

Grace News

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!
Originally Published November 2023

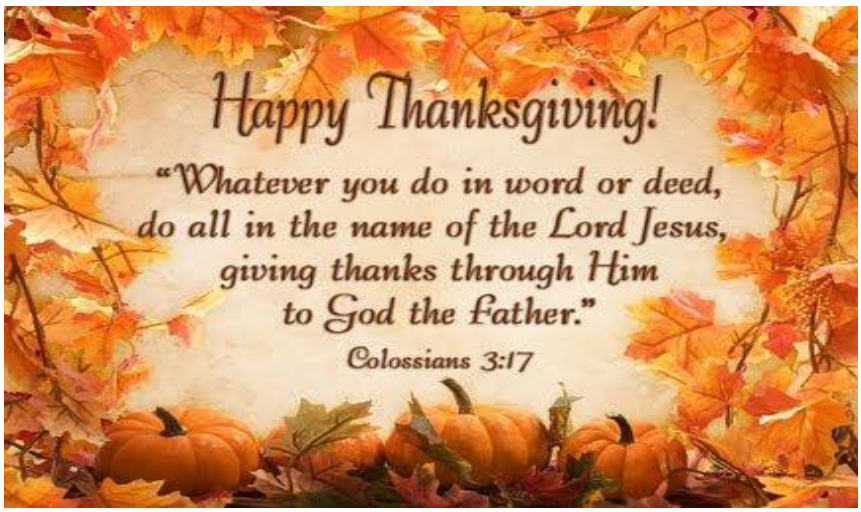
Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.



Office Hours

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

Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the December Newsletter need to be received by November 15th.
(kgood@gracedewitt.org)

All Saints' Sunday

Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before Us in Faith

The first Sunday in November is traditionally observed as **All Saints' Sunday**, a time to remember those who have gone before us in faith and to give thanks to God for His great mercy and love.

On this special day, we do not worship the saints who have gone before us. Instead, we thank God for rescuing us from sin and death through Jesus Christ. We also look to the examples of faithful Christians who have gone before us, finding inspiration in their perseverance, dedication, and trust in the Lord.

What does it mean to be a saint? According to Scripture, a saint is anyone who believes in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Through faith, we are forgiven and declared righteous in God's sight—not because of our own goodness, but because Christ's perfect righteousness is credited to us. This is the beautiful promise of God's grace, given to all who trust in Him.

On November 1st, we will toll the church bell in loving remembrance of those members of our church family who have departed this earthly life during the past year to be with the Lord in heaven. As we hear the bell ring, may we give thanks for their lives, the faith they shared, and the memories we hold dear. Though we grieve their absence, we find comfort in God's promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

May this All Saints' Sunday remind us of the hope we share in Christ and the joy of knowing that, through Him, death is not the end. We are united in the faith with those who have gone before us, looking forward to the day when we will be together in the presence of our Lord.

We will toll the church bell in remembrance of the following saints:



Steven Shawn Trafford
November 8, 2025

Dennis Carl Stutzel
November 10, 2025

Verlene Mona Reid
January 18, 2026

Jean L Wendel
February 18, 2026

Terri Lynne Shelton
March 7, 2026

Beverly Jean Schrader
March 26, 2026

Rodney Orville Wold
March 27, 2026

Jill Doreen Jepsen
April 15, 2026

Bradley George Anderson
April 17, 2026

Arwin Petersen
September 13, 2026



Sunday Worship
8:00 am & 10:30 am

Communion services are on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays.

Adult Bible Study & Sunday School
9:15 am to 10:15 am

SERVING THIS MONTH:
The Elders for Sunday Worship:

Sunday's 8:00 am Clint Albrecht
10:30 am Scott Steffens
Lucas Rickertsen (18th)

The Organist: Diana Baetke

	The Acolytes
November 1st	
8:00 am	Adelynn Williams
10:30 am	Brynlee Dies
November 8th	
8:00 am	James Gruntorad
10:30 am	Ryleigh Spain
November 15th	
8:00 am	Collin Oliver & Lucy Oliver
10:30 am	Dennis Wold
November 22nd	
8:00 am	Ezekiel DeHaven
10:30 am	Eden & Graham Gibson
November 25th	
7:00 pm	Paisley Mork
November 29th	
8:00 am	Lucy Oliver
10:30 am	Zane Burzlaff



Celebrate the Joy of Christmas at Grace Lutheran Church!

