

# Grace Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)

## News & Notes

415 10th Street, P.O. Box 156  
DeWitt, IA 52742-0156  
563-659-9153 Church    563-659-9154 Fax    563-659-9193 Preschool



## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE - January 4<sup>th</sup>—January 11<sup>th</sup>

### The Epiphany of Our Lord

**Setting:** Divine Service, Setting 4 beginning on page 203

**Hymns:** 400    395    392    388    386    397

**Readings:** *Isaiah 60:1-6    Ephesians 3:1-12    Matthew 2:1-12*

**Sermon:** "We Have Come to Worship Him" - Matthew 2:1-12

**Praying for:** Allen Anderson, Brad Birtell, Dick Block, Elaine Schoening, David Edens, Andrew Gisel, and Vicki Thomas.

## CALENDAR

1/4/2026	"Mites" Sunday	
	8:00 AM	Traditional Worship w/Communion
	10:30 AM	Traditional Worship w/Communion
1/5/2026		
	1:00 PM	500 Card Club
	6:00 PM	Board of Discipleship
	6:30 PM	Elders Meeting
	7:00 PM	Voter's Meeting
	8:00 PM	Annual Camp Board Meeting
1/6/2026	6:00 PM	Preschool Board Meeting
1/7/2026	5:30 PM	Confirmation
	7:00 PM	High School Bible Study
1/8/2026	9:00 AM	Tops Meeting
	9:30 AM	Stay Active Senior Exercise Group
1/11/2026	8:00 AM	Traditional Worship
	9:15 AM	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
	10:30 AM	Traditional Worship

### Church Voter's Meeting

Monday, January 5th  
@ 7:00 pm

Join us as we review the Pastoral candidates selected by the Call Committee, in order to place a Call.

### Annual Camp Board Meeting

Monday, January 5th

Following the Voter's Meeting.

*Please come support the church and camp.*

### Victory Center

Our next service event meal at the Victory Center in Clinton will be held on January 15th. We need volunteers to bring sub buns, shredded cheese, dessert, side dishes, and volunteers to help serve. A sign-up sheet is located on the Welcome Center.

**Gifts, Tithes & Offerings for 12/28/2025**  
To fully fund our church budget we need  
\$7,481.00 per week.

	<b>Amount</b>
Simply Giving	\$ 770.00
Christmas Eve	\$ 2,999.01
Christmas Day	\$ 1,830.00
New Years Eve	\$ 20.00
Tithes & Offering	<u>\$ 2,513.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,132.01</b>

### Attendance for the week of 12/28/2025

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
6:00 pm	141
10:00 pm	75
<b>Christmas Day</b>	
9:00 am	42
<b>Sunday Worship</b>	
8:00 am	48
10:30 am	<u>47</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>353</b>

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup>

#### 8:00 a.m. Service

**Pastor Kent Umbarger**  
Organist: Diana Baetke  
Elder: Duane Hansen  
Acolyte: Kinley Albrecht

#### 10:30 a.m. Service

**Pastor Kent Umbarger**  
Organist: Diana Baetke  
Elder: Scott Steffens  
Acolyte: Zanyel Barys

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup>

#### 8:00 a.m. Service

**Pastor James Batchelor**  
Organist: Diana Baetke  
Elder: Duane Hansen  
Acolyte: Gavin Birth

#### 10:30 a.m. Service

**Pastor James Batchelor**  
Organist: Diana Baetke  
Elder: Scott Steffens  
Acolyte: Cade Converse & Kitt Converse

All Board and Committee members are asked to participate in Installation Sunday, which will be held on January 11th during worship services.

**Please join us on today, January 4th after late service to help us take down the Christmas decorations.**

**GRACE LUTHERAN SKI TRIP**—Make plans to join us on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> for an evening of fun on the slopes. We're heading to Sundown in Dubuque. **This is open to all Grace members.** Costs are: \$65 for ski rental, lift ticket & lesson; \$70 for Snowboard rental, lift ticket & lesson; or \$45 for lift ticket only. To register go to <https://undownmtn.com> and navigate to the "More" Tab across the top of the page. Next select "Store" on the top bar of options. From there at the bottom of the next page will be a tile that says "EZ Groups", click on that. You will need the following code to register as part of our group: GLY26. All registrations and payment must be submitted by Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. After that date the site will close and no further registrations will be accepted.

The 2026 Altar Flower calendar is 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.

We hope that we have flowers every week, but we know that there are Sundays when the arrangements have not been spoken for. It is these Sundays when you will not see arrangements on the altar. To assist the church in having arrangements every Sunday there is another way you can help. Donate money to our flower fund. We will then use the money in the flower fund, to cover the cost of flowers when they have not been spoken for.

**\*\*\* Remember** we can only provide flowers when there is money in this fund. If you do not see flowers on Sunday that means they were not sign up for and the Flower Fund does not have money in it.

**Women Wine and the Word**



Thursday January 22nd  
6:30pm  
The Varsity Tap  
Upstairs Lounge

Join us for an evening of fellowship with other women!

