

Welcome ~ Thank you for joining us!

Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa | Pastor Stephanie Wood

November 8, 2026 † 8:30am

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

Large Print

Prelude Music

A Canticle of Peace ..... Franklin Ritter

Announcements

Gathering

The promise of changing seasons, the sun rising and the air we breathe.
God's creation. **This is grace in action.**
We are blessed. **To be known by God**.
We are blessed. **To know God's grace.**
We are blessed to be a blessing. **We are Grace in action.**

Confession & Forgiveness*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace. † Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn*

Praise and Thanksgiving ..... ELW (back of Red Book) **689**

1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.

3 Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.

4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.; Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

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 *(from Now the Feast & Celebration)*..... setting by Marty Haugen




For the reign of God, and for
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
Lord.
For your
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your
word, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have
Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.
mer - cy.
A - men.

Hymn of Praise*

Now the Feast and Celebration ..... written and setting by Marty Haugen



Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, **you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message

Scripture Reading | 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Word of God, Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 70

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.
Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!"

But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

Gospel Acclamation*

Blessed Assurance..... ELW (back of red book) **638**

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Holy Gospel* | Matthew 22:34-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

Gospel Blessing*

Blessed Assurance..... ELW (back of red book) **638**

Refrain This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day

Sermon

Hymn of the Day*

If You But Trust in God to Guide You .....ELW (back of Red Book) **769**

1 If you but trust in God to guide you
with gentle hand through all your ways,
you'll find that God is there beside you
when crosses come, in trying days.
Trust then in God's unchanging love;
build on the rock that will not move.

2 What gain is there in anxious weeping,
in helpless anger and distress?
If you are in your Savior's keeping,
in sorrow will he love you less?
For Christ who took for you a cross
will bring you safe through ev'ry loss.

3 The Lord our restless hearts is holding,
in peace and quietness content.
We rest in God's good will unfolding,
what wisdom from on high has sent.
God, who has chosen us by grace,
knows very well the fears we face.

4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving,
offer your service faithfully.
Trust heaven's word; though undeserving,
you'll find this promise true to be.

This is our confidence indeed:
God never fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite; Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Apostles' Creed

Let us proclaim our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People*

Response: God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.)*

Offering Hymn

As the Grains of Wheat ..... ELW (back of Red Book) **465**

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Eternal God, **our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, 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.

