

# First Grace Notes



Interim Pastor: Christopher Staley  
PO Box 143, 615 State Street  
Osage, IA 50461  
641-832-1098

March 2025

## Please join us for Lenten services starting Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

If anyone would like to assist with reading or donating items for meals, please email [barker Carrie3@gmail.com](mailto:barker Carrie3@gmail.com).



*Lenten Meals: We are so blessed! We will again be sharing meals and fellowship before our Wednesday night Lenten Services! Join us! Meals will be served at 5:30 PM with service beginning at 6:15 PM.*

Ash Wednesday, March 5th	Supper: Chili and Cornbread Served by the Youth
Wednesday, March 12	Supper: Pasta Dish, Garlic bread, Salad Served by the Youth
Wednesday, March 19	Supper: Pulled Pork, Potato dish, Salads Served by the Youth & Debbie & Ron Goodale
Wednesday, March 26	Supper: Baked Potato Bar Served by the Youth & Beth & Steve Rachut
Wednesday, April 2	Supper: Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Chips Served by the Youth
Wednesday, April 9	Supper: Burgers & Hotdogs, slaw, chips Served by Faith Formation Committee for Missionary Support
Maundy Thursday - April 16	No meal, service at 6:15 pm
Good Friday Service - April 18	To be determined at a later date

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Ash Wednesday  
March 5, 2025

Confirmation  
Every Wed. 7 PM  
EXCEPT No  
confirmation on  
March 19.

10 AM Bible Study  
every Wednesday

Office hours  
Wednesdays-  
Pastor at FGLC  
11:00 - 1:00

March 20 - Council  
Meeting 5:30 PM

### Ways to stay connected with FGLC:

- \*website: [firstgracelutheran.com](http://firstgracelutheran.com)
- Youtube: First Grace Lutheran Church - Osage
- \*Instagram: @fglc2024
- Facebook: First Grace Lutheran Church



\*\*Please see calendar on the last page for more events or scan this QR code for the calendar.



**In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:1–2)**

**Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. From that time, He began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 4:12, 17**



**When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent,!” He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance. (Martin Luther, Thesis 1 of the 95 Theses)**

The Season of Lent will soon be upon us when we will gather together on March 5th for Ash Wednesday, which begins our walk to the Cross at Calvary. It has long been understood that Lent is a penitential season, that is to say a time during which we especially consider our need to repent (turn back) from our sinful walk.

There may be occasions in our life when we will have a heightened awareness of our having strayed from the path and that we have gotten ourselves into a dangerous situation with God:

**For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. (Psalm 5:4–6)**

It is in such circumstances where seven of the Psalms were written. These have been called the Penitential Psalms, and they each describe the plight of the author who understand his sin and begs for mercy and pardon from God, especially as he is aware of God’s hatred of evildoers. Such words of God’s wrath against sinners sound harsh to our ears, but they must be heard that they apply to each and every one of us. If God were to judge us according to our deeds, none of us could stand. In the face of this we should be rightly terrified.

And yet, this word of terror and judgment is not God’s last word. God’s word to the one who recognizes and admits and confesses his sin is a word of grace: the gift of forgiveness. It is this message that will permeate our weeks together in our mid-week services. Although sin is always near to us and the devil is always keeping our shortcomings foremost in our minds and thoughts so as to make us doubt the possibility of our forgiveness by God, it is the word of forgiveness from God Himself that will sustain us.

Join us each week as this message is made loud and clear. “Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.”

Pastor Staley

# Monthly Matters - Youth News

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## **Building Our Faith.....SUNDAY SCHOOL IS COOL!!**

We started February off looking at some Old Testament stories. The Fall of Jericho taught us perseverance and obedience. The Story of Ruth and Naomi taught us love, friendship, and commitment. After finishing up our Old Testament lessons, we began our unit on the Life of Jesus.



Our first lesson was on Jesus, Boy in the Temple followed by Jesus Calls Matthew. These stories have taught us Purpose and Repentance. Our God wants us to look for what He wants from us, find our purpose through Him, and to know, regardless of obstacles that come into our lives, He is always there to love and forgive us and to welcome back with His loving open arms. We will follow Jesus!

