

Grace Lutheran Church
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P.O. Box 249
South Range, MI 49963
(906) 482-2011

www.gracesoutrange.com

Grace Notes

January 2015

Dear Followers of Jesus,

I am typing this while simultaneously thinking about the Baptism of Jesus, which will be celebrated on Sunday, January 11, 2014. While these thoughts may not make it into my sermon, I'm stuck on the question: Why would **Jesus** need to be baptized?

Why **would** Jesus **need** to be baptized? Both John's understanding of the baptism he offered and our understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism would suggest that Jesus would **not** need the forgiveness of sins. So why did he do it? To be part of the group? To be together with other believers? Because it's what everybody else was doing? Maybe by Sunday I'll have some answers.

So, while I'm praying about that, my mind still wanders and wonders. Why do any of us attend worship services on Sunday morning? When I was growing up, I went because my parents made me and it was what everyone else was doing on Sunday mornings. If I didn't go, there would be nothing to do and no one to play with anyway, so I was happy to go.

Today, our communities and lives are much different. Not everyone goes to church on Sunday. There are plenty of other things to do. After a long week of work, running errands and doing chores on Saturday, Sunday is a great day for sleeping in and relaxing. Or a great day to haul the kids to some sporting event or another. Or.....or....yep, plenty of possibilities for not attending worship on Sunday.

So then, why do those who do attend, come to church on Sunday mornings? When I think about this, I'm led back to the potential answers about Jesus's baptism. While most people would agree that we don't need a worship service in order to worship God I think many come because they want to be together with other people who believe what they believe. They come because they want to be part of the group of Jesus's followers, yes.

In the Gospels, there were plenty of Jesus's followers and in nearly all of the stories of Jesus preaching, teaching, and healing many people were present. There may be something to the idea that Jesus loved to be with others. How about you? Why do you come to worship?

God's peace to you,

Pastor Sally



Kiitos Paljon



We say thank you to Janet Kokko for her delightful poems of thanks for all who share their gifts.

Anniversaries

Gary and Emily Raffaelli
January 1st



**Any corrections or additions please inform the office.*

Birthdays

Jarod Butkovich 3 rd	Sara Hanner 6 th
Lauri Kneebone 7 th	Steven Dorsey 10 th
Jessica Riutta 12 th	Marianne Bohjanen 12 th
Andrew Lorenz 13 th	Brittany Puska 21 st
Tina Puska 25 th	Jacob Keranen 25 th
Shantel Lorenz 31 st	



**Any corrections or additions please inform the office.*

From the office

Would you like to start receiving a weekly devotion from the church office on Mondays? Please send Katie your name and email address.

Newsletter items are due in the office the last week of the month.

Please save your Econo receipts and return them to a box in the library. Grace receives 1% of the total receipts.

Help Needed

* Used towels and dish rags pile up in the kitchen. If you would be so kind to take them home to wash, that would be terrific!!!

Cup of Grace followed by Bible Study meets every Wednesday starting at 10:00am.

Mark Your Calendars

Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 18th
after worship with a potluck to follow.
Annual Meeting packets are available in the narthex. Pick up your packet today.

Quilters

Jan. 7th and 21st
at 1:00pm
1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Primetimers

Tues., Jan. 13th
Shelden Grill
at 12:00pm.

**Grace Lutheran
Annual Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 18th
after worship.
Potluck to follow.**

Inclement weather date: Sunday, Jan. 25th



**Is it Fellowship or Potluck?
Nope! Just coffee and conversations.**

It was fun having coffee and Christmas cookies after worship on Sunday, January 4. It wasn't a "fellowship" Sunday; nor was it a "potluck" Sunday. It was Sunday, and Jeanine had leftover cookies and Chris Davis made coffee to go with them. Those who stayed enjoyed the post-worship treats and conversations.

Anyone could do this whenever you choose. Would you like to set up coffee on the first or third Sunday of the month? No food or snacks necessary. During these cold months especially, it's nice to have a cup of coffee after worship.

