

MARCH 2020



LENT

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Monroe, Wisconsin

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

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MONROE, WI 53566
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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

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

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

Larry Rood (Vice-President) 328-4867

Ranee Ellefson-Jones (Secretary) 293-1320

(ellefsonjonesraanee@hotmail.com)

Kristine Leck (Treasurer) 214-6194

Terry Haines 201-1997

Parker Havens (parkerhavens@yahoo.com)

Bill Holland (willholl@tds.net)

Carl Huber 325-7917

Phil Rath (rathpak13@gmail.com)

Cathy Smith 325-2697 (clynmrd@yahoo.com)

WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

The season of Lent has a certain tension to it. On the one hand, it is a solemn time preparing for the Passion of Christ and the resurrection. Spiritual disciplines, such as repentance, prayer, fasting and giving to the needy, are highlighted. In the early centuries of Christianity, Lent was the time for preparing for baptism. Baptisms were part of the Easter celebration. Jesus is resurrected to a new life and the newly baptized are publicly brought into a new life with Jesus. Just like training camps get us ready for sports or practice tests prepare us for ACTs, Lent is a time devoted to our spiritual welfare.

On the other hand, the Sundays in Lent are still observed as “little Easters”. Jesus’ resurrection happened nearly two millennia ago and we do not forget or discount this. So, every time we worship on Saturday or Sunday, we are focused on the living Christ that is with us now and also the teaching of Jesus from those ancient days.

The first two Gospel readings for the season set a tone. On Ash Wednesday, the reading is from Matthew 16. Jesus tells us that when we fast or pray or give to the needy, we do so out of love, not anticipating public recognition. We do these things because we do them for themselves, not to receive accolades. This points us to who we are and also whose we are. That theme of identity comes forward in the first Sunday in Lent as we hear of Jesus’ temptations in the wilderness. The Tempter tries to sow doubt of who and whose Jesus really is. This time in the wilderness, built around fasting and prayer, is to prepare him for the public ministry he will soon assume. His identity as messiah, Son of God and savior comes to the fore. He succeeds in keeping his identity in focus and not succumbing to the temptation of doubt.

We too are tempted and not just by the stuff in the world, but by society’s underlying message that you are not worthy. So, buy this, do that, change such and such, and then you will be worthy, happy, fulfilled. What a lie. You may feel it for some amount of time, but sooner or later those same doubts and messages will come again.

We are not Jesus, but he is with us. Alone, we could never fight the Tempter, but Jesus reminds us that we are so loved, that God came to live with us and died for us. God holds a new life before us, in the here and now and in the hereafter. With that, we are capable of more than we perhaps believe or think.

Blessings during this Lenten season and the focus it may bring,

Pastor John

MARCH BAPTISMS

Carol Mohns
Melody Whipple
Shannon Weber
Avis Lueck
Stephanie Kolden
Jennifer Herbst
Ryan Mathiason
Emily Wardlow
Louis Scherer

Judy Pfingsten
T.J. Rielly
Beth Faith
Ginny East
Timothy Olson
Brian Novak
Regina Weber
Carol Leistiko
Sandy Bestul

Cathy Smith
Jim Redies
Harold Kubly
Hayley Rielly
Zackery Roper
Henry Hemmerling
Blaine Lind
Helen Stauffer
Laurie Kruse

We’re sorry if we missed your baptism here please call the date so that we may include



March baptism. If you don’t see your office to let us know of your baptismal your name next time!

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Blaine & Terry Lind
John & Judy Pfingsten
Mark & Anna Nesbitt



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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Chezney Leck	3/1	Jay Goebel	3/15
Josef Scherer		Eric Holthaus	
John Dieckhoff	3/2	Quinn Schultz	
Kyle Everson		Ellen Mathiason	3/16
Taryn Bomkamp	3/3	Kayla Petersen	
Susan Fillhouer		Cathy Smith	
Roberta Moe		Debbie Weis	
Ann Uresk		Erik Everson	3/18
Steve Field	3/4	Jonna Heins	3/20
Sharon Clark	3/6	Errin Olson	
Dave Wilhelmson		Mark Nesbitt	3/21
Kate Cessna	3/9	Haylie Olson	3/22
Stefanie Grambow		Roderick Rath	3/23
Jerry Casselberry	3/10	Bailey Covey	3/24
Ginny East		Brenda Patterson	
Kristine Leck		Melissa Teasdale	
Emerson Cessna	3/11	Lilliana Valentino	
Brooklyn Derendinger		Tom Ackerman	3/26
Sara Ackerman	3/13	Adrienne Bahler	
Terry Haines		Joan Everson	3/27
Terry Lind		John Pfingsten	
Alexa Bader	3/14	Joan Rufenacht	
Ashleigh Olson		Coltin Craig	3/29
Brady Wyss		Ryan Leistiko	



