

November 2023



Come Grow  
in Grace

# Days of Grace

226 Erickson St. Elroy, WI 53929 Phone: 608-462-5398

## Ecumenical Thanksgiving Celebration Returns to Our Area

This year Grace Lutheran Church will be celebrating Thanksgiving Eve with our ecumenical partners at the Elroy United Methodist Church, 125 Royall Ave. The ELCA congregations of Bethany in New Lisbon and East Lemonweir will also be worshipping with us that evening.

The service will begin at 6 pm. It will consist of music, congregational singing, prayers, scripture and a brief reflection. It will be led by Pastor Lucy from New Lisbon, Pastor Jill Nowlan from Elroy United Methodist and Kris Stauffacher. Special music will be performed by members of the Methodist congregation.

A time of fellowship after the service will feature pie and bars. Grace is asked to provide 2-3 pies or pans of bars; please let Kris know if you can help us fill this request.



# Worship Assistants

## Communion Assistants

Nov. 5 Dave and Michelle Clark

Nov. 12 Dave and Nikki Houzner

Nov. 19 Jack and Kathy Besant

## Communion Set-up

Nov. 5 Dave Clark

Nov. 12 Nikki Houzner

Nov. 19 Kathy Besant

## Readers

Nov. 5 Gene Preuss

Nov. 12 Mary Miller

Nov. 19 Kathy Besant

Nov. 26 Lori Brooks

## Greeters

Nov. 5 The Stowell Family

Nov. 12 Mary Miller

Nov. 19 Ken and Marion Wilson

Nov. 26 Lewerenz Family

Please switch with someone, or call or email the office if you will not be able to serve when scheduled.

Daylight Savings ends on

Sunday, November 5 at 2:00  
a.m.

Don't forget to set your clocks back  
before you go to bed Saturday  
night!!

## Looking Ahead

Nov. 5 10:10 am Worship with a Remembrance of our departed saints and baptism of Collins Rae Burch

Nov. 12 10:10 am Anniversary Worship and Celebration followed by potluck

Nov. 19 10:10 am Worship with Sunday School singing

Nov. 22 6 pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship at Elroy United Methodist Church

Dec. 3 10:10 am Advent begins; choir singing

Dec. 17 10:10 am Children's Christmas program

Dec. 24 10:10 am Fourth Sunday of Advent worship in the morning; Christmas Eve Service at 5 pm

Dec. 25 9 am Christmas Breakfast with worship at 10:10 am

Let Us  
Give Thanks



# PRAYER

## list

### *Praying for . . .*

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 Hinzpeter, Hunter Clark, Hank Bethauser, Dean Burmaster, Bob Brod, Arlene Schmitz, Dennis Olson, Barb Nofsinger, Megan Braund

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON NOVEMBER 12

On November 12, Grace Lutheran Church will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the church building. The building of this facility by the members of the congregation solidified the union that was formed when the former congregations of Peace and Our Savior's merged in July of 1960.

As we were not able to celebrate the merger in 2020 due to the pandemic, we are celebrating now.

The celebration will take place during worship beginning at 10:10 am with Pastor Dione Stepanek, Assistant to the Bishop, presiding. The service will mirror parts of the dedication service from December 22, 1963.

Former pastors have been invited to send greetings and remembrances. A potluck will follow the service.

Please plan to attend and celebrate with us. Invite former members, friends and relatives to join in celebrating with us!

## Grace Council Meeting September 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm after an informational meeting with Gina Laack, the director of the ADRC Senior Meals program. Those in attendance were Dave Clark, Mary Houzner, Justin Eckelberg, Kathy Besant, Keith Clark and Kris Stauffacher. Absent were Kelly Green and Mary Miller. Due to the late start of the meeting, no devotion was given.

After review, it has been decided to continue with the same insurance company, Church Mutual, for the next year. A review of insurance next year should start in July.

The Secretary's minutes were reviewed and approved with no corrections or changes. There was no Treasurer's report available.

A motion was made to have Dave Clark, Mary Miller, and Heather Stowell as signers for the Luther League checking account. After discussion regarding timing and the possible need to update signed again after the Annual Meeting, the motion passed.

The daylilies have been removed from the Erickson Street side of the building as they were not doing well there. Cement has been installed and a tipped slab repaired.

