



Grace Newsletter

APRIL 2021

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church

415 10th Street
P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

PH: 563-659-9153
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WEB: www.gracedewitt.org

EMAIL:
kgood@gracedewitt.org

Pastor Eric Obermann

563-321-0032
pastoreric@gracedewitt.org

Mark Sperry, DCE

563-321-0674
mosperry@gracedewitt.org

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

Kerry Good

kgood@gracedewitt.org

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

Grace Lutheran Preschool

P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742

PH: 563-659-9193

Preschool Teacher/Director

Christine Greve
preschool@gracedewitt.org

Grace Lutheran Camp

2675 242nd Street
P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

Camp Reservations

camprentals@gracedewitt.org
319-230-7718

Dear Loved and Redeemed Saints of Grace!

At the end of this month, we will have nine(!!!) eighth-graders confirming their faith. Typically, this is a joyous occasion in the life of the church. Everyone gets excited about the event, of course, it is kind of a long process. Three years of studying, learning the Bible, and learning what we call the chief parts of our faith. Of course, we always say that this is not the end of learning. It should just be the beginning, ok not beginning, but it should be the continuation of a lifelong journey of following Jesus. But as I write this, I can't help but feel a pull towards when I was an eighth-grader, getting confirmed into the life of the church. I remember that day. It was joyous. But then life moved on. Not a lot of commotion was made over that day after it. I can't remember exactly what Sunday it was but it was the last Sunday of April 2002. But it was just a day. A distant memory.

That seems kind of strange right? We make a big fuss out of this ceremony in the church but it turns out it is just a day. Almost like it's a thing that you have to do but don't worry it doesn't count for anything. Ok maybe that wasn't how it always was, but that is what it feels like. I can count in my life, zero, how many sermons I have heard referenced the importance of confirmation in our life. Now granted this doesn't take into count hearing confirmation stories at people's funerals. Maybe we have lost the seriousness of confirmation. Maybe I am being too harsh.

Confirmation is important, such a serious rite that maybe we should make sure that we make it a larger part of our life. As I sit here and write this message to you, I am being burdened by 1 John 1. Because sometimes we forget what takes place in confirmation. Sometimes we forget the promises that we make. If one looks at the second commandment, the idea is that we do not take the lord's name in vain. This means that we should not lie about who God is. His name tells us who he is. The same applies to you. Your name is the greatest thing about you. It tells people immediately who you are. That is confirmation you are putting your name on the line. You are proclaiming to the world that you trust in the promises that Jesus has made to you. You are submitting to the claim that Jesus put on your life in baptism. Through baptism, you belong to Jesus. Thus you are making it known that you are a follower and believer in Jesus. Confirmation isn't just a rite that we go through so that we can take communion. Confirmation is a

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SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 AM Paul Kirby
10:30 AM Scott Havener
Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Paul Kirby
Good Friday 7:00 PM Alan Rugeberg
Easter 7:00 AM Paul Kirby &
Alan Rugeberg
9:00 AM Paul Kirby &
Alan Rugeberg
11:00 AM Scott Havener
Wednesday 7:00 PM Scott Steffens

The Organist: Diana Baetke

The Acolytes

April 1st
7:00 PM Kamryn Albrecht
April 2nd
7:00 PM Adalyn Appleby
April 4th
9:00 AM Hannah Grantz & Benson Hill
11:00 AM Lily Gruntorad & Emma Pillers
April 11th
8:00 AM Caitlin Proctor
10:30 AM Remi Rugeberg
April 18th
8:00 AM Lauren Walker
10:30 AM Jackson Butler
April 25th
8:00 AM Wyatt Jensen
10:30 AM Hudson Krukow

Grace Lutheran's
April Voter's Meeting
Monday, April 12th @ 7:00 pm



Are you interested in being part of the prayer life here at Grace. Let the church office know, so that we can get a prayer chain started. As Pastor learns of needs, he will initiate the prayer and pass it on.

Special Gifts Given Include:

In loving memory of Ron Jurgensen \$20 was given to Grace Sunday School, \$10 to the Outdoor Chapel and \$400 to Grace Camp.



**PLEASE REMEMBER
TO CONTINUE
GIVING TO YOUR
CHURCH**

Remember the ways to give:

- 1.) Bill pay from your bank.
- 2.) Download the Give+ mobile app on your phone to make giving easy.
- 3.) Mail checks directly to Grace Church, PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA.
- 4.) Use the link on our website, www.gracedewitt.org, for online giving.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday

April 1st

7:00 p.m. Worship/Communion

Good Friday

April 2nd

7:00 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday Worship

April 4th

7:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

11:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

Reminder—There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study on Easter Sunday, April 4th.

process that we go through so that we can learn, take to heart, and digest the promises that Jesus makes to us. The promises that we in turn make to each other. TO faithfully hear the Word of God and allow the Word of God to work in our hearts to keep us yearning to follow Jesus. So then we can take his promises and share them with the world.

