



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH Missouri Synod

Congregational Officers

Mark Heimgartner, President, 712-541-3077
Ryan Zittritsch, Vice President, 712-541-1321
Lois Ohlendorf, Treasurer, 712-546-7736
Brenda Baldwin, Recording Secretary
Tony Heisterkamp, Chair, Elders 712-540-0127
Roy Thoms, Chair, Trustees, 712-541-5359
Melinda Schwartz, Chair, Bd of Education, 712-540-1254
Linda Hamer, Chair, Memorials, 712-539-3456
Courtney Clark, Chair, Youth, 712-539-8831
Jay Faber, Chair, Stewardship, 712-539-1516
Lola Fitch, Chair, Altar Guild, 546-7292
Lola Fitch, Chair, Fellowship & Social Ministry

Grace Lutheran Church ~ LCMS

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

Blessed are the **righteous**, for they will **inherit** the **earth**.
Blessed are those who **hunger** and **thirst** for **righteousness**, for they will be **satisfied**.
Blessed are the **merciful**, for they will **be merciful**.
Blessed are the **pure** in heart, for they will **see** **God**.
Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be **called** the **children** of **God**.
Blessed are those who are **persecuted** for the **sake** of **righteousness**, for they will **be rewarded**.
Blessed are you when people **revile** you and **say** all kinds of **evil** against you **falsely**, for it is **for** **account** of **meek** **spirit** that you are **persecuted**.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany February 1, 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.gracelemars.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 III with Communion
 February 1, 2026

Ringing of the Bells & Welcome

Hymn of Invocation #803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
 God of glory, Lord of love!
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
 Praising Thee, their sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
 Drive the gloom of doubt away.
 Giver of immortal gladness,
 Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
 Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
 Stars and angels sing around Thee,
 Center of unbroken praise.
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,
 Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
 Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
 Call us to rejoice in Thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
 Ever blessing, ever blest,
 Wellspring of the joy of living,
 Ocean-depth of happy rest!
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 Fountainhead of love divine:
 Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!
 Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Public domain

Invocation and Responses p. 184

In the name of the Father and of the ~~the~~ Son and of the Holy Spirit
Amen.

Salt & Light - Matthew 5

Word Scramble!

Can you unscramble each word below?
 Hint: Read Matthew 5:13-16 for clues!

lats SALT

icyt _____

haret _____

mapl _____

glith _____

danst _____

drowl _____

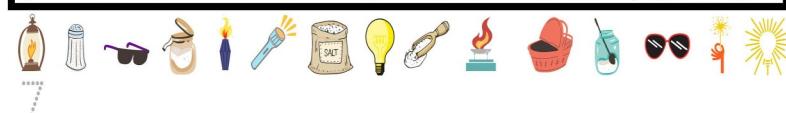
enish _____

ogdo _____

sparie _____

Eye Spy Search & Count!

Count each picture you find in the box and write the answers below!



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)
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)

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

**I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Confession and Absolution (left side) p. 184-185

O almighty God, merciful Father,
I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day p. 189

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

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

Old Testament Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ “O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.” ⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Sermon

Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

¹⁸ The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of

on those dates you can submit a picture but it will cost you \$20 dollars. The sign up dates are starting today thru March 8 before and after service. Go to Grace's website at gracellemars.org to sign up or visit the table in the fellowship hall today before and after service.

Beer City Pizzas: Big thank you to everyone that ordered pizzas from the youth group is was very much appreciated. If you have not picked your pizzas up yet check the kitchen fridge.

LYF Ice Skating: The youth group (5-12th) grade will be going ice skating on February 21 at the BPI center in Sioux City. We will meet at the church at 6pm, skating is 7-9 pm. More details to come.

Reflection: Reflection: “As Lent begins, let us embrace prayer, repentance, fasting, and giving as acts of faithful stewardship.” Verse: **Joel 2:12** – “Return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

Building Healthy Families: Experiencing a private concern that you don't want to talk about with your friends or family? Don't look for help online. There you may find “answers,” but they'll be from a faceless post or AI-generated source that provides simplistic solutions or platitudes that aren't consistent with teachings of the historic faith that have guided and sustained generations long before the internet gave influencers a platform. LFS has mental health, marriage and family, grief and loss education and support, unplanned pregnancy and adoption counselors available to you via confidential telehealth link no matter where you live. At LFS you'll find real people who are experienced helpers – equipped to provide confidential, sound counsel – who share your Lutheran Christian faith. Why struggle alone or scroll online when real help is available? Call us – it's why we're here! Learn more at www.LutheranFamilyService.org **Lutheran Family Service**

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 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>.

