



Grace Newsletter

March 2019

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of forty days, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday; the day before Easter. Because Sundays celebrate Jesus' resurrection, they are not included in the forty days. In the Bible, the number forty appears in the story of the flood, in Israel's wandering in the wilderness and in the life of Jesus. The number forty is often a symbol of ruin and renewal, testing and teaching.

"The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark" (Genesis 7:17). As the flood covered the earth and lifted the ark, saving those within, so in baptism we die to sin and are raised to new life in Christ. Lent is a time to walk in newness of life.

"The LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart" (Deut. 8:2). Lent is a season of humility and repentance, as we turn to the Lord and seek his forgiveness. Lent is a time to forgive others as we have been forgiven.

After his baptism, Jesus **"was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan" (Mark 1:13).** During these forty days we remember how our Lord stood in the place of sinners, in our place, and resisted every temptation of the devil. On the cross, the innocent Son of God suffered the punishment we deserved for our sins.

"He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). The risen Lord appeared repeatedly to his disciples and taught them about the kingdom, preparing them to be his witnesses. Lent is a time to be witnesses for Jesus, to tell others of the forgiveness and life found only in his name.

Lent is a time for us to remember the ruin that sin brings to our lives, to repent and receive God's forgiveness.

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Grace Lutheran Camp

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Camp Reservations
563-357-0780

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The penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday. This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in baptism (see Romans 6:1-11). This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own baptism and what it means to live as a child of God.

 We offer a prayer of thanksgiving to Bridgett Anderson and Anthony Eads who were united in marriage on Saturday, January 26th.

Greeters are needed on Sunday mornings. If you are available to help with this service, please sign up at the Welcome Center.

The 2019 Chancel/Altar Flower sign-up sheet is available at the Welcome Center. We are asking members to donate bouquets in honor of or in memory of persons or events. Each bouquet is \$25 and there will be two bouquets each week. Please sign up for your preferred dates on the flower calendar, put your payment in the envelope provided and slide the envelope through the mail slot in the secretary's door. You may purchase one or both bouquets.

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: 8:00 a.m. Jim Harroun
10:30 a.m. Scott Steffens

Organist: Diana Baetke

	The Acolytes	A/V Technicians
March 3, 2019		
8:00 AM	Lilyan Gruntorad	Rich Matzen
10:30 AM	Benson Hill	Vicki Becker
March 6, 2019		
7:00 PM	Caitlin Proctor	Need Volunteer
March 10, 2019		
8:00 AM	Remi Ruggeburg	Steve Butler
10:30 AM	Lauren Walker	Steve Butler
March 13, 2019		
7:00 PM	Collin Albrecht	Need Volunteer
March 17, 2019		
8:00 AM	Elyce Burzlaff	Vicki Becker
10:30 AM	Matthew Diercks	Vicki Becker
March 20, 2019		
7:00 PM	Carter Drury	Need Volunteer
March 24, 2019		
8:00 AM	Tobey Griem	Steve Butler
10:30 AM	EmmaGrace Hartman	Steve Butler
March 27, 2019		
7:00 PM	Abigail Jensen	Need Volunteer
March 31, 2019		
8:00 AM	Brody Proctor	Rich Matzen
10:30 AM	Brooke Paasch	Rich Matzen

Pastor Dodgers, our vacancy Pastor, can be reached at 563-677-2759 if you need a visit or are in need of spiritual care. Pastor Dodgers will have office hours at Grace every Thursday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

IMPORTANT

Deadline for submitting articles for the April Newsletter is March 15th at 9 a.m.



Lenten Midweek Services

7:00 p.m.

Lenten Meals

6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, March 6th

Imposition of Ashes/Communion

Lenten Services

March 13th, 20th, 27th and
April 3rd & 10th

Palm Sunday

April 14th

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Procession of the Palms

Pancake
Breakfast



The Annual

Youth Pancake Breakfast

April 14th

8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday

April 18th

7:00 p.m. Worship/Communion

Good Friday

April 19th

7:00 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday Worship

April 21st

8:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

10:30 a.m. Worship/Communion



Lenten Supper Schedule

Meals Begin at 6:00 p.m.

- March 6th - Pasta in a Pot
- March 13th - Meatball Subs
- March 20th -
- March 27th - Turkey and Dressing Sandwiches
- April 3rd - Spaghetti
- April 10th - - Sloppy Joes



Daylight Savings

Begins

March 10th

It is time to renew our subscription for the Lutheran Witness. **THE LUTHERAN WITNESS:** is an inspirational monthly magazine featuring synodical news. Lutheran reports from around the world, eye-opening theology and more!

The subscription rate is \$15.96 per year. If you would like to subscribe to the Lutheran Witness, or if you already subscribe and wish to renew your subscription, please contact the church office by April 28th. Payment may also be left in the secretary's door slot.

Grace Lutheran Preschool

Enrollment forms are available on the Preschool page of the website (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.