Our older kids are still working through learning the Ten Commandments and applying them to their everyday lives.

Thank you to everyone that makes each and every Sunday morning the success that they are! Whether it's cooking breakfast, supporting us in prayer, teaching or bringing your children, we are all part of bringing the most important thing to them, God's Word!

Kids—if you haven't yet had the chance to join us for Sunday School, please do!

There is so much fun and learning going on! We'd love to see you!

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Our 5th Grade First Communion Class will be beginning Sunday, March 9th. This class is open to all kids 5th grade (and up as needed) for instruction on First Communion. Classes will be

Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour. Fifth grade students and parents should have received an information letter by now. If you have not, please contact Julie! If you have a son or daughter who is not in 5th grade but older, who has not had their First Communion and you would like them to receive instruction- please contact Julie.

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**As we look forward to our Lenten meals, we will be looking for donations of ground beef. If you have any beef you are willing to donate, please contact Julie. Thank you!!**

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Mark your calendars

with these exciting Summer Dates!

\*High School Youth Mission Trip-May 31-June 8, 2025

\*Confirmation Sunday-June 15, 2025

\*Bible Camp-July 7-9, 2025

\*Vacation Bible School-Monday, August 4-Thursday, August 7, 2025

All of our fabulous activities are that way because the dedicated volunteers make them that way! Please prayerfully consider donating time with us this summer to make all of this work! Information on each will be out soon!





**It's a TEAM effort! Our 2025 Mission Trip is officially planned! We'll be heading to North Carolina to assist in recovery efforts following the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. We currently have 24 registered to go! But there is always room for YOU! If you are interested in our trip, please touch base with Julie.**

**Our off-work trip this year will be to Williamstown, KY to The Ark Encounter!!**

**We will be planning various fundraisers to help us help the people of North Carolina. We also have a fund jar in the entryway for anyone wanting to make donations. Save your change for us :) Donate when you can :) Send a little each week :) Help us be the hands and feet of our Jesus!**



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A blessing of the baptismal font was held on Sunday, February 23rd.



Our youth love serving as ushers!



Our youth singing praises to God on Sunday mornings!



# First Grace Highlights

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## Church Council Updates

**Discipleship:** They didn't meet this month but communicated by phone. We will be ordering more magnets for distribution in the various cards that are sent out from First Grace. It was brought up that we would like to start a prayer chain and will work to define the process and who might be interested. Other ideas were: new ideas for a July 4th float and working on "Bring a Friend to Church" Day.

**Property:** They did not meet this month.

**Faith Formation:** The committee has been working on Lenten Services including meals. Kids Mission trip will do 5 of the Lenten meals and another meal will be done to support a Mission

**Resource:** They did not meet due to illness but will try to get together soon.

**Youth:** Confirmands will be involved in Lenten Services. First communion classes will begin on March 9, 2025.

**Building Team:** Building team is continuing to work on a building site.

**Other items:** \*An Osage Chamber membership will be purchased.  
\*Pastor Saethre will be doing Sunday Worship services for us during Lent.

## Call Committee Update

We're SO close to being ready! The profile document just needs one final review for that to be complete. The video is taking a little longer than expected to pull together, but we're getting closer. Don't be surprised to see any of the committee taking photos or shooting some video clips in the next few weeks to capture the last bits we need. We will share both of these before they are turned into the NALC to post. Stay tuned!

## Can You Help?

Would you be interested in helping with the video recording of our weekly church service? We are in need of a few more people to help with this and would appreciate your help. Please contact Amber if you are interested.



