

First Grace Notes

 **First Grace**
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Pastor: Christopher Staley
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September 2026

CHURCH in the PARK



"Lord God, Creator of all things, we thank You for the privilege of gathering in Your beautiful sanctuary without walls today. As the wind blows, the birds sing, and the sun shines, we are reminded of Your endless creativity and goodness. We open our hearts to You in this place. May our praise rise to You alongside the voice of creation. Fill us with Your joy and peace as we worship You today. Amen."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sept. 2-
Confirmation starts
*6:30-7:30 PM @ Grace Hall

Sept. 13-
SUNDAY SCHOOL
Kickoff! @ 8:30 AM
Pancake Breakfast
(Wear your favorite FG T-shirt
or Christian T-shirt)

Sept. 16-
4:30 PM Church
Council Meeting

Sept. 27 -
10:30 AM
ANNUAL Meeting

10 AM every Wednesday
Bible Study at Grace Hall
and NEW evening Bible study
starts Sept. 9th
every other Wednesday @ 6:30
PM

Sept. 27
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

Bible School HIGHLIGHTS



“If your brother sins against you,..” (Matthew 18:15)



Every congregation I have belonged to or have served as Pastor have in their constitutions a section on dealing with conflict in the congregation and they always refer to these verses in Matthew 18, which happens to be the Gospel lesson for this coming Sunday, September 6th. The process Jesus outlines in the passage is constitutionally required. Anyone with long experience in any congregation will have accounts to share about some conflict in the congregation that threatened to destroy it. The matter is frequently baffling in its triviality. Disagreements about the type of flooring in the fellowship hall can easily become contentious. We all know this.

But this is not quite the situation Jesus is describing. He is talking about a situation where one of us notices that someone in the fellowship is acting sinfully. While disagreeing about the type of flooring can be aggravating, it is not sinful, although one's actions in response to the disagreement can become destructive.

Jesus' advice here has concern not only for the health of the body, but also for the eternal health of the offender. Someone is sinning and needs to be dealt with. It is love that drives this procedure, concern for the person's salvation, and the flourishing of the fellowship. As I read Jesus' words, a congregation cannot be a lively testament to the faith if it does not work to assure that its members remain faithful. If there are no boundaries—that is to say, if anyone can be involved in the fellowship without confessing Christ, or flagrantly living out of sync with the boundaries of the Christian faith, the group needs to deal with it, as one does an infection. To use the bodily imagery, it needs to deal with the infection before it becomes septic.

Thus, the urgency of Christ's message. If He is not Lord over everyone in the group, there can be no unity. So, if the one on one conversation does not produce a solution, two or three need to address the issue with the sinner. Then the council, then the entire congregation. While awful, these conversations may be salutary for they will inform the membership what is at stake. Ultimately that means bowing to the Lordship of Christ Jesus. To be sure the church is made up of sinners, that is all God has to work with, but as Christians they know they are sinners and work to live as forgiven sinners, under the Lordship of Christ. The one Jesus is talking about, if ultimately unwilling to listen, does not accept His Lordship.

We do not like discipline much these days, but we all know how awful it is to live with the undisciplined. Christ is showing us a way that is kind and loving, and concerned for the welfare of the person as well as the congregation. Words we need to hear, and live by.

Pastor Staley

Monthly Matters - Youth News

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016 RAINFOREST FALLS.....



What an amazing week at Rainforest Falls VBS! Our church was filled with laughter, energy, creativity, and, most importantly, God's Word as the kids explored the rainforest and learned about God's amazing creation.

Each night brought a new adventure with fun games, crafts, music, Bible lessons, and plenty of opportunities to learn and grow

together. Throughout our 4 evenings together we focused on these 4 Truths: God Knows Everything, God Is our Safeplace, God Is Love, God Is Forever!



We are so thankful for the 54 children who joined us and for all of the families who made

Rainforest Falls part of their summer. What a blessing to see our church family and community come together to share the love of Jesus with the next generation!

