

## **Grace Lutheran Church**

Manitowoc, Wisconsin "His Light on the Lakeshore"

**June 2024 Newsletter** 

## A New Beginning for Grace Lutheran Church

This Summer – By God's Amazing Grace – We Will Welcome Our New Pastor Ryan Henning and His Wife Cait, As Well As Welcoming Back Our Preschool Director and Teacher Debbi Heiderich!

Installation of Debbi Heiderich
Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> During the 9:00 A.M. Service

Installation of Ryan Henning Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> During a Special 3:00 P.M. Service



## We Also Say "God's Blessings and Thank You For Your Service to Our Lord and Savior!"

Farewell for Preschool Director Peg Janke Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> Following the 9:00 A.M. Service

Farewell for Vacancy Pastor David Laabs
Sunday, July 21st Following the 9:00 A.M. Service



## **Congregational Open Forum Meetings**

"A New Beginning at Grace Lutheran"

Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> After 9:00 A.M. Worship Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> After 6:30 P.M. Worship

**Congregational Voters' Meeting** 

Tuesday, June 25th at 6:30 P.M.







### **Card and Gift Boxes**

You will be seeing <u>four</u> card and gift boxes in our narthex area during June and early July. There will be one for Pastor-Elect Henning and his wife Cait, one for new preschool director Debbi Heiderich, one for outgoing preschool director Peg Janke and one for our departing Vacancy Pastor David Laabs. Your cards, gifts and well wishes can be placed into these boxes for presentation to these servants of our Lord and Savior, who have served or will be serving at Grace Lutheran. Thank you!

### **Congregational Budget**

The Congregational Budget plan for the 2024 – 2025 fiscal year will be shared at our June Open Forum meetings and be presented for approval at our Voters' meeting. Please come and learn about our financial plan at our Open Forum meetings. Voting members, please join us for the presentation of the budget at our June voters' meeting! May God bless our congregation as we use His gifts to spread His message!





## Jesus' Lambs of Grace

Our Summer Camp program will begin on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are pleased to share the news that our camp enrollment is full! May God bless this summer program.

We are also blessed to be able to share that our preschool enrollment (preschool begins in September) is just short of full capacity. Our Loving Lord is once again giving us His children so that they might hear and learn about what He has done for them – and for all of us! May God bless Jesus Lambs' of Grace.

### **CONFIRMATION**

God's Blessings to This Year's Grace Lutheran Confirmands!

Brooklyn Rose Abbet Addelyn Nicole Bender Annaliese Claire Sielaff

Confirmed at Bethany Lutheran

Michael Stubbe Jacob Gilmore

## Member Ministry Corner



### **Spiritual Growth Occurs During Service**

Have you ever shown favoritism to any one person or group? Whether we realized it or not, I think it's safe to say we all have at some point. Is showing favoritism a sin? We can find the answer in James 2:1 where it clearly says, "My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism." Ouch!

There are all types of favoritism. For example, in James 2:1-13 James talks about favoring the rich over the poor. People may favor one ethnic background over another. Perhaps you have favored one of your children over another.

Do you think that favoritism is demonstrated in our church? We may favor those we know over those we may not know so well. Perhaps we gravitate towards someone older vs. someone younger, or even someone involved in activities vs. someone uninvolved.

I did a search for synonyms for the word *favoritism* and the word *discrimination* came up. The definition of discrimination is to treat one person or group worse than others or better than others, usually because of a prejudice about race, ethnicity, age, religion, or gender.

I think it's safe to say, as ashamed as we may feel about it, that even churches, as unintentional as it may be, can also sometimes demonstrate discrimination. Unfortunately, we are ALL sinners. We all have been guilty of discrimination in one way or another.

In James 2:4 which states, "have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?", God is suggesting that we are guilty of judging people. When we judge people, what we are really doing is saying we are better than them. Even as I write this article it makes me uncomfortable because I know, like all human beings, Christians included, I am definitely guilty of this, and I truly believe that this is a struggle at times for all people. Our human nature is inclined to stick with people we are comfortable with because they are more "like us", and that is not what the infamous "Golden Rule" tells us to do!

