



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

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Grace Lutheran Church ~ LCMS

1430 7th Ave. SE, Le Mars, Iowa
www.gracellemars.org
Sunday Worship 9:00am



Fourth Sunday after Christmas January 18, 2026

Pastor Timothy Geitz (541-2266) pastorofgrace@live.com

Susan Geitz Office Secretary (546-5516)

Jennifer Heisterkamp-Bookkeeper (546-5516)

Church Email: gracelutheranchurch@ymail.com

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 8:00 am-4:00 pm www.gracellemars.org

Worship Broadcast on Local Channel 12 ~ Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

Missionaries:

Pastor Carl and Chen His Li Hanson, Asia Region

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster, Prague, Czech Republic

Rev. Jordan and Alison Andreasen, Romania

Hannah Hester, Asia Region

Hispanic Ministry of Siouxland

Micah Cumming-Seminary Student

+ ORDER OF WORSHIP +
 Divine Service—Setting One
 January 18, 2026

Apr. 3-Good Friday, “Tearing Down the Spite House” (Job 42:7–9)
 Apr. 5-The Resurrection of Our Lord, “I Know that My Redeemer Lives!” (Job 19:23–26)

Ringing of the Bells & Greeting

Opening Hymn #948 All Glory Be to God Alone

1 All glory be to God alone,
 Forevermore the highest one,
 Who did our sinful race befriend
 And grace and peace to us extend.
 Among us may His gracious will
 All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

2 We praise You, God; Your name we bless
 And worship You in humbleness;
 From day to day we glorify
 The everlasting God on high.
 Of Your great glory do we sing,
 And to Your throne our thanks we bring.

3 Lord God, our King on heaven's throne,
 Father, the Almighty One.
 O Lord, the sole-begotten One,
 Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,
 True God from all eternity,
 O Lamb of God, to You we flee.

4 You take the whole world's sin away;
 Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
 You take the whole world's sin away;
 O Lord, receive our prayer this day.
 From God's right hand Your mercy send,
 To all the world Your grace extend.

5 You only are the Holy One
 And over all are Lord alone.
 O Jesus Christ, we glorify
 You and the Spirit, Lord Most High;
 With Him You evermore shall be
 One in the Father's majesty.

SCIENCE WITH JESUS
WORD SEARCH

R E S U R R E C T I O N F V C
 P G F U B J M B D M D R I G A
 L O A Z X C A N D G I S L E L
 Z I O H L P E J M S E G S P M
 I E V E R Z S P I C X B H U S
 E L M A Y Q U W R I P B E Y T
 E O N L L N R A A E E B S H H
 N C X I H E R L C N R U I K E
 B L I N D M A N L C I A G C S
 B B B G A F C N E E M N S A T
 S V T F B G T G S S E D O L O
 C T H C W A I T Z P N N J M R
 P J E S U S O M Z R T E O S M
 L O A V E S A N D F I S H E S
 K A H O W A L K O N W A T E R



Miracles
 Jesus
 Experiment
 Healing
 Calms The Storm
 Loaves And Fishes
 Walk On Water
 Blind Man
 Resurrection
 Science



The Book of Job:

Blessed be the Name of the Lord

One of the Bible's greatest wisdom books is the book of Job. This Lent we are going to explore this magnificent composition that is numbered among some of the greatest literature of all time. Nine sermons will help us dig deeply into Job's central message and supporting truths, while six Sunday Morning Adult Bible Classes will further address the book's major topics and themes.

We all suffer—personally and privately. We also suffer in more public ways. A husband loses a job. A child gets divorced. A parent dies. And now, thanks to the media, we are able to see and experience more and more of the world's catastrophes and suffering. We need the book of Job, now, more than ever.

