

Grace News

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church
415 10th St, PO Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742

PH: 563-659-9153
Fax: 563-659-9154
www.gracedewitt.org



Church Office Hours
M-Th - 8am to 3 pm
F - 8am to Noon

January 2024

Dear Redeemed and Love Saints of Grace!

Happy New Year!

I pray that as the last few days slowly turned from 2023 to 2024 were great blessings to you and your family.

I am excited to start off the new year, although I have zero idea what the new year will bring. Which I am sure is no different than the years before. I am excited to start the new year. In a few weeks we will begin a new challenge here at Grace. The challenge of "Being with Jesus."

Now, this may seem familiar. Well, because it is. It was the first week of the Red Letter Challenge. Instead of spending just one week on "Being." We will spend six weeks looking at what it means to be with Jesus.

It felt like last time we just scratched the surface of what this will be. But it will be exciting to truly dive deep into the ways in which we can be with Jesus.

Starting in February, we will be going through this challenge. Please be on the lookout for the books that we will be giving out and for information about gathering into some small groups. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to grow in our discipleship and following of our savior, Jesus.

I pray for you all as you look forward to the many new adventures that will bestow upon you as we begin in the new year.

In the Service of Jesus,
Pastor Eric

Pastor Eric Obermann
563-321-0032
pastoreric@gracedewitt.org

Kerry Good
kgood@gracedewitt.org

Mark Sperry, DCE
563-321-0674
msperry@gracedewitt.org

Mark's Office Hours
M-Th - 7:30 am to 1:00 pm

Grace Lutheran Preschool
PH: 563-659-9193

Preschool Teacher/Director
Christine Greve
preschool@gracedewitt.org

Grace Lutheran Camp
2675 242nd St, P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

Camp Reservations
camprentals@gracedewitt.org
319-230-7718

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 AM Paul Kirby
10:30 AM Scott Havener
Wednesday 7:00 PM: Aaron Meyers

The Organist: Diana Baetke & Tasha Becker

The Acolytes

Jan. 7th	
8:00 AM	Zach Yutesler
10:30 AM	Grace Burzlaff
Jan. 14th	
8:00 AM	Ashdon Converse
10:30 AM	Klaire Gruntorad
Jan. 21st	
8:00 AM	Brayden Lawrence
10:30 AM	Easton Meyers
Jan. 28th	
8:00 AM	Benjamin Paarmann
10:30 AM	Kyle Pillers

Church Voters Meeting

Monday, January 8th
@ 7:00 p.m.

Camp Annual Board Meeting

Monday, January 8th
following Church Voters Meeting
@ Grace Lutheran Church

Please come and support the church and camp.

The 2024 Altar Flower calendar is now available on the Welcome Center.

Bouquets can be donated in honor of or in memory of persons or events. Each bouquet is \$30 and there are two bouquets available each week. Please sign up for your preferred dates and place your payment in the secretary's door. You may purchase one or both bouquets.

OFFERING STATEMENTS FOR 2023. will be ready and available for you to pick on Sunday, January 14th. Some 2024 offering envelopes still need to be picked from the table in the Foyer. If you have not picked your envelopes up, please do so.

THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE for Grace Lutheran Church will be accepting grant applications starting January 1 through March 15, 2024. Applications for projects which provide support to missions, education, youth, worship, and music and/or capital projects will be considered.

IMPORTANT - Deadline for submitting articles for the February newsletter is January 15th.



Fellowship Sunday
January 14
9:15 am to 10:30 am

Plan to join us on Sunday, December 17th as the Preschool Board host Fellowship Sunday. We will have time to fellowship with one another, while enjoying coffee and snacks.

Special Gifts Given Include:

- In loving memory of Eleanor Arey \$20 was given to Grace Preschool and \$25 to Grace Lutheran Church.



Baptized on December 24th — Audrey Kate Paasch, daughter of Brandon Paasch and Alicia Rice was baptized on June 25th. Her baptismal sponsors are Robert and Marjorie Paasch. Welcome to God's Family!