Brought to you by Women of Grace • [www.gracedewitt.org](http://www.gracedewitt.org) • Questions 563-595-2395

### 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 kid friendly cereal, instant potatoes, canned soup, toilet paper, canned vegetables, peanut butter, and Hamburger Helper. All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer.

**THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE** for Grace Lutheran Church will be accepting grant applications starting January 11th through March 15, 2026. Applications for projects which provide support to missions, education, youth, worship, and music and/or capital projects will be considered.

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
6th-8th Grade  
**LOCK-IN**

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS FOR AN AWESOME NIGHT OF FUN, GAMES, FOOD, MOVIES AND GOD'S WORD. WE ASK THAT EACH PARTICIPANT PLEASE BRING \$5 AND 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.

SIGN-UP BY JANUARY 11TH BY EMAILING  
MR. SPERRY AT [MSPERRY@GRACEDEWITT.ORG](mailto:MSPERRY@GRACEDEWITT.ORG)

**JANUARY 16, 2026 @ 7PM**  
**TO JANUARY 17TH @ 7AM**

415 10TH STREET | DEWITT, IA 52742 | 563-659-9153

## ***Sanctity of Life***

# **BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG & DIAPER DRIVE**

To Bring awareness to the Sanctity of Human Life, Grace is holding a Baby Bottle Boomerang during the month of January. All donations will go to the Clinton Crisis Pregnancy Center.



### **Baby Bottle Boomerang**

- 1.) Take an empty baby bottle.
- 2.) Fill it up with coins, bills or checks (made payable to Crisis Pregnancy Center).
- 3.) Return bottle to the display at Church by January 25th.

If you don't want to take a bottle you can place donations in the large baby bottle or take an envelope and place it in the secretary's mail slot with your donation.

**January 4th—January 25th**

### **Diaper Drive**

We are collecting the following items:

- Diapers & Pullups
  - Baby Wipes
  - Baby Shampoo
  - Baby Lotion
  - Baby Wash
  - Baby Bottles
- Comb and Brush Set
  - Formula
  - Kid's Toothpaste

Place your donations in the pack-n-play in the foyer.



To bring awareness to the Sanctity of Human Life, Grace is holding a Baby Bottle Boomerang and Diaper Drive during the month of January. Each family is encouraged to pick up an empty baby bottle from the church and fill it with change, bills or checks during the month of January. All bottles (full or empty) need to be returned to the church on January 25. We will also hold a diaper drive throughout January for donations to the Clinton Crisis Pregnancy Center boutique. All donations can be placed in the pack and play in the church foyer.



### **Members of Grace:**

As many of you were not here on Sunday, 12/28/25, I wanted to take one more opportunity to say thank you. Thank you for the many Christmas cards with gifts. Thank you for the collection that was taken up for me at Christmas. These gifts will be used to help finance the trip Lois and I are making to Florida, and we will think of you with each purchase. With God's help we will return in early May, and I already look forward to coming back. If you don't have a new pastor yet when I return, I will take up the vacancy reins once again, if you want. If you have a new pastor, I will rejoice with you and

come for a visit on a Sunday. God be with you in my absence. God bless each one of you. Once again, thanks for the love you have poured out on me.

Pastor Merle



Join us in the new year for the Stay Active Senior Exercise @ Grace on Thursday mornings at 9:30am in the church basement for a low-impact, low-intensity workout designed for

seniors, beginner exercisers and those restarting their exercise journeys. We follow gentle exercise videos that are perfect to keep our bodies moving and active. Please contact Kristy Engelkes at 563-210-2462 if you have any questions.

## Senior High

### Midweek Bible Study

Resumes on January 7th @  
7:00 p.m. at the Sperry's.

LWML will be collecting **MITES** on Sunday, January 5th. If you would like to help support the LCMS with their mission projects you can place your donation inside the box located in the Narthex.

### Grace Youth Fundraiser Order Gift Cards

Great for Gifts or Personal Use

#### Choose from a wide variety of stores:

Walmart—Kwik Star—Crumble Cookie—Menards—  
Subway—Wendy's—McDonald's—Target—Kohl's—  
Walgreens—Dick's Sporting Goods—JcPenney, etc..

*A complete list can be found on the order form  
located on the Welcome Center.*

Next Order Due: January 4th

Pickup Order: January 11th



**RaiseRight™**

Simply the right way to fundraise

## Sunday School & Adult Bible Study

Resumes on Sunday,  
January 11th at 9:15 am.

## THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD SERVICE

**WHEN?** TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026, 7PM

**WHERE?** TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
CLINTON, IA (656 5TH AVE. S, CLINTON, IA 52732)

**WHAT?** EVENING PRAYER ON THE EPIPHANY OF  
OUR LORD

## Event Registration Deadlines

### 6th-8th Grade Lock In

*Register by January 11th*

### Family Ski Trip

*Register by January 18th*

