

Grace and Peace to you Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace!

As usual I have completely missed the deadline for the newsletter. The date always sneaks up on me and by the time I realize it's the 15th, I have nothing written. Maybe one of these months I will be more organized and get it done before the 15th. Sorry Kerry!

It is one of my faults. I am too disorganized. I even went out and bought a huge calendar to place on my desk to help keep me on task. Yet, it doesn't help much. Sure, it keeps me on task and helps to see everything that is going on in the month. But keeping me organized is another story. It is one of my faults.

But let me tell you something, I love faults! In faults, it's where we most get to see the love of Jesus! How? One simple word, forgiveness. To be sure it is not that any of you are ok with my disorganization. Maybe you wish I was more on top of remembering all the things I should remember. Be more on top of follow up phone calls, or visits. But it is that despite this weakness, you still love me. By which you are showing me forgiveness.

Ephesians 5 is my one my many favorite passages, but it truly is my favorite as God through Paul writes to families, especially fathers and husbands, on how they are to love their family. One of the many ways is to cover the blemishes of his family and present them as holy and unblemished. He covers all of their faults through his love and forgiveness of them.

Just as Jesus covers all our faults through his love and forgiveness. It doesn't' mean he is ok with our sins and not living as he commands, but Jesus loves us so much that through his love for us he covers all of our faults up and presents us as unblemished. As those who stand before the Father, forgiven and loved.

Thank you all for forgiving and loving me!

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 - 7:00 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	Jon Betz
Wednesday 7:00 PM	Scott Steffens
The Organist: Diana Baetke	& Tasha Becker

	The Acolytes
May 5th 8:00 AM	Den Deermann
0:00 AM 10:30 AM	Ben Paarmann Peyton Goddard
May 12th	
8:00 AM	Katie Grantz
10:30 AM	Gavin Krukow
May 19th	
8:00 AM	Trevor McMahon
10:30 AM	Hudson Meyers
May 26th	
8:00 AM	Amelia Rickertsen
10:30 AM	Porter Vopatek



Summer Worship Schedule

Begins May 29, 2023

Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m. @ Grace Camp Welton Chapel

> Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. @ Grace Church Traditional Service

10:00 a.m. @ Grace Camp Outdoor Chapel Praise Service

Please, remember when the weather is questionable you can find out if services have been moved from Camp to Church by visiting our website, gracedewitt.org, or looking for the yellow signs placed outside of the church and at the road entrance to camp. **IMPORTANT** - Deadline for submitting articles for the June is May 15th.

Greeters and Ushers are Needed

Greeters are needed to help welcome members and guests before worship services.

Ushers are needed to assist the Elders during worship services.

Please, look at the sign-up sheet on the Welcome center and sign up for a date that works for you.



Pastor Eric wishes to keep you all in prayer. Please contact him when there is hospitalization, death in your family, you would like him to visit, or you have recently become homebound. Thank you!

Don't look now, Grace is turning 100 years old next year! We are grateful to God's provision in caring for His church here in De Witt. We are looking at putting together a planning committee to help us celebrate the proclamations that Grace has done over the past century. Please contact Pastor Eric if you are interested in helping out!

Are you interested in the history of Grace Church? Are you good with organizing? With the 100 year anniversary coming up we are wanting to organize and display information for everyone to see and enjoy. There is a room set aside with shelves and a cabinet to display items. We are in need of someone who has time to set up this room. If you are interested in volunteering for this please, contact Kerry in the church office.

Donate your used glasses, including sunglasses and reading glasses, to the Lions Club. A collection box is located in the foyer coat area. These glasses are picked up by a member of the Lions and then sent to a facility who will refurbished them for others who may not be able to afford glasses. (Please, remember they can not accept glass cases.)



