

First Grace Notes



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

May 2025



Congratulations to our 5th graders on their First Communion held at the Easter Worship Service on April 20, 2025. Our hearts are full as we witnessed them take their first steps in receiving the Lord's Supper. The 5th graders are Brevin Mitchell, Oliver Williamson, Justin Huffman, Morgan McRoberts, Kade Herrick, and Jett Kuper.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 11- Children will sing at Worship and Last day of Sunday School

Confirmation classes are completed for now. They will start again in the fall.

10 AM Bible Study every Wednesday

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

May 21- Council Meeting 5:30 PM

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



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We are trying to update our membership information. Please furnish the information found below for each member of your family, if you have it. You may not have all of this information, but anything provided will be very helpful. There is a master list at the church if you want to see what is needed for your family. There are also copies of this form at church, or print off the copy on page 10 of the newsletter, or use an electronic version found on our website at firstgracelutheran.com. Please fill out online, or return any forms to the church to the box in the sanctuary, or give to Jayne Olsen, our council secretary. Thank you!

Name: _____		DOB: _____	BIRTHPLACE: _____	EMAIL: _____
LAST/FIRST			CITY/STATE	
BAPTISM:		CONFIRMATION:		MARRIAGE:
DATE: _____	DATE: _____	DATE: _____	DATE: _____	DATE: _____
LOCATION: _____	LOCATION: _____	LOCATION: _____	LOCATION: _____	LOCATION: _____
PERFORMED BY: _____	PERFORMED BY: _____	PERFORMED BY: _____	PERFORMED BY: _____	PERFORMED BY: _____
SPONSORS: _____	SPONSORS: _____	SPONSORS: _____	SPONSORS: _____	SPONSORS: _____

1 Peter 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Ways to stay connected with FGLC:

*website: firstgracelutheran.com

Youtube: First Grace Lutheran Church - Osage

*Instagram: @fglc2024

Facebook: First Grace Lutheran Church



Remember



It only just occurred to me that this word is significant both at the beginning and ending of our Lenten journey. On Ash Wednesday, we hear the words, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” And then, on that fateful first day of the week at the tomb we heard in Luke’s account what the two men said to the women, “Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”

It is true for me anyway, that I need reminders sometimes, at least for some things. When I was a much younger person, like most young people, the thought of my own mortality was way below the horizon. I behaved often as though I was immortal, engaging in activities that could have gone badly wrong, even in a fatal way. But now that I’ve gotten grayer and have seen a lot more, I really don’t need a reminder of my mortality, or of the frailty of life, or of the sinfulness that surrounds me and that is within me. These things are impossible to ignore and won’t let me forget them.

What I do need a reminder of, on the other hand, is the truth of Easter morning. Jesus rose, just like he had said he would. “He was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification” (Romans 25 RSV). And now that he has ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us. But most importantly, I need to be reminded that Jesus didn’t just do this for us. I need to be reminded that he did this for me,

Several years ago, one of our sons went with a youth group to a different church’s worship service that was more contemporary. When he returned, I asked him what he thought about it. As most teenage boys are, he was difficult to impress. He sort of liked the music and the people seemed nice and there were many more young people there. He also mentioned that they had communion. At this, I responded with “Oh, really?” He said, “Yeah, but it was different. It was just set up on a table in the room and people could go to it if they wanted, but they didn’t have to. I went and had it, but there was no one there to give it to me and to say to me, ‘for you’. It didn’t seem like communion at all.”

In Luther’s Small Catechism in the section on the Lord’s Supper is the question, “When is a person worthy to receive the Sacrament?” To this comes the answer: “Fasting and other outward disciplines are indeed good preparation, but people are truly worthy and well prepared who believe these words, ‘Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.’ But those who do not believe these words or who doubt them are unworthy and unprepared, for the words ‘for you’ require truly believing hearts.

Remember, “for you” is the message of Good Friday. Remember, “for you” is the message of Easter. May God help you always to remember this.



