

This Week at Grace

December 21, 2023

Grace United Methodist Church
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(515) 733-4712

This Week at Grace

This week at Grace Pastor Jonathan will use Luke 1:26-38 as inspiration for his message. Gini and Caleb Michel will usher in the morning. Eric and Luccas Hart will usher for the candlelight service. Kurt Carlson will serve as liturgist for the morning service. Del Johnston will service at liturgist for the candlelight service. Nate Warwick will be running tech in the morning. Kate Feil will run tech for the candlelight service. 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

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

Monday, January 1

Office Closed

In Our Prayers

Corinne Brown; Dorothy Carbaugh; Donyel Caruth—sister Tawnya has completed chemotherapy; Cathy Hermanson—Cancer; Marvin and Pauline Kokemiller—daughter-in-law, Dr. Kimberlee Walker-Kokemiller, had open heart surgery; Kevin and Linda Larson—Daughter, Jamie, has cancer; Loretta Parker; Paula Sampson—Cancer; The Taylors;

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. And January 1 for New Years.

Sunday Morning

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. There is no Sunday school on December 24 or December 31. Sunday school will begin again on January 7.



Year End Giving

Lorijo will close the 2023 books on January 5, 2024. Any giving has to be in the church office by then and dated 2023.

Thank you!
Lorijo Lounsberry
Financial Secretary

Capital Campaign

The trustees have approved a three year capital campaign to raise \$225,000. The money raised will go to help replace the church roof, repave the parking lot, update the HVAC systems, and add handicap accessible doors. If you wish to give this year towards the campaign, money needs to be donated before January 5 and dated 2023. If you have any questions, contact Louis Reeder (402-641-6722) or Jim Hassebrock ((515-708-0946)

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. Books are available in the narthex. We will try to structure the discussion so as not to exclude anyone who has not read the material.



*For unto us
a child is born,*

..... HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

Wonderful Counsellor,

THE MIGHTY GOD

THE EVERLASTING FATHER,

The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



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!

Merry Christmas

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

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.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2010

THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST THING THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS STABLE!

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.