## Helpers in February:

### READERS:

March 2 - Bryce Demuth  
March 9 - Amber Hanson  
March 16 - Gable Hemann  
March 23 - Jessica Hemann  
March 30 - Nick Hemann

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

March 2 - Bill Spitz  
March 16 - Kim Schwab

### TREATS:

March 2 - Vickie Maakestad  
March 9 - Trish Lang  
March 16 - Nicole Kleckner  
March 23 - Barb Maakestad  
March 30 - Deb Huftalin

### GREETERS:

March 2 - Kathy Stauffer  
March 9 - Bill Spitz  
March 16 - Bev Schuler  
March 23 - Theresa Schafer  
March 30 - Ashley Rosendahl



### Weekly Attendance:

Feb. 2 - 71  
Feb. 9 - 80  
Feb. 16- 93  
Feb.23 - 80

**General Fund January Giving : \$12,261.75**

**Building Fund January Giving: \$5,580**

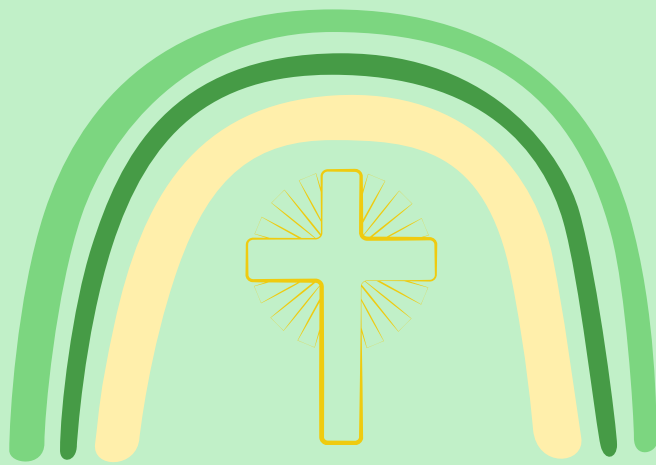
**Building Fund total to date: \$257,013.27**

**Youth Fund January Giving: \$399.00**

**Can Fund January Collection: \$578.55**

### Donations/Memorials:

\*In memory of Leone Dunkleberg - memorial given by Kris Soder



# MARCH 2025

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Pastor's day off
2 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	3	4	5 *10AM Bible Study *11AM-1PM Office Hrs. *7PM Confirmation	6	7 Pastor Vacation Day	8 Pastor's day off
9 <b>CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD</b> 9:30AM Sunday School & First Communion Class 10:30 AM Worship	10	11	12 *10AM Bible Study *11AM-1PM Office Hrs. *7PM Confirmation	13	14	15 Pastor's day off
16 9:30AM Sunday School & First Communion Class 10:30 AM Worship	17	18	19 *10AM Bible Study *11AM-1PM Office Hrs. <b>*NO Confirmation</b>	20 *5:30 Church Council Mtg.	21	22 Pastor's day off
23 9:30 AM Sunday School & First Communion Class 10:30 AM Worship	24	25	26 *10AM Bible Study *11AM-1PM Office Hrs. *7PM Confirmation	27	28	29 Pastor's day off
30 9:30 AM Sunday School & First Communion class 10:30 AM Worship	31					

