

GRACE NOTES

JULY 2025 ISSUE 83-07

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite parts of worship is the sharing of the peace. When the assisting minister says, "The peace of Christ be with you" I picture a flow of energy from them to all of us worshipping. Followed by our returned response, "And also with you." In my mind I imagine Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' and the swirling motion of the skies. It's a gift, a promise, an act of reconciliation and an invitation.

Throughout the Gospels we hear Jesus and God's messengers offer peace to those they encounter. One notable occasion is when Jesus greets the disciples after having been raised from the dead. In a room, scared for their safety, Jesus enters in and greets the disciples, "Peace be with you!" (John 20:19, 21). Peace to the ones who abandoned him, peace to the one who betrayed him, peace to his frightened followers. It doesn't erase what's been done or what may come, but I imagine it would be a relief to hear those words, reassuring even. He then breathes onto them the Holy Spirit, the one who will accompany them throughout their lives and ministry.

Before we share in the Meal, we receive Christ's peace. Much like the disciples we receive the gift of grace and forgiveness in those words. We too have come up short throughout the week, but we are still granted

peace and welcomed to the table. Yes, we each carry burdens that may have the potential to consume us. What a gift to receive Christ's peace spoken unto us, reminding us that there is something greater than our worries. Perhaps even providing us peace for our minds and spirits, even if just for a short while.

The sharing of Christ's peace is a ritual that reminds us we are not alone. Not only do we receive Jesus' peace and the presence of the Holy Spirit, but we also have the community with whom we share this gift of peace. As we shake hands, wave, hug, or fist bump, we are offering more than a friendly salutation. We provide Jesus' comforting words and presence. A blessing and promise given in earnest. We also have an opportunity to reconcile ourselves with one another. If there is a disagreement, it is a moment to offer grace and remind ourselves of the one who unites us before coming to Communion (Matt 5:23-24).

I love how at Grace we often leave our pews to share the peace. At the 10:30am service, it often feels like a conga line where nearly every person leaves their pew as they can, and each person is greeted. A few weeks ago, I watched as two children who shared the peace with such enthusiasm! The joy they brought those they greeted was radiated

back to them and others. Were they aware of the history to the liturgical practice, the scriptural references, or theological significance? Probably not. Yet in their joy, they participated in this community by sharing Christ's peace.

I hope, like those children, we can embrace the peace of Christ with joy and overwhelming enthusiasm. Not only within worship but within our daily lives. May we carry Christ's peace out into the world, sowing the seeds of peace within our relationships and community (Luke 10:1-11, 16-20).

God's Peace
Pastor Stephanie

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, July 27
Between Services

Please plan to join us!

More information is available on the next page of the newsletter, and we will have pre-meeting conversations on July 13 and 20 between services. Questions? Feel free to contact Pastor Stephanie.

Grief Support

Next Meeting: August 6

The Grief Support Group meets the first Wednesday in June, July, and August, (first & third Wednesdays the rest of the year) 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

Endowment Conversations

July 13 and 20 | between services

Before the special congregational meeting on Sunday, July 27, come for conversation on July 13 or 20 between services to learn about the proposed changes to the constitution and our Endowment. You can chat with the Endowment Committee about why they are recommending this path. For more information go to bit.ly/GraceEndow or scan this QR Code.



Greetings Members of Grace

After many discussions, **the Council is excited to invite you to a congregational meeting on July 27 at 9:30am.** This will be the final step towards updating our Endowment. Our hope is to increase the impact our Endowment can have within our community. With this change we anticipate more resources and support for those who wish to donate. Providing a clearer path toward growing the Endowment. The amended Constitution will also allow for the Council to be more responsive to the changing needs and ministries within our congregation. While the creation of a Reserve Fund will provide a resource that will grow as it is invested like the Endowment. When needed, it will be an option for unplanned building expenses or exceptional ministry opportunities.

Between services we will vote on the proposed amendments to the Constitution leading to the proposed changes. **You will find information about how Grace's Endowment currently functions and the changes that will result from the amended constitution by scanning the QR Code above, going to our website, or you may pick up a physical copy at Grace.**

Please join members of the Council and the Endowment Committee between services on July 13 and 20, to learn more about the proposed changes and to ask any questions you may have.

Endowment Committee:

Joel Lorentzen, Sue Janssen, Dennis Boehme, Kathi Parrish, Pastor Stephanie, Claudia Wood



Thank you!

