

# 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

January 2022 | Vol. 1

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace!

At the start of a new year, the LORD commanded Moses and the whole host of Israel to remember the day when He took them from Egypt. Imagine an invitation. Usually, the host tells you three things, the what, the why, and the when. So the LORD's invitation would look like this: What? Passover. Why? Remembering when God set them free from their oppression to the Egyptians. When? Every start to a new year.

Depending on when you read this, it could a week or so from January or a few days into January. At this point in the letter, I can't really say first things first, but I should have started out with Happy New Year! It is/almost 2022! Yet all I can think of is the Passover event. The invitation that God sent to Moses some thousands of years ago, to remember what God has done for them. Christmas was just here. My tree is still up. Soon it will have to be torn down. Stuff away in a tiny box, shoved all the way in a tiny space in the basement of my house. It will be long forgotten about until its next use. Songs that were just sung and hummed for the last two months will be mocked by others who say it is no longer the season. Our favorite desserts and meals will be quickly thrown away because we don't want the extra pounds. A season that brings great joy slowly gives way to the gloom of winter. Houses filled with lights give way to homes hidden in darkness.

I have grown numb over the past few years seeing how quickly we move past Christmas, setting our sights on the next holiday, on the next event. Instead of stopping to remember the LORD's command to remember the invitation that He has sent to you. To always remember the day that He sent His only Son to be born for you. To remember the day that He sent His only Son to die for you. To remember the day that He sent His only Son to rise from the grave for you.

As we begin 2022, know that the LORD has sent to you a new invitation. One that looks like this:  
What? Christmas-the day that Jesus broke into His Father's creation.

When? December 25th.

Why? To bring to us Good News of great joy, that Jesus came to show us the everlasting love of his Father.

In the service of the Risen Jesus!  
Pastor Eric

**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

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

**Kerry Good**  
kgood@gracedewitt.org

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

## SERVING THIS MONTH:

**The Elders:** Sunday's 8:00 AM Paul Kirby  
10:30 AM Scott Havener  
Wednesday 7:00 PM Scott Steffens

**The Organist:** Diana Baetke

### The Acolytes

#### January 2nd

8:00 AM Hatti Rickertsen  
10:30 AM Benjamin Paarmann

#### January 9th

8:00 AM Jaelyn Sinclair  
10:30 AM Ella Sunday

#### January 16th

8:00 AM Lorylai Tallman  
10:30 AM Addison Tucker

#### January 23rd

8:00 AM Gavin Walker  
10:30 AM Alexa Walther

#### January 30th

8:00 AM Kinley Birt  
10:30 AM Jackson Butler

**IMPORTANT** - Deadline for submitting articles for the February newsletter is January 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 will be accepting grant applications starting in January through March 15, 2022. Applications for projects which provide support to missions, education, youth, worship, and music and/or capital projects will be considered.

**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.

**OFFERING STATEMENTS FOR 2021.** will be ready and available for you to pick up in the foyer on Sunday, January 9th. Some 2022 offering envelopes still need to be picked from the table in the foyer. If you have not picked your envelopes up, please do so.



**Baptized on December 5, 2021** - Malcolm Richard Spain, son of Jason & Carissa Spain. His sponsors are Alivia Burzlaff & Elyce Burzlaff. Welcome to God's Family!

### Special Gifts Given Include:

- In loving memory of Lynn Soenksen \$55 was given to Grace Lutheran Preschool.  
In loving memory of Rollie Niemann \$50 was given to Grace church.  
In loving memory of Dean Youngers \$575 was given to Grace Church and \$30 to Grace Preschool.  
In loving memory of Verlene Reid \$100 was given toward the Outdoor Worship area at Grace Camp.  
In loving memory of Roger D. Wheeler \$100 was given toward the Grace Camp Outdoor Worship Area.

### 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.

**Church Voters Meeting**  
**Monday, January 10th**  
**@ 7:00 p.m.**

**Camp Annual Board Meeting**  
**Monday, January 10th**  
**following Church Voters Meeting**  
**@ Grace Lutheran Church**

Please come and support  
the church and camp.

**Installation of Officers**

On January 9th during both worship services we will be installing officers. We ask all 2022 Board/Committee Members to participate.

**Sunday School Teachers** will have a meeting on Tuesday, January 4th at 6:30 pm. Please, plan to attend. Contact Pastor Obermann or Kerry with any questions.

