

THE MESSENGER

May 2026



Memorial Day Dinner

May 25th, 11-1pm

Memorial Building, Dine in or carry out

Sponsored by the Gladbrook American
Legion and Auxiliary

Memorial Day Services

8:00– Lincoln Township or 15 mile
Grove

8:20 Maple Hill Cemetery

8:45 Badger Hill Cemetery

9:10 Chapel Cemetery

9:30 Union Grove Cemetery

9:50 Union Grove Lake Beach

(for those lost at sea)

10:15 Crystal Cemetery

10:30 Gethmann Cemetery

11:00 All Veterans park

Please don't be late at any of
the services. It is better to be early.
Rev. John Granchie will give the
message at all the cemeteries. TAPS
will be played and there will be a color
guard at all the cemeteries. At the All-
Veterans Park patriotic music will be
played a head of the service. Poppies
and memorial booklets will be
distributed. There will be a lunch at
the Memorial Building.

GMW News



Serve Graduation Reception

May 3rd during Fellowship service

Meeting: May 21st at 9:30am

Breakfast Service–

Devotions– Avriel K.

Lesson–

Theater Concessions– May 23rd @ 6:15pm



This year's **graduating high school senior is...**

Joshua Gallo

He will be given recognition during the worship
service on Sunday, May 3rd.

We wish him a blessed future.

May Senior Citizen's Dinner

The Peace Church is hosting the Senior Citizens
dinner on Friday, May 8th, at the Peace Church.

Cost is \$5.00. Call Jeanne to make reservations
at 641-751-2039, 473-2843 or 2802.



“You Are My Witnesses”

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

-Acts 1:8-

You are driving down the highway when an automobile approaching at high speed ignores the stop sign and slams into the automobile directly behind you. You were certain your time had come, but it narrowly missed you. The guy behind you wasn't so lucky. Nobody hursts but his car is another story. You pull over to the curb and get out.

The fellow who ran the stop sign is drunk, so you are all the more interested in seeing that justice is done. You give your name and address to the police officer and agree to be a witness when the case comes up. Finally, you are in court, you sit down on the witness chair.

The judge asks you what you saw and you say, “I'd like to share with you dear friends my views on the gold standard and how it affects our economy today.” You may be the world's leading authority on the gold standard, but the judge only wants to know one thing-*what did you see?* That's it-no fills, no conjectures, no theories-just what happened.

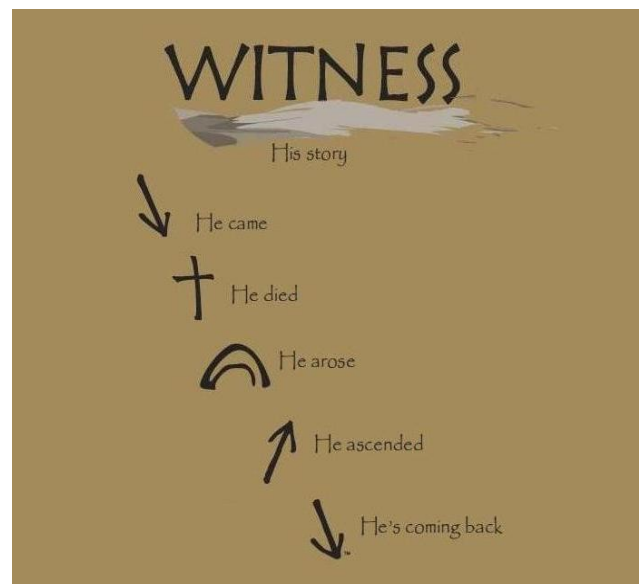
That is what being a *witness* is all about. Shortly before Jesus ascended to heaven, Jesus told His followers, “*You shall be my witnesses....*” A witness does not give his or her opinion-he or she tells what happened. He or she does not have to convince, twist arms nor persuade a person's will. He or she gives the facts candidly and honestly.

The Greek word for witness, *Martus*, came from the same word that gave us our English word “*martyr*,” meaning someone who dies for his or her beliefs. Early Christians were so committed to what they had seen and heard, they died for it.

The world is not looking for your ideas or opinions; it is searching for reality-the truth of a Man who was alive but was crucified, dead and buried, and then the third day He rose again from the tomb and is alive today.

