

# 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

December 2022

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace,

“Should we be surprised?”

A question I want to pose to you. Should you be surprised? With no hint of context to the question, of course the answer is no. But when I add context to the question your answer might change. Or perhaps it wont.

This past week, I was disappointed that I couldn't find any Christmas music on satellite radio. Ok maybe I could but in my opinion not any tunes that were good. Not that I don't enjoy listening to Elvis or Bing belt out “chestnuts roasting on an open fire”, mostly I just want to hear songs that sing our savior's birth. I also chuckled at how many people were making sure we remember that thanks comes before the getting. You know Thanksgiving before Christmas. I am amazed at how much we desire. There is always more. There is always an area not covered in the cart. More. More. More. Is our common refrain.

As I process this last week, am I surprise by the things I observed? No, I am not. If you looked back at the week that was, are you surprised by the things your heard or saw? People complaining about central services not working, doctors not listening, media personalities only speaking to minority opinions, parents choosing not to blame their child, teachers blaming parents, and the list goes on and on. Our ordinary week is by far anything but ordinary. Or is it? Nothing really surprising here. People acting like we would expect them to.

Again, we are entering the season of people saying, “happy holidays” instead of “Merry Christmas.” However, when we look at the word holiday itself, it just means “holy day.” A day that was set aside for the specific purpose of celebrating religious days. Over time there are fewer days that the world accepts as “holy” and turning the word to have more of a meaning of taking a vacation. Again, nothing really surprising here. We have a world that wants to turn us away from our savior.

If we look at the word Christmas, we know what it means to us. The celebration of our Savior's birth. God fulfilling his promise of sending Jesus to redeem us and deliver us from our sins. Lead us to the way of everlasting life. This is what Christmas means to us. This is not surprising.

What is? Our response to people who don't celebrate Christmas the way we do. As you watch the ads, the movies, and listen to the songs. We already are seeing a world that has moved away from

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pastoreric@gracedewitt.org

**Kerry Good**  
kgood@gracedewitt.org

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

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

**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

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the promise that God made the world. So before you share the memes or act unkind to the bell ringer who wishes you a happy holiday. Remember this, that every day we live in the Christmas reality. Nothing will ever change that fact. God has fulfilled his promise of sending his son to be our Redeemer. Jesus dwells with us, fulfilling his promise of being our Immanuel Christ. Giving us the example of his love to a world that has rejected him. That we may reflect his love to a world that is more worried about what I am getting, than remembering the gracious promise of our Father in heaven.

So were you surprised?

Have a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the promise that our Father in Heaven has given to us this day!

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

**The 2023 Altar Flower calendar is available.** To sign up please see the Altar Flower book located on the Welcome Center. Bouquets can be donated in honor of or 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.

**Looking for cards? There is a variety of Christmas, 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.

**Special Gifts Given Include:**

In loving memory of Bill Goddard \$25 was given to Grace Church.

**SERVING THIS MONTH:**

**The Elders:** Sunday's 8:00 AM Clint Albrecht  
10:30 AM Jon Betz  
Wednesday 11:00 AM Scott Steffens  
7:00 PM Duane Hansen  
Christmas Eve 6:00 PM Alan Rugeberg  
10:00 PM Clint Albrecht  
Christmas Day 9:00 AM Clint Albrecht

**The Organist:** Diana Baetke

**The Acolytes**

**December 4th**  
8:00 AM Hattie Rickertsen & Amelia Rickertsen  
10:30 AM Briah Reuss & Porter Vopatek  
**December 7th**  
7:00 PM Carson Tobey  
**December 11th**  
8:00 AM Ashlyn Appleby  
10:30 AM Kyptin Barys  
**December 14th**  
7:00 PM Keaton Birt  
**December 18th**  
8:00 AM Braydon Lawrence  
10:30 AM Addison Tucker  
**December 24th**  
6:00 PM Klaire Gruntorad  
10:00 PM Grace Burzlaff  
**December 25th**  
9:00 AM Easton Meyers

**Children's Christmas Program  
Rehearsal Schedule**

**Saturday, December 17th**

3rd—8th Grade—9:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
Pre-K - 2nd Grade—10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

**Sunday, December 18th - 9:15 a.m.**

The Children's Program is at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 18th. All Children are asked to meet in Grace Hall by 2:45 p.m.