**2022 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

**Preschool Board**

**Kim Burzlaff**  
Netty Schneider  
Emily Williams  
Val Betz  
Kerry Good

**Board of Finance**

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

**Board of Discipleship**

**Traci Butler**  
Julie Krukow  
Kay Hall  
Deb Swanson  
Monica Rugeberg  
Kristy Engelkes

**Endowment Committee**

Jon Billhorn  
Jim Owen  
Scott Steffens  
Barb Reed

**Board of Trustees**

Mitch Krukow  
Cory Krukow  
Wayne Grantz  
Kevin Meyer  
Donovan Good

**Board of Christian Ed.**

**Rachael Vopatek**  
Barb Dies  
Jill Gisel  
Shanna Tucker  
Mike Good  
Nicole Rickertsen  
Amy Meyers

**Council Officers**

**President**  
Rich Matzen

**President Elect**  
Steve Butler

**Secretary**  
JoAnn Greve

**Board of Youth**

**Laura Norcross**  
Troy Diercks  
Cindy Sperry  
Emily Reed  
Christy Stearns  
Jennifer Theide



Grace Lutheran Preschool

We can't believe it's the new year already! This month we are going to learn about Winter, Snowmen, Ice, and Transportation. The 3's will also begin their study of shapes, while the 4's will continue their unit on letters. We look forward to celebrating Lutheran School's Week at the end of the month with dress up days!

**Preschool Rummage Sale**

Looking toward the new year the Preschool Board is planning a Spring rummage sale as a fundraiser. This event will coincide with DeWitt's Annual Spring Garage sale date.

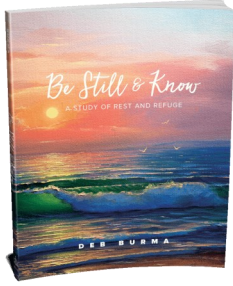
Please, keep this fundraiser in mind when you begin to do your year end organizing, de-cluttering, and purging. We will start collecting items in February. Look for more information on this event in the February Newsletter.

**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.



## Women of Grace Bible Study

Please join us for a new Bible Study on Thursday, January 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

We will use the new study, *Be Still and Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge* by Deb Burma.

When our Lord says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10), what does He mean? God's Word promises that in whatever kind of storm we find ourselves in, Jesus always comes to us.

In *Be Still and Know*, unpack the promises found in Psalm 46 that are fulfilled in Christ. The first session looks at Psalm 46 in detail and examines storms of life. Then, in the following seven sessions, study narratives from the Gospels as Jesus meets various women who are experiencing their own storms and explore the perspective of each woman as He provides refuge, strength, help, and hope. Looking to the biblical and cultural contexts will allow you to better grasp the depth of Christ's care, purpose, and attention to every need. In the midst of today's storms, may God reveal His refuge for us in Christ, the one who has overcome the world.

### **NYG22 Meeting**

Our first group meeting will be held January 30<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 pm at the G\*Y\*M Building at Grace Camp. All registered participants are required to attend.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Our program this year is entitled ***Zoomerang*** and will take us on 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.

### **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 2022. **The Sperry's**

### **SENIOR HIGH MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**

Our Midweek Bible study will resume on January 5th @ 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 next event will be Sunday, January 30th from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm at the G\*Y\*M Building out at Grace Camp. Check out the Facebook page for more information.

### **SKI TRIP**

Our annual Youth Ski Trip to Chestnut Mountain Resort is **on January 23rd**. Please get a permission slip from the folder on the bulletin board outside of Mr. Sperry's office. Like last year, registration and payment are being done online at [Sundownmtn.com](http://Sundownmtn.com). More information on the registration process is coming soon. Please make sure to do your registration and payment by **January 16th**, as they will close the link on that date. We will need several more adults to help drive, so if you're willing and available, please contact Mark Sperry.

### **NYG22 BLURB**

Later this year, nine youth and four adults will be traveling to Houston, TX to attend the 2022 National Youth Gathering. Please, pray for them as they finalize all of the plans needed to attend this event. Pray that they are touched by the Word of God that will be shared throughout their time there. Please also keep all the organizers, speakers, musicians, and volunteers in your prayers.





# 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

## 'Tis More Blessed to Give Than to Receive

**“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35)**

And indeed, it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can't recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself – sparing not even His life in death – in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving you get more because joy is multiplied in giving. The one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. And, what is more, the one who receives only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously in thanksgiving.

So it is with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God's favor. We have God's favor because of His gift of His Son, given through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving so that our tithes and offering are freely given in thanksgiving for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin when it is the place where God continually gives us His forgiveness of sins? Why does the church struggle when God, out of love for us, generously pours out His grace and mercy?

