

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, 712-299-9867
Courtney Clark, Chair, Youth, 712-539-8831
Jay Faber, Chair, Stewardship, 712-539-1516
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



September 20, 2026

Seventeenth 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

Today's Praise
17th Sunday After the Pentecost
"Uncluttered Faith-Living A Productive Life"
September 20, 2026

Pre-service Music, Lighting of the Candles, Bells, Welcome

Opening Song "As the Deer"

1 As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after Thee.
 You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.
 You alone are my strength my shield; To You alone may my spir-
 it yield.

You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

2 You're my friend and You are my brother even though you are
 a King.

I love You more than any other, so much more than anything.
 You alone are my strength my shield; To You alone may my spir-
 it yield.

You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

3 I want You more than gold or silver, only You can satisfy.

You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye.
 You alone are my strength my shield; To You alone may my spir-
 it yield.

You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

Invocation We recognize that our Triune God is present)
 In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Confession & Absolution (We confess our sins, and receive
 God's forgiveness)

Together, let us confess our sins to God

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess that I have sinned
 against You. I have done that which You forbid, and I have
 failed to do that which You command. Once again I long to
 hear Your Word of grace. Forgive me, I pray, for the sake of
 the atoning work of Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Savior.
 Cleanse me of my sin; take away my guilt; and by the Holy
 Spirit, set me free to serve You on paths of righteousness for
 Your name's sake. Amen**



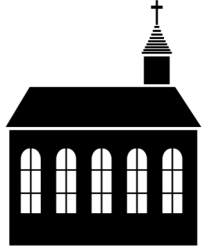
Church is Fun

Word Search

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

Word list:

BELIEF	FRIENDSHIP	JOY
BLESSINGS	GIVING	LOVE
CHRIST	GOD	MERCY
CHURCH	GRACE	OBEDIENCE
COMPASSION	GUIDANCE	PATIENCE
COURAGE	HEALING	PEACE
ETERNAL	HEAVEN	SALVATION
FAITH	HOLY	SPIRIT
FAITHFULNESS	HOPE	TRUTH
FORGIVENESS	JESUS	WISDOM






Bible Word Scramble Puzzle

1. TNVAED
2. EDPLSCII
3. SIMHASE
4. SAAIERPD
5. ECOIREJ
6. OEALNIVETR
7. AFEICSRIC
8. MNRSOE
9. NESTIYMOT
10. RNEPTMACEE
11. NISEEGS
12. NDROAP
13. RLTA
14. NMEA
15. CCRUHH
16. HSICTR
17. IGT
18. TANSI



www.MyPartyGames.com

In the place of and by the command of our Lord, Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Your guilt is removed. Be at peace. Live as God's dear children, and serve Him by serving others. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

As God's forgiven people, let us give praise to Him who comes among us to bless us with grace and truth.

Collect (Prayer) of the Day

Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing us together today. Work in us lives that honor You and bear fruit for Your kingdom. As we worship You, reveal anything that is hindering our growth or distracting us from what matters most. Give us humble hearts, willing spirits, and a deeper desire to follow You faithfully. Guide our conversation and help us encourage one another. In Jesus's name,

Amen

+ Service of the Word +

Old Testament Lesson: 1 Chronicles 29:1-9 (We are reminded to rejoice in our willingness to give.)

And David the king said to all the assembly, "Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be for man but for the Lord God. So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble. Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God: 3,000 talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, for overlaying the walls of the house, and for all the work to be done by craftsmen, gold for the things of gold and silver for the things of silver. Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the Lord?"

Then the leaders of fathers' houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and the officers over the king's work. They gave for the service of the house of God 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze and 100,000 talents of iron. And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, in the care of Jehiel the Gershonite. *Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord.* David the king also rejoiced greatly.

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

Children's Sermon (The children in our midst are welcomed up front for a special time in the Word)

Epistle Lesson: Galatians 5:16-26 (We are led to ask: What kind of fruit are we bearing?)
 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

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

This Week at Grace Lutheran +

Sun, Sept 20: Worship w H/C at 9:00 am
Bible Study at 10:15 am

Sudanese Worship at 1:00 pm

Mon, Sept 21: Pastor's District Conference

Tues, Sept 22: Pastor's District Conference

Wed, Sept 23: Confirmation / Grace Kids

Sun, Sept 27 Sunday at 9:00 am

Education Hour at 10:15 am

Sudanese Worship at 1:00 pm

Those Serving Us this Week **September 20 , 2026**

Elders: Darrell K / Allyn A / Ryan Z
Ushers: Chris Colt / Mark H
Reader: Allyn Andersen
Trustee: Ricky Harris
Music: Jennifer Heisterkamp
Acolyte: Evelyn Colt / Danika Collins

