



# THE MESSENGER

A Monthly Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church  
Monroe, Michigan 48162

DECEMBER 2016

## The Lord's Servants at Grace

### •Church Council

**President** ..... Bill Sisk  
**V. President** ..... Tony Castiglione  
**Secretary** ..... Prudy Fairchild  
**Treasurer** ..... *Larry Smith*  
**Finance Chairman** ..... George Krueger  
**Finance Secretary** ..... *Sue Sisk*

### Board of Elders

Hal Schmidt, Isac Smith,  
Bryan Weber, Chris Zarecki

### Board of Trustees

Steve Evans, Rod Foshag, John Giarmo,  
Jim Rivet, Don Wigman, Jr., Kristin Zarecki

### Board of Christian Education

Tammy Castiglione, Rosemarie Mikrees,  
Heidi Nolan, Brenda Rivet, Deb Schmidt,

### Board of Evangelism

JoAnne Bunge, Ron Lymond,  
Susan Miller, Mary Webb

### Board of Parish Life

Bev Gessner, Sheila Lambert, Darlene Rililing,  
Lisa Schubargo, Sue Sisk, Ileene Smith

### Board of Youth

Donita Auxter, Kim Kruger, Kate Matthes  
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.  
Friday .....9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Phone ..... (734) 242-1401  
email: church@gracelutheranmonroe.org  
web site: www.gracelutheranmonroe.org

## “From Heaven Above”

Its safe to say that, though the day of Christmas is still a few weeks off you’ve already been hearing the Christmas music in the stores and on the radio for some weeks now. It seems that just as the trick-or-treating ends the Christmas machine gets going. One song perhaps you’ve not heard soaring through the airwaves is the hymn “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come.” If you don’t know it yet, that’s okay, this year during our Advent season you will be treated to this beloved hymn through our worship series.

Our series “From Heaven Above” will lead us into a focus on the divine gifts that come down to us from above in the birth of Christ. It was one of the most joyous days in all of human history, and God sent His angels to proclaim it. The first five verses of this beloved hymn reveal to us the joyous proclamations of the angels with the wondrous news of the Savior’s birth. Then

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Program will be *Sunday, December 4* at

9:15 a.m. Following will be an After Glow

Party where students can enjoy treats with their families and other congregation

members. There will be a dress rehearsal on *Saturday, December 3* from 12-2 p.m., with

lunch provided. This year’s program explains that while cookies, decorations and presents

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Ladies Society

Grace Ladies Society will meet on **Thursday, December 1**, at 12:00 p.m.

(NOON) in the Fellowship Hall for our

Christmas

Potluck. All

ladies of Grace are welcome to join us. Please bring a dish for the potluck. Also, we will be signing Christmas cards for Wellspring (Lutheran Home) and the Veterans in Ann Arbor.

*Please bring in cards to the*



## Greeters

It is that time again to make out the "Greeter List" for the winter months, January through April. Please let Eleanor know if you are unable to greet at any time during those months. Also, I am in need of more greeters, if you wish to join this service of the church. You will be put on the list every other month.

Thank you for your service.

## Coloring Books

Ladies Society have adult spiral coloring books for \$8.00. These make great gifts. They may be purchased on Sun. in the gym kitchen between services.

## 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  
Conrad Mutter  
Donna Libstorff



2 Marisa Cunningham  
Tom Wehner

3 Jane Kruger



7 Mary Fountain  
Melissa Roorcroft  
Gary Wenzel

8 Vera Siterlet

10 Luke Witte  
Tammy Castiglione  
Cheryl Sheehan  
Kyle Angelocci



11 Steve Evans

12 Jackie Iacopelli  
Mick Wilson



14 Timothy Held

15 Nancy Mills  
Nathanial Giarmo

16 Shirley McKibben



17 Ashton Yoas

18 Gillian Doederlein

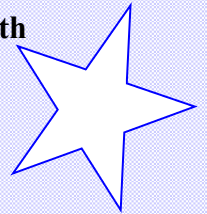


19 Olivia Harmon  
Elise Harmon  
Charles Younglove  
Bonnie Swatek

20 Bert Kamprath

21 Robert Mills

23 Scott Evans



26 Kristine Marsai  
Julia Wehner

28 Judith Cousino  
Lynda Castiglione  
David Ruhlig  
John Head

29 Ethel Grunow



30 Dustin Libstorff  
Stephen Webb

31 Allen Seitz



## Thrivent

Your advocates are still at work for Grace and God. If anyone has a project they would like to do for Grace or any other charity you can request an action team grant and receive \$250. Please call Ileene Smith at (419)351-7899 and get all the details.

