Calendar Events



Please continue to watch for updates on our website, email and Facebook. Feel free to contact the office with any questions 920-848-2177.

DECEMBER 2

Men's Breakfast 8am

DECEMBER 12

To God's Glory Luncheon I I:30am-I:30pm Women of Grace Christmas Party 6:30pm

DECEMBER 17

"A Carol Suite" presented by Grace Choir 8:30am Service

Children's Christmas Program 10:45am Service

DECEMBER 18

Worship & Music Mtg 6pm Council Meeting 7pm

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Services
4PM Traditional Service
6PM Contemporary Service
NO MORNING SERVICES or
SUNDAY SCHOOL

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Service w/
Communion
9:30am

DECEMBER 31

Combined Fellowship
Service with Communion
9:30am
No Sunday School
New Member Potluck
following Service





Grace Lutheran Church 920-848-2177

501 S. Main St.

Oconto Falls, WI 54154

Now in the sixth month the Angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth Matthew 1:26

Greetings Grace Family,

As we begin this season of Advent, we find ourselves at the beginning of the Church year. The Church calendar begins where it should and as it should – with the birth of our Savior! Advent is my favorite time of the year for many reasons. Maybe because black Friday and cyber Monday are finally over. Maybe it's because we've all fully recovered from all that turkey and that deer hunting season 2023 is a thing of the past.

But the main reason I like Advent is because it looks forward to things to come. The word Advent means "the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event." The Church usually recognizes Jesus first coming when He was born in Bethlehem, but Advent should also point us to His second coming. His arrival in Bethlehem was a long-awaited event in History. The Old Testament writers foretold the events that would take place and the cast of characters is extensive and significant.

The story really begins in the Old Testament with those prophets of old. They foretold the promise that God had in store for His entire creation. And then when the time was right, God sent His messenger to three different people that He had uniquely prepared for His purpose. Gabriel first visited a man named Zacharias and told him that his son would play a significant role in the Christmas story. (I have yet to see someone play the role of Zacharias in a Christmas pageant!) Then Gabriel pays a visit to Mary and then to Joseph and explains their roles as well.

There are many aspects we could focus on during these next 24 days. Our focus this year will be on using this season to build our relationship with our Creator. I'd like us to think of Advent similar to our approach to Lent. With the focus on God and our response to His greatest gift to us – the birth of His Son. With that being our focus and purpose, we'll challenge, support, and partner with each other to grow closer to God as individuals, as a Church, and as a community.

In His powerful grip!

Pastor Gary

OFFICIAL ACTS—NOVEMBER 2023						
<u>Date</u>	Service (includes design	Attendance ated giving)	<u>O</u>	fferings Received		
Nov 5	8:30am 10:45am	93 101	\$	7,915.00		
	Online Giving	•••••	\$	908.00		
Nov 12	8:30am 10:45am	67 80	\$	4,535.58		
	Online Giving	•••••	\$	843.00		
Nov 19	8:30am 10:45am	46 63	\$	1,230.27		
	Online Giving	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	\$	847.00		
Nov 22 Thanksgiving Eve	7:00pm	144				
Nov 26	8:30am 10:45am	37 48		3,768.06		
	10:45am48(Includes Thanksgiving offering)Online Giving\$ 588.00					

Finan	cial	Rei	ort
	<u> </u>	- 10	<u> </u>

Operations Checkbook (GENERAL OFFERING) - Month of November					
Beginning Balance 10/31/2023	+ \$29,591.87				
Deposits Operating Fund	+ \$18,632.91				
Disbursements Operating Fund	- \$19,403.82				
Ending Balance 11/30/2023	+ \$28,820.96				
Mortgage Loan Balance 11/06/2023	\$ 43,968.81				
Monthly payment of principal	\$ 1,753.76				
Monthly payment of interest	\$ 128.2 4				
Additional principal	\$ 413.00				



Give simply. Support our mission.

The simplest gift can have an amazing impact this holiday season. Your generous donation helps Grace Lutheran bless those in need during this meaningful time of year.

To give, simply go to:

http://www.graceocontofalls.org/giving

Grace Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes November 13, 2023 @ 7:00PM

Meeting was called to order by President Jared Alfson at 7:06pm.

