



OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE 84-10

GRACE *Notes*

Dear Friends,

At our block party we had a boy of probably five or six years old who was dressed to the nines. He wore sky blue dress shorts with a patterned short sleeve button down shirt. To top off the look, he had the best blue and white suspenders I've ever seen.

It was his first time at Grace and he bravely came forward to help with my sermon. Then at the end of the service, he came up to join our band for their last song. At our 10:30am service, we invite kids and adults to come forward and shake egg shakers with the music from the first pew. For some reason the shakers weren't there but that didn't hold him back. He started to dance.

This was not a reserved sway or a slight nod. He kicked back and forth, jumped around and raised his arms high. His face radiated joy! It was contagious. He didn't seem to expect anyone to join him but a few other kids began to move ever so slightly. I thought, in an effort of encouragement, I would join too. People, my dance was halfhearted compared to his. I swayed and did a little twist. It was a small expression of joy compared to what I felt and saw in him.

If I'm honest, I was a little envious of the freedom and joy he possessed. I didn't hold back my dancing because of my skill, though I have none. I didn't remain reserved because I didn't feel the movement of the Spirit, my smile would tell you otherwise. Instead, I stuck to my limited two inches of movement because I didn't want to look like a fool. It seemed unbecoming for the Pastor, an adult woman, to dance without any inhibitions.

I wonder how often do we miss out on the joy of the Lord, the freedom we can find in God because we hold ourselves back. How often do we miss out on powerful moments of connection with God and others because we are afraid of how someone might react? A moment where we could offer prayer, comfort, or an invitation and we decide that's a little too vulnerable or revealing. We don't want to offend someone or overstep. Yet in our hesitancy, that might also mean we withhold an important moment of connection from them. We miss an opportunity for the Spirit to work within us.

Might we learn from this boy how to give into the movement within our hearts and let go of the judgement of others. When I saw him dancing, I heard a camp song in my head,

"When the Spirit of the Lord is within my heart, I will dance like David danced." It references a story where David is dancing throughout the streets of Jerusalem as the ark of God is being brought to the city. He dances and leaps without any concern for how people will perceive him. It's a dance of praise and celebration that can't be contained (2 Sam 6:14).

I invite you to let the joy of the Lord seep out of you, even just a little bit. In the places where you might hold yourself back, lean in. You don't have to dance in church, but consider putting on a song while you're at home. Take two minutes to move freely. Dancing is said to help with our physical, mental, and emotional health. Perhaps it is good for our spiritual well being too. Live into the freedom and joy we find in Jesus. Dance like no one is watching, dance to the Lord.

Click [HERE](#) to listen to a version of the song "When the Spirit of the Lord".

*God's Peace,
Pastor Stephanie*



Be a Blessing

"I will bless you... and you will be a blessing." ~Genesis 12:2

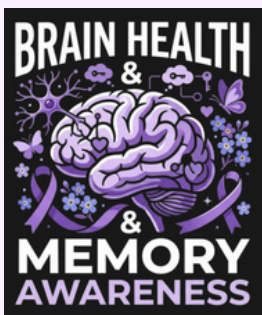
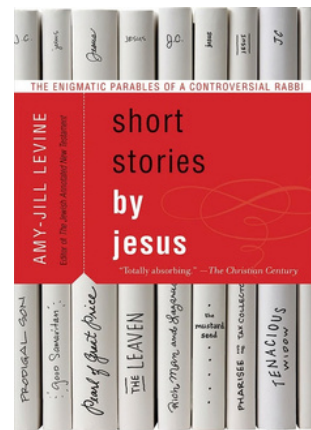
We have been blessed to know God and to receive God's grace. With that blessing comes a heavy responsibility and an uplifting gift, as we are sent to be a blessing to others. Together we bless our community and others through our worship, our connections to one another, and our service to our neighbors. This is made possible through your generous support of our shared ministry. **This year's stewardship appeal will begin on October 18.**

We will bring and bless our pledges on Stewardship Sunday, November 15. More information will be making its way to you in the coming weeks!