James refers to this as the "royal law" in verse 8, "Love your neighbor as yourself". Perhaps you've also heard of the Platinum Law: Love your neighbor as they would like to be loved. This is how we should treat people. This is what pleases our God.

How can we grow spiritually by remembering this during service? We must extend invitations to serve to everyone, including those members we don't know personally. We must step out of our comfort zone and personally invite people to serve with us. We must allow people to do things differently than we are used to. We must be merciful by humbling ourselves and putting others before ourselves.

On the flip side of this, it also means that we must be willing to say "yes" to an invitation to serve. We all must put in the effort to do the things that need to be done with the intention of growing God's Kingdom, of coming together to serve not only one another at church, but to reach out to those who may need to learn of God's promises.

Sometimes it can be as simple as one song puts it, "let them see You in me"! In our kind words and actions towards one another, and together with each other, let's show our love for God by showing our love for each other, for those who are like us, as well as those different from us.

Lord, let them see You in me! Amen!

### Heidi Malley, Member Ministry Coordinator

### More From Heidi Malley...

### **Ministry Position Descriptions**

Much time and effort has been put into creating Ministry Position Descriptions (MPD) and they are now available for you to view in a binder in the fellowship hall.



MPDs exist for all roles, whether staff or volunteer, to give a brief overview of mission statements, responsibilities, time involved, etc. for all of the roles at Grace. If you are interested in a particular opportunity to serve or are just curious as to what roles all exist at Grace, you can find the information here.

MPDs are also used as an invitation tool, as a means of accountability by those who serve in each role, and to ensure that if someone who currently serves in a role is unable to serve at any given time, the responsibilities are clearly outlined so someone else can step in and take over.

Although we are still working on several more MPDs, those that are complete are included in the binder. Contact information for each role is at the bottom of each MPD. The goal is to do an annual review and update for all MPDs each year. Leaders will be contacted by a member of our member ministry core team to see how the ministry is doing, if there are any needs, concerns, or changes that need to be made, and to ask whether they are willing to continue to serve in their roles. We want to ensure that regular check-ins are done to encourage, support, and thank those that serve, because all our volunteers are so greatly appreciated for their service to Grace and to our Lord. Once the update is complete, the MPD will be marked as such, and copies will be made and put in the mailboxes of those who serve as part of that team/ministry.

THANK YOU to all our ministry leaders for your time, effort, and communication in helping to create our MPDs!

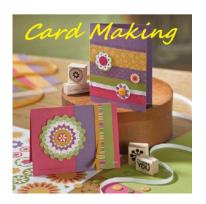
### **New Greeting Cards**

Do you know that you can get greeting cards for all occasions right here at Grace? We have a greeting card rack next to the kitchen with cards for all occasions. For a \$2.00 donation per card, you can find cards with spiritual messages to send to your family and friends.

We have recently added some beautiful hand-made cards which were graciously donated by Grace member, Cara Zipperer! If you haven't seen them already, check them out!

### **Stamp Camp at Grace**

If you enjoy crafting or card making, you need to check this out! Grace member, Cara Zipperer, is a long-time stamper/card maker who has led classes/open houses monthly at the public library. She will now be holding these monthly open houses at Grace for our Grace members, along with her followers from the library. This



is a great opportunity for us to have fellowship with each other, as well as with others outside of our Grace family.

Since these get-togethers will all be open houses, you can come anytime between 5:30 – 8:00 P.M. She has several examples of cards to choose from, with a pre-made kit ready for you to stamp and assemble for any of the cards you like. The cost is \$2.50 per kit which includes supplies for one card. Purchase as many kits as you like and create your own card. Whether you are a beginner or already enjoy making cards of your own, you will enjoy these sessions. Cara is right with you to guide you if needed. Please bring your own double-sided tape or glue and a scissors.

The dates for the summer open houses will be June 5<sup>th</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can join us for some great conversations while creating your own beautiful cards for all occasions. No registration is needed.

