

Grace Insider | April 2022

# ROCK OF REFUGE

A stone lighthouse with a red door and lantern room, surrounded by crashing waves. The lighthouse is built from rough-hewn stone and has a small arched entrance at the base with a bright red door. Above the door are two small, square windows with red frames. The lantern room at the top is also red and has a weather vane on top. The lighthouse is situated on a rocky outcrop, and the surrounding water is turbulent with white foam from the waves crashing against the base of the structure.

Easter Services

April 16 5PM April 17 8AM 9:30AM 11AM 5PM\*

*\*5pm service is at the Downtown campus*





# baptism class

Our two-part baptism class is for anyone who wants to learn about baptism and/or pursue being baptized at Grace.

This class is a requirement to be baptized at Grace.  
Register at [graceb3.org/baptism](https://graceb3.org/baptism) or on the app.

*May 1 & 8 11am*

*Baptism is an outward sign of  
an inward work of God in man.*





# UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn more and/or sign up for events at [graceb3.org/events](https://graceb3.org/events)

## April 8 • 9am-5pm

**Hope for the Journey Conference** • Extending Grace, Grace's ministry to foster families, is excited to host Hope for the Journey. Though Hope for the Journey primarily focuses on strategies for helping children who have experienced trauma, the concepts taught are helpful for everyone. This training is life-changing whether you work with children, teach Sunday school, or have children who need a little extra support. We hope you can be a part of the process by attending this one-day conference.

## April 10 • 9:15-11:15am

**Membership Class** • If you consider Grace your home church, this class is for you. Learn what makes Grace tick and how you can join us on our mission to glorify God by being and making disciples who make disciples.

## April 22 • 6-9pm • Bella Sala

**Daddy Daughter Dance** • Dads, bring your daughter(s) for a night of dinner and dancing! Dress up in your best western attire, or come as you are. The dance is open to dads and their daughters age 7 and up.

## April 24 • During 1st Service

**Thrive for 5th & 6th Graders** • This fun, interactive Thrive class is especially for 5th and 6th graders! This 5-week class will help them grow in their faith by studying God's Word together.

## May 1 & 8 • 11am-12pm

**Baptism Class** • If you are wondering what it's all about and why we do what we do at Grace, this will be very helpful for you! Attending class does not commit you to being baptized if you are not ready. But if you would like to be baptized, attendance at both parts of the class is mandatory. For children under 16 years of age, we ask that both the parent and the child register for the class.



| +

# Guatemala

## MISSIONS TRIP

JULY 26 - AUGUST 2

ESTIMATED COST:  
\$1300, PLUS  
FUNDRAISING FOR PROJECTS

---

INTERESTED? HAVE QUESTIONS?  
CONTACT RYAN AT  
[RYAN.MILLER7999@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RYAN.MILLER7999@GMAIL.COM)





*By Pastor Paul Hansen*

# KEEPING UP WITH THE LUDVICEKS

We enjoyed having Alex, Trish, Jackson, and Benaya back in Iowa from June 2021 - January 2022. They have since returned to Indonesia and are serving at a MAF Base in Nabire. Recently Pastor Paul had a chance to catch up with the Ludviceks via Zoom, and we wanted to share a few excerpts from that.

## **How have things changed since you returned from furlough to Nabire?**

Moving back from a big church to having biblical community with just three families has its challenges. There are days we don't even see that many families! However, we are getting established in the local church and building up our Indonesian community. This is pretty important for our spiritual lives. It has also been a blessing that we returned to the same spot we left. Feeling established in this way is helpful to our work and family life.

## **What is the biggest challenge for you right now?**

Our responsibilities transitioned from building ministry partnerships to many field responsibilities with boots on the ground. Also, Alex transitioned to base manager besides his other duties, which brings more ways to serve, but additional challenges. Also...there is a lack of candy here!

