



# Grace Newsletter

APRIL 2023

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace!

I think a lot about what life will look like for my kids. Who will they be? Where will they end up? What careers will they choose? These are a vast array of questions that float through my thoughts at night, as they sleep softly by my side. But I also wonder will they keep following Jesus? Too many nights are restless, tossing, and worrying. I wish I could focus on the sounds that break the silence. The grinding teeth....deep sighs.....talking in their dreams....the need for one more hug.

But I cant shake the question, will they still follow Jesus? Jesus tells us in John 14, "if you love me, keep my commandments...if you love me, keep my words." Those words echo loudly. Almost like a shot in the heart. But Jesus is speaking directly to my worry. Who will my kids be when they grow up? The answer is I don't know. It feel like some weeks all we do is buy bananas and oranges only to be told, "dad I don't like them anymore." Or "dad, I think I have eaten too many bananas so I'm going to take a break from them." The kids, their interests are ever changing. Somedays I feel like I'm just getting swept up in their likes only for it to change the next day.

Still, Jesus is speaking to my worry. He is speaking to my restless and sleepless nights. "if you love me, keep my commandments....if you love me, keep my words." Those words don't sound comforting. They sound more daunting than anything. But they are comforting.

When I was in Phoenix, I picked up the book Joining Jesus as a Family. As I thumbed through the pages, these thoughts caught my eye. Greg Finke, who is the author, suggests that if we model following Jesus at home, our kids will be more likely to follow Jesus. I saw those words on the page, and instantly I thought that was the greatest thing ever said. But then I chewed on it and chewed on it and chewed on it. At the same time, I kept reading. Greg kept suggesting that what we do at home, disciples our children.

His suggestions were, are we really showing our children Jesus? Are we showing them what forgiveness of sins looks like? Or are we holding on to their sins? Are showing them what mercy and grace look like? Are we showing them who Jesus is. Are we showing all of those in our lives who Jesus is, by living out his words and his commands. Or are we showing them the opposite, that our commitment to Jesus is just lip service. Not something that is meant to take seriously.

These last few weeks, it has been something that been aching on my heart as I strive to teach and to show my family who Jesus is. While I will still have restless nights wondering who will they be or where they might go. I can find comfort in knowing that I am showing them Jesus, and the impact that he has done for them.

In the service of Jesus

Pastor Eric Obermann

**SERVING THIS MONTH:**

**The Elders:** Sunday's 8:00 AM Alan Rukkeberg  
10:30 AM Scott Havener  
Wednesday 7:00 PM Scott Steffens  
Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Alan Rukkeberg  
Good Friday 7:00 PM Clint Albrecht

**The Organist:** Diana Baetke

**The Acolytes**

**April 2, 2023**

8:00 AM Kyle Pillers  
10:30 AM Kypstin Barys

**April 6, 2023**

7:00 PM Jaelyn Sinclair

**April 7, 2023**

7:00 PM Ella Sunday

**April 9, 2023**

8:00 AM Addison Tucker & Gavin Walker  
10:00 AM Emeri Ralston & Katie Grantz

**April 16, 2023**

8:00 AM Trevor McMahon  
10:30 AM Amelia Rickertsen

**April 23, 2023**

8:00 AM Klaire Gruntorad  
10:30 AM Porter Vopatek

**April 30, 2023**

8:00 AM Silas DeHaven  
10:30 AM Dylan Dies

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

**The 2023 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, with 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:**

- May 7th & 14th
- June 4th & 18th
- July 2nd, 23rd, & 30th
- August 6th & 13th
- September 17th & 24th
- October 1st, 8th, & 22nd
- November 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th
- December 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st

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 \$19.20 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 23rd. Payment may be dropped off or mailed to the church office at PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.



Grace Lutheran  
**April Voter's Meeting**  
Monday, April 17th @ 7:00 pm

We will be discussing a communication system which would allow members to receive a phone call, texts or emails regarding events, worship services, and cancellations.

We are in the planning stages of Wednesday service at the Welton Chapel at Camp for the Summer.



