

Grace News

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

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www.gracedewitt.org



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

October 2024

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace!

Do these newsletters work? It is something I have been thinking about the last few weeks. I know that they get taken home. I know that they get read. But do they work? Does the message get across? Does the vision that I have, that we have for our congregation become clear? Are you feeling encouraged to share what you hold on to so close?

Too many thoughts. Too many questions roll through my head. Too many questions that do not have solid answers. I am currently working on a presentation for our circuit that is making me ask a very difficult question, upon myself. The presentation is based upon the mission of God and what is the task of the local church, in the greater mission that God has laid. This of course is more than "Go make disciples." It certainly has roots in the creation story, "Go be fruitful and multiply." Yet it remains consistent in 1 Timothy God desires all to be saved. Where does this leave the local congregation? To assist in the mission God has given.

As I work on the presentation my mind is drawn to a sermon series that I am also working on based upon the seven churches in Revelation. The first church in Ephesus is being condemned by Jesus for abandoning their first love and instead choosing to focus on doctrine. What Jesus is pointing out to them is that they have abandoned the mission of God. When the church in Ephesus first started, they had a heart for people. They longed for what God longed for. Every week their place of worship would be full. But, over time, they stopped loving the people in Ephesus, instead choosing to focus on making sure their doctrine was faithful. No longer did they desire to follow the mission God laid before them. Understand that both are needful. We need to be faithful to both the mission of God and the commandments that Jesus has taught the church. But what we cant do is place more emphasis on one and not the other. The church of Laodicea did that. They misplaced their emphasis on loving people and soon what happened to the church was they forgot what the truth of God truly taught. They abandon doctrine.

Back to the question I am pondering, do these newsletters work? Because I want us to hear the mission of God. As I am doing some research on the project for the circuit, I am finding some things I have always believed but it's nice to be reminded, and the answer to whom the Gospel is for? Answer everyone! Whether you are an every week attender, a lapsed Christian who is slowly losing your faith or a non-believer the proclamation of the Good News that Jesus died and rose for you is necessary for us all to hear every single week. It is necessary for us to hear that Jesus died for the people whom God the Father in Heaven loves. He loves the world so much that he sent Jesus to redeem it from our sins.

As we hear this message of how much God loves the world, it should remind us of what the mission

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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
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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

October 6th

8:00 AM Kitt Converse & Zane Burzlaff
10:30 AM Brady Dies & Brody Lawrence

October 13th

8:00 AM Leo Hill & Kennick Meyer
10:30 AM Cameron Miller & Jaren Neble

October 20th

8:00 AM Ava Johnson & Collin Oliver
10:30 AM Larry Oronzio & Carter Paarmann

October 27th

8:00 AM Austin Nolin & Adelynn Williams
10:30 AM Isaiah Sunday

Voters' Meeting Monday, October 7th 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: Approval of 2024 Budget
Election of Officers

IMPORTANT - Deadline for submitting
articles for the November newsletter is
October 15th.

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:

November 3rd, 10th, & 24th
December 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th

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.

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, tuna, peanut butter, soup, pudding and shampoo. All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer.

Grace Lutheran Messaging System

Have you been receiving messages from our messaging system? Over the past year we have sent out messages about events, activities, and reminders about worship time changes and cancellations.

You can receive these messages via email, text message or both. If you have not received messages, please contact the church office, 563-659-9153, so that we can add you to group notification list.

TILING PROJECT FUND DRIVE

As many of you are aware we have a drainage issue between the buildings which is causing issues in the downstairs hallways and Sunday school rooms in the basement. The work has started, but we are asking for funding assistance from the Congregation.

Following is a list of costs associated with this project:

Drainage System - \$ 14,000
Reinforce Gutters - \$ 500
Remove & Replace Sidewalk - \$ 4,500
Repair damaged wall - \$ 500
Replace Landscaping—\$ 1,500

Your assistance with this funding is greatly appreciated. If you would like to make a donation towards this project, please label it "Tiling Project" and place it in the collection plate or in the secretaries door.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month - On Sunday October 13th we will be having a Pastor Appreciation Card Shower. Lets shower Pastor with cards and notes to let him know how much we appreciate everything he does for us. Please bring your notes of appreciate and place them in the wooden box located in the foyer or you can mail them to Pastor Obermann at PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.



