

Grace News

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church
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DeWitt, IA 52742

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

August 2024

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace!

I love musicals, shouldn't be too much of a surprise. I love to sing, yet I don't like listening to much music. Nevertheless, I love musicals, especially Rent. I bring this up because as I am writing this, I am singing, "Seasons of Love."

The lyrics are just swimming through my mind, causing my mind to ponder. Parsing every lyric, every stanza, wrestling the deeper meaning. Searching through the unanswerable questions, can these lyrics point me to Jesus? Quite possibly a stretch. Yet, I can't move on. My mind is struck, focusing on "How do you measure a year?"

Many words can be wasted in this article trying to measure five years. How do you measure these five years? Do you measure it in funerals---too many. Baptisms? Weddings? Sermons preached? I don't know the count on any of these, probably someone has kept track. I haven't. One pandemic, hopefully no more of those.

How do you reflect the time? How about in love? Currently I am reflecting on this time in love. Honest time, I have never been a pastor for five years. Sure, I was ordained in 2016 and technically that means I have been a pastor for eight years now. But the longest I have ever pastored before now was three years. This means new challenges will rise and have risen. Regardless on how we mark this milestone, I want to reflect on this time in love.

Love overlooks all things, but it does so much more. It welcomes, supports, cares, and shares. I am grateful for all these things as I look back. But I also want to look forward to the work Jesus still has in store for us. Which I firmly believe is continuing to share and grow his Kingdom here in De Witt. I want to share the adapted version of my pastor's report from the July Voter's meeting, to help us see the work God has in store for us.

Consider what Paul speaks in Ephesians 4 "to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

During the 4th of July parade, I, myself, became a float as I carried Elliott through the streets of De Witt. Walking alongside the Cub Scouts, I had a chance to see many of you lining the streets supporting our community. It made me think of a conversation that I had recently where I was told that Ephesians is like the manual for Christian living. Which I wholeheartedly agree to. It speaks to the whole heart of the Christian. Knowing that our confidence comes through the inheritance received in our baptisms to the armor we wear in Christ. But thrown in the middle is the work of the church. "To equip his people for the works of service." Paul speaks it straight forth what our work is.

(continued on page 2)

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Grace Lutheran Preschool
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Grace Lutheran Camp
2675 242nd St, P.O. Box 156
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Kerry Good
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Mark's Office Hours
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To equip you to do the work. To equip you to do the mission of God. Which is my prayer for us.

But it is also time to look ahead. Not just to the rest of the year but beyond. To keep our focus on equipping you to do the task Jesus has placed before us. To make new disciples of all nations. Whether it's through works of missions, like the Summer Night Out, Victory Center, and the like, or through doing the work of the Mission of God. Our work is to equip you to join in the work of the greater church sharing the wideness of God's love for His world.

What does it look like? As I think, reflect and dialogue with the books I am reading. I think in every case it will look different but mostly the same. It will take intentional acts, such as sermons, Bible Studies, and the like, but it also takes courage to step forward in confidence that Christ has prepared his harvest field for the works He has equipped us with. Paul reminds those who will be shepherding the sheep of Jesus, to equip the saints of God to be the workmanship of Jesus, who prepared those works in advance for you.

Thank you all for allowing me to be your gospeler, to be the man whom God sent to you to share the goodness of God's gifts with you. I love you all.

In the service of Jesus,
Pastor Eric

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 AM Duane Hansen
10:00 AM Scott Steffens
Wednesday 7:00 PM Clint Albrecht

The Organist: Diana Baetke & Tasha Becker

The Acolytes

August 4th
8:00 AM Austin Nolin

August 11th
8:00 AM Isaiah Sunday

August 18th
8:00 AM Zach Yutesler

August 25th
8:00 AM Peyton Goddard

Special Gifts Given Include:

In honor of Kay Hall's birthday \$20 was given to Glory Bound choir.

Summer Worship Schedule

Wednesday Worship

7:00 p.m. @ Grace Camp Welton Chapel

Sunday Worship

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

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

Please, remember when the weather is questionable you can find out if 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.



Join Us!



Wednesday, August 7th after the 7pm
Welton Chapel Worship service for a treat.

August 7th—Ice Cream Sundaes

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

Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar

100 Year Planning Meeting
Tuesday, August 27 @ 6:00 pm

Concordia Students @ Camp
September 13 –15

OctoberFeast
Sunday, October 13th - 3:30 to 7:00 pm

Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 27th - 3:00 to 5:00 pm

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, condiments, jell-o, pudding, and shampoo. All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the



LWML will be collecting MITES on Sunday, August 4th. 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.