Short Stories by Jesus

11:00am Thursdays | Beginning October 8

It is challenging to wrap our head around life centuries before us. This fall we will dive into Jesus' short stories, his parables, by looking at the cultural context they were rooted in and how the original Jewish audience understood them. This Bible Study will follow along with Amy-Jill Levine's book *Short Stories by Jesus*, but you don't need to read the book to participate. She will be our resident expert as a scholar in New Testament and Jewish Studies. We will meet seven times on Thursdays at 11am, beginning Oct 8. Contact Pr. Stephanie if you have any questions.



Alzheimer's and Dementia Series

Join Megan Olsen, Regional Manager of Community Engagement at Alzheimer's Association®, between services as she shares information about the following topics:

- **October 18** - Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia
- **October 25** - Alzheimer's Behaviors and Communication, Caregiver Stress
- **November 1** - Lingering questions and topics

Join Choir!

You are invited to join Heart and Voice, Grace's adult choir and we'd love to have you share your gifts for our whole choir season or for special services (Christmas, Easter, etc.) Rehearsals are 6:30-8pm the first Wednesday of the month and 8:00am on Sundays when the choir sings. Our mission is ministry in song as we worship together - Join us! Questions? Sally Meier, Choir Director 309-292-0281 or tonalworkout@gmail.com.



BLOCK PARTY THANK YOU!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the block party! Despite a rainy and cold morning, we estimate that we served around 80 people at the block party, including around 20 neighborhood guests. We enjoyed Sloppy Joes, homemade sweet treats, BINGO, games, and pumpkin painting.

This year we used an audio guestbook for people to share good news. Highlights include gratitude for the block party event, and thanksgiving for a recent vacation. The children expressed how much fun they had at the party. One child said he had a "6" when asked how much fun he was having. 🍷

This year we raised \$300 for Tapestry Farms with a free-will offering for mums, pumpkins, flowers, and a silent auction for four fall planters. Thank you to Thrivent for providing financial support through an Action Team Grant and to these generous donors: Eve's Garden and Greenhouse, Home Depot, Fareway, Hy-Vee, and Ken Krumwiede.





Saturday, October 10

Veteran's Memorial Park (1645 23rd St, Bettendorf)

8:30am Activities Begin | **10:00am** Walk!

Join us for NAMI Walks Greater Mississippi Valley 2026! To register to walk and/or donate funds go to the Grace/St. Mark Page: namiwalks.org/teams/86611. Jane will not be at the NAMI walk, but Peg and Bill McCullough will be there... Donations can still be given to Jane. She will personally deliver all donations to the NAMI office. Or you can donate online. MENTAL HEALTH FOR ALL remains the life-changing and lifesaving mission at NAMI!

Hope at the Brick House

Dinner Service Friday, October 30

5:15pm arrive | 5:30pm Serve | 6:30pm Clean Up

Breakfast was a HIT when we served in July, so we will once again be providing breakfast for dinner! We usually serve 20-30 adults and children. Please look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions please contact Karen Jewel at 563-323-0322 or kcyjewel21@gmail.com.



Join us for the 20th annual Trunk or Treat at Grace! We will gather at 5pm to decorate our trunks. Candy & treats will be handed out until they are all gone. If you plan to attend, please let Hollie Swain know at 563-514-4022 or 563-650-3213 or email k75hollie@gmail.com. The past several years we have treated over 200+ children. Contact Hollie if you are unsure about the weather.



GREEN BAG SUNDAY

Sunday October 4

Between Services

We are again delivering weekly food bags to elementary children facing food insecurity. Join us on October 4, between services to pack bags and learn about the project.

How Can You Help?

Go grocery shopping
We'll supply the list

Help Fill Bags
on Green Bag Sundays

Help Deliver the Bags
Talk with Pr. Kirsten for scheduling

Donate Food Items
spaghetti sauce (no glass jars), pasta, mac & cheese, canned fruits & veggies, soup, granola bars, instant oatmeal, canned chicken/tuna, healthy snacks.