Come join the Cantata Chorale in performing our annual Christmas Cantata! Rehearsals begin Wednesday, October 2nd at 7:45 pm in Grace Hall. This year's performance is "Joy! Unspeakable Joy!" and it promises to put JOY in your heart as we enter the Christmas season!

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.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to help with parking and serving food, etc. for the Cross Country meets being held at Grace Camp. The dates are Tuesday, October 8th; Thursday, October 10th, and Wednesday, October 16th. Volunteers are asked to be there by 2:00 pm. If you would like to volunteer please, sign your name, phone number and mark the dates you can help on the sign-up sheet located on the Welcome Center.



October 17th Victory Center Service Event

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the meal, helped serve and prayed for our September service event at the Victory Center in Clinton. Our next service event meal will be on October 17th. 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.

All food needs to be prepared and brought to the church by 4:00 PM on Thursday, October 17h.

Main Dish

3 Volunteers

Each volunteer is asked to prepare a crockpot of soup to serve 20 people.

Drinks

Drinks 2 Volunteers:

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

Desserts

3 Volunteers

Prepare a dessert that serves 15 people.

Crackers

2 Volunteers

Bring 2 boxes of soup crackers.

Salads

3 Volunteers

Prepare a salad to serve 15 people.

Deliver & Serve 5 Volunteers

Needed to help deliver and serve the meal. We meet at Grace at 4 pm.
Meal is served at 5pm to 5:00pm.

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



The 4's Preschool students will be continue working on their letters unit. They will learn letter sounds, make the letters with wood pieces and practice writing the letters. Themes for the month of October are, apples, fire safety, leaves, pumpkins, and Halloween. The students are looking forward to Trick-or-treating around downtown and having a Halloween party.



The 3s preschool students will be learning all about Fall. They will be building Scarecrow Joe, who will sit in the classroom and teach them about animals at night and pumpkins. The bible stories this month will be about Abraham and Sarah's new home and the visitors. We will also learn about Josephs colorful coat and his family. We will wrap up October with a class Halloween Party.

The Preschool will be hosting a Donuts with Dad's event for all the students. Dads will be joining their child for donuts and juice and spend time with each other doing fun activities.

LWML of Grand Mound invite you to attend the Clinton Zone Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 5th. Registration will begin at 8:30 am, with a light breakfast, in the basement of Immanuel Lutheran, Grand Mound. Rally will begin at 9:00 am. The guest speaker and Bible study leader will be Pastor Tim Bickel, a missionary with POBLO.

Moms of ALL ages & stages are encouraged to join us for

Coffee & Connections

Friday, October 11th
8:00 am to 9:30 am

(drop in for a few or stay and chat all morning)

Grace Hall (use Main Entrance of Grace Church and head downstairs)

Have a little one? Feel free to bring.

Let's take some time to connect.

We will bring the GOOD coffee & something sweet to eat.



Have you ever wondered how you can help the preschool? The preschool is always re-stocking their snack and supply shelves and you can help. The pre-school is asking for donations of gift cards from Wal-Mart, Target, and Kwik-Star which will be used to buy the supplies needed. Gift Cards can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the secretaries door. We continue to thank all the members of Grace for their continued support of Grace Preschool students and staff.

Fall Fundraiser

Quad City Save Around Coupon Books - Cost \$25

Grace Lutheran Preschool is once again selling Quad City Coupon Books for \$25. There are many coupons for the DeWitt, Davenport, Eldridge, and Illinois areas. Coupons are good throughout the 2025 year.

If you would like to support this fundraiser please write your name and phone number on the order sheet located on the table by the secretaries office. Take an envelope, include a check (made out to Grace Lutheran Preschool) or cash, and place it in the secretary's office slot.



Thank you to everyone who provided food and drinks for the Concordia Chicago student! They really enjoyed the snacks upon arriving at Camp on Friday night and all the homemade food on Saturday!! Also, thank you to all who came out and helped the Camp Board feed the students!!

The new convection oven at Grace Camp is all paid for! Thank you to EVERYONE who contributed to this project!!! It is really appreciated!



LWML will be collecting MITES on Sunday, October 6th. 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 or leave a marked donation in the offering plate. Thank you for your support of LWML and the missions of the LCMS.



