

# GRACE NOTES

MAY 2025 ISSUE 83-05

*Dear Friends,*

Three girls, a dad, and a parking lot. I looked out the window of my office as I wrestled with the words for Holy Week sermons, and I saw a beautiful sight. A father was with his three girls.

The eldest, probably 9 years old, was on a big-girl bike with small little training wheels. She went bicycling along as her toes barely touched the ground when she stopped.

The dad was helping the middle child, about 5, navigate what was likely her first two-wheeler bike. It too had training wheels. Her dad would help turn it in the right direction, correct her foot on the peddle or give her a little push to get going.

The youngest daughter was playing in the garden at one of the benches where she seemed to be operating a pretend shop. Her father would come over and order a leaf from her shop in between helping the other girls.

I noticed the patience of this father. The way he kindly taught and corrected his daughter's technique. Watched as he played and met his youngest in her imaginary world. Allowed the eldest to discover on her own but he was available when needed.

It made me wonder how often God is engaging with us in a similar vein.

When has God used the voices of others to affirm our choices or encourage us when we are where we are meant to be? When has God used scripture or our own internal voice to change our ways? Gentle corrections to help us be who God created us to be? Like the father in the parking lot, not losing patience with us when he has to teach the same lesson over and over?

When has God accompanied us, meeting us on our journey like the father buying a leaf from his daughter? Jesus met the disciples on the road to Emmaus. He listened to their fears, disappointments, engaged them in scripture and began to share a meal with them. He didn't force them to turn back to Jerusalem or reveal himself to bring about guilt or shame. Simply joined them on the journey until they recognized him.

If you were to name for yourself, the support from God that you were most in need of, what would be your answer? Now ask yourself that question again, but ask "is this what I want from God the same as what I need?". However you answer both those questions, know that God is with you. God is guiding you, encouraging you and walking with you.

*God's Peace*  
*Pastor Stephanie*



*We will miss you*

## CELEBRATING CLAUDIA

**SUNDAY, MAY 18  
BETWEEN SERVICES**

We are so thankful for the many years Claudia has served as Grace's Treasurer. Not only that, she has served our community as a member, crucifer, assisting minister, and so much more. She is generous with her joy and has an abundance of patience. Join us on May 18, between services as we show our appreciation and wish her the best as she prepares for this new chapter in Chicago.



### Spreading God's love as a deacon for 25 years

Palm Sunday has always held special significance for Nancy Boehme. In addition to its biblical importance, that is the day she received her first Communion, when she was confirmed and, 25 years ago, was commissioned as a deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Becoming a deacon was a natural evolution for Boehme, who retired from those duties 12 years ago.

"I grew up in the American Lutheran Church, which joined with the Lutheran Church of America and became the ELCA. Growing up in the church, I've always felt God's presence. It's not like I came to it or discovered it. It's always been there. I love living in the mystery of why things happen this way. It's all the questions of why. And I don't have to have an answer. It's not my job to know why. It is my job to be kind to the people I have contact with and share God's love in the moment," she says.

Sharing that love comes naturally to her. It called her to become an elementary school teacher for many years in Nebraska. After taking some time off to raise her two children

Connie Lannan is interviewing members of the congregation to learn a bit about who they are and how God is active in their lives. If you know someone who should be interviewed or you would like to tell your story, contact Connie or the Office.

## Nancy Boehme

children with her husband, Dennis, she began substitute teaching and then working with homebound students. But the need to do "something more" kept calling her. And that led her to become the interim director of education at her local church in Lincoln, Neb.

"When I started doing it, I thought, 'Oh, my gosh, everything in my life is leading me to this point. I thought this was a fit,'" she says.

After a change of pastors and staff there, she ended up working in the same role at a different church. "When I was there, I thought I needed to be better educated to do that position, so I proceeded to take courses in what was then called an associate in ministry. Since then, the ELCA church has taken associate ministries and the diaconal ministers and put them together and everyone is called a deacon now. I did more programming within the congregation. I did Sunday School and Bible School and women's programs and retreats. It was more of a congregational ministry," she says.

