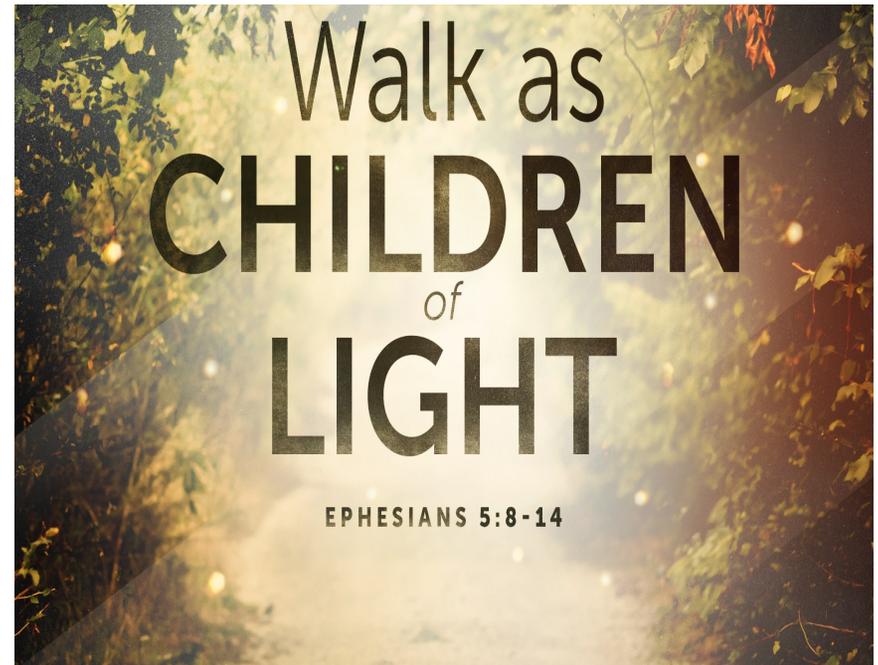




Grace Lutheran Church ~ LCMS

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



Congregational Officers

Mark Heimgartner, President, 712-541-3077
Ryan Zitritsch, 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

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 15, 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—Setting One
March 15, 2026

Ringing of the Bells & Greeting

Opening Hymn #704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

1 Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face.

2 Remove the pow’r of sin from me
And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will
Temptations of the flesh to still.

3 Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.

4 Grant that I only You may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face,
O Light eternal, through Your grace.

Text: Public domain

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.

life’s dark valleys. Preaching plans are as follows:

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)

Ruth Grasz is turning 97 on March 19. I am sure she would love to be remembered by you with a note or card. Although she is now living in Stone Bridge Suites, her address is still 25921 160th Street, LeMars 51031. I will make sure mom gets the cards. Carol

Thank You: It is a Blessing from God when one turns 80 and it makes one look back over the years. It is a Blessing when friends and acquaintances greet you with kind words and Happy birthdays. I, also, was surprised when a chorus of Happy Birthday rang out. Thank you to those that gave me cards. Thank you to all for making the day very special! Sharon George

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

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

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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 42:14

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our

gods.”¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see!¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD?²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear.²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Children’s Sermon

Epistle Lesson Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Lenten Response:

Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

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

Gospel Lesson John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents,

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.

The Fellowship and Social Ministry committee: is sponsoring a drive for items on behalf of the Sleep in Heavenly Peace, IA team. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a nonprofit guided by a simple mission that NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN. We can help this organization with various monetary gifts and requested needed items. In the fellowship hall you will find the tree with eggs and envelopes on it. Select one or more eggs/or envelopes, purchase your selection and place item(s) in a designated area by the end of March for the first delivery. The second delivery will be the end of April.

Here’s an opportunity for people of all ages, to help build beds. To sign up go to shpbeds.org then “Upcoming Events” and sign up for a one or two hour shift on March 28 at the previous Total Motors shop area. AM shift is 9-11 with the PM from 1-3. Their goal is to make 100 beds.

Thank you for supporting children and families in our community. We truly are thankful for your involvement in this worthwhile event to ensure even more kids have a safe, comfortable place to sleep in 2026.

local greenhouse where you can smell, see, touch, feel, and experience the presence of new life all around you. As you do, be mindful of the new life that stirs within you and of Paul's inspired words written for you in Romans 6: "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Call us for help with any of life's challenges you're experiencing along the journey. We're here to help! Learn more about the many supports available at www.LutheranFamilyService.org **Lutheran Family Service**

On Main Street: March 22 airing
This is the Life – "Money for Marriage" – A woman's decisions at work put a strain on the new couple's marriage.
Worship Service – Rev. Rob Kuefner of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington, NE, delivers the message, "Dry" based on Ezekiel 37:1-14. 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 \$ 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 that every contribution-no matter the size-makes a meaningful

that he was born blind?"³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."⁶ Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . .

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." . . .

³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you."³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn #411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

I I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In Him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. **Refrain**

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

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Sermon "Walking In Light" Ephesians 5:8-14

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**

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](http://www.Thrivent.com)

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>.
to Grace's website at gracelemars.org to sign up. We want YOUR family!

Building Healthy Families: Spring – the season of renewal and new life – officially arrives this week on Friday at 10:46 am. Though you can't dig in the garden quite yet, take some time this week to take someone you care about (or just go yourself!) to a

+ News and Notes +
March 15, 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.

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: March 15th-5th Sunday in Lent: "Those who sow in tears will reap with Shouts of Joy" **Psalm 126:5.**

Lent teaches us the sacrificial giving bears lasting fruit; as we sow faithfully, God brings forth joy and transformation.

Thrivent: If you have 2026 choice Dollars that have not been directed, **you must direct them before March 31, 2026 or you**

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 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

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

Distribution Hymn: 802, 694,

Post-Communion Blessing

Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

Amen.

Benediction

Amen.

Closing Hymn #839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

1 O Christ, our true and only light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Your voice
And in Your fold with us rejoice.

2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace
The souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

3 O gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed
In You find peace and heav'nly rest.

4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart;
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,

5 That they with us may evermore
Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore
And endless praise to You be giv'n
By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

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.

+This Week at Grace Lutheran +

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

Mon, March 16: Bible Study at 9:30 am

Weds, March 18: Confirmation / Grace kids at 6:00 pm
Lenten Service at 7:00 pm

Thurs, March 19: 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm picture directory

Fri, March 20: 1:00pm to 8:00 pm picture directory

Sun, March 22: Worship at 9:00 am
Education Hour at 10:15 am
Sudanese Worship at 1:00 pm

Those Serving Us this Week
March 15, 2026

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

Those Serving us Next Week
March 22, 2026

Elders: Mark H / Darrell K / Ryan Z
Ushers: Chris Colt / Brayson Z / Gene P
Reader: Ryan Zittritsch
Trustee: Ray Eickholt
Music: Jennifer Heisterkamp
Acolyte: Ushers