## **What is one thing that encouraged you this past month?**

I got a text message from Pastor Paul that said I love you! Our local staff in Nabire really welcomed us well. The transition to Alex's job has not been hard because the staff has been so helpful. It is also encouraging to see how much the ministry has been going on since we were gone—encouraging to see how things progressed. **A village we served now has written copies of 1 and 2 Corinthians.** Another village literacy program has increased.



### How can we be praying for you guys?

*(As children scream in the background)* The transition back has been easier for the adults. We speak the language and have a job. The kids miss their friends and familiar surroundings. We need wisdom in taking care of them well. We want to raise them well. Alex also needs wisdom in the new management role and additional bandwidth as he gets back to flying, too. As a family, we need to re-secure family and friendly transportation and greater involvement in the community.

One more question, your next furlough won't be until summer 2023. Will there be more than four Ludvicek's visiting us back in Iowa?

Only if we bring our dog with us!





By Communications & Connections Director Jacob Varvel

## MEET OUR NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

# Lynette Morton



### So, Lynette, how long have you attended Grace?

About 15 years, we started coming in December of 2006. At the time I was going to Parkview, but wanted something that felt a little more personal. We knew a friend who was going to Grace and reached out to him for more information. I'd grown up in church, so I was looking for a home – what really stood out to us was listening to Brooks and his teaching style; it really felt like home. We had no desire to look elsewhere.

### Tell us about your family.

Chris and I have been married for 15 years. We have two ShiPoos (Layla and Cooper), and live in Cedar Rapids.

### Do you have a life scripture?

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."* Jeremiah 29:11-13

### Tell us little about your new role at Grace.

I'm the office administrative assistant. I'm here to support and assist the rest of the staff in helping them be successful in their roles, and to help Judy in making the office effective. A lot of what I work on is the week-to-week work of getting the church ready for Sunday services, the signage for events, and rotating through and getting the building ready for the coming week. I also communicate with the staff about the



weekly service schedule, making printouts for the worship team and volunteers so they know what's going on during Sunday services.

**What does your day-to-day job look like?**

Helping out wherever I'm needed – it's a wide variety of work. Recently there has been a lot of office moving, so I'm helping with that.

**Anything interesting going on in your area that you'd like to tell us about?**

You know, I never knew all the things that needed to happen for the church to be ready on Sunday. I had no idea about all the small details that need to be prepared and communicated. There are so many volunteers that help make services happen! There is quite a process of steps that get us ready each week.

**What are you most passionate about?**

Helping others. At Grace, it's helping to service the staff and volunteers. In my personal life, it's working with others in Weight Watchers in their health and wellness.


**What made you decide to join the staff team?**

My mom used to be a church secretary while I was in high school, and she loved it. It always intrigued me as something that I might want to do. In the pandemic with various job transitions, I was looking for a new office environment that would not be your typical secular-office atmosphere.

**What would you like us to know about yourself?**

Chris and I love to camp – what most people call 'glamping,' or glamor camping. We have a hard-sided travel trailer with a super slide. We usually camp in the Marion area at Wanatee Park. We plan this year to explore more campgrounds. I'm also an ovarian cancer survivor, so I'm passionate about ovarian cancer awareness and research.





**PURCHASE TICKETS AT  
GRACEB3.ORG/DANCE**

**DADDY  
DAUGHTER  
DANCE**

**APRIL 22  
6-9PM  
BELLA SALA**


**DADS, BRING YOUR DAUGHTER(S) FOR A NIGHT OF DINNER AND DANCING. DRESS UP IN YOUR BEST WESTERN ATTIRE, OR COME AS YOU ARE. LINE DANCING INSTRUCTORS WILL TEACH YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER(S) HOW TO HITCH WITH THE BEST OF THEM! THE DANCE IS OPEN TO DADS AND THEIR DAUGHTERS AGE 7 & UP.**

