

GRACE NOTES

MAY 2026 ISSUE 84-05

Dear Friends,

I've held piglets, petted horses, learned about someone's beloved classic car or hobby, sat in living rooms, at parks or coffee shops. I have the privilege and genuine pleasure of being invited into people's lives outside of a Sunday morning. It is such a gift to be welcomed into the casual routines of another person's everyday life, in addition to the more difficult and most joyful moments

Without those opportunities, those invitations, it is a challenge to get to know one another beyond Sunday. If we get even five minutes each week to talk that would be little more than four hours we have spoken in the span of one year. I know I'm not the only one who wishes there was more time or opportunities to truly listen and get to know one another without distractions.

Grace's Listening Campaign provides the opportunity for members to connect with one another. To learn about your passions and interests. To hear about why Grace is a part of your life. To get to know you better.

Until June 14, our eight Listeners will listen to half of our active members, folks from different services, ages

and ministries. We have had a great start with twelve individuals having already met with our team.

Some Listeners have spoken with longtime friends, touching on topics they've never visited before. Others have met with people they have seen every Sunday for 30 years and are now truly getting to know each other for the first time. Then there are the conversations where neither knew the other until now.

You, our members, are the building blocks joined together brick by brick on the foundation of our ancestors of faith with Jesus as our cornerstone. The Spirit binds us together into a sacred community, a temple, where God dwells among us (Ephesians 2:19-22). Each of us unique, and yet unified in one purpose – to praise God, grow in faith and serve our neighbor.

The hope of the Listeners and the Council is that God will strengthen that which binds us together. We pray that the Spirit will move among us and lift up the ministries that are most important to this community. That we may hear throughout our conversations where the Spirit might be calling us into the future.

*God's Peace
Pastor Stephanie*

For more information about the Listening Campaign, turn to page two.

*Listen, listen
Even now the
Lord is speaking,
speaking like a
whisper in the wind
Calling me again
Be still my heart,
and listen, listen.*

*Sounds like Peace
Calling me
Sounds like Joy
I know that Voice
It's the Lord.*

*Listen, listen
even now the Lord
is leading, leading
Like a shepherd
like a friend.*

from "Listen"
by Travis Green

Grace Listening Campaign

We want to learn more about you! Have you ever noticed that you could see someone every Sunday and still not know all that much about them? What do they enjoy doing? What brings them to Grace time and again?

As part of the Council's process of discernment, we want to listen and get to know Grace members even better. We have invited eight members who are trained in doing a listening campaign. They will meet with individuals at church, a coffee shop or in their homes for 30-45 minute conversations. While we won't be able to meet with everyone we hope to meet with 50 of our active members.

Purpose

- † Reconnect with each other and create a deeper sense of belonging
- † Seek new direction/vision for Grace's future
- † Grow Grace member's listening and leadership muscles

What is a "Listening Campaign"?

It's what happens when a team of specially trained people listen one-on-one to others during a set period of time.

Who Are We Listening To?

Our hope is to listen to half of our active members, folks from different services, ages and ministries.

The Team

Gail Walton (coordinator), Deb Kirby, Lori Haugen, Deb Gustafson, Becky Kelly, Mark Jepson, Joel Lorentzen, Chuck Lehman, Ruth McAndrews, Pastor Stephanie

When

9 weeks: Sunday, April 12 to Sunday, June 14

What Can I Expect?

- A team member will reach out to you and ask for 30-45 minutes of your time for a natural, but uncommon conversation.
- They will ask only for your time, trust, and story. It will not be a recruiting or fundraising visit.
- Then, the team will discern themes and God's calling to do something together, before mobilizing Grace to answer God's call.



**PEACE
BE WITH
YOU**
JOHN 20:19

2026
SOUTHEASTERN
IOWA SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
May 15-16
First Lutheran,
Cedar Rapids

The 2026 Synod Assembly for the Southeastern Iowa Synod will take place May 15-16, at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. Pastor Stephanie, Pastor Kirsten, and Laura Toland will join Bishop Amy Current, synod staff, and leaders from across the synod for a meaningful two-day gathering of celebration, fellowship, and important synod business.

