



Grace News

Holy Week WORSHIP SCHEDULE



29 MARCH *Sunday*
Palm Sunday Worship @ 8:00 am &
10:30 am with Communion and
the procession of palms.

2 APRIL *Thursday*
Maundy Thursday Worship
@ 7:00 pm with Communion &
Stripping of the Altar.

3 APRIL *Friday*
Good Friday Worship
@ 7:00 pm. Join us this Good
Friday as we reflect on Christ's
sacrifice and love.

5 APRIL *Sunday*
Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Join us this Easter Sunday for joyful
worship with the Hallelujah Chorus
and Holy Communion.

Worship Services
8:00 am & 10:00 am

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast March 29th - 8:30 am to 10:00 am

Please join us for a delicious meal and a chance to fellowship with the other members here at Grace. Proceeds from the breakfast are used for future Youth Ministry events.

Sunday Services

8:00 am & 10:30 am
Pastor Kent Umbarger

Pastor Merle Warnsholz
April 26th

ARE YOU A STUDENT GRADUATING?

What an important step in your life! We would like to honor you by printing your name in our May newsletter. If you are receiving a high school, college, or post-graduate degree, give us a call at 659-9153, before April 15th.

Reminder! There is no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study on Easter Sunday.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 9:15 am

Adult Bible Study in Grace Hall
Women's Bible Study - Mtg #1

 **RaiseRight**
GIFT CARD PROGRAM



Youth Fundraiser Order Due April 5th

Order forms are located on the Welcome Center.

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 am Clint Albrecht
10:30 am Scott Steffens
Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Scott Steffens
Good Friday 7:00 pm Clint Albrecht

The Organist: Diana Baetke

The Acolytes

April 2nd
7:00 pm Zach Yutesler
April 3rd
7:00 pm Zane Burzlaff
April 5th
8:00 am Carter Paarmann & Kennick Meyer
10:00 am Jaren Nebel & Collin Oliver
April 12th
8:00 am Brody Lawrence
10:30 am Adelynn Williams
April 19th
8:00 am Brynlee Dies
10:30 am Gavin Birt
April 26th
8:00 am Ryleigh Spain
10:30 am Dennis Wold

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation will be held during the 10:30 a.m. service on April 26th. Thirteen of our young people will be participating in the Rite of Confirmation. Those who are in the 8th Grade Confirmation class and are scheduled to be confirmed are:

Kinley Albrecht	Ava Johnson
Zanyel Barys	Cameron Miller
Gavin Birt	Larry Oronzio
Cade Converse	Austin Nolin
Kitt Converse	Isaiah Sunday
Brady Dies	Zach Yutesler
Leo Hill	

If you would like to send Confirmation Blessings the wooden box will be out for you to place your card in beginning, April 12th through April 19th.

Special Gifts Given Include:

In memory of Dennis Stutzel \$25 was given to Missions.
In loving memory of Doug Schultz \$25 was given to the organ fund.
In loving memory of Terri Shelton \$20 was given to Grace Lutheran Preschool.
In loving memory of Terry Tjaden \$25 was given to Grace Choir.

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

We are sad to announce that we are unable to provide boxed confirmation cards. All the boxes we currently have are out.

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 \$20.50 per year. If you would like to subscribe to the Lutheran Witness, or if you already subscribe and wish to renew, please contact the church office by April 26th. Payment may be dropped off or mailed to the church office at PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.



RANDY's ROUNDUP

Grace Lutheran Youth will be the recipients of the Randy's Roundup during the week of April 20th – 26th. Proceeds will be used to offset costs for future Youth Ministry events.

In Memory of:

Terri Shelton, 76, of DeWitt, Iowa, passed away Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Fieldstone of DeWitt, with her daughters by her side.

Terri Lynne Passig Shelton was born June 3, 1949, in Clinton, Iowa, to Richard and Myrna Hospadarsky. She graduated from Central Community High School in DeWitt in 1967. On May 27, 1967, she married Duane R. Passig. He died while serving in Vietnam on March 14, 1968. She later married Jim Shelton. Terri worked at Younker's Fine Jewelry and later at North Scott Foods until her retirement in 2015.

Terri was devoted to her family and especially cherished time spent with her children and grandchildren. She was a faithful member of Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt, for many years. She especially enjoyed serving on the board at Grace Lutheran Camp, helping with the Christmas tree sales, and participating in several Bible studies. After moving to Grand Haven in Eldridge, she enjoyed the friendships she made there and playing cards.