Referral Center Donations

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Advent collection. Your donations were able to help stock the Referral Center shelves and help those in need.

We will continue to collect monthly donations for the Referral Center as the need is great. With it being winter they are getting short on hamburger helper, tuna helper, chicken helper, canned chicken, canned tuna, boxed potatoes, soup, pasta, and pasta sauce.

All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer. Thank you for all the blessings you provide to those in need.

In Memory of:

Eleanor M. Arey, 87, of DeWitt, Iowa, joined her husband in heaven, with family at her side, Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at Wheatland Manor.

Eleanor Mae Paarmann was born May 25, 1936, to Linley and Alma (Geffers) Paarmann at Jane Lamb Hospital in Clinton, Iowa. After graduating from DeWitt High School in 1954, she worked at DeWitt Hospital as a nurse's aide. Eleanor married her high school sweetheart, John "Jack" Arey, after his return from service in the Army, on May 6, 1956, at Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt, by the Rev. Theodore Hinck. Eleanor was very proud to have resided on the family farm where she was raised. She was a homemaker and farmwife, and later worked for the A.S.C. office, Clinton Co. Extension office, and Ag Equipment Co., all in DeWitt. She was also very proud of the 25 years she worked at St. Ambrose University in Davenport as an Executive Assistant in the Advancement Office, serving under several vice-presidents of the department, retiring in 2006. Jack preceded her in death on December 17, 2020.

Eleanor was a lifetime member of Grace Lutheran Church in DeWitt. She was a founding member of Central Community Historical Society, a lifetime member of Clinton Co. Historical Society, a member of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Co. Historical Society in Virginia, the American Legion Auxiliary in DeWitt, and the Clinton Co. Farm Bureau.

Eleanor was passionate about genealogy, doing extensive family tree research for many years, on her side as well as Jack's. She enjoyed working in her flower garden, antiquing, and collecting rocks, fossils, and Native American artifacts. Eleanor also loved collecting Fenton, Depression, and Victorian glassware.

Eleanor loved to travel and enjoyed many trips with family. Particularly important to her were Labor Day weekend trips. In 2000, Eleanor and Jack toured Germany and the Island of Fehmarn in response to family history. They also visited Alaska in 2007, which they enjoyed very much.

Surviving are sons, Kevin (Sandy Bailey) Arey of Cordova, Illinois, Todd (Carol) Arey of Farmington, Minnesota, and Darin Arey of DeWitt; a daughter, Angela (Bane) Bates of Gilson, Illinois; grandchildren, Brianna (Ben) Martin, Brett (Heather) Arey, Benjamin Arey, Jessica Arey, TJ Arey, Joshua Arey, Hannah Arey, Olivia Bates and Andrew Bates; great-grandchildren, Ambrielle and Cohen Martin, and Carter and Hunter Arey; a sister-in-law, Margaret Arey; nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her sister, Marilyn (Gerhardt) Scheeper, sisters-in-law, Betty (Donald) Hill and Joy Schmidt, brothers-in-law, Robert Arey, and James Green, and an infant grandson, Luther Alfred Arey.



THANK YOU

THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!!

Our family would like to express our deepest appreciation for all the gifts, cards, thoughts, prayers and love we received during this past Christmas season. Knowing how much we are loved and cared for is a blessing. Thanks again and know that we are blessed to call all of you our friends & family. May God bless all of you and give you a faith-filled 2024. **The Sperry's**

Thank You, Mary Garlough for taking time out of your busy schedule to pick up the Poinsettias for us. We are blessed to have volunteers like you.

I would like to thank everyone for the gifts, cards and expressions of love sent to me this Christmas season. You are truly a blessing in my life. Thank you, Kerry.