2019-2020 Class Schedule and Fees

3s : M & W 8:15 — 10:45 \$100/mo Limited to 6
T & TH 8:15 — 10:45 \$100/mo Limited to 6

- \$35 registration fee due at time of enrollment.
- 3s Classes will begin after Labor Day.
- Children must be 3 on or before Sept. 15, 2019.

4s: AM 8:15—11:15 (limited to 10 students)
PM 12:00—3:00

- Must be 4 on or before September 15, 2019 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.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Snow, cold and arctic weather has hit us hard this year, but that doesn't stop the Preschoolers. They continue to work on their letters, numbers, socializing skills and much more.

On February 26th we will have a Dr. Seuss themed literacy night, where the Preschool 4's will spend time with classmates and family fun activities and eat some awesome Dr. Seuss snacks.



In February we started a fundraiser selling kitchen items, flower bulbs, candy, magazines and much more. If you are interested in helping out with this fundraiser please see Ms. Christine or stop by the church office and see a catalog. Fundraiser goes through March 3rd.

Thank you for your continued support of Grace Lutheran Preschool and our staff.

Ms. Christine



Women's Retreat

6:00 pm, Friday, April 5th - 3:00 pm, Saturday, April 6th

Peter Retreat Center ~ Grace Camp

Cost \$10 and Bring a snack to share

Join us for a time of laughter, fellowship, Bible study, crafts, food, & music. Please bring a snack to share and bedding for the bunkbed.

Register at the Welcome Center or email Cindy Sperry @ cesperry63@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar!

Vacation Bible School 2019

“Inside Out & Upside Down On Main Street”

June 24th - June 26th



Scouting For Food! Saturday, March 9th 8:00 am

Please participate by putting your donation of canned food or paper products in a bag or box outside your front door.

Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will be going door to door in Welton, Low Moor, Grand Mound and DeWitt collecting canned food and paper goods to restock the shelves of the Referral Services Center in DeWitt. Rural residents are encouraged to participate by

LASAGNA DINNER FUNDRAISER

The annual Youth Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser will be **Sunday, March 3rd**. There will be two reservation times: **5:00 pm & 6:00 pm**. Reservations will be taken at the table in the foyer through Sunday, March 3rd.

YOUTH EVENT

Attention all Jr. & Sr. High Youth. Let's go bowling! Sunday, March 31st, we're going bowling at the DeWitt Bowling Alley. Please meet there at 1:00 pm. The cost for two games of bowling and shoe rental is **\$5**. Please sign-up on the bulletin board outside of Mr. Sperry's office so we know how many to expect. **[This activity is for all students in 6th – 12th grades.]**

REFERRAL CENTER

Thank you for all your donations to the DeWitt Referral Center. Your donations help keep the pantry stocked with items for those in need. Currently the Referral Center is low on hamburger helper, peas, pudding, ketchup, mustard and pickles. Why not consider purchasing a few of these items for Scouting For Food Sunday on March 9th. Its easy. Purchase the items you wish to donate, place them in a bag and put them outside on your door step. A Scout will pick them up and take them to the food pantry.

THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE for Grace Lutheran Church is accepting grant applications through March 15, 2019. Applications for projects which provide support to missions, education, youth, worship, and music and/or capital projects will be considered. Pick up the application at the Welcome Center.

Stewardship Corner

“Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith,” (Hebrews 12:2) has already won the victory over sin for us. It still remains to us, however, to continue to fight for the faith, refusing to let sin reign in our bodies. The Apostle Paul tells us to “count [ourselves] dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” By God’s grace, sin no longer is our master. We are new creatures who “offer the parts of [our bodies] to Him as instruments of righteousness ... because [we] are not under law, but under grace” (Romans 6:11-14).

Thank You

We would like to thank the members of our church for their kindnesses, including cards, food and other ways at the time of our house fire shortly before Christmas.

We are living in a temporary home for now and probably will be for a while in the future.

Jack & Eleanor Arey

Thank you to all those who reached out to Jack and Eleanor Arey through food, furniture along with monetary donations. They are very grateful and are now doing pretty well with doing their own cooking, and so no longer need meals.

The Board of Discipleship/Outreach

Thank you to all the bakers, packers, and deliverers of the LWML Valentine's Day cookies for shut-ins! Your help is much appreciated! We delivered 400 cookies to over 200 shut ins!

Val Betz & LWML

The Eve Circle will be making baby layettes for Lutheran World Relief again this year. We are in need of new or GENTLY USED BABY CLOTHING, sizes infant to 3T. Items needed are baby gowns and sleepers, cloth diapers, baby shirts, jackets or sweaters, hats, stockings and blankets. Please leave your donations in the tubs on the stage in Grace Hall. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

OUR BEST INTENTIONS

"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do," (Romans 7:15), so spoke the Apostle Paul. Somehow he could not translate his best intentions into the actions he wished to do. This is the dilemma that has afflicted Christians who sincerely want to do God's will.

Peter experienced it too. *"Lord, I am ready to go with You to prison and to death"* (Luke 22:33), he declared, and he meant it. His best intentions were to stick with his Lord, no matter what.

