

Grace News



Grace Ev. Lutheran Church
415 10th St, PO Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742

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www.gracedewitt.org

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

June 2022

Dear Redeemed and Love Saints of Grace,

It has been a minute since the last time I wrote to you all. Things got disrupted the last two months. But for now, at least in the next few months, things should be normal. I may not be able to say the same thing when August rolls around. But for now, things are at a standstill. Which is great!

Since then, I have been praying that God would give me the next idea. The next thing that we all need to hear. Then it happened. The idea. The situation. It was chaos. It took place Sunday, May 15th, and here is what happened.

If you did not know every Sunday I walk to church, and I tend to walk home. It gives me a few seconds to reflect on the services. How did I like the message? Was I able to explain my thoughts coherently? Did I forget anything? But on this Sunday. My thoughts weren't with the service. It was in a message I got shortly before I left the church. I had sent a brief text message to Emily that I was running late from church and that I wouldn't be home till a little after noon, due to a baptism. As I made my back to my office, checking to see if I got all the lights turned off, all the doors shut, made sure no one left anything behind. I heard the vibrating sound of my phone. I slide my hand into my pocket and saw the message. Elliott threw his new monster jam truck into the gutter. My thoughts raced. Which gutter? Is it safe to crawl on the roof? (Our roof slants in many places). Great, there will be no quiet moments when I walk through door. I snuck quietly into the house drifting upstairs, where I crawled out the appropriate window and saved the monster jam from being forgotten. For a moment dad was the hero. But just a moment.

Sundays are usually pizza Sundays in our house. However, on this day, Pizza Hut was closed. We quickly opened the Casey's app on Emily's phone and ordered pizza. However, many disappointments were beginning to set in. First, my taste buds were eagerly awaiting that first bite of salt that tops the Pizza Hut breadsticks, and second when the Casey's app told us we would need to wait about 40 minutes. Ok, we can do this. We need distractions. Something to occupy our time. A movie, that will work. The opening credits scroll across the screen, the voices get louder. "We want a show! Where's my kindle! No, I want the pink one! Hey, that's my kindle! Can we watch a show! I want Peppa pig...Let me talk! I want Bluey! Dad, give me your phone! Hey Alexa, play Wellerman by Nathan Evans!" Each voice was talking over the next, growing louder and louder before my ears got overwhelmed by the sheer volume that three toddlers can make. The movie could no longer be heard. The chaos was finally broken by a vibration. Pizza was ready. "Kids to the table, please!" "NO, I want to sit here! Let me talk.....Where's my pizza, that's yucky. No toppings. Why did you cut my pizza. I want the white sauce. Let me talk...Where's my orange juice. I don't like chicken wings. I want to sit here!" Who said what I couldn't tell. The shouting was beginning to hurt

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my ears. Kids shouting at parents, and parents trying to get their kids to listen. Voices topping each other. Doing more harm their good.

As I sat at the table trying to focus on my thoughts, I heard myself agree to take the kids to Target. What was I thinking? I was tired. The kids were exhausted. They need to be still. But it didn't stop them from piling into the car. After a couple of quick prayers, I started the car and headed down to Davenport. From the time I can home, to sitting in the car, there was constant questions, but now there was silence. It was welcomed. Until the silence was pierced by a singular statement. "Dad, sorry we didn't listen at lunch." "It is okay bubba, I love you." "Dad?" "Yes, bud." "Can we listen to Nathan Evans." "No. I don't have the right cord....Hey buddy!" "Yes, Daddo?" "You know why I want you to listen?" "Why?...yeah why daddy" Evie finally join in the conversation. "Mom and I love you all so much and we want to protect you and keep you safe. So when we tell you its time for lunch we want you to pause from watching shows and playing with toys to eat something and drink something. So you can keep growing big and strong." "Ok Daddo, we will do better." " I know, it is ok if you forget."

I wish this story ended differently but it is a daily occurrence. Every day three voices try to drown out their parents' voice. Every day their will tries to wear out the will of their parents. But it is through these daily interactions I am constantly reminded of God's gracious love and mercy towards us through my kids.