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

In April, we concluded our unit on the Life of Jesus. We walked through Holy Week from Palm Sunday to our Lord's crucifixion and His resurrection. This week in Jesus' life shows us how quickly things can change—and how much Jesus loved us, even when things got really hard. He came to save us, and He never stopped loving us! Our 5th grade class concluded their First Communion instruction and we celebrated with them on Easter Morning as they received



Jesus in Holy Communion for the very first time. It's a special step in their faith journey, and a beautiful reminder of God's love and presence in their hearts.

Our older kids are wrapping up their year long study on the Ten Commandments and learning to hold them closely and apply them in 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!

Our last day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 11th, but look for our exciting Christ-centered activities we will be hosting this summer!



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!***



BIBLE CAMP IS ON THE WAY!



We're gearing up for another GREAT year of Bible Camp, and we can't wait to see you there! Camp is scheduled for Monday, July 7 – Wednesday, July 9, and it's going to be an exciting time as we explore God's world and learn how we can be part of God's Team!

Registration is now open! A form is included with this newsletter, or you can pick up a paper copy at church. Online registration will be available soon—stay tuned!

Please register your kids as soon as possible so we can plan ahead. And remember—we need adult and teen volunteers to make camp happen! You can sign up to help on your child's registration form or contact Julie at (832-8279).

Let's make this the best Bible Camp yet!



Twenty-four (yes, you read that right!) 24!! Youth and adults will be leaving Saturday, May 31st and head to the Asheville, North Carolina area to assist with recovery efforts following the devastation of Hurricane Helene. In

late September, catastrophic flooding and landslides impacted the Western NC and Eastern TN areas. We hope to come alongside those affected—not only to help in practical ways, but to share the love of Jesus through our actions and presence.

Our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported us in our fundraising efforts so far! Through our Lenten Meals offerings and change jar donations, we've raised just over \$4,000!! Your generosity is truly a blessing! We are almost halfway to our goal! If you'd like to help us reach that goal, check out the donation board in the church entryway. The tags list various needs and amounts. Every gift makes a difference—help us help them! It's a TEAM Effort!



God Bless our Seniors! As much as we hate to see them go, we are so very proud of our graduating Seniors! Today we spotlight Elyza Williamson and Gable Hemann. Please join us in praying for each of them as they step into the next chapter of life!

Elyza LeeAnn Williamson



Elyza is the daughter of Tyrel & Briana Williamson and plans to attend Iowa Central Community College and major in Ag Business and Animal Science. Her favorite Bible verse is Psalm 93:4 Elyza has been active in Youth, Mission Trips, Sunday School and has helped with Bible Camp and our VBS. Her kind heart and servant spirit have been a blessing to our church family. We're excited to see how God will use her gifts in the future!

"Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the LORD on high is mighty!" Psalm 93:4

Gable Malie Hemann

Gable is the daughter of Nick & Jessica Hemann. Her favorite Bible verse is Psalm 23:4. She plans to attend Wartburg College furthering her wrestling career and works towards a Pre-Veterinary Degree. Gable is active in many church activities and has helped with VBS and all things kids! Gable's energy shines through all she does! We're grateful for her joyful heart and pray this next season is full of growth and grace.



"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil: for You are with me: Your rod and staff, they comfort me," Psalm 23:4

Congratulations and God's blessings! May they continue to seek God's guidance and know they always have a church family here at First Grace cheering them on!

Church Council Updates

Discipleship: It was reported that the King of Kings movie was well attended with 620 people attending with many good comments. Three trailers of cans were taken in the month of April. The Prayer chain will be up and running soon.

Property: It was discussed that rent of the Senior Center will increase starting in May. They are looking for volunteers to help clean the church once a week. They will check the Time and Talent sheets.

Faith Formation: Lent and Easter went well with all of the activities and services.

Resource: The committee did not meet this month. A fundraiser is being planned.

Youth: Six children received their First Communion on Easter. Confirmation will be June 15, 2025 with 6 being confirmed. The Mission trip continues to fund raise. They have raised money with the Lenten meals and donations. There is a donation board at the front door as well. There will be 24 attending the mission trip. Bible camp will be July 7, 2025 to July 9, 2025 at Cedar Springs south of Osage. Julie will share dates and info with First Lutheran in St. Ansgar. Bible School will be August 4, 2025 to August 7, 2025.