I would like to thank the following ladies that have helped with the lunches for the Safer Youth that meets on four Tuesdays per session: **Gloria Lange, Marilyn Schreiber, Vicki Liebke, Kathy Higgins, Karen Jewel, Ruth McAndrews, Becky Wiese.** Since we are the only church helping by bringing a hot meal to the youth, they are always very appreciative. Again, thank you so very much. ~Hollie Swain

WELCA Pie & Ice Cream Social

Friday, August 1 | 7:30pm | Free-will Donation

Pie, Ice Cream, and Great Music! Join our Grace WELCA for pie and ice cream and enjoy the Bettendorf Community Band at **Veterans Memorial Park (1645 23rd Street, Bettendorf)** as they perform their favorite songs from this 57th season! Come have a good time and support both WELCA and the Bettendorf Community Band.



Naomi Circle

Next Gathering: Special!
Tuesday, August 19, 11am
Lunch Social at Cracker Barrel
(300 Jason Way Ct, Davenport)

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.

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 or Kathy Miller kathyk1679@aol.com or 563-676-0914.



Jazz Worship Joint Service at 9:30am
with the Manny Lopez Big Band



Page Turners

Saturday, July 19, 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!) **July Book:** [What You Leave Behind](#) by Wanda Morris **Host:** Janice Gibbs 563-332-6791 **Location:** Happy Joe's in Bettendorf



Women's Choir

All women invited! One song. One rehearsal. One service. Please join us for a fun women's singing experience. All are welcome regardless of ability. Rehearsal is Wednesday, July 30 at 7pm. We will perform August 3, at 8:30am. Questions? Call or text Jane Rock at 563-340-8022.

Second Sunday Junior Bible Study **SUMMER**

During the summer months, Pastor Kirsten will lead a short JBS for children during both worship services. This will occur only on the second Sundays of June, July, and August. Pastor Kirsten will lead the time in the narthex area, where we have treats after worship. There will be a short lesson and a small craft. **The next dates for JBS are July 13 and August 10.**

Thank You for Your Support of VBS 2025!

During the week of June 23-27, we had 19 children participating in a collaborative Vacation Bible School with Saint James Lutheran Church, Bettendorf, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasant Valley. Combined, we had 60 children participating! Camp EWALU sent six counselors to lead our week and with the help of many adult volunteers, we learned songs about God, read Bible stories, played games outdoors, ate delicious lunch, and had a lot of fun!

Thank you to all who contributed toward this VBS! It could not have happened without the support of those who purchased food, donated financially, volunteered, or sent children and grandchildren. Combining with two other churches allowed us to welcome more campers and allow the campers to have a unique experience they would not get if we had kept our churches separated. Here's a few pictures to share what we did! :



Every day, a school bus took us from Grace to Trinity Lutheran. Along the way, we picked up campers and adults from St. James Lutheran. A fun way to begin our week's adventure!



Each afternoon gave us an opportunity for a unique adventure and activity. On Tuesday, the campers made 60 personal care kits and baby care kits for Lutheran World Relief.



More photos on the next page!

Each day began and ended with worship. The campers loved the songs and the skits.



On Thursday evening, we had a campfire and invited our families to learn more about what we learned and meet the counselors.



More VBS Photos!



Fun yard games and playing kickball! We were outside as much as possible, playing a variety of games.

Save the Date

KIDS END OF SUMMER PARTY!



Register Online at bit.ly/GraceEOSAug22 or scan the QR Code.

Hot dogs, S'mores, Games, Bible Stories

AUGUST 22 | 5:30-7:30 PM
@ GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1140 E High St | Davenport | 563-322-0769 | office@gracewelcomesyou.org



The Summer Day

Who made the world?
 Who made the swan,
 and the black bear?
 Who made the grasshopper?
 This grasshopper, I mean —
 the one who has flung
 herself out of the grass,
 the one who is eating
 sugar out of my hand,
 who is moving her jaws back
 and forth instead of up and
 down — who is gazing around
 with her enormous and
 complicated eyes.
 Now she lifts her pale
 forearms and thoroughly
 washes her face.
 Now she snaps her wings
 open, and floats away.
 I don't know exactly
 what a prayer is.
 I do know how to pay attention,
 how to fall down into the grass,
 how to kneel down in the grass,
 how to be idle and blessed,
 how to stroll through the fields,
 which is what I have
 been doing all day.
 Tell me, what else
 should I have done?
 Doesn't everything die
 at last, and too soon?
 Tell me, what is it you
 plan to do with your one
 wild and precious life?