Kathy Besant gave a report on the Organ and Piano Committee meeting. The organ will have a regular tune-up, but no extensive repairs at this time until it can be determined if we will have someone to play it. Committee members are working on finding people to play for services on a regular basis. The committee is also looking at the possibility of using recorded music for accompaniment.

Great Lakes has been contracted for work on the rubber roof as no local roofer has been found to work on this. Plunkett sprayed the exterior of the building for insects today. Kris's office has been repainted. The old laundry room has been cleaned out and reorganized. A sound system specialist met with Dave today and will be making proposals for improvements. Dave has not found any grants for obtaining an AED. He will continue to look for resources and recommendations.

Extensive discussion occurred regarding the Senior Meals program. The ADRC has found the bid given by the Grace site of \$8.95 to be too high. They proposed a change to \$7.25 and indicated that Grace could counter that proposal. A motion was made to adjust the Grace bid to \$7.35; no second was given. A motion was made by Mary Houzner to counter with a bid of \$7.50; this was seconded by Justin Eckelberg and the motion passed.

Kris Stauffacher reviewed the church calendar for the rest of the calendar year. September 24 will be the Blessing of the Quilts and the baptism of Johnathan Thomas Spencer, Brenda Clark's son. The Youth Gathering group will be meeting for Bible study and planning prior to service. We will not be doing a pulpit exchange for the Living Faith project on October 1, but will postpone this until spring. On October 8, the Youth Gathering group will be meeting again and the choir will be singing. On October 15 the Sunday School children will sing. October 22 we will baptize Everette Eckelberg. October 29 is Reformation Sunday. November 5 will be an All-Saint's service and Gathering meeting. November 12 we will celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of the church building. December 3 is the beginning of Advent: Advent services are December 3, 10, and 24. The Children's Christmas program is December 17. The Christmas Eve service is at 5 pm on December 24 and on Christmas morning we will have an open breakfast with service beginning at 10:10 am.



# NOVEMBER

## Birthdays

Grace Steinmetz	Nov. 03	Marshall Stowell	Nov. 21
Karen Nelson	Nov. 07	Sonja Denter	Nov. 22
Charles Schultz	Nov. 09	Lance Houzner	Nov. 23
Paige Hyer	Nov. 12	Noah Shore	Nov. 24
Todd Lewerenz	Nov. 14	Susan Miller	Nov. 27
Parker Green	Nov. 14	Gene Preuss	Nov. 27
Liza Krueger	Nov. 20		

### A NOTE FROM KRIS: Spiritual practices

If you want to grow in your faith, I encourage you to add another spiritual practice to your life.

Spiritual practices include things such as spiritual reading, prayer, gathering with others for worship or study, fasting, self-examination and confession, and hospitality.

Within each of these areas there are different ways of carrying out the practice. For example you might try the practice of Lectio Divina as a way to enhance your reading of scripture. Or, you might as prayer, write your own psalm or speak your prayers aloud if you are used to praying silently or visa versa.

Fasting is an ancient form of spiritual practice that isn't practiced as much as it used to be. Fasting can involve fasting from food, but it can also involve fasting from other kinds of consumption. Are you obsessed by the news and partake in doomscrolling? Your added spiritual practice could involve abstaining from news for a period of time.

Interested in more information on this? See Kris to borrow a book or talk about what you might do.

**Vanco** is a great way to give to the church directly from your checking or savings account or by credit card.

Here is the process. It is easy and quick.

1. Enter the Grace Lutheran Church online giving page information:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YK88>

2. Select "General" for the general account. It is your only choice as it is the only account we have set up. Enter the amount you wish to give.

3. Enter your Payment Method.

4. Click "Submit" to complete your donation.

You will be given the opportunity to create an account which would allow you to review your giving history, manage recurring donations and update payment information.

## November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### Church Events

**Nov. 2** 10 am Ruth Circle in library  
**Nov. 5** 8:45 am Breakfast before 9 am Sunday School, 10:10 am Communion Worship; ALL SAINT'S DAY WORSHIP  
**Nov. 8** 7 pm Joy Circle at Heather Stowell's  
**Nov. 12** 8:45 am Breakfast before 9 am Sunday School, 10:10 am Communion Worship/choir singing ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION/Pot-luck  
**Nov. 19** 8:45 am Breakfast before 9 am Sunday School, 10:10 am Communion/kids singing,  
**Nov. 26** 8:45 am Breakfast before 9 am Sunday School & Youth Gathering Bible study, 10:10 am Communion Worship

