

First Grace Notes



 **First Grace**
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Pastor: Christopher Staley
PO Box 143, 726 State Street
Osage, IA 50461
641-832-1098

July 2026



Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. Matthew 29-31



PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JULY 12, FOR PASTOR STALEY'S INSTALLATION DURING THE 9:30 WORSHIP SERVICE. THERE WILL BE A MEAL FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN GRACE HALL.

Mission Trip 2026



What a blessing our week was in Menard, Texas! Our team had the opportunity to work on two homes that had sustained flood damage. We replaced damaged lower siding, scraped, prepped, and painted both houses, helping restore them for two wonderful families. We were honored to serve Miss Rosa at one home and Benny and Mary at the other. Their gratitude and kindness made all the hard work even more worthwhile.

The Texas heat was definitely a challenge, but this group never lost its spirit. Everyone worked together with servant hearts, encouraging one another and sharing the load. It was truly a TEAMeffort from start to finish.

We left thankful for the opportunity to serve, grateful for the friendships made, and humbled by the appreciation shown by the families we worked with. God blessed our time together, and we are reminded once again that even small acts of service can make a big difference. What a privilege it was to be the hands and feet of Christ

Our thanks again to this congregation not only for the financial support but the spiritual support too! We are grateful for it all!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July 12- Pastor Staley's
Installation
9:30 Worship service

July 15-
4:30 PM Church
Council Meeting

9AM Prayer Hour
on Wednesdays in
the Sanctuary

10 AM Bible Study
on Wednesdays in
Grace Hall

July 26-
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

"Mange Tusen Takk"

In case you're not fluent in Norwegian, what the words above translate to are "Many Thousand Thanks!" I first heard it out of the mouth of Grace Johnson many years ago when I first came to St Ansgar. She was a proud Norwegian, a retired school teacher, and the daughter of a pastor (Pastor Sorlien, who had served Rock Creek Lutheran back in the day). And I've always thought that it had an especially nice ring to it.



Besides, it expresses precisely what has been in Kelly's and my heart these past several weeks as you have showered upon us gifts of all sorts and sizes. When we wondered about how we'd move, you answered, "We can do that!" When we wondered about getting the interior of our new house painted before movers sprang into action, you answered, "We can do that!" When we wondered about how to organize the movers, you answered, "We can do that!" When we wondered about what we could do to feed the movers, you answered, "We can do that!"

Then there was the post-painting floor cleaning crew who went to work. There were shades to install, bathroom fixtures to install, a lawn to mow, all of which got taken care of. And there have been other, last-minute touches that have been handled by one or more of you which have made our home even more special. Sometime in the coming weeks, once the last of the furniture we've ordered has arrived, we will have an Open House so that you can all see the place we will call home for many years.

Although I have been less than useful because of a bum foot, so many of you have sprung into action without a word of grumbling. We are both so full of gratitude for all that everyone has done, and continues to do. We can only hope that over the coming years we can respond in kind so that our welcome here doesn't wear out.

Although we have been together now for more than three years, this new beginning is very exciting. I am looking forward to the installation service coming up on July 12th at our morning worship service. Pastor Carl Rasmussen, Area Assistant to Bishop Dan Selbo, NALC, will be here to conduct the Rite of Installation, and he and his wife will join us all for the celebration dinner that will follow.

And then the true work will begin as we all strive together to build First Grace Lutheran into the church that God wants here in Osage. We have so much already in place and also so much potential for the years ahead. I hope you share our excitement for what the years ahead will bring.

And as I began, I say again: Mange Tusen Takk. Many Thousand Thanks.

Pastor Staley

Monthly Matters - Youth News

Save the Date for These Exciting Summer Events!!

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

- 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!



Bible Camp is just about here, 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 2026](#) or pick up a form at church. To help us prepare, please register your children as soon as possible! For our Camp, 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!

How is your garden growing?
Have extra produce? You can share your bounty with others at the Garden Table located by the church offices.



Come meet our Mission family, the Isders, July 5th at our worship service.





Vacation Bible School is Monday, August 3-6 from 6:00-8:00 PM and we can't wait! VBS is open to kids 4 years old to entering 5th grade, and it will be packed with engaging Bible lessons, energetic worship, fun crafts, outdoor games, dinner (served before the fun begins, 5:30-6:00 PM) and more. Throughout the week at Rainforest Falls children will discover the nature of God and learn that they can be deeply rooted in a relationship with Him.

Invite your friends, neighbors, and family to join the fun! Whether you're registering your children or volunteering as a Team Leader, Crew Leader, Kitchen Crew member, or in another role, there's a place for everyone. Print and turn in the form below or go to our Facebook page! Come be part of an exciting week filled with faith, friendship, laughter, and adventure as we discover God's amazing love together. We can't wait to celebrate all that God is doing in the lives of our children, families, and volunteers. Join us—it wouldn't be the same without you!



