



# Grace Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2021

## **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  
[msperry@gracedewitt.org](mailto:msperry@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

## **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

Dear Redeemed and Love Saints of Grace,

It has been about a year since we heard of a new virus coming to the United States. It was around a year since we began to hear new words being added to our daily vocabulary. Words like "shelter in place", quarantine, mask mandate, COVID-19, the list can go on and on. But it was about eight months ago that we began to say to each other "I can't wait for normalcy to return" or "I can't wait for next year."

There is nothing wrong with that line of thinking. I can't wait to be able to not have to be reminded to grab my mask as I walk out the door. I can't wait till there can be comfort in knowing that I will be safe from the virus. But at the same time, there is a danger in looking too far back or too far ahead, because we will miss what is happening now. I realized this in my own thinking, and in my guidance of Grace over the last nine months.

But then I realized I wasn't alone in my failure. I have been reading through Isaiah 40-55 as I plan for Lent and I stumbled upon Isaiah 43. Where God's chosen people, just like you and I, were struggling to keep their eyes on the present. To keep their eyes on what God was doing for them. Instead, all they wanted to do was look back. All the way back to Moses. What they thought had to be the "golden age." God was with Moses. Moses even got to have daily briefings with God. Sometimes he would spend 40 days and 40 nights upon the mountain. It is tempting to think all was great. Especially when you consider the turmoil Israel found itself in in the mid to late 500's B.C era. Conquered and battered. A throne was overtaken. Tribes forever lost. Certainly, didn't look like the "golden age." A time when God would be in their midst.

In Isaiah 43, God who speaks through Isaiah tells the people of Israel about what He is doing for them now. Israel was exiled. They chased after other gods. Now they were being punished for their sins. They were conquered. Their homeland was lost. They were sent to a foreign land. But in this foreign land, the people of Israel cried out for their God to rescue them. And just like in the first Exodus, God heard their cries for saving and He came to their aid to lead them out of Babylon and back to Israel. God was acting in their midst. Yet God through Isaiah asks Israel, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Israel was not seeing what God was doing for them in the now! Their minds were still in Egypt and what happened over 1000 years ago. They

were so preoccupied with the past that they completely missed what God was doing in the present.

I had to catch myself a lot over the last year and I still have to catch myself today. I need to be reminded. I need to let my eyes, ears, and hearts stay focused on the present. So that I may see what Jesus is doing, what he is up to. Not what he will do a year from now but now. I want to focus this year on seeing what Jesus does in the life of the people he encounters. What he does in our life when he encounters us. To focus on the reign of God. On his active daily presence in our life.

It is easy to look ahead or to just focus on the past. But what are we going to miss? We will miss what Jesus is doing through his active reign/ presence in our life. No matter what this year brings, let your eyes be focused on the love of Jesus!

In the Service of Jesus,  
Pastor Eric

<b>SERVING THIS MONTH:</b>	
<b>The Elders:</b> Sunday's	8:00 AM Alan Ruggeberg 10:30 AM Scott Havener
	Wednesday 7:00 PM Scott Steffens
<b>The Organist:</b>	Diana Baetke
	<b>The Acolytes</b>
<b>Feb. 7, 2021</b>	
8:00 AM	Hannah Grantz
10:30 AM	Lilyan Gruntorad
<b>Feb. 14, 2021</b>	
8:00 AM	Benson Hill
10:30 AM	Emma Pillers
<b>Feb. 17, 2021</b>	
7:00 PM	Caitlin Proctor
<b>Feb. 21, 2021</b>	
8:00 AM	Lauren Walker
10:30 AM	Remi Ruggeberg
<b>Feb. 24, 2021</b>	
10:30 AM	Jackson Butler
<b>Feb. 28, 2021</b>	
8:00 AM	Kinley Birt
10:30 AM	Mallory McMahon



**PLEASE REMEMBER  
TO CONTINUE  
GIVING TO YOUR**

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.

