

# Grace News

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church  
415 10th St, PO Box 156  
DeWitt, IA 52742

PH: 563-659-9153  
Fax: 563-659-9154  
[www.gracedewitt.org](http://www.gracedewitt.org)



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

January 2025

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace!

Happy New Year! Well, when you read this, it may not be 2025 yet, but the coming of another year is rapidly approaching. A new year leads to a new beginning. Last year, I spent time reflecting with you about the mission of God and our responsibility to go and proclaim Jesus to our neighbors. But a new year allows for a new beginning.

This year, I want to reflect with you this one question, what are you praying for? Recently through my personal reading, a lot of authors speak of the importance of book of Acts. At first, I ignored it, but after the third straight book spoke of Acts' importance regarding the Missio Dei, I decided enough is enough lets start diving in. What I found was prayer.

Luke highlights how much the disciples and those they discipled devoted to prayer. Before events, like replacing Judas. After events like when Peter preaches his Pentecost sermon and they baptized the thousands, they gather to pray. During events, like when Paul was imprisoned, he prayed. What does this prayer indicate? To me it indicates their trust that God hears and answers prayers.

Sometimes, I believe, that when we pray, we sometimes forget that God will answer that prayer. Truly, I look at my own life. There are things that I jokingly told everyone that I was praying for, like serving a church in South Dakota. I wasn't very serious in my intention. In fact, I was mostly joking with my mom who wished my brother and I would live somewhere close to them. I would always say, "Well I am praying that God will send me to South Dakota." I truly never expected that prayer to be answered but I should have because God did.

Therefore, when we pray, we should expect God to do what we ask. How often in the psalms, did David, or other psalmists, ask God to be near to them? A modest prayer answered in two ways. First, through the sending of the Son, and the second through the giving of the Spirit. It may not be how the psalmist expected but God answered their prayers. Which, we remind ourselves as we sing songs like Away in a Manger. "Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay, close by me forever, and love me I pray."

So back to the question, what are you praying for with the expectation that God will answer your prayer? I know what I am praying for, the community of Grace Lutheran Church. That we may continue to build lifelong connections to those around us, and that we may connect those to Jesus. I know that as I ask these things to God, I am also praying that God will help me see how these connections can be made.

I trust that God is going to answer these prayers for Grace. How? When? Where? Why? That I cannot answer. But I can answer with certainty that God will answer your and my prayer.

In the service of Jesus  
Pastor Eric

## Mark Your Calendar



**December 31st & January 1st**  
Church Office Closed

**January 1st**  
Worship service at 7 pm

**January 13th**  
Grace Church & Grace Camp  
Voter's Meeting at 7:00 pm

**January 16th**  
Victory Center Service Event

## SERVING THIS MONTH:

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

**The Organist:** Diana Baetke & Tasha Becker

### The Acolytes

#### January 5th

8:00 AM Austin Nolin  
10:30 AM Collin Oliver

#### January 12th

8:00 AM Carter Paarmann  
10:30 AM Adelynn Williams

#### January 19th

8:00 AM Peyton Goddard  
10:30 AM Katie Grantz

#### January 26th

8:00 AM Gavin Krukow  
10:30 AM Trevor McMahon

## Church Voters Meeting

Monday, January 9th  
@ 7:00 p.m.

## Camp Annual Board Meeting

Monday, January 9th  
following Church Voters Meeting  
@ Grace Lutheran Church

Please come and support the church and camp.

**THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE** for Grace Lutheran Church will be accepting grant applications starting January 5th through March 15, 2025. Applications for projects which provide support to missions, education, youth, worship, and music and/or capital projects will be considered.

**OFFERING STATEMENTS FOR 2024.** will be ready and available for you to pick up in the foyer on Wednesday, January 8th. Some 2025 offering envelopes still need to be picked from the table in the foyer. If you have not picked your envelopes up, please do so.

**IMPORTANT** - Deadline for submitting articles for the February newsletter is January 15th.



### Fellowship Sunday

January 12th  
9:15 am to 10:30 am

Plan to join us on Sunday as we fellowship with one another, while enjoying a cup of coffee and a delicious snack.

### Tiling Project

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Tiling Project. With your support and generosity, we have been able to exceed our \$21,000 goal for this project. Work on this project will continue with the reconstruction of the wall downstairs, which we hope to start in February.

LWML will be collecting MITEs on Sunday, January 5th. 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.

### Reminder to Sunday School Families

We do not have Sunday School on:  
Or January 5th

We will see everyone back at Sunday School on January 12th.