Because Sunday's interaction with my kids could easily be switched between a conversation between me and God. Me trying to drown out God's voice, speaking over his voice. Not allowing my self to hear His guidance and direction. Doing my best to ignore the places He needs me to be, where He takes us to be renourished and replenished. Trying to keep things busy, keep the noise high, so His voice is lower than mine.

But then I get in a car. Or I stand before his altar. Or I am sitting in the pew. A place of silence. Where's there is no extra place for noise. Gradually the silence gets pierced, not by a singular statement but by presence. Where God comes to meet me. Gradually silence turns to stillness. Stillness overwhelms. A confession is utter "Father in heaven, I am sorry that I have ignored your word. Ignored your presence. Your gifts that you gave me through the Holy Spirit."

A stillness gently turns to peace. God meets me and he speaks directly toward my heart "Eric, I love you, and you are forgiven." Just as in the stillness and quiet places in your life. The conversations that you have with God. When his voice can't be drowned out. He is speaking directly to you, that you are loved and that you are forgiven. That it is okay if you forget tomorrow, for He speaks a familiar refrain. His love and mercy are new every morning.


In the service of Jesus,

Pastor Eric



Remember the ways to give:

- 1.) Bill pay from your bank.
- 2.) Download the Give+ mobile app on your phone to make giving easy.
- 3.) Mail checks directly to Grace Church, PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA.
- 4.) Use the link on our website, www.gracedewitt.org, for online giving.



Please join us on Thursday, May 26th at 8:00 am to raise the flags at church. We will take the flags down on Tuesday, May 31st 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.

IMPORTANT - Deadline for submitting articles for the July Newsletter is June 15th.

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 AM Leon Doescher
10:30 AM Jon Betz
Wednesday 7:00 PM Scott Steffens

The Organist: Diana Baetke

The Acolytes

June 5th
8:00 AM Kolton Goddard

June 12th
8:00 AM Luke Hill

June 19th
8:00 AM Mason Lawrence

June 26th
8:00 AM Kinley Birt

The 2022 Altar Flower calendars are available. To sign up please see the Altar Flower book located on the Welcome Center. Bouquets can be donated in honor of or memory of persons or events. Each bouquet is \$27 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:

June 12th, 19th, & 26th
July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st
August 7th, 21st & 28th
September 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th
October 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd
November 6th, 20th, & 27th
December 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th

Pancake Breakfast



**Grace Camp
Pancake Breakfast
8:00 am to 11:30 am
at Grace Camp Pavilion
Sunday, June 19th**

Mark your calendar for the following up and coming Pancake Breakfasts:
Sunday, July 17th
Sunday, August 21st



Begins June 5, 2022

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.

Special Gifts Given Include:

In loving memory of John Eastman \$50 was given to Grace Preschool.
In loving memory of Al Casad \$30 was given to Grace Preschool.



Baptized on May 15, 2022—

Josie Ann McCausland, daughter of Brett & Leah McCausland. Her baptismal sponsors are Cody Mork and Katelyn McCausland. Welcome to God's Family!



Grace Camp is participating in "Birdies for Charity" again this year.

Pledge cards are available on the Welcome Center in the foyer. Thank you for your continued support of the "Birdies for Charity" program and Grace Camp.



Open House

Come and celebrate the launch of Michelle Dierck's book, *PROMISED REST: FINDING PEACE IN GOD'S PRESENCE*

Join us for a Dessert Open House!
Tuesday, June 14th
5:30-8:30pm
Grace Hall

Michelle will be signing books and sharing some fun swag! Drop in before, after or during Tunes In Town!

Learn more & read chapter 1 at www.cph.org/rest



As we look ahead to the 2022-2023 Sunday school year we are actively searching for new Sunday School Teachers and Sunday School Subs.

Teaching Sunday School is a great opportunity to volunteer your time and talent. Watching the children grow in their knowledge of God is very rewarding for everyone.

To find out more about this opportunity please contact Mark or Kerry at 563-659-9153.

The Sunday School offering, since the beginning of December, was designated to go to the Grace Camp Outdoor Worship Area. Through the love and support of the children and parents we will be giving \$746.69 to Grace Camp for this project. Thank you to everyone for all of their generosity.

