

GRACE NOTES

AUGUST 2025 ISSUE 83-08

Dear Friends,

"I've long gotten this wrong. We don't 'bring' people to Christ. Rather we encounter Christ in each other. When we bridge the distance between ourselves and another, we meet the one by whom we both are held." ~ Pastor Michael Ostrom

I've been pondering this quote ever since I read it on social media. I'm sure I may have uttered a version of this expression at some point in my life. What do we, or others, mean when we say we are bringing people to Christ? Do we think we are introducing them to Jesus? How often is that phrase used because we think something is missing or wrong in someone's life and we believe they need to change?

Throughout scripture, we often hear of someone outside of the worshiping community who brings valued lessons and insight about God. Sometimes seeing God more clearly than those who are sitting at Jesus' feet. Rahab, Ruth, the Maji, or the Roman Centurion at the foot of the cross. They are all outsiders who end up blessing the people of God even though they are not formally of the Hebrew or Christian faith.

Which is why I struggle with the inherent presumption in the word "bring;" that we take someone to

meet Jesus. Perhaps I am overthinking the semantics, but to bring someone to Jesus suggests they weren't already surrounded by God. That Jesus and the Holy Spirit aren't already active in someone's life.

God works on a grander scale than we will ever perceive. Consistently choosing the non-traditional and unlikely character to bring about God's promises. So, what if we reshaped the phrase and its intent. We *bring* God's peace, justice and mercy into the world with us. Not because God is not already at work, but because we have been sent and invited to do so. As the church and individuals, we are the hands and feet of God. Wherever we are, at work, the store or among friends.

We share God's story, reminding folks of God's compassion and grace. We witness to how we see God active in the people and places around us.

We bring with us open hearts and minds waiting to encounter Christ in another. In the words of Pastor Ostrom, *"we bridge the distance between ourselves and another."*

God's Peace
Pastor Stephanie



Endowment Update

Grace is an engaged and dedicated community! At our two informational meetings, people came with questions and curiosity. Your participation at those meetings and our Congregational Meeting makes all the difference.

On July 27, Grace voted and unanimously approved the amendments to the constitution. This will lead to the creation of a new endowment and reserve fund with the Quad City Community Foundation.

A huge thank you to our Endowment Committee (Joel Lorentzen, Sue Janssen, Dennis Boehme, Kathi Parrish, and Claudia Wood) for all their hard work!

QUAD CITIES
**Community
Foundation** 
Generosity lives here.®

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



Sunday, August 10 | 9:30am Joint Worship

Manny Lopez and his band will be here to lead our worship in song and jazzy celebration. This is always a popular service, and we look forward to seeing you there!



End of Summer Picnic!
Sunday, September 7

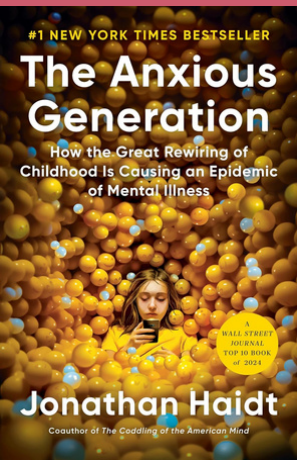
IFF (It's Food & Fellowship) will gather for an end of summer picnic at Devil's Glen Park in Bettendorf on Sunday, Sept 7. Details will be coming soon, but you can check your calendar and RSVP to Gloria Lange at langejg1@msn.com or 563-332-7170. Hope you can join us to celebrate (or mourn) both the end of summer and the coming of fall.



**LWR School Kits
Fabric Kits
Personal Care Kits**

Once again the members of Grace are invited to contribute to the LWR Project of School Kits, Fabric Kits, and Personal Care Kits. In the narthex there are empty school bags with a supply list inside and lists of items needed to complete Personal Care Kits and Fabric Kits. **Return the filled school bags and other kits to the church by Sept 14.**

Lutheran World Relief Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict, and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations. They are used here in the US and also sent around the world! For more information about LWR Quilts and Kits go to lwr.org.