**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

# 2025 Board Members

## Elders

**Clint Albrecht**  
 Scott Steffens  
 Jon Betz  
 Leon Doescher  
 Paul Kirby  
 Scott Havener  
 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

## Youth

**Laura Norcross**  
 Jennifer Walker  
 Cindy Sperry  
 Jennifer Thiede  
 Emily Regenwether  
 Jeremiah Sunday

## Preschool

**Kerry Good**  
 Carrisa Spain  
 Katelyn Good  
 Julie Matzen

## Discipleship

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

## Endowment Committee

Scott Steffens  
 Barb Reed  
 Kristy Engelkes  
 Laura Norcross  
 Allison LaFevers

## Trustees

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

## GYM Trustee

Craig Paarmann

## Council Officers

### President

Steve Butler

### President Elect

Mike Vopatek

### Secretary

Debbie Anderson

On January 12th during worship services we will be installing officers. We ask all 2025 Board Members to participate.

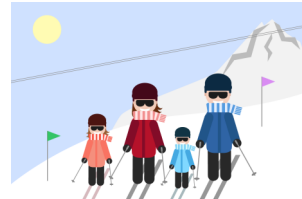


## **Baptized on December 21st —**

Cooper James Reed, son of Adam & Cassandra Reed was baptized on December 21st. His baptismal sponsors are Emily & Brady Regenwether. Welcome to God's Family!

**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.**

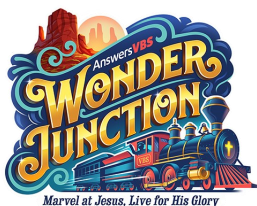
Please take a moment to see the wide assortment of cards and napkins displayed in the foyer.



## **GRACE LUTHERAN – FAMILY SKI TRIP!**

Our annual Ski Trip to Sundown Mountain in Dubuque is **January 26<sup>th</sup>**. Please get a permission slip from the folder on the bulletin board

outside of Mr. Sperry's office. Registration and payment is being done online at <http://shop.sundownmtn.com/groups>. Enter the following code: **GRACE25**. Please make sure to do your registration and payment by **January 19<sup>th</sup>**, as they will close the link on that date.



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Our program this year is entitled **Wonder Junction**. The dates will be Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. The program will again 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!

## IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Elaine D. Shelton, 99, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at Wheatland Manor.

Elaine Doris Hass Shelton was born on July 18, 1925, in Clinton, Iowa, at Jane Lamb Hospital, the daughter of Virtus and Ellnora (Meyer) Hass. She was baptized and confirmed at Elvira Zion Lutheran Church. Elaine attended rural elementary school in Camanche and high school at Clinton High, graduating from Calamus High School. She studied teacher training and vocal music at Mt. St. Claire, Clinton, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Augustana, Rock Island in 1973. Elaine was a Doctor of Chiropractic, a 1947 graduate of Palmer College of Chiropractic, having attended with her husband, Dr. M.E. Shelton, following his service in World War II.

Elaine was united in marriage to Marlon Shelton on January 20, 1945, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, rural Calamus. Elaine provided devoted chiropractic support for her husband and family throughout his career in their practices in Oelwein and DeWitt. She also held elementary, middle school, and Palmer College teaching positions, along with various choir directing roles. She received professional vocal and choir directing training from Mt. St. Claire, University of Iowa, Christiansen Choral School, and Wartburg Seminary of Dubuque. Her love of music and her faith were major life themes having participated in various church and community choirs, and ladies' groups.

Surviving are a son Dr. Jim Shelton of DeWitt; daughters, Shirley (Dillon) Franks of DeWitt, and Sally (Chris) Scott-Hendrix of Clarkston, MI, and special daughter Gayle (Dennis) Sopousek of Cedar Rapids; grandchildren Kelli (Brian) Bruckman of Coralville, IA, Carri Marando of Davenport, IA, Dr. Lindsey (Julian) Mortenson of Ann Arbor, MI, Reed Young of Union, KY, Marisa Franks of Lilburn, GA, Camille (Jeff) Franks Check of Longmont, CO, James R. Shelton of Plymouth, MN, Melissa Kelly of Los Angeles, CA, Steven Scott, Rachel Scott, and Gianna, Marissa, and Dominic Hendrix of Clarkston, MI; 13 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren; a sister Verna Lenth of Edgewood, IA, and brother Fred Hass of Mechanicsville; nieces and nephews.

Elaine is preceded in death by her husband in 2007; son Robert; her parents; infant great-grandson Luke; sister Jean Jungck; brothers-in-law Lee Lenth, Maurice Jungck, and Oscar Shelton; and sister-in-law Joan Shelton.



We can hardly believe it is already 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 enjoyed 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 2024!

**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.



## SENIOR HIGH MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Our Midweek Bible study will resume on **January 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm** at the Sperry's. I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you soon!