	Treats	Reader	Communion Assistant	Greeters
Sunday, January 19, 2025	Cyndi Ehrhart 608-712-7432	Eliza Williamson 641-425-0369	Doug Lang 641-832-8019	
Sunday, January 26, 2025	Gloria Hein 641-220-4313	Jodi Demuth 641-430-2248	NA	
Sunday February 2, 2025	Darcy Betts 641-832-8133	Julie Anhorn 641-832-8279	Jan Witt 64-330-4932	Jan Witt 641-330-4932
Sunday February 9, 2025	Theresa Berg 641-220-2206	Carrie Barker 641-832-9082	NA	Elysa Williamson 641-832-8663
Sunday February 16, 2025	Carrie Barker 641-832-9082	Donna Bruesewitz 641-832-0704	Dave Stauffer 641-330-6700	Ethel Wichmann 641-732-3532
Sunday February 23, 2025	Donna Bruesewitz 641-832-0704	Harv Demuth 641-832-8808	NA	Becky Wagner 641-220-3558
Sunday March 2, 2025	Vickie Maakestad 641-832-8234	Bryce Demuth 641-430-2248	Bill Spitz NA 641-832-8480	Kathy Stauffer 641-257-8550
Sunday March 9, 2025	Trish Lang 641-832-8019	Amber Hanson 641-590-0858	Kim Schwab NA NA 309-532-1915	William Spitz 641-330-7706
Sunday March 16, 2025	Nicole Kleckner 641-220-4296	Gable Hemann 641-229-5380		Bev Schuler 319-231-7421
Sunday March 23, 2025	Barb Maakestad 641-832-5092	Jessica Hemann 641-202-3276		Theresa Schafer 641-832-8526
Sunday March 30, 2025	Deb Huftalin 641-832-8533	Nick Hemann 641-202-3278		Ashley Rosendahl 641-832-8526
Sunday April 6, 2025	Heather Mitchell 641-220-0139	Deb Huftalin 641-832-8853	Tracy Ruehlow 641-430-1711	Tracy & Mike Ruehlow 641-430-1711
Sunday April 13, 2025 (Palm Sunday)	Sheila Olsen 641-832-8933	Joan Kirk 319-269-6878	NA	Beth Pearson 303-305-8081
Sunday April 20, 2025 (Easter Sunday)		Doug Lang 641-832-8018	Mike Ruehlow 641-732-9969	
Sunday April 27, 2025	Ashley Rosendahl 641-832-8526	Heather Mitchell 641-220-0139	NA	Jeff & Jayne Olsen 641-330-7477
Sunday May 4, 2025	Mike & Tracy Ruehlow 641-430-1711	Jayne Olsen 641-330-7477	Jeff Olsen 641-330-0042	Tracy Kleckner 641-430-5923
Sunday May 11, 2025	Theresa Schaefer 319-231-7421	Trever Olsen 319-855-3218	NA	Doug & Trisha Lang 641-832-8019
Sunday May 18, 2025	Dave & Kathy Stauffer 641-257-8550	Beth Pearson 303-305-8081	Jay Olsen 641-832-8003	Jeff & Deb Huftalin 641-832-8853
Sunday May 25, 2025	Janele Valasek 641-228-0002	Ashley Rosendahl 641-832-8526	NA	Nick Hemann 641-202-3278
Sunday June 1, 2025	Becky Wagner 641-220-3558	Tracy Ruehlow 641-430-1711	Heather Mitchell NA 641-200-0139	Amber Hanson 641-590-0858
Sunday June 8, 2025	Jan Witt 641-330-4932	Kathy Stauffer 641-257-8550	Nicole Kleckner 641-220-4296	Darla Goodale 641-220-4892
Sunday June 15, 2025	Amber Hanson 641-590-0858	Lori Valasek 641-425-0369	NA	Cyndi Ehrhart 608-712-7432
Sunday June 22, 2025	Jessica & Gable Hemann 641-202-3276	Becky Wagner 641-220-3558	NA	Harv Demuth 641-832-8808
Sunday June 29, 2025	Heather Huffman 641-430-6556	Tracy Walk 515-230-5283		Paul & Nancy Danzow 641-832-8361
Sunday July 6, 2025	Daniele Dorsey 641-732-9479	Debbie Goodale 641-220-3201	Tracy Kleckner 641-430-5923	Carrie Barker 641-832-9082
Sunday July 13, 2025	Julie & Steve Anhorn 641-832-8279	Briana Williamson 641-832-8663	NA	Theresa Berg 641-220-1101
Sunday July 20, 2025	Debbie Goodale 641-220-3201	Margo Young 641-832-8315	Trish Lang 641-832-8019	Brad & Jill Balsley 641-220-2206
Sunday July 27, 2025	Cindi Ehrhart 608-712-7432	Vickie Maakestad 641-832-8234	NA	Steve & Julie Anhorn 641-832-8279
