Grace Lutheran Church ~ LCMS

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



November 1, 2026
All Saints' Day

Pastor Timothy Geitz (541-2266) pastorofgrace@live.com
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Church Email: gracelutheranchurch@ymail.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 ✞
All Saints' Sunday

All Saints' Day (November 1) is a universal festival of the Church. This festival day directs our attention to the richness of Christian history and the varied experiences of the grace of God by lifting up the lives of the saints.

The custom of commemorating all the martyrs of the Church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints' Day celebrates not only the martyrs and saints, but ALL the people of God, living and dead, who together form the mystical body of Christ.

We remember the following saints who have died since last All Saints Day, and we give thanks for their example. We remember and find strength in their faith and the faith of all the saints both known to us and known only to God.

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Hemme, Janice	02/10/2026
Brennan, Michael	02/28/2026
Witter, Theodore	5/02/2026
Grau, Howard	10/18/2026
Petersen, Gene	10/26/2026

Order of Service

Candles, Bells, Welcome

Opening Hymn LSB #677 **(**vs. 1, 3, 5, 8) *"For All the Saints"*

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Dialog for All Saints
Praise the Lord, all you saints!
Praise him all you heavenly hosts!

Let us praise the name of the Lord:
For his name only is exalted!

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:
Isaiah, Jeremiah and all you Patriarchs and Prophets!

Miriam, Ruth and Naomi:
Elizabeth, Mary and all you Holy Women!

Matthew, Mark and Luke:
James and John and all you Evangelists and Apostles!

Stephen, Thomas, Peter and Paul:
Philip, Bartholomew and all you Holy Martyrs!

Praise the Lord!
O praise the name of the Lord!

These are the saints whose robes are washed white in the blood of the Lamb.
Praise the Lord!

We are the saints who are the living body of Christ, the Church.
Praise the Lord! O praise the name of the Lord!

Salutation and Prayer of the Day
The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
Almighty God, You have brought together the members of Your holy Christian Church in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those indescribable joys that You have prepared for those who truly love You; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.
Amen!

Scripture Readings

First Lesson Revelation 7:9–17
9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the

great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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

Children’s Sermon

Epistle Lesson 1 John 3:1-3
1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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

Gospel Lesson Matthew 5:1-12
[1]Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. [2]And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: [3]“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [4]“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. [5]“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. [6]“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. [7]“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. [8]“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. [9]“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. [10]“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11]"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12]Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to Thee, O God.

Sermon Hymn LSB #671 *"Sing with All the Saints in Glory"* (Tune: LSB #770)

1 Sing with all the saints in glory, Sing the resurrection song! Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, To the former days belong. All around the clouds are breaking; Soon the storms of time shall cease; In God's likeness we awaken, Knowing everlasting peace.

2 Oh, what glory, far exceeding All that eye has yet perceived! Holiest hearts for ages pleading Never that full joy conceived. God has promised, Christ prepares it; There on high our welcome waits. Ev'ry humble spirit shares it, Christ has passed the_eternal gates.

3 Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices: Jesus lives who once was dead. Shout with joy, O deathless voices! Child of God, lift up your head! Life eternal! Oh, what wonders Crowd on faith; what joy unknown, When, amid earth's closing thunders, Saints shall stand before the throne!
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Sermon "God Dwelling In Us" Revelation 7:1-7

Prayer of the Church

Preface for All Saints' Day
It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who in the multitude of Your saints did surround us with so

great a cloud of witnesses that we, rejoicing in their fellowship, may run with patience the race that is set before us and, together with them, may receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing…

Sanctus LSB #507 (vs. 4 Only) *"Holy, Holy, Holy"*
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessèd Trinity!

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution
Distribution Hymns: LSB #676 "Behold a Host", LSB #507 "Holy, Holy, Holy"; LSB 672 "Jerusalem the Golden"

Post-Communion Blessing
Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer.
Amen.

Benediction
May God the Almighty Father bless and preserve us; may the Son of God, our Lord and Redeemer plead for us before the Father, + and may the Spirit of God keep us steadfast in the one true faith until we join the countless multitude in heaven above.
Amen.

Closing Hymn *"Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng*" LSB 813
1 Rejoice, O pilgrim throng!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;

Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your king.

