



Welcome ~ Thank you for joining us!

Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa † Pastor Stephanie Wood

August 23, 2026 † 8:30am

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

Large Print bulletins available by request – ask an usher.

Prelude Music

How Firm a Foundation..... Terry Kirkland

Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen. Let us confess our sin to God. Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn*

How Firm a Foundation..... ELW (back of Red Book) **796**

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,

for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

- 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.

Greeting*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie*

Kyrie Eleison ELW (front of Red Book) p. 184-185

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev'-ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray. O God, **with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Women's Ensemble

This Little Light of Mine.....Neil A. Johnson

Directed by Sonja Rekers

Children's Message & Back to School Blessing for Students and Educators

Scripture Reading | Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.

The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you keep me safe; you stretch forth
your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.

You will make good your purpose for me; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

Scripture Reading | Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body, we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we,

who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia ELW (front of Red Book) p. 188



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel* | Matthew 16:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day*

On Eagle's Wings ELW (back of Red Book) **787**

- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

- 2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge,
with faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

- 3 You need not fear the terror of the night,

nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. *Refrain*

- 4 For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Final refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand;
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957; Text © 1979 OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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Prayers of the People*

Let us pray. With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Sharing of the Peace* *(Please be seated after sharing the peace.)*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Call to Offering *(The offering plates will be passed along the pews)*

By sharing our resources within the community, we show our faith and trust in God's provision, reflecting the generosity of the Holy One. Let us give with a spirit of joy and hope for the kingdom of God.

Offering Hymn

We Are an Offering ELW (back of Red Book) **692**

- 1 We lift our voices We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to you: We are an offering.
- 2 Lord, use our voices Lord, use our hands
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: We are an offering
- 3 All that we have All that we are
All that we hope to be We give to you, we give to you.
- 4 We lift our voices We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to you: We are an offering, We are an offering.

Text & Music: Dwight Liles, b. 1957

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. O God, **who calls us to go out into the world with generosity, may these gifts call us from our lives of comfort and towards a faith journey that embraces your love, justice, and compassion for a world in need of your healing. In the name of Christ, we pray. 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*

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn*

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing..... ELW (back of Red Book) **545**

- 1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.
- 2 Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.
- 3 Savior, when your love shall call us
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.

Sending*

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing..... Todd Kendall



Coming Up at Grace

Scan to view the current Weekly Update Email

Pictures into Memories

Today, August 23 | Between Services Join Joel Lorentzen and Paul Lewellan between services on Sunday, August 23. Bring a picture from the campfire, or the lake cottage, or the bike trip that ended in the ER. Bring photos of grandpa with his biggest fish, or of your mother frying it. Share your summer memories. Get advice on how to pass them on. Come whether or not you've attended prior sessions. Don't let precious memories get lost.

Back to School Blessing

Today, Sunday, at Both Services We will have a special blessing during worship today as you begin a new year of learning, growing, & fun!

Coffee with Council

Next Sunday, August 30 | Between Services and After the Second Service Council members will meet in Pat Bell Hall between services to update you on recent council actions and to answer questions. Council members will also be available in the Narthex immediately after the second service to talk with folks who couldn't make the earlier conversation. They will have cookies to share.

In House Blood Drive

Tuesday, September 15 | 2-6pm Become a blood donor! Less than 10% of the population gives blood, so donors that give on a regular basis are important to meet these needs. Grace members donated blood nine times during July. The year-to-date total is 74. Questions? Mark Jepson 563-508-9091 or majepson55@netscape.net.

Fall 2026 Pray & Play



September 14 | October 5 | November 30

Pray & Play is for kids ages 5-10 to enjoy a day of activities on Davenport Schools Teacher In-Service days. The cost* is \$15 per session (\$45 for the semester) and runs 8:30am-4pm on program days. Lunch and snacks provided. Activities include games, playground time, arts and crafts, music, Bible stories, educational programming, and more! Close supervision provided by screened and qualified staff. Space is limited. To register your child for the Fall 2026 Pray & Play sessions go to bit.ly/FallPP26 or scan this QR Code. Contact Pastor Kirsten with any questions or for further information at pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org. *Scholarship assistance available

Pray & Play Helpers Needed

Pray & Play is possible due to our wonderful helpers and volunteers! There are both behind-the-scenes duties (making snack/lunch, clean up, etc.) and hands-on duties (arts & crafts, recess supervision, etc.) where help is needed. Please talk with Pastor Kirsten if you'd like to help or have any questions.

FALL BLOCK PARTY Sunday, September 20

10:30am Joint Outdoor Worship
11:30am-1:30pm Food & Fun

Save the Date

Sloppy Joes 🍁 Bingo 🍁 Games 🍁 Music 🍁 Great Fellowship

Junior Bible Study

JBS begins again Sunday, September 27, and kids are invited for Bible stories, crafts, snacks, and fun! Watch for more information about gathering times. Questions? Pastor Kirsten pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org.

LWR School Kits, Fabric Kits, & Personal Care Kits

See the display in the narthex. All kits should be returned to Grace by September 13.

