



# THE MESSENGER

A Monthly Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church  
Monroe, Michigan 48162

DECEMBER 2014

## The Lord's Servants at Grace

### •Church Council

President ..... Jim Rivet  
V. President ..... Bill Sisk  
Secretary ..... Prudy Fairchild  
Treasurer ..... Larry Smith  
Finance Chairman ..... George Krueger  
Finance Secretary ..... Sally Carroll

### Board of Elders

Bob Auxter, Tony Castiglione, Kurt Kazmierski  
Hal Schmidt, Isac Smith, Chris Zarecki

### Board of Trustees

Dan Harmon, Craig Kling, Chris Leidel  
Dave Rafko, Bryan Weber, Kristin Zarecki

### Board of Christian Education

Tammy Castiglione, Marissa Cunningham  
Alyssa Jambor, Brenda Rivet  
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### Board of Evangelism

JoAnne Bunge, Jon Bunge,  
Ron Lymond, Susan Miller

### Board of Parish Life

Bev Gessner, Tonja Koenemann, Sheila Lambert  
Audrey Musulin, Sue Sisk, Ileene Smith

### Board of Youth

Deb Ellison, Penny Kazmierski, Kim Kruger  
Kate Matthes, Lisa Sowatsky, Julie Waldecker

### •Staff

Pastor: Rev. Mark Witte  
Secretary: Mrs. Prudy Fairchild  
Youth Director: Mrs. Sarah Witte

### •Prayer Chain

Rose ..... (734) 289-3894

### •Office Hours

Monday - Thursday ..... 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Friday ..... 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Phone ..... (734) 242-1401  
email: church@gracelutheranmonroe.org  
web site: www.gracelutheranmonroe.org

## “Away in the Manger”

Growing up in a Lutheran School meant I was in the Christmas program every year. I can remember my mother dressing me up with some new sweater every year (usually looking like a twin with my younger brother) for this special program. I can't remember all the songs we learned over the years but the one I know we sang, almost every year, was Away in a Manger.



It has a lullaby tune and easy words to sing. Its a classic and an old favorite. Its also a prayer. To sing it is an opportunity to put voice to our faith and to sing of our Lord's humble origin in the manger. This year, as Advent draws near I wish to invite you to

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Adult Christmas Dinner

Our Annual ADULT Christmas Dinner will be held on **SATURDAY, December 13**, starting at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, sponsored by the Men's Club and Ladies Society. This year we will have a POTLUCK, with meat being furnished. A free-will offering for the meat will be taken at the door. There is a sign-up sheet for number of people attending, in the church office. Please sign up before December 7. Babysitting will be available. There will be no Men's Club in December.

## Ladies Society

Grace Ladies Society will have their Christmas potluck on **Thursday, December 4**, starting at 12:00 p.m. (NOON) in the Fellowship Hall. We invite all ladies of Grace to join us. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to pass and unsigned NEW Christmas cards to the meeting. We will sign them at the meeting and send some to the Veteran's Hospital in Ann Arbor and to the Lutheran Home. The new Grace cookbook will be available to purchase at the meeting. Hostesses for our potluck will be Dorothy Downton, Rose Price, Marzie Randall and Arlette Schoof.

## Greeters

A new greeter's schedule for the winter months of January through April, 2015 will be printed by December 15. If any present greeters are going to be unavailable during these months, please let Eleanor know. Also, we welcome any NEW greeters that would like to join our mission. If you are interested, call Eleanor at 241-3847.

## December Birthdays

*Friends of Grace celebrating birthdays this month.*

*If yours isn't listed, we may not have it in our records. Contact the Church Office and we will gladly include it.*

