

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

February 2024

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace!

It is always a challenge to know what topic to write about each month. It seems like every day; some thought-provoking idea comes to mind only for something better to come the next. But there is one thought that is very pressing on my mind. It's the word "connect."

I very recently listened to a book called, The Church Called Tov. This book absolutely slayed me. Which is good. I enjoy books that make me think and have positive self reflection. "Tov" is the Hebrew word for good. It's the word that God calls creation. But what does this have to do with "connect"? It has to do with the understanding of "Tov."

What is tov about creation? What is tov about you and I? When we do what God created us to do. That is a simple answer because God created us to be specific people. To do specific things that He laid out for us. Don't believe me see Ephesians 2:10, we are the workmanship of Jesus, Paul says. When we do what God created us to do, He calls it Tov. When we are good neighbors, love our enemies, fulfill our responsibility as spouses, parents, siblings, children, coworkers, and the like, we are going what God created us to do!

But what about a church? How can a church be Tov? Obviously, it is straight forward, a church is Tov when we trust what Jesus has done for us. See Ephesians 5, Jesus scarified himself for the church so that she may be holy, blameless, and perfect in the eyes of His Father, our Father in Heaven. The not so straight forward answer is doing what the church is supposed to do.

What is the church supposed to do? Well, it has to do with connecting. But before we get into this, first let us remind ourselves what a church is. Martin Luther when commenting on the Apostles Creed in reference to the Holy Spirit, he reminds us that Holy Spirit is gathering us together into a community. The gathering of people is a new community created through Jesus, who gave us the Spirit when he breathed on us through baptism.

What is this community, or the church supposed to do? Connect. However, first think of the African proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child." This proverb is referring to how in some places in this world it truly takes all hands-on deck to make sure that the child has a safe place to grow up. The same is true in the church it truly takes a village to make a church Tov. No, I am not referring to all of the work that we do here at Grace. But I am referring to our care for one another.

What does a community do? It cares for one another. It sees who is around and who isn't and it doesn't let people fall through the cracks. I will be honest. As I write this, I realize that this is an area that I struggle in as well. Most Sundays my heart aches over those who aren't with us that morning.

(Continued on page 6)

Pastor Eric Obermann
563-321-0032
pastoreric@gracedewitt.org

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

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

Kerry Good
kgood@gracedewitt.org

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

Camp Reservations
camprentals@gracedewitt.org
319-230-7718

SERVING THIS MONTH:

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

The Organist: Diana Baetke & Tasha Becker

The Acolytes

Feb. 4th

8:00 AM Emeri Ralston
10:30 AM Jaelyn Sinclair

Feb. 11th

8:00 AM Ella Sunday
10:30 AM Addison Tucker

Feb 14th

7:00 PM Gavin Walker

Feb 18th

8:00 AM Peyton Goddard
10:30 AM Katie Grantz

Feb. 21st

7:00 PM Gavin Krukow

Feb. 25th

8:00 AM Trevor McMahon
10:30 AM Hudson Meyers

Feb 28th

7:00 PM Amelia Rickertsen

The 2024 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 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.



Baptized on January 7th —

Piper Elizabeth Freeberg and Trevor Anders Freeberg, children of Lance Freeberg and Hillary Dunnegan were baptized on January 7th. Their baptismal sponsors are Justin Deardorff and Shelby Freeberg. Welcome to God's Family!

Baptized on January 20th —

Baylor Marie Jasper, daughter of Brandon & Jennifer Jasper. Baylor was baptized on January 20th. Her baptismal sponsors are Stephanie Lancaster and Mitchell Lancaster. Welcome to God's Family!

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

Referral Center Donations

We will continue to collect monthly donations for the Referral Center as the need is great. With it being winter they are getting short on hamburger helper, tuna helper, chicken helper, canned chicken, canned tuna, boxed potatoes, soup, pasta, and pasta sauce.

All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer. Thank you for all the blessings you provide to those in need.

THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE for Grace Lutheran Church will be accepting grant applications starting January 1 through March 15, 2024. Applications for projects which provide support to missions, education, youth, worship, and music and/or capital projects will be considered.