This year's assembly will be centered around the theme: "Peace be with you" (John 20:19), inviting all participants to reflect on Christ's gift of peace and to carry that peace into our communities and ministries.

As part of the preparation for the Synod Assembly, the synod invited congregations to contribute handmade prayer shawls and quilts that reflect this year's theme, "Peace be with You." **Grace's Service Day Quilters assembled and donated 27 lap quilts for this project!** The blankets are intended to offer prayer and comfort either as keepsakes for participants or to be shared afterward with people and organizations in need.

Grace Lutheran Church
1140 E High St
Davenport, IA

Life & Legacy Series

10:45am - 12:00pm
Thursdays in May

- May 7** Estate Planning: Wills, Living Wills, Trusts, & Powers of Attorney
- May 14** Downsizing & Relocating
- May 21** Topic: TBA
- May 28** Endowment & Funeral Planning

- ✔ What legal prep is needed to best protect my family & assets?
- ✔ How does one choose an independent living community?
- ✔ What are some resources that can support my mental health?
- ✔ How do I create and leave a legacy?

These are just a few of the questions we all seek to understand as we grow older. Our guest speakers will address these and other topics and offer time for questions and answers. There is no cost to attend the classes, and light refreshments will be served.

Please join us and invite a friend! To register: scan the QR Code, go to bit.ly/LLMay2026, or call 563-322-0769. You may attend any or all classes.





Hope at the Brick House

Dinner Service Friday, May 29

5:15pm arrive | 5:30pm Serve | 6:30pm Clean Up

We will once again be providing dinner! We'll be making tacos, rice & beans, fruit, dessert, and milk. We usually serve 20-30 adults and children. Please look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions please contact Karen Jewel at kcjewel21@gmail.com or 563-323-0322.

You are invited

Grace members are invited to attend the 60th Anniversary Celebration for **Ken & Shirley Wellnitz!**

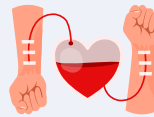
Saturday, May 30 ♥ 2-4pm
at Grace Lutheran Church

Come enjoy live music and to celebrate Ken & Shirley. RSVP to 563-459-9315, and please, no gifts.

ImpactLife Blood Drive

Changing The World Together

Tues, May 19 | 2-6pm



Every day, patients who need blood are in crisis and you can help by volunteering to donate. To book an appointment contact Mark Jepson at majepson55@netscape.net or visit bloodcenter.org. ALSO, did you know that you can earn SWAG by donating with ImpactLife? Go to the blood center website and click on "View and Shop our Rewards Store" to see what's available.



Coffee with Council

Sunday, May 3 | Between Services

Please join members of council for coffee and conversation between services. Get an update on the budget, learn more about our listening campaign, share your observations, questions, and concerns.



SAFER
FOUNDATION™

~From Hollie Swain~

Pictures into Memories

Mother's Day Edition
May 10 | Between Services

Join Joel Lorentzen and Paul Lewellan between services on May 10. Bring a picture of your mother and a story to share. (Or bring any other prized picture, if you'd rather.) Come whether or not you've attended prior sessions. Don't let precious memories get lost.



Thank you, Thank you! I ordered 32 lunches and two were delivered to "almost" shut ins! I heard back from Safer and they sold just under 2000! They were very pleased and I received the information for being a sponsor for next year..... If you would like to volunteer to help with the sack lunches next year - just let me know....It is inspiring but it is work.....again, trying to do 2000 sandwiches is amazing!

Again, thank you again, for being a part of something very worthwhile for the youth of the QCA.

Grief Support

Next Meetings: May 6 & 20

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



BIRDIES FOR CHARITY 2026



Why Birdies for Charity?

Birdies for Charity not only allows us to generate funds for Pray & Play through a one-time donation, but we also receive a bonus check of at least 5% of all the donations to Birdies for Charity. We also do not pay any administrative fees, thanks to John Deere who underwrites the program.

