



GRACE NOTES

AUGUST 2026 ISSUE 84-08

Dear Friends,

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ~ 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

On July 26, we invited members and friends of Grace to worship together, have a conversation and then share in a delicious meal. A BIG thank you to all those who helped make Grace Talks possible. Especially our Listeners who have been engaged in this process at different stages for several months!

With Pr. LeAnn Stubbs, an Asst to the Bishop of the SEIA Synod, we reviewed what we learned from our listening campaign and the dynamics of change. Then each person got to choose a different ministry focus they wanted to talk about.

At those tables our Listener's facilitated a conversation about what God might be calling us to start? What might God be calling us to stop or retire? Who might God be calling to do this work? Across the different groups, we focused more on what we wanted to start and at times, shared concerns over who might be able to do that work. Just to mention a few ideas:

Children's Ministry	• Engaging in more Kid's Parties • Further consider how we can expand Pray and Play or the Green Bag Ministry.
Relationships	• Group of Helpers Network (for those aging, etc.) • Special Christmas Dinner • Health Equipment Exchange
Community Outreach	• Explore more ways for outside organizations to use our building • Connect more with the hospital
Worship	There were a variety of thoughts, sometimes with differing opinions. Some options to consider. • More reflective time before 8:30 worship • How we project slides for liturgy and music

We don't want these and other ideas to be left as a memory and not pursued further. Where appropriate, we will send the notes and topics to the respective committees impacted and members who are interested will be invited to participate in more detailed planning. Please let us know if you are interested in these or other ideas. As we know, not all ideas will be realized but I am excited about the possibilities.

We are a creative, active, and passionate congregation. It is amazing to see how the Spirit uses the different gifts we've been given in service to God and our community. I have no doubt we will continue to dream, adapt and change.

God's Peace Pastor Stephanie

We had 52 people at Grace Talks and 8 Kids in Childcare



Jazz Worship!

Join us on Sunday, **August 9**, for our annual Jazz Worship Joint Service at **9:30am** with the Manny Lopez Jazz Band.



Save the Date!

Fall Block Party

Sunday, September 20



10:30am Joint Outdoor Worship

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

Sloppy Joes 🍁 Bingo 🍁 Games 🍁 Music
Great Fellowship with Neighbors



Coffee with Council

Two Options for Coffee with Council on August 30

Council members will meet in Pat Bell Hall between services to update you on recent council actions and to answer questions. Council members will also be available in the Narthex immediately after the second service to talk with folks who couldn't make the earlier conversation. They will have cookies to share.



Lutheran Disaster Response

With recent severe storms hitting our neighbors in Iowa and throughout the United States, you are invited to consider a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response's U.S. Severe Storms Fund. LDR uses donations to this fund to "coordinate immediate needs while also preparing for the long road ahead — debris removal, repair and rebuilding, case management, and the ongoing emotional and spiritual care so many survivors need." Click [HERE](#) to make a donation or go to give.elca.org.

Interfaith Creation Care

Come to our next meeting Tuesday, July 28, at noon at St. Paul Lutheran Church (2136 N Brady St, Davenport). Bring a sack lunch and bring a friend! Click [HERE](#) to sign up for our online newsletter.



Sunday Morning Hospitality

On Sundays mornings we have coffee and treats between services (or after a joint service). You can make and/or serve coffee (and heat up water for tea), bring treats, 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 - sign ups are available now through November.**

Pictures Into Memories: Summer Edition



Join Joel Lorentzen and Paul Lewellan **between services on Sunday, August 23**. Bring a picture from the campfire, or the lake cottage, or the bike trip that ended in the ER. Bring photos of grandpa with his biggest fish, or of your mother frying it. Share your summer memories. Get advice on how to pass them on. Come whether or not you've attended prior sessions. Don't let precious memories get lost.



With resurrection hope, we offer prayers for the family of Grace member, Pat Riedesel who passed away July 29, within a short time of moving to hospice. The family will have a private burial, and online condolences may be shared at: legacy.com/us/obituaries/qctimes/name/patricia-riedesel-obituary?id=62098217

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.

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 to help people around the world reach their full potential. Once again the members of Grace are invited to contribute to the **Lutheran World Relief** School Kits, Fabric Kits, and Personal Care Kits.

School supplies will soon be on sale! Empty school bags will be in the narthex with a school supply list inside. There are also lists of items needed to complete Personal Care Kits and Fabric Kits (separate from the school bags). The filled bags and completed kits should be returned to Grace by September 13.



The Grace Church Council has established a Special Projects Fund with revenue from Grace's Endowment, and **we're looking to YOU for ideas and to lead projects** that foster innovation and creativity in ministry and further the on-going mission of Grace.

Proposals may be submitted by staff, church council, committees, on-going or adhoc groups, or individual Grace members. No grant may exceed \$2500 in a calendar year. Application forms are available at church or can be emailed to you. Questions? Contact: Paul Lewellan, plewellan@mac.com



Women's Ensemble

Calling all Women! Please join us for our annual Women's Ensemble. We will be singing "This Little Light of Mine" and it will be fun! Please bring any and all of your friends. All women are welcome. Questions? Call or text Jane Rock (563) 340-8022

- **One rehearsal** Wed. 8/19 @ 7pm
- **One performance** Sun. 8/23 @ 8:30am

thank you

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the meal at the Brick House on Friday July 31, by providing and serving the food for a delicious dinner. *Hollie Swain, Peg and Bill McCullough, Carol and Mike Keller, Nancy and Dennis Boehme, Kathy Higgins.* Serving breakfast was a big hit in the summer season of hotdogs and hamburgers. Our next Brick House meal is Friday October 30.