**Office Will Be Closed**  
Monday, April 10th &  
Friday, April 28th

**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 newsletter. If you are receiving a high school, college, or post-graduate degree, give us a call at 659-9153, before April 15th. We would also like a picture of all graduates to place on the bulletin board in the foyer.

# Palm Sunday

**April 2nd**  
**8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**  
Procession of the Palms

Sunday School Children will Sing with  
Glory Bound Choir at the  
10:30 am Service

## **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

The annual Pancake Breakfast will be on Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Serving is from 8:30 am – 10:00 am. Please join us for a delicious meal and a chance to fellowship with the other members here at Grace. Proceeds from the breakfast will be used for future Youth Ministry events.



## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

**Maundy Thursday**  
**April 6th**  
**7:00 p.m.** Worship/Communion

**Good Friday**  
**Harvest of Sorrows Cantata**  
**April 7th**  
**7:00 p.m.** Worship

**Easter Sunday Worship**  
**April 9th**  
**8:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion  
**10:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**Reminder—There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study on Easter Sunday, April 9th.**



Faye Grace Jans, daughter of Dylan & Shannon Jans, was baptized don March 5, 2023. Her baptismal sponsors are Mollie Hammer and Mike Jans.

Zachary Richard Yutesler, son of Joel & Michelle, was baptized on March 18, 2023. His baptismal sponsors are Jamie Bowman, Lee Rogis, and Loren Hamer.

## Easter Egg Hunt

**April 8th — 11:00 a.m.**  
**@ Grace Camp**  
(2675 242nd St, DeWitt, IA)

Event will be held rain, shine or snow. Bring your own basket.

**Have Fun!!!**

Sponsored by:  
Thrivent Financial & Grace Lutheran  
Camp

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

## **HARVEST OF SORROWS**

A Good Friday Tenebrae Cantata  
Performed by the Cantata Chorale

Friday, April 7, 2023  
7:00 pm at Grace  
**(ONE PERFORMANCE)**

The tear-washed road to the cross is a necessary journey for all seekers of grace. Come and mourn awhile and reflect on the cost of redemption. Come and walk the winding road to Calvary. Kneel at the cross and nurture your heart with the Savior's grace. See the fruits of mercy and love draped in the arms of a rugged cross.



Come and listen....





Spring is here! We are excited to learn about the rain, bugs, rainbows, flowers, and birds. Toward the end of the month, we will begin our ABC countdown.

The 3s continue to work on their numbers. During this Easter Season "Jesus Time" will focus on Holy Week stories and activities.



April also bring with it our Hurts Donut Fundraiser. We will have a table out during services on April 9th and 16th for you to place an order.

**EXPANSION UPDATE**

The drainage issue has been addressed. The flooring has been ordered for the new preschool room, we hope to get that installed toward the end of April or May. Once that is done we will work on getting the cabinets and counter tops installed.

**Grace Lutheran Preschool**

**2023-2024 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 (2 spots) \$150 monthly  
T&TH 8:15 - 10:45 (7 spots) \$110 monthly  
Please note that all 3s must be potty trained.

The registration form for the 3s can be found on the Preschool page of the church website ([www.gracedewitt.org](http://www.gracedewitt.org)). The 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 available** on the Central DeWitt Community School District Website. Registration for 4s must be done from the district website.

If you have any questions regarding our Preschool Program, please contact the Preschool Director, Ms. Christine, at 563-659-

**Grace Board of Ed. invites you to a  
SOUP SOCIAL  
& GAME NIGHT!**

**Sunday April 2nd  
5-7pm  
Grace Hall  
ALL are welcome!**



**Bring a crockpot of your favorite soup/chili to share!**

**Lemonade & Water Provided.**

**Bring a favorite game to play!**



**Special Gifts Given Include:**

- In loving memory of Lawrence McCormick \$20 was given to Grace Preschool.
- In loving memory of Alan Stampe \$20 was given to Grace Preschool.
- In loving memory of David Grantz \$20 was given to Grace Preschool.

