

GRACE NOTES

APRIL 2026 ISSUE 84-04



Dear Friends,

*Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.*

*See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it?*

*I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.*
~Isaiah 43:18-19

Throughout lent we have had a collection of prayer stations. You could place a candle on a map of the world, reflect in the sanctuary, or plant a seed in Pat Bell Hall. The last one surprised me. At this station you were invited to ponder what you may need to let go of - relationships, dreams, goals, and abilities that have perhaps run their course and come to an end. In prayer, you name them. Then acknowledge the loss, the grief, and the disappointment. Plant a seed into the soil and invite God to reveal what new thing God is doing within and around you.

In a way, it is a living example of death and resurrection. The seed comes from the death of a flower. That seed gives way to new life. The

oldest seed to ever have been germinated was a 32,000-year-old narrow-leaved campion. The seed was found in squirrel burrows from the Ice Age in Siberia. When germinated, it flowered and created its own seeds and the cycle continued.

The seeds at our prayer station weren't ancient or rare. Your garden-variety wildflowers. To be honest, I was skeptical about their ability to thrive and grow inside with limited light. Yet, those little seeds sprouted. I wonder about the prayers they represent. These resilient sprouting leaves make for small glimpses of new life and resurrection.



The curious thing about the resurrection of Jesus - well, aside from the whole dead to alive thing - is that life with the disciples and Jesus didn't return to what it was before his death. Wouldn't a living, breathing man back from the dead go a long way to persuading people to the validity of who he claimed to be? Wouldn't a newly alive Jesus

bring more people to believe in his mission and ministry? Instead, they took a different path. The ending of Jesus' ministry, led to the beginning of a new chapter featuring God's work through the Spirit and us, God's children.

These glimpses of resurrection we find around us doesn't mean a return to life before but an evolution, a recreation or transformation into something new. Like a seed, one takes a part of the past with them into the newly realized future.

God's power of resurrection, the messages of Easter aren't solely tied to a historical event or beholden to one day in the church. No, our celebration of God's ongoing work in this world continues. Every time we witness good overcoming evil, love overpowering hate, hope enduring while we could give into despair. Each time we see a seed sprout or find new life where we expected to only find death - we witness the power of Easter, the power of God. With each glimpse of resurrection, we are reminded to trust in the promises that have yet to be fully realized.

*God's Peace
Pastor Stephanie*

Palm Sunday

March 29 | 8:30* & 10:30am



Maundy Thursday

April 2 | 7:00pm*



HOLY WEEK

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

**This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel: Grace Lutheran Davenport*



Good Friday

April 3 | 7:00pm*

Easter Sunday

April 5 | 8:30* & 10:30am

Grace Lutheran Church | Davenport, IA

JOY-FULL SUNDAY!

April 12, 2026
9:30am Joint Worship

Join us for a joint **Joy-FULL** Sunday worship followed by a **Feast of Fools Potluck Brunch!**



The custom of a special "Holy Humor" Sunday is rooted in the musings of early church clergy that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Easter was God's supreme joke played on death, hence the *risus paschalis* – "the Easter laugh."

So lets wear colorful & silly clothes, worship with Joy-FULL praise, and sing in Joy-FULL song with our Grace family and friends!



Grief Support

Next Meetings: April 1 & 15

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

May Life and Legacy Series

How does one choose an independent living community? How can I stay active and social now that I'm retired? What are the legal documents I need prepared? How do I create and leave a legacy? Some of these questions that arise as we age will be answered as we gather for our Life and Legacy series in May. If you have a specific topic you'd like us to address or guest speakers you think we should invite, please let Pastor Stephanie know.

Safer Sack Lunches

Orders due before April 17



As **Safer Foundation** celebrates 50 years of impact in the quad Cities, we're proud to mark the 21st year of Safer Sack, an easy and meaningful way for you to support safer, stronger communities.

For more than two decades, Safer Sacks has helped transform lives right here in the Cities. 100% of proceeds directly support our local programs, including Employment Services, Pathway Home, and the Youth Empowerment Program, helping individuals build stability, opportunity, and a path forward. Grace provides a lunch for four Tuesdays during the Youth Empowerment Program series.