The Christmas season is a wonderful time to gather together in faith, celebrate the birth of our Savior, and share the joy and hope of Christ with family, friends, and our community. Grace Lutheran Church warmly invites you to join us for our special holiday worship services and Christmas celebrations!

Whether you are continuing a family tradition or looking for a place to worship this season, **there is a place for you at Grace!** Come and experience the beauty of the Advent season, enjoy the music of Christmas, and rejoice in the good news of Jesus' birth.

Holiday Worship Schedule

Advent Worship Services

December 2nd, 9th, and 16th
11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Children's Christmas Program

December 6th @ 3:00 PM

Celebrate the season through the joy and wonder of our children as they share the Christmas story.

Christmas Cantata
"A Child Is Born...All Is Well"

December 13th @ 10:30 AM & 3:00 PM

Enjoy a special musical celebration proclaiming the wonderful message of Christ's birth.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24th @ 6:00 PM & 10:00 PM

Join us for a beautiful Candlelight Christmas Eve celebration as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior.

Christmas Day Worship

December 25th @ 9:00 AM

Gather with us on Christmas morning to celebrate the greatest gift of all—Jesus Christ!
Come and Celebrate with Us!

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, may we remember the true reason for the season: God's gift of love to the world through His Son, Jesus Christ. We look forward to celebrating this blessed season with you!



Thank You for Supporting Eight Days of Hope!
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our September Mission Spotlight, Eight Days of Hope!

Through your generous giving, $3,031.00 was collected to support this Christian nonprofit organization as they respond to disasters, rebuild homes and communities, and bring hope and restoration to those who are hurting.

Your generosity helps us be the hands and feet of Christ, sharing His love and hope in times of great need.

Thank you for helping bring hope, healing, and restoration to others! The Board of Outreach.

Thank you to everyone for the prayers for before my procedure and get well wishes following! Also, thank you for the birthday wishes! I am grateful and thankful for all of you! Mary Garlough

Thank You
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped at the Cross Country Meets at Grace Camp this October.

To those who guided cars and buses in the parking areas, to the wonderful volunteers in the concession stand, and to those who generously provided treats — your time, effort, and kindness made a real difference.

We truly appreciate your dedication and the important role you played in making these events a success.

Grace Camp Board

Heartfelt Thanks for Making OctoberFeast a Success. Thank you to everyone who helped make the OctoberFeast meal on October 11th such a wonderful success.

To all who sold and collected tickets, greeted guests, worked in the kitchen or Grace Hall, managed carryout orders, or cut pies—your time and dedication were truly appreciated.

To our talented pie and dessert makers, your sweets were a big hit and enjoyed by the 500 people who attended.

It is through your hard work, generosity, and teamwork that we are able to make this event a highlight of the year. We are deeply grateful for each and every one of you.

With appreciation, Board of Outreach

Voter's Meetings Announcement

We invite all voting members to join us for two important upcoming meetings:

- **Monday, November 2nd @ 7:00 pm** – The purpose of this meeting will be to prayerfully consider and place a Pastoral Call.
- **Monday, November 9th @ 7:00 pm** – This meeting will focus on approving the 2027 budget and electing Board Members.

Your participation is vital as we seek God's guidance and work together to serve His mission.

LWML Mites Collection –
The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) will be collecting Mites on Sunday, November 1st. 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!



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas ANGEL TREE

PROVIDING CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED SO THEY'LL KNOW THE JOY THE CHRISTMAS SEASON BRINGS

TAKE A TAG TO BLESS A FAMILY

NOVEMBER 25–DECEMBER 13

1-Take an angel from the tree. Write your name on the sign-up sheet.
2-Purchase your gift, approximate value of $25-$40
3-Wrap the gift and attach the angel tag. Place under the Christmas tree in the foyer.

RETURN GIFT

NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 13

Thank You!

Grace Board of Outreach

Be the First Smile They See!

Do you have a friendly smile and a heart for making people feel at home? We're looking for **Greeters** to extend a warm welcome to members and visitors before our worship services.

Greeters help set the tone for a joyful, welcoming atmosphere — and it only takes a few minutes of your time! Please arrive **20 minutes before the service** to greet with a smile, a handshake, or a kind word.

Sign up today on the sheet located on the Welcome Center and be part of making someone's Sunday extra special!

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 are a simple way to help ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the camp's programs and facilities.

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.

