

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.

JANUARY 3

Confirmation & Youth Resumes

JANUARY 6

Men's Breakfast
8AM

JANUARY 7

JAM Resumes 9:40AM

JANUARY 9

Tues Morn Bible Study Resumes 8AM

To God's Glory Lunch
11:30AM-1:30PM

Women of Grace
6:30PM

JANUARY 15

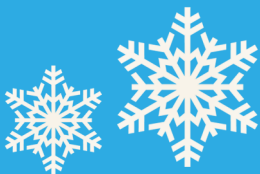
Worship & Music 6PM
Council 7PM

JANUARY 23

3rd Grace Bible Parent/
Student Class
6PM

JANUARY 28

3rd Grade Bible Presentations
at both Services



COMING in FEBRUARY

2nd Grade Faith Milestone
OCC Cupcake Sale

Messenger



JANUARY

2024



Volume 111 ~ Issue 1

Grace Lutheran Church 920-848-2177

501 S. Main St.

Oconto Falls, WI 54154

I forget everything that is behind me and
look forward to that which is ahead of me.
Philippians 3:13

Greetings Grace Lutheran Family!

Well, here we are in the year of our Lord 2024!! How many of you are old enough to remember when the year 2000 was something reserved for science fiction movies? By now, we were supposed to have flying cars and motorized sidewalks in every city. On the other hand, who would have ever believed the advancements we do have, such as the ability to carry our phones in our pockets and purses and also be able to see each other in real time on that same phone?

This is the beginning of a new year. Many people use this moment in time to make a New Year's Resolution. Some of the most popular choices are: eating better, getting more exercise, improved finances... All solid ideas for improving our overall health, happiness and wellbeing. But how we approach this time of year can reveal a lot about who we are and how we approach different aspects of our lives. As Philippians 3:13 says, we should put the past in the past and reach ahead to the things which lie before us. So then, rather than living in regret for what we did or didn't do in the past year, make this a time to spend some quality time with God and give it all to Him. Then stop wallowing in the past, shake off the negative focus of what you didn't do right last year and start thanking God that today offers a new opportunity to "look forward to that which is ahead of me".

Make no mistake, this new year presents you with a golden opportunity to make some serious changes in your life. Make the decision today to be finished with fixing your mind on things that are in the past – things that you have already confessed and that have been erased by the forgiveness that was bought for you by the blood of Jesus. You have the power to turn away from yesterday and start focusing on what is in front of you.

How does this sound for your New Year's Resolution...

Lord, today I make the decision to put aside memories of past failures, and by faith I reach out to the future You have planned for me!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Gary

I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus.
I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.
Philippians 3:13 - *The Message*

OFFICIAL ACTS—DECEMBER 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service</u> (includes designated giving)	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings Received</u>
Dec 3	8:30am	76	\$ 4,159.48
	10:45am	64	
	Online Giving		\$ 1,666.00
Dec 10	8:30am	85	\$ 5,148.25
	10:45am	82	
	Online Giving		\$ 868.00
Dec 17	8:30am	87	\$ 5,815.10
	10:45am	245	
	Online Giving		\$ 743.00
Dec 24	4:00pm	308	\$16,077.95 <small>(Christmas Eve & Day total)</small>
Dec 25	6:00pm	144	
	9:30am	73	
	Online Giving		\$ 563.00
Dec 31	9:30am	109	\$ 3,328.94
	Online Giving		\$ 988.00

Financial Report

Operations Checkbook (GENERAL OFFERING) - Month of December 2023

Beginning Balance 12/01/2023	+\$28,820.96
Deposits Operating Fund	+\$38,081.16
Disbursements Operating Fund.....	-\$22,041.82
Ending Balance 1/02/2024.....	+\$44,860.30
Mortgage Loan Balance 12/07/2023.....	\$41,801.97
Monthly payment of principal.....	\$ 1,760.08
Monthly payment of interest.....	\$ 121.92
Additional principal.....	\$ 270.00

2024 Offering Envelopes are In!

The 2024 Offering Envelopes have arrived.

Envelopes were ordered for those who used their envelopes in 2023. Envelopes are not needed to give but some prefer to use the envelopes.

If you did not receive envelopes but wish to, please see

Holli in the office or email at
grace@graceocontofalls.org



Grace Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes December 18, 2023 @ 7:00PM

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

Present: Jared Alfson, Allie McDonald, Kent Lyng, Heidi Anderson, Andy Shamburek, Jeff Schullo, Pastor Gary Olson, Ellen Pritzlaff, Lyle Nichols, Andy Mercier

Absent: Melanie Rice, Faith/Grace Shamburek, Jerry Riste

Opening Prayer by Andy Shamburek & Devotion by Pastor Gary Olson

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Lyle Nichols and seconded by Ellen Pritzlaff to approve the November 2023 minutes without correction. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Shamburek provided a paper report detailing a net ordinary income of almost \$1,100. Our total giving as of 12/18/23 is approximately \$243,000. Allie McDonald made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Heidi Anderson seconded it. Motion approved.