After her husband was transferred to the Quad-Cities, she got a job at First Lutheran in Moline and finished her classwork there. That led to her being commissioned

in the Northern Illinois Synod on Palm Sunday of 2000. From there she was called to St. James Lutheran Church in Bettendorf until she retired in 2013.

For Boehme, her journey has been a sacred calling that has allowed her to "share life with other people in a very deep way. It gave me the opportunity to share their heartaches and their joys," she says.

Since joining Grace Lutheran Church later in 2013, Boehme has continued to serve in so many ways. "I'm a participant," she says, noting that she is in one of Grace's circles, is a prayer writer, serves as a visitor to those who are homebound or in

*(continued on the next page)*



## Nancy Boehme

(continued)

a nursing home, helps with Communion, serves as a greeter with her husband, does Altar Guild in August, takes part in IFF—It's Food and Fellowship and Grace 2 Dine, and also attends Pastor Stephanie's Bible study, to name just a few of the ways she is involved.

Such involvement is just another way for Boehme to share her love of God. "The Bible is a living work. It continues to speak to me. I love sharing what it says to me and hearing what it means to other people. There's growth that occurs in that process," she says.

## Hope at the Brickhouse


Friday, May 30



We will be serving dinner at The Brick House on Friday May 30. Please watch for the sign-up board in the Narthex to volunteer. We usually provide and serve dinner for 25 to 30 children and adults. What we need for dinner are three main dishes, along with a fruit/ vegetable, a dessert, and a half-gallon of milk. If you have any questions please contact Karen Jewel at 563-323-0322 or [kcjewel21@gmail.com](mailto:kcjewel21@gmail.com).



## Food Pantry Weekend

Food Pantry Collection is Sunday, May 4 Bring your non-perishable food donations in a bag, and leave at the altar before the service. In April we had 132 items donated - Can we top that this month? Let's make this our best year yet! 

**Ethnic Cooking Supplies:** Go to [imu.uiowa.edu/food/food-pantry/donate/multicultural-food-item-donations-requested](http://imu.uiowa.edu/food/food-pantry/donate/multicultural-food-item-donations-requested) for a detailed list of commonly requested multicultural food items.

**Donations Needed:** nonperishables - especially canned fruits and vegetables, canned & dry beans, canned meats, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, breakfast items (cereal, oatmeal, etc.)

**Always Appreciated:** peanut butter, jelly/jam, canned chili, boxed potatoes, protein bars, whole grain bread, fresh fruits & vegetables (donated directly to the pantry), items for baking (flour, sugar, 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



## Naomi Circle

meets the third Tuesday each month, September through May, at 9:00am at church for Bible study. Contact Marilyn Schreiber at 563-340-0350 or [marilyn.schreiber@icloud.com](mailto:marilyn.schreiber@icloud.com).

## Service Day Quilters

meet the second Tuesday & second Wednesday 9am-Noon each month. The quilts made are donated to the community and LWR. In recent years we have made LWR school bags. Contact Gloria Lange 563-271-1542 or [langejg1@msn.com](mailto:langejg1@msn.com) or Kathy Miller [kathyk1679@aol.com](mailto:kathyk1679@aol.com) or 563-676-0914.



## Grief Support

**Next Meetings: May 7 and 21**

The 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?** Cindy Lee 563-370-5386.

## 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

Thank you to all who attended and helped to make our Holy Humor Sunday such a fun and joyous day!



## Blood Drive



**Thursday, May 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 at [majepson55@netscape.net](mailto:majepson55@netscape.net) or visit [bloodcenter.org](http://bloodcenter.org). ALSO, did you know that you can earn SWAG by donating with ImpactLife? Go to the blood center website and click on "View and Shop our Rewards Store" to see what's available.

## Men's Lunch & Conversation



Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon, at church. (When the weather turns warmer, we'll meet at VanderVeer Park.) You can bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a local restaurant. Contact Dennis Boehme at [boehmed@aol.com](mailto:boehmed@aol.com) or 563-320-2661 to be added to the email list.