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

Sewing in March 2020

ACOLYTES

Sat., Mar. 7.....	Lily Laws
Sun., Mar. 8.....	Needed
Sat., Mar. 14.....	Taylor Herbst
Sun., Mar. 15.....	Ryan Mathiason
Sat., March 21.....	Needed
Sun., March 22.....	D.J. Rath
Sat., Mar. 28.....	Brady Wyss
Sun., Mar. 29.....	Abbey Matley

ALTAR GUILD Linen Committee

LITURGISTS

Sat., Mar. 7.....	Laurie Kruse
Sun., Mar. 8.....	Louis Scherer
Sat., Mar. 14.....	Tim Olson
Sun., Mar. 15.....	Jim Sinkule
Sat., March 21.....	Rebekah Rath
Sun., March 22.....	Ellen Mathiason
Sat., Mar. 28.....	Roderick Rath
Sun., Mar. 29.....	Sam Mathiason

MISSIONARY SPONSORS

Mar. 7 & 8.....	Open
Mar. 14 & 15.....	Bob & Ruth Leistikow
Mar. 21 & 22.....	Ryan Mathiason
Mar. 28 & 29.....	Women of Grace

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

ORGANISTS

March 7.....	Natasha Patterson
March 14.....	Natasha Patterson
March 21.....	Maynard Heins
March 28.....	Maynard Heins
Sundays in March.....	Ann Uresk

USHERS

Saturdays in March:	Jerry & Patti Casselberry
Sundays in March.....	Volunteers Needed



LENTEN MEAL HOSTED BY YOUTH Come each Wednesday during Lent to share supper with our youth at 5:00 PM, and then attend our Lenten Worship Series using the Holden Evening Prayer Service at 6:30 PM. Cost of the meal is a free-will offering. Hope you can come! Bring a friend!

LENTEN WORSHIP: FROM MY POINT OF VIEW Join us on **Wednesday evening's during Lent at 6:30 PM** as we hear from some of the people from Jesus' day and get their "point of view." Following is the schedule of guests:
March 11: Nicodemus & Joseph of Arimethea
March 18: Judas
March 25: John, the Beloved Disciple
April 1: Mary Magdalene



80TH BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER In honor of the 80th Birthday of John Pfingsten, you are invited to participate in a card shower. He will be turning 80 on March 27th. Cards can be sent to him at Monroe Health Services, 516 26th Avenue, Room 107, Monroe WI 53566. Visitors welcome!

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS CARD SHOWER You are invited to let Ariel Thomas know you are thinking of him as he undergoes surgery on March 5th. He will be in the hospital for a week or two recovering. Please send cards to their home, and Bobbie will make sure they are delivered: Ariel Thomas, 2111 12th Avenue, Monroe WI 53566.



Sunday, March 8, 2020

FEBRUARY 2019 PARISH ACTIONS

FUNERALS



Willie Kolden, February 7, 2020

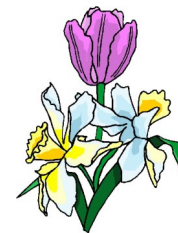
Mavis Robertson, February 13, 2020

Marsha Griffin, February 21, 2020

LOAVES & FISHES FREE COMMUNITY MEAL will be held here on **Sunday, March 22nd from 4:00-6:00 PM**. Come and enjoy a wonderful meal and fellowship.



ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER and are not quite sure what you could put your Thrivent Dollars towards? Parish Ed has a need for "seed money" for the following Youth Group and Sunday School Events/Action Teams coming up: **Sunday School Store** (education) - help purchase materials for our Sunday school youth, **Mother's Day Brunch Food** (fundraiser) - fundraiser used to raise money for our Youth Group, **Mother's Day Brunch Advertising & Marketing** (fundraiser) - fundraiser used to raise money for our Youth Group, **VBS** - community event to share the good news with our youth. This is by no means a complete list of the Grace Lutheran Church activities but they are areas the Youth Group and Sunday School could use your support/seed money with. Please see other church committees or members of the congregation for other Thrivent Action Team needs.



