



Grace News

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Define Your Life by How You Give
Originally Published in August 2023

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For, giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living have on us. When we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others?” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the Divine Nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

Office Hours

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

Summer Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship

@ Grace Church
 8:00 a.m.

Praise Worship

@ Grace Camp
 Outdoor Chapel
 10:00 a.m.

Please remember that when the weather is questionable, you can find out whether services have been moved from Camp to Church by visiting our website, gracedewitt.org, or looking for the yellow signs placed outside of the church and at the road entrance to camp.

Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the September Newsletter need to be received by August 15th.
kgood@gracedewitt.org

 **RaiseRight™**
 GIFT CARD PROGRAM



Youth Fundraiser
Order Due
August 16th

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 am Duane Hansen
10:00 am Scott Steffens

The Organist: Diana Baetke

The Acolytes**August 2nd**

8:00 am Carter Paarmann

August 9th

8:00 am Collin Oliver

August 16th

8:00 am Brynlee Dies

August 23rd

8:00 am Emmett Rickertsen

August 30th

8:00 am Ryleigh Spain

Special Gifts Given Include:

In memory of Brad Anderson, \$20 was given to Sunday School, \$90 to Grace Church, and \$20 to Grace Camp.

In memory of Carol Schunter \$300 was given to Grace Camp.

In memory of Dorrance Kedley \$20 was given to Grace Preschool.

Miles of Dimes

Grace Camp has been a cherished community gathering place since its purchase in 1988, offering a variety of facilities and activities that everyone enjoys. To help fund and maintain these spaces, the Miles of Dimes project was launched in 1990. A Miles of Dimes collection jar is conveniently located at the Welcome Center, making it easy for everyone to give. Your donations- nickels, dimes, quarters, or any sum you give- are a simple way to help ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the camp's programs and facilities.

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 the service begins. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center 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, with 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 dates are available:

September 20th, 27th

October 4th, 18th

November 8th, 22nd, 29th

We hope to have flowers every week, but we know that there are Sundays when the arrangements will not be spoken for. It is on these Sundays when you will not see arrangements on the altar. To assist the church in making 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.

Donate your used glasses, 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, remember they can not accept glass cases.)

LWML Mite Collection – Sunday, August 2nd

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) will be collecting Mites on Sunday, August 2nd. These offerings help support LCMS mission projects locally and around the world. If you would like to participate, you may place your donation in the Mite Box located in the Narthex or leave a clearly marked donation in the offering plate.

Thank you for your faithful support of LWML and the mission work of the LCMS — together, we are sharing Christ's love in action!

August 20, 2026 Victory Center Service Event

Once again, a heartfelt *thank you* to everyone who contributed to the meal, helped serve, and lifted our July service event at the Victory Center in Clinton in prayer. Your generosity and servant hearts made a real difference for those we served.

Looking ahead, our next service event meal will be on Thursday, August 20th. We are preparing to serve up to 60 guests—and even offer seconds—so every helping hand will be a blessing.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to be part of one of these meals, we invite you to prayerfully consider getting involved. Whether it's cooking, serving, cleaning up, or simply offering encouragement, your presence matters.

We especially encourage **men** to join us in this mission, particularly in serving the meal, as it's a wonderful way to connect and share God's love in action.

Together, we can make August's event another moment of hope, fellowship, and care.

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

Main Dish 5 Volunteers

Prepare a spaghetti or pasta dish to serve at least 15 people.

Desserts 3 Volunteers

Prepare a dessert that serves 15 people.

Drinks 2 Volunteers

- ❖ 1 gal. white milk
- ❖ 2 gal. chocolate milk

Salad/Side Dish 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. The meal is served from 5 pm to 6 pm.

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



The Summer Lunch Box Team thanks the congregation of Grace Lutheran for your generous donations this summer totaling \$2,970! These funds have allowed our team to purchase groceries and fund milk, meat/cheese, eggs and produce vouchers plus a loaf of bread for 63 bags to feed our school districts children during these summer months. God Bless!

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, canned fruit, Ranch dressing, BBQ sauce, dish soap, peanut butter, Jell-O, pudding, and so much more. All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer.

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.



Round Up for Grace Camp!

From Monday, August 3rd through Sunday, August 9th, you can make a big difference with just a little change! When you shop at Randy's Neighborhood Market, round up your total at checkout, and your spare change will go directly to support Grace Camp. Thank you for your continued support for Grace Camp.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
AUGUST 2026

Mission SPOTLIGHT

VICTORY CENTER



What is the mission?