Present: Jared Alfson, Allie McDonald, Melanie Rice, Kent Lyng, Heidi Anderson, Andy Shamburek, Grace Shamburek, Jeff Schullo, Pastor Gary Olson, Jerry Riste, Ellen Pritzlaff, Lyle Nichols

Absent: Andy Mercier **Guest:** Holli Kussow

Opening Prayer by Heidi Anderson & Devotion by Pastor Gary Olson

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Jerry Riste and seconded by Grace Shamburek to approve the September 2023 minutes without correction. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Shamburek provided a paper report detailing a net operating loss of approximately \$8,000. Our giving is up approximately \$15,000 from this time last year. Allie McDonald made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Ellen Pritzlaff seconded it. Motion approved.

Old Business: none

New Business

Benevolences review will be done in January and February

The Public Relations council position will remain open until a nomination is made.

Upcoming Events

November 13-20: OCC Collection Week

November 22: Thanksgiving Eve Potluck (6PM) & Service (7pm) Hosted by EPIC Youth Group – hot dogs and chips will be provided – please bring a dish to pass

November 23-24: Office Closed for Thanksgiving

December 3:

1st Grade Faith Milestone presentations (both services)

Advent by Candlelight (sign up still available)

December 17:

8:30 service - "A Carol Suite" performance by the choir

10:45 service - Children's Christmas program

Committee Reports

Evangelism – Jeff Schullo reported that almost 500 kids were served at the Trunk or Treat event on 10/31. The Evangelism group will serve hot chocolate on 12/7 at the Greatest Gift Christmas Event on Main St. The group is considering a guest welcome bag and is searching for families to support for Christmas.

Parish Education – Heidi Anderson reported that there are 69 kids enrolled in J.A.M. We need volunteers – all lessons are detailed and created prior to class. The kids will begin working on the Christmas program called Love Came Down. Help will be needed for costumes and set design. Rehearsal will be 12/16 at 11:00am. The performance will be on Dec 17th during second service.

No J.A.M. on 11/26, 12/17, 12/24 or 12/31

Parish Fellowship - no update

Property & Maintenance – Kent Lyng reported that we need people to assist with outside maintenance for the fall and winter. Duties include snow blowing, clearing snow from the entrances and making sure that sidewalks are clear of ice and snow. This is a paid position. Please contact Kent or the church office if you are interested. Kent Lyng made a motion to approve a building use request for 12/16. Ellen Pritzlaff seconded it and the motion was approved.

Public Relations – Jared Alfson reported no update at this time.

- **Stewardship** Ellen Pritzlaff reported that 84 families signed up to be in church directory photos. Please contact the church office if you missed the sign up. Stewardship is working to match new members with mentoring families. The men's group has offered to sponsor a new member dinner. A date for the dinner will be announced soon.
- **Youth Ministry** Grace Shamburek reported that the EPIC Youth will host the Thanksgiving Eve service on 11/22. A potluck dinner will be held at 6pm. The church will provide hot dogs and chips. Please bring a dish to pass. The service will begin at 7pm.
- Worship & Music Lyle Nichols reported that the group is still working to update and print the usher duties for each service. Christmas Eve 2023 is on a Sunday. We will have 4pm (traditional) and 6pm (contemporary) services only. We will host a 9:30am Christmas Day service. We need pianists and organists. This is a paid position. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please have them contact the church office.

Endowment – Melanie Rice reported no update at this time.

Long Range Planning – Jerry Riste reported that he will be meeting with the Women's Group on 11/15 to discuss their ideas for 5–10-year planning.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Gary encouraged us to keep our eyes open for opportunities to engage with our church family. Lead by example.

Allie McDonald made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Melanie Rice seconded it. Motion approved. Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie McDonald Council Secretary

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting November 12, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President, Jared Alfson at 10:05am

Opening Prayer by Jared Alfson, Council President

Secretary's Report – The May 2023 semi-annual meeting minutes were provided and reviewed by the congregation. Lyle Nichols asked for a correction to the minutes to state that the motions are carried. Paul Mogged made a motion to approve the minutes and Cheryl Mogged seconded it. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report – Andy Shamburek reviewed the numbers from the profit/loss statement and balance sheets. Our balance sheet is looking good. Giving is up approximately \$15,000 compared to this time last year. Al Mogged made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Paul Mogged seconded it. The motion was approved.

Old Business - none

New Business:

2023 Budget – The Executive Council agreed to a 5% salary increase for Pastor Gary and a 3% increase for all other positions. This will be an approximately \$9,000 increase to our overall budget which will be up approximately 2.15%. Len Burns made a motion to approve the 2024 budget and Lyle Nichols seconded it. The motion was approved.

