

Grace News

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church
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DeWitt, IA 52742

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www.gracedewitt.org



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

February 2025

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace!

GOD LOVES WHAT I HATE

- Being Reminded- I don't like when the kids remind me of what I say. Dad didn't you say we could mow the lawn today? I want my promises to be quickly forgotten.
- Accountable—"Dad you said" stings like a dagger. Why, because the kids were expecting me to do what I said.
- Opposite-What is prayer? Reminding God what He said. A great example of this is 2 Samuel 7, in verses 11-16, God tells David what He is going to do. In verses 18-28, we have David's prayer in which he restates God's words. God loves what we hate.
- Reminded-The scriptures show us time and time again of God's people reminding God of His words. God doesn't despise it but instead loves it.
- Accountable- Exodus 34, Moses holds God accountable to His promise of staying with them as they travel to Cannan. God doesn't despise Moses but instead loves it. God loves being told His word.
- Repeat—Sometimes prayers get wordy and complicated. But they don't have to be. God loves when we speak His word back to Him. Read 2 Samuel 7, see how David repeats what God says.

In the Service of Jesus
Pastor Eric

Mark Your Calendar



February 2nd - Mites Sunday

February 9th - Super Snack Sale

February 16th

100th Anniversary Kick-Off
Worship @ 9 am with refresh-
ments to follow

February 20th - Victory Center
Service Event

March 30th—Confirmation Sun-
day @ 10:30 am

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders:

Sunday's 8:00 AM Clint Albrecht
10:30 AM Jon Betz
Wednesday 7:00 PM Scott Steffens

The Organist: Diana Baetke
& Tasha Becker

The Acolytes

February 2nd

8:00 AM Hudson Meyers
10:30 AM Amelia Rickertsen

February 9th

8:00 AM Porter Vopatek
10:30 AM Kinley Albrecht

February 16th

8:00 AM Zanyel Barys
10:30 AM Gavin Birt

February 23rd

8:00 AM Cade Converse
10:30 AM Brady Dies

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

Summer Night Out

Planning Meeting
February 17th
@ 6:00 PM

Planning has started for the 2025 Summer Night Out (6/7). We will be meeting on Monday, February 17th at 6:00 p.m at the church to review last year's event and start the planning for 2025. Please plan to join us on February 17th to share your thoughts and contribute to the outreach efforts at Grace! If you are interested in helping with the coordination of this event but cannot attend the planning meeting, please contact Kristy Engelkes at 563-210-2462.



Baptized on January 26th — Korah Rae-Lyn Edwards, daughter of Austin & Katelyn Edwards was baptized on January 26th. Her baptismal sponsors are Donovan & Carlee Good and Tyler & Mary Edwards. Welcome to God's Family!

UPCOMING EVENTS

100^{yrs}

**16
Feb**

WORSHIP & REFRESHMENTS

JOIN US AS WE KICK OFF OUR 100 YEARS
WITH WORSHIP AT 9:00 AM AND
REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW.

CONCERT IN THE PARK

CELEBRATE WITH US FROM 4:00 TO 7:00 PM
AT LINCOLN PARK. ENJOY SPECIAL MUSIC
AND A CONCERT BY BRENDAN BROOKS.

**17
Aug**

**14
Sept**

WORSHIP & CELEBRATION MEAL

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP AND A CELEBRATION MEAL TO
FOLLOW AT THE CLINTON FAIRGROUNDS.

Deadline for
Email Submission

**31
July**

EMAIL YOUR STORIES

Do you remember having to collect 100 items for the 100th day of school? As we approach 2025, we as a congregation, are going to celebrate 100 years in De Witt. It makes me want to try something unique. Can we collect 100 stories of Grace? I would encourage you to share with each other how the ministry of Grace has either impacted you, your family, and friends. So if you have a story to share please send an email to grace100stories@gmail.com.

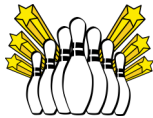
SUPER SNACK SALE FUNDRAISER

The Jr. & Sr. High youth will be selling snacks on **Sunday, February 9th** between services to make your party complete. Please consider purchasing some snacks and supporting Grace Lutheran Youth Ministry plans.



CLUB345 Event

Attention 3rd, 4th & 5th graders. Join us Sunday, February 23rd for an afternoon of fun and games at the DeWitt Bowling Lanes. We will bowl two games and then head back to church for a snack and devotion.



R.S.V.P. to:

msperry@gracedewitt.org by
February 16th.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT

Attention all 6th – 8th graders. Join us Sunday, February 23rd from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm for our first Youth Night of the new year. RSVP to msperry@gracedewitt.org by February 16th.

SENIOR HIGH 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.



We are less than 6 months away from the gathering. Our group of 16 youth and 5 adults met last month for the first of three team building/pre-gathering Bible studies. Please continue to keep all of us and everyone who will attend or who is involved with putting the gathering on in your prayers.

