

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

February 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

## Lenten Services begin this month!

### Ash Wednesday is February 14th.

Join us for worship at 6:30 pm for a service focused on God's unfailing love that will include the imposition of ashes.

Mid-week Lenten services will begin on Wednesday, February 21. A light soup supper at 5:30 pm will be followed by worship at 6:30 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for volunteers to provide and serve the meal.

Mid-week services this year follow the theme "Wandering Heart", from Sanctified Art. Wandering Heart focuses on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most familiar disciples, Peter.

We will see in Peter a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. The prayers, confession and affirmation of faith will be more contemporary than those we use in our Sunday worship. Instead of a round robin of preachers, each preacher will lead services in their own congregation. A video message from preachers throughout the conference will be featured.

**Come and join us and discover how we are like Peter and how we can use his story to strengthen our own relationship with Jesus!**

## NOTES FROM KRIS

It has been brought to my attention that you may not know much about what makes up my day working for the Grace Lutheran congregation. I suppose this could be the case if you only see me leading worship and preaching on Sunday morning.

Part of being a Synod Authorized Minister (SAM) in the La Crosse Area Synod of the ELCA involves learning. One weekend each month during the school year, I attend the Lay School of the Northeast Synod of Wisconsin. The classes are on Friday night from 7-10 pm and Saturday morning from 9 am until noon. These classes are taught by experts in their own area of interest. The topics are wide ranging and can vary from an in-depth look at a single Gospel to Bible storytelling in areas of the world that have no written language.

In the fall and spring, this learning involves traveling to Chippewa Falls and spending the night. The in-person classes are important because it allows us to develop relationships with others who are also either a SAM or an adult with interest in topics related to the church. The in-person weekends also allow for us to worship together prior to class on Saturday morning. In the winter we learn by Zoom.

During the week when I am in the office, in addition to writing a sermon each week, I participate in a weekly Zoom text study with other pastors/SAM's in our conference of our Synod. Once per month this group meets in person at one of the congregations for text study, updates from the Synod, and worship, and often a meal together. These gatherings allow us to collaborate, support, and pray for one another and our ministry settings.

Other office time involves planning and developing worship bulletins and the newsletter. Assisting with the bookkeeping, answering the phone and sending on messages, retrieving mail and sorting, and a number of other administrative activities are involved as we have limited secretarial help. Each month I attend and participate in the Council meeting and share a devotional message.

I am also always available to visit with and bring Communion to those who are sick or homebound who do not have someone else bringing

Communion to them on a regular basis.

Also leading and preparing messages for funerals is a privilege that I have within our Grace congregation and community. And, of course, baptizing all of those we welcome into our community is a joy.

I continue to be part of the Synod Evangelism and Outreach Team, and I am honored to work with Grace's many committees. Leading Bible Studies for the youth attending the National Youth Gathering and teaching Confirmation are particularly meaningful aspects of my work.

**And there is time for you.** So if you ever want an ear to bend or have any questions about what I am learning or doing, just give me a call or stop by the office.

Serving Christ with You, Kristine Stauffacher, Synod Authorized Minister.

### **Sugar Creek Representative Coming on February 11**

A representative from Sugar Creek Bible Camp will be at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 11. They will open the Sunday School lesson for the day at 9 am. I am sure there will be at least camp song involved!

This representative will also preach that day, provide information about the status of our Camp, and remind us of the importance of Church Camp in the faith development of children and young adults. There will be time for questions and conversation after worship.

Please plan to attend worship and find out more about the Camp that our congregation has faithfully supported for many years.

### **Generously Given**

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

Dec. 25 AM: \$1450; Chr. Eve: \$1611; Chr. Day: \$2326; Dec. 31: \$934; Jan. 7 \$2110; Jan. 14 No worship; Jan. 21: \$1348

Designated Funds Received: Flowers: \$30;  
Luther League: \$81; Sunday School: \$42; Food Pantry: \$100;  
World Hunger: \$77; Youth Faith Formation: \$33

## Worship Assistants

### Communion Assistants

Feb. 4 Dave & Nikki Houzner  
11 Kathy & Jack Besant  
18 Renee Urban & Nora Clark

### Readers

Feb. 4 Justin Eckelberg  
11 Kathy Besant  
18 Lori Brooks  
25 Mary Miller

### Communion Set Up

Feb. 4 Dave Houzner  
11 Kathy Besant  
18 Renee Urban

### Greeters

Feb. 4 Jordan & Sheryl Lewerenz  
11 The Stowell Family  
18 Ken & Marion Wilson  
25 Mary Miller

### Lent Wednesday Evening

Feb. 14 Dave Clark  
21 Mary Houzner  
28 Jack & Kathy Besant



*“ If there be anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe from falling, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown me. But this was shown: that whether in falling or in rising we are always kept in the same precious love.”*  
- Julian of Norwich

### 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, Adda DeMarco, Henry Schmid, Helen Milne, Mary Ann Bones, Sam Loizzo, Joy Bever

# happy birthday

2/1 Penny Zmolek  
2/2 Diane Shore  
2/3 Brenda Clark  
2/8 Rich Houzner  
2/11 Shirley Preuss  
2/13 Alva Grant  
2/13 Emma Herek  
2/14 Lorilee Brooks  
2/14 Amy VanderMark  
2/15 Cindy Wilson  
2/16 Clara Plamann

2/16 Evalyn Eckelberg  
2/21 Mary Houzner  
2/21 Madeline Kennedy  
2/22 Mary Sue Preuss  
2/22 Brian Hyer  
2/22 Claire Herek  
2/23 Dorothy Klipstein  
2/27 Mary Miller  
2/28 Joanne Segovia  
2/28 Lauren Marx



Grace Lutheran Church is going  
Bowling!

