



Grace News

LCMS Stewardship
Go ... Sell All You Have?
 Originally published July 2023

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?" asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, "You know the commandments." And he replied, "All these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Luke 18:18-22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, "No!" But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

(Continued on page 2)

Office Hours

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

Office Ph: 563-659-9153

Email:

kgood@gracedewitt.org

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.

LWML Mites

Mites Collection
 Sunday, July 5th

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 am Clint Albrecht
 10:00 am Aaron Meyers
 Lucas Rickertsen

The Organist: Diana Baetke

The Acolytes**July 5th**

8:00 am Brody Lawrence

July 12th

8:00 am Kennick Meyer

July 19th

8:00 am Jaren Nebel

July 26th

8:00 am Adelynn Williams

Special Gifts Given Include:

In memory of Brad Anderson, \$25 was given to the Sunday School, \$565 to Grace Choir, \$50 to Grace Camp, and \$400 to Grace Church.

In memory of Jill Jepsen, \$505 was given to Grace Camp.

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 dates are available:

August 2nd, 16th, 23rd

September 20th, 27th

October 4th, 18th

November 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 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.

(Continued from page 1)

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the Means of Grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

 **RaiseRight™**
 GIFT CARD PROGRAM



**Youth Fundraiser
 Order Due July 12th**



Grace Lutheran Summer Camp 2026

Grace Lutheran Summer Camp 2026 will take place Monday, July 27 through Wednesday, July 29 at Grace Camp.

Who can attend:

- Open to all students who will be in 2nd through 8th grades for the 2026–2027 school year.
- 2nd & 3rd graders will not stay overnight — they will be dropped off each morning and picked up each evening.

Campers are grouped by grade level.

Check-in & pickup:

- **Check-in:** 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 27
- **Pick-up:** 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 29th.

Activities:

Expect a mix of faith-based and fun-filled experiences, including:

- Bible study and sharing God's Word
- Archery
- Canoeing and water games
- Crafts and creative projects
- Music and singing

Cost:

- \$25 if registered by June 30, 2026
- \$40 starting July 1, 2026

Campers registered after June 30 will not receive a t-shirt.

Registration:

Is now open. Spots are limited. Contact the church office at (563) 659-9153 for questions.

Location:

Grace Camp, Grace Lutheran Church, 2675 242nd Street, DeWitt, IA 52742.

Do you volunteer for Summer Camp? Would you like a T-shirt? If you would like one to wear while you are volunteering your time at Summer Camp, please contact the church office by **June 27th** so that we can include them in our order. Cost is **\$5**.

Volunteers Needed for Check-In

Summer Camp will be here before you know it. On Monday, July 27th, we need volunteers to help with registration at 10 a.m. All registration volunteers are asked to arrive at the camp pavilion by 9:30 am. If you would like to assist with this, please contact Kerry at the Church office.

Office Hours for July

Please note that during Summer Camp, our office hours will be a little different. The office will be closed on Monday, July 27th; on Tuesday, July 28th the office will open at 9:00; Wednesday, July 29th the office will be open from 8:00 to 10:00 am then again from Noon to 3 pm.

Newsletter Deadline

If you would like to submit articles for the July Newsletter, they need to be turned in by July 15th.
kgood@gracedewitt.org



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

**JULY 5
4-7 PM**

SUB SANDWICH BAR.
WATERMELON & POPSICLES.
SAND VOLLEYBALL.
WATER BALLOONS.
BRING A FRIEND.

GYM BUILDING
AT GRACE CAMP

**OPEN TO ALL
HIGH SCHOOL TEENS.**

QUESTIONS?
MSPERRY@GRACEDEWITT.ORG

High School Youth Group

Attention all 9th – 12th graders. Please join us Sunday, July 5th from 4 pm – 7 pm at the G*Y*M Building at Grace Camp. Invite your friends and come hang out for a while playing games, having dinner, and hearing from God's Word.

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 worship service on Sunday, September 11th. 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. Orientation will be held on Wednesday, August 19th @ 5:30 pm here at church. A letter with more information will be sent out in early August.

FREE WILL
OFFERING



Grace Lutheran Camp

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

at Grace Camp Pavilion

Join Us!

Sunday, July 19th

Serving from 8 to 11:30

PROCEEDS WILL GO
TOWARDS NEW APPLIANCES
FOR THE RETREAT CENTERS.

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

July 16, 2026 Victory Center Service Event

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

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

Main Dish 5 Volunteers

Main Dish casserole of your choice.
Bring in a crockpot or a 9X13 pan,
wrapped to stay hot.

Drinks 2 Volunteers

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

Desserts 3 Volunteers

Prepare a dessert that serves
15 people.

Salad/Side Dish 3 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

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 (9 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.

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, condiments, canned tuna, peanut butter, jelly, cake mixes, frosting, toilet paper, and so much more. All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer.



We want to extend our deepest gratitude to all of our Vacation Bible School volunteers who generously gave their time, energy, talents, and hearts to make this year's VBS such a meaningful and blessed experience. Your willingness to serve helped create a welcoming, fun, and faith-filled environment where children could learn, grow, and experience God's love.