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

2 With voice as full and strong
As ocean's surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old,
The psalms of ancient days. **Refrain**

3 With all the angel choirs,
With all the saints on earth
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
True rapture, noblest mirth. Refrain

4 Yet on and onward still,
With hymn and chant and song,
Through gate and porch and columned aisle
The hallowed pathways throng. **Refrain**

5 Still lift your standard high,
Still march in firm array,
As pilgrims through the darkness wend
Till dawns the golden day. **Refrain**

6 At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. **Refrain**

7 Praise Him who reigns on high,
The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
One God forevermore. **Refrain**

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+ **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.

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

On Main Street November 1 airing
This is the Life – "Jeremy" – Deals with the relationship between a mother and a mentally challenged son who lives in a home.
Worship Service – Rev.Thomas Batchelder of Faith Lutheran Church in Orange City, IA, delivers the message "Blessed Are You, His Saints" based on Matthew 5:1-12. 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

November 1, 2026 – All Saints' Day (Observed) / Proper 26 (Pentecost 23) Scripture: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." — Matthew 5:3
Stewardship Sentence: Grounded in the beatitudes of Christ, we receive His gifts with humility and use them in love for the vulnerable and needy.

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.

Help stock our shelves! Rejoice Community food bank is in urgent need of grocery items to support families in our community. If you are able to give, please consider donating to this important cause. Just put your donations in the shopping cart in the fellowship hall and we will make sure it gets over to Rejoice. Thank you!

Annual Voters Meeting: Mark your calendar for November 15, 2026. Grace Lutheran will be having the annual voters meeting right after the church service. Please meet in the sanctuary and plan on attending.

Harvest Meal: The board of Elders is hosting a Harvest Meal after the voters meeting on November 15. Turkey and all the trimmings will be served. We will have a special offering for over and above giving for everything the Lord has blessed us
with this year. This is a great time for fellowship and a time to be t**hankfu**l for all the Lord has blessed you with. Please take time to pray on your **over and above** giving to Our Lord.

Big thank you to everyone that made Pastor and I feel so loved last Sunday for Pastor appreciation. It was so wonderful and such a fun lunch. Thank you Grace members for all of your hard work that went into the day. Grace has been our family for many years and we appreciate and are blessed to know each one of you. Blessings, Pastor and Susan.

First annual Chilli cook off hosted by the Board of Ed. Mark your calendar for January 17 after service. Get your favorite chili recipes

ready and join in the fun. Check out the insert for more details. Need to be registered by December 20th.



Saint Search

Q	K	J	D	J	J	U	I	E	S	O	R	B	M	A	TEKAKWITHA
J	M	B	O	S	C	O	L	B	D	K	R	X	S	K	CHRISTOPHER
G	O	G	R	E	H	P	O	T	S	I	R	H	C	X	IGNATIUS
S	A	N	V	C	J	I	G	N	A	T	I	U	S	E	PORRES
E	Y	L	B	X	B	E	N	E	D	I	C	T	M	K	LAMBERTINI
M	R	R	N	Y	X	M	R	R	Q	D	B	R	Q	F	SAVIO
L	E	P	M	M	C	A	N	E	H	P	E	T	S	R	FRANCIS
B	L	A	M	B	E	R	T	I	N	I	C	E	L	A	PAUL
F	W	U	O	J	Y	U	D	H	P	E	S	O	J	N	THERESE
F	N	L	U	K	V	T	E	O	I	M	J	D	J	C	AUGUSTINE
D	X	D	A	H	T	I	W	K	A	K	E	T	Q	I	BERNADETTE
Q	E	H	T	B	E	R	N	A	D	E	T	T	E	S	PERPETUA
T	S	U	X	W	K	W	Y	I	O	H	J	Z	K	E	MONICA
N	R	E	S	J	S	E	R	R	O	P	Z	A	P	C	STEPHEN
N	D	E	S	E	N	I	T	S	U	G	U	A	K	A	AMBROSE
Q	S	G	S	E	N	G	A	O	X	J	I	K	J	C	JOSEPH
N	S	F	N	Y	R	V	K	S	S	A	V	I	O	I	JUDE
D	E	P	E	R	P	E	T	U	A	J	K	P	U	N	AGNES
F	D	F	Q	E	Y	W	H	X	M	X	R	D	K	O	BOSCO
P	Q	D	Y	U	F	U	Y	T	J	P	X	E	Q	M	BENEDICT

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This Week at Grace Lutheran +

