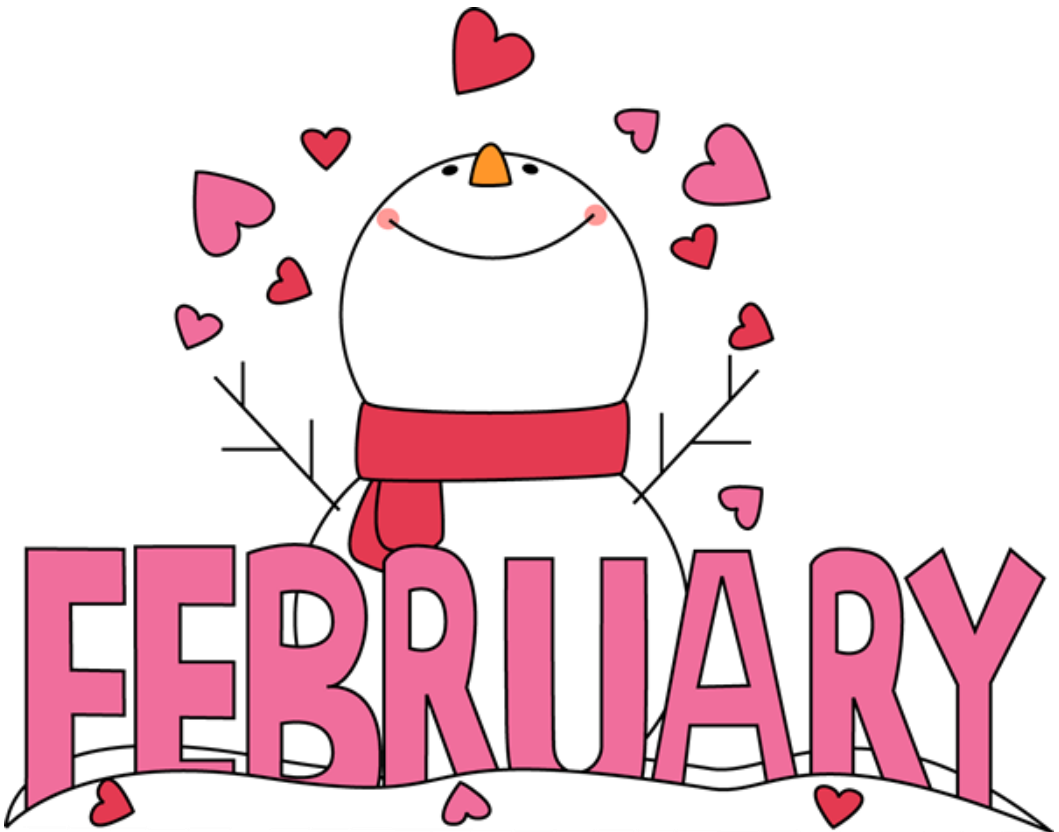


FEBRUARY 2019



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Monroe, Wisconsin

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church
1025—15th Avenue
Monroe, WI 53566

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Return Service Requested

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
Phone: 608-325-9172 Fax: 608-325-9217
WEBSITE: www.gracelmonroe.org

Worship Schedule
Saturday, 5:00 PM & Sunday, 9:00 AM
Sunday School, 10:00 AM

Office Hours, June-August
Monday-Friday, 8:30—12:00 / 1:00—4:30 PM

Pastor
John J. Tabaka E-mail: pastortabaka@tds.net

Visitation Pastor
Richard Thieckpenny

Custodian
Terry Kolanda

Director of Music/Church Musician
Ann Uresk

Secretarial Staff
Beth Farth (gracelc@tds.net)

2019 Church Council Representatives

Carl Huber 325-7917

Ranee Ellefson-Jones 293-1320
(ellefsonjonesraanee@hotmail.com)

Kristine Leck 214-6194

Shane Olson (Treasurer) 328-2581
(solson1068@gmail.com)

Phil Rath (Secretary) (rathpak13@gmail.com)
Larry Rood 328-4867

Cathy Smith 325-2697 (clymrd@yahoo.com)
Bruce Stiner (President) 329-6836

Ariel Thomas (Vice-President) 328-1881
(arielbobbie@charter.net)

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

In a few weeks, it will be Valentine's Day. It is a day steeped in romanticism and enveloped by the sensibility of love. Cards and gifts and flowers will be exchanged. It is a day filled with vision and expectation.

Whether by cultural observance or greeting card marketing, Valentine's Day holds up an ideal of love and relationship. Relationships are built upon truth, trust, commitment and forgiveness. This is true not only for two people building a future together, but other relationships with family, neighbors and co-workers. Forgiveness takes place when those other aspects run afoul.

Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, I tell you, but seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:21-22). Peter believes he is raising the bar pretty high with forgiveness being extended seven times to the same person. But Jesus says that Peter is nowhere close. For Jesus, that number pushes toward infinity. Of course, Jesus is divine and so he has a greater insight, greater understanding and greater capacity. Just as the love we experience is reflective of the love that God has for us, so too is the forgiveness we share with one another, divine.

Professor of the New Testament, Dr. Craig Koester says that, "Forgiveness opens up a future that the past has closed off." Forgiveness breaks apart barriers and impasses that would limit or burden us. Forgiveness is transformative, it changes us and the relationships we are in. We no longer need to be shackled to the past.

This is true for both parties involved, those needing the forgiveness and those needing to give it. All too often, those who were wronged hold onto a grudge or slight well beyond what is healthy or helpful. This is not to make light of one's pain, suffering or disappointment. Those are part of our experience and cannot be ignored, but they are not the only part of it.

To be in relationship with another person and with a greater community, encourages us to use those words of forgiveness, that the relationships we have may be strong and life giving.

Pastor John

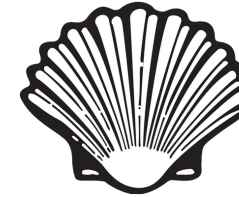
FEBRUARY BAPTISMS

Cindy McKeown
Grace Schrenk
Luke Johanson
Les Kruse, Jr.
Merrix Wiegel
Grayson Boyd
Andrew Neuenschwander

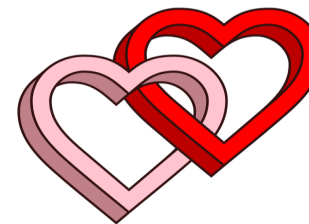
Thor Thompson
Bruce Stiner
Sean Jorgenson
Nina Leistiko
Bruce Bahler
Kylie Miller

Jennifer Spielman
Danielle Dieckhoff
Maverick Rath
Randy Whipple
Heather Huffman
Russ Johnson

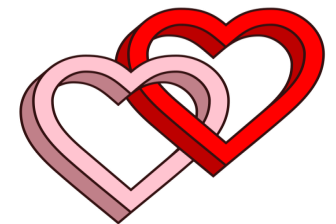
We're sorry if we missed your February baptism. If you don't see your baptism here please call the office to let us know of your baptismal date so that we may include your name next time!



FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



George (Red) & Jan Kint
Jim & Geri Bartholf
Dave & Linda Beightol
Dean & Dee Signer



We're sorry if we missed your February anniversary. Please call the office to let us know of your anniversary date so that we may include your name next year!

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES were not available at the time of this printing. Sorry for the inconvenience. Feel free to contact the church office to get a copy of the approved Council minutes. Thank you!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Anikah Rath	2/2
Shannon Weber	
Bruce Bahler	2/4
Macallister Wand	2/5
Larissa Gille	2/6
Beth Faith	2/7
Carl Huber	
Eric Brugger	2/8
Sandy Huston	
Timothy Kubly	
Regina Weber	
Huxley Wiegel	2/9
Emmett Huston	
Pastor Ron Massen	
Judy Pfungsten	2/11
Tammy Hartwig	
Raymond Siekert, Sr.	2/12
Nicole Lindsay Turner	2/13
Anna Brugger	
Jack Brugger	
Laurie Field	
Jim Redies	2/14
Jim Bartholf	
Gary Kleppe	
Cindy Rupnow	



Dan Huston	2/15
Jim Sinkule	
Xander Wiegel	2/18
Herb Krause	2/19
Avis Lueck	2/20
Darrell Busjahn	2/21
Ariel Thomas	
Marilyn Bahe	2/24
Hazel Gelbach	
Penny Jahnke	
Laurie Kruse	
Dianne Gerber	2/26
Patty Scheider	
Jim Crawford	2/27
Kerstin Miller	
Mary Flisram	2/28
Caitlynn Kamps	

We're sorry if we missed your February birthday. Please call the office to let us know of your birthdate so that we may include your name next year!



Serving in February 2019

ACOLYTES

Sat., Feb. 2.....Jaryn Wardlow
Sun., Feb. 3.....Roderick Rath

Sat., Feb. 9.....Taylor Herbst
Sun., Feb 10.....Needed

Sat., Feb. 16.....Needed
Sun., Feb. 17.....Jonathan Olson

Sat., Feb. 23.....Needed
Sun., Feb. 24.....Ryan Mathiason

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Ornaments Committee

LITURGISTS

Sat., Feb. 2.....Rebekah Rath
Sun., Feb. 3.....Trent Weber

Sat., Feb. 9.....Cindy McKeown
Sun., Feb 10.....Ann Hunter

Sat., Feb. 16.....Jim Munro
Sun., Feb. 17.....Jim Sinkule

Sat., Feb. 23.....Beth Faith
Sun., Feb. 24.....Sam Mathiason

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

Feb. 2 & 3.....Red & Jan Kint
In celebration of their 66th Wedding Anniversary on February 1st

Feb. 9 & 10.....Available
Feb. 16 & 17.....Women of Grace
Feb. 23 & 24.....Mary Flisram

(The Missionary Sponsorship calendar is located on the bulletin board by the church office. The cost is \$35 per week.)