Book Study: The Anxious Generation

Tuesdays 7pm beginning September 9. This fall Pr. Kirsten will lead a study on *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. She participated in an online book study and found it to be very insightful. She has been eager to share in discussion about the book ever since. Whether you are actively raising children, teaching children, or just care about the topic, you are invited.

We will take our time in reading through the sections and use the book as a tool in discussing this topic. Even if you're not much of a reader, please join us. Pastor Kirsten will keep the study informal and inclusive, allowing space for everyone to participate in the conversation. Please take a moment and let Pr. Kirsten know you're interested by signing up online at bit.ly/GraceAnxGen.



Naomi Circle

Next Gathering: Special!

Tuesday, August 19, 11:30am

Lunch Social at Cracker Barrel
(300 Jason Way Ct, Davenport)

RSVP to Kathy Shriver at 563-650-1952
or kdshriver51@gmail.com

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.



Heretic, Sinner, Saint: The Story of Paul Bible Study

Have you ever been curious about the man who had two names? He wrote a bunch of letters and has one of the most redemptive stories in the New Testament. This year we are going to focus on Paul's story and writings. Discovering how he went from someone who persecuted Christians to being one of the most significant early church leaders. We will begin Thursday, Sept 11, at 11:00am, meeting until it is completed before Lent. There will also be a winter break. Please contact the office or Pastor Stephanie if you are interested. There is a participant book with only a few pages of reading for each session. **You can purchase the book at Grace for \$15.**

Pictures to Remember

September 7 | Between Services

Join Joel Lorentzen and Paul Lewellan between services for coffee. Bring a picture to share. Engage in conversation about converting the pictures into stories to share with family and friends.



Second Sunday Junior Bible Study

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 2nd Sunday JBS is August 10.**



Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA

Junior Bible Study resumes September 7th

JBS is offered for children after the children's sermon during worship. 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!



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






BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

**AUGUST 24,
8:30am & 10:30am
WORSHIP**






Hope at the Brickhouse

Friday, August 29

5:15pm Arrive | 5:30pm Serve | 6:30pm Cleanup

It's time again for our meal at The Brick House on Friday August 29. Please look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex to see where you can help. We are going to serve tacos, refried beans, fruit/vegetable, milk, and

dessert. There are about 25-30 adults and children who attend the Friday dinner. Please contact Karen Jewel with any questions at 563-639-4608 or kcjewel21@gmail.com.



OPPORTUNITY SUNDAY



August 24
Between Services

Coffee and treats will move to Pat Bell Hall where members will be offered opportunities to participate in the life of the church. Find out more about the work of property, music, finance, social ministry, and other church committees keeping Grace alive and vibrant. Ask questions. Socialize. Engage. Have a snack.

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

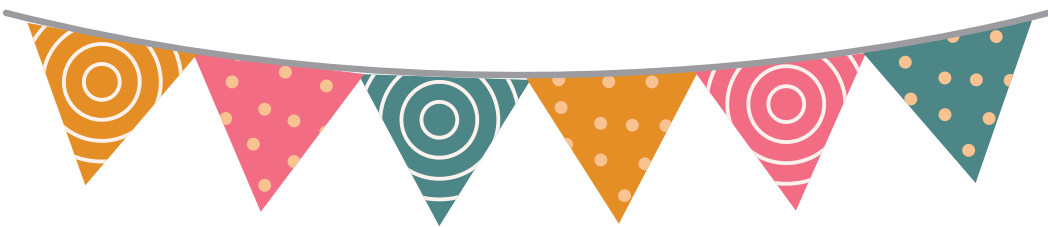
~Walking Tacos ~Bouncy House
~Games & Fellowship with Neighbors



*Plan to
Join Us!*

FAIR TRADE REPLENISHED

We have replenished our coffee and tea supplies, available in the narthex to purchase. Payment can be made online [HERE](#) or with cash/check (memo: Fair Trade). Leave payment in the offering plate or the office mailbox. Coffees are \$10/bag and Teas are \$4/box. Prices will be on each item and some older supplies will be marked down. Additional items can be purchased at shop.equalexchange.coop.



You Are Invited . . .

