

September 2024



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

Rejoice dear brothers and sisters, our God is a God of invitation. He is open and welcoming, inviting us to come to Him. Inviting us to return to Him when we have wandered astray. He invites us to partake of His wonders upon wonders. Hear the compassion of the Lord in Isaiah 55 “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Is. 55:1)”

This sort of mindset is difficult to find in our world. We are afraid of being too open and inviting. We are afraid because we fear we might not have enough. We fear or we just choose not to be open and generous by inviting others into our circles.

Jesus shows us a better way. In the Parable of the Great Banquet, as He teaches us what the kingdom of God looks like, He describes the open and inviting nature of the Banquet host whom he teaches “when you give a feast invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind. (Lk 14:13)” Jesus teaches us to be this way because this is the way He is with us. We are the poor, the lame, etc. whom He invites to Himself. Jesus speaks similarly in Matthew 11 “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Mt. 11:28)”



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Mark your calendar for
Sunday, Sept. 8.

Come out for some fun
at the church picnic at

1:00 pm. The event will be held at Frenchtown Park on Bluebush Rd. If you are interested in attending please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex, so we have an idea of how much food to order. Please bring a dish to pass. We hope to see you there!



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As we remember the ways of God let this good news settle into our own hearts and then flow forth with similar action. Can we be an inviting people in our homes? Can we at Grace intentionally seek to be an inviting people? I encourage and challenge you to take this month of September and consider all the ways you can be inviting. Is it a family member, friends, neighbors, colleagues? Consider inviting them to church. Perhaps invite them to a mid-week Bible Study. Maybe you just want to start by inviting them into the Daily Bible Reading plan (it's not too late!). The invitations can be open to a great many blessings. Pray the Holy Spirit work in your hearts and then let us wait and see what fruits He can bear!

PRAYER CHAIN

Have a prayer concern?
Please contact Kristin Zarecki at
(734) 770-6743
or czarecki@comcast.net
with prayers concerns or names
to be added to the prayer chain.



NEW GROUP Calling all Grace retirees! We are excited to announce the formation of a new group where you can come together in fellowship. Our monthly meetings will occur on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall, with our first meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, September 10th**. This will be a potluck luncheon, we ask that you bring a dish to pass and your own drink. Join us for a delightful luncheon and participate in a discussion about choosing an official group name. The group is organized by Charles & Ann Lusher, and if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Ann or Charles at ackayc67@gmail.com. We can't wait to see you there!

ONLINE GIVING

Please help us grow through electronic giving. Giving online is fast, easy, and secure. Never worry about bringing our 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

To learn more about giving online or through our GivePlus mobile app, contact our church office.

News about Our Members

February 8-August 23

Baptism:

Henry David Lambert August 4

Funeral:

Doris F. Karle	Feb. 24
Ronald W. Meyer	May 9
Herman E. Amolsch	May 22
Faye Blohm	June 13

Transfers In:

Joseph & Cathy McCormick from St. Paul Lutheran, Trenton, MI	April 12
Vincent & Lynda Castiglione from Our Saviour Lutheran, Hudson, MI	May 10

CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

Dear Grace Family,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I wanted to use this space to share some exciting updates from church council. In fact, we had discussed in the July council, providing a mid-year update on the goings-on at Grace and the quarterly newsletter has turned out to be a great opportunity.

Mid-way through our “Year of Invitation” we are enjoying what is shaping up to be a very nice year. The church boards have done wonderful work and we are pleased to find that all are fully staffed after elections in June, with the exception of one seat remaining open.

Some exciting high points: our newly formed Board of Family Life and Education is off and running. Parish Life has embraced the new fellowship opportunities that are planned after our 5th Sunday combined worship services. Let’s not forget the wonderfully successful Ark and Creation Museum trip in which 60 people from 6 different churches spent the weekend learning and rejoicing in His creation.

Our Trustees have completed a number of renovations around the church giving a nice facelift to our Lord’s house. They are currently considering plans for improvements to the downstairs kitchen and fellowship hall.

The Finance team has implemented new procedures and controls to simplify and improve the handling of the gifts we have been given. At the mid-point of the year we are positioned to finish on plan; as Giving is at 96% of budget and Expenses are also at 96% of budget.

Finally, the Evangelism team has been making personal visits to the guests that have joined us in worship to thank them for their visits and encourage them in their faith walk. They are hosting another round of training for “Every One His Witness” beginning in September. This coincides nicely with our encouragement for everyone to bring a friend to church in September.

Indeed it is an exciting time for us here at Grace. I want to celebrate the wonderful sense of community and enthusiasm we've been experiencing over the past few months. Thank you to everyone that has been a part of it and as always, thanks to our Lord for these gifts. Please continue to pray for one another, for our church workers, and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we move forward. I look forward to all that God has in store for us in the days ahead!

With love and gratitude,
Chris



BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Morning Bible Study starting at 9:15 am in classroom.

Sunday Morning Bible Study starting Sept. 8, "Every One His Witness" in the gym

Sunday School Sunday School meets at 9:15 am. Preschool thru 3rd grade meet in the Fellowship Hall, 4th thru 5th meet in room off the balcony, 6th thru 12th grade meet in the Youth Room.

Thursday Morning Bible Study meets at 9:30 am in the Classroom. Will resume September 12, with "Chosen" .

You can also check the church's website:
[gracelutheranmonroe.org/bible study](http://gracelutheranmonroe.org/bible%20study).



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Proclaiming God's
Grace through faith
and love.

GRACE'S UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept. 2 **Labor Day-Office Closed-
No Monday Worship**

Sept, 5 **Ladies Society**

Sept. 8 **Church Picnic-Frenchtown Park**

Sept. 21 **Spaghetti Dinner & Euchre**

Sept. 29 **Combined Worship Service-10 a.m.**

*Please help us by notifying us of address,
phone number or email changes.
Thank you.*