

First Grace Notes

First Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Pastor: Christopher Staley
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August 2026



Pastor Staley's Installation



What a beautiful and meaningful NALC installation service that was held on July 12! It was a blessing to be able to celebrate Pastor Staley's installation and our 1 year anniversary of worshipping in our new church!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 3-6-
Vacation Bible School
5:30 meal
6:00 VBS starts

August 19-
4:30 PM Church
Council Meeting

9AM Prayer Hour
on Wednesdays in
the Sanctuary

10 AM Bible Study
on Wednesdays in
Grace Hall

August 23
Worship Service @ 10 AM
at City Park in Osage

August 30
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



"For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you,
'Do not fear; I will help you'" (Isaiah 41:13).

An incredible time was had at Bible Camp FearNot 2026! We laughed, learned, worshiped, played, and grew together as we discovered that God is our safe place and He is always with us. More details given on page 3.



It was really nothing at all like ‘boot camp’, but the Summer Greek Program at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque in 1991 was as close as most of us would ever get to such rigor. We were a ragtag group of students, ranging in age from the 20's to the 50's. Although we came from various backgrounds and experiences, we were there for the same thing, or for the same reason. A sense of call had overtaken all of us. And for the ensuing many months, each of us, along with the faculty at the seminary, and the individuals who made up our candidacy committees would be discerning whether this was a ‘true’ call or perhaps a ‘wrong number.’



I speak of all this now because it was 35 years ago this morning that I was one of those ‘recruits’ who knew nothing at all about Greek. I had just turned 27 years old, and had, at the suggestion of my hometown pastor and others in our congregation, decided to take this journey. There was also the small matter of convincing my wife of a few short years to sell the house we had purchased a mere three years earlier and to leave behind her family and job. We knew very little about what the ensuing years would bring.

Five years, and two children later, we received our first call to St. John Lutheran in Luana, Iowa, a town about the same size as Atalissa, Iowa, where I had grown up. I emerged from seminary having been schooled in both Greek and Hebrew, filled with nuggets of church history and Lutheran teachings, and trained in pastoral care, worship, theology, and had even preached weekly during my 8-month internship. But even though I rightly suspected that I still had much to learn, I had no idea how little I actually knew. And all these years later, having learned so much more, I am still overwhelmed by how much more there is that I do not yet know.

But there is one thing I do know, and that is how great a privilege and delight it is to be able to serve as Pastor among a body of believers who share a profound love for God’s Word, and for God’s Creation, and for God’s People. Are there moments when I shake my head and let out a sigh when the exigencies of parish life come home to roost? Absolutely. But in such moments, I remember that, much like Moses all those years before, I don’t undertake this office as a lone person. And although my wife is a fantastic support and encourager, even more profoundly, God promises to attend my work.

Martin Luther, for whom the Lutheran Church is named, was a prolific writer. One morsel that has been dear to me throughout these years is what is called the “Sacristy Prayer” which was framed and placed within the sacristy of St. John. It goes like this:

“Lord God, You have appointed me in the church as pastor. You see how unfit I am to attend to such a great and difficult office, and if it had not been for Your help, I would long since have ruined everything. Therefore I call upon You. Of course, I want to put my mouth and heart to use. I will teach the people, and I myself will learn and will meditate diligently on Your Word. Use me as Your instrument. Only do not forsake me; for if I am alone, I shall easily destroy everything.”

Thank God that He never leaves or forsakes us. To Him alone be all the glory.

Pastor Christopher Staley

Monthly Matters - Youth News

What an incredible few days we shared at Camp FearNot! We are so thankful to God for His many blessings as over 98 campers, counselors, youth helpers, and volunteers gathered together for three days of faith, fun, friendship, and adventure.

Our theme this year was "**Fear Not!**" As we explored God's Word, the kids discovered that no matter what they face, God is always with them. In our lessons we focused on different Bible truths:

- Fear Not! God is **MIGHTY!**
- Fear Not! God is in **CONTROL!**
- Fear Not! Jesus has **SAVED** you!
- Worry Not! **PRAY** and give **THANKS** instead!
- Fear Not! God is **ALWAYS** with you!



Together we enjoyed worship, Bible lessons, crafts, games, music, river tubing, slip-in-slide, paintballing, and plenty of laughter. Whether they were playing, creating crafts, cheering for their teams, making new friends, or singing praises together, every activity pointed back to the truth that we never have to face life's fears alone because God is always with us.

