

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



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

August 2025

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article – August 2025 **Jesus' Transforming Presence**

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost'" (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for Jewish tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus!

Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation!

Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote

Continued on page 5

SERVING THIS MONTH:

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

The Organist: Diana Baetke

The Acolytes

August 3
8:00 AM Amelia Rickertsen

August 10
8:00 AM Collin Oliver

August 17
8:00 AM Kinley Albrecht

August 24
8:00 AM Zack Yutesler

August 31
8:00 AM Gavin Birt

VOTER'S MEETING

A Special Voter's Meeting is being called on August 18th at 7:00 pm for the purpose to extend a Call to a Pastor.

Greeters and Ushers are Needed

Greeters are needed to help welcome members and guests before worship services.

Ushers are needed to assist the Elders during worship services.

Please, look at the sign-up sheet on the Welcome center and sign up for a date that works for you.

Special Gifts Given Include:

In loving memory of Charlotte Harroun \$305 was given for landscaping, \$10 to Praise Band, \$30 to Glory Bound Choir, and \$20 to Grace Lutheran Preschool.



LWML will be collecting MITES on Sunday, August 3rd. 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.

During our vacancy we want to keep up with prayer requests, shut-in visits, and hospital visit. Please, bring all of your requests to the church office they will pass along this information to those who need it.

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, remember they can not accept glass cases.)

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.

Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. @ Grace Church
Traditional Service

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

FREE WILL OFFERING

Grace Lutheran Camp

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

at Grace Camp Pavilion

Mark Your Calendar

~~June 15th~~
~~July 20th~~
August 17th

PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD WELTON CHAPEL REPAIRS

Grace Camp, 2675 242nd St, De Witt, IA 52742



Grace Ev. Lutheran Church

1825 - 1925

Join Us!

For Our 100 Year Celebration!

Sunday, September 14th
10:00 am for a Worship Service

Celebration meal to follow in Grace Hall

Members are asked to bring a side dish
according to their last name.

Vegetables (A-J)

Salads (K-Z)

Each dish should serve at least 15 people.
Main dish and dessert will be provided.

GRACE EV LUTHERAN CHURCH

Concert in the Park

Celebrating 100 Years

Grace Lutheran Church 1825-1925

BRENDAN BROOKS

STARTS AT 4PM | **AUGUST 17TH**
@ LINCOLN PARK
6TH AVE & 11TH ST, DE WITT, IA

Opening Act: 4pm
Concert: 5pm

FREE FOOD

www.gracedewitt.org

Made with PosterMyWall.com



August 21st Victory Center Service Event

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the meal, helped serve and prayed for our July service event at the Victory Center in Clinton. Our next service event meal will be on August 21st. 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, August 21st.

Main Dish 4 Volunteers

Each volunteer is asked to prepare a spaghetti or pasta dish to serve least 15 people. (Bring in a crockpot or a dish that can keep food warm.)

Drinks Drinks 2 Volunteers:

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

Desserts 4 Volunteers

Prepare a dessert that serves 15 people.

Salads 4 Volunteers

Prepare a salad that serves 15 people.

Deliver & Serve 5 Volunteers

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

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

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.

The following bouquet dates are available:

September 21st
October 12th, 19th
November 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
December 14th

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.

IMPORTANT - Deadline for submitting articles for the September newsletter is August 15th.

CLUB345 Back-2-School Party

Attention all incoming 3rd, 4th & 5th graders. Please join us Sunday, August 24th 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.

Back-2-School Bash

Attention all incoming 6th-12th graders. Make plans now to join us on Sunday, August 24th from 4 pm – 6 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.

Intro. 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 28th. Please contact Mark Sperry with any questions.

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. A letter with more information will be sent out in early August. Confirmation Orientation will take place on Wednesday, August 20th @ 5:30 pm here at Grace Church.

SENIOR HIGH DISTRICT GATHERING

The Iowa District West sponsored youth gathering will be held November 21st-23rd in Des Moines. For those youth in 9th-12th grades that are interested in going, please contact DCE, Mark Sperry to get registration forms. The cost per person is **\$250**, which covers four meals, two nights' lodging, a t-shirt and all programming costs. Please contact DCE Mark Sperry if you have any questions.



Grace Lutheran 4s Preschool will begin the 2025/2026 school year on Tuesday, August 27th and the 3s class will start on Tuesday, September 2nd.

The teachers and staff are excited to see what this new school year has in store for them and their students.

During this time of year we find it important to review our visitor policy. We wanted to take a moment to touch on this as it does affect the Grace members.

- First, no one is allowed in the Preschool Wing from 7:00 am to 3:15 pm, M-F. The Preschool Wing is the entire downstairs Sunday school hallway, which begins at the doors on 5th Avenue and ends at the bifold doors by Grace Hall.
- Second, if you have items that need to be dropped off in this area during school time, we ask that you leave them at the church office.

- Lastly, if there is a funeral luncheon during school hours, no one is allowed to use the Sunday School bathrooms or be in the hallway. Instead we ask that everyone use the bathroom located by the kitchen or the ones upstairs near the offices.

We thank everyone for helping us look out for the safety of our children and staff. If you have any questions, please speak with Kerry or Christine.

Classes are still not full for the 2025-2026 School Year. Registration information can be found at www.gracedewitt.org on the preschool page.