2025 Vacation Bible School "Wonder Junction"



The dates are June 22nd – 26th. This year's program will again be held during the evenings out at Grace Camp. Join us for **Wonder Junction**, as we marvel at Jesus and learn to live for his glory.

The 2025 Altar Flower calendar is now available on the Welcome Center. Bouquets can be donated in honor of or in memory of persons or events. Each bouquet is \$30 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.

We hope that we have flowers every week, but we know that there are Sundays when the arrangements have not been spoken for. It is these Sundays when you will not see arrangements on the altar. To assist the church in having arrangements every Sunday there is another way you can help. Donate money to our flower fund. We will then use the money in the flower fund, to cover the cost of flowers when they have not been spoken for. It is important to remember that we can only use the flower fund money when there is a balance in the flower fund account.

GRACE LUTHERAN YOUTH'S FAMOUS LASAGNA DINNER

Our Youth Lasagna Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 9th. We will take reservations Sunday, February 16th through March 2nd. There will be one reservation times at 5:30 pm. To register, please contact the church office or sign-up at the table in the foyer.



New this year, we will be taking orders for a Take & Bake container of our famous lasagna. The cost is \$25 per pan. Orders must be placed by February 23rd.



LASAGNA

Dinner

Sunday, March 9th
Dine In
 Reservation Time:
 5:30 pm

Take & Bake
 One Pan - Cost \$25
 Orders Feb 16th- 23rd

Reservations begin Feb 16th - March 9th

Made with PosterMyWall.com

LWML will be collecting **MITES** on Sunday, February 2nd. If you would like to help support the LCMS with their mission projects you can place your donation inside the box located in the Narthex or leave a marked donation in the offering plate. Thank you for your support of LWML and the missions of the LCMS.

THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE for Grace Lutheran Church is accepting grant applications through March 15, 2025. Projects which provide support to missions, education, youth, worship, and music and/or capital projects will be considered. Application forms are located on the Welcome Center.

Looking for cards? There is a variety cards and napkins available for purchase next to the Welcome Center. Please take a moment to see the wide assortment of cards displayed in the foyer.

Watch for more information regarding the SCRIP Fundraiser for Youth Ministries. How can purchasing gift cards through this program help provide support to our Youth.? What do you need to do? More information will made available soon.

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 - 7:00 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



The three year old preschool class is learning about the cold February month indoors. We will be talking about the snow and ice, animals in winter and arctic animals. Our Bible lessons are about some of Jesus' miracles, when he calms the storm, feeds thousands and walks on water! Our class is also going to have fun with a Valentine's Day party!



We can't believe it's February already. Our preschoolers are working hard on learning their letters and letter sounds, shapes, rhyming, patterns, and so much more. We will be learning about Community Helpers, Valentine's Day, transportation, and Dr. Seuss.

The Preschool staff is working hard planning a Family Math Night which will be held early March. They are also working on arranging the Hurts Donut fundraiser.

Grace Lutheran Preschool

2025-2026 Class Schedule

Class Schedule 2025-2026

4s M-F 8:00 - 11:00 am (16 spots)

M-F 12:00 - 3:00 pm (16 spots)

Please note that there is NO 4s classes on Wednesday.

3s M W F 8:15 - 10:45 (10 spots) \$160 monthly

T&TH 8:15 - 10:45 (10 spots) \$120 monthly

Please note that all 3s must be potty trained. There is a \$40 registration fee due with registration form, which is non-refundable.

The 3s Registration form will be available Feb. 3rd on the Preschool page of the website (www.gracedewitt.org). The registration form along with the registration fee may be dropped off at the church office or mailed to PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.

Registration for the 4s Preschool Program will be available on the Central DeWitt Community School District Website. We have not heard when it will open, but we will keep you updated.

Referral Center Donations

We continue to collect monthly donations for the Referral Center as the need is great. The referral center can always use pasta, Hamburger Helper, kid friendly cereal, condiments, and toothpaste. All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer.



February 20th Victory Center Service Event

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the meal, helped serve and prayed for our January service event at the Victory Center in Clinton. Our next service event meal will be on February 20th. We are planning to serve up to 40 people and allow for seconds.

If you haven't volunteered to help with some part of one of these meals, please prayerfully consider being involved in some way. Men are encouraged to join us in this mission, especially with serving the meal.

MAIN DISH—4 PEOPLE TO PREPARE A CROCKPOT OF SOUP TO SERVE 15 PEOPLE EACH

SOUP CRAKERS - 1 VOLUNTEER TO PROVIDE 2 BOXES

DESSERT—3 VOLUNTEERS TO PREPARE A DESSERT TO SERVE AT LEAST 15 PEOPLE

SALADS—4 VOLUNTEERS TO PREPARE A SALAD TO SERVE AT LEAST 15 PEOPLE

DRINKS—TWO VOLUNTEERS TO PROVIDE MILK

DELIVER & SERVE - 5 VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER AND SERVE THE MEAL

A sign up sheet is located on the Welcome Center. Please contact Kristy Engelkes at 563-210-2462 or the church office if you have any questions.

