

First Grace Notes



First Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

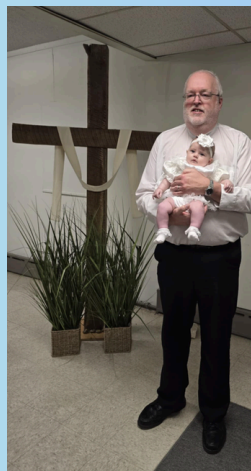


Interim Pastor: Christopher Staley
PO Box 143, 615 State Street
Osage, IA 50461
641-832-1098

June 2025



The blessings of a baptism. Payton Rae Olsen, daughter of Trever and Shelby Olsen was baptized on May 18, 2025.



Luke 8:15

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Matthew 19:14, "And Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"



The blessings of our Sunday School children singing on Mother's Day, May 11, 2025.



The blessings of our Mission Trip participants. On May 25, 2025, a commissioning for their upcoming trip was held during worship.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 15 -
Confirmation Sunday

June 18 - Council
Meeting 5:30 PM

10 AM Bible Study
every Wednesday

Office hours
Wednesdays-
Pastor at FGLC
11:00 - 1:00
Except on June 4th
and June 11th

Last worship
service at our
current location -
June 22, 2025.

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



Promises, Promises, Promises

If ever you've spoken this threefold litany, it is likely because someone whom you had trusted, or at least wanted to trust, had broken a promise. And you likely know how you feel when someone breaks a promise to you: betrayed, angry, disappointed, devastated.



But if ever you have been on the receiving end of the litany, it is because you have broken a promise. And I would guess that it is equally likely that you know how you feel when you break a promise: ashamed, guilty, miserable, unlovable.

A few weeks ago, I stood in the front of our church while four youth made promises to me, to the church, and to God. And as I looked them each in the eye as they made that promise, I could detect nothing but sincerity there. And yet, there was a part of me that remembered what it was like to be 14 years old and making promises when I was confirmed. I remember what it was like to be 23 and making promises when I was married. Heck, for that matter, I know what it is like to be my current age, making a promise. What is a promise but an opportunity to prove our human limitations?

When's the last time you made a promise that you've broken? I promise to lose some weight. I promise to quit smoking. I promise to exercise more. I promise to attend church more. I promise to read through the Bible this year. I promise not to miss your concert this time. I promise to have just one drink. I promise I'll never look at another man. I promise I'll never look at another woman. I promise I'll never hit you again. I promise I'll stop looking at porn on the internet. I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us. I promise that I will have no other gods.

Promises, promises, promises. Look at yourself honestly: if the promises you have made will be the measure upon which your eternal future is based, what will that eternal future look like? If you're anything like me, and knowing what I know about human nature you are, it doesn't look good, "for all sin and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

In the end, thanks be to God, it is not the strength of the promises of those fourteen year olds, or the strength of your promises or the strength of my promises that will matter, but the strength of the promises of the one Who is our Lord, our Savior. "If we are faithless, Christ Jesus remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:13). It is this Truth that can set you free to live as the Child of God He has made you to be. And it's a promise you can take to the world.

Pastor Staley

Monthly Matters - Youth News



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

Although May marked the end of our Sunday School year, our final weeks were filled with wonderful, meaningful lessons about Jesus and His call for us to share His love with others.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making this year such a blessing—especially our dedicated teachers! Many thanks 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. Your time, energy, and faithfulness made a lasting impact on our youth and their spiritual growth. Make sure you check out our Christ-centered events this summer!



Congratulations once again to Elyza Williamson and Gable Hemann on their high school graduations! We are confident the Lord has mighty plans in store for both of you.

We also celebrate with Margo Young, who graduated from Morningside University with a Master of Arts in Education.

What a wonderful accomplishment—may God continue to bless your journey!



Confirmation Sunday 2025

Join us as we celebrate the Confirmation of six students in Christ on Sunday, June 15, during our 10:30 AM Worship Service.

