

November 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

Advent Series: “Angels: Divine Messengers of Hope”

Every season is a good season to talk about hope. This is especially true in the season of Advent. We are reminded at this time of year of the coming of our Lord Jesus. How He first came into this world in the flesh at the world-changing event we call Christmas. How He continues to come into this world in the bread and wine that is in, with and under His body and blood. And how He will also come into this world again on the last day to call us all home to be with Him about bring about that long-awaited, long-hoped for day of the resurrection of the body.



With great hope we have plans before us to worship all throughout this Advent season. As the world around us darkens both morally and with the shortened days of December, we pray you come and be filled with the light of Christ in His house where He promises to meet you. These opportunities to worship are also powerful opportunities for fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ that you might know you are not alone in this Christian walk. Set aside all the life distractions that seek to fill up your calendar, and make time for that which is most important!

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Thanksgiving

Join us for Worship

Wednesday, November 23

@ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 24

@ 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. Communion services

Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, Dec. 25, at 10:00 a.m. Communion Service

New Year's Eve Worship

Saturday, Dec. 31, at 6:00 p.m. Communion service

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1, at 8:00 a.m. (Communion) and 10:30 a.m.

("Angels: Divine Messengers of Hope" continued from page 1)

The weekly themes for our "Angels: Divine Messengers of Hope" series will be as follows:

Wed. Nov. 30 — The Angel Gabriel: Hope in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt The appearance of the angel Gabriel was a clue that God was up to something never before seen in human history. He was about to send His Son into human flesh to redeem the world. Knowing this, we might forgive Zechariah for his momentary unbelief at the angel's words. Zechariah also reminds us of the powerful weight of time and despair and unbelief when our prayers seem to go unanswered. The angel's message reminds us to have hope, that God has a plan, and God will save us.



Wed. Dec. 7 — The Angel of the Lord: Hope in the Midst of Fear of the Unknown: What an unknown for a man like Joseph to find out his wife-to-be is now pregnant and an angel is telling him this is the work of God. Who among us could digest such a powerful message? Yet the Angel fills Joseph with hope from God and he believed and trusted and loved Mary and fulfilled his part in the birth of our Savior in caring for both baby and mother.

Wed. Dec. 14 — The Angel Gabriel: Hope in the Midst of the Seemingly Impossible: When we face this world's most difficult problems, hope seems far from us. We often feel as though we face the impossible. When Mary was told she would conceive a child, though still a virgin, this undoubtedly seemed impossible. Yet the angel was right, and in Mary God gave and created amazing hope. Mary responds with these wonderful hope-filled words: "Let it be to me according to Your word." May we pray for the Lord to fill us with a similar hope!

Wed. Dec. 21 — The Heavenly Host Announces a Peace Which Brings Renewed Hope: We sing on Christmas Eve "All is calm, all is bright." These wonderful thoughts certainly don't come from a world around us so filled with darkness. They do come in the Savior born in Bethlehem whose birth the angels proclaim with great joy. Our Savior brings peace through forgiveness of sins, and in His life and death we have everlasting hope.

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.



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.

YOUTH LEADER SARAH WITTE

From newborn to young adult, our kids go through so many changes. Changes happen to them, happen to their surroundings, to their families, and so on. It can be hard to go through these changes – especially when you are trying to find yourself at the same time. Not knowing exactly who you are can make navigating life tricky. With age comes a certain confidence that teens and children don't yet have.

People are often divided on how teens should grow up – what rules they should follow, and who should be guiding them. It is most definitely Biblical for a child to be guided by parents. As we know, the father should be the head of the household. And this is a tough position. It's hard to be a biblical role model. And mothers are not exempt from this role either. Nor are grandparents. Parenting, by nature, is tough, whether it's the mother, father, grandparent, or otherwise. Nothing says it should be easy. And at times, when families are going through changes, it can be even tougher. And these changes can include something like a move, a job transition, or something as "normal" as a teenager growing up.

It's important to remember what the Bible says about parenting, such as Isaiah 54:13 – "All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children." Give your child to God. Know that God put you in this place to raise them. Whenever I think of the abortion debate I go back to Psalm 127:3 – "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." And of course, as Jesus says in Matthew: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (19:14) Faith like a child, right?

I've seen a lot of memes this Halloween about letting teenagers Trick or Treat. And I'm inclined to agree. In my sister's town of Chesapeake, Virginia, it is actually against the law for anyone 14 or over to Trick or Treat. There is a fine and possible jail time. It seems harsh to me. I look at these teens, kids really, and still very much see children. The joy on my teenage boys' faces when they get to dress up and go door to door to get candy still melts my heart as much as it did when they were little. I see that expression less and less as they grow and I'm inclined to let it happen every chance I can get. There's also the argument that I would rather them walk around our neighborhood than spend time at a party where they could get into trouble.

As a parent of a high school senior, and an infant, I can see both ends of the spectrum of childhood. Parents are given the task of raising their children just to prepare them to be on their own. I'm not looking forward to letting Luke go next year. But I have no doubt that Luke will be fine on his own in college. I know that we have plenty to do left at home. But that doesn't make letting go any easier. With God's help and a lot of prayer, I know it's possible. But for this year, I'm going to let him be a child when I can.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 1:4

News about Our Members

August 16-November 14, 2022

Baptisms:

Taitum T. Wehner	Sept. 1
Cooper J. Root	Oct. 23
Carol Smith	Oct. 30

Profession of Faith

Tonya Smith & Greg Szwast	Sept. 4
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Marriage:

Garrett Gilliam & Allison Bonaminio	Oct. 29
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Funeral

Frederick L. Dowler	Oct. 10
Donna M. Libstorff	Nov. 14



CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE

As announced in the October's Voters meeting, it has been almost 10 years since the Church's Constitution and Bylaws have been reviewed. As authorized by the Church Council, a committee has been established to conduct this review and provide a recommendation, if any changes are warranted. As required by the Constitution, any changes will require approval by the voters. The members of the committee are Chris Zarecki, Griff Crammond, Jeth Ott, Larry Smith, and Kim Kruger with oversight provided by Pastor Witte. This group will be seeking input not only from our members and boards, but also from other churches in our district. If you have any input or recommendations, please contact one of the members of the committee.

Please help us by notifying of address changes. Thank you.

OFFICE HOURS

There is a temporary change in office hours for **November -December**. The office will be open:

Monday & Wednesday
from 9 am –3 pm
Friday from 9 am –1 pm.

Margaret will be working remotely from home during this time.



Proclaiming God's *Grace*
through faith and love.

NOVEMBER 2022

THE MESSENGER

BIBLE STUDIES

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

Sunday School starts at 9:15 a.m. Preschool thru 5th grade meet in the fellowship hall; 6th thru 12th grade meets in the Youth Room, in the parish house basement.

IMPACT For all 9th grade through young adult-aged youth and friends on **Mondays** at 8 p.m.

Thursday Morning Bible Study meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Classroom will meet on November 17 then will take a break. Will resume Jan. 5, 2023

GRACE'S UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Nov. 19 Trivia Night-6 p.m.
- Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Eve Worship-7 p.m.
- Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Worship-10 a.m.
- Nov. 25 Office Closed
- Nov. 30 Advent Worship-11 a.m. (luncheon following) & 7 p.m.
- Dec. 2 Bunco
- Dec. 7, 14, 21 Advent Worship-11 a.m. (luncheon following) & 7 p.m.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve-4 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. w/ Communion
- Dec. 25 Christmas Service-10 a.m. w/Communion
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Service-6 p.m.
- Jan. 1, 2023 Sunday Services-8 a.m. (communion) and 10:30 a.m.