

AUGUST 2020



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Monroe, Wisconsin

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

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MONROE, WI 53566
PERMIT NO. 13
Return Service Requested

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
Phone: 608-325-9172

WEBSITE: www.gracelmonroe.org

Worship Schedule
Suspended Until Further Notice

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am—Noon & 1:00—4:30 PM
Friday, 8:30 am — Noon

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

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

I was recently part of a conversation that discussed inadequacies. You know the feeling of not being good enough or whatever you do not being appreciated or seen as adequate. This can be with supervisors and colleagues at work or at home with family. It may be caused by limited resources leading us to take shortcuts or a “that’s good enough attitude”. Laziness can also take us there.

The pandemic has exacerbated this trend and these feelings for many. It shines a light on what we think we know and on the fears that we carry. Living through this pandemic is challenging on a good day and paralyzing on a bad one. Many are afraid of contracting the virus and how it may affect their bodies and health. There is unease for those who are physically at risk. The economy and those out of work also garner our concern. We are making our way through a murky environment trying to watch our steps and also go forward.

There is an anxiety that no matter what precautions a person takes, they may contract the virus. Whatever we do, it may not be enough. you should do what you should – have good hygiene, keep your distances, eat healthfully, get your sleep, move your body. But also recognize the anxiety or fear that is present. Don’t be controlled by it, but recognize it and use it.

As Lutheran Christians, this sense of not being good enough or feeling adequate is one we are familiar with. We are reminded constantly through Scripture that we are broken and sinful. Left to ourselves, we can never overcome this nature. But God through Jesus Christ makes us more than adequate, more than good enough. We are made the children of God, in spite of our inadequacies.

A few years ago, Peder Eide released a song entitled “As Is”. The song lists a number of Scripture’s heroes and their imperfections. These include Paul, Timothy, Moses, Jonah and many others. God finds a way to use imperfect and even anxious people during imperfect and anxious times. Live out your faith right now. There will never be a better time.

Be kind and understanding to one another. Stay safe and healthy. Pray. Talk to a loved one or friend. Be strong in and through God and those around you.

Pastor John

AUGUST BAPTISMS

Lynda Fernstaedt
Nicole Wyss
Cindy Rupnow
Jaryn Wardlow
Reid Boyd
Danielle Schrenk
Michael Kielty
Megan Chapman

Parker Havens
Nathan Olson
Rose Wahler
Jacob Teasdale
Doug Bahler
Ruth Zentner
Ethan Witt
Robert Derendinger, Jr.

Kristine Parr
Greg Bahler
Colleen Pederson
Stefanie Grambow
Kyle Ellefson-Jones
Kimberly Rielly
Brinlee Chapman
Logan Derendinger



We’re sorry if we missed your August 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!

AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Rod & Brenda Steinke
Dick & Glenda Yaun
Jim & Anita Huffman
Sam & Ellen Mathiason
Josef & Lori Scherer
Chuck & Marilyn Ekena
Alvin & Shirley Gobeli
Roger & Eileen Kubly
Jerry & Robin Schwaiger



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

JULY 2020 PARISH ACTIONS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Les Kruse, Jr.	8/1	Shirley Holland	8/17
Shane Olson	8/2	Cindy Nipple	
Dennis Clark	8/4	Steve Rupnow	
Ruth DeNure		Jeremiah Stiner	
Gerald Meier		Cody Faith	8/18
Drew Wyss		Clareda Neuenschwander	8/19
Curt Bahler	8/5	Darlene Lancaster	8/20
Sam Larson		Mary Ann Matthews	
Jonathan Olson		Michael Reynolds	
Myron Olson		Alvin Gobeli	8/21
Julie Verschage	8/6	Carissa Scheider	
Abigail Rielly	8/7	Aspen Bader	8/22
Jim Huffman	8/8	Judy Nelson	
Rosemary Hoover	8/9	John Schroeder	
Anthony Reynolds		Brevin Whipple	
Zachary Ruch		Peggy Ivik	8/23
Judy Johnson	8/10	Beverly Witt	8/25
Abbea Havens		Oliver Bahler	8/26
Patricia Coppes	8/11	Corrine Jacobson	8/27
Robin Berg	8/12	Jesse Scheider	8/28
Kade Ellefson-Jones		Larry Rood	8/29
Miles Gerber		Rachele Thompson	8/31
Ellie Johanson	8/13		
Sharon Potts			
Katie Brugger	8/14		
Beverly Graber			
Jana Miller			
Kayla Rodebaugh	8/15		
Darleen Broge	8/16		
Jim Fillhouer			
Justin Gerber			
Ron Moe			
Konnie Thompson			

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



TRANSFER RECEIVED Roger & Penny Mayer transferred from Wiota Lutheran Church

VACATION SCHEDULE Our secretary, Beth Faith will be on vacation two weeks in August. Thank you to Deb Heitkamp for volunteering her time to staff the office during that time. Deb will be here Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm while Beth is away August 10-21, 2020.

