

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

November 2024

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace!

Have you ever noticed that the Christmas message is sometimes confusing?

Sure, for you and I not so much. The older I get, how I viewed Christmas is way different. Sure, it is still meaningful to gather around a tree and get a few gifts, to invite family over for food and games. But that truly isn't Christmas.

The late Timothy Keller wrote a book entitled, Hidden Christmas, in which he states that Christmas is the only Christian Holiday that is also a major secular holiday. The result he argues is you get two different celebrations.

He points out that you can walk through a store that will play "Hark the Herald Angel Sings," and then switch to "Holly Jolly Christmas." Two different songs, that celebrate the day totally different. One sings of the day when God and sinners will be reconciled by the one who was born so that we won't die anymore. While the other sings of having a good day, I guess?

Therefore, it makes sense then that we argue with those around us about what Christmas is all about. Is it a day for jolly and good cheer? Or is it a day in which we gather together to remember the promise that God made to his creation? That he would send his son to redeem us from sin and death. To send his Son to redeem this world from the fall.

As the calendar turns towards November and we begin to make our celebration plans for Christmas let us remember what the story tells us about what Christmas is, the day in which God kept his promise to the world and sent his Son.

I am excited for Christmas and to share God's precious love with you!

In the service of Christ,

Pastor Eric

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

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

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

Kerry Good
kgood@gracedewitt.org

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

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 AM Scott Steffens
10:30 AM Duane Hansen
Wednesday 7:00 PM Clint Albrecht

The Organist: Diana Baetke & Tasha Becker

The Acolytes

November 3rd

8:00 AM Zach Yutesler
10:30 AM Peyton Goddard

November 10th

8:00 AM Katie Grantz
10:30 AM Gavin Krukow

November 17th

8:00 AM Trevor McMahon
10:30 AM Hudson Meyers

November 24th

8:00 AM Amelia Rickertsen
10:30 AM Porter Vopatek

November 27th

7:00 PM Kinley Albrecht

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

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. Thank you to everyone who has donated to this project we have now raised 50% of the funds needed. If you would like to donate to this project, please label it "Tiling Project" and place it in the collection plate or in the secretaries door.

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:

December 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th

 Join us on Sunday, December 1st, after the late service to decorate the Church for the Advent season. We will be putting up the sanctuary Christmas tree, hanging wreaths, setting up the nativity, and putting the family Christmas tree up in the foyer. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Grace Endowment Fund

With December 31, 2024, approaching, it is a good time for everyone to review your financial position and make adjustments in preparation for Federal and State income taxes. Charitable contributions can reduce tax liabilities. The Endowment Committee is asking everyone to include the Endowment Fund in their year-end contributions. Each year the Endowment Committee receives requests for funds far exceeding the amount available. If the Endowment Fund grows, more money becomes available for distribution. This fund will provide income year after year for projects supporting missions, education, youth, worship, music and capital improvements that help our church run and grow.

Daylight Savings Begins November 3rd.
Remember to set your clocks back.



Fellowship Sunday

November 10th
9:15 am to 10:30 am

Plan to join us on Sunday as we fellowship with one another, while enjoying a cup of coffee and a delicious snack.

All Saints' Sunday

The first Sunday in November is traditionally designated, by the church, as *All Saints' Sunday*. On this day, we do not *worship* the saints who have gone before us. Instead, we take this opportunity to thank our God for His great mercy in rescuing so many from the devil's grasp. We seek to learn from the example of Christian saints, to be inspired and energized by their perseverance and dedication.

A saint refers to anyone dead or alive who believes in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Any such man, woman, or child is sinless in God's eyes, and therefore, a saint. God, the Father, has declared man-kind to be "not guilty" of sin. Christ's perfection is credited to us through faith, which is the literal and Scriptural understanding of a *saint*; it is what God means when He uses the word in the Bible.

On November 3rd, we will toll the church bell to remember those "Saints" who left this earth in the past year to be with the Lord in Heaven. We will toll the church bell in remembrance of the following:

† Eleanor Mae Arey †
(11-21-2023)

† Kelly Lynn Fahrenkrug †
(5/29/2024)

† Dorothy Caroline Ketelsen †
(5/7/2024)

† Debra Swanson †
(7-24-2024)



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped make OctoberFeast a great success. We are so lucky to have members who decorated, helped greet, took tickets, washed dishes, cut and served pies, help with carryout, cleaned up, and to the great number of youth and their families who give their time and talent to serve at this event. With all your helping hands we were able to serve over 560 meals. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

Traci Butler & Board of Outreach

Thank to everyone who donated items for the LWR School Kits and all the women who helped cut blocks and sew quilts. Through your donations and your time and talent we were able to send 24 quilts and 46 school kits to Lutheran World Relief. LWR will distribute these donations to those who need them. Thank you for your continued support of LWR and the Lutheran Women's Missionary Guild.

