



GRACE NOTES

APRIL 2024 ISSUE 82-03

Dear Friends,

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13

Weeks of preparation both spiritually and administratively leads to the Easter service. I always hope and pray all will go smoothly. We had so many volunteers involved in music that day that a less used music stand became the best option for my 'pulpit' at the late service. When I arrived at the sermon, I go to raise the music stand holding my sermon only to have the top of the stand pop off. I put it back on, then tried again and again it popped off. I could be frustrated, to be honest I was a little, but it was also funny. When all you want is for things to go well, sometimes we need to be reminded that it's okay if it doesn't. It was an, unintentional, preview to our Holy Humor service.

Perhaps you have had those moments where there seems to be a choice, you can let anger and frustration get the best of you or you can laugh and find the humor. I remember when I went to my dentist who was a bit of a serious fellow. I always found it a successful visit if I could make him smile or laugh. One time I went and after they discovered my front canine tooth was too far gone for a crown, I was told I would need to go to another doctor for a root canal. I began to laugh so hard I cried. You see, it was almost Halloween and at this point in the appointment all I had was a tiny

little peg for a tooth. I was sure I looked like a toothless pumpkin. Since it was a peg for tooth, in my mind, that made me think I might look like a pirate too. Those mental images and me saying, "arr" like a pirate, had me cracking up along with the dentist. I'm guessing that was the first time he had that reaction to someone needing a root canal.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary "Joy" is defined as:

- 1a) the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires
- b) the expression or exhibition of such emotion
- 2) a state of happiness or felicity
- 3) a source or cause of delight

I find the first part of the definition to be extremely lacking, its only surface level, perhaps better fit for describing happiness. I've always found happiness to be more fleeting and joy to be deeper. Perhaps, it's because in the first part of that definition, health, success, and good fortune are all temporary. They can all disappear. Yet when the source of our joy is deeper, rooted in God, we discover a joy that can endure. A joy that can coexist beside grief, loss, or despair. A joy that can sustain us.

Joy, happiness, and humor all inter-

sect. In the Bible there are humorous stories. Whether it be Balaam's donkey speaking, essentially raising the question, "who is the jackass in this scenario?" (Numbers 22:21-39) or a young man who fell out the window because Paul was preaching too long (Acts 20:9-12). Even God recognized the value of laughter and humor.

As we gather on Holy Humor Sunday, we celebrate the joy of Easter. We laugh and indulge in the silly and the humor. We recognize that to others this faith journey may seem foolish. Yet, it is here, in God, we find joy.

*God's Peace,
Pastor Stephanie*

In Loving Memory

Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of Alice Sandberg who passed away Easter morning, March 31, 2024.

A visitation will be held 4-6pm April 5, at CityView Celebrations at Trimble Pointe (701 - 12th St, Moline).

Services will be held 1:30pm April 6, at Grace with a reception to follow.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Grace Lutheran Church | Davenport, IA

Holy Humor Sunday!

April 7, 2024
9:30am Joint Worship

Join us for a joint Holy Humor Sunday
worship followed by a Feast of Fools
Potluck Brunch!

Let's be SILLY ... wear FUNNY clothes ...
LAUGH with friends ...
and lift our voices in JOYFUL song!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

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.

April 7 Resurrection!

April 14 Jesus Goes Up to Heaven

April 21 Elijah and the Widow

April 28 The Sower and the Seeds

May 5 JBS Celebration Sunday!

First Communion Class

April 7 | 11:30am-1:30pm

Even if you've already received communion, join us to learn more about communion and why we celebrate this during worship. We would like an adult to accompany each family of children. Participants will be recognized during both worship services on April 14. Please email Pastor Kirsten at pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org and let her know who will be attending. Also, plan to attend one of our regularly scheduled worship services so we can celebrate with you.



M.A.D. Camp @ St. Mark

June 24-18 | 9am-3pm

Registration Fee \$25*

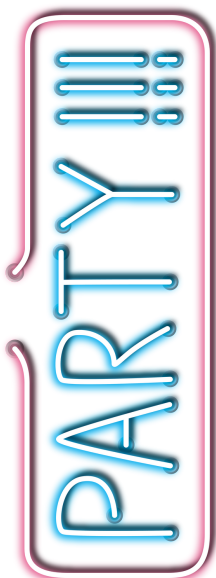
"Back at the Creekbank"

Join campers at St. Mark for Music, Art, and Drama Camp - We will celebrate how God has filled our world with love and beauty!

Snacks and drinks will be provided, and campers are asked to bring a lunch each day.

Any kids who are comfortable reading and performing are welcome. To register, contact Katie Carstens at 563-271-8634.

(*Please let Pr. Kirsten know if you need financial assistance - your inquiry will be kept in confidence.)



SAVE THE DATE!

Kids' Spring Party!