Thank you for the prayers, well wishes and cards for our brother/uncle Steve Garlough as he went through cancer diagnose, heart attack and double by-pass surgery and then chemo and radiation treatments. He has finished his treatments and things look good! Mary Garlough and Christine Greve

SENIOR HIGH MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Our Midweek Bible study will resume on January 3rd @ 7:00 pm at the Sperry's. I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you soon!

MIDDLE SCHOOL (6th-8th Grades) LOCK-IN

Attention all 6th – 8th graders. Join us **Friday, January 12th** for a LOCK-IN. Invite your friends for a night of fun, games, food, movies, and God's Word. The deadline to sign-up is **Sunday, January 7th**. **To sign-up, please write your name down on the sheet posted outside of Mr. Sperry's office.** We ask that each participant please bring a snack for the snack table. Something sweet or salty, etc. Pizza and drinks will be served Friday night, and we will have donuts for breakfast Saturday morning before heading home. Contact the church office with any questions.

CLUB 345 - SAVE THE DATE!

Our next event will be **Sunday, January 28th** from **2:00 pm until 4:00 pm** at the G*Y*M Building out at Grace Camp. Look for more information coming soon.



The poster features a red background with white and yellow text. At the top, there are icons for a treble clef, a bounce house, and an ice cream cone. A speech bubble says "Mark your Calendar June 22, 2024". The main title "Summer Night Out" is in large white letters. Below it, there is a paragraph of text and contact information for Kristy Engelkes.

Plan to join us for this family event to enjoy a community night out with food and ice cream, bounce houses, music, petting zoo, face painting, games and more.

Contact the Kristy Engelkes at 563-210-2462 or the church office if you would like to join in the planning of this inaugural event. The next planning meeting will be in February.

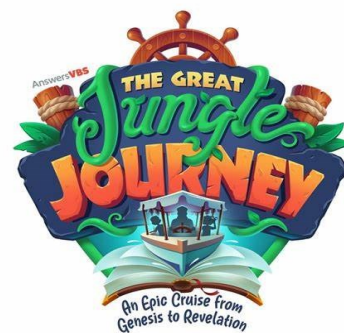
Made with PosterMyWall.com

SKI TRIP Attention all 6th – 12th Graders!

Our annual Youth Ski Trip to Sundown Mountain in Dubuque is **January 21st**. Please get a permission slip from the folder on the bulletin board outside of Mr. Sperry's office. Registration and payment are being done online at www.Sundownmtn.com. Click on the **Groups** tab and then click **EZGroupLink** and enter the following code: **Grace24**. Please make sure to do your registration and payment by **January 13th**, as they will close the link on that date. We will need several more adults to help drive. If you are willing and available, please contact Mark Sperry.

ENDURE

The next Nation Youth Gathering will be held July 19th-23rd of 2024. The theme is **ENDURE** and is based upon the following verses from **Hebrews 12:1-3**: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our program this year is titled **The Great Jungle Journey**. The dates will be Sunday, June 23rd – Thursday, June 27th. The program will be held at Grace Camp in the evenings. Dinner will be served from 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm and the program will run from 5:45 pm – 8:00 pm. Watch the bulletin board in the foyer for more updates and for ways to get involved!



January 18th Service Event for the Victory Center in Clinton

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the meal, helped serve and prayed for our December service event at the Victory Center in Clinton. Our next service event meal will be on January 18th. We are planning to serve up to 40 people and allow for seconds. If you haven't volunteered to help with some part of one of these meals, please prayerfully consider being involved in some way. Men are encouraged to join us in this mission, especially with serving the meal.

Main Dish

4 Volunteers

Each volunteer is asked to prepare 3lbs of main-dishes. Please bring in a crock pot so it can stay warm

Buns

2 Volunteers

To bring 32 buns each.

Drinks

Drinks 2 Volunteers:

- 1 gallon of white milk
- 2 gallons of chocolate milk

Desserts

3 Volunteers

Prepare a dessert that serves 15

Salads

3 Volunteers

Prepare a salad that serves 15

Deliver & Serve 5 Volunteers

Needed to help deliver and serve the meal. We meet at Grace at 4 pm. Meal is served at 5pm.