## Page Turners

**Saturday, May 17, 8:30am**

Come join the Saturday Morning Page Turner's Club! We meet at 8:30am the third Saturday each month at different locations for breakfast, book discussion, and great fellowship. (Haven't read the book? No worries, Join us anyways!) **May Book:** [The Tattooist of Auschwitz](#) by Heather Morris  
**Host:** Gloria Lange 563-332-7170 **Location:** Valley Country Cafe (24487 Valley Drive, Bettendorf)

## Bible Study: THE STORY

**Mornings** (weekly) - Wednesdays, 11am (*Resumes May 14*)

**Evenings** (monthly) - First Thursdays, 7pm (*Resumes May 15*)

THE STORY Bible Study continues, and anyone who is interested is welcome to join us at anytime during the series. [THE STORY](#) helps people understand God's Word and powerfully engages with Bible reading like never before. Pr. Stephanie can answer any questions.



## VBS Summer Camp!

**There is still time to register for Vacation Bible School Summer Camp! Registration ends June 1.** Join us for fun in the sun at our summer day camp! June 23 -27, 8am-4 pm. We will gather at Grace and then take a school bus to Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasant Valley. Camp EWALU will lead us in a week of learning about God, building relationships with one another, and growing in confidence. I would love for your children to join! **To register, go to [bit.ly/GraceVBS2025](https://bit.ly/GraceVBS2025)**, and see Pastor Kirsten with any questions.

## Vacation Bible School Volunteer Needs

Even with the leadership of Camp EWALU, we cannot offer VBS without volunteers. **Here is what we need each day Mon, June 23-Fri, June 27:**

- **8:00-9:00am**  
Ride the bus with the group to Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasant Valley (will need to arrange a ride home unless you would like to spend the day at camp with us)
- **9:00-11:30am**  
Small Group assistant (assist group leaders with children)
- **11:00am-1:00pm**  
Prepare and serve lunch, clean up (Monday & Wednesday only)
- **12:30-3:00pm**  
Small Group assistant
- **3:00-4:00pm**  
Ride the bus with the group from Trinity Lutheran Church back to Grace

We need volunteers every day to keep the children safe. An online sign-up through Breeze will soon be available. Please consider signing up for a few shifts.

## Graduates

Do you know someone graduating this spring? We would like to recognize them in worship at the end of May. Please pass along to the office (in writing) any names of students who are graduating and where they're graduating from.



## 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 with "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.**

## Garden Party Note

A reminder that this year we will not host a Garden Party. After a decade of celebrations, we are pausing this year to discern if and how we would like to continue celebrating God's gift of creation and gardens. I've spoken with several members of the Garden Party Committee and there has been a consistent vote to not carry on this tradition as it has been done in the past. There may be smaller versions that could be continued in the future. If you have ideas or questions, please direct them to Pastor Kirsten.



We meet after the children's message at both Sunday services.

In April, our JBS children offered their own prayers during one of our 10:30am worship services. This allowed the children to learn that their concerns and joys are important, both to God and to the congregation. This also opens their imagination to how they can participate in worship at any age.

### Here are their prayers:

- "Dear God, thank you for love and for Jesus"
- "Jesus and God love us sooo much"
- "Dear God, we pray for our cousins. Help them love each other."
- "Dear God, thank you for life. I love Jesus. Thank you for semi-trucks. They are cool."

## Birdies for Charity!



In March, the council approved the fundraising efforts of Birdies for Charity to raise funds for Pray & Play. While this ministry receives donations from congregation members and committees, Birdies for Charity is the only intentional fundraiser we do for Pray and Play. Last year we raised \$1,409.40!

### Why Birdies for Charity?

Birdies for Charity is the charitable arm of the John Deere Classic. Birdies for Charity not only allows us to generate funds through a one-time donation, but we also receive a bonus check of at least 5% of all the donations to Birdies for Charity. We also do not pay any administrative fees, thanks to John Deere who underwrites the program. 100% of all funds raised through Birdies for Charity plus a bonus will be given back to Grace.

### How do I Contribute?

The deadline to submit your pledge is June 30. Grace will be notified in early Fall of who has contributed and how much money we have collected.