Through the month of June, we will be collecting donations for Vacation Bible School 2022, "Zoomerang". Vacation Bible School has over 70 children registered for this year and we hope to get more. Your donations will help us offset the cost of food, crafts, decorations and take home items. If you would like to contribute program your donation can be left in the "Little White Church. Thank you for your support to our VBS Program.

Board of Christian Education

Monthly Message

Grace's Board of Christian Education is busy as always with a renewed mission to Worship, Grow and Serve to Make a Difference in the World,! Here are some of the things we've been working on.

Club345 On May 1st, ten kids, (all boys!) came to Club345 where our devotional was focused on service. The kids worked hard, cleaning up sticks around Grace Camp. As always, they had plenty of fun too, playing basketball, human foosball, gaga ball and of course, eating snacks. Save the date for our next event on June 5th.



Fellowship Board of Ed hosted the Lenten Meal of Meatball Subs on March 30 where about 70 people attended. We also hosted a coffee and donut social after early service on May 8th. We hope to open up more opportunities for fellowship and would love to hear ideas from others.



Adult Bible Study Opportunities Pastor still offers a bible study on Sundays at 9:15am. All are welcome to attend. Our Women's Bible Study just ended for the season. The book used was Be Still & Know-A Study of Rest and Refuge". Stay tuned for our next session led by Michelle Diercks.



What's Coming Up! VBS 2022 "Zoomerang" will be held 6/26-6/30. Registration is now open. We need more volunteer. Signup is on bulletin board in the narthex.

ALL volunteers should plan to attend our VBS Rally on June 1st.

Grace Day Camps still have a few spots open. Volunteers are still needed. Signup on bulletin board.

Grace Camp is back with overnight camp on 7/25-7/27. Registration is open.

Sunday School Board of Ed is planning for a Rally Day along with a Family Picnic on 9/11. Details to follow.

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day is May 15. Juice and donuts will be provided. We will need a few new Sunday School teachers for next year.

Communication Stay tuned as we plan to start a weekly email with upcoming events & activities for kids prek-12th grade.

Report respectfully submitted by Rachael Vopatek



Children 3yrs through 5th grade are invited to register. The VBS festivities begin each day with a meal served at 5:00 p.m. Families are invited to eat with their child/children. The VBS Program will begin promptly at 5:45 p.m. each day.

To register visit www.gracedewitt.org.

WE NEED YOU

Recruitment and planning continue for this year's VBS program is underway. The theme is: **ZOOMERANG.** To make this program a success we need your help. Please check out the volunteer registration bulletin board in the atrium and consider signing up for one of the roles. Our biggest need now is for 'Outback Guides' to help transition the children from station to station. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact DCE, Mark Sperry.



VBS

Our Volunteer Rally will be held Wednesday, June 1st beginning at 6:30 pm at the G*Y*M Building at Grace Camp. We hope all our volunteers will be in attendance. Please contact DCE, Mark Sperry with any questions.

Grace Camp Day Camps

We will be holding Day Camps on Tuesday's & Thursday's the first three weeks of June and the first week of July. These camps are for students entering 1st – 6th grades for the coming school year. Registration is currently open.

Space Still Available

June 9th
June 16th
June 23rd

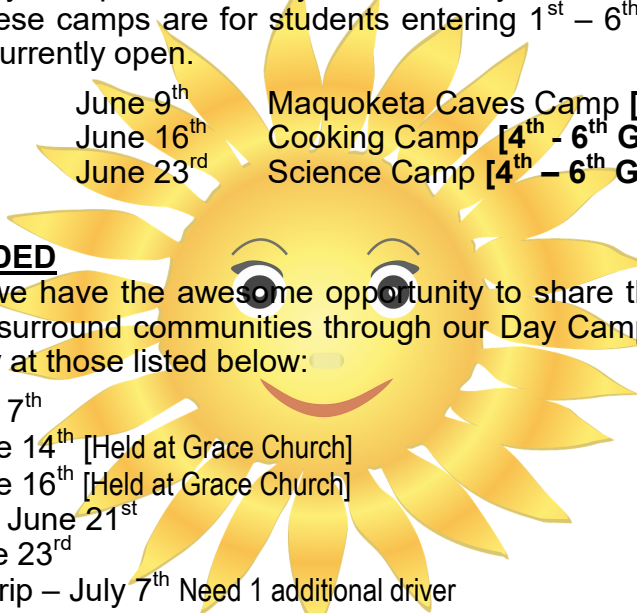
Maquoketa Caves Camp [4th - 6th Grades]
Cooking Camp [4th - 6th Grades] - 1 spot
Science Camp [4th - 6th Grades]