The mission of the Victory Center is to provide housing, restorative support, and career pathways that help individuals and families thrive through life's greatest hardships. Their approach unites the proven Housing First model with wraparound recovery, wellness, and career reintegration services—delivering not just shelter, but a full pathway to lasting independence

Who does it serve?

The Victory Center provides emergency shelter and essential life skills coaching and training for homeless individuals and families in the Clinton area to ensure everyone has a place to rest and regain their footing. They offer case management services to connect individuals and families with resources for housing, employment and physical and mental health support. Additionally, nutritious meals are served daily to residents and others in need in the Clinton area.

How can you help?

Throughout the year, volunteers are needed to prepare and serve monthly meals for the men's shelter and surrounding community in Clinton. Additionally, during the month of August, we are collecting hygiene items for the men's shelter, paper products and supplies for the Victory Center's daily meal service and financial donations to support the Victory Center programs. Hygiene and paper product donations can be placed in the tote in the church foyer. Monetary donations can be placed in the wooden church box located in the church foyer.

Victory Center Donations

Hygiene Products for Men	Paper Products/Supplies for Meals
❖ Toothpaste	❖ Paper Towels
❖ Toothbrushes	❖ Napkins
❖ Shampoo	❖ Plastic forks, spoons and knives
❖ Conditioner	❖ Gallon and Quart-size storage bags
❖ Body Wash	❖ Aluminum foil
❖ Soap	❖ Dishsoap (Dawn, etc)
❖ Deodorant	❖ Fabuloso Professional All Purpose Cleaner & Degreaser - Lavendar
❖ Lotion	❖ Kitchen washcloths and towels
❖ Floss	❖ 40-45 Gallon trash bags

This month, we're excited to support The Victory Center! We will be collecting hygiene items, paper products, and monetary donations to help meet their needs.

Item Donations: Please place hygiene and paper products in the tote located in the foyer.

Monetary Donations: Place all financial gifts in the wooden box near the display.

Your generosity will make a real difference—thank you for helping us bless The Victory Center this month!



Looking Ahead to Next Year's Sunday School

As we prepare for the upcoming Sunday School year, we're excited to share two meaningful opportunities to serve:

Sunday School Superintendent - We're looking for a compassionate and well-organized individual to help lead, coordinate, and support our Sunday School ministry. This role plays a key part in ensuring our program runs smoothly and continues to nurture the faith and growth of our children.

A/V Volunteer - Runs sound and visuals during Sunday School openings.

If you feel called to serve in either of these roles, or would like to learn more, please reach out to Mark Sperry at msperry@gracedewitt.org or 563-659-9153. Your gifts and talents can make a big difference in the lives of our children!

CLUB345 Back-2-School Party

Attention all incoming 3rd, 4th & 5th graders. Please join us **Sunday, August 16th** from 2 pm – 3:30 pm for our back-2-School Party. We will meet at the G*Y*M Building at Grace Camp. Please R.S.V.P. to msperry@gracedewitt.org if your child is planning to attend.

Introduction to the Bible

If you have a student who is entering 3rd grade this fall, please stop by the office to pick-up your Introduction to the Bible packet. Bibles will be presented to the children during either service on **Sunday, September 13th**. Please contact Mark Sperry with any questions.

Please Join Us For:

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning | Sunday, September 13th @ 9:15 a.m.

3 YEARS - HIGH SCHOOL

All Children 3 Years (must be potty trained) through High School are invited to Sunday school from 9:15 am to 10:15 am beginning on September 13th.

Register online
at www.gracedewitt.org

Confirmation Classes

Grace offers a three-year program for students in 6th, 7th & 8th grades. If you have a student in one of these grades, please contact the church office to let us know they will be attending classes beginning this September. An email with more information will be sent out in early August. Confirmation Orientation will take place on Wednesday, August 19th @ 5:30 pm here at Grace Church.

LCMSYG2028 Meeting

Attention all incoming 7th – 11th graders. Please join us **Sunday, September 13th** at 11:45 am for an informational meeting about the 2028 LCMS Youth Gathering. We will meet in Grace Hall here at church. If you can't attend this meeting but are interested in attending the 2028 gathering, please let Mr. Sperry know.