It is an exciting time in the church when we get to celebrate with these nine families as they listen to the promises their kids are going to make. The promise to follow Jesus all the days of their life. This is worth celebrating, not just on April 25th. But this is worth celebrating for the rest of our lives. God be with these nine families as they celebrate this joyous day!

In the service of the Risen Savior Jesus,
Pastor Eric

SENIOR HIGH MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Our Midweek Bible study will resume on April 7th and continue through the end of the month. See you at 7:00 pm at the Sperry's.

You are all invited to attend the LWML Clinton Spring Rally.

Place: Grace Lutheran Church
Date: April 10, 2021
Time: Registration 8:45 am,

Bible Study by Pastor Obermann,
Zone Counselor at 9:00 am.

Followed by the business meeting,
with closing time of approximately
11:00 am.

There will be coffee and snacks
provided but no meal will be served
for this rally.

MASKS and social distancing will
be required at Grace.

We look forward to see you in
Grace Hall on April 10.

In Loving Memory of:

Mr. Ronald E. Jurgersen, 89, of Clinton, Iowa, died late Wednesday evening, March 3, 2021, at Park Vista Retirement Living, Camanche.

Ronald Edward Jurgersen was born July 5, 1931, in Teeds Grove to the late William and Delores (Lewis) Jurgersen. Ron married LaVonne Doescher May 15, 1955, at Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt. The couple resided in Low Moor for 40 years where they raised their family of four children. Ron was employed by DuPont in Clinton for over 40 years until retirement in 1993. His wife LaVonne preceded him in death March 12, 2017.

He was a longtime active member of Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt serving as Elder and usher. Ron lived a life of service to others, serving as water and sewer superintendent for the City of Low Moor for 21 years. He was a retired member of Low Moor Volunteer Fire Department which he served on for 33 years. Ron was a 30 year active and charter member of the Low Moor Lions Club where he received numerous awards. He was an avid walker, enjoyed visiting with people and was his children and grandchildren's greatest cheer leader.

Surviving are children, Sheryl Jindrich of Camanche, Brent Jurgersen of Woodbridge, Virginia and Kent (Holly) Jurgersen of Muscatine; 9 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and a step-great-grandchild; son-in-law, Ernest Elzey; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Roberta Jurgersen, Janet and Russell Steen and Leon and Judy Doescher.

Also preceding Ron in death were a daughter, Karen Kane Elzey; son-in-law, Kevin Kane; his twin brother, Reynold Jurgersen and brother, Louis Jurgersen; a brother-in-law, David Steen and sister-in-law, Marilyn Jurgersen

Support Grace Lutheran Preschool By Purchasing Gift Cards



Would you like to support Grace Lutheran Preschool? There is no easier way than to grab a gift card from Randy's Neighborhood Market, Walmart, Kwik Star or Target. These gift cards will be used to purchase snacks and supplies for this Preschool which are needed on a weekly basis.

Gift cards can be brought to the Church Office or dropped in the Secretary's mail slot. We thank everyone for their continued support of the Preschool.

It is time to renew our subscription for the Lutheran Witness. **THE LUTHERAN WITNESS** is an inspirational monthly magazine featuring synodical news. Lutheran reports from around the world, eye-opening theology and more!

The subscription rate is \$15.96 per year. If you would like to subscribe to the Lutheran Witness, or if you already subscribe and wish to renew your subscription, please contact the church office by April 25th. Payment may be dropped off or mailed to the church office at PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.

Looking for cards? A supply of Confirmation, Graduation and Easter cards have arrived. Please take a moment to see the wide assortment of cards and napkins we have available for purchase upstairs in the foyer.

Thank You,
Thank You,



Thank you! Thank you! I want to thank everyone who helped refurbish the Lenten cross and the palm branch display that we use on Palm Sunday. These items were in need of some TLC, so I thank you for the time and talent you lent to these projects.

Many Thanks, Kerry

How many of you have viewed one or more of our church services online? During this pandemic, online services have played an important role in keeping our members connected with God and their church. We, as a church, see the need to continue to provide services online but to do this we will need to upgrade our audiovisual equipment. The current equipment does not provide our members with the clear crisp audio and visual services that we would like. It is for this reason that we would like to upgrade our current system. If you are interested in supporting this upgrade, you can drop off donations at the church office or place them in the offering on Sunday. Please make sure donations are marked with "AV Upgrade".

IMPORTANT - Deadline for submitting articles for the May Newsletter is April 15th.