***God's blessings and happy birthday!***

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Jonathon Miller<br>Cody Graves<br>Nancy Hotchkiss<br>Shane Sieb<br>Donna Libstorff | 16 Shirley McKibben  |
| 2 Tom Wehner<br>Marisa Cunningham  | 18 Dawn Kimble<br>Gillian Doederlein                                   |
| 3 Jane Kruger  | 19 Elise Harmon<br>Olivia Harmon<br>Bonnie Swatek<br>Charles Younglove |
| 7 Mary Fountain<br>Emma Kimble<br>Melissa Roorcroft<br>Gary Wenzel                   | 20 Bert Kamprath   |
| 8 Vera Siterlet  | 21 Joseph Ayers Sr.<br>Robert Mills                                    |
| 10 Luke Witte<br>Tammy Castiglione<br>Cheryl Sheehan                                 | 23 Scott Evans   |
| 11 Steve Evans   | 26 Kristine Marsai<br>Julia Wehner                                     |
| 12 Travis Drake<br>Ellsworth Wilson Jr.  | 28 David Ruhlig<br>Lynda Castiglione<br>Ethel Grunow                   |
| 14 Tim Held  | 30 Stephen Webb<br>Dustin Libstorff                                    |
| 15 Nathaniel Giarmo<br>Nancy Mills   | 31 Allen Seitz   |

## LWML

Thank you to everyone who donated mite boxes or contributed to Lutheran Women's Missionary League Missions. Your generosity is appreciated.

## Bring Ornament for Memory Tree!

Christmas is a joyful season filled with church and family activities. Christmas can also be a sad time, missing the loved ones that have left us here on earth and are now spending time with Jesus. The Altar Guild will again be doing the Memory Christmas Tree this year. Beginning December 14, we would like you to bring an ornament that brings fond memories of your loved one(s), write their name on the provided tag and hang it on the tree in the Narthex. At the end of the season, you can take the ornament with you or leave it to be used next year. We pray that your tears will turn into smiles when you are reminded that your loved one is with Jesus this Christmas and someday you will see them again!



## Heartfelt Thanks

In January the Altar Guild began a journey to purchase new communion ware to replace our worn vessels. We asked our church family to help us achieve this goal by giving donations. The response has been AMAZING and because of your generosity the new vessels have been purchased. The ladies of the Altar Guild are deeply grateful for the support from our church families, Grace Ladies Society and Thrivent. With humble and reverent hearts, we ladies will continue our spiritual commitment to serve our Lord Jesus Christ by maintaining the altar for the glory of God. This has been an amazing journey and we are very thankful that you have been a part of it.



### Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

**Midweek Worship** ~ 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

**“Away in the Manger”**

Wednesday, December 3

Wednesday, December 10

Wednesday, December 17

*Luncheon following the 11 a.m. Services*

**Sunday School Christmas Program**

Sunday, Dec. 14 during 10:30 a.m. service

**Christmas Eve Worship**

Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Communion services

**Christmas Day Worship**

Thursday, Dec. 25, at 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday Worship**

December 30 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**New Year’s Eve Worship**

Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 6:00 p.m. Communion service



Join Us for  
the Holidays!

### Audio Cassettes

Tapes of Sunday worship services are available by calling the Church Office. If you know of someone who is homebound, we can make arrangements to have one delivered. Sermons are also available online at [www.gracelutheranmonroe.org](http://www.gracelutheranmonroe.org)

*("Away in the Manger" continued from page 1)*

join me in worshipping this Babe,  
born in a manger far far,  
away. We will be using a series  
based upon the beloved hymn  
"Away in a Manger" to guide us  
through this Advent season.

I look forward to joining you in  
special Advent worship on the  
Wednesdays in December and  
sharing this beloved hymn with  
you from a whole new  
perspective. Come and worship  
the Christ Child with me and find  
the peace we need in this busy  
season ahead.

Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor Witte

## Caroling Event

The Thrivent Advocates will  
sponsor caroling on **Monday,**  
**December 15.** All are welcome to  
join us as we meet at church at  
5:15 p.m. and then return for  
refreshments and fellowship  
following caroling. If you have  
someone you would like us to add  
to our 'caroling list,' please  
contact Ileene Smith at  
(1-419-351-7899) or one of the  
Thrivent advocates. Hope to have  
you join us.



