



# Grace News

## Sunday Services

8:00 am & 10:30 am

Pastor Kent Umbarger

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

\*\*\*\*\*

Pastor James Batchelor

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

## Sunday School & Adult Bible Study

Sundays @ 9:15 am

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study  
will resume on January 11th.

## Office Hours

M-Th: 8am to 3pm

Friday 8am to Noon

*Closed the 4th Friday of the month.*

*The Church office will be closed  
January 1st & 2nd.*

## LCMS Life Ministry - January Article

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Christians may think of the birth of Christ as His incarnation — His moment of “taking on flesh.” But rather than on Christmas Day, His birthday, Christ’s incarnation took place at the moment of His conception. That which the angel Garbiel announced to the Virgin Mary — “and behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus” (Luke 1:31) — is a pronouncement of Christ’s first coming. The One who is the eternal Word (John 1:1) clothed Himself with flesh and inhabited life in the womb for the first nine months of His life. This month, we celebrate Christ’s birth and the redemption that He won for all flesh, even those who are yet unborn (Psalm 22:23).

### LCMS Stewardship Ministry

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true’ (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of “new” talk. Parties are held to ring in the “new” year. “New” year’s resolutions are made to set a “new” course of life in the “new” year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the “new” year on the dateline.

We use all this “new” talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the “new” resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That “new” person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The “new” habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The “new” person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around.



### Church Voter’s Meeting Monday, January 5th @ 7:00 pm

Join us as we review the Pastoral candidates selected by the Call Committee, in order to place a Call.

\*\*\*\*

### Annual Camp Board Meeting Monday, January 5th

Following the Voter’s Meeting.

*Please come support the church and camp.*

## Newsletter Deadline

Last day to submit articles for the February Newsletter is January 15th.

Submit your articles to  
kgood@gracedewitt.org.

**OFFERING STATEMENTS FOR 2025** will be ready for you to pick up on Wednesday, January 11th, in the church foyer.

## SERVING THIS MONTH:

**The Elders:** Sunday's 8:00 AM Duane Hansen  
10:30 AM Scott Steffens

**The Organist:** Diana Baetke

### The Acolytes

#### January 4th

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

Kinley Albrecht

Zanyel Barys

#### January 11th

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

Gavin Birt

Cade Converse & Kitt Converse

#### January 18th

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

Brady Dies

Leo Hill

#### January 25th

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

Ava Johnson

Cameron Miller

## LWML Mites

**Mites Collection**  
**Sunday, January 4th**

Please leave your donation inside the box  
located on the foyer table.



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 2026.

The Sperry's

### Special Gifts Given Include:

In loving memory Dennis Stutzel \$10 was given to Grace Camp for the Kitchen, \$120 to Preschool, \$80 to the Organ Fund, \$80 to the AV fund, and \$250 to Grace Church.

In loving memory of Doug Schultz \$25 was given to Grace Church.

In loving memory of Dorothy Meggers \$20 was given to Grace Preschool.

We are blessed to have a congregation that continues to spread love and joy. This Christmas Season members participated in Operation Christmas Child, filling shoeboxes to be sent to those in need. We were blessed to participate in the Angel Tree program, where we purchased gifts to be given to local families in Clinton County who were in need. We are very thankful to everyone who participated in these projects. It is because of your generosity we can spread love to others in many ways. Thank you!

Thank You to everyone who has blessed me this Christmas Season with your kind words, gifts, and cards. Your thoughtfulness and love made this season even more special. I am so blessed to have you in my life. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness.

Kerry

Women  
Wine  
and the  
Word

Thursday January 22nd

6:30pm

The Varsity Tap

Upstairs Lounge

Join us for an evening  
of fellowship with  
other women!



Brought to to you by Women of Grace • [www.gracedewitt.org](http://www.gracedewitt.org) • Questions 563-593-2393

Please join us on January 4th after late service to help us take down the Christmas decorations.

## 2026 Board Members

### Elders

**Clint Albrecht**  
Scott Steffens  
Jon Betz  
Leon Doescher  
Paul Kirby  
Alan Ruggeberg  
Duane Hansen  
Aaron Meyers  
Lucas Rickertsen

### Christian Ed. Shanna Tucker

**Amy Meyers**  
Barb Dies  
Jill Gisel  
Mike Good  
Nicole Rickertsen  
Janeen Meyer  
Audrey Housman

### Finance

Rich Matzen  
Barb Reed  
Barry Engelkes  
Troy Diercks  
Tammy Mickelson

### Trustees

**Wayne Grantz**  
Cory Krukow  
Kevin Meyer  
Troy Paarmann  
Jason Spain  
Drew Nolin

### GYM Trustee

Craig Paarmann

### Youth

**Laura Norcross**  
Jennifer Walker  
Cindy Sperry  
Jennifer Thiede  
Jeremiah Sunday  
Jennifer Walker  
Donovan Good

### Preschool

**Kerry Good**  
Katelyn Good  
Julie Matzen  
Cathy Youngers  
Emily Regenwether

### Discipleship

**Kristy Engelkes**  
Kathi Lieving  
Kay Hall  
Angie Hill  
Christy Stearns

### Endowment Committee

Scott Steffens  
Barb Reed  
Kristy Engelkes  
Laura Norcross  
Allison LaFevers

### Council Officers

#### President

Steve Butler

#### President Elect

Mike Vopatek

#### Secretary

Debbie Anderson

The 2026 Altar Flower calendar is 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.