It is because we are sinners. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it, too. Because of sin, we want God's grace and mercy; we want His blessings of body and soul. But we don't want to share it with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives – without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but to press His eternal and temporal blessings into service to your neighbor.

Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights, heat, and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism as well as bread and wine for Holy Communion. They even ensure that your pastor has food and clothing and presents for his own family. The gifts of God are immeasurable. They multiply and redound to everyone's good as the fish and loaves in the feeding of the five thousand.

So, remember the words of the Lord Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.



Join Us for a night of fun at  
Grace Lutheran Church!

Sunday January 16th 5-7pm

Signup at Welcome Center to make a  
batch of Soup or Chili for the Cook Off!

Come for  
Chili &  
Soup!



Bring your  
favorite game for  
Game Night!





A great big THANK YOU to Leola Schmidt for her 35+ years of helping to count the church offering. The Finance Board and your counting friends.

We want to thank everyone who donated to the Grace Camp Outdoor Worship Area during the month of November and December. Your donations will help with the construction of this project. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Through the month of January, we will collect donations to help offset the cost of a new chair lift that will be installed going up to the balcony. This new chair lift will provide everyone access to the balcony. If you would like to contribute to the chair lift project, please place your donation in the "Little White Church" during January.



# Happy Birthday



- 1<sup>st</sup> Alexandria Niemann
- 4<sup>th</sup> Monica Ruggeberg
- 5<sup>th</sup> Piper Hoepner  
Trey Schlotfeldt  
Mandy Anderson  
Kayla Daniels  
Kennedy Struck
- 6<sup>th</sup> Clayton Block
- 8<sup>th</sup> Lois Kuehn  
Debra Swanson
- 9<sup>th</sup> Sandra Peters  
Colleen Flathers
- 11<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Maass  
Maddison Fuller
- 12<sup>th</sup> Ty Stevens  
Kay Hansen  
Emily Stearns
- 13<sup>th</sup> Rider Anderson  
Ron McVey  
Klaire Gruntorad  
Lucy Broadfoot  
Cory Krukow  
Elyce Burzlaff
- 15<sup>th</sup> Ella Sunday
- 16<sup>th</sup> Charlene Paarmann  
Charlotte Harroun  
Audrey Small
- 17<sup>th</sup> Troy Paarmann  
Rilee Kirby
- 18<sup>th</sup> Wendi Gallaway  
Dallas Williams


- 21<sup>st</sup> Leon Doescher
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Brett Henningsen  
Jacqueline Sawville  
Matt Johnson
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Barbara Billhorn  
Jim Hetrick  
Katie Albrecht
- 24<sup>th</sup> Tonia Oronzio  
Dona Bark  
Penny Hetrick  
Emily Reed
- 26<sup>th</sup> Clara Schatz  
Sarah Ackerman
- 27<sup>th</sup> Emmett Rickertsen  
Sharon Wold  
Mary Keeney
- 29<sup>th</sup> Cheryl Kaufman
- 30<sup>th</sup> Kristine Anderson  
Andy Maass  
Anthony Meyer
- 31<sup>st</sup> Rylee Stevens  
Daun Vopatek



16<sup>th</sup> Bill & Barb Dies



# JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Hall Rental 9:00 AM Traditional Worship	27 No Preschool - Office Closed	28 No Preschool	29 No Preschool 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	30 No Preschool 9:00 AM Tops Meeting	31 No Preschool - Office Closed	1 
2 *Milst' Sunday 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion	3 No Preschool 1:00 PM 500 Card Club Board of Discipline 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	4 6:30 PM Sunday School Teachers Meeting	5 7:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Sr. High Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	6 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study	7 8:00 AM Trustees Board Meeting	8
9 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Worship	10 7:00 PM Voter's Meeting 8:00 PM Camp Board Meeting	11	12 7:00 AM Finance Board Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Sr. High Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	13 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study	14	15 Newsletter Deadline
16 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 5:00 PM Chill & Soup Cook Off + Game Night	17 No Preschool 1:00 PM 500 Card Club 7:00 PM Youth Board Meeting	18 6:30 PM Camp Board Meeting	19 9:00 AM Sewing Ladies 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Sr. High Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	20 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study	21	22
23 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Youth Ski Trip	24 6:30 PM Board of Christian Education	25	26 7:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Sr. High Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	27 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study	28	29
30 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	31	1	2 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Glory Bound Choir 7:00 PM Sr. High Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	3 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 7:00 PM Women of Grace - Bible Study	4 8:00 AM Trustees Board Meeting	5