This amazing week wouldn't have been possible without the dedication, time, and heart of our incredible volunteers.

From preparing and serving meals, to teaching, leading, and loving our children — thank you all for making this experience unforgettable!

A huge shoutout and heartfelt thanks to: Britney Walls and Hadlee Hofler, Margo Young, Ashley Rosendahl, Nicole & Byrnee Kleckner, Allison Bates, Becky, Kade, Kwynn & KaRena Herrick, Melanie Bruesewitz, Brett Barker, Ella Schafer, Nicole Bartz, Heather & Layna Mitchell, Crystal Adams, Steve Anhorn, Amber Hanson, Pastor & Kelly Staley, and everyone else who lent a hand — seen or unseen!

We are so grateful for each of you! ❤️

Until our next adventure - - Sunday School begins

September 13th at 8:30am - - keep growing in God's Word and remember that wherever we go, God is with us!



Team Jesus Sunday School Kickoff!

Get ready for a Sunday full of faith, fun, friends, and flapjacks!

Join us on Sunday, September 13th as we kick off another exciting year of Sunday School at First Grace! Classes are for all kids from 3 Year Old to 12th Grade 🙌🏻

Wear your favorite First Grace or Christian T-shirt and bring the whole family! We'll start the morning with a delicious Pancake Breakfast at 8:30 AM, followed by a chance for kids and parents to meet their teachers and check out their Sunday School rooms.

We're excited to begin another year of learning, growing, and following Jesus together.

We're all on Team Jesus! ❤️🙌🏻

❤️ Kickoff & Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, September 13 at 8:30 AM

🙌🏻 Sunday School Classes Begin: Sunday, September 20, 2016

Mark your calendars and come join the team! We can't wait to see you!

Please note the time change! Last year our Sunday School began at 9:30 AM. This year, Sunday School will be at **8:30 AM**, with Worship at 9:30 AM.!

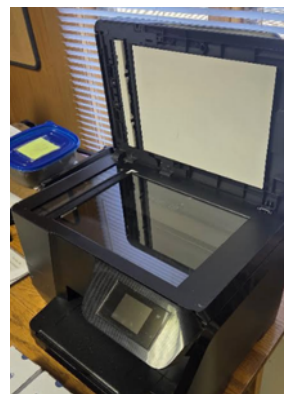
We look forward to seeing you all bright and early!



More Sealed Bid Items

We have more items available for Sealed Bid Auction.

There will be flyers of the auction items and bid forms provided in the Narthex at church. More details about the auction are on the bid form. All members were emailed the details. Bidding for items will be open from August 30th to September 13th, 2026.





Help Wanted:

Sunday School Volunteers for our 2026-2027 Sunday School Year!

As we look ahead to another exciting year of Sunday School, we are grateful for the opportunity to continue growing here at First Grace! Help us continue to grow in faith and in sharing God's love with our children. We are still looking for a few volunteers to help in our Sunday School classrooms this fall! Whether you can teach regularly or help from time to time, you can make a difference.

Come be part of this joyful ministry! You'll help shape young hearts, build faith, and create a place where children can learn, laugh, and grow together.

If you're interested or would like to learn more, please contact Julie Anhorn.

Let's fill our church with laughter, learning, and the love of Christ!



It is time to start thinking about next summer's Mission Trip! This

year's 8th-12th Graders are invited to an informational meeting to

look at possible sites and set dates! Join us Sunday, September 27

immediately following Worship to see how YOU can be the hands and feet of Jesus!



AUTUMN ARTISTRY



Come support First Grace Lutheran

September 19

serving: 9AM cinnamon rolls & coffee

10:30 -1:30 Hot Beef Sundaes

Where?

*at the fairgrounds by
the Little Hands barn

*at Grace Hall

*Take Out containers available, too!