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 that will refurbish them for others who may not be able to afford glasses. (Please remember they can not accept glass cases.)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
send Good News and Great Joy

The Operation Christmas Child shoebox drive is still under-way. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.



How can you help?

1) Monetary donations can be left in the "Little White Church" in the foyer through November 15th.

2) Fill a shoebox as full as possible with gifts for a boy or girl. A child only receives one OCC shoebox in their lifetime so make it great!

3) Build a shoebox online at the Grace Lutheran Church goal page on the Operation Christmas Child website

4) Pray for this mission, the children, churches and all those who share their love through this mission.



This year, we have the ability to **Build a Shoebox online** for those who are not able to get to the store or just don't have the time. With a $30 online donation, you can pick out items to build a shoebox, which will be sent to a child and give them the opportunity to hear the Gospel. To get started, visit the Grace Lutheran Church goal page on the Operation Christmas Child website by going to https://sampur.se/4y9hYmN or scanning the above QR code. Please contact Kristy Engelkes at 563-210-2462 if you need help or have any questions.

Please stop by the bulletin board in the church foyer for more information and to pick up a box to fill. **All shoeboxes need to be returned on or before November 15th**.

OPENS FRIDAY, NOV. 27TH

Grace Camp Tree Farm

2675 242ND ST, DEWITT, IA

CHRISTMAS TREES

Variety of Pre Cut Available

6-8' Canaan Firs	$ 60
7-8' Fraser Firs	$ 90
10'+ Fraser Firs	$ 135

CUT YOUR OWN!
$ 70

WREATHS AVAILABLE!

24"	$ 30
36"	$ 45
48"	$ 65



Hours: Friday (Nov 27th Only) - 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Saturday - 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Sunday - 11:00 am to 4:30 pm

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

This month we meet on **Sunday, November 1st** from 2 pm – 6 pm. We will be going to the Scott County Humane Society to volunteer at the shelter. Afterwards we'll return to church for a spaghetti dinner.

RaiseRight

We will not be placing an order in November. We will place our next order on December 6th. Cards will be in the next week, so they'll be here in plenty of time to give as Christmas gifts, etc. Thank you for your continued support of Grace Youth Ministries.

SR. HIGH MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Our study meets Wednesday's @ 7:00 pm at the Sperry's. Please join us for Bible study and fellowship.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Attention all 6th – 8th graders. Make plans now to join **Sunday, November 15th**. The deadline to register is Wednesday, November 11th.



🎄 Join Us for Christmas Decorating! 🎄

Sunday, November 29th, right after the late service, we invite you to stay and help us transform our church into a festive wonderland for the Christmas season!

Bring your holiday spirit, a smile, and maybe a little sparkle — together we'll hang wreaths, string lights, and set up the nativity. Whether you can lend a hand for a few minutes or stay the whole time, your help will make a big difference.

Let's kick off the season with joy, fellowship, and the beauty of Christmas!

Grace Lutheran Preschool

The three year olds are very thankful this month! We are going to be getting hands on with camping, forest animals and of course Thanksgiving! Both classes participated in the Operation Christmas Child and sent a box full of goodies. Bible stories this month are about the Red Sea, a baby in a basket, and Daniel and the lions, all of which are exciting tales of what God can do! We are having a class party to celebrate all that we are thankful for before we have our Thanksgiving break.

During the month of November the 4s class will be learning about farms, turkeys, pumpkins, and Thanksgiving. They will continue their work on letters, sound & name recognition, and colors. They have started working on songs for their Christmas Program, which will be held in December.

Grace Lutheran Preschool recently welcomed fathers and father figures for their much-loved annual **Donuts with Dad** event. The morning was filled with laughter, smiles, and sweet moments as students enjoyed quality time with their dads.

Families gathered to share delicious donuts, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere. Beyond the tasty treats, the preschoolers and their dads participated in fun and engaging games that brought out plenty of giggles and friendly competition.

For many children, the highlight was simply having one-on-one time with their dad — a chance to talk, play, and make memories together. The event once again proved to be a wonderful tradition that strengthens bonds and celebrates the special role fathers play in their children's lives.

November 19, 2026
Victory Center Service Event

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

Looking ahead, our next Victory Center service event will be Thursday, November 19th. We are preparing to serve up to 40 guests, with enough food to offer seconds. Every helping hand will be a blessing!

If you haven't had the opportunity to help with one of these meals, we invite you to consider getting involved. We especially encourage men to join us in this mission, particularly in serving the meal. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others while sharing God's love through service.

