



# GRACE NOTES

JUNE 2026 ISSUE 84-06

## Dear Friends,

"I really don't like speaking in public, in front of people." After I say this, I am often met with a quizzical look and the other person saying, "But you're a pastor."

It is a bit strange, how I've come to speak in front of people every weekend. For really no clear reason that I can understand, I joined the speech team in high school, which meant I spent several weekends doing exactly what made me nervous and anxious. But why would I choose to feel physically ill every weekend?

Sure, there is a part of me that likes to challenge myself to do scary things. Perhaps I wanted to work on the skill of public speaking or enjoyed the people on the team. While those are all plausible to varying degrees, I've often wondered if I joined due to the intervention of the Spirit. That on some level, God was at work trying to equip me for a future I hadn't yet imagined for myself. I didn't yet know that I needed to start stretching this muscle early on, before I was prepared to use it.

Thankfully, I no longer feel physically ill every time I speak in front of a crowd. However, new spaces, important events, larger gatherings still make me anxious. At our Synod

Assembly gathering in May, with over 300 people filling First Lutheran in Cedar Rapids, I spoke for a whole three minutes.

Right on schedule, I started to feel the jitters before I spoke. I worried I wouldn't remember the story I was about to tell. I kept drinking my water and taking deep breaths. Once I stood behind the podium, everything felt vaguely familiar. When the stakes feel high, occasionally I have a rare reprieve from my anxiety, my heart rate slows, and I feel unusually calm. That calm washed over me and I slipped into telling my story without much thought.

Once I stepped off the podium my calm evaporated and my legs became like jelly. I had done something that my 15-year-old self would have thought nearly impossible. Again, I believe the Spirit is the one who intercedes, providing the peace required for me to speak.

The Holy Spirit comes in many forms, as frenzied as a forceful wind, gentle like a dove, and refines us like fire. Throughout the Bible we hear of how the Spirit is present at creation, gives prophets the ability to speak, and descends upon Jesus at his baptism. The Holy Spirit is actively agitating, inspiring, empowering, and guiding us throughout our life; as real, present, and close as the breath we breathe. It's just that we sometimes take it for granted. You might not

notice how easily you can breathe until you can't. You don't realize the impact your breath has on your whole system until you struggle to get enough oxygen.

The Spirit's presence is so prevalent; we don't always recognize its impact or how essential it is within our lives. What might you find if you took a step back? Reflect on your day, your week, or your entire lifetime and discover what might be the work of the Spirit. Then try and share that story with someone else. The stories of the Bible can feel foreign to our everyday experience. It's in the stories of others that we might recognize the work of the Spirit in our own lives. It may be a stretch for you to share, but like a muscle or public speaking, the more you use it and do it, the easier it will be.

*God's Peace*  
*Pastor Stephanie*



Southeastern Iowa  
— SYNOD —  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

## SAVE THE DATE

**July 26 | Between Services**

We will have a congregational follow-up conversation with the synod to our listening campaign and future discernment.

**Alex Colton** son of Jill Colton, graduated from North High School. Alex has also graduated with his associate degree from Scott Community College. Alex plans to attend the University of Iowa for physics and mass communication. He hopes to become a meteorologist.



**Abbi Lee**, daughter of Pastor Kirsten and Pastor Chris Lee, graduated from Central High School. Abbi plans to go to Wartburg College for biology and environmental science.

**Carlin Peterson**, son of Sarah Peterson, graduated from Central High School. Carlin plans to go to the University of Toronto for visual studies and arts media management.

**Luke Haugen**, son of Dan & Lori Haugen, graduated from Simpson College with a degree in graphic design.



**Maggie Patten**, granddaughter of Kathy Higgins, is graduating from Luther College in Decorah with a major in Psychology and a minor in Identity Studies. She has been accepted into the Masters program in School Counseling at the Univ of Iowa.



**Henry Higgins-Freese**, grandson of Kathy Higgins, graduated from City College in Iowa City. He will be attending the University of Iowa majoring in Mathematics.