Open Public Relations Council Position – the position responsibilities were discussed but no nominations have been made. The position will remain open and the Nominating Committee will search to bring a nomination to the 2024 Spring Semi-Annual Meeting.

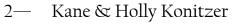
Len Burns made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Paul Mogged seconded it. The motion was approved. Jared Alfson closed with a prayer and the meeting adjourned at 10:18am.

Respectfully submitted, Allie McDonald



Travis Zielinski	16—	Kelly Dirks Frederick
Paul Mogged		Susan Krumrei
Al Mogged		Jeff McDonald
Collin St. Louis		Clarence Werner
Kristy Gorman	17—	Nick Klitzka
Michele Kozak	18—	Makenna LeMere
Ali Kramer		Cindy Lefevre
Jessica Wolford	21—	Barbara Olson
Archer Blom	22—	Ally Magnin
Nick Borisch		Jenny Derouin
Mike Marquardt	24—	Anna Remic
Bill Fry, Jr	25—	Adam Fischer
Barb Merwin	26—	Bryce Hosking
Kristen Patenaude		Crystal Beaman
Lyla Bailey	28—	Sara Rajkovich
Sawyer Frederick	29—	Ken Fischer
		Kullen Fischer
	30—	Holly Konitzer
	31—	Sally Holtz
	Paul Mogged Al Mogged Collin St. Louis Kristy Gorman Michele Kozak Ali Kramer Jessica Wolford Archer Blom Nick Borisch Mike Marquardt Bill Fry, Jr Barb Merwin Kristen Patenaude Lyla Bailey	Paul Mogged Al Mogged Collin St. Louis Kristy Gorman Michele Kozak Ali Kramer Jessica Wolford Archer Blom Nick Borisch Mike Marquardt Bill Fry, Jr Barb Merwin Kristen Patenaude Lyla Bailey Sawyer Frederick 21— 22— Nick Borisch Mike Marquardt 24— Eyla Bailey Sawyer Frederick 29— 30—





Kevin & Corina Heimke

30— Tom & Diane Malcomson





If you know of someone in need of a home visit, please contact the office at 920-848-2177





GRACE MEMBERS

Carol Burns Continued healing/strength Kim Desterheft Ovarian cancer Recovery - liver transplant Strength/healing Donnie Drews Jr. **Dorothy Ellner** Jerry Heim Strength/healing Rita Krause & Andy Graef Loss of son, Henry Diane Malcomson Health concerns Mogged family Loss of Marilyn Hennig Lorraine Murphy Strength/healing Randy Nelson Macular degeneration Lyle Nichols Cancer Bonnie Peterson **B-Cell lymphoma** Julia Schullo Strength/healing **Bob Thomson** Health concerns Don VanArk Health concerns Don Voermans Health concerns Leslie (Butch) Vorpahl Cancer treatment Tami Wall Thyroid disease

FAMILY/FRIENDS OF GRACE

Janice Bloemer Breast cancer & dementia Ashleigh Mercier Bordelais Breast cancer Kevin Breuninger Lung cancer Liam Britzke MPGN-Disease of kidneys Ethan Burant Complications liver transplant Kim (Capelle) Fischer Health concerns Janice Fleener Health concerns Angela Heim Health concerns Larry & Barb Hillyer Healing & support Bryant Hodkiewicz Cancer treatment Carol Hostrawser Health concerns Maggie Jones Cancer treatment Cathy Kaster Rare progressive dementia David Majeski Continued strength/healing Greg Meilahn Liver transplant Rozella Nass Cancer David Nelson Awaiting new kidney **Brett Nichols** Strength/healing Peterson Family Loss of Toby Sharon Raatz Health concerns Rollyn Radke Health concerns Amira Rynish Leukemia David Schefdore **Dialysis** Bob Schindel Health concerns Vern Tamura Cancer Mary Thompson

Cancer treatment Ruth Trudell Healing & recovery Gail Venne Cancer treatment Carol Weber Healing & recovery Amy Winkler Cancer recovery