A very special thank-you and great big shout-out goes to the kitchen team for the delicious meals they prepared and served throughout the week. We are also incredibly grateful to all of our church members who donated food and supplies to help provide meals for the children and families attending VBS. Your generosity made a wonderful difference.

We also want to recognize and thank our Music Leader, Kitchen Leader, Bible Study Leaders, Recreation Leader, and Craft & Science Leaders. The time, creativity, preparation, and dedication you poured into teaching and guiding the children were truly appreciated. Because of your efforts, our children were able to enjoy a time filled with learning, laughter, fellowship, and faith.

Thank you to each and every volunteer who helped make VBS a success. Your service and commitment are a beautiful reflection of God's love and our church family's dedication to nurturing the faith of our children.

We are truly blessed by all of you!
Board of Christian Ed & Mark Sperry



I would like to say a special thank you to everyone who helped make the 2026 Grace Camp Day Camps so successful again this year. Through your generosity and willingness to volunteer and get involved, we had the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with almost 100 children from DeWitt and the surrounding community. Thanks again and know that you are appreciated more than words can ever say!

Mark Sperry

Our sincerest thanks to everyone who shared Father's Day with us at Grace Camp, enjoying good company and a stack of warm pancakes. Your presence made the day extra special, and it was such a joy to share good food, laughter, and community together.

Whether you came to celebrate a father, honor a memory, or simply to enjoy the fellowship, your support means the world to us. We're so thankful for each smiling face, every kind word, and the sense of togetherness you helped create.

See you in July and August for many more moments like this—filled with warmth, friendship, and, of course, pancakes!



The Family of Michael Duesing extends its love and appreciation to everyone who shared their condolences at Mike's passing through cards, calls, notes, visits, and prayers. Your fond memories of Mike's shining spirit and impact on your lives have been a comfort and joy to our family. God Bless All of You!

Sara (Darin) Suhr
Sister of Michael Duesing

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.





1 st	Katherine Grantz Andrea Mork	15 th	Sandy Anderson Julie Matzen
2 nd	Glenda Evers Hunter Jeffery		Caleb Engelkes Eli Engelkes
3 rd	Christy Stearns Ashton Schneider Apryl Onken	16 th	Troy Diercks
4 th	Duane Meyer Laura Norcross	18 th	Tyler Stamp
5 th	Nellee Gruntorad Leo Hill Renaë Havener	19 th	Kaylie Stearns Easton Meyers
6 th	Grace Burzlaff Ken Goddard	20 th	Barry Engelkes Brady Lawrence
8 th	Traci Butler	21 st	Irene Myers
10 th	Carole Dunkin	22 nd	Jacob Diercks
11 th	Piper Dahl Wyatt Williams	23 rd	Ashlie Oronzio Melissa Nolin
12 th	Chloe Stowe Troy Eden Cody Mork	24 th	Jeremy Stowe
13 th	Erik Johnson Mark Sperry	25 th	Craig Paarmann
14 th	Michael Schneider Emeri Ralston	26 th	Brenda Gustafson JoAnn Greve Amelia Williams
		27 th	Laura Nebel Carrie Carter Kyle Jackson
		31 st	Michelle Diercks Chelsi Converse Jaymeson Mork

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 563-659-9153 or msperry@gracedewitt.org. Your gifts and talents can make a big difference in the lives of our children!



9 th	Matt & Paula Anderson
10 th	Curtis & Randi Bahnsen
11 th	Jesse & Jenna Spain
18 th	Scott & Kim Steffens Thomas & Jill Jepsen
19 th	Casey & Jennifer Walker Mark & Cindy Sperry
21 st	Dan & Kimberly Burzlaff
23 rd	Barry & Kristy Engelkes
29 th	Kevin & Joy Marik

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.)

MILES OF DIMES - Grace Camp was purchased in 1988. The Miles of Dimes project was started in 1990 to help pay for the facilities that 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 in the jar. Your donation will be used to benefit the camp.

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

Grace Lutheran Church – July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Camp	29 6:30 Board of Christian Ed Mtg	30	1 6:00pm Raise the Flags	2 9:00am Tops Mtg 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	3	4
5 "Mites" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 10:00am Praise Worship w/Communion@ Grace Camp 4:00pm High School Youth Group	6 8:00am Lower the Flags 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Board of Discipleship 6:30pm Elders Mtg	7	8 7:00am Board of Finance Meeting	9 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	10	11
12 Raise Right Orders Due 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Camp	13 6:00pm Council Meeting	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 9:00am Tops Mtg 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center Service Event	17	18
19 8:00am Pancake Breakfast 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 10:00am Praise Worship w/Communion@ Grace Camp	20 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting	21 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting	22	23 9:00am Tops Mtg 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	24	25
26 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Grace Camp 5:00pm Summer Camp - Counselor Training	27 Office Closed SUMMER CAMP	28 SUMMER CAMP	29 SUMMER CAMP	30 9:00am Tops Mtg 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	31	1

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