



Grace Lutheran Church ~ LCMS

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



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
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 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

Third Sunday in Lent March 8, 2026

Pastor Timothy Geitz (541-2266) pastorofgrace@live.com
 Susan Geitz Office Secretary (546-5516)
 Jennifer Heisterkamp-Bookkeeper (546-5516)
 Church Email: gracelutheranchurch@gmail.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
March 8, 2026

Ringing of the Bells & Welcome

Hymn of Invocation #901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

1 Open now thy gates of beauty;
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

2 Gracious God, I come before Thee;
Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou;
Let it be Thy temple now!

3 Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;
Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

4 Thou my faith increase and quicken;
Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howsoe'er temptations thicken;
May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;
Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Public domain

Lenten Series
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:

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)

that every contribution-no matter the size-makes a meaningful difference.

We encourage everyone, of all ages, to begin collecting spare change now and prayerfully consider participating. Together, through faithful stewardship and generosity, we can continue to be a source of hope and help within our congregation and community.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be.” Matthew 6:21

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.,
Fellowship and Social Ministry

Easter Egg Hunt: The Board of Education is having a easter egg hunt for all Children up to 5th grade. Dust off your baskets and bring a friend with you. March 29 at 11:15am.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Lenten Treen Project: Here is how it works;

1. Take an egg with an item inside that you are willing to purchase.(Look **INSIDE** the egg for a suggestion!)
2. Go Shopping!!
3. Return the item & egg by Easter.

Did you agree to purchase a gift card or sponsor a bed? Please put your gift into an envelope & label “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” & turn it in. If you bought a physical item, please put it in the collection area near the tree. We also love the gift of **TIME!** Come volunteer with us! We are family friendly and **No** experience needed.

Invocation and Responses p. 184

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

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

Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.,

**O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son Jesus to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son Jesus to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Amen.

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen**

Kyrie

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

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 Exodus 17:1–7

1 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Mo-

same message in His Word – repeatedly! – but it’s so much easier to say “don’t worry” than it is to not worry. Are you (or is someone you know) a worrier? You don’t have to be! Lutheran Family Service counselors who share your Lutheran, Christian faith are available in-person or via confidential telehealth link to your home through computer, tablet, or phone. These caring people are experienced at helping people with worry and many other challenges. Imagine a life with less worry – and know it’s possible. Call us – it’s why we’re here! Learn more at www.LutheranFamilyService.org **Lutheran Family Service**

On Main Street: March 15 airing

This is the Life – “Flames of Hate” – Betty Blackwood (Angie Dickenson) is stuck between the man she loves, Art (Ed Kemmer), and her obsessive father Nate (Edger Dearing) who disapproves of Art.

Worship Service – Rev. Don Pobanz of Grace Lutheran Church in Wood River, NE and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Shelton, NE, delivers the message “Seeing is Believing?” based on John 9:1-41. 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.

Easter Lillies: If you would like to donate a lily in memory of someone please fill out the form which is on the table in the fellowship hall. Easter lilies are 11.00 dollars this year. Make checks out to Grace Lutheran.

Grace Noisy Sunday will be March 29th. Members and friends are invited to bring loose change, small bills, and special offerings to contribute toward assisting individuals and families experiencing unexpected financial hardships. After church today, cups can be picked up to collect your contributions in if you choose. The Emergency Fund enables our church to respond compassionately and promptly in times of crisis, providing relief and support when it is most needed.

On this designated Sunday, worshippers will be invited to dump your coins into the designated bucket in the Fellowship Hall. The joyful sound of coins and gifts given in faith serves as a reminder

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 . Pictures will be taken March 19th and 20th, here at Grace. Those who have their pictures taken here at Grace will receive a free directory. If you can't come and have your picture taken on those dates, you can submit a picture, but there will be a cost of \$20 that you are responsible for. Make checks out to Grace. You can sign up at Grace either before or after church, or you can go to Grace's website at gracelemars.org to sign up. We want YOUR family!

Building Healthy Families: "Don't worry, be happy!..." Remember this catchy little tune from the 80's? God gives us this

ses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

Epistle Lesson Romans 5:1-8

1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Holy Gospel according to St. John
Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson St. John 4:5–26

5 [Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” 11 The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” 13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” 15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” 17 The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” 19 The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” 21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true

+ **News and Notes** +
March 8, 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.

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.

Reflection: “Let this season of repentance renew our commitment to generosity and compassion.” Verse: **2 Corinthians 9:7** – “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Thrivent: If you have 2026 choice Dollars that have not been directed, **you must direct them before March 31, 2026 or you lose them. They do not carry over!** You have more choice dollars to direct after each quarter(March 31, 2026, June 30, September 30 and December 31). Mark your calendar !! To direct your choice Dollars, call home office at 1-800-847-4836 or you can direct them online at www.Thrivent.com

+This Week at Grace Lutheran +

Sun, March 8: Worship at 9:00 am

Education Hour at 10:15 am

Friendship Breakfast

Sudanese Worship at 1:00 pm

Mon, March 9: Bible Study at 9:30 am

Fellowship / Social Ministry 6:30 pm

Tues, March 10: Circuit Meeting at 8:00 am

Weds, March 11: Confirmation / Grace kids at 6:00 pm

Lenten Service at 7:00 pm

Sun, March 15: Worship w H/C at 9:00 am

Education Hour at 10:15 am

Sudanese Worship at 1:00 pm

Those Serving Us this Week

March 8, 2026

Elders: Darrell K / Mark H / Ryan Z
Ushers: Chris Colt / Brayson Z/ Gene P
Reader: Ryan Zittritsch
Trustee: Ricky Harris
Music: Ruth Alexander
Acolyte: Ushers

Those Serving us Next Week

March 15, 2026

Elders: Mark H / Darrell K / Ryan Z
Ushers: Chris Colt / Brayson Z / Gene P
Reader: Ryan Zittritsch
Trustee: Andrew Schwartz
Music: Ruth Alexander
Acolyte: Ushers

worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” 25 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Confession of Faith-Apostles' Creed p. 192

I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Hymn of the Day Hymn #761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

2 Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;

Thou must save, and Thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Text: Public domain

Sermon "A Meribah Lutheran?" Exodus 17:1-7

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

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.

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 #924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration
For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Your truth may we be found.

3 Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.

Text: Public domain

During Lent, it is customary to not sing Alleluias. "Alleluia" means "Praise ye the Lord." We will sing it next on Easter.

This day is also the last day the Christ Candle (which signifies Christ's presence among us) is lit, except for when someone is Baptized. For that reason, it is not lit during the somber season of Lent as we remember Christ's suffering on our behalf.