



GRACE NOTES

MARCH 2026 ISSUE 84-03

Dear Friends,

The Winter Olympics showcases the dedication and hard work of athletes. It's hard for me to imagine how much of their time and attention is focused on honing their skills. Some still working or going to school while preparing. They are careful with what they eat, how they sleep, and their training. All leading up to the worldwide competitions they participate in. Most notably, a competition that only happens every four years.

Few of us have had that level of focus on one facet of our lives. A focus that is so integrated into your life that it reshapes it. A commitment so strong that it requires sacrifices like missing family milestones or delaying other goals and dreams.

It is not a lifestyle that anyone can live in indefinitely; with little flexibility and such continual demand on almost every part of your life. Still, I suspect that when their careers as athletes end, the qualities and skills that enabled them to arrive at the Olympics continues to shape them. It's embedded within them.

I wonder if we can see even the smallest of parallels between the season of Lent and the preparation of athletes for the Olympics. For 40 days we commit to intentional and enhanced focus on returning our hearts to God. Originally meant to

be a season of preparation for those who were newly baptized on Easter. We too are invited to prepare for Easter by grounding ourselves in our identity as God's children.

For many, that training and preparation looks like a renewed attention given to spiritual practices. At Grace you are invited to practice generosity by supporting our Green Bag Project that feeds students at Garfield Elementary. You may consider fasting from something you delight in or find essential but take for granted like food, tv shows, or cell phones. Fasting is a tool to help us discover a deeper appreciation and gratitude for the gifts we have. It can broaden our understanding of a life giving faith by fasting from judgment, criticism, resentment, and anger. Subtle but occupying thoughts that can harm our relationships with others and God.

Honing our skills as a person of faith can look different for each person. We might be maintaining or adding something new to our routine. Listening to a podcast or reading a book about faith. Pondering and meditating on a daily scripture. Praying. Talking to God. You may be surprised by how you might be changed by these spiritual practices.

Every Wednesday this month you can join us for a reflective worship service at 7pm in Pat Bell Hall. There, we will give special attention to prayer through the use of prayer stations that can guide our thoughts on

topics of forgiveness, love, the world, and more. In fact, you can visit these prayer stations at any time throughout this season of Lent or create your own at home.

Like athletes whose training becomes an integral part of who they are beyond their Olympic dreams, the ways in which we use this time of Lent, the extra focus and commitment we give to our spiritual life, will continue to shape us beyond this season.

*God's Peace
Pastor Stephanie*

LENTEN WORSHIP

Wednesdays | 7:00pm

Lent is a forty-day season of reflection, repentance, and renewal with God calling upon the whole body of Christ to work together for justice, dignity, and peace. All are welcome to join us each week for reflection and prayer.

LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday	March 29
Maundy Thursday	April 2
Good Friday	April 3
Easter Sunday	April 5



GRACE'S GREEN BAG PROJECT

Thank you to the following ladies for helping with the Safer Youth Lunches: Kathy Higgins, Ruth McAndrews, Karen Jewel, Gloria Lange, Marilyn Schreiber, Dr. Becky Wiese, Nancy Boehme, and Vicki Liebke. If you would like to get involved to help with these lunches, please contact Hollie Swain at 563-514-4022.



The Grace Social Ministry Team is working with Garfield Elementary to help supply weekend food to a few families. We invite the congregation to donate food from the list below or funds for groceries by marking your offering "Green Bag Project". There is a table in the narthex to place your donations.

Questions? Paul Lewellan, paullewellan@mac.com.

Items we are collecting (any brand is welcome)

- Jars of Spaghetti sauce (no glass jars)
- pasta or spaghetti
- box macaroni & cheese
- canned tuna
- canned chicken
- canned soup w/ meat
- canned green beans
- canned corn
- canned fruit (pears, peaches, mandarin oranges, etc.)
- single-serve applesauce
- oatmeal packets
- single-serve cereal
- granola/protein bars
- peanut butter sandwich crackers



Coffee with Council

Sunday, March 1 | Between Services

Everyone is invited to join members of council for coffee and conversation between services. Get an update on the budget, learn about new council initiatives, share your observations, questions and concerns.



