

December 2023

Days of Grace

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



Come Grow
in Grace

Plan to attend our Advent Breakfast on Saturday, December 2 at 10 am. This event will uplift and inspire you as we enter the season with carols, prayer and fellowship. The program this year is "A Blessing Comes Down." Breakfast will include egg bake, fresh fruit and assorted breads. A free-will offering will be received. The Joy Circle hosts this annual event.



Advent Breakfast



Children's
Christmas
Program

The Children's Christmas program at Grace Lutheran Church will be Sunday, December 17 at 10:10 am. This program will replace the regular worship service with a thought-provoking, interactive program including a retelling of the Biblical text of the Christmas Story.

The children and their Sunday School teachers, Kelly Green and Sharon Knuth, have been working very hard to bring you a program that will give you a unique and inspirational Christmas experience.

Jesus is the Reason We Celebrate Christmas!

Plan to be there to observe, appreciate and participate in this child-led event.

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistants

Dec. 3 Jack and Kathy Besant

Dec. 10 Renee Urban

Dec. 24 PM Dave and Michelle Clark

Dec. 25 Dave and Nikki Houzner

Communion Set-up

Dec. 3 Kathy Besant

Dec. 10 Renee Urban and Nora Clark

Dec. 24 PM Dave Clark

Dec. 25 Nikki Houzner

Readers

Dec. 3 Kathy Besant

Dec. 10 Sonja Denter

Dec. 24 PM Justin Eckelberg

Dec. 25 Lori Brooks

Dec. 31 Lessons and Carols

Greeters

Dec. 3 The Stowell family

Dec. 10 Jordan and Sheryl Lewerenz

Dec. 24 PM Penny Zmolek

Dec. 25 Ken and Marion Wilson

Dec. 31 Mary Miller

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

If you are interested in joining our team of worship assistants, contact Kristine Stauffacher, Synod Authorized Minister

Thank you!

Thank you Susan Miller for providing us all those beautiful quilts to raffle! We appreciate your generous donation of these quilts to get us closer to fully funding our trip to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering next summer. We are so blessed by your kindness and love.

Thank you!
Marty, Jordan, and Marshall

Looking Ahead

January 15 Deadline for Annual Report: financial and written reports: financial reports will be audited that week so they can be included in the annual report.

January 28: Annual Meeting following worship with light meal served by the youth going to the National Youth Gathering

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, Dennis Olson, Megan Braund, Ed Miller, David Denter



Advent and Christmas Worship schedule

Sundays, December 3 and 10: 10:10 am worship with Biblical monologue

Sunday, December 17: 10:10 am Children's Christmas Program with fellowship and food following

Sunday, December 24 **9:00 AM** Worship with Biblical Monologue * **Time change**
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship with Candle lighting

Monday, December 25 9:00 am Breakfast
10:10 am Christmas Day Worship

Grace Council Meeting October 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm. Those present were: Mary Miller, Mary Houzner, Dave Clark, Kathy Besant, Kris Stauffacher, Kelly Green, and Bishop Felix Malpica. Kris led us in a devotion from the book Liturgy of the Ordinary.

Bishop Malpica reviewed the SAM position in general. He asked questions of Kris regarding why she became a SAM, how she thinks things are going, and her goals for Grace. She then left the room, and Bishop asked the Council to review Kris's performance. Kris returned and Bishop summarized what the Council had said.

The agenda was then reviewed and approved. The Secretary's report was reviewed. Mary H. made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Mary M. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Worship: Will be meeting soon to choose hymns for Advent and Christmas.

Technology: Top Dog Productions in Kendall has submitted a bid with samples of his work. Kris will contact the churches in Mondovi for their evaluation. His bid is \$2000 for set up. He will train the admins on how to run the page and make changes. He will be available for questions and help. Dave made a motion, seconded by Kathy, dependent on positive feedback from Mondovi, to ask for a bid on paper, not to exceed \$2000. Motion passed.

Buildings and Grounds: The roof work on the flat roof has been finished. Our present sound system was evaluated by Peak Systems Group, Inc., Reedsburg. A paper bid has been received. There are 3 options. Mary M. will contact St Paul Lutheran and Bethany Lutheran in Mauston regarding their sound systems. Will possibly get another bid. Will discuss further at next meeting.

