



Grace Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2020

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church
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Grace Lutheran Preschool
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**Preschool Teacher/Director
Christine Greve**
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Grace Lutheran Camp
2675 242nd Street
P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

Camp Reservations
563-357-0780

Dear Saints of Grace Lutheran Church,

I know that I am late by a couple of weeks. I didn't want you to be uninformed but Emily, the kids and I were extremely overwhelmed with thanksgiving over the love you all showed us during the Advent/Christmas season. Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts.

January was a rough month. It just was. It started out with Evie getting a double ear infection. Afterwards, we decided on whim to go to Iowa City for a few days of rest. Instead, Elliott got sick on the drive there. So now we were in a hotel for three days with two sick kids. No way could this month start off any worse. Except it did. Evie was up almost the whole last night at hotel coughing/ throwing up all the mucus that had drained into her stomach. By the time we came home on January 4th, both kids upon sitting on the couch in our house threw up. Five days into the new year every one was on the verge of exhaustion, sickness. So much for that idea of rest. Instead, we were ready for the year to start over.

But it didn't. Thankfully the second week of the month wasn't as bad. The second week of the year only brought about blood draws, change of medicines, change of doctors, one kid feeling better but only for the other to stay the same, one parent feeling run down and the other on the verge. This doesn't even bring up that we tried twice to see Star Wars, and twice we had to leave early. Once for Elliott who got scared, and once because we got yelled at by a guy for bringing our kids to a 10 am showing of the movie. What a month!

January truly was a rough month. Thankfully the third week was a little quieter. Except the power went out, and we had to explain to a very confused three-year-old why the power didn't work. That didn't go over to well. Around the same time, Elliott decided that he was afraid of his closet. Oh, what a week.

Then to top it all off, I realized it was exactly one year ago, I began my struggle with depression. What a month. Maybe as you sit and read this, you can relate, or feel my frustration with this month. It is a tough month. But even with all the frustration this month, I am reminded of Jesus' words, "Come to me." This is by far the toughest word that Jesus speaks. Go to him. During this past month, every time the frustration came, these words came squarely in my mind. Go to Jesus. Hear his word. Hear his authority overall. Go to him and allow him to cover all your worries, and fears. Go to Jesus and he will bring to you rest. He will wrap you in his

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 AM Alan Rugeberg
10:30 AM Scott Havener

Wednesday, Feb 26th 11:00 AM Alan Anderson
7:00 PM Clint Albrecht

Ushers: 8:00 AM John Pischke, Jesse Spain and
Jena Olson

10:30 AM The Engelkes Family

The Organist: Diana Baetke

Sunday, February 2, 2020

8:00 AM	Kinley Birt	A/V Tech. Steve Butler
10:30 AM	Jackson Bulter	Steve Butler

Sunday, February 9, 2020

8:00 AM	Wyatt Jensen	Rich Matzen
10:30 AM	Caitlin Proctor	Rich Matzen

Sunday, February 16, 2020

8:00 AM	Mallory McMahon	Need Volunteer
10:30 AM	Ashlie Oronzio	Need Volunteer

Sunday, February 23, 2020

8:00 AM	Landre Rugeberg	Rich Matzen
10:30 AM	Noah Sunday	Rich Matzen

love. He will cover you in his righteousness. Go to Jesus and hear him in his word. Go to Jesus and appeal to him in prayer. Go to Jesus and eat his body and drink his blood in communion. Go to Jesus and remember the day when he washed you in water.

It can be extremely hard to hear those words. Especially in the mess of this past month. But this is when I needed to hear them the most. When everything was bringing me down, the Spirit was taking me back to Jesus. To hear those most precious words. Come to me and I will give you rest from all your burdens, your fears, and your frustrations.

"Come to me," says your Savior "and I will give you rest."

In the service of Christ,

Pastor Eric

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

The 2020 Chancel/Altar Flower signup sheet is available on the Welcome Center. We are asking members to donate bouquets in honor of or in memory of persons or events. Each bouquet is \$25 and there will be two bouquets each week. Please sign up for your preferred dates on the flower calendar, put your payment in the envelope provided, and slide the envelope through the mail slot in the secretary's door. You may purchase one or both bouquets.

February 9th
March 1st, 8th, 22nd, 29th
April 5th, 12th, 19th
May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st
June 14th, 21st, 28th
July 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
September 13th, 20th, 27th
October 11th, 18th, 25th
November 1st, 8th, 15th, 29th
December 6th, 13th, 20th

THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE for Grace Lutheran Church will be accepting grant applications through March 15, 2020. Applications for projects which provide support to missions, education, youth, worship, and music and/or capital projects will be considered.