\*\*\* Remember we can only provide flowers when there is money in this fund. If you do not see flowers on Sunday that means they were not sign up for and the Flower Fund does not have money in it.

**THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE** for Grace Lutheran Church will be accepting grant applications starting January 11th through March 15, 2026. Applications for projects which provide support to missions, education, youth, worship, and music and/or capital projects will be considered.

### Referral Center Donations

We will continue to collect monthly donations for the Referral Center as the need is great. The referral center can always use kid friendly cereal, instant potatoes, canned soup, toilet paper, canned vegetables, peanut butter, and Hamburger Helper. All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer.





## Grace Lutheran Church

6th-8th Grade

# LOCK-IN

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS FOR AN AWESOME NIGHT OF FUN, GAMES, FOOD, MOVIES AND GOD'S WORD. WE ASK THAT EACH PARTICIPANT PLEASE BRING \$5 AND A SNACK FOR THE SNACK TABLE. SOMETHING SWEET OR SALTY, ETC. PIZZA AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED FRIDAY NIGHT, AND WE WILL HAVE DONUTS FOR BREAKFAST SATURDAY MORNING BEFORE HEADING HOME. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

SIGN-UP BY JANUARY 11TH BY EMAILING  
MR. SPERRY AT MSPERRY@GRACEDEWITT.ORG

**JANUARY 16, 2026 @ 7PM  
TO JANUARY 17TH @ 7AM**

415 10TH STREET | DEWITT, IA 52742 | 563-659-9153

### GRACE LUTHERAN SKI TRIP

Make plans to join us on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> for an evening of fun on the slopes. We're heading to Sundown in Dubuque. This is open to all Grace members. Costs are: \$65 for ski rental, lift ticket & lesson; \$70 for Snowboard rental, lift ticket & lesson; or \$45 for lift ticket only. To register go to <https://sundownmtn.com> and navigate to the "More" Tab across the top of the page. Next select "Store" on the top bar of options. From there at the bottom of the next page will be a tile that says "EZ Groups", click on that. You will need the following code to register as part of our group: **GLY26**. All registrations and payment must be submitted by Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. After that date the site will close and no further registrations will be accepted. Each minor participant must also complete and turn in a Consent Form for Medical Treatment. These can be picked up from

## Senior High

### Midweek Bible Study

Resumes on January 7th @  
7:00 p.m. at the Sperry's.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year.

See you soon!



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our program this year is entitled **Emerald Crossing**. The dates will be Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. The program will be held at Grace Camp in the evenings. Dinner will be served from 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm and the program will run from 5:45 pm – 8:00 pm. Watch the bulletin board in the atrium for more updates and for ways to get involved!

## Event Registration Deadlines

### 6th-8th Grade Lock In

*Register by January 11th*

### Family Ski Trip

*Register by January 18th*

### ★ Grace Youth Fundraiser **Order Gift Cards** Great for Gifts or Personal Use

#### Choose from a wide variety of stores:

Walmart—Kwik Star—Crumble Cookie—Menards—  
Subway—Wendy's—McDonald's—Target—Kohl's—  
Walgreens—Dick's Sporting Goods—JcPenney, etc..

*A complete list can be found on the order form  
located on the Welcome Center.*

**Next Order Due: January 4th**

**Pickup Order: January 11th**



**RaiseRight™**

Simply the right way to fundraise



## January 15th Victory Center Service Event

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the meal, helped serve and prayed for our December service event at the Victory Center in Clinton. Our next service event meal will be on January 15th. 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.

*All food needs to be prepared and brought to the church  
by 4:00 PM on Thursday, January 15th.*

### Main Dish

Board of Outreach will  
provide meatballs for  
sandwiches.

### Drinks

#### 2 Volunteers:

- 1 gallon of white milk
- 2 gallons of chocolate milk

### Desserts 3 Volunteers

Prepare a dessert that serves  
15 people.

### Side Dish 4 Volunteers

Bring a salad or side that serves  
at least 15 people.

### Cheese 1 Volunteer

Provide 40 oz of  
shredded mozzarella.

### Hot Dog/Sub Buns 2 Volunteers

Bring 24 buns each.