Those left to honor her memory include her daughters, Kelli Passig Bruckman (Brian), and Carri Shelton Marando (Denny Henningsen); six special grandchildren, Jade Woods (Brett), Ryan, Dillon, and Matthew Bruckman, Austin Fletcher and Alexis Marando; three greatgrandchildren, Forrest Fletcher, Layla and Brodie Woods; sister, Barb Wold (David); nieces Denise Wold and Christi Roffman-Vorwald; a nephew Brian Kuehl; as well as many loving extended family members.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband, Duane Passig and sister, Vicki Roffman (Donald), and Karen Kuehl (James), and nephews, Dennis and Doug Wold, and Randy Roffman, and numerous extended family members.

Referral Center Donations

We continue to collect monthly donations for the Referral Center as the need is great. The referral center can always use ketchup, kid-friendly cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, shampoo, and toothpaste. All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer.

Mark your calendar for our May Voter's Meeting! Please join us on Monday, May 4th at 7:00 pm. The agenda includes Board Reports and the approval of the Preschool Budget.

Greeters & Ushers

Greeters are needed to extend a warm welcome to members and visitors before worship services. Greeters are asked to be at church 20 minutes before service begins.

Ushers are needed to assist the Elders during worship services.

Please, look at the sign-up sheet located on the Welcome Center and sign up for a date you are available to help.

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.

The following Altar Bouquet dates are available:

May 17th, 24th
June 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
July 26th
August 2nd, 16th, 23rd
September 20th, 27th
October 4th, 18th
November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
December 13th, 27th

We hope to have flowers every week, but we know that there are Sundays when the arrangements will be spoken for. It is these Sundays when you will not see arrangements on the altar. To assist the church in having arrangements, 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 a Sunday flowers were not spoken for and the Flower Fund does not have money in it.

April 16th Victory Center Service Event

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the meal, helped serve, and prayed for our March service event at the Victory Center in Clinton. Our next service event meal will be on April 16th. We are planning to serve up to 60 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, April 16th.

Main Dish – Casserole 5 Volunteers

Each volunteer is asked to prepare a meat dish/casserole to serve 15 people.

Bring in crockpot or wrapped pan so food can stay warm.

Drinks 2 Volunteers

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

Desserts 3 Volunteers

Prepare a dessert that serves 15 people.

Salads 4 Volunteers

Prepare a salad to serve 15 people.

Deliver & Serve 5 Volunteers

Needed to help deliver and serve the meal. We meet at Grace at 4 pm. Meal is served from 5pm to 6pm.

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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
APRIL 2026

Mission SPOTLIGHT

SUMMER LUNCH BOX PROGRAM

What is the mission?

The Summer Lunchbox Program helps provide food for children in the Central DeWitt Community School District during the summer months when school meals are not available.

Who does it serve?

Families in our community who need extra support during summer break. Volunteers from our church and community assemble grocery bags multiple times during the summer filled with kid-friendly food and vouchers for fresh items like milk, eggs, produce, and deli products.

How can you help?

During the month of April, we will be collecting financial donations to purchase needed groceries and supplies. Monetary donations can be placed in the little white church located in the narthex. Additionally, volunteers will be needed to pack bags during the summer. In the coming weeks, a QR code will be shared to make food donations ordered through Amazon.

Together, we can make sure every child in our community has access to nourishing meals throughout the summer.

Grace Lutheran Preschool 2026-2027 Class Schedule

Class Schedule 2026-2027

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 Fridays.

3s M W F 8:15 - 10:45 (4 spots) \$160 monthly
T&TH 8:15 - 10:45 (2 spots) \$120 monthly

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

The 3s Registration form is now available 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 is available on the Central DeWitt Community School District Website.

Women of Grace Sunday Morning Bible Study

We have been taking our time to get through *Promised Hope: Finding Peace in God's Faithfulness*. God has been knitting our hearts together through His Word, and our goal is to finish the book in May.

Whether you have been with us from the beginning, haven't joined us in a while, or are brand new — **you are warmly welcome to come and start right where we are.** It is never too late to join us!

Class Dates

- ◆ Sunday, April 12, 2026
- ◆ Sunday, April 19, 2026
- ◆ Sunday, April 26, 2026
- ◆ Sunday, May 10, 2026

The Grace church family is invited to a graduation open house for Noah John Sunday. It will take place at The DeWitt American Legion on May 16th. Times are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The Threes are blasting off into space this month! Earth Day is April 22nd and we will be learning ways to help the world we live in. We will celebrate Jesus rising from his tomb with our Easter party! Our Bible stories this month are about Jesus returning, a short man, the True King and a net full of fish.