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Again, this summer we have the awesome opportunity to share the love of Jesus with children from DeWitt and the surround communities through our Day Camps. We can use help at all the camps, but especially at those listed below:

- Fishing Camp – June 7th
- Cooking Camp – June 14th [Held at Grace Church]
- Cooking Camp – June 16th [Held at Grace Church]
- Arts & Crafts Camp – June 21st
- Science Camp – June 23rd
- Rock Creek Marina Trip – July 7th Need 1 additional driver

Please contact Mark Sperry or the church office to let us know at which camps you will be able to lend a hand. Thank you and God's blessings!





DONATIONS We need your help. We need donations of cookies [NO peanuts or peanut butter] and red pre-sweetened Kool-Aid mix for our Day Camps & Grace Summer Camp. Please consider donating one or more of these

items and drop them off in the kitchen in Grace Hall.



We are asking for donations to help with VBS meals. Please see the sign up sheets located in the church foyer to see how you can help.

Donations need to be brought to the church by June 19th.

Grace Lutheran Summer Camp

The dates for this year's camp are Monday, July 25 through Wednesday, July 27th. This is open to students who will be in 2nd through 8th grades for the 2022-2023 school year. Cost is \$25 if registered by June 30th.

Registration is currently open. Go to www.gracedewitt.org to register. Please contact the church office at: 563-659-9153 with any questions.



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 26th** so that we can include them in our t-shirt order. Cost for



The Preschool Board would like to thank everyone for their generosity during the rummage sale and Randy's Round up.

Thank you everyone for all your donations and purchases made during the Rummage Sale. Through your generosity we were able to raise over \$4,800.

Randy's Round Up for Grace Preschool was held May 9th-15th. Thank you to everyone who made a purchase and rounded up. This fundraiser raised \$840.75.

Thank you to everyone for all they contributed and donated. Your continued support is very appreciated and we love you all.

Grace Lutheran Preschool

Enrollment forms are now available on the Preschool page of the website (www.gracedewitt.org). Enrollment forms and registration fee (3's only) may be dropped off at the church office or mailed to PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.

2022-2023 Class Schedule and Fees

- 3s : M & W 8:00 — 10:30 \$110/mo Full
 T & TH 8:00 — 10:30 \$110/mo 2 spots open
- \$35 registration fee due at time of enrollment.
 - 3s Classes will begin August 29th and 30th.
 - Children must be 3 on or before Sept. 15, 2022.
- 4s: AM 8:00—11:00 (limited to 8 students)
 PM 12:00—3:00 (limited to 16)
- Must be 4 on or before September 15, 2022 to qualify for free preschool.
 - 5-year-old tuition is \$175/month and a \$35 registration fee.

For more information, please contact the preschool office at 659-9193 (8:00-3:00 p.m. M-F) or email preschool@gracedewitt.org.



NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

We are just over a month away from heading to Houston. Please continue to pray for the 5 adults and 9 students who will be attending this event. Pray also for the thousands of volunteers, presenters, speakers, etc. who will be there as well.



*Please join us
for a Graduation Open House
for Caleb & Eli Engelkes*

Saturday, May 28

10:30AM-12:30PM

@ 420 S Blanche Dr, Eldridge

Congratulations to the 2022 Endowment Grant recipients.

- ◇ \$500 to the Youth Board for the National Youth Gathering
- ◇ \$600 to the Sunday School for new tables
- ◇ \$2000 for a new laminator