Those Serving us Next Week **September 27, 2026**

Elders: Allyn A / Ryan Z / Darrell K
Ushers: Mark H / Chris Colt
Reader: Allyn Andersen
Trustee: Andrew Schwartz
Music: Ruth Alexander
Acolyte: Ruth Colt / Glenn Colt

Spirit 712 Radio invites you to attend a special night of Christian music in Le Mars on Saturday, September 26. All are welcome to experience "Acoustic Storytime" at Rejoice Community Church, 1320 3rd Avenue SE, featuring performances by Jason Gray, Stars Go Dim, and Blanca. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the concert at 7 p.m. There is no admission fee (a free-will donation will be accepted at the door.)

Gospel Lesson: Luke 8:4-15 (We are reminded not to let the cares and concerns of this world choke us.)

And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

The 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 un-

der 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 worshipped 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 the world to come. Amen.

Song of the Day “How Great Thou Art

Verse 1

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Verse 2

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; **Refrain**

Verse 3

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!” **Refrain**

Sermon “Uncluttered Faith—Living A Productive Life” Luke 8:4-15

New Thrivent Choice Changes! In Mid April, Choice Dollars were designated up front as **a single annual lump sum**. Members can now direct their full amount anytime between now and December 31, instead of after each quarter. NOW, ALL Thrivent members receive Choice Dollars, expanding the reach of generosity. Call 1-800-847-4836 or go online to direct your Choice Dollars. Thank you for your support for this program at Grace.

Save the Date: Junior Youth Gathering is October 24-25 at the Sheraton hotel in West Des Moines. Registration is due by Sept 22, 2026. If interested please speak to Courtney Clark.

Confirmation Sponsors: We are still in need of some more sponsorships for the confirmation program. Please pray about this to see if you can help out in this way. Thank you!

Board of Ed: We are hosting a trunk or treat this year at Grace! Everyone is invited to participate. Bring your car open up your trunk and decorate how you want and then hand out candy. It is easy and fun. If you are willing to be a participant please call the office or talk with Melinda Schwartz. It is going to be October 31 from 5– 8 pm. Be at the parking lot and set up by 4:30pm. If you rather not participate with the trunk bring your kids and grandkids to the parking lot. Should be lots of fun.

Love to Cook: Looking for someone to cook on Wednesday night for confirmation kids. If interested please talk to Pastor or Susan. We have someone to do the clean up and serve the food just need someone to make the food. Thank you.

Special Thank You to all who made my recent 80th Birthday (Sep 6) special with kind greetings, cards, and sharing are offered bakery items at the after worship fellowship. Genuine Octogenarian Pastor Gus George

+ **News and Notes** +

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.

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.

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.

Flowers on the alter this morning is in honor of Darlene Norells 82 birthday. We thank God for her.

On Main Street
September 27 airing

This is the Life – “The Cup” – The dilemma a trucker must face when a good friend dies trying to protect him.

Worship Service – Rev. Russell Senstad of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sioux

City, IA, delivers the message “The Perfect Church” based on Philippians 2:1-4. 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

September 27, 2026 – Proper 21 (Pentecost 18) Scripture: “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” — Matthew 21:23

Stewardship Sentence: Under Christ's gracious authority, we receive our time, abilities, and resources as gifts from God and use them in faithful service to our neighbor.

Prayers for the People of God

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 by Pastor
Distribution

Distribution Song: We Are An Offering, Chris Christian

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You,
We are an offering,

Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands,
Lord use our lives, they are Yours
We are an offering

All that we have, All that we are,
All that we hope to be,
We give to You, We give to You

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You,
We are an offering, We are an offering

All that we have, All that we are,
All that we hope to be,
We give to You, We give to You

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You,
We are an offering,

Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands,

Lord use our lives, they are Yours
We are an offering, We are an offering

Distribution Song: “Lord, I Lift Your Name On High”

1. Lord, I lift Your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I’m so glad You’re in my life;
I’m so glad You came to save us.

Refrain:

You came from heaven to earth to show the way.
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord I lift Your name on high.

2. Lord, I lift Your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I’m so glad You’re in my life;
I’m so glad You came to save us.

Refrain:

You came from heaven to earth to show the way.
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord I lift Your name on high.

Blessing of Those Who Communed
Amen

Prayer After Communion
Amen

Benediction (Words of blessing from God as we depart)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father + ,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
Amen

Closing Song “Shine, Jesus, Shine!”
“Shine, Jesus, Shine!”

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining

in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain:

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;
Blaze Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

2 Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain:

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;
Blaze Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

3. As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,
So our faces display Your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirror’d here may our lives tell Your story,
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain:

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;
Blaze Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.