This year 27 children participated in Pray and Play. We spent an average of \$40/child for 7.5 hours of care by trained adults. **Birdies for Charity is our primary funding source for this program every year.**

Through this program, children meet friends, learn about Jesus through Bible stories, songs, and prayers, receive two snacks and a lunch, and learn about community programs such as Nahant Marsh, QC Botanical Garden, and The Figge.

How Do I Contribute?

To donate by writing a check:

- Obtain a brochure at church. All checks must be submitted with a brochure. This confirms which charity you would like to support.
- Checks must be made out to Birdies for Charity. *Checks made out to Grace cannot go toward Birdies for Charity.*
- Turn your check into Grace office or place in the offering plate. You may also mail your check with the brochure directly to the Birdies office.

To donate online:

- Online donations can be submitted at birdiesforcharity.com/donate
- Click on "donate now"
- Enter **1943** when prompted to enter a **charity ID number.**

Donation deadline ends June 28, and questions can be directed to Pastor Kirsten. Thank you for your consideration and donation! Any donations will help ensure the future of Pray & Play next year.



Men's Lunch

Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon at church. (When the weather turns warmer, we will meet at VanderVeer Park.) 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.



Grace Milk Ministry

So far in 2026 we've donated 320 gallons of milk to Café on Vine! A HUGE thank you to Jim Bayles for purchasing and delivering the milk to the Café each week! Please consider donating to this important ministry - just put milk ministry on your check memo line, or online by scanning the QR Code on the back of your bulletin, or go to bit.ly/GraceGivingOnline and scroll to "Milk Ministry".

THANK YOU!



GRACE'S GREEN BAG PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who donated to The Green Bag Project. Through your generosity, we have provided food for nine families every week of school since October 2025! Your donations during Lent and Easter have allowed us to end the year strongly with enough food to last through the school year. We also now have a designated fund for this new ministry and have \$444.93 in the account. To ensure we use the donated food this school year, we are now asking for monetary donations only. Thank you again for putting Grace into action!

Pastor Kirsten

Service Day Quilters



Next Meeting Dates: May 12 & 13 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. Anyone can join to help at church or at home cutting squares, sewing, finishing, etc. **Questions?** Contact Gloria Lange 563-271-1542 or langejg1@msn.com or Kathy Miller kathyk1679@aol.com or 563-676-0914.



Naomi Circle

Next Meeting: May 19, 9:30am

Naomi Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month September through May for refreshments, fellowship, devotions, and Bible study - this year we are studying the parables. All are welcome to join us! Contact: Nancy Boehme 563-320-6203



Page Turners

Saturday, May 16, 8:30am

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!) **May Book:** *Strangers in Time* by David Baldacci **Host:** Gloria Lange 563-332-7170 **Location:** Home of Gloria Lange (4894 Dove Ct, Bettendorf)

Confirmation

Congratulations to Evelyn Peterson and Amaya Lee, who have completed their year of confirmation. They will be confirmed on Sunday, May 24, at the 9:30am joint worship service. During their time in confirmation, they grew in their understanding of God as they learned more about the Bible and the Lutheran tradition. We celebrate Evelyn and Amaya and this milestone in their faith!

VBS HELPERS

Even with the leadership of Camp EWALU, we cannot offer VBS without volunteers. Here is what we need each day Monday, June 15 - Friday, June 19:

- **8:00-9:00am** Ride the bus with the group to Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasant Valley
- **9:00-11:30am** Small Group Assistant
- **11:00am-1:00pm** Prepare/serve lunch, clean up (*Mon & Fri only*)
- **12:30-3:00pm** Small Group Assistant
- **3:00-4:00pm** Ride the bus with the group from Trinity back to Grace

Volunteers are needed everyday to keep the children safe. An online sign-up through Breeze will soon be available. Please consider signing up for a few shifts.

VBS DONATIONS

Please talk with Pastor Kirsten if you'd like to donate any of the following: hamburger buns, ketchup, mustard, chips (any variety), goldfish crackers, and granola bars. She will be able to tell you what's still needed and what quantities.

Grace is partnering with Trinity & St. James to host a weeklong Day Camp!

VBS DAY CAMP!