*All food needs to be prepared and brought to the church
by 4:00 PM on Thursday, January 18th.*

A sign up sheet is located on the Welcome Center. Please contact Kristy Engelkes at 563-210-2462 or the church office if you have any questions



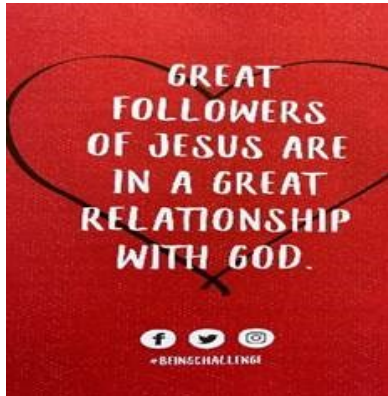
- 4th Monica Ruggeberg
- 5th Piper Hoepner
Mandy Anderson
- 6th Cameron Miller
- 8th Lois Kuehn
Debra Swanson
- 9th Sandra Peters
Colleen Flathers
- 12th Kay Hansen
Emily Stearns
- 13th Ron McVey
Klaire Gruntorad
- 14th Lucy Broadfoot
Cory Krukow
Elyce Burzlaff
- 15th Ella Sunday
- 16th Charlotte Harroun
- 17th Troy Paarmann
- 21st Leon Doescher
- 23rd Barbara Billhorn
Katie Albrecht
- 24th Tonia Oronzio
Emily Ragenwether
- 26th Clara Schatz
Sarah Ackerman
- 27th Emmett Rickertsen
Sharon Wold
Mary Keeney
- 29th Cheryl Kaufman
- 30th Kristine Anderson
Anthony Meyer
- 31st Daun Vopatek

Looking for cards? There is a variety of sympathy, thinking of you, get well, birthday cards, and much more available for purchase next to the Welcome Center. Please take a moment to see the wide assortment of cards and napkins displayed in the foyer.



16th Bill & Barb Dies

BEING Challenge



Get ready to start our next congregation-wide Bible study! During the Lenten season, we will follow up on the Red Letter Challenge and dig into the Being trait. Of the five targets in the Red Letter Challenge (Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving and Going), BEING in a relationship with Jesus is possibly the most important. It's at the center of it all with the others flowing from this one.

- Study begins February 11
- Books will be distributed beginning January 21
- Sign up to join a small group

Small Group Leaders Needed Help Lead us on our Journey!

In addition to the self-study opportunities, we will once again be forming small study groups to encourage each other and learn in a group setting. We are looking for small group leaders to facilitate our group study. Group Leaders will select the day, time and meeting location for their group. They will also guide the weekly study using the Being Challenge book and study materials which are provided. Each group will have approximately 10 people. This is a great way to strengthen your own faith and lead others on their own faith journey. Please contact Kristy Engelkes at 563-210-2462 (text or call) or the church office with your interest or if you have any questions. A sign-up sheet is available on the Welcome Center in the church foyer. A Small Group Leader Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024 @ 11:30am.

2024 Board Members

Elders

Clint Albrecht

Scott Steffens

Jon Betz

Leon Doescher

Paul Kirby

Scott Havener

Alan Rugeberg

Duane Hansen

Aaron Meyers

Trustees

Wayne Grantz

Cory Krukow

Mitch Krukow

Kevin Meyer

Donovan Good

GYM Trustee

Craig Paarmann

Youth

Laura Norcross

Jennifer Walker

Cindy Sperry

Jennifer Thiede

Emily Ragenwether

Jeremiah Sunday

Preschool

Emily Williams

Val Betz

Kerry Good

Carrisa Spain

Katelyn Good

Finance

Barb Reed

Barry Engelkes

Angie Hill

Mike Vopatek

Jim Williams

Discipleship

Traci Butler

Kathi Lieving

Kay Hall

Angie Hill

Christy Stearns

Kristy Engelkes

Christian Ed.