**January
Worship Text**

Sunday, Jan. 4th
Matthew 2: 1-12
Epiphany of Our Lord

Sunday, Jan. 11th
Mark 1: 4-11
Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, Jan. 18th
John 1: 43-51
The calling of the
first disciples

Wednesday, Jan. 25th
Mark 1: 14-20
The calling of the
disciples at the sea



Sharing your Gifts

Here is a thought to ponder: When God wants a ministry, God provides the gifts for that ministry.

Rather than focusing on what you've done in the past, how about completing these sentences as you think about serving in 2015?

I'm really good at: _____

Most people don't know that: _____

If somebody just asked me, I would gladly: _____

Grace Lutheran Congregational Contact Information

Volunteer Coordinators

Sharing Spiritual Gifts	Marianne Bohjanen	482-8459
Acolytes/Bell Ringers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Altar Duty	Chris Davis	482-5567
Communion Bread	Michelle Jeannotte	370-9296
Communion	Chris DeForge	482-8068
Counters	Marianne Bohjanen	482-8459
Funeral Servers	Patty Savola	281-5100
Readers	Cheryl Stimac	482-0199
Fellowship	Carolyn Rundman	482-6344
Ushers	Pam Long	482-4065
Greeters	Joleen Jenkins	370-6674
Ride Coordinator	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Office Volunteers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Gardening	Janet Kokko	482-2368

Grace Lutheran Council

Jeanine Baillod (President) 482-3240
Angela Harju (Vice President) 281-1732
Heather Aro (Secretary) 482-0341
Laurie Aho (Treasurer) 482-0817
Sally Wilke (Pastor) 231-0048
Katie Bridgers 482-2011

Building & Grounds Maintenance

Paul Bridgers 482-3665	Dave Aro 487-6161
Tom Stimac 281-7909	Angela Harju 281-1732
Heather Aro 482-0341	

Rick Schulze
370-1055

Pam Long
487-4065

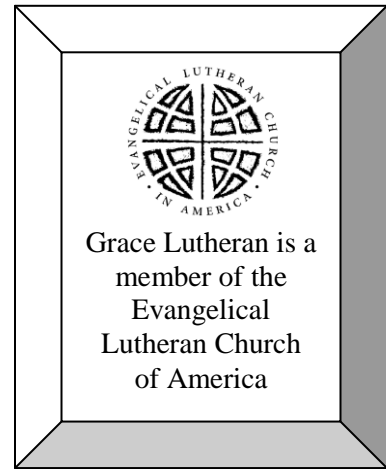
Parsonage Maintenance

Paul Bridgers 482-3665	Dave Aro 487-6161
Katie Bridgers 482-2011	Jeanine Baillod 482-3240

Dave Aro
487-6161

Let us pray together:

As the days grow longer, hear us, O God, as we pray for those who are often in darkness. Hear our prayers for those whose sight is diminishing and for those unable to see your great deeds. Hear our prayers for those who are in jail or prison; for those oppressed or abused; for those whose every movement brings pain. Hear our prayers for those who are unable to depend on you; for those who carry heavy burdens; and for those who perceive too much of their lives as burden. Seek the hidden prayers of our hearts and bring us peace. We continue to lift before you all the people whose names are spoken during our times of prayer in worship, and those in each of our lives who are in need of your loving encouragement, healing, compassion and grace. Thank you, Almighty God, for sending Jesus to us. Thank you for sending us into the New Year. Amen.



Gentle Reminder

The office, financial, and custodial staff do not work on Sunday mornings. Thanks for respecting their worship time with their families.

Worship News

Communion will continue to be served by intinction until Ash Wednesday.

Sunday, Jan. 18th
Potluck, bring a dish to pass.



Remember to pick up your annual meeting packet!

Heart to Heart

Prayers, Cards, Calls, Visits, Hugs

Amanda Mountjoy at home
Delores Paavola at home
Esther Parolini at Portage Pointe
Nancy Harris at Omega House
Eleanor Maki at the Bluffs
Irene Kokko at Portage Pointe
Pauline Weslander at Portage Pointe


Where's Pastor Sally?