**Referral Center Donations**

We continue our monthly collection for the Referral Center as the need is great. With it being winter they are getting short on kid's cereal, hamburger helper, tuna helper, chicken helper, canned chicken, canned tuna, boxed potatoes, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, jelly, condiments, sugar, flour, and spaghettiOs type canned goods.





PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

# Someone to Walk With

WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER, DARCY PAAPE

We all want someone to walk with through the highs and lows, an authentic friend who will help us stay anchored to things that matter. A woman who will support, love and encourage us, as we do the same for her. That mentoring starts today. With you.

**FRIDAY APRIL 14TH 6PM-10PM**  
**SATURDAY APRIL 15TH 8AM-4PM**  
**GRACE CAMP**  
**ANDREW RETREAT CENTER**

2675 242nd St. DeWitt, IA

**\$15**  
(includes meals & materials)



### FRIDAY NIGHT

Join us for a pasta dinner, devotional and a movie. Overnight stay is optional. Plenty of bunks available. Bring your pillow & blanket. Shower facilities on sight.

### SATURDAY

Enjoy breakfast with us at 8am, followed by our Main Event, "Someone to Walk With" Speaker-Darcy Paape. Lunch: Soup, Salad & Desserts. Feel free to dress comfortably.

*We hope you can join us! All women are welcome!*

RSVP by April 1st: Via email to [kgood@gracedewitt.org](mailto:kgood@gracedewitt.org)  
or by calling 563-659-9153

Questions? Please text or call Rachael 563-593-2393

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST SET-UP

Attention all Jr. & Sr. High Youth and their families. Set-up for the annual Pancake Breakfast will be Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> @ 10:00 am. Please be here that morning to help with set-up and decorating. Please bring your donation item with you at that time.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT

Our next Youth Night will be held of April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm at the G\*Y\*M Building at Grace Camp. Invite a friend and join us for a fun time.

Moms of ALL ages are invited to

## Coffee & Connections

**Friday, April 28th**  
**8am—10:30 am** (Drop in for a few or stay and chat all morning!)

**In Grace Hall**

Have a little one?  
Feel free to bring them along.

**Lets take some time to connect.**



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

# MEN'S BBQ



## JOIN US!

Food, Fellowship & Fun!  
Saturday May 6th 5:00pm - ?  
Grace Lutheran Camp  
ALL men are invited.

Sign up by texting Mike Vopatek at 563-249-2276

*More details to follow!*



There has been a wide variety of activities held at Grace Camp and/or sponsored by Grace Camp over the years. Let's reminisce and see how many you can remember!!

Remember the Swiss Steak Suppers held at Grace Camp? The Polka Band? The Pastor's Band? How about the Ladies' Day Retreat with a variety of salads and a yearly speaker? Oh, and bus trips to the Old Creamery Theater in Amana with supper at one of the restaurants afterward. That was a nice fall treat!! Remember Sundaes after Services during the summer?

Day Camps began in 1997. 'Day Camp' meant individuals coming to the camp and then going home the same day. Each camp would have a bible study or devotion time. Campers would be fed both physically and spiritually!

Some of the day camps over the years: Fishing Day (which has been held every year), If you give.... (a mouse a cookie), Hello Summer, Hunger Games Training, My Secret Identity, Duct Tape Design, Clowning-A-Round, Woodworking, Let's go to the Fair, Putnam Museum/IMAX, Merry LEON Day (June 25 – think Noel), Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Survivor: Grace Camp, Pioneer Days, Maquoketa Caves Trip, Red/White & Blue Craft camp, Christmas in July, Sewing and Baking Camp, Music Day Camp, Sports Day camp, Niabi Zoo, Rock Creek, Rocket Day..... How many did you attend as a 'camper'? How many did you help with? The list of day camps for 2023 is available. Look to see which camps your kids can attend and which camps you would be able to help at!!

Pancake Breakfasts have been held for many years - once a month in June, July, and August. This year the dates are June 18, July 16, and August 20<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to mark your calendars!! ALSO...on those Sundays we will have guest pastors!

