

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 12, 2026 † 9:30am

Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa
Pastor Stephanie Wood

JOY-FULL SUNDAY!
The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy!



WELCOME! WE ARE SO HAPPY YOU HAVE JOINED US!

Please complete an attendance card - located in the pews or at the usher's table.

*Please stand as you are able. **Congregational response in bold.**

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.

PRELUDE MUSIC

Joyful!..... arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

A JOY-FULL 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.

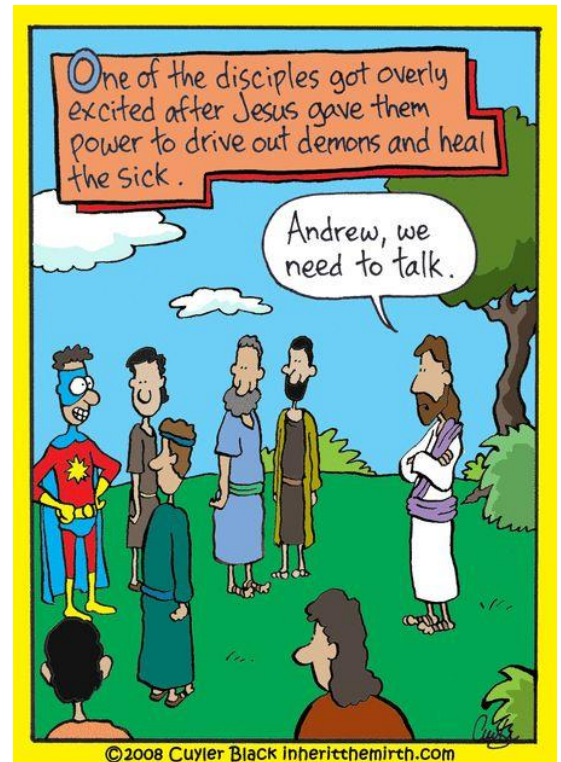


OPENING HYMN*

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee ELW 836

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.
- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922



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.

HEART AND VOICE CHOIR ANTHEM

Choir Warm-ups (Mama Made Me Mash My M&Ms)

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING | PSALM 126:2-3

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.

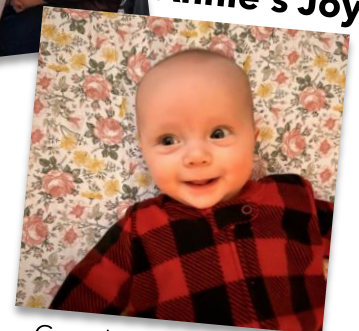
JOY-FULL CELEBRATION

Share something that brings you joy, or that you'd like to give thanks for.

This is the day the Lord has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it!
~Psalm 118:24



L-R: My daughter, Bekah;
Her partner, Ethan;
My husband, Joel; DIL,
Maddie; My son, Sam



Granddaughter, Hallie

Annie's Joy

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*

I Can See Clearly Now

I can see clearly now, the rain is gone
I can see all obstacles in my way
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind

It's gonna be a bright (Bright),
bright (Bright) Sun-shiny day (*repeat*)

I think I can make it now, the pain is gone
All of the bad feelings have disappeared
Here is the rainbow I've been prayin' for

It's gonna be a bright (Bright), bright (Bright) Sun-shiny day
Look all around, there's nothin' but blue skies
Look straight ahead, nothin' but blue skies

I can see clearly now, the rain is gone
I can see all obstacles in my way
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind

It's gonna be a bright (Bright),
bright (Bright) Sun-shiny day (*repeat three times*)

Johnny Nash; 1972; I Can See Clearly Now lyrics © Cp Masters Bv, Nashco Music Inc, Dovan Music Inc

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(See Genesis 6-8)

07-02-2010

TWO ANTS? YOU HAVE ONLY TWO ANTS?!? MY
WIFE AND I EAT LIKE 100,000 PER DAY
EACH!

COMMISSION OF LISTENERS

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your Listening Team, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

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*

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

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.

SONG*

Ah-La-La-La

- 1 Shake a friend's hand, shake a hand next to ya.
Shake a friend's hand and sing along,
Shake a friend's hand, shake a hand next to ya.
Shake a friend's hand and sing, sing . .

Chorus A-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia,
A-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia
A-la-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia,
A-la-la-la-la le-luia!

- 2 Scratch a friend's back
- 3 Bump another rump
- 4 Jesus is friend, He's a friend next to ya (high five)



David Graham. © 1978 C.A. Music (Div. of Christian Artists Corp.) ARR. UBP.
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INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Laughter and love grow when shared with others. May our generosity reflect our gratitude, our giving be a source of praise, and a sign of God's love as we gather our offering.