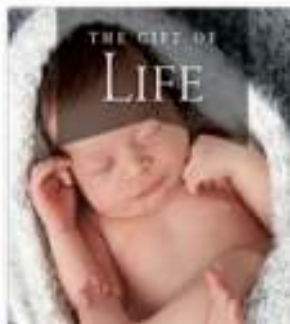
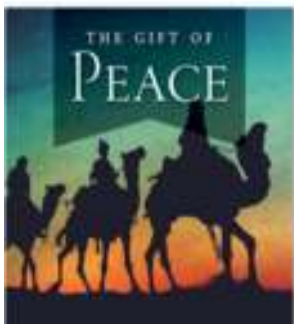
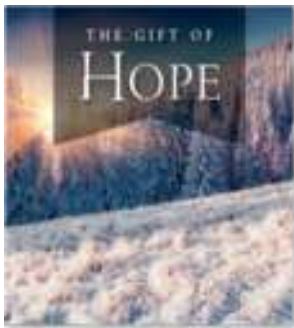


*("From Heaven Above" continued from page 1)*

the remaining verses, like a divine conversation, declare the responses of the shepherds and what the Savior's birth means for every last one of us.

I invite you to ponder the significance of the Savior coming to us in our lives "*From Heaven Above.*" I encourage you to join us in worship to further realize the immense need we have to encounter our Savior in His coming. We live in difficult times for believers where it seems the wells of faith are running dry. It is my prayer for you in the weeks ahead that you would see your Savior Jesus as the one who comes bringing us a living water, which will become in you a spring of water welling up to eternal life (see John 4:13-14).

The weekly themes highlight for us just a taste of the gifts our Savior's Coming has brought "*From Heaven Above*" for us:



**Wed. Nov 30: The Gift of Hope**

The people of Israel waited in hope for the promised Messiah. We now wait in hope for his return on the Last Day.

**Wed. Dec 7: The Gift of Love**

The steadfast love of God is revealed in the gift of his Son. As the redeemed people of God, we share his love with others.

**Wed. Dec 14: The Gift of Peace**

In Christ Jesus we have peace with God. We now share that good news of peace with the world.

**Wed. Dec 21: The Gift of Life**

Through faith in Jesus we have forgiveness and life, a life of love and service now in his name and eternal life in his presence.

## LWML

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

## Christmas Stockings

The Board of Evangelism will be having a door collection at the end of both services today. This collection will be used for the Christmas Stockings that will be handed out to various churches and agencies through out the county. The Evangelism team is asking for help on **Saturday, December 3, at 10:00 a.m.**, to help assemble the stockings they plan to put together approximately 350 stockings. If you are willing to help it would be greatly appreciated, with enough help it should take under 2 hours. So please come and help us out and enjoy the fellowship of God with your Christian family.



*(Sunday School continued from page 1)*

are a big part of the Christmas season, there is no Christmas without Jesus. On **December 18** we will have cake, games and even a piñata to celebrate the important birth of Jesus. Happy Birthday Jesus!

## Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

**Midweek Worship** ~ 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.  
**“From Heaven Above”**

Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, 14 and 21  
*Luncheon following the 11 a.m. Services*

**Sunday School Christmas Program**

Sunday, Dec. 4 during Sunday School hour

**Christmas Eve Worship**

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

**Christmas Day Worship**

Sunday, Dec. 25, at 10:00 a.m. Communion service  
**No Monday Worship, December 26.**

**New Year’s Eve Worship**

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

**Sunday Worship**

January 1 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
 January 2 at 7:00 p.m. Monday Worship

## Help A Family

Grace Lutheran Church is proud to offer our services to the Intermediate School District (ISD) by adopting families in need for Christmas. This year we have 10 families that are in need of adopting. If anyone is interested in helping a family, there is a sign-up sheet in the office. A list of family members, ages, ideas, and needs will be assigned. All that is asked of you is to shop and fulfill part of or the entire list. Wrap each gift and put the name on the gift. Place the family's gifts in a large plastic bag and secure the number of the family given to you on the outside of the bag. We will be collecting the bags of gifts here at Grace on or before Dec. 11. If it is not possible for you to adopt a whole family, we can have several members share a family. Please contact Brenda Rivet at 735-3157, if you have questions.