EASTER FLOWERS will be ordered at the end of this month to adorn the altar area on Easter Sunday. Forms are available in the narthex, and the deadline to order is Sunday, March 29. \$25 is the cost for a double Lily or a Hydrangea. Don't forget to take them home after Easter to enjoy or share with a friend or neighbor!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM, Celtic Worship w/ Breakaway Fiddle Group 10:00 AM, Sunday School 10:15-11:30 AM, Middle/High School Young Adult Bible Study	2 9:00 AM, Women of Grace Steering Committee 6:30 PM, Grace Family Promise Wrap-Up and Evaluation Meeting	3 9:00 AM, Sarah Circle 6:00 PM, Property Committee	4 Lent 1 9:00 AM, Bible Study 5:00 PM, Lenten Supper 5:30 PM, Praise Band 6:30 PM, Lenten Worship 7:15 PM, Adult Choir	5 6:00 PM—7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study w/Regina Weber	6	7 7:30 AM, Men's Breakfast with the BIBLE at church 5:00 PM, Worship
8 9:00 AM, Praise Band Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School 10:15 AM, Mutual Ministry 10:15-11:30 AM, Middle/High School Young Adult Bible Study	9 6:30 PM, Family Promise Orienta- tion and Training at the Family Promise Day Center, 615 26th St.	10 4:00 PM, Memorial Committee 5:15 PM, Staff Support 6:00 PM, Worship & Music	11 Lent 2 No Bible Study Today 5:00 PM, Lenten Supper 5:30 PM, Praise Band 6:30 PM, Lenten Worship 7:15 PM, Adult Choir	12 6:00 PM—7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study w/Regina Weber	13	14 5:00 PM, Worship
15 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School 10:15-11:30 AM, Middle/High School Young Adult Bible Study	16 12:30 PM, Lydia Circle meets at church	17 10:00 AM, Coffee Hour w/Pastor John at Chocolate Temptations	18 Lent 3 9:00 AM, Bible Study 5:00 PM, Lenten Supper 5:30 PM, Praise Band 6:30 PM, Lenten Worship 7:00 PM, Finance Committee 7:15 PM, Adult Choir	19 8:30 AM, Quilters 6:00 PM—7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study w/ Regina Weber	20	21 5:00 PM, Worship
22 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School 10:15-11:30 AM, Young Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM, 5th Grade First Communion Class w/Parents 4:00 PM, Loaves & Fishes Free Community Meal	23 7:00 PM, Church Council Meeting	24	25 Lent 4 9:00 AM, Bible Study 5:00 PM, Lenten Supper 5:30 PM, Praise Band 6:30 PM, Lenten Worship 7:15 PM, Adult Choir	26 6:00 PM—7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study w/Regina Weber	27	28 5:00 PM, Worship
29 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School 10:15-11:30 AM, Young Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM, 5th Grade Seder Meal w/Family	30	31				 MARCH 2020

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

WHAT'S UP?: YOUNG ADULT STUDY On **Sunday mornings** following service, middle and high school youth are invited to participate in an opportunity to discover the Gospel and how it relates to their lives. Each week's lesson is independent of the others so students can jump in at any time or stop by one week to see "What's Up". The lessons will run from the end of service until about 11:30 AM.



BREAKFAST WITH THE BIBLE Searching for a way to connect with other men of faith in a comfortable, non-confrontational environment? The **first Saturday of every month** confirmed males of GLC and the community are invited to share a bite to eat and a conversation with the Bible (and other topics important to the participants). The lesson runs from 7:30 AM until about 9:00, or whenever the group needs to leave. Breakfast varies from coffee / doughnuts to eggs / pancakes. Come for the food...stay for the fellowship!



FAMILY PROMISE ORIENTATION/TRAINING is scheduled for all of you who would like to participate in this program, but have not yet had the formal training. Meet at the Family Promise Day Center, 615 26th Street, on **Monday, March 8th from 6:30—8:00 PM!** I am asking that everyone please RSVP to directorfpofgc@gmail.com so I have an idea of how many people to plan for! You may also call the Day Center at 608-328-2600. **SPECIAL NOTE:** If this date does not work for you please let me know and I will set up an alternate date and time for another program. Thank you for your support! I look forward to meeting you and keep in mind, volunteer applications will be available and can be completed the evening of the training. We also encourage youth to get involved and we have Youth Applications as well. Thank you, Rick

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS FOR 5TH GRADE STUDENTS Our 5th grade class and their parents will be meeting with Pastor John on Sunday's, March 22 & 29 during the Sunday School hour. On Sunday, March 29th the Seder Meal will be shared. Please RSVP the church office (325-9172) to let us know how many members of your family will be participating. The kids will then receive their First Communion on **Palm Sunday, April 5 at the 9:00 AM service.**



MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP We support our missionary family in Hungary, Rev. Rachel Eskesen and Zachary Courter. Follow their ministry to the people of Hungary at <https://zachandrachel.wordpress.com>. Sign up to sponsor them for a week at a cost of \$35/week. Sign up on the calendar in the narthex.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED If you would like to know more about any of our committees, music program, Sunday School, or any area of ministry that interests you, please call the office at 325-9172. Help us to find a place for you to feed your passion!