ORGANISTS

Sat., February 2.....Natasha Patterson
Sat., February 9.....Maynard Heins
Sat., February 16.....Eric Tabaka
Sat., February 23.....Maynard Heins

Sundays in February.....Ann Uresk

USHERS

Saturdays in February.....Pat & Kris Parr
Sundays in February.....The Sinkule Family



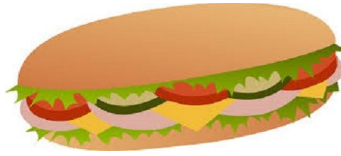
JANUARY 2019 PARISH ACTIONS



At the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 13th, the congregation approved extending a Call to Ministry to Beth Faith to serve as a Deacon here at Grace. Her position will remain the same. Congratulations to Beth on this achievement!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY! FEBRUARY 3, 2019

If you placed an order, don't forget to pick up your Soup & Sub from the 7-UP Youth Group Saturday after worship or Sunday morning following worship! Have a Super Souper Bowl Sunday!



SHARING THE PEACE As the cold and flu season is upon us, there are those who try hard not to share germs. Please don't be offended if your neighbor does not shake hands. Greet them with a smile and know that they are simply trying to keep themselves and others healthy.

HANDS OF GRACE FUND is used to assist community members and others in need for a variety of things, like gas vouchers, emergency overnight housing, personal care items, medical expenses, help with bills, etc. Your gifts will make a difference for someone in need of assistance. Please consider the "Hands of Grace Fund" in the year ahead and give as you are able.

OUR COMMITTEES WANT YOU! If you would like to be more involved in the programs at Grace, give the office a call. We have a number of committees and we are always looking for additional members and new ideas.

MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP calendar for 2019 is now up in the narthex. Please sign up to support our missionary family, Curtis & Katie Kline serving in Colombia. The cost for missionary sponsorship is \$35 each week.

PROVIDING ALTAR FLOWERS There is a calendar in the narthex by the office to sign up to provide flowers for worship. Contact a florist of your choice, and place and pay for your order. We ask that flowers be delivered here by Friday afternoon at 4:00 PM so that Altar Guild members can place the flowers for worship. After Sunday worship we encourage you to pick up your flowers and enjoy them, or share them with a shut-in, friend, or neighbor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

This Month's Bible Verse: *He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* — Mark 10:14


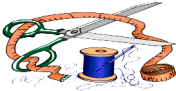

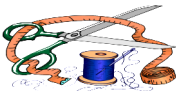



Parish Education Committee: There will be no meeting for Parish Education during February.

Mission Project: The children have put together 14 game bags for the Box of Balloons organization in Green County as of January. We will be making 24 more game bags, between February and May, with the offering money that the children have brought in. Great job everyone. Thank you for bringing in your offerings and helping put together the game bags.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- **Sunday, February 24th** - Sunday School children will be singing in church. Please be to church by 8:40 am to practice the songs.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FEBRUARY 2019					1	2 5:00 PM, Worship Pick up your Soup & Sub this evening after wor- ship!
3 5th Sunday after Epiphany Souper Bowl Sunday (Pick up your Soup & Sub Today) 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School 	4 9:30 AM, Women of Grace Board Meeting	5 9:00 AM, Sarah Circle 7:00 PM, Property Committee	6 9:00 AM, Adult Bible Study 5:00 PM, Praise Band 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation Class 7:00 PM, Handchimes	7 8:30 AM, Quilters 	8	9 5:00 PM, Worship
10 Transfiguration of our Lord 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School	11	12 4:00 PM, Memorial Committee 5:15 PM, Staff Support 6:00 PM, Worship & Music	13 9:00 AM, Adult Bible Study 5:00 PM, Praise Band 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation Class 7:00 PM, Handchimes	14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15	16 5:00 PM, Worship
17 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School 11:15 AM, 7-UP Youth Group Meets	18 7:00 PM, Lydia Circle	19	20 9:00 AM, Adult Bible Study 5:00 PM, Praise Band 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation Class 7:00 PM, Handchimes 7:00 PM, Finance Committee	21 8:30 AM, Quilters 	22	23 5:00 PM, Worship
24 7th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School 4:00 PM, Loaves & Fishes Free Community Meal Here  	25 7:00 PM, Church Council Meeting 	26	27 9:00 AM, Adult Bible Study 5:00 PM, Praise Band 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation Class 7:00 PM, Handchimes	28		