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Your offerings support and nurture ministries at Grace along with support for local and global organizations. Online giving is available at [bit.ly/GraceGivingOnline](#).

Looking Ahead

- **April 28** Council Meeting
- **April 28-May 11** Pastor Stephanie Vacation
- **May 2 Office Closed**
- **May 4** Food Pantry Collection
- **May 15** ImpactLife Blood Drive at Grace
- **May 17** Synod Assembly
- **May 20-23** Medic Training in Grace Parking Lot
- **May 25** Joint Worship at 9:30am
- **May 26** Memorial Day - Office Closed
- **May 30** Hope at the Brickhouse Dinner
- **June 23-27** VBS Day Camp at Trinity, PV
- **June 23-July 3** Annie Vacation
- **July 4** Independence Day, Office Closed
- **August 1** WELCA Ice Cream Social



VBS Day Camp! June 23-27

For ages 4 thru grade 6 | 8am-4pm each day
Where: Trinity Lutheran Church (18137 Criswell St. Bett)
Cost: \$50 (Registration closes June 1)
Staff from Camp Ewalu will lead the kids in our own local camp experience with crafts, games, music, and more! Register online at [bit.ly/GraceVBS2025](#). Contact Pr. Kirsten for more info. Financial assistance is available and your request is confidential.



Treasurer Update

We are excited to welcome Dawn Matthews as our new Treasurer. She is moving to the area in the coming month and has experience with being a church treasurer. We are thankful for all the work Claudia has done and that she is willing to train Dawn into the position. We will update you as we know more about celebrating Claudia and welcoming Dawn.

Birdies for Charity!

 Our Pray & Play fundraiser will run through the month of June. Birdies for Charity coincides with the John Deere Classic, held every summer in the QC. Through it, we earn 100% of your contributions, plus an additional 5% that Birdies for Charity gives to every organization. More info about donating through this program will be shared soon.

Food Pantry Sunday

Our next food pantry collection is Sunday, May 4. Last month we had 132 items donated - Can we top that this month? Let's make this our best year yet! See the May newsletter for suggestions and ideas. Bring your non-perishable donations on Sunday and place them before the altar.

ImpactLife Blood Drive

Thursday, April 15, 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 majepson55@netscape.net or visit [bloodcenter.org](#).

Free Shredding Event

Saturday, May 17 | 9am-Noon
Thrivent (884 Tanglefoot Lane, Bett)
Please bring your confidential papers and documents you would like to shred as well as a donation of school supplies for local schools. This event is free and no registration is necessary. The next shredding event will be September 20.

Humility Homes Adopt a Property

Help with Lawncare! Humility Homes and Services, Inc. has over 150 housing units spread across the Quad Cities. That's a lot of lawns, and let's be real—those weeds aren't going to pull themselves. From physical disabilities to parents who work two jobs - we need your help to make sure no one has to worry about paying fines for the length of their grass while they are working hard to get back on their feet. Go to [humilityhomes.org/volunteer](#), click on the volunteer hub, and scroll down to the Adopt a Property program for more information and to sign up to help.



M.A.D. Camp @ St. Mark

June 16-20 | 9am-3pm each day
St. Mark Lutheran Church (2363 W 3rd St, Davenport)
Cost: \$25/student | Bring Sack Lunch each day | Snacks/Drinks Provided
M.A.D. Camp (Music, Art, & Drama) is back! The Fruit of the Spirit! Any child that is able to read a script and who is comfortable performing in front of an audience is welcome to join us. Campers should bring a white t-shirt on the first day of camp for tie-dying on Tuesday. Any questions please contact Katie Carstens @ 563-271-8634. **Registration forms are available in the narthex.**

Sunday, April 27

Holy Humor Joint Worship!