### Deliver & Serve 5 Volunteers

Needed to help deliver and serve the meal.  
We meet at Grace at 4 pm.

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



We can hardly believe it is January. During January we will learn about Winter, snowmen, ice, and groundhogs. We will continue to work on writing our letters, letter recognition, and sounds.



We are enjoying our Christmas break and are excited to see what this new year brings! The three-year-olds are going to be roaring it up with discovering dinosaurs! We will wrap up January talking about snowmen, with the hopes of having some snow! Our Bible story of Jesus' birth continues as the shepherds and wise men visit. Jesus then grows up, gets baptized, and does his first miracle! Lots of fun to start 2026!

Please, watch your News & Notes for more information on our next fundraiser scheduled for March 28th. We look forward to hosting a Trivia Night to benefit Grace Preschool.

Thank you for your continued support of our Preschool Program. The Preschool Staff and Board sends you a great big THANK YOU!



## THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD SERVICE

**WHEN?** TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026, 7PM

**WHERE?** TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, CLINTON, IA  
(656 5TH AVE. S, CLINTON, IA 52732)

**WHAT?** EVENING PRAYER ON THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Continued from page 1

We need “new” talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of “new” is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This “new” comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of “new” is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary’s cross and

buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God’s creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.



4 <sup>th</sup>	Monica Ruggeberg
5 <sup>th</sup>	Piper Hoepner
	Mandy Anderson
6 <sup>th</sup>	Cameron Miller
	Hayze Diercks
8 <sup>th</sup>	Lois Kuehn
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Peters
	Colleen Flathers
12 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Hansen
	Emily Stearns
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ron McVey
	Klaire Gruntorad
14 <sup>th</sup>	Cory Krukow
	Elyce Burzlaff
15 <sup>th</sup>	Ella Sunday
17 <sup>th</sup>	Troy Paarmann
21 <sup>st</sup>	Leon Doescher
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Barbara Billhorn
	Katie Albrecht
24 <sup>th</sup>	Tonia Oronzio
	Emily Regenwether
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
	Anthony Meyer
31 <sup>st</sup>	Daun Vopatek



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



# Women of Grace

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ONGOING

#### Women's Bible Study



SUNDAY MORNINGS

AT 9:15

ENJOY COFFEE &  
FELLOWSHIP AS  
WE EXPLORE  
"PROMISED HOPE"

### JANUARY 22ND



6:30PM

THE VARSITY TAP  
UPSTAIRS LOUNGE  
AN EVENING OF  
FELLOWSHIP WITH  
OTHER WOMEN!

### APRIL 25TH

#### Women's Retreat



SAVE THE DATE FOR A  
WOMEN'S RETREAT  
AT GRACE CAMP!  
DETAILS COMING SOON!

For questions or to suggest event ideas, call or text Rachael at 563-593-2393

Donate your used glasses, including sunglasses and reading glasses, to the Lions Club. A collection box is located in the foyer coat area. These glasses are picked up by a member of the Lions and then sent to a facility who will refurbish them for others who may not be able to afford glasses. (Please, re-member they can not accept glass cases.)

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

**MILES OF DIMES** - Grace Camp was purchased in 1988. The Miles of Dimes project was started in 1990 as an effort to help pay for the facilities which everyone enjoys. There is a "Miles of Dimes" collection jar located on the Welcome Center. Leave your "dimes" or any donation you may want to make and your donation will be used to benefit the camp facilities. Thank you for your continued support.

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church  
415 10th St, PO Box 156  
DeWitt, IA 52742  
PH: 563-659-9153

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

## Grace Lutheran Church - January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:30am Traditional Worship	<b>29</b> No Preschool	<b>30</b> No Preschool	<b>31</b> No Preschool/Office Closed	<b>1</b> No Preschool/Office Closed	<b>2</b> No Preschool/Office Closed	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> "Mites" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion	<b>5</b> 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Board of Discipleship 6:30pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Voter's Meeting 8:00pm Annual Camp Board Meeting	<b>6</b> 6:00pm Preschool Board Meeting	<b>7</b> 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm High School Bible Study	<b>8</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Traditional Worship	<b>12</b> 6:00pm Council Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00am Board of Finance Meeting 9:00am Sewing Ladies 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm High School Bible Study	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline Preschool Yoga in Grace Hall 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center Service Event	<b>16</b> 7:00pm LOCK-IN	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion	<b>19</b> No Preschool 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting	<b>20</b> 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting	<b>21</b> 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm High School Bible Study	<b>22</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 6:30pm Women Wine & The World @ The Varsity Tap	<b>23</b> Office Closed	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:30am Traditional Worship 2:00pm SKI TRIP	<b>26</b> 6:30pm Board of Christian Education	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00am Sewing Ladies 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm High School Bible Study	<b>29</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>