

Serving in January

ACOLYTES

Jan. 2.....Abby Rielly
Jan. 3.....Courtney Jackson
Jan. 9.....Kade Jones
Jan. 10.....Mackenzie Hesgard
Jan. 16.....Mike Graham
Jan. 17.....Forrest Klug-Hanson
Jan. 23.....Abby Rielly
Jan. 24.....Jesse Scheider
Jan. 30.....Bryan Wang
Jan 31.....

ALTAR GUILD FOR JANUARY

Stitchery Committee

LITURGISTS

Jan. 2.....John Patterson
Jan. 3.....Jim Munro
Jan. 9.....Lisa Huber
Jan. 10.....Jim Munro
Jan. 16.....Dee Signer
Jan. 17.....Ann Hunter
Jan. 23.....Laurie Kruse
Jan. 24.....Dennis Everson
Jan. 30.....Lisa Huber
Jan 31.....Jackie Erlandson

USHERS

Saturdays.....Roger & Penny Mayer
Sun.....Ken, Bud, Chuck & Sam Zeitler

(If you are interested in serving, please call the church office!)

NEWS FROM THE WOMEN OF GRACE (W.E.L.C.A.)

“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.”

Important decisions were made at the December board meeting held December 7th affecting every woman member of Grace Lutheran Church. The current board made up of two co-chairs, secretary, treasurer and representatives from Sarah, Lydia, and Naomi circles decided to disband the Women of Grace board and discontinue participation in the South Central WELCA due to the lack of nominations for some of the board positions.

The board reviewed projects and programs normally sponsored by the Women of Grace to determine if they would be continued. With the group’s consensus, there was agreement selected projects/programs would only be continued if an adequate number of persons would volunteer to co-ordinate or participate in a program/project. If we do not get an adequate number of persons to volunteer, the program/project will not be sponsored. The circles will continue to meet and become the central source of the co-ordination of activities. The current board agreed to meet quarterly to initiate and give direction to circle members. Programs/projects sponsored by the Women of Grace in the past were: Bakeless Bake Sale, Missionary financial support, fleece blankets for graduating seniors, collection of items for hospice kits, LWR kits, Mitten tree; Bold Women’s Day, Social Fellowship group, coffee/candy sales, Pleasant View Birthday Party, Ice Cream Social, Fall Bazaar, Christmas gifts for Pleasant View residents, Thanksgiving boxes for shut-ins, and monetary collections for Thank-offering and Pennies for Poverty.

The cookbook project is a project that will be completed. The first meeting will be held January 26th at 7 PM. Any persons interested in working on the project may attend. There will be a need for persons to type and proofread the recipes. We currently have 509 recipes.

We look forward to more active participation by all women members to continue with missions and projects to better our church and global communities.

Co-Chairs,
Chris Alston and Barb Sathoff

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held on **Sunday, January 10th following worship**. Your voice and your vote are very important. We will vote on the 2010 proposed budget and fill council positions for the coming year. Please attend!!

WORDS FROM PASTOR JOHN

In Balance...

Dan John, an author and educator, relates a story of balancing life that he has carried for decades. When he was in second grade in a parochial school, his teacher drew two intersecting lines on the chalk board. On the end of each line, she wrote “play”, “pray”, “rest” and “work”.

Play

Work

Pray

Rest

In life, these things must be in balance. If or when they become unbalanced, you and your life follow suit. One common example is that of a workaholic who is unable or does not know how to pull away from work or does not desire to do so. This person’s health and relationships usually suffer to some degree. For balance, we need to have time and activity in each of these areas.

During the next few months, we will be exploring these topics and how they may fit into this new year which I on our doorstep. Have a blessed and safe New Year.

In Christ,

Pastor John

THANK YOU!!

Yvonne and I want to thank the kind, thoughtful and generous members of Grace Lutheran. We have felt supported by your prayers, and loved by the things you have done. Yvonne especially wants to thank you for prayers and cards during her recent surgery. I want especially to thank Staff Support for making me feel so much a part of Grace Lutheran and its staff, and for the kind gifts at Christmas and the staff lunches. You are a wonderful Christian congregation doing God’s work here in Monroe and beyond. Our wish for you is a truly blessed and Christ-centered Christmas and a joyous New Year as you continue to find and fulfill God’s purpose.