The Camp Board says: THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Cross Country Track Meets! To those who provided cookies and/or bars for the concession stand...to those who helped in the concession stand...to those who helped park cars, trucks, vans and buses! All help was greatly appreciated!

1 st	Pauline Burken	17 th	Milo Soenksen
3 rd	Harven Spain		Jill Gisel
6 th	Paisley Mork		Maribeth Penningroth
8 th	Donovan Good		Kyler Miller
	Gracie McCausland	18 th	Shawn Block
9 th	Bernice Meyer	20 th	Kinley Albrecht
11 th	Kevin Meyer	23 rd	Troy Rugeberg
12 th	Jean Passig		Josie McCausland
	Andrew Nolin	24 th	Julie Evers
13 th	Diane McVey	25 th	Connie Havener
14 th	Kristy Engelkes		Clint Albrecht
	Dylan Dies		Cassie Pfeiffer
15 th	Carla Watts		Darlene Johnson
	Larry Oronzio III	26 th	Dan Burzlaff
	Betty Lett		Kinley Birt
16 th	Michael Vopatek	27 th	Silas DeHaven
		30 th	Dylan Jans

Moms of ALL ages are encouraged to join us for

Coffee & Connections

Friday, November 15th

8:00 am to 9:30 am (drop in for a few or stay all morning)

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

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.



Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal Schedule



Saturday, December 14th

4th—8th Grade—9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Pre-K - 3rd Grade—10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 15th - 9:15 a.m.

The Children's Program is at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 15th. All Children need to be in Grace Hall by 2:45 p.m.

Christmas Trees Grace Camp

2675 242nd St, DeWitt, IA 52742

Hours:

Saturday - 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday - 11:00 am to 4:30 pm

Beginning Nov. 29th—Dec. 15th

The Christmas Tree Farm will also be open Friday, November 25th from 9 to 4:30pm.



Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

At Grace Church

Thanksgiving Eve

November 27th

7:00 p.m. Worship/Communion

Advent Worship

Dec. 4th, 11th, & 18th

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Cantata

"Joy, Unspeakable Joy!"

December 8th

8:00 a.m. @ Grace Church

10:00 a.m. @ Immanuel, Grand Mound

Christmas Cantata ~ Encore

"Joy, Unspeakable Joy!"

December 11th

7:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas Program

"To Us a Child is Born"

December 15th

3:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th

6:00 p.m. Worship/Communion

10:00 p.m. Worship/Communion

Christmas Day

December 25th

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Offering Envelopes for 2025

It is that time of year again when I prepare the 2025 Offering Envelope list. In order to assist me in creating an accurate list of those members who need envelopes I need your assistance. On the Welcome Center is a form, if you currently have envelopes but no longer need them or if you do not have envelopes and need them I need to know. Take a moment to write your name down on the form and indicate, with a check mark, your desired change. I will use this information when assigning envelopes. Envelope changes need to be given to me on or before November 17th.

Altar Guild

The church has an amazing group of volunteers that work together as a team to set up communion and change the paraments for the worship services. They are currently in need of some more volunteers. The Altar Guild provides all volunteers with training and you are paired with a partner, which makes the job easier and quicker. If you have the time to assist with this or would like more information on the duties and responsibilities, please contact the church office.

Looking for cards? We recently added Fall napkins and Thanksgiving cards. There is also 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.



November 21st Victory Center Service Event

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the meal, helped serve and prayed for our October service event at the Victory Center in Clinton. Our next service event meal will be on November 21st. 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, November 21st.

Main Dish

5 Volunteers

Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Drinks

2 Volunteers:

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

Thanksgiving Desserts

3 Volunteers

Prepare a dessert that serves 15 people.

BBQ Sauce

1 Volunteers

Bring 2 types of sauce.

Hamburger Buns

2 Volunteers

Bring 24 buns each
(3pk of 8 or a combination)

Thanksgiving Side Dish

3 Volunteers

Bring a salad or side that serves at least 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



Operation Christmas Child

The Operation Christmas Child shoebox drive is underway. 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 local churches 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.

Please stop by the bulletin board in the church foyer for more information and to pick up a box to fill. **All shoeboxes need to be returned on or before November 17.**



Current Goal & Status

Shoebox Goal – 100 boxes
Boxes Taken - 0

Monetary Donation Goal - \$1500
Donations Received - 0

SR. HIGH MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Our study meets Wednesday's @ 7:00 pm at the Sperry's. Please join us for Bible study and fellowship.

JR. HIGH YOUTH NIGHT

Attention all 6th – 8th graders. Join us on Sunday, November 3rd from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm for Youth Night. There will be food, fun and games. Please R.S.V.P. to Mr. Sperry at msperry@gracedewitt.org by Wednesday, October 30th.

ENDURE

Registration officially opens on November 1st. Please keep all of the youth groups around the country who will be submitting their applications in your prayers. We have 17 youth from Grace that have submitted their registration papers.

