

# Grace News



Grace Ev. Lutheran Church  
415 10th St, PO Box 156  
DeWitt, IA 52742

PH: 563-659-9153  
Fax: 563-659-9154  
www.gracedewitt.org

**Church Office Hours**  
M-Th - 8am to 3 pm  
F - 8am to Noon

February 2022 | Vol. 2

Dear Redeemed and Love Saints of Grace,

What is the limit of your comfort zone? Mine is the moment I need to make a phone call. I am comfortable, I have zero anxiety, I don't have any real cares, but then I know the weight of calling hits me. I hem and haw. I do everything I can to put off calling. I know that I should, but I can't make myself dial the numbers. Now granted this isn't every phone call. But I get very uncomfortable with important phone calls. Calling the doctor, making doctors' appointments, calling a company when they send me the wrong book, and the list goes on and on. Yet, the burden of calling, the burden of knowing what my responsibility is will never go away. I must make the phone call. So, I finally do. Well, what do you know the phone call is painless! The worry's that I conceive in my head, are gone. The worry and anxiety are replaced with a silly feeling. Almost an embarrassing feeling. Why did I get so worked up in the first place?

Comfort zones can do that. They are a major stress only to be turned into an embarrassing feeling. But let's talk about another example of comfort zones. Inviting people to church. This can be a huge stress in the life of the Christian. I mean we know that it is our task, to be as Jesus calls us, fisher of people. There can be a huge feeling of embarrassment as the people you invite might reject you. Might be anxiousness in waiting to see if the person will show up. All these things can lead the Christian to put off the invitation. To put off the not extending the offer. But yet the burden remains. The Christian knows what their responsibility is, to connect people to Jesus. But those words of invitation are tough to ask.

Which is why I found myself being reminded of words that my brother has spoken to me. Words that have brought great comfort to me over the last couple of months. We are the means which God uses to expand his kingdom. We all know how often God speaks in the Bible about his Sons' mission of coming to save the entire world. That God takes the simple words that you speak and uses them to draw people into his loving arms. What a comfort to an uncomfortable thing. Knowing that is God who does the work. He is taking our words, our actions to use them to connect people to His Son.

I have mentioned this before, but when we speak of connecting people to Jesus. We talk about connecting people to the gifts that Jesus gives. His forgiveness through his forgiving words, through the shedding of body and blood. Connecting people to his forever promise to be with us wherever we go. A promise was made to you in baptism when he connected himself to you.

It's this that brings comfort to me. Knowing that it is God who is in control, God who is doing the work. It is God who knows how the conversations will turn out. It is God who already knows the end

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**Pastor Eric Obermann**  
563-321-0032  
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

## SERVING THIS MONTH:

**The Elders:** Sunday's 8:00 AM Alan Ruggeberg  
10:30 AM Jon Betz  
Wednesday 7:00 PM Scott Steffens

**The Organist:** Diana Baetke

### The Acolytes

#### February 6th

8:00 AM Wyatt Jensen  
10:30 AM Hudson Krukow

#### February 13th

8:00 AM Mallory McMahan  
10:30 AM Ashlie Oronzio

#### February 20th

8:00 AM Ashton Schneider  
10:30 AM Landre Ruggeberg

#### February 27th

8:00 AM Noah Sunday  
10:30 AM Silas DeHaven

**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 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.

## 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.

### Piano Player Needed

The Sunday School Children would like to sing a song for the congregation on Sunday, April 10th. It would be a great help if they were able to be accompanied by a piano. If you can play the piano and are able to assist us with this, please call Kerry at 659-9153.

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



### 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.

**THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE** for Grace Lutheran Church is accepting grant applications through March 15, 2022. 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 Daniel B Kaufman \$30 has been given to Grace Church and \$45 to Grace Preschool.

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results. It is God who brings calmness to the edges of our comfort zones.

Therefore, I encourage you, as we are about to enter the season of Lent in about a month. As we look forward to celebrating our savior Jesus' resurrection. I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone. Extend an invitation to your neighbor and invite them to come to church. Let their ears hear the good news that Jesus has for them. That they are well-loved by Jesus.

In the service of Jesus,

Pastor Eric

# Grace Lutheran Preschool

# Rummage SALE

Call Kerry at 659-9153 to schedule a time to drop off your items. No items will be accepted after Saturday, April 23rd.

**April 30, 2022**  
**7am to 1 pm**  
**Grace Hall**

**We will accept these items**  
**in good condition:**

Toys  
Books  
Jewelry  
Baby Items  
Holiday Decorations  
Home Décor  
Tools  
Furniture  
Baby Clothing  
Children's Clothing up to 14-16  
Electronics  
Household Items

**We will NOT accept these items:**  
Cars/Autos—anything with a title  
Adult Clothing  
Mattresses  
Items in poor condition



**Questions? Please contact Christine Greve at**  
**[preschool@gracedewitt.org](mailto:preschool@gracedewitt.org)**  
**or call the church office, 563-659-9153.**

# 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.



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 Jesus Walks on Water during their Jesus Time.