## ALL YOUTH (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades) LOCK-IN

Attention all 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Join us **Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** for a LOCK-IN. Invite your friends for an awesome night of fun, games, food, movies and God's Word. The deadline to sign-up is **Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**. **To sign-up, please respond to Mr. Sperry at [msperry@gracedewitt.org](mailto:msperry@gracedewitt.org).** We ask that each participant please bring 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.

## ENDURE

The 2025 National Youth Gathering, **ENDURE** in only six months away. Our first Team Building / Bible Study will be held on **Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm**. All registered participants (youth & adults), are required to attend. We will meet at Grace Church.

## Scrip Fundraising Program

The Board of Youth is announcing the start of a new fundraising program called Scrip. What you do is order gift cards to places you already shop at. You can order gift cards in person here at church, and there will be an app available that lets you purchase gift cards while standing in line at the store. We aren't asking you to spend any more money, rather, instead of using cash, check or card in the store that you pre-purchase cards from us.



Join us in the new year for the Stay Active Senior Exercise @ Grace on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am in the church basement for a low-impact, low-intensity workout designed for seniors, beginner exercisers and those restarting their exercise journeys. We follow gentle exercise videos that are perfect to keep our bodies moving and active. Please contact Kristy Engelkes at 563-210-2462 if you have any questions.



4 <sup>th</sup>	Monica Ruggeberg
5 <sup>th</sup>	Piper Hoepner
	Mandy Anderson
6 <sup>th</sup>	Cameron Miller
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>	Lucy Broadfoot
	Cory Krukow
	Elyce Burzlaff
15 <sup>th</sup>	Ella Sunday
16 <sup>th</sup>	Charlotte Harroun
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



**Summer Night Out**  
Planning Meeting

**February 17th @ 6:00 PM**



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



## January 16th 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 16th. 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.

*All food needs to be prepared and brought to the church by 4:00 PM on Thursday, January 16th.*

### 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 3 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

# Thank you!

I would like to extend a great big "THANK YOU" to everyone who blessed me this Christmas Season. Your kind words, gifts, and cards were so thoughtful and full of love that they made this season even more special. I am so blessed to have you all in my life. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness.

**Kerry**

Thank You, Mary Garlough, for taking time out of your busy schedule to pick up the Poinsettias for us. We are blessed to have volunteers like you.

### **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 2025. **The Sperry's**

We are so blessed to have a congregation that continues to spread love and joy throughout the year. This Christmas Season members participated in Operation Christmas Child, filling shoeboxes to be sent to those in need. Then we were able to send Christmas Blessings through the Angel Tree, where we purchased gifts to be given to nine children in need in Clinton County. We are very thankful to everyone who participated in these service projects. It is because of your generosity we can spread love to others in

### **Special Gifts Given Include:**

In loving memory Elaine Shelton \$470 was given to Grace Lutheran Choir and \$105 to Grace Lutheran Preschool.



Clinton Pregnancy Center  
**SANCTITY OF LIFE**  
**BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG  
& DIAPER DRIVE**

**BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG:**

To bring awareness to the Sanctity of Human Life, Grace is hosting Baby Bottle Boomerang during the month of January. Each family is encouraged to pick up an empty baby bottle from the church and fill it with change, bills or checks during the month of January.

**COLLECTION DATES:**

**JANUARY**  
**05 - 26**

**DIAPER DRIVE:**

Throughout January we will be collecting items for the Clinton Pregnancy Center.

Items Needed:

Diapers/Pull Ups (Sizes 4 & 6 needed the most but all sizes welcome.), Wipes, Baby Shampoo, Baby Lotion, Baby Wash, Baby Bottles

Donations can be left in the Pack-N-Play.

## Grace Lutheran Church - January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 9:00am Traditional Worship	<b>30</b> No Preschool	<b>31</b> Office Closed - No Preschool	<b>1</b> Office Closed - No Preschool 7:00pm Worship Service	<b>2</b> No Preschool 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior	<b>3</b> No Preschool 8:00am Trustees Board Meeting	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> "Mites" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 1:00pm Cantata at Grand Ha-	<b>6</b> 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Board of Discipleship 6:30pm Elders Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:15am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Cantata at Fieldstone 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Wednesday Worship	<b>9</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 1:30pm Service @ Maggie's House	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Fellowship Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship & Installation of Officers 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship &	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Voter's Meeting 8:00pm Grace Camp Annual Meeting	<b>14</b> 7:00am Finance Board Meeting	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Sewing Ladies 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Wednesday Worship	<b>16</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center Service Event 6:30pm Men's Table Talk@ Hall	<b>17</b> Yoga Friday 7:00pm YOUTH LOCK-IN	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 5:00pm LCMSYG2025 Team	<b>20</b> No Preschool 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:15am Staff Meeting 10:30am Service @ Fieldstone 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Wednesday Worship	<b>23</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	<b>24</b> Office Closed	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Board of Christian Education	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Wednesday Worship	<b>30</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>