(You may place your offering in the offering plates by the door as you exit the sanctuary or by scanning the QR code on the back of the bulletin to give online.)

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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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Thanks to Brandon Evans

09-21-2004

I CAN'T FIND THE CARB-COUNT FOR "THE BODY OF CHRIST"

LORD'S PRAYER*

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.

COMMUNION SONG

Bridge Over Troubled Water Songwriters: Paul Simon

Bridge Over Troubled Water (The Voice Performance) lyrics © Sony/atv Songs Llc

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Everyone is welcome to the table. As you are able, please come forward to receive communion at the front of the church. If you prefer juice for communion, it will be clear, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

Let us pray. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **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*

Old Church Choir

There's revival and it's spreading Like a wildfire in my heart
A Sunday morning hallelujah And it's lasting all week long

Can you hear it Can you feel it It's the rhythm of a gospel song
Oh once you choose it you can't lose it
Oh 'cause there ain't nothing
There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy

Refrain I've got an old church choir singing in my soul
I've got a sweet salvation And it's beautiful
I've got a heart overflowing 'Cause I've been restored
No there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy
No there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy

When the valleys that I wander Turn to mountains
that I can't climb Oh You are with me You never leave me
Oh 'cause There ain't nothing
There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy *Refrain*

Clap your hands and stomp your feet 'Til you find that gospel beat

'Cause He's all you'll ever need, All you'll ever need

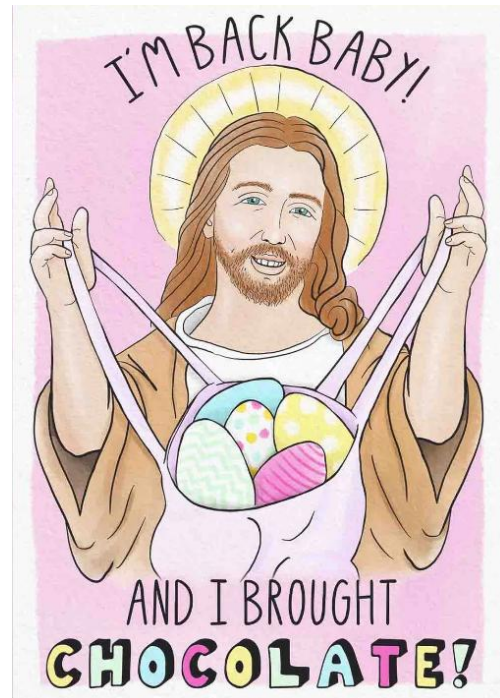
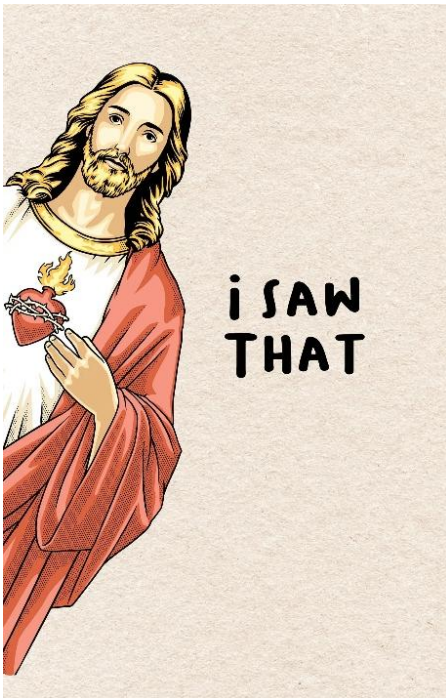
Clap your hands and stomp your feet 'Til you find that gospel beat
'Cause He's all you'll ever need *Refrain*

Songwriters: Zach Williams / Colby Wedgeworth / Ethan Hulse;
Old Church Choir lyrics © Be Essential Songs

