

JANUARY 2020



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.gracelcmnroe.org

Worship Schedule

Saturday, 5:00 PM & Sunday, 9:00 AM

Sunday School, 10:00 AM

Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8:30—12:00 / 1:00—4:30 PM

Pastor

John J. Tabaka E-mail: pastortabakaka@tds.net

Visitation Pastor

Richard Thickpenny

Custodian

Terry Kolanda

Director of Music/Church Musician

Ann Uresk

Secretarial Staff

Beth Faith (gracele@tds.net)

Financial Secretary

Abbea Havens

2020 Church Council Representatives

Bill Holland (willholl@tds.net)

Carl Huber 325-7917

Ranee Ellefson-Jones 293-1320

(ellefsonjonesraanee@hotmail.com)

Kristine Leck 214-6194

Shane Olson (Treasurer) 328-2581

(solson1068@gmail.com)

Kristine Parr 815-541-7958

Phil Rath (Secretary)

(rathpak13@gmail.com)

Larry Rood (Vice-President) 328-4867

Cathy Smith 325-2697

(clymrd@yahoo.com)

Ariel Thomas (President) 328-1881

(arielbobbie@charter.net)

WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

Happy New Year!!!

How is the new year going so far? Did you make some life altering resolutions? Are you keeping them? Do you have different goals for 2020 than you did for 2019? Did you have success last year?

A new year gives us the opportunity to look at a blank slate and envision how it might be filled. So we dream and plan and act to fill the year. Some of this is conscious action on our part, but so much of our life is filled with items and events beyond our control. Let's consider choices and decisions we can make and influence.

A new year is not only about what will come about in the future, ideally it is a time to reflect on the past and the choices that brought us to this point. If you were not successful in making changes last year, what will make this year's efforts effective? Making changes within our lives that are beneficial and permanent require some of the hardest work and strength.

Some people do not make big changes or resolutions, but instead look for areas in their lives that require attention.

Recently, there have been volumes of material describing a good life in relation to "wellness" and "happiness". Those who are well and happy have a certain joy to life that impacts their mental and physical health.

Many of these wellness practices are centered around eating healthy food, getting adequate movement or exercise, staying socially connected and being mindful in actions and attitudes. I won't muddy the already murky waters concerning diet and exercise except to encourage - Eat something good in as natural a state as possible and move your body as you are able.

The Church is built on social connection. We are a community of faith. Come to worship to sit and sing together. Join or lead a study group. Help out in a ministry. Volunteer to make a difference. Meet someone new and get to know them. Pray for one another. Support those who are feeling low. Be buoyed by others when the strength just isn't there. Be together.

Ultimately, we are not only connected to one another, but to God. Through intentional times of worship and devotion and prayer, we call upon God's power and presence. If you are still in need of a resolution, I would encourage you to daily set aside a few minutes or longer to connect with God, to breath the Spirit, to seek quiet and guidance in your life and then be present within our community of faith as we join together in worship each weekend.

Pastor John

JANUARY BAPTISMS

Nolan Ashbaugh
Audrina Whipple
Marilyn Hauser
Linnea Tabaka
Matthew Sinkule
Timothy Kubly
Del Heins
Jenna Wehinger

Delila Hess
Tim Schultz
Austin Camron
Grace Mathiason
Steve Trost
Ann Hunter
Carol Ruch

Addison Whipple
Melanie Zentner
Cindy Heins
Eric Tabaka
Sam Mathiason
Jerry Weldon
Marcia Blumer

We're sorry if we missed your baptism here please call baptismal date so that we may



January baptism. If you don't see the office to let us know of your include your name next time!