Special Gifts Given Include:

In loving memory of Rae Gustafson \$10 has been given to Glory Bound Choir.

In loving memory of Jerry Gisel \$10 has been given to Grace Camp Friendship Garden and \$20 to Grace Lutheran Preschool.

IMPORTANT
Deadline for submitting articles for the March Newsletter is February 15th.

In Memory of:

Gerald John "Jerry" Gisel, 86, of DeWitt, Iowa, died Sunday morning, January 5, 2020, at Genesis Medical Center-East, Davenport.

Jerry was born February 1, 1933, to John and Ruby (Biedler) Gisel north-east of Delmar and moved near Welton in March of 1936. He graduated early from Welton High School in 1951. Jerry started working for Ernest Soenksen Construction and assisted in finishing Grace Lutheran Church. In November of 1951 he started working for Clinton Engines in Maquoketa. He married Marjorie Jane "Margie" Soenksen December 14, 1952, by the Rev. Theodore Hinck at Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt. Jerry was drafted by the United States Army and ran the motor pool. He was stationed at Camp Roberts, California, Germany and Des Moines. Margie preceded Jerry in death October 21, 2016.

He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt. Jerry loved playing cards and doing custom combining and baling and selling CB and two way radios.

Surviving are children, Susan (Don) Petersen of Parkview, John (Jill Nothdorf) Gisel and Dennis Gisel of DeWitt; grandchildren, Kevin (Amber) Petersen, Andrew (Lynse) Gisel, Becca Gisel, Jamie Ong, Ryan Ong, Chris Hartmann, Abigail Hartmann and Margaret Hartmann; greatgrandchildren, Jasmine Bailey, William Hartmann, Jace Gisel, Avery Hartmann, James Hartmann and Tate Gisel; a great-great-grandson, Lucas Fuhs-Fowler; a brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, Elaine Schoening and Russell (Sandy) Soenksen; nieces and nephews.

Preceding Jerry in death were his parents, a brother, Donald and a brother-in-law, Lewis Schoening.

Grace Lutheran Preschool

Enrollment forms will be available beginning in February 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.

2020-2021 Class Schedule and Fees

- 3s : M & W 8:00 — 10:30 \$110/mo Limited to 8
T & TH 8:00 — 10:30 \$110/mo Limited to 8
- \$35 registration fee due at time of enrollment.
 - 3s Classes will begin after Labor Day.
 - Children must be 3 on or before Sept. 15, 2020.
- 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, 2020 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.



We are looking forward to continuing our unit on letters and shapes. We will also learn about community helpers, groundhogs, dental health, and celebrate Valentine's Day. The children will celebrate by having a party in the classroom. We will have a special visitor from "I Smile" come in and teach us about keeping our teeth healthy.

Preschool registration begins in February for the 2020-2021 School Year. All Preschool forms will be available on the website.

February 5th through the 19th we will be selling "Save Around Coupon Books". Each book cost \$25 and is filled with coupons from various business' in and around the Quad Cities area. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to enhance our preschool program. If you would like to purchase a book to support the preschool there will be a signup sheet on the Welcome Center. Money can be left in the office mail slot in the envelopes provided. Thank you for your continued support of Grace Lutheran Preschool.

Women of Grace

SOMETHING NEW!

Women of Grace is for ALL Women of Grace (and their friends)! We are women coming together in faith, fellowship, food & fun. To learn more, please contact Michelle Diercks, Angie Hill, Emily Obermann, Shannon Soenksen, Rachael Vopatek or Jennifer Walker.

UPCOMING WOMEN OF GRACE EVENTS:

Coffee and Connections

Friday, February 21st at 6:00pm at the Andrew Retreat Center at Grace Camp
Please join us for an Italian Feast and fellowship with your sisters in Christ. More details to be shared soon!

Women of Grace



Coffee & Connections

SAVE THE DATE!

Women's Retreat

Friday March 13th from 5:30pm through Saturday March 14th at 4:00pm at the Andrew Retreat Center at Grace Camp. More details to be shared soon.

SUPER SNACK SALE FUNDRAISER

The Jr. & Sr. High youth will be selling snacks on **Sunday, February 2nd** between services to make your party complete. Please consider purchasing some snacks and supporting Grace Lutheran Youth Ministry plans.