Grace Lutheran
Mon. & Wed.
9am to 12:30pm
Sally's day off is
Thursday
On Tues. & Fri.,
she's at
First Lutheran



Service Workers for January

Altar Duty for December ~ Chris Davis and Jeanine Baillod

	Jan. 4	Jan. 11	Jan. 18	Jan. 25	
Counters	J. Baillod P. Long	H. Aro M. Bohjanen	K. Johnson C. Davis	A. Harju C. Stimac	
Fellowship	None	Fellowship hosted by the Rule & Makela families		None	
Ushers	Aro Family	J. Kokko S. Maki	Stimac Family	DeForge Family	
Acolyte	Chance Bridgers	Brandon Butkovich	Emma Jenkins	Macy & Pearl Raffaelli	
Bell Ringer	Brandon Butkovich	Louis Raffaelli	Liam Jeannotte	Emma Jenkins	

More Funny Things on the Way to Church

(by: D. Anderson & T. Wilcox, Concordia Publishing House,)

Give Us a Break!

When my late friend, the Rev. August Waechter, was a pastor many years ago in Bunker Hill, ILL., it was not customary for clergy to have regular vacations.

Even so, he finally asked hi congregation for permission to take one. The members agreed. Then he said, "Shall I arrange for a substitute pastor to conduct services while I'm gone?"

"Oh, no!" they chorused. "We want a vacation too!"

The Rev. Eugene Smith
Los Angeles, Calif.

Prayer Requests

If you have any prayer needs, please complete the request cards located in the pew. You may also contact Pastor Sally Wilke, Carolyn Rundman, Cheryl Stimac, Jan Mikkola or Katie Bridgers, as well as using our web site. The Grace Prayer Service is held the first Monday of the month at the church at 6:30pm.

Knit, Pray, Crochet

Anyone who enjoys crocheting or knitting, come join us on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 10:00am. Bring your project with you. All are welcome, beginners and experts. Refreshments provided. If you have any questions, call Sue at 483-4759.

**Note the new meeting days,
The 2nd and 4th Mondays**

December Council Highlights

- ~ Christmas Eve benevolence will be going to Angel Mission, ELCA Malaria Fund and Grace Lutheran Good Sam fund.
- ~ The council reviewed and approved the stewardship committee resolution. The stewardship committee will coordinate the timing of fundraisers to maximize all giving.
- ~ Katie stated that Grace was cited by the health department for the gap on the kitchen sink sprayer nozzle, and since has been fixed.
- ~ Someone is interested in buying the meat slicer from Grace, council agreed to sell the slicer at a reasonable price. Katie will call the interested person.



Pasty Fundraiser Sale

The outreach committee is selling pasty coupons for only \$5.00. These coupons are good at Pat's Foods and Festival Foods. Purchase these coupons from any outreach member, the Grace office, or WMPL radio in Hancock.

Youth Group Scoop

**Friday Jan. 9th ~ Saturday, Jan. 10th
Bowling Night/Lock In**

Drop off will be Friday at 7pm at the church. We will travel into town to go bowling and then come back to the church for the night. Different activities will be happening throughout the night but the kids can go to bed whenever they want during them. We will have breakfast in the morning and then pick up will be at 12pm on Saturday.

**Monday January 19th
Movie Night**

Drop off any used clothes that you have outgrown or don't wear anymore, that are still in good condition. We will donate them to the Angel Mission store, which gives free clothes to those that need it. Then stay to watch a movie and have popcorn!

Committee Reminders

If you have a committee meeting date set, please notify Katie at the Grace office. Thanks!

Pastor Sally Wilke
231-0048
Office Hours
Mon. & Wed. 9am to 12:30pm
pastorsally@gracesoutrange.com

Katie Bridgers
Grace Office: 482-2011
Office Hours
Mon. to Thurs. 8am to 2:30pm
grace@gracesoutrange.com

www.gracesoutrange.com
<https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurchSouthRangeMi>

Grace LCW Bible Study

Monday, Jan. 12th
7:00pm

All ladies are
welcome to join.