Page Turners

Saturday, March 21, 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!) **March Book:** *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry (first half)

Host: Carol Keller 563-340-9013 **Location:** TBD



Naomi Circle

Next Mtg: March 17, 9:00am

Naomi Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month September-May for refreshments, fellowship, devotions, and bible study - this year we are studying the parables. All are welcome to join us!

Service Day Quilters

Next Meeting Dates: March 10 & 11 The quilters meet the second Tuesday & second Wednesday 9am-Noon each month. The quilts made are donated to the community and Lutheran World Relief. In recent years we have made LWR school bags. Questions? Contact Gloria Lange 563-271-1542 or langejg1@msn.com or Kathy Miller kathyk1679@aol.com or 563-676-0914.



Men's Lunch & Conversation

Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon at church. You can bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a local restaurant. Questions? Contact Dennis Boehme at 563-320-2661 or boehmed@aol.com.

Grief Support

Next Meetings: March 4 & 18

The Grief Support Group meets the first Wednesday and third Wednesdays, (first Wednesdays only in June, July, and August) 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



Pictures into Memories

March 22 | Between Services

Join Joel Lorentzen and Paul Lewellan between services to share photos. Pick up tips on translating the memory into words. Listen to stories others have to tell. Come whether or not you've attended prior sessions. Don't let your memories get lost.

Put on your best greenery and let's celebrate the Luck O' the Irish!

IFF BRUNCH

**It's Food and Fellowship
Sunday, March 15 | 11:30am
Join us at our Kick-off Brunch!**



- Where:** Home of Kathy Shriver (6211 Whispering Hill Ct, Bettendorf)
- Hosts:** Kathy, Janice Gibbs, and Nancy & Dennis Boehme
- 11:30am:** Mimosas, Bloody Marys, (non-alcoholic available)
- Noon-ish:** Brunch Begins

Details regarding what to bring will come later. Please RSVP soon to Janice Gibbs janiceg52722@gmail.com or 563-332-6791



Luther Properties

Annual Meeting Delegates Needed

Grace is looking for interested members to serve as a delegates to the Luther Properties Annual Meeting. The meeting is held on **7:00pm Monday, March 16, 2026** at Luther Manor (3118 Devils Glen Rd, Bettendorf). Delegates have no voting responsibilities.

Your responsibilities are: attend the meeting, listen to the property management reports, enjoy some light refreshments, and if willing, assist in creating awareness of Luther Properties in the congregation. A maximum of six delegates will be selected on a first come basis. If interested, contact the office at office@gracewelcomesyou.org or 563-322-0769.



Junior Bible Study During Lent

During Lent, we will be learning about communion during our JBS time. This time will take the place of a first communion class.

If you have a child who you feel is ready to take communion, please speak with either one of the pastors. Participating in the class is not required to receive communion, but is helpful as we all grow in understanding.

Save the Date for VBS Summer Camp!

Join us for fun in the sun at our summer day camp! June 15-19. 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! Register by April 14, to save \$10. See Pastor Kirsten with any questions.

Learning, Crafts, Games, and More!

Ewalu Bible Camp Staff will lead us in our own local camp experience with all the fun of a park-like setting surrounded by nature

Register Online at
bit.ly/GraceVBS2026
 or scan the QR code



Open To
 Children ages 4 through Grade 6

Cost*

- \$40/child: register by April 14
- \$50/child: after April 14
- Registration ends June 1

Grace Lutheran Church | 563-322-0769
pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org

Ewalu Camp | 563-933-4700 | camp@ewalu.org/day-camps

Questions?

* Talk with Pr. Kirsten about scholarship availability - no child will be turned away for financial reasons

Summer Camp Scholarships!

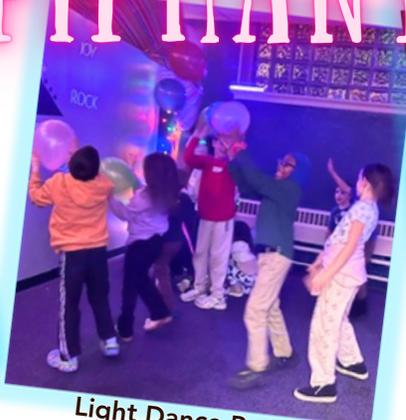
Did you know that Grace has a camp scholarship program? A week at camp offers kids and youth an opportunity to grow their faith, leadership skills, and confidence. Please don't let the cost of camp deter you from attending. At Grace, we have funds to offset the expense of camp through a scholarship program. Paper forms are available at church or can be emailed to you.