LASAGNA DINNER FUNDRAISER

The annual Youth Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser will be **February 23rd**. There will be two reservation times: **5:00 pm & 6:15 pm**. Please sign-up at the table in the foyer beginning **February 9th**.

YOUTH NIGHT

Attention all 6th – 12th graders. Join us Sunday, February 9th @ the G*Y*M Building at Grace Camp for our next Youth Night. We will be doing a service project that evening, so please plan to join us. Any questions can be directed to DCE, Mark Sperry.

SAVE THE DATES

This year's Vacation Bible School "Mystery Island" will be held Monday, June 22nd – Friday, June 26th in the evenings. Dinner will be served from 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm and the program will run from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm each evening. Watch for more updates!



"We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our church family at Grace for the prayers and words of comfort during the past few months. Thank you to Pastor Obermann for the hospital visits and your kind message at the funeral. A special thank you to everyone who brought delicious desserts to the funeral luncheon. Your support has been a blessing to us during our time of loss.

The Family of Nancy Spain"

Thank you to everyone who helped put up and take down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary and around the church. Your help was very much appreciated.

Kerry, Mark, & Pastor Obermann

Greeters are needed on Sunday mornings to extend a warm welcome to our members and visitors. If you are available to help with this service, please sign up at the Welcome Center.

**Upcoming
EVENTS**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, March 14th

2:00 p.m.

@ Grace Lutheran Church

**TAKE AWAY
HUNGER**

Thrivent Financial will be hosting a Take Away Hunger event at Grace Lutheran Church. Please, mark your calendar. More information will be coming out on this event soon.

2020 Board/Committee Members

Board of Elders

Scott Steffens
 Clint Albrecht
 Jon Betz
 Scott Havener
 David Wold
 Paul Kirby
 Leon Doescher
 Allan Anderson
 Alan Ruggeberg
 Ray Ackerman

Board of Trustees

Randy Lange
 Mike Hall
 Al Roseland
 Gary Smith

GYM Trustees

Dick Block
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Board of Youth

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 Troy Diercks
 Cindy Sperry
 Jennifer Thiede
 Alex Butler
 Emily Reed
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 Emily Williams
 Val Betz
 Kerry Good

Board of Discipleship

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 Wanda Brandt
 Julie Krukow
 Kay Hall
 Carol Schunter
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 Monica Ruggeberg
 Jill Johnson

Board of Christian Ed.

Mike Good
 Barb Dies
 Jill Gisel
 Shanna Tucker
 Shannon Soenksen
 Rachael Vopatek

Board of Finance

Barb Reed
 Casey Walker
 Angie Hill
 Duane Meyer
 Mike Vopatek

Endowment Committee

Jon Billhorn
 Jim Owen
 Scott Steffens
 Barb Reed
 Kim Haring

Council Officers

President
 Steve Butler

President Elect
 Rich Matzen

Secretary
 Patty Anderson

Camp Board

Craig Paarmann
 Dan Burzlaff
 Mary Garlough
 Carol Schunter

Wendy Proctor
 David Schneider
 Jake Williams
 Jesse Spain
 Allison LaFevers

Alan Ruggeberg
 Jason Hill
 Duane Hansen
 Raymond Ackerman

Looking for cards? There is a variety of sympathy, thinking of you, get well, birthday cards and many others available for purchase downstairs next to Grace Hall. Please take a moment to see the wide assortment of cards and napkins displayed.

POP CAN TABS—Did you know you can save your beverage cans and donate them to the Youth Group here at Grace? But what about the tabs on the top of the can? We collect those also. The tabs are donated to Camp Courageous. So, the next time you finish that refreshment, 'pop' off the tab, save and bring to church.

POP CANS — Bring your clean pop cans to church to help support the youth. In order to receive a refund on the cans we need to make sure cans are rinsed out, name brand only (no generic) and are IA refundable.

February is Referral Center month. We will be collecting non-perishable food items and paper products. Your donations can be left on the display in the foyer from February 1st till February 23rd.



Lenten Midweek Services

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
 Begin February 26th

Lenten Meals

6:00 p.m.



Lenten Supper Schedule Meals Begin at 6:00 p.m.