Make a Monetary Donation
to purchase food by marking your offering Green Bag Project.

All help is valuable and appreciated!
For further information, contact
Pastor Kirsten or Paul Lewellan
paullewellan@mac.com



Sunday Morning Hospitality



Sign up to serve Sunday coffee (and heat up water for tea), bring treats, bring healthy snacks, or even all three if you wish.

Clipboard in narthex - sign ups are available now thru January.



Thank you to everyone that was able to help with the supplies and food for Rescued:

88.1 lbs of dry cat food
85.9 lbs of dry dog food
Two cans of cat food
Four boxes of large dog treats
Three bags of large dog treats
One large Konga
One medium dog lead
Eight pet pillows!

Rescued was so very happy to see this delivery.....again thank you for your participation!

Christmas Dinner @ Grace, Noon, Dec 25

You are invited to join our Grace family for Christmas Day Dinner. As we plan, it would be helpful to know how many people may be interested. Please contact the office or sign-up [HERE](#) if you are interested. If you'd like to help, you may reach out to Ruth McAndrews or Carol Keller.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

This year we welcome two sixth-grade boys, Declan Cahalan and George DaRosa, to confirmation class. We will be joining three ELCA churches: Zion, St. James, and Trinity and expect 15 students total. Joining together will allow us to have richer conversation, meaningful interactions, and a lot of fun!

Our three goals for the class are:

- **Formation** – strengthen our connection to the Triune God and the church as we better understand what it means to be a child of God and formed into the image of Christ.
- **Content** – deepen an understanding of our relationship with God, the Bible, and the church.
- **Belonging** – explore the purpose and reason for church and confirmation. Foster an inclusive, encouraging, and loving community in class and at church.

We will meet 11:30am-2:00pm the first Sunday of every month at Zion, and 4:30-5:30pm the third Wednesday at St. James.

Please keep this class, and in particular George and Declan, in your prayers.



It's a Birthday Party... for Everyone!

Sunday, Nov 1 | 3-5pm

Village Coop 4700 Village Dr, Davenport

Let's have a party - A birthday party for everyone!

Come and celebrate with IFF (It's Food & Fellowship)!

Your hosts are the Meier's and Kathy Shriver.

Everyone is invited to join in the fun and the details are to come. Mark your calendars! You can RSVP to:

kdshriver51@gmail.com or 563-650-1952.



Junior Bible Studies Fall 2026

First, Second, Third Sundays During Worship

Fourth Sunday Between Services

This year we are using Wonder on the Go, inviting children to wonder about the characters in Bible Stories and what we can learn about

God. Each session will include a short video, a story from the Spark Children's Bible, and activities.

Kids' Club!

Pizza S'mores Games Bible Stories
Pumpkin Painting

Friday, October 23rd | 5:30-7:30pm
For Kids Ages 5 Years and Up ~ Dinner Included

Register to attend at bit.ly/Oct23KidsClub or scan the QR Code
Grace Lutheran Church | 1140 E High St | Davenport, IA



Kids & Families! Playground Meet Up

Saturday October 31 | 9am-11am.

Tentative Location: Garfield Park
Join other families with little ones for some group play at the playground.
Watch for more details.

PRAY & PLAY

Join us for fun when school is out!

at Grace Lutheran Church | 1140 E High St, Davenport

For kids ages 5-10 | Cost* \$15 per session

8:30am-4:00pm each program day

Lunch and snacks provided. Close supervision provided by screened and qualified staff. Space is limited. **Activities Include:** Games, Playground Time, Arts & Crafts, Music, Dancing, Bible Stories, Educational Programming, and More!



FALL 2026 DATES

September 14 | October 5
November 30

Registration Required

Register Online at: bit.ly/FallPP26

OR Scan the QR Code
OR request a paper copy from
your school counselor OR email
office@gracewelcomesyou.org



GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
1140 East High Street
Davenport, IA 52803

*Scholarships are available upon request: no child will be turned away for financial circumstances.

