



GRACE NOTES

MARCH 2024 ISSUE 82-03

Dear Friends,

Have you ever had those moments or days where there seems to be a clear demarcation between who you were before and who you are now? It may be tied to a joyful event like that of entering into a serious relationship, the start of parenthood, or your first real job. There may be subtle or significant changes from who you understood yourself to be and who you are now. Those mile markers in life can also be less celebratory, the death of a loved one, a traumatic event, or a significant diagnosis. The world around you is shifted.

It's a strange feeling to know that you are still you, but nothing is the same. We have many ancestors in the Bible who have encountered these life altering moments. Sometimes that even comes with a name change, Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah or Saul to Paul. In some faith traditions you receive a new name at your baptism or at faith milestones. We affirm and celebrate friends and family when their names signify a new chapter for a couple at their wedding or as someone who identifies as trans embraces their new name. While receiving the honorific of "Pastor" isn't a name change, it is an immediate reminder each time it's used of who I am, who I am called to be.

Without a name change, these shifts in our lives aren't always easy for

others to identify. The stranger will not know there is a version of you with a certain responsibility, purpose, or loss unless there is a symbol or tattoo that prominently tells your story.

Throughout this season of Lent we witness Peter's watershed moments. From leaving fishing behind to follow Jesus, to watching his teacher die after denying him. There are multiple moments where his wandering heart was changed or transformed. Going from 'Peter the rock' to 'Peter the denier'. Can you imagine how Jesus' resurrection would change his life forever? His world would never be the same.

What are the moments that have changed you in your faith? If you grew up going to church, it may be hard to even identify a life before or after understanding God's Grace. Perhaps it is in the other major moments in your life that God's presence was revealed in new ways because you relied on God in a new way. Coming to God in your joys, questions, doubts, and struggles. Perhaps, it is harder for those of us who grew up in the church and remained in the church to articulate and identify the difference our faith makes in our lives because we don't have anything to compare it to.

I invite you to consider your story, your wandering heart throughout the

remainder of Lent. Where is God within your story and how are you different because of your faith? As we journey through Holy Week and celebrate Easter, will you be the same as you were before this year's journey began?

*God's Peace,
Pastor Stephanie*

Holy Week at Grace

March 24  Palm Sunday


We accompany Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.

March 28  Maundy Thursday

We remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, and the commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal.

March 29  Good Friday

Standing at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all.

March 31  Easter Sunday

Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR LENT

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR THE WANDERING HEART

With any skill, sport, or hobby, we often become better with practice. This season of Lent, Grace invites you to use three spiritual practices to help focus a wandering heart. Through these practices we hope you can find a way to connect with God and re-center your heart on the one who fills our hearts.



PRAYER

We invite you to turn your hearts to God through prayer. We have devotional booklets that contain art and reflection on the Wednesday night texts regarding Peter's faith journey. We will also be providing an opportunity to visit different prayer stations in March (see below).

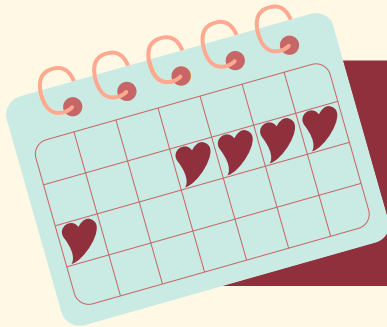
Contact the church office if you would like a devotional booklet or pick one up in the narthex.



FASTING

Practice "fasting" from your use of "Single Use-Plastics", like plastic straws, plastic grocery bags, water bottles, etc. Our hope is that, this challenge will make all of us think about the items we use every day and make us more attentive to God's creation.

Each week at worship we will highlight an SUP with ideas for fasting.



GENER-OSITY

Period products are expensive and can become a barrier for students, who may miss school without access to them. We are collecting pads and financial donations for Sudlow Middle School so that no student needs to miss a day of school due to lack of access of feminine hygiene products..

To donate funds for products go to bit.ly/GraceGivingOnline.



Expand your 'wandering heart' Lenten journey with Grace's Prayer Stations

Throughout Lent, we have been following Peter's journey and looking at our own wandering hearts. Because prayer is a powerful tool we can use to help us be more in sync with God's blessings, mercy and love, Grace's Spiritual Growth Mission is offering Prayer Stations from 1-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, and March 20.