**Reminder: There is no Sunday school on Sunday December 25th or Sunday, January 1st. Sunday school will resume on January 8th.**



## WORSHIP INFORMATION

### Advent Worship

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>

11:00 a.m.  
December 14th

### Wednesday Worship

7:00 p.m.  
December 21<sup>st</sup>

### Christmas Cantata

*"The First Noel"*

December 11<sup>th</sup>

8:00 a.m. @ Grace Church  
10:00 a.m. @ Immanuel, Grand Mound

### Christmas Cantata ~ Encore

*"The First Noel"*

December 14<sup>st</sup>  
7:00 p.m.

### Children's Christmas Program

December 18<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 p.m.

### Christmas Eve

6:00 p.m. Worship/Communion  
December 24<sup>th</sup>

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

10:00 p.m. Worship/Communion  
December 24<sup>th</sup>

### Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Communion Service  
December 25<sup>th</sup>

### New Years Day Worship

January 1st  
9:00 a.m.



### CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Christmas Chorale, including members of Grace and Immanuel Lutheran-Grand Mound proudly present, *"The First Noel"* which will be performed on Sunday, December 11th at 8:00 a.m. at Grace and 10:00 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church-Grand Mound. Come celebrate the BIRTHDAY OF A KING!

We will have an encore performance of the Christmas Cantata on Wednesday, December 14th @ 7:00 p.m. at Grace. COME LISTEN AGAIN or for the first time and join us in celebrating the BIRTHDAY OF A KING with *"The First Noel"*.

## Christmas Trees

### Grace Camp

2675 242nd St, DeWitt, IA 52742

Pre-cut & cut your own trees, wreaths,  
and greenery available for purchase.

#### Hours:

Saturday - 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday - 11:00 am to 4:30 pm

Beginning Nov. 26th—Dec. 18th

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

Call 563-357-1957 with questions.

### Grace Lutheran FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE

Once again this year we will be decorating the Family Christmas Tree with pictures. We ask that every family provide a 4"X6" or a 3"X5" portrait of their family. Take your portrait and place it in one of the decorative frames, located under the Christmas tree, and place it on the tree. Please, make sure to write your last name on the photo. Previous year's ornaments will be placed on the tree. We look forward to many new additions.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades) YOUTH NIGHT**

Our final Youth Night of the year will be held Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at the G\*Y\*M Building at Grace Camp from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. There will be food, fun, games and a message from God's Word. Invite a friend and make plans to join us. Please let Mr. Sperry know if you're coming so we can be sure to have enough supplies.

### **Youth Group Christmas Caroling & Pizza Party**

Attention all 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Make plans now to join us Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm for our annual Caroling, Pizza Party & Gift Exchange. Please sign-up on the sheet posted outside of Mr. Sperry's office by **December 4<sup>th</sup>** to let us know you're coming. Please bring a wrapped gift valued around **\$10** to participate in the exchange. Feel free to contact Mr. Sperry if you have any questions.

### **SKI TRIP**

Our annual Youth Ski Trip to Sundown Mountain is **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please get a permission slip from the folder on the bulletin board outside of Mr. Sperry's office. Like the past two years, registration and payment is being done online at **www.Sundownmtn.com**. Click on the **Groups** tab and then click **EZ GroupLink** and enter the following code: **Grace**. Please make sure to do your registration and payment by **January 15<sup>th</sup>**, as they will close the link on that date. We will need several more adults to help drive, so if you're willing and available, please contact Mark Sperry. The cost is **\$26** for Lift Ticket only, and **\$38** for Rental, Lift Ticket & Lesson. All participants under the age of 18 will be required to wear a helmet, which is included in the rental cost. Please contact Mark Sperry with any questions.

