

MAY 2024



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Monroe, Wisconsin

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

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## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

The Church's liturgical calendar follows cycles of celebrations and emphases. Christmas and Easter are highlights in this rhythm. Advent and Lent are seasons of preparation for these celebrations. After the Easter season comes the season of Pentecost, which starts with the day of (ironically) Pentecost.

In Judaism, Pentecost is a harvest celebration where the first fruits of the wheat harvest are dedicated to God. It is also connected to the giving of the Law to Moses. Jewish people in the first century would travel to the Temple in Jerusalem for this Holy Day. It was during this celebration, the first one since Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, that the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. The Spirit moved the disciples from their locked room into the street. There, they began telling about Jesus and his salvation. Everyone there was able to understand the words of the disciples no matter their native language.

The Day of Pentecost is a celebration of the Spirit's presence with the Church. It also points Christians beyond the church building toward the world, so we can tell about Jesus and all he has done and continues to do. Fire is the symbol of the Holy Spirit, and the color of the day is red.

The following Sunday is Holy Trinity Sunday. We focus upon the doctrine of the Trinity. We explore the nature of God, the three in one and one in three.

Then we have the long season of Pentecost. That season will actually continue until December. The color is green, signifying growth. The weekly readings will consist of Jesus' teachings and parables and miracles. Some denominations call this "Ordinary Time". This season of Pentecost is not focused on celebrations and festivals. Rather, it reminds us of the importance of the routine of following Jesus day in and day out. The "green season" can feel like a list of those things we ought to do. They are not glamorous, but they are profound. You know: eat healthy foods (especially your veggies), exercise, connect with people, have some alone time, give focus to an activity or hobby. These are some of the ingredients to a healthy and happy life.

Like the list above, the things that disciples do can seem tame and manageable: connect with God through Scripture and prayer, show care for another through an act of service, look for the presence of God in the people and events around you. Be open to the movement of the Spirit within yourself. These are life giving and life changing practices.

Pastor John

## MAY BAPTISMS

Donna Ackerman  
Kristin Hakanson  
Jonna Heins  
Ariel Thomas  
Joan Chapin  
Shirley Leck  
Raymond Siekert  
Spencer Siekert  
Melissa Teasdale  
Karen Helton  
Adrienne Bahler  
Jesse Scheider  
Xander Wiegel  
Kate Cessna  
Dana Depuy

Thomas Ackerman  
Timothy Hakanson  
Karl Kuester  
Tina Wahler  
Kristen Ault  
Errin Olson  
Kimberly Siekert  
Dan Huston  
Krisann Holthaus  
Kaden Kuester  
Roger Mayer  
Dee Signer  
Mary Flisram  
Mary Jo Hasler  
Harley Flannery

Isaac Goeke  
Azaria Hartwig  
Karen Redies  
Chuck Zeitler  
Nikki Brown  
Kayla Petersen  
Ray Siekert, Jr.  
Bob Smith  
Hannah Vetterli  
Lenny Potts  
Jennifer Chapman  
Becky Kamholz  
Coltin Craig  
Wren Rupnow-Hartley  
Traci Schultz

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

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## MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Larry & June Rood  
Karl & Robbyn Kuester  
Darryl & Carol Leistiko  
Dave & Lori Wehinger  
Ariel & Bobbie Thomas  
Ron & Roberta Moe  
Jim & Jean Sinkule  
Thor & Konnie Thompson  
Larry & Wanda Grossen  
Jerry & Vickie Marie Cloutier  
Jerry & Rosemary Hoover  
Steve & Cindy Rupnow  
Domanic & Vicki Wiegel  
Oris & Dana Depuy  
John & Christine Tabaka  
Chad & Tammy Hartwig  
Richard & Jackie Carpenter