~Mary Oliver

Save the Date!

Grace Lutheran Church | 1140 E High St | Davenport, IA

NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

Sunday, September 21

Joint Outdoor Worship: 10:30am

Food & Fun: 11:30am-1:30pm



- ~Walking Tacos
- ~Bouncy House
- ~Games & Fellowship with Neighbors



*Plan to
Join Us!*



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Office Hours 10am-2pm 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Mtg 5pm Property Meeting Annie Vacation →	2 Office Hours 10am-2pm 8:30am Walk in the Word 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 7pm Walk in the Word	3 Office Hours 10am-2pm 11am Prayer Group	4 Independence Day Office Closed 	5 1pm Praise Band Practice
6 Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	7 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	8 9am Quilters 10am Pastor's Text Study 6pm Finance Committee	9 8:30am Walk in the Word 9am Quilters 12pm Men's Lunch Group 7pm Walk in the Word	10	11	12 1pm Praise Band Practice
13 JBS at both Services 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Endowment Conversation 10:30am Contemp. Worship	14 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 5pm Wedding Planning	15 10am Pastor's Text Study	16 12pm Men's Lunch Group	17	18 5pm Wedding Rehearsal	19 8:30am Page Turners 2:30pm Wedding
20 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:45am Endowment Conversation 10:30am Contemp. Worship	21 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 5pm Sweet Arts Club	22 10am Pastor's Text Study	23 12pm Men's Lunch Group	24	25 11am Council Reports Due	26 1pm Praise Band Practice
27 8:30am Healing Worship 9:45am Special Congregational Meeting 10:30am Contemp. Worship	28 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Council Meeting Pastor Kirsten Vacation →	29 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Mtg	30 12pm Men's Lunch Group	31		



Thank you

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. The outpouring of love for Alice from members of Grace was wonderful. A few even came to her party!

~Patricia Dominacki

Alice Dominacki Celebrating her 100th Birthday!

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Pam Druger | 18 Hailey Montford |
| 2 Jim Bayles | 19 Gail Carber |
| 7 Matt Levsen | 20 Ruth McAndrews |
| LeMar Lucas | 21 Joel Lorentzen |
| 8 Brittany Harmon | 22 Melissa Kanwischer |
| 9 Sandy Hoelzen | Doug Miller |
| 10 Taurean Carter | Jane Rock |
| 12 Curtis Johnson | 24 Luke Haugen |
| 13 Kathy Higgins | Kate Turner |
| Joyce Marinaccio | 26 Jill Colton |
| Dawn Matthews | 27 Janice Gibbs |
| 14 Judy Niebaum | 28 Karen Lucas |
| 16 Kelsey Patterson | 30 Chuck Lehman |
| 17 Chris Tee | 31 Roger Niebaum |

JULY BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Council Corner

Council did not meet in June - a review of the July 27 special congregational meeting and the July 28 council meeting will be in next month's newsletter.

ADMIN STAFF

Pastor Stephanie Wood
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MUSIC STAFF

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
Dawn Matthews Treasurer
Jackie Cain
Lori Haugen
Laura Toland
Gail Walton

Grace Notes is published monthly by Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA 52803 A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America



Men's Lunch & Conversation



Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon and now that it's warmer we will 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 or 563-320-2661 to be added to the email list.



LWR School Kits Fabric Kits Personal Care Kits

We can't control when disasters strike and we can't end poverty overnight. But there are things we can do not to help people around the world reach their full potential. Once again the members of Grace are invited to contribute to the LWR Project of School Kits, Fabric Kits, and Personal Care Kits.

School supplies will soon be appearing in our retail stores at very reasonable prices. You will be able to pick up, in the church narthex, empty school bags with a supply list inside. There will also be lists of items needed to complete Personal Care Kits and Fabric Kits. Return the filled school bags and other kits to the church by **September 14**.



Food Pantry Weekend

Our next Food Pantry Collection is Sunday, August 3 Bring your non-perishable food donations in a bag, and leave at the altar before the service. **Let's make this our best year yet!**

Ethnic and Multicultural Cooking Supplies: Go to 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