ENVELOPE CHALLENGE

The Board of Youth will be hosting an Envelope Challenge Fundraiser from November 3rd– 24th. Please consider making a donation to our Youth Ministry program by taking an envelope off the bulletin board and putting cash or a check in the amount of the number printed on the front of the envelope. After putting your donation in the envelope, please place the envelope in the slot located in Kerry's office door. Proceed will be used to help offset costs of future youth ministry activities.

Stay Active Seniors Exercise Class - Join us 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 will 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.



1st Jason & Heather Mork
4th Randy & Deb Lange
8th Michael & Kerry Good
10th Jason & Carissa Spain
12th Richard & Susan Stevens
15th David & Netty Schneider
16th Brad & Carol Anderson
Leon & Judy Doescher
27th Wayne & Tori Grantz



The 4s Preschool class will be learning about farms, turkeys, pumpkins, and Thanksgiving during November. They will continue their work on letters, sound recognition, and colors. They have started working on songs for their Christmas Program, which will be in December.



The three-year-olds are very thankful this month! We will be getting hands on with camping, forest animals, and of course Thanksgiving! Both classes participated in Operation Christmas Child and sent a box of goodies to bless another child during the Christmas season.. Bible stories this month are about the Red Sea, David and Goliath, and Daniel and the Lions, all of which are exciting tales of what God can do! We are having a class party to celebrate all that we are thankful for before we have our Thanksgiving break.

The Preschool Staff and Preschool Board would like to thank everyone who purchased a "Save Around" coupon book during our fundraiser in October.

How Can You Support the Preschool?

Did you know there several ways you can support the preschool? You can give offering directly to the Preschool by using your offering envelopes or a pew envelope .You can also participate in the Preschool Fundraisers as they come up during the year. The next fundraiser will be April and we will be selling Hurts Donuts. And last but not least you can purchase gift cards for Wal-Mart, Target, or Kwik Star. These gift cards will help us to purchase snacks for the 35 hungry students they have.

As always we thank you for your continued support and generosity shown to the Preschool Program throughout the years. We are blessed to have amazing support from Grace Church and the congregation.

Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are a way we add beauty to the sanctuary for our worship services. Each bouquet can be purchased, "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone. We have two bouquets available each week for \$30 per arrangement. You can purchase altar flowers for a specific date by signing up using the altar flower folder on the Welcome Center. Sign up for the date you would like; indicate one arrangement or two; make a note as to what you want the News & Notes to say; then place your payment in the envelope provided in the secretary's door. The office will handle ordering the flowers.

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. It is important to remember that we can only use the flower fund money when there is a balance in the flower fund account.

In general, each bouquet is \$30 so that is \$60 per week. For the year we would need \$3,120 to cover the cost of all the arrangements.

This year is almost over but we still have dates available in December. The 2025 Altar flower sign-up sheets will be available soon, the cost for the flowers will remain \$30.

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 tuna, pasta, Hamburger Helper, canned fruit, 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 and would like to, please contact the church office, 563-659-9153, so that we can add you to group notification list.

We have had a handful of members say they have not been receiving text messages. In order to receive txt messages you must "opt in" so the system knows you consented. Below you will find the information needed to assist with this procedure.

Opt-In from
your mobile
phone now!



Just send
"Y" or "Yes"
to 64779



POINSETTIAS

Order Form

Poinsettias for Christmas are being ordered through the Church Office this year. If you would like a poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary, please complete the form and return with your payment by **November 24th**. Flowers will be red. Cost is \$ 10.00 each.

Name: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Grace Lutheran Church - November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship 3:00pm Trunk or Treat	28 6:30pm Board of Christian Education	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
3 "Mites" Sunday Hall Reserved 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Comm 9:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/Comm 2:00pm CLUB345 4:00pm Middle School (6th-8th) Youth Night	4 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Discipleship Mtg 6:15pm Preschool Board Mtg 6:30pm Elders Meeting	5	6 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm High School Bible Study 7:00pm Wednesday Worship 7:45pm Cantata Practice	7 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	8	9
10 Circuit Forum @ Grace Fellowship Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Praise Worship	11 6:00pm Council Meeting	12 7:00am Finance Board Meeting	13 7:15am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm High School Bible Study 7:00pm Wednesday Worship 7:45pm Cantata Practice	14 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 1:30pm Service @ Maggie's House	15 Newsletter Deadline Yoga Friday - Preschool 8:00am Coffee & Connections	16 Hall Rented
17 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/Communion	18 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting	19 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting	20 9:00am Sewing Ladies 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm High School Bible Study 7:00pm Wednesday Worship 7:45pm Cantata Practice	21 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center Service Event 6:30pm Men's Table Talk@ Hall of Fame	22 Office Closed	23
24 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Praise Worship	25 6:30pm Board of Christian Education	26 7:00pm Cantata Practice	27 No Preschool - Thanksgiving Break 10:30am Service @ Fieldstone 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship	28 No Preschool - Thanksgiving Break Office Closed	29 No Preschool - Thanksgiving Break Office Closed	30