Looking for cards? There is a variety of 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 in the foyer.

Special Gifts Given Include:

In loving memory of Eleanor Arey \$470 was given to Grace Lutheran Church and \$20 was given to Grace Preschool.



Blood Drive
March 18th
2 to 6 pm
@ Grace Church

Lent



Lenten Midweek Services

February 14th, 21st, 28th and March 6th, 13th, & 20th
11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN MEAL SCHEDULE

Wednesday's @ 5:30 p.m.
Free Will Donation

- February 14th - Camp Board — Breakfast
- February 21st - Board of Youth - Turkey & Dressing Sandwiches
- February 28th - Board of Finance —Taco in a Bag
- March 6th - Board of Elders & Preschool—Spaghetti
- March 13th - Board of Discipleship/Choir - Maid-rites
- March 20th - Board of Christian Ed – Meatball Subs

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Procession of the Palms
Sunday School Children Sing



Palm Sunday
Pancake Breakfast
8:30 to 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday

March 28th
7:00 p.m. Worship/Communion

Good Friday

March 29th
7:00 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday Worship

March 31st
8:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

MILES OF DIMES - Grace Camp was purchased in 1988. The Miles of Dimes project was started in 1990 as an effort to help pay for the facilities which everyone enjoys. There is a "Miles of Dimes" collection jar located on the Welcome Center. Leave your "dimes" or any donation you may want to make and your donation will be used to benefit the camp facilities. Thank you for your continued support.

Reminder—There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study on Easter

Greeters are needed to help welcome members and guests before worship services. Please, look at the sign-up sheet on the Welcome center and sign up for a date that works for you.

SENIOR HIGH MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Our Midweek Bible study will be the first Wednesday of February. After that we will move our study to Sunday mornings here at church during the Sunday school hour. We hope you can join us.

SUPER SNACK SALE FUNDRAISER

The Grace Youth will be selling snacks on **Sunday, February 11th** between services to make your party complete. Please consider purchasing some snacks and supporting Grace Lutheran Youth Ministry plans.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT

Attention all 9th-12th graders. Make plans to join us on **Sunday, February 18th from 6 pm – 7:30 pm** here at church, as we will be assembling and packing care packages for our college students.

College-Student Care Packages

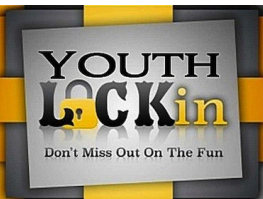
The High School Youth here at Grace will be assembling 20 Care Packages to send to our college students. We need your help with collecting items. Please drop off one or more of the following to DCE Mark Sperry or at the church office:

\$10 Kwik Star Gift Card

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

GRACE LUTHERAN YOUTH'S FAMOUS LASAGNA DINNER

Our Youth Lasagna Dinner will be held on **Sunday, March 3rd**. We will begin taking reservations on Sunday, February 18th. There will be two reservation times: 5:00 pm & 6:15 pm. To register, please contact the church office or sign-up at the table in the foyer



ALL YOUTH (6th – 12th Grades) LOCK-IN

Attention all 6th – 12th graders. Join us **Friday, February 23rd** for a LOCK-IN. Invite your friends for a night of fun, games, food, movies, and God's Word. To sign-up, please write your name down on the sheet posted outside of Mr. Sperry's office. We ask that each participant please bring a snack for the snack table. Something sweet or salty, etc. Pizza and drinks will be served Friday night, and we will have donuts for breakfast Saturday morning before heading home. Contact the church office with any questions. **You must sign-up by Sunday, February 18th.**

This is the logo and theme for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering. Each arm of the cross is made from the letter "E" to symbolize the theme Endure. The cross colors are Purple, Blue, Teal and Green, which represent our gathering city of New Orleans. The cross in the middle is Gold to remind us of the golden streets of heaven that await those who remain faithful until death.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The dates are June 23rd – 27th. This year's program will be held during the evenings out at Grace Camp. Join us for **The Great Jungle Journey**, as we help kids learn that they are a part of God's kingdom through Jesus' salvation. Information on volunteering will be available soon.