Thomas, too, expressed his intentions. When Jesus said He was going back to Judea where the Jews had tried to stone Him, the disciples tried to dissuade Him. Realizing that nothing could stop Jesus from going to his friend Lazarus, Thomas said to the disciples, *"Let us also go, that we may die with Him"* (John 11:16). He meant it too.

Yet, Peter denied knowing his Lord, and all the disciples fled in fear the night of His betrayal (Mark 14:50). What they wanted to do, they failed to do. What they wanted not to do, that is what they did. We understand the dilemma well. Like Peter, we weep when faced with our failures. But we do not despair, for we have learned that, while on our own we fail, with God we can do great things.

Christ went to His death on Calvary in order to buy us back from sin, death, and the devil. We are no longer captive to sin and immobilized by it. *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us"* (Romans 8:37). Jesus lived the perfect life for us; He shed His blood in payment for our sins; He suffered in our places; and He gives us grace that forgives our failures and gives us more opportunities to bear the fruit He called us and chose us to bear. Truly, with God we can do great things.



1 st	Kevin Becker Maverick Stevens	18 th	Tony Stevens Keller Randleman Jackson Randleman Maria Casad	31 st	Arwin Petersen Justin Wagner Kendra Mueller
2 nd	Annette Lahey Ronald Steward Jered Birt Graham Feldpausch	19 th	Alyssa Heincheid		
3 rd	Danette LaBarge Hailey James Mitchell Mohr	20 th	Verda Scott Ashten Henningsen Jasmine Carter Audra Dietz		
6 th	Jena Byorum Randy Lange Gary Smith	21 st	Jennifer Griem Cole Housman Jolene Sanger Norma Soenksen AshLynne Postell Austin Nolin		
7 th	Brody Proctor Hattie Rickertsen				
8 th	Dylan Kirby	22 nd	Dale Greve Ben Blanchard Casey Walker		
10 th	Kevin Marik Mark Paarmann Dean Youngers Jessica Postell	23 rd	Jake Williams Justin Roseland		
11 th	Jonah Paarmann	24 th	Tanner Brundage Kody Dahl Mallory McMahon		
12 th	Eric Paarmann Scott Dahl				
13 th	Ezra Onken Kim Wright Laura Swanson	25 th	Sandy Burken Sandra Kirby		
14 th	Bob Rands Michael Postell Quinlyn Kuehl	28 th	Darin Suhr Josh Stearns		
15 th	Kristy Buhl Jed Hythecker	29 th	Rachael Vopatek		
17 th	Erin Suhr	30 th	Esther Schroeder Amber Meyer Haley Kreiter Amy Stevens		



3 rd	David & Kay Hall
7 th	Richard & Carole Dunkin
14 th	Larry & Tonia Oronzio
22 nd	Barry & Patty Anderson
23 rd	Jon & Val Betz
25 th	Bob & Marilyn Mundt
31 st	Matthew & Wendy Proctor

MARCH 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>24 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship</p>	<p>25 6:00 PM Board of Christian Education 7:00 PM Congregational Voter's Meeting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 5:30 PM Confirmation Classes 7:00 PM Glory Bound Choir</p>	<p>28 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting 6:00 PM Family Promise Board Meeting</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 "Mites" Sunday Youth Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 4:00 PM Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser</p>	<p>4 1:00 PM 500 Card Club 6:00 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 5:30 PM Confirmation Classes 6:00 PM Lenten Meal 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:45 PM Glory Bound Choir</p>	<p>7 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting</p>	<p>8 6:30 PM Family Game Night</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM Traditional Worship</p>	<p>11 6:30 PM Board of Discipleship Meeting 6:30 PM Elders Meeting 7:00 PM Youth Board Meeting</p>	<p>12 8:00 AM Winkiel 10:00 AM DeWitt Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon</p>	<p>13 Preschool - No 4s Class 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 5:30 PM Confirmation Classes 6:00 PM Lenten Meal 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:45 PM Glory Bound Choir</p>	<p>14 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline Preschool - Spring Break</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion</p>	<p>18 Preschool - Spring Break 1:00 PM 500 Card Club</p>	<p>19 Preschool - Spring Break 6:30 PM Camp Board Meeting</p>	<p>20 Preschool - Spring Break 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6:00 PM Lenten Meal 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:45 PM Glory Bound Choir</p>	<p>21 Preschool - Spring Break 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting</p>	<p>22 Preschool - Spring Break</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM Traditional Worship</p>	<p>25 6:30 PM Board of Christian Education</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 5:30 PM Confirmation Classes 6:00 PM Lenten Meal 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:45 PM Glory Bound Choir</p>	<p>28 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting 6:00 PM Family Promise Board Meeting</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 1:00 PM Youth Event</p>	<p>1 Referral Center Month 1:00 PM 500 Card Club 6:00 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 5:30 PM Confirmation Classes 6:00 PM Lenten Meal 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:45 PM Glory Bound Choir</p>	<p>4 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting</p>	<p>5 Hall Rented</p>	<p>6</p>