



Grace Newsletter

MARCH 2020

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church

415 10th Street
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DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

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Pastor Eric Obermann

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Mark Sperry, DCE

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Grace Lutheran Preschool

P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742

PH: 563-659-9193

Preschool Teacher/ Director

Christine Greve
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Grace Lutheran Camp

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

Camp Reservations
563-357-0780

Dear Saints of Grace Lutheran Church,

Is there a day that you are looking forward to? Maybe a vacation? A birthday? An anniversary? Something in the next couple of years?

Now why? What is it that makes you look forward to this day? As you think about that question. I will tell you that right now, I am writing this letter on February 18th, 2020, I am looking forward to Saturday, the 22nd. Now there is nothing special about Saturday. It's just the end of the week. But it is more than that. This Saturday represents the end of a difficult week.

Maybe you could argue with me that it isn't that difficult. That I have probably made it worse than it should have been. I would tell you, that yes, you would be correct. I most likely made this week worse. Why? I will tell. I have been unwilling to let things go. No, no, no, it isn't that I just haven't let things go but it is that I am unwilling to believe that everything will be ok.

Maybe you have had a week like this. It starts off ok and then slowly gets worse. Slowly gets bleaker. Events that have been longplanned, seem like they become cringe worthy. Because you seriously have no idea of how anything will go. You can't believe that everything will be ok.

As all of this has been swirling around my head, it finally hit me yesterday, "I am trusting thee Lord, Jesus." I just felt like I got hit by a bag of bricks. "I am trusting thee Lord, Jesus." Why is this sentence such a hard thing to live out, trusting Jesus?

When you listen to the words that Jesus speaks, he says so often to give him all of our burdens, our pains, our hurts, and to trust him. To trust that Jesus will guide, that he will lead the event in the direction that it needs to go. But trust is so hard. Time and time again we are told to "just trust me." Only to feel hurt, pain, burdens because the person who spoke those words is not holding up to their end of the bargain. They are not keeping their promises.

But when Jesus says to trust me. When he says hand over all your struggles, hand over your control over what you want to happen and just give it to Jesus. He says that with the backdrop of the cross. He says this with the backdrop of knowing that he came to be the fulfiller of the word his father speaks through him. He says to trust him because of what he has done for you. He says to trust him because he keeps the promises he speaks.

"I am trusting thee Lord, Jesus." These words are not easy to hear for me this week. But they are words that I need to hear. Jesus wants me to trust in him whole heartily. In the good, and the bad. Jesus will hold me through as I trust him to guide through this long week.

I don't know how this week will end. But "I am trusting thee Lord, Jesus" knowing that everything will be ok.

In the service of Christ,
Pastor Eric

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 AM Ray Ackerman
10:30 AM Alan Ruggeberg

Ash Wednesday 11:00 AM Allan Anderson
7:00 PM Clint Albrecht

The Organist: Diana Baetke

Sunday, March 1, 2020

8:00 AM	Isaac DeHaven	A/V Tech. Vicki Becker
10:30 AM	Margie Alger	Vicki Becker

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

7:00 PM	Karley Erps	Need Volunteer
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Sunday, March 8, 2020

8:00 AM	Anthony Meyer	A/V Tech. Rich Matzen
10:30 AM	Carleigh Toby	Rich Matzen

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

7:00 PM	Owen Tucker	Need Volunteer
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Sunday, March 15, 2020

8:00 AM	Kamryn Albrecht	A/V Tech. Vicki Becker
10:30 AM	Adalyn Appleby	Vicki Becker

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

7:00 PM	Hannah Grantz	Need Volunteer
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Sunday, March 22, 2020

8:00 AM	Lilyan Gruntorad	A/V Tech. Need Volunteer
10:30 AM	Benson Hill	Need Volunteer

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

7:00 PM	Emma Pillers	Need Volunteer
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Sunday, March 29, 2020

8:00 AM	Caitlin Proctor	A/V Tech. Rich Matzen
10:30 AM	Remi Ruggeberg	Rich Matzen

THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE for Grace Lutheran Church will be accepting grant applications through March 15, 2020. Applications for projects which provide support to missions, education, youth, worship, and music and/or capital projects will be considered.

GRACE LUTHERAN MISSION STATEMENT —

To make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our church, communities and world.

The 2020 Chancel/Altar Flower sign up sheet is available on 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.

March 1st, 29th
April 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
May 3rd, 17th, 24th
June 14th, 28th
July 5th, 19th, 26th
August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
September 13th, 20th
October 11th, 18th, 25th
November 8th, 15th, 29th
December 6th, 13th, 20th

Greeters are needed on Sunday mornings to extend a warm welcome to our members and visitors. If you are available to help with this service, please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Special Gifts Given Include:

In loving memory of Stephanie Stamp \$10 has been given to Glory Bound Choir.