February 26th - Pasta-in-a-pot
 March 4th - Spaghetti
 March 11th - Turkey & Dressing Sandwiches
 March 18th - Taco-in-a-bag
 March 25th - Meatball Subs
 April 1st - TBD



LWML Mission Guild

“Serve the Lord with Gladness” *Psalm 100:2*

Calendar

“Mites” Sunday - February 2nd
Ladies of Grace Bible Study/Meeting - February 20th
LWML Rally at Grace - March 28th
Retired Teachers Luncheon—May 2nd

Lutheran World Relief Collection Drive

By sharing tools for better health and education, you bring new hope and dignity to thousands of men, women, and children throughout the world. Towels, soap, and nail clippers . . . these ordinary things become extraordinary when they are assembled in LWR kits and shared as gifts of love and comfort.

We are collecting items for Personal Care Kits. Please show the love of Christ to people all around the world by purchasing items needed by LWML to make these kits.

ITEMS NEEDED TO COMPLETE KITS

- ◇ 1 Lightweight, dark colored bath towel (between 20”X40” to a maximum size of 52”X27”)
- ◇ 2 Bath size bars of soap (4-5 oz) - any brand in original wrapping
- ◇ 1 metal nail clipper (attached nail file is optional)
- ◇ Adult sized toothbrushes in individual packaging
- ◇ 1 Sturdy Comb

Please leave your donation on the stage or on the display in the foyer after it is set up.

Thank you for your support.

Support Grace Lutheran Preschool By Purchasing Gift Cards



Would you like to support Grace Lutheran Preschool? There is no easier way then 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.



The Sunday School students have been faithfully bringing their offering to Sunday School opening. The months of September through December, the children through their weekly offering along with the offering taken during the Sunday School Christmas program have brought in \$956.95. Their generous offering along with the items collected have been taken to Kings Harvest Ministries in Davenport.

King's Harvest serves the poor and homeless in the Quad Cities. They

provide help for families and pets. Some programs that will be supported through this donation includes: meals, food bank & grocery giveaways, the Pet Assistance Program and the pet shelter.

We thank everyone who has supported the Sunday School and the King's Harvest Ministry mission.



Sunday School offering collected beginning in February will be used to help send gift-filled shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child.

WHAT IS OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD? Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993 Operation Christmas Child has collected and

delivered more than 168 million shoeboxes to children in over 160 countries and territories. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

The offering will be used to purchase shoeboxes, fees for shipping, and include "The Greatest Journey" for each box purchased.

After receiving shoebox gifts, many children are invited back to participate in our discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. Through this 12-lesson course, which includes Bible stories and Scripture memorization, they learn how to follow Christ in their daily lives as they share Him with friends and family.

More ways on how you help support the Sunday School's Operation Christmas Child Mission will be coming soon.



St. John's Lutheran Church in Clinton will be celebrating their 165th Anniversary on February 16th. There will be one worship service at 10:15 a.m. with Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders officiating. A pot-luck luncheon will follow. For more information you can contact the church office at 563-242-5588.



Happy Birthday!

1st Lauren Stowe
 2nd William Ketelsen
 3rd Pamela Pischke
 David Williams
 4th Tim Dahl
 David Hall
 Shirley Franks
 Rebecca Gisel
 5th Maddison Burke
 Benjamin Hines
 6th Lauren Hansen
 Richard Kuehn
 Mitch Krukow
 7th Wyatt Jensen
 Audra Seifert
 Hunter Millerschone
 Emily Hawkins
 8th Danita Hythecker
 9th Christine Greve
 Abigail Johnson
 10th Steve Trafford
 Dave Paarmann
 11th Raymond Myers
 Raymond Ackerman III
 12th Nicholas Petersen
 13th Neal Schoening
 Scott Steffens
 Caden Knight
 14th Bill Dies
 Myrle McWilliams
 15th Jared Dies
 Keli Runge
 16th William Maass
 17th Barbara Dies
 Madison Lawrence
 David Schneider
 18th Lavonne Martin
 Cheryl Thul
 Avery Hartmann

19th Marilyn Mundt
 Kristine Peters
 Cole Tobey
 20th Rob Pote
 21st Marvin Richeal
 Rebecca Schunter
 23rd Kitt Converse
 Cade Converse
 24th Barbara Henningsen
 Jon Betz
 Jessica Boussetot
 Hunter Gaskey
 25th Scott Kirby
 Ryan Williams
 26th Allan Anderson
 Kerry Good
 Kathy Ketelsen
 27th Kathi Lieving
 Dorothy C. Ketelsen
 Valerie Erps
 Matthew Petersen
 28th Amanda Hoepner
 Angela Boussetot
 Patricia Niemann



February

24th Greg & Kristine Anderson