Pastor Kirsten

KIDS EPIPHANY PARTY FUN!



Younger Kids Storytime



Light Dance Party



Glowing Arts & Crafts



Older Kids Storytime

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee with Council 10:30am Contemp. Worship	2 Office opens at 9am 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	3 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Mtg 5pm Property Mtg	4 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Midweek Lenten Worship	5 12pm Prayer Group	6 10am PEO (Private Event)	7 1pm Praise Band Practice
8 Daylight Savings Begins 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	9 Annie out of office 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	10 9am Quilters 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg 2:30pm Outreach Mtg 6pm CYF Mtg 7pm Worship Mtg	11 9am Quilters 12pm Men's Lunch Group 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Midweek Lenten Worship	12	13	14 1pm Praise Band Practice
15 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship 11:30pm IFF Brunch	16 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 6pm Sweet Arts Club 6:30pm Luther Properties Annual Meeting	17 9am Naomi Circle 10am Pastor's Text Study	18 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Worship	19 Noon Council Reports Due	20	21 8:30am Page Turners 1pm Praise Band Practice
22 8:30am Healing Worship 9:30am Pictures into Memories 10:30am Contemp. Worship	23 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Council Meeting	24 10am Pastor's Text Study	25 12pm Men's Lunch Group 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Lenten Worship	26	27	28 1pm Praise Band Practice
29 Palm Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	30 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	31 10am Pastor's Text Study	April 1 12pm Men's Lunch Group 7pm Choir Rehearsal	2 Maundy Thursday 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship	3 Good Friday 7pm Good Friday Worship	4 1pm Praise Band Practice

in loving memory

Please keep in your prayers Kendra, Stephen, and family on the passing of their mother, Joyce Marinaccio, who died February 7. Services will take place at a later date here at Grace, and we will share that information when it is finalized by the family. Online condolences may be shared at: trimblefuneralhomes.com/obituaries/joyce-marinaccio.

Bless those who mourn, eternal God, with the comfort of your love that they may face each new day with hope and the certainty that nothing can destroy the good that has been given. May their memories become joyful, their days enriched with friendship, and their lives encircled by your love. Amen.

- 2 Bill McCullough
- 3 Gloria Underwood
Annie Nau
- 4 Karen Cornish
- 5 Pastor Kirsten
- 14 Steven Prachar
- 16 Karla Ellingworth
Keith Rossmiller
- 17 Dennis Boehme
- 18 Ann Lorentzen
- 19 Chryss Hartman
- 20 Brynn Kanwischer
- 21 Gabrielle Tee
- 25 Jimmy Carter, Jr
- 28 Dean Rock

- 29 Diane DeHaas
Leon Lagerstam
- 30 Don Haugen
- 31 Mary Ann Lindsay



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 8:30am-3pm

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

Gail Walton Secretary

Dawn Matthews Treasurer

Jackie Cain

Dan Carney

Lori Haugen

Becky Kelly

Laura Toland

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



Council Corner

- Treasurer, Dawn Matthews reported that we have received 13% of our budgeted revenue and spent 8% of our budget. Last year at this time we'd received 10% of revenue and spent 7%. Receipts were \$16,857.21 more than expenses.
- The next Coffee with Council is scheduled for March 1. Questions, concerns, and suggestions are welcome.
- Council approved a proposal to begin One-on-One Listening based on a program at Zion Lutheran. Deb Gustafson and Laura Toland will attend training at Zion to learn more.
- Council voted to invite a representative from Synod to meet with the congregation to aid in our congregational assessment.
- Pr. Stephanie spotlighted our Lenten worship practices.
- Pr. Kristen Lee reported that Zion will join Grace, St. James, and Trinity for Vacation Bible School.



Food Pantry Weekend

Our next Food Pantry Collection is Sunday, March 1

Bring your non-perishable food donations in a bag, and leave at the altar before the service. **With grocery prices soaring the need is greater than ever!** Go to localfoodbank.org/what-do-food-banks-need-but-dont-ask-for/ for ideas.

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.), broths, neutral cooking oils, vinegars, powdered milk, powdered eggs, wooden spoons, hand-held can openers, aluminum foil pans, cake mixes for special occasions