Other items: Jayne Olsen is working on updating member information. A form has been created for members to use. Briana indicated the Home School group is done meeting at the church. They made a \$250.00 donation to the church. The church video has been completed; however, Donna wanted to make some changes. She will plan to show the video at the next meeting, May 21, 2025. Our 6-month review with First Lutheran Church in St. Ansgar is due. Pastor Staley will set up a date and time and let the council know. Pastor Staley will be gone June 22, 2025, and he has asked Pastor Saethre to cover for him.



We are so blessed to have had such wonderful Sunday School teachers this year! A huge thank you to Ashley & Hakkon Rosendahl, Britney & Alec Walls, Crystal Adams, Heather Mitchell, Margo Young, Nicole Kleckner, Heather Huffman, Brett Barker, Amber Hanson, Nicole Wigern, and Jodi Demuth for the commitment to teach our youth each week. You are a gift from God!!

THANK YOU

Thank you to Watt's Theatre; Ty & Bri Williamson, for generously showing

"The King of Kings" movie. Approximately 620 people watched Jesus' incredible journey. Thanks also to the Discipleship Committee for organizing the tickets and business locations, and to Vickie Maakestad and Sheila Olsen for the extra help with the tickets. If you go into any of these business, please thank them for offering tickets:

Olsen Implement, Paradise Pizza, Homers Bar & Grill, S & S Locker, Spahn & Rose, Teluwut, Bree's Tire, & Emerson's on Main.



A Prayer Chain has been started for First Grace, but it is not too late to sign up! There is a sign up sheet on the board in the church sanctuary or let Amber Hanson know if you would like to be added. Instructions have been sent out by email to those who have already signed up. If you didn't receive them, please also let Amber know.

*Truly
Grateful
for you.*



Thank you to all who “let their light shine” during our Lenten and Easter services. We are fortunate to have so many willing to help serve - all of our youth and families who helped prepare and serve meals, and also deliver the sermons, those who helped with children’s messages, those who lead Lenten worship services, the Faith Formation Committee for planning all Lenten services and providing a meal with proceeds going to our missionaries, and to those who clean our church weekly. Also thanks for the Easter lily donations, set up & clean up at the theater, ushers, greeters, communion assistants, and all special music provided. We also want to thank Julie Anhorn for leading First Communion classes and planning weekly Sunday School lessons. A special thank you to Pastor Saethre for providing our Lenten Sunday messages and to Pastor Staley for our Easter Sunday message. We are truly so grateful for ALL of you!

MEET OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

The Isder's:
Luke, Rachel, Grant, Micah, and Nora.
They are serving in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

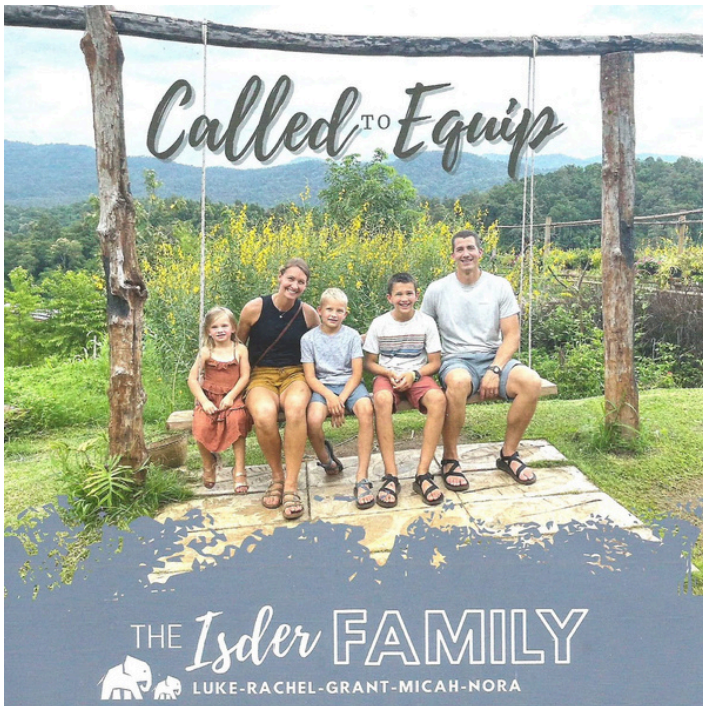
You can connect with them at:
THEISDER5@GMAIL.COM

Please add them to your daily prayers.

Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

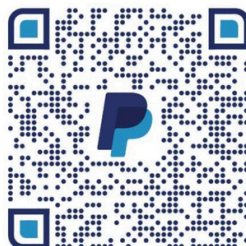
And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”



2025
Class of

If anyone has a college graduate, let us know! We would love to pray for them and honor them in our June Newsletter! Or if anyone has another Senior in their lives that they would like us to pray over, please let us know!

**Ways2
Give
to FGCLC**



venmo

****Or fill out the
Automatic Giving
form found on
the last page**

Helpers in **MAY**:

READERS:

May 4 - Tracy Ruehlow
May 11 - Trever Olsen
May 18 - Beth Pearson
May 25 - Ashley Rosendahl

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

May 4 - Jeff Olsen
May 18 - Jay Olsen

TREATS:

May 4- Mike & Tracy Ruehlow
May 11- Theresa Schaefer
May 18 - Dave & Kathy Stauffer
May 25 - Janele Valasek

GREETERS:

May 4- Tracy Kleckner
May 11- Doug & Trisha Lang
May 18 - Jeff & Deb Huftalin
May 25 - Nick Hemman

Weekly Attendance:

April 6- 107
April 13- 136
April 20- 210
April 27- 119

Giving through March 2025

General Fund Giving : \$10,802.00

Building Fund Giving: \$1,705.00

Youth Fund Giving: \$3,999.12

Donations/Memorials:

*Mission donation from Peace Lutheran Church, Northwood, IA - \$385.00
*Mission donation from Faith Lutheran Church, Monona, IA - \$300.00
*Donation from Home School families for use of the church - \$250.00



Romans 12:11

¶ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Pastor's day off
4 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship with Communion	5	6	7 *10AM Bible Study *11AM-1PM Office Hrs.	8	9	10 Pastor's day off
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship with Children Singing	12	13	14 *10AM Bible Study *11AM-1PM Office Hrs.	15	16	17 Pastor's day off
18 10:30 AM Worship with Communion	19	20	21 *10AM Bible Study *11AM-1PM Office Hrs. *5:30 Council Meeting	22	23	24 Pastor's day off
25 10:30 AM Worship	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31 Youth Mission Trip May 31 - June 8



 **First Grace**
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OSAGE, IOWA

Community Bible Camp

Who: All kids going into 2nd-all that finished 8th grade are welcome!!

What: 3 days spent at camp soaking in God's world and hearing & learning His Word! Camp has wonderful cabins, indoor showers and restrooms, campfire sites, sand volleyball court, Gaga Ball, paintball, basketball court, soccer and softball fields, hiking trails, miniature golf, and fun on the Cedar River! **(river/weather conditions permitting)**

Where: Cedar Springs Camp, 1260 River Road, Floyd, Iowa

When: Monday, July 7 - Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Why: To get out into God's beautiful space and worship & praise Him!

Together we will be involved in so many fun activities! Including, but not limited to
😊 Bible Study, Crafts, Worship, Team Sports, Music, T.A.G. **(Time Alone w/God)**

Join us on God's Team!

To help make our camp be the best it can be we will need teen & adult volunteers to help with the many activities such as: tubing, crafts, staying overnight, helping during the day, and of course, someone to serve as camp nurse. Please consider volunteering by signing up below.