Katie Zak Continued growth/healing

GRACE MEETINGS & SCHEDULES

DECEMBER/JANUARY COMMUNION DUTIES

December 3

SET UP 8:30: Rosemary Lyng CLEAN UP 8:30: Rosemary Lyng

CLEAN UP 10:45: Jenny & Andy Mercier

December 17

SET UP 8:30: Kriss Krause CLEAN UP 8:30: Kriss Krause

CLEAN UP 10:45: Paul & Sue Mogged

December 25 Christmas Day

SET UP 9:30: Sue Mogged CLEAN UP 9:30: Sue Mogged

December 31

SET UP 9:30: Pam Langlay CLEAN UP 9:30: Pam Langlay

January 7

SET UP 8:30: Kriss Krause CLEAN UP 8:30: Kriss Krause CLEAN UP 10:45: Holli Kussow

January 21

SET UP 8:30: Rosemary Lyng CLEAN UP 8:30: Rosemary Lyng CLEAN UP 10:45: Paul & Sue Mogged

COMMUNION BREAD SCHEDULE DECEMBER/JANUARY

DECEMBER 3: Rosemary Lyng DECEMBER 17: Kelly Haselhuhn DECEMBER 25: Susan Krumrei

JANUARY 7: Sue Mogged JANUARY 21: Pam Langlay

FAITH, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP



Saturday, December 2 8:00-10:00am

TO GOD'S GLORY



UPCOMING DATE!

Free Luncheon / Social Tuesday, December 12 @ Grace Serving 11:30AM-1:30PM All are welcome.

Looking for volunteers for serving. We also need volunteers to help prepare the food. Please contact Pam Langlay if you're able to help. (920) 373-2731



Women of Grace Christmas Party

December 12 6:30PM See info on next page.

W&M and COUNCIL MEETINGS

December 18, 2023 Worship & Music Meeting 6PM Council Meeting 7PM

No Tuesday Morning Bible Study December 19th & 26th.



December 24

4PM Traditional Christmas Service 6PM Contemporary Christmas Service December 25

9:30AM Traditional Service with Communion

GRACE EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS





Sundays following the 8:30AM Service Prayer Room



Grace Choir presents:

"A Carol Suite"

December 17th @ 8:30am Service



To God Be the Gloru

The count is in! 1,005 shoeboxes were collected during collection week from all around our area. The Green Bay collection area reported 22,000 shoeboxes! Now the Lord will use our donations to reach children in 120 countries with the good

news of His salvation.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to contribute to, pack or cartonize shoeboxes. What joy to serve together.

Kingdom Come Needs our Support



Kingdom Come is currently providing groceries to over 400 families each week. As we approach the holidays, they anticipate this number rising. As a church, we can help make a difference. Let's fill our donation bin.

Please bring in non-perishable food items including protein items such as canned meats, tuna and peanut butter.

The pantry is also in need of both paper and plastic grocery bags. Please drop off all of these items here at church.



Fellowship Sunday & New Member Potluck

Please come sing carols at the live nativity at 6:45pm on December 7th. The group caroling will end at 7pm with a candlelight singing of "Silent Night" We would like as many people

from our church as possible.

NEW!! VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE BUSINESS WINDOW DISPLAY!

December 31st One Service at 9:30am No JAM

Potluck following service to welcome our new members. Please stay to celebrate our new members.

Please bring a dish to pass.

GRACE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



The Christmas Season is upon us! We need your help!

We ask that any greeters, ushers, communion assistants and readers please contact the office if you are able to help at <u>any</u> of the Christmas services.

The dates and times are as follows: December 24-4pm (Traditional Service) December 24-6pm (Contemporary Suc) December 25-9:30am (Traditional Suc)

Please call 920-848-2177 or email Holli at grace@graceocontofalls.org to volunteer.



Each week we will need crew leaders to lead the kids around and station leaders to lead fun activities through provided lesson plans.

Go to:

ubspro.events/p/jam2023-24

Click on:

Volunteer Registration Or call the office at 920-848-2177



Looking for volunteers for serving. We also need volunteers to help prepare the food.
Please contact Pam Langlay if you're able to

help. (920) 373-2731

Snow Shoveling

We are still in need of individuals we can call on for snow blowing/ shoveling the sidewalks as needed. This would be a paid position. Please contact the office for information or to be added to the list to

help. (920) 848-2217 Thank you!











