



Grace Newsletter

DECEMBER 2021

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church

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

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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 Redeemed and Love Saints of Grace!

A blessed Advent season to you! A blessed season to you and your family as you prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth!

To be honest: I don't remember any of the other Christmas articles that I have written over the last few years. So, if it seems like I have already written about this topic, I apologize.

This past month it seemed like Emily and I did a little more traveling on the weekends than we have in the last couple of months. For whatever reason, November just seemed to be the month where we had a few spare moments to see family. We spent three days in Missouri and three days in Minnesota. Both trips had one thing in common, the return of Christmas music! After driving to Texas this past summer with not ever finding a suitable radio station that would last more than a few minutes. We decided to get an XM radio for the van.

Over the next few weeks, whether driving in the car or listening on our google speaker, Christmas music has been playing in the house. It made me start to think, what makes a good Christmas song?

Do you have your favorites? Maybe such titles as "Jingle Bells" or "White Christmas" or "Silver Bells?" Timeless classics! Ok, so this may be a little shocking, I don't like those songs. Ok, maybe a little, but overall, what songs about Christmas should be? Not so much. Then what should a Christmas song be about?

I am glad you asked. How about one that tells us the story of why God sent His Son to burst into his creation? Or how about one that tells us what the Son of God was sent to do? One of my favorite Christmas songs is "Celebrate the Day" by Reliant K. A song that constantly strikes me with the subtle ending phrase, "Celebrate the day, that you were born to die." I don't know if the authors of this song are familiar with the scriptures. But that one lyric draws me straight to Ephesians 1 when we hear St. Paul talk about from the beginning of the world God designed a plan to rescue us from sin and death.

Other Christmas songs do this as well. Whether it be the songs that take you to Matthew 11, when Jesus tells the disciples of John to see what He has already accomplished by bringing in His Father's reign into creation. Or whether it is the songs that take you to Luke 2 as the angels tell us about the peace that is coming. The peace that Jesus has given to you when He went to the cross to make things right between God and us. Thus giving us peace. Knowing that we stand in a right relationship with God, no longer in a relationship that is stained by sin, but one that is covered by the blood of a baby who was born in Bethlehem, whose name is Jesus, our precious savior.

I pray that you have a blessed season of preparing for our Savior's, Jesus', return!

In the service of Jesus, Pastor Eric

SERVING THIS MONTH:

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

The Organist: Diana Baetke

The Acolytes

December 1st
7:00 PM Hatti Rickertsen

December 5th
8:00 AM Luke Hill
10:30 AM Kolton Goddard

December 8th
7:00 PM Mason Lawrence

December 12th
8:00 AM Easton Meyer
10:30 AM Briah Reuss & Emeri Ralston

December 15th
7:00 PM Carson Tobey

December 19th
8:00 AM Ashlyn Appleby
10:30 AM Kyptin Barys

December 24th
6:00 PM Keaton Birt
10:00 PM Grace Burzlaff

December 25th
9:00 AM Ashdon Converse

December 26th
9:00 AM Brayden Lawrence

The 2022 Altar Flower calendars are 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.

Special Gifts Given Include:

In loving memory of Lynn Soenksen \$55 was given to Grace Lutheran Preschool.
In loving memory of Rollie Niemann \$50 was given to Grace church.

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

During October we collected donations, through the "Little White Church" for "Operation Christmas Child." Through your generosity we collected \$192. The Sunday School Children and Staff would like to thank everyone who contributed to this mission project.

Through the month of December, we will continue to collect donations for the new Outdoor Worship area at Grace Camp. You may leave your donations in the "Little White Church" located in the Narthex.



The Christmas Chorale, including members of Grace and Immanuel Lutheran-Grand Mound proudly present, "**O Night Divine,**" which will be performed on Sunday, December 12th, at 8:00 a.m. at Grace: 10:00 a.m. at Immanuel-Grand Mound; and Wednesday, December 15th, at 6:00 pm at Grace. Come to the manger, bow down, and worship the King of Kings! Celebrate the joyful, glorious birth of our Lord and Savior!

REFERRAL CENTER DONATIONS

Grace Lutheran continues to collect items for the Referral Center. Please consider purchasing items to help stock the Referral Center's Pantry. Items needed include peanut butter, hamburger helper, cream soups, tomato soup, tuna, potatoes, pasta and sauce. You may place your donation near the display in the foyer.



WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
At Grace Church

Advent Worship

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 1st, 8th & 15th

Christmas Cantata

“O Night Divine”

December 12th

8:00 a.m. @ Grace Church

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

December 15th

6:00 p.m. @ Grace Church

Children’s Christmas Program

December 19th

3:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

6:00 p.m. Worship/Communion

December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

10:00 p.m. Worship/Communion

December 24th

Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

December 25th

Sunday Worship Service

December 26th

9:00 a.m.

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.



Grace Endowment Fund

With December 31, 2021, 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 your year-end contributions. Each year the requests that the Endowment Committee receives for funds far exceed 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.

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. 27th—Dec 19th

The Christmas Tree Farm will also be open
Friday, November 26th from 9 to 4:30pm.

In Memory of:

Dean Youngers, 56, of DeWitt, Iowa, passed away late Friday, November 12, 2021, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, following a brief battle with cancer.

Dean was born March 10, 1965, in Davenport, Iowa, to Larry and Connie (Klemme-Graham) Youngers. He was raised in rural Long Grove and graduated from North Scott High School in 1983. He joined the Army Reserves in 1986, later transferring to the Iowa National Guard, serving until 1994. Dean married Cathy Broadfoot on November 3, 1990, at Grace Lutheran Church in DeWitt. The couple resided in DeWitt. Dean worked for Bawden Printing in Eldridge, and John Deere Davenport Works.

Dean was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt. He served on the DeWitt Volunteer Fire Department for 10 years. Deano enjoyed spending time with his family, and was a favorite uncle to many, even though he teased them mercilessly and loved every minute of it. He had a laugh that was contagious and will be missed by all who knew him. Deano always knew when help was needed and was there to lend a hand before anyone had to ask. A heart of gold.

Those left to honor his memory include his wife, Cathy; mother, Connie of DeWitt; siblings Burt (Jan) Graham of Eldridge, Becky Graham of Davenport, Joani (Jed) Nagle of Long Grove, Jon (Darci) Graham of McCausland, and Mat (Tara) Youngers of Long Grove; in-laws, Dick and Lucille Broadfoot of DeWitt; brothers-in-law, Rick (Jeri) Broadfoot of Honolulu, Hawaii, David (Cathy) Broadfoot of LaQuinta, California, and Kevin (Amy) Broadfoot of Charlotte, Iowa; 23 nieces and nephews; 37 great-nieces and nephews; other extended relatives; and a fur-baby, Kasey.

He was preceded in death by his father, Larry, grandparents, and recently an uncle, Donnie Youngers, and other extended relatives

GRACE'S MISSION STATEMENT — To make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our church, communities and world.

Christmas Cards have arrived! There are a variety of Christmas, sympathy, thinking of you, get well, birthday cards and much more available for purchase upstairs in the foyer. Please take a moment to see the wide assortment of cards and napkins displayed.

Please join Thrivent Community—Mississippi Valley in the gathering of paper products to be included with the holiday food boxes to be distributed by the **DeWitt Referral Center** in December. **Items being collected: toilet paper, facial tissue, and paper towels. Bring donations to Thrivent, 908 6th Ave., DeWitt, M-F, 9-4 for safe, no-contact drop off NOW through Dec. 13th.** Call 563-659-2991 or email joanne.renfro@thrivent.com if you have questions. During the challenging days of 2021, the need to offer charitable support to struggling families is greater than ever and your generous donations are greatly appreciated.



Following the Worship Services on Sunday, December 5th, 12th, and the 19th the Elders will be collecting contributions for a Christmas Offering for Pastor Obermann and Mr. Mark Sperry/DCE as an expression of congregational gratitude for their dedicated service to the Lord and His church. The gifts will be presented to them during the 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service on December 24th. The Elders will have a collection box in the narthex during these services for everyone wishing to contribute. Proceeds will be equally shared by the Pastor and DCE, unless anyone wishes to designate specific amounts to each. If so, please place your gifts in separate envelopes marked for “Pastor Obermann” or “Mr. Sperry.”

**Merry
Christmas**

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article – December 2021

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1–6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, a craving that, when indulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease.

And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to His Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it's a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, "we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches ... the more eagerly he desires them" (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not be consumed by money. "No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We think, "If I just had this much, then I would be happy."

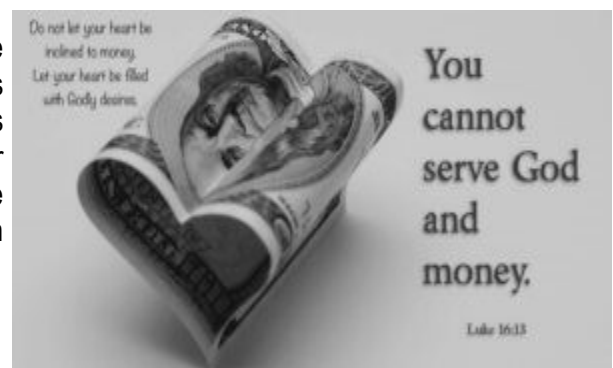
But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, happiness evades us. The desire for more is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician's diagnosis and a physician's remedy. And our Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as He did to the man healed of dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things.

