

# 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

July 2024

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace,

Before I went on vacation, I was pretty excited. In fact, really excited. The anticipation of sharing in the very special memories with Emily and the kids was and is something I will forever cherish. When you ask about how it all went, I am very excited to share the places and the experiences we had in and around the ocean. Of course, there will be things that didn't go to plan and as always that is and will always be okay, because they are not vacation ruiners. It can't take away the cherished memories I have.

Last time I proposed the question about you showing someone your bathroom in your house. This month I want to ask you what are you most excited about? What can't you wait to tell others about? That you just can't wait to stand before someone to share/express your excitement? A couple of weeks ago a small group of men gathered at the Old Library and we talked about the words/titles God gives to people. One of the words/titles is the priest. Exodus 19: 6 "you<sup>[a]</sup> will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." God says you're a priesthood of all believers. To be expected this does come as a shock, I am supposed to be a priest? That is exactly what God calls you to be a sharer of the good news.

Understandably, a priest does a lot of things, that is very true, but for whom? Well to your neighbors! My responsibility is to the local church of Grace, your responsibility is to those around you, namely family and friends.

Take a moment and lets think about the reach we have as Grace Lutheran Church in De Witt, and finding a footing to be people who are proclaimers of his Word. The last three months, we have average about 165 people in worship. We have had a high of 300 around two big events of Easter and Confirmation, and we have a low of 125. But lets take this average worship attendance of 165 and truly look at the ability we have to truly share the good news of God to our community De Witt.

Lets take our 165 people and play an experiment. Lets say that each one those people talks to ten people every week. I mean truly having a conversation with ten people. For one month our congregation would have 6650 conversations with people. Over the course of the year our congregation will have around 200,000 conversations. Now in my made up experiment I would understand that you are talking to a lot of the same people. But still 200,000 conversations is thirty six times the size of De Witt. Think about it, our congregation has the ability to have conversation with everyone in our

(continued on page 2)

**Pastor Eric Obermann**  
563-321-0032  
pastoreric@gracedewitt.org

**Mark Sperry, DCE**  
563-321-0674  
msperry@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

**Kerry Good**  
kgood@gracedewitt.org

**Mark's Office Hours**  
M-Th - 7:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Camp Reservations**  
camprentals@gracedewitt.org  
319-230-7718

city THIRTY SIX times! That is amazing! That is the ability of our congregation when we engage in the mission of God.

What is the mission of God? It is going and making disciples of all nations. But the mission of God isn't limited to Sunday mornings. Our engaging and inviting people to have conversations about Jesus isn't limited to telling them to go to church. Our ability to invite conversations with others about Jesus is an everyday mission. This is the work that God is calling you to do. The moment he announces over you that you are his priest, he is sending you out to have conversation about his Son.

Our vocation as priests is to take what we learn in church and engage in those conversations with the people we speak with.

Now lets go back to those 200,000 conversations. What if out of those conversations we devote to one a week to engage our neighbor in a conversation with Jesus. How many conversations could our congregation of 165 worshipers reach? For one year we would have engaged 7970 people about Jesus. By the way that is forty eight times larger than our worship attendance.

This gets me excited. How God can and has used his church to reach the masses. He is going to use us, to engage in these conversations to sow His seed, and allow God to do what he does best with his word.

If you cant tell, I love speaking about the mission of God, This is what gets me excited. I do also get excited about sharing with you treasured memories, but I want to get you excited also about joining in the mission of Jesus. Sharing with others the greatest news we get to share.

Jesus loves this world!

In the service of Jesus,  
Pastor Eric

**Special Gifts Given Include:**

In loving memory of Dorothy Ketelsen \$20 was given to Grace Lutheran Church.

In loving memory of Diane Christensen \$20 was given to Grace Lutheran Church and \$30 was given to Grace Lutheran Preschool.

**SERVING THIS MONTH:**

**The Elders:** Sunday's 8:00 AM Leon Doescher  
10:00 AM Scott Havener  
Wednesday 7:00 PM Clint Albrecht

**The Organist:** Diana Baetke & Tasha Becker

**The Acolytes**

**July 7th**  
8:00 AM Leo Hill  
**July 14th**  
8:00 AM Ava Johnson  
**July 21st**  
8:00 AM Cameron Miller  
**July 28th**  
8:00 AM Larry Oronzio

# 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](http://gracedewitt.org), or looking for the yellow signs placed outside of the church and at the road entrance to camp.



# Join Us!

Wednesday, July 3rd and August 7th after the 7pm Welton Chapel Worship service for a treat.

