



THE MESSENGER

A Monthly Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church
Monroe, Michigan 48162

DECEMBER 2015

The Lord's Servants at Grace

•Church Council

President Bill Sisk
V. President Tony Castiglione
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Finance Chairman George Krueger
Finance Secretary *Sally Carroll*

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Isac Smith, Chris Zarecki

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Melissa Roocroft, Lisa Sowatsky, Julie Waldecker

•Staff

Pastor: Rev. Mark Witte
Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Margaret Roebke
Youth Director: Mrs. Sarah Witte

•Prayer Chain

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

•Office Hours

Monday - Thursday.....9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Friday9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Phone (734) 242-1401
email: church@gracelutheranmonroe.org
web site: www.gracelutheranmonroe.org

OUR COMING SAVIOR

Our worship theme for our Wednesday Advent services this year is called “Our Coming Savior.” This theme will use those simple men and women, the “characters” of the story, to help us know and prepare for our Savior Jesus. We’ve heard these names before, we’ve even reenacted their stories, now we’ll see them again for the very first time with a Skit Guys video and fresh perspectives from God’s Word to accompany each week’s lesson.

ELIZABETH
& ZECHARIAH

The lessons and videos for the three Wednesday Advent services will continue on into our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services to give us a seamless connection throughout this holy month.

While our month will begin with an Advent focus on the 2nd coming of our Savior we will see this also blend into the joyous first coming which we celebrate in the always anticipated Christmas season.

As you prepare **SHEPHERDS** your

(Continued on page 3)

Grace Ladies Society



The Christmas potluck for Ladies Society will be on Thursday, December 3, starting at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) in Fellowship Hall. We encourage all members to attend and bring a dish for the potluck, along with Christmas cards to be signed for the Veteran's Hospital and the Lutheran Home. Hostesses will be Dorothy Downton, Rose Price and Marzie Randall.

December Birthdays

- 7 Mary Fountain
- 8 Vera Siterlet

Greeters

A new schedule for greeters during the months of January-April 2016 will be coming out around December 15. If you are unable to greet during any of those months, please call Eleanor at 241-3847 or leave a note in my church mailbox. We are also in need of more greeters who would join this ministry by greeting once every other month.

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 Nancy Hotchkiss
Cody Graves
Donna Libstorff
Jonathon Miller |  | Dawn Kimble |  |
| 2 Marisa Cunningham
Thomas Wehner | | 19 Elise Harmon
Olivia Harmon
Bonnie Swatek
Charles Younglove |  |
| 3 Jane Kruger |  | 20 Bert Kamprath | |
| 7 Mary Fountain
Melissa Roorcroft
Gary Wenzel
Emma Kimble |  | 21 Robert Mills | |
| 8 Vera Siterlet | | 23 Scott Evans | |
| 10 Luke Witte
Kyle Angelocci
Tammy Castiglione
Cheryl Sheehan |  | 24 David Graves |  |
| 11 Steve Evans | | 26 Julia Wehner
Kristine Marsai | |
| 12 Mickey Wilson |  | 28 David Ruhlig
Lynda Castiglione | |
| 15 Nancy Mills
Nathanial Giarmo | | 29 Ethel Grunow | |
| 16 Shirley McKibben
17 Ashton Yoas | | 30 Stephen Webb
Dustin Libstorff |  |
| 18 Gillian Doederlein | | 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.

(“Our Coming Savior” continued from page 1)

busy calendars for the month of December I strongly encourage you to make sure to leave time for that which is most important: the Word of God. Come to worship, be fed, find rest in these busy and difficult days, and grow closer to your Coming Savior Jesus who has promised to meet you in His House.

Worship times will be on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. with a lunch following the 11 a.m. services.

Advent hope and Christmas joy be with you always,

Pastor Witte

JOSEPH
& MARY

Caroling Event

The Grace Thrivent Advocates are sponsoring Christmas Caroling to shut-ins and other friends on **Monday, December 14**. All are welcome to join us as we meet at church at 5:15 p.m. and then return for lunch and fellowship following caroling.

If you have someone you would like us to add to our ‘caroling list,’ there is a sign up sheet in the church office. Hope to have you join us.



Evangelism Project

The Evangelism Team prepares Christmas stockings to be distributed to various organizations and churches throughout Monroe County.



The stockings will be stuffed on **Sat., Dec. 5**, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. All help would be greatly appreciated.