In essence, He says, "Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!" And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? "By no means!" St. Paul says (Rom. 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God toward us. And God's great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us.

So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society and our church. For money is God's gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.



Youth Group Christmas Caroling & Pizza Party

Attention all 6th through 12th graders. Make plans now to join us **Sunday, December 12th at 4:00 pm** for our annual Caroling, Pizza Party & Gift Exchange. Please sign-up on the provided sheet outside Mr. Sperry's office by Sunday, December 6th, so we make sure to have enough food for everyone. Please bring a wrapped gift valued around **\$10** to participate in the exchange. Feel free to contact Mr. Sperry if you have any questions.

WINTER CAMP

Attention all High School and college-aged students. Registration is underway. The dates for camp are December 29th – January 1st. Cost is \$40. This is for all students in 9th grade through college. Deadline to register is December 5th.

NYG22 BLURB

The registration packet has been sent off, now we wait confirmation that our group has been registered. We have 9 youth and 4 adults who are planning to travel to Houston, TX next Summer to partake in Bible study, Mass Events, Christian concerts, Servant events and much more. Please keep them and all who are on the gathering planning team in your prayers.



Sunday School Program Rehearsal

Saturday, December 18th - 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 19th - 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Children's Christmas Program

December 19th
3:00 p.m.

Please join us downstairs in Grace Hall after the program for a Cookie Reception.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be NO Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 26th or January 2nd. Regular classes will resume January 9th.

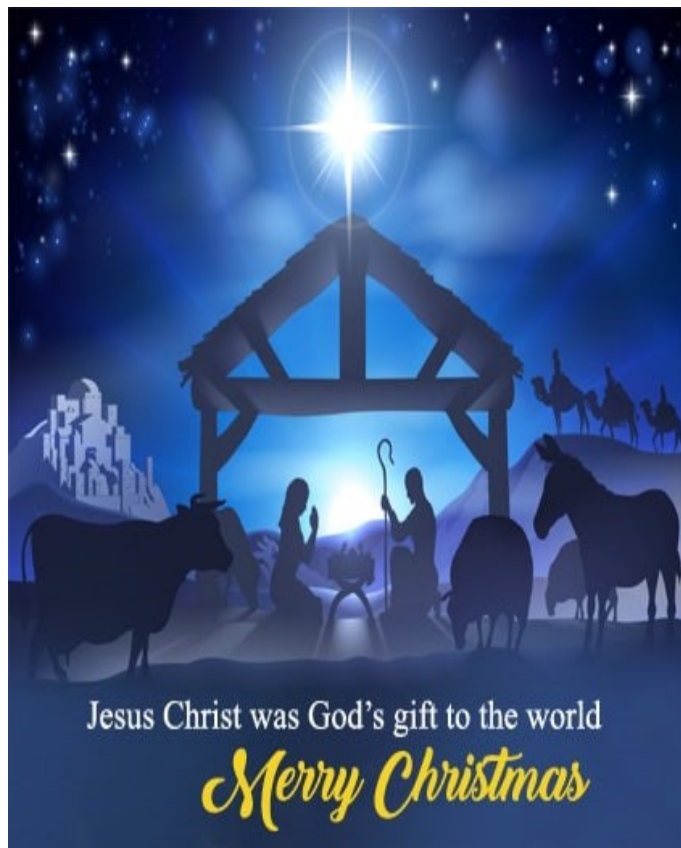
Offering Envelopes for 2022 will be available in the foyer after Thanksgiving. Please, take a minute following services to pick up your box. Remember, do not use these envelopes until January! (Your envelope numbers may change, so take note of your 2022 envelope number.)

If you do not have a box of envelopes, please contact the church office.



Grace Lutheran Preschool

We can't believe it's already December! This month we are looking forward to learning more letters and letter sounds, writing our names, and learning about Bears and Gingerbread. We are also wrapping up our unit on colors and can't wait to celebrate Christmas.





