**Grace Lutheran School**

**Service is Faith in Action**

Jesus encouraged his followers to demonstrate their faith in their actions towards others.

***37****Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?****38****And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?****39****And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’****40****And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,[*[*g*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+25&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-24046g)*] you did it to me.’ (Matthew 25)*

Our new service program at Grace for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders is designed to give students service experiences which will open their eyes to the needs of others and to recognize that opportunities to be of service are all around them. It is our hope and prayer that as Grace students serve others, they will better recognize their own blessings and develop a mindset for discipleship wherever God places them in the future.

Beginning this year, service hours will be a requirement for all students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, and participation in service will be included in students’ religion grades.

 Sixth grade – 3 hours (180 minutes)/trimester

 Seventh grade – 4 hours (240 minutes)/trimester

 Eighth grade – 5 hours (300 minutes)/trimester

There are many service opportunities for students here at Grace. A bulletin board will display service opportunities listed by faculty and staff. Some of these hours might include helping set up for an event, scorekeeping for a game, assisting with clerical duties, or helping manage sports uniforms. Participation in choir or bell performances for Sunday or Wednesday services will count for service time. (This time will also be credited towards students’ choir grade.)

We encourage students to earn service hours outside of school as well. Your child may do service at your church or through scouts, for example. We encourage Grace families to work together on a service project.

A few rules:

* Parents cannot sign for service hours. Mowing the lawn or emptying the dishwasher is part of being a family, not special service.
* Students cannot be excused from class to do service.
* Classroom service projects or trips are part of the curriculum and are not considered service hours.
* Students may lose some credit if their service form indicates they were off task, disrespectful, or otherwise presented a problem.
* Hours cannot be credited to students without a signed form.

Thank you for your support of this project to help our children grow their faith through action!

Mrs. Underhill Mr. Schultz Ms. Wolfanger