- Who** | For kids ages 4 through grade 6
- When** | 9:00am-3:00pm Monday, June 15 through Friday, June 19 (or 8:00am-4:00pm if taking the bus* to allow for transport time)
- Where** | Trinity Lutheran Church (18137 Criswell St, Bettendorf)
- Cost** | \$50/child* **Registration ends June 1** *Talk with Pr. Kirsten about scholarships - no child will be turned away for financial reasons

Ewalu Bible Camp Staff will lead us in our own local camp experience with all the fun of a park-like setting surrounded by nature. *A school bus will take kids from Grace to Trinity and back each day, or you may drop off your child directly at Trinity. To register you can scan the QR Code, go to bit.ly/GraceVBS2026, or contact Pastor Kirsten at 563-322-0769 or pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org.

Grace Lutheran Church | 563-322-0769
pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org



Ewalu Camp | 563-933-4700 | camp@ewalu.org/day-camps



MAY

SUN	MON	TU	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="background-color: #004a6b; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8:30am-3:00pm </div>					1	2 1pm Praise Band Practice
3 Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee with Council 10:30am Contemp. Worship	4 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	5 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Mtg 5pm Property Mtg 6pm CYF Mtg	6 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 7pm Choir Rehearsal	7 8am Mulching 10:45am-Noon Life & Legacy Series	8	9 1pm Praise Band Practice
10 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am Pictures into Memories 10:30am Contemp. Worship	11 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	12 9am Quilters 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg 2:30pm Outreach Mtg 7pm Worship Mtg	13 9am Quilters 12pm Men's Lunch Group 7pm Choir Rehearsal	14 10:45am-Noon Life & Legacy Series 5pm Piano Recital (private event)	15 Synod Assembly	16 Synod Assembly 8:30am Page Turners 9am Piano Recital (private event) 1pm Praise Band Practice
17 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Joint JBS between services 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	18 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 6pm Sweet Arts Club	19 9am Naomi Circle 10am Pastor's Text Study 2-6pm Blood Drive	20 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp	21 10:45am-Noon Life & Legacy Series Noon Council Reports Due	22	23 1pm Praise Band Practice
24 Confirmation 9:30am Joint Healing Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26 10am Pastor's Text Study 7pm Council Meeting	27 12pm Men's Lunch Group	28 10:45am-Noon Life & Legacy Series	29 5pm Hope at the Brickhouse Dinner	30 9am-Noon Abbi Lee Grad Party at Argrow House 1pm Praise Band Practice 2-4pm Wellnitz 60 th Anniversary Party
31 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	June 1 Pray & Play 8:30am-4pm 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	June 2 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Mtg 5pm Property Mtg 6pm CYF Mtg				

in loving memory

Please keep in your prayers Ruthann Neumann and family on the passing of her beloved husband, Jim, who died Saturday, April 25. A funeral service will take place at Grace Lutheran Church 11:00am on Saturday, May 2, with visitation at 10:00am. Online condolences may be shared at: [HERE](#)

Bless those who mourn, eternal God, with the comfort of your love that they may face each new day with hope and the certainty that nothing can destroy the good that has been given. May their memories become joyful, their days enriched with friendship, and their lives encircled by your love.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 David Meier | 24 Sandi VanWassenhove |
| 8 Karen McCubbin | 25 Paul Lewellan |
| 10 Sierra DeMarr
Tom Swarm | 27 Alice Dominacki
Mike Willman |
| 12 Kathy Finkler
Brianna Swarm | 28 Jordan DaRosa
Jayci Jones |
| 13 Julie Dohrmann | 29 Deb Alejo |
| 15 Zay Carter
Dustin Levsen | 31 Tina Peterson
Joe Lindsay |
| 17 Becky Kelly
Noah Sund | |
| 18 Gene Carber | |
| 20 Sue Peters | |
| 21 Dan Carney
Isaak Sund | |



MAY BIRTHDAYS



LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, People with Disabilities, and Immigrant & Refugee Community Services. We serve individuals of all ages, from families with newborns navigating the early stages of parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, as well as children at every stage of development. Our heart beats for the people we serve. We empower families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual.

