

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

April 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

Kristine Stauffacher,
Synod Authorized
Minister

Gloria Stubitsch,
Church Secretary

Dave Clark & Crew,
Custodian

Council Members:

David Clark
Kathy Besant
Mary Miller
Justin Eckelberg
Kelly Green
Susan Miller
Tom Stowell

Days of Grace

Coming Soon!
Grace's Annual
Mother - Daughter
Banquet

Saturday, May 11th
6:00 pm



Featuring: Dan Mueller, a Gospel singer,
who will entertain us with many favorites

Cost is \$5 for anyone over the age of 5;
Children 5 & under are free.

Tickets can be purchased at Grace
until May 8th

Ticket includes: Food, Fun, & Entertainment!

The Ruth Circle is planning a joyous program
and the Joy Circle is planning food and tickets.

**Adult Forum meets
Sunday, April 7th at 9:00 am
in the Conference Room**

The topic will be Christian Nationalism and was
chosen by participants of the last forum.

Note: This topic addresses the intersection of faith
and politics. If you are uncomfortable with this type
of conversation, please wait to join us another time.

The next forum will take place on May 5th. The
topic will be chosen at the April meeting. If you
have a topic to suggest, please share it with Kris.

NOTES FROM KRIS

There is one thing that I do that very much overlaps the work I do for Grace with what I do for my own enjoyment. That activity is reading.

Just this morning I looked at a book I recently acquired for the cost of shipping only. It was a "free" book I'd earned from ordering other books from Thriftbooks. The other books were mostly those I'd ordered to aid in preparing the messages for the Wandering Heart series about Peter that we have been enjoying this Lent and will continue to look at into the Easter season. It is a collection of stories and sermons for the Advent and Christmas season-a chapter for each day from November 23 to January 7. I sampled one chapter and am now looking forward to that season so I can read the whole book.

Reading is a great way to strengthen your faith and expand your mind about matters of theology. For me it is a great way to prepare for and think of ideas for sermons. But not all benefits of reading are related to faith.

Reading is a great escape from "screen time" which many of us get more than enough of. Reading can reduce stress, improve focus, sleep, and brain health. Reading can lead to expanded vocabulary and increased knowledge. It can boost creativity, memory, communication skills and imagination. Reading can increase empathy and mental health. Reading can expose us to other peoples, cultures, and ways of life, which can help us see our lives with new insight. Reading can be relaxing and entertaining. Readers tend to live longer.

If you re interested in some of the books I have read--there is lots of fiction among the religious stuff--you may come to my office and borrow a book. I know at least one of you has one of my books now.

Growing in Grace with You,
Kristine Stauffacher,
Synod Authorized Minister



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Rev. Dione Stepanek, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission for the La Crosse Area Synod will worship with us for the healing service on Sunday, April 28th, and she will provide us with an update on the work of our Synod and the ELCA as a church body.
- The Mother-Daughter Banquet will take place on Saturday, May 11th, beginning at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 for anyone over the age of 5 and are available until May 8th at Grace.
- We will honor those graduating from high school this year on Sunday, May 12 during worship. We will also have a cake reception following worship.
- Our Summer Worship schedule will run Sunday, June 2nd through Sunday, September 1st. During the Summer, we worship at 9:00 am.
- Ladies' Night Out will take place on Monday, June 24th beginning at 6:00 pm at Flippy's in Kendall.

Grace Lutheran Church Continuous Garage Sale

will begin on Friday, May 3rd (weather permitting) at the church (226 Erickson St., Elroy) in the alley at the back of the church. Proceeds are used to maintain the church elevator, which is used by the Senior Meals program, Food Pantry, Christmas for Kids, and for many other community events and programs.

"Thank You!" to everyone who supports the garage sale by bringing in donations or by making purchases. We are now accepting 'donations for this year. Call Karen Nelson at 608-547-4108 to arrange a drop-off.

We are also looking for volunteers.
Contact Mary Miller at 608-479-1493 if you would like to help.



Worship Assistants for April

Communion Assistants

4/7 Dave & Michelle Clark
 4/14 Dave & Nikki Houzner
 4/21 Renee Urban & Nora Clark

Communion Set Up

4/7 Dave Clark
 4/14 Dave Houzner
 4/21 Renee Urban

Readers

4/7 Mary Miller
 4/14 Justin Eckelberg
 4/21 Sonja Denter
 4/28 Lori Brooks

Greeters

4/7 Ken & Marion Wilson
 4/14 The Stowell Family
 4/21 Susan Miller
 4/28 The Lewerenz Family

4/3 Jody Nelson
 4/3 Kevin Miller
 4/7 Keith Martin
 4/11 Brad Shanahan
 4/13 Jordan Lewerenz
 4/14 Lauren Miller
 4/16 Kalli Brown



4/20 Dane Hyer
 4/22 Brian Nelson
 4/22 Vincent Pintarro
 4/24 Jeannine Ottum
 4/25 Donald Lewerenz
 4/26 Fletcher Green