### Other Regular Events

**Elroy Area Food Pantry** distributes food from Grace Lutheran Church every Thursday beginning at 1 pm.  
**Coffee Hour** follows worship every Sunday! Join us for fellowship downstairs  
**Services are broadcast on Facebook live every week!**

### Sr. Meals Menu

11/2 Meatballs/gravy, potatoes, corn, Mandarin oranges, Oreo dessert  
 11/3 Hamburger/bun, baked beans, German potato salad, Jello w/fruit cocktail

11/6 French toast bake, egg bake w/ sausage, br. sugar blueberry coffee cake  
 11/7 Liver/onions, cheesy hashbrowns, broccoli, applesauce muffins  
 11/9 Spaghetti/meat sauce, beets, garlic bread, caramel pecan poke cake  
**11/10 Closed: Veteran's Day**  
 11/13 Smoked sausage w/potatoes, carrots, onions, peppers & zucchini, garbanzo bean salad, seven layer bars  
 11/14 Pork steak, potatoes & gravy, fried cabbage, pears  
 11/16 Beef stroganoff/noodles, broccoli, peaches, apple turnovers  
 11/17 Fish: baked or fried, sweet potato fries, corn, apricots  
 11/20 Goulash, peas, applesauce, garlic bread, farm cookies  
 11/21 Thanksgiving Dinner: turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, broccoli casserole, cranberry salad, pumpkin pie  
**11/23 & 24: Closed in observance of Thanksgiving**  
 11/27 Beef stew/potatoes, carrots and peas, Mandarin oranges, Ciabatta bread, nutty pineapple cake  
 11/28 Ribs and kraut, potatoes, green beans, pineapple, corn muffin  
 11/30 Bean or beer cheese soup, ham & cheese sliders, romaine lettuce salad, coconut sheet cake



## Youth Gathering Fundraisers beginning now

The ELCA Youth Gathering Quilt Raffle Fundraiser is beginning in October. The youth: Marty Stowell, Marshall Stowell and Jordan Lewerenz; are asking for free-will donations toward their trip. There will be a bucket for one of each of three quilts that were donated to the group for the purpose of raffling as a fundraiser. The boys will be handing out the tickets to donors before and after church services. Each of the quilts is unique and special on itself own: one is a colorful baby quilt, another is a patterned lap robe, and the largest depicts a beautiful farm scene with Holstein cows and beautiful machine quilting. The largest is appropriate for hanging or as a couch quilt.

Other fundraising plans are in the works. So stay tuned into ways you can support these young men in raising funds for the faith-filled and fund adventure.



We are looking for a Sunday School teacher for the 23-24 year for children in third grade and younger. You can “try out” the position by assisting with Sunday School this school year. You can lead music, games or help the children do craft projects. Let Kelly Green know if you can help or are interested in being a teacher next school year.

**GENEROUSLY GIVEN**

2023 Mission Commitment: \$ 101,225.00; Needed Each Week: \$1947

Received: Sept. 24: \$1394; Oct. 1: \$1797; Oct. 8: \$1734; Oct. 15: \$ 2063

Designated Funds Received: Elevator Fund \$ 20; Brewer Game \$ 13; CHIPS \$ 82; Sunday School: \$ 53; World Hunger \$38; WELCA \$25; Flowers \$ 60; Food Pantry \$100



Ruth Circle will meet on the first Thursday of the month at 10 am, November 2, in the library. The Ruth Circle is studying the book, Twelve Extraordinary Women, during their monthly meetings

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The Joy Circle currently meets on the second Wednesday of each month during the school year. Nov. 8 the Circle will meet at Heather Stowell's home at 7 pm. Their book study is Elders Rising.



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The Meals site is always in need of volunteers to help at the site. Even if you only have an extra hour or two to donate a month it all helps. Stop down and talk to Karen or give her a call at 608-547-4108.

*Grateful,  
Thankful  
&  
Blessed*

**The Senior Meals program** is a ministry of the Grace Lutheran Church in conjunction with ADRC. Meals are served from 11:45 am to 12:30 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The site manager is Karen Nelson. You can contact her at 608-462-5175. Monthly menu is included with the calendar in this newsletter.

GRACE LUTHERAN STAFF

Kris Stauffacher, Synod Authorized Minister

Dave Clark and crew, Custodian

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