**August 9 | 2:00pm | Figge Art Museum
(225 W 2nd St, Davenport)**

River Town Duo - Claire Happel Ashe, *harp* and Philip Alejo, *double bass* (son of Debbie & Adolfo Alejo) invites you to the Figge Museum Saturday, August 9, 2pm for a free concert. Drawing on folk musical traditions from Latin American folk styles for bass and harp, River Town Duo will present newly commissioned works by composers from Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, Argentina, and Arizona. Entrance to the Figge is FREE thanks to the museum's second saturday programming!



Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares

It is a blessing to lend our love and support to friends and family that are living through the joys and challenges of life.

Prayer Shawls (on the shelf in the Narthex) and Prayer Squares (at the Info Station) have been made by members of Grace **for you to take and give to others** that need our help and support.

If you'd like to help make these or have questions, feel free to contact Chrissy Hartman 563-320-0603 or Sherry McCarty 309-737-7365.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Office Hours Mon-Thur 8:30am-3pm Fridays 8:30am-Noon					1 7:30pm WELCA Pie & Ice Cream Social at Veterans Memorial Park in Bettendorf Pastor Kirsten Vacation →	2 1pm Praise Band Practice
3 Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	4 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	5 10am Pastor's Text Study 5pm Property Meeting	6 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp	7	8	9 1pm Praise Band Practice 2pm Rivertown Duo Concert at the Figge
10 JBS at both Services 9:30am Jazz Joint Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	11 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	12 9am Quilters 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg 2:30pm Outreach Mtg 6pm CYF Mtg 7pm Worship Mtg	13 9am Quilters 12pm Men's Lunch Group	14	15	16 8:30am Page Turners 1pm Praise Band Practice
17 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	18 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 5pm Sweet Arts Club	19 10am Pastor's Text Study 11am Naomi Circle at Cracker Barrel	20 12pm Men's Lunch Group	21	22 11am Council Reports Due 5:30pm Kids End of Summer Party	23 1pm Praise Band Practice
24 Backpack Blessing 8:30am Healing Worship 9:30am Opportunity Sunday 10:30am Contemp. Worship	25 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Council Meeting	26 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Mtg	27 12pm Men's Lunch Group	28	29 5pm Hope at the Brickhouse Dinner	30 1pm Praise Band Practice
31 9:30am Joint Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	Sept 1 Labor Day Office Closed	<div> <div>Council Corner</div>  </div>				

Council Corner



Council acknowledged special thanks to the members of the Endowment Committee for their efforts to make the change to the Community Foundation.

Approved distribution of funds, \$210,000 to the Reserve Fund, \$235,000 in Endowment.

Approved the bid for tuckpointing work. The contract for the roof is in progress. A handicapped door opener is under consideration.

Opportunity Sunday will be August 24, in Pat Bell Hall. The congregation will be offered volunteer opportunities as a way to serve Grace's ongoing work.

The next Coffee with Council is October 12.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Kristi DeMarr
Brendan Meier | 23 Dan DeMarr
Sara Morrison |
| 3 Tony Lopez
Con-E Osmers | 26 Wendy Arp |
| 4 Ruth Naber | 29 Erin Halverson |
| 9 Deb Gustafson | 30 Margot DaRosa
Caroline Haugen |
| 10 Jim Cruchelow
Liberty Swarm | |
| 12 Travis Meier
Ruthann Neumann | |
| 18 Joellen Cahalan
Jason Halkias
Dan Haugen | |
| 20 Justina Pessein | |
| 21 Ferenc Beiwel | |
| 22 Donna Williams | |



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

ADMIN STAFF

Pastor Stephanie Wood
pastorstephanie@gracewelcomesyou.org

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

Annie Nau, Office Administrator
office@gracewelcomesyou.org

Jason Halkias, Custodian
custodian@gracewelcomesyou.org

Dawn Matthews, Treasurer
treasurer@gracewelcomesyou.org

Vey Rodriguez, Worship Tech
worshiptech@gracewelcomesyou.org

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

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Lutheran Church
in America



Page Turners

Saturday, August 16, 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:** [Wish You Were Here](#) by Jodi Picoult **Host:** Sally Haugen 563-514-9335 **Location:** Valley Country Cafe (24487 Valley Dr, Bett)

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.

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 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