The 2021 Altar Flower calendar is now available. To sign up please see the Altar Flower book located on the Welcome Center. Bouquets can be donated in honor of or in memory of persons or events. Each bouquet is \$27 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.

Flower Dates Available:

- May 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th
- June 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th
- July 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th
- August 1st & 15th
- September 12th, 19th & 26th
- October 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st
- November 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
- December 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th

The earth shook with the news.

**HE IS NOT HERE;
HE IS RISEN!**

And in that moment,

joy REPLACED DESPAIR
hope PUSHED PAST FEAR
life CONQUERED DEATH

not just that day, but for eternity.

We celebrate the *resurrection* of Christ

for what it meant then and what it means for us every day;

a sacrifice
that brings

FORGIVENESS, RENEWAL, AND PEACE

to any of us who put our *faith* in **Jesus.**

ARE YOU A STUDENT GRADUATING?

What an important step in your life! We would like to honor you by printing your name in our May news-letter. If you are receiving a high school, college, or post-graduate degree, give us a call at 659-9153, before April 18th. We would also like a picture of all graduates to place on the bulletin board in the foyer.

COMMUNION—Communion: If you have missed receiving communion, you are invited to call the church office, 563-659-9153, to schedule a time for Pastor Eric to bring communion to you!



Easter Egg Hunt

April 3rd — 11:00 a.m.
@ Grace Camp
(2675 242nd St, DeWitt, IA)

Event will be held
rain, shine or snow.

Bring your own basket or bag.
Social Distancing and Masks Encouraged!!

Have Fun!!!

Sponsored by:
Thrivent Financial
Grace Lutheran Camp

Please Call Irene, 659-9885,
with any questions.



Vacation Bible School 2021

Mystery Island

June 27th—July 1st
5:30 pm—8:15 pm

*A light meal will be served from
5:00 pm to 5:30 pm.*

Tracking Down the One True God

The Mystery Island Planning Team is looking for volunteers to assist with this year's VBS. They need a crew to help navigate the island and all the adventures the children will experience. If you are available to assist on June 27th—July 1st from 5:30 to 8:15 pm please take a look at the bulletin board in the church foyer to sign up to help with Games, Crafts, Treats, Crew Leaders, or set Design. Many helpful hands are needed on deck to make this VBS memorable.

Summer Day Camps

Registration Opens
April 6th

Visit www.gracedewitt.org

SUMMER 2021 DAY CAMPS

The Day Camps for Summer 2021 will include the following:

- June 8th Fishing Camp [1st - 6th Grades]
- June 10th Wood Working Camp [4th - 6th Grades]
- June 15th Cooking Camp [1st - 3rd Grades]
- June 17th Cooking Camp [4th - 6th Grades]
- June 22nd Arts & Crafts Camp [1st - 3rd Grades]
- June 24th Arts & Crafts Camp [4th - 6th Grades]
- June 29th Little Kids Camp [4 & 5 year olds]
- July 1st Maquoketa Caves Trip [3rd - 6th Grades]

Grace Lutheran Preschool Fundraiser



Order by the Dozen \$20

(Each dozen will include 4 classics and 8 specialty donuts)

Maple Bacon Donut \$5

(Sold individually)

To order stop by the sign-up table in the foyer on Sunday, April 11th & 18th.

**All orders must be received
and paid by April 23rd.**

**Donuts will be available for
pickup on May 7th in Grace
Hall from 2:00-6:00 pm.**

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation will be held during the 10:30 a.m. service on April 25th. Nine of our young people will be participating in the Rite of Confirmation. Those who are currently in the 8th Grade Confirmation class and scheduled to be confirmed are:



Kamryn Albrecht
22022 277th Ave
LeClaire, IA 52753

Adalyn Appleby
2848 274th St
DeWitt, IA 52742

Hannah Grantz
3053 245th St
DeWitt, IA 52742

Lilyan Gruntorad
2404 267th Ave
DeWitt, IA 52742

Benson Hill
2645 242nd St
DeWitt, IA 52742

Emma Pillers
1729 Mackin Dr
DeWitt, IA 52742

Caitlin Proctor
2667 300th Ave
DeWitt, IA 52742

Remi Ruggeberg
2358 20th St
Grand Mound, IA 52751

Lauren Walker
2106 Scenic Ridge
DeWitt, IA 52742



We can't believe how fast this year has gone! This month we are looking forward to learning about rainbows, bugs, birds, and flowers. We will continue our units on letters and numbers. Towards the end of the month, we will begin our ABC End of the Year countdown, where we will celebrate each letter with their own day with an activity or dress up day.

Grace Lutheran Preschool

Enrollment forms are available on the Preschool page of the website (www.gracedewitt.org). Enrollment forms and registration fee (3's only) may be dropped off at the church office or mailed to PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.