**Offering Envelopes** for 2023 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.



Following the Worship Services on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and the 18<sup>th</sup> 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. These gifts will be presented to them during the 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

The wooden collection box will be 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."



## **WOMEN OF GRACE CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m. in Grace Hall

Join us for a night of fun, food, and fellowship. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided.

Instead of a gift exchange, we will take an offering for the Referral Center for their Christmas Holiday Meals.

Michelle Diercks will do a devotional presentation on the Women of Christmas.

Please RSVP to the church office with Kerry by December 6.  
If you have any questions, please contact Michelle at 563-357-4018.



Grace Lutheran Preschool

It's already December! This month we will continue to learn more letters and letter sounds, writing our names, and counting. We will also be learning about Bears and Gingerbread. We will be wrapping up our unit on colors and can't wait to celebrate Christmas.

### Preschool Expansion Update

The preschool expansion project continues. We have paid for the building permits and have spoken with our contractor. We should be knocking down walls during Christmas break.

In the meantime we are looking ahead. The new preschool room will need upper cabinets for storage. If you are remodeling or know of anyone that may have four 30" cabinets suitable for this project please contact Kerry at the church office, 563-659-9153.

We will keep you updated on the project as more of the work gets completed. The Preschool Staff and Board of Preschool would like to thank you for your continued support of the Preschool.



Remember the ways to give:

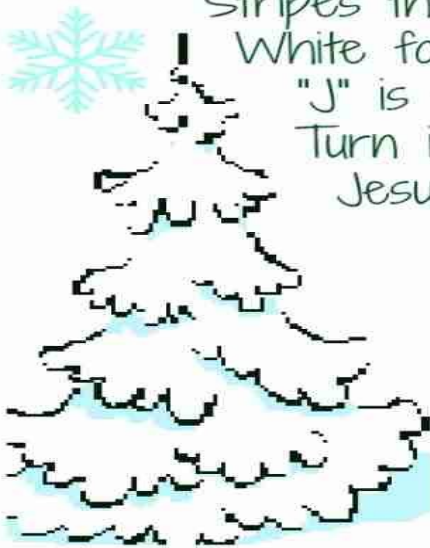
- 1.) Bill pay from your bank.
- 2.) Download the Give+ mobile app on your phone to make giving easy.
- 3.) Mail checks directly to Grace Church, PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA.
- 4.) Use the link on our website, [www.gracedewitt.org](http://www.gracedewitt.org), for online giving.
- 5.) Send your offering through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



Merry Christmas

## The Legend of the Candy Cane

Look at a candy cane and what do you see?  
 Stripes that are red like the blood shed for me.  
 White for my savior, who is sinless and pure.  
 "J" is for Jesus, my lord, that's for sure.  
 Turn it around and a staff you will see-  
 Jesus, my shepard, is coming for me.



## **Anxiety vs. Trust**

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we're devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one 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" (Matt. 6:24).

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matt 6:25–33).

Do you know that you are worth more than them? You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No! He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone (Gen. 2:23). He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood, through His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about these things and find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.

Jesus says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need — food and clothing, house and home — and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. And those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dylan Spain  
Gary Paarmann  
Hollie Appleby
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cathy Youngers
- 5<sup>th</sup> Dick Broadfoot
- 6<sup>th</sup> Stephanie Pillers
- 7<sup>th</sup> Brooke Paasch
- 9<sup>th</sup> Jim Owen  
Chad Jeffery
- 10<sup>th</sup> Katelyn Good
- 11<sup>th</sup> Mary Jo Kelly
- 15<sup>th</sup> Todd Hughes
- 16<sup>th</sup> Kim Haring  
Carolyn Lane  
Emilie Butler
- 17<sup>th</sup> Judy Hartmann  
Tyler Erps
- 18<sup>th</sup> Matthew Diercks
- 19<sup>th</sup> Luke Hill  
Jill Johnson
- 20<sup>th</sup> John Gisel
- 21<sup>st</sup> Dick Kelly  
Verlene Reid  
Sara Suhr
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Carol Anderson  
David J. Hansen  
Steve Butler
- 24<sup>th</sup> Tammy Mickelson  
Robert Mundt  
Jason Mork
- 25<sup>th</sup> Lauren Walker
- 27<sup>th</sup> Lori Olson
- 28<sup>th</sup> Gayle Fuller  
Kimberly Burzlaff
- 29<sup>th</sup> Kolton Goddard
- 30<sup>th</sup> Madelyn Johnson  
Chad Tobey



