

This Week at Grace

Grace United Methodist Church
office@grace-umc.com
(515) 733-4712

December 14, 2023

This Week at Grace

This week at Grace the children will be performing their Christmas program for us. Cheryl Semler and Marvin and Pauline Kokemiller will usher. Angie Schnurstein will serve as liturgist. Kurt Carlson will be running tech. You can see and hear our worship services LIVE on our Facebook page @storycitygrace or through our website (which will link you to our Facebook page) – grace-umc.com.



Upcoming Events

Friday, December 15

5:30 P.M. Boy Scout Lock In

Sunday, December 17 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

8:00 A.M. Trustees

8:15 A.M. Missions

9:15 A.M. Worship (Children's Program)

10:15 A.M. Mission Brunch

10:30 A.M. Sunday School

4:00 P.M. Axis (at St. Petri)

Wednesday, December 20

6:00 P.M. Compass (at St. Petri)

7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

8:00 P.M. Bells

Sunday, December 24 (4th Sunday of Advent)

9:15 A.M. Worship

5:00 P.M. Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25—Tuesday, December 26

Office Closed

Sunday, December 31

9:15 A.M. Worship

10:15 A.M. Fellowship

In Our Prayers

Corinne Brown; Dorothy Carbaugh; Donyel Caruth—sister Tawnya has completed chemotherapy; Cathy Hermanson—Cancer; Kevin and Linda Larson—Daughter, Jamie, has cancer; Loretta Parker; Paula Sampson—Cancer; The Taylors; Prayers for victims of the tornados in Tennessee; Thankful for Ray's banana bread

Candlelight Service



You are invited to join us for our traditional **Candlelight Worship service at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve**. We'll add the Christ Candle as we light all the candles on our Advent wreath. We'll listen to scripture, sing beloved Christmas hymns, listen as the choir shares their beautiful Christmas music, and receive Pastor Jonathan's Christmas message. At the close of the service, we'll each light a candle as we sing "Silent Night" in thanks for all the wonderful blessings we enjoy because of Jesus, God's own son.

Office Hours

The church will be closed on December 25 and 26 for the Christmas holiday.



Mission Brunch

Mission brunch is this Sunday at 10:15 a.m. This month money raised from the brunch will go to support the Taylor Family. There will be no quarter tube this month so plan to give at mission brunch.

Children's Program



"While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for the in the inn."

The Unfriendly Beasts is a charming, humorous story of the manger animals who must share their crowded stable with Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus. When word reaches the stable that the animals must make room for humans, the animals protest.

December 17th the children will perform "The Unfriendly Beasts" during the 9:15 church service. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ from the manger animals perspective.

Scholarships

The Iowa United Methodist Foundation is offering over 100 scholarships for the 2024-2025 school year! Some scholarships are specifically for Methodist colleges, and many are open to anyone. Check out our website <https://iumf.org/scholarships/> to read the criteria and apply! Applications are accepted December 1—March 1 annually. With over \$250,000 to award this year, we want to help the student in your life graduate with less debt!

Fellowship Time

There will be no fellowship time following the service on December 24. On December 31, during fellowship time, plan to bring some of your leftover Christmas cookies to share.



Poinsettias



Let's fill the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettia flowers for the Advent Season. You are invited to bring in a poinsettia plant beginning Sunday, December 10th

for the remainder of the holiday season. You may bring a poinsettia of your own from where ever you choose. If you want to pay tribute to loved ones either as a memorial for those who have passed or in honor for those who are still with us, simply fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate by Sunday, December 10th, or you may deliver it to the church office.

My name _____

In honor/memory of _____

Adult Sunday School

Jonathan Cooney will be leading a study of *Unrelenting Grace: A United Methodist Way of Life* by Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., during the Sunday school hour beginning January 7 and ending before Lent in mid-February. Bishop Kennetha Bingham-Tsai of the Iowa conference has been leading a study of this book online and has received a tremendous response. We may be able to use some of her videos. The theme of the book is that as unsettling as current disruptions are, God is with us; we are not alone; and God's grace is sufficient. The church has ordered a number of books for the class and those interested should pick one up when they come in, though we will try to structure the discussion so as not to exclude anyone who has not read the material.