As someone once put it, a successful witness or should I say, a genuine and true witness is one who shares Christ in the. Power of the Holy Spirit and leaves the results to God.

Pastor Gideon



Church Family updates



Clay and Tate Koester, sons of Matt and Beth Koester, were confirmed as members of the Gladbrook Community Christian Church on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

We are so proud of these young Christian men.

Joshua Gallo would like to invite his church family to celebrate his High School Graduation with him and his family.

The reception party will be from 4:30 until 7:30pm on Sunday, May 17th in the Fellowship Hall of the Gladbrook Methodist Church.



Easter Lilies 2026

- 1 given in memory of **Mary Lynne Bearden** by Chuck and family
- 1 given in memory of **Glen & Abbie Sash and Carl & Leona Gienger** by Keith & JoAnne Sash & family
- 2 given by Dave & Lisa Koester in memory of **our parents and Jim, Jan, and Deb Koester**
- 1 given in honor of **Stetson, Wrenley, Emmett, & Kayden** by Kay Lowry
- 1 given in memory of **Barb Strohbahn** by Ken Strohbahn
- 3 given by Kyle Koester in memory of **Grandpa & Grandma Lattin, Grandpa & Grandma Koester, and Debra Koester**
- 1 given in memory of **our parents and grandparents** by Nancy, Steven, and John Keiser
- 2 given in memory of the **Davis and Laughlin family members & the Koester family members**, 2 given in **honor of friends lost and friends gained** and our **Lord who remembers us every day** by Paul & Avriel Koester
- 1 given in memory of **Fred & Pearl Koester, Fred & Anna Koester, and Ruth and Mary Koester** by Allen Koester and Marla Jarr families.
- 1 given in memory of **Walt Gethmann** by Joan Appelgate
- 1 given in memory of **Gerald Raum** by Joan Appelgate
- 1 given in memory of **Bob, Maria, Jim Slinker** by Joan Appelgate
- 1 given in memory of **George & Doris, Herman & Anna Gethmann & Helen & Otis McKinney** by Joan Appelgate
- 1 given in memory of **Mary Appelgate** by Bruce Appelgate
- 1 given in memory of **Dwight Surber** by his loving family



Vacation Bible School is Coming Soon

All children 3 years through 12 years of age are invited to join us at the Peace Church June 1-4 from 8:30am until noon. This VBS is a joint effort of Chapel Church, Peace United Church of Christ, and the Gladbrook Methodist Church. There is no registration fee. Registration forms are available at and may be returned to the Gladbrook Methodist Church or Peace Church. Parents may also register by calling Peace Church at (641) 473-2802.



Kids' Club 2025-2026

The year wrapped up in April. We say goodbye to our 4th graders: Ariana, Codi, Sophia, Michael and Jackson. We will miss you.

The kids learned about the Fruit of the Spirit— Galatians 5:2.

Kids' Club I for 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders. It runs from September into April each year.

Administrative Council Minutes

March 23, 2026

Kevin Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 with 11 members present. In attendance were Dana Brown, Gideon Gallo, Cornell Gethmann, Dave Koester, Kyle Koester, Paul Koester, Carolyn Moe, Steve Moe, Grant Strohhenn, Susie Strohhenn, and Kevin Williams.

Carolyn led a devotion, and discipleship moments were shared. The February minutes were read and approved (Grant motioned, Steve seconded). The treasurer's report was not available at this time.

Finance Committee – No report at this time.

Food Pantry - A list of needed items was given. Syrup, Peanut butter, vegetable oil, crackers of any kind, dish soap, laundry soap, and toilet paper would be appreciated.

Gladbrook Methodist Women – Dana reported that the stoves have been installed. The Community Senior Citizens' dinner took place in the Fellowship Hall on March 13th, with GMW serving 19 members of the community. Additionally, GMW provided lunch for approximately 60 to 70 attendees at the Maxine Schoel funeral.

Good Samaritan Fund – No change from last month.

Memorial – Dana reported the only change to the accounts was interest drawn and a deposit made from the Mike Wentzien family.

Mission Outreach – The committee will be hosting a complimentary dinner on April 24th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., open to all members of the Gladbrook Community. Additionally, the committee is considering organizing a school supply drive and distribution event, similar in concept to Kids' Shopping Day but focused on school supplies. Plans for this initiative are currently under review, with the goal of holding the school supply giveaway in late July or early August.

