

First Grace Notes



**“This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.” – Psalm 118:24**



A special congregational meeting was held on Sunday, May 10th after the worship service. The purpose of the meeting was to vote on the Council’s recommendation to extend a call to Pastor Christopher Staley and to approve the proposed compensation package.

The congregation voted unanimously to extend a call to Pastor Staley. The recommended compensation package was also approved with overwhelming support, with only one dissenting vote.

We joyfully welcome Pastor Staley and Kelly to the First Grace family and thank God for His faithful provision and guidance during this exciting new chapter in our congregation’s ministry!!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
STARTING JUNE 7th
Worship services
change to
9:30 AM

June 24-
4:30 PM Church
Council Meeting

9AM Prayer Hour
on Wednesdays in
the Sanctuary

10 AM Bible Study
on Wednesdays in
First Grace Hall

June 28-
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

Congratulations once again to Melanie Bruesewitz, KaRena Herrick and Liam Schafer on their high school graduations! We are confident the Lord has mighty plans in store for all of you!



On May 3rd, we were blessed to have the Community Choir sing at First Grace Lutheran during worship. The choir is directed by Mark Borchardt.

"Money, Money, Money"

There may be nothing that is more of a turn-off for people when it comes to church than when money is talked about from the pulpit. I've read many studies that look at reasons why people don't attend church, and nearly every list contains something along the lines of: "They just want my money," or "All they talk about is money." I think that at the heart of the matter, none of us likes it when some unflattering feature about ourselves is highlighted or criticized. We are more than happy to listen and talk about "sins" that don't really apply to us, or that at least can't be proved about us.



It wasn't at all uncommon a generation or two ago for pastors to lambast those who participated in the 'evils' of drinking or smoking or dancing or playing cards, since many self-respecting church-goers were able to shun such vices (at least in public). I suspect that less often were the sins of greed or gossiping or sloth or gluttony lifted up with as much intensity. And even if they were, most of us are amazingly well equipped with a ready defense along the lines with, "Well, I know that I may not be perfect when it comes to such-and-such a sin, but I'm not near as bad as a lot of people I know." And then there will be the occasional Sunday when a pastor becomes particularly bold and pointed in his preaching against a common sin shared by all in attendance. Yet, as parishioners leave, the pastor will hear the comment "Really good sermon, Pastor. It's too bad the people who needed to hear it weren't here."

But when it comes to preaching about money, most people skip right past getting defensive, and instead go straight to taking offense. Truth be told, I avoid talking about money in my sermon whenever possible. But there are occasions when the texts for the day simply don't allow a pastor to ignore the issue. For one thing, Jesus had a very meddlesome way of bringing up the subject way too often. And most often he warned against the problems that money can cause. At the heart of the matter, the problem with money, or any other such wealth, is that it has an insidious way of becoming too important to us. Our culture constantly feeds us the message that to have enough money will lead to happiness, security, prestige. And our corrupted nature is easily seduced by such messages.

Yet the truth is that money is not, in itself, evil. Neither is wealth evil. But for the Christian, there are better ways to deal with money and wealth. Namely, for the Christian, one is always to remember that our possession of such things is only temporary, so that we see ourselves as managers or stewards of God's treasure, especially as we are given opportunities to use our money and wealth to serve our neighbor. And a Christian must also remember that with money and wealth comes an even greater obligation to be vigilant that they don't become our God. The Bible does not say that money is evil, but it does say that "the love of money is the root of all evil." And the simple truth is that money is easy to love.

Monthly Matters - Youth News



Building Our Faith.....

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS COOL!!

As another Sunday School year comes to a close, we are so thankful for the many meaningful lessons, smiles, friendships, and moments spent growing in faith together! Throughout the year, our students learned more about Jesus and His call for us to share His love with others.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this year such a blessing, especially our dedicated teachers! A special thank you to Britney & Alec Walls, Mel Bruesewitz, Ashley & Hakkon Rosendahl, Kylie Johnson, Margo Young, Nicole Kleckner, Crystal Adams, Heather Mitchell, Briana Williamson, Amber Hanson, Nicole Wigern, and all those who helped as subs in our classes. Your time, energy, love, and faithfulness have made a lasting impact on our youth and their spiritual growth.

We were also blessed to wrap up the year with a wonderful Pancake Breakfast filled with great food, fellowship, and celebration! Many thanks to Vickie Maakestad for planning and preparing, to Tedd Maakestad and Jeff Huftalin for cooking, and Deb Huftalin, Sheila Olsen, Becky Wagner and Brett Barker for serving, smiling and cleaning up!

We are so excited about all God has brought First Grace and look forward to the Christ-centered events this summer, be sure to check them out and join us!



High School Youth Mission Trip to Maynard Texas

On May 30, a group of youth and adults will be heading to Texas to help with recovery efforts after last summer's devastating floods.

In July 2025, historic flooding caused major damage in communities across central Texas. Our team is grateful for the opportunity to serve those who were affected, not only by helping with the work that needs to be done, but also by showing the love of Jesus through our care, encouragement, and presence.

Our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported us in our fundraising efforts so far! Through our Lenten Meals offerings, and our donation board we've raised \$3,000! 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!

Save the Date for These Exciting Summer Events!!

We have a wonderful summer ahead! Mark your calendars and be sure to join us!



- High School Youth Mission Trip: May 30–June 6, 2026
- Bible Camp: Monday, July 6–Wednesday, July 8, 2026
- Vacation Bible School: Monday, August 3–Thursday, August 6, 2026

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: [BibleCamp2026](#), fill out the form included with this newsletter, or pick up a form at church. To help us prepare, please register your children as soon as possible! Register before June 11th and your child is guaranteed a (free!) Camp T-Shirt!! And don't forget!!!! we rely on adult and teen volunteers to make Bible Camp a success! We are especially in need of a few adult males for overnight! 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!