9:30am Holy Humor Worship & Livestream
10:30am Feast of Fools Brunch

Monday, April 28

Pastor Stephanie Vacation
4:30pm Centering Prayer
7:00pm Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 29

Pastor Stephanie Vacation
10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH

Wednesday, April 30

Pastor Stephanie Vacation
12:00pm Men's Lunch Group - Narthex

Thursday, May 1

Pastor Stephanie Vacation
11:00am Prayer Group
6:30pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Friday, May 2

Pastor Stephanie Vacation
Office Closed (Annie Personal Day)

Saturday, May 3

Pastor Stephanie Vacation

Sunday, May 4

Food Pantry Collection!

Pastor Stephanie Vacation
8:30am Traditional Worship & Livestream
9:30am Coffee Hour
10:30am Contemporary Worship

Monday, May 5

Pastor Stephanie Vacation
4:30pm Centering Prayer

Tuesday, May 6

Pastor Stephanie Vacation
10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH
1:30pm Personnel Committee Meeting
5:00pm Property Committee Meeting

Grace Lutheran Church

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On-Going Ministries



Grief Support Group

Next Meeting: May 7 Grief Support Group meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month 5:30pm in Pat Bell Hall. Please join us! Anyone is welcome at anytime, and please be assured our conversations are kept in confidence. Questions? Contact: Cindy Lee 563-370-5386.



Service Day Quilters

Next Meeting Dates: May 13-14 Anyone can join to help at church or at home. The quilts & projects made are donated to the community and LWR. Contact Gloria Lange 563-271-1542 or langeig1@msn.com or Kathy Miller 563-676-0914 or kathyk1679@aol.com.



Page Turners Book Group

Next Meeting: May 17 We meet at 8:30am the third Saturday each month at different locations for breakfast, book discussion, and great fellowship (reading the book is not required). **May Book:** *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris **Host:** Gloria Lange 563-332-7170 **Location:** Vibrant Coffee (3230 Ridge Point, Bettendorf)



THE STORY Bible Study

Weekly - Wednesdays at 11am (on hiatus - resumes May 14)

Monthly - First Thursdays, 7pm (on hiatus - resumes May 15)

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



Naomi Circle

Next Gathering: May 20 Naomi Circle meets the third Tuesday each month, September through May, at 9:00am at church for Bible study. Contact Marilyn Schreiber 563-340-0350 or marilyn.schreiber@icloud.com.



Men's Lunch

Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon at Grace (when the weather gets warmer, we'll meet at VanderVeer Park). Bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a restaurant. Contact Dennis Boehme at boehmed@aol.com or 563-320-2661 to be added to the email list.



Centering Prayer

Mondays 4:30pm via Zoom In the Christian tradition, Contemplative Prayer is considered to be the pure gift of God - an the opening of mind and heart. Cheryl Kritsch 563-343-0135 facilitates the group which meets via Zoom every Monday (except holidays) at 4:30pm (link emailed in the Weekly Update).

Scan this QR Code
for the Current
Weekly Update Email



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA is a congregation
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Following Jesus' teachings, Grace seeks to educate, lead, and partner with all people through discipleship to worship, service, and faith celebration.

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025 9:30am

Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa
Pastor Stephanie Wood † Pastor Kirsten Lee



Welcome! We are so happy you have joined us!

Please complete an attendance card for worship. Cards are available in the pews.

What is Holy Humor Sunday?

It has a long history in many congregations around the world. Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as *Risus Paschalis* (God's Joke, or the Easter Laugh). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to get their congregations to laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.

The observance of *Risus Paschalis* was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. Perhaps people were having too much fun! In 1988 the *Fellowship of Merry Christians* began encouraging churches to resurrect some of these Christian traditions – to celebrate the grace and mercy of God through the gifts of laughter and joy. G.K. Chesterton once wrote, "Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly. He who has the faith has the fun."

Prelude Music Quartermoon Tinsnips

Announcements

A Joyful Welcome

Joy is loose,
In the wiggles of the children,

The whispers of the youth,
The smiles of the adults.

We praise God for this glorious day,
Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.

Joy and praise fills our hearts and in our songs
Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people.



Opening Song

I Saw the Light

I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

Refrain

I saw the light, I saw the light
No more darkness, no more night
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

Just like a blind man, I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light *Refrain*

I was a fool to wander and stray
For straight is the gate and narrow's the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord, I saw the light *Refrain*

Songwriter Hank Williams; Producer Fred Rose; Published Nov 16, 1948 Acuff-Rose Publications;
Released Sept 1948; Recorded April 21, 1947



"I feel like there's a lot of pressure
to learn the harp."