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

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## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Larson	5/1
Barb Weldon	5/2
Becky Brown	5/5
Jocelyn Grendahl	5/5
Jaron Kuester	5/5
Jordy Riese	5/5
Kyler Smith	5/6
Logan Witt	5/7
Paul Leck	5/8
Kirsten Vetterli	5/8
John Patterson	5/9
Wynter Laws	5/10
Savannah Block	5/11
Kyle Ellefson-Jones	5/11
Oliver Havens	5/11
Pastor John Tabaka	5/11
Lisa Wunder	5/11
Greg Bahler	5/14
Dana Depuy	5/14
Lori Scherer	5/14
Ethan Witt	5/14
Curt Zentner	5/14
Addison Whipple	5/15
Audrina Whipple	5/15



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Patricia Czajkowski	5/17
Samantha Jorgenson	5/17
Beckett Schuldt	5/19
Taylor Bryant	5/20
Don Jacobson	5/21
Ruth Leistikow	5/21
Parker Havens	5/22
Stella Thoman	5/23
Don Heitkamp	5/24
Nathan Olson	5/26
Chuck Ekena	5/29
Lois Gordee	5/29
Maryskah Rath	5/29
Laura Becherer	5/30
Esther Tregloan	5/30
Wendy Drewes	5/31

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



## Serving in May 2024

### LITURGISTS

*Please consider serving as a Liturgist on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. See the sign up on the office door. There are many opportunities in May. Thank you!*

Sat., May 4.....	Laurie Kruse
Sun., May 5.....	Beth Faith
Sat., May 11.....	Available
Sun., May 12.....	Nikki Austin
Sat., May 18.....	Beth Faith
Sun., May 19.....	Bill Helton
Sat., May 25.....	Available
Sun., May 26.....	Available

### PARISH ACTIONS IN APRIL

**FUNERAL** **Jana Lea (Sowl) Miller**  
mother of Scott, Stacey,  
Shawn & Shad  
April 12, 2024



**BAPTISM** **Brecken David Allen**, son  
of Madalyn Leck & Connor  
Allen, April 14, 2024



I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

### MISSIONARY SPONSORS

Each week Grace Lutheran commits to support our missionary family with a gift of \$35. You are invited to sign up on our Missionary Calendar to help with this ministry. Our missionaries are Zachary Courter & Rachel Eskesen Courter who are serving in Munich Germany. Your participation is appreciated and makes a great difference! Please take a look at the open weeks on the calendar located in the narthex. Thank you for your support!

May 4 & 5.....	Jean & Jim Sinkule
May 11 & 12.....	George Kint
May 18 & 19.....	The Mathiason's
May 25 & 26.....	Women of Grace

### SATURDAY EVENING PIANISTS

Sat., May 4.....	Maynard Heins
Sat., May 11.....	Maynard Heins
Sat., May 18.....	Lance Sathoff
Sat., May 25.....	Natasha Patterson

### ALTAR GUILD

Flower Committee

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Scott Christiansen (*Vice-President*) (scott.christiansen@scompanies.com)....608-558-6161  
Katy Dickson (christensenfarms@gmail.com).....608-214-3525  
Jeri Johnson (*Secretary*) (jerijohnson1216@gmail.com).....608-214-5386  
Sam Mathiason (semathiason@gmail.com).....608-698-6612  
John Patterson .....(jskpat@tds.net)  
Larry Rood (larood@hotmail.com).....608-328-4867  
Lance Sathoff (*Treasurer*) (lsathoff@yahoo.com).....608-558-1038  
Gloria Scherer (moveme@tds.net).....608-214-6646  
Cathy Smith (clynrd@yahoo.com).....608-325-2697  
Ariel Thomas (*President*) (arielbobbie00@gmail.com).....608-558-4840

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

**WEBSITE: [www.gracelcmonroe.org](http://www.gracelcmonroe.org)**

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

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

**Pastor:** Pastor John J. Tabaka E-mail: [pastortabaka@tds.net](mailto:pastortabaka@tds.net)  
**Visitation Pastor:** Rev. Richard Thickpenny  
**Custodian:** Terry Kolanda  
**Director of Music/Church Musician:** Ann Uresk  
**Financial Secretary:** Laurie Kruse  
**Secretarial Staff:** Deacon Beth Faith ([gracelc@tds.net](mailto:gracelc@tds.net))



*“For it is by God’s Grace that you have been saved by Faith”*

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## PLEASE TAKE NOTE...