#### **Special Guest Pastors**

June - Rev. Dr. Jason Soenksen  
July - Rev. Mark Schwalenberg  
August - Rev. TW Vanderbilt



#### **SUMMER 2023 DAY CAMPS**

The Day Camps for Summer 2021 will include the following:

- June 6<sup>th</sup> Fishing Camp [1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grades]
- June 8<sup>th</sup> Survival Camp [4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grades]
- June 13<sup>th</sup> Cooking Camp [1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades] 8:00 am – 11:00 am
- June 13<sup>th</sup> Cooking Camp [1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades] 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
- June 15<sup>th</sup> Cooking Camp [4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grades]
- June 20<sup>th</sup> Arts & Crafts Camp [1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades]
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> Little Kids Camp [4 & 5 year olds]

Registration opens on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm .

**Please check the bulletin board in the atrium to see which camps we need help at.**

# Council & Board Reports

## **Finance Board**

Referring to the printed financial report, Mike noted that the February income was \$27,900 and expenses came to \$26,100. They are currently looking into allowing members an opportunity to make their contributions online through PayPal.

## **Preschool Board**

The yearly radon test for the Preschool room came back good.

The Board spent time reviewing the direction of the 3s program and how it fits into the mission of the church and preschool. We will be discussing this more at our April meeting along with possibly rewriting the Preschools Mission statement.

The board reviewed and approved new job descriptions for the 2023-24 School Year.

## **Board of Christian Education**

Rachael pointed out that a new "Coffee & Connections for Moms" is being planned for Friday, March 31st. She also noted that in addition to Pastor Eric, Michelle Diercks had attended the Church Worker's Conference in Phoenix. The theme of the conference was "Best Practices."

## **Board of Youth**

Laura commented that the lasagna meal went well and they had received compliments on the meal and the servers. Their next activities will include serving a Lenten meal and the Palm Sunday breakfast. The Senior High Youth Group will be taking part in an Urban Plunge Servant Event in Omaha in July. An informational meeting will be held on March 19th.

## **Board of Trustees**

Wayne commented they had met, worked on the organ, hung an AED and a picture donated by the family of Evelyn Steward in addition to working on the Sunday School wing water mitigation project. All the heating fixtures had been removed and they will soon be replacing them.

The trustees will look into the cause of the water heater issue in the kitchen.

## **Board of Elders**

Scott commented they are lining up elders for the Easter week services. Easter Sunday services will be held at 8 and 10. Eleven o'clock services will not be held on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. The elders will serve the March 15<sup>th</sup> Lenten meal.

## **Board of Outreach**

Formerly known as discipleship committee. Although Traci was absent, she provided the Council with a written report. In support of having greeters for the worship services, it was decided to have a sign-up sheet posted allowing members an opportunity to volunteer to serve as greeters.

## **Camp Board**

Craig reported the LP problem has been resolved. River Valley is now able to monitor the propane levels remotely and will deliver refills without being notified. He mentioned that the old outdoor chapel is completely gone thanks to Jesse Spain. Jason Hill is looking into providing wifi service to the retreat centers. The cost would be approximately \$400.

He also commented that 275 new Christmas trees will be planted. They are now ready to purchase benches for the outdoor chapel. An individual or family can purchase a quarter bench, half bench, or full bench. Names will not be attached to the benches.

## **Council Business**

Outdoor lighting – Dave Schneider will be ready to install the outdoor perimeter lighting. Alliant will take care of moving the light from the front of the church to the back. The work order has been approved. The light out front of the church by the sign will remain in place. The church will add an additional light in the alley.

Security Cameras will be ordered soon.

Sunday School Wing Drainage is being worked on. While the plumber was taking out the old registers it was noted that they were rusted and in bad shape. It was recommended that all registers that were removed would be replaced the cost would be \$1400. A motion was made to accept the bid and replace the registers.

There was discussion on how to provide Wednesday services at the Welton Chapel during the Summer months. Diana is unable to play the organ so they will look into finding a piano player.

The council will bring to the congregation a recommendation to purchase a new communication system. This system will allow members of the congregation to receive information regarding events, worship services, and cancellations through a phone call, text, or email.