**SPONSORED BY NEXT GEN & WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

**COST: \$30 FOR DAD & DAUGHTER, \$10  
FOR EACH ADDITIONAL DAUGHTER**

**HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?  
CONTACT CINDY AT  
CINDYS@GRACEB3.ORG**





By Pastor Jason Blackley

# EASTER SERMON PREVIEW

As we have journeyed through the psalms this winter and in our lead-up to Easter, we have seen that God is a refuge and help to his people no matter how hopeless and exhausting their situation may be. As followers of Jesus, it is so easy to lose sight of this. However, imagine not having such a refuge, left out in the cold to brave the elements that this life throws our way. That is what life looked like for us before we knew Christ; it is what life looks like for our friends, family, and neighbors who do not know Jesus. As Paul puts it in Ephesians, “*You lived in this world without God and without hope.*” This Easter, we can share the best news we have ever received with those we know and love.

On Easter, we will begin in Psalm 73. In Psalm 73, we find the psalmist, in this case Asaph, lamenting as he sees the world seemingly at ease while he struggles. However, when he steps into the sanctuary of the Lord, he gains the perspective that he needs. He states in Psalm 73:25–26:

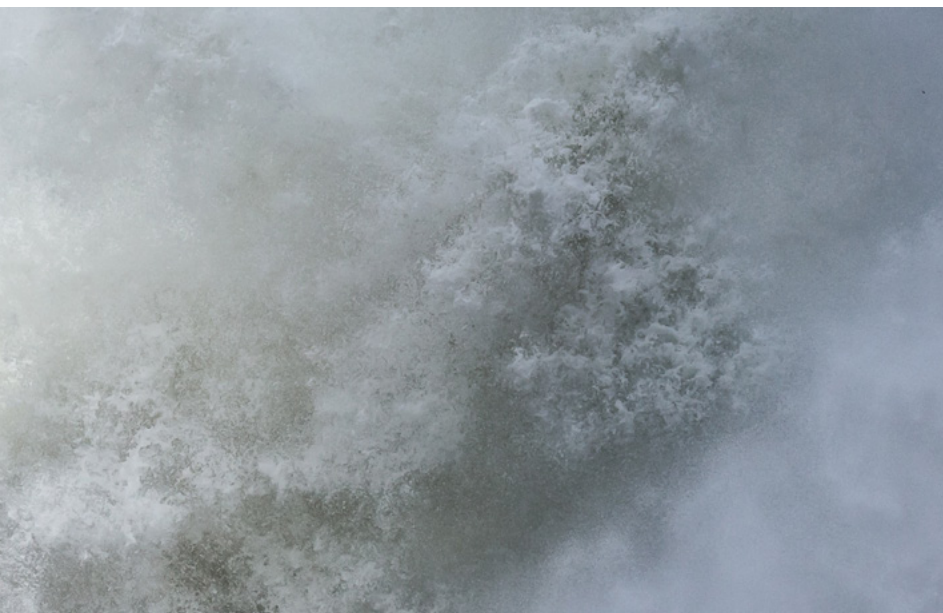
*<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you?*

*And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.*

*<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail,*

*but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*





Because of how God has provided for Asaph, we, too, can have one priority and one desire for our lives. We can find help in our time of need. This is the good news of what God has provided for us. We now have the advantage of the New Covenant and the atonement of Christ on our behalf!

We will then take a look at the words of the resurrected Jesus to his disciples in Luke 24 where Jesus tells his disciples that the whole of scripture is talking about him. He is the rock and refuge that we need. He then reminds them of his call and commission on their lives. He states,

*"Thus it is written, that Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Lk. 24:46-47).*

We are called to remember and experience the good news and share it with others. This Easter, we have a great opportunity to do both. Join us for Easter and invite a friend, family member, or neighbor. 🌿





*By Communications & Connections  
Director Jacob Varvel*

## JON WEIH GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEWEST ELDER

**Jon, tell us a little bit about your family.**

Cherrie and I met on a blind date over thirty-five years ago. We're still on it! Our marriage has produced four daughters: Katie (Jacob) Meade, Natalie (Ryan) Taylor, Jenna and Amanda. I spent my teen years praying for women! What I've learned is that God will bless you in abundance. Katie and Jacob recently had a baby girl, Aubrey. Natalie and Ryan are expecting their first child (a boy) in August of 2022. Cherrie and I have had great role models in our marriage. My parents were married for over 60 years and Cherrie's have been married for 55 years. They passed on a great heritage to us.