Baptized on July 21, 2024— Alayna Jae Wegener, daughter of Walker & Jaelyn Wegener was baptized on July 21st. Her baptismal sponsors are John & Mariah Diercks. Welcome to God's Family!



Grace Lutheran Preschool will begin the 24/2025 school year on Tuesday, August 27th when they open the doors to 19 four year olds. 15 three year olds join them the first week of September.

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

Preschool Policy Review

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. 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 Pastor, Kerry, or Christine.

Support Grace Lutheran Preschool By Purchasing Gift Cards

Would you like to support Grace Lutheran Preschool? There is no easier way then to grab a gift card from Walmart, Kwik Star or Target. These gift cards will be used to purchase snacks and supplies for the little ones 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

2024-2025 Class Schedule

Class Schedule 2023-2024

4s M-F 8:00 - 11:00 am (Full)

M-F 12:00 - 3:00 pm (13 spots)

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

3s M W F 8:15 - 10:45 (5 spots) \$160 monthly

T&TH 8:15 - 10:45 (Full) \$120 monthly

Please note that all 3s must be potty trained.

The 3s Registration form is now available.

on the Grace Lutheran 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 on the Central DeWitt Community School District Website.



Grace Camp News:

The benches for the Outdoor Chapel paid for! Through the generosity of donors and fundraisers we have covered the cost of the benches.

Now Grace Camp has another need. If you were at camp for VBS, you may have heard that the convection oven was on the fritz!! The Canopy Café (VBS) workers carried pans of food to and from the Andrew and the Peter retreat centers ovens so we could serve supper!! A repairman was called and it wasn't good news for the oven or the camp. The cost of a new motor was huge with no guarantee that it would fix the problem! SO...the Grace Camp Board voted to replace the convection oven. The new oven has been ordered with the hopes that it will be received and installed by the time you are reading this!! The new oven (with a 5 year warranty) costs \$4800. We are hopeful that all the proceeds from the August pancake breakfast will go towards the oven, but even planning on those funds it does not come close to covering the cost. Any additional contributions to the new oven would be greatly appreciated!!

Donations can be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, make sure to mark the envelope camp stove or dropped off at the church office. Thank you for your continued support of Grace Camp.

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 facilities. Thank you for your continued support.

The 2024 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.

Dates Available:

September 22nd, & 29th
November 3rd, 10th, & 24th
December 1st, 8th, 15th,
22nd, & 29th

Grace Camp's Pancake Breakfast

Rise and shine!

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, August 18th
8:00 to 11:30 am
Grace Camp Pavilion



CLUB345 Back-2-School Party
 Attention all incoming 3rd, 4th & 5th graders.
 Join us **Sunday, August 25th from 2 pm – 3:30 pm** for our Back-2-School Party. We will meet at the G*Y*M Building at Grace Camp.

ENDURE - LCMSYG2025 Meeting

Attention all incoming 8th – 12th graders. Please join us Sunday, August 25th at 4:00 pm for an informational meeting about the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering. We will meet at the G*Y*M Building at Grace Camp. If you can't attend this meeting but are interested in attending the gathering, please let Mr. Sperry know. We will hold a second meeting on September 8th at church at 11:30 am. Everyone interested in attending the gathering must attend one of these meetings with a parent.

Back-2-School Blast

Attention all incoming 6th-12th graders. Make plans now to join us on Sunday, August 25th from 5 pm – 7 pm for our annual Back-2-School Blast. There will be food, fun and games! We hope to see you there as we get ready to kick off a new school year. To we make sure to have enough food, please R.S.V.P. to Mr. Sperry at 563-321-0674.

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 25th. 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 take place on Wednesday, August 28th @ 5:30 pm here at Grace Church.



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

Anniversaries

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 st Eric & Emily Obermann | 22 nd Cody & Andrea Mork |
| 3 rd Ronnie & Sandra Peters | Joey & Mariah Spain |
| 5 th Aaron & Amy Meyers | 23 rd Paul & Christine Greve |
| 6 th Rodney & Mary Keeney | 28 th Steve & Traci Butler |
| 11 th Drew & Melissa Nolin | 31 st Troy & Karen Eden |
| Dick & Lucy Broadfoot | Tom & Mary Alger |
| 17 th Raymond & Irene Myers | |
| 21 st Troy & Michelle Diercks | |

FORGIVING CHALLENGE



SIN



EXPERIENCING FREEDOM
STARTS BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT
WE HAVE ALL MISSED THE MARK.

CONFESSION



IT'S WHAT WE DO AFTER SIN THAT
DETERMINES WHETHER WE EXPERIENCE FREEDOM.
GOD INVITES US TO BRING OUR SIN TO HIM.