## **Lutheran Services in Iowa Article** **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**

At LSI, we work tirelessly to provide crisis childcare, in-home visits and parenting classes to families across Iowa through our Early Childhood Services. In these services, we provide Iowa parents the support they need to provide a healthy, stable home for their children.

Through our Family Centered Services, we help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable. We also provide therapy services to adults, children and families to help build healthier, more secure homes.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

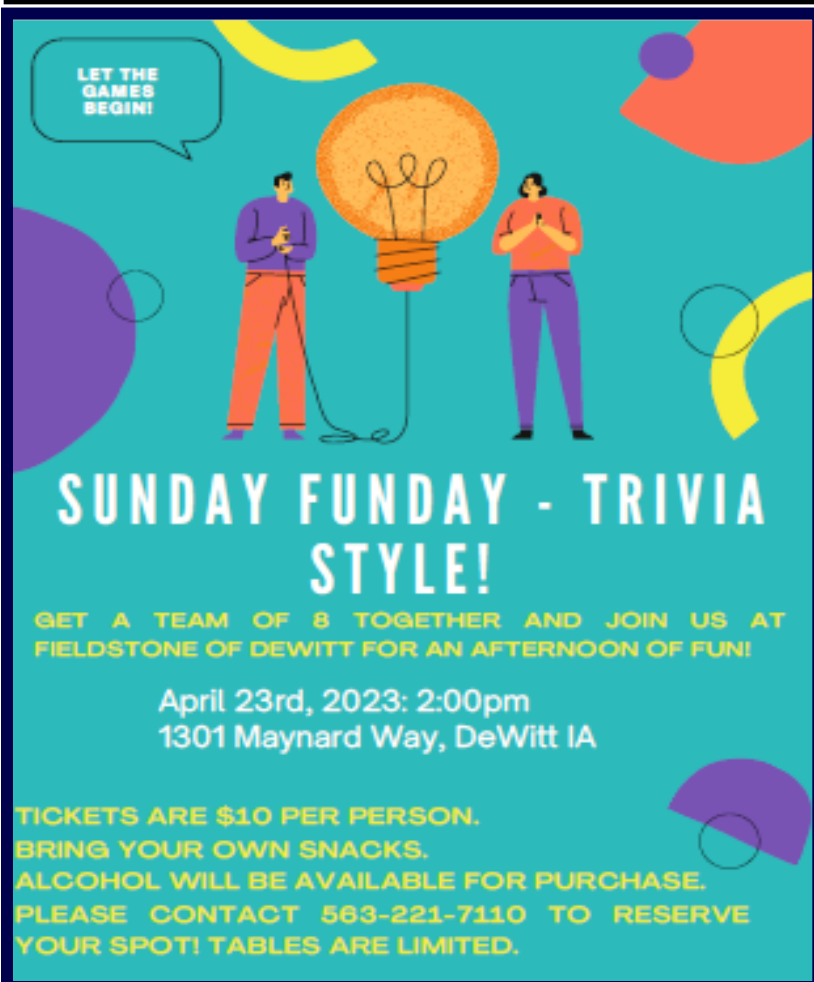
### **Thanks to the support from faith-based organizations across Iowa...**

...a young mom now has the education and resources she needs to create a better life for her and her family,

...a person with a disability learned to be a little more independent,

...a former refugee found a new home in Iowa and has found new ways to successfully support their family.

All of these successes are possible with the support we receive from congregations and people like **you!** LSI is proud to provide these essential services to people all across Iowa.



LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

# SUNDAY FUNDAY - TRIVIA STYLE!

GET A TEAM OF 8 TOGETHER AND JOIN US AT FIELDSTONE OF DEWITT FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN!

April 23rd, 2023: 2:00pm  
1301 Maynard Way, DeWitt IA

TICKETS ARE \$10 PER PERSON.  
BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS.  
ALCOHOL WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.  
PLEASE CONTACT 563-221-7110 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT! TABLES ARE LIMITED.

**Coffee for Caregivers** - Conversation Support Education is the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at DeWitt United Methodist Church (222 12th Street, DeWitt). Come share, learn and support one another. Please contact Milestones Area Agency, Karen Coats with any questions at 563-484-3109.



