

Grace Lutheran Church  
226 Erickson St  
Elroy WI 53929  
608-462-5398

January 2024



Come Grow  
in Grace

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:10 am

Join us live online on  
Facebook at Grace  
Lutheran Church or later  
on our website:  
[www.gracelutheranelroy.com](http://www.gracelutheranelroy.com)

Kristine Stauffacher,  
Synod Authorized  
Minister

Dave Clark & Crew,  
Custodian

Council Members:  
David Clark  
Mary Houzner  
Kathy Besant  
Mary Miller  
Justin Eckelberg  
Kelly Green  
Keith Clark

# Days of Grace

## Annual Meeting January 28th

Grace Lutheran Church's Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 28 following worship that day. After worship, a light meal will be served by the Youth who will be attending the National Youth Gathering, and they will be accepting donations to help support their trip.

The Annual Meeting will begin about 11:30 am. The agenda will include reports from the treasurer, president, minister, and committees. Elections for open positions on the Council will take place as well as the election of voting members to the Synod Assembly and the Sugar Creek Annual Meeting. We will hear a report from the auditing committee and elect auditors for the next year.

This year, the replacement of the sound system in the sanctuary will also be brought before the congregation. Information on the potential cost and possible ways to fund the project will be shared before the meeting.

Make plans now to be at the meeting so you can be in the know about what is happening in the Grace Lutheran Church and prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be part of the work we are doing together!



## Grace's New Website is Live!

Check us out at: [www.gracelutheranelroy.com](http://www.gracelutheranelroy.com)

OR Open your I-phone camera  
(or QR Reader Ap if you use an Android)  
Focus on the code box to the right  
Tap your phone screen  
You will automatically go to the Grace Lutheran Church  
website on your phone!



It has never been easier to stay connected with all that is happening, watch past worship videos, find information, read bulletins and newsletters, give, or volunteer!

### **Pastor Paul Drees, Interim Pastor at Lu-Min, will preach at Grace on Sunday, January 14th!**

Pastor Paul Drees (he/him) is serving as interim Lutheran Campus Pastor for LuMin, which serves the students of UW-La Crosse, Viterbo, and Western Technical. He has previously served in Southwest Minnesota in interim and settled calls. Before his first call, he graduated from Luther Seminary with a Masters of Divinity (2019) and St. Olaf College with a Bachelors in Social Work (2013). Before starting seminary, he worked with youth in the juvenile justice system and youth who were diagnosed with autism. He's a firm believer that the teachings of Christ will always lead us towards the marginalized, and wishes the church would spend less time on empty moralizing and more time on justice work.



Biking is a major part of Paul's life, when he's not biking around La Crosse, he enjoys going on bike rides with his partner, Anna. He has been enjoying getting to know La Crosse. Beyond biking, he enjoys playing video games with his brother, cooking, reading, and filming short videos for titok (@pastorpauldrees).

Come hear more from Pastor Drees about the exciting ministry happening on campus!



## Grace's New Website is Live!

Check us out at: [www.gracelutheranelroy.com](http://www.gracelutheranelroy.com)

OR Open your I-phone camera  
(or QR Reader Ap if you use an Android)  
Focus on the code box to the right  
Tap your phone screen  
You will automatically go to the Grace Lutheran Church  
website on your phone!



It has never been easier to stay connected with all that is happening, watch past worship videos, find information, read bulletins and newsletters, give, or volunteer!

### **Pastor Paul Drees, Interim Pastor at Lu-Min, will preach at Grace on Sunday, January 14th!**

Pastor Paul Drees (he/him) is serving as interim Lutheran Campus Pastor for LuMin, which serves the students of UW-La Crosse, Viterbo, and Western Technical. He has previously served in Southwest Minnesota in interim and settled calls. Before his first call, he graduated from Luther Seminary with a Masters of Divinity (2019) and St. Olaf College with a Bachelors in Social Work (2013). Before starting seminary, he worked with youth in the juvenile justice system and youth who were diagnosed with autism. He's a firm believer that the teachings of Christ will always lead us towards the marginalized, and wishes the church would spend less time on empty moralizing and more time on justice work.