**Special Gifts Given Include:**

- In loving memory of Coral Hesse \$40 has been given to Grace Church.
- In loving memory of Mark McWilliams \$20 has been given to Grace Preschool.
- In loving memory of Christopher Key \$20 has been given to Grace Preschool and \$10 to the Grace Youth.
- In loving memory of Joe Eastman \$20 has been given to Grace Preschool.
- In loving memory of Jack Arey \$627.50 has been given to Grace Church, \$125 to Grace Preschool and \$20 to Sunday School.
- In loving memory of Carrol Flathers \$515.00 has been given to Grace Camp.
- In loving memory of Jim Studer \$20 has been given to Grace Sunday School.

**Referral Center Collection** - Items for the Referral Center can be left in the display located in the Foyer.

**The 2021 Altar Flower calendar is now available. To sign-up, we are asking that you call the church office or stop in during the week and speak with Kerry.** 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.

**Reminder:**

Please remember that we do live stream our worship services. If you are unable to attend services and would like to view them, please go to our website at [www.gracedewitt.org](http://www.gracedewitt.org). At the top of our web page there is an orange banner, just click the banner and subscribe to our Grace Ev. Lutheran Church DeWitt's YouTube channel, there you will have access to the videos.

If you chose not to subscribe you can search on YouTube for Grace Ev. Lutheran Church DeWitt. This will also allow you access to the videos.

We also provide a service link on our Grace Ev. Lutheran Church's Facebook page.

Please call the church office with any questions you may have regarding the accessing of the videos.

**In Loving Memory of:**

Loren Hass, 77, of Delmar, Iowa, passed away peacefully, Saturday, January 23, 2021, in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his loving family.

Loren Lee Hass was born January 24, 1943, to Raymond and Dorothy (Petersen) Hass on the family farm in Delmar. He graduated from Welton High School in 1961, and later the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in education. Loren married Myrna Ploog on September 1, 1963, at Grace Lutheran Church in DeWitt. He taught history and coached basketball at Olin High School. He then took over the family farm. While farming, he taught at Scott Community College, and was also the head librarian at the public library in DeWitt for several years. He enjoyed showing purebred Dorset sheep at the state and local fairs.

He is survived by his wife, Myrna; children, Rochele Hass of Manteno, Illinois, and Michael (Amie) Hass of Central City; grandchildren, Benjamin, Andrew, and Daniel d'Autremont, and Ellie and Emilie Hass; siblings, Rosalyn Mommsen and Myron Hass; nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; an infant daughter, Michele; a sister, Geraldine (Don) Kinrade; in-laws, Glenn Mommsen, and Nancy Hass.

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



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



**Lenten Midweek Services**  
Begin February 17<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

**THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE** for Grace Lutheran Church will be accepting grant applications starting January 1 through March 15, 2021. Applications for projects which provide support to missions, education, youth, worship, and music and/or capital projects will be considered.

## The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

“I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: “But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It’s not so much that we stop giving, but we don’t put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God’s Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.





**SENIOR HIGH MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**

Our Midweek Bible study will continue for the first two weeks of February. Once Lent starts on the 17<sup>th</sup>, we will decide as a group how we want to proceed. [See you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Sperry's.



**Grace Lutheran Youth's Famous Lasagna Sale - Take-N-Bake**

With COVID19 still active, we have decided to change our annual Lasagna Dinner to a Take-N-Bake Lasagna Sale. We will be taking orders on February 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> for pans of our famous lasagna. The 8 x 8 pans of lasagna will be frozen and ready to thaw and cook. You will also receive eight breadsticks with each pan of lasagna ordered. We are asking for a "Free Will Donation." Pick-up will be on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> in-between church services. Please contact Mark Sperry if you have any questions.

**SUPER SNACK SALE FUNDRAISER**

The Jr. & Sr. High youth will be selling snacks on **Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** between services to make your party complete. Please consider purchasing some snacks and supporting Grace Lutheran Youth Ministry plans.

**YOUTH NIGHT**

Attention all 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Make plans to join us on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm at the G\*Y\*M Building for our first Youth Night of the new year.



**College-Student Care Packages**

The Youth Groups here at Grace will be assembling 14 Care Packages to send to our college students. We need your help with collecting items: Please drop off one or more of the following to DCE Mark Sperry or at the church office by Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>:

**\$10 Gas Gift Card  
Chewing Gum**

**Microwave Popcorn  
Post-It Notes**

**Pre-packaged Cookies / Crackers  
Pens & Pencils**

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I know our students will greatly appreciate getting these care packages.