Friday, May 17th @ Grace Lutheran

5:30pm-7:30 pm

Adults get a break & kids get to have fun!

Kids ages 3-11 can join us for dinner, games, & a Bible Story.



Registration starts April 3rd

<https://gracedavenport.breezechms.com/form/1ef4ab62>

OUR EPIPHANY PARTY WAS SUCH A HIT THAT WE WANT TO HAVE ANOTHER PARTY!

Grown-ups can take a few hours for themselves, and kids get dinner, a Bible story, and lots of silly games. Kids three years old and older are invited to join.

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP or go to:

gracedavenport.breezechms.com/form/1ef4ab62

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School

• June 17-21 @ Grace Lutheran

9am-3pm

with the option of extended care before & after camp

New this year!

Camp Shalom staff will lead VBS along with Pastor Kirsten & volunteers. Join us for Bible stories, silly games & songs, & lots of laughter! \$20/ child, family maximum of \$50

Kids ages 4-11

Registration starts April 3rd

<https://gracedavenport.breezechms.com/form/08849f0>

Save the date and register for a week of learning, growing, and laughing. New this year is a partnership with Camp Shalom. Their trained staff will lead VBS along with Pastor Kirsten and volunteers. For Camp Shalom to join us, we need at least twelve kids registered by May 31. (\$20/child, \$40 maximum/family for camp.) Financial assistance is always available, and it is always confidential.

*Extended Care Option: 8am-9am and 3-4pm for an additional charge of \$10/family.

Click [HERE](#) to register or go to:

gracedavenport.breezechms.com/form/08849f0



Who's ready for sunshine, lakes, campfires, and games? A week at camp offers kids and youth an opportunity to grow their faith, their leadership, and confidence. I was a kid who did not always like going to camp, but as I look back on those weeks, I can pick out moments that formed my understanding of God and myself. My confidence grew leaps and bounds while away from my parents and home and I remain grateful for those opportunities. God meets our children at camp and shows them life in a new way.

At Grace, we have funds to off-set the expense of camp through a scholarship program. Please don't let the cost of camp deter you from

attending. Paper forms are available at church or can be emailed to you. Requests are kept confidential. These scholarships are available for any camp. Camp Shalom is less than an hour away and offers mini-weeks and full weeks for kids in elementary school, Jr. High, and High School. Go to campshalomia.org for more information.

A great way for the whole family to experience the wonder of camp is through family camp! "Led by the Camp Shalom summer staff, families are invited to help plan worship, toast marshmallows for s'mores, participate in camp activities, and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. On Saturday, staff

lead children in games while the adults meet for Bible Study. The afternoon is spent canoeing on the Maquoketa River, shooting arrows at the archery range, climbing the rock wall, and making crafts. We also offer a staff-led trip to the Maquoketa Caves for our most adventurous families! People of all ages are invited to register for family camp."

Camp Shalom offers family camp twice this summer:

June 21-23 and July 12-14.

For more information go to:

campshalomia.org/summer-camp/family-camp

Please let Pastor Kirsten know if you plan to attend family camp or any kind of summer camp!

Pastor Kirsten



Grief Support

Our Next Meetings: April 3 & 17

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

IFF Brunch | April 21

IFF will gather for brunch on Sunday, April 21, at the home of Kathy Shriver (6211 Whispering Hill Ct, Bettendorf). Hosts are Kathy Shriver and Janice Gibbs. We will begin serving mimosas at 11:30am and will eat around noon. Anyone interested in joining us, even if you have never or rarely attended, is most welcomed. Can't bring a dish to share...no problem. There is always plenty of food and we are just happy to have you join us! **RSVP by April 7** to kdshriver51@gmail.com or call 563-332-9390 and leave a message.

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 Sack Lunches

Supporting Safer Sacks is an easy way for you to get involved in helping a local non-profit improve lives and community safety. Lunch includes a club sandwich on a croissant with ham, turkey, and cheese with condiments on the side, chips, cookie, and fruit. Cost is: \$8 per lunch (\$9 if delivered). **Orders and payment are due April 12, to Hollie Swain.** The lunches will be available to pick up - or join us as we eat together - at Grace on April 18.

New Members | April 21

Be sure to welcome: *Rod Levsen, Jr, Casey Costello, Roe Edinger, and Denise Eads* as they officially become members on April 21. We are overjoyed to have you at Grace!

Council Corner

And Jesus said... "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs"
~ Book of Matthew

Council met on March 25, 2024 and are happy to share the following:

(continued on the back page)

Quad City Interfaith & Davenport Community ID

On March 14, a public forum was held on the topic of a community ID for Davenport residents. Hosted by Quad Cities Interfaith, this forum was led by several community leaders who spoke in favor of a community ID. I attended along with Grace member, Sarah Peterson.