One of the greatest blessings of Camp FearNot! was watching our older Youth and young adults serve as leaders and role models. Alongside our amazing volunteers, they demonstrated Christ's love through their kindness, patience, enthusiasm, and willingness to serve. They helped create an atmosphere where all the campers felt welcomed, encouraged, and loved. A camp like this is only possible because of the generosity of so many people! Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated supplies, prepared food, prayed for our camp, and supported this ministry in countless ways. Your gifts of time, talent, and resources made an eternal difference in the lives of our children. A very special thank you to Paradise Pizza for the yummy pizza dinner our first night and all the other food they provided and prepared!

As the campers returned home, our prayer is that they continue to remember the promise they heard throughout the week: "**Fear not, for I am with you.**" (Isaiah 41:10) May we all carry that truth with them into every new adventure, challenge, and season of life, knowing that God is their safe place, their strength, and their constant companion.

To God be all the glory for an amazing Camp FearNot!

We are already looking forward to next year!



And we're not done yet! Our next big event is just around the corner: Vacation Bible School is August 3rd-6th from 6:00-8:00pm and we can't wait! Join us at Rainforest Falls as we explore the nature of God!

VBS is open to kids 4 years old to entering 5th grade and will be packed with fun, amazing Bible lessons, worship, fun crafts, outdoor games and dinner (served before the fun begins, 5:30-6:00pm). It's a great opportunity for children to learn about

Jesus, be with friends, make new ones and experience God's love in a joyful, welcoming environment

Registration is open! Fill out a registration form in this newsletter or at church—invite your friends and neighbors! Whether you're signing up your kids or volunteering to help as a Team Leader, Crew Leader or Kitchen Staff, there's a place for everyone at VBS. Let's keep the momentum going and continue to celebrate all that God is doing in the lives of our children and families!





Join us for
Vacation Bible School!
Monday, Aug 3-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 _____



Help Wanted: Sunday School Volunteers This Fall!

As we prepare for Sunday School this fall, we're looking for caring, enthusiastic volunteers to join our team! Whether you've taught before or are simply willing to help and learn, there's a place for you. We need teachers, helpers, and those willing to lend a hand with preparation or special activities.

Come be part of this chapter in your kids' lives! You'll help shape young hearts, build faith, and share God's love each week. If you're interested or want to learn more, please contact Julie.

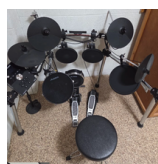
Baptism



We joyfully welcomed Mack Eugene Stewart, Maverick James Stewart, and Riggs Joseph Stewart, sons of Kevin & Kayla Stewart into the body of Christ through Holy Baptism on July 26, 2026. Mack's sponsors are Seth & Deserae Tuttle and Mike Stewart. Maverick's sponsors are Tanner & Molly Tuttle, and Mike Stewart, and Riggs's sponsors are Maren Tuttle & Joe Sweeney and Mike Stewart. We give thanks for God's grace in Mack's, Maverick's, and Riggs' life and pledge our support and love as a church family.

FGLC Sealed Bid Auction

Several items are available for sale by sealed bids for members of First Grace. Item descriptions and bid forms are on the table in the entry way, along with a box where bids can be placed. **Bids are due by August 9th.** An email was sent out to all members describing the items and process for bidding.



**FUNDRAISING
UPDATE**

As of June 30, 2026,
we have raised
\$129,243.25
towards our goal of
\$450,000.

You're Invited!





A huge thank you to the Fund-Raising Team, the Council, and all others who helped to plan, put on, and to those who attended last Sunday's Installation service and celebration dinner. We were overwhelmed by the spirit of love and appreciation and are truly touched by the many kind words and gifts.

Pastor & Kelly



We need two delegates to attend the Iowa Mission District Convocation on Saturday, August 29th, at Nazareth Lutheran in Cedar Falls. Registration begins at 8:00 and the day should wrap up by 4:30. The only cost for the day is the lunch. If you would be interested, speak with Pastor Staley. Additional individuals may also attend as visitors, in addition to our two delegates.



A very special thank you to Paradise Pizza and Sheila Adams for all your food donations for Bible Camp and also to Connell Kenny for coming out and fixing air conditioners at Bible Camp and at church before the Installation Worship Service!!



We appreciate ALL of our can organizers and haulers!! It is not a fun job cleaning up bags of cans especially in the heat we have had! Some friendly reminders to tell your friends and neighbors: Please only 5 cent cans, no extra trash, and keep bottles and cans separate. If you would like to help be an organizer or hauler and you are not on the rotation, please let Jodi Demuth or anyone on the Discipleship Committee know.