Rachael Vopatek

Barb Dies

Jill Gisell

Shanna Tucker

Mike Good

Nicole Rickertsen

Amy Meyers

Brianne Johnson

Endowment Committee

Jon Billhorn

Scott Steffens

Barb Reed

Kristy Engelkes

Laura Norcross

Allison LaFavers

Council Officers

President

Rich Matzen

President Elect

Steve Butler

Secretary

JoAnn Greve

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

SHARING THE
LIFE-CHANGING
MESSAGE OF
JESUS' LOVE WITH
MORE THAN

180,000

STUDENTS, THEIR FAMILIES
AND THE COMMUNITY



RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES

- Experiencing and celebrating God's lavish gifts of love, grace and mercy
- Sharing those gifts with others
- Being transformed by God's Word
- Clinging to the cross of Jesus

EARLY CHILDHOOD > 1,677
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS > 191
MIDDLE SCHOOLS > 625
HIGH SCHOOLS > 103
TOTAL > 2,594

PROVIDING EXCELLENT ACADEMIC PREPARATION

- Developing love for and excitement about learning
- Excelling at reading, writing and effective communication
- Training minds for success at the next academic level
- Creating a strong work ethic, critical thinking skills and the ability to relate well with others

LEARN MORE

888-THE LCMS (843-5267)

lcms.org/school-ministry



US We can hardly believe that it is already January. This month we will learn about Winter, snowmen, ice, and transportation. We will continue their unit on letters.



S We all enjoyed our Christmas break and are excited to see what this new year brings! The three year olds are going to be roaring it up with discovering dinosaurs and then learn what our community helpers do for us. We will wrap up January talking about snowmen, with the hopes of having some snow! Our bible story of Jesus' birth continues on as the shepherds and wisemen visit. Jesus then grows up, gets baptized and does his first miracle! Lots of fun to start 2024!



We will be celebrating National Lutheran Schools week, January 21st—27th. We look forward to fun dress up days!

New this school year the Preschool will be hosting a "Donuts with Dad" and "Muffins with Mom" events. These will be events when the children will be able to ask their parent, grand parent, or special person to come and spend a little time in the morning having breakfast and fun before preschool. To help offset the cost of food, craft, and decorations the "Little White Church" will be out during the month of January to collect donations for these events. What better time to give a gift to assist the Preschool then during "National Lutheran Schools" month.

In January we will also be starting a Fundraiser selling cookies and decorating supplies. Please watch your News & Notes for more detailed information.

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church—January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:00am Traditional Worship/Communion 10:30am Traditional Worship/Communion	1 No Preschool Office Closed	2 No Preschool 6:30pm Board of Elders	3 No Preschool 6:30pm Cantata at Fieldstone 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	4 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	5 8:00am Trustees Board Meeting	6
7 "Mites" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/Communion 1:00pm Cantata at Grand Haven	8 7:00pm Voter's Meeting 8:00pm Grace Camp Annual Meeting	9 7:00am Finance Board Meeting	10 7:30am Staff Meeting 9:00am Sewing Ladies 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Cantata at Maggie's House 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	11 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 1:30pm Service @ Maggie's House	12 7:00pm Middle School LOCK-IN	13
14 Fellowship Sunday Hosted by the Board of Preschool 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship	15 Newsletter Deadline No Preschool 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting	16 6:00pm Preschool Board Meeting	17 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	18 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center Service Event	19	20
21 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/Communion 2:00pm Youth Ski Trip	22 6:30pm Board of Christian Education	23	24 7:30am Staff Meeting 9:00am Sewing Ladies 10:30am Service @ Fieldstone 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	25 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	26 Office Closed	27
28 8:00am Traditional Worship 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship 2:00pm CLUB345	29	30	31 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	1 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	2 8:00am Trustees Board Meeting	3