2025-2026 Class Schedule

Class Schedule 2025-2026

4s M-Th 8:00 - 11:00 am (2 spots)
M-Th 12:00 - 3:00 pm (16 spots)

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

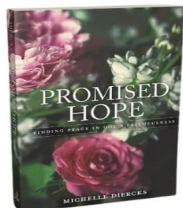
3s M W F 8:15 - 10:45 (1 spots) \$160 monthly
T&TH 8:15 - 10:45 (5 spots) \$120 monthly

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

Women's Bible Study

Sunday mornings at 9:15am,
starting September 7th
at Grace Church

Join us for coffee, fellowship &
a study of "Promised Hope" with
the author, Michelle Diercks.



Please Join Us!

Connect & Reconnect Women's Social

August 28th
6:30pm
Grace Hall

ALL women are welcome!
Enjoy desserts, dialogue
and a devotion.

Questions?
Call or text 563-593-2393

Continuation of page 1

for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!

August Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 2 nd | Richard Matzen | 15 th | Alexander Butler |
| | Colin Albrecht | | Alexa Walther |
| 3 rd | Bradley Anderson | | Nathaniel Johnson |
| | Rick Olson | 16 th | James Gruntorad |
| | Gavin Krukow | 19 th | Laurie Birt |
| | Terry Meyer | 21 st | Kyle Ackerman |
| 6 th | Sherry Lange | 23 rd | Tom Alger |
| 7 th | Zachary Eden | 24 th | Jon Billhorn |
| | Wyatt Nebel | | Gunnar Mork |
| 8 th | Alivia Burzlaff | | Wade Niemann |
| | McGwire Eden | 25 th | Gary Trafford |
| | Malcolm Spain | | Barbara Wold |
| 9 th | Remi Ruggeberg | | Roger Crosthwaite |
| 10 th | Isaac DeHaven | 26 th | Michelle Tobey |
| 11 th | Alyssa Eden | 28 th | Barb Reed |
| | Kelly Thumann | | Robert Paasch |
| 12 th | Brody Onken | | Briah Reuss |
| | Amelia Rickertsen | 29 th | Emma Pillers |
| 13 th | Michael Hall | 30 th | Jennifer Walker |
| | Paxtyn Hoepner | | Hudson Krukow |
| 14 th | Scott Havener | 31 st | James Harroun |



3rd Ronnie & Sandra Peters
5th Aaron & Amy Meyers
6th Rodney & Mary Keeney
11th Drew & Melissa Nolin
17th Raymond & Irene Myers
21st Troy & Michelle Diercks
22nd Cody & Andrea Mork
Joey & Mariah Spain

23rd Paul & Christine Greve
24th Austin & Katelyn Edwards
27th Gary & Wanda Trafford
28th Steve & Traci Butler
31st Troy & Karen Eden
Tom & Mary Alger



SUNDAY SCHOOL

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHILDREN MINISTRY

AGES 3-HIGH SCHOOL

3-year olds must be potty trained



7 SEPT | 2025
9:15 AM

REGISTER NOW!
gracedewitt.org

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Registration for Sunday is now open. Please, log onto www.gracedewitt.org and click on the register button at the bottom of the information page.

All Children 3-years (must be potty trained) through 8th grade are invited to attend Sunday School. Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 7th at 9:15 am.

Sunday School Teachers Needed!!!!

The Sunday School Year will be beginning in September. We are in need of two Sunday School teachers to teach the word of God. If you have the time, talent, and would love to teach God's word we need you. We have an opening in the 4th & 5th Grade Room and Pre-K. Please, prayerful consider teaching. Please, speak with Mark or Kerry if you have additional questions or if you would like to volunteer.

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



Registration for 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Confirmation Class is now open. We ask that all Students who will be attending confirmation this Fall register. Log onto www.gracedewitt.org and click on the registration button at the bottom of the information page.

Please, remember we need you to register your student for **BOTH** Confirmation and Sunday School.

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.

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church - August 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 27 Hall Rental 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Camp 5:00pm Camp Counselor Training | 28 Office Closed 10:00am Summer Camp Check-In | 29 Office Opens 9AM Sewing Ladies Summer Camp | 30 Summer Camp 2025 6:00pm Quartet Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 31 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Senior Exercise Group | 1 | 2 |
| 3 "Mites" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Comm 10:00am Praise Worship w/Comm @ Camp | 4 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Discipleship Mtg 6:00pm Preschool Board Meeting 6:30pm Elders Meeting | 5 | 6 6:00pm Quartet Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 7 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group | 8 | 9 Hall Rental |
| 10 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Camp | 11 6:00pm Council Meeting | 12 | 13 7:00am Board of Finance Meeting 6:00pm Quartet Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 14 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group | 15 Newsletter Deadline | 16 |
| 17 8:00am Camp Pancake Breakfast 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Comm 10:00am Praise Worship w/Comm @ Camp 4:00pm 100th anniversary - Community Concert @ Lincoln Park | 18 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Voter's Call Meeting 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting | 19 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting | 20 5:30pm Confirmation Orientation | 21 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center Service Event | 22 Office Closed | 23 |
| 24 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Camp 2:00pm CLUB345 Back-2-School Event 4:00pm Back-2-School Bash | 25 4:50pm 3s Open House 5:45pm 4s Open House 6:30pm Christian Education Mtg | 26 | 27 4s Group A - Starts | 28 4s Preschool - Group A 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Senior Exercise Group 6:30pm Connect & Reconnect Women's Social | 29 | 30 |
| 31 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Comm 10:00am Praise Worship w/Comm @ Camp | 1 No Preschool Office Closed 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Discipleship Mtg 6:30pm Elders Meeting | 2 3s-T/Th Start 4s Group B - starts | 3 4s Group B 3s MWF Starts 5:30pm Confirmation | 4 Preschool - A&B Together 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Senior Exercise Group | 5 | 6 |