October Feast

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th
3:30-7:00 PM

Menu

By Matthiesen's Catering

ROAST BEEF & PULLED PORK
MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY
GREEN BEANS & BAKED BEANS
SALADS & ROLLS
DESSERT

Tickets in Advance:
Adult \$13
Children: 5-10 - \$5
Under 5 - Free

Tickets At The Door: Adult \$15

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
415 10TH ST, DeWITT, IA - 563-659-9153

Pies & Dessert Bakers

October 13th will be here before you know it. Volunteers are needed to make pies and desserts for OctoberFeast. Sign-up sheets are located on the table in the foyer.

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of God truly is, that all would be saved. And we should be eager to dive ourselves into God's mission. Show love and compassion to the people who God shows love and compassion towards.

As we work through this together. I want to challenge you as well. Since our congregation is going through a challenge. November 10th will be our next Fellowship Sunday; I challenge you to invite someone to church. Step out and embrace the mission that God has set before us. To allow others to hear the gracious news of our Savior's death and resurrection for themselves. The comforting message of the everlasting hope that we have in Christ.

In the service of Christ,
Pastor Eric

Happy Birthday

		3 th	Mary Garlough
1 st	Lois Matzen		Cathy Paarmann
	Peyton Goddard		Barry Anderson
	Cindy Garcia	15 th	Jackson Butler
	Kennick Meyer	16 th	Ryne Hoepner
2 nd	Angel Paarmann		Sheryl Brommelkamp
	Kyptin Barys	18 th	Jason Hill
3 rd	Abrieanna Appleby	19 th	Duane Hansen
4 th	John Diercks		Paul Garrity
	Nick DeHaven		Betty Jo Ketelsen
	Michael Peters		Joey Spain
	Gavin Birt		Tasha Becker
5 th	Sala Knipfer	21 st	Betsy Henningsen
	Benson Hill	22 nd	Elliot Obermann
6 th	Logan Meyers	23 rd	Denise Wold
	Cooper Small		Mason Lawrence
	Kelly Lawrence		Larry Oronzio Jr.
	Karen Eden	24 th	Isaiah Sunday
8 th	Aaron Meyers	25 th	Cody Baines
	Carver Krukow	26 th	Heather Mork
9 th	Liz Niemann		Jared Paarmann
	Debbie Anderson	27 th	Ben Alger
10 th	Lily Gruntorad	29 th	Cindy Sperry
			Roger Kaufman
	Wanda Trafford		Kris Walther
11 th	Annette DeHaven	30 th	Ronnie Peters
12 th	Sarah Flathers		Jared Wold
	Netty Schneider	31 st	Jeremy Spain
			Zanyel Barys

Happy Anniversary

1 st	Marc & Kelly Thumann
	Mark & Jacqueline Jacobsen
4 th	Troy & Tiffany Paarmann
5 th	Ken & Judy Hartmann
6 ^h	Dylan & Shannon Jans
	Scott & Jennifer Miller
12 th	Steven & Karen Theisen
	Kivian & Theresa Eschbach
13 th	Ron & Diane McVey
18 th	Michael & Rachael Vopatek
20 th	Wade & Patricia Niemann
21 st	Gerald & Sala Knipfer
27 th	Robert & Marjorie Paasch
29 th	John & Jill Gisel

TRUNK OR TREAT

Children and Families of Grace Lutheran Church are invited to Trunk or Treat at Grace Camp between 3-5 pm on Sunday, October 27th! Vehicles will be directed to park by the Grace Youth Ministry building.

Children will walk through the grounds, with their adult(s), gathering treats! (If a child is unable to walk the grounds, please let us know and we can make a plan.)

Would you like to host a trunk? What does that involve? You will need to show up at Grace Camp no later than 2pm on October 27th to get your vehicle in place and decorated (you provide your car decorations). You'll also need to provide "treats" to distribute from your vehicle. We are planning for about 100 children.

PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN UP TO HOST A TRUNK in advance on the sign-up sheet located at the Welcome Center or by contacting Kerry Good at Grace Church 563-659-9153.



SENIOR HIGH BIBLE STUDY

We meet Wednesday's evenings at the Sperry's from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm.

Pride of the Wapsi Youth Event

Sunday, October 20th is the date for our annual trip to the Pride of the Wapsi Pumpkin Patch & Corn Maze. The deadline to sign-up and submit money is October 13th. Please sign-up by emailing Mr Sperry at msperry@gracedewitt.org. We will need several parents to help transport the kids to and from the event. Please let the church office know if you're willing and available. Cost is \$10.