LSI: A Testimony from a Grateful Family

"We first learned about LSI's school-based therapy program through our son's school counselor. We had wanted to get him into therapy for a long time, but it often felt out of reach. We do not have many extra resources, and finding a provider in Dubuque with availability for a child under 12 was incredibly difficult. On top of that, we both work and did not know how we would manage getting him to appointments during or after the school day.

When we found out that therapy could take place right at his school, it truly felt like an answer to our prayers. He did not have to miss much class, we did not have to take time off work, and he was able to meet with someone in a place where he already felt comfortable.

Even after getting connected, we still had concerns. Our insurance included a copay that was difficult for us to afford. LSI let us know that financial assistance was available to help cover those costs, as long as we remained committed to his treatment. That support made all the difference. Without it, I do not think we would have been able to continue.

Our son has only been in therapy for about six weeks, but we are already beginning to see small changes. He seems to be learning new ways to manage his emotions and is starting to talk more about what is bothering him instead of shutting down or acting out. We know he still has a long road ahead, but for the first time in a long time, we feel hopeful.

We are so grateful for this opportunity and for the support LSI has provided to our family. Without this program and the financial assistance, I truly do not know if our son would have been able to receive the help he needs."

LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

In the Know: Fighting Internet Financial Fraud

Cyber-enabled financial fraud scams use digital platforms and technology—such as email, text messages, social media, mobile apps, and online payment systems—to trick consumers into sending money or revealing sensitive financial information. These scams often rely on impersonation, urgency, and emotional manipulation rather than technical hacking. Education and vigilance remain the best defenses against evolving fraud tactics:

- **Pause before you click**—urgency is a common tactic
- **Verify independently**—contact companies using official channels
- **Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA)** on financial and email accounts
- **Use strong, unique passwords** and never share passwords or one-time codes
- **Be cautious with online payments**—especially cryptocurrency, wire transfers, and gift cards
- **Monitor accounts regularly and set up alerts**—to spot suspicious transactions quickly
- **Limit personal information shared on social media**—such as your birthdate or financial activity
- **Trust your instincts**—if something feels off, **stop - it's okay to be rude!** - and check by reaching out independently



Click [HERE](#) for more information or go to your own bank's website for up-to-date advice.

ADMIN STAFF

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Kathi Parrish - Accompanist
Susan Senn - Organist
Vey Rodriguez - Praise Band Leader

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Deb Gustafson Vice-President
Gail Walton Secretary
Dawn Matthews Treasurer
Jackie Cain
Dan Carney
Lori Haugen
Becky Kelly
Laura Toland

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Last Call for Graduates

Please submit names and graduation information to the office by Monday, May 18. We would like to recognize them during the worship service on Sunday, May 24.

Council Corner



- Treasurer Dawn Matthews reported that Revenues Year to Date were \$115,758.30. Expenses Year to Date were \$96,554.54 resulting in a \$19,203.76 surplus.
- Joint worship services were approved for Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day weekend, as well as a joint service either August 2 or 9, for the annual jazz service.
- Council approved participation in this year's Birdies for Charity program with the funds going to support Pray and Play.
- Council authorized the repair of two windows in the sanctuary with the funds to initially come from our QCCF Reserve Fund.
- The May council mtg was moved from Memorial Day, May 25, to Tuesday May 26.

Thrivent Shred Event

Saturday, May 30 | 9am-Noon | Redeemer Lutheran (1107 Tanglefoot, Bett)
Secure your documents. Support your community. Bring a donation of toilet paper or a free-will monetary gift to support the organization **One-Eighty**.

Food Pantry Weekend

Our next Food Pantry Collection is Sunday, May 3 Bring your non-perishable food donations in a bag, and leave at the altar before the service.

Donations Especially Needed: canned fruits and vegetables, canned/dry beans, canned meats, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, breakfast items

Always Appreciated: peanut butter, jelly/jam, canned chili, boxed potatoes, protein bars, whole grain bread, items for baking (flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, etc.)

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