Education and Youth: Youth are selling raffle tickets before and after services for 3 quilts. This is a fundraiser for their trip to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering next summer.

Old Business:

The Meals Program has paid Grace for the employment taxes for February and March. The County is on hold for accepting the bids for the Meal Program throughout the County for next year.

New Business:

Kevin and Mary H. are at the end of their 2nd terms. Will need to find new candidates.

Will need to discuss the 2024 budget at next meeting.

All reports for the annual meeting need to be submitted to the office by January 15th.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted in Christ,
Kathy Besant
Secretary



DECEMBER Birthdays

Elizabeth Hill	Dec. 03	Luca Martin	Dec. 13
Lorna Martin	Dec. 06	Gina Klean	Dec. 14
Michelle Clark	Dec. 07	Beverly Tunipseed	Dec. 19
Joe Zant	Dec. 08	Contessa Clark	Dec. 21
Henry Schmid	Dec. 10	Payton Green	Dec. 21
Helen Milne	Dec. 10	Chad Ottum	Dec. 27
Scott Baisden	Dec. 10	Linda Ormson	Dec. 29
Jesana Eckelberg	Dec. 11	Jillian Martin	Dec. 30
Tayler Lewerenz	Dec. 12	Marie Vitcenda	Dec. 31

A NOTE FROM KRIS: THE JOY OF THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Advent begins this year on November 27. The new year in the church is not too far off of the calendar year, but it takes a very different path.

The church begins with Advent. This is seen as a time to prepare. We prepare our hearts for the coming of God-with-us: Emmanuel. Then, and only then—not immediately after Halloween/Thanksgiving; we move to a time to celebrate the arrival of the newborn King, a different sort of king than the world would ever imagine.

We continue the celebration by considering how the light of the world has come to us during Epiphany.

This is followed by time of repentance and fasting: Lent. We are given 40 days and six Sundays to consider our own faults as we learn of the faults of Jesus' disciples during his time with them. Easter is the pinnacle of celebration of our year. Not only do we celebrate Jesus' resurrection but we look forward to Jesus' return to bring the kingdom of heaven to completion.

After eight more weeks of Easter we turn to Pentecost, a celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Then we begin the long period of ordinary time. We need this time as well. This is where much of life happens and God walks with us even when not much seems to be happening. The church year reflects and prepares us for our own lives and emotions. We find the way to live through times of pain, joy, gratitude, boredom, malaise, passion and hope. Let the church year guide, direct and orient your heart, season after season and year after year.

December 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
31						

Church Events

Dec. 2 10 am Advent Breakfast

Dec. 3 Beginning of Advent 8:45 am Breakfast before 9 am Sunday School; 10:10 am Communion Worship

Dec. 7 10 am Ruth Circle

Dec. 10 8:45 am Breakfast before 9 am Sunday School; 10:10 am Communion Worship

Dec. 17 8:45 am Breakfast before 9 am Sunday School program rehearsal; 10:10 am **Children's Christmas Program**

Dec. 24 9:00 am Worship & Healing Service
5:00 pm **Christmas Eve Worship**

Dec, 25 10:10 am Christmas Day Worship

Dec. 31 10:10 am Lessons and Carols

12/5 Beef tips w/noodles, broccoli w/ cheese, pears, Christmas stollen
 12/7 Lasagna, peas, 7-layer salad, garlic bread, oatmeal raisin cookie
 12/8 Brat w/bun, baked beans, pasta salad, Mandarin oranges
 12/11 Scrambled eggs, sausage patty, hash browns, coffee cake
 12/12 Baked chicken, potatoes w/gravy, glazed carrots, sunshine salad
 12/14 BBO ribs, potatoes w/gravy, green beans, cut out cookie
 12/15 Salmon patty, potatoes, creamed peas, applesauce
 12/18 Tator tot casserole, mixed vegetables, lemon bars
 12/19 CHRISTMAS DINNER Swedish meatballs, stuffed pork loin, potatoes w/ gravy, vegetable medley, cherry fluff, crème de mint dessert
 12/21 French bread pizza, broccoli salad, corn, chocolate chip cookie
 12/22 CLOSED
 12/25 CLOSED
 12/26 Creamed Chicken over biscuit, green beans, Schreiner's Ritz nut torte
 12/28 Meatloaf, baked potato, carrots, corn bread, peaches, apple squares
 12/29 Cheddar beef enchiladas, Mexican rice, refried beans, pineapple, WW dinner roll