Updates- Church Council Meeting 8/15/26

*Property committee reported the City has approved a driveway entrance on the south side of the parking lot.

*Auction bids were received on the drum set and the refrigerator. New items for sale will be announced soon.

*Joan Kirk presented the Proposed By-Law Amendment and the editorial resolution. Both of these will be voted on at the annual meeting.

*A letter received announced that there will no longer be a Crop Walk in Osage. The council agreed that we will continue to give directly to the food bank.

*Pastor Staley is working on a picture directory. If members do not want the picture chosen used, they can submit a new one to Pastor. Also if members do not want their contact information shared, they also need to let Pastor know.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

As of June 30, 2026,
we have raised
\$135,373.25
towards our goal of
\$450,000.



Can't find something you know
you had with you at church?
Check the new LOST AND FOUND
box located in the church on the
shelf above the drinking fountain.

Helpers in September:

READERS:

Sept. 6- Carrie Barker
Sept. 13- Donna Bruesewitz
Sept. 20- Harv Demuth
Sept. 27- Bryce Demuth

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sept. 6- Jake & Theresa Schafer
Sept. 20- Jeff & Deb Huftalin

TREATS:

Sept. 6- Tracy Walk
Sept. 13- Crystal Adams
Sept. 20- Sue Pederson
Sept. 27- Britney Walls

GREETERS:

Sept. 6- Bill & Lori Spitz
Sept. 13- Bev Schuler
Sept. 20- Jake & Theresa Schafer
Sept. 27- Hakkon & Ashley Rosendahl

Weekly Attendance:

August 2- ----
August 9- 85
August 16- 67
August 23- 118
August 30- 120

Giving for August 2026

Regular Offering: \$14,511.50
Fundraising: \$135,373.25
Can money: \$1,929.30

Memorials/Donations

*Memorials given-

In memory of Wanda Gruis
In memory of Troy Krahenbuhl
In honor of our missionaries, the Isder family

USHERS:

Sept. 6- TA Kleckner & Mike Ruehlow
Sept. 13- Steve Anhorn & Philip Young
Sept. 20- Mark Wagner & Alec Walls
Sept. 27- Johnathon Rogers & Bill Spitz

CAN ORGANIZERS:

Sept. 6- Schafer
Sept. 13- R. Kuper
Sept. 20- Bartz
Sept. 27- Betts

CAN HAULERS:

Sept. 6- Rosendahl
Sept. 13- Evenson
Sept. 20- Huftalin
Sept. 27- Williamson

ACOLYTES:

Sept. 6- Easten Hanson & Collyns Hemann
Sept. 13- Kaylen Bartz & Hayden McRoberts
Sept. 20- Jaedyn Mehmen & Chanslee Meitner
Sept. 27- Layna Mitchell & Madison Dorsey

Psalm 67:6

The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.



September

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	*10 AM Bible Study ² *6:30-7:30 PM Confirmation classes start at Grace Hall	3	4	5 Pastor's day off
6 9:30 AM Worship with Communion	7 Labor Day	8	9 *10 AM Bible Study *6:30PM-7:30 PM Bible Study	10	11	12 Pastor's day off
13 SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF 8:30 AM 9:30 AM Worship with Blessing of students/teachers	14	15	16 *10 AM Bible Study *4:30 PM Council Meeting *6:30-8:30 PM Confirmation	17	18	19 Pastor's day off Autumn Artistry Food Booth
20 8:30 AM Sunday School Begins 9:30 AM Worship with Communion and Budget and Constitution Q+A	21 *8:20 AM-1:30 PM Confirmation Class to Mason City Community Kitchen	22	23 *10 AM Bible Study *6:30PM-7:30PM Bible Study	24	25	26 Pastor's day off
27 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Worship and Food Bank Sunday 10:30 ANNUAL MEETING	28	29	30 *10 AM Bible Study *6:30-8:30 PM Confirmation	31		