SENDING

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

**JOIN US FOR BRUNCH DOWNSTAIRS
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL!**



JUNIOR BIBLE STUDY - TODAY: EASTER & JOY



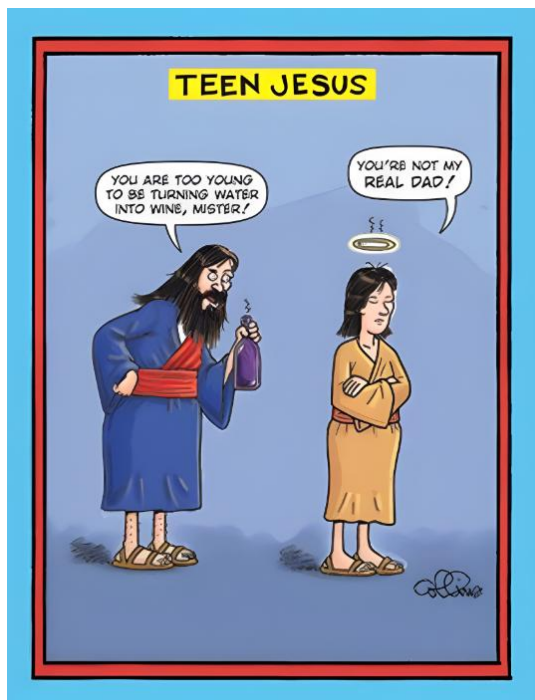
Junior Bible Study is offered for children after the children's sermon during worship at both services. We will return from our time together before communion begins. Once again, we will use The Story as our guide for our learning. We will learn the familiar Bible Stories through these books, felt board, games, and crafts. We hope your children can join us!

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.

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.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Director of Outreach & Youth Ministries	Pastor Kirsten Lee
Acolyte	Janice Gibbs
Assisting Minister	Ruth McAndrews
Communion Assistants	Ruth McAndrews, Stacy Morrison, Kathy Shriver, Janice Gibbs
Communion Bread	Ann Jepson
Greeters	Jackie Cain, Vicki Liebke
Ushers	Mark Jepson, One NEEDED
Junior Bible Study	Pastor Kirsten, Anne Pacha
Sound System	Dan Haugen
Altar Guild	Mike Keller
Tech/Streaming Assistant	Vey Rodriguez
Heart & Voice Choir Director	Sally Meier
Organist	Susan Senn
Pianist	Kathi Parrish



Grace Lutheran Church

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YouTube: Grace Lutheran Davenport

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/GraceWelcomesYou

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Grace Listening Campaign

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

Nine 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.



You Can Watch Us Online and Follow us on Facebook!

YouTube: [Grace Lutheran Davenport](#)

Facebook: [facebook.com/GraceWelcomesYou](#)

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Looking Ahead

- **August 12 Joy-FULL Sunday**
- **August 12 Feast of Fools Brunch**
- **April 17** Safer Sack Lunch Orders Due
- **April 23** Safer Sack Lunch Gathering
- **April 25** Faith + Climate Forum
- **May 3** Coffee with Council
- **May 15-16** Synod Assembly
- **May 19** In House Blood Drive
- **May 25** Office Closed for Memorial Day
- **May 29** Hope at the Brickhouse
- **May 30** Wellnitz 60th Anniversary Party
- **June 1** Pray & Play
- **June 2** Primary Election Polling Location
- **June 15-19** VBS Day Camp
- **June 22-July 3** Annie Vacation

Large Print Bulletins by request - ask an usher.



Grace and St. James are partnering for an epic night of fun!

All youth and kids welcome!

Confirmation Lock-in!

Friday, April 24 to Saturday, April 25
@ St. James Lutheran Church (1705 Oak St, Bettendorf)

Join our confirmation students for games, pizza, & worship
Younger kids can join until 9pm (or earlier)
Volunteers welcomed! Contact Pastor Kirsten for more info



National Faith + Climate Forum

Saturday, April 25 | St. Paul Lutheran
(2136 N. Brady Street, Davenport)

Through dynamic workshops, energizing conversations, and powerful storytelling, we will explore how communities of faith can lead with courage, compassion, and hope. Together, we will learn, connect, and catalyze action toward a more sustainable and equitable world.

For more info and to register go to:

[nationalfaithandclimateforum.org](#)

VBS Day Camp!

Monday, June 15 - Friday, June 19

For ages four through grade six

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church (18137 Criswell St. Bett)

Cost: \$40 before April 15 (\$50 after April 15) *Registration closes June 1*

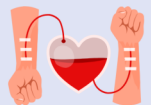


Grace kids will take a bus from Grace to Trinity each day, and staff from Camp Ewalu will lead the kids in our own local camp experience with crafts, games, music, and more! Register online at [bit.ly/GraceVBS2026](#). Contact Pastor Kirsten for more info. Financial assistance is available and your request is confidential.



ImpactLife Updates

Changing The World Together



Grace members made ten donations at ImpactLife during March. The year-to-date total is 33. The next in-house blood drive is Tuesday, May 19, 2:00-6:00pm If you have not donated on or after March 25 you are eligible for the May drive.