Middle School Back-2-School Bash

Attention all incoming 6th-8th graders. Make plans now to join us on **Sunday, August 16th** from 4 pm – 5:30 pm for our annual Back-2-School Bash. There will be food, fun & games. We hope to see you there as we say goodbye to Summer and welcome a new school year. To make sure we have enough food, please RSVP to Mr. Sperry at msperry@gracedewitt.org by August 12th.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Hey friends! Our next monthly meet-up is **Sunday, August 2nd** from **4–7 PM** at the **GYM Building at Grace Camp**. We've got a fun evening planned: **Mini Golf at The Derby; Walking Tacos for Dinner; and Devotion with Pastor Merle**. Great time to hang out, laugh, and connect! Bring a friend (or two!) — everyone's welcome. We can't wait to see you there!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

**AUGUST 2
4-7PM**

**WALKING TACOS
& MINI GOLF**

MEET AT GRACE CAMP'S
GYM BUILDING
THEN CARAVAN TO
ICE CREAM DERBY
FOR MINI GOLF.
PICK UP AT 7PM AT GRACE CAMP

**OPEN TO ALL
HIGH SCHOOL TEENS**

QUESTIONS?
MSPERRY@GRACEDEWITT.ORG



THIS EVENT IS FREE FOR ALL YOUTH THANKS
TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR CONGREGATION.



Mark Sperry, DCE

563-321-0674

msperry@gracedewitt.org

Mark's Office Hours

M-Th - 7:00 am to 1:00 pm

Kerry Good

kgood@gracedewitt.org

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

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 2 nd Richard Matzen | 12 th Brody Onken | 25 th Gary Trafford | 3 rd Ronnie & Sandra Peters |
| Colin Albrecht | Amelia Rickertsen | Barbara Wold | 5 th Aaron & Amy Meyers |
| 3 rd Bradley Anderson | 13 th Michael Hall | Roger Crosthwaite | 6 th Rodney & Mary Keeney |
| Rick Olson | Paxtyn Hoepner | 26 th Michelle Tobey | 11 th Drew & Melissa Nolin |
| Gavin Krukow | 14 th Scott Havener | 28 th Barb Reed | 17 th Raymond & Irene Myers |
| Terry Meyer | 15 th Alexander Butler | Robert Paasch | 21 st Troy & Michelle Diercks |
| 6 th Sherry Lange | Alexa Walther | Briah Reuss | 22 nd Cody & Andrea Mork |
| 7 th Zachary Eden | Nathaniel Johnson | 29 th Emma Pillers | Joey & Mariah Spain |
| Wyatt Nebel | 16 th James Gruntorad | 30 th Jennifer Walker | 23 rd Paul & Christine Greve |
| 8 th Alivia Burzlaff | 19 th Laurie Birt | Hudson Krukow | 24 th Austin & Katelyn Edwards |
| McGwire Eden | 21 st Kyle Ackerman | | 27 th Gary & Wanda Trafford |
| Malcolm Spain | 23 rd Tom Alger | | 28 th Steve & Traci Butler |
| 9 th Remi Ruggeberg | 24 th Jon Billhorn | | 31 st Troy & Karen Eden |
| 10 th Isaac DeHaven | Gunnar Mork | | Tom & Mary Alger |
| 11 th Alyssa Eden | Wade Niemann | | |
| Kelly Thumann | | | |

Grace Lutheran Preschool 2026-2027 Class Schedule

Class Schedule 2026-2027

4s M-F 8:00 - 11:00 am (Full)
M-F 12:00 - 3:00 pm (7 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.

A non-refundable \$40 registration fee is due with the registration form.

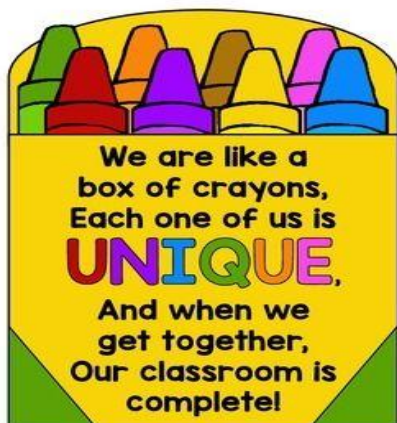
The 3s Registration form is now available on the Preschool page of the website (www.gracedewitt.org). The registration form, along with the registration fee, may be dropped off at the church office or mailed to PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.

Registration for the 4s Preschool Program is available on the Central DeWitt Community School District Website.

Support Grace Lutheran Preschool By Purchasing Gift Cards

Would you like to support Grace Lutheran Preschool? There is no easier way than to grab a gift card from Walmart or Target. These gift cards will be used to purchase snacks and supplies for the children attending our Preschool.

Gift cards can be brought to the Church office or dropped in the Secretary's mail slot. Thank you for your continued support of the Preschool.



Grace Lutheran Preschool Welcomes a New School Year

Grace Lutheran Preschool is excited to welcome another wonderful year of learning and growing! Our 4-year-old preschool class will begin the 2026–2027 school year on Monday, August 24th, and our 3-year-old class will start on Tuesday, September 2nd.