2021-2022 Class Schedule and Fees

3s : M & W 8:00 — 10:30 \$110/mo 6 of 8
~~T & TH 8:00 — 10:30 \$110/mo FULL~~

- \$35 registration fee due at time of enrollment.
- 3s Classes will begin after Labor Day.
- Children must be 3 on or before Sept. 15, 2021.

4s: AM 8:00—11:00 (limited to 8 students)
PM 12:00—3:00 (limited to 16)

- Must be 4 on or before September 15, 2021 to qualify for free preschool.
- 5-year-old tuition is \$175/month and a \$35 registration fee.

For more information, please contact the preschool office at 659-9193 (8:00-3:00 p.m. M-F) or email preschool@gracedewitt.org.

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LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – April 2021

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

For Where Your
TREASURE
is
THERE YOUR
HEART
will be also

Happy Birthday





1 st	Jordan Larison Vaughn Vopatek	12 th	David Pillers	26 th	Diane Boussetot
2 nd	Jordy Daniels Patrick Soesby	13 th	Ken Hartmann Cindy Burke		Mark Peters Ben Schutterle
3 rd	Michael Anderson	14 th	Ronald Ketelsen June Petersen	27 th	Fred Smith Nicole Rickertsen
4 th	Gina Griep		Preston Hoffmann	28 th	Amirya Barys Denise Smith
5 th	Steven McWilliams Gavin Walker Meghan Henningsen	15 th	Barbara Mork Brandon Paasch		Donald Havener Skyler Paarmann
6 th	Denise Wagner-Mommsen Jaiden Seifert	16 th	Adam Anderson Angie Herington Yana Sperry	29 th	Jeremy Hythecker Sydney Small Scott Meggers
7 th	Adalyn Appleby Derek McVey Joshua Olson Susan Stevens Nathan Billany	17 th	Alan Rugeberg Christian Foote Dayton Kiggins	30 th	Barb Rands JoAnn Jeffery
8 th	Taylor Griem Caitlyn Downing Brittany Paasch	18 th	Todd Brommelkamp Abigail Swanson		
9 th	Devin Wagner	20 th	Chris Foote Chloe Engelkes		
10 th	Quinn Leathers Britta Adams John Hythecker Susan Sanger Nancy Schunter	21 st	Amanda Kirby Tadd Stevens Sadi Fahrenkrug		
11 th	Kelly Azinger Jason Spain Lucille Schroeder Brandon Anderson	22 nd	Andrew Matzen		
		23 rd	Hedda Kiggins		
		24 th	James Rathmann Donna Steward Hudson Meyers		
		25 th	Jeremy Goddard Brittney Hughes Hannah Sunday		

CELEBRATING AN
Anniversary 

2 nd	Jon & Barb Billhorn	17 th	Chris & Kelly Lawrence
4 th	Paul & Sandi Kirby Fredrick & Jennifer Thiede	20 th	David & Barbara Wold
7 th	Lauren & Jeanne Hansen	25 th	Jim & Susan Williams
9 th	Clint & Katie Albrecht	27 th	Larry & Barbara Mork
12 th	Jered & Laurie Birt	28 th	Alan & Monica Rugeberg



APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28  PALM SUNDAY PALM SUNDAY 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship	29 Church Office Closed 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	30	31 7:00 PM Glory Bound Choir	1  MAUNDY THURSDAY 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship	2  GOOD FRIDAY 8:00 AM Trustees Board Meeting 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship	3 9:00 AM LWML Zone Spring Rally
4  EASTER SUNDAY "Mites" Sunday EASTER 7:00 AM Easter Worship w/Communion 9:00 AM Easter Worship w/Communion 11:00 AM Easter Worship w/Communion	5 Church Office Closed 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	6	7 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Senior High Bible Study	8 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 6:15 PM Glory Bound Choir	9	10 9:00 AM LWML Zone Spring Rally
11 Preschool Fundraiser - Order Your Hurts Donuts TODAY 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship	12 7:00 PM Voter's Meeting	13 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop Meeting	14 7:00 AM Finance Board Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Senior High Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 6:15 PM Glory Bound Choir	16	17
18 Hall Rental Preschool Fundraiser - Order Your Hurts Donuts TODAY 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 2:30 PM Girl Scout Troop Meeting	19 7:00 PM Youth Board Meeting	20 6:30 PM Camp Board Meeting	21 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Senior High Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	22 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 6:15 PM Glory Bound Choir	23	24
25 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Confirmation Sunday-Worship with Comm	26 6:30 PM Board of Christian Education	27 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop Meeting	28 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Senior High Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	29 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 6:15 PM Glory Bound Choir	30	1