Pastoral Report – Gideon has conducted home and care center visits, led weekly Bible studies and confirmation classes, and attended district meetings. In March, he led the Memorial Service at Westbrook. On April 2nd, Maundy Thursday service and a Good Friday (April 3rd) service at Westbrook Acres are scheduled, with a community Good Friday Service at Peace Church at 7pm. He invited the church family to attend the early sunrise service at Chapel Church on Easter morning, April 5th, starting at 8:30am. The Wednesday discipleship meeting has ended. Gideon plans a new Bible study on Jesus' fulfillment of Jewish festivals, with the start date yet to be determined.

SPPRC- Dave reported the next meeting will be April 6th.

Technology – Steve reported things seem to be working well with no issues being reported this past month. Gideon thanked the committee for all their collective work on the various projects recently.

Trustees – Paul confirmed all fire extinguishers have been replaced. Church yard cleanup is scheduled for March 28th. Carolyn requested the indoor tasks list, which Paul will locate and distribute. The Fellowship carpet cleaning is set for April 20th, with tables and chairs moved on April 19th and returned April 21st before Cheryl's afternoon class. Church Mutual will inspect the property on April 2nd. The group discussed alternative insurance companies; Paul will seek quotes from several options.

Other business – 1) Spring Shower- Dana reported Cathy Gethmann and Terri Luehring will once again head this fundraiser for the church. There will be a potluck on April 12 to kick off the fundraiser. Needed items will be listed posted at that time. The Spring Shower will continue into May.

2) Hymnals have been ordered. We ordered 60 hymnals and 1 accompaniment book for the organists to use.

3) There was some discussion to have a light that comes on if the power goes out. This was tables until another time.

Joys & Concerns – **Joys:** 1) Diane Mussig is turning 80 years old on April 7th. Herr family has requested a card shower for her. Her address has been posted in the bulletin for several weeks.

2) This is a joy and a concern: Paul is going to Rochester March 24th for a scan to determine if his cancer has been irradiated.

Gideon closed with prayer.

Next Meeting: April 27, 2026

Devotions: Dana

Respectfully submitted, Dana Brown

Gladbrook Methodist Women Minutes
April 16, 2026

The Gladbrook Methodist Women held their regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Dana opened the meeting with a prayer. Breakfast was supplied by BJ Williams. The past minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was presented and approved. Carolyn motioned we pay all presented bills. Joan S. gave the second. Motion passed.

Old Business:

The new stoves have been installed. Dana will provide instruction to anyone interested in using the stoves, including guidance on operation, temperature adjustment, and cleaning procedures.

It was decided to not meet in June. We will have a quick meeting in July to plan our newest mission: School Shopping Day.

Senior Dinner was held March 13, 2026. We served 19 community members. We raised \$95.00. Bills presented need to be paid from this amount.

The Spring Shower has begun. It is asked that items requested be returned to the church by May 1 to complete this project.

New business:

High School Senior Recognition will be May 3rd. Joshua Gallo is our only graduating senior. Linda will be serving Fellowship that day. It was requested by the Gallo family we do not serve breakfast this year.

Carolyn suggests our group visit a Waterloo museum connected to Tawanna Vint. We are finalizing the date and will invite all church members to join.

We will begin a new mission this year. We call it School Shopping Day. We will collect and then distribute school supplies for our community school children.

We discussed the Dignity Purse mission project and plan to sew 5–10 purses. The Blessman organization suggests a \$20 donation per purse, which we'll ask the congregation to help cover. Joan S. has the pattern available for anyone interested in sewing.

Program: Joan S. led the ladies in cutting material for the Dignity Purses.

Movie Concession night- April 25, 2026

Next Meeting: May 21, 2026

Breakfast: Joan S. and Dana B.

Devotional: Avriel K.

Lesson: None at this time.

Submitted by Dana Brown



We ask that you remember these people especially this month with your prayers:

PRAYER CORNER: Pray for God's peace and reconciliation to overcome all hatred, conflict, and war, people under persecution everywhere, and our many unspoken concerns, our military families, our law enforcement and safety professionals.