Old Business: none

New Business

- **Benevolences Review** – we will talk in January about what benevolences we will give in 2024

Upcoming Events

- **December 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 4pm and 6pm**
- **December 25 – Christmas Day Service at 9:30**
- **December 31 – Fellowship Sunday and New Member Sunday at 9:30am – potluck**
- **January 23rd – 3rd Grade Bible class**
- **January 28th – 3rd Grade Bible presentations at both services**

Committee Reports

- 1. Evangelism** – Jeff Schullo submitted a written report on the continued success of the For God's Glory Luncheon – 87 lunches served this month. A special thank you to Pam Langlay and Becky Pytek! The committee has been working on putting together a "thank you package" for people visiting our church.
- 2. Parish Education** – Heidi Anderson thanked the congregation to being so welcoming especially during the JAM Christmas program. JAM resumes on 1/7/24
- 3. Parish Fellowship** – Andy Mercier reported no update at this time
- 4. Property & Maintenance** – no update at this time
- 5. Public Relations** – no update at this time
- 6. Stewardship** – Ellen Pritzlaff reported that the church directory is being finalized – there are some group pictures that need to be taken. We have 3 new member families and mentors have been assigned to them.
- 7. Youth Ministry** – Faith & Grace Shamburek submitted a written report that the EPIC Youth Christmas party was a huge success. Youth Group is off during Christmas break and can't wait to see what is in store for the new year. Silver Birch Ranch – Winter Jam is scheduled for Feb 23-25.
- 8. Worship & Music** – Lyle Nichols reported that the usher duties for each service will be updated and reprinted. Nick Voermans will cover the organist duties while Diane and Lyle Nichols will be gone in January and February.
- 9. Endowment** – no update at this time
- 10. Long Range Planning** – no update at this time
- 11. Pastor's Report** – Pastor Gary reminded us to consider Usher Teams – where current working families can invite others to help share the duties. This is an opportunity not an obligation.

Allie McDonald made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Heidi Anderson seconded it.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie McDonald, Council Secretary

January

BIRTHDAYS

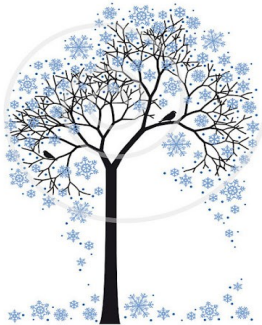
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1— Mason Arndt
Jensen Collar | 16— Romelle Delzer
Ryan Desterheft
Megan Zielinski |
| 2 — Croix Gardebrecht
Julie Spillane | 19— Eric Angus
Everett Pagel |
| 5 — Bill Kussow | 20— Kayla Fischer
Jessica Kaczmarek
Sara Kostreva |
| 6 — Lila Stanek | 21— Emmett Krieser
Rick Krumrei |
| 7 — Fallon Mercier
Carl Vowinkel | 24— Rita Krause
Beth Lehner |
| 8 — June Pearcey
Jeff Schmidt | 27— Emmie Barke
Kyle Frederick |
| 11— Vayda Hermann | 28— Brayden Ward |
| 12— Katie Stanek | 29— Al Sutrick |
| 15— Stephanie Paitl
David Vorpahl | 31— Diane Malcomson |

HAPPY

Anniversary!

January

- 16 — Jeff & Kandice Bero
Zach & Makenna LeMere
- 18 — Brad & Heather Thomson
- 23 — Doug & Erin Jahnke
- 26 — Tony & Shelby Neta
- 29 — Dan & Dawn Coppens
- 30 — Carl & Mary Vowinkel



New Members Received

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Daniel Alaniva & Susan Sweetman | Adam & Julia Fritz |
| Kennedy Alaniva | Josh & Jean Hermann |
| Brecken Alaniva | Ireland Hermann |
| Andy & Karen Blaser | Sawyer Hermann |
| Wade Blaser | Vayda Hermann |
| Walker Blaser | Joel & Kari Pagel |
| Waylon Blaser | Emery Pagel |
| Wyatt Blaser | Everett Pagel |
| Nick & Tamara Dolata | Eila Pagel |
| Emma Dolata | Aaron & Heather Trempe |
| Madelyn Dolata | Caleb Trempe |
| Chris & Amy Firgens | Connor Trempe |
| Sawyer Firgens | David Trempe |
| Wyatt Firgens | Elijah Trempe |
| | Ethan Trempe |