SORRY to TROUBLE you but did you DOMIN-know we held Game Night on April 19th. Lots of pizza, popcorn, and laughter was had as the game faces came out for an evening of fun and fellowship.

If you are thinking CHUTE (S & DDERS), I missed it; don't lose your MARBLES as we will be having another one this fall. Hopefully LIFE is not too busy, and you can SCRABBLE to the next.

Bring a game you love to share or come learn a new one!



## **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

NAME	BIRTHDAY	NAME	BIRTHDAY
Brittany Randall	6/2	Amber Falck	6/20
Cami Schmidt	6/2	Madeline Carstens	6/21
Samantha (Bush) De Roche	6/4	Peggy Rezba	6/21
Ben Zipperer	6/4	Lori Stuebs	6/21
Nancy Bast	6/5	Rachel Blashka	6/22
Jenna Schamburek	6/5	Dennis Egerer, Jr.	6/22
Samantha Hacker	6/9	Nancy Froelich	6/25
Michael Zutz	6/10	Shae Kocourek	6/25
Mariah Gauger	6/11	Reed Radzinske	6/27
Wayne Pearson	6/11	Lane Radzinske	6/28
Jordan Bitter	6/12	Parker Heimerl	6/29
Tammy Gauger	6/12	Joshua Krause	6/29
Noah El Yaagoubi	6/14	Addelyn Bender	6/30
Jeff Lindemann	6/14	BellaRain Darvanian	6/30
Tod Hauf	6/17	Katie Gorzelitz	6/30
Tasha Darvanian	6/18	Mary Hassemer	6/30
Melissa Emond	6/19	Debra Wigand	6/30
Troy Stubbe	6/19		

## **God's Blessings To You All And Happy Birthday!**



## June Usher and Greeter Schedule

DATE	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS	GREETERS
June 2 – 9am	Steve Janke (262) 352-8742	Rod Ash (493-8368)	Tammy B / Heidi M
June 3 – Mon		Dave Kappelman (370-3759)	Mary Hassemer
June 9 – 9am		Jack Meisner (323-7779)	Sharmon Peitersen
June 10 - Mon		Dave Bergquist (905-4945)	
June 16 – 9am	Bruce Wigand (323-3703)	Bob Freiboth (323-1558)	Judi Freiboth
June 17 - Mon		Dennis & Shawn Egerer (946-3209)	Teresa & Isaac Egerer
June 23 – 9am		Aaron Mueller (242-6286)	Kim Mueller
June 24 - Mon		Kent Langman (684-4062)	Donna Langman
June 30 – 9am		Bruce Matthias (901-4312)	Lorna Matthias

**Thank You for Serving As Ushers and Greeters!** 

**Your Help is Appreciated Very Much!** 

# JUNE LAWN CUTTING SCHEDULE THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> - Dave Bergquist

June 9th - 15th - Tod Hauf

June 16<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> - Neil Conradt

June 23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> - Greg Kolar

June 30<sup>th</sup> - July 6<sup>th</sup> - Jerry Krueger



### **JUNE VACUMMING SCHEDULE**

June 1st - Patty Levendusky

June 8th - Melissa Pfister

June 15<sup>th</sup> - Kent and Donna Langman

June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Tom and Debbie Meineke

June 29th - Denise Haese



## **Your Activity Is Not Your Identity**

by Pastor Mike Novotny

Years ago I tapped into my Bible nerdery and tried to count all the names that Christians are called in the New Testament. In some verses, we are called "sinners," "weak," and "of little faith" while in other verses we are called "saints," "strong," and "loved" by the Lord.

For souls who are already perfect in Christ but not yet perfect in our behavior, this makes sense.

What shocked me, however, is the ratio of bad names to good names. If my unofficial tally is correct, I found **72 bad names** (sinners, weak, etc.) in the New Testament and—you ready for this? **610 good names!** For every one time that God calls us "sinners," nine times he calls us "saints"!