Biking is a major part of Paul's life, when he's not biking around La Crosse, he enjoys going on bike rides with his partner, Anna. He has been enjoying getting to know La Crosse. Beyond biking, he enjoys playing video games with his brother, cooking, reading, and filming short videos for titok (@pastorpauldrees).

Come hear more from Pastor Drees about the exciting ministry happening on campus!



## Worship Assistants

### Communion Assistants

Jan. 7 Dave & Nikki Houzner  
14 Jack & Kathy Besant  
21 Renee Urban & Nora Clark

### Readers

Jan. 7 Lori Brooks  
14 Kathy Besant  
21 Justin Eckelberg  
28 Mary Miller

### Communion Set Up

Jan. 7 Nikki Houzner  
14 Kathy Besant  
21 Renee Urban

### Greeters

Jan. 7 Ken & Marion Wilson  
14 Dave & Penny Zmolek  
21 The Stowell Family  
28 Mary Miller

## Prayer List

Home-Bound: Connie Dorow, Dorothy Klipstein, Helen Milne, Ed Miller,  
John Thompson, Ethel Mae Baldwin

In Need of Prayer: Kandy Hagen, Suzanne Solvedt, John Thompson,  
Dawn Ertel, Dorothy Klipstein, Holly Hizpeter, Hunter Clark,  
Hank Bethauser, Dean Burmaster, Bob Brod, Megan Braund,  
Ed Miller, David Denter, Lynne Rudy

## A New Year's Blessing

May God make your year a happy one  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,  
And by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope, and joy to you for the year ahead.

1/1 Nadine Preuss  
1/1 Kenneth Wilson  
1/4 Larry Ormson  
1/4 Andrew Miller  
1/5 George Bender  
1/8 Wanda Macomber  
1/9 Cora Brandau  
1/10 Nate Green



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/12 David Zmolek  
1/13 Sara Schultz  
1/16 Paul Clark  
1/17 Kelly Green  
1/21 Alan Miller  
1/22 Benjamin Plamann  
1/25 David Denter  
1/29 Jean Lewerenz

### Sunday School News

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 7th! Enjoy the holiday break! Thank you to all the teachers, parents, students, and others who helped with the Christmas program this year!

We are looking for one more teacher to begin in Fall 2024. Talk to Kris if you are interested.

### SUPER BOWL SUB SANDWICHES

Support the youth going to the National Youth Gathering and enjoy a great sandwich for the big game!

Order forms will be on the back table at beginning January 14; Orders must be placed by the end of service on February 4.

The sandwiches will be available for pick up after service on February 11.

Use one form per sub; make any checks out to Grace Lutheran and note that it is for sub fundraiser.



**Watch for more upcoming youth gathering fundraisers including: a Bible Trivia night, a pie sale, and more!**



## Council Minutes Nov 15, 2023

Spent the first 1 ½ hour listening to Steve Peterson explain how he would set up our website and what is included on the site. It would cost \$1950 and it includes 60 day assistance after it goes live. It would cost \$336 for the following year. He charges \$75/ hour for assistance but in 15 minute increments. He will work with Kris to obtain the information to put in the various categories. They don't all have to be filled in immediately before we go live.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30. Those present were: Dave Clark, Justin Eckelberg, Mary Miller, Kris Stauffacher, Mary Houzner, Kathy Besant. Absent were Kelly Green, Keith Clark. The agenda was reviewed and approved. The secretary's report was reviewed. Mary H made a motion and seconded by Kathy to approve the minutes – passed. The treasurer's report was reviewed. Kathy made a motion and seconded by Dave to approve the report – passed.

### **Committee Reports**

Worship: the choir will sing 12/3; will meet in the beginning of December to choose hymns for Epiphany

Tech: see above

Building & Grounds: boiler inspection was done 11/15 and costs \$400/ year

The sound system will be discussed at the annual meeting

Dave will fill out the forms for the elevator coordinator training

Education/Youth: the 3 boys going to New Orleans will begin a raffle for 3 quilts; people can choose the amount they want to give & to which quilt/quilts they want it to go for; drawing will be 12/10

Ruth/Joy Circles: the Advent breakfast will be Sat. Dec. 2 at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall

### **Old Business**

Justin and Dave will review AEDs and report to Council. Ryan Plamann will train anybody in how to use it. The Food Pantry will be approached to help with the cost.

