boxes into Rod & Colleen Levsen's trailer. Thank you to Joyce for bringing the loading dollies, they were very helpful especially when moving the heavier boxes.

- ✓ Thank you to Rod, Colleen, and Matt Levsen for using their trailer and van to transport these items to Cedar Rapids on October 18, so they could be driven by semi to the Minneapolis distribution center.





Naomi Circle

Next Gathering: November 18

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! Questions? Contact Joyce Marinaccio gsgopher50@gmail.com or 563-343-3404.

Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

Service Day Quilters

Next Meeting Dates: November 11 & 12

The quilters meet the second Tuesday & second Wednesday 9am-Noon each month. The quilts made are donated to the community and Lutheran World Relief. In recent years we have made LWR school bags. Questions? Contact Gloria Lange 563-271-1542 or langej1@msn.com or Kathy Miller kathyk1679@aol.com or 563-676-0914.



Men's Lunch & Conversation

Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon at church. You can bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a local restaurant. Questions? Contact Dennis Boehme at 563-320-2661 or boehmed@aol.com.



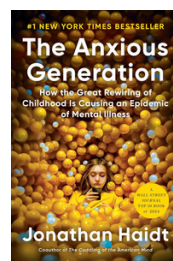
Story of Paul Bible Study

November 13, 20 | Led by Pastor Stephanie

Discover how Paul went from someone who persecuted Christians to being a significant early church leader. Please contact the office at office@gracewelcomesyou.org or 563-322-0769 if you are interested. There is a participant book with only a few pages of reading for each session. **Please see above for the November class dates. There will be no classes in December, and we will start up again in January.**

Book Study: The Anxious Generation

The Anxious Generation studies the epidemic of teen mental illness, including why children need play and independent exploration to mature into thriving adults. Anyone is welcome at anytime - this study is open to the community, so please invite your friends and family! **We are meeting on various Tuesdays - please contact Pastor Kirsten for the next meeting date.**



Pictures Into Memories

November 23 | Between Services

Join Joel Lorentzen and Paul Lewellan for the third installment. Please join us, whether or not you came to prior sessions. Bring in a photo that touches you: a treasured person, a moment in time. Or bring in a paragraph to share that you've written about a photo. Joel and Paul will give tips on how to translate the images into words you can pass on. Don't let your memories get lost.



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 read the stories of Abraham, Moses, and Joseph. We will learn alongside these characters to trust in God, listen to God, and practice forgiveness. We would love for your children or grandchildren to join us!

Kids Fall Party!

Register to attend at
bit.ly/GraceKidsNov14
or scan the QR Code ↓

Friday, November 14 | 5:30-7:30pm

For Kids Ages 3 Years and Up ~ Dinner Included

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

Questions?
Or would you
like to help?
Talk with
Pastor Kirsten



Games 🍁 Crafts 🍁 Bible Stories 🍁 Pizza 🍁

thank
you



Thank you to the 14 donors who contributed to **Birdies for Charity!** I am delighted to share that we received two checks from Birdies for Charity. The first check is the compilation of our congregation's donations. This check totaled \$885. This check demonstrates support for this program. We also received a bonus for 9% of our donations. This check totaled \$79.65. Both checks, totaling \$964.65, have been deposited into our Pray and Play account and will be used directly to care for the children of the program. Thank you for your generosity and support of this important program! Your part makes a difference! ~Pastor Kirsten

Thanksgiving Boxes

For the third year in a row, we are going to put God's Grace in action by sharing Thanksgiving boxes with families at Garfield Elementary School.

In previous years, God's generosity poured over in your generosity! This year, Garfield Elementary has asked us to provide 13 Thanksgiving boxes to families. These families do not have transportation and cannot pick up a food box at a public site.

We have compiled a few lists of ingredients we are asking to be included in each of the boxes, and **you can sign up for the items on the posters in the narthex or through the online sign up that will be emailed/texted.** If you prefer, you may donate funds to be used for Hy-Vee gift cards. This has been and continues to be a meaningful way to share God's Grace. It could be a fun ministry to do with family or friends. Thank you! **We need the donated items and returned to Grace by Wednesday, November 19** (non-perishables can be brought sooner).