Sarah graciously agreed to share her thoughts on the forum. "I went in with a very limited understanding of how many people in our community would benefit from the Community ID. Among other things, the panel pointed out the numerous times we are asked to show an ID for things like picking up our children from school to applying for a job. It quickly became clear that there is a significant need for people from all walks of life to have access to an ID that is community-based and not tied to a driver's license.

The panel addressed a wide variety of people for whom this would be a valuable resource, including: the elderly population, those who are displaced by a disaster that has destroyed identifying documents, youth who are estranged from their parents and don't have access to the documents necessary for obtaining a driver's license or state ID, refugees who left with nothing, and the previously incarcerated who want to reintegrate into the community. They also mentioned the idea that the information on the card could include language spoken, health concerns, and emergency

contact information that could benefit anyone in the community who finds themselves in an emergency. In addition, having a Community ID creates a sense of pride and belonging that can benefit everyone."

I share Sarah's surprise with how many people would benefit from a community ID. In addition to all whom Sarah mentioned, this could

benefit children as they walk home from school or our elderly neighbors who no longer need a driver's license. Unlike a state ID, a community ID doesn't require a separate photo ID. I was also surprised to hear that several communities have already implemented community IDs, including Moline, IL. My thanks to Sarah Peterson for attending and sharing her thoughts. For more information, please see Pastor Kirsten.

Davenport Community ID

Community ID cards are government-issued photo IDs that show identity and residency



COMMUNITY ID USES:

- Open a credit union account or cash a check
- Pick up pharmacy prescriptions
- Return items to a store
- Pick up grandkids from school
- Interact with hospitals and law enforcement

Community IDs have more flexible requirements than state IDs or drivers licenses. They fill in the gaps and help Davenport residents get back on their feet.

Contact the City Council in support of community ID:





PAGE TURNERS

Saturday, April 20, 8:30am

Sewing Girls Tale by John Wood Sweet . . . A riveting Revolutionary Era drama of the first published rape trial in American history and its long, shattering aftermath, revealing how much has changed over two centuries—and how much has not.

Host: Gloria Lange 563-271-1542 **Location:** Village Inn (Elmore & 53rd)

FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND

Food Pantry Collection is Sunday, April 7 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.

Practice of Mindfulness

Saturday Morning Musings Series Practices to Enliven Your Prayer Life

April 13, 2024 | 9:00 - 11:00am

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

The posture of mindfulness is living in the present moment. A person calmly acknowledges and accepts one's feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations without judgment. You simply "come to your senses". During this two-hour class, participants will explore the process and practice of mindfulness.

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

Next Class May 10 - Loving-Kindness

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! **Resumes April 18.**



National Faith & Climate Forum

April 16 | 11am-4pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport invites all to a livestream of the National Faith and Climate Forum.

The event includes nationally recognized speakers, including Dr. Neddy Astudillo, faculty at Pacific Lutheran. Subtitles will be in Spanish. There will be time for breakouts and discussion. Several local groups working on climate change issues will have displays, and there will be breakout sessions and discussions, drinks, and cookies. All are welcome, this event is free.

Location St. Paul Lutheran, Davenport

Register to attend
nationalfaithandclimateforum.org/register

Questions? Contact Becky Wiese
rlawmd@yahoo.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Office Closed	2 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Meeting 5pm Property Meeting	3 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 7pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6 1:30pm Alice Sandberg Funeral
7 Food Pantry Sunday Holy Humor Worship & Brunch 9:30am Worship/Livestream 9:30am Brunch 11:30am First Communion Class	8 Pray & Play 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	9 9am Quilters 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg 1:30pm Outreach & Welcome 6pm CYF Meeting 7pm Worship & Music Mtg	10 9am Quilters 10:30am Garden Party Mtg 12pm Men's Lunch Group Pastor Stephanie Vacation	11	12	13 9am Practice of Mindfulness - PBH
14 8:30am Worship/Livestream 10:30am Worship	15 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 5pm Sweet Arts Club 6:30pm Deborah Circle	16 9am Naomi Circle 10am Pastor's Text Study 3:30pm LSI Parenting Class	17 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 7pm Choir Rehearsal	18 Safer Sack Lunch Pick Up 11am Revelation Study	19 11am Council Reports Due	20 8:30am Page Turners
21 New Member Sunday 8:30am Worship/Livestream 10:30am Worship 11:30am IFF Brunch	22 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Council Meeting	23 10am Pastor's Text Study	24 12pm Men's Lunch Group 7pm Choir Rehearsal	25 11am Revelation Study	26	27
28 8:30am Worship/Livestream 10:30am Worship	29 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	30 10am Pastor's Text Study			Office Hours 8:30am-3:00pm Monday-Thursday 8:30am-Noon Friday	

Full Ordination of
Patrick Mulloy
 to the Orders of Elders of
 **IOWA CONFERENCE**
 The United Methodist Church

Three Ways to Celebrate
Ordination Service | June 9, 9am
 RecPlex (6500 Grand Ave, West Des Moines)

Celebration Event | June 15, 3-5pm
 Dave & Busters (Sioux Falls, SD)

Celebration Event | July 6, 12-2pm
 Asbury United Methodist Church
 (1809 Mississippi Blvd, Bettendorf)

Patrick was a member of Grace and served on council.