**Join us for
Vacation Bible School!**
Monday, Aug -Thursday Aug 6
First Grace Lutheran
726 State St, Osage

Free-will Offering dinner will be served every night at 5:30pm

VBS Registration Card

Please fill out one form for each child

Student's Name _____ M F

Age _____ Grade **entering** this fall _____

Parent's names _____

_____ Yes! Call me.....I can help with VBS!!!

Address _____

Home phone _____ Work _____

Emergency contact person _____

Emergency contact phone _____

Food allergies or other medical problems _____

**Updates- Church Council
Meeting 6/17/2026**

The Faith Formation committee reported the kitchen cupboards in Grace Hall have been labeled. Money will be used from the Charity Fund to help assist with some children attending Bible Camp. Volunteers for Bible Camp have been secured. Background checks will be completed on all Bible Camp staff. Shelia Olsen created a note to define what renters of Grace Hall need to complete at the end of their event. The following members were voted on to be on the nominating committee; Tedd Maakestad, Jill Balsley, Lucas Brandau, Trever Olsen, Becky Herrick, and Michele Johnson. The Fundraising Committee met and are working on a meal after Pastor Staley's Installation on July 12, Church in the Park on August 23 with a meal and activities, and a Sunday School Kickoff Breakfast on September 13. We will also have a food booth for Autumn Artistry at the fairgrounds again. Hakkon met with our church Fire, Security and Medical Teams, and he will be looking into safety recommendations that were suggested. He will get estimates on the items and bring the information back to the next Council meeting. A discussion was also held on selling and donating First Grace items and a process for this was created.

The first movie night was a success! Popcorn was provided and pop and candy were available for purchase. Be watching for the next movie that will be shown!



**FUNDRAISING
UPDATE**

As of May 31, 2026,
we have raised \$123,563.25
towards our goal of
\$450,000.



Jeremiah and Michele
Johnson
for making and setting up
the
photo backdrop for Father's
Day!

Helpers in July:

READERS:

July 5- Lori Valasek
July 12- Becky Wagner
July 19- Tracy Walk
July 26- Debbie Goodale

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

July 5- TA & Nicole Kleckner
July 19- Doug & Trish Lang

TREATS:

July 5- Becky Wagner
July 12- Amber Hanson
July 19- Jan Witt
July 26- Jessica Hemann

GREETERS:

July 5- Glenn & Carrie Barker
July 12- Kendrick & Theresa Berg
July 19- Brad & Jill Balsley
July 26- Steve & Julie Anhorn

Weekly Attendance:

June 7- 102
June 14- 98
June 21- 106
June 28- 92

Giving for April 2026

Regular Offering: \$9,406.78
Fundraising: \$530.00
Can money: \$468.75



USHERS:

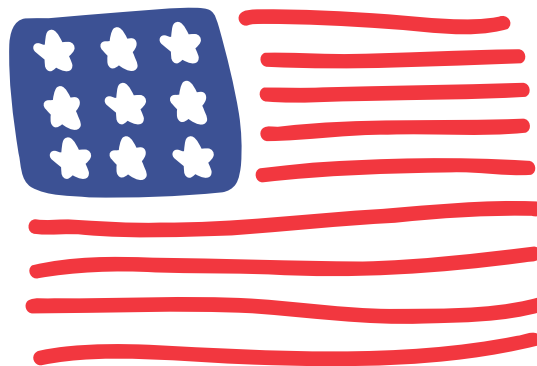
July 5- Doug Lang & Henry Rover
July 12- Paul & Nancy Danzow
July 19- Garrett Barker & Clint Brumm
July 26- Les Camp & Lori Valasek

CAN ORGANIZERS:

July 5- Demuth
July 12- Huftalin
July 19- Williamson
July 26- Rogers

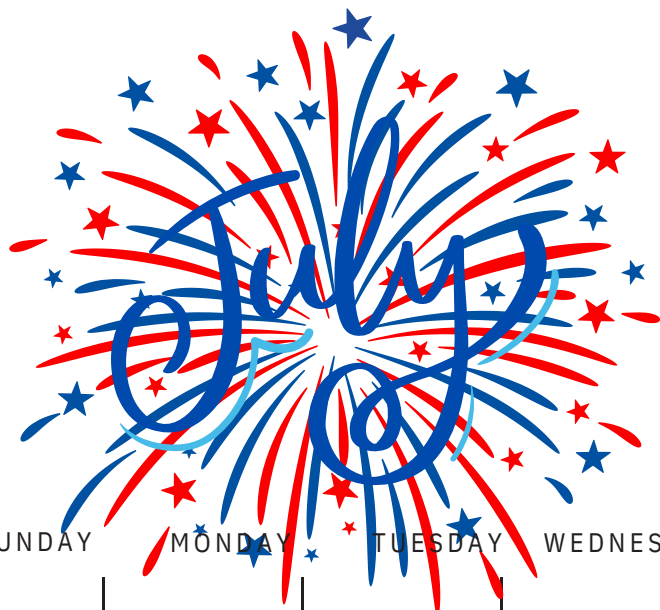
CAN HAULERS:

July 5- Evenson
July 12- Huftalin
July 19- Williamson
July 26- Danzow



Isaiah 40:31

**but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.**



2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			1 *9 AM Prayer Hour *10 AM Bible Study	2	3	4 Pastor's day off	
9:30 AM Worship with Communion Isder family visiting	5	6 BIBLE CAMP	7 Pastor Staley's birthday	8 *9 AM Prayer Hour *10 AM Bible Study	9	10	11 Pastor's day off
12 9:30 AM Worship **Pastor Staley's Installation	13	14	15 *9 AM Prayer Hour *10 AM Bible Study *4:30 PM Council Meeting	16	17	18 Pastor's day off	
19 9:30 AM Worship with Communion	20	21	22 *9 AM Prayer Hour *10 AM Bible Study	23	24	25 Pastor's day off	
26 9:30 AM Worship FOOD BANK Sunday	27	28	29	30	31		