### To Donate by Writing a Check:

- Obtain a brochure at church. All checks must be submitted with a brochure. This is how they will know which charity you would like to support.
- **Checks must be made out to Birdies for Charity.** (Checks made out to Grace cannot go toward Birdies for Charity.)
- Turn your check into Grace office or place in the offering plate.
- All checks will be sent to the Birdies organization & will be processed there.

### To Donate Online:

- Online donations can be submitted at [birdiesforcharity.com/donate](http://birdiesforcharity.com/donate)
- Click on "Donate Now"
- Enter **1943** when prompted to enter a charity ID number.

Questions can be directed to Pastor Kirsten. Thank you for your consideration and donation! Any amount donated will help ensure the future of Pray & Play next year.

## May Council Corner

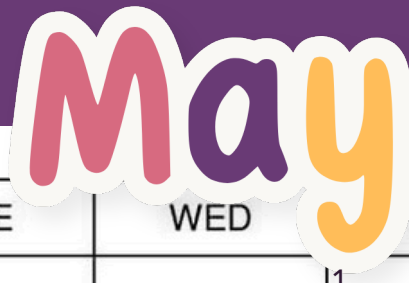
Guest Joel Lorentzen from the Endowment committee spoke about the proposed change in management of endowment funds. The council called for a Congregational Meeting to be held on July 27, 9:40am to vote on amending Grace's Constitution to make this change possible.

Coffee with Council sessions will be scheduled for June 22, July 13 and 20 between services to allow members to discuss these and other issues concerning the church.

Council approved joint services to be held Memorial Day (May 25) and Labor Day (August 31) weekends.

(continued on page 8)





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Office Hours</b> 8:30am-3:00pm Monday-Thursday 8:30am-Noon Friday				1 11am Prayer Group 6:30 pm Praise Band Practice  <i>Pr Stephanie Vacation</i>	2 Office Closed	3
4 <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship  <i>Pr Stephanie Vacation</i>	5 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	6 10am Pastor's Text Study 5pm Property Meeting	7 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 6pm Choir Rehearsal	8 6:30 pm Praise Band Practice	9	10
11 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship  <i>Pr Stephanie Vacation</i>	12 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	13 9am Quilters 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Social Ministry 2:30pm Outreach & Welcome 4pm Tri-T (private event) 6pm CYF Mtg 7pm Worship & Music Mtg	14 9am Quilters 11am THE STORY Bible Study 12pm Men's Lunch Group 6pm Choir Rehearsal	15 2pm Blood Drive 6:30pm Praise Band Practice 7pm THE STORY Bible Study	16	17 Synod Assembly at Grand View Univ in Des Moines 8:30am Page Turners 9am Piano Recital (private event)
18 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Farewell Reception 10:30am Contemp. Worship 1:30pm Piano Recital (private event)	19 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 5:00pm Sweet Arts Club	20 9am Naomi Circle 10am Pastor's Text Study	21 11am THE STORY Bible Study 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 6pm Spiritual Growth Mtg	22 6:30pm Praise Band Practice	23 11am Council Reports Due  <i>Pr Kirsten Vacation</i>	24
25 9:30am Joint Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour  <i>Pr Kirsten Vacation</i>	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27 10am Pastor's Text Study 7:00pm Council Meeting	28 11am THE STORY Bible Study 12pm Men's Lunch Group	29 6:30pm Praise Band Practice	30 Hope at the Brickhouse Dinner Service	31



## Alice Dominacki turns 100 on May 27!

Her daughter, Patti, is asking for cards to be sent later this month to help Alice celebrate, and/or you are invited to attend the birthday party on May 27, 1:30pm.

Alice Dominacki  
 The Vistas at Bettendorf  
 2500 Grant St, Room 222  
 Bettendorf, IA 52722

## Treasurer Update

We are excited to welcome Dawn Matthews as our new Treasurer. She is moving to the area soon, 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.