Prayer

REQUESTS

GRACE MEMBERS

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Carol Burns | Continued healing/strength |
| Kim Desterheft | Ovarian cancer |
| Dobratz Family | Loss of Nonie |
| Dorothy Ellner | Strength/healing |
| Jerry Heim | Strength/healing |
| Lorraine Murphy | Strength/healing |
| Randy Nelson | Macular degeneration |
| Lyle Nichols | Cancer treatment |
| 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 |
| Shirley Vorpahl | Recovery from shoulder surgery |
| 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 |
| Barb Hillyer | Strength/healing (loss of Larry) |
| 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 |
| Sharon Raatz | Health concerns |
| Rollyn Radke | Health concerns |
| Amira Rynish | Leukemia |
| David Scheffore | Dialysis |
| Bob Schindel | Health concerns |
| Vern Tamura | Cancer |
| Mary Thompson | Cancer treatment |
| Ruth Trudell | Healing & recovery |
| Gail Venne | Cancer treatment |
| Carol Weber | Healing & recovery |



Please email grace@graceocontofalls.org

GRACE MEETINGS & SCHEDULES

JANUARY/FEBRUARY COMMUNION DUTIES

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: Pam Langlay
CLEAN UP 8:30: Pam Langlay
CLEAN UP 10:45: Sue Mogged

February 4

SET UP 8:30: Kriss Krause
CLEAN UP 8:30: Kriss Krause
CLEAN UP 10:45: Lisa Shamburek

February 14—Ash Wednesday

SET UP 7:00PM: Rosemary Lyng
CLEAN UP: Rosemary Lyng

February 18

SET UP 8:30: Pam Langlay
CLEAN UP 8:30: Pam Langlay
CLEAN UP 10:45: Sue Mogged

COMMUNION BREAD SCHEDULE JANUARY/FEBRUARY

JANUARY 7: Sue Mogged

JANUARY 14: Pam Langlay

FEBRUARY 4: Kelly Haselhuhn

FEBRUARY 14:(Ash Wednesday) Rosemary Lyng

FEBRUARY 18: Susan Krumrei



Sundays following
the 8:30AM
Service
Prayer Room

FAITH, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Saturday, January 6
8:00-10:00am

Tuesday Morning

BIBLE STUDY



RESUMES January 9th
8:00AM

TO GOD'S GLORY



UPCOMING DATE!

Free Luncheon / Social
Tuesday, January 9 @ 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



January 9, 2024
6:30PM
All women welcome!

W&M and COUNCIL MEETINGS

January 15, 2024
Worship & Music Meeting 6PM
Council Meeting 7PM

GRACE EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thank you to those who purchased poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one. Our altar was so full this year and it was beautiful! All poinsettias can be taken home now. Thank you again.

Thank you to Heidi Anderson for her leadership in putting on this amazing program. Thank you also to all of the volunteers and parents for your help in making the program a success.



Our JAM (Jesus and Me) students performing their Christmas Program "Love Came Down"



GRACE EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to some of our newest members



Aaron, Heather, David, Caleb, Connor, Elijah, & Ethan Trempe



Adam & Julia Fritz



Josh, Jean, Ireland, Sawyer, & Vayda Hermanns



Joel, Kari, Emery, Everett, & Eila Pagel

GRACE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Coffee & Fellowship



Enjoy baking? Please feel free to bring in items to share on Sundays for our fellowship between services.

TO GOD'S GLORY



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

Interested in trying something new in 2024?

Become an usher, communion assistant, communion set up, or a reader!
Contact the office if interested.

grace@graceocontofalls.org
or 920-848-2177



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



Kingdom Come Needs our Support

Kingdom Come is currently providing groceries to over 400 families each week.

As a church, *we can help make a difference.*

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.



JANUARY



Resumes on
January 7
at 9:40AM.

Resumes January 3rd!