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

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

“Our Savior Coming” Characters of the Story we meet are
Elizabeth & Zechariah on Wednesday, December 2
Herod Wednesday, December 9
Shepherds Wednesday, December 16

Luncheon following the 11 a.m. Services

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 14 during Sunday School hour

Christmas Eve Worship

The Innkeeper on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.
Communion services

Christmas Day Worship

Joseph & Mary on Friday, Dec. 25, at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship

December 27 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

NO Monday Worship, December 28.

New Year’s Eve Worship

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

Decorate the Church for Christmas

Friday, Dec. 11
1:00 p.m.

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



Meet Lisa Schubargo



The Board of Parish Life would like to introduce you to the newest member of our board, Lisa Schubargo. Lisa was born in Toledo, Ohio and raised in Samaria. Lisa and her husband, Jim, have two children, Hali and Ian, who live in Butte, Montana. Lisa is a realtor with Danberry Realtors of Temperance. Her hobbies include: traveling, walking and spending time in the outdoors and she “loves the beach”. She is also very

adventurous as she admits to backpacking alone through Italy.

We are pleased to have Jim and Lisa as transfer members from Trinity to our Grace Church Congregation. Please welcome them and introduce yourself to them the next time you see them.

Adult Christmas Dinner

Come join the annual Adult Ladies Aid and Men’s Club Fellowship Dinner, *Tuesday, December 8* at 6:00 p.m. We will be celebrating in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is free but there will be a freewill offering taken for the Helping Hands Fund. Everyone is invited and babysitting will be available. There is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the office. If you plan to join us please sign up by *December 2*. This is a potluck but meat will be furnished. We don’t need to know what you are bringing just how many are planning to attend.

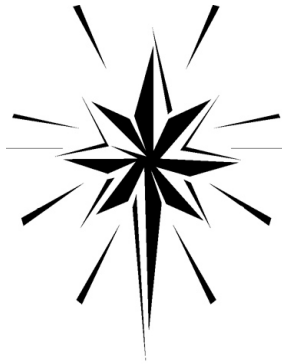
**Prepare your Heart
for Christmas True
Meaning!**

Lessons & Carols

The John Tyner Chorale will present its annual “Lessons and Carols Service” on Fri., Dec. 18, 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.

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 13, 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!



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 | Tonja Koenemann
Jonathan Moore
Emily Rogers | 20 | Gary Wenzel
Sean Kazmierski
Rhonda Libstorff |
| 2 | Darlene Riling | 22 | Stephen Evans
Jacklyn Nolan |
| 3 | Jack Price Jr. | 23 | Parker Bovenkerk |
| 5 | John Bills Jr. | 25 | Lucas Jambor
Prudence Fairchild |
| 7 | Charles Hehl
Thomas Wehner
Abel Wigman | 26 | Karen Dylenski |
| 8 | Dorothy Downton | 30 | Heidi Nolan |
| 11 | George Krueger | | |
| 17 | Reece Turner | | |
| 19 | Luke Witte | | |

News about Our Members

October 16-November 15, 2015

Marriages

Donald Howard & Carolyn VanSteenis Oct. 16

Baptisms

Noelle Marie Moody Nov. 1

Transfers In

Gary & Darlene Riling
from St. John's, New Boston, MI Nov. 6

Synod Nominating Ballots

As was reported at the October Voter's Meeting, Grace has received nominating ballot paperwork for the following Synod positions: President, First Vice-President, Regional Vice-President, Regional Lay Member Synod Board of Directors (6-year term), Regional Lay Member Board for International Mission (3-year term), Regional Ordained/Commissioned Member Board for International Mission (6-year term). This paperwork is to be submitted to Synod no later than Feb. 1, 2016. There is no commitment to nominate anyone for any of the above positions, but if you do have a nominee in mind then please forward that name to either Pastor Mark Witte, Bill Sisk, or an elders.

"The Gospel For You"

A 30-minute radio program airing each Sunday at 12:30 pm on WRDT(AM560). This week you can tune in to hear discussion on the Book of Genesis. For previous recorded shows go to www.thegospelforyou.org/pastshows

Resolutions/Overtures Regarding Licensed Lay Deacons in the LCMS

As was reported at the October Voter's Meeting, the leaders, instructors, Licensed Deacons and deacons-in-training, have formulated and/or supported four resolutions to be submitted to Synod as overtures to be presented to the Synod National convention in 2016. These overtures seek to insure that the Licensed Lay Deacon Program is permitted to continue the complete educations, supervision and proper licensing of lay deacons, for the up-building of Christ's Church and the care of and ministry to His people.

