

February 2022



GRACE MESSENGER

WORSHIP:

Sunday— 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Monday —7:00 p.m.

Sunday School & Bible Study—9:15 a.m.

PASTOR WITTES' MESSAGE



We are on quite the journey aren't we? Life continues to amaze us with its high highs and low lows. We are still left wondering what's around the next corner and how we survived the last great adventure that the Lord has carried us through. But hopefully we are reminded in it all of St. Paul's words to the Philippians when he wrote "I know how to be brought low and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and

need. *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.* (Phil. 4:12-13)"

As we look to continue forward on this journey with the Lord we have no better time than the present to return to the Lord. No better time to be in the Lord's house and return to worship and the receiving of His grace in Word and Sacrament. Ahead of us is the season of Lent. A season of repentance. A season that guides us from the ashes and darkness of Ash Wednesday to the waving of palms and the hosannas of Palm Sunday. This season is a fruitful time to reconnect with God and see His hand of grace at work in our lives as He has done through all generations.

In this year's Wednesday services we will be taking **A Lenten Journey with Joseph**. We'll be looking at the book of Genesis and the amazing ups and downs of Joseph's journey as God prepared to use him in the most extraordinary of circumstances to be a savior for his people.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued "Journey with Joseph" from page 1)

The Lent services will be every Wednesday at 11am and 7pm. Below you'll see the themes of each special service:

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Mar. 2 (Ash Wednesday) | <i>The Genesis of Joseph (Gen. 30:22-24)</i> |
| Mar. 9 (Midweek) | <i>A Wondrous Silence (Gen. 37:12-36)</i> |
| Mar. 16 (Midweek) | <i>A Miracle of Miracles (Gen. 39:1-21)</i> |
| Mar. 23 (Midweek) | <i>Wait for the Lord (Gen 41:9-16, 25-44)</i> |
| Mar. 30 (Midweek) | <i>Chased by a Dirty Conscience (Gen. 42:6-24)</i> |
| Apr. 6 (Midweek) | <i>God Does Have a Plan (Gen 45:1-15)</i> |
| Apr. 15 (Good Friday) | <i>Forgiveness Finished (Gen 50:15-21)</i> |

YOUTH LEADER SARAH WITTE

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you. "

You have 168 hours in your week – how do you spend them? Recently the youth group discussed the choices in their lives and what God says about them. We broke down our week by hours: how many hours do you spend sleeping, eating, driving, going to work or school, etc. And, of course, how many hours do you spend focused on God.

Unfortunately most of us spend way too few hours focused on God and way too many hours focused on this world. Of course our earthly occupations have to be a priority in our lives – that's how we make a living and take care of ourselves and others. We need to work. We need to go to school. And most of our hours are taken up with this task. But let's take a look at the other things we do. How many hours do we spend on social media each week? On watching television or movies? On playing video games? Let's compare that with how many hours we spend reading the Bible or in worship. Admittedly, the number of hours spent in the Word are much, much less.

Our occupations and praising our Father are not mutually exclusive however. Even if you do not have a profession of church work, your occupation can certainly be God-pleasing. Most professions serve others in some way. As long as you maintain a good, Christian example in your life, in your profession, you are doing the work of God. If you focus on taking care of your body, His earthly temple, then the work you do eating or exercising is God-pleasing.

But let's not forget that we need to be in His Word daily. 2 Timothy 3 says, "All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." Jesus himself says, "But he answered, 'It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4)

Do not neglect God's Word and the time you spend with it. Praise Him in all that you do, no matter what you do.

PASTOR BOB AUXTER, SMP

On Wednesday, February 9, I conducted the Children's Chapel Service at Trinity Lutheran Grade School, Monroe. My object lesson was a large Lego blocks rendition of the Temple, with a wall built around it of Lego blocks, and on the front wall was written the statement in bold, black letters, "GOD IS NOWHERE".

That statement is what we commonly hear from the darkened world on a daily, continuous basis. The argument is that if God is real and/or present in history, then why do we have all this evil around and bad events happening locally as well as globally? Why does He not just step in and put an end to evil?

Does the adage "Be careful what you ask for!" come to mind about now?

We know full well, that God *has* addressed the evil in this world. In Christ Jesus, His only Son, He *has* disarmed Satan and the evil forces arrayed against us in Heavenly places, our sin, death, the world, and the grave- "*He (God the Father) disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him (the Father's One and Only Son, Jesus).*" Colossians 2:15

It is Christ Jesus who has atoned for, propitiated our sin-debt, that we accrued in committing and proliferating *that* evil and destructive ways of our sin, in but three simple words, as He bled and died on Golgotha's cross-

"*It is finished!*" John 19:30

Christ Jesus has promised us in His final earthly Word, moments before His ascension into Heaven- "*And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*" Matthew 28: 20b

Before these school children, I took that Lego object lesson and plucked up the block that had the letters 'NOW' printed on it and moved it over one spot, so that the message read- "GOD IS NOW HERE." Fact and Truth, so help us God!!



Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, former president of St. Louis Seminary, presenting at the recent theological conference that I attended on Saturday, February 5, stood at a podium that had carved upon it the Greek letters Alpha (beginning), followed by Chi-Rho (1st three letters of **Christ**), and then Omega (the end), similar to this:

What stunned me was that here, clearly displayed for all to see, was the Truth-filled fact and promise, that 'Yes!', Christ Jesus, God-in-the-flesh, is right there in the present, in the middle, between the beginning and the end.

Ponder this the next time you hear the disparaging words from those of this world concerning God's Presence and Sovereignty over all things and situations, good and bad. And even dare to share with them the Word of eternal life that we, already of the next world, live by, and breathe in, daily. "*Simon Peter answered Him (Jesus), "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."* John 6:68-69. Amen?

Rev. Bob Auxter, Grace, Monroe

LENTEN LUNCHES

Lenten Worship this year will be *Wed., March 2–April 6* and we are looking for volunteers to help prepare one of the six Lenten Lunches. We are still looking for anyone/group who might be interested in helping with a meal on *March 16* and/or *April 6*. The lunch is immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. It is a good time to enjoy fellowship with your church family. The meal should be something simple that would take a small amount of time to put together so that the workers would be able to join in the worship service. For example, the lunch could be sloppy joes, sandwiches & chips, soups, anything that you and your group would like to put together.



If you have a group of friends and would like to help with one of the luncheons, your help would be greatly appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet in the church office, if you would wish to help with a meal(s). If you have any questions, please contact Margaret in the church office at mroebke@gracelutheranmonroe.org or call the church office at 734-242-1401.

GRACE ONLINE GIVING

Please help us grow through electronic giving. Giving online is fast, easy, and secure. Never worry about bringing your checkbook or cash again—you can set up recurring payments, so your donations continue even when you forget or are on vacation.

1. Visit our website at: www.gracelutheranmonroe.org
2. Locate the Give Online button.
3. Donate!

If you need help setting up your online account for electronic giving please call the church office at 734-242-1401 and talk to Margaret, she will help you set your account up. To learn more about giving online or through our GivePlus mobile app, contact our church office.

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Morning Bible Study starting at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School will start at 9:15 a.m. Preschool thru 5th grade will meet in the fellowship hall; 6th & 8th grades will meet in the classroom, 9th thru 12th grade will meet in the Youth Room, in the parish house basement.

Monday Bible Studies will meet at 9 :30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday Morning Bible Study will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Classroom. **This class will be on hiatus from March 3-April 21. Will resume meeting on Thursday, April 28.**

News about Our Members

December, 2021-February 17-2022

Transfers In:

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|----------------|---------|
| Roxanne Snider | Dec. 9 |
| Adam Thorn | Feb. 10 |

Baptisms:

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|--------------|---------|
| Ben A. Witte | Jan. 9 |
| Levi A. Boyd | Feb. 13 |



Funeral

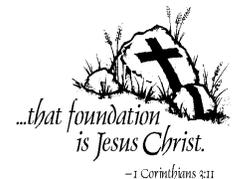
| | |
|--------------|---------|
| Donald Blohm | Feb. 17 |
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Transfer Out:

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| Vincent & Lynda Casiglione to Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Hudson, MI | Feb. 11 |
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WINTER WEATHER

If Monroe Public Schools is cancelled due to weather, Weekday School, Ladies Society, and Thursday Bible Study will not meet. Other groups and Church Boards should check with their leaders during any weather event to see if their meetings are still on. If the office is closed due to weather a notice will be posted on the Grace Facebook page or the church website. The office will be working remotely on those days.



Craft & Crop Fundraiser

(For Grace IMPACT Youth)

Saturday, March 26th

9:00am—4:00pm

Grace Lutheran Church

630 N. Monroe Street

\$25/table, lunch included

Reserve your table!

Kathleen Clark 734-652-8789

Sarah Witte 734-242-1401

graceimpactyouth@gmail.com



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

*Please help us by
notifying us of
address changes.*



THE MESSENGER



Proclaiming God's
Grace through faith
and love.

GRACE'S UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 ~*
Lenten Services (11 a.m. & 7 p.m.)
- March 12~IMPACT-Trivia Night (6 p.m.)*
- March 26~IMPACT (Craft & Cropping)*
- March 27~Advocate Card Party (12 p.m.)*
- April 14~Maundy Thursday Service w/
communion (7:00 p.m.)*
- April 15 ~ Good Friday (1:00 p.m.)*
- April 15 ~ Tenebrae (7:30 p.m.)*
- April 17~Easter w/communion
(7:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.)*