**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES** We include monthly Council Meeting minutes in our monthly newsletter. If you are ever interested in additional detail, or wish to see the actual meeting minutes from a particular meeting, these are available by calling or stopping by the office!

**IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED** and would like a visit please ask family or friends to let the church office know! The hospital no longer provides that information. Thank you!

**DO YOU WATCH US ON FACEBOOK LIVE?** If so, and if you would like one of our hymnals to follow along and participate, call the office at 325-9172 and we will get you one!

**THE STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE is recognizing Beth Faith’s** 35 ½ years of dedication and unwavering commitment to Grace Lutheran Church as our Executive Secretary. Her service is truly valued and appreciated. In celebration, everyone is invited to join us for treats and coffee on **May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>** after the church service.



**SOFTBALL LEAGUE** Church Softball League is gearing up for another season! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. All abilities are welcome for ages 14+, and 1 game per week, if you can't make a game there will be subs. Please consider this opportunity! Thanks to Milo Dickson for helping to gather a team!

**HOUSE OF HOPE** (a women's sober living home located next door) is having a Community Garage Sale on **May 2nd & 3rd, 9am - 5pm and May 4th 9am - 3pm**. This will be held at the Monroe Church of The Nazarene (W5951 Patina Ln, Monroe). All proceeds go directly to the operations of the Green County House of Hope. Please reach out if you would like to donate your time or items by calling Paul Watkins (719) 201-4865[[nazpaswatkins@gmail.com](mailto:nazpaswatkins@gmail.com)] or Madison Bezik (608) 426-2725[[houseofhope.gewi@gmail.com](mailto:houseofhope.gewi@gmail.com)]. PLEASE NOTE: No clothing will be accepted. Clothing can be donated to the Monroe Community Clothing Closet. Thanks!



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SPRING CLEAN UP DAY** Join us in doing some clean up around church, inside and out. Many hands make the work load light! Join us **Sunday, June 2nd following worship**. There is a sign up sheet on the office door so that we can provide lunch for everyone. Please help if you are able and available! Thank you!

# MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 9:15 AM, Bible Study 2:00 PM, Women of Grace Steering Committee 5:30 PM, Praise Singers 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation Class 7:00 PM, Hand Chimes	<b>2 National Day of Prayer</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9AM—5PM, Community Garage Sale for House of Hope at Church of the Nazarene 5:00 PM, Worship
<b>5</b> 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:00 PM, Property Committee 2:00 PM, Women of Grace Steering Committee	<b>8</b> 9:15 AM, Bible Study 5:30 PM, Praise Singers 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 6:00 PM, Final Confirmation Class 7:00 PM, Hand Chimes	<b>9</b> 8:30 AM, Quilters Group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:00 PM, Worship Pick Up Cheesecake
<b>12 Mother's Day</b> 9:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM, Sunday School Pick Up Cheesecake	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 4:00 PM, Memorial 5:30 PM, Staff Support 6:00 PM, Worship & Music	<b>15</b> 9:15 AM, Bible Study 5:30 PM, Praise Singers 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 6:00 PM, Finance Committee 6:00 PM, Geo Caching & Ice Cream Bar for 6-12th Graders 7:00 PM, Hand Chimes	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 Armed Forces Day</b> 8:00 AM, Synod Assembly at 1st Lutheran, Janesville 5:00 PM, Worship
<b>19</b> 9:00 AM, Worship & Honoring of High School Graduates 10:00 AM, Sunday School Final Day	<b>20</b> 12:30 PM, Lydia Circle Meets 7:00 PM, Church Council (Note: One Week Early)	<b>21</b> 6:00 PM, Christian Life	<b>22</b> 9:15 AM, Bible Study 5:30 PM, Praise Singers 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 7:00 PM, Hand Chimes	<b>23</b> 8:30 AM, Quilters Group	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:00 PM, Worship
<b>26</b> 9:00 AM, Worship 4:00 PM, Loaves & Fishes Free Community Meal	<b>27 Memorial Day</b> Church Office Closed	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting**  
**March 25, 2024**

