



Grace Newsletter

JANUARY 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

EMAIL:
kgood@gracedewitt.org

Pastor Eric Obermann

563-321-0032
pastoreric@gracedewitt.org

Mark Sperry, DCE

563-321-0674
msperry@gracedewitt.org

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

Kerry Good

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

Grace Lutheran Camp

2675 242nd Street
P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

Camp Reservations

camprentals@gracedewitt.org
319-230-7718

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace!

The other night, Emily, and I went for a drive around town. All December the kids were super excited to look at Christmas lights that our neighbors put around their homes. So almost every night we would take an hour or so and just drive around De Witt. Turning down random streets, just trying to find the lights. The chase was on. We looked for all sorts of lights, and pop-ups. We searched for Santa's and reindeer but were never too disappointed in the homes that had Frozen characters or Mickey Mouses. It was a blast! Emily and I enjoyed ourselves. The kids were marveled at the beauty. In fact, Evie would keep saying, "Daddy, it's so beautiful!"

But on one drive, I turned to Emily and asked her what she was looking forward to in the year 2021. As she fired the question right back to me, I responded quickly to the personal things I am hoping for as well.

But as I think about that question deeper, I am going to offer a unique answer. I am looking forward to what Jesus will do here at Grace. To guide us in finding this answer, we are going to spend time in the Gospel of Mark. Letting our hearts and minds hear what Jesus is doing among the various people and disciples that he interacts with. Hearing what Jesus is saying. For example, the first words that Jesus says in Mark gospel is "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:15 ESV) Letting these words of Jesus shape us. So that as we see what Jesus is doing in our life, we, in turn, can see what Jesus has in store for Grace in 2021. Letting His ministry impact of the following of His command to go and proclaim the gospel because the reign of God is at hand!

I pray that Jesus would give you and your family a blessed 2021 as we seek how Jesus will impact us!

In the Service of Jesus!

Pastor Eric

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 AM Ray Ackerman
10:30 AM Scott Havener

Wednesday 7:00 PM Scott Steffens

The Organist: Diana Baetke

The Acolytes

Jan. 3, 2021

8:00 AM

Noah Sunday

10:30 AM

Landre Rugeberg

Jan. 10, 2021

8:00 AM

Silas DeHaven

10:30 AM

Zack Garrity

Jan. 17, 2021

8:00 AM

Luke Hill

10:30 AM

Kolton Goddard

Jan. 24, 2021

8:00 AM

Hattie Rickertsen

10:30 AM

Briah Reuss

Jan. 24, 2021

8:00 AM

Kamryn Albrecht

10:30 AM

Adalyn Appleby

Special Gifts Given Include:

In loving memory of Jack Arey \$60 has been given to Grace Lutheran Church, \$20 to Grace Camp, and \$45 to Grace Preschool.

In loving memory of Rose Galitz \$20 has been given to Grace Preschool.

In loving memory of Ruth Ann Van Meter \$5 has been given to Grace Preschool.

In loving memory of Joan Lass \$25 has been given to Grace Preschool and \$25 to Grace Lutheran Church.

In loving memory of Shirley Mullen \$25 has been given to Grace Preschool.

In loving memory of Jim Studer \$10 has been given to Grace Lutheran Church.

OFFERING STATEMENTS FOR 2020. will be ready and available for you to pick up in the foyer on Sunday, January 10th. Some 2020 offering envelopes still need to be picked from the table in the foyer. If you have not picked your envelopes up, please do so.

Church Voters Meeting

Monday, January 11th

@ 7:00 p.m.

Camp Annual Board Meeting

Monday, January 11th

following Church Voters Meeting

@ Grace Lutheran Church

Please come and support
the church and camp.



**PLEASE REMEMBER
TO CONTINUE
GIVING TO YOUR
CHURCH**

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, for online giving.

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.

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

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.

In Loving Memory of:

Carroll D. Flathers, 94, of De Witt, Iowa, passed away Friday, December 25, 2020, at Westwing Place, De Witt.