## Baptism Birthdays

*Friends of Grace celebrating Baptism Birthdays this month. If yours isn't listed, we may not have it in our records. Contact the Church Office and we will gladly include it!*

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Emily Rogers    | 18 Phyllis Miller   |
| Richard Plumb     |                     |
| Christine Schultz | 19 Luke Witte       |
| Barry LaRoy       |                     |
| Tonja Koenemann   | 20 Gary Wenzel      |
| Angela Ayers      | Sean Kazmierski     |
| Jonathan Moore    | Rhonda Libstorff    |
| 2 Cindy Papp      | 21 Rachel Boyd      |
|                   | Winter Pollock      |
| 3 Jack Price      | 22 Stephen Evans    |
|                   | Jacklyn Nolan       |
| 5 John Bills      | 23 Parker Bovenkerk |
| 7 Charles Hehl    | 25 Lucas Jambor     |
| Thomas Wehner     | Prudence Fairchild  |
| 8 Dorothy Downton | 26 Edna Wilson      |
|                   | Karen Dylenski      |
| 11 George Krueger | 30 Heidi Nolan      |
| 12 Travis Drake   | Mitchell Rabideau   |
| 17 Reece Turner   | Avery Ernst         |

## Memorials

October 16-November 15, 2014

A gift has been given in memory of:

IN HONOR OF ILEENE SMITH'S BIRTHDAY to the **Altar**

**Guild Vessels** from M/M Gerry Stromberger, Barb Hehl.

GAIL FAIRBAIRN to the **Altar Guild** from Lavern Fairbairn.

MARY EDMONDSON to the **Altar Guild** from Lavern

Fairbairn.

## Evangelism Project

Grace's Evangelism Team prepares Christmas stockings to be distributed to various organizations and churches throughout Monroe County. Because of the projected increase in the number of Christmas stockings needed this year, the Evangelism Team is requesting help from the congregation. If you can donate one or more of the items listed, just place them in the box located in the collection area no later than **December 7**. Thank you for helping to touch God's little children at this time. Needed are: pencils, erasers, crayons, individual tooth brush/paste kits, stickers, small coloring books, small packets of candy, mittens/ear muffs, any other items that a young child would like or need. The stockings will be stuffed on **Fri., Dec. 12**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They can use help with this project.



## Helping Hand

The Trustees have been trying to complete projects in and around the church, but sometimes there doesn't seem to be enough hands or time. If you have a little spare time and would like to



volunteer to help, just let a trustee know. We have green sheet request for repair items and other miscellaneous tasks that need to be completed.

### News about Our Members

October 16-November 15

#### Transfers In

Arnette Gahlau  
from St. John Lutheran,  
Port Hope, MI

Nov. 11



## Lessons & Carols

The John Tyner Chorale will present its annual "Lessons and Carols Service" on Fri., Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m. The performance will be held in the chapel of the IHM Motherhouse, 610 W. Elm, Monroe. This performance is modeled after the Christmas Eve service that has taken place in Cambridge Cathedral in England since the 1918. As always the concert is free and open to the public.



## Decorate the Church for Christmas

**Sat., December 13  
11:00 a.m.**

Anyone is welcome!  
Contact Kathie Simmons  
or Prudy Fairchild for  
more information.

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**630 N. Monroe St. ~ Monroe, MI 48162**  
**(734) 242-1401**  
**E-mail: church@gracelutheranmonroe.org**  
**www.gracelutheranmonroe.org**