Called to order 7:00 by Ariel Thomas

**Members Present:** Scott Christiansen, Jeri Johnson, Larry Rood, Ariel Thomas, Cathy Smith, , Gloria Scherer, Sam Mathiason and Pastor John Tabaka

**Absent:** Katy Dickson, Lance Sathoff, and John Patterson

**Devotions-** Sam Mathiason

**Secretarial Report-** The sentence about the state giving our school the money for repairing the radon issue, under the Property committee report, should be omitted because they have to apply for that. Motion to approve amended minutes of the 2-26-2024 Council Meeting by Gloria, second by Scott. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's and Finance Committee Report-** Report by Scott. The computer was fixed for \$200. Motion to approve report by Cathy. Larry seconded it. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Christian Life-** A written report listed many ideas for social events that our church may host. They would like to host one social event per month.

**Memorial-** No meeting

**Mutual Ministry-** No meeting

**Parish Education-** No meeting

**Property Committee-**Larry reported that the radon issue in our educational wing has been improved so far by installing one fan unit. They paid \$3,000 to fix it. They voted to have TriState Gutters fix the Eastside door that fell down from the ice on the roof. Spring clean-up day will be May 19th. The question of whether to raise the rent for the preschool was discussed and Sam made a motion to not raise the rent and Ariel seconded it, as they have been good for the community and pay for needs that come up. Motion carried to not raise the preschool's rent.

**Staff Support-** Sam reported they are considering changing the staff performance evaluation process. They are planning to take the staff out for a meal on April 24th.

**Women of Grace-** Cathy reported the cheesecake sale will be moved to Mother's Day. The PPE needed in the kitchen is here and a poster explaining how to use it.

**Worship and Music -** We voted to pay for a power supply for our sound system for \$150 and a component for \$120 both diagnosed by Trent.

**Pastor's Thoughts -** Loaves and Fishes will resume serving meals at our church on the fourth Sundays of the month and will start May 26th. New Member classes are beginning this week.

**Old Business -** The Audio-Visual job position update is that one person is interested and Trent will talk to them and train whoever accepts the position.

**New Business-** Bill Holland spoke to the Council regarding the United to Amend (UTA) (Campaign finance reform) resolution that can be signed. He described the purpose stated by ELCA congregations that have approved a resolution in favor of UTA. Scott made a motion to discuss it for our synod and Sam seconded it. It was discussed and Gloria made a motion to table the discussion for now. Sam seconded it. Motion carried. Jeri will organize a breakfast for our graduates on Sunday, May 19th, before church about 8:00. We will plan for about 60 people as families are also invited. Our graduates will be recognized during church that day and presented with a blanket.

Motion to adjourn by Scott. Second by Larry. Meeting ended with The Lord's Prayer.  
Next meeting will be April 22, 2024

Jeri Johnson, Secretary

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**TAKE STOCK IN OUR YOUTH** We have three youth and two adults who will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. We are offering you an opportunity to purchase stock in the future of our youth. For \$25 per stock, you will receive a stock certificate, along with a postcard from New Orleans from one of our youth in attendance. Shares can be purchased from any of the youth or chaperones, or in the church office. Thank you for supporting our youth!



**FAMILY PROMISE OPEN HOUSE & DEDICATION OF MELVA GARDENS** will be held at the Family Promise Center, 615-26th Street on **Sat., May 11th from 1-3PM.** with Henry Tschanz and his family. Pastor Mary Gafner will officiate and following the dedication the family will plant the first plants in the gardens. They will also plant two apple trees they have donated to Family Promise. In addition to the Garden Dedication, we will add four bricks to our *Art Bartsch Memorial Patio* to honor our four past Family Promise Board Presidents. (Bob Beck, Angie Parr, David Olson, Ann Bush).

**JUNE 13TH "TEN GRAND IN YOUR HAND" FUNDRAISER FOR FAMILY PROMISE** will again be held at the Ludlow Mansion. Tickets are still available. Call them at 608-328-2600 or see our own Ann Hunter for tickets.