When we started attending Grace in 2007, it was via the invitation of Brooks and Stacy Simpson. We got to know them as neighbors and friends, and ultimately, Keith Carlson made a comment to me along the lines of, "You should be with us here at Grace!"

It took a lot for us to leave our former church, but we decided that the teaching through scripture caused us to have a different outlook and hunger for the word than we had experienced before. It was simple, straightforward, and intelligent. I felt connected in a way that I'd not been before to God's word. We also have come to look forward to seeing and loving a lot of individuals who attend Grace. They have become family



and great encouragers to us.

**What are you passionate about?**

The greatest moments in life for me are when I see the lights come on in someone's eyes. It could be a student overcoming a challenging class, a coworker accomplishing something worthwhile, or more importantly, someone who realizes that they need Jesus Christ as their savior. I also am very passionate about my family. I've been married for over thirty years, have four awesome daughters, two son-in-laws, one granddaughter and a grandson on the way. I am highly blessed!

**What else would you like to share with us?**

I'm a hugger. I especially like to hug people that aren't huggers. I think I hugged Brooks Simpson shortly after we met. I was probably one of the few men that had ever hugged him at that time. One of my greatest hugging accomplishments.

I don't have a lot of free time. When I do, I like to fill it up. Must be my farm background. Work is fun for me. But when I do relax, I like to get away and go somewhere where I'm pampered a little bit.

My training in college was in radio and TV. I still run a camera for college and high school sporting events. I'm also a track and field

public address announcer. I've announced hundreds of college and high school track meets for the past 35 years.

Currently, I'm reading a book about Alexander Hamilton, but I just finished a book about the life of a World War II P-38 Pilot who spent some time in a concentration camp. I also enjoy reading my Bible. There is rarely a time that something I've read a hundred times finally connects with me. I guess when the student is ready, the teacher appears!

I've worked at Kirkwood Community College for over thirty years and have enjoyed working in eight different areas of the college. I started in Distance Learning, working with our mediated course delivery systems, and now manage the Kirkwood Regional Center in Coralville as the director of the facility.

**What groups or ministries are you involved in at Grace?**

Cherrie and I have been in two community groups throughout our time at Grace. We are currently between community groups; however, we have two other couples who attend Grace, with whom we gather from time to time to talk through scripture and life. They were once part of the two groups we had been with. I also serve at the information desk two Sundays per month. What I love



about it is saying hello to people coming in the door on their way to worship. I think they need to have someone greet them each week and if they're new, to help them get connected at Grace.

I help lead men through the Conquer Series, which is a curriculum designed to help men conquer their addiction to pornography through what scripture calls the renewing of their minds.

I'm a board member of the Track Guy Foundation, was a member of the United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties for six years and generally like to serve when I can.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share?**

My next older brother Tom and I get together almost every Monday night and have for over 13 years. Join us sometime! Tom is really cool.

I may have a coffee addiction, but that is a strong word. I really like coffee! I like to sit in the front row at church! I did in every college class too. I'm often used in sermon illustrations. I really need to stop saying things to Brooks. The most people I've ever talked to at one time was at the Drake Relays as an announcer (15,000 people).

In grad school, I was Jumpin Johnny (my radio handle), and I used to tell jokes and run the halftime show at UNI basketball games. I pulled a joke on 10,000 basketball fans one time in the Dome. They were mostly Iowa State fans so it was easy.

I made ESPN twice in my camera career. Once when an Ohio State center ran over me under the basket. The other was on a last-second full-court shot that went in – both at Carver Hawkeye Arena.