Colin Albrecht 22022 277th Ave LeClaire, IA 52753

Margie Alger 1404 Silver Valley Dr DeWitt, IA 52742

Isaac DeHaven 622 14th St DeWitt, IA 52742

Karley Erps 622 Middle Road Camanche, IA 52730

Anthony Meyer 2490 210th St DeWitt, IA 52742

Carleigh Tobey 3052 160th St Charlotte, IA52731

Owen Tucker 2124 Garden Green Court DeWitt, IA 52742



Watch for the wooden box, located in the narthex, for you to place your cards in for the Graduates! The box will be out beginning Wednesday, May 1st through Sunday, May 12th.





Baptized on April 21, 2024—Harven David Spain, son of Jesse & Jenna Spain was baptized on April 21st. His baptismal sponsors are Jeremy & Amy Spain.

Please join us on Thursday, May 23rd at 8:00 am to raise the flags at church. We will take the flags down on

Tuesday, May 28th at 8:00 am.

If it is raining or has been raining, please call the church office to confirm this will still be taking place.

Referral Center Donations

We will continue to collect monthly donations for the Referral Center as the need is great. The referral center can always use cereal, canned tuna, spaghetti sauce, pasta, canned soup, peanut butter, jelly and so much more. All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer.

Sewing Ladies and anyone interested in helping to sew quilts will meet on Wednesday, May 8th and 22nd in Grace Hall at 9:00 am.

Senior Recognition May 19, 2024

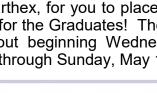
We will be recognizing our High School Senior Class of 2024 during the 8:00 a.m. worship service on May 19th.

College Graduates

We offer our congratulations to Jacob Diercks who graduated with a BA from Concordia, WI and Katelyn Good who graduated with a Bachelors of Social Work from Arura University. May the next leg of your journey be as successful as the first.











The Widow's Mite

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on" (Mark 12:41–43).

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program.

The first Sunday of every month the LWML Mite's Contribution box will be out on the table in the narthex. If you would like to help support the LCMS with their mission projects you can place your donation inside the box, Thank you for your support of LWML and the missions of the LCMS.

LWR Baby Care Kits

We have taken inventory of our Baby Care Kit supplies and have noticed we are in need of a couple of different items. We could use more t-shirts (<u>no onesies</u>) sizes 3 -24 months and **footless sleepers** sizes 18 - 4 months. If you would like to help with this your donations can be left in the basket located in the foyer.

Special Gifts Given Include:

In appreciation for all the Blessing in honor of my Grandmother, Bertha Soenksen and father Earnest Soenksen, Aunts, Uncles, and a Great Aunt who were charter members of Grace \$1,000 was given to Grace Church in honor of the 100 year anniversary. Moms of ALL ages & stages are invited! 19 Coffee & Connections

Friday May 10th 8-10:30am (Drop in or stay & chat all morning!) Grace Hall (inside Grace Church) 415 10th St. DeWitt Have a little one? Feel free to bring them along.

Let's take some time to connect. We will bring the good coffee & something sweet to eat.

MILES OF DIMES - Grace Camp was purchased in 1988. The Miles of Dimes project was started in 1990 as an effort to help pay for the facilities which everyone enjoys. There is a "Miles of Dimes" collection jar located on the Welcome Center. Leave your "dimes" or any donation you may want to make and your donation will be used to benefit the camp facilities. Thank you for your continued support.

2024 Grace Lutheran Endowment Grant Recipients:

- \$500 to the Youth Board for the 2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.
- \$500 to the Board of Youth for Summer Servant Events (Urban Plunge)
- \$300 to Preschool Board for Jesus time enrichment items for preschool
- \$2,000 for the Audio Upgrades at the GYM Building
- \$720 to Allison LaFevers for the Belize Mission Society

Registration Opens April 3rd All Camps Cost \$15

Grace Camp

June 11th Cooking Camp [1st – 3rd Grades] 8am – 11am

Our 2024 Day Camps

June 12th Fishing Camp [1st - 6th Grades] 8am – 11am

June 13th Cooking Camp [4th – 6th Grades] 8am – 11an Cooking Camp [4th – 6th Grades] 1pm – 4pm

June 18th Arts & Crafts Camp [1st – 3rd Grades] 8am –11am Arts & Crafts Camp [1st – 3rd Grades] 1pm – 4pm

June 20th Little Kids Camp [4 & 5 year olds] 8am – 11:00 am

> Please Note: All Day Camps are 1/2 days.. When registering register for a morning or afternoon session, not both.