Carroll Duane Flathers was born January 19, 1926, in Delmar, Iowa, to Joseph Howard and Johanna Marie (Gohlmann) Flathers. He married Louise Jochimsen on February 19, 1950. She preceded him in death on November 7, 1982. Carroll farmed, did custom chopping for farmers, hauled livestock, drove school bus for Welton schools, and was substitute custodian for the Central School district in DeWitt. He married Roberta Blocker in 1994, she preceded him in death in 2004.

Carroll was a longtime member of Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt, where he served as an Elder for many years. He was also a member of F.F.A. alumni of Iowa. He was a 4-H member in his youth and enjoyed watching his family show at the county fairs throughout his life. He enjoyed taking his wagon and ponies to parades and nursing homes.

Survivors include sons, Dean of Maquoketa, Duane of Kentucky, and Kurt (Colleen) of Clinton and daughters, Jean (Marvin) Grager of Clinton, and Ardith (Carl) Hamilton of Bryant; grandchildren, Jennifer Robinson, Justin Grager, Travis Grager, Sarah Flathers, Zachery Hamilton, Austin Hamilton, and Kristen Flathers; 5 great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

In addition to his two wives, he was preceded in death by a grandson, Jeffery Flathers, and his brother, Donald.

* * * *

John Luther "Jack" Arey, 86, of DeWitt, Iowa, went to be with his Lord December 17, 2020. He passed away at home as was his wish and was surrounded by his loving family.

John "Jack" was born June 7, 1934, at Miles to the late Robert and Lillian (Camp) Arey. He attended DeWitt High School, graduating in the class of 1953. Jack was united in marriage to Eleanor Paarmann May 6, 1956, at Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt, by the Rev. Theodore Hinck. He joined the United States Army in 1954 and was honorably discharged in April of 1956. Jack served his country stateside during the Korean War, last serving at Beale Air Force Base, California. After being honorably

discharged from the Army, he worked a short time at Alcoa before joining the Linley Paarmann family farm. Jack milked Holstein cows, raised cattle, hogs, poultry and helped with the kid's 4-H projects. In the early 1980's, he began employment at Cheney Implement, then Fuhrman and Davis to Fuhrman and Gordon and retired from Kunau Implement in 2000. After retirement, Jack and Randy Reed operated JDR Repair Shop on the farm.

He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt where he served as elder for many years as well as being a part of the Married Couples Society and a Bible Study Club. He was also a proud member of the Eugene McManus American Legion Post #238 of DeWitt serving time as Vice Commander and Chaplain. Jack was an avid watcher of his boys' sports events, especially football and wrestling, enduring all types of weather conditions. Jack could be seen and heard loudly from the stands. He helped start the Mat Rats Wrestling Club, serving as President. Jack was pleased to be a part of the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities in April 2014. In 2000, he toured Germany and the Island of Fehmarn with his wife in response to his family history. They also visited Alaska in 2007, which he enjoyed very much and liked to talk about it. Jack enjoyed fixing machinery, fishing with his kids and watching old war movies and westerns.

Also preceding Jack in death were sisters, Betty Hill and Joy Schmidt; a brother, Robert Arey; brothers-in-law, James Green and Gerhardt Scheeper and an infant grandson, Luther Alfred Arey.

Surviving are his wife of 64 years, Eleanor; sons, Kevin (Tamara) Arey of Cordova, Illinois, Todd (Carol) Arey of Farmington, Minnesota, and Darin Arey of DeWitt; a daughter, Angela (Bane) Bates of Gilson, Illinois; grandchildren, Brianna (Ben) Martin, Brett (Heather) Arey, Benjamin Arey, Jessica Arey, TJ Arey, Joshua Arey, Hannah Arey, Olivia Bates and Andrew Bates; great-grandchildren, Ambrielle and Cohen Martin, and Carter and Hunter Arey; sisters-in-laws, Margaret Arey and Marilyn Scheeper, a brother-in-law, Donald Hill and a number of nieces and nephews.

* * * *

Joan Irene Lass, 89, of DeWitt, passed away Sunday, December 13, 2020, at Grand Haven in her home.

Joan was born October 20, 1931, to August and Caroline (Dohrmann) Doescher in DeWitt. She graduated from DeWitt High School. On August 7, 1951, Joan was united in marriage to Ronald P. Lass at Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt. Joan was a loving wife, and together with her husband, raised her family and worked many years at First Central State Bank until retirement. Ron preceded her in death October 14, 2008.

