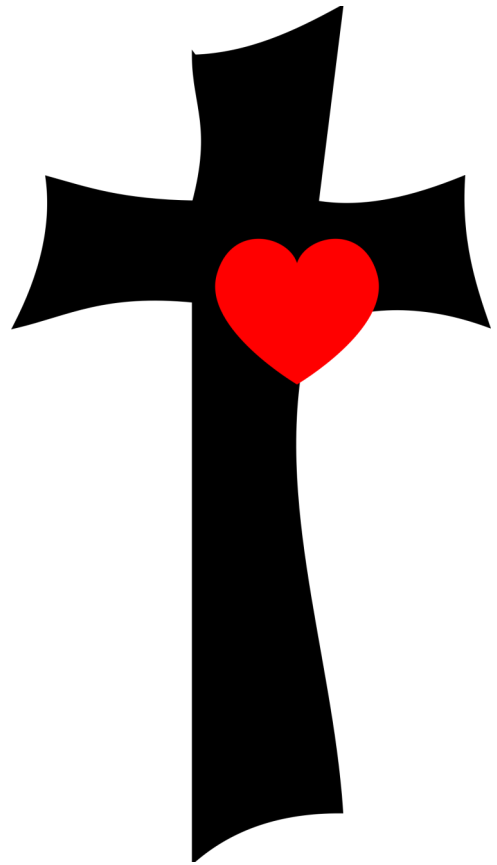


FEBRUARY  
2025



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

### Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer for Peace)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

While this prayer is attributed to St. Francis (1181-1226), it was most likely penned by an anonymous author in France in the early twentieth century. The uncertainty of authorship does not diminish the power and appropriateness of the prayer.

I was recently reminded of the prayer and decided to revisit it. The words are simple, yet elegant. The prayer touches on the relationship we have with ourselves and with those around us. Ultimately, those relationships are reflective of God's love and presence.

We have all encountered hatred, injury, doubt, despair, darkness and sadness. Some of this, we have aimed toward ourselves for what we have done or have ignored to do. Guilt can be motivating in some instances, but it can also be a burden that crushes us. So, this peace may be granted to us through Jesus Christ. This gift of love, pardon, faith, hope, light and joy is ours because of God's love.

The Prayer of St. Francis is a request that God will use us to promote God's kingdom, God's way, in and to the world around us. May we be given the strength to share and exemplify the peace and love of God, "for it is in giving that we receive".

May this simple yet profound prayer guide your days. I have reintroduced the prayer in my devotional time. I invite you to do the same.

Pastor John

## FEBRUARY BAPTISMS

Leland Drewes  
Cindy McKeown  
Jennifer Spielman  
Danielle Sofran  
Maverick Rath  
Randy Whipple  
Blayke Whipple  
Heather Huffman  
Karen Rogahn

Sarah Goeke  
Thor Thompson  
Grace Schrenk  
Luke Johanson  
Les Kruse, Jr.  
Merrix Wiegel  
Debra Kleppe  
Grayson Boyd  
Russ Johnson

Robert Leistikow  
Lori Timm  
Bruce Stiner  
Sean Jorgenson  
Nina Leistiko  
Robert Ault  
Bruce Bahler  
Kylie Miller  
Andrew Neuenschwander

**We're sorry if we missed your February 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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## LENT IS COMING SOON!

Lent is just around the corner! **Ash Wednesday is March 5, 2025!** Beginning on Ash Wednesday we will again have simple suppers before worship from 5:00-6:15 PM. Our confirmation youth and their families will be hosting the Ash Wednesday supper. The 2nd Wednesday, March 12th, Christian Life will host the supper. **We are asking other committees to help by hosting one supper during Lent. Combined committees, or solo, we ask that your committee discuss and make plans to help. Please call the office to indicate what Wednesday will work for you.** Many are taking advantage of Thrivent Dollars to help with costs, but please let us know if you need financial assistance in providing the meal. This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to come together for a light meal and worship. We hope you will plan on joining in!



## FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Joe & Nicole Brown  
Jim & Geri Bartholf  
Dave & Linda Beightol  
Dean & Dee Signer

**We're sorry if we missed your February 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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**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2/2 Anikah Rath  
 2/2 Shannon Weber  
 2/4 Bruce Bahler  
 2/5 Debra Gordee  
 2/5 Emma Patterson  
 2/5 Macallister Wand  
 2/6 Larissa Gille  
 2/7 Beth Faith  
 2/7 Carl Huber  
 2/8 Eric Brugger  
 2/8 Sandy Huston  
 2/8 TJ Kubly  
 2/8 Regina Weber  
 2/8 Huxley Wiegel  
 2/9 Ron Massen  
 2/9 Judy Pffingsten  
 2/11 Tammy Hartwig  
 2/11 Raymond Siekert  
 2/12 Nicole Turner  
 2/13 Anna Brugger  
 2/13 Jack Brugger  
 2/13 Laurie Field  
 2/13 Jim Redies  
 2/14 Jim Bartholf  
 2/14 Gary Kleppe  
 2/14 Cindy Rupnow