July 3rd—Root Bear Floats  
August 7th—Ice Cream Sundaes



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

### 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, and shampoo. All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer.

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.)

## 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 (6 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](http://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.

**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.



Pastor Eric wishes to keep you all in prayer. Please contact him when there is hospitalization, death in your family, you would like him to visit, or you have recently become homebound. Thank you!

## Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar

### 100 Year Planning Meeting

Tuesday, August 27 @ 6:00 pm



LWML will be collecting MITES on Sunday, July 2nd. 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.

#### LWR Baby Care Kits

We have taken inventory of our Baby Care Kit supplies and have noticed we are in need of a couple of different items. We could use more t-shirts (**no onesies**) sizes 3 -24 months and **footless sleepers** sizes 18 - 24 months. If you would like to help with this your donations can be left in the basket located in the foyer.



## **SUMMER CAMP DONATIONS**

Sign-up sheets will be available soon on the tables in the atrium at Grace. Feel free to contact the church office if you have any questions.

## **Grace Lutheran Summer Camp**

The dates for this year's camp are Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. This is open to students who will be in 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades for the 2024-2025 school year. Registration will open on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact the church office at: 563-659-9153 with any questions. Please note that

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will **NOT** be staying overnight at camp. They will need to be dropped off and picked up each day.

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

## **Introduction to the Bible**

If you have a student who is entering 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please contact Mark Sperry with any questions.

## **Confirmation Classes**

Grace offers a three-year program for students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **THANK YOU**

I would like to say a special thank you to everyone who helped make the 2024 Grace Camp Day Camps so successful again this year. Through your generosity and willingness to volunteer and get involved we again had the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with over 100 children from DeWitt and the surrounding community. Thanks again and know that you are appreciated more than words can ever say!

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH ACTIVITY**



Attention all 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders, make plans to join us on Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm at the G\*Y\*M Building at Grace Camp for Banana Split Night. We will be concocting and eating a 10' long banana split. Please R.S.V.P. to Mr. Sperry at 563-321-0674 to let him know you're coming, so we're sure to have enough ice cream, toppings, etc.

## **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ACTIVITY**

Attention all 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, make plans to join us on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm at the G\*Y\*M Building at Grace Camp for Banana Split Night. We will be concocting and eating a 10' long banana split. Please R.S.V.P. to Mr. Sperry at 563-321-0674 to let him know you're coming, so we're sure to have enough ice cream, toppings, etc.



## **ENDURE**

"To undergo without giving in" is the definition of Endure. As a Christian, we are told to endure to the end and we will receive a crown of life. But, how do we endure? How can we stand up to the everyday pressures that assail us? The answer is, we can't by ourselves. But with the help of Jesus we can as Philippians 4:13 says, "do anything through Christ who strengthens me." Over the next 11 months we will be making plans to attend the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Please keep the youth and adults from here at Grace and around the world in your prayers that they would ENDURE.

# BLOOD DRIVE

[BLOODCENTER.ORG](http://BLOODCENTER.ORG)

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Monday, July 8th**  
**2:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

**Fellowship Hall — 415 10<sup>th</sup> St., DeWitt**

To book your appointment, scan the QR code  
or call Kerry Good at 563-659-9153

SCAN ME!



**Walk Ins Welcome**

Give & get choice of \$20 gift card, a  
donation to Make-A-Wish<sup>®</sup> or bonus  
points to the rewards store.

Please eat before donating and bring Photo ID.



 **ImpactLife**

**Grace Camp's Pancake Breakfast**

*Rise and shine!*



JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST  
**SUNDAY, July 21st**  
8:00 to 11:30 am  
Grace Camp Pavilion

### Volunteers Needed for Check In

Summer Camp will be here before you know it. On Monday, July 29th we need volunteers to help with registration which begins at 10am. All registrations volunteers are asked to arrive by 9:30. If you would like to assist with this please contact Kerry at the Church office.



Please join us on Tuesday, July 2nd at 8:00 am to raise the flags at church. We will take the flags down on

Monday, July 8th at 8:00 am.

If it is raining or has been raining, please call the church office to confirm this will still be taking place.

## Voter's Meeting

July 14, 2024 - 8:45 AM

(right after 8AM service)

@ Grace Lutheran Church

Agenda: 2024-25 Preschool Budget

**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



## July 18th

### 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 18th. 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, July 18th.*

#### **Main Dish 5 Volunteers**

Each volunteer is asked to prepare a meat casserole dish. (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**

#### **3 Volunteers**

Prepare a dessert that serves 15 people.