TO TRULY DISCOVER AND
FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE FOR
US, WE MUST SPEND REGULAR
TIME WITH GOD.


#BEINGCHALLENGE

Being Challenge

The BEING Challenge begins on February 11 in conjunction with the Lenten season. Join us on this 40-Day study around five keystone habits to help build and strengthen our relationship with God: Commit to Community, Study Scripture, Prioritize Prayer, Seek Solitude and Choose Church. Pick up your book, sign up with your availability for a small group and get ready to join the challenge!

Small Group Leaders Needed - Help Lead us on the BEING Challenge!

In addition to the self-study opportunities, we will once again be forming small study groups to encourage each other and learn in a group setting. We are looking for small group leaders to facilitate our group study. Group Leaders will guide the weekly study using the Being Challenge book and study materials which are provided. This is a great way to strengthen your own faith and lead others on their own faith journey. Please contact Kristy Engelkes at 563-210-2462 (text or call) or the church office with your interest or if you have any questions. A sign-up sheet is available on the Welcome Center in the church foyer. A Small Group Leader Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024 @ 11:30am.

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
IS PLANNING AN OUTREACH EVENT!

Summer Night Out

JOIN THE FUN
HELP US PLAN.

MONDAY, FEB. 19TH - 6PM
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO HELP US
PLAN THIS COMMUNITY
OUTREACH EVENT. SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS AND IDEAS AND HELP
PLAN THIS AMAZING EVENT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL KRISTY ENGELKES AT 563-210-2462

PosterMyWall.com

All are invited to join us on Monday, February 19th at 6:00 p.m. for a Summer Night Out planning meeting.

Join us as we discuss what this community night out will look like, what needs to be organized, and how to reach our vision.

At our first meeting, we discussed the possibility of a petting zoo. If you know of someone who has a traveling petting zoo or someone who could possibly help with this, please contact Kristy.

Please plan to join us on February 19th to share your thoughts and contribute to the outreach efforts at Grace!



3 The three year old preschool class is learning about the cold February month indoors. We will be talking about the snow and ice, animals in winter and arctic animals. Our bible lessons are about some of Jesus' miracles, when he calms the storm, feeds thousands and walks on water!

4 We can't believe it's February already. Our preschoolers are working hard on learning their letters and letter sounds, shapes, rhyming, patterns, shapes and so much more. We will be learning about Groundhog's Day, Community Helpers, and Pete the Cat.

All of our preschoolers can't wait for the Valentines Day party. On February 27th we will be hosting a Family Math Night with fun Pete the Cat games and activities.



Thank you to everyone who has given money through the "little white church" for our Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad events. As of January 24 we received \$23 to help with the event expenses.

We would like to thank all that purchased a cookie kit from our fundraiser. Please remember cookie pick up is Feb. 8th from 3:00-6:00 in Grace Hall.

Grace Lutheran Preschool

2024-2025 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 (10 spots) \$160 monthly

T&TH 8:15 - 10:45 (10 spots) \$120 monthly

Please note that all 3s must be potty trained.

The 3s Registration form will be available Feb. 1st

on the Preschool page of the website (www.gracedewitt.org). The registration 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 will be available February 1st

on the Central DeWitt Community School District Website. Registration begins at 12:00 pm.

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Often thinking of you and praying for wherever you are. But my remembrance to reach out and see how you are doing, I fail often. For that I am deeply sorry. But that is why this word connect is pressed upon my heart so deeply. Because not only do I want to improve in this area, but I want us to improve together.

Honestly, I am seeing us grow in this area together already. The other day one of you stopped in just to see how I was doing! You don't realize how that felt. But I know it is a starting point. Just as the small groups we established are a starting point. It gives you people to be with. To connect to. To care about. To be accountable to.

How does a church become Tov? It becomes what God created it do. To trust what Jesus has done for us, and the salvation He gives us through his life and death. Also to be the community of believes in which the Holy Spirit gathered us into. To be connected through the body of Jesus.

I pray that all of you are having a blessed start to your 2024!