Five stations will be offered each Wednesday, allowing you before or after those Wednesday's night services to visit each station located in various areas of the church for contemplation and reflection.

Stations will cover everything from idol worship and what Jesus means to you to reflections on God's love for you, lamentations of the world and forgiveness. This is your opportunity to come alone or as a family to broaden your journey and help heal your wandering heart.

Junior Bible Study

At both worship services, following the children's sermon, kids will have 20 minutes to join the fun and talk about Bible stories in their own space set apart from the worship service. Join us for laughter and learning. Thank you to all who have signed up to volunteer with JBS! If you would like to see what it's like to volunteer, let Pastor Kirsten know.

March 3 Noah's Ark

March 10 & 17 No JBS Spring Break

March 24 Palm Sunday

March 31 Easter Sunday (No JBS)



Music at Ridgecrest

The bluegrass music band, **QuarterMoon Tinsnips** (with members of the Haugen family) will be playing at Ridgecrest Village on Thursday, March 14, 6:00pm. Grace members are welcome to come and join in the fun and visit with friends of Grace.



EcoPalms

Did you know that Grace is using EcoPalms this Palm Sunday?

By using Ecopalms we:

Promote Social Justice

- Harvesting palms is an important source of income but gatherers receive a low price.
- Gatherers will receive a higher price for their "fair trade" palms improving their income.

Promote Environmental Stewardship

- Palms protect valuable natural forests because they provide income to forest communities.
- Palms will be sustainably harvested and managed protecting the palms and the forests they need for shade

Why a "Fair Trade" Palm?

- To improve income and living conditions for the communities gathering the palm.
- To protect the palms and the important forests from which they are gathered through sustainable harvest programs.

Did You Know?

- Approximately 308 million palm fronds were consumed in the United States in 1998.
- Palm purchases for Palm Sunday may be worth up to 4.5 million dollars/year.
- Palm gathering actually protects valuable natural forests.
- At least half of the farmers in the Central Petenof Guatemala earn additional income from harvesting fronds and, more than a quarter of household heads support themselves exclusively by collecting fronds.

DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Come Read with a Child



Madison Elementary and Garfield Elementary are requesting adults to read with a child once a week. This commitment could be shared with another person so that each adult volunteers once every other week. This is an important way to meet the needs of our neighbors and make a measurable difference in a child's life. Just 30 minutes a week can help a child develop a lifetime joy of reading and this shows a child that there are adults in this community who care about them. When I've spoken with the principals at these schools, they report that the kids look forward each week to this time, which also encourages school attendance.

In addition, Garfield and Sudlow Junior High are requesting items that will support their effort to increase

attendance and positive behavior. Small incentives have proven to be effective at increasing attendance and school performance. These small tokens can go a long way for a child!

Donations Requested

- **Bags of individually wrapped candy.**
- **Small toys** for children to earn as a special reward in their Positive Behavioral Interventions Programs and Support Program Store
- **Monetary donations for a new office chair.** There are six teachers at Sudlow who have not yet missed a day of teaching. The principal would like to have these teachers draw for a reward, such as a new office chair.

If you would like to donate any of the following items or if you would like to learn more about reading with a child, please speak with Pastor Kirsten. Connecting with the children in our community is discipleship. Christ's compassion and love leads us into the place where children are already learning. There are three months left of school this year - let's share in relationship with these kids and watch love and joy bloom.

Pastor
Kirsten



Thank you to the Outreach & Welcome team for sprucing up our bulletin boards! In the hallway between the sanctuary and office, you will find these lovely and colorful displays:



"Repent, Renew, Rebuild"

How are we focusing our time in Lent on repenting, renewing, & rebuilding Christ's relationship with us?



Our 2024 Council leaders! If you would like to know who is serving, come take a look. If you have a question or an idea for a particular group, take a look at the council rep for that group. Please be sure to thank these leaders!

This bulletin board will share community events and up to date resources. Feel free to take a brochure or share an event.



New Bulletin Boards!

Grief Support

Our Next Meetings: Mar 6 & 20

The Grief Support Group meets the first and third Wednesdays 5:30pm in Pat Bell Hall. Please be assured that our conversations will be kept in confidence. Contact Cindy Lee 563-370-5386 with any questions.