Walk for Life will be held on Saturday, April 29th. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m. with the walk starting at 9:00 a.m. Plan to meet at The Pregnancy Center, 240 N. Bluff Blvd in Clinton. Copies of the sponsor/pledge card can be found on the Community Information Board located by the front doors. Please call 563-242-6628 with any questions.

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 refurbish for others who may not be able to afford glasses. (Please, re-member they can not accept glass cases.)



# IOWA DISTRICT EAST LLL CONVENTION

## Gifted FOR More



GUEST SPEAKER  
**Jeff Craig-Meyer**  
LHM Senior VP, Chief Strategy Officer

### SATURDAY April 29, 2023

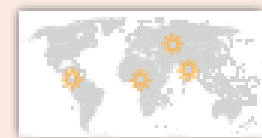
**Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca**  
3271 Sandy Beach Road NE  
Solon, IA 52333

- 9:00 a.m. : Doors Open
- 10:00 a.m. : Convention Begins
- 4:00 p.m. : Convention concludes

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE



Gifted  
for More



Ministry Update on  
LHM's International  
Internship Program



Martha Hartwig,  
Iowa District East  
LWML President

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FEE: \$15.00 per person  
by April 22  
(\$18.00 at the door)

MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO: Dick Hoelz  
3519 Heatheridge Dr. NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

CONTACT INFORMATION: Allen Schmid, IDE LLL District President • 563-249-3039 • allenschmid@hotmail.com  
Dick Hoelz, IDE LLL Treasurer • 319-363-1214 • rahoelz@imonmail.com

### REGISTRATION FORM 2023 IOWA DISTRICT EAST LLL CONVENTION

Registration deadline April 22  
Make check payable to IDE LLL

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$15 each Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



Grace Ev. Lutheran Church  
**2023 Vacation Bible School**

**June 25<sup>th</sup>—June 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:45 pm to 8:15 pm**

**Children 3yrs—5th Grade**  
(Child must be potty trained.)

Families are invited to attend a light meal  
served from 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

**Registration will open in Mid-April.**



**Volunteers Needed**

Please, look at the bulletin board in the foyer to see the ways you can volunteer. Contact Mark Sperry with any questions.

**Grace Ev. Lutheran Church**  
 415 10th Street  
 P.O. Box 156  
 DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

PH: 563-659-9153  
 Fax: 563-659-9154

WEB: [www.gracedewitt.org](http://www.gracedewitt.org)

EMAIL:  
[kgood@gracedewitt.org](mailto:kgood@gracedewitt.org)