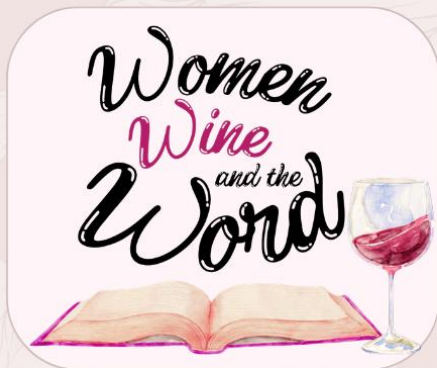
Our teachers and staff are looking forward to welcoming both new and returning students and are excited to see all that God has in store for them this school year.

As we prepare for the start of classes, we would also like to remind everyone of our visitor policy. These procedures help us provide a safe and secure environment for our preschool children and staff, and we appreciate the cooperation of our church family.

- The Preschool Wing is closed to visitors from 7:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Preschool Wing includes the entire downstairs Sunday School hallway, beginning at the 5th Avenue entrance doors and extending to the bi-fold doors near Grace Hall.
- If you have items that need to be delivered to someone in the Preschool Wing during school hours, please leave them at the church office, and they will be delivered.
- If a funeral luncheon is taking place during preschool hours, we ask that guests do not use the Sunday School hallway or the restrooms located in the Preschool Wing. Please use the restrooms by the kitchen or the upstairs restrooms near the church offices.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for our preschool children and staff. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, contact Kerry or Christine.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Upcoming Dates:

9/24, 10/22, 11/19

6:30pm at The Varsity Tap's

Upstairs Lounge

Join us for a no-prep bible study and conversation. Bring a friend!



Saturday November 14th 4pm-?

Let's have a girls night!

Bring a favorite dish, appetizer or dessert to share.

Peter Retreat Center at Grace Camp

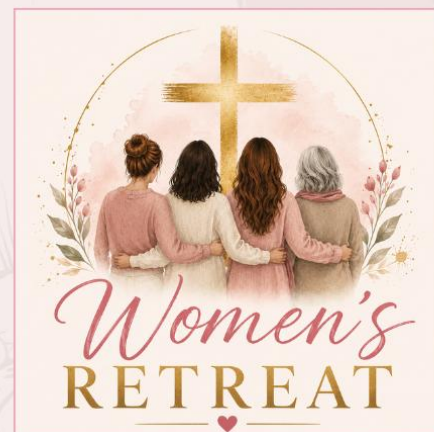


Sunday December 6th

ALL are welcome to join us for soup, tea, coffee and lemonade with an Advent Devotional.

Grace Hall-11:45am

(after late service.)



Saturday April 10th

Open to ALL women!

9:30am-3pm

Peter Retreat Center at Grace Camp

Sign up via text/call to 563-210-2462.

Cost-\$20 (includes catered lunch)



Questions? Call Rachael at 563-593-2393



August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Grace 5:00pm Summer Camp - Counselor Training	27 Office Closed SUMMER CAMP	28 Office Opens at 9AM SUMMER CAMP	29 SUMMER CAMP	30 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	31	1
2 "Mites" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Comm 10:00am Praise Worship w/Comm @ Grace Camp 4:00pm High School Youth Group	3 Randy's Round Up for Grace Camp 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Board of Discipleship 6:30pm Elders Mtg	4 Randy's Round Up for Grace Camp	5 Randy's Round Up for Grace Camp	6 Randy's Round Up for Grace Camp 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	7 Randy's Round Up for Grace Camp	8 Randy's Round Up for Grace Camp
9 Randy's Round Up for Grace Camp 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Grace Camp	10 6:00pm Council Meeting	11	12 7:00am Board of Finance Meeting	13 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Sr Exercise Group	14	15 Newsletter Deadline
16 RaiseRight Orders Due 8:00am Pancake Breakfast 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Comm 10:00am Praise Worship w/Comm @ Grace Camp 2:00pm CLUB345 End of Summer Event 4:00pm Middle School End of Summer Event	17 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting	18 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting	19 5:30pm Confirmation Orientation	20 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center 4:30pm 3s Preschool Open House 5:45pm 4s Preschool Open House	21	22
23 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Camp	24 4s Preschool First Day - Group A	25 4s Preschool First Day Group B 6:00pm Board of Ed	26	27 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	28	29
30 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 10:00am Praise Worship w/Communion@ Grace Camp	31 3s MWF Class Starts 4s Preschool All Together	1 3s TTH Class Starts	2 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm High School Bible Study	3 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	4	5