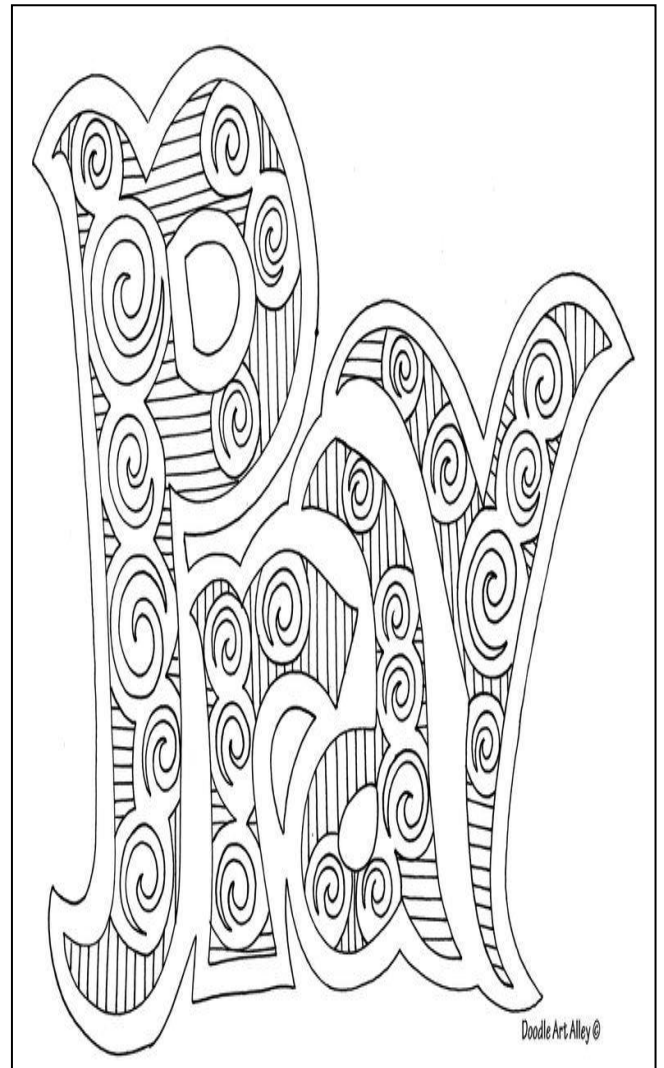
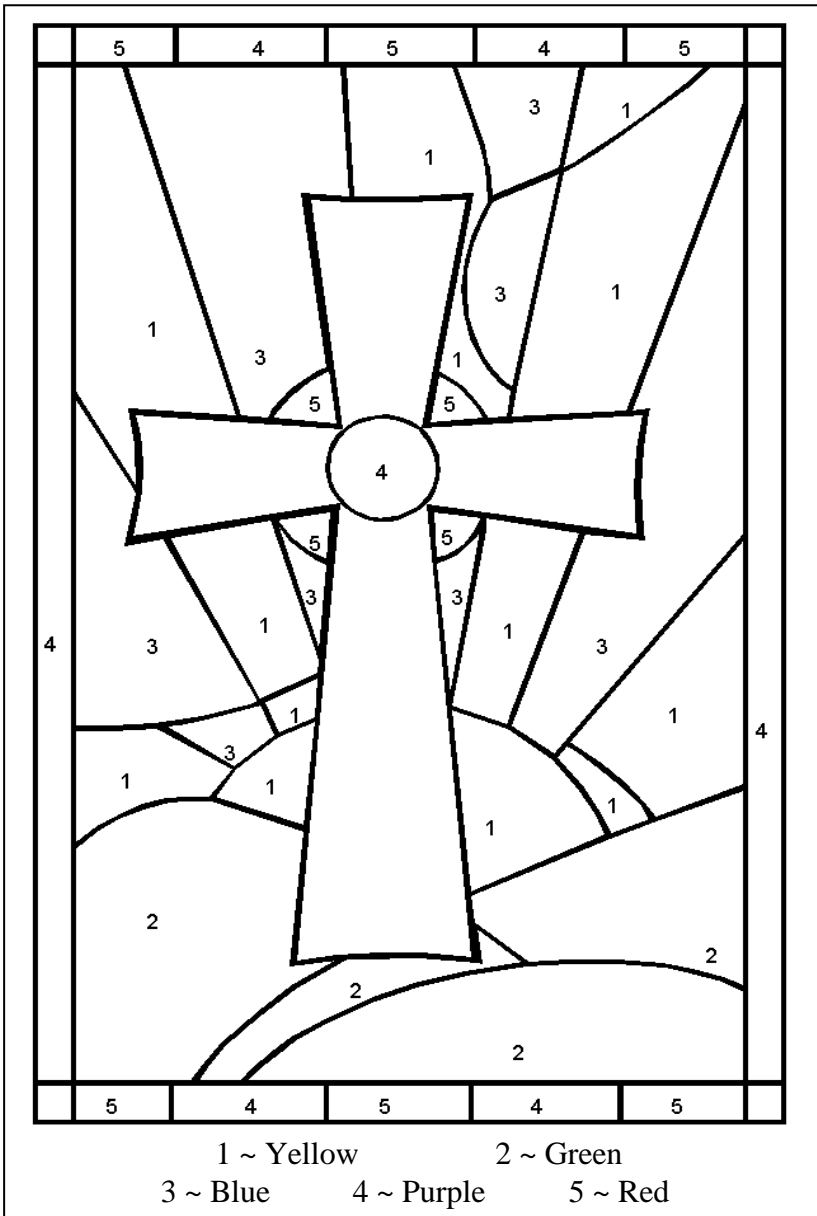
How to Listen to a Sermon