ABSOLUTION



DISCOVER HOW THE CONSEQUENCE
OF EVERY SIN OF EVERY PERSON, INCLUDING YOURS,
HAS BEEN PAID FOR IN FULL BY
THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

RESTORATION



THE FORGIVENESS OF JESUS
MOVES US FORWARD BY RESTORING
OUR IDENTITY AND INVITING US TO
LIVE WITH PURPOSE.

SANCTIFICATION



TRUE FREEDOM COMES WHEN WE PARTICIPATE
WITH JESUS IN BRINGING HIS KINGDOM
TO THIS EARTH RIGHT NOW.
FOLLOW JESUS!

FORGIVING Challenge...Get ready to start our next congregation-wide Bible study! Starting in September, we will follow up on the Being Challenge and dig into the Forgiving trait. We will study Five Phases of Freedom and Forgiveness (SCARS – **S**in, **C**onfession, **A**bsolution, **R**estoration and **S**anctification). The over-arching challenge in this study will be to help you receive God's forgiveness, allowing you to be free. To receive total freedom, you must first know that God Himself has truly forgiven you.

- Study begins September 8
- Books will be distributed beginning August 18
- Sign up to join a small group

Small Group Leaders Needed – Help lead us on the Forgiving Challenge!

At this time, we are looking for Small Group Leaders for our next congregation-wide study. Please prayerfully consider signing up to facilitate a small group through the Forgiving Challenge. Small group leaders will select the day, time and meeting location for their group. They will guide the weekly study using the Forgiving Challenge book and study materials which are provided. Please contact Kristy Engelkes at 563-210-2462 (text or call) or the church office with your interest or if you have any questions. A sign-up sheet is available on the Welcome Center in the church foyer.



August 15th 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 15th. 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 15th.

Main Dish 4 Volunteers

Each volunteer is asked to prepare 3lbs of maid rites. (Bring hot in a crockpot so the food can stay warm on the trip to Clinton.)

Drinks Drinks 2 Volunteers:

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

Desserts 3 Volunteers

Prepare a dessert that serves 15 people.

Salads 2 Volunteers

32 hamburger buns each.

Salads 3 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 to 5:00pm.

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



Sunday School Teachers are an integral part of the church, especially when it comes to the children. Sunday school teachers influence the hearts and minds of the next generation.

Every Sunday the children come to class to learn about the Word of the Lord through lessons, games, and crafts. We are looking for individuals that have the time and talent to provide the Sunday School

Children with their knowledge of the Bible stories using the curriculum provided by the church.

The church provides the curriculum, teachers are given access to a computer program that provides extra materials that could be used to enhance the Bible story, and access to the Sunday School Office which has supplies for crafts and everyday items you may need in your classroom.

Currently we are looking for a teacher for the 4th & 5th Grade class as well as individuals that could substitute

when the regular teachers are not available.

We are also seeking a 6th Grade Confirmation teacher. Everything you need for teaching confirmation is also provided.

If you would like more information on teaching these classes or would like to volunteer your time, please speak with Mark Sperry or call the church office at 563-659-9153.

1 Peter 4:10 - Use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace.

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Grace Camp 5:00pm Summer Camp Counselor Training	29 10:00am Summer Camp Check-In	30 Summer Camp 2024	31 Summer Camp 2024 7:00pm Welton Chapel Worship	1 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	2 8:00am Trustees Board Mtg	3 Hall is Rented
4 "Mites" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 10:00am Praise Worship w/Communion @ Grace Camp	5 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Board of Discipleship 6:30pm Elders Meeting	6 7:00am Finance Board Meeting	7 7:00pm Welton Chapel Worship	8 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	9 Office Closed	10 Office Closed
11 Hall Rented 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Grace Camp	12 6:00pm Council Mtg	13 7:00am Finance Board Meeting	14 7:00pm Welton Chapel Worship	15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise 2:30pm Maggies House 4:00pm Victory Center Service Event 6:30pm Men's Table Talk @ Hall of Fame	16 Office Closed	17 Office Closed
18 8:00am Grace Camp Pancake Breakfast 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 10:00am Praise Worship w/Communion @ Grace Camp	19 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting	20 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting	21 4:30pm 3s Open House 5:45pm 4s Open House 7:00pm Welton Chapel Worship	22 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed
25 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Grace Camp 2:00pm CLUB345 Back-2-School Event 4:00pm LCMSYG 2025 Meeting 5:00pm Back-2-School Bash	26 6:30pm Board of Christian Ed	27 4s Preschool Begins 6:00pm 100 Year Planning Mtg	28 10:30am Service @ Fieldstone 5:30pm Confirmation Orientation 7:00pm Welton Chapel Worship	29 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed