

JANUARY 2021



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

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

Office Hours

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

Friday, 8:30 am—Noon

Pastor

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

Visitation Pastor

Rev. Richard Thickpenny

Custodian

Terry Kolanda

Director of Music/Church Musician

Ann Uresk

Secretarial Staff

Deacon Beth Faith (gracele@tds.net)

Financial Secretary

Abbea Havens

2021 Church Council Representatives

Larry Rood (Vice-President) 328-4867

Parker Havens (parkerhavens@yahoo.com)

Bill Holland (willholl@tds.net)

Carl Huber 325-7917

Scott Christiansen 558-6161

(scott.christiansen@scompanies.com)

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

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

We are deep in the Christmas season and preparing for a new calendar year. We have celebrated Christmas day in some fashion. It was probably not like any other before. And now the New Year is approaching. The world will most likely breathe a sigh of relief once 2020 comes to a close.

The Christmas season addresses the heartache and despair that many feel. In the northern hemisphere, it is a dark, cold, brooding time. We look to a time of light, life and warmth. This is not just reflective of our physical being, but our emotional and spiritual needs. Many Christmas hymns touch on this tension of light and darkness, of despair and salvation. The first verse of “O Holy Night” juxtaposes a broken world desiring wholeness and the Messiah who brings it:

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” tells of the angelic chorus coming to the shepherds on those hills outside of Bethlehem. The angels come “with Good News of great joy...that the Messiah is born”. The shepherds stand in for all humanity as they welcome this new-born king. The shepherds were part of a world that needed saving. We know that world all too well.

All ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing

With Christmas comes the celebration of Jesus as baby and savior. He is Immanuel, God With Us. God is with us in the midst of our troubles, doubts and anxiety. He is the Light that darkness cannot overcome.

Pastor John

JANUARY BAPTISMS

Nolan Ashbaugh
Audrina Whipple
Melanie Zentner
Cindy Heins
Eric Tabaka
Sam Mathiason
Jerry Weldon
Marcia Blumer

Delila Hess
Tim Schultz
Marilyn Hauser
Linnea Tabaka
Matthew Sinkule
Timothy Kubly
Del Heins
Jenna Wehinger

Addison Whipple
Vicki Wiegel
Austin Camron
Grace Mathiason
Steve Trost
Ann Hunter
Carol Ruch



We're sorry if we missed your January 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!

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Ken & Joan Chapin

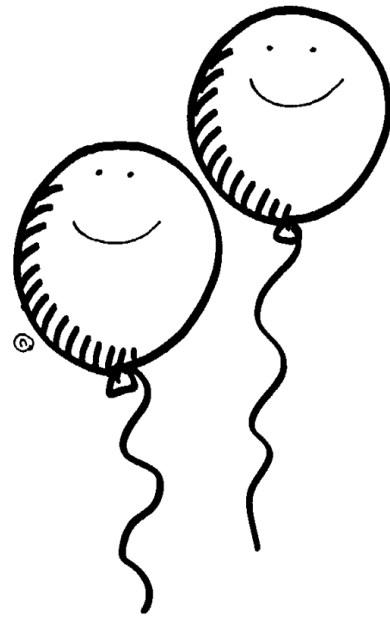


We're sorry if we missed your January anniversary. Please call the office to let us know of your anniversary date so that we may include your name next year!

SUPPORT OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY IN HUNGARY There is a sign up at church to support our missionary family. The cost is \$35 each week. These offerings support the ministry being shared in Hungary by Rev. Rachel Eskesen and Zachary Courter. Call the office if you would like to support this ministry. They send a newsletter each month that we will send you the link to! Thank you for supporting the missionary ministry through the ELCA.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bailie Meier	1/1	Bob Ellefson	1/25
Spencer Siekert	1/2	Del Heins	1/26
Martha Scherer	1/3	Deb Dieckhoff	1/29
Leland Drewes	1/4	Ray Siekert	1/30
Karl Kuester		Jerrica Stiner	
Cindy McKeown	1/5	Marilyn Ekena	1/31
Regina Meighan		Rod Steinke	
Grace Schrenk	1/7		
Patti Casselberry	1/8		
Bob Leistikow			
Kayleigh Nesbitt			
Dean Signer			
Richard Carpenter	1/9		
Joan Chapin			
Connie Cline			
Cory Scheider			
Thor Thompson			
Brenda Steinke	1/10		
Gail Zeitler	1/13		
Lori Timm	1/17		
Geri Bartholf	1/18		
Bob Ault	1/20		
Amy Jacobson			
Blaine Lind	1/22		
Kelsey Plagge			
Ryan Mathiason	1/23		
Brian Novak			



We are 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!