**Pastor Eric Obermann**  
 563-321-0032  
[pastoreric@gracedewitt.org](mailto:pastoreric@gracedewitt.org)

**Mark Sperry, DCE**  
 563-321-0674  
[mosperry@gracedewitt.org](mailto:mosperry@gracedewitt.org)

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

**Kerry Good**  
[kgood@gracedewitt.org](mailto:kgood@gracedewitt.org)

**Church Office Hours**  
 M-Th - 8am to 3 pm  
 F - 8am to Noon  
Closed the 4th Friday.

**Grace Lutheran Preschool**  
 P.O. Box 156  
 DeWitt, IA 52742  
 PH: 563-659-9193

**Preschool Teacher/Director**  
**Christine Greve**  
[preschool@gracedewitt.org](mailto:preschool@gracedewitt.org)

**Grace Lutheran Camp**  
 2675 242nd Street  
 P.O. Box 156  
 DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

**Camp Reservations**  
[camprentals@gracedewitt.org](mailto:camprentals@gracedewitt.org)  
 319-230-7718

# Happy Birthday

- |                  |                       |                  |                   |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Vaughn Vopatek        | 20 <sup>th</sup> | Chloe Engelkes    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Patrick Soesby        | 24 <sup>th</sup> | Hudson Meyers     |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Steven McWilliams     |                  | Donna Steward     |
|                  | Gavin Walker          | 25 <sup>th</sup> | Jeremy Goddard    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Denise Wagner-Mommsen |                  | Brittney Hughes   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Adalyn Appleby        |                  | Hannah Sunday     |
|                  | Susan Stevens         | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Diane Boussetot   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Brittany Paasch       |                  | Mark Peters       |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Devin Wagner          | 27 <sup>th</sup> | Fred Smith        |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Jason Spain           |                  | Nicole Rickertsen |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | David Pillers         |                  | Carissa Spain     |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | Ken Hartmann          | 28 <sup>th</sup> | Amirya Barys      |
|                  | Cindy Burke           |                  | Denise Smith      |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Barbara Mork          |                  | Donald Havener    |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Yana Sperry           | 29 <sup>th</sup> | Sydney Small      |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Alan Ruggeberg        | 30 <sup>th</sup> | Barb Rands        |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Abigail Swanson       |                  |                   |

## CELEBRATING AN Anniversary

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

**Are you looking for cards? A supply of Graduation and Easter cards have arrived.**

Please take a moment to see the wide assortment of cards and napkins we have available or purchase in the foyer.



Prayer is a powerful thing. Grace Lutheran

Church has a "Prayer Chain", a group of people who agree to pray for loved ones during troubled times. If you would like to be added to the group, please email [kgood@gracedewitt.org](mailto:kgood@gracedewitt.org) or speak with Pastor. Prayer requests are sent out via email. Once you receive a request we ask you to add them to your daily prayers. If you have any questions on this, please speak with Pastor.

**Greeters are needed** on Sunday mornings to extend a warm welcome to our members and visitors. If you would like to assist with this there is a sign up sheet located on the Welcome Center. Greeters are asked to be here twenty minutes prior to the start of service.



## The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

### A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.



The members of St. John Lutheran Church Mary Martha Society cordially invite you to attend the Clinton Zone Lutheran Women's Missionary League Spring Rally on Saturday, April 15, 2023. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m, with coffee, juice, and rolls. The meeting begins at 9:00 a.m.

The Bible Study will be led by Pastor Daniel Pool. The opening and losing devotions will be led by Pastor Eric Obermann.

In-Gathering will be items for The Pregnancy Center in Clinton. A wish list of items is located on the bulletin board in the foyer.

# April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:00am Fellowship Sunday 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Confirmation Sunday 3:00pm CLUB345 6:00pm Middle School Youth Night	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Board of Christian Education	<b>28</b> 6:30pm Preschool - Spring Program	<b>29</b> 11:00am Lenten Worship 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Meal - Finance/Trustees - Walking Tacos 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship 7:45pm Cantata Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study	<b>31</b> 8:00am Coffee & Connections	<b>1</b> 10:00am Pancake Breakfast Set-Up
<b>2</b> "Mites" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 8:30am Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 5:00pm Soup Social & Game Night	<b>3</b> 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Board of Discipleship 6:30pm Elders Meeting	<b>4</b> 6:00pm Preschool Board Meeting	<b>5</b> 9:00am Sewing Ladies 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Glory Bound Choir 7:45pm Cantata Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship 7:45pm Cantata Rehearsal	<b>7</b> No Preschool 8:00am Trustees Board Meeting 7:00pm Good Friday - "Harvest of Sorrows" Cantata 7:45pm Glory Bound Choir	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Traditional Worship	<b>10</b> Office Closed 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting	<b>11</b> 7:00am Finance Board Meeting	<b>12</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	<b>13</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline
<b>16</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion	<b>17</b> 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Voter's Meeting	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting	<b>19</b> 9:00am Sewing Ladies 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	<b>20</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study	<b>21</b> Preschool Yoga Friday	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:00am Fellowship Sunday 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Traditional Worship 2:00pm CLUB345 6:00pm Middle School Youth Night	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Board of Christian Education	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	<b>27</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study	<b>28</b> Office Closed 8:00am Coffee & Connections	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion	<b>1</b> 6:00pm Board of Discipleship 6:30pm Elders Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00am Sewing Ladies 7:00pm Worship	<b>4</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 7:00pm Women of Grace Bible Study	<b>5</b> 8:00am Trustees Board Meeting	<b>6</b> 5:00pm Men of Grace Event