THINK YOU MAY BE PREGNANT?



Lighthouse offers free & confidential pregnancy testing in Story City at Immanuel Lutheran Church, located just 20 minutes north of Ames. Call 621-648-4198

FREE & CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES:

- *Pregnancy Tests
- *Medical Referrals
- *Adoption Referrals
- *Parenting Classes
- *Encouragement
- *Post-rape Support
- *Infant Loss Support
- *Abortion Grief Support
- *Sexual Health Facts
- *Mentoring

MYRTLE'S CLOSET

Children's clothing NB - 3T; diapers, wipes, books, toys & quilts available free to families enrolled in Lighthouse Center's programs.

Myrtle's Closet is located in Immanuel Lutheran Church, 604 Lafayette Ave, Story City. Private parking in the alley on the north side of church - follow the Lighthouse signs into the building and head upstairs. Volunteers register & assist you with shopping. Myrtle's Closet Story City Facebook page for hours & to volunteer.

Family Christmas in Story City

The holiday season is the perfect time to make magical memories with your family! We have a fun event planned in Story City on December 16th that offers an array of magical holiday experiences that capture the essence of the festive spirit of the holiday season. For more information on this fun event go to:

[Family Christmas In Story City](#)

Community Winter Gear Swap

Brought to you by RScityserve!

COLLECTION DAY: Saturday, Nov 4, 8-NOON

Collection bins also available at SC rec center and various churches

Accepted Outdoor Winter Donations:
Gently used, clean, any size (Infant-Adult)

*gloves/mittens *boots *hats
*snow pants *coats *Roland-Story gear
Donations are not required to take items!

*Open Dates for 2023-2024 Winter Season:
NOV. 11, 18 - DEC. 2, 9, 16 - JAN. 13, 20, 27
*10-Noon on Saturdays, 403 Broad St. in Story City.



RScityserve.org || facebook.com/RScityserve

Job Opening

Director of Youth and Family Ministry – Part Time

Mission Statement: Building a Christ-centered community for youth.

Purpose Statement: This youth group is a Christ-centered Community that engages youth and adults in fun and fellowship to explore what it means to be a child of God. We seek to build relationships among young people to help them discover their leadership potential and realize their ultimate value as beloved children of God for whom Jesus Christ gave his life on the cross.

The focus of this position is to provide youth programming for Bergen Lutheran (Roland), St. Petri Lutheran (Story City), and Grace United Methodist (Story City) churches. This person will work to draw other adults into mentoring and leadership roles. The director will seek to build an ongoing youth ministry among the three congregations through meetings, activities, and projects. In addition, the director will support the children and youth at Bergen Lutheran in their faith formation. The director will report to the leadership at Bergen Lutheran Church.

We seek a person with a comfort level in Lutheran theology, who is committed to Christ, with a personal calling to minister to youth and families and willing to work in ecumenical ministries including the ELCA and the United Methodist Church.

Specific Qualifications:

- Experience in Christian education and/or youth and family ministry, preferred.
- Demonstrates leadership and organizational skills, able to competently delegate tasks appropriately.
- Strong interpersonal skills in working with volunteers and people of all ages.
- An ability to identify and foster leadership in youth and adults.
- Excellent oral, written, and computer-based communication skills.
- A flexible attitude and adaptability especially when working with youth and parents from a small-town church environment.
- A baptized Christian that is familiar with the teachings of the ELCA and United Methodist Church.
- Background check will be required.
- Must be a licensed driver.

Bonus qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree, preferred but not required.
Certification in Youth/Family Ministry, preferred but not required.

Please send cover letter, resume and two references to:
Bergen Lutheran Church, 101 W Maple St, Roland, IA 50236 or e-mail to: jpsheahan26@gmail.com

The position will remain open until filled.