TO ALL THE PRAYER SHAWL ANGELS thank you, thank you all for making prayer shawls for us. We now have a good supply! Everyone, give your hands a deserved rest for a while. We will check our supply in October, and update you then. Again, thanks for all the lovely shawls!

—Ruth Leistikow & Mary Fields

VOLUNTEERS FOR LAWN CARE Many thanks to all who have helped keep the grounds looking nice! Special thanks to Jerry Gelbach, Roger & Chris Alston and Jim Sinkule for their regular care of our property. We are looking for other volunteers to assist them. We will provide mower and gas. If you would like to help in August, please call the church office! Thank you!

SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM NEEDED We are seeking 2-3 people to serve as a media team when we re-group for worship. If social media is your passion, please call the church office to volunteer your gifts!

AUGUST USHERS NEEDED We are in need of ushers for Saturday evening and Sunday morning worship services. Very little is needed, but a willing body! If you would be able to help us out Saturday or Sunday please call Beth in the office at 325-9172 to volunteer. Many thanks!

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet at the home of Dee Signer on **Monday, August 17th at 6:00 PM.**

FALL PLANS for Sunday School and Confirmation, etc. will be announced as soon as we have a clearer picture of life. Know that these things are in our thoughts and plans are being made to continue to be Grace Lutheran and provide these ministries this fall!

**Church Council meeting through Zoom
June 22, 2020**

Members Present: Cathy Smith, Larry Rood, Shane Olson, Bill Holland, Scott Christensen, Terry Haines and Pastor John Tabaka

Member(s) Absent: Renee Jones, Carl Huber, Parker Havens and Kristine Leck
Pastor John opened meeting with Prayer

Council minutes: See Minutes. Motion by Terry, second by Cathy and Carried.

Finance: All bills current. Motion was made by Larry Rood to change line item 111 in current asset to read WBT Investment/ Roof fund. The church is receiving quotes to replace the church roof. This will be a major Campaign to Raise the Money. Seconded by Bill Holland, Motion carried. Motion to approve finance by Holland, Seconded by Scott, all approved

Property: A quote from All Star Power Wash was presented. The quote was to power wash, prime and paint the Church soffit and over hangs all wood and metal doors and Sunday school windows. Property will discuss further at the next meeting and move forward

White house landscaping quote by Voegeli Landscaping was presented by Larry. The bid included the fixing of the back-yard grass area with fresh soil and new seed and straw to fix ruts left by construction. The back, side and front of the White house will get a makeover with boarder and rocks.

Bill Holland reviewed the Church Elevator Contract from Otis. The Church will continue with the normal maintenance and service quarterly and deal with any major issues as they arise.

The property committee and council would like to thank Roger and Chris Alston, Jim Sinkule and Jerry Gelbach for all their hard work in keeping the Church looking great. The yard and all landscaping look great. Thank you, Terry, for the continued hard work in keeping the Church inside Clean and looking great.

Pastors Thoughts: “The Church is Back” Church Services started back June 20th and 21st with service. Pastor is looking for someone to help “live stream” church service for continued online options.

Working on Sunday School and Confirmation reintroduction.

Motion to adjourn by Terry, second by Cathy and carried. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Next Meeting July 27th 2020. Devotions Larry Rood.

**Grace Lutheran Church
Monroe, Wisconsin
Re-assembling Procedures**

We come together as the Church to praise God and support one another. In concern for our neighbor and to limit transmission of COVID-19, Grace Lutheran will adhere to these procedures initially as we re-assemble. These will be adjusted as the situation warrants.

- People who are feeling ill or have been exposed to COVID-19 or have a compromised immune system should not attend worship.
- When entering the building, the use of hand sanitizer and a face mask is expected.
- Maintain proper physical distancing.
- The outer doors will be left open as people arrive and leave.
- Bulletins will be self-serve.
- The offering plate will be on the table next to the bulletins.
- Worshippers will be seated or directed to their seats by an usher.
- The pews will be designated for Saturday use or Sunday use.
- Seating will be from the front of the sanctuary to the back and should be staggered within the pew.
- Families will sit together. Physical distancing will be maintained in the pews.
- The bulletin will include all information. Pew racks have been emptied and hymnal will not be used.
- Service of the Word will be used. No Communion at this time.
- We will not have a liturgist.
- No congregational singing. Keyboard/soloists will provide music.
- Passing the peace will take place with physical distancing.
- At the end of the service, the outer doors will be opened.
- Ushers will dismiss pews from back to front at the close of worship. They will proceed to the next pew once the prior pew has exited the building.
- Pastor John will greet worshippers in the Narthex as they exit.
- Bulletins can be discarded in a bin upon exiting.
- Sanctuary windows will be left open for air exchange.
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned/disinfected.
- We will continue to post a weekly devotional or worship service online.