

A **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held on **May 10, 2026**, after the church service in the sanctuary. This meeting will be to vote on a Pastor and the compensation package. Only **voting members** of First Grace as of Sunday, May 3, 2026, will be eligible to vote, either in person at the congregational meeting or by absentee ballot. If you have questions regarding the call and compensation package, there will be a **Q & A session** after church Sunday, May 3, in the sanctuary. There will be an **informational meeting** on May 3, 2026, at 9:30 AM in Grace Hall for anyone wanting to learn more about First Grace Lutheran Church and the North American Lutheran Church.



"And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'" Luke 22:19

On Easter morning, our 5th grade students celebrated a very special milestone, their First Communion. Over the past five weeks, they met together to study what Communion is and why it is such an important gift to the Church. During their time of preparation, students learned how Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, what His words "given and shed for you" mean, and how Communion strengthens our faith through the forgiveness of sins. It has been a joy to watch their understanding grow and to see their excitement as they prepared to approach the Lord's Table for the first time. Please continue to keep these students: Tysen Hanson, Hayden Hofler, Bri Hosington, Cash Kuper and Zanè van Jaarsveld in your prayers as they continue to grow in their faith.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 3- Community Choir during worship

May 10 - Last day of Sunday School, pancakes for all, Senior Sunday, and Mother's Day photo booth

May 20 - 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting

10 AM Bible Study on Wednesdays in First Grace Hall

May 31- Food Bank Sunday



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

Ways to stay connected with FGLC:

- *website: firstgracelutheran.com
- Youtube: First Grace Lutheran Church - Osage
- *Instagram: @fglc2024
- Facebook: First Grace Lutheran Church



On April 19, 2026, our congregation witnessed the confirmation of our students who have faithfully completed their Confirmation instruction. This important milestone marks a time when they publicly confess their faith and affirm the promises made at their Baptism. Throughout the past two years, these students have studied the core teachings of the Christian faith, exploring Scripture, the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments. They have asked thoughtful questions, grown in understanding, and been encouraged to see how God's Word applies to their daily lives. Confirmation is not a graduation from church, but a continued beginning, an opportunity to stand before the congregation and confess their trust in Christ as their Savior. As the Apostle Paul writes:

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." Romans 10:17

We thank the parents, Pastor, and teachers who have supported these students along the way. Please keep our confirmands: Owen Clark, Bryce Demuth, Hadlee Hofler and Gracie Wogstad in your prayers as they continue to affirm their faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Oh, to be in Iowa now that Spring is here.

According to my calendar, Spring turned a month old a few days ago. I just wish that someone would notify the weather. Remember that week when we were basking (even suffering) with nearly 90-degree heat? Golf courses were opening and many were digging out their short-sleeved shirts. And then just a day or so later, we were back to our longjohns when the wind chills dipped down to the single digits and along came some fresh snow. Oh, to be in Iowa now that Spring is here.



It is the other days: the brisk mornings that are accompanied by crystal blue skies, serenaded by all the birds that are busy nesting and feeding, the sight of the budding and flowering of the trees (with my apologies to those whose allergies are triggered by such things), and the anticipation of spears of asparagus emerging from the ground and lilacs emitting their luxurious fragrance, that make this time of year the favorite of so many. And while there are days when I wonder what it would be like to live in parts of the world that don't experience the vagaries in the weather that are part of daily life here, I'm pretty sure I'll stay put and make such places ones I will only visit.

But no matter the season or the climate in which we live, we live in the promise of the certainty of God's faithfulness to His promises. As we love to sing, "Summer and Winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love."

The lengthening of daylight, the greening of the vegetation, and the fruitfulness of the earth all serve to assure us of God's faithfulness. In some ways, all these things make it quite a bit easier to trust in God when such signs are abounding. For those of us in this half of the globe, it is very appropriate that we celebrate the new life purchased for by Jesus on the cross and shown to us in His resurrection happens at the same time that new life is springing forth.

But there are also times when such an abundance of signs of life fail to penetrate the darkness that surrounds and blinds us because of the circumstances in which we find ourselves. Death, grief, pain, sorrow, despair, disease, depression, decay, worry, trials, and more can rob us of participation in such joy. At such times, it is only God's Word that can offer the sure and certain hope of our life in Christ. As we sing in a different hymn, "When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Your touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; Love is come again like wheat arising green."



Building Our Faith.....

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS COOL!!

Our last day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 10th (3Yr-6th Grade will sing that morning in Worship) We will celebrate with a PANCAKE BREAKFAST! Plan to join us!

During April in Sunday School, our students have been engaged in meaningful lessons and thoughtful conversations that helped deepen their understanding of God's Word. Each week, we explored a different Bible story or teaching, discovering together how God shows His love, guidance, and purpose in our lives.

We began our month with "The Day of the Lord" (Malachi 4:1-6), where we learned that God keeps His promises and that His justice and mercy go hand in hand. We talked about how God prepares His people and calls us to turn our hearts back to Him. It was a powerful reminder that God is always at work, even when we cannot see it.

Next, we followed the story of Jonah (Jonah 1:1-2:3, 7-10) and saw what happens when we try to run from God. We saw that, like Jonah, we sometimes want to go our own way, but God lovingly pursues us and gives us second chances. We emphasized that it's never too late to turn back to Him.

In Psalm 23, "The Lord is My Shepherd," we were reminded of God's care and protection. We discussed how God leads us, provides for us, and walks with us through both joyful and difficult times. This lesson brought great comfort as students saw ways they can see God caring for them in their own lives.

Look for exciting Christ-centered activities we will be hosting this summer!