Join us on Sunday, February 25th, from  
11:30 am to 1:00 pm at Hooterbowl in  
Hustler

The sign up is located in the Narthex.  
See you there!



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

## Council Minutes December 13, 2023

### Council Minutes Dec. 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Those present were Dave Clark, Justin Eckelberg, Mary Miller, Kris Stauffacher, Mary Houzner, Kathy Besant, Kelly Green. Absent: Keith Clark. The agenda was read and approved. The secretary's report was reviewed. Correction made for the amount of the grant to Juneau County for the food pantry sites. It should be \$300,000. Dave made a motion and seconded by Mary Miller to accept the minutes – passed. The treasurer's report was reviewed.

### **Committee Reports**

Worship: Met Dec. 4 to choose hymns for Epiphany and chose to do a Lessons and Carols service for Sunday, Dec 31. Will meet in Jan. to choose hymns for Lent and determine the type of midweek Lenten services.

Tech: Web site is up and running.

Building & Grounds: Phase 1 & 2 testing has been done on the elevator and front door. There are lock boxes for the keys and they will be kept in the safe. The kitchen freezer wouldn't hold its temperature. It was repaired and is working well. No food was lost to spoilage. The food was placed in the extra Food Pantry freezers until the repair was done. The timer for the new sign has been hardwired so nobody can unplug it. The light in the old sign was repaired.

Education & Youth: The Sunday School Christmas program will be Sunday, Dec. 17. The drawing for the 3 quilts was done 12/10. The Youth group will be serving a light lunch for the Annual Meeting.

Ruth/Joy Circles: The Advent Breakfast was Sat. Dec.2

### **Old Business**

Grace is accountable for anything financial in regards to the Meals Program. There have been some issues with the finances. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Kelly that the council/congregational treasurer would assume financial responsibility for the Meals Site effective Jan. 1, 2024.

The budget for 2024 was reviewed. Motion by Kelly and seconded by Kathy that the budget be accepted and presented as is to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

### **New Business**

Justin will contact the Red Cross for their recommendations for an AED. If purchased through them, they will contact us with maintenance reminders. Maintenance needs to be done on a routine basis because of liability concerns.

The 3 boys going to the National Gathering will be having more fundraisers in the future. The next one is Super Bowl Subs. You can sign up starting Jan 14; 1 sheet per sub ordered. They can be picked up Feb. 11 after worship service.

There will be soup suppers prior to the Lenten services. Lenten services begin Feb. 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm with the Lord's Prayer.  
Submitted in Christ,  
Kathy Besant, Secretary

The Elroy Food Pantry would like to thank all those from Grace who volunteer so faithfully on Thursdays during the year to help at the pantry. Without your help, we would not be able to operate. Also, we would like to thank Grace for your on-going support in allowing us to use your facilities. Again, we would not have a pantry without you. May you all be blessed for your kindness!

Thank you Grace Lutheran Church for all your help with the Christmas for Kids program! Because of it, we are able to bless many of Elroy's children with a very Merry Christmas. It has been another successful year, and we couldn't do it without your generous support.

Sincerely, Shirley J. for Christmas for Kids



Ruth Circle will meet on  
Thursday, February 1st at 10:00 am,  
weather permitting.  
They will continue their discussion of the book  
Twelve Extraordinary Women.

Joy Circle will meet on  
Wednesday, January 31st at 7:00 pm at Mary Miller's home.  
They will continue their discussion of the book Elders Rising.  
They will schedule their February meeting then.

## Senior Meals Menu

- |      |   |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|
| 2/1  | Roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, scalloped corn, pears, dinner roll, zucchini cake                      | 2/16 | Fish—fried or baked, oven fried potatoes, corn, apricots, dinner roll                                |
| 2/2  | Chicken 'n dumplings, carrots, mixed green salad, applesauce, dinner roll                                   | 2/19 | Unstuffed pepper soup, cheese burger sliders, kidney bean salad, pineapple                           |
| 2/5  | Beef stew with potatoes, carrots, & peas, mandarin oranges, ciabatta bread                                  | 2/20 | Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, green beans, tossed salad, garlic bread, mandarin oranges, molasses cookies |
| 2/6  | Barbeque ribs, baked potato, fried cabbage, pineapple, dinner roll, tapioca pudding                         | 2/22 | Beef stroganoff over noodles, corn, peaches, dinner roll, ooey gooey pecan squares                   |
| 2/8  | Baked chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, cranberries, dinner roll, almond joy cake              | 2/23 | Salmon patties, mashed potato, creamed peas, pears, dinner roll                                      |
| 2/9  | Smoked sausage w/ potato, carrots, onions, red peppers, & zucchini, garbanzo bean salad, pears, dinner roll | 2/26 | Shepherd's pie w/ carrots & peas, romaine salad, peaches, muffin                                     |
| 2/12 | French toast bake, egg bake w/ sausage, cottage cheese, applesauce, coffee cake                             | 2/27 | Goulash, carrots, pears, dinner roll, mint brownies  |
| 2/13 | Smothered chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, cheesy broccoli, fruit salad, dinner roll, lemon raspberry cake | 2/29 | Pork steak, mashed potato & gravy, green beans, applesauce, dinner roll, dessert                     |
| 2/15 | Boiled Dinner: Ham, potato, carrots, cabbage, cottage cheese, dinner roll, peaches, butterscotch blondies   | 3/1  | Tuna or chicken casserole, corn, cottage cheese  |

**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.**



**"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."**