Together, we can make September's event another opportunity to share hope, fellowship, and care with our neighbors. We hope you'll consider joining us and being part of this meaningful ministry!

All food needs to be prepared and brought to the church by 4:00 PM on Thursday, November 19th.

Main Dish
5 Volunteers

A crockpot of soup to serve 15 people each.

Salad/Side Dish
4 Volunteers

Prepare a salad to serve 15 people.

Drinks
2 Volunteers

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

Desserts
3 Volunteers

Prepare a dessert that serves 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.



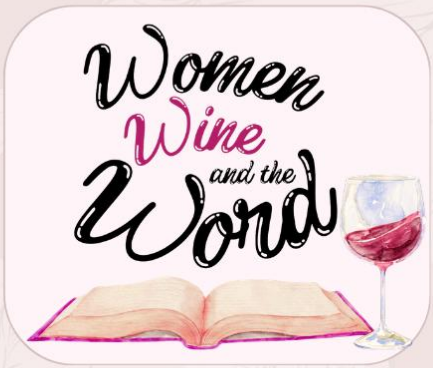
Grace Lutheran Church Welcomes New Members

Grace Lutheran Church is pleased to announce the welcoming of Aaron Moore, Jared Coury, Elizabeth Coury, and Audrey Housman into full membership on Sunday, October 25. We are blessed to have them as members and pray for their continued growth in faith.

Endowment Reminder

With December 31, 2026 approaching, it is a good time for everyone to review their financial position and make adjustments in preparation for Federal and State income taxes. Charitable contributions can reduce tax liabilities. The Endowment Committee is asking everyone to include the Endowment Fund in their year-end contributions. Each year the Endowment Committee receives requests for funds far exceeding the amount available. If the Endowment Fund grows, more money becomes available for distribution. This fund will provide income year after year for projects supporting missions, education, youth, worship, music and capital improvements that help our church run and grow.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Thursday November19

6:30pm at The Varsity Tap's
Upstairs Lounge
Join us for a no-prep bible study
and conversation. Bring a friend!



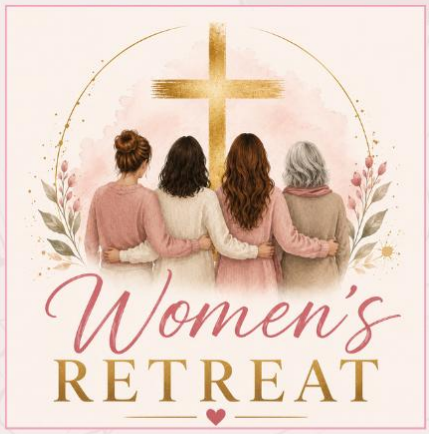
Saturday November 14th 4pm-?

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)

Women of Grace

Questions? Call Rachael at 563-593-2393

Grace Lutheran Church



1st	Pauline Burken
2nd	Cooper Reed
3rd	Harven Spain
6th	Paisley Mork
8th	Donovan Good
	Gracie McCausland
9th	Bernice Meyer
11th	Kevin Meyer
12th	Jean Passig
13th	Diane McVey
14th	Kristy Engelkes
	Dylan Dies
15th	Carla Watts
	Larry Oronzio III
	Betty Lett
16th	Michael Vopatek
17th	Jill Gisel
	Maribeth Penningroth
	Kyler Miller
18th	Shawn Block
20th	Kinley Albrecht
23rd	Troy Ruggeberg
	Josie McCausland
24th	Julie Evers
25th	Connie Havener
	Clint Albrecht
	Cassie Pfeiffer
26th	Dan Burzlaff
	Kinley Birt
27th	Silas DeHaven
30th	Dylan Jans



1st	Jason & Heather Mork
4th	Randy & Deb Lange
8th	Michael & Kerry Good
10th	Jason & Carissa Spain
15th	David & Netty Schneider
16th	Leon & Judy Doescher
27th	Wayne & Tori Grantz

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, green beans, Hamburger, Helper, tuna, deodorant, shampoo, soap, and so much more. All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer.



November 1, 2026

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

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and great stocking stuffers!



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- Family & Friends
- Teachers & Coworkers
- Stocking Stuffers
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ORDER DEADLINE DECEMBER 6TH

Every gift card you purchase helps support our Youth Program —
so you can check people off your Christmas list while supporting our youth!

SHOP ★ GIVE ★ SUPPORT OUR YOUTH