Joan was a lifelong member of Grace Lutheran Church, where she was very active in various groups and committees. She enjoyed quilting with ladies at the church, making cards with her group of friends, and outings with the Red Hat Society. Joan kept herself busy after retirement in her many clubs, and clerking for GMB Auction Service. She also enjoyed traveling between Colorado and Texas to visit her family.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Diane Lass, Dumas, Texas; a daughter Carol Martin, Northglenn, Colorado, Lisa (Bob) Hilbert; grandchildren, Karen Elizabeth (Dustin) Schutt, Michael David Whipple, Brett James Whipple, Robert Sutton, and Stephanie Lass, Jacqueline Jo Ilg; great-grandchildren, Maddox Schutt, and Travis Klancher; three step-grandchildren, Amber Bellis, Crystal (Mario) Jimenez, Jeremy Martin; four step-great-grandchildren, Colin and Cade Bellis, Ava Grace and Mia Jimenez; many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, a son-in-law, Wayne Martin, sisters, brothers, and in-laws.

* * * *

Ruth Ann Lass Van Meter, 90, of DeWitt, passed away Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at Westwing Place, DeWitt, following complications from Covid-19.

Ruth Ann Wells was born October 17, 1930, to James and Francis (Fish) Wells in DeWitt, Iowa. She graduated from DeWitt High School 1948. Ruth married Eugene Lass on May 29, 1949, at Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt. Ruth was a homemaker, raising four sons, and later held multiple positions at Iowa Mutual Insurance,

retiring as an executive secretary after 25 years. Following retirement, she spent winters in Yuma, Arizona, until 2012. Eugene preceded her in death in 2004. She later married Carvel Van Meter, who preceded her in death in 2011.

She was a longtime member of Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt, where she served as both choir director and organist, and was a member of the Professional Secretaries Association. Ruth enjoyed spending time with her sons and grandchildren.

She is survived by sons, Dean R. Lass, Ridgecrest, California, Richard P. and Kathleen Lass, Oceano, California, Jim O. and Linda Drew-Lass, DeWitt; five grandchildren, Michelle Turner, Ryan Lass, Chelsey Lass, Garrett Lass and Keegan Lass; three great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law Joan Lass; nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husbands, she was preceded in death by her son, Douglas, sister Jeanne (Ralph) Brooks, and brothers-in-law, Ronald Lass, and Arlan (Betty) Lass.

* * * *

Mrs. Lucille B. Schroeder, 97, of DeWitt, Iowa, died Wednesday morning, November 25, 2020, at Crestridge Care Center, Maquoketa.

Mrs. Schroeder, the former Lucille Bertha Roseland was born April 11, 1923, in Donahue to the late Marcus and Anna (Gronewold) Roseland. She married Virtus Henry Schroeder January 11, 1953, at Elvira Zion Lutheran Church. Their marriage was blessed with four sons. Lucille worked at the Garment Factory in her younger years. As well as being a homemaker, she worked for Ennis Business Forms, DeWitt until retirement. Her husband, Virtus preceded Lucille in death March 16, 1995.

Lucille was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt. She enjoyed sewing quilting and crocheting and found great joy spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include her sons, Douglas Schroeder, Dale (Rhonda) Schroeder, Mark (Debra) Schroeder and Virgil (Brenda) Schroeder all of DeWitt; her grandchildren, Travis Weise, Dana Schroeder, Shelby Schroeder, Melissa Schroeder, Cody Schroeder, Kurt Schroeder, Nathan (Gennifer) Schroeder, Lynn (Mike) Lubben, Troy (Lindsey) Schroeder and Shannon (Jake) Flagel; eleven great-grandchildren and a

great-great-grandchild; a brother, Earl Roseland; a sister-in-law, Agnes Roseland and brother-in-law, Robert Lilly.

Also preceding Lucille in death were a daughter, Sandra Edwards; a granddaughter, Sarah Moore and siblings, Arlene Roseland, Malvin Roseland, Elvira Burke, Wesley Roseland, Pearl Schroeder, Elta Gustafson and Marlene Lilly.