- Confirmation Meal Starts: 5:30PM
- Confirmation Class: 6:00PM
- EPIC Youth Meal Starts: 6:00PM
- EPIC Youth Group: 6:30PM



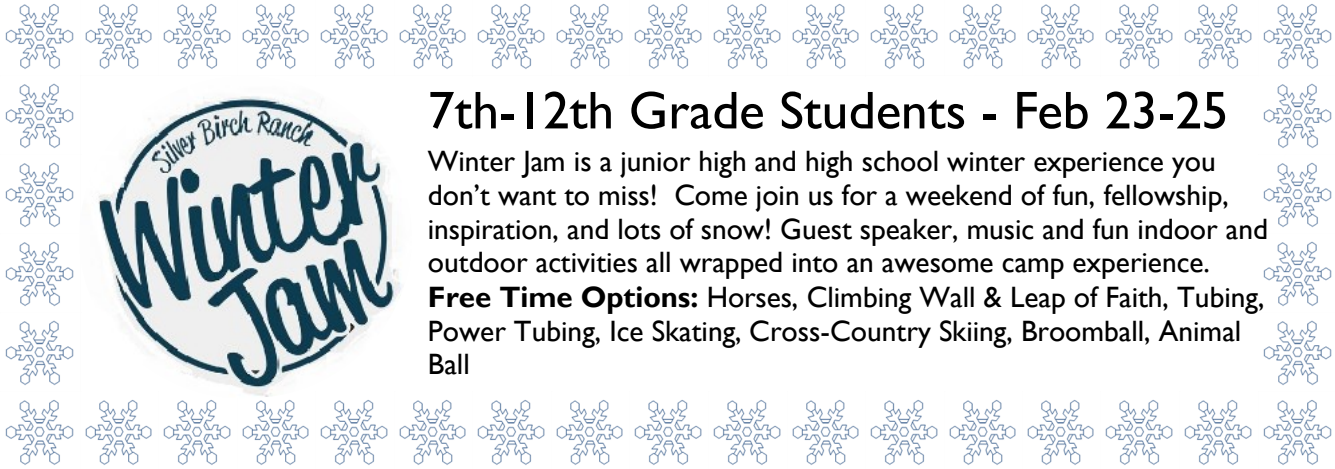
January Faith Milestone 3rd Grade Bibles

STUDENT/PARENT CLASS: January 23 @ 6PM
BIBLE PRESENTATIONS: January 28 @ both services

Watch the mail for your 3rd Grader's Invitation.

**Wednesday Night
Parent Meal Schedule**
January 2024
Serving: 5:30 - 6:30PM

Jan 3 - Holli Kussow/Lisa Shamburek
Jan 10 - Rachel Collar
Jan 17 - Heather Thomson
Jan 24 - Kari Ward
Jan 31 - Katie Stanek



7th-12th Grade Students - Feb 23-25

Winter Jam is a junior high and high school winter experience you don't want to miss! Come join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship, inspiration, and lots of snow! Guest speaker, music and fun indoor and outdoor activities all wrapped into an awesome camp experience.
Free Time Options: Horses, Climbing Wall & Leap of Faith, Tubing, Power Tubing, Ice Skating, Cross-Country Skiing, Broomball, Animal Ball

Service Duty Schedule

JAN/FEB

JANUARY SERVICES

January 7 - Communion

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Riste/Blom Family

Reader: Leanne Riste

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Kriss Krause

Communion Assistant: Pam & Brad Langlay

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Klitzka Family

Lay 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: Sally Krueger

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Pam Langlay

Communion Assistant: Pam & Brad Langlay

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Jeff & Allie McDonald

Lay Reader: Allie McDonald

Communion Assistants: Paul & Sue Mogged

Clean Up: 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

FEBRUARY SERVICES

February 4 - Communion

8:30AM Service

Ushers: Kent Lyng / Wally Krueger

Reader: Sally Krueger

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Kriss Krause

Communion Assistant: Pam & Brad Langlay

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Andy & Jenny Mercier

Lay Reader: Ellen Pritzlaff

Communion Assistants: Andy & Lisa Shamburek

Clean Up: Lisa Shamburek

Money Count: Pam & Brad Langlay

February 11

Ushers: Adam Haselhuhn / Josh Wendt

Lay Reader: Josh Wendt

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Klitzka Family

Lay Reader: Holli Kussow

Money Count: Andy Shamburek / Jared Alfson

February 14 - Ash Wednesday—Communion

Ushers: Paul & Sue Mogged

Lay Reader: Sue Mogged

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Rosemary Lyng

Communion Assistant: Andy & Jenny Mercier

February 18 - Communion

Ushers: Matt & Emerson Rice

Lay Reader: Josh Wendt

Communion Set Up/Clean Up: Pam Langlay

Communion Assistant: Pam & Brad Langlay

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Jeff & Allie McDonald

Lay Reader: Allie McDonald

Communion Assistant: Paul & Sue Mogged

Communion Clean Up: Sue Mogged

Money Count: Paul Mogged / Allie McDonald

February 25

Ushers: Riste/Blom Family

Lay Reader: Leanne Riste

10:45AM Service

Ushers: Jerry & Vicki Fischer

Lay Reader: Angie Magnin

Money Count: Mike Krause / Kent Lyng