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

Calling All Instrumentalists

Once again, Grace instrumentalists will come together to enhance our Easter worship service. We will have three rehearsals:

Sunday, March 24 at 1:00pm
Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00pm
Saturday, March 30 at 9:00am



Easter Orchestra is open to all Grace instrumentalists, grade 8 and up. Come and be a part of our worship as we praise our risen Lord in a unique and exciting way! Contact Sally Meier at 796-0773 or 309-292-0281 so that I can have a part ready for you!

Men's Lunch & Conversation

Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon at Grace! 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.



Safer Foundation

Thank you to the following ladies that helped prepare a meal for the Safer Youth! Kathy Higgins; Vicki Liebbe; Gloria Lange; Wendy Arp; Karen Jewel; Claire Johansen; Carol Keller; Debbie Alejo; and Hollie Swain. The ladies bring a main dish, milk, fruit and dessert every Tuesday for four weeks. No meal goes uneaten! Serving dates were January 23, 30, February 6, and 13. If you are interested in participating, please contact Hollie Swain at 563-514-4022.

Practice of Forgiveness

Saturday Morning Musings Series Practices to Enliven Your Prayer Life

March 9, 2024 | 9:00 - 11:00am

at Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA | Cost: \$30.00

"Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness." -Corrie Ten Boom

During this two-hour workshop, participants will explore the process and power of living with a forgiving heart.

Register: Elaine K Olson, 217-766-6937 or ekobus05@gmail.com

Future Classes: April 13 - Mindfulness; May 10 - Loving-Kindness



PAGE TURNERS

Saturday, March 16, 8:30am

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah . . . Texas, 1934. Millions are out of work and a drought has broken the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as the crops are failing, the water is drying up, and dust threatens to bury them all. One of the darkest periods of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl era, has arrived with a vengeance. **Host:** Carol Keller 563-340-9013 **Location:** D'Lua (5185 - 18th Street, Bettendorf)

FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND

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

- **Donations Needed:** nonperishables - especially canned fruits and vegetables, canned & dry beans, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, breakfast items (cereal, oatmeal)
- **Always appreciated:** peanut butter, jelly/jam, canned meats, canned chili, boxed potatoes, protein bars, whole grain bread, fresh fruits & vegetables, items for baking (flour, sugar (granulated, powdered, brown), baking soda, baking powder, etc.)
- **Consider:** simple spices (salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, etc.), neutral cooking oils, vinegars, powdered milk, powdered eggs, wooden spoon sets, hand-held can openers, aluminum foil pans (various sizes), cake mixes and frosting for special occasions
- **Ethnic Cooking Supplies:** There are a number of refugee families living in and around the Quad Cities that most likely frequent food pantries when needed, and foods commonly used within their ethnic culture are so very much appreciated (soy sauce, tortillas, ethnic seasoning mixes and spices, pitas, lard, etc.). Go to imu.uiowa.edu/food/food-pantry/donate/multicultural-food-item-donations-requested for a detailed list of multicultural food items. Anything shelf-stable would be welcome at the food pantry.

BP Checks | March 10

Sunday, March 10, Between Services: Please welcome St. Mark Parish Nurse Beth Claeys, as she provides BP checks between services 9:30-10:30am.

Lent Cross Stitch Devotional

If you enjoy keeping your hands busy while praying/meditating, or just love stitching, you can join in with others on a Lenten devotional cross stitch project. On Facebook you can join the group [Stitchology Crafts](https://www.facebook.com/StitchologyCrafts), then on their page, click on "files". Feel free to contact Annie in the church office if you need help obtaining the patterns. Go to stitchologycrafts.com to listen to weekly podcast devotionals that go along with the projects.

Adult Education

Coffee with...

Sundays 9:45-10:15am

You are invited to participate in interactive scriptural prayer. For thirty minutes each Sunday (9:45-10:15am)

you will sit down to coffee (or tea) with a key person in the life of Christ. Using scriptures and our imaginations to recreate the biblical scenes, you will get to know the Sunday guest. Get acquainted with the human side of John the Baptist, the Samaritan woman at the well, the apostle Peter, Mary Magdalene, Judas Iscariot, and Mary the mother of Jesus. Join us for coffee with:

- **March 3** Peter
- **March 10** Mary Magdalene
- **March 17** Judas
- **March 24** Mary the Mother of Jesus