ENVELOPE CHALLENGE—The first three weeks of November, the Grace Youth Groups will be holding the Envelope Challenge. To make a donation to the cause, simply remove an envelope from the bulletin board in the atrium and place cash or a check in the amount of the number printed on the front of the envelope. Then place the envelope in the slot on Kerry's door. Proceeds will be used for future youth ministry events such as next Summer's Youth Gathering and the like.

The DeWitt Community Hospital Auxiliary invites to their Fall Luncheon on Wed., October 9th, 11 to 1:00 pm, at the United Church of Christ in DeWitt. Menu is pulled chicken, roll, salads, and dessert. Tickets cost \$10.



The 2024 Operation Christmas Child drive has started.

What is Operation Christmas Child?

Operation Christmas Child began in 1993. Since then, every year, people fill shoe boxes with small toys, gifts, personal care items, pencils, pens, and other little presents which are then given to children around the world.

How do shoebox gifts impact the church?

In more than 170 receiving countries and territories, shoebox gifts are used by local Christians as a strategy for evangelism, discipleship, and the multiplication of believers and churches in their communities. More important than the items inside the shoebox, the gifts are an opportunity to share God's love—and the Good News of Jesus Christ—with children in need.

What is the purpose of Operation Christmas Child?

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.




How can you help?

- 1.) Monetary donations can be left in the "Little White Church" in the foyer October 20 – November 17.
- 2.) Fill a shoebox as full as possible with gifts for a boy or girl. A child only receives one OCC shoebox in their lifetime so make it great!
- 3.) Pray for this mission, the children, churches and all those who share their love through this mission.

Collection Goals

- 1.) Fill 100 shoeboxes with gifts for boys and girls.
- 2.) Collect \$1000 to mail 100 shoeboxes.
- 3.) Collect \$600 to fund "The Greatest Journey", a 12-lesson discipleship course included with each box. These lessons teach the children how to follow Christ and share Him with others. As they do, entire families and communities are transformed by the power of the Gospel, and churches are started

*More information on Operation Christmas Child
will be available soon on the bulletin board in the church foyer.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Preschool Pictures 10:00am Lieving's Bible Study 6:30pm Stamp's Bible Study 7:00pm Engelkes' Bible Study	2 Preschool Pictures 9:00am Sewing Ladies 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Worship 7:45pm Cantata Practice	3 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 6:30pm Butler's Bible Study	4 Yoga Friday - Preschool 8:00am Trustees Mtg 9:30am Steffens' Bible Study	5
6 "Mitcs" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Comm 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/Communion 3:00pm Rickertsen's Bible Study	7 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm 100 Year Planning Meeting 6:00pm Preschool Mtg 7:00pm Voter's Meeting	8 7:00am Finance Board Mtg 10:00am Lieving's Bible Study 2:00pm Track @ Camp 6:30pm Stamp's Bible Study 7:00pm Engelkes' Bible Study	9 7:15am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm High School Bible Study 7:00pm Worship 7:45pm Cantata Practice	10 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 1:30pm Service @ Maggie's House 2:00pm Track @ Camp 6:30pm Butler's Bible Study	11 8:00am Coffee & Connections 9:30am Steffens' Bible Study Confirmation Retreat	12 Confirmation Retreat
13 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship 3:00pm Rickertsen's Bible Study 3:30pm Octoberfeast	14	15 Newsletter Deadline Preschool Conferences 10:00am Lieving's Bible Study 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting 6:30pm Stamp's Bible Study 7:00pm Engelkes' Bible Study	16 Preschool Conferences 9:00am Sewing Ladies 2:00pm Track @ Camp 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm High School Bible Study 7:00pm Worship 7:45pm Cantata Practice	17 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center 6:30pm Butler's Bible Study 6:30pm Men's Table Talk@ Hall of Fame	18 No Preschool 9:30am Steffens' Bible Study	19
20 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Comm 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/Comm 2:00pm Youth Activity	21 No Preschool 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Youth Board Mtg	22	23 7:15am Staff Meeting 10:30am Service @ Fieldstone 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm High School Bible Study 7:00pm Worship 7:45pm Cantata Practice	24 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	25 Office Closed 7:00am Donuts with Dad (Preschool Families)	26
27 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship 3:00pm Trunk or Treat	28 6:30pm Christian Ed Mtg.	29	30 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm High School Bible Study 7:00pm Wednesday Worship 7:45pm Cantata Practice	31 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	1 8:00am Trustees Board Meeting	2