I wonder if this is what Paul alluded to when he wrote, "But where sin increased, grace increased all the more" (Romans 5:20). Yes, our sins are many, but his grace is more. Much, much, much more.

So as you go through the daily battle to deny self and honor God with your life, feel free to call yourself a sinner. The Bible does. But if you want to be biblically balanced, then call yourself all the other names too. **Holy. Pure. Loved. Chosen. Justified. Sanctified. Redeemed. Blameless. Spotless.** 

That's not me trying to make you feel better about yourself. That's God reminding you of your incredible identity in Christ Jesus.

### SOME QUICK NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE...

**Invitation:** We are still in need of some help to do some painting in one of the preschool rooms and the kitchen. Whether you can spare an hour, or any amount of time, it would be greatly appreciated! The availability of anyone who can help will determine when it is done. Please email Mike Remiker at remy.2021.201@gmail.com. Thank you!

**Church Picnic:** Our Grace church picnic will be **Sunday, August 4**, following an outdoor worship service. All are invited to come to the potluck meal and stay for fellowship time, games and fun!

**VBS:** We will not be having our traditional VBS program this year. We are looking into the possibility of having a one-day VBS for our Jesus Cares Ministry friends. If you have questions please see Heidi Malley or Denise Haese.

Taste of Missions event: All are encouraged to travel to our seminary in Mequon for the Taste of Missions event on Sat, June 15. Learn more and register at Tasteofmissions.com. A bus has been reserved and will pick up folks at 8:15am St John's, TR and at Immanuel. To reserve a seat call or text Pastor Norris Baumann at 608-769-5678 or email at <a href="mailto:nhbkeb@gmail.com">nhbkeb@gmail.com</a> by June 1st. Cost is only \$5 each. Cash or checks payable to St John's can be given to Pastor Baumann before June 15 or that day. This is a special day to celebrate missions and see our beautiful seminary with many like-minded Christians!

**Ark Encounter Bus Tour: July 5-7.** Pastor Wall (St. John-St. Peter Lutheran, Cleveland) is organizing a bus tour to visit the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in northeast Kentucky. You are welcome to come along! For more info and to register, visit their website: StJohnStPeter.com. Contact Pastor Wall if you have any questions: 920-782-0827. Seats are limited: register soon.

**WELS Women's Ministry Conference:** On behalf of Women's Ministry, you're invited to get away and be "Empowered to Proclaim". The conference will be held **July 28-30**, **2024**, at **The Ingleside Hotel, Waukesha, Wis**. For more info., see displays in fellowship hall.

Register at <u>WELSWMCONFERENCE.NET</u>. For reimbursement for this leadership development opportunity please see Heidi Malley.



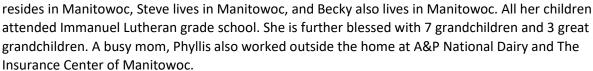
### **Member Spotlights**



### **Phyllis Elfner**

Phyllis Elfner (nee Hoefner), a lifelong Manitowoc resident, has been a member at Grace since 2005. Phyllis was one of 3 children and was baptized, confirmed, and married at Immanuel Lutheran in Manitowoc. She attended grade school at Immanuel, junior high at Woodrow Wilson, and graduated from Lincoln High School, class of 1955.

Phyllis and her husband were blessed with 5 children over a span of 10 years with the first being born in 1957. In chronological order, Michael, the oldest, lives in Manitowoc, Todd is in Swansea, IL, Patty



Phyllis enjoyed traveling with her husband Bob until his passing in 2015. She continues to keep her mind sharp doing crossword and jigsaw puzzles.

While at Grace, Phyllis has been involved in Grace Circle and she has volunteered at the Repeat Performance resale store. Currently residing at Harborview Assisted Living, Phyllis greatly appreciates Staff Minister Bob Fink's regular visits and the Lutheran services offered by other area pastors at Harborview.

