



100 Locust St. NE Blairstown, IA 52209

<https://GraceLutheranBtownIA.wixsite.com/home>

Jeffrey Schanbacher, Pastor

Pastor: (314)303-5753 or (319)454-6941

Pastor: gracebtown@gmail.com

Carrie Newton, Secretary

Office Phone: 454-6941

Office: gracetou111@gmail.com

4th Sunday after Epiphany - February 1, 2026

Order of Service - Divine Service: Setting 1 LSB 151 FM 90.5 or Grace Lutheran Church Blairstown - Facebook

Welcome to all in the name of Jesus Christ! It's exciting to have you with us in the sanctuary, on our Facebook page or on FM 90.5.

Supporting the Ministry of Grace is a task God gives us as a loving response to what He has done for us. For your financial support, in addition to the offering plate during worship, we have a drop box in the entryway as well as our Facebook and website so you can give online.

As We Gather: "That was a foolish decision." Maybe you have said that to yourself after a thoughtless word or action or maybe someone called you out for it. Our human foolishness is noted in two hymns in *Lutheran Service Book*. In the paraphrase of Psalm 23 in "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," we sing of our Good Shepherd: "Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me" (LSB 709:3). And in a hymn based on the parable of the prodigal son, we sing, "As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered" (LSB 612:1). Foolishness is not generally seen as a positive attribute. But Paul reminds his Corinthian readers and us that we are called to a certain special foolishness in Christ. "But God chose what is foolish . . . ; God chose what is weak . . . ; God chose what is low" (1 Corinthians 1:27-28). And Paul writes to the Ephesians, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who . . . chose us in Him before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:3-4). We can live as reflections of God's most gracious choosing!

Annual Reports: Please email your annual reports to Carrie at gracetou111@gmail.com so she can start pulling together the congregational annual report.

Mission Of The Month The Lutheran Hour radio program proclaims the salvation story of Jesus every week to more than 1 million listeners on nearly 1,800 stations, the mobile app and online. What a blessing this is in reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Your gifts this month to our Mission Jar will enable this broadcast to continue.

Interested in Finding Out More about our Faith? Pastor would like to offer some instructional classes on the basic beliefs of our faith for anyone interested. At the end of these sessions, anyone wishing to become a member of this congregation will be welcome to do so. Talk to Pastor if interested.

Men's Bible Study forming... A great suggestion has been made to study a book called "Man Up" calling us to be godly men in whatever place we find ourselves in life. We now need to come up with a time to hold this Bible Study. Let Pastor know if you are interested and what would be a good time each month for you to meet.

CLS Registration for the 2026-2027 School Year - Enrollment for current families will be Feb. 2nd-February 6th. Open enrollment for community members begins on March 2nd. Contact the CLS office for more information at 319-223-5271.

Lenten Suppers: Volunteers are needed to host Lenten suppers this year. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board if you would like to help. Please contact Carrie or Dan Newton if you would like a Thrivent Action Team to help with funding supplies and food.

Lent begins February 18th! Lenten Theme: "For Us" is this year's Lenten Series and will be used by many of our fellow Benton County congregations and is based on the hymn "Oh Love, How Deep" (LSB 544). This year we again will be sharing preachers with St. John-Newhall and St. Stephens-Atkins. Through Thrivent Action Team funds we will also have special devotional books available that are based on this series.

Our Response to God's Grace: 1/25/2026

Attendance: Sanctuary 45; Live stream 75+; Bible Class/SS: 15/3

Offering: Home \$1,776.50; Undesignated \$61; Missions \$5; Portals of Prayer \$50; Mission of the Month \$100; **Total \$1,992.50**