Lunches include: club sandwich with ham, turkey, and cheese on a croissant, condiments, chips, cookie, and fruit. Lunches are \$10.

If you are interested in ordering a sack lunch, please contact Hollie Swain (k75hollie@gmail.com or 563-514-4022) before Friday, April 17. Lunches will be delivered to Grace on Thursday, April 23, at 11:30am.



GRACE'S GREEN BAG PROJECT

We are currently most in need of: pasta, spaghetti sauce (in plastic or cans), and canned chicken. We have plenty of soup and granola bars for now. Please see the list below for additional items to donate. **Questions?**

Paul Lewellan,
paullewellan@mac.com.

Items we are collecting (any brand is welcome)

- *Jars of Spaghetti sauce (in plastic or cans)
- *pasta or spaghetti
- *canned chicken or tuna
- single-serve applesauce
- oatmeal packets
- single-serve cereal
- peanut butter sandwich crackers
- box macaroni & cheese
- canned green beans
- canned corn
- canned fruit

Grace's Listening Campaign

We want to learn more about you! Have you ever noticed that you could see someone every Sunday and still not know all that much about them? What do they enjoy doing? What brings them to Grace time and again?

As part of the Council's process of discernment, we want to listen and get to know Grace members even better. We have invited eight members who are trained in doing a listening campaign. They will meet with individuals at church, a coffee shop or in their homes for 30-45 minute conversations. While we won't be able to meet with everyone we hope to meet with 50 of our active members. We are in the early stages and look forward to sharing more in the weeks ahead!



Naomi Circle



Next Meeting: April 21, 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: April 14 & 15 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. Anyone can join to help at church or at home cutting squares, sewing, finishing, etc. **Questions?** Contact Gloria Lange 563-271-1542 or langejg1@msn.com or Kathy Miller kathyk1679@aol.com or 563-676-0914.



Page Turners

Saturday, April 18, 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!) **April Book:** *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry (second half) **Host:** Carol Keller 563-340-9013 **Location:** Hickory Gardens (3311 Hickory Grove Rd, Davenport)

Men's Lunch & Conversation

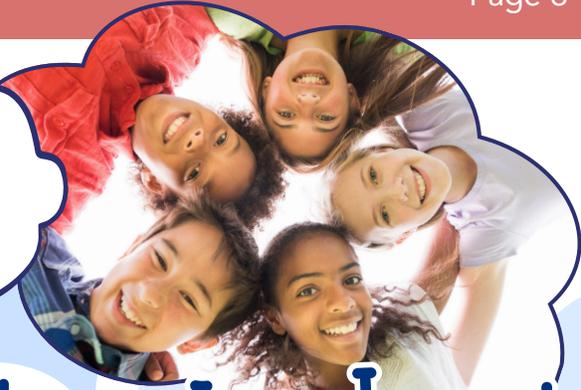
Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon at church. You can bring a lunch from home or pick something up from a local restaurant. Questions? Contact Dennis Boehme at 563-320-2661 or boehmed@aol.com.



Junior Bible Study

Junior Bible Study is offered for children after the children's sermon during worship at both services. We will return from our time together before communion begins, and will again 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!

Grace and St. James are partnering for an epic night of fun!



Confirmation Lock-in!

Friday, April 24 - Saturday, April 25

@ St. James Lutheran Church (1705 Oak St, Bettendorf)

- * Join our confirmation students for games, pizza, and worship
- * Younger kids can join until 9pm (or earlier)
- * Volunteers welcomed
- * Contact Pastor Kirsten for more information

All youth and kids welcome!



Save the Date! April 19

After communion classes with Pr. Kirsten, in joyful celebration George DaRosa and Jayci Jones will be taking their first communion on Sunday, April 19.

Graduates?

Do you know someone graduating this spring (or who graduated at the end of last fall semester)? If you have a loved one who will be graduating from high school, college, vocational school, etc., we would like to recognize them in our May newsletter. Please pass along to the office any names of students who are graduating, from where they're graduating, and any future plans.