Sunday August 3, 2025	Gloria Hein 641-220-4313	Rae-Lynn Meitner 641-832-1224	Doug Lang 641-832-8018	Jan Witt 641-330-4932
Sunday August 10, 2025	Darcy Betts 641-832-8133	Cyndi Ehrhart 608-712-7432	NA Jeff Huftalin NA 641-832-7556	Elysa Williamson 641-832-8663
Sunday August 17, 2025	Theresa Berg 641-220-2206	Tedd Maakestad 641-832-8232		Ethel Wichmann 641-732-3532
Sunday August 24, 2025	Carrie Barker 641-832-9082	Julie Anhorn 641-832-8279		Becky Wagner 641-220-3558
Sunday August 31, 2025	Donna Bruesewitz 641-832-0704	Carrie Barker 641-832-9082		Kathy Stauffer 641-257-8550
Sunday September 7, 2025	Deb Huftalin 641-832-8533	Donna Bruesewitz 641-832-0704	Deb Huftalin 641-832-8853	William Spitz 641-832-8480
Sunday September 14, 2025	Trish Lang 641-832-8019	Harv DeMuth 641-832-8808	NA	Bev Schuler 641-330-7706
Sunday September 21, 2025	Nicole Kleckner 641-220-4296	Bryce Demuth 641-430-2248	Nick Hemann 641-202-3278	Theresa Schafer 319-231-7421
Sunday September 28, 2025	Barb Maakestad 641-832-5092	Amber Hanson 641-590-0858	NA	Ashley Rosendahl 641-832-8526
Sunday October 5, 2025	Vickie Maakestad 641-832-8234	Gable Hemann 641-229-5380	Gable Hemann 641-229-5380	Tracy & Mike Ruehlow 641-430-1711
Sunday October 12, 2025	Heather Mitchell 641-220-0139	Jessica Hemann 641-202-3276	NA	Beth Pearson 303-305-8081
Sunday October 19, 2025	Sheila Olsen 641-832-8933	Nick Hemann 641-202-3278	Darla Goodale 641-220-4892	Jeff & Jayne Olsen 641-330-7477
Sunday October 26, 2025	Beth Pearson 303-305-8081	Deb Huftalin 641-832-8853	NA	Tracy Kleckner 641-430-5923
Sunday November 2, 2025	Ashley Rosendahl 641-832-8526	Joan Kirk 319-269-6878	Cyndi Ehrhart 608-712-7432	Doug & Trisha Lang 641-832-8019
Sunday November 9, 2025	Mike & Tracy Ruehlow 641-430-1711	Doug Lang 641-832-8018	NA Jodi Demuth NA 641-430-2248	Jeff & Deb Huftalin 641-832-8853
Sunday November 16, 2025	Theresa Schaefer 319-231-7421	Heather Mitchell 641-220-0139		Nick Hemann 641-202-3278
Sunday November 23, 2025	Dave & Kathy Stauffer 641-257-8550	Jayne Olsen 641-330-7477		Amber Hanson 641-590-0858
Sunday November 30, 2025	Janele Valasek 641-228-0002	Trever Olsen 319-855-3218		Darla Goodale 641-220-4892
Sunday December 7, 2025	Becky Wagner 641-220-3558	Beth Pearson 303-305-8081	Harv Demuth 641-832-8808	Cyndi Ehrhart 608-712-7432
Sunday December 14, 2025	Jan Witt 641-330-4932	Ashley Rosendahl 641-832-8526	NA	Harv Demuth 641-832-8808
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Sunday December 28, 2025	Jessica & Gable Hemann 641-202-3276	Kathy Stauffer 641-257-8550	NA	Carrie Barker 641-832-9082
Sunday January 4, 2026	Heather Huffman 641-430-6556	Lori Valasek 641-425-0369	Julie Anhorn 641-832-8279	Theresa Berg 641-220-1101
Sunday January 11, 2026	Daniele Dorsey 641-732-9479	Becky Wagner 641-220-3558	NA	Brad & Jill Balsley 641-220-2206
Sunday January 18, 2026	Julie & Steve Anhorn 641-832-8279	Tracy Walk 515-230-5283	Sheila Olsen 641-832-8933	Steve & Julie Anhorn 641-832-8279
Sunday January 25, 2026	Debbie Goodale 641-220-3201	Debbie Goodale 641-220-3201	NA	Jay Olsen 641-832-8003

# OUR MEMBERS IN ACTION 2025

<p><b>FIRST GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b></p>	<p>641-832-1098</p>
<p>PO Box 143, 615 State Street, Osage, IA 50461</p>	<p>email: firstgracelutheranchurch@gmail.com</p>