Mark Your Calendars

**Grace Church
Annual Blood Drive**



3 rd	Terri Shelton Jacob Swanson Emily Swanson	21 st 23 rd	Jeremiah Sunday Ardith Barr Rodney Wold
4 th	Kamryn Albrecht		Lynn Swanson
5 th	Brynlee Dies Rodney Keeney Mary Alger Amy Meyers	24 th	Rachael Krukow Valarie Betz Keaton Birt Owen Tucker
9 th	Noah Sunday	25 th	Richard Block Coleen Hughes
10 th	David Hansen Bud Selk Adelynn Williams Barbara Mickelsen		Shirley Jackson Kurt Kreiter Jesse Spain
11 th	Tyler Lawrence Austin Meyer	26 th	Sandy Miller Keaton Mueller
12 th	Jeanne Hansen Halston Krukow	27 th	Kyle McDevitt Rachael Krukow
13 th	Kindra Barys Tracy Paarmann	28 th	Kay Hall Joy Marik
14 th	Lauren Hansen		Hannah Grantz
16 th	Ashdon Converse		Allison LaFevers
17 th	Wendy Proctor Judy Doescher		Addison Tucker Breeanna Paasch
19 th	Lily Soenksen	29 th	Zane Burzlaff
20 th	Maggie Hartmann Cheryl Housman Brady Dies		



1 st	Erik & Jill Johnson Dick & Mary Jo Kelly
2 nd	John & Joellyn McDonnell Keith & Brenda Gustafson
3 rd	Dale & JoAnn Greve
5 th	Alan & Carla Watts
6 th	Kevin & Tina Meyer Denise & Norlin Wagner-Mommsen
7 th	Matthew & Laura Nebel
8 th	Duane & Bernice Meyer Jeremy & Jessica Sunday
10 th	Cory & Rachael Krukow
12 th	Milo & Norma Soenksen
15 th	Ryan & Carrie Carter
17 th	Kurt & Colleen Flathers Mitch & Julie Krukow
20 th	Aaron & Shannon Soenksen
25 th	Kim & Beth Haring
26 th	James & Charlotte Harroun

JUNE 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 10:30 AM Worship w/Communion	30 Church Office Closed MEMORIAL DAY	31 8:00 AM Lower the Flags	1 5:00 PM VBS Skit Practice 6:30 PM VBS Volunteer Rally 7:00 PM Worship	2 9:00 AM Tops Meeting	3 8:00 AM Trustees Board Meeting	4
5 "Mites" Sunday 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 10:00 AM Praise Worship @ Grace Camp 2:00 PM CLUB345 Event	6 Church Office Open 8 to Noon 1:00 PM 500 Card Club 6:00 PM Board of Discipleship 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	7 Church Office Open 8 to Noon 9:00 AM Day Camp #1 - Fishing Camp	8 Church Office Open 8 to Noon 7:00 AM Finance Board Meeting 6:00 PM VBS Skit Practice 7:00 PM Worship	9 Church Office Open 8 to Noon 9:00 AM Day Camp #2 - Maquoketa Caves (4th-6th Graders) 9:00 AM Tops Meeting	10 Church Office Closed	11
12 Fellowship Sunday 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:00 AM Praise Worship @ Grace Camp 4:30 PM NYG22 Final Meeting	13 6:00 PM Council Meeting	14 9:00 AM Day Camp #3 - Cooking (1st- 3rd) 5:30 PM Michelle Diercks Book Launch Open House	15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Sewing Ladies 6:00 PM VBS Skit Practice	16 9:00 AM Day Camp #4 - Cooking (4th- 6th) 9:00 AM Tops Meeting	17	18
19 FATHER'S DAY 8:00 AM Grace Camp Pancake Breakfast 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 10:00 AM Praise Worship @ Grace Camp	20 1:00 PM 500 Card Club 7:00 PM Youth Board Meeting	21 9:00 AM Day Camp #5 - Arts & Crafts (1st-3rd) 6:30 PM Camp Board Meeting	22 6:00 PM VBS Skit Practice	23 9:00 AM Day Camp #6 - Science Camp (4th-6th) 9:00 AM Tops Meeting	24	25
26 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:00 AM Praise Worship @ Grace Camp 5:00 PM VBS Dinner 5:45 PM Vacation Bible School	27 5:00 PM VBS Dinner 5:45 PM Vacation Bible School	28 5:00 PM VBS Dinner 5:45 PM Vacation Bible School	29 5:00 PM VBS Dinner 5:45 PM Vacation Bible School 7:00 PM Worship	30 9:00 AM Tops Meeting 5:00 PM VBS Dinner 5:45 PM Vacation Bible School	1 8:00 AM Trustees Board Meeting	2