Martin Luther asserted that "Job is magnificent and sublime as no book of Scripture." Others have called Job "the Shakespeare of the Bible." Yet the early Christian scholar Jerome perhaps put it best when he called the book of Job an "eel," since the more one tries to contain it, the slipperier it becomes! The purpose of our Lenten emphasis is to learn how to apply Job to our lives, so that the book becomes less like an eel and more like a loving companion through life's dark valleys. Preaching plans are as follows:

The Book of Job: Blessed be the Name of the Lord!

Feb. 18-Ash Wednesday, "Flying Blind" (Job 1:1–12)

Feb. 25, "Sweet Surrender" (Job 1:13–21)

Mar. 4, "Learning to Lament" (Job 3:1–26)

Mar. 11, "It is Enough" (Job 14:1–14)

Mar. 18, "Understanding How it all Works Together" (Job 23:1–17)

Mar. 25, "God Speaks in the Storm" (Job 38:1–11)

Mar. 29-Palm Sunday, "On Earth is not his Equal!" (Job 41:20–34)

Apr. 2-Maundy Thursday, "Why do the Wicked Prosper?" (Job 21:7–16)

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Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Salutation & Collect of Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

....through Jesus Christ, Your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 49:1–7

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” ⁴ But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.” ⁵ And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—⁶ he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” ⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:1–9

¹ Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God

Mark the date: The youth group (5-12th) grade will be going ice skating on February 21 at the BPI center in Sioux City. More details to come.

Reflection: “Stewardship is a journey of trust—start this year by placing your plans in God’s hands.” Verse: Proverbs 16:3 – “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”

Building Healthy Families: Life can be hard, and relationships can cause pain. When someone hurts you, you may find it difficult to trust again. Through all life's challenges, God never breaks His promise: "I will never leave you; I will never forsake you." (Hebrews 13) He does not abandon you in the pain but promises to stay with you – and puts people in place to be there, including pastors and counselors who are available to help with troubled relationships and the pain they leave behind. Remember, you're not alone and (no matter what your German genes or your American individualist pride tells you) it's okay to ask for help. God put us here to be good for one another. **Lutheran Family Service** www.LutheranFamilyService.org

is a short service of that week's Bible readings, a hymn, a sermon message, a creed, Lord's Prayer and blessing. It is perfect for shut-ins and those home sick, who don't have access to their home church's service and for anyone else. . Most important, the GSH is available to those who don't know Jesus at all or have fallen away from Him. The Good Shepherd Hour was originally started in connection with the chaplaincy in Sioux City, but the chaplaincy has ended. Its current speaker is Pastor Trevor Freudenburg of the LCMS.

For your spiritual growth, past broadcasts can be found at <https://kscj.com/the-good-shepherd-hour>.

Good Shepherd Hour radio times and stations are below:

KVFD, Fort Dodge 1400 AM (8:00 a.m.) (\$ 55)

KLEM, Le Mars 1410 AM 96.9 FM (8:00 a.m.) (\$ 50)

KSCJ, Sioux City 1360 AM, 94.9 FM (8:00 a.m.) (\$100)

KAYL, Storm Lake 101.7 FM (8:30 a.m.) (\$ 35)

Please keep the ministry in your prayers. If you would like to support the Good Shepherd Hour ministry or want more information, please contact us at the address below. You can sponsor a broadcast for a station or for all the stations, or any donation will be a help to the ministry. Good Shepherd Hour, PO Box 5044, Sioux City, IA 51102-5044. Email: goodshepherdhour2@gmail.com

New church directory: Grace is doing a new picture directory . The dates are March 19th and 20th that is when the pictures will be taken at church. If you can't come and have your picture taken on those dates you can submit a picture but it will cost you \$25 dollars. More details to come!

