

Grace Lutheran Church
is a caring community
of disciples, proclaiming
the good news of
Jesus Christ.

Grace Notes

January 2023

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As I write this, today is election day. I hear from some people that they are very anxious about this; anxious about outcomes, anxious about potential violence, anxious about accusations of voter fraud or refusals to accept results. And from others, it is business as usual as I believe, in many of our communities, people know who their election officials are. Neighbors are behind the desk at polling locations. Familiar faces are overseeing the voting booths. I'd like to think that we have a deeper sense of trust in voting procedures and processes where we live than perhaps in more urban areas.

Whether you trust the process in your community or not, I think we all know that we are at a place in the history of our country where the political seams are showing, and the fabric of society is even ripping apart in some places, leaving holes and frayed edges. We, as a country, are not "living in harmony with one another."

Truthfully, I'm not sure that's possible. I still hope for civility, but I do not expect harmony. However, I do hope for harmony in our communities of faith, so that with one voice we can glorify God, and with joined effort, we can partner together in ministry.

I've heard from a few of our congregations that "people leave their politics at the door." Certainly, our congregations are not the place for campaigning, but can they be a place of civil discourse? Not so that one person can badger another person into agreement, but so that as people of faith we can wrestle together with issues that are complex and multi-layered. Where else can people of faith struggle together with what it means to be people of faith, when opinions vary about what a faithful response is?

It seems to me that the polar opposite extremes of any given issue are the only voices at the microphone or on the news. I have no idea what the results of the midterm election will be, nor what that result will mean moving into the future. Since we are both citizens of the world and children of the kingdom of God, the way forward is far from clear. I hope that it is possible to discuss, discern, and consider together what it means to live in harmony given differing opinions about politics. And I offer a word of caution, that the extreme voice seeks to demonize the opposition, and no one is as bad, or as good, as any advertisement or media spot or Facebook post seeks to make them out to be.

It seems to me that the last decades have seen an eroding sense of trust in government, authority, and institutions, including the Church, including your church. I don't know how to build up trust in government, but your witness can help to rebuild trust in people of faith and what it means to be Christian.

I therefore ask you, encourage you, exhort you, to give witness in your community to your faith in Christ Jesus, not just in how you vote, but in how you treat each other, how you speak about those with whom you disagree, and how you live your faith in every day. While much of what Jesus said is not so clear, his actions and his call to follow could not be more explicit. Jesus gives us the mandate to love, to serve, to feed his sheep. We are to advocate for the forgotten, lift up the lowly, see the overlooked, welcome the excluded, love God by loving our neighbor. It is as easy and as difficult as that.

As congregations once again gather around tables for coffee fellowship and conversation, I hope we can renew friendships and deepen relationships, old and new, so that at least in our communities of faith we can find common ground and listen better to each other than the rest of the society seems to be able to manage. As siblings in Christ, as people bound together as Christ's own body, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13, Advent 2)

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

Kiitos Paljon

Thank you, Pastor Micah for always welcoming worshipers, with a friendly smile at the door on Sunday mornings. Thank you for being here for all of us.

Birthdays

Jarod Butkovich 3	Cameron Raffaelli 3	Lauri Kneebone 7
Marianne Bohjanen 12	Brooke Tormala 22	Tina Puska 25
Roseanne Poisson 26	Isaac Jeannotte 29	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Anniversaries

Gary and Emily Raffaelli 1st

Happy Anniversary

November 2022

In order to meet our monthly expenses, we need to take in \$7,387.83, per month.

November 2022

Gross Income: \$18,710.75
Actual Expenses: \$7,672.96
Net Income: \$11,037.79

Fiscal Year Jan. to Nov.

Income: \$108,144.57
Expenses: \$88,396.17
Net Income: \$19,748.40

(*Does not include the sale of the parsonage*)

Notes 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.

If we do not have your birthday or anniversary, please

*Have a
blessed
New Year*



Thank you to those who brought a beautiful poinsettia to the church.

Gloria Ruotsala in memory of loved ones.

Don and Sally in memory of Mary, Roxanne and Robert Raffaelli.

Chris and Joe in memory of Lila and Roy Lystila and Joe and Thersa DeForge.

Katie and Paul and Chance Bridgers in memory of Gary Adams, Doug Bridgers and Ronnie Rogers.

Tim and Evelyn Lawless in memory of Vinny Kaster and Lynn Lawless.

Janet Kokko and Bill and Mary Davis in memory of Jacob and Irene Kokko, Elizabeth Kro and Mary Erbetta.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 15th

Potluck to follow,
please bring a dish to pass.

In case of inclement weather,
the meeting will be held on
Sunday, Jan. 22nd.

January Worship Text

Sunday, January 1
Luke 2:15-21

The child is circumcised
and named Jesus

Sunday, January 8
Matthew 3:13-17

Revelation of Christ
and God's servant

Sunday, January 15
John 1:29-42

Revelation of Christ as
the Lamb of God

Sunday, January 22
Luke 2:15-21

Revelation of Christ
as a prophet

Sunday, January 29
Luke 2:15-21

The teaching of Christ:
Beatitudes



December Council Highlights

It was determined that the Stewardship Committee look into tithing a percentage of the sale of the parsonage as to where it shall go. The committee will get back to the Church Council with the results of their conversation. A percentage of the sale will be discussed and voted on at the annual meeting on 1/15/2023.