Prayer List

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

In Need of Prayer: Karl Hagen, Kandy Hagen, Suzanne Solvedt, John Thompson, Dorothy Klipstein, Ethel Mae Baldwin, Holly Hizpeter, Hunter Clark, Hank Bethauser, Bob Brod, Megan Braund, Ed Miller, David Denter, Lynne Rudy, Henry Schmid, Helen Milne, Joy Bever, Anna Preuss, Allison Rotering, Amy VandeMark, and Johnathan Thomas Spencer

Generously Given

2024 Mission Commitment: \$112,700 Needed each week: \$2167

Feb 25 \$1351; Mar 3/6 \$2388; Mar 10/13 \$2152; Mar 17/20 \$2056

Designated Funds Received: Brewer Game \$38; Flowers \$245; Youth Faith Formation \$178; Noisy Offering \$44; CHIPS/Luther League \$203; World Hunger \$42

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton | Easter 2024

“So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid.” That’s where the Gospel of Mark originally ended. And it just seems so odd to me. It’s so abrupt. I mean, the women had seen the angel. He’d announced that Jesus was raised from the dead, and then he tells them all this good news and wants them to go on their way. And they just are not going to say a single word.

There are three words in that passage that really stand out for me, especially in the Greek. One is fear — *phobos*. We get phobia from that. The other one is amazement — *ekstasis*. We get ecstasy from that. And the other one has to do with being seized. It actually means “being possessed.” So we take a look at these women, and they’ve had this miraculous appearance by an angel. They’ve heard the good news that Jesus has raised from the dead, and they’re too afraid to do anything about it, and they just are going to be silent. It seems that nothing changed. They came to take care of Jesus’ dead body because on the Sabbath they could not work. But on the first day of the week, they were there. They have this announcement, and then it’s all the same.

Sometimes I think we feel like nothing’s changed. Sometimes I think that the events in our country, in our church, around the world are just so terrifying and so overwhelming that it seems like the resurrection really didn’t make a difference. But these three words really say something about the women, and I think about us and, most especially, about Easter. When they said that they were filled with amazement — this is this ecstasy, *ekstasis* — they were really standing. It means literally standing in a different place. So though they were still in the tomb and they hadn’t reacted yet, nevertheless, everything had changed. And because of the resurrection, we, all of us, are standing in a different place. The whole of creation is standing in a different place. And the word for fear, *phobos*, phobia we get from that. But it’s really a sense of trembling in the presence of God, of awe that they were actually filled with awe — not paralyzed by fear but filled with awe. And I hope this Eastertide and all year round, we have a sense of the presence of God that fills us with awe. And it also says that they were seized with fear. Well, the word means “possessed.” And yes, we believe that in baptism because of the resurrection, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and we now are all Spirit-possessed.

When things seem to be staying the same, when things seem to be happening and coming at us so quickly, I think it’s very important to take time to be a little amazed, to be standing in a different place, to have a sense of this awe and trembling before the Lord, and to allow ourselves to be possessed by the Spirit, who will give us power and courage in these times. My favorite hymn is “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song.” It’s *ELW* 808. And the last verse goes like this: “I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey; but courage will come with the sound of his steps by my side. And with all of the family Jesus saved by his love, we’ll sing to his dawn at the end of our journey.”

Be well, dear church. Happy Easter.

Grace Lutheran Council Meeting minutes for Wednesday February 21, 2024.

Council Members present: Kris Stauffacher, Dave Clark, Susan Miller, Mary Miller, Tom Stowell.

Members absent: Kelly Green, Kathy Besant, Justin Eckelberg.

Meeting called to order at 5:10pm

Meeting minutes from January read and MM by Dave to approve the minutes. Kris 2nd all approved minutes passed.

No treasurer's report available for January. Post pone review until March meeting where we will review both January and February treasurer reports.

Grace Senior Meals: Kris commented that outreach from other congregations may be willing to help (meal prep and clean up and monies donated) with the mission of senior meals. This is not official, and the council will take this into consideration. Barb Nofsinger estate has a freezer to be donated to Grace Lutheran. This freezer can be utilized for extra food storage be it the food pantry or the senior meals needs. Arrangements will be made to move this freezer to Grace.

Technology: Jack Besant and Dave Clark met with Tristate out of La Crosse about a sound system. This company encouraged us to keep the current speakers and no hang down speaker. We are waiting on their bid. Discussion on audio/visual options.

Maintenance: Churches rain gutters repaired that were damaged during heavy snows last month. BTU grievance on paying the bill for a freezer repair. Several calls and delays because of parts to be ordered and repair time. Dave Clark will review the bill and discuss it with BTU.

Garage Sale: discussion on how to minimize garbage dropped off at the garage sale site. To be discussed with Karen Nelson the option of posted hours for drop off so stuff can be inspected. List needed as to what will be accepted and not accepted should be posted.