## BONFIRE CHURCH

Wednesday, June 10 | 6-8pm



On Wednesday, June 10, Grace and other local ELCA congregations invite folks who are in their second quarter of life (20s, 30s, 40s) to come to Devil's Glen Park from 6pm-8pm. We are reserving a shelter and bonfire where we will have snacks and an opportunity to get to know one another. We will have more details as we get closer to the date.

## Pictures into Memories

### Father's Day Edition

#### June 21 | Between Services

Join Joel Lorentzen and Paul Lewellan between services on June 21. Bring a picture of your father or father figure and a story to share. (Or bring any other prized picture, if you'd rather.) Come whether or not you've attended prior sessions. Don't let precious memories get lost.



A big thank you to everyone who helped provide food for and served the taco dinner at the Brickhouse on May 29!

**Bill and Peg McCullough,  
Nancy Boehme, Hollie Swain,  
Jane Krumwiede, and Mike Keller.**



## Coffee with Council

### Sunday, June 28 | Between Services

Please join members of council for coffee and conversation between services. Get an update on the budget, learn more about our listening campaign, share your observations, questions, and concerns.

## GRACE LISTENING CAMPAIGN

A big thank you to all those who served as listeners and were willing to meet. I

know folks have enjoyed getting to know one another. We have two more weeks left of our campaign before the listeners debrief what they've learned.

**We will be celebrating this campaign and everyone's contributions in worship on June 14.** While we aren't able to meet with everyone we do hope to connect with more folks in potential future listening campaigns!



## IFF Ice Cream Social!

### Sunday, June 28 | 3:00-5:00pm

Village Co-op at Crow Creek  
4700 Village Drive, Davenport)

We are celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the USA, so come wearing your red, white, and blue! Bring a dessert that goes well with ice cream and something cold to drink. The hosts will supply the ice cream, coffee, & water.

All are welcome! Please RSVP to the Krumwiede's (Jane 563-320-2619 or Ken 563-320-2419). Our event hosts: Dennis & Nancy Boehme, Ken & Jane Krumwiede, Kathy Higgins, & Kathy Shriver.



WELCA will once again host a pie and ice cream event for the Bettendorf Community Band concert on **Friday, July 31**. Mark your calendars and watch for more information!

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Evelyn Peterson and Amaya Lee, confirmed through Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, May 24. During their time in confirmation, they grew in their understanding of God as they learned more about the Bible and the Lutheran tradition. We celebrate Evelyn and Amaya and this milestone in their faith!



## Grief Support

**Next Meeting: June 3**

The Grief Support Group meets the first Wednesday 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

## Men's Lunch & Conversation



Men's "Lunch & Conversation" meets every Wednesday at Noon at VanderVeer Park. (In case of rain or cold, we'll meet 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.

## Service Day Quilters



**Next Meeting Dates: June 9 & 10** 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, June 20, 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!) **June Book: *Twice*** by Mitch Albom **Host:** Luanne Taylor 563-370-1747 or luannetaylor@hotmail.com **Location:** Home of Luanne Taylor (701 Titus Ct, LeClaire)

## Host Sunday Coffee Hour

You can make/serve coffee (and heat up water for tea), bring treats, or bring healthy snacks, or even all three if you wish. Anyone is welcome to help out - and we can show you how the coffee pots work, where the supplies are kept, etc. Sign up on the clipboard in narthex.



## Naomi Circle

**Next Meeting: September 15, 9:30am**



Naomi Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month September through May for refreshments, fellowship, devotions, and Bible study - this year we are studying the parables. All are welcome to join us! Contact: Nancy Boehme 563-320-6203



## HELP SUPPORT PRAY & PLAY!

**Donation deadline is June 28**

Birdies for Charity is a primary funding source for our Pray & Play program where children meet friends, enjoy Bible stories, songs, and prayer, snacks, lunch, and community programs.

### There are two ways to Donate:

#### By Check

Pick up a brochure at church, make your check out to "Birdies for Charity" (not Grace), return both the brochure and your check to the church office, or mail them both together directly to the Birdies office.

#### Online

go to [birdiesforcharity.com/donate](http://birdiesforcharity.com/donate). Click on "donate now", enter **1943** when prompted to enter a charity ID number. Thank you for your donations! Pastor Kirsten can answer any questions.