It is possible that it is not necessarily needed to side the entire church. We can replace the part needed with possible T111 siding, possible paint and or paneling options. Options will be presented and the congregation will help decide. In addition to the conversation regarding siding and paint, the Council discussed the need for the bell tower to have repairs in the future.

2023 budget included in the packets with some minor increases proposed. Budget will be brought to the annual congregational meeting.

Worship Servants for January 2023

	Sunday January 1	Sunday January 8	Sunday January 15	Sunday January 22	Sunday January 29
Ushers	Chris Bohjanen	Paul Bridgers	Tom Stimac	Bill Hendrickson	
Counters		Katie and Cheryl	Katie and Cheryl	Bill and Denise Hendrickson	Chris and Joe DeForge
Communion	No Communion		Filled		
Reader	Grace Members	Katie Bridgers			

Reminder

The log cabin is out at every fellowship donation for our building improvement fund. This fund will help to pay for our parking lot repavement in the spring.

Please help keep costs down.

If you are the last one to leave, please check all the lights to make sure they are all turned off.

Please DO NOT TURN ON any of the thermostats. They are all set on a timer to turn on and off for all activities here at Grace.

Lutheran Dictionary

by: Walter Lieder
Concordia Publishing House
Saint Louis, Missouri

Providence ~ 1. God's guidance and care. 2. God Himself as our Provider and Defender.

Seraph ~ A heavenly angel of a higher order (Is. 6:2).

Triune ~ Three in one; as, the Triune God.

Thank you to those who shared
a Christmas greeting

Joe and Chris DeForge
Janet Kokko

Don and Sally Rule

Karl and Carolyn Rundman

Bill and Denise Hendrickson

Tom and Cheryl Stimac

Paul, Katie and Chance Bridgers

Book Club

Book chosen is
"Big Little Lies"
by Liane Moriarty
Next meeting is
Thursday, Jan. 26th
6:30pm

Items left at the church

Ladies size 8 winter boots
Chevrolet car key

If these are yours, please see Katie.

Befrienders

Thursday, Jan. 31st,
7:00pm



Our Hearts to Their Homes

Lynn Neal (HCMC) Jean Simila (HCMC)
Susan Koskela (home) Gert Somero (Bluffs)
Gladys McCormick (HCMC)

Fellowship

Would you like to host a
fellowship? It can be as easy as
sharing cookies, doughnut holes,
bars, cake or simply just coffee. If
interested, please let Katie know.

Grace Lutheran Congregational Contact Information

Volunteer Coordinators

Acolytes/Bell Ringers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Altar Duty	Chris Davis	482-5567
Communion	Chris DeForge	482-8068
Counters	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Funeral Servers	Chris Davis	482-5567
Readers	Cheryl Stimac	281-7909
Fellowship	Inga Johnson	370-5161
Ushers	Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Greeters	Chris Davis	482-5567
Gardening	Janet Kokko	482-2368

Grace Lutheran Council

Micah Cavaleri	281-9558
Chris DeForge	482-8068
President	
Janet Kokko	482-2368
Vice President	
Inga Johnson	370-5161
Secretary	
Heather Aro	482-0341
Bill Hendrickson	370-9690
Amanda Krznarich	482-2011
Katie Bridgers	482-2011
Laurie Aho	482-0817
Treasurer	

Building & Grounds Maintenance




Tom Stimac	281-7910	Joe DeForge	482-8068
Tom Savola	281-5494	Katie Bridgers	482-2011



Thanks, Grace Choir
and Musicians!
Praise God with music!



Grace
Lutheran is a
member
of the
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church
in America.

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 11:00am Lessons and Carols 12:00pm Fellowship	2	3	4 10:00am Prayer 10:15am Coffee 11:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting	5 1:00pm Games	6	7 
8 10:00am Choir 10:00am S.S. 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship	9 12:00pm LCW	10 6:30pm Council	11 10:00am Prayer 10:15am Coffee 11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	12 1:00pm Games	13	14
15 10:00am Choir 10:00am S.S. 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Annual Meeting Potluck to follow	16	17	18 10:00am Prayer 10:15am Coffee 11:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm Bible Study	19 1:00pm Games	20	21 
22 10:00am Choir 10:00am S.S. 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship	23	24	25 10:00am Prayer 10:15am Coffee 11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	26 1:00pm Games 6:30pm Book Club	27	28
29 10:00am Choir 10:00am S.S. 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship	30	31 7:00pm Befrienders				



Grace Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 249, South Range, MI 49963
906-482-2011, www.gracesouthrange.com

Thursday, December. 29th, 2022

Dear members of Grace;

NOTICE: Our annual congregational meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 15th, after worship. In case of inclement weather, it will be held the following Sunday, January 22nd. Please plan to attend either in person or by Zoom, whichever is more comfortable for you.

The annual report will be out prior to the meeting, if you need one mailed to you, please contact Katie in the office. Please be sure to get a copy to read as we'll be voting on a new budget, voting on tithing of the parsonage sale proceeds, and addressing the siding on the exterior of the church, to name a few items, which are mentioned in the annual report. We hope to move the meeting along and have it last about a half hour.

A potluck lunch will follow, please bring a dish to pass.

May God's peace be with you.

Christine DeForge
Council President