Questions? Please feel free to contact
Pastor Kirsten Lee at 563-322-0769 or
pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org



Fighting Fraud

Fraudsters increasingly target at-risk adults (those with care and support needs) and the elderly in particular, as these groups are considered more trusting, less technologically sophisticated, and therefore more susceptible. Knowing what to look for is one of the best ways to help stay protected. Here are some examples of common scams to watch out for:

- **Family emergency scams:** Fraudsters may claim to be (or be with) a close relative in a crisis situation like an accident, arrest, or kidnapping. Often, they will insist that the victim keep the situation secret, demand immediate payment, and/or request payment via gift cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or payment apps.
- **Professional or governmental impersonation scams:** Fraudsters may impersonate entities like the IRS, Medicare, Social Security, a utility company, or even your bank – and then threaten dire consequences like arrest, deportation, or account closure for those who won't pay a made-up fee.
- **Caregiver or in-home fraud:** Financial abusers can come in the form of a friend, a caregiver, or even a relative who encourages a vulnerable adult to make transactions or take out large sums of cash.
- **Tech support scams:** These scams usually begin with a fake email, pop-up, or text message claiming your device has a virus, instructing you to call a support phone number. The scammer then guides you into granting remote access, giving them full control of your device.

Here are some simple ways to help you stay safe:

- Be cautious of urgent or secret requests for money
- Always verify unexpected calls, even from "family" or "your bank"
- Never share personal or financial information
- Do not allow unknown access to your computer
- Avoid sending money to unfamiliar people

Learn more about how you can help protect yourself. Concerned about clicking? Simply copy and paste mtb.com/library/article/at-risk-adults into your browser.



• **Games**

• **Fire Pit**

• **Worship**

Wednesday, October 14

5pm - Pizza in the Fellowship Hall

5:30pm - Leave for Faith

8:30pm arrive back at Grace

A ride home can be provided

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For Confirmation Students
of the Quad Cities Churches
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Questions? Contact Pastor Kirsten
pastorkirsten@gracewelcomesyou.org

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8:30am-3:00pm				1	2	3
4 Food Pantry Sunday Green Bag Sunday 8am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp Worship 11:30am Conf @ Zion	5 Pray & Play 8:30am-4pm 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	6 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Personnel Mtg 5pm Property Mtg 6pm CYF Mtg	7 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8 11am Short Stories Bible Study	9	10 NAMI Walk <i>more info p.3</i>
11 LWR Quilt Blessing 8am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Contemp. Worship	12 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer	13 9am Quilters & Naomi Circle 10am Pastor's Text Study 1:30pm Social Min Mtg 2:30pm Outreach Mtg 7pm Worship/Music Mtg	14 9am Quilters 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5pm IGNITE @ Faith	15 11am Short Stories Bible Study	16	17 8:30am Page Turners
18 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:40am ↘ Dementia/Alzheimer's Talk 10:30am Contemp Worship	19 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 6pm Sweet Arts Club	20 10am Pastor's Text Study	21 12pm Men's Lunch Group 5:30pm Grief Support Grp	22 Noon Council Reports Due	23 5:30pm Kid's Club	24
Pr. Stephanie Continuing Education						25 Reformation Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:40am ↘ Dementia/Alzheimer's Talk 10:30am Contemp Worship
25 Reformation Sunday 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:40am ↘ Dementia/Alzheimer's Talk 10:30am Contemp Worship	26 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Council Meeting	27 10am Pastor's Text Study	28 12pm Men's Lunch Group	29 11am Short Stories Bible Study	30 5:15pm Hope at the Brickhouse Dinner	31 9am Playground Meetup 5:15pm Trunk or Treat 

October 4 Green Bag & Food Pantry Sunday (p. 4 & 10)

October 4 & 11 LWR Quilt Display

October 5 Pray & Play (p. 6)