Sun, Nov 1:	**Worship w H/C at 9:00 am**
	Education Hour at 10:15
	Sudanese Worship at 1:00 pm
	4-H at 4:00 pm
Mon, Nov 2 :	Bible Study at 9:30 am
	Rachel Circle at 1:00 pm
	Elders at 7:00 pm
Tues, Nov 3:	Counsel meeting at 7:00 pm
Wed, Nov 4:	Confirmation / Grace Kids at 6:00 pm
Sat, Nov 7:	Women's coffee at 9:00 pm
Sun, Nov 8:	**Worship at 9:00 am**
	Education Hour at 10:15am
	Sudanese Worship at 1:00 pm

Those Serving Us this Week
November 1 , 2026

Elders:	Darrell K / Allyn A / Ryan Z
Ushers:	Chris Colt / Mark H
Reader:	Tony Heisterkamp
Trustee:	Roy Thoms
Music:	Jennifer Heisterkamp
Acolyte:	Zoey Donlin

Those Serving us Next Week
November 8, 2026

Elders:	Tony H / Ryan Z / Allyn A
Ushers:	Mark H / Chris Colt
Reader:	Allyn Andersen
Trustee:	Andrew Schwartz
Music:	Ruth Alexander
Acolyte:	Asher Zittritsch

Michael Brennan, 22, of Le Mars, Iowa, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at his home in Le Mars.

Michael Joseph Brennan, the son of Leo and Tiffany (Stream) Brennan, was born on April 11, 2003, in Le Mars, Iowa. He attended Le Mars Community Schools, where he was active in band, choir, theatre, and speech. Michael was involved in Boy Scouts for many years and earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor attainable in Scouting. He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Le Mars, where he was baptized and confirmed. He graduated LCHS with the Class of 2021.

In January of his senior year, Michael met the love of his life, Rachael Beelner. They continued their relationship while each pursued college. They became engaged in March 2025 and were joyfully planning their wedding for August 29, 2026.

Following high school, Michael attended the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in criminal justice. He studied at UNI for two and a half years before accepting a position as a correctional officer with the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department—a role he was deeply proud of and where he valued being part of the brotherhood.

Michael had a deep love for music and enjoyed attending concerts. He loved camping, watching movies, playing board games and cards, building Legos, and playing Magic: The Gathering with his close friends Aaron Hauser, Lucas Gerdes, Logan Gerdes, and Alex Meier. He treasured bonding over cars and target shooting with his dad, as well as cooking, learning recipes from his mom, and perfecting cherished family dishes. Above all, Michael especially loved spending time with his family and close friends.

Those left to cherish his memory include his parents, Leo and Tiffany of Le Mars; his fiancée, Rachael Beelner of Le Mars; his siblings, Hannah of Indianapolis, IN, and Evan and Connor, both at home; his maternal grandparents, Deb (Dale) Kroeger of Merrill and Randy Stream of Le Mars; his great-grandmother, Evelyn Stream; aunts and

uncles: Courtney Clark, Nick Kroeger, Ann (Rich) Pick, Margaret Brennan, Mary (Rick) Embury, Kathy (Tom) Johnson, Patty (Doug) Hill, Joan (John) Swenson-Smith, Colleen (Lew) Brazil, Dave (Elizabeth) Brennan; great uncle and aunt Rick and Sue Stream; honorary aunts, Sarah Roche and Julie Nelson; several cousins, and extended relatives.

He is also lovingly remembered by Rachael's parents, Richard and Patricia Beelner; her siblings and their families: Kayla (Ryan) Cunningham and their children, Brantlee and Brycen; Hunter Beelner; Josh Van Maanen; Abby Van Maanen (Rylee Cassavant) and daughter Rosie; as well as his faithful companions, his boy, Duke and little lady, Daisy.

Michael was a kind, caring, and gentle soul with a huge heart and a quick wit. His smile could light up a room. He was deeply loved and will be profoundly missed by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Harold and Ruth Brennan; his maternal great-grandparents, Harold Stream, Gerald and LaVonne Prewitt, and Frances Prewitt; his paternal great-grandparents, Joseph and Elizabeth Brennan and Leo and Sophia Wiedman; his maternal great-great-grandmother, Dorothy Stream; his uncles, Michael Brennan and Mike Swenson; and his cousin, Katherine Stream.

J**anice Jean Stone Hemme**, the daughter of Dale and Francis (Chase) Stone, was born on April 4, 1935, in Dell Rapids, South Dakota. She grew up in Dell Rapids where she attended school.