# December 2014

## Grace to You

NOVEMBER							JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30													

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 1:00 p Ladies Study 6:00 p Evang Board 7:00 p Worship 7:00 p Advocates 8:00 p IMPACT Prime Time	<b>2</b> 7:00 p Special Council Meeting 7:30 p Trustees	<b>3 Advent I</b> 11:00 a Worship 12:00 p Luncheon 5:30 p Weekday Schl 6:00 p Cub Scouts 7:00 p Worship 7:00 p Boy Scouts	<b>4</b> NO Bible Class NOON Ladies Society 5:00 p Men's BBall 5:45 p Handbells 7:30 p Choir	<b>5</b> 7:00 p Ultreya	<b>6</b> 10 am Bethel
<b>7</b> 8:00 a Worship/Comm 9:15 a SSchool/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship 12-2 p S.S. Christmas practice	<b>8</b> 1:00 p Ladies Study 7:00 p Worship 8:00 p IMPACT Prime Time	<b>9</b> NO Men's Club NO Quilting Bee 7:00 p SS teachers 7:00 p Elders	<b>10 Advent II</b> 11:00a Worship 12:00 p Luncheon 5:30 p Weekday Schl 6:00 p Parish Life 7:00 p Worship	<b>11</b> NO Bible Class 5:00 p Men's BBall 5:45 p Handbells 7:00 p Cookie Bake 7:30 p Choir	<b>High School Youth-Christmas</b>	
<b>14 Pick up cookies</b> 8:00 a Worship 9:15 a SSchool/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship/Comm w/Sunday School Christmas Program	<b>15</b> 1:00 p Ladies Study 5:15 p Caroling-shut ins 7:00 p Worship/Comm 8:00 p IMPACT Prime Time <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	<b>16</b> 7:00 p Church Council	<b>17 Advent III</b> 11:00a Worship 12:00 p Luncheon 5:30 p Weekday Schl 6:30 p Youth Board 7:00 p Worship	<b>18</b> 5:00 p Men's BBall 5:45 p Handbells 7:30 p Choir	<b>19</b> NO Quilting Bee	<b>13</b> 9:00 a Cookie Bake 11:00 a Altar Guild decorate church 6:00 p Adult Christmas Dinner
<b>21</b> 8:00 a Worship/Comm 9:15 a SSchool/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship NO Mighty Youth NO PCM Distribut.	<b>22</b> NO Ladies Study NO Worship NO IMPACT Prime Time	<b>23</b> NO Christian Ed Board	<b>24</b> 7:00p Christmas Eve Worship/Comm 11:00p Christmas Eve Worship/Comm	<b>25</b> 10:00 a Christmas Day Worship	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:00 a Worship 9:15 a SSchool/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship/Comm	<b>29</b> 7:00 p Worship/Comm 8:00 p IMPACT Prime Time	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:00 p <i>New Year's Eve Worship/Communion</i>	<b>Ladies Small Group Bible Studies *</b> Mondays 1:00 p.m. at Grace (242-1401) Thursdays 6:30 p.m. at Panera		

# High School Youth



\$5.00 for 1 dozen or 2 dozen for \$9.00

Order now through December 15

Cookies may be picked up on December 22 in the gym kitchen.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

How many? \_\_\_\_\_ dozen

Would like mine unfrosted

All orders must be pre-paid. Checks payable to: **Grace Lutheran Youth Group**

Cash

Check

Thank you for supporting Grace Youth. Proceeds will help with the MI District Gathering and the Appalachian Servant Event.

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Praise the Lord Kiss the Cook

Reserve your copy of this exclusive cookbook.

**Cost: \$10 per book or 3 books for \$25**

**Pick up date: December 7, 2014**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

# cookbooks \_\_\_\_\_

Please turn this form into the recipe box in the narthex.

No payment necessary until pick up date.

Grace Lutheran Church  
630 N. Monroe Street  
Monroe, MI 48162-2935

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
MONROE, MI  
PERMIT No. 422

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Requested **November 30**

*Please help us save mailing costs by  
notifying us of address changes.*



To guarantee articles for "The Messenger" can be included, please have them into the Church Office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month at noon.



# THE MESSENGER

A Monthly Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

630 N. Monroe Street \* Monroe, MI 48162 \* (734) 242-1401

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MEMORY TREE,
- 4 CAROLING, BAPTISMS BIRTHDAYS, MEMORIALS
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- 6 DECEMBER CALENDAR
- 7 COOKIE ORDER FORM, COOKBOOK ORDER FORM

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- DEC 13 CHRISTMAS DINNER—6 P.M.  
DEC 14 WORSHIP W/ SS PROGRAM—10:30 A.M.  
DEC 15 CAROLING FOR SHUT INS—5:15 P.M.  
DEC 14 PICK UP CHRISTMAS COOKIES  
DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES —7 & 11 P.M.  
DEC 25 CHISTMAS DAY SERVICE — 10 A.M.  
DEC 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE — 6 P.M.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

- SUNDAY 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.  
MONDAY 7:00 P.M.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

- SUNDAY 9:15 A.M.

Online calendar available at [www.gracelutheranmonroe.org](http://www.gracelutheranmonroe.org).. Click on the link to Grace Lutheran Church calendar.