I was running a camera the day Brooks Simpson pinned the number one ranked wrestler in the country. We would meet officially a few years later. 🌿





PLAYED FRIDAY NIGHTS LOCALLY • SEASON RUNS  
EARLY MAY THRU JULY • PRACTICES START IN APRIL

CO-ED SUMMER  
**SOFTBALL**  
CHURCH LEAGUE

Men and women  
ages 16 and up  
**SIGN UP BY  
APRIL 10**

Interested? Questions?  
Contact Von Stange at  
[vostange@gmail.com](mailto:vostange@gmail.com)  
or stop by the info  
table on Sunday.

Did you know  
co-ed, summer  
Whether you  
player,  
in a while,  
Women are especially encouraged to join, as teams are  
required to have a minimum number of female players.  
We normally field two teams.

that Grace participates in a  
softball church league?  
are a competitive or recreational  
experienced or haven't played  
all are welcome to join the fun!







# Loving Well

## B.L.E.S.S.ing Each Other & Building the Kingdom

*By Executive Pastor Josh Haveman*

Many of you have window clings that say, "Begin with Prayer." We've been handing these out at Grace since last fall, and you can still get some from the information desk in the foyer. We've been handing out these physical reminders of the importance of prayer for two reasons. One, it is always good to pray. And every reminder to pray is a good reminder. And two, we have been preparing you for our upcoming sermon series on Loving Well.

Before he left on his sabbatical, Pastor Brooks said this to me: "If we are to be a church that makes disciples, we must adopt a culture of lifestyle evangelism." By that, he meant that we, as God's people, need to actively love each other within the church, but also the people we come into contact with on a daily basis. Pastor Brooks has mentioned the way this concept is developed in the book B.L.E.S.S. by Dave Ferguson and Jon Ferguson. If you haven't read that book, we encourage you to check it out. But even if you don't, consider the ways that "BLESS" allows us to love everyone well.





**BLESS**

This idea is pretty self-explanatory. All of our work in this world must be done for God's glory if it is to be of any value. And an excellent way to ensure that we are working in God's will is to devote every action to him in prayer.

---

**LISTEN**

Being quick to speak gets us into trouble, and it doesn't help build relationships. Jesus taught and talked a lot. But he also listened to the sick, the poor, the hungry, and the hurting. We can build relationships with those around us much faster when we listen to people the way Jesus did.

---

**EAT**

Having people over to your house or going out to share a meal is a great way to break down barriers. It can be difficult in pandemic times, but even socially-distanced cups of coffee shared on an afternoon walk can open connections to care for one another.

---

**SERVE**

People cannot ignore you living out your faith when you serve them or serve with them. Service is a powerful demonstration of belief when we serve with the heart of Christ.

---

**STORY**

We all need to hear what God is doing in each other's lives. The Bible is full of stories that describe the way God has worked and is working in the world. We can and should share similar stories with each other to encourage, teach, and train one another.

---

This sermon series, which begins after Easter, will draw from the book of Matthew. As you look forward to it, be praying now to ask God to prepare your heart to love as he loved. Jesus said that the world would know we were his disciples by the way that we loved one another (John 13:35). Likewise, people will want to become his disciples when we love them well. 🌿



# membership class

april 10 9:30-11am

register at [graceb3.org/events](http://graceb3.org/events)





SERMON NOTES

DATE:

MAIN IDEA:

NOTES:





# thrive

FOR 5TH & 6TH GRADERS

BEGINS 4/24 · DURING 1ST SERVICE  
SIGN UP NOW AT [GRACEB3.ORG/EVENTS](https://graceb3.org/events)

THIS FUN, INTERACTIVE THRIVE CLASS IS  
DESIGNED FOR ALL 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS,  
INCLUDING THOSE WHO DO NOT ATTEND GRACE  
REGULARLY. THIS 5-WEEK CLASS WILL HELP  
THEM GROW IN THEIR FAITH BY STUDYING  
GOD'S WORD TOGETHER.