DECEMBER 2020 PARISH ACTIONS

FUNERAL



John Pfungsten, husband of Judy Pfungsten
December 7, 2020 at Grace Lutheran Church

Betty Albertson
December 16, 2020 at Grace Lutheran Church

Dennis Swiggum, husband of Jane Swiggum
December 31, 2020

NEW MEMBERS

Mark & Marcie Patterson, Jack & Emma
Mark & Katy Dickson, Mara, Milo & Skye

ALTAR GUILD OPPORTUNITY If you want to be involved in the church, but have limited time, or if you have all the time in the world and need something to do to occupy some time, our Altar Guild could use your help! We are looking for additional members to join this group. Committees rotate months, so you do not serve every month. Don't know a thing about Altar Guild? Call the office and we will share more details with you. We train, so don't let that stop you. During this pandemic the duties are minimal. Please consider!

ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021, 10:00 AM Please see the Annual Report included in this mailing. We will gather, socially distanced and masked, in the sanctuary. We will elect Church Council representatives and approve a budget for the 2021 year.

SYNOD NEWS If you would like to see what is going on in our Synod, get access to resources, and be in-the-know, copy the link below and check them out online! <https://scsw-elca.org/news/>

BIRTHDAYS, BAPTISM DATES, ANNIVERSARIES If you are not included in any of these special announcements, please call the office at 325-9172 and update our information. We want to celebrate with you and share these events with your church family!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY 2021					1 New Year's Day Happy New Year! Church Office Closed	2 5:00 PM, Worship w/ Communion
3 9:00 AM, Worship w/ Communion	4	5 6:00 PM, Property Committee	6 Epiphany 5:30 PM, Praise Band Practice 6:00 PM, Handchimes	7 8:30 AM, Quilters	8	9 5:00 PM, Worship w/Hymn Hum
10 The Baptism of our Lord 9:00 AM, Worship w/Hymn Hum 10:00 AM, Annual Meeting	11	12 4:00 PM, Memorial Committee 5:30 PM, Staff Support via Zoom 6:00 PM, Worship & Music via Zoom	13 5:30 PM, Praise Band Practice 6:00 PM, Handchimes 6:00 PM, Confirmation via Zoom	14	15	16 5:00 PM, Worship w/ Communion
17 9:00 AM, Worship w/ Communion 10:00 AM, Sunday School via Zoom	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed Today 12:30 PM, Lydia Circle via Zoom	19	20 5:30 PM, Praise Band Practice 6:00 PM, Handchimes 6:00 PM, Confirmation via Zoom 6:00 PM, Finance Committee	21 8:30 AM, Quilters	22	23 5:00 PM, Worship
24 The Transfiguration of our Lord 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School via Zoom 31 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School via Zoom	25 7:00 PM, Church Council Meeting	26	27 5:30 PM, Praise Band Practice 6:00 PM, Handchimes 6:00 PM, Confirmation via Zoom	28	29	30 5:00 PM, Worship

Church Council Meeting by ZOOM
Nov 23nd 2020

Members Present: Cathy Smith, Larry Rood, Shane Olson, Bill Holland, Parker Havens and Pastor John Tabaka

Member(s) Absent: Renee Jones, Carl Huber, Scott Christiansen and Kristine Leck
Pastor opened meeting with Prayer

Council minutes: See Minutes from Oct. Pastor recommended that the Contract from life line be highlighted in the monthly newsletter to outline #1 option that council had agreed to.