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

God is stronger than men. ²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Alleluia Verse

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th Chapter
Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 5:1-12

¹ Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Confession of Faith-Nicene Creed p. 191

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~~ of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day Hymn #932 Jesus Sat with His Disciples

1 Jesus sat with His disciples
On a mountainside one day;
As the crowds of people gathered,
He began to teach and say:
“Blessèd are the poor in spirit,
Heaven’s kingdom they will share.
Blessèd are the sad and mourning,
Joy and comfort will be theirs.

+ News and Notes +
February 1, 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.

On Main Street: February 8 airing

This is the Life – “Happy Dirty Hands” – School teacher Kent (Daniel Travanti) and his wife (Anne Whitfield) live in an impoverished area causing trouble in their marriage.

Worship Service – Rev. Don Meyer of Zion Lutheran Church in Paullina, IA, delivers the message “Fasting With a Purpose” based on Isaiah 58:3-9a. 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

+This Week at Grace Lutheran +

Sun, Feb 1: **Worship w H/C at 9:00 am**
 Education Hour at 10:15 am
Sudanese Worship at 1:00 pm
4-H at 4:00 pm

Mon, Feb 2: **NO Bible Study at 9:30 am**

Weds, Feb 4 : Confirmation and Grace Kids at 6:00pm
Hospital Auxiliary Board at 12:30pm

Sat, Feb 7: Bellissimo coffee at 9:00 am
LYF Pizza making at 9:00 am

Sun, Feb 8: **Worship at 9:00 am**
 Education Hour at 10:15 am

Those Serving Us this Week

February 1, 2026

Elders: Tony H / Mark H / Chad P
Ushers: Chris Colt / Brayson Z
Reader: Tony Heisterkamp
Trustee: Roy Thoms
Music: Ruth Alexander
Acolyte: Ushers

Those Serving us Next Week

February 8, 2026

Elders: Mark H / Tony H / Ryan Z
Ushers: Chris Colt / Brayson Z
Reader: Tony Heisterkamp
Trustee: Andrew Schwartz
Music: Ruth Alexander
Acolyte: Ushers

2 "Blessèd are the meek and humble,
All the earth to them is willed.
Those who hunger to be holy,
They are bless'd and will be filled.
Yes, the merciful are blessèd,
Mercy will to them be shown.
And the pure in heart are blessèd,
They have eyes for God alone.

3 "Blessèd are God's sons and daughters,
Making peace where there is strife.
Blessèd are the persecuted,
Who for righteousness lose life;
Their reward is great in heaven,
In the kingdom up above—
So be glad to share My suff'ring
And rejoice to know My love."

Text: © 1997 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001918

Sermon "God Continues to Bless Us, So Let's Continue to Bless Others" Matthew 5:1-12 (Rev. Michael Sharp)

Prayer of the Church p. 193

The Lord's Prayer p. 196

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; 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 p. 197

Pax Domini p. 197

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

Agnus Dei p. 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution p. 199

Distribution Hymns: 633, 711, 547

Blessing of Communicants p. 199

Amen.

Thanksgiving and Post-Communion Prayer p. 200-201

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

And his mercy endureth forever

Let us pray.

Amen.

Salutation and Benedicamus p. 201

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Benediction p. 201

Amen, Amen, Amen

Closing Hymn #535 How Wide the Love of Christ

1 How wide the love of Christ!

It knows not class or race

But holds our one humanity

Within its broad embrace.

2 How long the love of Christ!

Its patience will not cease

Until this broken world is bound

In everlasting peace.

3 How high the love of Christ!
Beyond all thought it soars,
And yet upon our passing lives
Unmeasured mercy pours.

4 How deep the love of Christ,
Descending to a cross!
He bears within His wounded hands
All human pain and loss.

5 All praise to You, O Christ,
For love whose depth and height,
Whose length and breadth fill time and space
With endless life and light!

Text: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001918