Spring is here! We are excited to learn about the rain, bugs, rainbows, and flowers. We continue to work on our letters, letter sounds, numbers, and counting to 100.

Office Hours

M-Th 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Closed on Fridays

Office Ph: 563-659-9153
Email: kgood@gracedewitt.org

LWML Mites

Mites Collection
Sunday, April 5th

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

Newsletter Deadline

If you would like to submit articles for the May Newsletter, they will need to be emailed to kgood@gracedewitt.org by April 15th.



Peace Beyond Measure

A Christian Women's Retreat

Saturday, April 25

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Doors open at 9:00 AM

Grace Camp at the Peter Retreat Center
2675 242nd Street • DeWitt, Iowa

Cost: \$20

Lunch & Beverages Included

*Join us for a day of renewal, encouragement,
and Christ-centered connection.*

Open to all women.

Organized by the Women of Grace.

To register, call or text Kristy
563-210-2462



Speaker:
Michelle Diercks
Author/Christian
Life Coach



Grace Camp Day Camp Schedule

Registration Opens April 1st!

June 9 – “Cooking @ Grace” – Open to 1st through 3rd Graders - Cost \$15 **Register by May 27th**
We will meet from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. [Limited to 16 participants.] [Please meet at Grace Church.]

June 9 – “Cooking @ Grace” – Open to 1st through 3rd Graders - Cost \$15 **Register by May 27th**
We will meet from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. [Limited to 16 participants.] [Please meet at Grace Church.]

June 10 - “Fishing Camp” – Open to 1st through 6th Graders – Cost \$15 **Register by May 27th**
Please bring your own fishing pole and tackle. Bait will be provided. [Limited to 30 participants] 9am – 12pm
[Please wear old clothes and close-toed shoes. NO Sandals]

June 11 – “Cooking @ Grace” – Open to 4th through 6th Graders - Cost \$15 **Register by May 30th**
We will meet from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. [Limited to 16 participants.] [Please meet at Grace Church.]

June 11 – “Cooking @ Grace” – Open to 4th through 6th Graders - Cost \$15 **Register by May 30th**
We will meet from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. [Limited to 16 participants.] [Please meet at Grace Church.]

June 16 – “Arts & Crafts” – [Open to 1st through 3rd Graders] – Cost \$15 **Register by June 2nd**
We will meet from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. [Limited to 24 participants.] [Please wear old clothes that can get dirty.]

June 16 – “Arts & Crafts” – [Open to 4th through 6th Graders] – Cost \$15 **Register by June 2nd**
This is a half-day camp. We will meet from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. [Limited to 24 participants.]
[Please wear old clothes that can get dirty.]

June 17 - “Fishing Camp” – Open to 1st through 6th Graders – Cost \$15 **Register by June 3rd**
Please bring your own fishing pole and tackle. Bait will be provided. [Limited to 30 participants] 9am – 12 pm
[Please wear old clothes and close-toed shoes. NO Sandals]

June 18 – Little Kids – Open to 4 & 5 Year olds – Cost \$15 - 9am – 12pm **Register by June 6th**
(Each child registered must have their own helper – at least 12 years old that attends with them.)

ONLINE REGISTRATION

www.gracedewitt.org

GRACE CAMP DAY CAMPS

Grace Camp will again offer Day Camps during June. Day Camps are primarily for children entering 1st – 6th grades for the 2026-2027 school year. Registration will open on April 1st @ 7:00 pm.

You can only register for one session of each camp, not both.

Please check the bulletin board in the atrium to see which camps we need help at.

VBS – WONDER JUNCTION

This year's program is scheduled for Monday, June 22nd – Thursday, June 25th in the evenings out at Grace Camp. A light meal will be served from 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm. The program will run each evening from 5:45 pm – 8:15 pm. Check out the bulletin board for ways you can get involved. Registration begins May 1st.

A graphic for the Emerald Crossing Vacation Bible School 2026. On the left is a colorful illustration of a green, leaf-shaped sign with the text 'Answers to EMERALD CROSSING An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23'. The sign is set against a backdrop of a lush green landscape with a stone bridge, sheep, and a small house. The text 'REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1ST' is written in bold black letters at the top left. On the right, the text 'Vacation Bible School 2026' is at the top, followed by 'emerald crossing' in a large, stylized font. Below that, the dates 'June 22nd – June 25th' and times '5:30 to 8:00 pm' are listed, along with the age group 'Children 3years – 5th Grade'. A paragraph of text describes the program: 'Join us for Emerald Crossing, where children will discover the life of Shepherd-king David and learn how to cross from anxiety to peace. In a world filled with worry and confusion, kids need to know the God who cares for them.'