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 David Meier     | 21 Claire Johansen |
| 8 Karen McCubbin  | Isaak Sund         |
| Claudia Wood      | Sandi              |
| 10 Sierra DeMarr  | 24 VanWassenhove   |
| Tom Swarm         | 25 Paul Lewellan   |
| 12 Kathy Finkler  | 27 Alice Dominacki |
| Brianna Swarm     | Mike Willman       |
| 13 Julie Dohrmann | 28 Jordan DaRosa   |
| 15 Zay Carter     | 29 Debbie Alejo    |
| Dustin Levsen     | 31 Joe Lindsay     |
| 17 Becky Kelly    | Tina Peterson      |
| Noah Sund         |                    |
| 18 Gene Carber    |                    |
| 20 Sue Peters     |                    |
| 21 Danny Carney   |                    |



MAY BIRTHDAYS

## ADMIN STAFF

**Pastor Stephanie Wood**  
pastorstephanie@gracewelcomesyou.org

**Pastor Kirsten Lee**  
**Director of Outreach & Youth Ministries**  
pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org

**Annie Nau, Office Administrator**  
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custodian@gracewelcomesyou.org

**Claudia Wood, Treasurer**  
treasurer@gracewelcomesyou.org

**Vey Rodriguez, Worship Tech**  
worshiptech@gracewelcomesyou.org

## MUSICIANS

**Sally Meier** - Adult Choir Director  
**Kathi Parrish** - Accompanist  
**Susan Senn** - Organist  
**Vey Rodriguez** - Praise Band Leader

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Paul Lewellan** President  
**Deb Gustafson** Vice-President  
**Janice Gibbs** Secretary  
**Claudia Wood** Treasurer  
**Jackie Cain**  
**Lori Haugen**  
**Laura Toland**  
**Gail Walton**

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Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

*(Council Corner continued from page 6)*

Pastor Stephanie and Council President Paul Lewellan were authorized to appeal to other conference congregations to provide financial support for El Camino de Emaus (Pastor Pilar's mission church in Davenport). Grace has pledged \$1000 to the appeal.

Jason Halkias was approved as Grace's new custodian.

Because the next meeting falls on Memorial Day (May 26), members voted to move the May meeting to the 27, if it proves necessary for the council to meet.

## Calling All Home Gardeners!

If you enjoy growing produce, whether you're a beginner or advanced gardener, you are invited to be a part of a crew who will grow and donate fresh produce to food pantries in the QC region. They are assembling a community of garden growers and want you to be a part of this inaugural year. These gardens can be a community garden or one at your own home. GIFT Gardens - Growing Illowa Food Together - is in partnership with Tapestry Farms, the University of Illinois Extension, Iowa State Extension, and River Bend Food Bank. **Orientation sessions (choose one) will be held on Tuesday, May 6, at 7pm OR Saturday, May 10, at 10am, at the Tapestry Farms office, 121 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Davenport.** They encourage orientation attendance, but it is not required. Orientation will include:

- an overview of the initiative
- ideas for what produce works best for donations
- guidance on connecting with food pantries willing to accept donations
- a how-to on sharing how the number of pounds donated
- advice for beginner gardeners on how to start growing

If you are reading this online, click [HERE](#) to sign up or see Pastor Kirsten for assistance with signing up. Questions? Email [giftgardens@tapestryfarms.org](mailto:giftgardens@tapestryfarms.org).

## Special Presentations

Members of Quad Cities faith-based and choral organizations are invited to attend presentations by Dr. Stephanie Dykes on May 7 and 8, at Augustana College and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Dr. Dykes is a transgender Christian in the liberal Lutheran tradition. In her presentations, titled *"Transgender and Lutheran: A Journey of Self-Acceptance,"* she will describe how she came to reconcile her faith and gender identity, as well as how she trained her voice and continues to participate in worship as a singer. Presentations will take place on the morning of May 7 at Augustana College (location and time TBA) and at 5:30pm on May 8, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Dr. Dykes has a BA in History and a BS in Administrative Management from Clemson University and earned a PhD in Educational Research and Measurement from the University of South Carolina. Next fall, she will begin study for a Masters of Divinity at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.