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Ken & Joan Chapin



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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bailie Meier	1/1
Spencer Siekert	1/2
Martha Scherer	1/3
Leland Drewes	1/4
Karl Kuester	
Cindy McKeown	1/5
Regina Meighan	
Grace Schrenk	1/7
Patti Casselberry	1/8
Bob Leistikow	
Kayleigh Nesbitt	
Dean Signer	
Richard Carpenter	1/9
Joan Chapin	
Connie Cline	
Thor Thompson	

Brenda Steinke	1/10
Gail Zeitler	1/13
Lori Timm	1/17
Geri Bartholf	1/18
Bob Ault	1/20
Blaine Lind	1/22
Kelsey Plagge	
Ryan Mathiason	1/23
Bob Ellefson	1/25
Del Heins	1/26
Deb Dieckhoff	1/29
Ray Siekert	1/30
Jerrica Stiner	
Marilyn Ekena	1/31
Rodney Steinke	

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Serving in January 2020

ACOLYTES

Sat., Jan. 4.....	Needed
Sun., Jan. 5.....	Needed
Sat., Jan. 11.....	Lily Laws
Sun., Jan. 12.....	Kyle Ellefson-Jones
Sat., Jan. 18.....	Abbi Leck
Sun., Jan. 19.....	Trent Newcomer
Sat., Jan. 25.....	Brady Wyss
Sun., Jan. 26.....	Trent Newcomer

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Ornaments Committee

LITURGISTS

Sat., Jan. 4.....	Timothy Olson
Sun., Jan. 5.....	Ann Hunter
Sat., Jan. 11.....	Jim Munro
Sun., Jan. 12.....	Louis Scherer
Sat., Jan. 18.....	Rebekah Rath
Sun., Jan. 19.....	Cindy McKeown
Sat., Jan. 25.....	Roderick Rath
Sun., Jan. 26.....	Nikki Matley

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

Jan. 4 & 5.....	Beth Faith
Jan. 11 & 12.....	Grace Mathiason
Jan. 18 & 19.....	Open
Jan. 25 & 26.....	Women of Grace

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

ORGANISTS

January 4.....	Eric Tabaka
January 11.....	Natasha Patterson
January 18.....	Natasha Patterson
January 25.....	Maynard Heins
Sundays in January.....	Ann Uresk

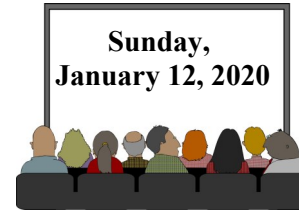
USHERS

Saturdays in January.....	Dick & Judy Nelson & Darci
Sundays in January.....	The Sinkule Family



THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING POINSETTIAS

- Roger & Chris Alston in loving memory of Ralph and Viola Alston
- In loving memory of Lester Johnson from Helen and family
- In loving memory of Walter & Ruth Bahler from their family
- Given by the Mathiason family in honor of Barb Sathoff and in loving memory of Mo Sathoff and in honor of Renee Mathiason and in loving memory of Doug Mathiason
- Martha Scherer in honor of family and in memory of family and friends passed
- Bob & Jan Ableman given in thanks to God for family and friends
- In loving memory of Ken & Thora Zeitler from their family
- Jim Munro
- Jim & Jean Sinkule in honor of our family members as we start a new year
- Curt & Ruth Zentner in loving memory of John & Marilyn Cline and Roy & Louise Zentner
- Paul & Barb Moser in honor of family
- In loving memory of Bill Smith and Fred Hasler by Joyce Smith, Jim Smith and Mary Jo Hasler family
- Jane Nelson given to the glory of God for healing
- Shane & Errin Olson in honor of children and in memory of loved ones we have lost
- Duane, Regina, Trent & Shannon Weber in loving memory of Jan Weber
- Esther Tregloan and family in loving memory of Mel
- Gene & Sue Curran
- Les & Laurie Kruse
- Carol Mohns and family in loving memory of Gordon Mohns and family members



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on **Sunday, January 12th following the 9:00 am worship service.** All confirmed, voting members are asked to attend. We will elect Church Council Representatives and attend to the budget needs of the congregation. Please set this morning aside to attend.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY continues **every Thursday from 6:00—7:00 PM!** Join Regina Weber for **Bible Basics RP3** from the P.R.A.Y. Program where we will **Read the Bible, Picture the passage, Ponder its meaning and finally Put it into action.** Come **Thursdays from 6:00—7:00 PM** at church. Contact Regina Weber at 329-6339 with any questions.