PANCAKE BREAKFAST SET-UP

Attention all Jr. & Sr. High Youth and their families. Set-up for the annual Pancake Breakfast will be Saturday, March 28th @ 10:00 am. Please be here that morning to help with set-up, decorating, etc. Please bring your donation item with you at that time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (6th-8th Grade) YOUTH NIGHT

Our next Youth Night will be held of April 19th from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm at the G*Y*M Building at Grace Camp. Invite a friend and join us for a fun time. Part of our time will be spent helping to clean-up around Grace Camp to get ready for the Summer season. RSVP to Mr. Sperry at msperry@gracedewitt.org.

SUMMER CAMP

The dates for this year's Summer Camp are July 27th-29th. The theme is **GOOD LORD!** and our theme verse is **Nahum 1:7** – *The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.* We can always use volunteers, so please consider helping out to make this annual event the very best it can be. Summer Camp is for children entering 2nd – 8th grades for the 2026-2027 school year. Students entering 9th grade and above are encouraged to apply to serve as a Counselor. Registration opens June 1st @ 7:00 pm

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



1 st	Vaughn Vopatek	20 th	Chloe Engelkes
4 th	Alayna Wegener	24 th	Hudson Meyers
5 th	Steven McWilliams		Donna Steward
	Gavin Walker	25 th	Jeremy Goddard
	Marren Spain		Brittney Hughes
6 th	Denise Wagner-Mommsen		Hannah Sunday
7 th	Adalyn Appleby	26 th	Diane Boussetot
	Susan Stevens		Mark Peters
8 th	Brittany Paasch	27 th	Fred Smith
9 th	Devin Wagner		Nicole Rickertsen
11 th	Jason Spain		Carissa Spain
12 th	David Pillers		Zach Yutesler
13 th	Ken Hartmann	28 th	Amirya Barys
	Cindy Burke		Denise Smith
15 th	Barbara Mork		Donald Havener
16 th	Yana Sperry	30 th	Barb Rands
17 th	Alan Ruggeberg		JoAnn Jeffery
	Mark Jacobsen		
18 th	Abigail Swanson		



2 nd	Jon & Barb Billhorn
4 th	Paul & Sandi Kirby
	Fredrick & Jennifer Thiede
7 th	Lauren & Jeanne Hansen
9 th	Clint & Katie Albrecht
12 th	Jered & Laurie Birt
17 th	Chris & Kelly Lawrence
20 th	David & Barbara Wold
25 th	Jim & Susan Williams

Honoring Fred Smith's 100th Birthday

On April 27th, Fred Smith will celebrate an incredible milestone — 100 years of life, love, and memories. The Smith family is planning a special gathering to honor him and invites you to join in the celebration.

Save the Date: Saturday, May 3rd

Time: To be announced.

We look forward to celebrating this remarkable occasion together.

Grace Lutheran Church - April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 PALM SUNDAY 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Comm 8:30am Pancake Breakfast 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship w/Comm	30	31	1	2 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	3 Office Closed No Preschool 7:00pm Good Friday Worship	4
5 "Mites" Sunday & Raise Right Orders Due 8:00am Easter Worship w/Comm 10:00am Easter Worship w/Comm	6 Church Office Closed & No Preschool 6:00pm Discipleship Mtg 6:30pm Elders Meeting	7 6:00pm Preschool Board Meeting	8 7:00am Board of Finance Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation	9 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	10 Office Closed	11
12 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 9:15am Women's Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship	13 6:00pm Council Mtg	14	15 Newsletter Deadline 5:30pm Confirmation	16 Preschool Yoga 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center Service Event	17 Office Closed	18
19 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Comm 9:15am Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 9:15am Women's Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/Comm 2:00pm CLUB345 4:00pm Middle School Youth Night	20 Randy's Round Up for Grace Youth 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting	21 Randy's Round Up for Grace Youth 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting	22 Randy's Round Up for Grace Youth 5:30pm Confirmation and Rehearsal for 8 th Grade	23 Randy's Round Up for Grace Youth 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	24 Office Closed Randy's Round Up for Grace Youth	25 Randy's Round Up for Grace Youth Women's Retreat @ Grace Camp
26 Randy's Round Up for Grace Youth 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Women's Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/ Communion (Confirmation Sunday)	27 6:30pm Board of Christian Education	28	29 Church Office Closes at 1:00 pm 5:30pm Confirmation	30 Church Office Closes at 1:00 pm 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	1 Church Office is Closed	2 Wedding