Reminder: All food needs to be prepared and brought to the church by 4:00 PM on Thursday, February 20th.

Help Needed!

Do you have time to spare? There are folding chairs at the church that need to be sorted. If you have time and can assist with this please, contact Kerry at the church office.

Lent



Lenten Midweek Services

March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, and April 2nd, 9th
11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Palm Sunday April 13th Pancake Breakfast

8:30 to 10:00 am

Hosted by Grace
Lutheran Youth

We have been cleaning house, organizing, decluttering and tidying up areas of the church that have been neglected. During this process we have come across items that we no longer need. These items will be placed in the church overflow for members to look through and take home if they choose to. We will make announcement will be made once everything is out and ready.

Included in these items are sermon tapes that have been previously recorded. We also will have some old tables and folding chairs that will also be available.

LENTEN MEAL SCHEDULE

Wednesday's @ 5:30 p.m.
Free Will Donation

March 5th - Camp Board — Breakfast

March 12th - Board of Discipleship/Choir - Maid-rites

March 19th - Board of Elders & Preschool—Spaghetti

March 26th - Board of Youth—Turkey & Dressing Sandwiches

April 2nd - Board of Finance & Trustees —Taco in a Bag

April 9th - Board of Christian Ed – Meatball Subs



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

13
APR

PALM SUNDAY
PROCESSION OF PALMS

8:00 am Worship
10:30 am Worship

17
APR

MAUNDY THURSDAY
COMMUNION

7:00 pm Worship

18
APR

GOOD FRIDAY
STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

7:00 pm Worship

20
APR

EASTER SUNDAY
COMMUNION

8:00 am Worship
10:00 am Worship

Reminder—There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study on Easter Sunday, April 20th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 st	Lauren Stowe
3 rd	Janeen Meyer
4 th	David Hall
	Shirley Franks
	Rebecca Gisel
5 th	Madison Burke
6 th	Lauren Hansen
	Mitch Krukow
7 th	Wyatt Jensen
	Audra Seifert
9 th	Christine Greve
	Abigail Johnson
11 th	Raymond Myers
12 th	Isabella Nolin
13 th	Scott Steffens
14 th	Bill Dies
	Myrle McWilliams
	Raegan Spain
15 th	Jared Dies
	Keli Runge
17 th	Barbara Dies
	Madison Lawrence
	David Schneider
18 th	Lavonne Martin
	Shannon Jans
19 th	Marilyn Mundt
	Cole Tobey
23 rd	Kitt Converse
	Cade Converse
24 th	Jon Betz
26 th	Allan Anderson
	Kerry Good
	Kathy Ketelsen
27 th	Kathi Lieving
	Valerie Erps
28 th	Amanda Hoepner
	Angela Wagner
	Patricia Niemann



February

12th Cody & Crystal Baines
24th Greg & Kristine Anderson

“Christ’s Life, and Love, and Light”

Open our eyes Lord to see Your love’s intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height
May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light. (LSB 788)

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don’t see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would “Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love’s intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.”

Only when we are immersed in God’s Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism’s life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord’s loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ’s servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light.

This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ’s love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking!
Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!

Grace Lutheran Church - February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship 2:00pm Grace Ski Trip	27 6:30pm Board of Christian Education	28	29 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm High School Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	30 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	31	1
2 "Wites" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Comm 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Comm	3 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Board of Discipleship 6:00pm Preschool Board Meeting 6:30pm Elders Mtg	4	5 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm High School Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	6 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	7	8 10:00am Snack Sale Drop Off
9 SUPER SNACK SALE 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship	10 6:00pm Council Meeting	11 7:00am Finance Board Meeting	12 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm High School Bible Study	13 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 1:30pm Service @ Maggie's House	14	15 Newsletter Deadline
16 100th Anniversary KICK-OFF 9:00am Traditional Worship w/ Comm Reception in Grace Hall following service.	17 No Preschool 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Summer Night Out Planning Meeting 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting	18 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting	19 9:00am Sewing Ladies 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm High School Bible Study 7:00pm Worship	20 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center Service Event 6:30pm Men's Table Talk@ Hall of Fame	21 Yoga Friday - Preschool	22
23 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Praise Worship 2:00pm CL UB345 4:30pm Middle School (6th-8th) Youth Night	24 6:30pm Board of Christian Education	25 Preschool Conferences	26 Preschool Conferences 10:30am Service @ Fieldstone 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm High School Bible Study 7:00pm Wednesday Worship	27 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	28 No Preschool Office Closed	1