#### **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 TEACHER



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 teach when the regular teachers are not available.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a teacher or would like more information, please contact Mark Sperry or Pastor Eric.



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



1 <sup>st</sup>	Thomas & Jill Jepsen	12 <sup>th</sup>	Lynn & Debra Swanson	21 <sup>st</sup>	Dan & Kimberly Burzlaff
9 <sup>th</sup>	Matt & Paula Anderson		Scott & Kim Steffens	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Barry & Kristy Englekes
10 <sup>th</sup>	Curtis & Randi Bahnsen	19 <sup>th</sup>	Casey & Jennifer Walker	29 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin & Joy Marik
11 <sup>th</sup>	Jesse & Jenna Spain		Mark & Cindy Sperry		

Thank you ❤️

Thank you to everyone who has helped with our mission of service to the Victory Center over the past year. July marks one year our congregation has been providing a monthly meal to the Victory Center and surrounding community. This takes a lot of volunteers to accomplish from preparing the food to the actual delivery and serving of the meal and then all those who pray for this event. Each time we are there, we see the appreciation of those we serve and know that we are making an impact by sharing God's love to others. If you have not been able to help with some part of this mission over the past year, please prayerfully consider how you can be involved in some way over the next year.

Board Outreach

Sending a great big thank you to everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School this year. To the Station Leaders, Crew Leaders, and Crew Members we thank you for your time and all the work you did with the children. To the Skit Members your hours of preparation and performance provided the children with a great learning experience, we were very blessed to have you on our VBS Team.. To the Kitchen Leader and Staff we thank you for the countless hours you spent preparing the menu, shopping and preparing all the delicious food we enjoyed. To everyone who donated food we thank you for your generosity. To everyone behind the scene that helped make VBS 2024 a great success we appreciate you and send our thanks.

The Board of Christian Ed

~LIVE IN CONCERT~

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY RECORDING ARTIST



**LUKE YATES**

**TUE—JULY 16—7 PM**

**ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
155 O'BRIEN STREET—GOOSE LAKE, IA**

*Admission is free—Everyone is welcome!*

**[www.GospelRoadOnline.com](http://www.GospelRoadOnline.com)**

Thank you to everyone who helped with and prayed for our inaugural Summer Night Out event in June. Even with the dicey forecast, so many families from our congregation and community came out to enjoy our camp (we think over 200 people attended). We are thankful for all the time that everyone gave during this event. We would not have been able to put on this event without all of you. God is so good!

The Referral Center is celebrating 50 years of service to the DeWitt Central Community School District area. We will be hosting an Open House on July 7, 2024, from 1:00 - 3:00 at the Referral Center. Refreshments will be provided (beverages & desserts) Nite Lions will also be on site and have a meal available. We want to thank those that had the original vision as well as those that have helped to continue this mission



## Grace Ev. Lutheran Church - July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 10:00am Praise Worship w/Communion @ Grace Camp	<b>1</b> 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Board of Discipleship 6:30pm Elders Meeting	<b>2</b> 8:00am Raise the Flags	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Welton Chapel Worship	<b>4</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>5</b> High School Servant Event	<b>6</b> High School Servant Event
<b>7</b> "Mites" Sunday High School Servant Event 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 10:00am Praise Worship w/Communion@ Grace Camp	<b>8</b> High School Servant Event 8:00am Take Down the Flags 2:00pm Blood Drive	<b>9</b> 7:00am Finance Board Meeting	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Middle School Banana Split Night 7:00pm Welton Chapel Worship	<b>11</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	<b>12</b> 2:30pm Service @ Maggie's House	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 8:45am Voter's Meeting - After Early Service 10:00am Praise Worship @ Grace Camp	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting	<b>17</b> 6:30pm High School Banana Split Night 7:00pm Welton Chapel Worship	<b>18</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center Service Event 6:30pm Men's Table Talk@ Hall of Fame	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:00am Grace Camp Pancake Breakfast 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 10:00am Praise Worship w/Communion @ Grace Camp	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Board of Christian Education	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:30am Service @ Fieldstone 7:00pm Welton Chapel Worship	<b>25</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Praise Worship @ Grace Camp 5:00pm Summer Camp Counselor Training	<b>29</b> 10:00am Summer Camp Registration	<b>30</b> Summer Camp 2024	<b>31</b> Summer Camp 2024 7:00pm Welton Chapel Worship	<b>1</b> 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group	<b>2</b> 8:00am Trustees Board Meeting	<b>3</b>