It has been suggested for maximum effect that those congregations who currently have Licensed Deacons serving in their churches, or have deacons-in-training, as members of their church congregations, read and pray on this matter, and then either approve or disapprove these resolutions. If disapproved, no actions will be taken further. However, if the congregation approves these resolutions, and so votes in the January Voters Meeting, then these resolutions will be signed by the Senior Pastor, Congregational President, an Elder and one member-at-large, and submitted in triplicate to Synod as overtures, no later than February 1, 2016.

Copies of all four of these resolutions have been made available to the congregation for their perusal, and may be found on the counter in the church office. Please do not hesitate to convey your opinions to church leadership between now and the January Voters Meeting and certainly plan to attend said meeting to voice and vote your opinions.

Resolutions #1 and #4 more closely pertain to the congregation of Grace at the present time. However, all four resolutions address the whole of the operating theater of Licensed Lay Deacon Ministries, under the direction of the LCMS.

Thank you for your prayerful attention to this matter and your continuing support of my deacon training for ministry among you.

Sincerely and IN CHRIST, Bob Auxter (deacon-in-training, MI District-LCMS Lay Deacon training program)

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

December 2015

Grace to You

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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					

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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						

Sun		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:45 p Praise Band 7:00 p SS teachers 7:30 p Trustees	2 Advent I 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	3 NO Bible Class NOON Ladies Society 5:00 p Men's BBall 5:45 p Handbells 7:30 p Choir	4 8 p—8 a Super Youth lock in	5 10 a-12 p Stuff Evangelism Christmas Stockings
6 8:00 a Worship/Comm 9:15 a SSchool/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship	7 1:00 p Ladies Study 5:00 p Men's BBall 6:00 p Evang Board 7:00 p Worship 7:00 p Advocates 8:00 p IMPACT	8 6:00 p Christmas Dinner 6:45 p Praise Band	9 Advent II 11:00 a Worship 12:00 p Luncheon 5:30 p Weekday Schl 6:00 p Parish Life 6:00 p Cub Scouts 6:30 p Youth Board 7:00 p Worship 7:00 p Boy Scouts	10 5:00 p Men's BBall 5:45 p Handbells 6:30 p Elders 7:30 p Choir	11 1:00 p Altar Guild decorate the church	12	
13 8:00 a Worship 9:15 a Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30 a Worship/Comm 12-2 p Family Ministry Event	14 1:00 p Ladies Study 5:00 p Men's BBall 5:15 p Christmas Caroling 7:00 p Worship/Comm 8:00 p IMPACT	15 6:45 p Praise Band 7:00 p Church Council <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	16 Advent III 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	17 5:00 p Men's BBall 6:00 p Handbells 7:30 p Choir	18 5:00 p Girl Scouts 6:00 p Cookie Bake	19 9:00 a Cookie Bake	High School Youth-Christmas Cookies
20 Christmas Cookie pick up 8:00 a Worship/Comm 9:15 a SSchool/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship 1:00 p PCM @ COS	21 1:00 p Ladies Study 5:00 p Men's BBall 8:00 p IMPACT	22 6:45 p Praise Band 7:00 p Board of Ed	23 NO Weekday Schl 6:00 p Cub Scouts 7:00 p Boy Scouts	24 7:00 p Christmas Eve Worship/Comm 11:00 p Christmas Eve Worship/Comm	25 10:00 a Christmas Day Worship	26	
27 8:00 a Worship 9:15 a SSchool/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship/Comm.	28 1:00 p Ladies Study NO Worship 8:00 p IMPACT	29	30 NO Weekday School 6:00 p Cub Scouts 7:00 p Boy Scouts	31 6:00 pm <i>New Year's Eve</i> Worship/Commion			

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

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MONROE, MI

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Requested delivery date: November 30, 2015

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



**Join Us for
the Holidays!**

DECEMBER 2015

To guarantee articles for "The Messenger" can be included, please have them into the Church Office by the 15th 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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- 4 PREPARE YOUR HEART, MEET LISA SCHUBARGO, LESSON & CAROLS, DECORATE THE CHURCH
- 5 MEMORY TREET, BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS
- 6 SYNOD NOMINATING BALLOTS, RESOLUTIONS/OVERTURES, "THE GOSPEL FOR YOU"

UPCOMING EVENTS

- DEC 8 CHRISTMAS DINNER—6 P.M.
DEC 13 SS PROGRAM—DURING SS HOUR - 9:15 A.M.
DEC 14 CAROLING FOR SHUT INS—5:15 P.M.
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. Click on the link to Grace Lutheran Church calendar.