Thank You

Thank to those who donated to and/or served at the March 29 Brick House Meal:

Mike Keller, Hollie Swain, Ruth & John McAndrews, Scott Jewel, Claire Johansen, Nancy & Dennis Boehme, and Jane Krumwiede.

Friends at Grace, Thank you for the Easter cookies, candy, cross & beautiful little box, and the Christ in Our Home booklet. Most Appreciated! God Bless
 Muriel Anderson

- 1** Alex Colton
- 3** Kathi Parrish
Rylan Cahalan
- 4** Dave Linde
Lisa Morris 
Pat Taylor
- 5** Colleen Willman
- 7** Jordan Colton
- 8** Elizabeth Bibby
Allison Dague
- 9** Peg McCullough
Alexander McVay
- 10** Jodi Becker 
- 22** Nancy Toland 
- 27** Anna McVay
- 30** Krisan Koble

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



From Sheep to Shepherd: An LSI Early Childhood Services Story

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a mother, recently released from treatment, found herself in her new empty apartment with her son. She felt lost and needed a shepherd to guide her. So, Hali contacted LSI's Early Childhood Services, and Gretchen O'Brien, a Family Support Worker, answered the call. Gretchen began virtual home visits using the Healthy Family America home-visiting model.

For the next three years, Gretchen connected Hali and her son to community resources, served as a support system and a shoulder to cry on, and celebrated Hali's sobriety milestones with her. Even when Hali doubted herself, Gretchen guided and believed in her.

"I just remember sitting in that empty apartment crying, but I had Gretchen on the phone. You guys believed in me when nobody else did," shared Hali.

Today, Hali serves on the Healthy Family America (HFA) National Parent Advisory Committee, the first of its kind. The group is composed of 10-12 parents from around the country who have graduated from their local HFA program, each participant with their own story to share.

Hali needed a shepherd in her time of trouble and self-doubt, and Gretchen answered that call. Now, Hali serves as a shepherd to thousands of parents through the National Parent Advisory Committee. The LSI Early Childhood team couldn't be more proud of Hali and Gretchen.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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.

IOWA
LEGAL
AID®

HOPE. DIGNITY. JUSTICE.

Potential Legal Help Available & Disaster Preparedness Training

Ever run into someone who's facing a lot of challenges? Maybe their housing, benefits, or safety are at risk, they're dealing with issues related to aging, or a disaster has wreaked havoc in their lives. Let them know about Iowa Legal Aid (ILA)! ILA provides free assistance to qualifying persons on many civil legal topics. ILA is still assisting those affected by the 2020 and 2021 Derecho in Iowa. You can apply by phone 563-322-6216 or apply online to see if ILA can help you directly.

Disaster Preparedness

ILA is hosting a preparedness and recovery resource fair in Davenport this spring on Saturday, April 27. These include onsite intake for Iowa Legal Aid applications and access to disaster preparedness tools. These is a free event for everyone! Go to iowalegalaid.org for more information.

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(Continued from page 5)

- **Council Spring Retreat** - Council will be hosting an upcoming council meeting to discuss 2024 Goal setting, receive training, and establish Grace's ministry objectives for the year.
- **Directional/wayfinding signage** - Council approved the new name change for the church's upstairs loft multi-purpose/choir room to "Prayer & Praise room."
- **Fundraising/Birdies for Charity** - approved to reapply for "Birdies for Charity" proceeds to raise money in support of Grace's Fall session of our children's "Pray and Play" program.

Please take time to thank those who serve in capacities as leaders, staff, committees, and volunteers for their time and efforts to make Grace a safe, warm and welcoming place to worship.

God's Blessings, *Deb Kirby* Council President

MUSICIANS

Sally Meier - Adult Choir Director

Kathi Parrish - Accompanist

Susan Senn - Organist

Vey Rodriguez - Praise Band Leader

New Logo | You Get to Vote!

Pastor Stephanie and Annie have been working the past year on refreshing and updating our website and logo. The council has voted on their top two choices for the new logo, and you get to vote on which one you like best! Upon reflecting what it means to be Grace, and what image would best reflect our missions and ministry, we developed a logo representing the waves of light that pass over the cross behind the altar bringing vision to "Waves of mercy, waves of Grace". See above the photo inspiration, and the two logos (marked A and B) below. **To vote, email the office or go to bit.ly/GraceLogoVote.**



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

Grace Notes is published monthly by Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA 52803 A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America



Voting is open all of April.



Logo A



Logo B