A BIG Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the WELCA Ice Cream Social on July 31! Funds raised will be used for Lutheran World Relief quilts, school bags, and kits shipping costs. Great cause, great desserts, and great fellowship!



SUMMER

Junior Bible Study!

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 last date for Summer JBS is August 9.**



Join Us for Fun!

END OF SUMMER KIDS' PARTY!

Celebrate Summer with
Food, Games, and Friends

August 12 🍉 5:30-7:30pm

@Grace Lutheran Church

1140 E High St 🍉 Davenport 🍉 563-322-0769
pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org

Register Online at bit.ly/KidsAug12
or scan the QR Code. →



Back to SCHOOL BLESSING

SUNDAY AUGUST 23

Students & Educators!

Bring your backpacks, briefcases, laptops, and school supplies on August 23. We will have a special prayer and blessing as you begin a new year of learning, growing, & fun!

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8:30am-3:00pm					1 1pm Praise Band Practice
2 Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	3 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	4 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Mtg 1:30pm LSI - FH 5pm Property Mtg 6pm CYF Mtg	5 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp	6	7	8 1pm Praise Band Practice
9 9:30am Jazz Worship 9:30am Summer JBS 10:30am Coffee Hour 	10 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	11 9am Quilters 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Social Ministry Mtg 2:30pm Outreach Mtg 7pm Worship/Music Mtg	12 9am Quilters 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Summer Kids Party! 	13	14	15 8:30am Page Turners 1pm Praise Band Practice
16 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	17 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 6pm Sweet Arts Club	18 10am Pastor's Text Study	19 12pm Men's Lunch Group 7pm Women's Ensemble Rehearsal	20 Noon Council Reports Due	21	22 1pm Praise Band Practice
23 Back to School Blessing 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am Pictures into Memories 10:30am Contemp. Worship	24 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Council Meeting	25 10am Pastor's Text Study	26 12pm Men's Lunch Group	27	28	29 1pm Praise Band Practice
30 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee w/Council 10:30am Contemp. Worship	31 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer					

GOOD
THINGS
AHEAD

August 2 Food Pantry Sunday
August 9 Summer JBS
August 9 Jazz Worship Joint Service
August 12 Summer Kids Party!
August 23 Pictures into Memories
August 30 Coffee with Council
September 6 Food Pantry Sunday
September 6 Joint Worship 9:30am
September 7 Office Closed Labor Day
September 13 LWR Kits Due
September 15 In-House Blood Drive
September 20 Fall Block Party
September 27 Pet Blessing
September 27-29 Prs at Theological Conference

1 Kristi DeMarr	23 Dan DeMarr
Brendan Meier	Sara Morrison
3 Tony Lopez	30 Margot DaRosa
Con-E Osmers	Caroline Haugen
9 Deb Gustafson	
Rod Levsen, Jr	
10 Jim Cruchelow	
Liberty Swarm	
12 Travis Meier	
18 Joellen Cahalan	
Jason Halkias	
Dan Haugen	
20 Justina Pessein	
22 Donna Williams	



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Grief Support • August 5

5:30pm The Grief Support Group meets the first Wednesday in June, July, and August in Pat Bell Hall (first & third Wednesdays September-May). 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 via Zoom

4:30pm on Zoom (link below) **Centering Prayer** is a Christian method of silent contemplation focused on experiencing God's presence through choosing a sacred word, sitting in quiet, and gently letting go of thoughts. Developed in the 1970s, it modernizes ancient contemplative traditions. 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

Service Day Quilters • August 11 & 12

9am-Noon The quilts made are donated to the community and Lutheran World Relief. Anyone can join to help at church or at home cutting squares, sewing, finishing, etc. **Questions?** Gloria Lange 563-271-1542 or langejg1@msn.com or Kathy Miller kathyk1679@aol.com or 563-676-0914.

Page Turners Book Club • July 18

8:30am The Page Turners Book Club meets 8:30am the third Saturday each month at different locations for breakfast, book discussion, and great fellowship. (Haven't read the book? Join us anyways!) **August Book:** [**Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone**](#) by Mark Zwonitzer **August Contact:** Sally Haugen 563-514-9335 **Location:** TBD

Men's Lunch • Wednesdays

Noon 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.

Naomi Women's Circle • September 15

9:30-11:00am The Naomi Women's 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

ADMIN STAFF

Pastor Stephanie Wood

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Council Corner

- Treasurer Dawn Matthews reported that Revenue year-to-date was \$181,850.49. We have received 51% of budgeted revenue and spent 49% of budgeted. For the year through June, we had a deficit of \$4,928.62.
- Council discussed steps to decrease the deficit. Members will speak with committees about spending and staffing alternatives. The August meeting will begin at 6:30pm to allow additional time for planning.
- Council debriefed from the Conversation with the Synod on July 26. The single service at 9:30am was well attended (73), followed by a discussion with the Synod representative. Fifty-eight people stayed for the conversation and the meal catered by Skinny's BBQ in Muscatine. We reviewed the findings and discussed action plans.
- Council accepted the resignation of Dan Carney.
- Council approved employment contracts for next year's Pray and Play
- The next Coffee with Council is August 30. Council members will also be available after the late service to answer questions from attendees. The next council meeting will be August 24.

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

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



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Labor Day Weekend



On Sunday, September 6, we will have a joint worship service at 9:30am and the church offices will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.

Food Pantry Weekend

Our next Food Pantry Collections are Sundays, August 2, September 6, October 4
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