Special Project Grants

The Grace Church Council has established a Special Projects Fund with revenue from Grace's Endowment, and we're looking to YOU for ideas and to lead projects that foster innovation and creativity in ministry and further the on-going mission of Grace. Application forms are available at church or can be emailed to you. Questions? Contact: Paul Lewellan, plewellan@mac.com

QC Interfaith Creation Care Video Screening

Sunday, August 30, 4:00pm

St Paul Lutheran Church (2136 N Brady St, Davenport)

We'll be screening one of the videos from *Caring for the Earth, Stories from Faith Communities* focusing on climate justice. The video is 15 mins, followed by discussion about local projects and collaboration opportunities. Would love to have you plus any friends and other interested folks you know. Contact: Dr. Becky Wiese rlawmd@yahoo.com 563-210-6200

Thrivent Shredding Event

Saturday, Sept 19 | 9am-Noon

For every \$2 donated, Thrivent will add \$1, up to an additional \$1500! Together we will support Habitat for Humanity, bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Free-will donation.

QC Community Foundation Celebration of Generosity

Tuesday, Sept 22, 5-7pm | Hotel Blackhawk Gold Room

(200 E Third St, Davenport)

You are invited to an evening celebrating the generosity, connections, and community spirit that make the Quad Cities region shine. RSVP by September 18, by calling 563-326-2840 or online at [**qccommunityfoundation.org/celebration**](http://qccommunityfoundation.org/celebration).

Ongoing Ministries



See the next *ongoing ministry meeting dates and times in the "Looking Ahead" section below and grab a pew card listing our ongoing ministry programs. Feel free to get in touch with the group contacts with any questions. (You can also scan this QR Code for our recent newsletter.)

Looking Ahead

**Men's Lunch Wednesdays at Noon*

**Centering Prayer Mondays at 4:30pm*

Aug 30 Coffee with Council

Sept 2 Grief Support Group*, 5:30pm

Sept 6 Food Pantry Sunday

Sept 6 Joint Worship 9:30am

Sept 7 Office Closed Labor Day

Sept 8 & 9 Quilters*, 9am-Noon

Sept 13 LWR Kits Due

Sept 13 First Fall JBS

Sept 14 Pray & Play

Sept 15 Naomi Circle*, 9:30-11am

Sept 15 In-House Blood Drive

Sept 16 Grief Support Group*, 5:30pm

Sept 19 Page Turners*, 8:30am

Sept 20 Fall Block Party

Sept 27 Pet Blessing

Sept 27-29 Prs at Theological Conference

Online Giving



Supporting Grace is easy with e-giving. Go to bit.ly/GraceGivingOnline or scan this QR Code to donate one time or to set up recurring gifts. Your offerings support and nurture ministries at Grace along with support for local and global organizations. We appreciate and thank you for your generosity!

Calendar

Sunday, August 23

8:30am Healing Worship & Livestream
9:30am Coffee Hour
9:30am Pictures into Memories
10:30am Contemporary Worship

Monday, August 24

10:30am Staff Meeting
4:30pm Centering Prayer - Zoom
7:00pm Council Meeting - PBH

Tuesday, August 25

Annie out of the office
10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH

Wednesday, August 26

12:00pm Men's Lunch Group
1:00pm Spiritual Growth Mtg

Thursday, August 27

Friday, August 28

Saturday, August 29

1:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Sunday, August 30

8:30am Traditional Worship & Livestream
9:30am Coffee with Council - PBH
10:30am Contemporary Worship
11:30am Coffee with Council - PBH

Monday, August 31

10:30am Staff Meeting
4:30pm Centering Prayer

Tuesday, September 1

10:00am Pastor's Text Study - PBH
1:30pm Personnel Mtg - PBH
5:00pm Property Mtg - Narthex
6:00pm CYF Meeting - PBH

Wednesday, September 2

12:00pm Men's Lunch Group
5:30pm Grief Support Group - PBH

Thursday, September 3**Friday, September 4****Saturday, September 5**

1:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Sunday, September 6

9:30am Joint Worship & Livestream

10:30am Coffee Hour

Monday, September 7

Office Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8

9:00am Quilters
10:00am Pastor's Text Study
1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg - Narthex
2:30pm Outreach Mtg - PBH
7:00pm Worship Mtg - PBH

Serving in Worship

Preaching & Presiding	Stephanie Wood
Director of Outreach & Youth Ministry	Pastor Kirsten Lee
Assisting Minister	Deb Gustafson
Healing Assistants	Deb Gustafson, Chuck Lehman, Ruth McAndrews, One NEEDED
Acolyte	NEEDED
Crucifer	Denise Eads
Greeters	Sue & Jim Cruchelow
Ushers	Gene & Gail Carber
Sound System	Chuck Lehman
Prayers	Sundays & Seasons
Altar Guild	Nancy Boehme
Heart & Voice Choir Director	Sally Meier
Organist	Susan Senn
Pianist	Kathi Parrish
Coffee Hour	Gail & Gene Carber

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

Interested in Joining Grace?

Please contact the office 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 here at Grace.

Do You Receive the Weekly Update Email?

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

Grace Lutheran Church

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YouTube: Grace Lutheran Davenport

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