The Meals Program bid of \$7.50/ meal was accepted. Our site will be also cooking for Camp Douglas and the Bluff area. The food needs to be ready by 10 for pick up. After that the food for Elroy will be cooked so it is fresh.

Juneau County has applied for a \$300,000 grant to be used for the food pantry sites.

Grace will be reimbursed for the electric meter issue in the parking lot per the mayor.

On 12/3 we will resume passing the offering plate for regular offerings & the kids will also do the noisy offering at the same time.



## **New Business**

There had been a request to use the church for a wedding in Dec 2024. The couple nor their families are members of Grace, and they wanted another minister to officiate. The Council decided not to agree to allow the wedding. There is an old Wedding & Policy Handbook. This will need to be updated. The executive committee will meet Mon. Dec. 11 at 5:00 to discuss the budget for 2024.

A five-ten year vision committee needs to be created. This will be discussed later.

There will be a Christmas lighted display in the Elroy park. The registration is \$40. 15 groups have signed up so far. It will go live 11/28. It was felt that it was too late for Grace to participate this year but maybe next year.

The timer on the electronic sign has been set to go on at 6:00am and off at 9:00pm. Somebody had been unplugging the sign. Dave will get it hardwired in the future.

Tom Stowell will be getting the Christmas trees for the sanctuary & front entrance. They will be decorated after 12/3 worship service. People are asked to bring an ornament in memory of someone and to place it on the small tree. Dave Clark will assist Dave Houzner in putting up the wreaths in the entry windows. Sun 12/24 morning worship will begin at **9:00** instead of 10:10. Christmas Eve worship will be at 5:00.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted in Christ,  
Kathy Besant, Secretary



Ruth Circle will meet on  
Thursday, January 4th at 10:00 am,  
weather permitting.

They will continue their discussion of the  
book Twelve Extraordinary Women.

Joy Circle will meet on Wednesday, January  
10th at 7:00 pm at Mary Miller's home.  
They will continue their discussion of the  
book Elders Rising.

## Senior Meals Menu

- 1/1 Closed for New Years' Day
- 1/2 Ham, squash, peas, spinach salad, dinner roll, banana squares
- 1/4 Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, tomato/cucumber salad, mandarin oranges, dinner roll, peanut butter cookies
- 1/5 Chicken dressing casserole, green bean casserole, cranberries, Jell-O with fruit cocktail
- 1/8 LaFarge bologna, cheesy hash browns, Harvard beets, bean salad, pears, dinner roll
- 1/9 Pork Roast, mashed potatoes and gravy green beans, mandarin oranges, dinner roll, mini cheese cakes
- 1/11 Baked Chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, glazed carrots, peaches, dinner roll, lemon burst poke cake
- 1/12 Fish (fried or baked), oven fried potatoes, corn, apricots, dinner roll
- 1/15 Potato Soup, ham & cheese sliders, cottage cheese, fruit cocktail
- 1/16 Turkey & Gravy w/ peas & carrots over biscuits, spinach salad, peaches, pecan pie bars
- 1/18 Liver & onions, oven fried potatoes, stewed tomatoes, pears, dinner roll, tropical carrot cake
- 1/19 Barbeque on a bun, macaroni salad, baked beans, pickles, Pineapple
- 1/22 Sausage Gravy over biscuit, scrambled eggs, hash browns, applesauce
- 1/23 Baked Mostaccioli w/meat sauce, green beans, tossed salad, garlic bread, peaches, brown sugar banana cake
- 1/25 Sweet & Sour pork w/ red peppers & onions over rice, oriental salad, apricots, dinner roll, almond joy cookies
- 1/26 Cowboy stew, grilled cheese, pea salad, fruit salad
- 1/29 Taco salad w/meat, tomatoes & lettuce, refried beans, Spanish rice, mandarin oranges
- 1/30 Ribs & kraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, pineapple, corn muffin, apple upside-down cake
- 2/1 Roast Beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, scalloped corn, dinner roll, pears, toffee bars
- 2/2 Chicken 'n dumplings, carrots, mixed green salad, applesauce, dinner roll

**The Senior Meals program is a ministry of Grace Lutheran Church in conjunction with the ADRC.**

**Meals are served from 11:45 am to 12:30 pm Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.**