Youth Luther League/CHIPS: sub sandwich sale income discussed and agreed to pay bills for supplies out of Youth Faith formation account. Pie sale March 29th in the works.

Property: storage room cleaned out. Unused equipment decision as to sell or keep. Insulated boxes, Tray trolley, pie safe. It was said some of that equipment was originally from the Mauston Hospital and used during the smorgasbord times. The dishwasher again has issues with the electrical valves on the water heater. Dave is working with Larry Woodlif on repairs.

Garbage receptacles discussed. Food Pantry is paying half of the bill for recycling because of large amounts of cardboard disposal.

Kris Stauffacher calendar:

- Adult studies are offered once a month starting March 3rd at 9 am.
- Midweek Lenten services: discussion as to leader reading or showing a video. With our current challenges with visual, Kris will read the Lenten message.
- Holy week Palm Sunday March 24th council members will read parts for the service.
- Maundy Thursday: March 28th 6:30 pm at Grace
- Good Friday: March 29th, Ecumenical Service at New Lisbon Bethany 1:00pm.
- Easter Sunday: March 30th
- Summer Worship starts Sunday June 2 at 9:00 am for services through Sunday Sept 1st.
- Rally Day and worship change times to 10:15 am Sunday Sept 8th.
- Synod Assembly June 9th worship. Need a member to lead worship here at Grace. No communion service. All synod worship in La Crosse Park.
- June 16th Kathy Ingbritsen will be the supply pastor for service.
- Voice message left about donating an organ to Grace. It is a Hammond Chord organ. No knowledge of the state of organ. The council voted no acquisition.
- Bowling this Sunday Feb 25th.
- March 2nd "A night with the King" movie tickets available for members.

Sugar Creek: Tom Stowell reported workday Sat May 4th 9-7pm. Free Lodging for Friday night. There is something for everyone to work on if they come.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer 5:55pm.
submitted by Mary Miller



Ruth Circle will meet on
Thursday, April 4th at 10:00 am,
in the library

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

Joy Circle will meet on
April 10th and May 8th at the church at 7:00 pm.
They will continue their discussion of the book Elders Rising.

The La Crosse Area Synod WELCA Spring Convention will take place on
April 20, 2024 at Our Redeemer in La Crosse 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. The
theme is "Cultivating Life-Giving Relationships".

The Keynote Speakers will be Rev. Libby Howe addressing issues on and
misinformation surrounding the LGBTQ+ community and Chaplain Ann Wells
speaking on her experience as chaplain for the La Crosse County Jail.

Bishop Felix Malpica will preach at worship.
The cost for the day is \$20 per person and includes lunch.

Senior Meals Menu for April

- 4/1 Taco Salad w/meat, tomatoes, & Romaine lettuce, refried beans, Mexican street corn, salad, Applesauce
- 4/2 Baked chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, carrot casserole, apricots, dinner roll, apple crisp
- 4/4 Beef stew, stewed tomatoes, pears, dinner roll, lemon bars
- 4/5 Brats w/ bun, baked beans, macaroni salad, Mandarin oranges
- 4/8 Cream of broccoli soup, cheesy roast beef sliders, cottage cheese, peaches
- 4/9 Liver and onions, oven fried potato, carrots, fruit salad, dinner roll, oatmeal raisin cookies
- 4/11 Smothered pork chops, mashed potatoes & gravy, scalloped corn, dinner roll, apricots, pumpkin-pecan slab pie
- 4/12 Fish (fried or baked), cheesy hash browns, bean salad, pineapple, dinner roll
- 4/15 Crescent bacon breakfast ring, hash browns, applesauce, cranberry coffee cake
- 4/16 Barbeque ribs, baked potato, beets, peaches, dinner roll, blueberry torte
- 4/18 Chicken alfredo over spaghetti, green beans, cranberries, garlic bread, chocolate lasagna
- 4/19 Chili, grilled cheese, Oriental salad, pears
- 4/22 Polish sausage w/ sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, carrots, fruit cocktail, cinnamon roll
- 4/23 Roast turkey w/ dressing, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, broccoli & cauliflower w/ cheese, Mandarin oranges, dinner roll, angel food cake
- 4/25 Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, baked lima beans, pears, dinner roll, un-beet-able cake
- 4/26 Salmon patties, mashed potatoes, creamed peas, applesauce, dinner roll
- 4/29 Baked mostaccioli w/ meat sauce, corn, 7-layer salad, pineapple, garlic parmesan dinner roll
- 4/30 Pork roast, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, green beans, applesauce, corn bread, almond joy cookies
- 5/2 Boiled dinner: Ham, potato, carrots, cabbage, & rutabaga, cottage cheese, Mandarin oranges, dinner roll, custard
- 5/3 Creamed chicken over biscuits, corn, mixed fruit

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.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with preparing and serving meals.

"There are no happier folks than plant lovers and none more generous than those who garden."

- Ernest Wilson