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Office Hours Mon-Thur 8:30am-3pm Fridays 8:30am-Noon						1 Habitat Work Day Farmer's Market 1pm Praise Band Practice
2 Food Pantry Sunday Farmer's Market Daylight Savings Ends 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	3 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	4 Polling Location 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Mtg 5:00pm Property Mtg	5 12pm Men's Lunch Group 3:30pm Nominating Committee Meeting 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 7pm Choir Rehearsal	6 9am Pastor's at St. Paul for Boundaries Training 9am LSI Staff Mtg (PBH)	7 8:30am-4pm Pray & Play	8 1pm Praise Band Practice
9 Stewardship Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship 2-4pm Sherry McCarty Birthday Party	10 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	11 9am Quilters 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg 2:30pm Outreach Mtg 6pm CYF Mtg 7pm Worship Mtg	12 9am Quilters 12pm Men's Lunch Group 6pm Conf at St. James 6:30pm Finance Mtg 7pm Choir Rehearsal	13 11am Paul Bible Study	14 5:30pm Kids Fall Party!	15 9am POW Journals 1pm Praise Band Practice
16 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Stewardship Brunch 10:30am Contemp. Worship	17 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 6pm Sweet Arts Club	18 9am Naomi Circle 9:30am LSI (FH) 10am Pastor's Text Study	19 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 7pm Choir Rehearsal	20 11am Paul Bible Study	21 9:30am PEO (Private Event) 11am Council Reports Due	22 1pm Praise Band Practice
23 8:30am Healing Worship 9:30am Pictures into Memories - PBH 10:30am Contemp. Worship	24 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Council Meeting	25 10am Pastor's Text Study Pastor Stephanie Vacation thru December 1	26 12pm Men's Lunch Group 6pm Conf at St. James 7pm Choir Rehearsal	27 Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed	28 Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed	29 1pm Praise Band Practice
30 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship 5:30pm Thanksgiving Worship						

thank you

Thank you to everyone at Grace who came to the visitation and funeral for our son, Adam. Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, notes, texts during this difficult time. It means a lot to us that you are holding us in prayer and thinking of us.

~Claudia & Tom Wood

You are invited to
Sherry McCarty's 70th Birthday Celebration!

Sunday, November 9 | 2:00-4:00pm
 at Grace in Pat Bell Hall

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 Michael Kelker | 22 Kelli Mouglin |
| 2 Stacy Morrison | 27 Scott Sund |
| 3 George DaRosa | 29 Craig Brown |
| 4 Ann Jepson | 30 Pat Hixon |
| 8 Ariel Carter | |
| Bob Peters | |
| 9 Sherry McCarty | |
| 13 Ben McCullough | |
| 15 Vicki Liebbe | |
| 16 Shirley Dohrmann | |
| 17 Jenny Bayles | |
| Caroline Kelly | |
| 18 Russ Finkler | |
| Katie Noack | |
| 21 Susan McVay | |



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

ADMIN STAFF

Pastor Stephanie Wood

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Kathi Parrish - Accompanist

Susan Senn - Organist

Vey Rodriguez - Praise Band Leader

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Deb Gustafson Vice-President

Janice Gibbs Secretary

Dawn Matthews Treasurer

Jackie Cain

Lori Haugen

Laura Toland

Gail Walton

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



Fair Trade: Transforming Food Systems

Research Companies' Commitments to Human & Planet-Centered Policy

Look for companies working on advocating for policy that impacts everyone, not just their bottom line. Find out about their governance structures and who owns them. Prioritize buying products from brands that have official policies that place people and the planet over profits.

Prioritize Local

When eating out, consider the establishment you are supporting. Many big national and global restaurants do not prioritize local farmers or sustainable production. They work with big whole sale restaurant food distributors to keep their costs down.

Visit Farmers Markets

Visit farmers markets in your neighborhood and support those farmers as much as possible, talk to them, care about how they farm with questions about their land and the workers, thank them for doing the hard work to provide us with healthy food.

Be an Active Citizen

Participate in political systems at the local, state, and federal levels. Learn who are prioritizing policies supporting farmers, workers, and the environment. Donate to them, and remember to VOTE for them!

For more information go to:

shop.equalexchange.coop



Watch for Equal Exchange Coffees, Teas, and

Chocolates available for purchase later this month, just in time for Christmas!

Food Pantry Weekend



Our next Food Pantry Collection is Sunday, November 2

Bring your non-perishable food donations in a bag, and leave at the altar before the service. **Let's make this our best year yet!** Go to localfoodbank.org/what-do-food-banks-need-but-dont-ask-for/ for info about if you need ideas.

Donations Needed: nonperishables - especially canned fruits and vegetables, canned & dry beans, canned meats, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, breakfast items (cereal, oatmeal, etc.)

Always Appreciated: peanut butter, jelly/jam, canned chili, boxed potatoes, protein bars, whole grain bread, fresh fruits & vegetables (donated directly to the pantry), items for baking (flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, etc.)

Consider: simple spices (salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, etc.), neutral cooking oils, vinegars, powdered milk, powdered eggs, wooden spoons, hand-held can openers, aluminum foil pans, cake mixes for special occasions