Greeting

The joy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the laughter from God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord of Life,

we praise you for the gifts of laughter and delight. May these blessings give hints as to your purpose for us and for all creation. Awaken in us the true sense of Easter joy, that in giving in to laughter there is healing and hope, abundance and joy, happiness

and blessing. Tickle our souls with the brush of your Holy Spirit to renew our faith and restore our lives. Amen.

Heart and Voice Choir Anthem

This is the Day

(Congregation sings in echo)

*This is the day **(This is the day)** that the Lord has made **(That the Lord has made)***

*Let us rejoice **(Let us rejoice)** and be glad in it **(And be glad in it)***

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*This is the day **(This is the day)** that the Lord has made.*

(Congregation claps in echo)

*This is the day **(Clap clap clap clap)** that the Lord has made **(Clap clap clap clap clap)***

*Let us rejoice **(Clap clap clap clap)** and be glad in it **(Clap clap clap clap clap)***

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*This is the day **(Clap clap clap clap)***

That the Lord has made.

The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad.

The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.

Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend;

For Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end!

(Congregation plays kazoos in echo)

*This is the day **(Do do do do)** that the Lord has made **(Do do do do do)***

*Let us rejoice **(Do do do do)** and be glad in it **(Do do do do do)***

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*This is the day **(do do do do)***

That the Lord has made.

Children's Message

Reading | Psalm 12b:2-3

Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.

Psalm 150

Hallelujah! Praise God in the holy temple; praise God in the mighty firmament.

Praise God for mighty acts; praise God for exceeding greatness.

Praise God with trumpet sound; praise God with lyre and harp.

Praise God with tambourine and dance; praise God with strings and pipe.

Praise God with resounding cymbals; praise God with loud clanging cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

Holy Humor Moment

Gospel Reading | John 20:19-31

The Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them,

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Song of the Day

Keep on the Sunnyside

There's a dark and a troubled side of life
There's a bright and a sunny side too
Though we meet with the darkness and strife
The sunny side we also may view

Refrain

Keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side
Keep on the sunny side of life
It will help us every day, it will brighten all the way
If we keep on the sunny side of life

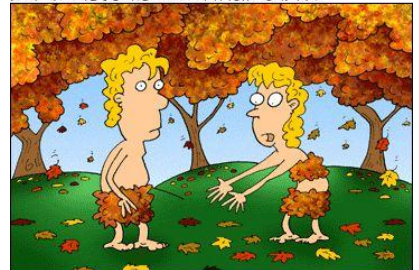
Oh, the storm and its fury broke today
Crushing hopes that we cherish so dear
Clouds and storms will in time pass away
The sun again will shine bright and clear *Refrain*

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"It says on your résumé that you were created in God's image. Very impressive."

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WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?

10-06-2006

Let us greet with a song of hope each day
Though the moments be cloudy or fair
Let us trust in our Savior always
To keep us, everyone, in His care *Refrain*

Written in 1899 by Ada Blenkhorn (1858-1927) with music by J. Howard Entwisle (1866-1903)

Creed of Faith and Laughter

Let us proclaim our faith with wonder and joy.

We believe in God, who made us in His image, who lifts our hearts during times of trouble, and inspires us with wonder and awe. We trust in the Lord to fill us with hope during times of loneliness and despair, and when we are in need of the gift of laughter.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who strikes the light of joy in the midst of gloom and despair, and who had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead. We live in the newness of life and laugh because of Him.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who with the Father and the Son is our counselor, guide, and refuge. Our eyes are opened to see God's presence in all things, and fills our lives with wonder, goodness, laughter, and great joy. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

May the troubles of all your people be soothed, blessed, and comforted by your holy presence. May we each find the laughter within us that sets our spirits free, and in that freedom, may we take your love into every part of our lives. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Humor Moment

Peace

Through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are filled with Easter joy! Therefore, let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. The peace of the risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(Please be seated after sharing the peace.)