- 3<sup>rd</sup> David & Stephanie Pillers
- 5<sup>th</sup> Dave & Tracy Paarmann
- 8<sup>th</sup> Lucas & Nicole Rickertsen
- 9<sup>th</sup> Donald & Connie Havener



Join Grace Lutheran Church to Bless those in need by helping to restock the Referral Center, which is especially important during the holidays.

Use the Reverse Advent Calendar as a guide. Each Day add an item to a box. On December 18<sup>th</sup> bring the filled box to church. All boxes will be donated to the DeWitt Referral Center.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

- Nov 27<sup>th</sup> - box of cereal
- Nov 28<sup>th</sup> - peanut butter
- Nov 29<sup>th</sup> - boxed potatoes
- Nov 30<sup>th</sup> - macaroni and cheese
- Dec 1<sup>st</sup> - canned fruit
- Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> - applesauce
- Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> - canned tomatoes
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> - boxed cake mix & icing
- Dec 5<sup>th</sup> - canned sweet potatoes
- Dec 6<sup>th</sup> - canned tuna
- Dec 7<sup>th</sup> - any item of your choice
- Dec 8<sup>th</sup> - chicken noodle soup
- Dec 9<sup>th</sup> - box of crackers
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> - bag of rice
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> - package of oatmeal
- Dec 12<sup>th</sup> - spaghetti sauce
- Dec 13<sup>th</sup> - package of pasta
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> - canned corn
- Dec 15<sup>th</sup> - canned fruit
- Dec 16<sup>th</sup> - boxed brownie/cookie mix
- Dec 17<sup>th</sup> - jar of jelly
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup> - canned green beans

# December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Decorate the Church after Late Service 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:00am Fellowship Sunday 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Praise Worship	28 6:30pm Board of Christian Education	29	30 11:00am Advent Worship 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Ladies Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Advent Worship 7:45pm Cantata Rehearsal	1 9:00am Tops Meeting	2 8:00am Trustees Board Meeting	3
4 "Mites" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 2:00pm CLUB3435 6:00pm Middle School (6th-8th) Youth Night	5 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Board of Discipleship 6:30pm Elders Meeting	6	7 7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Advent Worship 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Ladies Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Advent Worship 8:00pm Cantata Practice at Immanuel	8 9:00am Tops Meeting 6:00pm Women of Grace	9	10 9:00am Cantata Rehearsal
11 8:00am "The First Noel" Christmas Cantata 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:00am "The First Noel" Christmas Cantata @ Immanuel, Grand Mound 10:30am Traditional Worship 4:00pm Youth Caroling & Pizza Party	12 6:00pm Council Meeting	13	14 7:00am Finance Board Meeting 11:00am Advent Worship 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm "The First Noel" Christmas Cantata	15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Tops Meeting 6:30pm Ladies Choir Rehearsal	16 Preschool Yoga Friday	17 9:00am Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal - (3rd-8th Grade) 10:00am Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal - (PreK - 2nd Grade) 1:00pm Hall Rental
18 Fellowship Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 3:00pm Children's Christmas Program	19 1:00pm 500 Card Club	20 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting	21 No Preschool - Christmas Break 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Worship	22 No Preschool - Christmas Break 9:00am Tops Meeting	23 Hall Rental No Preschool - Christmas Break	24 6:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 10:00pm Christmas Eve Worship
25 <b>NO Sunday School or Adult Bible Study</b> 9:00am Christmas Worship	26 No Preschool - Christmas Break Office Closed	27 No Preschool - Christmas Break	28 No Preschool - Christmas Break	29 No Preschool - Christmas Break 9:00am Tops Meeting	30 No Preschool - Christmas Break	31