Congratulations and God's blessings to our 2026 Seniors: Melanie Bruesewitz, Ka'Rena Herrick and Liam Schafer. Join us for fellowship after Service on May 10th to celebrate with them! May they continue to seek God's guidance and know they always have a church family here at First Grace cheering them on!

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!



Mark your calendars

with these exciting Summer Dates!

- **High School Youth Mission Trip-May 30-June 6, 2026. There is still room for you! See Julie to register. Come along as we become the hands and feet of Jesus!**
- **Bible Camp-July 6-8, 2026. Registration is open! Forms can be found attached to this newsletter or are available at church. All kids that will finish 2nd-8th grade are welcome!**
- **Vacation Bible School-Monday, August 3-Thursday, August 6, 2026. Plan to join us at Rainforest Falls, where we will learn what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God, our safe place in life's storms.**



All of our fabulous activities are what they are because of YOU, our dedicated volunteers. Please prayerfully consider donating time with us this summer to make all of this work!

**GOD
is Good!**



Good Friday Puppet Show



Fellowship after church



Can trailer helpers



Confirmands



5th Graders First Communion



Church choir

**Updates- Church Council
Meeting 4/15/2026**

Discipleship: Blinds for Grace Hall were discussed. The Discipleship committee and Property committee will work together and bring a recommendation back to the council.

Property: A discussion was held about lawn care. A motion was made and approved to use Home Turf for lawn care.

Children & Youth Education: The adult mission trip has been postponed until March of 2027.

Other Updates: John Peterson presented insurance quotes with a comparison chart. The committee recommended we stay with Brotherhood Mutual for another year. The emergency response team had 17 members respond to join. They have had one meeting already. A process on how to purchase items for the church was discussed.

Looking for a Bible Study to join? Can't make it to Grace Hall for Wednesday Bible Study? Looking for an additional Bible Study to enrich your learning? Check out this Online Bible Study!



Women's Online Bible Study

1st & 3rd Monday of Each Month

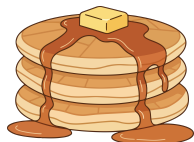
12pm CDT on Zoom

Hosted by the Women of the North American Lutheran Church (WNALC), this online Bible study invites women from across the church to gather around God's Word for meaningful conversation, encouragement, and growth in faith. Join us as we connect in Scripture together—wherever you are—and walk this journey side by side.

Sign up by emailing: wnalc@thenalc.org

Want to know about First Grace and the North American Lutheran Church? Interested in joining FGLC but have questions? Come to an Informational session on May 3rd at 9:30 AM in Grace Hall. Please share with anyone you know who may be interested!

**Join
Us!**



Pancakes & Photos



We have a lot to celebrate on May 10, 2026! Not only is it Mother's Day and Senior Recognition Sunday, but it is also the last day of Sunday School. Everyone is invited for pancakes at 9:30 AM in Grace Hall. We will also have a photo area set up for Mother's Day! Then after church we'll have cake for the Senior Reception!

**FUNDRAISING
UPDATE**

As of April 30, 2026, we have raised \$122,283.25 towards our goal of \$450,000.

Helpers in May

READERS:

May 3- None needed
May 10- Joan Kirk
May 17- Doug Lang
May 24- Heather Mitchell
May 31- Margo Young

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

May 3- Bill & Lori Spitz
May 17- Kim Schwab & Cyndi Ehrhart

TREATS:

May 3- Barb Maakestad & Lois Grover
May 10- Vickie Maakestad
May 17- Heather Mitchell
May 24- Heather Huffman
May 31- Ashley Rosendahl

GREETERS:

May 3- TA Kleckner
May 10- Doug & Trish Lang
May 17- Jeff & Deb Huftalin
May 24- Nick & Jessica Hemann
May 31- Amber Hanson



Song of Solomon 2:11-13

for lo! The winter is past;
the rain is are over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the the turtledove
is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.”

USHERS:

May 3- Ron Goodale & Kendrick Berg
May 10- Brad Balsley & Dustin Balsley
May 17- Keith Dorsey & Nichloas Messersmith
May 24- Jeff Olsen & Nick Hemann
May 31- Mitch Wigern & Hank Clark

CAN ORGANIZERS:

May 3- Wigern
May 10- Danzow
May 17- Spitz
May 24- Schafer
May 31- Carrie & Glen Barker

CAN HAULERS:

May 3- Wigern
May 10- Danzow
May 17- Spitz
May 24- Rosendahl
May 31- Evenson

Weekly Attendance:

April 5- 212
April 12- 110
April 19- 162
April 26- 127

Giving for February 2026

Regular Offering: \$11,398.70
Fundraising: \$2685.00
Can money: \$595.75
Youth Lenten meals & jar: \$1,795.20

Donations/Memorials:

*Donation from Osage Senior Center- \$1,500.00
*Donation from Faith Lutheran Church, Monona, IA- \$300.00

May



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Information Session about First Grace 10:30 AM Worship with Communion and Community Choir 11:45 AM Q & A Session	3	4	5	6 *10 AM Bible Study	7	8 9 Pastor's day off
Last day of Sunday School 9:30 AM Pancakes for ALL 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship with Sunday School Choir, Senior Sunday, Congregational Vote, and Mother's Day	10	11	12	13 *10 AM Bible Study	14	15 16 Pastor's day off
10:30 AM Worship with Communion	17	18	19	20 *10 AM Bible Study *5:30 PM Council Meeting	21	22 23 Pastor's day off
10:30 AM Worship	24	25	26	27 *10 AM Bible Study	28	29 30 Pastor's day off
10:30 AM Worship FOOD BANK Sunday	31					30 Pastor's day off Mission Trip- May 30- June 7