### Ken, Bev, & Bridget Peroutka

Ken and Bev Peroutka met on a blind date set up by a mutual friend and got married shortly afterwards in 2004. Bev grew up in the Newton area and graduated from



MLHS, while Ken grew up in the country near Kellnersville. When he was 12, he began to work at a nearby farm, milking cows, driving a tractor, and baling hay. After graduating from Mishicot High School, Ken worked at a pallet company and eventually got a degree in instrumental music from Silver Lake College in 1996. He worked as a roofer for about 10 years; more recently he has been a second shift school custodian. Ken has always had a passion for playing the trombone, and for a while he gave trombone lessons.



Bev got a history degree from UW Manitowoc and worked at the former Cook's Corner Store. She



became a stay-at-home mother after their daughter Bridget was born. Bridget followed in her mother's footsteps in attending MLHS; she is a brand new 2024 MLHS graduate and alumnus who is considering pursuing a marketing degree in college. Bev is now seeking job opportunities, and because she has experience in making floral arrangements, crafting, and home decorating, she hopes to get a job that matches those types of interests.

Bev was a member of Liberty, Newton as she grew up, and she and Ken joined Grace Church after their marriage in 2004. Ken ushers at church and would like to help out more, but his second shift job during the school year presently limits him from doing so.

Ken occasionally still plays his trombone, and he enjoys cooking as well as grilling marinated chicken and steak. He thanks his mom for teaching him how to cook meals during his childhood years; he and his siblings took turns shopping for the necessary groceries and then each one of them prepared one family meal a week. Now he also uses some of his free time keeping wood in good supply at his dad's country home.

Until about 5 years ago, Bev, Bridget, and Ken lived on the north side of Manitowoc, where he could be seen walking and/or running their family dog. Now they live on the south side in a home that has given Bev opportunities to use her decorating and artistic abilities. Presently without a dog, they are in the process of deciding if they will adopt a rescue dog in the near future.

#### **Bob & Cheryl Schild**

Sometimes chance meetings can alter people's lives. Such was the case quite a few years ago when the Schilds chose, for the first time in about 30 years, to stop at an A&W restaurant (which happened to be located in Wittenburg) as they returned from a northern Wisconsin vacation. There they struck up an acquaintance with Pastor and Mrs. Tom Pankow, who were making their way back from their own up north vacation as well. The end result was that the Schilds visited Grace Church services and eventually transferred into membership here in January 2006 from Redeemer Lutheran.

Bob grew up in Sheboygan, while Cheryl hails from Mauston, where she had a Presbyterian church background. These two met at a teen bar in Sheboygan during a time when Cheryl was enrolled in a lab

technician training program at Sheboygan Memorial Hospital. Six months later, in August of 1969, they began their now 54-year marriage. They have two adult children: a son Brian who lives in Milwaukee and a daughter Brenda who resides in Kimberly. Both of them have had two children, and Bob and Cheryl enjoy visiting their 4 grandchildren who range in age from 7 to 23.

Now mostly retired for the past 15 years, Bob worked for the city of Sheboygan for several years and

then at Manitowoc Company in the crane division for 38 years. Presently he works part time at Fleet Farm. Cheryl's career as a lab tech included 19 years at Manitowoc Memorial Hospital, a night shift at the Two Rivers Hospital, and 10 years at the Aurora Clinic. She briefly worked at the Senior Center and also at Fleet Farm on a part-time basis until she fully retired in 2020.

The Schilds enjoy morning outdoor walks, and Bob likes lifting weights. Their bowling careers are over. Bob's friend has a place near Woodruff where Bob catches walleyes; he credits a fishing guide for always knowing the right spots to fish. Their travels include a bus trip taken together to Branson, and Cheryl has gone on tours to Albuquerque, Cape Cod, and Texas. They have visited Arizona and San Francisco, and they have gone on cruises to the Virgin Islands.

Here at Grace, Bob has served as an usher in the past. Cheryl has taken care of Communion set up and clean up for the past 5 years or so. She enjoys helping in this way very much, and she is dedicated enough to sometimes get up at 4:45 AM before making her way to church in order to ready the communion ware for our 8:00AM services. On Sunday afternoons she returns to clean up from our Sunday services and then to set up our Monday night service. In the past they have been members of our church cleaning group.