> > come enjoy the fun!

Contact Us 563-659-9153

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www.gracedewitt.org



WE NEED YOU

Recruitment and planning continue for this year's VBS program is underway. The theme is: <u>"The Great Jungle Journey"</u>. To make this program a success we need your help. Please check out the volunteer registration bulletin board in the atrium and consider signing up for one of the roles. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact DCE, Mark Sperry. The dates are Sunday, June 23rd – Thursday, June 27th.

There will be a Volunteer Rally on **Wednesday**, **June 5th @ 6:00 pm** at the G*Y*M Building at Grace Camp. Please, put this on your calendar and plan to be there if you are volunteering to help with VBS.



Summer brings many opportunities for our congregation to help spread the love of Jesus through our Vacation Bible School, Day Camps, and Summer Camp. A lot of children attend these events. Which means we need extra support for all those hungry children.

Through the month of May, we will be collecting donations for Vacation Bible School 2024, Your donations will help us offset the cost of food, crafts, decorations and take home items. If you would like to contribute to this program your donation can be left in the "Little White Church. Thank you for vour support to our VBS Program.

We are in need of cookies [NO peanuts or peanut butter] and red pre-sweetened Kool-Aid mix for our Day Camps & Grace Summer Camp. Please consider donating one or more of these items and drop them off in the kitchen in Grace Hall.

During Vacation Bible School we provide kid friendly meals for the children and their families. We will have donation sheets for items needed out in May. Watch your News & Notes for more information.



Grace Lutheran Summer Camp 2024

The dates for this year's camp are Monday, July 29th through Wednesday, July 31st. This is open to students who will be in 2nd through 8th grades for the 2024-2025 school year. Something to note for this year, is that students entering 2nd & 3rd grades will **NOT** be staying overnight. They will be dropped off and picked up each day. This will help to alleviate the overcrowding we experienced in the retreat centers last year. Please contact the church office at 563-659-9153 with any questions. Registration opens in June.

ENDURE

Fourteen months from now, youth and adults from across the U.S. and from around the world will be descending upon New Orleans, LA for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering. As the gathering team and committees continue to work out the plans and details, please keep them in your prayers.

Registration Help for VBS

Help is needed June 23rd through June 27 to help with registration of the children attending Vacation Bible School. Registration usually begins at 4:45 pm and is done by 5:30 pm. If you would like to assist with this please contact Kerry at the church office.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for **The Great Jungle Journey** where we will learn the 7 Cs of the Bible: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross & Consummation. The dates are June $23^{rd} - 27^{th}$. If you want to get involved, we are in need of individuals to help in the kitchen, with recreation, crafts, science, crew leaders (high school or adult), and crew members. Check out the volunteer registration board in the foyer, or contact DCE, Mark Sperry.



There are many opportunities in the Summer to volunteer your time and talent.

GRACE CAMP DAY CAMPS

June 6th & 12th - Fishing Camp Unlimited Volunteers Needed

June 11th - Cooking Camp 4 to 6 Volunteers Needed June 13th - Cooking Camp 4 to 6 Volunteers Needed

June 18th - Arts & Crafts 6 to 8 Volunteers Needed

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

Science Leader 2nd-5th Grade - Bible Story Leader Registration Helper River Guide Leaders (High School/Adult) River Guide Members



Everyone Is Invited



Games Food Kona Ice

Petting Zoo **Bounce Houses Face Painting**

Join us for this fun filled family night out. Everyone is welcome.