**LET ALL  
THAT  
YOU DO  
BE DONE  
WITH  
LOVE.**

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14 NKJV



## Grace Lutheran Preschool

Enrollment forms will be available February 1st on the Preschool page of the website ([www.gracedewitt.org](http://www.gracedewitt.org)). Enrollment forms and registration fee (3's only) may be dropped off at the church office or mailed to PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.

### 2021-2022 Class Schedule and Fees

3s : M & W 8:00 — 10:30 \$110/mo 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, 2021.

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

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

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



This year is flying by! We can't believe it's February already. Our preschoolers are working hard on learning their letters and shapes. We are also learning about Groundhog's Day, Community Helpers and Pete the Cat. The children are excited to celebrate Valentine's Day! 3-year-old preschool is learning about Jesus Calming the Storm, A Fisherman's Net, Jesus Feeding Thousands, and Mary and Martha during their Jesus Time.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to Preschool! We really appreciate the support of the congregation.

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

## Support Grace Lutheran Preschool By Purchasing Gift Cards



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

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



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



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



24<sup>th</sup> Greg & Kristine Anderson



# FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31 Special Voters Meeting after the 8am Service  <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship/Comm  <b>9:15 AM</b> Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Study  <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship/Communion</p>	<p>1 <b>6:30 PM</b> Elders Meeting</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 <b>8:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>5:30 PM</b> Confirmation  <b>7:00 PM</b> Senior High Bible Study  <b>7:00 PM</b> Wednesday Worship</p>	<p>4 <b>7:00 PM</b> Women of Grace - Bible Study</p>	<p>5 <b>8:00 AM</b> Trustees Board Meeting</p>	<p>6 <b>10:00 AM</b> Super Snack Sale Set-Up</p>
<p>7 "Mites" Sunday            Super Snack Sale  <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship/Communion  <b>9:15 AM</b> Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Study  <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship/Communion</p>	<p>8 Pastor Out of Office  <b>6:00 PM</b> Board of Discipleship Meeting  <b>6:00 PM</b> Council Meeting</p>	<p>9 Pastor Out of Office</p>	<p>10 <b>7:00 AM</b> Finance Board Meeting  <b>1:00 PM</b> Pastor in Office  <b>5:30 PM</b> Confirmation  <b>7:00 PM</b> Senior High Bible Study  <b>7:00 PM</b> Wednesday Worship</p>	<p>11 <b>7:00 PM</b> Women of Grace - Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship  <b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship  <b>9:15 AM</b> Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Study  <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship  <b>6:00 PM</b> Youth Night</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline  <b>9:00 AM</b> LWMML Circuit Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Board Meeting</p>	<p>16 <b>6:30 PM</b> Camp Board Meeting</p>	<p>17  <b>8:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>11:00 AM</b> Ash Wednesday Worship  <b>5:30 PM</b> Confirmation  <b>7:00 PM</b> Ash Wednesday Worship</p>	<p>18 <b>7:00 PM</b> Women of Grace - Bible Study</p>	<p>19 <b>5:00 PM</b> Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 <b>2:00 PM</b> Wedding</p>
<p>21 <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship/Communion  <b>9:15 AM</b> Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Study  <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship/Communion  <b>1:00 PM</b> Hall Rental</p>	<p>22 <b>6:30 PM</b> Board of Christian Education</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 <b>11:00 AM</b> Lenten Worship  <b>5:30 PM</b> Confirmation  <b>7:00 PM</b> Lenten Worship</p>	<p>25 Preschool - No School  <b>7:00 PM</b> Women of Grace - Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 <b>8:00 AM</b> Traditional Worship  <b>9:15 AM</b> Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Study  <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship</p>	<p>1 <b>6:00 PM</b> Council Meeting </p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 <b>8:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting  <b>11:00 AM</b> Lenten Worship  <b>5:30 PM</b> Confirmation  <b>7:00 PM</b> Lenten Worship</p>	<p>4 <b>7:00 PM</b> Women of Grace - Bible Study</p>	<p>5 <b>8:00 AM</b> Trustees Board Meeting</p>	<p>6</p>