Free Popcorn
Pop and Candy for Purchase
All Ages Welcome

First Grace
Movie Night

JUNE 7TH - 4:00 PM
GRACE HALL

GOD'S DEAD
PG

CINEMA TICKET
ADULT ONE

CINEMA TICKET
ADULT ONE

Updates- Church Council Meeting 5/20/2026

Pastor Staley's start date will be June 7, 2026. Our service time will change from 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Pastor Staley's installation will be on July 12, 2026. Carl Rasmussen will do the installation. A celebration meal is being planned. Jodi Demuth shared details about having movie events at First Grace Hall, and the Discipleship Committee decided to not have a float in the 4th of July parade this year. The Mission Trip participants will return on June 7th. Trevor Olsen agreed to work with the Nominating Committee to work on new committee members for the next year, and he will have an update at the next meeting. A new laptop was purchased for Pastor Staley. Our mission family, the Isders, will be visiting on July 4th. Pastor Staley will be bringing his piano to FGLC and placed in the sanctuary. The sanctuary piano will be placed in Grace Hall. The piano in Grace Hall will be donated back to CMA members as they have expressed interest. Council approved the motion to purchase the professional refrigerator/freezer from the Little Devil's fair booth. John Pedersen will donate his can trailer to First Grace. The Life Serve Blood Drive will continue to use Grace Hall through 2027.



Just a reminder to turn in any Hope Baby Bottles by June 21st or bring them to Carrie Barker.



Thank you to Pastor Saethre and Seminarian Clara Davidson for helping lead worship services for us in May. We appreciate it!

Thank you to Michele Johnson and family for creating and setting up the backdrop for photos on Mother's Day. It was beautiful!



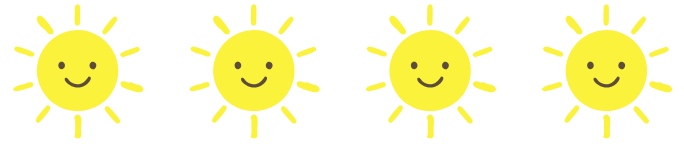
We will have another photo opportunity on Sunday, June 21, for Father's Day!!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

As of April 30, 2026, we have raised \$123,033.25 towards our goal of \$450,000.



Helpers in June



READERS:

June 7- Jayne Olsen
June 14- Trever Olsen
June 21- Beth Pearson
June 28- Ashley Rosendahl

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

June 7- Jeff & Jayne Olsen
June 21- Jay & Shelia Olsen

TREATS:

June 7- Lois Ruehlow
June 14- Mike & Tracy Ruehlow
June 21- Theresa Schafer
June 28- Dave & Kathy Stauffer

GREETERS:

June 7- Darla Goodale
June 14- Cyndi Ehrhart
June 21- Harv & Jodi Demuth
June 28- Paul & Nancy Danzow

Weekly Attendance:

May 3- 109
May 10- 164
May 17- 80
May 24- 117
May 31- 94

Giving for April 2026

Regular Offering: \$13,442.41
Fundraising: \$750.00
Can money: \$2873.40

USHERS:

June 7- Ty Williamson & Tate Williamson
June 14- Jonathon Rogers & Hakkon Rosendahl
June 21- Reed Kuper & Liam Meitner
June 28- Doug Lang & Henry Rover

CAN ORGANIZERS:

June 7- Bartz
June 14- Betts
June 21- Bruesewitz
June 28- Mehmen

CAN HAULERS:

June 7- Huftalin
June 14- Spitz
June 21- Bruesewitz
June 28- Mehmen



Psalm 74:17

You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth;
you have made summer and winter.



2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 *9 AM Prayer Hour *10 AM Bible Study	4	5	6 Pastor's day off
	Mission Trip	<hr/>				
7 9:30 AM Worship with Communion Mission Trip Returns	8	9	10 *9 AM Prayer Hour *10 AM Bible Study	11	12	13 Pastor's day off
14 9:30 AM Worship with Communion	15	16	17 *9 AM Prayer Hour *10 AM Bible Study *4:30 PM Council Meeting	18	19	20 Pastor's day off
21 9:30 AM Worship with Communion Father's Day & Baby Bottle Campaign due	22	23	24 *9 AM Prayer Hour *10 AM Bible Study	25	26	27 Pastor's day off
28 9:30 AM Worship FOOD BANK Sunday	29	30				





Community Bible Camp

Who: All kids going into 2nd-all who have 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, campfire sites, sand volleyball court, Gaga Ball, Paintball, Basketball courts, 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 6 - Wednesday, July 8, 2026

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 and T.A.G. **(Time Alone w/God)**

Join us as we learn to Trust God!!

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 11th (in order to get a Camp TShirt!)
Balance due at camp registration.

(Please make checks payable to First Grace Lutheran Church)

Camper's name: _____ Grade completed this year _____

T-Shirt size: CHILD 6-8 10-12 14-16 18-20 ADULT S M L XL

Address: _____

Parent Cell Phone No.: _____ Financial Aid Needed: Yes No

Amount Paid: _____ Date paid: _____

Yes! 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 | Tuesday | Wednesday |
| 2. Help with meals/Serve on: | | Tuesday | Wednesday |
| 3. Overnight: | Monday(overnight) | Tuesday(overnight) | Wednesday(until 5:00pm) |
| 4. Activities on: | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
| 5. Chaperone Tubing: | | Tuesday | Wednesday |

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!)