Pastor Ron & Yvonne

The Staff would also like to thank everyone (known & unknown) who thought of us this Christmas Season with cards, delicious goodies, gifts and warm wishes. We appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness. We pray God’s blessings and peace upon everyone during this Christmas Season and beyond. Warmest wishes & many thanks,

~Pastor John, Beth, Marci, Ann, Terry & Dee

DECEMBER PARISH ACTIONS

WEDDING

Christine Borland & Gary Buxton
December 12, 2009

BAPTISMS

Reece Fredrick Nelson, son of Robin & Theresa Nelson
December 20, 2009

FUNERALS

Esther Gilbertson, December 29, 2009
Marge Zupanc, December 31, 2009

TRANSFERS IN

Don & Helen Nenneman, transferring from Bethlehem Lutheran
Church, Brodhead, WI

SYMPATHY

Eileen Weiler in the death of her brother, Homer Hendrickson, and
Marilyn Hauser and Family & Sharon Smith and Family,
nieces of Homer Hendrickson
Gordon & Carol Mohns & family in the death of Gordon's sister,
Katie Theiler Peck
Shane Olson & family in the death of Shane's cousin,
Cody Olson

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bailie Meier	1/1
Sara Heitkamp	1/3
William Paulson	
Torry Rufer	
Martha Scherer	
Leland Drewes	1/4
Karl Kuester	
Cindy McKeown	1/5
Regina Meighan	
Joanne Heins	1/6
Patti Casselberry	1/8
Lester Grossen	
Bob Leistikow	
Penny Mayer	
Dean Signer	
Gail Wichelt	
Brandon Zinsli	
Richard Carpenter	
Joan Chapin	
Connie Cline	
Cory Scheider	

Thor Thompson	
Arvin Johnson	1/10
Brenda Steinke	
Jill Zimmerman-Stiner	1/11
Alex Bestul	1/12
Maynard Gilbertson	1/13
Gail Zeitler	
Lynn Bowers	1/15
William Breisath	
Curt Wyttenbach	
Shann Rufer	1/17
Lori Timm	
Geri Bartholf	1/18
Claire Wyttenbach	
Kevin Bahe	1/19
Robert Ault	1/19
Amy Jacobson	1/20
Hannah Swenson	1/21
Kelsey Blumer	1/22
Jennifer Kleppe	
Blaine Lind	
Mackenzie Hesgard	1/23
Ryan Mathiason	
Ruth Mueller	
Brian Novak	
Greg Hilliard	1/24
Bob Ellefson	1/25
Del Heins	1/26
Werner Sulzer	
Andrea Balsiger	1/27
Scott Oestreich	
Julianna Voegeli	
Jordan Graber	1/28
Nathan Breisath	1/29
Erik Davidson	
Mitchell DeNure	
Deb Dieckhoff	
Ann Halverson	
Duane Klein	
Jerrica Stiner	1/30
Austin Colliers	1/31
Krissa Colliers	
Marilyn Ekena	
Helen Hefty	
Rodney Steinke	

*If you have a January birthday that is not listed here, please call the church office to let us know!
Thanks*

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH BEHAVIOR COVENANT

(Reviewed 11/09)

The following is the Behavior Covenant that we at Grace Lutheran Church believe in, and use as a guideline to follow in our daily lives.