## SD Cards

SD Cards 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)

## Ho, Ho, Ho

Everywhere we go we see Santa's, elves, and ornaments signs of the upcoming Holiday season. But where is the true meaning of Christmas found? The birth of our Savior, Jesus. Come join us to celebrate His birth on **Tuesday, December 13**, in the Fellowship Hall, at 6:00 p.m. We will be furnishing roast beef and it will be a potluck meal. Babysitting will be furnished. Bring a dish and come join the fun. Please sign-up on the sheet in the office. This fun evening is sponsored by the Men's Club and Ladies Society.

## Decorate the Church for Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 10  
**10:00 a.m.**



Anyone is welcome!

Contact Kathie Simmons or Prudy Fairchild for more information.

## 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 11**, 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<br>Angela Ayers<br>Richard Plumb | 20 | Gavin Sheehan<br>Isaac Sheehan<br>Gary Wenzel<br>Rhonda Libstorff |
| 2  | Darlene Riling                                   | 22 | Jacklyn Nolan<br>Sean Kazmierski<br>Stephen Evans                 |
| 3  | Jack Price, Jr.                                  | 23 | Parker Bovenkerk  |
| 7  | Abel Wigman<br>Charles Hehl<br>Thomas Wehner     | 25 | Lucas Jambor<br>Prudence Fairchild                                |
| 8  | Dorothy Downton                                  | 26 | Karen Dylenski<br>Beverly Mitchell                                |
| 11 | George Krueger                                   | 30 | Mitchell Rabideau<br>Heidi Nolan                                  |
| 15 | Nancy Hotchkiss                                  |    |   |
| 17 | Reece Turner                                     |    |   |
| 19 | Luke Witte                                       |    |   |

## Caroling Event

The Grace Advocates are inviting everyone to come and join I singing Christmas carols and make a shut-in's day a little brighter. They will be caroling on *Sunday, December 11*, leaving the church at 1:30 p.m.

There is a sign-up sheet in the office if you are interested.

## December Anniversaries

Congratulations and prayers for Gods' continued blessings on those celebrating anniversaries this month:

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Tony & Tammy Castiglione                         |
| 5  | Bill & Bev Gessner                               |
| 6  | Norm & Opal Kohler                               |
| 9  | Paul & Angela Yentz                              |
| 10 | Lloyd & Maria McKinney                           |
| 18 | Larry & Kathie Simmons<br>Rob & Heidi Nolan      |
| 23 | Jack & Sharon Price                              |
| 28 | Dan & Debbie Foster<br>Roger & Sandy Libstorff   |
| 30 | David & Dorothy Downton<br>Deb & Michael Ellison |

## News about Our Members

October 16-November 15

### Funerals

Anne Thorne	Oct. 28
Henry A. Sonak	Nov. 4



## Habitat for Humanity

In over 20 years of helping families improve their housing situations, we at Habitat for Humanity have seen firsthand how critical housing is to families and to communities. We realized from the beginning that when we build structures, we are also building dignity, hope and opportunity. Our efforts help realize improvements in health, education outcomes and employment.

Thank you for your gift of \$1,096.68 which is being put to work so that hard working families can have a safe, secure and healthy place to grow and thrive. Together, we can provide hope, and we can create opportunities so that people feel like they have a chance for their lives to be better and their communities to be stronger.

As the seasons change, our commitment to affordable housing does not change. We hold fast to our mission of putting god's love into action to build homes, communities and hoe in Monroe county. Homes number 94-97 are being built all over the county with the help of volunteers.

We can't do it without faithful supporters like you, and we are grateful for your time, your prayers, your efforts and your donations.



## High School Youth



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

Order now through December 4

Cookies may be picked up on December 11 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 various summer projects.

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

# December 2016

## 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
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				

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>4</b> <i>Dakota Honey Sale</i> 8:00 a Worship/Comm 9:15 a S. S. Christmas Program 10:30 a Worship 6:00 p Praise Band	<b>5</b> 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	<b>6</b> 6:30 p Youth Board 7:00 p SS teachers 7:30 p Trustees	<b>7</b> <i>Advent II</i> 11:00 a Worship 12:00 p Luncheon 5:30 p Weekday Schl 6:00 p Cub Scouts 7:00 p Worship	<b>1</b> NO Bible Class NOON Ladies Society 5:00 p Men's BBall 5:45 p Handbells 7:30 p Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10 a-12 p Stuff Evangelism Christmas Stockings 12-2 p SS practice
<b>4</b> <i>Dakota Honey Sale</i> 8:00 a Worship/Comm 9:15 a S. S. Christmas Program 10:30 a Worship 6:00 p Praise Band	<b>5</b> 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	<b>6</b> 6:30 p Youth Board 7:00 p SS teachers 7:30 p Trustees	<b>7</b> <i>Advent II</i> 11:00 a Worship 12:00 p Luncheon 5:30 p Weekday Schl 6:00 p Cub Scouts 7:00 p Worship	<b>8</b> 5:00 p Men's BBall 5:45 p Handbells 7:30 p Choir	<b>9</b> 6:00 p Cookie Bake 7:00 p Super Youth	<b>10</b> 9:00 a Cookie Bake 10:00 a Altar Guild decorate the church
<b>11</b> <i>Christmas Cookie pick up</i> 8:00 a Worship 9:15 a SSchool/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship/Comm 1:30 p Christmas Caroling 6:00 p Praise band	<b>12</b> 1:00 p Ladies Study 5:00 p Men's BBall 7:00 p Worship/Comm 8:00 p IMPACT	<b>13</b> 6:00 p Christmas Dinner	<b>14</b> <i>Advent III</i> 11:00 a Worship 12:00 p Luncheon 5:30 p Weekday Schl 6:00 p Cub Scouts 7:00 p Worship	<b>15</b> 5:00 p Men's BBall 6:00 p Handbells 6:30 p Elders 7:30 p Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:00 a Worship/Comm 9:15 a SSchool/Bible Study 10:30 a Worship 1:00 p PCM Distribute 6:00 p Praise band	<b>19</b> 1:00 p Ladies Study 8:00 p IMPACT	<b>20</b> 7:00 p Church Council	<b>21</b> <i>Advent IV</i> 11:00 a Worship 12:00 p Luncheon NO Weekday Schl 6:00 p Cub Scouts 7:00 p Worship	<b>22</b> 5:00 p Men's BBall 5:45 p Handbells 7:30 p Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 p Christmas Eve Worship/Comm 11:00 p Christmas Eve Worship/Comm
<b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i> 10:00 a Worship/Comm NO Praise Band	<b>26</b> <i>Office Closed</i> NO Worship 8:00 p IMPACT	<b>27</b> 7:00 p Board of Ed	<b>29</b> NO Weekday School	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:00 p <i>New Year's Eve</i> Worship/Comm

*High School Youth-Christmas*

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

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MONROE, MI

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Requested delivery date: November 28, 2016

*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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- 2 LADIES SOCIETY, GREETERS, THRIVENT, COLORING BOOKS, DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS
- 3 CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS, LWML
- 4 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE, Ho, Ho, Ho, HELP A FAMILY
- 5 MEMORY TREE, NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS, CAROLING EVENT, BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS, DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
- 6 HS COOKIE FORM, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
- 7 DECEMBER CALENDAR

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- DECEMBER 4 SS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM @ 9:15 A.M.  
DAKOTA BOY'S & GIRL'S HONEY SALE
- DECEMBER 13 CHRISTMAS DINNER
- DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WITH COMMUNION (7 & 11 P.M.)
- DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION (10 A.M.)
- DECEMBER 26 OFFICE CLOSED; NO MONDAY WORSHIP
- DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE W/COMMUNION (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.