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Hosted by Grace Lutheran Church 563-659-9153 www.gracedewitt.org

Volunteers for Summer Night Out are needed!!! On June 22, our congregation will be hosting a Summer Night Out family event for the community at Grace Camp. Volunteers are needed to help with food, games and inflatables on the day of this event. Take a look at the bulletin board in the church fover to see where and when you can help and sign up.

Summer Night Out Planning Meeting May 20th-6:00 pm Grace Church

Grace Lutheran Preschool

2024-2025 Class Schedule

Class Schedule 2023-2024

4s M-F 8:00 - 11:00 am (16 spots) M-F 12:00 - 3:00 pm (16 spots) Please note that there is NO 4s classes on Wednesday.

 3s
 M W F
 8:15 - 10:45
 (6 spots)
 \$160 monthly

 T&TH
 8:15 - 10:45
 (3 spots)
 \$120 monthly

 Please note that all 3s must be potty trained.

The 3s Registration form is now available. on the Grace Lutheran Preschool page of the website (www.gracedewitt.org). The registration form along with the registration fee may be dropped off at the church office or mailed to PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.

Registration for the 4s Preschool Program is now open on the Central DeWitt Community School District Website.

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.

Dates Available:

June 16th & 30th July 7th, 14th, & 28th August 4th September 22nd, & 29th October 20th November 3rd, 10th, & 24th December 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th



Grace Lutheran Church Blood Drive Monday, July 8th



The Preschool Board would like to thank the Endowment Committee for the endowment grant for the Jesus center enrichment items. We thank you for your kindness and generosity.



S We can't believe it is the final month of school! We have had so much fun this year. To celebrate our school year, we will be having an ABC End of the Year Countdown, where there will be a special activity every day. We are also reviewing our letters, numbers, shapes, and colors. We are getting ready for Preschool Graduation which is scheduled for the end of May.

We are in our last month of school! We are going to enjoy learning about our colors and Rainbows, and creepy, crawling bugs and life at a pond. Jesus' time stories are about Mary and Martha, Jesus and the children and Jesus goes to Heaven. I-Smile will be coming in to do dental screenings for the kids this month. There will be no school on Monday, the 27th for Memorial Day and our last day of school has been moved to May 31st. We've had a great year!

We are excited to have preschool

hosting a Muffins with Mom morning on the 10th! We have a lot of fun activities planned and spending time with each other.



Summer Camp 2024 begins on Monday, July 29th. We have the availability to have a large number of campers, so many hands are needed to assist with check in. If you are available from 9:30 am to 11:00 am on July 29th and would like to help with this, please contact Kerry at the church office. Thank you.





We would like to extend a great big Thank You to our Preschool teachers; Mrs. Christine, Mrs. Kindra, and Mrs. Amber, for all the work they do through out the school year. Your dedication and love shown to all the children is appreciated. We are very grateful for all you do. Thank you!



THINKING OF YOU ON MOTHER'S DAY,

AND SAYING A Special PRAYER-

THAT GOD.

WHO KNOWS HOW DEAR YOU ARE,

THAT HE WILL CLESS YOUR DAILY LIFE

WITH JOYS OF EVERY KIND-

WITH PERFECT HEALTH AND HAPPINESS AND PEACE OF HEART AND MIND.

WILL REEP YOU IN HIS CARE.



SUMMBER LUNCH BOX PROGRAM

It is time for the Summer Lunch Box Program in 2024. We are planning to pack bags of groceries on Wednesday, May 22nd at the DeWitt United Methodist Church.