We can be glad a chance meeting years ago brought the Schilds into our midst here at Grace Church, and we can be grateful for the ways in which they have served our Lord while among us.

#### **Cody Guenther**

Cody Guenther, newly married to Grace Member, Shayna (Schroeder) Guenther, joined Grace by adult confirmation just a few months ago on March 24.



Cody grew up in Lafayette, MN and met Shayna, who has been a life-long member of Grace, when they both attended college at UW-River Falls. They'll be married 4 years in June and just had their first child, Clayton, on May 10, 2024.

Cody works as a Sales Rep for Syngenta, a company that sells vegetable seed, while Shayna is an appraiser for Green Stone Farm Credit Services.



Along with their full-time jobs, which require them both to travel quite a bit, and because of their love for the outdoors and farming, Cody and Shayna also raise pigs, chickens, and cows together with Shayna's dad, Grace member Travis Schroeder, on 300 acres of land. They also manage to tend a garden on this land.

With their busy schedules, and with a new baby at home, they don't have much time for hobbies, although their farming and gardening are things that they thoroughly enjoy!

When you see Cody and Shayna in church, make sure to introduce yourself and congratulate them on

their growing family!

### Andy, Dana, Vance, and Cash Konkle

Andy and Dana Konkle joined Grace on March 24 by adult confirmation.
Their sons, 13-year-old Vance and 12-year-old Cash, previous Grace Sunday School students, are also now members! They join our current members, Sara Zutz, Dana's sister, and Jim and Debbie Brick, Dana's parents.

Andy and Dana both grew up in Manitowoc and went to high school at Lincoln. They didn't really connect until years after high school through some friends. They married in August of 2009 and will celebrate their 15-



year wedding anniversary this summer! They have 3 children: Olivia, who is 18 and attends college in Eau Claire, studying speech pathology; Vance, who is 13; and Cash who is 12.

Andy has worked at Manitowoc Cranes for 25 years and is the product line director for Crawler Cranes. His position requires him to travel every other week. He is also currently heading up a fundraiser for the Manitowoc Public School District to renovate the high school baseball facility at Municipal Park.

Dana is a nurse in the NICU at Aurora Baycare in Green Bay. She also is very talented at organizing all of the family commitments and activities of their busy lives.

Vance and Cash keep the family very busy with athletic practices and games year-round, including baseball, basketball, football, track, and cross country. Cash has also taken up the acoustic and electric guitar over the last few years! We understand he is quite talented. Maybe one day he can share his music with us in worship:).

As busy as they are with work, school, and sports, the Konkles also enjoy water sports. They manage to find time on occasion for boating, waterskiing, and wakeboarding. In the winter, they also try to get some skiing and snowboarding in.



Thanks For the Member Updates!

**Your Church Coordinating Council** 

Position	Name	Phone Number	Email Address
President	Steve Janke	(262) 352-8742	sjanke76@gmail.com
Finance - Interim	Robert Fink	(920) 860-3604	rlf54220@yahoo.com
Property	Mike Remiker	(920) 901-0768	remy.2021.201@gmail.com
Education	Tod Hauf	(920) 860-2221	tahauf@att.net
Worship	Tom Meineke	(920) 323-5151	tdmeineke@sbcglobal.net
Member Care	Derrick Gossen	(920) 619-1750	derrick.gossen@fmglobal.com
Outreach	Bruce Bitter	(920) 901-8160	brucebitter57@gmail.com

Coming In Our July Newsletter...

Updates on Council and Voter Decisions / More News About Our New Called Workers / A Salute to our Grace Lutheran High School Graduates and Much More!



The individuals involved with the regular publication of our church newsletter are seeking input from you – the members of Grace Lutheran Church – in regards to newsletter content. If you have any ideas, suggestions or comments concerning our newsletter, please contact the church office or our Congregational Chairman. We'd love to hear from you.

Until next time – God's Blessings to you all!