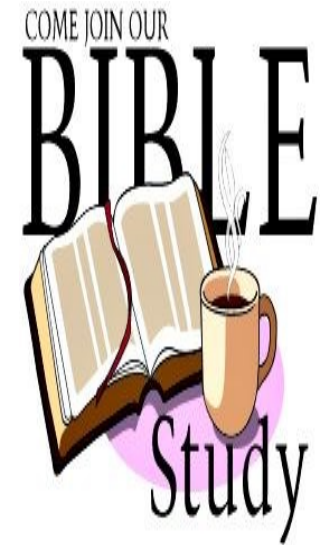
WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY with Pastor John will continue on Wednesday mornings at **9:00 AM.** We meet in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

FOOD PANTRY THANKS! During the month of January, volunteers from Grace Lutheran are needed at the Green County Food Pantry. Big thanks goes out to Rod & Brenda Steinke and Katie Brugger for helping to fill this need! Thanks also to Rane Ellefson-Jones who is our liaison to the Pantry and to Bob Ellefson who is the Director! Thanks to all for serving and for your donations!



LOAVES & FISHES FREE COMMUNITY MEAL will be held here on **Sunday, January 26th from 4:00-6:00 PM.** Come and enjoy a wonderful meal and fellowship!

DECEMBER 2019 PARISH ACTIONS: None to report.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY 2020			1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed: Happy New Year! 			4 7:30 AM, Men's Breakfast & Fellowship at church 5:00 PM, Worship
5 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord NO Women of Grace this month	7 9:00 AM, Sarah Circle 6:00 PM, Property Committee	8 9:00 AM, Bible Study 5:00 PM, Praise Band 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation Parent Meeting 7:00 PM, Handchimes	9 8:30 AM, Quilters 6:00 PM—7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study w/Regina Weber	10	11 5:00 PM, Worship
12 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School 10:15 AM, Annual Congregational Meeting	13	14 10:00 AM, Coffee Hour w/Pastor John at Chocolate Temptations No Memorial Committee 5:15 PM, Staff Support 6:00 PM, Worship & Music	15 9:00 AM, Bible Study 5:00 PM, Praise Band 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation 7:00 PM, Handchimes 7:00 PM, Finance Committee	16 6:00 PM—7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study w/Regina Weber	17	18 5:00 PM, Worship
19 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School 10:00 AM, Town Hall Forum at Faith Lutheran Church, Janesville	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church Office Closed Today 12:30 PM, Lydia Circle meets at church	21	22 9:00 AM, Bible Study 5:00 PM, Praise Band 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation 7:00 PM, Handchimes	23 8:30 AM, Quilters 6:00 PM—7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study w/Regina Weber	24	25 5:00 PM, Worship
26 9:00 AM, Praise Band Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School 4:00 PM, Loaves & Fishes Free Community Meal Family Promise Guests Here This Week	27 7:00 PM, Church Council Meeting	28	29 5:00 PM, Praise Band 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 7:00 PM, Handchimes	30 6:00 PM—7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study w/Regina Weber	31	

NOVEMBER 2019 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Pastor's Thoughts – Pastor informed the council of upcoming events with the confirmation class, which included the cookie baking for the Christmas stocking program and they will go Christmas caroling. Final thing I have is about the bishop's election coming up. As you all know our Bishop, that we elected a year and a half ago, resigned. The interim bishop is serving a ten-month contract, until next August or September. The Synod has a new process that they're going to be using in place of the ecclesiastical ballot. So, what is happening now is we're going to be invited to go to a town hall style of meeting in Janesville on January 19. The various conferences in the Synod will each have a similar meeting. Pastor John is going to encourage and invite a lot of people to come to this forum because it will kind of help to understand what the Synod membership is looking for to assist the next part of the process. In the next step the Synod Council will be forming a "call committee" like a congregation would. Candidates selected by this committee will be presented at the Synod Assembly in May for a vote. Pastor John noted that he would like to have an agenda item on the annual meeting to select the representatives from Grace Lutheran for the Assembly in May.

Old Business – Rood noted the Council needed to address revisions to the agreement between Grace Lutheran and "Hope Dealers." The council reviewed the contract and recommended some additional revisions to the language. These revisions included the Church to have keys to the residence only, clearing up the expectations for required maintenance, and clarifying the termination language. Motion by Holland, Seconded by Smith to proceed with the agreement as amended. Motion carried.