# VBS DONATION NEEDS

During the week of VBS, Grace is providing lunch and snacks on one of the days. Between the four churches and the camp staff, we are expecting to feed 75 people.

- Starting Sunday, May 31, there will be cards with different food items in the narthex. Similar to our Christmas Angel Tree, you are invited to take a card and purchase the food item listed on the card. **All food will need to be dropped off to church by Wednesday, June 10.**
- If you prefer to **sign up online** for a donation, you can click [HERE](#) for additional needed items. (We are trying a new sign-up program. You will be prompted to create an "account" which is just a user name and password.)
- **Monetary donations** are also welcome to help us purchase the food. In addition to our lunch commitment, all churches are contributing toward pizza on Friday. Checks can be made out to Grace, with the memo of "VBS donation". There will be a cash/check box in the narthex or funds can be delivered to the church office. Thank you very much!

Baking bread for first communion →



Thank you to our volunteers who helped make JBS a great success this year! We couldn't offer this without a team of caring and reliable adults who share love, kindness, and humor with the kids each week. Thank you to: Lori Haugen, Caroline Haugen, Chrissy Hartman, Jane Krumwiede, Janice Gibbs, Carol Keller, Denise Eads, Jane Rock, Anne Pacha, Sally Haugen, and Don Haugen.



During the summer months, Pastor Kirsten will lead a short JBS for children between services. There will be a short lesson, fun craft, and a snack. **The dates for these will be June 14, July 12, and August 9.**

## VBS VOLUNTEER NEEDS

We are still in need of volunteers for VBS to ensure adequate supervision. Please consider taking a few hours one or two days during one of these shifts. **Sign up through the link that was emailed/texted or talk with Pastor Kirsten:**

### MONDAY, JUNE 15

**Noon-4pm Small Group Assistant** Help with afternoon rotation. Kids will be engaging in an outdoor scavenger hunt, listening to a guest speaker with Nahant Marsh, and a tour of the church building. Kids will end their time with a wrap-up worship service and board the bus at 3:00. You're welcome to take the bus back with us to Grace or drive home. If you don't take the bus, some help in tidying the space is always appreciated.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 16

**9am-1pm Small Group Assistant** Help counselors with an age group. Kids will begin with an opening worship, followed by a Bible story, crafts, games, snack, and lunch. You're welcome to ride the bus with us in the morning (be at Grace by 8:15am) or drive yourself.

**Noon-4pm Small Group Assistant** help with afternoon rotation. Kids will be engaging in messy activities outdoors: science experiments, tie-dye, and face paint. Kids will end their time with a wrap-up worship service and board the bus at 3:00. You're welcome to take the bus back with us to Grace or drive home. If you don't take the bus, some help in tidying the space is always appreciated.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

**Noon-4pm Small Group Assistant** Help with afternoon rotation. Kids will be engaging in water activities outside and will have the option of cooling off inside. Kids will end their time with a wrap-up worship service and board the bus at 3:00. You're welcome to take the bus back with us to Grace or drive home. If you don't take the bus, some help in tidying the space is always appreciated.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 18

**9am-1pm Small Group Assistant** Help counselors with an age group. Kids will begin with an opening worship, followed by a Bible story, crafts, games, snack, and lunch. You're welcome to ride the bus with us in the morning ( be at Grace by 8:15 am) or drive yourself.

**Noon-4pm Small Group Assistant** Help with afternoon rotation. Kids will be engaging in service projects, many of which will be indoors: LWR baby kits, compassion kits, and greeting cards. Kids will end their time with a wrap-up worship service and board the bus at 3:00. You're welcome to take the bus back with us to Grace or drive home. If you don't take the bus, some help in tidying the space is always appreciated.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 19

**Noon-4pm Snack Helper & Small Group Assistant** Help with afternoon rotation. Kids will be engaging in fun games outdoors: bouncy houses, kick ball, bubbles etc. Kids will board the bus at 3:00. You're welcome to take the bus back with us to Grace or drive home. If you don't take the bus, some help in tidying the space is always appreciated.

# JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <b>Pray &amp; Play 8:30am-4pm</b> 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	2 <b>Primary Election Location</b> 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Mtg 5pm Property Mtg 6pm CYF Mtg	3 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp	4	5	6 1pm Praise Band Practice
7 <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee with Council 10:30am Contemp. Worship	8 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	9 9am Quilters 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg	10 9am Quilters 12pm Men's Lunch Group	11	12	13 1pm Praise Band Practice
14 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Summer JBS 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	15 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 6pm Sweet Arts Club	16 10am Pastor's Text Study	17 12pm Men's Lunch Group	18 <b>Noon Council Reports Due</b>	19	20 8:30am Page Turners 1pm Praise Band Practice
21 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Pictures into Memories 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	22 <b>Office Hours 10am-2pm</b> 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Council Meeting	23 <b>Office Hours 10am-2pm</b> 10am Pastor's Text Study	24 <b>Office Hours 10am-2pm</b> 12pm Men's Lunch Group	25 <b>Office Hours 10am-2pm</b>	26	27 1pm Praise Band Practice
<b>Annie Vacation</b>						
28 8:30am Healing Worship 9:30am Coffee with Council 10:30am Healing Worship	29 <b>Office Hours 10am-2pm</b> 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	30 <b>Office Hours 10am-2pm</b> 10am Pastor's Text Study	July 1 <b>Office Hours 10am-2pm</b> 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp	July 2 <b>Office Hours 10am-2pm</b>	July 3	July 4
3pm IFF Ice Cream Social	<b>Pastor Kirsten Vacation</b>					

*in loving memory*

Please keep in your prayers Bud Jones and family on the passing of his beloved wife, Sheila, who died Sunday, May 10. The family will have a private committal, and a celebration of life may be celebrated at Grace in June. We will share information as it becomes available. Online condolences may be shared at: [mcginnis-chambers.com/obituaries/sheila-jones](http://mcginnis-chambers.com/obituaries/sheila-jones)

*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.*

**Office Hours**  
Monday-Thursday 8:30am-3:00pm

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 3 Mike Kirby       | 24 Kurt Pacha    |
| 4 Mike Hartman     | 25 Jane Montford |
| 5 Roman Krzmarzick | 26 Jay Dohrmann  |
| Andrew Savely      | 27 Sue Janssen   |
| 7 Declan Cahalan   | 28 Jim Lange     |
| Dennis Levsen      | 30 Ron Brunsvold |
| 9 Carol Ann Felske | Dave Montford    |
| Rick Gillespie     |                  |
| 10 Fred Eberlein   |                  |
| Lincoln Krzmarzick |                  |
| Tami Sagers        |                  |
| 13 Scott Jewel     |                  |
| 19 Maria Castro    |                  |
| 21 Cayden Lewis    |                  |
| Kathy Wahlig       |                  |



JUNE 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  
**Gail Walton** Secretary  
**Dawn Matthews** Treasurer  
**Jackie Cain**  
**Dan Carney**  
**Lori Haugen**  
**Becky Kelly**  
**Laura Toland**

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## Council Corner



- Treasurer Dawn Matthews reported that Revenue Year to Date was \$139,289.85. We have received 39.32% of budgeted revenue and spent 33.17% of budgeted. Through April, we had surplus of \$12,488.86.
- Council established Special Projects Grants using \$12,000 from the annual endowment returns. Groups and members may apply for grants up to \$2500 for projects that foster innovation and creativity in ministry and promote the on-going mission of Grace.
- Grace Listeners have talked with 33 members so far in their campaign. The goal is to talk to 50 by the end of June. Responses to the program have been positive.
- The next council meeting is June 22. The next Coffee with Council will follow on June 28.

## Staff Vacations

- Annie will be on vacation June 22-June 4, returning to the office July 6. The church office will have limited office hours (10am-2pm) those two weeks.
- Pastor Kirsten will be on vacation June 29-July 6, returning to the office July 7.

## Luther Properties

We offer two notes of thanks ~ **Jane Rock** has served as the Grace representative on the Luther Properties Board for many years, and has decided to retire. **Vicki Liebe** has graciously agreed to now serve as our new Grace representative. Thank you both for your willingness to serve our community!

## Food Pantry Weekend

**Our next Food Pantry Collection is Sunday, June 7** 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