DECEMBER CONFIRMATION & YOUTH SCHEDULE

December 6th—Regular Schedule December 13th– Christmas party (Details will be coming)

December 20th-No confirmation or youth December 27th-No confirmation or youth

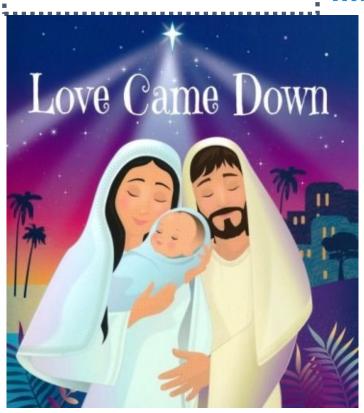
DECEMBER



- Sunday, December 3—J.A.M. at 9:40am
- Sunday, December I 0—J.A.M. at 9:40am
- Saturday, December 16

Christmas Program Practice at

- Saturday, December 17
 - J.A.M at 9:40am
 - Christmas Program at 10:45am Service
- Sunday, December 18 JAM Party 9:40am
- Sunday, December 24 No JAM
- Sunday, December 31 No JAM
- Sunday, January 7 JAM at 9:40am



Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 17th @ 10:45am Service



December 6 Jared Alfson December 13–Christmas party (Details TBD)



Service Duty Schedule DEC/JAN

DECEMBER SERVICES

JANUARY SERVICES

December 3 - Communion

8:30AM Service

Ushers & Reader: Riste/Blom Family Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Rosemary Lyng Communion Assistant: Pam & Brad Langlay
10:45AM Service

Ushers: Donna and Jerry Heim Lay Reader: Donna Heim

Communion Assistant & Clean Up: Andy & Jenny Mercier Money Count: Mike Krause / Kent Lyng

December 10

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Josh Wendt & Beth Lehner Lav Reader: Josh Wendt 10:45AM Service

Ushers: Klitzka Family Lay Reader: Angie Magnin

Money Count: Angie Magnin / Linda Reidinger

<u>December 17 - Communion</u>

8:30AM Service—A Christmas Suite by Choir

Ushers: Kent Lyng / Adam Haselhuhn Lay Reader: Lyle Nichols Communion Set Up: Kriss Krause Communion Assistant: Barb & Jeff Schullo Communion Clean Up: Kriss Krause 10:45AM Service—Children's Program

Ushers: Shamburek Family

Lay Reader: Sue Mogged

Communion Assistant & Clean Up: Paul & Sue Mogged Money Count: Paul Mogged / Allie McDonald

December 24

Christmas Eve Service 4PM

Greeters: Misty Gilbertson (NEED ONE MORE GREETER)
Ushers: Paul & Sue Mogged (NEED TWO MORE USHERS) Lay Reader: Sue Mogged

Christmas Eve Service 6PM

Greeters: (NEED TWO GREETERS)

Ushers: Paul & Sue Mogged, Kent Lyng, (NEED ONE MORE USHER)

Lay Reader: Sue Mogged

<u>December 25 - Communion</u>

9:30AM Service

Greeters: (NEED TWO GREETERS) Ushers: Kent Lyng (NEED ONE MORE ÚSHER) Communion Assistants: Paul & Sue Mogged Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Rosemary Lyng

> Lay Reader: Lyle Nichols Money Count: Paul & Sue Mogged

DECEMBER 31—COMMUNION

9:30AM Service

Ushers: Jeff & Allie McDonald Lay Reader: Allie McDonald Communion Set Up: Pam Langlay Communion Assistant & Clean Up: Pam & Brad Langlay

Money Count: Andy Shamburek / Jared Alfson

January 7 - Communion

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Riste/Blom Family Reader: Leanne Riste

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Kriss Krause Communion Assistant: Jeff & Barb Schullo

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Klitzka Family Lav Reader: Heidi Anderson Communion Assistants Clean Up: Holli Kussow

Money Count: Mike Krause / Kent Lyng

January 14

Ushers: Adam Haselhuhn / Josh Wendt Lay Reader: Josh Wendt

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Shamburek Family Lay Reader: Ellen Pritzlaff

Money Count: Andy Shamburek / Jared Alfson

January 21 - Communion

Ushers: Matt & Emerson Rice Lay Reader: Lyle Nichols

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Rosemary Lyng Communion Assistant: Pam & Brad Langlay

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Jeff & Allie McDonald Lay Reader: Allie McDonald

Communion Assistant & Clean Up: Paul & Sue Mogged Money Count: Paul Mogged / Allie McDonald

January 28

Ushers: Beth Lehner / Vicki Thomson Lay Reader: Randy Nelson

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Alfson Family Lay Reader: Angie Magnin

Money Count: Angie Magnin / Linda Reidinger