In honor of Mark Sperry's 25 years as a DCE \$25 has been given to the Scholarship fund.

In loving memory of Jerry Gisel \$270 has been given to Grace Camp and \$643 to Grace Church.

IMPORTANT - Deadline for submitting articles for the April Newsletter is March 15th.



Reminder
Daylight Savings begins
on Sunday, March 8th.



Lenten
SCHEDULE

Lenten Midweek Services
11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and April 1st

Lenten Meals
6:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday

April 5th
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Procession of the Palms
& Sunday School Children Sing
Late service

*Pancake
Breakfast*



**The Annual
Youth Pancake Breakfast**
April 5th
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.



Lenten Supper Schedule Meals Begin at 6:00 p.m.

February 26th - Pasta-in-a-pot
March 4th - Spaghetti
March 11th - Turkey & Dressing Sandwiches
March 18th - Taco-in-a-bag
March 25th - Meatball Subs
April 1st - Sloppy Joes

Looking for cards? There is a variety of sympathy, thinking of you, get well, birthday cards and many others available for purchase upstairs in the foyer. Please take a moment to see the wide assortment of cards and napkins displayed.

POP CAN TABS—Did you know you can save your beverage cans and donate them to the Youth Group here at Grace? But what about the tabs on the top of the can? We collect those also. The tabs are donated to Camp Courageous. So, the next time you finish that refreshment, 'pop' off the tab, save and bring to church.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday
April 9th
7:00 p.m. Worship/Communion

Good Friday
April 10th
7:00 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday Worship
April 12th
8:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
10:30 a.m. Worship/Communion

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



We can't believe it's already March! This month we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss birthday with fun dress-up days and St. Patrick's Day; hopefully the leprechaun won't cause as much trouble in the room as he did last year! We will also be learning about Pete the Cat, Spring, and Rain. We will end the month with our Spring Program. The children have been working very hard on their songs and can't wait to share them with family members.

Thank you to all who supported us for our SaveAround Fundraiser! We will be using the money to help purchase items for the classroom.

Grace Lutheran Preschool

Enrollment forms will be available beginning in February 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.

2020-2021 Class Schedule and Fees

- 3s : M & W 8:00 — 10:30 \$110/mo Limited to 8/7 spots left
T & TH 8:00 — 10:30 \$110/mo Limited to 8/3 spots left
- \$35 registration fee due at the time of enrollment.
 - 3s Classes will begin after Labor Day.
 - Children must be 3 on or before Sept. 15, 2020.
- 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, 2020, 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.

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.

Be Still

A Women's Retreat

What does it mean to "Be Still" in a life filled with hurry and hustle? Let's spend time together in the presence of the One (Jesus), who gives us rest in ALL things.

WHEN: Friday March 13 at 5:30pm -
Saturday March 14 at 4:00pm

WHERE: Andrew Retreat Center at
Grace Camp 2639 242nd St. DeWitt IA

WHO: All women of Grace (& friends!)
to share in fellowship, faith, food & fun

COST: \$10

REGISTER by 3/8 at
gracedewitt.org
or at the Grace
Church office.

Women of Grace



Coffee & Connections



LWML Mission Guild

“Serve the Lord with Gladness” *Psalm 100:2*

Calendar

“Mites” Sunday - March 1st
Ladies of Grace Bible Study/Meeting - March 19th
LWML Rally at Grace - March 28th
Retired Teachers Luncheon—May 2nd

Lutheran World Relief Collection Drive

By sharing tools for better health and education, you bring new hope and dignity to thousands of men, women, and children throughout the world. Towels, soap, and nail clippers . . . these ordinary things become extraordinary when they are assembled in LWR kits and shared as gifts of love and comfort.

We are collecting items for Personal Care Kits. Please show the love of Christ to people all around the world by purchasing items needed by LWML to make these kits.

ITEMS NEEDED TO COMPLETE KITS

- ◇ 1 Lightweight, dark colored bath towel (between 20”X40” to a maximum size of 52”X27”)
- ◇ 2 Bath size bars of soap (4-5 oz) - any brand in original wrapping
- ◇ 1 metal nail clipper (attached nail file is optional)
- ◇ Adult sized toothbrushes in individual packaging
- ◇ 1 Sturdy Comb

Please leave your donation on the stage or on the display in the foyer after it is set up.

Thank you for your support.

Greetings and Salutations from the Rafferty's!!!!

I hope this notice finds all of you well and that you continue to rejoice in the Lord.

Carol and I will be celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary on March 28th, 1970. We have been truly blessed throughout our years of marriage.

Since you all continue to be a powerful witness to Grace Lutheran Church, and since we spent some wonderful years with you; Carol and I would deeply appreciate your continued prayers.