Save the Date for VBS Day Camp! Monday June 15 - Friday 19

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

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8:30am-3pm			1 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp	2 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship	3 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Good Friday Worship	4 1pm Praise Band Practice
5 Easter Sunday Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee with Council 10:30am Contemp. Worship	6 Office Closed Pray & Play 8:30am-4pm 4:30pm Centering Prayer	7 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Mtg 5pm Property Mtg 6pm CYF Mtg	8 12pm Men's Lunch Group 7pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10 9:30am LSI Staff Meeting	11 1pm Praise Band Practice
12 9:30am Joy-FULL Sunday! 10:30am Feast of Fools Brunch - Fellowship Hall <i>Today I choose joy</i>	13 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	14 9am Quilters 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg 2:30pm Outreach Mtg 7pm Worship Mtg	15 9am Quilters 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 7pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 Safer Sack Orders Due	18 8:30am Page Turners 1pm Praise Band Practice
19 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	20 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 6pm Sweet Arts Club	21 9am Naomi Circle 10am Pastor's Text Study	22 12pm Men's Lunch Group 7pm Choir Rehearsal	23 11:30am Safer Sack Lunch Delivery at Grace  Noon Council Reports Due	24 6pm Confirmation Lock-in at St. James	25 1pm Praise Band Practice
26 8:30am Healing Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	27 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Council Meeting	28 10am Pastor's Text Study	29 12pm Men's Lunch Group 6pm Choir Rehearsal	30		

Council Corner

- Treasurer Dawn Matthews reported that Revenues Year to Date were \$72,683.52. Expenses Year to Date were \$65,436.92 resulting in a \$7,246.61 surplus.
- Grace received \$23,000 from the Community Foundation endowment funds. The Executive Committee will meet to draft a plan for distribution.
- A joint worship service was approved for April 12, for Holy Humor.
- The next Coffee with Council will be May 3, between services.
- Pastor Stephanie introduced the One-on-One Listening team. Eight members have volunteered. Training will be on Saturday March 28, at Grace. Visits will begin in April.
- Pastor Kristen Lee reported on Junior Bible Study's introduction to Holy Communion and outlined plans for confirmation and Vacation Bible School.



1 Alex Colton

3 Rylan Cahalan
Kathi Parrish

4 Lisa Morris

5 Colleen Willman

7 Jordan Colton

8 Allison Dague

9 Peg McCullough
Alexander McVay

22 Nancy Toland

27 Anna McVay

30 Krisan Koble

APRIL 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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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



2026 Faith + Climate Forum

Saturday, April 25 | 11am- 4:30pm
Local Host Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church
2136 N Brady, Davenport

The **National Faith + Climate Forum** is one of the nation's largest and most diverse gatherings at the intersection of faith and climate. Each year, it brings together more than 2,000+ participants across 80+ in-person host locations, representing more than 550 congregations and 30 faith traditions and denominations. Clergy and congregational leaders of all ages come together to learn, collaborate, and implement meaningful climate solutions in their communities.

This year's theme, *The Future We Choose: Faith in Action for a Thriving Tomorrow*, invites attendees to imagine and build the world that becomes possible when people of faith lead with courage, care, and conviction.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2136 N. Brady, Davenport, will again host the livestream. It is free to attend. Participants are invited to come at 10:00am, before the livestream starts, to meet and connect with each other. Cookies and coffee/tea will be available. Participants are invited to bring a sack lunch.

For more information and to register for the event (for either online or in-person) go to: nationalfaithandclimateforum.org.

Food Pantry Weekend

Our next Food Pantry Collection is Sunday, April 5 Bring your non-perishable food donations in a bag, and leave at the altar before the service.

Donations Especially Needed: canned fruits and vegetables, canned/dry beans, canned meats, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, breakfast items

Always Appreciated: peanut butter, jelly/jam, canned chili, boxed potatoes, protein bars, whole grain bread, 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