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

2/15 Dan Huston  
 2/15 Jim Sinkule  
 2/18 Xander Wiegel  
 2/21 Darrell Busjahn  
 2/21 Jean Meyer  
 2/21 Ariel Thomas  
 2/24 Hazel Gelbach  
 2/24 Laurie Kruse  
 2/25 Mara Dickson  
 2/26 Dianne Gerber  
 2/26 Patty Scheider  
 2/27 Jim Crawford  
 2/27 Kerstin Miller  
 2/28 Mary Flisram  
 2/28 Caitlynn Kamps

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



*Serving in February 2025*

**LITURGISTS**

Sat., Feb. 1.....Beth Faith  
 Sun., Feb. 2.....Open  
 Sat., Feb. 8.....Open  
 Sun., Feb. 9.....Bill Helton  
 Sat., Feb. 15.....Open  
 Sun., Feb. 16.....Ann Hunter  
 Sat., Feb. 22.....Open  
 Sun., Feb. 23.....Bill Helton

*Please consider serving as a Liturgist on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. See the sign up on the office door.*

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

You are invited to provide cut flower arrangements for worship to help adorn the altar area. There is a sign up calendar in the narthex near the north entrance. Sign up for any weekend that is available, and purchase flowers from wherever you prefer. They need to be delivered or brought to church on Friday before the weekend you are signed up. Please call the office that week to let us know what you would like put in the bulletin, especially if you are honoring or memorializing a special someone or something! Take them home following Sunday worship, or pick up the following week to enjoy or share with a friend or neighbor. Thank you!

**MISSIONARY SPONSORS**

Feb. 1 & 2.....George Kint  
*In memory of wife Jan and our February 1st Wedding Anniversary*  
 Feb. 8 & 9.....Available  
 Feb. 15 & 16.....Available  
 Feb. 22 & 23.....Jim & Jean Sinkule

*You can sponsor our missionary family for \$35/week. There is a sign up calendar near the entry way. If you would like to sponsor our missionaries in honor or memory of a special person or event, just call the office to let us know!*

**SATURDAY EVENING MUSICIANS**

Sat., Feb. 1.....Maynard Heins  
 Sat., Feb. 8.....Sarah Johanson  
 Sat., Feb. 15.....Lance Sathoff  
 Sat., Feb. 22.....Sarah Johanson

**ALTAR GUILD**

Stitchery Committee

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Scott Christiansen (*President*) (scott.christiansen@sccompanies.com).....608-558-6161  
Katy Dickson (christensensfarm@gmail.com).....608-214-3525  
Karen Helton.....  
Jeri Johnson (*Secretary*) (jerijohnson1216@gmail.com).....608-214-5386  
Sam Mathiason (*Vice-President*) (sammathiason@gmail.com).....608-698-6612  
Deb Myers (debkm1975@gmail.com).....773-620-6475  
John Patterson .....(jskpat@tds.net)  
Lance Sathoff (*Treasurer*) (lsathoff@yahoo.com).....608-558-1038  
Gloria Scherer (moveme@tds.net).....608-214-6646  
Ariel Thomas (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

### Winter 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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## FROM OUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

The finance committee of any church plays an important role in the life of its congregation. Parishioners rely on their finance team to be faithful stewards of the offerings they give. The responsibilities of Grace Lutheran’s finance committee include the following:

- Ensuring the church is in compliance with legal and financial regulations.
- Proposing and managing the church budget.
- Making recommendations to the church council about how to best manage and distribute your offerings to support the church's mission and ministry.
- Maintaining and auditing financial records.
- Working to ensure the financial health of the congregation.

God has truly blessed Grace through your generous contributions and we are very grateful. We pray that God will guide us as we go about our work to use these gifts to His glory. Prayerfully consider whether this committee might be a good fit for you to join. We meet the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

God’s Blessings,

Lance Sathoff, Scott Christiansen, Chris Alston, Bob Leistikow and Laurie Kruse

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### LET'S BUILD RELATIONSHIPS ONE MEAL AT A TIME. Dinners for Six

We will begin Dinners for Six in February. Dinner for Six is a group of six singles, couples and / or families that commit to have a meal together once a month. It's a great opportunity to get to know one another. When you sign up for Dinner for Six, you will be placed into a group and notified by email or a phone call of your group members and their contact info. There will be a host for each meal that will take care of the main dish. The other five people will bring bread, salad, vegetable and dessert. You will have a meal together and visit, play a game (indoors or outdoors) or anything the host would like to do. Each month we will rotate the groups so we have a different host and other members to meet. ***Please sign up on the office door if you would like to be a part of this wonderful opportunity.*** We will do this for February, March and April. Meals can take place at the host's home or at the church. Contact Regina Weber 608-329-6339 with any questions.

**MEN'S GROUP A Time for Fellowship** We would like to start a men's group at Grace. If you are interested in having fellowship together with other men, ***please sign up at the church office.*** Once we have a list of interested people, we can meet to see what ideas the men would like to do. Meet once a month for Saturday morning breakfast, day trips, outings, etc.

**DO YOU ENJOY COOKING?** It’s important to care for each other when one is in need. We are looking for members who would be willing to make meals to help out members when a new baby arrives, someone has surgery, during a prolonged illness, just moved here or in a time of need. If you are need of help, let the office know that as well!

# FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Watch for Details About a Bowling Party This Month!</i>		<b>Worship &amp; Music Meeting Date &amp; Time To Be Announced</b>				<b>1</b> 5:00 PM, Worship
<b>2</b> 9:00 AM, Worship 10:15 AM, Sunday School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 2:00 PM, Women of Grace Steering Committee NO Property Committee	<b>5</b> 9:15 AM, Bible Study 5:30 PM, Praise Singers 6:00 PM, Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation & Bible Study 7:00 PM, Hand Chimes	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:00 PM, Worship
<b>9</b> 9:00 AM, Worship 10:15 AM, Sunday School	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 4:00 PM, Memorial 5:00 PM, Staff Support	<b>12</b> 9:15 AM, Bible Study 5:30 PM, Praise Singers 6:00 PM, Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation & Bible Study 6:00 PM, Finance Committee 7:00 PM, Hand Chimes	<b>13</b> 8:30 AM, Quilters Group	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5:00 PM, Worship
<b>16</b> 9:00 AM, Worship 10:15 AM, Sunday School	<b>17</b> 12:30 PM, Lydia Circle Meets	<b>18</b> 3:45 PM, Christian Life 6:00 PM, Roof & Property Committee Meeting	<b>19</b> 9:15 AM, Bible Study 5:30 PM, Praise Singers 6:00 PM, Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation & Bible Study 7:00 PM, Hand Chimes	<b>20</b> 6:00 PM, Altar Guild Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5:00 PM, Worship
<b>23</b> 9:00 AM, Worship 10:15 AM, Sunday School 4:00 PM, Loaves & Fishes Free Community Meal	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM, Church Council	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:15 AM, Bible Study 5:30 PM, Praise Singers 6:00 PM, Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation & Bible Study 7:00 PM, Hand Chimes	<b>27</b> 8:30 AM, Quilters Group	<b>28</b> 6:00 PM, Bowling Party with Christian Life at Turner Hall	

**Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting**  
**December 16, 2024**

Called to order 7:00 by Ariel Thomas

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

**Members Absent:** Katy Dickson

**Devotions-** Cathy Smith

**Secretarial Report-** Written report by Jeri. Motion to approve minutes of the 11-25-2024 Council Meeting by John, second by Scott. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's and Finance Committee Report-** Report by Lance. Laurie Kruse will be keeping track of checks written, on a spread sheet as requested by the Woodford Bank to be a safety measure. The fundraising for the roof is doing very well. Motion to approve report by Sam. Scott seconded. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Christian Life-** No meeting

**Memorial-** Written report

**Mutual Ministry-** No meeting

**Parish Education-** No meeting. The Sunday School Christmas program was last Saturday and Sunday during services.

**Property Committee-** No meeting. Larry reported one of the three boiler's heat pump cracked and it was fixed today. It should still be under warranty.

**Staff Support-** No meeting

**Women of Grace-** Written report by Cathy. Upcoming projects were reviewed.

**Worship and Music -**No meeting

**Pastor's Thoughts:** New members attended classes with Pastor John after both services last weekend. Committee chairs need to have the Annual committee reports done by the first Sunday in January.

**New Business -** Next year's budget was discussed. Laurie Kruse's new accounting system is working well and she will simplify the budget for the Congregational Meeting on January 19th. On the Sunday before the meeting, (the 12th), there will be a discussion about the budget during the service, a chance for the congregation to ask questions about it. Sam moved to approve the budget as written and Gloria seconded. Motion carried.

Lance made a motion to approve the amount of \$28,800 for Pastor John's housing allowance. Cathy seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by John. Second by Scott. Meeting ended with The Lord's Prayer  
Next meeting will be January 27, 2025

Jeri Johnson, Secretary

**JANUARY PARISH ACTIONS**

**STUDENTS  
RECEIVE BIBLES**



Wyatt Goeke, son of Drew & Sarah Goeke  
Henry Hakanson, son of Tim & Krissy Hakanson  
Mabel Johanson, daughter of Luke & Sarah Johanson  
Maggie O'Brien, daughter of Jonathan O'Brien

**CELEBRATION  
OF LIFE**



Debra (Deb) Ann Heitkamp, Wife of Don Heitkamp  
Mother of Sarah & Rich  
January 17, 2025

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**LOAVES & FISHES IS BACK** The entire community is invited to attend a meal together the 4th Sunday of each month at Grace Lutheran Church from 4-6 PM. This meal is open to anyone, and is free. Please consider dropping by! Volunteers are always sought as well!

**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!

**MATCHING ROOF FUND DRIVE** Thanks to your generous donations, we not only reached our \$20,000 goal but have raised **\$37,378** in just one month! Let's keep the momentum going and see how far over the goal we can get by the February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline. To-date we have raised a total of **\$193,380!** Thank you!!

**COME BOWL WITH US!** We have planned a Bowling Party on **Friday, February 28th at 6:00 PM!** Christian Life invites you all to join us! The cost is \$6 including shoes (don't let cost stop you from coming...we can help)! Meet at Turner Hall.