(from The Lutheran Handbook)

Lutherans believe God's Word comes to us through the sacraments and the preaching of the Holy Scriptures. Honoring God's Word, not to mention getting something out of church, includes diligent listening to the sermon and active mental participation.

1. Review active listening skills ~ While the listener in this case does not get to speak, the sermon is still a conversation. Make mental notes as you listen. Take notice of where and why you react and which emotions you experience.
2. Take notes ~ Note-taking promotes active listening and provides a good basis for later reflection. It also allows you to return to confusing or complicated parts at your own leisure.
3. Maintain good posture. Avoid slouching. ~ Sit upright with your feet planted firmly on the ground and your palms on your thighs. Beware if the impulse to slouch, cross your arms, or lean against your neighbor, as these can encourage drowsiness.
4. Listen for the law ~ You may feel an emotional pinch when the preacher names the sinner in you. Pay attention to your reaction, and try to focus on waiting for the Gospel, see "How to Tell the Difference Between the Law and the Gospel".
5. Listen for the Gospel ~ This will come in the form of a sentence most likely starting with the name Jesus and ending with the words *for you*. Upon hearing the Gospel, you may feel a physical lightness, as though you've set down a great burden. You may cry tears of joy. This is normal.
6. End by saying "Amen" ~ Since preaching is mostly God's work, honor the Word by sealing the moment with the sacred word, which means, "it is most certainly true!"
7. Review ~ If you've taken written notes, read through them later that day or the next day and consider corresponding with the preacher if you have questions or need clarification. If you have taken mental notes, review them in a quiet moment. Consider sharing this review time with others in your congregation or household on a weekly basis.

Kids' Korner



Sunday school
resumes on
Sunday, Jan. 11th

Kids' Korner News

**After School Program,
Faith Formation and
Sunday School are
back in session. We all are
looking forward to seeing
those smiling faces again.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2015	Pastor Sally out of office Jan. 24 th to Jan. 28 th			1	2 8:00pm AA/ AL-Non	3 11:00am Bereaved Parents' Lunch
	4 10:15am Choir 11:00am Worship	5	6 6:30pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	7 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting 3:00pm ASP/FF	8	9 7:00pm Youth Group Lock In 8:00pm AA/ AL-Non
11 9:45am Choir 10:00am S.S 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship hosted by Makela and Rule families 12:00pm Outreach Meeting	12 10:00am Knit, Pray, Crochet 7:00pm LCW	13 12:00 Primetimers at Sheldon Grill	14 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 3:00pm ASP/FF	15	16 8:00pm AA/ AL-Non	17
18 9:45am Choir 10:00am S.S. 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Annual Meeting 12:30pm Potluck	19 7:30pm Youth Group Movie Night	20 6:30pm Council Meeting	21 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting 3:00pm ASP/FF	22	23 8:00pm AA/ AL-Non	24
25 9:45am Choir 10:00am S.S 11:00am Worship	26 10:00am Knit, Pray, Crochet 2:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting	27	28 10:00am Cup of Grace 11:00 Bible Study 3:00pm ASP/FF	29 10:00am Arbor Green Worship	30 8:00pm AA/ AL-Non	31