Happy Birthday


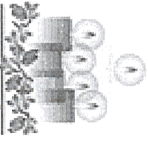

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|------------------|---|------------------|---|------------------|--|
| 2 nd | Dylan Spain Jay Dies Gary Paarmann Faith Ketelsen Grace Ketelsen Hollie Appleby Tessa Stevens Kourtney Postell | 17 th | Judy Hartmann Shelby Schroeder Tyler Erps | 29 th | Kimberly Burzlaff Kolton Goddard |
| 3 rd | Cathy Youngers | 18 th | Nathan Keeney Matthew Scott Matthew Diercks Miranda Franklin | 30 th | Travis Ketelsen Madelyn Johnson Chad Tobey |
| 5 th | Dick Broadfoot | 19 th | Alyvia Stevens Luke Hill Jill Johnson | | |
| 6 th | Stephanie Pillers | 20 th | John Gisel | | |
| 7 th | Brooke Paasch Trenton Weimerskirk | 21 st | Dick Kelly Verlene Reid Sara Suhr | | |
| 9 th | Jim Owen Laura DeLarm Chad Jeffery | 22 nd | Carol Anderson David J. Hansen Steve Butler | | |
| 10 th | Joel Kirby Katelyn Good | 24 th | Tammy Mickelson Robert Mundt Jason Mork | | |
| 11 th | Mary Jo Kelly | 25 th | Lauren Walker | | |
| 13 th | Leon Roseland Christina Hansen | 26 th | Sharri Block Jenny Marlowe | | |
| 15 th | Todd Hughes | 27 th | David L. Mangan Jennifer McCormick Lori Olson Melisa Knight | | |
| 16 th | Scott Jacobsen Kim Haring Carolyn Lane Carly Small Dylan Azinger Emilie Butler | 28 th | Gayle Fuller | | |




HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 rd | David & Stephanie Pillers | 9 th | Louis & Cathy Ingwersen Sr. |
| 5 th | Dave & Tracy Paarmann | | Donald & Connie Havener |
| 6 th | Allen & Brooke Barnes | 18 th | Jamie & Jennifer Griem |
| 8 th | Lucas & Nicole Rickertsen | 20 th | Daniel & Dona Bark |
| | | 22 nd | Kody & Shoni Hoffmann |

DECEMBER 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p>28 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Tree Farm Open 11:30 AM Decorate Church for Christmas</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>1 11:00 AM Advent Worship 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Glory Bound Choir 7:00 PM Advent Worship 7:45 PM Cantata Practice</p> | <p>2 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study</p> | <p>3 8:00 AM Trustees Board Meeting</p> | <p>4 9:00 AM Tree Farm Open</p> |
| <p>5 "Mites" Sunday DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR WINTER CAMP Hall Rental - Girl Scouts 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 11:00 AM Tree Farm Open 3:00 PM CLUB345 Event</p> | <p>6 1:00 PM 500 Card Club 6:30 PM Elders Meeting</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8 7:00 AM Finance Board Meeting 11:00 AM Advent Worship 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Glory Bound Choir 7:00 PM Advent Worship 8:00 PM Cantata Practice @ Immanuel</p> | <p>9 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11 9:00 AM Cantata Rehearsal 9:00 AM Tree Farm Open</p> |
| <p>12 8:00 AM Cantata - "O Night Divine" 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Cantata - "O Night Divine" @ Immanuel 10:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Tree Farm Open 4:00 PM Youth Caroling & Pizza Party</p> | <p>13 6:00 PM Council Meeting</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15 Newsletter Deadline 11:00 AM Advent Worship 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Cantata - "O Night Divine" 7:00 PM Advent Worship</p> | <p>16 9:00 AM Tops Meeting</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18 9:00 AM Christmas Program Practice 9:00 AM Tree Farm Open</p> |
| <p>19 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 11:00 AM Tree Farm Open 3:00 PM Sunday School Christmas Program</p> | <p>20 1:00 PM 500 Card Club</p> | <p>21 6:30 PM Camp Board Meeting</p> | <p>22 No Preschool 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Glory Bound Choir</p> | <p>23 No Preschool 9:00 AM Tops Meeting</p> | <p>24  No Preschool - Office Closed 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship</p> | <p>25  9:00 AM Christmas Day Worship</p> |
| <p>26 9:00 AM Traditional Worship</p> | <p>27 No Preschool - Office Closed 6:30 PM Board of Christian Education</p> | <p>28 No Preschool</p> | <p>29 No Preschool Winter Camp 2021 - Mission Possible 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>30 No Preschool Winter Camp 2021 - Mission Possible 9:00 AM Tops Meeting</p> | <p>31 No Preschool - Office Closed Winter Camp 2021 - Mission Possible</p> | <p>1  Winter Camp 2021 - Mission Possible</p> |