She was united in marriage to Norman Hemme on November 14, 1954, in Dell Rapids, South Dakota. Janice was a homemaker for her family. The couple farmed near Hardwick for a couple of years before moving to Inwood, Iowa. In 1964, they moved to Le Mars, Iowa. Norman passed away on February 7, 2014. Janice continued to make her home in Le Mars.

She was a longtime member of Grace Lutheran Church in Le Mars where she was active in L.W.M.L. for several years. Janice enjoyed crocheting, reading, and jigsaw puzzles. She and Norman enjoyed camping and square dancing. They loved to travel, with Branson, Missouri being a favorite destination. She loved to spend time with her family, children, and grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Survivors include her three daughters: Diane (Gene) Petersen of Orange City, IA, Darla (Jeff) Berkenpas of Le Mars, IA, and Debra (David) Ver Mulm of Sheldon, IA; a daughter in law, Helena (Shane) McDougall of Le Mars, IA; 10 grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren; a sister, Lavonne (Glenn) Pease of Blaine, MN; a sister in law, Dorothy Stone of Omaha, NE; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Dale and Francis Stone; her husband, Norman Hemme; a son, David Hemme in October of 1991; her siblings, Donna (Dale) Dressen and Jimmie Stone; and a sister-in-law, Audrey Schlump.

May we always cherish her memory.

Theodore "Ted" William Witter, 86, of Le Mars, Iowa, passed away on May 2, 2026, at Good Samaritan Care Facility after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was surrounded by his loving family as he passed to his heavenly home.

Ted was born on October 9, 1939, in Storm Lake, Iowa, to Theodore Henry Witter and Ida Lillian (Loomis) Witter. He graduated from Sioux Rapids High School in 1957, and earned a B.S. in Biology from Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, IA in 1962. He served in a U.S. Army M.A.S.H unit in Korea from 1963 to 1964, before beginning his career as a medical laboratory technologist at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Sioux City in 1965.

It was here where his supervisor introduced him to a fellow med tech named Jean. The two hit it off, and on October 1, 1966, he married Jean Theda (Corley) Witter at St. John's Lutheran Church in Craig, IA. Together they raised a family and enjoyed building a life in the country, until moving to Le Mars in 1997. He retired in 2004 after nearly 40 years at the hospital.

Faith was the foundation of Ted's life. He was a devoted and active member of Grace Lutheran Church and a longtime member of the choir. He read his Bible daily and lived his faith with quiet consistency.

He was deeply devoted to his family and found his greatest happiness when everyone was together. He enjoyed photography and was often found capturing family gatherings on video. He led by example, teaching the values of faith, honesty, and commitment.

Ted found joy in spending time outdoors, never met a dog he did not like, and was an avid fisherman. He loved nothing more than heading to one of his favorite fishing spots near Okoboji and wetting a line at the crack of dawn.

That same quiet joy carried into his love of music, whether listening to Statler Brothers, or bringing his own voice to the music he loved. He was gifted with a rich bass voice, which he shared for many years singing in the church choir and also with the Siouxland Discovery Barbershop Chorus and Quartets.

He shared these passions with his children and grandchildren, and his legacy will live on in the memories they carry and the traditions they continue. Ted will be remembered for his kind and faithful spirit and the steady, meaningful way he lived his life.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Jean; his daughters: Tracy Farnham (Kenny Thomason) of Royse City, TX, Julie Witter-Jewell (Dan Van Hee) of Dodgeville, WI and Cindy (Rob) Kovacs of Ankeny, IA; his grandchildren, Jordan (Michelle) Farnham, Sara

Farnham; Tate, Beau, and Corley Jewell; Courtney, Matthew, and Evan Kovacs; and a nephew Barry T. (Karen) Beagle. He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore Henry and Ida Lillian (Loomis) Witter; and his sister, Bonnye (Witter) Beagle and her husband Barry.

Dennis H. Buss, 94 of Le Mars, Iowa, passed away on Sunday, August 2, 2026 at the Good Samaritan Society of Le Mars.

Dennis Harry Buss was born on May 7, 1932 on the family farm near Hoskins, Nebraska to Harry August and Helen Emma (Neitzke) Buss. He attended a local one-room country schoolhouse and was a member at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hoskins where he was baptized and confirmed. Dennis worked alongside his parents on the farm from a young age; he had many fond memories of his childhood on the farm. However, farm life was tough as they experienced effects of the Depression and drought. Their family relocated to rural Struble, Iowa in 1944 in search of better farming opportunities.

