



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](mailto:gracebtown@gmail.com)

Carrie Newton, Secretary

Office Phone: 454-6941

Office: [gracetou111@gmail.com](mailto:gracetou111@gmail.com)

### **3rd Sunday after Epiphany - January 25, 2026**

#### ***Order of Service - Printed Order of Service***

#### **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:** The Epiphany season proclaims and celebrates the salvation of God coming into the world as a light shining in a dark place. Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah predicting the dawning of that light into the darkness of unbelief, separation from God, sin, and "the shadow of death" (Matthew 4:16). That light was and is Jesus and His message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (v. 17). It may seem like a minor detail that Matthew says Isaiah's prophetic words were fulfilled when Jesus left His hometown of Nazareth to live "in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali" (v. 13). Yet even this little fact testifies to how real the words of the Old Testament are and how they are fulfilled in Jesus, the Christ.

Likewise, it may at times seem insignificant and even unimportant when the light of the Gospel is preached in our hearing and in our world today. The life of faith in God may just seem normal or even routine to us—nothing out of the ordinary. Still, our sins remind us of the temptation to ignore God. Like the Christians in Corinth, we have sinful pride that causes divisions and quarreling. And while that's no different than anywhere else in our world, to be a disciple of Jesus means to be truly different than the world. Today, Jesus truly is saying to you, "Repent" and "Follow Me," even in the ordinary details of life.

**Mission Of The Month** is Lutherans for Life. Lutherans for Life has many valuable resources that help us understand and articulate our Biblical positions on life issues. Visit them at [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org).

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

**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.

**Interested in a Men's Bible Study?** While the women have a monthly opportunity to get together to study God's Word, Pastor is interested in finding out if there is interest for men to have the same. If you would be interested in this opportunity, please talk to Pastor.

**Singles:** Join Zion Lutheran in Hiawatha for another January church singles event. **Sunday, January 25**, we will enjoy a potluck AND play card/board games. Please meet at Zion at 12:00 pm. A main dish, paper products and water are supplied. Bring a dish to share and your favorite game. Please RSVP to either Zion at 319/393-2013 or Cindy Gewecke at 319/929-3077 (text accepted with your name) 24 hours in advance of the event.

**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.

**Thank You GOES Committee!** Last weekend the weather may have not been ideal but the food and fellowship after church was as good as it gets! Many commented that this was a welcome event. Thank God for those who came and especially the GOES committee for the soup!