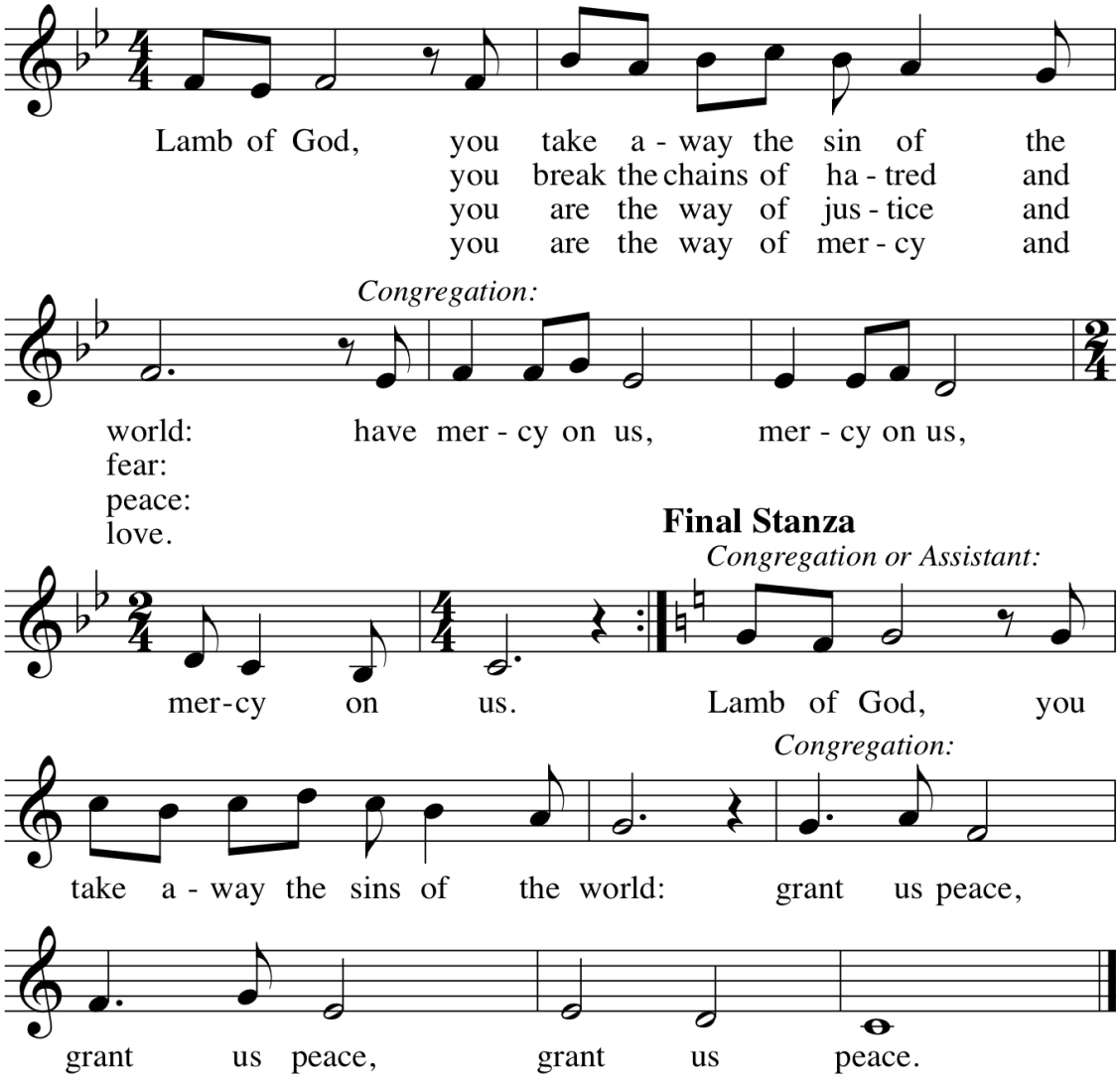
In the night in which he was betrayed…

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 Hymn

Lamb of God ..... Setting by Marty Haugen



Invitation to Communion

Everyone is welcome to the table. As you are able, please come forward to receive communion. 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*

Blessing*

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.** The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.** The God of grace † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn*

Lord, You Give the Great Commission .....ELW (back of Red Book) **579**

1 Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:

Refrain
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

2 Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community: *Refrain*

3 Lord, you make the common holy:
"This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty: *Refrain*

4 Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us

to a just society: *Refrain*

5 Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity: *Refrain*

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934; Text © 1978 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Sending*

Go out in joy. Blessed to be a blessing! **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Postlude in Early American Hymn Style ..... Lani Smith

Coming Up at Grace

Scan to view the current Weekly Update Email

Coffee with Council

Today! | **Between Services**

Please join members of council for coffee and conversation. Get an update on the budget, learn more about our efforts to cut the deficit, and provide input in the 2027 budget. This is your opportunity to share your observations, questions, and concerns.

Junior Bible Study

Today During Worship

This fall, JBS is during worship for the first three Sundays of the month, and the fourth Sunday will be between worship services. This year we are using *Wonder on the Go* inviting children to wonder about the characters in Bible Stories and what we can learn about God.

Help Pack Green Bags

Contact Pastor Kirsten if you'd like to come in to help pack some green bags. We have four weeks of bags to be packed, and the job can be split among multiple volunteers, if needed.

We have nine families we are assisting at Garfield Elementary, so we appreciate help packing bags, donating groceries, or making a monetary donations - our Green Bag Project has been a lifeline for these families, supplying basic groceries to help with weekend meals and Grace's generosity of time and donations is an incredible blessing.

Be a Blessing Stewardship Appeal

At Grace, we are blessed! Our goal for next year is to focus our efforts and resources on the four key ministry areas we identified in our Listening Campaign: worship, relationships, children's ministry and outreach, which means increasing our gifts and offerings by $15,000 ($500/week) helping us to retain our excellent staff and continue our ministry together. Pray for a generous response to this 2027 Stewardship Appeal. Consider increasing your giving as the Spirit leads you. **Be ready to share your commitment on Stewardship Sunday, November 15.** You can bring your statements of intent to church, mail them in, or enter your pledge into our online form. Then we will celebrate on November 22, with a Give Thanks Brunch.

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.

Thanksgiving Worship & Give Thanks Brunch

Sunday November 22 | 9:30am Joint Worship | 10:30am Give Thanks Brunch

Join us for a service of Thanksgiving with music, readings, scripture, reflections, and prayers; and to celebrate our faithful and generous giving, we are sharing a brunch with the congregation. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy one another's company. This will be a potluck brunch with a sign-up available on Breeze. God's gifts to us are plentiful! Let's share celebrate with one another!

Thanksgiving Boxes

For the third year in a row, we are sharing Thanksgiving Boxes to 14 families at Garfield Elementary. We have compiled a list of ingredients for each box. If you prefer, you may donate funds to cover items that weren't purchased. You may sign up for items online through Breeze (link sent out Monday) or see the cards in the narthex at. Questions? Talk with Pastor Kirsten. **We need the items delivered to church by Monday, November 16. Thanksgiving Box Items (for one box):**

- 1 box of butter (to make mashed potatoes and for rolls)
- powdered milk (to make mashed potatoes)
- 1-2 dozen dinner rolls
- 1-2 jars gravy OR 1-2 packets gravy mix
- 2 aluminum roasting pans
- pumpkin pie OR apple pie
- 1 box hot chocolate packets
- 2-3 cans of chicken broth
- 2-3 cans of green beans
- 1 container French fried onions
- 1-2 cans of mushroom soup
- 1-2 cans of cranberry sauce
- 1 large box mashed potato mix OR 1 bag of potatoes
- 1-2 boxes stuffing mix

Short Stories by Jesus **11am Thursdays**

This fall we will dive into Jesus' short stories, his parables, by looking at the cultural context they were rooted in and how the original Jewish audience understood them. This study will follow along with Amy-Jill Levine's book *Short Stories by Jesus*, (book not required). She will be our resident expert as a scholar in New Testament and Jewish Studies. Contact Pastor Stephanie with any questions.