Dennis continued working on the farm until he was able to enlist in the United States Air Force. He was stationed in Hawaii and spent much of his service time in various Pacific Islands. Dennis was trained in electronics and primarily worked with jets.

After he was honorably discharged, Dennis moved back to Northwest Iowa. He was united in marriage to Patricia Lingle and they made their home on farm near Craig. They had four children: two girls and two boys. They later divorced.

Dennis made some deeply regrettable decisions that resulted in a period of incarceration.

After his release, he lived in Ames for a time before moving to Sioux City. While in Ames, he began working at a body shop where he

learned autobody repair. He was very mechanically inclined and was talented at the repair work. After he retired from working full-time in Sioux City, he moved back to rural Le Mars where he worked with his brothers on the farm. He repaired and maintained their farm equipment while also helping with other various farm chores. He kept meticulous records of the work done and he enjoyed taking care of the growing number of barn cats.

His health began to decline and Dennis was diagnosed with colon cancer. In 2024, he became a resident at the Good Samaritan Society of Le Mars. Dennis really came out of his shell at Good Samaritan and received wonderful care from the staff.

Dennis is survived by four children; siblings: Eunice Koontz, Maxine Smith, Val Dean Buss, Diane Morehead, and Lynn (LaNette) Buss; many nieces, nephews, and other extended relatives.

Dennis is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Delaine (Earnest) Plueger; nephews: Rueben James Buss and Paul McGowan; and brothers in law: Dick Koontz, Bob Smith, and Ken Morehead

Howard Allen Grau, the son of Bernard 'Bernie' and Genevieve 'Gen' (Nash) Grau, was born on August 29, 1952, in Ireton, Iowa. Howard dealt with challenges from the day he was born. His family was told he may never be able to walk. Howie overcame that obstacle and enjoyed many years with the freedom to walk. When got older, he could be seen driving his golf cart around town.

Howie worked for many years at Life Skills Training Center in Le Mars. His coworkers became his second family. Soon after his mother passed away, he moved to the Akron Care Center in Akron where he gained another family. He enjoyed participating in the activities that the care center had to offer.

He was an avid fan of the Iowa Hawkeyes. He enjoyed attending church with his family. He had a love for animals, especially dogs. Over the years, Howie enjoyed playing Yahtzee, putting puzzles together, and watching football. His greatest joy was his family. He loved and they loved spending as much time together as they could.

Survivors include his sister, Muriel (Rich) Miller of Le Mars, IA; a niece, Sonya (Adam) Hanisch of Le Mars, IA, and their children, Ryan and Genevieve; and nephews, Brant (Laura) Miller of Round Rock, TX, and their children, Ketty, Emma, Dayana, Lloyd, Archer, Juliette, and Gabriel; and Justin (Emily) Miller of Golden Valley, MN, and their daughter, Mason.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bernie and Gen Grau.

Gene Martin Petersen, the son of James and Leona (Fritz) Petersen, was born on August 8, 1946, in Hull, Iowa. He attended grade school in Sanborn, Iowa, and Sheldon, Iowa. He graduated from Sheldon High School. Following high school, he went to Westmar College in Le Mars.

He enlisted in the United States Navy and served during the Vietnam Conflict. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to the area.

He was united in marriage to Diane Hemme on July 6, 1985, at Grace Lutheran Church in Le Mars. The couple made their home in Orange City. Gene worked for Frontier Communications for over 30 years.

Gene was a member of Grace Lutheran Church where he served in many capacities. He was also a member of the Wasmer American Legion Post 241 of Le Mars. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and was an avid ham radio operator.

Gene is survived by his wife, Diane of Orange City, IA; a son, David (Sue) Petersen of Le Mars, IA; 3 daughters, Shelly Ward and her family of Le Mars, Noelle Petersen of Sioux City, IA, and Holly Schettler of Le Mars, Iowa, and her children, Alexis and Jonas; his in-laws, Darla (Jeff) Berkenpas of Le Mars, IA, Debra (Dave) Ver Mulm of Sheldon, IA, and Helena (Shayne) McDougall of Le Mars, IA; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Leona Petersen; his father and mother in law, Norman and Janice Hemme; his brother, Jim Petersen; and brother-in-law, David Hemme

Congregational Officers

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