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

12/1 Tuna or chicken casserole, corn, cottage cheese, cranberries

12/4 Kielbasa, mac n' cheese, tomatoes, apricots, apple dessert



Youth Gathering Fundraisers beginning now

Fundraiser for Grace Luther League – 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

Parents Night Out

Activities (games, movies, books, coloring) and snacks provided.
Childcare provided by Luther League youth and adult church members.

To reserve for your child(ren) please call or text: 608-487-1972 by December 12th

Where: Grace Lutheran Church
Elroy, WI

When: Saturday, December 16th

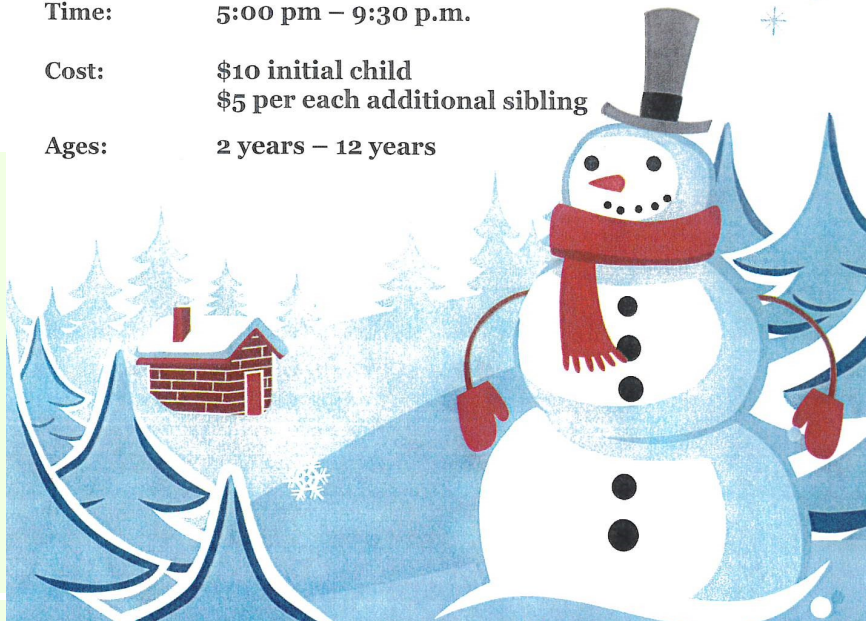
Time: 5:00 pm – 9:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 initial child
\$5 per each additional sibling

Ages: 2 years – 12 years



The drawing for the quilts is December 10 at coffee hour following worship. You do not need to be present to win. The youth are very appreciative of the generous donations they have received and will give an update on their fundraising at that time.



Don't miss the Children's Christmas Program on December 17! See page one for details.

All students and their families should make an effort to attend class on time December 3 and 10 so that the students can prepare for the program.

Sunday School will not meet on December 24 and 31!

GENEROUSLY GIVEN

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

Received: Oct. 22 \$1395; Oct. 29 \$ 821; Nov. 5: \$2827; Nov. 11: \$ 1218

Designated Funds Received: Elevator Fund \$ 246; CHIPS \$ 38; Sunday School: \$ 138; World Hunger \$ 54; Flowers \$ 231; Food Pantry \$ 20; Christmas for Kids: \$100; Undesignated Memorials \$140



Ruth Circle will meet on the first Thursday of the month at 10 am, December 7, in the library. The Ruth Circle is studying the book, Twelve Extraordinary Women, during their monthly meetings

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The Joy Circle will not be meeting in December, but they invite all members of the church to the Advent Breakfast on Saturday, December 2 at 10 am to enjoy food, fellowship and a program.



Come Grow in Grace

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.



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 in this newsletter.

GRACE LUTHERAN STAFF

Kris Stauffacher, Synod Authorized Minister

Dave Clark and crew, Custodian

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