We plan to pick up the groceries at Aldi's in Clinton at 1:00 pm. If you are able to help pick up and load groceries in Clinton, please let Gayle Powell (563-357-5296) or Kitty Willimack (563-357-1923) know so we are sure we have enough vehicles available. We should be back at the church by 1:45 pm to set up the tables and unload the groceries. We plan to start packing the groceries around 2:15 pm. We are always looking for volunteers to help complete the packing and because it is early out, children of all ages are welcome to come and help us feed the kids this summer. We are planning to pack 300 bags to start off and may need to pack 2 more times over the summer.



1 st 3 rd 4 th	Bev Johnson Carlee Good Dennis Gisel Kay Goddard
6 th	Jaren Nebel Tyler Stowe
8 th	Karen Theisen Ezekiel DeHaven
10 th	Shanna Tucker Jim Williams Caitlin Proctor
11 th	Warden Spain Vicki Becker Tori Grantz
13 th 14 th	Wesley Johnson Angie Hill Michael Good Carter Paarmann Emma Grace Hartman
15 th 16 th 17 th	Brayden Lawrence Aspen Williams Annabelle Schneider Drew Eden
19 th 21 st 22 nd	Ryleigh Spain Susan Williams Patty Anderson Keith Gustafson
25 th 27 th	Adelynne Meyer Randi Bahnsen Ray Ackerman Jr. Paul Lieving
29 th	Beth Haring Kim Steffens
30 th 31 st	Thomas Jepsen Margie Alger Paul Kirby



	0	
3	ken & warjorie Godda	ra
4 th	Scott & Renae Havene	r
9 th	Gary & Cathy Paarmar	n
11^{th}	Rick & Lori Olson	
	James & Michele Grun	torad
	Ray & Sarah Ackermar	n Jr.
	Darin & Sara Suhr	
15^{th}	Devin & Angela Wagne	er
16 th	Ken & Kyle Jackson	
	Rich & Julie Matzen	
19 th	Amanda & Cory Hoepr	ner
25 th	Todd & Karen McWillia	ams

Grace Lutheran Church—May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Praise Worship	29	30	1 7:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	2 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Sen- ior Exercise Group	S.	4
5 "Mites" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/	6 1:00pm 500 Card Club 4:00pm Preschool	7	8 9:00am Sewing Ladies 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir	9 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Sen- Mom - Preschool	vith	11
Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	Board Meeting 6:00pm Board of Disci- pleship		7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	ior Exercise Group 1:30pm Service @ Mag- gie's House	Families 8:30am Coffee & Connections	
Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worshp w/ Communion 2:00pm CLUB345	pleship 6:30pm Elders Meeting			gie's House	Connections	
12 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship	13 6:00pm Council Meet- ing	14 7:00am Finance Board Meeting 5:00pm Camp Board Meeting	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:00pm Glory Bound Choir - Party at Grace Camp (Andrew) 6:00pm Graduates Dinner	16179:00am Tops MeetingPresch9:30am Stay Active Sen-Fridayior Exercise GroupFriday4:00pm Victory CenterService Event	ıool—Yoga	18
19 Fellowship Sunday Hosted by the Board of Christian Ed. 8:00am Traditional Worship w/	20 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Summer Night Out @ Grace Camp	21 6:00pm 100th Anniversary Planning Meeting	22 9:00am Sewing Ladies 10:30am Service @ Field- stone 7:00pm Worshin	23 8:00am Raise the Flags 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Sen-	24 Office Closed	<mark>25</mark> Hall rental 9:00am Prayer Walk
26 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:30am Traditional Worship	Meeting 27 No Preschool - Office Closed	28 8:00am Lower the Flags 6:30pm Board of Christian Educa- tion	29 5:00pm VBS Skit Practice 6:30pm 4s Preschool Gradu- ation 7:00pm Welton Chapel Wor- ship	30313s Last Day of Preschool3s MWF Last Day of9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Sen- ior Exercise Group 6:30pm "Table Talk"Preschool—Yoga Friday6:30pm "Table Talk" Men's Ministry EventFriday	31 3s MWF Last Day of Preschool Preschool—Yoga Friday	