In the service of Jesus, Pastor Eric

Sewing Ladies will meet on Wednesday, February 7th and 21st. Please mark your calendar.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1st Lauren Stowe
- 3rd Janeen Meyer
- 4th David Hall
Shirley Franks
Rebecca Gisel
- 5th Madison Burke
- 6th Lauren Hansen
Mitch Krukow
- 7th Wyatt Jensen
Audra Seifert
- 9th Christine Greve
Abigail Johnson
- 11th Raymond Myers
- 12th Isabella Nolin
- 13th Scott Steffens
- 14th Bill Dies
Myrle McWilliams
Raegan Spain
- 15th Jared Dies
Keli Runge
- 17th Barbara Dies
Madison Lawrence
David Schneider
- 18th Lavonne Martin
- 19th Marilyn Mundt
Cole Tobey
- 23rd Kitt Converse
Cade Converse
- 24th Jon Betz
- 26th Allan Anderson
Kerry Good
Kathy Ketelsen
- 27th Kathi Lieving
Dorothy C. Ketelsen
Valerie Erps
- 28th Amanda Hoepner
Angela Wagner
Patricia Niemann



February

- 12th Cody & Crystal Baines
- 24th Greg & Kristine Anderson



February 15th Victory Center Service Event

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the meal, helped serve and prayed for our January service event at the Victory Center in Clinton. Our next service event meal will be on February 15th. We are planning to serve up to 40 people and allow for seconds. If you haven't volunteered to help with some part of one of these meals, please prayerfully consider being involved in some way. Men are encouraged to join us in this mission, especially with serving the meal.

All food needs to be prepared and brought to the church by 4:00 PM on Thursday, February 15th.

Main Dish 5 Volunteers

Each volunteer is asked to prepare a 9X13 meat casserole of your choice.

Drinks Drinks 2 Volunteers:

- 1 gallon of white milk
- 1 gallon of chocolate milk

Desserts 3 Volunteers

Prepare a dessert that serves 15

Salads 3 Volunteers

Prepare a salad that serves 15 people.

Deliver & Serve 5 Volunteers

Needed to help deliver and serve the meal. We meet at Grace at 4 pm. Meal is served at 5pm to 5:30pm.

A sign up sheet is located on the Welcome Center. Please contact Kristy Engelkes at 563-210-2462 or the church office if you have any questions

Moms of ALL ages & stages are encouraged to join us for

Coffee & Connections

Friday, February 23rd

8:00 am to 10:30 am (drop in for a few or stay and chat all morning)

Grace Hall (use Main Entrance of Grace Church and head downstairs)

Have a little one?

Feel free to bring them along.

Let's take some time to connect. We will bring the GOOD coffee & something sweet to eat.



Grace Ev. Lutheran Church—February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p> <p>8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Praise Worship 11:45am Urban Plunge Meeting 2:00pm CLUB345</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:00am Trustees Board Meeting</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>*Miles' Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/Communion</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Board of Discipleship 6:30pm Elders Meeting</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am Sewing Ladies 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 1:30pm Service @ Maggie's House 3:00pm Preschool Cookie Pick-Up</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Preschool—Yoga Friday</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00am Snack Sale Dip Off</p>
<p>11</p> <p>SUPER SNACK SALE 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00am Finance Board Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Ash Wednesday Service 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Meal - Pancakes 6:30pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center Service Event</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Preschool—Yoga Friday</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/Communion 6:00pm High School Youth Night - College Care Packages</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Summer Night Out Planning Meeting 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30pm Camp Board Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4s Spring Conferences 9:00am Sewing Ladies 11:00am Lenten Worship 5:00pm Lenten Meal - Turkey & Dressing Sandwiches 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>No Preschool & Office Closed 8:00AM Coffee & Connections 7:00pm YOUTH LOCK-IN</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:00am Traditional Worship 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship 2:00pm CLUB345</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30pm Board of Christian Education</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00pm Preschool Family Night</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:30am Staff Meeting 10:30am Service @ Fieldstone 11:00am Lenten Worship 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Meal - Taco in a Bag 6:30pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Lenten Worship</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8:00am Trustees Board Meeting</p>	<p>2</p>