Pray for comfort and healing for all those in its need:

Larry Pieper, Paul Koester, Alannah McHenry, Don & Carolyn Anker, Kari Groth, Janell Gienger, George & Galene Groves, Dale Haack.



Lectionary Lessons for the Month of May

May 3, 2026

Proverbs 4:10-18 Psalm 119:9-20
1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14

May 10, 2027

Ezekiel 34:1-7 Psalm 115:1-11, 18b
1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21

May 17, 2026

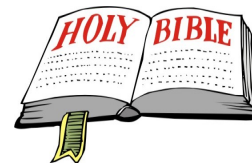
Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 21:1-7
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 John 17:1-11

May 24, 2026

Numbers 11:24-30 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Acts 2:1-21 John 20:19-23

May 31, 2026

Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20



Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

**Thank
You**

We do appreciate the work everyone has done to keep us all together while we are all apart.

Thank you...

To Cheryl Bruene for ordering and caring for the Easter Lilies. They were beautiful!

To Dana Brown for continuing her work in the office. Trying her best to keep us all connected.

To Pastor Gideon for sharing his uplifting meditational services and Sunday services with us through Facebook, mailed letters and phone calls.

To everyone who helped with the outside cleanup. The yard looks great. Soon we will be planting flowers in our raised beds.

To Everyone who helped move snow all winter.

To all of the Participants every Sunday. We couldn't run a smooth service without all your help.



COMMUNITY WIDE
YARD SALE



Gladbrook City Wide Garage Sales!!!

Saturday, May 2, 8am-2pm

If you have any questions, please contact Alannah McHenry (515) 681-2544



- 1 Charlette Bruene
- 4 Kay Lowry
- 7 Scott Garber
- 15 Wesley Bruene
- 21 Pauline Flamme
- 22 Mark Lowry
- 28 Dan Vint



If you know of any birthdays or anniversaries that need to be added, let Dana know.



The GMW will be collecting monetary donations to help minimize the costs of filling and shipping our Dignity Purses to South Africa. These purses are being sewn by the members of the GMW with donated materials and our volunteer time. They will then be sent to Blessman International where they are filled with feminine hygiene items to empower girls to be able to stay in school. Each purse costs about \$20.00 to fill with the required items and to ship to South Africa. If you would like to donate to this worthwhile cause, please give your donation to Dana.



The bags we will be making are similar to those pictured. Joan Surber has a pattern if anyone else would like to sew.



The Food Pantry will only be open the 2nd Monday in May. The fourth Monday is Memorial Day. It will be closed that day.

- These items would be greatly appreciated...**
- Breakfast cereals– We have plenty of Cheerios**
 - Jelly or jam, any flavor
 - Rice-A-Roni Microwavables
 - Bouillon cubes (beef and chicken)
 - Ketchup
 - Mustard
 - Pickles
 - Dill and sweet pickle relish
 - Corn bread mixes
 - Muffin & cake mixes
 - Jello & pudding mix
 - Dish soap
 - Toilet paper & tissues
 - Laundry soap



The Gladbrook Methodist Church
715 Lincoln Street, PO Box 176
Gladbrook, Iowa 50635



MAY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

USHERS/ GRETERS

May 3 Chuck Bearden &
Beau DeWitt
May 10 Barb Bereczki
May 17 Clay & Tate Koester
May 24 Dan & Tawanna Vint
May 31 Larry & Corrine Jensen

ACOLYTES

May 3 Charlette Bruene
May 10 Cade DeWitt
May 17 Clay Koester
May 24 Codi DeWitt
May 31 Sapphire Fricky

WORSHIP LEADERS

May 3 Kevin Williams
May 10 Beth Koester
May 17 Roger Luehring
May 24 Carolyn Moe
May 31 Dave Koester

PROJECTION

May 3 Jhona Lyn Gallo
May 10 Steve Moe
May 17 Steve Moe
May 24 Roger Luehring
May 31 Roger Luehring

ORGANIST

May 3 Ann Vibbard
May 10 Sam DeWitt
May 17 Ann Vibbard
May 24 Sam DeWitt
May 31 Sam DeWitt

Communion Stewards:

May 3 Scott & Kathy Vavroch

Messenger

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Gladbrook Methodist Church