Updates- Church Council Meeting 7/15/26

- *Council voted to purchase a camera system for the church for security purposes.
- *Council agreed to move forward with reducing the sound booth size and to remove the wood steps by the exit door in the NE corner of the sanctuary.
- *The First Grace annual meeting will be held on September 27, 2026, after worship.
- *Council also discussed ideas on signage for First Grace and possible landscaping out front of the church. They are also looking into adding an evening Bible Study group.
- *Council agreed to add to a few items to the ushers' duties. Those include lighting the candles and setting out the candy.

Helpers in August:

READERS:

August 2- Cyndi Ehrhart
August 9- Tedd Maakestad
August 16- Elyza Williamson
August 23- Jodi Demuth
August 30- Julie Anhorn

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

August 2- Ken & Joan Kirk
August 16- Tedd & Vickie Maakestad

TREATS:

August 2- Margo Anhorn
August 9- Nicole Bartz
August 16- Shelby Olsen
August 23- Jill Balsley
August 30- Jayne Olsen

GREETERS:

August 2- Ken & Joan Kirk
August 9- Henry & Lois Rover
August 16- Ethel Wichmann
August 23- Mark & Becky Wagner
August 30- Dave & Kathy Stauffer

Weekly Attendance:

July 5 - 103
July 12- 139
July 19- 97
July 26- 113

Giving for April 2026

Regular Offering: \$14,920.42
Fundraising: \$5680.00
Can money: \$2253.85

Memorials/Donations

*Memorials given-

In memory of Janele Valasek
in memory of Stan Witham
in memory of Jim Larson

*Mission donation from Faith Lutheran Church, Monona, IA- \$300.00

*Donation from the Janele Valasek Estate

USHERS:

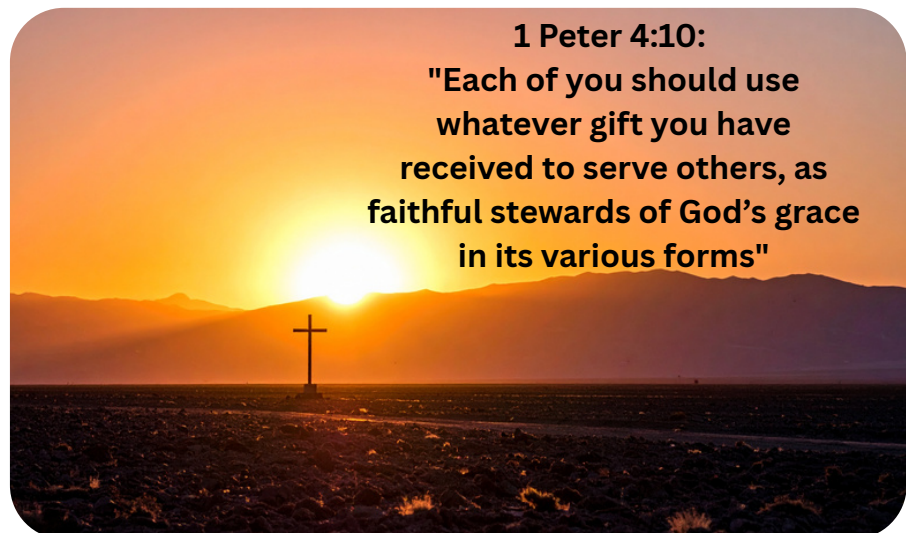
August 2- Jay Olsen & Rylen Hanson
August 9- Brodie Mitchell & Derrick Heimer
August 16- Tedd Maakestad & Easten Hanson
August 23- Luke Brandau & Trever Olsen
August 30- Matt Bartz & Jesse Mehmen

CAN ORGANIZERS:

August 2- J. Johnson
August 9- Herrick
August 16- Wigern
August 23- Danzow
August 30- Spitz

CAN HAULERS:

August 2- Rosendahl
August 9- Goodale
August 16- Wigern
August 23- Danzow
August 30- Spitz



1 Peter 4:10:

**"Each of you should use
whatever gift you have
received to serve others, as
faithful stewards of God's grace
in its various forms"**

August 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Pastor's day off
2 9:30 AM Worship with Communion	3 Vacation Bible School 5:30 meal 6:00 start	4	5 *9 AM Prayer Hour *10 AM Bible Study	6	7	8 Pastor's day off
9 9:30 AM Worship and 4:00 MOVIE	10	11	12 *9 AM Prayer Hour *10 AM Bible Study	13	14	15 Pastor's day off
16 9:30 AM Worship with Communion	17	18	19 *9 AM Prayer Hour *10 AM Bible Study *4:30 PM Council Meeting	20	21	22 Pastor's day off
10:00 AM 23 Worship at CITY PARK	24	25	26 *9 AM Prayer Hour *10 AM Bible Study	27	28	29 Pastor's day off
9:30 AM 30 Worship and Food Bank Sunday						