If you have questions about donating please contact Mark Jepson. 563-508-9091 or go to [bloodcenter.org](#).



Thrivent Choice Dollars & Action Teams

Thrivent members can direct their charitable choice dollars to Grace! For more information talk to your Thrivent representative or go to [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](#). ALSO, Did you know Thrivent members can request funds (up to twice a year) for church projects through **Thrivent Action Teams**? Pastor Kirsten can walk you through the very easy process of applying for a \$250 grant.



GRACE'S GREEN BAG PROJECT

We are currently most in need of*: [pasta](#), [spaghetti sauce](#) (in plastic or cans), and [canned chicken](#).

We have plenty of soup and granola bars for now. Please see the list below for additional items to donate.

Questions? Paul Lewellan, [paullewellan@mac.com](#).

• ***Jars of Spaghetti sauce** (in plastic or cans)

• ***pasta or spaghetti**

• ***canned chicken** or tuna

• single-serve applesauce

• oatmeal packets

• single-serve cereal

• peanut butter sandwich crackers

• box macaroni & cheese

• canned green beans

• canned corn

• canned fruit

Sunday, April 12

Joy-FULL Sunday!

9:30am Joy-FULL Sunday Worship

10:30am Feast of Fools Brunch

11:15am Brief Listener's Meeting

Monday, April 13

10:30am Staff Meeting

4:30pm Centering Prayer

Tuesday, April 14

9:00am Quilters

10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH

1:30pm Social Ministry Meeting

2:30pm Outreach & Welcome Meeting

7:00pm Worship & Music Meeting

Wednesday, April 15

9:00am Quilters

12:00pm Men's Lunch Group

5:30pm Grief Support Group - PBH

Thursday, April 16

Friday, April 17

Safer Sack Lunch Order Deadline

Saturday, April 18

8:30am Page Turners

1:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Sunday, April 19

8:30am Traditional Worship & Livestream

9:30am Coffee Hour

10:30am Contemporary Worship

Monday, April 20

10:30am Staff Meeting

4:30pm Centering Prayer

5:00pm Sweet Arts Club - Kitchen

Tuesday, April 21

9:30am Naomi Circle

10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH

Wednesday, April 22

12:00pm Men's Lunch Group

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 23

11:30am Safer Sack Lunches Delivered

12:00pm Council/Committee Reports Due

1:00pm Prayer Group

Safer Sack Lunches - Orders Due April 17



The Safer Foundation will be doing the Safer Sack Lunches on Thursday, April 23. If you plan to join us for lunch (or have any questions), contact Hollie at k75hollie@gmail.com or call 563-514-4022. **Lunches include:** club sandwich with ham, turkey, and cheese on a croissant, condiments, chips, cookie, and fruit. Lunches are \$10. Lunches will be delivered to Grace on Thursday, April 23, at 11:30am.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Sign up at the coffee hour counter to be a host for coffee hour. You can make/serve coffee (and heat up water for tea), bring treats, or bring healthy snacks, or even all three if you wish. Maybe you'd like to celebrate an anniversary, a birthday, or any special occasion.

Anyone is welcome to help out - and we can show you how the coffee pots work, where the supplies are kept, etc. Contact the church office if you'd like some pointers.



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).

Men's Lunch Group

The Men's Lunch Group meets at noon every Wednesday at church. Bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a restaurant. Contact Dennis Boehme boehmed@aol.com or 563-320-2661 to be added to the email list.

Service Day Quilters

Next Meeting Dates: April 14 & 15 | 9am-Noon

Anyone can join to help at church or at home cutting squares, sewing, finishing, etc. Questions? Gloria Lange 563-271-1542 langejg1@msn.com or Kathy Miller kathyk1679@aol.com 563-676-0914.

Grief Support Group

Next Meeting: April 15 Grief Support Group meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month **5:30pm** in Pat Bell Hall. Anyone is welcome anytime, and please be assured our conversations are kept in confidence. Questions? Cindy Lee 563-370-5386.

Page Turners Book Group

Next Meeting: April 18 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). **March Book: Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry (second half)** **Host:** Carol Keller 563-340-9013 **Location:** Hickory Gardens (3311 Hickory Grove Rd, Dav)

Naomi Circle

Next Meeting: Tues, April 21, 9:30-11am Naomi Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month September - May for refreshments, fellowship, devotions, and bible study. All are welcome to join us! **Contact:** Nancy Boehme 563-320-6203

Scan for
the current
Weekly
Update email

