

Congregational Officers

Mark Heimgartner, President, 712-541-3077
Ryan Zittritsch, Vice President, 712-541-1321
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Lola Fitch & Lois Ohlendorf, Co-Chairs, LWML
Lola Fitch, Chair, Altar Guild, 546-7292



Grace Lutheran Church ~ LCMS

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



July 12, 2026

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Timothy Geitz (541-2266) pastorofgrace@live.com
Ass. Pastor Daniel Mapur— Sudanese Pastor
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
Dr. Stephen and Maggie Oliver, Taiwan and Asia Region
Micah Cumming-Seminary Student
Hispanic Ministry of Siouxland

+ **ORDER OF WORSHIP** +
 Today's Praise
 5th Sunday after Pentecost
 July 12, 2026

Opening Song: LSB #545 Word of God, Come Down on Earth

1 Word of God, come down on earth,
 Living rain from heav'n descending;
 Touch our hearts and bring to birth
 Faith and hope and love unending.
 Word almighty, we revere You;
 Word made flesh, we long to hear You.

2 Word eternal, throned on high,
 Word that brought to life creation,
 Word that came from heav'n to die,
 Crucified for our salvation,
 Saving Word, the world restoring,
 Speak to us, Your love outpouring.

3 Word that caused blind eyes to see,
 Speak and heal our mortal blindness;
 Deaf we are: our healer be;
 Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.
 Be our Word in pity spoken,
 Heal the world, by sin now broken.

4 Word that speaks God's tender love,
 One with God beyond all telling,
 Word that sends us from above,
 God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
 Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
 Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit
 Amen!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Parable of the Sower

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

UNDERSTANDING	PERSECUTION	PERCEIVING	ABUNDANCE	KNOWLEDGE
SNATCHES	WITHERED	SCORCHED	TROUBLES	TROUBLE
HUNDRED	SCATTER	SHALLOW	WORRIES	KINGDOM
WEALTH	PLANTS	THORNS	FARMER	CHOKED
ROOTS	BIRDS	SEEDS	ROCKY	FRUIT
CROP	SOIL	PATH	SUN	SOW

This Week at Grace Lutheran +

Sun, July 12: Worship w H/C at 9:00 am
Bible Study at 10:15 am
Sudanese Worship at 1:00 pm
Mon, July 13: Bible Study at 9:30 am
Tues, July 14: Fellowship/ Social Ministry at 6:30 pm
Sun, July 19: Worship w H/C at 9:00 am
Ice cream fundraiser at 10:15 am
Sudanese Worship at 1:00 pm

Those Serving Us this Week
July 12, 2026

Elders: Mark H / Allyn A
Ushers: Christ Colt / Mark H
Reader: Allyn Andersen
Trustee: Ricky Harris
Music: Jennifer Heisterkamp
Acolyte: Ruthie Colt

Those Serving us Next Week
July 19, 2026

Elders: Allyn A / Mark H
Ushers: Mark H
Reader: Allyn Andersen
Trustee: Andrew Schwartz
Music: Jennifer Heisterkamp
Acolyte: Ushers

Our Confession & God's Forgiveness

We are here in the name of Jesus Christ.
Heavenly Father, we are here because we are sinful and unclean.
We have sinned against You by not listening to Your Word and
by rejecting the Truth it shares of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, O
Lord, and renew in us a right heart. Show us Your way, that we
might grow into the are stubborn fools and liars to ourselves. We
do not love God or other people as we should. We war against
life. We hurt each other. But we are sorry for it, and we ask for
Your forgiveness. We seek new life. Giver of Life, heal us, for-
give us, and free us to live for you.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spir-
it, you are forgiven. God loves you and gives you, not only for-
giveness in Jesus' name, but also new life in Christ. Rise up and
live a new life active in Christian faith.
Amen!

Responsive Reading: Psalm 118:4; 119:105, 111-112 (God's
Word is eternal truth.)

This is the day the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Thy Word, O Lord, is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.
Your statutes are my heritage forever,
they are the joy of my heart.
My heart is set on keeping Your decrees
to the very end.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

The Theme Prayer
The Lord our God be with you...
And also with you.

Let us pray... Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy
Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so

hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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 55:10-13

10“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. 12“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Children’s Sermon

Epistle Lesson: Romans 7:12-17

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Stewardship Sentence: As God’s Word works within us, we respond with faithful living and generous stewardship of all He entrusts to us.

Orphan Grain Train Project: We are collecting for the orphan grain train. We will be collecting now thru end of August. Please see the flyer in the bulletin for more info on what is needed. If you have a donation please put in the board room across from the church office. Any questions speak to Lois Ohlendorf.

Fellowship and Social ministry: Will be hosting an ice cream fundraiser on July 19th after church service. We will have ice cream and brownies and all the toppings to go with it. Free will offering will be taken and monies will be put toward getting new chairs for the fellowship hall.

July Visiting Ministry Challenge This July, we invite our church family to be the hands and feet of Christ by reaching out to those who may need encouragement, companionship, and prayer. A simple visit, phone call, or note can make a tremendous difference in someone’s day.

Throughout the month of July, we encourage you to take time to visit our shut-ins and homebound members. Your presence can bring joy, comfort, and a reminder that they remain an important part of our church family.

As Scripture reminds us, “Encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Let us put that encouragement into action by sharing our time, listening ears, and caring hearts. Whe As Scripture reminds us, “Encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Let us put that encouragement into action by sharing our time, listening ears, and caring hearts. Whether you can visit once or several times this month, every act of kindness reflects Christ’s love. If you would like a list of individuals to visit or need more information, please contact the church office.

Let’s make July a month of connection, compassion, and community as we bless others through the gift of our presenc

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.

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.

On Main Street July 19 This is the Life – “Interlude” – A husband and wife struggle with marital issues.

Worship Service – Rev. Jeremy Richter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Dakota Dunes, SD, delivers the message “Living Among the Weeds” based on Matthew 13:24-43. 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

Financial Stewardship Update:

As of June 14, 2026, Grace Lutheran Church is currently behind our projected ministry budget by \$45,631.

Reflect on Blessings: Take time to remember the abundant ways God has blessed our church family.

Pray Continually: Please join us in prayerful consideration of our churches financial needs.

Partner in Ministry: Ask how God may be inviting you to support our ongoing mission and vision.

Stewardship Sentence:

Scripture: “The word of God is living and active.” — Hebrews 4:12

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

1That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. 4And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 5Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. 7Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9He who has ears, let him hear. . .

“Hear then the parable of the sower: 19When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. 20As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 22As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Song: LSB #577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound.

2 Let not the sly satanic foe
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.

3 Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.

4 So when the precious seed is sown,
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.

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Sermon: The Seeds Fell Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Statement of What We Believe (Luther's explanation to 2nd Article: The Apostles' Creed)

It is important for all of us, as the Body of Christ, to boldly affirm what we believe.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

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

The Benediction
Amen

Song of Joy: LSB # 973 Thy Word Is a Lamp
Refrain

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

1 When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end. **Refrain**

2 I will not forget Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;
And I will love You to the end. **Refrain**

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