Thank You

Members of Grace,
Many thanks for collecting gloves and mittens for those in need. My your generous spirit continue in 2021. The organizations were very grateful for the donation.

Sincerely, The Thrivent Team

This Christmas I have been blessed with many notes, cards, and gifts of appreciation from members of Grace. I want to thank everyone for their kind words and generosity. Your thoughtfulness and support feels my heart with joy.

Thank you, Kerry Good

Thank you!! Thanks to everyone that donated to the Referral Center. We were able to give \$3,502.00 towards their building fund.

Board of Discipleship/Outreach

Thank you to everyone who donated items towards the Advent Gifts for the Davenport Lutheran Home and the DeWitt Referral Center. A special thank you to the ladies who helped pack the boxes and to those who delivered them. Your generosity during this season of giving was felt by many.

LWML Committee

THANK YOU!!!!!! THANK YOU!!!!!!

Our family would like to express our deepest appreciation for all the gifts, cards, thoughts, prayers and love we received during this past Christmas season. Knowing how much we are loved and cared for is a blessing. Thanks again and know that we are blessed to call all of you our friends & family. May God bless all of you and give you a faith-filled 2021. **The Sperry's**

SENIOR HIGH MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Our Midweek Bible study will resume on January 6th @ 7:00 pm at the Sperry's. I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you soon!



CLUB 345 - SAVE THE DATE!

Our first quarterly event will be held on Sunday January 31, 2021 from 3pm-5pm at Grace Lutheran Camp (G*Y*M Building). ALL 3rd, 4th & 5th graders are welcome!

Please look for our group page, "Club345 at Grace Lutheran Church" on Facebook. For more information, contact Mark Sperry at the church office or reach out to Rachael Vopatek or Amy Meyers. Please help to spread the word!

SKI TRIP

Our annual Youth Ski Trip will be at Sundown in Dubuque on **Jan. 24th**. Please get a permission slip from the folder on the bulletin board outside of Mr. Sperry's office. Completed forms and money is due **January 17th**. We will need several more adults to help drive, so if you're willing and available, please contact Mark Sperry.

SUPER SNACK SALE FUNDRAISER

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

2021 Board/Committee Members

Board of Elders

Scott Steffens
 Clint Albrecht
 Jon Betz
 Leon Doescher
 Paul Kirby
 Scott Havener
 Allen Anderson
 Alan Rugeberg
 Ray Ackerman
 Dave Wold

Board of Trustees

Mitch Krukow
 Cory Krukow
 Wayne Grantz
 Kevin Meyer

GYM Trustees

Dick Block
 Craig Paarmann

Board of Youth

Laura Norcross
 Troy Diercks
 Cindy Sperry
 Jennifer Thiede
 Alex Butler
 Emily Reed
 Christy Stearns

Preschool Board

Kim Burzlaff
 Netty Schneider
 Emily Williams
 Val Betz
 Kerry Good

Board of Discipleship

Traci Butler
 Julie Krukow
 Kay Hall
 Deb Swanson
 Monica Rugeberg
 Jill Johnson

Board of Christian Ed.

Rachael Vopatek
 Barb Dies
 Jill Gisel
 Shanna Tucker
 Shannon Soenksen
 Mike Good
 Julie Matzen
 Nicole Rickertsen
 Amy Meyers

Board of Finance

Barb Reed
 Barry Engelkes
 Angie Hill
 Duane Meyer
 Mike Vopatek
 Mary Garlough

Endowment Committee

Jon Billhorn
 Jim Owen
 Scott Steffens
 Barb Reed

Council Officers

President
 Rich Matzen

President Elect
 Steve Butler

Secretary
 JoAnn Greve

Chancel Care News:

The purchase of new Red and Purple Parament sets have been made and arrived in October. Now all sets have been updated with replacement sets for Green and White sets placed into service in the spring of 2019. The cost of these paraments was covered by some endowment funds and memorials received from families of Grace.