Congratulations to Hank Clark, Rylen Hanson, Ainsley Hemann, Kylie Johnson, Kiersten McRoberts, and Liam Meitner—each of

whom has devoted the past two years to studying God's Word and learning to listen for His voice. May they continue to seek His guidance and walk boldly in His love. God's Blessings!



Save the Date for These Exciting Summer Events!!

We have a wonderful summer ahead—mark your calendars and join us!

- High School Youth Mission Trip: May 31 – June 8, 2025
- Vacation Bible School @ First Lutheran (St. Ansgar)
9:00am-11:00am Monday, June 9–Thursday, June 12
- Confirmation Sunday: June 15, 2025 at 10:30 AM
- Bible Camp: Monday, July 7–Wednesday, July 9, 2025
- Vacation Bible School @ First Grace: Monday, August 4–Thursday, August 7, 2025



These incredible events are made possible by the time, energy, and love of our amazing volunteers. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might lend a hand this summer—your involvement makes all the difference!

BIBLE CAMP IS ON THE WAY!



We're getting ready for another fantastic year of Bible Camp, and we can't wait to share it with you! Camp will take place Monday, July 7 – Wednesday, July 9, and it promises to be a fun-filled time of exploring God's creation and discovering how each of us can be part of God's Team.

Registration is now open! You can register online: [Bible Camp Registration '25](#), fill out the form included with this newsletter, or pick up a form up at church. To help us prepare, please register your children as soon as possible. And don't forget—we rely on adult and teen volunteers to make Bible Camp a success! You can sign up to help on your child's registration form or by contacting Julie at (832-8279).

Let's work together to make this our best Bible Camp yet!



High School Youth Mission Trip to Asheville, NC

On Saturday, May 31st, a group of 24 youth and adults will head to the Asheville, North Carolina area to assist with recovery efforts following the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.

In late September 2024, severe flooding and landslides brought significant damage to communities in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. Our team is honored to serve those affected—not only by offering practical help, but also by sharing the love of Jesus through our presence and care.

Please keep our mission team in your prayers as we prepare to serve!

Our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported us in our fundraising efforts so far! Through our Lenten Meals offerings, change jar donations and our donation board we've raised \$6,200!! Your generosity is truly a blessing! We still have a ways to go, if you'd like to help us the donation board will remain up until we leave. The tags list various needs and amounts.



Every gift makes a difference—help us help them! It's a TEAM Effort!



Coming in 2026: First Grace Adult Mission Trip!

"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!'"

– Isaiah 6:8

There's growing excitement at First Grace as we prepare for something long-awaited— our very first Adult Mission Trip, coming Summer of 2026!

After many years of prayer and conversation, it's finally time to take action! To make this trip a reality, we need to begin planning and fundraising now. An initial planning meeting will be scheduled for July—details will be shared soon, so stay tuned!

This mission trip promises to be an unforgettable opportunity to serve, grow in faith, and share the love and hope of Jesus with others—just as He calls us to do.

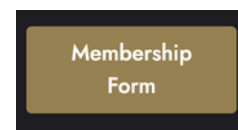
We invite all interested adults to begin praying about how you might take part. Let's step out in faith together!

REMINDER

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. Please fill out the document found on our website online at firstgracelutheran.com or complete the form found on page 10. Return any paper forms to the church and put them in the drop box in the front foyer, or give to Jayne Olsen, our council secretary. Thank you!

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: _____	

Paper form on page 10 or on the table in the front foyer at church.



On our website, click on this form. Click "already a member" and fill in information needed.



Thank you to our social team for all you do to keep us "live"! From Sunday worship services on YouTube, creating & updating the church website, daily devotions & updates on Facebook and Instagram, and checking emails. It is all appreciated!!



Ways to stay connected with FGLC:

*website: firstgracelutheran.com

Youtube: First Grace Lutheran Church - Osage

*Instagram: @fglc2024

Facebook: First Grace Lutheran Church

Church Council Updates

Discipleship: It was reported that we are registered for Autumn Artistry, cards for visitors have been created and ordered, and ideas for a 4th of July float are being worked on.