New Business – Discussion held to create a Christmas Day meal. Motion by Holland, Seconded by Olson to proceed with the event. Motion carried. Discussion on the budget was postponed until the December meeting.

Adjournment – Motion by Leck, Seconded by Olson to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Philip Rath
Secretary
Church Council

Members Present: Ranee Ellefson-Jones, Bill Holland, Carl Huber, Kristine Leck, Shane Olson, Kristine Parr, Phil Rath, Larry Rood, Cathy Smith, and Pastor John Tabaka.

Member(s) Absent: Ariel Thomas

Secretary's Report – Motion by Olson, Seconded by Holland to omit the second paragraph of the draft minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Ellefson-Jones, Seconded by Holland to approve the Secretary's report as amended for October. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Motion by Smith, Seconded by Huber to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried. Olson provided the report for Finance Committee at this time.

Committee Reports

Memorial – Smith provided a brief update. It was reported that money needs to be transferred for the Sunday School door project. This project was pushed into 2020 and money will be withdrawn when the project is complete.

Worship and Music – Rood reported the Christmas tree goes up on December 9th, there is a new choir member, an usher schedule through January, and no meeting in December.

Staff Support – Huber reported the committee met, and discussed the upcoming anniversary celebration which was held last week for Ann.

Women of Grace – Smith reported that WOG sent seventeen care packages to members of the church who are away at college or the military.

Mutual Ministry – Did not meet.

Parish Education – Did not meet.

Christian Life – Did not meet.

Property – Huber reported that the committee was seeking quotes for a variety of items which were noted on the list of projects needed for the church. Olson commented, "It doesn't hurt to get quotes. The biggest thing is new air conditioning units (updated to more efficient units). Olson continued; noting issues with the downspouts and cosmetic work outside. Huber stated the committee is going to get a hold of a painter and have them go around the building and just start marking off some things and give us quote, because come spring, there's just cosmetic work that we need to get done.

GREETINGS TO ALL WHO KNIT OR CROCHET! Our Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in 2011. Seventy-one shawls have been given to church members who were struggling with serious health issues. About 2013, the need was not so great and we also, through death or moving away, lost many of our faithful knit and crochet folks. We NEED people who knit or crochet as the need for shawls is increasing and we can't keep up with the need. You do this at home on your own time and then bring the shawl to the church office when finished. Delivery is done by another person. This is a very rewarding service for you and for Grace Lutheran! Help yourself to the packets on the table in the narthex. They contain knit and crochet patterns, or you may use your own pattern as well as prayers that can be said while making the shawl. We have some yarn left that will be in the office. Just let us know if you have need. We hope if you knit or crochet, you will prayerfully consider joining us in this ministry.



Sincerely, Ruth Leistikow and Mary Fields

FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS WILL BE HOSTED BY GRACE LUTHERAN the week of **January 26-February 1, 2020**. Watch for emails and sign up sheets in the weeks ahead and please help as you are able. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

ALTAR FLOWERS sign up sheet is in the narthex. Sign up on the calendar, order your flowers and have them delivered or bring them to church by 4:30 PM on Friday that week, and be sure to call the office with information for the bulletin.

HANDS OF GRACE is a fund established to assist community members in need. Your gifts to Hands of Grace are always appreciated. Money is used for gas vouchers, food cards, assistance with medical bills or utility bills, and emergency needs. Thank you to all who have contributed this year to Hands of Grace. You are helping to make a positive difference!

DEAR GRACE FAMILY, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the kindness and generosity we have received during Ariel's cancer treatment. Thanks for the contributions to the benefit that Sue Fillhouer worked so hard to put together for us. (Don't take the high deductible insurance. It'll bite you!!) The cards, calls, gifts and well-wishes have cheered, the prayers have helped in every way. God bless you all. Merry Christmas!

— Ariel & Bobbie Thomas

DEAR GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, Thank you so much for the care package you sent me. It was very nice to have something sweet after a long day. :) I pray all of you are well and having a happy Christmas season. My unit is now in Kuwait and getting adjusted to life here. It has been about 75 degrees during the day with lots of sun. I do not believe I will see a white Christmas this year!?!

You have my sincere gratitude for the support you have shown me, as well as my family, during this time. I thank God for being part of such a loving church family.

God's peace be with you,

Joel Dieckhoff