Invitation to the Offering

Laughter and love grow when shared with others,
so let us share a sign of God's love as we gather our offering.

(The offering plates will be passed along the pews.)

Offering Song

Are You Washed in the Blood of the Lamb

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing pow'r?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Refrain

Are you washed in the blood,
In the soul cleansing blood of the Lamb?
Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Are you walking daily by the Savior's side?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Do you rest each moment in the Crucified?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? *Refrain*



When the Bridegroom cometh will your robes be white?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Will your soul be ready for the mansions bright,
And be washed in the blood of the Lamb? *Refrain*

Words and music by: E. A. Hoffman (1878)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Good and gracious God,

our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with songs of joy. Use these gifts to spread Your light to the world, so that all who are touched by Your presence may be filled with Your love. Through Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Anointing with Oil for Healing and Wholeness

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

Loving God...

Your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all. Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain. Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair.

Siblings in Christ, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

*You are invited to come forward to receive a blessing and anointing.
As you come forward you may kneel or stand in the front pew.
After you have been blessed and anointed, you may return to your seat.*

Compassionate God...

the strength of those who suffer, bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical, or spiritual distress.

All-knowing God...

source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom, and compassion to all who provide medical care.

Loving God...

our creator and redeemer, give gentleness and courage to family members, friends, and caregivers of those who suffer.

God of great and abundant mercy...

with your presence sustain all for whom we pray. Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope, and strengthen their trust in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary. May the God of love be seen in all we do and say. Go forth rejoicing, for the good work has just begun! **Amen.**

Closing Song

I'll Fly Away

Some bright morning when this life is over
I'll fly away
To that home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away

Refrain

I'll fly away, oh glory
I'll fly away, in the morning
When I die, Hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away

When the shadows of this life have gone
I'll fly away
Like a bird from these prison walls
I'll fly I'll fly away *Refrain*



"Please don't pray for healing. If it works, your insurance won't know who to reimburse and it messes up our accounting system."

Oh, how glad and happy when we meet
I'll fly away
No more cold iron shackles on my feet
I'll fly away *Refrain*

Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joys will never end
I'll fly away *Refrain*

Text by Albert E. Brumley; Meter 9.4.9.4;
Melody "I'll Fly Away"; Composed 1929; Published 1932

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Sending

Go rejoicing, go laughing, go in peace!
Thanks be to God!

Join us for Brunch downstairs in the Fellowship Hall!

Interested in Joining Grace?

Please contact the church office office@gracewelcomesyou.org, for information about joining Grace Lutheran Church. All are welcome and we would be overjoyed to have you engaged in the worship, ministries, and congregational life at Grace.

Junior Bible Study - Today: Jesus the Son of God



Each week we will hear familiar Bible stories and enjoy the beautiful illustrations from THE STORY for Kids and Little Ones. We meet after the children's message at both Sunday services.

Do You Receive the Weekly Update?

Every Thursday we email out the Weekly Update with current announcements, links, birthdays, anniversaries, Synod/ELCA updates, and more. If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact Annie in the church office.

Sparkhouse Magazines

Children's Sparkhouse Magazines are available in the Narthex. We encourage families to take home a copy and enjoy the pictures and stories about ways we live as children of God.

Serving in Worship

Director of Outreach & Youth Ministries	Pastor Kirsten Lee
Acolyte	Debbie Alejo
Assisting Minister	Deb Gustafson
Healing Assistants	Deb Gustafson, Chuck Lehman, Janice Gibbs, Ruth Naber
Greeters	Kathy Higgins, Sherry McCarty
Ushers	Adolfo Alejo, Paul Lewellan
Junior Bible Study	Pastor Kirsten, Anne Pacha
Sound System	Russ Finkler
Altar Guild	Gloria Lange
Tech/Streaming Assistant	Vey Rodriguez
Heart & Voice Choir Director	Sally Meier
Organist	Susan Senn
Pianist	Kathi Parrish



Grace Lutheran Church

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