Motion to accept Oct minutes as read with the amended offer stated by Pastor John by Parker, Second by Cathy. Motion carried

Finance and Treasurer: With Abbea's absence due to illness no reports were available, Bill Holland motioned to table till next month, Second by Parker. Motion Carried

Memorial: no meeting

Worship and Music: Advent prepared.

Confirmation service went well

All Saints Service went well

Three Christmas Eve Services are being planned this year. (5:00,7:00&9:00 RSVP only) with communion being planned.

Ushers are needed

Staff Support: Staff Performance Reviews have been completed for Beth, Ann, Terry and Abbea
Committee is recommending a 1.5% pay increase to Council

Women of Grace: 43 thank you cards sent out for Thanksgiving to our senior Members

Mutual Ministry: No Meeting

Parish Education: Sunday School still going well by ZOOM. 3-8 students on average per week.

Thank you Bobby Thomas, for stepping in to help with the Sunday school message.

Confirmation is going well. Students doing well to zoom and schedule

January or February is being planned for 3rd grade Bibles and 1st communion

Christian life: No Meeting

Property: East side heat tapes for the rain gutters have been replaced. Larry Rood, Carl Huber and Shane Olson donated their time to help out. A special thank you to M&D Equipment for donating a High lift to make the job easier. A special thanks to Carl for checking the Sunday School roof and sealing some bad spots with Rubber sealant. The Church Roof shingles is ending its life and the Sunday school roof is showing many areas of shingles ripping off. A Major Roof Campaign is soon to start along with some new roof rain gutters and leaf guards throughout the church roof White House: A broken window was discovered. It is being addressed

Pastors Thoughts: Grace Lutheran church services still moving forward. Pastor pointed out that many area Churches are not gathering for holiday services and or regular Sunday services

New Business: Pastor John noted that with the annual congregational meeting coming up in January he felt it would be a good idea for a backup plan to hold the meeting by Zoom if needed. It has been recommended by the synod to have a resolution in place. A motion was made by Bill, seconded by Cathy and the motion carried

Pastor Noted church budget needs to be published by next council Meeting Dec 21st for approval

A request by an outside member to use the church kitchen to prepare meals for the Holidays. More info needed.

Larry Rood and Bill Holland shared information regarding the Men's resource center "Call Line"

They stated Beth Faith has expressed interest in helping with the Men's resource center "Call Line"

This would involve Beth answering calls from the Resource center inquires and forward to the right channel. These Phone calls would be Through the Church Phone number (a second line recommended) or a Cell Phone which could remain separate

After a lengthy discussion and suggestions Larry and Bill would follow up with the Resource center Board and would keep council updated

Old Business: New life video ordered and scheduled for Jan or Feb

Motion to adjourn by Bill, second by Parker and carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer
Next Meeting Dec 21st 2020

THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING POINSETTIAS

- Carol J. Mohns in memory of Gordon Mohns, Robert & Mildred Mohns & Myra Rear
- Jim Munro
- Ann Uresk in loving memory of her parents Louis & Corinne Uresk, her brother Eric Uresk and grandparents Eric & Martha Blomquist
- Richard Thickpenny in loving memory of Ruth
- Les & Laurie Kruse, Jr. in loving memory of Les' parents Bud & Evelyn Kruse
- Shane & Errin Olson in honor of their children and in memory of those family members they have lost
- In loving memory of Ken & Thora Zeitler from their family
- In loving memory of Gordie Wahler from Rose, Lori & Dennis Timm and Robert & Tina Wahler
- In loving memory of Walter & Ruth Bahler from their family
- In loving memory of Romaine Sylvia Meier from Jerry, Mary Lynn, Michelle & Roberta
- In honor of Barb Sathoff and in memory of Mo Sathoff from the Mathiason family
- In honor of Renee Mathiason and in memory of Doug Mathiason from the Mathiason family
- Joyce Smith in loving memory of her husband Bill
- Jim Smith & Mary Jo Hasler in loving memory of their dad Bill Smith
- Bob & Jan Ableman
- In loving memory of Harold & Evelyn Miller from Deacon Lisa Miller



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