Property: No meeting this month.

Faith Formation: Council approved the purchase of Bibles for the Confirmands.

Resource: The Resource Committee will meet quarterly, but will meet and/or email as needed for financial issues.

Youth: The Youth committee did not meet this month. The Mission trip group leaves 5/31/2025 and will return on 6/8/2025. Confirmation will be Sunday, June 15, 2025. Julie and the committee are also working on Bible Camp and Bible School for Osage and St. Ansgar.

Other items: The second 6-month review with First Lutheran Church and Pastor Staley was on Thursday, May 22, 2025. A report will be given at the next Council meeting. The date of our last service at the Senior Citizen's building will be June 22, 2025. We will have our next service at Watts Theatre on June 29, 2025. This is subject to change. We will need to vacate the Senior Citizen's building by 6/29/2025. Storage has been secured for all the furniture and equipment if needed. A moving date and time will be set up and communicated to the congregation.

First Lutheran in St. Ansgar offers additional worship options this summer!

After learning of the challenges that many families with school-age children face during the summer months in attending Sunday morning services because of other conflicting activities, the First Lutheran Board of Deacons along with Pastor Staley have decided to offer four Sunday evening worship services. These will be held at First Lutheran in St. Ansgar at 6pm on June 8, June 29, July 13, and July 27. It is hoped that these additional worship opportunities will help any who cannot attend on Sunday morning but who aren't content with simply watching the service online. These services will be a bit more streamlined, with less sung liturgy. In addition, Holy Communion will be offered at the June 29th and July 27th services.



Plans are "**building**" for our 4th of July float!
Plan to walk with us -
Anyone can join in the fun!

CANS, CANS, + MORE CANS!

It has been almost a year since we started our can collection and we have raised over \$16,000!!! We hope to be putting it to use in the coming months. We would love to have more help keeping both trailers organized and to bring trailer loads to the redemption center. Please let Lori Spitz know if you can help. Thanks!



**Ways2
Give
to FGLC**



venmo

Helpers in JUNE:

READERS:

June 1 - Joan Kirk
June 8 - Tracy Walk
June 15 - Lori Valasek
June 22 - Amber Hanson
June 29 - Kathy Stauffer

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

June 1 - Heather Mitchell
June 15 - Nicole Kleckner

TREATS:

June 1 - Becky Wagner
June 8 - Jan Witt
June 15 - Amber Hanson
June 22 - Jessica & Gable Hemann
June 29 - Heather Huffman

GREETERS:

June 1 - Amber Hanson
June 8 - Darla Goodale
June 15 - Cyndi Ehrhart
June 22 - Harv Demuth
June 29 - Paul & Nancy Danzow

Weekly Attendance:

May 4 - 72
May 11 - 140
May 18 - 96
May 25 - 95

Giving for April 2025

General Fund Giving : \$15,499.00

Building Fund Giving: \$2,280.00

Youth Fund Giving: \$639.00

Mission Trip: \$400.00





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:30 AM Worship with Communion Youth Mission Trip May 31 - June 8	2	3	4 *10AM Bible Study NO Office hours	5	6	7 Pastor's day off
8 10:30 AM Worship	9	10	11 *10AM Bible Study NO Office hours	12	13	14 Pastor's day off
15 10:30 AM Worship with Communion and Confirmation *Baby Bottle Campaign ends *Father's Day	16	17	18 *10AM Bible Study *11AM-1PM Office Hrs. 5:30PM Council Meeting	19	20	21 Pastor's day off
22 10:30 AM Worship- Last service at our current location	23	24	25 *10AM Bible Study *11AM-1PM Office Hrs.	26	27	28 Pastor's day off
29 10:30 AM Worship- Service held at Watt's Theater	30					



 **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: _____		

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: _____		

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: _____		

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: _____		