## 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.

### 2022-2023 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 August 29th and 30th.
  - Children must be 3 on or before Sept. 15, 2022.
- 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, 2022 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).





# Love & Respect

## Marriage Retreat

Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup>  
9am-4pm  
Peter Retreat Center  
Grace Camp  
\$20/couple  
(Includes Lunch)

REGISTER online at [www.gracedewitt.org](http://www.gracedewitt.org)  
OR with Kerry at the Grace Lutheran Church  
Deadline to register: February 1<sup>st</sup>  
Questions? Contact Pastor Eric or Michelle Diercks

## The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Newsletter Article – February 2022

### God in Man Made Manifest

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

### SENIOR HIGH MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Our Midweek Bible study will continue to meet on Wednesday's at 7:00 pm at the Sperry's. We hope you can join us.

### SUPER SNACK SALE FUNDRAISER

The Jr. & Sr. High youth will be selling snacks on **Sunday, February 13<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 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm – 6:30 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 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:

- Gas Gift Card**
- Microwave Popcorn**
- Pre-packaged Cookies / Crackers**
- Chewing Gum**
- Post-It Notes**
- Pens & Pencils**

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

We're back and can't wait to serve you. Our Youth Lasagna Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. We will begin taking reservations on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### QC Storm Hockey

Attention all 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. We're going to a Q.C. Storm hockey game on **Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**. The cost is **\$17** per person which included admission to the game and a \$5 concessions voucher. Please sign-up on the bulletin board outside Mr. Sperry's office and turn in your \$17 by **Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**. Due to their guidelines, we will not be able to accept any registrations after that date. We will meet here at church at 1 pm that afternoon and carpool to the game. We will need several parents to help drive.



### JUNIOR HIGH LOCK-IN

Attention all 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders. We will be hosting an all-night LOCK-IN here at church on **Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**. There is no cost for this event, but you must register by signing up on the bulletin board outside Mr. Sperry's office by Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. The night will include: games, food, movies, Bible time and much more. Don't miss out, get registered right away! We ask each participant to please bring a snack for the snack table. Something sweet or salty, etc. Pizza and drinks Friday night & donuts for breakfast Saturday morning will be provided. This event runs from 7 pm Friday until 7 am Saturday. **All participants must be picked-up at 7 am.** Please contact Mark Sperry if you have any questions.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The dates are June 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. This year's program will again be held during the evenings out at Grace Camp.



Join us for **ZOOMERANG**, as we take the journey of a lifetime through Australia. You'll marvel at the unforgettable wildlife, culture, and beauty while exploring the wonder and value of life, from the lives of preborn babies to eternal life in the kingdom of God. Watch the bulletin board in the foyer to see how and where you can volunteer to help.



# Happy Birthday!

1<sup>st</sup> Lauren Stowe  
 2<sup>nd</sup> William Ketelsen  
 3<sup>rd</sup> David Williams  
 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
 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

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  
 28<sup>th</sup> Amanda Hoepner  
 Angela Wagner  
 Patricia Niemann



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



# FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 2:00 PM CLUB345 Event 5:00 PM NYG22 Team Building Meeting #1	<b>31</b> 1:00 PM 500 Card Club Discipleship 6:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting	<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Winkle @ Trinity in Clinton	<b>2</b> 5:30 PM Confirmation Rehearsal 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Glory Bound Choir 7:00 PM Sr. High Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study	<b>4</b> 8:00 AM Trustees Board Meeting	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> "Mites" Sunday 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 1:00 PM Youth Activity	<b>7</b> 1:00 PM 500 Card Club Discipleship 6:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Winkle @ Trinity in Clinton	<b>9</b> 7:00 AM Finance Board Meeting 7:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation Rehearsal 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Glory Bound Choir 7:00 PM Sr. High Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Marriage Retreat @ Peter Retreat Center, Grace Camp 10:00 AM Snack Sale Set-Up
<b>13</b> Super Snack Sale 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Worship	<b>14</b> 6:00 PM Council Meeting	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline 6:30 PM Camp Board Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:00 AM Sewing Ladies 5:30 PM Confirmation Rehearsal 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Glory Bound Choir 7:00 PM Sr. High Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	<b>17</b> 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study	<b>18</b> Preschool Yoga Friday	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Fellowship Sunday 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 5:00 PM Youth Night	<b>21</b> 4s Preschool Conferences 1:00 PM 500 Card Club Youth Board Meeting	<b>22</b> 4s Preschool Conferences	<b>23</b> 7:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation Rehearsal 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Glory Bound Choir 7:00 PM Sr. High Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	<b>24</b> 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study	<b>25</b> No Preschool 7:00 PM Jr. High LOCK-IN	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM CLUB345 Event	<b>28</b> 6:30 PM Board of Christian Education	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> ASH WEDNESDAY 5:30 PM Confirmation 5:30 PM Lenten Meal - Pasta in a Pot - Camp Board 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Glory Bound Choir 7:00 PM Worship	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study	<b>4</b> 8:00 AM Trustees Board Meeting	<b>5</b>