1. **Listen to each other** “Let everyone be quick to hear and slow to speak...” (James 1:19) Dietrich Bonhoeffer stated, “The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists of listening to them.” *Life Together, p. 97*
2. **Respect the privacy of those who confide** “A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.” (Proverbs 11:13)
3. **Challenge each other with the truth** Be willing to confront when it is important. “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way to him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.” (Ephesians 4:15-16)
4. **Deal with people directly; don’t complain to others** “If one of my followers sins against you, go and point out what was wrong. But do it in private, just between the two of you.” (Matthew 18:15) (If someone complains to you about another member, help them to follow this example.)
5. **Strengthen each other** (Speak) only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” (Ephesians 4:29) “Likewise, the test of true fellowship is to ‘make the individual free, strong, and mature,’ not ‘weak and dependent.’” Bonhoeffer, *p. 88*
6. **Be gentle with one another** “My friends, you are spiritual. So, if someone is trapped in sin, you should gently lead that person back to the right path. But watch out, and don’t be tempted yourself.” (Galatians 6:1)
7. **Do not speak ill of others in the fellowship** “Do not grumble about each other or you will be judged, and the judge is right outside the door.” (James 5:9)
8. **Do not judge each other** “Some of you accuse others of doing wrong. But there is no excuse for what you do. When you judge others, you condemn yourselves, because you are guilty of doing the very same things.” (Romans 2:1)
9. **Pray for one another** “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16)
10. **Confess one’s wrongs** “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:8-9)
11. **Forgive one another** “Give and it will be given to you.” (Luke 6:38)
12. **Freely participate in the Body of Christ according to our gifts and talents** “Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:8)
- 13.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

In the month of October we served 508 individuals. Grace Lutheran supported us with 244 pounds of food, and supplies.

We are in need of soups, crackers, mac & cheese, pancake mix, syrup, veggies, fruits, canned meals, cake or brownie mix, baking items, personal care items, hot chocolate, hot cereals, and cold cereals.

Many thanks to everyone who help support us at the Food Pantry. We wish you all a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

Les Kruse, Jr.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Duane & Velma Klein
Bill & Joyce Smith
Larry & Beverly Segner
Ken & Joan Chapin

We are sorry if we missed your January anniversary. Please call the office to let us know of your anniversary date so that we may include your name next year!

JANUARY BAPTISMS

Curt Yaun	Amy Casselberry
Tim Schultz	Vicki Scherer
Melanie Zentner	Marilyn Hauser
Austin Camron	Cindy Heins
Edna Sonnenburg	Shannon Borhart
Jeanette Scholz	Grace Mathiason
Matthew Sinkule	Steve Trost
Sam Mathiason	Ann Hunter
Dawn Stamm	Craig Trost
Sadie Swenson	Brian Trost
Amanda Graham	Del Heins
Carol Ruch	Marcia Blumer
Jenna Wehinger	

We are sorry if we missed your January baptism. Please call the office to let us know of your baptism date so that we may include your name next year!

**CONGRATULATIONS
LAY SCHOOL GRADUATES!**

Lisa Huber & Beth Faith are pleased to announce that they have successfully completed their two-year Lay School of Ministry classes!

There will be a graduation/worship service at St. James Lutheran Church in Verona, Wisconsin on Saturday, February 20th at 11:00 AM. Anyone who would like to come & share in this service is invited to do so!

Both Lisa & Beth are continuing their course of study as they each work toward an Associate in Ministry Degree through the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA.

Your prayers and words of encouragement have been very appreciated, and they ask that you continue to pray for them as they pursue their calling through continued studies and discernment.

They would also like to thank the congregation for supporting them financially through these past two years, and for your prayers and kind words.

We pray God's blessing upon Lisa & Beth in the days ahead, as they continue their faith journey, and as they serve this congregation and the ELCA Church with their gifts and talents.

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church
1025—15th Avenue
Monroe, WI 53566

**TWELFTH NIGHT
CELEBRATION**

The Twelfth Night Celebration this year is being held at the Union Presbyterian Church, Monroe, on **Sunday, January 3rd at 7:00 PM.**

The Adult Choir from Grace will be participating as well many other area churches.

Enjoy an evening of music & fellowship!

MAINTAINING GOOD COMMUNICATION

The Church Council strives to maintain good communication with congregational members. The approved council minutes are posted in the narthex on the bulletin board nearest the office. Financial reports for the month are also posted here. Our website includes our monthly newsletter, and council highlights are posted there as well, at www.gracemonroe.org. You are always invited to share any questions, concerns or comments with any of our council members as well. They would welcome the opportunity to share conversation with you! Additionally, please remember that all are invited to attend monthly council meetings on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 PM! With council nominees to be voted on at the January 10th annual meeting, you are asked to prayerfully consider serving as a church council representative. If you have any other questions or concerns, please call the church office at 325-9172!