Also, if you would be so kind Carol loves to receive cards and well wishes. This is just a card shower type of thing; absolutely no gifts; your greetings will be more than enough. Our address is 22805 East 98th Street South, Broken Arrow, OK 74014.

Prayerfully, I will be able to give you a kidney transplant update in the next few weeks. Stay tuned.

May you all be truly blessed and given the peace of Jesus,

Pastor Ron and Carol



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

This year's program is entitled "**Mystery Island – Tracking Down the One True God**". The dates are June 22nd – 26th in the evenings. Dinner will be served from 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm each night with the program running from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Please watch for more information on how to register or how to volunteer.



On March 15th the "little white church" will be out to collect donations for the Pregnancy Center in Clinton.

The pregnancy center is a Christ-centered ministry whose goals are to preserve the life of the unborn child and offer direction to young women.

They achieve this mission by:

- Providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support for women.
- Offering support and healing to victims of past abortions.
- Providing education to help prevent crisis pregnancies through life style changes.
- Offering education to the community on issues regarding the sanctity of human life.

Look for the "Little White Church" on March 15th



Thank you to everyone who placed their donations in the "little white church" on February 16th. With the help of your generous donations, we collected \$220 to be sent to the Victory Center.

The Board of Discipleship & Outreach

POP CANS — Bring your clean pop cans to church to help support the youth. In order to receive a refund on the cans we need to make sure cans are rinsed out, name brand only (no generic) and are IA refundable.

YOUTH EVENT

Attention all Junior & Senior High students. Make plans to join us for an afternoon of fun and excitement on Sunday, March 29th. Please meet at the church at 1:30 pm. We will then carpool to the Bett Plex where we will play one game of laser tag and then each person will have a 30 minute game card to hit the arcade. Each card also includes one ride. We will stop for ice cream on our way home. The cost is \$20 per person. To make sure we have enough drivers, you must sign-up and turn in your payment to Mr. Sperry by March 25th. Please contact him if you have any questions.

**TAKE AWAY
HUNGER**

**Saturday, March 14th
2:00 p.m.**

@ Grace Lutheran Church

Take Away Hunger is a food relief organization that unifies teams of people who package a specialized rice based soy casserole mixture which is used locally and overseas. It is based on a simple principle of people helping people, in this instance, even kids! Take Away Hunger not only nourishes hungry children, but the spirits of the volunteers who pack the meals.

Take Away Hunger is based in Mount Pleasant, IA and is a (501)c3 non-profit organization. Since January they have packed 941,520 meals with the help of groups all over eastern Iowa. They partner with Thrivent Financial – Mississippi Valley Associates in DeWitt and Cedar Rapids to hold many of these events.



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 McMahan		
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
13 th	Paul & Kathi Lieving
14 th	Larry & Tonia Oronzio
22 nd	Barry & Patty Anderson
23 rd	Jon & Val Betz
24 th	Riley & Sarah McVey
25 th	Bob & Marilyn Mundt
31 st	Matthew & Wendy Proctor

MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 "Mites" Sunday 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Comm 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Comm	2 Preschool - No School 1:00 PM 500 Card Club 6:00 PM Council Meeting	3	4 7:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Lenten Worship 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Lenten Meal - Spaghetti 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:45 PM Glory Bound Choir	5 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting	6	7
8 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship	9 6:30 PM Board of Discipleship Meeting 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	10 9:00 AM Pastor's Winkel @ Our Redeemer, Dubuque 10:00 AM Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon and Meeting	11 No 4's Preschool 7:00 AM Finance Board Meeting 11:00 AM Lenten Worship 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Lenten Meal - Turkey & Dressing Sandwiches 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:45 PM Glory Bound Choir	12 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting	13 5:30 PM Women's Retreat @ Grace Camp, Andrew Bldg	14 Take Away Hunger - Thrivent Women's Retreat @ Grace Camp, Andrew Bldg
15 Newsletter Deadline 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Comm 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Comm	16 1:00 PM 500 Card Club	17 6:30 PM Camp Board Meeting	18 7:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Lenten Worship 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Lenten Meal - Taco-In-a-Bag 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:45 PM Glory Bound Choir	19 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting	20 Church Office will be Closed	21
22 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship	23 6:30 PM Board of Christian Education	24 6:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting	25 Preschool - No PM 4's Class 11:00 AM Lenten Worship 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Lenten Meal - Meatball Subs 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:45 PM Glory Bound Choir	26 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting	27	28 LWML - Spring Zone Rally
29 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Comm 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Comm 1:30 PM Youth Activity	30 7:00 PM Youth Board Meeting	31 6:30 PM Preschool - Spring Program	1 11:00 AM Lenten Worship 5:30 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM Lenten Meal - Sloppy Joe's 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 7:45 PM Glory Bound Choir	2 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM Weight Watchers Meeting	3	4 10:00 AM Pancake Breakfast Set-Up