Cost: 1st Camper ... \$150.00 2nd Camper ... \$145.00
3rd Camper ... \$140.00 4th Camper ... \$135.00

Registration Form & \$25 deposit (included in cost) is due June 15th. Balance due at camp registration.
(Please make checks payable to First Grace Lutheran Church)

Camper's name: _____ Grade ***completed*** this year _____

Address: _____

Home Phone No.: _____ Parent Cell Phone No.: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date paid: _____ Financial Aid Needed: Yes No

As parents/volunteers, I/we would like to help with: (Please circle what you could volunteer with at Camp)

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Volunteer being Camp Nurse: | Monday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
| 2. Registration: | Monday(overnight) | | | |
| 3. Wherever needed: | | | Tuesday(overnight) | Wednesday(until 5:00pm) |
| 4. Activities on: | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | |
| 5. Chaperone Tubing. | Tuesday | Wednesday | | |

Other: _____

Any questions, please call Julie Anhorn @ 641-832-8279

To the best of my knowledge all registration and health information is correct. I give my permission for my child to participate in all camp activities, including tubing. I agree that the church, the camp or camp staff will not be held responsible for any accidents or personal injury. I also grant permission for my child's photo to be taken and used in camp publications by either First Grace Lutheran Church or Cedar Springs Bible Camp.

(Parent signature)

(If additional forms are needed, contact Julie or simply make a copy!)

FIRST GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We are trying to update our membership information as best we can. Churches are no longer sending this information. This information is used by the pastor for various events. Please complete the following info that is missing on the membership list if you can find it. If it is blank on the spreadsheet and not marked with an X, that means we have the information and you do not need to complete it again. We know that everyone will not have this information, we are just asking to do what you can to help us update our information. Please leave completed sheets on the table at church or give to Jayne Olsen, Secretary.

Name: _____ DOB: _____ BIRTHPLACE: _____ EMAIL: _____
LAST/FIRST CITY/STATE

BAPTISM: **CONFIRMATION :** **MARRIAGE:**
DATE: _____ DATE: _____ DATE: _____
LOCATION: _____ LOCATION: _____ LOCATION: _____
PERFORMED BY: _____ PERFORMED BY: _____ PERFORMED BY: _____
SPONSORS: _____ SPONSORS: _____ SPONSORS: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____ BIRTHPLACE: _____ EMAIL: _____
LAST/FIRST CITY/STATE

BAPTISM: **CONFIRMATION :** **MARRIAGE:**
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DATE: _____ DATE: _____ DATE: _____
LOCATION: _____ LOCATION: _____ LOCATION: _____
PERFORMED BY: _____ PERFORMED BY: _____ PERFORMED BY: _____
SPONSORS: _____ SPONSORS: _____ SPONSORS: _____

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR ACH TRANSFER

Customer Name **First Grace Lutheran Church**

Account Number: **4539702**

---Both Deposit and Withdrawal sections must be completed in order to process transfer---

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT DEPOSITS (ACH CREDITS)

I (we) hereby authorize CUSB Bank to initiate **deposits** (credit entries) to transfer funds to my (our)

☒ Checking account / ☐ Savings account (select one)

at the Financial Institution indicated below, in the amount of \$

The **deposit** (credit entry) will settle ☐ weekly ☐ bi-weekly ☐ monthly beginning on

Name of Financial Institution where **DEPOSIT** will be made: CUSB Bank-Osage

City **Osage** State **IA** Account Holder Name **First Grace Lutheran Church**

Routing Number **073903286** Account Number **4539702**

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT WITHDRAWALS (ACH DEBITS)

I (we) hereby authorize CUSB Bank to initiate **withdrawals** (debit entries) to transfer funds from my (our)

☐ Checking account / ☐ Savings account (select one)

at the Financial Institution indicated below, in the amount of \$

The **withdrawal** (debit entry) will settle ☐ weekly ☐ bi-weekly ☐ monthly beginning on

Name of Financial Institution where **WITHDRAWALS** will come from:

City State Account Holder Name

Routing Number Account Number

Please attach a voided check for reference.

If the scheduled posting date is a non-processing date for CUSB Bank then the entries will post on the first processing date after the scheduled posting date.

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until the CUSB Bank has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford the CUSB Bank a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I (we) authorize CUSB Bank to make debit or credit entries to either of the above accounts to correct any entries made in error. I (we) acknowledge that the ACH transactions authorized herein shall comply with all applicable U.S. law.

DATE 3/2/2025 SIGNED Vickie Maeksted (Account Holder)

DATE _____ SIGNED _____ (Account Holder)

---If account holders are not the same for both accounts an account holder for each account must sign---

DATE _____ SIGNED _____ (Bank Employee)

ACH REVOKED- DATE _____ SIGNED _____