Revelation Bible Study

Join Pastor Stephanie for a Bible Study on the Book of Revelation Thursdays at 11:00am, and share in the lively discussion!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Office Hours 8:30am-3:00pm Monday-Thursday 8:30am-Noon Friday				1	2
3 Food Pantry Sunday Blood Pressure Checks 8:30am Worship/Livestream 9:45am Coffee With... 10:30am Worship	4 2pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	5 10am Pastor's Text Study 11:45am Member Text Study 12:30pm Staff Meeting 1:30pm Personnel Meeting 5pm Property Meeting 7pm Worship & Music Mtg	6 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Lenten Worship	7 11am Revelation Study 11:15am Prayer Group	8	9 9am Practice of Forgiveness - PBH
10 8:30am Worship/Livestream 9:30am BP Checks 9:45am Coffee With... 10:30am Worship	11 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	12 9am Quilters 10am Pastor's Text Study 11:45am Member Text Study 1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg 1:30pm Outreach & Welcome 6pm CYF Meeting	13 9am Quilters 12pm Men's Lunch Group 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Lenten Worship	14 11am Revelation Study 12pm Grace Visitors	15	16 8:30am Page Turners
17 8:30am Worship/Livestream 9:30am Coffee With... 10:30am Worship	18 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 6pm Sweet Arts Club 6:30pm Deborah Circle 7pm Luther Prop Annl Mtg	19 9am Naomi Circle 10am Pastor's Text Study 11:45am Member Text Study	20 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Lenten Worship	21 11am Revelation Study	22 11am Council Reports Due	23
24 Palm Sunday 8:30am Worship/Livestream 9:30am Coffee With... 10:30am Annual Meeting 1pm Easter Band Rehearsal	25 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Council Meeting	26 10am Pastor's Text Study 11:45am Member Text Study	27 12pm Men's Lunch Group 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Easter Band Rehearsal	28 Maundy Thursday 7pm Maundy Thursday Svc	29 Good Friday 7pm Good Friday Svc	30 9am Easter Band Rehearsal
31  Easter Sunday 8:30am Worship/Livestream 10:30am Annual Meeting						

Save the Date!

Holy Humor Sunday

April 7 • 9:30am

We had so much fun last year, let's do it again this year!

"Holy Humor Sunday" or "Bright Sunday" is an Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity. For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. **Watch for more details to join in the song and laughter!**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Bill McCullough | 25 Jimmy Carter, Jr. |
| 3 Angel Alvarez Cabrera | 26 Charlene Frye |
| Gloria Underwood | Elizabeth Linde |
| Annie Nau | 28 Dean Rock |
| 4 Karen Cornish | 29 Diane DeHaas |
| 5 Pastor Kirsten Lee | Leon Lagerstam |
| 16 Karla Ellingworth | 30 Don Haugen |
| Keith Rossmiller | 31 Mary Ann Lindsay |
| 17 Dennis Boehme | |
| 18 Ann Lorentzen | |
| 19 Chryss Hartman | |
| 20 Brynn Kanwischer | |
| 21 Gabrielle Tee | |
| 23 David Arp | |



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

Jake Bayles, 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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Council Corner

"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe" -St. Augustine

Council met on February 26, 2024 and are happy to share the following:

- Council approved the addition of 4 new members to our Grace flock! An official Grace welcome goes out to new members: Rod Levson, Jr., Casey Costello, Roe Edinger, and Denise Eads
- Approved WELCA group host an ice cream social fundraiser during the evening of Bettendorf Band concert on Friday, August 2.
- Outreach and Welcome will be coordinating activities to update the signage inside the church.
- Our second annual Holy Humor Sunday joint worship service was approved for 9:30am on April 7.
- A request was approved for a Genesis Paramedics bus to be parked in the Grace parking lot during March 18-21, 2024 for the purpose of Paramedic training.
- Status of Grace application for an Iowa Homeland Security Non-Profit Grant...a physical assessment of Grace's current building and security measures will be completed this month.

Put your athletic shoes on...as we begin an exciting and busy New Year!

God's Blessings,

Deb Kirby

Council President



LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

LSI

March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we are grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!

At LSI, we believe every Iowan deserves the independence they need to thrive. LSI's Host Homes is an innovative way LSI is serving adults with disabilities. Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected mentor. This program is built entirely around an individual's goals and interests, and LSI's extensive matching process ensures the mentor and mentee are a great fit.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. 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.