Beer City Pizzas: The youth group is selling Beer City pizzas to help raise funds for the youth group activities. They will be taking your orders starting today through the 25th of January. They will assemble the pizzas at the church on the 7th of February and can be picked up that day. This is just in time for the Super Bowl the next day. Enjoy and find a youth and get your orders in.

that was given you in Christ Jesus,⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Alleluia

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St.John 1:29-42a

Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson John 1:29-42a

²⁹ The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." ³⁵ The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you stay-

ing?"³⁹ He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn #702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

2 May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

3 While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,

On Main Street: January 25, 2026

This Is the Life - "Missing Ingredient" - Bob (Jack Nicholson) and his fiancée Lynn (Susan Crane) are planning their wedding when she overhears her parents planning to separate shortly after.

Worship Service - Rev. Alex Kaldahl, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hinton, IA, delivers the message titled "Light in the Darkness" based on Matthew 4:12-25. This program is interpreted and closed-captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

Fellowship/Social Ministry will be collecting food for Rejoice's food pantry until the end of the year. Grab a purple bag and fill it up and put in the shopping cart in the fellowship hall. All donations are very much appreciated.

Thrivent: New Choice dollars for the 4th quarter of 2025 are available after January 6, 2026. If you have not directed your choice dollars, please direct them as soon as possible by calling Home Office at 1-800-847-4836 or by directing them on line at www.thrivent.com. Thanks for your continued support of the Choice Dollars program at Grace.

A New Discovery: We have just learned of a new opportunity that is available to Thrivent members. For owners, you have the opportunity to designate an additional \$25 to a ministry of your choosing **during the month of your Birthday!** Please call 1-800-847-4836 or access Thrivent through their website. It is very simple, quick and easy process, in order that you can designate where this \$25 dollars goes. Again, this is in addition to the Choice Dollars you already get and designate. Check it out!

The Good Shepherd Hour Greetings to all fellow Lutherans within listening range of the Good Shepherd Hour. The Good Shepherd Hour is broadcasted over the radio in Fort Dodge, Le Mars, Sioux City and Storm Lake on Sunday mornings. The GSH

Those Serving us Next Week

January 25, 2026

Elders:	Mark H / Tony H / Chad P
Ushers:	Chris Colt
Reader:	Ryan Zitritsch
Trustee:	Andrew Schwartz
Music:	Jennifer Heisterkamp
Acolyte:	Ushers

+ News and Notes +

January 18, 2026

Don't Have Cash Today? You can give using the Tithe.ly app with either iOS or Android phones. Simply download the Tithe.ly app and use it to give once or to give a recurring gift. You can also set up payments through your bank. Contact the office for more information.

Visitors: You are welcome to support our ministry here any time. Our offerings are used to support several missionaries, provide a comfortable facility for members and visitors alike to worship in, support the work of our District and Synod, and provides for our Pastor and other employees. We encourage you to give to God of what He has first blessed you with to make sure your spiritual needs are taken care of.

Holy Communion: If you are a visitor to our service and would like to take Holy Communion, we ask that you please speak to an usher for more information. We take God's Word seriously when we are told to administer this Sacrament correctly, and would like to make sure your spiritual needs are taken care of. Also the center ring of communion cups contains non-alcoholic wine.

Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

Public domain

Sermon "Do We See?" John 1:29-42a

Confession of Faith-Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav-**

en;
give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Hymns: 606, 346, 620

Post-Communion Blessing

Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

Amen.

Benediction

Amen.

Closing Hymn #550 Lamb of God

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. Refrain

Refrain

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

+This Week at Grace Lutheran +

Sun, Jan 18: Worship w H/C at 9:00 am
Education Hour at 10:15 am
Sudanese Worship at 1:00 pm

Mon, Jan 19: NO Bible Study
Tues, Jan 20: Fellowship/ Social Ministry at 6:30 pm

Weds, Jan 21: No Confirmation

Sunday, Jan 25: Worship at 9:00 am
Education Hour at 10:15 am

Those Serving Us this Week January 18, 2026

Elders:	Tony H / Mark H / Chad P
Ushers:	Chris Colt
Reader:	Ryan Zitritsch
Trustee:	Ricky Harris
Music:	Ruth Alexander
Acolyte:	Ushers