Part of Chancel Care involves caring for the altar, clothes, vases, and candles. The tapestry and curtain behind the altar are also in need of replacement. As history has proven, these drapes have changed about every 20 years. So in 2021, it will be about 20 years since the tapestry was added to the altar decor. We are looking at removing the curtain and updating the chancel area with a coat of paint and possibly a new cross. We hope the focus of the refreshed chancel area will be on the cross and all that it stands for...what Jesus did for us by dying on that cross so that we have eternal life with Him forever and ever.

Thank you to all Chancel Care volunteers and also those new persons who have agreed to join the group. Your devotion to the duties of caring for our chancel area is most appreciated by all members of Grace.

On January 10th during both worship services we will be installing officers. We ask all 2021 Board/Committee Members to participate.

Support Grace Lutheran Preschool By Purchasing Gift Cards



Walmart

KWIK STAR

TARGET

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.



Happy Birthday



- 1st Alexandria Niemann
- 2nd Remington Meggers
- 3rd Kyle Lane
- 4th Marshall Nicolay
- Rollie Niemann
- Monica Ruggeberg
- 5th Piper Hoepner
- Trey Schlotfeldt
- Mandy Anderson
- Kayla Daniels
- Kennedy Struck
- 6th Clayton Block
- 8th Lois Kuehn
- Debra Swanson
- 9th Jason Handel
- Sandra Peters
- Colleen Flathers
- 11th Jennifer Maass
- Maddison Fuller
- 12th Ty Stevens
- Kay Hansen
- Emily Stearns
- 13th Rider Anderson
- Ron McVey
- Klaire Gruntorad
- Lucy Broadfoot
- Cory Krukow
- Elyce Burzlaff
- 15th Kaitlyn Giebelstein
- Ella Sunday
- 16th Charlene Paarmann
- Charlotte Harroun
- Audrey Small
- 17th Troy Paarmann
- Rilee Kirby
- 18th Wendi Gallaway
- Dallas Williams
- 20th Tony Martens
- 21st Leon Doescher
- 22nd Brett Henningsen
- Jacqueline Sawvell
- Matt Johnson

- 23rd Barbara Billhorn
- Jeremiah Griep
- Jim Hetrick
- Alicia Held
- Katie Albrecht
- 24th Tonia Oronzio
- Dona Bark
- Loren Hass
- Penny Hetrick
- Emily Reed
- 26th Clara Schatz
- Lance Dahl
- Sarah Ackerman
- 27th Sue Kuehl
- Chad Dohrmann
- Emmett Rickertsen
- Sharon Wold
- Mary Keeney
- Sebastian Meggers
- 29th Cheryl Kaufman
- 30th Kylee Postell
- Kristine Anderson
- Andy Maass
- Anthony Meyer
- 31st Rylee Stevens
- Daun Vopatek



16th Bill & Barb Dies

JANUARY 2021

| Sunday | | Monday | | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | | Friday | | Saturday | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|---------------------------|----|
| 27 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:30 AM Traditional Worship | 28 | | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 3 "Mites" Sunday 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Comm 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion | 4 6:30 PM Elders Meeting | 5 | 6 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Senior High Bible Study 7:00 PM Wednesday Worship | 7 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study | 8 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study | 9 | 10 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship | 11 6:00 PM Board of Discipleship Meeting 6:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting 7:00 PM Voter's Meeting 8:00 PM Annual Camp Board Meeting @ Grace Church | 12 7:00 AM Finance Board Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Senior High Bible Study 7:00 PM Wednesday Worship | 13 7:00 AM Finance Board Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Senior High Bible Study 7:00 PM Wednesday Worship | 14 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study | 15 Newsletter Deadline | 16 |
| 17 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Comm 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion | 18 7:00 PM Youth Board Meeting | 19 | 20 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Senior High Bible Study 7:00 PM Wednesday Worship | 21 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study | 22 | 23 | 24 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 2:00 PM Youth Ski Trip | 25 6:30 PM Board of Christian Education | 26 | 27 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Senior High Bible Study 7:00 PM Wednesday Worship | 28 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study | 29 | 30 |
| 31 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Comm 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 3:00 PM CLUB345 Activity | 1 6:00 PM Council Meeting | 2 | 3 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Senior High Bible Study 7:00 PM Wednesday Worship | 4 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study | 5 | 6 10:00 AM Super Snack Sale Set-Up | | | | | | | |