Luther Properties Harvest Gatherings

A Grace Special Projects Grant will sponsor Harvest Gathering events for Luther Properties Residents, offering Grace and its members an outreach opportunity. The three events will offer refreshments, live music, and door prizes. Volunteers are welcome! Contact Vicki Liebbe, Grace's Luther Properties Board representative with any questions or sign up in the narthex, and to join in this outreach opportunity. Watch for more info in the November newsletter. **Luther Manor** (3118 Devils Glen Rd, Bettendorf) **-** Thursday, November 12, 1pm; **Luther Towers** (1810 E 38th St Ct, Davenport) - Friday, November 13, 1pm; **Luther Crest** (5454 N Gaines St, Davenport) - Tuesday, November 17, 1pm

Blood Drive Updates

Grace members made four donations of blood during the month of October. Year-to-date total: 101 A reminder that those who donated at Grace's drive in September are eligible to donate on Tuesday, November 10.

Ongoing Ministries

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

Looking Ahead

*Men's Lunch Noon Wednesdays at Church
*Centering Prayer Mondays at 4:30pm
November 8 Coffee with Council
November 10 & 11 *Quilters
November 12 Short Stories Bible Study
November 12 Luther Manor Harvest Party
November 13 Luther Towers Harvest Party
November 14 *Page Turners *(note date change)*
November 15 Stewardship Sunday
November 16 Thanksgiving Boxes Due
November 17 *Naomi Circle 9:30am
November 17 Luther Crest Harvest Party
November 18 *Grief Support Group 5:30pm
November 19 Short Stories Bible Study
November 22 Give Thanks Worship & Brunch
November 24-30 Pr. Stephanie vacation
November 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday
November 30 Pray & Play
December 6 Food Pantry/Green Bag Sunday
December 6 & 13 Fair Trade Sales
December 9 Bonfire Church
December 11 Kids Club!

Interested in Joining Grace?

Please contact the office for information about joining Grace. 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.

Christmas Day Dinner

Please RSVP by December 14 ← **@ Grace December 25**

You are invited to join our Grace family for Christmas Day Dinner. As we plan, it would be helpful to know how many people may be interested. Please contact the office or if you are interested. If you'd like to help, you may reach out to Ruth McAndrews or Carol Keller.

Calendar

Sunday, November 8
8:30am Worship & Livestream
9:30am Coffee with Council
10:30am Contemporary Worship

Monday, November 9
10:30am Staff Meeting
4:30pm Centering Prayer – Zoom

Tuesday, November 10
9:00am Quilters
10:00am Pastor's Text Study – PBH
1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg – Narthex
2:30pm Outreach Mtg - PBH

Wednesday, November 11
9:00am Quilters
12:00pm Men's Lunch Group
5:00pm Worship & Music Mtg – PBH

Thursday, November 12
11:00am Short Stories Bible Study – PBH
1:00pm Luther Manor Harvest Gathering

Friday, November 13
1:00pm Luther Towers Harvest Gathering

Saturday, November 14
8:30am Page Turners

Sunday, November 15
Stewardship Sunday
8:30am Worship & Livestream
9:30am Coffee Hour
10:30am Contemporary Worship

Monday, November 16
10:30am Staff Meeting
4:30pm Centering Prayer – Zoom
6:00pm Sweet Arts Club - Kitchen

Tuesday, November 17
9:30am Naomi Circle - Narthex
10:00am Pastor's Text Study – PBH
1:00pm Luther Crest Harvest Gathering

Wednesday, November 18
12:00pm Men's Lunch Group
4:30pm Confirmation @ St. James
5:30pm Grief Support Group – PBH

Thursday, November 19
11:00am Short Stories Bible Study – PBH
12:00pm Council Reports Due

Serving in Worship

Preaching & Presiding ..... Pastor Stephanie Wood
Director of Outreach & Youth Ministry ..... Pastor Kirsten Lee
Assisting Minister ..... Kathi Parrish
Communion Assistants ..... Kathi Parrish, Debbie Alejo, Nancy Boehme, Adolfo Alejo (basket)
Communion Bread ..... Carol Keller
Acolyte ..... Debbie Alejo
Crucifer ..... NEEDED
Greeters ..... Vicki Liebbe, Ann Jepson
Ushers ..... Adolfo Alejo, Dennis Boehme
Jr Bible Study ..... Deb Gustafson, Pastor Kirsten
Sound System ..... Chuck Lehman
Livestream Tech ..... Dan Carney
Prayers ..... Connie Lannan
Altar Guild ..... Jackie Cain
Heart & Voice Choir Director ..... Sally Meier
Organist ..... Susan Senn
Pianist ..... Kathi Parrish
Coffee Hour ..... Colleen Levsen

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

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!

Grace Lutheran Church

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