October 7 Grief Support Group (p. 9)

October 10 NAMI Walk (p. 4)

October 13 Naomi Circle *date change* (p. 9)

October 13 & 14 Quilters 9am-Noon (p. 9)

October 15 Short Stories Bible Study (p. 2)

October 17 Page Turners 8:30am (p. 9)

October 18 Alzheimer's & Dementia Conversation (p. 2)

October 18-21 Pr. Stephanie Continuing Ed

October 21 Grief Support Group (p. 9)

October 23 Kid's Club (p. 6)

October 25 Reformation Sunday

October 25 Alzheimer's & Dementia Conversation (p. 2)

October 29 Short Stories Bible Study (p. 2)

October 30 Hope at the Brickhouse Dinner (p. 4)

October 31 Playground Meetup (p. 6)

October 31 Trunk or Treat (p. 4)

GOOD
THINGS
AHEAD

2 Devon DeMarr

Deb Kirby

5 Brad Lange

Dixie Wince

7 Curtis Meier

8 Connie Lannan

11 Gretchen Kelker

Henry Kelly

Cindy Savely

12 Bridget Kelker

Charlotte Rock

15 Kathy Shriver

17 Melinda Miller

18 Cyndi Prachar

Ken Wellnitz

23 Cole Bayles

24 Carol Keller

John Rock

25 Marty Sagers

26 Charlie Rock

27 Alex Noack

30 John Campbell



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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**

Grief Support October 7 & 21

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.

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.

Service Day Quilters October 13 & 14

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.

Naomi Women's Circle October 13*

9-9:30am Snacks & Fellowship, 9:30-11:00am Study & Devotions The Naomi Women's Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month September through May for refreshments, fellowship, devotions, and Bible study. All are welcome to join us! **Contact:** Nancy Boehme 563-320-6203 **Note date change*

Page Turners Book Club October 17

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!) **October Book:** **[The Cliffs](#)** by J. Courtney Sullivan **Contact:** Janice Gibbs 563-332-6791 **Location:** Happy Joe's (2430 Spruce Hills Dr, Bettendorf)

ADMIN STAFF

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Director of Outreach & Youth Ministries

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Sally Meier - Adult Choir Director

Kathi Parrish - Accompanist

Susan Senn - Organist

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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in America

Staff Updates

- **Band Leader** – We continue our search for a candidate. In the meantime, Dan Haugen and Rob Leveridge will share in the Band Leader position. Rob is a local pastor who has pulpit supplied at Grace in the past. When neither Dan nor Rob are available, we will use the Back Up Bands Track.
- **Treasurer** – We are happy to say we have offered the position to Beth Sindt and she has accepted. Beth comes highly recommended and with many years of experience. She will begin in her position on October 1. Dawn will also remain in her position through November as she provides Beth with training.
- **Director of Outreach and Youth Ministry** – Beginning in October, Pastor Kirsten's position will adjust to being a part-time position. There are several ways we can live into her part-time position. In October we will be experimenting with perhaps the simplest model, where she is working 32 hours a week. Though we may continue to adjust as we move forward. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we try to find what works best for Grace and Pastor Kirsten.

Council Corner

- At the September 28, meeting, Treasurer Dawn Matthews reported that at the end of August we were 67% into the year. We have received 64% of budgeted annual revenue. We have spent 64%. For the year through August, we had a deficit of \$16,719.53.
- Beth Sindt was approved for the position of Treasurer. She will start October 1, and train with Dawn for the first month.
- Two Special Projects grants were approved. The first will fund a Harvest Gathering for Luther Properties. The second will fund spiritual growth seminars. A third proposal was deferred until additional information can be gathered.
- This year's Stewardship campaign, "Be a Blessing," is set to begin October 18.

Food Pantry Weekend

Our next Food Pantry Collections are Sundays October 4, November 1, and December 6. Bring your non-perishable food donations in a bag, and leave at the altar before the service.